

NPS / ToD – BTA Process Related to Research

Abbreviations:

RPRS – Research Permit & Reporting System (for NPS)
NPS – National Park Service
BITH – Big Thicket National Preserve
BTA – Big Thicket Association
ToD- Thicket of Diversity
IAR – Investigator Annual Report
PI – Primary Investigator
TWIG- Taxonomic Working Inventory Group
RM – Resource Management – Big Thicket National Preserve
IRMA-Integrated Resource Management Applications
ICMS/Rediscovery- Name of Program NPS uses for Museum Management

Organizations / Committees Involved when funding from ToD/BTA is tied to a NPS Research Permit:

NPS, BITH, RM, ToD, BTA, ToD Science Committee

FAQs

Q. Do I need a NPS/BITH Research Permit?

A1. If your research is outside the boundary of BITH – No permit is required. However, permits may be required in other private conservation areas, i.e. The Nature Conservancy, Big Thicket Natural Heritage Trust. Collection data for alternate sites should be recorded on a spreadsheet following NPS standards and requirements.

A2. If your research is inside the boundary of BITH – A Research Permit IS Required with fee.

Q. How Do I apply for a NPS/BITH Research Permit?

A1. You will need to visit <http://irma.nps.gov/rprs/> and create an Investigator Profile and submit a research proposal for review by NPS / BITH staff and an application fee.

Q. Do you have a contact person for questions related to the NPS/BITH Research Permit Process?

A1. Andrew Bennett, Biologist, at 409-951-6821 or andrew_j_bennett@nps.gov

Q. Do you know if ToD/BTA has funding for my research?

A1. Funding is competitive and limited to approved line items. For specifics, email the ToD Chair at info@thicketofdiversity.org or BTA Director at director@bigthicket.org.

Q. If I received funding for my research **Inside NPS/BITH Boundary what is required to receive final payment from ToD/BTA funded research?**

A1. The following items are required to receive final payment from ToD/BTA:

1. All NPS Requirements must be completed. These include:
 - a. Completed IARs for each year your research permit was valid
 - b. Original or copies of all field notes and data collected during the permit
 - c. Copies of Final Papers, Thesis, Publications, Checklists, Journal Articles, and Reports from the data collected during the permit or as a result of the permit.
 - d. If field collections were retained and NOT destroyed during analysis the following is also required:
 - i. A completed spreadsheet provided by NPS/BITH/RM staff completed by PI with all required fields completed.
 - ii. A signed loan agreement processed by NPS/BITH/RM staff to permanently house collected specimens at a designated repository.
 - iii. Verification or receipt by the designated repository that all specimens have been received with proper documentation (collector number, NPS catalog number, NPS accession number, etc.)
 - e. If no field collections were retained or destroyed during analysis only items a, b, and c are required for the NPS.
 - f. Rather than field collections, Photography and DNA collections may be allowed with a permit.
2. All ToD/BTA Requirements must be completed. These include the following items:
 - a. Final Report, Data, Photos, Publications, signed and dated Check Request or Invoice, IRS W9. TCEQ funding requires receipts and work logs.
 - b. All of NPS required items as listed above.
 - c. Final Acceptance by ToD/BTA Science Committee of submitted findings/work etc.
 - d. Optional consideration- Presentation of a Science Café or other event to disseminate your research to the general public

Q. If I received funding for my research **Outside NPS/BITH Boundary what is required to receive final payment from ToD/BTA funded research?**

A1. All ToD/BTA Requirements must be completed.

These include the following items:

- a. Final Report, Data submitted following BITH specifications, Photos, Publications, Signed and dated Check Request, TCEQ funding requires receipts and work logs.
- b. Final Acceptance by ToD Science Committee and BTA of submitted findings/work etc.
- c. Optional consideration- Presentation of a Science Café or other event to disseminate your research to the general public