

Invest Now: Protect Coastal New Hampshire for the Future

One acre a day

That's the rate at which we are losing the natural lands that define life in coastal New Hampshire to development. From the headwaters of the Salmon Falls to the salt marshes of Hampton, 42 communities depend on this natural infrastructure to keep drinking water clean, reduce flooding, provide a home for wildlife, and support local farms and other businesses.



Photo courtesy Jerry Monkman | EcoPhotography

Unique Opportunity

Protecting our most valuable natural areas is an opportunity that will never come again—and we are ready for it. We are a network of public agencies and nonprofits with boots on the ground in every coastal watershed community and a proven track record of delivering the conservation science, tools, and technical assistance they need to balance growth with conservation. Through the *New Hampshire Coastal Watershed Conservation Plan*, we have identified lands that must be protected to support the New Hampshire way of life for future generations.

A Role for Federal Investment

Federal funding is required to protect our natural infrastructure. This community-informed plan balances conservation priorities with opportunities for economic growth and development to set a collective goal of protecting *4,000 acres per year* across the watershed. Reaching this goal will require an estimated *\$15,000,000 annually*—not only to purchase the lands but to ensure that they are managed in a way that maximizes their benefits over time.

Now is the Time

As our climate becomes hotter, drier, and stormier, the value of conservation land will only increase. Conservation lands protect precious water resources, store carbon, mitigate erosion, and reduce flooding. They are essential to the state's agricultural and tourist economies, providing open space and opportunities for hunting and fishing. By connecting newly available federal funding for conservation with a mission-ready team on the ground, we can protect these lands for the future.

New Hampshire's Coastal Conservation Team

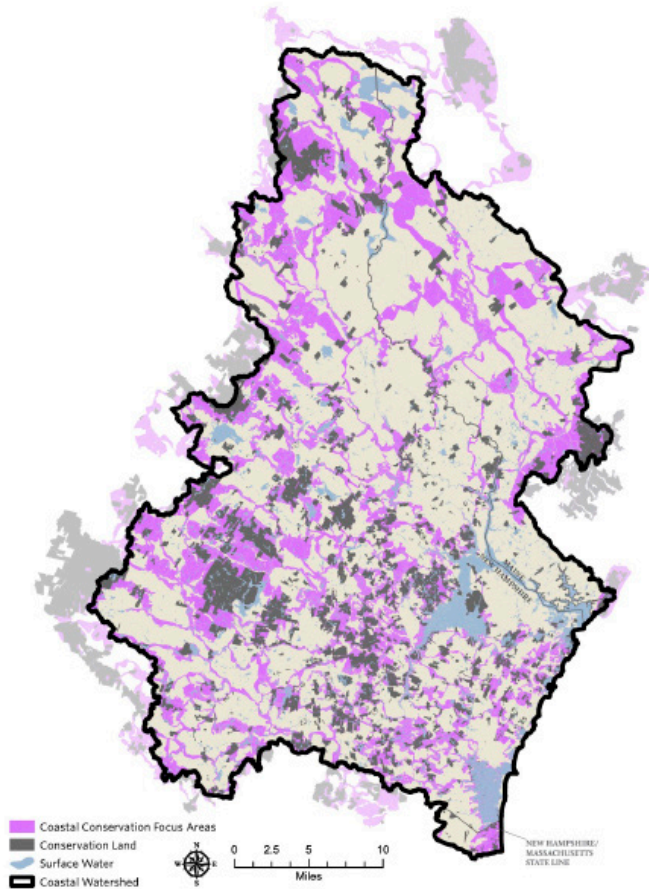
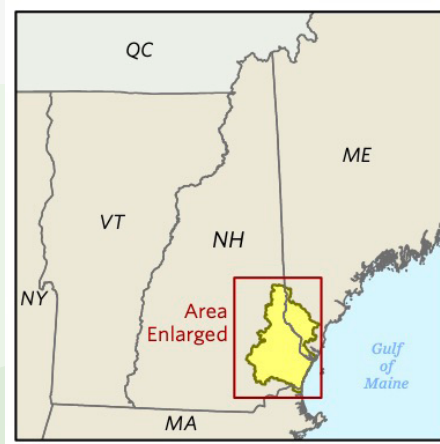
- Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership
- Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
- New Hampshire Fish & Game
- Piscataqua Region Estuaries
- Partnership
- Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests
- Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire
- The Nature Conservancy in New Hampshire
- United States Fish & Wildlife Service
- University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension



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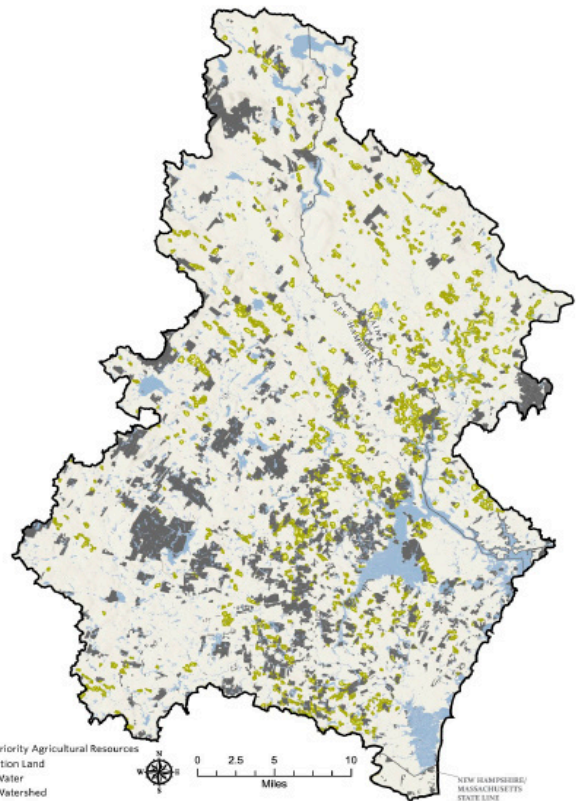
Conservation Connects Us

Spanning 990 square miles, New Hampshire's coastal watershed connects 42 communities, from Wakefield to Dover, Strafford to Portsmouth, and Chester to Seabrook. Throughout the watershed, there are many opportunities to protect lands and waters that benefit hundreds of thousands of New Hampshire residents.



Conservation Focus Areas

265,368 acres need to be conserved to maintain ecological function and integrity of a landscape under threat from habitat loss and degradation and the impacts of climate change. About **64 percent (170,813 acres)** of these lands are vulnerable or unprotected.



Priority Agricultural Lands for Conservation

32,562 acres need to be conserved to support the region's agricultural productivity, versatility, and resilience. **80 percent (26,281 acres)** of these lands are vulnerable or unprotected.

For more information:

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