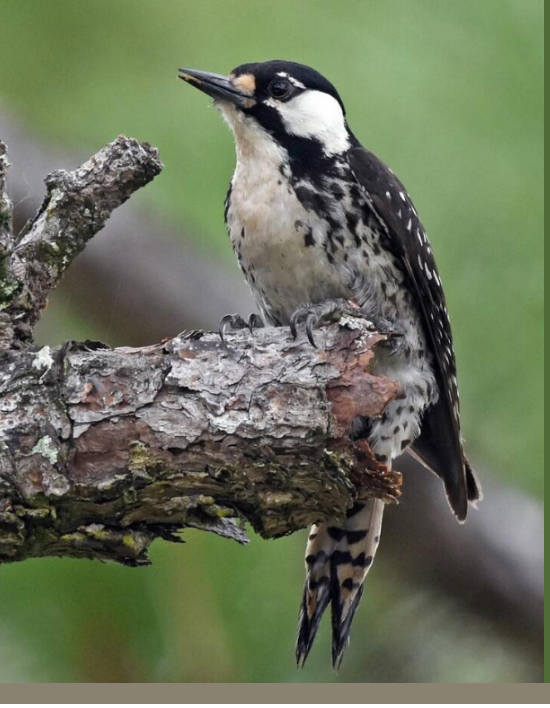


2025-2035

ALABAMA

State Wildlife Action Plan



CHAPTER 7

CONSERVATION PRIORITY AREAS AND CORRIDORS



PHOTO BY GUNTER SCHUSTER



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES | DIVISION OF WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES

CHAPTER 7
CONSERVATION PRIORITY AREAS AND CORRIDORS

Introduction

Alabama's remarkable variety of terrestrial and aquatic life faces many threats as outlined in Chapter 3. To effectively conserve the state's natural heritage, it is essential to identify and protect the most ecologically significant areas, those that support rare, endemic, and at-risk species, maintain ecological connectivity, and promote long-term resilience.

This chapter outlines the process of identifying and refining CPAs as part of Alabama's SWAP 2025 revision. These areas represent the most critical landscapes and waterscapes for sustaining populations of SGCN and preserving essential ecological functions. The delineation of CPAs was guided by a data-driven, multi-step process that combined expert consultation, geospatial analysis, and species prioritization. By engaging expert taxa groups from across the state, the SWAP team incorporated the latest scientific knowledge on species distribution, habitat requirements, and conservation threats. Their expertise provided the biological foundation for determining where conservation efforts would have the greatest impact.

To complement expert knowledge, GIS mapping was employed to visualize and model spatial data, including species occurrences, habitat conditions, habitat suitability modeling, and connectivity corridors. This geospatial analysis allowed for the identification of biologically rich and vulnerable areas, enabling the ability to visualize and prioritize habitats most in need of protection, restoration, and management.

The CPAs presented in this chapter help to serve as a framework to Alabama's wildlife conservation strategy. They are intended to guide conservation actions, inform land-use planning, and direct funding efforts toward the most ecologically valuable and threatened regions. By focusing resources on these strategically identified areas, Alabama can maximize the effectiveness of its conservation initiatives and ensure the protection of its unique species richness for future generations.

Development of Conservation Priority Areas

The 2005 and 2015 editions of the SWAP contained a CPAs map that was developed by TNC between the years of 1999 and 2001. The process followed principles and methods outlined in TNC's *Designing a Geography of Hope* (Groves et al., 2000), which provides a framework for ecoregion-based conservation planning.

For the 2025 SWAP revision, the above outlined CPAs were used as a jumping off point for both expansion and refinement based on updated occurrence data, new and updated SGCN designations, new modeling tools and methodologies, and updated information on focus

areas as determined through feedback from various species experts across the state. The goal in redefining priority areas was not to discard previous work, but to build upon and enhance it.

The general process of identifying Alabama's CPAs was informed by several key steps:

- Species and Habitat Data Collection: Comprehensive data on SGCN distribution, population trends, and habitat requirements were compiled.
- Expert Consultation: Taxa-specific working groups composed of biologists, ecologists, and conservation practitioners were convened to identify areas of biological significance based on their field expertise and scientific knowledge. Over the course of 3 years, multiple meetings, working sessions, presentations, and online discussions were conducted with species experts for feedback and information collection.
- Strategy Species: For each taxa group included in the 2025 SWAP revision, a list of strategy species was developed for habitat suitability modeling. Strategy species included both SGCN and NONSGCN which served as representative or surrogate species whose habitat needs and distribution patterns help guide the protection of broader ecological communities. The process of selecting strategy species included expert consultation, data analysis, and careful consideration of ecological criteria. Specifically, strategy species were chosen based on co-occurrence with other SGCN, representation of various habitat types, and combined distribution covering the full extent of Alabama.
- SGCN Cluster Areas: GIS was used to identify high density clusters of species occurrences. By mapping and analyzing the distribution of SGCN and other priority taxa, areas across the state were pinpointed as potential high density areas of known occurrence for priority species and flagged as areas that warrant protection, restoration, or targeted management efforts.
- Habitat Suitability Modeling: Strategy species were modeled using the Maximum Entropy (MaxEnt) algorithm (Phillips, 2002). This allowed us to predict where suitable habitat occurs for each species outside of known locations, helping fill in gaps and determine unknown important areas. Occurrence data was combined with a variety of environmental predictors like Bioclimate data, the National Land Cover Database (USGS, 2024), and POLARIS soils data (Chaney et al., 2019).
- Ecological connectivity: The identification and prioritization of landscape linkages essential for species movement, genetic exchange, and ecosystem resilience was evaluated statewide. This process combined geospatial analysis, species distribution data, and landcover data to map connected habitats.

One major change from the 2015 SWAP is the development of CPAs for each individual taxa group. Creating taxa-specific CPAs offers a more targeted and detailed approach to preservation of species richness than relying solely on the overall CPAs. Many biologists dedicate research and conservation efforts to a particular taxonomic group such as

amphibians, birds, or vascular plants based on their expertise and ecological interests. However, funding and public attention are often unevenly distributed across these groups, with some receiving significantly more support than others. By prioritizing areas for each taxa group, this can hopefully help focus conservation and research efforts with the limited amount of money available. Then, by identifying areas where multiple rare or understudied taxa overlap, conservation planners can better allocate resources and foster collaborative efforts that benefit a broader group of species. This strategy not only enhances ecological outcomes but also ensures that less-visible species are not overlooked in broader conservation agendas.

CPA Densities

The CPA maps for each taxa group are shown in two levels of "densities". Densities have been defined as either "high density" or "moderate density". The former includes areas characterized by the greatest concentrations of SGCN, coinciding with relatively high levels of suitable habitat for these species. "Moderate density" includes areas with comparatively lower concentrations of SGCN and reduced levels of suitable habitat availability, often encompassing dispersed or fragmented habitat patches occurring in proximity to one another.

To develop the density layers, outputs from the zonation analyses were integrated with species point-occurrence data to manually identify areas of elevated importance for each taxonomic group. Regions delineated in black represent locations with higher concentrations of SGCN and elevated probabilities of habitat suitability, as determined by the distribution of selected strategy species. The designation of density levels is intended to highlight priority areas for research and conservation focus, while acknowledging that other regions may also hold ecological significance.

Metrics

To understand how SGCN and occurrence data composes each CPA, several metrics were calculated. First, the total acreage of the CPAs were calculated and divided by the total acreage of the state of Alabama (about 33 million acres) to get the percentage of Alabama's lands covered by the CPAs. For the taxa-specific CPAs, areas of high density ranged from 4–8% of Alabama's land area. CPAs of moderate density ranged from 10–31% of Alabama's land area. For both the high-density and modern-density CPAs, the number of SGCN, individual occurrences of species, and the final occurrences for the three priority groups was calculated as a percentage for each taxa group. Overall, 59–100% of SGCN were within high density CPAs and 74–100% of SGCN species were within moderate density CPAs.

