# Lyons Road Bridges (BRs 1463 & 5783) over Interstate 95 Wetland and Watercourse Delineation and Monarch Butterfly Habitat Assessment Report

Sidney, Maine WIN 25465.00



Prepared for: Maine Department of Transportation

Prepared by: Stantec Consulting Services Inc. February 28, 2025

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## 1 Introduction

The Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) is proposing replacement of the Lyons Road Bridges over Interstate 95 (I-95) in Sidney, Maine (BRs 1463 & 5783; hereafter, Project). Wetland and watercourse delineations as well as a habitat assessment for monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) was conducted by Stantec Consulting Services Inc. on January 10, 2025, in support of design planning as well as state and federal permitting requirements. This report summarizes the methodology and results of the field investigations.

# 2 Methodology

The delineations and habitat assessments were conducted within approximately 100 feet of the existing bridge locations, including the bridge superstructure and approaches that were safely accessible at the time of the field work (Figure 1).

### 2.1 Wetland and Watercourse Delineation

Wetland boundaries under potential federal and state jurisdiction were determined using the technical criteria described in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) *Wetlands Delineation Manual*<sup>1</sup> and the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Regional Supplement (Version 2.0).*<sup>2</sup> Wetland boundaries were flagged with pink "WETLAND DELINEATION" flagging and labeled with a unique alpha-numeric code in accordance with MaineDOT nomenclatural conventions. Wetland flags were located using a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver capable of achieving submeter horizontal accuracy. The GPS data were attributed in accordance with MaineDOT spatial data requirements. Field data were collected on dominant vegetation, evidence of wetland hydrology, hydric soil criteria (where possible), and wetland functions using MaineDOT's "Standard MaineDOT Information / F&V Form." The observed wetland functions and values were based on the USACE *Highway Methodology Workbook Supplement: Wetland Functions and Values - A Descriptive Approach.*<sup>3</sup> Wetland classification was assigned based on the *Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States.*<sup>4</sup> Wetlands of Special Significance (WoSS) were identified based on criteria in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Federal Geographic Data Committee. 2013. Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States. FGDC-STD-004-2013. Second Edition. Wetlands Subcommittee, Federal Geographic Data Committee and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, DC.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Environmental Laboratory. 1987. Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual. Technical Report Y-87-1. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, MS.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 2012. *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region (Version 2.0)*, ed. J. S. Wakeley, R. W. Lichvar, and C. V. Noble. ERDC/EL TR-12-1. Vicksburg, MS: U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> US Army Corps of Engineers. 1999. *Highway Methodology Workbook Supplement: Wetland Functions and Values - A Descriptive Approach*. New England Division. Publication no. NAEEP-360-1-30a. November 1995. 32 pp

Chapter 310 of the Natural Resources Protection Act<sup>5</sup> and Chapter 335 Significant Wildlife Habitat.<sup>6</sup> Identification of WoSS was limited to observable conditions within the Project site. Representative photographs were taken as appropriate.

Concurrent with the wetland delineation, streams and other potential Waters of the United States were delineated, if observed. These resources were identified using the regulatory criteria established by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection<sup>7</sup> and the USACE.<sup>8</sup> For streams less than approximately 5 feet wide (from the top of the bank) were flagged with blue flagging along their approximate centerline; streams over approximately 5 feet wide were flagged at the observed top of bank or ordinary high water mark, whichever was more conservative. Each flag was labeled with a unique alpha-numeric code in accordance with MaineDOT's nomenclatural convention and located with the GPS receiver. Data were recorded on apparent flow regime, substrate, bankfull widths, ordinary high water mark widths, water depths, and presence of aquatic organisms and vegetation. Delineated streams were assessed using the "MaineDOT Stream Assessment Form." Representative photographs were taken as appropriate.

Stantec identified potential vernal pools (PVP) within the Project area. As the delineation was conducted outside of the appropriate vernal pool survey season, PVPs were identified based on physical characteristics such as the presence of standing water or water marks within a confined basin If identified, PVPs were located as an approximate center point with the GPS receiver and general data on their approximate size, origin, hydroperiod, and physical characteristics were collected.

