GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The NH Fish and Game Department (NHFGD) has worked together with partners in the conservation community to create the state’s first Wildlife Action Plan (WAP). The plan, which was mandated and funded by the federal government through the State Wildlife Grants program, provides New Hampshire decision-makers with important tools for restoring and maintaining critical habitats and populations of the state’s species of conservation and management concern. It is a pro-active effort to define and implement a strategy that will help keep species off of rare species lists.

In October, 2006, NHFGD updated the data to include a ranking system which identifies the highest quality habitat within each habitat type. This information will help regional planners and conservation professionals identify the most critical wildlife habitat locations.

The data were updated again in 2009/2010 to reflect:

1) Updates to locations of Appalachian Oak Pine and Hemlock Hardwood Pine forests due to the release of digital soils data for Belknap and Merrimack Counties;
2) Inclusion of all potential grasslands instead of just those over 25 acres in size;
3) Incorporation of all shrublands and other small open habitats into the surrounding forest.


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