

BOG TURTLE HABITAT (PHASE 1) SURVEY REPORT

(template revised by USFWS on 4/13/2006)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Pennsylvania Field Office) developed the following report template to ensure that a sufficient amount of detailed information is consistently submitted for agency review. Phase 1 surveyors are encouraged to use this template to format their reports, to ensure that all necessary information is provided. Revisions to this template are likely, as we continue to receive feedback on its content, structure, and ease of use. Example and explanatory language within this template is italicized. Use the current Bog Turtle Survey Guidelines (revised April 2006) in conjunction with this template.

PROJECT and SITE INFORMATION

This Phase 1 survey was conducted on behalf of:

Name: _____

landowner developer state agency local government

other (_____)

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Project / Property Name: _____

Project / Property Location:

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Township/Municipality: _____

County: _____

Watershed (minor): _____

Watershed (major): _____

The project location is shown on Figure 1 (_____ USGS 7.5-minute topographic map).

[Include USGS topographic map showing project area location. Identify county, township, and quadrangle name on map, as well as project name.]

Project Area / Property – Size and Extent

[Identify the size/extent of the project area. For example, the project area for a proposed residential development would include all areas that would be affected (directly or indirectly) by all parts of the development, including buildings, roads, driveways, lots in their entirety, utility lines, water and sewer lines, stormwater detention/retention basins, staging and access areas, recreational fields or trails, etc. Often, this includes the entire land parcel, all of which will be either directly or indirectly affected by the project. In some cases, a land parcel is being surveyed, prior to developing project plans. In that case, identify the land parcel (e.g., “the 20-acre David Jones property”) as the project area, and explain that project plans have not yet been developed.]

Current Land Use and Setting

[Describe current land use and the overall setting. Also, describe what habitat type(s) are currently in the project area (e.g., “Eighty acres of the 100-acre parcel is in row crops, while the remainder is a woodlot dominated by red maple and green ash that are approximately 40 years old. A stream, approximately 6 inches deep and 2 feet wide crosses through the woodlot. A farmhouse and barn also occur on the property.”)]

Figure 2 represents a detailed map of the project area or property, showing existing features (including property boundaries, structures, power lines, roads, wetlands, ponds, streams, and major cover types).

[Include a project area map, showing 1) property/parcel boundaries; 2) existing features and general cover types (e.g., roads, power lines, agricultural fields, forest, streams, ponds, houses, spring houses); and 3) all wetlands (numbered consistent with this report). Include photo point references for each wetland.]

Project Description

[Describe the project. Include the project description, including the project purpose, timing, size, duration, etc. If the project is part of a larger undertaking, describe the relationship between the parts. For example, “This project involves the construction of sewer and water lines to connect a proposed 250-unit residential development (located on a 100-acre parcel of land) to the City of Mudville’s existing wastewater treatment plant.” If the project is more vague, at least describe what is proposed for the property, e.g., “The landowner intends to develop a residential subdivision on the property, but plans have not yet been drawn up.”]

Permit Area (for wetland/stream encroachments):

[If it is known at the time of the phase 1 survey that one or more permits will be necessary for wetland and/or stream encroachments, disclose this information. For example, “Although plans have not been finalized, it appears that at least three wetland and two stream crossings will be necessary for road and utility crossings.” If no wetland or stream encroachments will be necessary, indicate that as well – if you are sure none will be needed.]

WETLAND INFORMATION

[Include information about all wetlands on the property or in the project area, regardless of whether or not they are “jurisdictional” wetlands, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.]

A wetland investigation was conducted _____ *[identify the extent of the wetland investigation, e.g., “on the entire 220-acre parcel” or “in the 50-foot right-of-way on either side of S.R. 123]. [If some areas were not investigated, explain why. If these areas occur in a location that will be subject to future phases of development, they should be surveyed now. If the entire property/parcel was not investigated, describe exactly what area(s) were investigated, and why.]*

Wetlands were identified delineated on _____ [date(s)] by:

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Wetlands were delineated in accordance with _____ *[describe delineation method.] [If a wetland delineation has not been conducted, explain why.]*

All wetlands _____ *[e.g., “in the project area” or “on the 220-acre property” or “in the 50 foot right-of-way”]* were identified and delineated. *[If this is not the case, explain why.]* Wetland information is summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Wetland Size and Location

Wetland ID	Wetland Size (acres)	Designated Survey Area (acres) ¹	Lat/Long ²	Is the entire wetland on site? ³

