

How to Get on Our Surveyor List for Federally Listed Species

August 1, 2011

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
Oklahoma Ecological Service Field Office
9014 E 21st Street
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74129
(918) 581-7458

Any survey efforts that have the potential to “take” a threatened or endangered species will require a Section 10 permit from the Service (see <http://www.fws.gov/forms/3-200-55.pdf>). The Endangered Species Act (ESA) definition of “take” means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. However, if the Service determines that your actions will not take any threatened or endangered species, then you could be added to our survey list without needing a permit (e.g. conducting least tern surveys from a boat).

If you want your name to be added to our list of approved surveyors and you feel your actions will not result in take, then please submit supporting documentation. 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 should 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, who you accompanied, and whether you found the species. At a minimum, we believe you must 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 species may require a permit from the State of Oklahoma. Please contact the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation to determine whether a State permit is needed at the following address:

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
Wildlife Diversity Program
1801 N. Lincoln
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105
(405) 521-3851