

NPSPECIES DATABASE PROPOSAL FOR ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

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The NPSpecies database was designed to document the occurrence of vertebrates and vascular plants in National Parks and allow park managers to have access to species checklists that includes information on legal status, breeders, exotic species, and abundance with full documentation of the supporting evidence through bibliographic references, museum vouchers, and documented observations. At Acadia National Park (ANP) five separate species databases were developed during 2002 corresponding to five park administrative units: Mount Desert Island, Schoodic Peninsula, Isle au Haut, offshore islands, and ANP held easements. Although these databases currently represent the best documentation for species and their status within park boundaries, the databases do not fully document vascular plants and vertebrates within the park and supporting evidence, primarily museum vouchers, has not been fully incorporated. We met with ANP Resource Management Biologists during the fall of 2002 to develop priorities for completing the species lists and databases for ANP. During these meetings, we identified and prioritized tasks to fully document vascular plants and vertebrates in the databases. We propose to update the five NPSpecies databases for ANP by completing the following two tasks:

- 1) Compile vascular plant voucher information for ANP from the herbaria at the University of New Hampshire.
- 2) Update synonymy of all vouchers and import museum voucher information on vascular plants and vertebrates into corresponding ANP NPSpecies databases for all vouchers collected within park boundaries.

A database of over 10,000 museum vouchers of vertebrates and vascular plants collected from the ANP region was built based on museum searches throughout the United States during 2002 (A. O'Connell, unpubl. data). Although many herbaria were visited to generate this voucher database, the herbarium at the University of New Hampshire was not searched. Because significant historic vascular plant vouchers were deposited in this herbarium and taxonomists have likely re-identified some questionable historic collections over the years, the documentation and inclusion of these vouchers in the park NPSpecies databases will greatly improve the species lists and documentation of vascular plants within the park. At the University of New Hampshire herbarium, we will generate a database of all vouchers that were collected in the Acadia National Park region, and include all pertinent information on annotations regarding the identification of specimens.

Once this new voucher database is complete, we will merge the information into the existing voucher database for ANP. Before converting this voucher database into NPSpecies, we will sort through the database, voucher by voucher, to identify and tag those that were collected within park boundaries and key each to appropriate administrative units. To streamline the data entry involved in this process, only vouchers with obscure collection locations will be geo-referenced; vouchers collected from readily known and identifiable place names within the park will not be geo-referenced at this time. Any voucher that is not clearly determined to have been collected within park boundaries will not be included in the NPSpecies databases. Locals knowledgeable in obscure place names will be consulted to assist in determining the collection locations of vouchers when unknown historic place names are used. All vouchers collected from lands adjacent to the park will be compiled into a separate Excel database that summarizes these collections from adjacent areas.

BUDGET

Glen Mittelhauser, Principal investigator	44 days	\$7,000
Travel expenses		\$ 800
Materials & supplies		\$ 200
PROJECT TOTAL		\$8,000

PRODUCTS AND TIMETABLE

Products to submit	Date	Amount
UNH database of ANP plants	June 2003	\$5,000
Final NPSpecies databases	February 2004	\$3,000