

Louisiana's Rare and Outstanding Natural Communities - 2020

NATURAL COMMUNITIES

| <u>Common Name</u> | <u>G-Rank</u> | <u>S-Rank</u> |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Agriculture-Crop-Grassland | N/A | N/A |
| Aquaculture (crawfish/rice) | N/A | N/A |
| Barrier Island | N/A | S1 |
| Barrier Island Live Oak Forest (Maritime Forest) | G1Q | S1 |
| Batture | G4G5 | S3 |
| Bayhead Swamp/Forested Seep | G3? | S3 |
| Bottomland Hardwood Forest | G4G5 | S4 |
| Brackish Marsh | G4? | S3 |
| Calcareous Forest | G2?Q | S2 |
| Calcareous Prairie | G1 | S1 |
| Canebrake | G2? | SNR |
| Cave | GNR | S1 |
| Coastal Dune Grassland | G2G3 | S1 |
| Coastal Dune Shrub Thicket | G3? | S1 |
| Coastal Live Oak-Hackberry Forest | G2 | S1 |
| Coastal Mangrove-Marsh Shrubland | G2? | S2 |
| Coastal Prairie | G2Q | S1 |
| Cypress-Tupelo-Blackgum Swamps | G3G5 | S4 |
| East Gulf Coastal Plain Flatwoods Pond | G2Q | S1 |
| Eastern Hillside Seepage Bog | G2 | S1 |
| Eastern Longleaf Pine Savannah | G1 | S1 |
| Eastern Upland Longleaf Pine Forest | G1G2 | S1 |
| Ephemeral Pond | GNR | SNR |
| Estuarine Submergent Vascular Vegetation | G4? | S1S2 |
| Flotant Marsh | GNR | S1 |
| Freshwater Marsh | G3G4 | S2 |
| Hardwood Slope Forest | G4 | S3 |
| Intermediate Marsh | G4 | S3 |
| Limestone Outcrop | GNR | SX/S1? |
| Live Oak Natural Levee Forest | G2 | S1 |
| Live Oak-Pine-Magnolia Forest | G2G3 | S1 |
| Louisiana Beach | GNR | S2? |
| Macon Ridge Pond | G2? | S2 |
| Marine Submergent Vascular Vegetation | G4? | S1S2 |
| Mesic Hardwood Flatwoods | G1G2? | S2S3 |
| Mississippi Terrace Prairie | G2 | SX |

NATURAL COMMUNITIES continued

| <u>Common Name</u> | <u>G-Rank</u> | <u>S-Rank</u> |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Mixed Hardwood-Loblolly Pine Forest | G4 | S3 |
| Oxbow/Reservoir/Lake | GNR | SNR |
| Prairie Pothole | GNR | S1 |
| Saline Prairie | G1G2 | S2 |
| Salt Dome Hardwood Forest | G1 | S1 |
| Salt Marsh | G5 | S3S4 |
| Sandbars | G4 | S2 |
| Sandstone Glade/Barren | G1G2 | S1S2 |
| Shortleaf Pine/Oak Hickory Forest | G2G3 | S1 |
| Slash Pine-Pondcypress/Hardwood Forest | G2? | S2 |
| Small Stream Forest | G3 | S2 |
| Southern Mesophytic Forest | G1G2 | S2 |
| Spruce Pine-Hardwood Flatwood | G1G2 | S1 |
| Stream Valley Bog | GNR | S1 |
| Vegetated Pioneer Emerging Delta | G3G4 | S2 |
| West Gulf Coastal Plain Flatwoods Pond | G2G3 | S2 |
| West Gulf Coastal Plain Sand Pond | GNR | S1 |
| Western Acidic Longleaf Pine Savannah | G2G3 | S2 |
| Western Hillside Seepage Bog | G2G3 | S1 |
| Western Saline Longleaf Pine Savannah | G1 | S1 |
| Western Upland Longleaf Pine Forest | G2G3 | S3 |
| Wet Hardwood Flatwoods | G2G3 | S2 |
| Xeric Sandhill Woodland | G2G3 | S1 |

Explanation of Federal and State Listing Categories and Ranks¹

Every element – whether a plant, animal, natural community, etc. – is assigned a single Global Rank, as well as a State Rank for each state in which it occurs. These ranks impart the level of rarity of elements, which assists resource managers and other conservationists in designing and prioritizing projects and programs to benefit Species of Greatest Conservation Need and their associated habitats. NatureServe² designates Global Ranks, whereas, each states' Wildlife Diversity Program or Natural Heritage Program assigns its own State Ranks. State Ranks of any particular element may vary considerably from state to state, depending on the element's status within that individual state. Federally threatened and endangered species status is designated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service or the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. In Louisiana, the responsibility of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for the conservation of threatened and endangered species is promulgated by Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes; Louisiana's threatened and endangered species are listed in Title 76 of the Louisiana Administrative Code. Listings and ranks below are a subset of the most frequently encountered codes.

