

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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## State Endangered Species Voucher Specimen Collection Permit Application

The State Forester may issue a Voucher Specimen Collection Permit solely for the take of endangered species voucher specimens during botanical inventories and environmental surveys for the purposes of species verification and documentation of population locations. Taking specimens for the sole purpose of exchange with other herbaria is prohibited.

Permits to collect state endangered voucher specimens, or other parts thereof, shall make no long-term detrimental effect on the population. When possible, the permittee shall take specimens or parts in such a way as to not reduce or impact the population (e.g., take a single stem from an herbaceous perennial, leaving the root intact, or other methods appropriate to the particular species). The permittee may take a maximum of three specimens, only if the population is sufficient. If the population is extremely small (e.g., <10 plants per population) and the taking of a single individual could be detrimental to the long-term viability of the population, the State Forester may condition the permit so that the permittee may take only a fragment of an individual for voucher purposes.

A Voucher Specimen Collection Permit does not give the permittee authority to take federally threatened or endangered plants. Taking of these species also requires a federal permit issued by the United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service.

### Permit Application

An application for a Voucher Specimen Collection Permit must include the following:

- 1) name, street address, phone number, and email address of the applicant;
- 2) qualifications of person collecting the voucher specimens or materials;
- 3) endangered species to be collected, if known beforehand
- 4) date(s) and location of the botanical inventory or environmental survey;
- 5) purpose of the collection; and
- 6) whether a federal permit will be needed.

### Final Report and Requirements of Permit

A final report that includes numbers and locations of specimens. Failure to submit a report may result in the denial of future permit requests.

To assist in the identification and preservation of endangered plant species in New Mexico, permittees shall also report all permitted collections of voucher specimens to the state botanist by December 31 of each year and include the voucher specimen's label information and the place or places where specimens were deposited. See below.

## Specimen Location

Any voucher specimens collected must have at least one deposited at the University of New Mexico Museum of Southwestern Biology or New Mexico State University Las Cruces. The permittee may send duplicates to the Western New Mexico University Herbarium, government agency collections within New Mexico, or herbaria in other states that are formally listed in the Index Herbariorum.

The label affixed to each specimen shall contain detailed information on collection location (e.g., latitude/longitude), description of the habitat, associated species, collector's name, date of collection, and estimated size of the population. See specific herbaria websites for more information on label requirements.

## Criteria for Reviewing Permit Application

- 1) The voucher specimens will be collected during botanical inventories or environmental surveys for the purpose of species verification or documentation of new population sites.
- 2) Specimens are not being taken for the sole purpose of exchange with other herbaria.
- 3) Specimens will not be taken from locations that are known to have small population numbers where collections may have a long-term detrimental effect on the population.

An application for a permit may be denied if an applicant a) has taken an endangered plant outside the scope of a prior permit's provisions or without a permit, b) otherwise failed to comply with a prior permit, c) provided false information on a permit application, d) attempted to transfer a prior permit without the state forester's written approval or allow someone else to use a prior permit, or e) does not meet the requirements for Voucher Specimen Permit.

If a population is deemed too small and the taking of a single individual is potentially detrimental, then the State Forester may condition the permit so that the permittee may take only a fragment of an individual for voucher purposes. However, if permit is granted without conditions, the permittee may take a maximum of three specimens, if the population is deemed of sufficient size.

## Submitting Permit Application and Final Reports

**Electronically send to:** [rareplantpermits@emnrd.nm.gov](mailto:rareplantpermits@emnrd.nm.gov)

Or

**By mail:**

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
Forestry Division  
Attn: Erika Rowe  
1220 S. St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

