2025 New Hampshire State Wildlife Action Plan – Habitat Maps update

Summary

Development of this coverage provides wildlife habitat classification within the state of New Hampshire. Analysis was completed for incorporation into the 2025 NH State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). Funding was provided by State Wildlife Grants administered by the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

HABITAT LAND COVER MAP (layer name: nhhabitat2025)

The 2025 NH Wildlife Action Plan Habitat classes are based on The Nature Conservancy's Northeast Terrestrial Habitat data (TNC, Sept. 14, 2022), and then updated as follows:

1.)Developed Impervious: 2021 C-CAP land cover was aggregated from 1-meter to 10-meter cell size (NOAA, 2024). If classified as "Impervious", then the new Habitat class assigned is "Developed Impervious". Where available, building footprints (Microsoft, 2021) and Open Street Map (2024) buildings were also assigned as class "Developed Impervious"

2.)Developed: if the 2023 NLCD Annual land cover class was "developed" (USGS, 2024), then the new Habitat class is assigned "Developed"

3.)Wetlands: Freshwater and Marine wetland habitats were updated using recent NWI Plus data (USFWS, 2024) and high resolution salt marsh habitat (NOAA, 2020). If the Northeast Terrestrial Habitat was already assigned as a wetland habitat class, then the NETH classification was retained. Potential peatland habitats were derived from NWI Plus data following a method developed by NH Natural Heritage Bureau for the previous NH state wildlife action plan.

4.)Shrubland:

- NLCD shrub/scrub class (USGS, 2024) merged with C-CAP canopy value 2 (NOAA, 2024) and NH Land Cover cleared/other open (NH GRANIT, 2002);
- only areas continuously mapped as shrub/scrub from 2001 to 2023 were retained;
- ArcGIS tool Eliminate Polygon Part was used to remove interior polygons (donut holes); and
- remaining shrubland polygons were reselected to only include areas 2.5 acres or larger (or areas over 1 acre if immediately adjacent to the 2.5 acre + shrubland polygons)

5.)Marine: topobathymetry (NOAA) was used to reclassify water less than 10 meters deep as "Marine, near-shore"

Larger work citation

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFG) has worked together with partners in the conservation community to update the **State Wildlife Action Plan** (SWAP). 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.

More information about the NH State Wildlife Action Plan is available online at:
https://www.wildlife.nh.gov/wildlife-and-habitat/nh-state-wildlife-action-plan

Credits

NH Fish and Game Department, September 2025.

Use limitations

Use and analysis of geographic data are limited by the scale at which the data are collected and mapped, and by means of interpolation and other modeling procedures used in preparation of the data. The SWAP data were prepared with spatial models that used data at multiple scales and are time-limited. The user is advised of these complications. NHFG and the conservation partners for the SWAP do not warrant the completeness or accuracy of the data nor make claim to any implied uses of the data.

Sources:

McGarigal K, Compton BW, Plunkett EB, DeLuca WV, and Grand J. 2020. Designing sustainable landscapes products, including technical documentation and data products. http://umassdsl.org/

Microsoft, 2021. Building Footprints-New Hampshire (2012-2020). Data accessed November 2024: https://github.com/microsoft/USBuildingFootprints

NH GRANIT, 2002. New Hampshire Land Cover Assessment 2001. Data accessed October 2003: https://granit.unh.edu/

NOAA, 2020. Coastal Change Analysis Program (C-CAP) High Resolution Land Cover, New Hampshire Salt Marsh Habitats 2013. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office for Coastal Management. Data accessed August 2020: https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/

NOAA, 2024. Coastal Change Analysis Program (C-CAP) High Resolution Land Cover Data 2021. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office for Coastal Management. Data accessed November 2024: https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/ccaphighres.html

NOAA, 2024. National Bathymetric Source Data was accessed November 2024: https://registry.opendata.aws/noaa-bathymetry

OpenStreetMap, 2024. OpenStreetMap® is open data, licensed under the Open Data Commons Open Database License by the OpenStreetMap Foundation. Data accessed November 2024: https://www.openstreetmap.org

The Nature Conservancy, 2022. "HABITAT_neUS_eCANADA" Data accessed November 2024 https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationByGeography/NorthAmerica/UnitedStates/edc/reportsdata/terrestrial/habitatmap/Pages/default.aspx

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 2024. National Wetlands Inventory Plus (NWI Plus). Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States. Data accessed November 2024: https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory/download-state-wetlands-data

U.S. Geological Survey, 2024. Annual NLCD 2023 Land Cover (CONUS) Collection 1 Science Products; and NLCD 2001-2021 Land Cover (CONUS). Data accessed November 2024: https://www.mrlc.gov