

Oklahoma Biological Survey

GUIDE TO STATUS AND RARITY RANKING CODES

OKLAHOMA NATURAL HERITAGE INVENTORY

May 21, 2001

This guide provides summary explanations of endangerment categories used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation to designate the status of Federal and State Threatened or Endangered or Candidate species.

The guide also includes ONHI Rarity Rankings for plant and animal species and ecological communities in Oklahoma. These rankings have no regulatory stature: we use them to help decide priorities for biological research and for recommending species and communities for conservation in the state. Rarity ranks provide an index of the biological status for species and natural communities in Oklahoma.

EXPLANATION OF STATE AND FEDERAL STATUS

FEDERAL (Status determined by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Endangered Species)

- E Listed Endangered.
- T Listed Threatened.
- P Proposed status.
- C The Service has sufficient information on the biological status and threats to propose the species as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act.
- Cw Warranted but precluded candidate.
- R Recovered.
- S/A Similarity of Appearance. A species may be treated as if it were listed if the species so closely resembles a listed one that the two can only be distinguished with difficulty, and if the effect of the difficulty would be to further jeopardize the listed species.
- X Extinct.

STATE (Status determined by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation)

- E Endangered in Oklahoma.
- T Threatened in Oklahoma.
- SN State nominated for listing as threatened or endangered.
- SS Species of Special Concern
 - SS1- a species that current evidence indicates is especially vulnerable to extirpation because of a limited range, low population or other factors.
 - SS2 - species identified by technical experts as possibly threatened or extirpation but for which additional information is needed.
- CS Statewide closed season. It is unlawful at any time to possess or to kill individuals of these species, or to remove any individuals of these species from their natural habitats.

Additional information about federal or state species status is available from these agencies:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services
222 S. Houston, Suite A
Tulsa, OK 74127
(918) 581-7458

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
Wildlife Diversity Program
1801 N. Lincoln Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
(405) 521-4616

NATURAL HERITAGE RARITY RANKINGS

ONHI gives species and natural communities occurring in Oklahoma two ranks: a global (G) rank reflecting its rarity throughout the world, and, a state (S) rank reflecting its rarity within Oklahoma. Taken together these ranks serve as an index of biological status, but the ranks are subject to change with new information. *Natural Heritage Rarity Rankings have no regulatory stature: they are intended for information only.*

GLOBAL RANK

- G1 Critically imperiled globally because extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals or acres) or because of some factor of its biology making it especially vulnerable to extinction.
- G2 Imperiled globally because of its rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or few remaining individuals or acres) or because of other factors demonstrably making it vulnerable to extinction throughout its range.
- G3 Either very rare and local throughout its range or found locally (even abundantly at some of its locations) in a restricted range, or because of other factors making it vulnerable to extinction throughout its range; in the range of 21-100 occurrences.
- G4 Apparently secure globally, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.
- G5 Demonstrably secure globally though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.
- GH Historically known, with the expectation that it may be rediscovered.
- GX Believed to be extinct.
- GU Not yet ranked.

STATE RANK

- S1 Critically imperiled in Oklahoma because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals or acres) or because of some factor of its biology making it especially vulnerable to extinction.
- S2 Imperiled in Oklahoma because of extreme rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or few remaining individuals or acres) or because of other factors making it very vulnerable to extinction throughout its range.
- S3 Rare and local in Oklahoma (though it may be abundant at some of its locations); in the range of 21-100 occurrences.
- S4 Apparently secure in Oklahoma.
- S5 Demonstrably secure in Oklahoma.
- SA Accidental in Oklahoma.
- SH Historically known from Oklahoma, but possibly extirpated; not seen in the last 15 years.
- SR Reported in Oklahoma but not documented.
- SRF Falsely reported in Oklahoma.
- S#M* Migratory.

- S#N Non-breeding in Oklahoma.
- S#B Breeding in Oklahoma.
- SU Not yet ranked.
- SX Believed to be extirpated from Oklahoma.

* Rank number (#) included to indicate status.

OTHER RANK SYMBOLS

- ? There is a question about the given rank.
- Q There are taxonomic questions concerning a species.
- T Associated with global rank, indicating a global rarity rank for a particular subspecific taxon.

Additional information on rarity rankings and rare species is available from:

Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory
Oklahoma Biological Survey
111 E. Chesapeake Street
Norman, OK 73019
(405) 325-1985
FAX (405) 325-7702
www.biosurvey.ou.edu/onhi.html

ONHI is a program of the **Oklahoma Biological Survey**, a research unit of the University of Oklahoma in Norman. The purpose of the Survey is to gather and disseminate information regarding the biology of animal and plant forms within the state, including data on their relationships to each other and their environments. The Survey provides information to citizens, organizations, businesses and agencies concerning Oklahoma's biota, and assists in the protection and preservation of the natural heritage of Oklahoma.