

Aquatic Habitats Supporting Federally listed Endangered and Threatened Species, and Proposed Threatened Species in West Virginia (Updated June 2018)

There are eighteen federally listed endangered and threatened or proposed endangered species that are associated with specific aquatic habitats in West Virginia. These include ten endangered freshwater mussels - clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*), fanshell (*Cyprogenia stegaria*), James spiny mussel (*Pleurobema collina*), northern riffleshell (*Epioblasma torulosa rangiana*), pink mucket pearl mussel (*Lampsilis abrupta*), rayed bean (*Villosa fabalis*), sheepsnose (*Plethobasus cyphus*), snuffbox (*Epioblasma triquetra*), spectaclecase (*Cumberlandia monodonta*), and tubercled-blossum pearl mussel (*Epioblasma torulosa torulosa*); two endangered plants - Harperella (*Ptilimnium nodosum*) and northeastern bulrush (*Scirpus ancistrochaetus*); one threatened plant - Virginia spiraea (*Spiraea virginiana*); two threatened crustaceans – Madison Cave isopod (*Antrolana lira*) and Big Sandy crayfish (*Cambarus callainus*); one endangered crustacean – Guyandotte River crayfish (*Cambarus veteranus*); and one endangered fish - diamond darter (*Crystallaria cincotta*). The candy darter (*Etheostoma osburni*) has been proposed as threatened on October 4, 2017. Ten other listed species that are not as exclusively associated with specific aquatic habitats also occur in West Virginia. Those species are not addressed here.

The aquatic habitats below, listed alphabetically within the two U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) regulatory districts that operate in West Virginia (Huntington and Pittsburgh districts), represent the most current information on the known and potential distribution of the federally listed species described above. Prior to conducting any activities that could result in adverse impacts to these aquatic habitats (e.g., projects that involve the placement of rock or other fill material into or adjacent to these habitats, the withdrawal or diversion of water, projects that could introduce sediment or toxic chemicals into waterways, or which could alter water temperature, streamside vegetation, etc.), please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, West Virginia Field Office, at (304) 636-6586. To determine if a Corps permit is required for activities in or near these or other aquatic habitats in West Virginia, please contact the Huntington District at (304) 399-5710 or the Pittsburgh District at (412) 395-7152.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Huntington District

1. Big Sandy Creek: Kanawha County: Snuffbox.
2. Bluestone River: Mercer and Summers Counties (Bluestone Gorge to slackwater of Bluestone Reservoir): Virginia spiraea.
3. Cedar Creek: Braxton and Gilmer Counties: Snuffbox.
4. Cove Creek: Monroe County: James spiny mussel.
5. Elk River: Braxton, Clay, and Kanawha Counties (below Sutton Dam), including the lower one-half mile reaches of its tributaries Birch River, Blue Creek, and Laurel Creek: Clubshell, pink mucket pearl mussel, northern riffleshell, rayed bean, and snuffbox. The Elk River also contains the diamond darter (endangered). Critical habitat for this species is from King Shoals to slackwater below Coonskin Park.
6. Gauley River: Fayette and Nicholas Counties (Summersville Dam to Swiss): Virginia spiraea.
7. Greenbrier River: Greenbrier and Pocahontas Counties: Virginia spiraea.
8. Henry Fork: Calhoun and Roane Counties: Snuffbox.

