



Habitats

University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension • Forestry, Wildlife and Water Resources Programs Newsletter

Vol. XX, No. 1

Spring 2005

Forests For Whom and For What?

by Karen Bennett

Extension Specialist and Professor of Forest Resources

Foresters of a certain age will recognize the question, “Forests for whom and for what?” posed by Marion Clawson in the title of a forest policy book widely read by students learning how to juggle multiple use management.

Recreation is one of those forest uses commonly thought of as a light use of the land, but as society gets bigger, better, and faster, our recreation habits have as well. Hiking morphs into trail biking. Winter vehicular traffic (a.k.a. snowmobiling) morphs into year-round, backcountry, motorized use. Canoeing becomes motor boating. The kinds of recreation we do have become harder on the land and the numbers of us recreating have increased.

The USDA Forest Service considers unmanaged outdoor recreation as one of four threats facing private and public forests today.

In fact, the USDA Forest Service considers unmanaged outdoor recreation as one of four threats facing private and public forests today (fire and fuels, invasive species, and loss of open space are the others). What do they mean by unmanaged recreation? They cite both the increased use—an astounding 97% of US citizens over the age of 15 participate in some form of outdoor recreation—and the rapid rise in the use of off-highway

vehicles: New Hampshire registrations more than doubled in a seven year period. John Harrigan’s article speaks forcefully on one aspect of this increased off-road travel.

We typically think of recreation as a non-consumptive use of the land, but as our uses have gotten harder, the consumptive (or at least disruptive) nature of our recreation has increased. Anyone who has been passed on the road by a four-wheeled vehicle covered in mud knows what I mean. The mud came from someone’s woodlot or a class 6 road, a common right-of-way that benefits us all.

To be sure, not all activities leave behind much evidence. The sidebar on page 3 shows the top 10 favorite outdoor activities of New Hampshire citizens based on overall household participation. But landowners, foresters and other land managers who have



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Top 10 Recreation Spots You May Never Have Visited

UNH Cooperative Extension staff were asked about their top pick for a favorite recreation site in their county. “Only one?” they asked. Here are their ideas. Allowable uses vary by site, but all offer foot travel and wildlife viewing.



Phillips Exeter Academy Lands, Exeter and Kensington

• 750 acres stretching into downtown Exeter, with more than 1.5 miles of river frontage, grassland bird habitat, unique forest communities (swamp white oak floodplain forests), and a great signed trail network. Walking distance from downtown: start at the Phillips Exeter playing fields (Gilman St. off of Court Street), then head over the bridge on the Exeter River.



Sunset Tree Farm, New Boston

• The field, forest and wetland habitats of this 145-acre property are home to a wide variety of wildlife. Public visits are welcome—just drive in the yard and knock on the door for tips on which part of the property to visit. The owners, the Marvell family, host an annual tree farm and bird ID tour every April for the last 20+ years. Off Rt. 13 south of New Boston, turn east onto Highland Road, farm is at the end of this road.



Johnson Memorial Forest, Pittsburg

• 400 acres of rich wildlife habitat, lots of hiking trails, and a long-active osprey nest are highlights at this beautiful tree farm near Lake Francis. The owners, Bill and Marge Jahoda, encourage people to visit the property to discover and learn about wildlife and natural resources. Trailhead located across Rt. 3 from Pittsburg Fire Station.



Cheshire County Farm, Westmoreland

• This public tree farm has 1.5 miles of easy trails that wind through woodland and river habitats. The 500 acres of actively managed forests and over 100 acres of fields surround more than a mile of Connecticut River shoreline. Contact the Keene UNHCE office for more information at 352-4550. Park at the County Complex, located on River Road in Westmoreland.



Kimball Wildlife Forest Habitat Demonstration Area, Gilford

• Views of Lake Winnepesaukee, a wildlife interpretive trail, and the historic “Kimball Castle” make this hiking area a great choice. A trail guide at the parking area maps out the different trails which range from gentle to steep. There are 15 trail markers along the route, each describing the different wildlife habitats in the forest. Trailhead is for Lockes Hill Trails, off Rt. 11 in Gilford.



Huntington Hill Wildlife Management Area, Hanover

• This award-winning family tree farm contains 486 acres of fields and forests overlooking the Connecticut River Valley. The farm has been conserved by the Doyle family, and they welcome public access on the many miles of marked hiking trails throughout the property. The birding opportunities are excellent, and the opportunities to view the Doyle’s active wildlife habitat management projects are worth the trip. Off Rt. 10, north of Hanover, take Goodfellow Road east to the top of the hill.



