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Northeast Passage Gears Up for Second Round of Outdoor Adventures

Events Raise Funds and Awareness for Nonprofit

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DURHAM, N.H. -- Northeast Passage's Mountains to Marshes Trilogy of Challenge is New England's premier three-sport, three-season accessible outdoor adventure. After a successful inaugural year, Northeast Passage is gearing up for its second round of events in 2006.

The first event is the Highland Loppet (Norwegian for "long trip"). The Loppet is a two-day cross-country ski endurance challenge. This is an accessible event for those with disabilities and those without. Skiers will set out from the Eagle Mountain House in Jackson, NH on Sunday, Feb. 12 at 10:00 am. This roughly 25-kilometer mountain course will use the Jackson Ski Touring Center's trails. Participants will return to the Eagle Mountain House for dinner, entertainment and accommodations. Skiing will begin again on Monday morning with the event wrapping up around 3:00 pm. Skiers have the option of staying for Sunday only (with dinner optional).

Participants will enjoy a weekend of recreation and relaxation while raising money and awareness for Northeast Passage's adaptive programs. Each skier is asked to secure pledges or donations.

Mountains to Marshes also includes Point Paddle (kayaking in June) and Three Notches (biking in September).

Northeast Passage is a self-funded program of the University of New Hampshire's School of Health and Human Services, and is an affiliate of Disabled Sports USA. Northeast Passage develops and delivers innovative, barrier-free recreation and health promotion programs. All proceeds from these events directly benefit Northeast Passage's programs.

The Highland Loppet is presented by Martin's Point Healthcare and WFNX radio.

For more information on how to participate in the Highland Loppet or any of Northeast Passage's programs, call (603) 862-0070 or visit <http://www.nepassage.org>.