

# Getting Started

## What will BioData do for me?

- The latest version of your data will be in one place - protected in a secure, backed-up database housed at the EROS data center.
- You can enter and retrieve your data using a web browser from anywhere you have an internet connection
- You can keep track of samples you send to the lab, and BioData will alert you when a lab uploads your data
- BioData will make sure that labs deliver data using up-to-date taxonomic nomenclature
- Your QA efforts will be more efficient, routine, and repeatable because BioData will automatically check your data - and will protect you from inadvertently releasing invalid data
- You can decide who has rights to enter and edit your project data
- Your cooperators and collaborators can retrieve your project data without your help.
- You can save your data retrieval criteria for re-use - and even send it to someone else in an email so they can retrieve the same data set.
- You won't have to archive spreadsheets, csv text files, or homegrown databases anymore. Your data will be preserved, curated and available to future generations - no extra effort required.
- Your data will be put into a larger context as part of a large integrated data set of over 17,000 fish, macroinvertebrate, and algae samples collected from over 2,000 sites across the country.

To see these features (and more) in action - [CONTACT US](#) - the BioData Team will be happy to demonstrate them for you.

## Getting started checklist

- ✓ I'm collecting bioassessment data involving one or more of the following: 1) macroinvertebrates, 2) algae, 3) fish, and/or 4) supporting habitat data from rivers and streams
- ✓ I'm collecting samples at [NWIS](#) stream sites or I can create them...
- ✓ I'm using sampling methods/protocols that BioData supports...
  - [Supported methods and protocols](#)
  - [Request that a method or protocol be supported](#)
- ✓ I'm using a lab that is set up in BioData with supporting procedures...
  - [Labs currently using BioData](#)
  - [Request that your lab be set up as a BioData lab](#)
- ✓ I have a UserID enabled in the BioData system.
  - [Request a LOGIN](#)
- ✓ [Contact us](#) and tell us you are ready

## Next Steps

### The BioData team will...

1. Give you [login](#) access by enabling you regular desktop UserID
2. Create your [project](#)
3. Work with you to [get your lab set up](#) to deliver data to BioData (this takes time)

### You will...

1. Complete your [Project Profile](#)
2. [Add staff](#) to your project
3. [Start entering data](#)