

Wildlife Research Permit Application

Division of Fish and Wildlife

When do you need a research permit?

- Wild animals in Minnesota belong to the State of Minnesota.
- Possessing or potentially disturbing a wild animal, either alive or dead, or any part of a wild animal, even if only temporarily, requires a permit from the Department of Natural Resources.
- Permits for the possession or potential disturbance of game species are issued by the Division of Fish and Wildlife (Section of Wildlife), whereas permits for the possession or use of non-game species are issued by the Division of Ecological and Water Resources (Nongame Program).
- There are different permits for different purposes (e.g., research, education, salvage).

How to apply

- For a game species research permit, please provide all the information listed below in a document (PDF or MS Word format).
- Attach the document to an email and send it to wildlife.permits@state.mn.us

Contact information:

- Name (individual in charge of research and responsible for permit conditions being followed)
- Affiliated institution (school, museum, agency, county, etc.)
- Address
- Phone number
- Email address

Research Proposal

Purpose and need:

- General focus of the research (e.g., tissue, individual, population, system)
- Type of research (e.g., experiment, observational, survey)
- Purpose and goals of the research

Study area:

- Geographic location of research (please be as precise as possible)
- Map and list of proposed sites, especially if there will be multiple dispersed sites

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Methods:

Describe your research methods, ensuring you include the following components:

- Animal species being sampled
- Number of individual animals that will be sampled (by species, if >1 species)
- Methods of capture, handling, and/or collection of animals or samples from animals
 - If capturing or handling live animals...
 - Reference the standard or best practices to ensure safe and humane handling
 - Types of traps used
 - Immobilizing drugs used
 - Protocols for injured or accidentally killed animals and capture of non-target species
- Basic type(s) of analysis that will be performed
- Intended disposition of animals or samples immediately after handling and at the end of your research project

Timeframe:

- Intended start and end dates
 - ...for animal handling and sample collection
 - ...for the research project overall
- Requested permit duration
 - Most permits are for 1 year and may be renewed for subsequent years.
 - Permits for up to 2 years may be issued but only if there are specific circumstances making an annual renewal infeasible or much less appropriate.

Other relevant permits:

- If this permit will extend research that was conducted under a previous MN DNR permit, please include a copy of that permit (compliance with permit conditions is required for subsequent permits).
- If your research requires other state or federal permits (e.g., capture of migratory birds), please include copies of those permits, your applications for those permits, or a brief description of your plan to acquire those permits.