

January 9, 2015

User's Guide to Habitat Reports

Accessing the Reports

Summary reports for habitat stressor, SGCN, and plant associations are now available on the Maine Wildlife Action Plan website:


<http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/MWAP2015.html>

On the right pane under 'Draft Documents' there is an index document that lists all habitats by formation and macrogroup:

Index to Habitat Stressors and Associated SGCN (Organized by Macrogroup)

<http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/pdfs/MacrogroupSummaryReportIndex.pdf>

You may just click the link and open the document in your browser window, but then you will have to scroll through the pages to find your species; the best way to use these documents:

- Right click on the link and save the PDF to your favorite location (e.g. desktop)
- Open the document from that location
- Use the bookmark ribbon  to view the taxonomy classification in a collapsible outline (this is in the left pane in Adobe Reader; if you do not see this pane, you can get to it from *View>Show/Hide>Navigation Panes>Bookmarks*)
- Click on your choice to zoom to that page
- Click the link to the report you wish to view

Please note that these reports are in *draft* format and are still undergoing proofing and editing.

Please direct questions and comments to mainewildlifeactionplan@gmail.com.

More information about SGCN reports can be found in the SGCN Reports User's Guide.

Interpreting the Reports

Below are screenshots from the Alpine report with a brief description of each section and links to supporting documents.

Section 1: Background Information

Maine 2015 Wildlife Action Plan Revision	Report Date: January 06, 2015
Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) Macrogroup Associations	
Macrogroup: Alpine	
Habitat Systems within Macrogroup:	
Acadian-Appalachian Alpine Tundra	
Acadian-Appalachian Subalpine Woodland and Heath-Krummholz	
Alpine Macrogroup - Unknown Habitat System (i.e. Macrogroup)	
Description: Areas near or above treeline.	

Description: This section lists the habitat macrogroup (in this case, 'Alpine'), and all the habitat systems (these are habitat classifications at a finer scale than macrogroup) within that macrogroup. This section also provides a brief description of the macrogroup.

More information on the terrestrial and freshwater habitat classification system can be found here:

http://rcngrants.org/sites/default/files/final_reports/RCN%202011-5%2C6%20final%20product%20NortheastHabitatGuides.pdf

More information on the classification system used for marine habitats can be found here:

<http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/pdfs/Maine2015ActionPlanMarineHabitatClassification.pdf>

Section 2: SGCN Associated with this Habitat Macrogroup

Species Associated With This Habitat		Total SGCN: 1: 3	2: 3	3: 1
Class	Birds <i>Aves</i>	SGCN Category		
Species	American Pipit <i>Anthus rubescens</i>	2		
Species	Bicknell's Thrush <i>Catharus bicknelli</i>	1		
Species	Boreal Chickadee <i>Poecile hudsonicus</i>	2		
Species	Ruby-crowned Kinglet <i>Regulus calendula</i>	2		
Class	Insects <i>Insecta</i>	SGCN Category		
Species	Katahdin Arctic <i>Oeneis polixenes katahdin</i>	1		
Class	Mammals <i>Mammalia</i>	SGCN Category		
Species	Long-tailed Shrew <i>Sorex dispar</i>	3		
Species	Northern Bog Lemming <i>Synaptomys borealis sphagnicola</i>	1		

Description: This section lists the SGCN associated with this habitat macrogroup by class and species. The SGCN category on the far right lists the species' SGCN priority level (1-3). The total number of SGCN by priority level for this habitat macrogroup is shown along the header bar. In this case, there are three Priority 1, three Priority 2, and one Priority 3 SGCN associated with the alpine macrogroup. Habitat-SGCN associations were assigned by MDIFW species experts and discussed at the September 20, 2014 conservation partner meeting.

Section 3: Threatened and Endangered Plants Associated with this Habitat Macrogroup

Plant Species Associated With This Habitat		
Class	<i>Dicotyledoneae</i>	State Status
Species	Alpine Azalea <i>Loiseleuria procumbens</i>	T
Species	Alpine Bearberry <i>Arctostaphylos alpina</i>	T
Species	Alpine Bistort <i>Persicaria vivipara</i>	E
Species	Alpine Bitter-cress <i>Cardamine bellidifolia</i>	E
Species	Alpine Cudweed <i>Omalotheca supina</i>	E
Species	Alpine Marsh Violet <i>Viola palustris</i>	E
Species	Alpine Speedwell <i>Veronica wormskjoldii</i>	E
Species	Alpine Willow-herb <i>Epilobium anagallidifolium</i>	E
Species	Arctic Willow <i>Salix arctophila</i>	E
Species	Bearberry Willow <i>Salix uva-ursi</i>	T
Species	Boott's Rattlesnake Root <i>Prenanthes boottii</i>	E
Species	Common Butterwort <i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>	E
Species	Cutler's Goldenrod <i>Solidago multiradiata var. arctica</i>	T

