

## **Adding Value to Historical Research - Developing a GIS Database of Aquatic Species**

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Over the past several decades, the US Forest Service has supported research on hundreds of studies of aquatic, wildlife, and plant species inhabiting the national forests of Alabama. Numerous research reports contain data on valuable rare, threatened, endangered, and sensitive plants and animals, breeding neo-tropical migrant bird species, and rare fish communities. Due to the format of those reports (typed hardcopy), the contribution of these studies to understanding spatial and temporal trends or changes in the populations of species is limited. The work reported here is the product of a cooperative agreement between the National Forests in Alabama and the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences at Auburn University and describes the database developed and procedures used for converting legacy data to a GIS format. The goal of the project is to produce a user friendly tool that extends the value of historical research studies for use in future research and planning efforts.

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