

T-12 – “Database for Tracking Rare, Threatened, and Endangered (RTE) Species”

The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program (LNHP) gathers occurrence information for RTE wildlife species. Heritage data is integral in determining the status and state rankings for species of conservation concern, which drives the direction of non-game species research and conservation for the state of Louisiana. The information is stored in easily accessed GIS computer database files known as Biotics, which was developed by the Natural Heritage Network’s parent organization, NatureServe. These data are used daily by the LNHP staff to review construction activities and development projects planned by government and private entities throughout the state. These activities range from small to large-scale projects and threaten Louisiana resources on multiple levels. Residential, commercial, and industrial development and the development of pipelines and roads are just a few activities that repeatedly threaten RTE species and natural habitats across the state. These projects cause habitat destruction, fragmentation, and disturbance which can displace native wildlife species, allow for the invasion of exotic species and can damage soils. These threats to terrestrial habitats have been identified in the *Louisiana Wildlife Action Plan (WAP)* and it is imperative that these threats are reduced and limited as much as possible. Since 2003, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has partially funded the Biotics database via various segments of this grant.

Abstract excerpted from: “*New Segment: Database for Tracking Rare, Threatened, and Endangered (RTE) Species*”. SWG Proposal; 2011; Lorenz; Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; Baton Rouge, LA)