

How to Apply to Be Added to the List of Qualified Surveyors of Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Plant Species in West Virginia

To apply to be added to the list of qualified surveyors of federally listed endangered and threatened plant species in West Virginia please do the following:

- Send a letter of application clearly stating which of the threatened or endangered plant species you wish to apply to become an approved surveyor for in our state. The list of federally listed threatened or endangered plant species, plus two petitioned plant species found in West Virginia, is provided below.
- Attach your résumé, showing your botanical training, background, experience, number of years of experience in the field with the subject species, and existing certifications or lists of approved surveyors you are on in other states.
- Include photos and documentation (e.g., field forms, publications) of examples of instances when you have searched for the species for which you are applying, even if you did not locate the subject species.
- Describe instances where and when you have seen the subject species.
- Provide an unofficial transcript of your classes showing courses you have taken in such subjects as plant taxonomy, field botany, dendrology, plant ecology, forest ecology, wetland ecology, or other field botanical courses.
- Provide details of training (formal and informal) you already have completed for identification, monitoring, and surveys of the subject species. Summarize what you learned in those training opportunities.
- Provide references to or copies of reports you have completed showing your experience in successfully surveying for the subject species.
- Provide references to individuals and program representatives who can vouch for your knowledge, skills and experience in successfully and independently locating and identifying the subject species. Provide letters of recommendation from those persons.

Submit all documents in an email attachment (maximum 25MB) to Barbara Douglas, Senior Endangered Species Biologist (Barbara_Douglas@fws.gov) of the WV Field Office of the US Fish & Wildlife Service (US FWS WVFO) and to Paul J. Harmon, Rare, Threatened & Endangered Species Botanist (Paul.J.Harmon@wv.gov), WV Division of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources, Wildlife Diversity Program (WVDNR).

The agencies will meet once a year to review all documents from each applicant to insure each candidate has training, background, and experience with each subject plant species. *The deadline to apply is October 31 of the year prior to when you wish to complete the work. The deadline for agency response is January 31 of the following year.*

We seek confidence that applicants know how to identify species, appropriately survey for species, monitor the species' population, and document species occurrences in accordance with the appropriate protocol for that species. In general, individuals added to the list will be expected to have:

- training in botany and the ecology of West Virginia,
- substantial experience independently conducting botanical inventory work in the field including herbaceous species,
- direct experience with the species (including actually having seen the species) within a range of suitable habitat types, and
- persons who provide references that vouch for the applicant's ability to conduct these tasks successfully and reliably.

Applicants may be removed from the list for failure to follow appropriate protocols, incorrectly identifying species, or other evidence of lack of scientific integrity.

The USFWS WVFO keeps the official list of qualified surveyors. WVDNR provides botanical expertise and helps judge the applications, making recommendations to the USFWS. Applicants have the opportunity to apply for any or all of the six listed species. However, becoming a qualified surveyor for one species does not guarantee approval for another species; approval to be a surveyor is determined independently for each species.

FEDERALLY THREATENED AND ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES IN WEST VIRGINIA

Federally Endangered Species

Running buffalo clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*)
 Shale barren rockcress (*Arabis serotina*)
 Harperella (*Ptilimnium nodosum*)
 Northeastern bulrush (*Scirpus ancistrochaetus*)

Federally Threatened Species

Virginia spiraea (*Spiraea virginiana*)
 Small whorled pogonia (orchid) (*Isotria medeoloides*)

Federal Candidate Species

Federal Petitioned Species

Barbara's Buttons (*Marshallia grandiflora*)
 Tennessee Pond Weed (*Potamogeton tennesseensis*)