

PHASE I THREATENED AND ENDANGERED WILDLIFE AND HABITAT ASSESSMENT OUTLINE

Please include the following in order (additional supporting information can be included as Appendices)

Part 1: Findings and Summary (follow format of this part)

Part 2: NHB Datacheck Results Letter, Figures, Site Photographs

Part 3: Detailed Evaluation

PROPOSED PROJECT:

PROJECT SITE AND SURROUNDING LAND USE DESCRIPTION:

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED AND WILDLIFE HABITAT EVALUATION:

SITE VISIT(S) EFFORT:

POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND PROPOSED CONSERVATION MEASURES:

Part 4: Appendices

PART 1: SUMMARY AND FINDINGS

[WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST NAME]	[NHBxx-xxxx] (include all NHB numbers if more than one)
[COMPANY]	[PROJECT NAME]
[ADDRESS]	[PROJECT ADDRESS]
[EMAIL]	[APPLICANT]
[PHONE NUMBER]	[AOT APPLICATION # (if known)]

PROPOSED PROJECT:

Include brief description summarizing the proposed project, including purpose and proposed actions. A more detailed description should be provided under Part 3. Example: Proposed project consists of 63-unit residential subdivision. The proposed project area of disturbance is located within the eastern 85 acres out of a 150-acre parcel. Access for the site will be from Main Street and will bisect wetland 1 (figure xxxxx, wetlands permit #xxxx). Infrastructure includes 3 residential roads, private sewage and water. The proposed project area is comprised of approximately 25 acres of fallow field and 60 acres of mature hardwood-pine forest. The remaining undeveloped parcel area consists of Brook Creek and mature hardwood-pine forest.

PHASE I Threatened and Endangered Wildlife and Habitat Assessment Findings:

Check one

- No threatened and endangered wildlife and habitat present, no threatened or endangered wildlife, habitat, or wildlife corridors likely to be impacted by project activities.
- Threatened and endangered wildlife and habitat present; HOWEVER, NO threatened or endangered wildlife, habitat, or wildlife corridors likely to be impacted by project activities. No conservation measures are proposed.
- Threatened and endangered wildlife and habitat present or wildlife corridors present. Proposed actions have the potential for impacts. Conservation measures incorporated into the proposed project or project design.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED WILDLIFE AND HABITAT:

- *List wildlife species identified on NHB DATACHECK RESULTS LETTER. Include NHB numbers if there is more than one NHB letter for the proposed project.*
- *List and briefly describe what habitats and specifically what threatened and endangered wildlife species, may be present in the project area based on habitat evaluation from the desktop analysis and site visit (consider Species of Special Concern and Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), as appropriate). Highlight habitat features identified (e.g. vernal pools, wetlands, hibernacula or nesting areas) for these species.*

PROPOSED CONSERVATION MEASURES:

List the conservation measures to the benefit of the affected species that are proposed to be incorporated into the project design. These will ultimately need to be agreed to by NHFG and incorporated into the final plan set submitted to NHDES. Plan sheets that reflect these conservation measures should be included with the assessment or should be provided during the permitting process, as agreed upon through this assessment. Examples include a permanent conservation easement for the

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protection of affected wildlife, specification of wildlife-friendly erosion control mesh, construction timing considerations, wetland buffers, etc.

A detailed discussion that includes considerations made during project planning should not be included here but should be provided in Part 3.

PART 2: NHB Datacheck Results Letter, Figures, Site Photographs

Include in order presented below:

NHB Datacheck Results Letter (NOTE information in this letter is CONFIDENTIAL and would need to be redacted if document is shared). Letter must be valid (within one year of printed date).

Figures (note: project site boundary should be identical to one provided for NHB datacheck):*

Aerial Figure

Topographic Figure

Habitat Features Figure (highlight habitat features; e.g. vernal pools, wetlands, roost trees)

NH Wildlife Action Plan - Land Cover Figure

NH Wildlife Action Plan - Habitat Rankings and Conservation Parcels Figure

Site photographs with photograph location plan

**Note- GIS and maps used may have limitations that should be considered or noted when interpreting for the purposes of this assessment. It is encouraged to review background creation information for maps/GIS data used (metadata) and note limitations for map interpretation as applicable.*

**Project site plan pages with pertinent information should be included in Part 4: Appendices. It is requested that large, detailed documents also be provided in hard copy.*

PART 3: Detailed Evaluation

- *This section expands on the information provided in Part 1*
- *Include project name, NHB number and date in page header*
- *Although detailed, this section should be concise. Length of section will vary depending on project size and project site features, but typically, the detailed evaluation narrative should require no more than 5 pages.*

Part 3 Headings (required but can include more as necessary):

PROPOSED PROJECT:

*Include **detailed** project description for proposed project, including purpose (e.g. 63-unit residential subdivision, community recreation field and facilities, commercial warehouse) and proposed actions (e.g. tree clearing, wetland impacts or crossings, roads). Example: Proposed project consists of 63-unit residential subdivision. The proposed project area of disturbance is located within the eastern 85 acres out of a 150-acre parcel. Access for the site will be from Main Street and will bisect wetland 1 (figure xxxxx, wetlands permit #xxxx). Infrastructure includes 3 residential roads, private sewage and water, and 3 stormwater retention basins. The project site is characterized as relatively flat topography with gentle (<5%) sloping to the west, southwest toward Brook Creek. The proposed project area is comprised of approximately 25 acres of fallow field and 60 acres of mature hardwood-pine forest. The remaining undeveloped parcel area consists of Brook Creek and mature hardwood-pine forest. The project will result in the clearing of approximately 45 acres of mature-hardwood-pine forest. Construction is anticipated to take 3 years and will occur in phases. Construction is planned to begin in the spring of 2021.*

