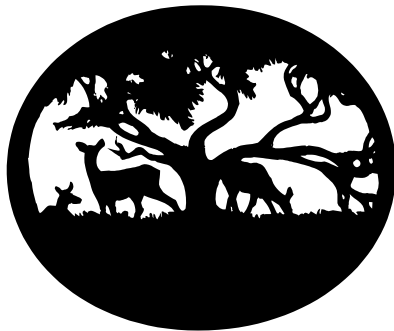


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**First National  
Symposium on  
Sustainable Natural  
Resource-Based  
Alternative Enterprises  
for Private Landowners**

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**Sustainable Natural  
Resource-Based  
Alternative  
Enterprises for  
Private Landowners**

About 90% of Mississippi's land base is owned by private landowners, with the majority of these lands managed for agriculture or forestry production. In addition to land, Mississippi boasts about 14,000 miles of rivers and streams, and more than a half-million acres of ponds, lakes, and reservoirs.

Wildlife, fisheries, and related renewable natural resources on many of these lands and waters have not been managed and marketed to achieve their optimum economic potential. This Symposium provided current information on how landowners can access practical, research-based information to assess the potential of their lands and waters, overcome existing barriers, use good business practices, and increase the compatibility of agriculture, forestry, and wildlife and fisheries related enterprises.

Examples of the alternative enterprises available to landowners range from providing opportunities for trail riding, bird watching, specialty food sales, lease of hunting and fishing access, to development of properties and facilities for other

recreational activities such as skeet shooting and wildlife watching tours.

The topics covered in the Symposium include opportunities available, examples of successful enterprises, perceptions of landowner liability,

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Symposium was held at Mississippi State University, Bost Extension Center, May 28-31, 2003.

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