

OKLAHOMA SPECIES PETITIONED FOR ESA LISTINGS:

OVERVIEW



ESA-PETITIONED SPECIES: BACKGROUND

- 1200 species nationwide have been petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act
- Coined “Mega” Petitions, including:
 - Southeast Petition (404 species) filed by Center for Biological Diversity
 - Southwest Petition (475 species) filed by WildEarth Guardians in 2007
 - Multi-species Reptile/Amphibian Petition (53 species) filed by Center for Biological Diversity in 2012

ESA-PETITIONED SPECIES: BACKGROUND

Also, some species have had their own petitions, including:

- Regal Fritillary (Butterfly)
- Prairie Chub (Fish)
- Monarch Butterfly
- American Eel



MULTI-DISTRICT LITIGATION (MDL)

- The multi-year listing work plan developed through an agreement between USFWS and WildEarth Guardians and Center for Biological Diversity in 2011.
- USFWS agreed to further listing action by certain deadlines for over 250 species.
- Included several species that had been “in limbo” for several years, including federal Candidates, those awaiting 90-day and 12-month findings, etc.

MDL

- Oklahoma species included in the MDL settlement:
 - Rabbitsfoot and Neosho Mucket Mussels, final rule and critical habitat designation (Finalized in April 2015)
 - Sprague's Pipit (Candidate since 2010) – USFWS to take further action by Fall 2015
 - Arkansas Darter (Candidate since 1991) – USFWS to take further action by Fall 2016



POST-MDL: ESA-PETITIONED SPECIES

- MDL Settlement addresses species through 2016, however a suite of other petitioned species have been “ear-marked” for 2017 and beyond
- We currently do not have a timetable for this group; USFWS Regions 2 and 6 are currently developing a listing workplan with input from the state wildlife agencies.
 - Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies ESA-Petitioned Species Workshop

OKLAHOMA'S COMPREHENSIVE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION STRATEGY AND STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS

- The primary funding source that states have for addressing federally petitioned species is the **State Wildlife Grants (SWG)** program.
- This program provides funding to approved state wildlife agencies on a 65:35 cost-share basis for the conservation of “**species of greatest conservation need**” in accordance to an approved comprehensive wildlife conservation plan.

CWCS AND STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS

- ODWC developed the Oklahoma CWCS in 2004-2005 and we are currently in the process of revising and updating the plan.
- With the exception of the American Eel, Monarch Butterfly and Gray Fox, all of the of the other species that have been petitioned for federal listings within the past 10 years are identified as **species of greatest conservation need** in Oklahoma's plan. Therefore, ODWC has been able to direct **State Wildlife Grants (SWG)** funding to most of these species in recent years.

CWCS AND STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS

- We are optimistic that we can preclude the need to list many of the petitioned animal species through proactive management and data collection.
- SWG funding cannot be used toward plant conservation because plants are not a public trust except for on public lands.
- SWG is not part of the programmatic budget for any federal agency. Congress has established it as a line item addition to the USFWS budget and it is subject to the annual budget negotiation process.
- While ESA (Section 6) funding has not been cut in the past six years, SWG funding has been reduced during five of the past six years.

OKLAHOMA PETITIONED SPECIES UNDER USFWS REVIEW

- **Oklahoma has 29 species (25 animals and 4 plants) that are awaiting various listing actions, including:**
 - **90-day findings**
 - **12-month findings**
- **Only sparse biological and distributional information exists for several of the species, some may no longer occur in the state:**
 - **May be based on a handful of historical records**
 - **May have been misidentified, or**
 - **May have occurred in Oklahoma historically, but have been extirpated.**

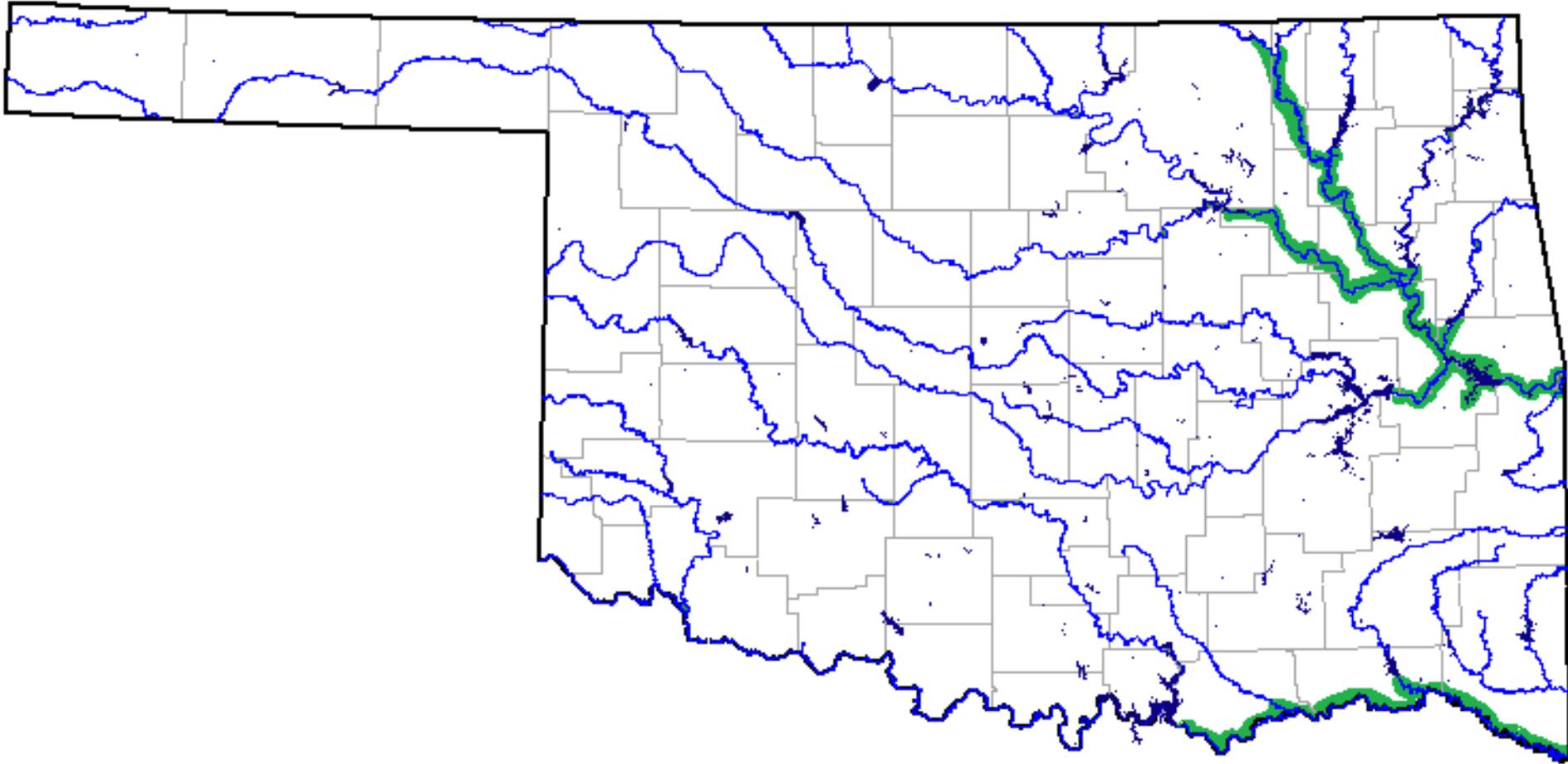
AMERICAN EEL

(*ANGUILA ROSTRATA*)

- Awaiting 12-month finding, due by September 30, 2015
- Occurs sporadically and in low numbers throughout Arkansas River drainage in eastern Oklahoma



AMERICAN EEL RANGE



PLAINS SPOTTED SKUNK

(*SPILOGALE PUTORIUS INTERRUPTA*)

- Awaiting 12-month finding, but no deadline set (FY 2017 and beyond)
- Historically occurred in Oklahoma nearly statewide except for Northwest Oklahoma and most of panhandle.
- Little is known of current population status within Oklahoma
 - Classified as a Furbearer with a closed season since 1992



TEXAS KANGAROO RAT

(*DIPODOMYS ELATOR*)