See also: <https://explorer.natureserve.org/AboutTheData/Statuses>
<https://explorer.natureserve.org/AboutTheData/DataTypes/NationalLegalStatus>

Federal Protection Status

(Biotics 5.x field name USESA Status)

LE: Listed Endangered – at risk of extinction without immediate conservation action; take or harassment is a violation of State and federal laws.

LT: Listed Threatened – at risk of becoming endangered without conservation action; take or harassment is a violation of State and federal laws.

PE: Proposed Endangered – proposed to be federally listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)

PT: Proposed Threatened – proposed to be federally listed as threatened under the federal ESA

C: Candidate – not yet federally listed, but is under consideration for such action

XE: Essential Experimental Population – a reintroduced population without which a species may become extinct; take or harassment is a violation of State and federal laws.

XN: Nonessential Experimental Population – a reintroduced population not required for species' persistence; take or harassment is a violation of State and federal laws.

LE, PT: Listed Endangered, Proposed Threatened – currently listed as federally endangered, but is proposed for downlisting to federally threatened; **LT, PE** is also a possible combination (i.e., an uplisting).

LE, PDL: Listed Endangered, Proposed for Delisting – currently listed as federally endangered, but is proposed for delisting (i.e., will no longer be federally listed under the ESA); **LT, PDL** is also a possible combination.

Field blank (i.e., null): Element has no ESA status as of the most recent update published in the U.S. Federal Register. Beware of lag time in the Federal Register and associated updates to databases.

Global Ranks

(Biotics 5.x field name Global Rank)

G1: Critically Imperiled – at very high risk of extinction or elimination due to very restricted range, very few populations or occurrences [5 or fewer known populations], very steep declines, very severe threats, or other factors

G2: Imperiled – at high risk of extinction or elimination due to restricted range, few populations or occurrences [6 to 20 extant populations], steep declines, severe threats, or other factors

G3: Vulnerable – at moderate risk of extinction or elimination due to a fairly restricted range, relatively few populations or occurrences [21 to 100 extant populations], recent and widespread declines, threats, or other factors

G4: Apparently Secure – at fairly low risk of extinction or elimination due to an extensive range and/or many populations or occurrences [100 to 1000 known extant populations], but with possible cause for some concern as a result of local recent declines, threats, or other factors

G5: Secure – at very low risk of extinction or elimination due to a very extensive range, abundant populations or occurrences [1000+ extant populations], and little to no concern from declines or threats

G#G#: **Range Rank** – range used to indicate uncertainty about the exact status of a taxon or ecosystem type (e.g., G2G3)

GU: Unrankable – Species may be imperiled, but lack of information or substantially conflicting information about status or trends makes ranking impossible.

GNR: Not Ranked – global rank not yet assessed

G#?: Inexact Numeric Rank – denotes inexact numerical rank

G#Q: Questionable taxonomy – distinctiveness of element questionable

¹ **DISCLAIMER:** This document is not an official copy of the laws in effect and should not be utilized or relied upon as such. In addition, due to potential lag time between publication of a species' status change in the Federal Register and the species' status change in Biotics (the central database of NatureServe) or in state databases, some listings and ranks may be inaccurate. As such, the accuracy of the information contained within this document cannot be guaranteed, and the reader is cautioned that it shall be his/her/their responsibility to be apprised of and to abide by the laws in effect at any given time. These laws include, but are not limited to, those contained within the Louisiana Revised Statutes, particularly Title 56, the official regulations of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, federal laws, and any local or parish (county) ordinances.

² NatureServe. 2020. NatureServe Explorer [web application]. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <https://explorer.natureserve.org> (Accessed: May 1, 2020).

