

# Frequently Asked Questions about NISIMS

[What data is being collected in each feature class in NISIMS?](#)

[What format do you want our data in?](#)

[Are we not using APCAM anymore?](#)

[Which fields in the field geodatabase are required?](#)

[Can we send our data via email or Google Drive?](#)

[What reasons may my data be rejected by the data manager?](#)

[What guidance can you provide on how we should be collecting our data in the field?](#)

[How do I meet the needs of NISIMS and my states' data management system?](#)

[Do we need to collect Gross Infested Acres and Monitoring and Inventory Data?](#)

[Where do we enter information on retreatment?](#)

[How do you enter multiple herbicides used in a tank mix treatment without creating multiple records \(avoid the appearance of having treated an area twice\)?](#)

[How is NISIMS dealing with application rates?](#)

[Are photos required?](#)

[Would it be better to create polygons of treatment areas or can point data be associated with herbicide application?](#)

[Are person hours for treatments collected in NISIMS?](#)

[What if I want a certain type of report that is not available in NISIMS?](#)

[How are acreages calculated in NISIMS?](#)

[How are acreages being calculated for the annual report?](#)

## **What data is being collected in each feature class in NISIMS?**

The feature classes in NISIMS can be categorized as answering three different questions:

1. What has been found?
2. What is going to be done?
3. What has been done?

The WeedInfestation feature classes maintain information on what has been found. Data maintained by the WeedInfestation feature classes tells us what was found, how much of it was there, and what the location it was found in was like. This information is generally collected as part of a formal survey effort (see WeedSurvey) or during a treatment effort (see TreatmentData); however, may

have also been collected incidentally (e.g. stopped to map an invasive plant you saw while driving down the road).

The WeedSurvey and TreatmentData feature classes maintain information about what you have done. WeedSurvey feature classes maintain data collected during formal survey efforts, whereas TreatmentData feature classes maintain data collected during treatment efforts. If a single effort is done to determine the status of invasive species at a location while treating them (i.e. an informal survey), please only record this as a treatment. However, if a site is surveyed prior to or after treatment, please record these efforts separately.

The ProposedTreatmentData feature classes maintain information about what you will do. ProposedTreatmentData is most often collected after a survey has been completed and a weed has been found, but may also be done to propose preventative measures.

[<Back to Top>](#)

#### **What format do you want our data in?**

Beginning with FY2015, data should be uploaded in the NISIMS field geodatabase format or the NISIMS data dictionary format provided by the data manager. Both can be found at the Data Store and at the NISIMS website under the “Resources” tab.

[<Back to Top>](#)

#### **Are we not using APCAM anymore?**

No, we are not. APCAM data will no longer be accepted for data collected in 2015 and beyond, nor will it be supported any longer.

[<Back to Top>](#)

#### **Which fields in the field geodatabase are required?**

Almost all of the fields in the field geodatabase are required by the BLM, and we would like to follow suit with the hopes that we will create a DOI-wide standard. Fields that are absolutely required in order for the successful upload to NISIMS SDE are listed in the NISIMS Fields and Domains Guide found on the [NISIMS Help Page](#). With that said, we understand that this is a lot of data to collect and would prefer that you collect as much of it as possible in order to meet the needs of accountability and effectiveness monitoring, and to provide a dataset that may be used in the research and development of invasive species management.

[<Back to Top>](#)

### **Can we send our data via email or Google Drive?**

Please send all data to the data manager by uploading it to the NISIMS web interface. The web interface tracks the progress of the data and makes it easier to identify what needs to be done next and by who. If you are having trouble uploading the data, please contact the data manager.

[<Back to Top>](#)

### **What reasons may my data be rejected by the data manager?**

If the data manager is unable to convert your data into the NISIMS format, she may choose to reject your data and ask you to fix the issues preventing data conversion. Some of the most common reasons for data rejection are:

- Data uploaded in the incorrect format (i.e. not the field geodatabase or data dictionary)
- Missing buffer data for lines and/or points (BUFFER\_M and BUFDIR fields)
- Using decommissioned USDA Plants Codes
- Populating required fields with “None” or something similar
- Misspelling species names in your data dictionary
- Not correcting poor topography (e.g. self-intersecting lines or polygons)
- Not populating required fields.

If the data manager does reject your data, she will provide you with the reason for rejection and instructions on how to fix the issue(s). Once the issues have been corrected, you may upload your data to NISIMS again.

