

NH Division of Forests and Lands – Natural Heritage Bureau
Data Sharing Agreement Information Sheet

This information sheet is for individuals who want data on rare, threatened and endangered species and exemplary natural communities. The New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB) maintains a database of threatened and endangered species and exemplary natural communities in cooperation with the NH Fish & Game Department's Nongame & Endangered Wildlife Program (NHF&G).

What is a Data Sharing Agreement (DSA)? It is a signed agreement that grants a specific user access to some of NHB's data for a specific purpose for one year. It states the conditions on how the data can be used. NHB can provide the user a list of species and natural community names, or more detailed electronic data (Geographic Information System [GIS] shapefiles), which the user can utilize to make a map.

Users are **prohibited** from distributing the data.

Users are also **prohibited** from releasing maps or any products that contain location information or other details.

A few DSA examples:

- A land trust for land conservation prioritization;
- A consultant preparing a study for a large transportation or utility project;
- A college student completing a thesis on rare turtle habitat.

NOTE 1: NHB and NHF&G reserve the right to deny a data release request if they determine that doing so is not compatible with their mission, and/or if doing so would put occurrences at risk.

Next Steps for individuals interested in obtaining a Data Sharing Agreement:

1. Please review the DSA Options table on page two. Then, email the following to NHB:
 - a. A statement of the purpose of the project, and how NHB data will be used.
****NOTE: NHB data is prohibited from being distributed or released.****
 - b. A GIS shapefile, or kml/kmz file of the project area.
Or, if the area of interest is an entire town or county, please state which one.
 - c. The Option that is best suited for your project.
2. NHB will respond with:
 - a. Whether or not a DSA and the requested Option is appropriate for your project.
 - b. If the request is appropriate, a blank Data Sharing Agreement form for you to complete and sign.
 - c. An approximate cost for the data based on the chosen Option. You can choose a different option prior to executing the agreement (subject to NHB/NHFG approval).
 - d. Data is provided after a signed DSA is received by NHB.

NOTE 2: For town-wide and other large-scale requests, NHB may not be able to release full record details or location information due to landowner sensitivity concerns. This depends on the type of request. NHB will review this with you in more detail when discussing your specific project.

NOTE 3: Requests for data for the entire state of New Hampshire will be referred to NatureServe, which distributes state-wide, or “multi-jurisdictional” data. NatureServe is a network of Natural Heritage programs throughout many states and countries, and NHB is a member.

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DSA Options Table:

	DSA Option #1: Information Request	DSA Option #2a: Taxonomic Group	DSA Option #2b: Hexagon Grid	DSA Option #3 Full Details
What you receive:	<p>A list. No GIS data.</p> <p>A list of names of species and exemplary natural communities within your area of interest, and how rare they are.</p>	<p>GIS data</p> <p>The TYPE of species or exemplary natural community, (e.g. reptile, plant, wetland, etc.) NO name of the species /community.</p> <p>Precise location.</p> <p>How rare the species or community is, when it was last observed, etc.</p>	<p>GIS data</p> <p>The common and scientific names of the species.</p> <p>NO precise location information. The area of interest will be divided into a 2 square mile hexagon grid, with the species / communities present in each cell.</p> <p>How rare the species or community is, when it was last observed, etc.</p>	<p>GIS data</p> <p>The common and scientific names of the species.</p> <p>Precise location.</p> <p>Detailed information about each species or community record, including any survey data, habitat information, and management recommendations.</p>
Cost:	Free	<p>50% of the per-record cost of Option #3</p> <p>Processing fee: Minimum 2 Hours at \$60/hour</p>	<p>State-Listed species: \$0.50/record</p> <p>Federally-Listed species: \$5/record</p> <p>Processing fee: Minimum 2 Hours at \$60/hour</p>	<p>State-Listed species: \$0.50/record if <u>general</u> location; \$2/record if <u>precise</u> location</p> <p>Federally-Listed species: \$5/record if <u>general</u> location; \$10/ record if <u>precise</u> location</p> <p>Processing fee: Minimum 2 Hours at \$60/hour</p>

For research and conservation planning DSAs, NHB may be able to discount the cost. Please contact our Data Manager at 603-271-2823 or nhbdatamanager@dncr.nh.gov

About NHB: The mission of NHB is to collect and analyze data on the status, location, and distribution of native plant species and natural communities in New Hampshire as mandated by the Native Plant Protection Act of 1987 (RSA 217-A).

NHB develops and implements measures for the protection, conservation, enhancement, and management of native New Hampshire plants and natural communities. NHB acts as an information resource. We work with landowners, conservation organizations to inform conservation planning, researchers with an interest in rare flora and fauna as well as DES permit applicants to review proposed projects and provide recommendations.

For more information, contact NHB’s Data Manager at nhbdatamanager@dncr.nh.gov or 603-271-2823.