

State Wildlife Action Plans



Vermont's Wildlife Action Plan*

November 22, 2005



ed by the US Fish & Wildlife Service 11/22/2005

MAINE
 Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife



Maine's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy
 A requirement of the State Wildlife Grant Program

*Formerly the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy



Emily Brunkhurst
 Conservation Biologist
 NH Fish and Game Department

Action Plan Development

- Developed with the help of many partner organizations, and the general public
- All-species conservation plans
- All-state plans—not just for state wildlife agencies



Action Plans Organized by Habitat Association

Species of
Greatest
Conservation
Need



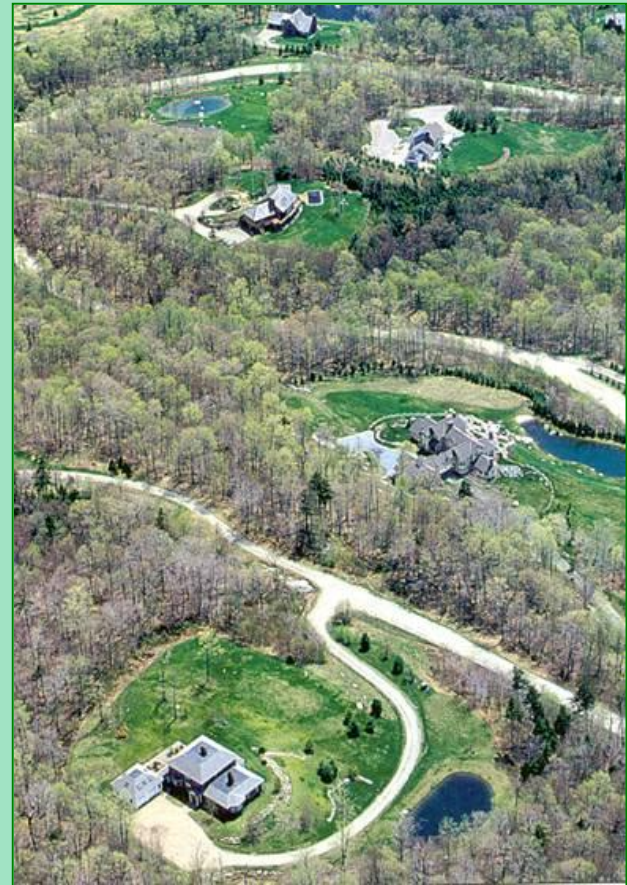
Habitat &
Community types
e.g. grasslands,
alder swamps



Landscapes
e.g. Northern
Hardwood forests

Problems: The Big Five

- Habitat loss (degradation, conversion & fragmentation)
- Impacts of roads
- Invasive exotic species
- Pollution and sedimentation
- Climate change



Conserve the Habitat & Maintain the Connections

Unfragmented Lands

Large Habitat Blocks

Core Forest Areas

Wetland Complexes

Natural Communities

Riparian
Corridors



Conservation Strategy Categories

- Conservation planning
- Land protection
- Habitat management
- Landowner incentives
- Local regulation and policy
- **Intra-agency coordination and policy**
- Education, information and technical guidance
- Population management
- Research
- Environmental Review



Strategies Relevant to Transportation

Protect wildlife corridors
Minimize impact of roads

Maintain and restore habitat connectivity and minimize fragmentation of forest blocks.

Work with the Transportation Agency to reduce wildlife mortality and increase the safety of wildlife crossings.

Site roadways away from sensitive sites such as amphibian breeding pools.



Strategies Relevant to Transportation

- Restore or maintain natural flow regimes
- Restore and maintain watershed continuity
- Develop protocols for limiting activity in sensitive habitats
- Regional conservation planning for species and habitats at risk



Tasks to accomplish the strategy

Develop technical criteria and guidelines for installation and management of stream crossing structures.



Why is the Vermont Agency of Transportation Concerned about Fisheries and Wildlife Issues?

Safety: Reduced vehicle-animal collisions.

Fiscal Benefits:

- Lessens the potential for and cost of regulatory battles
- Reduced insurance claims
- Reduced bridge and culvert maintenance costs.

Prudence in the Regulatory Process:

- Prevents conflicts regarding specific species and habitats
- Planning for mitigation at the watershed or bioregion level
- Indirect and cumulative impacts more easily addressed

Altered Natural Disturbance Regime



Wildlife Action Plan Tools

1. DEFINITION

Before European settlement, natural disturbance regimes were continuously altered by disturbance events (e.g., north-ashopper sparrows, turtles that use for nesting).



HABITAT PROFILE

Appalachian Oak Pine Forest

ed Species: Timber rattlesnake, eastern snake, whip-poor-will, veery, eastern e, eastern red bat, northern myotis, ired bat, bobcat, black bear

1.2 Justification

Appalachian oak pine forest distribution in New Hampshire is 10% of the state's land area, but only 7.3% of the state oak pine forest is on permanent. This forest type supports 1 New Hampshire, including 67 birds, and 17 mammal species. Endangered wildlife species include osprey, Cooper's hawk, and eastern hognose snake. Intense development has dramatically reduced the forest's extent.

