

# Welcome



**Cornish Conservation Commission**  
**Community Fall Forum - 2025/26 Conservation Plan Project**  
**February 11, 2026**



# Tonight's Goal



To share how we've combined **public data, field surveys, and input from our past community forums** to create a set of draft recommendations—and to confirm they hit the mark.

# Tonight's Agenda



1. Welcome and Tonight's Goal (Glenn) (5 mins)
  2. Project Plan Activities & Community Inputs to Date (M.E. - Jeff) (15 mins)
  3. The Mapping of Conservation Priorities (M.E. - Steven) (15 mins)
  4. What is a Co-occurrence Analysis & Cornish Results (M.E. - Steven) (15 mins)
- ~ *Break (10 mins)* ~
5. Recommendations & Q&A (M.E. – Jeff) (30 mins)
  6. Closing Thoughts and Next Steps (Jeff / Robin) (5 mins)

# Cornish Conservation Plan



**Jeffry Littleton, Principal Ecologist, Moosewood Ecological LLC**

**Steven Lamonde, Ecologist & Project Manager, Moosewood Ecological LLC**

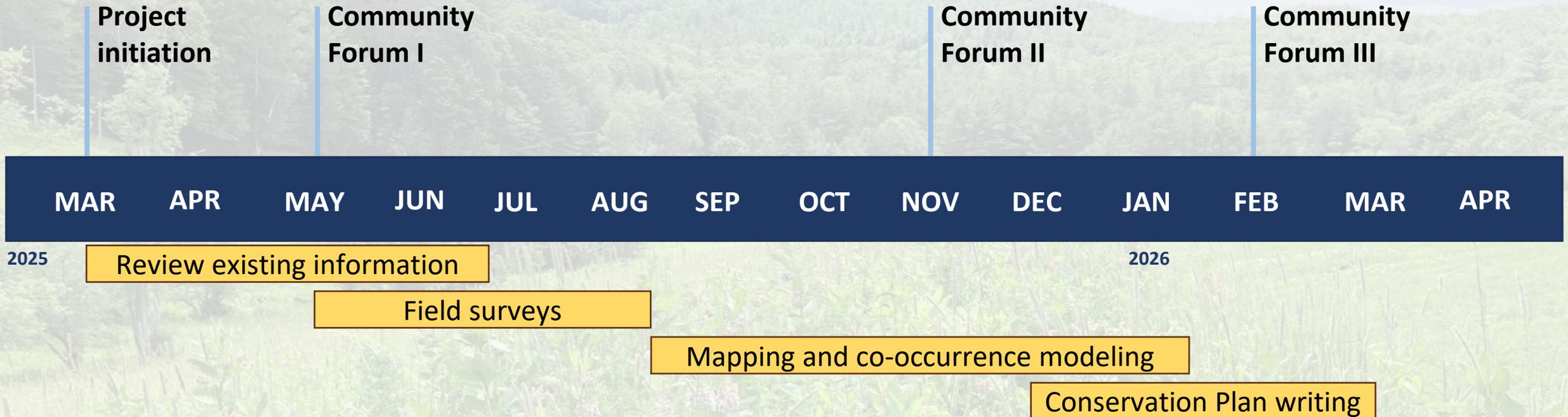
**11 February 2026**



# Goals and Intentions

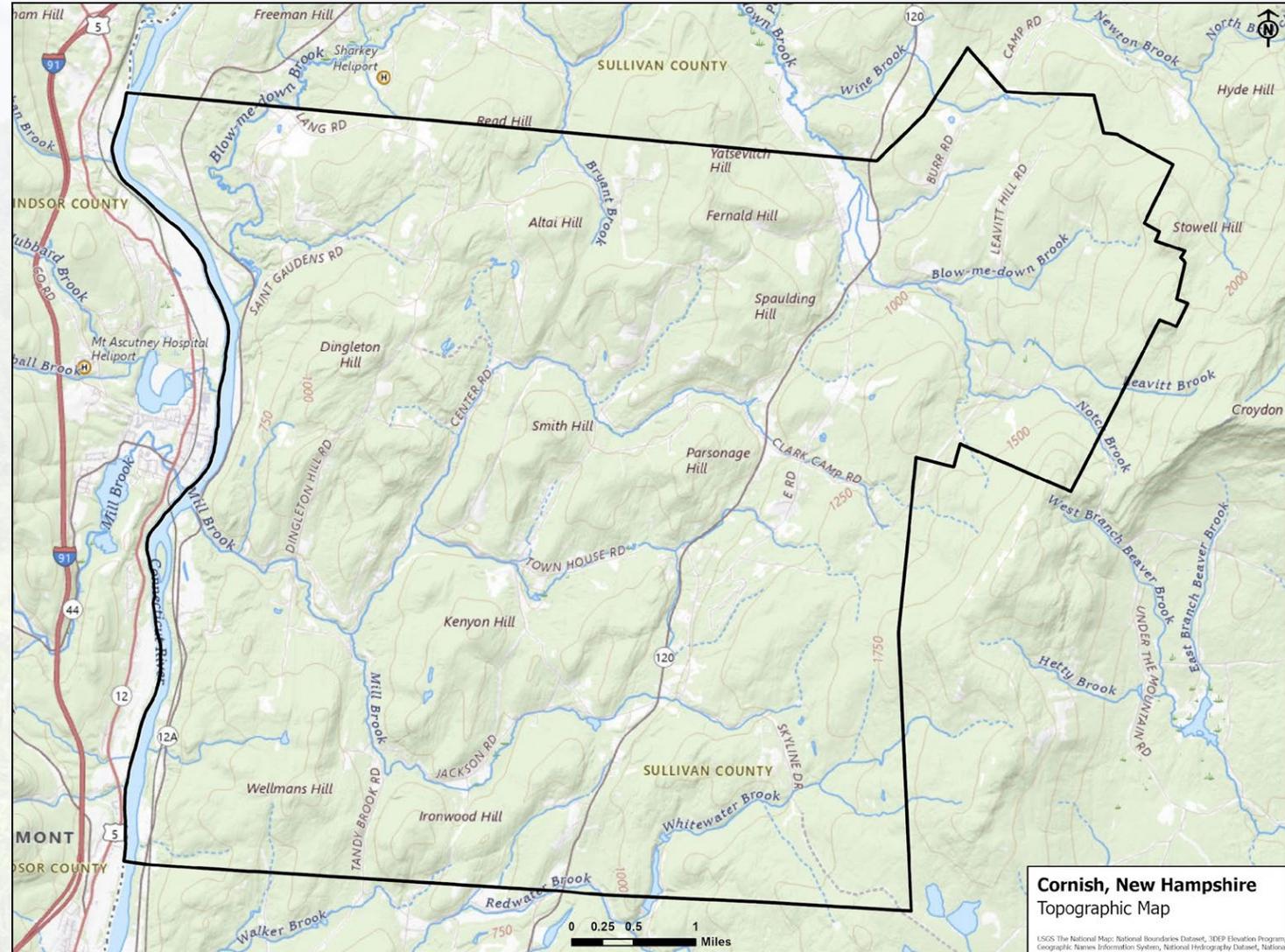
- 1. Identify and protect Cornish's conservation priorities.**
- 1. Assist private landowners' conservation efforts & steward Town-owned conserved properties.**
- 1. Protect important natural resources that benefit plants, animals, and humans & sustain healthy ecosystems.**
- 1. Preserve both current and future agricultural lands/resources.**
- 1. Collaborate with organizations to achieve Cornish's conservation goals, public education, and on-going monitoring of Town-conserved properties.**
- 1. Incorporate the results of ongoing research regarding climate resilience.**

