California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), RareFind 5, the Spotted Owl Observations Database, and the Biogeographic Information & Observation System (BIOS)

2018 Training Course
California Department of Fish & Wildlife

This one-day course is designed to provide an overview of the Biogeographic Information & Observation System (BIOS), California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), and the Spotted Owl Observations Database, followed by instruction in the use of both Rarefind 5 and the BIOS 5 Data Viewer.

The CNDDB is a statewide database of status and documented locations of all rare, threatened, endangered and special status species in California. Each "occurrence" of a special status species or natural community is mapped in a GIS. The associated tabular data captures as much detail as possible from the source document(s) about the site and the history of that element at that site.

The Spotted Owl Observations Database is a statewide database of survey and detection data for northern spotted owls and California spotted owls. These positive and negative observation records are used to create the Spotted Owl Observations layer and the Spotted Owl Observations Spider Diagram layer. The Observations layer shows points depicting the locations of each observation and includes all of the tabular data for each observation. The Spider Diagram layer displays lines that illustrate the perceived relationship between observations and associated activity centers.

BIOS was conceived in response to the recent emphasis on centralized data storage, management, and retrieval systems. It offers a platform for viewing a broad array of current and historic biological data, including the CNDDB and the spotted owl layers, in a common geographic context.

What is the purpose of the CNDDB?

> To provide a statewide geospatial database of status and documented locations for all rare, threatened, endangered and special status species in California. These data help drive conservation decisions, aid in the environmental review of projects and land use changes, and provide baseline data for use in research projects and in recovering endangered species.

What is the purpose of the Spotted Owl Observations Database?

> To provide a statewide database of spotted owl observations and activity centers. These data are used by private foresters and biologists, state and federal agency staff, and researchers for the development and review of timber harvest and management plans and

other environmental assessment projects.

What is the purpose of BIOS?

To provide an integrated system of hardware, software, and processes to gather, store, manage, map and query biological data for use by the Department and its research and management partners.

What is the purpose of this class?

To teach the concepts, skills, and processes that will allow participants to understand the CNDDB, the Spotted Owl Observations Database, and BIOS systems. Participants will learn to use the RareFind 5 internet application and the BIOS Data Viewer to access data and associated metadata, and manipulate these data for viewing and for analytical purposes.