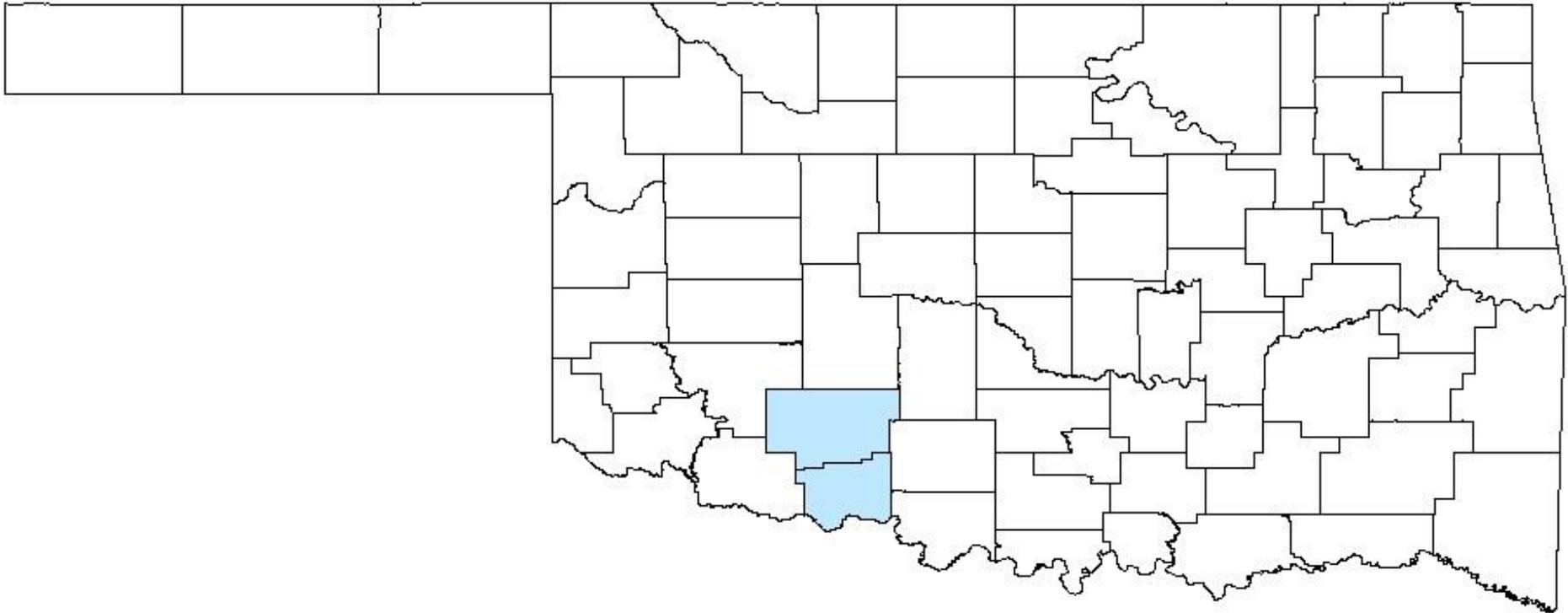
- Awaiting 12-month finding, but no deadline set (FY 2017 and beyond)
- Majority of range lies in Texas; Only 3 Oklahoma Records documented since 1905 in Comanche and Cotton Counties.
- May be extirpated in Oklahoma



TEXAS KANGAROO RAT: ODWC EFFORTS

- ODWC currently funding State Wildlife Grant project with University of Oklahoma involving comprehensive survey efforts over 7 counties in Southwest Oklahoma that are adjacent to the specie's range in Texas.

TEXAS KANGAROO RAT RANGE



PRAIRIE GRAY FOX

(*UROCYON CINEREOARGENTEUS OCYTHOUS*)

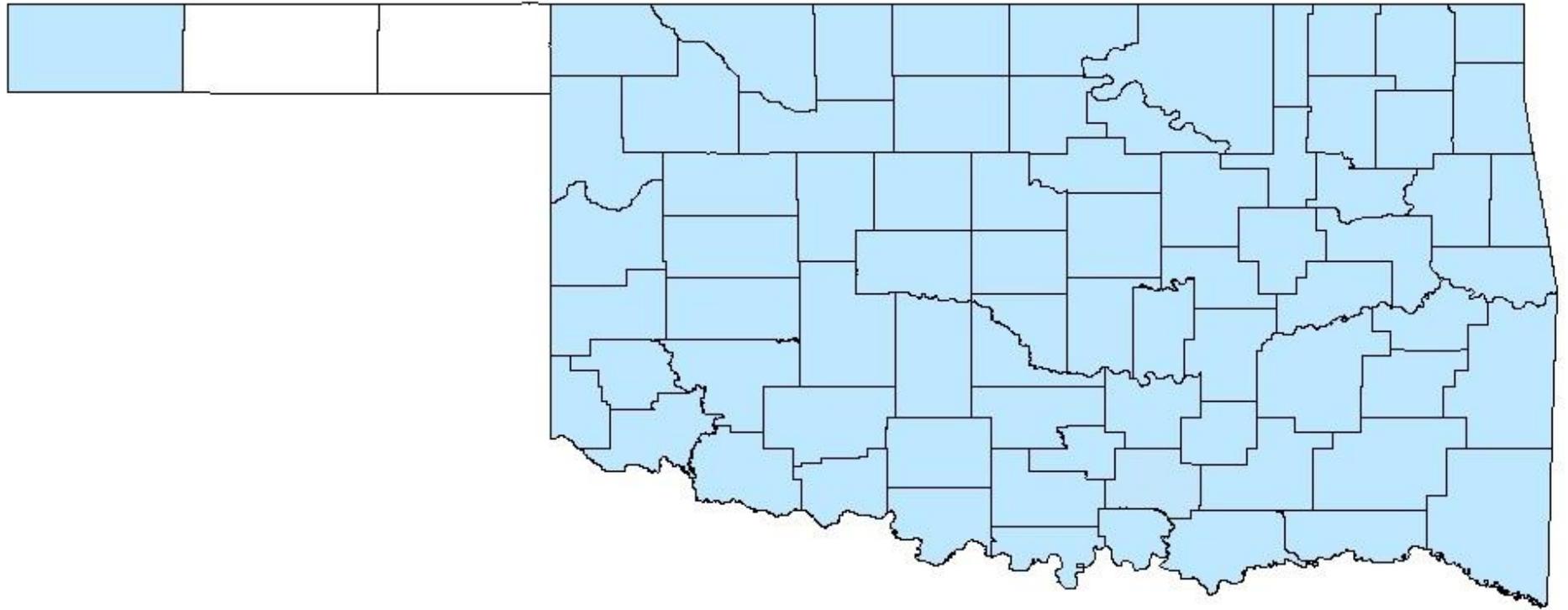
- Awaiting 12 month finding (FY 2017 and beyond)
- Occurs in Oklahoma statewide.
- Validity of subspecies may be in question.



PRAIRIE GRAY FOX: ODWC EFFORTS

- ODWC gathers annual records from furbearer harvest.
- ODWC personnel in the field conduct an annual roadside furbearer survey; both live animals seen and carcasses are documented. Provides limited trend data.

PRAIRIE GRAY FOX RANGE



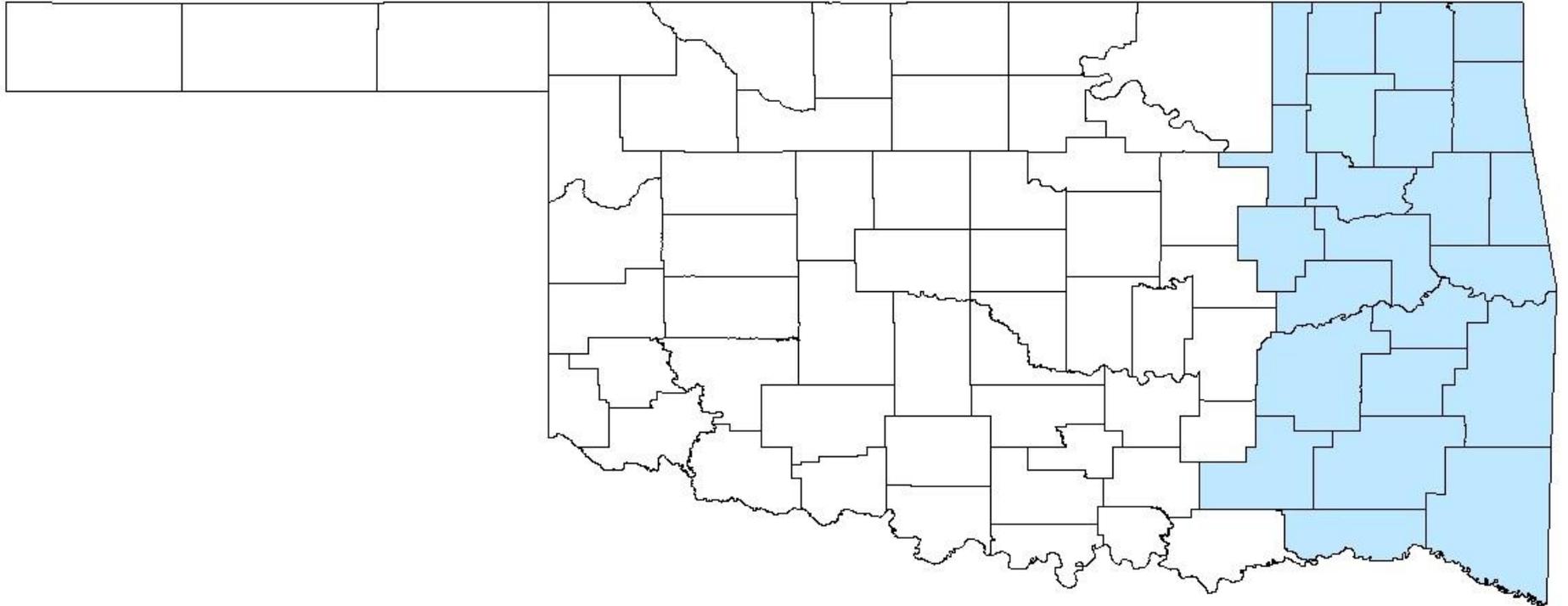
GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER

(*VERMIVORA CHRYSOPTERA*)



- Awaiting 12 month finding (FY 2017 and beyond)
- Very rare migrant across eastern 1/3 of state during spring/fall migration; Breeds in Great Lakes/Appalachian Mountain Regions
- Scattered reports typically submitted by recreational bird watchers

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER RANGE



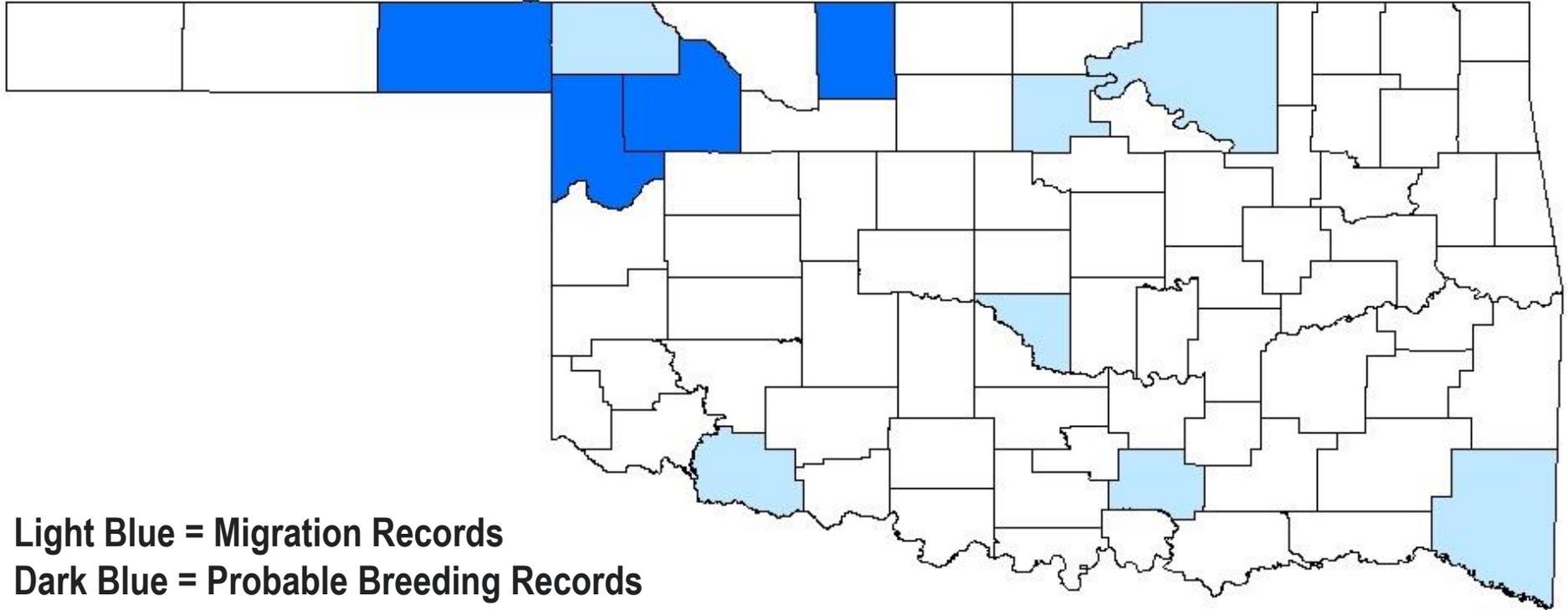
BLACK RAIL

(LATERALLUS JAMAICENSIS)

- Awaiting 12 month finding (FY2017 and beyond)
- A rare and secretive bird that inhabits wetlands; Likely only occurs in Oklahoma during migration
- Very little known about the biology of Black Rails in Oklahoma; only 1 breeding record within state. During wet years, may breed in Northwest Oklahoma. (Harper, Beaver, Alfalfa Counties)



BLACK RAIL RANGE



OKLAHOMA SALAMANDER

(*EURYECEA TYNERENSIS*)

- Awaiting 12-month finding (FY2017 and beyond)
- Primary habitat is clear, rocky-bottom streams in hardwood forest



OKLAHOMA SALAMANDER: ODWC EFFORTS

- ODWC is currently conducting an inventory of nongame wildlife on Cookson Wildlife Management Area and we have found well over 100 individuals
- ODWC currently funding State Wildlife Grant examining distribution of the Oklahoma Salamander in the Ozark Region of the state
 - This project has more than doubled the known sites at which this species has been documented (more than 80 sites); occurs in nearly every stream watershed in Oklahoma Ozarks

OKLAHOMA SALAMANDER RANGE



WESTERN CHICKEN TURTLE

(*DEIROCHELYS RETICULARIA MIARIA*)

- Awaiting 12-month finding (FY 2017 and beyond)
- Often found in seasonal ponds and wetlands
- Small aquatic turtle that is most active during early spring; often goes dormant during heat of summer.
- Primarily a vegetarian species; more difficult to trap than most other aquatic turtles.



WESTERN CHICKEN TURTLE: ODWC EFFORTS

- ODWC currently funding State Wildlife Grant conducting surveys in Muddy Boggy River watershed to determine distribution and abundance.
- ODWC funded SWG project which focused on Boehler Seeps and Sandhills Preserve (owned by TNC) to monitor and assess the size of the local Western Chicken Turtle population in response to habitat restoration.

LINDA'S ROADSIDE-SKIPPER

(*AMBLYSCIRTES LINDA*)

- Awaiting 12-month finding (FY 2017 and beyond)
- Occurs near rocky streams in forested areas, usually with Inland Sea Oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*)
- Current distribution in Oklahoma is poorly known.



www.butterfliesandmoths.org

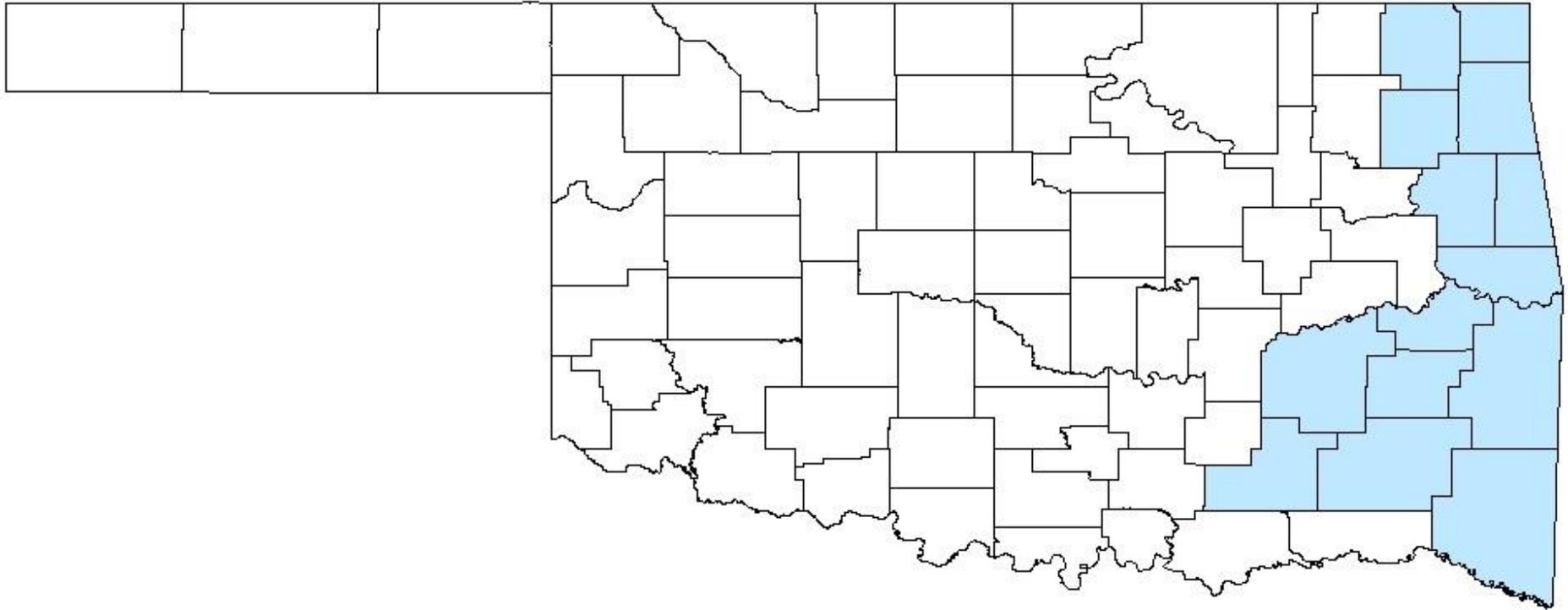
LINDA'S ROADSIDE-SKIPPER: ODWC EFFORTS



Courtesy wildflower.org

- ODWC is currently funding State Wildlife Grant that involves surveys for the butterfly across the state on various public lands (wildlife management areas and state parks).

