

## North Carolina Natural Heritage Program Element Occurrences

The Natural Heritage Element Occurrences (nheo) shapefile identifies occurrences of rare plants and animals, exemplary or unique natural communities, and important animal assemblages (e.g., heronries and colonial waterbird nesting sites). Collectively, these plants, animals, natural communities, and animal assemblages are referred to as "elements of natural diversity" or simply as "elements". Specific occurrences of these elements are referred to as "element occurrences" or simply "EOs". Note that records for the Blue Ridge Parkway are not included in the shapefile. You must contact the Blue Ridge Parkway if you need information for this area.

Because these data can quickly become outdated, the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program (NCNHP) should be contacted before use of the data set to ensure data currency. Please use the following formats when acknowledging products derived from this data set:

- a. If data are accessed via the Data Explorer website, the citation shall be:  
North Carolina Natural Heritage Program. <year>. Natural Heritage Data Explorer [web application]. NCDNCR, Raleigh, NC. Available at [www.ncnhp.org](http://www.ncnhp.org). (Accessed: <date>).
- b. If GIS data are cited, the citation shall be:  
North Carolina Natural Heritage Program. <data year>. Geographic Information System (GIS) data. NCDNCR, Raleigh, NC. Available at [www.ncnhp.org](http://www.ncnhp.org). (Accessed: <data\_date>).

While efforts have been made to ensure that these data are accurate and reliable, the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program cannot assume liability for any damages or misrepresentation caused by any inaccuracies in the data.

If you have questions or comments, contact us at: North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, 1651 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1651 or visit <http://www.ncnhp.org>.

**Projection:** North Carolina State Plane, **datum:** NAD83, **units:** meters

### Attributes

The **Element Occurrence ID (EO\_ID)** is number that uniquely identifies the element occurrence record in the NCNHP database.

The **Scientific Name (SCI\_NAME)** of plants follow those used in "Flora of the Southern and Mid-Atlantic States" by Alan Weakley (2018 draft). For the most part, animal scientific names follow those found in NatureServe Explorer (<http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/>). Names of natural communities are from a "Guide to the Natural Communities of North Carolina, Fourth Approximation" by Michael P. Schafale, 2012.

The **Element Occurrence Number (EO\_NUM)** is a sequential number that uniquely identifies a specific occurrence of an element. Occurrences for a given element are numbered sequentially as they are entered in our database, but due to deletions and record merges, there may be gaps in the sequence.

The **Common Name (COM\_NAME)** of plant names generally follow those used in "Flora of the Southern and Mid-Atlantic States" by Alan Weakley (2018 draft). For the most part, animal names follow those found in NatureServe Explorer (<http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/>). Natural communities do not have common names.

The **Survey Date (SURVEYDATE)** is the date of the most recent survey for element occurrence. Format of the dates is: yyyy-mm-dd. When the date is not precisely known, examples of possible values are:

2001-08	During August 2001
1953	During 1953
1871-Pre	Before 1871
1995-Post	After 1995
1975-Spring	In the spring of 1975
1992-Summer	In the summer of 1992
1975-Fall	In the fall of 1975
1960-1961-Winter	In the winter of 1960-61
1955-Circa	Sometime around 1955
1990s	Sometime during the 1990's
2002-2005	Between 2002 and 2005
1998?	Possibly during 1998

The **Last Observation (LAST\_OBS)** is the date on which the element occurrence was most recently observed. Format of the dates is: yyyy-mm-dd. See Survey Date for examples of values when the date is not precisely known.

The **First Observation (FIRST\_OBS)** is the date on which the element occurrence was first observed. Format of the dates is: yyyy-mm-dd. See the Survey Date for examples of values when the date is not precisely known.

The **Element Occurrence Status (EO\_STATUS)** is assigned by NCNHP and summarizes what is known about the status of the record. Possible values are as follows:

Status	Description
Current	The occurrence was observed recently.
Historical	Either the element has not been found in recent surveys; or it has not been surveyed recently enough to be confident they are still present; or the occurrence is thought to be destroyed.
Obscure	The date the element was last observed is uncertain.

The **Element Occurrence Rank (EO\_RANK)** is an estimate of the viability of the occurrence. Possible value are as follows:

EO Rank	Definition
A	The occurrence has excellent estimated viability/ecological integrity.
B	The occurrence has good estimated viability/ecological integrity.

