



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

For further information: Amy Nazdrowicz, Recognized, Qualified Bog Turtle Surveyor, Landmark Science & Engineering
(302) 323-9377

Don't Let Your Project Schedule Get "Bogged" Down Phase II Surveying for the Endangered Bog Turtle (April 15 – June 15)

Bog Turtle Season will be upon us before you know it! The seasonal restriction for Phase II Bog Turtle Surveys to be conducted is April 15 through June 15 only (and a Phase I Bog Turtle Survey must be conducted first)!

The Bog Turtle is a small (7.5-9 cm in length), wetland-inhabiting turtle that is federally listed as "threatened" through the U.S. Endangered Species Act and the State of Maryland, and is listed as "endangered" by the states of Delaware, New Jersey, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Luckily, the Bog Turtle's habitat requirements are specific enough that a property can be surveyed for the presence of potential bog turtle *habitat* with minimal seasonal restrictions. This "Phase I Bog Turtle Survey," is designed to identify the presence or absence of suitable Bog Turtle habitat on a site, and may be conducted by a "Recognized Qualified Bog Turtle Surveyor" at any time of the year that the ground is not frozen or covered by snow.

A Phase II Bog Turtle Survey will be required if potential Bog Turtle habitat is found within wetlands on a property during a Phase I survey, and those wetlands cannot be provided with a 300-foot buffer from proposed development. Land development projects could be delayed until the Phase II Survey is completed.

The Phase II Survey—which must be conducted between April 15 and June 15 by a team of environmental scientists led by a Recognized Qualified Bog Turtle Surveyor— involves actually searching for the turtles themselves within wetlands identified as potential Bog Turtle habitat. It consists of four (4) separate site searches, at least two (2) of which must be conducted in May.

Because agency coordination is required prior to the execution of Phase II Surveys, it is highly recommended that you speak with a qualified environmental consulting professional as soon as possible to allow adequate planning before "Bog Turtle season" (April 15 to June 15).

It is not uncommon for Bog Turtle surveys to be requested or required by county, state, and federal agencies during the plan review process. Under the best case scenario, you should have a Phase I Bog Turtle Survey conducted during the due diligence period prior to purchasing a property. If you already own the property, you can be proactive and have a Phase I Survey conducted or you can wait to see if agencies raise a concern during the plan review process. If you decide not to be proactive and the Bog Turtle issue comes up any time after mid-May, you will have to wait until the following year to conduct a Phase II Bog Turtle Survey, if one is required.

DON'T DELAY!

Call Landmark's Environmental Scientist Amy Nazdrowicz, a Recognized Qualified Bog Turtle Specialist, with any questions or concerns you may have, or to schedule your current Phase I and/or 2014 Phase II Bog Turtle Survey.

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Amy Nazdrowicz is an Environmental Scientist for Landmark Science & Engineering and is a Recognized Qualified Bog Turtle Surveyor in Delaware and Maryland and assists with Phase II Bog Turtle Surveys in Pennsylvania and New Jersey under the direction of Recognized Qualified Bog Turtle Surveyor. Mrs. Nazdrowicz has a B.S. in Environmental and Forest Biology from S.U.N.Y. College of Environmental Science and Forestry and an M.S. in Wildlife Ecology from University of Delaware.



Amy Nazdrowicz,
Recognized Qualified
Bog Turtle Surveyor