

## CHAPTER 1

### IDENTIFYING SPECIES OF GREATEST CONSERVATION NEED

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Alabama is nationally recognized for its exceptional flora and fauna, ranking among the most species rich states in the United States. To ensure proactive conservation, **Chapter 1, Element 1** of the 2025–2035 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) identifies Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) - those species that are rare, declining, vulnerable, or data-deficient and therefore most in need of immediate attention. The SGCN list serves as the foundation for guiding research priorities, directing conservation actions, and focusing resources where they will have the greatest impact for SGCN.

In alignment with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' (AFWA) *Best Practices for State Wildlife Action Plans* (AFWA 2024), the 2025 revision of Alabama's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) by the Alabama Department of Conservation (ADCNR), Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division (WFF) began in January 2024 with a comprehensive assessment of Alabama's aquatic, wildlife, and plant species. This process engaged key partners, experts, and stakeholders through Alabama's fourth convening of evaluating the status of the state's wildlife (**Element 7**). Seven taxa teams guided the review of Alabama's native species across nine taxonomic groups: aquatic snails, crayfishes, mussels, freshwater fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, and plants. While the inclusion of plants is not mandated, Alabama has chosen to incorporate this taxon as a proactive measure to support landscape level management for wildlife. Another major update to this SWAP revision is the inclusion of Priority 3 (P3) species as Species of Greatest Conservation Need, recognizing their data deficient status. Each taxa group was led by designated WFF Taxa Team Leader(s), who assembled expert Taxa Teams (Table 1.1) responsible for evaluating species statuses and assigning ranks (**Element 1, Chapter 1**), identifying habitat conditions and threats (**Element 2, Chapter 2**), assessing species specific threats (**Element 3, Chapter 3**), identifying priority conservation actions (**Element 4, Chapter 4**), and monitoring needs (**Element 5, Chapter 5**). This group of members represented a wide variety of academic institutions and conservation organizations and provided essential peer review for technical quality control. Additional participation came from a number of stakeholders and individuals with expertise. Partner and expert participation have been critical to the process. As Taxa Teams assessed, reviewed, and completed each of these Elements, content was shared widely for public review and input via emails, social media, and in-person meetings (**Element 8, Chapter 5**).

Table 1.1 SWAP Taxa Teams, Members, and Affiliation

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To prioritize conservation effectively, Alabama's SGCN are assigned ranking levels that reflect their relative urgency for management and protection. These rankings are based on multiple factors, including global and state conservation status ranks (G-ranks and S-ranks from NatureServe; Table 1.2), population size and trend, distribution, degree of habitat specialization, and severity of threats. Priority 1 (P1) species represent the highest level of conservation concern due to their critically imperiled status, highly restricted ranges, or severe population declines. Priority 2 (P2) species are also imperiled but may have slightly wider distributions or larger populations than P1 species. Priority 3 (P3) species are of conservation interest because they are data deficient, or face recognized threats, localized

<sup>1</sup> Taxa Team leader

declines, or restricted habitats, but are not yet as vulnerable as higher ranked taxa. Extirpated (EX) species are those that historically occurred in Alabama but are now considered absent from the state, while Extirpated-Conservation Action Underway (EXCAU) are species that were absent from the state but are being re-established. These ranking definitions provide a structured framework for directing conservation actions and resources where they are most urgently needed, ensuring that management efforts are transparent, science-based, and focused on sustaining Alabama's SGCN (Table 1.3).

Table 1.2 Status Ranking Categories and Definitions

<b>RANK</b>		<b>DEFINITION</b>
<b>State Status</b>		
SP	State Protected	Species protected by Regulation 220-2-.92 (Nongame Species Regulation), 220-2-.98 (Invertebrate Species Regulation), 220-2-.26(4) (Protection of Sturgeon), 220-2-.94 (Prohibition of Taking or Possessing Paddlefish), or 220-2-.97 (Alligator Protection Regulation).
GANOS	Game Animal - No Open Season	Species designated a game animal by Regulation 220-2-.07, but for which there is no open season.
GB	Game Bird	Managed hunting regulations
GBNOS	Game Bird - No Open Season	Species designated a game bird by Regulation 220-2-.04, but for which there is no open season.
GF-HP	Game Fish - Harvest Prohibited	Species designated a game fish by Regulation 220-2-.34, but harvest of the species in the state is prohibited.
CNGF	Commercial or Non-Game Fish	Managed fishing regulations
<b>Naturereserve State Ranking</b>		
SX	Presumed Extirpated	Species or community is believed to be extirpated from Alabama. Not located despite intensive searches of historical sites and other appropriate habitats, and virtually no likelihood that it will be rediscovered.
SH	Historical (Possibly Extirpated)	Species or community occurred historically in Alabama, and there is some possibility that it may be rediscovered. Its presence may not have been verified in the past 20-40 years. A species or community could become SH without such a 20-40 year delay if the only known occurrences in a nation or state/province were destroyed or if it had been extensively and unsuccessfully looked for. The SH

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RANK		DEFINITION
		rank is reserved for species or communities for which some effort has been made to relocate occurrences, rather than simply using this status for all elements not known from verified extant occurrences.
S1	Critically Imperiled	Critically imperiled in Alabama because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences of very few remaining individuals or acres) or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extirpation from Alabama.
S2	Imperiled	Imperiled in state because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or few remaining individuals or acres) or because of some factor(s) making it very vulnerable to extirpation from Alabama.
S3	Rare	Rare or uncommon in Alabama (on the order of 21 to 100 occurrences).
S4	Secure	Apparently secure in Alabama, with many occurrences.
S5	Demonstrably Secure	Demonstrably secure in Alabama and essentially "ineradicable" under present conditions.
SNR	Unranked	State conservation status not yet assessed.
SU	Unrankable	Currently unrankable due to lack of information or due to substantially conflicting information about status or trends.
SNA	Not Applicable	A conservation status rank is not applicable because the species is not a suitable target for conservation activities.
SA	Accidental	Accidental in Alabama, including species (usually birds or butterflies) recorded once or twice or only at very great intervals, hundreds or even thousands of miles outside their usual range; a few of these species may even have bred on one or two occasions they were recorded.
SE	Exotic	An exotic established in Alabama.
<b>Global Rank</b>		
GX	Presumed Extinct	Not located despite intensive searches and virtually no likelihood of rediscovery. Eliminated throughout its range, with no restoration potential due to extinction of dominant or characteristic space.

Table 1.2 Status Ranking Categories and Definitions

<b>RANK</b>		<b>DEFINITION</b>
GH	Possibly Extinct	Of historical occurrence throughout its range. Possibly Extinct (species) - Missing; known from only historical occurrences but still some hope of rediscovery. Presumed Eliminated - (Historic, ecological communities)-Presumed eliminated throughout its range, with no or virtually no likelihood that it will be rediscovered, but with the potential for restoration, for example, American Chestnut Forest.
G1	Critically Imperiled	Critically Imperiled - At very high risk of extinction due to extreme rarity (often 5 or fewer populations), very steep declines, or other factors.
G2	Imperiled	Imperiled - At high risk of extinction due to very restricted range, very few populations (often 20 or fewer), steep declines, or other factors.
G3	Vulnerable	Vulnerable - At moderate risk of extinction due to a restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors.
G4	Apparently Secure	Apparently Secure - Uncommon but not rare; some cause long-term concern due to declines or other factors.
G5	Secure	Secure - Common; widespread and abundant.
<b>Federal Rank</b>		
E	Endangered	Any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
T	Threatened	Any species that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
C	Candidate	Any species which has been identified as potentially needing protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) but are not yet listed as endangered or threatened.
PE	Proposed Endangered	Any species which has been determined is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range and a draft rule has been proposed to list as endangered.
PT	Proposed Threatened	Any species which has been determined is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range and a draft rule has been proposed to list as threatened.



Table 1.2 Status Ranking Categories and Definitions

<b>RANK</b>		<b>DEFINITION</b>
UR	Under Review	A five-year status review of species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to assess their conservation status.

Table 1.3 Alabama SGCN Ranks and Definitions

<b>RANK</b>		<b>DEFINITION</b>
P1	Highest Conservation Concern	Taxa critically imperiled and at risk of extinction/extirpation because of extreme rarity, restricted distribution, decreasing population trend/populations viability problems, and specialized habitat needs/habitat vulnerability due to natural/human-caused factors. Immediate research and/or conservation action required.
P2	High Conservation Concern	Taxa imperiled because of three of four of the following: rarity; very limited, disjunct, or peripheral distribution; decreasing population trend/population viability problems; specialized habitat needs/habitat vulnerability due to natural/human-caused factors. Timely research and/or conservation action needed.
P3	Moderate Conservation Concern	Taxa with conservation problems because of insufficient data or because of two of the four of the following: small populations; limited, disjunct, or peripheral distribution; decreasing population trend/population viability problems; or specialized habitat needs/habitat vulnerability. Research and/or conservation action recommended.
EX	Extirpated	Taxa that historically occurred in Alabama but are now absent; may be rediscovered in the state or be reintroduced from populations existing outside the state.
EXCAU	Extirpated/Conservation Action Underway	Taxa that historically occurred in Alabama, were absent for a period of time, and are currently being reintroduced, or have a plan for being reintroduced, into the state from population outside the state.
EX	Extinct	Taxa that historically occurred in Alabama but are no longer alive anywhere within their former distribution.
NON SGCN	Non-Species of Greatest Conservation Need	Taxa that are demonstrably secure, with size of population stable/increasing, geographical distribution stable/expanding, population

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Table 1.3 Alabama SGCN Ranks and Definitions

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RANK	DEFINITION
	trend/population viability stable/increasing, relatively limited habitat vulnerability due to natural/human caused factors, or an unusual visitor to the state. No specific monitoring or conservation action needed.

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Along with these ranking definitions, a SWAP Database was developed for ranking consistencies across taxa teams and serves as repository for SWAP recommendations and rankings. Several ArcGIS Online tools were developed to facilitate data collection and finalization of SGCN.

This review and revision evaluated 5,482 species, of which 1,214 are designated as SGCN, including categories such as Extinct (X), Extirpated (EX), Extirpated with Conservation Action Underway (EXCAU), Priority 1 (P1), Priority 2 (P2), and Priority 3 (P3) (Table 1-4). The inclusion of vascular plants in this assessment substantially increased the total number of SGCN compared to the 2015 SWAP, while also recognizing Priority 3 species as SGCN to address data deficiencies. A complete ranking of Alabama's species is provided in Appendix 1.1.

Table 1.4 Alabama SGCN by Taxa

TAXA	SPECIES ASSESSED	EXTINCT	EXTIRPATED (*EXCAU)	P1	P2	P3	TOTAL SGCN
Amphibians	83 <sup>1</sup>	0	3	8	13	13	37
Birds	414 <sup>2</sup>	3	5	12	19	31	70
Mammals	76 <sup>3</sup>	0	4	10	13	11	38
Reptiles	114 <sup>4</sup>	0	1	12	20	15	48
Crayfish	100	0	0	17	24	22	63
Fish	319 <sup>5</sup>	2	6 (2)	45	17	43	115
Mussels	180	24	21 (5)	57	16	14	137
Freshwater Snails	196	37	7	31	14	59	148
Vascular Plants	4,000	0	15	260	181	102	558
<b>Total</b>	5,482	66	62 (7)	452	317	310	1,214

\*EXCAU = Extirpated, Conservation Action Underway species are presented as a subset of the total number

## OVERVIEW OF ALABAMA'S MAJOR WILDLIFE GROUPS

This section provides a summary of Alabama's major wildlife groups addressed in this SWAP and their SGCN rank (**Element 1**). Chapter 1.A. provides a visual representation of current SGCN ranges in Alabama (**Element 1**). Chapter 2 (**Element 2**) assesses their associated habitat(s), habitat threats, and habitat needs. Chapter 3 (**Element 3**) identifies SGCN threats, Chapter 4 (**Element 4**) identifies SGCN conservation actions, and Chapter 5 (**Element 5**) addresses monitoring.

### Amphibians and Reptiles

Alabama's amphibians and reptiles, collectively called herpetofauna, include 83 native amphibians and 114 reptiles. Alabama covers one of the most species-rich regions in the Northern Hemisphere for herpetofauna, and for turtle groups rivals the number of species observed anywhere on Earth (Turtles of Alabama). The state's varied landscapes support 194 native species of amphibians and reptiles. Alabama is particularly notable for its salamander species richness, including endemic species such as the Red Hills salamander (*Phaeognathus hubrichti*), a federally threatened species found only in a small portion of the state's Coastal Plain. Its rivers and wetlands also provide habitat for a rich assemblage of

<sup>1</sup> Includes 4 amphibian subspecies

<sup>2</sup> Includes 6 bird subspecies

<sup>3</sup> Includes 4 mammal subspecies

<sup>4</sup> Includes 51 reptile subspecies

<sup>5</sup> Includes 4 fish subspecies

frogs, toads, and aquatic turtles, while upland habitats support lizards and snakes, including the threatened Eastern Indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*) and gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*). The Southern Hognose Snake, Reticulated Flatwoods Salamander, Southern Dusky Salamander, and Dusky Gopher Frog have not been documented for many years and are considered extirpated. The Eastern Indigo Snake, long extirpated, is being introduced in Covington County at Conecuh National Forest.

Alabama Administrative Code 220-2-.92 states that it is unlawful to take, capture, kill, possess, sell, trade, or propagate listed nongame amphibians and reptiles, or their parts, reproductive material, or hybrids, without a scientific collection permit or a written permit from the ADCNR Commissioner. This regulatory framework ensures that rare, endemic, and protected amphibian and reptile species are safeguarded from over collection or exploitation while enabling essential scientific and conservation activities through a permitting system.

According to the best scientific information and consensus of numerous experts, there are 37 amphibian and 48 reptile SGCN taxa (Tables 1.5). Alabama has four (4) Extirpated species, twenty-six (26) species with a Federal status, twenty (20) Priority 1, thirty-three (33) Priority 2, and twenty-eight (28) Priority 3, and one-hundred twelve (112) Non-SGCN.

