**Hawaiian Plants at Risk**

Hawaii has more endangered and threatened plants than any other state in the United States (263/699 taxa or 38% U.S. listed vascular plants). Because of the magnitude of the conservation problems in the Hawaiian Islands, it is vital that biologists, conservationists, and land managers have the most up-to-date information possible. Warren Wagner (Smithsonian Institution), Marie Bruegmann (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Derral Herbst (Hawaii Biological Survey), and Joel Lau (The Nature Conservancy) have recently published Hawaiian Vascular Plants at Risk: 1999, in *Bishop Museum Occasional Papers* (Number 60). It is derived from a database maintained in the Pacific Island program in the Department of Botany, Smithsonian Institution. Since the original 1990 assessment, many individuals and organizations have focused much attention on evaluating Hawaiian ecosystems and the species that comprise them. Basic research on the flora has been conducted as well as considerable effort expended to survey, conserve, and manage the dwindling and degrading natural habitat throughout the state.

This comprehensive list of vascular plants includes 904 of 1342 native taxa that are currently recognized with an at risk or of concern rating. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (US), and the Hawaii Natural Heritage Program of The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii (HINHP) provided data sets that were combined into the database at the Smithsonian Institution (SI). Additionally, the status ratings for Hawaiian taxa included in a recent global review, the 1997 IUCN Red List of Threatened Plants, were incorporated into the database. This compilation thus provides a side by side comparison of the conservation status rankings of rare and endangered Hawaiian plant species as assessed by SI, US, HINHP, and IUCN.

For information on obtaining reprints of “Hawaiian Vascular Plants at Risk: 1999” contact: Dr. Warren Wagner, Department of Botany, MRC 166, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC 20560-0166; E-mail: wagner.warren@nmnh.si.edu.

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**Clinton Declares New National Monuments**

On January 11, 2000, the 92nd anniversary of the Grand Canyon, President Clinton created three and expanded a fourth National Monument in Arizona and California. The threats to wilderness and open spaces all over the country have increased significantly in the past several years. Pollution, development, sprawl, off-road vehicles, loss of natural sound, logging, overgrazing, and mining have contributed to the degradation of too many of the nation’s wild places. The new National Monuments are:

- **The Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument** in Arizona: More than a million acres of desert land are now protected northwest of the Grand Canyon.
- **The Agua Fria National Monument** in Arizona: Hundreds of archeological sites are found within these 71,000 acres north of Phoenix, AZ.
- **The California Coastal National Monument**: Thousands of small, uninhabited islands/rock outcroppings provide a unique habitat for aquatic wildlife.
- **The Pinnacles National Monument** in California: Named a national monument by Theodore Roosevelt in 1908, an additional 10,000 acres were added to this National Monument located south of San Jose, CA.

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**Courses**

**Biodiversity and Environmental Leadership:** The director and staff of the Smithsonian Institution’s Monitoring and Assessment of Biodiversity Program (SI/MAB) are pleased to announce the international biodiversity conservation curriculum for 2000. The two complementary courses that form this year’s curriculum
offer a complete and essential program for conservation biologists, ecologists, resource managers and environmental leaders. The Biodiversity Assessment and Monitoring for Adaptive Management course (May 14 - June 16) guides you through the process of designing and implementing local and regional biodiversity monitoring programs. The Environmental Leadership course (September 10 - 22) emphasizes communication skills to facilitate your interaction with managers, decision-makers and resource personnel. These courses will take place at the Smithsonian’s Conservation & Research Center (CRC), nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia, 60 miles west of Washington DC.

Investment: $4,000 covers your tuition, lodging, meals, local transportation, and course materials. Airfare to and from Washington DC are not included. For more information, go to http://www.si.edu/simab or contact: Christopher Ros, SI/MAB Program, Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, 10th and Constitution Ave NW, Washington DC 20560-0180. Tel: (202) 786-3116; Fax: 202-633-8918; E-mail: cjr@ic.si.edu.

**Field Biology Courses:** The Mountain Lake Biological Station (University of Virginia) announces intensive university credit courses in field biology, and paid research opportunities for undergraduates for the Summer 2000 term. The station offers students hands-on experience and training in a wide variety of biological field studies. Courses are 4 weeks and enrollment is limited to 15. The summer courses for 2000 include Field Methods in Ornithology, Freshwater Fishes of the Southeast U.S., Disease in Natural Pops of Animals, Ecological Communities of Virginia, and Field Botany of the South Appalachians. The Mountain Lake Biological Station also offers an NSF-funded REU program that matches qualified undergraduate students with visiting scientists for 10 weeks of advanced, independent research on a project of the student’s own design. REU positions come with a stipend of $2,500, room and board. Deadline for receipt of applications is March 1.

The station is located on a remote mountaintop in southwestern Virginia and is home to a lively research, teaching and social community. For details on these programs, full course descriptions, application material, and a list of research areas see the web page http://www.virginia.edu/~mtlake, or contact Mountain Lake Biological Station, 238 Gilmer Hall, PO Box 400327, University of Virginia, Charlottesville VA 22903-4327; E-mail: mtlake@virginia.edu; Tel: (804) 982-5486; Fax: (804) 982-5626.

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**Information Highway Hi-Lites**

A new web site by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) aims to make information about the living world more accessible. It includes an innovative mapping tool developed by WCMC that will allow visitors to create their own maps using environmental data. The new web site provides an online catalogue of conservation sources and new publications, opportunities for online data contributions, a search engine to improve access to WCMC entire site of 12,500 pages and a demonstration of its new interactive mapping technology. The address for the web site is http://www.wcmc.org.uk/

**New Publications**

Princeton University Press announces a new book *Genetics and the Extinction of Species*, edited by Laura F. Landweber and Andrew P. Dobson. In this collection, a team of leading biologists demonstrates why the burgeoning field of conservation biology must rely on the insights of population genetics if we are to preserve the diversity of living species. Technological and theoretical developments throughout the 1990s have allowed for important new insights into how populations have evolved in response to past selection pressures, while providing a broad new understanding of the genetic structure of natural populations. The volume covers such topics as the reasons for extinctions, the best ways to measure biodiversity, and the benefits and drawbacks of policies like captive breeding. *Genetics and the Extinction of Species* is a rich source of information for biologists and policymakers who want to learn more about the tools, theories, and approaches available for conserving biodiversity. It can be purchased for $19.95 (paper) or $45.00 (cloth) plus postage from Princeton University Press, c/o California/Princeton Fulfillment Services, Inc., 1445 Lower Ferry Rd., Ewing NJ 08618; Tel: 1-800-777-4726; Fax: 1-800-999-1958; E-mail: orders@cpsf.pupress.princeton.edu; or visit http://pup.princeton.edu.

**Current Literature**


Médail, F., and Quézel, P. 1999. Biodiversity hotspots in the


