



MASSWILDLIFE

DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

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MASS.GOV/MASSWILDLIFE

Jack Buckley, Director

DATE: March 27, 2017
TO: Conservation Commission
RE: Draft Priority Habitat Map of rare species available for public comment, April 3, 2017 through June 3, 2017

Dear Conservation Commission:

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA, M.G.L. c. 131A) and its implementing regulations (321 CMR 10.12), the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (Division) would like to inform you of the availability of the DRAFT Priority Habitat map for public comment beginning on April 3, 2017 at www.mass.gov/dfw/nhesp/map-comment. The DRAFT map has been revised to reflect new biological information, regulatory changes put into effect in October 2010, as well as land use changes. *Specifically, the Division is requesting public comment on the status of areas proposed for delineation or removal as Priority Habitat regarding the physical or biological features of the habitat, or the current scope of existing development in the area.*

PLEASE NOTE: The DRAFT Priority Habitat Map for the 14th Edition of the Natural Heritage Atlas should be used for commenting purposes only and not for project planning or regulatory review. The 13th Edition Atlas (available through the Division website located at www.mass.gov/nhesp/) is still in effect until the 14th Edition is officially published.

This comment period will end on June 3, 2017. Please encourage your constituents to view the DRAFT map and participate in the public comment period. Written comments on the proposed Priority Habitat map may be submitted to the Division electronically as explained on the above referenced website, or by submitting them to the Division at the following address:

Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program
Attn: Priority Habitat Comments
1 Rabbit Hill Road
Westborough, MA 01581

If you have additional questions regarding this notification, please contact NHESP at natural.heritage@state.ma.us or (508) 389-6360.

Thank you for working with us to protect the Commonwealth's endangered species.

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