
ER Certification - Frequently Asked Questions

If I currently do not have a NHI data sharing license do I need one to become certified?

Yes. A NHI data sharing license is needed in order to access the NHI Data for writing proposed ER reviews. For more information and an application for an NHI data license, see the [NHI data request page](#).

If I currently have a NHI data sharing license, do I need to send in proposed ER reviews for all my look-ups?

There are two different levels of NHI data user, and it's important to understand the limitations and abilities of each. People who are currently listed on a security protocol for an NHI data license but have not become certified are considered authorized NHI data users for certification purposes. Examples of how authorized NHI data users may use the NHI data include:

- research and education projects;
- creating maps for others to use and interpret;
- identifying sensitive areas within project boundaries that need follow-up field surveys;
- conducting broad-scale conservation planning; and
- conducting field surveys for rare species and habitats.

Authorized NHI data users **may not** use the NHI data to analyze proposed projects and land management activities for potential impacts to endangered resources - in other words, they may not conduct a preliminary determination of "take" or "no take" for any proposed activity. Only a certified individual may conduct these determinations, and he or she must submit a proposed ER review for each project where a preliminary determination of take has been made.

If I currently have a NHI data sharing license, do I need to take the certification training?

No. You only need to take the certification training if you are looking to become a certified ER reviewer and write proposed ER reviews.