



MDIFW Update


MAWS / MAPSS March 21, 2023

Bob Stratton

MDIFW serves in an advisory role on wildlife, fisheries, critical habitats pursuant to state, federal, and local regulatory processes.

MDIFW is non-regulatory, except...

MDIFW administers the Maine Endangered Species Act related to Take, Harassment of state-listed species.



The ER Program directly applies MDIFW's species and habitat knowledge, data, and goals in the regulatory arena to affect preservation, protection, and enhancement of the resources.



MDEP's primary Statutes (laws) and Rules (regulations):

Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA, 38 MRS § 480)

Permit by Rule (PBR, Ch.305)

Wetlands and Waterbodies Protection Rules
(Wetland Rules, Ch.310)

Significant Wildlife Habitat Rules (SWH, Ch.335; Ch. 10)

Site Location of Development Act / Law
(Site Law, 38 MRS § 481-490)



LUPC's primary Statutes and Rules – UT:

NRPA – Statewide. LUPC, MFS delegated authority.

Rules: Wetlands & Waterbodies; Roads & Water Crossings.

SITE Law – Statewide. MDEP permitting, LUPC cert.

Major developments: Wind, Solar, Subdivisions, etc.

LUPC development permits.

Large-Scale Concept Plans

Moosehead Lake, Fish River Lakes.

