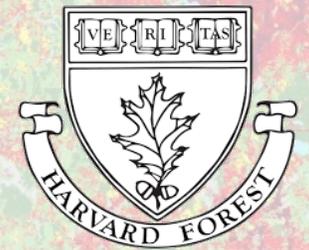


New England Landscape Futures Explorer



Lucy Lee
Harvard Forest



What is NELF Explorer?

- NELF Explorer is an online **mapping tool** that uses **scenarios of the future** to help us think more expansively and act strategically on land-use issues.
- The tool shows maps of a business-as-usual scenario, which we call **Recent Trends**, and **4 alternatives** that were **created by New Englanders** through a series of workshops and webinars.
- You can **visualize** each scenarios' land use over space and time through the year **2060**, and **explore** the **implications** of each possible future for **ecosystem services**.
- **Access NELF Explorer here: <https://newenglandlandscapes.org>**
 - Don't use Internet Explorer as your web browser!

This document aims to provide a general overview on the NELF scenarios and Explorer and point to additional resources. Stay safe and be well!

Review NELF Explorer! We'd love to hear your thoughts: <http://bit.ly/NELFsurvey>

Resources

- The **NELF Help website** has an **FAQ**, **how-to videos**, and more!
 - <https://help.newenglandlandscapes.org>
 - Or, access the help website from within NELF Explorer by clicking the  button in top right corner of the Explorer
- *Voices from the Land* contains background information on the NELF project, quotes from workshop participants, and descriptions and illustrations of the scenarios.
- **To get started using NELF Explorer, I recommend viewing our how-to videos**
Click links below to open them in YouTube, or view them [on the help website](#)
 - [Intro to NELF Explorer](#)
 - [Adding context to maps](#)
 - [Analyzing and graphing Recent Trends](#)

How can I use NELF Explorer?

This would have been the bulk of the NELF Explorer workshop! Since I don't have slides prepared, I will provide a list here.

- **Understand recent trends** in your area and the implications of their continuation
 - Set both sides of NELF Explorer to show Recent Trends, with the left year set to 2010 and the right year set to some future decade interesting to you!
- **Augment conservation plans** by visualizing areas vulnerable to development in coming decades
- **Fundraise** with donors
- **Show evidence of need** by including information from Recent Trends in grant proposals
 - See the [video on analyzing and graphing recent trends](#) for help with this!
- **Demonstrate the need for long-term planning** by showing how small changes add up over time
- **Use as a visual aid in conversations** about the need for proactive conservation to shape future development, the uncertainties facing our region due to climate change, and other topics related to the future of the land

The NELF Scenarios

Storylines & other things to know - to help contextualize what you are looking at in NELF Explorer!

The NELF Scenarios

Recent Trends based on linear continuation of land-use patterns within CBSAs 1990-2010

Other scenarios deviate from recent trends based on stakeholder ideas

Pure land use modeling, no econometric or population modeling

Conserved forest can be working forest

Climate change exists in all scenarios

Impacts and government response varies

Value neutral – no scenario is intended to be “good” or “bad”

