

Has your property been proposed to be removed from the Draft Future Sewer Service Area (SSA) because it is in Threatened and Endangered Species habitat as mapped on the New Jersey Landscape Project Maps, and/or a Natural Heritage Priority Site?

The New Jersey Endangered Species Conservation Act (1973) directed the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to protect, manage and restore the state's endangered and threatened species. There are currently 73 endangered and threatened wildlife species in New Jersey. Wildlife professionals within DEP's Endangered and Nongame Species Program have developed the Landscape Project to identify and systemically map the habitat most critical for New Jersey's fish and wildlife populations. The Landscape Project ranks habitat patches by the status of the species present, as follows:

- Rank 5 is assigned to patches containing one or more occurrences of at least one wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened on the Federal list of endangered and threatened species.
- Rank 4 is assigned to patches with one or more occurrences of at least one State endangered species.
- Rank 3 is assigned to patches containing one or more occurrences of at least one State threatened species.

Through its Natural Heritage Database, the DEP Office of Natural Lands Management (ONLM) identifies critically important areas to conserve New Jersey's biological diversity, with particular emphasis on rare plant species and ecological communities. Using the database, ONLM has identified 343 Natural Heritage Priority Sites (NHPS), representing some of the best remaining habitat for State and globally rare species and ecological communities.

If your property is proposed to be removed due to potential habitat impacts, and you wish to have it put back into the SSA, here's what you must do:

- 1.) Find out the specific species habitat of Rank 3, 4 or 5 which has been identified on your property. If you have GIS capabilities, you may look up this information on DEP's GIS website at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/gis/listall.html>, and click on "Landscape Project Data".
If you don't have GIS capabilities, you may look up this information on "NJ-Geo-Web/i-MapNJ" from the DEP's website at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/gis/newmapping.htm>.
You may also call the Morris County Department of Planning and Development at (973) 829-8120 to speak with Virginia Michelin, who can assist you in obtaining this information. You may also call the DEP's Division of Land Use Management, Office of Land Use Planning at (609) 292-3225 to speak with Jennifer Feltis Cortese who can assist you.
- 2.) Follow all the instructions for completing a Habitat Suitability Determination (HSD) application to obtain a HSD pursuant to the Water Quality Management Planning Rule at N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.26, a copy of which is available at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/watershedmgt/rules.htm>. The complete HSD application must address the potential suitable habitat on your property for all identified threatened or endangered species. Note: A qualified environmental professional or biologist must prepare the HSD application and conduct any necessary on-site evaluations.

- 3.) Submit your complete HSD application along with the Draft Wastewater Service Area Mapping Correction Request Form to BOTH addresses below.

NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Land Use Management
Office of Land Use Planning
401 East State Street
P.O. Box 420
Mail Code 401-04H
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420
ATTN: Jennifer Feltis Cortese

Morris County Department of Planning
and Development
30 Schuyler Place
PO Box 900
Morristown, NJ 07963-0900
ATTN: Virginia Michelin

If your property is proposed to be removed because it is mapped in a Natural Heritage Priority Site, and you wish to have it put back into the SSA, here's what you must do:

- 1.) Find out the specific Natural Heritage Priority Site within which your property has been identified. If you have GIS capabilities, you may look up this information on DEP's GIS website at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/gis/listall.html>, and select "Natural Heritage Priority Sites".

If you don't have GIS capabilities, you may look up this information on "NJ-Geo-Web/i-MapNJ" from the DEP's website at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/gis/newmapping.htm>.

You may also call the Morris County Planning Office at (973) 829-8120 to speak with Virginia Michelin, who can assist you in obtaining this information. You may also call the DEP's Division of Land Use Management, Office of Land Use Planning at (609) 292-3223 to speak with Jennifer Feltis Cortese who can assist you.

- 2.) Submit your information to BOTH addresses in #3 above.
- 3.) ONLM biologists will review your property to determine if its inclusion in sewer service area will adversely impact the habitat for State and globally rare species and ecological communities within the Natural Heritage Priority Site.