

Roads are a source of pollution. Oils, greases, construction dirt, trash and cigarette butts wash off roads when it rains.

Excess fertilizers and pesticides wash off lawns and gardens when it rains and flow into surface water.

Groundwater can be polluted by surface water runoff.

Everything put into storm drains and on the street can end up in our rivers, lakes, and coastal waters.



HOW DO OUR WATERSHEDS BECOME POLLUTED?

When it rains, water that is not absorbed into the ground, taken up by plants or evaporated into the atmosphere, flows into surface waters (such as rivers, lakes and coastal waters). This flow is called storm water or runoff. As the runoff flows over the roads and land, it picks up pollutants.

- W**ash your car on the grass or at a commercial carwash that recycles the water.
- A**pply fertilizers as instructed on the bag. Choose organic or slow release options.
- T**est your soil to know the best fertilizer options for your lawn.
- E**xpired/old medicine should go in the trash, not the sink or toilet.
- R**ecycle yard waste. Mulch grass clippings and leave on the lawn.
- S**urfaces like gravel are better for walkways because they allow rain to soak into the ground.
- H**ardy native plants require less water, fertilizers or pesticides.
- E**verything we pour down the drain ends up in the water we drink.
- D**ispose of your pet's waste in the trash, not the toilet.

ONE PERSON & ONE DROP AT A TIME...
SIMPLE WAYS YOU CAN PROTECT YOUR WATERSHED...

POLLUTION SOLUTIONS



GET TO KNOW YOUR H2O ALABAMA!

WATER IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR LIVES...
LET'S ADMIT IT... nothing is as refreshing as a glass of cool water on a hot Alabama day. Although most of us don't think about where our water comes from, we expect it to be clean and safe for ourselves and our families. Doing **YOUR** part to help keep our water clean and safe is easier than you might think. If each person does their part, we can make a huge difference...one person and one drop at a time. Still unsure? Keep reading and we will show you why and how!

CLEAN WATER FOR OUR FUTURE: Get To Know Your H2O Alabama!

WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

EVERYONE lives in a watershed, although many of us never realize it. Each time it rains, water has to go somewhere. Simply put, a watershed includes all of the land that drains or "sheds" into a body of water. As rainwater flows to the closest body of water, it comes in contact with anything we pour or place onto the ground. This body of water could be your favorite creek or pond where you skip rocks, the river where you and your family fish, or the ocean you enjoy visiting during family vacations.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT US

WHO ARE WE? The Alabama Rivers and Streams Network includes community organizations, biologists, scientists, landowners, private organizations, concerned citizens and others who care about the health of our waterways. A large portion of our task is to investigate water quality, habitat conditions and biological quality in rivers and streams; while also communicating our findings to the public.

WHAT ARE WE DOING? We are collecting water-quality data, habitat information, and biological information (such as, determining the types of fishes and mussels that live in our streams).

WHERE DO WE WORK? We work in watersheds all across Alabama that have been identified as important for protecting, restoring, and recovering biological diversity (refer to the map on the inside of this brochure to view our focus areas).

WHY? As noted in the mission statement, our goal is to investigate Alabama's water resources in a comprehensive way and encourage their responsible management and development so that all users benefit. This process not only improves the quality of water that Alabamians drink and use everyday by better managing harmful pollutants and reducing treatment costs, but it also conserves fish and wildlife that depend on clean water for survival, resulting in fewer environmental regulations.

SO WHAT'S YOUR ROLE? We need your support in spreading the word about our mission and accessing property to conduct stream investigations from time-to-time. If you would like to participate in this effort, please refer to the next panel of this brochure for additional information and contacts.

ALABAMA RIVERS AND STREAMS NETWORK



Get To Know Your H2O

The mission of the Alabama Rivers and Streams Network is to study, manage, and develop our water resources in a scientific and comprehensive way to minimize their degradation, maximize their availability for all users, and restore and recover aquatic species.

