



Maine Essential and Significant Wildlife Habitats

Essential Wildlife Habitats – Are protected under the Maine Endangered Species Act (MESA), which is regulated by the Maine Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife (MDIFW). If an NRCS practice is identified as potentially having an adverse impact on an essential wildlife habitat, NRCS' client would have to obtain any necessary permits from the MDIFW prior to implementing the practice(s). To date, Essential Wildlife Habitat has been designated under MESA and mapped for the following species:

- Piping Plover
- Least Tern
- Roseate Tern
- Bald Eagle Nests

Significant Wildlife Habitats – Are protected under the Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA), which is regulated by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC). Maine DEP and LURC rely on input from MDIFW biologists for recommendations regarding impacts to significant habitats; hence, NRCS consults directly with the MDIFW on practice effects to the habitats listed below. If an NRCS practice is identified as potentially having an adverse impact on a significant wildlife habitat, NRCS' client would have to obtain any necessary permits from the DEP or LURC, as appropriate, prior to implementing the practice(s). To date, Significant Wildlife Habitat has been identified for:

- Habitat for Threatened and Endangered Species
- High and Moderate Value Deer Wintering Areas and Travel Corridors
- High and Moderate Value Inland Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat
- Shorebird Nesting, Feeding and Staging Areas
- Seabird Nesting Islands
- Significant Vernal Pools
- Nursery and Rearing Habitat for Atlantic Salmon