

## APPENDIX E

### AGENCY and PROGRAM ROLES and RESPONSIBILITIES

A number of federal and state agencies, municipalities, counties, regional planning commissions and private organizations are involved in outdoor recreation and conservation in New Hampshire. This appendix provides a description of many of these key players, including a discussion of current programs and activities<sup>1</sup>. Cooperation and coordination between these groups is paramount to a successful implementation of the SCORP. A list of all agencies and organizations is provided at the end of this section on page 38-E).

#### FEDERAL

##### US Department of the Interior

Created with a cabinet position in 1849, this Department is custodian of over 500 million acres of land nationwide including over 10,600 acres in New Hampshire owned by the National Park Service (NPS) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. It is responsible for many of the nation's conservation, recreation, and reclamation activities.

##### National Park Service

Created in 1916 to promote the use of national parks, monuments, and reservations, the National Park Service (NPS) manages over 80 million acres of such property. The majority of this property is located “out west” with many smaller properties located in the East and New England. Properties in New Hampshire include the St. Gaudens National Historic Site, a 150-acre estate in Cornish, and selected properties along the Appalachian Trail corridor.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is administered by the NPS. LWCF funding may be used to acquire lands and waters (fee simple or partial interests) and develop and rehabilitate public outdoor recreation facilities. The Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986 amended the LWCF Act by specifically authorizing wetlands acquisition. Under the requirements of this Act, the SCORP must specifically address wetlands as an important outdoor recreation resource. The wetlands component of New Hampshire's SCORP is the New Hampshire Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan dated 1989. An update to this document is provided in Appendix F.

##### Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR)

The Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program, Title X of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, provides competitive grants to economically depressed communities specifically for planning studies, the rehabilitation of facilities and areas,

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<sup>1</sup> A hyperlink to the organization is provided if viewing this as a \*.pdf file.

and innovative projects. Manchester is the only New Hampshire community meeting the criteria for eligibility.

### **National Natural Landmarks Program**

Also administered by the NPS, the National Natural Landmarks Program was established in 1962. It is the only natural areas program of national scope to identify and recognize the best examples of both biological and geological features. Land under any form of ownership may become a National Natural Landmark. An area's significance is determined by regional inventories and comparative analyses. Once identified, sites are listed in the National Registry of Natural Landmarks. Designation and listing do not affect ownership, nor do they afford permanent protection. Landowners, however, may enter into voluntary agreements with the NPS to protect their landmarks. As of 2007, there are 11 sites located in New Hampshire. Examples include Mount Monadnock Nancy Brook Virgin Spruce Forest and Scenic Area, Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge, and Rhododendron Natural Area.

### **Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance**

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program of the National Park Service provides technical assistance to community groups and organizations who are working on river, trail, or land conservation projects. Support may also involve assistance with organizational development issues. Projects are selected annually in September, and Park Service staff typically work with a project for one to three years. New Hampshire projects include a land purchase and trail development project through downtown Farmington spearheaded by Moose Mountains Regional Greenways, a trail along the Winnepesaukee River coordinated by Winnepesaukee River Trail, Inc., a multi-state Northern Forest canoe trail, help to Bear Paw Regional Greenways for membership development, and a land acquisition project in Concord with the Conservation Commission as applicant. Through a cooperative agreement with Trout Unlimited, the NPS also supports river restoration and stream habitat enhancement projects. Examples include a restoration project on the Piscataquog River spearheaded by the Piscataquog Watershed Association and St. Anselm College and a project on Black Brook in Manchester initiated by the NH Department of Environmental Services.

### **Historic Preservation**

The National Historic Preservation Program has its roots in legislation dating back to the Antiquities Act of 1906, which provides protection for prehistoric and historic sites on federal lands. In 1966, protection was expanded to include properties of state and local significance on public and private lands. A program of matching grants-in-aid for state preservation activities was created, together with the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Register of Historic Places. The Register is a national listing of important districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that have integrity and are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. New Hampshire has 603 listings on the National Register of Historic Places. To receive federal funding for the federal preservation program, each state is required to develop a planning program to guide, prioritize, and energize preservation activities. The

NH Division of Historical Resources completed a State Historic Preservation Plan in 2006.

Properties listed on the National Register may be eligible for federal grants-in-aid, federal tax benefits, and must be taken into account if they may be affected by federally funded, licensed, or assisted undertakings. The National Historic Landmarks program recognizes historic sites of nationwide significance. Upon the owner's agreement to adhere to accepted preservation standards, landmark designation is recognized by the award of a bronze plaque and a certificate.

### **Wild and Scenic Rivers Program**

The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, established by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, is a federal mechanism for recognizing and protecting free-flowing rivers which support one or more outstanding natural, cultural, or recreational resources. Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act designation provides a number of protection measures. Federal agencies are prevented from taking (or assisting) with actions which would have a "direct and adverse" impact upon the river. For example, hydroelectric dams and diversions are specifically prohibited. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (P.L. 90-542 as amended) also authorizes federal studies of potential wild and scenic rivers. At present, there are two federally designated Wild and Scenic Rivers in New Hampshire- 14.5 miles of the Wildcat River in Jackson and 23.5 miles of the Lamprey River.

### **National Trails System**

In 1968, the National Trails System Act was enacted by Congress. The purpose of the Act was to promote the development of trails in both urban and rural settings for persons of all ages, diverse interests, skills, and physical abilities. The program embraces bicycling, hiking, off-road motorized, and waterway interests.

In 1968, Congress recognized that preserving the Appalachian Trail as a continuous hiking path would be impossible without public ownership of the right-of-way. The National Trails System Act designated the Appalachian Trail as a National Scenic Trail and authorized a federal acquisition program to protect it. In 1978, impatient with federal protection efforts, Congress amended the Act which increased funding for Appalachian Trail acquisition and established a three-year deadline to substantially complete the protection program. The NPS has been the lead governmental agency assigned with the responsibility of protecting the Trail through its acquisition activities. The 142.8 mile segment of Trail in New Hampshire extends through the rugged Mahoosuc Range at the Maine Border, climbs across the Presidential Range to Franconia Notch and Kinsman Notch, and descends at Hanover to cross the Connecticut River into Vermont.

### **US Fish and Wildlife Service**

The US Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing the nation's fish and wildlife populations. Major responsibilities are migratory birds and anadromous fish, endangered species, and certain marine animals. The focus of the US Fish and Wildlife Service is research, resource management, and public education. The Service also manages the National Wildlife

Refuge System, the world's largest collection of lands set aside specifically for the protection of fish and wildlife populations.

The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to provide, preserve, restore, and manage a national network of lands and waters of sufficient size, diversity, and location to meet society's needs for areas where the widest possible spectrum of benefits associated with wildlife is enhanced and made available. While the primary purpose of the national wildlife refuge system is conservation and enhancement of fish, wildlife, and their habitat, most provide for some public outdoor recreational use. The six main uses generally allowed include hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, environmental interpretation and environmental education.

New Hampshire has several National Wildlife Refuges; the Wapack National Wildlife Refuge in the towns of Lyndeborough, Temple, and Greenfield, the Hay National Wildlife Refuge in Newbury, the Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Newington, the Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge in Errol, and the multi-state, Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in the Connecticut River Valley. The Service also operates the Nashua National Fish Hatchery for Atlantic salmon production as part of the Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service also administers two dedicated funds of importance to New Hampshire, the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937 and the Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act of 1950. The Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937, better known as the Pittman-Robertson Act, serves as the principal mechanism for providing assistance to states for acquisition, restoration, and maintenance of wildlife habitat and research. The fund is comprised of revenues generated from federal excise taxes on the sale of firearms, shells, and cartridges. The Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act of 1950, more commonly known as the Dingell-Johnson Act, essentially parallels the Pittman-Robertson Act except that it provides federal assistance to states for acquisition of habitat associated with fish restoration and management programs. Funds derived from the federal excise tax on fishing equipment and bait are annually apportioned among the states. The Wallup-Breaux Act was created as an expansion of the Dingell-Johnson Act. Funds for this Act come from an expansion of taxes on fishing related equipment, such as tackle boxes and electric motors, plus a new tax on imported boats. These funds are allocated to states and can be used for aquatic education, boating access, and sport fish habitat restoration. In New Hampshire, the NH Fish and Game Department administer Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson funds.

### **US Department of Agriculture**

The US Department of Agriculture, created in 1862, is charged with a broad range of responsibilities pertaining to agriculture and forestry. In New Hampshire, the recreation and conservation interests of USDA are represented by the Forest Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Cooperative Extension. The Secretary of Agriculture shares responsibility for implementing the Wilderness Act of 1964 with the Secretary of Interior. The Wilderness Act required the US Forest Service to study primitive areas existing at the time the Act was passed for their suitability for wilderness

designation. The Act also initiated a nationwide review of all federal lands for potential wilderness designation. In New Hampshire the only lands to be designated as Wilderness areas are in the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF).

### **White Mountain National Forest –US Forest Service**

The US Forest Service is an agency within the Department of Agriculture. In New Hampshire it is responsible for the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF), which covers over 780,000 acres of land. The majority of this land is in New Hampshire but about 50,000 acres lies in Maine. The Forest Service maintains three district offices. Although primarily administrative centers they are also open to the public for visitor information.

The White Mountain National Forest is managed under a Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, or Forest Plan. The current Plan was completed in 2006. The Forest is managed for multiple uses in providing a range of goods and services to the public. The Forest workforce includes permanent employees, summer seasonal employees, enrollees of the Senior Community Service Employment Program, and a large number of volunteers and partners that provide services in a variety of management activities including recreation, timber, wildlife and fisheries, archeology, and research. This report for the New Hampshire Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) focuses on the recreation programs of the Forest.

The White Mountain National Forest hosts more than 6 million visitors a year and offers a wide range of recreation opportunities, from Wilderness and backpacking to roadside camping and downhill skiing at winter resorts. The Forest also includes opportunities for snowmobiling, hunting, fishing, cross country skiing, and pleasure driving.

There are five congressionally designated Wildernesses within the Forest. These include the Great Gulf Wilderness, the Presidential-Dry River Wilderness, the Pemigewasset Wilderness, the Sandwich Range Wilderness in New Hampshire, and another, the Caribou-Speckled Wilderness in Maine. The WMNF is charged with managing these areas, totaling 112,000 acres as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The WMNF manages over 1,200 miles of hiking trails. Overnight backcountry camping occurs throughout the Forest, but most often it is linked to trails. There are several kinds of overnight backcountry camping sites. Constructed backcountry facilities include huts, cabins, shelters, and tent platforms. There are also identified campsites, which do not have constructed facilities. Constructed backcountry facilities are maintained and operated both by the Forest and by a variety of partners under special use permit authority. WMNF provides 20 scenic overlooks, 22 campgrounds, 13 picnic areas, and over 60 huts, tent sites, shelters, and backcountry cabins. With the exception of those sections of the Appalachian Trail on State lands the Forest, coordinating with the Appalachian Trail Conference and local maintaining clubs (Dartmouth Outing Club and Appalachian Mountain Club) has management responsibility for the Appalachian Trail in New Hampshire.

