

## Critical Habitat

It is important to distinguish between important habitat and Critical Habitat. Critical Habitat is federally designated and carries legal implications under the Endangered Species Act. Important habitat is habitat that a certain species needs for its survival but carries no legal implications.

Only federal actions that may affect federally designated Critical Habitat require consultation with the Service; private actions are not subject to Critical Habitat consultation. However, it is important to clarify that any federal involvement in a proposed action that may affect Critical Habitat requires consultation with the Service. Examples of actions with federal involvement:

- actions on federal land
- actions that require a federal permit (such as a wetland permit)
- actions that require a federal license
- actions using federal funds

In Virginia, there are three fish and four mussel species that have federally designated Critical Habitat:

### Fish

Slender chub (*Erimystax cahni*). Lee and Scott Counties.

- Powell River, main channel from the Tennessee-Virginia State line upstream through Lee County.
- Clinch River, main channel from the Tennessee-Virginia State line upstream through Scott County.

Spotfin chub (*Erimonax monachus*). Scott and Washington Counties.

- North Fork Holston River, main channel from the Virginia-Tennessee State line upstream through Scott and Washington Counties.

Yellowfin madtom (*Noturus flavipinnis*). Lee, Scott, and Russell Counties.

- Powell River, main channel from the Virginia-Tennessee State line upstream through Lee County.
- Copper Creek, main channel from its junction with Clinch River upstream through Scott County and upstream in Russell County to Dickensonville.

## Mussels

Cumberlandian combshell (*Epioblasma brevidens*). Lee, Scott, Russell and Tazewell Co.

- Powell River, main channel from the Tennessee-Virginia State line upstream to the vicinity of Rock Island, near Pugh (river mile 159), Lee County, Virginia.
- Clinch River, main channel from the Tennessee-Virginia State line upstream to its confluence with Indian Creek in Cedar Bluff, Tazewell County, Virginia.

Oyster mussel (*Epioblasma capsaeformis*). Lee, Scott, Russell and Tazewell Counties.

- Powell River, main channel from the Tennessee-Virginia State line upstream to the vicinity of Rock Island, near Pugh (river mile 159), Lee County, Virginia.
- Clinch River, main channel from the Tennessee-Virginia State line upstream to its confluence with Indian Creek in Cedar Bluff, Tazewell County, Virginia.
- Copper Creek, main channel from its confluence with the Clinch River upstream to Virginia State Route 72, Scott County, Virginia.

Purple bean (*Villosa perpurpurea*). Lee, Scott, Russell and Tazewell Counties.

- Powell River, main channel from the Tennessee-Virginia State line upstream to the vicinity of Rock Island, near Pugh (river mile 159), Lee County, Virginia.
- Clinch River, main channel from the Tennessee-Virginia State line upstream to its confluence with Indian Creek in Cedar Bluff, Tazewell County, Virginia.
- Indian Creek, main channel from its confluence with the Clinch River upstream to the fourth Norfolk-Southern Railroad crossing at Van Dyke, Tazewell Co., VA.
- Copper Creek, main channel from its confluence with the Clinch River upstream to Virginia State Route 72, Scott County, Virginia.

Rough rabbitsfoot (*Quadrula cylindrica strigillata*). Lee, Scott, Russell & Tazewell Co.

- Powell River, main channel from the Tennessee-Virginia State line upstream to the vicinity of Rock Island, near Pugh (river mile 159), Lee County, Virginia.
- Clinch River, main channel from the Tennessee-Virginia State line upstream to its confluence with Indian Creek in Cedar Bluff, Tazewell County, Virginia.
- Indian Creek, main channel from its confluence with the Clinch River upstream to the fourth Norfolk-Southern Railroad crossing at Van Dyke, Tazewell Co., VA.
- Copper Creek, main channel from its confluence with the Clinch River upstream to Virginia State Route 72, Scott County, Virginia.