Hatchie River

Conservation Opportunity Area

The Hatchie River was designated a State Scenic River in 1970 and is an important aquatic and terrestrial area. It is the longest free-flowing tributary of the lower Mississippi River and is the largest forested floodplain remaining in Tennessee. Because it has remained unimpounded and unchannelized, the natural flood processes that drive the ecosystem are intact.

The Hatchie River is a complex ecosystem encompassing bottomland hardwood forests, canebrakes, swamps, sloughs, rivers, and lakes. These habitats support one of the most diverse systems in Tennessee with more than 100 species of fish and 35 species of mussels. With 11 species of catfish, the Hatchie probably contains more species of catfish than any other river in North America. Currently, the Hatchie River is the main site in Tennessee for Alligator Gar restoration efforts. Excessive sedimentation, contaminants, development, and habitat fragmentation are all threatening the Hatchie River.

TWRA will consider future land acquisitions in this COA for watershed protection, critical habitat protection, habitat restoration, streambank stabilization, and planting of bottomland hardwoods and buffer strips along the river. TWRA will also seek partnerships with other agencies and landowners to implement many of these management strategies on private lands within the COA to reduce soil erosion.

Public Lands within the COA

Big Hill Pond State Park (SP), Chickasaw State Forest & Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Chickasaw SP, Davis Ridge State Historic Area, Grays Creek Wetland, Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Hatchie River State Scenic River, John Tully State Forest & WMA, Lower Hatchie NWR

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Top to bottom: Oxbow off the Hatchie River, Hatchie NWR - Rob Colvin, TWRA; Stocking Alligator Gar at Hatchie NWR - Rob Colvin, TWRA/next page: Blackburnian Warbler - Chris Sloan

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Partnerships

TWRA will develop and foster partnerships with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, The Nature Conservancy, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Bureau, Tennessee Department of Forestry, Ducks Unlimited, Tennessee Ornithological Society, Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge volunteers, Farm Bureau, UT Agricultural Extension, Cooperative Extensions, Freed-Hardeman University, other universities and local governments (Haywood, Tipton, Hardeman, McNairy, and Lauderdale counties).

	Desired Change	Units
+	Increase restoration of critical land units and aquatic resources on private lands using government-funded incentive programs	number
+	Restore acres and stream miles of bottomland hardwood forest by converting former agriculture lands.	acres/miles
+	Create or improve buffers around tributaries to reduce sediment transfer and runoff of contaminants.	acres
+	Enhance water management to provide moist soil/mudflat habitat for migrating birds.	acres
✓	Protect existing riparian zones and bottomland hardwood forests.	acres
+	Increase and improve the awareness, education, and cooperation of stakeholders/citizens concerning future water quality impacts to the Hatchie river.	number
+	Increase the number of alligator snapping turtles via propagation and reintroduction.	animals

To learn more about the Hatchie River Conservation Opportunity Area, please contact:
Rob Colvin, Wildlife Diversity Coordinator, Region 1 (731) 423-5725

