

APPENDIX A. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS - RIVERBEND

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Congress should

1. act to reduce mercury pollution in the region.

STATE GOVERNMENT

state legislatures should

2. urge the US Congress to act to reduce air-borne mercury delivered to the Connecticut River Valley

NH General Court should

3. update the definition of ski craft to include 3-4 person personal watercraft.
4. increase funding for enforcement of boating laws.
5. provide funding for the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program.
6. establish an OHRV registration fee that is large enough to provide funds to allow NH Fish & Game to fulfill its responsibility for law enforcement, provide for trail construction, and establish a landowner restitution fund

NH Department of Environmental Services and VT Agency of Natural Resources should:

7. work with the landowners to remove dangerous debris at the breached Wyoming dam.
8. explore a registration fee for non-motorized boats, to provide funds for non-motorized river access and enforcement.
9. consider both encroachment on the water and impact upon the banks when issuing dock permits.
10. monitor water quality, to ensure that the river is safe for swimming. Sources of bacterial contamination should be identified and eliminated. Regular water quality monitoring at beaches should continue.
11. continue to legislate reductions in mercury contamination of the region.

VT Agency of Natural Resources should

12. adopt and enforce rules for docks on the Connecticut River similar to those established by New Hampshire.
13. work with the Vermont River Conservancy to explore the possibility of a public access easement for the informal access below the Dodge Falls Dam in Ryegate, on the paper mill property.

NH Department of Safety should

14. buoy off danger areas on the reservoirs.
15. confine use of high speed, high powered boats and water skiing to selected areas on Moore and Comerford Reservoirs.
16. enforce existing boating laws, boating under the influence of alcohol, and other regulations.

Fish and Game/Wildlife and Parks/Recreation agencies should

17. plan public boating access to avoid increasing erosion on sensitive shorelines; the design of boating access ramps should avoid inviting those boats which can create wakes which can erode the riverbank or travel consistently faster than the width of the river allows under current law.
18. encourage more car-top boat access for canoes and other small craft, on mainstem and tributaries, because of their low impact on the river. Screen parking from the river with a vegetated buffer strip.
19. discourage new public trailered boat access to the river, since access is now adequate.
20. provide limited signage at their river access sites, aesthetically in keeping with the rural nature of the region, on boat speed law, the problem of bank erosion, nuisance aquatics, and boating etiquette.
21. set up boat washing stations at launches at infested waters to prevent vehicles from bringing Zebra mussels, milfoil, and other invasive species to the Connecticut River.
22. work with local volunteers to develop a canoe campsite north of Fiddlehead Island.
23. cooperate to offer a joint free fishing day.
24. encourage wildlife management to benefit eagles, osprey, and other species.
25. educate visitors to the region on respect for private land and visitor responsibility.
26. educate landowners about the benefits of leaving land open to the public and the liability protections offered by existing laws and about NH's 20% recreational adjustment under current use.
27. enforce snowmobiling and ATV rules.
28. require ATV riders to have insurance and to be members of an ATV organization which would help provide education and training.
29. require ATV users to pass a rider safety course before registering their vehicles.

State transportation agencies should

30. assist in establishing access to the river where federal funds are used in transportation projects.
31. provide limited signage identifying waterways which is aesthetically in keeping with the rural area.
32. improve bicycling safety; assist towns in creating bike paths.
33. avoid road improvement that could lead to increased speed of traffic.
34. work to preserve the rural character of the roads.

State Emergency Management agencies should

35. assist local fire departments in acquiring emergency water rescue equipment.

TOWNS should

36. encourage open communication between the public, private landowners, and private user groups.
37. encourage more car-top boat access for canoes and other small craft; use low-impact design.
38. Ryegate should consider locations for foot and car-top boat access.
39. Guildhall should work with the State of Vermont to provide a privy to reduce the present human waste problem at its town riverfront property, and consider turning this river access over to the State.
40. discourage new public trailered boat access to the river since there is already enough access in the parts of the river wide enough for legal travel above headway speed by motor boats.
41. acquire emergency water rescue equipment and training for river recreation emergencies at all seasons, with state help.
42. Vermont towns should consider adopting local control of docks since the state does not control docks on the Connecticut River.
43. discourage construction of marinas on the river.
44. notify the public immediately if there is a suspected water quality violation at a wastewater treatment plant during the summer recreation season.
45. encourage birdwatching and other low impact forms of recreation.
46. explore federal and state funding programs, such as SAFETEA, to create trails, especially for cross-country skiing, hiking, and snowshoeing.
47. consider ATV trail development in local planning and zoning; allow construction or improvement only with the written permission of the landowner and the proper permits in place.
48. create trail guides to town owned properties.
49. encourage protection of scenic views of the river corridor.
50. identify opportunities, when land is developed, to retain easements for public access for trails, birding, car-top access, or other public recreation.
51. discourage development of intensive recreational facilities such as theme parks near the river, to protect the environment and the passive recreational experience there.
52. encourage farmland conservation to keep farmland active and views open.
53. Dalton should work with Dalton Hydro to provide a river access above the Gilman Dam and install a security gate with a double lock on the service road just beyond the river access to provide security for the dam.

Regional Planning Commissions should

54. coordinate multi-community recreation and open space plans.
55. inventory scenic views along the river corridor and the Connecticut River Byway.

Connecticut River Byway Council should

56. help educate residents and visitors to the region on respectful use of private land.
57. encourage protection of scenic views of the river corridor; encourage farmland conservation to keep farmland active and views open
58. encourage birdwatching and other nature-based, low impact forms of recreation, and make Connecticut River Birding Trail guides available at waypoint centers.
59. encourage an excursion train along the river.
60. encourage inn-to-inn canoe and bicycle trips for their benefit to local businesses.
61. help communities provide riverside parks, picnic areas, and roadside pullouts.

PRIVATE SECTOR

TransCanada Hydro Northeast and its successors should:

62. keep Moore Reservoir undeveloped and rural, and complete the conservation of company lands that is called for in the 2001 FERC license.
63. maintain open communication with the public about the management of Moore Reservoir and surrounding lands.
64. continue to maintain boat access at Moore, Comerford, and McIndoe Falls Reservoirs.
65. organize boat access sites better by installing signage indicating potential danger zones and reminding the public of the boat speed law, the problem of bank erosion, nuisance aquatics, and boater responsibility.
66. build a primitive canoe campsite on Moore Reservoir, fulfilling the terms of the 2001 license for Fifteen Mile Falls.
67. continue to try to control traffic by off-road recreational vehicles on the earth fill at Moore Dam.
68. build hiking and mountain biking trails on company lands around Moore Reservoir; restore the old trail along Moore Reservoir from Waterford Launch to Dodge Hill and North Littleton.
69. continue to try to control traffic by off-road recreational vehicles on the earth fill at Moore Dam.
70. OHRV equipment dealers should encourage appropriate use of trails by not promoting the irresponsible behavior shown in advertisements.

Dalton Hydro should:

71. cooperate with the Town of Dalton to open a car-top river access at Gilman Dam, installing a security gate with a double lock on the service road just beyond the river access.

Central Vermont Public Service Company should:

72. reprint its excellent guide to the Passumpsic River

Land conservation organizations should

73. help protect scenic views and open space, especially along the river; encourage farmland conservation to keep farmland active and views open, and provide public recreation access for birding, car-top boats, or trails where possible and appropriate.
74. maintain open communication with the public about the management of Moore Reservoir and surrounding lands.
75. Vermont River Conservancy should work with the State of Vermont to explore the possibility of a public access easement for the informal access below the Dodge Falls Dam in Ryegate, on the paper mill property.
76. The Nature Conservancy should post a sign on Indian Island to show that it is not open for camping.

Recreation groups should

77. provide monitoring and educate hikers, joggers, cross-country skiers, snowmobilers, and hunters on the responsible use of private land to help prevent unwanted trespassing and littering.
78. identify potential canoe campsite locations, and work with state historical and natural resource agencies to be certain they are not known archeological sites or critical habitat.
79. encourage local care-taking of recreation areas (campsites, trail heads, trails).
80. fishing derby and regatta organizers should inform participants about boating laws and require boat and trailer checks before boats are launched, to avoid introducing invasive plants and animals. Inform participants about the need to wash boats thoroughly after visiting the river, to avoid spreading Didymo to other water bodies.
81. fishing derby and regatta organizers should notify the NH Fish and Game Department well in advance of the event and contact TransCanada to be sure that there are no scheduled draw downs that could make launching difficult on the day of the event.
82. take care of trail erosion with increased trail maintenance.
83. develop more published information on trail systems and provide better signage where needed.
84. explore possible connections between trail systems.
85. encourage landowners to keep their land open to the public and indicate uses they allow.
86. snowmobile clubs must continue their efforts to educate riders to respect the land by showing courtesy and staying off trails when conditions are poor.

Businesses should

87. those renting jetskis should be certain their customers understand how and where these craft can be legally operated.
88. outfitters and guides should remind their customers of boating laws and visitor responsibilities, and caution them not to disturb waterfowl and other wildlife.
89. follow the example of the Lancaster Rotary Club and Lower Cohase Chamber of Commerce, and sponsor

an annual paddling trip on the river.

90. promote inn-to-inn canoeing and bicycling to further low-impact use of the river.

Citizens should

91. take more formalized responsibility for cleaning up trash at all boat access areas.
92. aid in policing Moore Reservoir area by calling authorities when an incident occurs, not after the fact.
93. obey existing boat speed laws.
94. check boats and trailers before launching in the Connecticut or its tributaries to avoid introducing milfoil, Zebra mussels, or other unwanted invasives.
95. avoid purchasing household items containing mercury and recycle them so the toxin does not end up in a landfill or trash incinerator where it could escape into the environment.
96. avoid illegal backyard burning of household trash.
97. fishermen and hunters should replace their lead tackle and shot.
98. hunters should seek permission from landowners who have not posted their land.
99. shoreland owners wishing to install docks should check with NH DES to see if they can file a Seasonal Dock Notification or whether a permit is needed.
100. campers should get a permit from the local fire warden if they wish to have a campfire.
101. avoid swimming or anchoring boats below the dams, due to the danger of sudden water releases.
102. Fishermen and other recreationists should clean their gear carefully to avoid spreading Didymo.