Randomness is inherent in the modeling – not intended to be used at parcel level

None of the scenarios is a prediction, though they are all plausible

The NELF Scenarios

Compared to Recent Trends



🏠	↓	75%
🍏	↑	150%
🚶	↑	25%
🌲	=	0%



The NELF Scenarios

Compared to Recent Trends



The NELF Scenarios

Compared to Recent Trends

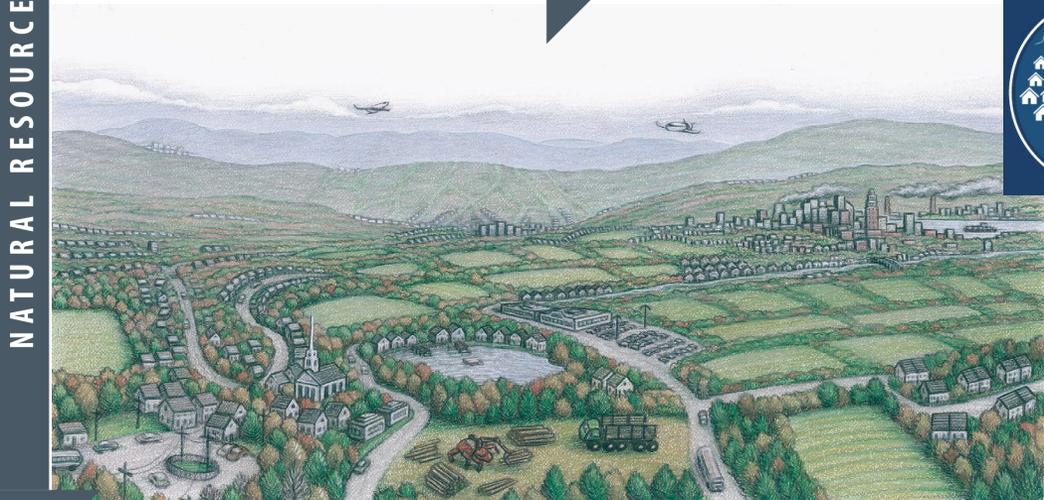
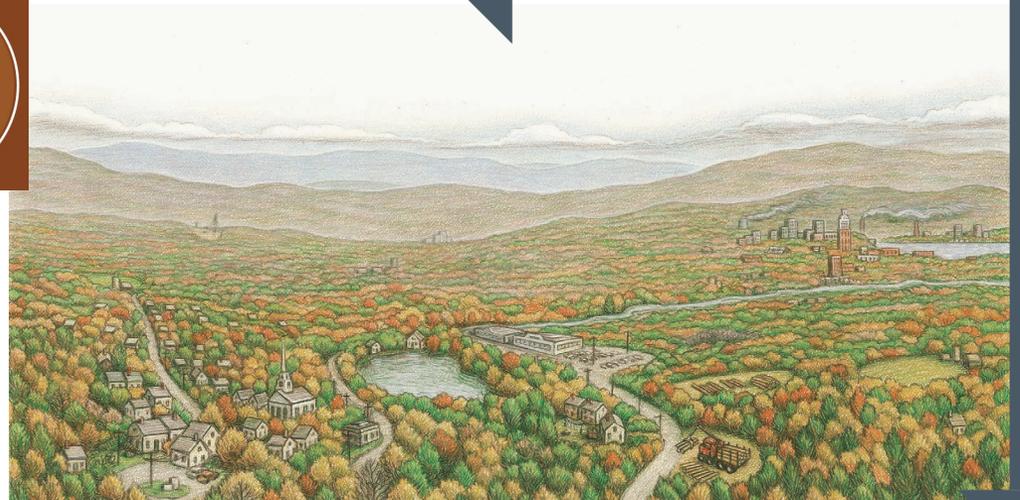


