The following lists identify and explain the criteria that were used to determine and catagorize "species of greatest conservation need".

Global Ranking Criteria

- **G1-** (Critically Imperiled) Critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extinction. Typically 5 or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals.
- **G2** (Imperiled) Imperiled globally because of rarity or because of some factor(s) making it very vulnerable to extinction or elimination.
- G3 (Vulnerable) Vulnerable globally either because very rare and local throughout its range, found only in a restricted range (even if abundant at locations), or because of other factors making it vulnerable to extinction or elimination. Typically 21 to 100 occurrences or between 3,000 and 10.000 individuals.
- **G4** (Apparently Secure) Uncommon but not rare (although it may be rare in parts of its range, particularly on the periphery), and usually widespread. Apparently not vulnerable in most of its range, but possibly cause for long-term concern. Typically more than 100 occurrences and more than 10,000 individuals.
- **G5** (Secure) Common, widespread, and abundant (although it may be rare n parts of its range, particularly on the periphery). Not vulnerable in most of range. Typically with considerably more than 100 occurrences and more than 10,000 individuals.

Con't ... Global ranking Criteria

- **GX** (Presumed Extinct) Believed to be extinct throughout its range.
- **GH** (Possibly Extinct) Known from only historical occurrences, but may nevertheless still be extant.
- **G#G#** (Range Rank) A numeric range rank (e.g. G2G3) is used to indicate uncertainty about the exact status of a taxon.
- **GU** (Unrankable) Currently unrankable due to lack of information
- **G? / GNR** (Unranked) Global rank not yet assessed.
- **HYB** (Hybrid) Element not ranked because it represents an interspecific hybrid and not a species.
- _T# (Infraspecific Taxon) The status of infraspecific taxa (subspecies or varieties) are indicated by a "T-rank" following the species' global rank. Rules for assigning T-ranks follow the same principles for G-ranks.
- ? Denotes inexact numeric rank.
- **_Q** Questionable taxonomy that may reduce conservation priority.
- **C** Captive or cultivated only.

State Ranking Criteria

- \$1 Extremely rare and critically imperiled in the state with five or fewer occurrences, or very few remaining ndividuals, or because of some special condition where the species is particularly vulnerable to extinction.
- **S2** Very rare and imperiled within the state, six to twenty occurrences, or few remaining individuals, or because of some factor(s) making it vulnerable to extinction.
- **S3** Rare and uncommon in the state, from 21 100 occurrences.
- **S4** Widespread, abundant, and apparently secure within the state, but with cause for long-term concern.
- **S5** Demonstrably widespread and secure in the state.
- **SH** Of historical occurrence in Tennessee, e.g. formally part of the established biota, with the expectation that it may be rediscovered.
- **SU** Can not be ranked using available information.
- **SX** Believed to be extirpated from the state.
- **S#S#** Denotes a "range rank" because the rarity of the species is uncertain (e.g. S1S3)

Con't ... State Ranking Criteria

- S? / SNR Unranked at this time.
- **SE** Exotic species established in the state.
- **SE#** Exotic numeric (e.g. the Asian Clam Corbicula fluminea would be SE5).
- **SP** Potentially occurring in Tennessee, but not yet documented by DNH.
- _N Occurs in Tennessee in a non-breeding status (mostly applies to vertebrates).
- B Breeds in Tennessee.
- **SA** Accidental or casual in the state (several birds)
- **SR** Reported from the state, but insufficient data to assign rank.
- **SRF** Reported falsely from the state.
- **HYB** Hybrid within its range in Tennessee.
- **SSYN** Synonym for another species

Federal Status (Endangered Species Act)	State Status (Tennessee's Legal Status)
LE - Listed Endangered	E - Endangered
E/SA - Endangered by Similarity of appearance	T - Threatened
LT - Listed Threatened	D - Deemed in Need of Management
T/SA - Threatened by Similary of appearance	PE - Proposed Endangered
PE - Proposed Endangered	PT - Proposed Threatened
PT - Proposed Threatened	PD - Proposed "Deemed"
C - Candidate Species	1 D -1 Toposed Deemed
MC - Management Concern (note 1: this is an unofficial category)	
(PS) - Partial Status (based on taxonomy)	
(PS:status) - Partial Status (based political boundaries), but for which Tennessee populations are not included in the federal designation	
(status, XN) - Non-essential experimental population in portion of range, and for which certain	

Species of Greatest Conservation Need rational Code

- 1 = Imperiled and endangered species (G1 - G3) or federal status category of LE, E/SA, LT, T/SA, PE, PT, or C; or state status category of E, T, or D.
- 2 = Special concern species due to declining trends, vulnerability due To endemic, disjunct, or peripheral status in ecoregion, or a focal species (i.e. keystone or wide-ranging species)
- **3** = Special consideration species:
- (a) PIF score greater than 21
- (c) Globally significant aggregations of species
- (d) Commonality of targets among other ecoregions
- e) Biodiversity 'hotspots' containing specific species
- (f) Species sharing common ecological processes.
- 4 = Species occurs in state but is not significantly imperiled,endangered, declining or of special management concern
- **5** = Species range and/or habitat does not sufficiently occur in state to warrant target status
- **6** = Species is of uncertain taxonomic status
- **7** = Species is believed to be extinct rangewide
- **8** = Actively managed game species
- **9** = Species is of historic significance but can not currently

Species of Greatest Conservation Need, Tier category

- 1 = Federal and/or state species of concern that are defined as wildlife under Tennessee Code 70-
- 2 = Federal and/or state species of concern NOT defined as wildlife under Tennessee Code
- 3 = Species federally listed as endangered (LE), threatened (LT), or otherwise eligible for other federal funds for recovery or management.