LISTED SPECIES AND PRIORITY HABITATS

As we have explained throughout the toolbox, it is important to know about the species and habitats that are priorities for conservation in your community.

Federally Listed Species

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maintains a list of plant and animal species that are federally endangered, threatened and of special concern.
- Species listed as federally endangered or threatened are protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 to 1543), meaning that the plant/animal or habitat cannot be harmed unless a permit is obtained through consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Federal species of concern are considered at-risk species that may become federally listed in the future.
- Further research is typically needed to determine the conservation status of a federal species of concern.
- Following the recommendations in this guide will help to avoid and minimize negative impact to endangered species, but will not necessarily fulfill all regulatory requirements under the Endangered Species Act.
- For specific regulatory questions about a federally listed species, please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (919) 856-4520 in eastern NC, (828) 258-3939 in western NC, or visit www.fws.gov/raleigh/es.html
- To find out what federally listed species exist in your county and to view fact sheets about the species, visit www.fws.gov/raleigh/species/cntylist/nc_counties.html.

State-Listed Species

- State-listed species are protected under the State Endangered Species Act (G.S. 113-331 to 113-337), which is administered by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.
- For a complete list of state listed species (divided by region) in North Carolina, download the document, "Protected Wildlife Species of North Carolina," from www.ncwildlife.org/Learning/Species.aspx.

Other Priority Habitats and Species

- In addition to federal and state listed species, other species and habitats are considered priorities for conservation. Priority habitats, and the species that depend on them, are identified and described in North Carolina's Wildlife Action Plan.
- For more information on priority species listed in the North Carolina Wildlife Action Plan in your region, visit www.ncwildlife.org/Plan.aspx.

