



# **South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks General Herp Permit Guidelines**



## OVERVIEW

A Scientific Collector's Permit does not allow handling or take of Threatened or Endangered species. Consult this site for information on how to obtain a state endangered species permit:

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

It is highly encouraged to submit a research proposal or similar document with clear objectives and goals. The research proposal or document should include the species of interest, number of individuals/samples to be taken, study area, collection dates, methods, personnel, and where the vouchers will be deposited (if applicable).

In general, take is not allowed for species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) or species tracked by the Natural Heritage Program.

[https://gfp.sd.gov/userdocs/nav/SGCN\\_list.pdf](https://gfp.sd.gov/userdocs/nav/SGCN_list.pdf)

<https://gfp.sd.gov/rare-animals/>

Researchers are encouraged to consider non-lethal methods for data collection. These might include swabs, toe clipping, scale clipping, blood samples, catch-and-release, GPS coordinates, or even simply high-quality photographs. Include your IACUC permit with your application, if applicable.



## AQUATIC SAMPLING

Researchers sampling in water must follow the Game, Fish & Parks aquatic invasive species decontamination protocols and general herp disinfection protocols from [Bletz et al \(2023\)](#). A copy of these protocols will be included with your permit.

## VISUAL SURVEYS

If conducting visual surveys, cover objects (i.e., rocks and logs) must be returned to their original position to maintain adequate habitat cover. Herps that are temporarily taken from the wild (e.g., to a lab for processing) must eventually be released at the point of capture.

## REPORTING

The GPS coordinates of Natural Heritage species and SGCN should not be revealed in any publication without GFP permission. Herp locations at the county level are acceptable.

## EXTIRPATED SPECIES AND SPECIES OF POSSIBLE OCCURRENCE

There are a few species that seem to have been extirpated or that might possibly occur in the state but verified records are lacking. These include Dekay's brownsnake (*Storeria dekayi*), common watersnake (*Nerodia sipedon*), five-lined skinks (*Plestiodon fasciatus*), Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*), yellow mud turtle (*Kinosternon flavescens*), and mudpuppy (*Necturus maculosus*). If any of these species are found contact GFP immediately.



## TAKE POLICY (FOR NON-HERITAGE SPECIES AND NON-SGCN)

### *Snakes*

Up to ten individuals per species may be taken with no more than two individuals per site.

### *Lizards*

Up to four individuals per species may be taken with no more than two individuals per site.

### *Turtles*

Up to ten individuals for snapping turtles (*Chelydra serpentina*) and painted turtles (*Chrysemys picta*) may be taken with no more than two individuals per site.

### *Amphibians*

Up to ten individuals per species may be taken with no more than five individuals per site.

### *Eggs*

Up to five hundred eggs per species may be taken. For anurans, no more than 20% of a site's total number of eggs may be taken. For salamanders, no more than 10% of a site's total number of eggs may be taken. Use your best judgment.

### *Larvae*

Up to twenty larvae per species per county may be taken with no more than ten larvae per site.