

Big Sandy Crayfish Guidelines

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Distribution of the Federally Threatened Big Sandy Crayfish (*Cambarus callainus*) in West Virginia

This crayfish occupies fast flowing streams and rivers, and, as tertiary burrowers, take shelter beneath large boulders. Habitat degradation has contributed to increased sedimentation in the streams on which these species depend. Since these species occur in isolated, small populations, they are more vulnerable to extirpation.

COUNTIES AND STREAMS KNOWN TO SUPPORT THIS SPECIES:

Wayne County: Tug Fork and its tributary Marrowbone Creek

Mingo County: Tug Fork and its tributaries: Marrowbone Creek, Pigeon Creek and its tributary Rockhouse Fork, Laurel Fork, Buffalo Creek, Mate Creek, Grapevine Creek

McDowell County: Tug Fork and its tributaries: Panther Creek; Dry Fork and its tributaries Barrenshe Creek, Jacobs Fork, and Bradshaw Creek and its tributary Hite Fork; Clear Fork; Spice Creek; Elkhorn Creek; Little Indian Creek; South Fork

Mercer County: Elkhorn Creek

Based on your IPaC output, one of the following will be true for your project. Please follow the recommendations below for the option that your IPaC output indicates.

IF YOUR PROJECT IS WITHIN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO A STREAM KNOWN TO SUPPORT THIS SPECIES:

The aquatic habitats listed above represent the most current information on the known and potential distribution of the federally listed species described above. Once the consultation process is completed, and prior to conducting any project-related activities including those that could result in adverse impacts to the aquatic habitats listed above, including within tributaries streams that could affect the habitats listed above (e.g., projects that involve the placement of rock or other fill material into or adjacent to these habitats, the withdrawal or diversion of water, projects that involve crossing or boring beneath waterways, projects that could introduce sediment or toxic chemicals into waterways, or which could alter water temperature, streamside vegetation, etc.), please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, West Virginia Field Office for more coordination and to conduct a more detailed project-specific review.

IF YOUR PROJECT IS WITHIN A WATERSHED KNOWN TO SUPPORT THIS SPECIES:

The aquatic habitats listed above represent the most current information on the known and potential distribution of the federally listed species described above.

If your proposed project is of a small scale (e.g., culvert replacement, work within an existing right-of-way or otherwise previously developed area, streambank stabilization, etc.) and requires: minimal to no earth disturbance, no discharges into waterways, will not increase sedimentation or erosion, does not increase runoff into waterways, and will not divert or alter flows in waterways or create any impoundments, then no adverse effects to this species are anticipated as a result of the project.

However, if your project does not meet these criteria and/or involves work that may have larger-scale or ongoing effects (e.g., new pipeline, road, or transmission corridors, hydropower, dams, new housing development, coal mining, mineral or oil/gas extraction, etc.) that could result in adverse impacts to the aquatic habitats listed below including their tributaries (e.g., projects that involve the placement of rock or other fill material into or adjacent to these habitats, the withdrawal or diversion of water, projects that involve crossing or boring beneath waterways, projects that could introduce sediment or toxic chemicals into waterways, or which could alter water temperature, streamside vegetation, etc.), please contact the WVFO for more coordination and to conduct a more detailed project-specific review. Additionally, if you are uncertain if your project is larger-scale or will have ongoing effects to the species or its habitat, please contact the WVFO for further coordination.