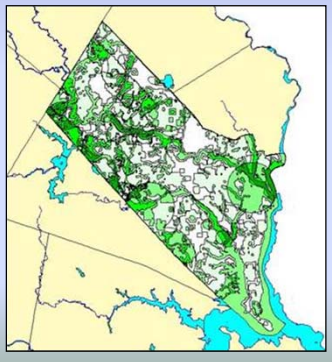
Conservation Planning:

Developing a vision for the future ecological health of an area and the maintenance of farm and managed forest lands

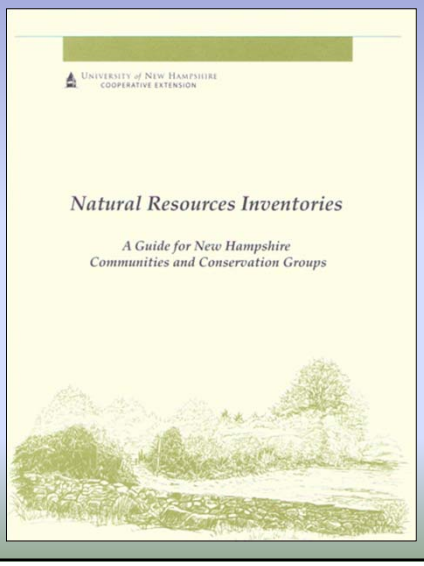
Community Planning Action: Why create a conservation plan?

- Identify and describe the most important natural features and resources
- Promote conservation of these
- Guide municipal or private voluntary land conservation planning
- Document conservation priorities and recommended policies in a municipal master plan
- Suggest regulatory protection for some features and resources

Natural resource inventories: *What and where natural resources are.*



Natural Resource Inventory



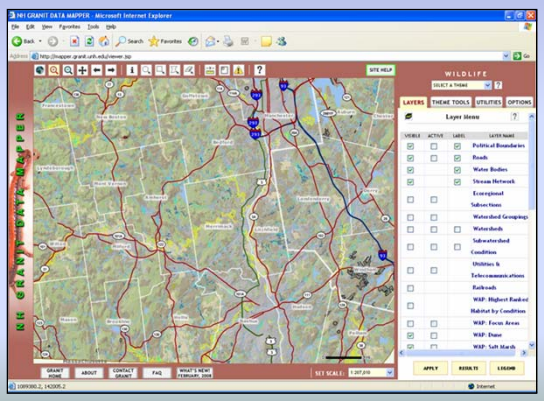
Basic Inventory:
Existing GIS data

Detailed Inventory :
Adding locally produced data

This book is available from
UNH Cooperative Extension:
http://extension.unh.edu/

Mapping Tools

Granit Datamapper
Free online tool with NH data already loaded.



http://mapper.granit.unh.edu/viewer.jsp

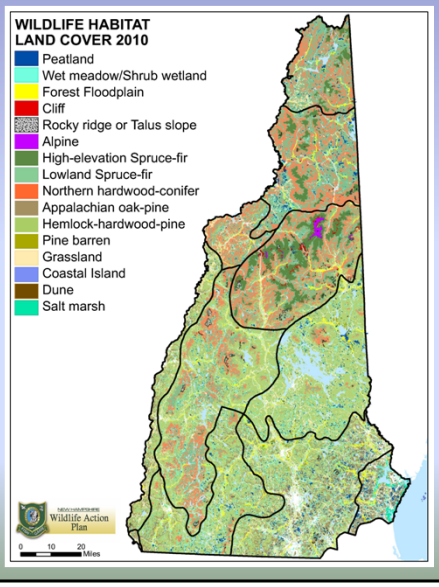
ArcGIS is the most common powerful software but there are free alternatives!