The entire Forest is open to cross country skiing and snowshoe use. The Forest manages about 150 miles of Forest trails specifically for cross-country use. There are four cross-country permit areas on the Forest managed under special use permit (Jackson Ski Touring Foundation, Bretton Woods, Waterville Valley and Loon Mtn.). These areas provide 500 miles of highly groomed and maintained cross-country ski trails on a mix of National Forest and private lands.

With some exceptions (The Appalachian Trail and Wilderness) the Forest is open to mountain biking, a sport that is increasing in popularity. Although the Forest trail system allows mountain bike use there are few trails specifically designed for this use.

One of the more distinctive recreation opportunities in the WMNF is the Winter/Spring activity at Tuckerman and Huntington Ravines. Tuckerman Ravine, on the southeast shoulder of Mt. Washington is famous for its spectacular scenery, deep snow, and challenging hiking and skiing terrain. This large, glacial cirque, with its bowl-like form, collects snow blowing off of the Presidential Range. Snow averages about 55 feet in the deepest spot, providing a unique skiing opportunity late in the year when many parts of the eastern United States are without snow. Huntington Ravine has long been a major destination of ice climbers in the Northeastern United States. It offers long, alpine snow and ice climbs with relatively easy access. Both Tuckerman and Huntington Ravines often serve as a training ground for climbers preparing to attempt the world's highest and coldest mountain ranges.

Rock and ice climbing on the Forest has been a historic activity, but only recently has it grown rapidly. Although rock climbing enjoys the greatest popularity, ice climbing has also grown dramatically – especially in the 1990's – as technology has improved the tools and equipment of this sport. One measure of that popularity is the change in listing of climbs in the rock climbing guidebooks. As an example, comparing the 1987 edition of Ed Webster's *Rock Climbs in the White Mountains of New Hampshire* against the 1998 (east volume) edition for sites on National Forest land shows a 46 percent increase in sites in the Kancamagus area, a 200 percent increase in the Bartlett area, and a 100 percent increase in sites at the Jackson area.

Snowmobiling is one of the most popular winter outdoor recreation activities in New Hampshire and Maine. These states boast some of the longest snowmobile trails in the northeast. All White Mountain National Forest snowmobile trails are groomed and maintained through partnerships with the states and local clubs. Often trail construction efforts are financed by the states as well. State money for this activity usually comes from snowmobile registrations and gas taxes. The WMNF provides only a small part of the total miles of snowmobile trails in New Hampshire but the Forest location in the central part of the state and spanning almost the whole state east to west makes it an important part of the statewide snowmobile trails system. There are about 320 miles of snowmobile trails in the New Hampshire portion of the Forest. About 20 percent of these are corridor trails.

The Forest provides no summer-motorized trail opportunities.

Much of the Forest does not have roads but where there is a road system open to the public it provides an opportunity for pleasure driving in very scenic forested mountains. The White Mountain Trail, a 100-mile scenic route, is a National Scenic Byway.

The Forest manages 20 family campgrounds and 3 group campgrounds ranging in size from 7 sites to 176 sites. With one exception these are operated by concessionaire permit. The campgrounds receive about 270,000 visits a year. There are a large variety of day use areas, picnic areas, overlooks, information stops, etc. throughout the Forest. The Forest Service also partners with others in providing information to visitors. The Pinkham Notch Visitors Center, which is owned and operated by the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) under a Forest Special Use permit and the Gateway Visitor Center in Lincoln in partnership with White Mountain attractions.

There are four alpine ski areas on the Forest under special use permit including Loon Mountain, Attitash, Wildcat, and Waterville Valley. These areas occupy a portion of National Forest land with their operations. Total alpine skiing use for permitted areas averages about 900,000 visits annually.

The WMNF follows requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to allow greater ease and efficiency of facilities for all visitors. Many sites have been upgraded to make sure they meet ADA requirements. For example, the South Pond trail in the Androscoggin area was reconstructed to significantly improve access when AMC received Forest authority to rebuild the Galehead Hut to meet ADA requirements.

The WMNF has an active land acquisition program and continues to acquire lands within the Forest. Trailhead acquisition to guarantee public access to National Forest lands is a key role of the acquisition program. Organizations, such as the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, the Appalachian Mountain Club, Trust for Public Lands, and The Nature Conservancy have played a key role in facilitating these land additions.

In October 1988, Congress passed legislation designating segments of the Wildcat River and its tributaries as components of the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers system. The WMNF has the task of monitoring activity to assure the values for which the river was designated are protected. The WMNF has been involved on an ongoing basis with water quality monitoring and fish habitat inventories along the river.

Since 1996, the WMNF has participated in what is now the Recreation Enhancement Act, which establishes a standard collection of amenities visitors expect in recreation fee sites. This user-pays program charges visitors a small fee for day/weekly use, or offers frequent visitors an annual pass. A decade of collecting fees has generated \$5.4 million. Forest managers use fee money to provide services and maintain recreation sites.

Overall, the White Mountain National Forest provides a wide range of recreation opportunities to visitors from throughout the United States and Canada.

### *Natural Resources Conservation Service*

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) helps individuals, groups, organizations, cities and towns, and county and state governments make decisions to conserve, improve, and sustain natural resources and the environment. The NRCS also assists with the development of conservation plans by working with the county conservation districts. Some of NRCS's stated goals are to assist land users and communities in conservation land use planning; enhance water quality by reducing non-point sources of pollution; inventory and interpret soils and other natural resources; protect the natural resource base for sustained agriculture; provide watershed and water resources planning; restore and protect wetlands and other natural ecosystems; and use advanced delivery technologies for resource planning.

### *Cooperative Extension*

The University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension provides New Hampshire citizens with research-based education and information, enhancing their ability to make informed decisions that strengthen youth, families and communities, sustain natural resources, and improve the economy.

As a University outreach program, Extension has a network of professional staff located in all 10 New Hampshire counties. Staff members work with local volunteers and specialists on the UNH campus to design and conduct educational programs that meet societal, environmental and economic needs. While many programs are conducted locally, Extension also uses current communications technology including computer networking and interactive television. As part of the national land-grant university system, Extension also accesses the knowledge and expertise of other state land-grant universities throughout the US.

Funding for Cooperative Extension comes from a combination of local, state and federal tax dollars. This "cooperative" effort ensures all people have local access to the knowledge and resources available through the University of New Hampshire in order to address current needs and problems. Below are several of Cooperative Extension's recreation-related programs:

- **Recreational Turf Assistance for Communities.** The primary goal of this program is to help communities utilize 'best management practices' which produce healthy, dense turf using the least amount of fertilizers and pesticides, and to maximize economic viability and production capability. This program has a strong and diverse stakeholder base. Target audiences include municipal grounds, sports fields, homeowners, highway roadsides, and institutional grounds.
- **Community Planning Assistance.** This program helps communities to identify needs, identify emerging trends, prioritize agendas and develop action plans around the following community issues: recreation, tourism, land use, Master Plan, and community/economic development.

- **COVERTS Project.** The New Hampshire Coverts Project trains volunteers to promote wildlife habitat conservation and forest stewardship. The goals of the project are to enhance, restore and conserve habitat and increase the amount of NH's public and private land managed with a stewardship ethic. The project is sponsored by: UNH Cooperative Extension, NH Fish and Game, NH Division of Forests and Lands, the Ruffed Grouse Society and the USDA Forest Service.

**US Army Corps of Engineers (New England District)**

The US Army Corps of Engineers owns land in New Hampshire totaling 18,501 acres along the Merrimack and Connecticut River Basins. This land consists of six flood control reservoirs: Blackwater Dam in Webster and Salisbury; Edward MacDowell Lake in Peterborough, Hancock, Harrisville, and Dublin; Franklin Falls Dam in Franklin, Hill, Sanbornton, and New Hampton; Hopkinton-Everett Lakes in Hopkinton, Henniker, Weare, and Dunbarton; Otter Brook Lake in Keene and Roxbury; and Surry Mountain Lake in Surry.

The Army Corps is responsible for developing master plans and operational management plans to control natural resources within the six reservoirs. Fisheries, wildlife, wetlands, archaeological, agricultural, and forest resources are managed by State agencies using techniques such as fish stocking and restoration, wildlife habitat enhancement, endangered and threatened species protection, timber management, and archaeological resource identification.

Along with natural resource management, the Corps is also responsible for providing the public with recreational opportunities at the multiple-use reservoirs. Activities include hunting, canoeing, mountain biking, picnicking, snowmobiling, swimming, fishing, and boating.

As stated in the Army Corps' Recreation and Natural Resources at Corps' Flood Control Projects in New Hampshire, two of New Hampshire's management objectives related to recreation are “to encourage increased compatible recreational use of project lands and improve recreational opportunities for all user groups”.

**US Coast Guard Auxiliary**

The US Coast Guard Auxiliary is the civilian, non-military arm of the Coast Guard. Dedicated to boating safety, the auxiliary is involved in public education, safety and search and rescue operations. It is well known for boating courses, which cover techniques, navigation, legal requirements and other topics to enhance skill and safety in recreational boating. The auxiliary also sponsors courtesy marine safety examinations for recreational boat owners and social activities for boaters.

**US Department of Transportation**

Established in 1966, the Department of Transportation oversees and administers federal programs involving highways, railways, mass transit, and airways. It also directs programs relating to bicycling and bike paths, and the Coast Guard boating safety project.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is an administrative division under the Department of Transportation.

The FHWA administers the federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). SAFETEA-LU authorizes the Federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the 5-year period 2005-2009. SAFETEA-LU was enacted on August 10, 2007, and authorizes the federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit.

The Federal Highway Administration administers Section 4(f) of the Transportation Act which states that federally aided highways shall not impinge upon public recreation areas, wildlife refuges, or historic sites unless the Secretary of Transportation finds that: 1) there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the action; and 2) all reasonable efforts to mitigate the impact have been taken.

Section 147 of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1979 (P.L. 94-280) provides for the use of highway funds to construct access ramps to public boat launching areas and water recreation areas from bridges under construction, reconstruction, replacement, or repair and/or from alteration on federal-aid primary, secondary, and urban highway systems.

Through the Highway Beautification Program, initiated in 1965, the US Department of Transportation offers funding to states for certain highway beautification projects along roads in the federal primary aid system, interstate highways, and turnpikes. Funded at a federal-state ratio of 80-20 is provided for highway beautification and billboard and junkyard control.