- 1 “Designated survey areas” are those areas of the wetland that meet the soils, hydrology and vegetation criteria for potential bog turtle habitat. These areas may occur within the emergent, scrub-shrub or forested parts of the wetland.
- 2 For smaller wetlands (e.g., up to 3 acres) lat/long should be approximate center of wetland); for larger wetlands, either indicate approximate center or GPS the outer ends of the wetland. Lat/long should be submitted in degrees-minutes-seconds or degree-decimal format. Be sure to indicate the GPS datum (i.e., NAD 27, NAD 83, or WGS 84).
- 3 Answer “yes” if the entire wetland is located within the property/parcel boundaries or right-of-way. If any part of the wetland extends off-site, or if the entire wetland is off-site (e.g., but close to the parcel boundaries) answer “no” and provide a further explanation in the wetland narrative section.

PHASE 1 SURVEY

[During the Phase 1 Survey, examine all wetlands on the land parcel, or all wetlands that may be directly or indirectly affected by any aspect of the project. Generally, indirect effects should be assumed to extend about 300 feet beyond the project footprint (e.g., sedimentation from earth disturbance, fertilizer and pesticide transport beyond lot boundaries or agricultural fields). However, the hydrological effects of development or construction (e.g., due to roads, wells, stormwater management) may extend well beyond 300 feet from the area of direct impact. See “Bog Turtle Conservation Zones” for further guidance.]

The Phase 1 survey was conducted on _____ [date(s)] by:

Name(s): _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

A Phase 1 survey of all wetlands located _____ [identify the extent of the Phase 1 investigation, e.g., “on the entire 220-acre parcel” or “in the 50-foot right-of-way on either side of S.R. 123] was conducted. [If some wetlands were not surveyed, explain why. If these wetlands occur in an area(s) that will be subject to future phases of development, they should be surveyed now.]

A summary of the Phase 1 survey results is included in Table 2. Detailed information about each wetland follows the table. Completed field forms for each wetland are included in Appendix A.

Table 2. Summary of Phase 1 Survey Results

Wetland ID	Wetland Size	Wetland Type & Amount (% or acres)	Extent of “Mucky” Soils ¹ (by wetland type)	Survey Effort (in person-hrs)	Bog Turtle Habitat?
1	1.5	PEM – 50% PSS -- 50%	PEM – 80% PSS – 50%	2	YES

1 “Mucky” is used to describe soils that can be easily penetrated with a probe. For Phase 1 surveys, a 1-inch diameter blunt-ended wooden pole (e.g., broom or tool handle) is used. “Mucky” is NOT used to refer to a specific soil type or soil classification.

Wetland 1

[Include narrative description of wetland. Describe dominant vegetation, degree and distribution of “muckiness”, and hydrology. Also describe any disturbance noted (e.g., ditches, fill, grazing).]

[Include a map of the wetland, showing the extent of the “designated survey area(s)”. Also, a sketch of the distribution of wetland types (e.g., PEM, PSS, PFO, etc.) within the wetland is helpful.]

[List any herps found (or previously found by others).]

[Include photo(s) of wetland. Be sure photos are representative of the wetland type(s) found.]

[If the wetland continues off-site, disclose this information, describe the off-site portion, and indicate the degree to which the off-site portion was inspected.]

Wetland 2

See above for information to include.

Off-site Adjacent Wetlands

[If any wetlands occur off-site (e.g., adjacent to the subject property), and they might be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed project (or any aspects thereof) they should be included in this Phase 1 report. If these wetlands were not surveyed, visual observations from the subject property or from a public road should be reported.]

NOTE: If potential habitat is found and the project proponent chooses to assume bog turtles are present and avoid potential adverse effects to the species (rather than conduct a Phase 2 survey), a detailed project narrative and detailed project plans should be submitted to the Fish and Wildlife Service and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (along with this Phase 1 Report). The narrative and plans should demonstrate that the project will have no direct or indirect adverse effects to bog turtles or their habitat. See “Bog Turtle Conservation Zones” for further guidance.

Appendix A

[Include a completed “USFWS / PFBC Bog Turtle Habitat Evaluation – Field Form” for each wetland. Also -- make sure the forms are legible.]

Appendix B

[Include information about the person who conducted the Phase 1 survey, including the name, address, telephone number, email address, and qualifications (e.g., “recognized, qualified Phase 2 bog turtle surveyor”).]