

Environmental Consultation Requests—Division of Natural Areas, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's (TDEC) Division of Natural Areas (DNA) answers questions and provides technical assistance pertaining to the status and distribution of state and federal concern plant and animal species, ecologically important sites, and conservation lands. For maps, publications and program information, visit our website at: <http://www.tn.gov/environment/section/na-natural-areas>.

Many project managers seek TDEC-DNA's review through environmental consultation requests. The term "environmental consultation" includes but is not limited to **environmental review requests, phase I or II environmental site assessment investigations, or requests for information** for projects in the *scoping phase* for planned preparation of an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).¹

What types of projects are suitable for environmental consultation from TDEC-DNA? The majority of environmental consultation requests from DNA are related to rare and endangered plant and animal species review. Projects suitable for environmental consultation from DNA may include any project involving construction, demolition, or disposal of solid and/or hazardous wastes and on-the-ground development projects. These can involve individual landowners, development districts across the state, or other government or private entities.

Requests for consultation pertaining to any of the aforementioned purposes may be submitted directly to Stephanie Williams in TDEC-DNA at Stephanie.Ann.Williams@tn.gov. **Written, electronic submittal of requests and supporting documentation are preferred.**²

What should I include in my request to TDEC-DNA? When submitting a request for environmental consultation to DNA, the following information will expedite our review:

- Detailed description of the project.
- Map showing the project location with latitude and longitude labeled.
- Photographs, if available.
- Deadline requested for response.
- If the project relates to existing or requested TDEC permits, please include the relevant permit number/s.

When should I expect to hear from TDEC-DNA? Environmental review requests usually are filled within 10 working days. Urgent requests will be handled as quickly as possible. Please recognize that requests involving state or federally protected animals require consultation with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, respectively. While we will consult with these agencies during our review, you are advised also to contact them directly for guidance.

What should I expect to receive from TDEC-DNA? DNA will review the details of the project and provide comments that may include:

- A list and/or map of rare species documented within a one-mile radius of the project area, as well as a list of species documented from the surrounding four-mile area
- Summary of potential impacts to rare species and any issues or concerns identified during the review
- Recommendations for best management practices or actions to reduce potential impacts or address concerns with the proposed project
- Contacts for relevant outside agencies, as warranted or requested

¹ If a draft Environmental Assessment or draft Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to NEPA has been developed, it should be sent with all supporting materials and a request for review to TDEC.NEPA@tn.gov.

² Mailing address: TDEC Division of Natural Areas; Attn: Stephanie Williams, 312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 2nd Floor, Nashville, TN 37243. Phone: (615) 532-4799.

Who should I contact for more information? DNA contact information is listed below.

Name of Staff	Office Address	Office Location
Andrea Bishop – Recovery Biologist – Natural Heritage Program	Tennessee Tower, 2 nd Floor 312 Rosa L. Parks Ave Nashville, TN 37243 (615) 741-9141 Andrea.Bishop@tn.gov	Nashville, Tennessee
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Allan Trently – West TN Stewardship Ecologist	Tennessee Tower, 2 nd Floor 312 Rosa L. Parks Ave Nashville, TN 37243 (731) 512-1369 Allan.Trently@tn.gov	Jackson, Tennessee
Stephanie Williams – Data Manager – Natural Heritage Program	Tennessee Tower, 2 nd Floor 312 Rosa L. Parks Ave Nashville, TN 37243 (615) 741-9141 Stephanie.Ann.Williams@tn.gov	Nashville, Tennessee
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