



MASSWILDLIFE

## DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581

p: (508) 389-6300 | f: (508) 389-7890

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### Guidelines for a MESA Conservation & Management Permit

Permit applications shall specifically address each of the following areas (relative to state-listed species):

#### A. Existing Conditions

- Describe current land uses on and adjacent to the project site.
- Describe and quantify the extent of rare species habitat on the site by habitat function (e.g., how much feeding, breeding, migration, etc. habitat is on site). Note variations in habitat quality.
- Aerial photograph with overlay of vegetation cover types.
- Aerial photograph with overlay of rare species habitat mapped by habitat function.

#### B. Proposed Conditions

- Describe proposed project.
- Project plans for all future proposed uses of the site.
- Aerial photograph showing extent of rare species habitat with overlay of proposed development (include all grading and disturbance of vegetation or soils).

#### C. Impact Analysis

- Assess alternatives; describe how project design avoids and minimizes impacts.
- Quantify all temporary and permanent impacts (e.g., provide table comparing acreage of available feeding, breeding, nesting, etc. habitat under existing and proposed conditions)
- Assess project-related direct and indirect impacts to rare species habitat – How does the project meet the “insignificant impact” standard (321 CMR 10.23(2)(b))?

#### D. Conservation & Management Plan

- Submit a plan that provides a “long-term Net Benefit to the conservation of the impacted species.” This plan may include:
  - on and/or off-site permanent habitat protection
  - on and/or off-site habitat restoration or management
  - research to enhance conservation efforts and rare species recovery
  - contributions toward development or implementation of an off-site conservation recovery and protection plan for the impacted species
- If the “net-benefit” mitigation plan includes a Conservation Restriction, the application must include a draft Conservation Restriction text (NHESP can provide a template), a letter from a qualified “Grantee” indicating a willingness to enforce the restriction and monitor the site at least once annually, and recordable plans showing boundaries, monumentation and signage.

#### Reporting Requirements:

- Required permit application fee (see: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-a-conservation-management-permit>)
- Report addressing the 4 elements listed above

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- If applicable, please submit the following on CD (NOT by email) for each Conservation Restriction or deed restriction parcel:
  - An electronic GIS file (preferably shapefile or geodatabase format), and include projection and coordinate information (NHESP uses: NAD83, Massachusetts Stateplane, Mainland Zone, Units: Meters) OR
  - If a GIS file is not available, applicant may submit a spreadsheet of coordinates downloaded from a GPS file denoting the boundary -- please note the type of GPS used, whether differentially corrected, and the projection and coordinate information used by the GPS. OR
  - Applicant may also submit a CAD file. We can accept AutoCAD drawing files (.dwg), partial drawing interchange files (.dxf), and MicroStation design files (.dgn). Please include projection and coordinate information. If the CAD file is large and contains many layers, please indicate which ones contain the applicable information.
  - If none of these are available, please let us know and we will discuss other formats.
  - Drainage easements, managed areas, and other “special use areas” should be surveyed as additional polygons and noted as such in electronic data.

We strongly recommend that applicants discuss site-specific details with the NHESP prior to submission of a final Conservation and Management Permit Application.

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