Natural Heritage Priority Site (NJ)

Tags
Natural Heritage Priority Sites, Conservation, Priority Sites, Natural Heritage, Ecological Communities, Endangered Species, Biological Diversity, Biodiversity, NJDEP, Plant Species, Environment

Summary
Using the Natural Heritage Database, the Office of Natural Lands Management (ONLM) has identified 343 Natural Heritage Priority Sites, representing some of the best remaining habitat for rare species and rare ecological communities in the state. Although the primary focus of these sites is rare plant species and ecological communities, the DEP Endangered and Nongame Species Program also provided key information and assisted with the delineation of a number of the sites that encompass significant habitats for rare animals. These areas should be considered to be top priorities for the preservation of biological diversity in New Jersey. If these sites become degraded or destroyed, we may lose some of the unique components of our natural heritage. Natural Heritage Priority Site maps are used by individuals and agencies concerned with the protection and management of land. The maps have been used by municipalities preparing natural resource inventories, public and private conservation organizations preparing open space acquisition goals, land developers and consultants identifying environmentally sensitive lands, and public and private landowners developing land management plans. Natural Heritage Priority Sites contain some of the best and most viable occurrences of rare plant species and ecological communities, but they do not cover all the known habitat for these elements or most rare animal species in New Jersey. If information is needed on whether or not endangered or threatened species have been documented from a particular area, a Natural Heritage Database search can be requested by contacting the Office of Natural Lands Management at: Office of Natural Lands Management, Division of Parks and Forestry, NJ Department of Environmental Protection, P.O. Box 404, Trenton, NJ 08625-0404 Phone: 609-984-1339 Fax: 609-984-1427

Description
The Natural Heritage Priority Sites Coverage was created to identify critically important areas to conserve New Jersey's biological diversity, with particular emphasis on rare plant species and ecological communities. Natural Heritage Priority Sites are based on analysis of information in the New Jersey Natural Heritage Database. However, these sites do not cover all the known habitat for endangered and threatened species in New Jersey. If information is needed on whether or not endangered or threatened species have been documented from a particular piece of land, a Natural Heritage Database search can be requested by contacting the Office of Natural Lands Management. The Natural Heritage Priority Sites coverage is a valuable tool which can be used by individuals and agencies concerned with the protection and management of land. However, the coverage was not developed for regulatory purposes, and should not be used as a substitute for the on-site surveys and Natural Heritage Database searches required by regulatory agencies.

Credits
There are no credits for this item.

Use limitations

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ArcGIS Metadata

Topics and Keywords

* CONTENT TYPE   Downloadable Data

Citation

* TITLE prisites

PRESENTATION FORMATS   * digital map

Resource Details

DATASET LANGUAGES   * English (UNITED STATES)

SPATIAL REPRESENTATION TYPE   * vector

* PROCESSING ENVIRONMENT Microsoft Windows 7 Version 6.1 (Build 7601) Service Pack 1; ESRI ArcGIS 10.0.4.4000

CREDITS

ARCGIS ITEM PROPERTIES
  * NAME prisites
  * SIZE 1.310
  * LOCATION file://\\spatial.evs.anl.gov\EISPC_EZSD\Data_Received\Audubon\Kreitler_110603 \EIPC_NJ_2011\deliverable\prisites\prisites.shp
      * ACCESS PROTOCOL Local Area Network

Extents

EXTENT
  GEOGRAPHIC EXTENT
    BOUNDING RECTANGLE
      EXTENT TYPE   Extent used for searching
      * WEST LONGITUDE -75.538276
      * EAST LONGITUDE -73.968888
      * NORTH LATITUDE 41.342386
      * SOUTH LATITUDE 38.926963
      * EXTENT CONTAINS THE RESOURCE Yes

EXTENT IN THE ITEM'S COORDINATE SYSTEM
    * WEST LONGITUDE 207020.250647
    * EAST LONGITUDE 637956.749740
    * SOUTH LATITUDE 35664.714832
    * NORTH LATITUDE 913935.818886
    * EXTENT CONTAINS THE RESOURCE Yes

Resource Constraints
  CONSTRAINTS
    LIMITATIONS OF USE
      Data Distribution Agreement (NJDEP)

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      close of such contractual work.

