

USACE Natural Resource Management

Freshwater Mussels



Texas Fawnsfoot

Texas Fawnsfoot (*Truncilla macrodon*): This is a small species that can grow as large as 2.4 inches in length, but is typically much smaller. The shell is relatively thin. The external coloration ranges from yellowish or orangish-tan, brown, red brown, or green with a pattern of broken rays or irregular blotches. (USFWS)

Status: Candidate, listed 2011

NatureServe: Critically Imperiled



Genus: *Truncilla* is a small genus of freshwater mussels in the family *Unionidae*. The genus was first described by Rafinesque in 1819 and currently has four recognized species. (ITIS.gov)

Range: This species is endemic to Texas and occupies a small geographic range within the state. (NatureServe) The species is found in the Brazos and Colorado Rivers of central Texas. (USFWS)

Photos Left to Right: Outer Shell (Texas A&M), Shell in Hand (USFWS), & Inner Shell (TPWD)



Photo: NatureServe map of species' status by state.

Management and Protection:

- This mussel has been extirpated from nearly 85% of its historic range and only 2-3 viable populations remain. (NatureServe)
- Little is known about habitat requirements for this species. Since 1980, few specimens have been found alive or recently dead. (NatureServe)
- Since live specimens have not been found in many years, little information is available regarding habitat preferences. (USFWS)
- The Texas fawnsfoot has been eliminated from nearly the entire Colorado River system. (USFWS)
 - In the Brazos River, the Texas fawnsfoot persists in the mainstem Brazos, Clear Fork Brazos River, Navasota River, and possibly Deer Creek. (USFWS)



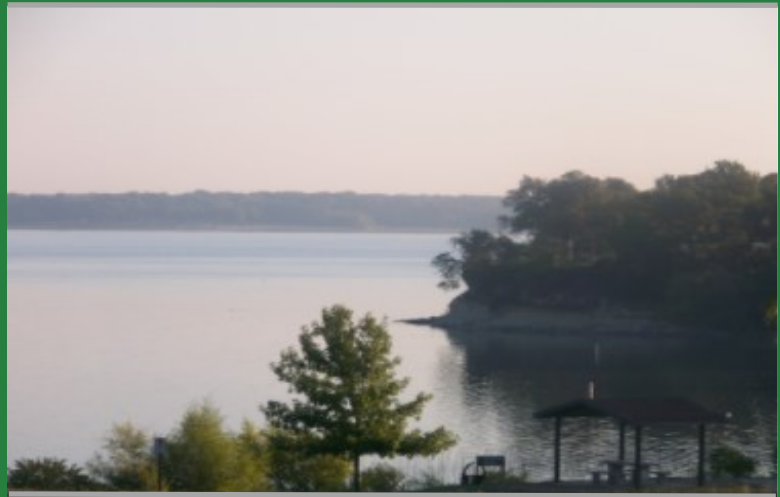


Photo: Proctor Lake has the potential for this species to occur.

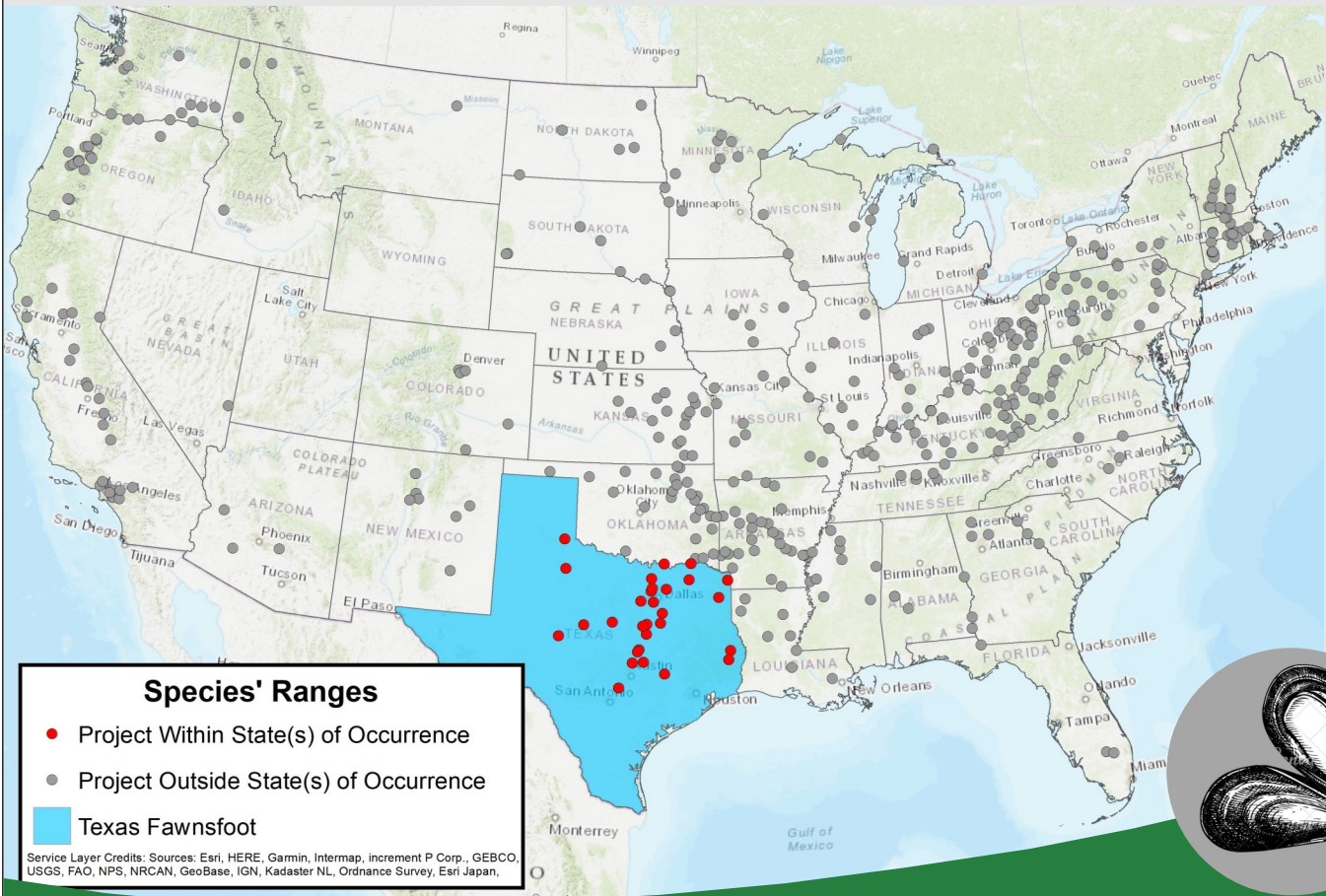
USACE ROLE: Because the Texas fawnsfoot is not yet a listed species under the Endangered Species Act, it is not tracked in the Engineering Research and Development Center's Threatened and Endangered Species Team Cost Estimates. Across the nation the USACE works closely with natural resource agencies to ensure that current and proposed work has as little negative impacts to species, their habitat, or the ecosystem as possible while achieving mission goals.

With such a small range contained entirely within Texas, the Texas Fawnsfoot occurs only within the Southwest Division. In the 2019 NRM Assessment, the Texas fawnsfoot was listed by three projects within the Forth Worth District. Hords Creek Lake and Proctor Lake are both listed as having the potential for the Texas fawnsfoot to occur at the project. Navarro Mills Lake is listed as having rare occurrences of the Texas fawnsfoot.

Photo: Image of Navarro Mills Lake. This project has rare occurrences of the Texas fawnsfoot.



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
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