



## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Fish and Wildlife Service**

**[FWS–HQ–ES–2019–N048; FXES11130100000C4–190–FF02ENEH00]**

### **Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 21 Draft Recovery Plan Revisions for 43 Southeastern Species**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; opening of public comment period.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability for public review and comment of 21 draft recovery plan revisions, which update recovery criteria for 43 endangered or threatened species located in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, and Tennessee, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the U.S. and British Virgin Islands. We are updating recovery criteria to better assist in determining when an endangered species has recovered to the point that it may be reclassified as threatened, or that the protections afforded by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) are no longer necessary and the species may be removed from the ESA's protections. We request review of these draft recovery plan revisions and invite comments from local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and the public.

**DATES:** We must receive comments on the draft recovery plan revisions on or before

**[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].**

**ADDRESSES: *Reviewing documents:*** If you wish to review the draft recovery plan revisions, you may obtain copies from the Web site addresses in the table in

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.** You may also request copies of the draft recovery plan revisions by contacting the individuals listed in the table.

***Submitting comments:*** If you wish to comment, see the table in **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** and submit your comments by one of the following methods:

1. *U.S. Mail or hand-delivery:* You may submit written comments and materials to the appropriate field office mailing address for the species in which you are interested;
2. *Email:* You may send comments by email to the identified contact person's email address in the table, for each species. Please include "Draft Recovery Plan Revision Comments" in the subject line.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information on a particular species, contact the appropriate person listed in the table for that species in

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.** Individuals who are hearing impaired may call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339 for TTY assistance.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Background**

In this notice, we announce for public review and comment the availability of 21 draft recovery plan revisions, which update recovery criteria for 43 endangered or threatened species located in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, and Tennessee, the Commonwealth of

Puerto Rico, and the U.S. and British Virgin Islands. This group of 21 draft recovery plan revisions is part of a larger effort underway to revise up to 182 recovery plans covering up to 305 species in order to achieve the following Department of the Interior Agency Priority Performance Goal outlined in the Department's Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2018–2022: "By September 30, 2019, 100 percent of all Fish and Wildlife Service recovery plans will have quantitative criteria for what constitutes a recovered species."

The purpose of a recovery plan is to provide a feasible and effective roadmap for a species' recovery, with the goal of improving its status and managing its threats to the point at which protections under the Endangered Species Act (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) are no longer needed. Recovery plans must be designed so that all stakeholders and the public understand the rationale behind the recovery program, whether they were involved in writing the plan or not, and recognize their role in its implementation. We are requesting submission of any information that enhances the necessary understanding of the (1) species' biology and threats and (2) recovery needs and related implementation issues or concerns, to ensure that we have assembled, considered, and incorporated the best available scientific and commercial information into the draft recovery plan revisions for these 43 species.

Recovery plans provide important guidance to the Service, States, other partners, and the general public on methods of minimizing threats to listed species and objectives against which to measure the progress towards recovery; they are guidance and not regulatory documents. A recovery plan identifies, organizes, and prioritizes recovery actions and is an important guide that ensures sound scientific decision-making throughout the recovery process, which can take decades. Keeping recovery plans

current ensures that threatened species and endangered species benefit through timely partner-coordinated implementation, based on the best available information.

A review of a recovery plan and its implementation may show that the plan is out of date or its usefulness is limited and that the plan warrants modification. The need for, and extent of, recovery plan modifications will vary considerably among recovery plans, depending on the scope and complexity of the initial plan, the structure of the document, and the involvement of stakeholders. Recovery plan modifications can range from relatively minor updates to a substantial rewrite that revises the existing plan in part (i.e., an amendment to one of the sections that modifies the existing plan), or in full (i.e., a full revision that completely replaces the existing plan). The need for a recovery plan revision may be triggered when, among other possibilities, (1) new information has been identified, such as population-level threats to the species or previously unknown life-history traits, which necessitates new or revised recovery strategy, actions, or criteria, or revision of all three in order to maintain the adequacy of the plan; and (2) the current plan is not achieving its objectives. Revisions benefit endangered and threatened species, our partners, and the public by incorporating the best available information on what is needed for species' recovery.

Revision of recovery plans requires public notice and comment under section 4(f)(4) of the ESA, including (1) a *Federal Register* notice of availability to give opportunity for public review and comment, (2) consideration of all information presented during the public comment period, and (3) approval by the Regional Director. When finalized, these recovery plan revisions will be made publicly available on the

Internet through our Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS, <https://ecos.fws.gov>).

