

GSA SHU-related activities for ARSN 2022 meeting.

YEAR -1 (OF 3) ACTIVITIES COMPLETED:

Confirmation sampling efforts for Trispot Darters in Big Canoe Creek watershed completed in partnership with ADEM, APCO, ADWFF, USFWS, GADNR, UWA, local landowners

Road crossing assessments at 468 crossings in the Locust Fork Black Warrior River system, 7 in the upper Sipsey Fork Black of the Warrior River, and 42 in the Trussells Creek watershed of the Tombigbee River system

Scouting efforts for GSA research operations in Trussells Creek watershed ongoing

Fish IBI's completed for Trussells Creek watershed in partnership with ADEM, APCo, ADWFF, USFWS, local landowners

Surface water samples collected in Trussells Creek for water quality and bacteria assessment

Coordinated transfer of a large backlog of freshwater mussel shells from Alabama that were donated by the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science to the McClung Museum of Natural History and Culture at the University of Tennessee; this collection included material from SHUs and the McClung Museum staff will process, identify, and report the material identified in due time

Assisted a graduate student from Tennessee Tech in collecting crayfish in SHUs in north Alabama for ongoing genetic research on several topics

Coordinated collecting and identifying crayfish from Weiss Bypass for APCo

Trained, assisted, and supervised interns in road crossing assessments in concert with UA department of Geography and Cawaco

Assisted UA Biology Department faculty and graduate students obtain permission for access to properties along Buttahatchee River for mussel sampling and with logistics on sampling days

Made a preliminary visit to a Rush Darter sampling location in Bankhead NF (Sipsey Fork SHU) for assessment of value for possible future groundwater/surface water interaction study

PRESENTATIONS:

Alabama Water Resources Conference: Sediment Risk Index: Crossing Structure and Landscape-Level Influence on Aquatic Organism Passage in Alabama; A Grassroots Approach to the Development of Comprehensive State Water Management Plans: An Example from Alabama

Alabama Chapter American Fisheries Society co-presented poster entitled Fishes of the Cypress Creek System, Tennessee River Drainage: Historical Records, Recent Fish Fauna, and Index of Biotic Integrity Assessment

Clear Water Cullman: ARSN overview and how partnerships benefit efforts

Various project meetings with ADEM, UNA, multiple Tennessee Tech University departments, State of Tennessee staff from various departments, and USFWS Cookeville ES office to discuss future collaborative efforts in SHUs shared between Alabama and Tennessee and to introduce them to the ARSN concept

Disseminated multiple copies of SHU products including the latest SHU poster (SM 248B), Bear Creek Fish IBI and Habitat poster (SM 249), and the new Water in Alabama poster created in cooperation with Office of Water Resources and Legacy, as well as copies of the recently published GSA bulletin on fishes in the Cypress Creek system, B190

ANTICIPATED YEAR-2 AND -3 ACTIVITIES:

Continue collecting seasonal water samples and at least one sediment sample in Trussells Creek for water quality, bacteria, and toxicology screening

Revisit historic GSA and ADWFF mussel collection locations in Trussells Creek for a 20+ year retrospective with ADWFF and UA Biology Department staff and students

Revisit historic mussel collection locations in the Luxapallila Creek system along with USFWS ES offices in Jackson, MS, and Daphne, AL, ADWFF, and UA Biology Department faculty and students

Revisit historic mussel collection locations in the Bull Mountain Creek system along with USFWS ES offices in Jackson, MS, and Daphne, AL, ADWFF, and UA Biology Department faculty and students

Perform road/stream crossing assessments in various SHUs statewide

Assist Alabama Forestry Association with habitat improvement projects in Bear Creek SHU

Assist USFWS with Coal Darter population assessments in SHUs

Assist UNA faculty and students with ongoing projects in the Shoal Creek SHU

Possible other tasks as they arise