North Carolina Natural Heritage Program
Significant Natural Heritage Areas
October 2013

The Significant Natural Heritage Areas (SNHA) shapefile identifies terrestrial and aquatic sites that are of special biodiversity significance. SNHA significance may be due to the presence of rare species, exemplary natural communities, or important animal assemblages. These conservation targets are referred to collectively as "elements" of biodiversity. The boundaries are drawn by Natural Heritage Program staff, based on field surveys conducted by NHP staff and other professional biologists. Conditions on the ground may have changed since the boundaries were drawn, and areas outside of boundaries do not necessarily fail to qualify for SNHA status; they simply may not have been surveyed. Thus, the boundaries are considered approximate. The effects of a project on an SNHA depend on the nature of the species or communities it contains and on the nature of the action being considered. Because the data can become outdated as conditions on the ground change, the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program should be consulted and field surveys should be conducted to verify conditions, before using the data in making land-use decisions. Please use the following format when acknowledging products derived from this data set:

> North Carolina Natural Heritage Program. 2013. Biotics Database. Office of Conservation, Planning, and Community Affairs, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Raleigh, North Carolina.

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.

For questions or comments, contact North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, 1601 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1601, or visit www.ncnhp.org.

Projection: NC State Plane, **datum:** NAD83, **units:** meters

Attributes

SITE_ID
Site Identifier. A number that uniquely identifies the SNHA (also referred to as a "site").

ACRES
Acreage of the polygon.

SITE_NAME
The name given to the Significant Natural Heritage Area by NC Natural Heritage Program staff.

R_RATING

Element Representational Rating. This rating is designed to indicate an SNHA's potential to contribute to a collection of the best sites for each tracked element within the state.

REPRESENTATIONAL RATING	DEFINITION
R1 (Exceptional)	Site contains one of the best two examples of G1 or G2 elements*.
R2 (Very High)	Site contains the 3rd or 4th best examples in the state of G1-G2 elements, and/or one of the best two examples of other elements.
R3 (High)	Site contains the 5th to 8th best examples in the state of G1-G2 elements and/or the 3rd to 6th best occurrences of other elements.
R4 (Moderate)	Site contains the 9th to12th best examples in the state of G1-G2 elements within it and/or the 7th to 10th best occurrences of other elements.
R5 (General)	Site contains one or more viable occurrences that are not among the 12 best of G1-G2 elements or among the ten best for other elements.
R? (Unranked)	A representational value was unable to be assigned to the site.

*G-Ranks are a measure of global imperilment of elements of biodiversity. G1=Critically imperiled, G2=Imperiled, G3=Vulnerable, G4=Apparently secure, G5=Secure. G-Ranks follow NatureServe methodology.

C_RATING

Element Collective Rating. This rating evaluates the conservation value of each SNHA based on the number of tracked elements present, and the rarity of those elements, weighted in terms of both global imperilment (G-Rank) and state imperilment (S-Rank). The score of a site is calculated by summing the cumulative scores of the extant elements in the site, based on weights assigned to each level of G-Rank and S-Rank.

ELEMENT COLLECTIVE RATING	MINIMUM NUMBER OF ELEMENTS
C1 (Exceptional)	10
C2 (Very High)	7
C3 (High)	4
C4 (Moderate)	2
C5 (General)	1

C? (Unranked)	Unable to assign a value

OWNER

The owners of the site.

ACRONYMN	OWNER
ASU	Appalachian State University
CATW	Catawba College
CHC	Chowan College
CHER	Cherokee Indian Reservation
CLC	Catawba Lands Conservancy
CLL	Carolina Land and Lakes RC&D
CMLC	Carolina Mountains Land Conservancy
CTNC	Conservation Trust of North Carolina
CWMTF	NC DENR, Clean Water Management Trust Fund
DUKE	Duke University
ECSU	Elizabeth City State University
ECU	East Carolina University
ERA	Eno River Association
FCNC	Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina
FEL	Felburn Foundation
HBF	Highlands Biological Foundation
HCC	High Country Conservancy
HCLT	Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust
HSWLT	Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust
JCC	Johnston Community College
LOCAL	Local government (county or municipal)
LRC	Lumber River Conservancy
LTCNC	Land Trust for Central North Carolina
LTLT	Land Trust for the Little Tennessee
MCC	Martin Community College
NAS	National Audubon Society
NCA	NC Arboretum
NCAQU	NC DENR, Aquariums
NCBGF	North Carolina Botanical Garden Foundation
NCCF	North Carolina Coastal Federation
NCCLT	North Carolina Coastal Land Trust
NCDA	NC Department of Agriculture
NCDCM	NC DENR, Division of Coastal Management
NCDCR	NC Department of Cultural Resources
NCDMF	NC DENR, Division of Marine Fisheries
NCDOA	NC Department of Administration

ACRONYMN	OWNER
NCDOC	NC Department of Corrections
NCDOT	NC Department of Transportation
NCDPR	NC DENR, Division of Parks and Recreation
NCDPS	NC Department of Public Safety
NCEEP	NC DENR, Ecosystem Enhancement Program
NCFF	North Carolina Forestry Foundation
NCFS	NC Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
NCGTP	North Carolina Global TransPark
NCHHS	NC Department of Health and Human Services
NCHS	North Carolina Herpetological Society
NCMNS	NC DENR, Museum of Natural Sciences
NCNG	NC National Guard
NCNHP	NC DENR, Natural Heritage Program
NCPA	NC State Ports Authority
NCPCP	NC Department of Agriculture, Plant Conservation Program
NCSU	North Carolina State University
NCWRC	NC Wildlife Resources Commission
NCZOO	NC DENR, Zoological Park
NENHC	Northeast New Hanover Conservancy
NSL	National Scout Lands
PAC	Pacolet Area Conservancy
PCC	Piedmont Community College
PLC	Piedmont Land Conservancy
PRV	Private
PW	Public Waters
RCC	Rockingham Community College
SAFC	Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition
SAHC	Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy
SALT	Sandhills Area Land Trust
SCC	Sandhills Community College
SWCD	Soil and Water Conservation District
TCF	The Conservation Fund
TLC	Triangle Land Conservancy
TMF	The Mattamuskeet Foundation
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TRLC	Tar River Land Conservancy
UNCA	University of North Carolina - Asheville
UNCC	University of North Carolina - Charlotte
UNCCH	University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
UNCW	University of North Carolina - Wilmington
USACE	US Army Corps of Engineers
USCG	US Coast Guard

ACRONYMN	OWNER
USDOD	US Department of Defense
USEPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
USFS	US Forest Service
USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service
USNPS	US National Park Service
USVOA	US Voice of America
WCU	Western Carolina University