

DNR Certification of State-listed Species Surveyors

Background and Application Process

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Ecological and Water Resources (DNR) relies upon the results of endangered and threatened species surveys to conserve these species through its conservation, management, project review, and permitting responsibilities. In order to ensure that survey results are reliable, the DNR maintains a certification of individuals who are considered qualified to conduct these surveys within the state of Minnesota. Please note that the DNR evaluates individuals, not firms.

Individuals on the DNR List of Certified Surveyors have met criteria (described below) to demonstrate that they have the skills necessary to perform high quality surveys for these species in Minnesota. High quality survey data ensures the DNR's ability to uphold the Minnesota Endangered Species Statute (*Minnesota Statutes*, section 84.0895) and associated rules (*Minnesota Rules*, part 6212.1800 to 6212.2300 and 6134), and to avoid any potential delays due to misidentified or overlooked endangered or threatened species.

Endangered or threatened species surveys may require a permit before the survey can be initiated. Choosing an individual who is a Certified Surveyor ensures that the individual is able to obtain a permit from the DNR.

The DNR List of Certified Surveyors is also used by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (DOT) as part of their process to hire vendors for rare, endangered & threatened species identification. However, the DOT may have additional requirements. Please contact DOT directly (Christopher Smith, DOT Natural Resource Program Coordinator, at 651-366-3605 or christopher.e.smith@state.mn.us) to learn more about becoming a DOT vendor.

Failure to fulfill DNR contract requirements may be grounds for removal from the Certification. Performance ratings are also maintained by DOT and are available to the DNR. Poor DOT performance ratings may also be grounds for removal from the Certification.

The DNR List of Certified Surveyors is not intended as an endorsement of any one individual over another. There may be other individuals who are qualified to do state-listed species surveys. All individuals are welcome to apply for certification following the directions below.

To be on the DNR List of Certified Surveyors, an applicant must meet the following criteria:

1. Demonstrated experience within the past 3 years completing state-listed species surveys in Minnesota and resulting technical reports,
2. Demonstrated professional need to conduct state-listed species surveys in Minnesota,
3. Demonstrated professional commitment to remain current and active in state-listed species surveys in Minnesota, and
4. Passing score on the exams as required.

To apply, please submit the following to Bruce Carlson, MN Biological Survey Supervisor, at bruce.carlson@state.mn.us:

- A. A resume that includes your experience surveying Minnesota state-listed species,
- B. A statement of professional need to conduct State-listed species surveys in Minnesota specific to the certification(s) to which you are applying and how you will stay current in this profession. Examples include: a statement on company letterhead from the applicant, the applicant’s supervisor/CEO, and/or a position description.
- C. A technical report authored, co-authored, or with noted contributions from the applicant that contains an example of the applicant’s recent state-listed species survey work in Minnesota,
- D. Two letters of recommendation from agency, academic, or equivalent private consultant pertaining directly to applicant’s ability to survey for and identify state-listed species within the taxa of interest (see below), and
- E. An indication of the certifications listed below for which the applicant wishes to be considered:

Available DNR Certifications for State-listed Species Surveyors	
<input type="radio"/> Mammals	<input type="radio"/> Plants: Laurentian Mixed Forest Province*
<input type="radio"/> Birds	<input type="radio"/> Plants: Eastern Broadleaf Forest Province*
<input type="radio"/> Reptiles	<input type="radio"/> Plants: Prairie Parkland and Tallgrass Aspen Parkland Provinces*
<input type="radio"/> Amphibians	<input type="radio"/> Plants: <i>Botrychium</i> (moonwort) and <i>Sceptridium</i> (grapefern)*
<input type="radio"/> Fishes	<input type="radio"/> Plants: Dwarf Trout Lily
<input type="radio"/> Mussels*	<input type="radio"/> Plants: Prairie Bush Clover
<input type="radio"/> Insects: General	<input type="radio"/> Plants: Western Prairie Fringed Orchid
<input type="radio"/> Insects: Prairie Skippers*	<input type="radio"/> Bryophytes (mosses and hornworts)
<input type="radio"/> Insects: Bees	<input type="radio"/> Lichens
	<input type="radio"/> Fungi

*Upon successful DNR review and approval of A, B, and C above, applicants will also need to pass an identification exam for these taxa. Specific instructions and information about these tests will be provided to the applicant at that time. Generally, the mussel exam is administered once per year during the month of February at the DNR Mussel Lab in Lake City. The skipper exam is virtual and can be taken at any time. The plant exams are offered once per year in January/February in DNR Central Office, St. Paul.