



Ohio Division of Wildlife

APPROVED HERPETOLOGISTS

Approved Herpetologists - with Endangered and Threatened Species Expertise

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife (DOW) reviews projects that are proposed in or near habitats that may be occupied by threatened or endangered (listed) reptile and amphibian species. If a project has the potential to impact listed species, site specific surveys may be recommended. The DOW maintains a list of individuals that have demonstrated a level of experience and knowledge to survey for, successfully find, and correctly identify these listed reptiles and amphibians with minimal impact to individuals and their habitats. In order to conduct listed species surveys that are recognized by the DOW, an individual must first be approved by the DOW and included on its “Approved Herpetologists” list. Individuals interested in being included on the “Approved Herpetologists” list can apply through the scientific collection permit process (<https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/buy-and-apply/special-use-permits/collecting-research/scientific-collecting-wild-animals>).

Successful applicants will be issued an “Approved Herpetologist” letter for the specific species they are approved for and will be added to the list that is distributed to entities requiring surveys. Only individuals, not firms, organizations, or other entities, will be considered for inclusion on the list because the necessary experience can only be individually developed. Project reviews, species effects analyses, and regulatory/permitting requirements are often directly affected by the presence of state or federally listed endangered or threatened species. Therefore, it is imperative that surveyors have the skills and ability to identify potential habitat, and personally find and identify these species in their natural habitat. The required level of field experience must be maintained at all times to ensure the surveyor has retained these search skills. An approved herpetologist must have extensive knowledge of the following: taxonomy, life history and habitat requirements, and sampling techniques for the specified species.

Individuals wishing to be included as an approved herpetologist should provide detailed information regarding their qualifications as part of the Scientific Collection Permit application process.

The following information will be used to determine eligibility (Scientific Collection Application Form DNR 8954):

1. Three references (names, affiliations, email, and telephone number) that can verify your ability to identify, handle, and survey each species.
2. Field survey experience (include date, number of individuals, and methods used) for each species.
3. Other states that you have an approved permit for above requested species and a state agency contact (name and email).
4. Applicable coursework completed pertaining to the requested species/taxa.

All requests must be submitted to the Permit Coordinator at wildlife.permits@dnr.ohio.gov or included with the Scientific Collection Permit Application mailed to: Ohio Division of Wildlife, Attn: Permits-SciCollection, 2045 Morse Rd., Bldg. G-3, Columbus, OH 43229.