RECOVERY PLAN

Duskytail Darter

(Etheostoma {Catonotus} sp.)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

RECOVERY PLAN

for

Duskytail Darter (*Etheostoma* [*Catonotus*] sp.)

Prepared by

Richard Biggins
Asheville Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Asheville, North Carolina

and

Peggy Shute
Tennessee Valley Authority
Norris, Tennessee

for

Southeast Region
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Atlanta, Georgia

Approved: John R. Eadie
for James W. Pulliam, Jr.
Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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Literature citations should read as follows:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1993. Duskytail Darter Recovery Plan. Atlanta, GA. 25 pp.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Current Status: The duskytail darter is listed as endangered. The species presently has a very fragmented, relict distribution, but it was probably at one time much more widespread within the upper Tennessee River and the middle Cumberland River. The duskytail darter is presently known from only four populations in short stream reaches--the Little River, Blount County, Tennessee; Citico Creek, Monroe County, Tennessee; Big South Fork of the Cumberland River, Scott County, Tennessee; and Copper Creek and Clinch River, Scott County, Virginia. Two other historic duskytail darter populations are extirpated.

Habitat Requirements and Limiting Factors: This small darter inhabits rocky areas in gently flowing shallow pools and runs in large creeks and moderately large rivers in the Tennessee and Cumberland River systems. The species has been and continues to be impacted by water quality deterioration. This deterioration results from siltation (contributed by coal mining and poor land use practices), other water pollution, and impoundments.

Recovery Objective: Delisting.

Recovery Criteria: The species will be considered for recovery when five distinct viable populations exist. This can include some or all of the currently known populations and any newly discovered or reestablished populations.

Actions Needed:

1. Utilize existing legislation/regulations to protect the species.
2. Search for new populations.
3. Monitor existing populations.
4. Develop and utilize an information/education program.
5. Determine the species' life history requirements.
6. Determine threats and alleviate those which threaten the species' existence.
7. Through reintroduction and protection, establish five viable populations.

Cost ($000's):

Year	Need 1	Need 2	Need 3	Need 4	Need 5	Need 6	Need 7	Total
1993	10.0	10.0	5.0	15.0	25.0	70.0	25.0	160.0
1994	10.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	25.0	70.0	20.0	130.0
1995	10.0	0.0	5.0	5.0	25.0	70.0	20.0	135.0
1996	10.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	30.0	10.0	55.0
1997	10.0	0.0	5.0	5.0	0.0	20.0	5.0	45.0*
1998	10.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	10.0	5.0	30.0*
1999	10.0	0.0	5.0	5.0	0.0	10.0	5.0	35.0*
2000	10.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	10.0	5.0	30.0*
2001	10.0	0.0	5.0	5.0	0.0	10.0	5.0	35.0*

Cost ($000's) (continued):

Year	Need 1	Need 2	Need 3	Need 4	Need 5	Need 6	Need 7	Total
2002	10.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	5.0	5.0	25.0*
2003	10.0	0.0	5.0	5.0	0.0	5.0	5.0	30.0*
Total:	110.0	10.0	30.0	65.0	75.0	310.0*	110.0	710.0*

*Some habitat improvement costs needed for the species' recovery will not be known until the magnitude of specific threats is determined through research. Therefore, costs for habitat restoration may be considerably more expensive.

Date of Recovery: 2004

PART I

INTRODUCTION

The duskytail darter (*Etheostoma* [*Catonotus*] sp.) was listed as an endangered species on April 27, 1993 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1993). This small darter inhabits rocky areas in gently flowing shallow pools and runs (deep water areas with moderate to fast current but where the water surface generally remains unbroken, as in riffles) in large creeks and moderately large rivers in the Tennessee and Cumberland River systems. The duskytail presently has a very fragmented, relict distribution, but the species was probably at one time much more widespread within the upper Tennessee River and the middle Cumberland River. Duskytail darters are presently known from only four populations in short stream reaches--the Little River, Blount County, Tennessee; Citico Creek, Monroe County, Tennessee; Big South Fork of the Cumberland River, Scott County, Tennessee; and Copper Creek and Clinch River (this is one population), Scott County, Virginia. Two other historic duskytail darter populations (Abrams Creek, Blount County, Tennessee, and South Fork Holston River, Sullivan County, Tennessee) are extirpated. Populations of this species have been fragmented by habitat alteration, and habitats used by the remaining populations are impacted by deteriorated water quality primarily resulting from poor land use practices. The species' present limited distribution also leaves populations very vulnerable to extirpation from toxic chemical spills.

Description, Ecology, and Life History

The duskytail darter (*Etheostoma* sp.), which was first recognized as a distinct species by Jenkins (1976), is a member of the subgenus *Catonotus* and is closely related to the fantail darter (*E. flabellare*) and the stripetail darter (*E. kennicotti*). The duskytail is being scientifically described by Robert Jenkins (Roanoke College, *in litt.*, 1992). The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and the Tennessee Heritage Program of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation recognize this fish as a threatened species (Starnes and Etnier 1980). The species is recognized as an endangered species by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (Sue Bruenderman, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, *in litt.*, 1992; Burkhead and Jenkins 1991).

This small (6.4-centimeters [2 1/2-inch]) fish has a straw to olivaceous colored body, the top of the head is medium to dark gray, and the belly is dingy white to pale gray. It has 10 to 15 long dark vertical bars on the sides of its body, 38 to 48 (usually 40 to 45) lateral scales, and 17 to 20 (usually 18 to 19) dorsal spines and rays (fantail darters have 19 to 23 dorsal spines and rays). (See Burkhead and Jenkins [1991] for more descriptive information on nonbreeding individuals.) It is difficult to determine the sex of nonbreeding individuals in the field. However, during the breeding season, the males become very distinctive. Layman (1991) provides the following detailed description of breeding males:

> The head became dark and swollen, and the humeral spot and lateral vertical bars intensified. The first dorsal saddle and vertical bar formed a particularly intense dark yoke. A dark border of melanophore developed along the pectoral and anal fin margins, and the anal fin whitens proximally. Brilliant gold, fleshy knobs develop on the tips of the dorsal fin spines and were conspicuous in contrast to the clear medial and dark basal portions of the fin membrane.

The duskytail inhabits the edges of gently flowing shallow pools, eddy areas, and slow runs in usually clear water of large creeks and moderately large rivers (10 to 80 meters [33 to 264 feet]). Snorkel observations in Citico Creek by Rakes *et al.* (1992) and in the Little River, Copper Creek, and the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River (Shute *et al.* 1993) indicate that they are apparently very discriminatory about preferred microhabitat type, being found over heterogenous mixtures of rock sizes from pea gravel, rubble/cobble, slab-rock, and boulder substrates (Starnes and Etnier 1980, Burkhead and Jenkins 1991, Layman 1991, Rakes *et al.* 1992).

Rakes *et al.* (1992) described the habitat as follows:

> ...shallow (4-30 inch/10-120 CM deep) slow runs or edges of pools. Substrates where they were observed were best characterized as "heterogenous," with a wide range of rock sizes from pea gravel to cobble, slabrock and boulders.

This apparent preference for a mixture of various substrate sizes often results in patchy distributions. There may be locally dense clumps of individuals within a relatively short distance, and then long stretches can be surveyed without observing a single specimen (Shute, personal observation, 1993).

Layman (1984b) noted that adult duskytail darters were observed only beneath the cover of rocks, except when moving between rocks. Rakes *et al.* (1992) observed highly territorial behavior between young duskytails in aquariums. This behavior was greatly reduced when enough rocks of various sizes were available to provide cover for all individuals (Shute, personal observation, 1993).

This fish is often found associated with detritus and is sometimes found on slightly silted substrates (Layman 1991, Burkhead and Jenkins 1991). However, Rakes *et al.* (1992) noted that the species is rarely found in heavily silted areas; and, in areas where silt was present, the silt did not fill or obscure the spaces between the rocks.

The duskytail is primarily an insectivore (Layman 1991). The youngest individuals consume microcrustaceans, chironomid larvae, and sometimes large quantities of heptageniid nymphs. Larger individuals are also mainly benthic insectivores, but they generally feed on larger prey items (chironomid larvae, ephemeropteran nymphs,

microcrustaceans, and trichopteran larvae) than the young. Heptageniids were the dominant food item in the three largest duskytail size classes Layman (1991) examined, and large duskytails sometimes feed on fish eggs. Layman (1991) suggested that because heptageniids occupy the interstices between rocks, duskytails may feed on the undersides of rocks.

In the Little River, Layman (1991) found that the spawning season commenced in late April or early May and ended in June. Water temperatures were between 17.5 to 24°C. In Copper Creek, Burkhead and Jenkins (1991) reported that the earliest spawning was observed on April 6 but that most spawning occurred in May. Rakes *et al.* (1992) noted that in 1992, spawning occurred in Citico Creek a bit later than Layman had reported for the Little River population (May 16 and June 26). They also noted that the spring and summer of 1992 was wetter and cooler than normal and more information was needed to determine if these observations were typical for the Citico Creek population.

