

## Appendix 3

### Definition for Sites of Significant Biodiversity:

Each site is ranked according to its significance for biological diversity using a scale developed by The Nature Conservancy and the network of Natural Heritage Programs. The ranks can be used to distinguish between sites that are of global significance for conservation of biological diversity vs. those that are of state significance. The scale ranges from B1 to B5 with sites ranked B1-B3 generally being of global significance and sites ranked B4-B5 being of state significance. In addition to the biological diversity rank, each site is categorized as a macrosite or a standard site. Standard sites are smaller in size (usually less than 3200 acres in size), while macrosites tend to be larger (usually greater than 3200 acres in size). It is not unusual to find several standard sites entirely contained within the boundaries of a macrosite.

#### **B2**

Very high significance, such as the most outstanding occurrence of any natural community. Also includes areas containing other occurrences of elements that are critically imperiled globally, a good or excellent occurrence of an element that is imperiled globally, an excellent occurrence of an element that is rare globally, or a concentration (4+) of good occurrences of globally rare elements or viable occurrences of globally imperiled elements. Sites are classified as Macrosites (usually greater than 3200 acres in size) or Standard Sites (usually less than 3200 acres in size).

#### **B3**

High significance, such as any other viable occurrence of an element that is globally imperiled, a good occurrence of a globally rare element, an excellent occurrence of any natural community, or a concentration (4+) of good or excellent occurrences of elements that are critically imperiled in the State. Sites are classified as Macrosites (usually greater than 3200 acres in size) or Standard Sites (usually less than 3200 acres in size).

#### **B4**

Moderate significance, such as a viable occurrence of a globally rare element, a good occurrence of any natural community, a good or excellent occurrence or only viable state occurrence of an element that is critically imperiled in the State, an excellent occurrence of an element that is imperiled in the State, or a concentration (4+) of good occurrences of elements that are imperiled in the State or excellent occurrences of elements that are rare in the State. Sites are classified as Macrosites

(usually greater than 3200 acres in size) or Standard Sites (usually less than 3200 acres in size).

**B5**

Of general biodiversity interest. Sites are classified as Macrosites (usually greater than 3200 acres in size) or Standard Sites (usually less than 3200 acres in size).

Reference:

<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/digidownload/metadata/statewide/prisites>

Office of Natural Lands Management, DEP, NJ