

Communities Taking Action for Wildlife

GOT WILDLIFE?

By Amanda Stone and Frank Mitchell, UNH Cooperative Extension

GOT WILDLIFE? That's the question the Easton Conservation Commission is posing to visitors to the Town Hall. The group is using a display to help build a database of wildlife species observed in town. A large aerial photo hangs in the town office with pins indicating locations of wildlife sightings recorded to date. Each pin has a flag with a number that corresponds to a sheet where people fill in the information about the species observed. Easton is also collecting photos of the species observed when possible.

This spring, the Taking Action for Wildlife Team is working with three towns in Grafton and Coos counties: Easton, Carroll and Bath. All three towns are working on their Natural Resources Inventories (NRI) and incorporating information from the Wildlife Action Plan and Taking Action for Wildlife into them. When completed, the towns plan to include the NRI documentation into their towns' Master Plans as the Natural Resources Chapters. They are accomplishing two goals at once by doing this through their natural resources inventories!

These three towns have additional projects in the works. The Carroll Conservation Commission plans to conduct several educational field walks to critical habitats and host presentations focused on wildlife topics to build public awareness and support for protecting wildlife habitats. Coos County Forester Brendan Prusik is helping them with these educational events.

The Bath Conservation Commission is updating the 1989 management plan for their town forest. Their goal is to include information on management for wildlife habitat using information from the Wildlife Action Plan. They will be walking the forest this summer to observe the critical wildlife habitats shown on the Wildlife Habitats Land Cover Map for their community, and discuss management options with Grafton County Forester Dave Falkenham. Bath also plans to host a Taking Action for Wildlife workshop for landowners and other interested people in the fall.

Easton is putting together a packet to be mailed to land owners of parcels 50 acres and larger who may be interested in managing their properties for wildlife or permanently conserving their land. The landowner packets include a cover letter, a set of [habitat stewardship brochures](#) for the critical habitats on each landowner's property, and information on cost-share programs and land conservation options available to landowners wishing to manage or restore wildlife habitats on their property, or conserve it. The packet also includes an invitation to a fall workshop Easton will be hosting on Taking Action for Wildlife for interested landowners and others.

For more information about the Communities Taking Action for Wildlife program, e-mail Amanda Stone at amanda.stone@unh.edu.

