UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE
Cooperative Extension

Wildlife Summit

Public Input on the Comprehensive State Wildlife Plan

Thursday, March 25, 2004
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Public Service of New Hampshire Headquarters,
Manchester

Agenda
Wildlife Summit – PSNH, Manchester
March 25, 2004

8:30-9:00	Check-in/registration
9:00 –10:30	Plenary Session – Welcome to PSNH. John MacDonald, PSNH VP of Operations
10:20-10:35	Break
10:35-10:50	Working Group Process. Charlie French, Communities Specialist, UNH Cooperative Extension
10:50-12:45	Wildlife Conservation Issues – Facilitated Working Groups
12:45	Lunch
1:00	Facilitators Combine Overlapping Issues
1:45	Report outs
2:15	Voting
2:45	Wrap Up and Evaluation
3:00	Adjourn

Wildlife Summit - Topical Issues to Address

1. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Loss and Degradation

As New Hampshire's population grows, people impact both the quantity and quality of fish and wildlife habitat.

New Hampshire has one of the highest growth rates of all states in the eastern U.S. Development is highest in the southern parts of our state, coinciding with the areas of greatest wildlife diversity. Recent census data projections indicate that the central portion of the state will grow rapidly, as well (e.g., Lakes Region). Fish and wildlife need quality habitat, and some species are at risk of being lost due to development pressure, especially in high-growth areas of New Hampshire. The presence of people can also degrade habitat even if it is not directly altered by development.

2. Human-Wildlife Interactions

Although most New Hampshire residents would like to maintain stable and healthy fish and wildlife populations, exactly how each individual defines a stable and healthy population varies according to how they interact with the environment.

Over the past decades, New Hampshire has experienced a shift from a rural to a more urbanized society. This shift is not only evident in land being developed into housing units and shopping malls but also in how people perceive wildlife and their relationship to it.

Human-wildlife interaction occurs when humans come in contact with wildlife either intentionally or unintentionally. These contacts may be either positive or negative, ranging from people enjoying feeding and watching birds, to deer eating shrubs, to potential life threatening events like moose-car collisions. Because of specific interactions, people may want certain fish and wildlife populations increased or reduced.

3. Private Lands Stewardship

Many of our state's fish and wildlife depend on privately owned lands for the food, water, cover and space they need to survive and thrive.

In 1949, renowned conservationist, Aldo Leopold, wrote,

> "I have read many definitions of what is a conservationist, and written not a few myself, but I suspect that the best one is written not with a pen, but with an axe. It is a matter of what a man thinks about while chopping, or while deciding what to chop. A conservationist is one who is humbly aware that with each stroke he is writing his signature on the face of his land. Signatures of course differ, whether written with axe or pen, and this is as it should be."

Most of NH's land (88%) is in private ownership. The quality of fish and wildlife habitat on private lands is dependent on the land use and management decisions of the landowners.

4. Successful Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Biologists know how to define conservation success from a biological point of view, such as numbers of active eagle nests, but other people might measure successful wildlife conservation in different ways.

"Planning for New Hampshire's wildlife future" perhaps best describes what the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan is all about. The main goal is to ensure that we maintain our state's fish and wildlife diversity. Successful fish and wildlife conservation will be measured in biological terms, but biologists will need to consider how other people might measure success.

Wildlife Summit Summary and Priorities

The following section is a summary of the major themes and issues that came up for each topic across all of the breakout groups – the issues recorded below were amalgamated/combined for all of the groups in order to eliminate duplicate data (i.e. if two groups said that education is a top issue for a given topic, it is only listed once below). Once the issues/themes were amalgamated for each topic area, each participant of the summit was allowed to vote on the top issue/theme for each topic area. They placed a vote on the issue/theme that they felt was most important and merits the most immediate attention.