Layman (1991) noted that spawning occurred in the Little River within the same habitat that the species occupied during the rest of the year. Burkhead and Jenkins (1991) found many apparently breeding adults in a gravel/rubble run with moderate current in Copper Creek. In Citico Creek, nests and nest-guarding males were found beneath slab rocks in the margins of pool areas (Rakes *et al.* 1992). They also found nests in relatively swift shallow water in run areas, as long as appropriately sized slab rocks were available for nest cover.

Prior to the spawning act, the male chooses and cleans a spawning site under a rock. The male chases the female into the nest cavity, both fish invert their bodies, and the eggs are deposited individually into an egg cluster on the underside of the nest rock (Layman 1984a). Males stay at the nest site, guard the eggs, and may spawn with multiple females. The result is a clutch of 23 to 150 eggs. After several days, to allow for more ova to mature, the female can spawn with other males. Duskytail darters can spawn as 1-year-olds. In fact, Layman (1984b) found that less than half of the individuals in the Little River population survived to age 2. He noted that most individuals that survive to spawn as 2-year-olds die shortly after spawning, and a very small percentage of the Little River population survived to age 3 (Layman 1984b). (See Layman [1991] for a detailed description of duskytail spawning.)

Distribution, Reasons for Decline, and Threats to Its Continued Existence

Historically, the duskytail was likely widespread in the middle reaches of the Cumberland River and the upper reaches of the Tennessee River. However, it presently has a very fragmented, relict distribution (Etnier and Starnes, in press; Jenkins and Burkhead, in press). Historic and current duskytail collection records show the species from only seven short river reaches--Little River, Blount

County, Tennessee; Citico Creek, Monroe County, Tennessee; Big South Fork of the Cumberland River, Scott County, Tennessee; Abrams Creek, Blount County, Tennessee; South Fork Holston River, Sullivan County, Tennessee; and Copper Creek and Clinch River, Scott County, Virginia. The duskytail is apparently extirpated from Abrams Creek and South Fork Holston River as it has not been found in either area in recent years (Jenkins and Burkhead, in press).

The Abrams Creek duskytail darter population was presumably extirpated in 1957 by a reclamation project (designed to improve the trout fishery in the stream) that eliminated most native species from the stream (Lennon and Parker 1959). The South Fork Holston River population was also presumably extirpated by impoundment.

In the Little River, the duskytail darter population has been documented from two localities that are about 15 kilometers (9 river miles) apart (Layman 1991). Although there have been no intensive surveys to determine abundance of the species in this river reach, the population is probably not continuous throughout this distance.

Despite yearly intensive sampling, there have been very few collections of the species from the upstream Little River localities since their discovery there in the 1970s (David Etnier, University of Tennessee, personal communication, 1993). Certainly, the relative abundance in the upper reaches is much less than what Layman (1984b, 1991) observed at the lower site in the Little River. Layman (1984b) indicated that in the Little River the stronghold for the species may be limited to a short river reach just upstream from the backwaters of the Fort Loudon Reservoir (lower Little River site).

In October 1993, habitat conditions were found to be substantially degraded at this lower Little River site, compared to conditions observed while collecting duskytail darters for Layman's life history analysis (Shute *et al.* 1993; Layman, University of Alabama, personal communication, 1993). Layman (1984b) estimated that this area was inhabited by more than 1,000 adult duskytail darters in the fall of 1993. Shute *et al.* (1993) found no duskytail darters at this site in the fall of 1993 after an extensive snorkel survey (more than three person hours of effort) in formerly occupied habitat. The area was heavily silted, and extensive algal growth was noted in the rocky area normally inhabited by these darters. This degradation apparently resulted when flow was restricted by a logjam at a bridge; this allowed silt to settle in the slower current sections of the duskytail darter's preferred habitat.

The Little River is also impacted by the cumulative effects of agricultural development in the lower part of the watershed. The population here is also potentially threatened by water withdrawal and increasing residential and commercial development (Clyde Voigtlander, Tennessee Valley Authority, *in litt.*, 1991).

