

Tulotoma Snail Downlisting

Final Rule



- The tulotoma snail was listed as endangered in 1991.
- This large freshwater snail is found under big rocks in flowing streams of the Alabama-Coosa river system in Alabama.
- The tulotoma was listed due to destruction, modification, and curtailment of more than 90 percent of its habitat and range.
- Threats to the tulotoma snail have been reduced due to: habitat improvements in the Coosa River; the discovery of six drainage populations of the species that were unknown at the time of listing; development of watershed management plans, and protection of tulotoma snails under State laws.
- Tulotoma populations below Coosa River dams have increased due to actions by Alabama Power Company to improve flows and water quality.

- Other partnerships are forming to implement and monitor watershed management plans in the various drainages where tulotoma is known to occur.
- Monitoring efforts have shown increased range and size in four of the five populations known in 1991.
- A five-year review conducted in 2008, documented an increase in extent and size of tulotoma populations in the Coosa River, Kelly Creek, Weogufka Creek, and Hatchet Creek.
- Survey efforts by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources have located six new populations in the Alabama and Coosa river drainages.
- Criteria for downlisting the tulotoma snail from endangered to threatened included the documentation of stable or increasing population size due to flow and habitat improvements in the Coosa River.



photo: Paul Johnson, ADCNR

- The final rule to downlist took into consideration all comments and additional information provided by the public and scientific community.
- Continued threats to tulotoma include isolation of populations from each other; random events such as droughts, spills, and floods, and local changes in water quality due to human activities.
- Although the status of the species is changed from endangered to threatened, protection for tulotoma will not be significantly reduced.

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photo: Paul Johnson, ADCNR

