

Field Definitions for Natural Heritage Data Reports
Vermont Natural Heritage Inventory
16 September 2020

The following metadata applies to reports of Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species and State-significant Natural Communities documented in the Vermont Natural Heritage Database. Not all **Field Labels** appear in every report; if there is no value for the field in the database, its label may be omitted from the report.

For more information on the Vermont Natural Heritage Inventory and the Natural Heritage Database, see <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/conserves/conservation-planning/natural-heritage-inventory>.

Scientific Name An accepted scientific name for the plant or animal, or the natural community name assigned by the Vermont Natural Heritage Inventory.

Common Name A common (or vernacular) name for the plant or animal.

Variant(s) in EO A list of recognized natural community variants known from the Element Occurrence (EO), the approximate percentage of the occurrence that the variant natural community type occupies, and any applicable comments.

Standard Community Type(s) The U.S. National Vegetation Classification (NVC) type(s) that most closely describes the natural community EO. See <http://usnvc.org/> for more information on the NVC.

EO ID A unique code for each species or natural community Element Occurrence record. (The EO ID can be used to identify the record when communicating with the VNHI.)

A limited number of EO records are associated with other EO records of the same type through a *parent-sub relationship*. Individual records may be kept for ease of record-keeping but should be considered one occurrence in conservation and regulatory planning. Their relationships are identified by use of Parent EO IDs and Sub EO IDs.

Parent EO ID The presence of a Parent EO ID in this field indicates this EO is a sub-EO; further information on the occurrence may be found in the parent EO report indicated. If no Parent EO ID is present, the EO may be a parent itself (indicated by values in the Sub EO IDs field) or is not in a parent-sub relationship.

Sub EO IDs The EO IDs of all Sub EOs associated with this Parent. Further information on the occurrence may be found in the Sub EO(s) report(s). If no Sub EO ID is present, the EO may be a Sub EO itself (indicated by a value in the Parent EO ID field) or is not in a parent-sub relationship.

State Rank and Global Rank - Value that best characterizes the relative rarity (abundance) or endangerment of a native taxon within Vermont's geographic boundary or throughout its range, respectively. Ranks are as follows:

1 - Very rare (Critically imperiled): At very high risk of extinction or extirpation due to extreme rarity (often 5 or fewer populations or occurrences), very steep declines, or other threats

2 - Rare (Imperiled): At high risk of extinction or extirpation due to very restricted range, very few populations (often 20 or fewer), steep declines, or other threats

3 - Uncommon (Vulnerable): At moderate risk of extinction or extirpation due to restricted range, relatively few populations or occurrences (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other threats

4 - Common to uncommon (Apparently secure): locally common or widely scattered to uncommon, but not rare; some cause for long-term concern due to declines or other threats; or stable over many decades and not threatened but of restricted distribution or other threats

5 - Common (Secure): widespread and abundant

H - Possibly extinct/extirpated: Missing; known from only historical occurrences but still some hope of rediscovery

X - Presumed extinct/extirpated: Not located despite intensive searches and virtually no likelihood of rediscovery

U = Unrankable: Currently unrankable due to lack of information or substantially conflicting information about status or trends

NR = Not ranked: Not yet assessed

NA = Not applicable. Element is not a suitable target for conservation for one of the following reasons: Hybrid, Exotic Origin, Accidental/Nonregular, Not Confidently Present, No Definable Occurrences

The following may follow a numeric rank to provide further information:

? - indicates uncertainty about the rank, uncertainty may also be expressed in the form of a range rank (e.g. S1S3)

B - Indicates the rank is for breeding populations

N - Indicates the rank is for nonbreeding populations

M - Indicates the rank is for migratory populations

T - For global ranks only, indicates an infraspecies.

Q - For global ranks only, indicates questionable taxonomy.

Federal Protection Status Legal protection under U.S. Endangered Species Act (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service), or informational category only.

E = Endangered

T = Threatened

PDL = Proposed for Delisting

C = Candidate for Listing (not legally protected)

State Protection Status Legal protection under Vermont Endangered Species Law (10 V.S.A. Chap. 123), or informational category only (not established by law).

E = Endangered: in immediate danger of becoming extirpated in the state

T = Threatened: with high possibility of becoming endangered in the near future

Informational category only- not established by law:

RE = Recommended by the Endangered Species Committee (ESC) for Endangered status; pending Agency of Natural Resources Secretary (Secretary) approval and rulemaking

RT = Recommended by the ESC for Threatened status

RDL = Recommended by ESC for Delisting

PE = Proposed by Secretary for Endangered status; pending rulemaking

PT = Proposed by Secretary for Threatened status; pending rulemaking

PDL = Proposed by Secretary for Delisting; pending rulemaking

SC = Special Concern: rare; status should be watched

Flora Conservanda Globally or regionally rare vascular plants designated by New England Plant Conservation Program. See report for more information:

<https://www.nativeplanttrust.org/documents/22/flora-conservanda-brumback-et-al-13-20.pdf>

NALCC Plant Rank regional rank for vascular plants designated by North Atlantic LCC. See report for more information:

<https://lccnetwork.org/news/new-report-provides-north-atlantic-regional-perspective-conservation-status-plants>

Other Status Additional informational categories; does not imply legal protection.