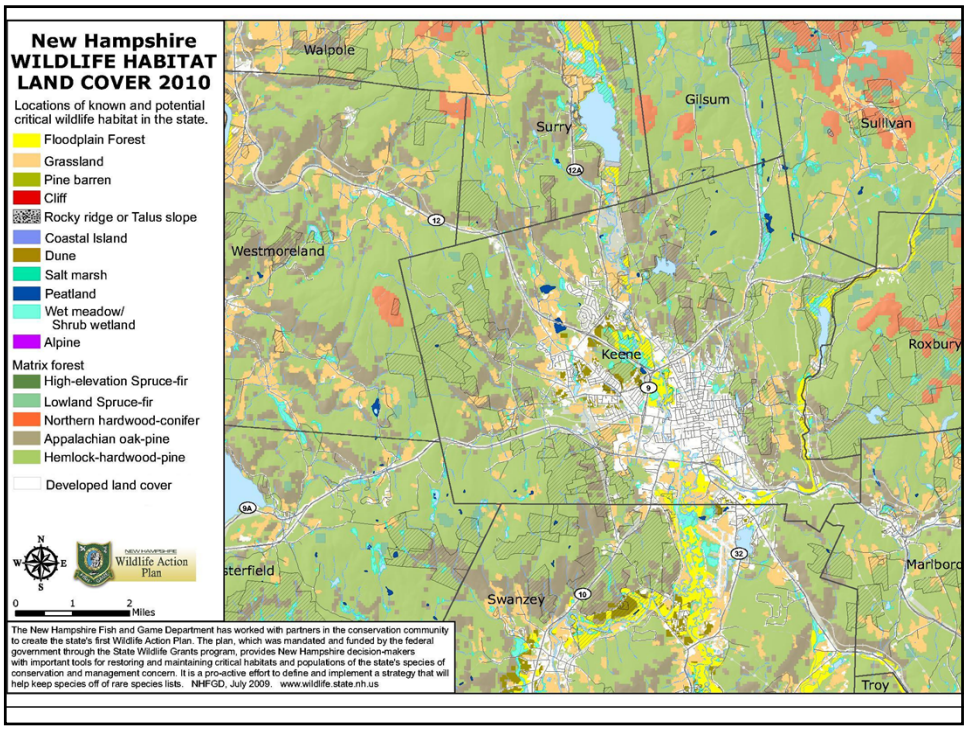
See UNH Cooperative Extension GIS/GPS workshops for training and online resources

Wildlife Action Plan Maps

New Hampshire
Wildlife Habitat
Land Cover

Updated in
2010!

