Nebraska's Conservation and Environmental Review Tool (CERT) Interpret an Environmental Review Report

"The project may have potential impacts...More information is needed, please answer the questions under..."

> Environmental Review Team Nebraska Natural Heritage Program Nebraska Game and Parks Commission May 2025







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Locating Your Report

Once CERT is finished analyzing your project, you'll receive an email notification to review your report. Note: (Check your Junk folder if the notification email is not within your Inbox.)

- Log back into your CERT account and click on My Projects in the orange toolbar.
 a. This page shows all the projects you've created using your account.
- 2. Click on the name of your project to open the Project Review Results page.

Report File

- 3. Under Report File, click on **Project Report (PDF)** Project Report (PDF) to open the Environmental Review Report.
- 4. Download or print off the report.

Environmental Review Report, aka CERT Report

Project Information and Contact Information Sections

The information provided under these sections includes details from the submission form you filled out, and automatically generated information about your location in Nebraska.

The Nebraska Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act (NESCA) Section

This section explains the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission's (NGPC) responsibility for protecting statelisted endangered and threatened species and outlines the legal obligation you are taking when filling out the report. Once the steps outlined in the bulleted list are complete, the review process is considered complete.

The Overall Results Section

Per the red text, locate the Overall Results Section for next steps. This help document will walk you through how to complete the review process if you have the result shown below.

Overall Results

The following result is based on a detailed analysis of your project.

• The project may have potential impacts on state-listed species. More information is needed, please answer the questions under the Question and Conservation Conditions section. If conservation conditions are required, review the Conservation Conditions Agreement section. Additional consultation with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission may or may not be required; please review all the information provided in this document.

Your project may have potential impacts on state-listed species. You will be asked to answer questions related to these species and their habitats with a Yes, No, or Unknown. Answers will determine your projects potential impacts.

The Questions and Conservation Conditions Section

 Under the Questions and Conservation Conditions Section one or more species will appear with a boded question that aims to describe the type of habitat that species lives in. These questions are worded to help you determine if there is habitat for a species within your project area. Read the habitat question(s).

- 2. Compare the features described in the habitat questions to your project area, the area you outlined in the map in CERT, in order to answer either, 'Yes', 'No', or 'Unknown' to the question.
 - a. If you answer 'Yes' to any habitat questions, you are stating YES, the type of habitat that this species could be found in is within my project area. Answering a YES, prescribes a conservation measure (example: XXXX CM-1), which is an action that can be taken to avoid impacting the species.
 - b. If you answer 'No' to a habitat question, you are stating NO, it doesn't appear that the habitat described in the question is present within your project are.
 - c. If after comparing the features of the question to your project area, and you want to select 'Unknown', please contact us at <u>ngpc.envreview@nebraska.gov</u> for assistance, research information on the species on our website (https://outdoornebraska.gov/learn/nebraskawildlife/threatened-and-endangered-species/), or contact your fellow environmental scientists within your organization.
- 3. Once you've answered all the species' habitat questions, you will fill out the **Conservation Measures Agreement Section** to confirm your answers to the habitat questions and if you can implement the conservation measure for the species.
 - a. Section A) is for if you answered 'Yes' to any habitat questions.
 - Option 1: If you can implement the conservation measure, you will sign and date on the lines provided to confirm your commitment. You will also sign and date under the Certification Section at the bottom of the page. Go to the Certification Section at the bottom of the page.
 - 1. The statement under the **Certification Section** states that you agree that all the information in the report is correct, that if the project changes, or that if a species listings status changes, or if a new species is listed the report is no longer valid.
 - 2. Sign and date on the lines provided to self-certify the report.
 - ii. Option 2: If you have concerns about any of the conservation measures (don't understand them, can't agree to implement them, have further questions, etc.), sign and date under the Certification Section and contact us at ngpc.envreview@nebraska.gov as soon as possible. Please provide an explanation of your concerns with the conservation measures.
 - b. Section B) is for those who answered 'Unknown' to a habitat question. For this section, please contact us first at ngpc.envreview@nebraska.gov, as you will come back to the report after connecting with our office.
 - c. Section C) is if you answered all the habitat questions with a 'No'. Based on your understanding of the project area, there isn't any habitat for the species, therefore, the likelihood of one of these listed species being within your project area is unlikely.
 - i. You will sign and date under the **Certification Section** at the bottom of the page. Go to the **Certification Section** at the bottom of the page.
 - 1. The statement under the **Certification Section** states that you agree that all the information in the report is correct, that if the project changes, or that if a

species listings status changes, or if a new species is listed the report is no longer valid.

- 2. Sign and date on the lines provided to self-certify the report.
- 4. Save your completed report (in PDF format) to your computer or scan and upload a copy if you printed your report.
- 5. Log back into CERT if necessary and open the My Projects tab My Projects and click on the project title.
- 6. Click the Edit Details Edit Details tab.
- 7. Scroll to the bottom of the page.

Save

- 8. Under **Project Edit Status**, Project Edit Status * select Final
- 9. Click on Choose File Choose File and upload the report you signed and dated.
- 10. Click Save
 - a. Note: CERT will automatically generate a new report once you Save the project but ignore the additional report. The report you uploaded with your signature and date is the official environmental review.
- 11. Once these steps are completed, no additional correspondence with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission is required.