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## Thanks for the maps and reports. What do we do with them?

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*Moose Mountains Regional Greenways*

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**“Thanks for the maps and reports.  
What do we with them?”**

**A Final Report to  
The New Hampshire Estuaries Project**

Submitted by

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Moose Mountains Regional Greenways  
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**June 30, 2008**

This project was funded in part by a grant from the New Hampshire Estuaries Project as authorized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s National Estuary Program.



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## **Abstract**

The goal of this project was to assist local communities in establishing specific local priorities for land protection. MMRG staff conducted a total 32 meetings with conservation commissions, organized three regional workshops, created three sets of maps, conducted three field events, gave three presentations at lake association meetings, created six display booths and issued 12 press releases.

## **Executive Summary**

MMRG proposed a scope of work designed to address specific, acknowledged needs within the communities in our service area. This project process enabled us to help local conservation commissions become more knowledgeable and self-sufficient. MMRG strongly encourages that other land conservation organizations consider implementing similar projects.

## **Introduction**

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways (MMRG) is a land conservation organization that serves the communities of Brookfield, Farmington, Middleton, Milton, New Durham and Wakefield. The organization's mission is to conserve and connect the most important natural areas within its member communities, and to educate others about these efforts.

Over the years, MMRG has provided its member communities with maps and reports intended to aid local and regional land use planning efforts. While some of our communities have taken these tools and successfully run with them – eg, New Durham and Wakefield – others have been slower to follow. The reality is that many board members are nonprofessional volunteers who lack the time or expertise to digest these tools, much less put them to active use.

New Hampshire communities now have access to two new tools: the Land Conservation Plan for NH's Coastal Watershed ("Coastal Plan"), and the updated Wildlife Action Plan prepared by NH Fish & Game

As part of the New Hampshire Estuaries Project (NHEP) grant project, "Thanks for all the maps and reports. What do we do with them?," MMRG worked closely with the conservation commissioners within our service area over an 18-month period. We reviewed the Coastal Plan, the Wildlife Action Plan, and the Wetlands maps and data developed in an earlier MMRG study funded by NHEP with the goal of helping commissioners to understand these tools and use them to identify local conservation priorities and develop action plans for conserving the identified lands.

MMRG also sought to raise public awareness of the importance of land conservation by hosting public workshops and educational nature walks, presentations at public meetings, and public "display boards" to showcase local conservation values, priorities, and successes.

## **Project Goals and Objectives**

The overarching goal of the study was to help local conservation commissioners to help themselves. By establishing specific local priorities and the rationale to support them, conservation commissioners would be able to focus upon pursuing those priorities rather than researching or justifying them. A secondary or supporting goal was to increase public awareness of the benefits of land conservation and inspire support for local conservation efforts.



The specific objectives of this project were to help conservation commissioners to: 1) interpret maps and study data, primarily from the Land Conservation Plan for NH's Coastal Watersheds ("Coastal Plan"), 2) use these and other resources to identify local conservation priorities, 3) develop local conservation action plans based upon this information, 4) reach out to local landowners about land conservation options, and 5) educate lakes association members and the public about the value and benefits of land conservation.

This project helps implement Action Plans EDU-5, LND-15, LND-25d, and LND-36 from the NHEP Management Plan.

## Activities

To achieve these objectives, MMRG proposed to undertake the following activities:

### 1. CONDUCT WORKSHOPS

MMRG proposed to 1) conduct at least four workshops with land use boards that describe the relevance of the Coastal Plan, develop local action plans for conserving high priority lands, and develop mailing lists of landowners in conservation focus areas, 2) conduct one regional workshop that summarizes the Coastal Plan and describes conservation easements and estate planning, and 3) provide two copies of the Coastal Plan and three sets of maps to each community.

### 2. CONDUCT EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIPS

MMRG proposed to conduct one tour of the Branch River and two guided nature walks/hikes of high priority conservation areas.

### 3. GIVE PRESENTATIONS AT LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

MMRG proposed to present the Coastal Plan results at seven area annual Lakes Association meetings.

### 4. DISPLAY BOOTHS

MMRG proposed to produce six community-specific display booths featuring data and maps that incorporate Coastal Plan priorities, photos of local natural areas, and land conservation resources. Each display was to be placed in public venues, such as the town hall or library.

### 5. PRESS RELEASE

MMRG proposed to issue eight press releases promoting and/or reporting on the project components.

## Outcomes

MMRG actually completed the following scope of work:

### 1. CONDUCT WORKSHOPS

#### Local workshops

MMRG vastly exceeded the anticipated number of local workshops projected. We initially assumed that not all communities would be interested in our efforts; we guessed that perhaps 4 of the 6 MMRG towns would be engaged. However, all 6 conservation commissions were delighted by the prospect of receiving what amounted to free conservation consulting services. Over an 18-month period, MMRG staff met with the following conservation commissions as outlined below:

Community (MMRG staff)	# Meetings	est. # total hours
Brookfield (El Kouarti)	6 meetings	12 hours
Farmington (Belowski, El Kouarti)	5 meetings	9 hours

Middleton (El Kouarti)	3 meetings	5 hours
Milton (Belowski, El Kouarti)	7 meetings	10 hours
New Durham (Belowski, El Kouarti)	3 meetings	3 hours
Wakefield (El Kouarti)	8 meetings	12 hours

### **Regional workshops**

MMRG conducted 3 regional workshops rather than the 1 workshop initially proposed:

- Mapping Habitats for Community Planning – April 5, 2007  
16 attendees
- The Basics and Beyond – March 27, 2008  
20 attendees
- Basic Income and Estate Tax Issues Related to Land Conservation – May 19, 2008  
38 attendees

### **Maps**

MMRG, in cooperation with Strafford Regional Planning Commission, provided two copies of the Coastal Plan and three sets of maps to each community as proposed.

## **2. CONDUCT EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIPS**

MMRG conducted the following educational workshops as proposed. All events were open to the public:

- Hawk and Nature Walk – September 22, 1007 – Teneriffe Mountain, Milton  
48 attendees
- Vernal Pool Walk – April 20, 2007 – Gage Hill Farm, Wakefield  
30+ attendees
- Branch River Paddle – June 9, 2007 – Branch River, Milton  
35 attendees

## **3. GIVE PRESENTATIONS AT LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETINGS**

MMRG was able to present Coastal Plan results at three area Lakes Association meetings:

- Milton Three Ponds Protection Association Annual Meeting – June 26, 2007
- Great East Lake Improvement Association Annual Meeting (Wakefield) – July 7, 2007
- Merrymeeting Lake Association Board of Directors Meeting (New Durham) – October 13, 2007

## **4. DISPLAY BOOTHS**

MMRG worked with conservation commission members of all six towns to develop display boards. Of the six towns, five towns are actively using their display boards. (As of the time of this report, the Town of Farmington was still in the process of designing their display.) MMRG had additional funding remaining, so we also developed an organizational display for MMRG.

## **5. PRESS RELEASE**

MMRG issued 12 press releases – 4 more than the 8 press releases initially proposed. All press releases referenced NHEP:

- Moose Mountains Regional Greenways Awarded \$8,500 Grant from NH Estuaries Project
- Moose Mountains Regional Greenways Kicks Off Community Outreach Program with Mapping Workshop for Local Officials
- Local Officials Learn about Wildlife Mapping at Moose Mountains Regional Greenways Workshop
- Moose Mountains Regional Greenways Invites Public to Explore Vernal Pools

- More than 30 people Explore Vernal Pools with Moose Mountains Regional Greenways
- Conservation Groups Partner to Present Annual Branch River Paddle
- Moose Mountains Regional Greenways Presents Hawk and Nature Watch and Walk
- Almost 50 Join Moose Mountains Regional Greenways on Nature Walk
- Moose Mountains Regional Greenways Presents Workshop for Conservation Commissioners
- Twenty Attend Local Workshop for Conservation Commissioners
- Moose Mountains Regional Greenways Presents Workshop on Tax Incentives for Land Conservation
- Local Landowners Learn about Conservation Options

In almost all cases, MMRG met or exceeded the goals that we set, but more importantly, we helped fill a void by providing much-needed services.

All communities now have a comprehensive map that identifies each town's local conservation priorities. All communities also have a list of these conservation priority parcels complete with owner contact information. All the owners of these priority parcels have been contacted by each conservation commission chair, and all were invited to the MMRG workshop on Tax Incentives for Land Conservation. Approximately 40 of these landowners attended the workshop, and of these, 10 are actively working with MMRG to explore further land conservation options.

In addition, many communities have found additional uses for the information gleaned through the prioritization process:

- The Town of Middleton incorporated the summary of local conservation priorities developed with MMRG into their Town Master Plan.
- The Brookfield conservation commission expanded the summary of local conservation priorities developed with MMRG into a more comprehensive local Natural Resources Inventory.
- The New Durham conservation commissioners are using the display board to educate their fellow residents about a local landscape-scale conservation opportunity on Birch Ridge.
- The Milton Conservation Commission was able to respond to an inquiry from a local planner regarding the town's conservation goals for the Teneriffe Mountain area using the information developed over the course of the NHEP grant.

If we were to repeat this project, knowing what we do now, we would have budgeted additional hours time for the workshops with individual communities.

We would strongly encourage that other land conservation organizations consider implementing similar projects within their service areas. Not only does the conservation organization provide a much needed and appreciated service to the communities in question, but the work itself creates opportunities to log "face time" with conservation commissioners, to understand with local conservation priorities, and to enhance the relationships between the organization and some of its major constituents. Additionally, helping the local conservation commissions to become more knowledgeable and self-sufficient also relieves some of the burden from the regional conservation organization. At least two of the communities that MMRG worked with are now able to "fly solo" and run conservation projects with minimal involvement from MMRG. And we think that's a good thing.

# **Appendices**

## **Appendix A Press Releases**

**Moose Mountains Regional Greenways**  
**Box 191, Union, NH 03887**  
**603-817-8260**  
**info@mmsg.info**

CONTACT: Joyce El Kouarti, 603-953-4473  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Date: January 8, 2007  
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## **Moose Mountains Regional Greenways Awarded \$8,500 Grant from NH Estuaries Project**

UNION, NH – The New Hampshire Estuaries Project has awarded Moose Mountains Regional Greenways (MMRG) an \$8,500 grant to undertake a public outreach and education initiative titled, “Thanks for all the maps and reports. Now what do we do with them?”

MMRG previously provided each of its member communities with a local maps and data detailing 10 high priority wetland areas within each town, as well as wildlife habitat maps produced by NH Fish & Game. Recently, all coastal watershed communities also acquired a comprehensive, science-based resource in the Land Conservation Plan for NH’s Coastal Watershed. MMRG proposes to review these tools with land use board members, and then work with them to develop action plans to facilitate the conservation of high priority local lands.

The grant will also cover the costs involved with coordinating two nature hikes and a river run, and developing conservation displays for each MMRG member town.

By undertaking this initiative, Moose Mountains Regional Greenways will help NH Estuaries Project to achieve its own organizational objectives, which include supporting land conservation efforts, encouraging conservation easements in shoreland areas, and improving water quality and habitat within New Hampshire’s coastal watershed.

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways serves the towns of Brookfield, Farmington, Middleton, Milton, New Durham and Wakefield. This region encompasses the headwaters of several regional waterways in the Piscataqua Watershed, including the Cocheco River, Salmon Falls River, Branch River and Mad River.

Poised on the edge of the heavily developed southeastern corner of the state, the communities served by Moose Mountains Regional Greenways feature many large, unfragmented blocks of shoreline, woodlands and wetlands that feature highly varied plant and animal habitat.

“Some of the largest, most pristine, and most affordable remaining blocks of undeveloped land are located in the upper reaches of the coastal watershed in Moose Mountains Regional Greenways’ service area,” said MMRG Executive Director Joyce El Kouarti.

The organization hopes to instill a stronger conservation ethos within its member communities by increasing local awareness of the region’s most important conservation features. By providing information on land protection options and resources, Moose Mountains Regional Greenways seeks to facilitate the permanent preservation of the region’s most valuable natural resources.

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways is a non-profit conservation organization that works to conserve and connect the most special undeveloped lands of northern Strafford and southern Carroll counties in New Hampshire. For more information, visit [www.mmsg.info](http://www.mmsg.info) or call 603-817-8260.

NH Estuaries Project is part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) National Estuary Program. The mission of the NH Estuaries Project is to protect, enhance and monitor the environmental quality of the state’s estuaries. For more information, visit [www.nhep.unh.edu](http://www.nhep.unh.edu) or call 603-862-3948.

**Moose Mountains Regional Greenways**  
**Box 191, Union, NH 03887**  
**603-817-8260**  
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CONTACT: Joyce El Kouarti, 603-953-4473  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Date: March 6, 2007

## **Moose Mountains Regional Greenways Kicks Off Community Outreach Program with Mapping Workshop for Local Officials**

WAKEFIELD, NH – Moose Mountains Regional Greenways will kick off its community outreach program on Thursday, April 5 with a workshop to present the latest tools available to help communities identify high priority lands for conservation. Titled “Mapping Habitats for Community Planning,” the workshop will begin at 6:30 at the Greater Wakefield Resource Center, 254 Main Street in Union, NH.

New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game Conservation Biologist Emily Brunkhurst will describe how individuals and communities are using the updated Wildlife Action Plan and New Hampshire Coastal Watershed Plan to implement conservation strategies aimed at preventing the region’s wildlife from becoming endangered.

Brunkhurst will present the newly updated wildlife habitat map, which identifies the habitats that are most critical to the survival of species at risk, and the Conservation Focus Areas map, which highlights lands with the greatest ecological integrity in the region.

Designed for land use board members, this workshop will show participants how to use the maps and plans in local conservation. The workshop will begin with a presentation of the plans followed by a hands-on mapping exercise. Moose Mountains Regional Greenways staff will follow up with local land boards to facilitate town-specific conservation planning efforts.

This initiative is part of Moose Mountains Regional Greenways’ public outreach and education initiative titled, “Thanks for all the maps and reports. Now what do we do with them?” This program is funded by a grant from the New Hampshire Estuaries Project, whose mission is to protect, enhance and monitor the environmental quality of the state’s estuaries. For more information, visit [www.nhep.unh.edu](http://www.nhep.unh.edu) or call 603-862-3948.

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**Moose Mountains Regional Greenways**  
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CONTACT: Joyce El Kouarti, 603-953-4473  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Date: April 8, 2007

## **Local Officials Learn about Wildlife Mapping at Moose Mountains Regional Greenways Workshop**

WAKEFIELD, NH – Moose Mountains Regional Greenways kicked off its NHEP grant-funded community outreach program on April 5 with a workshop titled, “Mapping Habitats for Community Planning.” Local Conservation and Planning Board members from Brookfield, Farmington, Middleton, Milton, New Durham and Wolfeboro attended the session.

New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game Conservation Biologist Emily Brunkhurst described how individuals and communities are using the updated Wildlife Action Plan and New Hampshire Coastal Watershed Plan to implement conservation strategies aimed at preventing the region’s wildlife from becoming endangered.

Brunkhurst presented the newly updated wildlife habitat map, which identifies the habitats that are most critical to the survival of species at risk, and the Conservation Focus Areas map, which highlights lands with the greatest ecological integrity in the region.

Brunkhurst’s presentation was followed by a hands-on mapping exercise, during which participants had an opportunity to take the new maps for a test drive.

Those who attended requested more information, including additional town-specific maps for individual local land use Board members, assistance with identifying local conservation priorities, and help contacting and working with owners of high priority conservation lands. Some also requested assistance with wetland and surface buffer ordinances. All urged MMRG to continue to offer educational forums and workshops.

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways staff will follow up with each local Conservation Commission to assist with the conservation efforts specific to each individual community.

This initiative is part of Moose Mountains Regional Greenways’ public outreach and education initiative titled, “Thanks for all the maps and reports. Now what do we do with them?” This program is funded by a grant from the New Hampshire Estuaries Project, whose mission is to protect, enhance and monitor the environmental quality of the state’s estuaries. For more information, visit [www.nhep.unh.edu](http://www.nhep.unh.edu) or call 603-862-3948.

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CONTACT: Joyce El Kouarti, 603-953-4473  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Date: April 19, 2007

## **Moose Mountains Regional Greenways Invites Public to Explore Vernal Pools**

WAKEFIELD, NH – Join Moose Mountains Regional Greenways for a Vernal Pool Walk on Sunday, April 20 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Gage Hill Farm in Wakefield, NH.

Sara Callaghan of the Forest Society will describe the important role that vernal pools play in the life cycles of spotted salamanders, wood frogs, fairy shrimp, and other vernal pool critters. These unassuming important habitats are easily overlooked and rapidly being lost to development due to their small size and impermanent waters.

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways coordinated the conservation of Gage Hill Farm in 2004 in partnership with the Forest Society and the Town of Wakefield. This historic, 108-acre farmstead features a network of wooded trails that are open to the public for hiking, skiing and nature study.

The Vernal Pool Walk is part of a Moose Mountains Regional Greenways' public outreach and education initiative funded by the New Hampshire Estuaries Project, whose mission is to protect, enhance and monitor the environmental quality of the state's estuaries. For more information about the New Hampshire Estuaries Project, visit [www.nhep.unh.edu](http://www.nhep.unh.edu) or call 603-862-3948.

The Vernal Pool Walk is free and open to the public. Waterproof footwear is recommended. For more information or to register, contact Joyce El Kouarti at Moose Mountains Regional Greenways: 603-953-4473 or [info@mmsg.info](mailto:info@mmsg.info).

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**Box 191, Union, NH 03887**  
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CONTACT: Joyce El Kouarti, 603-953-4473  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Date: May 4, 2007

## **More than 30 people Explore Vernal Pools with Moose Mountains Regional Greenways**

WAKEFIELD, NH – More than 30 people joined Moose Mountains Regional Greenways to explore vernal pools at a recent nature walk in Wakefield, NH.

Sara Callaghan of the Forest Society described the important role that vernal pools play in the life cycles of spotted salamanders, wood frogs, fairy shrimp, and other vernal pool critters. These unassuming important habitats are easily overlooked and rapidly being lost to development due to their small size and impermanent waters.

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For more information about Moose Mountains Regional Greenways, visit [www.mmerg.info](http://www.mmerg.info).

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways is a non-profit conservation organization that works to conserve and connect the most special natural places in northern Strafford and southern Carroll counties in New Hampshire. For more information, visit [www.mmerg.info](http://www.mmerg.info).

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**Moose Mountains Regional Greenways**  
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CONTACT: Joyce El Kouarti, 603-953-4473  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Date: May 21, 2007  
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## **Conservation Groups Partner to Present Annual Branch River Paddle**

MILTON MILLS, NH - Join natural resource experts and fellow paddlers on Saturday, June 9 (rain date June 10) at 10:00 a.m. for a two-hour tour of the Branch River by canoe and kayak.

Participants will embark from the intersection of Route 125 and Applebee Road, just south of Exit 18 on the Spaulding Turnpike. Paddlers will follow the Branch River 4.5 miles to the Salmon Falls River around Sandy Point. John Magee of New Hampshire Fish and Game will describe the importance of the river, wetlands and other habitats we will see along the way. All paddlers must wear US Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices.

Participants will disembark on Branch Hill Farm conservation land for a picnic lunch hosted by Branch Hill Farm. Transportation back to parked vehicles will be provided.

A registration fee of \$20 is requested, and pre-registration is required. Please mail your donation, along with the names of all persons attending, to MMRG, PO Box 191, Union, NH 03887 by June 6th. For more information call MMRG at (603) 953-4473 or email [info@mmrg.info](mailto:info@mmrg.info).

