Natural Resources Inventory

Town of Campton, NH
2016

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Campton, NH: Natural Resources Inventory 2016
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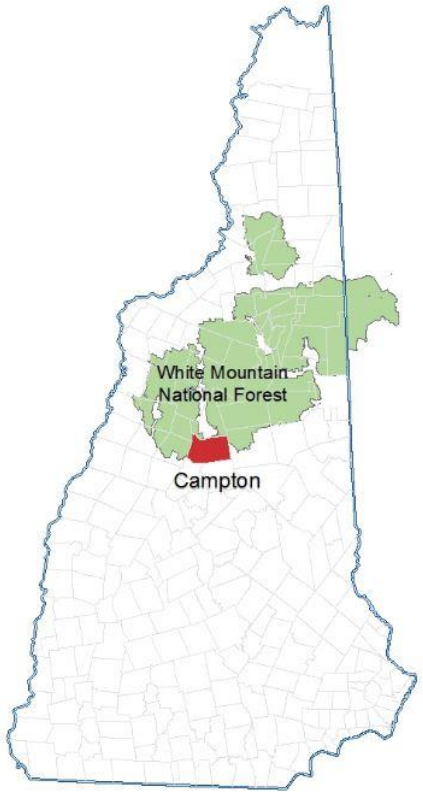
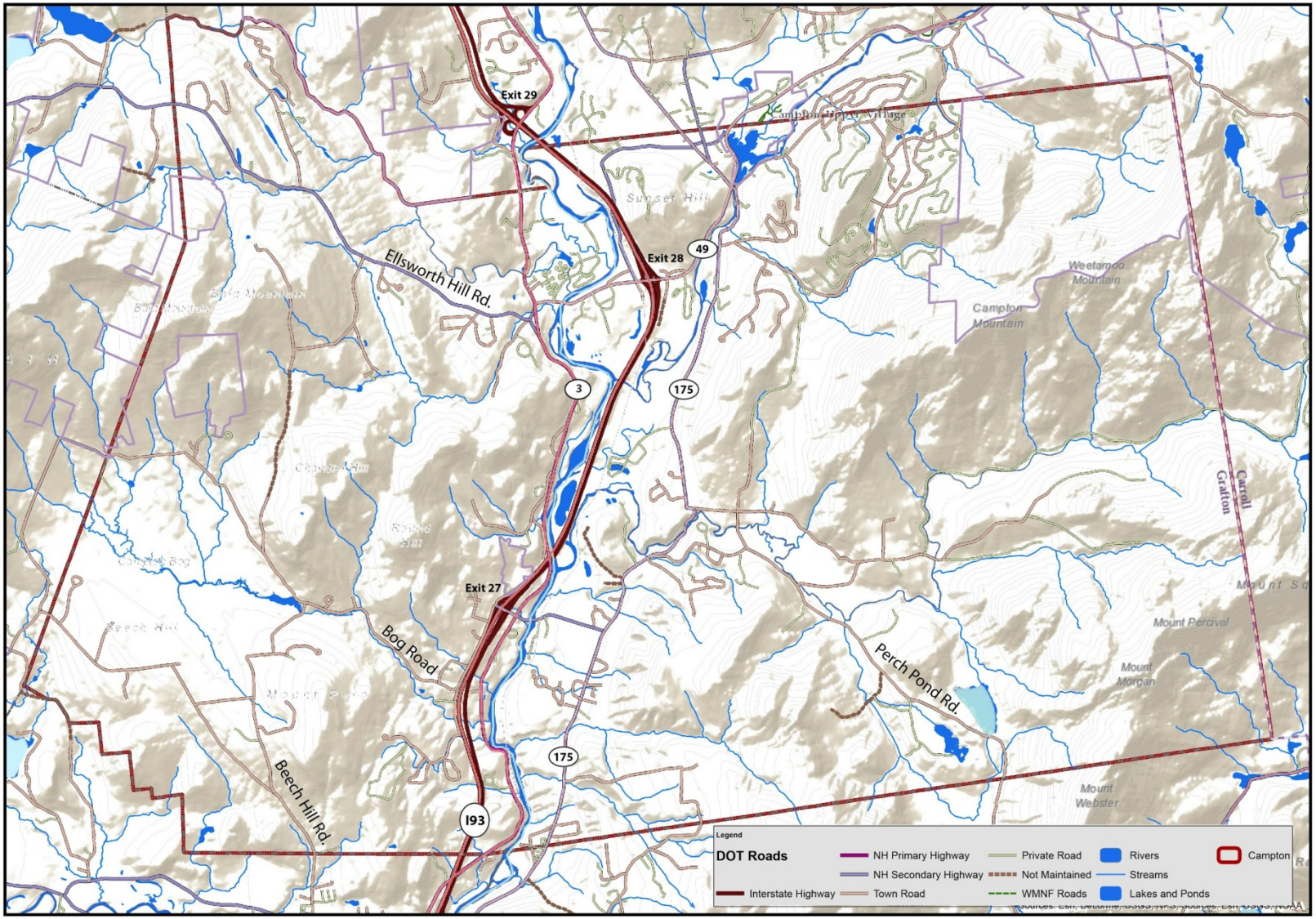


The town of Campton is located in Central New Hampshire's Grafton County, and covers roughly 33,620 acres (~52 sq. miles) on the southern edge of the White Mountains. The town is largely forested (85%) and has a rural feel, although it is officially classified as exurban rather than rural. Population stands at about 3,300 residents.

Campton is bisected by the Pemigewasset River Valley, which runs north-south through the town's geographic center. The completion of Interstate 93 in 1970, also bisecting the town from north to south, brought rapid growth to Campton, as the highway made the town easily accessible from more urbanized areas in southern New Hampshire and Massachusetts, bringing both second homeowners and willing commuters. I-93 runs roughly parallel to the river, crossing it once, and has two exit/entrance ramps in town.

Recent decades with periods of economic prosperity have brought changes to Campton. Subdivision of properties has led developers to build new homes. Some acreage has been taken out of Current Use. Over time, these bring changes to the natural resources of the town. The town's Master Plan contains data showing demographic changes over time.

As evidenced in the 2005 Natural Resources Inventory (NRI), titled Campton's Past, Present and Future, and the town's Master Plan, and also in discussions with the town Boards and residents; it is clear that concern exists about managing growth and its potential to impact the rural, forested nature of the town. Campton has historically been a town rich in rural character, with scenic views, clean drinking water, forest and agricultural products, and wildlife habitat. The tools to plan for the continued existence of this rural heritage are now in the hands of the town. This NRI should be useful in guiding the town's decision makers in developing good policy and regulatory decisions protecting the town's natural resources.