Branch Hill Farm, Milton

• The Carl Siemon Family Trust owns this 400-acre farm. The public is welcome to explore 10+ miles of trails bounded by the Branch River to the west and the Salmon Falls River on east. This certified Tree Farm has a great variety of wetlands, heath bogs and wildlife, as well as excellent canoeing and hiking. Take exit 18 of the Spaulding Tnpk, right off ramp, and left onto Applebee Road. Park 1 mile up on right near white iron gate.



Constitution Park, Ossipee

• The town of Ossipee owns this multi-purpose recreational area. Along with a developed section that provides tennis courts and fields, it has two beautiful hiking trails. One is an 800’ handicapped-accessible boardwalk with nature trail signs. It crosses a wetland and ends at the public swimming beach on Ossipee Lake. Another 1.5-mile hiking trail meanders along an esker overlooking wetlands, with gorgeous views of the Presidential Range. Take the Rt. 25 East exit off Rt 16 in Center Ossipee. The park is 2.9 miles on the left—a sign marks the park. The trail system is for hiking only—wheel chairs are feasible on the shorter boardwalk trail.



illustration by
Linda Isaacson



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Forestry and Wildlife Program

The UNH Cooperative Extension Forestry and Wildlife Program has cared for New Hampshire's forests since 1925. Our mission is to educate New Hampshire's citizens about rural and urban environments enhancing their ability to make informed natural resources decisions.

Seagrant, Water & Marine Resources Program

E-mail: water.resources@unh.edu

UNH Cooperative Extension's Seagrant, Water & Marine Resources Program promotes the protection, conservation and wise use of New Hampshire's natural resources through education and outreach.

Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP)

CCAP provides communities and conservation groups with assistance for locally initiated conservation projects, with a focus on dovetailing natural resources inventory work with land conservation planning.

The above programs can be contacted at:

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2005



Esther Currier Wildlife Management Area, New London •

Visitors will find a self-guided nature trail, a quaking bog, beaver lodges and bird blinds at this 98-acre property protected by New London Conservation Commission. There are canoe launches and good spots for fishing and duck hunting. The site also has great views of Mt. Kearsarge. Access is off Rt 11 in New London. It may be seen as "Low Plain Natural Area" on older maps.



Sullivan County Natural Resources Education Area, Unity •

Wildflower finds are a delight of this 230-acre site owned by Sullivan County. The trail system borders pristine Marshall Pond and interpretive markers match an accompanying natural resource guidebook (available at the County Conservation District/UNHCE offices at 4 Main St, Newport, NH). The interpretive trail features historical sites, wildlife habitats, and special wetland habitats, along with a wildflower and wildlife checklist (in the guide). To get there, head north on Unity Road, and take a right on Marshall Pond Road.

Forests For Whom and For What?

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always touted recreation as a forest benefit that is easily integrated with other resource considerations (timber and wildlife management, water quality protection, soil maintenance) are beginning to question this old chestnut. Eighty percent (80%) of New Hampshire's productive forest land is privately owned, and we owe it to these landowners to visit and use their land with care.

So the question we are faced with is how can we recreate ethically? With this issue of *Habitats*, we endeavor to explore the question through different perspectives, helping us transform recreation from something we all do, to something we all do better. We hope it helps landowners manage the new challenges that today's recreationists present. We also hope you find inspiration of where and when to go, what to do, and how to stay safe.

Top Ten Outdoor Activities by N.H. Residents

Activity	Overall Household Participation
Wildlife Observation	85%
Driving for Pleasure	84%
Sight-seeing	84%
Jogging/Running/Walking	79%
Day Hiking	73%
Stream/Lake Swimming	71%
Picnicking	68%
Photography	64%
Ocean Swimming	58%
Bicycling	55%

NH Outdoors, 2003-2007. Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. March 2003



Public Recreational Use of Private Property: To Post or Not to Post

This article, which is written with Current Use landowners in mind, is reprinted with permission from the Statewide Program of Action to Conserve Our Environment (S.P.A.C.E.), Lindsey Santaniello, Executive Administrator. S.P.A.C.E. is a private, not-for-profit coalition of natural resource conservation organizations, agricultural groups, recreational user groups, and concerned landowners and individuals. S.P.A.C.E. is New Hampshire's Current Use Coalition.