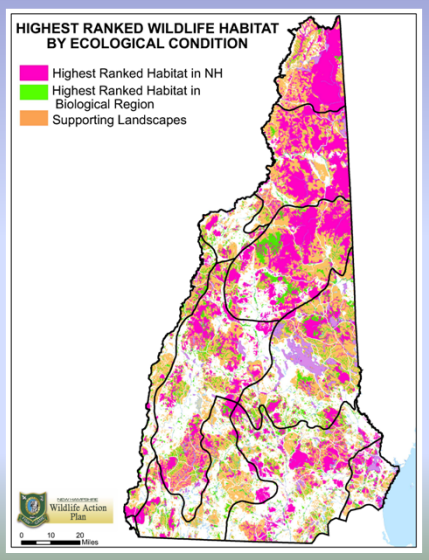


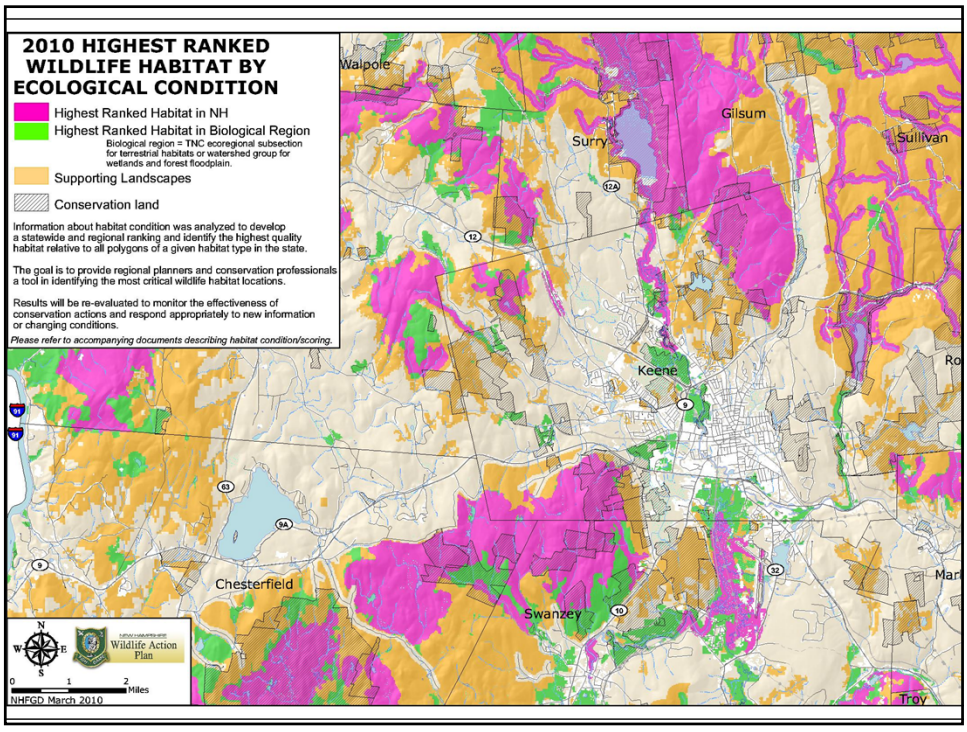


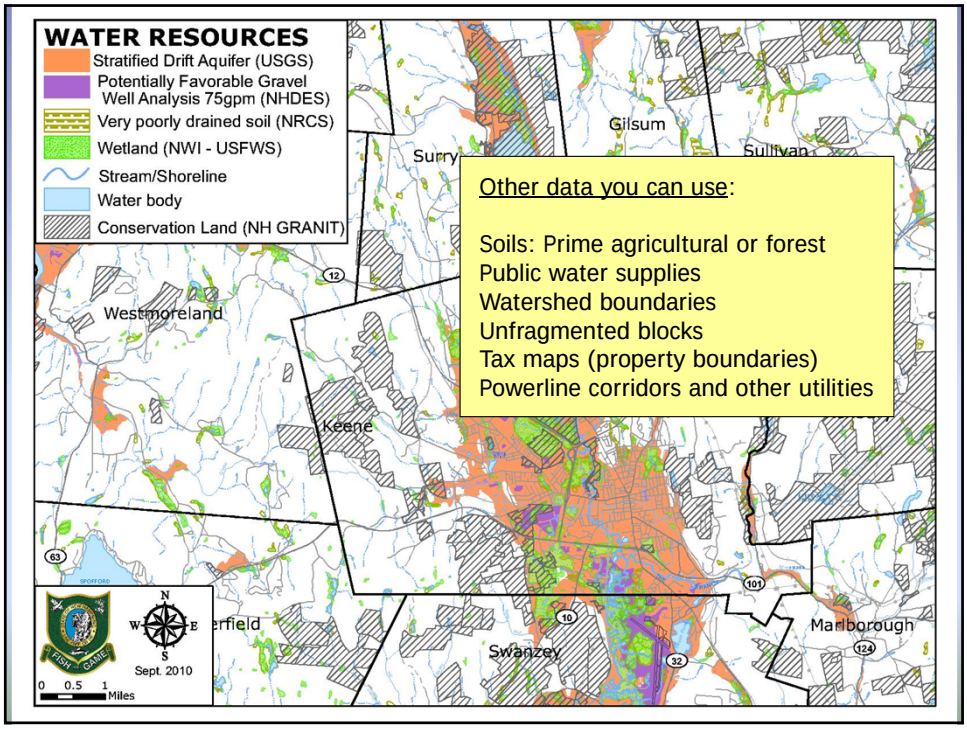
Wildlife Action Plan Maps

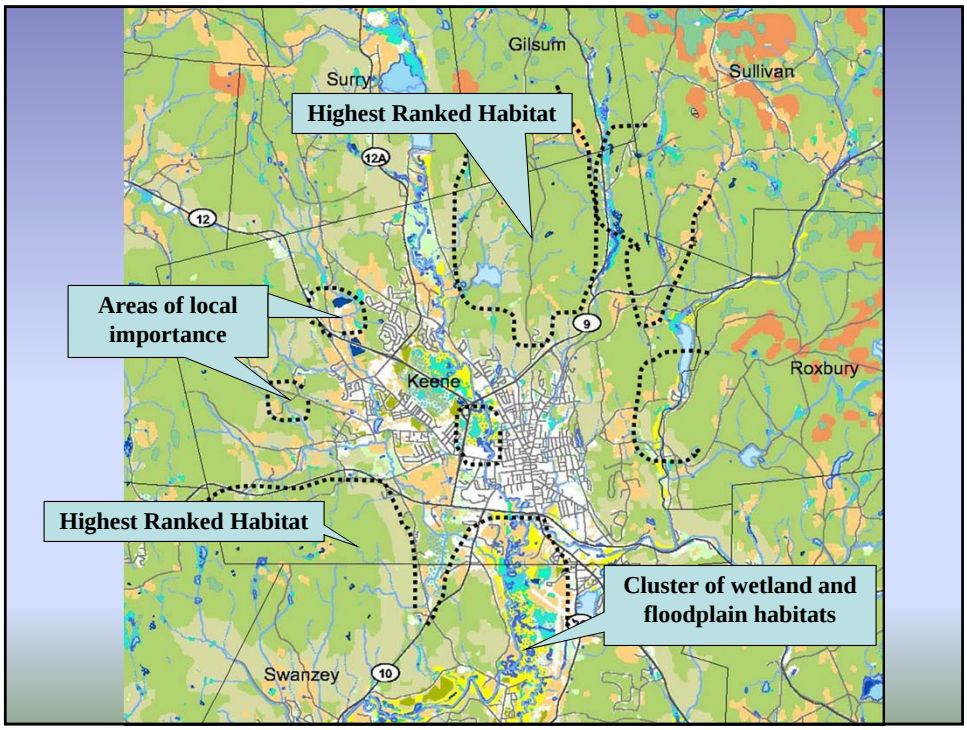
Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat By Ecological Condition