Spatial Reference

ARCGIS COORDINATE SYSTEM
* TYPE Projected
* GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATE REFERENCE GCS_North_American_1983
* PROJECTION NAD_1983_StatePlane_New_Jersey_FIPS_2900_Feet
  * COORDINATE REFERENCE
        DETAILS
    PROJECTED COORDINATE
            SYSTEM
    WELL-KNOWN IDENTIFIER 3424
    X ORIGIN -17954600
    Y ORIGIN -46918100
    XY SCALE 137255069.87923574
    Z ORIGIN -100000
    Z SCALE 10000
    M ORIGIN -100000
    M SCALE 10000
    XY TOLERANCE 0.0032808333333333335
    Z TOLERANCE 0.001
    M TOLERANCE 0.001
    HIGH PRECISION true
    WELL-KNOWN TEXT PROJCS["NAD_1983_StatePlane_New_Jersey_FIPS_2900_Feet",GEOGCS["GCS_North_American_1983",DATUM["D_North_American_1983",SPHEROID["GRS_1980",6378137.0,298.257222101]],PRIMEM["Greenwich",0.0],UNIT["Degree",0.0174532925199433]],PROJECTION["Transverse_Mercator"],PARAMETER["False_Easting",492125.0],PARAMETER["False_Northing",0.0],PARAMETER["Central_Meridian",-74.5],PARAMETER["Scale_Factor",0.9999],PARAMETER["Latitude_Of_Origin",38.83333333333334],UNIT["Foot_US",0.3048006096012192],AUTHORITY["EPSG",3424]]

REFERENCE SYSTEM IDENTIFIER
* VALUE 3424
* CODESPACE EPSG
* VERSION 7.4.1

Spatial Data Properties

VECTOR
* LEVEL OF TOPOLOGY FOR THIS DATASET geometry only

GEOMETRIC OBJECTS
FEATURE CLASS NAME prisites
* OBJECT TYPE   composite
* OBJECT COUNT 343

ARCGIS FEATURE CLASS PROPERTIES

* FEATURE TYPE Simple
* GEOMETRY TYPE Polygon
* HAS TOPOLOGY FALSE
* FEATURE COUNT 343
* SPATIAL INDEX FALSE
* LINEAR REFERENCING FALSE

Distribution

DISTRIBUTOR
 AVAILABLE FORMAT
    * NAME Shapefile

 TRANSFER OPTIONS
    * TRANSFER SIZE 1.310

    ONLINE SOURCE
        * LOCATION file://\\CWHTS91\C$\prisites\prisites.shp
        * ACCESS PROTOCOL Local Area Network
        * DESCRIPTION Downloadable Data

 DISTRIBUTION FORMAT
    * NAME Shapefile

 TRANSFER OPTIONS
    * TRANSFER SIZE 1.310

Fields

 DETAILS FOR OBJECT prisites
    * TYPE Feature Class
    * ROW COUNT 343
    DEFINITION
        Critically important natural areas

    DEFINITION SOURCE
        Office of Natural Lands Management

    FIELD FID
        * ALIAS FID
        * DATA TYPE OID
        * WIDTH 4
        * PRECISION 0
        * SCALE 0
        FIELD DESCRIPTION
            Internal feature number.

        DESCRIPTION SOURCE
            ESRI

        DESCRIPTION OF VALUES Sequential unique whole numbers that are automatically generated.

    FIELD Shape
        * ALIAS Shape
        * DATA TYPE Geometry
        * WIDTH 0
        * PRECISION 0
        * SCALE 0
        FIELD DESCRIPTION
            Feature geometry.

        DESCRIPTION SOURCE
            ESRI

        DESCRIPTION OF VALUES Coordinates defining the features.

    FIELD SITECODE

* ALIAS SITECODE
    * DATA TYPE String
    * WIDTH 25
    * PRECISION 0
    * SCALE 0
    FIELD DESCRIPTION
        An alphanumeric code unique to each site.

    DESCRIPTION SOURCE
        Office of Natural Lands Management
    CODED VALUES
        NAME OF CODELIST Sitecode list
        SOURCE ONLM

FIELD SITENAME
    * ALIAS SITENAME
    * DATA TYPE String
    * WIDTH 254
    * PRECISION 0
    * SCALE 0
    FIELD DESCRIPTION
        A unique name for each site.

    DESCRIPTION SOURCE
        Office of Natural Lands Management

    DESCRIPTION OF VALUES The site name unique to each specific site

FIELD VERSION
    * ALIAS VERSION
    * DATA TYPE String
    * WIDTH 50
    * PRECISION 0
    * SCALE 0
    FIELD DESCRIPTION
        The year and month of the current version of the Natural Heritage Priority Sites
        coverage.

    DESCRIPTION SOURCE
        Office of Natural Lands Management

    DESCRIPTION OF VALUES The year and month of the current version of the Natural Heritage
    Priority Sites coverage.

FIELD COUNTY
    * ALIAS COUNTY
    * DATA TYPE String
    * WIDTH 254
    * PRECISION 0
    * SCALE 0
    FIELD DESCRIPTION
        The county or counties where the Natural Heritage Priority Site is located

    DESCRIPTION SOURCE
        Office of Natural Lands Management

    DESCRIPTION OF VALUES This is the county or counties where this specific Natural Heritage
    Priority Site is located.

