

APPENDIX B. RECREATION UPDATE - Headwaters Region

Actions Taken since Publication of the Connecticut River Corridor Management Plan - 1997

<p>Recreation land conserved</p>	<p>The State of NH conserved 171,500 acres of former International Paper Company timberland at the Connecticut River headwaters, guaranteeing public recreation access. The VT Dept. of Forests and Parks purchased Lyman Falls State Park and a private parcel in Bloomfield with help from the VT River Conservancy and CRJC, and provided primitive camping and fishing access to the river at Lyman Falls. CRJC hired a contractor to remove safety hazards at the breached dam. Colebrook purchased 79 acres of riverfront land and is planning a trail across this land linking the Byway center with a new town recreation center. Columbia is working toward purchasing a traditional fishing access point at Lyman Falls. Lemington purchased Monadnock Mountain with the help of the Trust for Public Land and the State of Vermont. Several parcels have been conserved and added to the Pondicherry Preserve in Whitefield.</p>
<p>Boater education provided</p>	<p>CRJC published "Boating on the Connecticut River in NH & VT" with help from the VT Agency of Natural Resources and US Gen New England, and posted recreation maps of the river on its web site. CRJC established new pages of information and links for paddlers and other recreationists. Boating pamphlets have been provided free of charge to the public and to local outlets. The State of NH joined VT in making boater education mandatory.</p>
<p>River access improved</p>	<p>VT Dept. of Forests and Parks established a public car-top boat access in Bloomfield, with help from CRJC. The VT Agency of Transportation provided design help for a car-top access at the Stratford/Maidstone Bridge, and it was built by NH Department of Transportation with partial funding contributed by Vermont on land owned by the Town of Stratford.</p>
<p>Profile raised for river recreation</p>	<p>The Nulhegan Gateway Association formed, and looked into potential economic development related to recreation in the Nulhegan Gateway Region of Essex and Coos Counties. The Northern Forest Canoe Trail was established, including part of the mainstem and some tributaries in this region. The Appalachian Mountain Club published a new North Country Recreation Map. The Colebrook Industrial Group worked with the police department and North Country Council to dedicate flood plain property to a riverfront park.</p>
<p>River camping & information improved</p>	<p>Vermont River Conservancy contacted landowners to learn about potential canoe camping sites. A new primitive canoe campsite has been established in Brunswick. The Northern Forest Canoe Trail built an information signboard in Groveton and prepared a map of the canoe trail. The Connecticut River Watershed Council updated and reprinted its boating guide to the river.</p>
<p>Recreation programs, trails, and sites improved</p>	<p>The Nature Conservancy of NH published a guide to Fourth Connecticut Lake and improved the trail. The Cohos Trail Association improved campsites at Nash Stream Forest and has extended the trail north into the region. Snowmobile trails have been improved and rerouted. Volunteers repaired and reopened the historic Monadnock Mountain fire tower with the help of the Green Mountain Club. New Hampshire improved trails to Magalloway Mountain and other sites in Pittsburg. The Conte Refuge purchased land in the Nulhegan Basin and has built a visitor center and established recreational trails, including an interpretive trail to the Mollie Beattie Bog. Existing public recreational use was protected here and on other former Champion International lands nearby, purchased by the State of Vermont and Essex Timber Company with the help of the Conservation Fund.</p>
<p>Wildlife-related recreation opportunities grow</p>	<p>The Connecticut River Birding Trail guide to 40 bird and wildlife observation sites in the North Country and Northeast Kingdom was published and distributed. Wildlife observation programs expanded at Pondicherry and will soon grow at the Conte Refuge Nulhegan Basin Division.</p>

<p>Connecticut River Byway established</p>	<p>CRJC established the Connecticut River Byway, a focus for natural and cultural tourism along the river, and a mechanism for protecting places for public recreation. CRJC set up the Connecticut River Scenic Byway Council and initiated "River Byway News." CRJC arranged for a signage study for these communities and sought federal funding to cover towns' signage costs. The NH Office of State Planning brought the idea to the valley and funded the first CT River Byway map and brochure. The VT Agency of Transportation also provided support. Both states provided funds for a Byway web site.</p>
<p>Byway visitor centers built</p>	<p>Colebrook and Lancaster stepped forward to serve as byway waypoint communities and opened waypoint visitor centers, which serve area towns on both sides of the river. CRJC provided them with a set of four byway exhibit panels and a video about the valley.</p>