



**PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
and  
NEW HAMPSHIRE RIVERS COUNCIL**

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) and the New Hampshire Rivers Council (NHRC) share the common goals of environmental education, advocacy and the protection of the state's rivers and watersheds. DES was established in January 1987 under the provisions of Chapter 202, Laws of 1986 and brought together programs from four previously separate state agencies that had responsibility for such matters as water and air pollution control, water supply protection, dams and flood control, and waste disposal. Today DES implements these and other programs through a variety of regulatory, compliance assistance and educational efforts. The NHDES New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP) was established in 1988 with the passage of RSA 483 to protect certain rivers, called designated rivers, for their outstanding natural and cultural resources. The Rivers Council began as the New Hampshire Rivers Campaign in 1985, a coalition formed to create a statewide river protection program. Buoyed by passage of the Rivers Management & Protection Act and the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act, and recognizing the need for a statewide rivers organization, the Campaign was incorporated in 1993 as the New Hampshire Rivers Council. Today, the NHRC fosters appropriate use and management of New Hampshire's rivers and watersheds through education, grassroots advocacy and cooperative programs with state agencies and non-profit organizations.

In the past, DES and NHRC have worked cooperatively and in partnership on a wide range of matters, including river, stream and watershed legislation, public education, aquatic resource mitigation, source water protection, designated rivers and shoreland protection. Based upon the successes of prior partnership and cooperative efforts and to bring greater recognition, effectiveness, structure, and efficiency to future partnership efforts, DES and NHRC hereby enter into this Partnership Agreement. It is anticipated that this Partnership Agreement will result in enhanced communication between DES and NHRC and improved environmental protection.

The specific areas of cooperation are detailed in the attached work plan, which is the result of discussions between representatives of DES and NHRC. The tasks are nonbinding and voluntary, and can be revised at any time by agreement of both parties. This partnership agreement is not a legally enforceable document.

  
Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner, DES

Date: 11/17/2007

  
Joshua Cline, Executive Director, NHRC

Date: 11/17/07

## PARTNERSHIP WORK PLAN

### I. Timeframe

This Work Plan shall be for the period from November 17, 2007 to December 31, 2009 and shall be implemented pursuant to this work plan, as amended from time to time by mutual written agreement of the parties.

### II. Program Areas and Tasks

#### A. Education, Outreach, and Research

##### 1. DES

- a. Organize and conduct one or more presentations for the NHRC Annual Meeting in 2008 and 2009.
- b. Partner with NHRC to conduct educational programs for river and watershed organizations, advocates and the general public on various topics, including the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act, the Rivers Management Protection Act, aquatic exotic species and other water quality monitoring, and related rivers and watershed planning activities.
- c. In cooperation with NHRC, provide website content specifically for river organizations and advocates, including a link to the NHRC website.
- d. In cooperation with NHRC work on science and policy research on river conservation issues.

##### 2. NHRC

- a. Provide a link to the DES website on the NHRC website.
- b. Assist DES with preparation of website, brochure, Power Point and other educational content directed to river and watershed organizations, advocates, and the general public.
- c. Partner with DES to provide education for river and watershed organizations and advocates through the NHRC newsletter and other programs.

#### B. Responsible Growth

1. DES: Through targeted outreach and education, assist river and watershed organizations and advocates to: (1) understand how to best use available natural resource information in land use and land conservation planning; and (2) be more

effective in local land use planning and development project reviews to protect critical natural resources and minimize negative environmental impacts.

2. NHRC: Assist DES to better understand the information and technical assistance needs of river and watershed organizations and advocates to achieve the above. Provide communication venues, through written materials, conferences, and workshops, for DES to discuss better land use practices.

C. Rule and Policy Changes

1. DES: Solicit input from NHRC on rulemaking and policy changes.
2. NHRC: Participate in rulemaking and other advisory groups, specifically as requested by DES.

III. Resources to Implement Partnership Agreement

- A. DES will provide staff support to meet the goals of this partnership, subject to budgetary limitations.
- B. NHRC will provide staff and board time to meet the goals of this partnership, as time and budget permit.