

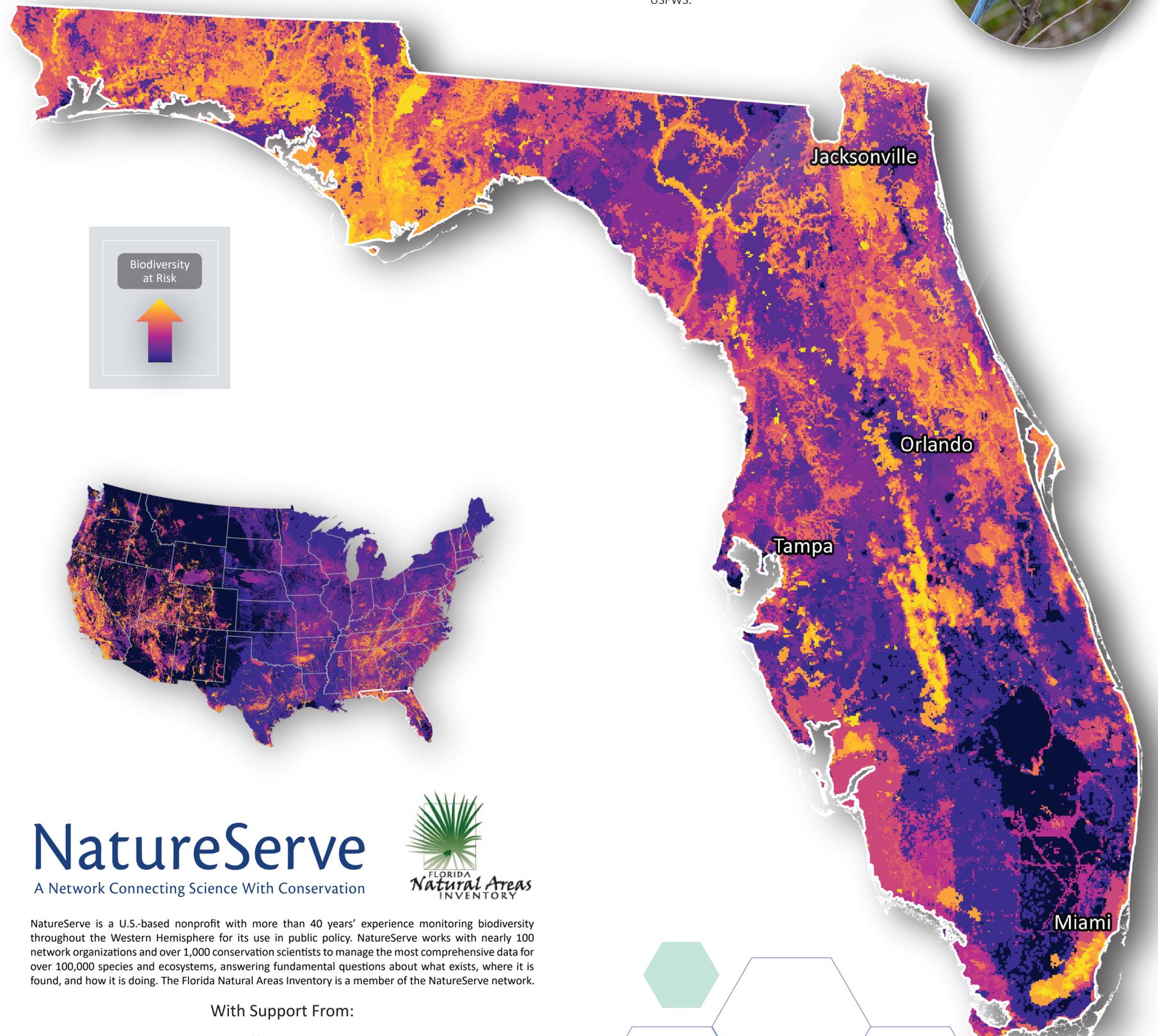
The Map of Biodiversity Importance

Areas of Importance for Conservation of Imperiled Species in Florida

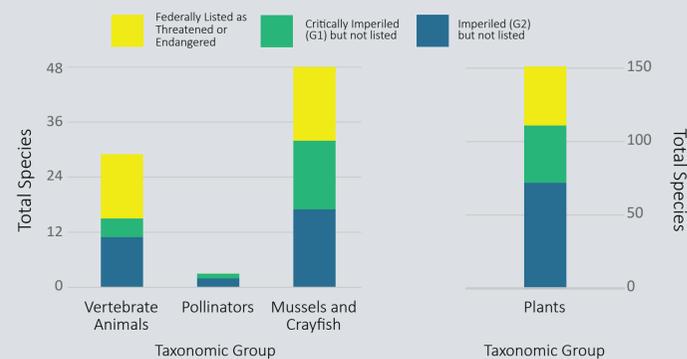
Florida is home to nearly 800 globally imperiled species. Many of those imperiled species only exist in a few places and thus have limited opportunities for protection. To better understand where conservation action can help at-risk species, NatureServe recently released the Map of Biodiversity Importance (MoBI), a first ever high-precision map of areas of importance for conservation of imperiled species in the 48 conterminous United States.

The Map of Biodiversity Importance is based on habitat suitability models for 2,216 of the nation's most at-risk species, including vertebrates, freshwater invertebrates (mussels and crayfish), pollinators (bumbees and butterflies and skippers) and vascular plants. By combining those models and applying weights based on range-size, the warmest colors on the map identify places where imperiled species with few opportunities for protection are concentrated. When used in conjunction with state-specific data collected and maintained by the Florida Natural Diversity Database, a collaborator on this project, decision-makers are empowered with information to direct conservation efforts to the places they can have the greatest impact.

Imperiled species in Florida include the Florida Scrub Jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*), NatureServe Global Conservation Status: Imperiled (G2); Endangered Species Status: Listed threatened. Photo by Mike Carlo, USFWS.



Florida Species Included in MoBI by Taxonomic Group and Conservation Status



This graph shows the number of species included in MoBI with habitat in Florida. Many of these species have been formally listed as Threatened or Endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (yellow). Other species are imperiled but are not federally listed (green and blue). Taking action now can prevent the need for federal listing.

NatureServe

A Network Connecting Science With Conservation



NatureServe is a U.S.-based nonprofit with more than 40 years' experience monitoring biodiversity throughout the Western Hemisphere for its use in public policy. NatureServe works with nearly 100 network organizations and over 1,000 conservation scientists to manage the most comprehensive data for over 100,000 species and ecosystems, answering fundamental questions about what exists, where it is found, and how it is doing. The Florida Natural Areas Inventory is a member of the NatureServe network.

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