

Vital Sign: Imperiled & Rare Plants
[shortened name: Rare_Plants]

Parks Where Vital Sign will be Implemented:
BICY, BISC, BUIS, DRTO, EVER, SARI, VIIS - deferred

Justification/Issues being addressed: Imperiled & Rare Plants ranked 31st among the 44 SFCN vital signs. Critically imperiled or rare plant species are important indicators and subjects for monitoring for the following reasons: they will be the first plants to become extirpated if habitat quality declines; they are sensitive to changes in ecosystem processes, such as disruption of pollinator populations, or increases or decreases in hydrology; they are either endemic to the study region or are at the geographical limits of their ranges and extirpation would result in extinction or a contraction in the species' global range; and if endemic they may be host plants for other rare or endemic organisms, such as invertebrates.

General Monitoring Questions to be Addressed by the Vital Sign:

- What are the status and trends in the number of populations, distribution, and population sizes of rare plants?

Measures:
Targeted rare plant species distribution, annual population sizes, mortality, recruitment, extent of habitat.

Basic Approach:
Deferred due to insufficient funding/staff time. Parks have some existing monitoring programs underway.

Principal Investigators/Key Contacts and NPS Lead:
N/A

Development Schedule, Budget, and Expected Interim Products:
N/A