About the Map

There are the foundation of life on Earth, serving energy from sunlight, regulating the atmosphere, and providing homes for all forms of life. People and ecosystems depend on healthy grasslands for food, medicine, and recreation. Grasslands are the most threatened ecosystem on Earth and the world’s largest intact ecosystem. Grasslands are often referred to as the "lungs of the planet," as they are home to a wide variety of plant species. Grasslands are also important for the survival of many species of birds, mammals, and insects. The NatureServe Network is dedicated to identifying, monitoring, and conserving native plant species, and their associated ecosystems, and their importance to human health and well-being.

Mapping the Places That Matter Most

NatureServe is a network of more than 100 leading organizations, including universities, government agencies, and conservation organizations, that work together to protect the biodiversity of the United States. Through the NatureServe Network, scientists and conservationists work to identify, monitor, and conserve native plant species and their associated ecosystems, and the habitats they depend on. The NatureServe Network uses a variety of data sources, including field-based surveys, satellite imagery, and genomic data, to identify the places that matter most for conservation.

The Map of Biodiversity Importance allows us to see what we've never seen before. With unprecedented resolution, we can see the places that matter most for sustaining biodiversity.

- Dr. Healy Hamilton, NatureServe's Chief Scientist

SPECIES AT RISK

G1: Critically Imperiled
G2: Imperiled
G3: Apparently Secure
G4: Apparently Safe
G5: Secure
S1: Critically Imperiled
S2: Imperiled
S3: Vulnerable
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Protected Areas Managed for Biodiversity

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