

SECTION 1.10 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

In Article 1.10.03-Water Pollution Control: REQUIRED BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Add the following after Required Best Management Practice Number 13:

14. The Contractor is hereby notified that the State listed species of Special Concern wood turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*), is present within the Project limits. Wood turtles require riparian habitats bordered by floodplain, woodland, or meadows. Their summer habitat includes pastures, old fields, woodlands, power line cuts, and railroad beds bordering or adjacent to streams and rivers. Wood turtles spend most of their summer on land and can use areas up to 1500 feet from the streams/rivers where they overwinter. They hibernate submerged in tangled tree roots along river banks or in deep pools.

All construction activities taking place within the Project limits will need to be coordinated with the Office of Environmental Planning (OEP) through the Engineer. At least 10 days prior to the commencement of any construction activities, the Contractor shall, through the Engineer, arrange for a CT DOT Environmental Inspector from the OEP or their authorized delegate to meet and discuss proper protocol for maintaining environmental commitments made for the protection of this species and habitat. OEP will provide oversight through the Engineer to ensure that the following protocols are followed and maintained during the course of the Project.

During the wood turtle's dormant period (November 1 to March 31):

- Construction activities will be allowed in upland areas.
- Work is not allowed in wetland/watercourse areas unless these areas were in active construction prior to November 1, and additionally, do not contain any areas of turtle habitat (no stream edge vegetation, stumps, or roots).

For any work done during the wood turtle's active period (April 1 to October 31), the Department will require the following precautionary measures to protect the wood turtle and wood turtle habitat:

- a. All areas within the Project limits must be surveyed and cleared of any turtles immediately prior to the commencement of initial clearing and grubbing activities.
- b. All construction personnel working within wood turtle habitat must be apprised of the species description and the possible presence of this listed species.
- c. Exclusionary practices will be required in order to prevent any wood turtle access to construction areas. These measures will need to be installed at the limits of disturbance as shown on the plans.

- d. Exclusionary fencing shall be at least 20" tall and must be secured to and remain in contact with the ground. It shall be regularly inspected / maintained to prevent any gaps or openings at ground level. Standard silt fence is adequate; fencing with netting shall not be used.
- e. The Contractor must search the work area each morning for the presence of this listed species prior to any work being done.
- f. Any wood turtles encountered within the immediate work area shall be carefully moved to an adjacent area outside of the excluded area and the Engineer shall be immediately informed in order to contact OEP with the location.
- g. All staging and storage areas in the vicinity of turtle habitat, outside of previously paved locations, regardless of the duration of time they will be utilized, must be reviewed by and receive written approval from OEP through the Engineer.
- h. No heavy machinery or vehicles may be parked in any identified wood turtle habitat.
- i. When felling trees adjacent to watercourses, they shall be cut to fall away from the waterway and not dragged across the waterway. Stumps should be left in waterway banks where possible.
- j. Exclusionary fencing shall be removed when it is no longer needed, and silt fence shall be removed as soon as the area is stable to allow for reptile and amphibian passage to resume.

These practices will be applied to the entire project unless a sketch is attached, which identifies specific areas of concern.

This species is protected by State laws, which prohibit killing, harming, taking, or keeping them in your possession. Photographs and the laws protecting wood turtles shall be posted in the Contractor's and DOT field offices (species ID sheets will be provided by OEP).