



Taking Action for Wildlife

New Hampshire's Wildlife Action Plan News & Updates Winter 2009

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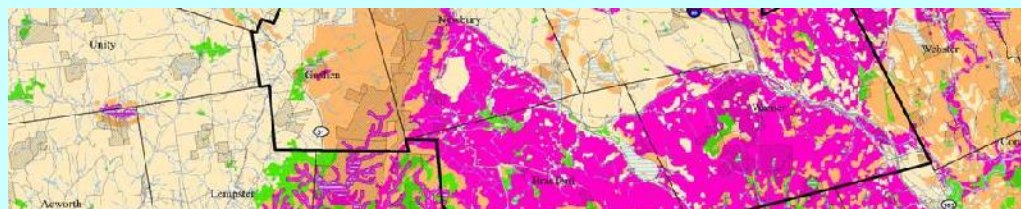
Quick Links



Taking Action for Wildlife is a joint endeavor by UNH Cooperative Extension and the NH Fish & Game Department. Find out about NH Wildlife Action Plan workshops, community projects, tools, resources and information that can benefit you and your community.

*If you'd like to be added to our e-mail list for future newsletters, [click here](#) to e-mail us your address with **Add to Wildlife Newsletter E-mail list** in the subject line. If you prefer not to receive this newsletter, please click the **Safe Unsubscribe** button at the end of the newsletter.*

Updating the Wildlife Action Plan Maps



The data that was used to create the Wildlife Action Plan maps improves over time as better quality data and more information becomes available. With this in mind, and taking into consideration the views that you have expressed about the display of information and data in the maps, we are updating the map series to incorporate those changes. We anticipate that the updated maps will be available in Spring, 2009. [Read More](#)

[Taking Action for Wildlife
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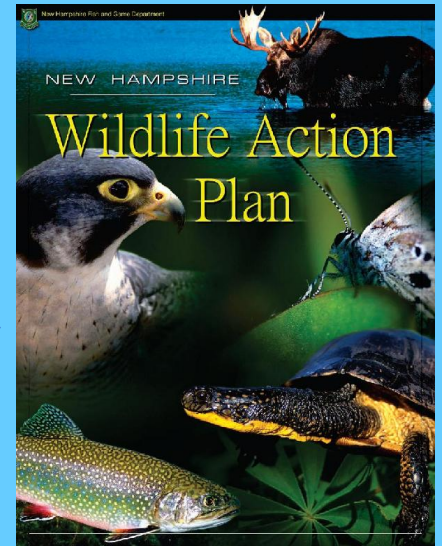
[Wildlife Theme tool on the
GRANIT Data Mapper](#)

Wildlife Action Plan On The Web

Visit the newly updated Wildlife Action Plan web page. [Click here](#) to find out more about wildlife events and workshops, how to incorporate the Wildlife Action Plan into a Natural Resources Inventory, how to do a Wildlife Habitat Audit, instructions for using the GRANIT Data Mapper "Wildlife Theme", Common Questions about the Wildlife Action Plan and more!

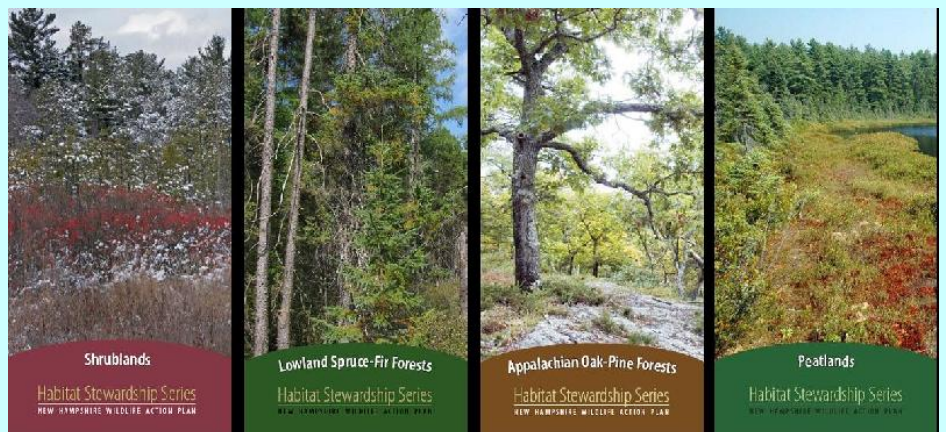
How Have You Used the Wildlife Action Plan?

Are you a community using it in your natural resources inventories and conservation planning? A consultant helping communities incorporate wildlife information into management plans? A landowner applying wildlife habitat management strategies to your property? A land trust helping communities and landowners take action to protect wildlife habitats? We are compiling a collection of stories from around the state to keep track of how the the information in the Wildlife Action Plan is being used. We will publish some of your stories in this newsletter, and use others in our reports to maintain funding and outreach. E-mail your stories to [Amanda Stone](#) and be sure to include your name and town/conservation group



Coming Soon! NEW Wildlife Habitat Brochures!

