Louisiana Pearlshell  
*Margaritifera hembeli*

Federal Status: Threatened (February 5, 1988; September 24, 1993)  
State Status: Endangered (December 20, 1989)

**Rarity Rank:** S1/G1

**Identification:**
- The shell of this freshwater mussel is oblong with moderately full beaks without obvious sculpture.
- The posterior ridge is low, the anterior end is rounded and the ventral margin is generally straight or slightly curved.
- The shell surface has uneven growth lines and, if sculptured on the posterior end, it is very faint.
- The epidermis is brown to blackish and the nacre is white to purple with numerous pits.
- Adults are about 100 mm (3.9 in) long, 50 mm (2 in) high and 30 mm (1.2 in) wide.

**Habitat:** Small sandy streams within mixed pine hardwood forest.

**Food Habits:**
- Adults are detritivore
- Immatures are parasitic

**Threats:**
- Siltation, pollution, and other factors affecting water quality
- Beaver dams may also constitute a threat by changing the water flow in streams.

**Beneficial Management Practices:**
- Protect from siltation and pollution the streams where the species occurs
- Control beaver population
- Monitor population
- Research to identify life cycle and ecology of the species.

**U. S. Range:** AR, LA

**References:**