- C The occurrence has fair estimated viability/ecological integrity.
- D The occurrence has poor estimated viability/ecological integrity.
- E The occurrence has recently been verified to still exist, but there is insufficient information to estimate its viability/ecological integrity.
- F Recent surveys failed to relocate an occurrence previously reported, but there is no evidence the occurrence has been destroyed.
- H The occurrence has not been recently verified but there is no evidence the occurrence has been destroyed.
- NR The occurrence has not yet been assigned a rank.
- U The occurrence cannot be assigned a rank because of insufficient information.
- X The occurrence has been destroyed.
- i The occurrence was introduced. (Used as a qualifier of the above ranks.)
- r The occurrence was reintroduced or restored. (Used as a qualifier of the above ranks.)
- ? There is uncertainty about the rank. (Used as a qualifier of the above ranks.)

NOTE: For occurrences with a mixed rank (e.g., "AC"), the actual rank is uncertain and lies between the range specified.

The **Accuracy (ACCURACY)** is an estimate of the level of accuracy associated with the mapping of an Element Occurrence feature. Accuracy varies on the basis of the area observed to be occupied by the Element (Field Observation) relative to the area contained within the footprint of the feature. This uncertainty can result from doubt about the exact location of an observation, which in turn is affected by survey techniques, equipment, and the nature of information we receive from observers. Possible values are as follows:

<b>Accuracy</b>	<b>Description</b>
1-Very High	Greater than 95% of the mapped area is comprised of the observed area occupied by the element (i.e. 5% or less of the feature is comprised of area added for locational uncertainty).
2-High	Between 80% and 95% of the mapped area is comprised of the observed area occupied by the element (i.e. 5%-20% of the feature is comprised of area added for locational uncertainty).
3-Medium	Between 20% and 80% of the mapped area is comprised of the observed area occupied by the element (i.e. 20%-80% of the feature is comprised of area added for locational uncertainty).
4-Low	Between 5% and 20% of the mapped area is comprised of the observed area occupied by the element (i.e. 80%-95% of the feature is comprised of area added for locational uncertainty).

<b>Accuracy</b>	<b>Description</b>
5-Very Low	Less than 5% of the mapped area is comprised of the observed area occupied by the element.
6-Unknown	The percentage of the mapped area comprised of the observed area occupied by the element is unknown.

The **North Carolina Status (NC\_STATUS)** is the protection status of the element in the State of North Carolina. Definitions of the protection statuses for plants and animals differ.

Animal protection statuses are designated by the Wildlife Resources Commission and the Natural Heritage Program (NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources). Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, freshwater fishes, and freshwater and terrestrial mollusks have legal protection status in North Carolina (Wildlife Resources Commission). Significantly Rare designations indicate rarity and the need for population monitoring and conservation action. However, it is a non-regulatory NC Natural Heritage Program designation.

<b>CODE</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>DEFINITION</b>
E	Endangered	"Any native or once-native species of wild animal whose continued existence as a viable component of the State's fauna is determined by the Wildlife Resources Commission to be in jeopardy or any species of wild animal determined to be an 'endangered species' pursuant to the Endangered Species Act" (Article 25 of Chapter 113 of the General Statutes; 1987).
T	Threatened	"Any native or once-native species of wild animal which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range, or one that is designated as a threatened species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act" (Article 25 of Chapter 113 of the General Statutes; 1987).
SC	Special Concern	"Any species of wild animal native or once-native to North Carolina which is determined by the Wildlife Resources Commission to require monitoring but which may be taken under regulations adopted under the provisions of this Article" (Article 25 of Chapter 113 of the General Statutes; 1987).
SR	Significantly Rare	This is an NCNHP designation. Any species which has not been listed as an Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern species, but which exists in the state (or recently occurred in the state) in small numbers (generally fewer than 100 statewide populations) and has been determined by the NCNHP to need monitoring. Significantly Rare species include species of historical occurrence with some likelihood of rediscovery in the state and species substantially reduced in numbers by habitat destruction, direct exploitation, or disease. Species considered extirpated in the state, with little likelihood of re-discovery, are given no N.C. Status (unless already listed by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission as E, T, or SC).
SR-G	Game Animal	Species is a game animal or a furbearer, and therefore (by law) cannot be listed for State protection as E, T, or SC.