Campton Base Map

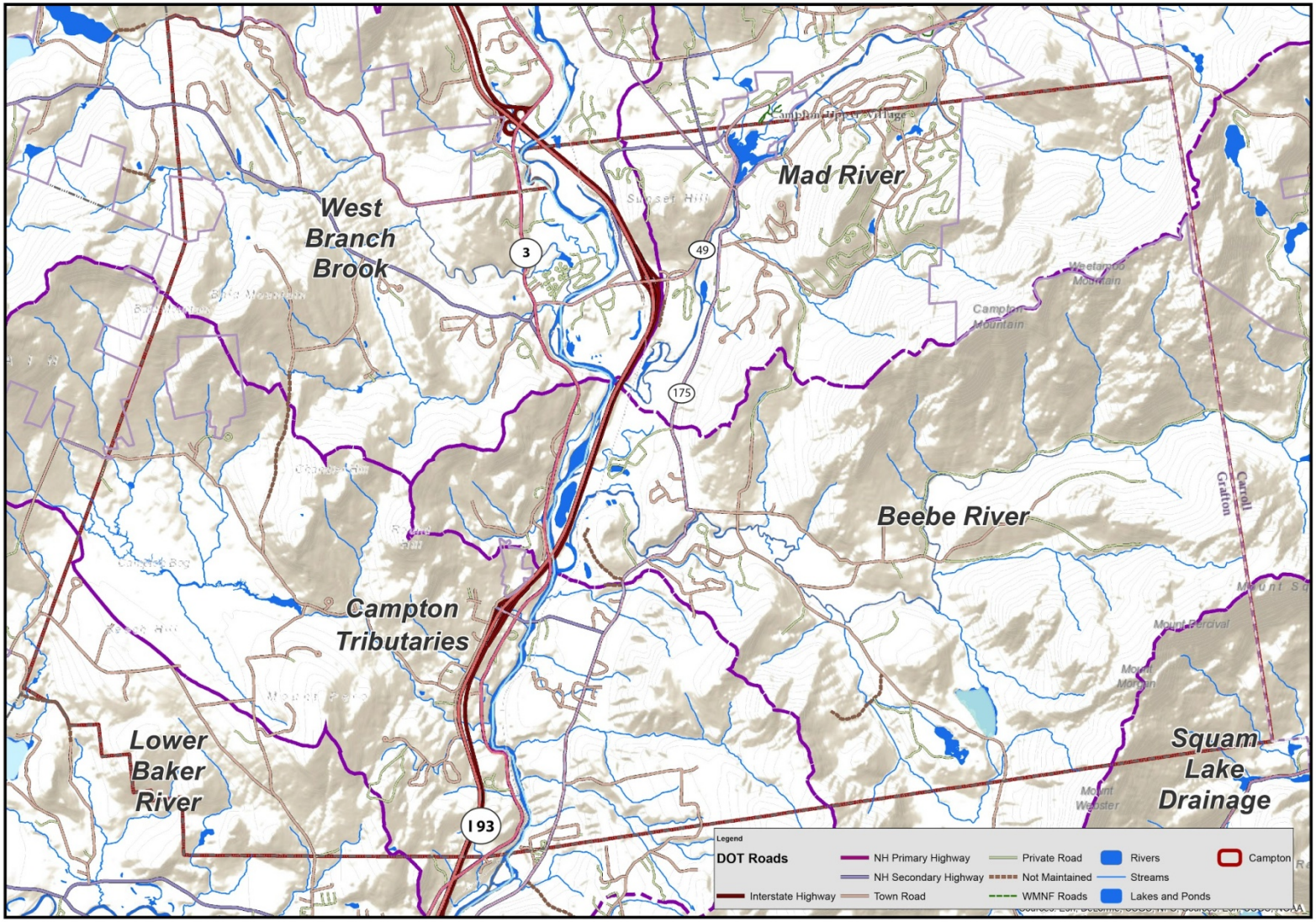
Section 2: Water Resources

2.1 Watersheds

Campton is the intersection of four major watersheds that empty into the Pemigewasset, and two lesser watersheds that empty elsewhere. In the northwest corner of town is the West Branch Brook Watershed, which brings water down from Thornton and Ellsworth, the north sides of Bald Mountain and Ellsworth Hill. To the south, the Campton Tributaries Watershed drains off the south sides of Bald Mt., Round Mt. and Chandler Hill, and the east side of Stinson Mt. in Rumney through Bog Pond. East of the Pemigewasset, the Mad River Watershed drains southwest from Waterville Valley and off the north slope of Mt. Weetamoo and its ridge. The Beebe River Watershed drains off the southern slopes of Mt. Weetamoo, the northern slope of the Squam Range and Perch Pond area. In the southwest corner of town is a small area lying in the Lower Baker River Watershed. The southeast corner of town has a small area within the Squam Watershed.

The chart below shows acreages of each watershed, how much is within Campton boundaries, and percentage of the entire town that each watershed covers.

WATERSHED	*TOTAL ACRES*	*CAMPTON ACRES/ % of Watershed*		*% of Town*
West Branch Brook	**19,461**	**5,802**	**30 %**	**18 %**
Campton Tributaries	**12,356**	**8,515**	**69 %**	**25 %**
Mad River	**16,683**	**5,464**	**33 %**	**16 %**
Beebe River	**18,997**	**11,171**	**59 %**	**33 %**
Lower Baker River	**15,220**	**1,939**	**13 %**	**6 %**
Squam	**10,662**	**729**	**6 %**	**2 %**



Campton Watershed Areas

2.2 Floodplains

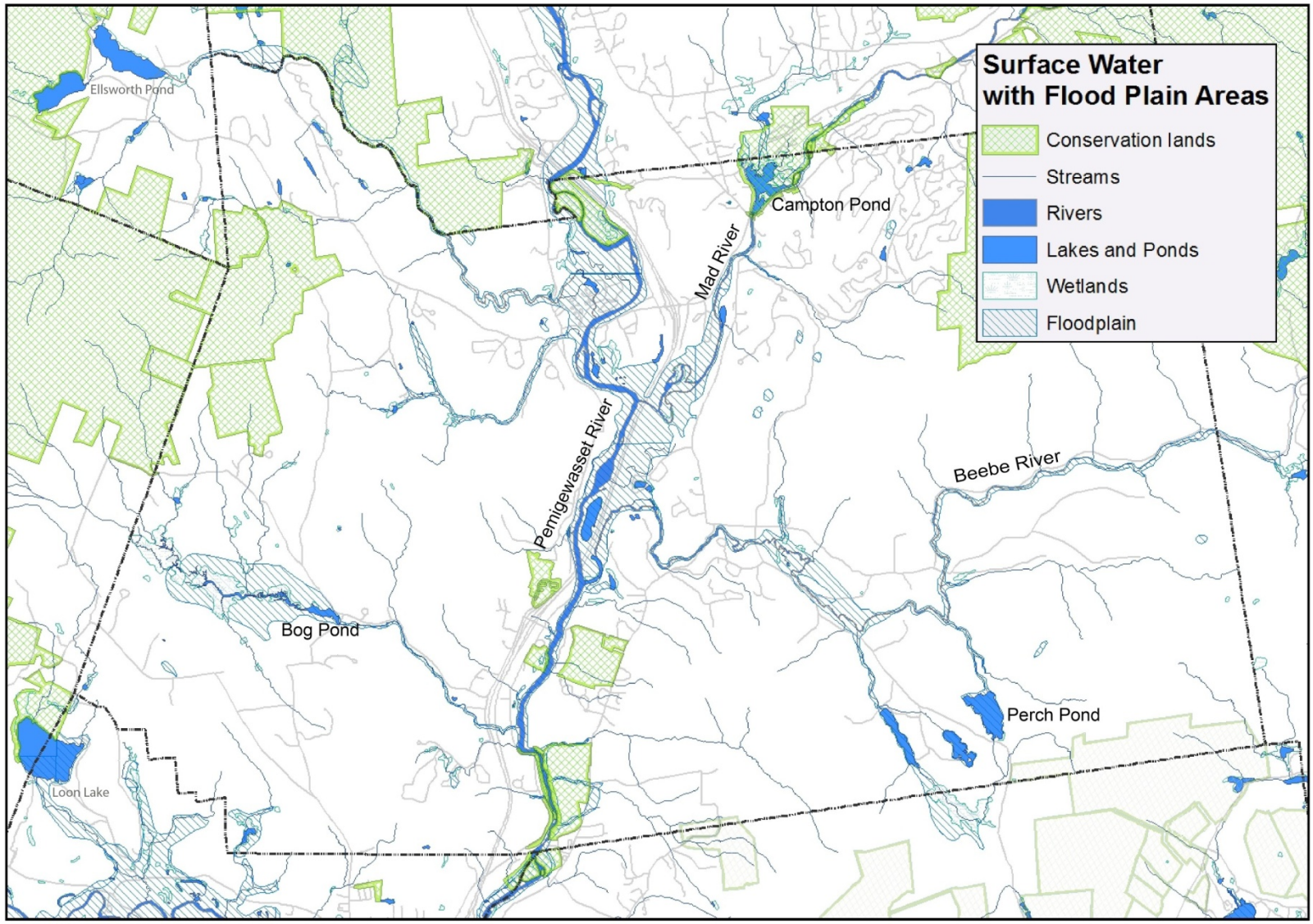
Floodplains provide filtration for nutrients and pollutants entering the water supply, and help to reduce impacts from severe flood events by providing temporary storage for excess runoff and moderating peak flows. They provide habitat for a variety of plant and wildlife species. (See Wildlife Habitat section) The bulk of Campton's floodplains are located along the Pemigewasset River Corridor. Approximately 1.5% of Campton has been identified as floodplain forest. Floodplain forests have been identified as a key habitat type in NH Fish and Game's Wildlife Action Plan.

