



The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value



Louisiana Sustainable Forestry Initiative

www.laforestry.com

What are forests with exceptional conservation value (FECV)?

Certain places in the more than 750 million acres of forestland are valuable for reasons other than their potential to give us paper, packaging and wood products in the United States.

These forests might be home to a globally rare plant, animal or rare plant or animal community. If a plant, animal or community is found to be very rare in the world and especially vulnerable to extinction, then it may be classified as imperiled or critically imperiled. Critically imperiled refers to a plant or animal or community that is globally extremely rare or, because of some factor, especially vulnerable to extinction or elimination. Imperiled refers to a plant or animal or community that is globally rare or, because of some factor, is very vulnerable to extinction or elimination.

These designations (critically imperiled and imperiled) are similar to the federal threatened and endangered designations afforded to species protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). It is not unusual for imperiled or critically imperiled species and communities with no protection under the ESA to be rarer than some of the species that are protected under the ESA. For example, the red-cockaded woodpecker is listed as a federally endangered species protected under the ESA, but is not classified as globally imperiled or critically imperiled. On the other hand, the Florida bog frog is globally critically imperiled, but is not protected under the ESA.

How do I know if I have rare species inhabiting my land?

If you are interested in knowing if you have threatened or endangered species or imperiled or critically imperiled species and communities inhabiting your land contact:

The Natural Heritage Program office listed for Louisiana-
<http://www.wlf.la.gov/wildlife/louisiana-natural-heritage-program> or visit Nature Serve at <http://www.natureserve.org> for local programs.

What do I have to do if I have rare species inhabiting my land?

You are not required by law to do anything for imperiled or critically imperiled species and communities unless that species is listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and/or listed under applicable state or provincial laws requiring protection. For threatened and endangered species in Louisiana, contact the

Louisiana department of wildlife and fisheries or the United State Fish and Wildlife Service www.fws.gov/endangered/ .

Many times, threatened and endangered species and imperiled or critically imperiled species and communities can thrive in managed forests; however, other species may require management recommendations. At a minimum, when planning a harvest or other forest management activity where imperiled or critically imperiled species and communities occur, you should consider communicating the location and protection measures associated with these sites to your logger or contractor.

Characteristics of Special Sites:

Your land may hold sites that have ecological, geological, cultural or historical significance and which should be protected for future generations. Such sites may include cemeteries, waterfalls, Indian mounds, unusual plant communities or habitats. By preserving these special sites you can enhance the biodiversity of your property for all who enjoy it including humans, plants and animals while ensuring these sites will not disappear from the landscape. Your resource professionals can assist you in identifying and protecting these special sites.

Some examples of non-forested sites that you may want to consider protecting as special sites are caves, seepage slopes, rocky outcrops, riparian areas, water bodies (creeks, rivers, pools and ponds), natural openings in the forest such as prairies, glades and dry sandhills. These sensitive sites harbor many of the critically imperiled and imperiled aquatic and terrestrial species. Temporary pools that fill up with water in the spring are especially important features that contain rare, threatened and endangered species. All of these areas are important and are often very easy to work around.



Cemetery in the Woods



Your land may hold sites that have ecological, geological, cultural or historical significance and which should be protected for future generations.

As the eagle population has increased so are the number of forests that are used as nesting sites.

