

ESPB Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species review and revision process

How any party may participate in the List review process or address the Board about changes to the Illinois List, in accordance with respective laws and regulations:

1. Submit endangered and threatened (E&T) species reports to the Illinois Natural Heritage (Biotics) Database.

The single most relevant way to participate in the List review process is to submit E&T species survey and observation reports to the Illinois Natural Heritage (Biotics) Database ([how to report the occurrence of a listed species](#)). The Database is the primary source of evidence used by the Board during the List review and also supports other protection provisions under the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act, including Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) E&T species consultation, E&T species incidental take authorization, and E&T species possession permits, and E&T species protection and recovery efforts by the ESPB, IDNR, and Illinois Nature Preserves Commission.

2. Prepare and submit an ESPB petition package recommending a change to the List.

Refer to the [ESPB petition process and forms for recommending changes to the List](#). Use the appropriate ESPB petition form (for adding a species, removing a species, or changing the listed status of a species) and submit a petition package according to the ESPB petition process and schedule described in the document.

Administratively accepted petition packages will be considered by the Board according to the petition process.

If you have prepared an ESPB petition package recommending a change to the List that was not administratively accepted (it was returned to you as insufficient) and you elect to not revise and resubmit according to the ESPB petition process and schedule...

- a) **You may request to address the Board with your administratively unaccepted petition package as an agenda item at any meeting open to the public (if any changes are made to the administratively unaccepted petition package, it should be resubmitted via the ESPB petition process and schedule).** The request for agenda item needs to be received by Board staff at least 30 days prior to the meeting date ([list of current year ESPB meeting dates](#) and contact Board staff at DNR.ESPB@illinois.gov); your administratively unaccepted petition package will be your supporting documentation and presentation. Board staff will advise the Chair of the request, and when the Chair approves an agenda for the meeting, Board staff will follow-up with the requester to let them know whether or not the requested item has been added to the agenda. If the requested item has not been added for the next meeting, the requester will be provided an explanation and direction for resubmitting their request for a subsequent meeting and for alternate means of addressing the Board. The Board may engage in discussion and may take action on presentations made as agenda items during the meeting.
- b) **You may address the Board with your administratively unaccepted petition package as a public comment at any Board meeting open to the public (if any changes are made to the administratively unaccepted petition package, it should be resubmitted via the ESPB petition process and schedule).** You may address the Board during the 3-minute public comment period offered at any meeting open to the public ([list of current year ESPB meeting dates](#)). No advance notice of intent is necessary. The Board accepts comments, but does not engage in discussion and will not take action on comments during the public comment period. The Board may elect to further address the comment at a later time.

How any party may participate in the List review process or address the Board about changes to the Illinois List, in accordance with respective laws and regulations, continued:

- c) **You may submit to the Board your administratively unaccepted petition package during the public hearing period held prior to the Board finalizing changes to the List (if any changes are made to the administratively unaccepted petition package, it should be resubmitted via the ESPB petition process and schedule).** The public hearing period is held after the Board confirms preliminary approval and before it confirms final approval for any changes to the List. Notice of the public hearing period is posted to the Board's website once scheduled. The public hearing period spans two weeks and consists of a physical hearing at the beginning of the period and then a subsequent comment period to accept written comments. The Board accepts comments and evidence, but does not engage in discussion and will not take action on comments during the public hearing period. Following the public hearing period, the Board considers comments and evidence received and explains its final decisions in a subsequent Board meeting open to the public.

3. Address the Board as a public comment at any Board meeting open to the public.

Anyone can address the Board during the 3-minute public comment period offered at any meeting open to the public. No advance notice of intent is necessary. The Board accepts comments, but does not engage in discussion and will not take action on comments during the public comment period. The Board may elect to further address the comment at a later time.

4. Submit to the Board comments and evidence during the public hearing and comment period held prior to the Board finalizing changes to the List.

The public hearing period is held after the Board confirms preliminary approval and before it confirms final approval for any changes to the List. Notice of the public hearing period is posted to the Board's website once scheduled. The public hearing period spans two weeks and consists of a physical meeting made open to the public at the beginning of the period and then a subsequent comment period to accept written comments. The Board accepts comments and evidence, but does not engage in discussion and will not take action on comments during the public hearing period. Following the public hearing period, the Board considers comments and evidence received and explains its final decisions in a subsequent Board meeting open to the public.

Following the Board's review process, you can comment during the Administrative Rule amendment process:

5. Submit to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules comments during the JCAR 1st notice comment period.

There is a 45-day comment period with the first notice of proposed Ad Rule promulgation/amendment. The IDNR leads administration of the Ad Rule process with JCAR.



ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

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