2.3 Surface Waters

Lakes and Ponds:
Campton has a total of 58 lakes and ponds, ranging in size from 0.08 acres to 44.83 acres. The total area classified as a lake or pond within town is 236.41 acres, or roughly 0.7% of the town's total acreage. Listed below are lakes and ponds over 20 acres in size.

Lake or Pond Name	Number of Acres
Perch Pond	44.83
Campton Pond	36.65
Bog Pond (a.k.a Robartwood Pond, Campton Bog)	23.30
Moosilauke Pond (breached)	21.95
Secret Pond	20.80
Little Perch Pond	20.36

Rivers and Streams:
Campton's largest river, the Pemigewasset, defines the town's landscape by traversing the center of town from north to south. Since 1991, the Pemi has been protected under the NH Rivers Management and Protection Plan as a "rural community" designated river. The Pemigewasset and Mad Rivers are classified as fourth order streams that come under the protection of RSA 483-B, the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act, as of July 1, 2008.


Surface Water
with Flood Plain Areas
Conservation lands
Streams
Rivers
Lakes and Ponds
Wetlands
Floodplain
Ellsworth Pond
Campton Pond
Mad River
Pemigewasset River
Beebe River
Bog Pond
Perch Pond
Loon Lake

Wetlands and Vernal Pools:
Wetlands and vernal pools provide unique and critical habitat for wildlife. (See Wildlife Habitat: Section 5) Perhaps most notably, the NH Wildlife Action Plan has identified the Bog Pond wetland area as a high-ranking wildlife habitat for both the town of Campton and the state of New Hampshire.

Additionally, Campton has innumerable vernal pools and small wetlands that have not, to date, been catalogued. Seasonal events at several vernal pools in the northwest corner of town, along the north shores of the West Branch Stream, have been documented since 2008 by a group of resident volunteer naturalists.

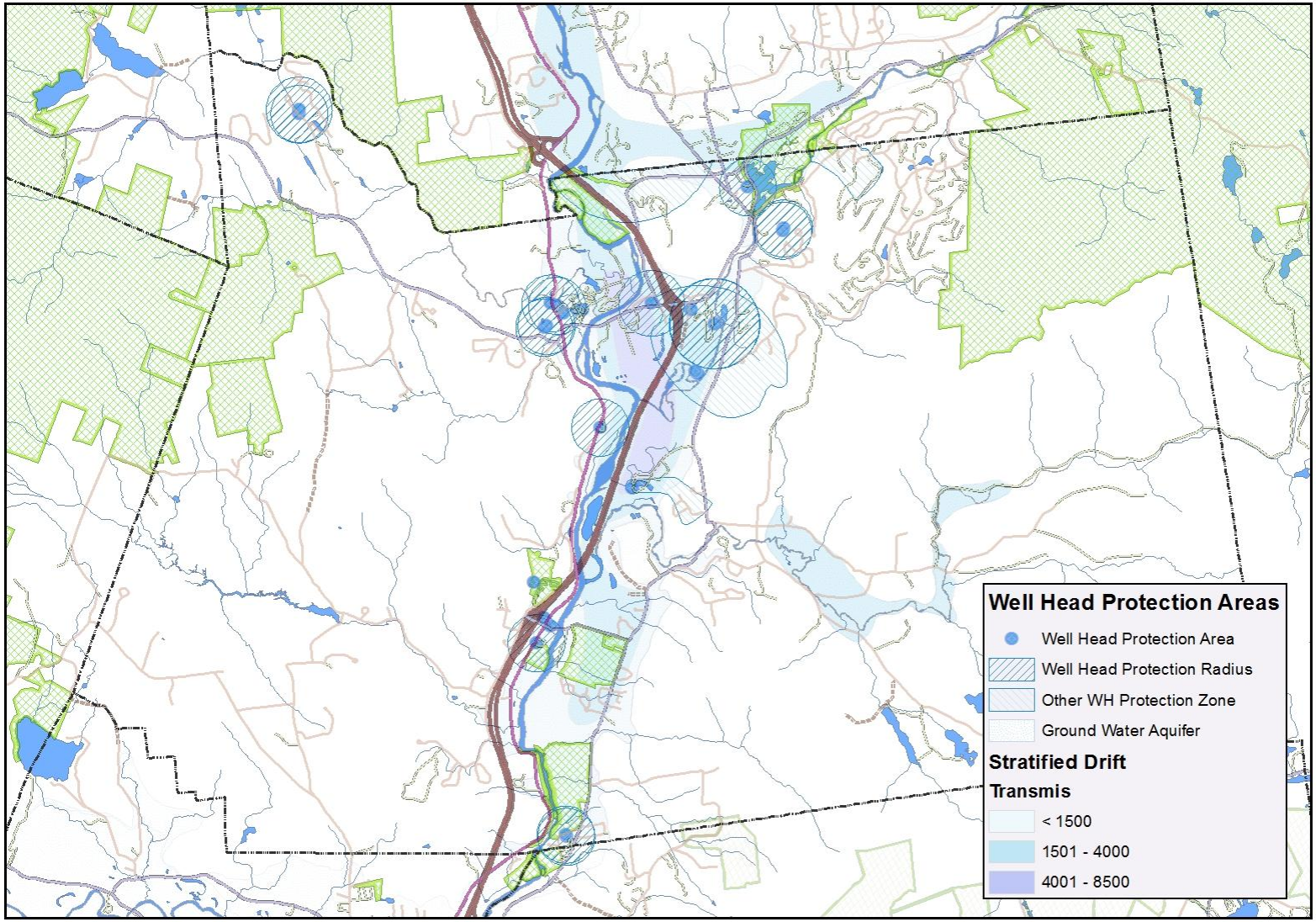
2.4 Drinking Water Resources

Residences, businesses, and agricultural users within Campton are served by a combination of individual private wells and water systems that are classified as public water systems. Monitoring and reporting requirements for these public water systems ensure the provision of clean and safe drinking water to the community using them. Regular monitoring of private wells that serve individual homes is not required by state or federal law. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to assess water quality on a regular basis. Often, these wells are not assessed or reassessed until real estate transfers are imminent.