Plant protection statuses are determined by the Plant Conservation Program (NC Department of Agriculture) and the Natural Heritage Program (NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources). Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern species are protected by state law (Plant Protection and Conservation Act, 1979). Significantly Rare designations indicate rarity and the need for population monitoring and conservation action. However, it is a non-regulatory NC Natural Heritage Program designation.

<b>CODE</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>DEFINITION</b>
E	Endangered	"Any native or once-native species or higher taxon of plant whose continued existence as a viable component of the State's flora is determined to be in an Endangered." (GS 19B 106: 202.12). (Information on permitting regulations for NC Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern species can be found at <a href="http://www.ncplant.com">www.ncplant.com</a> ).
T	Threatened	"Any native or once-native resident species of plant which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range or one that is designated as a Threatened species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act." (GS 19B 106:202.12).
SC-V	Special Concern-Vulnerable	"Any species or higher taxon of plant which is likely to become a threatened species within the foreseeable future." (NCAC 02 NCAC 48F .0401).
SC-H	Special Concern-Historical	"Any species or higher taxon of plant that occurred in North Carolina at one time, but for which all known populations are currently considered to be either historical or extirpated." (NCAC 02 NCAC 48F .0401).
SR	Significantly Rare	This is an NCNHP designation. Any species not listed by the N.C. Plant Conservation Program as Endangered, Threatened, or Candidate, which is rare in North Carolina, generally with 1-100 populations in the state, frequently substantially reduced in numbers by habitat destruction (and sometimes also by direct exploitation or disease).
SR-L	Limited	The range of the species is limited to North Carolina and adjacent states (endemic or near endemic). These are species that may have 20-50 populations in North Carolina, but fewer than 100 populations rangewide. The preponderance of their distribution is in North Carolina and their fate depends largely on conservation here.
SR-T	Throughout	The species is rare throughout its range (fewer than 100 populations total).
SR-D	Disjunct	The species is disjunct to North Carolina from a main range in a different part of the country or world.
SR-P	Peripheral	The species is at the periphery of its range in North Carolina. These species are generally more common somewhere else in their ranges, occurring in North Carolina peripherally to their main ranges, mostly in habitats which are unusual in North Carolina.

SR-O	Other	The range of the species is sporadic or cannot be described by the other Significantly Rare categories.
W	Watch List	Any other species believed to be rare and of conservation concern in the state but not warranting active monitoring at this time.

The **Federal Status (USA\_STATUS)** of an element is designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service (USNMFS) in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended through the 108th Congress.

CODE	STATUS	DEFINITION
E	Endangered	A taxon "which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range" (Endangered Species Act, Section 3).
T	Threatened	A taxon "which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range" (Endangered Species Act, Section 3).
T(S/A)	Threatened due to Similarity of Appearance	Section 4 (e) of the [Endangered Species] Act authorizes the treatment of a species (subspecies or population segment) as endangered or threatened even though it is not otherwise listed as endangered or threatened if -- (a) the species so closely resembles in appearance an endangered or threatened species that enforcement personnel would have substantial difficulty in differentiating between the listed and unlisted species; (b) the effect of this substantial difficulty is an additional threat to an endangered or threatened species; and (c) such treatment of an unlisted species will substantially facilitate the enforcement and further the policy of the Act. (Endangered Species Act, Section 4).
C	Candidate	"Taxa for which the [Fish and Wildlife] Service has on file enough substantial information on biological vulnerability and threat(s) to support proposals to list them as endangered or threatened. Proposed rules have not yet been issued because this action is precluded at present by other listing activity. Development and publication of proposed rules on these taxa are anticipated. The Service encourages State and other Federal agencies as well as other affected parties to give consideration to these taxa in environmental planning." (Federal Register, February 28, 1996).

CODE	STATUS	DEFINITION
BGPA	Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act	Bald Eagles were removed from the federal list of threatened and endangered species on August 9, 2007, and are no longer protected under the Endangered Species Act. However, Bald Eagles remain protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The Bald and Golden Eagle Act prohibits anyone from taking, possessing, or transporting a Bald Eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> ) or Golden Eagle ( <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> ), or the parts, nests, or eggs of such birds without prior authorization. This includes inactive nests as well as active nests. Take means to pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, destroy, molest, or disturb. Activities that directly or indirectly lead to take are prohibited without a permit. For more information, see the Code of the Federal Register: 50 Part 22 or visit: <a href="http://www.fws.gov/midwest/MidwestBird/EaglePermits/index.html">http://www.fws.gov/midwest/MidwestBird/EaglePermits/index.html</a>
XN	Nonessential Experimental Population	The Endangered Species Act permits the reintroduction of endangered animals as "nonessential experimental" populations. Such populations, considered nonessential to the survival of the species, are managed with fewer restrictions than populations listed as endangered. "Section 10 (j) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, provides for the designation of introduced populations of federally listed species as nonessential experimental. This designation allows for greater flexibility in the management of these populations by local, state, and Federal agencies. Specifically, the requirement for Federal agencies to avoid jeopardizing these populations by their actions is eliminated and allowances for taking the species are broadened." (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1995)
P_	Proposed	A species which has been formally proposed in the Federal Register for listing as Endangered or Threatened. The status would therefore be PE or PT, respectively.