Amphibian and Reptile CPAs

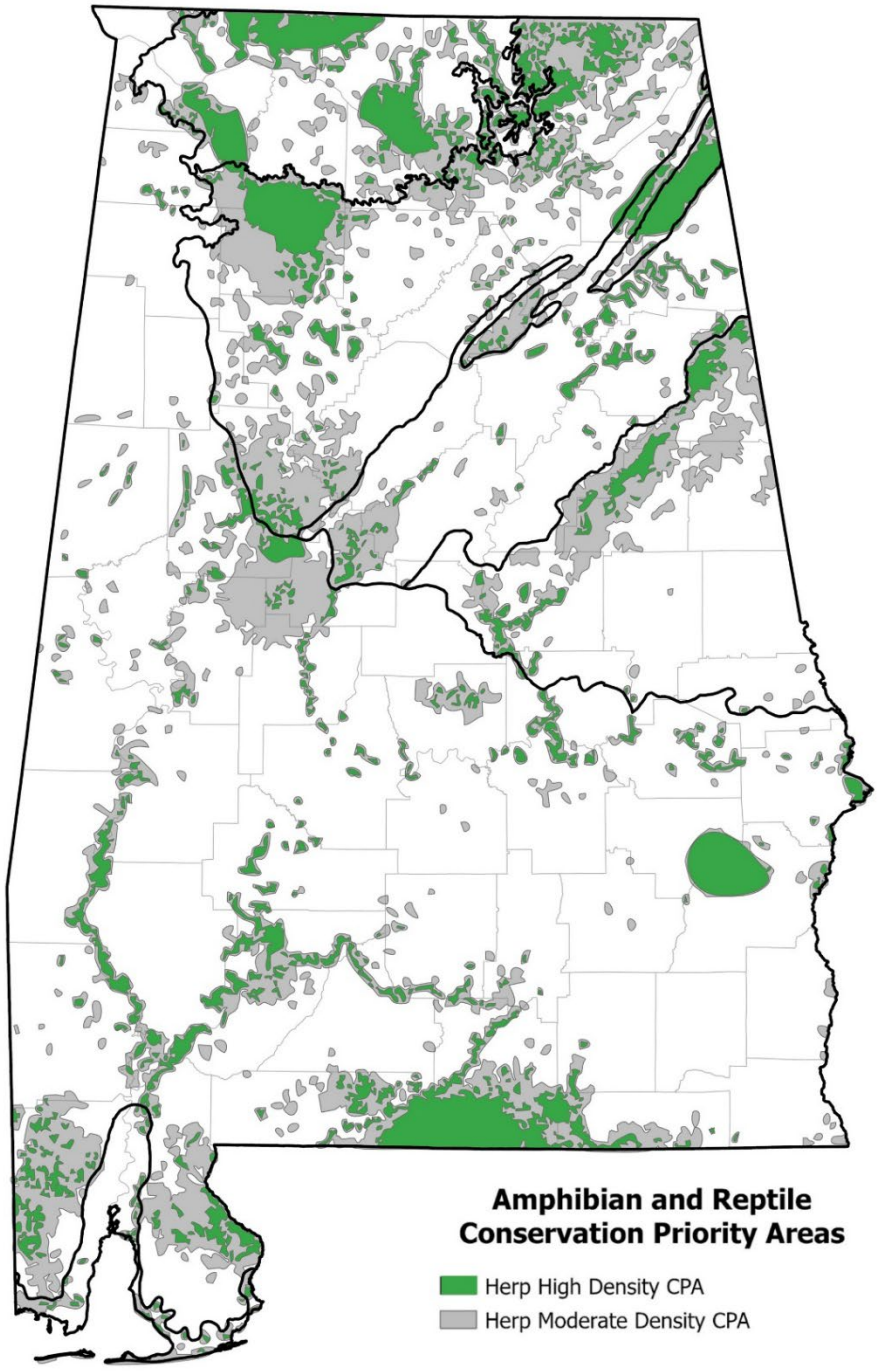


Figure 7.1 Map of conservation priority areas (CPAs) with a high and moderate density of strategy amphibian and reptile species.

Table 7.1 The metric percentages for reptiles and amphibians in high density conservation priority areas (CPAs).

METRIC	PERCENTAGE
SGCN Occurrences within CPAs	51%
Total Acreage	8%
Total Number of Species Covered	88%
Number of P1 Point Occurrences	50%
Number of P2 Point Occurrences	47%
Number of P3 Points Occurrences	29%

SGCN = species of greatest conservation need, P1 = Priority 1, P2 = Priority 2, P3 = Priority 3

Table 7.2 The metric percentages for reptiles and amphibians in moderate density conservation priority areas (CPAs).

METRIC	PERCENTAGE
SGCN Occurrences within CPAs	80%
Total Acreage	26%
Total Number of Species Covered	95%
Number of P1 Point Occurrences	78%
Number of P2 Point Occurrences	77%
Number of P3 Point Occurrences	71%

SGCN = species of greatest conservation need, P1 = Priority 1, P2 = Priority 2, P3 = Priority 3

Table 7.3 The strategy reptile and amphibian species identified within high and moderate density conservation priority areas.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	RANK
Amphibians		
Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis	Eastern Hellbender	P1
Dryophytes andersonii	Pine Barrens Treefrog	P1
Lithobates capito	Gopher Frog	P1
Necturus alabamensis	Black Warrior Waterdog	P1
Ambystoma texanum	Small-mouthed Salamander	P2
Ambystoma tigrinum	Eastern Tiger Salamander	P2
Aneides aeneus	Green Salamander	P2
Desmognathus aeneus	Seepage Salamander	P2
Phaeognathus hubrichti	Red Hills Salamander	P2
Reptiles		

Table 7.3 The strategy reptile and amphibian species identified within high and moderate density conservation priority areas.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	RANK
Sternotherus depressus	Flattened Musk Turtle	P1
Gopherus polyphemus	Gopher Tortoise	P2
Graptemys ernsti	Escambia Map Turtle	P2
Ophisaurus attenuatus longicaudus	Eastern Slender Glass Lizard	P2
Pituophis melanoleucus melanoleucus	Northern Pinesnake	P2
Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus	Florida Pinesnake	P2
Plestiodon anthracinus anthracinus	Northern Coal Skink	P2
Plestiodon anthracinus pluvialis	Southern Coal Skink	P2
Graptemys pulchra	Alabama Map Turtle	P3
Lampropeltis triangulum	Eastern Milksnake	P3
Macrochelys temminckii	Alligator Snapping Turtle	P3

P1 = Priority 1, P2 = Priority 2, P3 = Priority 3

Bird CPAs

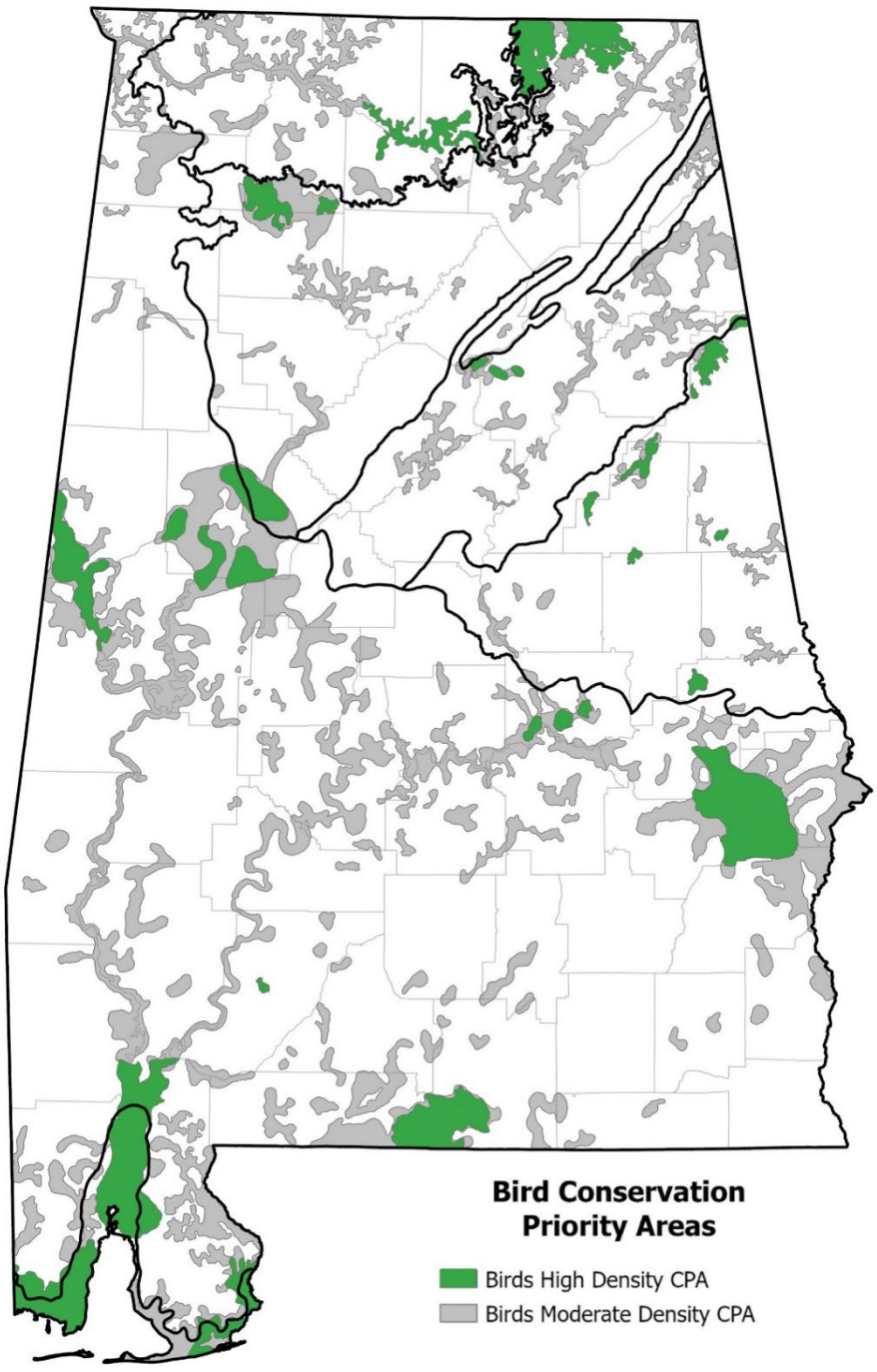


Figure 7.2 Map of conservation priority areas (CPAs) with a high and moderate density of strategy bird species.