Description: This section lists all state endangered and threatened plant species by class associated with this habitat macrogroup. Each species' status is listed in the right-hand column (E=Endangered, T=Threatened). Plant-habitat associations were assigned by the Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP). More information on Maine's endangered and threatened plants can be found here:

http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/rare_plants/index.htm

Section 4: Stressors Associated with this Habitat Macrogroup

Threats Associated With This Macrogroup			
IUCN Level 2 Threat Name: Tourism and Recreational Areas			
Actionability: Highly actionable	Severity: Moderate Severity		
Reversibility: Reversible with difficulty	Immediacy: Immediate	Likelihood: Unlikely	
Spatial Extent: Localized	Certainty: Moderate Certainty		
Notes: ski area development slight stressor, but 99% of already unimpacted area is in some form of conservation, very small area is currently impacted by ski areas			
IUCN Level 2 Threat Name: Recreational Activities			
Actionability: Highly actionable	Severity: Moderate Severity		
Reversibility: Reversible	Immediacy: Immediate	Likelihood: Occurring	
Spatial Extent: Localized	Certainty: High Certainty		
Notes: Hikers deviating from trails has been greatly reduced by partner orgs (AMC, Baxter etc.)			
IUCN Level 2 Threat Name: Fire and Fire Suppression			
Actionability: Highly actionable	Severity: Slight Severity		
Reversibility: Reversible	Immediacy: Immediate	Likelihood: Occurring	
Spatial Extent: Localized	Certainty: High Certainty		
Notes: Fires lit in alpine zone (Bigelow e.g.) or accidental (Big Spencer)			

Description: This section lists the stressors affecting this habitat macrogroup. More information about the IUCN classification system for stressors (IUCN uses the term 'threats') can be found here:

<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes/threats-classification-scheme>

MNAP has provided additional information about stressor characteristics to help prioritize conservation actions. These terms are described below:

Severity	Slight Severity: Degree of ecological change is minor	Moderate Severity: Degree of ecological change is substantial	Severe: Degree of ecological change is major
Actionability (Consider the likelihood of implementing Conservation Actions to begin reducing the impact of the Stressor within the next 10 years)	Actionable with Difficulty: Impacts of a Stressor can only be minimally reversed, prevented, or mitigated, and cost or logistics make solutions difficult to implement	Moderately Actionable: Impacts of a Stressor can be reversed, prevented, or mitigated, however solutions are only partially effective <u>or</u> may be difficult to implement	Highly Actionable: Impacts of the Stressor can be reversed, prevented, or mitigated with proven strategies, at relatively low costs and with few logistical difficulties
Reversibility (Consider the likelihood of reversing the impacts within 10 years)	Reversible: Effects of the threat can be reversed by proven actions	Reversible with difficulty: effects of the threat may be reversed but costs or logistics make action impractical	Irreversible: Effects of the threat are irreversible
Immediacy (This characteristic assesses the time scale over which impacts of the threat will be observable)	Long-term: Effects of the threat are expected in 10-100 years given known ecosystem interactions or compounding threats	Near-term: Effects of the threat are expected within the next 1-10 years	Immediate: Effects of the threat are immediately observable (current or existing)
Spatial Extent (Consider the impact of threat within 10 years)	Localized: (<10%) A small portion of the habitat or population is negatively impacted by the threat.	Dispersed or Patchy: (10-50%)	Pervasive: (>50%) A large portion of the habitat or population is negatively impacted by the threat.
Certainty (This characteristic is used to assess the certainty surrounding the threat and its impacts)	Low Certainty: threat is poorly understood, data are insufficient, or the response to threat is poorly understood	Moderate Certainty: some information describing the threat and ecological responses to it is available, but many questions remain	High Certainty: Sufficient information about the threat and ecological responses to it is available
Likelihood (Consider impact of the threat within 10 years.)	Unlikely: Effects of the threat are unlikely to occur (less than 30% chance)	Likely: effects of threat are likely to occur (30-99% chance)	Occurring: effects of the threat are already observable (100% chance)