



Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory PNDI Environmental Review & ER Tool: General Information

The Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program is pleased to inform you about the new Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Project Planning and Environmental Review Tool (ER Tool). The ER Tool is a user-friendly interface that enables the public to perform online PNDI searches for potential impacts to special concern species and resources in PA. Anyone including property owners, consultants, project planners and PA DEP or PA CCD staff can access the tool for PNDI project screening.

Early Coordination

Because the Environmental Review Tool is easily accessible to the public, it is recommended that PNDI coordination be completed prior to project development and submission of any permit applications. During instances when the PNDI search indicates potential impacts, early consultation with the proper special concern species or resource jurisdictional agencies (preferably prior to plan development) is crucial. Early consultation not only minimizes associated delays and cost, but also facilitates the integration of more effective conservation measures into project planning.

Using the PNDI ER Tool

The PNDI ER Tool can be used prior to submitting permit applications to DEP or during any project pre-planning phases. The user can perform the search online using the ER Tool, print the results from the search (called “PNDI Environmental Review Receipt”) and follow the instructions on the receipt. For more information about the receipt results and what they mean, please visit the “Receipt Results” link on the ER Tool Information page.

Some projects are too large to be drawn in the PNDI Environmental Review Tool and are therefore called “Large Projects”. To find out if your project is a Large Project, please visit the “Large Project Information” link on the ER Tool Information Page.

The Jurisdictional Agencies have the ability to update the status of projects received for PNDI review. The user can check their personal project page to see if the Jurisdictional Agency has received the project and the current status of the project. This saves both the user and the agency time by decreasing the amount of status calls per project. Please see the “Project Status” link on the ER Tool Information Page for more info about the statuses.

In order to adequately provide for the protection of special concern species and resources while also reducing the number of false hits when conducting PNDI searches, it is important that the correct project area and type is entered into the PNDI ER Tool. If you believe you have entered the information incorrectly, please rerun the search.

Special Concern Species and Resources Agency Jurisdiction

A PNDI ER Tool web-site inquiry generates on-line search results concerning the potential impacts of a project to special concern species and resources. Four government agencies have jurisdiction over the protection of these resources:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: listed, proposed & candidate species under the federal Endangered Species Act

Pennsylvania Game Commission—PA state-listed birds and mammals

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission— PA state-listed fish, reptiles, amphibians and aquatic organisms

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources— PA state-listed plants, natural communities, terrestrial invertebrates and geological features

If contact with a jurisdictional agency is required because of a potential impact that cannot be resolved by means of an Avoidance Measure, the following must be provided to the agency via mail or fax:

- A completed PNDI Form
- A copy of the PNDI Project Environmental Review Receipt
- A USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle with project boundaries and quad name marked on the map

Contact Information:

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Endangered Species Biologist
315 South Allen Street, Suite 322, State College, PA 16801
No faxes please

Pennsylvania Game Commission
Bureau of Land Management
2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797
FAX 717-787-6957

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
Natural Diversity Section
450 Robinson Lane, Bellefonte, PA 16823
No faxes please

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Bureau of Forestry, Ecological Services Section
P. O. Box 8552, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552
FAX 717-772-0271