

TAKING ACTION FOR WILDLIFE WORK PLAN

Newfound Lake Area Towns

Revised December 2, 2010

Several web site links are provided in the table below. To access these links, either cut and paste them into your browser, or hold down the control key and left click your mouse to follow the link.

GOAL: Incorporate wildlife and habitat information, priorities and recommendations into natural resources inventories

TASKS		Fall	Winter	Spring	Responsibility	COMMUNITY ACTIONS
		2010	2010-11	2011		
1	Prepare a communications plan to inform and involve other town officials and residents in the NRI.	X			Con Coms/Planning Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a communications plan to reach intended audiences. Audiences include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Other town boards (Select Board, Planning Board, ZBA and any others who may be interested) ○ Town Residents ○ School students/science teachers • The communications plan should include the best way to reach these people. • Narrow the communications plan down to one or two specific things that your town wants to do (e.g. put articles in the town newsletter and on the town website; develop display for town meeting; attend a select board and a planning board meeting, etc.). Discuss this at your next conservation commission meeting and make decisions about how you wish to inform your audiences of your natural resources inventory and wildlife habitat protection work. • NLRA – could help the towns with public programs rotated around the towns in the watershed. Put that request to Boyd (who will contact Boyd?) Towns can benefit from these talks/presentations by sharing any associated fees and help increase attendance through advertising across towns. • Use the NRI guide book to help inform some of these communication activities, such as describing what a Natural Resources Inventory is and how it will be used.

TASKS		Fall	Winter	Spring	Responsibility	COMMUNITY ACTIONS
		2010	2010-11	2011		
2	Inform other town boards and commissions about your NRI project and invite their participation.	x	x	x	Con Coms/Planning Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to the Communications Plan, discussed above. Towns need a communication plan that gets everyone on the same page. People need to understand the financial implications of conservation easements – not a tax loss to the towns. Consider hosting a Land Conservation Options Workshop when you get to the land conservation planning phase (NLRA may be able to help here). How to inform other officials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbally at a meeting Preparing some text to give to them (refer to NRI Guide and/or http://takingactionforwildlife.org) Talk to officials in such a way that a response can be elicited – e.g. ask what they think, ask for their opinions. Have some interesting speakers to give presentations to help educate the public. Go to schools and get kids involved – interact with science teachers to get them interested Take a look at the public outreach section of Taking Action for Wildlife for some ideas: http://extension.unh.edu/fwt/tafw/PublicOutreachonWildlife.htm
3	Review the NH Wildlife Action Plan Habitat and Highest Ranked Habitat Condition Maps. Identify patterns of habitat occurrence in town and across town boundaries	x			Con Coms/Planning Boards TAFW Team assist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This task was completed at the last meeting.
4	Identify habitat areas of greatest conservation priority locally, using the above wildlife maps, local natural resources inventory information and local knowledge.	x			Con Coms/Planning Boards TAFW Team assist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most towns have done some prioritization of two or more areas. Educate the people in and around the prioritized areas about those areas and the value of the habitats so they understand the value of the resource down the road.
5	Identify known rare natural communities and species in town and their possible habitats.	x			Con Coms/Planning Boards TAFW Team assist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first part of this was done in the initial handouts that each town received at the first meeting. Over time, you can interpret where those habitats might be. This is an ongoing research topic.

TASKS		Fall	Winter	Spring	Responsibility	COMMUNITY ACTIONS
		2010	2010-11	2011		
6	Prepare a written description of the habitat types in town and the priority habitat areas identified in the previous steps (as a starting point, use the document developed for each town and handed out at the first meeting)	X	X		Con Coms/Planning Boards TAFW Team assist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note that the Newfound Lakes Region Master Plan has a section on the Wildlife Action Plan that NH Fish and Game biologists wrote. http://www.newfoundlake.org/images/WildlifeHabitat in the Newfound Watershed.pdf The link for the full NLRA Master Plan is: http://www.newfoundlake.org/watershedmasterplan/themasterplan.html For more information on natural resources inventories and wildlife, take a look at http://extension.unh.edu/fwt/tafw/NaturalResourceInventories.htm In the initial handout packet there was a narrative description of wildlife maps, and also the table of critical habitats and species. Amanda will send each community electronic copies of these materials. Cut and paste written descriptions of each of the habitat types occurring in your community's priority areas using Chapter 3 of the Wildlife Action Plan http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Wildlife/WildlifePlan/WAP_pieces/WAP_Chapter_3.pdf and information from the Habitat Stewardship brochures http://extension.unh.edu/FWT/Habitats.htm and http://extension.unh.edu/FWT/HabitatMan.htm Communities can ground truth some of the species information – what species actually occur on a specific property. Keeping Track Program in Hebron on the last Friday in February (25th) and all day Saturday Feb 26 in the Hebron Forest. Contact Martha Twombly for more details (marthamosaic@yahoo.com) Organize an outdoor activity or a hike.
7	Prepare a digital map of the habitat conservation priority areas.	X			Con Coms/Planning Boards TAFW Team assist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Taking Action for Wildlife Team can help put the priority areas onto an electronic map.

TASKS		Fall	Winter	Spring	Responsibility	COMMUNITY ACTIONS
		2010	2010-11	2011		
8	Decide how to best to incorporate habitat information, priorities and recommendations to protect wildlife habitat into the natural resources inventory.	X	X		Con Coms/Planning Boards TAFW Team assist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a starting point, use the WORD files with written descriptions and tables that Amanda sends each community. Add any additional information that would be useful using material from the website http://takingactionforwildlife.org. Click on Communities to learn more about the available tools. To learn more about Conservation Planning, the next step after completing the natural resources inventory, take a look at http://extension.unh.edu/fwt/tafw/ConservationPlanningforWildlife.htm
9	Communicate the results of the NRI/Habitat project to town officials and residents.		X	X	Con Coms/Planning Boards TAFW Team assist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a continuation of Steps 1 and 2 except it is after the other the other steps have happened.
10	Use the Natural Resources Inventory as the basis for developing a wildlife conservation plan			X	Con Coms/Planning Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take a look at http://takingactionforwildlife.org and view the link to towns that have done conservation plans. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Stories: http://extension.unh.edu/fwt/tafw/CommunitySuccessStories.htm Take a look at the first two items: Natural Resources Inventories and Conservation Planning for Wildlife Also take look at the Washington NH NRI and Conservation Plan http://www.washingtonnh.org/WCC_Html/NRICP.html Share information with a groups Field guides are the best way to identify I wildlife species.