

## New Hampshire Ecological Reserve System Project News ("The Ecoreserve Project")

A science-based public-private partnership to conserve the state's biological diversity.

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### Pilot Phase Underway

The New Hampshire Ecological Reserve System Project initiated a pilot phase with eight public and private landowners. Pilot sites will not be designated as ecological reserves through the activities conducted during the pilot phase. The purpose of the pilot is to test and evaluate our process and to modify and enhance the project's scientific criteria and reserve design concepts. The results of the pilot will then be used to guide Project partners in implementing a system that conserves the state's biodiversity.

In addition to the 8 pilot sites, the White Mountain National Forest and the Division of Forests and Lands are contributing to the Pilot phase through their planning processes. As part of the Forest Plan update, the WMNF is reviewing the Research Natural Areas (RNAs) to determine locations and boundaries of potential new designations. RNAs are part of a national network of ecological areas designated in perpetuity for research and education and/or to maintain biological diversity on National Forest System lands. RNA's are meant for non-manipulative research, observation and study. Among the objectives are to serve as reference areas or baselines for long-term ecological change, preserve a wide spectrum of pristine areas that typify important forest, alpine, geologic and aquatic systems that have special or unique characteristics of scientific interest.

The Division of Forests and Lands Forest Management Bureau initiated a project in 1999 with the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Inventory to carry out a comprehensive biological inventory of all Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) managed lands. This multi-year project has several goals:

integrate the natural community classification into forest inventory, mapping and planning;

survey all DRED managed lands for rare species and exemplary natural communities;

assess the effectiveness of natural area designations on DRED managed lands and prepare management recommendations; and

develop recommendations and justifications for revisions to the state list of threatened and endangered plants

The Division defines natural areas as “a designated area which has retained its natural character, although not necessarily completely undisturbed, and/or which contains floral, faunal, ecological or geological features of global, regional, and/or statewide significance of scientific and/or educational interest. “Natural area buffers” abut or surround areas of low intensity, or low-impact human activity specifically designed to shield natural resource values within natural preserves.

A scientific advisory team will convene in late summer or early fall to review data from the 8 pilot sites and to share results of the WMNF RNA review and status of the DRED Natural Heritage Inventory project. The results of this meeting will be shared with our project partners and will inform our efforts as we move forward to conserve the state’s biodiversity.

Great Bay Partnership Protects Critical Lamprey River Tract  
(excerpt from NH Fish and Game Department press release)

On behalf of the Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership, The Nature Conservancy of New Hampshire and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department announced the permanent protection of a spectacular 211-acre tract with more than three miles of frontage on the Lamprey River in Durham. A vital freshwater tributary of the Great Bay Estuary, the newly protected tract supports critical wildlife habitat - offering a diverse blend of vernal pools, riparian corridors, fields, and upland forests at various stages of succession - for deer, fisher, beaver, wild turkey, and waterfowl species. Moreover, several rare plant species and exemplary natural communities have been documented on the tract, including the state-rare knotty pondweed, the state-threatened blunt-lobed woodsia, and a high quality example of a dry, rich Appalachian oak-hickory forest.

New Address – The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy of New Hampshire is moving to a new office. As of May 4, 2001 their address is as follows:

The Nature Conservancy  
22 Bridge Street  
Fourth Floor  
Concord, NH 03301

Phone (603-224-5853) and fax (603-228-2459) numbers remain the same

## Acid Rain Revisited

Hot off the press from the Hubbard Brook Research Foundation (HBRF), *Acid Rain Revisited*: advances in scientific understanding since the passage of the 1970 and 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments. The report is based on a scientific paper published in the March issue of the journal *BioScience*. For a copy of the report contact the HBRF at [hbrook@hbresearchfoundation.org](mailto:hbrook@hbresearchfoundation.org) or visit the Web site <http://www.hbrook.sr.unh.edu>.

## New Publications

### **Identifying and Protecting New Hampshire's Significant Wildlife Habitat: A Guide for Towns and Conservation Groups**

by J. Kanter, R. Suomala, and E. Snyder. 2001. Available from NH Fish and Game Department, 2 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301. \$13.95 plus \$5 shipping.

### **New England Wildlife: Habitat, Natural History, and Distribution**

By R.M. DeGraaf and M. Yamasaki. 2001. Available from University Press of New England, 23 South Main St., Hanover, NH, [www.upne.com](http://www.upne.com) \$35 plus shipping.

### **Wetland, Woodland, Wildland: A Guide to the Natural Communities of Vermont**

by E.H. Thompson and E.R. Sorenson. 2000. Available from University Press of New England, [www.upne.com](http://www.upne.com) \$19.95 plus shipping.

## **Appalachian Mountain Club's Getting To Know Series 2001**

All workshops begin at 9 am and are held at the AMC Pinkham Notch Visitor Center, in the White Mountain National Forest. Call AMC for registration and more details (603) 466-2727.

May 11, 2001 (Indoor) 5.0 CEU

*Getting To Know*: Climate Change and the Northern Forest

Instructors: Adam Markham is the Executive Director of Clean Air-Cool Planet; Dr. Ken Kimball, Director of Research for the Appalachian Mountain Club; Dr. David Publicover, Assistant Research Director/ Senior Staff Scientist, Appalachian Mountain Club; Dr. Barrett Rock, Complex Systems Research Center, and Dr. Henry Walker, Environmental Protection Agency.

June 15, 2001 (Indoor and Outdoor) 3.5 CEU

***Getting To Know*: Identifying Ecologically Significant Areas**

Instructor: Ellen Snyder, Extension Specialist, Biodiversity and Coordinator, NH Ecological Reserve System Project, UNH Cooperative Extension

July 13, 2001 (Indoor and Outdoor) 3.5 CEU

***Getting To Know*: Ecology of a Beaver Pond**

Instructor: Darrel Covell, Extension Specialist, Wildlife, UNH Cooperative Extension

July 27, 2001 (Indoor and Outdoor) 2.5 CEU

***Getting To Know: Mountain Ecosystems: Northern Hardwoods, Boreal Forests, and Alpine Tundra***

Instructors: Dave Publicover, Ph.D., Assistant Research Director/ Senior Staff Scientist  
Appalachian Mountain Club, and Doug Weihrauch Staff Scientist, Appalachian Mountain Club.