# Project Timeline



# Community Input: Forum I (Prompt)

- What are Cornish's most significant natural resources and open spaces?
- What makes these spaces special?
- What concerns do you have about these areas?



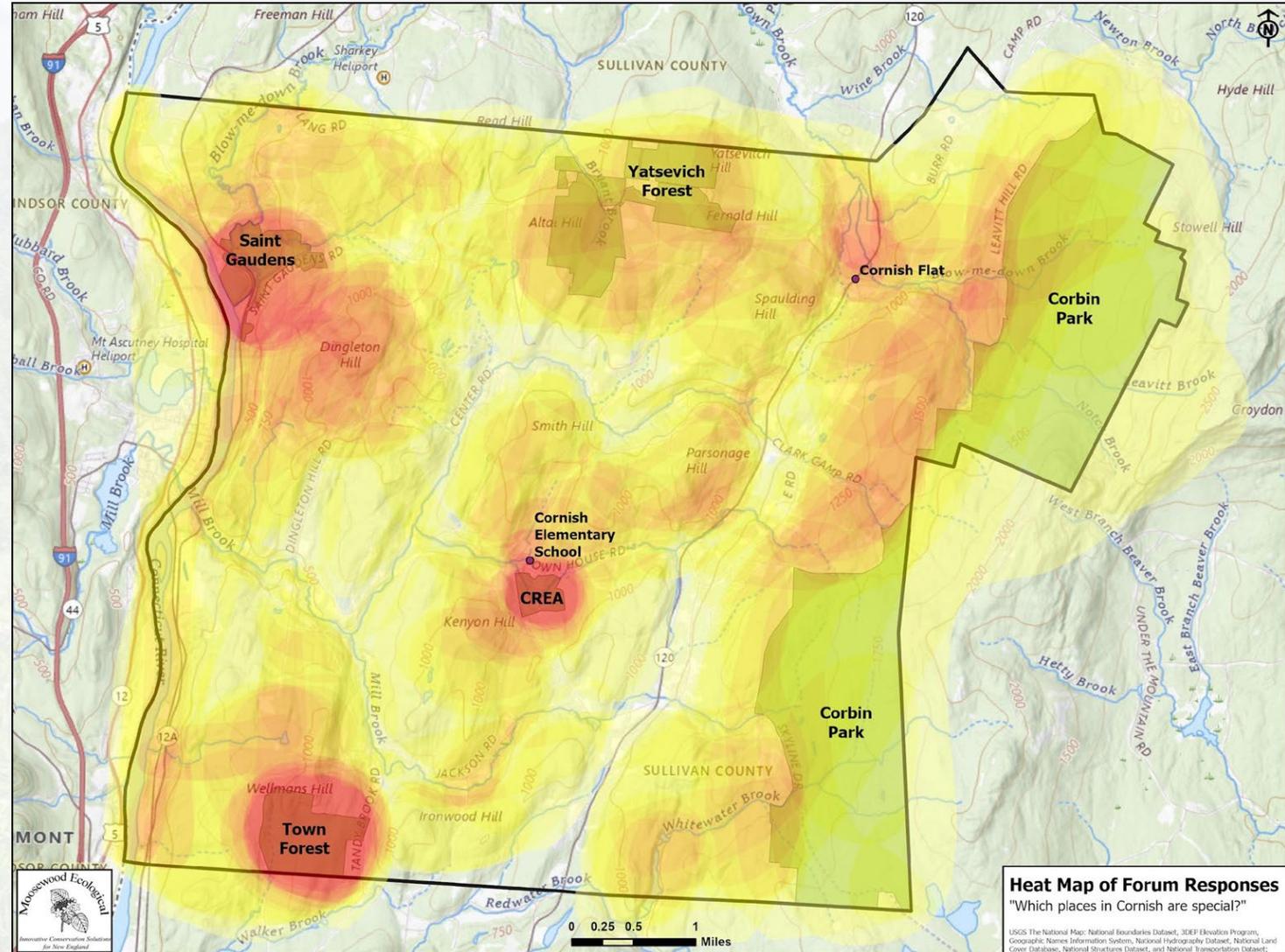
# Community Input: Forum I (Results)

- Valued Resources

- Forests & woodlands
- Water resources
- Scenic vistas & hilltops
- Agricultural lands
- Recreational & historic areas
- Wildlife and habitats

- Reasoning

- Ecological & aesthetic qualities
- Recreational & personal value
- Cultural/historical legacy
- Community and educational benefits



# Community Input: Forum II (Prompt)

## Small Group Discussion 'What Conservation Priorities are Resonating'

1. Which conservation priorities feel most important for Cornish right now?
2. Why do these stand out to you? (What values, places, histories, or experiences do they connect to?)
3. What trade-offs or questions should we be aware of as we consider these?
4. What would success look like if we focused on these priorities over the next 5–10 years?