9. Hughes River: Ritchie and Wirt Counties, including the lower one-half mile reach of its tributary Goose Creek: Snuffbox and clubshell.
10. Kanawha River: Fayette, Kanawha, Mason, and Putnam Counties: Fanshell, pink mucket pearlymussel, sheepnose, spectaclecase, and tubercled-blossum pearlymussel.
11. Leading Creek: Gilmer and Lewis Counties, including the lower one-half mile reach of its tributary Fink Creek: Snuffbox.
12. Little Kanawha River: Braxton, Calhoun, Gilmer, Wirt, and Wood Counties, including the lower one-half mile reaches of its tributaries Leading Creek (Calhoun County), Pine Creek, Sand Fork, Slate Creek, Straight Creek, Tanner Creek, Tucker Creek, and Walker Creek: Clubshell and snuffbox.
13. Marsh Fork River including Dingess Branch and Millers Camp Branch and associated palustrine emergent and scrub-shrub wetlands: Raleigh County: Virginia spiraea.
14. McElroy Creek: Doddridge and Tyler Counties: Snuffbox.
15. Meadow River: Fayette, Greenbrier, and Nicholas Counties: Virginia spiraea.
16. Meathouse Fork of Middle Island Creek: Doddridge County, including the lower one-half mile reach of its tributary Toms Fork: Clubshell and snuffbox.
17. Middle Island Creek: Doddridge, Pleasants, and Tyler Counties, including the lower one-half mile reaches of its tributaries Arnold Creek, Bluestone Creek, Buckeye Creek, Indian Creek, McKim Creek, Point Pleasant Creek, Sancho Creek, and Sugar Creek: Clubshell and snuffbox.
18. New River (Lower): Fayette County (Route 19 to Gauley Bridge): Virginia spiraea.
19. North Fork Hughes River: Ritchie and Wirt Counties, including the lower one-half mile reaches of its tributaries Addis Run, Bonds Creek, Devilhole Creek, and Gillespie Run: Snuffbox and clubshell.
20. Ohio River south of Hannibal Locks and Dam: Cabell, Jackson, Mason, Pleasants, Tyler, Wayne, Wetzel, and Wood Counties: Fanshell, pink mucket pearlymussel, sheepnose, and snuffbox.
21. Potts Creek and South Fork of Potts Creek: Monroe County: James spinymussel.
22. Reedy Creek: Roane and Wirt Counties: Snuffbox.
23. South Fork Hughes River: Doddridge, Ritchie, and Wirt Counties, including the lower one-half mile reaches of its tributaries Bone Creek, Indian Creek, Leatherbark Creek, Otterslide Creek, Slab Creek, and: Clubshell and snuffbox.
24. Spring Creek: Roane and Wirt Counties: Snuffbox.
25. Spruce Creek: Ritchie County: Snuffbox
26. Steer Creek: Calhoun and Gilmer Counties: Snuffbox.

27. Tug Fork Watershed: Tug Fork River including tributaries: Barrenshe Creek, Bradshaw Creek, Buffalo Creek, Dry Fork, Elkhorn Creek, Grapevine Creek, Hite Fork, Jacobs Fork, Laurel Fork of Pigeon Creek, Little Indian Creek, Marrowbone Creek, Mate Creek, Panther Creek, Pigeon Creek, Rockhouse Fork, South Fork Tug Fork, and Spice Creek: McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, and Wayne Counties: Big Sandy crayfish.
28. Upper Guyandotte Watershed: Guyandotte River including tributaries: Barkers Creek, Big Cub Creek, Brier Creek, Buffalo Creek, Clear Fork, Elk Creek, Gilbert Creek, Horsepen Creek, Huff Creek, Indian Creek, Island Creek, Laurel Fork of Clear Fork, Little Huff Creek, , Pinnacle Creek, Rockcastle Creek, Rum Creek, Slab Fork, Still Run, Stonecoal Creek, Tommy Creek, and Turkey Creek: Logan, Mingo, Raleigh, and Wyoming Counties: Guyandotte River crayfish.
29. West Fork Little Kanawha River: Calhoun, Roane, and Wirt Counties: Snuffbox.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Pittsburgh District

30. Back Creek: Berkeley County: Harperella.
31. Cacapon River: Morgan County: Harperella.
32. Dunkard Creek: Monongalia County: Snuffbox.
33. Fish Creek: Marshall County: Snuffbox.
34. Fishing Creek: Wetzel County: Snuffbox. Note – the mouth of Fishing Creek at the Ohio River is regulated by the Huntington District.
35. Hackers Creek (of the West Fork River): Harrison and Lewis Counties: Clubshell and snuffbox.
36. Potomac River: Morgan County (from the mouth of the Cacapon River to the mouth of Sleepy Creek): Harperella.
37. Sleepy Creek: Morgan County: Harperella.
38. West Fork River: Harrison, Lewis, and Marion Counties: Snuffbox and clubshell.
39. Streams, springs, and wetlands connected to the groundwater system including caves, areas near sinkholes, and other groundwater/surface interfaces, from the Potomac River west to Opequon Creek, especially in the Rippon and Leetown Areas, and the Evitts Run Watershed: Jefferson and Berkeley Counties: Madison Cave isopod.
40. Wetlands: Berkeley and Hardy Counties: Northeastern bulrush.

Please also note that freshwater mussels which are not federally listed are protected and managed by the State of West Virginia, Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR). Non-listed freshwater mussels may occur in the streams listed above as well as additional streams throughout the State. For information on the distribution of freshwater mussel species and their protections contact the WVDNR at (304) 637-0245.