



WOOD TURTLE SURVEY

Hadley, MA

New England Environmental, Inc. (NEE) completed a survey for Wood turtles along a portion of a river in Hadley, MA. This survey was undertaken in association with a proposed development project that was likely to result in a “take” of wood turtles if habitat critical to this species was not identified and protected. Therefore, NEE implemented the survey and identified the habitat utilized by this species. Then, working with the proponent, redesigned the project plans so that potential impacts could be minimized and avoided. The critical habitat used by this species was then maintained through a Conservation Restriction.

Turtles were captured using baited hoop net traps in multiple wetland areas at the site, and through visual river bank surveys. Once captured, turtles were equipped with radio telemetry and monitored to identify the significant habitat being used. As stated this information was used to set this habitat aside under a Conservation Restriction and meet the standards for a Conservation & Management Permit.

NEE’s survey results were as follows:

- Six Wood turtles were located on the property, fitted with radio telemetry and monitored.
- Turtles were monitored for seven months so that the local populations habitat preferences could be better understood.
- Nesting and foraging locations for this population were identified and mapped.
- Data collected was used to develop a Wood Turtle Habitat Restoration and Management Plan using the key habitats identified.
- The survey resulted in a Conservation Restriction being established for the species on this property and the land owner proceeding with the project outside of the critical habitat.



A Wood turtle located on the property.



Radio transmitters were attached to monitor turtle movement and determine the most critical habitat being used.



Agricultural ditches like this one were found to be important migratory corridors for the turtles.