Updated in 2010!



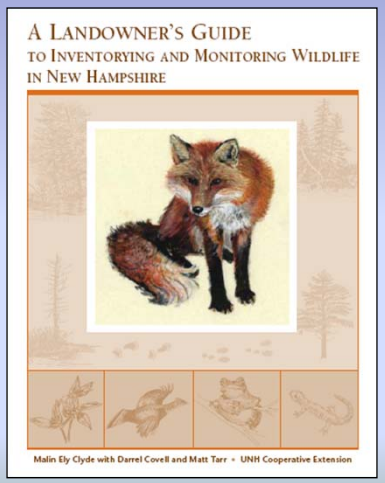



WATER RESOURCES
Stratified Drift Aquifer (USGS)
Potentially Favorable Gravel Well Analysis 75gpm (NHDES)
Very poorly drained soil (NRCS)
Wetland (NWI - USFWS)
Stream/Shoreline
Water body
Conservation Land (NH GRANIT)
Other data you can use:
Soils: Prime agricultural or forest
Public water supplies
Watershed boundaries
Unfragmented blocks
Tax maps (property boundaries)
Powerline corridors and other utilities
Gilsum
Surry
Sullivan
Westmoreland
Keene
Swanzey
Marlborough
Roxbury
Sept. 2010
0 0.5 1 Miles


Gilsum
Surry
Sullivan
Highest Ranked Habitat
Areas of local importance
Keene
Roxbury
Highest Ranked Habitat
Cluster of wetland and floodplain habitats
Swanzey

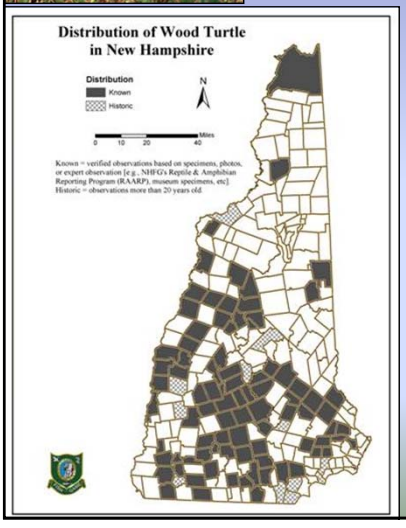
Add Local Data to Your NRI

- Vernal pool identification and assessment
- Wetland assessments
- Town forest inventory
- Trails
- Scenic areas
- Wildlife Inventories
- Other areas of local importance



Wildlife Action Plan Species Profiles

Appendix A

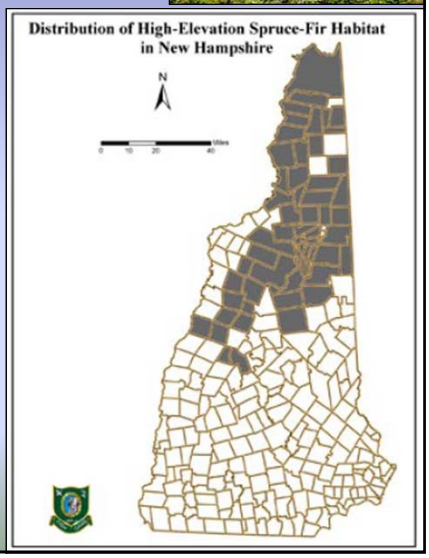


- Species Description
- Status
- Distribution and Abundance
- Known & Potential Habitats
- Protection
- Threats
- Research and Inventory Needs
- Conservation Management Needs
- Bibliography

