



Taking Action for Wildlife

New Hampshire's Wildlife Action Plan News & Updates 2010

Spring

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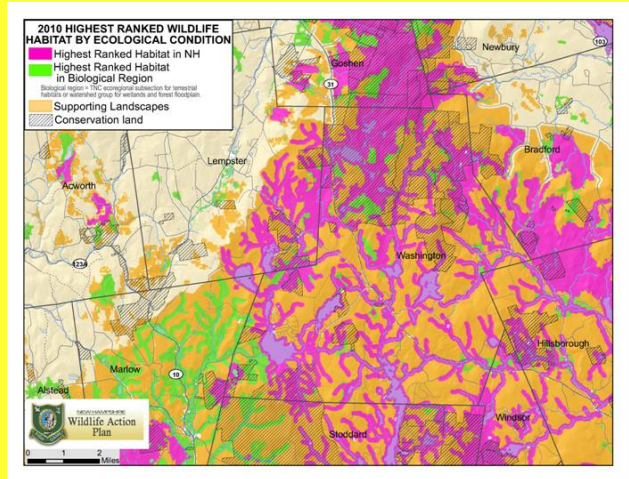
[NHDES Model Ordinances Draft chapters \(includes Wildlife Habitat Management\)](#)

Taking Action for Wildlife is a joint endeavor by UNH Cooperative Extension and the NH Fish & Game Department. Read on to find out about the Wildlife Action Plan and how you can Take Action for Wildlife through websites, workshops, community projects, resources and more!

Wildlife Action Plan - Town Maps Available on the Web!

We are pleased to announce that towns can now download small scale versions of the 2010 Wildlife Action Plan maps: the Wildlife Habitat Land Cover Map, and the Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat. The maps for each town are available in two sizes: 8.5 x 11 inches and 11 x 17 inches. Each map is available as a PDF file or as a JPEG image.

Click here to visit the [Wildlife Action Plan Town Maps web page](#) on the NH Fish & Game web site. Every town in the state can access these maps.





Really Take Action... Volunteer for Wildlife!

Now that spring is here, there are lots of ways to get outside, lend a hand, and get directly involved in helping wildlife and the environment around you. Dragonfly surveys, Karner Blue Captive Rearing Project, Piping plovers monitoring, Coverts Volunteers, Reptile and Amphibian volunteers, and more!

Also check with local land trusts, nature centers, and conservation groups for more opportunities! [Click here for web links and more information about these programs.](#)

Your Fields are Habitat for Wildlife

Fields, pastures, and abandoned fields and pastures that contain shrubs support unique collections of wildlife species that don't occur in the forested habitats that dominate much of New Hampshire. Over the last 60 years, the amount of agricultural land in New Hampshire has decreased significantly as fields have reverted naturally to forest, and development has permanently converted hayfields, pastures and natural shrublands, such as pine barrens, into residential and commercial developments. Today, wildlife species that require fields, pastures, and shrubby "old fields" as their habitat are among the species in greatest need of conservation - many of these species could be lost from the NH landscape if landowners don't take an active role in the maintaining, enhancing, or even creating these habitats when they have the opportunity to do so on their land.

Do you have fields or old fields on your land? If so, here are some things to consider if you are interested in improving their habitat value to wildlife. [Read More](#)



Blanding's Turtle - A New Hampshire Endangered Species:

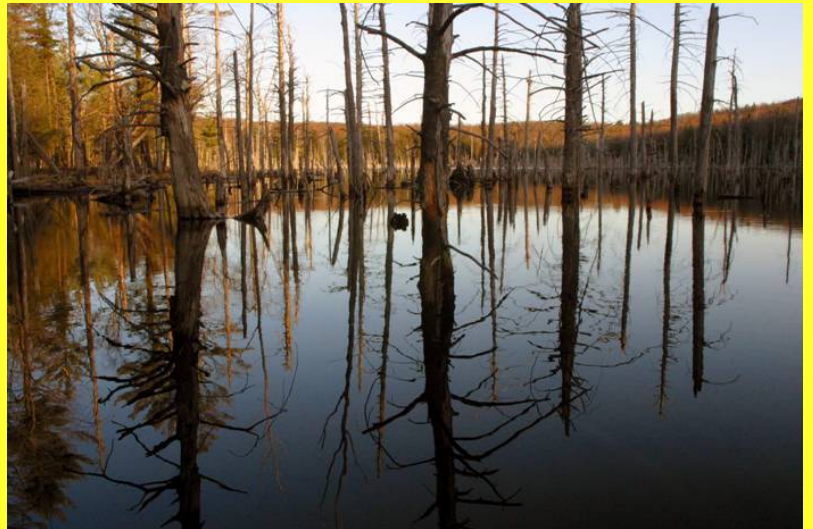
The Blanding's turtle is a species of regional concern and was recently added to the New Hampshire Endangered Species list. In the Northeast, Blanding's turtles are restricted to southern Maine, southern New Hampshire, eastern Massachusetts, and a few isolated populations in New York and Pennsylvania. In NH, Blanding's turtles are patchily distributed across the southeastern part of the state with fewer records north and west of Concord. Like most wildlife, the biggest threat to Blanding's turtles is the loss or degradation of their habitat. [Read More](#)



Marsh and Shrub Wetland Habitats

What Makes Them So Special?

Most people in New Hampshire recognize that wetlands are important. Wildlife viewers, hunters, boaters, and birders will tell you that New Hampshire has a wealth of beautiful wetlands. But as human development encroaches to the edges of wetlands, the plants and wildlife living in these areas are at risk. Analysis done for the [NH Wildlife Action Plan](#) outlines a variety of threats to marsh and shrub wetlands. And because these wetlands support such a rich diversity of rare and common wildlife, these habitats are high on the list of habitats in need of conservation attention. [Read More](#)



Juliana and Mark Phillips: Carrying on the Tradition, Caring for Family Lands



Mark and Juliana Phillips' home in Webster is part of 700 acres that has been in Mark's family for generations. It's where Mark was "surrounded by nature" as a boy. The land has seen changes since then - pastures grew in and habitats changed. "It was a classic, New England abandoned farm," Mark says. The result was "less wildlife" than when the land was a mix of farm and forest cover. Juliana's experience in nature early in life led to her attitudes about land today. "I grew up in a very rural part of New Jersey, where we spent most of the time outdoors. Now the area is one of the most densely developed areas in the northeast. I've seen so much natural land disappear." [Read More.](#)

Whitenose Syndrome Update

White Nose Syndrome (WNS) is having a significant effect on four of the five hibernating bats in NH. The winter surveys showed serious declines in most hibernacula with the overall hibernating bat population decline of about 65%. Four new hibernacula were discovered. Two were in old WWII bunkers and did not show signs of WNS. The other two have WNS. One of these is somewhere near or on Mt. Washington, and is likely our largest hibernacula, with several thousand bats. Skiers started seeing bats flying this winter in early March, and they saw them almost every day. Several dead bats were collected and were confirmed by the Wildlife Health Lab as positive for WNS. [Read More](#) to see how you can help.



Bat infected with White Nose Syndrome

Newsletter Editor: Amanda Stone (UNH Cooperative Extension)

Photo Credits: Banner photos (Ben Kimball, NH Fish & Game and Amanda Stone), Volunteers Photo (Malin Clyde), Hayfield (Amanda Stone), Blanding's Turtle (Mike Marchand), Wetland (Eric Aldrich), Phillips Farm (Juliana & Mark Phillips), WNS Bat (Susie Von Oettengin).



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