Native orchids are at risk! Many species are listed throughout the U.S. and Canada as being threatened or endangered. Our native orchids can only be conserved for future generations through a national effort that focuses on cultivation, restoration, and education.

Learn more about NAOCC and how you can participate in its development by contacting Dennis Whigham at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.

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Images courtesy of Hal Horwitz, David McAdoo, and Melissa McCormick
The mission of the North American Orchid Conservation Center is to conserve native orchids. This mission is being accomplished through habitat conservation and restoration, development of a national collection of orchid seeds and mycorrhizal fungi, development of techniques to cultivate native orchids, and a national educational effort.

Initially funded by a Smithsonian Institution Challenge Grant and the United States Botanic Garden, the North American Orchid Conservation Center is a nationwide public-private partnership being developed in two phases over ten years. You can participate in NAOCC’s development as a partner and through a financial commitment.

Orchids are the most diverse family of flowering plants on earth and many of the more than 200 species that occur in North America are threatened by habitat loss. Orchids are intimately tied to their environment and like the canary-in-the-coal-mine analogy, they are indicators of a healthy ecosystem.