

Limestone Flatrock Glade

KSNPC STATUS: Endangered

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Small areas of usually an acre or less where flat-bedded limestone bedrock is at or near the surface. Soil is thin to absent and is restricted to the edge of the outcrop or in slight depressions in the rock where it has accumulated over time. This habitat is very dry and hot in the summer and fall but can be saturated in winter and spring. This unique environment supports an unusual assemblage of plants, many of which occur only in this extreme environment. Several very rare plants occur in this community, such as Carolina larkspur, gladecress, fame flower, stemless evening primrose and butler's quillwort.



Photo by Marc Evans, KSNPC

RANGE: In KY this community is only known from small parts of the Mississippian Plateau (Pennyroyal Plain) in Logan, Simpson, Warren, and Hardin counties, and the outer Bluegrass, mainly in Bullitt Co.

REASONS FOR LISTING: Very few high quality glades remain and they are small and easily impacted (many have had barns or out-buildings built on them or they have been used as places to dump trash or old farm implements).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

KSNPC Species and Community Information ~ www.naturepreserves.ky.gov/inforesources/SpeciesCommunityInfo.htm

NatureServe Explorer ~ www.natureserve.org/explorer/

USFWS Endangered Species Program ~ <http://endangered.fws.gov>

KEY TO USFWS / NOAA STATUS CATEGORIES:

(US) ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973

ENDANGERED: "... any species ... in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range ..." (USFWS 1992).

THREATENED: "... any species ... likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range" (USFWS 1992).

CANDIDATE: Taxa for which the USFWS has "... sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threats to support proposals to list them as endangered or threatened" (USFWS 1999).

SPECIES OF MANAGEMENT CONCERN: Species the USFWS believes are in need of conservation management.

