

Species: Wood Turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*)

Global Rank: G4

State Rank: S3S4

State Wildlife Action Plan: Immediate Concern Species - Responsibility Species.

Climate Change Vulnerability: Not Vulnerable/Presumed Stable

Confidence: Moderate

#### Habitat:

A semi-aquatic species, the wood turtle can be found in a wide variety of terrestrial habitats as long as those habitats are near flowing water (Hulse et al. 2001). These habitats include deciduous forests, cultivated fields, woodland bogs, and marshy pastures (NatureServe 2010). The wood turtle occurs from Nova Scotia westward to eastern Minnesota. In the east, it ranges southward to the mountains of northern Virginia. In the western part of its range, its distribution is spotty to northeastern Iowa (Hulse et al. 2001). In Pennsylvania, the wood turtle is found throughout the state except in the southwestern corner (Hulse et al. 2001).

#### Current Threats:

The primary threats for this species include overcollection/exploitation, habitat destruction/alteration, water pollution, and highway fatalities (Hulse et al. 2001; NatureServe 2010).

#### Main Factors Contributing to Vulnerability Rank:

Although the wood turtle may encounter anthropogenic barriers in portions of its current distribution while trying to shift its range in response to climate change and an increase in the frequency and intensity of flooding of rivers and streams in late winter and early spring could potentially erode turtle hibernacula and expose them to the elements, the CCVI score of not vulnerable/presumed stable indicates that available evidence does not suggest that abundance and/or range extent within Pennsylvania will change substantially by 2050. The species may be less affected by climate change in the near future (2050) due to several life history characteristics such as the ability to physically move to new locations, dietary versatility, and habitat versatility. However, additional stressors that may affect the species are not considered in the CCVI and should also be evaluated when planning conservation related activities.

#### References:

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.