Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

Please submit field forms, a copy of a USGS map, and all supporting documentation to the State Botanist at:

Massachusetts Natural Heritage
and Endangered Species Program
Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
Route 135
Westborough, MA 01581
(508) 792-7270 ext. 200

RARE PLANT OBSERVATION FORM

Species Scientific Name: Equisetum variegatum

NHESP Element Occurrence Number (if known):

Observation Date(s): 25 August 1998

USGS Quad Name and Series (7.5"x7.5" or 7.5"x15"): Pittsfield East (1:25,000)

County: Berkshire Town: Pittsfield

Directions to location of observations (please attach USGS map): Utility drive, Pass under RR bridge and Park at yellow gate on left (before entering Wastewater treatment facility straight ahead) walk along gravel road into gravel pit, and pass over small rise to find 2 pools (one on each side of the road). At the west shore of the left hand (north) pool.

Habitat: (Describe plant communities, associated vegetation, physical characteristics, geological features and surrounding land use. Are other rare species present?) Population is found in a gravel pit on a bank and extends downslope into small pool. Part of the population is inundated during periods of high water. Substrate is sand. Growing with Lythrum Salicaria, Cornus Amomum, and Euthamia graminifolia. Area is used by Motocross motorcyclists.

Areal Distribution, Numbers, Phenology

Population found: yes
not found:
Presumed extirpated:
(give reasons under "Comments")

No. of mature plants: >1000
No. of immature plants:
No. of plants age unknown:

Population area: 14 X 9 meters

Percent of population in leaf: 50 (vegetative) bud: flower:
with immature fruit: mature fruit: 50 senescent:

Observations of floral visitors, fruit dispersers: Not applicable

Vigor of individuals and population: Apparently healthy

Evidence of expansion or decline: none observed

Have you observed this species at this site in previous years? Please give details: NO

Site Physiography

Elevation: 300 M

Topographic position	Aspect	Slope	Light	Moisture
crest ____	N ___	0-20 X	open ___	inundated *
upper slope ____	E X	20-45 ___	filtered ___	wet *
mid slope ____	S ___	45-75 ___	shade ___	mesic *
lower slope X	W ___	vert. ___		dry X
bottom X	Flat ___			xeric ___

→ Depending on time of year and location of plants.

Soil types: Fine to Coarse Sand

Surficial rock types (with percent of ground covered): ____

Bedrock/parent material: ____

Surficial water (distance away): 0 meters Source: Small Pool

Management / Ownership

NHESP Site Name (if any): ____ Managed Area: ____

Comments/Management recommendations: ____

Disturbance or threats (natural or unnatural) to population: ____

Owner's Name: ____ Telephone: (___) ____

Address: ____

Owner Comments: ____

Observer Information

Observer's Name: Arthur Haines Telephone: (207) 729-1199

Address: Woodlot Alternatives, Inc. 122 Main Street, Number 3 Topsham, ME 04086

Plant ID by: Arthur Haines

Specimen # & Herbarium: Will be deposited at the Harvard Herbarium

Element Occurrence (EO) Summary (Circle one choice in each category)

EO Quality: (How representative is this occurrence? Consider the size and productivity of the population and the vitality and vigor of the individuals.)

(A) - Excellent B - Good C - Marginal D - Poor

Comments: ____

EO Condition: (Is the habitat supporting the EO pristine or degraded? Is there a potential for the habitat to recover from disturbances? A - Excellent B - Good (C) - Marginal D - Poor

Comments: Though community is degraded, E. variegatum commonly occurs in habitats like these roadside ditches, etc.

EO Viability: (What are the long-term prospects for continued existence of this occurrence at the indicated level of quality?) A - Excellent (B) - Good C - Marginal D - Poor

Comments: ____

EO Defensibility: (Can this occurrence be protected from extrinsic human factors?) A - Excellent B - Good (C) Marginal D - Poor

Comments: Further mining activity or ditching to drain water level would affect population; not likely to be trampled or driven over due to location

EO RANK: (A summary of all factors listed above.) A - Excellent (B) - Good C - Marginal D - Poor

Comments: ____

Signature: Arthur Haines Date: 5 November 1998

Equisetum variegatum
HRVSWMA
Morewood Lake
Hells Sch
Court Hill
Sackett
Gravel Pit
Sackett Brook Park
East Part Cem
Substa
Sykes Brook
RIVER
Gravel Pit
HOUSATONIC RIVER VALLEY STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
Sewage Treatment Plant
Ashley Reservoir
Sykes Mountain
Substation
CORPORATE BOUNDARY
HOUSATONIC RIVER VALLEY STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
St Helena Chapel
New Lenox
New Lenox Cem
Mill Brook Reservoir
Mill Brook
HOUSATONIC
LENOX
Sew Disp
Dewey Hill
Farnham Reservoir
Roaring Brook
OCTOBER MOUNTAIN STATE FOREST
HOUSATONIC RIVER VALLEY STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
Yokun Brook
25'
510 000 FEET
42° 22' 30"
73° 15'
130 000 FEET