

ERReview

Endangered Resources Certification Program

What is the ER Certification Program?

The certification program is part of the Endangered Resources (ER) Review Program which helps customers comply with endangered species laws and conserve the rare plants, animals and habitats found in Wisconsin. The 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.

Once an individual takes the necessary training to become a Certified ER Reviewer they are able to write formal letters detailing how rare species may be impacted by a proposed project. The letter also includes requirements and recommendations to help projects comply with endangered species laws.



Black-and-white Warbler, photo © Brian Collins.

What are the benefits of the ER Certification Program?

- The turn-around time for a Certified 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.
- More activities could be covered in the no/low Broad Incidental Take Permit and Authorization which could exempt certified reviewers from needing to complete an ER Review for certain projects.

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- 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 ER Review types

Review Type	Average Time	Charge
Standard ER Review	1-2 hours	Minimum \$75 for the first hour and \$75 for each additional hour (90 min = \$150).
Certified ER Review with DNR sign-off	1 hour*	Minimum \$75 for the first hour and \$75 incrementally for each additional hour (90 min = \$112.50).

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

Steps to becoming a Certified ER Reviewer

To ensure that the NHI data are used appropriately and effectively by certified reviewers, the program offers an in-person training 3-4 times per year. 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.

