

Significant Wildlife Habitat

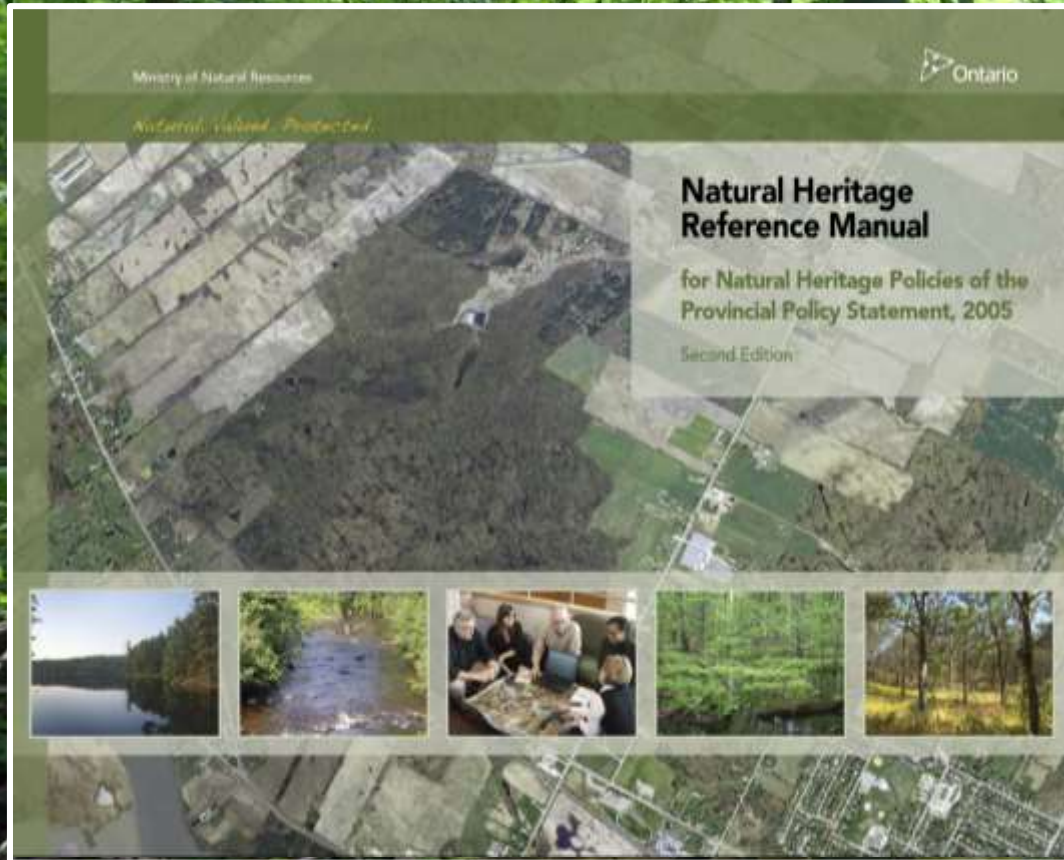
Application of Guidelines to Environmental Impact Statements

Ottawa Conservation Partners Workshop
February 26, 2020



DILLON
CONSULTING

Policy and Guidance



- 2.1.4 Development and site alteration shall not be permitted in:...
d) significant wildlife habitat;...
unless it has been demonstrated that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or their ecological functions.
- 2.1.6 Development and site alteration shall not be permitted on adjacent lands to the natural heritage features and areas identified in policies 2.1.3, 2.1.4 and 2.1.5 unless the ecological function of the adjacent lands has been evaluated and it has been demonstrated that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or on their ecological functions.