Table 7.4 The metric percentages for birds in high density conservation priority areas (CPAs).

METRIC	PERCENTAGE
SGCN Occurrences within CPAs	14%
Total Acreage	5%
Total Number of Species Covered	100%
Number of P1 Points	3%
Number of P2 Points	13%
Number of P3 Points	14%

SGCN = species of greatest conservation need, P1 = Priority 1, P2 = Priority 2, P3 = Priority 3

Table 7.5 The metric percentages for birds in moderate density conservation priority areas (CPAs).

METRIC	PERCENTAGE
SGCN Occurrences within CPAs	43%
Total Acreage	17%
Total Number of Species Covered	100%
Number of P1 Points	49%
Number of P2 Points	53%
Number of P3 Points	40%

SGCN = species of greatest conservation need, P1 = Priority 1, P2 = Priority 2, P3 = Priority 3

Table 7.6 The strategy bird species identified within high and moderate density conservation priority areas.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	RANK
Rynchops niger	Black Skimmer	P1
Ammodramus savannarum	Grasshopper Sparrow	P2
Botaurus exilis	Least Bittern	P2
Peucaea aestivalis	Bachman's Sparrow	P2
Protonotaria citrea	Prothonotary Warbler	P3
Geothlypis formosa	Kentucky Warbler	NONSGCN

NONSGCN = Not a species of greatest conservation need, P1 = Priority 1, P2 = Priority 2, P3 = Priority 3

Mammal CPAs

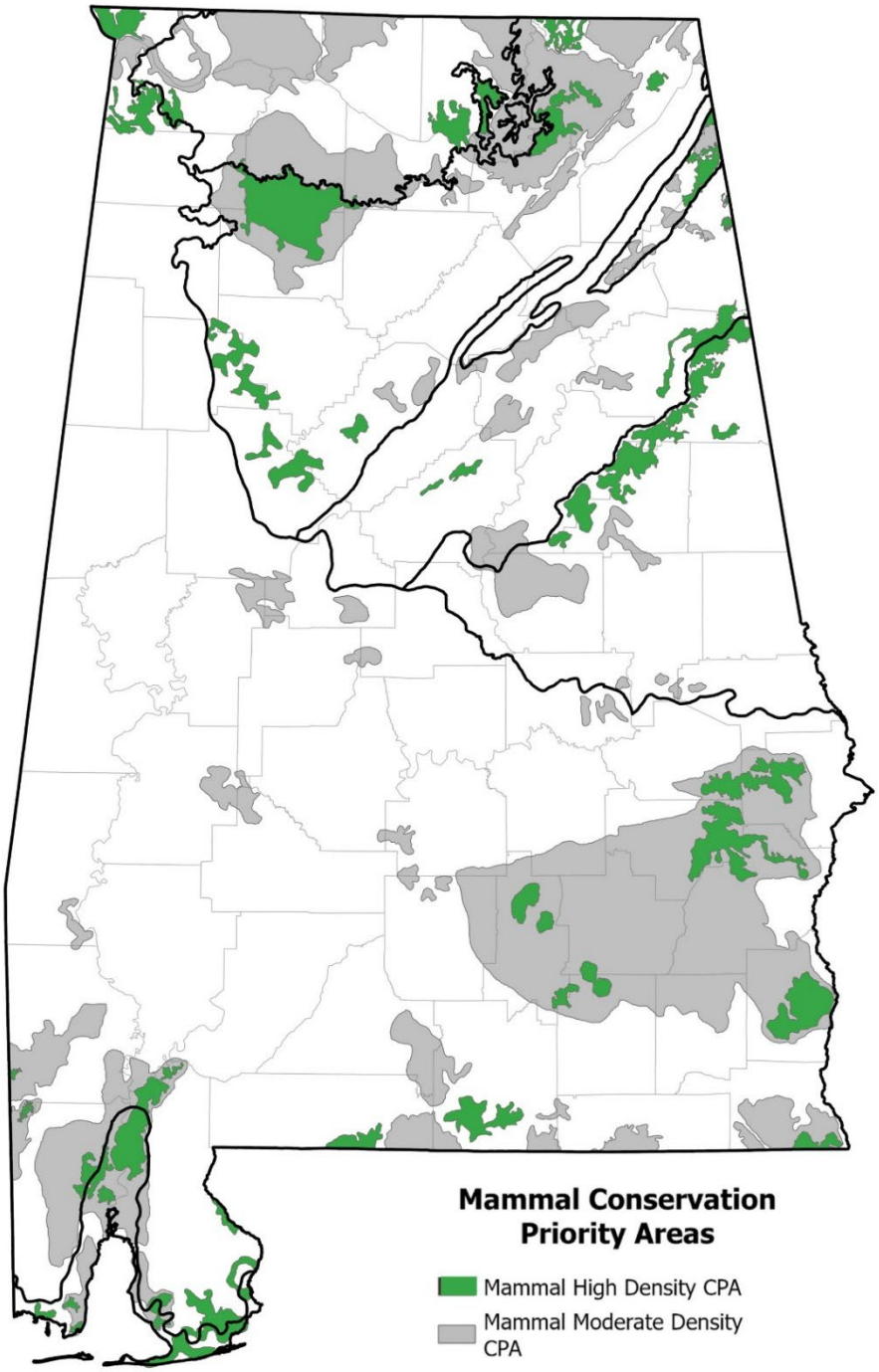


Figure 7.3 Map of conservation priority areas (CPAs) with a high and moderate density of strategy mammal species.

Table 7.7 The metric percentages for mammals in high density conservation priority areas (CPAs).

METRIC	PERCENTAGE
SGCN Occurrences within CPAs	51%
Total Acreage	5%
Total Number of Species Covered	92%
Number of P1 Points	32%
Number of P2 Points	74%
Number of P3 Points	57%

SGCN = species of greatest conservation need, P1 = Priority 1, P2 = Priority 2, P3 = Priority 3

Table 7.8 The metric percentages for mammals in moderate density conservation priority areas (CPAs).

METRIC	PERCENTAGE
SGCN Occurrences within CPAs	84%
Total Acreage	31%
Total Number of Species Covered	96%
Number of P1 Points	84%
Number of P2 Points	84%
Number of P3 Points	83%

SGCN = species of greatest conservation need, P1 = Priority 1, P2 = Priority 2, P3 = Priority 3

Table 7.9 The strategy mammal species identified within high and moderate density conservation priority areas.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	RANK
Perimyotis subflavus	Tricolored Bat	P1
Geomys pinetis	Southeastern Pocket Gopher	P2
Myotis austroriparius	Southeastern Myotis	P2
Spilogale putorius	Eastern Spotted Skunk	P2
Neogale vison	American Mink	P3

