

Natural Heritage Systems -A Basic Example



Core Area
Mix of Different Habitat Types
Stream, Marsh, Swamp, and Coniferous Forest
Provides Habitat for Many Wildlife Species

Linkage - Cold Water Stream
Provides spawning habitat for fish species,
food for waterfowl, and a safe corridor
for wildlife on the move between habitats

Core Area
Good mix of Habitat Types
Coniferous forest, marsh, swamp, and lake
Good habitat for many species of wildlife, good
connectivity with other core areas

Taken as a whole, this Natural Heritage System example provides many ecosystem services by filtering water through wetland areas, providing opportunities for fishing and hunting, all while providing habitat for many species of wildlife, both rare and common.

If this system were allowed to be fragmented excessively, many of these benefits may be diminished or disappear entirely. This is the heart of the Natural Heritage System concept.