#### **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

This agency is charged with administering the Federal Power Act of 1920, (amended in 1986) which regulates the construction, operation, and maintenance of hydroelectric projects. Over the years, environmental review and recreation requirements of the Federal Power Act have allowed for many water power developments with enhanced wildlife and recreational amenities. Numerous public recreation areas have been developed in conjunction with hydroelectric generating facilities licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

In 1986, the Electric Consumers Protection Act (ECPA) was passed which amended PURPA (Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978). Environmental standards pertaining to hydroelectric projects located at a new dam or diversion were established. The new environmental requirements assure that no substantial adverse effects occur to the environment, including water quality. The amendment also assures that projects are not located on any segment of a natural watercourse, National Wild and Scenic River System, or watercourse possessing unique natural, recreational, cultural, or scenic attributes; and that the project meet the terms and conditions set by fish and wildlife agencies.

### **US Department of Commerce**

In response to intense development pressure and because of the importance of coastal areas in the United States, Congress passed the Coastal Management Act of 1972 (CZMA) (P.L.92-583). Administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Coastal Resource Zone Management (within the Department of Commerce), this federal grant-in-aid program provides funding to coastal and Great Lakes states and US territories for protecting and managing the Nation's coastal resources.

The CZMA and its amendments affirm a national interest in the effective protection and careful development of the coastal zone by providing assistance and encouragement in order to voluntarily develop and implement coastal management programs. Financial assistance grants were authorized by the CZMA under Sections 305 for program development and Section 306 for program implementation in order to provide coastal states and territories with the means of achieving program objectives.

The Department of Environmental Services (DES) has overall responsibility for implementing the NH Coastal Program. Designated by the Governor as the lead agency, DES receives and distributes coastal program funds and coordinates all local, state, and federal involvement in the program. In New Hampshire, these funds have been used to support a variety of state and locally sponsored recreation and conservation activities. The Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve System also receives federal matching grants. The Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is one of 25 protected estuaries in the country.

### **US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**

Since its creation in 1965, HUD has provided funds for a number of open space, outdoor recreation, urban beautification, and historic preservation projects in New Hampshire. In 1974, these programs were consolidated into the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Cities and towns may use these funds to match federal LWCF awards for recreation and conservation work. Since 1983 however, the use of CDBG funds to match LWCF monies has been minimal, given program focus on urgent community needs and low/moderate income families.

## **STATE**

### **Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food**

The Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food was established to promote the agriculture of the state and to ensure the safety and quality of agricultural products moving in commerce. The Department assists and supports the orderly development of New Hampshire's agricultural resources in recognition of the significant economic, environmental, and aesthetic benefits they provide. In addition to gathering and disseminating information about agriculture and assisting producers in promoting agricultural commodities, the Department also promotes farmland preservation.

In 1979, the New Hampshire Legislature appropriated \$3 million, and another \$2 million in 1985, for the purchase of development rights on farmland. The development rights on 32 tracts of farmland were purchased, representing 1,870 acres protected from future development. In addition, the development rights of 1,053 acres were donated to the State.

The Department of Agriculture is awaiting the 2007 Census of Agriculture that will be available from USDA in mid-2008 to update New Hampshire's numbers.

The Agricultural Land Development Rights Program has not received an appropriation since 1985. The Department regularly monitors the lands protected under this program to assure that they remain in compliance with the non-development regulations. One lawsuit challenging the "in perpetuity" stipulation of the program was found to be illegitimate by the court. The protection program was determined to be legal and binding. The suit was watched closely in the legal and land development circles and the resulting decision in favor of the program ensured land enrolled in the program would continue to be protected.

In 1987 the Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP) emerged as a new land protection effort providing the opportunity to protect highly significant lands for a number of key reasons such as prime farmland, land with unique tree, plant or wildlife species, superior views, etc. The New Hampshire Legislature supported this tremendous grassroots effort with an appropriation of \$47 million. The Department worked closely with the LCIP in the identification and protection of 5,682 acres of New Hampshire's farmland, representing 94 tracts of land.

New Hampshire's farmland, typically open to hiking, hunting, birding, and other recreational use, is fragile. Development pressure is strong, particularly in the southern portion of the state. But it is spreading north. Even so, within the last 10 years, the number of farms in the state has been increasing. The trend has been toward smaller farms, with more intensively utilized acreage, although there are still a significant number of larger farms. There are 3,100 farms in New Hampshire, an increase of 16 percent since 1992.

### **Department of Resources and Economic Development**

The Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) was established in 1961. DRED is charged with the development and management of a statewide system of parks and forests, the promotion of vacation travel and tourism, the encouragement of economic and industrial development, and the administration of programs in support of community recreation, motorized, and non-motorized trail groups, and natural areas protection.

There are four operating divisions within DRED which function under the executive direction of the Commissioner: the Division of Parks and Recreation, the Division of Forests and Lands, the Division of Economic Development, and the Division of Travel and Tourism Development.

The Department's outdoor recreation and natural resource responsibilities include:

- monitoring the status of recreation needs within state boundaries;
- securing local agency and citizen input into planning efforts;
- coordinating recreation planning with all resource planning, and fully integrating recreation needs with other citizen needs when funding state programs;
- developing, protecting, and managing state recreation lands in a way which complements federal and local programs and recognizes the role of private enterprise;
- distributing federal grants and other funds for recreation projects, in accordance with planned priorities, to appropriate State agencies and local units of government;
- distributing the Conservation License Plate Trust Funds to the Division of Parks and Recreation for restoration and enhancement of state historic sites and to the Natural Heritage Inventory Program for education programs;
- implementing the New Hampshire Native Plant Protection Act;
- planning and acquiring a statewide trail system, and protecting the Appalachian Trail within the state's boundaries on state-owned lands;
- administering an off-highway recreational vehicle program; and
- managing forestry programs dealing with forest fires, reforestation, disease control, forest districts, and timber harvest and helping with town forests in cooperation with the Extension Foresters.

In addition, DRED is responsible for establishing, through a continually updated statewide recreation plan, priorities for action, and standards and guidelines for development. This function is carried out in cooperation with the Office of Energy and Planning. The Commissioner of DRED is the State Liaison Officer and, as such, acts on behalf of the Governor in administering the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program.

#### **Division of Parks and Recreation**

The Division of Parks and Recreation (DPR) preserves and protects the unique recreational, natural, and cultural features of the State of New Hampshire. It provides for high quality recreational experiences for visitors to the state's parklands and trails. The Division consists of the Bureau of Parks, the Bureau of Trails and the Office of Recreation Services.

The Bureau of Parks is organized into four Regions and two Management Areas and is supported by the division's planning and development team. The Bureau of Parks is responsible for the protection, maintenance and expansion of a comprehensive park system including state historic sites, natural areas, and miscellaneous areas such as wayside areas. The Bureau also collaborates with a wide variety of partners and friends groups such as the SCA NH Conservation Corps, Mountain Washington Commission, Mount Sunapee Advisory Committee and the Friends of Pillsbury State Park.

The Bureau of Trails works in cooperation with landowners to administer the state's snowmobile trail network, state managed all-terrain vehicle and trail bike trails, and miles of non-motorized multiple recreational use trails on state lands. The Bureau also administers the state's Grant-in-Aid Program for motorized recreation and the federal Recreational Trails Program. The Bureau provides technical assistance to communities and other state and federal agencies.

The Office of Recreation Services provides technical assistance to the state park system, and city town, school and other government agencies in regards to outdoor recreation planning, management, maintenance, and development. The Office also serves as the state coordinator, as required by the National Park Service, for the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program. The Office of Recreation Services works in cooperation with the New Hampshire Recreation Parks Association by Memorandum of Understanding to assist the association with membership development and retention and as a technical resource to the association. The New Hampshire Recreation and Parks Association assists the Office of Recreation Services in providing technical assistance to the public by coordinating programming for workshops and conferences.

#### **Division of Forests and Lands**

The Division of Forests and Lands (DFL) consists of five units: the Forest Management Bureau, the Land Management Bureau, the Forest Protection Bureau, the Forest Information and Planning Bureau, and Cooperative Forestry Programs through an agreement with the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension. The Natural Heritage Inventory Program of the Forest Management Bureau is mandated by the Native Plant Protection Act of 1987 (RSA 217-A) to find, track, and facilitate the conservation of New Hampshire's rare plants and their habitats. It also tracks rare wildlife in cooperation with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department.

#### **Division of Economic Development**

The Division of Economic Development (DED) is comprised of two working offices, the Office of Business and Industrial Development and the Office of International Commerce. Both offices focus on promotional activities nationally and internationally as well as business support services within the state. DED operates two major programs related to economic development:

- a business and industrial program designed to encourage the expansion of industrial activity in the state through the attraction of new businesses to New Hampshire and the retention and expansion of existing industries and;
- an international program, which promotes New Hampshire products to overseas markets.

#### **Division of Travel and Tourism Development**

The Division of Travel and Tourism Development (DTTD) administers programs to encourage and promote the development of New Hampshire's travel and tourism industry. It markets the state as a domestic and international travel destination and provides information and assistance to communities, businesses, and local and regional

organizations on matters related to travel and tourism in order to encourage the development of locally coordinated programs.

**Office of Energy and Planning**

The Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) is part of the Executive Department and is responsible for conducting reviews, inventories, and analyses of all planning programs carried out by State agencies, conducting research for statewide land use planning, developing physical and socio-economic data, and coordinating and providing technical planning assistance to New Hampshire's regional planning agencies, counties, and municipalities.

The Director of OEP chairs the Council on Resources and Economic Development (CORD). In addition OEP performs the Intergovernmental Review Process clearinghouse function for the state, which provides an opportunity for state, interstate, regional planning commissions, and local agencies to review and comment on federally funded programs and activities. OEP reviews the State's biennial capital budget and provides a legislative tracking service.

In 1985, the legislature directed OEP to help the Governor prepare a comprehensive State Development Plan. The objective of the plan was to articulate goals and policies; provide for the orderly economic development of the state; and serve as the basis for policy and program building in the various departments of state government. The plan is updated every two years.

The Outdoor Recreation Planning Program at OEP, in cooperation with the Department of Resources and Economic Development, is responsible for developing the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Since 1995, planning projects funded or coordinated through the Recreation Planning Program include an inventory of outdoor recreation facilities; a community recreation leaders survey; and a statewide outdoor recreation needs assessment. Publications include a guide to municipal recreation, a recreation financing guide, a guide for design standards for recreation facilities, and a statewide trails study. The OEP Recreation Planning Program is currently finalizing an inventory of water access points to lakes, ponds, and rivers in New Hampshire.

