

# Town of Ellsworth

## High Value Plant and Animal Habitats

March 22, 2002

Note: The data presented on this map are "planning quality" and should not be used as a statutory representation of the resource.

### Field Verified Plant and Wildlife Habitat of Statewide Significance

The data presented here represent the best available information. Comprehensive field surveys do not exist for all areas in Maine. The agencies providing these data are continually gathering new information.

#### MNAP Rare or Exemplary Natural Communities

The Maine Natural Areas Program tracks natural communities that are either rare types or outstanding examples of more common types. Communities are field-verified within the last 20 years, and are mapped and digitized at a scale of 1:24,000.

Freshwater Forested and Non-Forested Wetlands

#### MNAP Rare Plant Locations

In addition to Natural Communities, the MNAP also tracks plant species that are rare in Maine. Rare plant point locations are mapped at a scale of 1:24,000. Rare plant habitat polygons are mapped and digitized at a scale of 1:24,000.

Rare Plant Locations (Field Verified within the past 20 years)

Data updated as of 12/31/01

#### MDIFW Mapped Habitats and Confirmed Species Locations

##### Essential Wildlife Habitats:

Maine's Endangered Species Act protects Essential Wildlife Habitats, which are areas currently or historically providing physical or biological features essential to the conservation of an Endangered or Threatened Species in Maine and which may require special management considerations.

Bald Eagle Essential Habitat  
Nest sites identified and mapped as essential habitat must be (1) within a nesting territory occupied by eagles during at least one of the three most recent years, and (2) be either intact for two consecutive years, or the only extant nest in that territory. This coverage is an approximation of official maps.

##### Significant Wildlife Habitats:

Maine's Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA), which became effective on August 4, 1988, was intended to prevent further degradation or destruction of certain natural resources of state significance. Within the Act are provisions protecting Significant Wildlife Habitats.

Deer Wintering Area  
A deer wintering area (DWA) is defined as a forested area used by deer when snow depth in the open hardwoods exceeds 12 inches, deer sinking depth in the open hardwoods exceeds 4 inches, and mean daily temperatures are below 32 degrees Fahrenheit. Non-forested wetlands, non-wooded clearcut, hardwood types, and stands predominated by Eastern larch are included within the DWA only if they are less than 10 acres in size. Agricultural and development areas within DWAs are excluded regardless of size. This coverage has not been officially adopted as a regulated NRPA habitat.

Shorebird Habitat  
This data layer specifically addresses migratory shorebird coastal staging areas. Staging habitat is defined as areas that meet shorebird feeding and roosting requirements during migration. Shorebird staging habitat consists of coastal areas, which provide both tidal mud flats rich in invertebrates for feeding, and areas such as gravel bars and sand spits for roosting. This coverage has not been officially adopted as a regulated NRPA habitat.

Waterfowl / Wading Bird Habitat  
Waterfowl habitats characterized both seasonally and behaviorally as breeding habitat, migration and staging habitat, and wintering habitat. Wading bird habitat consists of breeding, feeding, roosting, loafing, and migration areas. This coverage has not been officially adopted as a regulated NRPA habitat.

Tidal Waterfowl / Wading Bird Habitat  
Waterfowl habitats characterized both seasonally and behaviorally as breeding habitat, migration and staging habitat, and wintering habitat. Wading bird habitats consist of breeding, feeding, roosting, loafing, and migration areas. Habitats can include forested communities, reefs, aquatic beds, emergent wetlands, mudflats, and eelgrass beds. Any area around a subtidal nesting island (with at least 25 nesting pairs of Common Eiders) and areas documented as wading bird rookeries are also included. This coverage has not been officially adopted as a regulated NRPA habitat.

##### Other Rare Wildlife Data:

In addition to Essential Habitat, MDIFW tracks the status, life history, conservation needs, and occurrences for species that are Endangered, Threatened or otherwise rare.

Rare Animal Habitat  
 Rare Animal Location

The point, and its buffer, indicate the potential for species habitat, the extent of which needs to be confirmed by on-the-ground surveys.  
Data updated as of 12/31/01

### High Value Habitat for USFWS Priority Trust Species (>5 Acres)

Freshwater Wetlands (non-forested) and Lakes/Rivers  
 Grass, Shrub, and Bare Ground  
 Marine/Estuarine Intertidal Wetland  
 Forest (Includes Forested Wetlands)

Priority Trust Species: Trust species of the USFWS include all migratory birds, anadromous/catadromous and certain coastal fishes, and federally listed endangered and threatened species. This map identifies important habitat for 64 trust species that regularly occur in the Gulf of Maine watershed and are considered a priority for protection because they:  
- are listed as federally endangered or threatened, and/or  
- are exhibiting significant declining population trends statewide, and/or  
- have been identified as endangered or threatened by two or more of the three states in the Gulf of Maine watershed.

The USFWS data on this map is derived from the "USFWS Gulf of Maine Watershed Habitat Analysis" which identifies important habitat for 64 priority trust fish, wildlife, and plant species based on a combination of field verified sites and habitat modeling. For the analysis, important habitat for each of the 64 species was first identified and ranked on a scale of one to ten. The scores for each species were then combined to determine a cumulative ranking of habitat importance. The data represented on this map are a subset of the cumulative score and show the more important habitat (top 25% in each of the four general land cover categories). Also, for the purpose of clarity, this map only shows the important habitats that are 5 acres or larger. By displaying the information as general habitat types on this map, we are suggesting it is important to have a mosaic of protected habitat on the landscape that includes a variety of habitats that will benefit a large variety of species.

Please contact the USFWS Gulf of Maine Coastal Program, 4R Funds Rd., Falmouth, Maine (<http://gulfmaine.fws.gov>) for more information.

### Other Data Sources

Roads Data: 2001 Public Roads Coverage, Maine DOT, 1/24/ Coverage  
Town Boundary, Ponds, Rivers, Streams, and Coastline: Maine OGIS, 1/24/ Library

#### Guide to MNAP and MDIFW Rare Species and Natural Community Locations

Number	Feature Name	State Rarity	State Status
1	Raised Level Bog Ecosystem	S4	Special Concern
2	American Stone-Grass	S2	Special Concern
3	Big Bog/Slough	S2P	Threatened
4	Norway Spruce	S2	Special Concern
5	Mudwort	S3	Special Concern
6	Estuary Bar-Mangrove	S2	Special Concern
7	Mudwort	S3	Special Concern
8	Bald Eagle	S4B,S4N	Threatened

Dark Green: MNAP Rare or Exemplary Natural Community  
Light Green: Rare Plant Location  
Red: Rare Animal Location

## Beginning With Habitat

### An Approach to Conserving Open Space

Beginning With Habitat is a cooperative effort of agencies and organizations working together to secure Maine's outdoor legacy.

Those agencies include the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Maine Natural Areas Program, Maine Audubon Society, Maine State Planning Office, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Maine Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission, and Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Map Prepared by: Maine Natural Areas Program

Scale 1:25,000

0.6 0 0.6 1.2 Miles

1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 Feet

0.6 0 0.6 1.2 Kilometers