LINDA'S ROADSIDE-SKIPPER RANGE



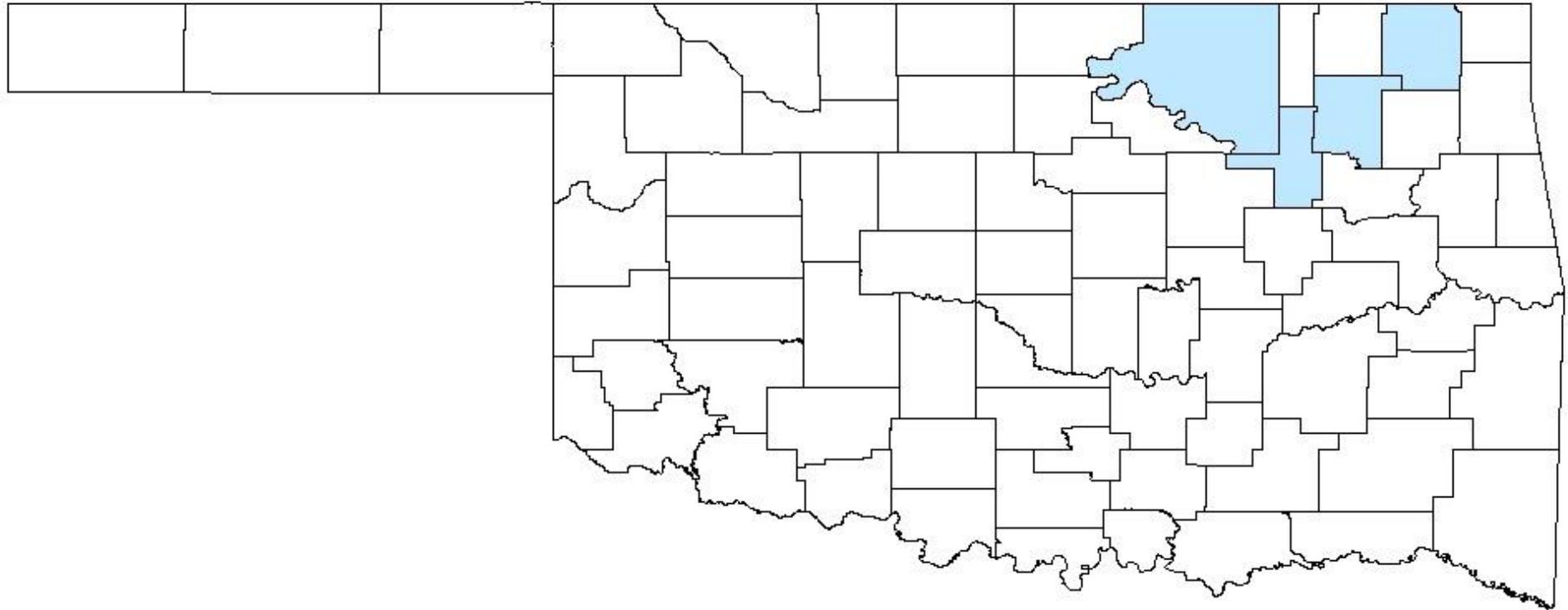
REGAL FRITILLARY

(*SPEYERIA IDALIA*)

- Awaiting 90-day Finding (FY 2017 and beyond)
- Occurs in tallgrass prairie habitats in counties along the Kansas border.
- Larvae (caterpillars) feed on violets.



REGAL FRITILLARY RANGE



MONARCH BUTTERFLY

(*DANAUS PLEXIPPUS*)

- Awaiting 12-month finding (FY 2017 and beyond)
- Occurs statewide; relies on Milkweed plants for reproduction
- Some ODWC wildlife management areas have fall stopover sites where Monarchs frequently gather during Fall as they migrate south to Mexico
 - Hackberry Flat Wildlife Management Area

MONARCH BUTTERFLY

- ODWC does not have any Monarch Butterfly population trend data; however, large numbers still move through the state, especially during the fall migration.



MONARCH BUTTERFLY: ODWC EFFORTS

- ODWC recently attended NRCS Monarch Butterfly meeting to coordinate conservation efforts between USFWS, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and state wildlife agencies.
- Conservation efforts that benefit the Monarch Butterfly are much the same as what ODWC currently promotes for restoration of prairies, removal of invasive species, managed cattle grazing, and reduction of herbicide application to promote weedy plants in pastures.



MONARCH BUTTERFLY RANGE



OZARK EMERALD DRAGONFLY

(*SOMATOCHLORA OZARKENSIS*)



- Awaiting 12 month finding (FY 2017 and beyond)
- Occurs near rocky-bottomed streams in eastern Oklahoma
- Limited knowledge of distribution and abundance within Oklahoma.

OZARK EMERALD DRAGONFLY: ODWC EFFORTS

- ODWC is currently funding State Wildlife Grant project with University of Oklahoma to determine distribution and status of the species through survey efforts.
- Has been documented at 21 locations in 5 counties within Ouachita Mountains Region



THREE-TOOTHED TRIANODES CADDISFLY

(*TRIANODES TRIDONTUS*)

- Awaiting 12-month finding (FY2017 and beyond)
- Restricted to Gulf Coastal Plain
- Picked up in three sites across entire range in Gulf Coastal Plain (Southeast United States).
- Occurrence in Oklahoma is questionable; based on single records from 1930's.



THREE-TOOTHED TRIANODES CADDISFLY RANGE



ALLIGATOR SNAPPING TURTLE

(*MACROCHELYS TEMMINCKII*)

- Awaiting 90-day Finding (Contained within 53 Reptile/Amphibian Species Petitioned, filed July 2012 by CBD)
- Occurs in Arkansas River drainage as well as Little and Kiamichi Rivers in eastern Oklahoma