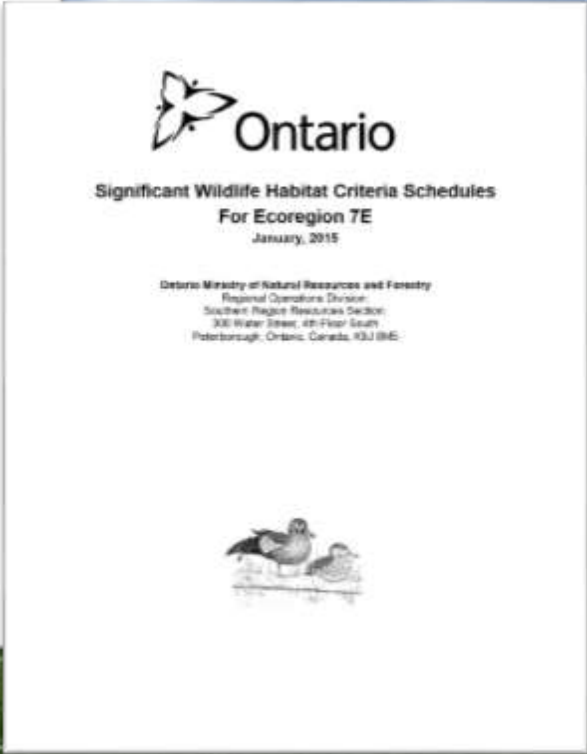
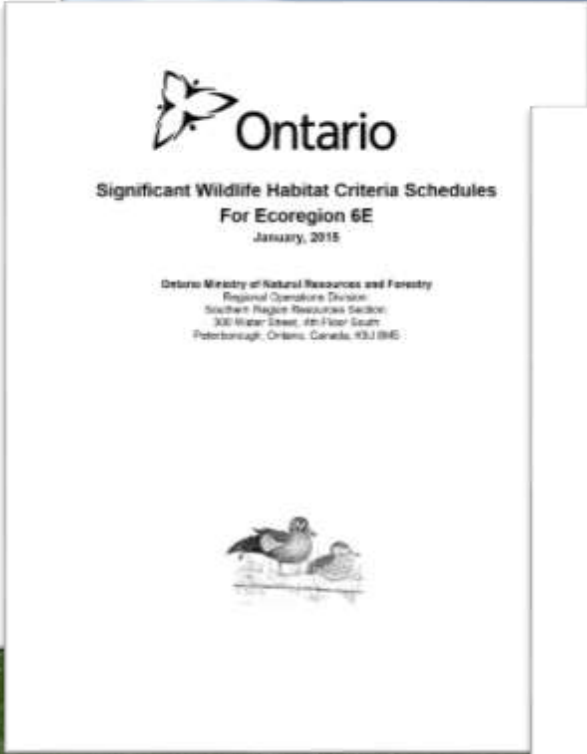
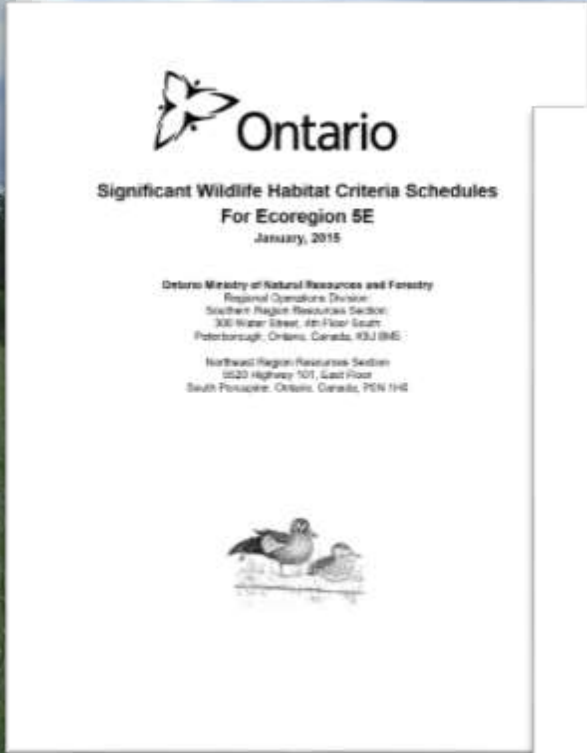
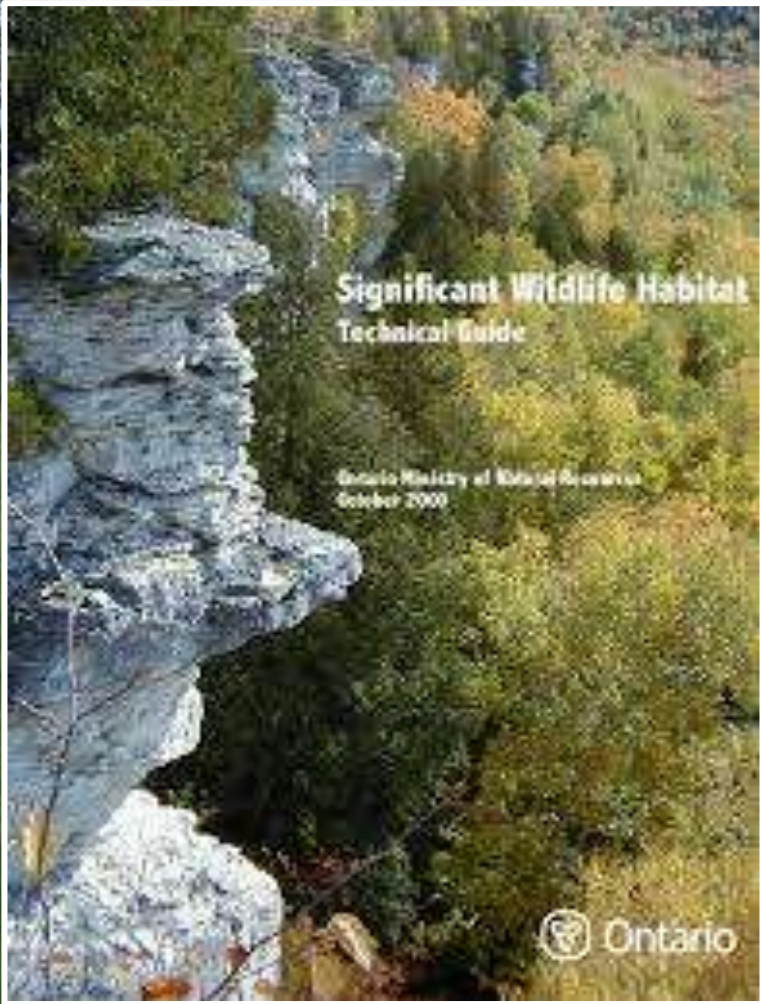
Provincial Policy Statement 2005, Policy 2.1