Table 1.5 Alabama SGCN Amphibians and Reptiles		
SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<b>Amphibians</b>		
<b>Extirpated</b>		
<i>Ambystoma bishopi</i>	Reticulated Flatwoods Salamander	LE
<i>Desmognathus auriculatus</i>	Southern Dusky Salamander	
<i>Lithobates sevosus</i>	Dusky Gopher Frog	LE
<b>Priority 1</b>		
<i>Cryptobranchus alleganiensis</i>	Hellbender	UR
<i>Desmognathus pascagoula</i>	Pascagoula Dusky Salamander	
<i>Dryophytes andersonii</i>	Pine Barrens Treefrog	
<i>Lithobates areolatus</i>	Crawfish Frog	
<i>Lithobates capito</i>	Gopher Frog	UR
<i>Lithobates heckscheri</i>	River Frog	
<i>Necturus alabamensis</i>	Black Warrior Waterdog	LE
<i>Pseudacris ocularis</i>	Little Grass Frog	
<b>Priority 2</b>		
<i>Ambystoma texanum</i>	Small-mouthed Salamander	
<i>Ambystoma tigrinum tigrinum</i>	Eastern Tiger Salamander	

Table 1.5 Alabama SGCN Amphibians and Reptiles

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Amphiuma pholeter</i>	One-toed Amphiuma	
<i>Aneides aeneus</i>	Green Salamander	UR
<i>Desmognathus aeneus</i>	Seepage Salamander	UR
<i>Eurycea sphagnicola</i>	Bog Dwarf Salamander	
<i>Gyrinophilus pallescens</i>	Tennessee Cave Salamander	
<i>Lithobates sylvaticus</i>	Wood Frog	
<i>Necturus maculosus</i>	Mudpuppy	
<i>Phaeognathus hubrichti</i>	Red Hills Salamander	LT
<i>Pseudotriton montanus</i>	Mud Salamander	
<i>Siren reticulata</i>	Reticulated Siren	
<i>Siren sphagnicola</i>	Seepage Siren	
<b>Priority 3</b>		
<i>Anaxyrus quercicus</i>	Oak Toad	
<i>Desmognathus perlapsus</i>	Ocoee Salamander	
<i>Eurycea aquatica</i>	Brown-backed Salamander	
<i>Eurycea quadridigitata</i>	Dwarf Salamander	
<i>Gyrinophilus porphyriticus</i>	Spring Salamander	
<i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i>	Four-toed Salamander	
<i>Necturus beyeri</i>	Western Waterdog	
<i>Necturus moleri</i>	Apalachicola Waterdog	
<i>Necturus montani</i>	Escambia Waterdog	
<i>Plethodon serratus</i>	Southern Red-backed Salamander	
<i>Pseudacris brachyphona</i>	Mountain Chorus Frog	
<i>Pseudacris ornata</i>	Ornate Chorus Frog	
<i>Siren lacertina</i>	Greater Siren	
<b>Reptiles</b>		
<b>Extirpated</b>		
<i>Heterodon simus</i>	Southern Hognose Snake	
<b>Priority 1</b>		
<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Loggerhead Sea Turtle	LT
<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Green Sea Turtle	LT
<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Leatherback Sea Turtle	LE
<i>Drymarchon couperi</i>	Eastern Indigo Snake	LT
<i>Farancia erythrogramma</i>	Rainbow Snake	
<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle	P1
<i>Malaclemys terrapin pileata</i>	Mississippi Diamondback Terrapin	
<i>Micrurus fulvius</i>	Harlequin Coralsnake	
<i>Ophisaurus mimicus</i>	Mimic Glass Lizard	
<i>Pituophis melanoleucus lodingi</i>	Black Pinesnake	LT
<i>Pseudemys alabamensis</i>	Alabama Red-bellied Cooter	LE

Table 1.5 Alabama SGCN Amphibians and Reptiles

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Sternotherus depressus</i>	Flattened Musk Turtle	LT
<b>Priority 2</b>		
<i>Crotalus adamanteus</i>	Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	
<i>Deirochelys reticularia</i>	Eastern Chicken Turtle	
<i>reticularia</i>		
<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher Tortoise	
<i>Graptemys barbouri</i>	Barbour's Map Turtle	
<i>Graptemys ernsti</i>	Escambia Map Turtle	
<i>Lampropeltis getula</i>	Common Kingsnake	
<i>Lampropeltis nigra</i>	Eastern Black Kingsnake	
<i>Lampropeltis</i>	Northern Mole Kingsnake	
<i>rhombpmaculata</i>		
<i>Seminatrix pygaea</i>	Northern Florida Swampsnake	
<i>Nerodia clarkii clarkii</i>	Gulf Saltmarsh Watersnake	
<i>Nerodia floridana</i>	Florida Green Watersnake	
<i>Ophisaurus attenuatus</i>	Eastern Slender Glass Lizard	
<i>longicaudus</i>		
<i>Pituophis melanoleucus</i>	Northern Pinesnake	SC
<i>melanoleucus</i>		
<i>Pituophis melanoleucus</i>	Florida Pinesnake	UR
<i>mugitus</i>		
<i>Plestiodon anthracinus</i>	Northern Coal Skink	
<i>anthracinus</i>		
<i>Plestiodon anthracinus</i>	Southern Coal Skink	
<i>pluvialis</i>		
<i>Plestiodon egregius similis</i>	Mole Skink	
<i>Plestiodon inexpectatus</i>	Southeastern Five- lined Skink	
<i>Sistrurus miliarius miliarius</i>	Carolina Pygmy Rattlesnake	
<i>Sistrurus miliarius streckeri</i>	Western Pygmy Rattlesnake	
<b>Priority 3</b>		
<i>Apalone mutica mutica</i>	Midland Smooth Softshell	
<i>Chrysemys dorsalis</i>	Southern Painted Turtle	
<i>Graptemys pulchra</i>	Alabama Map Turtle	
<i>Heterodon platirhinos</i>	Eastern Hognose Snake	
<i>Kinosternon baurii</i>	Striped Mud Turtle	
<i>Lampropeltis calligaster</i>	Yellow- Bellied Kingsnake	
<i>Lampropeltis elapsoides</i>	Scarlet Kingsnake	
<i>Lampropeltis</i>	Northern Mole Kingsnake	
<i>rhombpmaculata</i>		
<i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i>	Milksnake	
<i>Macrochelys temminckii</i>	Western Alligator Snapping Turtle	PT

Table 1.5 Alabama SGCN Amphibians and Reptiles

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Nerodia cyclopion</i>	Mississippi Green Watersnake	
<i>Sternotherus carinatus</i>	Razor-backed Musk Turtle	
<i>Sternotherus minor</i>	Loggerhead Musk Turtle	
<i>Tantilla coronata</i>	Southeastern Crowned Snake	
<i>Terrapene carolina major</i>	Gulf Coast Box Turtle	

## Birds

There are 455 bird species recorded in Alabama, and of these, 168 species are regularly breeding species and 174 wintering species in the state. The Passenger Pigeon, Carolina Parakeet, and Bachman's Warbler are extinct, and the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Common Raven, Bewick's Wren, and Mississippi Sandhill Crane are no longer known to occur within the state's borders. The Ivory-billed Woodpecker was presumed extinct by most authorities until the announcement of its 2004 rediscovery in Arkansas (Fitzpatrick et al. 2005), but compelling evidence is lacking, and the species' persistence is in doubt.

Alabama is rich in upland forests, floodplain forests, grasslands, prairies, marshes, wetlands, and coastal shorelines. With this assortment of habitats, Alabama falls within four North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs), including the Central Hardwoods, Southeastern Coastal Plain, Appalachian Mountains, and Piedmont. In addition, the National Audubon Society, which administers the Important Bird Area (IBA) Program, has identified thirteen IBAs across Alabama's public and private lands that provide essential habitat for breeding, wintering, and migrating birds.

Bird conservation plans have been created to cover a suite of species on a regionwide or continental scale. Alabama is included in many of these, including the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan (Kushlan et al. 2002), United States Shorebird Conservation Plan (Brown et al. 2001), Waterbird Monitoring Partnership (coordinated by the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center's Monitoring Program), North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP 2018), the East Gulf Coastal Plain Joint Venture (EGCPJV) Waterbird Conservation Plan (Schwarzer et al. 2024), the EGCPJV Landbird Conservation Plan (Greene et al. 2021). These programs share the best available species abundance and distribution data nationally and step conservation down to the regional and state levels. Where possible, Alabama's bird taxa committee follows data and recommendations highlighted in these conservation plans.

All native, nongame birds in Alabama are protected under both state and federal law. At the state level, the ADCNR, WFF enforces regulations that prohibit the take, possession, sale, or

harassment of protected nongame bird species without proper permits. This framework is supported by Alabama Nongame Wildlife Regulations, which align with broader conservation mandates in the state's Nongame Wildlife Program.

At the federal level, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA) provides overarching protection for nearly all native bird species in Alabama, making it unlawful to pursue, hunt, capture, kill, or possess migratory birds, their nests, or eggs without authorization. Exceptions exist for game birds (e.g., doves, ducks, turkeys), which are regulated through established hunting seasons and bag limits. Federally listed species, such as the Red-cockaded Woodpecker or Piping Plover, receive additional protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

According to the best scientific information and consensus of the bird taxa committee consisting of Alabama's leading bird authorities, there are 70 SGCN birds (Table 1.6). Alabama has five (5) Extirpated species, three (3) Extinct species, ten (10) species with a Federal status, twelve (12) Priority 1, nineteen (19) Priority 2, and thirty-one (31) Priority 3, and three-hundred forty-four (344) Non-SGCN.

Table 1.6 Alabama SGCN Birds		
SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<b>Extinct</b>		
<i>Conuropsis carolinensis</i>	Carolina Parakeet	
<i>Ectopistes migratorius</i>	Passenger Pigeon	
<i>Vermivora bachmanii</i>	Bachman's Warbler	PXN
<b>Extirpated</b>		
<i>Antigone canadensis pulla</i>	Mississippi Sandhill Crane	LE
<i>Campephilus principalis</i>	Ivory-billed Woodpecker	PXN
<i>Corvus corax</i>	Common Raven	
<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	Bewick's Wren	
<i>Thryomanes bewickii bewickii</i>	Appalachian Bewick's Wren	
<b>Priority 1</b>		
<i>Anarhynchus nivosus</i>	Snowy Plover	
<i>Anarhynchus wilsonia</i>	Wilson's Plover	
<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>	Red Knot	LT
<i>Centronyx henslowii</i>	Henslow's Sparrow	
<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Piping Plover	LT
<i>Charadrius nivosus nivosus</i>	Southeastern Snowy Plover	
<i>Egretta rufescens</i>	Reddish Egret	
<i>Falco sparverius paulus</i>	Southeastern American Kestrel	
<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	American Oystercatcher	
<i>Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis</i>	Eastern Black Rail	LT



Table 1.6 Alabama SGCN Birds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Rynchops niger</i>	Black Skimmer	
<i>Setophaga cerulea</i>	Cerulean Warbler	
<b>Priority 2</b>		
<i>Ammospiza maritima</i>	Louisiana Seaside Sparrow	
<i>Ammospiza maritima fisheri</i>	Seaside Sparrow	
<i>Ammospiza nelsoni</i>	Nelson's Sparrow	
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Grasshopper Sparrow	SC
<i>Anas fulvigula</i>	Mottled Duck	
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden Eagle	
<i>Botaurus exilis</i>	Least Bittern	
<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	Common Nighthawk	
<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	Northern Bobwhite	
<i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>	Yellow Rail	
<i>Dryobates borealis</i>	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	LT
<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	Rusty Blackbird	
<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	Gull-billed Tern	
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Loggerhead Shrike	SC
<i>Rallus elegans</i>	King Rail	SC
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Common Tern	
<i>Sternula antillarum</i>	Least Tern	
<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	Eastern Willet	
<i>Peucaea aestivalis</i>	Bachman's Sparrow	
<b>Priority 3</b>		
<i>Ammospiza leconteii</i>	LeConte's Sparrow	
<i>Anas rubripes</i>	American Black Duck	
<i>Anrostomus carolinensis</i>	Chuck-will's-widow	
<i>Anrostomus vociferus</i>	Eastern Whip-poor-will	
<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	American Bittern	
<i>Butorides virescens</i>	Green Heron	
<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	Chimney Swift	
<i>Circus hudsonius</i>	Northern Harrier	
<i>Cistothorus palustris marianae</i>	Marian's Marsh Wren	
<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Northern Flicker	
<i>Columbina passerina</i>	Common Ground Dove	
<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>	Swallow-tailed Kite	
<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	Little Blue Heron	
<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	Tricolored Heron	
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American Kestrel	
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Caspian Tern	
<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Wood Stork	LT
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Black-crowned Night Heron	

Table 1.6 Alabama SGCN Birds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Passerina ciris</i>	Painted Bunting	
<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>	Vesper Sparrow	
<i>Porphyrio martinicus</i>	Purple Gallinule	
<i>Progne subis</i>	Purple Martin	
<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>	Prothonotary Warbler	
<i>Rallus crepitans</i>	Clapper Rail	SC
<i>Scolopax minor</i>	American Woodcock	
<i>Spiza americana</i>	Dickcissel	
<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	Field Sparrow	
<i>Sturnella magna</i>	Eastern Meadowlark	
<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	Sandwich Tern	
<i>Tyto furcata</i>	American Barn Owl	
<i>Vermivora cyanoptera</i>	Blue-winged Warbler	

## Mammals

Seventy-nine (79) native mammal species have occurred in Alabama, four (4) of which (Red Wolf, Florida Panther/Eastern Cougar, Elk, and Bison) are extirpated. In addition to the 70 native mammals still maintaining populations in the state, there are introduced breeding populations of six exotic species (Black Rat, Norway Rat, House Mouse, Coypu [Nutria], Fallow Deer, and Feral Swine). According to the best scientific information and consensus of numerous experts, 38 mammal SGCN were identified (Table 1.7). Alabama has four (4) Extirpated, nine (9) mammal species with a Federal status (Appendix 1.1), ten (10) Priority 1, thirteen (13) Priority 2, and eleven (11) Priority 3, and thirty-eight (38) Non-SGCN.

The WFF continues to monitor the status of harvested mammal species, including deer, small game, and furbearers. The WFF's Game Check online reporting system has been in place since 2013 to allow hunters to report their harvested deer and turkey. In addition, the Hunter Harvest and Furbearer Survey is sent out annually to compile data on harvested and trapped mammals. WFF also has an online reporting system for black bear observations with the number of sightings continuing to increase each year.

WFF Nongame Section conducts bat and small mammal surveys annually as well as disease monitoring for those species. WFF Nongame Section monitors Alabama's bat species for White-Nose Syndrome (WNS), first discovered in Alabama in 2012 at Russell Cave. WNS has been confirmed in caves in 14 counties across the northern half of Alabama. Recently, a new bat species was officially confirmed in Alabama by the Alabama Bat Working Group, the Eastern Small-footed Bat. WFF Nongame Section also conducts surveys for secretive

animals in Alabama including the long-tailed weasel and eastern spotted skunk and also collects reports from the public of sightings of those species.

Under Alabama law, all game and furbearer species, as well as those listed as protected nongame mammals, are protected. The ADCNR, WFF enforces these protections through hunting, trapping, and nongame wildlife regulations. It is unlawful to take, capture, kill, possess, sell, or trade nongame protected mammals, as listed under Alabama Administrative Code 220-2-.92, without a special scientific, educational, or rehabilitation permit issued by ADCNR.

Marine mammals have been monitored through Alabama's DCNR coastal programs and gulf-wide by NMFS and USFWS. The bottle-nosed dolphin and West Indian manatee are the only two regularly occurring marine mammals in Alabama waters. The Dauphin Island Sea Lab coordinates the Alabama Marine Mammal Stranding Network as well as the Manatee Sighting Network. Recovery plans for the threatened, endangered, and protected species, as well as stock assessments by NMFS, address any additional marine mammals protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act that rarely occur in Alabama waters.

Detailed accounts of mammal species richness in Alabama are provided by Howell (1921) and Best and Dusi (2014). The most current and best available scientific information on status and distribution of Alabama's SGCN mammals is provided in the Alabama Wildlife Volume 5 (Shelton-Nix 2017). The Alabama State Heritage Database, administered by the Auburn University Natural History Museum, and the ADCNR – Lands Division Natural Heritage Database maintains an occurrence database.

Table 1.7 Alabama SGCN Mammals		
SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<b>Extirpated</b>		
<i>Bison bison</i>	American Bison	
<i>Canis rufus</i>	Red Wolf	LE
<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	Elk	
<i>Puma concolor</i>	Cougar	LE
<b>Priority 1</b>		
<i>Myotis grisescens</i>	Gray Myotis	LE
<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	Little Brown Myotis	
<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Northern Myotis	LE
<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Indiana Myotis	LE
<i>Peromyscus polionotus</i>	Alabama Beach Mouse	LE
<i>ammobates</i>		

Table 1.7 Alabama SGCM Mammals

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Peromyscus polionotus</i>	Perdido Key Beach Mouse	LE
<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	Tricolored Bat	PE
<i>Sylvilagus obscurus</i>	Appalachian Cottontail	
<i>Trichechus manatus</i>	West Indian Manatee	LT
<i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i>	Florida Black Bear	
<b>Priority 2</b>		
<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i>	Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat	
<i>Geomys pinetis</i>	Southeastern Pocket Gopher	
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Hoary Bat	
<i>Lasiurus intermedius</i>	Northern Yellow Bat	
<i>Microtus ochrogaster</i>	Prairie Vole	
<i>Myotis austroriparius</i>	Southeastern Myotis	
<i>Myotis leibii</i>	Eastern Small-footed Myotis	
<i>Neotoma magister</i>	Allegheny Woodrat	
<i>Sorex fumeus</i>	Smoky Shrew	
<i>Sorex hoyi</i>	American Pygmy Shrew	
<i>Spilogale putorius</i>	Eastern Spotted Skunk	
<i>Sylvilagus palustris</i>	Marsh Rabbit	
<i>Zapus hudsonius</i>	Meadow Jumping Mouse	
<b>Priority 3</b>		
<i>Blarina brevicauda</i>	Northern Short-tailed Shrew	
<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	Big Brown Bat	
<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	Silver-haired Bat	
<i>Mustela frenata</i>	Long-tailed Weasel	
<i>Neogale vison</i>	American Mink	
<i>Neotoma floridana haematoreia</i>	Southern Appalachian Woodrat	
<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	Common Muskrat	
<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	Deer Mouse	
<i>Peromyscus polionotus</i>	Oldfield Mouse	
<i>Sciurus niger</i>	Eastern Fox Squirrel	
<i>Ursus americanus</i>	American Black Bear	

## Crayfish

Alabama, with its varied physiography and abundant hydrologic resources, is home to the most speciose crayfish fauna in North America. There are currently 100 crayfish species known from the state, including 15 endemics. Species boundaries are largely influenced by major geologic features, with the foremost being the Fall Line, the boundary between the

rocky upland physiographic provinces and less consolidated sediments of the Coastal Plain. Only 13 species are distributed across this boundary while 45 species occur only above it and 42 species occur only below it. For lotic taxa, isolation within major river basins drive speciation, and species are often restricted to a single river or group of tributaries within a basin. Habitat specialization also divides taxa groups, with the best example being Alabama's eight stygobitic crayfishes found only in subterranean habitats and often restricted single cave systems.