In September of 1985, OEP initiated the development of a computer-based geographic information system (GIS) entitled GRANIT (Geographically Referenced Analysis and Information Transfer system) through a contract with Complex Systems Research Center at UNH. The GRANIT system, through its ARC/INFO software, makes possible the development of a statewide database containing a variety of data layers, including political boundaries, land use and land cover, hydrography, topography, transportation, soil units, geologic data, and other natural and cultural features.

During the next five years, there will be a major effort to increase the level of detail in the statewide base map layers, moving from the existing 1:24,000 scale geographic data base to a new set of base data derived from 1:5000 digital orthophotography. The current GRANIT database contains statewide coverage for the following: geology (bedrock and

surface), topography, hydrology (stream network and National Wetlands Inventory), transportation features, land cover, and conservation lands. Soils data are available for the entire state except for Merrimack and Belknap Counties, while land use data are available for some municipalities around the state, depending upon the activities of regional planning commissions. While the chances of producing a land ownership data layer for the entire state are slim within the next five years, a set of standards for digital parcel mapping has been drafted, allowing the GRANIT system to obtain property boundary information prepared by individual municipalities.

Landsat Thematic Mapper (TM) satellite images provided the source for a statewide classification of land cover from the early 1990's. In 2001, a complete update of the statewide land cover data set was performed, using satellite imagery from 1998 and 1999. Additionally, statewide digital aerial photography, obtained in 2003, is available from GRANIT, tiled into 15-minute quadrangles. High definition aerial photography (with a resolution of 1 foot) from 2005 is available for southeastern New Hampshire, and 1-foot photography for the Lakes Region from 2006 will be available soon.

Current efforts at GRANIT are focused on extending its ability to provide data and mapping services to the public. As has been the case since 1988, the state's nine regional planning agencies act as the link between the statewide geographic data system and municipalities, providing GIS data production and analysis services. In addition, GIS data are available for download from the GRANIT web site ([www.granit.sr.unh.edu](http://www.granit.sr.unh.edu)), and a new Internet-based mapping service, the GRANIT Data Mapper, is available at [mapper.granite.unh.edu](http://mapper.granite.unh.edu).

The Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) works cooperatively with the UNH Complex Systems Research Center, the regional planning agencies, state agencies including New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, New Hampshire Department of Transportation and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, and federal agencies in creating statewide computer mapping.

The Municipal and Regional Assistance (MRA) Program provides information and assistance in the areas of community and regional planning, smart growth, master planning, zoning, building codes, planning board and zoning board of adjustment administration, and other related land use issues. As part of those responsibilities staff responds to telephone inquiries, e-mail messages, and written inquiries. A planning list serve, established in 1999, is also managed by MRA to provide a broad forum for land use boards to ask questions and exchange and share information on planning issues.

Training and education is also a major focus of MRA, which is accomplished through several different venues. Fall and spring planning conferences are held annually to provide local officials with training opportunities on a number of planning and land use topics. These events are attended by an average of 400 people each year. MRA staff also prepares a number of planning and training documents to assist local officials. These are available online on OEP's web site and in written format. Examples of some training

materials include handbooks for planning boards and for zoning boards of adjustment, and technical bulletins on topics such as telecommunications, master planning, roads, etc.

The Conservation Land Stewardship Program (CLS) (Formerly the Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP)) was originally created by the New Hampshire General Court during its 1987 session and was administratively attached to the Office of Energy and Planning. The State's total public investment of \$46.4 million in acquisition funds protected \$83.3 million worth of land through private sector involvement, the use of easements, and landowner donations. The Trust for New Hampshire Lands, the private sector arm of the program, provided education, training, and promotion. The program met its goals of protecting 100,000 acres including Canterbury's Shaker Village, 40,000 acres of the Nash Stream watershed, land along the shores of Lake Umbagog and Great Bay, farms along the Connecticut River, state parks, river banks, forest, mountaintops, ponds, and open vistas.

1993 marked the completion of the acquisition component of the LCIP program. At this time, approximately \$1.5 million was placed in a monitoring endowment, the interest on which funds the existing monitoring program administered by OEP. In accordance with RSA 162-C, the monitoring program assures that the conditions of the conservation easement deeds held by various agencies and communities are being met, thereby protecting the state's investment in conservation lands. The LCIP also provides monitoring training and technical assistance to the 78 communities involved in the original program. Beginning in 1999, the LCIP offered monitoring services to other state agencies on a contractual basis to ensure that the State's non-LCIP interests are being properly monitored as well. As a result of the change, and to minimize confusion with the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program, the LCIP monitoring program changed its name to the Conservation Land Stewardship Program (CLS) to more accurately describe its duties. As of January 2007, CLS looks after 54,000 additional acres of privately owned land that is restricted by state-held (DRED and F&G) conservation easements in addition to its LCIP responsibilities.

### **New Hampshire Fish and Game Department**

#### **The Mission of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department:**

As the guardian of the state's fish, wildlife and marine resources, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department works in partnership with the public to:

- Conserve, manage and protect these resources and their habitats;
- Inform and educate the public about these resources; and
- Provide the public with opportunities to use and appreciate these resources.

The N.H. Fisheries Commission was organized in 1865 by the N.H. Legislature in an effort to restore sea-running fish to the Merrimack and Connecticut rivers. Later, in 1935,

the Legislature greatly expanded the state's role in managing wildlife resources by establishing the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and its commission.

**Fish and Game Commission** members are appointed by the Governor, in consultation with the N.H. Executive Council. There are 11 members, one from each county in the state, plus one to represent the coastal area. The coastal commissioner must reside in either Portsmouth, Seabrook, Rye, Hampton, North Hampton or New Castle. Commission members must be well informed on the subject of fish and wildlife; no more than six commissioners can be members of the same political party.

The Fish and Game Commission recommends a single executive director candidate to the Governor, following a comprehensive and equitable candidate search. The executive director is then nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the Executive Council. Each candidate must be a competent administrator and have knowledge of, and experience in, the requirements for the protection, conservation and restoration of the wildlife resources of the state. The executive director serves for a term of four years, has general supervision and control of all activities, functions and employees of the Fish and Game Department, and enforces all provisions of the laws of this state relating to fish, wildlife and marine resources.

The Fish and Game Department operates under the general supervision of the Office of the Director and serves the public through six major divisions.

The **Office of the Director** supports the Commission, oversees the Department operation and through the Director's staff, maintains the Department's legislative, budget, human resources and land resource programs.

The **Inland Fisheries Division** manages all freshwater fish in state and interstate waters. Fisheries biologists and fish culturists work to provide New Hampshire anglers with prime fishing opportunities, and to protect and restore statewide aquatic habitat in the best interest of the public. This division is responsible for operating the Department's six fish hatcheries, which annually produce about 250 tons of salmonids.

The **Law Enforcement Division** enforces all laws, rules and regulations pertaining to fish and wildlife. They also, by law, have responsibility for search and rescue operations and for enforcement of off-highway recreational vehicle regulations.

The **Marine Fisheries Division** manages saltwater species, including fish, lobsters, clams and oysters. Its concerns reach beyond the New Hampshire boundary, and staff work closely with other states and agencies to protect and maintain marine resources for both commercial and sport fisheries.

The **Public Affairs Division** takes a proactive approach to issues facing the Department, using an integrated public relations approach. Publications, the World Wide Web, videos, education, marketing, advertising, human dimension research, media relations, fund raising and a range of educational programs enable the delivery of information. Among the programs are hunter, bowhunter and trapper education; Let's Go Fishing and aquatic resources education; teacher training; and a variety of short-term workshops and activity days.

The **Support Services Division** issues fishing and hunting licenses and associated permits, and collects the revenue from the sale of these licenses and permits. Division staff supervise the purchase of all equipment, materials, supplies and services; maintain the physical plant of the Fish and Game Department headquarters in Concord, as well as six hatcheries, three education centers and four regional offices; construct and maintain various public access facilities throughout the state; and manage and maintain the Department's vehicles and equipment.

The **Wildlife Division** manages and maintains the state's game and nongame species at levels consistent with available habitat, and promotes the security of that habitat. Wildlife biologists conduct surveys to monitor populations and oversee applied research that provides them with essential information. The protection, restoration and active management of wildlife habitat of public lands throughout the state is accomplished through the division's staff, who also provide technical assistance to private landowners. Those services also include assistance in preventing or reducing wildlife damage to orchards, agricultural lands and other private property.

In October 2005, the NH Fish and Game Department published the *NH Wildlife Action Plan*, which addresses the condition of and threats to wildlife and habitats. Statewide. Created in partnership with many conservation and university partners, the plan identifies specific issues and lists strategies to address those. The plan identifies 123 species of greatest conservation need and 27 critical habitats. Many of these are mapped, with habitat assessed for condition to identify those currently best able to support a diversity of species. Additional tools, such as profiles of each species and habitat, are also available for conservation planning and habitat management.

Fish and Game's four **Regional Offices** are located in Lancaster, New Hampton, Durham, and Keene. Each house staff members of the fisheries, wildlife and law enforcement divisions. The office in Durham also houses Marine Fisheries Division staff. [Click here for more information](#) on the biological field survey activities; conservation partnerships; and fish, wildlife and OHRV enforcement and wilderness rescue work that Fish and Game accomplishes in each of these regional locations.

### **Governor's Commission on Disability**

The Governor's Commission on Disability is dedicated to improving the quality of life for persons with disabilities. Its goal is to remove the barriers, architectural or attitudinal, which bar persons with disabilities from participating in the mainstream of society. This is achieved through its legislative advocacy and technical assistance programs. The Commission helps businesses and other organizations find cost-effective means of complying with federal and state requirements that mandate accessibility for people with disabilities. The Commission is charged with enforcing the New Hampshire Code for Architectural Barrier Free Design, which requires accessibility of publicly funded buildings.

### **Department of Cultural Affairs**

Created by the Legislature in 1985, the Department of Cultural Resources serves New Hampshire's citizens in local efforts to broaden minds and spirits, to preserve history and culture for future generations, and to recognize and promote our cultural resources as an

essential element of New Hampshire's economic and social well being. The Department incorporates the New Hampshire State Library, the State Council on the Arts, the American Canadian French Cultural Exchange Commission, and the Division of Historical Resources (DHR), which administers the state historic preservation program. The DHR helps New Hampshire citizens and communities recognize and protect their heritage, and it encourages the stewardship of the state's architectural, engineering, historical, archeological, and other cultural resources.

The DHR is a State agency, supported by the State of New Hampshire, by the federal Historic Preservation Fund (through a matching grant from the National Park Service of the US Department of the Interior), and by donated funds and services. The State Historical Resources Council (SHRC) acts in an advisory capacity to the DHR for specific program activities, including nominations to the National Register of Historic Places and the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places. The Historic Agricultural Structures Advisory Committee assists the DHR with its new program of grants for preserving historic farm buildings.

