

# Inventory vs. Condition Assessment:



*Which do you need?*

**You might need both!**

Got a project idea? Wondering if it fits the scope of an Inventory or a Condition Assessment? Read on to learn more about the requirements of each.

**Species Inventories** generate empirical estimates of the presence, distribution, or key attributes of a species or group of species at a point in time to inform management decisions or planning.

They are funded by the [NPS Inventory and Monitoring Division](#), which supports inventories of species, vegetation, and soils (surficial geology). Only species inventories are addressed for now, pending science plans for vegetation and soil inventories.

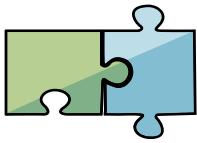
**Condition Assessments** evaluate indicators of natural resource condition and compare them to meaningful reference criteria like regulatory standards, desired conditions, or management assessment points. They may also evaluate trends when monitoring data is available.

They are funded by the [NPS NRCA program](#) and address a critical information need for park management. They may be paired with related analyses and synthesis.

	Inventories	Condition Assessments
<b>Who can apply?</b>	Any NPS park unit	Any NPS park unit
<b>Project costs and timeline</b>	Flexible depending on park needs and regional priorities; typically \$50-100K and 1-3 years for single park projects	Flexible depending on park needs and regional priorities
<b>New Data Collection</b>	Projects generally consist of 100% new data collection and can build upon previous inventory work.	Up to 30% of condition assessment funding may be used towards new data collection. Existing data should be included in all assessments.
<b>How do I apply?</b>	Submit a project proposal to the IMD <a href="#">Regional Program Manager</a> (regional proposal deadlines may vary). Contact the <a href="#">Inventory Program Manager</a> for more information	Submit a project proposal to your region (regional proposal deadlines may vary). The call for proposals is announced with the Servicewide Comprehensive Call (SCC). Contact your <a href="#">regional NRCA coordinator</a> for more information.
<b>Additional Information</b>	See the <a href="#">Inventories SharePoint site</a> for guidance, proposal forms, and recent inventory project examples.	See the <a href="#">Condition Assessment website</a> for guidance, proposal forms, and past project examples.

## How can Inventories and Condition Assessments work together for parks?

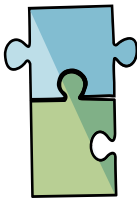
There are times when both types of funding may be appropriate to meet a pressing park need.



### **Example #1**

A park needs to assess the condition of a species for an upcoming management action but has not collected any data yet. This park requests an inventory field project to get the new data it needs and then applies for condition assessment funding to assess species condition and analyze the inventory data with other relevant park data.

***In this case, the inventory project occurs before the condition assessment.***



### **Example #2**

A park needs to assess the condition of springs for a parkwide springs management plan. This park applies for condition assessment funding to assess the condition of springs, and one of the findings is the need for an inventory of amphibians at these springs. The park then requests an inventory to meet this need.

***In this case, the condition assessment occurs before the inventory project.***

### **Also, some projects from either fund source can include a mix of inventories and condition assessments.**

- Inventory projects can include analyses to extract relevant information from the data collected, such as species distribution modeling or habitat analyses, but do not normally include comparisons against reference criteria or management thresholds.
- Up to 30% of funding for a condition assessment can be used to collect new data, including an inventory that is a smaller part of the overall project.

### **My project idea doesn't fit the scope of Inventories or Condition Assessments. What's next?**

Check out the Natural Resource Stewardship and Science (NRSS) Directorate's [Funding and Assistance Requests SharePoint site](#) for other natural resource funding sources that might be a better match.