Topic 1: Habitat Loss

- Lack of planning **(34 votes)**
  identification of critical habitats
  regulatory controls
  population growth
  lack of wildlife as a value in planning
- Dedicated funding **(24 votes)**
- Fragmentation **(8 votes)**
- Economic pressures **(6 votes)**
- Awareness/education **(5 votes)**
- Air and water quality **(2 votes)**

Topic 2: Human Wildlife Interactions

- Development/land conservation **(31 votes)**
- Communication and education **(19 votes)**
- Management and managing people **(4 votes)**
- Transportation/recreation **(3 votes)**

Topic 3: Private Lands Stewardship

- Education **(25 votes)**
- Economics **(18 votes)**
- Landowner rights and responsibilities **(14 votes)**
- Public use of private lands **(6 votes)**
- Government role **(2 votes)**

Topic 4: Successful Fish and Wildlife Conservation

- Maintain viable populations and habitats **(37 votes)**
- funding for protection monitoring and education **(15 votes)**
- Balancing conflicting desires **(5 votes**)
- Number and diversity of habitats **(3 votes)**
- People can see wildlife – residents & tourists **(1 vote)**

Wildlife Summit Breakout Group Issues and Actions

Breakout Group A
(Topics 1 and 2)

Facilitator: Frank Mitchell
Participants: Eric Aldrich (recorder), Alan Palmer (PSNH liaison), Barry Parrish, Karen P. Bennett, Lionel R. Chute, Ellen Snyder, Jan Woodbury, Allan Palmer, Jeffrey Hayes, Dan Anthony, Marilyn Bott, Chris Andrews, Kevin McCurley, Kara Glasgow, Leighlan Prout, Collis Adams, Carol R. Foss, Adair Mulligan, Joanna Pellerin, Peter Pekins, John McConnell, Sheridan Brown

Topic 1 (Group A): Fish and Wildlife Habitat Loss and Degradation: As New Hampshire's population grows, people impact both the quantity and quality of fish and wildlife habitat.

Issues:

- ATV's harming habitats
- Maintaining habitat connections
- Fragmentation habitat
- Isolation of habitats, need to monitor corridors
- Road development and improvement (fragmentation)
- Shrinking lot sizes (forest parcelization)
- Education as management strategy
- Increasing use lawn chemicals
- Land planning/zoning issues
    - lack of local planning and inability to implement
- Invasive species – plants and animals, pathogens
- Housing penetrating into landscape
    - invasives
- Environmental change – shrinking places/opportunities for wildlife
- Runoff from roads/development
- Development pressures vs. important habitats
- Protecting rare species on private lands
- Property taxes
- Recreation penetration into landscape
- Recreational access/activity
- $ incentives for private landowners to make habitat improvements
- Tourism promotion without safeguards
- Homogenization of landscape and habitat types
- Lack of resources for land use planning
    - conservation – minimizing/mitigating development impact
- Public access a problem for lakes
- Lack of easement holders for small parcels
- Limited time for conservation because development pressure
- Road mortality
    - impacts of roads

- Acid rains impacts on landscape pollution

Key Themes:

- Economics of conservation
- Environmental
- Development/planning
- Habitat fragmentation, degradation, loss

Priority Issues:

1. Impact of development and lack of planning
2. Trade-offs: promoting economy at expense of environment
3. Habitat/fragmentation/degradation

Actions Needed:

- Habitat
- Think beyond political boundaries
- Identify specific habitat activities; work with delegation
- Partnering with transportation agencies to minimize fragmentation and incorporate wildlife crossings
- Incorporate habitat protection into land use planning
- Education of options
- Identifying/mapping critical habitats
- Map dispersal corridors
    - education of that
- Promote road less areas
- Provide build-out analyses
- Replicate NEMO
- Focus on localized outreach
- Basic education/outreach

Topic 2 (Group A). Human-Wildlife Interactions: Although most New Hampshire residents would like to maintain stable and healthy fish and wildlife populations, exactly how each individual defines a stable and healthy population varies according to how they interact with the environment.

Issues:

- Invasives
- Pollution
- Recreation
- Damage/conflicts
- Diseases/vectors/pathogens
- Lack of information on effects human on wildlife interactions
- Impacts of pets
- Impacts of feeding wildlife
- Impacts of collection wildlife
- Newcomer's angst and impact

- Increasing awareness of wildlife control options
- Impacts of lights and structures on migrating birds and bats
- Road kill
- Human encroachment
- Needs to be better management multi-use trails
- Public sentiment for certain species
- Recreation only/transportation
- Juxtaposition of human activities with wildlife habitat
- Public attitudes
- Conflicts
    - disease/damage/interaction

Priority Issues:

1. Edge effect
2. Transportation/recreation
3. Managing humans

Actions Needed:

- Education – develop education strategy
    - re: human/wildlife interaction
- Establishing buffers and greenways
- Motorized recreation restrictions
- More study of all recreational impacts and other impacts
- More land conservation funding