FIELD QUADNAME
    * ALIAS QUADNAME
    * DATA TYPE String
    * WIDTH 254
    * PRECISION 0
    * SCALE 0
    FIELD DESCRIPTION

        The names of all US Geological Survey 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle maps that the site is found within

    DESCRIPTION SOURCE
        US Geological Survey

    DESCRIPTION OF VALUES The name of the quadrangle or quadrangles that this specific Natural Heritage site is located within

FIELD MUNICIPALI
    * ALIAS MUNICIPALI
    * DATA TYPE String
    * WIDTH 254
    * PRECISION 0
    * SCALE 0
    FIELD DESCRIPTION

        Name of all municipalities that Site is within (note that some municipal names - e.g. Hamilton Twp., Washington Twp. - are repeated in more than one county). No distinction is made as to which county a particular municipality is within. More detailed information on municipalities can be gathered by overlaying county and municipal coverages that are available from the NJ DEP.

    DESCRIPTION SOURCE
        Office of Natural Lands Management

    DESCRIPTION OF VALUES Name of all municipalities that Site is within.

FIELD DESCRIPTIO
    * ALIAS DESCRIPTIO
    * DATA TYPE String
    * WIDTH 254
    * PRECISION 0
    * SCALE 0
    FIELD DESCRIPTION

        This is a description of the Natural Heritage site (Ex. Rock Ledge and Seepage areas along the Delaware River)

    DESCRIPTION SOURCE
        Office of Natural Lands Management

    DESCRIPTION OF VALUES This is a description of the Natural Heritage site

FIELD BOUNDJUST

    * ALIAS BOUNDJUST
    * DATA TYPE String
    * WIDTH 254
    * PRECISION 0
    * SCALE 0
    FIELD DESCRIPTION

        A written justification for the site boundaries. The boundaries of each Natural Heritage Priority Site are drawn to encompass critical habitat for the rare species or ecological communities. Often the boundaries extend to include additional buffer lands that should be

managed to protect this critical habitat. A justification for the boundary is provided for each site.

DESCRIPTION OF VALUES A written justification for the site boundaries

FIELD BIODIVRANK
* ALIAS BIODIVRANK
* DATA TYPE String
* WIDTH 254
* PRECISION 0
* SCALE 0

FIELD DESCRIPTION

Each site is ranked according to its significance for biological diversity using a scale developed by The Nature Conservancy, the network of Natural Heritage Programs and the New Jersey Natural Heritage Program. The ranks can be used to distinguish between sites that are of global significance for conservation of biological diversity vs. those that are of state significance. The global biodiversity significance ranks range from B1 to B5. Within the Highlands Region the global biodiversity significance rank has been combined with a state biodiversity significance rank which provides information about the significance of the site on a state level. The state biodiversity significance ranks for sites in the Highlands Region range from V1 to V5. Therefore, all sites have been assigned a global biodiversity rank (B rank), but not all sites have been assigned a state biodiversity rank (V rank).

LIST OF VALUES

VALUE B1

DESCRIPTION Outstanding significance on a global level, generally the "last of the least" in the world, such as the only known occurrence of any element (species or ecological community), the best or an excellent occurrence of an element ranked critically imperiled globally, or a concentration (4+) of good or excellent occurrences of elements that are imperiled or critically imperiled globally. The site should be viable and defensible for the elements or ecological processes contained.

ENUMERATED DOMAIN VALUE DEFINITION SOURCE Nature Conservancy and the Natural Heritage Program

VALUE B2

DESCRIPTION Very high significance on a global level, such as the most outstanding occurrence of any ecological community. Also includes areas containing other occurrences of elements that are critically imperiled globally, a good or excellent occurrence of an element that is imperiled globally, an excellent occurrence of an element that is rare globally, or a concentration (4+) of good occurrences of globally rare elements or viable occurrences of globally imperiled elements.

ENUMERATED DOMAIN VALUE DEFINITION SOURCE Nature Conservancy and the Natural Heritage Program

VALUE B3

DESCRIPTION High significance on a global level, such as any other viable occurrence of an element that is globally imperiled, a good occurrence of a globally rare element, an excellent occurrence of any ecological community, or a concentration (4+) of good or excellent occurrences of elements that are critically imperiled in the State.

ENUMERATED DOMAIN VALUE DEFINITION SOURCE Nature Conservancy and the Natural Heritage Program

VALUE B4

DESCRIPTION Moderate significance on a global level, such as a viable occurrence of a globally rare element, a good occurrence of any ecological community, a good or excellent occurrence or only viable state occurrence of an element that is critically imperiled in the State, an excellent

occurrence of an element that is imperiled in the State, or a concentration (4+) of good occurrences of elements that are imperiled in the State or excellent occurrences of elements that are rare in the State.

