

Chapter 10: SIGNIFICANT WILDLIFE HABITAT

10.01 Scope of Rules

These rules are applicable only to "significant wildlife habitat" as described in 38 M.R.S.A. §480-B (10) and are adopted pursuant to the law that these habitats be defined by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and protected by the Department of Environmental Protection.

10.02 Definitions

When used to define and map significant wildlife habitat, the following words and terms will have the following meanings:

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1. **Habitat for species appearing on the official state or federal lists of endangered and threatened species.** The Department reserves this subsection for future definition.
 2. **High and moderate value deer wintering area.** An area used by deer when snow depth exceeds 12 inches in the open and hardwoods, deer sinking depth exceeds 8 inches in the open and hardwoods, and mean daily temperature is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, provided that:
 - a. Using Department Deer Wintering Area and Travel Corridor procedure dated 12/22/93, deer use is documented during a minimum of two years in the most recent 10 year period at the time of designation, with one being a ground survey;
 - b. Using Department Deer Wintering Area and Travel Corridor mapping criteria dated 12/22/93, the area excludes nonforested wetlands, agriculture, development, clearcuts, hardwood forest types, and forest stands dominated by Eastern larch; and
 - c. Using the Department Deer Wintering Area and Travel Corridor rating procedure dated 12/22/93, the area through a combination of intensity of deer use, quality of softwood shelter, and area size is rated high or moderate.
 3. **High and moderate value travel corridors.** The Department reserves this subsection for future definition.
 4. **High and moderate value waterfowl and wading bird habitats.** Waterfowl are members of the family Anatidae including but not limited to brant, wild ducks, geese, and swans. Wading birds include but are not limited to herons, glossy ibis, bitterns, rails, coots, common moorhens, and sandhill cranes. A high and moderate value waterfowl and wading bird habitat means one of the following:
 - a. **Inland habitat identification criteria.** A high to moderate value inland habitat is an inland wetland complex, and a 250 foot wide zone surrounding the wetland complex, that through combination of dominant wetland type, wetland diversity,