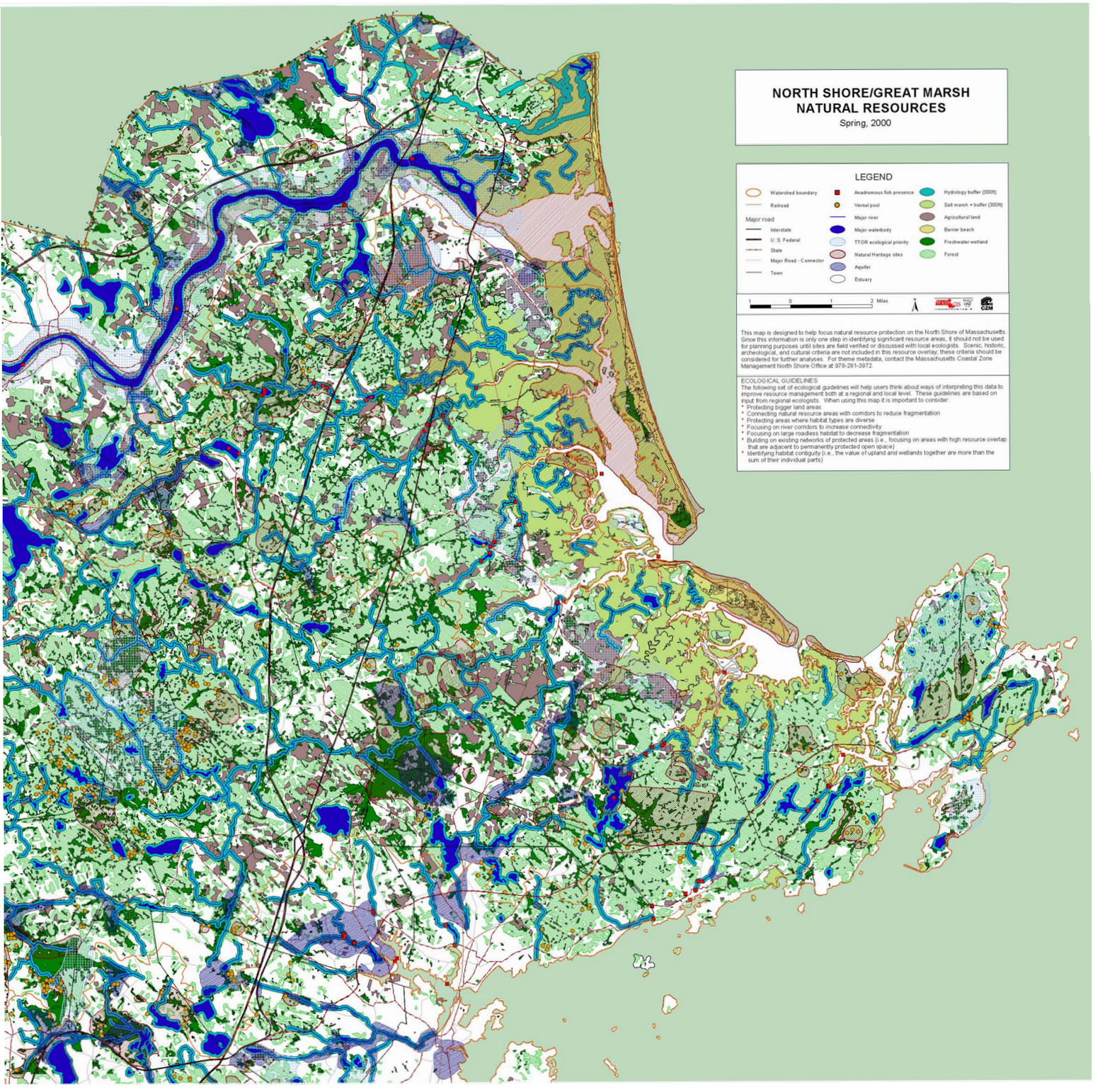

This map is designed to help focus natural resource protection on the North Shore of Massachusetts. Since this information is only one step in identifying significant resource areas, it should not be used for planning purposes until sites are field verified or discussed with local ecologists. Scenic, 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)