



November 24, 2003
BYR 2003-098

Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
North Drive
Westborough, MA 01581

Re: Spring Salamander Rare Animal Form

To Whom It May Concern:

Please find enclosed a rare animal form for a recent spring salamander (*Gyrinophilus porphyriticus*) observation made in Rowe, Massachusetts. The form represents the observation of only one individual. That individual, however, was a late-stage larva, indicating successful breeding in the past several years.

The location of the observation was in the headwater reaches of Wheeler Brook, near the Vermont State Line. The portion of the brook it occurred in does not appear on the USGS topographic map but it has been hand drawn on the attached map and located with a portable GPS unit. Suitable habitat for the species exists throughout most of Wheeler Brook, though those areas nearer the Deerfield River become lower gradient and, consequently, have greater amounts of sand and gravel substrate.

Current land use in the area within Massachusetts is forestry and the adjacent land in Vermont is National Forest. The area in Massachusetts is currently under a forest management plan and active forestry is being conducted. Activities within riparian zones, has however, been restricted and does not appear to be affecting habitat conditions for spring salamanders within Wheeler Brook.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this observation.

Sincerely,
Woodlot Alternatives, Inc.

Robert D. Roy
Certified Wildlife Biologist

Cc: Ken Dow, Yankee Rowe
Laura Caputo, CLFV
Jim Hamilton, CLFV

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program
MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
North Drive, Westborough, MA 01581
(508) 792-7270 x 200

RARE ANIMAL OBSERVATION FORM

1. OBSERVER INFORMATION

a) Observer's Name, Address, Phone:

ROBERT ROY, DAN NEIN
WOODLOT ALTERNATIVES, INC.
30 PARK DRIVE

TOPSHAM, ME 04083
207.729.1199

b) Date and Time of Observation:

SEPTEMBER 26, 2003

c) Species Observed:

SPRING SALAMANDER - UTRINOPHILUS PORPHYRITICUS

2. LOCATIONAL INFORMATION

Please describe where this rare species observation was made. HEADWATER AREA OF WHEELER BROOK. MAY EVEN BE A TRIBUTARY OR BRANCH OF WHEELER BROOK (DOES NOT APPEAR ON USGS TOPO).

a) Town: ROY

County: FRANKLIN

USGS Topo:

b) Please attach a photo copy of the appropriate section of a USGS topo map (or similar map if a topo map is unavailable). Please carefully mark the site in red where you observed this rare species.

c) Please explain in writing how to get to this spot: BEST ACCESS IS VIA VERMONT. HEAD WEST ON AN UN-NAMED ROAD FROM THE INTERSECTION OF MERRIFIELD & NATE FLYNN ROADS (SIGN FOR "LONG PINE" AND "THE HERMITAGE"). WHEELER BROOK CROSSES THIS ROAD AT ± 0.9 MILES. ANIMAL WAS $\pm 700'$ DOWNSTREAM, IN WHEELER BROOK.

3. POPULATION INFORMATION

Please describe what you observed.

a) Number of animals observed:

1

b) Age and sex of animals observed:

LATE LARVAL STAGE

c) Evidence (if any) of breeding activity at this site:

LARVA OBSERVED

d) Have you observed this species at this site in previous years?
If yes, please give details:

NO

SITE INFORMATION

a) Description of habitat at this site:

HIGH GRADIENT HEADWATER SECTION OF WHEELER BROOK
(OR TRIB. TO BROOK). STREAM DOES NOT SHOW AS A PEREN. OR
INTERM. STREAM ON USGS TOPO. COARSE COBBLE/BOULDER SUBSTRATE w/ GRAVEL
PATCHES.

b) Observed or potential threats to the species or its habitat
at this site:

~~FF~~ FOREST HARVESTING ACTIVITY IN VICINITY. LIMITED HARVESTING
IN RIPARIAN ZONE, HOWEVER.

c) Landowner's name and address, if known:

SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

a) Was a positive ID possible? YES.

