

Partnerships: NBS and the States

The National Biological Survey and the States have similar missions when it comes to distributing biological information.

On Nov. 11, 1993, the NBS was established to gather, analyze, and disseminate the biological information necessary for the sound stewardship of the Nation's natural resources, and to foster understanding of biological systems and the benefits they provide to society.

State governments are major collectors and managers of biological information and are major natural resource decision makers in their own right. Consequently, the NBS is constantly developing working arrangements for biological data sharing. NBS is encouraging positive scientific relationships with each state, to allow for increased access and integration of biological information. NBS will be a facilitator, and will work with states to form partnerships for research projects and data sharing.

To date, NBS staff have begun discussions with several states to determine their interest in initiating such efforts. A nationwide analysis is being prepared that evaluates state capabilities and identifies existing NBS operations that would form a strong initial basis for cooperation with NBS.

Discussions regarding state interest, capabilities, and sensitivities also are ongoing with the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the National Association of State Foresters, and the Wildlife Management Institute.

The goal of these efforts is to develop the capability, at the state level, for increased access and integration of biological information. Meeting this objective will require increased cooperation in the identification and delivery of information held by federal agencies and others. A key component of early NBS activity in these state partnerships is working with state and federal agencies to identify available information, and to ensure that users of this information are aware of and have access to the information.

The NBS mission includes performing research in support of biological resource management; inventorying, monitoring, and reporting on the status and trends of the Nation's biotic resources; and developing the ability and resources to transfer the information gained to resource managers and others concerned with the care, use, and conservation of the Nation's natural resources.

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