FNAI Rare Species Habitat Conservation Priorities

Created by: Florida Natural Areas Inventory, October 2003 (Version 1.3)

What if this data layer shows up on my site?

If this data layer is present on your site, it indicates that the location features suitable habitat for one or more rare species which are known to occur in the vicinity. The higher the priority, the rarer and/or more numerous the species with suitable habitat present on site.

If this data layer is absent, there may still be habitat for rare species located on the site. Not all rare species were included in this model (for example, species already well-represented on conservation lands were not included). Even species included in the model may be present, just not previously documented in this location. A systematic field survey by qualified professionals would be required to determine the presence or absence of rare species or other resources on the site.

Why was this data layer created?

This data layer was created by FNAI specifically for the Florida Forever statewide environmental land acquisition program. It is intended to show areas that have a high statewide priority for acquisition to protect habitat for Florida's rarest plant and animal species.

What resources does the data layer represent?

FNAI modeled occurrence-based potential habitat for 262 species of plants, invertebrates, and vertebrates, including aquatic species. Because land acquisition was the focus, species were included according to their need for additional habitat placed in conservation. All federally listed species were included, but state listed species were included only if they met rarity and acquisition need criteria. Suitable habitat was modeled only in the vicinity of known occurrences, so that if the state acquires lands based on these priorities they will be assured of protecting a known population of the species.

How was the data layer developed?

Species' habitat was mapped based on remotely sensed vegetation data (FWC Landsat satellite imagery landcover and aerial photography classed into FLUCCS codes by Florida's Water Management Districts), as well as information from various species experts. Individual species habitat models were then overlayed (added together) to create the final model. In the overlay process, species models were weighted by species rarity (FNAI Global rank) and by the percent of habitat protected on existing conservation lands (less habitat currently protected = higher weight). The overlay model was then grouped into six priority classes based on both species rarity and species richness. The top priority can include habitat for a single very rare species, or habitat for several moderately rare species if they overlap.

How can I find out more?

Technical documentation for this data layer is available at:
http://www.fnai.org/PDF/FF_CNA_technical_report.pdf

If you would like more information about rare species documented on or near your site, contact FNAI for a standard data report.