

RECENT MONITORING OF THE FRESHWATER MOLLUSKS OF KINNICONICK CREEK, KENTUCKY, WITH COMMENTS ON POTENTIAL THREATS

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to gain a better understanding of the current status of freshwater mollusks in the mainstem of Kinniconick Creek, a small tributary to the Ohio River. Qualitative and quantitative sampling documented 17 species of freshwater mussels and 8 species of freshwater gastropods from mainstem Kinniconick Creek. Declines in freshwater mussel species richness have been observed at several sites since 1983 as well as declines in densities. I discuss potential threats to the mussel fauna posed by excessive particle movement from historical channel alteration, human perturbation, and from changes in precipitation patterns.

KEY WORDS Unionidae, gastropods, snails, Ohio River drainage, drought, monitoring