Town Hill Barren NHA

# Brief Description

Site Description - this should be about a one paragraph description of the site describing its location, size, major habitats, or other descriptive information about the site. General species info can be placed here (e.g. *“The wetlands at this site provide high quality habitat for a number of species of dragonflies.”*), but try to avoid specific talk about individual species.

This site is described as *Steep, south-facing slope that harbors a shale-barren community and a species of concern.*

Enter your site description text in the space between these lines:

*enter text here*

Species or natural communities of concern that can be found in this NHA include the following:

| SNAME | SCOMNAME | ELEMENT\_TYPE | G\_RANK | S\_RANK | S\_PROTECTI | PBSSTATUS | LAST\_OBS\_D | BASIC\_EO\_R |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Virginia Pine - Mixed Hardwood Shale Woodland* | Virginia Pine - Mixed Hardwood Shale Woodland | C | GNR | S2 |  |  | 2006 | BC |
| *Sedum telephioides* | Allegheny Stonecrop | P | G4 | S3 | PR | PR | 1995-09-21 | C |
| *Phacelia dubia* |  | P | G5 | S3S4 |  | SP | 2015-05-07 | E |

## Information from Biotics

See output below from Biotics, in association with all the EOs at this site. Biotics fields reported include EO\_ID, SNAME, EO\_DATA, GEN\_DESC, MGMT\_COM, GENERL\_COM. Use this to inform both the brief description and the threats and conservation recommendations section

## [1] "12899 Sedum telephioides 1995 SEP 21: 15 STEMS OBSERVED IN FLOWER AND FRUIT; HEALTH DESPITE DROUGHT; NOT IDEAL HABITAT FOR SEDUM (F95GRUB7, S95GRUCM) .<br><br>1985 AUG 15, PLANTS OBSERVED AT BARNES GAP BARRENS (F85WIE12). <br><br>1969 AUG 17 AND 1969 SEP 7: PETALS WHITE, ANTHERS RED; ON CREST OF UPPER BLUFF, IN SHADE OF AMERICUS ALBA; CLIFF ON NORTH SIDE OF BARNES GAP; SSW EXPOSURE; 245-253 M (S69CLACU) . <br>1969 AUG 18: LEAVES PALE GREEN, PETALS WHITE, PINKISH AT APEX; ON CREST OF CLIFF ON N SIDE OF BARNES GAP (S69CLACU). SOUTH-WEST FACING SHALE CLIFF WITH OPEN EXPOSED SHALE LEDGESTHE UPPER LIP OF THE CLIFF IS THE BEST HABITAT. THE NW-ERN PORTION OF THE BARREN IS WOODED. THE SE-ERN PORTION OPEN. NA F95GRUB7 NOTES THAT THE HABITAT AT DOT 5 IS QUITE DISTURBED."   
## [2] "16751 Virginia Pine - Mixed Hardwood Shale Woodland 2006: Tony Davis interpreted PA MAP 2004-2006 aerial photos to replace previous polygons with a better polygon (P11DAVK2).<br><br>1984-05-15: 40-50 ACRE SHALE BARREN, CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES, BUT NO STRICT ENDEMICS OBSERVED (F84WIE08). SW FACING CLIFF OF TOWN HILL,CUT BY SIDLING HILL CR.& SEC RDBARNES GAP ON THE SE SIDE OF THE RIDGE. SMALL CLIFFS AND SHELVES BETWEEN CLIFFS. 40-50 FEET HIGH. BEST BARRENS @ TOP OF CLIFF. EXPOSED SHALE. NW PORTION OF THE CLIFF WOODED. NA EO SHOULD BE SURVEYED DURING FALL TO CHECK FOR LATER APPEARING SPECIES."   
## [3] "27532 Phacelia dubia 2015-05-07: element found getting crowded out by Lonicera japonica on roadbank. More in opening above from the road, where it is threatened by Lonicera morrowii (see SF\_ID 52548) (F15GRU02). 2015-05-07: Four Quarters Interfaith Sanctuary is located in the Sideling Hill Creek watershed, and the creek runs through the tracts owned by the organization. The surface bedrock is Devonian, entirely within the Catskill Formation, and consists of a red rock called a sandstone in the description of the formation, but is locally more of a shale. Judging from the flora here and elsewhere in the vicinity and within this geology, the soils range in pH from moderately acid to moderately alkaline. The most notable features from a biodiversity standpoint are the stream and the WSW-facing outcrops, which constitute a shale barren (F15GRU02). NA 2015-05-07:We surveyed from the road only as we did not have landowner permission (F15GRU02)."

# Threats and Conservation Recommendations

This area should include a short description of the overall threats and conservation recommendations to the NHA. An overview of historic impacts can be placed here as well. Additionally, this section could include a general statement or paragraph about recommendations. Some example statements include *“The majority of the site is contained with the XXX State Forest and is more or less protected from development”* or something similar. Could also reference existing management plans.

Enter your threats and conservation recommendations summary text in the space between these lines:

*enter text here*

Specific threats and conservation recommendations for the elements present at this site include:

The goal of the list items here should be a list of action steps as to what needs to be done for the conservation of the site. If there should be some sort of order here, maybe simplest first and the more complex tasks later.

Enter your specific threats and conservation recommendations bullets in the space between these lines:

* *First specific threats + conservation rec bullet*
* *Second bullet*
* *Add however many bullets you need*

## EO-Specific Threats and Conservation Recommendation Info

## [1] "Virginia Pine - Mixed Hardwood Shale Woodland #N/A #N/A #N/A"   
## [2] "Phacelia dubia #N/A #N/A #N/A"   
## [3] "Sedum telephioides Aggressive non-native plant species are a particular threat to species is calcareous habitats. Left to spread, these species can crowd out the species of concern, as well as other native plant species. Monitor for invasive plant species and remove them prior to becoming dominant at this site, if possible. Target pioneer populations of invasive plants for immediate and continued removal. It is much easier and more effective to keep a place invasive-free than to try to repair a heavily infested habitat. Invasive species management should be coordinated by individuals familiar with the rare species as well as the invasive species present. Continual invasive species monitoring and control will likely be necessary. McPherson, J. I. 2013. Conservation Assessment of Calcareous Ecosystems. Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program at Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. Pittsburgh, PA. Report to Wild Resources Conservation Program, Grant #10391. 152 pg."

# Location

**Municipalities:** Bedford County: Mann Township; Fulton County: Union Township  
**USGS quads:** Bellegrove  
**Previous CNHI reference:** Sideling Hill Creek-bedford Co, Lower Barnes Gap  
**Associated NHAs:** Sideling Hill Creek  
**Overlapping Protected Lands:** NA

Please cite this Natural Heritage Area as:  
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