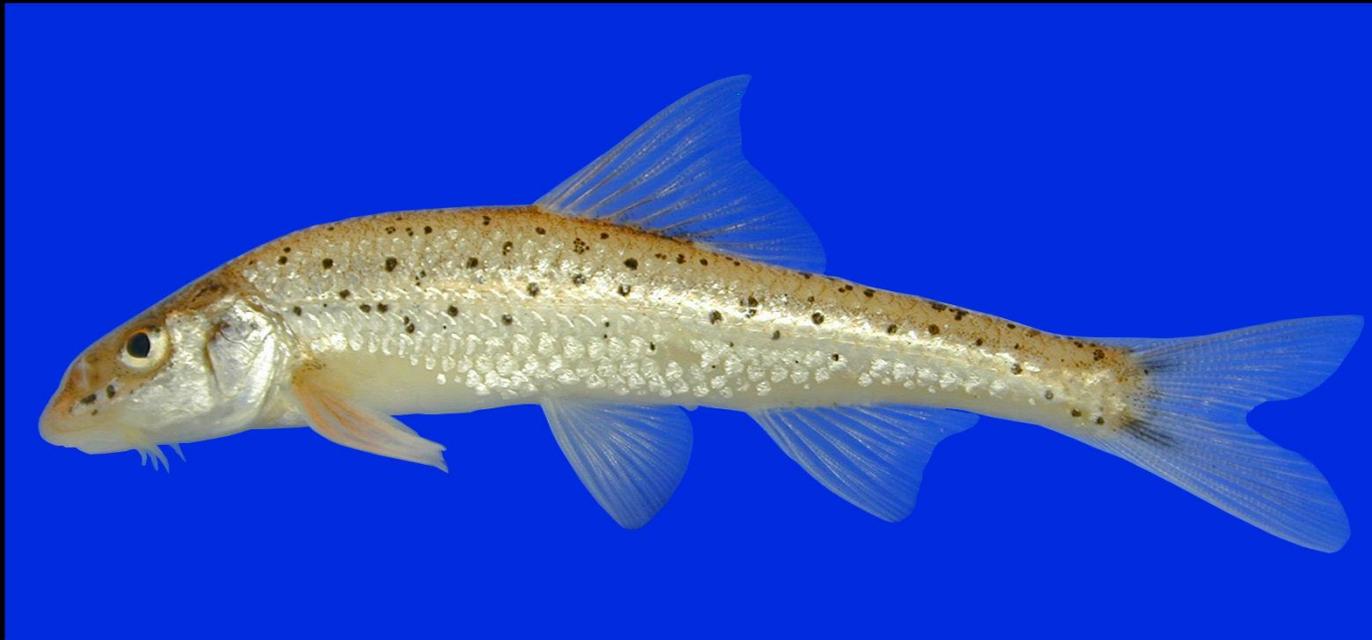
ALLIGATOR SNAPPING TURTLE: ODWC EFFORTS

- ODWC currently funding State Wildlife Grant with Missouri State University involving re-introduction of young Alligator Snapping Turtle to the Caney River in northeast Oklahoma; in addition, turtles have been reintroduced into the Washita River.
- ODWC funded a survey effort in eastern Oklahoma from 1996 – 1998 and 2004 – 2005.
- ODWC funded a genetic assessment of Oklahoma populations that determined were all part of larger Mississippi Basin population.
- ODWC has a year-round closed season for the Alligator Snapping Turtle; it cannot be harvested by turtle trappers or kept in captivity without a permit.
- Other conservation efforts in Oklahoma:
 - USFWS currently raises Alligator Snapping Turtles at Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery for release in Oklahoma and other states.

PRAIRIE CHUB

(*MACRHYBOPSIS AUSTRALIS*)

- Awaiting 12-month Finding (FY2017 and beyond)
- Endemic to the Red River and possibly Cimarron River drainages (as an introduction)



Credit: Texas State University

PRAIRIE CHUB: ODWC EFFORTS

- ODWC conducted Prairie Chub surveys along the Red River drainage in 2012; repeated surveys are planned for 2016.

PRAIRIE CHUB RANGE



ROCKY SHINER

(NOTROPIS SUTTKUSI)

- Historically known as rosy-faced shiner (widespread in Mississippi River drainage)
 - Ouachita Mountain populations were split into the Rocky Shiner in late 1990's as a result of a genetics study
- Occurs within Clear Boggy, Muddy Boggy, Kiamichi, and Little River Drainages



Photo Courtesy of L.M. Page, www.fishbase.org

ROCKY SHINER: ODWC EFFORTS

- ODWC currently funding State Wildlife Grant project conducting surveys within Clear Boggy, Muddy Boggy, Kiamichi, Blue River, and Little River Drainages
 - 2014 survey efforts focused on Blue and Boggy Rivers, where the species has been found to be locally common.
 - 2015 survey efforts will focus on Kiamichi and Little Rivers
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ROCKY SHINER RANGE



PEPPERED SHINER

(NOTROPIS PERPALLIDUS)



Courtesy of NANFA.org

- Awaiting 12-month Finding (FY2017 and beyond)
- Occurs in Little River watershed
 - Occurs in low densities, is not a schooling species, and is difficult to find
- Range overlaps that of federally-listed Leopard Darter and Ouachita Rock Pocketbook mussel.
- ODWC Efforts
 - Funding State Wildlife Grant conducting surveys of Clear Boggy, Muddy Boggy, Kiamichi, and Little River Drainages

PEPPERED SHINER RANGE



BLUEHEAD SHINER

(*PTERONOTROPIS HUBBSI*)

- Awaiting 12-month Finding (FY 2017 and beyond)
- Occurs in sluggish backwaters and sloughs of Little River drainage in McCurtain County, downstream from Pine Creek reservoir; First documented within Oklahoma in 1980.

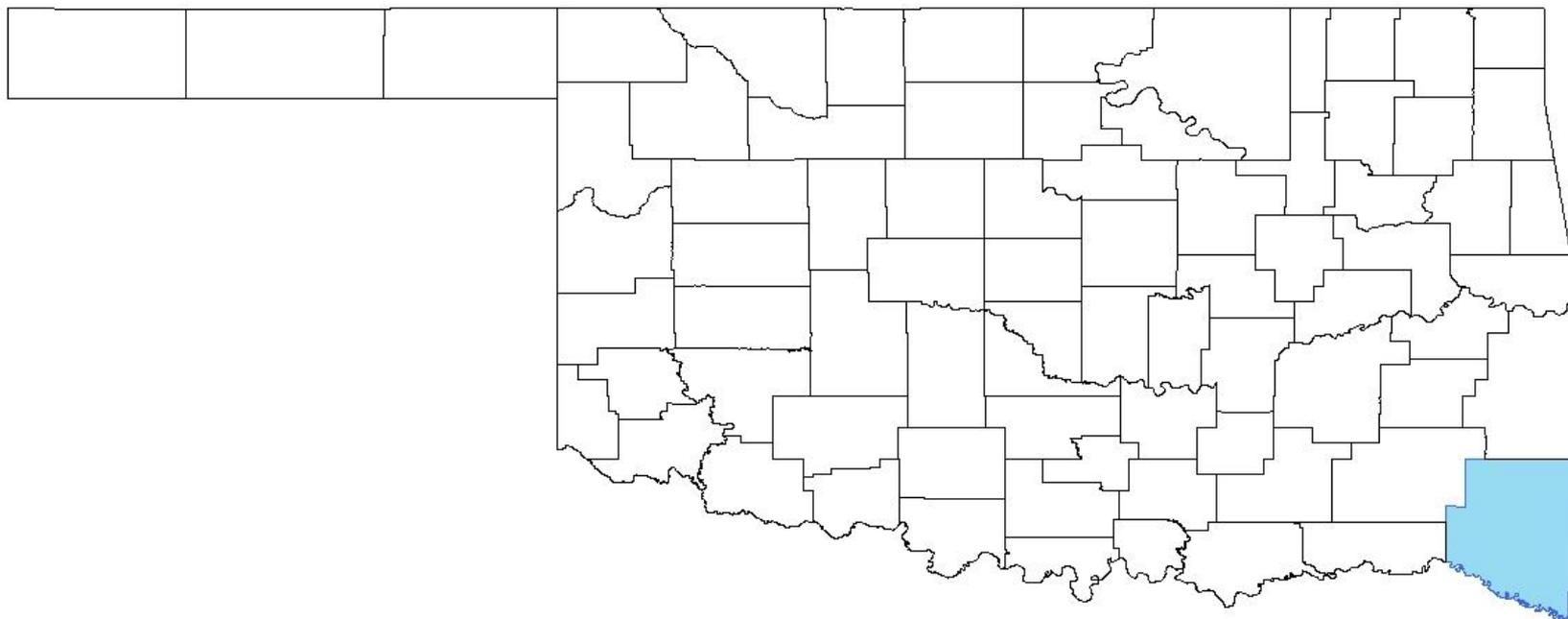


Courtesy of R. Tumlison, www.fishbase.org

BLUEHEAD SHINER: ODWC EFFORTS

- ODWC Efforts:
 - Funding State Wildlife Grant conducting surveys of Clear Boggy, Muddy Boggy, Kiamichi, and lower Little River Drainages
 - Anticipate that Bluehead Shiners will be documented in survey efforts throughout lower Little River drainage
 - Range overlaps that of current federally-listed mussels within lower Little River
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BLUEHEAD SHINER RANGE



LONGNOSE DARTER

(*PERCINA NASUTA*)



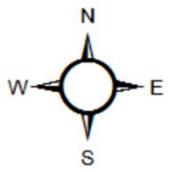
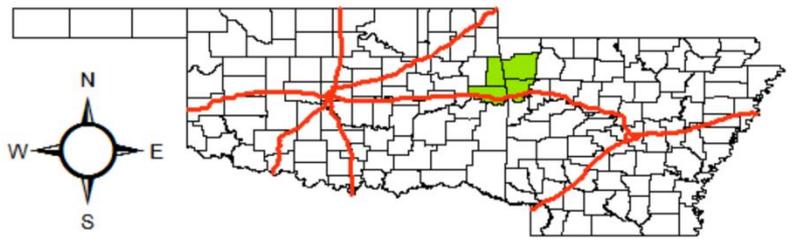
- Awaiting 12-month finding (FY 2017 and beyond)
- Occurs in Lee Creek and Little Lee Creek in eastern Oklahoma; historically occurred in Poteau River.
- Currently designated as an Oklahoma state-listed species; its current habitat in Oklahoma is designated as a state scenic river.