A monumental effort was undertaken in recent years by crayfish researchers to consolidate historical data, update current distributions, and formally describe unrecognized Alabama crayfish taxa (Schuster *et al.* 2022). The data from this effort, combined with opinions of regional crayfish experts, determined Alabama has 63 crayfish SGCN with seventeen (17) P1, twenty-four (24) P2, and twenty-two (22) P3 taxa (Table 1.8). Only Slenderclaw Crayfish (*Cambarus cracens*) is currently listed under the Endangered Species Act while Jackson Prairie Crayfish (*Procambarus barbiger*) is under review for listing. No Alabama crayfish are known to be extinct or extirpated from the state. These numbers represent a significant update from the previous SWAP as only 84 species were included in the earlier iteration (Henderson *et al.* 2017) and several of these were subsequently determined not to occur in Alabama. This left 21 taxa without formal ranking. The 2025 SWAP addresses these deficiencies and updates the previously ranked taxa with significantly improved distributional data.

Table 1.8 Alabama SGCN Crayfishes

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<b>Priority 1</b>		
<i>Barbicambarus simmonsii</i>	Tennessee Bottlebrush Crayfish	UR
<i>Cambarus clairitae</i>	Zebra Crayfish	
<i>Cambarus cracens</i>	Slenderclaw Crayfish	E
<i>Cambarus distans</i>	Boxclaw Crayfish	
<i>Cambarus diupalma</i>	Mountain Fork Crayfish	
<i>Cambarus jonesi</i>	Alabama Cave Crayfish	
<i>Cambarus laconensis</i>	Lacon Exit Cave Crayfish	
<i>Cambarus pecki</i>	Phantom Cave Crayfish	
<i>Cambarus pyronotus</i>	Fireback Crayfish	
<i>Cambarus veitchorum</i>	White Spring Cave Crayfish	
<i>Creaserinus danielae</i>	Speckled Burrowing Crayfish	
<i>Lacunicambarus freudensteini</i>	Banded Mudbug	
<i>Lacunicambarus mobilensis</i>	Lonesome Gravedigger	
<i>Orconectes sheltae</i>	Shelta Cave Crayfish	
<i>Procambarus barbiger</i>	Jackson Prairie Crayfish	UR

Table 1.8 Alabama SGCN Crayfishes

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Procambarus escambiensis</i>	Escambia Crayfish	
<i>Procambarus holifieldi</i>	Celestial Crayfish	
<b>Priority 2</b>		
<i>Cambarellus diminutus</i>	Least Crayfish	
<i>Cambarellus rotatus</i>	Twisted Dwarf Crayfish	
<i>Cambarus andersoni</i>	Florence Crayfish	
<i>Cambarus gentyi</i>	Linear Cobalt Crayfish	
<i>Cambarus howardi</i>	Chattahoochee Crayfish	
<i>Cambarus lentiginosus</i>	Speckled Crayfish	
<i>Cambarus manningi</i>	Greensaddle Crayfish	
<i>Cambarus parvovulus</i>	Mountain Midget Crayfish	
<i>Cambarus rusticiformis</i>	Depression Crayfish	
<i>Cambarus speleocoopi</i>	Sweet Home Alabama Cave Crayfish	
<i>Faxonius cooperi</i>	Flint River Crayfish	
<i>Faxonius durelli</i>	Saddle Crayfish	
<i>Faxonius jonesi</i>	Sucarnoochee River Crayfish	
<i>Faxonius spinosus</i>	Coosa River Spiny Crayfish	
<i>Hobbseus prominens</i>	Prominence Riverlet Crayfish	
<i>Procambarus capillatus</i>	Capillaceous Crayfish	
<i>Procambarus clemmeri</i>	Cockscomb Crayfish	
<i>Procambarus evermanni</i>	Panhandle Crayfish	
<i>Procambarus hagenianus</i>	Southeastern Prairie Crayfish	
<i>Procambarus hayi</i>	Straightedge Crayfish	
<i>Procambarus lagniappe</i>	Lagniappe Crayfish	
<i>Procambarus lecontei</i>	Mobile Crayfish	
<i>Procambarus planirostris</i>	Flatnose Crayfish	
<i>Procambarus viaeivirdis</i>	Vernal Crayfish	
<b>Priority 3</b>		
<i>Cambarellus shufeldtii</i>	Cajun Dwarf Crayfish	
<i>Cambarus bartonii cavatus</i>	Appalachian Brook Crayfish	
<i>Cambarus englishi</i>	Tallapoosa Crayfish	
<i>Cambarus hamulatus</i>	Prickly Cave Crayfish	
<i>Cambarus longirostris</i>	Longnose Crayfish	
<i>Cambarus tenebrosus</i>	Cavespring Crayfish	
<i>Cambarus unestami</i>	Blackbarred Crayfish	
<i>Creaserinus burrisi</i>	Burrowing Bog Crayfish	
<i>Creaserinus byersi</i>	Lavender Burrowing Crayfish	
<i>Faxonius placidus</i>	Bigclaw Crayfish	
<i>Lacunicambarus miltus</i>	Rusty Grave Digger	
<i>Orconectes australis</i>	Southern Cave Crayfish	

Table 1.8 Alabama SGCN Crayfishes

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Procambarus bivittatus</i>	Ribbon Crayfish	
<i>Procambarus hubbelli</i>	Jackknife Crayfish	
<i>Procambarus hybus</i>	Smoothnose Crayfish	
<i>Procambarus lewisi</i>	Spur Crayfish	
<i>Procambarus marthae</i>	Crisscross Crayfish	
<i>Procambarus okaloosae</i>	Okaloosa Crayfish	
<i>Procambarus paeninsulanus</i>	Peninsula Crayfish	
<i>Procambarus shermani</i>	Gulf Crayfish	
<i>Procambarus verrucosus</i>	Grainy Crayfish	
<i>Procambarus zonangulus</i>	Southern White River Crawfish	

## Fishes

Alabama's rivers and streams are populated by the richest fish fauna in North America (Smith-Vaniz 1968, Boschung and Mayden 2004, Mirarchi et al. 2004, Rider et al. 2017, Elkins et al. 2019). The 2024 Fish Taxa Team considered 319 native fish species, including a number of recently described species. Of this total, six (6) species are designated as extirpated and two (2) are extinct. According to the best scientific information and consensus of numerous experts, there are forty-five (45) P1, seventeen (17) P2, forty-three (43) P3, and two (2) extirpated conservation action underway species (Table 1.9).

In the last 10 years no fish species has become extinct from Alabama. One species designated as extirpated in 2012, Popeye Shiner, has recently been collected by biologists with the Tennessee Valley Authority in 2016 and 2017. However, it was determined that the Scaly Sand Darter has been extirpated from the state. Two species, Lake Sturgeon and Spotfin Chub are still classified as Extirpated with Conservation Actions Underway. That is, reintroduction efforts continue for these species with numbers slightly increasing in Alabama.

Unfortunately, the total number of fish species classified as SGCN (i.e., P1-P3) has increased from 93 in 2015 to 104 in 2025. Seven species conservation status was elevated to P1: Blackmouth Shiner, Bluenose Shiner, Bluefin Killifish, Blueface Darter, Trispot Darter, Popeye Shiner, and Crown Darter. Moreover, four newly described species were designated as P1s: Locust Fork Darter, Gurley Darter, Birmingham Darter, and Sipsey Darter. Three species, Apalachee Shiner, Everglades Pygmy Sunfish, and Gilt Darter were elevated from P3s to P2s. Two species were elevated to P3s, Blotched Shiner and Saltmarsh Topminnow.

There is a glimpse of good news as 3 species SGCN status was lowered. That is, recent surveys determined that Brighteye Darter (P1 to P3), "Highlands Madtom" (P1 to P2), and

Bandfin Darter (P1 to P2) are more abundant and/or found in additional areas than previously thought.

These upgraded designations further highlight the continued imperilment of Alabama's native fishes. These species are imperiled due to habitat destruction and alteration from dam construction, dredging, de-snagging, channel modification, water temperature alteration, siltation as a result of poor forestry practices and regulation, water withdrawal, poor water quality, and introduction of non-native species.

As stated in 2002 and in 2015, full cooperation of all conservation minded stakeholders, local, state, and federal agencies, industry, businesses, and the public is needed to prevent the further imperilment of Alabama's native fishes. Failure to address these issues will result in the continued imperilment of Alabama's native fishes that will result in extirpation and/or extinction by the next Nongame Symposium scheduled for 2035.

Table 1.9 Alabama SGCN Fishes

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<b>Extinct</b>		
<i>Fundulus albolineatus</i>	Whiteline Topminnow	
<i>Moxostoma lacerum</i>	Harelip Sucker	
<b>Extirpated</b>		
<i>Allohistium cinereum</i>	Ashy Darter	
<i>Ammocrypta vivax</i>	Scaly Sand Darter	
<i>Hiodon alosoides</i>	Goldeye	
<i>Lepisosteus platostomus</i>	Shortnose Gar	
<i>Noturus crypticus</i>	Chucky Madtom	
<i>Scaphirhynchus platyrhynchus</i>	Shovelnose Sturgeon	
<b>Extirpated - CAU</b>		
<i>Acipenser fulvescens</i>	Lake Sturgeon	
<i>Erimonax monachus</i>	Spotfin Chub	
<b>Priority 1</b>		
<i>Acantharchus pomotis</i>	Mud Sunfish	
<i>Acipenser desotoi</i>	Gulf Sturgeon	T
<i>Alburnops chalybaeus</i>	Ironcolor Shiner	
<i>Alburnops hypsilepis</i>	Highscale Shiner	
<i>Alosa alabamiae</i>	Alabama Shad	
<i>Cottus paulus</i>	Pygmy Sculpin	T
<i>Cyprinella caerulea</i>	Blue Shiner	T
<i>Cyprinella callitaenia</i>	Bluestripe Shiner	
<i>Elassoma alabamiae</i>	Spring Pygmy Sunfish	
<i>Etheostoma birminghamense</i>	Birmingham Darter	



Table 1.9 Alabama SGCN Fishes

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Etheostoma boschungii</i>	Slackwater Darter	T
<i>Etheostoma brevirostrum</i>	Holiday Darter	
<i>Etheostoma chermocki</i>	Vermilion Darter	E
<i>Etheostoma corona</i>	Crown Darter	
<i>Etheostoma cyanoprosopum</i>	Blueface Darter	
<i>Etheostoma gurleyense</i>	Gurley Darter	
<i>Etheostoma kimberlae</i>	Locust Fork Darter	
<i>Etheostoma michellae</i>	Sipsey Fork Darter	
<i>Etheostoma neopterum</i>	Lollypop Darter	
<i>Etheostoma nuchale</i>	Watercress Darter	E
<i>Etheostoma phytophilum</i>	Rush Darter	E
<i>Etheostoma trisella</i>	Trispot Darter	
<i>Lucania goodei</i>	Bluefin Killifish	
<i>Macrhybopsis hyostoma</i>	Shoal Chub	
<i>Micropterus cataractae</i>	Shoal Bass	
<i>Micropterus warriorensis</i>	Warrior Bass	
<i>Miniellus albizonatus</i>	Palezone Shiner	E
<i>Miniellus melanostomus</i>	Blackmouth Shiner	
<i>Nothonotus camurum</i>	Bluebreast Darter	
<i>Nothonotus wapiti</i>	Boulder Darter	E
<i>Notropis ariommus</i>	Popeye Shiner	
<i>Noturus munitus</i>	Frecklebelly Madtom	
<i>Paranotropis buchanani</i>	Ghost Shiner	
<i>Paranotropis cahabae</i>	Cahaba Shiner	E
<i>Percina burtoni</i>	Blotchside Logperch	
<i>Percina crypta</i>	Halloween Darter	
<i>Percina phoxocephala</i>	Slenderhead Darter	
<i>Percina sipsi</i>	Bankhead Darter	
<i>Phenacobius mirabilis</i>	Suckermouth Minnow	
<i>Pteronotropis cummingsae</i>	Dusky Shiner	
<i>Pteronotropis euryzonus</i>	Broadstripe Shiner	
<i>Pteronotropis welaka</i>	Bluenose Shiner	
<i>Sander sp. cf. vitreus</i>	"Southern Walleye"	
<i>Scaphirhynchus suttkusi</i>	Alabama Sturgeon	E
<i>Speoplatyrhinus poulsoni</i>	Alabama Cavefish	E
<b>Priority 2</b>		
<i>Elassoma evergladei</i>	Everglades Pygmy Sunfish	
<i>Erimystax dissimilis</i>	Streamline Chub	
<i>Etheostoma bellator</i>	Warrior Darter	
<i>Etheostoma ditrema</i>	Coldwater Darter	
<i>Etheostoma tuscumbia</i>	Tuscumbia Darter	
<i>Etheostoma zonistium</i>	Bandfin Darter	

Table 1.9 Alabama SGCN Fishes

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Hiodon tergisus</i>	Mooneye	
<i>Micropterus chattahoochae</i>	Chattahoochee Bass	
<i>Noturus eleutherus</i>	Mountain Madtom	
<i>Noturus miurus</i>	Brindled Madtom	
<i>Noturus sp. cf. flavus</i>	"Highlands Madtom"	
<i>Percina aurolineata</i>	Goldline Darter	T
<i>Percina brevicauda</i>	Coal Darter	
<i>Percina evides</i>	Gilt Darter	
<i>Percina tanasi</i>	Snail Darter	T
<i>Phenacobius uranops</i>	Stargazing Minnow	
<i>Pteronotropis grandipinnis</i>	Apalachee Shiner	
<b>Priority 3</b>		
<i>Alburnops petersoni</i>	Coastal Shiner	
<i>Alosa chrysochloris</i>	Skipjack Herring	
<i>Ameiurus serracanthus</i>	Spotted Bullhead	
<i>Atractosteus spatula</i>	Alligator Gar	
<i>Campostoma pauciradii</i>	Bluefin Stoneroller	
<i>Crystallaria asprella</i>	Crystal Darter	
<i>Cycleptus elongatus</i>	Blue Sucker	
<i>Cycleptus meridionalis</i>	Southeastern Blue Sucker	
<i>Cyprinella whipplei</i>	Steelcolor Shiner	
<i>Enneacanthus gloriosus</i>	Bluespotted Sunfish	
<i>Enneacanthus obesus</i>	Banded Sunfish	
<i>Erimystax insignis</i>	Blotched Chub	
<i>Etheostoma crossopteron</i>	Fringed Darter	
<i>Etheostoma lynceum</i>	Brighteye Darter	
<i>Fundulus bifax</i>	Stippled Studfish	
<i>Fundulus cingulatus</i>	Banded Topminnow	
<i>Fundulus confluentus</i>	Marsh Killifish	
<i>Fundulus dispar</i>	Starhead Topminnow	
<i>Fundulus jenkinsi</i>	Saltmarsh Topminnow	
<i>Fundulus pulvereus</i>	Bayou Killifish	
<i>Hybognathus hayi</i>	Cypress Minnow	
<i>Ichthyomyzon greeleyi</i>	Mountain Brook Lamprey	
<i>Ictiobus cyprinellus</i>	Bigmouth Buffalo	
<i>Ictiobus niger</i>	Black Buffalo	
<i>Leptolucania ommata</i>	Pygmy Killifish	
<i>Lethenteron appendix</i>	American Brook Lamprey	
<i>Lythrurus fumeus</i>	Ribbon Shiner	
<i>Macrhybopsis etnieri</i>	Coosa Chub	
<i>Macrhybopsis pallida</i>	Pallid Chub	
<i>Micropterus cahabae</i>	Cahaba Bass	

Table 1.9 Alabama SGCN Fishes

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Miniellus uranoscopus</i>	Skygazer Shiner	
<i>Moxostoma carinatum</i>	River Redhorse	
<i>Moxostoma macrolepidotum</i>	Shorthead Redhorse	
<i>Nothonotus douglasi</i>	Tuskaloosa Darter	
<i>Notropis micropteryx</i>	Highland Shiner	
<i>Notropis photogenis</i>	Silver Shiner	
<i>Paranotropis</i> sp. cf. <i>spectrunculus</i>	"Sawfin Shiner"	
<i>Percina austroperca</i>	Southern Logperch	
<i>Percina lenticula</i>	Freckled Darter	
<i>Pteronotropis merlini</i>	Orangetail Shiner	
<i>Pteronotropis signipinnis</i>	Flagfin Shiner	
<i>Typhlichthys subterraneus</i>	Southern Cavefish	
<i>Typhlichthys</i> sp. cf. <i>subterraneus</i>	"Tennessee Cavefish"	

## Mussels

Alabama has been home to one of the largest assemblages of freshwater mussels in the world, with one hundred eighty (180) species known from the state. This includes historical species now extinct or extirpated from the state, as well as species which have colonized our rivers following modern habitat alterations. Freshwater mussels can be found thorough most parts of Alabama and occur primarily in flowing portions of rivers and streams, though may also occur in lakes, ponds, and swamps. Mussel distribution is closely tied to physiography and geology, as well as geography, with many species restricted to single drainages. Many species are also sensitive to changes in habitat and water quality, so modern distributions are centered in areas that have been subjected to the least amount of change. With a parasitic larval stage and many species expressing at least some degree of host specificity, their distributions are also reliant on the distributions of their hosts. Freshwater mussels are filter feeders and provide many ecosystem services such as removal of sediment and pollutants from the water column, nutrient recycling and storage, and riverbed stabilization, as well as providing food for many other organisms (Vaughn 2017).