Breakout Group B
(Topics 2 & 3)

Facilitator: Phil Auger
Participants: Laura Pfister (recorder), Doris Burke (PSHN liaison), Roberta Arbrea, Ken Kreis, Sr., Robert Phillipson, Suzann Fournier, David Tellman, Stacy Lemieux, Mary Wright, Rob Shanks, Robert Johnson, Jon Kart, Peter Spaulding, Paul Doscher, Dea Brickner-Wood, Torene Tango-Lowry, Carol Barleou

Topic 2 (Group B). Human-Wildlife Interactions: Although most New Hampshire residents would like to maintain stable and healthy fish and wildlife populations, exactly how each individual defines a stable and healthy population varies according to how they interact with the environment.

Issues:

- Lack of understanding education on human side of their actions interacting with wildlife
- Fear of what the don't know (bears)
- Feeding wildlife – doesn't benefit wildlife, unhealthy

- People don't know how to deal with living in "rural" areas and how to live with wildlife
- Education of hunters, e.g. impacts, coyotes
- Economic development – how +/- impacts are created by economic development
- Many population sectors not receiving information. Dissemination of information
- More collaboration between landowners, agencies, developers and businesses
- More interagency collaboration to achieve human-wildlife balance
- Media sensationalizes wildlife interactions (i.e. bear attacks)
- Not all interactions are equal – "management" of some species (for hunting, fish/trap)causes problems for other species
- People feed animals because they want to observe animals – need areas for designated observation
- Hunting – success rate
- NHFG needs to take a more proactive role in targeting problem areas
- Management of game and non-game species can have impacts on other species
- Zoning regulations/local regulations set up without any consideration of other humans
- As development and habitat – more pressure on agricultural lands
- Transportation as well as land use planning
- Development that creates jobs is considered higher value than benefits from wildlife
- Per capita land consumption
- Suburbanization/sprawl and impact on our traditional interactions with wildlife (hunting, etc)
- Protect predators and promote natural balance
- Balance of game and non game species and how they fit into ecosystem
- Getting people excited about <u>whole range</u> of wildlife
- Educate people about pet impacts
- Quantity vs. quality – overpopulation
- Wildlife ownership – public resource or private resource of landowner
- Human population outstripping wildlife population
- Encourage responsible use by public to ensure continued public access to private lands
- State financial support for land protection available to every community
- Cultural traditions – interaction with wildlife and land use
- Toxins/water supply/wildlife

Priority Issues:

1. Development/land conservation
    - planning/zoning
    - personal/public responsibilities
    - incentives and funding for land conservation

- economic development
- transportation

2. Management
   - stewardship
   - law enforcement
   - personal/public records
   - funding
   - collaboration (public/public+public/private)
   - diversity
3. Communication/education

Actions Needed:

- disseminate wildlife habitat maps
- improve education
- funding by all user groups
- establish a dialogue to improve opportunities to work together

Topic 3 (Group B). Private Lands Stewardship: Many of our state's fish and wildlife depend on privately owned lands for the food, water, cover and space they need to survive and thrive.

Issues:

- Promotion of sustainable development and design
- ATV pressure
- Conservation vs preservation
- Landowners rights/responsibilities
- Requirement to post (reverse)
- Share information for private landowners on land management
- More opportunities for landowners and hunters to positively interact
- Economic incentives for private landowners
- Responsible public use (all user groups)
- Tax incentives to encourage good management and/or public access
- Public education on what good management is – also need to define good management
- Recognition of good management (incentives)
- Controls on timber liquidation
- Education and assistance in invasive species management
- Collaboration – public/private and public/public
  - businesses, developers, municipalities included
- Better law enforcement
- Give cities and towns a say in wildlife management (rights to decide on hunting, fishing, etc)
- Outreach/education about what is special/unique at community level
- Share wildlife/habitat mapping

- Identify linkages between public and private lands and coordinate management of habitat, recreation and development
- Make NHI available communities (carefully)
- Encouraging conservation easements
- Funding

Priority Issues:

1. Landowner rights and responsibilities
   - how to balance regulations/incentives
   - open space preservation (incentive)
2. Government's Role
   - law enforcement
   - education of landowner and public/recreation uses
   - regulations, planning/zoning
   - incentives
   - including NGO's
3. Public Use of private lands
   - access
   - who decides? (state, town, landowner, etc)
   - what are the limits?
   - definition of "traditional uses"
   - what measurements are used to make these decisions