In New Hampshire we have a unique expectation of access onto property owned by others that is unknown in other states. This expectation is a very New Hampshire concept, an extension of our motto "Live Free or Die." In fact, in many states the land use expectation is NO TRESPASSING.

Some may feel as if this freedom of access is a right, but it is more accurately a cherished New Hampshire tradition. The public use of any private property is a privilege. Not all land uses are compatible, and it is the landowner's right to decide how they want to use their land; to post wanted or unwanted uses, or not to post, thereby welcoming public use.

Posting Lands

There are two common reasons why landowners decide to post their land against public use. First, they just purchased the property and they are worried about liability, or of what might happen if they didn't post. Second, they have had trouble with others' use of their land. In the first instance, the liability of landowners that allow free public access is limited. New Hampshire has recognized the value of public access with a statute protecting those generous enough to share their land.

As for the second instance, the majority of landowners never experience any problems with others' use of their land. The likelihood of having any problems is very small. Unfortunately, however, problems with the public's use of private property do occur. Grafton County Forester Nory Parr identifies the dumping of trash and the rutting of roads, trails and landings by wheeled vehicles as the most common landowner complaints. While trash is annoying and undeserved, it can usually be remedied. On the other hand, wheeled vehicle damage can be difficult and sometimes costly to repair. Erosion and damage to environmentally sensitive areas

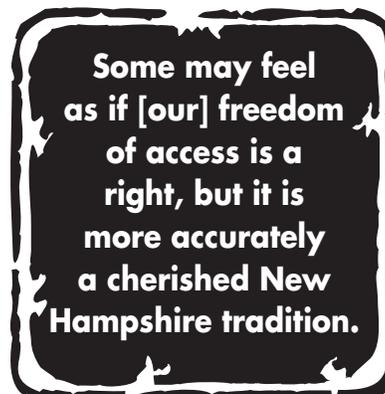
are possible consequences of misuse. Other problems stem from conflicting uses of the same land.

If you do have problems with the public's use of your land, you can get help. You can call local law enforcement for any trespass or misuse issues. If you see snowmobiles, mountain bikes or ATV's using property they shouldn't be, or find evidence of such misuse on your land, you can call the Fish & Game Law Enforcement Dispatch number, 271-3361.

Once a landowner has experienced difficulties and has decided to post their land, the best approach is to try using positive language, such as "Welcome Foot Traffic Only" or "Please, No Trash". Or consider posting "Land Use by Permission Only". Landowners should consider the negative message "NO TRESPASSING" signs send, especially to the neighbors. The signs themselves can trigger angry responses, such as destruction of signs, littering and unkind remarks in the community. It is not the best way to meet the neighbors!

If you decide to post your land, talking about your decision to your neighbors can go a long way in preventing misunderstandings. Neighbors can be a valuable resource, particularly in rural areas. They may observe people using your land, or have pertinent information about your property. Try to keep the lines of communication open.

Another potential remedy for landowners who have had problems with the public's use of their land is the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department sign program. The idea behind this program is to post only against select activities as necessary, and encourage landowners not to post against all public uses. A Conservation Officer will visit the site to determine eligibility and signage needs, and enroll the landowner in the program. A variety of signs with the respected New Hampshire Fish & Game



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Recreation on Conservation Easement Lands

by Frank Mitchell

UNH Extension Specialist, Land & Water Conservation

Many towns, conservation groups, and land trusts in New Hampshire must make decisions about what kinds of recreational uses are appropriate on conservation lands under their care.

Recreation on conservation lands requires attention in the planning of conservation restrictions as well as intended recreational uses of the land. While conservation lands may be public or private, this article focuses on privately owned land protected through conservation easements. The main purpose of these easements is usually to protect natural features on the land. Recreation on conservation easement lands may be a valid land use, but usually it must be conducted in a way that does not threaten or harm the core values being protected. Wherever there is recreational use of land, some level of impact to natural resources is likely. Management of these conservation areas, then, requires either prohibiting recreational use or controlling it so that impacts are minimized.

What Are the Impacts?

Recreational land use typically affects four types of natural resources: soil, water, plants and animals. Scenery and aesthetic values may also be affected. The types of impacts that can occur to soil, water, plants and animals can be summarized as follows:

- Impacts on soils such as compaction, decreased water available to plants, increased erosion
- Impacts on water such as direct contamination and damage to streambanks
- Impacts on plants such as root damage near trails, reduced growth from trampling, and introduction of exotic species
- Impacts on animals such as direct mortality, changes to habitat, effects from pollutants left by people, direct disturbance and resulting displacement, and increased stress



How Can Impacts Be Reduced or Eliminated?

