

2025 New Hampshire State Wildlife Action Plan – Habitat Tiers update

Summary

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

HABITAT CONDITION (layer name: waptiers)

Habitat condition was analyzed to develop statewide and regional rankings that identify the highest condition habitat relative to a given habitat type in the state. The method remains the same as was used in 2020, but using new species occurrence data and the updated underlying habitat data.

Changes for 2025, updated source data:

- Used wildlife species occurrence data for past **25** years (1999-2024)
- Shrubland habitat condition assessment uses same parameters as Grasslands
- A filtering process was run in ArcGIS software to remove small (< 1 acre) isolated areas of ranked habitat that were separated from contiguous habitat blocks due roads or development.
- New criteria used to identify high quality aquatic habitat (rivers/streams)

Please refer to the document "Habitat Condition Analysis 2025" for detailed methods.

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, November 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 WAP do not warrant the completeness or accuracy of the data nor make claim to any implied uses of the data. General planning only, not intended for legal, survey, or engineering purposes.