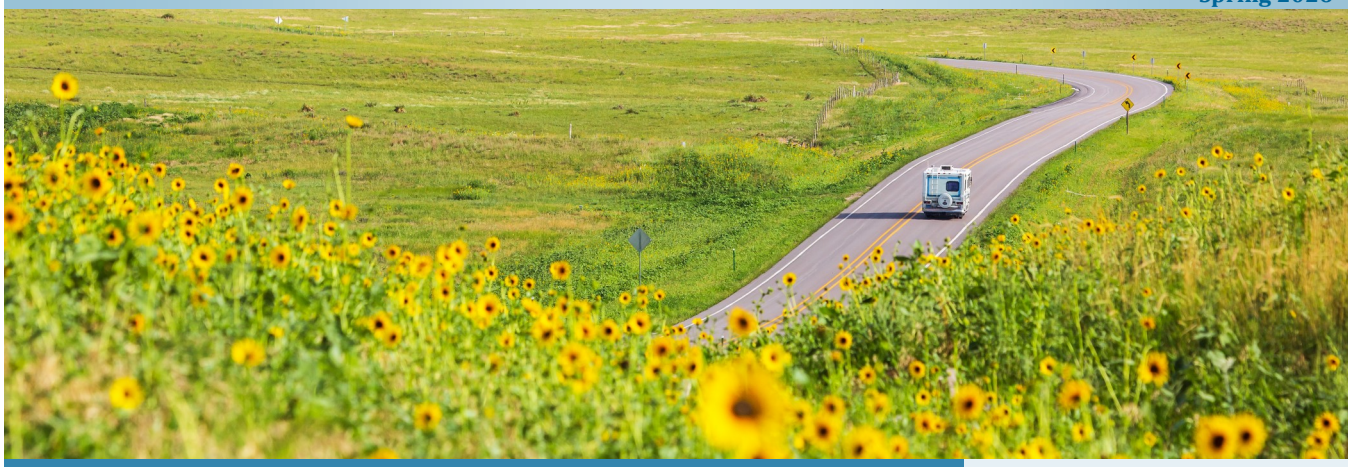

ENVIRONMENTAL BULLETIN

A routine publication providing environmental-related guidance to NDOT District Staff and Contractors

NEBRASKA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Upcoming Training

- NeFSMA 2026 Annual Conference—July 16, 2026

SWPPPTrack Highlight

Migratory Birds and Threatened & Endangered Species Surveys

NDOT construction projects occur throughout the year and in many cases, are constructed during periods of the year when migratory birds and other Threatened and Endangered Species may be utilizing the roadway corridor. NDOT reviews these projects and locations, consults with the appropriate agencies such as US Fish and Wildlife Service and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and incorporates conservation measures into the project contract to minimize impacts to applicable species.

Conservation measures generally include migratory bird and/or other threatened and endangered species surveys to occur during construction at specific times of the year. Surveys can identify species on the project and allow the appropriate actions to be taken. Please note that these and all other project conservation conditions are in the project contract (Green Sheets). It's very important to review these conditions prior to and during project construction and then to conduct the appropriate species survey when needed.

For the 2026 construction season, NDOT construction staff are required to conduct and document species surveys using the ***SWPPPTrack*** Inspection System. During these surveys, if one of the species is identified on the project, it's important to coordinate with NDOT Environmental Section for additional guidance and direction before continuing or starting construction in that area.

How to Document Species Survey During Construction using SWPPPTrack DOT App

Step 1: Open the SWPPPTrack DOT App and select "Download Project/Site Data." Search for the applicable project to survey on. See photo 1 below.

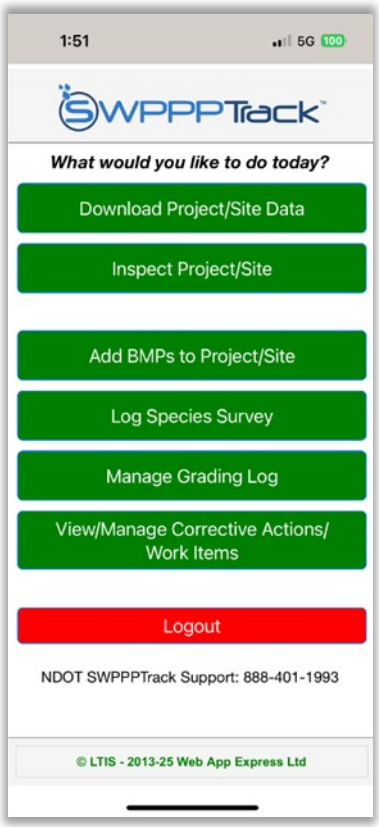
Step 2: Select "Download Project Data (No Inspection). This will allow you to log a species survey without performing a SWPPP Inspection.

