

# Auburn University

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Ms. Barbara Bearss  
Alabama Natural Heritage Section  
ADCNR State Lands Division  
64 North Union Street  
Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear Ms. Bearss:

Nesting P. alabamensis have been found: on the north end of Graving Island; at Clover Leaf Landing on the Tensaw River; at Blakeley State Park; on the land between the east side of the Apalachee River and Justin's Bay; and at the ADCNR Fisheries Section (District V) land at Spanish Fort (contact William H. Tucker at P. O. Box 245 in Spanish Fort, AL 36527).

Gravid P. alabamensis females were found dead in 1992 and 1993 along U. S. Highway 90 between Mobile and Spanish Fort and a dead gravid female and a hatchling were found in two different abandoned swimming pools at a locality immediately west of the Blakeley River and north of U. S. Highway 90 in Baldwin County. Evidently the females are nesting along U. S. Highway 90 between Mobile and Spanish Fort.

The land between the Apalachee River and Justin's Bay (State of Alabama property) needs to be designated as a protected area for P. alabamensis because it is the major known nesting area for that species.

I have trapped the Alabama red-bellied turtle in the Tensaw River along Graving Island, in the Raft River, Hurricane Bayou, Byrnes Lakes, Bay Minette Creek, Bay Minette, Apalachee River, Chacaloochee Bay, and in Grand Bay. Intensive trapping was done in the summer of 1992 in the Spanish River (no success), in Grand Bay (only a dead and gravid female was found there), Delvan's Bay (no success), the lower part of the Tensaw River near Conway Creek (no success), Conway Creek (no success), Chacaloochee Bay (success), Pass Picada (no success), Apalachee River (success), Justin's Bay (no success), Blakeley River (no success), Bay Minette (success), and in Bay Minette Creek (no success). In the summer of 1993 only Chacaloochee Bay, the Apalachee River and Bay Minette were trapped.

A L A N D - G R A N T U N I V E R S I T Y