



California Natural Diversity Database

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CNDDDB Maps and Data

The CNDDDB is comprised of two data components: Text information and spatial information. Text information is available through RareFind 5 and provides essential information about special status species and occurrences. Spatial information is available through GIS downloads or can be viewed in the BIOS Viewer. Spatial information is important but MUST be used in conjunction with the text information in order to fully understand and appreciate the CNDDDB's

rare species information. Users must have a CNDDDB subscription to access RareFind 5, CNDDDB data in BIOS, and CNDDDB spatial data downloads.

- **Notice: All uses of data from the CNDDDB are subject to the terms and conditions contained in our [License Agreement \(PDF\)](#).**
- Please refer to our [Data Use Guidelines \(PDF\)](#) document for information on using the CNDDDB data.
- **Attention CNDDDB subscribers:** starting February 4, 2020, any subscription user wishing to access CNDDDB-related data will be required to register for an individual CDFW account and be listed as an authorized user under a current CNDDDB subscription. The **cnddb_gov** and **cnddb_com** login credentials will be discontinued. More information can be found in the [Subscription User Management Instructions and FAQ \(PDF\)](#), or by contacting your organization's subscription administrator.

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RareFind 5

RareFind 5 is an Internet application that allows for complex querying and reporting of CNDDDB data. RareFind 5 also allows users to easily view the spatial features of occurrence records queried by displaying that information in the BIOS Viewer. Being able to easily maneuver between RareFind 5 and the BIOS Viewer is very useful for those subscribers without access to GIS software.

Note: RareFind does not return Spotted Owl information. Users should refer to the [Spotted Owl Observations Database in BIOS](#) if working in Spotted Owl habitat.

RareFind 5

Password protected; [CNDDDB subscription](#) required. Please use [Edge](#)  or [Chrome](#)  for best performance.

- [RareFind 5 User Guide \(PDF\)](#) 
- [RareFind 5 Demo \(Video - 24 min.\)](#) 

CNDDDB in BIOS

People are often confused about the difference between the CNDDDB and BIOS. The CNDDDB is a program that tracks rare species. BIOS is a program that houses many biological and environmental datasets; those datasets are viewable through the BIOS Viewer, an Internet-based map viewer. CNDDDB data is just one of many datasets available for viewing in the BIOS Viewer. Please see this [side-by-side comparison of the CNDDDB and BIOS](#).

The links below will open the BIOS Viewer with CNDDDB and the [Spotted Owl Observations Database](#) already pre-loaded. The BIOS Viewer will allow you to view CNDDDB and Spotted Owl data spatially, add labels, and print maps without the need to have GIS software installed on your computer. The BIOS Viewer has some limited reporting and querying capabilities, but more complex spatial analyses and data manipulation will still require the use of a full GIS in conjunction with RareFind. Please use [Edge](#)  or [Chrome](#)  for best performance.

CNDDDB (Gov) / Spotted Owl Viewer

Password protected; [CNDDDB government subscription](#) is required.

CNDDDB (Com) / Spotted Owl Viewer

Password protected; [CNDDDB commercial subscription](#) is required.

- [Using the CNDDDB data in BIOS 6 \(PDF\)](#) 
- [Using the Spotted Owl Reports Tool in BIOS 6 \(PDF\)](#) 
- [BIOS 6 Data Viewer User Guide \(PDF\)](#) 
- [BIOS 6 Basics \(Video - 17 min.\)](#) 

Monthly CNDDDB GIS Data Updates

For those with access to GIS software, CNDDDB and Spotted Owl Observations Database spatial data are available for downloading. Updated data is distributed the first Tuesday of the month (or the following day if the Tuesday is a holiday). RareFind 5 and BIOS are automatically updated each month but CNDDDB GIS users must remember to update their spatial data on or after the first Tuesday of the month.

CNDDDB and Spotted Owl
GIS data updates

Password protected; [CNDDDB subscription](#) is required.

CNDDDB QuickView Tool

The CNDDDB QuickView Tool is a free Internet application that provides users with a list of all tracked elements that have been documented by the CNDDDB and the Spotted Owl Observations Database (SPOWDB) to occur in a selected USGS 7.5' topographic quad or in a selected county. The tool generates a list with species name and rarity status information. No specific location information is provided in this free application. The information provided by the CNDDDB QuickView Tool is NOT a substitute for the CNDDDB or the SPOWDB and is NOT a substitute for pre-project surveys. The CNDDDB QuickView Tool is intended for general informational use only.

The CNDDDB QuickView Tool is useful for:

- Producing simple species lists by quad or county.
- Performing 9 quad searches with one click.
- Viewing quad data by species.
- Determining if there are any records for a particular quad/county not yet processed in the CNDDDB (unprocessed data has not been reviewed by the CNDDDB for accuracy).
- Querying for California Rare Plant Rank 3 and 4 plant species.

CNDDDB QuickView Tool in BIOS [↗](#)

Free. The CNDDDB QuickView Tool is accessed in the BIOS Viewer. The tool provides access to the CNDDDB and the SPOWDB data at the 7.5' Quadrangle and County level. For more information on how to use the CNDDDB QuickView Tool, see the [CNDDDB QuickView Tool User Guide \(PDF\)](#). Please use [Edge](#) or [Chrome](#) for best performance.

For more detailed CNDDDB and SPOWDB information, a [subscription](#) is required.

Disclaimer

CNDDDB staff work very hard to keep the database as current and up-to-date as possible given our capabilities and resources. However, we cannot and do not portray the CNDDDB as an exhaustive and comprehensive inventory of all rare species statewide. Field verification for the presence or absence of sensitive species will always be an important obligation of our users. In addition, CNDDDB data contains information on sensitive resources so there are certain restrictions when using, displaying, and sharing our data. Please see our [License Agreement \(PDF\)](#) and [Data Use Guidelines \(PDF\)](#) for further information.

Biogeographic Data Branch

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