Actions Needed:

- Education
- Best forestry practices (standards)
- Enforcement of regulations and incentives
- Funding by All User Groups
- Improve markets for forest and farm products (promotion of local products) public
- Reexamine how we define access (NHFG)
- Establish a dialogue – opportunity for landowners to work together

Breakout Group C
(Topics 3 & 4)

Facilitator: Charlie French
Participants: Liza Poinier (recorder), Dick Durmore (PSNH liaison), Sylvia Bates, Margaret Joyce, Mary Jeppesen, Sam Doyle, Sue Mansfield, Walter Morse, Casey Hayes, Helen Hayes, Ray Whittemore, Dijit Taylor, Wendy Ward, Mark Kern, Marjory Swope, Sharon Guaraldi, Jim Taylor

Topic 3 (Group C). Private Lands Stewardship: Many of our state's fish and wildlife depend on privately owned lands for the food, water, cover and space they need to survive and thrive.

Issues:

- Losing 15-20 acres of land to private uses annually
- Fragmenting large land acres into smaller – impact on wildlife, birds, amphibians – access to H_2O
- Absentee landowners – policy no voice for advocacy
- Age of landowners/generational transfer
- Changing population: "Most livable state" people coming in with different mindsets, backgrounds, values
- Address education of non-owner uses/abuses of available land
- In case of development: size of lots, cluster vs. non-cluster, versus open space – how decide what is best/depends on place
- Education: "fear" of term "cluster development"
- Danger that open space will be developed to sell
- All local regulations are town by town – little effort to plan regionally (wildlife don't know boundaries)
- Large landowners – reward system for those who share lands with multiple users and protect instead of selling "not getting much out of it than seeing game" recognition
- Easements one way to benefit (habitat restoration – other options again need to educate/be active)
- Stakeholder/landowner relations (no decide –act-defend)
- Education/collaboration in planning
- Volunteer – "it's up to you" as landowner – people willing to help at local level – programs in place
- NH gets money for showing need – 10 problems and follow up, $ is there if people come voluntarily
- Demographic difference north vs. south
- Fear of words – land grab – "easement"
- Not enough money to involve all landowners who want to be involved
- Not enough money for professional staff
- Need to grow private conservation community
- Public access – land "being trashed" one landowner does not see this as problem so – approach of landowner/signage
- 200 acre parcels or less need emphasis – cost factors/management
- Lots of small, grouped lots near roads, lakes: our focus has been on large lots but fragmentation is problem
- Trails – people trails often wildlife trails
- Current use can help bad tax situation
- Timber management not always same as wildlife management
- Current use – people "not paying fair share" people trying to limit/abolish
- Escalating land values especially in south – economic pressure to develop or sell

- A way to get economic value for not developing
- Impact of growth
  - importance of involving land trusts/conservative commission in decision making – develop relations with landowner
- Education – re stewardship impact on future generations
  - must be innovative
- Taxes older people unable to afford land
- Incentives/economics
- Provide landowners with information to make proper decisions, how to manage for wildlife
- Those who can act can afford to
  - cost of dealing with issues "doesn't matter to me" get people to feel responsibility/educate

Priority Issues:

1. Education
   - conservation ethics
   - concentrate on private landowners
   - how to get people to "internalize" and take action
   - peer education – example Coverts Program
   - buy-in: "What's in it for me" as part of message
   - examples of successes and failures
   - describe techniques (case studies coming out soon – see digit/land conservation)
   - investigate success stories in other states
   - what educating about? Content (where to get help/information on programs, basic biology of wildlife, why help?, how as landowner one can do something, etc.)
   - partnerships

2. Economics
   - balance of growth vs. conservation "how much is enough?" (statewide pressures – jobs)
   - landowner perspective (how do individuals (they fit into larger strategic plan)
   - taxes – pressure to sell land for development
   - willingness to take risks – can we make this process (easements, etc) as seamless as private sector? Paperwork, appraisals, etc.
   - streamlining of process (see activity in Mass)
   - "we don't make it easy for people to do the right thing"
   - more resources, more staff needed
   - need infrastructure in place
   - include incentives
   - long-term; money available to pay for easements
   - money to have land agents available, surveys, etc.
   - lack of state funding – LCHIP

Actions Needed:

