



Photo: Bryan Pfeiffer

## MAINE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE



### Forest Management Recommendations for the Citrine Forktail Damselfly

#### **Background**

Damselflies and dragonflies (Order: Odonata) are a diverse and ecologically important group of insects in Maine. The Citrine Forktail (*Ishnura hastata*) is a rare damselfly listed as state Special Concern because of its narrow coastal distribution and low number of populations. The breeding habitat of the Citrine Forktail includes peatlands, marshy ponds, vernal pools, and saltmarshes.

This damselfly is small and flies low in emergent and shoreline vegetation where it is easily overlooked. Adults likely emerge in July in Maine and may be active through September. Adults forage on small insects (gnats, mosquitoes, etc.) and may be active within riparian vegetation.

#### **Management Recommendations**

Many of Maine's wildlife species require or make use of intact riparian forest habitat. MDIFW recommends the following practices, adapted from *Threatened and Endangered Species in Forests of Maine: A Guide to Assist with Forestry Activities* (1999), for the Citrine Forktail to protect water quality for larvae and riparian vegetation for adults:

1. **Extent:** Maintain a 250-foot wide forested riparian management zone around wetlands hosting documented populations and a 100-foot wide tributary management zone along perennial inlet and outlet streams associated with the wetlands
2. **Activity within the Riparian Management Zone (0 to 250 feet):**
  - Avoid harvest activity or disturbance within 100 feet of the wetland margin
  - Beyond 100 feet, maintain 60-70% mature canopy cover in an evenly distributed stand
  - Harvest only during dry or frozen ground conditions
  - Avoid or minimize the construction of permanent roads or openings
  - Avoid the use of herbicides and insecticides
3. **Activity within the Tributary Management Zone (0 to 100 feet):**
  - Avoid harvest activity or disturbance within 50 feet of all perennial streams that drain into or out of the primary wetland
  - Beyond 50 feet, maintain 60-70% mature canopy cover in an evenly distributed stand
  - Harvest only during dry or frozen ground conditions
  - Use Maine Forest Service BMPs for stream culverts and road crossings
  - Minimize potential runoff or drift impacts to streams from herbicides or pesticides