



# Arkansas

## Species listed under the Endangered Species Act and Pending Evaluations of Other Species



*Ouachita Madtom, by Brian Wagner/Arkansas Game and Fish Commission*



*Caddo Mountain Salamander, by Stan Trauth, Arkansas State University*



*Regal Burrowing Crayfish, by Brian Wagner/Arkansas Game and Fish Commission*

Taxonomic Group	Species in Multi-District Litigation and Other Candidates	Species in Mega-Petition	Other Petitioned Species	Listed Species
Mammals	-	-	4	4
Birds	1	1	1	5
Fishes	1	9	1	5
Amphibians	-	1	3	1
Plants	-	4	-	5
Reptiles	-	1	1	-
Mussels/ Snails	2	8	-	14
Crayfish	-	9	-	2
Insects	-	2	2	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>37</b>

*Note: All numbers are subject to change based on new petitions, litigation and findings.*

Legal actions brought under the Endangered Species Act have dramatically increased the workload of the Southeast Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under the 1973 Act, any citizen may petition the Service to list species as threatened or endangered. In addition, the Service’s decisions may be challenged in a court of law.

### Multi-District Litigation and Other Candidates

In 2009 and 2010, two advocacy groups filed lawsuits related to the Service’s missed deadlines under the Act, and the national backlog of 251 species categorized as candidates for the Federal List of Threatened and Endangered Species. Candidates are those species that warrant Federal protection, but the final decision has been delayed due to resource constraints and higher listing priorities.

The lawsuits, consolidated into Multi-District Litigation, were settled in 2011. The Service agreed to a six-year work plan to make final listing decisions on the species categorized as candidates as of 2010. Since then, additional species have been listed as candidates, but no

deadlines have been set for those final listing decisions.

### Mega-Petition

The Mega-Petition is a large petition filed in 2010 by several advocacy groups that requested the Service to list 404 aquatic and aquatic-dependent species found mostly in the Southeast. In 2011, the Service determined 374 of those species need to be further evaluated. No deadlines have been set.

### Other Petitions

The Service continues to receive other petitions to list species as threatened or endangered under the Act.

### For More Information

[www.fws.gov/southeast/candidateconservation](http://www.fws.gov/southeast/candidateconservation)

### Contact

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