North Carolina Natural Heritage Program
Element Occurrences
July 2013

The Natural Heritage Element Occurrences (or 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".

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Because these data can quickly become outdated, the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program (Office of Conservation, Planning, and Community Affairs, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, MSC 1601, Raleigh, NC 27699-1601) should be contacted before use of the data set to ensure data currency. Please use the following format when acknowledging products derived from this data set:

> North Carolina Natural Heritage Program. 2012. Biotics Database. 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.

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

Attributes

EO_ID
Element Occurrence Identifier. A number that uniquely identifies the element occurrence.

LAST_OBS
Last Observed Date. The date on which the element occurrence was most recently observed. 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-Spr	In the spring of 1975

1992-Sum	In the summer of 1992
1975-Fall	In the fall of 1975
1960-1961-Wi	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

EO_STATUS
Element Occurrence Status. A summary of the Element Occurrence Rank (see above).

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.

ACCURACY
The accuracy is an estimate of how much of the element occurrence, as mapped, is believed to be actually occupied by the element. This uncertainty is 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. Values are:

Accuracy	**Description**
Very High	Greater than 95% of the mapped area is occupied by the element.
High	Between 80% and 95% of the mapped area is occupied by the element.
Medium	Between 20% and 80% of the mapped area is occupied by the element.
Low	Between 5% and 20% of the mapped area is occupied by the element.
Very Low	Less than 5% of the mapped area is occupied by the element.
Unknown	The percentage of the mapped area occupied by the element is unknown.
blank	An accuracy estimate has not been assigned to record.

SYMBOLOGY
Field categorizes the occurrences into broad taxonomic groups, which can then be used to symbolize the data.