Conservation areas can provide important opportunities for human enjoyment of nature. Particularly

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To Post or Not to Post

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logo on them, suited for different land uses and situations, are available to the enrolled landowner free of charge. To enroll in the program, call the Fish & Game Law Enforcement Dispatch number at (603) 271-3361,



and tell the dispatcher why you are calling. The dispatcher will contact your local Conservation Officer, who will contact you to set up a site visit. For more information regarding the sign program, call the New Hampshire Fish & Game general information number at (603) 271-2461.

And if land you like to use has been posted, get in touch with the landowner and ask their permission to use their land. Often posted land is used by many. Landowners may post against all trespassing, but are really only interested in restricting certain uses or discouraging strangers.

What are the alternatives to wholesale "NO TRESPASSING" posting?

1. If it is only one activity that you wish to restrict, consider posting for that activity alone. "No Hunting" or "No Wheeled Vehicles" etc.
2. If you are not comfortable with just anyone walking around on your land, consider posting "Land Use by Permission Only", with your phone number on the bottom of the sign. Most people, especially the neighbors, will be glad your land is not off limits, and will be happy to comply.
3. If there have been problems with others use of your land in the past, consider posting for "Land Use By Permission Only" as this may help resolve the situation. If someone should call about using your land, be sure to mention past problems you've had that you would like to avoid. "I've been having some problems with people leaving trash, and I'd appreciate it if you could take out anything you bring with you."
4. If safety around your home during hunting season is a concern, consider posting a safety zone around your home. This can be reassuring to both landowners and hunters, particularly if your house is surrounded by forest and not very visible, or was built within the past few years. Hunting is not allowed within 300 feet from a residence by New Hampshire State law.

Recreation on Conservation Easement Lands

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in urban areas, where there are few open spaces available for public use, they may be the principal areas people choose for recreation and contact with nature. With careful planning and management, it can be possible to accommodate recreational use without compromising the natural features that the conservation areas are meant to protect.

Many factors affect recreational impacts including the type of recreational use, how much of it occurs, what time of year or time of day it occurs, the behavior of the users, where on the land (or water) the use occurs, and what are the characteristics of the land. With these factors in mind, here are some guidelines for managing recreational use to avoid or minimize impacts to natural systems:

- Know and identify the features of the land.
- Avoid recreational use in places where it would threaten the core conservation values even if carefully managed. Not all conservation lands are suitable for recreational use or perhaps not in every season (e.g. mud season).
- Concentrate recreational uses. It may seem logical to disperse uses in order to dilute their effects, but in fact the biggest increases in the effects of recreational use usually happen at lower levels of use. The least overall damage will usually be where the use is concentrated, even though the damage may be more intense.
- Locate recreational uses on land that can support it (e.g. avoiding areas with wet or shallow soils or steep slopes).
- Route trails away from sensitive areas.
- Close, repair or relocate trails that show early signs of damage.
- Construct trails using best practices for layout, construction and maintenance.
- Educate users about the land's vulnerability and ways to keep impacts low.
- Control access and movement in the area, through carefully designed trails, gates
- Control the amount of use (e.g. limit parking)
- Minimize width of trails.
- Prohibit or limit motorized use, which tends to be more damaging than foot travel.

Who Manages Recreational Uses on Conservation Land?

Conservation easements usually apply to privately owned lands. In such cases, the responsibility for managing recreational uses on the land are the responsibility of the landowner. In most cases, public access is at the landowner's discretion and is allowed as a public benefit, not as a requirement of an easement. The easement holder's role is to ensure that the intent and restrictions of the easement are upheld permanently. It is in the interest of the easement holder to support landowners in their management of recreational use in order to avoid possible future conflicts that such use might cause.

Of course, recreational users have a responsibility as well. To keep lands publicly accessible means keeping landowners happy about their use. Responsible recreation can benefit conservation lands by giving more people a personal stake in the property, who may also be more likely to support other conservation efforts because of the personal benefit they experience from conservation lands. Recreational users can be involved in trail and other maintenance and can serve as extra "eyes and ears" to identify activities that are contrary to the conservation purposes of the property. Inappropriate and illegal activities are more likely to occur on land that is seldom visited by others, whereas these uses tend to decline when permitted and responsible use is strong.

Land conservation and recreational use will continue to be part of a balancing act that has to be handled well indefinitely. The future of conservation and recreation depend on it.

