9.0 Biological Resource Data Management

9.0

Biological Resource Data Management

To facilitate biological resource management, procedures are necessary to define how Site flora and fauna survey data are maintained. Data are more easily accessible if they are eventually consolidated into an automated data base. This data base should be capable of integration with a GIS and should facilitate the following objectives:

- efficient determinations of potential project impacts to fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitat
- identification of the locations of priority habitats and species of concern
- identification of data gaps or areas where necessary administrative controls are lacking
- identification of trends in population levels of species of concern
- identification of locations where biological resource concerns can be relaxed
- efficient incorporation of survey data as they are accumulated by onsite contractors and offsite governmental (including local Tribes) and non-governmental organizations.

9.1 Species of Concern and GIS-Based Data Bases

A primary data base will be maintained that contains up-to-date data on plant, fish, and wildlife species of concern associated with the Hanford Site. This data base will be maintained by the Hanford Biological Resources Laboratory and will be DOE-RL's official reference source for documenting the occurrence of a particular species on the Hanford Site, its federal and state listing status, and its level of management concern as assigned in BRMaP.

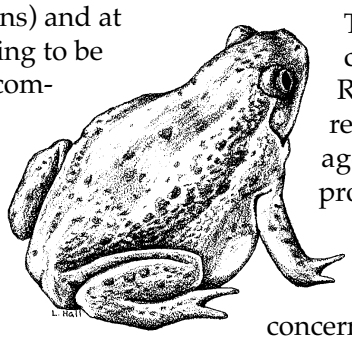
The Ecosystem Monitoring Project will be the primary repository of most of the GIS-based biological resources maps provided in the BRMaP. The Hanford Biological Resources Laboratory will maintain the resource maps for BRMaP associated with the industrial areas (i.e., baseline survey maps). The combination of the Ecosystem Monitoring Project and Hanford Biological Resources Laboratory's GIS-based information will be DOE-RL's official reference source for documenting habitat/plant community-based level of concern information. The resource maps will be updated as new data become available (e.g., through annual baseline surveys).

Inventory and monitoring data collected in accordance with Section 6.0 will be maintained by the contractor project assigned the lead responsibility for accomplishing the specific monitoring objective. Data bases will be maintained as follows:

- inventory, single species status monitoring, and Hanford ecosystem integrity monitoring data: Ecosystem Monitoring Project
- mitigation action results monitoring data: if mitigation is accomplished project-by-project, the host DOE-RL program and their particular contractor are responsible; if mitigation is accomplished by a mitigation bank or pseudo-bank approach, then tentatively DOE-RL's Office of Site Services through the Hanford Biological Resources Laboratory is responsible
- contaminant monitoring data: Surface Environmental Surveillance Project.

9.2 Release of Data/ Interactions with Other Hanford Data Bases

There is a need to make plant, fish, and wildlife species and habitat/plant community data available to interested parties (e.g., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Natural Resources's Natural Heritage Program, local Tribes, private conservation organizations) and at the same time enable research/monitoring to be conducted and the resultant data to be compiled, reviewed, and entered into data bases before it is made accessible offsite. At times, client interests also may have to be protected; however, data from any data collection effort on plant, fish, and wildlife species and habitat/plant community on Hanford should be made accessible, in a reasonable time-frame, to other interested parties including the Natural Heritage Program and the state Department of Fish and Wildlife's nongame data bases.



All appropriate biological resource compliance and monitoring data collected on the Hanford Site and entered into one of the data bases identified in Section 9.1 will be made available within a reasonable timeframe for entry into the Hanford Environmental Information System and/or Hanford GIS databases, as appropriate. Dissemination of electronically transferred data to interested parties off the Hanford Site will be made via these latter databases.

The Ecosystem Monitoring Project will coordinate with the Hanford Biological Resources Laboratory and environmental restoration contractor team database management staff to establish data transfer procedures that will address the appropriate handling of sensitive biological resource data when it involves information about the location(s) of species of concern and rare plant communities. These procedures will be established within 1 year of issuance of BRMaP as a final document.