

More in depth information on Wildlife and Habitat from 2008 Fayston Town Plan, including Maps from the Town Plan showing Core Habitat and Water Resources.

Referenced in the Town Plan as the source of much of the information for the maps and tables on Wildlife and Habitat was the 2007 Natural Heritage Inventory. This Inventory was done by Arrowwood Environmental. Included are many maps showing that the French Brook drainage/Lathrop tract are part of the the largest Core Habitat in the town of Fayston. These maps show the French Brook area as having Wildlife Corridors, and Forest Riparian Habitat.

Included are parts of the 2007 Natural Heritage Inventory.

From the State of Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is a map of Wildlife Suitability in Fayston, again showing the French Brook Basin as an integral part of a very large unfragmented block of Core Habitat, with a wetland feeding area and Mast Stands.

From the State Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation a map of the Phen Basin Block showing it's Ecological Protection Zone and it's Critical Plant and Wildlife Habitat abutting the Lathrop tract.

6.0 Wildlife Habitat --Natural Heritage Element Inventory and Assessment by Arrowwood Environmental www.waitsfieldvt.us/docs/1MadRiver_NRI_Report_04-07.pdf

Description of Wildlife Habitat Features (pg19)

Core Area

Core habitat is forested wildlife habitat that is far removed from human activities and their artifacts such as roads, houses, and active farmlands. This remote wildlife habitat is qualitatively distinct from small fragmented areas in that it provides important mating, nesting, feeding, and denning habitats for species that cannot survive in more fragmented landscapes. These animals also require travel corridors between various landscape patches that provide these elements.

A wide-variety of birdlife in the northeast utilizes the larger contiguous forests available only in core areas.

Remote wildlife habitat found in core areas can provide the various habitat elements for wide-ranging species such as fisher, bobcat, and black bear. Core areas are often hilly or mountainous, without easy access, and only rarely or seasonally visited by landowners, hunters, and loggers. Wide ranging species thrive in the remote habitat of the core areas.

See Figure 10 Core Habitat

Core areas are often the most important “source areas” where reproductively active female bear, bobcat, fisher, and coyote have their young and contribute to the overall population of these species. In general, the larger the core area size, the greater the population (and territories) of individual species it can support. Larger populations are generally more stable over longer periods. Core areas often provide the breeding grounds and nurseries that support relatively high populations of these deep forest species.

Black bear may utilize mid to older American beech trees for fall feeding and then travel to beaver-dam wetlands for spring and summer feeding and utilize areas of dense cover for travel corridors.

Bear Habitat:

Black bear require extensive remote areas to meet their yearly habitat requirements. Large, non-road areas must be preserved to maintain sustainable populations within the Mad River Valley. Bears must continue to have access to mast stands and forested wetlands. Bear habitat management can also focus on beech stands that have documented bear use (see Wildlife Habitat Elements Map included in the Appendix).

Bear Wetlands

Black bear utilize a wide variety of wetlands during the spring and summer months. Forested, shrubby, beaver-flow wetlands, and forested seeps are sought out for the flush of early leafy vegetation that often grows in these environments.

Black bears (as well as deer and turkeys among other animals) will utilize this food source and also search out plant roots, grasses, sedges and ants in these environments.

see figure 14 bear wetlands map (pg22) (show bear wetlands just south and north of parcel)
see figure 15 Forested Riparian Habitat

Bear will climb the trees in fall to gather beechnuts, leaving scars from their climbing activities. They often return in spring and scavenge beechnuts from the ground under the beech trees.

Travel Corridors

Travel corridors are places where landscape and land use characteristics combine to form an area where wildlife can move across roads to and from habitat areas. Many species of wildlife utilize a diversity of different habitat and plant community types within their home ranges (or territories). Wildlife move across the landscape for a variety of reasons but generally they move in search of new territories, food resources, and/or potential mates.

