# Search Help

Terra-CAT
The FWC Species & Habitat Programs Monitoring Catalog

## Basic Function

The Search function performs a "tabular search" of Terra-CAT's relational database. It allows you to identify those projects that satisfy a specified set of conditions, to download a list of those projects, and to inspect the detailed metadata for each project in the result list.

The Search function differs from the Map function in that (1) geography is not the primary focus of the search, and (2) it allows you to choose more than one possible value for many of the data fields. If you are primarily interested in locating projects performing monitoring in particular geographic area(s), you may find that it is more effective to use the Map function to perform a geospatial search.

## General instructions:

1. To find projects of interest, specify values for any relevant fields and then click the **Search** button at the bottom of the form. Tips for making selections:
   - All search fields are optional. If no value is specified for a field, "Any" is assumed. A project will be included in the results list if there is a match for ALL fields that have a value specified (Boolean AND search).
   - Many search fields allow multiple selections. Use the Ctrl or Cmd key while clicking to select/deselect items in lists. Use the Shift key while clicking to select a range of items in a list. A field will match if ANY of the specified values are present (Boolean OR search).
   - As a rule, specifying value(s) in more fields will yield a list with fewer projects; conversely, specifying value(s) for fewer fields will produce a list with more projects. If a field is of scant interest, it is best to leave it blank to maximize the number of search results returned.
   - Click the **Reset** button (at the bottom of the page) to clear all selections for all fields. Click the links provided to clear selections for individual fields.
   - Explanations of individual metadata fields are given in the Field Descriptions section below.
2. Once you click the **Search** button, you will be presented with a list of projects that satisfy ALL of the conditions you specified.
3. Click on the **Project Name** in the search results to inspect the full metadata for a particular project.
4. Click the **Download** button to save the metadata for all projects in the list into a file on your computer, in one of these formats: Tab-delimited (text file), Spreadsheet (comma-separated values), or KML (Keyhole Markup Language, used by Google Earth). ***[NEEDS REVISING AFTER REVIEW]***
5. Once you have reviewed your initial search results, you may find it necessary to make changes to your search selections in order to focus in on the projects of particular interest to you. Use the **Modify Search Criteria** button to return to the search form and make changes (your previous selections will be preserved).

6. Be aware that some projects may have incomplete database records. Unless stated otherwise, a blank in a particular field will preclude a project from being included in the results list, when a search value has been specified for that field.

## Field Descriptions

Information about the meaning and format of each searchable metadata field is given below, followed by tips on specifying value(s) for the field.

### Organization Name

1. Name of the organization associated with a project.
2. Click to select one organization. Ctrl-click (or Cmd-click) to select multiple organizations.

### Project Keywords

1. This free-text field can be used to search for project(s) that contain a particular word or phrase in the **Project Name** or **Project Description** fields.

### Project Purpose

1. Describes the overall reason(s) for monitoring activity by a project.

### Project Status

1. Indicates whether data are currently being collected by a project.
2. If the **Project Status** is unavailable or has not been updated recently, a presumptive value is used: “Inferred Active” means that monitoring activity is known to have taken place within the last four years; “Inferred Inactive” means that the last known monitoring activity occurred more than four years ago.
3. Choose one or more checkboxes. “Active” and “Inferred Active” are selected by default.

### Date Range

1. Dates during which there was monitoring activity by a project. Projects will be returned in the results list if their “period of record” overlaps the **Date Range** on the search form.
2. Metadata for Active and Inferred Active projects may have a **Start Date** recorded, but a blank **End Date**.
3. The **Date Range** field is sparsely populated in the Terra-CAT database due to unavailability of data. For this reason, a checkbox is provided to force stations that have a missing or incomplete period of record specified to be included in the results.
4. Format MM/DD/YYYY. **Date Range** is inclusive and may be between, or after (specify **Start Date** only), or before (specify **End Date** only). Type in the date(s) or use the calendar tool to select them.

### County

1. The county in which monitoring is being performed for a project. All Florida counties are included as choices, as well as those in Alabama and Georgia that abut Florida.
2. Use the checkboxes to indicate the county or counties of interest.

## Places / Locations

1. Named geographic areas where monitoring is being performed. These may include State Parks, Wildlife Management Areas, National Wildlife Refuges, and other conservation lands.
2. The text box is predictive. Begin typing the name of a **Place/Location** of interest and a list of possible choices will appear. Repeat the process to select additional **Places/Locations**.

## Sampling Frequency

1. Indicates the usual/most common time interval between a project's monitoring events.
2. Click to choose a time interval from the drop-down menu. Ctrl-click (or Cmd-click) to choose multiple intervals.
3. Because the **Sampling Frequency** field is currently sparsely populated, making any selection may eliminate many possible matches.

## Habitat Type

1. Identifies the **Habitat Types** being monitored by a project. The set of choices is based on the *Florida Land Cover Classification System* (Kawula, 2014), with additional marine habitats added.
2. The text box is predictive. Begin typing the name of a **Habitat Type** and a list of possible choices will appear. Repeat the process to select additional **Habitat Types**.

## Species Category

1. Category describing a group of species being monitored by a project, based on regulatory status, ecological function, nativity, or taxon group. Examples: state listed species, invasive species - animal, exotic species - plant, mammals.
2. The text box is predictive. Begin typing the name of a **Species Category** and a list of possible choices will appear. Repeat the process to select additional **Species Categories**.

## Species

1. The **Species** that are being monitored by a project.
2. The text box is predictive. Begin typing the common or scientific name of a plant or animal species and a list of possible choices will appear. Repeat the process to select additional **Species**.