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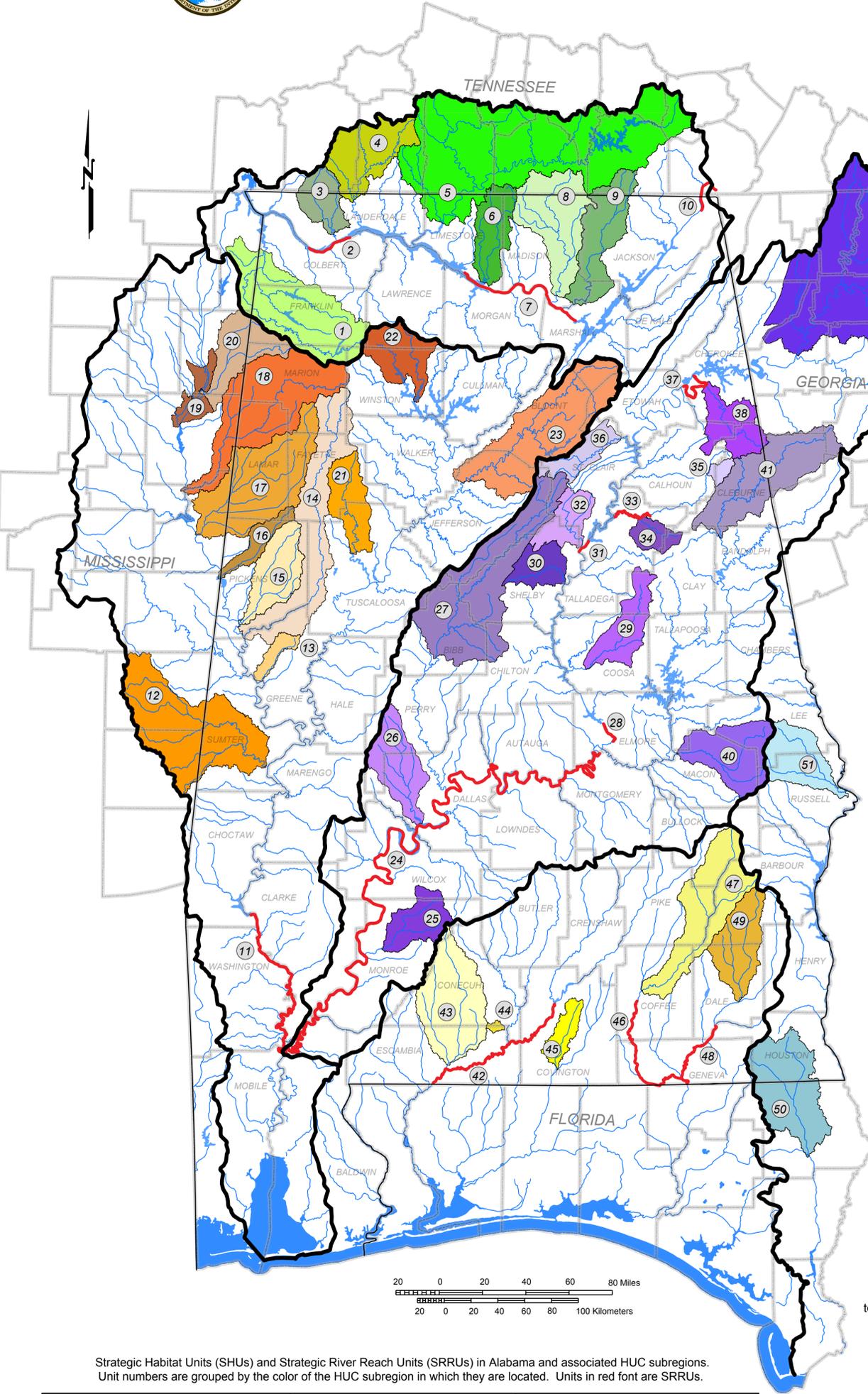
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Alabama Clean Water Partnership