There are 21 active public water systems in the town of Campton. These systems provide water to campgrounds, hotels, restaurants, schools, workplaces, condominiums and residences. Many of these public water systems have established wellhead protection areas, as shown on the Wellhead Protection Areas Map that follows.

Much of the drinking water supply in Campton is derived from the Pemigewasset River Valley stratified drift aquifer, which stretches from southern Thornton to Beebe River. It consists of coarse grained deposits left behind by glaciers. This aquifer is highly productive with a saturated thickness of more than 100 feet and has a greater than 8,000 ft^2/day transmissivity rate, the rate at which water can flow horizontally through the entire saturated thickness of the aquifer. The Campton Village Precinct currently has two public supply wells located within this aquifer. The town of Campton recognizes the importance of protecting its valuable stratified drift aquifer which can produce wells with large yields to be used for future public supplies. However, these areas are also highly susceptible to contamination because of their geology and thus are especially important to protect.

The threat of groundwater contamination, especially through non-point source pollution, is growing. Contaminants, such as pesticides or road runoff, have the potential to seep into the ground and pollute groundwater resources. The porous quality of stratified drift aquifers especially is quite susceptible to pollution from septic system effluent, landfill refuse, salt runoff from roads, and fertilizers. Contaminated groundwater can take a few days or a few years to reach its discharge points, adding contaminated water to every well or spring it feeds. In contrast to surface water, groundwater does not continually dilute the contaminants. Cold temperatures limit microbiological activity; lack of sunlight, and low oxygen levels slow or even stop the chemical breakdown of contaminants once they have passed through the root zone of the soil. Flushing contamination from groundwater may take many years and be at great expense.


Well Head Protection Areas
Well Head Protection Area
Well Head Protection Radius
Other WH Protection Zone
Ground Water Aquifer
Stratified Drift
Transmis
< 1500
1501 - 4000
4001 - 8500

2.5 Potential Water Contamination Sources and Management of Risks

In conjunction with work on a Groundwater Reclassification Management Plan (never adopted), an inventory of potential contamination sources was developed and analyzed. Potential sources of contamination are those activities which have the possibility of negatively impacting drinking water resources. In addition, the identification of these potential sources can help improve management activities, as well as protect surface waters within the town.

Recommendations for Management of Risks

Potential Contamination Source	Risks/Potential Contaminants	Management Recommendations
Storage tanks (i.e., industrial or residential fuel storage)	Leakage from poor siting, or lack of maintenance, aging tanks	Regulation, regular inspection, proper location, spill containment, weatherization, education and outreach
Septic systems	Public health risks caused by release of viruses, bacteria, nutrients, and medications	Proper installation, maintenance, inspection and education; septic system maintenance ordinance and/or regulatory program
Hazardous waste (residential and commercial)	Improper management and disposal of chemicals	Proper storage, use and disposal
Lawn and garden activities (including small-scale agricultural uses)	Fertilizer and chemical (herbicides, pesticides, etc.) runoff; soil erosion	Reduce use; proper application and disposal; native vegetation, landscaping and other measures that prevent water runoff from property

Transportation corridors	Salt and chemical contamination of surface and groundwater; health risks	Alternative de-icers, reduced salt use; proper vehicle maintenance; inform emergency response teams of public water supply locations; pervious road surfaces
Stormwater	Large pulse of nonpoint source pollution into surface waters; erosion	Stormwater management plan (including prevention, maintenance, and response); stormwater runoff prevention checklist for permitting of new construction projects
Land development	Increase in runoff from impervious surfaces	Town regulations that incorporate Low Impact Development (LID), stormwater management techniques, and Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Protecting Groundwater Resources:
The Town of Campton should consider both regulatory and non-regulatory methods to protect groundwater resources. Regulatory approaches may include a Groundwater Protection Overlay District for zoning, a Groundwater Protection Health Ordinance to allow for best management practices inspections, Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act and Stormwater Management and Erosion Control regulations to improve water quality and quantity. Non-regulatory approaches include education and outreach to the public occurring through regular activities of the Conservation Commission, town government, public service announcements on the town website and other community media outlets. Land conservation, accomplished through conservation easements or fee-simple ownership, is also an effective way to protect water resources.

Section 3: Soils of Special Interest, Steep Slopes and Ridgelines

3.1 Soils

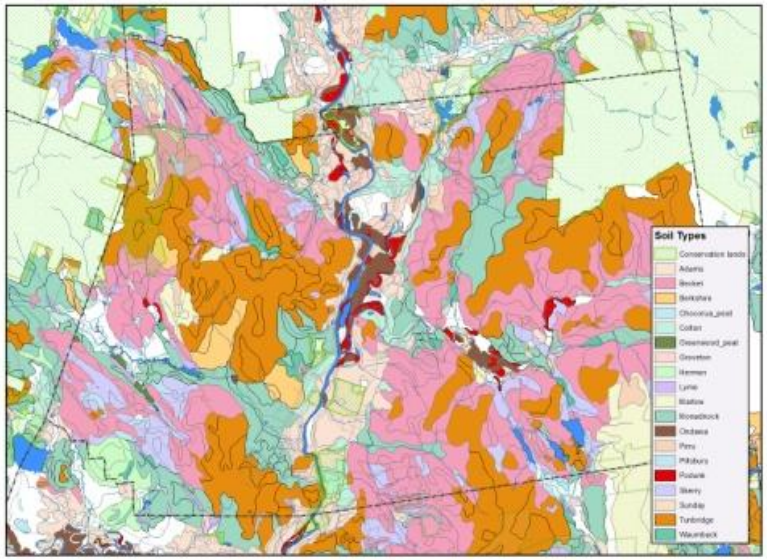
Campton's soils, with the exception of those in the floodplain, are considered spodisols which are ashy gray, acidic soils with a strongly leached surface area and a sandy underlayer not more than six feet below the surface. These soils are derived from material laid down directly or reworked by a glacier and are typically a mixture of rock fragments and boulders in a fine-grained sandy or muddy matrix. The result is soils with shallow nutrient status. Acid tolerant crops and orchards can grow in these areas provided that lime and fertilizer are used.

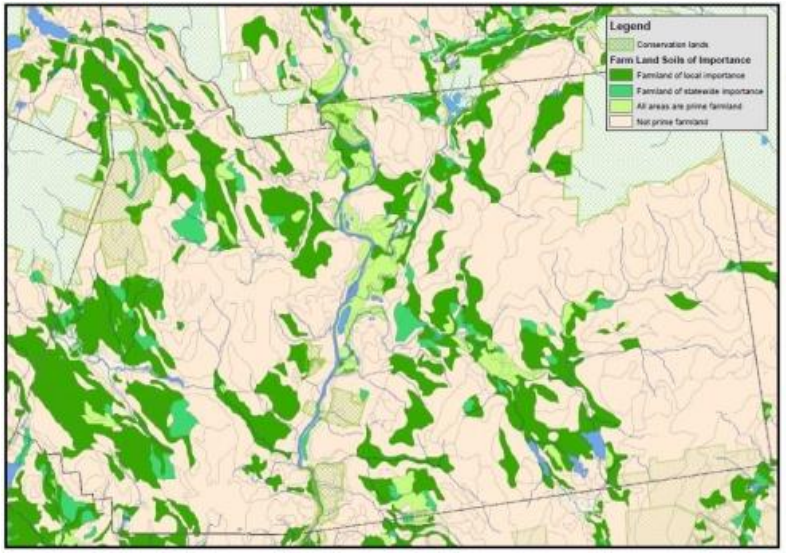
The majority of soils in Campton are very shallow to bedrock or underlain with basal till, making them permeable to water for a depth of two feet or less. They are highly acidic. The less steep and deeper of these soils, when cultivated, have reasonably high agricultural potential. However, partly because of Campton's steep slopes, what there is of this type of soil is limited and very rocky.

