

TAKING ACTION FOR WILDLIFE

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE How to Manage & Restore Habitats on Community Land

STEP 1: Use your conservation plan as a guide for managing and restoring habitats.

- Refer to [Natural Resources Inventory and Wildlife](#) and your town's natural resources inventory for information on critical wildlife habitats.
- Refer to [Conservation Planning for Wildlife](#) and your town's conservation plan for guidance in prioritized habitat areas.

STEP 2: Identify potentially suitable town or city properties for management or restoration: town forests, conservation areas, etc.

- Use the [Wildlife Habitat](#) and [Highest Ranked](#) maps [for your community](#) to identify these properties.

STEP 3: Identify wildlife habitats on these lands, especially [Critical Habitats](#) as identified in the NH Wildlife Action Plan.

- Use your community's [Wildlife Habitat Map](#) to identify potential habitats that may benefit from management or restoration.

STEP 4: Identify Species of Conservation Concern that require these Critical Habitats and that are likely to occur in your geographic area.

- Use [Appendix D of the NH Wildlife Action Plan](#) to cross reference Habitats and Species.

STEP 5: Conduct field studies and consult resources on the properties of interest.

- Use this information to inventory actual existence of Critical Habitats and Species of Conservation Concern as identified in the NH Wildlife Action Plan. Document this in as much detail as possible – locations, photos, etc.
- Document any invasive species on the property, and other features that may require restoration.

STEP 6: Research specific habitat requirements of the identified Species of Conservation Concern.

- What are the threats to these species and recommended management of their habitat? Seek advice from UNH Cooperative Extension Foresters and other staff about forest and habitat management approaches and financial incentive programs for landowners (see [Resources for Management and Restoration of Habitats](#))

STEP 7: Identify management or restoration options.

- Seek advice from [UNH Cooperative Extension Foresters](#) and other staff about forest and habitat management approaches and financial incentive programs for landowners, and options for restoration.
- See [Resources for Management and Restoration of Habitats](#)
- Review [Cost-Share/Financial Assistance for Landowners](#) and find out what grant options are available to landowners interested in habitat management or restoration.

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STEP 8: Identify professional assistance.

- Consider hiring a forester, wildlife biologist, etc. to help develop the management or restoration plan.
- Seek advice from [UNH Cooperative Extension Foresters](#) and other staff about forest and habitat management approaches and financial incentive programs for landowners

STEP 9: Create a management or restoration plan based on the above information.

- Review management plans from other communities to get ideas about what you might want to include. Create a management plan using professional assistance or volunteers.
- Work with a professional to create a restoration plan suitable for the habitats on the property.

STEP 10: Implement the management or restoration plan, and publicize it to keep your community informed.

- See [Public Outreach and Wildlife Habitat](#) for more information on public outreach.

STEP 11: Evaluate the results of the management plan annually.

- Publicize the results, e.g. increased use by wildlife, increased numbers of wildlife species, new wildlife species using the habitat, etc.
- See [A Landowner's Guide to Inventorying & Monitoring Wildlife on Your Land](#). Measure results against original goals and objectives.

STEP 12: Monitor for the presence of Species of Concern over time.

- Document monitoring of lands in writing, on maps and with photos

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



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