April 2024

To apply to be added to a species surveyor list(s), please send your completed package to: virginiafieldoffice@fws.gov

The following should be included in your application package:

1. A letter stating the species surveyor list(s) to which you wish to be added, along with a summary of your experience **with those species**. The summary of your experience needs to be sufficient to convince the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (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, survey methods used, with whom you were accompanied, and whether you found the species. Multiple “negative” surveys will not be considered sufficient experience. **FOR BATS**: **Please also state if you would like to be approved for tree species, cave species, or both, and mist netting, acoustic surveys, or both. To summarize your experience with bat species, please use the form in APPENDIX A at the end of this document to facilitate efficient review.**

2. A curriculum vitae (CV) or resume that supports your summary of experience.

3. Letters of recommendation from surveyors already on our list or other recognized species experts.

4. Any relevant current Federal ESA Section 10 permits and/or Virginia DWR collection permits you hold for all species for which you’d like to added to the approved surveyor list.

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 their habitats, and that the survey results will be accepted as the best available information as to whether a species is likely to occur within an action area[[1]](#footnote-1).

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.

In accepting your request to become an Approved Surveyor and to be added to the surveyor list, the Service is acknowledging that you have sufficient expertise with these species and their habitats and will act in good faith to:

1) design and conduct appropriate surveys that would detect the species, if present, within action areas[[2]](#footnote-2);

2) assess suitable habitat to make determinations about whether the species may be present and whether surveys are needed;

3) provide recommendations for avoidance/minimization measures, mitigation, and conservation actions to promote the conservation of the species and the ecosystems upon which it depends; and

4) If a **plant** or **insect** species is detected, report the information (e.g., location, species condition, counts) within 90 days to the Service via email (virginiafieldoffice@fws.gov) to support maintenance of an accurate species inventory. Negative habitat/species survey reports are also beneficial to maintain an accurate inventory and may be provided to the Service at your discretion.

Inclusion of a name on our surveyor lists does not constitute endorsement by the Service or any other U.S. Government agency. 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 60 days prior to the start of the survey.

Please note that surveying for many animal species may require a permit from the Commonwealth of Virginia. Please contact the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources to determine whether a State permit is needed:

Ms. Shirl Dressler

Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources

P.O. Box 90778

Henrico, VA 23228-0778

Phone: (804) 367-6913

Email - CollectionPermits@dwr.virginia.gov

March 20, 2013

To be considered qualified to conduct karst geology assessments in Virginia, you must meet the following qualifications/criteria:

1. Must have experience in the field mapping, identifying, and inventorying surface karst features
2. Must be a Professional Engineer (PE) with a Geotechnical (Civil) Engineering specialty and 5-years’ experience in karst geology and/or hydrology studies;

(**or**)

Must be a PE with a Geotechnical (Civil) Engineering specialty and 7 years of experience in rock or soil mechanics and karst issues;

(**or)**

Must be a Certified Professional geologist with a minimum of 5 years of experience in karst studies and engineering geology;

(**or** )

Must be a State licensed Geologist with minimum 5 years of experience in karst studies and engineering geology

**(or)**

Must possess a baccalaureate and/or post-graduate degree in the science of geology from an accredited university (or equivalent), with specific training and experience in groundwater hydrology, and related fields with a minimum of 5-years’ experience in karst studies

Submit your package to: virginiafieldoffice@fws.gov

April 2024

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Virginia Qualified Bat Surveyor Submission Form

Contact Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Company/Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

To be considered for addition to Virginia’s Qualified Bat Surveyor (QBS), please fill-out the information below (if you need more space, please attach additional sheets):

1. How many years of experience do you have conducting bat surveys or research: \_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Mist-net surveys – How many surveys have you conducted: \_\_\_\_\_\_

 Describe and quantify your role in these mist-net surveys, *i.e*., assistant or lead, where, and

 during what years:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

3. Harp-trapping surveys – How many have you conducted: \_\_\_\_\_\_

 Describe and quantify your role in these harp-trap surveys, *i.e*., assistant or lead, where, and

 during what years:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

4. How many bats-in-hand have you personally and correctly identified (*i.e*., you were the

 **primary** identifier) as verified by a QBS?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Species | Number | List all QBS who verified your bat identifications were correct |
| *e.g*., Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) | 84 | John Doe, Jane Doe, John Smith |
| Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) |  |  |
| Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) |  |  |
| Tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) |  |  |
| Gray bat (*Myotis grisenscens*) |  |  |
| Virginia big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus*) |  |  |

5. How many bats-in-hand have you observed but were not the primary identifier?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Species | Number | List all QBS who verified bat identifications were correct |
| *e.g*., Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) | 84 | John Doe, Jane Doe, John Smith |
| Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) |  |  |
| Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) |  |  |
| Tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) |  |  |
| Gray bat (*Myotis grisenscens*) |  |  |
| Virginia big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus*) |  |  |

6. Radio-telemetry of bats – How many bats have you tracked (use table below):

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Species | Number | Did you personally attach transmitter (Y/N)? | Locate Roost (Y/N)? | Roost Emergence Survey? | Foraging or Triangulation (Y/N)? |
| *e.g., Northern long-eared bat* | *2* | *1 – Y**1 – N* | *2 - Y* | *6- Y* | *2- N* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
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Describe and quantify your role in these radio-telemetry surveys, *i.e*., assistant or lead, where, and during what years:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

7. Acoustic surveys - How many have you conducted (*e.g*., 10 projects totaling 60 detector

 nights)? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Describe and quantify your role in these acoustic surveys, *i.e*., assistant or lead, where, and during what years? What type(s) of equipment have you used?  Have you had any formal training? Do you have experience with automated classifiers? Do you have experience identifying bat calls through visual analysis?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

11. Provide at least two reference letters, including at least one not currently affiliated with your current employer with your submission. Letters will be accepted from QBS, academic institutions, or Federal and/or state agency biologists familiar with your field experience working with bats.

Please submit by electronic mail this completed form along with other application materials and reference letters to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Virginia Field Office at virginiafieldoffice@fws.gov [Attn: Rachel Case (rachel\_case@fws.gov), Ami Irizarry (amarilys\_irizarry@fws.gov), and Kim Maison (kimberly\_maison@fws.gov)] .

1. **Action area** means all areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the Federal action and not merely the immediate area involved in the action. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. For bats, refer to the [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines](https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)