

INDIANA FIELD OFFICE TECHNICAL GUIDE

Section II Natural Resources Information

Threatened and Endangered Species

Indiana has an exceptionally diverse selection of natural habitats. This diversity of natural habitats in turn supports high species diversity, including a number of very rare species. The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended) declares that all Federal agencies shall seek to conserve endangered and threatened species. The Secretary of Interior, through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, determines which species are covered and regulates the program for their protection.

The Act also requires that Federal agencies ensure that their actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of endangered or threatened species or destroy or modify the critical habitat of such species. Therefore, NRCS biologists consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for any actions in the state that may affect threatened or endangered species or their habitat. A key component in assessing the impact on threatened or endangered species is the Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center.

The Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center, set up in 1978 and maintained by the IDNR Division of Nature Preserves, is part of a worldwide system of Heritage Programs. This program works to locate and keep track of Indiana's rarest plants, animals, and natural communities. The Heritage database contains over 1800 documented occurrences of 121 federal listed species, and over 7600 documented occurrences of 568 state listed species. The database also has records for over 700 significant natural areas in the state.

The following link lists Indiana ENDANGERED, THREATENED AND RARE SPECIES by county: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/naturepr/species/index.html> (leaving NRCS web site).