1. Education
    - Statewide land conservation conference (landowners/land activist workshops)
    - Audit of what's out there – help someone decide
    - Get beyond clutter – organize information and educational resources
    - Speaker's Bureau (address conservation commission, etc)
    - To interrupt regular course of action peer-to-peer, build trust
    - Find out what landowners want (Conservation Commission)
    - Attractive publications on unfamiliar wildlife (turtles, snakes, salamanders, etc) popular for general public
    - Backyards/small lots-schoolyard/backyard habitat – tell public what they can do
    - Find Americorps – get young people working
    - Develop action committee – see what's already out there, develop marketing strategy, partners, etc
    - "Develop constraints" map – does not include wildlife corridors (should…)
    - Get a feel for where elderly landowners are – hold workshops specific to them
    - Id everyone who deals with landowner and give information
    - PLT – wild – web etc.

2. Economics
    - Better LCHIP funding
    - Conservation license plates, expand regular to off road vehicles
    - Value of wildlife recreation – what it means to economy – add to messaging
    - Working with developers on "smart" development at planning level
    - Change state tax structure
    - Pay developers not to build (see ag. Example)
    - Stricter zoning
    - Taller buildings
    - Incentives for rehabbing – Brownfields funding
    - Build wall around state
    - Provide better/clearer incentive for "smart" development
    - Wetlands regulations – change to promote more infill development
    - Change federal highway policy to reduce sprawl
    - Look creatively at other costs of low-income housing/inappropriate regulations in regions
    - Tax write off…duplicates no tax
    - Current use look at backyard incentives/tax structure

Topic 4 (Group C). Successful Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Issues:

- Depends on point of view
  - number of species seen
  - number game bagged (fish caught…simply enjoying outdoors
- "The unknown" – measures we develop may be impacted in future – factors we can't control – global warming, etc.
- Knowing wildlife "is out there" and something is being done
- Measure success economically – stabilize tax base. Tourism revenue, retail, why people come here and why it's livable (wildlife can take some credit) recreation money > NH
- License sales fishing/hunting
- People need professional help/resources – number people interested rise is indicator
- Don't forget habitat – diversity, inventory
  - What do wildlife require?
  - Baseline of what you have so you can measure change
- Connectivity/corridors
- How is bio measurement defined
- Am I seeing wildlife? (If I see bunnies, deer, plan is working)
- Return on investment: show legislation/funders that creating opposite/habitat is good money investment
- "Body count"
- Update open space and study
- Improved water quality
- Depends on point of view (how measure success)
- Monitoring individual species
- Changes in conservation lands on GIS – fractile dimensions
- Tax-revenue stable base
- Value of your home
- Most livable state
- Value of hunting and fishing license
- Do I feel things are improving? Intangible
- Can we measure impact/value of wildlife economy
- People policymakers – how do they feel?
- Is a "healthy" wildlife doing too much damage? (deer)
- Moose populations – for tourism, hunting-damaging own habitat. There is a need to reach a healthy balance
- Conflicting measures need to be identified and a balance struck

Priority Issue:

1. There is a need to balance conflicting interests and ideas. How one measures success depends entirely on their point of view (i.e. from a biologist's standpoint, from a policymaker's standpoint, etc.

Actions Needed:

- Surveys – public opinion.
  - what would someone pay
  - attitudes toward wildlife
- County foresters – need WILDLIFE bios in every county to serve same role
- Hit hard in schools – count number that are doing things
- Return on investment – measure it
- State support – money leveraging
- Partnerships
- Increase citizen science opportunities/involvement
- Publications
- Monitor number of people involved
- T&T/F&G work more closely to promote opportunities

Breakout Group D
(Topics 1 and 4)

Facilitator: Minda Henderson
Participants: Judy Stokes (recorder), Curt Mooney (PSNH liaison), Dave Erler, Gail McWillliam Jellie, Steve Barba, Jim DiStefano, Bill Hauser, Miranda Levin, Paula Tracy, Tanya Tellman, Edith Tucker, Jasen Stock, John Bass, Curt Mooney, Fred Shepard, Ellis Hatch, Glenn Normandeau, Fred R. Allen, Michael Amaral

Topic 1 (Group D): Fish and Wildlife Habitat Loss and Degradation: As New Hampshire's population grows, people impact both the quantity and quality of fish and wildlife habitat.

