



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# *Threatened and Endangered Species*

## Leafy Prairie-Clover

(*Dalea foliosa*)



*States where the leafy prairie-clover is found.*

The leafy prairie-clover is a federally *endangered species*. Endangered species are plants and animals that are in danger of becoming extinct. *Threatened species* are plants and animals that are likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future. Identifying, protecting, and restoring endangered and threatened species is the primary objective of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's endangered species program.

### Habitat

This plant is found in prairie remnants along the Des Plaines River in Illinois, in thin soils over limestone substrate. In Alabama and Tennessee it lives in prairie-like areas on the edges of cedar glades. It favors sites with a wet spring and fall and a dry summer.

### Why It's Threatened

Surviving today at only 14 sites, this clover and its habitat are threatened by land development. Leafy prairie-clover is especially vulnerable to commercial and residential development and to road construction. Other threats include off-road vehicle use and grazing by rabbits and deer.

Fire suppression practices have eliminated the wildfires which once regularly cleared prairie grasslands of the encroaching woods. Now the expansion of shrubs and trees threatens this clover, which needs hot, sunny sites to survive.

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