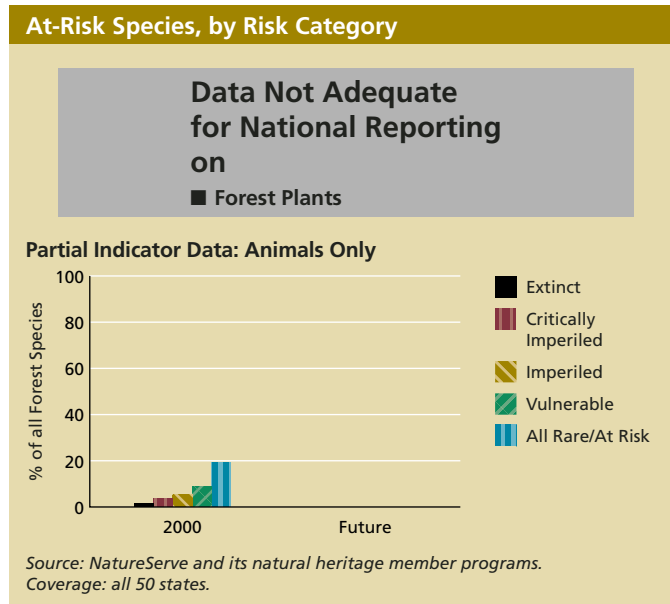




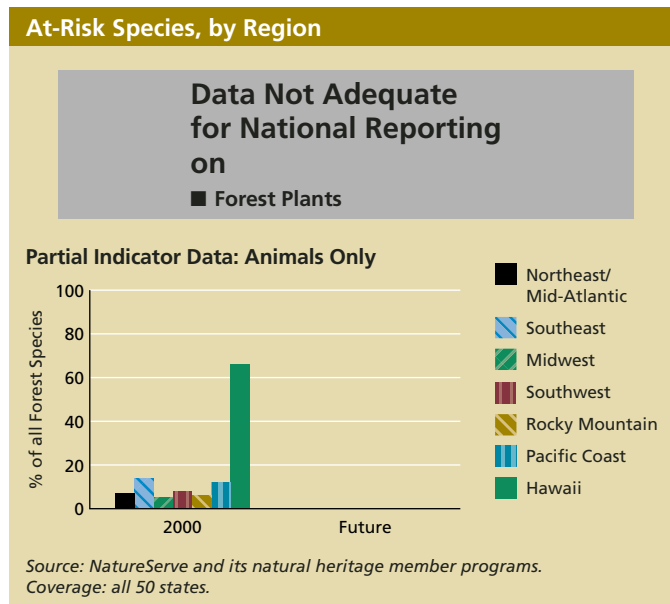
SYSTEM DIMENSIONS	CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL	BIOLOGICAL COMPONENTS	HUMAN USES
Extent Pattern	Nutrients, Carbon, Oxygen Contaminants Physical	<b>Plants and Animals</b> Communities Ecological Productivity	Food, Fiber, and Water Recreation and Other Services

## At-Risk Native Forest Species



**What Is This Indicator, and Why Is It Important?** This indicator reports on the relative risk of extinction of native forest species. The risk categories are based on such factors as the number and condition of individuals and populations, the area occupied by the species, population trends, and known threats. Degrees of risk reported here range from very high (“critically imperiled” species are often found in five or fewer places or have experienced very steep declines) to moderate (“vulnerable” species are often found in fewer than 80 places or have recently experienced widespread declines). In all cases, a wide variety of factors contribute to the overall ratings. “Forest species” live in forests during at least part of their life and depend on forest habitats for survival.

Species are valued for a variety of reasons: they provide products, including food, fiber, and, more recently, genetic materials; they are key elements of ecosystems, which themselves provide valuable goods and services; and many people value them for their intrinsic worth or beauty.



**What Do the Data Show?** About 3.5% of native forest animal species are critically imperiled, about 5% are imperiled, and 1.5% are or may be extinct. When vulnerable species (9%) are counted, a total of about 20% of forest animals are considered to be “at risk.” Hawaii has a much larger percentage of at-risk forest species than any other region.

Interpreting these figures is complicated, however, because some species are naturally rare. Thus, the rankings are influenced by differences among regions and species groups in the number of naturally rare species, as well as by different types and levels of human activities that can cause species declines. Interpretation of these data will be greatly enhanced when information on population trends for these at-risk species becomes available.

**Why Can't This Entire Indicator Be Reported?** This indicator reports on mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, grasshoppers, and butterflies. Data on other groups have not been included either because too little is known to assign risk categories or, as with most plants, because determinations of which species are associated with forests, grasslands, or other habitats have not been completed.

See also the national at-risk species indicator (p. 52) and the indicators for at-risk coastal, freshwater, and grassland and shrubland species (pp. 75, 144, and 168), as well as the indicators for species in farmlands (p. 103) and urban and suburban areas (p. 191).

The technical note for this indicator is on page 214.