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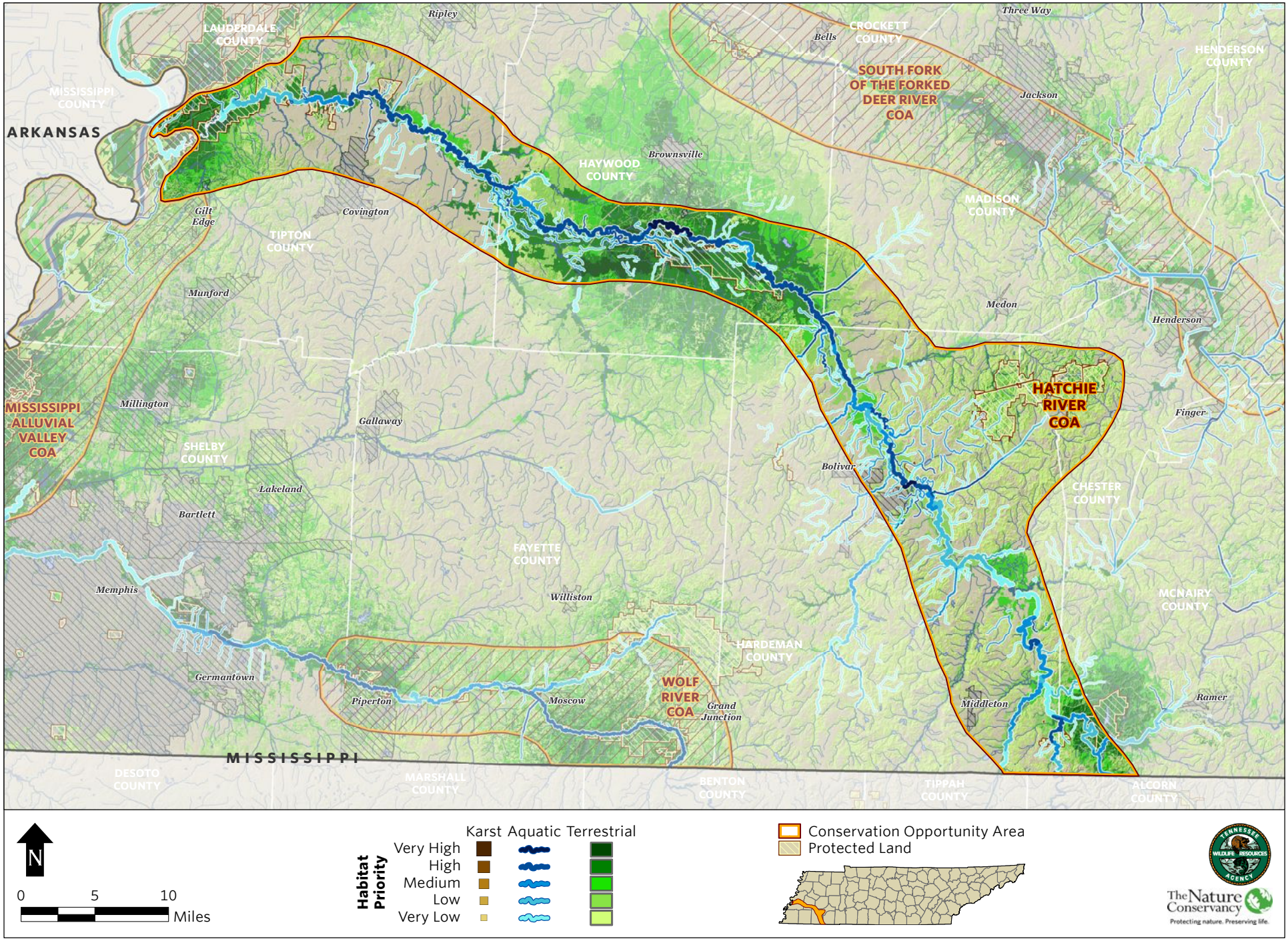

	HATCHIE RIVER COA GCN SPECIES (TN)
Taxa group	**Scientific & Common names**
Amphibian	Acris gryllus (Southern Cricket Frog)
Amphibian	Hyla gratiosa (Barking Treefrog)
Bat	Corynorhinus rafinesquii (Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat)
Bat	Myotis austroriparius (Southeastern Bat)
Bat	Perimyotis subflavus (Tri-colored Bat)
Bird	Accipiter striatus (Sharp-shinned Hawk)
Bird	Ammodramus savannarum (Grasshopper Sparrow)
Bird	Anas rubripes (American Black Duck)
Bird	Ardea alba (Great Egret)
Bird	Asio flammeus (Short-eared Owl)
Bird	Botaurus lentiginosus (American Bittern)
Bird	Calidris himantopus (Stilt Sandpiper)
Bird	Calidris pusilla (Semipalmated Sandpiper)
Bird	Caprimulgus carolinensis (Chuck-will's-widow)
Bird	Chaetura pelagica (Chimney Swift)
Bird	Chordeiles minor (Common Nighthawk)
Bird	Circus cyaneus (Northern Harrier)
Bird	Cistothorus platensis (Sedge Wren)
Bird	Colinus virginianus (Northern Bobwhite)
Bird	Egretta caerulea (Little Blue Heron)
Bird	Empidonax minimus (Least Flycatcher)
Bird	Empidonax traillii (Willow Flycatcher)
Bird	Euphagus carolinus (Rusty Blackbird)
Bird	Falco peregrinus (Peregrine Falcon)
Bird	Geothlypis Formosa (Kentucky Warbler)
Bird	Grus americana (Whooping Crane)
Bird	Haliaeetus leucocephalus (Bald Eagle)
Bird	Helmitheros vermivorum (Worm-eating Warbler)
Bird	Hylocichla mustelina (Wood Thrush)
Bird	Icteria virens (Yellow-breasted Chat)
Bird	Icterus spurius (Orchard Oriole)
Bird	Ictinia mississippiensis (Mississippi Kite)
Bird	Lanius ludovicianus (Loggerhead Shrike)
Bird	Limnothlypis swainsonii (Swainson's Warbler)
Bird	Melanerpes erythrocephalus (Red-headed Woodpecker)
Bird	Numenius phaeopus (Whimbrel)
Bird	Nycticorax nycticorax (Black-crowned Night-heron)
Bird	Parkesia motacilla (Louisiana Waterthrush)
Bird	Peucaea aestivalis (Bachman's Sparrow)
Bird	Pluvialis dominica (American Golden Plover)
Bird	Protonotaria citrea (Prothonotary Warbler)
Bird	Riparia riparia (Bank Swallow)
Bird	Scolopax minor (American Woodcock)
Bird	Setophaga cerulea (Cerulean Warbler)
Bird	Setophaga discolor (Prairie Warbler)
Bird	Sternula antillarum athalassos (Interior Least Tern)
Bird	Sturnella magna (Eastern Meadowlark)
Bird	Thryomanes bewickii (Bewick's Wren)
Bird	Tyto alba (Barn Owl)
Bird	Vermivora chrysoptera (Golden-winged Warbler)
Bird	Vermivora cyanoptera (Blue-winged Warbler)
Bivalve	Lampsilis siliquoidea (Fatmucket)
Bivalve	Lasmigona complanata complanata (White Heelsplitter)