The DHR's state responsibilities encompass the activities of the State Curator and the Archaeology Bureau, including the popular SCRAP program for training and certifying avocational archaeologists. The DHR manages a program to preserve and protect State-owned historical resources, which include all those recovered from State-owned lands, or waters under State jurisdiction; it issues permits for archaeological projects on State lands or under State waters; and it oversees the treatment of unmarked human burials discovered during land-altering activities. The DHR accepts gifts of objects of historic significance and places them at appropriate locations; it advises state government on the conservation needs of State-owned historical objects; it administers the state heritage landmark designation review procedures; and it coordinates with the Department of Transportation in management of the state highway historical markers program. The DHR cooperates with the State Archivist and with the Director of the Division of Parks & Recreation in the management of the state historic sites; it helps municipalities to establish historic districts and heritage commissions, and it assists local historical societies.

The DHR also works with other federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, groups, and individuals, in areas of mutual interest and concern, such as NH DOT's "Stone Walls" protection policy, the State Land Management Team, the state's Scenic/Cultural Byways program, and a variety of other partnership projects, including affordable housing, rural preservation, community charrettes, and technical assistance to enable historic properties to meet the requirements of building and safety codes, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The DHR is part of many public/private partnerships focused on historic preservation; it has an especially strong and productive working relationship with the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, the non-profit statewide organization dedicated to the preservation of New Hampshire's historic buildings, landscapes and communities through leadership, advocacy, and education.

In addition to its state functions, the DHR is also responsible for administering the federal preservation program in New Hampshire, which includes nine different program areas; National Register of Historic Places, Comprehensive Preservation Planning, Survey & Inventory, Historic Preservation Review & Compliance [Project Review], “Certified Rehab” Federal Tax Incentives, Certified Local Governments, Acquisition, Development and Covenants [Easements], Administration, and Technical Assistance.

The DHR's goals include:

- *Change the image of historic preservation, away from “a luxury for the elite” to “a way to address core concerns relating to safety, decent housing, jobs, education, community life”,*
- *Educate the public to understand the role of preservation in community identity, uniqueness, prosperity, and well-being; instill pride; connect people with place*
- *Incorporate historic preservation into local, regional, and state planning processes,*
- *Secure funding for preservation of significant archaeological and historical properties (both public and private),*
- *Validate the feelings of local citizens on the importance of historic properties in their communities and provide the tools to preserve and protect historical and cultural resources,*
- *Celebrate the continuity and diversity of New Hampshire’s heritage and all those who have contributed to it.*

### **Department of Environmental Services**

The Department of Environmental Services, (DES) was created in 1987. There are three divisions within the department, including Water, Waste Management and Air Resources, and the Commissioner’s Office. The mission of the Department is to protect, maintain and enhance environmental quality and public health in New Hampshire. The Department’s responsibilities range from insuring high quality water and air for present and future generations, to fostering the proper management and disposal of industrial and municipal waste.

New Hampshire’s highly valued natural resources, such as its lakes and mountains, provide some of the best outdoor recreational opportunities in the northeast, enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. Those programs within the Water Division that most directly affect recreation in New Hampshire are described below.

The Dam Bureau ensures that all 3,275 dams in New Hampshire are constructed, maintained and operated in a safe manner. The Bureau maintains 270 State-owned dams and 9,688 acres of property associated with many of these dams. There are over 55 public access sites at properties owned by DES. The department collaborates with towns, DRED, Fish & Game, DOT, snowmobile clubs, private landowners, and other states to provide these public access sites. Most facilities are low-impact, providing car-top/canoe access. Some of the uses of these access areas are: boat launching, picnicking, snowmobiling, fishing, swimming, scenic viewing, and conservation lands. The Bureau also provides assistance to dam owners and others to restore rivers to free-flowing

conditions through selective dam removal. Dam removal eliminates barriers to fish and other aquatic species, and creates new, river-based recreational opportunities.

The department performs extensive lake and river water quality monitoring. These waterbodies are assessed to determine if they are suitable for swimming and boating, as well as fishing and other aquatic life. The DES Lake Trophic Survey Program conducts immunological surveys of approximately 40 lakes every year, many of which have public access facilities. At several river stations across the state, macro-invertebrates are collected, fish populations are evaluated, and habitat assessments are conducted. This data is used to assess the biological health of numerous streams. In addition to the monitoring conducted by the department staff, two volunteer monitoring programs operate under the direction of DES. In the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) established in 1985, more than 500 volunteers covering about 150 lakes collect data each year to assess long-term water quality trends. Likewise, the Volunteer River Assessment Program, (VRAP), established in 1998, supports 15 citizen and community river groups in their river water quality monitoring efforts.

Some public swimming beaches are inspected every summer as part of the DES Beach Inspection Program. Coastal beaches are inspected weekly while freshwater beaches are inspected at least three times during the swimming season. The beaches are inspected to ensure that indicator bacteria levels do not exceed safe standards. The DES Boat Inspection Program checks boats with plumbing and a toilet for compliance with the State's no discharge law. This program ensures that boat plumbing does not allow for the illegal discharge of boat sewage into our lakes. With funding provided by the Clean Vessel Act, DES, working in cooperation with marinas, other agencies and municipalities, provides grants and technical assistance to install and maintain boat pump-outs and dump stations on the seacoast and on inland lakes; providing boaters with proper facilities to remove sewage from their craft.

The Exotic Species Program monitors the spread of exotic species and oversees the control of infestations. At present, 55 waterbodies have infestations of invasive aquatic plants including non-native milfoil, fanwort and water chestnut. Exotic species can significantly impact the recreational value of a lake or river and in turn affect the economic value of the resource.

The Rivers Management and Protection Program complements and reinforces existing state and federal water quality laws and maintains in-stream flows along protected river segments "in a manner that will enhance or not diminish the enjoyment of outstanding river characteristics." It is intended that through this program "the scenic beauty and recreational potential of such rivers be restored and maintained, and that riparian interests be respected". The Lakes Management and Protection Program recognizes that "New Hampshire's lakes are an important natural resource; vital to wildlife, fisheries, recreation, tourism and the quality of life of its citizens". The program is charged with developing statewide management criteria for lakes, which will provide the basis for State agency decisions and guidelines for lake management and shoreland protection.

Serving as the lead agency for the NH Coastal Program, DES provides coordination with local, state, and federal agencies to ensure effective management of the state's coastal resources. In 1988, the Coastal Program received full federal approval from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The Coastal Program serves the 17 coastal communities (those cities and towns under tidal influence) of Dover, Durham, Exeter, Greenland, Hampton, Hampton Falls, Madbury, New Castle, Newfields, Newington, Newmarket, North Hampton, Portsmouth, Rollinsford, Rye, Seabrook, and Stratham.

Competitive funding for a wide variety of recreational and conservation purposes is available on a 50/50 matching basis through the Coastal Program. Grant money has funded projects such as dune restoration in Seabrook, waterfront parks on the Squamscott River, and park rehabilitation at Peirce Island in Portsmouth. Historic site improvements at Fort Stark, Fort Constitution, and Fort Dearborn have been assisted. The Seacoast Science Center at Odiorne State Park was designed with the assistance of a Coastal Program grant, and several interpretive exhibits inside the building were funded as well. The construction of a 2,000-foot boardwalk at the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Stratham received funding from the Coastal Program. A floating concrete dock system was funded at DRED's facility at Rye Harbor.

Annual grant solicitation for project proposals affords a wide variety of sponsors the opportunity to use Coastal Program funding. Announced usually in mid-October, grant proposals are usually due about the third week of January. The dollar limitation has been set at \$50,000 per award for several years, but that might vary from year to year. Eligible grantees include municipalities, counties, regional planning commissions, State agencies, schools, and not-for-profit organizations.

In 1989, through the leadership of the Office of Energy and Planning/Coastal Program, the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve was dedicated and inducted into the nationwide system of Research Reserves. Since its creation, the Reserve has been administered through the NH Fish and Game Department within its Region 3 Office in Durham and at Sandy Point Education Center in Stratham. Its mission is to develop a coordinated program of research, education, and resource protection for the Great Bay estuarine system.

In 2001, again through the leadership of the Office of Energy and Planning/Coastal Program, the New Hampshire Estuaries Project was dedicated and inducted into EPA's National Estuaries Program. The Estuaries Project is administered by the Department of Environmental Services. Its mission is to protect the general environmental health of the estuarine environment of the state and has focused on shellfish resource management and water quality improvement. The Estuaries Project offers a variety of grants to coastal communities and organizations, usually on a 50/50 matching basis, to help implement its Management Plan. Grant solicitations are made on an annual basis and notice is given to any potential recipient in coastal watershed communities.

The Air Resources Division is committed to cost-effective, sensible strategies and control measures to address today's air quality issues. These issues include: ground level ozone,

particulate matter, regional haze, mercury emissions, greenhouse gases, acid deposition, and toxics. Recreational opportunities including hiking, fishing, and sightseeing, to name a few, are directly affected by the quality of the air in New Hampshire. Hiking and sightseeing are impacted by reduced or limited visibility because of air pollution. Poor air quality can and does impact human health and may impede outdoor physical activity, particularly during warm weather. Since high mercury levels have been detected in fish, the State has issued an advisory regarding the consumption of freshwater fish from the state's lakes and rivers. Mercury deposited in New Hampshire is both emitted from New Hampshire sources and carried here from emission sources in upwind states. Studies show that mercury deposition rates in New Hampshire, as well as the entire Northeast, are higher than in other areas of the country due to the combination of local emissions and transport from upwind sources.

The Waste Management Division seeks to insure that public health effects from current and future issues associated with solid and hazardous waste are addressed through soil and groundwater treatment, enforcement, permitting, education, grants, and restoration incentives. Working cooperatively with state and federal agencies to rehabilitate properties, many municipalities have been able to provide town recreational areas and facilities on areas that were once contaminated sites. Unforeseen accidents do occur and the introduction of contaminants into lakes, rivers, and coastal environments can negatively affect recreational opportunities such as swimming, fishing, and boating. To minimize the impact of accidental spills and/or releases, the Waste Management Division is responsible for responding to such events and implementing appropriate corrective actions.

While DES is not directly charged with providing recreational opportunities for the residents of and visitors to New Hampshire, many of its programs do contribute significantly to the availability and maintenance of the diverse and outstanding recreational opportunities found within the Granite State. The quality of life enjoyed by the state's residents is dependent upon a healthy economy and a healthy environment. It is hoped that the state's recreational opportunities, which provide pleasure for thousands today, will also be available for future generations.