SC- Special Concern species, Scientific Advisory Groups to the Vermont Endangered Species Committee

SGCN - Species of Greatest Conservation Need as identified in the Vermont Wildlife Action Plan

RSGCN- regionally-rare animals designated by Northeast Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee

RFSS- Regional Forester Sensitive Species, Green Mountain National Forest, US Forest Service

ID Confirmed Indicates whether taxonomic identification of the Element has been confirmed by a reliable individual. N=This occurrence has been confirmed to NOT be this Element; Y=The identification of this occurrence has been confirmed as this Element; ?=Questions remain about the identification of this occurrence; null=The identity of the occurrence has not been investigated.

Survey Site Name(s) given to the location, often based on a topographic feature or popular place name.

County Counties this EO (local population or natural community) occurs in.

Town Town(s) this EO occurs in.

Topo Quad The code and name of the topographic quadrangle(s) this EO occurs in.

Latitude (DD) Longitude (DD) Coordinates (in decimal degrees) of the center point of the EO polygon. If the EO is composed of a multi-part polygon, the coordinates will fall within the EO polygon as close to the center point as possible.

Mapped Location(s) Specific, named or described, locations, with center point coordinates in decimal degrees, where multiple locations of the species or community are described in the EO.

Mapping Precision Derived from the database field Representational Accuracy (RA), with possible values of High, Medium, Low, or Unknown. RA is an estimate of how much of the mapped area is occupied by the species or community. High RA means that most of the polygon is presumed to be occupied. Low RA means that only a small proportion is thought to be occupied. Polygons with a low RA are often larger because of greater uncertainty in the exact location, a consideration in conservation planning.

Directions Written description of the directions to or location of the EO. May reference multiple, distinct locations.

General Description General description of the site; may include the surrounding landscape.

Minimum and Maximum Elevation (ft.) An estimate of the lowest and highest elevations (in feet) where this EO is known to occur.

Last Survey Date the population or natural community was last surveyed.

Last Observation Date Date the species or natural community was last observed at the site.

First Observation Date Date the species or natural community was first observed at the site.

EO Data Descriptive information on the occurrence: for species, this includes biological data, such as abundance and evidence of reproduction; for natural communities, it is a description of the dominant species and physical features.

EO Rank Estimated viability or ecological integrity of the occurrence, as determined by size, current condition and landscape context.

A = Excellent; B = Good; C = Fair; D = Poor; E = Extant, viability not assessed; H = Historical; X = Extirpated; U = Unrankable; F = Failed to find; NR = Not ranked

EO Rank Date Date the EO Rank was assigned or date of survey on which EO rank is based.

Size Natural community EOs only. Rank for size of the occurrence relative to other occurrences of the same Element,

A = Very large; B = Large; C = Average; D = Small,
and/or a statement on the size of the occurrence.

Condition Natural community EOs only. Rank for current condition based on development/maturity, ecological processes, species composition and biological structure, and abiotic physical factors,

A = Excellent; B = Good; C = Fair; D = Poor,
and/or a description of the quality of biotic and abiotic factors, structures, and processes within the Element Occurrence and the degree to which they affect the continued existence of the occurrence.

Landscape Context Natural community EOs only. Rank for condition of surrounding landscape,

A = Excellent; B = Good; C = Fair; D = Poor,
and/or a description of the condition of the surrounding landscape and its effect on the EO.

Natural Disturbance Natural community EOs only - A description of important natural disturbances to the occurrence. Comments may include information on vegetation or ground cover disturbance, evidence of animal use, disturbance history, erosion, fire, storms, etc.

Anthropogenic Disturbance Natural community EOs only - A description of important anthropogenic disturbances to the occurrence. Comments may include information on vegetation or ground cover disturbance, logging, plowing, scraping, mowing, fire suppression, etc.

General Comments General comments concerning the EO that have not been addressed in other fields.

Additional Topics Specific comments on any significant additional topics concerning the EO that have not been formally addressed elsewhere.

Management Comments Comments on management activities carried out at the site, and management needed to ensure the continued existence of the EO. Management comments are often as written by the surveyor, thus may include judgments/comments by persons other than VNHI, such as contractors.

Protection Comments Comments on legal protection needed to ensure the continued existence of the EO. Protection comments are often as written by the surveyor, thus may include judgments/comments by persons other than VNHI, such as contractors.

Managed Area Name(s) of the Managed Area(s) the EO is in or adjacent.

EO Contained? A yes/no answer to the question *Is the EO fully contained in this managed area?*

Owner Name(s) of owner(s) of the site on which the EO occurs, and notes on each ownership, which may include contact information or other information on the ownership.

Owner Comments Other comments on ownership of the site, especially comments that don't apply to a specific owner in the Owner field above.

Reference Code A unique code assigned to each source of information used to populate the EO record (last 2 digits of the year and first 3 letters of the author's name may be particularly helpful), followed by the full **Citation** for the source of information.

Specimen A citation for specimens collected from the EO, if not represented by a Reference Code and Citation above. The citation follows a standard format (note that some elements of the citation are optional.)

Collector's name. (Collector's number). Year collected. Acquisition number. Collection code.