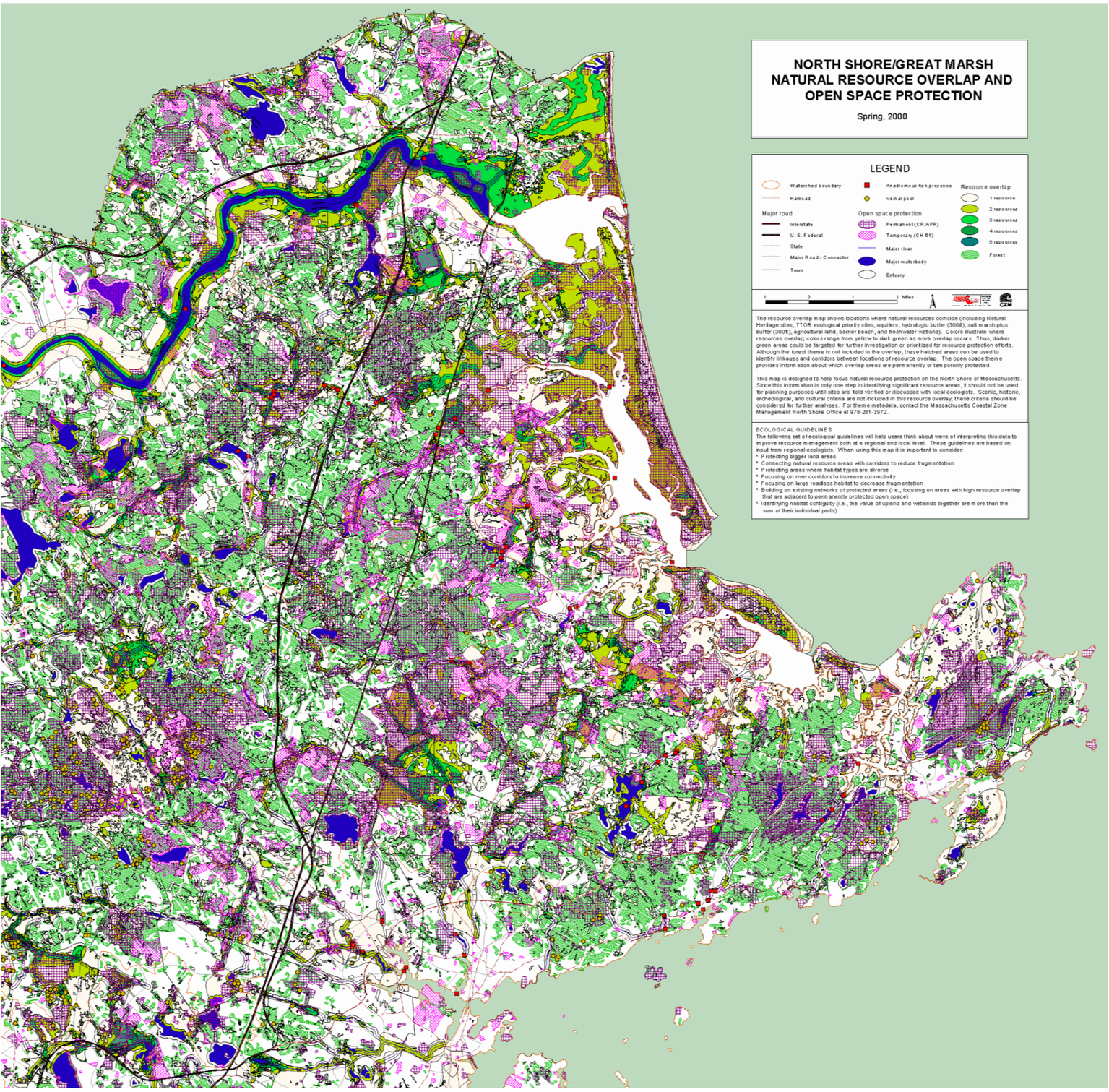

NORTH SHORE/GREAT MARSH NATURAL RESOURCE OVERLAP AND OPEN SPACE PROTECTION

Spring, 2000

LEGEND

- Watershed boundary
- Railroad
- Anadromous fish presence
- Vernal pool

Major road
- Interstate
- U. S. Federal
- State
- Major Road - Connector
- Town

Open space protection
- Permanent (CR/APR)
- Temporary (CH 61)
- Major river
- Major waterbody
- Estuary

Resource overlap
- 1 resource
- 2 resources
- 3 resources
- 4 resources
- 5 resources
- Forest

1 0 1 2 Miles

The resource overlap map shows locations where natural resources coincide (including Natural Heritage sites, TTOR ecological priority sites, aquifers, hydrologic buffer (300ft), salt marsh plus buffer (300ft), agricultural land, barrier beach, and freshwater wetland). Colors illustrate where resources overlap; colors range from yellow to dark green as more overlap occurs. Thus, darker green areas could be targeted for further investigation or prioritized for resource protection efforts. Although the forest theme is not included in the overlap, these hatched areas can be used to identify linkages and corridors between locations of resource overlap. The open space theme provides information about which overlap areas are permanently or temporarily protected.

This map is designed to help focus natural resource protection on the North Shore of Massachusetts. Since this information is only one step in identifying significant resource areas, it should not be used for planning purposes until sites are field verified or discussed with local ecologists. Scenic, historic, archeological, and cultural criteria are not included in this resource overlay; these criteria should be considered for further analyses. For theme metadata, contact the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management North Shore Office at 978-281-3972.

ECOLOGICAL GUIDELINES

The following set of ecological guidelines will help users think about ways of interpreting this data to improve resource management both at a regional and local level. These guidelines are based on input from regional ecologists. When using this map it is important to consider:

* Protecting bigger land areas
* Connecting natural resource areas with corridors to reduce fragmentation
* Protecting areas where habitat types are diverse
* Focusing on river corridors to increase connectivity
* Focusing on large roadless habitat to decrease fragmentation
* Building on existing networks of protected areas (i.e., focusing on areas with high resource overlap that are adjacent to permanently protected open space)
* Identifying habitat contiguity (i.e., the value of upland and wetlands together are more than the sum of their individual parts)