

# Life Cycle of EDDMapS Occurrence Data



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## Abstract

Most of the data submitted and contributed to EDDMapS is occurrence data; species that are observed in the field and data collected, often without a voucher specimen. Data collected in this manner flows through a decision tree that is partially automated through programming and partially directed on a case-by-case basis by local experts. Records come primarily from four pipelines: website forms, smartphone applications, API, and bulk data. From there, records are verified by local experts who evaluate all the information provided by the reporter, the verifiers are able to solicit more information, images, etc. as needed. If the verifier reviews the species identification and other information as correct and elects to release the record, it is made available to the public. Once it is publicly available, it appears on various maps, becomes available for download, and flows to API partners. From there, data and maps are reused by a variety of individuals and programs for modeling, research, decision making, outreach/education, and more.

## Verification Methods

How verifiers make their decisions to Approve, Change Species, Mark Negative, or Reject

Based on information and evidence provided in the report (least amount of evidence to most):

Expertise - Verifier is aware of reporter's education and/or training and confident in the reporter's ability to identify the species reported

Photographs - Images are provided with the record and are used to review the record

Specimens - A sample of the species was collected and is available for examination/is used in verification

Photographs + Specimen - A specimen was collected and photographs were taken and used in verification

Voucher Photographs - photographs of a voucher specimen were used in verification

Voucher Specimens - Specimen was collected and is housed at a herbarium, museum, etc.

Diagnostic Lab Sample - Sample sent to Diagnostic Lab for verification

Other - Includes methods that do not fit in the other categories, such as eDNA, audio file evaluated, video file evaluated, etc.

## Verification Decisions

Approved - Reviewed accurate and potentially noted as *Possible*, *Credible*, or *Verified*

Subject Change - subject of the record was not as the reporter documented, changed by the verifier and verified

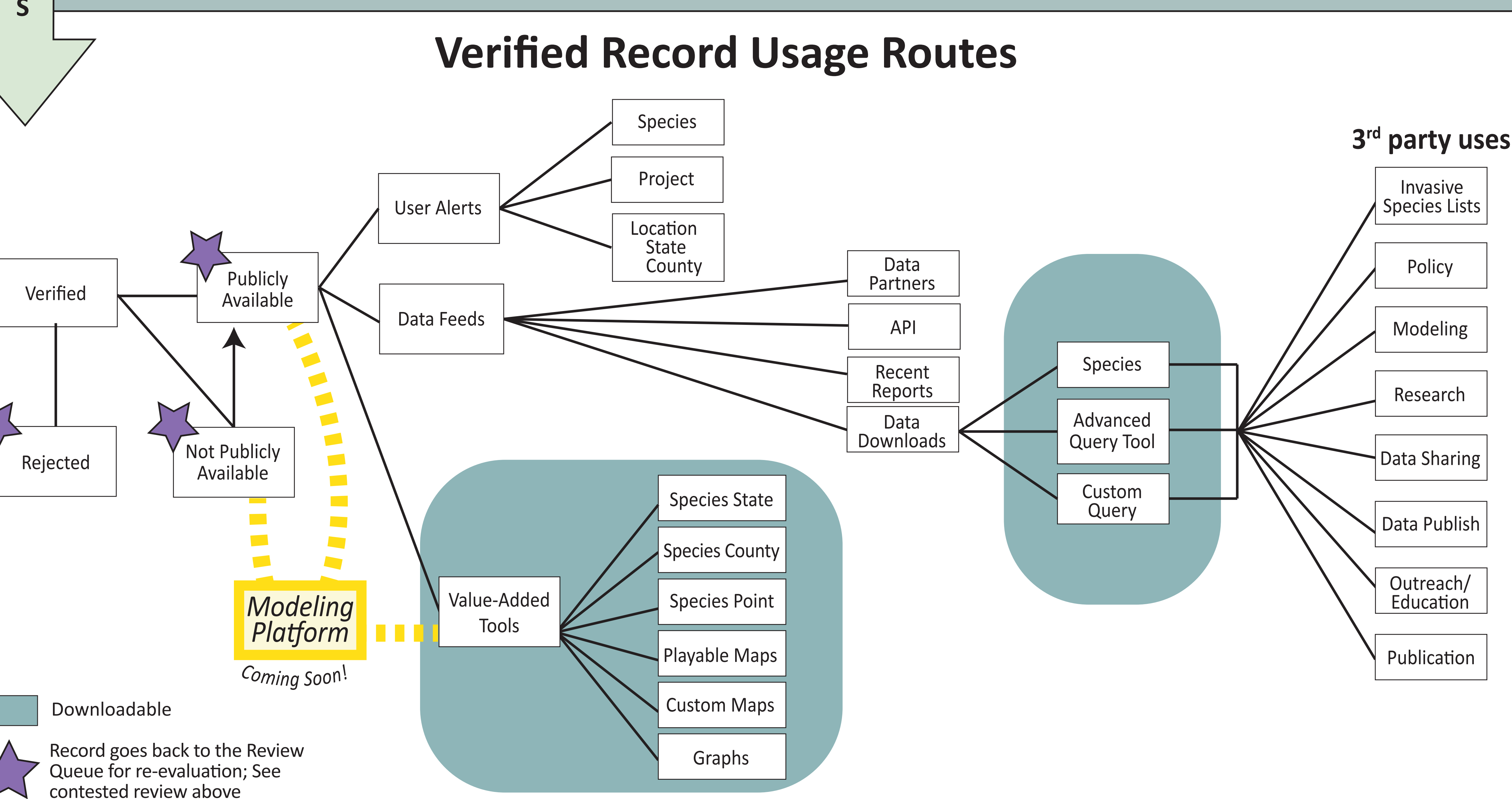
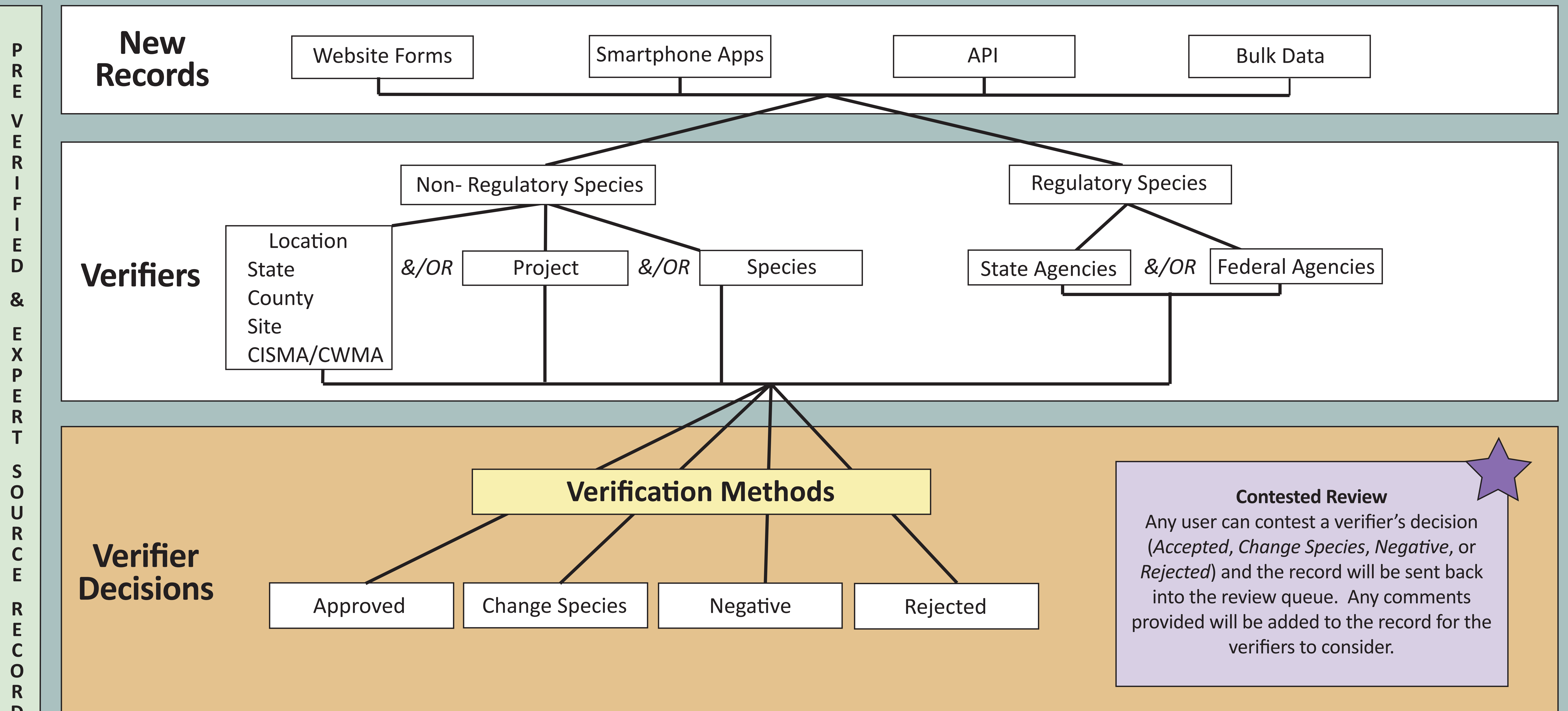
Negative - Species of the record was NOT found; can be *marked as such* by reporter or verifier

Rejected - Unable to confirm species *at* location as accurate, or Delete (e.g., test record, duplicated, etc.)

Contested - Verifiers's decision is contested by another verifier or an EDDMapS user

Publicly Available - Available for visualizations, download, etc.

Not Publicly Available - Records that are not publicly available can become publicly available at a later time. Methods by which this can occur include an established time-delay on specific records, release of data at time of publication, or Verifier electing to change status (based on their own criteria or at the request of the Reporter).



Use a QR code reader app to take a picture of a QR code to check out our websites!



How to Submit an Online Record to EDDMapS



Features of Reporting Apps



Record Verifier Lookup



How to Verify an EDDMapS Record

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