Nationally and regionally, many freshwater mussels have suffered from modern habitat perturbations, causing a significant number of extinctions and a high degree of imperilment among those that remain (Williams et al. 2008; Johnson et al. 2013). Habitat changes that resulted in these faunal declines include river impoundment and channelization, pollution, industrialization and urbanization, erosion, and siltation (Haag 2019). As a result, only 73% of the historical mussel fauna is believed to remain in Alabama. According to the best

scientific information and consensus among numerous experts, Alabama has 138 mussel SGCN, including twenty-four (24) extinct, twenty-one (21) extirpated (5 additional extirpated conservation actions underway), fifty-seven (57) P1, sixteen (16) P2, and fourteen (14) P3 (Table 1.10).

Though these mussel declines have been significant and unfortunate, ADCNR is leading efforts to manage, protect, conserve, and enhance these resources, primarily through its propagation and reintroduction program. From 2002 through 2025 the ADCNR WFF released 61,155 laboratory-reared mussels of 21 species at 31 locations across five river basins. Captive propagation and restoration of mussel populations can not only aid in recovery of these highly imperiled species but also help to clean Alabama's waterways and aid in restoration of habitats in general that benefit many other species.

Table 1.10 Alabama SGCN Mussels

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<b>Extinct</b>		
<i>Alasmidonta mccordi</i>	Coosa Elktoe	
<i>Epioblasma arcaeformis</i>	Sugarspoon	
<i>Epioblasma biemarginata</i>	Angled Riffleshell	
<i>Epioblasma cincinnatiensis</i>	Ohio Riffleshell	
<i>Epioblasma flexuosa</i>	Leafshell	
<i>Epioblasma florentina</i>	Yellow Blossom	
<i>Epioblasma haysiana</i>	Acornshell	
<i>Epioblasma lenior</i>	Narrow Catspaw	
<i>Epioblasma lewisii</i>	Forkshell	
<i>Epioblasma metastrata</i>	Upland Combshell	
<i>Epioblasma othcaloogensis</i>	Southern Acornshell	
<i>Epioblasma personata</i>	Round Combshell	
<i>Epioblasma propinqua</i>	Tennessee Riffleshell	
<i>Epioblasma stewardsonii</i>	Cumberland Leafshell	
<i>Epioblasma torulosa</i>	Tubercled Blossom	
<i>Epioblasma turgidula</i>	Turgid Blossom	
<i>Lampsilis binominata</i>	Lined Pocketbook	
<i>Obovaria haddletoni</i>	Haddleton Lampmussel	
<i>Pleurobema curtum</i>	Black Clubshell	E
<i>Pleurobema fibuloides</i>	Kusha Pigtoe	
<i>Pleurobema marshalli</i>	Flat Pigtoe	
<i>Pleurobema verum</i>	True Pigtoe	
<i>Reginaia apalachicola</i>	Apalachicola Ebonyshell	
<i>Theliderma stapes</i>	Stirrupshell	
<b>Extirpated</b>		

Table 1.10 Alabama SGCN Mussels

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Alasmidonta marginata</i>	Elktoe	
<i>Dromus dromas</i>	Dromedary Pearlymussel	E
<i>Elliptio fraterna</i>	Brother Spike	
<i>Elliptio nigella</i>	Winged Spike	
<i>Elliptoideus sloatianus</i>	Purple Bankclimber	T
<i>Epioblasma aureola</i>	Golden Riffleshell	E
<i>Epioblasma obliquata</i>	Catspaw	E
<i>Lasmigona subviridis</i>	Green Floater	
<i>Obovaria olivaria</i>	Hickorynut	
<i>Obovaria retusa</i>	Ring Pink	E
<i>Ortmanniana pectorosa</i>	Pheasantshell	
<i>Paetulunio fabalis</i>	Rayed Bean	E
<i>Pegias fabula</i>	Littlewing Pearlymussel	E
<i>Plethobasus cooperianus</i>	Orangefoot Pimpleback	E
<i>Pleurobema clava</i>	Clubshell	E
<i>Pleurobema hartmanianum</i>	Cherokee Pigtoe	
<i>Pleurobema stabile</i>	Coosa Pigtoe	
<i>Potamilus leptodon</i>	Scaleshell	E
<i>Ptychobranhus subtentus</i>	Fluted Kidneyshell	E
<i>Theliderma intermedia</i>	Cumberland Monkeyface	E
<i>Theliderma sparsa</i>	Appalachian Monkeyface	E
<b>Extirpated - CAU</b>		
<i>Epioblasma capsaeformis</i>	Oyster Mussel	E
<i>Epioblasma penita</i>	Southern Combshell	E
<i>Lemiox rimosus</i>	Birdwing Pearlymussel	E
<i>Medionidus parvulus</i>	Coosa Moccasinshell	E
<i>Venustaconcha trabalis</i>	Cumberland Bean	E
<b>Priority 1</b>		
<i>Alasmidonta triangulata</i>	Southern Elktoe	PE
<i>Alasmidonta viridis</i>	Slippershell Mussel	
<i>Cumberlandia monodonta</i>	Spectaclecase	E
<i>Cyprogenia stegaria</i>	Fanshell	E
<i>Elliptio arca</i>	Alabama Spike	UR
<i>Elliptio arctata</i>	Delicate Spike	UR
<i>Elliptio chipolaensis</i>	Chipola Slabshell	T
<i>Elliptio purpurella</i>	Inflated Spike	
<i>Epioblasma brevidens</i>	Cumberlandian Combshell	E
<i>Epioblasma triquetra</i>	Snuffbox	E
<i>Eurynia dilatata</i>	Spike	
<i>Fusconaia cor</i>	Shiny Pigtoe	E
<i>Fusconaia cuneolus</i>	Finerayed Pigtoe	E

Table 1.10 Alabama SGCN Mussels

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Fusconaia subrotunda</i>	Longsolid	T
<i>Hamiota subangulata</i>	Shinyrayed Pocketbook	E
<i>Hemistena lata</i>	Cracking Pearlymussel	E
<i>Lampsilis virescens</i>	Alabama Lampmussel	E
<i>Lasmigona etowaensis</i>	Etowah Heelsplitter	
<i>Lasmigona holstonia</i>	Tennessee Heelsplitter	
<i>Ligumia recta</i>	Black Sandshell	
<i>Margaritifera marrianae</i>	Alabama Pearlshell	E
<i>Medionidus acutissimus</i>	Alabama Moccasinshell	T
<i>Medionidus conradicus</i>	Cumberland Moccasinshell	PE
<i>Medionidus penicillatus</i>	Gulf Moccasinshell	E
<i>Obovaria arkansasensis</i>	Southern Hickorynut	
<i>Obovaria choctawensis</i>	Choctaw Bean	E
<i>Obovaria subrotunda</i>	Round Hickorynut	T
<i>Obovaria unicolor</i>	Alabama Hickorynut	PE
<i>Ortmanniana abrupta</i>	Pink Mucket	E
<i>Ortmanniana ligamentina</i>	Mucket	
<i>Plethobasus cicatricosus</i>	White Wartyback	E
<i>Plethobasus cyphus</i>	Sheepnose	E
<i>Pleurobema athearni</i>	Canoe Creek Clubshell	E
<i>Pleurobema beadleianum</i>	Mississippi Pigtoe	
<i>Pleurobema cordatum</i>	Ohio Pigtoe	
<i>Pleurobema georgianum</i>	Southern Pigtoe	E
<i>Pleurobema hanleyianum</i>	Georgia Pigtoe	E
<i>Pleurobema oviforme</i>	Tennessee Clubshell	PE
<i>Pleurobema perovatum</i>	Ovate Clubshell	E
<i>Pleurobema plenum</i>	Rough Rigtoe	E
<i>Pleurobema pyriforme</i>	Oval Pigtoe	E
<i>Pleurobema rubellum</i>	Warrior Pigtoe	E
<i>Pleurobema sintoxia</i>	Round Pigtoe	
<i>Pleurobema taitianum</i>	Heavy Pigtoe	E
<i>Pleurobema barnesiana</i>	Tennessee Pigtoe	PE
<i>Pleurobema dolabelloides</i>	Slabside Pearlymussel	E
<i>Ptychobranhus fasciolaris</i>	Kidneyshell	
<i>Ptychobranhus foremanianus</i>	Rayed Kidneyshell	E
<i>Ptychobranhus greenii</i>	Triangular Kidneyshell	E
<i>Ptychobranhus jonesi</i>	Southern Kidneyshell	E
<i>Pustulosa archeri</i>	Tallapoosa Orb	UR
<i>Reginaia rotulata</i>	Round Ebonyshell	E
<i>Strophitus undulatus</i>	Creeper	
<i>Theliderma metanevra</i>	Monkeyface	
<i>Toxolasma corvunculus</i>	Southern Purple Lilliput	

Table 1.10 Alabama SGCN Mussels

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Toxolasma cylindrellus</i>	Pale Lilliput	E
<i>Utterbackia peggyae</i>	Florida Floater	PE
<b>Priority 2</b>		
<i>Cambarunio nebulosus</i>	Alabama Rainbow	UR
<i>Cambarunio taeniatus</i>	Painted Creekshell	
<i>Fusconaia burkei</i>	Tapered Pigtoe	T
<i>Fusconaia escambia</i>	Narrow Pigtoe	T
<i>Hamiota altilis</i>	Finelined Pocketbook	T
<i>Hamiota australis</i>	Southern Sandshell	E
<i>Hamiota perovalis</i>	Orangenacre Mucket	T
<i>Leaunio umbrans</i>	Coosa Creekshell	UR
<i>Pleurobema decisum</i>	Southern Clubshell	E
<i>Pleurobema strodeanum</i>	Fuzzy Pigtoe	T
<i>Potamilus inflatus</i>	Inflated Heelsplitter	T
<i>Pseudodonoideus connasaugaensis</i>	Alabama Creekmussel	
<i>Pustulosa infucata</i>	Sculptured Pigtoe	
<i>Theliderma cylindrica</i>	Rabbitsfoot	T
<i>Theliderma johnsoni</i>	Southern Monkeyface	
<i>Villosa villosa</i>	Downy Rainbow	UR
<b>Priority 3</b>		
<i>Amblema elliottii</i>	Coosa Fiveridge	
<i>Arcidens confragosus</i>	Rock Pocketbook	
<i>Cambarunio iris</i>	Rainbow	
<i>Elliptio crassidens</i>	Elephantear	
<i>Elliptio mcmichaeli</i>	Fluted Elephantear	
<i>Lampsilis fasciola</i>	Wavyrayed Lampmussel	
<i>Lasmigona alabamensis</i>	Alabama Heelsplitter	
<i>Lasmigona costata</i>	Flutedshell	
<i>Pseudodonoideus subvexus</i>	Southern Creekmussel	
<i>Quadrula nobilis</i>	Gulf Mapleleaf	
<i>Strophitus williamsi</i>	Flatwoods Creekshell	
<i>Toxolasma paulum</i>	Iridescent Lilliput	
<i>Utterbackiana hartfieldorum</i>	Cypress Floater	
<i>Utterbackiana heardi</i>	Apalachicola Floater	

## Freshwater Snails

Alabama was historically home to one hundred ninety-six (196) species of freshwater snails. This species richness is the result of Alabama's numerous streams among several distinct river drainages that are isolated from each other, all overlying a complex geology which

creates a variety of habitats with different selective pressures among the different snail populations. Speciation was enhanced by the fact that the area was never glaciated during the ice ages, so the fauna was left intact and is very old. Snails can be found in varying degrees and species richness across Alabama, with the exceptions of a few blackwater streams in the southwestern part of the state.

Like most other freshwater groups, snails have suffered from habitat loss and water quality issues, primarily due to impoundment of rivers. As such, only 78% of the historical snail fauna is believed to still occur in the state, with 37 species believed to have gone extinct and another 7 species extirpated from Alabama. However, a significant and diverse fauna remains, though much of the remainder is imperiled. Based on expert opinion and the most current data, thirty-one (31) extant species warrant the status of P1, fourteen (14) were assigned to P2, and fifty-nine (59) were assigned to P3 (Table 1.11). But the future is hopeful for some of the imperiled species. Since 2002 the AABC has released over 150,000 lab-reared individuals of 7 snail species at over 12 locations in the Mobile Basin and Tennessee River drainage.

It should be noted that freshwater snail taxonomy is undergoing change, especially regarding Pleuroceridae which is the most prominent family in Alabama. The current list is a snapshot of our current taxonomy and will change considerably within the next few years.

