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Conserving South Carolina's At-Risk Species:

Species facing threats to their survival

"Private landowners are wonderful stewards of the Southeast's grand diversity of fish, wildlife, and plants. Our goal is to work with them - and our public partners - to proactively conserve as many at-risk species as possible through voluntary and innovative measures. Together we can pass down our outdoor traditions to future generations, and help keep farms, forests and other lands working for both people and wildlife." - Cindy Dohner, former Southeast Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Background

In 2011, the Southeast Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) began working with states, federal agencies and other partners to evaluate more than 400 fish, wildlife, and plant species for potential listing under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). These evaluations are required due to litigation and petitions.



Eastern black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis*) - proposed for listing under the ESA in October 2018. Photo credit: Stephen E. Kacir

Goal

By working with private landowners, states, tribes, other federal agencies and non-governmental organizations, the Service has been able to conserve dozens of at-risk species and preclude the need to list them under the ESA through proactive conservation efforts.

Definition of At-Risk Species

Biologists commonly refer to species as "at-risk" if they face grave threats to their survival. For the purposes of this conservation strategy, the Service's Southeast Region has defined "at-risk species" as those that are:

- Proposed for listing under the ESA by the Service;
- Candidates for listing under the ESA (species that warrant listing but have not been listed, due to higher listing priorities and limited resources);
- Petitioned for listing under the ESA (a citizen or citizen group has requested that the Service list them); or
- Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) as identified by the states.

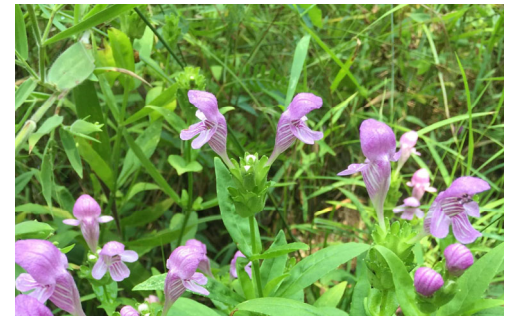
Southeast Regional Strategy for Conserving At-Risk Species

The Service's Southeast Region is working in five action areas to accomplish the goal of conserving at-risk species. Those action areas are: 1) prioritizing species in need of conservation; 2) promoting voluntary conservation actions; 3) working closely with partners; 4) improving data collection and sharing; and 5) outreach.

Our Partners

Anyone can help conserve at-risk species, including private landowners, energy utilities, corporations, states, federal agencies, or local governments. Some of our partners include the states working through the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service and other federal agencies. Early conservation maximizes management options for landowners, minimizes costs,

and reduces the potential for restrictive policies by addressing species' needs before necessary regulatory requirements.



Carolina birds-in-a-nest (*Macbridea caroliniana*) - one of several species undergoing review for potential listing under the ESA. Photo credit: L.L. Gaddy

Candidate Conservation Agreements (CCAs) and CCAs with Assurances

Non-federal landowners can voluntarily agree to protect unlisted or at-risk species on their properties in return for regulatory assurance. As long as they manage lands in accordance with the agreement, they will not be required to do more, even if the species covered in the agreement is later listed under the ESA. Agreed-upon management practices may include leaving vegetative buffers for streams, prescribed burns, replanting forests, or creating wildlife corridors. These agreements provide private landowners and state and local governments with flexibility to manage, while reducing long-term costs in the event the species becomes listed. Federal landowners can also sign on to CCAs along with private and state partners to help conserve a species. While these agreements provide federal landowners some flexibility and cost-savings, federal agencies cannot receive regulatory assurance if the covered species becomes listed. Under the ESA, federal agencies have an obligation to protect listed species.



Conserving South Carolina's At-Risk Species:

What you can do to help

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Contact our office

Below is a list of individuals in the South Carolina Field Office who are dedicating their time and efforts to working with partners on at-risk species conservation. Please contact our staff to learn more information about these species, any pro-active conservation efforts being undertaken, or to explore new ideas for their protection. An asterisk (*) next to a species denotes Regional/National lead for species' status assessment.

Lead Staff Member	Contact Information	At-Risk Species
Main Office	843-727-4707	(amphibians) Green salamander; (birds) eastern black rail* (proposed for listing in October 2018), Golden-winged warbler, and Saltmarsh sparrow
Melissa Chaplin	melissa_chaplin@fws.gov 843-727-4707 ext. 217	(birds) Black-capped petrel (proposed for listing in October 2018)
Chris Hernandez	christopher_hernandez@fws.gov 843-727-4707 ext. 213	(insects) Calvert's emerald, Edmund's snaketail, Frosted elfin, Mountain River cruiser (aka—Margarita river skimmer), Monarch butterfly, Septima's clubtail, and Smokies needlefly; (reptiles) Spotted turtle
Melanie Olds	melanie_old@fws.gov 843-727-4707 ext. 205	(amphibians) Gopher frog; (crayfish) Broad river spiny crayfish (aka Little River crayfish)*, Mimic crayfish*, and Newberry burrowing crayfish (aka Saluda crayfish)*; (fish) Carolina pygmy sunfish and Robust redhorse; (reptiles) Florida pine snake*, Southern hognose snake*, and Gopher tortoise
April Punsalan	april_punsalan@fws.gov 843-727-4707 ext. 218	(plants) Bog spicebush, Boykin's lobelia, Carolina birds-in-a-nest*, Carolina hemlock, Ciliate-leaf tickseed, Georgia lead-plant, Godfrey's stitchwort, Harper's fimbriatilis, Mountain purple pitcher plant, Ocmulgee skullcap, Purpledisk honeycombhead*, Raven's seedbox, Ravine sedge (aka Impressed-nerve sedge), Sun-facing coneflower, Venus flytrap, Wireleaf dropseed, and Yellow pond lily (aka Cape Fear spatterdock)
Paula Sisson	paula_sisson@fws.gov 843-727-4707 ext. 226	(reptiles) Eastern diamondback rattlesnake
Morgan Wolf	morgan_wolf@fws.gov 843-727-4707 ext. 219	(amphibians) Chamberlain's dwarf salamander*; (mammals) Tricolored bat and little brown bat; (mussels) Atlantic pigtoe (proposed for listing in October 2018) and Brook floater