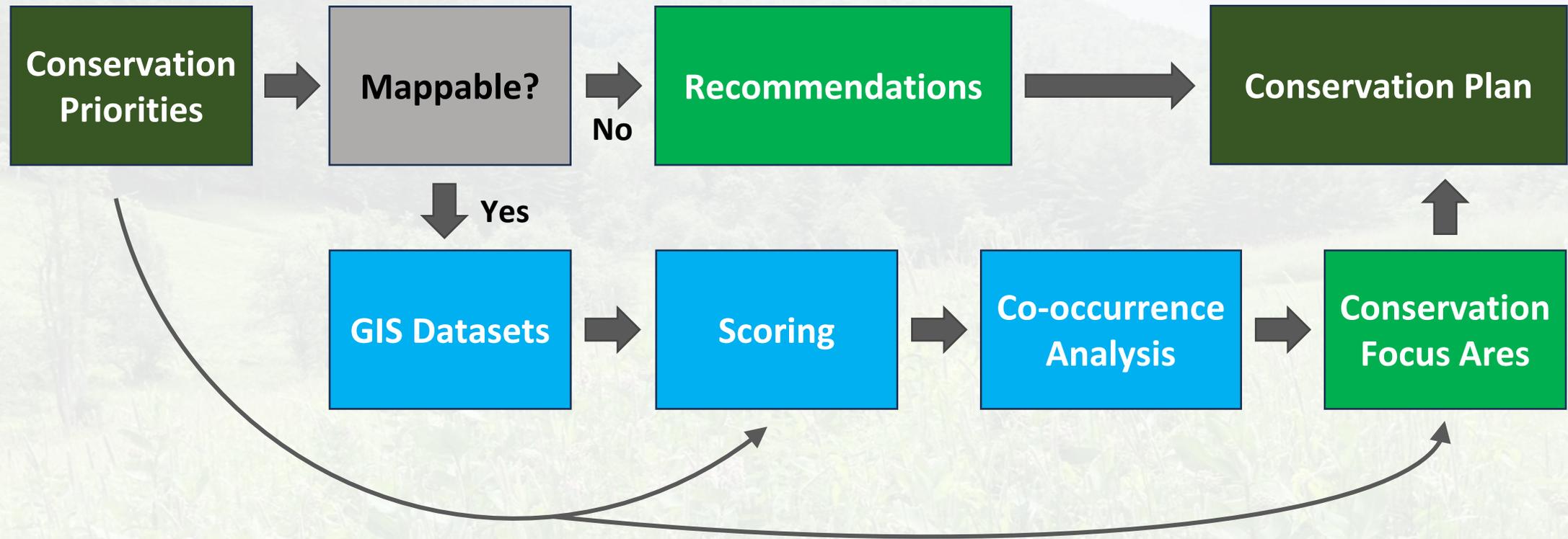


# Community Input: Forum II (Results)

## Prioritized Conservation Themes: Vote Tally



# Mapping Conservation Priorities



# Public and Conservation Lands

Cornish, NH

DRAFT MAP. NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION.



STATE OF VERMONT

PLAINFIELD

CROYDON

CLAREMONT



Data sources: NH GRANIT, Town of Cornish, Moosewood Ecological

- - - Town Boundaries	- - - Other Roads
— State-owned Roads	— Streams
— Town-owned Roads	— Wetlands
- - - Class VI Roads	— Corbin Park
— Private Roads	

Public and Conservation Lands

Landowner	Protection Type
NH Fish & Game	Fee Ownership
National Park Service	Agricultural Preservation Restriction
Private	Conservation Easement
Society for the Protection of NH Forests	Conservation Easement and Deed Restriction
Town of Claremont	Conservation Easement and Executory Interest
Town of Cornish	Conservation Easement, Deed Restriction and Executory Interest
	Deed Restriction

# Agricultural Resources

Cornish, NH

DRAFT MAP. NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION.



STATE OF VERMONT

PLAINFIELD

CROYDON

CLAREMONT

- - - Town Boundaries
- State-owned Roads
- Town-owned Roads
- - - Class VI Roads
- Private Roads
- - - Other Roads
- Conservation and Public Lands
- Corbin Park
- Streams
- Wetlands
- Active Agriculture Areas
  - Hayfield
  - Tree Farms and Orchards
  - Pasture
  - Row Crops
  - Uncategorized / Other
- Important Farmland Soils
  - All areas are prime farmland
  - Farmland of statewide importance
  - Farmland of local importance

Type of Agricultural Resource	Area of Town (acres)	Percent of Town	Area Conserved (acres)	Percent Conserved
Prime Farmland Soils	1,426.9	5.2%	327.0	22.9%
Farmland Soils of Statewide Significance	1,424.6	5.2%	234.2	16.4%
Farmland Soils of Local Significance	2,526.6	9.3%	277.1	11.0%
<b><i>Combined Important Farmland Soils</i></b>	<b>5,378.1</b>	<b>19.7%</b>	<b>838.4</b>	<b>15.6%</b>
Active Agricultural Lands	1,770.0	6.5%	379.5	21.4%

***About 900 acres (16.6%) of Cornish's important farmland soils are covered by development***

# Forest Resources

Cornish, NH

DRAFT MAP. NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION.



STATE OF VERMONT

PLAINFIELD

CROYDON

CLAREMONT

- - - Town Boundaries
- State-owned Roads
- Town-owned Roads
- - - Class VI Roads
- Private Roads
- - - Other Roads
- ▨ Conservation and Public Lands
- ▩ Corbin Park
- Streams
- Wetlands
- Forest Cover
- Important Forest Soils
  - Group IA
  - Group IB
  - Group IC



Data sources: NH GRANIT, Town of Cornish, Moosewood Ecological

# Scenic Resources

Cornish, NH

DRAFT MAP. NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION.

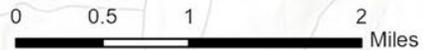


STATE OF VERMONT

PLAINFIELD

CROYDON

CLAREMONT



Data sources: NH GRANIT, Town of Cornish, Moosewood Ecological

- - - Town Boundaries
  - State-owned Roads
  - Town-owned Roads
  - - - Class VI Roads
  - Private Roads
  - - - Other Roads
  - Designated Scenic Roads
  - ▨ Conservation and Public Lands
  - ▨ Corbin Park
  - Scenic Views
- Scenic Visibility (from public roads)
- Not visible
  - Low
  - Moderately-Low
  - Moderately-High
  - High
  - Very High

Designated Scenic Roads	Length (Miles)	Road-frontage (Miles)	Road-frontage Parcels	Road-frontage % Conserved
Gap Road	1.35	2.70	3	50%
Lang Road	1.86	3.71	20	10.6%
Paget Road	1.56	3.13	17	0.0%
Platt Road	1.35	2.69	21	2.9%
Saint Gaudens Road	3.35	6.70	34	42.8%
Whitten Road	0.47	0.94	6	3.9%
<b>All Roads Combined</b>	<b>10.59</b>	<b>21.18</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>21.9%</b>

# Steep Slopes

Cornish, NH

DRAFT MAP. NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION.



