

At-Risk Species Conservation Opportunities in the Southeast: SECAS Case Study

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The Challenge

60%

of national listing workload under
MDL is in (SE and NE Regions)

353

species require 90-day or 12-
month petition findings

**And workload is expected to
increase in the future.**



National 7-Year Workplan 2017-23

- Announced September 1, 2016
- Sets long-term schedule for listing actions
- Includes remaining candidates and 320 species
- Prioritizes species for decisions
- Coordinated with States
- Implementation began in FY2017

https://www.fws.gov/endangered/improving_esa/pdf/Listing%207-Year%20Workplan%20Sept%202016.pdf

SECAS Collaboration

- Science products to inform species status assessments
- Conservation planning to support implementation of conservation actions for at-risk species.



Species Status Assessments

The SSA Framework is an analytical approach
for assessing biological status

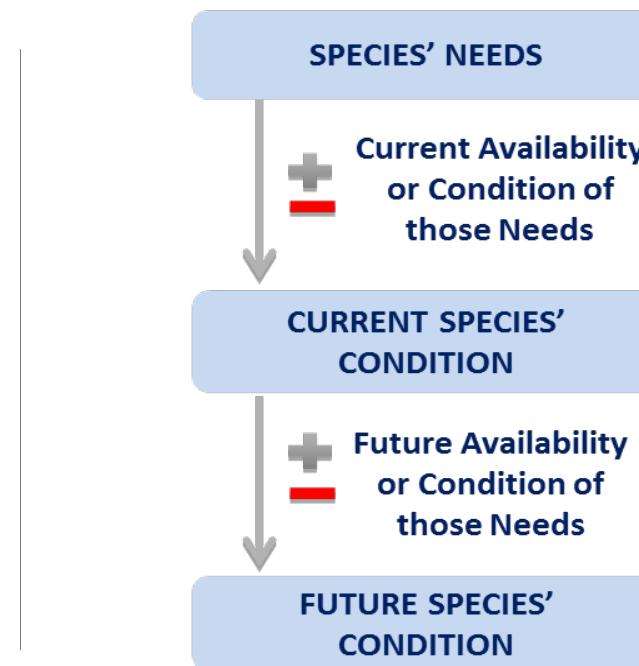
USFWS
Species Status
Assessment
Framework

October

2015

Version 3.3

The US Fish and Wildlife Service is using an integrated and conservation-focused analytical approach, the Species Status Assessment Framework, to assess the species biological status for the purpose of informing decisions and activities under the Endangered Species Act.



Species Status Assessments

PURPOSE: To describe viability of a species using the conservation principles of resiliency, redundancy, and representation



Resiliency

....describes the ability of populations to persist in the face of stochastic events (i.e., pop. fitness). Resiliency is measured using population-level demographic and habitat factors.



Redundancy

...describes the ability of species to withstand catastrophic events. Redundancy is measured by the number and distribution of resilient populations.



