

**Table 5. Site biodiversity significance ranks (BSRs) of
The Nature Conservancy and the Network of Natural Heritage programs**

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- BSR-1: Outstanding significance**—such as the only known occurrence of any Element, the best or an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a G1 Element, or a concentration (4+) of high-ranked (A- or B-ranked) occurrences of G1 or G2 Elements. Site should be viable and defensible for targeted Elements and ecological processes contained.
- BSR-2: Very high significance**—such as one of the most outstanding occurrences of any community Element (regardless of its element rank). Also includes areas containing any other (B-, C-, or D-ranked) occurrence of a G1 Element, a good (A- or B-ranked) occurrence of a G2 Element, an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a G3 Element, or a concentration (4+) of B-ranked G3 or C-ranked G2 Elements.
- BSR-3: High significance**—such as any other (C- or D-ranked) occurrence of a G2 Element, a B-ranked occurrence of a G3 Element, an A-ranked occurrence of any community, or a concentration (4+) of A- or B-ranked occurrence of (G4 or G5) S1 Elements.
- BSR 4: Moderate significance**—such as C-ranked occurrence of a G3 Element, a B-ranked occurrence of any community, an A- or B-ranked or only state (but at least C-ranked) occurrence of a (G4 or G5) S1 Element, an A-ranked occurrence of an S2 Element, or a concentration (4+) of good (B-ranked) S2 or excellent (A-ranked) S3 Elements.
- BSR 5: Of general biodiversity interest**—or open space. This category is not used in *Oak Ridge Reservation, Biodiversity and the Common Ground Process: Preliminary Biodiversity Report on the Oak Ridge Reservation*, although forested land on Oak Ridge Reservation would fit into this or an above category.
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A = excellent

B = good

C = marginal

D = poor

When assigning these ranks, the following criteria are considered:

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| 1. Quality | Size (e.g., number of individuals, number of nests, number of acres), maturity, and/or population density |
| 2. Condition | Damage or alteration of the element occurrence and surrounding area from its optimal condition or character (e.g., degree of disturbances from logging, grazing, invasion of exotics, changes in hydrology) |
| 3. Viability | Long-term prospects for continued existence of the occurrence; productivity or evidence for successful reproduction (e.g., survival probability as reflected by distance to neighboring occurrences and/or estimated probability of genetic interchange with other occurrences) |
| 4. Defensibility | Threat manageability (i.e., the extent to which the occurrence can be protected from extrinsic human factors that might otherwise degrade or destroy it) |