A good example to illustrate seasonal wildlife movements is that of the black bear in Vermont. The black bear typically moves in spring from its high, remote denning areas to wetlands (often forested seeps) lower on the landscape. In summer bear will seek berry patches in openings and along old logging roads within the forest. In fall, bears will move to beech stands, orchards, or possibly corn fields depending on the availability of natural foods in the forest.

Figure 19. Possible Wildlife Corridors Map

Many of the wide ranging wildlife corridors identified in this project are located within areas of limited development and contain large, significant habitat features in close proximity to the corridors. As would be expected, wide ranging mammals are likely to find these areas most preferential as movement zones due to the lack of human disturbance and the necessities of moving between critical food, cover and/or other habitats.

Contiguous Habitat Units (CHUs)

see all of pg 29 here

CHU 1 (cont) Basin Wilderness area. This CHU1 is dominated by un-fragmented core forest.

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(pg 35-37)

Management Recommendations for Wildlife Habitat

Large Contiguous Habitat Units: The Core Habitat Units described above are areas with large core size, substantial forest interior habitat and generally a wide-diversity of wildlife habitat elements. They provide important habitat for large, wide-ranging wildlife such as black bear as well as specific habitat features critical for a wide variety of other species.

• Forest fragmentation in these larger CHUs should be discouraged. Roads, housing and most other human activities should be restricted to the periphery of these units.

•

Forest management activities that support a diversity of forest and early successional natural communities are an appropriate use of these areas.

• Connections between the various wildlife habitats/elements within the units should be maintained.

• To maintain deep forest habitat for many declining songbirds, heavy forest cutting which promotes the development of edge conditions should be limited in these areas.

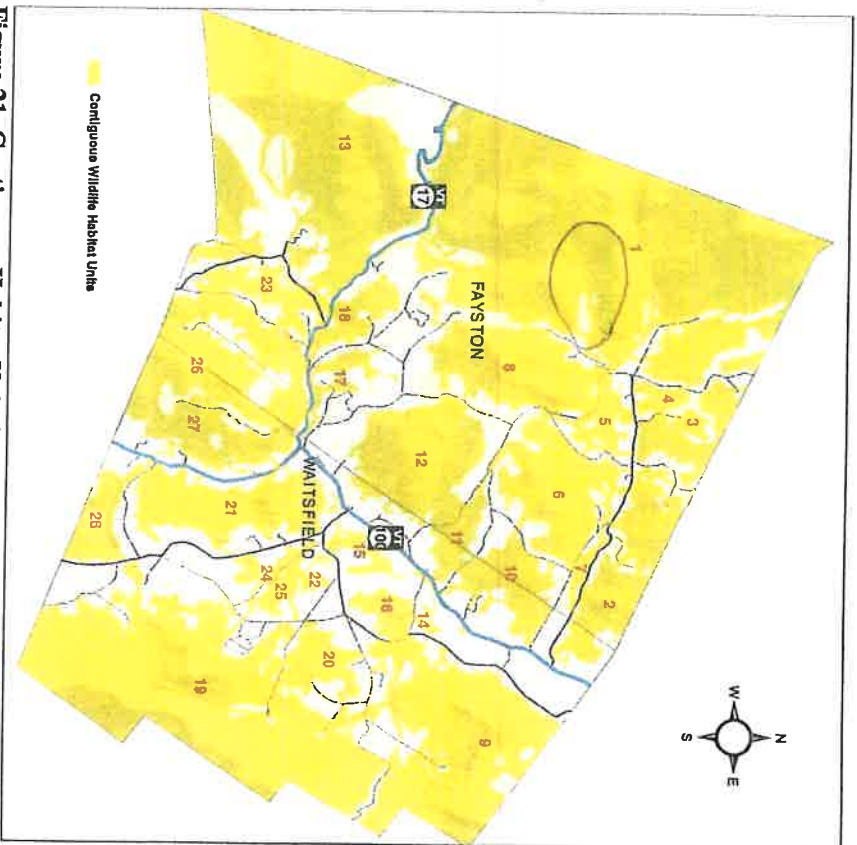


Figure 21. Contiguous Habitat Units Map

Within the CHUs, approximately 7,164 acres of Deer Winter Habitat has been identified and mapped. Mast stands were identified in 10 of the CHUs. A summary data table is provided in Appendix 2 detailing the individual habitat elements within all the CHUs. A discussion of the most significant CHUs is provided below.

