

Threatened and Endangered Guidance and Language for Tree Farm Management Plans

STANDARD 5: Fish, Wildlife, Biodiversity and Forest Health

“Forest management activities contribute to the conservation of biodiversity.”

PERFORMANCE MEASURE 5.1: “Forest management activities shall protect habitats and communities occupied by threatened or endangered species as required by law.”

GUIDANCE

“Under the Endangered Species Act(ESA), landowners are required to protect occupied habitat for threatened or endangered animal species. Although private landowners are not required to protect threatened or endangered plant species under the ESA, landowners are encouraged to do so.”

Indicator 5.1.1

“Landowner shall periodically confer with natural resource agencies, state natural resource heritage programs, qualified natural resource professionals or other current sources of information to determine occurrences of threatened or endangered species on the property and their habitat requirements.”

Indicator 5.1.2

“Forest management activities shall incorporate measures to protect identified threatened or endangered species on the property.”

Vermont Tree Farm Guidance

You MUST include information on threatened and endangered species in your management plan, as well as how you researched its presence or absence. The VT ANR atlas, or biofinder, or layers through VCGI are all potential resources for you to include in your plan, and eventually in an 021 inspection form. However, the VT database includes rare species as well, so some species may show up on the state database, but not be threatened or endangered. The language below provides a general statement which may be altered to suit your Tree Farm situation. Please also refer to your standards booklet and the guidance within for more specific information.

LANGUAGE FOR THREATENED AND ENDANGERED

There are no state mapped rare, threatened or endangered species or natural communities, or high conservation value forests present on this parcel, but if identified will be managed in accordance with recommended guidelines. No state listed winter deer yards or mapped wetlands are present on this property.

However, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has listed the northern long-eared bat as threatened and established a new rule, “called the 4(d) Rule, to protect the bat population during its most vulnerable life stages in areas where the disease(white-nosed syndrome), is present.” Although there are no maternal roost trees or winter hibernaculum known on this property, the entire State of Vermont is in the Long- eared bat’s natural range. Follow recommendations set up in the 4d rule regarding management activities, which are included as part of this management plan.

Research on all Rare, Threatened and Endangered as well as wetlands, and other wildlife habitat, was provided through the VT ANR Atlas website, and/or contact with VT Fish and Wildlife biologists.