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Taxa group	**Scientific & Common names**
Bivalve	Pleurobema cordatum (Ohio Pigtoe)
Bivalve	Villosa lienosa (Little Spectaclecase)
Bivalve	Villosa vibex (Southern Rainbow)
Crustacean	Fallicambarus hortoni (Hatchie Burrowing Crayfish)
Fish	Ammocrypta beanii (Naked Sand Darter)
Fish	Ammocrypta vivax (Scaly Sand Darter)
Fish	Atractosteus spatula (Alligator Gar)
Fish	Cycleptus elongatus (Blue sucker)
Fish	Hybognathus placitus (Plains Minnow)
Fish	Noturus gladiator (Piebald Madtom)
Insect	Ophiogomphus howei (Howe's Dragonfly)
Mammal	Neotoma floridana illinoensis (Eastern Woodrat)
Mammal	Ochrotomys nuttalli (Golden Mouse)
Mammal	Sorex longirostris (Southeastern Shrew)
Plant	Carex hyalina (Tissue Sedge)
Plant	Carex reniformis (Reniform Sedge)
Plant	Polygonum arifolium (Halberd-leaf Tearthumb)
Plant	Sagittaria platyphylla (Ovate-leaved Arrowhead)
Plant	Schisandra glabra (Red Starvine)
Reptile	Crotalus horridus (Timber Rattlesnake)
Reptile	Macrochelys temminckii (Alligator Snapping Turtle)
Reptile	Nerodia erythrogaster flavigaster (Yellowbelly Water Snake)
Reptile	Ophisaurus attenuatus longicaudus (Eastern Slender Glass Lizard)
Reptile	Terrapene carolina (Eastern Box Turtle)

HATCHIE RIVER COA HABITATS (TN)	
Terrestrial Habitat Type	**Total acres of very high, high, and medium ranked habitat**
Natural habitats	
East Gulf Coastal Plain Small Stream and River Floodplain Forest	85,819
East Gulf Coastal Plain Northern Mesic Hardwood Slope Forest	4,892
East Gulf Coastal Plain Interior Shortleaf Pine-Oak Forest	4,533
East Gulf Coastal Plain Northern Loess Bluff Forest	3,950
Mississippi River Low Floodplain (Bottomland) Forest	3,026
Mississippi River Riparian Forest	1,210
East Gulf Coastal Plain Northern Loess Plain Oak-Hickory Upland	1,085
East Gulf Coastal Plain Northern Dry Upland Hardwood Forest	864
East Gulf Coastal Plain Large River Floodplain Forest	61
South-Central Interior / Upper Coastal Plain Flatwoods	3
Semi-natural habitats	
Cropland	32,109
Old Field / Successional	8,265
Pasture	7,934
Forest Plantation	68
Aquatic Habitat Type	**Total stream miles of very high, high, and medium ranked habitat**
Headwaters and Streams	138
Small River	23
Medium River	107