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Bottom Line...

We want to increase our ability to identify issues early in the project development process. This process should reduce delays and increase our collaboration with others.



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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- **How to get access to the ERSA tool?**
 - If working on a DOT project that requires and ERSA, send an email to Adam Harr in the Project Management Bureau.
 - Access will be granted to external parties that are working on DOT projects.
- **Is this required for projects off the Primary System?**
 - No, ERSA's are only required for projects on the Primary Highway System.
- **Is there guidance to this process?**
 - We have provided additional guidance within the tool and as a chapter in the Project Delivery Manual on PMB's webpage.
- **What license will I need?**
 - To access the ERSA tool, you will need to have an Esri AGOL licensed account.
- **What user type, role, or privileges will I need?**
 - The account requesting access to the ERSA tool will need a "Creator" user type (or higher) and a "Data Editor" role (or higher). Accounts will need to be searchable by public and able to join groups outside the organization.

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ERSA: Project and Program Delivery Manual

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TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

7.2.1

Project and Program Delivery Manual
Chapter 7
Stakeholders and Environmental Stewardship
Originally Issued: 07-28-25
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Environmental Resource Survey Area Process

Introduction

The Environmental Resource Survey Area (ERSA) designates the area where environmental data will be gathered for a proposed project. This area will be inclusive of all design needs (i.e., the limits of construction, proposed land disturbance, new ROW, staging areas, utility relocations, and some detours). The Location and Environment Bureau's (LEB's) resource managers (i.e., Cultural Resources, Protected Species and Natural Areas, Water Resources, Regulated Materials, Traffic Noise and Air Quality, and NEPA), will analyze and collect data in the ERSA areas, but may evaluate a larger area if needed for compliance with regulatory agencies. If we need (1) to seek avoidance or (2) to minimize impact to areas discovered within the survey area during the environmental review, LEB will provide shapes called Project Environment Resource Layers (PERLs) for the designers to reference. LEB will work with the designers to discuss options regarding these identified areas.

Objectives

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Important Links

- LEB Support Email: leb.support@iowadot.us
- PMB Project and Program Delivery Manual ERSa chapter: <https://iowadot.gov/media/12080/download?inline>
- ERSa Guide: <https://iowadot.gov/media/12099/download?inline>

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Questions?

Samuel Sturtz & Jim Galliant
leb.support@iowadot.us
iowadot.gov

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