LONGNOSE DARTER: ODWC EFFORTS

- ODWC funded a State Wildlife Grant that concluded in 2013 with the purpose of monitoring the fishes in Lee Creek and potential effects of hydrologic alteration from dam construction.
 - Longnose Darters continue to persist in Lee Creek, but occur in low densities.

LONGNOSE DARTER RANGE





Legend

- City
- Sampling Section
- Lee Creek Watershed
- County

OKLAHOMA CAVE CRAYFISH

(*CAMBARUS TARTARUS*)

- Awaiting 12-month finding.
- Oklahoma endemic; Occurs in 3 caves with Spavinaw Creek watershed in Delaware county.
- Currently designated as an Oklahoma state-listed (endangered) species.
- Co-occurs with federally-threatened Ozark Cavefish.

ARKive
www.arkive.org

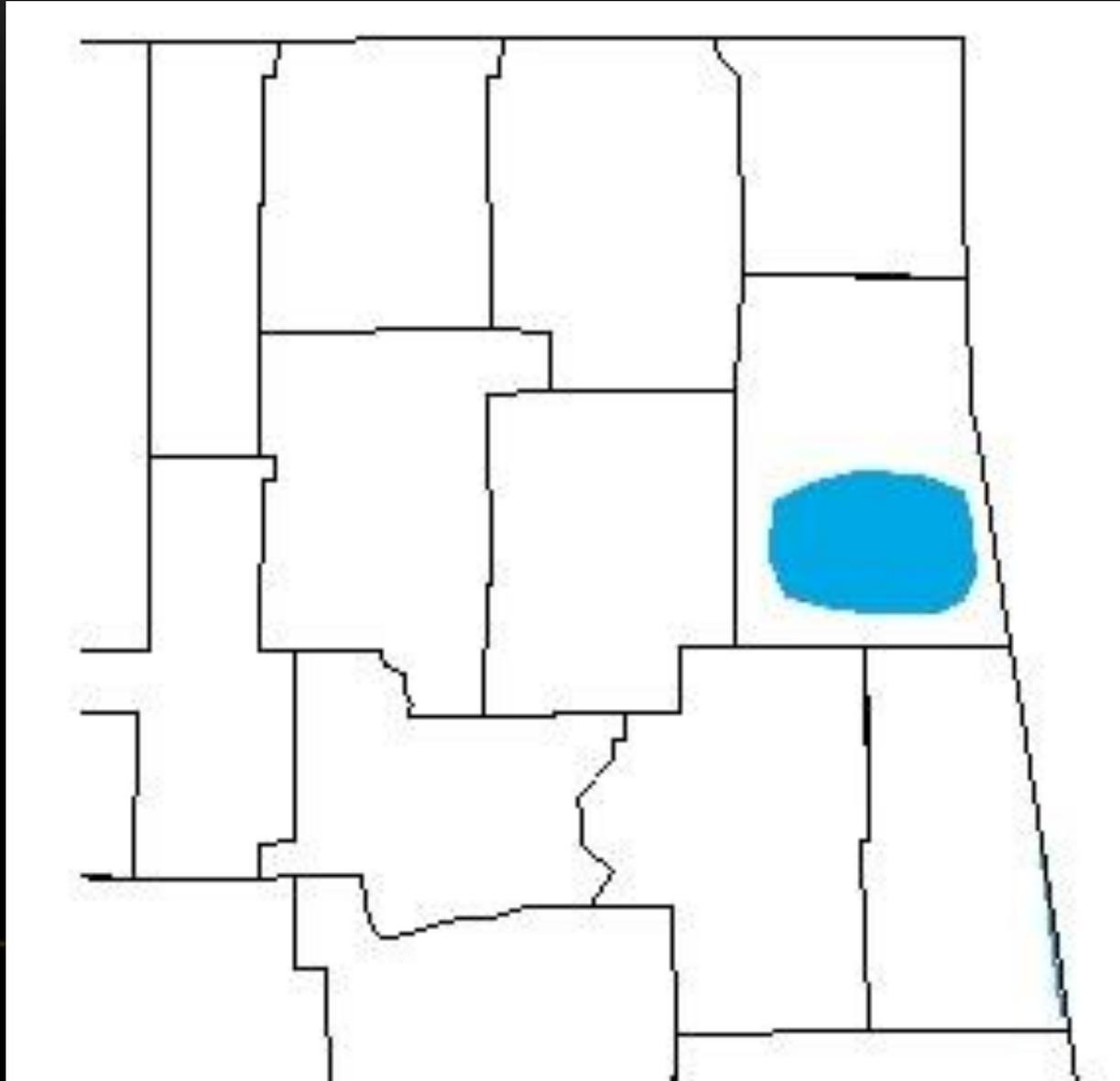


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OKLAHOMA CAVE CRAYFISH: ODWC EFFORTS

- ODWC funded a State Wildlife Grant project that located the Oklahoma Cave Crayfish at an additional site, for a total of 3 known sites for the species.

OKLAHOMA CAVE CRAYFISH RANGE



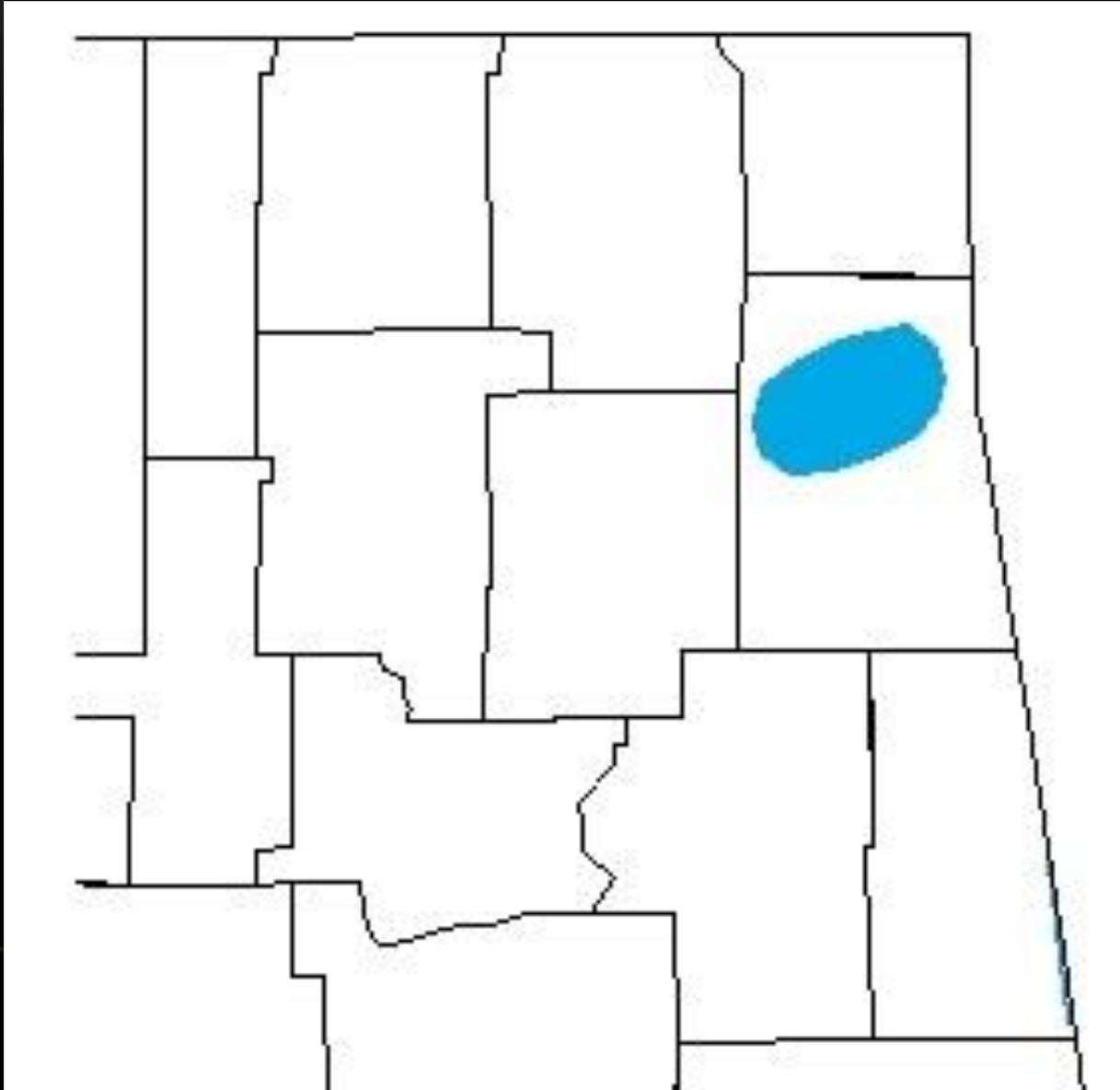
DELAWARE COUNTY CAVE CRAYFISH

(*CAMBARUS SUBTERRANEUS*)



- Awaiting 12-month finding.
- Oklahoma endemic; Occurs in 3 caves in Delaware County – Historical and current range has remained same.
- Co-occurs with federally-threatened Ozark Cavefish
- Recently split from the Bristly Cave Crayfish based on genetic and anatomical differences.

