



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF
INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE
284 STATE STREET
41 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA ME 04333-0041



May 16, 2019

Jayson R. Haskell
DM ROMA Consulting Engineers
2 Main Street, Suite 18-128
Biddeford, ME 04005

RE: Information Request - Green Road subdivision, Wells

Dear Jay:

Per your request, we have reviewed current Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) information for known locations of Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern species; designated Essential and Significant Wildlife Habitats; and inland fisheries habitat concerns within the vicinity of the *Green Road subdivision project* in Wells. Note that as project details are lacking, and due to the general nature and scale of the map that was provided, our comments are non-specific and should be considered preliminary.

Our Department has not mapped any Essential Habitats that would be directly affected by your project.

Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species

Bats

Of the eight species of bats that occur in Maine, the three *Myotis* species are protected under Maine's Endangered Species Act (MESA) and are afforded special protection under 12 M.R.S §12801 - §12810. The three *Myotis* species include little brown bat (State Endangered), northern long-eared bat (State Endangered), and eastern small-footed bat (State Threatened). The five remaining bat species are listed as Special Concern: big brown bat, red bat, hoary bat, silver-haired bat, and tri-colored bat.

While a comprehensive statewide inventory for bats has not been completed, based on historical evidence it is likely that several of these species occur within the project area during migration and/or the breeding season. We recommend that you contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service--Maine Fish and Wildlife Complex (Wende Mahaney, 207-902-1569) for further guidance, as the northern long-eared bat is also listed as a Threatened Species under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Otherwise, our Agency does not anticipate significant impacts to any of the bat species as a result of this project.

Rare Turtle Species

Occurrences of Blanding's turtle, a State Endangered Species, and spotted turtle, a State Threatened species, have been documented within the search area and vicinity of the proposed project. These species are most frequently associated with small, acidic wetlands and vernal pools located in large, intact landscapes. They also use small streams, shrub swamps, wet meadows, bogs, and forested swamps, and

development activity that compromises riparian integrity or migration permeability among seasonally critical wetlands can lead to degradation of habitat quality and potential loss of local populations. Additionally, development projects that lead to significant increases in local traffic volume will likely lead to increased road kill and possible extirpation of the local population. If these habitats are present in the project area, we recommend that they be avoided and adequately buffered. MDIFW is willing to work closely with the applicant to design a project that attempts to limit potential impacts to these listed species.

Significant Wildlife Habitat

Inland Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitats

This project area intersects with an Inland Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat (IWWH), which are considered Significant Wildlife Habitat under Maine's Natural Resources Protection Act. These habitats provide important breeding, feeding, migration, staging, and wintering habitat for waterfowl and wading bird species. The IWWH includes both the wetland complex and a 250-foot upland zone. We recommend that these resources be avoided, including no clearing within the 250-foot upland zone from the wetland edge.

Significant Vernal Pools

At this time, MDIFW Significant Wildlife Habitat maps indicate no known presence of Significant Vernal Pools in the project search area; however, a comprehensive statewide inventory for Significant Vernal Pools has not been completed. Therefore, we recommend that surveys for vernal pools be conducted within the project boundary by qualified wetland scientists prior to final project design to determine whether there are Significant Vernal Pools present in the area. These surveys should extend up to 250 feet beyond the anticipated project footprint because of potential performance standard requirements for off-site Significant Vernal Pools, assuming such pools are located on land owned or controlled by the applicant. Once surveys are completed, survey forms should be submitted to our Agency for review well before to the submission of any necessary permits. Our Department will need to review and verify any vernal pool data prior to final determination of significance.

Fisheries Habitat

We recommend that 100-foot undisturbed vegetated buffers be maintained along streams. Buffers should be measured from the edge of stream or associated fringe and floodplain wetlands. Maintaining and enhancing buffers along streams that support coldwater fisheries is critical to the protection of water temperatures, water quality, natural inputs of coarse woody debris, and various forms of aquatic life necessary to support conditions required by many fish species. Stream crossings should be avoided, but if a stream crossing is necessary, or an existing crossing needs to be modified, it should be designed to provide full fish passage. Small streams, including intermittent streams, can provide crucial rearing habitat, cold water for thermal refugia, and abundant food for juvenile salmonids on a seasonal basis and undersized crossings may inhibit these functions. Generally, MDIFW recommends that all new, modified, and replacement stream crossings be sized to span at least 1.2 times the bankfull width of the stream. In addition, we generally recommend that stream crossings be open bottomed (i.e. natural bottom), although embedded structures which are backfilled with representative streambed material have been shown to be effective in not only providing habitat connectivity for fish but also for other aquatic organisms. Construction Best Management Practices should be closely followed to avoid erosion,

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sedimentation, alteration of stream flow, and other impacts as eroding soils from construction activities can travel significant distances as well as transport other pollutants resulting in direct impacts to fish and fisheries habitat. In addition, we recommend that any necessary instream work occur between July 15 and October 1.

This consultation review has been conducted specifically for known MDIFW jurisdictional features and should not be interpreted as a comprehensive review for the presence of other regulated features that may occur in this area. Prior to the start of any future site disturbance we recommend additional consultation with the municipality, and other state resource agencies including the Maine Natural Areas Program and Maine Department of Environmental Protection in order to avoid unintended protected resource disturbance.

Please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions regarding this information, or if I can be of any further assistance.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JPerry', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Perry
Environmental Review Coordinator