

USACE Natural Resource Management Fish



Cherokee, Niangua, Candy, Yellowcreek, Etowah, & Diamond Darters

Cherokee Darter (*Etheostoma scotti*): Adults range in size from 1.5-2.5 inches. The body is elongate and slightly compressed with a blunt snout. Adults usually have 8 small dark blotches on their side which develop into oblique bars in breeding adults. Back has 8 small, dark saddles. (USFWS)

Status: Threatened, listed 1994

NatureServe: Imperiled

G2

Imperiled

Niangua Darter (*Etheostoma nianguae*): This is a long, slender darter. It has a long head which tapers into a slim, pointed snout. The species base color is a yellow-olive. There are 8 saddle bars along the back and orange spots on the upper sides. Breeding males are more vibrant. (USFWS)

Status: Threatened, listed 1985

NatureServe: Imperiled

G2

Imperiled

Candy Darter (*Etheostoma osburni*): This darter ranges in size from 2.2-3.4 inches. The species can be identified by 5 distinctive black saddles on its back and 9 to 11 vertical blue-green bars alternating with narrow red-orange bars along its sides. (USFWS)

Status: Endangered, listed 2018

NatureServe: Vulnerable

G3

Vulnerable

Yellowcheek Darter (*Etheostoma moorei*): Species grows to a maximum of 2.5 inches. The back and sides are gray-brown and often have darker brown saddles and lateral bars. Breeding males have a bright blue throat and breast as well as a light green belly. (USFWS)

Status: Endangered, listed 2011

NatureServe: Critically Imperiled

G1

Critically Imperiled

Etowah Darter (*Etheostoma etowahae*): This species ranges from 1.6-2.2 inches. The body is moderately laterally compressed and brown to gray-olive in color. The side is often pigmented with 13-14 dark blotches just beneath the lateral line. (USFWS)

Status: Endangered, listed 1994

NatureServe: Critically Imperiled

G1

Critically Imperiled

Diamond Darter (*Crystallaria cincotta*): This species is smaller and more slender than most darter species. Translucent, silvery sides and a white belly. 4 wide, olive colored saddles. (USFWS)

Status: Endangered, listed 2013

NatureServe: Critically Imperiled

G1

Critically Imperiled

Order: The order Perciformes contains 150 families and 6,000 unique species of fish. Perciform are bony fish. While the order contains both freshwater and marine species, the majority of species are marine fishes often found in coastal areas of tropical and temperate regions. (Encyclopedia Britannica)

Photos, Top, Left to Right: Cherokee Darter (USFWS), Niangua Darter (USFWS), & Candy Darter (USFWS)



