

From: [Sperduto, Daniel - FS, NH](#)
To: [Lindsey White](#)
Cc: [Ashley Friend](#); [Faunce, Jasmin - FS, NH](#)
Subject: RE: [External Email]RE: Eversource B112 Transmission Line Botany Surveys
Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 4:32:11 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Lindsey – I think you will basically need to walk the entire corridor on the WMNF. Within the corridor, the areas to focus on most closely are those in closer proximity to access routes, impact areas around pole replacements/upgrades, where temporary matting will be used, or other potential ground disturbances, existing road crossings etc. The concern is invasive plants that are in or near disturbed areas or could spread into them from nearby.

A few other notes as follow-up to the documents I sent last week.

1. In the Excel sheet with non-native/invasive plants. The primary list of plants we are concerned about are highlighted yellow at the top of the worksheet entitled “WMNF Priority Sort”. These are either known invasives on the WMNF we track and treat, are Prohibited in NH or ME, or are Early Detection/Rapid Response species. Locational information/field form data on these species is desirable. One exception is reed canary grass, *Phalaris arundinacea*. While we would recommend avoidance strategies for spreading this species, it is widespread in the state in wet, disturbed areas along roads, fields, powerlines etc. Therefore, while good to quickly map patches as you go, you do not need to spend a lot of time collecting details at every location your botanists might encounter.
2. For these higher concern species you may want to flag them as you go to facilitate future avoidance or control activities.
3. For remainder species on the “WMNF Priority Sort” list that are not highlighted yellow, they are either unlikely to be encountered because they are not widespread or known from WMNF, or are lower concern species. As such a quick gps point and brief note on abundance would be good. We may or may not specify avoidance strategies depending on the species and location relative to disturbance.
4. I did not mention in previous email Small Whorled Pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*). This is federally listed Threatened species. While the chances of encountering it in a powerline ROW may seem remote, it does occur within a few miles of the project area, and it is known from within a powerline ROW in the state, surprisingly. As such, it will show up in the USFWS iPac website as potentially occurring in the area. So, in turn, I will need to indicate in my Biological Evaluation a determination of effects for this species, and indicate that we looked for it. For example, it could occur on more shaded edges (ie southern side/north-facing edge of ROW) that are mesic and not densely crowded with shrubs and herbaceous plant cover; if there are areas like this that are likely to be disturbed, please keep your eye out, so that I can say we looked in appropriate areas. It is very unlikely to occur in actual wetlands, seeps, or

completely open sunny, rocky or dry habitats, or those that are densely crowded. In other words >95% of corridor areas are probably going to be inappropriate habitat...yet we have weirdo occurrence in the state that defies the odds!

Based on other surveys on powerline ROW elsewhere on the WMNF and around the state, I expect that you will find some invasive species, but would be surprised if they were widespread and abundant. The biggest problems with invasives along powerlines occur in more developed or agricultural parts of the state. Thank you for your efforts to help us prevent the spread of invasive species.

Best, Dan



Dan Sperduto (he/him/his)

Botanist

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From: Lindsey White <Lindsey.White@gza.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 11:29 AM

To: Sperduto, Daniel - FS, NH <daniel.d.sperduto@usda.gov>

Cc: Ashley Friend <ashley.friend@eversource.com>; Faunce, Jasmin - FS, NH <jasmin.faunce@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: [External Email]RE: Eversource B112 Transmission Line Botany Surveys

Hi Dan,

Thank you very much for the information you provided. Are there specific areas within our project area you are looking for us to focus on for these surveys?

Thanks,

Lindsey E. White, CPSS

Project Manager

GZA | 5 Commerce Park North | Bedford, NH 03110

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From: Sperduto, Daniel - FS, NH <daniel.d.sperduto@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2023 11:22 AM
To: Lindsey White <Lindsey.White@gza.com>
Cc: Ashley Friend <ashley.friend@eversource.com>; Faunce, Jasmin - FS, NH <jasmin.faunce@usda.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: [External Email]RE: Eversource B112 Transmission Line Botany Surveys

Hello – I am on leave today, so can follow up next week as needed. But to help facilitate your planning, briefly, the main objective will be to survey for invasive plants (attached list...looking for anything on WMNF or NH or ME lists), collect coordinates/extent with GPS, and basic population information (attached form), and report back with prospects for avoidance and/or control prior to implementation. If you prefer to collect equivalent information electronically in another format (i.e. include it in a spreadsheet or GIS file), that is fine.

I am also attaching our list of Regional Forester Sensitive Species list...a few of these have potential to occur within powerline ROW. There is an alphabetical list, but see primarily the list of species by habitat in the second file. Those species with highest potential to occur under a powerline ROW are those under the “Swamps and open wetlands” and “Rocky Ridges and Sandplains”. The others are extremely unlikely to occur.

Based on the information you provide back...at my end, I will do the required Biological Evaluation, other NEPA documentation, and determine any final required or recommended actions for consideration by District Ranger prior to his decision (I think this is Saco Ranger District).

Thank you,

Best,

Dan



Dan Sperduto (he/him/his)
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From: Lindsey White <Lindsey.White@gza.com>
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2023 10:39 AM
To: Sperduto, Daniel - FS, NH <daniel.d.sperduto@usda.gov>
Cc: Ashley Friend <ashley.friend@eversource.com>; Faunce, Jasmin - FS, NH <jasmin.faunce@usda.gov>
Subject: [External Email]RE: Eversource B112 Transmission Line Botany Surveys

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Hi Dan,

Just following up on the email below to see if you have information you could provide us regarding the rare plant surveys?

Thanks!

Lindsey E. White, CPSS

Project Manager

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From: Lindsey White
Sent: Tuesday, May 2, 2023 8:36 AM
To: daniel.d.sperduto@usda.gov
Cc: Ashley Friend <ashley.friend@eversource.com>; jasmin.faunce@usda.gov
Subject: Eversource B112 Transmission Line Botany Surveys

Hi Dan,

Ashley Friend of Eversource Energy and I have been in contact with Jasmin Faunce regarding an upcoming Eversource Transmission Line Rebuild Project which crosses through approximately four miles of the White Mountain National Forest between Lower Hall Pond Road in Sandwich to Mount Israel Road in Sandwich.

Based on our conversations with Jasmin, we understand GZA is qualified to assist in conducting plant field surveys to support the NEPA permit approval process.

We are reaching out to confirm the plants we will need to survey, location of where you would like us to conduct these surveys, and any methodology requirements that need to be incorporated.

With the field season quickly approaching we want to try and nail down these details soon. We are happy to set up a meeting to discuss details with you.

Thank you!

Lindsey

Lindsey E. White, CPSS

Project Manager

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