



Natural Resource Services, Inc.

May 21, 2020

Lindsay McGovern
Revity Energy
117 Metro Center Boulevard, Suite 1007
Warwick, Rhode Island

RE: Wildlife Habitat Assessment
Proposed Frontier Solar
Hopkinton, Rhode Island

Dear Ms. McGovern:

Natural Resource Services, Inc. (NRS) has completed an initial wildlife habitat assessment for the proposed utility scale solar project on Frontier Road in Hopkinton. The purpose of our work was to supplement the documentation provided to the Town of Hopkinton in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by Sage Environmental, Inc. dated January 31, 2020. The NRS report and accompanying GIS graphic should be considered an addendum to Section 2.3.2 – Effects on the Environment of the Sage EIS.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or require any additional information.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott P. Rabideau', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott P. Rabideau, PWS
Principal

Enclosure

Cc: Nicole Mulanaphy, PE

Addendum to Section 2.3.2 - Effects on the Environment

Natural Resource Services, Inc. (NRS) performed a wildlife habitat assessment as part of the Sage EIS. The combined area of the parcels associated with the solar project is approximately 64 acres. The purpose of the NRS habitat assessment was to map the existing vegetative communities and assess the value of each for wildlife utilization and production. The habitat classifications were established based on the dominant species present. The ecological details provided were used to ascertain which species of wildlife would most benefit from the specific habitat types. The field work for this habitat assessment was performed by Scott Rabideau, PWS on May 13, 2020.

It is important to consider the broader landscape when assessing wildlife habitat and a particular project's potential to impact that value. NRS therefore expanded the assessment area for this work beyond the project's property limits. The assessment area (AA) includes all of the land bounded by Interstate 95, Maxson Hill Road, Frontier Road and Main Street. This 110-acre assessment area represents all of the unfragmented habitat surrounding the proposed solar project. A total of ten (10) habitat types have been identified within the AA. These habitat types are identified on Figure 1, NRS Habitat Assessment Graphic.

The majority of the solar facility is proposed within the area identified on the graphic as "managed turf/open field". However, the facility does extend northerly from the field to impact approximately 9.5 acres of forested habitat. This impact area includes approximately 7.5 acres of "young mixed hardwoods", 0.7 acres of "scrub cedar", and 1.3 acres of "Russian olive".

The mixed hardwood classification is the most abundant non-managed habitat type within the AA. The young mixed hardwood, mature mixed hardwood and hardwood/pine total approximately 44 acres, or 40 percent of the assessment area. As loss of 7.5 acres of young mixed hardwoods, as currently proposed, would reduce this habitat type to 33 percent.

