



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
210 Walnut Street, Room 693  
Des Moines, IA 50309-2180

October 3, 2012

IOWA INSTRUCTION 190 - 386 – IOWA NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY THREATENED OR  
ENDANGERED SPECIES BY PUBLIC LAND SURVEY  
SYSTEM SECTION ARCMAP LAYER

IA386.0 PURPOSE

This Iowa Instruction provides direction on the access and use of the “threatened\_endangered\_ia” ArcMap data layer that depicts *Public Land Survey System Sections* that house threatened or endangered species records according to the Iowa Natural Areas Inventory Database.

IA386.1 SCOPE

These instructions will be followed by all NRCS employees when identifying locations near known threatened or endangered species populations.

IA386.2 FILING INSTRUCTIONS

This Iowa Instruction will be posted on the Iowa NRCS Employee Website, which can be accessed at <http://www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/> under the Iowa NRCS eDirectives System section.

IA386.3 EXHIBITS

See the attachment.

/s/

Jon Hubbert  
Acting State Conservationist

Attachment

E

(IA Instruction 190.386 First Edition – October 2012)

*Helping People Help the Land*

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

IOWA INSTRUCTION 190-386 – IOWA NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY THREATENED  
OR ENDANGERED PSECIES BY PUBLIC LAND SURVEY  
SYSTEM SECTON ARCMAP LAYER

1. PURPOSE:

This Iowa Instruction provides direction on the access and use of the “threatened\_endangered\_ia” ArcMap data layer that depicts *Public Land Survey System Sections* that house threatened or endangered species records according to the Iowa Natural Areas Inventory Database.

2. EXPLANATION:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has responsibilities to provide conservation planning assistance to clients and to uphold state and federal laws, including the Endangered Species Act. This instruction provides direction to NRCS employees in the use of a conservation planning tool that may aid in identifying locations near known threatened or endangered species populations.

An ArcMap shapefile titled “threatened\_endangered\_ia” has been created to help identify areas where federal or state endangered or threatened species (also termed protected species) have been located. This shapefile consists of highlighted Public Land Survey System (PLSS) sections and an identify properties box that indicate whether endangered (E) or threatened (T) plants or animals are present. This shapefile resides on the NRCS County and Area Office geodata servers under F:\geodata\endangered\_habitat. Planners are to add this shapefile to all ArcMap and Toolkit projects for use during the Inventory Resources step of the conservation planning process. This data layer contains sensitive information and should not be duplicated or made publicly available.

Although incomplete, these maps are a useful tool for determining whether protected species are known to occur within or adjacent to planning areas. Please note, PLSS sections that are not highlighted can house unknown protected species populations. In such instances, the project site and adjacent areas that may be affected should be visited to determine whether suitable protected species or habitat is present. The IA NRCS-FWS Programmatic Consultation procedures will aid planners in identifying suitable habitat and in determining potential project affects to protected species.

This ArcMap layer will be periodically updated to account for the documentation of new species records in the Iowa Natural Areas Inventory Database (INAI), which is owned and managed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. For questions regarding the development and use of this data layer, please contact Jennifer Anderson-Cruz, State Biologist, at [jennifer.anderson@ia.usda.gov](mailto:jennifer.anderson@ia.usda.gov) or (515) 323-2252.

Approved By: /s/

Date: October 3, 2012

Jon Hubbert  
Acting State Conservationist  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
210 Walnut Street, Room 693  
Des Moines, IA 50309-2180