



CNDDDB and BDB Newsletter

Biogeographic Data Branch
Department of Fish and Wildlife
November 2013



Dear Friends,

This is the eleventh edition of a periodic newsletter letting you know of important updates and changes in the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), and, in this edition, updates that pertain to BIOS, our online map viewer.

Please feel free to share this newsletter with your staff or with others who didn't receive it. If you have colleagues who would like to receive this, just let us know by emailing BDB@wildlife.ca.gov to update our list of recipients. You can also access this newsletter, and previous CNDDDB newsletters, at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/>.

November 2013 NEWS

RareFind 5 is now available

The fifth version of our primary CNDDDB query tool, RareFind, is now available. RareFind 5 includes some additional query tools and a new Details screen for viewing occurrence specifics. RareFind 5 also allows you to easily view your query results in the BIOS map viewer.

We greatly encourage anyone still using RareFind 3 to switch over to RareFind 5. RareFind 4, which was always an interim solution, is no longer supported. We still nominally support RareFind 3, although that too will be decommissioned sometime during the next year.

New release of BIOS

BIOS 5, released in 2013, is a major new update that includes more robust tools to filter and view the CNDDDB data (Instant Filter and Layer Filter), as well as updated basemaps and aerial imagery, and a streamlined map interface.

RareFind 5 and BIOS 5 are both available here:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/mapsanddata.asp>

More details about BIOS 5 can be found here:

<http://bios.dfg.ca.gov/>

Additionally, new tutorials for using CNDDDB in BIOS 5 and using the Spotted Owl dataset in BIOS 5 have been placed here:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/bios/tutorials.asp>

Training in CNDDDB, RareFind 5, and BIOS 5

We have resumed our training classes at the CDFW Office of Training and Development in Natomas, near Sacramento. Next spring we will also offer training at some other locations throughout the state. Current plans are to make two classes available each month. Information on upcoming training classes is posted here: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/training.asp>

Botany and the new 2A and 2B California Rare Plant Ranks

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS), in coordination with the CNDDDB and others, has split its former California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) 2 into two ranks: 2A and 2B. This change was made in an effort to be more consistent with the already existing 1A and 1B ranks. There are now CRPR 2A and 2B plants, as well as CRPR 1A and 1B plants. This split in CRPR 2 plants resulted in five CRPR 2 plants moving to CRPR 2A (Presumed extirpated in California but more common elsewhere) and the remaining CRPR 2 plants (490) being re-classified as CRPR 2B (Rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere).

The following webpage has additional information on the new California Rare Plant Ranks: http://www.cnps.org/cnps/rareplants/rank-2a_2b.php

CNDDDB Staff Changes:

Roxanne Bittman, who served for many years as the CNDDDB Lead Botanist and later as the Lead Scientist, officially retired earlier this year. Fortunately, she is not lost to us entirely, as she continues to work part-time for us during her retirement.

Roxanne Bittman's former CNDDDB Lead Scientist position has just been filled by Dr. Patrick McIntyre. Patrick is an ecologist who has most recently been working at UC Berkeley studying long-term changes to California vegetation communities. Patrick will begin working for the CNDDDB in January of 2014.

A new position for the CNDDDB has allowed Ryan Elliott, after many years of handling botanical data, to shift over to processing primarily zoology data with an emphasis on species impacted by timber harvest activities.

Ryan Elliott's former botanist position has just been filled by Katie Gross. Katie has been working at the CNDDDB for 4+ years as a non-civil service employee (Scientific Aide and CSU Chico Contractor). Her thorough understanding of the CNDDDB has made her, and will continue to make her, an invaluable asset to the CNDDDB Botany Program.