

VERMONT NATURAL COMMUNITY SURVEY FORM
Nongame and Natural Heritage Program
Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

rev. Apr. 2009

Survey Site: _____ Is this an update? EO# (if known): _____

Community Type: _____

(For vernal pools, please use the Vernal Pool Survey Form on our website)

Community Variant Name (if applicable): _____

Association Name (NVC type) (office): _____

Surveyor(s): _____

Mailing address (phone, email): _____

Survey Date(s): _____ Town: _____ County: _____

Unusual data sensitivity issues? If so, explain: _____

<u>LANDOWNER(S) / CONTACT(S)</u> (Name, Telephone, Address, Email—if not in a Site Summary Form)	Permission?
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

GENERAL DESCRIPTION of SITE

Describe *Site* and its range and variability (give a word picture of natural and man-made features, including: topography, exposure, elevation, community types, geologic substrata, woody debris abundance, evidence of disturbance, exotics, etc.):

NATURAL COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Describe *Natural Community* occurrence (include canopy cover, dominant species by stratum, soils, physical environment, & evidence of disturbance, woody debris abundance):

Aspect: _____ Slope (degrees): _____ Elevation (with units): minimum _____ maximum _____

Bedrock geologic type (Doll et al. 1961 or more recent):

Soil type or description (NRCS):

COMMUNITY OCCURRENCE RANKING: a range of ranks may be used (e.g. AB)

Using **VT NNHP ranking specifications** (if available)*: OR Using **Generic ranking specifications** (provided below):

	Rank:	Comments:
Current Condition:		
Landscape Context:		
Size:		Community size (acres) and how determined:
Overall Rank:		

* Available for some natural communities at www.vtfishandwildlife.com/wildlife_nongame.cfm. Use to fill in the grid above.

Generic ranking specifications:

Use the following guidelines to fill in the grid above if VT NNHP Natural Community ranking specifications are unavailable

Current Condition:

- A:** mature example of the community type (forests with trees generally >150 years old); natural processes intact; no exotics
- B:** some minor alteration of vegetation structure and composition, such as by selective logging; minor alterations in ecological processes; exotics species present in low abundance
- C:** significant alteration of vegetation structure and composition, such as by heavy logging; alteration of ecological processes are significant, but community recovery/restoration is likely; exotic species are abundant and control will take significant effort
- D:** ecological processes significantly altered to the point where vegetation composition and structure are very different from A-ranked condition and restoration/recovery is unlikely; exotic species are abundant or control will be difficult

Landscape Context:

- A:** highly connected; area around EO (>1,000acres) is largely intact natural vegetation, with species interactions and natural processes occurring across communities; surrounding matrix forest meets at least B specifications for Condition.
- B:** moderately connected; area around EO (>1,000acres) is moderately intact natural vegetation, with species interactions and some natural processes occurring across many communities, although temporary disturbances such as logging have reduced condition of the landscape; surrounding matrix forest meets at least C specifications for Condition
- C:** moderately fragmented; area around EO is largely a combination of cultural and natural vegetation with barriers to species interactions and natural processes across communities; surrounding land is a mix of fragmented forest, agriculture, and rural development
- D:** highly fragmented; area around EO is entirely, or almost entirely, surrounded by agriculture or urban development

Size:

No Generic ranking applicable. Please provide size of community in grid above.

Overall Rank (based on best judgment):

- A:** excellent estimated viability
- B:** good estimated viability
- C:** fair estimated viability
- D:** poor estimated viability

MANAGEMENT/PROTECTION RECOMMENDATIONS for NATURAL COMMUNITY

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Plot form(s) attached. Plot Code: _____
- Animal list attached
- Plant list attached (in addition to plot forms)
- Map of route taken and observation points—or include with Natural Community map.
- Photographs

Comments that do not fit in another field:

MAPPING

Attach a digital or paper map of the natural community boundary mapped as polygons (required):

Shapefile attached (encouraged): File must be NAD83 State Plane: File name: _____

Estimated % of mapped polygon occupied by this community: >95% ; 80-95% ; 20-80% ; 0-20% ; Unknown

Explain if <95%: _____

Base Map Used to delineate occurrence:	Confident that full extent is known: <input type="checkbox"/>
1:24,000 USGS Quad: <input type="checkbox"/>	Uncertain if full extent is known: <input type="checkbox"/>
1:25,000 USGS Quad: <input type="checkbox"/>	Confident that full extent is <i>not</i> known: <input type="checkbox"/>
1:5000 Ortho Photo: <input type="checkbox"/>	Additional inventory needed? <input type="checkbox"/> If so, explain:
Other: <input type="checkbox"/> Specify: _____	
GPS: <input type="checkbox"/> Accuracy: _____	

Please send completed forms to Eric Sorenson: Eric.Sorenson [at] state.vt.us / Nongame & Natural Heritage Program, Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept., 103 South Main Street, Building 10 South, Waterbury, VT 05671-0501 / (802)-241-3714