Table 1.11 Alabama SGCN Snails

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<b>Extinct</b>		
<i>Amphigyra alabamensis</i>	Shoal Sprite	
<i>Clappia umbilicata</i>	Umbilicate Pebblesnail	
<i>Elimia brevis</i>	Short Spire Elimia	
<i>Elimia catenoides</i>	Lirate Elimia	
<i>Elimia clausa</i>	Closed Elimia	
<i>Elimia fusiformis</i>	Fusiform Elimia	
<i>Elimia gibbera</i>	Shouldered Elimia	
<i>Elimia hartmaniana</i>	High-spired Elimia	
<i>Elimia impressa</i>	Constricted Elimia	
<i>Elimia jonesi</i>	Hearty Elimia	
<i>Elimia laeta</i>	Ribbed Elimia	
<i>Elimia macglameriana</i>	Wrinkled Elimia	
<i>Elimia pilsbryi</i>	Rough-lined Elimia	
<i>Elimia pupaeformis</i>	Pupa Elimia	
<i>Elimia pupoidea</i>	Bot Elimia	
<i>Elimia pygmaea</i>	Pygmy Elimia	
<i>Gyrotoma excisa</i>	Excised Slitshell	



Table 1.11 Alabama SGCN Snails

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Gyrotoma lewisii</i>	Striate Slitshell	
<i>Gyrotoma pagoda</i>	Pagoda Slitshell	
<i>Gyrotoma pumila</i>	Ribbed Slitshell	
<i>Gyrotoma pyramidata</i>	Pyramid Slitshell	
<i>Gyrotoma walkeri</i>	Round Slitshell	
<i>Leptoxis clipeata</i>	Agate Rocksnail	
<i>Leptoxis formosa</i>	<i>Leptoxis formosa</i>	
<i>Leptoxis ligata</i>	Rotund Rocksnail	
<i>Leptoxis lirata</i>	Lirate Rocksnail	
<i>Leptoxis minor</i>	Knob Mudalia	
<i>Leptoxis occulta</i>	Bigmouth Rocksnail	
<i>Leptoxis showalterii</i>	Coosa Rocksnail	
<i>Leptoxis torrefacta</i>	Squat Rocksnail	
<i>Leptoxis vittata</i>	Striped Rocksnail	
<i>Marstonia olivacea</i>	<i>Marstonia olivacea</i>	
<i>Neoplanorbis carinatus</i>	Carinate Flat-top Snail	
<i>Neoplanorbis smithi</i>	Angled Flat-top Snail	
<i>Neoplanorbis tantillus</i>	Little Flat-top Snail	
<i>Neoplanorbis umbilicatus</i>	Umbilicate Flat-top Snail	
<i>Pomatiopsis hinkleyi</i>	Alabama Walker	
<b>Extirpated</b>		
<i>Io fluvialis</i>	Spiny Riversnail	
<i>Leptoxis foremani</i>	Interrupted Rocksnail	E
<i>Lithasia curta</i>	Knobby Rocksnail	
<i>Probythinella emarginata</i>	Delta Hydrobe	
<i>Rhodacmea hinkleyi</i>	Knobby Ancyloid	
<i>Valvata bicarinata</i>	Two-ridge Valvata	
<i>Elimia varians</i>	Puzzle Elimia	
<b>Priority 1</b>		
<i>Antrorbis breweri</i>	Manitou Cavesnail	UR
<i>Athearnia anthonyi</i>	Anthony's Riversnail	E
<i>Campeloma decampi</i>	Slender Campeloma	E
<i>Elimia annettae</i>	Lilyshoals Elimia	UR
<i>Elimia bellacrenata</i>	Princess Elimia	UR
<i>Elimia broccata</i>	Brooch Elimia	
<i>Elimia capillaris</i>	Spindle Elimia	
<i>Elimia cochliaris</i>	Cockle Elimia	UR
<i>Elimia crenatella</i>	Lacy Elimia	T
<i>Elimia lachryma</i>	Teardrop Elimia	UR
<i>Elimia melanoides</i>	Black Mudalia	
<i>Elimia mihalcikae</i>	Latticed Elimia	

Table 1.11 Alabama SGCN Snails

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Elimia nassula</i>	Round-ribbed Elimia	UR
<i>Elimia teretria</i>	Auger Elimia	
<i>Elimia ucheensis</i>	Creek Elimia	
<i>Elimia vanuxemiana</i>	Cobble Elimia	
<i>Fontigens nickliniana</i>	Watercress Snail	
<i>Leptoxis compacta</i>	Oblong Rocksnail	PE
<i>Leptoxis coosaensis</i>	Painted Rocksnail	T
<i>Leptoxis picta</i>	Spotted Rocksnail	UR
<i>Leptoxis plicata</i>	Plicate Rocksnail	E
<i>Lepyrium showalteri</i>	Flat Pebblesnail	E
<i>Lioplax cyclostomatiformis</i>	Cylindrical Lioplax	E
<i>Lioplax pilsbryi</i>	Choctaw Lioplax	
<i>Lithasia salebrosa</i>	Muddy Rocksnail	
<i>Marstonia pachyta</i>	Armored Marstonia	E
<i>Pleurocera corpulenta</i>	Corpulent Hornsnail	UR
<i>Pseudotryonia grahamae</i>	Salt Spring Hydrobe	
<i>Rhodacmea cahawbensis</i>	Cahaba Ancyloid	
<i>Rhodacmea filosa</i>	Wicker Ancyloid	
<i>Stiobia nana</i>	Sculpin Snail	
<b>Priority 2</b>		
<i>Clappia cahabensis</i>	Cahaba Pebblesnail	
<i>Elimia acuta</i>	Acute Elimia	UR
<i>Elimia ampla</i>	Ample Elimia	
<i>Elimia boykiniana</i>	Flaxen Elimia	
<i>Elimia dickinsoni</i>	Stately Elimia	
<i>Elimia exusta</i>	Fire Elimia	
<i>Elimia olivula</i>	Caper Elimia	
<i>Elimia perstriata</i>	Engraved Elimia	UR
<i>Leptoxis ampla</i>	Round Rocksnail	T
<i>Lithasia armigera</i>	Armored Rocksnail	
<i>Lithasia lima</i>	Warty Rocksnail	
<i>Marstonia angulobasis</i>	<i>Marstonia angulobasis</i>	
<i>Marstonia scalariformis</i>	Moss Pyrg	
<i>Tulotoma magnifica</i>	Tulotoma	T
<b>Priority 3</b>		
<i>Amnicola limosus</i>	Mud Amnicola	
<i>Callinina intertexta</i>	Rotund Mysterysnail	
<i>Cincinnatia integra</i>	Midland Siltsnail	
<i>Dilatata brogniartiana</i>	Disc Sprite	
<i>Elimia alabamensis</i>	Mud Elimia	
<i>Elimia albanyensis</i>	Black-crest Elimia	
<i>Elimia bellula</i>	Walnut Elimia	

Table 1.11 Alabama SGCN Snails

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Elimia buffyae</i>	Iris Elimia	
<i>Elimia bullula</i>	Yellowleaf Elimia	
<i>Elimia chiltonensis</i>	Prune Elimia	
<i>Elimia clenchi</i>	Slackwater Elimia	
<i>Elimia comma</i>	Hispid Elimia	
<i>Elimia cylindracea</i>	Cylinder Elimia	
<i>Elimia glare</i>	Gravel Elimia	
<i>Elimia lecontiana</i>	Rippled Elimia	
<i>Elimia showalterii</i>	Compact Elimia	
<i>Galba cubensis</i>	Carib Fossaria	
<i>Lioplax sulculosa</i>	Furrowed Lioplax	
<i>Littoridinops monroensis</i>	Cockscomb Hydrobe	
<i>Littoridinops palustris</i>	Bantam Hydrobe	
<i>Lyogyrus granum</i>	Squat Dusksnail	
<i>Marstonia hershleri</i>	Coosa Pyrg	
<i>Marstonia sp.</i>	Cahaba Marstonia	
<i>Notogillia wetherbyi</i>	Alligator Siltsnail	
<i>Planorbula armigera</i>	Thicklip Ramshorn	
<i>Pleurocera attenuata</i>	Attenuate Hornsnail	
<i>Pleurocera brumbyi</i>	Spiral Hornsnail	
<i>Pleurocera foremanii</i>	Rough Hornsnail	E
<i>Pleurocera postelli</i>	Broken Hornsnail	
<i>Pleurocera showalteri</i>	Upland Hornsnail	
<i>Pleurocera trochiformis</i>	Sulcate Hornsnail	
<i>Pleurocera vestita</i>	Brook Hornsnail	
<i>Pleurocera walkeri</i>	Telescope Hornsnail	
<i>Pomacea paludosa</i>	Florida Applesnail	
<i>Rhaphinema dacryon</i>	Teardrop Snail	
<i>Rhodacmea elatior</i>	Domed Ancylicid	UR
<i>Somatogyrus aureus</i>	Golden Pebblesnail	
<i>Somatogyrus biangulatus</i>	Angular Pebblesnail	
<i>Somatogyrus constrictus</i>	Knotty Pebblesnail	
<i>Somatogyrus coosaensis</i>	Coosa Pebblesnail	
<i>Somatogyrus crassus</i>	Stocky Pebblesnail	
<i>Somatogyrus currierianus</i>	Tennessee Pebblesnail	
<i>Somatogyrus decipiens</i>	Hidden Pebblesnail	
<i>Somatogyrus excavatus</i>	Ovate Pebblesnail	
<i>Somatogyrus georgianus</i>	Cherokee Pebblesnail	
<i>Somatogyrus hendersoni</i>	Fluted Pebblesnail	
<i>Somatogyrus hinkleyi</i>	Granite Pebblesnail	

Table 1.11 Alabama SGCN Snails

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Somatogyrus humerosus</i>	Atlas Pebblesnail	
<i>Somatogyrus nanus</i>	Dwarf Pebblesnail	
<i>Somatogyrus obtusus</i>	Moon Pebblesnail	
<i>Somatogyrus pilsbryanus</i>	Tallapoosa Pebblesnail	
<i>Somatogyrus pumilus</i>	Compact Pebblesnail	
<i>Somatogyrus pygmaeus</i>	Pygmy Pebblesnail	
<i>Somatogyrus quadratus</i>	Quadrate Pebblesnail	
<i>Somatogyrus sargenti</i>	<i>Somatogyrus sargenti</i>	
<i>Somatogyrus strengi</i>	Rolling Pebblesnail	
<i>Somatogyrus substriatus</i>	Choctaw Pebblesnail	
<i>Somatogyrus tennesseensis</i>	Opaque Pebblesnail	
<i>Somatogyrus walkerianus</i>	Gulf Coast Pebblesnail	

## Plants

Alabama's floral richness ranks near the top in the United States with more than 4,300 species of vascular plants documented in the state (Keener et al. 2025). Of these, over 3,133 taxa (including hybrids, subspecies, and varieties) are native with 31 endemic (excluding hybrids) and 120 globally imperiled species (G1 or G2 ranks; Keener et al. 2025; NatureServe 2025). ADCNR currently has no regulatory statute for the conservation of plants although ADAI separately regulates the collection and exportation of American Ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) to prevent population depletions throughout the state (Code of Ala, 1975, §9-13-246).

An analysis of SWAPs by NatureServe recommended that states develop and add plant-specific components to existing wildlife plans (Stein and Gravuer 2008). Alabama, for the first time, has integrated rare plants into this SWAP revision. This Plan is intended to be a tool for conservation and management of Alabama's natural resources, and as such it may cover elements of wildlife that are beyond the scope of the SWG program. This SWAP recognizes that without a demonstrable connection to SGCN, at-risk plants are not eligible for SWG funds, but their conservation and management could be paid for with other state funds or by another entity. Coordination with the Alabama Plant Conservation Alliance (APCA), ALNHP, and other organizations may facilitate progress to this end. According to the best scientific information and consensus of numerous experts, there are five hundred fifty-eight (558) plant SGCNs, fifteen (15) extirpated, two-hundred sixty (260) P1, one-hundred eighty-one (181) P2, and one-hundred two (102) P3 (Table 1.12). The Alabama State Heritage Database, administered by the Auburn University Natural History Museum, and the ADCNR – Lands Division Natural Heritage Database maintains an occurrence database

Table 1.12 Alabama SGCN Plants

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS	
Extirpated			
<i>Balduina atropurpurea</i>	Purpledisk Honeycombhead	UR	
<i>Coreopsis delphiniifolia</i>	Larkspurleaf Tickseed		
<i>Eleocharis wolfii</i>	Wolf's Spikerush		
<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>	Wintergreen		
<i>Helianthus glaucophyllus</i>	Whiteleaf Sunflower		
<i>Liparis loeselii</i>	Loesel's Twayblade		
<i>Najas filifolia</i>	Narrowleaf Naiad		
<i>Najas gracillima</i>	Thread Like Naiad		
<i>Phoebanthus tenuifolius</i>	Pineland False Sunflower		
<i>Polygonella fimbriata</i>	Sandhill Jointweed		
<i>Polygonum glaucum</i>	Seabeach Knotweed		
<i>Sabulina michauxii</i>	Rock Sandwort		
<i>Sabulina paludicola</i>	Godfrey's Sandwort		
<i>Spiranthes brevilabris</i>	Short Lipped Ladies' Tresses		
<i>Thermopsis fraxinifolia</i>	Ashleaf Golden Banner		
Priority 1			
<i>Aconitum uncinatum</i>	Blue Monkshood	LT	
<i>Agalinis auriculata</i>	Auriculate False Foxglove		
<i>Agalinis gattingeri</i>	Gattinger's False Foxglove		
<i>Agalinis georgiana</i>	Georgia False Foxglove		
<i>Agrimonia incisa</i>	Incised Groovebur		
<i>Allium speculae</i>	Little River Canyon Onion		
<i>Ampelaster carolinianus</i>	Carolina Aster		
<i>Andropogon arctatus</i>	Pinewoods Bluestem		
<i>Arabis georgiana</i>	Georgia Rockcress		
<i>Arabis patens</i>	Spreading Rockcress		
<i>Aristida mohrii</i>	Mohr's Three Awn		
<i>Aristida simpliciflora</i>	Southern Three Awn		
<i>Arnica acaulis</i>	Leopardsbane		
<i>Arnoglossum diversifolium</i>	Variable Leaf Indian Plantain		UR
<i>Asclepias connivens</i>	Large Flower Milkweed		
<i>Asclepias purpurascens</i>	Purple Milkweed		
<i>Asclepias viridula</i>	Southern Milkweed		

Table 1.12 Alabama SGCN Plants

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Asplenium abscissum</i>	Cutleaf Spleenwort	
<i>Asplenium monanthes</i>	Single Sorus Spleenwort	
<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i> var. <i>americanum</i>	American Hart's Tongue Fern	LT
<i>Asplenium tutwilerae</i>	Scott's Spleenwort	
<i>Astragalus obcordatus</i>	Florida Milkvetch	
<i>Astrolepis integerrima</i>	Southwestern Cloak Fern	
<i>Aureolaria patula</i>	Spreading False Foxglove	
<i>Baptisia hirsuta</i>	Hairy Wild Indigo	
<i>Berberis canadensis</i>	American Barberry	
<i>Bolboschoenus fluviatilis</i>	River Bulrush	
<i>Bulbostylis warei</i>	Ware's Hairsedge	
<i>Callirhoe papaver</i>	Woods Poppy Mallow	
<i>Callirhoe triangulata</i>	Clustered Poppy Mallow	
<i>Calopogon multiflorus</i>	Many Flower Grass Pink	
<i>Carex acidicola</i>	Acid Loving Sedge	
<i>Carex austrodeflexa</i>	Southern Sedge	
<i>Carex austrolucorum</i>	Southern Blue Ridge Sedge	
<i>Carex baltzellii</i>	Baltzell's Sedge	
<i>Carex barrattii</i>	Barratt's Sedge	
<i>Carex exilis</i>	Coastal Sedge	
<i>Carex fissa</i> var. <i>aristata</i>	Hammock's Sedge	
<i>Carex godfreyi</i>	Godfrey's Sedge	
<i>Carex oklahomensis</i>	Oklahoma Sedge	
<i>Carex thornei</i>	Thorne's Sedge	
<i>Carex timida</i>	Timid Sedge	
<i>Carex vestita</i>	Velvet Sedge	
<i>Castilleja kraliana</i>	Cahaba Paintbrush	
<i>Celastrus scandens</i>	Climbing Bittersweet	
<i>Chasmanthium nitidum</i>	Shiny Spikegrass	
<i>Chrysopsis godfreyi</i>	Godfrey's Golden Aster	
<i>Chrysosplenium americanum</i>	American Golden Saxifrage	
<i>Cirsium muticum</i>	Swamp Thistle	
<i>Cirsium nuttallii</i>	Nuttall's Thistle	
<i>Cladium mariscoides</i>	Twig Rush	
<i>Claytosmunda claytoniana</i>	Interrupted Fern	

