

Raising the Profile of Watershed Management: Contoocook & North Branch Rivers Management Plan Update

NH Joint Water & Watershed Conference

November 20, 2009

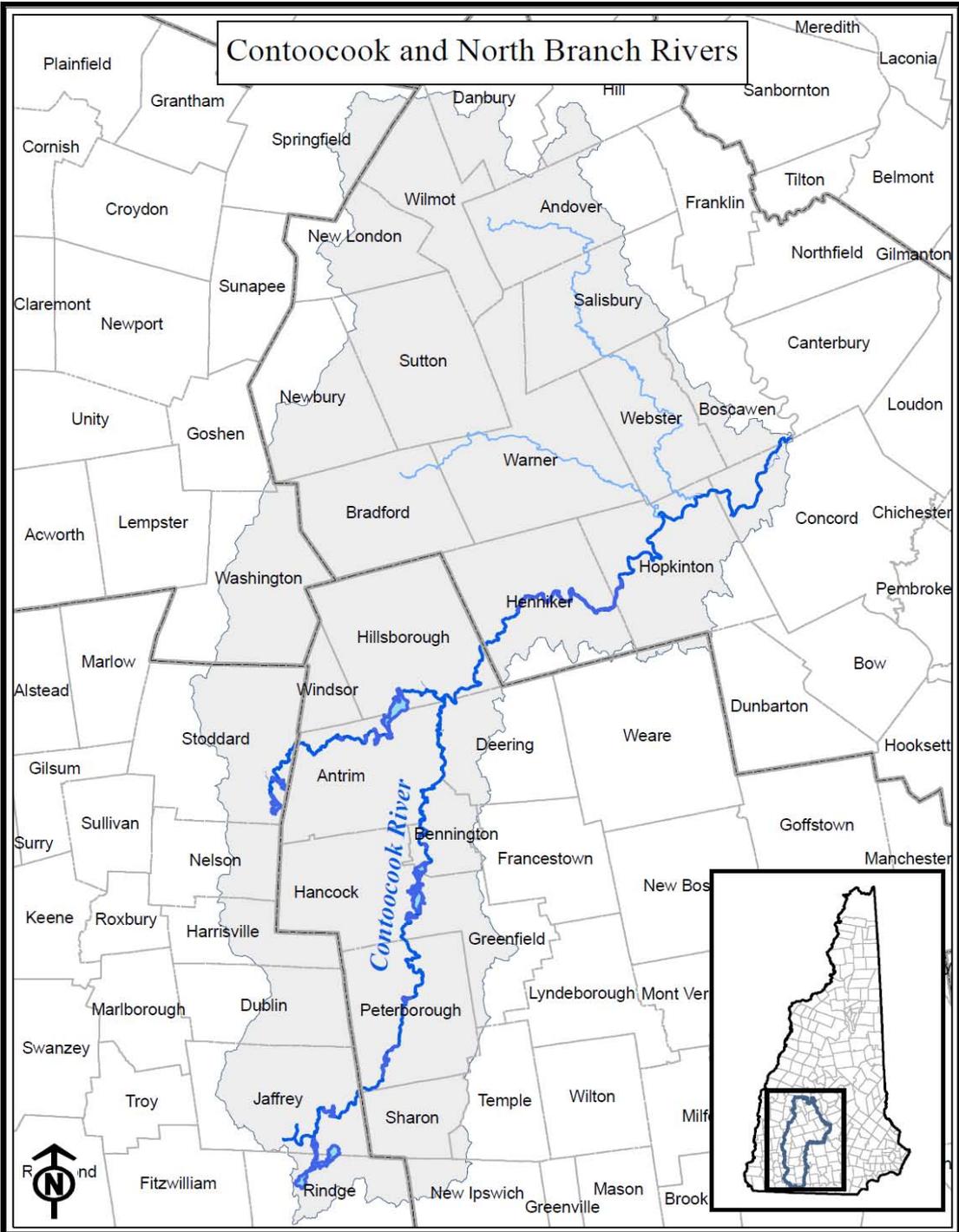
Michelle Hamm, CNBRLAC Chair
Vanessa Bittermann & Evan Aird, CNHRPC