[<Back to Top>](#)

### **What guidance can you provide on how we should be collecting our data in the field?**

There are no requirements for what hardware/software you use to collect data in the field. There are a few options:

1. Use the Field Geodatabase found under the [“Resources” tab](#) to collect data with ArcGIS Collector. Instructions for using Collector are in the NISIMS Technical User Guide found in the [NISIMS Help Page](#).
2. Use the NISIMS Data Dictionary available at the NISIMS website under the [“Resources” tab](#). Data should be exported as a file geodatabase then uploaded (see NISIMS Technical User Guide for instructions).
3. Continue collecting data in the field as you have been. Post-process data once out of the field and upload it to the NISIMS Field Geodatabase.

If you need help with any of this, contact the data manager.

[<Back to Top>](#)

**How do I meet the needs of NISIMS and my states' data management system?**

Most states collect similar data to that which is required by NISIMS, so often times only a field name change will be required to upload data into either system. If this is not the case, further assistance will be required. Contact the data manager with how to proceed.

[<Back to Top>](#)

**Do we need to collect Gross Infested Acres and Monitoring and Inventory Data?**

Yes, but how this data is maintained and calculated is different from APCAM.

All formal inventory and monitoring efforts will be recorded in the WeedSurvey feature classes. All informal inventory and monitoring efforts, species information collected during treatment, will not be recorded as a survey effort. This will be recorded as a treatment effort. The acreages entered in the WeedSurvey feature classes will be counted as acres Inventoried/Monitored.

Gross and net infestation acreages are calculated from the WeedInfestation feature classes. Whenever a species is identified at a location, a record needs to be added to the WeedInfestation feature class. This includes infestations identified outside of formal survey efforts, such as during treatment.

[<Back to Top>](#)

**Where do we enter information on retreatment?**

Retreatment information is not entered in the geodatabase. Comparison of data across a range of dates will be used to determine retreatment.

[<Back to Top>](#)

**How do you enter multiple herbicides used in a tank mix treatment without creating multiple records (avoid the appearance of having treated an area twice)?**

This information can be included within the Chemical Component Feature Class. Enter the total mix volume (MIXVOL\_ME and MIXUOM\_NM). Then enter each herbicide that is used in the TRADE\_NM fields (e.g., TRADE\_NM = first chemical in mix, TRADE\_NM2 = second chemical in mix, etc.). If you treat the same area during the same treatment event using a second herbicide mix, you need to make a new record. You can make a copy of the polygon and enter the pertinent information related to the second herbicide mix. If you are using the same herbicide mixture within the same polygon for different species during one treatment event (treating multiple species at one time), you can include multiple species in the same treatment record by including the additional species and including percent cover for each species.

[<Back to Top>](#)

**How is NISIMS dealing with application rates?**

The total volume of the herbicide mix used for a treatment is entered under “Total Mix Volume” and “Total Mix UOM” (MIXVOL\_ME and MIXUOM\_NM). The application rate is entered for each herbicide within the mix (APP\_AGT\_RT). Application rate may be entered as a percent of the total solution or as a volume/weight per acre. Select the appropriate units for the application rate reporting method you enter (percent of the total solution or volume/weight per acre). Total volume(s) of herbicide(s) will then be calculated based on this rate. For adjuvants (i.e. surfactants and dyes), you may enter either the application rate or the total volume of adjuvants in the herbicide mix or both.

[<Back to Top>](#)

**Are photos required?**

No, this is optional. However, if you do take photos, please send them to the data manager. Photos are not currently linked in the SDE geodatabase, but may be in the future.

[<Back to Top>](#)

**Would it be better to create polygons of treatment areas or can point data be associated with herbicide application?**

Currently some teams use multiple points within an area and associate herbicide use with each of those points. Some use polygons. We recommend that teams use the method, points or polygons, that works best for them. If using multiple points within a treatment area, calculate an estimated volume of herbicide applied for each point. Divide the total volume of herbicide mixture applied by the total acreage treated. This will give you volume of herbicide mix per acre. Multiply this number by the number of acres represented by each point to calculate volume of herbicide mixture applied for each GPSed point.

[<Back to Top>](#)

**Are person hours for treatments collected in NISIMS?**

A field has been added to record the total number of person hours expended during treatments and surveys.