Table 1.12 Alabama SGCN Plants

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Cleistesiosopsis bifaria</i>	Small Spreading Pogonia	
<i>Clematis morefieldii</i>	Morefield's Leather Flower	LE
<i>Clematis socialis</i>	Alabama Leather Flower	LE
<i>Clematis versicolor</i>	Pale Leather Flower	
<i>Clethra acuminata</i>	Mountain Pepperbush	
<i>Clinopodium glabellum</i>	Ozark Savory	
<i>Coelorachis tuberculosa</i>	Florida Jointgrass	
<i>Collinsia verna</i>	Spring Blue Eyed Mary	
<i>Coreopsis grandiflora</i> var. <i>inclinata</i>	Ketona Tickseed	
<i>Coreopsis nudata</i>	Georgia Tickseed	
<i>Crataegus alabamensis</i> var. <i>teres</i>	Montgomery Hawthorn	
<i>Crataegus ashei</i>	Ashe's Hawthorn	
<i>Crataegus austromontana</i>	Valley Head Hawthorn	
<i>Crataegus furitiva</i>	Albany Hawthorn	
<i>Crataegus meridionalis</i>	Southern Downy Hawthorn	
<i>Crataegus mollis</i>	Downy Hawthorn	
<i>Crataegus triflora</i>	Three Flower Hawthorne	
<i>Croton elliotii</i>	Elliott's Croton	UR
<i>Cuthbertia rosea</i>	Piedmont Roseling	
<i>Cypripedium candidum</i>	Small White Lady's Slipper	
<i>Cypripedium kentuckiense</i>	Southern Lady's Slipper	
<i>Dalea cahaba</i>	Cahaba Prairie Clover	
<i>Dalea foliosa</i>	Leafy Prairie Clover	LE
<i>Dendrolycopodium obscurum</i>	Tree Clubmoss	
<i>Didiplis diandra</i>	Water Purselane	
<i>Draba ramosissima</i>	Rocktwist	
<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	Roundleaf Sundew	
<i>Eleocharis bifida</i>	Glades Spikerush	
<i>Epilobium coloratum</i>	Purple Leaf Willow Herb	
<i>Erigeron dolomiticola</i>	Cahaba Daisy Fleabane	
<i>Eriogonum harperi</i>	Harper's Umbrella Plant	
<i>Euphorbia inundata</i>	Florida Pineland Spurge	
<i>Eurybia eryngiifolia</i>	Coyote Thistle Aster	
<i>Eurybia jonesiae</i>	Jones's Aster	
<i>Eurybia macrophylla</i>	Large Leaf aster	

Table 1.12 Alabama SGCN Plants

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Eustachys floridana</i>	Two Spike Finger Grass	
<i>Evolvulus sericeus</i>	Creeping Morning Glory	
<i>Fimbristylis brevivaginata</i>	Glade Fimbristylis	
<i>Fothergilla milleri</i>	Dwarf Witch Alder	
<i>Fuirena longa</i>	Chapman's Umbrella Sedge	
<i>Galactia floridana</i>	Florida Milk Pea	
<i>Gordonia lasianthus</i>	Loblolly Bay	
<i>Gratiola amphantha</i>	Little Amphianthus	LT
<i>Habenaria quinqueseta</i>	Michaux's Orchid	
<i>Harperella nodosa</i>	Harperella	LE
<i>Helianthus floridanus</i>	Florida Sunflower	
<i>Helianthus verticillatus</i>	Whorled Sunflower	LE
<i>Hexastylis finzelii</i>	Finzel's Wild Ginger	
<i>Hexastylis rollinsiae</i>	Rollins' Wild Ginger	
<i>Hymenophyllum tayloriae</i>	Taylor's Filmy Fern	
<i>Hypericum lloydii</i>	Lloyd's St. John's Wort	
<i>Hypericum microsepalum</i>	Flatwoods St. John's Wort	
<i>Iris prismatica</i>	Slender Blue Iris	
<i>Isoetes boomii</i>	Boom's Quillwort	
<i>Isoetes flaccida</i>	Southern Quillwort	
<i>Isoetes graniticola</i>	Granite Loving Quillwort	
<i>Isoetes hyemalis</i>	Winter Quillwort	UR
<i>Isoetes louisianensis</i>	Louisiana Quillwort	LE
<i>Isotrema macrophyllum</i>	Pipevine	
<i>Juglans cinerea</i>	Butternut	
<i>Juncus dudleyi</i>	Dudley's Rush	
<i>Juncus paludosus</i>	Swamp Rush	
<i>Juniperus communis</i> var. <i>depressa</i>	Ground Juniper	
<i>Lachnocaulon engleri</i>	Engler's Bogbutton	
<i>Lathyrus palustris</i>	Vetchling Peavine	
<i>Leavenworthia crassa</i>	Fleshy Fruit Gladecress	LE
<i>Leavenworthia torulosa</i>	Necklace Gladecress	
<i>Leptogramma burksiorum</i>	Alabama Streak Sorus Fern	LT
<i>Liatris cylindracea</i>	Slender Blazing Star	
<i>Liatris oligocephala</i>	Cahaba Torch	



Table 1.12 Alabama SGCN Plants

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Lilium iridollae</i>	Panhandle Lily	
<i>Lindera melissifolia</i>	Pondberry	LE
<i>Lindera subcoriacea</i>	Bog Spicebush	UR
<i>Linum harperi</i>	Harper's Grooved Flax	
<i>Linum macrocarpum</i>	Flax	
<i>Lithospermum decipiens</i>	Alabama Marbleseed	
<i>Lobelia boykinii</i>	Boykin's Lobelia	UR
<i>Lycium carolinianum</i>	Christmas Berry	
<i>Lycopodium clavatum</i>	Running Pine	
<i>Lygodesmia aphylla</i>	Rose Rush	
<i>Lysimachia fraseri</i>	Fraser's Loosestrife	
<i>Macranthera flammea</i>	Flame Flower	
<i>Magnolia fraseri</i>	Fraser's Magnolia	
<i>Matelea alabamensis</i>	Alabama Anglepod	
<i>Melanthium woodii</i>	Wood's False Hellebore	
<i>Melica nitens</i>	Three Flower Melic Grass	
<i>Micranthes careyana</i>	Carey Saxifrage	
<i>Mitreola angustifolia</i>	Narrowleaf Hornpod	
<i>Monotropsis odorata</i>	Sweet Pinesap	
<i>Oenothera curtissii</i>	Curtiss' Evening Primrose	
<i>Orbexilum lupinellus</i>	Lupine Scurfpea	
<i>Orbexilum simplex</i>	Single Stem Scurfpea	
<i>Orthochilus ecristatus</i>	Crestless Eulophia	
<i>Panicum philadelphicum</i> ssp. <i>lithophilum</i>	Flatrock Panic Grass	
<i>Parnassia grandifolia</i>	Large Leaf Grass of Parnassus	
<i>Paronychia americana</i>	American Nailwort	
<i>Paronychia argyrocoma</i>	Silvery Nailwort	
<i>Paronychia herniarioides</i>	Coastal Plain Nailwort	
<i>Paronychia virginica</i>	Yellow Nailwort	
<i>Paysonia densipila</i>	Duck River Bladderpod	
<i>Paysonia lyrata</i>	Lyrate Bladderpod	LT
<i>Phacelia strictiflora</i> var. <i>robbinsii</i>	Prairie Scorpion Weed	
<i>Phemeranthus parviflorus</i>	Small Flowered Flame Flower	
<i>Phlox pulchra</i>	Wherry's Phlox	
<i>Phyllanthopsis phyllanthoides</i>	Maidenbush	

Table 1.12 Alabama SGCN Plants

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Physostegia leptophylla</i>	Tidal Marsh Obedient Plant	
<i>Pilularia americana</i>	American Pillwort	
<i>Pinguicula planifolia</i>	Chapman's Butterwort	
<i>Pinguicula pumila</i>	Small Butterwort	
<i>Pinus serotina</i>	Pond Pine	
<i>Pityopsis pinifolia</i>	Sandhill Golden Aster	
<i>Platanthera conspicua</i>	Large White Fringed Orchid	
<i>Platanthera integra</i>	Yellow Fringeless Orchid	
<i>Platanthera nivea</i>	Snowy Orchis	
<i>Pleea tenuifolia</i>	Rush Featherling	
<i>Polanisia tenuifolia</i>	Slenderleaf Clammyweed	
<i>Polygala balduinii</i>	White Milkwort	
<i>Polygala leptostachys</i>	Georgia Milkwort	
<i>Polygala senega</i>	Senega Snakeroot	
<i>Polygonella macrophylla</i>	Large Leaf Jointweed	
<i>Primula frenchii</i>	French's Shooting Star	
<i>Pterocaulon virgatum</i>	Wand Blackroot	
<i>Pycnanthemum curvipes</i>	Mountain Mint	
<i>Pycnanthemum nudum</i>	Coastal Plain Mountain Mint	
<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	Virginia Mountain Mint	
<i>Quercus minima</i>	Dwarf Live Oak	
<i>Quercus oglethorpensis</i>	Oglethorpe's Oak	
<i>Quercus similis</i>	Bottomland Post Oak	
<i>Ranunculus longirostris</i>	Eastern White Water Crowfoot	
<i>Rhexia aristosa</i>	Awned Meadowbeauty	
<i>Rhexia parviflora</i>	White Meadowbeauty	UR
<i>Rhexia salicifolia</i>	Panhandle Meadowbeauty	UR
<i>Rhododendron cumberlandense</i>	Cumberland Azalea	
<i>Rhus typhina</i>	Staghorn Sumac	
<i>Rhynchospora alba</i>	White Beakrush	
<i>Rhynchospora brachychaeta</i>	West Indian Beakrush	
<i>Rhynchospora capillacea</i>	Horned Beakrush	
<i>Rhynchospora fernaldii</i>	Fernald's Beakrush	
<i>Rhynchospora harperi</i>	Harper's Beakrush	
<i>Rhynchospora pinetorum</i>	Small's Beakrush	
<i>Rhynchospora pleiantha</i>	Brown's Beakrush	

Table 1.12 Alabama SGCN Plants

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Rhynchospora stiletto</i>	Stiletto Beaksedge	
<i>Rubus hispidus</i>	Swamp Dewberry	NA
<i>Rudbeckia nitida</i>	Shiny Coneflower	
<i>Rudbeckia palustris</i>	Seep Orange Coneflower	
<i>Ruellia noctiflora</i>	Night Flowering Wild Petunia	
<i>Sabatia grandiflora</i>	Large Flowered Pink	
<i>Sabatia quadrangula</i>	Four Angled Pink	
<i>Sabulina fontinalis</i>	Seepage Starwort	
<i>Sagittaria secundifolia</i>	Kral's Water Plantain	LT
<i>Salix floridana</i>	Florida Willow	UR
<i>Sarracenia alabamensis</i> ssp. <i>alabamensis</i>	Alabama Canebrake Pitcher Plant	LE
<i>Sarracenia alabamensis</i> ssp. <i>wherryi</i>	Wherry's Sweet Pitcher Plant	UR
<i>Sarracenia oreophila</i>	Green Pitcher Plant	LE
<i>Sarracenia rubra</i> ssp. <i>gulfensis</i>	Gulf Coast Red Pitcher Plant	
<i>Sceptridium jenmanii</i>	Alabama Grapefern	
<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>	Blacksedge	
<i>Schwalbea americana</i>	American Chaffseed	LE
<i>Sedum pusillum</i>	Granite Rock Stonecrop	
<i>Sideroxylon thornei</i>	Georgia Bully	UR
<i>Silene regia</i>	Royal Catchfly	
<i>Silphium glutinosum</i>	Sticky Rosinweed	
<i>Silphium perplexum</i>	Old Cahaba Rosinweed	
<i>Sisyrinchium calciphilum</i>	Glade Blue Eyed Grass	
<i>Solanum pseudogracile</i>	Dune Nightshade	
<i>Solanum pumilum</i>	Dwarf Horse Nettle	
<i>Solidago arenicola</i>	Locust Fork Goldenrod	
<i>Solidago leavenworthii</i>	Leavenworth's Goldenrod	
<i>Solidago porteri</i>	Porter's Goldenrod	
<i>Spigelia alabamensis</i>	Alabama Pinkroot	
<i>Spigelia gentianoides</i>	Gentian Pinkroot	LE
<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i>	Hardhack	
<i>Spiranthes floridana</i>	Florida Ladies' Tresses	
<i>Spiranthes lucida</i>	Shining Ladies' Tresses	
<i>Sporobolus curtissii</i>	Pineland Dropseed	

Table 1.12 Alabama SGCN Plants

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Sporobolus floridanus</i>	Florida Dropseed	
<i>Stachys alabamica</i>	Alabama Hedge-nettle	
<i>Stachys nelsonii</i>	Nelson's Hedge-nettle	
<i>Steironema gramineum</i>	Grassleaf Loosestrife	
<i>Steironema lewisii</i>	Lewis' Yellow Loosestrife	
<i>Stillingia aquatica</i>	Water Toothleaf	
<i>Stylisma pickeringii</i>	Pickering's Morning Glory	
<i>Symphyotrichum chapmanii</i>	Savannah Aster	
<i>Symphyotrichum oolentangiense</i>	Sky Blue Aster	
<i>Synandra hispidula</i>	Guyandotte Beauty	
<i>Thelesperma filifolium</i>	Stiff Greenthread	
<i>Thermopsis mollis</i>	Appalachian Golden Banner	
<i>Thermopsis villosa</i>	Hairy False Lupine	
<i>Trifolium reflexum</i>	Buffalo Clover	
<i>Trilisa paniculata</i>	Hairy Chaffhead	
<i>Trillium grandiflorum</i>	Large Flower Trillium	
<i>Trillium reliquum</i>	Relict Trillium	LE
<i>Utricularia olivacea</i>	Dwarf Bladderwort	
<i>Utricularia resupinata</i>	Northeastern Bladderwort	
<i>Verbena hastata</i>	Blue Vervain	
<i>Verbesina walteri</i>	Carolina Crownbeard	
<i>Viburnum ashei</i>	Ashe's Arrowwood	
<i>Viburnum obovatum</i>	Small Leaf Viburnum	
<i>Viburnum rafinesqueanum</i>	Downy Arrowwood	
<i>Vitis mustangensis</i>	Mustang Grape	
<i>Waldsteinia lobata</i>	Piedmont Barren Strawberry	UR
<i>Warea sessilifolia</i>	Sessile Leaf Warea	
<i>Xerophyllum asphodeloides</i>	Turkeybeard	
<i>Xyris brevifolia</i>	Shortleaf Yellow Eyed Grass	
<i>Xyris chapmanii</i>	Chapman's Yellow Eyed Grass	
<i>Xyris flabelliformis</i>	Savanna Yellow Eyed Grass	
<i>Xyris isoetifolia</i>	Quillwort Yellow Eyed Grass	
<i>Xyris spathifolia</i>	Ketona Yellow Eyed Grass	
<b>Priority 2</b>		
<i>Actaea rubifolia</i>	Appalachian Bugbane	
<i>Agalinis aphylla</i>	Leafless False Foxglove	

Table 1.12 Alabama SGCN Plants

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Agalinis divaricata</i>	Pineland False Foxglove	
<i>Agalinis filicaulis</i>	Thin Stem False Foxglove	
<i>Agastache nepetoides</i>	Yellow Giant Hyssop	
<i>Allium tricoccum</i>	Wild Leek	
<i>Amorpha nitens</i>	Indigo Bush	
<i>Amphicarpum muehlenbergianum</i>	Blue Maidencane	
<i>Amsonia rigida</i>	Stiff Bluestar	
<i>Andropogon capillipes</i>	Chalky Bluestem	
<i>Andropogon perangustatus</i>	Narrowleaf Bluestem	
<i>Apios priceana</i>	Price's Potato Bean	LT
<i>Aristida spiciformis</i>	Pine Barren Three Awn	
<i>Asclepias cinerea</i>	Carolina Milkweed	
<i>Asclepias exaltata</i>	Poke Milkweed	
<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>	Wall Rue Spleenwort	
<i>Astragalus villosus</i>	Hoary Milkvetch	
<i>Baptisia aberrans</i>	Blue Wild Indigo	
<i>Baptisia megacarpa</i>	Apalachicola Wild Indigo	UR
<i>Blephilia subnuda</i>	Smooth Blephilia	
<i>Boykinia aconitifolia</i>	Brook Saxifrage	
<i>Brickellia cordifolia</i>	Flyr's Brickell Bush	
<i>Calamovilfa arcuata</i>	Cumberland Sandgrass	UR
<i>Calliphysalis carpanteri</i>	Carpenter's Groundcherry	
<i>Callirhoe alcaeoides</i>	Clustered Poppy Mallow	
<i>Calopogon oklahomensis</i>	Oklahoma Grass Pink	
<i>Canna flaccida</i>	Bandana of the Everglades	
<i>Carex australis</i>	Southern Sedge	
<i>Carex austrocaroliniana</i>	Tarheel Sedge	
<i>Carex brysonii</i>	Bryson's Sedge	
<i>Carex dasycarpa</i>	Velvet Sedge	
<i>Carex eburnea</i>	Ebony Sedge	
<i>Carex impressinervia</i>	Impressed Nerve Sedge	UR
<i>Carex mesochorea</i>	Midland Sedge	
<i>Castilleja coccinea</i>	Scarlet Indian Paintbrush	
<i>Chamaecrista horizontalis</i>	Florida Senna	
<i>Chelone lyonii</i>	Pink Turtlehead	