Strategic Habitat and River Reach Units for Aquatic Species of Conservation Concern in Alabama

by
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Explanation

- Rivers and streams
- Open water
- County lines
- Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) subregion boundary
- Strategic Habitat Unit (SHU)
- Strategic River Reach Unit (SRRU)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in conjunction with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Geological Survey of Alabama have selected watersheds and river segments in the five major HUC 4 subregions in Alabama to focus conservation activities for managing, recovering, and restoring populations of rare fishes, mussels, snails, and crayfishes. These Strategic Habitat Units (SHUs) and Strategic River Reach Units (SRRUs) include a substantial part of Alabama's remaining high-quality water courses and reflect the variety of aquatic habitats occupied by these species historically and presently. The SHUs were selected based on the presence of federally listed and state imperiled species, potential threats to the species, designation of critical habitat, and the best available information about the essential habitat components required by these aquatic species to survive. This includes areas with: (1) geomorphically stable stream and river channels; (2) stream flow regimes that support normal behavior, growth, and survival of the animals; (3) acceptable water-quality conditions necessary for normal behavior, growth, and viability of all life stages of the animals; (4) a diversity of channel substrate types, with minimal amounts of fine sediment and filamentous algae; (5) for mussels, the presence of fish hosts with adequate living, foraging, and spawning areas; and (6) few or no competitive or predaceous nonnative species. The SRRUs were selected based on habitat features listed above and the presence of imperiled species and include river reaches where species restoration and recovery actions are planned or already underway. The purpose of designating SHUs and SRRUs is to facilitate and coordinate watershed management and restoration efforts as well as to focus funding to address habitat and water-quality issues. The map depicts the location of SHUs and SRRUs in Alabama and adjacent states. The colored polygons on the map reference the contributing watershed area to the SHUs. All of the SHUs currently support one or multiple federally and/or state protected species and/or critical habitat(s), as designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



The SHU logo represents the collective efforts of watershed stakeholders to investigate, manage, and develop our water resources in a comprehensive way to minimize their degradation, maximize their availability for all users, and restore and recover aquatic habitats and species.

-Clean water for our future is the key to a prosperous Alabama-

Strategic Habitat Units (SHUs) and Strategic River Reach Units (SRRUs) in Alabama and associated HUC subregions. Unit numbers are grouped by the color of the HUC subregion in which they are located. Units in red font are SRRUs.

Unit	Name	Unit	Name	Unit	Name
1	Bear Creek	18	Buttahatchee River	35	Shoal Creek
2	Tennessee R.-Wilson Dam tailwater	19	East Fork Tombigbee River	36	Big Canoe Creek
3	Cypress Creek	20	Bull Mountain Creek	37	Weiss Lake bypass (Dead River)
4	Shoal Creek	21	North River	38	Terrapin Creek
5	Elk River	22	Upper Sipsey Fork	39	Upper Coosa River tributaries
6	Limestone, Piney, Beaverdam Creeks	23	Locust Fork	40	Uphapee Creek
7	Tennessee R.-Guntersville Dam tailwater	24	Lower Alabama River	41	Tallapoosa River
8	Flint River	25	Big Flat Creek	42	Conecuh River
9	Paint Rock River	26	Bogue Chitto Creek	43	Murder Creek
10	Tennessee R.-Nickajack Dam tailwater	27	Upper Cahaba River	44	Amos Mill Creek
11	Lower Tombigbee River	28	Coosa R.-Jordan Dam tailwater	45	Five Runs Creek
12	Sucumoochee River	29	Hatchet Creek	46	Lower Pea River
13	Trussels Creek	30	Yellowleaf Creek	47	Upper Pea River
14	Sipsey River	31	Coosa R.-Logan Martin Dam tailwater	48	Choctawhatchee River
15	Lubbub Creek	32	Kelly Creek	49	West Fork Choctawhatchee River
16	Coalfire Creek	33	Lower Choccolocco Creek	50	Chipola River
17	Luxapallia Creek	34	Cheaha Creek	51	Uchee Creek

National Hydrologic Dataset HUC 4 Subregions in Alabama



Index map of HUC 4 subregions in Alabama and neighboring states

- Middle Tennessee - Elk (0603) strategic units no. 1 - 10
- Mobile-Tombigbee (0316) strategic units no. 11 - 23
- Alabama River (0315) strategic units no. 24 - 41
- Choctawhatchee-Escambia (0314) strategic units no. 42 - 49
- Apalachicola (0313) strategic units no. 50 - 51