

Appendix 3-E: Timber Rattlesnake Supporting Information

Project: Habitat Suitability Assessment for Timber Rattlesnake	Location: Rasco Site, Dover, NY	Project No. MA001146
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Photo No. 1	Date: 09/20/11
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Description:

Typical surface bedrock outcrop along Transect RTR1




Project: Habitat Suitability Assessment for Timber Rattlesnake	Location: Rasco Site, Dover, NY	Project No. MA001146
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Photo No. 2	Date: 09/20/11
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Description:


Typical surface boulder along Transect RTR1



Project: Habitat Suitability Assessment for Timber Rattlesnake		Location: Rasco Site, Dover, NY	Project No. MA001146
Photo No. 3	Date: 09/20/11		
Description: Typical exposed ledge along Transect RTR1, west/southwest-facing slope			

Project: Habitat Suitability Assessment for Timber Rattlesnake		Location: Rasco Site, Dover, NY	Project No. MA001146
Photo No. 4	Date: 09/20/11		
Description: Stone wall forming southern boundary of Rasco Site along Transect RTR1			

Project: Habitat Suitability Assessment for Timber Rattlesnake		Location: Rasco Site, Dover, NY	Project No. MA001146
Photo No. 5	Date: 09/20/11		
Description: Typical exposed ledge along Transect RTR2, southwest-facing slope			

Project: Habitat Suitability Assessment for Timber Rattlesnake		Location: Rasco Site, Dover, NY	Project No. MA001146
Photo No. 6	Date: 09/20/11		
Description: Old stone wall along Transect RTR2, southwest-facing slope			

Project: Habitat Suitability Assessment for Timber Rattlesnake

Location: Rasco Site, Dover, NY

Project No.
MA001146

Photo No.
7

Date:
09/20/11

Description:

Typical exposed bedrock along RTR2, west-facing slope.



Project: Habitat Suitability Assessment for Timber Rattlesnake

Location: Rasco Site, Dover, NY

Project No.
MA001146


Photo No.
8


Date:
09/20/11

Description:

Typical exposed bedrock along Transect RTR2 with longitudinal cracks, west-facing slope



Project: Habitat Suitability Assessment for Timber Rattlesnake		Location: Rasco Site, Dover, NY	Project No. MA001146
Photo No. 9	Date: 09/20/11		
Description: Exposed bedrock along Transect RTR2, west-facing slope			

Project: Habitat Suitability Assessment for Timber Rattlesnake		Location: Rasco Site, Dover, NY	Project No. MA001146
Photo No. 10	Date: 09/20/11		
Description: Large free-standing boulder along Transect RTR2, northwest-facing slope.			

Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) Habitat Suitability Assessment Form

Project/Site: CVE - Rasco **Cnty:** Dutchess **Date:** 9/20/11 **Transect RTR1:** (approx. 2,300 ft.)

Investigator(s): A. Russo; D. Corelli

PREFERRED HABITAT FEATURE	ATTRIBUTE/FEATURE PRESENT?		NOTES / COMMENTS
	YES	NO	
Surrounding Area			
Low density development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abandoned buildings and fill piles along the northern site boundary; residential homes/structures off Chippawalla Road along southern site boundary; Metro North tracks along western site boundary; NYS Rt 22 along eastern site boundary; interior of Rasco site undeveloped.
Upland well drained forested/mix forested cover with high canopy cover present?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transect along raised, undulating terrain with elevations that range from 450 ft to 500 ft amsl along north/south axis; sloping terrain to the east and west; scattered and isolated boulders 4' to 6' long occur although under closed canopy on higher elevations; exposed bedrock occurs in scattered locations under a closed canopy; a large free-standing boulder 10' to 15' long under a dense closed canopy is present at the northern end of the transect adjacent to an old overgrown road; remnants of an old stone wall and a reformed stone wall occur at the south end of the transect and property boundary.
Are den sites known in the area?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NYSDEC reports 4 den sites within 1.5 to 2 miles of the site on mountainous areas to the west; a second record exists approx 1 mile to the west of the site.
Site Habitat Features			
Are talus, scree slopes or boulder fields present?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Are rocky ledges, bedrock outcrops with fissures, cracks, other openings present?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some exposed ledge; areas of bedrock outcrop and isolated boulders 4' to 6' in size on higher elevations but covered with vegetation/moss and under closed to semi-open canopy; some bedrock outcrop areas have exposed cracks/fissures/openings.
Are openings beneath tree roots, fallen rock partially covered with soil on moderate to steep slopes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None observed.
Do areas with the above characteristics occur with a general southerly (southeast/southwest) exposure and open to semi-open canopy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Isolated areas do however, they lack preferred habitat characteristics and sufficient solar exposure (=> 5 hrs/day).
Are potential den sites present or likely along/near transect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No; areas observed lack preferred den habitat characteristics and sufficient solar exposure (=> 5 hrs/day).

Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) Habitat Suitability Assessment Form

Project/Site: CVE - Rasco **Cnty:** Dutchess **Date:** 9/20/11 **Transect RTR2:** (approx. 2,300 ft.)

Investigator(s): A. Russo; D. Corelli

PREFERRED HABITAT FEATURE	ATTRIBUTE/FEATURE PRESENT?		NOTES / COMMENTS
	YES	NO	
Surrounding Area			
Low density development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abandoned buildings and fill piles along the northern site boundary; residential homes/structures off Chippawalla Road along southern site boundary; Metro North tracks along western site boundary; NYS Rt 22 along eastern site boundary; interior of Rasco site undeveloped.
Upland well drained forested/mix forested cover with high canopy cover present?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transect along generally moderately sloping terrain with west-southwest exposure; elevations 440 ft to 460 ft amsl along north/south axis; interior site wetlands are located between the transect and railroad tracks; some exposed bedrock and scattered boulders 4' to 6' long occur; spots along the western facing slope have areas of exposed/semi-exposed ledge under forested canopy.
Are den sites known in the area?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NYSDEC reports 4 den sites within 1.5 to 2 miles of the site on mountainous areas to the west; a second record exists approx 1 mile to the west of the site.
Site Habitat Features			
Are talus, scree slopes or boulder fields present?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Are rocky ledges, bedrock outcrops with fissures, cracks, other openings present?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some exposed ledge; areas of bedrock outcrop and isolated boulders 4' to 6' in size on higher elevations but covered with vegetation/moss and under closed to semi-closed canopy; some bedrock outcrop areas have exposed cracks/fissures/openings.
Are openings beneath tree roots, fallen rock partially covered with soil on moderate to steep slopes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None observed.
Do areas with the above characteristics occur with a general southerly (southeast/southwest) exposure and open to semi-open canopy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Isolated areas do however, they lack preferred habitat characteristics and sufficient solar exposure (=> 5 hrs/day).
Are potential den sites present or likely along/near transect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No; areas observed lack preferred den habitat characteristics and sufficient solar exposure (=> 5 hrs/day).

Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) Habitat Suitability Assessment Form

Project/Site: CVE - Rasco	Cnty: Dutchess	Date: 9/20/11	Transect RTR2: (approx. 2,300 ft.)
Investigator(s): A. Russo; D. Corelli <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>			
Are potential gestation rocks (4' x 6') present in open to semi-open areas that receive >5 hours of direct sunlight?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>	Isolated flat boulders covered in vegetation/moss/lichen and under closed to semi-open canopy; areas observed lack sufficient habitat characteristics and solar exposure.
Is potential primary foraging habitat present that is predominantly deciduous upland/mixed forest with a closed canopy?	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Small mammals such as squirrel, rabbit, chipmunk, mice and voles present.
Is potential secondary foraging habitat present consisting of open field, riparian areas, or forested wetlands?	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Forested wetlands approx. 300 ft to the west of the transect.
Conclusions			
No talus or boulder fields present; areas along transect lack sufficient solar exposure and none were observed to represent suitable den sites; isolated flat boulders and exposed ledge occur along the transect but these are covered in vegetation/moss/lichen and beneath a closed to semi-closed forest canopy with limited solar exposure; suitable Timber Rattlesnake gestation or basking rocks were not observed; a 2' to 3' ft-high stone wall along the site's southern boundary is stacked and fashioned for aesthetic purposes and does not represent suitable den/basking/gestation habitat; portions of old stone walls occur in spots along transect but are shaded; areas of upland forest may however provide suitable foraging habitat and Timber Rattlesnakes may traverse the site during the active season; foraging opportunities may however be limited as the site is situated between the Metro North tracks and NYS Rt 22; these highly active transportation corridors could limit the accessibility/mobility of snakes that may range from den sites 1 to 4 miles west of the Rasco site.			