The NELF Scenarios

Compared to Recent Trends



The NELF Scenarios



HIGH

PLANNING & INNOVATION

LOCAL

SOCIO-ECONOMIC

CONNECTEDNESS

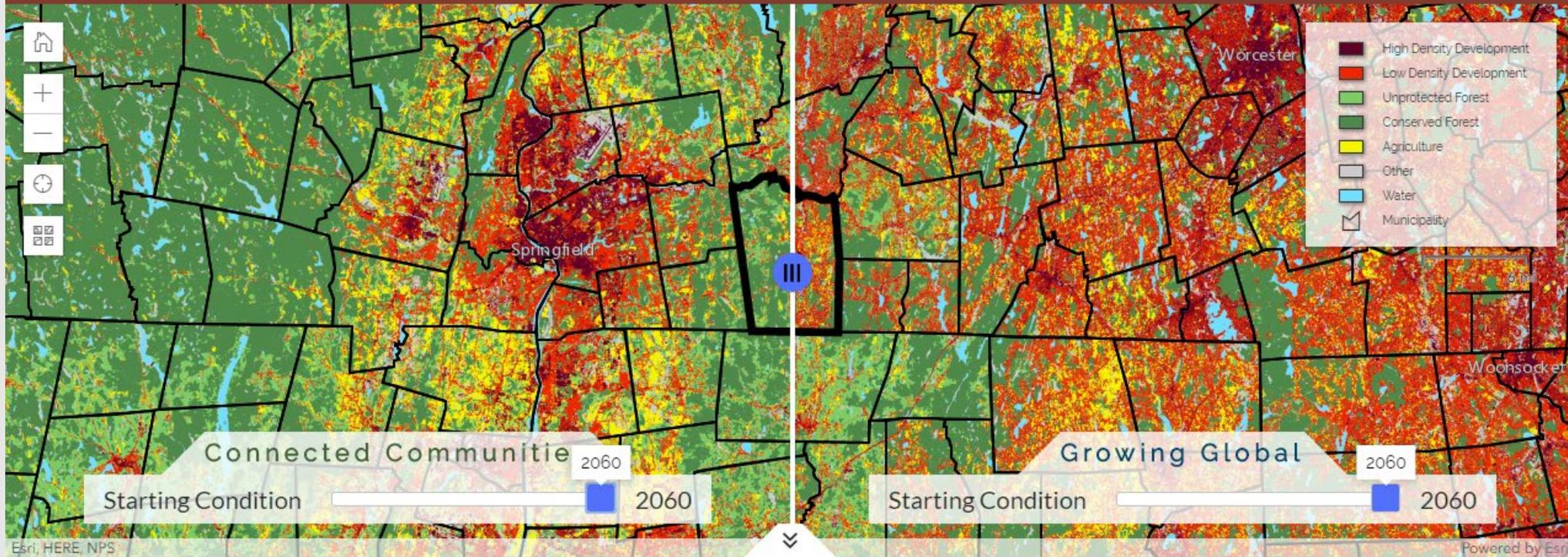
GLOBAL

NATURAL RESOURCE

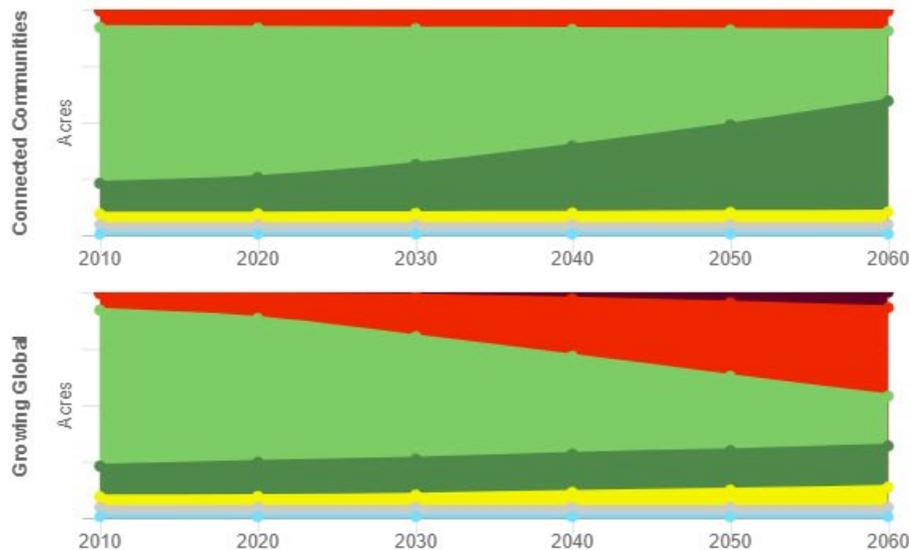
LOW

The NELF Explorer

Overview - first slide shows the whole interface, and subsequent slides break down each component.



Land uses over time for Monson



Impacts on within Monson

Conserved forest land decreases

Connected Communities: 6,171 acres | Growing Global: 802 acres
 By 2060 in Monson, conserved forest land in wildlife habitats **decreases** in the Growing Global scenario compared to the Connected Communities scenario.

Developed land increases

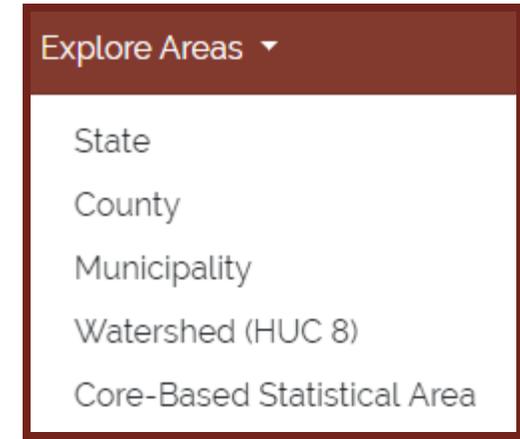
Connected Communities: 250 acres | Growing Global: 5,088 acres
 By 2060 in Monson, developed land in wildlife habitats **increases** in the Growing Global scenario compared to the Connected Communities scenario.