ENUMERATED DOMAIN VALUE DEFINITION SOURCE Nature Conservancy and the Natural Heritage Program

VALUE B5
DESCRIPTION Of general biodiversity interest.
ENUMERATED DOMAIN VALUE DEFINITION SOURCE Nature Conservancy and the Natural Heritage Program

VALUE V1
ENUMERATED DOMAIN VALUE DEFINITION SOURCE Nature Conservancy and the Natural Heritage Program
DESCRIPTION Outstanding significance on a state level. Only known occurrence in the state for an element; or Site with an excellent occurrence or the best occurrence in the state for an element ranked critically imperiled in the state; or a concentration (4+) of good or excellent occurrences of elements that are imperiled or critically imperiled in the state.

VALUE V2
ENUMERATED DOMAIN VALUE DEFINITION SOURCE Nature Conservancy and the Natural Heritage Program
DESCRIPTION Very high significance on a state level. Includes sites containing other occurrences of elements that are critically imperiled in the state; or a concentration (4+) of other occurrences of state imperiled elements and/or good or excellent occurrences of state rare elements.

VALUE V3
ENUMERATED DOMAIN VALUE DEFINITION SOURCE Nature Conservancy and the Natural Heritage Program
DESCRIPTION High significance on a state level. Includes sites containing the best occurrence in the state or an excellent occurrence of a state imperiled element; or multiple (2+) other occurrences for state imperiled elements and/or excellent, good or moderate quality occurrences of state rare elements.

VALUE V4
ENUMERATED DOMAIN VALUE DEFINITION SOURCE Nature Conservancy and the Natural Heritage Program
DESCRIPTION Moderate significance on a state level. Includes sites containing the best occurrence in the state or an excellent occurrence of a state rare element; or any site with other occurrences of a state imperiled element; or multiple (2+) other occurrences of state rare elements.

VALUE V5
ENUMERATED DOMAIN VALUE DEFINITION SOURCE Nature Conservancy and the Natural Heritage Program
DESCRIPTION Any site with any other occurrence of a state rare element.

FIELD SITECLASS
* ALIAS SITECLASS
* DATA TYPE String
* WIDTH 50
* PRECISION 0
* SCALE 0
DESCRIPTION SOURCE
Office of Natural Lands Management

FIELD DESCRIPTION
Each site is categorized as a macrosite or a standard site. Standard sites are usually smaller in size, while macrosites tend to be larger. It is not unusual to find several standard sites entirely contained within the boundaries of a macrosite.

LIST OF VALUES

VALUE Standard Site
DESCRIPTION Priority site that is smaller in size (usually less than 3200 acres). ENUMERATED DOMAIN VALUE DEFINITION SOURCE Nature Conservancy and the Natural Heritage Program

VALUE Macrosite
DESCRIPTION Priority site that is larger in size (usually greater than 3200 acres). ENUMERATED DOMAIN VALUE DEFINITION SOURCE Nature Conservancy and the Natural Heritage Program

FIELD BIODIVCOMM
* ALIAS BIODIVCOMM
* DATA TYPE String
* WIDTH 254
* PRECISION 0
* SCALE 0
FIELD DESCRIPTION
Text providing justification for assigning the biodiversity rank.

DESCRIPTION SOURCE
Office of Natural Lands Management

DESCRIPTION OF VALUES Text providing justification for assigning the biodiversity rank.

OVERVIEW DESCRIPTION
ENTITY AND ATTRIBUTE OVERVIEW Natural Heritage Priority Sites depict critical habitat for occurrences of rare species and ecological communities throughout the state. These boundaries are delineated to include the full extent of habitat occupied by documented element occurrences and often encompass additional buffer lands that are needed to protect this critical habitat. Sites may be developed for concentrations of rare species and community occurrences, or they may be delineated to incorporate a single occurrence of a rare species or ecological community. Each Priority Site is ranked according to its significance for biological diversity on a global level. Within the Highlands Region the global biodiversity significance rank has been combined with a state biodiversity significance rank which provides information about the significance of the site on a state level. These ranks are based on the quality of the individual element occurrence(s) at the site, as well as the rarity of the species or community on a global and statewide level.

ENTITY AND ATTRIBUTE DETAIL CITATION none

Metadata Details

* METADATA LANGUAGE English (UNITED STATES)
* METADATA CHARACTER SET utf8 - 8 bit UCS Transfer Format

SCOPE OF THE DATA DESCRIBED BY THE METADATA * dataset
SCOPE NAME * dataset

* LAST UPDATE 2012-08-29

ARCGIS METADATA PROPERTIES
METADATA FORMAT ESRI-ISO

CREATED IN ARCGIS 2007-05-17 13:04:39
LAST MODIFIED IN ARCGIS 2012-08-29 12:47:27

AUTOMATIC UPDATES
HAVE BEEN PERFORMED Yes
LAST UPDATE 2012-08-29 12:47:27

FGDC Metadata (read-only)