**What plans are being made available for public review and comment?**

This notice announces our draft recovery plan revisions for the species listed in the table below.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Listing Status <sup>1</sup>	Current Range	Recovery Plan Name	Internet Availability of Proposed Recovery Plan Revision	Contact Person, Phone, Email	Contact Person's U.S. Mail Address
Morefield's leather flower	<i>Clematis morefieldii</i>	E	AL, TN	Morefield's Leather Flower <i>Clematis morefieldii</i> Recovery Plan <sup>2</sup>	<a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Morefields%20Leather%20Flower%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf">https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Morefields%20Leather%20Flower%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf</a>	Stephen Ricks 601-321-1122 stephen_ricks@fws.gov	Mississippi Ecological Services Field Office, 6578 Dogwood View Pkwy, Suite A, Jackson, MS 39213
Southern combshell	<i>Epioblasma penita</i>	E	AL, MS	Five Tombigbee River Mussels Recovery Plan <sup>2</sup>	<a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Southern%20Combshell%20and%20Black%20Clubshell%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf">https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Southern%20Combshell%20and%20Black%20Clubshell%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf</a>		
Black clubshell	<i>Pleurobema curtum</i>	E	AL, MS				
Fat pocketbook	<i>Potamilus capax</i>	E	AR, IL, IN, KY, LA, MO, MS, TN	A Recovery Plan for the Fat Pocketbook Pearly Mussel <i>Potamilus capax</i> <sup>2</sup>	<a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Fat%20Pocketbook%20Mussel%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf">https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Fat%20Pocketbook%20Mussel%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf</a>		
Alabama redbellied turtle	<i>Pseudemys alabamensis</i>	E	AL, MS	Draft Revised Recovery Plan for the Alabama Red-Bellied Turtle ( <i>Pseudemys alabamensis</i> ) <sup>3</sup>	<a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Alabama%20Red%20Bellied%20Turtle%20Draft%20Revised%20Recovery%20Plan.pdf">https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Alabama%20Red%20Bellied%20Turtle%20Draft%20Revised%20Recovery%20Plan.pdf</a>		
Dusky gopher frog	<i>Rana sevosa</i>	E	AL, MS	Dusky Gopher Frog ( <i>Rana sevosa</i> ) Recovery Plan <sup>2</sup>	<a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Dusky%20Gopher%20Frog%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf">https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Dusky%20Gopher%20Frog%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf</a>		
Alabama canebrake pitcher-plant	<i>Sarracenia rubra</i> ssp. <i>alabamensis</i>	E	AL	Alabama Canebrake Pitcher Plant ( <i>Sarracenia rubra</i> ssp. <i>alabamensis</i> ) Recovery Plan <sup>2</sup>	<a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Alabama%20Canebrake%20Pitcher%20Plant%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment_1.pdf">https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Alabama%20Canebrake%20Pitcher%20Plant%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment_1.pdf</a>		
Alabama cavefish	<i>Speoplatyrhinus poulsoni</i>	E	AL	Alabama Cavefish <i>Speoplatyrhinus poulsoni</i> Recovery Plan (Second Revision) <sup>2</sup>	<a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Alabama%20Cavefish%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf">https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Alabama%20Cavefish%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf</a>		

