

Other (State)

Natural Heritage, Dedicated Nature Preserves, Rare Species, Natural Communities, and Natural Areas

What Activities Require This Permit? Certain environmental documents and permit applications require information on the status and proximity of rare plants and animals (including Federal or State listed species), priority natural areas, natural communities, or areas managed for conservation (managed areas), to proposed project sites. Managed areas include Dedicated North Carolina Nature Preserves, natural areas designated on the State Registry of Natural Heritage Areas, State Parks, Conservation Easements, and many other types of public and private lands where conservation is a primary management objective.

What Is The Purpose of This Permit? North Carolina's Natural Heritage Program provides information that is needed to evaluate the likelihood and nature of ecological impacts of proposed projects.

Who Issues This Permit? North Carolina's Natural Heritage Program provides this information to help other permitting agencies evaluate impacts and benefits of proposed projects. The Natural Heritage Program issues permits only for projects within Dedicated Nature Preserves or Registered Heritage Areas.

How Much Will This Permit Cost? There are no fees for permits for projects within Dedicated Nature Preserves or Registered Heritage Areas. The Natural Heritage Program consults with the custodian or lead management agency and the Natural Heritage Advisory Committee to evaluate proposed activities. When natural heritage information is needed for other types of permit review, fees are applied in accordance with the following fee schedules:

- (1) Annual subscription for online project review: six hundred dollars (\$600.00) per individual user.
- (2) Online project review with no annual subscription: one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per project review request.
- (3) Customized environmental review services: sixty-five dollars (\$65.00) per hour.
- (4) Electronic Geographic Information Systems (GIS) files of natural heritage element occurrence records: one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per county, species, or eight digit hydrologic unit code (HUC) established by the U.S. Geological Survey.
- (5) Biological field surveys: sixty-five dollars (\$65.00) per hour.

What Are My Payment Options for Permit Application Fees? Credit card payments are preferred and may be submitted through the Natural Heritage Data Explorer website at: <https://ncnhde.natureserve.org/>.

If Paying by Check, Who do I Make the Check Payable to and Where Do I Send the Check? North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, 1651 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1651. Makes checks payable to North Carolina Natural Heritage Program.

Where Can I Get The Application For This Permit? There is no application. The best method to obtain data is through our Natural Heritage Data Explorer website, <https://ncnhde.natureserve.org/>. The Natural Heritage Program website allows users to obtain a list of natural communities, rare plants and animals, natural areas, and conservation managed areas for a project area and a one mile radius.

To request information about a specific site or about rare species, please visit the following web page: <https://ncnhde.natureserve.org/information-request>.

How Long Will It Take To Review My Application? Requests for natural heritage data are usually answered within two weeks. The Natural Heritage Data Explorer is an online application that allows users to generate reports on-demand 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. <https://ncnhde.natureserve.org/>.

Where Do I Submit My Application? Requests for review of projects within Dedicated Nature Preserves or Registered Heritage Areas may be submitted to the Nature Preserve Property Manager. For a staff directory visit: <https://www.ncnhp.org/contact>.

How Long Is My Permit or License or Certificate Valid? NA.

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Notes/Comments: The use of Natural Heritage Program data should not be substituted for actual field surveys, particularly if a project area contains suitable habitat for rare species, significant natural communities or natural areas.

Legal Authority/Statute Reference: Nature Preserves Act G.S. 143B-135.250 through 143B-135.272, and 15A NCAC 02T .0305(a).

Link: <http://ncnhp.org/> , <https://ncnhde.natureserve.org/>

Statewide Contact Information:

North Carolina Natural Heritage Program
Nature Research Center - 121 W. Jones Street
1651 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1651
(919) 707-8107