

When conducting activities in aquatic environments that may impact federally listed or other sensitive plant or wildlife species, the recovery permittee must adhere to this guidance.

1. Aquatic Activities

The permittee will disinfect sampling and field gear to minimize the spread of pathogens as follows:

- a. Sampling and field gear will be disinfected after exiting one aquatic habitat and before entering the next aquatic habitat unless the waters are hydrologically connected to one another.
- b. All organic matter (i.e., mud, snails, algae, etc.) will be removed from nets, traps, boots, vehicle tires and all other surfaces that have come into contact with water or potentially contaminated sediments. Rinse cleaned items with sterilized (*e.g.*, boiled or treated) water before leaving each survey site.
- c. Boots, nets, traps, hands, etc., will be scrubbed with a bleach solution (0.5 to 1.0 cup per 1.0 gallon of water), Quat-128™ (1:60), or a 3 to 6 percent sodium hypochlorite solution and thoroughly rinsed clean with water between study sites. Other sterilization methods may be approved with prior approval from the applicable Field Office Recovery Permit Coordinator. Equipment will be rinsed clean with water between study sites. Cleaning equipment in the immediate vicinity of aquatic habitats will be avoided (*e.g.*, clean in an area at least 100 feet from aquatic features). Care will be taken so that all traces of the disinfectant are removed before entering the next aquatic habitat.
- d. Used cleaning materials (liquids, etc.) will be disposed of safely, and if necessary, taken back to the lab for proper disposal. Used disposable gloves will be retained for safe disposal in sealed bags.
- e. When working at sites with known or suspected disease problems, disposable gloves will be worn and changed between handling each animal. Gloves will be wetted with water from the site or distilled water prior to handling any snakes or amphibians. Gloves will be removed by turning inside out with hands cleaned using a hand cleaner and water rinse to minimize cross-contamination.