
JACKSON ENVIRONMENTAL, LLC

- Environmental and Soil Consultants -

289 High Road, Kensington, Connecticut 06037

Phone and Fax: 860-224-4063

March 6, 2020

Mr. Frank C. Magnotta, P.E. PC
Consulting Engineer
395 Main Street
Portland, CT 06480

Re: Eastern Box Turtle Protection
Proposed and Alternate Driveway Access Crossings
11 Cone Road, East Hampton, Connecticut
Jackson Environmental Project No. 19-16

Dear Mr. Magnotta;

The February 18, 2020 letter from CT DEEP, regarding NDDB Determination Number: 202001416, identified the Eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*) as a State-listed species of concern.

Habitat for the Eastern Box Turtle

The Eastern Box Turtle is prevalent throughout the low-lying portions of Connecticut. The turtles prefer old early-successional habitats, (e.g. weedy areas, grasslands, old fields or pastures, shrub thickets), and deciduous forest. The 11 Cone Road property contains favorable habitat for the Eastern Box Turtle, particularly within the historically clear-cut areas, and adjacent deciduous forest, located immediately west of the north-to-south flowing continuous watercourse. The watercourse and associated wetlands are important to the turtles for hydration and cooling.

Generally, Eastern Box Turtles use early-successional habits during months with moderate temperatures; and forest habitats are important during the heat of summer and for hibernation.¹ The turtles generally hibernate from October to April. The optimal time period to conduct field surveys for the box turtle is April through June.

¹ Erb, Lori. 2011 Eastern Box Turtle Conservation Plan for Massachusetts. Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581

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Protection Strategies for the Eastern Box Turtle During Construction

Following are some protection strategies developed by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEEP)² that may be incorporated into the proposed sequence of construction.

- Site Work should be limited to the period between April 1st and September 30th when turtles are active.
- Silt fencing should be installed around the work area prior to construction. Where possible, avoid installing sedimentation and erosion control materials from: late-August through September; and, March through mid-May. These are the two time periods when amphibians and reptiles are most active, moving to and from wetlands to breed. (*Note: erosion control products that are embedded with plastic netting should be avoided.*)
- After silt fencing installation, and prior to construction, a sweep of the project area should be conducted to look for turtles.
- Site construction personnel should be informed of the possible presence of turtles and provided a description of the species.
- Any turtles that are discovered should be moved, unharmed, to an area immediately outside of the silt fencing, and in a position in the same direction that it was walking.
- Stockpiles of soil should be cordoned off with silt fencing so turtles do not attempt to try and nest in them.
- No vehicles or heavy machinery should be parked in any potential turtle habitat.
- Work conducted during the early morning and evening hours should occur with special care not to harm basking or foraging individuals.
- All silt fencing should be removed as soon as site work is completed, and soils are stable so that reptile and amphibian movement between uplands and wetlands is not restricted.

Please contact me at (860) 213-3152 with any questions or comments regarding this information.

Sincerely,

JACKSON ENVIRONMENTAL, LLC



William A. Jackson, R.S., L.E.P.
Registered Soil Scientist

² McKay, D. CT DEEP Recommended Protection Strategies for Turtles