Wildlife Action Plan Habitat Profiles

Appendix B

- Habitat description
- Distribution and abundance
- Protection
- Threats
- Research and inventory needs
- Conservation and management needs
- Bibliography



Habitat and Species Crosswalks Appendix D

Appalachian Oak Pine Forest

Northern Hardwood Conifer Forest

Hemlock-Hardwood-Pine Forest

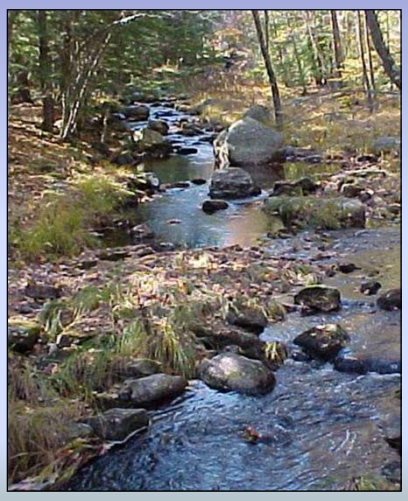
Grassland

Shrubland

Marsh and Shrub Wetlands

Pine Barrens

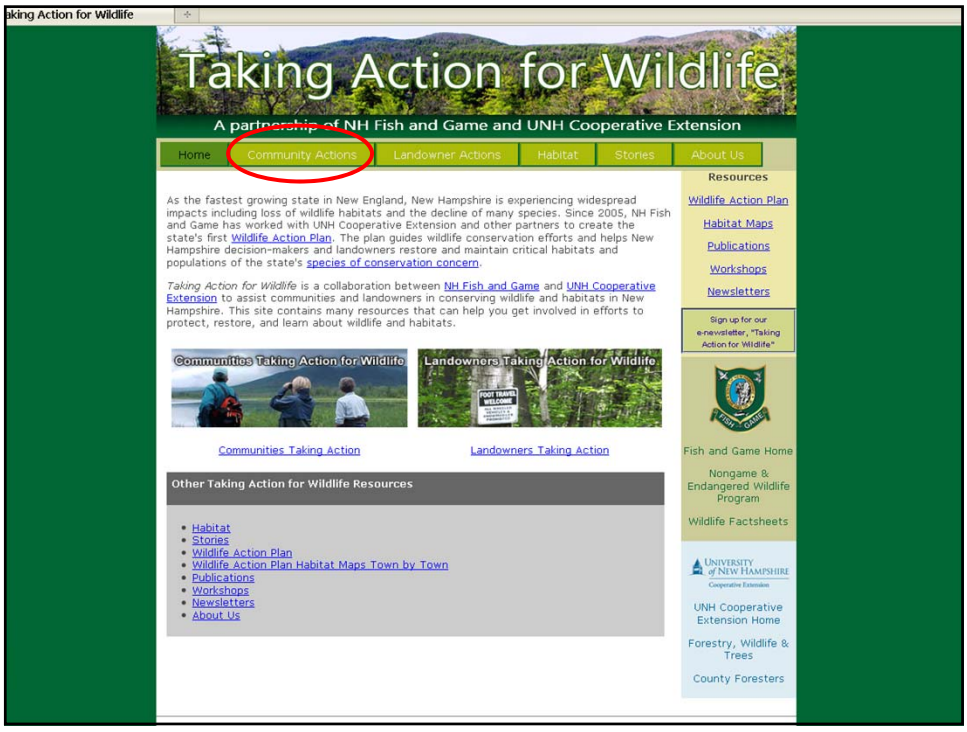
Analyze the Information



- Where are the most important resources?
- Why is the resource important?
- What are the threats to these resources?
- Are there regionally significant resources?

