

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

This revised manual was prepared by natural resources team members of the Savannah District Corps of Engineers to assist in identifying endangered animals and plants in the Georgia and South Carolina counties surrounding the Upper Savannah River Basin.

The manual's purpose is to provide practical guidance in identifying protected species listed by federal and state agencies. This manual primarily covers those protected species with a legal status in each state; therefore, there may be some “species of concern” or “watch list” species not recorded in this document. The manual includes descriptions of critical habitat with emphasis placed on the unique habitat needs of each species. It should assist natural resource professionals in identifying protected species and their habitat(s).

Georgia counties covered by this manual are Stephens, Franklin, Hart, Elbert, Wilkes, Lincoln, Columbia, and McDuffie Counties. South Carolina counties include Oconee, Pickens, Anderson, Abbeville, and McCormick. A map of these counties and adjacent counties is included on page 4 for quick reference. A map identifying a listed species' known range within the upper basin is available as part of each species description; maps and listings are based on both historical and extant population records.

Endangered species surveys that are to be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for approval must include Federally-listed endangered species found in all adjacent counties to include those counties not normally associated with the Upper Savannah River Basin (USRB). Ranger personnel are not usually involved with the preparation of endangered species surveys, however all resource management personnel should be aware of endangered and threatened species listed in immediate and neighboring counties. Appendix A describes protected fish species, which are usually surveyed by federal and state fisheries biologists or the Corps District Fisheries Biologist. Appendix B includes rare plants found on USRB Corps projects. Additional information on species outside the USRB can be obtained from the Corps District Wildlife Biologist.

An up-to-date list of protected species is maintained by the USFWS. State natural resource agencies also keep current lists of state and federally protected species. The District Wildlife Biologist will maintain current information and updated materials. As information becomes available, this manual will be updated.

This manual is available online at <http://www.sas.usace.army.mil/endspec/endspec.htm>

Updated Protected Species Lists for Georgia are available at

<http://www.georgiawildlife.com/conservation/georgia-animals-plants>

Or, for South Carolina https://www.dnr.sc.gov/pls/heritage/county_species.select_county_map

CREDITS:

Sources for information and photos obtained from Georgia's Endangered Animals and Plants Manual by Cooperative Extension Service/The University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Athens and Georgia DNR.

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Georgia Department of Natural Resources- photo of wood storks, McDuffie County site

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