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Wildlife Viewing in New Hampshire

by Judy Silverberg PhD

NH Fish & Game Wildlife Education Programs Supervisor

Do you enjoy watching birds at your feeder? Is moose watching one of your favorite pastimes? Have you ever taken a trip just to see wildlife? If you do any of these things, you are one of the 445,000 wildlife viewers that live in New Hampshire.

Everyday is a good day for viewing wildlife, whether in your own backyard, a neighborhood park, or a new place you are exploring. In New Hampshire this is especially true; it is possible to see a moose in a front yard in Concord or hear a Bicknell's thrush in the higher elevations of Dixville Notch. New Hampshire's varied landscape—from the seacoast to the White Mountains—exhibits a diversity that few other places can match. More than 450 species of fish, mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles as well as countless insects and marine animals, are part of our wildlife heritage.

More than 80 percent of New Hampshire is forested; this makes wildlife viewing somewhat challenging.

Animals can easily remain hidden allowing viewers only a glimpse as the animals turn and blend into their surroundings. Increasing your knowledge about what animals live where, and knowing at what season of the year species are most visible will help you have successful viewing experiences. Listen in April and May for the choruses of spring peepers and wood frogs; they sing from the wetlands, trying to attract a mate. Early June is a good time to see bears grazing on the ski slopes of Cannon Mountain. Ospreys fly along the Androscoggin River in July and August. On a crisp, clear day in mid-September, Mount

Kearsarge affords views of hundreds of broad-winged hawks as they migrate south. Winter is a great time to search for bald eagles along the lower Merrimack River in Manchester or to read the stories of winter survival by looking for mammal tracks in the snow.

Finding where to go to watch wildlife in New Hampshire is really not too difficult. The New Hampshire Wildlife Viewing guide is available for purchase from New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. In addition, the Department's website at www.wildlife.state.nh.us



www.wildlife.state.nh.us has information and maps for some of the wildlife management areas owned by the Department. Local maps show public lands and wildlife viewing areas.

Here are a few hints to make your wildlife viewing experiences even better:

Go out when wildlife is active.

Plan your visit around peak viewing seasons or times of activity. New Hampshire boasts several activity peaks. The first is April – June, when large numbers of migratory birds return and animals are busy raising their young. A second peak occurs

September – October as migratory birds begin to head south and mammals prepare for winter. The time of day also plays an important part in whether or not you will see animals. In general, wildlife is more active during the first and last hours of daylight.

Be patient, learn to be still and silent.

You can improve your chances of seeing wildlife by slowing down. Take a few steps, stop, listen and look. Sharpen your senses by paying attention to sounds and smells.

Look for changes in shapes and in movement all around you. Avoid making noise: don't step on brittle sticks and leaves or talk out loud. If possible, walk into the wind. If you arrive at a wildlife viewing site expecting to see a lot of wildlife right away, you will probably be disappointed. Allow yourself time. In some cases you can blend into your surroundings by sitting motionless next to a tree or

bush to allow wildlife to go about their daily routines.

Enjoy wildlife from a distance.

The goal of successful wildlife watching is to see animals without interrupting their normal behavior. An animal sends clear signals if you are too close: it stops feeding and raises its head sharply, moves away, changes direction of travel or appears nervous or aggressive. Any disturbance may result in an animal abandoning its young, injuring itself as it tries to escape, not feeding at a time of critical energy need, or displaying aggressive behavior toward the intruder.

Backcountry Essentials Are as Much in Your Head as on Your Back

by Rob Burbank,
Public Affairs Director for the Appalachian Mountain Club

This article originally appeared in "AMC Outdoors," the magazine of the Appalachian Mountain Club, and is reprinted here with permission. The non-profit AMC operates huts, camps, and lodges for the public in New Hampshire and throughout the region, and offers educational workshops on outdoor skills and natural history for all ages.

Ask anyone for a list of items you should never be without during a trip into the backcountry and they'll rattle off the perennial map and compass, knife, water, matches, and first aid kit. Add to the list a bandanna, extra insulating clothing, a flashlight or headlamp, and trail snacks.

But at a training session for Appalachian Mountain Club information volunteers a few years back, one member gave an incredibly insightful answer: "Your head and your hands."

Good advice, indeed, for if you lose the use of your hands, through frostbite, for example, you can't pull on extra clothing; you can't unscrew your water bottle; you can't strike a match to build a fire.

And without a clear head, you can't make informed decisions to ensure your safety or the safety of others in your party.

