



Endangered Resources Certification Program

EXPAND YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING SERVICES!



The Endangered Resources (ER) Review Program helps customers comply with endangered species laws and conserve the rare plants, animals, and habitats found in Wisconsin. We work with landowners, businesses, communities, and other partners to consider the potential impacts of development, planning, and management projects on endangered resources early in the planning process. Our goal is a cooperative, partnership-based approach to proactively and effectively conserve Wisconsin's rare and sensitive resources.

What is the ER Certification Program?

The ER Certification Program was created in response to stakeholder requests for a mechanism that would facilitate sharing of detailed Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) data with a broader group of customers while ensuring the safety, security, and correct interpretation and application of the data.

The purpose of the Certification Program is to train and authorize external (non-DNR) individuals to become a Certified ER Reviewer who may conduct Certified ER Reviews. These reviews are then approved and have sign-off by the ER Review Program.



What is a Certified ER Review?

A Certified ER Review is a formal letter detailing the rare species, high-quality natural communities, and other endangered resources likely to be impacted by a specific proposed project. The letter also includes recommendations to help projects comply with endangered species laws.

What are the benefits of the ER Certification Program?

- The turn-around time for a Proposed ER Review is faster than a standard review.
- Certification saves you money in the long run! See the cost comparison chart on the next page.
- Activities covered in the broad incidental take permit and authorization (BITP/A) could exempt certified reviewers from needing to complete an Endangered Resources Review for certain projects.
- You can better assist your organization and/or customers in complying with endangered species laws.
- Certified reviewers can resolve potential conflicts with endangered resources by identifying, addressing and developing solutions to these conflicts earlier in the planning process.
- Applicants needing an ER Review Letter will be able to seek ER services from many of the same consultants who are already providing project planning and services to them, which will often be more convenient.

Cost Comparison of Reviews

Average time and cost for reviews.

	Average Time	Charge
Standard ER Review	1-2 hours	Minimum \$75 for the first hour and \$75 for each additional hour
Certified ER Reviews with DNR sign-off	1 hour*	Minimum \$75 for the first hour and \$75/hour incrementally for each additional hour

* Less time because DNR staff do not have to prepare review letter.

Who is eligible for ER Certification?

Certified ER Reviewers need to have a documented background in biological science or natural resources through education, training, and/or work experience.

What are the steps to become a Certified ER Reviewer?

To ensure that the NHI data are used appropriately and effectively by Certified ER Reviewers, the program offers a one-day in-person training 3-4 times per year at locations throughout the state. After the training, the applicant must successfully complete two exams demonstrating the skills and knowledge necessary to conduct Certified ER Reviews. Total cost for initial certification (application and exams) is \$960 with a \$180 biennial update fee.

In addition, a NHI Data Sharing License is needed in order to access the NHI Data for writing Certified ER Reviews.

For more information and how to apply, please contact

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<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ERReview/Certification.html>