~ CLEAN WATER FOR OUR FUTURE ~
THE KEY TO A PROSPEROUS ALABAMA

RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

Alabama Clean Water Partnership
www.cleanwaterpartnership.org

Alabama Cooperative Extension System
www.aces.edu

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
www.outdooralabama.com

Alabama Department of Environmental Management
www.adem.state.al.us

Alabama Forestry Commission
www.forestry.state.al.us

Alabama Forestry Association
www.alaforestry.org

Geological Survey of Alabama
www.gsa.state.al.us

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
www.fws.gov/daphne

Natural Resources Conservation Service
www.nrcs.usda.gov

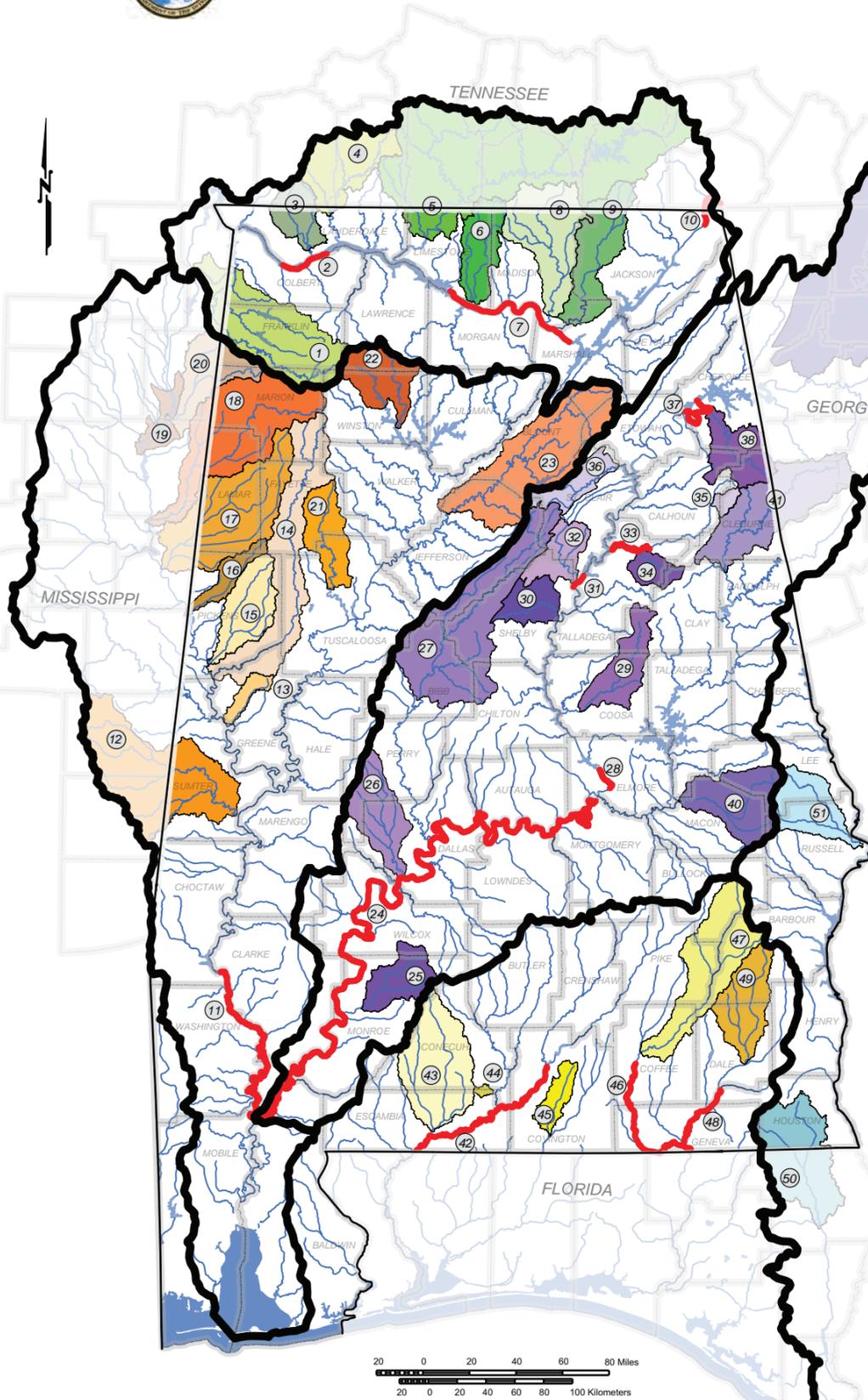
U.S. Geological Survey
www.usgs.gov

Strategic Habitat and River Reach Units for Aquatic Species of Conservation Concern in Alabama

by
 E. Anne Wynn, Patrick E. O'Neil, and Stuart W. McGregor - Geological Survey of Alabama;
 Jeffrey R. Powell, Jennifer M. Pritchett, and Anthony D. Ford - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;
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Berry H. (Nick) Tew, Jr.
 State Geologist



