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Contents Notes	Biodiversity : our precious heritage / Jonathan S. Adams, Bruce A. Stein, Lynn S. Kutner -- Discovering life in America : tools and techniques of biodiversity inventory / Bruce A. Stein, Frank W. Davis -- A remarkable array : species diversity in the United States / Bruce A. Stein ... [et al.] -- Vanishing assets : conservation status of U.S. species / Lawrence L. Master ... [et al.] -- State of the states : geographic patterns of diversity, rarity, and endemism / Bruce A. Stein ... [et al.] -- The geography of imperilment : targeting conservation toward critical biodiversity areas / Stephen J. Chaplin ... [et al.] -- More than the sum of the parts : diversity and status of ecological systems / Mark T. Bryer ... [et al.] -- Leading threats to biodiversity : what's imperiling U.S. species / David S. Wilcove ... [et al.] -- Strategies for biodiversity protection / Michael J. Bean -- Owning up to our responsibilities : who owns lands important for biodiversity? / Craig R. Groves ... [et al.] -- Safeguarding our precious heritage / Mark L. Shaffer, Bruce A. Stein -- Appendix A. Extinct and missing species of the United States -- Appendix B. State diversity, endemism, and rarity --Appendix C. Kéuchler potential natural vegetation types -- Appendix D. Principal sources for U.S. species names in the Natural Heritage central databases. A vast land of contrasts, the United States stretches from above the Arctic Circle to below the tropic of Cancer, and spans nearly a third of the globe, from eastern Maine to the tip of the Aleutian chain. Within this area exists an immense variety of ecosystems, supporting a wealth of plant and animal life. Precious Heritage provides a comprehensive and beautifully illustrated overview of that biological diversity. Sponsored by The Nature Conservancy and the Association for Biodiversity Information, this book draws together for				

	the first time more than 25 years of information from U.S. natural heritage programs, a national network of state biodiversity inventories.
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