Floodplain soils make up about 10% of the town's soils. They are known as inceptosols and are of relatively new origin. They are found mainly in floodplains and deltas of rivers and streams and are less rocky and more homogenous than the upland soils. Visible in these areas are fluventic soils deposited by floods. They are mostly brown to reddish and found in floodplains, fans and deltas of rivers and streams but not in backcountry swamps where drainage is poor.

According to the New Hampshire Agricultural Experiment Station Research Report #64, approximately 15% of the soils of the town are rated reasonable for agriculture, with 85% rated fair to unsuitable. Farming, then, is not an automatic success or source of income in Campton. In addition, only 4% of the soils of Campton are rated suitable for use, as is, for septic tank absorption fields, making new home construction or leach field reconstruction more complicated and difficult.

Soil Types **Farmland Soils**





3.2 Steep Slopes

Twenty-three percent (23%) of Campton is occupied by steep slopes. Steep slopes are those with ≥25% gradient. Slopes in excess of 25% gradient are considered unbuildable due to site grading and erosion issues. On moderate or steep slopes, the removal of the soil humus layer or addition of impervious surfaces during construction can cause excess surface runoff, leading to erosion and stream pollution through increased sedimentation. It is recommended that slopes over 25% should remain naturally vegetated.

Steep slopes are associated with talus slopes or ledges, which provide shelter and denning habitat for species such as porcupine and bobcat. This is especially true on south-facing slopes where the land cover is hardwood forest. These areas are generally sunny and warm, providing thermal relief and foraging habitat, and thus preferred by wildlife such

as wild turkey and white-tailed deer, especially in colder months. South-facing slopes with >10% gradient cover 8,300 acres, or 25% of the town.

Protection of steep slopes can prevent erosion, flooding, landslides, and corresponding deterioration of water quality and of aquatic habitats. Where construction occurs on moderate slopes, proper erosion and sediment controls should be required. In the 2013 annual survey conducted by the NH Office of Energy and Planning, 27 municipalities were reported as having some form of Steep Slope/Ridgeline Protection regulation. At the time of publication, Campton does not. The NHDES offers guidance for towns wishing to develop protective measures for both steep slopes and ridgelines. Detailed information regarding these recommendations can be found in *Steep Slopes and Ridgeline Protection,* a chapter in the document: "Innovative Land Use Planning Techniques: A Handbook for Sustainable Development".

3.3 Ridgelines

The presence of prominent ridgelines within Campton's town lines adds to both its rural character and aesthetic appeal. Such aesthetics draw visitors to venture into and explore these elevated terrains. Maintaining these ridgelines for recreational activities such as hiking, biking, and skiing, is important to the economy of our region. However, diligent management of such activities is imperative. Although unintentional, recreational activities can alter soils, vegetation, and aquatic resources for wildlife. Such disruptions can alter food supplies, sheltering and breeding habitats, and even migration routes of traveling species. Simple measures, such as trail closures or rerouting during nesting seasons or periods with high risk of erosion, can aid in protecting Campton's ridgelines.

In addition to recreation, ridgelines have become increasingly popular for development because of their potential scenic vistas. Such developments can have similar impacts as discussed above, and can significantly increase the potential for erosion and runoff. Furthermore, development on ridgelines can prove both challenging and expensive for the town. Such costs include, but are not limited to, providing emergency services and maintaining roadways and utilities, along the often steep rural ridgelines.

Ridgelines that run through Campton include the Squam Range, Campton/Weetamoo, Round Hill/Chandler Hill, Bald Mountain, Mount Pero, and Sunset Hill.

Section 4: Scenic Resources

Many town residents define the rural character of the town by what they see as they drive around town. Are the forested vistas intact, or are they dotted by houses? Knowing which resources are considered important to the town's self-image as well as to the perception of Campton's rural character by tourists and seasonal visitors is important information to consider in thinking about how the town would like to develop in the future.

The 2003 Master Plan states strong concern for preserving the scenic landscape and small-town rural appearance of Campton. In order to protect high value scenic areas, some towns have established "viewshed protection districts" limiting certain types of development in high visibility areas. There may currently be a greater sense of urgency to adopt such an ordinance, given the recent threat of large scale energy projects seeking siting in NH. Work is needed to formally identify and document scenic areas around town. This was last done as part of the 2005 NRI, which contains a table of 37 scenic viewpoints identified at that time by the CCC and residents who participated in a public survey. This work needs updating, and future plans are to duplicate some of what other towns have done in creating a formal viewshed analysis. The first step is to create a GPS layer by gathering on-the-ground or roadside GPS coordinates of scenic views/vistas around town. The locations can be plotted on a digital elevation model within a GIS-based map. This information can then be used to prioritize conservation efforts, and inform development and land use planning purposes.

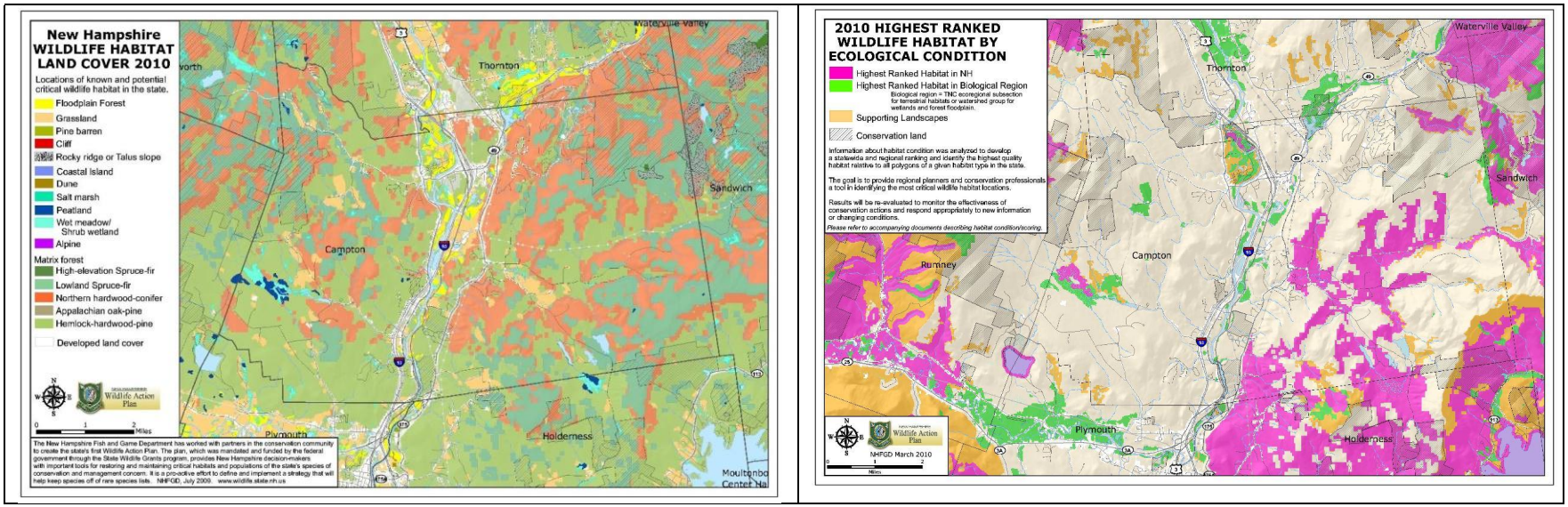
DESIGNATED SCENIC RESOURCES: Campton is the gateway to the White Mountain region and lies along a corridor of several scenic tourist destinations. There are several "Designated Scenic Resources," or areas that have received special designation through legislation or public review. Such designations are used to promote tourism and recreational opportunities, and serve to focus public attention on these resources.