Wildlife habitat: means areas where plants, animals and other organisms live, and find adequate amounts of food, water, shelter and space needed to sustain their populations. Specific wildlife habitats of concern may include areas where species concentrate at a vulnerable point in their annual or life cycle; and areas which are important to migratory or non-migratory species.

Significant: means ... d) in regard to other features and areas in policy 2.1, ecologically important in terms of features, functions, representation or amount, and contributing to the quality and diversity of an identifiable geographic area or natural heritage system;

Provincial Policy Statement 2005, Section 6.0 Definitions

Policy and Guidance



Significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide- Application of Guidelines to Environmental Impact Statements



Northern Ontario vs. Southern Ontario



Screening for Significant Wildlife Habitat

Step 1:

Screen based on location and habitat present based on air photos.

- Habitats with specific location criteria (i.e. located within 5 km of Lake Ontario)
- Habitat with specific size criteria (i.e. woodland habitat greater than 30 ha in size, or with interior habitat)
- Habitats specifically identified by MNRF (i.e., Bat Hibernacula, Deer Wintering Areas, Movement Corridors)

Step 2:

Ecological Land Classification and site reconnaissance to determine which SWH types it could be based on the guidance documents.

- Confirm if ELC codes match those identified for each of the screened in habitats (i.e., requires SWD, but only have FOD)

Step 3:

Species studies to confirm.

- Breeding Bird Surveys, Amphibian Breeding Surveys, Turtle Basking Surveys etc. to determine if species criteria are met (either species present, or number of individuals)

Ottawa Area- Eco-Region 6E



- Bat Maternity Colony
- Colonially-Nesting Bird Breeding Habitat (Tree/Shrub)
- Old Growth Forest
- Seeps and Springs
- Amphibian Breeding Habitat (Woodland)
- Special Concern and Rare Wildlife Species

Ottawa Area- Eco-Region 6E



- ~~Bat Maternity Colony~~
- ~~Colonially Nesting Bird Breeding Habitat (Tree/Shrub)~~
- ~~Old Growth Forest~~
- ~~Seeps and Springs~~

Candidate:

- Amphibian Breeding Habitat (Woodland)
- Special Concern and Rare Wildlife Species

• = No SWH Present

Peel Region- Eco-region 6E

- Bat maternity colonies;
- Raptor wintering areas;
- Turtle wintering areas;
- Colonially- nesting bird breeding habitat (trees/shrubs);
- Old growth forest;
- Waterfowl nesting;
- Bald Eagle and Osprey nesting, foraging, and perching habitat;
- Woodland Raptor nesting habitat;
- Amphibian breeding habitat (woodlands);
- Seeps and springs;
- Woodland-area sensitive bird breeding habitat;
- Special concern and rare wildlife species; and,
- Amphibian movement corridors.