CHU# 1

General Habitat Information

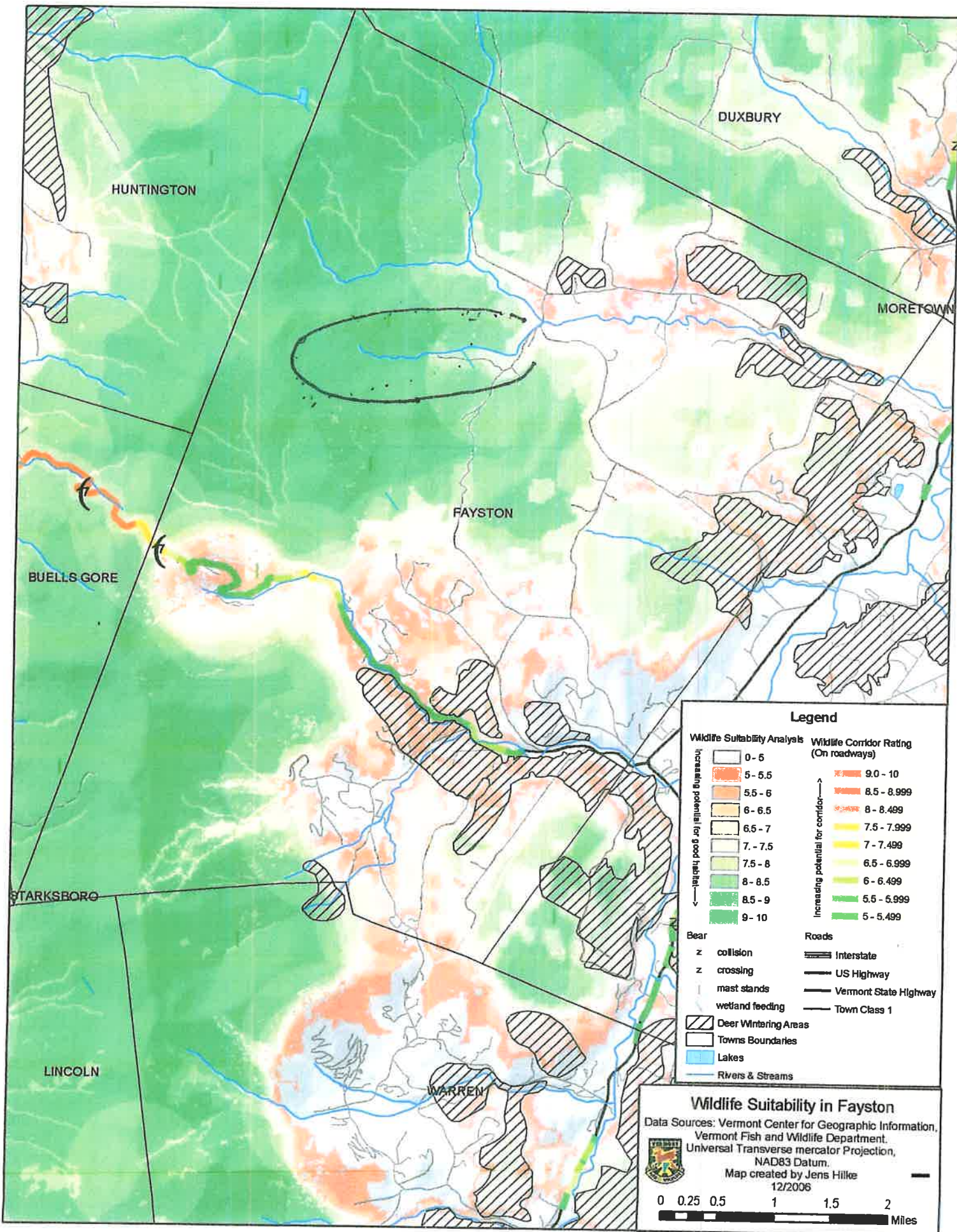
- 6376 acres total
- 6068 acres core habitat
- 1906' mean elevation
- Low horizontal diversity

