

Appendix 6. Target Status Rationale and Ranking Definitions

Note: Definition types are listed alphabetically.

1. Ecoregional Distribution

- E Endemic (primarily or only occurring in the ecoregion)
- L Limited (occurs in the ecoregion and within a few other adjacent ecoregions)
- D Disjunct (found a significant distance from its primary range)
- W Widespread (typically found in the ecoregion, but common in other ecoregions; bulk of the distribution is elsewhere)

2. Endangered Species Status Definitions

Federal U.S. Status under Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended) US Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service.

Listed Species

C	Candidate
E(S/A),T(S/A)	Listed endangered or threatened because of similarity of appearance
LE	Listed Endangered— a species, subspecies or variety in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range
LT	Listed Threatened— a species, subspecies, or variety likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range
Null Value	Usually indicates that the taxon does not have any federal status. However, because potential lag time between publication in the Federal Register and entry in the central databases and updates to the website, some taxa may have a status which does not yet appear.
PDL	Proposed for de-listing
PE	Proposed endangered
PS	Partial status— status in only a portion of the species' range
PS:value	Partial status— status in only a portion of the species' range
PT	Proposed threatened
SC	Species of concern— should be considered as terms-of-art that describe the entire realm of taxa whose conservation status may be of concern to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, but neither term has official status (former C2 species).
XE	Essential experimental population
XN	Nonessential experimental population

3. Global Heritage Status Rank Definitions¹

Listed below are definitions for interpreting the global, (range-wide) status ranks. Global ranks are assigned by Association for Biodiversity Information scientists or by a designated lead office in the Natural Heritage Network (Where no distinction is made, the definition is identical for species and ecological communities*).

Rank	Definition
G1	Critically Imperiled —Critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extinction. Typically 5 or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals (<1,000) or acres (<2,000) or linear miles (<10).
G2	Imperiled —Imperiled globally because of rarity or because of some factor(s) making it very vulnerable to extinction or elimination. Typically 6 to 20 occurrences or few remaining individuals (1,000 to 3,000) or acres (2,000 to 10,000) or linear miles (10 to 50).
G3	Vulnerable —Vulnerable globally either because very rare and local throughout its range, found only in a restricted range, or because of other facets making it vulnerable to extinction or elimination. Typically 21-100 occurrences or between 3,000 and 10,000 individuals.
G4	Apparently Secure —Uncommon but not rare (although it may be rare in parts of its most of its range) but possibly cause for long-term concern. Typically more than 100 occurrences and more than 10,000 individuals.

¹ Ranks are updated as new information becomes available. The most current ranks for these elements are available at <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/>. Ranks used in this assessment were current as of September 2001.

Rank	Definition
G5	Secure —Common, widespread, and abundant (although it may be rare in parts of its range, particularly on the periphery). Not vulnerable in most of its range. Typically with considerably more than 100 occurrences and more than 10,000 individuals.
GX	Presumed Extinct (species) —Believed to be extinct throughout its range. Not located despite intensive searches of historical sites and other appropriate habitat, and virtually no likelihood that it will be rediscovered. Eliminated (ecological communities) —Eliminated throughout its range, with no restoration potential due to extinction of dominant or characteristic species.

- Acreage and distance measures for global ranking of ecological communities consider typical spatial pattern knowledge of long-term trends in relative extent. Acreage and distance estimates listed in the table above refer to G1 and G2 communities that typically occur as discrete patches on the landscape. Communities may occur today with acreage or distance greater than when originally recorded; these occurrences are still ranked G1 or G2 because of strong decline in extent or condition.

3. (Cont'd.) Additional Global Heritage Ranks

Criteria for Converting Global Ranks to Combined Global Ranks

Combined global ranks were determined from the following global rank designations:

G1	G1, G1?, G1?Q, G1Q, G?T1, G1T1, G4T1, G3T1Q, G5T1Q, G4G5T1, G5T1, G1G2
G2	G2, G2?, G2Q, G2?T2, G3T2, G3T2Q, G1G3, G2G3, G3T2, G3G4T2, G2G4T1T2Q, G4T1T2, G4T2, G4?T2?, G5T2, G5T2Q, G5T1T2, G5T1T2Q
G3	G3, G3?, G3Q, G3?Q, G2G3Q, G2G4, G2G4T?, G3G4T3, G3G4, G3QT2T3, G3T3, G3T3Q, , G4T2T3, G4T3, G4T3Q, G4T3?, G4?T3, G5T2T3, G5T2T4, G5T3, G5T3?, G5T2T3Q
G4	G4, G4?, G?, G?T?, G4Q, G4T?, G4T4, G3G5, G4T3T4, G5T4, G5T4?, G5?T4?, G5T3T4, G5T4T5, G4G5T3T4, G4G5T?, G4G5T4, G4G5T4T5, G4G5, G4G5?
G5	G5, G5?, G5?T?, G5T, G5TU, G5T5, G5T?, G5T4T5Q
GX	G5TXQ

Rank Qualifiers

Rank	Definition
?	Inexact Numeric Rank —Denotes inexact numeric rank
Q	Questionable taxonomy that may reduce conservation priority —Distinctiveness of this entity as a taxon at the current level is questionable; resolution of this uncertainty may result in change from a species to a subspecies or hybrid, or inclusion of this taxon in another taxon, with the resulting taxon having a lower-priority (numerically higher) conservation status rank.

Variant Global Ranks

Rank	Definition
G#G#	Range Rank —A numeric range rank (e.g., G2G3) is used to indicate uncertainty about the exact status of a taxon. Ranges cannot skip more than one rank (e.g., GU should be used rather than G1G4).
GU	Unrankable —Currently unrankable due to lack of information or due to substantially conflicting information about status or trends. NOTE: Whenever possible, the most likely rank is assigned and the question mark qualifier is added (e.g., G2?) to express uncertainty, or a range rank (e.g., G2G3) is used to delineate the limits (range) of uncertainty.
G?	Unranked —Global rank not yet assessed.

4. Rationale for Including Species, Communities or Systems on the Targets List

- 1 Imperiled (includes G1-G3)
- 2 US ESA status (listed by US Fish and Wildlife Service)
- 3 Declining
- 4 Endemic
- 5 Disjunct
- 6 Vulnerable
- 7 Partners in Flight
(PIF AI: Area importance; PIF PT: Population trend; PIF Total: Total conservation priority ranking)
- 8 Widespread
- 9 Species aggregations
- 10 Limited
- 11 State rank
- 12 Red listed (BC)
- 13 Target only in BC
- 14 Peripheral