

What is the Arizona HDMS?

The HDMS is part of a global network of more than 80 Natural Heritage Programs and Conservation Data Centres. HDMS information is available so Arizonans can make prudent decisions weighing future development, economic growth, and environmental integrity.

Setting Priorities: The HDMS identifies elements of concern in Arizona and consolidates information about their distribution and status throughout the state. An element of concern can be, but is not limited to, an animal or plant with special status at the federal, tribal, or state level, or a specific habitat necessary for its survival.

Data Sources: Information included in the HDMS comes from published and unpublished reports, data collected by cooperating agencies, museum and herbarium collections, the scientific and academic communities, and many other sources. All records are carefully documented.

Data Storage: The HDMS is an integrated data management system of maps, computer files, and paper files. Data concerning the location of species of concern and habitats are mapped; data concerning the ecological status of species are cataloged; and data concerning the biology of species are consolidated into a well-organized system whereby a myriad of information can be easily retrieved. Information is constantly being added and updated, creating a dynamic system.

Data Use: Output generated from the HDMS is used to promote sound environmental planning and conservation measures concerning the plants, animals, and communities that compose our natural heritage. The system is designed to be used by decision-makers with diverse needs and missions. It provides the information needed to help make cogent evaluations related to planning and reviewing land development projects, as well as research needs within the state of Arizona.

Data Users: Users of HDMS information include cooperating agencies, naturalists, educators, researchers, resource managers, consultants, planners, policy makers, developers, environmentalists, and the general public.