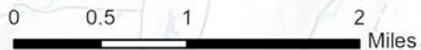
STATE OF VERMONT

PLAINFIELD

CROYDON

CLAREMONT

- - - Town Boundaries
- State-owned Roads
- Town-owned Roads
- - - Class VI Roads
- Private Roads
- - - Other Roads
- Conservation and Public Lands
- Corbin Park
- Streams
- Wetlands
- Terrain Slope (%)
  - 0 - 15
  - 15 - 25
  - 25 or more



Data sources: NH GRANIT, Town of Cornish, Moosewood Ecological

# Floodplains and Other Flood Risk Areas

Cornish, NH

DRAFT MAP. NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION.

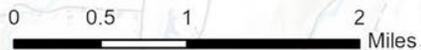


STATE OF VERMONT

PLAINFIELD

CROYDON

CLAREMONT



Data sources: NH Department of Environmental Services, NH GRANIT, Town of Cornish, Moosewood Ecological

- - - Town Boundaries
- State-owned Roads
- Town-owned Roads
- - - Class VI Roads
- Private Roads
- - - Other Roads
- Buildings
- Developed
- Developed Impervious
- Conservation and Public Lands
- Corbin Park
- Streams
- Wetlands
- ⓘ Active Dams
- ◆ Flood Hazard Zone Road Crossing
- ◆ Wetland/Stream Road Crossing
- ▨ FEMA Flood Hazard Zones
- Potential Ponding Areas
- Culvert Hydraulic Vulnerability
  - Risk of overtop (10 years)
  - Vulnerable (50 years)
  - Not assessed

# Resilient and Connected Landscapes

Cornish, NH

DRAFT MAP. NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION.



STATE OF VERMONT

PLAINFIELD

CROYDON

CLAREMONT



Data sources: The Nature Conservancy, NH GRANIT, Town of Cornish, Moosewood Ecological

- - - Town Boundaries
- State-owned Roads
- Town-owned Roads
- - - Class VI Roads
- Private Roads
- - - Other Roads
- ▨ Conservation and Public Lands
- ▨ Corbin Park
- Streams
- Wetlands
- Resilient and Connected Network
  - High Resilience, High Flow, and Recognized Biodiversity
  - High Resilience and High Flow
  - High Resilience and Recognized Biodiversity

# Significant Wildlife Habitats

Cornish, NH

DRAFT MAP. NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION.

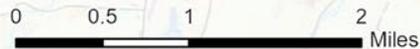


STATE OF VERMONT

PLAINFIELD

CROYDON

CLAREMONT



Data sources: NH Fish & Game, NH GRANIT, Town of Cornish, Moosewood Ecological

- |                               |                               |             |                                  |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
| ---                           | Town Boundaries               | Yellow      | Floodplain forest                |
| —                             | State-owned Roads             | Orange      | Grassland                        |
| —                             | Town-owned Roads              | Light Green | Hemlock-hardwood-pine forest     |
| ---                           | Class VI Roads                | Dark Green  | High-elevation spruce-fir forest |
| —                             | Private Roads                 | Red         | Northern hardwood-conifer forest |
| - -                           | Other Roads                   | Blue        | Northern forested swamp          |
| ▨                             | Conservation and Public Lands | Light Blue  | Open Water                       |
| ▧                             | Corbin Park                   | Dark Blue   | Peatland                         |
| —                             | Streams                       | Grey        | Rocky ridge                      |
| —                             | Potential Vernal Pools        | Pink        | Sand-gravel                      |
| Wildlife Action Plan Habitats |                               | Purple      | Shrubland                        |
| ▨                             | Appalachian oak-pine forest   | Cyan        | Temperate forested swamp         |
| ▨                             | Cliff and Talus slope         | Light Green | Wet meadow-shrub wetland         |
| ▨                             | Developed                     |             |                                  |
| ▨                             | Developed Impervious          |             |                                  |

# Highest-ranked Wildlife Habitats

Cornish, NH

DRAFT MAP. NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION.



STATE OF VERMONT

PLAINFIELD

CROYDON

CLAREMONT

- - - Town Boundaries
- State-owned Roads
- Town-owned Roads
- - - Class VI Roads
- Private Roads
- - - Other Roads
- ▨ Conservation and Public Lands
- ▧ Corbin Park
- Streams
- Wetlands
- Habitat Tiers**
- 1) Highest Ranked Habitat in New Hampshire
- 2) Highest Ranked Habitat in Biological Region
- 3) Supporting Landscapes

# Wildlife Corridors

Cornish, NH

DRAFT MAP. NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION.