### **Volunteer NH**

Volunteer NH works to stimulate new active citizen initiatives in the participation in governmental and local public and private organizations; provide technical assistance and training to those who deal with volunteers; and gather and communicate information regarding volunteerism.

### **Department of Transportation**

In 1985, the NH Department of Public Works and Highways was reorganized by the Legislature into the Department of Transportation (DOT). Five basic management units comprise DOT: Project Development, Operations, Administration, Public Works and Transportation, and Aeronautics.

The primary responsibilities of the DOT are to construct, maintain, and operate the state's

4,191 miles of state highways and 1,929 bridges, the state's 104-mile toll Turnpike system with its 160 bridges, and state owned rail system. Other responsibilities of the DOT include administering several highway programs designated by the Legislature to aid the state's municipalities with their 11,239 miles of roads and streets and their 1,571 bridges.

In 1991, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991 was signed into law. The purpose of the act was to “develop a National Intermodal Transportation System that is economically efficient, environmentally sound, provides the foundation for the Nation to compete in the global economy and move people and goods in an energy efficient manner.”

ISTEA provided greater emphasis on planning. ISTEA established federal requirements for a state transportation planning program for the first time and strengthened the role of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO's). The states and MPO's must develop long-range transportation systems. Transportation modes, routes, effects on land use and development patterns, transportation enhancements, and overall social, economic, energy, and environmental effects of transportation decisions must be specified in plans. ISTEA required public involvement in transportation decisions from the early stages of planning.

**The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, signed into law in 2005 is a continuation of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA). Administered federally through the Federal Highway Administration, SAFETEA-LU continues and improves upon programs of ISTEA and provides new initiatives aimed at both enhancing communities and the natural environment. It is about more than asphalt, concrete, and steel; it's about people and about providing them with the opportunity to lead more fulfilling lives. SAFETEA-LU emphasizes innovative planning and flexibility in project funding based on intermodal transportation plans that address all modes of transportation, including bicycling and walking. Under SAFETEA-LU funding is available for trails, greenways, and bicycle paths under the Transportation Enhancement Program, the National Recreation Trails Act, Surface Transportation Program, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program, National Highway System, Federal Lands, and Scenic Highways Program. SAFETEA-LU Transportation Enhancement funds have been used for activities such as facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists; acquiring scenic easements adjacent to highways; historic preservation; archaeology; and converting abandoned railroad corridors to pedestrian trails.**

The Rail and Transit Bureau is also responsible for the acquisition and preservation of abandoned railroad rights-of-way under state law (RSA 228:60), which provides that the State may negotiate to purchase abandoned right-of-way and has the right to match any verifiable bona fide offer for rail properties. The law also states that acquired railroad right-of-way may be used for recreational purposes, subject to reversion if rail use if necessary. Since 1988, the State has appropriated \$9.45 million in its capital budget for acquisition of railroad property. The 1999 appropriation also allowed acquisition of airport property. These funds, together with transportation enhancement funds, have been used to purchase numerous active and abandoned railroad properties, totaling 275

miles of abandoned corridors and 200 miles of active rail lines.

Recent revisions to RSA 228:60 have broadened the authority of rail corridor acquisitions. Railroad corridors may now be acquired for other transportation purposes including recreational trails. This revision will greatly assist on-going rail-to-trail efforts in the state. A number of rail-trail improvements have been made on state-owned corridors through agreements between NHDOT and municipalities.

In the past, DOT has used federal funds to construct pedestrian and bicycle path projects. The last bicycle way constructed using such funds was along US Route 3 from Hooksett to the Route 106 intersection with Route 3 in Pembroke. In addition, a nine-mile separate bike path was constructed as part of the Interstate 93 Franconia Notch Parkway Project. DOT has a bikeway policy of providing minimum four-foot shoulders when reconstructing or building new roads. This policy was one result of the Shared Roadway Bike Lane Study conducted by the DOT in 1977.

In 2000 DOT updated the State's Bicycle and Pedestrian plan. As required each state must have a Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator who promotes and facilitates the increased use of non-motorized transportation. DOT has had a coordinator since 1993 and currently has both a coordinator and an assistant coordinator managing the bicycle and pedestrian program.

In conjunction with the Highway Beautification Program, DOT established a Sponsor-a-Highway Program formerly (Adopt-a-Highway program) in the spring of 1994. It is designed to give citizens an opportunity to reduce litter on, and enhance the beauty of, adopted sections of highway. Through volunteer efforts, the program fosters public awareness of the litter problem along New Hampshire's highways and encourage community involvement as a solution.

The Department currently manages over 400 acres of recreation and conservation lands at 142 separate locations. Included are sites, which the Department calls scenic easements, bike paths, scenic overlooks, roads to public waters, one park, and one trail. The one park is the 10-acre Hilton Park in Dover, which provides a playground, picnic tables, baseball diamond, boat launch, and fishing. The Department also owns 21 scenic easements and overlooks, the biggest and most well known being the 70-acre Thirteen Mile Wood Scenic Easement in Cambridge, Dummer, and Errol along the Androscoggin River and Route 16.

In addition, DOT administers the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program, which provides 80% federal funding for transportation projects in Clean Air Act non-attainment areas. The goal of this program is to reduce air pollution in efforts to meet national ambient air quality standards. Under the 2005-2006 round of funding, \$8.4 million in federal funds were used for 10 projects in the state.

Among projects funded with CMAQ were the acquisition of passenger motor coaches to expand commuter bus service to Boston; construction of Intermodal park-and-ride

facilities in Concord, Portsmouth and Nashua; construction of a system of multi-use paths in Derry connecting schools, recreation facilities, businesses and residential areas; construction of a rail platforms for the Boston-Portland service; and purchase of commuter rail locomotive and coaches to extend commuter rail service from Lowell to Nashua and Merrimack.

The Department of Transportation (DOT), the Division of Historical Resources (DHR), and the Department of Resource and Economic Development (DRED) work together in coordinating the Scenic and Cultural Byways Program.

### **University System of New Hampshire**

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) offers a number of programs related to New Hampshire's recreation and tourism resources. The first is a Bachelor of Science degree from the Department of Recreation Management and Policy (RMP). The RMP Department offers two options - Program Administration and Therapeutic Recreation. The Program Administration option prepares professionals for management positions in organizations that provide recreation and leisure services and is advised by practitioners throughout the state. Students become skilled leaders, programmers, and managers of recreation services in a variety of commercial, public, and non-profit settings. RMP Faculty are engaged in research agendas that enhance community networks, develop social capital, and strengthen collaborations that improve the quality of life of NH communities. The Therapeutic Recreation Option prepares professionals to work with people with disabilities or illnesses to develop and use their leisure in ways that enhance health, independence and well-being. Faculty research includes health promotion and wellness programs for persons with disabilities and inclusionary practices within recreation and school settings.

UNH offers also offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Tourism. This program is housed within the Department of Resource Economics and Development, located in the College of Life Sciences and Agriculture. The focus of this program is providing students with the skills necessary to plan for the wise use and development of resource-based tourism opportunities.

The UNH College of Life Sciences and Agriculture also offers undergraduate degree programs in Community Development with a minor in planning, and graduate programs in Resource Administration and Management (M.S.) and Resource Economic (M.S.). The University has also instituted an interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Natural Resources. The faculty of these programs are engaged in a number of research programs and initiatives, including research activities associated with the UNH Agricultural Experiment Station and the UNH Sea Grant Program.

Plymouth State University offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography with a concentration in Nature and Heritage Tourism. It also conducts tourism research for state and local government through the Institute for New Hampshire Studies. One of their most recent projects was an agricultural tourism study. The college offers a B.S. in Outdoor Recreation, a B.S. in Environmental Planning.

### **Department of Revenue Administration**

The Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) is charged with overseeing the application of RSA 79:A, the Current Use Taxation law. The law was originally created to encourage the preservation of open space and the conservation of land, water, forest, and wildlife resources by taxing land according to its current use rather than its “highest and best” use.

### **Land and Community Heritage Investment Program**

The Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) is New Hampshire’s statewide land conservation and historic preservation program that, through matching grants, helps communities and non-profit organizations protect important lands, cultural resources, and historic structures. The stated intent of the LCHIP program is “*to conserve and preserve this state's most important natural, cultural, and historical resources, through the acquisition of lands, and cultural and historical resources, or interests therein, of local, regional, and statewide significance, in partnership with the state's municipalities and the private sector, for the primary purposes of protecting and ensuring the perpetual contribution of these resources to the state's economy, environment, and overall quality of life*”. The Legislature has appropriated \$18 million to date. LCHIP has awarded all the appropriated funds to 129 projects in 103 communities across the state.

## **MUNICIPALITIES**

Municipalities have the legal power to provide comprehensive systems of public outdoor recreation areas and open spaces. They can acquire, develop, and operate sites, secure scenic easements, zone wetlands and flood plains and other sensitive lands against intensive development, and encourage the preservation of open spaces. Municipalities can provide park systems individually or cooperatively.

### ***Planning Boards***

New Hampshire's 221 towns and 13 cities are authorized to organize and carry out functions relating to recreation and land conservation. Under RSA 673:1, all cities and towns may create planning boards that in turn are permitted to undertake a variety of duties. Once a planning board has been created, their one duty mandated by the statute is to “to prepare and amend from time to time a master plan to guide the development of the municipality.” [674:1]. In general, a master plan is comprised of a set of statements and land use and development principles for the municipality with accompanying maps, diagrams, charts, and descriptions which are designed to show the planning board's recommendations for desirable municipal development. A master plan, at a minimum, must include a vision section and a land use section upon which all other sections shall be based. [674:2, II] A master plan may contain up to 13 additional sections including community facilities, natural resources, recreation, cultural and historic resources, and a community design section. [674:2, III]. As of May 2007, all but two of the state's municipalities had established planning boards and 97 had master plans revisions underway.

Planning Boards that have adopted a master plan may be authorized by the local legislative body to prepare and amend a recommended capital improvements program. If the master plan includes recommendations for municipal acquisition of conservation land, the capital improvements plan could include the cost of acquiring the land and, if appropriate, developing it. Sixty-six percent (155 of 234) of the state's communities have implemented a capital improvements program as of May 2007.

Municipalities may also adopt zoning regulations. Ninety-two percent (215 of 234) of New Hampshire's communities have zoning ordinances in place. Using conventional zoning to protect such natural areas as flood plains, wetlands, rivers, and lakes poses special problems. Because these resources often occur in several locations within a municipality, using conventional zoning to protect them can result in a complicated ordinance and a less accurate zoning map. For this reason, a number of municipalities have designated overlay districts to protect natural features that occur in several locations within the community.