Alabama beach mouse	<i>Peromyscus polionotus ammobates</i>	E	AL	Recovery Plan for the Alabama Beach Mouse ( <i>Peromyscus polionotus ammobates</i> ), Perdido Key Beach Mouse ( <i>P. p. trissyllepsis</i> ), and Choctawhatchee Beach Mouse ( <i>P. p. allopshrys</i> ) <sup>2</sup>	<a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Alabama%20Beach%20Mouse%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf">https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Alabama%20Beach%20Mouse%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf</a>	William J. Pearson 251-441-5870 bill_pearson@fws.gov	Alabama Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1208-B Main Street, Daphne, AL 36526
Choctawhatchee beach mouse	<i>Peromyscus polionotus allopshrys</i>	E	FL		<a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Choctawhatchee%20Beach%20Mouse%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf">https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Choctawhatchee%20Beach%20Mouse%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf</a>	Catherine T. Phillips, Ph.D. 850-769-0552 catherine_phillips@fws.gov	Panama City Field Office, 1601 Balboa Avenue, Panama City, FL 32405
Perdido Key beach mouse	<i>Peromyscus polionotus trissyllepsis</i>	E	AL, FL		<a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Perdido%20Key%20Beach%20Mouse%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf">https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Perdido%20Key%20Beach%20Mouse%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf</a>		
Apalachicola rosemary	<i>Conradina glabra</i>	E	FL	Recovery Plan for Apalachicola Rosemary ( <i>Conradina glabra</i> ) <sup>2</sup>	<a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Apalachicola%20Rosemary%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf">https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Apalachicola%20Rosemary%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf</a>	Catherine T. Phillips, Ph.D. 850-769-0552 catherine_phillips@fws.gov	Panama City Field Office, 1601 Balboa Avenue, Panama City, FL 32405
Ochlockonee moccasinshell	<i>Medionidus simpsonianus</i>	E	FL, GA	Recovery Plan for Endangered Fat Threeridge, Shinyrayed Pocketbook, Gulf Moccasinshell, Ochlockonee moccasinshell, Oval Pigtoe and Threatened Chipola Slabshell, and Purple bankclimber <sup>2</sup>	<a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Ochlockonee%20Moccasinshell%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf">https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Ochlockonee%20Moccasinshell%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf</a>		
Chapman rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron chapmanii</i>	E	FL	Recovery Plan for Chapman's Rhododendron, <i>Rhododendron</i>	<a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Chapmans%20Rhododendron%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf">https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Chapmans%20Rhododendron%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf</a>		

				<i>chapmanii</i> <sup>2</sup>			
Gentian pinkroot	<i>Spigelia gentianoides</i>	E	AL, FL	Recovery Plan for <i>Spigelia gentianoides</i> (Gentian pinkroot) <sup>2</sup>	<a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Gentian%20Pinkroot%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf">https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Gentian%20Pinkroot%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf</a>		
Florida scrub-jay	<i>Aphelocoma coerulescens</i>	T	FL	Draft Revised Recovery Plan for the Florida Scrub-Jay ( <i>Aphelocoma coerulescens</i> ) <sup>3</sup>	<a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Florida%20Scrub-Jay%20Draft%20Revised%20Recovery%20Plan.pdf">https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Florida%20Scrub-Jay%20Draft%20Revised%20Recovery%20Plan.pdf</a>	Jay B. Herrington 904-731-3191 jay_herrington@fws.gov	Northeast Florida Ecological Services Field Office, 7915 Baymeadows Way, Suite 200, Jacksonville, FL 32256
Four-petal pawpaw	<i>Asimina tetramera</i>	E	FL	South Florida Multi-Species Recovery Plan <sup>2</sup>	<a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Four%20Petal%20PawPaw%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf">https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Four%20Petal%20PawPaw%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf</a>	Roxanna Hinzman 772-469-4309 SouthFL_recoveryplancomments@fws.gov	South Florida Ecological Services Field Office, 1339 20th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960
Fragrant prickly-apple	<i>Cereus eriophorus</i> var. <i>fragrans</i>	E	FL		<a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Fragrant%20Prickly%20Apple%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf">https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Fragrant%20Prickly%20Apple%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf</a>		
Florida perforate cladonia	<i>Cladonia perforata</i>	E	FL		<a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Florida%20Perforate%20Cladonia%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf">https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Florida%20Perforate%20Cladonia%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf</a>		
Short-leaved rosemary	<i>Conradina brevifolia</i>	E	FL				
Avon Park harebells	<i>Crotalaria avonensis</i>	E	FL				
Garrett's mint	<i>Dicerandra christmanii</i>	E	FL				
Scrub mint	<i>Dicerandra frutescens</i>	E	FL				
Snakeroot	<i>Eryngium cuneifolium</i>	E	FL				
Highlands	<i>Hypericum</i>	E	FL		<a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Lake%20Wales%20Ridge%20Plants%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf">https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Lake%20Wales%20Ridge%20Plants%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf</a>		

