

Directions for using the Department of Fish and Game BIOS Public Data Viewer

BIOS is a system designed to enable the management, visualization, and analysis of biogeographic data collected by the Department of Fish and Game and its [Partner Organizations](#). In addition, BIOS facilitates the sharing of those data within the BIOS community. BIOS integrates GIS, relational database management, and ESRI's ArcIMS and ArcGIS Server technologies to create a statewide, integrated information management tool that can be used on any computer with access to the Internet.

To View Data in the Data Viewer:

The data viewer is accessed here: <http://imaps.dfg.ca.gov/viewers/biospublic/app.asp>.

To locate a specific data set for viewing, click the **Add Layer** button located in at the left end of the tool bar at the top of the page (yellow square with black + sign). Using the menu of Available Layers on the left, scroll down and select the data layer you would like to view. For example, to view Northern Sierra Nevada vegetation polygons, scroll down to 'Vegetation' and select the layer 'N. Sierra Foothills'. The selected layer(s) will appear in the Checked Layers box on the right of the page. Below the Checked Layers box, click the **Add Checked Layers to Map** button.

Once the layer has loaded, you must select the layers you would like to view under the **BIOS Layers** menu on the left hand side of the page. After checking the layers to view, click the flashing **Click to Refresh Map** button just above the layer tab. To view layer legends, select the **Legend** tab just below the **Refresh Map** button. You can zoom and pan using the tools located in the tool bar at the top of the page.

To Download Data Layers:

Data layers are accessed here: http://bios.dfg.ca.gov/dataset_index.asp.

To locate a specific data layer for download, hit **Ctrl+f** for a search window and type in a keyword. For example, for vegetation layers enter "vegetation" into the search window. Once you have identified the data set you are looking for, note the data set number (ds) at the end of the data set name. If you enter "vegetation" into the search window, the first data set found is:

65. Vegetation – Suisun Marsh 1999 [ds160]

In this example, the data set number is 'ds160'. To access this data set, return to the top of the page and click on **BIOS FTP site**, which is located in the second paragraph under the heading 'List of Public BIOS Data Layers'. To access ds160, click on the folder '100_199' and select the file titled 'ds166.zip'.