

Merrimack River

Watershed Wetland

Restoration Strategy

Prepared for **NH Department of Environmental Services**
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, New Hampshire 03302

Prepared by ***VHB*/Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.**
Six Bedford Farms Drive, Suite 607
Bedford, New Hampshire 03110

In association with: **Society for the Protection of NH Forests**
and
naturesource communication

March 2009

Acknowledgements

Special thanks go to Lori Sommer of the NHDES Wetlands Bureau and Emily Brunkhurst of the NHF&G Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program whose technical knowledge, collaborative spirit and patient leadership made this project successful. Dan Sundquist of the NH Society for the Protection of NH Forests shared his salient insights as a special technical advisor to the team, and Michele Tremblay of naturesource communication assisted with the public involvement process.

The following individuals and organizations provided valuable guidance during the development of this project through their participation on the project Technical Advisory Group:

Collis Adams, Department of Environmental Services, Wetlands Bureau
Mary Ann Tilton, Department of Environmental Services, Wetlands Bureau
Mike Stanley, Department of Environmental Services, Wetlands Bureau
Paul Currier, Department of Environmental Services, Watershed Management Bureau
Ted Walsh, Department of Environmental Services, Watershed Management Bureau
Ken Edwardson, Department of Environmental Services, Watershed Management Bureau
Steve Gaughan, Department of Environmental Services, Watershed Management Bureau
Eric Williams, Department of Environmental Services, Watershed Management Bureau
Rick Chormann, Department of Environmental Services, State Geologist's Office
George Hastings, Department of Environmental Services, Watershed Management Bureau
Mike Marchand, Department of Fish and Game, Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program
Steve Couture, Department of Environmental Services, Rivers Management and Protection Program
Steve Landry, Department of Environmental Services, Watershed Management Bureau
Minda Shaheen, Southern NH Regional Planning Commission
Don Kent, Department of Resources and Economic Development, Natural Heritage Bureau
Tracey Boisvert, NH Office of Energy and Planning

Funding for this project was provided by a Wetland Program Development Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1 to the NH Department of Environmental Services.



Table of Contents

1. An Overview of Wetland Restoration	
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Methods of Wetland Restoration	3
1.3 Implementing a Wetland Restoration Project	10
2. Development of a Wetland Restoration Assessment Model	
2.1 Watershed Geodatabase	14
2.2 Site Identification Model	15
2.3 Site Prioritization Model	19
2.4 Model Evaluation	24
3. Conceptual Restoration Plans	
3.1 Selection of Example Sites for Field Review	28
3.2 Field Review Procedures	29
3.3 Conceptual Restoration Plan Elements	29
3.4 Description of Example Restoration Sites	30
3.5 Cost Estimates	51
3.6 Net Functional Benefits	52
4. Findings & Recommendations	
4.1 Suggested Model Improvements	54
4.2 Recommendations to Communities	56
5. Literature Cited	59
6. Glossary	60

Appendices

Appendix A - ARM Fund Documents

Appendix B - Watershed Maps (Under Separate Cover)

Appendix C - Functional Evaluation Detailed Methodology

Appendix D - Model Output

Appendix E - Conceptual Restoration Cost Estimates

Appendix F – Functional Benefit Scores for Example Sites

Tables

Table 2-1	Site ID Model Base Data.....	16
Table 2-2	Site Identification Model Attributes.....	17
Table 3-2	Site Identification Results by Watershed Community	18
Table 2-4	Ecological Integrity (NH Method)	22
Table 2-5	Restoration Sustainability Scoring	23
Table 2-6	Landscape Position Scoring.....	23

Figures

Figure 1-1 HUC-8 Watersheds

Figure 2-1 Wetland Restoration Assessment Model - Site Prioritization Model Schematic

Figure 2-2 Wetland Restoration Assessment Model - Functional Evaluation Components