The **State Rank (S\_RANK)** is a measure of the relative imperilment of both species and ecological communities in the State of North Carolina. For plant and animal species these ranks provide an estimate of extinction risk. This information has been developed by the NC Natural Heritage Program, NatureServe, and a large number of collaborators in government agencies, universities, natural history museums and botanical gardens, and other conservation organizations. These ranks have been developed primarily to help in guiding conservation and to inform environmental planning and management. State ranks are based on a one to five scale, ranging from critically imperiled (S1) to demonstrably secure (S5). These status assessments are based on the best available information, considering a variety of factors such as abundance, distribution, population trends, and threats.

<b>CODE</b>	<b>RANK</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
S1	Critically imperiled	Critically imperiled in North Carolina due to extreme rarity or some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extirpation (local extinction) from the state. Typically 5 or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals (<1,000), or less than 2,000 acres occupied in the state.
S2	Imperiled	Imperiled in North Carolina due to rarity or some factor(s) making it very vulnerable to extirpation from the state. Typically 6 to 20 occurrences or few remaining individuals (1,000 to 3,000) or 2,000- 10,000 acres occupied in the state.
S3	Vulnerable	Vulnerable to extinction in North Carolina either because rare or uncommon, or found only in a restricted range (even if abundant at some locations), or due to other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation. Typically 21 to 100 occurrences or between 3,000 and 10,000 individuals or 10,000- 50,000 acres occupied in the state.
S4	Apparently Secure	Apparently secure and widespread in North Carolina, usually with more than 100 occurrences and more than 10,000 individuals.
S5	Secure	Common, widespread, and abundant in North Carolina. Essentially ineradicable under present conditions. Typically with considerably more than 100 occurrences and more than 10,000 individuals.
S#S#	Range Rank	A numeric range rank (e.g., S2S3) is used to indicate uncertainty about the exact status of the element.
SH	Historical	Occurred in North Carolina historically, with some expectation that it may be rediscovered. Its presence may not have been verified in the past 20 years. Upon verification of an extant occurrence, SH-ranked elements would typically receive an S1 rank.
SX	Presumed Extirpated	Believed to be extirpated in North Carolina and has not been located despite intensive searches of historical sites and other appropriate habitat.
SU	Unrankable	Currently cannot be assigned a rank in North Carolina due to lack of information or substantially conflicting information about status or trends. Need more information.
SNR	Not Ranked	Rank in North Carolina not yet assessed.
SNA	Not Applicable	A conservation status rank is not applicable because the element is not a suitable target for conservation because it is (1) an interspecific hybrid without conservation value, (2) not native to North Carolina, (3) outside its usual range and not regularly found in North Carolina, (4) never confidently documented as present in North Carolina, or (5) a taxon not confidently documented as present in North Carolina.
S_B	Breeding	Rank of breeding population in North Carolina. Used for migratory species only. (Used as qualifier of above ranks, e.g., S5B.)



CODE	RANK	DESCRIPTION
S_N	Nonbreeding	Rank of non-breeding population in North Carolina. Used for migratory species only. (Used as qualifier of above ranks, e.g., S3N.)
S_?	Uncertain	Indicates an inexact or uncertain numeric rank. (Used as qualifier of above ranks, e.g., "S2?".)

The **Rounded State Rank (RND\_S\_RANK)** is a simplified version of the State Rank.

The **Global Rank (G\_RANK)** is a measure of the relative imperilment of both species and ecological communities globally. Global ranks are assigned by NatureServe staff and contract biologists, based on a consensus of scientific experts, individual natural heritage programs, and the Natural Heritage Network. They apply to the status of a species throughout its range. This system is widely used by other agencies and organizations, as the best available scientific and objective assessment of a species' rarity throughout its range.

