
INTRODUCTION

Definition of Legal Status

Federal status is designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Federally listed Endangered and Threatened species are protected under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended through the 100th Congress. Unless otherwise noted, definitions are taken from the *Federal Register*, Vol. 56, No. 225, November 21, 1991 (50 CFR Part 17).

Endangered

A taxon “which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range”(Endangered Species Act, Sect. 3).

Threatened

A taxon “which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range” (Endangered Species Act, Sect. 3).

Federal Species of Concern [also known as Species at Risk]

“The service remains concerned about these species, but further biological research and field study are needed to resolve the conservation status of these taxa. Many species of concern will be found not to warrant listing, either because they are not threatened or endangered or because they do not qualify as species under the definition in the [Endangered Species] Act. Others may be found to be in greater danger of extinction than some present candidate taxa. The Service is working with the States and other private and public interests to assess their need for protection under the Act. Such species are the pool from which future candidates for listing will be drawn“ (*Federal Register*, February 28, 1996). The Service suggests that such taxa be considered as “Species of Concern” or “Species at Risk,” neither of which has official status.

Threatened Due to to Similarity of Appearance (S/A)

“Section 4 (e) of the [Endangered Species] Act authorizes the treatment of a species (subspecies or population segment) as endangered or threatened even though it is not otherwise listed as endangered or threatened if (a) the species so closely resembles in appearance an endangered or threatened species that enforcement personnel would have substantial difficulty in differentiating between the listed and unlisted species; (b) the effect of this substantial difficulty is an additional threat to an endangered or threatened species; and (c) such treatment of an unlisted species will substantially facilitate the enforcement and further the policy of the Act” *Federal Register*, November 4, 1997). The American alligator has this

designation due to similarity of appearance to other rare crocodylians, and the southern population of the bog turtle has this designation due to similarity of appearance to the northern population of the bog turtle, which is federally listed as Threatened.

Information Sources for Current Legal Status of Species

FOR STATE ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES

Regulatory Agencies

Animals (except insects)

N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MSC 1700
Raleigh, NC 27699-1700
919-661-4872

Plants and Insects

N.C. Department of Agriculture
Plant Conservation Program
P. O. Box 27647
Raleigh, NC 27611
919-733-3610
www.agr.state.nc.us/plantind/plant/conserv/cons.htm

Non-regulatory Agency

Animals and plants

N.C. Natural Heritage Program
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Division of Parks and Recreation
MSC 1615
Raleigh, NC 27699-1615
919-733-4181
www.ncsparks.net/nhp

FOR FEDERAL ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES

Animals and Plants

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
160 Zillicoa Street
Asheville, NC 28801

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services
551 Pylon Drive
Raleigh, NC 27606
<http://endangered.fws.gov>

Guide to the Species Accounts

The species accounts that form the remainder of this book are organized by taxonomic grouping: first animals—subdivided into mammals, birds, reptiles, fishes, and invertebrates (the latter subdivided into mollusks-bivalves, mollusks-gastropods, and arachnids), and then plants—subdivided into vascular plants and nonvascular plants. Each account uses the following format:

Name: The common and scientific name are given. If there is more than one common name, or if the taxonomy is unclear, alternative names are given in parentheses.

Federal status: As of December 1, 2001. A species may change classifications if status is determined to be more or less at risk. Dates are given for enactment of present status. If this is a change in status, the original date and status are also listed.

Description: Average lengths are given. In some cases, English measurements were calculated from metric; such measurements were rounded off. Animal lengths are measured from head to tail. Leaf lengths do not include stem length. The flowering periods listed for plants indicate when flowering is most likely to take place. Flowers will not necessarily be visible for the entire period listed. (Note: abbreviations are used for centimeters [cm], meters [m], kilometers [km], hectares [ha], pounds [lb], and feet [ft].)

Life History: Reported habits and preferences for food, nesting/shelter, seasonal activities, breeding seasons, growth patterns and maturation, social styles and other characteristics are given for the general population of the species.

Habitat: Known habitat preferences are given. Species may be found in other habitats as well.

Distribution: Range and counties in which the species is known to occur within North Carolina only. If a species is discovered in a new county, it should be reported to state and/

or federal authorities. *Counties in which the element was last observed more than 20 years ago (1979 or earlier) are marked with an asterisk (*). The asterisk does not necessarily mean that the species is no longer known from that county, only that the date of the last observation available to the Natural Heritage Program and/or USFWS from that county is at least 20 years old. Counties listed in brackets [] indicate records listed by data bases at the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences and may be older records.* Occasionally areas in neighboring states are included as well. Fishes and aquatic invertebrates are noted for counties where they are known to occur.

Sea turtles occur in coastal waters and nest along beaches. This publication includes sea turtles in the counties where they are known to nest. The USFWS has jurisdiction over sea turtle issues on terrestrial systems; the National Marine Fisheries Service has authority over sea turtles in coastal waters. Manatees occur throughout North Carolina's coastal water; this publication includes manatees in counties where there are known concentrations. The USFWS has consultation and recovery responsibility for manatees.

Threats: Circumstances that have put species on protected list; potential threats to present and future success of species.

Recommendations: Protective measures that are recommended to protect species and/or habitat to maintain success of species, correct negative impacts, or prevent future negative impacts.

Sources: See Appendix E for full citations. USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.