Yet the use of your hands or your head can be lost

quite quickly, particularly in cold, wet, or windy weather, and in mountainous areas where weather tends to change rapidly.

If you're not properly dressed and you become chilled—particularly if you're wet from sweat or the weather—you're a candidate for hypothermia. Hypothermia is the potentially deadly cooling of the body's core temperature. It can strike any time of the year in the mountains, and when it sets in, motor skills and dexterity deteriorate. The brain goes numb, and judgment falters. And those affected often don't realize that it's happening. It's essential to avoid hypothermia by staying warm and dry and keeping an eye on your hiking partners.

Here are a few more tips that lean more heavily on what's in your head than on what's in your pack:

- Get a weather report and be aware of changes in the weather throughout your trip.
- Tell family or friends where you're going and when you intend to return.
- Know whether you can make it to your destination before dark.
- Watch for fatigue in yourself and others, and don't be afraid to turn back. Better to curtail your hike than to push yourself beyond your limits.
- As for equipment, a few items will put a greater distance between you and potential disaster, and you don't need to be a gearhead to comply. Among them are the aforementioned map and compass, knife, matches, water bottle, flashlight or headlamp, bandanna (as a sling, bandage, headband, neckerchief, coffee filter, pot holder, napkin, signal flag, or—with two or more tied together—a belt or bathing suit), and first aid kit.
- A suitable first aid kit includes antiseptic cream, adhesive tape, gauze bandages, adhesive ban-

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A Landowner's View: ATVs and Public Access

by John Harrigan

Three or four years ago I wrote in a newspaper column that ATVs were going to be the big issue on the outdoor scene during the next decade, and that has sadly proved to be true.

As landowners and as people who cherish the privilege of recreating on other people's land, my wife and I are well aware of the growing pressures on private landowners and the growing number of people desperate to find ways to enjoy the outdoors on a steadily dwindling amount of open land.

We own around 450 acres of land, all of it open for public enjoyment. We gladly allow two local snowmobile clubs to maintain key trails across our property, one on our best hay field and the other a steeply sloping woodlot. Both areas are fine for winter trail use, but are totally inappropriate for ATVs. The snowmobile clubs and their members are good neighbors. We have had very few problems with snowmobilers over the years, and when we have voiced those few problems they have been addressed swiftly and effectively.

ATVs are another thing altogether. While responsible ATV riders are scrambling like mad to get organized and trying to rein in the rogue riders that are giving their sport a massive public black eye, the fact is that the ATV industry is growing like Topsy—registrations are increasing by 15% per year. In some areas of the state, ATV misuse is so rampant that law enforcement officials have thrown up their hands. Try as they might, the fast-growing ATV organizations cannot get a grip on the problem. More than once I have heard from well-meaning, hard-working ATV club organizers who say they just cannot find a way to address the main problem regarding ATVs: uncontrolled, unsupervised riding by teenagers who don't know or don't care about where they should and shouldn't be riding, and whose parents don't know or care either.

Most landowners, I would bet, know that ATVs cannot be ridden on other people's land without explicit permission, and that they cannot be ridden on any public road. But don't count on that gate swinging both ways. Three years ago, a neighbor

called me to let me know that ATVs had been roaring up and down the public road between two of our hayfields, and in the fields as well. I drove down to look, and sure enough, there were ATV tracks everywhere. The machines, I found out, had come from a vacation home recently bought by a family from south of the notches.

I got the man's name from the real estate agent, and called him up. He came across as a nice guy, and indeed proved as much when I met him later. Sure, he said, those ATVs belonged to his kids and



their friends. Sure, they'd been riding on the road, and in the fields. Wasn't that all right? And weren't those fields just empty space, anyway, there for the using? "I didn't think anyone owned that land," he said. (How many landowners have heard that one?)

The man was flatly taken aback when I informed him about the laws, and he apologized profusely. He has turned out to be a good neighbor, and the ATVs now stay on his own land. The point is, he hadn't had a clue. Now I have to wonder what is at the root of most of the ATV misuse. Is it that rogue ATV riders don't have a clue about the law, or is it that they know full well, but simply don't care?

