



Endangered Species

Working with Wildlife

Number 1

Numerous species native to the U.S. are threatened with extinction, and have been classified as “endangered” or “threatened” by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 defines these classifications as:

Endangered—any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Threatened—any species which is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

A species can be endangered, threatened, common, or abundant in different parts of its range (example: American alligator). Species identified as endangered or threatened, as well as habitats declared critical to them, are protected under federal and state laws designed to safeguard endangered individuals and promote recovery of the species.

Protective measures for endangered species include:

- preparation of recovery plans
- acquisition and management of essential habitat
- protection from disturbance (pursuing, harming, harassing, etc.)

Protection from disturbance differs between federally "listed" endangered and threatened plant and animal species. No penalties are assessed if endangered plant species are harmed in the course of legal land management practices, whereas the taking of an endangered and threatened animal species or destruction of its critical habitat, either by intent or negligence, is subject to prosecution under Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act. However, destruction of an endangered and threatened plant is subject to prosecution under the Endangered Species Act if the plant is on land under federal jurisdiction (which includes private land under management practices that require federal permits), or if the destruction occurs during the course of another illegal act (such as trespassing).

The N.C. Endangered Species Act (G.S. Chapter 113, Article 25) prohibits the taking of state listed species. The Act also states that it does not limit the rights of a landowner in the lawful management of his/her land. Clearly the taking of an endangered, threatened, or special concern species through illegal land

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management activities is a violation of this law. The North Carolina courts have not had occasion to rule whether the deliberate taking of these species during legal land management activities is a violation of the act.

North Carolina currently has 47 plant and animal species listed as endangered, with 342 other species currently under consideration. Most of these were placed on the endangered species list because of the direct alteration or loss of the species' habitat. The majority of the adverse impacts, including pollution, urbanization, poorly planned timber harvest, wetland drainage, and conversion to agricultural land, are all caused by humans.

ENDANGERED SPECIES MANAGEMENT

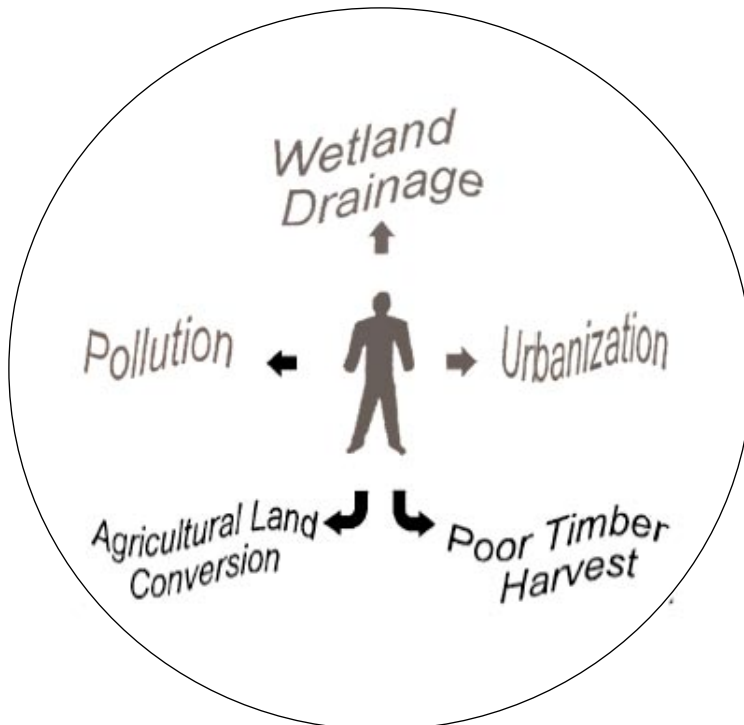
Because of the wide variety of threatened and endangered species, management actions for these species are varied.

Many of the listed fish, mollusks and amphibians are rare because of water pollution and wetland degradation. Forest land owners can help these species by preserving wetlands, maintaining

streamside buffer zones, using fertilizers and pesticides carefully, and keeping silt out of streams during logging and road-building operations.