CODE	RANK	DESCRIPTION
G1	Critically imperiled	Critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extinction. Typically five or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals (<1,000), acres (<2,000), or linear miles (<10) globally.
G2	Imperiled	Imperiled globally because of rarity or because of some factor(s) making it very vulnerable to extinction. Typically 6 to 20 occurrences, or few remaining individuals (1,000 to 3,000), acres (2,000 to 10,000), or linear miles (10 to 50) globally.
G3	Vulnerable	Vulnerable globally either because very rare 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. Typically 21 to 100 occurrences, between 3,000 and 10,000 individuals, or 10,000-50,000 acres occupied globally.
G4	Apparently Secure	Uncommon but not rare (although it may be rare in parts of its range, particularly on 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.
G5	Secure	Common, widespread, and abundant (although it may be rare in parts of its range, particularly on the periphery). Not vulnerable in most of its range. Typically with considerably more than 100 occurrences and more than 10,000 individuals.
G#G#	Range Rank	A rank involving two numbers indicates uncertainty of rank. For example, a G2G3 rank indicates that the species may be a G2 or a G3, but that existing data do not allow that determination to be made.
GH	Historical	Known from only historical occurrences, but with some expectation that it may be rediscovered. May still be extant; further searching is needed.

<b>CODE</b>	<b>RANK</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
GX	Presumed Extinct	Believed to be extinct throughout its range with virtually no likelihood that it will be rediscovered. Not located despite intensive searches of historical sites and other appropriate habitat.
GU	Uncertain	Currently cannot be assigned a rank due to lack of information or due to substantially conflicting information about status or trends; need more information.
GNR	Not Ranked	Global rank not yet assessed.
GNA	Not Applicable	A conservation status rank is not applicable because the Element is not a suitable target of conservation activities. A rank is not assigned either because it is (1) an interspecific hybrid without conservation value; or (2) the element is a product of domestication or cultivation.
G_T#	Intraspecific Taxon	The rank of a subspecies or variety. As an example, G4T1 would apply to a subspecies of a species with an overall rank of G4, but the subspecies warranting a rank of G1.
G_?	Inexact or Uncertain	Denotes inexact or uncertain numeric rank. Used as qualifier of above ranks.
G_Q	Questionable taxonomy	Questionable taxonomy that may reduce conservation priority. Distinctiveness of this entity as a taxon at the current level is questionable. Resolution of this uncertainty may result in change from a species to a subspecies or inclusion of this taxon in another taxon, with the resulting species having a lower-priority conservation status rank. Used as qualifier of above ranks.

The **Rounded Global Rank (RND\_G\_RANK)** is a simplified version of the Global Rank.

The **Habitat Type (HAB\_TYPE)** characterizes the habitat preferred by the element. These values are assigned by NCNHP staff and are non-regulatory designations and do not necessarily correspond to jurisdictional resource determinations.

<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
Aquatic	A species found for one or more of its life history stages entirely in water. This is generally used only for species associated with flowing water; however, some species associated with large and notable natural lakes, such as Lake Phelps and Lake Waccamaw, are also included in this type.
Wetland	Either the element is a non-aquatic species (as defined above) found primarily in or near water or wetlands for one or more of its life history stages; or it is a wetland community. Note: this is not a NCDWR or USACE designation.
Upland	Either the element is a non-aquatic or -wetland species (as defined above) found primarily in upland habitats, or it is a terrestrial community.

The **Name Category (NAME\_CATGY)** categorizes the elements into broad taxonomic groups. (Similar to but generally broader than the Taxonomic Group discussed below.)

The **Taxonomic Group (TAXO\_GROUP)** is the broad biological group into which the element falls. Most are well known, such are mammals, crayfish, and mosses. Less familiar groups are *natural communities*, which are a distinct and reoccurring assemblage of populations of plants, animals, bacteria, and fungi naturally associated with each other and their physical environment; and *animal assemblages*, which are a concentration of animal species using the same site for a phase of their life cycle (feeding, reproduction, migration, hibernating, etc.), e.g. bird colonies, bat or reptile hibernacula, concentrations of migrating shorebirds, multispecific spawning grounds, or multispecific mussel habitats.

