

Tiny Survivors

In April, a Nature Conservancy preserve in North Carolina became the first property to be included in the new Mountain Bogs National Wildlife Refuge.



4 INCHES

Life Amid the Mud

Spring

Bog turtles emerge from winter hibernation in the mud to bask in the sun, mate and eat. They are omnivorous but favor snails, slugs and worms.

Summer

Female bog turtles prefer wet meadows with clumps of vegetation above the water line, where they lay their eggs. The eggs hatch six to eight weeks later.

Fall and Winter

Bog turtles survive the cold months by burying themselves in the mud. Turtles in northern climes may spend as much as half their lives entombed.

NAME AND STATUS

Bog turtle

Glyptemys muhlenbergii.

Listed as a threatened species in 1997.

HABITAT

Prefers open-canopied wetlands. Northern population found in scattered pockets from Massachusetts to Maryland; southern population from southwestern Virginia to Georgia.

THREATS

Loss of habitat and poaching for illegal wildlife trade.

ONLINE

See how turtle tracking is done in Shady Valley, Tennessee, at nature.org/turtlestudy.