

An Online Encyclopedia of Life

bit.ly/explorerns



Utah prairie dog (*Cynomys parvidens*) | G2 - Imperiled | Photo by James Phelps



Sandplain gerardia (*Agalinis acuta*) | G1 - Critically Imperiled | Photo by Ed Sambolin

Why

The more detailed information we have about our plants and animals, the more prepared we are to protect and preserve them.

We need to know what species and ecosystems exist, where they are located, their life history, and their current status.

Conservation action is more efficient and effective with a comprehensive information resource.

What

Explorer is a free, online website that offers detailed information on plants, animals, and habitats in the United States and Canada.

Explorer is populated based on more than 40 years of fieldwork and research, resulting in information for more than 75,000 species, with particular emphasis on information for rare and endangered species, and over 8,000 ecosystems.

Explorer equips you with the information needed to protect and save species.

With Explorer, you can learn where animals and plants reside, their life history, habitat and management needs, and threats to their survival.

You can search for species by common or scientific name, taxonomy, location, conservation status, and more.

Learn what species are 'at risk' in any area of interest or find out what's near you.

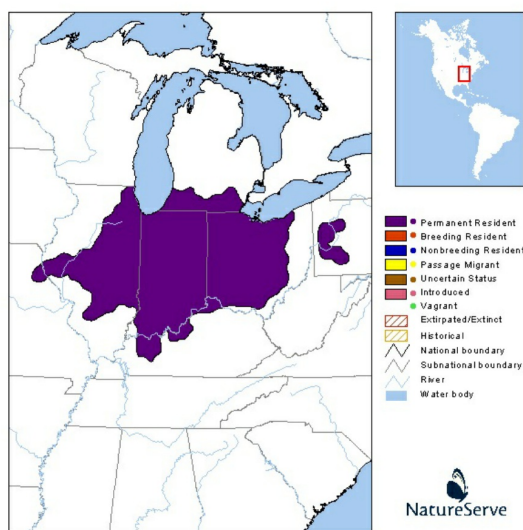
Explorer's maps show you where species reside and where they travel, accompanied by beautiful images of animals and plants.

NatureServe Explorer Contact:
Jason McNeas | Jason_McNeas@natureserve.org

Explorer in Action



Kirtland's snake (*Clonophis kirtlandii*) | G2 - Imperiled



Range map for Kirtland's snake

An organization searches Explorer for rare or endangered species that exist in their county or watershed, in order to inform their conservation action plan.

A conservation professional, hoping to improve the health of a species, uses Explorer to chart its life history in order to understand the ideal conditions in which the species can thrive.

A researcher learns the geographic range in which a species exists for a report.

"This database has saved me months of research and review! I am new to a region and not familiar with all the species here and this source has allowed me to get up to speed quickly. I will be using many, if not all, of the reports I have printed for an EIS [environmental impact statement] that covers Oregon and Washington. Thanks for a great reference source!"

— Shawna Bautista, U.S. Forest Service

NatureServe Explorer Contact:
Jason McNees | Jason_McNees@natureserve.org