PLAINFIELD

STATE OF VERMONT

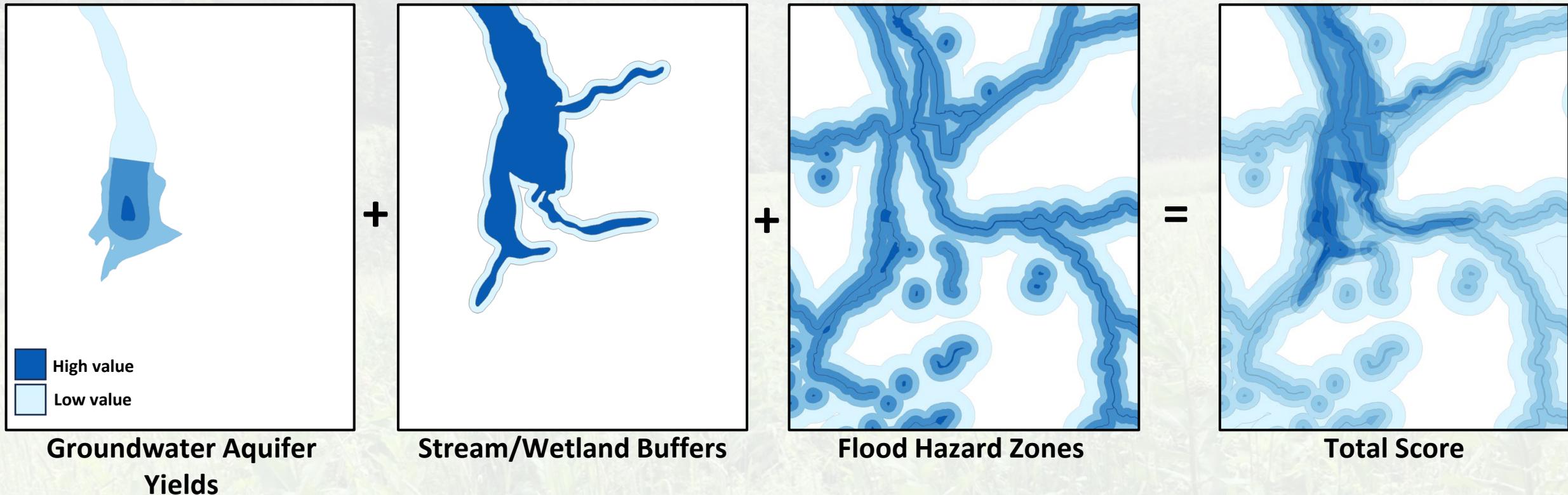
CROYDON

CLAREMONT

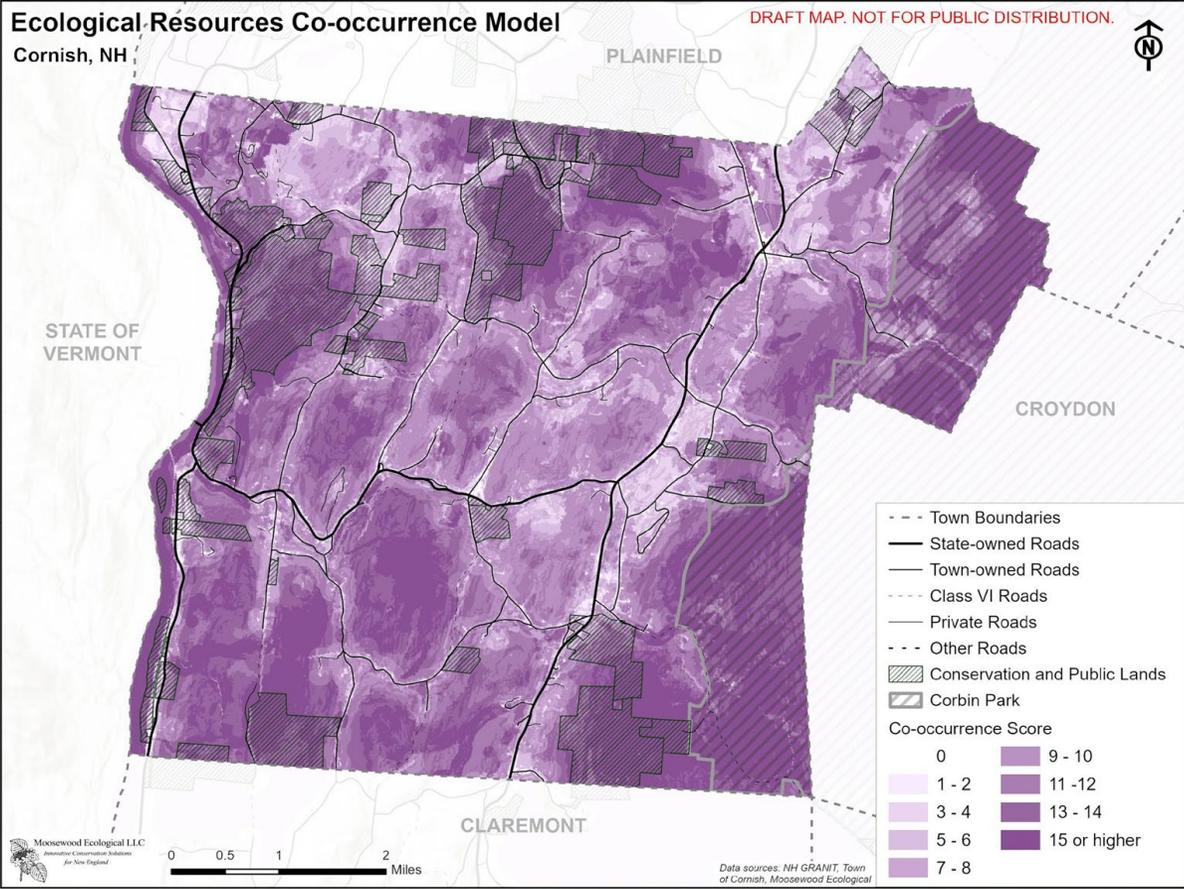
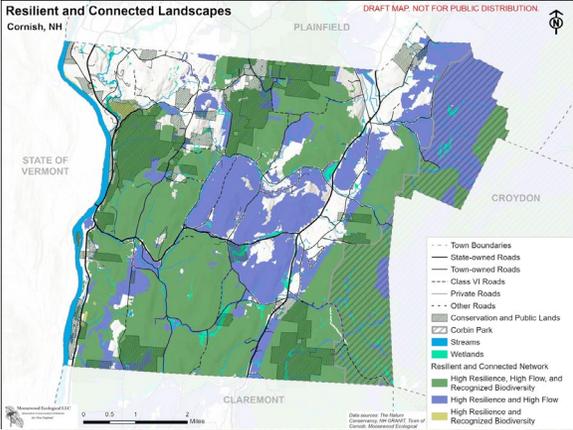
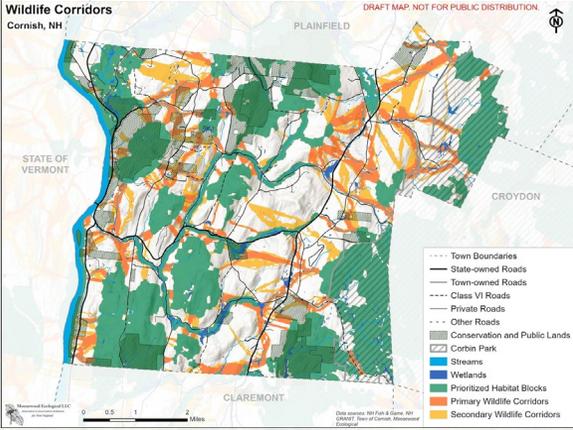
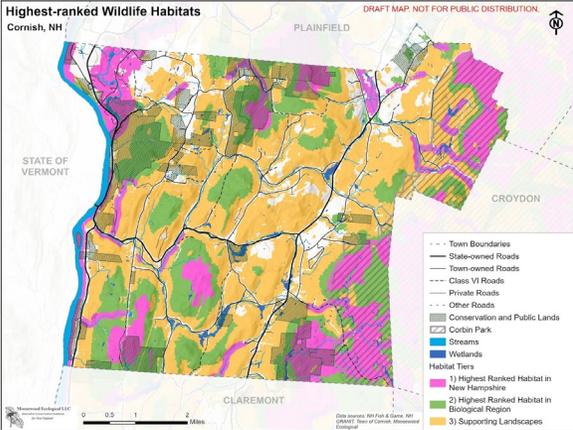
- Town Boundaries
- State-owned Roads
- Town-owned Roads
- Class VI Roads
- Private Roads
- - - Other Roads
- ▨ Conservation and Public Lands
- ▧ Corbin Park
- Streams
- Wetlands
- Prioritized Habitat Blocks
- Primary Wildlife Corridors
- Secondary Wildlife Corridors