The duskytail exists downstream of U.S. Forest Service lands in about 4.4 river kilometers (2.6 river miles) of Citico Creek (Rakes *et al.* 1992). Shute *et al.* (1993) reported that they observed an average of two duskytail darters per person hour during their 1993 survey of the species' habitat. Although the majority of the Citico Creek watershed is controlled by the Forest Service, almost all of the populated reach flows through privately owned property, and stream-side habitat destruction has been observed in the area (Voigtlander, *in litt.*, 1991).

The duskytail darter inhabits about 29 kilometers (17 river miles) of Copper Creek. Although the duskytail darter is characterized as generally rare or uncommon in Copper Creek (Burkhead and Jenkins 1991), this creek may support the largest population of the fish (Voigtlander, *in litt.*, 1991). However, this population is threatened by siltation, riparian erosion, and agricultural pollution (Bud Bristow, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, *in litt.*, 1991). Jenkins (Roanoke College, *in litt.* 1992) stated that during three visits to Copper Creek in 1992, the fish was very rarely seen at sites where the largest numbers were found in the early 1970s. He further stated, "This doesn't look good for the species or Copper Creek." After conducting a brief survey in the early 1990s, Sue Bruenderman (Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, personal communication, 1992) also commented that in addition to the decline in numbers of duskytail darters, the mussel population in Copper Creek had declined dramatically in the past 10 years, most notably in the lowermost 5 miles of the stream. Shute *et al.* (1993) reported that they observed an average of 0.4 duskytail darters per person hour during their 1993 survey of the species' habitat.

Duskytail darters have been taken from only one site on the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River. Shute *et al.* (1993) reported that they observed an average of 0.8 duskytail darters per person hour during their 1993 survey at this site. Although other collections have been made in the Big South Fork, no other populations have been found (Jack Collier, National Park Service, personal communication, 1990; Melvin Warren, Southern Illinois University, personal communication, 1990). This population, although within the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area (BSFNRRA), is potentially threatened by runoff from coal mines in the upper watershed above the BSFNRRA (Collier, personal communication, 1990).

Duskytail darter populations are threatened by the general deterioration of water quality resulting from siltation and other pollutants contributed by poor land use practices, coal mining, and waste discharges. Etnier and Starnes (in press) stated that this darter "...and other darters dependent upon silt free, rocky pools in large streams and rivers, such as the ashy darter, have apparently suffered more from the effects of siltation than have darters typical of swift riffles."

Because the existing duskytail darter populations inhabit short river reaches, they are vulnerable to extirpation from accidental toxic chemical spills. Because of the duskytail darter's apparent microhabitat specificity and its relatively short life span, the species is extremely vulnerable to short-term and/or localized habitat alterations. In addition, as the populated stream reaches are isolated from each other by impoundments, recolonization of any extirpated population would not be possible without human intervention. The absence of natural gene flow among populations of these fishes leaves the long-term genetic viability of these isolated populations in question.

PART II

RECOVERY

A. Recovery Objectives

The ultimate goal of this recovery plan is to restore viable populations* of the duskytail darter (*Etheostoma* [*Catonotus*] sp.) to a significant portion of its historic range and remove the species from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants.

Reclassification to threatened:

The species will be considered for reclassification to threatened status when the likelihood of the species' becoming extinct in the foreseeable future has been eliminated by achievement of the following criteria:

1. Three distinct viable populations* exist, through protection and enhancement of the existing populations in the Little River, Blount County, Tennessee; Citico Creek, Monroe County, Tennessee; Big South Fork of the Cumberland River, Scott County, Tennessee; and Copper Creek and Clinch River, Scott County, Virginia, and successful establishment of a reintroduced population in Abrams Creek or other historic habitat or the discovery of an additional population.

2. Studies of the fish's biological and ecological requirements have been completed and the implementation of management strategies developed from these studies have been or are likely to be successful.

3. No foreseeable threats exist that would likely threaten the survival of any of the three aforementioned populations.

Removal from Endangered Species Act protection:

The species will be considered for removal from Endangered Species Act protection when the likelihood of the species' becoming threatened in the foreseeable future has been eliminated by the achievement of the following criteria:

1. Through protection and enhancement of the existing population and successful establishment of reintroduced populations or the discovery of additional populations, five distinct viable populations* exist.

2. Studies of the fish's biological and ecological requirements have been completed and the implementation of management strategies developed from these studies has been successful.

3. No foreseeable threats exist that would likely threaten the survival of any of the populations.

*Viable populations: A reproducing population that is large enough to maintain sufficient genetic variation to enable it to evolve and respond to natural habitat changes. The number of individuals needed and the amount and quality of habitat required to meet this criterion will be determined for the species as one of the recovery tasks.

