



**Data Sharing Guidelines  
Natural Heritage Inventory  
Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department**



**Dataset:** Rare and uncommon species and significant natural community reports.

These guidelines pertain to use of data from Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department (VFWD). The reports provided to you are from the Vermont Natural Heritage Database and include the locations of rare and uncommon species populations and state-significant natural communities.

#### Data Sensitivity

These reports are provided for conservation and regulatory planning. Linking the name of any state-listed threatened or endangered species with its precise location shall not be released to the public in accordance with 10 V.S.A. 5410, without prior consultation with VFWD. Information contained within these reports may be shared, accompanied by these guidelines, with town planners and with landowners of lands containing the specific populations and communities. The information shall not be distributed to other third parties without permission of VFWD.

#### Status of the Data

1. The data provided in this release is not a definitive statement of the presence or absence of rare or uncommon species or significant natural communities at any given location and should never be substituted for on-site surveys and delineations that may be necessary for environmental assessment or conservation planning.
2. The populations and natural communities described in these reports are associated with mapped locations in the Vermont Natural Resources Atlas (<http://anrmaps.vermont.gov/websites/anra5/>). Users should be aware of some mapping methods used. Most of the circular polygons are based on a single point location that has been buffered with an estimated distance of locational uncertainty. The greater the uncertainty, the larger the circle. Thus, a very small circle represents an occurrence where the location of an observation is precisely known, such as a GPS point and, conversely, a much larger circle often represents an occurrence known only to the general vicinity.
3. The mapped shapes should not, however, be interpreted to represent the full extent of a population or natural community occurrence. Rather, they represent locations where the species or community has been documented. The full extent may be greater than what is mapped.
4. The Vermont Natural Heritage Database is dynamic, changing as new occurrences of rare and uncommon species and significant natural communities are discovered and as existing data are updated. VFWD can be contacted for up-to-date information involving site-specific projects. This data should be considered outdated after one year. Please contact Vermont Natural Heritage Inventory for an annual update.

#### Data Sharing

If additional field surveys are conducted, we would appreciate receiving information on rare and uncommon plants and animals and significant natural communities. Include the name of the species or natural community, the place, date and observer's name, the number of individuals observed or size of the natural community, and any additional information. This information may help inform our database.

#### Citation

Please cite Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department as the source of the data if referenced in documents or correspondence.

#### Contact

Questions regarding this data release, data interpretation, or the above guidelines should be directed to: Everett Marshall, Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, 1 National Life Drive Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3702. Phone 802-371-7333. [Everett.Marshall@vermont.gov](mailto:Everett.Marshall@vermont.gov) <<mailto:Everett.Marshall@vermont.gov>>