

**Guidance on Wildlife Biologist Qualifications Under NHDES Env-Wq 1503.19(h):**

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) provides the following guidance on the minimum “education and experience” qualifications for wildlife biologists as required under Env-Wq 1503.19(h). NHDES considers an individual qualified as a “wildlife biologist who has education and experience in performing property surveys for threatened or endangered species” if they possess the following minimum education and experience:

- Minimum education includes an undergraduate degree (e.g., B.S.) from an accredited college or university with major study in wildlife or fisheries management, biology, or a related biological science.
- Minimum experience includes at least 2 years of current professional experience in the field of wildlife biology using standardized wildlife survey protocols with an emphasis on threatened and endangered species. Additional year(s) of approved university graduate level formal education may be substituted for one year of experience.

Candidates that lack education requirements may be considered as qualified if they can demonstrate a minimum of 6 years professional experience conducting wildlife surveys utilizing standardized protocols with an emphasis on threatened and endangered wildlife.

Although not required to qualify as a wildlife biologist under Env-Wq 1503.19(h), current certification from *The Wildlife Society*® demonstrates minimum standards.

**In addition to** education and experience requirements identified above, **taxonomic-specific** experience may be required to conduct targeted wildlife species surveys (e.g., freshwater mussels, grassland birds) if wildlife species-specific surveys are determined necessary through coordination with New Hampshire Fish and Game (NHFG).

In order to initiate NHFG and NHDES review of a wildlife study under Env-Wq 1503.19(h), wildlife biologists must provide to NHFG and NHDES a resume of their relevant education and experience highlighting fulfillment of the above minimum requirements **along with** the submission of the threatened and endangered wildlife species and habitat assessment completed for a proposed project. A review of the threatened and endangered wildlife species and habitat assessment may be delayed or determined deficient if the qualification submittal is incomplete or if the individual does not meet the minimum education and experience requirements above.

Although not required, qualifications may be submitted to NHFG prior to conducting the threatened and endangered wildlife species and habitat assessment to identify potential deficiencies in qualifications.

**Email Submittal:** [Subject Line: Wildlife Biologist Qualification Submittal]:

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