Potential Use of Discovering Alabama Materials to Target Educational Needs Identified by the Alabama Water Agencies Working Group

This presentation

1) highlights the various water resource education materials of the Emmy-winning Discovering Alabama documentary series and
2) provides an outreach concept for targeted use of Discovering Alabama to effectively address educational needs presently underscored by the Alabama Water Agencies Working Group (AWAWG).

AWAWG is an unprecedented cooperative endeavor to address long-standing concerns about the management of Alabama’s water resources. The Group’s initial report (Water Management Issues in Alabama: A Report to The Honorable Robert Bentley, Governor of Alabama, August 1, 2012) includes emphasis given to the need for water resource education and outreach. Discovering Alabama now offers almost 100 water-related educational documentaries, several special web-based water resource education programs, and a number of model educational outreach initiatives of timely availability for addressing many of the educational needs being identified by AAWWG. The Discovering Alabama series is endorsed by the Alabama Department of Education and is used in K-12 classrooms in every Alabama school system. The series is endorsed by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and today reaches a home audience of more than one million viewers. Also, Discovering Alabama represents a long record of close involvement with water-related issues in Alabama and has provided leadership for many conservation initiatives in the state, including development of the landmark document An Environmental Protection Plan for the State of Alabama (ADEM 1987), establishment of Alabama’s nationally recognized Forever WILD conservation program, and An Assessment of Water Needs and Issues for Tuscaloosa County (recommendations for regional and state consideration, Tuscaloosa County Commission, 2009). Selected Discovering Alabama documentaries and related programs and materials can be readily packaged as a multi-faceted, specialized educational initiative with concentrated focus on existing needs for water resource education in Alabama.

Presenter and author:
Doug Phillips
drdoug@discoveringalabama.org
Discovering Alabama - The University of Alabama