Specific Wildlife Features

CHU1 has the largest core area in the study area and extends over the mountains into Huntington and Buell's Gore. Mast stands and forested wetlands are present and important for the productivity and maintenance of black bear and other deep forest species populations. Ledge habitat is also present in this unit. CHU1 has 26 miles of stream habitat and generally well-vegetated and topographically incised stream valleys which add to their value and use as wildlife movement corridors. This unit has several vernal pools (generally lower on the landscape) and contains substantial areas over 2700 feet in elevation with potential Bicknell's Thrush and other high-elevation songbird habitat. Other birds associated with this Montane Spruce-Fir habitat include: the blackpoll, bay-breasted and yellow-rumped warblers, ruby-crowned kinglet, and the olive-sided flycatcher. Just below this forest zone, the Montane Yellow Birch-Red Spruce Forest offers habitat for the winter wren, blackburnian and Canada warbler as well as the solitary vireo. Included in CHU1 is a portion of the Camels Hump State Park and Phen

Features Present:

- core
- deeryard
- streams
- wetlands
- riparian
- mast
- ledge
- bear wetland
- vernal pool
- significant community



Legend

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Wildlife Suitability Analysis | Wildlife Corridor Rating (On roadways) |
| 0 - 5 | 9.0 - 10 |
| 5 - 5.5 | 8.5 - 8.999 |
| 5.5 - 6 | 8 - 8.499 |
| 6 - 6.5 | 7.5 - 7.999 |
| 6.5 - 7 | 7 - 7.499 |
| 7 - 7.5 | 6.5 - 6.999 |
| 7.5 - 8 | 6 - 6.499 |
| 8 - 8.5 | 5.5 - 5.999 |
| 8.5 - 9 | 5 - 5.499 |
| 9 - 10 | |
-
- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Bear | Roads |
| z collision | Interstate |
| z crossing | US Highway |
| mast stands | Vermont State Highway |
| wetland feeding | Town Class 1 |
| Deer Wintering Areas | |
| Towns Boundaries | |
| Lakes | |
| Rivers & Streams | |