Contoocook and North Branch Rivers

- Contoocook and North Branch Rivers were designated in 1991
- Part of the NH River Management and Protection Program
- Contoocook and North Branch Local Advisory Committee
- (CNBRLAC) formed
- Current plan adopted in 1994



Contoocook and North Branch Rivers



Local Advisory Committee

- Volunteers from 14 towns
- Responsible for developing and implementing a management plan
- Advise state and local governments on river management
- Review any plans that might affect water quality, flow, or other resources

Updating the Management Plan

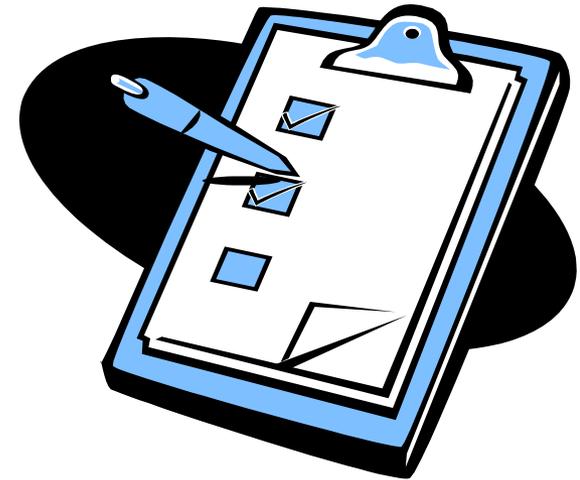
- **Goals:**
 - **Whose plan?**
 - Involve communities in update process
 - **Who will use the plan?**
 - Workable plan that will be of use to local communities
- Regional Planning Commissions working with CNBRLAC in 2009-2010 to update plan

Project Overview

- Water Resources Protection Audit
- Maps
- Stakeholder Survey
- Recreational Access Points
- ID Most Impacted River Segments
- Public Visioning Session
- Goals and Recommendations
- Produce the Plan and present for adoption

Regulatory Audit

- Review local land use regulations in each community
- What protections exist?
- Where are gaps?
- Make recommendations



Regulatory Audit

Questions

- Does the Town have a Shoreland Protection District? What are the setbacks for the SP District which apply to the Contoocook and North Branch Rivers (building, septic, other)?
- What other ordinances establish setback or area requirements or prohibit uses?

Shoreland Protection District Requirements

| | Have SP District | Minimum Building Setback | Minimum Septic Setback | Minimum Natural Vegetative Buffer | Excavation Prohibited | Hazardous Materials Prohibited | Maximum Impervious Surface | Minimum Open Space |
|--------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| STATE | Yes | 50' | 75' | 50'* | No** | Yes | 30% | No |
| Boscawen | Yes | 150' | 100' | No | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| Concord | Yes | 75' | 75' - 125' | 75' | Yes | No | 15% | 70% |
| Deering | Yes | 150' | 125' | No | Yes | Yes | 20% | No |
| Henniker | No | 75' | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Hillsborough | Yes | 75' | No | No | No | No | No | No |
| Hopkinton | No | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Antrim | Yes | 100' | No | No | Yes | Yes | No* | No |
| Bennington | No | N/A | N/A | N/A | 75' | Yes* | 20%* | N/A |
| Greenfield | No | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Hancock | No | 100' | 125' | N/A | N/A | Yes** | N/A | N/A |
| Jaffrey | Yes | 75' | 200'* | No | Yes | Yes** | No | No |
| Peterborough | Yes | 100'* | No | No | Yes | Yes** | No | No |
| Rindge | Yes* | No | 100' | No | 75' | Yes | 20%** | 30%*** |
| Stoddard | Yes* | No | No | No | No | No | No | No |

Maps

- Hydrologic features
- Access Points
- Zoning
- Wildlife Action Plan



Contoocook & North Branch Rivers
Management Plan
Hopkinton

-  County Boundary
-  Town Boundary
-  Community Center Areas
-  Lakes and Ponds
-  Rivers and Streams
-  Wetlands
-  Active Dams
-  Bridges
-  Recreational Access Points
-  Conservation Lands

- Merrimack Cty Floodplains
(Preliminary Data)**
-  Floodway
 -  1% Annual Flood Risk
 -  0.2% Annual Flood Risk

Data sources: 1:24,000 source data from NH GRANIT; flood data from FEMA through NH GRANIT. Merrimack County floodplain data is preliminary data that may be subject to appeal, and cannot be used for making final determinations. The data can be used for demonstration purposes only and cannot be distributed or published without the consent of FEMA.