# Co-Occurrence Modeling Process

1. Resources were scored based on quality, quantity, proximity, or density.
2. A spatial overlay calculated total scores.
3. High-scoring areas = higher conservation value.



Areas of high conservation value were identified through a weighted overlay of multiple factors.



*Ecological Resources Co-occurrence*

# Ecological Resources Co-occurrence Model

DRAFT MAP. NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION.



Cornish, NH

PLAINFIELD

STATE OF VERMONT

CROYDON

CLAREMONT



Data sources: NH GRANIT, Town of Cornish, Moosewood Ecological

- - - Town Boundaries
- State-owned Roads
- Town-owned Roads
- - - Class VI Roads
- Private Roads
- - - Other Roads
- Conservation and Public Lands
- Corbin Park

Co-occurrence Score

0	9 - 10
1 - 2	11 - 12
3 - 4	13 - 14
5 - 6	15 or higher
7 - 8	

# Agricultural Resources Co-occurrence Model

DRAFT MAP. NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION.



Cornish, NH

PLAINFIELD

STATE OF VERMONT

CROYDON

CLAREMONT



# Forest Resources Co-occurrence Model

DRAFT MAP. NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION.

Cornish, NH

PLAINFIELD

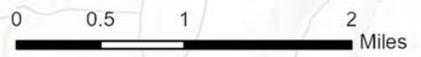


STATE OF VERMONT

CROYDON

CLAREMONT

- - - Town Boundaries
- State-owned Roads
- Town-owned Roads
- - - Class VI Roads
- Private Roads
- - - Other Roads
- Conservation and Public Lands
- Corbin Park
- Co-occurrence Score
- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6



# Water Resources Co-occurrence Model

DRAFT MAP. NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION.