B. Narrative Outline

1. Preserve present population and presently used habitat. Because only four populations exist, it is essential that these populations be protected.

1.1 Continue to utilize existing legislation and regulations (Federal Endangered Species Act, Federal and State surface mining laws, water quality regulations, stream alteration regulations, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licensing, etc.) to protect the fish and its habitats. Prior to and during implementation of this recovery plan, the species and its habitat should be protected by the full enforcement of existing laws and regulations.

The duskytail population in the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River is within the National Park Service's BSFNRRA, and the populations in the Little River and Citico Creek occur within, but mostly below, lands controlled by the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service, respectively. These Federal agencies are aware of these populations and have taken proactive measures to protect them. Populations with a Federal connection have greater opportunities for protection under existing laws than the population in Copper Creek, which is totally on private lands.

1.2 Solicit help in protecting the species and its essential habitats through developing cooperation and partnerships with Federal and State agencies, local governments, industry and farming groups, conservation organizations, and local landowners and individuals. Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act and Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act activities can assist in the protection of the species. However, these programs alone cannot recover the duskytail darter. The assistance of Federal and State agencies and conservation groups, as well as local governments, will be essential. Also, support of the local industrial and business community, as well as local individuals and landowners, will be needed to meet the goal of recovering the species. Without a commitment from the people who live in the vicinity of the watersheds and who have an influence on habitat quality, recovery efforts will be doomed.

1.2.1 Meet with local government officials and regional and local planners to inform them of our plans to attempt recovery and request their support.

1.2.2 Meet with local business, industry, and farming interests and try to elicit their support in implementing protective actions.

1.2.3 Develop an educational program using such items as slide/tape shows, brochures, etc. Present this material to schools, business groups, civic groups, youth groups, church organizations, etc. Educational material outlining the recovery goals, with emphasis on the other benefits of maintaining and upgrading habitat quality, will be extremely useful in informing the public of our actions.

1.3 Determine threats to the species, conduct research necessary for the species' management and recovery, and implement management where needed.

1.3.1 Conduct life history research on the species to include such factors as reproduction, food habits, age and growth, and mortality. Layman (1991) provided extensive information on the life history of the Little River population. However, Burkhead and Jenkins (1991) point out that some aspects of the duskytail darter's life history are different in Copper Creek. Life history studies of the other populations would be valuable in fine tuning the management needs of these populations. The amount of genetic differentiation present in the existing populations also needs to determine. Jenkins (Roanoke College, personal communication, 1993) noted some morphological differences and suggested possible genetic differences between some of the extant populations. This genetic information will also be valuable in determining which stocks should be used in any attempted reintroductions.

1.3.2 Characterize the species' habitat (relevant physical, biological, and chemical components) for all life history stages. Apparently, the duskytail darter has been able to withstand some degree of habitat degradation. However, some habitat has been so severely altered that the species is extirpated or the population is reduced in size and vigor. Knowledge of the species' specific microhabitat requirements and the ecological associations for each population is needed in order to focus management and recovery efforts on the specific problems within the species' habitat.

1.3.3 Determine present and foreseeable threats to the species. Siltation from poor land use and road construction practices has contributed and continues to contribute to substrate and water quality degradation. The mechanism by which the species and its habitat are impacted by these factors is not entirely understood, and the extent to which the species can withstand these impacts is not known. Also, other factors may be impacting the species.

1.3.4 Based on the biological data and threat analysis, investigate the need for management, including habitat improvement. Implement management, if needed, to secure viable populations. Specific components of the species' habitat, such as spawning habitat, may be lacking, and these may be limiting the species' potential expansion. Restoration of riparian habitat is needed, especially in the Little River and Copper Creek. The critical areas within these watersheds need to be identified and restoration efforts begun.

1.3.5 Develop cooperative ventures with private landowners to restore riparian habitat through programs like "Partners for Wildlife." The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have begun programs to restore riparian habitat and control agricultural waste. These programs should be encouraged in order to protect and enhance duskytail habitat.

