COMMUNITY FORM 1: TRANSECT, SITE SURVEY SUMMARY

MA Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

A. Identifiers

1. Site name: _____ 2. Survey site name:_____

3. Town (LOCALJURIS): _____ 4. Directions: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

5. GPS (if not below) _____ Lat._____ Long_____Make and Model _____

6. Sourcecode (NHESP use): _____ 7. Survey date_____8. Main Surveyor: _____

9. Other Surveyors:_____

B. Topography 10. Transect

11. A topo map must also be attached with location indicated. Reconnaissance diagram: Scale:

C. Vegetation / Habitat

12. Observation point 1. GPS Pt _____ GPS Lat. Long	Observation point 2. GPS Pt_____ GPS Lat. Long	Observation point 3. GPS Pt._____ GPS Lat. Long
13. Community type:_____ 14. Additional data: Site form2__ form 3 __	Community type:_____ Additional data: Site form2____ form 3____	Community type:_____ Additional data: Site form2____ form 3_____
15. General description (physiognomy, characteristic & dominant spp. of all layers)	General description:	General description:

11. A topo map must also be attached with location indicated. Reconnaissance diagram: Scale:

Observation Point 4 GPS Pt_____	**Observation Point 5** GPS Pt_____	**Observation Point 6** GPS Pt_____	**Observation Point 7** GPS Pt_____
GPS Lat. Long	GPS Lat. Long	GPS Lat. Long	GPS Lat. Long
Community type:_____ Additional data: Site form2____form 3_____	Community type:_____ Additional data: Site form2_____form 3_____	Community type:_____ Additional data: Site form2____form 3_____	Community type:_____ Additional data: Site form2____ form 3_____
General Description:	General Description:	General Description:	General Description:

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program
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Westborough, MA 01581
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FORM 2: NATURAL COMMUNITY SUMMARY AND RANKING

(A location map must accompany this form.)

A. Identifiers:

Community Name (Swain 2020): _____

NatureServe Association Name (Optional): _____

Survey Date: _____ Today's Date: _____

Survey Site Name: _____

Surveyor Name(s): _____

Best Source (Field survey or secondary source used to complete this form, **NHESP use**): _____

_____

Transcriber (**NHESP use only**. YY-MM-DD XXX): _____ Town Name: _____

Directions to site: _____

_____

_____

GPS Point(s)___Yes___No___ Latitude _____ Longitude _____

B. Community Description:

Vegetation Description (**Summarize** the vegetation: dominant and/or characteristic species, indicator species, community structure, variants/microhabitat features, unvegetated surface; spatial distribution (i.e., size, number, and separation distance of patches); intact natural processes, geology, hydrology, topography, and soil properties, especially if relevant to the community identification): _____

_____

_____

_____

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_____

_____Estimated size (acres) _____ GIS Acres (if available) _____

Physical Description (Describe the landscape surrounding the community, including the natural area. Both within and surrounding the community, describe: physical structures and land use practices; natural disturbances; embedded, adjacent, and nearby natural communities including aquatic features; notable landforms; scenic qualities): _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Is community on conservation land (if known): _____ Managed Area Name: _____

Evidence of Disturbance/Threats to the Community/Management Recommendations (Describe the anthropogenic disturbances that have decreased the quality and viability of the community such as hydrologic alterations (ditching, damming, erosion etc.), logging, mining, livestock grazing, plantations, orchards, structures, trampling, and exotic flora or fauna within and surrounding the community. Discuss threats to the site and management implications.): _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Recreational Use (evidence of ATV's, ORV's, mountain bikes, horses, walking trails, etc.):

_____

Protection Comments (Comment on the legal protectability of the site): _____

_____

_____

General Comments (Note the type of sampling done; observation point (form 1), releve plot (form 3), plant list, etc.; note any additional field work needed. Comment on questionable identification.): _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Owner's Name (if known): _____ Telephone: (__)_____

Address: _____

Is Owner: aware of community? __yes _ no __unknown; Protecting community? __yes __no __unknown

Owner Comments (e.g., contact owner prior to visiting the site): _____

_____

C: Community Element Occurrence Ranking: (Refer to community ranking specifications for assistance.)

Community Size Rank: (Compare relative size to other known occurrences, configuration, patchiness)

A – Excellent **B** – Good **C** – Marginal **D** - Poor

Comments: _____

Community Condition Rank: (Consider development/maturity (e.g., old growth), abiotic condition, species and physiognomic diversity, ecological processes, abundance of exotic species, internal connectivity, degree of anthropogenic disturbance including fragmentation).

A – Excellent **B** – Good **C** – Marginal **D** - Poor

Comments: _____

Community Landscape Context Rank: (Consider the size and connectivity of the natural landscape, the position of the community within the landscape, and the landscape condition)

A – Excellent **B** – Good **C** – Marginal **D** - Poor

Comments: _____

Community EO Rank: (What are the long-term prospects for continued existence of this occurrence at the indicated level of quality? A summary of all factors listed above. Explain the basis of your ranking: range wide, state wide, or locally.)