P1 = Priority 1, P2 = Priority 2, P3 = Priority 3

Crayfish CPAs

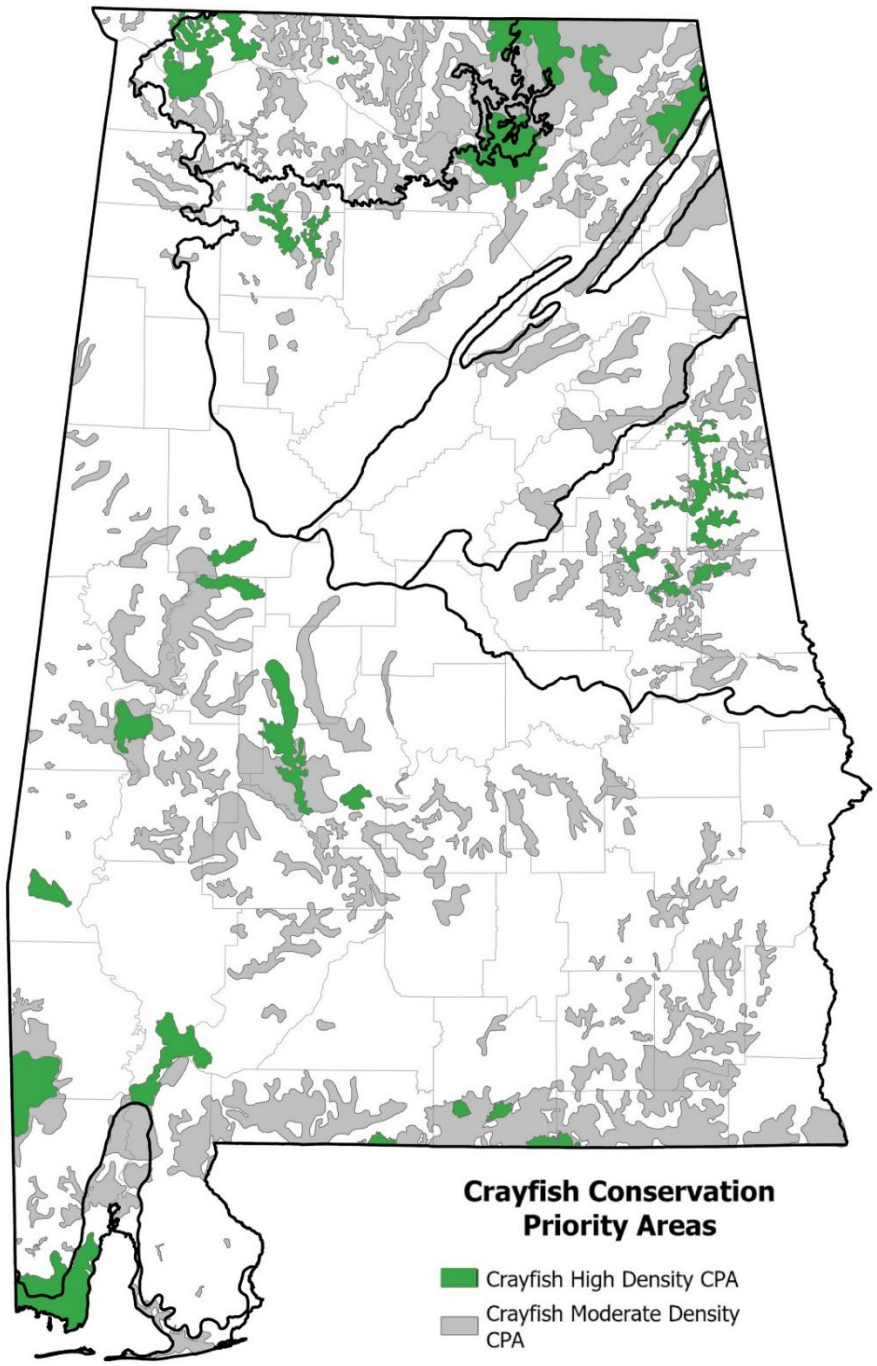


Figure 7.4 Map of conservation priority areas (CPAs) with a high and moderate density of strategy crayfish species.

Table 7.10 The metric percentages for crayfishes in high density conservation priority areas (CPAs).

METRIC	PERCENTAGE
SGCN Occurrences within CPAs	33%
Total Acreage	4%
Total Number of Species Covered	69%
Number of P1 Points	29%
Number of P2 Points	40%
Number of P3 Points	31%

SGCN = species of greatest conservation need, P1 = Priority 1, P2 = Priority 2, P3 = Priority 3

Table 7.11 The metric percentages for crayfishes in moderate density conservation priority areas (CPAs).

METRIC	PERCENTAGE
SGCN Occurrences within CPAs	73%
Total Acreage	21%
Total Number of Species Covered	87%
Number of P1 Points	71%
Number of P2 Points	52%
Number of P3 Points	61%

SGCN = species of greatest conservation need, P1 = Priority 1, P2 = Priority 2, P3 = Priority 3

Table 7.12 The strategy crayfish species identified within high and moderate density conservation priority areas.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	RANK
Cambarus distans	Boxclaw Crayfish	P1
Cambarus jonesi	Alabama Cave Crayfish	P1
Cambarus laconensis	Lacon Exit Cave Crayfish	P1
Cambarus pecki	Phantom Cave Crayfish	P1
Cambarus veitchorum	White Spring Cave Crayfish	P1
Creaserinus danielae	Speckled Burrowing Crayfish	P1
Lacunicambarus freudensteini	Banded Mudbug	P1
Lacunicambarus mobilensis	Lonesome Gravedigger	P1
Orconectes sheltae	Shelta Cave Crayfish	P1
Cambarus manningi	Greensaddle Crayfish	P2
Cambarus speleocoopi	Sweet Home Alabama Cave Crayfish	P2

Table 7.12 The strategy crayfish species identified within high and moderate density conservation priority areas.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	RANK
Hobbseus prominens	Prominence Riverlet Crayfish	P2
Cambarus hamulatus	Prickly Cave Crayfish	P3
Creaserinus burrisi	Burrowing Bog Crayfish	P3
Creaserinus byersi	Lavender Burrowing Crayfish	P3
Lacunicambarus miltus	Rusty Grave Digger	P3
Orconectes australis	Southern Cave Crayfish	P3
Procambarus hubbelli	Jackknife Crayfish	P3
Cambarus halli	Slackwater Crayfish	NONSGCN
Faxonius holti	Bimaculate Crayfish	NONSGCN
Faxonius validus	Powerful Crayfish	NONSGCN
Faxonius yanahlindus	Spinywrist Crayfish	NONSGCN
Lacunicambarus acanthura	Thornytail Crayfish	NONSGCN
Lacunicambarus dalyae	Jewel Mudbug	NONSGCN
Lacunicambarus erythrodactylus	Warpaint Mudbug	NONSGCN
Lacunicambarus ludovicianus	Painted Devil Crayfish	NONSGCN
Procambarus suttkusi	Choctawhatchee Crayfish	NONSGCN

NONSGCN = Not a species of greatest conservation need, P1 = Priority 1, P2 = Priority 2, P3 = Priority 3

Fish CPAs

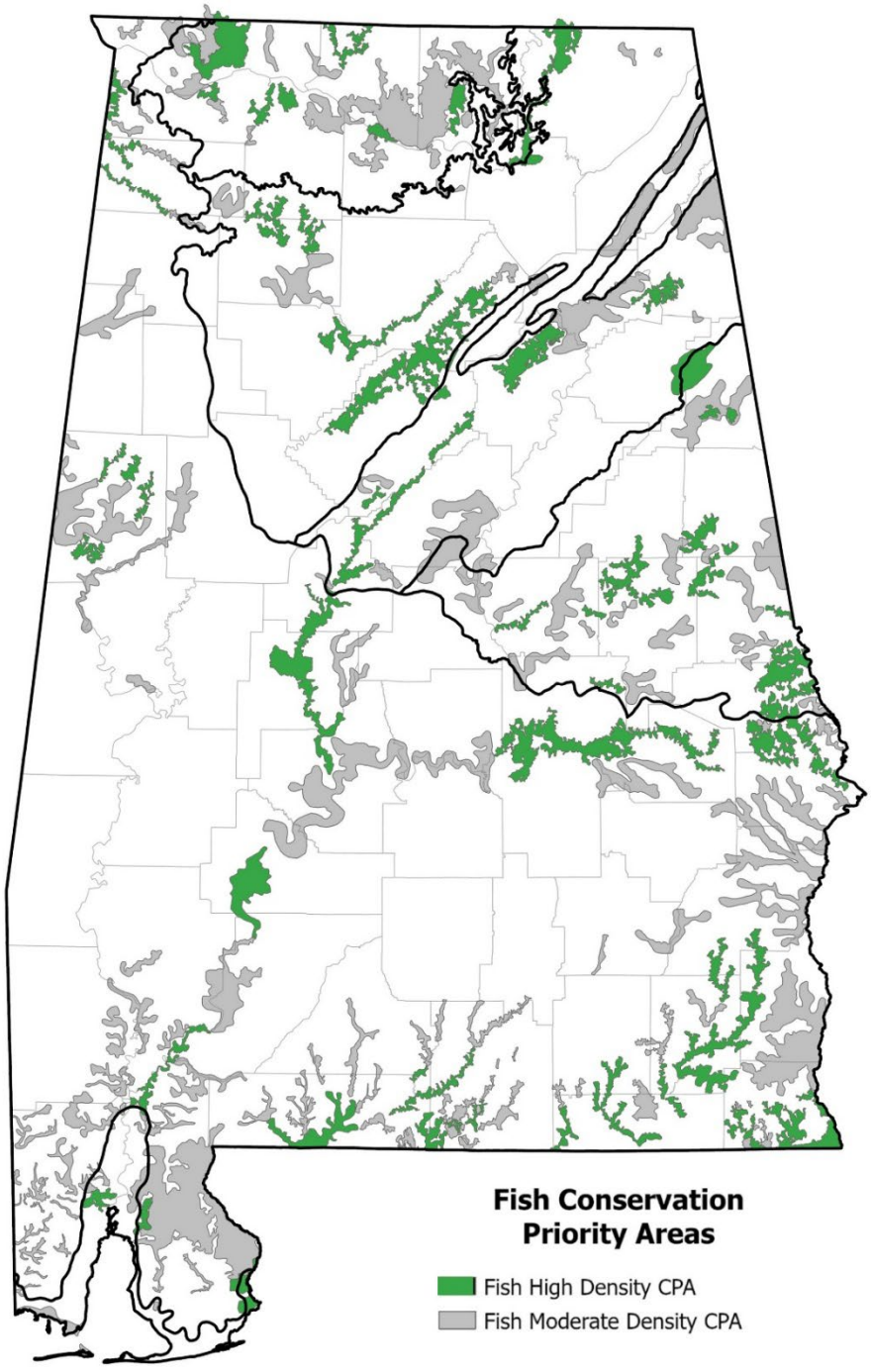


Figure 7.5 Map of conservation priority areas (CPAs) with a high and moderate density of strategy fish species.