Community Planning Actions

- Writing a Conservation Plan
- Reviewing Land Use Planning Documents
- Establishing Land Use Regulations
- Establishing Zoning Ordinances
- Encouraging Voluntary Practices
- Protecting Land
- Managing Land



aking Action for Wildlife
Taking Action for Wildlife
A partnership of NH Fish and Game and UNH Cooperative Extension
Home
Community Actions
Landowner Actions
Habitat
Stories
About Us
Communities Taking Action for Wildlife
What can communities and conservation groups do to take action for wildlife? You know it is important, but aren't sure what the best way is to incorporate it into your conservation planning. To help you along this path, we offer guidance through the Community Action Tools listed below. These tools will help you to plan and implement projects that protect, conserve, restore or manage wildlife habitats.
Start with the first three tools (1-3 below) which all communities should complete before going onto the Other Tools (shown in bullets). While the tools are offered in a suggested sequence, which tools you decide to use depends on the stage(s) your community has already completed. If you have questions about your community project, please contact us
COMMUNITY ACTION TOOLS
START HERE:
1. Planning Your Wildlife Conservation Project
2. Natural Resources Inventory & Wildlife
3. Conservation Planning for Wildlife
Other Tools
Land Conservation to Protect Habitat
Regulation to Protect Wildlife
Manage and Restore Land for Wildlife
Conducting Public Outreach for Wildlife
Learn More About Community Actions....
Resources
Wildlife Action Plan
Habitat Maps
Publications
Workshops
Newsletters
Sign up for our e-newsletter, "Taking Action for Wildlife"
Fish and Game Home
Nongame & Endangered Wildlife Program
Wildlife Factsheets
UNH Cooperative Extension Home
Forestry, Wildlife & Trees
County Foresters

aking Action for Wildlife
Taking Action for Wildlife
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Home
Community Actions
Landowner Actions
Habitat
Stories
About Us
CONSERVATION PLANNING FOR WILDLIFE
Why Create a Wildlife Conservation Plan? To implement conservation projects that protect what a community or region values requires some type of plan. To be effective, such a plan should be based on a Natural Resource Inventory of the features and resources in a geographic area of interest. By compiling information on the identification, location and attributes of natural features and resources, community or regional groups can develop a plan to protect these features and resources through voluntary and/or regulatory means. A conservation plan is a vision for the future ecological health of an area and provides an action plan to protect these features over the long term. Follow the step-by-step guide below to create a conservation plan for wildlife. This will help you to:
Identify and describe the most important wildlife habitats in a geographic area
Promote conservation of prioritized critical wildlife habitats
Guide municipal or private voluntary land conservation
Document wildlife conservation priorities and recommended policies in a municipal master plan
Suggest regulatory protection for prioritized wildlife habitats
Click here for a print-friendly version of this table
STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE
How to Create a Wildlife Conservation Plan for Your Community
STEP 1: Refer to your Natural Resources Inventory
The Natural Resources Inventory forms the basis for a Conservation Plan. Use the
Resources
Wildlife Action Plan
Habitat Maps
Publications
Workshops
Newsletters
Sign up for our e-newsletter, "Taking Action for Wildlife"
Fish and Game Home
Nongame & Endangered Wildlife Program
Wildlife Factsheets
UNH Cooperative Extension Home
Forestry, Wildlife & Trees
County Foresters

TAKING ACTION FOR WILDLIFE

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

How to Create a Wildlife Conservation Plan for Your Community

STEP 1: Refer to your Natural Resources Inventory

The Natural Resources Inventory forms the basis for a Conservation Plan. Use the information in the Wildlife Section of your Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) for the following steps:

- Refer to the Habitats Land Cover Map map showing habitat areas you prioritized (as shown in the Bradford example) and refine these areas. You can incorporate other natural resources (e.g. water resources) into those priority areas, depending on your goals for conservation planning.
- Review NH Wildlife Action Plan Highest Ranked Habitat Map to identify habitats ranked as of highest importance statewide and regionally
- Use the Wildlife Action Plan Critical Habitats and Possible Associated Species table developed for your NRI to cross-reference species of greatest conservation concern and critical habitats

STEP 2: Research special habitat needs or species of concern associated with critical habitats in your prioritized areas

- Read the profiles for each species in Appendix A of the NH Wildlife Action Plan and in the Wildlife Profiles

STEP 3: Identify existing conservation areas

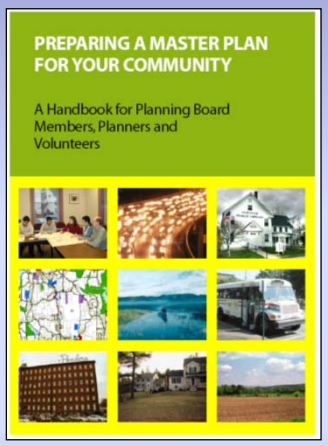
- Review protected and public lands in your community using the Habitats Land Cover and Highest Ranked Habitat maps, both of which show the GRANIT conservation lands data layer. Use the GRANIT Data Mapper's Land Conservation theme or other sources to identify conservation lands by protection level, primary protection type, agency level and management status and GAP status.