Table 1.12 Alabama SGCN Plants

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Cirsium lecontei</i>	LeConte's Thistle	
<i>Claytonia caroliniana</i>	Carolina Spring Beauty	
<i>Coelorachis tessellata</i>	Lattion Jointgrass	
<i>Comandra umbellata</i>	Eastern Bastard Toadflax	
<i>Coreopsis pulchra</i>	Woodland Tickseed	
<i>Crataegus aemula</i>	Rome Hawthorn	
<i>Crataegus alabamensis</i> var. <i>alabamensis</i>	Alabama Hawthorn	
<i>Crataegus alabamensis</i> var. <i>florens</i>	Mississippi Hawthorn	
<i>Crataegus aprica</i>	Sunny Hawthorn	
<i>Crataegus macrosperma</i>	Eastern Hawthorn	
<i>Crataegus mendosa</i>	Albertville Hawthorn	
<i>Crataegus munda</i>	Batesburg Hawthorn	
<i>Crataegus pruinosa</i> var. <i>pruinosa</i>	Frosted Hawthorn	
<i>Crataegus quaesita</i> var. <i>quaesita</i>	Florida Hawthorn	
<i>Crataegus venusta</i>	Red Mountain Hawthorn	
<i>Crocanthemum arenicola</i>	Coastal Sand Frostweed	
<i>Croton alabamensis</i>	Alabama Croton	
<i>Cuscuta harperi</i>	Harper's Dodder	
<i>Delphinium carolinianum</i> ssp. <i>calciphilum</i>	Glade Larkspur	
<i>Desmodium floridanum</i>	Florida Tick Trefoil	
<i>Dichanthelium nudicaule</i>	Naked Stem Witch Grass	
<i>Didymoglossum petersii</i>	Dwarf Bristle Fern	
<i>Drosera tracyi</i>	Tracy's Sundew	
<i>Dyschoriste oblongifolia</i>	Oblong Leaf Drychoriste	
<i>Eleocharis rostellata</i>	Beaked Spikerush	
<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	Broad Waterweed	
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field Horsetail	
<i>Erythronium albidum</i>	White Trout Lily	
<i>Eurybia spectabilis</i>	Showy Aster	
<i>Fimbristylis perpusilla</i>	Harper's Fimbristylis	
<i>Fothergilla major</i>	Mountain Witch Alder	
<i>Galium lanceolatum</i>	Torrey's Wild Licorice	
<i>Hedeoma drummondii</i>	Drummond's Pennyroyal	

Table 1.12 Alabama SGCN Plants

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Helianthus eggertii</i>	Eggert's Sunflower	
<i>Helianthus porteri</i>	Confederate Daisy	
<i>Heuchera longiflora</i>	Long Flower Alumroot	
<i>Hexastylis speciosa</i>	Harper's Heartleaf	UR
<i>Hibiscus coccineus</i>	Brilliant Hibiscus	
<i>Hottonia inflata</i>	Featherfoil	
<i>Huperzia lucidula</i>	Shining Clubmoss	
<i>Huperzia porophila</i>	Rock Clubmoss	
<i>Hydrophyllum appendiculatum</i>	Appendage Waterleaf	
<i>Ilex amelanchier</i>	Serviceberry Holly	
<i>Iva microcephala</i>	Small Head Marsh Elder	
<i>Juncus gymnocarpus</i>	Naked Fruit Rush	
<i>Juncus interior</i>	Inland Rush	
<i>Kalmia hirsuta</i>	Hairy Laurel	
<i>Lachnocaulon digynum</i>	Pineland Bogbutton	
<i>Leavenworthia alabamica</i>	Alabama Gladecress	
<i>Leavenworthia exigua</i> var. <i>lutea</i>	Pasture Gladecress	
<i>Leavenworthia uniflora</i>	Michaux's Gladecress	
<i>Liatris chapmanii</i>	Chapman's Gayfeather	
<i>Lilium canadense</i>	Canada Lily	
<i>Lilium michiganense</i>	Michigan Lily	
<i>Lilium superbum</i>	Turk's Cap Lily	
<i>Liparis liliifolia</i>	Lily Leaf Twayblade	
<i>Lithospermum molle</i>	False Gromwell	
<i>Ludwigia arcuata</i>	Pond Seedbox	
<i>Luziola bahiensis</i>	Brazilian Luziola	
<i>Lygodium palmatum</i>	Climbing Fern	
<i>Marshallia mohrii</i>	Mohr's Barbara's Buttons	LT
<i>Matelea baldwyniana</i>	Baldwin's Milkvine	
<i>Melanthium hybridum</i>	Slender Bunchflower	
<i>Melanthium parviflorum</i>	Small Flower False Hellebore	
<i>Nemastylis geminiflora</i>	Prairie Pleatleaf	
<i>Neviusia alabamensis</i>	Alabama Snow Wreath	
<i>Nuphar ulvacea</i>	Sea Lettuce Pondlily	
<i>Nymphaea mexicana</i>	Banana Water Lily	

Table 1.12 Alabama SGCN Plants

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Oenothera heterophylla</i> ssp. <i>orientalis</i>	Alabama Evening Primrose	
<i>Paronychia rugelii</i>	Rugel's Nailwort	
<i>Pediomelum subacaule</i>	Nashville Breadroot	
<i>Penstemon kralii</i>	Kral's Beardtongue	
<i>Penstemon multiflorus</i>	Many Flower Beardtongue	
<i>Perideridia americana</i>	Eastern Yampah	
<i>Persicaria hirsuta</i>	Hairy Smartweed	
<i>Phacelia dubia</i> var. <i>georgiana</i>	Georgia Scorpion Weed	
<i>Phacelia maculata</i>	Flatrock Phacelia	
<i>Phemeranthus calcaricus</i>	Limestone Fame Flower	
<i>Phemeranthus teretifolius</i>	Appalachian Rock Pink	
<i>Physalis arenicola</i>	Cypress Head Ground Cherry	
<i>Pieris phillyreifolia</i>	Climbing Fetterbush	
<i>Pilea fontana</i>	Springs Clearweed	
<i>Plantago cordata</i>	Heartleaf Plantain	
<i>Platanthera integrilabia</i>	White Fringeless Orchid	LT
<i>Platanthera lacera</i>	Green Fringed Orchid	
<i>Platanthera peramoena</i>	Purple Fringeless Orchid	
<i>Polygala crenata</i>	Crenate Milkwort	
<i>Polygala hookeri</i>	Hooker Milkwort	
<i>Polygonella americana</i>	Southern Jointweed	
<i>Polymnia laevigata</i>	Tennessee Leafcup	
<i>Prosartes maculata</i>	Spotted Mandarin	
<i>Ptilimnium costatum</i>	Ribbed Mock Bishopweed	
<i>Quercus boyntonii</i>	Boynton's Sand Post Oak	
<i>Quercus georgiana</i>	Georgia Oak	
<i>Ranunculus flabellaris</i>	Yellow Water Crowfoot	
<i>Rhododendron colemanii</i>	Red Hills Azalea	
<i>Rhododendron prunifolium</i>	Plumleaf Azalea	
<i>Rhynchospora decurrens</i>	Swamp Forest Beakrush	
<i>Rhynchospora macra</i>	Southern White Beakrush	
<i>Rhynchospora saxicola</i>	Stone Mountain Beakrush	
<i>Rhynchospora thornei</i>	Thorne's Beakrush	UR
<i>Ribes cynosbati</i>	Prickly Gooseberry	
<i>Rubus allegheniensis</i>	Allegheny Blackberry	



Table 1.12 Alabama SGCN Plants

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Rudbeckia auriculata</i>	Eared Coneflower	UR
<i>Rudbeckia heliopsidis</i>	Sun Facing Coneflower	UR
<i>Rudbeckia mollis</i>	Soft Hair Coneflower	
<i>Rudbeckia triloba</i> var. <i>pinnatiloba</i>	Pinnate Leaf Coneflower	
<i>Sabatia brevifolia</i>	Short Leaved Pink	
<i>Sageretia minutiflora</i>	Small Flower Buckthorn	
<i>Sagittaria isoetiformis</i>	Slender Arrowhead	
<i>Salvia chapmanii</i>	Chapman's Nettle Leaf Sage	
<i>Sarracenia leucophylla</i>	Whitetop Pitcher Plant	
<i>Sarracenia rosea</i>	Rose Pitcher Plant	
<i>Schisandra glabra</i>	Bay Starvine	
<i>Schizachyrium maritimum</i>	Gulf Bluestem	
<i>Schoenoplectus deltarum</i>	Delta Bulrush	
<i>Schoenoplectus subterminalis</i>	Water Bulrush	
<i>Scutellaria alabamensis</i>	Alabama Skullcap	
<i>Scutellaria glabriuscula</i>	Glabrous Skullcap	
<i>Sedum nevii</i>	Nevius' Stonecrop	
<i>Sideroxylon reclinatum</i>	Buckthorn	
<i>Silene rotundifolia</i>	Roundleaf Catchfly	
<i>Sporobolus teretifolius</i>	Wireleaf Dropseed	UR
<i>Stewartia ovata</i>	Mountain Camellia	
<i>Stylophorum diphyllum</i>	Celandine Poppy	
<i>Symphyotrichum elliottii</i>	Elliott's Aster	
<i>Symphyotrichum pratense</i>	Prairie Aster	
<i>Thalia dealbata</i>	Powdery Thalia	
<i>Thalictrum mirabile</i>	Little Mountain Meadowrue	
<i>Tradescantia ernestiana</i>	Ernest's Spiderwort	
<i>Trillium sessile</i>	Toadshade	
<i>Trillium sulcatum</i>	Southern Red Trillium	
<i>Triphora trianthophoros</i>	Three Birds Orchid	
<i>Utricularia floridana</i>	Florida Bladderwort	
<i>Valeriana pauciflora</i>	Valerian	
<i>Viburnum alabamense</i>	Alabama Arrowwood	
<i>Viburnum bracteatum</i>	Limerock Arrowwood	
<i>Viola canadensis</i>	Canada Violet	
<i>Xyris longisepala</i>	Kral's Yellow Eyed Grass	UR

Table 1.12 Alabama SGCN Plants

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Xyris louisianica</i>	Louisiana Yellow Eyed Grass	
<i>Xyris serotina</i>	Acid Swamp Yellow Eyed Grass	
<i>Xyris tennesseensis</i>	Tennessee Yellow Eyed Grass	LE
<i>Zanthoxylum americanum</i>	Northern Pricky Ash	
<i>Zephyranthes simpsonii</i>	Red Margin Zephyr Lily	
<b>Priority 3</b>		
<i>Agalinis linifolia</i>	Flax Leaf False Foxglove	
<i>Agalinis oligophylla</i>	Ridge Stem False Foxglove	
<i>Aplectrum hyemale</i>	Puttyroot	
<i>Aralia racemosa</i>	American Spikenard	
<i>Asclepias rubra</i>	Red Milkweed	
<i>Asplenium bradleyi</i>	Bradley's Spleenwort	
<i>Astragalus canadensis</i>	Canadian Milkvetch	
<i>Astragalus tennesseensis</i>	Tennessee Milkvetch	
<i>Bidens cernua</i>	Nodding Beggarticks	
<i>Boltonia apalachicolensis</i>	Apalachicola Doll's Daisy	
<i>Carex decomposita</i>	Cypress Knee Sedge	
<i>Clinopodium talladeganum</i>	Talladega Wild Basil	
<i>Corallorhiza odontorhiza</i>	Autumn Coralroot	
<i>Cotinus obovatus</i>	American Smoketree	
<i>Crataegus alabamensis</i> var. <i>ravenelii</i>	Ravenel's Hawthorn	
<i>Crataegus alleghaniensis</i>	Allegheny Hawthorn	
<i>Crataegus calpodendron</i>	Pear Hawthorn	
<i>Crataegus frugiferens</i>	Fruitful Allegheny Hawthorn	
<i>Crataegus lacrimata</i>	Pensacola Hawthorn	
<i>Crataegus opaca</i>	Riverflat Hawthorn	
<i>Crataegus pruinosa</i> var. <i>gattingeri</i>	Gattinger's Frosted Hawthorn	
<i>Crataegus quaesita</i> var. <i>egens</i>	Sand Barren Hawthorn	
<i>Crataegus quaesita</i> var. <i>floridana</i>	Jacksonville Hawthorn	
<i>Crataegus sargentii</i>	Sargent's Hawthorn	
<i>Crataegus sororia</i>	Sister Hawthorn	
<i>Crataegus visenda</i>	Bristol Hawthorn	
<i>Croomia pauciflora</i>	Croomia	
<i>Dalea gattingeri</i>	Gattinger's Prairie Clover	
<i>Danthonia epilis</i>	Bog Wild Oatgrass	

Table 1.12 Alabama SGCN Plants

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Delphinium alabamicum</i>	Alabama Larkspur	
<i>Desmodium ochroleucum</i>	Cream Tick Trefoil	
<i>Diarrhena americana</i>	American Beakgrain	
<i>Echinacea simulata</i>	Prairie Purple Coneflower	
<i>Eleocharis melanocarpa</i>	Black Fruit Spikerush	
<i>Eleocharis robbinsii</i>	Robbins' Spikerush	
<i>Elymus churchii</i>	Church's Wild Rye	
<i>Eriocaulon lineare</i>	Narrow Pipewort	
<i>Eriocaulon texense</i>	Texas Pipewort	
<i>Eupatorium anomalum</i>	Florida Thoroughwort	
<i>Eurybia surculosa</i>	Creeping Aster	
<i>Galactia mollis</i>	Soft Milk Pea	
<i>Geum vernum</i>	Spring Avens	
<i>Helianthium tenellum</i>	Mud Babies	
<i>Helianthus longifolius</i>	Longleaf Sunflower	
<i>Helianthus smithii</i>	Smith's Sunflower	
<i>Hymenocallis coronaria</i>	Shoals Spider Lily	
<i>Hypericum dolabriforme</i>	Straggling St. John's Wort	
<i>Hypericum nudiflorum</i>	Pretty St. John's Wort	
<i>Isoetes appalachiana</i>	Appalachian Quillwort	
<i>Isoetes butleri</i>	Butler's Quillwort	
<i>Isoetes piedmontana</i>	Piedmont Quillwort	
<i>Isotria verticillata</i>	Large Whorled Pogonia	
<i>Jamesianthus alabamensis</i>	Jamesianthus	
<i>Juncus georgianus</i>	Georgia Rush	
<i>Juncus nodatus</i>	Stout Rush	
<i>Kosteletzkya pentacarpos</i>	Southern Seashore Mallow	
<i>Lepuropetalon spathulatum</i>	Little People	
<i>Lilaeopsis carolinensis</i>	Carolina Lilaeopsis	
<i>Ludwigia spathulata</i>	Spathulate Seedbox	UR
<i>Mikania cordifolia</i>	Florida Keys Hempweed	
<i>Mirabilis albida</i>	Pale Umbrella Wort	
<i>Monarda clinopodia</i>	Basil Beebalm	
<i>Muhlenbergia sobolifera</i>	Cliff Muhly	
<i>Nestronia umbellula</i>	Nestronia	
<i>Oxalis grandis</i>	Giant Woodsorrel	

