



File Code: 2670
Date: April 30, 2025

Dear Interested Party:

This letter is to inform consultants who complete contracted work for botany and wildlife on behalf of the Dakota Prairie Grasslands. Please refer to this [link](#) for the 2025 Biological Survey and Reporting Guidelines, protocols, datasheets, species lists, and GIS data for use concerning new project proposals planned for or located on the Little Missouri National Grasslands. Surveys and reports that do not follow these requirements may be rejected or returned for edits. Please contact the DPG Supervisor's Office for related procedures on the Sheyenne and Grand River Districts. As an additional resource, you can refer to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) (<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac>) website which is a digital project planning tool that provides information to project proponents to help determine whether a project will have effects on federally listed species or designated critical habitat, as well as other sensitive resources (including candidate and proposed species) managed by the USFWS.

A mandatory requirement is to coordinate with the appropriate district project lead and district botanists/biologists prior to conducting surveys as well as to communicate timely reporting of new threatened and endangered and sensitive species locations found on or near a proposed project. To streamline biological assessment/biological evaluation (BA/BE) preparation, review, and approval, a [template](#) has been developed by DPG staff. A new requirement is to use this template for all future projects.

General project and reporting questions should also be coordinated through district staff. Reporting specifications and contact information can be found in the [Biological Survey and Reporting Guidelines](#). Field surveys may not be required for proposed projects falling entirely within areas that have been previously surveyed within the last 3-5 years; however, some level of BE documentation is always required and any waivers of additional plant and wildlife surveys or completion of full BEs based on that criteria must be reviewed and approved by the appropriate District Ranger.

Changes to the Biological Survey and Reporting Guidelines for the 2025 field season include guidance on three species recently proposed under the Endangered Species Act, updated staff contacts, regal fritillary habitat description/mapping (Appendix F), and expansions to the botany survey windows. Please reach out to appropriate District staff for any specific questions on the biological survey and reporting guidelines, BA/BE template, or sensitive species lists.

- Botany: McKenzie/Medora Ranger Districts: Jack Dahl, Botanist: (701) 227-7832; jack.dahl@usda.gov
- Wildlife: McKenzie Ranger District: Sarah Bickerdyke, Wildlife Biologist: (701) 842-8524; sarah.bickerdyke@usda.gov; Medora Ranger District: J.J. Nelson, Wildlife Biologist: (701) 227-7848; joshiah.nelson@usda.gov

We appreciate your efforts to aid us in managing the biological resources on the LMNG.

Sincerely,

BETH IHLE
Grasslands Supervisor