DELAWARE COUNTY CAVE CRAYFISH RANGE



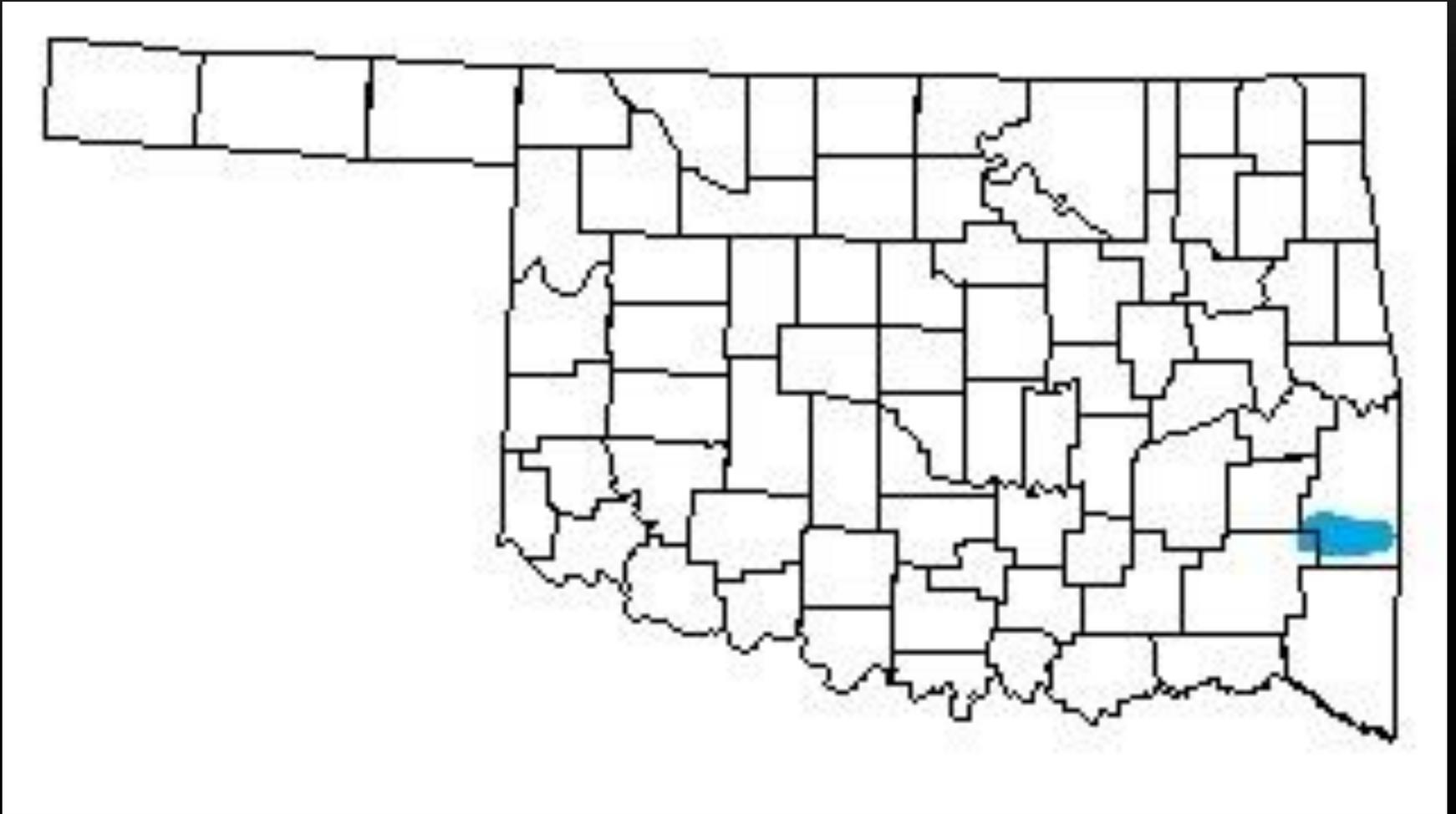
KIAMICHI CRAYFISH

(*ORCONECTES SAXATILIS*)

- Awaiting 12-month finding (FY2017 and beyond)
- Occurs in tributaries/headwaters of Kiamichi River watershed in LeFlore and Pushmataha Counties.



KIAMICHI CRAYFISH RANGE



WESTERN FANSHELL

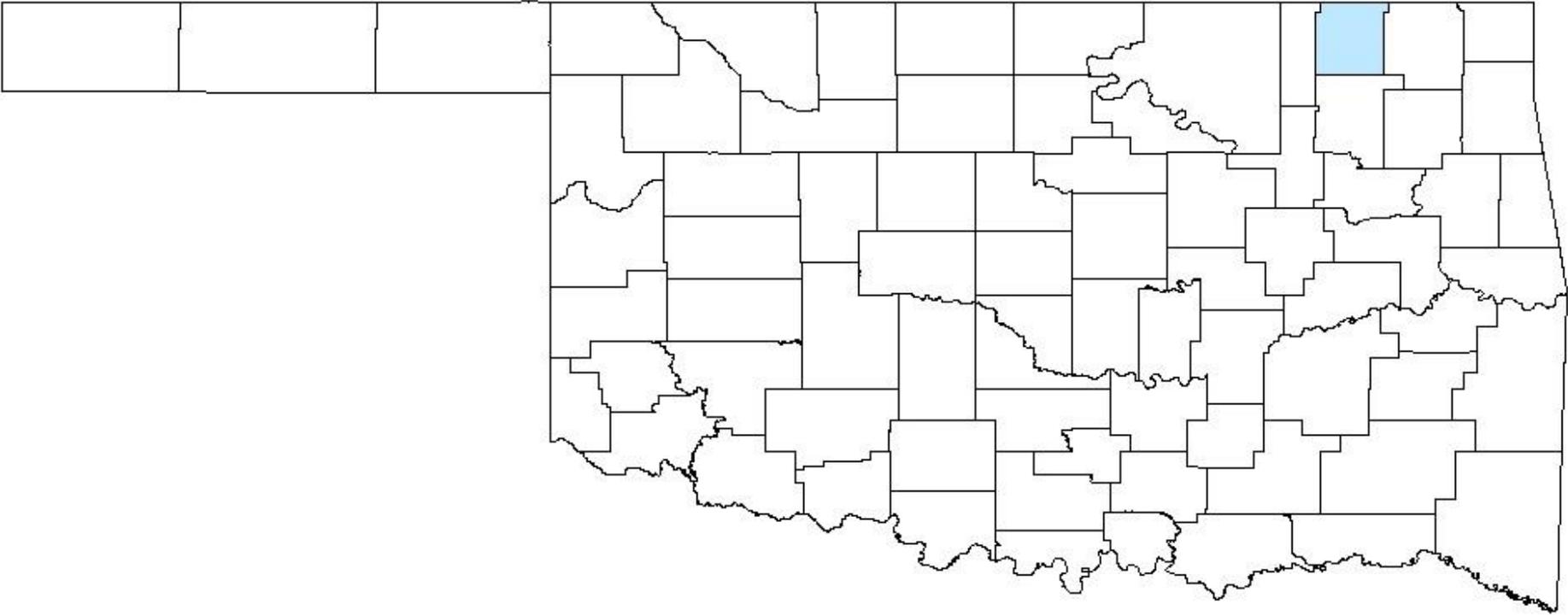
(*CYPROGENEIA ALBERTI*)

- Awaiting 12-month finding (FY2017 and beyond)
- Occurs in Verdigris River upstream of Oolagah reservoir; Historic range within state was limited.