1) Pemigewassett River (Designated River 1991)
2) White Mountain National Forest (Including Campton Campground and Day Use Area)
3) Pemigewassett River Wildlife Management Area
4) Robartwood Pond Wildlife Refuge (aka Bog Pond, Campton Bog)
5) Livermore State Forest
6) Blair State Forest
7) Blair Woodland Natural Area and Pattee Conservation Park (Town Conservation Lands)
8) NH Routes 3, 49, and 175 (NHDOT Regional Bicycle Route)

Section 5: Wildlife Habitats

5.1 NH Wildlife Action Plan and Maps

The NH Wildlife Action Plan (NH WAP) has identified ten different wildlife habitat types within Campton's borders. Each habitat provides a unique set of conditions favorable to different types of wildlife species. The maps below show where these habitats are located. The charts detail each habitat type and provide stewardship guidelines for their protection, as outlined in the NH WAP.



For the NH Wildlife Action Plan maps, the condition of wildlife habitats was analyzed by ranking the biological, landscape and human impact factors most affecting each habitat type. Biological factors include rare plant and animal species and overall biodiversity. Landscape factors include size of habitat and how close it is to other patches of that habitat. Human impact factors include density of roads around the habitat, dams, recreational use, and pollution. These are examples of the many factors that were used. Different factors were chosen for each particular habitat as, for example, hiking trails may reduce the habitat quality in alpine areas but are far less damaging to hemlock-hardwood pine forests.

5.2 Habitat Descriptions, Species and Guidelines [NH Status Designations for Wildlife: [1] = A1 (Near-threatened Species), [2]= B (Responsibility Species), [3]=Threatened, [4]=Endangered]

Hemlock-Hardwood-Pine Forest (14,248 acres/42% of Campton)

Description	Primary Species	Stewardship Guidelines
Hemlock-hardwood-pine forests are transitional forest regions in New Hampshire. They occur mostly at elevations above 1,400 ft. between hardwood-conifer forests to the north, and oak-pine forests to the south. Glacial till soils are most abundant, but this system also occupies river terraces, sand plains, and stabilized talus areas covered by a forest canopy. It includes dry, sandy soils with red oak and white pine that have not been burned enough to support a pitch pine sand plains system. These areas are likely to succeed to hemlock and/or beech over the long term without the return of fire.	• Black bear • Bobcat • Cerulean warbler[1] • Eastern pipistrelle[1] • Eastern red bat[1] • Northern goshawk • Northern long-eared bat[3] • Silver-haired bat[1] • Timber rattlesnake[4] • Veery	• Conserve large blocks from development • Check hemlock regularly for presence of hemlock woolly adelgid • Work to regenerate a mix of tree age classes and species

Northern Hardwood-Conifer Forest (10,389 acres/31% of Campton)

Description	Primary Species	Stewardship Guidelines
New Hampshire's northern hardwood forests are characterized by American beech, sugar maple, and yellow birch. In latitude and elevation, these northern hardwood forests are positioned between the high-elevation spruce-fir forest and hemlock-hardwood-pine forest systems. Northern hardwood forests are generally found between 1,400 and 2,500 ft. in elevation in northern New Hampshire and along the western highlands (Sunapee Uplands subsection), although the tolerance of individual species varies. Some occurrences can be found down to about 1,000 ft. elevation.	• American woodcock • Canada warbler • Cerulean warbler[1] • Eastern pipistrelle[1] • Eastern red bat[1] • Gray wolf[4] • Hoary bat[1] • Northern long-eared bat[1] • Ruffed grouse • Silver-haired bat[1] • Veery • Wood thrush	• Conserve large blocks (>1000 acres) of northern hardwood-conifer forest from development • Use forest management, work to regenerate a mix of tree age classes and tree species • Always consult a licensed New Hampshire forester before conducting a timber harvest on private property

Lowland Spruce-Fir Forest (6,897 acres/21% of Campton)

Description	Primary Species	Stewardship Guidelines
This system is a mosaic of lowland spruce-fir forest and red spruce swamp communities, occurring on mineral soils. In northern New Hampshire, these range from well or moderately well drained upland forests to poorly or very poorly drained swamps. The average condition for red spruce swamps is acidic and poorly drained, with shallow, well decomposed organic soils (10 – 40 cm) over sandy to silty mineral soil. When poorly drained, these systems tend toward black spruce peat swamps. In areas of moderate elevation, such as the White Mountains, swampland may be dominated by red spruce. These areas may border areas of narrow spruce fir, hardwood forest, or high elevation spruce fir. Lowland spruce fir is more minerotrophic than black spruce peat swamps, but less so than northern white cedar or near-boreal hardwood-conifer minerotrophic swamp systems.	• American marten[3] • Bay-breasted warbler • Canada lynx[4] • Hoary bat[1] • Northern bog lemming[1] • Northern goshawk • Purple finch • Rusty blackbird[1] • Spruce grouse[1] • Three-toed woodpecker[3]	• Focus land conservation on lowland spruce-fir forests • Plan timber harvest rotations for longer than 70 years • Retain a mature forest canopy with patchy openings which are valuable to particular species

Grasslands (1,328 acres/4% of Campton)

Description	Primary Species	Stewardship Guidelines
Extensive grasslands are defined as areas greater than 10 hectares that are dominated by grasses, forbs, and sedges with little shrub or tree cover (generally less than 10%). Grasslands include hayfields and pastures, fallow fields, cropland (cornfields and other row crops), airports, military installations, landfills, forb, and sedge-dominated meadows, heathlands, and similar non-alpine areas. Native plant species typical of northeastern grassland include goldenrod, aster, big bluestem, little bluestem, and meadowsweet. Rare plant species found in New England grassland include wild lupine, butterfly weed, and northern blazing star.	• Eastern meadowlark[1] • Grasshopper sparrow[3] • Horned lark[1] • Northern harrier[4] • Northern leopard frog[1] • Purple martin[1] • Upland sandpiper[4] • Vesper sparrow[1] • Wood turtle[1]	• Maintain grasslands by mowing in the fall at least once every three years to discourage trees and shrubs • Focus land conservation on large grasslands (greater than 25 acres in size) • Burning fields, particularly in areas with poor soil, can improve soil nutrients and mimic historical disturbances to grassland habitats

Floodplain Forest (503 acres/1.5% of Campton)

Description	Primary Species	Stewardship Guidelines
Floodplains occur in river valleys adjacent to river channels, are prone to periodic flooding, and are comprised of forests, oxbows, meadows, and thickets. The habitats, vegetation, and hydrologic regime of floodplains are strongly influenced by watershed size, gradient, and channel morphometry. Most open or partially wooded floodplain communities occur on low floodplains. Sloughs, oxbows, vernal pools, and other depressions in the floodplain tend to be inundated for longer periods than low floodplains. Floodplain soils range from well-drained coarse sand on levees to poorly drained silts and mucks in depressions, and tend to be moderately to strongly minerotrophic.	• American woodcock • Blanding's turtle[4] • Canada warbler • Cerulean warbler[1] • Cooper's hawk • Eastern red bat[1] • Jefferson salamander[1] • Northern leopard frog[1] • Red shouldered hawk • Ribbon snake • Silver-haired bat[1] • Spotted turtle[3] • Veery • White-tailed deer • Wood thrush • Wood turtle[1]	• Consider removing or modifying dams • Reduce recreational trails and roads within floodplain forests • Monitor healthy floodplain forests to prevent new infestations of invasive plants • Forest management in floodplain forests should aim to regenerate existing floodplain species