PROJECT EXAMPLE 2

PROJECT LOCATION FIGURE 1

- Study Area
- Road
- Stream
- Waterbody
- Woodland

0 50 100 150 METRES
SCALE 1:5,000



MAP DRAWING INFORMATION:
DATA PROVIDED BY MNM

Peel Region- Eco-region 6E

- ~~Colonially nesting bird breeding habitat (trees/shrubs); (no evidence)~~
- ~~Old growth forest; (criteria not met)~~
- ~~Bald Eagle and Osprey nesting, foraging, and perching habitat; (no evidence)~~
- ~~Woodland Raptor nesting habitat; (no evidence)~~
- ~~Seeps and springs; (no evidence)~~

Candidate:

- **Bat Maternity Colony**
- **Raptor wintering areas;**
- **Turtle wintering areas;**
- **Waterfowl nesting;**
- **Amphibian Breeding Habitat (Woodland);**
- **Woodland-area sensitive bird breeding habitat;**
- **Amphibian movement corridors; and,**
- **Habitat for Special Concern and Rare Wildlife Species.**

Peel Region- Eco-region 6E

- Raptor wintering areas;
- Turtle wintering areas;
- Colonially nesting bird breeding habitat (trees/shrubs);
- Old growth forest;
- Waterfowl nesting;
- Bald Eagle and Osprey nesting, foraging, and perching habitat;
- Woodland Raptor nesting habitat;
- Amphibian breeding habitat (wetlands);
- Seeps and springs;
- Woodland area sensitive bird breeding habitat; and,
- Amphibian movement corridors.

Candidate:

- Bat Maternity Colony

Confirmed:

- Amphibian Breeding Habitat (Woodland); and,
- Habitat for Special Concern and Rare Wildlife Species.



PROJECT EXAMPLE 2

SIGNIFICANT WILDLIFE HABITAT FIGURE 3

- Study Area
- Significant Valleyland
- Unevaluated Wetland
- Provincially Significant Wetland
- Waterbody
- Significant Woodland
- Candidate Significant Wildlife Habitat for Bat Maternity Colonies
- Significant Wildlife Habitat for Amphibian Breeding Habitat (Woodlands)
- Significant Wildlife for Special Concern and Rare Wildlife Species
 - Eastern Wood-pewee
 - Golden-winged Warbler

SCALE 1:4000



SAMP DRAWING INFORMATION

Essex County- Eco-region 7E



- Other Rare Vegetation Communities
- Seeps and Springs
- Amphibian Breeding Habitat (Woodland)
- Terrestrial Crayfish Habitat
- Special Concern and Rare Wildlife Species

Essex County- Eco-region 7E



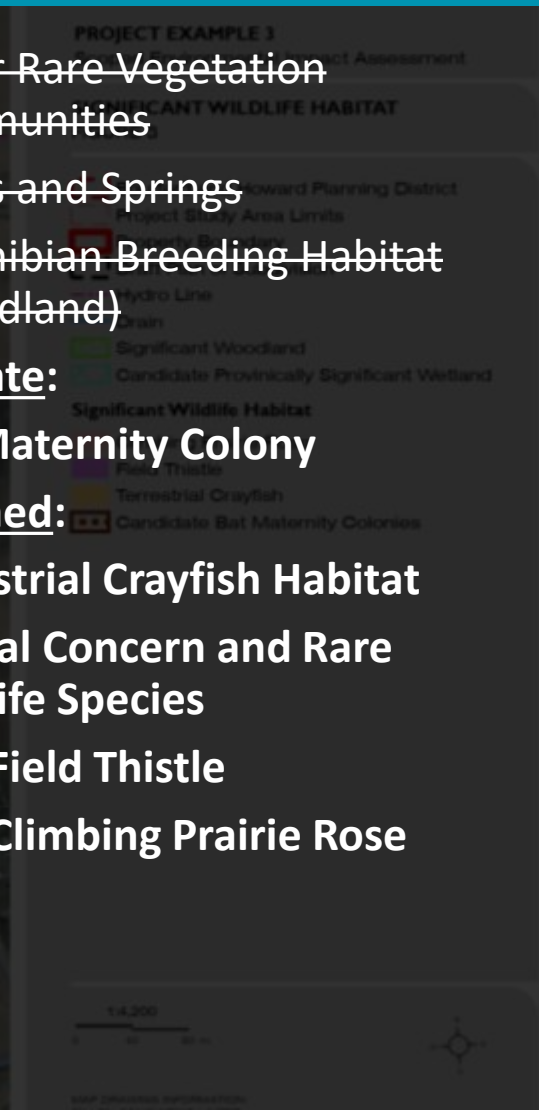
- ~~Other Rare Vegetation Communities~~
- ~~Seeps and Springs~~
- ~~Amphibian Breeding Habitat (Woodland)~~

Candidate:

- **Bat Maternity Colony**

Confirmed:

- **Terrestrial Crayfish Habitat**
- **Special Concern and Rare Wildlife Species**
 - **Field Thistle**
 - **Climbing Prairie Rose**



Once SWH is confirmed...