1.3.6 Determine the number of individuals required to maintain a viable population. Inbreeding depression can be a major obstacle to species recovery, especially if the remaining population sizes are small and/or have gone through some type of genetic bottleneck. The actual number of individuals in a population is not necessarily a good indication of a population's genetic viability; rather, the "effective population" size is needed. The effective population size is the size of an "ideal" population in which genetic drift takes place at the same rate as in the actual population (Chambers 1983). Franklin (1980) suggested that the inbreeding coefficient should be limited to no more than 1 percent per generation, a figure which implies that the short-term, maintenance effective-population-size should be no fewer than 50 individuals (Frankel and Soulé 1981, Franklin 1980, Soulé 1980). Because the effective population size is

typically only one-third to one-forth the actual population size (being affected by sex ratio, overlapping generations, generally nonrandom distribution of offspring, and nonrandom mating) (Soulé 1980), a population of 150 to 200 individuals is needed for short-term population maintenance. Soulé (1980) further suggests that for long-term viability, an effective population of 500 individuals is necessary, translating into a population size of 1,500 to 2,000 individuals. The effective population size of the remaining duskytail darter populations needs to be determined in order to calculate whether these populations are capable of long-term self-maintenance or whether a breeding program should be initiated (moving individuals between populations). Some of these factors can be addressed under Task 1.3.3, while others will need to be addressed as part of this task on a need-to-know basis.

2. Search for additional populations and/or habitat suitable for reintroduction efforts. The Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers have been extensively surveyed. However, it is possible that some small populations were missed. Further study may reveal additional populations; suitable habitat for transplants may also be identified during these surveys.

3. Determine the feasibility of reestablishing the duskytail darter into historic habitat and reintroduce where feasible. The extent of the duskytail darter's historic distribution is not known, but based on the widely disjunct nature of existing populations, it is likely that the species was at one time more widespread in the middle reaches of the Cumberland River and the upper reaches of the Tennessee River. Presently, it is known from only four populations. The construction of dams has caused these populations to become isolated from each other and from other areas containing suitable habitat; therefore, it is unlikely that the species can naturally recolonize any historical habitat. If suitable stream reaches are available or can be made suitable (such as in Abrams Creek and the Holston River system), populations should be reintroduced into appropriate habitat within the historic range of the species or into habitat that was likely to have been within the historic range.

   3.1 Develop successful techniques for reestablishing populations. Sufficient stock of the duskytail darter may not be available to allow for the removal of enough adults to establish additional populations. Techniques for rearing the species and introduction techniques

should be developed to help ensure success. As part of any propagation and reintroduction effort, extreme care must be given to ensuring that the genetic integrity of the animals in culture is maintained. It will not benefit the recovery process if the overall fitness of the species is diminished by short-sighted culturing and stocking procedure. Genetic analysis should be included, ideally, as a standard protocol prior to any stocking activity. However, there may not be a sufficient number of animals to sacrifice for genetic testing, and funding is usually limited. When a detailed genetic analysis is not feasible, reintroduction attempts will be made using founders that (1) have as diverse a genetic background as possible and (2) are from the most appropriate river system.

3.2 Reintroduce the species into its historic range and evaluate success. Using the techniques developed in Task 3.1, reintroduce the duskytail darter into areas where populations are known to have been extirpated and other probable historical localities and monitor success.

3.3 Implement the same protective measures for any introduced populations as outlined for established populations.

4. Develop and implement a program to monitor population levels and habitat conditions of presently established populations as well as newly discovered, introduced, or expanding populations. During and after recovery actions are implemented, the status of the species and its habitat must be monitored to assess any progress toward recovery. This should be conducted on a biennial schedule.

5. Annually assess overall success of the recovery program and recommend action (changes in recovery objectives, delist, continue to protect, implement new measures, other studies, etc.). The recovery plan must be evaluated periodically to determine if it is on track and to recommend future actions. As more is learned about the species, the recovery objectives may need to be modified.

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PART III

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Priorities in column one of the following implementation schedule are assigned as follows:

1. Priority 1 - An action that must be taken to prevent extinction or to prevent the species from declining irreversibly in the foreseeable future.

2. Priority 2 - An action that must be taken to prevent a significant decline in species population/habitat quality or some other significant negative impact short of extinction.

3. Priority 3 - All other actions necessary to meet the recovery objective.

Key to Acronyms Used in This Implementation Schedule

FWS - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
TE - Endangered Species Division, Fish and Wildlife Service
LE - Law Enforcement Division, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
FA - Other Federal Agencies - Includes the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Soil Conservation Service, and Tennessee Valley Authority
R4 - Region 4 (Southeast Region), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
R5 - Region 5 (Northeast Region), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
SCA - State Conservation Agencies - Includes the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, and Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
TNC - The Nature Conservancy