A – Excellent **B** – Good **C** – Marginal **D** - Poor

Comments (Summarize the above and justify the EO Rank assigned): _____

_____

_____

Other rare species and/or natural communities observed at this site (**NHESP use**) T/U = Transcribed/Updated?):

	SPECIES OR COMMUNITY	T/U?		SPECIES OR COMMUNITY	T/U?
1			4		
2			5		
3			6		

MAPS: required. Insert or attach maps with boundaries of the natural community shown. Show GPS points and tracks. At least one map must be at 1:12,000 scale and show road names, pond names, and/or other identifiable features. Preferred format would be a topo map and an aerial. Google Earth maps with road names are acceptable. ALSO provide the GPS points and boundary electronically.

PHOTOS: required. Insert or attach photos of the community occurrence. Label the photos with photographer's name, date taken, and where taken. Include information on why each photo is included. (For example, photo of Pitch Pine/Scrub Oak Community occurrence at Wings Hole, from the western edge towards the center, showing the variation in shrub layer. Or photo of Atlantic White Cedar Swamp from the center towards the upland, showing hummocks and hollows.)

Form 3: Quantitative Community Characterization

MA Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

A. Identifiers (general EOR information)

1. Community type (observed): _____ 2. GPS Point: _____
3. Assigned type (NHESP use): _____ 4. Lat: _____N Long _____W
5. Site name: _____ 6. Quad name(s): _____
7. Ecoregion (DFW):_____ 8. County name(s): _____
9. Town: _____10.Directions: _____

_____

11. Survey date _____12. Previous observations at this site: _____
13. Surveyors: _____

B. Environmental Description

14. **PLOT #**	15. **Photos taken Y N;** **Identifier _____**	16. **Elevation (from topo)**: ____ m or ft
17. **Topographic position**: ___ Summit/Crest ___ High slope ___Step in slope ___ Mid slope ___Toe of slope ___ Low slope ___ Rolling Terrain ___ Level ___Channel wall ___ Basin floor ___Channel bed ___ Other	18. **Topographic sketch**: 19. **Slope aspect**:_____	20. **Slope Class** (Percent): Flat (<2%) Steep (48-95%) Gentle (2-9%) Very Steep (>95%) Moderate (10-25%) Abrupt (cliff or ledge) Rather Steep (26-47%) 21. **Slope Shape**: Vertically: Concave Convex Linear Horizontally: Concave Convex Linear
22. **Downed Wood** (within or partially within plot) Max. diameter/length/decay class: _____ Average diameter for all downed wood ≥4 in. _____(estimate) Abundance of downed wood ≥4 in. diameter (using cover classes) _____ 23. **Fuel load (< ¼ inch in diameter)**: Low = 1 Moderate = 2 High = 3 24. **Snags ≥ 4" DBH**: Species DBH ht. _____ _____ ___ _____ _____ ___ _____ _____ ___ _____ _____ ___ _____ _____ ___	25. **Un-vegetated surface (check the single, most dominant feature)**: ____ Bedrock ____ Large rocks (boulders > 24 in.) ____ Small rocks (stones 10-24 in.) ____ Cobbles (2-9 in.) ____ Gravel (<2 in.) ____ Sand ____ Litter ____ Bare soil ____ Water ____ Other: _____ 26. **Combined litter & duff depth**: _____inches 27. **Parent material**: _____	28. M**oisture regime**: ____Very dry ____Dry ____Wet ____Moist ____Saturated ____Periodically inundated ____Permanently inundated 29. **Soil type** (if observed) ____ sand ____loam ____clay ____peat ____muck other_____
30. **Sphagnum hummocks overhanging water:** (only if >25 m^2 and visible from plot) GPS point (location): _____ Size of habitat: _____ 3 water depths _____ (max. inches) Circle: Moving channels or Pools of Water Comments: _____	31. **Evidence of Land Use History**: stone walls, barbed wire, wolf trees cut stumps, multi-trunk trees, foundations, wells Other_____ _____	32. **Evidence of Disturbance**: Fires: fire scars, charcoal, standing snags Blowdowns: aligned downed trees Ice damage: broken tree tops Disease: adelgid, gypsy moth, beech bark Other: _____

33. **Environmental Comments**: vegetation homogeneity, erosion / sedimentation, invasive species presence/distribution, etc:

C. VEGETATION 34. **System**: __ Terrestrial __ Palustrine __ Estuarine 35. **PLOT NUMBER**:_____36. **Plot Dimensions**:_____

37. **Leaf phenology**:
- ____Deciduous
- ____Semi-deciduous
- ____Semi-Evergreen
- ____Evergreen
- ____Perennial
- ____Annual

38. **Physiognomic type**:
- ____Forest
- ____Sparse woodland
- ____Shrubland
- ____Dwarf shrubland
- ____Sparse dwarf shrubland
- ____Herbaceous
- ____Woodland
- ____Scrub thicket
- ____Sparse shrubland
- ____Dwarf scrub thicket
- ____Non-vascular
- ____Sparsely vegetated

39. **Photo Cover Type**: _____ 39a. **Field-Observed Cover Type:** _____

40. **Strata/life forms**

	height (m or ft)	**% cover**
T1 Emergent tree		
T2 Tree canopy		
T3 Tree sub-canopy		
S1 Tall shrub		
S2 Short shrub		
H Herbaceous		
N Non-vascular		
V Vine / liana		

Cover Classes
- **+** <1%
- **1** =1-5%
- **2** =6-25%
- **3** =26-50%
- **4** =51-75%
- **5** >75%

41. **Plant Species & abundance**: list each species and the corresponding cover class for each stratum.
