

Permitting Update in Potential Rough Hornsnail Habitat

on Lake Mitchell & Lay Lake

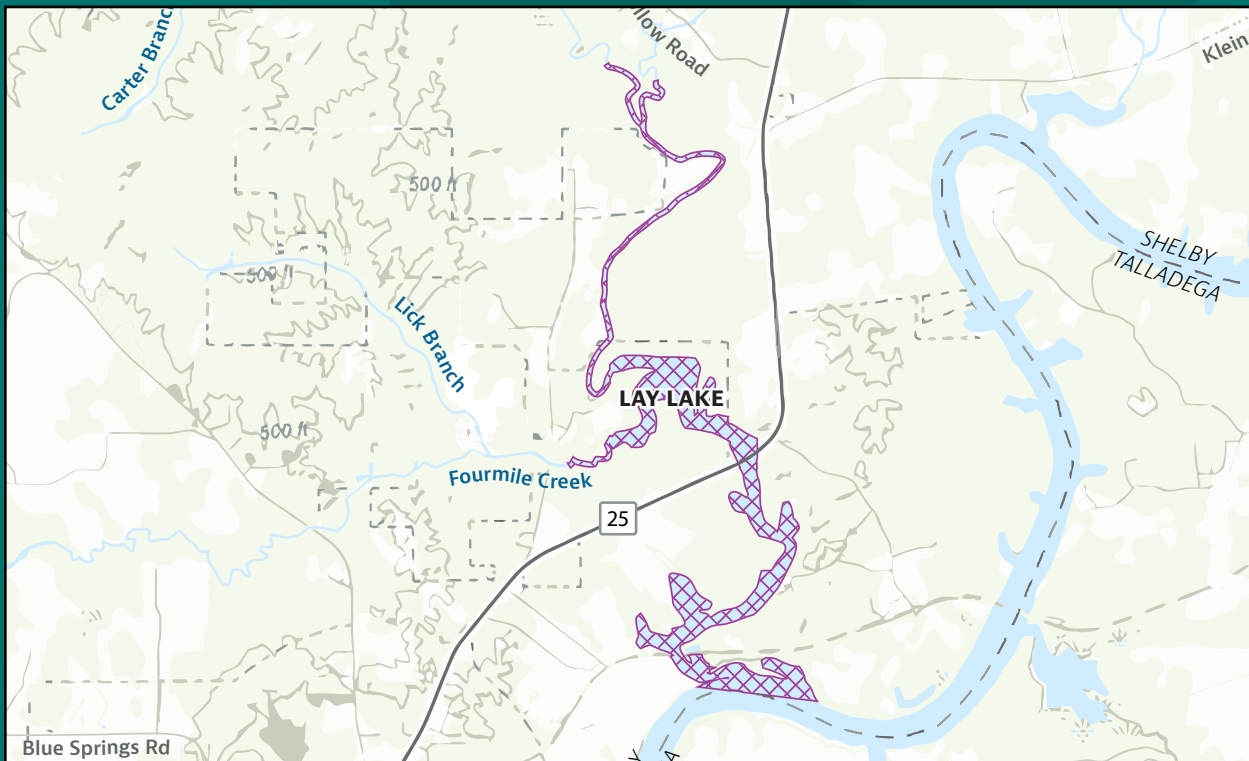
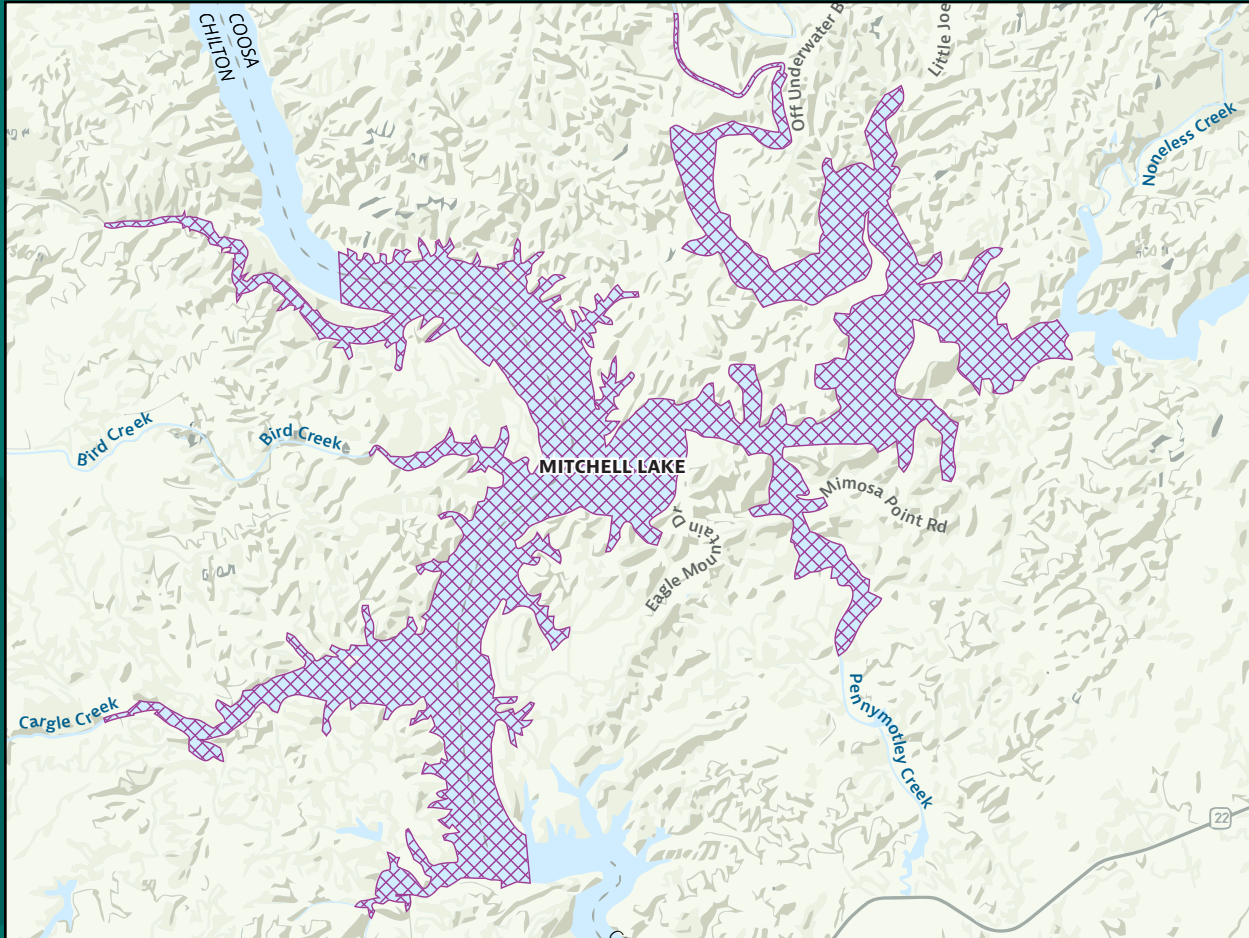


