

Kannakko, Kris (MNR)

From: Gaweda, Joanna (MNR)
Sent: May 30, 2006 4:18 PM
To: LCotton@countyofrenfrew.on.ca
Cc: Coulson, Daryl (MNR); Moreau, Paul (MNR)
Subject: alvar- supporting information, sources of data, SWHTG criteria

Larry,

Please see the attached Significant Wildlife Habitat text table. In particular you will see highlighted sections (gold rows) which constitute *known* features / triggers of the Braeside Alvar that warrant designation of this habitat as Significant Wildlife Habitat. There are numerous other potential features or triggers not referenced or observed to date.

Additionally, regarding alvar habitats within the Township of McNab Braeside:

As suggested by Daryl Coulson earlier this year please refer to the publication on the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON) website discussing various alvar habitats throughout Ontario: "Alvars of Ontario – Significant Alvar Natural Areas in the Ontario Great Lakes Region" (Brownell and Riley, 2000) Federation of Ontario Naturalists. (<http://www.ontarionature.org>)

Below are some further details / supporting information respecting the features in reference to the MNR's Significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide (2000) provided earlier.

1. Alvars are an example of significant wildlife habitat (SWH)
2. Some criteria that characterize alvar as SWH include;
 - a. Alvar habitats are a rare vegetation community (5.4.1.1 SWHTG)
 - b. Alvar habitats include areas of globally and or provincially significant habitats-species of conservation concern
 - c. Alvar habitats contain provincially significant species (s1, s2, s3 ranked and or g3 ranked species) May contain areas of specialised habitat for wildlife (5.2.2 SWHTG)
 - d. May contain old growth forest or mature forest stands (5.4.2.3 SWHTG)
 - f. These alvar habitats coincide with winter deer yarding areas (also SWH, because significant seasonal concentration area, based on recent aerial deer surveys, see 4.4.1 SWHTG)
 - g. Cliffs (5.4.4) associated with these Alvars likely contain specialized habitat for wildlife (ie. rare plants, nesting sites)
 - h. These alvar habitats are a large forested area with limited representation remaining in the municipality and Ontario
 - i. These alvar habitats provide links among other natural areas (travel corridors and migration routes for wildlife) in a largely fragmented agricultural landscape
 - j. potentially contains reptile hibernacula (4.4.11 SWHTG) associated with karstic bedrock (cracked bedrock)
 - k. the alvar habitats provide several significant wildlife habitat (meet several SWHTG criteria) and are of significant size and complexity.
 - l. SWHTG suggests that in determining significance of a feature that the greatest emphasis be placed on *representation, abundance, rare species, multiple benefits*, the alvar habitats do meet several if not all of the above criteria.

Information used to arrive at the generalized mapping (approximate boundaries) provided to the Township and County includes:

- a. Forest Resource Inventory (FRI data-1987, most recent available)
- b. Bedrock Geology of Southern Ontario (NRVIS)
- c. Soil Map of Renfrew County, Sheet 4 (soil survey report no. 37)
- d. limited, limited, site specific observations at several properties and along roadsides'
site specific observations at several properties within some of alvar habitats mapped
- e. significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide, OMNR- 2000
- f) Aerial photography (c1987)
- g) Alvars of Ontario – Significant Alvar Natural Areas in the Ontario Great Lakes Region.
(Brownell and Riley, 2000) Federation of Ontario Naturalists.
- h) National Topographical Map Series (1:50,000)

Again, the recommended SWH and Natural Heritage System components mapping provided to the Township and County is for information purposes only. It can be used as a resource by the Township in selecting key areas for protection and drafting of Official Plan policies in relation to the Township's Natural Heritage System. I hope you find this information useful.

If you would like to discuss policy options for the OP in relation to SWH or habitat of endangered and threatened species, our office would be pleased to assist as needed. Best of luck with the OP.