### 2.2 Monarch Habitat Assessment

During the delineation, Stantec assessed the existing habitats within the Project area relative to their potential to support monarch butterfly. The habitat assessment consisted primarily of a survey for milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.), the host plants for monarch larvae (caterpillars). Because the assessment was conducted outside of the growing season, observations of milkweed was limited to persistent remnants that remained identifiable at the time of the field assessment. Data were collected on approximate abundance and the spatial extent of the observed milkweed specimens was located with the GPS receiver. In addition, habitats within the Project area were characterized relative to their potential to support milkweed during normal growing season conditions based on observable associated vegetation, canopy cover, hydrology, and the type and approximate frequency of habitat disturbances (e.g., mowing). Representative photographs were taken to document existing conditions.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 2025. National Ordinary High Water Mark Field Delineation Manual for Rivers and Streams: Final Version. ERDC/CRREL TR-25-1, Vicksburg, MS: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Engineer Research and Development Center.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Maine Department of Environmental Protection. 26 January 2009. Natural Resources Protection Act Chapter 310: Wetlands and Waterbodies Protection Rules. Bureau of Land and Water Quality, DEPLW0297-D2009.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Maine Department of Environmental Protection. 7 January 2014. Natural Resources Protection Act Chapter 335: Significant Wildlife Habitat.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Danielson, T. J. 2018. *Natural Resource Protection Act (NRPA) Streams, Rivers, and Brooks*. Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Augusta, ME.

## 3 Results

## 3.1 Wetland and Watercourse Delineation

The wetland and watercourse delineation was conducted on January 10, 2025. The ground was free of snow; however, the soil was frozen throughout most of the Project area. Accordingly, a verification of the wetland boundaries identified during this effort is recommended to be conducted during appropriate seasonal conditions in order to assess hydric soil characteristics in accordance with USACE wetland delineation methodology.

A total of 2 wetlands and portions of 2 stream reaches were delineated within the Project area (Figure 1). No other potential Waters of the United States or PVPs were observed. Representative photographs are provided in Appendix A and Standard MaineDOT Information / F&V Forms are provided in Appendix B. MaineDOT Stream Assessment Forms are provided in Appendix C. Table 1 summarizes the delineated wetlands and Table 2 summarizes the delineated streams.



Wetland Identifier	Wetland Classification <sup>1</sup>	Dominant and Characteristic Vegetation Type	Hydric Soil Criteria	WoSS Notes	Evidence of Hydrology	Comments
VH-01I	PSS	<ul> <li>Shrubs: speckled alder (<i>Alnus incana</i>), highbush-cranberry (<i>Viburnum opulus</i>), red osier (<i>Cornus alba</i>), willows (<i>Salix</i> spp.)</li> <li>Herbs: narrow-leaf cat-tail (<i>Typha angustifolia</i>), sensitive fern (<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>), purple loosestrife (<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>)</li> </ul>	Frozen – not assessed	No	Surface Water, Water Marks, High Water Table	Large wetland system bounded by Lyons Road and I-95 interchanges
VH-01J	PSS	<b>Shrubs:</b> red osier, nanny-berry ( <i>Viburnum lentago</i> ) <b>Herbs:</b> sensitive fern, bluejoint ( <i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i> ), cottongrass bulrush ( <i>Scirpus cyperinus</i> )	Frozen – not assessed	No	Surface Water, Geomorphic Position, FAC- Neutral Test	Herbaceous depression along edge of Lyons Road.

#### Table 1. Summary of Delineated Wetlands

<sup>1</sup>Wetland classification follows Federal Geographic Data Committee (2013): PSS = Palustrine Scrub-Shrub

#### Table 2. Summary of Delineated Streams

Stream Identifier	Flow Type	Bankfull Width (ft)	Ordinary High Water Mark Width (ft)	Dominant Substrates	Jurisdiction	Additional notes
VR-01K	Intermittent	2.5	2.5	Cobble-silt	MDEP / USACE	Linear channel in median with culvert inlet and outlet, centerli delineated; historic anthropogenic channelization of streamba
VR-01L	Intermittent	3	3	Silt	MDEP / USACE	Downstream continuation of VR-01K on east side of I-95, flow wetland VH-01I and continues off site



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/s into	

## 3.2 Monarch Habitat Assessment

The Project area includes potentially suitable monarch habitat along the open roadway embankments along Lyons Road and I-95. The road embankments of Lyons Road are dominated by shrubs such as Morrow's honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrowii*), European buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), common juniper (*Juniperus communis*), and autumn-olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) along with Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*) and quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) trees and saplings. Associated herbaceous plants include Kentucky blue grass (*Poa pratensis*), false rye grass (*Schedonorus* spp.), smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*), and eastern poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*). A population of approximately 20 common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) plants was observed within the open upland habitats along the Lyons Road embankment to the west of the bridges. The associated habitat consists of a steep graminoid-dominated area that is periodically mowed. Small additional occurrences of common milkweed (1–3 plants) were observed elsewhere in the Project area along Lyons Road and I-95

The road shoulders and median of I-95 include open field and meadow habitat areas beyond the edge of the pavement that are maintained periodically through mowing by MaineDOT. Frequent mowing largely limits the potential for common milkweed establishment and for monarch larvae to complete their life cycle.