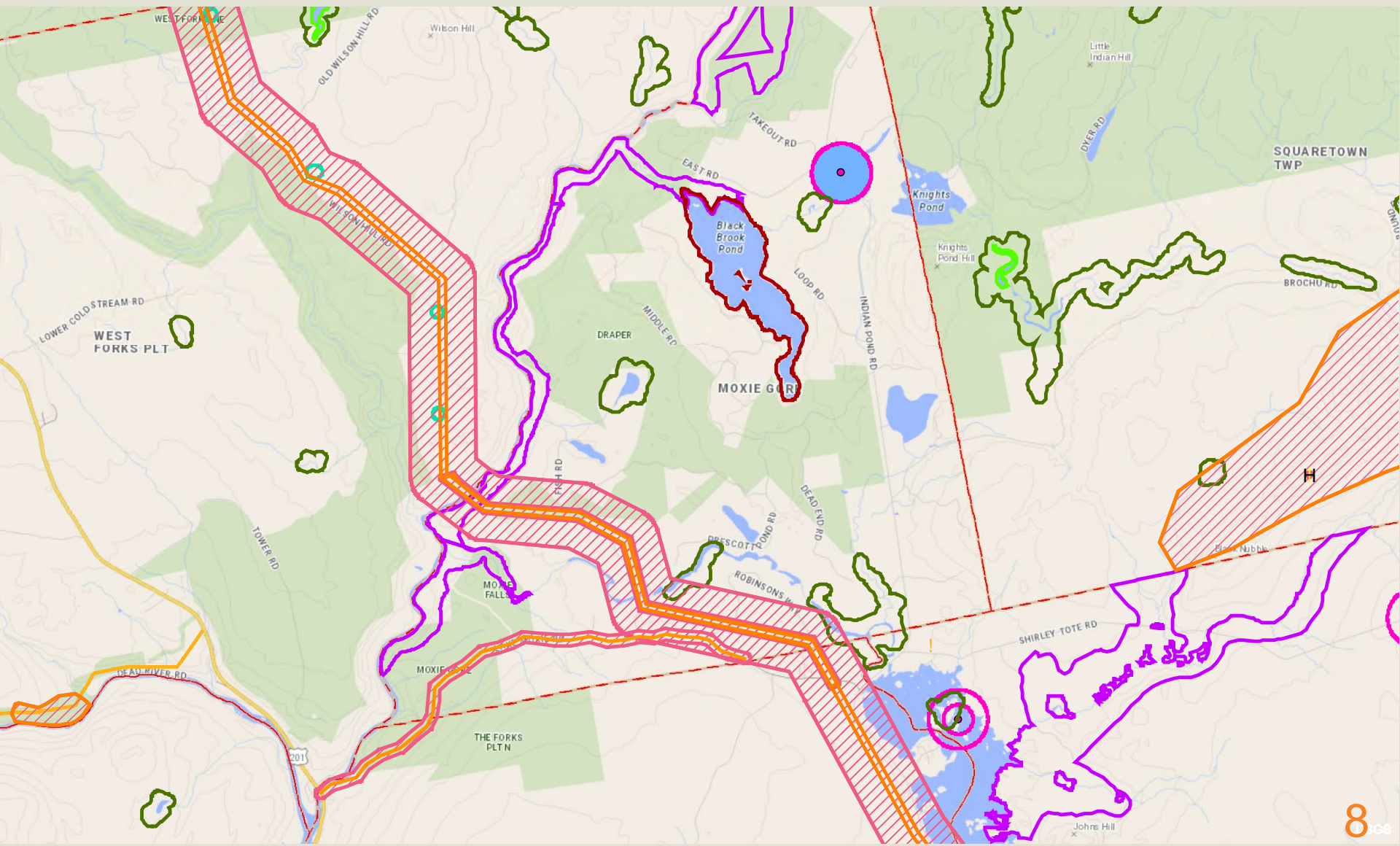


MDIFW's primary concerns and authority relate to:

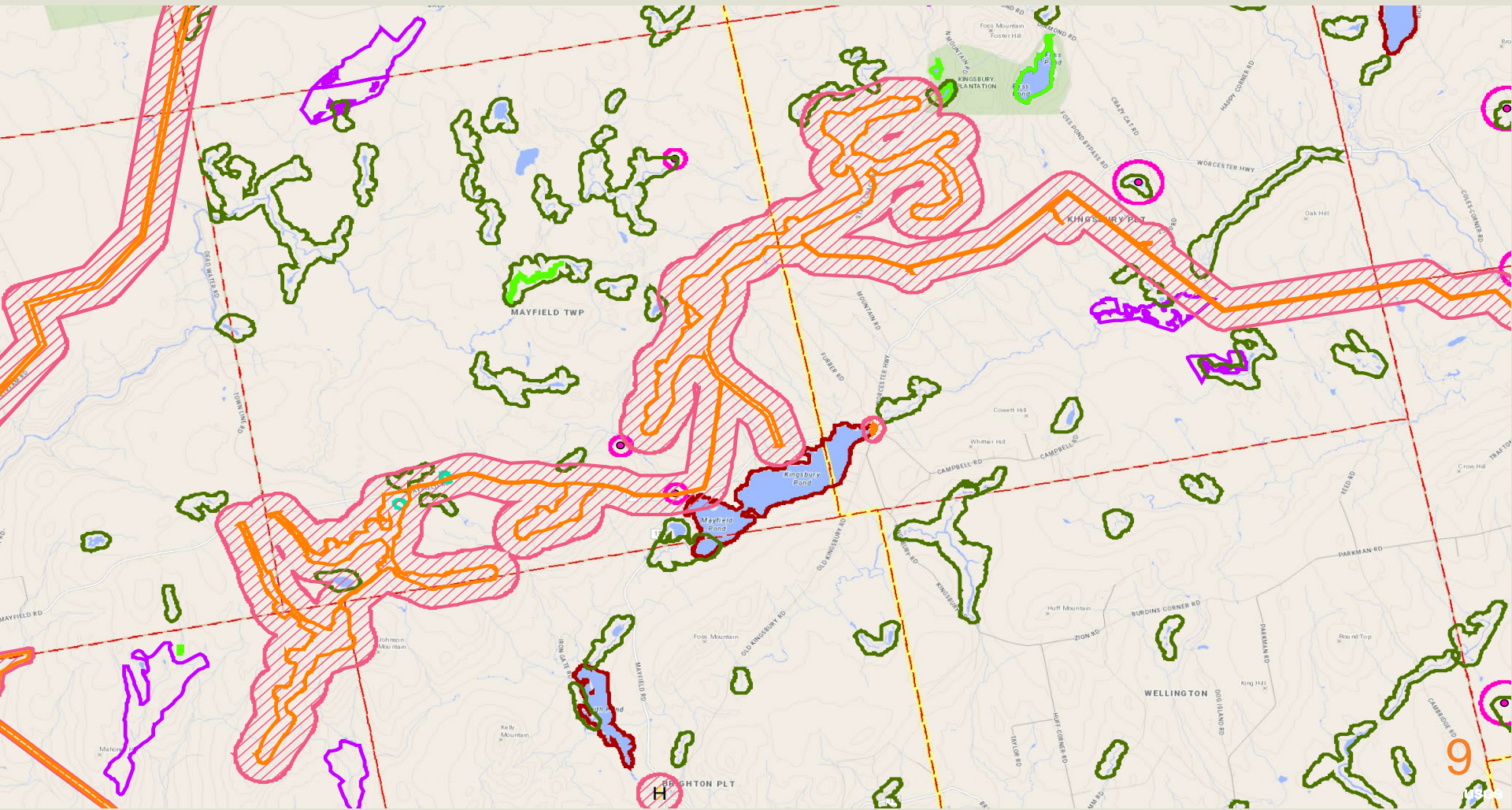
- RT&E (ETSC) species & habitats (wildlife and fisheries)
- Essential Habitats (MESA) (PIPL; LETE; ROTE)
- Significant Wildlife Habitats (SNIs; SVPs; IWWH; TWWH; Shorebird nesting, feeding, staging areas)
- Protected Natural Resources (Freshwater & Coastal Wetlands; Great Ponds; Rivers, Streams, Brooks; Coastal Sand Dune Systems; SWHs)
- Other important habitats (DWAs, riparian buffers, etc.)

