

NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONSERVATION NEEDS GRANT 2013 PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one)

2013 1st

2013 2nd

2013 3rd

2013 4th

Grant Number: 2009-02

Grant Title: Geospatial Condition Analysis of Northeast Habitats based on the Northeast SGCN Habitat Maps

Grant Receipt: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Contact Name: Mark Anderson

Report # (Jan 1 2013 through March 31, 2013)

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes

Regional Conservation Need Addressed: Priority #10 Geospatial Condition Analysis based on Northeast SGCN Habitat Maps

Progress Achieved:

Goal 1: Create example pages for each section of the report: Yes we completed three example pages (see below for one example). Most of the staff time used for creating these examples was charge to the terrestrial and aquatic habitat guide as these two projects overlap on this goal.

Goal 2: Agree on scale and units, and finalize the database of habitat information. Yes, this quarter we completed the GIS work needed to create the final units (polygons) that comprise the occurrences of terrestrial habitat patches, wetland complexes, stream reaches and networks, and integrated blocks of natural cover. We are beginning to attach the associated condition information to each patch.

Goal 3: Continue meeting with LCC staff. Yes we had one in-person meeting and several phone meetings with the LCC staff to clarify the condition attributes. We organized the condition information so that a broader group will be able to prioritize the most useful attributes at the April F&W conference in Saratoga (this meeting did happen during the current quarter and was extremely useful).

Goal 4: Calculate metrics for each habitat. Yes, we have begun calculating each metric listed in the previous quarterly report. Our focus this quarter was calculating the metrics for the entire extent of the habitat, and we charged most of this work to the Habitat Guide grant as the LCC team is interested in seeing those results summarized on the Guide pages. Going forward we are starting to calculate the metrics for each habitat patch (a much more demanding job) so that the patches/networks can be ranked and prioritized. This will be the bulk of the work next quarter.

Goal 5: Summarize full information for 10 habitat types. We summarized ten attributes for all habitat types

Difficulties Encountered: None over this time period. Because of the overlap between the terrestrial and aquatic habitat guides and this project we put most effort into the guides this quarter. Next, quarter we will need to ramp up the calculation of metrics.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

- Review and prioritize attributes with broader F&W group.
- Make substantial progress calculating the prioritized attributes for each habitat patch/network/reach.
- Continue meeting with LCC staff
- Summarize full information for all habitat types.

Costs:

Amount of RCN Funds Expended to date: \$35,263.60

Total Approved Budgeted RCN Funds: \$60,167

Are you within the approved budget plan? Yes

Are you within approved budget categories? Yes

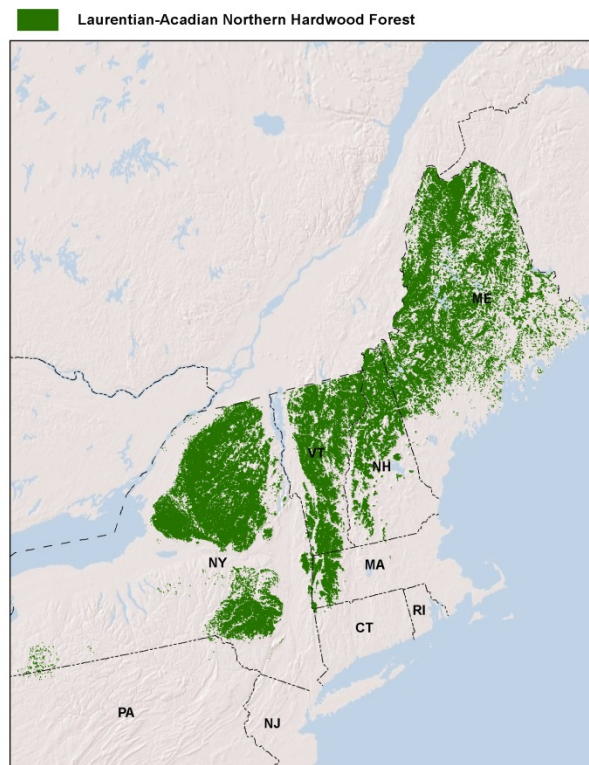
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Anderson", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Signature: Mark Anderson, Director of Conservation Science

Date: May 1, 2013

Northern Hardwood (example – not fully formatted)

Laurentian Acadian Northern Hardwood



Description

These northern hardwood forests range across New England and adjacent Canada west to Minnesota. Sugar maple, beech, and yellow birch are the dominant trees; hemlock and red spruce are frequent but minor canopy associates. Paper birch and aspen, along with white pine are common in successional stands. This system can include large expanses of rich forest in areas of limestone or similar bedrock, as well as forests that are relatively poor floristically in areas of granitic (or similar) bedrock or acidic till. Blowdowns or snow and ice loading, with subsequent gap regeneration, are the most frequent form of natural disturbance.

Similar Habitat Types

(List similar ecosystem types here)

Ecological Setting

This system generally occurs in upland settings at low to moderate elevation(<2000') across the glaciated NE.