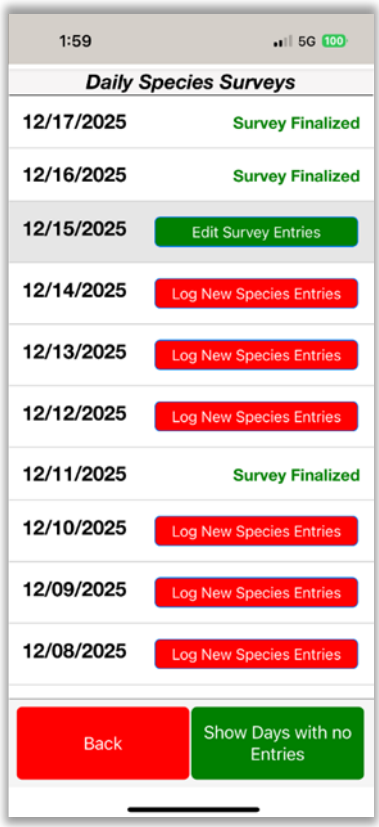
Step 3: After project data has been download, select the "Log Species Survey" from the home screen to start the survey.

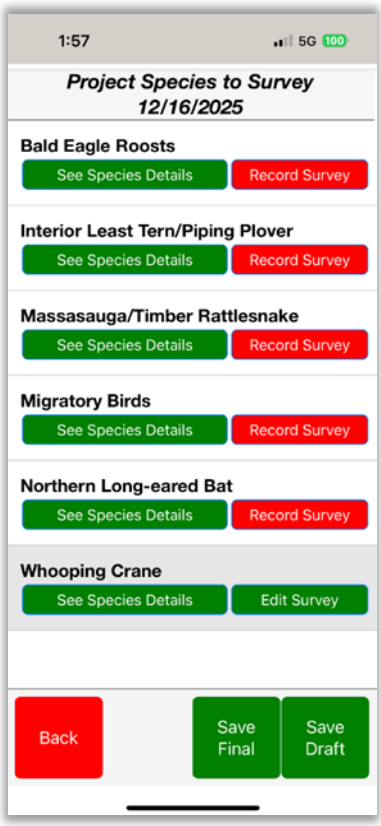
Step 4: Select the appropriate "day" you are performing the survey on and then select the "species" for which you are surveying. This will now allow you to record the survey data and save that information. You can repeat this process for multiple locations and multiple species as needed throughout the project. See photo 2 and 3 below.

Step 5: When you have completed all the required surveys be sure to "Upload" data back to the server.

Species Survey Documentation Tips:







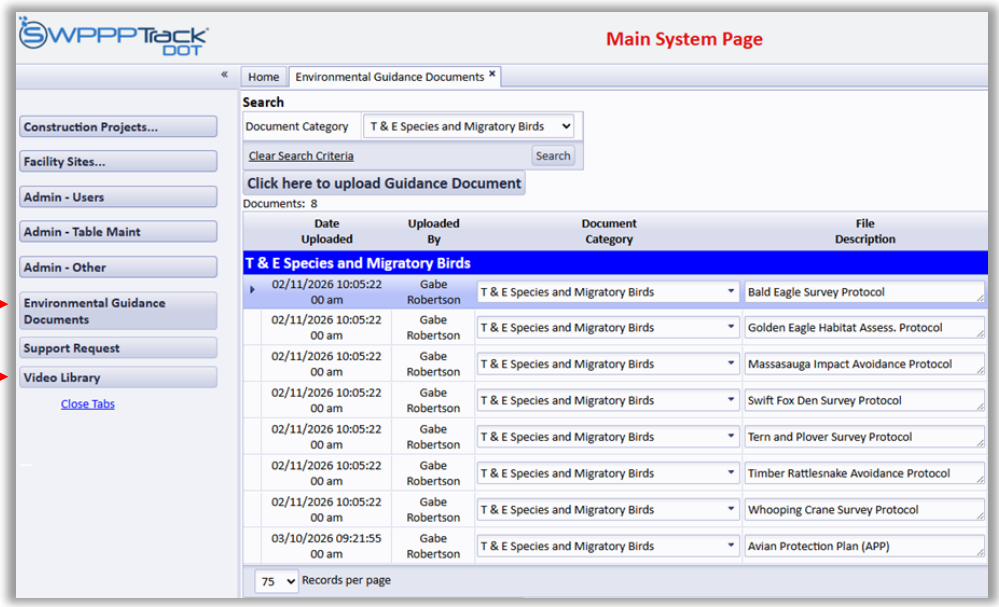
- When entering notes about the survey location please be as specific as possible. There may be several locations across the project where surveys are required.
- If you do identify the applicable species on your project, document the appropriate "Actions Taken" within SWPPPTrack and then follow up immediately with a phone call to NDOT Environmental Office. Environmental staff will provide additional guidance and directions on how to continue with construction in that area.
- For any assistance with SWPPPTrack please contact the NDOT Environmental Compliance Office at 402-479-4685 or the 24-Hour SWPPPTrack Support Line at 888-401-1993.

Species Survey Guidance and Training:

If you need additional training or information on survey protocols and species identification, please visit the SWPPPTrack website at: https://waecommandcenter.com/ltis_ne/
On the left side of the webpage you will find the following buttons:

- **Environmental Guidance Documents** – This page contains the species survey protocols for NDOT projects. In addition, these documents contain information about the species along with pictures for identification purposes. See screenshot below.

- **Video Library** – This page contains how-to training videos for the most common inspections/surveys in SWPPPTrack. See screenshot below for the location of the species survey how-to video.



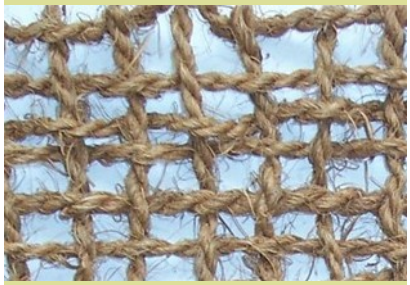
New Erosion Control Blankets on the APL

Beginning with the new 2026 construction season, projects will now be seeing a new special provision for erosion control blankets. This special provision effects all Class 1 Blankets (i.e. Class 1C, 1D, 1E, 1F).

Materials used for these blanket types can include jute, cotton, and hemp. Open weave textiles (pictured bottom right) also fit this new special provision, and have already been commonly used on NDOT projects in the Sandhills region and for projects with Massasagua snake environmental commitments.

Reduction of plastic netting in Class 1 erosion control blankets is considered Phase 1 of NDOT's transition to more environmentally friendly erosion control products. Phase 2 and 3 will focus on Class 2 erosion control blankets and silt checks, respectively. These phases will be implemented at a later time.

Approved products available for Erosion Control Blankets can be viewed on NDOT's Approved Products List under the 'Erosion Control' category at: Approved Products - NDOT. Ensure that products used on your projects from the APL for Class 1 blankets are designated as a "Bio-Net Blanket".



Lessons Learned with Inlet Protection

Improper Installation: The photo featured below is a good example of Curb Inlet Protection that will cause issues due to incorrect installation. The entire length of the inlet is plugged by the BMP. Plugging an inlet can cause flooding water on the roadway, which can be a safety issue for the traveling public. Ensure BMPs are installed so that water can still enter the inlet during storm events, while still capturing sediment.

Curb Inlet Protection + Street Sweeping: Sediment tracked onto paved roadways, like the photo below, can quickly reach curb inlets during rain events. Regular street sweeping helps prevent sediment from entering the storm drain system, and should be used in conjunction with other BMPs, such as inlet protection and stabilized construction entrances.

Inlet Protection — A Best Management Practice

Inlet Protection can be utilized on NDOT projects as a temporary best management practice (BMP) to help capture sediment and debris from stormwater runoff before it enters storm drain inlets, helping reduce sediment discharge from the construction site. Inlet Protection specifications can be found in Section 819 of the spec book.