Small forest fragments are located in the Project area. These areas have overstory vegetation including red pine (*Pinus resinosa*), eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*), Norway maple, quaking aspen, and red maple (*Acer rubrum*). The edges of these forest fragments may provide habitat for milkweed, but the shaded understory is unlikely to support milkweed species.

Representative habitat photographs are provided in Appendix A and the locations of observed milkweed are indicated on Figure 1.

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# **Figures**





Disclaimer. This document has been prepared based on information provided by others as cited in the Notes section. Stantec has not verified the accuracy and/or completeness of this information and shall not be responsible for any errors or omissions which may be incorporated herein as a result. Stantec assumes no responsibility for data supplied in electronic format, and the recipient accepts full responsibility for verifying the accuracy and completeness of the data.

Lyons Road Bridges (BRs 1462 & 5783) over Interstate 95 Wetland and Watercourse Delineation and Monarch Butterfly Habitat Report

# Appendices



# **Appendix A Representative Photographs**





Photo 1. Wetland VH-01I. Stantec. January 10, 2025.



Photo 2. Wetland VH-01J Stantec. January 10, 2025.





Photo 3. Stream VR-01K. Stantec. January 10, 2025.



Photo 4. Stream VR-01L. Stantec. January 10, 2025.





Photo 5. I-95 median north of Lyons Road. Stantec. January 10, 2025.



Photo 6. I-95 median south of Lyons Road. Stantec. January 10, 2025.





Photo 7. Lyons Road bridge and I-95 road shoulder, view to the north. Stantec. January 10, 2025.



Photo 8. Lyons Road shoulder habitat on eastern approach. Stantec. January 10, 2025.





Photo 9. Common milkweed habitat along Lyons Road shoulder west of bridges. Stantec. January 10, 2025.



Photo 10. Common milkweed plants along Lyons Road embankment west of bridges. Stantec. January 10, 2025.



# **Appendix B MaineDOT Wetland Data Forms**



MaineD	OT Fu	nction	al Ass	essme	nt:									
1. Town:	Sidney	2. 14	2. Lyons Road BRs 1462 & 5783				<b>3. WIN:</b> 25465.00							
<b>4. Wetlan</b> VH-01I	d ID/ Li	ine ID:	<b>5.</b> PS	5. Cowardin Class: PSS				6. Stationing/Location						
<b>7. Domina</b> Salix spp., Tj sensibilis	ant Veg ypha ang	<b>jetatio</b> ustifolia,	<b>n:</b> Alnu: Lythrum	s incana, n salicaria	Cornus al a, Onoclea	lba,	8. Wetland Morphology HGM Type: Depressional wetland							
<ul> <li>9. Wetland description including a soil description:</li> <li>Shrub wetland bounded by Lyons Rd and I-95 interchange; permanently saturated</li> <li>Soil: Frozen- not assessed at time of delineation. USDA NRCS soil mapped as Scantic silt lo</li> <li>10. FVA Table:</li> </ul>							silt loa	ım						
hole Wet	land:			075										1
F/V Occurs	GRD	FFA	FSH	SIR	NKKT	PE v	SSS	WH V	REC	ESV	U/H	VQA	ES	
Principal		X		X	X	Λ		Λ						
npacted area: TBD 11. Is this wetland part of larger complex?														
No. 12. Impact Notes/Photos: Impacts TBD, see report photos														
Attach applicable ACOE Form														

#### **Directions and Guidance**

- 1. Town where project is located.
- 2. Route.
- 3. Work Identification Number (WIN).
- 4. Unique Identifier code for each wetland area.
- 5. Cowardin Classification Codes.
- 6. Approximated stationing location.
- 7. List the typical vegetation found within this wetland type. List any vegetation that may support a function of that wetland.
- 8. This should describe the morphology of the wetland. Need to describe if the wetland is in a basin or on a sloped area, whether it has a definite inlet or outlet and whether a stream is present in the wetland.
- 9. Notes any soils information, stream descriptions, habitat descriptions such as vernal pools or open aquatic areas.
- 10. This is the wetland function discussion block.
- 11. Is this wetland in a complex associated with other streams or wetlands?
- 12. Also any include more detailed description of area to be affected by the project as opposed to notes of the entire wetland, if known. Photos if applicable.