Table 7.13 The metric percentages for crayfishes in high density conservation priority areas (CPAs).

METRIC	PERCENTAGE
SGCN Occurrences within CPAs	52%
Total Acreage	5%
Total Number of Species Covered	91%
Number of P1 Points	57%
Number of P2 Points	33%
Number of P3 Points	56%

SGCN = species of greatest conservation need, P1 = Priority 1, P2 = Priority 2, P3 = Priority 3

Table 7.14 The metric percentages for crayfishes in moderate density conservation priority areas (CPAs).

METRIC	PERCENTAGE
SGCN Occurrences within CPAs	29%
Total Acreage	10%
Total Number of Species Covered	74%
Number of P1 Points	39%
Number of P2 Points	37%
Number of P3 Points	23%

SGCN = species of greatest conservation need, P1 = Priority 1, P2 = Priority 2, P3 = Priority 3

Table 7.15 The strategy fish species identified within high and moderate density conservation priority areas.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	RANK
Etheostoma trisella	Trispot Darter	P1
Pteronotropis euryzonus	Broadstripe Shiner	P1
Pteronotropis welaka	Bluenose Shiner	P1
Etheostoma tuscumbia	Tuscumbia Darter	P2
Percina brevicauda	Coal Darter	P2
Alburnops petersoni	Coastal Shiner	P3
Campostoma pauciradii	Bluefin Stoneroller	P3
Crystallaria asprella	Crystal Darter	P3
Cyprinella whipplei	Steelcolor Shiner	P3
Fundulus bifax	Stippled Studfish	P3
Miniellus uranoscopus	Skygazer Shiner	P3
Moxostoma carinatum	River Redhorse	P3

Table 7.15 The strategy fish species identified within high and moderate density conservation priority areas.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	RANK
Nothonotus douglasi	Tuskaloosa Darter	P3
Pteronotropis merlini	Orangetail Shiner	P3
Pteronotropis signipinnis	Flagfin Shiner	P3

P1 = Priority 1, P2 = Priority 2, P3 = Priority 3

Mussel and Freshwater Snail CPAs

Habitat suitability modeling for mussels and freshwater snails was difficult due to data deficiencies, taxonomic uncertainties, and modeling constraints. Instead of a CPA map similar to the other taxa groups, a "heat map" was generated using counts of unique species in each Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 12 (Figure 7.6).

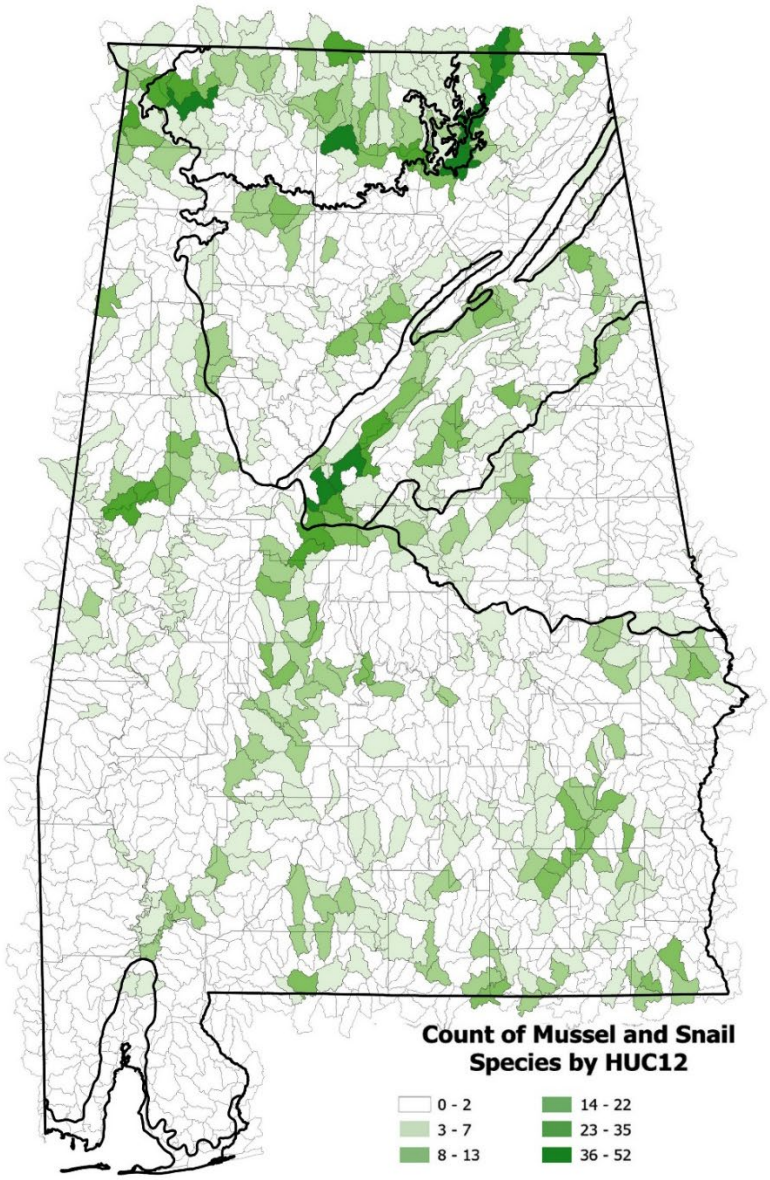


Figure 7.6 A heat map of priority areas for mussels and freshwater snails based on known counts of unique species within Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 12.