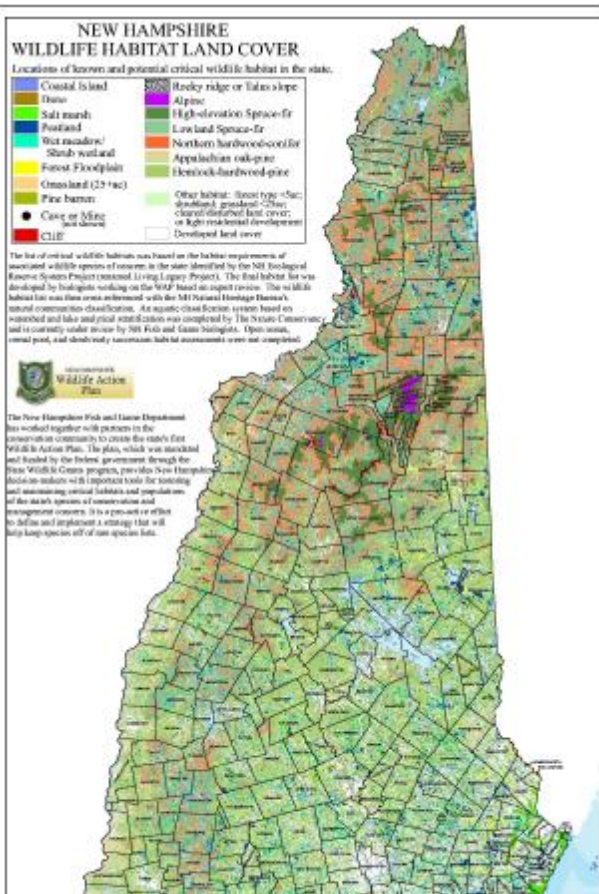
Rank: Not ranked

Rank: Not ranked

Author: Carol R. Foss, Audubon Society of New Hampshire

1: DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

at description



SPECIES PROFILE

Fowler's Toad

Bufo fowleri formerly *Bufo woodhousei*

Federal Listing: Not listed

State Listing: Special concern

Global Rank: G5T

State Rank: S3

Author: Kimberly, J. Babbitt, University of New Hampshire

Species Profiles

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



**Distribution of Wood Turtle
in New Hampshire**

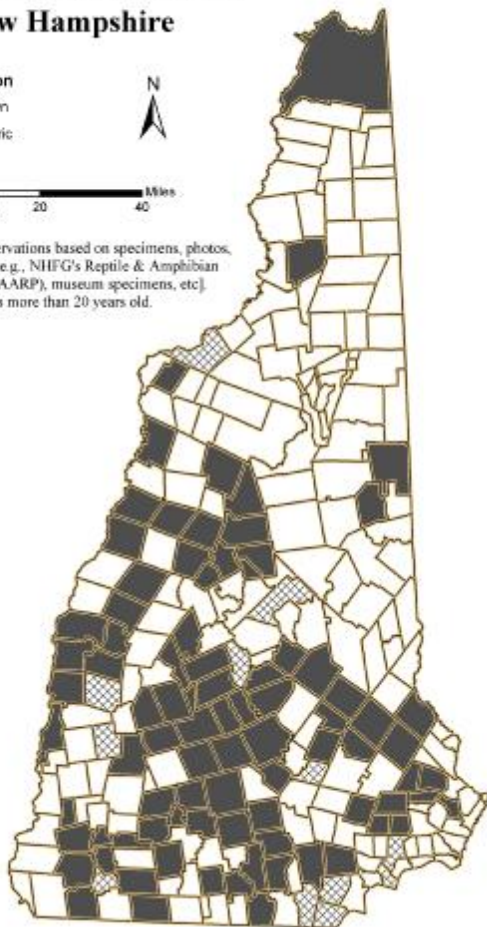
Distribution

- Known
- ▨ Historic



0 10 20 40 Miles

Known = verified observations based on specimens, photos, or expert observation (e.g., NHFG's Reptile & Amphibian Reporting Program (RAARP), museum specimens, etc).
Historic = observations more than 20 years old.



