

Notice of availability of the draft Recovery Plan for the Rabbitsfoot

We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announce the availability of our draft recovery plan for the Rabbitsfoot listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This freshwater mussel subspecies historically occurred within at least 434 watersheds located throughout the lower Great Lakes and Mississippi river sub-basins and Ohio, Cumberland, Tennessee, White, Arkansas, and Red River systems in 15 states. It is presumed extirpated from 288 of those watersheds, a reduction of between 63% and 70% of its historical range.

Section 4(f) of the ESA requires us to provide public notice and an opportunity for the public to review and comment during recovery plan development. Additionally, we seek comments from Federal, Tribal, State, and local governments. We are particularly interested in additional information regarding the current threats to the species, ongoing beneficial management efforts, and the costs associated with implementing the recommended recovery actions. We will consider all information presented during the public comment period. Comments may or may not result in changes to the recovery plan; comments regarding recovery plan implementation will be forwarded as appropriate to Federal or other entities so that they can be taken into account during implementation of recovery actions.

Dates: To ensure consideration, we must receive written comments on or before November 14, 2022 after the comment period opens. However, we will accept information about any species at any time.

Reviewing document: You may obtain a copy of the draft recovery plan by any one of the following methods:

- Internet: Download a copy at <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5165> and [Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#)
- U.S. mail: Send a request to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office, 110 South Amity Road, Suite 300, Conway, AR 72032–8975.
- Telephone: 501–513–4473.

Submitting comments: Submit your comments on the draft document in writing by any one of the following methods:

- U.S. mail: Melvin Tobin, Field Supervisor
- Email: Melvin_tobin@fws.gov

Public Availability of Comments: All comments received, including names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses or other personal identifying information, will become part of the decision record and will be available to the public. If you submit a hardcopy comment that includes personal identifying information, you may request at the top of your document that we withhold this information from public review. However, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Comments and materials we receive will be available, by appointment, for public inspection during normal business hours at our office.