I do know that more and more land is being posted, every year, because of misuse and abuse by

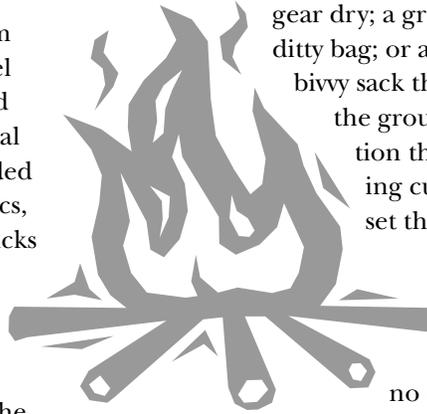
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Backcountry Essentials

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dages, a sewing needle, tweezers, pain relievers, moleskin, alcohol swabs, and latex gloves.

- In addition to gloves and a warm hat, clothing for mountain travel should include a waterproof and windproof outer layer and several insulating layers that can be added to or peeled off. Go for synthetics, such as polypropylene, which wicks moisture away from the skin, or wool, which retains its insulating capabilities even when wet. Cotton readily soaks up sweat and holds that wetness next to the skin. The result is heat loss and an invitation to hypothermia. Avoid it.
- Perhaps the most important piece of gear, and one that takes up virtually no space in your pack,



is a plastic trash bag. Bring along a couple of them, and you've got a pack liner to keep your gear dry; a ground cloth; a makeshift poncho; a ditty bag; or a waterproof, windproof emergency bivvy sack that can be a life saver. Spread on the ground, it can also collect condensation that you can funnel into your drinking cup. Pin down the bag's corners, set the cup into a small hole under the center of the plastic sheet, and place a stone on the plastic over the cup, and you've got water enough to help keep you alive, no matter how arid the surroundings.

- Don't forget that a compass is not a talisman. It does no good in your pocket, which is where it's likely to stay if you don't know how to use it. Read a book. Take a course. Ask questions, learn, practice, teach.

A Landowner's View

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rogue ATV riders. In particular, landowner relations that snowmobile clubs worked for decades to forge are being threatened by misuse of the trails by ATVs. Talk to snowmobile club officers, and they will tell you that other than raising enough money for trail grooming and maintenance, irresponsible and law-flouting ATV riders are their prime concern.

I feel a course of action needs to be taken here, and it has to be an orchestrated, statewide initiative. The message has to go out to every single ATV owner that the machines cannot be ridden on anyone else's land without explicit permission. Implicit in that message must be a penalty for ignoring the law. If I had the power,

that penalty would be the loss of the machine. To enforce this, law enforcement may need to make a concerted effort to seek out ATV owners. Would it be a stretch to visit ATV households, hand the occupants a simplified version of the ATV laws, and let them know that rogue riding will not be tolerated? Again, the forfeit of the machine could be implied.

Responsible ATV riders are working hard to organize, establish trail systems, and clean up their sport. There should be room at the outdoor recreation table for ATVers, and I hope they succeed. Right now, the ATV scene is pretty much chaos, and if it continues unabated, landowners will rebel, and all of us who love the outdoors will be the losers.

John Harrigan is a writer, farmer, and resident of Colebrook, NH. He writes an outdoors column that runs periodically in The Union Leader newspaper.

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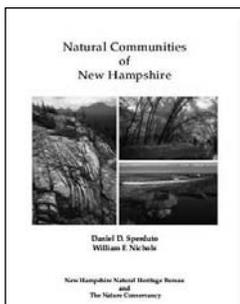
From the Resources Library

by Malin Ely Clyde, NH Coverts Project Coordinator

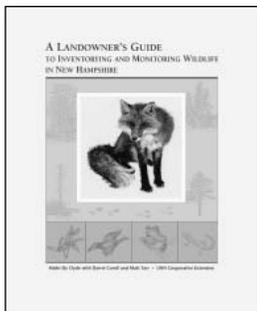
UNH Cooperative Extension Forestry Information Center

The following publications are available from the Forestry Information Center. For charge publications, make check payable to UNH Cooperative Extension and remit to Forestry Information Center, Room 211 Nesmith Hall, 131 Main Street, Durham, NH 03824. To request copies, call 1-800-444-8978 or email forest.info.@unh.edu.

Natural Communities of New Hampshire, by Daniel Sperduto and William Nichols of the NH Natural Heritage Bureau and the Nature Conservancy. This comprehensive manual represents 15 years of natural community classification work in New Hampshire. The 230-page book describes 192 different types of natural communities, from “black spruce/balsam fir krummholz” high in the White Mountains to “black gum – red maple basin swamps” of the south-eastern lowlands. It also includes an overview of important physical features and natural divisions of New Hampshire. Cost is \$20. A web version of this publication is also available on the UNH Cooperative Extension webpage: www.extension.unh.edu.