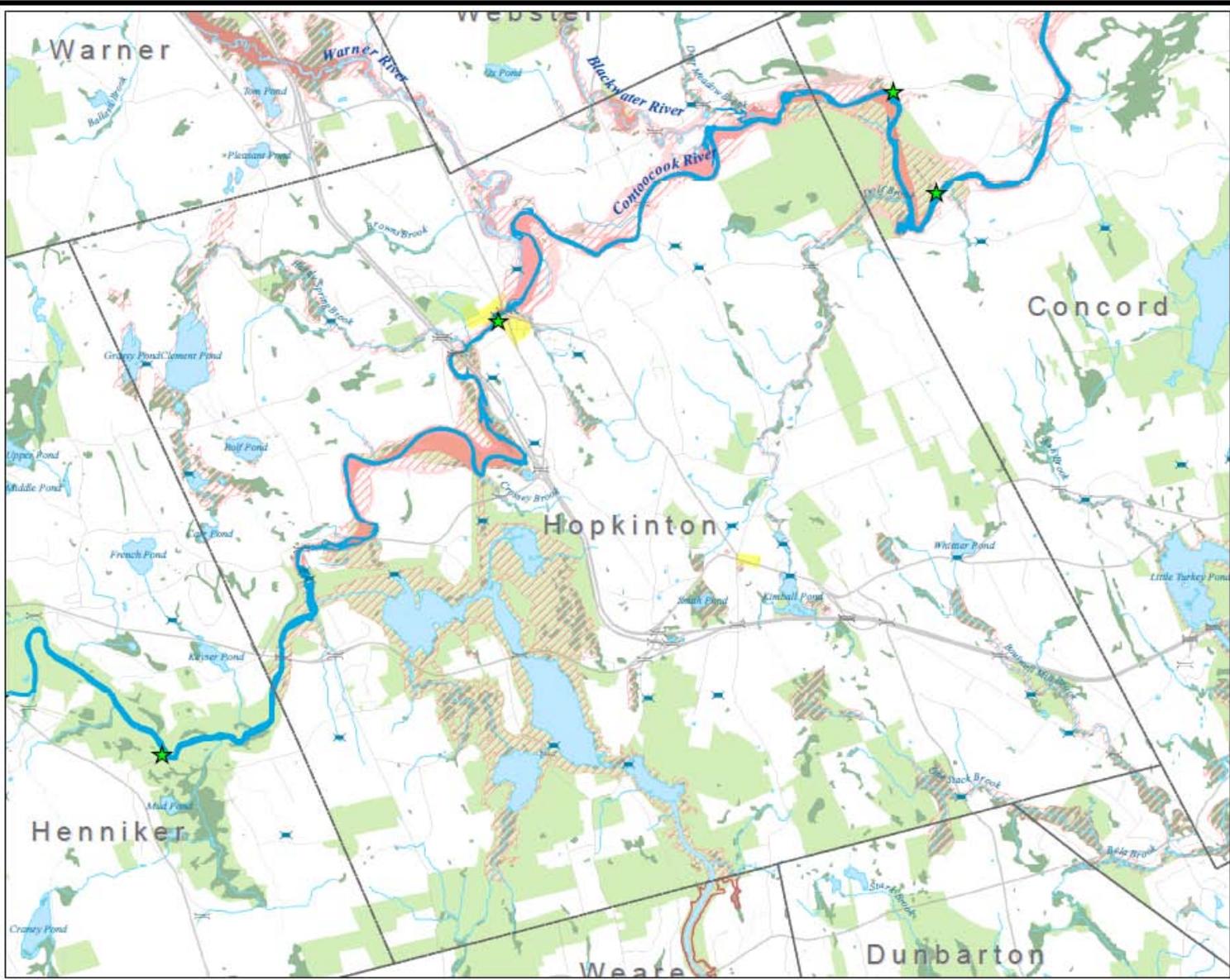
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Funding provided by the NH Department of Environmental Services through Section 604(b) of the Clean Water Act with funds appropriated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive Concord NH 03301
603.224.6231
www.des.state.nh.gov

Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission
28 Commercial Street
Concord, NH 03301
603.224.6231
www.cnhrpc.org



Contoocook & North Branch Rivers
Management Plan

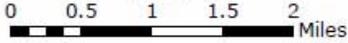
Zoning
in Hopkinton

Hopkinton Zoning

-  B-1 - Commercial
-  HVP - Hopkinton Village Precinct
-  M-1 - Industrial
-  R-1 - High Density Residential
-  R-2 - Medium Density Residential
-  R-3 - Low Density Residential
-  R-4 - Residential/Agricultural
-  VB-1 - Village Commercial
-  VM-1 - Village Industrial
-  VR-1 - Village High Density Residential

Data sources: 1:24,000 source data from NH GRANIT;
Zoning layers from CNHRPC, SWRPC, and towns.

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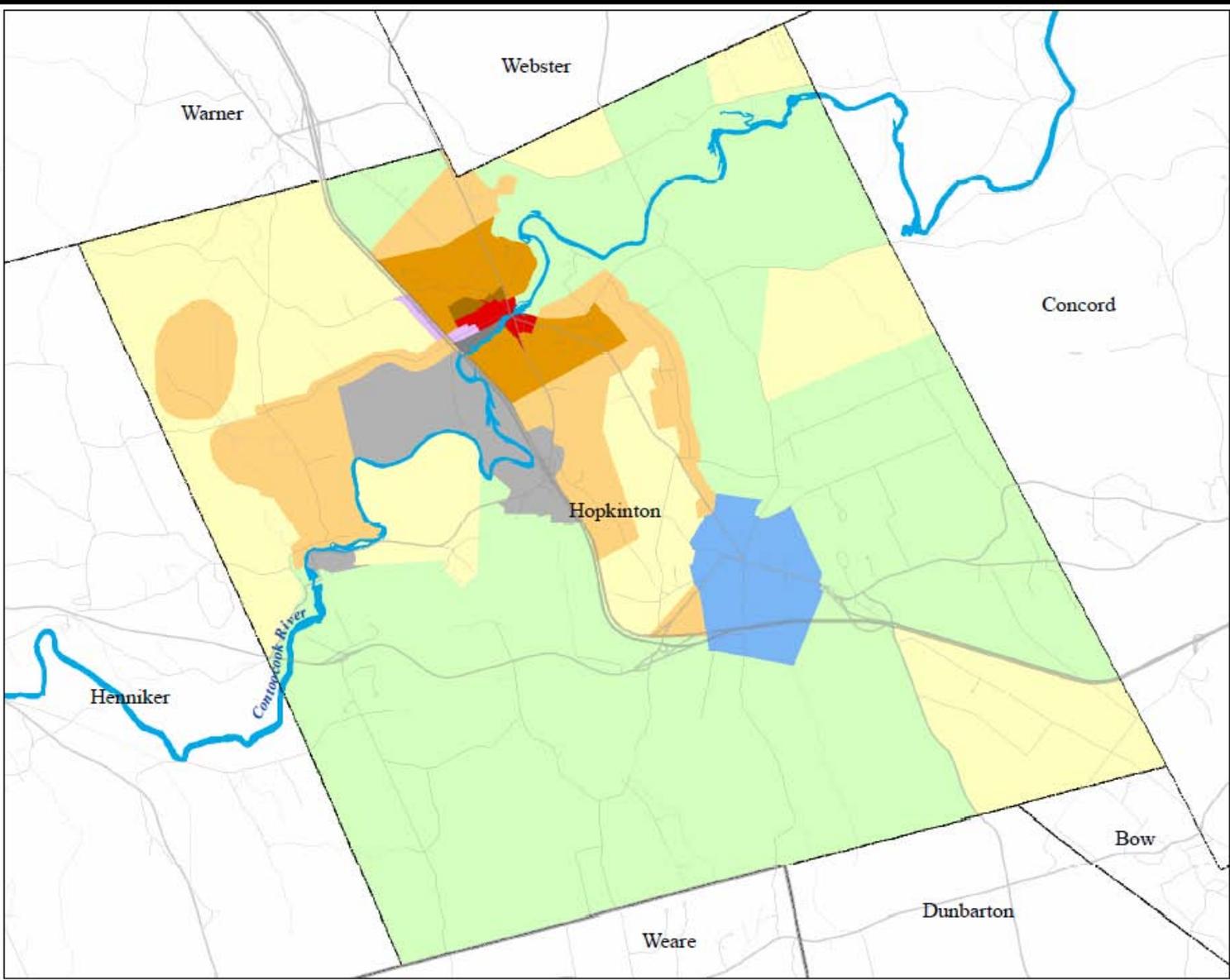
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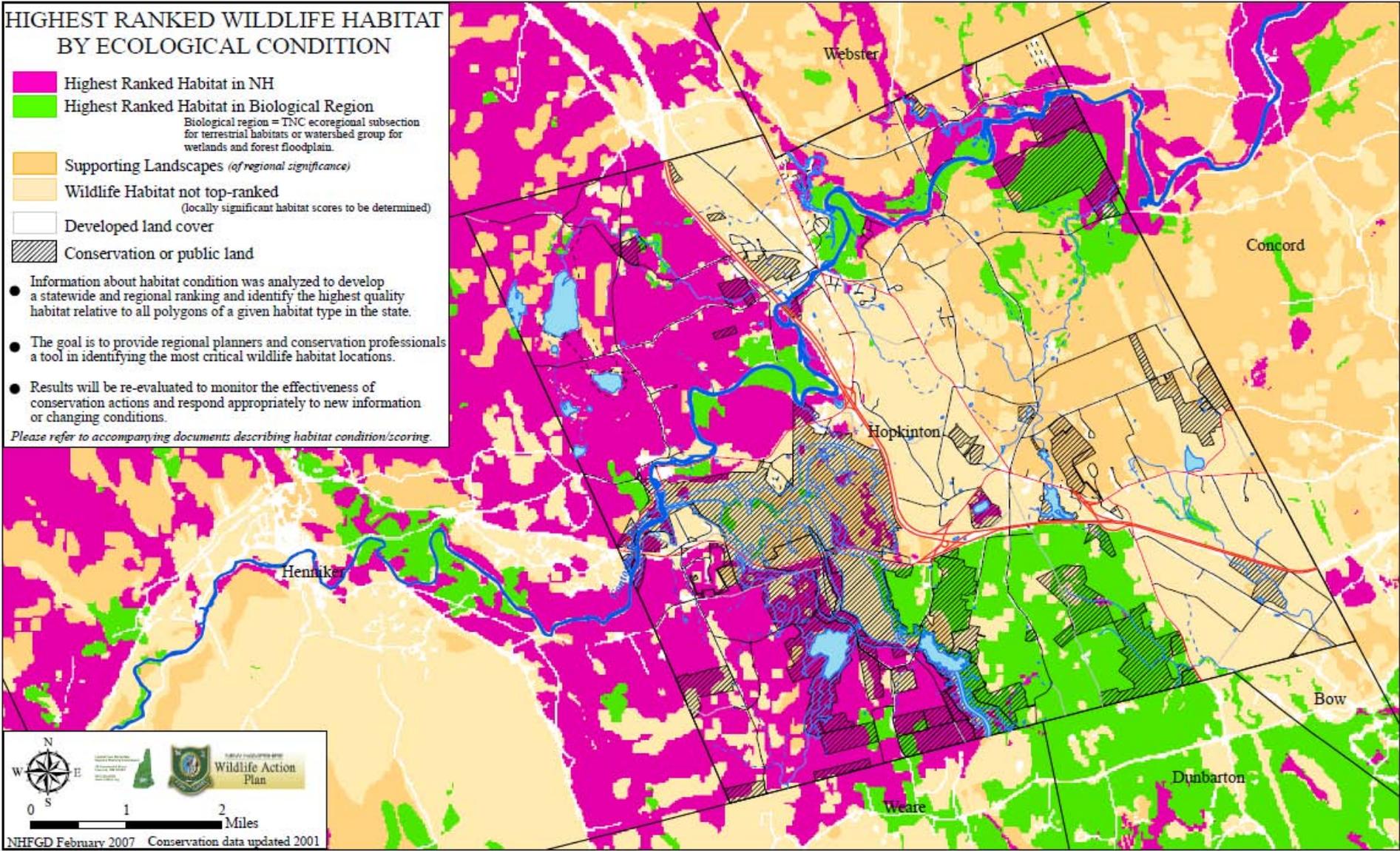
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www.cnhrpc.org