- Map and identify buffers (if any) based on Official Plans, Provincial Plans, CA guidance etc.
- Provide an impact analysis and provide recommended mitigation measures to address

The cover of a document titled "Protocol for Wildlife Protection during Construction". At the top left is the "Ottawa" logo. At the top right is the "PLANNING AND BUDGET MANAGEMENT URBANISME ET DÉVELOPPEMENT LOCAL" logo. The title is prominently displayed in the center. Below the title are three photographs: a bird on a nest, a young bird in a nest, and a beaver. At the bottom left, it says "August 2015". At the bottom right, it provides the website "ottawa.ca", the phone number "3-1-1", and the TTY number "613-580-2401".

Ottawa

PLANNING AND BUDGET MANAGEMENT
URBANISME ET DÉVELOPPEMENT LOCAL

Protocol for
Wildlife Protection
during Construction

ottawa.ca
3-1-1
TTY 613-580-2401

August 2015

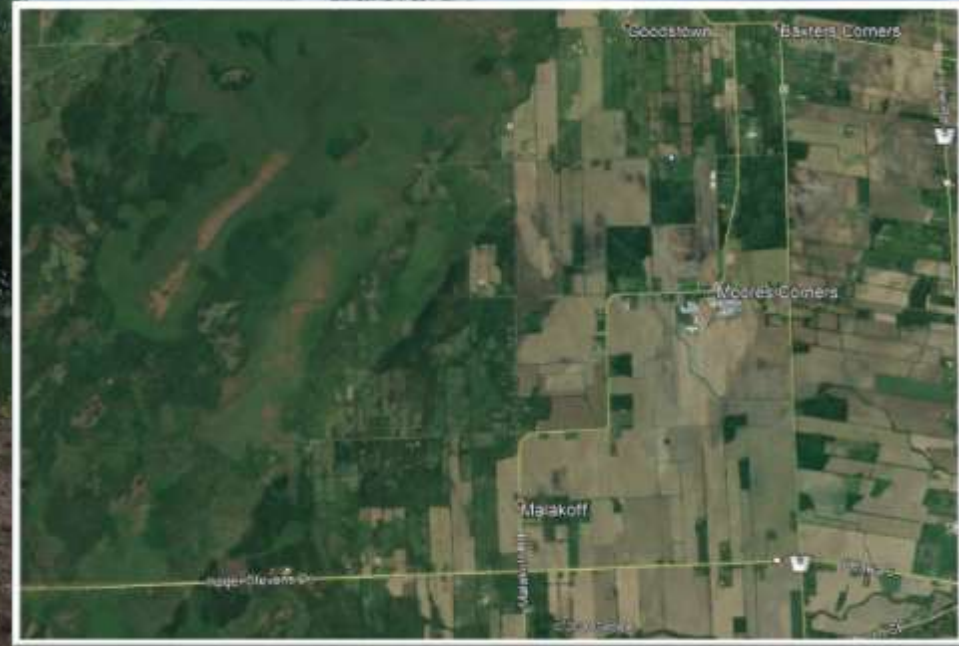
Issues- Standard Mitigation and Compensation

- No standardized methods to deal with across the province
- No guidance on compensation- standard mitigation strategies
 - Approved compensation protocols largely focused on Woodlands and Wetlands E.g. LSRCA EOP and TRCA CP
- Typically lumped together with woodland and wetland (covered by standard BMPs and mitigation during construction practices)
- Impacts and mitigation to specific SWH types, not considered or well understood



Issues- Inconsistency in Application

- Guidelines not always applied consistently
- Meant to be the **most significant** habitats within a regional area (Eco-region)
- This is why categories have specific indicator species listed with associated criteria.
Ex. Monarch, Snapping Turtle
- Judgement can also come into play when there are factors not accounted for in the guidelines!



Discussion