This event is presented by Moose Mountains Regional Greenways, Branch Hill Farm, UNH Cooperative Extension, the Cochecho River Watershed Coalition, and the NH Department of Environmental Services.

This event is sponsored by NH Estuaries Project, whose mission is to protect, enhance and monitor the environmental quality of the state's estuaries. For more information about the New Hampshire Estuaries Project, visit [www.nhep.unh.edu](http://www.nhep.unh.edu) or call 603-862-3948.

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways is a non-profit organization that works to conserve and connect the most special natural resource areas of New Hampshire's northern Strafford and southern Carroll counties. For more information about Moose Mountains, call 603-817-8260 or visit [www.mmrg.info](http://www.mmrg.info).

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. For more information, visit <http://ceinfo.unh.edu>.

The Cochecho River Watershed Coalition is a citizen and community based organization dedicated to improving the environmental quality of the Cochecho River Watershed. For more information about CRWC, email [lorie.chase@unh.edu](mailto:lorie.chase@unh.edu) or call 603-749-4445.

The mission of the Department of Environmental Services is to help sustain a high quality of life for all citizens by protecting and restoring the environment and public health in New Hampshire. For more information, visit <http://www.des.state.nh.us>.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Date: September 5, 2007  
Page 1 of 2

## **Moose Mountains Regional Greenways Presents Hawk and Nature Watch and Walk**

MILTON, NH – Moose Mountains Regional Greenways will present a Hawk and Nature Watch and Walk field workshop on Saturday, September 22. The workshop will take place from 10 a.m. to noon on the Teneriffe Mountain Blueberry farm, located at 355 Teneriffe Rd. in Milton, NH. The 102-acre property is owned by Moose Mountains Regional Greenways Chairman of the Board Steve Panish and was recently conserved by Strafford Rivers Conservancy.

Tour Guide and Naturalist Mark Suomala will lead participants on a gentle climb through the woods up across the top of Teneriffe Mountain, describing the flora and fauna that we encounter along the way. At the top, we'll enjoy views of the blueberry fields below, the White Mountains in the distance, and hopefully some hawks! Mark will also describe the importance of Teneriffe Mountain to the regional watershed.

Mark has worked as field biologist for the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S.D.A. Forest Service. He has spent many hours watching migrating hawks in New Hampshire, and has given numerous hawk-identification workshops. He has a graduate degree in Environmental Studies from Antioch University. His website is [www.marksbirdtours.com](http://www.marksbirdtours.com).

The workshop is free and open to the public, but preregistration is strongly recommended. To register, email [info@mmsg.info](mailto:info@mmsg.info) or call Joyce at 953-4473.

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This event is funded by a grant from NH Estuaries Project, whose mission is to protect, enhance and monitor the environmental quality of the state's estuaries. For more information, visit [www.nhep.unh.edu](http://www.nhep.unh.edu).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Date: January 25, 2008  
Page 1 of 2

## **Almost 50 Join Moose Mountains Regional Greenways on Nature Walk**

MILTON, NH – Moose Mountains Regional Greenways and Strafford Rivers Conservancy recently partnered to present a Hawk and Nature Watch and Walk field workshop. Naturalist Mark Suomala and property owner Steve Panish led 48 participants on a gentle climb up Teneriffe Mountain, a 102-acre property owned by Moose Mountains Regional Greenway's Chairman of the Board Steve Panish that was recently conserved by Strafford Rivers Conservancy.

Suomala, a well-known naturalist and tour guide, described the importance of Teneriffe Mountain to the regional watershed. Although low cloud cover made it hard to spot migrating hawks, he shared his knowledge of their migration and explained the uniqueness of the mountain habitat and its importance to the regional watershed.

He started with a brief history of Milton, explaining how the development patterns inherent in an old New Hampshire mill town resulted in dense population in the valleys clustered around the river. Milton's three ponds were created by a manmade dam in the Salmon Falls River. The entire area – both land and water – lies within the Salmon Falls watershed and eventually drains to the NH coast.

Suomala described the general habitat on Teneriffe Mountain – a transition zone between pine-barrens and open savannah-like areas that are both historically prone to natural burns. The barren top of Teneriffe Mountains is covered in bearberry, moss and lichen. The property's open 10 acres of blueberry fields are important for a number of species, but this type of habitat is becoming scarce in NH. Some of the bird species that depend on large open areas include field sparrow, vesper sparrow and towhee.

To see a mass migration of hawks, Suomala explained, the conditions have to be just right. Look for a clear windy day with the wind coming out of the northwest. The hawks conserve energy by gliding rather than flapping, using the winds and thermals that rise off of the barren mountaintops. The birds rise up and circle on the thermals, then glide down to catch the next draft. Birds with larger wings are able to catch more draft and flap their wings less than the smaller species.

Suomala explained that migration is a broad term that means moving from one area to another. The hawks are driven to migrate by genetic coding, and the distance that they travel depends upon the coding of each breed. Some migrate as far as South America to find habitat similar to that of North America, while others migrate only a short distance in search of food sources. Adults are the first to leave. The young, on their own for the first time, generally begin their migration about two weeks after the parents.

Although the heavy cloud cover was not conducive to hawk watching on this particular day, the participants enjoyed Suomala's presentation, the views from Teneriffe Mountain, and a short hike around the property. Participants also sited coyote scat, and Panish noted that he regularly sees fox, coyote, moose, deer and turkey on his land.

The Hawk Walk was funded by a grant from NH Estuaries Project, whose mission is to protect, enhance and monitor the environmental quality of the state's estuaries, and supported by funds from the sale of the Conservation License Plate (Moose Plate" under the NH State Conservation committee grant program, which seeks to support and promote programs and partnerships throughout the state that protect, restore and enhance the state's valuable natural resources.

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways is a non-profit conservation organization that works to conserve and connect the most special natural places in northern Strafford and southern Carroll counties in New Hampshire. For more information, visit [www.mmrg.info](http://www.mmrg.info).

**Moose Mountains Regional Greenways**  
**Box 191**  
**Union, NH 03887**  
**603-817-8260**  
[info@mmsg.info](mailto:info@mmsg.info)

CONTACT: Joyce El Kouarti, 603-953-4473  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Date: March 13, 2008

## **Moose Mountains Regional Greenways Presents Workshop for Conservation Commissioners**

UNION, NH - Moose Mountains Regional Greenways (MMRG) will host a workshop on *The Basics and Beyond* for Conservation Commission members on Thursday, March 27, 2008. The workshop will take place from 7-9 p.m. at the Greater Wakefield Resource Center at 254 Main Street in Union, NH.

Carol Andrews, Executive Director of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions, will overview the duties and responsibilities of Conservation Commissions, common misunderstandings about responsibilities, available resources, and how to set priorities. A question and answer session will also be included.

The workshop is funded by grants from the New Hampshire Estuaries Project the New Hampshire State Conservation Committee's "Moose Plate" grant program.

Although this free workshop is designed for New Hampshire Conservation Commissioners, the public is welcome to attend. However, pre-registration is required. Please call 603-817-8260 or email [cbelowski@comcast.net](mailto:cbelowski@comcast.net) to register or for more information.

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways is a non-profit organization that works to conserve and connect the most special natural areas of New Hampshire's northern Strafford and southern Carroll counties. For more information, visit [www.mmsg.info](http://www.mmsg.info) or call 603-817-8260.

The New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions is a non-profit association that provides assistance to Conservation Commissions, facilitates communication and cooperation among commissions, and works to create a climate in which commissions can be successful. For more information, call 603-224-7867 or visit [www.nhacc.org](http://www.nhacc.org).

The mission of the New Hampshire Estuaries Project is to protect, enhance and monitor the environmental quality of the state's estuaries. For more information about the New Hampshire Estuaries Project, visit [www.nhep.unh.edu](http://www.nhep.unh.edu) or call 603-862-3948.

The "Moose Plate" program is funded by revenue from the sale of each \$30 NH conservation license plate. For more information about the Moose Plate program call 603-796-2615 or visit [www.mooseplate.com](http://www.mooseplate.com).

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CONTACT: Joyce El Kouarti, 603-953-4473  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Date: March 31, 2008

## **Twenty Attend Local Workshop for Conservation Commissioners**

UNION, NH – Last week, twenty conservation commissioners and community leaders traveled from towns from Wolfeboro through Barrington to attend a workshop on the duties of Conservation Commissions.

The workshop, titled “The Basics and Beyond,” was presented by Moose Mountains Regional Greenways and featured Executive Director of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions Carol Andrews. Andrews described the responsibilities of Conservation Commissions as defined by New Hampshire state statute and fielded questions both basic and complex, ranging from dredge and fill permitting to pending legislation on conservation financing coming up before the NH State House of Representatives.

Longtime Brookfield Conservation Commission Chairman Dick Peckham said afterward that the Moose Mountains workshop provided a much-needed service for local conservation commissioners.

“The topic was timely and the question and answer session valuable,” said Peckham. “Such a meeting is of great value to even the ‘old timers’ and should be held more often.”

The workshop was funded by grants from the New Hampshire Estuaries Project and the New Hampshire State Conservation Committee’s “Moose Plate” grant program.

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CONTACT: Joyce El Kouarti, 603-953-4473  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Date: May 3, 2008

## **Moose Mountains Regional Greenways Presents Workshop on Tax Incentives for Land Conservation**

UNION, NH - Moose Mountains Regional Greenways (MMRG) and UNH Cooperative Extension will present a free workshop for area landowners called "Tax Incentives for Landowners: Basic Income and Estate Tax Issues Related to Land Conservation" on Monday, May 19 at 7 p.m. The workshop will take place in the function room of the Greater Wakefield Resource Center, 245 Main Street in Union, NH.

UNH Land and Water Extension Educator Phil Auger and MMRG's new Director of Land Conservation Clay Mitchell will cover recent changes to the federal income tax law, qualified appraisals, IRS Form 8283, deductible expenses, bargain sales, the federal estate tax and more. This workshop is funded by grants from the New Hampshire Estuaries Project and the New Hampshire State Conservation Committee's "Moose Plate" grant program.

Phil has worked for UNH Cooperative Extension since 1976. He provides land conservation guidance to private landowners, communities and private non-profit conservation organizations and is involved with a broad spectrum of conservation and policy issues related to land and water conservation.

Clay Mitchell is an attorney with an M.S. in Environmental Law and a Ph.D. in Natural Resources and Earth System Science. He has presented extensively at a number of planning conferences throughout the state and region and assisted the communities of Middleton, New Durham, Brookfield, Epping and Newfields with planning and environmental planning services.

The mission of the New Hampshire Estuaries Project is to protect, enhance and monitor the environmental quality of the state's estuaries. For more information about the New Hampshire Estuaries Project, visit [www.nhep.unh.edu](http://www.nhep.unh.edu) or call 603-862-3948.

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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. For more information, visit <http://ceinfo.unh.edu>.

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CONTACT: Joyce El Kouarti, 603-953-4473  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Date: May 21, 2008

## **Local Landowners Learn about Conservation Options**

UNION, NH – Nearly 40 landowners met with conservation experts to learn about the federal income and estate tax benefits available to landowners who donate conservation easements.

UNH Land and Water Extension Educator Phil Auger and Moose Mountains Regional Greenways Director of Land Conservation Clay Mitchell presented a workshop titled “Tax Incentives for Landowners: Basic Income and Estate Tax Issues Related to Land Conservation” on May 19 at the Moose Mountains Regional Greenways offices in Union, NH.

Auger began by describing the difference between land encumbered by deed restriction, land placed in current use, and land conserved via conservation easement.

“Deed restrictions are the easiest to apply, but they are also the most easily broken,” he said. “They aren’t enforceable by anyone other than the original property owner, named entities and, the abutting neighbors.”

Landowners can temporarily conserve their property and enjoy a reduced property tax rate by enrolling their land in the the State of New Hampshire’s Current Use Assessment Program. Land enrolled in Current Use is assessed and taxed at a rate much lower than the “highest and best use” rate paid by most of the state’s property owners. For land to qualify, it must be at least ten acres in size and be used for agriculture, forestry or wildlife habitat. If the land is developed, the current use reduction is dropped and the owner pays a land use change tax equal to 10 percent of the property’s highest and best use value. While effective and more enforceable than deed restrictions, a property’s current use status is not permanent.

One of the only ways to ensure that land will remain permanently undeveloped is via conservation easement. A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and an easement holder – usually a conservation organization or a government entity – that limits certain land uses to preserve the property’s natural resource values. Land under conservation easement can still be farmed and timbered, but the property’s development rights are extinguished.

Thanks to recent changes in federal legislation, landowners who donate conservation easements will now enjoy powerful income tax deductions. The Farm Bill recently passed by the United States House of Representatives and Senate allows landowners to deduct the full appraised value of a donated conservation easement over a 16-year period. The annual deduction is limited to 50 percent of the donor’s annual adjusted gross income. This provision is a dramatic improvement from the earlier, more limited deduction restrictions, which allowed easement donors to deduct the equivalent of 30% of their annual income and limited the deduction period to six years.

“These changes allow landowners with more modest annual incomes to take advantage of the gift tax deduction,” said Auger.

The revised provisions are retroactive to January 1, 2008 and extend through December 31, 2009.

Clay Mitchell elaborated on the updated income tax deduction and described the importance of having a qualified appraisal done to determine the value of the land both with and without a conservation easement. The difference between these two values equals the cash value of the conservation easement...

and its corresponding income tax deduction. Mitchell emphasized the need to have a qualified appraisal done – which is different from a basic appraisal performed by most homeowners and realtors.

“A qualified appraisal is defined by statute,” he said. “These appraisers must meet minimum education and experience requirements prior to being designated as qualified.”

Conservation easements are also very flexible, he said. A landowner can apply an easement to all or just part of the property, or he can reserve the right to build upon a specified number of lots in the future. The right to build can apply to just the current property owner, or he can extend it to include all future owners of the land.

Mitchell also reviewed the estate tax benefits that the heirs to inherited property might receive if that property is conserved via easement. The heirs to an unconserved parcel of land would be required to pay a federal estate tax ranging from 35 to 47 percent of the land’s difference in value from the time it was first purchased to the time of the original owner’s death. However, the heirs to a conserved piece of property can receive an exclusion from the gross estate of up to 40 percent of the conserved land’s appraised value.

It is also possible for the executor of an estate to conserve land post-mortem. However, the conservation easement must be in place within nine months of death.

“This was very good information to have,” said one workshop attendee from Wakefield. “I’m going to meet with my attorney right away to update my trust!”

The workshop was presented by Moose Mountains Regional Greenways and UNH Cooperative Extension, and funded by New Hampshire Estuaries Project and a New Hampshire “Moose Plate” grant.

The mission of the New Hampshire Estuaries Project is to protect, enhance and monitor the environmental quality of the state’s estuaries. For more information about the New Hampshire Estuaries Project, visit [www.nhep.unh.edu](http://www.nhep.unh.edu) or call 603-862-3948.

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**Appendix B**  
**Sample Photos of Conservation Displays**



**Appendix C**  
**Photos from Educational Field Events**



Presenter Sara Callaghan from the Forest Society displays a wood frog at the Vernal Pool workshop.



Hawk watch attendees listening to naturalist Mark Suomala.



John Magee from NH Fish & Game holds court at the Branch River Paddle.

**Appendix D**  
**Workshop Survey Results**

*Mapping Habitats for Community Planning Workshop  
Thursday, April 5, 2007*

**16 participants total; 15 survey respondents**

1. How helpful was this workshop to you?  
7 Very helpful – exceeded my expectations  
7 Helpful – about as expected  
1 Not as useful as I'd hoped; not what I expected

What part(s) of the workshop were most helpful to you?

**5 workshop participants liked getting maps of their communities to bring home**  
**4 participants especially appreciated the workshop's hands-on mapping exercise**  
**3 participants especially appreciated Emily's presentation**  
**1 participant needs more time to figure out how to incorporate the data received at the WAP workshop into his town's local planning efforts**

2. What would you have changed about the workshop to improve it?  
**3 participants said that nothing should be changed**  
**additional comments below:**
  - **maybe a bit slower, more in depth**
  - **additional information, maps for Wolfeboro**
  - **more time for hands-on**
  - **shorter - 2 1/2 hrs too long**
  - **doing mapping exercise with Coastal Conservation maps too**
  - **have all slides in presentation be from our town**
  - **more specific information in 1st half of presentation**
  - **a bit more time on use of each map type rather than so much time on their process for putting info together**
3. What natural resource feature(s) does your community place a priority on conserving?  
9 Wildlife habitat  
9 Drinking water resources  
10 Lakes, ponds, rivers and other surface waters  
5 Farms  
3 Working forest lands  
6 Recreational land (parks, ball fields, walking trails, snowmobile trails, other)
  - 1 participant specifically identified ball fields as a local priority**
  - 1 participant identified walking trails as a local priority**
  - 2 participants identified snowmobile trails as a local priority****2 participants listed "unfragmented lands" as a conservation priority**  
**2 participants listed "rural character"/scenic views/historic as conservation priorities**  
**1 participant listed "development" as a conservation priority.**
4. What are the most important conservation and/or planning issues that your community is dealing with at the moment?  
9 Identifying important local lands to conserve  
6 Working with local landowners to explore conservation options  
4 Designating local funding for land conservation  
3 Making local leaders aware of the importance of land conservation  
9 Making my fellow citizens aware of the importance of land conservation  
5 Exploring alternative zoning approaches like Open Space Subdivisions  
8 Conserving local wetlands, or increasing buffers around wetlands  
5 Increasing buffers around surface waters



**1 participant listed “natural buffers” as a local planning priority.**

**1 participant listed “scenic view corridors” as a local planning priority.**

- 5. What can Moose Mountains Regional Greenways do to support your community’s efforts to address these issues?**

**Open ended comments below:**

- **Who has best wetlands buffer ordinance?**
- **Working to identify conservation lands; contact interested landowners**
- **Keep in touch**
- **doing these workshops; helping towns conserve core areas**
- **continue to support local boards & commissions in their conservation efforts**
- **I will let you know!**
- **Make maps more widely available; educate community to what we have (headwaters for Great Bay, our wetlands & their importance, etc)**
- **Continue to support these informational programs**
- **Continue as forum and catalyst and when useful/possible easement holder**
- **local land conservation groups can help w/funding sources**

- 6. What town do you live in?**

**4 Brookfield**

**2 Farmington**

**1 Middleton**

**2 Milton**

**2 New Durham**

**0 Wakefield**

**2 Wolfeboro**

**2 Other**

- 7. Do you serve on any local boards or committees?**

**Of the 15 respondents:**

**All but 1 serve on at least one local board.**

**4 serve on their local planning boards**

**10 serve on their local conservation commissions**

**1 serves on her local Open Lands Committee**

## Local summaries by town

### Brookfield

**Who:** 4 local Conservation Commission members attended the workshop.

**Conservation priorities:** 2 identified wildlife habitat as being conservation priorities; 1 mentioned drinking water; 1 mentioned surface water. One wrote in “rural character;” another wrote in “development.”

**Conservation strategies:** 2 mentioned identifying local priorities; 1 mentioned designating local funding; 1 mentioned educating local leaders; 1 mentioned educating local citizens; 1 mentioned alternative zoning like OSS; one mentioned wetlands and wetland buffers.

**How MMRG can help:** 1 participant requested 11” x 17” WAP maps of the town to give to all Brookfield Land Use Board members, and to display. The same participant requested help in educating community members as to the importance of the town’s natural resources. Another member urged MMRG to continue to present informational workshops like this one.

(NB: at an earlier meeting with the Brookfield CC, members requested assistance with formally designating local high quality wetlands as prime.)

### Farmington

**Who:** 2 people from Farmington attended, including 1 “civilian” and 1 individual who serves on both the town’s Planning Board and Conservation Commission.