as defined in Statute and Rule.

Our preliminary work begins with an initial contact, a site plan, and a desktop review of our resource maps.



There is no comprehensive statewide inventory of all resources. Completeness of data layers and resource maps varies by habitat type, location, previous survey efforts.

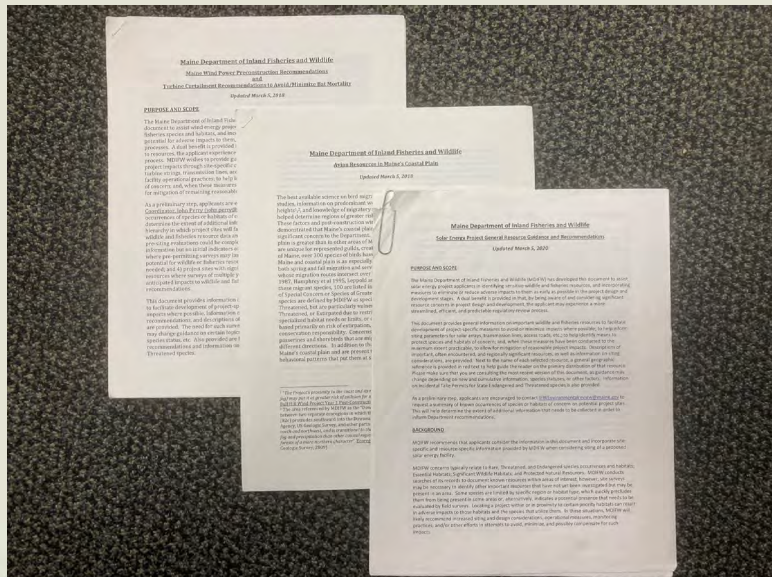


We consider all project impacts: the development, transmission corridors, roads, shade clearing, etc.

Locating within, in proximity to priority habitats can have direct and indirect impacts.



- Resource surveys, project siting, facility design/layout, construction and operational practices are all important aspects to Avoid, Minimize adverse impacts.
- See MDIFW's Solar, Wind guidance documents for typical species & habitats of concern, regional & habitat specifics, survey info, buffer recommendations, MDIFW contacts.



Environmental Review Guidance Documents

- [Avian Resources in Maine's Coastal Plain](#)
- [Essential Habitats of Endangered and Threatened Species - Request for Project Evaluation](#)
- [Forest Management and Vernal Pools](#)
- [Forest Management Recommendations for Brook Trout](#)
- [Forest Management Recommendations for the Wood Turtle](#)
- [Forestry Habitat Management Guidelines for Vernal Pool Wildlife](#)
- [Performance Standards for Inland Waterfowl and Wadingbird Habitats in Overhead Utility ROW Projects](#)
- [New England Cottontail 2018 Research and Management Report](#)
- [Performance Standards for Deer Winter Areas in Overhead Utility ROW Projects](#)
- [Performance Standards for Riparian Buffers in Overhead Utility ROW Projects](#)
- [Performance Standards for Significant Vernal Pools in Overhead Utility ROW Projects](#)
- [Rare Animal Survey Form](#)
- [Representative Photographs of Suitable Bat Rock-Roosting Areas](#)
- [Roaring Brook Mayfly and Spring Salamander Guidelines](#)
- [Solar Energy Project General Resource Guidance and Recommendations](#)
- [USEPA Ecoregions of Maine](#)
- [Maine Wind Power Preconstruction Recommendations and Turbine Curtailment Recommendations to Avoid/Minimize Bat Mortality](#)



