

### **APPENDIX 4.C.3**

#### **North Dakota Federal and State Threatened and Endangered Botany and Wildlife Species Rank Definitions**

**TABLE APPENDIX 4.C.3.A  
NATURAL HERITAGE RANK DEFINITIONS**

<b>G1</b>	<b>Critically Imperiled</b> – Critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity or because of some factor of its biology making it especially vulnerable to extinction. Typically 5 or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals (<1,000) or acres (<2,000) or stream miles (<10). [Critically endangered throughout its range.]
<b>G2</b>	<b>Imperiled</b> - Imperiled globally because of rarity or because of other factors demonstrably making it very vulnerable to extinction or elimination throughout its range. Typically 6 to 20 occurrences or few remaining individuals (1,000 to 3,000) or acres (2,000 to 10,000) or stream miles (10 to 50). [Endangered throughout its range.]
<b>G3</b>	<b>Vulnerable</b> – Vulnerable globally either because very rare and local throughout its range, found only in a restricted range (even if abundant at some locations) or because of other factors making it vulnerable to extinction or elimination throughout its range. Typically of 21 to 100 occurrences or between 3,000 and 10,000 individuals. [Threatened throughout its range.]
<b>G4</b>	<b>Apparently Secure</b> – Uncommon but not rare (although it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery), and usually widespread. Apparently not vulnerable in most of its range, but possibly cause for long-term concern. Typically more than 100 occurrences and more than 10,000 individuals.
<b>G5</b>	<b>Secure</b> – Common, widespread, and abundant (although it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially on the periphery). Not vulnerable in most of its range. Typically with considerably more than 100 occurrences and more than 10,000 individuals.
<b>GX</b>	<b>Presumed Extinct</b> (species elements) - Believed to be extinct throughout its range (e.g., passenger pigeon), virtually no likelihood that it will be rediscovered.
<b>GH</b>	<b>Possibly Extinct</b> (species elements) - Of historical occurrence throughout its range, i.e., formerly part of the established biota, with the expectation that it may be rediscovered (e.g. Ivory-billed woodpecker).
<b>G#G#</b>	<b>Range Rank</b> - 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).
<b>GU</b>	<b>Unrankable</b> - Currently unrankable due to lack of information or due to substantially conflicting information about status or trends
<b>G?</b>	<b>Unranked</b> - Global rank not yet assessed.
<b>HYB</b>	<b>Hybrid</b> - Element not ranked because it represents and interspecific hybrid and not a species.
<b>?</b>	<b>Inexact Numeric Rank</b> - Denotes inexact numeric rank.
<b>Q</b>	<b>Questionable Taxonomy</b> - Taxonomic status is questionable; numeric rank may change with taxonomy.
<b>C</b>	<b>Captive or Cultivated Only</b> - Taxon at present is extant only in captivity or cultivation, or as a reintroduced population not yet established
<b>T</b>	<b>Infraspecific Taxon</b> (trinomial) – The status of infraspecific taxa (subspecies or varieties) are indicated by a “T-rank” following the species’ basic global rank. A T subrank cannot imply the subspecies or variety is more abundant than the species’ basic global rank (i.e., a G1T2 subrank should not occur).

<b>TABLE APPENDIX 4.C.3.A (CONTINUED)</b> <b>NATURAL HERITAGE RANK DEFINITIONS</b>	
<b>S1</b>	<b>Critically Imperiled</b> – Critically imperiled in the state because of extreme rarity or because of some factor of its biology making it especially vulnerable to extirpation from the state. Typically 5 or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals (<1,000). [Critically endangered in state.]
<b>S2</b>	<b>Imperiled</b> – Imperiled in the state because of rarity or because of other factors making it very vulnerable to extirpation from the state. Typically 6 to 20 occurrences or few remaining individuals (1,000 to 3,000). [Endangered in the state.]
<b>S3</b>	<b>Vulnerable</b> – Vulnerable in the state either because rare and uncommon, or found only in a restricted range (even if abundant at some locations), or because of other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation. Typically 21 to 100 occurrences or between 3,000 to 10,000 individuals. [Threatened in the state.]
<b>S4</b>	<b>Apparently Secure</b> – Uncommon but not rare, and usually widespread in the state. Possible cause of long-term concern. Usually more than 100 occurrences and more than 10,000 individuals
<b>S5</b>	<b>Secure</b> – Common, widespread, and abundant in the state. Essentially ineradicable under present conditions. Typically with considerably more than 100 occurrences and more than 10,000 individuals.
<b>SX</b>	<b>Presumed Extirpated</b> – Element is believed to be extirpated from the state. Virtually no likelihood that it will be rediscovered.
<b>SH</b>	<b>Possibly Extirpated (Historical)</b> – Elements occurred historically in the state, and there is some expectation that it may be rediscovered. Its presence may not have been verified in the past 20 years.
<b>S##</b>	<b>Range Rank</b> – A numeric range rank (e.g., S2S3) is used to indicate the range of uncertainty about the exact status of the element. Ranges cannot skip more than one rank (e.g., SU should be used rather than S1S4).
<b>SU</b>	<b>Unrankable</b> – Currently unrankable due to lack of information or due to substantially conflicting information about status or trends.
<b>S?</b>	<b>Unranked</b> - State rank not yet assessed.
<b>HYB</b>	<b>Hybrid</b> - Element not ranked because it represents and interspecific hybrid and not a species.
<b>SE</b>	<b>Exotic</b> - An exotic species established in the state; may be native in nearby regions.
<b>SE#</b>	<b>Exotic Numeric</b> – An exotic established in the state that has been assigned a numeric rank to indicate its status, as defined for S1 through S5.
<b>SZ</b>	<b>Zero Occurrences</b> – Present but lacking practical conservation concern in the state because there are no definable occurrences, although the taxon is native and appears regularly in the state. An SZ rank will generally be used for long distance migrants whose occurrences during their migrations have little or no conservation value for the migrant, as they are typically too irregular (in terms of repeated visitation to the same locations), transitory, and dispersed to be reliably identified, mapped, and protected.
<b>SP</b>	<b>Potential</b> – Potential that element occurs in the state but no extant or historic occurrences are accepted.
<b>SR</b>	<b>Reported</b> – Element reported in the state but without a basis for either accepting or rejecting the report, or the report not yet reviewed. Some of these are very recent discoveries for which the program hasn't yet received first-hand information; others are old, obscure reports.
<b>SRF</b>	<b>Reported Falsely</b> – Element erroneously reported in the state and the error has persisted in the literature.