General Guidelines

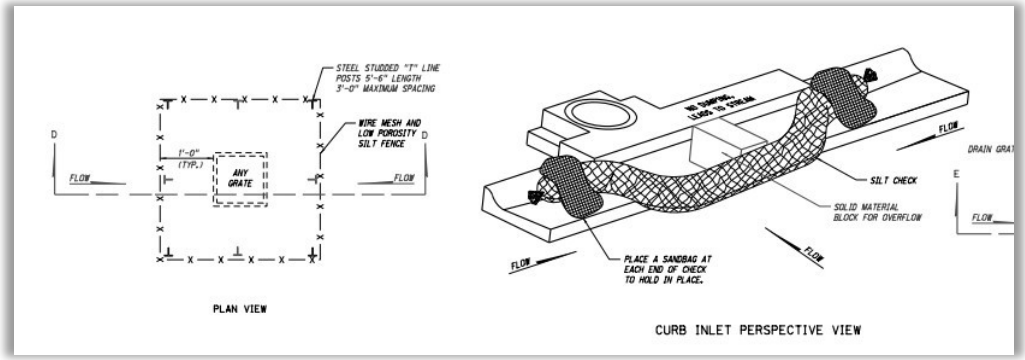
- Inlet Protection is categorized into two categories: Area Inlet Protection & Curb Inlet Protection
    - Area Inlet Protection is paid by the (Each)
    - Curb Inlet Protection is paid by the Linear Foot (LF)
- All sediment should be removed and disposed from the roadway within 24 hours of a storm event on roadways open to traffic
- On closed roadways, sediment should be removed when the inlet protection device is at 50% capacity

Inspecting Inlet Protection

Below are key criteria to look for when inspecting inlet protection…

- Ensure inlet protection is installed to protect the inlet and prevent ponding of stormwater on the roadway
- There are multiple different scenarios where Inlet Protection can be utilized. Reference the U-sheets to ensure inlet protection is built to plan when using site constructed devices
- If utilizing a manufactured product, ensure items on the project are from NDOT's Approved Products List (APL). Approved products available for Inlet Protection can be viewed under the 'Erosion Control' category at: [Approved Products - NDOT]

A double row of silt fence is a great way to use inlet protection. Ensure that the inner most row is low-porosity silt fence to help capture sediment from entering the inlet



Refer to the Special Plans (U-Sheets) in the project plan set for build notes for inlet protection scenarios

Compliance Corner

With spring approaching and a new construction season beginning, it is important to familiarize yourself with two particular specifications to help maintain stormwater compliance on a project. These specs are the Environmental Quality Compliance Special Provision 115 and Section 204 — Temporary Water Pollution Control of the Standard Specifications for Highway Construction.

The Environmental Quality Compliance Special Provision 115 is commonly referred to as the "Corrective Action" spec. Within this special provision, you can find information on Environmental Commitments, Contractor Compliance, Inspection Requirements, and Corrective Action Enforcement. Section 204 — Temporary Water Pollution Control defines some temporary measures and construction practices the Contractor should use to prevent soil erosion and avoid water pollution.

Utilizing these specifications together will enforce compliance with the stormwater permit and ensure work is done in a timely manner. Below are some key highlights from each specification.

Environmental Quality Compliance Special Provision 115 Highlights…

What is a Corrective Action?

- The installation and maintenance of erosion and sediment control items
- The inclusion or maintenance of other pollution prevention control BMPs
- The removal of sediment of off-site locations
- The management of litter, debris, or chemicals in a manner that prevents them from being pollutants
- The need for stabilization measures when construction activities temporarily or permanently cease for more than 14 days
- The removal of sediment from erosion and sediment control BMPs when they are 50% full

Method of Measurement...What Do You Pay For??