**Conservation Priorities:** Both individuals identified drinking water resources and recreation lands as high priorities. The PB/CC member also checked off all the other items on the survey question: wildlife habit, surface waters, farms, and working forest lands.

**Conservation strategies:** The CC/PB member said that identifying local conservation priorities and working with landowners were high priorities.

**How MMRG can help:** The CC/PB member said that he would let us know.

### Middleton

**Who:** One PB/CC member attended.

**Conservation Priorities:** Drinking and surface waters.

**Conservation Strategies:** Identifying local priorities and educating fellow citizens, also wetland and surface water buffers.

**How MMRG can help:** Provide info on who has the best wetlands buffer ordinance.

### Milton

**Who:** 1 CC member and 1 PB member.

**Conservation Priorities:** Both identified drinking and surface waters as high priorities. The CC member also referenced wildlife habitat and farms; the PB member referenced recreational land, especially ball fields and snowmobile trails.

**Conservation Strategies:** Both participants identified educating their fellow citizens as high priorities. The CC member also listed ID local priorities, working with landowners, designating local funding, and educating local leaders as priorities. The PB member mentioned alternative zoning (like OSS), wetland and surface water buffers.

**How MMRG can help:** Both participants urged MMRG to continue offering educational forums and workshops. The CC member asked MMRG to work directly with the towns to conserve core conservation areas. The PB member recommended that MMRG hold conservation easements.

### New Durham

**Who:** 1 CC and 1 PB

**Conservation Priorities:** Both agree that wildlife habitat, surface waters, and recreation land are high priorities. PB member also likes drinking water, farms and working forest lands.

**Conservation Strategies:** Both agree that educating fellow citizens and wetland and surface water buffers are important. The CC member also likes IDing local priorities, while the PB member likes working with local landowners.

**How MMRG can help:** The CC member asked MMRG to help with identifying local conservation priorities and contacting landowners.

**Wolfeboro**

**Who:** 2 CC

**Conservation Priorities:** Both like wildlife habitat; 1 also likes surface waters, farms and working forests. Both also wrote in “unfragmented lands.” One wrote in “historic and scenic views.”

**Conservation Strategies:** Both agree on identifying local priorities, working with landowners, designating local funding, educating fellow citizens, alternative zoning like OSS, and wetland buffers. One also felt that local leaders needed some education, and that the town should be working on identifying scenic view corridors.

**How MMRG can help:** One participant simply asked MMRG to keep in touch.

*Tax Incentives for Landowners*  
*May 19, 2008*

**1. Where did you hear about this workshop?**

- 46% Received flier from UNH Cooperative Extension in the mail
- 50% Received letter from local conservation commission in the mail
- 8% Read announcement in newspaper
- 17% Heard about it through my local planning board or conservation commission

**2. I am...(check all that apply):**

A resident of (# responses):

- 6 Brookfield
- 3 Farmington
- 4 Middleton
- 2 Milton
- 1 New Durham
- 3 Wakefield
- 3 Other
- 75% An owner of ten or more acres of land in the area
- 8% An owner of a seasonal vacation home in the area
- 38% Affiliated with a conservation organization as a member, volunteer or employee

**3. If you own 10 or more acres of land: What are your plans for your property?**

- 21% I'd like my land to remain pretty much as it is. I would consider donating a conservation easement on my property.
- 38% I like the idea of land conservation, but I'm not financially in a position to donate a conservation easement. I'd consider selling an easement, though.
- 17% My land is my nest egg; I plan to sell it someday

**4. What was the most informative topic covered tonight?**

- 36% tax implications
- 32% information on conservation easements
- 9% funding options for conservation easements
- 5% estate planning

**5. What was the least informative topic covered? (# responses)**

- 2 tax issues
- 1 funding assistance

**6. How will you use the information you learned tonight?**

- 63% consider conservation options for my property
- 38% help others/tell others about conservation options

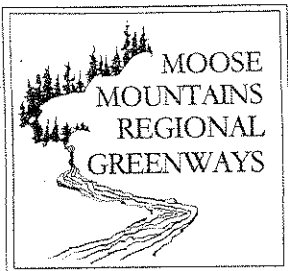
**7. How would you rate tonight's presentation overall?**

- 92% Outstanding – very informative
- 8% Good – somewhat informative
- 0% Average – a few good points here and there
- 0% Poor – not very well researched or presented

**4. Would you like more information about preserving your land in a natural state? (# responses)**

- 6 Yes – my name is \_\_\_\_\_  
Please contact me at \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 Let me think about it. I have your brochure; I'll call you if I have questions.
- 1 No thanks

**Appendix E**  
**News Clips**



# GREENWAY GAZETTE

## **MMRG AWARDED \$8,500 GRANT FROM NH ESTUARIES PROJECT**

The New Hampshire Estuaries Project has awarded Moose Mountains Regional Greenways an \$8,500 grant to undertake a community outreach initiative titled, "Thanks for all the maps and reports. Now what do we do with them?"

MMRG previously provided each of its member communities with local maps and data detailing 10 high priority wetland areas within each town, as well as wildlife habitat maps produced by NH Fish & Game. Recently, all coastal watershed communities also acquired a comprehensive, science-based resource in the Land Conservation Plan for NH's Coastal Watershed. MMRG proposes to review these tools with land use board members, and then work with them to develop action plans to facilitate the conservation of high priority local lands.

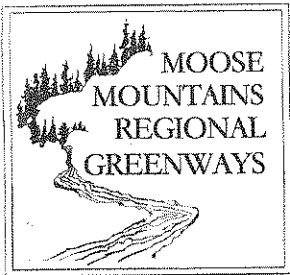
The grant will also cover the costs involved with coordinating two nature hikes and a river run, and developing conservation displays for each MMRG member town.

By undertaking this initiative, Moose Mountains Regional Greenways will help NH Estuaries Project to achieve its own organizational objectives, which include supporting land conservation efforts, encouraging conservation easements in shoreland areas, and improving water quality and habitat within New Hampshire's coastal watershed.

"Some of the largest, most pristine, and most affordable remaining blocks of undeveloped land are located in the upper reaches of the coastal watershed in Moose Mountains Regional Greenways' service area," said MMRG Executive Director Joyce El Kouarti.

Poised on the edge of the heavily developed southeastern corner of the state, the communities served by Moose Mountains Regional Greenways feature many large, unfragmented blocks of shoreline, woodlands and wetlands that feature highly varied plant and animal habitat.

By increasing local awareness of the region's most important conservation features and providing information on land protection options and resources, Moose Mountains Regional Greenways seeks to facilitate the permanent preservation of the region's most valuable natural areas.



# GREENWAY GAZETTE

## **MMRG KICKS OFF COMMUNITY OUTREACH INITIATIVE WITH WORKSHOP FOR LOCAL LEADERS**

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways kicked off its NHEP grant-funded community outreach program on April 5 with a workshop titled, "Mapping Habitats for Community Planning." Local Conservation and Planning Board members from Brookfield, Farmington, Middleton, Milton, New Durham and Wolfeboro attended the session.

New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game Conservation Biologist Emily Brunkhurst described how individuals and communities are using the updated Wildlife Action Plan and New Hampshire Coastal Watershed Plan to implement

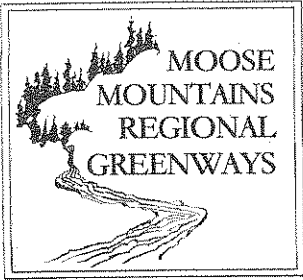
conservation strategies aimed at preventing the region's wildlife from becoming endangered.

Brunkhurst presented the newly updated wildlife habitat map, which identifies the habitats that are most critical to the survival of species at risk, and the Conservation Focus Areas map, which highlights lands with the greatest ecological integrity in the region.

Brunkhurst's presentation was followed by a hands-on mapping exercise, during which participants had an opportunity to take the new maps for a test-drive.

Those who attended requested more information, including additional town-specific maps for individual local land use Board members, assistance with identifying local conservation priorities, and help contacting and working with owners of high priority conservation lands. Some also requested assistance with wetland and surface buffer ordinances. All urged MMRG to continue to offer educational forums and workshops.

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways staff will follow up with each local Conservation Commission to assist with the conservation efforts specific to each individual community.



# GREENWAY GAZETTE

## MMRG Leads 2 Nature Walks

More than 30 people explored the vernal pools of Gage Hill Farm at a nature walk in Wakefield, NH. MMRG invited Sara Callaghan of the Forest Society to describe the important role that vernal pools play in the life cycles of spotted salamanders, wood frogs, fairy shrimp, and other vernal pool critters.

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways and Strafford Rivers Conservancy partnered to present a Hawk and Nature Watch and Walk field workshop. Naturalist Mark Suomala and property owner Steve Panish led 48 participants on a gentle climb up Teneriffe Mountain, a 102-acre property that was recently conserved by Strafford Rivers Conservancy. Both walks were funded through the New Hampshire Estuaries Project and Moose Plate Grant as part of MMRG's public outreach and education initiative.

## Save the Date! May 19 Land Conservation Workshop

MMRG and UNH Cooperative Extension will present a workshop on "Tax Incentives for Landowners: Basic Income and Estate Tax Issues Related to Land Conservation" on Monday, May 19 at 7 p.m. Land and Water Extension Educator Phil Auger and MMRG's new Director of Land Conservation Clay Mitchell will cover recent changes to the federal income tax law, qualified appraisals, IRS Form 8283, deductible expenses, bargain sales, the federal estate tax and more. The workshop will take place in the function room of the Greater Wakefield Resource Center, 245 Main Street in Union, NH. This workshop is funded by grants from the New Hampshire Estuaries Project and the NH State Conservation Committee's "Moose Plate" grant program.

To register call 603-817-8260



# Rochester Times



NEWS & SPORTS IN ROCHESTER, FARMINGTON, MILTON & SURROUNDING TOWNS

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A5

## Moose Mountain group awarded new grant for conservation outreach

By JOYCE EL KOUARTI

UNION — The New Hampshire Estuaries Project has awarded Moose Mountains Regional Greenways (MMRG) an \$8,520 grant to undertake a public outreach and education initiative titled, "Thanks for all the maps and reports. Now what do we do with them?"

MMRG previously provided each of its member communities — Farmington, Milton, Middleton, New Durham, Wakefield and Brookfield — with local maps and data detailing 10 high priority wetland areas within each town, as well as wildlife habitat maps produced by NH Fish & Game. Recently, all coastal watershed communities also acquired a comprehensive, science-based resource in the Land Conservation Plan for NH's Coastal Watershed.

MMRG proposes to review these tools with land use board members, and then work with them to develop action plans to facilitate the conservation of high priority local lands.

The grant will also cover the costs involved with coordinating two nature hikes and a river run, and developing conservation displays for each MMRG member town. By undertaking this initiative, Moose Mountains Regional Greenways will help NH Estuaries Project achieve its own organizational objectives, which include supporting land conservation efforts, encouraging conservation

easements in shore land areas, and improving water quality and habitat within New Hampshire's coastal watershed. The region encompasses the headwaters of several regional waterways in the Piscataqua Watershed, including the Cochecho River, Salmon Falls River, Branch River and Mad River.

Poised on the edge of the heavily developed southeastern corner of the state, the communities served by Moose Mountains Regional Greenways feature many large, unfragmented blocks of shoreline, woodlands and wetlands that feature highly varied plant and animal habitat.

"Some of the largest, most pristine, and most affordable remaining blocks of undeveloped land are located in the upper reaches of the coastal watershed in Moose Mountains Regional Greenways' service area," said MMRG Executive Director Joyce El Kouarti.

The organization hopes to instill a stronger conservation ethos within its member communities by increasing local awareness of the region's most important conservation features. By providing information on land protection options and resources, Moose Mountains Regional Greenways seeks to facilitate the permanent preservation of the region's most valuable natural resources. For more information, visit [www.mmrg.info](http://www.mmrg.info) or call (603) 817-8260.

# Gosset's Daily Democrat

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## Outreach grant

WAKEFIELD — The New Hampshire Estuaries Project has awarded Moose Mountains Regional Greenways (MMRG) an \$8,520 grant to undertake a public outreach and education initiative titled, "Thanks for all the maps and reports. Now what do we do with them?"

MMRG previously provided each of its member communities with a local maps and data detailing 10 high priority wetland areas within each town, as well as wildlife habitat maps produced by New Hampshire Fish and Game. Recently, all coastal watershed communities also acquired a comprehensive, science-based resource in the Land Conservation Plan for NH's Coastal Watershed. MMRG proposes to review these tools with land use board members, and then work with them to develop action plans to facilitate the conservation of high priority local lands.

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways is a nonprofit conservation organization. For more information, visit [www.mmrg.info](http://www.mmrg.info) or call 603-817-8260.

# Gosler's Daily Democrat

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## Moose Mountains Regional Greenways awarded grant

UNION — The New Hampshire Estuaries Project has awarded Moose Mountains Regional Greenways an \$8,520 grant to undertake a public outreach and education initiative titled, "Thanks for all the maps and reports. Now what do we do with them?"

MMRG previously provided each of its member communities with a local maps and data detailing 10 high priority wetland areas within each town, as well as wildlife habitat maps produced by N.H. Fish & Game. Recently, all coastal watershed

communities also acquired a comprehensive, science-based resource in the Land Conservation Plan for NH's Coastal Watershed. MMRG proposes to review these tools with land use board members, and then work with them to develop action plans to facilitate the conservation of high priority local lands.

The grant will also cover the costs involved with coordinating two nature hikes and a river run, and developing conservation displays for each MMRG member town.

By undertaking this initiative, MMRG will help the Estuaries Project to achieve its own organizational objectives, which include supporting land conservation efforts, encouraging conservation easements in shoreland areas, and improving water quality and habitat within New Hampshire's coastal watershed.

MMRG serves the towns of Brookfield, Farmington, Middleton, Milton, New Durham and Wakefield. This region encompasses the headwaters of several regional waterways in the Piscataqua Watershed, including the Cochecho River,

Salmon Falls River, Branch River and Mad River.

Poised on the edge of the heavily developed southeastern corner of the state, the communities served by MMRG feature many large, unfragmented blocks of shoreline, woodlands and wetlands that feature highly varied plant and animal habitat. "Some of the largest, most pristine, and most affordable remaining blocks of undeveloped land are located in the upper reaches of the coastal watershed in Moose Mountains Regional Greenways' service

area," said MMRG Executive Director Joyce El Kouarti.

The organization hopes to instill a stronger conservation ethos within its member communities by increasing local awareness of the region's most important conservation features. By providing information on land protection options and resources, Moose Mountains Regional Greenways seeks to facilitate the permanent preservation of the region's most valuable natural resources.

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways is a nonprofit conservation organization that works to conserve and connect the most special undeveloped lands of northern Strafford and southern Carroll counties in New Hampshire. For more information, visit [www.mmrg.info](http://www.mmrg.info) or call 817-8260.

The Estuaries Project is part of the EPA's National Estuary Program. The mission of the N.H. Estuaries Project is to protect, enhance and monitor the environmental quality of the state's estuaries. For information, visit [www.nhep.unh.edu](http://www.nhep.unh.edu) or call 862-3948.

# Rochester Times



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A4

Rochester Times, Rochester, N.H., Thursday, March 29, 2007

## MMRG kicks off community outreach program with mapping workshop

WAKEFIELD — Moose Mountains Regional Greenways will kick off its community outreach program on Thursday, April 5 with a workshop to present the latest tools available to help communities identify high priority lands for conservation. Titled "Mapping Habitats for Community Planning," the workshop will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Greater Wakefield Resource Center, 254 Main St. in Union.

New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game Conservation Biologist Emily Brunkhurst will describe how individuals and communities are using the updated Wildlife Action Plan and New Hampshire Coastal Watershed Plan to implement conservation strategies aimed at preventing the

region's wildlife from becoming endangered. Brunkhurst will present the newly updated wildlife habitat map, which identifies the habitats that are most critical to the survival of species at risk, and the Conservation Focus Areas map, which highlights lands with the greatest ecological integrity in the region.

Designed for land use board members, this workshop will show participants how to use the maps and plans in local conservation. The workshop will begin with a presentation of the plans followed by a hands-on mapping exercise. Moose Mountains Regional Greenways staff will follow up with local land boards to facilitate town-specific conservation planning efforts.

This initiative is part of Moose Mountains Regional Greenways' public outreach and education initiative titled, "Thanks for all the maps and reports. Now what do we do with them?" This program is funded by a grant from the New Hampshire Estuaries Project, whose mission is to protect, enhance and monitor the environmental quality of the state's estuaries. For more information, visit [www.nhep.unh.edu](http://www.nhep.unh.edu) or call 862-3948.

MMRG is a non-profit conservation organization that works to conserve and connect the most special natural places in northern Strafford and southern Carroll counties in New Hampshire. For more information, visit [www.mmrinfo](http://www.mmrinfo) or call 817-8260.

## *Moose Mt. Regional Greenways kicks off Community Outreach Program*

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# Rochester Times



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Rochester Times, Rochester, N.H. Thursday, April 26, 2007

## State's wildlife action plan unveiled

By JOHN NOLAN

UNION — A plan to conserve New Hampshire's wildlife — animals, birds, fish, insects, reptiles and plants — some of them rare or endangered — was published in CD format in February by the NH Department of Fish and Game, with help and input from many other agencies and organizations. Species were inventoried, habitats studied and mapped, and areas of special importance across the state prioritized.

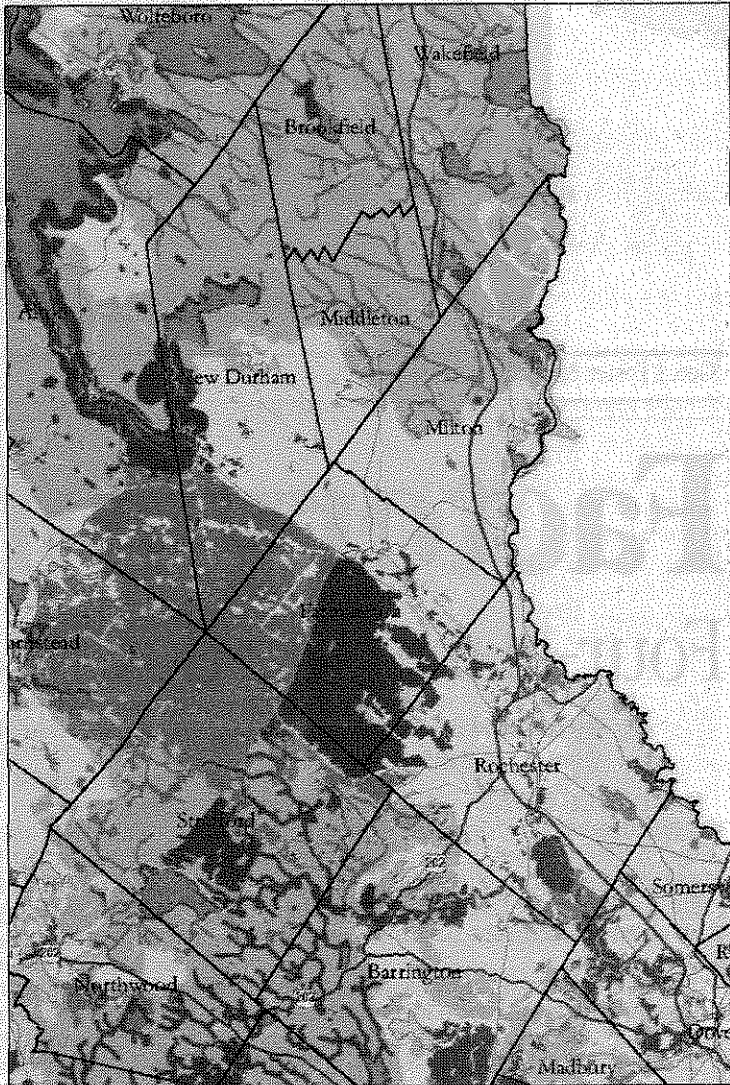
Now, residents, landowners and officials in every community are being made aware of this wealth of information, including detailed maps, and recommended actions contained in the Wildlife Action Plan. Against this background,

**WILDLIFE, PAGE A2**



John Nolan/Times photo

STUDYING FISH AND GAME'S wildlife habitat maps at a recent workshop in Union are, from left, Wolfeboro Conservation Commission Chairman Dan Coons, New Durham Planning Board Chairman Bob Craycraft, New Durham Conservation Commission Chairman Dennis Gagne, Farmington Planning Board and Conservation Commission member Jim Horgan and Wolfeboro Conservation Commission member Ed Roundy.



# Wildlife

From page A1

the land conservation group Moose Mountains Regional Greenways recently put on a workshop which was attended by members of planning boards, conservation commissions and other interested citizens from Farmington, New Durham, Milton, Middleton, Brookfield and Wolfeboro.

Fish and game biologist Emily Brunkhurst gave a PowerPoint presentation that touched on a range of conservation strategies and incentives, as well as dispensing advice to those interested in retaining land in its natural state.

"If land is gifted to the town, it has to have an easement on it, or the town could site a school there," Brunkhurst said, adding that land protection is only a part of the Wildlife Action Plan.

As well as habitat loss, wildlife faces the problems of invasive exotic species, the impact of roads, pollution and sedimentation, and climate change. Sometimes beneficial change can be achieved with simple adjustments, said Brunkhurst, such as raising a mowing bar a little to prevent turtles being mashed.

Part of her presentation included "conservation hot spots," the most extensive local area being thousands of acres of forest,

streams and swamp centered on the point where five towns converge — Farmington, New Durham, Alton, Barnstead and Strafford.

The lands bordering the southerly end of the Farmington/Rochester line also have been identified by Fish and Game as a very high ranking habitat, as have areas along the Isinglass, Cocheo and Salmon Falls rivers. The land off busy Rochester Hill Road, recently preserved by Rochester with over \$1 million in local, state and federal funds, does not receive a top ranking as wildlife habitat.

Strategy 1302 in the state's Wildlife Action Plan states the following: "Despite many successful individual land conservation efforts, most local efforts are not informed by conservation science... NHFG should guide municipal Conservation Commissions and Open Space Committees in identifying critical wildlife habitats in their communities for protection..."

Board members from the various towns represented at the workshop were given CDs containing wildlife habitat maps and data, along with supporting documentation. No one from a Rochester board was in attendance. New Hampshire's Wildlife Action Plan and Habitat Maps can be viewed online at [www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Wildlife/wildlife\\_plan.htm](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Wildlife/wildlife_plan.htm).

# Rochester Times



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Rochester Times, Rochester, N.H. Thursday, April 12, 2007

A5

## Vernal pool workshop at to be held at Gage Hill Farm

WAKEFIELD — A vernal pool workshop will be held at Gage Hill Farm on Sunday, April 29 from 1 to 3 p.m. The workshop is sponsored by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and Moose Mountains Regional Greenways.

The preservation of existing vernal pools is a high priority in land conservation efforts. These unassuming yet important habi-

tats are easily overlooked and are rapidly being lost to development due to their small size and impermanent waters.

Join Moose Mountains Regional Greenways and the Forest Society for a tour of the vernal pools on the recently conserved Gage Hill Farm. Find out about the role that vernal pools play in the life cycles of spotted salamanders, wood frogs, turtles, fairy shrimp, and

other vernal pool critters. Sara Callaghan, Forest Society easement steward, will lead the tour.

The workshop is free and open to the public. Waterproof footwear is recommended. For more information, directions or to register, call MMRG at 817-8260 or e-mail [info@mmrg.info](mailto:info@mmrg.info).



# Rochester Times



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A4

Rochester Times, Rochester, N.H., Thursday, April 26, 2007

## MMRG invites public to explore vernal pools

WAKEFIELD — Join Moose Mountains Regional Greenways for a Vernal Pool Walk on Sunday, April 29 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Gage Hill Farm. Sara Callaghan of the Forest Society will describe the important role that vernal pools play in the life cycles of spotted salamanders, wood frogs, fairy shrimp and other vernal pool critters.

These unassuming, important habitats are easily overlooked and rapidly being lost to development due to their small size and impermanent waters. Moose Mountains Regional Greenways coordinated the conservation of Gage Hill Farm in 2004 in partnership with the Forest Society and the Town of Wakefield. This historic, 108-acre farmstead features a network of wooded trails that are open to the public for hiking, skiing and nature study.

The Vernal Pool Walk is part of a MMRG public out-

reach and education initiative funded by the New Hampshire Estuaries Project, whose mission is to protect, enhance and monitor the environmental quality of the state's estuaries. For more information about the New Hampshire Estuaries Project, visit [www.nhep.unh.edu](http://www.nhep.unh.edu) or call 862-3948.

The Vernal Pool Walk is free and open to the public. Waterproof footwear is recommended. For more information or to register, contact Joyce El Kouarti at Moose Mountains Regional Greenways, 953-4473 or [info@mmsg.info](mailto:info@mmsg.info).

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways is a non-profit conservation organization that works to conserve and connect the most special natural places in northern Strafford and southern Carroll counties in New Hampshire. For more information, visit [www.mmsg.info](http://www.mmsg.info).

## Learn about vernal pools this Saturday at Gage Hill Farm

**WAKEFIELD** — This Sunday, April 29, 1-3 p.m., the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and Moose Mountains Regional Greenways will hold a vernal pool workshop at Gage Hill Farm in Wakefield.

The preservation of existing vernal pools is a high priority in land conservation efforts. These unassuming yet

important habitats are easily overlooked and are rapidly being lost to development due to their small size and impermanent waters. Join Moose Mountains Regional Greenways and the Forest Society for a tour of the vernal pools on the recently conserved Gage Hill Farm in Wakefield. Find out about the important role that vernal

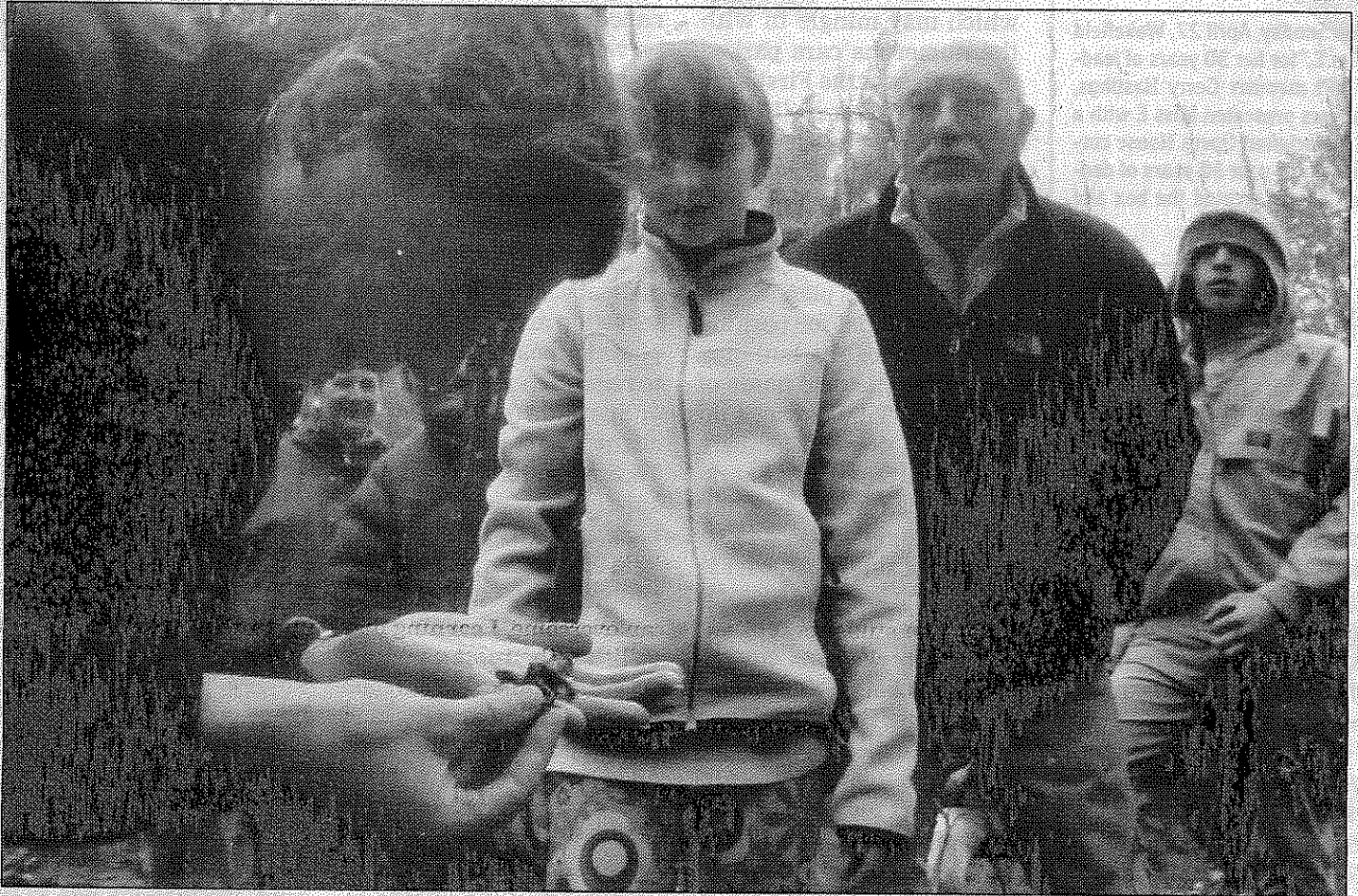
pools play in the life cycles of spotted salamanders, wood frogs, turtles, fairy shrimp, and other vernal pool critters. Sara Callaghan, Forest Society easement steward, will lead the tour.

The workshop is free and open to the public. Waterproof footwear is recommended.

Reach Gage Hill Farm by

taking Route 16 to Gage Hill Road in Wakefield (look for Mobile Station on Southeast corner); turn west on Gage Hill Road; Gage Hill Farm is on the right; park in parking lot or along Gage Hill Road.

For more information or to register, contact Moose Mountains Regional Greenways (817-8260 or [info@mmrg.info](mailto:info@mmrg.info)).



JOYCE EL KOUARTI - COURTESY PHOTO ■

### Natural wonders

More than 30 people explored vernal pools at a recent nature walk hosted by Moose Mountain Regional Greenways in Wakefield. From left to right: Sara Callaghan of the Forest Society displays a wood frog to Keely FitzGerald, 10, Gerald FitzGerald, and Cody FitzGerald, 13.

# Rochester Times



NEWS & SPORTS OF ROCHESTER, FARMINGTON MILTON & SURROUNDING TOWNS

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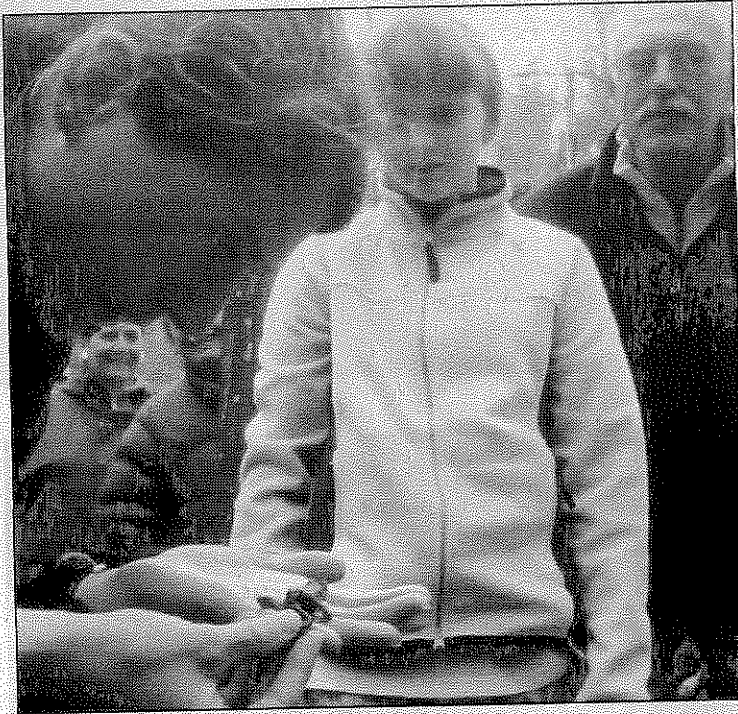
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Rochester Times, Rochester, N.H. Thursday, May 31, 2007

A9

## Hop to it, buddy



Courtesy photo

More than 30 people explored vernal pools at a recent nature walk hosted by Moose Mountains Regional Greenways in Wakefield. From left, Sara Callaghan of the Forest Society displays a wood frog to Keely (10) and Gerald FitzGerald.

# Rochester Times



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A6

Rochester Times, Rochester, N.H., Thursday, June 28, 2007

## MMRG thanks Branch River Paddle Partners

### To the Editor:

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways, a land conservation organization serving Strafford and Carroll counties, wishes to thank all the project partners who donated their time and resources to make our annual Branch River Paddle such a success. We are grateful to:

UNH Cooperative Extension and the Cocheco River Watershed Coalition, which helped organize and promote the event; the NH Department of Environmental Services for their support and for making their water craft available for the day; Branch Hill Farm and the Carl Siemon Family Charitable Trust for hosting the event and providing the luncheon; John Magee and Matt Carpenter from the NH Department of Fish and Game, who gave us an enhanced appreciation of the pristine ecology of the Branch River; and Steve Baker from the Milton Three Ponds Protection Association, who made us aware of the invasive non-native species that may one day threaten it; the NH Estuaries Project, which sponsored the event; the weather gods, who smiled upon us all day; and especially all those who participated and told us how much they enjoyed the day, how well-organized the event was, and how much they had learned.

The participation of partners and paddlers alike added tremendous value to the experience, and we are so grateful. Again, thank you for your enthusiasm and support.

**Joyce El Kouarti, Executive  
Director**

**Steve Panish, Chairman of  
the Board Moose Mountains  
Regional Greenways**



# Rochester Times



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Rochester Times, Rochester, N.H. Thursday, May 31, 2007

A5

## Canoe the Branch River June 9

MILTON MILLS — Join natural resource experts and fellow paddlers on Saturday, June 9 (rain date June 10) at 10 a.m. for a two-hour tour of the Branch River by canoe and kayak.

Participants will embark from the intersection of Route 125 and Applebee Road, just south of Exit 18 on the Spaulding Turnpike. Paddlers will follow the Branch River 4.5 miles to the Salmon Falls River around Sandy Point.

John Magee of New Hampshire Fish and Game will describe the importance of the river, wetlands and other habitats we will see along the way. All paddlers must wear US Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices.

Participants will disembark on Branch Hill Farm conservation land for a picnic lunch hosted by Branch Hill Farm. Transportation back to parked vehicles will be provided.

A registration fee of \$20 is requested, and pre-registration is required. Please mail your donation, along with the names of all persons attending, to MMRG, PO Box 191, Union, NH 03887 by June 6. For more information call Moose Mountains Regional Greenways at (603) 953-4473 or email [info@mmrg.info](mailto:info@mmrg.info).

This event is presented by Moose Mountains Regional Greenways, Branch Hill Farm,

UNH Cooperative Extension, the Cocheco River Watershed Coalition, and the NH Department of Environmental Services.

This event is sponsored by NH Estuaries Project, whose mission is to protect, enhance and monitor the environmental quality of the state's estuaries. For more information about the New Hampshire Estuaries Project, visit [www.nhep.unh.edu](http://www.nhep.unh.edu) or call (603) 862-3948.

# Rochester Times



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A4

Rochester Times, Rochester, N.H., Thursday, September 20, 2007

## Hawk Watch & Nature Walk Sept. 22 in Milton

MILTON — The Strafford Rivers Conservancy and Moose Mountains Regional Greenways will present a Hawk Watch and Nature Walk/Field Workshop on Saturday, Sept. 22. The workshop will take place from 10 a.m. to noon on the Teneriffe Mountain blueberry farm, located at 355 Teneriffe Road. The 102-acre property is owned by Moose Mountains Regional Greenways Chair-

man of the Board Steve Panish and was recently conserved by Strafford Rivers Conservancy.

Tour Guide and Naturalist Mark Suomala will lead participants on a gentle climb through the woods up across the top of Teneriffe Mountain, describing the flora and fauna encountered along the way. At the top, participants will enjoy views of the blueberry fields below, the White

Mountains in the distance, and hopefully some hawks. Suomala will also describe the importance of Teneriffe Mountain to the regional watershed.

Suomala has worked as field biologist for the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the USDA Forest Service. He has spent many hours watching migrating hawks in New Hamp-

shire, and has given numerous hawk-identification workshops. He has a graduate degree in environmental studies from Antioch University. His website is [www.marksbirdtours.com](http://www.marksbirdtours.com).

The workshop is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is strongly recommended. To register or to get directions, email [info@mmerg.info](mailto:info@mmerg.info) or call Joyce at 953-4473.


















**Appendix F**  
**Maps**



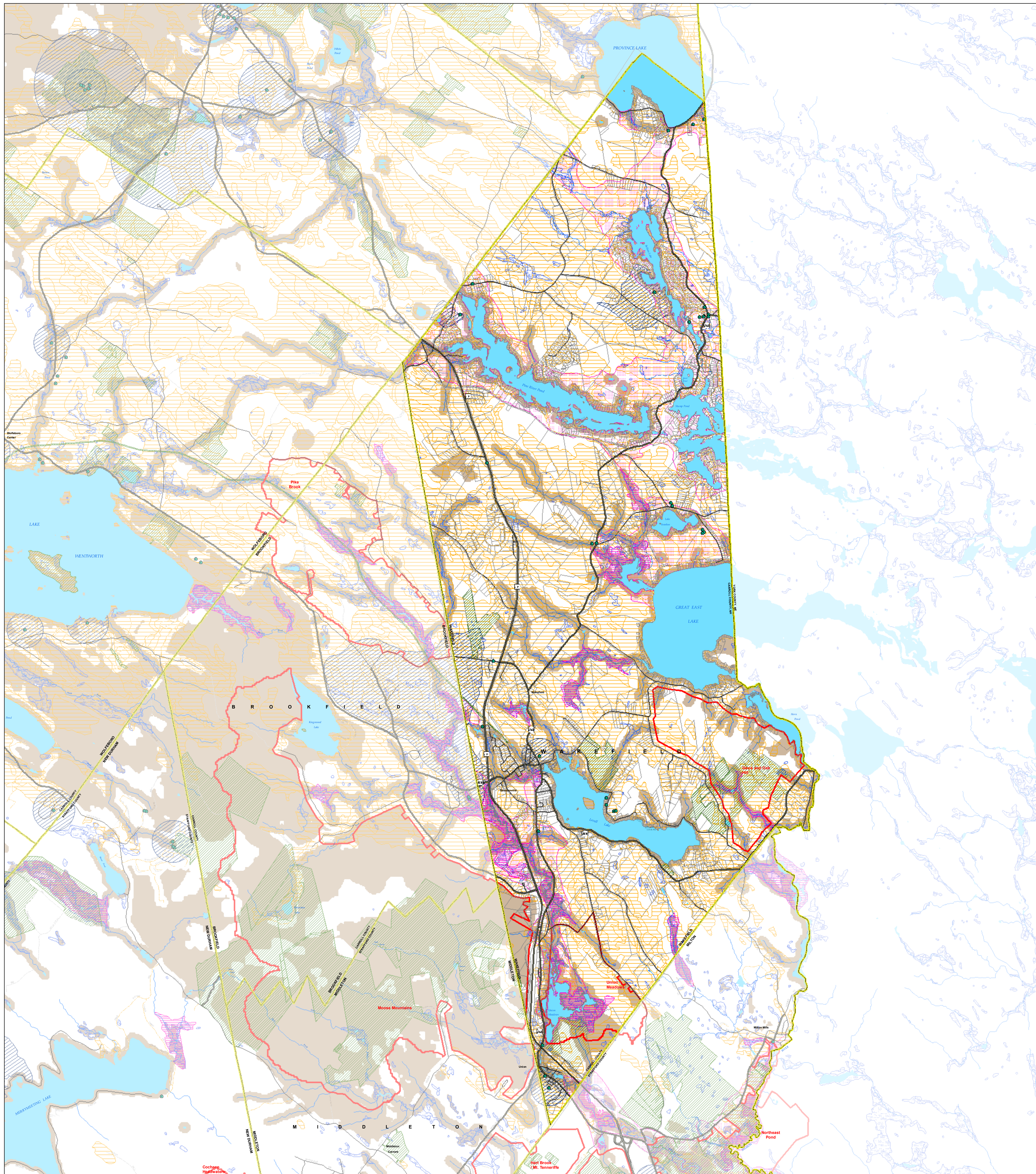
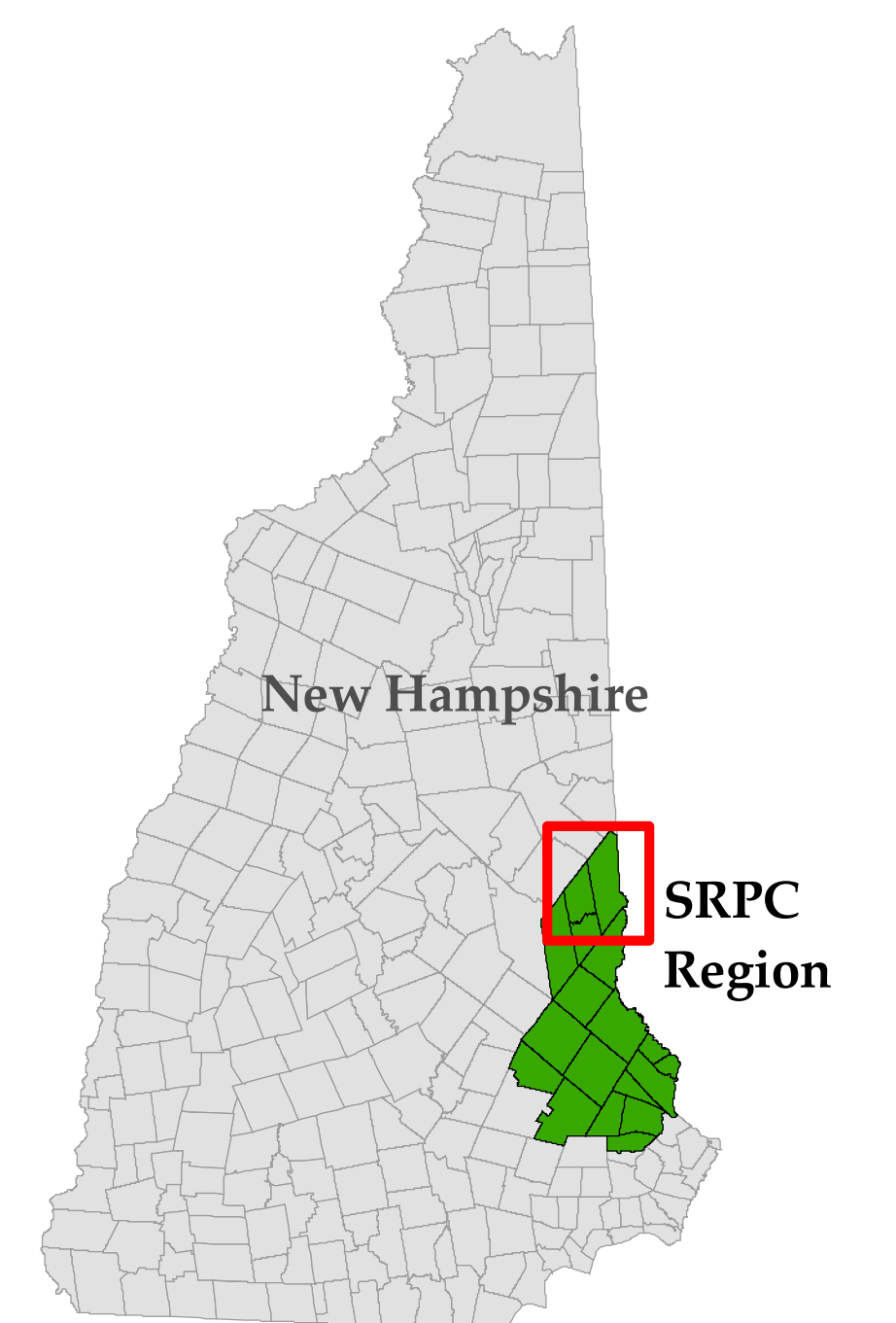
# Town of Wakefield New Hampshire

## Conservation Priority Areas

### Legend

-  Public Water Supply
  -  Stratified Drift Aquifer
  -  Wellhead Protection Area
  -  Important Farmland Soils (Prime, Local, State)
  -  Tax Parcels
- Conservation Focus Areas**
-  Core
- NH F&G WAP Priority Co-occurrence**
-  Areas with a score of 3 and greater
- GRANIT Conservation Lands**
-  Conservation/Protected Lands
- Transportation Features**
-  State
  -  Federal
  -  Local
  -  Not Maintained
  -  Private
- Water Resources**
-  Lake, Pond
  -  NWI Wetlands
  -  MMRG Evaluated Wetlands
  -  River, Stream, Ditch/Canal

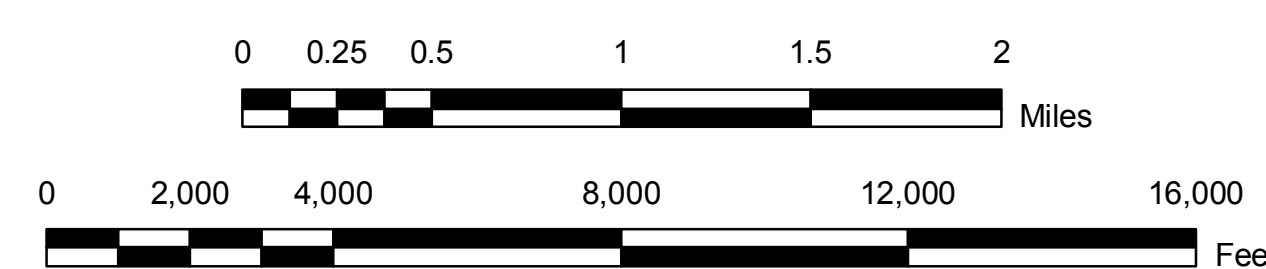
*This map is for planning purposes only.*



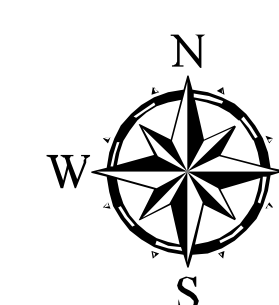
Prepared by Strafford Regional Planning Commission  
2 Ridge Street, Suite 1, Dover, NH 03824  
T: 603.742.2522 F: 603.742.7906 ext. 301@strafordnh.org  
Website: www.strafordnh.org

Map Date: 05/11/2011  
Data Source: USGS Digital Line Graph (DLG) 1:250,000  
Map Date: May 1, 2008 (J/C)  
Data Source: USGS National Wetland Inventory (NWI) 1:250,000  
Map Date: 05/11/2011  
Map prepared by Strafford Regional Planning Commission  
for the planning purposes only.

**DATA SOURCES**  
Base Features (Including Hydrography, Transmission Lines, Political Features) were automated from USGS Digital Line Graph data, 1:250,000, as archived in the NH GRANIT Database.  
Digital road centerlines provided by NHSDOT and are archived in the GRANIT Database.  
SRPC makes no claim to the validity of the data. SRPC and NHSDOT are aware that certain road names are out of date. SRPC would like to be made aware of any street names that are no longer valid.  
2004 Parcel data should be used for planning purposes only.  
Water Resources data provided by NH DES November 2006.  
Aquifer data collection was initiated in 1983 by the USGS in cooperation with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Water Resources Division.  
Conservation lands data taken from the archives of NH GRANIT (1/12/07).  
Conservation focus areas provided by The Nature Conservancy as a product of The Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire's Coastal Watersheds.



1:32,000



GRID NORTH  
NH STATE PLANE COORDINATES  
NAD 1983 (feet)






















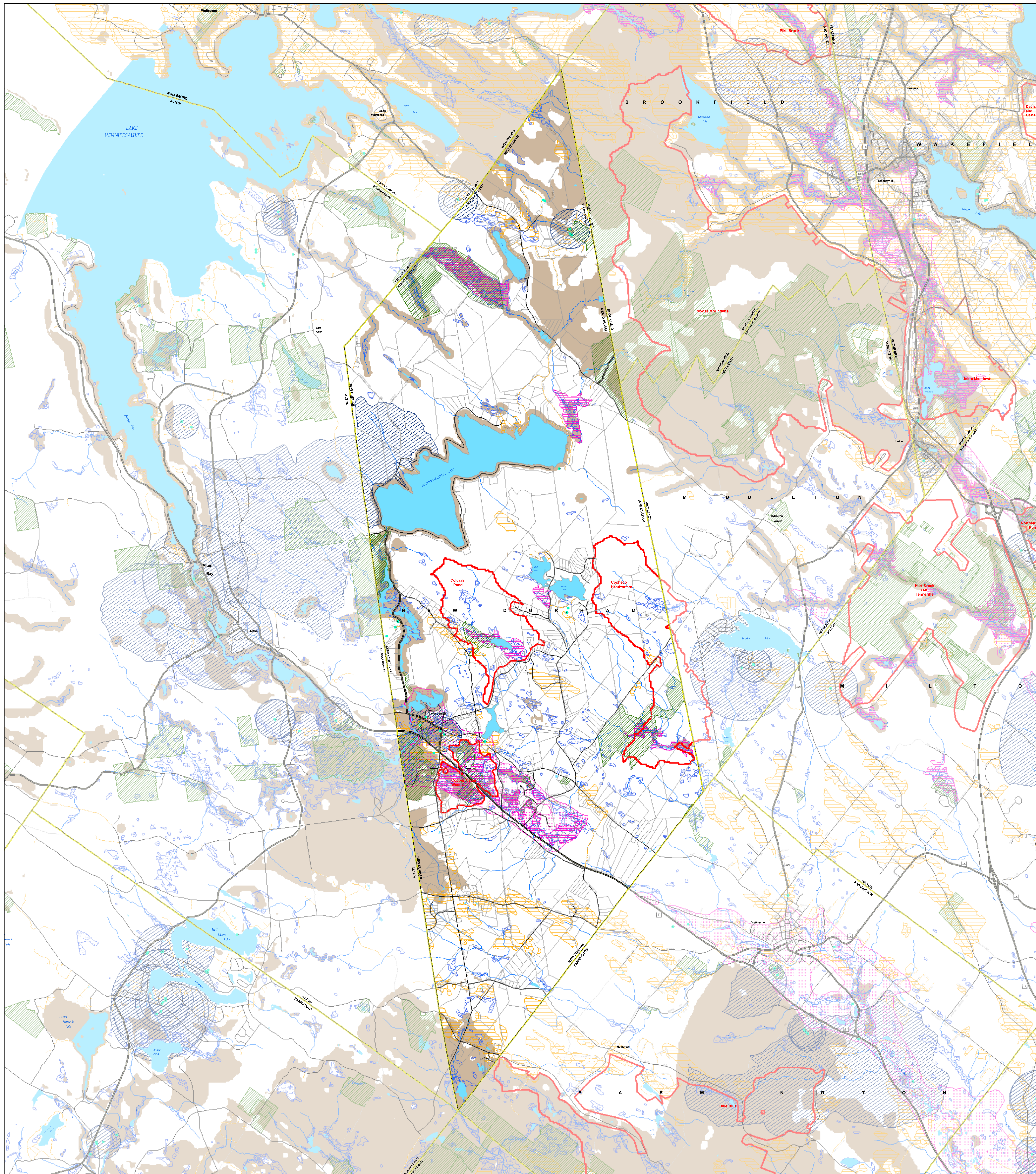
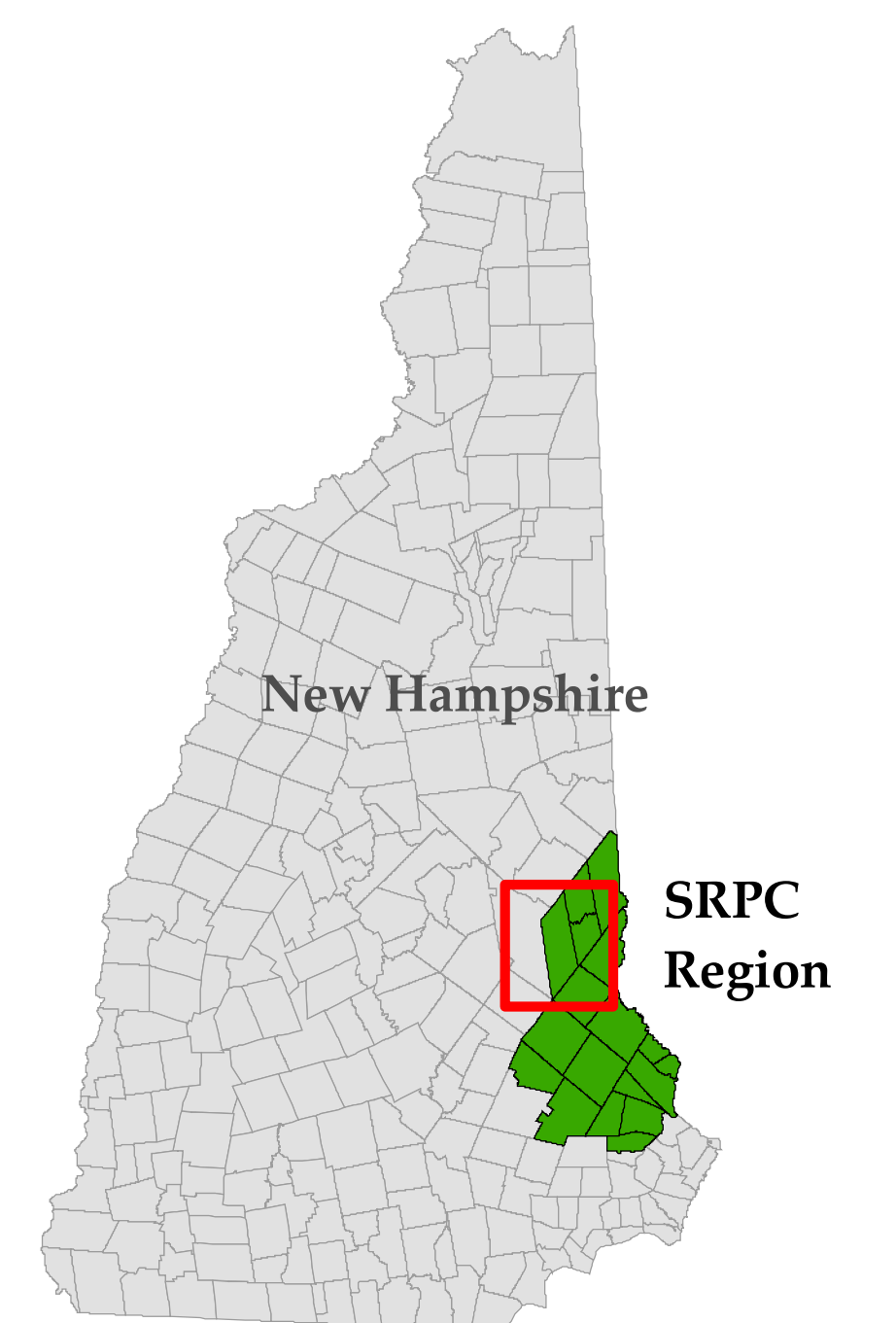
# Town of New Durham New Hampshire

## Conservation Priority Areas

### Legend

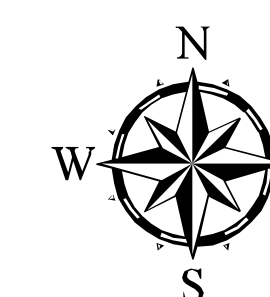
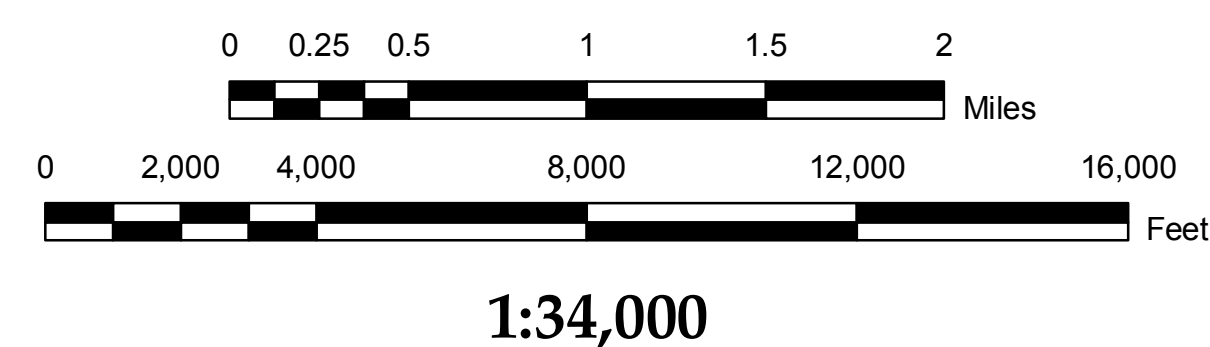
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-  Lake, Pond
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  -  MMRG Evaluated Wetlands
  -  River, Stream, Ditch/Canal

*This map is for planning purposes only.*



Prepared by Strafford Regional Planning Commission  
2 Ridge Street, Suite A, Dover, NH 03820  
T: 603.742.2522 F: 603.742.7906 [www.srpcnh.com](http://www.srpcnh.com)  
Website: [www.srpcnh.com](http://www.srpcnh.com)  
Map Date: 10/2010  
Data Source: USGS Digital Line Graph, 1:24,000, as archived in the NH GRANIT Database.  
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Conservation lands data taken from the archives of NH GRANIT (1/12/07).  
Conservation focus areas provided by The Nature Conservancy as a product of The Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire's Coastal Watershed.



GRID NORTH  
NH STATE PLANE COORDINATES  
NAD 1983 (feet)





# Town of Milton New Hampshire

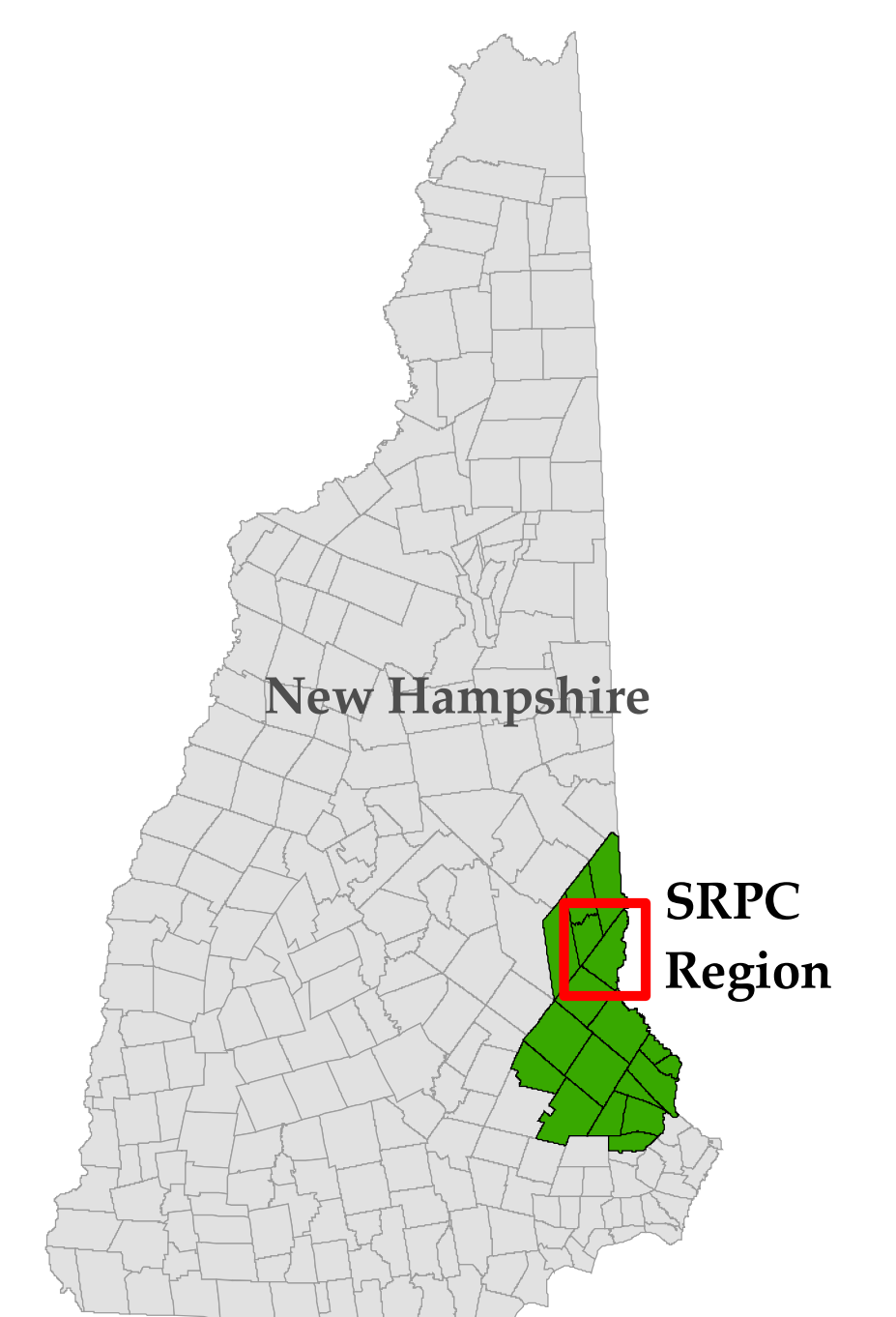
## Conservation Priority Areas



### Legend

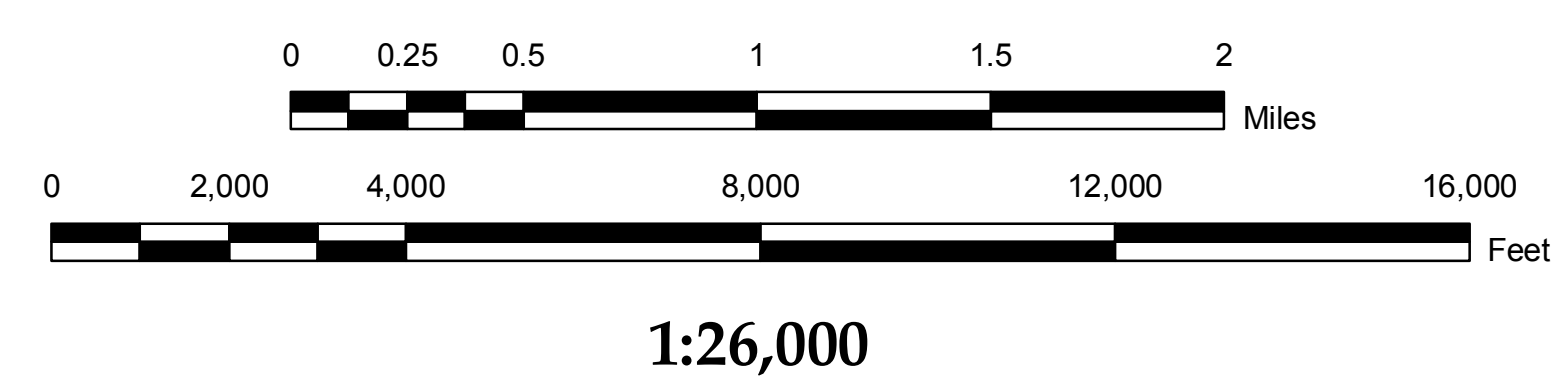
- Public Water Supply
- Stratified Drift Aquifer
- Wellhead Protection Area
- Important Farmland Soils (Prime, Local, State)
- Conservation Focus Areas**
- Core
- NH F&G WAP Priority Co-occurrence**
- Areas with a score of 3 and greater
- GRANIT Conservation Lands**
- Conservation/Protected Lands
- Transportation Features**
- State
- Federal
- Local
- Not Maintained
- Private
- Water Resources**
- Lake, Pond
- NWI Wetlands
- MMRG Evaluated Wetlands
- River, Stream, Ditch/Canal

*This map is for planning purposes only.*

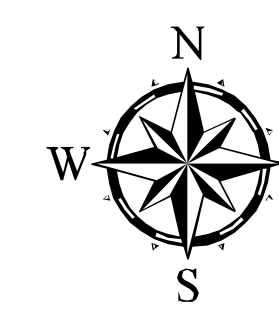


Prepared by Strafford Regional Planning Commission  
2 Ridge Street, Suite 1, Dover, NH 03820  
T: 603.742.2522 F: 603.742.7906 [www.srpnh.com](http://www.srpnh.com)  
[Website: www.srpnh.com](http://www.srpnh.com)

**DATA SOURCES**  
Base Features (Including Hydrography, Transmission Lines, Political Features) were automated from USGS Digital Line Graph data, 1:24,000, as archived in the NH GRANIT Database.  
Digital road centerlines provided by NHDOT and are archived in the GRANIT Database.  
SRPC makes no claim to the validity of the data. SRPC and NHDOT are aware that certain road names are out of date. SRPC would like to be made aware of any street names that are no longer valid.  
2004 Parcel data should be used for planning purposes only.  
Water Resources data provided by NH DES November 2006.  
Aquifer data collection was initiated in 1983 by the USGS in cooperation with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Water Resources Division.  
Conservation lands data taken from the archives of NH GRANIT (1/12/07).  
Conservation focus areas provided by The Nature Conservancy as a product of The Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire's Coastal Watersheds.



1:26,000



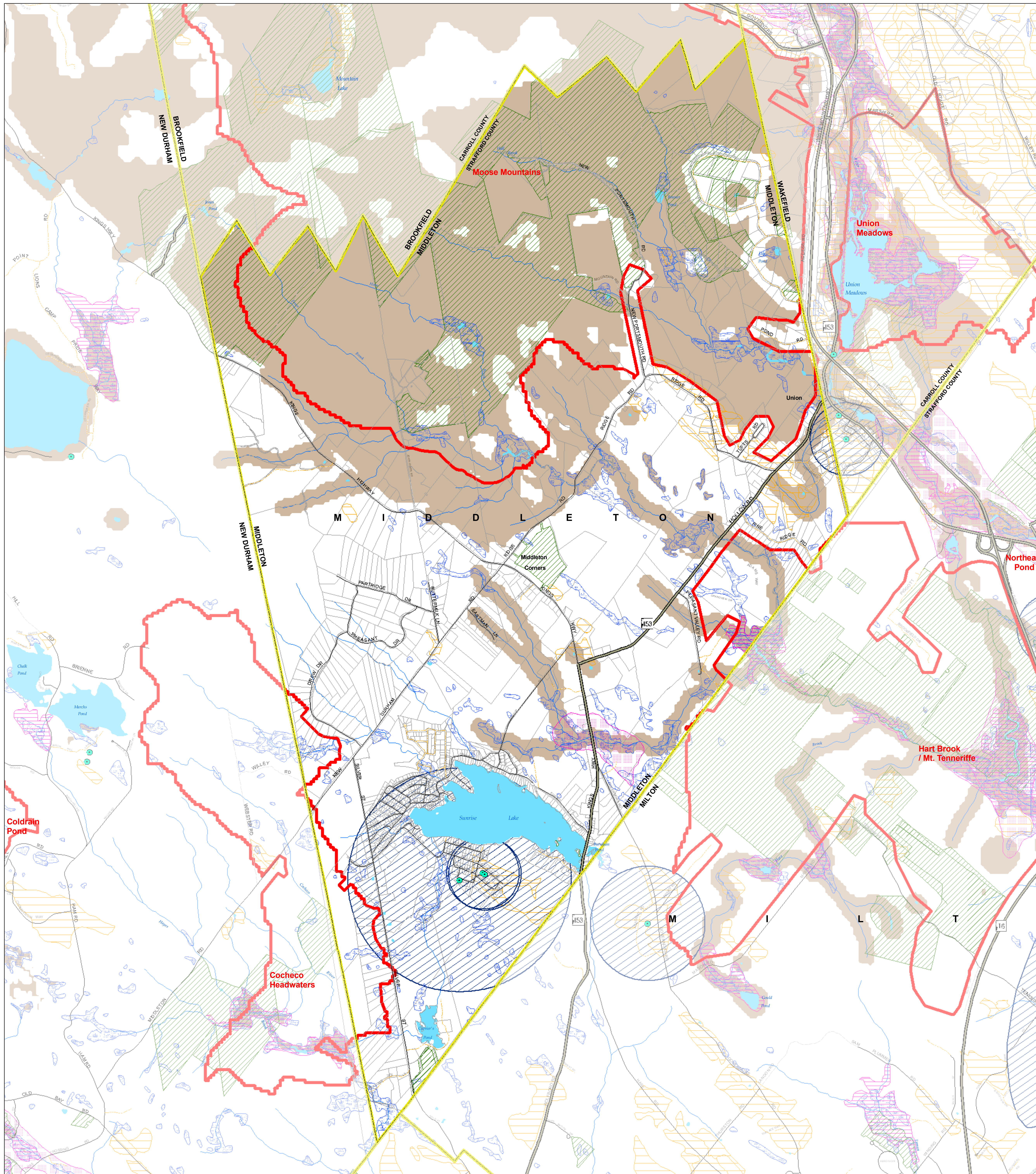
GRID NORTH  
NH STATE PLANE COORDINATES  
NAD 1983 (feet)





# Town of Middleton New Hampshire

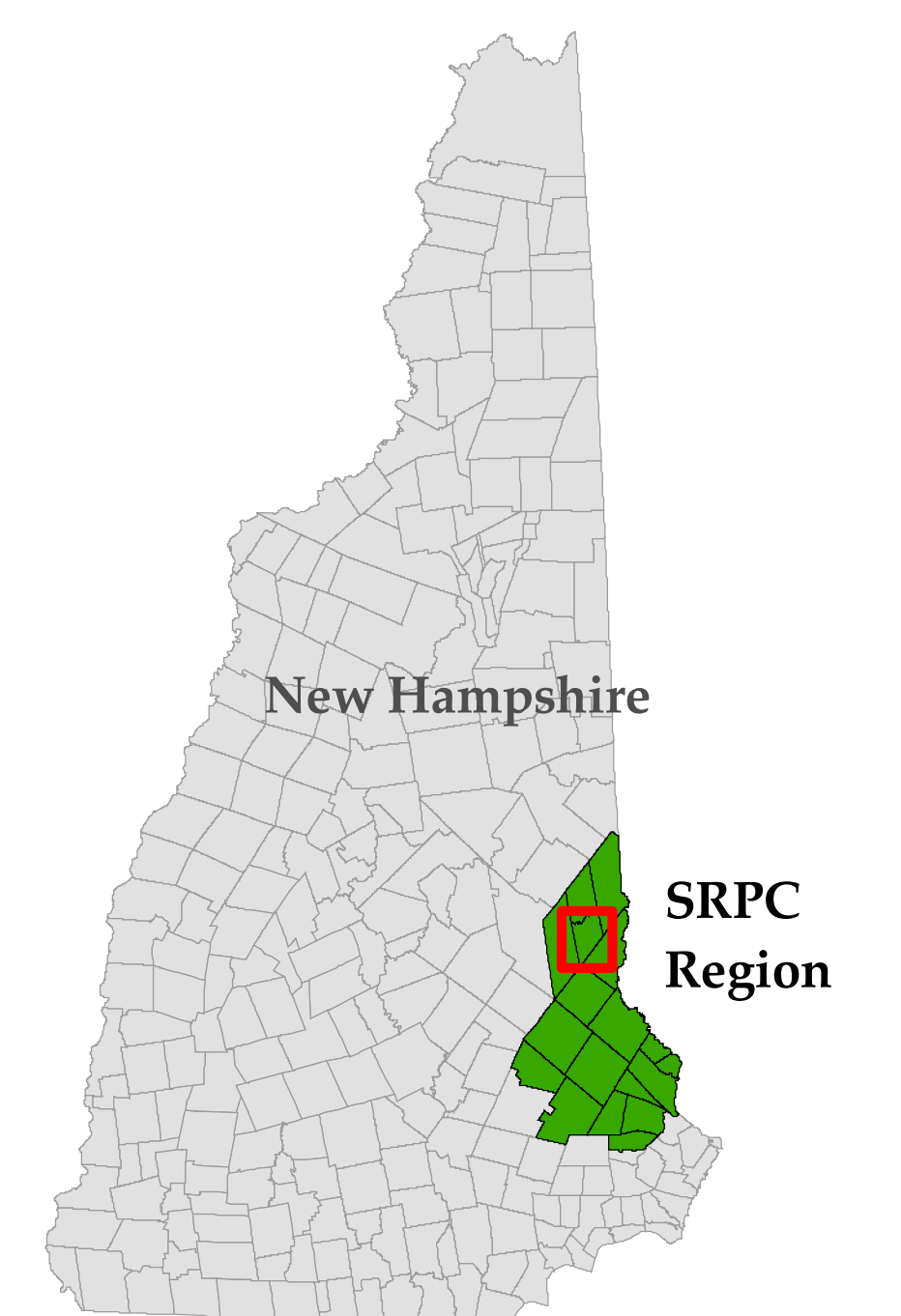
## Conservation Priority Areas



### Legend

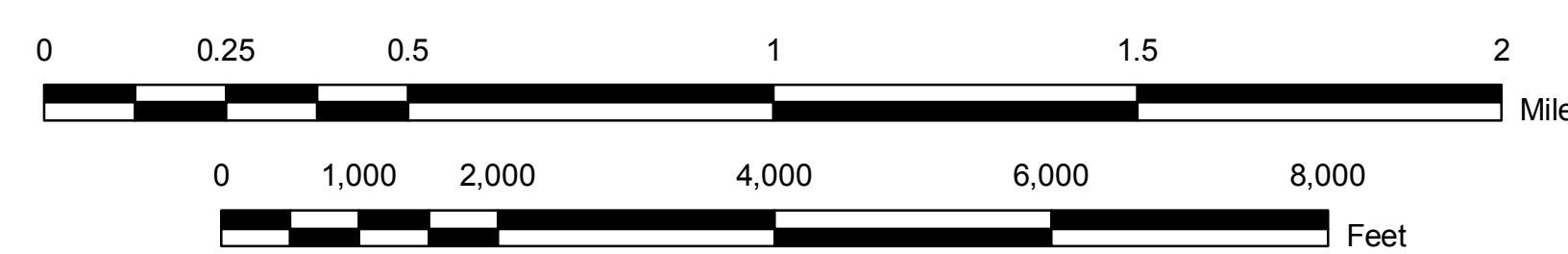
- Public Water Supply
  - Stratified Drift Aquifer
  - Wellhead Protection Area
  - Important Farmland Soils (Prime, Local, State)
  - Tax Parcels
- Conservation Focus Areas**
- Core
- NH F&G WAP Priority Co-occurrence**
- Areas with a score of 3 and greater
- GRANIT Conservation Lands**
- Conservation/Protected Lands
- Transportation Features**
- State
  - Federal
  - Local
  - Not Maintained
  - Private
- Water Resources**
- Lake, Pond
  - NWI Wetlands
  - MMRG Evaluated Wetlands
  - River, Stream, Ditch/Canal

*This map is for planning purposes only.*

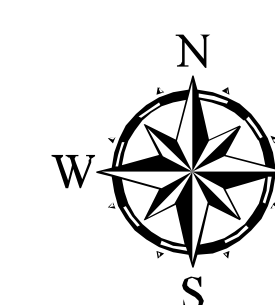


Prepared by Stratford Regional Planning Commission  
2 Ridge Street, Suite 1, Dover, NH 03824  
T: 603.742.2525 F: 603.742.7900 or srpc@stratford.org  
Website: www.stratford.org

**DATA SOURCES**  
Base Features (Including Hydrography, Transmission Lines, Political Features) were automated from USGS Digital Line Graph data, 1:24,000, as archived in the NH GRANIT Database.  
Digital road centerlines provided by NHDOT and are archived in the GRANIT Database.  
SRPC makes no claim to the validity of the data. SRPC and NHDOT are aware that certain road names are out of date. SRPC would like to be made aware of any street names that are no longer valid.  
2014 Parcel data should be used for planning purposes only.  
Water Resources data provided by NH DES November 2006.  
Aquifer data collection was initiated in 1980 by the USGS in cooperation with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Water Resources Division.  
Conservation lands data taken from the archives of NH GRANIT (1/12/07).  
Conservation focus areas provided by The Nature Conservancy as a product of The Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire's Coastal Watersheds.



1:16,000



GRID NORTH  
NH STATE PLANE COORDINATES  
NAD 1983 (feet)





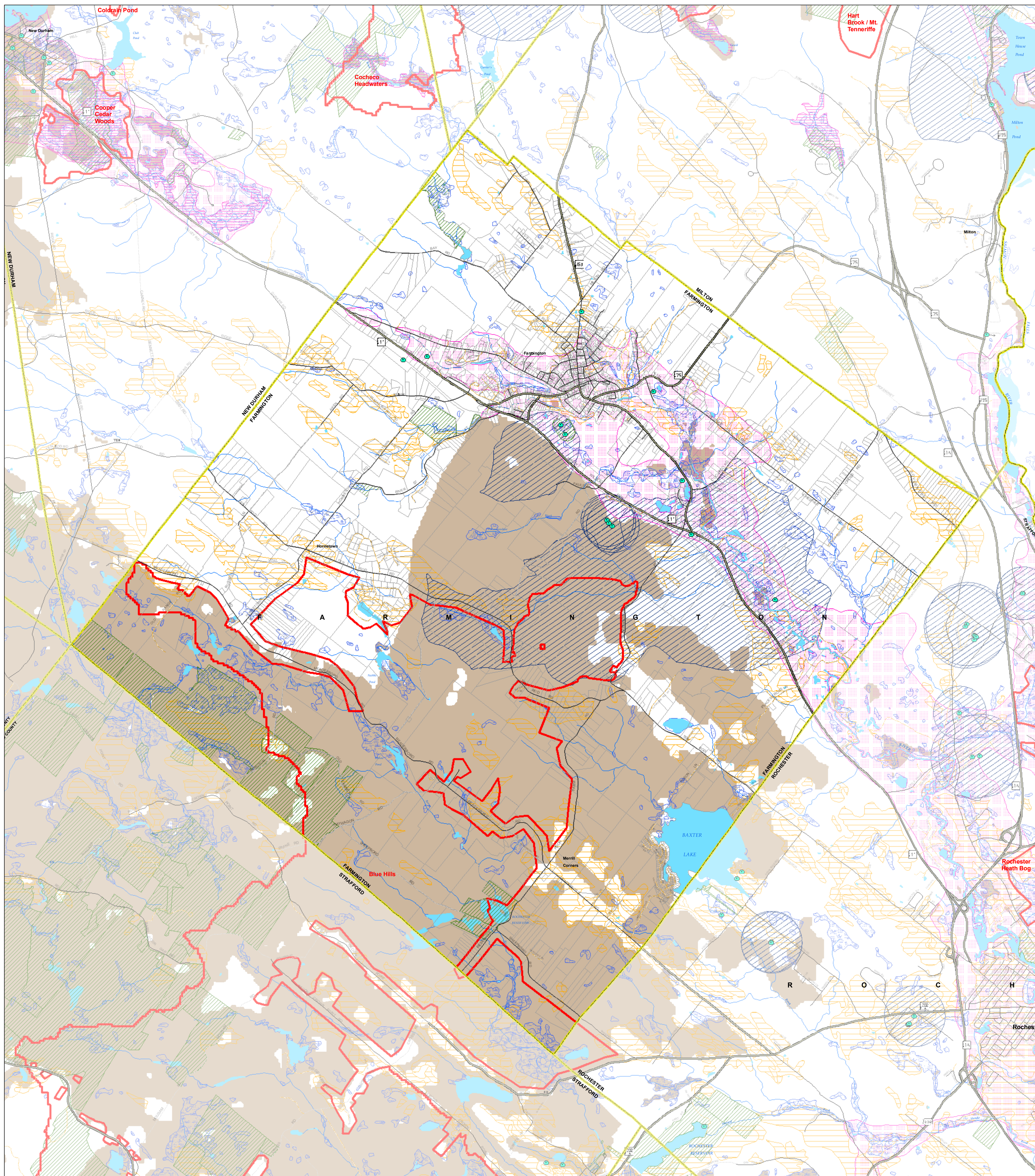
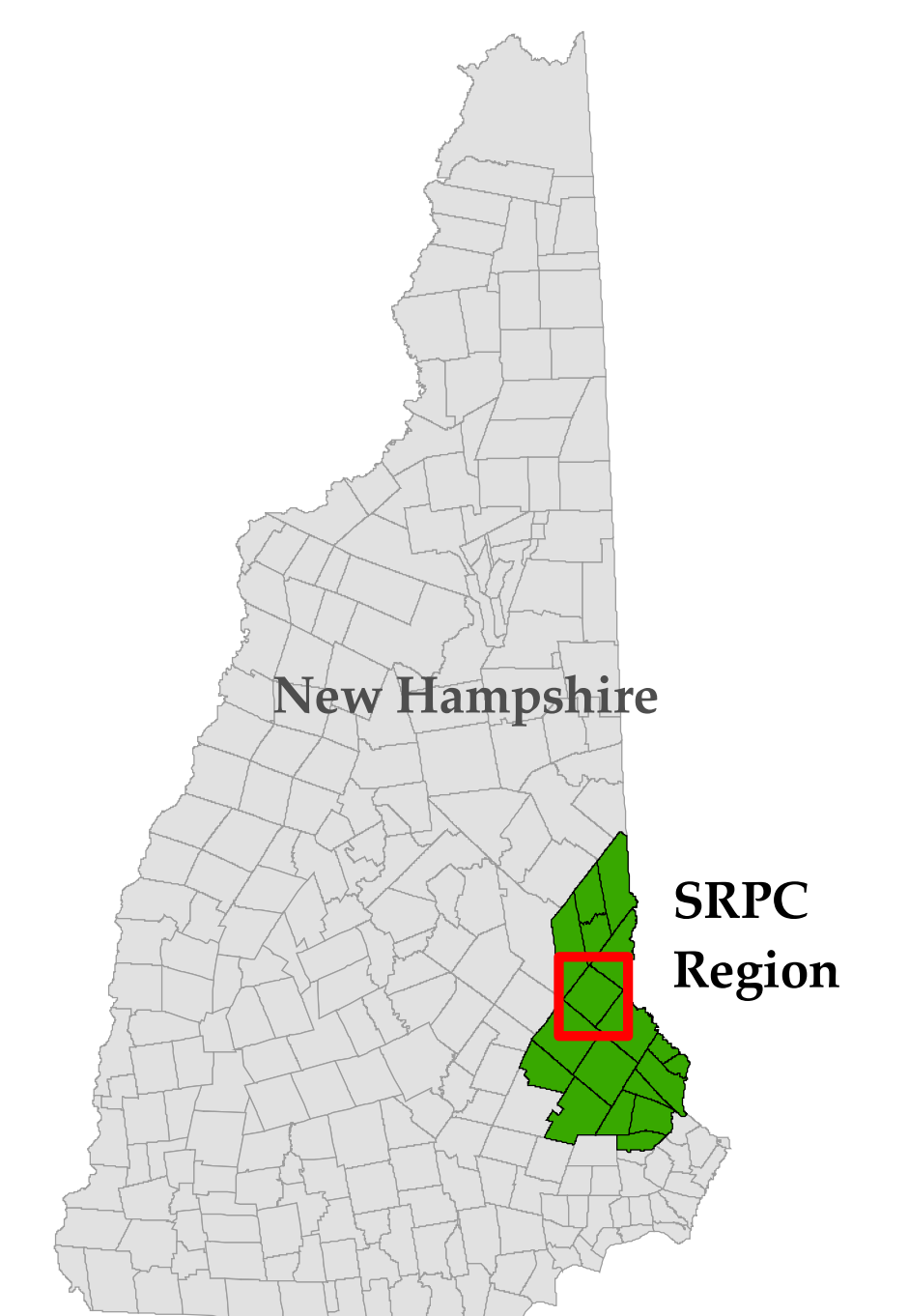
# Town of Farmington New Hampshire

## Conservation Priority Areas

### Legend

- Public Water Supply
  - Stratified Drift Aquifer
  - Wellhead Protection Area
  - Important Farmland Soils (Prime, Local, State)
  - Tax Parcels
- Conservation Focus Areas**
- Core
- NH F&G WAP Priority Co-occurrence**
- Areas with a score of 3 and greater
- GRANIT Conservation Lands**
- Conservation/Protected Lands
- Transportation Features**
- State
  - Federal
  - Local
  - Not Maintained
  - Private
- Water Resources**
- Lake, Pond
  - NWI Wetlands
  - MMRG Evaluated Wetlands
  - River, Stream, Ditch/Canal

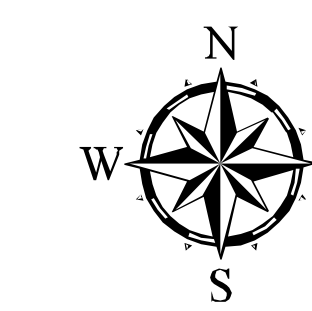
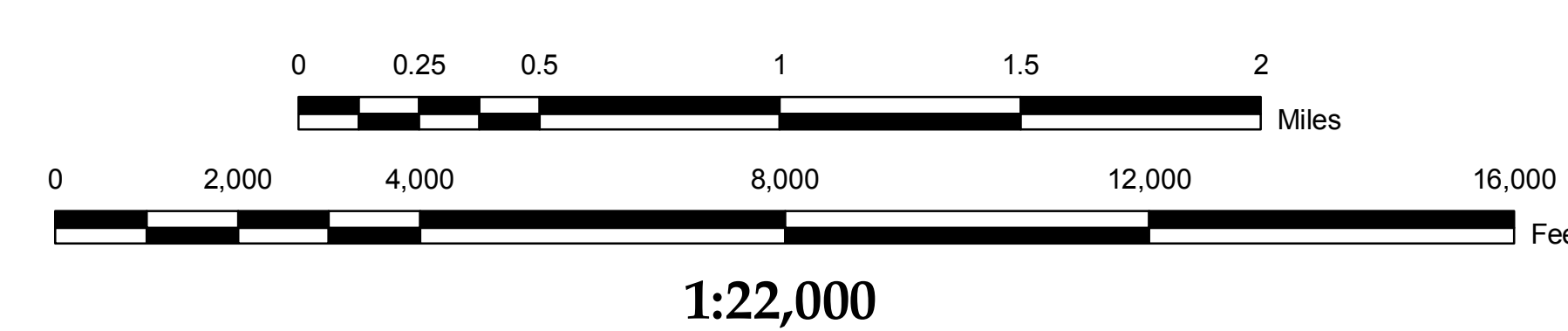
*This map is for planning purposes only.*



Prepared by Strafford Regional Planning Commission  
2 Bridge Street, Suite 1, Dover, NH 03820  
T: 603.742.2522 F: 603.742.7906 or: srpc@straftord.org  
Website: www.straftord.org



**DATA SOURCES**  
Base Features (Including Hydrography, Transmission Lines, Political Features) were automated from USGS Digital Line Graph data, 1:24,000, as archived in the NH GRANIT Database.  
Digital road centerlines provided by NHDOT and are archived in the GRANIT Database.  
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Water Resources data provided by NH DES November 2006.  
Aquifer data collection was initiated in 1983 by the USGS in cooperation with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Water Resources Division.  
Conservation lands data taken from the archives of NH GRANIT (1/12/07).  
Conservation focus areas provided by The Nature Conservancy as a product of The Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire's Coastal Watersheds.



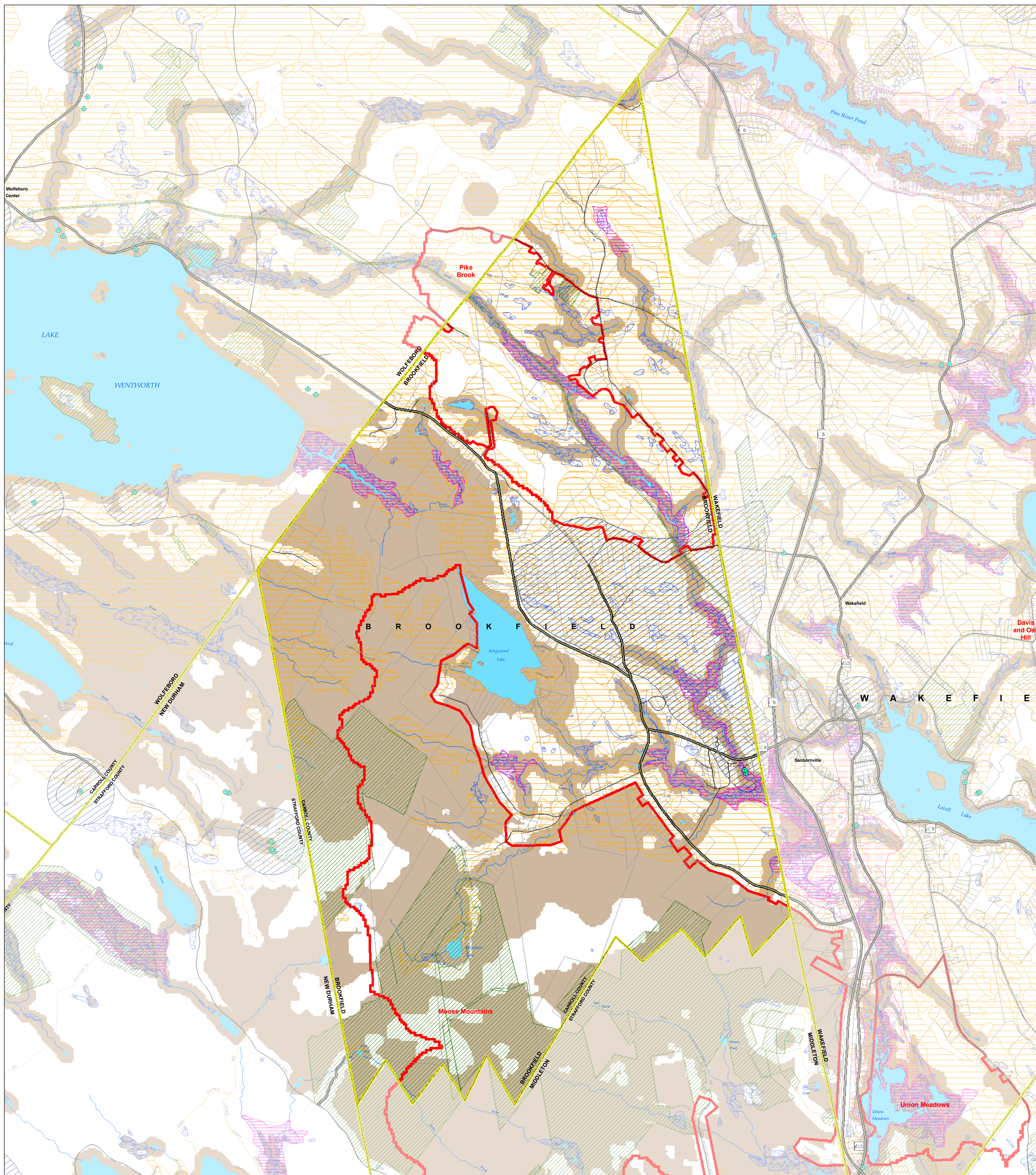
GRID NORTH  
NH STATE PLANE COORDINATES  
NAD 1983 (feet)





# Town of Brookfield New Hampshire

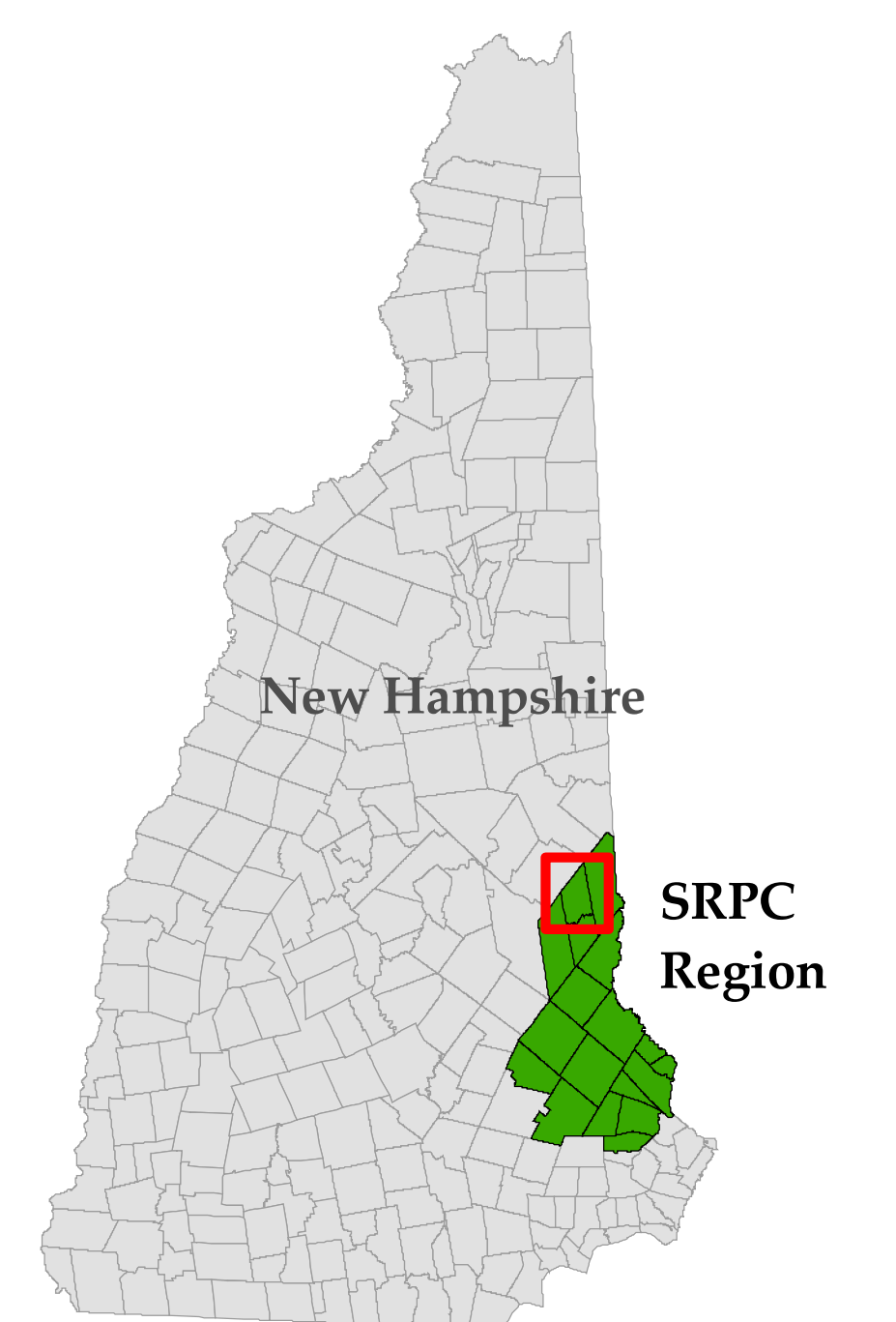
## Conservation Priority Areas



### Legend

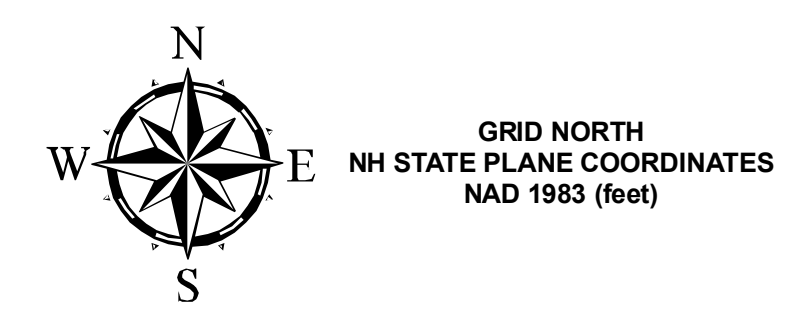
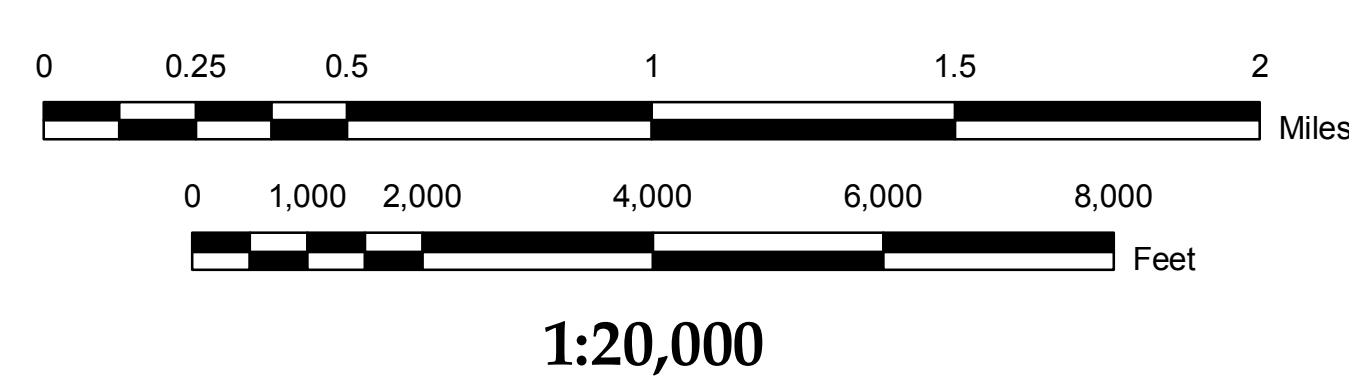
- Public Water Supply
- Stratified Drift Aquifer
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- Important Farmland Soils (Prime, Local, State)
- Tax Parcels
- Conservation Focus Areas**
- Core
- NH F&G WAP Priority Co-occurrence**
- Areas with a score of 3 and greater
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*This map is for planning purposes only.*



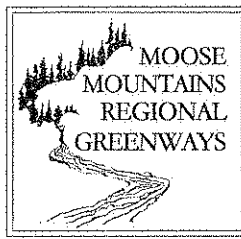
Prepared by Strafford Regional Planning Commission  
2 Ridge Street, Suite 1, Dover, NH 03820  
T: 603.742.2525 F: 603.742.7900 ext. 101  
Website: www.srpcnh.org

**DATA SOURCES**  
Base Features (Including Hydrography, Transmission Lines, Political Features) were automated from USGS Digital Line Graph data, 1:24,000, as archived in the NH GRANIT Database.  
Digital road centerlines provided by NHSDOT and are archived in the GRANIT Database.  
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Conservation lands data taken from the archives of NH GRANIT (1/12/07).  
Conservation focus areas provided by The Nature Conservancy as a product of The Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire's Coastal Watersheds.





**Appendix G**  
**Workshop Invitations**



## **You're invited!**

Join Moose Mountains Regional Greenways  
for a hands-on workshop

### **Mapping Habitats for Community Planning**

**Thursday, April 5**

**6:30 – 9:00 p.m.**

**Greater Wakefield Resource Center  
254 Main Street in Union, NH**

New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game Conservation Biologist Emily Brunkhurst will describe how individuals and communities are using the updated Wildlife Action Plan and New Hampshire Coastal Watershed Plan to implement conservation strategies aimed at preventing the region's wildlife from becoming endangered.

Brunkhurst will present the newly updated wildlife habitat map, which identifies the habitats that are most critical to the survival of species at risk, and the Conservation Focus Areas map, which highlights lands with the greatest ecological integrity in the region.

Designed for land use board members, this workshop will show participants how to use the maps and plans in local conservation. The workshop will begin with a presentation of the plans followed by a hands-on mapping exercise. Moose Mountains Regional Greenways staff will follow up with local land boards to facilitate town-specific conservation planning efforts.

This initiative is part of Moose Mountains Regional Greenways' public outreach and education initiative titled, "Thanks for all the maps and reports. Now what do we do with them?" This program is funded by a grant from the New Hampshire Estuaries Project.

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways is a non-profit conservation organization that works to conserve and connect the most special natural places in Brookfield, Farmington, Middleton, Milton, New Durham and Wakefield.

For more information, visit [www.mmrg.info](http://www.mmrg.info) or call 603-473-2535.





MOOSE MOUNTAINS  
REGIONAL GREENWAYS  
P.O. BOX 191  
UNION, N.H. 03887



UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

## ANNUAL BRANCH RIVER PADDLE

*Join Natural Resource Experts and Fellow Paddlers*

*Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.*

*(Rain date Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>)*

*for a Fun and Educational Canoe and Kayak Trip*



Join Moose Mountains Regional Greenways, Carl Siemon Family Charitable Trust (Branch Hill Farm), UNH Cooperative Extension, the Cochecho River Watershed Coalition, the Three Ponds Protection Association, and the NH Department of Environmental Services on a two-hour paddle of about 4.5 miles. John Magee from New Hampshire Fish and Game will describe the importance of the river, wetlands and other habitats we'll see along the way.

**We will embark from the intersection of Route 125 and Applebee Rd.** (Take exit 18 off of the Spaulding Turnpike, then turn right hand turn at bottom of exit. Parking is just ahead on left.) We will paddle down the Branch River and then up the Salmon Falls River to Sandy Point on Branch Hill Farm conservation land. Branch Hill Farm will provide a picnic lunch of hot dogs, potato salad, and lemonade.

*All paddlers must wear US Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices*

Transportation for boats to a location for pick-up, as well as for participants back to parked vehicles will be provided.

**Pre-registration is required.** Please send \$20 per person, with the name of each person attending, to MMRG, PO Box 191, Union, NH 03887. **Registrations must be received by June 6, 2007.**

For more information, please call Moose Mountains Regional Greenways at (603) 953-4473 or email at [info@mmerg.info](mailto:info@mmerg.info)

Sponsored by



## You're invited!

Join Moose Mountains Regional Greenways for a FREE workshop  
for Conservation Commissioners

### The Basics and Beyond

Thursday, March 27, 2008 from 7-9 p.m.  
Greater Wakefield Resource Center  
254 Main Street, Union, NH

Carol Andrews, Executive Director of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissioners, will overview the duties of Conservation Commissioners, common misunderstandings about responsibilities, available resources, and how to set priorities. A question and answer session will also be included. Pre-registration required!

For more information: Call 603-817-8260 or email [cbelowski@comcast.net](mailto:cbelowski@comcast.net).

Funding provided by  New Hampshire  
Evergreen Project



PO BOX 101  
EMERY, NH 02837

*Working to conserve and connect our most special natural areas*

## You're invited!

Explore vernal pools with Moose Mountains Regional Greenways and Sara Callaghan of the Forest Society!

### Vernal Pool Walk

Learn about the important role that vernal pools play in the life cycles of spotted salamanders, wood frogs, fairy shrimp, and other vernal pool critters. These unassuming habitats are easily overlooked and rapidly being lost to development due to their small size and impervious waters.

**When:** Sunday, April 20 from 1 - 4 p.m.

**Where:** Gage Hill Farm  
Wentworth Road, Wakefield, NH

This free workshop is funded by a grant from NH Estuaries Project. For more information or to register, call 603-953-4473 or email [info@ammg.info](mailto:info@ammg.info).

## You're invited!

Join Moose Mountains Regional Greenways for a

### Hawk and Nature Watch and Walk

**Saturday, September 22 from 10 a.m. – noon**  
Teneriffe Mountain Blueberry Farm  
355 Teneriffe Mountain Rd., Milton, NH

Naturalist Mark Suomalai will lead participants on a gentle climb through the woods, up across the top of Teneriffe Mountain, describing the flora and fauna that we encounter along the way.

**Directions:** Route 16/Spaulding Trpk. to exit 17. Bear right onto Route 75, continue ¾ mile to Route 125. Turn left onto Route 125, continue 2¼ miles to Teneriffe Rd. Turn left onto Teneriffe Rd., continue 1½ miles.

**For more information:** Call 603-953-4473 or visit [www.ammg.info](http://www.ammg.info)

Funding provided by  **New Hampshire Estuaries Project**

### Moose Mountains Regional Greenways

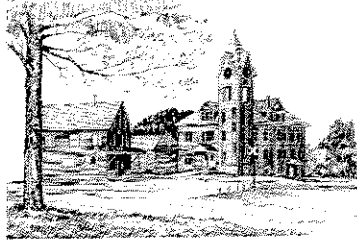
PO Box 191  
Union, NH 03887



Moose Mountains Regional Greenways is a non-profit conservation organization that works to conserve and connect the most special natural places in northern Stratford and southern Carroll counties



MOOSE MOUNTAINS  
REGIONAL GREENWAYS  
P.O. BOX 191  
UNION, N.H. 03887



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

2 HIGH STREET  
SANBORNVILLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03872  
TELEPHONE (603) 522-6205 FAX (603) 522-6794

May 9, 2008

Dear «Fname»,

My name is Stan Lombara, and I chair the Wakefield Conservation Commission. Wakefield is lucky to be rich in natural resources. It is the charge of the Conservation Commission to inventory and protect those resources.

Working with Moose Mountains Regional Greenways (MMRG), Wakefield Conservation Commission members used newly released science-based data to locate important natural resources in Wakefield. MMRG is a land conservation organization that works to conserve the region's most special natural areas. Funding for this project was provided by NH Estuaries Project and the NH State Conservation Committee's "Moose Plate" grant program.

We went through a prioritization exercise and determined that land with water resources - especially drinking water resources - and large unbroken forest blocks next to other conserved lands were the most important areas to target for conservation. Our research shows that your land on «Location» falls within the identified areas and therefore may possess one or both of these important features.

Have you ever thought about keeping your land just the way it is now - forever? One way to do this is by using a conservation easement. When land is placed in easement, its development potential is extinguished, ensuring that the land remains in a natural state. You, the landowner, continue to work your farm, cut wood, and do other activities on your land as you always have.

Would you like to know more?

MMRG and UNH Cooperative Extension (UNHCE) are co-hosting a FREE workshop on "Tax Incentives for Landowners: Basic Income and Estate Tax Issues Related to Land Conservation" on May 19, 2008. The workshop will take place from 7 - 9 p.m. at the Greater Wakefield Resource Center, 254 Main Street in Union, NH. Presenting the workshop are Phil Auger of UNHCE and Clay Mitchell, MMRG's Director of Land Conservation and land use attorney. This is an opportunity to learn more from the experts about the special natural resources on your land, and the options available to landowners who decide to pursue conservation measures.

I hope that you'll join me.

To register for the workshop, please call MMRG at 603-817-8260 or email [info@mmrg.info](mailto:info@mmrg.info).

Sincerely,

Stan Lombara  
Chair, Wakefield Conservation Commission

*The Town of Wakefield prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, marital or family status. Town of Wakefield is an equal opportunity employer.*



# Town of New Durham

## New Hampshire

*Incorporated in 1762*

Dear «Fname»,

My name is Dennis Gagne, and I chair the New Durham Conservation Commission. I've lived in this part of New Hampshire for twenty one years, and I love our community's natural beauty and quality of life.

The Town of New Durham is blessed with an abundance of natural resources. It is the charge of the Conservation Commission to inventory and conserve these resources.

Over the past year, working with the Strafford Regional Planning Commission, the Conservation Commission and Planning Board used newly released science-based data to locate important natural resources in our town. In March the citizens of New Durham voted to adopt zoning ordinances that will provide additional protection for the important natural resources in these conservation focus areas.

We are fortunate that there are some large parcels like the Beaver Brook WMA in these areas that are already conserved. Working with our land conservation partners, the Forest Society and Moose Mountains Regional Greenways, the Conservation Commission has been talking with landowners in these areas in an effort to add to these conservation lands.

Did you know that your land on «Location» falls within one of the conservation focus areas? If you have ever thought about keeping your land undeveloped forever, you should know that there are many different ways to accomplish this goal. And, it is never too late to start planning to ensure your land remains open for generations to come.

Would you like to know more?

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways (MMRG), one of our local land conservation partners, and UNH Cooperative Extension (UNHCE) are co-hosting a **FREE** workshop on "**Tax Incentives for Landowners: Basic Income and Estate Tax Issues Related to Land Conservation**" on May 19, 2008. Presenting the workshop are Phil Auger of UNHCE and Clay Mitchell, MMRG's Director of Land Conservation and land use attorney. The workshop will take place from 7 - 9 p.m. at the Greater Wakefield Resource Center, 254 Main Street in Union, NH. This is an opportunity to learn more from the experts about the special natural resources on your land, and the options available to landowners who decide to pursue conservation measures.

I hope that you'll join me.

Feel free to give me a call at 603-859-4251 with any questions or for more information. I look forward to hearing from you!

To register for the workshop, please call MMRG at 603-817-8260 or email [info@mmrg.info](mailto:info@mmrg.info).

Sincerely,

Dennis Gagne  
Chair, New Durham Conservation Commission

*Funding for this project was provided by NH Estuaries Project and the NH State Conservation Committee's "Moose Plate" grant program.*

May 9, 2008

Dear Friend,

The Milton Conservation Commission recently completed an inventory of our town's most important natural resources, with help from Moose Mountains Regional Greenways. Moose Mountains Regional Greenways is a land conservation organization that works to conserve the Moose Mountains region's most special natural areas.

Thanks to a grant from the NH Estuaries Project and a NH Moose Plate grant, Moose Mountains Regional Greenways and the Milton Conservation Commission were able to identify and locate some of the town's most prized natural resources. Some of these resources include:

- Water resources, which include public drinking water supplies, surface waters and groundwater
- Large unfragmented blocks of land that provide a variety of important wildlife habitat
- Land for public recreation
- Rare or endangered species
- Working farms or land with outstanding farming soils
- Land that is near other conserved lands
- Scenic vistas to include ridgelines

Our research shows that your property may possess some of these important natural features.

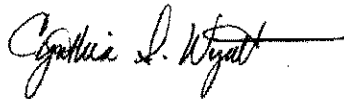
Have you ever thought about keeping your land just the way it is now - forever? One way to do this is by using a conservation easement. A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a conservation organization. When land is placed in easement, its development potential is extinguished, ensuring that the land remains in a natural state. You, the landowner, continue to work your farm, cut wood, and do other activities on your land as you always have. Plus, there are many powerful tax benefits that come with donating a conservation easement.

Would you like to know more?

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways is hosting a FREE workshop on "Tax Incentives for Landowners: Basic Income and Estate Tax Issues Related to Land Conservation" on May 19, 2008. The workshop will take place from 7 - 9 p.m. at the Greater Wakefield Resource Center, located at 254 Main Street in Union, NH. Presenting the workshop are Phil Auger of UNHCE and MMRG's Director of Land Conservation and land use attorney Clay Mitchell. This is an opportunity to learn more from the experts about the special natural resources on your land, and the opportunities available to landowners who decide to pursue conservation measures.

Please contact Moose Mountains Regional Greenways at 603-817-8260 or [info@mmrg.info](mailto:info@mmrg.info) to register or for more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Cynthia L. Wyatt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Cynthia Wyatt  
Milton Conservation Commission Chair

Middleton Conservation Commission  
182 Kings Highway  
Middleton NH 03887

May 7, 2008

«Name1»  
«Street»  
«City», «ST» «Zip»

Dear «Sal»,

My name is Kate Buzard, and I chair the Middleton Conservation Commission. Although I was born in Hawaii and have traveled through much of the country, I chose to make my home in Middleton, NH. I love our community's natural beauty and quality of life.

The Town of Middleton is blessed with an abundance of natural resources. It is the charge of the Conservation Commission to inventory and conserve these resources.

The Middleton Conservation Commission recently completed a survey of our town's most important natural resources, with help from Moose Mountains Regional Greenways. MMRG is a land conservation organization that works to conserve the Moose Mountains region's most special natural areas. Funding for this project was provided by NH Estuaries Project and the NH State Conservation Committee's "Moose Plate" grant program.

Thanks to a grant from the NH Estuaries Project and a NH Moose Plate grant, Moose Mountains Regional Greenways and the Middleton Conservation Commission were able to identify and locate some of the town's most prized natural resources. Some of these resources include:

- \* Land that overlays potential public drinking water resources
- \* Important wildlife habitat
- \* Rare or endangered species
- \* Working farm or forest lands
- \* Land that is near other conserved lands

Our research shows that your land on «Parcel\_Location» may possess some of these important natural features.

Have you ever thought about keeping your land undeveloped forever? There are many different ways to accomplish this goal, and it is never too late to start planning to ensure your land remains open for generations to come.

One way to do this is by placing your land under a conservation easement. A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a conservation organization. When land is placed in easement, its development potential is extinguished, ensuring that the land remains undeveloped.

Would you like to know more?



Moose Mountains Regional Greenways and UNH Cooperative Extension (UNHCE) are co-hosting a **FREE** workshop on "Tax Incentives for Landowners: Basic Income and Estate Tax Issues Related to Land Conservation" on May 19, 2008. Presenting the workshop are Phil Auger of UNHCE and MMRG's Director of Land Conservation and land use attorney Clay Mitchell. The workshop will take place from 7 - 9 p.m. at the Greater Wakefield Resource Center, located at 254 Main Street in Union, NH. This is an opportunity to learn more from the experts about the special natural resources on your land and the opportunities available to landowners who decide to pursue conservation measures.

I hope that you'll join me.

Feel free to give me a call at 603-755-3610 with any questions or for more information. I look forward to hearing from you!

To register for the workshop, please call MMRG at 603-817-8260 or email [info@mmrg.info](mailto:info@mmrg.info).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kate Buzard". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of a vertical line that serves as a separator.

Kate Buzard  
Chair, Middleton Conservation Commission

Town of Brookfield  
PO Box 800  
Sanbornville, NH 03872

May 7, 2008

«FName» «LName»  
«Street»  
«City», «ST» «Zip»

Dear «Sal»,

As the owner of a large undeveloped land parcel in Brookfield, I urge you to attend the meeting on **"Tax Incentives for Landowners: Basic Income and Estate Tax Issues Related to Land Conservation"** on May 19, 2008 from 7-9 p.m. at the Greater Wakefield Resource Center in Union, NH. This free workshop is hosted by Moose Mountains Regional Greenways and is an opportunity for you to learn about the natural resources on your land and the tax advantages available to landowners who decide to pursue land conservation measures.

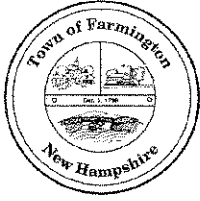
Topics to be covered include landowner benefits, potential IRS tax deductions, and other advantages of donating conservation easements. Not only do individual landowners benefit, but also the town, surrounding communities, the geographical region and future generations all receive untold values from land conservation programs.

Please join me at this free workshop, ask questions and be informed as to how all of us can benefit from proper planning for the future.

Thank you,



Dick Peckham  
Brookfield Conservation Commission Chairman



A Bicentennial Community  
1798 - 1998

**Town of Farmington**  
**Conservation Commission**

356 Main Street  
Farmington, NH 03835  
Phone: (603) 755-2208 • Fax: (603) 755-9934

Dear «Fname»,

My name is Kristie Holtz, and I chair the Farmington Conservation Commission. Farmington is lucky to be so rich in natural resources and it is the charge of the Conservation Commission to inventory and protect those resources.

Working with Moose Mountains Regional Greenways (MMRG), the Conservation Commission used newly released science-based data to locate important natural resource features in our town and update our conservation plans. MMRG is a land conservation organization that works to conserve the Moose Mountains region's most special natural areas. Funding for this project was provided by NH Estuaries Project and the NH State Conservation Committee's "Moose Plate" grant program.

Armed with the new data, we went through a prioritization exercise and determined that land with water resources, especially drinking water supply, and large unfragmented forest blocks were the most important areas to target for conservation in Farmington. Your land on «Location» falls within the identified areas and therefore may possess one or more of these important features.

Have you ever thought about keeping your land undeveloped forever? There are many different ways to accomplish this goal, and it is never too late to start planning to ensure your land remains open for generations to come.

Would you like to know more?

MMRG and UNH Cooperative Extension (UNHCE) are co-hosting a **FREE** workshop on "**Tax Incentives for Landowners: Basic Income and Estate Tax Issues Related to Land Conservation**" on May 19, 2008. Presenting the workshop are Phil Auger of UNHCE and Clay Mitchell, MMRG's Director of Land Conservation and land use attorney. The workshop will take place from 7 - 9 p.m. at the Greater Wakefield Resource Center, 254 Main Street in Union, NH. This is an opportunity to learn more from the experts about the special natural resources on your land, and the options available to landowners who decide to pursue conservation measures.

I hope that you'll join me.

To register for the workshop, please call MMRG at 603-817-8260 or email [info@mmrg.info](mailto:info@mmrg.info).

Sincerely,

Kristie Holtz  
Chair, Farmington Conservation Commission