Photographs, Michael Hogan

Photograph USFWS

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# SWAMP PINK

## (*Helonias bullata*)

The future existence of swamp pink is dependent upon solid partnerships among the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, other federal and state agencies, organizations, private landowners, and concerned citizens. If you own property containing swamp pink or know of others who would be interested in permanently protecting this species, please contact the New Jersey Field Office of the U.S. Fish & wildlife Service at (609) 646-9310 or e-mail us at njfieldoffice@fws.gov for additional information and assistance.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service biologists conduct field surveys to document existing populations and to preserve existing swamp pink habitat, the primary recovery goal of the species. Containing more than 70 percent of the known sites, New Jersey represents the global stronghold for swamp pink.

Swamp pink, federally listed as threatened, is one of the most unique and beautiful wildflowers of the Eastern United States. Swamp pink has smooth, evergreen, lance-shaped leaves that often attain a purplish tint as the plant matures. In April or early May, the flower cluster of swamp pink emerges in an explosion of bright pink flowers dotted with blue anthers.

Photographs, Michael Hogan

Swamp pink inhabits shady forested wetlands, small meandering streamlets, headwater wetlands (wetlands at the beginning of streams), and spring seepage areas. Swamp pink is limited to areas continually saturated, but not inundated by floodwater, and often grows on hummocks.

Considered optimal swamp pink habitat, forested wetlands can be degraded by increased runoff from upstream development. The survival of swamp pink is threatened by illegal filling of wetlands, sedimentation from nearby construction activities, and introduction of excess nutrients or toxic chemicals into the water.