

# TAKING ACTION FOR WILDLIFE

## STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE How to Use Regulations to Protect Wildlife

### STEP 1: Review the Master Plan

- Take a look at your most recent Master Plan. Does it include priorities for protection of important natural resources, including wildlife habitat?
- If this information is missing, find out when the Master Plan will next be updated, or if there is an opportunity to add an addendum to the Master Plan that incorporates protection of key natural resources in your community.
- Consider incorporating your [Natural Resources Inventory](#) into your town's Master Plan as the Natural Resources Chapter. This ensures that your your town's important natural resources, such as wildlife habitats, are an integral part of local regulatory protections.

### STEP 2: Review existing regulations for wildlife habitat protection

- Do existing regulations provide for protection of wildlife habitats?
- Consider revising zoning and site plan/subdivision regulations to include wildlife habitat considerations.
- Take a look at [Success Stories](#) below to see how other communities have included wildlife habitat protection in their local regulations.
- Review the resources in the box "Learn More About Regulations to Protect Wildlife" below.

### STEP 3: Conduct education and outreach around proposed zoning, etc. changes

- Build public support for any proposed changes to regulations. See [Community Stories](#) and [Conducting Public Outreach for Wildlife](#) for ideas.
- Educate voters and decision makers about the changes and why they are important.

### STEP 4: Collaborate Across Political Boundaries

- Many wildlife habitats are expansive, and frequently cover territory in more than one town. Because regulations stop at the town boundaries, it can be helpful to collaborate with adjacent communities, where possible, to get consistency among regulations between towns.

June, 2011

Visit <http://takingactionforwildlife.org> for details and updates



UNIVERSITY  
of NEW HAMPSHIRE  
Cooperative Extension