

Steven K. Pelletier, Vice President

Capabilities

Natural Resource Evaluations:

- Wildlife Impact Assessments, including avian studies
- Endangered and Threatened Plant and Animal Species (Federal- and State-listed) and Natural Communities
- Unusual Natural Areas
- Critical or Significant Wildlife and Fish Habitats
- Habitat mapping
- Ecological characterization
- Aquatic studies, including dive surveys
- Detailed vernal pool studies
- Mammal, raptor, amphibian and mussel surveys
- Intertidal and Subtidal Marine Communities
- Avian Radar Surveys

Wetland Science:

- Expert testimony
- Wetland restoration and mitigation design and monitoring
- Wetland delineations and function value assessments
- Regional watershed assessment and planning
- State and Federal permitting and regulatory advising
- Customized wetland and regulatory training courses

Forest Assessments:

- Forest Management Planning
- Timber Inventories and Assessments
- Forest Certification

Permitting Expertise:

- NRPA Secs. 401 / 404 and 404(b)(1) Analyses
- River and Harbors Act, Sec. 10
- FERC Hydroelectric Licensing (Exhibit E and EAs)
- Support for FERC Natural Gas Pipeline Projects
- Support for Wind Power Projects
- Impact Avoidance and Minimization Support
- Support for CERCLA/Superfund Projects
- NEPA Compliance and Documentation
- Section 7 Biological Assessments
- Federal, State, and Local Wetland Alteration Permitting
- Shoreland and Coastal Zone Management Permitting
- Dredging Project Permitting
- Natural Resources Sections of Maine DEP Site Location Permits

Principal Scientist

Certified Wildlife Biologist

Professional Wetland Scientist

Certified/Licensed Professional Forester

Mr. Pelletier is a certified wildlife biologist, professional wetland scientist, and certified and licensed professional forester with over 20 years of experience. As co-founder and vice-president of Woodlot Alternatives, he specializes in wildlife management planning, avian studies, wetland science, forest management, and permitting. He has worked on a variety of wildlife and habitat issues throughout the northeast, and offers particular expertise in evaluating wildlife impacts and developing avoidance and mitigation measures for projects ranging from wind power developments to commuter rail lines.

Steve is responsible for designing field studies and coordinating data collection and report preparation, and has designed many compensatory mitigation projects. Steve has taught various wildlife and wetland courses, including a course for certifying municipal Code Enforcement Officers, and has taught refresher courses for the Maine Department of Environmental Protection staff. He is also a certified SCUBA diver.

Experience

Woodlot Alternatives, Inc., Vice President

1989-Present. Certified Wildlife Biologist, Professional Wetland Scientist, Certified and Maine Licensed Forester

Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection, Portland, Maine. 1984-1989. Environmental Specialist

Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Gray, Maine 1980-1985. Seasonal Biological Assistant

U.S. Forest Service, Platina, California 1982-1983. Wildlife Biologist

U.S. Forest Service, Cordova, Alaska 1981. Wildlife Biologist Assistant

Maine Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Orono, Maine 1977-1980. Wildlife Research Field Technician

U.S. Navy, USS America (CV-66), Norfolk, Virginia 1974-1976.

Education

A.S. Forest Management Technology with Distinction, 1978, University of Maine at Orono.

B.S. Wildlife Management & Forestry, 1980, University of Maine.

Training

40-Hour Safety Training for Hazardous Waste Operations in Compliance with OSHA 29 CFR1910.120. 1993.

Recent Publications and Presentations

Pelletier, S.K., D.G. Nein, and R.D. Roy, 2004. Railroad Crossing Structures for Spotted Turtles. *In* Proceedings of the International Society of Wetland Scientists 25th Anniversary Conference, Charting the Future: A Quarter Century of Lessons Learned, Seattle, WA, 2004.

Pelletier, S.K., D.G. Nein, and R.D. Roy, 2003. Railroad Crossing Structures for Spotted Turtles. *In* Proceedings of the Association of State Wetland Managers (ASWM) National Symposium, Wetlands 2003: Landscape Scale Wetland Assessment and Management, Nashua, New Hampshire, 2003.

Pelletier, S.K. and F.J. DiBello, 2003. A Survey of Potential Vernal Pool Habitats in the Town of Falmouth, Maine. *In* Proceedings of the Association of State Wetland Managers (ASWM) National Symposium, Wetlands 2003: Landscape Scale Wetland Assessment and Management, Nashua, New Hampshire, 2003.

Pelletier, S.K., 2001. Wildlife and critical habitat concerns associated with Windpower facilities. *In* Proceedings of New England Wind Power Siting Workshop, Boston 2001. National Wind Coordinating Committee, October 2001.

Pelletier, S.K. and E. Hertz, 2000. A GIS-based Wetland Characterization of the Casco Bay Watershed – A Pilot Study. *In* Proceedings of the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) Quebec 2000: Millennium Wetland Event, 2000.

