

Species: Spotted Turtle (*Clemmys guttata*)

Global Rank: G5

State Rank: S3

State Wildlife Action Plan: Immediate Concern and Pennsylvania Responsibility Species.

Climate Change Vulnerability: Moderately Vulnerable

Confidence: Low

Habitat (adapted from NatureServe 2010):

Spotted turtles use a variety of wetland habitats with soft bottoms and aquatic vegetation (Hulse et al, 2001). Spotted turtles used mostly unpolluted, small, shallow bodies of water such as small marshes, marshy pastures, bogs, fens, woodland streams, swamps, small ponds, and vernal pools. They may also use brackish tidal streams. Ponds surrounded by relatively undisturbed meadow or undergrowth are most favorable. Spotted turtles often bask along the water's edge, on brush piles in water, and on logs or vegetation clumps. When inactive, they hide in bottom mud and detritus or in muskrat burrows. The species range extends from southern Maine, southern Ontario, lower peninsula of Michigan, and northeastern Illinois, south to central Indiana, central Ohio, and southwestern Pennsylvania, and southward along the U.S. east coast from New England to northern or northcentral Florida.

Threats (adapted from NatureServe 2010):

Primary threats to this species are habitat fragmentation and alteration, livestock grazing, draining and filling of wetlands, road mortality, collecting, artificial manipulation of water levels, and pollution.

Main Factors Contributing to Vulnerability Rank:

Predicted micro sensitivity to changes in temperature: Spotted turtles rely on wetland habitat and show a preference for cooler microsites.

Predicted macro sensitivity to changes in precipitation, hydrology, or moisture regime: Considering the species range within Pennsylvania, the species has experienced a slightly lower than average precipitation variation in the past 50 years.

Reliance on interspecific interactions: When inactive, spotted turtles will use muskrat burrows.

Migration and movements: Spotted turtles are non-migratory (except for small seasonal movements between hibernation and summer habitats).

Literature Cited:

Hulse, A.C., C.J. McCoy, and E. Censky. 2001. Amphibians and reptiles of Pennsylvania and the Northeast. Comstock Publishing Associates. Cornell University Press, Ithaca. 419 pp.

NatureServe. 2010. NatureServe central Databases. Arlington, Virginia. USA.