Table 1.12 Alabama SGCN Plants

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Panicum philadelphicum</i>	Philadelphia Panic Grass	
<i>Physalis angustifolia</i>	Coastal Ground Cherry	
<i>Pinguicula primuliflora</i>	Small Butterwort	
<i>Pityopsis oligantha</i>	Coastal Plain Golden Aster	
<i>Psilotum nudum</i>	Whiskfern	
<i>Pyrularia pubera</i>	Buffalo Nut	
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Bur Oak	
<i>Rhododendron austrinum</i>	Orange Azalea	
<i>Rhododendron minus</i>	Carolina Rhododendron	
<i>Rhynchospora crinipes</i>	Mosquito Beakrush	
<i>Rhynchospora microcephala</i>	Small Head Beakrush	
<i>Rhynchospora stenophylla</i>	Chapman Beakrush	
<i>Rhynchospora tracyi</i>	Tracy's Beakrush	
<i>Sabatia capitata</i>	Rose Gentian	
<i>Silene caroliniana</i> var. <i>wherryi</i>	Wherry's Catchfly	
<i>Silphium brachiatum</i>	Cumberland Rosinweed	
<i>Silphium mohrii</i>	Mohr's Rosinweed	
<i>Solidago brachyphylla</i>	Dixie Goldenrod	
<i>Solidago buckleyi</i>	Buckley's Goldenrod	
<i>Spiranthes longilabris</i>	Giant Spiral Ladies' Tresses	
<i>Stellaria corei</i>	Chickweed	
<i>Stenanthium texanum</i>	Crow Poison	
<i>Stewartia malacodendron</i>	Silky Camellia	
<i>Stylisma aquatica</i>	Water Southern Morning Glory	
<i>Symphyotrichum kralii</i>	Kral's Aster	
<i>Symphyotrichum simmondsii</i>	Simmond's Aster	
<i>Thalictrum debile</i>	Southern Meadowrue	UR
<i>Thalictrum macrostylum</i>	Piedmont Meadowrue	
<i>Trillium pusillum</i> var. <i>ozarkanum</i>	Ozark Wakerobin	
<i>Trillium recurvatum</i>	Prairie Trillium	
<i>Trillium rugelii</i>	Southern Nodding Trillium	
<i>Trillium vaseyi</i>	Vasey's Trillium	
<i>Uvularia floridana</i>	Florida Bellwort	
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	Culver's Root	
<i>Viola egglestonii</i>	Eggleston's Violet	
<i>Xyris scabrifolia</i>	Harper's Yellow Eyed Grass	

Table 1.12 Alabama SGCN Plants

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Xyris stricta</i>	Pineland Yellow Eyed Grass	

## SGCN RANGE MAPS

A fundamental requirement of **Element 1** is to identify not only which Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) occur in Alabama, but also to determine where these species are found across the state. Documenting the geographic distribution of SGCN provides the foundation for effective conservation planning by linking species to key habitats and ecoregions. Occurrence data are compiled from a combination of sources, including the Alabama Natural Heritage Program, museum and academic records, state and federal agency surveys, citizen science platforms, and partner organization monitoring efforts. By mapping the known ranges of SGCN, including both current and historical occurrences, the plan highlights areas of high species richness, endemism, and conservation priority. This spatial information allows managers to identify conservation focal areas, address threats at appropriate scales, and allocate resources.

All SGCN maps can be found at <https://www.outdooralabama.com/state-wildlife-grants/2025-swap-update>. Maroon colored shading indicates the current, known SGCN range with major river basin in blue. Other map shading indicates Level III Alabama Ecoregions.

## ALABAMA'S ECOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

### Physiography and Ecoregions

Over geologic time, roughly two-thirds of present-day Alabama was a shallow sea with shorelines as far inland as the present-day “fall line” extending from Phenix City, Tallassee, Montgomery, Tuscaloosa, and to the northwest corner of the state near Bear Creek. Mountains have risen and nearly eroded away, and major rivers have changed course. The resulting physiographic species richness has been a major force behind the processes that have created new species, driven others to extinction, and isolated some populations (Mettee et al. 1996). Areas of relative ecological homogeneity—based on physiography, soils, flora, fauna, and hydrology—can be classified as ecoregions. Ecoregions can be an effective unit for inventorying and assessing environmental resources and setting regional conservation goals. The distributional limits of Alabama’s species frequently correspond to physiographic boundaries. Harper (1943) noted that Alabama’s geological formations influence the soil and topography so directly that a map of Alabama’s forest regions does not

differ much from the geological map of the state. Howell (1921), Imhof (1962), Mount (1975), Mettee et al. (1996), and Smith et al. (2011) acknowledged the influence of physiographic boundaries on the distribution of Alabama's mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles, fishes, and crayfishes, respectively.

At a coarse-scale level, this plan uses a revision of Omernik's (1987) system, which identifies six Level III and 29 Level IV ecoregions for Alabama. This system is compatible with the species range maps used in Alabama Wildlife Volumes 1-5, and also provides the framework for the Alabama Gap Analysis Program's effort to provide an assessment of the conservation status of native vertebrate species and natural land cover types. The following Level III ecoregion descriptions are consistent with the Griffith et al. (2001) classification and will be used throughout this plan.

### ***Interior Plateau***

Also known as the Highland Rim, this province extends from Alabama's Tennessee River northward to the Pleistocene glacial boundary in Indiana. Subdivisions include the Tennessee Valley, Western and Eastern Highland Rim, Outer Nashville Basin, and Little Mountain. Much of the area is underlain with highly erodible limestone that forms valleys, basins, and karst or sinkhole landscapes full of caves. Other portions are less worn down and more rugged due to the presence of erosion-resistant chert. The geology is diverse, typically with limestone valley floors (at ~500 feet elevation) and sandstone ridges (at ~1000 feet). Cities in this region include Huntsville, Florence, and Decatur but most of the region is devoted to farming and industry. Before clearing for agriculture, much of the valley floor was dominated by southern red oak. Remnants of that forest composition can be seen in protected areas like Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge. Open, rocky limestone environments feature glades or barrens supporting prairie-like environments of red cedar, grasses, and succulent plants. The entire region is drained by the Tennessee River, which is almost entirely impounded and retains little free-flowing riverine habitat. Important streams include Cypress Creek, Limestone Creek, Shoal Creek, and Elk River. Some example species of the Interior Plateau include the Gray Myotis, Cerulean Warbler, Northern Pine Snake, Hellbender, Spring Pygmy Sunfish, Tuscumbia Darter, Alabama Cavefish, White Wartyback, Rough Pigtoe, Armored Rocksnail, Tennessee Bottlebrush Crayfish, and Lacon Exit Cave Crayfish.

### ***Southwestern Appalachians***

Also known as the Appalachian Plateau or Cumberland Plateau, this is Alabama's largest upland province. It stretches northeastward all the way to New York. This ecoregion is composed of plateaus, mountain ridges, hills, and valleys that developed as multiple layers of a sandy river delta. Sediments hardened into rock and were uplifted to form a plateau.

Over millions of years, water eroded this surface, forming canyons and valleys. The top of the plateau is erosion-resistant sandstone, but the slopes and valleys are limestone and other more erodible rocks. The poor soils overlying the sandstone caps support oak-hickory and oak-pine forests, while the richer soils of north-facing limestone slopes contain a diverse mixed hardwood forest known as mixed mesophytic or cove hardwood. Elevations range from 600 to nearly 1,700 feet. Major cities include Jasper, Cullman, and Scottsboro. Most of the Bankhead National Forest also lies within the region. Additionally, most of the coal deposits in Alabama are here, and large areas have been altered by strip mining. Level IV ecoregions of the Southwestern Appalachians include the Cumberland Plateau, Sequatchie Valley, Plateau Escarpment, Southern Table Plateaus, Dissected Plateau, and Shale Hills.

Much of the Shale Hills (or Warrior Basin) and Dissected Plateau subdivisions are drained by the Black Warrior River and its tributaries: Locust Fork, Sipsey Fork, and Mulberry Fork. Species endemic to this region include the Flattened Musk Turtle, Black Warrior Waterdog, and Warrior, Tuskaloosa, Sipsey, and Rush Darters. Others, such as the Cerulean Warbler and Appalachian Cottontail, occur elsewhere but have their strongholds in Bankhead National Forest.

The Cumberland Plateau and Plateau Escarpment subdivisions are best represented in Jackson County, and this region is often referred to as the Jackson County Mountains. Here, flat sandstone mountaintops are separated by deep valleys cut into limestone. Ruffed Grouse and Pygmy Shrews are known only from this area of the state. Caves are also abundant and serve as important habitat for the Gray Myotis, Allegheny Woodrat, Tennessee Cave Salamander, and Prickly Cave Crayfish. Also present is the Paint Rock River, which flows south into the Tennessee River and supports imperiled fishes and mollusks including the Snail Darter, Palezone Shiner, Alabama Lampmussel, and Finerayed Pigtoe.

### ***Ridge and Valley***

The Ridge and Valley is a series of folded parallel valleys and ridges between the Southwestern Appalachians and the Piedmont, extending southwestward from Georgia to the Fall Line. Soils are varied, derived from the sandstone ridges and limestone valleys, and range from clay to gravelly loams. Elevations range from 600 to 2,100 feet. Major cities include Birmingham, Gadsden, and Anniston. Level IV ecoregions within the Ridge and Valley include Southern Limestone/Dolomite Valleys and Low Rolling Hills, Southern Shale Valleys, Southern Sandstone Ridges, and Southern Dissected Ridges and Knobs.

This ecoregion was historically heavily forested, but urban sprawl from greater metropolitan Birmingham and other cities has resulted in the loss of over half of the original forest. The dry ridge tops and south-facing slopes were dominated by longleaf pine, the streams and moist hollows had hardwoods, and the transition zones contained mixed forests. Present-day

forests are primarily mixed oak-pine, with pine composition shifting from longleaf pine to other species in the absence of fire. In Cherokee and Etowah counties of the upper Coosa Valley, sizeable areas of longleaf pine flatwoods formerly occurred, with a flora resembling that of coastal regions (Harper 1943).

Mount (1975) noted that portions of the Ridge and Valley supported several amphibians and reptiles of Coastal Plain affinity that are not known to occur elsewhere above the Fall Line (the inland boundary of the Transition Hills). The Ridge and Valley is drained by the Coosa and Cahaba rivers. The Coosa River is impounded along most of its length and has lost much of its original species richness as a result. The Cahaba River is largely free-flowing but has suffered from pollution due to heavy residential and industrial development in the Birmingham area. Significant wildlife species of the Ridge and Valley include the Flattened Musk Turtle, Coldwater Darter, Goldline Darter, Coosa Creekshell, and Greensaddle Crayfish.

### ***Piedmont***

This region of mostly rolling hills extends into central Alabama from Georgia. It becomes mountainous in the Talladega Upland subdivision along its northern boundary with the Ridge and Valley, and contains Alabama's highest point, Mount Cheaha (elevation 2,413 feet). The flora and fauna of this high elevation portion of the Piedmont are somewhat aligned to those of Georgia's Blue Ridge, which extends into Alabama ecologically, if not geographically (Arper 1943, Mount 1975). Longleaf pine grows on the drier ridges, but most of this region is deciduous forest. The Southern Inner Piedmont subdivision is moderately hilly, and the Southern Outer Piedmont subdivision is relatively flat. Elevations typically range from 500 to 1,200 feet. Cities include Rockford, Dadeville, and Opelika. Clay and rocky soils in this region are derived from granite, schist, and igneous rock. Soil productivity has been greatly decreased over much of the Piedmont due to poor farming practices in the 1800s and early 1900s. Many areas of depleted soils have reverted back to forest. Where not converted to loblolly pine plantation, ridge tops are predominantly loblolly or shortleaf pine, with hardwoods on the lower slopes and bottomlands. The Piedmont ends abruptly at the Fall Line. Significant wildlife species include the Meadow Jumping Mouse, Northern Pinesnake, Shoal Bass, Finelined Pocketbook, and Chattahoochee Crayfish.

### ***Southeastern Plains***

Also known as the Coastal Plain or East Gulf Coastal Plain, this ecoregion represents over half of the land area of the state, and is highly variable in topography, soils, and vegetation. The Southeastern Plains region is separated from the other regions to the north by the Fall Line, which curves from the northwestern corner of Alabama to the Georgia border in east central Alabama. The Fall Line (inland limit of Transitional Hills) is the most important



physical feature affecting the distribution of a number of Alabama's amphibians, reptiles, fishes, and mollusks. Streams above the Fall Line are generally swift, with rocky bottoms. Streams below the Fall Line tend to be sluggish, with muddy or sandy bottoms. Geologically, this region is much younger than the upland regions and it lacks well consolidated rocky formations. Most of the soils in this area are derived from marine and fluvial sediments eroded from the Southwestern Appalachian and Piedmont plateaus. Topography is generally flat to gently rolling, but some portions have relief of 200 to 300 feet. Much of the forest in this region has been converted to pine plantations. Where natural forest remains, longleaf, shortleaf, and loblolly pines dominate most uplands, with slash pine in the lower areas and scattered areas of hardwoods. Floodplain forests contain oaks, ash, cypress, and tupelo gum. Prior to modern fire suppression, the upland forests naturally burned every few years and fire-adapted species such as longleaf pine were predominant over much of the area.

Eight Level IV ecoregions appear in this region as transverse belts or bands, and a ninth is associated with southerly-flowing rivers. From north to south these are the Transition Hills, Fall Line Hills, Blackland Prairie, Flatwoods/Blackland Prairie Margins, Southern Hilly Gulf Coastal Plain, Buhrstone/Lime Hills, Southern Pine Plains and Hills, and Dougherty Plain.

- The **Transition Hills and Fall Line Hills** regions, also known as the Upper Coastal Plain and Central Pine Belt, lie between the Blackland Prairie and the Fall Line. Soils are Cretaceous in origin, ranging from clay to sand and gravel. Streams draining this area rarely go dry because of the presence of sand and gravel aquifers. Pines predominate on the more well-drained soils, with hardwoods on the lower slopes.
- The **Blackland Prairie**, or Black Belt, extends in a crescent-shaped band across central Alabama. The region is named for the dark, calcareous, chalky soil, which is high in fertility. Most areas are highly alkaline and do not support pines, but eastern red cedar is abundant.
- The **Flatwoods/Blackland Prairie Margins and Southern Hilly Gulf Coastal Plain**, also called the Chunnenuggee Hills or Blue Marl Region, together form a narrow band lying mostly between the Blackland Prairie and the Buhrstone/Lime Hills. Terrain is generally hilly, with sandy loam topsoil over sandy-clay or clay subsoil. Loblolly and shortleaf pines predominate in the eastern portion, with post oak historically predominating in the western portion, an area sometimes referred to as the Post Oak Flatwoods.
- The **Buhrstone/Lime Hills**, also known as the Red Hills, is a band of fertile soil approximately 30 to 40 miles wide extending from Mississippi to Georgia. Rocky bluffs and deep ravines characterize the region. Ridge tops and upper slopes support longleaf, loblolly, and shortleaf pines, with a mixture of oaks. Bluffs, ravines, and

lower slopes are dominated by beech, magnolias, oaks, and hickories. The Red Hills Salamander is restricted to a portion of this region.

- The **Southern Pine Plains and Hills and Dougherty Plain** have sandy loam, sandy-clay, or sandy soils. Most of this region is low in elevation and relatively flat. The fire adapted longleaf pine community was here before extensive clearing for agriculture, conversion to loblolly plantations, and suppression of fire.
- **Southeastern Floodplains and Low Terraces** are the large floodplains and swamps bisecting each ecoregion of the Southeastern Plains along larger river systems, including those of the Mobile Bay drainage, the Conecuh River, the Choctawhatchee/Pea drainage, and the Chattahoochee River.

### ***Southern Coastal Plain***

Also known as the Coastal Strip, this region contains the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, coastal flatwoods, marshes, beaches, and barrier islands, therefore, the entire area is close to or at sea level. The Mobile-Tensaw Delta does not resemble a typical delta because it is bounded east and west by high ground. It is roughly 10 miles wide and 40 miles long, and consists of rich alluvial soils deposited downstream of the confluence of the Tombigbee and Alabama rivers. Much of the delta has been protected in recent years, but most of Alabama's privately owned beach and dune habitats have been destroyed or heavily degraded by development. Dauphin Island is the largest barrier island. Significant wildlife species of the region include the Gulf Sturgeon, Alabama Beach Mouse, Mississippi Diamondback Terrapin, and Piping Plover.