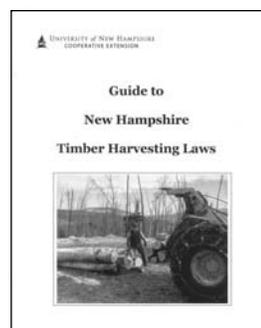


A Landowner's Guide to Inventorying and Monitoring Wildlife in New Hampshire, by Malin Ely Clyde, Darrel Covell, and Matt Tarr of UNH Cooperative Extension. This fully illustrated publication includes tips for observing wildlife, how to keep records of wildlife observations, and guidance on creating a habitat map of your property. It also includes detailed how-to descriptions of wildlife inventory methods, including birds, mammals, amphibians & reptiles, and insects, as well as data tabulation

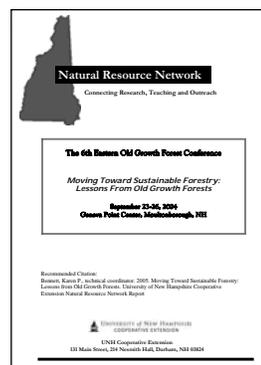


sheets for each method. Also included are descriptions and contact information for statewide and national wildlife monitoring programs where you can contribute your data to larger studies of wildlife populations. Cost is \$10. A web version of this publication is also available on the UNH Cooperative Extension webpage: www.extension.unh.edu.

Guide to New Hampshire Timber Harvesting Laws published by UNH Cooperative Extension. This newly-revised 37-page guide contains information on laws pertaining to current use, timber tax, wetlands, timber trespass, deceptive business practices, basal area, slash, and land conversion. Landowners, loggers, foresters, municipal officials and others will find what they need when planning or reviewing a timber harvest. Cost is \$5. A web version of this publication is also available on the UNH Cooperative Extension webpage: www.extension.unh.edu.



Moving Toward Sustainable Forestry: Lessons From Old Growth Forests, Proceedings from the 6th Eastern Old Growth Forest Conference (September 2004). This report contains 32 summary papers and 7 poster



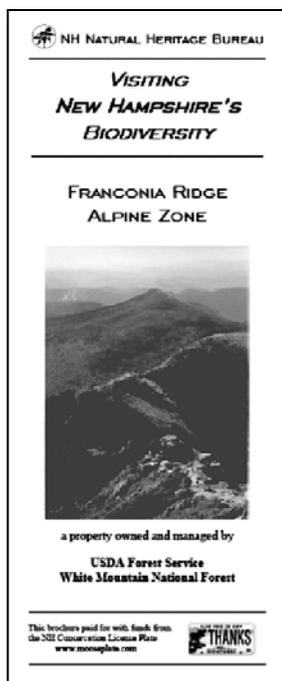
abstracts from this conference dedicated to furthering the scientific understanding and conservation of old growth forests in the eastern US and Canada and promoting sound forest management informed by an understanding of old growth forest dynamics. The conference featured scientific research that emerged since the prior conference in 2000 and provided a forum for discussing the identification, protection and use of old growth forests in a working landscape. Cost is \$5.

Habitats

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525081

Visiting New Hampshire's Biodiversity



The NH Division of Forests & Land's Natural Heritage Bureau has initiated a new series of visitor's guides called "Visiting NH's Biodiversity."

Every year, the Heritage Bureau receives many calls from people asking where they can see good examples of the special natural features that the Bureau tracks, including the state's old forests, rare or unusual plants and natural communities, and remarkable wetlands.

To this end, the NH Heritage Bureau has begun preparing interpretive trail brochures for sites where people can view unusual and high-quality natural communities in New Hampshire. Sites were chosen that offer special viewing opportunities, have good trail systems, and can handle public visitation without compromising the biological resources of the site.

Currently brochures have been created for the following sites, and more are planned in the coming year:

- **Franconia Ridge Alpine Zone (Franconia)**
- **Franconia Notch Old Forest (Franconia)**
- **Fox State Forest Black Gum Swamp (Hillsborough)**
- **Manchester Cedar Swamp (Manchester)**
- **Merrimack River Conservation Area Floodplain Forest (Concord)**

You can view and print each of the brochures online on the Heritage Bureau's website: www.nhdfl.org/formgt/nhiweb
www.nhdfl.org/organization/div_nhnhi.htm

For information and ideas about other great places in New Hampshire, visit the NH Division of Travel & Tourism's website. www.visitnh.gov