#### ***Historic District and Heritage Commissions***

A city or town may establish historic districts and empower a historic district commission to regulate structures and places within these districts [RSA 673:4]. Towns and cities may also create local heritage commissions, pursuant to RSA 673:4-a, which have a community-wide scope. A heritage commission may become involved in a range of activities aimed at protecting cultural and historical resources. Heritage Commissions are also empowered to accept and expend funds through a non-lapsing heritage fund.

#### ***Conservation Commissions***

Under RSA 36-A, municipalities may establish conservation commissions. Since the passage of this law in 1963, a majority of the state's communities have established conservation commissions. Conservation commissions conduct research on land and water resources within their boundaries, and index all open space and natural, aesthetic, or ecological areas within their boundaries.

Over the years, conservation commissions have continued to undertake a variety of protection actions, including critical land acquisitions, some with support of the LWCF; educational programs for school children and adults; promotion of wetlands, flood plains and similar resource protection ordinances; resource inventories and wetlands mapping; preparation of forest management plans, often with technical assistance from the Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) or county foresters; and the development of trails.

Conservation commissions can be very effective in motivating and strengthening environmental activity at the local level. A commission's scope and influence may be increased further by other statutes that give the commission additional powers. In particular, dredge and fill activities in wetlands (RSA 482-A), the principal New Hampshire wetland protection statute, allows conservation commissions to investigate an application for a dredge and fill permit filed with the New Hampshire Wetlands Bureau.

The conservation commission is the only municipal body with authority to request a delay to permit such reviews. Under RSA 482-A:15, a conservation commission may also prepare the report and maps for the local designation of prime wetlands. If authorized by the local legislative body, a conservation commission may also manage duly designated town and city forests.

### ***Recreation Commissions***

Recreation commissions, according to RSA 35:B, are granted the authority to buy parkland, maintain it, operate recreation programs, build facilities, and hire a program director. Many recreation commissioners and directors are members of the New Hampshire Recreation and Parks Association (NHRPA), the only statewide organization promoting community recreation.

### ***School Districts***

New Hampshire's public school districts are political subdivisions of the State. By statute they may acquire, equip, maintain, and fund recreation facilities and areas. Elementary school playgrounds are present in nearly every town and city in the state. Junior and senior high schools focus more attention on organized sports programs and this is reflected in school grounds and facilities. Special agreements between the school board and a municipality's recreation department can be a major step toward increasing community recreation programs.

### ***Counties***

Each of New Hampshire's 10 counties may acquire, equip, maintain, and fund outdoor recreation areas and facilities. One example is Belknap County's 1,300-acre Gunstock Recreation Area in Gilford. This is a year-round use area recognized for its wintertime skiing and summertime camping activities.

### **Regional Planning Commissions**

New Hampshire statutes allow municipalities and counties to form regional planning commissions (RPC's). By Executive Order, the state is divided into nine regions. RPC's are funded, in part, through community dues that are voted on by each community as part of the annual budget process. RPC's receive additional funding from services purchased by communities and from federal, state and private sources.

One RPC duty is to prepare a regional development plan, which includes recommendations for: the general location, extent, and character of transportation and communication facilities; the development, extent, and general location of parks, playgrounds, and other public reservations and recreation areas; the location, type, and character of public buildings and property; the improvement, redevelopment, rehabilitation, or conservation of residential, business, industrial, and other areas including the development of programs for the modernization, coordination, and unified enforcement of local building, housing, zoning, and subdivision regulations. Several RPC's offer a circuit rider program that provides, on a contract basis, for staff to spend a specific number of days each month in a community to provide a variety of services.

Regional planning commissions also have research and programming responsibilities for transportation planning as part of SAFETEA-LU.

## **PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS**

Recreation and conservation activity in New Hampshire is carried out by many different private organizations and/or private-public cooperative efforts. While some of these organizations provide programs and assist in maintaining facilities, others manage land or act as advocates in the area of conservation.

The following describes some of New Hampshire's outdoor recreation-related private sector involvement. Efforts will be made to update this list over time. Please contact the Office of Energy and Planning to suggest new additions or provide programmatic updates.

### **New Hampshire Recreation and Park Association**

The New Hampshire Recreation and Park Association (NHPRA) is a non-profit professional organization affiliated with the National Recreation and Parks Association; Plus Time NH; the New Hampshire Association of Health, Physical Education; Recreation and Dance; the New Hampshire Municipal Association; and the NH Division of Parks and Recreation. The purpose of the NHPRA is to promote and advocate the development and administration of recreation and park services, without discrimination, by means of educational seminars, meetings, conferences, and to improve recreation and park activities in New Hampshire.

Organized in 1948, the NHPRA (originally known as the New Hampshire Recreation and Park Society) is currently embarking upon its 59<sup>th</sup> year of public service. NHPRA membership consists of approximately 130 members representing nearly 72 full-time municipal recreation agencies and therapeutic professionals throughout the state. Membership also comes from state and municipal park operations, universities, and local recreation and park commissions.

The Association also serves its members through affiliated districts within the state. There are five geographic districts: Seacoast, Central, South Central, South West and Northern. These regions meet on a regular, and/or as-needed, basis and provide a professional exchange of ideas, inter-community competition, cooperative special events, and often assist in conducting special programs or projects for the association.

### **The New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions**

The New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC), founded in 1970, is a private, non-profit association of municipal conservation commissions. Its purpose is to foster conservation and appropriate use of New Hampshire's natural resources by providing assistance to conservation commissions, facilitating communication and cooperation among commissions, and helping to create a climate in which commissions can be successful.

The NHACC is funded primarily by dues from municipal conservation commissions. Member services include quarterly newsletters, periodic conservation news bulletins,

meetings and workshops, and assistance with individual problems. The NHACC represents its members at legislative and agency hearings and on the Current Use Advisory Board and State Conservation Committee, as well as on committees, groups, and coalitions of conservation organizations and government agencies. NHACC publishes the *Handbook for Municipal Conservation Commissions in New Hampshire*.

### **The Nature Conservancy**

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on earth by protecting the lands and water they need to survive.

Founded in 1951, The Nature Conservancy and its over one million members, have been responsible for the protection of more than 117 million acres worldwide. The Conservancy is the largest private system of nature sanctuaries in the world.

The New Hampshire Chapter has had a full time office in Concord since 1987. With the support of more than 7,000 members, the Conservancy has helped to protect more than 265,000 acres in New Hampshire and owns 30 preserves. Additionally, the New Hampshire Chapter holds conservation easements on 22,000 acres of ecologically significant land and works closely with landowners to ensure long-term protection for these lands.

To carry out its mission, TNC focuses on protecting the most rare and ecologically significant plants, animals, and natural communities in the state. All known information on rare species is collected and stored in a database and managed by the staff of the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Inventory Program (NHNHI). This program was developed by TNC to determine the rarity of remaining species and communities. The NHNHI was established by TNC in 1984 in cooperation with the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, and the Office of Energy and Planning. It is now part of DRED. The NHNHI is used extensively by TNC, but is also available to the public and government agencies as well as planners, developers, and conservationists.

Examples of TNC's protection efforts include: the addition of 71 acres to the Pondicherry Division of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in Jefferson and Whitefield; efforts to protect the Ossipee Pine Barrens, a globally rare habitat for uncommon birds and insects that overlays a critically important aquifer; the inclusion of \$2.38 million for the Ossipee Pine Barrens conservation project in President Bush's Fiscal Year 2008 budget for the Forest Legacy Program; and the acquisition of the Manchester Cedar Swamp, a 602-acre ecological preserve at Hackett Hill, recognized for its outstanding assemblage of rare habitats and species, including Atlantic white cedar, black gum, giant rhododendron, and sweet goldenrod.

### **New Hampshire Wildlife Federation**

The New Hampshire Wildlife Federation is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the protection and proper management of the state's wildlife and other

natural resources. Formed in 1933, the Federation works in cooperation with other conservation groups, as well as state and federal agencies, to assure that future generations will be able to enjoy New Hampshire's great outdoor resources. An affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation, the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation is also active in the battle for clean air, unpolluted water, protection of wetlands and the restoration of fish and wildlife.

### **The Audubon Society of New Hampshire**

New Hampshire Audubon is an independent statewide membership organization whose mission is to protect New Hampshire's natural environment for wildlife and for people. It is not affiliated with the National Audubon Society. Founded in 1914, N.H. Audubon's original goal was to protect and restore migratory bird populations decimated by hunting and collection for the millinery industry. Since that time, the organization has expanded its focus and work to include statewide conservation research and wildlife monitoring, and advocacy for sound public policy on conservation issues. Habitat protection is another priority; the organization manages approximately 8,000 acres on 35 wildlife sanctuaries throughout the state. These sanctuaries preserve critical habitat and ecosystems, providing homes for wildlife and recreational and educational opportunities for people.

Approximately approximately 60 full-time, part-time, and seasonal staff at five regional N.H. Audubon centers serve nearly six thousand member families, as well as the general public. The centers provide a variety of educational programs and field trips for children and adults. Wildlife research and monitoring, land protection, and conservation policy and advocacy are managed from the organization's state headquarters located at the McLane Center in Concord. In addition, N.H. Audubon's constituent organization, The Loon Preservation Committee, monitors common loon populations from the Loon Center on Lake Winnepesaukee.

New Hampshire Audubon has a long history of engaging members and volunteers in wildlife protection projects. When the organization first formed, citizen involvement helped to document the decline of birds from hunting and collecting. Today, among other tasks, volunteers help to identify and monitor migratory bird habitat, maintain wildlife sanctuaries, educate children, publish statewide bird data, maintain the library and organizational records, collect data on dragonflies, care for live animals on exhibit, and monitor raptor breeding and over-wintering sites around the state. Each year, N.H. Audubon works with hundreds of volunteers who contribute thousands of hours in support of the organization's projects and activities.

### **Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests**

The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) was founded in 1901 and has 10,000 members that support its work. The Society promotes the conservation and wise use of New Hampshire's natural resources. It protects productive forest and agricultural land and land with significant ecological, scenic, or recreational value.

The Society owns more than 42,000 acres in 154 forest reservations. Most properties are open to the public, and are demonstration sites for ecosystem based forest management. These lands have been “Green Certified” by the Forest Stewardship Council. The Society holds easements (grantee and executory) on 601 properties, 89,543 acres and land transfers with deed restrictions on 92 properties, 13,230 acres.

The Society has major activity centers and educational facilities in Bethlehem, Concord, and Newbury. It offers field trips, workshops and conferences about land conservation, forest management, and natural resource policy.

The Center for Land Conservation Assistance, a program hosted by the Society, provides technical assistance and training to new and emerging land trusts in the state. Society staff also provides municipalities with assistance, publications, and mapping services to support local land conservation work.