DUSKYTAIL DARTER IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Priority	Task Number	Task Description	Task Duration	Responsible Agency FWS	Responsible Agency Other	Cost Estimates ($000's) FY1	FY2	FY3	Comments
1	1.1	Continue to utilize existing legislation and regulations to protect species and its habitat.	Continuous	R4 and R5/TE and LE	FA, SCA	10.0	10.0	10.0	
1	1.2.3	Develop information and education program and present.	1 year (then continuous)	R4 and R5/TE	FA, SCA, TNC	15.0	5.0	5.0	
1	1.3.1, 1.3.2, 1.3.3	Conduct research necessary for species management and recovery; i.e., habitat requirements, biology, and threat analysis.	3 years	R4 and R5/TE	FA, SCA, TNC	40.0	40.0	40.0	
1	1.3.4	Based on biological and threat analysis, investigate need for management and implement where needed.	3 years	R4 and R5/TE	FA, SCA, TNC	5.0	5.0	5.0	
1	1.3.5	Develop cooperative ventures with private landowners to restore riparian habitat.	3 years	R4 and R5/TE	FA, SCA, TNC	50.0	50.0	50.0	
1	3	Develop techniques, select sites, reintroduce the species back into historic habitat, and evaluate and protect any populations established.	3 years	R4 and R5/TE	FA, SCA, TNC	25.0	20.0	20.0	

DUSKYTAIL DARTER IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE (continued)

Priority	Task Number	Task Description	Task Duration	Responsible Agency FWS	Responsible Agency Other	Cost Estimates ($000's) FY1	FY2	FY3	Comments
2	1.2.1, 1.2.2	Meet with local governmental officials and business interests and elicit their support for recovery.	3 years	R4 and R5/TE	FA, SCA, TNC	5.0	5.0	5.0	
2	1.3.6	Determine number of individuals required to maintain viable population.	1 year	R4 and R5/TE	FA, SCA, TNC	---	---	20.0	
2	2	Search for additional populations and suitable habitat.	1 year	R4 and R5/TE	FA, SCA, TNC	10.0	---	---	
2	4	Develop and implement a monitoring program.	Biennial	R4 and R5/TE	FA, SCA, TNC	5.0	---	5.0	
3	5	Annually assess recovery program and modify program and plan where required.	Continuous	R4 and R5/TE	FA, SCA, TNC	0.5	0.5	0.5	

PART IV

LIST OF REVIEWERS

Mr. Gary Myers, Executive Director
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
Ellington Agricultural Center
P.O. Box 40747
Nashville, Tennessee 37204

Mr. Robert C. Joslin
Regional Forester
U.S. Forest Service, Room 760
1720 Peachtree Road, NW.
Atlanta, Georgia 30367

Mr. John H. Hankinson, Jr.
Regional Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
345 Courtland Street, NE., Room 400
Atlanta, Georgia 30365

Colonel James P. King
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Nashville District
P.O. Box 1070
Nashville, Tennessee 37202-1070

Mr. William H. Redmond
Regional Natural Heritage Project
Tennessee Valley Authority
Norris, Tennessee 37828

Mr. M. Paul Schmierbach, Manager
Environmental Quality
Tennessee Valley Authority
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

Mr. Milo Pyne
Tennessee Heritage Program
401 Church Street
8th Floor, L&C Tower
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0447

Mr. David K. Whitehurst, Chief
Fish Division
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
4010 W. Broad Street, Box 11104
Richmond, Virginia 23230

Virginia State Water Control Board
4900 Cox Road
P.O. Box 11143
Richmond, Virginia 23230

Dr. Richard J. Neves
Virginia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
106 Cheatham Hall
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

Mr. John R. Shute
5201 Kingston Pike, Suite 8
Knoxville, Tennessee 37920

Mr. Patrick Rakes
5201 Kingston Pike, Suite 8
Knoxville, Tennessee 37920

Mr. Walt Matia
Director of Stewardship
The Nature Conservancy
1815 N. Lynn Street
Arlington, Virginia 22209

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Natural Heritage Program
203 Governor Street, Suite 402
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Ms. Deborah Wassenaar, Attorney
Southern Environmental Law Center
201 W. Main Street, Suite 14
Charlottesville, Virginia 22901

Mr. Michael Lipford
The Nature Conservancy
1233A Cedars Court
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903

Mr. D. Elmo Lunn
Technical Secretary
Water Quality Control Board
Tennessee Department of Public Health
621 Cordell Hull Building
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

Mr. Jerry Lee
U.S. Soil Conservation Service
U.S. Courthouse, Room 675
801 Broadway
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

Mr. Edward G. Oakley
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
249 Cumberland Bend Drive
Nashville, Tennessee 37228