PROJECT SITE AND SURROUNDING LAND USE DESCRIPTION:

*Include **detailed** discussion on current use of the project site (e.g. undeveloped woodland, undeveloped field/pasture, former or active gravel pit, currently developed housing community) and the surrounding landscape uses (e.g. borders commercial development on east/west, undeveloped). Identify conservation lands in the vicinity of the project area.*

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED WILDLIFE AND HABITAT EVALUATION:

This section should address all threatened and endangered wildlife species identified in the NHB Datacheck Results Letter and those wildlife species and habitat identified through the desktop analysis and site visit that may be present in the project area (consider Species of Special Concern and SGCN as appropriate). Include wildlife species listing status.

Include detailed discussion of wildlife identified habitat features (e.g. vernal pools, intermittent stream, potential nesting area, shrub wetland, roost trees, brush and stump piles, hard and soft mast trees and shrubs, wildlife corridors) natural communities and vegetation. This should acknowledge and consider those identified from desktop analysis and observations made during the site visit. When evaluating habitat consider all habitat requirements or uses of the identified threatened and endangered wildlife species (breeding, reproduction, feeding, sheltering, migration, movement, and overwintering).

Include a list within this discussion of all threatened and endangered species that were observed on the property during site visit(s) (NHFG requests that sightings be reported as well through the [Reptile and Amphibian Reporting Program](#) mail/email or online through [Wildlife Sightings](#) website).

Discuss how the surrounding land use (discussed above) affects the quality of identified habitat adjacent or within the project area for individual threatened and endangered wildlife species.

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Include recommendations/correspondence with the Natural Heritage Bureau pertaining to the NHB Datacheck Results Letter as appropriate in detailing habitat.

Note on NHB datacheck results letter information. The NHB datacheck results information is considered current. All wildlife species listed on this letter are pre-screened considering a variety of factors (e.g. life history of a species, range, distribution, record information, date of observation etc.) and are considered by NHFG to be within the vicinity of the project site. All wildlife species included on this letter should be addressed in the assessment. If a NHB datacheck results letter includes wildlife species, the project is already considered to have threatened and endangered wildlife or habitat present (see Part 1, Page 1 checklist).

Reference to site photos as applicable.

SITE VISIT(S) EFFORT:

Date:

Weather Conditions:

Duration of Visit:

Site Conditions:

Discussion: *e.g. focused objectives of site visit (e.g. habitat features that were particularly of focus such as vernal pools, riparian buffers), limitations (e.g. access only a portion of the site).*

POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND PROPOSED CONSERVATION MEASURES:

The intent of this section is to describe how threatened and endangered species and habitat identified above has been considered throughout project planning efforts. Include how project design considered threatened and endangered wildlife species (e.g. vernal pool/vernal pool buffer and connectivity protection, wetland buffers, lot realignment or reduction to provide avoidance impacts to sensitive features or to maintain wildlife corridors).

Include detailed discussion on how the proposed project may potentially impact wildlife species or habitat. For example, the development of a roadway results in fragmentation of wildlife habitat and could result in road mortality for certain species, water quality concerns, etc. (NH Wildlife Action Plan may be useful resource for this discussion).

Discussion should also be broken down into all individual wildlife species identified above and individually how the project may affect that species and what conservation measures, to the benefit of each affected species, are proposed or have been incorporated to address potential impacts. Information provided should include but not be limited to plan set information, figures, seasonal considerations, etc.

*This information in this section should be provided even if there is a request for further coordination with NHFG or it has been determined that focused surveys (i.e. a Phase II) may be necessary. If you are including proposed conservation measures but requesting further coordination to discuss conservation measures or additional focused survey needs (Phase II), please state this in **BOLD**.*

Note: If your conclusion is that, there is no potential for threatened and endangered species to be in the vicinity of the project area and therefore no potential for impacts provide a basis for this determination/conclusion.

PART 4: Appendices

Include resume of qualified wildlife biologist.

List resources used in the development of this assessment. Documents and tools available include: [NH Wildlife Action Plan](#), [Wildlife Action Plan – Community Maps \(Habitat, Scoring, and SGCN by Town\)](#), [NHFG Endangered and Threatened Wildlife of NH](#), [New Hampshire Fish Survey Mapper](#), [The Nature Conservancy Connect the Coast](#), [Natural Resource Inventories, Rare Plants, Rare Animals, and Exemplary Natural Communities in New Hampshire Towns](#), [Taking Action for Wildlife \(website with many resources\)](#), [NH GRANIT GIS clearinghouse](#), [USDA Web Soil Survey](#).

Include here documents that support findings such as wetland delineation reports, vernal pool inventories (please upload vernal pool inventory information to the [NH Wildlife Sightings](#) website), or other resource consulted maps or information