



# In Search of Wilderness

You're on a Quest!

Land classification is how we describe the ways in which land is used – such as agriculture, single-family homes, commercial use, natural resource areas, and so on. By learning about land classification, you will learn how northern New England's natural treasures are protected and preserved.

**Materials needed:**

- Computer with Internet access
- Pen and paper for notes
- Local map showing mountains and foothills

## Investigate with your family!

- Where is your town or city located in relationship to at least one wilderness area?
- What rare animals exist in your state? Where are these rare animals located?

Here is a list of reliable Web sites that will help you research wilderness areas in your state:

### Maine

**Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife**  
<http://www.state.me.us/ifw/index.html>

**Maine Wildlife Management Areas**  
<http://www.state.me.us/ifw/wma/table/index.htm>

### New Hampshire

**New Hampshire Fish and Game Department**  
[\(http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/\)](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/)

**New Hampshire Division of Forest and Lands**  
[http://www.nhdf.org/for\\_mgt\\_bureau/fm\\_dredlands.htm](http://www.nhdf.org/for_mgt_bureau/fm_dredlands.htm)

### Vermont

**Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife**  
[www.anr.state.vt.us/fw/fwhome/index.htm](http://www.anr.state.vt.us/fw/fwhome/index.htm)

**Vermont Wildlife Management Area Maps**  
<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/wmamaps/index.html>

**The Natural Resources Conservation Services** of the U.S. Department of Agriculture provides information to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment – on everything from soils to having a database of all sorts of plants and alternative crops! <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>

## Map it out!

Go through a local map and mark all areas of wilderness that you find. Then answer the following questions:

- Where are wilderness areas in your state? Can you picnic, hike, canoe, or fish in these areas? What about berry picking or hunting?

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## Figure it out!

Go to your local town hall and talk to an individual with the conservation commission or planning board. Ask about land classification and the ways in which land is used in your town and state. Find out:

- Do these areas permit public access for certain types of recreation?

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- What types of wildlife can be found in these areas?

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- Are there tracts of land large enough for species to remain undisturbed throughout their life cycles?

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### Too Many People?

Now consider what your town or region's wilderness area(s) would be like if the population of your town doubled. Would there still be adequate resources for all the wildlife? Would the populations of these species be able to survive?

## Electronic Quest!

Here are some other excellent sources of information about Northern New England's Wilderness areas!

### Outdoor New England

<http://www.outdoornewengland.com/links-dfws.html>

### New England Wildlife Center

<http://www.newwildlife.com/NEWC/>

### National Parks of New England

<http://www.bec.com.au/armiddle/natnpark.htm>

### New England Forestry Foundation

<http://www.newenglandforestry.org/neff/home/index.asp>



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