



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
 BUREAU OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT
 WATER OBSTRUCTION AND ENCROACHMENT

Request for a Bog Turtle Habitat Screening
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers / Department of Environmental Protection
State Programmatic General Permit / Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permits

Federal/State Screening Process for Bog Turtles (*Glyptemys muhlenbergii*) and/or their habitat in Adams, Berks, Bucks, Carbon (Aquashicola Creek Watershed only), Chester, Cumberland, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Schuylkill (Swatara Creek Watershed only), and York Counties.

In 1974 the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, under Section 2305 of the Fish and Boat Code, listed the bog turtle as an endangered species, and in 1997 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, listed the bog turtle as a threatened species. Poaching and loss of habitat are two primary reasons for the decline in turtle populations throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region.

The 4-inch bog turtle's preferred wetland habitat is spring seeps and open marshy meadows in the valleys of southcentral and eastern Pennsylvania. Here the water is slow moving and the earth is mucky. Mucky soils provide cover for the turtles in spring and summer. October through April, the turtles use the same mucky soils as a place to hibernate. Plants common to these wetland areas include cattails, rushes, jewelweed, skunk cabbage, sedges, and sphagnum moss.

In order to provide continued protection for the turtle and to minimize conflicts during project development and permitting, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and PA Department of Environmental Protection have developed a screening process to identify potential bog turtle habitat. Representatives of these agencies will provide on-site technical assistance to determine if proposed projects may impact wetlands which serve as bog turtle habitat.

This special screening process is only required for those activities which will impact wetlands in the counties or watersheds listed above. If your proposed activity does not impact wetlands in these counties, you may proceed with the registration of the general permit without this screening process.

INSTRUCTIONS

If your proposed project includes a **wetland impact** in one of the fifteen counties listed above, follow the steps below.

1. Complete the attached form to provide driving directions, a project description, and a sketch or a plan detailing the proposed project. In addition, include a copy of a USGS quadrangle showing your project location, the agencies will be able to conduct a threatened and endangered species review for your project prior to the site visit which may also expedite your permit registration process. Submit this information with your Chapter 105 General Permit (GP) registration form to request a field view to screen for potential bog turtle habitat.
2. The agency representative will contact you to schedule an on-site assessment of the wetlands for bog turtle habitat. They will complete the Phase I bog turtle habitat screening form, sign it, and explain the results to you. You do not have to be present during the field view.
3. If it is determined that the project area (which includes the direct and indirect impact area) is potential bog turtle habitat, the agency representative will discuss your options with you. These may include moving the project to an alternate location, contacting a professional bog turtle surveyor, or consulting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Neither a state general permit nor a federal State Programmatic General Permit can be registered without the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service clearing the potential bog turtle conflict.

- 4. If you cannot avoid the impacts to bog turtle habitat, an Individual Chapter 105 and Section 404 Permit Application will be required for processing, public notice, and review. An application does not guarantee permit approval.
- 5. If you have any questions specific to this process, please contact the appropriate agency representative for your county.

PRIMARY CONTACT LIST BY COUNTY

Adams, Cumberland Counties

Debby Nizer
 U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
 Baltimore Dist., Regulatory Branch, PA Section
 P. O. Box 1715
 Baltimore, MD 21203-1715
 Phone: 410-962-6085
 Fax: 410-962-6024

Berks (Baltimore District), York Counties

Mike Danko
 U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
 Carlisle Regulatory Field Office
 401 Louthier Street, Suite 205
 Carlisle, PA 17013
 Phone: 717-249-8730
 Fax: 717-240-0523

Berks (Philadelphia District), Bucks, Chester (Philadelphia District), Delaware, Montgomery Counties

Bill Jenkins, Chief, Applications Section
 U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
 Philadelphia Dist., Regulatory Branch
 Wanamaker Building
 100 Penn Square East
 Philadelphia, PA 19107-3390
 Phone: 215-656-6726
 Fax: 215-656-6724

Chester (Baltimore District), Lancaster, Lebanon Counties

Pat Strong
 U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
 Baltimore Dist., Regulatory Branch, PA Section
 P. O. Box 1715
 Baltimore, MD 21203-1715
 Phone: 410-962-1847
 Fax: 410-962-6024

Carbon (Aquashicola Creek Watershed only), Lehigh, Northampton, Schuylkill (Swatara Creek Watershed only) Counties

Bonnie Dershem
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 315 South Allen St., Suite 322
 State College, PA 16801
 Phone: 814-234-4090, ext. 234
 Fax: 814-234-0748

Monroe County

Victor Motts
 Monroe County Conservation District
 8050 Running Valley Road
 Stroudsburg, PA 18360-8841
 Phone: 570-629-3060
 Fax: 570-629-3063

If you have more general questions or need information on permitting, please contact the appropriate DEP Regional Office listed below.

**DEP
 Northeast Regional Office**
 2 Public Square
 Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711-0790
 570-826-2511

**DEP
 Southcentral Regional Office**
 909 Elmerton Avenue, Second Floor
 Harrisburg, PA 17110
 717-705-4800

**DEP
 Southeast Regional Office**
 2 East Main Street
 Norristown, PA 19401
 484-250-5970

Carbon (Aquashicola Creek Watershed only), Lehigh, Monroe, and Northampton, and Schuylkill (Swatara Creek Watershed only) Counties

Adams, Berks, Cumberland, Lancaster, Lebanon, and York Counties

Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties

SPECIAL BOG TURTLE HABITAT SCREENING

U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS / DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
STATE PROGRAMMATIC GENERAL PERMIT / WATER OBSTRUCTION AND ENCROACHMENT PERMITS

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant Name _____
Mailing Address _____ Telephone (____) _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP+4 _____
Email Address _____

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Name _____
County _____ Municipality _____
Latitude _____ Longitude _____
Which general permit(s) are you planning to register?
GP-5 GP-6 GP-7 GP-8 GP-9 GP-11 GP-15

Detailed Written Directions to Project _____

Briefly Describe Your Project (including proposed impacts to waters and/or wetlands) _____

SIGNATURE

I hereby grant permission for representatives of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers or other authorized screening representative to inspect the project site as necessary in order to perform the requested habitat determination.

Signature Date

On the reverse side of this page, prepare a sketch showing your project, the wetlands, and all proposed impacts.

Applicant Name

BOG TURTLE HABITAT - SKETCH PLAN

To ensure the sketch plan is complete, include the following on the site plan in the immediate vicinity of the project.
(√ all that apply)

YES	N/A		YES	N/A	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stream Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Limits of Earth Disturbance Associated with this Activity
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stream Limits and Flow Direction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Location of Property Lines Relative to the Project
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floodway Limits (if known)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Existing Buildings, Roadways, Other Structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chapter 93 Stream Designation: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed Buildings, Roadways, Other Structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Waters Impacts with Dimensions Total Length _____ Total sq. ft. _____ # of impacts _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Existing Utilities
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wetland Impacts Total sq. ft. _____ # of impacts _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed Utilities
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wetland Acreage Onsite _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Waters on project site (i.e. pond, lakes)

Scale 1" = _____ ft.