Issues:

- Quality air/water (mercury, lead)
- Building and development
- Economics of land management (working costs vs. sales)
- Especially Seacoast – high cost waterfront (and lakefront) in combo with bad job of zoning regulations small lots vs. cluster development
- Land ownership change inherit land without connection or understanding > loss of habitat
- Lack of permanent conservation status for habitat
- Cost of creating conservation easement – money needed to help willing donors
- Industrial development/growth – need controls on emissions
- As development occurs in south puts pressure on North Country – job loss, targeting green activities on that area
- Long term land ownership
- Importance of plan coordinating efforts early on

- Address secondary impacts (residential/commercial) on highway improvements, integrate conservation/highways
- Human impact on resources
- Cultural changes impact resources farm life>reduced/no connection to land
- Leads to degradated habitats
- Lack of "patterns' in conservation fragmented
- Conservation commissions ready to act on plan when money and land becomes available (control/own land and waterfront is key)
- Economic incentives for land ownership
- Reward for keeping fields mowed or in use, open, early success habitat around edges
- F&G will pay for this kind of work (but limited in time?)
- Lack of understand of ag role in creating diverse wildlife habitat – at community level, save the farms
- No forest land study only occasion 4 states got together – this program (SWG) has the potential also – Walmart not in VT but in Lebanon, NH find cross border solutions – cross border planning
- Zoning regulations need to change from human aesthesis to critter concerns (wildlife needs)
- Limited number of public open spaces – multi uses will continue to grow. (ex. ATVs need a place to go, growing misuse vs. limited land open, effect on habitat)
- Motorized vs. non-motorized
- Even in no-motor like skiing and snowmaking needs
- Changing pressures from motorized
- 2 cycle engine damage to environment (phase out by 2006)
- Loss of working farms – the big lots
- Large landowners should have stewardship management plan (F&G can help with money)
- People don't know what to do or how to access help – country foresters, F& G etc.
- More reward for people who do the rights (current use is an example)
- Exotics replacing natives
- Collaborate with other agencies with money
- Balsams shows pictures over time of what land looked like – big educational value – town reports could get the word out
- VT – Act 250 travel ways
- NH – unique network of NGOS reduces need for litigation private property owners and towns are to solving issue
- Strategic planning for land acquisitions
- Encourage organic farming to meet demand and keep land open
- Soil based planning would be a desirable result

Priority Issues:

1. Air and water quality

2. Lack of planning associated with land development and population growth
   - limited ownership by NGO's agencies and local government
   - regulations vs. incentives
3. Awareness/education
4. Economics of land ownership and conservation

Actions Needed:

- Using current use model, created added (financial) incentive to encourage long-term ownership (20 years) higher penalty for leaving current use
- Priority system considering all values of land – set it forth and educate people why it needs to be preserved – involve more people/organization in mapping
- Provide state information to towns to make it usable (use interns) get it to Planning Boards and Conservation Commission
- Regulations federal, updated regularly to protect. Air/water quality and keep pace with science (if feds won't state must)
- Encourage conversation/understanding of tax for school and linked to rest of towns issues
- Value of open space and low cost but generates revenue tourism, license sales
- LCHIP, tap federal money to buy land

Topic 4 (Group D). Successful Fish and Wildlife Conservation: Biologists know how to define conservation success from a biological point of view, such as numbers of active eagle nests, but other people might measure successful wildlife conservation in different ways.

Issues:

- Measured by benefits of multiple species and piece of land
- "If you build (conserve) it they will come" have quality A&W including pathways to it
- Habitat is good – number of species, water cleansing action
- Human benefit for healthy habitats? Human connection should be enabled and charged for to keep land open
- Measure health of populations fish consumption guidelines gone
- Maintain naturally reproducing
- Native species present in abundant with the distribution so that they fulfill their role in nature and are available for consumption and non consumption uses as appropriate
- Education – most negative human/wildlife interactions are the result of lack of knowledge, consider cultural context and biological context moving closer together – ecotourism, important
- Measure by number and diversity of habitats
- Public needs to understand appreciation of wildlife management in general (biological needs and management)

- Wildlife areas need funds to keep up maintenance, the developed sites (Rt. 26 example) and if conservation organizations are to do all these jobs must add to their numbers
- Establish healthy habitat measure
- Success = make money for tourism around habitats and wildlife (ecotourism viable sector)
- Benchmarks to measure what we value
    - scientific measures
    - economic activity measures significant impact on shoulder season tourism (50% occupancy)
    - could get some room and meals tax if could substantiate connection
- Measure of Success = no loss of native NH species

