



Photo: Ron Butler

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE



Forest Management Recommendations for the Scarlet Bluet Damselfly

Background

Damselflies and dragonflies (Order: Odonata) are conspicuous and ecologically important aquatic insects with approximately 155 species documented in Maine. The Scarlet Bluet (*Enallagma pictum*) is one of the state's rarest damselflies, listed as Special Concern due to its narrow state distribution (only southern and coastal), low number of populations, and regional endemism. The breeding habitat of the Scarlet Bluet is clean, shallow lakes and ponds with extensive aquatic floating and emergent vegetation.

The larvae of these damselflies are aquatic with the adults emerging and flying in July and August. Adults forage on smaller aerial insects (mosquitoes, gnats, etc.) and spend some of their time taking refuge within the adjacent shoreline zone. Intact riparian vegetation provides cover and foraging habitat for adults and helps to protect water quality for the aquatic larvae.

Management Recommendations

Many of Maine's wildlife species require or benefit from intact shoreline forest habitat. MDIFW recommends the following practices, adapted from *Threatened and Endangered Species in Forests of Maine: A Guide to Assist with Forestry Activities* (1999), for the Scarlet Bluet to protect water quality for larvae and riparian vegetation for adults:

1. **Extent:** Maintain a 150-foot wide forested riparian management zone around lakes, ponds, and wetlands hosting documented occurrences of Scarlet Bluet.
2. **Activity within the Riparian Management Zone (0 to 150 feet):**
 - Avoid any harvest activity or disturbance within 50 feet of the high water shoreline
 - Beyond 50 feet, manage with single-tree or small group-selection cuts that maintain a 60-70% canopy cover in an evenly distributed stand
 - Harvest only during dry or frozen ground conditions
 - Avoid and minimize the construction of permanent roads or openings
 - Build temporary bridges across all perennial streams prior to any motorized equipment crossing
 - Avoid the use of herbicides and insecticides