


Alabama Rivers and Streams Network		
	<p>SHU / SRRU Information Sheet</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>North River SHU</b></p>	<p><i>A group of private and non-profit organizations, citizens, and State and Federal agencies began developing the Strategic Habitat Unit (SHU) approach to habitat restoration in 2006. The 51 SHUs and Strategic River Reach Units (SRRUs) for Aquatic Species of Conservation Concern have been created to improve water quality, water supply, preserve biotic integrity, and promote restoration efforts for Alabama's critical waterways.</i></p>

### WATERSHED CHARACTERISTICS

The North River watershed is located in the Black Warrior River Basin. The North River Watershed is 425 square miles in area. The North River flows through two physiographic section, the Cumberland Plateau and East Gulf Coastal Plain. The land cover in the North River watershed is over 50% mixed forest, 25% evergreen plantation, 9% transitional vegetation (scrub), 6% pasture/grassland, 4% developed, and >1% cropland.

### BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

-Recent mussel surveys have shown a decline over the past 20 years, with only remnant populations now existing in the critical habitat found in the upper reaches of the watershed.  
 -The Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) method, based on sampling the fish community, has been utilized to evaluate stream health throughout the North River Watershed. IBI surveys show current biological conditions remaining similar to baseline conditions measured 30 years ago in parts of the watershed, whereas in some North River subwatersheds, stream biology has deteriorated substantially.

### WATERSHED THREATS

Through aquatic biological surveys and stream habitat assessment threats to stream health have been determined. Additionally, road/stream crossings were monitored throughout the North River Watershed to pinpoint specific places in need of restoration activities. Threats to the water quality of the upper North River Watershed include sedimentation produced by unpaved roads, lack of riparian buffers, poultry production, animal access to stream channels.

### SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN

**Mussels:** Rayed Creekshell, Delicate Spike, Orangenacre Mucket, Alabama Moccasinshell, Southern Clubshell, Dark Pigtoe, Ovate Clubshell, Triangular Kidneyshell

**Reptiles & Amphibians:** Seepage Salamander, Black Warrior Waterdog, Alligator Snapping Turtle, Flattened Musk Turtle

For more information, please see the assessment report:

[http://www.gsa.state.al.us/gsa/eco/pdf/OFR\\_0918.pdf](http://www.gsa.state.al.us/gsa/eco/pdf/OFR_0918.pdf), & visit

<http://www.northriverwatershed.org/#> to learn more about the North River Watershed, &

<http://www.alh2o.org/> to learn more about SHUs and how you can help protect the resource.