

ELEMENT OCCURRENCES OF VIRGINIA

December, 2015

The Virginia DCR-Natural Heritage Program manages an inventory of rare, threatened, and endangered plant and animal species, and exemplary natural communities, across the Commonwealth. Locations of these Natural Heritage resources are known as Element Occurrences (EOs). Knowing the locations and condition of EOs provides information vital to ranking species rarity; understanding areas of high biodiversity and ecological importance; and making well-informed conservation decisions. This map displays the density of EOs in each jurisdiction of the Commonwealth using data up to December 14, 2015. The total number of EOs in each jurisdiction were divided by the total number of acres in each jurisdiction. Thus, EOs that crossed jurisdictional boundaries were counted once for each locality. The results were log transformed (\ln) to create relative density ranks for each jurisdiction, allowing a quick assessment of the distribution of EOs throughout the Commonwealth.