The **Habitat Comment (HAB\_COM)** briefly describes the known habitats in which an element is found. Known physiographic provinces in which the element occurs are also noted. These should not be regarded as the only possible provinces and habitats of the species in the state; our knowledge of the flora and fauna of North Carolina is still imperfect. The format is "physiographic province: habitat comment", e.g., "PM: shaly open woods and roadside". (Note: there is no habitat comment for animal assemblages and natural communities.) The physiographic provinces are:

<b>ABBR.</b>	<b>PROVINCE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
M	Mountains (Blue Ridge)	All parts of North Carolina west of the foot of the Blue Ridge Escarpment.
P	Piedmont	All parts of North Carolina east of the foot of the Blue Ridge Escarpment and west of the Fall Line, including outlying "foothill" ranges, such as the Brushy, Uwharrie, Sauratown, and South mountains. This province is shallowly underlain by crystalline metamorphic, igneous, or (rarely) consolidated sedimentary rocks.
S	Sandhills	The southwestern portion of the Coastal Plain province consisting mostly of deep aeolian sands of the Middendorf and Pinehurst formation (portions of Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, Moore, Richmond, Scotland, and Montgomery counties). The Sandhills are actually part of the Coastal Plain but are here distinguished because of their distinctive geomorphology and vegetation. Areas somewhat resembling the Sandhills region but occurring in other parts of the state (such as Carolina bay rims and aeolian or beach ridge deposits in the outer Coastal Plain) are considered part of the Coastal Plain Province.
C	Coastal Plain	All parts of North Carolina east of the Fall Line, but excluding the Sandhills region and those portions associated with tidal water (ocean, sounds, barrier islands, and mainland brackish or salt marshes).
T	Tidewater	That part of the state associated with tidal water, such as the ocean and barrier islands, sounds, estuaries and mainland brackish or salt marshes.

The **Element ID (ELEMENT\_ID)** is a number which uniquely identifies the element.

**Data Sensitive Element (DATA\_SENS)** indicates whether an element is subject to poaching or harassment.

- Y Yes, information on element is sensitive.
- N No, information is not sensitive

**Please do not make the location of sensitive species known! For example, when making maps using these data, either do not label sensitive species or obscure their location.**

**High Quality Resources (HQR)** include:

- Fish with a global rank of G1, G2 or G3 and a state rank of S1 or S2,
- State or Federally Endangered or Threatened mussels, and
- Aquatic and wetland vascular plants with a global rank of G1 or G2 and a State Rank of S1 or S2.

Destroyed or historic occurrences and occurrences with poorly know locations are not included. Values are:

- Y The element occurrence is considered a High-quality Resource.
- N The element occurrence is not considered a High-quality Resource.

The **Acreage (ACRES)** area occupied by the element occurrence. Note that this area includes locational uncertainty. If the polygon is multipart, this is the total area of the feature.

The **Minimum Elevation (MIN\_ELEV)** at which the occurrence was observed (in feet). Records without an elevation have a value of -1.

The **Maximum Elevation (MAX\_ELEV)** at which the occurrence was observed (in feet). Records without an elevation have a value of -1.

The **Survey Site (SURVEYSITE)** is a brief description of where the occurrence was observed.

**Directions (DIRECTIONS)** is a more complete description of the location of occurrence. (Note: this field is truncated to 254 characters.)

The **Element Occurrence Data (EO\_DATA)** is a summary of the data collected on the occurrence. (Note: this field is truncated to 254 characters.)

The **Surveyors (SURVEYORS)** are the individuals who collected the field survey information on the occurrence. (Note: this field is truncated to 254 characters.)

The **General Description (GEN\_DESC)** describes the area where the occurrence occurs, often including a list of adjacent communities. (Note: this field is truncated to 254 characters.)

The **Protection Comments (PROT\_COM)** are notes on any legal protection needed to ensure continued existence of the occurrence, and the chances and means of fulfilling those needs. (Note: this field is truncated to 254 characters.)

The **Management Comments (MGMT\_COM)** are notes on management needed to ensure continued existence of the occurrence. (Note: this field is truncated to 254 characters.)

The **References (REFERENCE)** lists the sources on which the record is based. (Note: this field is truncated to 254 characters.)

The **Version Author (VERSN\_AUTH)** is the name of the person who created or last edited the occurrence record.

The **Version Date (VERSN\_DATE)** is the date the occurrence record was created or last edited. Format of the date is: yyyy-mm-dd.

The **Data Date (DATA\_DATE)** is the date the record was exported from the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program's database. Format of the date is: yyyy-mm-dd.