

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks General Herp Permit Guidelines

The components of this document are arranged as guidelines or requirements for collection of species that are not listed as state threatened or endangered (state listed). Consult this site for information on how to obtain a state endangered species authorization:

<https://gfp.sd.gov/forms/endangeredspecies/>

For take of state listed species, the South Dakota Scientific Collector's Permit may supplement but does not replace separate endangered species authorization.

The applicant for a South Dakota Scientific Collector's Permit should assume that deviations from guidelines or requirements will not be approved unless justified to the satisfaction of the SD Department of Game, Fish, and Parks.

GUIDELINES:

Herpetofauna scientific collection permit applications require a research proposal or similar document with clear objectives and goals. The research proposal or document should include the species of interest, number of voucher individuals/samples to be taken, study area, collection dates and methods, personnel, and where the vouchers/samples will be deposited. Educational permits should include the same information within the permit application.

No release of individuals should occur unless new aquariums are used, or old aquariums are properly disinfected, see the disinfection solution from [Bletz et al. \(2023\)](#). Additionally, released individuals must not encounter any other wild or captive herp and be released at the site of capture to prevent disease transmission. Live amphibians and reptiles taken for personal use shall be confined at their final destination and shall not be released, abandoned, or allowed to escape. Disinfection protocols ([Bletz et al. 2023](#)) of field equipment during and after surveys must be followed to help reduce the spread of diseases.

A Scientific Collecting Permit or State Endangered Species Permit Authorization does not relieve permit holders from compliance with other local, state or federal laws or regulations. For example, when working in aquatic habitats, review information on this site for ways to avoid spread of aquatic invasive species: <https://sdleastwanted.sd.gov/>

Once the number of specimens (i.e., number per county, number per species, number per site) outlined in the research proposal is achieved, future permits for the personnel listed will be reevaluated as take could be from the same generation (unless the take is from various sites), which would be harmful to the population.

REQUIREMENTS:

If conducting visual surveys, cover objects (i.e., rocks and logs) must be returned to their original position to maintain adequate habitat cover.

All heritage species (<https://gfp.sd.gov/rare-animals/>) and turtles should not have specific GPS locations revealed in any publication (except to GFP or with permission from GFP) and must be concealed on iNaturalist. Listing of herp locations is allowed at the county level.

- No gravid females are to be taken
 - preferentially take juveniles instead of adults and males instead of females
- Non-lethal blood and tissue sampling is allowed on all non-listed species
- Unlimited take of dead-on arrival individuals

Annual report requirements

- Required report due at the end of the collecting permit including species, number, and locations (GPS and county), and museum accession numbers.

Annual allowable take of live specimens:

Snakes:

Up to 10 individuals per species statewide per permit year with the following exceptions:

- Only two per species may be taken of the Smooth Greensnake (*Opheodrys vernalis*), Plains Hog-nosed Snake (*Heterodon nasicus*), and Ring-necked Snake (*Diadophis punctatus*) due to regional declines.
- No collection is authorized for Dekay's Brownsnakes (*Storeria dekayi*) or Northern Watersnakes (*Nerodia sipedon*) due to rarity in the state.

No more than two individuals may be taken per site.

Amphibians:

Up to 10 individuals per species statewide per permit year with the following exceptions:

- Only two per species may be taken of Blanchard's Cricket Frog (*Acris blanchardi*) and Wood Frogs (*Rana sylvatica*) due to smaller distributions in the state and regional declines.

No more than 5 individuals may be taken per site.

Eggs:

- 500 eggs total per species statewide per permit year except for Blanchard's Cricket Frog (*A. blanchardi*) and Wood Frogs (*R. sylvatica*)
 - Cannot collect more than 20% of anuran eggs available per species per site
 - For example, if there are roughly 800 Boreal Chorus Frog eggs in a site, you cannot collect more than 160 Boreal Chorus frog eggs from that site.
 - Cannot collect more than 10% salamander eggs per species per site

Larvae:

- 20 larvae per county, up to 10 larvae per site except for Blanchard's Cricket Frog (*A. blanchardi*) and Wood Frogs (*R. sylvatica*)

Lizards:

Up to four individuals per species statewide per permit year with the following exceptions

- No collection of Five-lined Skinks (*Plestiodon fasciatus*) or Short-horned Lizards (*Phrynosoma hernandesi*) due to their rarity in the state. Pictures and non-lethal blood and tissue sampling are allowed.

No more than two individuals per site may be taken.

Turtles:

- Up to 10 individuals for Snapping (*Chelydra serpentina*) and Painted Turtles (*Chrysemys picta*) with no more than 2 individuals taken per site.
- Up to 2 individuals for Spiny (*Apalone mutica*) and Smooth Softshells (*Apalone spinifera*) with no more than 1 individual taken per site.
- No collection of Ornate Box Turtles (*Terrapene ornata*) and Blanding's Turtles (*Emydoidea blandingii*) due to rarity in the state and regional declines.
- Pictures and non-lethal blood and tissue sampling are allowed.