

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

**Advancing the Conservation of New Hampshire's
Ecologically Significant Lands, Waters, and Wetlands**

August 22, 2001

For more information, contact Ellen Snyder, Project Coordinator at UNH
Cooperative Extension
Phone: 603-862-4277
Email: ellen.snyder@unh.edu

Contents:

- * Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Partnership Task Force
- * BioMap -- A Biodiversity Conservation Blueprint for Massachusetts
- * New NH Natural Heritage Inventory Coordinator
- * LCHIP Round2
- * Habitats Summer 2001

Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Partnership Task Force

(The following is excerpted from the NH Division of Forests and Lands web site at <http://www.nhdf1.org>. The web site contains more information on the steering and technical committees, meeting minutes and discussion materials)

New Hampshire Governor Jeanne Shaheen and United States Senator Judd Gregg (R-N.H.) created the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Partnership Task Force in July, 2001 charged to ensure that the many traditional uses of the International Paper Company land in Northern New Hampshire are preserved for future generations.

A broad coalition, including local North Country representatives, state and federal officials, and private nonprofits, are working together on the Task Force to address the sale of 171,000 acres owned by the International Paper Company, comprising the headwaters land of the Connecticut and Androscoggin rivers in Pittsburg, Clarksville and Stewartstown. The Task Force is assessing opinion and working to develop a locally driven conservation strategy that preserves the traditional multiple uses of the land and its economic and recreational value to the region.

The Trust for Public Land, a national nonprofit organization, has agreed to buy the land from International Paper, and hold on to it until local, state and federal officials develop a strategy, and find the funding, to protect its traditional uses.

"This land is important to the economy of the North Country and to the State of New Hampshire. My priority is ensuring that we preserve public access and this land's traditional uses, including forestry, hunting, snowmobiling, and other recreation, as well as protecting environmentally sensitive areas," Gov. Shaheen said. "This Task Force will allow everyone interested in this land's future to work together to ensure that it is managed in the best interests of our state's citizens, our economy and our quality of life."

BioMap - A Biodiversity Conservation Blueprint for Massachusetts

The MA Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program just completed a project that identifies and maps the areas most critical to protecting the state's biodiversity. Special funding from the state's Executive Office of Environmental Affairs enabled the Heritage Program to hire 15 additional staff to conduct an intensive one-year evaluation of 7,000+ records of rare plants, animals, and natural communities. The result - a superb full color publication that depicts core habitat for rare species and natural communities and supporting natural landscape of buffer areas, habitat connections and large unfragmented habitat patches by ecological region. The authors have included an excellent summary with color graphics detailing the elements of biodiversity including ecological processes and methodology for building the maps.

This publication is available free from the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. Check their website at <http://www.state.ma.us/dfwele/dfw/nhesp> or call 1-508-792-7270 x200. A companion BioMap Technical Report is also available and a poster!

New NH Natural Heritage Inventory Coordinator

Lionel Chute is the new Coordinator of the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Inventory Program (NHNHI). Lionel most recently worked as a forester for the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests developing the Biotimber Inventory program. For more information on NHNHI visit their website at <http://www.dred.state.nh.us/forlands/formgt/nhiweb/index.htm>

LCHIP Round2

The Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) Board of Directors meets August 27th to determine the schedule, priorities, and funding level for Round 2 applications. In late June the Legislature passed the state's biennial budget that included \$12 million for LCHIP. Watch the LCHIP website at <http://www.lchip.org> for more information or contact LCHIP staff (Cheryl Carlson, Office Manager and Rachel Roulliard, Executive Director) at 603-224-4113) after August 27th.

Habitats Summer 2001

The University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Forestry, Wildlife, and Water Resources Programs publish the quarterly newsletter Habitats. The latest issue (Habitats -Summer 2001) is available online at <http://ceinfo.unh.edu/wilddbio.htm>

This issue:

What's in a Natural Community?
Implementing Biodiversity Conservation
NH's Natural Heritage Inventory
Global Climate Change
Evaluating the Professional Logger Program
Watching Our Watersheds
Why Did the Beavers Kill the Black Gum Trees?