The Map of Biodiversity Importance

Areas of Importance for Conservation of Imperiled Species in Nevada

Nevada is home to nearly 650 globally imperiled species. Some of those species are protected in state Wildlife Management Areas or National Wildlife Refuges, but most are not. To better understand where conservation action can help at-risk species, NatureServe recently released the Map of Biodiversity Importance (MoBI), a first ever high-precision map of areas of importance for conservation of imperiled species in the 48 conterminous United States.

The Map of Biodiversity Importance is based on habitat suitability models for 2,216 of the nation's most at-risk species, including vertebrates, freshwater invertebrates (mussels and crayfish), pollinators (bumblebees and butterflies and skippers) and vascular plants. By combining information on range-size and degree of protection, the warmest colors on the map identify places where species most in need of protection are concentrated. When used in conjunction with state-specific data collected and maintained by the Nevada Division of Natural Heritage, a division of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and collaborator on this project, decision-makers are empowered with information to direct conservation efforts to the places they can have the greatest impact.

Nevada Species Included in MoBI by Taxonomic Group and Conservation Status Plants Vertebrate Taxonomic Group Taxonomic Group This graph shows the number of species included in MoBI with habitat in Nevada. Many of these species have been formally listed as Threatened or Endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (yellow). Other species are imperiled but are not federally listed



Altered Andesite Buckwheat (Eriogonum robustum), NatureServe Conservation Status: Imperiled (G2); Endangered Species Status: Not listed. Photo by Jim Morefield.

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(green and blue). Taking action now can prevent the need for federal listing.



NatureServe is a U.S.-based nonprofit with more than 40 years' experience monitoring biodiversity throughout the Western Hemisphere for its use in public policy. NatureServe works with nearly 100 network organizations and over 1,000 conservation scientists to manage the most comprehensive data for over 100,000 species and ecosystems, answering fundamental questions about what exists, where it is found, and how it is doing. The Nevada Division of Natural Heritage is a member of the NatureServe network.





