

Coastal California Gnatcatcher Minimum Qualifications
Polioptila Californica Californica

Permit required for all surveys. An individual must provide documentation of experience observing gnatcatchers in the wild (40 hours minimum), in a variety of localities (5 minimum), while performing protocol surveys under the supervision of permitted individuals.

The hours of *actual observation of the species in the wild* must be substantial and preferably a minimum of 40 hours. This level of experience ensures that individuals have a broad range of gnatcatcher experience, and 1) teaches them how to conduct focused protocol surveys, 2) provides an understanding of the species and its behaviors, 3) familiarizes them with the calls and behavior of similar sympatric species, and 4) provides them with the knowledge to minimize their potential impacts to gnatcatchers while conducting surveys (e.g., recognizing nesting behavior in order to avoid disturbance of the nest). Experience with other similar species may be counted toward the 40 hours, but will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Incidental observations under supervised conditions may be counted toward some of the minimum hour requirement.

Refer to: July 1997 Coastal California Gnatcatcher survey protocol.