Photo: USFWS



Photo: Georgia DNR



Photo: USGS



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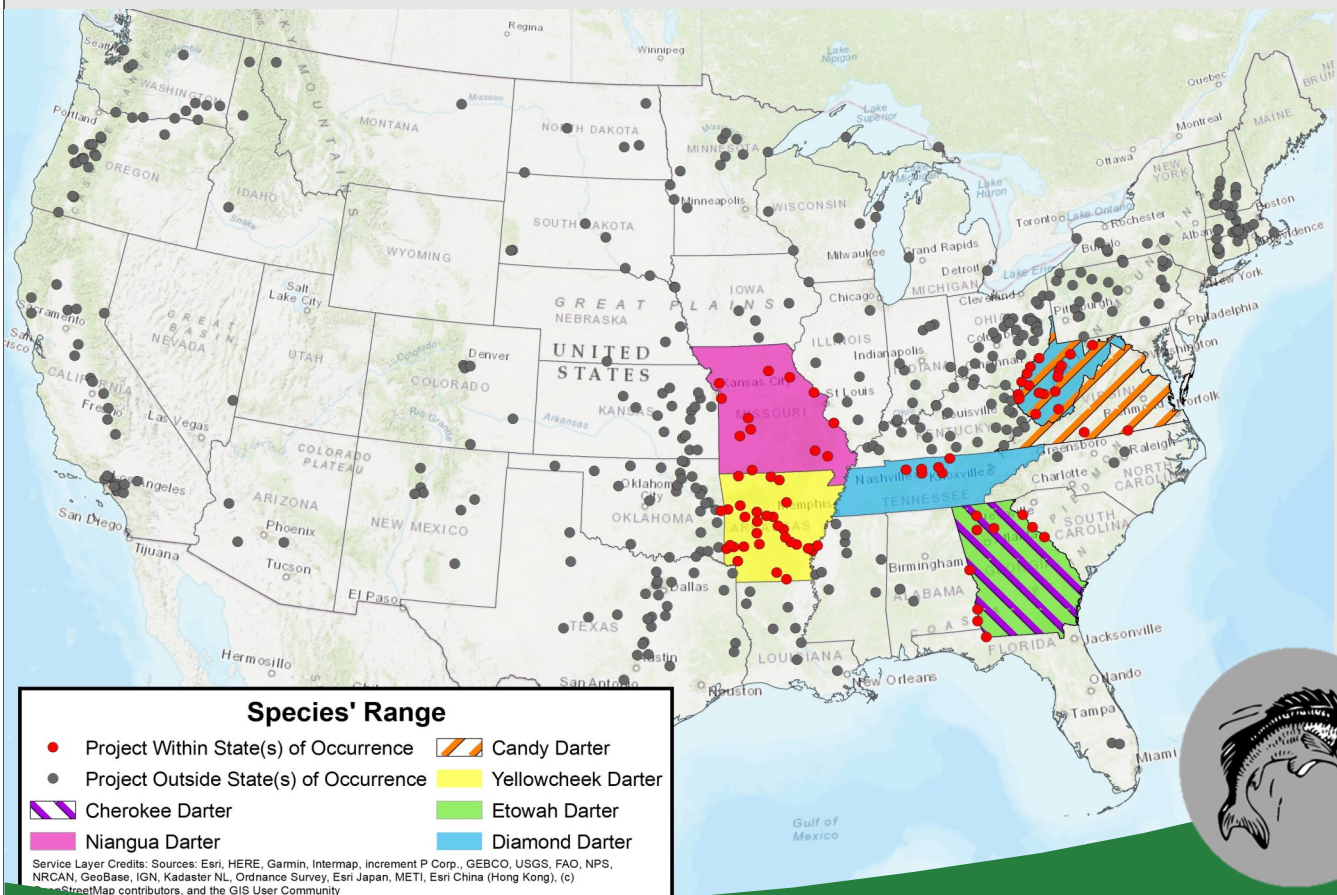
USACE ROLE: According to the Engineering Research and Development Center's Threatened and Endangered Species Team Cost Estimates, the USACE has expended over \$42 million dollars on efforts related to the Cherokee, Niangua, Yellowcheek, Etowah, and Diamond Darter. The candy darter is not currently tracked in the database. These funds have been expended by multiple business lines including Environmental Stewardship, Flood Risk Management, Recreation, Regulatory, and more. Expense types include Site Visits and Inspections, Research, Inventory, Survey, and Monitoring efforts, and more.

-  Cherokee Darter= \$97,634 (2005)
-  Niangua Darter= \$41,847,780 (2005)
-  Yellowcheek Darter= \$48,139 (2005)
-  Etowah Darter= \$21,686 (2006)
-  Diamond Darter= \$12,681 (2014)

In the 2020 Natural Resource Management Assessment...

- The Cherokee darter and Etowah darter were listed by two projects in Mobile District. Allatoona Lake was noted to have common occurrences of the Cherokee darter and occasional occurrences of the Etowah darter while Lake Sidney Lanier was thought to have the potential for the both species to occur.
- The Niangua darter was listed by two projects within Kansas City District. Harry S. Truman Dam and Reservoir and Stockton Lake both have the potential for this darter to occur.
- The candy darter was listed as having occasional occurrences at Bluestone Lake of Huntingdon district.
- The yellowcheek darter has the potential to occur at Greers Ferry Lake.
- The diamond darter was noted to have the potential to occur at Barkley Dam and Lake Barkley project as well as the Cordell Hull Dam and Reservoir project. Both projects are located within Nashville District.

This fact sheet has been prepared as an unofficial publication of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). This online publication is produced to provide its readers information about best management practices related to special status species. Editorial views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Mention of specific vendors does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army or any element thereof.



Source: Map provided by Ashleigh Boss, ORISE Fellowship, Institute for Water Resources



Fish