Flatebo, G., C.R. Foss and S.K. Pelletier, 1999. Biodiversity in the Forests of Maine: Guidelines for Land Management UMCE Bulletin #7147, University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

Pelletier, S.K., 1996. An analysis of forest sustainability issues in Maine. Maine Forest Service and Maine Natural Areas Program, September 1996.

Lortie, J.P. and S.K. Pelletier, 1987. Distribution and abundance of breeding birds and small mammals in the high salt marsh and adjacent upland critical edge in southern Maine. *In* Proceedings of the Maine Biological and Medical Science Symposium, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine, 1986.

Certifications

- Certified Wildlife Biologist (TWS)
- Licensed Professional Forester (Maine license #866)
- Certified Professional Forester (SAF #)
- Professional Wetland Scientist (SWS #899)
- NH Certified Wetland Scientist (NH license #136)
- HEP Certified: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- NAUI Certified SCUBA Diver
- Certified SCUBA Diver CPROX Administrator
- CPR1st Certification

Affiliations

- Society of Wetland Scientists
- Maine Oil Spill Advisory Committee, appointed by Maine Governor
- ME Wetland Task Force (former) - Chair, Wetland Mitigation Banking Group
- Maine Association of Wetland Scientists, co-founder, chairman, past President
- Friends of Merrymeeting Bay
- Maine Vernal Pools Work Group
- Maine DEP Cumulative Impact Work Group
- Society of American Foresters
- The Wildlife Society

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Example Projects

Wind Project Migratory Bird and Bat Surveys and Impact Studies – AES, Airtricity, enXco, Endless Energy, Iberdrola, Noble Environmental Power, PPM Energy, Transcanada, UPC Wind, US WindForce. Principal Scientist. Designed and directed ecological evaluations and avian impact assessments associated with proposed wind projects throughout the eastern United States. Avian and bat impact studies included raptor and neo-tropical bird migration studies, bat surveys, breeding bird surveys, and rare species evaluations. Migratory bird and bat surveys conducted using a variety of field methods, including ceilometers, customized avian radar surveys, NEXRAD weather radar, remote acoustic surveys, telemetry, mist netting, and computer analysis.

Nationwide Communications Tower Avian Impact Research – CTIA and Willkie Farr & Gallagher. Principal Scientist. Coordinated comprehensive review and analysis of scientific studies related to avian impacts at cell towers nationwide, and developed a response and comment to FCC Notice of Intent that would have required site-specific avian impact studies for communications towers. Directed literature reviews and research, evaluated methods, scientific soundness and statistical validity of studies, and prepared detailed narrative for submission to FCC.

Buzzards Bay Oil Spill Avian Impact Assessment – NOAA. Principal Scientist. Coordinated assessment of avian habitat impacts associated with 2003 oil spill near Cape Cod. Directed avian impact evaluations within the coastal zone, conducted intensive surveys of bird populations in the affected area, and helped NOAA develop information to plan habitat restoration efforts.

Penobscot River Bald Eagle Monitoring Surveys – EPA, USFWS, Maine DEP. Principal Scientist. Developed protocols and directed monitoring of eagle nesting success in the Penobscot River watershed, as part of long-term biological monitoring required by a series of NPDES permits.

International Jetport Runway Impact Assessment – City of Portland, Maine. Project Manager. Provided field surveys and permitting assistance for a FAA runway safety zone expansion project adjacent to a coastal wetland. Work included reconnaissance surveys of migratory and resident bird habitats on and adjacent to the site, and preliminary evaluations of potential bird strike hazards resulting from various clearing and vegetation management measures.

Stone Island Bald Eagle Monitoring – Atlantic Salmon of Maine. Project Manager. Evaluated potential impacts on nesting bald eagles of an aquaculture facility where fish-raising pens were installed within 800 feet of an eagle nesting area. Directed background research on breeding habits, and long-term monitoring of breeding activity, nest use, and rearing success of juveniles.

Shorebird Migration Studies – Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Project Manager. Conducted shorebird migration surveys at over 120 locations in southern and central coastal Maine for two consecutive fall migration periods, and performed marshbird playback surveys throughout southern Maine.

Section 7 Biological Assessment for Piping Plover at Assateague Island, MD – Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Project Manager. Performed a Section 7 Biological Assessment for potential impacts associated with ACOE's beach renourishment project for piping plovers and sea beach amaranth.

Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge Assessment – U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Project Manager. Analyzed the refuge's natural resources and recommended locations for new interpretive trails and visitor facilities. Prepared Affected Environment portion of an Environmental Assessment, and evaluated environmental and regulatory consequences of trail and facility development in a study report.

Bangor Hydro Transmission Line Impact Evaluations – Preti-Flaherty. Principal Scientist. Coordinated ecological studies and expert witness testimony concerning a variety of potential impacts of an 85-mile 345 kV power line project along three alternate corridors, as part of a permitting review process. Evaluated forest fragmentation, wetland impacts, wildlife habitats and wildlife corridors, water quality impacts, and recreational use along the alternate corridors, and developed opinions on relative impact levels between routes.