Marsh and Shrub Wetlands (409 acres/1.2% of Campton)

Description	Primary Species	Stewardship Guidelines
Emergent marsh and shrub swamp systems have a broad flood regime gradient that is often affected by the presence or abandonment of beaver activity. Generally, the trophic regime of these systems is moderately to strongly minerotrophic, with soils consisting of poorly drained decomposed muck and mineral with a pH between 5 and 6.	• American black duck • American bittern • American woodcock • Eastern red bat[1] • Great blue heron • New England cottontail[4] • Osprey • Silver-haired bat[1] • Spotted turtle[3]	• Focus land conservation of beaver flowages across the landscape • Maintain habitat structures such as dead standing trees and overhanging vegetation • Don't use heavy machinery within wetland soils and limit recreational access

Peatlands (127 acres/0.4% of Campton)

Description	Primary Species	Stewardship Guidelines
Peatlands are defined by limited inputs of groundwater and surface runoff that result in low nutrient content and acidic water. A lack of nutrients causes slower decomposition of organic materials, resulting in the accumulation of peat. Some plant species are specifically adapted to low-nutrient, acidic conditions found in peatlands.	• Blanding's turtle[4] • Eastern towhee • Mink frog • Northern bog lemming[1] • Palm warbler • Ribbon snake • Ringed boghaunter[4] • Rusty blackbird[1] • Spotted turtle[4] • Spruce grouse	• Peatland communities should not be excavated or use heavy machinery • Maintain brush and other shrubbery around peatlands for cover • Walking access should be on raised boardwalks • Timber harvesting should be limited to partial harvest

Rocky Ridges and Talus Slopes (117 acres/0.3% of Campton)

Description	Primary Species	Stewardship Guidelines
Talus slopes range from open, lichen covered talus "barrens" to closed-canopy forested talus communities. Rocky ridges generally occur on outcrops and shallow-to-bedrock ridge and summit settings. These habitats are relatively inaccessible and south-facing slopes can provide warmth during seasonal transitions, crucial for several wildlife species, as listed at the right.	• Bobcat • Melissa arctic butterfly • Peregrine falcon[3] • Timber rattlesnake[4]	• Limit trails and other forms of disturbance in these areas

In addition to the sizeable areas within Campton of these eight habitats, there are also six acres of High Elevation Spruce-Fir Forest, predominantly comprised of coniferous tree species and characterized by harsh climatic extremes, highly erosive, shallow, and nutrient-poor soils, and supporting various bird species along with the American marten and Canada lynx. Within Campton there are also 1.5 acres of Pine Barrens, which are an early-successional habitat occurring on northeastern coastal sand plains or on sandy, glacial outwash deposits of major river valleys, and mainly include various species of insects, birds, and reptiles.

Section 6: Historic and Cultural Resources

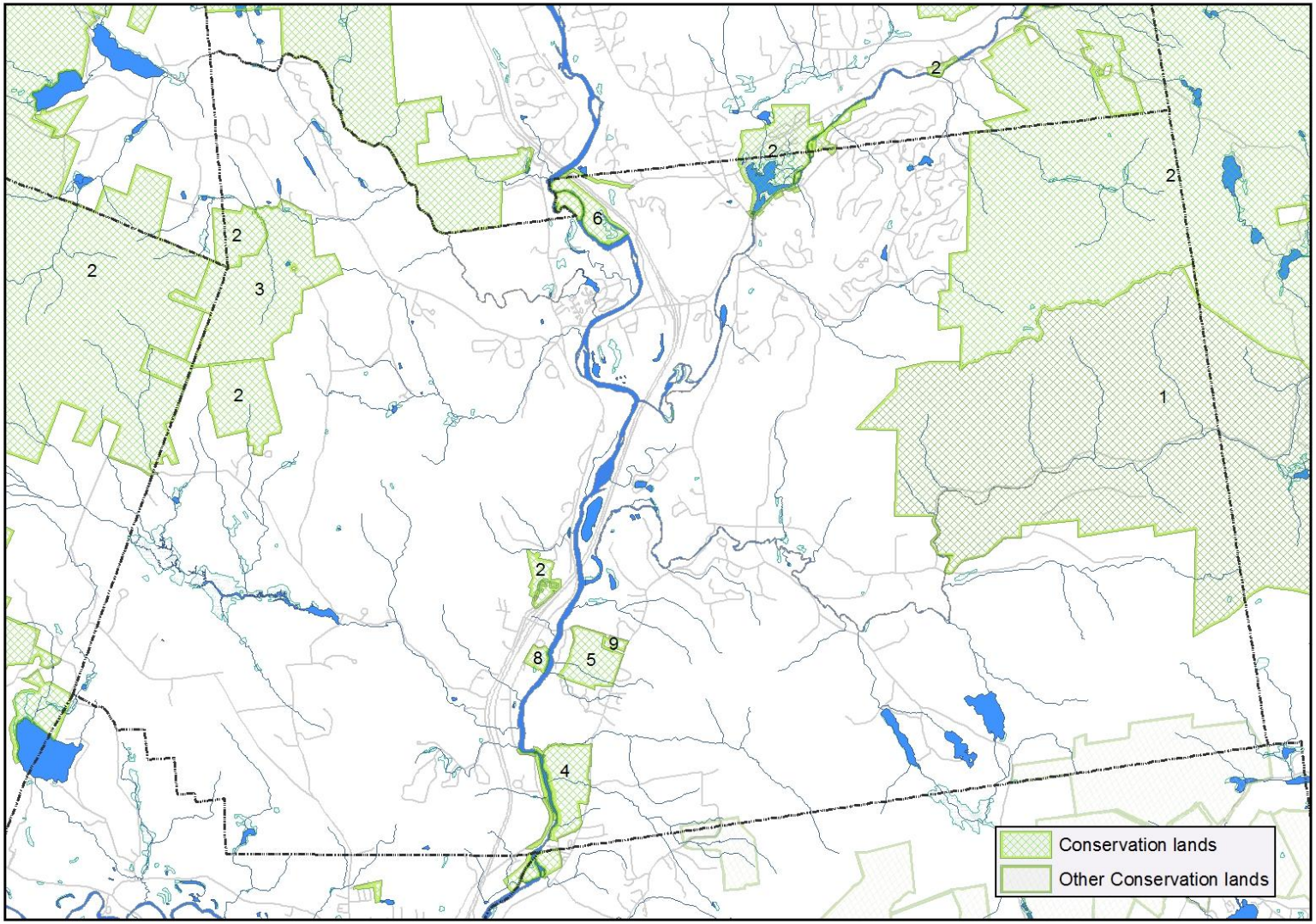
Campton has an active historical society with a board of directors, active membership, and programs and activities throughout the year. Their headquarters is at the old Livermore Grange Hall on NH Rt. 175 where they maintain an ever-growing collection of historical artifacts and photographs from Campton's history. The Campton Historical Society website contains much information about Campton's history. They have posted eighteen signs around town at various sites important to Campton's history. Their website contains this list, eight of which mark old schoolhouses still standing.

