



**For immediate release:**  
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## **ADEM Initiative Improves Water Quality in Caney Branch**

**MONTGOMERY** – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently recognized an Alabama watershed restoration project as a Nonpoint Source Program Success Story and posted the achievement on its website. The restoration project, supported by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, resulted in improved water quality in Caney Branch, which is located in Baldwin County.

The department utilized \$450,000 in federal funds to install best management practices designed to reduce the effects of nonpoint source pollution. The installation of these best management practices was coordinated by local stakeholders and included the installation of livestock exclusion fencing and the establishment of riparian buffers. In addition, education and outreach efforts such as stream cleanups, school presentations, and public meetings were conducted.

Caney Branch is a tributary of the Fish River, which originates near Stapleton and flows south into Weeks Bay. Prior to the efforts of this project, Caney Branch was identified as being impaired due to pathogens. However, as a result of this project ADEM has removed a five-mile segment of Caney Branch from Alabama's list of impaired waters.

“These improvements in the water quality of Caney Branch will help restore and maintain the integrity of this watershed,” said ADEM Director Trey Glenn. “We are pleased that technology, public awareness, and the hard work of our local stakeholders have combined to achieve this success.”

Nonpoint source pollution occurs when rainfall or irrigation water runs over land picking up pollutants and depositing them into rivers, lakes, and coastal waters causing water quality impairments. Additional information about ADEM's watershed restoration efforts and how citizens can reduce nonpoint source pollution can be found at [www.adem.alabama.gov](http://www.adem.alabama.gov).

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