Tennessee State Clearinghouse
1800 James K. Polk Building
501 Deadrick Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

Mr. George C. Miller, Director
Knoxville Field Office Director
Office of Surface Mining
Reclamation and Enforcement
530 Gay Street, SW., Suite 500
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

Dr. James Layzer
Tennessee Cooperative Fishery Research Unit
Tennessee Technological University
Box 5114, Biology Department
Cookeville, Tennessee 38505

Dr. David Etnier
Department of Zoology and Entomology
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, Tennessee 37916

Mr. Paul Brouha
Executive Director
American Fisheries Society
5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 110
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Dr. Melvin Warren
Department of Zoology
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, Illinois 62901-6501

Dr. Brooks Burr
Department of Zoology
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, Illinois 62901-6501

Dr. Robert Jenkins
Department of Biology
Roanoke College
Salem, Virginia 24153

Mr. Peter W. Pfeiffer, Director
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
Department of Fisheries
#1 Game Farm Road
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Mr. Ronald Cicerello
Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission
407 Broadway
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Superintendent
Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area
Route 3, Box 401
Oneida, Tennessee 37841-9544

Mr. James Herrig
U. S. Forest Service
P.O. Box 2010
Cleveland, Tennessee 37320

County Administrator
112 Water Street, Suite #1
Gate City, Virginia 24251

County Executive
Scott County Courthouse
Huntsville, Tennessee 37756

County Executive
Sullivan County Courthouse
Blountville, Tennessee 37617

County Executive
Blount County Courthouse
Maryville, Tennessee 37801

County Executive
Monroe County Courthouse
Madisonville, Tennessee 37354

Ms. Sue A. Bruenderman
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
2206 S. Main Street, Suite C
Blacksburg, Virginia 24060

Mr. Rich Owings
North Carolina Arboretum
P.O. Box 6617
Asheville, North Carolina 28816

Mr. Alan Smith
P.O. Box 887
Mars Hill, North Carolina 28754

Mr. Bud Bristow, Executive Director
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
4010 W. Broad Street, Box 11104
Richmond, Virginia 23230

Mr. J. L. Corley
District Administrator
Virginia Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 1768
Bristol, Virginia 24203

Mr. William Beuter
Virginia Department of Transportation
Environmental Division
1201 E. Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

U.S. Forest Service
Wildlife, Fisheries, and Range
1720 Peachtree Road, NW.
Atlanta, Georgia 30367

Mr. Julius T. Johnson
Director of Public Affairs
Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation
P.O. Box 313
Columbia, Tennessee 38401

Mr. Mike Turner (PD-R)
Louisville District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 59
Louisville, Kentucky 40201

Project Manager (7507C)
Environmental Protection Agency
Endangered Species Protection Program
Environmental Fate and Effects Division
Office of Pesticide Programs
401 M Street, SW.
Washington, DC 20460

Environmental Protection Agency
Hazard Evaluation Division - EEB (TS769C)
401 M Street, SW.
Washington, DC 20460

Federal Highway Administration
Office of Environmental Policy
Environmental Analysis Division
400 Seventh Street, SW., Room 3240
Washington, DC 20590

Directorate for Biological, Behavioral, and Social Sciences
National Science Foundation
1800 G Street, NW., Room 215
Washington, DC 20550

Fish and Wildlife Reference Service
5430 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 110
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

The Nature Conservancy
Eastern Regional Office
201 Devonshire Street, 5th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

The Nature Conservancy
2002 Richard Jones Road, Suite 304-C
Nashville, Tennessee 37215

Dr. Kerry S. Walter
World Conservation Monitoring Centre
219c Huntingdon Road
Cambridge CB3 ODL
United Kingdom

Traffic U.S.A.
World Wildlife Fund
1250 24th Street, NW., Suite 500
Washington, DC 20037

The Nature Conservancy
1815 N. Lynn Street
Arlington, Virginia 22209

The Nature Conservancy
1233A Cedars Court
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903

Ms. Deborah Wassenaar, Attorney
Southern Environmental Law Center
201 W. Main Street, Suite 14
Charlottesville, Virginia 22901

Mr. William Beuter
Virginia Department of Transportation
Environmental Division
1201 E. Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Mr. Dennis Sanders
District Administrator
Virginia Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 1768
Bristol, Virginia 24203

Ms. Debra Owen
North Carolina Department of Environment, Health,
and Natural Resources
Water Quality Section
4401 Reedy Creek Road
Raleigh, North Carolina 27607