

WV Approved Freshwater Mussel Surveyors *

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* This list includes *individuals* who are certified to conduct surveys for freshwater mussels, this list may not include all individuals qualified to conduct such surveys. Inclusion of names on this list does not constitute endorsement by the WV Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR), the US Fish and Wildlife Service, nor any other government agency. **A WV Scientific Collecting Permit is required from the WVDNR to sample mussels in WV.**

Other contractors may be used but must be approved. See qualifications below.

WV Certified Mussel Surveyor: All mussels are protected in the State of West Virginia thus any construction activities such as construction of pipeline crossings on mussel streams first require a mussel survey. Only approved surveyors will be permitted to conduct/contract mussel surveys in WV. Approval is a two part process. Once approved the surveyor must meet specific standards to maintain certification. This criteria is established for those conducting surveys for environmental review purposes.

Identification testing is required through the WVDNR.

- Approved for endangered species streams (Groups 2 and 4): overall score of 85% and score of 100% on the endangered species.
- Non-endangered mussel streams (Groups 1 and 3): overall score of 85%.
- The test is closed book and closed shell (simulating live condition).
- Must possess adequate experience and submit references.
 - Endangered species streams (Groups 2 and 4): at least 3 years of field experience conducting surveys similar to the WV Mussel Survey Protocols (must have conducted at least 10 Group 2 surveys, and must have completed at least 10 Group 4 surveys within the previous 5 years) and submit two acceptable letters of reference.
 - Non-endangered species streams (Groups 1 and 3): at least 3 years of field experience conducting surveys similar to the WV Mussel Survey Protocols,

- completed at least 10 Group 1 and 10 Group 3 surveys within the previous 5 years and submit two acceptable letters of reference.
- Within resume please provide description of what tasks you personally undertook for each project such as survey design, laid out survey grid, supervised staff components, surveyor, etc.
 - To maintain certification the surveyor must:
 - Provide documentation that the surveyor is maintaining familiarity with WV's federally listed species through training or fieldwork. Minimum requirements based on a running two year average: Must handle 5 individuals (5 each of males and females if applicable) of each species per year in the field; or 0.5 hours per species in a museum or reference collection. Specimens can be from outside WV.
 - Provide training hours, date, and location of reference collection with approximate number of each federally listed species, by sex, handled each year.
 - If reference collection is not a recognized museum such as Ohio State University, Carnegie, etc. then the collection must have prior approval from the State Mussel Program leader.
 - Provide approximate number of each federally listed species, by sex, handled each year in the field.
 - Provide a yearly tally of number of surveys conducted by Stream Group. These may include surveys in other states and placed into equivalent Stream Group.
 - Reporting (spreadsheet available on website) is due February 15 for the previous calendar year's efforts.

Additional Individuals approved for various stream groups. Not listed above as someone in company already approved for all stream groups.

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