California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Biogeographic Data Branch
California Natural Diversity Database

License Agreement for the California Natural Diversity Database

June 2018

The following terms and conditions govern the use of data from the Department of Fish and Wildlife's (DFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). By using the CNDDB applications, associated CNDDB Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data, and/or the Spotted Owl Database, the user agrees to the following:

1. The CNDDB and Spotted Owl Database are proprietary databases owned by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

    a) The user may not resell, redistribute, or repackage CNDDB or Spotted Owl data, except as allowed by this agreement.

    b) The user may make copies of the CNDDB and Spotted Owl data in digital or hardcopy form for use or distribution within the local office of the user's department, agency, business, or corporation. This copy privilege does not extend to professional organizations, associations, or affiliations.[1]

    c) Subcontractors may have access to these data during the course of any given project, but they must not be given a copy, or access, for use on subsequent, unrelated work.[2]

    d) The CNDDB and Spotted Owl data may be shared freely between current subscribers, but should not be released to the public or non-subscribers.

2. The CNDDB is dynamic. DFW adds, modifies, and updates records daily, and the CNDDB data in our web applications are updated on a regular basis. It is the user's responsibility to update their copy of the CNDDB GIS data from the CNDDB webpage. Check the [Updates page](#) and log in to download the current version.

3. When creating maps for public viewing, please refer to our [Data Use Guidelines](#) document to answer questions regarding the appropriate ways to depict CNDDB data in user products. Correct interpretation of the CNDDB GIS data relies on utilizing the biological attribute data embedded in the GIS polygon features. For information on interpreting the data within the Spotted Owl Database, please refer to the [Spotted Owl Information page](#).

4. When creating static or interactive maps or products for public viewing in print or over the internet, care must be taken not to violate our "no redistribution or repackage" clause (see 1.a. above). The information within these databases may not be displayed over the internet except with DFW's express permission. DFW understands there are situations where an organization may need to display CNDDB and Spotted Owl data on its website for business purposes. In those cases, the user must contact the CNDDB program for guidance and written permission on how to properly display CNDDB data on the website. As a general rule, data from the CNDDB and Spotted Owl Database may only be displayed at such a scale (no larger than a scale of 1:350,000), or in such a way that the viewers/users cannot determine exact location information of the elements mapped in the system. The CNDDB

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[1] Such groups may not purchase one subscription for distribution to all members of the group.

[2] Consulting firms that subcontract work on portions of a project to another contractor that is not a subscriber may share the CNDDB data for that project. However, the subcontractor must relinquish access to the data when that work is completed. Counties that subscribe to the CNDDB may not share their subscription copy of RareFind with all consultants that develop EIRs for their Planning Office; those consultants must subscribe individually to the CNDDB.

and Spotted Owl data include location information for the state's most imperiled species, and these are sensitive resources.

5. Data within the CNDDB and Spotted Owl Database require biological expertise for proper analysis, interpretation, and application. It is the user's responsibility to ensure that the data obtained from DFW are used correctly. DFW staff are available by phone to advise users in the technical aspects of the data. In addition, DFW has tutorials and videos online to help interpret the CNDDB and Spotted Owl data. DFW periodically offers CNDDB training. Visit the CNDDB's training page for information on these resources.

6. DFW does not portray its databases as an exhaustive or comprehensive inventory of all rare species and natural communities statewide. For any given location in California, a lack of species occurrences or records in no way indicates or implies that the species do not occur there. Field observations by qualified persons and using the proper protocols at appropriate times are necessary to support negative findings. Much of the state has never been surveyed for plant and animal species.

7. The user's contribution of data to the CNDDB and Spotted Owl Database is important and encouraged. DFW accepts data in many formats. For the CNDDB, please visit our reference webpage Submitting Data to the CNDDB for guidance on data submissions. For Spotted Owl data submissions, please contact the Spotted Owl Data Manager (OwlObs@wildlife.ca.gov).

8. Citations to the CNDDB and/or Spotted Owl Database shall be made in the user's reports, papers, publications, internet products, and maps that incorporate CNDDB or Spotted Owl data.[3]

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[3] Citations should include the version of the database used (government or commercial, month and year), as well as the platform (e.g. Rarefind, BIOS, CDFW Data Portal) and date accessed. Version information can be found in the Metadata for GIS datasets, or in the margins of reports (lower left corner of CNDDB RareFind reports, upper left corner of Spotted Owl reports).

Examples:
California Department of Fish and Wildlife. (2018). California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) – Government version dated June 1, 2018. Retrieved June 08, 2018 from https://map.dfg.ca.gov/rarefind/view/RareFind.aspx.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife. (2018). Spotted Owl Observations [ds704] – version updated May 31, 2018. Retrieved June 8, 2018, from http://bios.dfg.ca.gov.