SVP Indicator Abundance and Rarity Criteria

pdf 3 / 3 - 110% + [] []

6. VERNAL POOL INDICATOR INFORMATION

a. Indicator survey dates: _____

b. Indicator abundance criteria and pool survey effort

- Is pool depression bisected by 2 ownerships (straddler pool)? Yes No
- Was the entire pool surveyed for egg masses? Yes No; what % of entire pool surveyed? _____
- For each indicator species, indicate the exact number of egg masses, confidence level for species determination, and egg mass maturity. Separate cells are provided for separate survey dates.

INDICATOR SPECIES	Egg Masses (or adult Fairy Shrimp)					Tadpoles/Larvae ⁴	
	Visit #1	Visit #2	Visit #3	Confidence Level ¹	Egg Mass Maturity ²	Observed	Confidence Level ¹
Wood Frog							
Spotted Salamander							
Blue-spotted Salamander							
Fairy Shrimp ³							

1-Confidence level: 1 = <60%, 2 = 60-95%, 3 = >95%

2-Egg mass maturity: F= Fresh (<24 hrs), M= Mature (round embryos), A= Advanced (loose matrix, curved embryos), H= Hatched or Hatching

3-Fairy shrimp: X = present

4-Tadpoles/larvae: X = present

c. Rarity criteria

- Note any rare species associated with vernal pools. Observations should be accompanied by photographs.

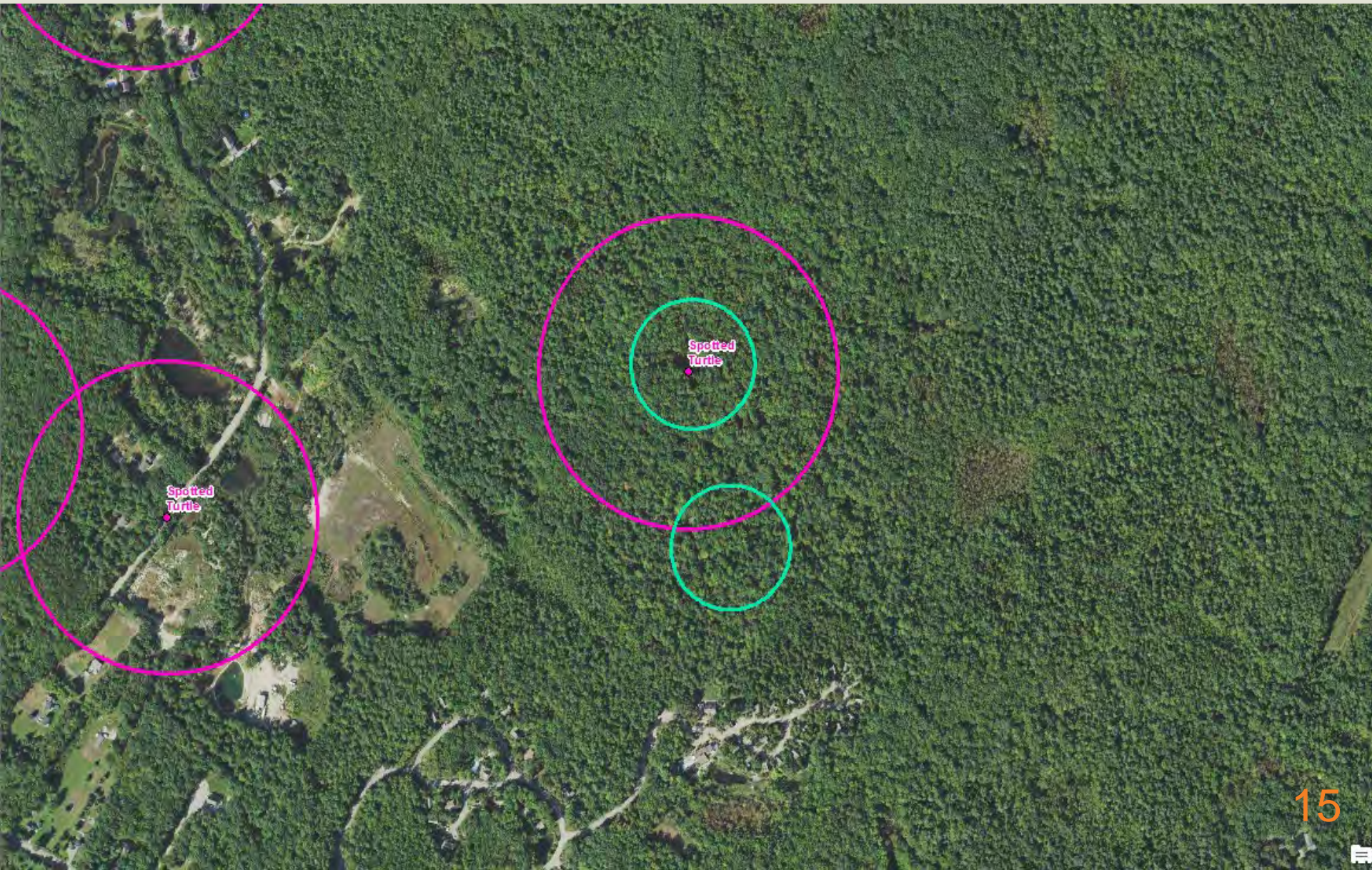
SPECIES	Method of Verification [*]			CL ^{**}	SPECIES	Method of Verification [*]			CL ^{**}
	P	H	S			P	H	S	
Blanding's Turtle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Wood Turtle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Spotted Turtle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Ribbon Snake	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ringed Boghaunter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

