

APPENDIX E.
 DESCRIPTIONS OF ORIGINAL SPECIES
 PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

1. State protection status (Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern)
2. NC Natural Heritage Program state rank (S1-S5)
3. Degree of exploitation/harvest (*How heavily is this species taken, for example, as game, or for the pet trade, or as bait or feed?*)
 - High (H) – Heavily exploited/harvested
 - Medium (M) – Harvested, but not at especially high levels
 - Low (L) – Not harvested, or harvested on a very selective basis
4. Past or current Commission funding
 - If the species has received Commission funding, indicate with an “x”.
5. Past or current external funding
 - If the species has received funding from an external source (e.g., Museum of Natural Sciences, NC Natural Heritage Program), indicate with an “x”.
6. Feasibility measure (*How likely is it that conservation activities in North Carolina can make a difference for this species?*)
 - High (H) – It is very likely that research, management, and/or conservation actions could have a positive impact on the species
 - Medium (M) – It is somewhat likely
 - Low (L) – It is not at all likely

*This criterion was developed as a rough measure of our ability to be effective in research, management, and/or conservation actions initiated for a particular species/habitat— **this is a subjective measure, your perception.** For example, there may be an animal that exists in such low numbers that you do not feel any activities initiated in North Carolina could really help to conserve that species (you would give it a Low feasibility measure).*
7. Knowledge of the species' population status
 - High (H) – We know the status throughout the species' range within the state
 - Medium (M) – We know the status in select areas, but are not certain of the status throughout the state range
 - Low (L) – We know little to none about the population status in the state

This criterion is a measure of your perception of how well we understand a species' population status within the state.
8. Population Status (if known)
 - Increasing (I) – The population is increasing
 - Stable (S) – The population is stable
 - Declining (D) – The population is declining

9. Knowledge of species' distribution in the state

High (H) – We know the species' distribution across the state

Medium (M) – We know some places where the species can be found, but do not know its distribution statewide

Low (L) – We know little to none about where this species is located throughout the state

10. Knowledge of limiting factors affecting the species

High (H) – We know a great deal about the limiting factors

Medium (M) – We know some of the factors, but do not fully understand the reasons for population changes

Low (L) – We know little to none about limiting factors affecting the species