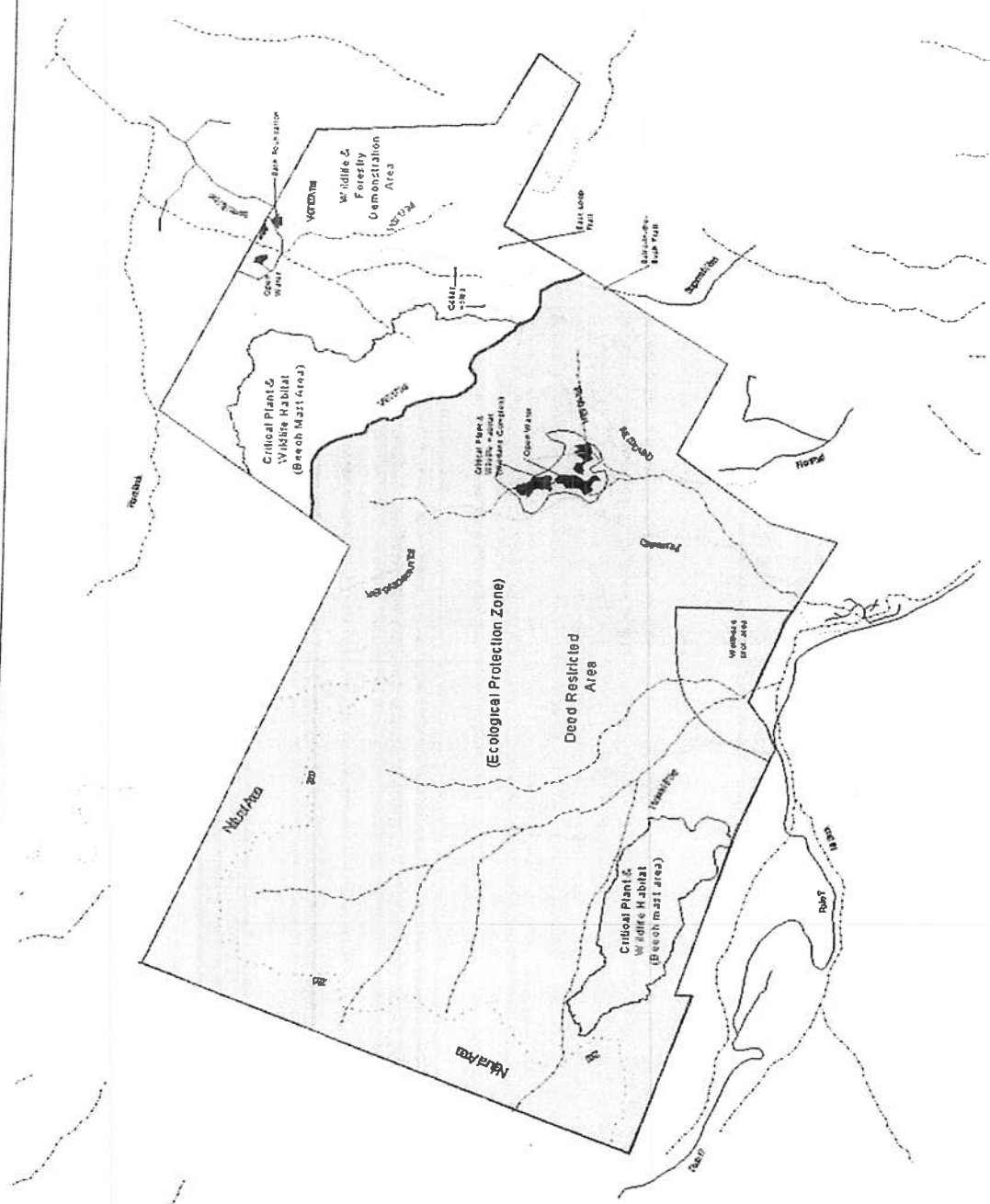
Wildlife Suitability in Fayston
 Data Sources: Vermont Center for Geographic Information, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, Universal Transverse Mercator Projection, NAD83 Datum.
 Map created by Jens Hille 12/2006

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles



Land Classification

- Trails
- EPZ boundary
- Surface Water
- Wellhead Protection Area
- Bear Habitat
- Roads
- Unique or Special Use Area
- Highly Sensitive Area