The Society is a lead partner of Citizens for Land and Community Heritage and advocates sound natural resource policy at the state and federal levels. SPNHF research programs inform the organization’s educational, land management and land protection programs. The Society’s central initiative is *New Hampshire Everlasting*, program to conserve one million acres of the state’s most important natural lands within the next 25 years.

#### **New Hampshire Lakes Association**

The New Hampshire Lakes Association (NHLA) is a statewide, non-profit, member-supported organization dedicated to the protection of New Hampshire’s lakes and ponds through education and legislation. It actively promotes lake-related policies based on sound science that provide the greatest good for the greatest number, while ensuring the ecological integrity of our public waters over the long-term. Issues of concern include appropriate public access, balance of lake uses, invasive species prevention, improved water quality, and enhanced safety on our lakes and ponds.

Representing more than 26,000 lake enthusiasts, the NHLA promotes the value of our lakes through educational services and materials and work in the State Legislature. Some legislative accomplishments include the strengthening of the Shoreland Protection Act; a milfoil prevention and research grant program; increased funding for the marine patrol; mandatory boater safety education; prohibitions on the introduction of aquatic exotic species; ban on lead sinkers and gigs; and reduced levels of phosphate content in household products. Educational programs include the Lake Host Program.

The NHLA achieves its mission through collaborate efforts involving state agencies, member lake and watershed associations, conservation groups, and lake-friendly lawmakers.

#### **New Hampshire Rivers Council**

The New Hampshire Rivers Council is the only statewide conservation organization wholly dedicated to the protection and conservation of New Hampshire rivers. Since its

incorporation as a non-profit organization in 1993, the Rivers Council has worked to educate the public about the value of the state's rivers, designate rivers in the state's protection program, and advocate for strong public policies and wise management of New Hampshire's river resources.

### **The Appalachian Mountain Club**

Founded in 1876, the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) is the oldest and most active conservation and recreation organization in the United States. The AMC is a regional, nonprofit organization with administrative headquarters in Boston, Massachusetts; a North Country office in Pinkham Notch, New Hampshire; the Mohican Outdoor Center in the Delaware Water Gap; and a base in the Catskills. Twelve chapters stretching from Maine to Washington, D.C., represent a membership of over 93,000. AMC members participate in virtually every human-powered outdoor activity – hiking, camping, backpacking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, rock climbing, mountaineering, canoeing, kayaking, bicycling, photography, birdwatching, and enjoying nature. In addition, AMC provides New Hampshire with regional and local conservation opportunities, educational programs, and scientific research on environmental issues. AMC's philosophy is based on the idea that successful, long-term conservation depends upon firsthand experience of the natural environment.

Conservation efforts by AMC have been successful in creating, mapping, and maintaining more than 1300 miles of trails, providing grants to volunteer conservation efforts, advocating for the protection of ecologically significant wildlands, and using research results to help protect water and air resources. Educational programs for people of all ages are offered on subjects such as geology, meteorology, forest ecology, stream studies, conservation and natural history. Workshops provide training in activities such as backpacking, canoeing, snowshoeing, orienteering, telemark skiing, and mountain safety.

Other AMC educational programs are geared toward certain age groups. For example, “A Mountain Classroom,” the residential school program at Pinkham Notch Visitor Center, created in 1990, is designed to foster environmental awareness among schoolchildren through hands-on learning experiences in the outdoors. The Teen Wilderness Adventure program, established in 1993, provides challenging experiences to 13-18 year olds who spend 5-22 days in the wilderness, rock climbing, backpacking, canoeing, and learning about the environment.

AMC maintains more than 1,400 miles of trails, including 350 miles of the Appalachian Trail. Since 1919, AMC's Trail Program has been supported by a professional trail crew that maintains and reconstructs trails primarily in the White and Mahoosuc Mountains, but also takes on special reconstruction projects across the AMC region. Through the Shelter and Backcountry Management Program, AMC staffs and cares for 14 shelters and campsites in the White and Mahoosuc Mountains. Volunteers play a big role in implementing trail maintenance projects throughout New Hampshire. The White Mountain Adopt-a-Trail Program allows volunteers to adopt a section of a trail and act as a caretaker by cleaning drainage structures, clearing obstacles, and refreshing trail blazes. Weekly volunteer trail crews based out of Camp Dodge (in the White Mountains) allow

volunteers to get directly involved in specific projects to maintain and rehabilitate trails. AMC volunteers and AMC publications on trail maintenance are available to assist caretakers in successfully maintaining their trail segment. AMC provides overnight shelter to more than 80,000 hikers annually. They maintain a network of two roadside lodges and learning centers and eight backcountry huts – each spaced a day’s hike apart – along a 56-mile-long stretch of the Appalachian Trail in the White Mountains in New Hampshire.

AMC also publishes more than 65 books and maps about the Northeast including: the authoritative *AMC White Mountain Guide*, now in its 26<sup>th</sup> edition; *Northeastern Wilds: Journeys of Discovery in the Northern Forest*; *River Guides* and the *Quiet Water Guides* on canoeing and paddling; *Trail Guides*; *Backcountry Guides* and others (see [www.outdoors.org](http://www.outdoors.org) for more information on publications).

AMC is an active member of the volunteer search and rescue community, and AMC volunteers respond to an average of 70 search and rescue missions per year in New Hampshire’s White Mountains.

The AMC is dedicated to minimizing environmental impacts throughout its operations. The organization received the 2002 Sustainability Award from the New Hampshire Travel Council in recognition of those efforts. The AMC also received the 2002 Granite State Award for Outstanding Public Service from the University of New Hampshire System College for Lifelong Learning.

#### ***New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association***

The New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association is a membership organization which promotes a favorable economic climate for the growing of forest crops. The Association encourages multiple use management of forestlands and supports a sound and strengthened forest industry in the state. As a coalition of woodland owners, foresters, and others engaged in the timber harvesting industry, the organization works cooperatively with environmental and conservation groups and federal, state, and local governments to preserve open space. In addition, the group sponsors public education programs. The Association supports recreation and tourism, maintains wildlife habitats and water resources, and enhances the state's quality of life.

#### ***New Hampshire Preservation Alliance***

The New Hampshire Preservation Alliance was established in 1985 to galvanize public action to protect the unique character of our communities. As New Hampshire's statewide preservation organization, it works with state and local groups, regional organizations, businesses and individuals to preserve historic properties and their settings; influence public policy; and mobilize support for these activities.

#### ***Granite State Independent Living***

Granite State Independent Living (GSIL), founded in 1980, is New Hampshire’s only community-based, cross-disability, and consumer-controlled Independent Living Center. This non-profit organization is dedicated to the removal of physical, attitudinal, and

social barriers to independence for people with disabilities throughout New Hampshire. Their mission is fulfilled by providing information and referrals on disability issues, peer support, skills training, and advocacy to ensure full participation in society. Services include personal care attendant services, transportation, social and recreation programs, sign language interpreter referral services, and accessibility services.

**Northeast Passage**

Northeast Passage, a chapter of National Handicapped Sports, is a non-profit organization that educates and advocates for persons with disabilities. It has been active in creating recreation opportunities for persons with disabilities through a variety of programs, such as the adapted recreation equipment rental program. The organization also works with local recreation departments on ADA compliance matters.

**Statewide Program of Action to Conserve Our Environment (SPACE)**

SPACE was formed in 1966, and incorporated in 1969 with the mission of preserving New Hampshire's open spaces through the Current Use Taxation program. SPACE provides outreach and education, advocacy, and research about New Hampshire's 27,000 Current Use landowners, as well as the benefits of open space.

## INTERNET CONTACT INFORMATION

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### FEDERAL

US Department of the Interior (<http://www.doi.gov/>)

- National Park Service (<http://www.nps.gov/>)
  - Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR)  
(<http://www.nps.gov/uprr/>)
  - National Natural Landmarks Program (<http://www.nature.nps.gov/nnl/>)
  - Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (<http://www.nps.gov/rtca/>)
  - Historic Preservation (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nhl/>)
  - Wild and Scenic Rivers Program (<http://www.nps.gov/rivers/>)
  - National Trails System (<http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/nts/>)
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (<http://www.fws.gov/>)

US Department of Agriculture (<http://www.usda.gov/>)

- US Forest Service - White Mountain National Forest  
(<http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/white/>)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (<http://www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov/>)
- UNH Cooperative Extension (<http://extension.unh.edu/>)

US Army Corps of Engineers (New England District) (<http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/>)

US Coast Guard Auxiliary (<http://www.cgaux.org/>)

US Department of Transportation (<http://www.dot.gov/>)

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (<http://www.ferc.gov/>)

US Department of Commerce (<http://www.commerce.gov/>)

US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) (<http://www.hud.gov/>)

## **STATE**

Department of Agriculture and Food Markets, (<http://www.agriculture.nh.gov>)

Department of Resources and Economic Development (<http://www.dred.state.nh.us/>)

Office of Energy and Planning (<http://www.nh.gov/oep>)

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (<http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/>)

Governor's Commission on Disability (<http://state.nh.us/disability/index.html>)

Department of Cultural Resources (<http://www.nh.gov/nhculture/>)

Department of Environmental Services (<http://www.des.state.nh.us/>)

Volunteer NH (<http://www.volunteernh.org>)

Department of Transportation (<http://www.nh.gov/dot/>)

University System of New Hampshire (<http://www.usnh.unh.edu/>)

Department of Revenue Administration (<http://www.nh.gov/revenue/>)

Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (<http://www.lchip.org/>)

## **OTHER**

The Appalachian Mountain Club (<http://www.outdoors.org/>)

The Audubon Society of New Hampshire (<http://www.nhaudubon.org/>)

Granite State Independent Living (<http://www.gsil.org/>)

National Association of Resource Recreation Planners (<http://www.narrp.org>)

National Recreation and Parks Association (<http://www.nrpa.org/>)

The Nature Conservancy (<http://nature.org/>)

The New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (<http://www.nhacc.org/>)

New Hampshire Lakes Association (<http://www.nhlakes.org/>)

New Hampshire Preservation Alliance (<http://www.nhpreservation.org/>)

New Hampshire Rivers Council (<http://www.nhrivers.org/>)

New Hampshire Recreation and Park Association (<http://www.nhrpa.com/>)

New Hampshire Snowmobile Association ([www.nhsa.com](http://www.nhsa.com))

New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association (<http://www.nhtoa.org/>)

New Hampshire Wildlife Federation (<http://www.nhwf.org/>)

Northeast Passage (<http://www.nepassage.org/>)

Regional Planning Commissions (<http://www.nh.gov/oep/resourcelibrary/regions/home.htm>)

Statewide Program of Action to Conserve Our Environment (SPACE)  
(<http://www.nhspace.org/>)

Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (<http://www.spnhf.org/>)