Based on what field marks? SKIN COLOR, TAIL FIN, GILLS, SIZE

b) Were photographs or slides taken? YES

If yes, please submit a clear photograph or slide of
the animal.

c) Qualifications of observer (check all that apply):

☐ Amateur naturalist - Years of experience _____

☐ Conservation Commission member

☐ Biology/science teacher

☒ Environmental Consultant

☐ Degree in Biology - Bachelor's ☒ Master's ☐ Ph.D. ☐

☐ Other - Please specify _____

d) Briefly explain your previous field experience with this species: ~~the~~ BOTH FIELD PERSONNEL HAVE OBSERVED THIS SPECIES IN MAINE, VERMONT, & NEW YORK.

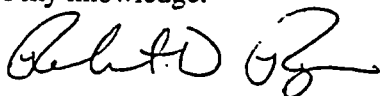
e) List names and qualifications of other observers (if any):

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (if any):

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify under pains and penalties of perjury that the information contained in this report is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:



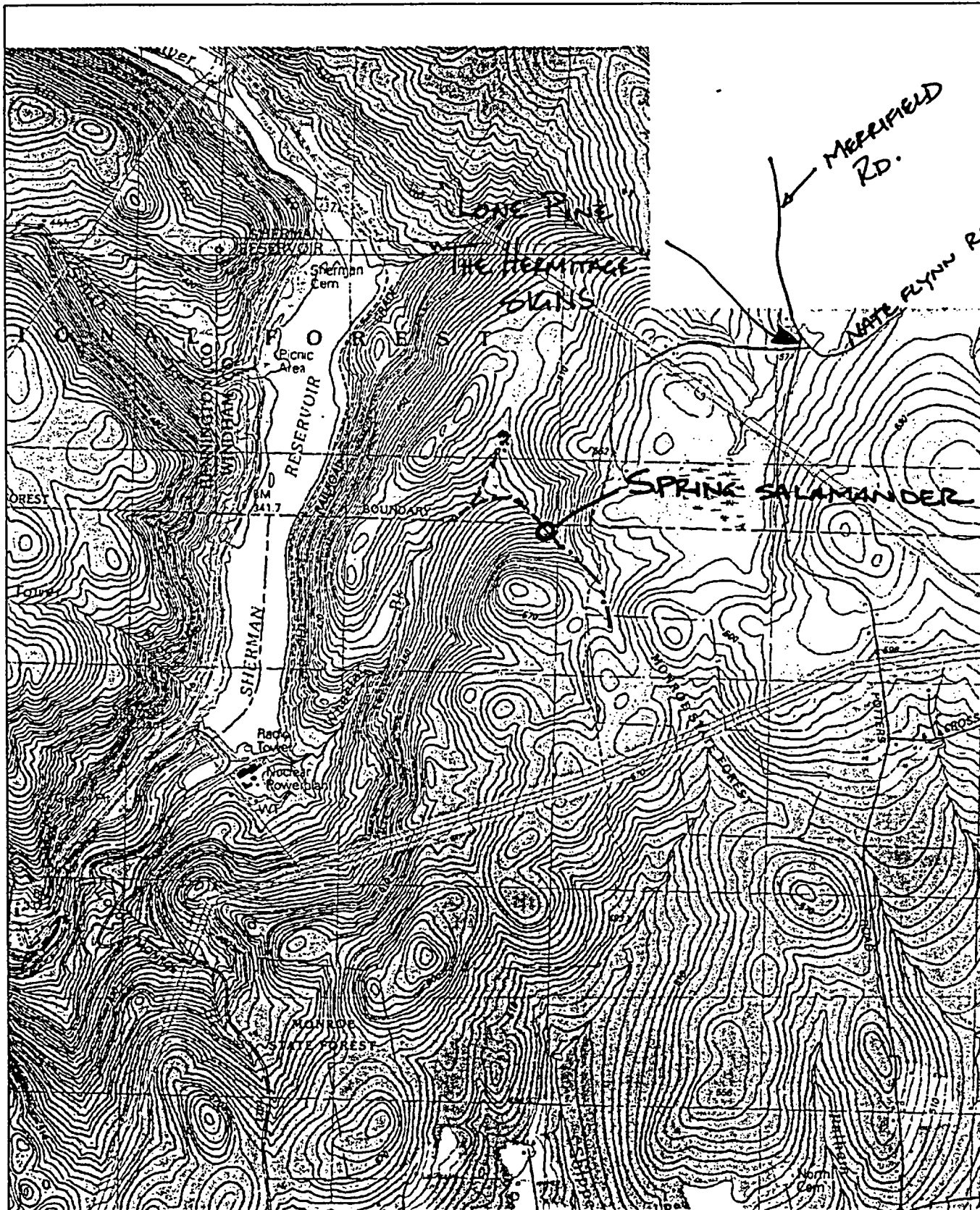
Date:

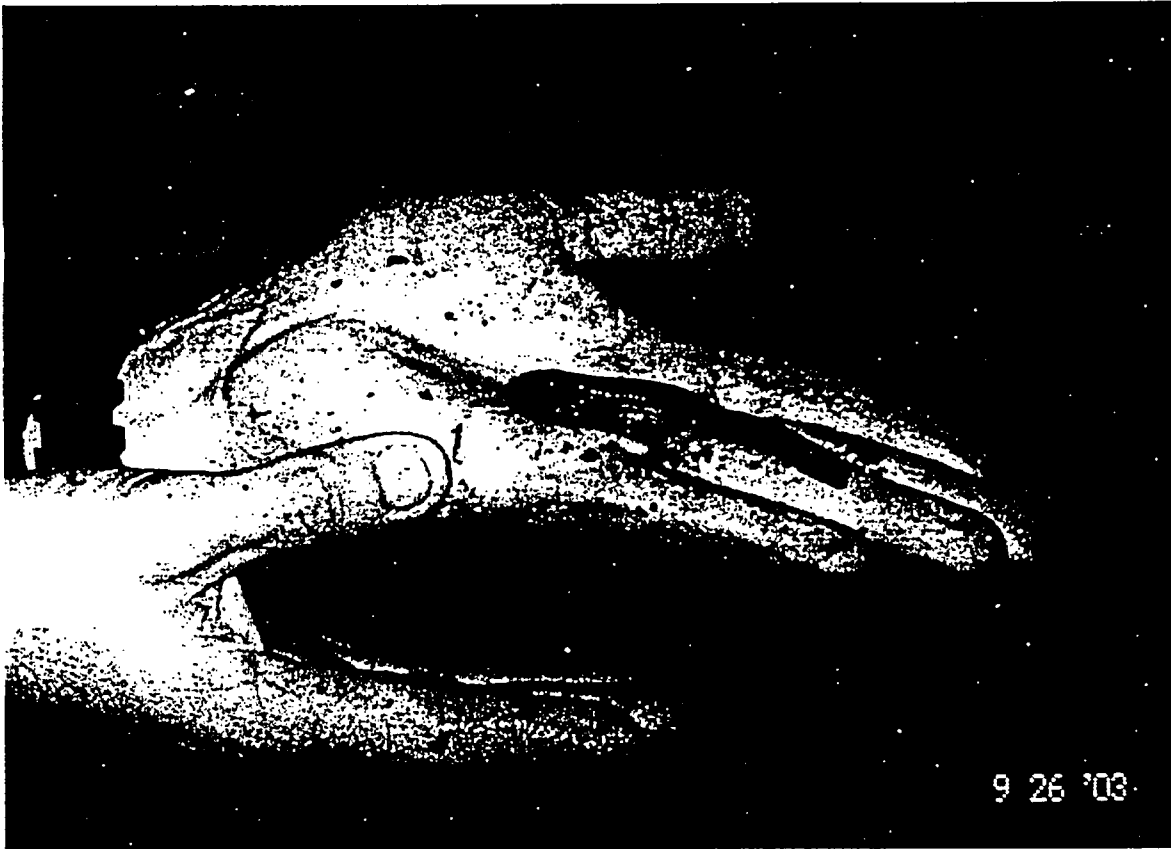
10.15.03

Please submit field forms and all supporting documentation (USGS map, photo, etc.) to:

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

Thank you for contributing to the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program database. Your efforts are valuable and appreciated.





Late larval spring salamander found in upper headwater area of Wheeler Brook, Rowe, Massachusetts.