Vascular Plant CPAs

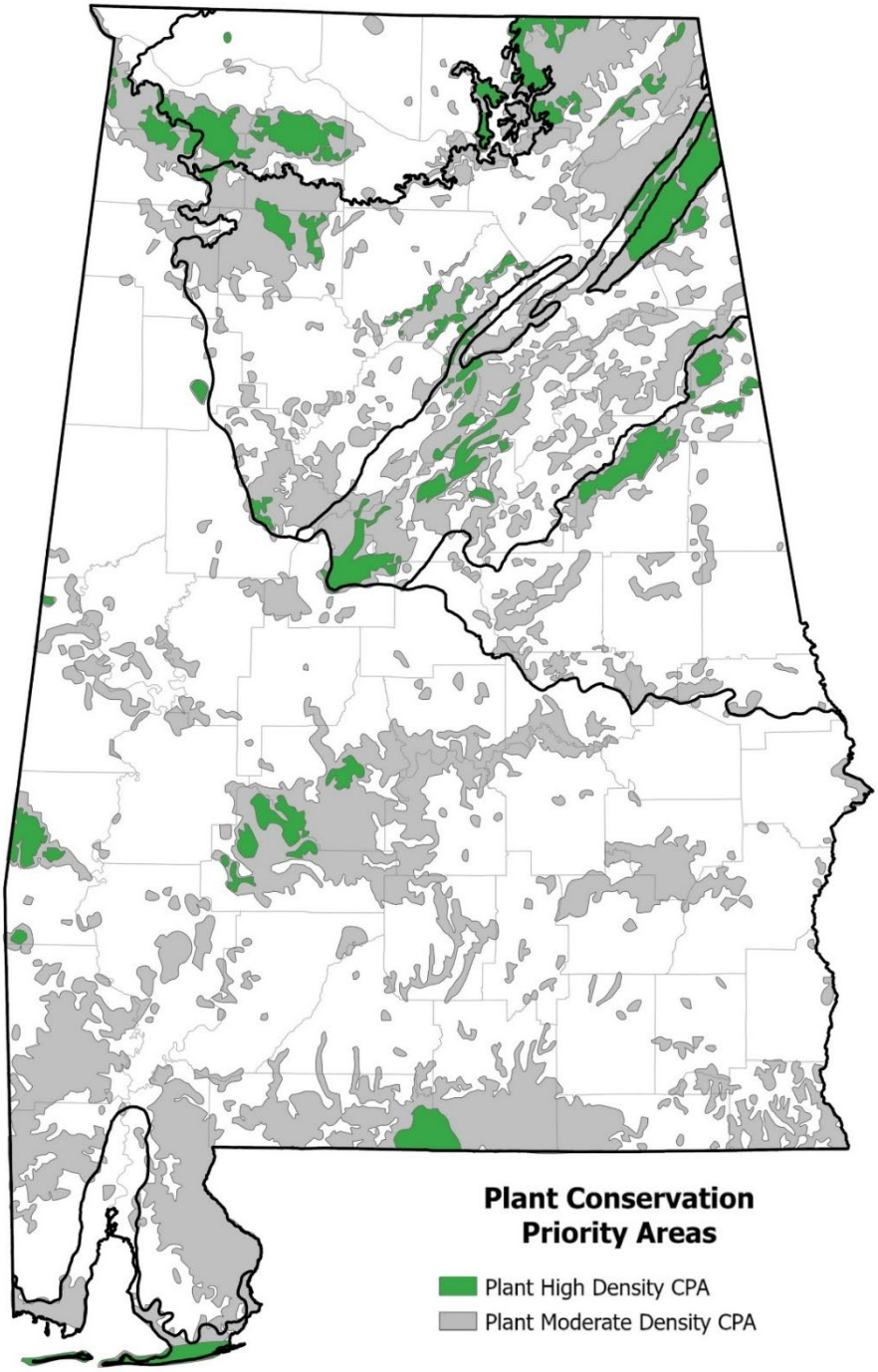


Figure 7.7 Map of conservation priority areas (CPAs) with a high and moderate density of strategy vascular plant species.

Table 7.16 The metric percentages for vascular plants in high density conservation priority areas (CPAs).

METRIC	PERCENTAGE
SGCN Occurrences within CPAs	41%
Total Acreage	4%
Total Number of Species Covered	59%
Number of P1 Points	46%
Number of P2 Points	40%
Number of P3 Points	36%

SGCN = species of greatest conservation need, P1 = Priority 1, P2 = Priority 2, P3 = Priority 3

Table 7.17 The metric percentages for vascular plants in moderate density conservation priority areas (CPAs).

METRIC	PERCENTAGE
SGCN Occurrences within CPAs	84%
Total Acreage	31%
Total Number of Species Covered	96%
Number of P1 Points	84%
Number of P2 Points	84%
Number of P3 Points	83%

SGCN = species of greatest conservation need, P1 = Priority 1, P2 = Priority 2, P3 = Priority 3

Table 7.18 The strategy vascular plant species identified within high and moderate density conservation priority areas.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	RANK
Arabis georgiana	Georgia Rockcress	P1
Eriogonum harperi	Harper's Umbrella Plant	P1
Lilium iridollae	Panhandle Lily	P1
Lindera subcoriacea	Bog Spicebush	P1
Pinus serotina	Pond Pine	P1
Sagittaria secundifolia	Kral's Water Plantain	P1
Salix floridana	Florida Willow	P1
Spigelia alabamensis	Alabama Pinkroot	P1
Apios priceana	Price's Potato Bean	P2
Baptisia megacarpa	Apalachicola Wild Indigo	P2
Brickellia cordifolia	Flyr's Brickell Bush	P2
Carex impressinervia	Impressed Nerve Sedge	P2

Table 7.18 The strategy vascular plant species identified within high and moderate density conservation priority areas.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	RANK
Coreopsis pulchra	Woodland Tickseed	P2
Cuscuta harperi	Harper's Dodder	P2
Neviusia alabamensis	Alabama Snow Wreath	P2
Platanthera integrilabia	White Fringeless Orchid	P2
Quercus boyntonii	Boynton's Sand Post Oak	P2
Sarracenia leucophylla	Whitetop Pitcher Plant	P2
Scutellaria alabamensis	Alabama Skullcap	P2
Stewartia ovata	Mountain Camellia	P2
Xyris tennesseensis	Tennessee Yellow Eyed Grass	P2
Delphinium alabamicum	Alabama Larkspur	P3
Desmodium ochroleucum	Cream Tick Trefoil	P3
Hymenocallis coronaria	Shoals Spider Lily	P3
Isotria verticillata	Large Whorled Pogonia	P3
Jamesianthus alabamensis	Jamesianthus	P3
Mirabilis albida	Pale Umbrella Wort	P3
Monarda clinopodia	Basil Beebalm	P3
Rhynchospora crinipes	Mosquito Beakrush	P3
Sabatia capitata	Rose Gentian	P3
Stewartia malacodendron	Silky Camellia	P3
Trillium rugelii	Southern Nodding Trillium	P3
Hamamelis ovalis	Leonard's Witch Hazel	Not Assessed

P1 = Priority 1, P2 = Priority 2, P3 = Priority 3

Aquatic CPAs

Inputs for the Aquatic CPAs included SHUs and SRRUs, aquatic crayfish models, aquatic amphibian and reptile models, fish models, the mussel and snail heat map, and P1 species occurrence data. It is important to note that this map is not meant to replace the SHUs and SRRUs, but to instead act as an additional tool with a slightly different scope to direct targeted conservation actions (Figure 7.8).

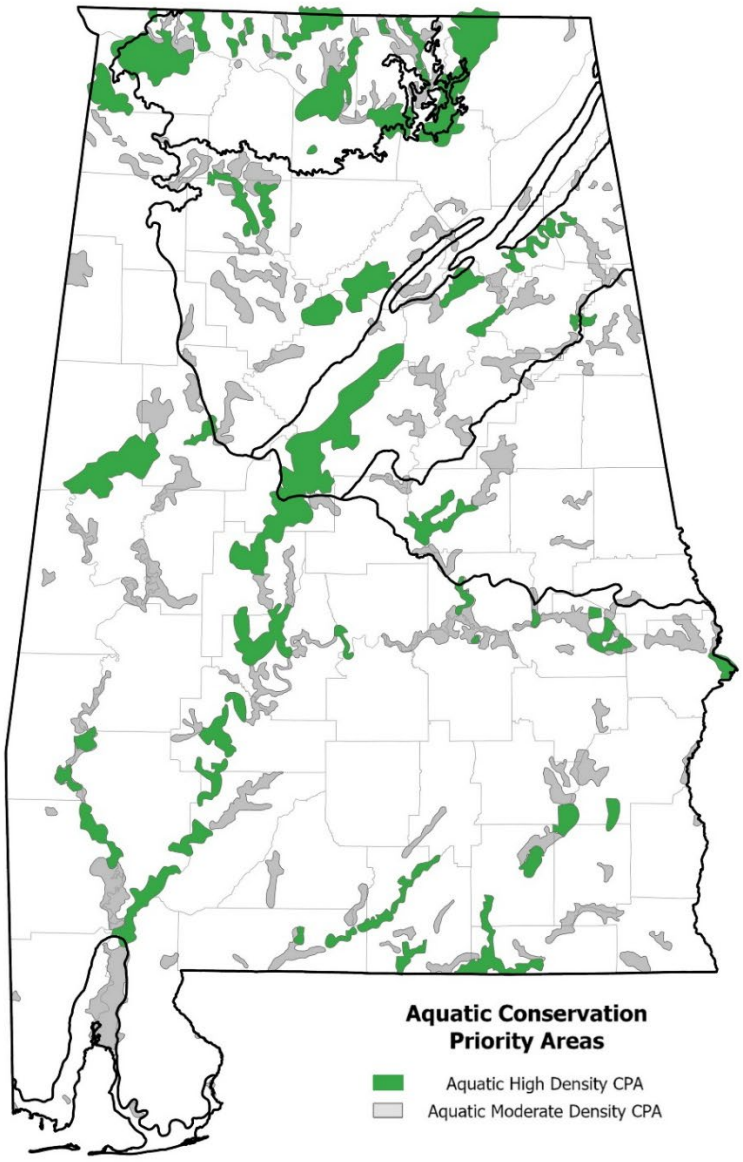


Figure 7.8 Map of aquatic conservation priority areas (CPAs) with a high and moderate density of aquatic species.

Terrestrial CPAs

Inputs for the Terrestrial CPAs included all the terrestrial species models (including terrestrial crayfish), with each taxa given equal weight, despite differences in the number of strategy species, as well as P1 SGCN occurrence data. The occurrences of SGCN, total acreage, total number of species covered, and number of species per taxa group is provided in Table 7.19. Small, fragmented polygons were aggregated in ArcGIS Pro to form larger CPAs; each CPA unit is numbered based on land area size for a total of 138 CPAs (Figure 7.9). The primary, secondary and tertiary key habitats that comprise each CPA are summarized in Table 7.20.