A scenic landscape photograph of a pine forest. In the foreground, a large, dark-trunked pine tree stands on the left. The middle ground is filled with a dense forest of smaller pine trees and some deciduous trees with autumn-colored leaves. In the background, a range of mountains is visible under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

Habitat Profiles

27 Critical Wildlife Habitats

- **Habitat Description**
- **Distribution and Abundance**
- **Protection**
- **Threats**
- **Research & Inventory Needs**
- **Conservation and Mgmt Needs**
- **Bibliography**

NH Wildlife Habitat

Pine Barrens

Grasslands >25 acres

Rocky Ridges/Talus slopes

Cliffs

Alpine

Marsh and Shrub Wetlands

Peatlands

Floodplain Forests

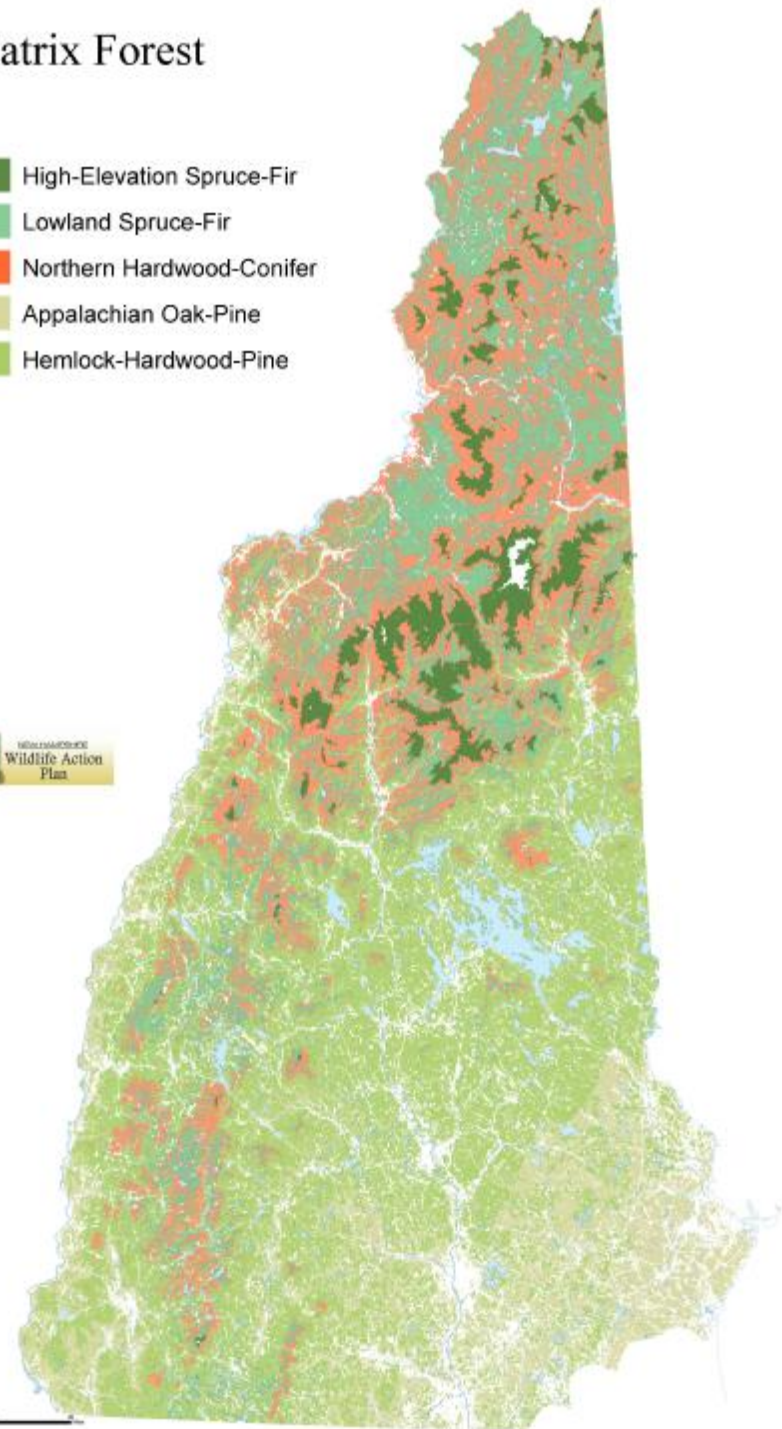
Saltmarshes

Coastal Islands

Dunes

Matrix Forest

- High-Elevation Spruce-Fir
- Lowland Spruce-Fir
- Northern Hardwood-Conifer
- Appalachian Oak-Pine
- Hemlock-Hardwood-Pine



NEW HAMPSHIRE WILDLIFE HABITAT LAND COVER

-  Cliff
-  Rocky ridge or Talus slope
-  Alpine
-  High-elevation Spruce-fir
-  Lowland Spruce-fir
-  Northern hardwood-conifer
-  Appalachian oak-pine
-  Hemlock-hardwood-pine
-  Peatland
-  Wet meadow/Shrub wetland
-  Forest Floodplain
-  Grassland (25+ac)
-  Pine barren
-  Coastal Island
-  Dune
-  Salt marsh
-  Other habitat: forest type <5ac; shrubland; grassland <25ac; cleared/disturbed land cover; or light residential development
-  Developed land cover