<b>TABLE APPENDIX 4.C.3.A (CONTINUED)</b> <b>NATURAL HERITAGE RANK DEFINITIONS</b>	
<b>SSYN</b>	Synonym – Element reported as occurring in the state, but state does not recognize the taxon; therefore the Element is not ranked by the state.
<b>*</b>	S rank has been assigned and is under review. Contact the individual state Natural Heritage Program for assigned rank.
<b>B</b>	Breeding – Basic rank refers to the breeding population of the Element in the state.
<b>N</b>	Non-breeding – Basic rank refers to the non-breeding population of the Element in the state.
<b>?</b>	Inexact Numeric Rank – Denotes inexact numeric rank.
<b>C</b>	Captive or Cultivated - Native element presently extant in the state only in captivity or cultivation or as a reintroduced population not yet established

<b>TABLE APPENDIX 4.C.3.B</b> <b>FEDERAL STATUS DESIGNATIONS</b>	
<b>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)</b>	
*This value indicates status under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 based on categories defined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service(16 U.S.C.S §1531-1543 (Supp.1996).	
<b>E</b>	Endangered
<b>T</b>	Threatened
<b>PE</b>	Proposed Endangered
<b>PT</b>	Proposed Threatened
<b>PC</b>	Proposed Candidate
<b>XE</b>	Essential Experimental Population – An experimental population whose loss would be likely to appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival of the species in the wild.
<b>XN</b>	Experimental Nonessential Population – An experimental population of a listed species reintroduced into a specific area that receives more flexible management under the Act.
<b>C</b>	Candidate (species for which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has sufficient information on biological status and threats to propose listing as threatened or endangered).

<b>TABLE APPENDIX 4.C.3.B (CONTINUED)</b>	
<b>FEDERAL STATUS DESIGNATIONS</b>	
<b>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)</b>	
*This value indicates status under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 based on categories defined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service(16 U.S.C.S §1531-1543 (Supp.1996).	
<b>CH</b>	Critical Habitat – The specific areas within the geographic area occupied by a species, at the time it is listed, on which are found those physical or biological features essential to conserve the species and that may require special management considerations or protection; and specific areas outside the geographic area occupied by the species at the time it is listed upon determination that such area essential to conserve the species.
<b>PDL</b>	Proposed of delisting – Any species for which a final rule has been published in the Federal Register to delist the species.
<b>DM</b>	Recovered, delisted, and being monitored – Any previously listed species that is now recovered, has been delisted, and is being monitored.
<b>U.S. Forest Service (USFS)</b>	
*The U.S. Forest Service Manual (2670.22) defines the status of Sensitive species on Forest Service lands. The Regional Forester (Northern Region) designates Sensitive species on National Forests in Montana. This designation applies only on USFS-administered lands.	
<b>E</b>	Endangered
<b>T</b>	Threatened
<b>S1</b>	Critically imperiled: at high risk because of extreme rarity (often 5 or fewer occurrences), rapidly declining numbers, or other factors that make it particularly vulnerable to rangewide extinction or extirpation.
<b>S2</b>	Imperiled: at risk because of restricted range, few populations (often 20 or fewer), rapidly declining numbers, or other factors that make it vulnerable to rangewide extinction or extirpation.
<b>S3</b>	Vulnerable: at moderate risk because of restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors that make it vulnerable to rangewide extinction or extirpation.
<b>S</b>	Sensitive: animal and plant species identified by the Regional Forester for which population viability is a concern as evidenced by significant downward trend in population or a significant downward trend in habitat capacity.
<b>W</b>	Watch Plants:
<b>North Dakota’s Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy</b>	
*The North Dakota Game & Fish Department defines conservation status of species within the state North Dakota.	
<b>Level I</b>	Species having a high level of conservation priority because of declining status either in North Dakota or across their range; or a high rate of occurrence in North Dakota constituting the core of the species’ breeding range, but are at-risk range wide, and non-State Wildlife Grants (SWG) funding is not readily available to them.
<b>Level II</b>	Species having a moderate level of conservation priority; or a high level of conservation priority, but a substantial amount of non-State Wildlife Grant funding is available to them.
<b>Level III</b>	North Dakota’s species having a moderate level of conservation priority, but are believed to be peripheral or do not breed in North Dakota.