

Coarse Filter Significant Wildlife Habitat: BASE MAP

The New Hampshire Fish & Game Department has completed a coarse filter analysis of potential significant wildlife habitat for the state based on a protocol modified from that outlined in the manual "Identifying and Protecting New Hampshire's Significant Wildlife Habitat" (Kanter et al. 2001). This habitat map is being distributed to interested parties in lieu of more specific species habitat maps that will be produced for the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan which is scheduled to be completed by October 2005.

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UNFRAGMENTED HABITAT BLOCKS

Unfragmented habitat blocks were generated by selecting the natural landcover classes in the 2001 NH Land Cover Assessment data provided by GRANIT. (that is, all classes except 100=comm/ind/res and 140=transportation) The developed land classes and a combined buffer of NHDOT roads class I-V and USGS 1:24,000-scale class I-IV roads were considered fragmenting features. Any portion of a waterbody wider than 1/4 mile, except those completely within a single habitat block, were also considered fragmenting.

Habitat blocks were then ranked based on size and area/perimeter ratio. Size thresholds were determined from a literature review of species of conservation concern in New Hampshire. Area/perimeter ratio classes are based on natural breaks in the data. Ratios provide a relative measure of the amount of interior habitat available in a given block.

Most data presented on this map represent stock data sets obtained from NH GRANIT, at Complex Systems Research Center, UNH, CSRC, under contract to the NH Office of Energy and Planning (OEP), and in consultation with cooperating agencies. OEP maintains a continuing program to identify and correct errors in these data. OEP, CSRC, NHFG and the cooperating agencies make no claim as to the validity or reliability or to any implied uses of these data.

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