Cornish, NH

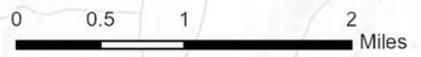
PLAINFIELD

STATE OF VERMONT

CROYDON

CLAREMONT

Moosewood Ecological LLC  
Innovative Conservation Solutions  
for New England



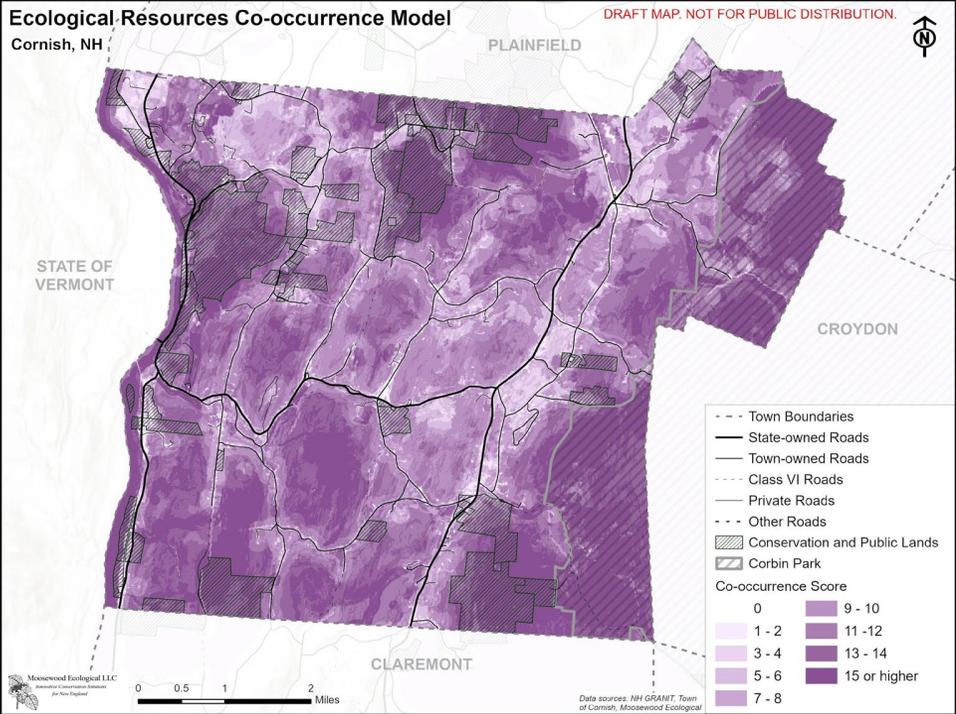
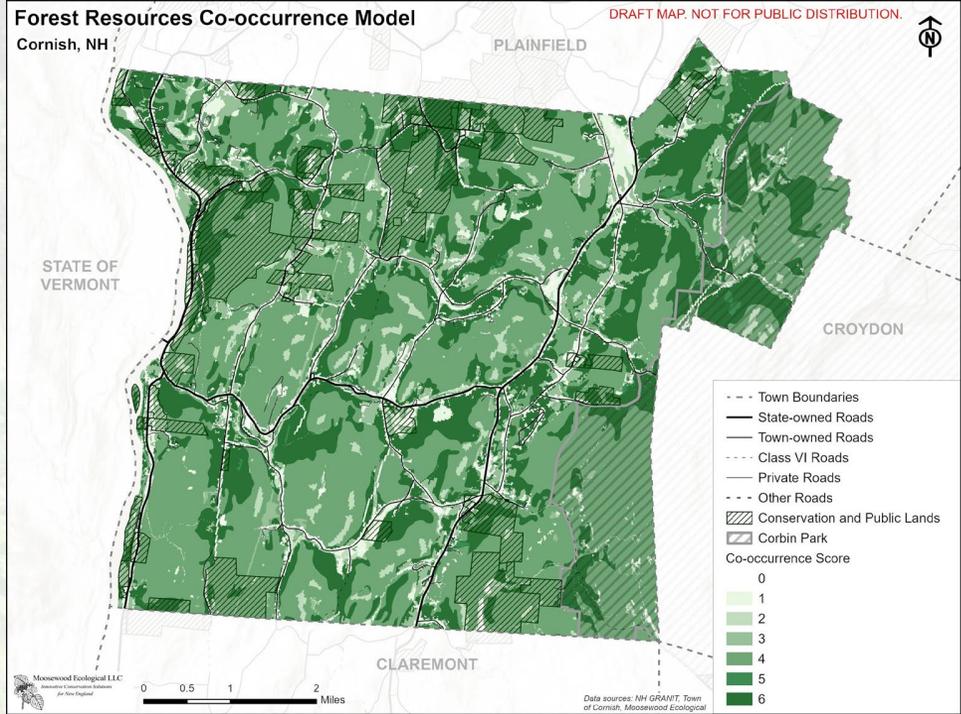
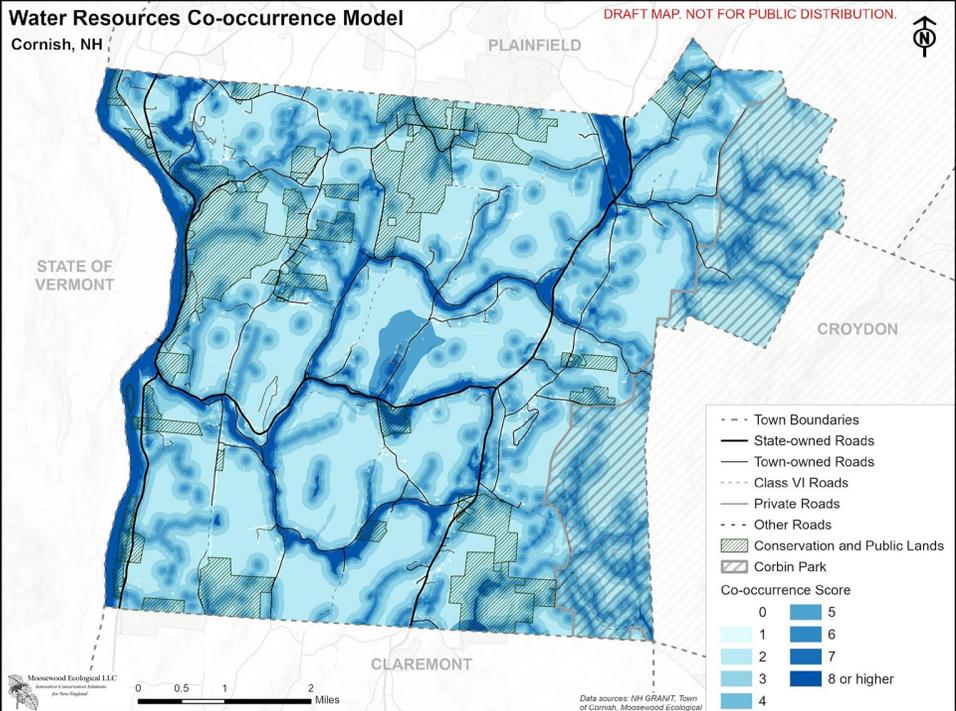
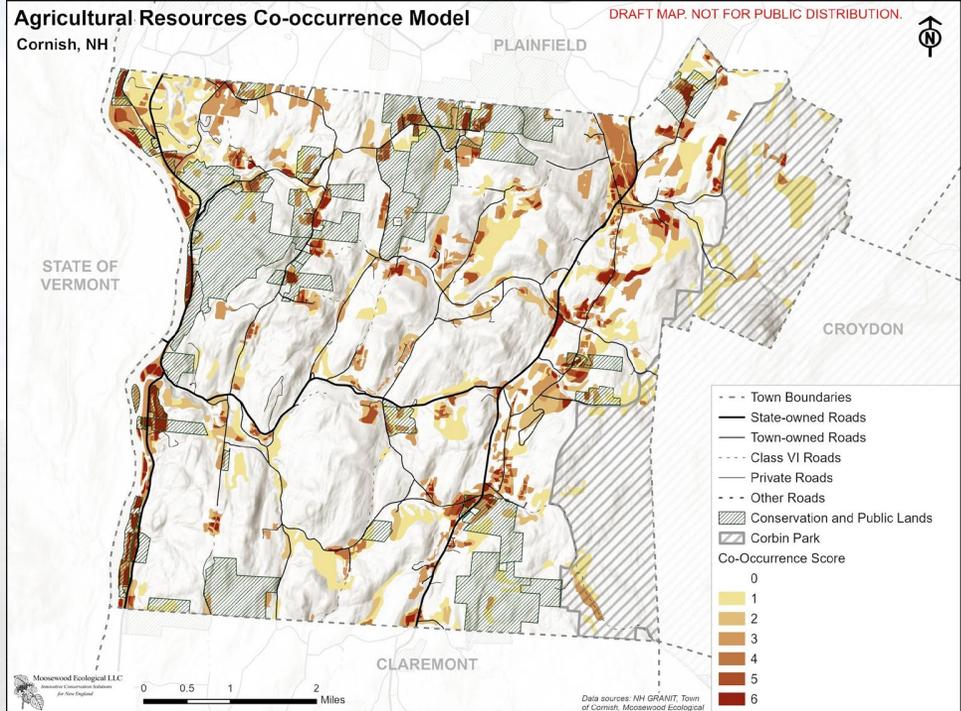
Data sources: NH GRANIT, Town of Cornish, Moosewood Ecological

- - - Town Boundaries
- State-owned Roads
- Town-owned Roads
- - - Class VI Roads
- Private Roads
- - - Other Roads
- ▨ Conservation and Public Lands
- ▩ Corbin Park

Co-occurrence Score

0	5
1	6
2	7
3	8 or higher
4	

# Co-occurrence Model Comparison



# Conservation Focus Areas

DRAFT MAP. NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION.