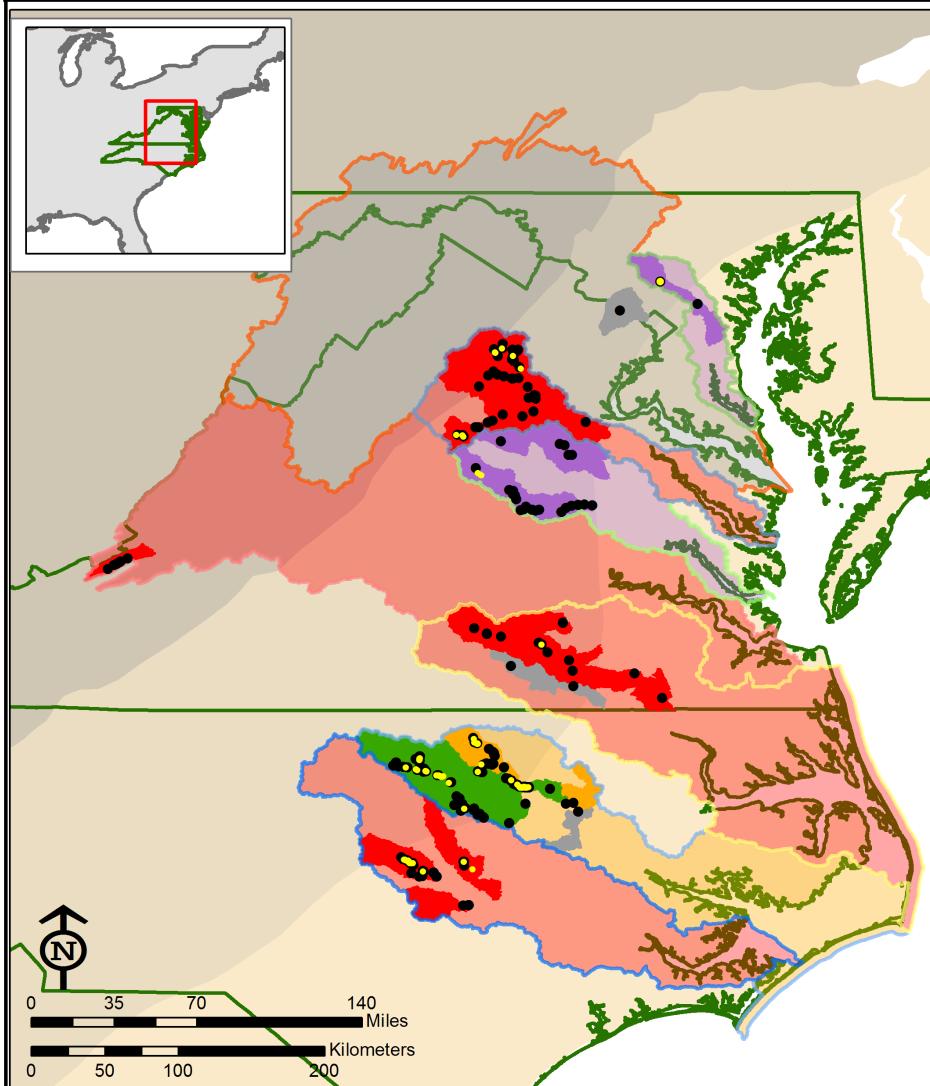
Representation

...describes the ability of a species to adapt to changing environmental conditions. Measured by genetic and/or environmental diversity (within and among populations) representation reflects a species adaptive capacity.

Species Status Assessment

Figure 3-19

Yellow Lance Current Condition



MU Resiliency:

- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low
- Likely Extirpated

Population Resiliency:

- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low
- Likely Extirpated

States

Physiographic Provinces:

- MOUNTAINS
- PIEDMONT
- COASTAL PLAIN

River Basins:

- Patuxent
- Potomac
- Rappahannock
- York
- James
- Chowan
- Tar-Pamlico
- Neuse

Voluntary Conservation Tools

June 2013

Range-Wide Conservation Strategy for the Gopher Tortoise

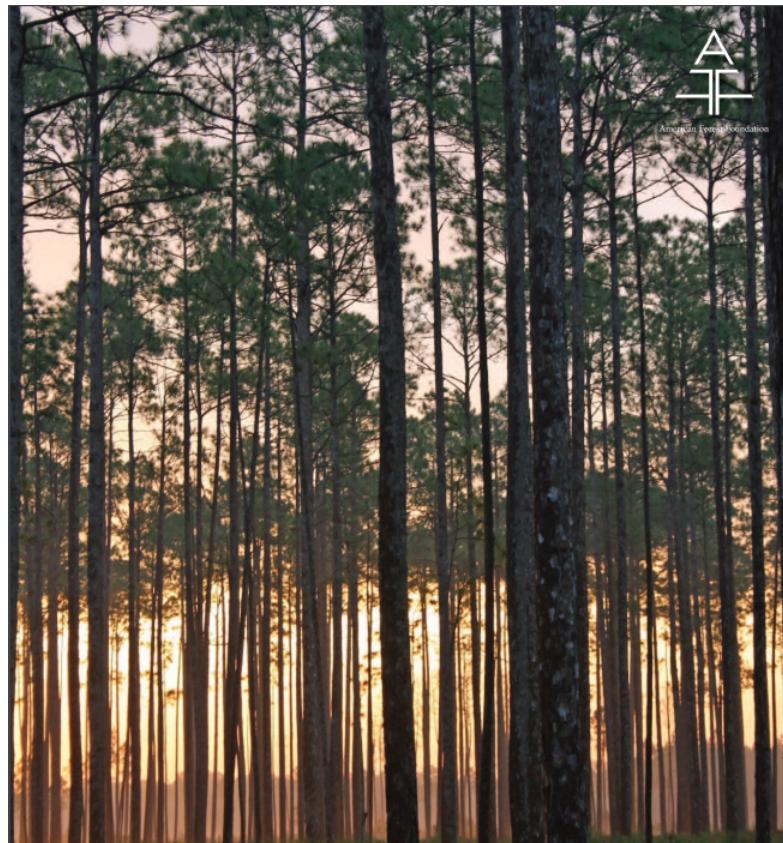


Chris Pelt/Mississippi Army National Guard

Common Name: Gopher Tortoise
Scientific Name: *Gopherus polyphemus*
Listing Status and Date:
Threatened: (populations west of the Mobile and Tombigbee Rivers in AL, MS,

- Working Lands for Wildlife
- Partners for Fish & Wildlife
- State Wildlife Agencies
- CCAs and CCAAs

Collaboration with Partner Initiatives



Southern Wildlife at Risk:
FAMILY FOREST OWNERS OFFER A SOLUTION

PROTECTING WILDLIFE HABITAT AND DELIVERING WOOD PRODUCTS WITH SOUTHERN FAMILY FOREST LANDOWNERS

A poster for a partnership meeting. The background shows a landscape with pine trees and a gopher tortoise. At the top, the text 'GOPHER TORTOISE INITIATIVE' and 'PARTNERSHIP MEETING' is displayed in green. Below that, the date and time 'Tuesday, August 16 10 am – 2 pm' are given. The location is listed as 'The Nature Conservancy 100 Peachtree Street NW 18th Floor Atlanta, GA 30303'. At the bottom, it says '-Lunch Provided-' and 'PURPOSE To develop a coordinated approach for the landscape scale protection and management of key sites across south Georgia.' Below the text is a photograph showing a snake, a turtle, and a frog.

Successes- 108 Species

34 Species Not-Warranted 12-month findings



45 Species Withdrawn from Petition



29 Species not-substantial 90-day findings