scrub hypericum	<i>cumulicola</i>						
Scrub blazingstar	<i>Liatris ohlingerae</i>	E	FL				
Lewton's polygala	<i>Polygala lewtonii</i>	E	FL				
Wireweed	<i>Polygonella basiramia</i>	E	FL				
Sandlace	<i>Polygonella myriophylla</i>	E	FL				
Carter's mustard	<i>Warea carteri</i>	E	FL				
Florida ziziphus	<i>Ziziphus celata</i>	E	FL				
American crocodile [FL DPS]	<i>Crocodylus acutus</i>	T	FL		<a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/American%20Crocodile%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf">https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/American%20Crocodile%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf</a>		
Okeechobee gourd	<i>Cucurbita okeechobeensis</i> ssp. <i>okeechobeensis</i>	E	FL		<a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Okeechobee%20Gourd%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf">https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Okeechobee%20Gourd%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf</a>		
Snail kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus</i>	E	FL		<a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Everglade%20Snail%20Kite%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf">https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Everglade%20Snail%20Kite%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf</a>		
Key tree-cactus	<i>Pilosocereus robinii</i>	E	FL		<a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Key%20Tree%20Cactus%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf">https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Key%20Tree%20Cactus%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf</a>		
Eastern indigo snake	<i>Drymarchon corais couperi</i>	T	AL, FL, GA	Draft Revised Recovery Plan for the Eastern Indigo Snake <sup>3</sup>	<a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Eastern%20Indigo%20Snake%20Draft%20Revised%20Recovery%20Plan.pdf">https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Eastern%20Indigo%20Snake%20Draft%20Revised%20Recovery%20Plan.pdf</a>	Donald W. Imm, Ph.D. cell: 850-532-2046 office: 706-208-7501 fax: 706-613-6059	Georgia Ecological Services Field Office, 355 East Hancock Avenue, Room 320 Box 7, Athens, GA 30601
Amber darter	<i>Percina</i>	E	GA, TN	Draft Revised	<a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/rec">https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/rec</a>		

	<i>antesella</i>			Recovery Plan for the Amber Darter ( <i>Percina antesella</i> ) <sup>3</sup>	overly_plan/Amber%20Darter%20Draft%20Revised%20Recovery%20Plan.pdf	donald_imm@fws.gov	
Conasauga logperch	<i>Percina jenkinsi</i>	E	GA, TN	Draft Revised Recovery Plan for the Conasauga Logperch ( <i>Percina jenkinsi</i> ) <sup>3</sup>	https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Conasauga%20Logperch%20Draft%20Revised%20Recovery%20Plan.pdf		
Louisiana pearlshell	<i>Margaritifera hembeli</i>	T	AR, LA	Draft Revised Recovery Plan for the Louisiana Pearlshell ( <i>Margaritifera hembeli</i> ) <sup>3</sup>	https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Louisiana%20Pearlshell%20Draft%20Revised%20Recovery%20Plan.pdf	Joseph Ranson 337-291-3113 joseph_ranson@fws.gov	Louisiana Ecological Services Field Office, 200 Dulles Drive, Lafayette, LA 70506
Puerto Rican sharp-shinned hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus venator</i>	E	Puerto Rico	Puerto Rican Broad-Winged Hawk and Puerto Rican Sharp-Shinned Hawk Recovery Plan <sup>2</sup>	https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Puerto%20Rican%20Broad-Winged%20Hawk%20and%20Puerto%20Rican%20Sharp-Shinned%20Hawk%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf	Edwin E. Muñiz 787-851-7297 edwin_muniz@fws.gov	Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office, P.O. Box 1600, Rio Grande, PR 00745
Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus brunnescens</i>	E	Puerto Rico				
Puerto Rican boa	<i>Epicrates inornatus</i>	E	Puerto Rico	Recovery Plan for the Puerto Rican Boa <sup>2</sup>	https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Puerto%20Rican%20Boa%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf		
Virgin Islands tree boa	<i>Epicrates monensis granti</i>	E	Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands	Recovery Plan for the Virgin Islands Tree Boa ( <i>Epicrates monensis granti</i> ) <sup>2</sup>	https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Virgin%20Island%20Tree%20Boa%20Recovery%20Plan%20Amendment.pdf		

<sup>1</sup> E = endangered; T = threatened

<sup>2</sup> Denotes a partial revision (i.e., amendment) to the recovery plan

<sup>3</sup> Denotes a full revision of the recovery plan

## **How Do I Ask Questions or Provide Information?**

For any species listed above, please submit your questions, comments, and materials to the appropriate contact in the table above. Individuals who are hearing impaired or speech impaired may call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339 for TTY assistance.

## **Request for Public Comments**

We request written comments on the draft recovery plan modifications. We will consider all comments we receive by the date specified in **DATES** prior to final approval of the plans.

## **Public Availability of Comments**

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Authority**

The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1533 (f)).

Dated: July 19, 2019.

**Margaret E. Everson,**

*Principal Deputy Director,*

*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,*

*Exercising the Authority of the Director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

Billing Code 4333-15

[FR Doc. 2019-16750 Filed: 8/5/2019 8:45 am; Publication Date: 8/6/2019]