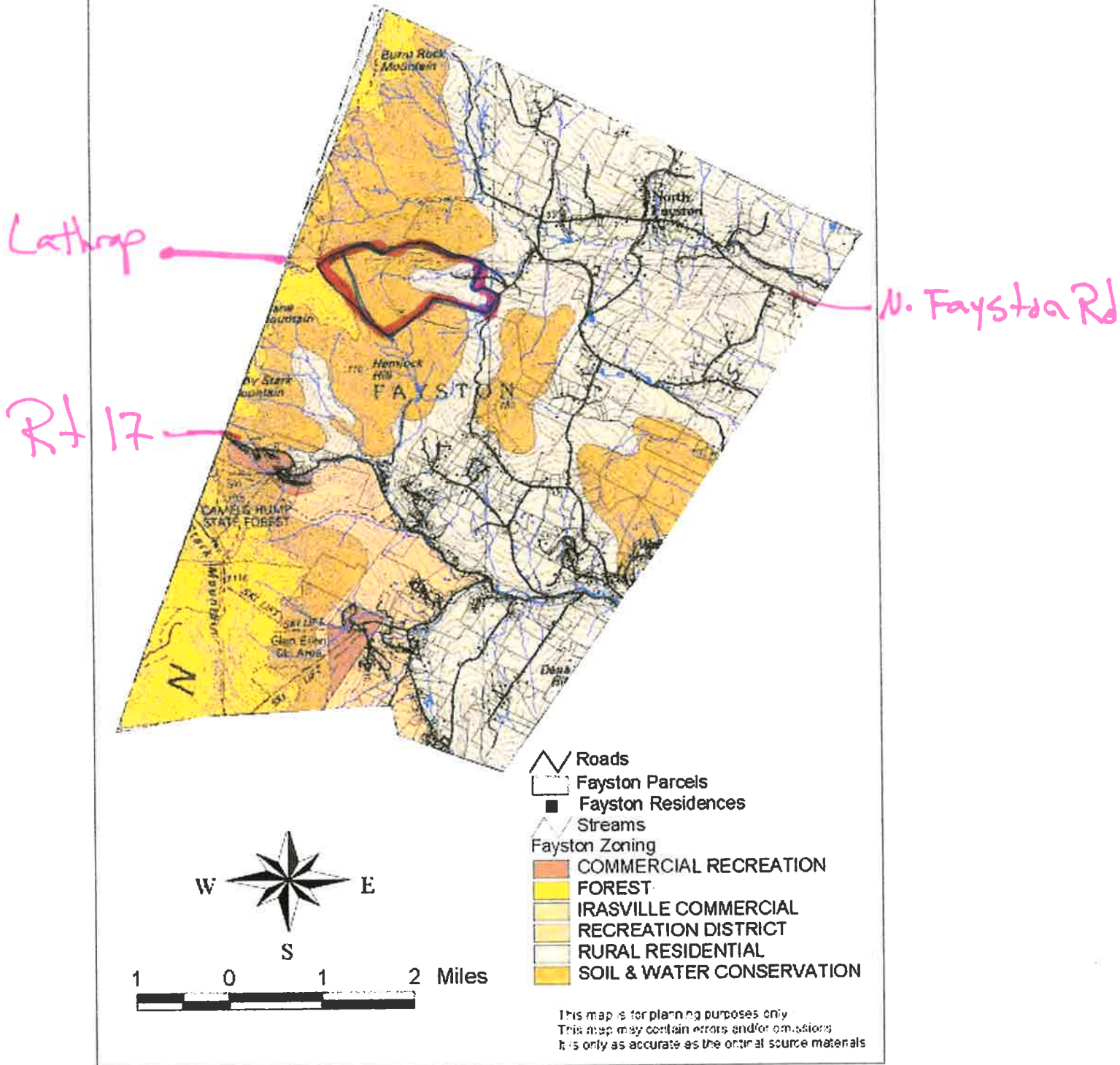
Camel's Hump State Park
Phen Basin Block

State of Vermont
Agency of Natural Resources
Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