About Wildlife Habitats:

Important habitat for wildlife is defined as the areas identified by each state in their State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). SWAPs identify priority species and habitats for conservation, tailored to each state's needs while being consistent with national goals.

Components of the NELF Explorer

Multiple spatial scales of analysis



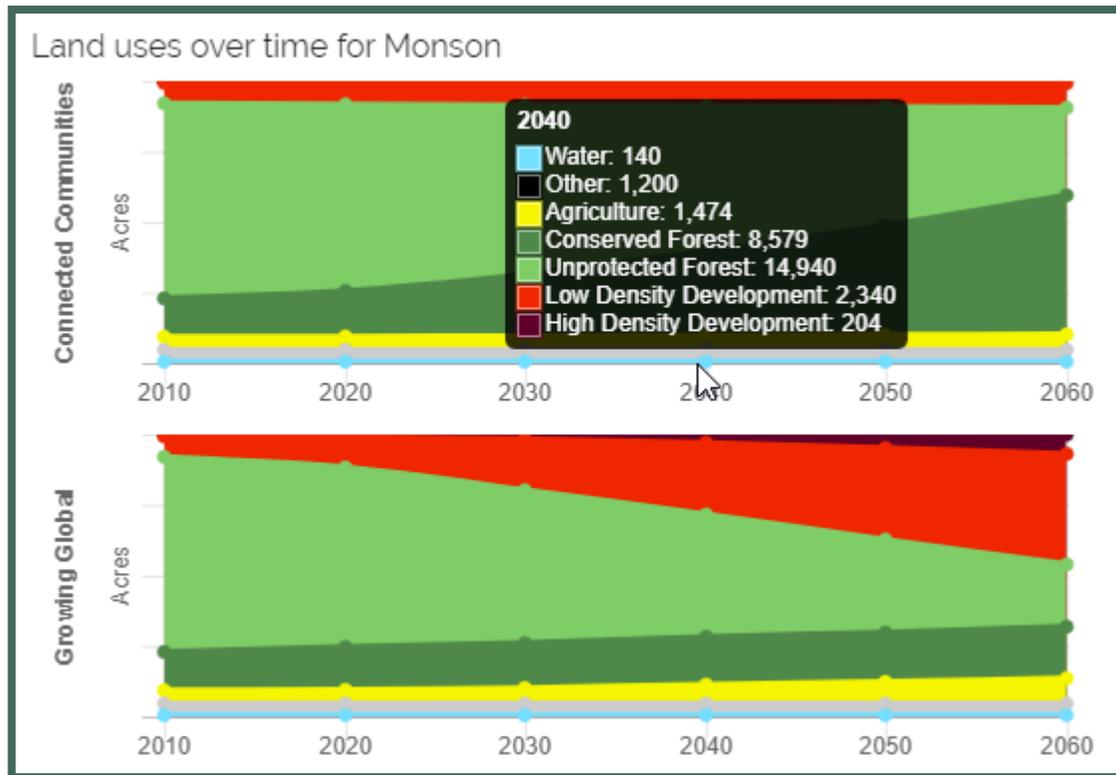
Components of the NELF Explorer

Multiple spatial scales of analysis

Land use through 2060 with land use acreages every decade

Explore Areas ▾

- State
- County
- Municipality**
- Watershed (HUC 8)
- Core-Based Statistical Area