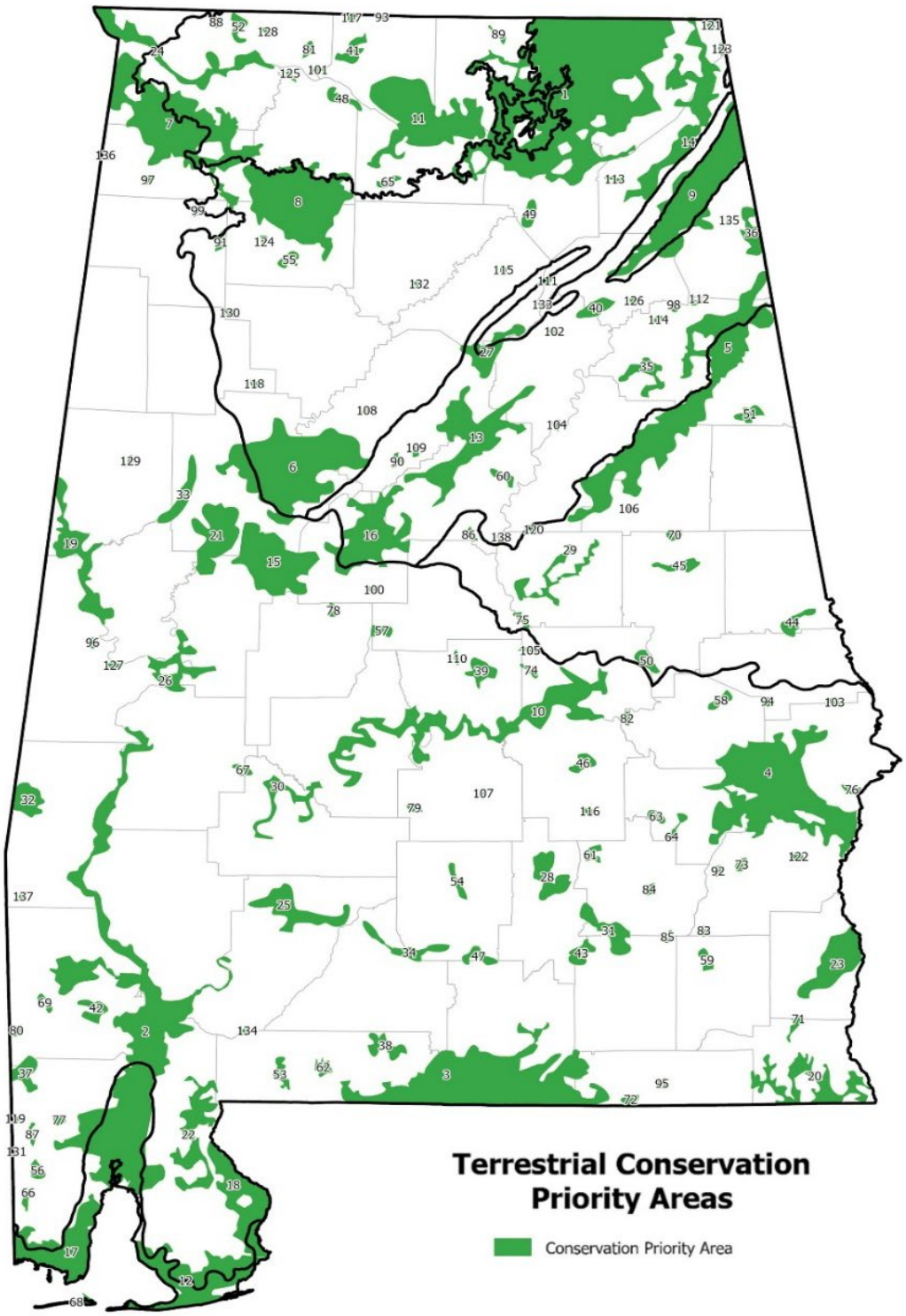


Figure 7.9 Map of terrestrial conservation priority areas (CPAs) with each CPA numbered 1–138.

Table 7.19 The metric percentage totals for the 138 identified terrestrial conservation priority areas (CPAs).

METRIC	PERCENTAGE
SGCN Occurrences within CPAs	45%
Total Acreage	19%
Total Number of Species Covered	86%
Amphibians and Reptiles	95%
Birds	100%
Mammals	96%
Crayfishes	78%
Fishes	81%
Mussels and Freshwater Snails	89%
Vascular Plants	85%

SGCN = species of greatest conservation need, P1 = Priority 1, P2 = Priority 2, P3 = Priority 3

Table 7.20 The 138 identified terrestrial conservation priority areas (CPAs) and their primary, secondary and tertiary habitats.

CPA #	NAME	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	TERTIARY
1	Skyline	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest
2	Tensaw Delta	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Wet Pine Savanna and Flatwoods
3	Conecuh NF Megasite	Dry Longleaf Pine Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
4	East Alabama Fall Line Hills	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Swamp
5	Talladega Mountains	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
6	Black Warrior River Slopes	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
7	Freedom Hills and Adjacent Lands	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
8	Bankhead/ Warrior Mountains	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
9	Little River Canyon	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
10	Alabama River	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Mesic Hardwood Forest
11	Wheeler NWR/ Redstone Arsenal	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
12	Gulf Islands	Wet Pine Savanna and Flatwoods	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest

13	Oak and Double Oak Mountains	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest
14	Chitwood Barrens – Coon Gulf	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest
15	Oakmulgee District, Talladega N.F.	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
16	Bibb County Glades	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Mesic Hardwood Forest
17	Grand Bay Savanna	Wet Pine Savanna and Flatwoods	Intertidal Marshes, Flats, and Submerged Vegetation	Riparian and Floodplain Forest
18	Perdido River	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Wet Pine Savanna and Flatwoods	Riparian and Floodplain Forest
19	Lower Tombigbee River	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Mesic Hardwood Forest
20	Chipola River/Big Creek Woods	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Swamp	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
21	Lower Black Warrior Swamps-South Tuscaloosa	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
22	Splinter Hill Bog	Dry Longleaf Pine Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
23	Peterman-Abbie Creek	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest
24	Tennessee River Bluffs	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest

25	Tallahatta Bluffs	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest
26	Lower Black Warrior Swamps	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Mesic Hardwood Forest
27	Inland Lake/ Blackburn Fork Woods	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
28	Fullers Crossroads	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest
29	Lower Hatchet Creek/Coosa WMA	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
30	Prairie Bluff - Millers Ferry Prairie	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Mesic Hardwood Forest
31	Big Creek	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Swamp
32	Rock Springs	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest
33	Sipsee River	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest
34	Sepulga River Slopes	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Mesic Hardwood Forest
35	Pelham Range Prairie	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Mesic Hardwood Forest
36	Bogan Mountain-Coosa Valley Prairies	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Swamp

37	Frey Tract	Dry Longleaf Pine Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Swamp
38	Cedar Creek	Dry Longleaf Pine Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Riparian and Floodplain Forest
39	Autauga Sandhills	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest
40	Canoe Creek Valley	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Swamp
41	Elk River Bluffs	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest
42	MS-AL Stateline Bogs East	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Dry Longleaf Pine Forest
43	Bryans Pond	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Swamp
44	Tuckersburg-Cusseta	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
45	Horseshoe Bend	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
46	Pike Road	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Swamp	Mesic Hardwood Forest
47	Persimmon Creek	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest
48	Mallard-Fox Creek	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
49	Dividing Ridge	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest

50	Yates Lake West	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest
51	Turkey Heaven Mountain	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
52	Transition Hills East	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest
53	Stanley Crossroads	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Swamp	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
54	Hawkins Creek	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest
55	Curtis Crossroads	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
56	Big Creek Lake	Dry Longleaf Pine Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Riparian and Floodplain Forest
57	Oakmulgee District, Talladega N.F. South	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Dry Longleaf Pine Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
58	Tuskegee National Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Swamp
59	Barnes-Dill	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest
60	Yellowleaf Creek Bog	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Swamp
61	Olustee	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Swamp
62	Wild Fork Creek	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Swamp	Dry Longleaf Pine Forest

63	Mount Hillard	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest
64	Jenkins Crossroads	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest
65	Cedar Plains Glades	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
66	Seven Hills	Dry Longleaf Pine Forest	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
67	Catherine-Carleys	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Swamp	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
68	Dauphin Island	Beach and Dune	Intertidal Marshes, Flats, and Submerged Vegetation	Wet Pine Savanna and Flatwoods
69	MS-AL Stateline Bogs	Dry Longleaf Pine Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Riparian and Floodplain Forest
70	Goldville North	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Mesic Hardwood Forest
71	Kinsey	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest
72	Lower Choctawhatchee River Bluffs South	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Swamp	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
73	Bells Crossroads	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Swamp
74	Mortar Creek	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest

75	Lower Hatchet Creek/Coosa WMA-Schley	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
76	Fort Benning	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Mesic Hardwood Forest
77	Chunchula	Dry Longleaf Pine Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest
78	Oakmulgee District, Talladega N.F. West	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Dry Longleaf Pine Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest
79	Fostoria	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Swamp	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
80	MS-AL Stateline Bogs West	Dry Longleaf Pine Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Swamp
81	Blowing Springs	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest
82	Tysonville-Cubahatchee	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Swamp
83	Doster-Bethel	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Swamp	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest
84	Pike County Pocosin	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest
85	Clearwater Creek Roeton	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Swamp
86	Waxahatchee Creek	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest
87	Big Creek Georgetown	Dry Longleaf Pine Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands

88	Transition Hills West	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest
89	Sulphur Springs	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest
90	Shades Valley	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest
91	Hoggle Ridge	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
92	Hurricane Creek	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Swamp
93	North Elk River	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest
94	Long Branch	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Dry Longleaf Pine Forest
95	Lower Choctawhatchee River Bluffs North	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Swamp
96	Ft. Tombecbe - Jones Bluff	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Riparian and Floodplain Forest
97	Bear Creek Ravines	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
98	Coffee Creek	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Swamp
99	Bear Creek Ravines South	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
100	Oakmulgee District, Talladega N.F. North	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Dry Longleaf Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest

101	Elk River View	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
102	Pinedale	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Swamp
103	Crawford	Swamp	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
104	Norman Mountain	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
105	Shoal Creek Jordan Lake	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest
106	Backbone Mountain	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
107	Big Swamp Creek	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Swamp
108	Short Creek Hills	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest
109	Moss Rock	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest
110	Autauga Sandhills	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest
111	Altoona Mountain	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Mesic Hardwood Forest
112	Colvin Mountain	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Riparian and Floodplain Forest
113	South Sauty Creek	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands

114	Mount Polk	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
115	Royal Riverside	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Mesic Hardwood Forest
116	Gibson	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Swamp
117	Smith Hollow	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
118	Boley Springs	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
119	Escatawpa Boothetown	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Dry Longleaf Pine Forest
120	Lower Hatchet Creek/Coosa WMA-Deans	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest
121	Hogjaw Valley	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
122	White Oak Barbour Creek	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest
123	Raccoon Creek	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
124	Right Fork	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
125	Fishermans Resort-Big Nance	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest
126	Whorton Bend	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Swamp

127	Old Bluffport	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest
128	Richardson Creek	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest
129	Lathrop	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest
130	South Eldridge	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
131	Flat Creek-Wilmer	Dry Longleaf Pine Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest
132	Stout Mountain-Thacker Creek	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
133	Blount Mountain	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Mesic Hardwood Forest
134	Little River State Forest	Dry Longleaf Pine Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Riparian and Floodplain Forest
135	Cornwall Furnace	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Swamp
136	Bear Creek Ravines North	Riparian and Floodplain Forest	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands
137	Silas Hill	Glades, Prairies, and Grasslands	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Dry Longleaf Pine Forest
138	Blue Springs West	Dry Hardwood and Mixed Pine Forest	Mesic Hardwood Forest	Swamp

Alabama Corridors

Identifying significant wildlife corridors demonstrates a statewide ecological connectivity strategy. Landscape-scale corridors increasingly play a critical role in the conservation and long-term viability of SGCN by addressing habitat fragmentation, promoting genetic exchange, and enhancing species resilience. As human development continues to fragment natural landscapes and waters, the creation and preservation of connected habitat networks becomes essential for supporting Alabama's species richness.

The following five intended goals for wildlife species guided the approach to defining wildlife corridors on a statewide scale.

1. **Ensure Habitat Continuity**
   Connect intact habitat patches to reduce isolation of wildlife populations and maintain viable home ranges. For this work, both the newly defined CPAs were used alongside existing state and federal lands.
2. **Facilitate Daily and Seasonal Movement**
   Provide pathways for species to access food, shelter, breeding grounds, and seasonal resources across the landscape.
3. **Maintain Genetic Diversity**
   Promote gene flow between populations by reducing barriers to dispersal, which helps sustain long-term species health and adaptability.
4. **Reduce Human–Wildlife Conflicts**
   Design corridors that avoid high density development areas, road systems, and highly disturbed habitats.
5. **Build Resilient Pathways**
   Prioritize corridors that follow land cover types conducive to species habitation including forest, wetlands, grasslands, and others.

Metrics

After the corridor modeling process was completed, each corridor was analyzed for overall acreage and number of species occurring across corridors. For this analysis, the entire corridor range, as defined by the extent of the least-cost corridor output, was treated as a single, continuous area. This approach allowed for the comparison of corridors, not only in terms of connectivity, but also in their relative conservation value, helping to prioritize those that support the highest variety of at-risk species. Table 7.21 summarizes the percentage of these metrics for the 25 identified wildlife corridors.

Table 7.21 The metric percentage totals for the 25 identified wildlife corridors in Alabama.

METRIC	PERCENTAGE
Total Acreage	6%
Total Number of Species Covered	35%
Amphibians and Reptiles	52%
Birds	67%
Mammals	40%
Vascular Plants	22%

Corridors

Figure 7.10 demonstrates the 25 wildlife corridors across Alabama. Each corridor links large to medium habitat patches, including CPAs, state lands, and federally managed lands. Corridor connections can help maintain ecological integrity by allowing species to move, disperse, and adapt across the landscape.

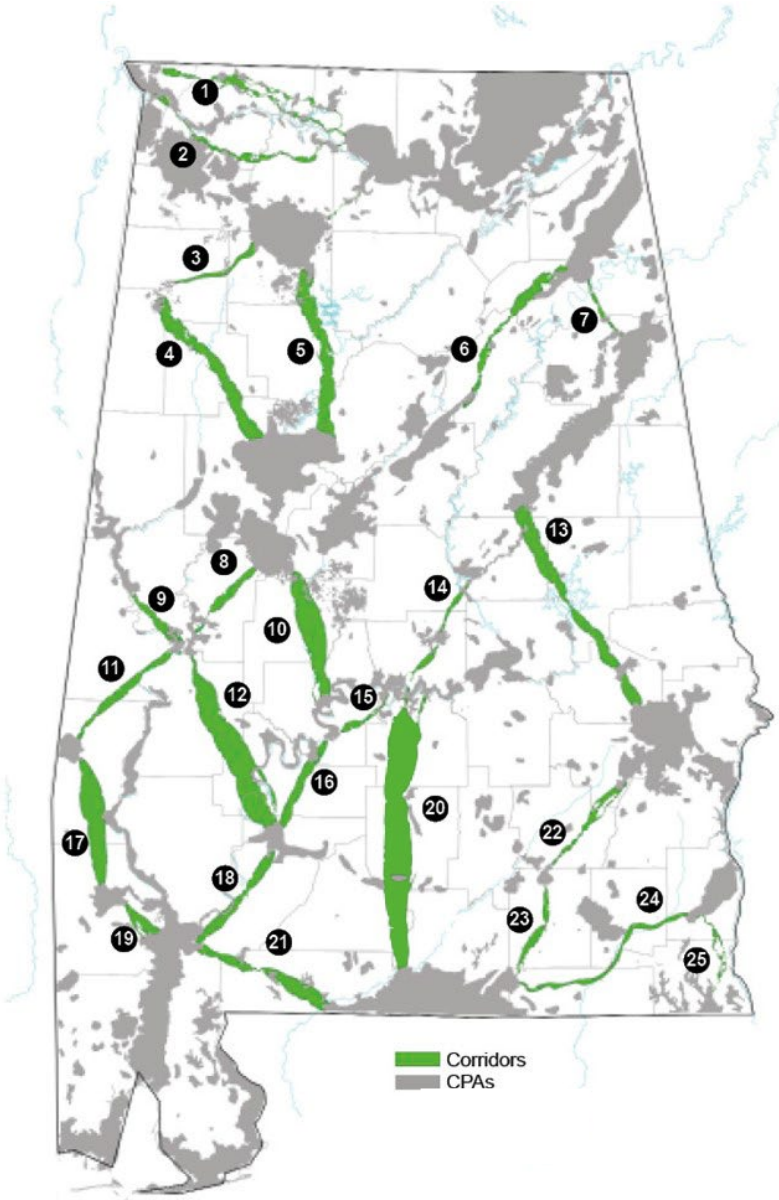


Figure 7.10 Map of 25 identified wildlife corridors and 138 identified conservation priority areas (CPAs).

Identifying wildlife corridors in Alabama represents a foundational step toward enhancing ecological connectivity across the state. Developed using the best available data and stakeholder input, the plan begins to identify key areas where wildlife movement is essential for species survival and long-term ecosystem resilience. As a first iteration in this SWAP, it outlines priority corridors based on identified CPAS, land use analysis, and known conservation targets, while recognizing that gaps and uncertainties remain. The Alabama corridor project will be refined over time through continued collaboration with researchers, landowners, agencies, and communities. Future iterations will incorporate new data, field validation, and input from ongoing monitoring efforts. Ultimately, the goal is to build a robust, adaptive framework that supports species richness, reduces habitat fragmentation, and helps inform conservation decisions at regional, state and local scales for years to come.