1. Town: Sidney				2. Lyons Road BRs 1462 & 5783				<b>3. WIN:</b> 25465.00					
<b>4. Wetland ID/ Line ID:</b> VH-01J				5. Cowardin Class: PSS				6. Stationing/Location					
7. Domina Calamagrost	ant Veg is canade	<b>jetatio</b> ensis, Sc	n: Vibui hirpus cy	rnum len perinus,	tago, Corn Onoclea s	us alba ensibilis	, <b>8. W</b> Depi	<b>etland</b> ression	<b>d Morp</b> nal wet	<b>holog</b> land	y HGN	Туре	:
<ul> <li>9. Wetland description including a soil description</li> <li>Wetland depression along Lyons Road shoulder; su Soil: Frozen- not assessed at time of delineation. U</li> <li>10. FVA Table:</li> </ul>							i <b>on:</b> surface USDA	water NRCS	r prese S soil m	nt napped	l as So	cantic s	silt loa
hole Wet	land:		5011	OTD	NDDT	DE	000	14/11	DEO				50
Occurs	GKD	FFA X	r5H	SIR		ΡE	355	VVH	REC	E2A	U/H	VQA	ES
Principal		Λ		Х	Λ								
npacted area: TBD 11. Is this wetland part of larger complex?													
12. Impact Notes/Photos: Impacts TBD, see report photos													
Attach applicable ACOE Form													

#### **Directions and Guidance**

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- 9. Notes any soils information, stream descriptions, habitat descriptions such as vernal pools or open aquatic areas.
- 10. This is the wetland function discussion block.
- 11. Is this wetland in a complex associated with other streams or wetlands?
- 12. Also any include more detailed description of area to be affected by the project as opposed to notes of the entire wetland, if known. Photos if applicable.

# **Appendix C MaineDOT Stream Assessment Forms**



### **MaineDOT Stream Assessment Form**

GENERAL INFORMATION:								
Flow Conditions: Low High Moderate None								
Water Temperature: 3 2 <sup>°</sup> C or <sup>°</sup> F								
Water Appearance: Clear Light Brown Orange Milky Dark Brown/Tea Greenish Oily Sheen Foamy Turbid Other								
Stream Velocity:       Upstream       0.3       feet/second       Downstream       0.3       feet/second       Estimated / Measured?								
<b>Tidal Site?</b> ☐ Yes ■ No ☐ Unsure If yes, what is the expected water level in the structure at high tide? Low tide?								
Is this defined as a stream per MaineDEP? Yes No								
Does the flow have defined banks?								
Is the stream intermittee or perennial? Why? Small watershed, hydrology principally provided by stormwater runoff from roadways; small stream with shallow flow								
Measured bankfull widths (upstream and downstream, water depths): BFW: 2.5 feet (median); 3 feet downstream. Avg. estimated flow depth = 1 inch (median and downstream) FISH AND WILDLIFE:								
Wildlife and wildlife signs in and around the stream? (Check all that apply)								
Wildlife Barriers: None High Traffic Volume Steep Embankments Retaining Wall(s) Jersey Barriers								
Are fish present in the stream? (Check all that apply)       Species if identified         No       Yes, but rare       Yes, abundant         Small (1-2 in.)       Medium (3-6 in.)       Large (>6 in.)								
Fish passage present through the bridge/culvert?  Yes No At all flows At certain flows								
Potential barriers to fish movement in area:         □ Beaver dams       □ Waterfalls >1 ft.       □ Dams       ■ Culverts       □ None       □ Other         Location in reference to project (i.e. upstream or downstream; distances from culvert):								
Are Macroinvertebrates present?       Not observed       Yes         If present, describe the types of macroinvertebrates found: (check all that apply)       Plentiful         Wormlike       Occasional       Plentiful         Snails/clamlike       Occasional       Plentiful         Insects       X Occasional       Plentiful         Crayfish       Occasional       Plentiful         Mayfly       Caddisfly       Stonefly       Dragonfly/Damselfly       Other         Aquatic organism passage present through the bridge/culvert?       Yes       No       At all flows       At certain								
flows								

Recommendations on project scope and fish passage needs: Stream is too small to provide measurable fish habitat