The town has a public library and one K-8th grade elementary school. Students attend Plymouth for high school. In summer, there are activities in town which bring people together. In August, Old Home Day celebrates Campton's history as well as its present with a variety of activities. There is also a farmers' market held outdoors each Friday all summer. Yearly Town Meeting is held each March to conduct town business.

Section 7: Conservation Lands

7.1 Conserved, Current Use and Working Lands

Conserved Lands:
Of Campton's total land area, about one-fifth is considered conservation land. These lands are shown on the map and described in the table on the following two pages:



Conservation Land: Campton, NH

Breakdown of Conservation Land: Campton, NH

Map #	Name	Primary Protection Type and Agency	Public Access	Number of Acres in Campton /Total Acres	% of Campton
1	Beebe River Uplands and Spencer Brook Headwaters Tracts	Conservation Easements pending, The Conservation Fund	Yes	~ 4,000*/5,435	~ 12 %
2	White Mountain National Forest	Fee Ownership, US Dept. of Agriculture.; Forest Service	Yes	2,165/750,852	6.44 %
3	Parker Family Trust	Conservation Easement, Society for the Protection of NH Forests (SPNHF)	Unknown	523*/578	1.56 %
4	Livermore Falls State Forest	Fee Ownership, NH Dept. of Resources and Economic Development	Yes	144/174	.43 %
5	Blair State Forest	Fee Ownership, NH Dept. of Resources and Economic Development	Yes	112/112	.33 %
6	Pemigewasset Wildlife Management Area	Fee Ownership, NH Fish and Game Department	Yes	93/95	.28 %
7	Steven Hamburg Property	Conservation Easement, SPNHF	Unknown	17/17*	.05 %
8	Blair Woodland Natural Area	Fee Ownership, Town of Campton	Yes	17/17	.05 %
9	Pattee Conservation Park	Fee Ownership, Campton Conservation Commission	Yes	11/11	.03 %
10	Pulsifer Hill	Conservation Easement, Squam Lakes Conservation	No	10/10*	.03 %
n/a	Common Areas in 21 Individual Subdivisions	Common Lands in Subdivisions, Varied Development Associations	No	111/111	.33%
TOTAL ACREAGE OF CONSERVATION LAND/PERCENTAGE OF TOWN :				**7,203** *lands also enrolled in Current Use	**21.22 %**

Current Use:
Current Use lands are those lots greater than ten acres in size that receive a reduced tax rate based on their current use as farmland or working forest, rather than being taxed at higher rates based on their potential value as developed land. Some working lands are not enrolled in NH's Current Use system, however, and still others are not large enough to be considered even though they may be intensively farmed. Approximately 21,000 acres, or about 63% of the town, is enrolled in Current Use. The table below shows the latest figures for lands enrolled in Current Use in Campton.

Current Use Type	Acres
Farmland	777
Managed Hardwood	3,566
Managed Pine	395
Managed Other	3,097
Unmanaged Hardwood	4,112
Unmanaged Pine	1,074
Unmanaged Other	6,793
Unproductive	1,650
Wetlands	3
Total	**21,467**

Approximately 84% (~28,300 acres) of town is enrolled in Current Use *or* under other land protection measures.

Working Lands:
In addition to water and wildlife habitat resources, land use can help to shape the character of a community or town. "Working Lands" are lands that are utilized by the property owner for income or leisure, or a combination of both, such as farming or timber harvesting. These properties help shape the landscape and can provide scenic views to neighbors and passersby. They can also provide unique habitats for wildlife that may not otherwise exist within Campton. Obtaining and maintaining an accurate inventory of these lands can be difficult.

The NH Tree Farm Program is part of a nationwide program that encourages private forest owners to actively manage their forests in a sustainable manner for multiple values. A tree farm is a privately owned forest managed to produce timber with added benefits of improved wildlife habitat, water quality, recreation, and scenic values. Municipal watersheds, school forests, and other public ownerships can also be certified as tree farms.

In addition to tree farms, Campton also includes some farms for horses and other livestock, as well as crop, vegetable and floral production areas.

7.2 Conservation Techniques

Beyond Current Use (as described previously), there are several options for landowners or municipalities to pursue when considering permanent conservation of their property. When land is taken out of Current Use enrollment to be developed, a 10% tax penalty on the real estate value of the property is paid to the town. Campton, like 65% of towns in NH, sets aside a portion (50%) of this tax, called the Land Use Change Tax (LUCT), in a special Conservation Fund for future conservation projects in town. This fund can be used to cover costs associated with the conservation techniques briefly described below.

Conservation Easements:
Conservation easements are the most traditional tool for conserving private land. A "conservation easement" (also known as a conservation restriction or conservation agreement) is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. It allows landowners to continue to own and use their land, and they can also sell it or pass it on to heirs.

Resale of Land:
If a landowner would like to sell land with a guarantee that it will remain undeveloped, they can work with a local land trust (i.e. The Pemi Baker Land Trust), or other trusts, to place a conservation easement on the land before it goes on the market. In some cases, land trusts can also help identify potential buyers for conserved lands.

Donation of Land for Conservation:
A landowner may choose to donate land for conservation purposes. Oftentimes a land trust would become involved to help advise and identify the best arrangement. The land trust might retain ownership of the property as a permanent preserve or transfer the property to a suitable owner, such as a government agency. In some cases, the land is sold to a private owner, subject to a conservation easement held by the land trust. (Proceeds from such a sale could fund the land trust's long-term management of the conservation easement and/or help it to protect even more land.) The full market value of land donated to a nonprofit land trust is tax deductible as a charitable gift.

Bargain Sale:
In a bargain sale, land is sold to a land trust or other entity for less than its fair market value. This not only makes it more affordable for the land trust, but offers several benefits to the seller: it provides cash, avoids some capital gains tax, and entitles the seller to a charitable income tax deduction based on the difference between the land's fair market value and its sale price.

Donation with a Lifetime Income:
If a landowner would like to protect their land by donating it to a land trust, but needs to receive income during his or her lifetime, a charitable gift annuity or a charitable remainder unitrust can be considered. Charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder unitrusts are most useful for highly appreciated land, the sale of which would incur high capital gains tax.

7.3 Conservation Planning

Towns often write their own Conservation Plan to guide natural resources protection, including wildlife habitat, viewsheds, and water sources. They are based on analyzing Natural Resources Inventories (NRI) and creating a prioritized action plan, including voluntary and regulatory approaches, as well as determining the best areas of town in which to focus conservation efforts. The Campton Conservation Commission recommends using this NRI document and other resources to write a Conservation Plan for the town within the next five years.

Section 8: Moving Forward: Planning for the Future

Keeping a current inventory of Campton's natural resources is an essential step to ensure that these resources continue to provide services such as clean drinking water, scenic vistas, hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation opportunities to its residents and visitors. It is the Campton Conservation Commission's intent to use this updated inventory as a working document to guide planning and policy decisions by our town boards and officials.

The town of Campton's work is far from done! The Campton Conservation Commission has devised the following list of next steps to build upon the Natural Resources Inventory:

a. Conduct GIS mapping of vernal pools and scenic vistas
b. Write a Conservation Plan
c. Create .pdf files for links through Campton Conservation Commission's website www.camptonconservation.org):
    i. Past and current Master Plans
    ii. Drinking Water Source Protection Plan, August 2010 (not formally adopted)
d. Conduct a Build Out Analysis

Section 9: Reference List

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