UNH Cooperative Extension will publish four NEW brochures to help landowners and others learn about and help conserve important wildlife habitats found on their land. The new brochures are part of the New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan Habitat Stewardship Series, which already includes 4 brochures on Grasslands, Marsh and Shrub Wetlands, Floodplain Forests and Vernal Pools (view them here). The new brochures, available in March, 2009, cover additional important habitat types: Lowland Spruce-Fir Forests, Shrublands, Appalachian Oak-Pine Forests, and Peatlands. [Read more.](#)



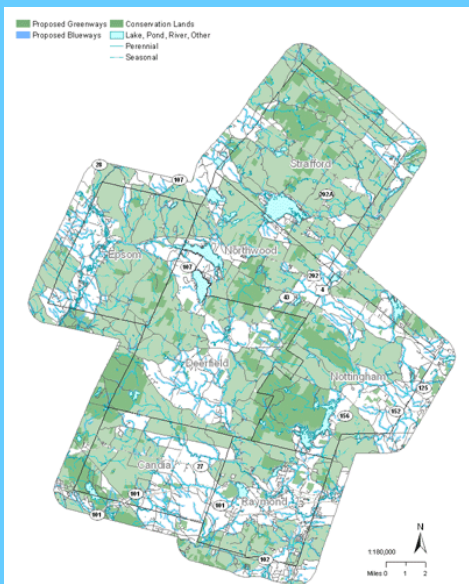
The New England Cottontail - A Species in Decline



Despite the rabbit's reputation for prolific breeding, the New England cottontail is being considered for federal protection under the Endangered Species Act, and is currently listed as an endangered species in New Hampshire. As recently as the 1960's, these rabbits were found throughout southern and central New Hampshire. Today, only a few remnant populations occupying less than 25% of their historic range remain in the state. These populations occur in the Seacoast and Merrimack Valley regions. The primary cause for the decline of this species is habitat loss and fragmentation. [Read More](#)

New England Cottontail Recovery Effort Seeks Volunteers and Interested Landowners

All known locations of New Hampshire's remaining New England cottontail populations occur on private lands. The survival of this species depends on the cooperation of private landowners who are willing to create and maintain early-successional habitats on their land. There is both financial and technical assistance available to landowners who are interested in managing their property for New England cottontails. To learn more about how landowners can help New England cottontail rabbits through management practices, [click here](#) to read or download the new publication: A Landowner's Guide to New England Cottontail Habitat. Volunteers from southern New Hampshire (particularly the Seacoast and Merrimack Valley) are needed to help with winter rabbit pellet surveys. [Read More](#)



Land Trusts Taking Action for Wildlife: Bear Paw Regional Greenways

When Bear-Paw Regional Greenways, a regional land trust in southeastern New Hampshire, wanted to craft a comprehensive conservation plan for its seven town region, it turned to the NH Wildlife Action Plan as a key resource. The group's mission is "to permanently conserve a network of lands that protects our region's water, wildlife habitat, forests, and farmland." As the "greenways" in the group's name implies, Bear-Paw focuses its efforts on conserving land located in large, unfragmented blocks and in areas that can connect them, helping to maintain habitat and aquatic connectivity across the 265 square mile region. Often the connections are planned to include riparian areas, protecting water as well as critical habitats such as streams and rivers, marsh and shrub wetlands and floodplain forests. [Read More](#)

Gilmanton Conservationists Work for Wildlife

Nanci and Charlie Mitchell live on a large tract of land in Gilmanton which they manage largely to protect and improve wildlife habitat on the property. Recently, they went the extra step of conserving the majority of it with help from the Forest Society. Nancy and Charlie took risks and bold steps along the way, and in the process, have helped wildlife in the area immensely. Among the most notable of their recent activities was purchasing an adjacent 360 acre parcel abutting their land on Swett Mountain. Nancy and Charlie didn't stop there, however. They've embarked on active habitat improvement work and have welcomed others to experience their land by hosting hikes and tours. They've kept track of how wildlife uses their property and seeded eroded roads and trails to protect water quality and the roads and trails themselves. [Read More](#)

"Brontosaurus" at work creating a wildlife habitat clearing



Critical Habitat - New Hampshire's Lowland Spruce Fir Forests



New Hampshire lies at the southern edge of the range of spruce-fir forests in North America, and as a result, our spruce-fir forests support many wildlife and plant species that don't occur in other parts of the eastern United States. Harvesting practices over the past 100 years have taken a heavy toll on these forests, and have changed the habitat for several at-risk wildlife species. As such, New Hampshire's Wildlife Action Plan recognizes spruce-fir forests as one of the habitats in greatest need of conservation. Lowland spruce-fir forests cover nearly 10% of New Hampshire, mostly in the north, in Coos and Grafton counties. A narrow band also extends down the western portion of the state in Sullivan, Cheshire, and parts of Hillsborough counties. You can see good examples of this forest type in the White Mountain National Forest, Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge, and at the Randolph Community Forest. [Read More](#)

To Dam or Not to Dam - What's Best for Wildlife?

Wildlife Action Plan Strategies 507: Restore or Maintain Natural Flow Regimes, and 508: Restore and Maintain Watershed Continuity



For many fish, reptile, and amphibian species, a change in the natural flow of water can be devastating. Many species depend on seasonal patterns in flows and water levels to complete their life cycles. A number of fish species, including American shad, Atlantic salmon, and American eel, for example, time their spawning migrations to coincide with the snow melt and heavy rains that occur in spring. Changes to water flows also alter wetland habitats that can negatively impact many



bird species such as Common loon. Altered flow regimes may result from a variety of practices, including water withdrawal, dredging, and stream channelization, but human-made dams are one of the biggest culprits. [Read More](#)

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