GX: Presumed Extinct (species) or Presumed Eliminated (ecosystems) – element demonstrably no longer occurs on the landscape

GH: Possibly Extinct (species) or Possibly Eliminated (ecosystems) – known from historical occurrences and not detected for 20 or more years, but rediscovery may be possible

G#T# Intraspecific Taxon (trinomial) status – global rank of subspecies or variety (e.g., G5T2 – species globally secure, but subspecies is globally imperiled)

State Ranks

(Biotics 5.x field name Subnational Rank)

S1: Critically Imperiled – at very high risk of extirpation³ in Louisiana due to very restricted range, very few populations or occurrences [5 or fewer known populations], very steep declines, severe threats, or other factors

S2: Imperiled – at high risk of extirpation in Louisiana due to restricted range, few populations or occurrences [6 to 20 extant populations], steep declines, severe threats, or other factors

S3: Vulnerable – at moderate risk of extirpation in Louisiana due to a fairly restricted range, relatively few populations or occurrences [21 to 100 extant populations], recent and widespread declines, threats, or other factors

S4: Apparently Secure – at a fairly low risk of extirpation in Louisiana due to an extensive range and/or many populations or occurrences [100 to 1000 known extant populations], but with possible cause for some concern as a result of local recent declines, threats, or other factors

S5: Secure – at very low or no risk of extirpation in Louisiana due to a very extensive range, abundant populations or occurrences [1000+ extant populations], with little to no concern from declines or threats

S#S#: Range Rank – range used to indicate uncertainty about the exact status of a taxon or ecosystem type (e.g., S1S2)

SU: Unrankable – Species may be imperiled, but lack of information or substantially conflicting information about status or trends makes ranking impossible.

SH: Possibly Extirpated (species) or Possibly Eliminated (ecosystems) – known from historical occurrences and not detected for 20 or more years, but rediscovery may be possible

SX: Presumed Extirpated (species) or Presumed Eliminated (ecosystems) – believed to be extirpated or eliminated from the Louisiana landscape (equivalent to “Regionally Extinct” in IUCN Red List⁴ terminology)

State Rank Qualifiers: B, N, and M – If a species’ occurrence or abundance in Louisiana is seasonal or otherwise temporally dependent, State Ranks may contain qualifiers to designate separate ranks; this is most commonly found in birds or other migratory elements. Resident populations of species that are not augmented by migrant populations and migrant species in which abundance remains the same for both breeding and nonbreeding will not have qualifiers; instead,

those species receive a single rank applicable the entire year (e.g., Greater Roadrunner, a resident species not augmented by migrants, is ranked S3).

S#B: Breeding – Numerical rank refers to the breeding population of the species; if not followed by “S#N,” then the species is only found in Louisiana during its breeding season (e.g., Swainson’s Warbler breeds in Louisiana but is absent from the state in nonbreeding season; its State Rank is S4B).

S#N: Non-breeding – Numerical rank refers to the non-breeding population of the species; if not preceded by “S#B,” then the species is only found in Louisiana during its non-breeding season.

S#B, S#N: Breeding, Non-breeding – Numerical ranks refer to breeding and non-breeding populations, respectively (e.g., Grasshopper Sparrow is a critically imperiled breeding species, but the species occurs in greater abundance in non-breeding season; its State Rank in Louisiana is S1B, S3N).

S#M: Migrant – migrant species occurring regularly on migration at particular staging areas or concentration spots where the species might warrant conservation attention; rank refers to the aggregating transient population of the species in Louisiana.

State Protection Status

(Biotics 5.x field name Subnational Protection Status)

Endangered – at risk of extinction; take or harassment of this species is a violation of State and federal laws.

Threatened – at risk of becoming endangered; take or harassment of this species is a violation of State and federal laws.

Prohibited – possession of this species is prohibited; no legal harvest or legal possession allowed without valid Scientific Research and Collecting Permit issued by Department.

Restricted Harvest – harvest restrictions regarding the take and possession of this species exist; see current seasons and regulations at <https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov>.

Delisted – no longer listed as State threatened or endangered

Field blank (i.e., null) – usually indicates that the taxon does not have any state status; note that this does not preclude protection under other possible applicable federal protections (e.g., Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, etc.) or municipal or other local protections (e.g., bird sanctuary designations).

For more information on Louisiana’s Species of Greatest Conservation Need and rare or otherwise outstanding natural communities, please see the *Louisiana Wildlife Action Plan* (Holcomb et al. 2015), available on the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries’ website:

<https://wlf.louisiana.gov>

³ Extirpation is extinction on a less-than-global scale. For example, American Bison is *extirpated* in Louisiana, but the species is not *extinct* in the wild.

⁴ International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Red List of Threatened Species; <https://www.iucnredlist.org>