

Monadnock Conservancy

Partnering with Communities

Several groups of people huddled over the Wildlife Action Plan maps, a buzz of animated conversation filling the room. Taking Action for Wildlife had come to Alstead, and more than 30 community members were discussing and identifying important habitat areas in town. This was part of the Monadnock Conservancy's

Know your local land trust!

Land trusts can be a great source of assistance in your community land conservation and conservation planning efforts.

Find out who your local land trust is at : www.nhltc.org (Click on the "Find a Land Trust" link.)

"Community Conservation Partnership" which successfully engaged more than 12 communities in the region from 2008 – 2014. The Conservancy, a land trust covering 35 towns in Cheshire and Western Hillsborough counties, worked with these communities to develop comprehensive Open Space/Conservation Plans that incorporated Natural Resources Inventory data, including wildlife information. By working with communities over a period of intense engagement (several months to a year), the Conservancy was successful in bringing in a wide range of citizens as well as town boards to be part of each project. Separate work sessions focused on agriculture, wildlife and water resources allowed people to participate in the areas of their interest. This involvement increased citizen

ownership of, and support for, the conservation priorities identified. Back in Alstead, as a direct result of the Conservancy's work with them, several properties were conserved, all of which had valuable wildlife habitats. "Information from the Wildlife Action Plan was critical when looking at the conservation values on these parcels", commented Rick Brackett, project manager at the Monadnock Conservancy. This success in conserving key parcels of land with important habitats was repeated in several other communities.



Francestown reviews the wildlife maps



Conserved property in Alstead, NH



Deerfield, NH

Taking Action for WILDLIFE

We bring information about NH's wildlife to you! The Taking Action for Wildlife Team, made up of staff from NH Fish and Game and UNH Cooperative Extension, works to help communities, land trusts, private landowners and others conserve wildlife and habitats in New Hampshire. We help put information from NH's Wildlife Action Plan in the hands of NH citizens. The NH Wildlife Action Plan identifies habitats and species in greatest need of conservation, identifies threats to their continued existence, and suggests actions to help address these issues.

Here are some examples of ways we can help you (for free)! We can:

- Meet with your town's Conservation Commission to help incorporate wildlife and habitats into Natural Resource Inventories and conservation plans, and create educational programs to teach others about wildlife.
- Connect private landowners and towns with County Foresters and Wildlife Specialists to discuss recommendations for improving and creating wildlife habitat.
- Help land trusts and other conservation organizations use NH's Wildlife Action Plan for conservation planning, land management and outreach.

Visit

www.takingactionforwildlife.org
**for help creating natural resources inventories,
conservation planning, managing habitat, and more.**

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Taking Action for Wildlife

NEW HAMPSHIRE WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN

COMMUNITIES TAKE ACTION FOR WILDLIFE



**University of
New Hampshire**
Cooperative Extension



Andover Reaches Out



On a warm summer evening, a story on NH Public Radio grabbed attention. "... for our audio postcard, we will hear about Andover's Taking Action for Wildlife Program". This was news indeed—a community's efforts to take action for wildlife had made it on public radio! When Taking Action for Wildlife came to Andover in Fall 2012, the six-member conservation commission knew what they

wanted to do—find creative ways to engage local residents and raise awareness about the value of wildlife habitats in Andover. They rolled up their sleeves and spent the winter months planning a program of public outreach activities to run from spring through fall, 2013. They included a mix of outdoor field trips, indoor slide presentations and a photo exhibit and advertised the programs through every available channel, including NHPR. The program that was featured on NHPR got 25 participants up close and personal with wetland habitats at Bog Pond in Andover. This successful outreach series drew more than 130 people with 20-70 people at each event—and this was all accomplished with a minimal budget.

Learn more about doing community outreach:

Find out about Campton's winter outreach program "Frozen Bog Walk."

Learn how to give a walk or talk in your town by training with the *Speaking for Wildlife* program (www.speakingforwildlife.org).

