

USACE Natural Resource Management Freshwater Mussels



Dromedary Pearlymussel

Dromedary Pearlymussel (*Dromus dromas*): This is a medium-sized species which ranges in shape from rounded to subtriangular or subelliptical. The valves are generally solid and inflated. Big river specimens of this mussel have a distinct hump near the umbo. The outer shell is generally a yellowish-green color with broken rays.

Status: Endangered, listed 1989

NatureServe: Critically Imperiled



Genus: *Dromus* is a monotypic genus which is closely related to the genus *Elliptio*. It is part of the family *Unionidae*.
(NatureServe)

Range: This species is restricted to the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers from the headwater tributary streams downstream as far as Muscle Shoals in northern Alabama.
(USFWS)

Photos Left to Right:
Mussel specimen (USFWS), Demersal conglutinate of the dromedary pearlymussel (USFWS), & Darters swim past a dromedary pearlymussel (USFWS)



Photo: NatureServe map of species' status by state.

Management and Protection: According to USFWS's 2020 Five-Year Review of the dromedary pearlymussel:

- There are two viable populations of this mussel. One in the Clinch River from the backwaters of Norris Reservoir upstream to approximately CRM 226 and another in the Powell River from the backwaters of Norris Reservoir upstream to approximately PRM 130.
- The primary reasons for the species' decline includes impoundments, habitat loss and water quality deterioration, industrial and municipal pollution, acid mine drainage, and siltation resulting from mining, agriculture, and construction activities. These threats remain.
 - At the time of listing, little was known about this mussel's life history. Since listing, information on species' reproduction, demography, and propagation has been researched and reported.



USACE ROLE: According to the Engineering Research and Development Center's Threatened and Endangered Species Team Cost Estimates, the USACE has expended over \$93,000 on efforts related to the dromedary pearlymussel. These funds have been expended by several USACE business lines including Environmental Stewardship, Flood Risk Management, Hydropower, Navigation, Recreation, Regulatory, and Water Supply. Expense types have included Coordination and Determination, Site visits and Inspections, and Inventory, Survey, and Monitoring.



Dromedary Pearlymussel = \$93,451 (2005)

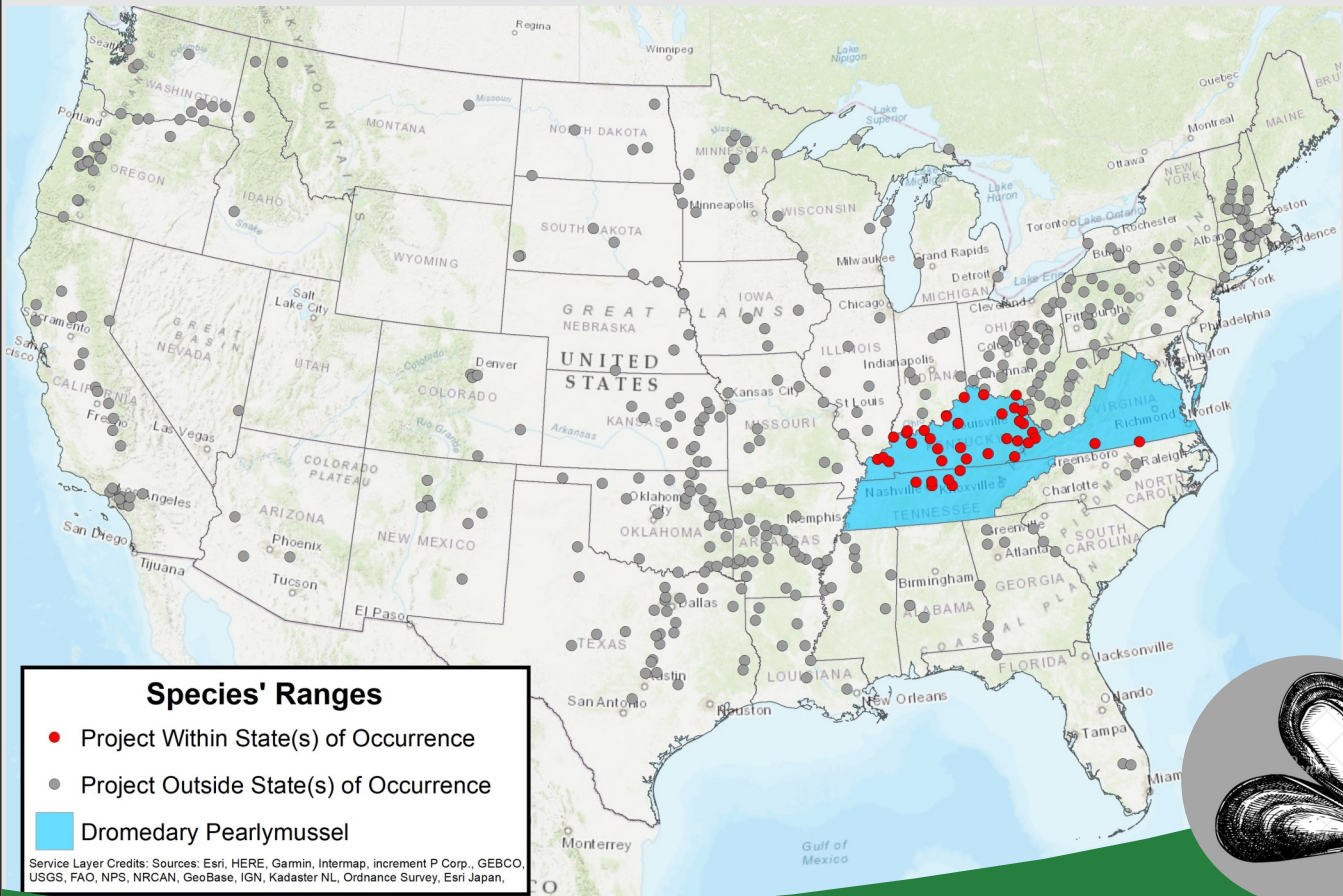
According to the 2019 NRM Assessment, the dromedary mussel only has the potential to occur with in the Nashville District of the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. A single project, Old Hickory Lock and Dam, is listed as having the potential for the dromedary mussel to occur.

Across the species' range the USACE works closely with the appropriate natural resources agencies to ensure that no current or proposed work negatively impacts the dromedary mussel, its habitat, or other listed species.



Photo: Old Hickory Lock and Dam of Nashville District has the potential for the dromedary mussel to occur according to the 2019 NRM Assessment.

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
Freshwater Mussels