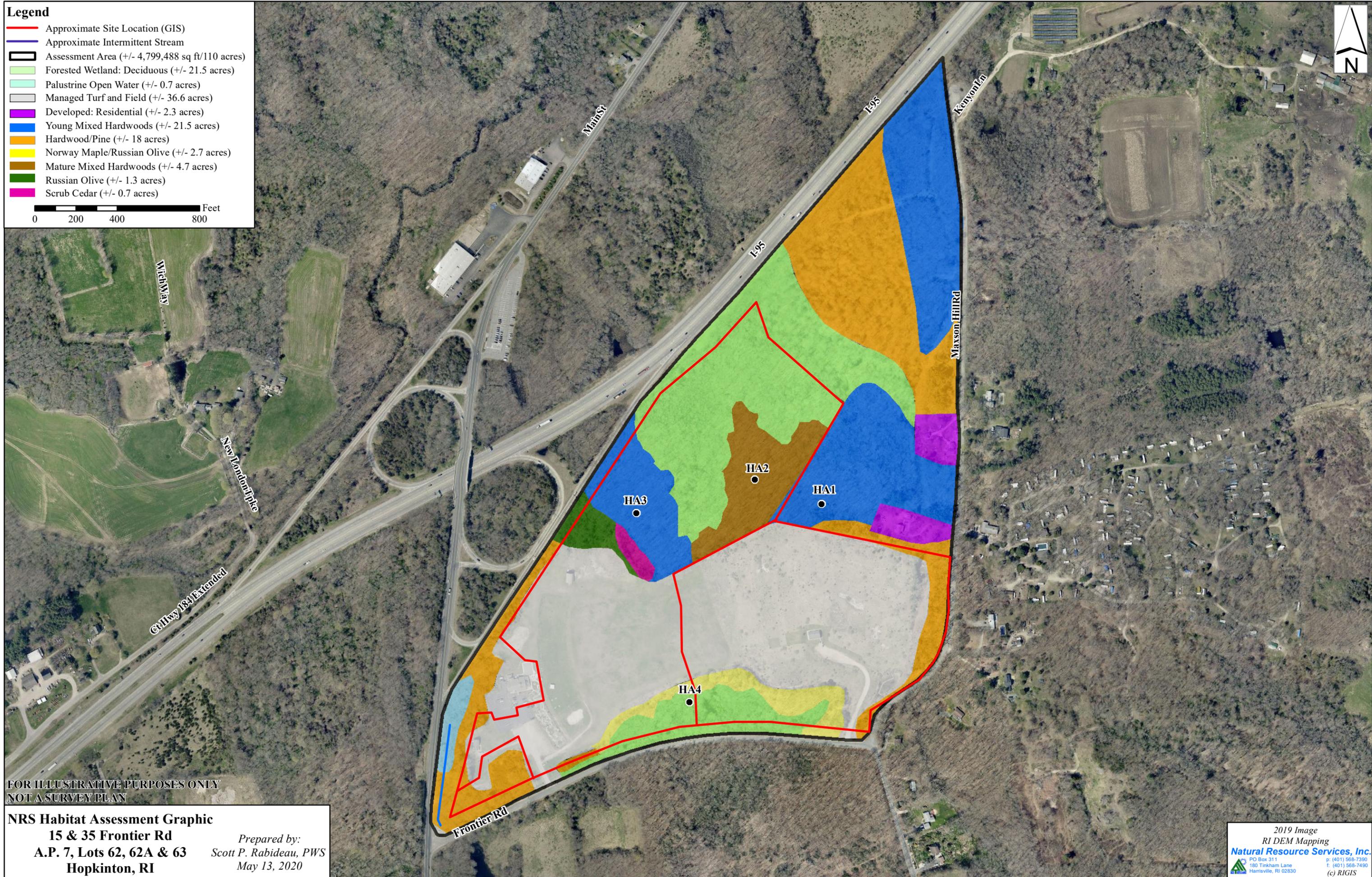
The loss of approximately 7 percent of this habitat type is not anticipated to have a significant adverse impact on the ability of the AA area to continue to support the current level of wildlife utilization.

It should be noted that there is approximately 7 acres of forested habitat along the south side of the property at the Frontier Road frontage. 90 percent of this habitat is forested wetland. This area is small, primarily wetland, and along a public roadway. The area does not represent a significant habitat for large mammals, specifically white-tail deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*). White-tailed deer would be the primary wildlife species affected by the fencing associated with the solar facility. Smaller mammals would have the ability to travel beneath the raised fence and through the grassed area separating the mixed hardwood forest from the forested wetland. Therefore, due to the limited available habitat on the south side of the project area, it is not necessary to create a travel corridor through the proposed solar facility to sustain the current level of wildlife utilization within the forested wetland.

Legend

- Approximate Site Location (GIS)
- Approximate Intermittent Stream
- Assessment Area (+/- 4,799,488 sq ft/110 acres)
- Forested Wetland: Deciduous (+/- 21.5 acres)
- Palustrine Open Water (+/- 0.7 acres)
- Managed Turf and Field (+/- 36.6 acres)
- Developed: Residential (+/- 2.3 acres)
- Young Mixed Hardwoods (+/- 21.5 acres)
- Hardwood/Pine (+/- 18 acres)
- Norway Maple/Russian Olive (+/- 2.7 acres)
- Mature Mixed Hardwoods (+/- 4.7 acres)
- Russian Olive (+/- 1.3 acres)
- Scrub Cedar (+/- 0.7 acres)

0 200 400 800 Feet



FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY
NOT A SURVEY PLAN

NRS Habitat Assessment Graphic
15 & 35 Frontier Rd
A.P. 7, Lots 62, 62A & 63
Hopkinton, RI

Prepared by:
Scott P. Rabideau, PWS
May 13, 2020

2019 Image
 RI DEM Mapping
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 (c) RIGIS