



State of New Jersey

Department of Environmental Protection

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Governor

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Commissioner

Division of Parks and Forestry
Office of Natural Lands Management
Natural Heritage Program
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September 12, 2002

William Foley
Superintendent
Wawayanda State Park, NJDEP
885 Warwick Turnpike
Hewitt, NJ 07421

Re: Within Two Miles of the Appalachian Trail

Dear Mr. Foley:

Thank you for your data request regarding rare species information for the above referenced project site in Passaic, Sussex and Warren Counties.

The Natural Heritage Data Base has many records for occurrences of rare species that may be on or in the immediate vicinity (within approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile) of the Appalachian Trail, and many more within two miles of the trail. The attached lists provide more information about these occurrences.

The Landscape Project (Version 1.0) shows that suitable habitat patches of emergent wetland, grassland, forest and forested wetland occur on and within two miles of the trail, and has records for American bittern, barred owl, bobolink, Cooper's hawk, grasshopper sparrow, great blue heron, northern goshawk, red-headed woodpecker, red-shouldered hawk, savannah sparrow, upland sandpiper, vesper sparrow, bobcat, timber rattlesnake, wood turtle, bog turtle, bird species of special concern, and herptile species of special concern in habitat patches that are on the project site. The attached lists provide more information about those records that are also in the Natural Heritage Data Base.

Also attached are lists of rare species and natural communities that have been documented from Passaic, Sussex and Warren Counties. These county lists can be used as master species lists for directing further inventory work. If suitable habitat is present at the project site, these species have potential to be present. If you have questions concerning the wildlife records or wildlife species mentioned in this response, we recommend you contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Endangered and Nongame Species Program.

The Natural Heritage Program reviews its data periodically to identify priority sites for natural diversity in the State. Included as priority sites are some of the State's best habitats for rare and endangered species and natural communities. Thirty four of these sites are located within or near the areas you have outlined. Please refer to the enclosed Natural Heritage Priority Site Maps for the locations and boundaries of these sites. On the back of each Priority Site Map is a report describing the significance of the site. You may find the site biodiversity significance rating to be useful if you need to prioritize among the sites in your environmental assessment.

In order to red flag the general locations of documented occurrences of rare and endangered plant species and natural communities, we have prepared computer generated Natural Heritage Index Maps.

Enclosed please find these maps for the USGS quadrangles within two miles of the Appalachian Trail. If individual projects are to be located in the areas of these maps that contain letter codes, the Natural Heritage Program can be contacted for additional information.

PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED 'CAUTIONS AND RESTRICTIONS ON NHP DATA'.

Thank you for consulting the Natural Heritage Program. Feel free to contact us again regarding any future data requests.

Sincerely,

Herbert A. Lord

Herbert A. Lord
Data Request Specialist

cc: Thomas F. Breden
Lawrence Niles
NHP File No. 02-General