Successful conservation efforts cannot occur without a complete understanding of what species are imperiled and where they are located. Information on the known locations, viability, and other details of imperiled species is critical for any conservation action to take place. The process of collecting data about imperiled species must be consistent and standard, to ensure decision-quality data.

NatureServe’s national species dataset of imperiled species includes over 1 million detailed location records for plant and animals throughout the United States and Canada, compiled over four decades. Imperiled species location and condition data is collected in-the-field by the NatureServe Network, using NatureServe’s rigorous standards and methods. The NatureServe Network includes 86 Network Programs and over 1,000 conservation professionals in the United States, Canada, and Latin America. NatureServe collects, analyzes, and manages imperiled species data and incorporates the information into maps, tools, and other resources. NatureServe’s national species dataset can be customized to fit specific needs, including custom datasets, analyses, models, and maps.
The Department of Defense (DoD) is now able to effectively protect, manage, and monitor imperiled species on its lands and target those species that are not yet listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA). Managing DoD lands in a way that both supports military readiness and sustains ecological integrity requires an understanding of the species and ecosystems that are found on and around these installations.

Using location data in the national species dataset, NatureServe conducted an analysis of imperiled species on or near DoD lands, provided lists of species by installation, and developed custom maps and figures. As a result of this analysis, the DoD is now able to target conservation actions for species that have been assessed as imperiled or critically imperiled by the NatureServe Network, but do not have a status under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. These efforts can lead to species not being included on future U.S. ESA listings.

"As a professional ecologist and advocate for biological diversity, I rely on and desperately need good quality data when commenting on federal and state proposals that could negatively impact the environment and species of concern. NatureServe is the first place I go to in acquiring that data and information. They provide an invaluable service to their users in a professional and high quality manner. They are truly a GREAT non-profit!"

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