STEP 4: Identify possible connections to link existing conservation lands and other large habitat areas

Community Planning Action:

Reviewing Land Use Documents

- Does your Master Plan address natural resources?
- New Hampshire land use law designates the Master Plan as the basis for all municipal land use regulations.



NH Office of Energy and Planning

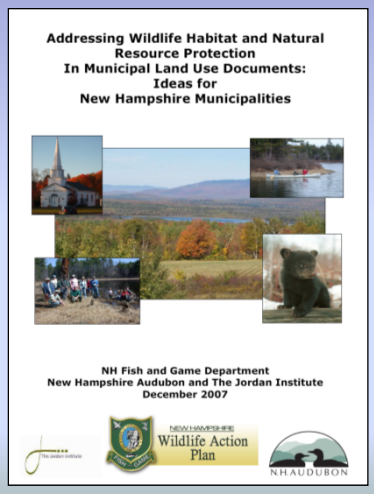
http://www.nh.gov/oep/

Community Planning Action:
Reviewing Land Use Documents

- How well are wildlife and habitats protected in your town?

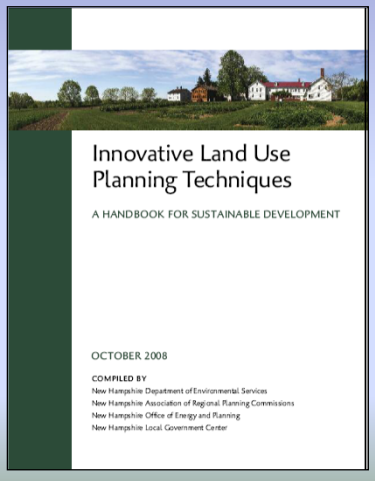
- Hire someone to do this,
- Or do it yourself.

25 topics



Community Planning Action:
Establishing Land Use Regulations

Model ordinances and regulations for towns



NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Services

www.des.nh.gov

Topics include:

Lot size averaging

Steep slopes and ridgeline protection

Habitat Management

Flood hazard area zoning

Preserving dark skies

Energy efficient development

Community Planning Action:
Establishing Land Use Regulations

Chapters include:

- Background and Purpose
- Appropriate Circumstances and Context for Use
- Legal Basis and Considerations for NH
- Examples and Outcomes
- Model Language and Guidance for Implementation

Community Planning Action:
Establishing Zoning Ordinances

Town Subdivision Regulations require land owner to provide more information about the natural resources on the parcel

Conservation Biologist hired

Portion of site is included in Wildlife Action Plan as *Grasslands Priority Habitat*

In report WAP habitats and species listed, explanation of WAP priority and surrounding habitats

Community Planning Actions:
Encouraging Voluntary Practices

- Protecting important resources in your town without regulations
- Requires in-depth knowledge of where these resources are (or potentially are) in your town
- Pre-application meetings
- Prior to any plans (and construction), make recommendations about the parcel

Community Planning Action:
Land Protection

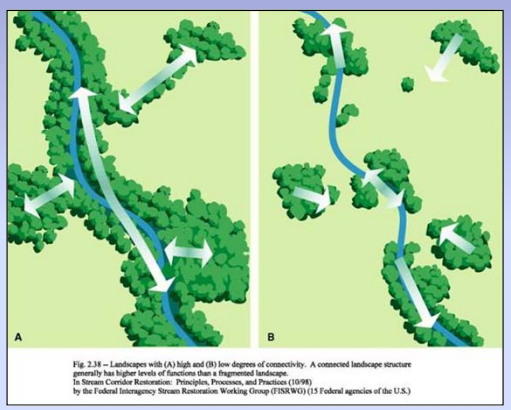


Fig. 2.38 – Landscapes with (A) high and (B) low degrees of connectivity. A connected landscape structure generally has higher levels of functions than a fragmented landscape.
In Stream Corridor Restoration: Principles, Processes, and Practices (10/98)
by the Federal Interagency Stream Restoration Working Group (FISRWG) (15 Federal agencies of the U.S.)

Think landscape scale and across town and state boundaries

Learn from other towns!