

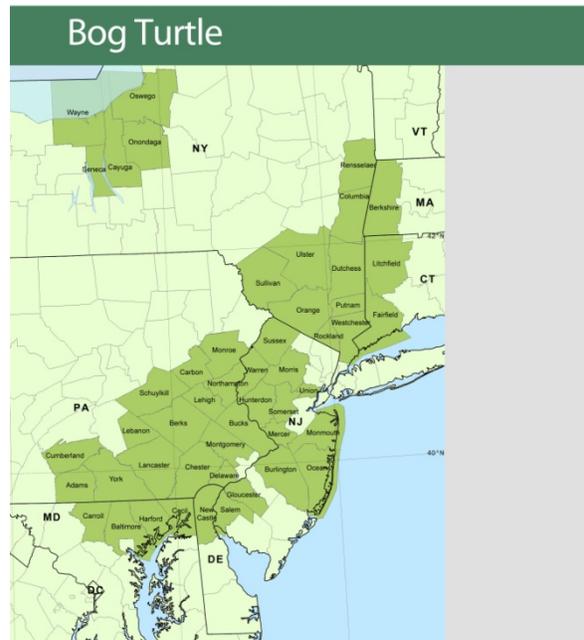


Bog Turtle

Listing Status: Threatened

**Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland,
Massachusetts, New Jersey,
New York, Pennsylvania**

Focal Area Map



Background

The bog turtle (*Glyptemys muhlenbergii*), America's smallest turtle, is federally listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Bog turtles depend upon a habitat mosaic of open, sunny, spring fed wetlands and scattered dry areas. Bog turtles can be an indicator of water quality and wetland function; the wetland habitats that they require provide important ecosystem services, including purifying water, recharging underground aquifers and absorbing floodwaters. The wetlands also support many rare plants and animals.

The greatest threats to bog turtles include habitat degradation and fragmentation from land conversion, habitat succession due to invasive exotic and native plants, and illegal trade and collecting. Changes in land use or alterations in water flow reduce a wetland's ability to function. Wetland habitats have been drained and filled for development, agriculture, road construction and impoundments have severely fragmented the remaining habitat and have created physical barriers, isolating existing bog turtle populations.

Private landowners control the majority of bog turtle habitat remaining in the northeast. Many of the wetlands are located in agricultural areas that are subject to frequent livestock grazing. Proper grazing management conserves habitat by slowing natural plant succession and minimizing the encroachment of invasive native and exotic plant species. However, heavy grazing may destroy bog turtle habitat that is necessary for turtle nesting, basking, foraging and cover.

NRCS has worked with the USFWS to initiate a range-wide Biological Opinion for bog turtle habitat restoration activities. Working Lands for Wildlife will provide financial and technical support to increase conservation efforts.

Resource Concern	Total Acres Needing Treatment
Fish and Wildlife Inadequate Habitat; Food and Cover; Habitat Degradation	TBD
Degraded Plant Condition Excessive plant pest pressure	TBD
Water Quality Degradation Excessive nutrients and pesticides	TBD

Goals / Objectives

Through Working Lands for Wildlife, NRCS will assist private landowners combat habitat fragmentation and degradation to restore bog turtle populations in seven states, and increase landowner confidence that the conservation practices they volunteer to implement will not harm the species or its habitat. Restoration activities will complement the existing NRCS Wetland Reserve Program effort to protect bog turtle habitat.

Actions

- Protect, maintain, and restore bog turtle habitat.
- Increase connectivity of existing bog turtle habitat.
- Improve weed and invasive species management.
- Support sustainable grazing management that supports native plant communities.
- Promote use of government programs that provide incentives for development or restoration of habitat on private lands.

Core Practices	Supporting Practices	
643 Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats	314 Brush Management	472 Access Control
644 Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	315 Herbaceous Weed Control	516 Livestock Pipeline
645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	327 Conservation Cover	528 Prescribed Grazing
647 Early Successional Habitat Development and Management	338 Prescribed Burning	533 Pumping Plant
	382 Fence	574 Spring Development
	390 Riparian Herbaceous Cover	578 Stream Crossing
	391 Riparian Forest Buffer	580 Streambank and Shoreline Protection
	393 Filter Strip	587 Structure for Water Control
	395 Stream Habitat Improvement	614 Watering Facility
	396 Stream Habitat Improvement	642 Water Well
	410 Grade Stabilization	657 Wetland Restoration
		659 Wetland Enhancement

Outcomes and Impacts

Landowners will enhance, restore and protect habitat for bog turtle, aiding in the implementation of its recovery plan and increase landowner confidence that the conservation practices they implement will not harm the species or its habitat.

Additional species benefiting in this focal area are: Baltimore checkerspot, spotted turtle, prairie warbler, and Canadian burnet.

Visit your local USDA Service Center for more information.

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 1114 Shawan Road, Suite 4
 Cockeysville, MD 21030
 410-527-5920

Cecil County
 105 Chesapeake Blvd.
 Elkton, MD 21921
 410-398-4411

Carroll County
 698J Corporate Center Court
 Westminster, MD 21157
 410-848-6696

Harford County
 19 Newport Drive, Suite 104
 Forest Hill, MD 21050
 410-838-6181



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