Bath Searches for Brook Trout

Outfitted with waders and determination, several volunteers from the town of Bath spent an exciting (shall we say, electrifying?) three days in July 2012 helping NH Fish and Game biologists search high elevation streams for Eastern Brook Trout using electrofishing techniques. This was a valuable addition to the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) the town was working on with guidance from the Taking Action for Wildlife team. "The brook trout study gives us a new appreciation for healthy aquatic ecosystems and how important they are to Bath," said conservation commission chair, Bruce Barnum. To compile the NRI, a committee of volunteers studied the Wildlife Action Plan maps, learned about the wildlife habitat types and added wetlands studies as well as the brook trout data. "We studied Natural Resource Inventories compiled by other communities and used our own expertise to write different sections of the report" says committee member, Judy Tumosa. An intern from Woodsville High School



A Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) lists and describes important, naturally occurring resources within a given locality. A community's NRI is the back bone for conservation planning and just about everything else you do to protect natural resources!

lent her graphic arts skills to the project, taking photographs and designing the cover and layout of the NRI document. "This was truly a community effort," says Judy.

Fremont Does a Bioblitz

In the early hours of a Saturday morning in spring, a group of Fremont citizens armed with binoculars and field guides were alert and quiet, listening intently to the chorus of birds and scribbling on their notepads. "Hermit thrush. Scarlet tanager. Chickadee. Wait! Was that a pileated woodpecker?" A short distance away another group huddled over a small flower, riffling through a field guide to identify it. A third group was on the hunt for reptiles, amphibians, mammals and insects. This was the start of Fremont's "Bioblitz", a fun and informative half-day event involving three teams of interested residents exploring Glen Oaks, a town-owned conservation property, recording all the plant and animal species they could identify in the space of a few hours. By the end of the May 2011 event, the group had tallied 256 species! The Fremont Bioblitz was organized to add data to the baseline information in the management plan written for the property.



Pileated woodpecker



For more details on the stories featured here and to see what other towns have done, visit www.takingactionforwildlife.org

Lempster Inventorying for Wildlife

You never know when the right person is sitting in a room at the right time. That's what happened when the Lempster Conservation Commission met with the Taking Action for Wildlife Team to discuss starting a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI). Joining the group at that first meeting was a graduate student from Antioch University in Keene, NH, eager to learn more about the conservation commission's work. The group's discussion about an NRI piqued his interest, and he later approached Lempster to propose conducting their NRI as part of his Master's project – it was a perfect match! "This meeting discussion truly turned out to be a "win-win" for all concerned", remarked Lempster Conservation Commission Chair, Jim Beard. The results were impressive, including a comprehensive wildlife section alongside water, soils, historic and cultural resources. This helped to meet a major goal of the Town of Lempster Master Plan to "...identify, protect and preserve sufficient and viable habitats to ensure the continuation of healthy wildlife and rare plant species."

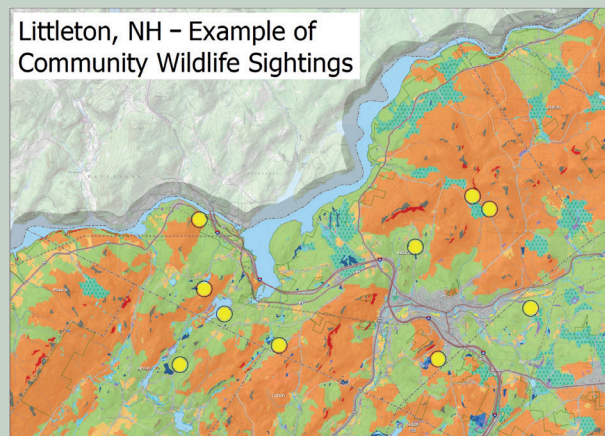


Black swallowtail

What wildlife species are in town?

Engage your community's residents!

- Use a laminated poster-size copy of the Wildlife Habitats Map for your town
- Invite residents to identify species they have seen
- Record observations by placing numbered sticky dots on the map and recording the corresponding information on a notepad
- Take this to local events – voting day, town meeting, Old Home Day, and more!
- Be prepared for interesting conversations!



Wild About NRI's!

Incorporate information about wildlife and habitats into your NRI and use it to guide your conservation efforts.

Key steps to include wildlife in your Natural Resources Inventory:

- Review the Wildlife Action Plan maps
- Include these maps in your NRI
- Collect wildlife data and information using resources on www.takingactionforwildlife.org
- Incorporate local information about wildlife
- Write the wildlife section of the NRI



Spotted turtle

What habitats are important?

Work with your group to locate important habitat areas in town using the two Wildlife Action Plan maps and local knowledge. Circle those areas on the Habitats Land Cover Map and name or number them for easy reference. Use this information to prioritize habitats for protection.