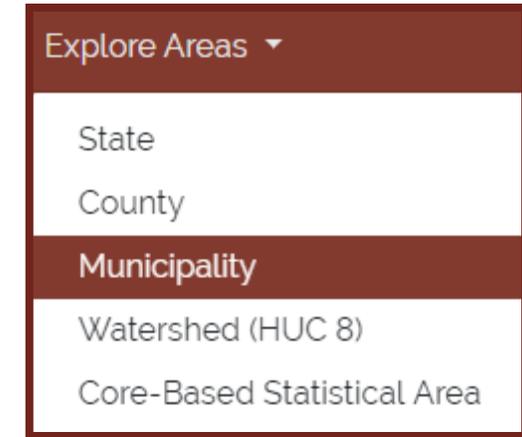


Components of the NELF Explorer

Multiple spatial scales of analysis

Land use through 2060 with land use acreages every decade

Impacts of land use on valuable land types



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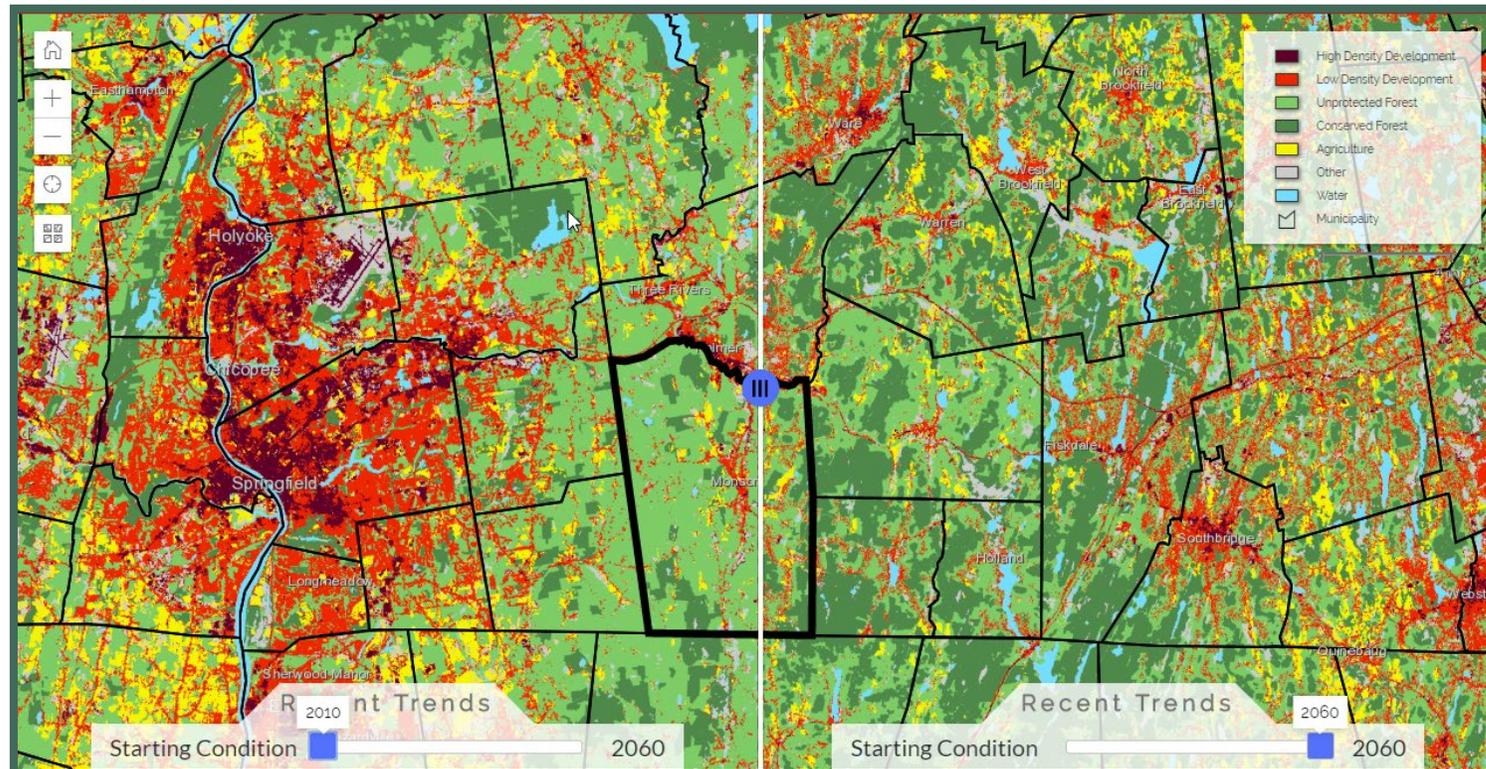
Impacts of land use on valuable land types

Land use maps 2010-2060 at each decade

Recent Trends or “business as usual”

