

Guidelines for Conducting Endangered and Threatened Species Surveys

These guidelines have been developed to ensure that surveys to assess the presence of endangered and threatened species are conducted in a manner that will help assist in the decision making process.

1. Surveys to detect the presence of endangered and threatened species are to be conducted by a qualified biologist (ecologist, botanist, zoologist) who has demonstrated knowledge of the plant and animal species and natural communities expected to be present on the site.
2. The survey must include an on-site field search for endangered and threatened species protected by law in Michigan and also should include special concern plant and animal species (lists available from the Natural Heritage Program [NHP], Wildlife Division).
 - The survey must thoroughly cover the entire study area and should take into account current land use and potential habitat on adjacent land.
 - Surveys must be conducted using standard techniques designed to ensure a high probability of locating listed species and minimize the negative impact on the species or its habitat.
 - Surveys must be done at appropriate times during the year to adequately survey for all listed species. Several visits to a site may be needed because of differences in timing of critical stages of the life cycle.
 - Plant communities, natural habitats, and other important land features classified by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) should be noted even if no listed species are found (list and descriptions available from the NHP).
3. Individuals conducting surveys should have an Endangered Species Permit, obtained from the Endangered Species Program Coordinator, prior to any survey.
4. The final survey report should include:
 - Dates and times of surveys
 - Methods used
 - A brief description of the habitat(s) or community types present and a list of representative species
 - Completed MNFI forms (if applicable)
 - Maps relating location of species to proposed activity (if applicable)
 - Photographs of the project area
 - Brief discussion of the project impacts and recommendations (also include protection and mitigation plans if needed)
5. Submit final report to the Endangered Species Program Coordinator upon completion.

The Endangered Species Program staff will evaluate, in writing, the survey report and any potential protection/mitigation plans to determine whether the survey conducted was adequate and addressed all project-specific concerns. If the survey report is found to be inadequate in addressing any of these issues, clearance to begin work on the proposed project will not be granted and the written evaluation will include a request to remedy the identified inadequacies. If it is determined that any listed species will be impacted or harmed by the proposed project, a consultation with the Endangered Species Program staff and an Endangered Species Permit are required before construction may begin.



Questions may be directed to the Endangered Species Program Coordinator,
Wildlife Division, P. O. Box 30444, Lansing, MI 48909-7944, (517) 373-1263.

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