Explanation

- Rivers and streams
- Open water
- County lines
- Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) subregion boundary
- Strategic Habitat Unit (SHU)
- Strategic River Reach Unit (SRRU)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in conjunction with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Geological Survey of Alabama have selected watersheds and river segments in the five major HUC 4 subregions in Alabama to focus conservation activities for managing, recovering, and restoring populations of rare fishes, mussels, snails, and crayfishes. These Strategic Habitat Units (SHUs) and Strategic River Reach Units (SRRUs) include a substantial part of Alabama's remaining high-quality water courses and reflect the variety of aquatic habitats occupied by these species historically and presently. The SHUs were selected based on the presence of federally listed and state imperiled species, potential threats to the species, designation of critical habitat, and the best available information about the essential habitat components required by these aquatic species to survive. This includes areas with: (1) geomorphically stable stream and river channels; (2) stream flow regimes that support normal behavior, growth, and survival of the animals; (3) acceptable water-quality conditions necessary for normal behavior, growth, and viability of all life stages of the animals; (4) a diversity of channel substrate types, with minimal amounts of fine sediment and filamentous algae; (5) for mussels, the presence of fish hosts with adequate living, foraging, and spawning areas; and (6) few or no competitive or predaceous nonnative species. The SRRUs were selected based on habitat features listed above and the presence of imperiled species and include river reaches where species restoration and recovery actions are planned or already underway. The purpose of designating SHUs and SRRUs is to facilitate and coordinate watershed management and restoration efforts as well as to focus funding to address habitat and water-quality issues. The map depicts the location of SHUs and SRRUs in Alabama and adjacent states. The colored polygons on the map reference the contributing watershed area to the SHUs. All of the SHUs currently support one or multiple federally and/or state protected species and/or critical habitat(s), as designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

National Hydrologic Dataset HUC 4 Subregions in Alabama



- Middle Tennessee - Elk (0603) strategic units no. 1 - 10
- Mobile-Tombigbee (0316) strategic units no. 11 - 23
- Alabama River (0315) strategic units no. 24 - 41
- Choctawhatchee-Escambia (0314) strategic units no. 42 - 49
- Apalachicola (0313) strategic units no. 50 - 51

Index map of HUC 4 subregions in Alabama and neighboring states

Strategic Habitat Units (SHUs) and Strategic River Reach Units (SRRUs) in Alabama and associated HUC subregions. Unit numbers are grouped by the color of the HUC subregion in which they are located. Units in red font are SRRUs.

Unit	Name	Unit	Name	Unit	Name
1	Bear Creek	18	Buttahatchee River	35	Shoal Creek
2	Tennessee R.-Wilson Dam tailwater	19	East Fork Tombigbee River	36	Big Canoe Creek
3	Cypress Creek	20	Bull Mountain Creek	37	Weiss Lake bypass (Dead River)
4	Shoal Creek	21	North River	38	Terrapin Creek
5	Elk River	22	Upper Sipsey Fork	39	Upper Coosa River tributaries
6	Limestone, Piney, Beaverdam Creeks	23	Locust Fork	40	Uphapee Creek
7	Tennessee R.-Guntersville Dam tailwater	24	Lower Alabama River	41	Tallapoosa River
8	Flint River	25	Big Flat Creek	42	Conecuh River
9	Paint Rock River	26	Bogue Chitto Creek	43	Murder Creek
10	Tennessee R.-Nickajack Dam tailwater	27	Upper Cahaba River	44	Amos Mill Creek
11	Lower Tombigbee River	28	Coosa R.-Jordan Dam tailwater	45	Five Runs Creek
12	Sucunoochee River	29	Hatchet Creek	46	Lower Pea River
13	Trussels Creek	30	Yellowleaf Creek	47	Upper Pea River
14	Sipsay River	31	Coosa R.-Logan Martin Dam tailwater	48	Choctawhatchee River
15	Lubbub Creek	32	Kelly Creek	49	West Fork Choctawhatchee River
16	Coalfire Creek	33	Lower Choccolocco Creek	50	Chipola River
17	Luxapallia Creek	34	Cheaha Creek	51	Uchee Creek



The SHU logo represents the collective efforts of watershed stakeholders to investigate, manage, and develop our water resources in a comprehensive way to minimize their degradation, maximize their availability for all users, and restore and recover aquatic habitats and species.

Clean water for our future - THE key to a prosperous Alabama