**Species Status Assessment**

*Detailed instructions and examples can be found in the Species Status*

*Assessment Standards and Guidelines on the* *[Recovery Document Guidance](https://naturalheritage.illinois.gov/speciesconservation/recovery/recovery-guidance.html) website*

**Scientific Name:**

**Common Name:**

**Author:**

**Date:**

**SPECIES PHOTO:**

**Species Status Assessment Goal**

A SSA provides a contemporary evaluation of a species’ distribution, abundance, and population structure and viability. It provides baseline information for estimating trends in distribution and abundance. **If data for the required elements of the SSA are not available, please specify the lack of information as appropriate in each section.**

**1. Species Description and Conservation Status**

1. Taxonomic classification.
2. A general description of habitat associations and life history characteristics.
3. Existing national, regional/subnational rank (i.e., G-rank and S-rank), state and federal listing status, and state/regional conservation status (i.e., Illinois Wildlife Action Plan and Midwest Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need List). If the S-rank was reevaluated, include the details of the reevaluation.

 **2.** **Range and Distribution Estimate**

1. A narrative explaining the species’ contemporary estimated range. Provide the finest resolution as possible using a national or global scale.
	1. Range Map
2. A narrative explaining the species’ contemporary estimated distribution/occurrence records. Provide the finest resolution as possible using a state scale. Historic distribution may be included for context.
	1. Distribution/Occurrence Map
3. A narrative detailing any gaps in range and/or distribution knowledge.
4. Additional range and distribution information (optional)
5. E.g., Habitat suitability, occupancy, or distribution modeling; changes in distribution over time.

**3. Abundance Estimate**

1. A count of individuals and density estimate at multiple spatial scales. The scale will be relevant to the data (e.g., locale, EO, watershed, state-wide).
2. A narrative detailing any knowledge gaps in abundance.
3. Additional abundance information (optional)
4. E.g., Model-based, or mathematical estimates of true abundance at multiple spatial scales; changes in abundance over time.

**4. Population Identification and Viability**

1. Narrative explaining EO viability ranking. NatureServe’s Ranking Species Occurrences standards will be used to determine EO Ranking (see the [Recovery Guidance](https://naturalheritage.illinois.gov/speciesconservation/recovery/recovery-guidance.html) webpage for additional guidance).
	1. EO Ranking Map
	2. EO Ranking Table. The table should include: EO Number, EO Name, Last Survey Date, EO Rank, and Justification for the rank. Large tables may be appended.
2. Generally, explain the protection status of EOs (e.g., private property, nature preserves/land and water reserves, INAIs (including relevant qualifying feature), state-owned lands, or conservation lands owned by partner organizations/agencies).
3. Brief explanation of the significance of the populations for Federal recovery or any partner-led initiatives, if applicable.
4. Additional population identification and viability information (optional)
5. E.g., Delineation and count of populations using ecological and behavioral knowledge of the focal species; abundance estimates within each population; genetic analysis; individual tracking; population viability analysis (PVA).

**5. Citations**