Environmental Profile: Miami County, Indiana

Information & County Contacts

Miami County Visitor’s Center:
(765) 472-1923

Miami County Soil & Water Conservation District:
(765) 473-6753 ext. 3

Endangered Species:

Blanding’s Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*)

The Blanding’s turtle hibernates completely underwater from late October or early November until the early spring. The cold-blooded reptile only needs to burrow itself in cold, muddy bottoms to stay warm. Its metabolism also slows so little oxygen is needed and it doesn't have to search for food. Unlike most turtles, the Blanding's is quite happy in the cold water; on occasion it is seen slowly swimming underneath the ice in areas where they winter - like the Great Lakes.

Blanding's turtle is also vulnerable because they tend to reproduce late in life. Females become sexually mature around eighteen years old while males mature around twelve. Hatchlings also have a low survival rates due to the appetites of nearby raccoons, foxes and skunks. If the hatchling can become an adult and survive within its habitat, the Blanding's turtle can live as long as 70+ years!¹

¹ [http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/indiana/journeywithnature/blandings-turtles.xml](http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/indiana/journeywithnature/blandings-turtles.xml)
Greater Redhorse (*Moxostoma valenciennesi*)

The largest of the redhorse (*Moxostoma*) species, the greater redhorse (*Moxostoma valenciennesi*) is a large, stout freshwater fish with a dark brown to copper back, yellowish sides and a whitish belly. The scales on the back and sides have a dark spot at their base. The greater redhorse’s tail fin is red, and the other fins are yellow to orange or reddish.

Like other fish in the Cyprinidae family, the greater redhorse does not have teeth in its jaws, instead processing food using specialized bones in the throat. Known as ‘pharyngeal teeth’, these are thin and bladelike in this species.

The greater redhorse is listed as a ‘Species of Concern’ by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. There have been few specific conservation measures targeted at this species, but it is likely to have benefitted from general improvements in water quality and from efforts to restore stream habitats and riverside vegetation, as well as to improve fish passage at dams.²