^{*}Method of verification: P = Photographed, H = Handled, S = Seen

^{**}CL - Confidence level in species determination: 1= <60%, 2= 60-95%, 3= >95%

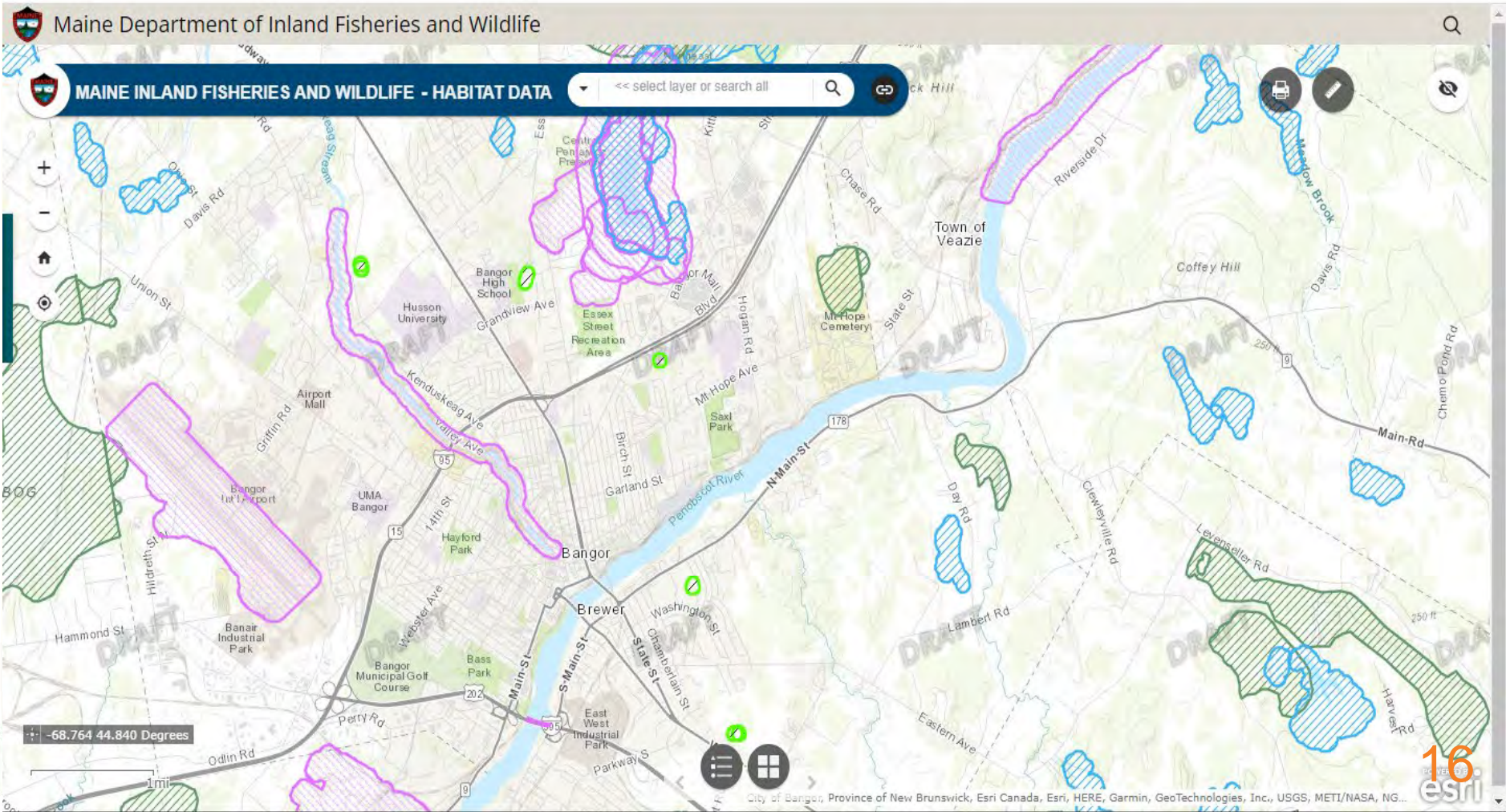
d. Optional observer recommendation:

Rarity Criteria, SVP vs PSVP

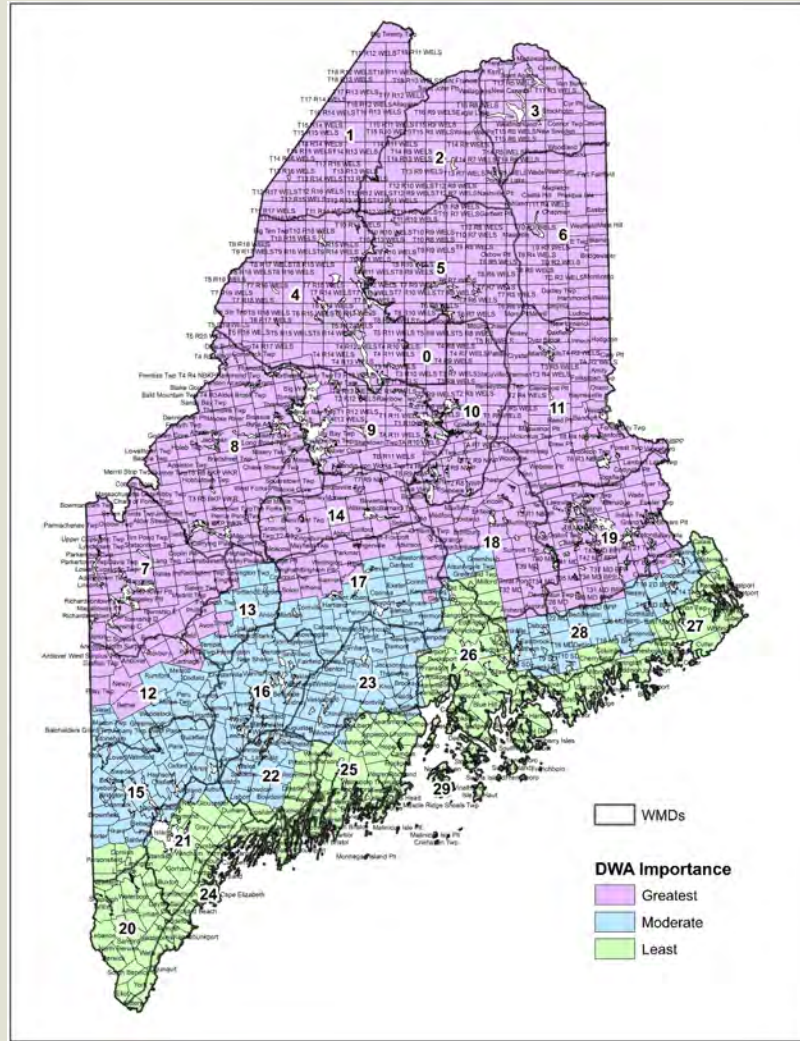


COMING ATTRACTIONS:

The MDIFW Public ER Map Tool



Deer Wintering Area Revisions



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www.maine.gov/ifw/programs-resources/environmental-review

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Thank you!