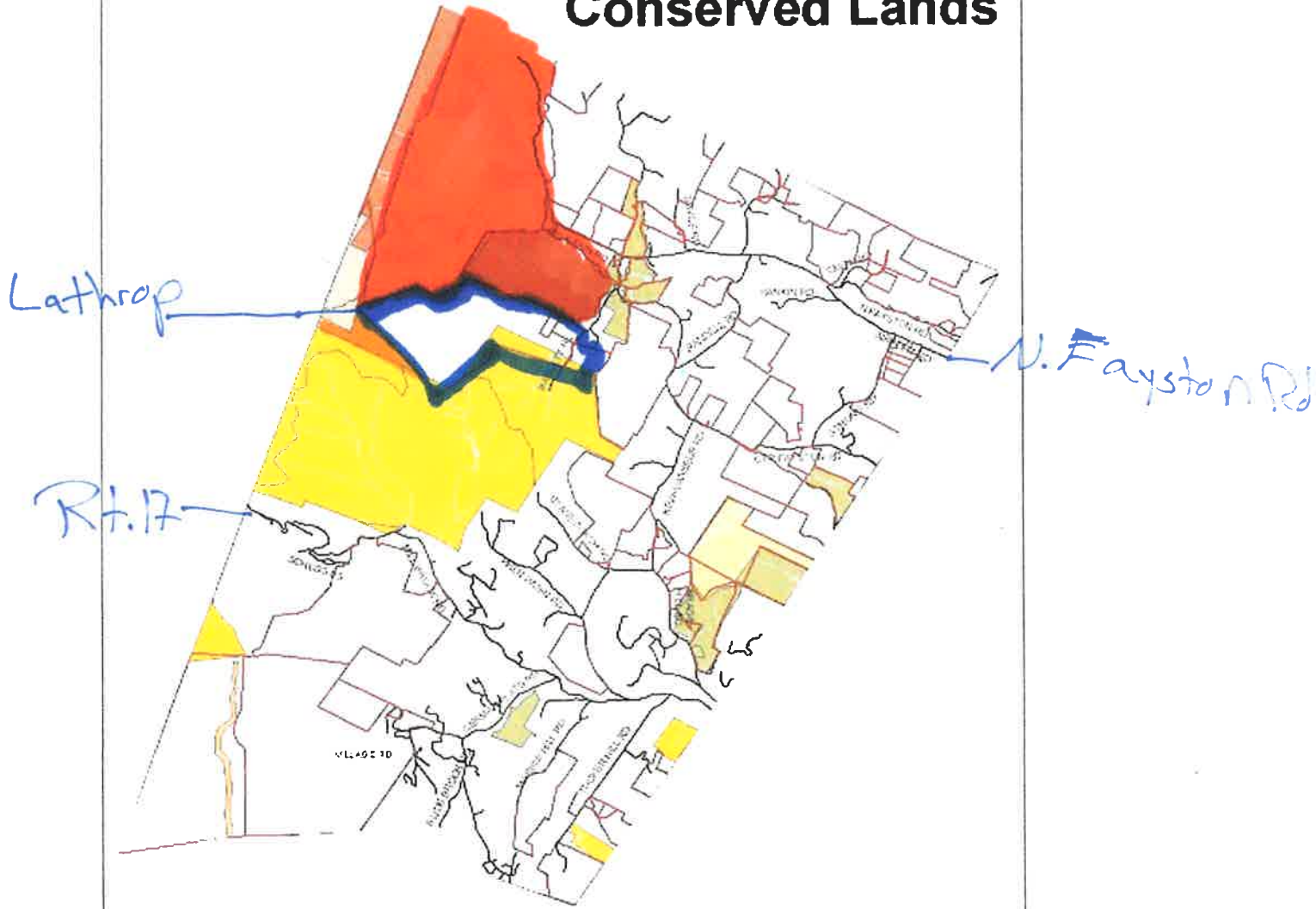


This map is to be used for display or planning purposes only. Data layers are taken from a variety of sources that may have varying degrees of accuracy. Data are not survey quality and are not to be used as a basis for legal decisions.

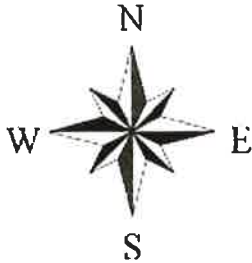
Map 8 Fayston Zoning Districts



Map 7 Conserved Lands



- Roads
- Parcels Enrolled in Current Use
- Streams
- Conservation Easement Boundaries**
- BIG BASIN FOREST
- CAMELS HUMP STATE FOREST
- CAMELS HUMP STATE PARK
- GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB EASEMENT
- HUNTINGTON GAP WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
- VERMONT LAND TRUST
- VERMONT LAND TRUST EASEMENT



This map is for planning purposes only.
This map may contain errors and/or omissions.
It is only as accurate as the original source materials.

**Map 5
Fayston Core Habitat**

