Freshwater Mussel Monitoring Assistance on the Conecuh Ranger District, Alabama, 2019

United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service
Southern Research Station
Center for Aquatic Technology Transfer
1710 Research Center Drive
Blacksburg, VA 24060-6349

C. Andrew Dolloff, Team Leader

Summary prepared by:
Colin Krause and Craig Roghair

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USDA Forest Service
Southern Research Station
Center for Aquatic Technology Transfer
1710 Research Center Dr.
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Project Type
Freshwater mussel monitoring.

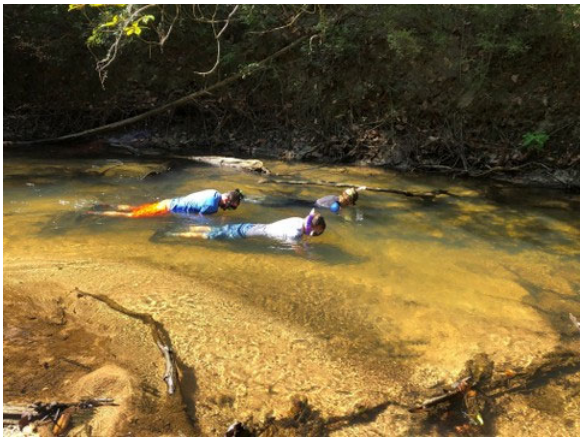
Goal
Update distribution of mussel species in rivers and streams on Conecuh Ranger District.

Objective
Assess the distribution and relative abundance of mussels in Five Runs River in summer 2019.

Approach
National Forests in Alabama identifies data gaps in mussel dataset. CATT provides field team to assist Forest staff with mussel surveys.

Accomplishments
Completed mussel inventories on a 6 mile reach of Five Runs River.

Partners and Contacts
Forest Service Contact: John Moran, Forest Fishery Biologist.


Snorkeling to search for mussels

Mussels are identified and measured

Project Summary
The southeastern U.S. is home to the highest diversity of freshwater mussels on the entire planet, but many species are rare or imperiled. In areas with active land management a clear understanding of the distribution and relative abundance of mussel species is imperative for avoiding adverse impacts to remaining populations. In 2019, the National Forests in Alabama partnered with CATT to complete a qualitative assessment of mussel distribution and abundance in Five Runs River on the Conecuh Ranger District. The results will be used to fill data gaps and update aquatic resource information needed for forest- and project-level analyses.