



**Florida Natural Areas Inventory  
Notice of Changes to Data Services Policies  
12 July 2010**

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Since the Florida Natural Areas Inventory was founded in 1981, a core component of our mission has been to provide information on locations and status of rare species and other natural resources to our partners and the public. While that mission continues, recent budget changes have led us to re-evaluate our range of data services and make the changes outlined here.

FNAI is funded entirely by grants and contracts. Every service we provide must be covered by an existing contract or paid for directly by the user. Since 1981, our core contract with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has included funding for FNAI to provide data, reports, and staff expertise to our partners and the public. In 2010, the Florida legislature cut FNAI's core DEP contract by 50%. As a result, DEP has decided to no longer subsidize FNAI data services to other (non-DEP) public users.

At the same time, FNAI has analyzed our data services fees to private, for-profit firms, who pay FNAI directly for services. FNAI's fee of \$75 per hour to private firms has not changed since 1996. Our analysis shows that the current fee no longer covers our full costs for data services.

As a result, the following policies are in effect starting July 2010:

- Standard data reporting fees for private, for-profit firms are increasing to \$89 per hour (still 1 hour minimum).
- FNAI will request that our most frequent public users also cover the costs of their data requests. We will contact those users separately from this announcement to discuss details.
- Standard data reports and other minor requests from infrequent public users, up to 1 hour, will be handled at no charge to the user.
- Any data requests or other consultations that require more than 1 hour must be paid for by the user at the rate of \$89 per hour. This includes FNAI staff participation in meetings etc. that are not covered by an existing contract.
- Policy and fees for GIS data distribution remain unchanged at this time.

Above all, it is our goal to continue to fulfill this important role in the conservation community by providing data services to all users to every extent possible, while still covering our full costs. We hope these new policies will meet everyone's needs and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

*Gary Knight*

Gary Knight, Director



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and Environmental  
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Institute of Science  
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*Tracking Florida's Biodiversity*