

CHAPTER 5 RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Previous chapters provide information on the resources of the Merrimack River corridor as well as existing land use, zoning, and property ownership. Each section identifies a number of issues and problems associated with protecting the water quality and quantity of the river and with conserving the quality of the corridor. This section contains specific recommended actions aimed at maintaining or improving the river resources identified in the previous chapters. While the recommendations in this chapter are specifically made for the river corridor, many can also be applied to activities throughout the watershed as well. The recommendations are arranged and discussed in relationship to the goals and objectives of the corridor plan, given in Chapter 2 of this document, and are arranged in the relative order of importance as determined by the LMRLAC. The full list of action items, grouped by objective, is included as Appendix 3 of this document.

5.1 List of Recommended Actions

Action Class 1: Administration

<u>Rank</u>	<u>ID</u>	<u>Action</u>
1	1.3.1	Encourage DES to increase enforcement of existing environmental regulations such as Alteration of Terrain and dredge and fill of wetlands and NPDES violations.
2	1.1.1.	Inform and educate citizens and enforcement officials on the applicable federal, state and local regulations to ensure proper understanding of the regulation and the rationale behind them.
3	1.3.2	Report any violations of federal, state or local regulations. To facilitate citizen reports, LMRLAC should partner with the Conservation Commissions, code enforcement officers, and police departments of the four communities to work jointly on developing a process by which citizens and municipalities can follow in reporting wetland, stormwater, shoreland protection, and pollutant discharge violations. As part of this cooperative effort, informational pamphlets describing the applicable regulations and the appropriate violations reporting options should be distributed. A website for information on violation should also be created so that citizens can be more involved in reporting local conditions.
4	1.2.1	The communities and other organizations should use the power of the press to its fullest in promoting the issues and activities surrounding the river. Publicize all public meetings, clean-up days, public access dedications, recreation events and volunteer activities.
5	1.2.2	Utilize the assistance of the Nashua Regional Planning Commission to conduct a series of meetings in each corridor community to discuss the information contained in the Merrimack River Corridor Management Plan and its recommendations.
6	1.1.2	Facilitate a process by which projects within the river corridor being reviewed by local Conservation Commissions are simultaneously reviewed by the LMRLAC.
7	1.2.3	Seek training for the Local Advisory Committees from DES so that LACs are better able to assist in notification and enforcement of violations.
8	1.2.4	Actively recruit new membership into the LMRLAC.
9	1.2.5	For large or complex applications, require that project applicants attend LAC meeting to demonstrate how Alteration of Terrain and wetland requirements will be met through the project proposal.

Action Class 2: Conservation

<u>Rank</u>	<u>ID</u>	<u>Action</u>
1	2.1.1	Partner with local Conservation Commissions to sponsor regularly scheduled informational meetings on topics related to river conservation that are of interest to community residents. The discussions should focus on the impacts of individual actions and the benefits derived from the river. Suggested topics include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protection of water resources and water conservation; • impacts of non-point pollution sources (NPS) on water quality and what can be done to decrease NPS on an individual basis; • conservation mechanisms available to private landowners and the benefits of the different alternatives; • proper applications of fertilizers and pesticides for weekend gardeners and homeowners; • care and maintenance of septic systems; and • historic resources of the corridor.
2	2.1.2	Develop asset inventory logs for all undeveloped / underdeveloped properties within the Lower Merrimack River corridor.
3	2.1.3	Partner with the local Conservation Commissions to support requests for funding the purchase of conservation easements and land in their annual budget request. Provide Conservation Commissions with support documentation on priority properties deserving protection.
4	2.1.4	Partner with local Conservation Commissions in each community to develop information pamphlets to be enclosed with regular mailings on river conservation issues.
5	2.1.5	Request the Hudson Board of Selectmen to dedicate all revenue from the current use land use change tax for the purchase of conservation lands.
6	2.1.6	Request that the corridor community municipal officials include funds for the purchase of conservation easements and lands in the capital improvements program on an annual basis. LMRLAC should encourage the Conservation Commissions to submit conservation funding requests.
7	2.2.1	Adopt innovative zoning for conservation subdivision regulations in Litchfield. Conservation subdivisions can be used to conserve open space, prime and active farmland, environmentally sensitive areas and significant wildlife habitats.
8	2.3.1	Adopt a watershed conservation district which creates standards for development within areas adjacent to riparian habitats in all four corridor communities to begin the development of a greenbelt along the Merrimack River corridor.
9	2.1.7	Conduct a study to quantify the economic benefit of open space in each community.

Action Class 3: Corridor Management

<u>Rank</u>	<u>ID</u>	<u>Action</u>
1	3.1.1	<i>Adopt impervious surface limitations that restrict development to less than 10% allowable impervious surface within the river corridor.</i>
2	3.2.2	<i>Adopt local wetlands, stormwater, surface, and groundwater land use regulations in each corridor community that will provide a level of protection that maintains the existing condition of the Merrimack River.</i>

Action Class 3: Corridor Management

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| 3 | 3.2.1 | Support local communities in the development and adoption of local river protection regulations which identify permitted uses and their requirements, as well as give development standards for the allowable locations of public and private boating docks. |
| 4 | 3.2.3 | Protect steep slopes and other environmentally sensitive areas through adoption of land use regulations that prohibit or limit development in these river corridor areas. |
| 5 | 3.2.4 | Adopt regulations that limit alterations to natural stream channels and banks and require restoration for already degraded streambank segments and mitigation of unavoidable impacts to stream and river banks. |
| 6 | 3.2.5 | Adopt local shoreland protection regulations in all four corridor communities that are designed to protect the Lower Merrimack River according to specific local needs and conditions. |
| 7 | 3.2.6 | Determine a tiered set of required buffer distances for use in regulating land uses adjacent to the Merrimack River based upon the hydrology and topographic features surrounding this unique riparian resource, acknowledging that a one-size-fits-all setback may not be the most appropriate or equitable means of managing this surface water. |
| 8 | 3.3.1 | Encourage the adoption of mitigation requirements when the natural appearance and function of shoreland elements are degraded, both in new construction and for existing developments. |
| 9 | 3.4.1 | Support designation of the Nashua River into the Rivers Management and Protection Program by assisting in the nomination and designation process. |
| 10 | 3.4.2 | Support DES and the New Hampshire Legislature in adopting additional surface water protection regulations. |
| 11 | 3.2.10 | Amend the subdivision and site plan review regulations in all four communities to include requirements to maintain and manage vegetative buffers between site developments and surface waters, including developments that facilitate public access to the Lower Merrimack River. These regulations should include development standards that limit cutting of vegetation within sensitive areas. |
| 12 | 3.2.7 | Amend or adopt floodplain regulations in corridor communities to restrict the construction or enlargement of buildings and structures within the 100-year floodplain. Periodically inundated with water, floodplains are best suited for low intensity uses such as recreation where little damage to property will occur. |
| 13 | 3.2.8 | Partner with the corridor communities' Conservation Commissions to amend the wetland regulations to include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75-foot minimum setback for buildings, structures, and parking areas • 50-foot required vegetated buffer for wetlands • 125-foot minimum setback for septic systems and leachfields located in somewhat poorly drained soils or soils with a rapid or very rapid permeability. |
| 14 | 3.2.9 | Amend the local excavation regulations in all four communities to prohibit excavations within the shoreland zone and to allow them as a special exception within a specified distance of the shoreland. Excavations change the hydrologic patterns of runoff, increase the susceptibility of the area to erosion and degrade visual quality. |

Action Class 4: Historic Resources

<u>Rank</u>	<u>ID</u>	<u>Action</u>
1	4.1.1	Conduct historic resource surveys of the river corridor in each community through volunteer efforts. The NRPC can provide assistance to the organizations interested in conducting historic surveys.
2	4.1.2	Obtain assistance in preparing National Register applications for eligible sites.
3	4.2.1	Partner with corridor community historic preservation offices to publicize updates to historic resource inventories.

Action Class 5: Public Access and Awareness

<u>Rank</u>	<u>ID</u>	<u>Action</u>
1	5.3.4	<i>Organize recreational opportunities for the general public at least twice a year that are designed to provide positive recreational experiences to users in order to facilitate greater appreciation for river resources.</i>
2	5.3.1	Increase public awareness of the Merrimack River as an asset to the four communities through which the Lower Merrimack River flows and to the region as a whole through development of flyers, public service announcements, recreational opportunities, and partnerships with other entities having high media profiles.
3	5.1.1	<i>Encourage corridor communities to acquire public access easements along the shoreline to be used for a recreational trail within the River corridor.</i>
4	5.3.7	Establish a trained team of volunteers within each community to facilitate education and recreation programs that emphasize the wise use of the river through recreational programs and uses. Educational messages should focus on conservation and recreational uses, but should also be flexible enough to provide landowners with answers to questions regarding liability and law enforcement. Where possible, volunteer programs should be incorporated into schools as to be accessible to youth and families.
5	5.2.3	Acquire and develop public boat access areas in each community. Communities should consider utilizing both municipally owned properties as well as purchasing land along the river. When developing public boat access areas, both sides of the river should be serviced appropriately.
6	5.2.4	Develop a continuous trail system along the shores of the river. The trail should follow the riverbank wherever possible. In instances where existing development presents a barrier the trail should skirt around the development and come back to the riverbank when possible. Develop a plan for construction and maintenance of a corridor trail system that provides incremental phasing for sections of trail which may be accomplished within distinct planning phases.
7	5.3.8	Partner with the local Conservation Commissions and historical societies in each community to develop and install interpretive signs to highlight important natural and historic areas.
8	5.2.1	Increase public access to the Lower Merrimack River through development of a non-motorized recreational trail system along the shores of the Lower Merrimack River.
9	5.2.2	Develop additional boat launching facilities along both sides of the Lower Merrimack River corridor.
10	5.3.3	<i>At least once a year, distribute educational information that discusses the wise use of the Lower Merrimack river and its corridor environment to corridor community schools and civic groups.</i>

Action Class 5: Public Access and Awareness

- 11 5.3.5 Develop a clearinghouse for useful information related to landowner liability, responsibility, and opportunity concerning use of public recreational facilities which cross private property.
- 12 5.3.6 Develop a database of Lower Merrimack River corridor property owners, updated at least once a year, to assist municipalities, conservation commissions, and the LMRLAC in communicating with landowners on important corridor issues and opportunities.
- 13 5.1.2 Utilize service organizations in each community to construct and maintain existing and future trail networks. Encourage organizations to adopt sections of the trail and become responsible for their maintenance.
- 14 5.1.3 Request conservation and pedestrian easements along the river during the site plan and subdivision review processes in all four communities. These areas can then be used to meet the open space and recreation requirements. RSA 674:36, Subdivision Regulations, and RSA 674:44, Site Plan Review Regulations authorize communities to include open space and recreation land criteria in their regulations and to consider these criteria when reviewing development proposals.
- 15 5.1.4 Encourage increased police presence at existing and future public areas on the river to protect visitors, to discourage vandalism, loitering and other inappropriate behavior, and to enforce use restrictions. This will become increasingly more important if individual landowners agree to public access easements across their property.
- 16 5.2.5 Develop parking areas at strategic locations to provide additional river access that minimize neighborhood impacts.
- 17 5.2.6 Investigate the possibility of developing shared parking programs between municipal buildings and/or private firms to provide additional evening and weekend parking for trail and river users wherever possible.
- 18 5.3.9 Acquire and/or improve signage at existing areas and provide signs for future public access areas to identify locations. Existing public access areas are inadequately marked and difficult to find. New or improved signs should be designed to increase public awareness of and access to river facilities.
- 19 5.3.10 Develop maps and information brochures in each community showing the location and the conditions of use for each public access point, the trail and shared parking area, and significant natural and historic areas; and have them readily available at the municipal building.
- 20 5.1.5 Establish standard hours of operation for any public river-related recreational facilities and provide access to the facility during those hours.
- 21 5.2.7 Facilitate the leasing of the Greeley Park boat ramp from the City of Nashua to the NH Fish and Game Department to allow for facilities improvements including adequate parking and boat launch facility.

Action Class 6: Restoration

<u>Rank</u>	<u>ID</u>	<u>Action</u>
1	6.1.1	Clean up river habitats and shoreland areas that are already polluted with debris, contaminants, and garbage to improve site-specific water quality.
2	6.1.2	Encourage and educate Conservation Commissions, developers, and the general public about alternatives to rip-rap streambank stabilization methods.
3	6.1.3	Encourage active restoration of degraded streambank through the development and implementation of regulatory requirements or incentive based performance standards.

Action Class 7: Scenic Quality

<u>Rank</u>	<u>ID</u>	<u>Action</u>
1	7.1.1	Adopt height restrictions, in conjunction with shoreland protection regulations, to limit the height of new buildings in the shoreland zone to a maximum of two stories to effectively screen development from the river and maintain the visual integrity of the corridor.
2	7.1.2	Adopt landscaping regulations, in conjunction with shoreline protection regulations, to screen developments from the river and public recreation areas, including trails.

Action Class 8: Water Quality

<u>Rank</u>	<u>ID</u>	<u>Action</u>
1	8.1.1	Facilitate active participation in and support local water quality monitoring programs, including sampling for a wide variety of chemical components (VOC, mercury, lead, PCBs, etc.). The results obtained can provide valuable information regarding the health of the State's rivers and streams.
2	8.4.2	Monitor all proposals for intakes, discharges and water transfers, and provide comment during the DES 401 Water Quality Certificate review process. The impacts of the discharges on other water uses and users should be specifically described in any proposal documents.
3	8.1.2	Conduct an inventory of all in-use and abandoned underground storage tanks in each community, paying particular attention to those tanks located in the river corridor or near a tributary. The inventory can be conducted by the conservations commissions and should include the following information: tank volume, age and content, construction material, single or double walled, size and location of additional containment area, leak detection systems, and monitoring. This will supplement information available from the DES Oil Remediation and Compliance Bureau (ORCB) for registered facilities with underground storage capacities of 1,100 gallons or greater. In addition, owners of abandoned tanks should be provided with information and assistance on proper closure. Any faulty tanks detected in the inventory should be reported to the ORCB.
4	8.3.2	Encourage corridor community Planning Boards to adopt regulations that require qualified inspections of development projects to ensure adherence to the community's regulations, conformance with any conditions of the approved development plan, and proper installation and maintenance or erosion and sedimentation control devices.
5	8.3.3	Develop and adopt aquifer protection regulations in Hudson, Litchfield and Nashua to protect groundwater resources. This is particularly important for Hudson and Litchfield since groundwater is presently their sole source of drinking water. Model regulations and assistance in drafting regulations are available from NRPC. Since the river flows through an aquifer, these regulations will also protect the water quality of the river.

Action Class 8: Water Quality

- 6 8.4.3 Encourage the Legislature to develop and adopt legislation prohibiting the use of phosphate detergents in the State of New Hampshire.
- 7 8.4.4 Encourage DES to continue to jointly protect the water quality and quantity of the Merrimack River in both New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The recent Merrimack River Initiative involving both states provides a good foundation for building interstate cooperation to protect the water quality of the river and the watershed.
- 8 8.1.3 Utilize volunteers to conduct useful research into such things as outfall locations and periodic monitoring of effluent reports generated by NPDES facilities.
- 9 8.3.4 Develop and implement comprehensive road salt application management programs aimed at limiting salt applications within the river corridor in Hudson, Litchfield and Nashua.
- 10 8.3.5 Amend the subdivision regulations in Hudson and Litchfield to remove exemptions of smaller subdivisions from needing to complete erosion and sedimentation control plans. This will provide increased protection for the community's wetlands, lakes, ponds, rivers and streams from the negative impacts of erosion and sedimentation. Amend the Nashua site plan review and subdivision regulations to require adequate erosion and sedimentation control during development.
- 11 8.3.6 Amend the subdivision and site plan regulations in all four communities to require as a condition of approval a state approved erosion and sedimentation control plan and an alteration of terrain permit for all developments that disturb 100,000 square feet of contiguous earth or 50,000 square feet of contiguous earth within 250 feet of the protected shoreland.
- 12 8.1.4 Study the Lower Merrimack River to encourage the assessment of a wide range of chemical components (VOCs, mercury, lead, PCBs, etc.) to facilitate better understanding of the existing water quality and its trends over time.
- 13 8.2.1 Obtain baseline biological and chemical monitoring data in a format useable for existing state assessment tools.
- 14 8.4.1 At least yearly, discuss discharger compliance with NHDES in regards to NPDES permits, violations, and ongoing enforcement actions to monitor permit activity in the Lower Merrimack River Corridor.
- 15 8.2.2 Identify the strategies most needed to address non-point source pollution through yearly assessments of the top issues contributing to pollution problems in order to minimize NPS in the Lower Merrimack River.
- 16 8.2.3 Reduce nutrient loading to the Lower Merrimack River corridor system, including nutrient loading into tributary streams by encouraging yearly voluntary inspections of facilities within the corridor.

Action Class 9: Water Quantity

<u>Rank</u>	<u>ID</u>	<u>Action</u>
1	9.1.1	Encourage New Hampshire to develop and adopt minimum instream flow regulations for the Merrimack River and its major tributaries.
2	9.1.2	Encourage the four communities to work jointly with the State of Massachusetts and the EPA in NHDES efforts to conduct a demand/yield analysis of the Merrimack River to determine the existing types and levels of water use and to project future water demands throughout the watershed.
3	9.1.3	Encourage the development of a comprehensive study that quantifies the surface and groundwater resources that comprise the drinking water supply of the Lower Merrimack River watershed, so that resource use can be better understood and managed.
4	9.1.4	Develop and maintain an inventory of flow dependent Instream Public Uses and Outstanding Characteristics and Resources (IPUOCRs).

Action Class 10: Wildlife and Aquatic Habitats

<u>Rank</u>	<u>ID</u>	<u>Action</u>
1	10.1.1	Encourage the corridor communities to include vernal pools as part of their respective local wetlands definitions.
2	10.2.1	Utilize permit review opportunities to facilitate involvement of wildlife and aquatic habitat protection into project designs and development approvals through use of information contained within the NH Wildlife Action Plan.
3	10.2.2	Incorporate critical wildlife habitat needs into priority ranking of desired conservation lands for use in land or easement acquisition pursuits. Encourage the Town of Merrimack and City of Nashua to include critical wildlife habitat into their land conservation regulations.
4	10.1.2	Maintain, enhance, and promote populations of resident and anadromous fish, freshwater mussels, and other aquatic resources.

5.2 Recommended Participants

Community action will have the greatest influence on conservation of the Merrimack River corridor. Many of the issues and problems of the river are most effectively addressed at the local level. The majority of the recommendations require some amount of action at the local level, with reduced reliance on state or federal actions. These include a broad spectrum of actions ranging from regulatory mechanisms such as zoning and code enforcement to educational and volunteer activities.

Accomplishing many of the recommendations depends on the support and involvement of many organizations within each community. For example, municipal governments must not only support the general concept of developing a trail along the river but also be willing to commit to funding such as matching funds for land or easement purchases or staffing for additional police protection. Other organizations with a role in conserving the Merrimack River corridor include: Planning Boards, Conservation Commissions, private conservation and environmental organizations, regional planning commissions and the Natural Resource Conservation Service. The following discussion focuses on the municipal, regional, state, local and private organizations involved in protecting the Merrimack River and its watershed.

5.2.1 Lower Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee

According to State statute, one of the main tasks charged to the Local Advisory Committee is to “develop or assist in the development and adoption of local river corridor management plans under RSA 483:10.” Comprised of representatives from the business, recreation, agriculture, and conservation community as well as riparian landowners and local government, the Lower Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee plays a unique, citizen-based, multidisciplinary role as stewards over activities in the Lower Merrimack River corridor. LMRLAC activities vary from reviewing wetland applications and site plans for development, to assisting with trail projects and commenting on conservation activities within the corridor. As part of the corridor plan update process, LMRLAC’s chief objective will be to establish stronger relationships with the local Planning Boards and coordinate development activities in the corridor to ensure the long-term protection of the Lower Merrimack River.

5.2.2 Municipal Governing Bodies

The majority of municipal government recommendations concerning the river corridor deal with amendments to the zoning regulations or financial commitments. All four towns are managed differently, either through Town Council, Board of Alderman, Board of Selectmen, and Town Meetings,. However, in each situation, it is important that every municipality be aware of the need to protect the river and be committed to any efforts to conserve the river corridor. This will require an extensive education effort in all four communities, but is particularly important in Litchfield, Merrimack and Hudson because of the influence of the Town Meeting on municipal operations. The success of any effort to protect the river corridor has a direct relationship to the support and commitment of the municipal governing body.

5.2.3 Planning Boards

As the municipal board responsible for drafting new zoning ordinances, amending existing regulations and administering the municipality’s land use regulations, the Planning Board plays a major role in protecting the Merrimack River and its watershed. While the board recommends changes to the zoning regulations, they must ultimately be approved by the community’s governing body. Changes to the site plan and subdivision review regulations, however, can be made by a majority vote of the Planning Board without the approval of the municipal governing body. The Planning Board can also use non-regulatory actions to protect the river such as recommending changes to the proposed design and negotiating with developers for conservation easements. Planning Board support is key to the success of protecting the Merrimack River corridor, and these entities must be encouraged to use their regulatory and non-regulatory powers to pursue the objectives of this plan.

5.2.4 Budget Committees

The municipal budget is generally prepared by the Budget Committee. It is important that the Budget Committee be informed of the need for conserving the river corridor, particularly with regard to funding for conservation efforts. Though the Budget Committee does not make the final decisions, their support of a program is important.

5.2.5 Conservation Commissions

Conservation commissions are another municipal body intimately involved with conserving the Merrimack River corridor. Municipality’s have the authority to create Conservation Commissions under RSA 36-A. Specific responsibilities listed in the statute include: conducting an inventory of the

municipality's natural resources; coordinating the activity of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes; and maintaining an index of the municipality's natural and scenic resources. In addition, Conservation Commissions may do the following: recommend to the governing body a project for the protection, development and sound utilization of all the areas in the index; acquire in the name of the municipality by gift or purchase conservation lands and be responsible for their management and control; carry over funds from year to year for purchasing conservation areas; and provide public information on conservation issues.

Given these responsibilities, Conservation Commissions have a major role in protecting the Merrimack River. Therefore, the Conservation Commission in each community should take a lead role in developing a greenway/trail system along the Merrimack River. The Conservation Commissions in conjunction with the municipal recreation department should identify key parcels along the river for public access and investigate alternative funding schemes for purchase and site development. The commissions should also conduct land owner contacts for obtaining conservation and pedestrian easements along the river. In addition, the commissions should be responsible for providing general conservation information to the residents of the communities.

5.2.6 Regional Planning Commissions

The Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) serves as a forum for inter-municipal issues and regional policy. Regional issues currently being studied by the NRPC include: solid waste, septage, regional housing needs, transportation, water supply and the Merrimack River. In addition to addressing the regional issues, NRPC also provides technical assistance to the individual member communities such as master plan and capital improvement program updates, revisions to zoning, subdivision and site plan review regulations, drafting water resource management and protection plans, conducting historic preservation inventories and preparing National Register nominations, and professional planning services through the circuit rider program. Therefore, the NRPC is the appropriate forum to discuss issues affecting localities and the region.

The NRPC is committed to assisting the communities in protecting the Merrimack River corridor. As a regional agency, the NRPC has a great deal of information about the communities within its region. This document is an example of the resources available to the NRPC and how they can be used to analyze the impact of the individual communities on one entity, the Merrimack River. With this information, the NRPC can assist the communities in developing consistent regulations and methods for achieving the goal of protecting the river corridor. NRPC staff can also assist communities with applications for funding and with making landowner contacts.

5.2.7 Natural Resource Conservation Service

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) can provide communities with valuable information on soil and soil potentials. The NRCS can assist communities in developing setback and buffer requirements based on soil types; in evaluating wetlands and wetland impacts; in evaluating erosion problems; and in providing general information on erosion and sedimentation control.

5.2.8 Merrimack River Watershed Council

The Merrimack River Watershed Council (MRWC) is a private, non-profit organization concerned with the issues of the entire Merrimack River watershed including: water quality; supply and flow; land use; protection of environmentally sensitive areas; protection of the river corridor; and recreation. With approximately 2,500 members in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, the MRWC is actively involved in conservation efforts in both states. The MRWC can provide New Hampshire communities with

assistance in a number of areas including: trail development, landowner contacts, conservation and pedestrian easements and providing public information on the river.

5.2.9 Conservation Organizations

Assistance is available from a number of conservation organizations active in the State including: the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, the New Hampshire Audubon Society, the Nature Conservancy, the Trust for Public Lands, and the New Hampshire Rivers Council. These organizations can provide valuable information on wildlife, forest management and land conservation techniques. Funding for the purchase of conservation lands and easements, however, is extremely limited and innovative partnerships are needed for successful land conservation projects to take shape and materialize on the ground.

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