

WildTrax Policies

WildTrax is an online platform for storing, managing, processing, and sharing biological data collected by environmental sensors. Currently it supports remote cameras, acoustic recording units (ARUs), and human point counts.

WildTrax was created in collaboration with the University of Alberta, Dr. Erin Bayne and the Bioacoustic Unit, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), and other partners, and is hosted/administered by the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI).

Philosophy

The WildTrax platform undergoes continual improvement. The intention of WildTrax development is to remain flexible and inclusive, such that both the technical tools offered on the platform, as well as the administrative tools to support data sharing and project collaboration, will continue to evolve. The WildTrax Team operates on a “door always open” policy, and we are open to ideas and collaborations.

By using WildTrax you agree to the Terms of Use ([link](#)).

Below we provide a general overview of policies for releasing and accessing data on WildTrax.

Data in WildTrax

WildTrax acknowledges Data Owners as any user who uploads and manages data which is their intellectual property. Data Owners retain exclusive ownership over their data at all times within WildTrax, and all access to Data shall be determined solely by the Data Owner, at their unfettered discretion.

By default, all projects and their associated data within WildTrax are designated as Active, which means that they are still actively being processed or checked and are not publicly available unless otherwise selected by the Data Owner.

The goal of WildTrax is to make environmental sensor data open and widely available. All publicly available data can be found on the WildTrax website, and is integrated into the Data Discover tool, which allows for mapping and exploration of survey locations. Data Discover is currently in beta release and the WildTrax Team is always looking for suggestions on how we can improve the tool.

Releasing Data

To accommodate user needs, WildTrax will allow Data Owners to classify their data into different openness categories. Data openness ranges across a spectrum from completely private to public, and is specified by the Data Owner(s). The following categories have been implemented in WildTrax:

1. **Active:** Data is actively being processed and is not available to the public.
2. **Published – Private:** The project is complete and can no longer be edited. The data remains fully private and is accessible only to the Data Owner, and project and organization members.
3. **Published – Map Only:** The project is complete and can no longer be edited. Only site locations, if shared by the Data Owner, are mapped in Data Discover. Users can request access to the project, including associated media if it exists.
4. **Published – Map + Report Only:** The project is complete and can no longer be edited. Only the derived data is publically available in a report, and site locations, if shared by the Data Owner, are mapped in Data Discover. Users can request access to associated media if it exists.
5. **Published – Public:** The Project is complete and can no longer be edited. This setting fully releases every aspect of the Data to WildTrax. All users have access to the data and associated media if it exists.

Data Owners can choose whether site locations are visible or hidden to other users in WildTrax. Location visibility settings are selected at the organization level, and can be customized for each location. This is done by selecting one of the settings below:

1. **Hidden:** The location is only visible to organization members and does not appear on any maps. Data associated with hidden locations is not publicly available and does not appear on any derived data reports.
2. **Visible:** The location is visible to all users, and appears on maps. Data Owners choose one of several various buffer options

Data Owners also have control over how visible site locations are buffered within WildTrax and how site locations are displayed. Location buffer settings are selected at the organization level, and can be customized for each location. This is done by selecting one of the settings below:

1. **True Location + No buffer radius:** The true site location is available to the public.
2. **True Location + Buffer radius:** The public can only see a random point within a radius specified by the Data Owner.
3. **Buffered Location:** The Data Owner uploaded a buffered location, which will be shared publicly.

Using Data

Information on how and where to use data from WildTrax is provided below.

- **Accessing Data:** Currently, publicly available datasets will appear in a User's Data Download section of their dashboard as well as in Data Discover. Depending on the privacy setting of a dataset, users are able to submit requests to Data Owners for additional Data. Downloaded data is subject to the [WildTrax Terms of Use](#).
- **Authorship for Publications:** Data in the WildTrax system represents significant expenditures of time and money by Data Owner(s) to design, collect, and process the information. Creating partnerships is a key goal of WildTrax. Thus, parties interested in using public data for publication are strongly encouraged to contact the Data Owners before use to: A) ensure that the proposed use does not duplicate work in progress or previously completed; B) determine if the Data Owner(s) should be invited to contribute to the development of the publication as a co-author(s). It is up to the Data Owner(s) and potential Data User(s) to define what is expected by each group to warrant authorship.
- **Data Use Disclaimer:** The consumer of these data has an ethical obligation to cite it appropriately in any publication that results from its use. The Data User is urged to contact the owners of these data if any questions about methodology or results occur. The Data User should realize that misinterpretation of data may occur if used out of context of the original study. While substantial efforts are made to ensure the accuracy of data and associated documentation, complete accuracy of data sets cannot be guaranteed. All data are made available "as is." The Data User should be aware, however, that these data are updated periodically and it is the responsibility of the Data User to check for new versions of these data. The Data Owner(s) and WildTrax shall not be liable for damages resulting from any use or misinterpretation of the data.

INCLUDE LINK (OR EMBED) WILDTRAX PRIVACY STRUCTURE CHEAT SHEET