The rough hornsnail (*Pleurocera foremani*) (RHS) is a species of snail that is federally listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). It was identified by federal authorities during the relicensing of the Coosa River Hydroelectric Project and is located along certain stretches of the Coosa River and its tributaries. Specifically, the species is found in the upper reaches of Lay Lake and significant portions of Lake Mitchell. In 2016, Alabama Power Company (APC) and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) came to an agreement on measures that must be taken to protect the snail. These measures apply to certain lakeshore activities such as dredging; construction of sea walls; installation of rip rap; and construction and maintenance of piers, boathouses, and boat ramps where they pose a risk to the snail and/or its habitat. These protective measures allow shoreline projects to take place while minimizing impacts to the RHS. As part of the agreement with USFWS, surveys for additional populations of the snail took place during the drawdown in 2018. While no new areas have been identified on Lay Lake, additional shoreline of Lake Mitchell now falls within the sensitive area for lakeshore activities potentially impacting the RHS.

What does this mean? The sensitive area of Lay Lake has not changed. However, additional shoreline on Lake Mitchell has been designated as sensitive and subject to the measures that are protective of the RHS. If it is determined that the proposed activity could impact the RHS or its habitat, the applicant will be required to conduct a survey & relocation of the RHS by a qualified contractor prior to beginning any project work. Applicants can expect a lengthier process for permit approval and additional expense for the survey and relocation. No permits will be issued by APC's Shoreline Management in sensitive areas on Lake Mitchell or Lay Lake for activities potentially impacting the RHS without the appropriate review and USACE authorization. If the applicant decides to proceed without a permit, the shoreline office will not issue an after-the-fact permit. Potential violations could be subject to the laws and regulations of the ESA fines and penalties section. When applying for a Lakeshore Use Permit, following the guidance provided by APC's Shoreline Management will help to expedite the permitting of shoreline structures and activities.

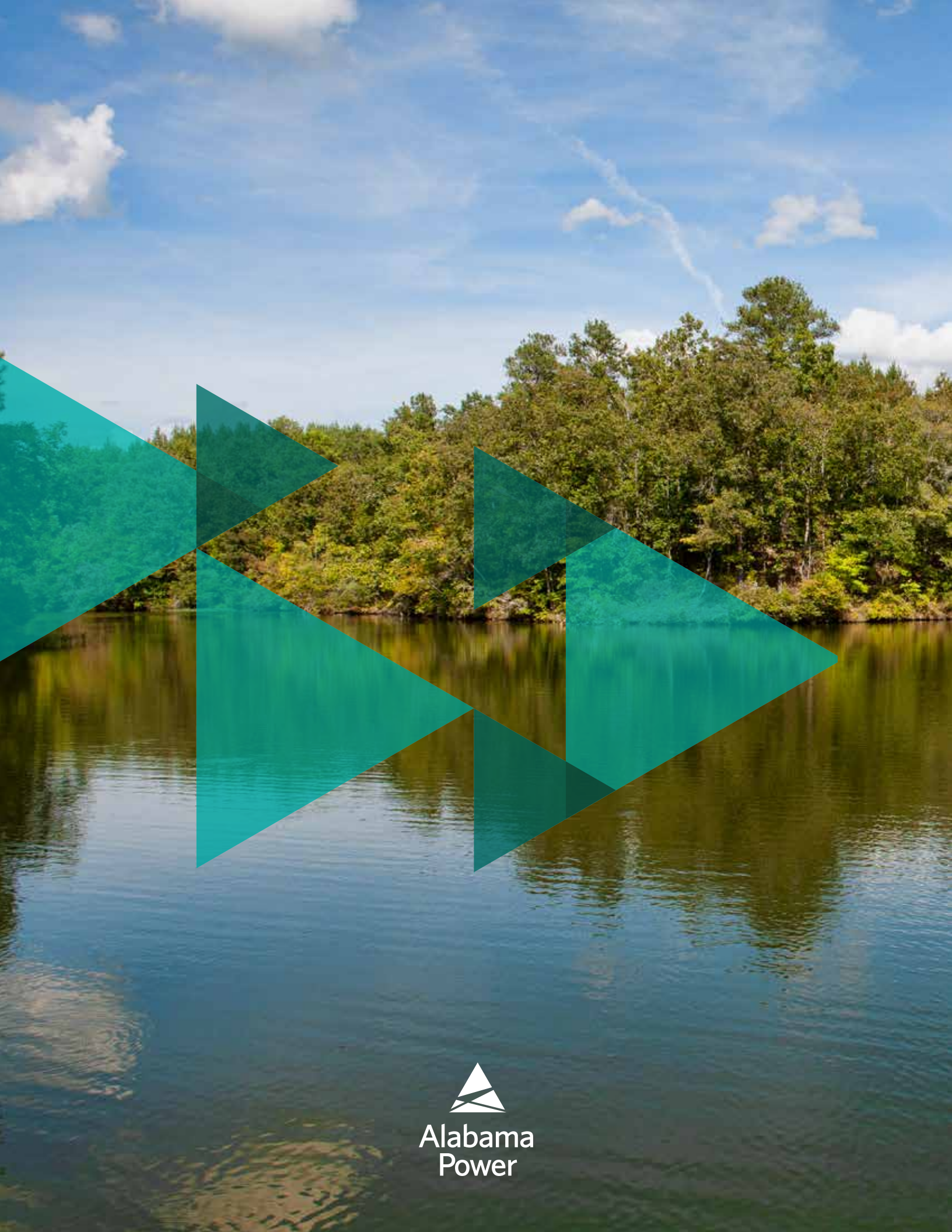
If you have any questions, please contact APC's Shoreline Management office at 205-755-4420.





 – rough hornsnail habitat*

*This map is intended to be used as guidance only. Individual populations may be located outside of these areas, and individual properties will be evaluated when permit applications are received.



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