Many of the listed terrestrial animals are rare because they are closely associated with rare habitats. A few examples are red-cockaded woodpeckers (longleaf pine forests), Carolina northern flying squirrels (high elevation spruce-fir and northern hardwood forests), and bog turtles (small bogs in the mountains and Piedmont). Use of management practices that maintain rare habitats is the best way to perpetuate these species. Important rare habitats include spruce-fir forests, bogs, and balds in the mountains; bottomland hardwood forests and fire-maintained prairies in the Piedmont; and longleaf pine forests, Carolina bays, and maritime forests in the Coastal Plain.

If you think you might have a threatened or endangered species on your property or in waters associated with your property, consult with a North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist about legal management practices and the best ways to enhance habitat for the species.



Federal (F) and State (S) Listed Endangered and Threatened Wildlife in North Carolina

MAMMALS

Eastern Cougar (F, S)
Red Wolf (F, S)
Virginia Big-eared Bat (F, S)
Dismal Swamp Gray Bat
Carolina Northern Flying Squirrel (F, S)
Southeastern Shrew (F, S)
Indiana Bat (F, S)
Eastern Wood Rat (S)

BIRDS

Bald Eagle (F, S)
Kirtland's Warbler (F, S)
Red-cockaded Woodpecker (F, S)
Peregrine Falcon (F, S)
Ivory-billed Woodpecker (F, S)
Bachman's Warbler (F, S)
Wood Stork (F, S)
Bewick's Wren (S)



AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES

Eastern Tiger Salamander (S)
Wehrle's Salamander (S)
Bog Turtle (S)
American Alligator (F, S)
Green Salamander (S)

FISH

Waccamaw Silverside (F, S)
Waccamaw Darter (S)
Sharphead Darter (S)
Blotchside Logperch (S)
Striped Shiner (S)
Cutlips Minnow (S)
Spotfin Chub (F, S)
Carolina Pygmy Sunfish (S)
American Brook Lamprey (S)
Paddlefish (S)
Stonecat (S)
Rustyside Sucker (S)
Cape Fear Shiner (F, S)
Rosyface Chub (S)
Logperch (S)
Banded Sculpin (S)
Orangefin Madtom (S)



MOLLUSKS

Dwarf Wedge Mussel (F, S)
Waccamaw Fatmucket (S)
Triangle Floater (S)
Savannah Lilliput (S)
Neuse Spike (S)

MOLLUSKS (continued)

Appalachian Elktoe (S)

Slippershell Mussel (S)

Knotty Elimia (S)

Squawfoot (S)

Smoky Mountain Covert (S)

Cape Fear Threetooth (S)

Big-tooth Covert (S)

Tar River Spiny Mussel (F, S)

Barrel Floater (S)

Yellow Lampmussel (S)

Roanoke Slabshell (S)

Waccamaw Spike (S)

Brook Floater (S)

Tennessee Pigtoe (S)

Seep Mudalia (S)

Waccamaw Ambersnail (S)

Fragile Glyph (S)

Roan Supercoil (S)

Clingman Covert (S)

Littlewing Pearly Mussel

Green Floater (S)

Yellow Lance (S)

Cape Fear Spike (S)

Mountain Creekshell

Tennessee Heelsplitter (S)

Pistolgrip (S)

Carolina Heelsplitter (S)

Engraved Covert (S)

Magnificent Rams-horn (S)

Sculpted Supercoil (S)

OTHER WILDLIFE NOTES AVAILABLE

No. 1 Endangered Species

No. 2 Eastern Gray Squirrel

No. 3 White-tailed Deer

No. 4 Songbirds

No. 5 Wild Turkey

No. 6 Wood Duck

No. 7 Cottontail Rabbit

No. 8 Bobwhite Quail

No. 9 Ruffed Grouse

No. 10 Black Bear

No. 11 Raccoon

No. 12 Mourning Dove

No. 13 Wildlife Terms

No. 14 Snags and Downed Logs

No. 15 Managing Edges for Wildlife

No. 16 Building Songbird Boxes

No. 17 Woodland Wildlife Nest Boxes

No. 18 Low Cost Habitat Improvements

No. 19 Pools for Amphibians

No. 20 Hummingbirds and Butterflies

No. 21 Bats

No. 22 Owls

No. 23 Managing Beaver Ponds

No. 24 Herbaceous Plants for Wildlife

No. 25 SIP Wildlife Opportunities

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Forest Stewardship
 a cooperative program for
 improving and maintaining all of the
 resources on private forestland