Associated Wildlife

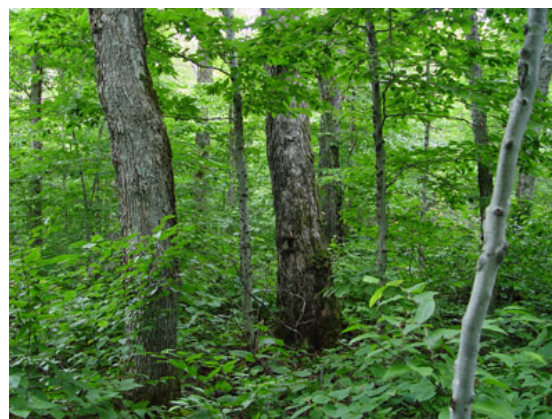
Birds: Least Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Black-and-white Warbler, Black-capped Chickadee, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Broad-winged Hawk, Common Goldeneye Common Merganser, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Barred Owl, Hooded Merganser, Wood Thrush, Northern Goshawk, Northern Parula, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Ovenbird, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-eyed Vireo, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Scarlet Tanager, Sharp-shinned Hawk, White-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush, rose-breasted grosbeak, ovenbird, eastern wood pewee, black and white warbler, and veery.

State Distribution: ME, NH, VT, NY
MA, CT, PA, NJ

Total Acres: 13,909,218 Acres

36.1% Conserved

| | GAP | | Total | Total |
|----|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| | 1 & 2 | GAP 3 | Secured | Unsecured |
| ME | 165,957 | 953,643 | 1,119,600 | 4,134,526 |
| NH | 194,046 | 487,134 | 681,179 | 581,500 |
| VT | 147,422 | 457,626 | 605,047 | 1,891,356 |
| NY | 1,706,586 | 760,547 | 2,467,134 | 2,106,097 |
| MA | 37,448 | 102,273 | 139,721 | 171,774 |
| CT | 444 | 669 | 1,113 | 3,810 |
| PA | 277 | 1671 | 1,948 | 4,299 |
| NJ | 51 | 26 | 77 | 36 |



Associated Wildlife Cont.

Reptiles: Northern Redbelly Snake

Mammals: Woodland Jumping Mouse, White-footed Mouse, Southern Flying Squirrel, Smokey Shrew, Porcupine, Northern Flying Squirrel, Gray Fox, Fisher, Black Bear, masked shrew, eastern cottontail, red squirrel, deer mouse, chipmunk, and white-tailed deer.

Rare Species:

Other Invertebrates: Pygmy Snaketail

Mammals: Eastern Small-footed Myotis, Indiana Bat, Long-tailed Or Rock Shrew

Plants: Northern Monk's-hood, Green Mountain Maidenhair-fern, Musk Root, Arnica, Schweinitz's Sedge, Wiegand Sedge, Ram's Head Lady's-slipper, Mountain Avens, Large-leaved Sandwort, American Ginseng, Furbish's Lousewort, Eastern Jacob's Ladder, Hill's Pondweed, Nodding Pogonia

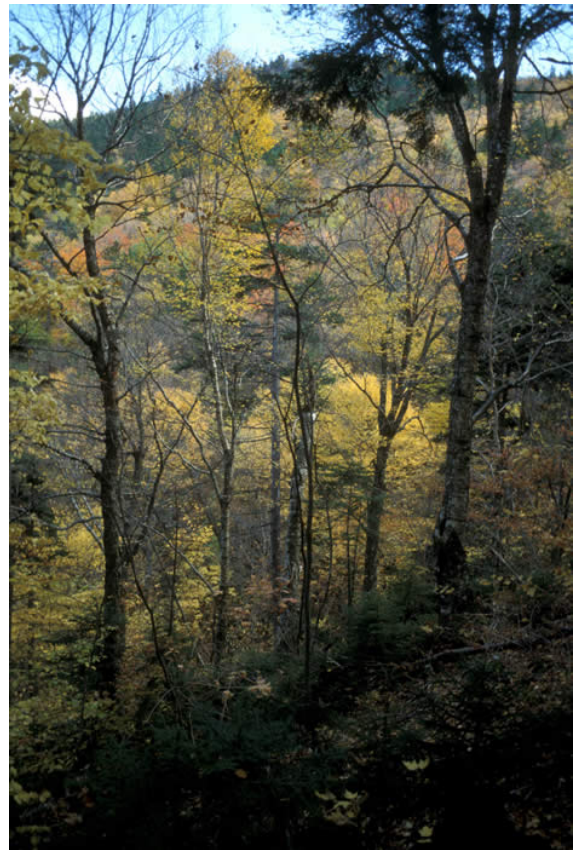
Crosswalk to state Names:

Beech - Birch - Maple Forest (ME), Northern hardwood – spruce - fir forest (NH), Northern Hardwood (VT), Spruce Firs Northern Hardwood Forest (MA), Northern Hardwoods – Hemlock – White Pine forest (MA), Hemlock-Northern Hardwood Forest (NY), Pine-Northern Hardwood (NY),

Places to Visit

Baxter State Park (ME)
Lafayette Brook Scenic Area (NH)
Mt. Moosilauke (NH),
Mount Mansfield State Forest (VT)
Camels Hump State Forest, (VT)
Minus River Gorge (NY)

| Plots | Average Age | | Stand Size Distribution | | |
|-----------------|-------------|---------|-------------------------|--------|-------|
| # | Age | Range | Large | Medium | Small |
| Samples 2183 | 67 | (2-170) | 0.54 | 0.30 | 0.15 |



Box for interesting facts about the system.