Explore Areas ▾

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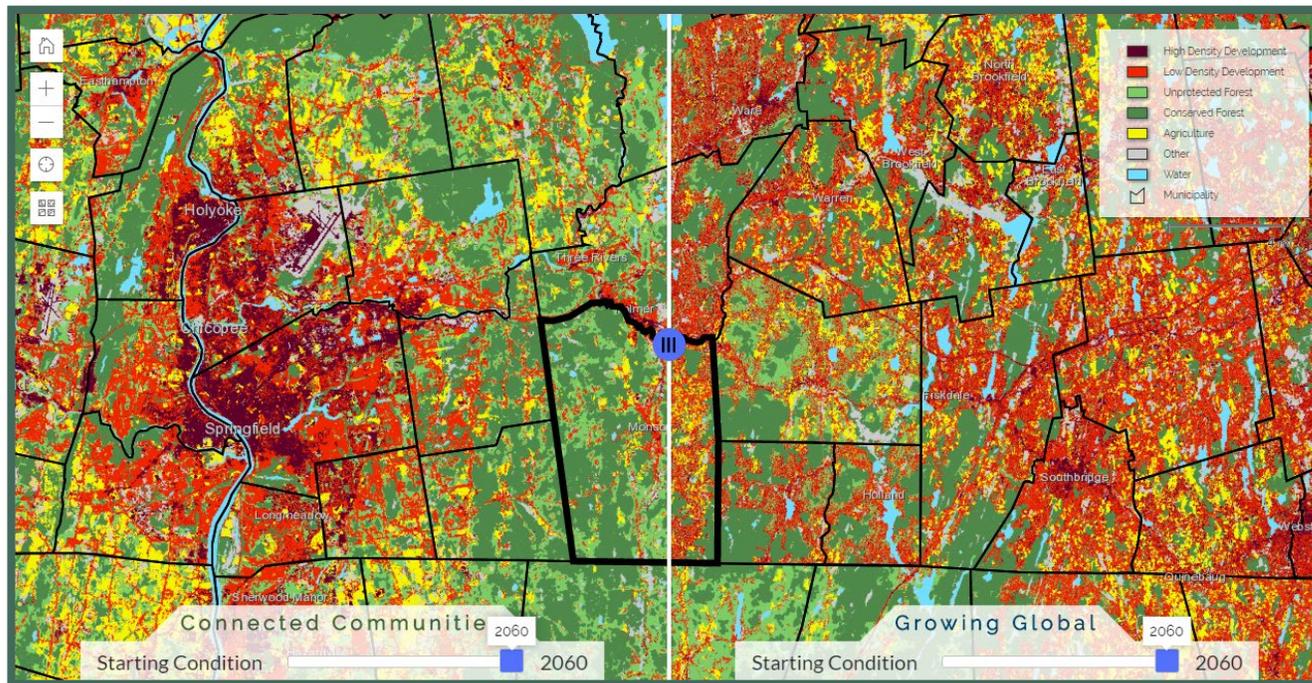
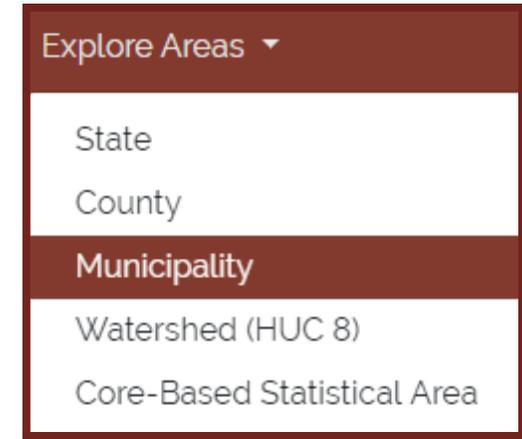
Land use through 2060 with land use acreages every decade

Impacts of land use on valuable land types

Land use maps 2010-2060 at each decade

Recent Trends or “business as usual”

Alternative scenarios defined by stakeholders



[Click here for introductory video on how to navigate and interpret the NELF Explorer](#)

newenglandlandscapes.org

Contact Us!

We are available to answer questions and to facilitate workshops to help you use NELF Explorer to meet your landscape planning needs:

Lucy – lucylee@fas.harvard.edu

Marissa - marissaweiss@fas.harvard.edu

Additional NELF Help Resources:

FAQ and video tutorials: <https://help.newenglandlandscapes.org/>

Report a bug: <http://bit.ly/NELFissues>

Review NELF: <http://bit.ly/NELFsurvey>

