

How to Get on Our Surveyor List for Federally Listed Species

January 19, 2007

To apply to be added to a surveyor list, please send a package to the following address:

Endangered Species Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Virginia Field Office
6669 Short Lane
Gloucester, Virginia 23061
(804) 693-6694

The package should state which species surveyor list(s) you wish to be added, a summary of your experience with the species, and any letters of recommendation from surveyors already on our list or other recognized species experts. The summary of your experience needs to be sufficient to convince the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that you are able to recognize the species in the wild, including its appropriate habitat. You should explain how many times you have surveyed for the species, with whom you were accompanied, and whether you found the species. At a minimum, we believe you need to have identified the species in the wild on at least one occasion. Multiple “negative” surveys will not be considered sufficient experience. The single best piece of evidence to establish expertise is a letter of recommendation from someone already on our pre-approved surveyor list or from a recognized expert elsewhere in the country.

Please be assured that our intent is not to artificially limit those whom we recommend as qualified surveyors. Rather, we are trying to ensure that people who contract with the surveyors on our lists can feel confident that these surveyors have sufficient training to identify the species and that the survey results will be accepted as a definitive answer as to whether a species is likely to occur on their property.

If approved, the surveyor’s name, address, phone, and email contact information will be put on our website. We will assume the surveyor grants consent to publish contact information unless we are specifically asked not to do so.

Inclusion of a name on our surveyor lists does not constitute endorsement by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or any other U.S. Government agency. Our surveyor lists contain individuals who we have already determined are qualified to conduct surveys for a particular species. Our lists do not include all individuals who may be qualified to survey for any particular species. If someone selects a surveyor not on our lists, we will ask to see the surveyor’s qualifications 30 days prior to the start of the survey.

Please note that surveying for some animal species may require a permit from the Commonwealth of Virginia. Please contact the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to determine whether a State permit is needed at the following address:

Virginia Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries
Environmental Services Section
P.O. Box 11104
Richmond, Virginia 23230
(804) 367-1000