

Dealing with Rare Species

*Tips and Strategies for a
Successful NDDB Determination*

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Initial Steps

- NDDDB review required for many state (and local) permit filings
- Review NDDDB mapping (updated 2×/year)
- Pre-screen project using NDDDB **Site Assessment** tool through DEEP ezFile portal
- Start NDDDB Filing early!
 - *Rare species often long-lead items*
 - *Provide sufficient project detail (it's OK if not all details of project are fully known)*
- Expect several week to several month turnaround for NDDDB review letter
- Review NDDDB letter carefully
 - *Additional information (field surveys and/or habitat assessments) often needed to obtain Final Determination*
 - *Specific protection measures may be included*





Field Studies

- Hire appropriately qualified survey biologists
 - *If in doubt, vet credentials through NDDB before conducting surveys*
- Obtain scientific collectors permit if handling of species may be required (*several week lead time*)
- Conduct survey at appropriate time of year (*multiple surveys may be needed*)
- Assuming presence based on habitat suitability may be possible in lieu of targeted survey
- Thoroughly document existing habitat conditions through geo-referenced photos, species lists, GPS tracks
- Submit rare species observations per SCP
 - *Survey123 app or rare species forms*
- Prepare detailed report describing methods and findings, with detailed figures and photos; include proposed protection/mitigating measures





Other Considerations

- Challenging projects may benefit from NDDDB site visit and/or teleconference
- Developing protection measures is case-by-case / species-specific
- NDDDB issues Final Determination once survey results and/or protection/mitigating measures have been accepted
- Final Determination expires 2 year from issue (typically)
- ***Be sure to follow-through with protection and mitigation measures required in Final Determination***
- Reference the NDDDB filing / determination number in all correspondence and reports
- Be patient with the process!



Thank you