Cornish, NH

PLAINFIELD



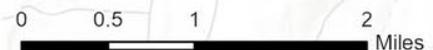
STATE OF VERMONT

CROYDON

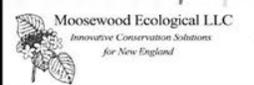
CLAREMONT

CFA #	Name	Acres
1	River Road Farmlands	68
2	Platt Road Farmlands	94
3	Read Hill	136
4	Dingleton Hill (North)	102
5	Dingleton Hill (South)	67
6	Gap Road	198
7	Spaulding Hill	1,018
8	Cornish Flat Farmlands & Aquifer	145
9	East Road Ridgeline	696
10	Tiftt Road Headwaters	115
11a	Southeast Highlands (A)	439
11b	Southeast Highlands (B)	114
11c	Southeast Highlands (C)	49
11d	Southeast Highlands (D)	5
12	South Cornish Farmlands	126
13	Smith Hill	421
14	Sunrise Hills	435
15	Kenyon Hill	839
16	Ironwood Hill	631
17	Wellmans Hill	455
18	Southwest Highlands	837

- Town Boundaries
- State-owned Roads
- Town-owned Roads
- Class VI Roads
- Private Roads
- - - Other Roads
- Conservation and Public Lands
- Corbin Park
- Water Resources Protection Zone
- Land Conservation Areas



Data sources: NH GRANIT, Town of Cornish, Moosewood Ecological



# Break



**Cornish Conservation Commission**  
**Community Input Forum - 2025/26 Conservation Plan Project**  
**February 11, 2026**



DRAFT

# OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION PLAN CORNISH, NH

Prepared for:  
Cornish Conservation Commission



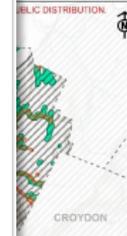
Cornish Conservation Commission



Moosewood Ecological  
Innovative Conservation Solutions  
for New England

ook west of Cornish  
are included on NH  
bject to the SWQPA

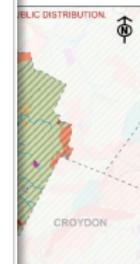
th, NH	Percent Conserved
7%	12.0%
3%	29.1%
7/A	12.9%
3%	21.0%
7%	9.9%
0%	13.3%
4%	12.8%
4%	17.8%



- in Boundaries
- Re-owned Roads
- in-owned Roads
- in N Roads
- in Roads
- in Roads
- ervation and Public Lands
- in Park
- lands
- in Floodplain Overlay
- in District

NH.

ved	Percent Conserved
67.8	9.6%
27.2	26.5%
59.8	11.7%
29.3	13.8%
16.8	18.7%
47.5	18.9%



- Floodplain forest
- Grassland
- Herbaceous-barren/semi-barren forest
- High-elevation spruce-fir forest
- Northern hardwood-conifer forest
- Northern forested swamp
- Open Water
- Forest
- Rocky ridge
- Sand/gravel
- Shrubland
- Temperate forested swamp
- Wet evergreen/shrub wetland

# Prioritized Conservation Themes



**Preserve Cornish's rural character, scenic beauty, and working lands**



**Protect source water, wetlands, and watersheds**



**Protect wildlife, habitats, and wildlife corridors**



**Adapt to changing conditions and reduce vulnerability to climate change**



**Promote forest health management**



**Integrate conservation priorities into town planning and zoning documents**



**Collaborate regionally with conservation partners and neighboring towns**

# Recommendations

## Open Space Conservation and Planning

- **Incorporate the Conservation Plan into Master Plan**



- **Use all conservation planning maps/tools in combination with the Conservation Project Evaluation Form**



- **Maintain funding to sustain a productive conservation program**



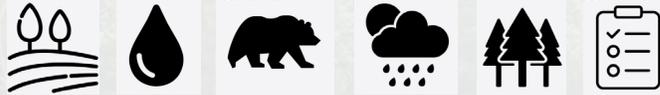
- **Establish an Open Space Conservation Planning subcommittee**



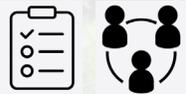
# Recommendations

## Land Stewardship and Natural Resources Protection

- **Develop stewardship plans for Town-owned properties**



- **Build public support for the NRI and Conservation Plan**



- **Work with adjacent communities on similar conservation initiatives**



- **Support Cornish's working landscape and encourage the use of best management practices**



# Recommendations

## Land Use Regulations and Natural Resources Protection

- **Ensure the Master Plan has clear language that supports land use regulations**



- **Add specificity to current land use regulations for regulatory floodplains, shorelines, and wetlands**



- **Consider adding regulations to protect groundwater and steep slopes**



- **Host annual meetings between town boards to align the Master Plan and town regulations with the Open Space Conservation Plan**





**Questions?**

# *Closing Thoughts and Next Steps*



**Cornish Conservation Commission**  
**Community Input Forum - 2025/26 Conservation Plan Project**  
**February 11, 2026**





## How to Stay Involved

- **Attend our March 25<sup>th</sup> CCC meeting where Moosewood will be sharing the working draft of the complete Conservation Plan and seek final input before it is published**
- **Talk to your neighbors about the project and encourage them to attend**
- **Reach out to the Conservation Commission with any questions**

# Upcoming Events

- **February 21: Winter Tracking Workshop**
- **March 25: Presentation of Conservation Plan by M.E.**
- **Q2: Forest Health - Educational Session**
- **Q3: Wetlands - Educational Session**
- **Q4: Conserving Your Land - Educational Session**

*We need and want your suggestions for educational presentations and field trips for 2026 (add your thoughts/ideas to the suggestion sheet)*

Email: [conservationcommission@cornish.nh.gov](mailto:conservationcommission@cornish.nh.gov)

Website: [cornish.nh.gov/conservation-commission/](http://cornish.nh.gov/conservation-commission/) (view presentations & updates)

*Thank you for coming!*

**Cornish Conservation Commission**  
**Community Input Forum - 2025/26 Conservation Plan Project**  
**February 11, 2026**

