

PA VERNAL POOLS – SITE SURVEY FORM

Vernal pools within 2000 feet of each other are considered part of the same site (e.g. a vernal pool cluster).
Prior to sampling a new vernal pool site, decontaminate gear to prevent spread of pathogens
(see 2009-06-22_PFBC_Cleaning_Equipment.pdf)

SITE NAME:	
DATE OF VISIT:	TIME START:
COUNTY:	TIME END:
ATTACH A MAP: USGS topo map preferred; indicate pool location clearly. See mapping guide for assistance.	
USGS TOPO MAP NAME:	OTHER MAP TYPE (describe):

CURRENT PRECIPITATION Fog / Mist _____ Showers _____ Steady rain _____ Heavy rain _____ Sleet / Hail _____ Snow _____ ANY PRECIPITATION ON THE PREVIOUS DAY? Yes / No

SKY 0-25% clouds _____ 26-74% clouds _____ 75-100% clouds _____ WIND Calm/Light _____ Breezy _____ Gusty _____ TEMPERATURE Air _____ F / C Water _____ F / C

PRIMARY OBSERVER
NAME:
ADDRESS:
Phone1:
Phone2:
Email:
Field Code:
LANDOWNER INFORMATION: See Landowner Habitat Questionnaire

LAND USE – SITE SUMMARY

USE GIS / AERIAL PHOTOS TO EXAMINE THE TERRESTRIAL HABITAT (1000 FT OF UPLAND AROUND A POOL OR POOL CLUSTER). CHECK PRESENCE, OR, WHEN FEASIBLE, VISUALLY ESTIMATE % COVER W/IN ZONE.

LAND USE	√ or % COVER	LAND USE	√ or % COVER
Woodland / Forest		Oil / Gas Infrastructure	
Clear Cut		Mining	
Active Agriculture		Developed	
Field / Meadow / Scrub-Shrub		Roads / right of ways	
Vernal Pools (check if a pool cluster)		Other (describe):	
Wetlands		Other (describe):	
Lakes / Ponds		Other (describe):	
Streams / Rivers		Other (describe):	

SITE DESCRIPTION: Summarize the surrounding landscape w/in 1000 feet of the pool or pool cluster such as forest composition, disturbances or threats to overall site, land use, landmarks, topographic / landscape position, etc.

WATER CHEMISTRY: Report pool name, variables measured, and units.

VERNAL POOL TERMS

Basin: Depression that becomes inundated with water in the spring

Envelope: Upland habitat within 100 foot radius of the pool basin

Terrestrial: Upland habitat within 1000 foot radius of the pool basin

Vernal pool cluster / site: Consider pools located less than 2000 feet apart as part of one cluster / site.

SITE DISTURBANCE SUMMARY: Review all the individual Pool Forms for the site. Check all disturbances observed within the vernal pool envelopes & list the pools affected.

Disturbance	Pools	Disturbance	Pools	Disturbance	Pools
<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle / ATV use		<input type="checkbox"/> Logging		<input type="checkbox"/> Development	
<input type="checkbox"/> Compacted or rutted soils		<input type="checkbox"/> Slash dumping		<input type="checkbox"/> Active agriculture	
<input type="checkbox"/> Unnatural-shaped perimeter		<input type="checkbox"/> Trash dumping		<input type="checkbox"/> Dirt road	
<input type="checkbox"/> Berm or dam		<input type="checkbox"/> Chemical contaminants		<input type="checkbox"/> Paved road	
<input type="checkbox"/> Soil removal		<input type="checkbox"/> Siltation		<input type="checkbox"/> Power/Pipeline ROW	
<input type="checkbox"/> Soil / fill dumping		<input type="checkbox"/> Oil / gas infrastructure		<input type="checkbox"/> Drainage ditches or tiles	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mining		<input type="checkbox"/> Other		<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
<input type="checkbox"/> Invasive species		<input type="checkbox"/> Other		<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

WOODY DEBRIS AND VEGETATIVE BUFFER SUMMARY: List pools with sufficient or insufficient amounts of the following features necessary for vernal pool wildlife.

Zone	Feature	Pools – present & sufficient	Pools – not present or insufficient
Basin	Native trees and shrubs around perimeter of basin		
Basin	Naturally fallen branches and tree limbs in the pool basin		
Envelope	Four or more standing dead trees (snags)		
Envelope	Abundant woody debris on ground (including larger limbs & trunks)		
Envelope	Predominantly forested or natural scrub/shrub/old field		
Envelope	Abundant understory cover		

INVASIVE SPECIES SUMMARY: List the pools for which invasive species are present & problematic within the pool envelope.

Invasive species	Affected Pools	Degree of infestation / recommendation