- Erosion Control Mobilization
  - Bid item that is paid by the **(Each)**
  - Payment for "Erosion Control Mobilization" occurs when a "Post-Storm Event" inspection is made that has documented Corrective Actions and they are resolved within the set timeframe
  - Payment **cannot** be made when an inspection report contains only 'Good Housekeeping' Corrective Actions or when Corrective Actions on a previous report have not been addressed
- Environmental Disincentive
  - Issued when Corrective Actions are not resolved within the approved time and become Environmental Deficiencies
  - Contractor should be notified in writing when an Environmental Deficiency occurs
  - Environmental Disincentive is **$1000 per calendar** day per inspection report containing Corrective Actions
  - It is important to remember that while only certain Corrective Actions are eligible for an 'Erosion Control Mobilization', every Corrective Action documented is eligible for 'Environmental Disincentive' if not completed within the allowed timeframe
- Environmental Commitments—Contractor Compliance
  - A **Lump Sum** payment for costs associated with complying with Environmental Commitments described in the contract
  - Some items included in this lump sum payment are: Bird netting, creating a Spill Prevention and Control Plan, and creating a plan documenting pollution prevention strategies for initial stages of construction

Section 204—Temporary Water Pollution Control Highlights...

- Maximum exposed surface area for Contractor's operations is **18 Acres**
- Without written approval to increase exposed area, the Engineer has the authority to reduce the maximum area if:
  - Soil and moisture conditions are that erosion is probable
  - Seasonal conditions that force extended delays
  - Proximity to waters such as lakes, streams, ponds, etc.
  - Equipment on the job is not sufficient to handle open areas
  - Any other environmental condition that exists which would be affected by erosion from the project
- Erosion control measures should be continued through the life of the project until permanent BMPs have been constructed
- Erosion that occurs from Contractor's operations and the elements should be repaired by the Contractor at no additional cost

NDOT Erosion and Sediment Control Training Course Guidance

NDOT Erosion and Sediment Control INSPECTOR CERTIFICATION

The NDOT Erosion and Sediment Control Inspector Certification is currently being offered in an online format only. To obtain your new inspector certification please complete both the "Inspector Re-Certification" and "Installer Certification" courses described below.

Participants who successfully complete these courses are awarded a five-year inspector certification and can conduct construction stormwater site inspections on NDOT projects.

NDOT Erosion and Sediment Control INSPECTOR RE-CERTIFICATION Course

Inspector re-certification can be obtained online by accessing the UNL-LTAP training website. This online course provides previously certified and new inspectors (new inspectors must also complete the installer course) a convenient way to re-certify for five years. The course is designed for NDOT construction site operations, supervisors, and managers who will be conducting or assisting with construction stormwater site inspections. Learning objectives include: stormwater permit requirements; erosion and BMPs; good housekeeping and pollution prevention BMPs; inspection and maintenance procedures; and SWPPP management.

Course Link: https://www.ltap.unl.edu/assnfe/searchcourses.asp?csKeyword=erosion

NDOT Erosion and Sediment Control INSTALLER CERTIFICATION Course

This online course is designed for NDOT construction site operators, supervisors, and technicians who will be installing or maintaining erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) on NDOT construction sites.

Learning objectives include: an overview of NDOT's construction stormwater program, NDOT erosion control plan reading, the process of accelerated soil erosion, the distinction between erosion control and sediment control, installation and maintenance requirements for erosion and sediment control BMPs and good housekeeping BMPs.

Participants who successfully complete this course are awarded a five-year installer certification and can install and/or maintain erosion and sediment control BMPs on NDOT projects.

Course Link: https://www.ltap.unl.edu/assnfe/searchcourses.asp?csKeyword=erosion

Roadside Development and Compliance Unit Contacts

Ron Poe – RDC Unit Manager
402-479-4499

Gabe Robertson – SWPPPTrack and Stormwater Compliance
402-479-4685

Amber Ybarra – MS4 and Stormwater Compliance
402-479-3917

Terry Lage – Stormwater Compliance
402-479-4410

Shane Sisel – Operations/Maintenance Environmental Compliance
402-479-4656

Carson Jones – Borrow Sites & Erosion Control Design (Districts 1 & 7)
402-479-3642

Ryker Starr – Erosion Control Design (Districts 3 & 6)
402-479-4839

Brian Anderson – Erosion Control Design (Districts 2 & 5)
402-479-4538

Brian White – Erosion Control Design (District 4 & 8)
402-479-4793

John Buhrmann – Hazardous Materials/Unexpected Waste (Districts 1, 4, 7, 8)
402-479-4766

Aaron Bedea – Hazardous Materials/Unexpected Waste (Districts 2, 3, 5, 6)
402-479-4312

Reach out to us for environmental compliance assistance.