Courtesy of KDWPT

WESTERN FANSHELL RANGE



PURPLE LILLIPUT MUSSEL

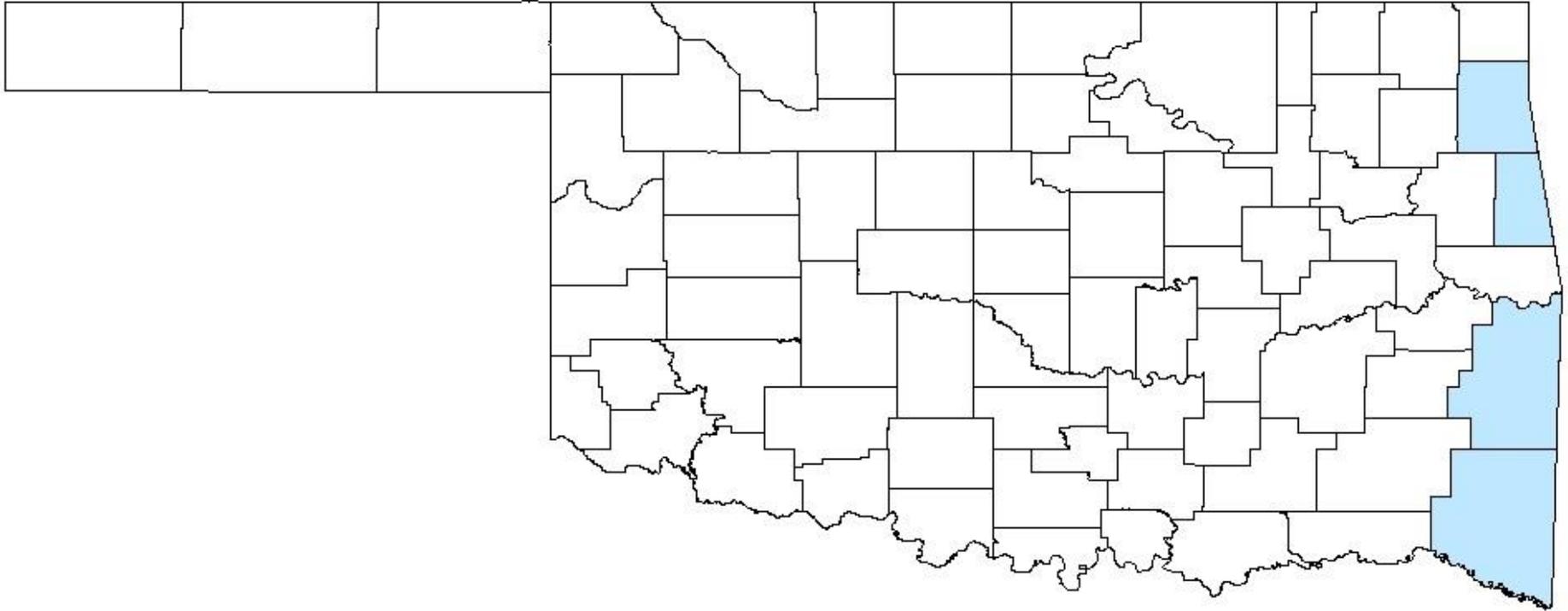
(*TOXOLASMA LIVIDUS*)



Courtesy Illinois Natural history Survey
<http://www.inhs.illinois.edu>

- Awaiting 12-month finding (FY2017 and beyond).
- Presence and status of the species in Oklahoma is largely unknown; suspected to occur in Elk, Illinois, and upper Poteau Rivers.
- Because this species closely resemble a separate and closely related species, its occurrence in Oklahoma hasn't been verified.

PURPLE LILLIPUT RANGE



PYRAMID PIGTOE

(*PLEUROBEMA RUBRUM*)



Courtesy Illinois Natural history Survey
<http://www.inhs.illinois.edu>

- Awaiting 12-month finding.
- Species occurrence has not been verified in Oklahoma, but is suspected to occur in lower Little River
- This species is very similar to the more widespread Round Pigtoe mussel.
- If species is found to occur in the Little River, its range will overlap other federally-listed mussels (Winged Mapleleaf, Rabbitsfoot and Ouachita Rock Pocketbook).

PYRAMID PIGTOE MUSSEL: ODWC EFFORTS

ODWC Efforts:

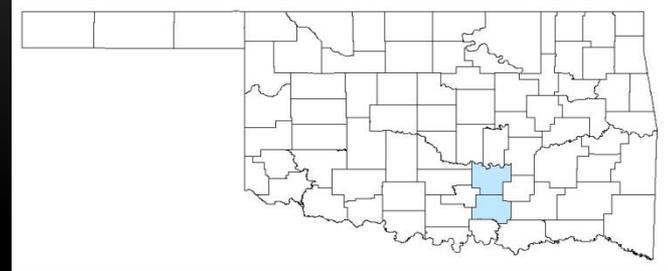
- Currently funding State Wildlife Grant with University of Oklahoma for purposes of conducting comprehensive mussel community surveys on the Little River; in addition, a genetic assessment will be conducted of the Pigtoes in this watershed to determine whether they are Round, Pyramid, or both.

PYRAMID PIGTOE MUSSEL RANGE

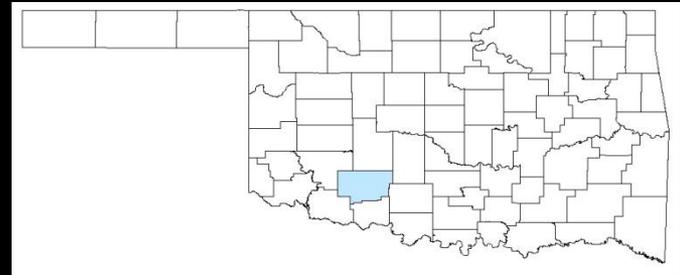


PETITIONED PLANTS

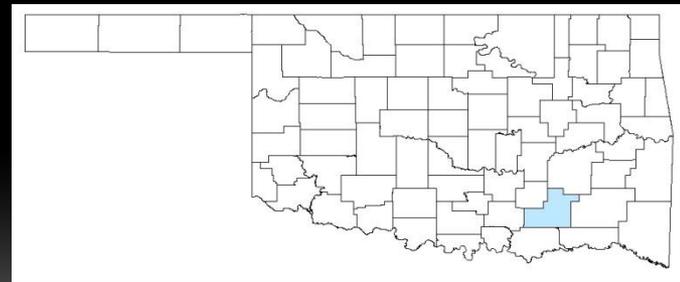
- **Seaside Alder** (*Alnus maritima*)
– Johnston, Pontotoc Counties



- **Hall's Bulrush** (*Sphoenoplectus hallii*) – Comanche County

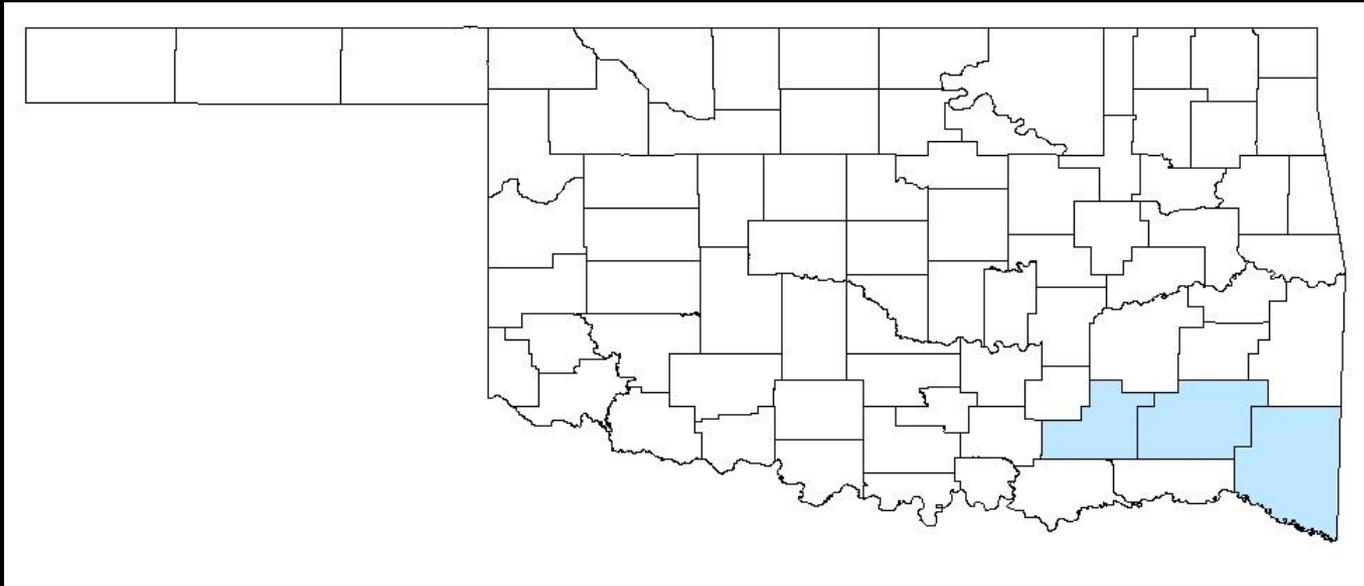


- **Small-headed Pipewort** (*Eriocaulon koernickianum*) – Atoka County



PETITIONED PLANTS

- **Sandgrass** (*Calamovilfa arcuata*) – Atoka, McCurtain, Pushmataha



WHEW!!!

Q & A and Open
Discussion