[<Back to Top>](#)

**What if I want a certain type of report that is not available in NISIMS?**

Please send all report requests to the data manager.

[<Back to Top>](#)

### How are acreages calculated in NISIMS?

How acreages are calculated depends on the type of data. Gross or total acreages are calculated from the feature geometry. Net acreages are calculated by multiplying the gross acreage by the estimated cover rate (EST\_CVR\_RT) of a single species or the sum of estimated cover rates of all species linked to the feature.

| Acreage Type                     | NISIMS SDE File            | NISIMS SDE Field | Calculation                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Gross Infestation                | WeedInfestationLocation    | GRSACRE_ME       | Calculated from feature geometry. A single feature exists for each species at each location. |
| Net Infestation                  | WeedInfestationLocation    | NETACRE_ME       | $GRSACRE\_ME * EST\_CVR\_RT$                                                                 |
| Survey<br>(Inventory/Monitoring) | WeedSurveyLocation         | SRVY_ME          | Calculated from feature geometry. One feature may represent multiple species.                |
| Biological Treatment             | TreatmentComponentLocation | CLCACRE_ME       | Calculated from feature geometry. One feature may represent multiple species.                |
|                                  | BIOLOGICALCOMPONENT        | CVRAREA_ME       | $CLCACRE\_ME * \text{sum}(EST\_CVR\_RT)$                                                     |
| Chemical Treatment               | TreatmentComponentLocation | CLCACRE_ME       | Calculated from feature geometry. One feature may represent multiple species.                |
|                                  | CHEMICALCOMPONENT          | ESTACRE_ME       | $CLCACRE\_ME * \text{sum}(EST\_CVR\_RT)$                                                     |
| Fire Treatment                   | TreatmentComponentLocation | CLCACRE_ME       | Calculated from feature geometry. One feature may represent multiple species.                |

| <b>Acreage Type</b>  | <b>NISIMS SDE File</b>     | <b>NISIMS SDE Field</b> | <b>Calculation</b>                                                            |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Manual Treatment     | TreatmentComponentLocation | CLCACRE_ME              | Calculated from feature geometry. One feature may represent multiple species. |
|                      | MANUALCOMPONENT            | MANLCMP_ME              | CLCACRE_ME *<br>sum(EST_CVR_RT)                                               |
| Mechanical Treatment | TreatmentComponentLocation | CLCACRE_ME              | Calculated from feature geometry. One feature may represent multiple species. |
|                      | MECHANICALCOMPONENT        | MECHCMP_ME              | CLCACRE_ME *<br>sum(EST_CVR_RT)                                               |
| Restoration          | TreatmentComponentLocation | CLCACRE_ME              | Calculated from feature geometry. One feature may represent multiple species. |
| Revegetation         | TreatmentComponentLocation | CLCACRE_ME              | Calculated from feature geometry. One feature may represent multiple species. |

[<Back to Top>](#)

### How are acreages being calculated for the annual report?

Some of the acreages are being calculated a little differently from before. All acreages are calculated upon being converted to the NISIMS SDE format. The table below contains the details of how each of the annual report numbers is calculated.

| Annual Report Number  | Description                                                                                                                                                                | NISIMS SDE Field(s)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NPS Treated           | Sum of net acreage for Biological, most Chemical, Manual, and Mechanical treatments, plus sum of gross acreage for Fire, Broadcast Chemical, Restoration, and Revegetation | BIOLOGICALCOMPONENT/CVRAREA_ME<br>+<br>CHEMICALCOMPONENT/ESTACRE_ME<br>+<br>MANUALCOMPONENT/MANLCMP_ME<br>+<br>MECHANICALCOMPONENT/MECHCMP_ME<br>+<br>for Fire, Broadcast Chemical, Restoration, and<br>Revegetation<br>TreatmentComponentLocation/CLCACRE_ME |
| Gross Treated         | Sum of gross acreage calculated for each treatment event                                                                                                                   | TreatmentComponentLocation/CLCACRE_ME                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Inventoried/Monitored | Sum of gross acreage calculated for each survey event                                                                                                                      | WeedSurveyLocation/SRVY_ME                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Gross Infested Area   | Sum of gross acreage occupied by each species                                                                                                                              | WeedInfestationLocation/GRSACRE_ME                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Net Infested Area     | Sum of net acreage occupied by each species                                                                                                                                | WeedInfestationLocation/NETACRE_ME                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

[<Back to Top>](#)