

Conecuh National Forest

Conecuh, the nation's southernmost national forest, was designated in 1936. It consists of 83,000 acres in [Escambia](#) and [Covington](#) Counties along the Alabama-Florida state line, in the East Gulf Coastal Plain physiographic section. The topography is level, with gradually sloping stream terraces and broad flood plains that rise to 100 feet above sea level.



[White-topped Pitcher Plants](#)

Much of the land had been deforested by 1930, and the USFS initially planned to reforest it as quickly as possible with fast-growing slash pine. As with loblolly, however, the species attracted the pine beetle. The infestation, along with commercial deforestation, drastically reduced populations of the native red-cockaded woodpecker. The forest is undergoing restoration of native longleaf pine, and the USFS is using controlled burning to retain the grasses and sedge marsh

plants that are part of the forest understory. [Auburn University](#) and other institutions are working to restore populations of endangered gopher tortoises and eastern indigo snakes to the ecosystem. The 20-mile Conecuh Trail provides access to this unique ecosystem, which consists of moss-covered cypress trees, hardwood swamps, winding creeks, scrub oaks, and cypress ponds. Stands of hardwood bottomlands, bogs, and [canebrake](#) ("Conecuh" means "land of cane" in the Muskogean language) combine with acidic soil to produce ideal conditions for pitcher plants, sundews, and other carnivorous plants. The southeastern U.S. is host to more carnivorous plants than any place in the world, and 23 species are found in the Conecuh National Forest.