

STANDARD PROTOCOLS FOR FIELD SURVEYS

Background Information

Our panel session from 2:15 to 3:15 will consider Standard Protocols For Field Surveys. That session will consider these 5 questions:

- 1. What is a “standard protocol”?** By “protocol”, we mean a list of measurements or observations to be made, and the methods for making them. Is this a useful definition?
- 2. Why use standard survey protocols?** First, data sets collected using a standard protocol can be combined for larger analyses. Second, databases can contain templates based on standard protocols, speeding data entry and download.
- 3. What are some standard protocols currently in use in Wyoming that illustrate the range in comprehensiveness and detail?** We’ve asked the panelists to offer examples that illustrate features important to have in protocols for different fields (botany, mammalogy, herpetology, etc.), and the differences between a simple protocol vs. a comprehensive, detailed protocol.
Also, in this packet you’ll find a short list that WYNDD staff put together of 11 protocols in use in Wyoming. We’re asking everyone at the meeting to tell us about additional protocols they use or know about, by filling out the short form on the back of this page and leaving it by the door at the end of the meeting. Eventually, we will have a selection of standard protocols on our WYNDD web site that will facilitate the entry of information into the WYNDD databases.
- 4. What needs are there for developing additional standard protocols in Wyoming?** During the panel session, we’ll try to identify cases where standard survey protocols would be especially useful.
- 5. How can we pursue or create the opportunities for developing these standard protocols?** Are there structures for setting up working groups or committees to develop protocols in specific cases? Do such committees or working groups exist already?

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Describe A Survey Protocol

1. What is the subject of this protocol? (e.g., raptor nests, amphibian habitat occupancy)

2. Does this protocol have a widely-recognized name?

3. Is the protocol simple, complex, or in-between?

4. What does the protocol specify (circle Yes or No for each):
 - a. What measurements or observations should to be made Yes No
 - b. How those measurements or observations should be made (methods) Yes No
 - c. Other Yes No. If Yes, describe.

5. Who uses this protocol?

6. Who developed it?

7. Where is documentation available?

8. Where are the data and information stored?

9. Your name and contact information
 - Name:
 - Organization:
 - E-mail address:
 - Phone number: