

Bull Shoals Field Station
Missouri State University
February 2007

Data Access Policy, Data Access Requirements, and Data Use Agreement

Bull Shoals Field Station (BSFS) mission

Our mission is to provide a location for faculty, students, and visiting scientists to conduct research and educational programs that promote public awareness of southwest Missouri ecosystems.

Data access policy objectives

- Facilitate access to monitoring and scientific datasets collected at BSFS for educators and scientific researchers.
- Increase public awareness of BSFS research activities.
- Provide long-term management of monitoring data and associated metadata collected by BSFS staff, interns and volunteers.
- Provide long-term management of metadata associated with research activities of faculty and students and other visiting investigators.

Data types

Non-proprietary

Data collected by BSFS staff, interns and volunteers are freely available to educators and researchers through the BSFS website or by request. Grounds for restriction of data access will be determined at the discretion of the Director. The use of all non-proprietary data should be accompanied by acknowledgement, as described below in the Data Use Agreement.

Proprietary

Data collected for and by non-BSFS personnel are considered proprietary and are the property of the principal investigators (PI). Interested parties should contact the PI directly. Metadata and contact information associated with research activities will be made available on the BSFS website.

Requirements for principal investigators

Faculty, students and visiting investigators undertaking new projects at BSFS must register the project with the Director. This is to ensure that the project will not interfere with other research work at BSFS and allow the Director to facilitate coordination with Missouri Department of Conservation, including required permits. Principal investigators must agree to provide associated metadata, regardless of restrictions on

access to the data, and a full bibliographic citation after publication. This information will be made available on the BSFS website.

Investigators with funding that stipulates data collected are public domain are encouraged to provide funded proposals, publications, technical reports, and final versions of data to the Director after publication to be made accessible via the BSFS website. The requested format for all data submission is Excel.

Access requirements for non-proprietary data

Access to non-proprietary BSFS data is subject to the following policy:

- Data users must agree to the Data Use Agreement (see below).
- Data users are requested to submit their name, affiliation, contact information and a description of how the data will be used to the Director.
- Data users also are requested to provide a copy of any publication using data or metadata collected at BSFS to the Director.

Data Use Agreement for non-proprietary data

Permission to use non-proprietary BSFS data is granted to the data user free of charge subject to the following terms:

1. Use of the dataset will be restricted to academic, research, educational, government, recreational or other not-for-profit professional purposes.
2. The data user will not redistribute the original dataset and documentation.
3. The data user will properly cite the dataset, including data authors, in any publications or in the metadata of any derived data products that were produced using the dataset.
4. The data user should acknowledge any institutional support or specific funding awards referenced in the metadata accompanying the dataset in any publications where the dataset contributed significantly to its content.

By accepting the data, the data user agrees to abide by the terms of this agreement. The Director shall have the right to terminate this agreement immediately by written notice upon the data user's breach of, or non-compliance with, any of its terms. The data user may be held responsible for any misuse that is caused or encouraged by the data user's failure to abide by the terms of this agreement.

Disclaimer

While substantial efforts are made to ensure the accuracy of BSFS data and documentation, complete accuracy cannot be guaranteed. All data and metadata are made available "as is." The data user holds all parties involved in the production or distribution of the data and metadata harmless for damages resulting from its use or interpretation.