



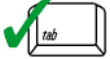
Wildlife Habitat Protection Guidance

Appendix A: Simplified Wildlife Habitat Evaluation

Project Information

Important:

When filling out forms on the computer, use only the tab key to move your cursor - do not use the return key.



Project Location (from NOI)

Name of Person Completing Form

Date

Important Habitat Features

Direct alterations to the following important habitat features in resource areas may be permitted only if they will have no adverse effect (refer to Section V).

- Habitat for state-listed animal species (receipt of a positive opinion or permit from MNHESP shall be presumed to be correct. Do not refer to Section V).
- Sphagnum hummocks and pools suitable to serve as nesting habitat for four-toed salamanders
- Trees with large cavities (≥ 18 " tree diameter at cavity entrance)
- Existing beaver, mink or otter dens
- Areas within 100 feet of existing beaver, mink or otter dens (if significant disturbance)
- Existing nest trees for birds that traditionally reuse nests (bald eagle, osprey, great blue heron)
- Land containing freshwater mussel beds
- Wetlands and waterbodies known to contain open water in winter with the capacity to serve as waterfowl winter habitat
- Turtle nesting areas
- Vertical sandy banks (bank swallows, rough-winged swallows or kingfishers)

The following habitat characteristics when not commonly encountered in the surrounding area:

- Stream bed riffle zones (e.g. in eastern MA)
- Springs
- Gravel stream bottoms (trout and salmon nesting substrate)
- Plunge pools (deep holes) in rivers or streams
- Medium to large, flat rock substrates in streams



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Activities

When any one of the following activities is proposed within resource areas, applicants should complete a Detailed Wildlife Habitat Evaluation (refer to Appendix B).

- Activities located in mapped “Habitat of Potential Regional or Statewide Importance”
- Activities affecting certified or documented vernal pool habitat, including habitat within 100’ of a certified or documented vernal pool when within a resource area
- Activities in bank, land under water, bordering land subject to flooding (presumed significant) where alterations are more than twice the size of thresholds
- Activities affecting vegetated wetlands >5000 sq. ft. occurring in resource areas other than Bordering Vegetated Wetland
- Activities affecting the sole connector between habitats >50 acres in size
- Installation of structures that prevent animal movement
- Activities for the purpose of bank stabilization using hard structure solutions that significantly affect ability of stream channel to shift and meander, or disrupt continuity in cover that would inhibit animal passage
- Dredging (greater than 5,000 sf)