HIGHEST RANKED WILDLIFE HABITAT BY ECOLOGICAL CONDITION

- Highest Ranked Habitat in NH
- Highest Ranked Habitat in Biological Region
Biological region = TNC ecoregional subsection for terrestrial habitats or watershed group for wetlands and forest floodplain.
- Supporting Landscapes (*of regional significance*)
- Wildlife Habitat not top-ranked
(locally significant habitat scores to be determined)
- Developed land cover
- Conservation or public land

- Information about habitat condition was analyzed to develop a statewide and regional ranking and identify the highest quality habitat relative to all polygons of a given habitat type in the state.
 - The goal is to provide regional planners and conservation professionals a tool in identifying the most critical wildlife habitat locations.
 - Results will be re-evaluated to monitor the effectiveness of conservation actions and respond appropriately to new information or changing conditions.
- Please refer to accompanying documents describing habitat condition/scoring.*



Wildlife Action Plan

Stakeholder Survey

- What are uses, values, and concerns relating to the Contoocook/North Branch Rivers?
- Distributed to:
 - landowners in each town
 - public officials
- Online version posted on RPC and town websites

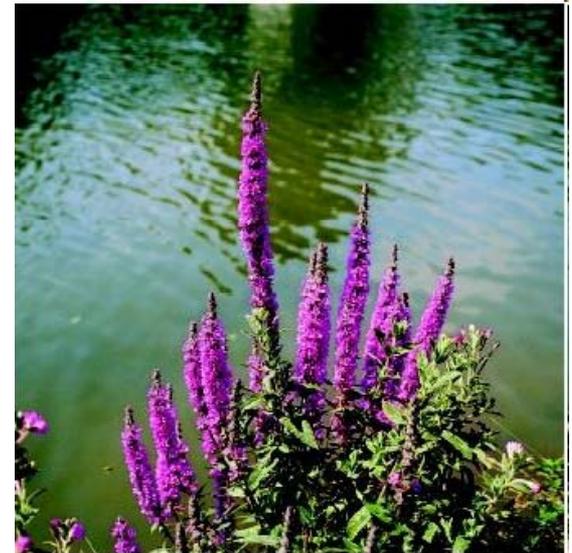
Recreational Access

- LAC members updated lists and maps
- Vehicular vs. non-vehicular access
- Popular uses at each site



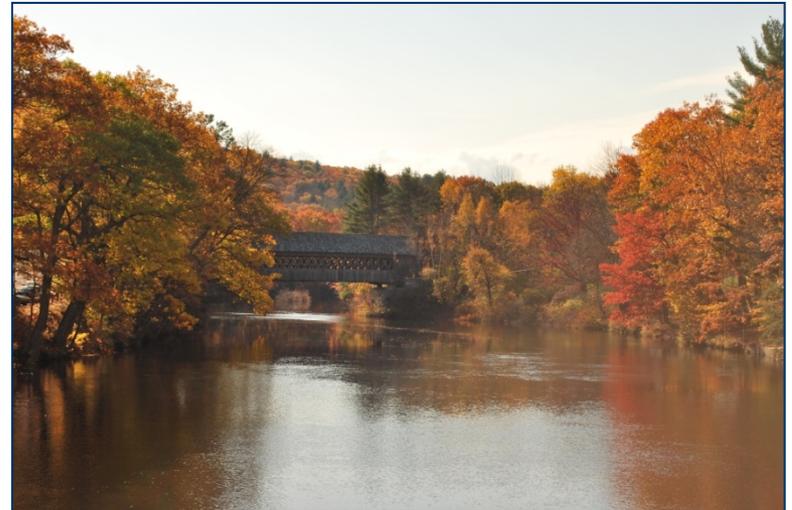
Identifying Most Impacted Segments

- Hot Spots
 - Exotic species, erosion, dumping, etc.
- Existing conditions maps, VRAP data, LAC input, survey results
- Recommendations



Next Steps

- Complete data collection
- Visioning Session
- Goals and Recommendations
- Draft Plan



Questions?

Michelle Hamm
CNBRLAC Chair
mhamm@mpm.com

Vanessa Bittermann
CNHRPC
vbittermann@cnhrpc.org

Evan Aird
CNHRPC
eaird@cnhrpc.org