UPSTREAM	DOWNSTREAM						
Nature of stream substrate in an unaltered stream reach:							
0%       1-10%       11-49%       >50%         Silt/Clay/Mud         X         Sand (up to 0.3" diam.)            Pea Gravel (.36" diam.)            Gravel (0.6-2.5" diam.)            Cobble (2.5-10" diam.)         X         Rubble (10-20"diam.)          X         Boulder (over 20" diam.)             Bedrock (solid)	0%       1-10%       11-49%       >50%         Silt/Clay/Mud         X         Sand (up to 0.3" diam.)            Pea Gravel (.36" diam.)            Gravel (0.6-2.5" diam.)            Cobble (2.5-10" diam.)             Rubble (10-20"diam.)             Boulder (over 20" diam.)             Bedrock (solid)						
Pick the box that best describes the extent to which gravel, co silt, sand, or mud:	bbles, and boulders on the stream bottom are embedded in						
<ul> <li>□ Not embedded (0-5%)</li> <li>□ Halfway (+/- 50%)</li> <li>□ Completely (100%)</li> <li>□ Mostly embedded (+/- 75%)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>☑ Not embedded (0-5%)</li> <li>□ Somewhat (5-25%)</li> <li>□ Halfway (+/- 50%)</li> <li>□ Mostly embedded (+/- 75%)</li> <li>□ Completely (100%)</li> </ul>						
Streamside Cover: Write "0" if absent, "1" if present, "2" if o	common:						
a)       Along water's edge and stream bank only:         Logs, large woody debris       0	a) Along water's edge and stream bank only:         Logs, large woody debris       1						
It is the category that best describes the extent to which vege         Image: Image	□ 0-5% □ 6-25% □ 26-50% □ 51- 75%						

UPSTREAM (cont'd)	DOWNSTREAM (cont'd)					
Note General Conditions: "0" if absent, "1" if present, "2" if	problem is clearly severe					
Stream banks         Natural streamside plant cover degraded       1         Banks collapsed/eroded       0         Garbage/junk adjacent to the stream       1         Foam or sheen on bank       0         Stream       0         Mud, silt, or sand in or entering the stream       0         Garbage/junk in the stream       1         Other       1         Yard waste on bank (grass, clippings, etc)       0         Livestock in or with unrestricted access       0         to stream       0         Actively discharging pipe(s)       1         Other pipe(s) entering the stream       0         Ditches entering the stream       2         Other       2	Stream banks         Natural streamside plant cover degraded       1         Banks collapsed/eroded       0         Garbage/junk adjacent to the stream       1         Foam or sheen on bank       0         Stream       0         Mud, silt, or sand in or entering the stream       0         Garbage/junk in the stream       1         Other       1         Yard waste on bank (grass, clippings, etc)       0         Livestock in or with unrestricted access       0         to stream       0         Actively discharging pipe(s)       0         Other pipe(s) entering the stream       1         Ditches entering the stream       2         Other       2					
In-Stream: Check which stream habitats are present (check	all that apply):					
Pool(s)     Riffle(s)     X Run(s)     Cascade(s)     Rapid(s)     Deadwater(s)     Other	Pool(s)       Riffle(s)       X Run(s)         Cascade(s)       Rapid(s)       Deadwater(s)         Other					
(a) Average Depth of run(s) $X < 1$ ft $\Box = 1-2$ ft $\Box > 2$ ft (b) Average Depth of pool(s) $X < 1$ ft $\Box = 1-2$ ft. $\Box > 2$ ft (c) Number of pool(s) $> 2$ ft deep/100 ft $0$ (d) Average Distance between pools <u>NA</u> ft (e) Scour Pool dimensions (ft): N/A	(a) Average Depth of run(s) $X < 1$ ft $1-2$ ft $> 2$ ft (b) Average Depth of pool(s) $X < 1$ ft $1-2$ ft $> 2$ ft (c) Number of pool(s) $> 2$ ft deep/100 ft $0$ (d) Average Distance between pools <u>N/A</u> ft (e) Scour Pool dimensions: 7x15'; 1' deep					
Presence of logs or large woody debris in stream:						
X None Few Common Very common	None X Few Common Very common					
Presence of naturally-occurring organic material (i.e., leaves	and twigs, etc.) in stream:					
X None Occasional Plentiful	None Occasional 🕅 Plentiful					
Pick the description that best fits the shape of the stream ban	ks and the channel:					
<ul> <li>(a) Stream bank:</li> <li>X Vertical/undercut</li> <li>Steeply sloping (&gt;30°)</li> <li>Gradual/no slope (&lt;30°)</li> <li>(b) Approximate width/depth ratio of the channel (ft/ft): 2.5 ': 0.2'</li> <li>(c) Does the channel appear to be man-made?</li> <li>No X Yes</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>(a) Stream bank:</li> <li>□ Vertical/undercut</li> <li>□ Steeply sloping (&gt;30°)</li> <li>□ Gradual/no slope (&lt;30°)</li> <li>(b) Approximate width/depth ratio of the channel (ft/ft):</li> <li>3': 0.2'</li> <li>(c) Does the channel appear to be man-made?</li> <li>○ No □ Yes</li> </ul>					