Priority Issues:

1. Maintain naturally reproducing native species present in abundance and distribution so that they fulfill their role in nature and are available for consumptive and non-consumptive uses as appropriate
2. Eco-tourism
3. Number and diversity of habitats

Actions Needed:

- Use local component of or "cornerstone project" to id what habitats and measures
- Identify coordinating person/agency to get overall picture
- Quantitative measures A & W quality
- Develop a true measure of ecotourism numbers
- Feedback from human users (consumption and non consumption) on wildlife
- Ask non-consumption and consumption about their experience and how well we are doing
- Be careful where put our resources to save species common nearby
- Success = coordination of data among diverse organizations to really understand situation
- Use indicator species as a measure of success (ie. Atlantic Salmon)

Breakout Group E
(Topics 1 & 4)

Facilitator: Judy Silverberg
Participants: Allison Briggaman (recorder), Scott Borthwich, Joyce El Kouarti, Bob MacGregor, Marle West, Davis W. Finch, Jim Jones, Don Normandian, Nancy Christie, Lynn Tillotson, Daryl Burtnett, Charlie Niebling, Tom Wagner, Steven Shope, Paul Karczmarcsik, Steve Taylor, Andrew Major, Harry Vogel, Bob Potter, John Harrigan, Isadel Paske

Topic 1 (Group E): Fish and Wildlife Habitat Loss and Degradation: As New Hampshire's population grows, people impact both the quantity and quality of fish and wildlife habitat.

Issues:

- Population growth and increase recreation use approach with big picture
- Local town information – planning/zoning approaches
- Economic shift for local/natural resource processes
- More focus on uplands vs. just wetlands
- Connecting land base with habitat needs
- State financial support for habitat conservation
- Adequately influential as DOT
- Land fragmentation
- Wetland mitigation
- Invasive aquatic species/exotic species, economic & ecological
- Value to not develop an area – wildlife, etc.
- Habitat evaluation at town scale (funding)
- Educate decision makers – strategies
- Moronic media coverage – public education
- Fragmentation – buy/large tracts ASAP conserve
- Change laws to include habitat assessments
- Change ownership – large unfragmented blocks
- Public outreach/education – landowners
- Benefits of current use
- Change attitudes/perceptions
- Consider location of protected areas – other nearby land user?
- Preservation of open habitats – fields/meadows, balance/maintain mix
- Manage habitat lands
- Formal classroom education
- Now maintain functional ecosystems
- Triage of strategies to achieve
- Wildlife corridors
- Air pollution/development
- Id key habitats
- Funding LCHIP
- Getting everyone to pay

- Long term funding
- Landowners incentives for keeping open land (bed & belly tax)
- Septic
- Economic incentive to towns who require smart growth
- Coherent policy and motorized recreation
- Surface water quality and quantity
- Too much intrusive government

Priority Issues:

1. Identified and protected most important habitats with viable populations
2. Opportunities for people to see/enjoy/appreciate wildlife
3. Education

Actions: Not done for this group.

Topic 4 (Group E). Successful Fish and Wildlife Conservation: Biologists know how to define conservation success from a biological point of view, such as numbers of active eagle nests, but other people might measure successful wildlife conservation in different ways.

Issues:

- Have access to land and see wildlife
- People see and learn to appreciate wildlife in backyard
- Designated funding federal and state (land acquisition – buy easements, funding programs)
- Preservation of high quality habitats
- Self-sustain wild fishery in lakes and streams
- Contiguous 500+blocks in south east New Hampshire
- Multiple strategies for preserving habitat and carrying out
- Healthy documented populations for all species
- Keep track of what's happening – make information public
- Ecologically healthy lakes/ponds and recreational value
- Prevent spread of invasives marine/aquatic/terrestrial
- Funded plan monitoring and tracking results
- Balanced viable populations of predators and big game
- Opportunity to interact with native species within 10 minutes
- Adequate funding for F&G
- More sophisticated public awareness of wildlife/habitats
- Balance wildlife/human needs
- Viable populations and tracking
- Understanding biodiversity
- Sixteen and all species include T&E
- Development of wildlife success index – economic/social/biological
- Control of wildlife
- Education – formal system – school programs
- Elected officials in support of conservation

Priority Issue:

1. Designated funding for protection, monitoring and education

Actions: Not done for this group.