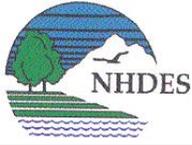


News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services



29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03302-0095
For information online, visit www.des.nh.gov
James P. Martin, Public Information Officer
(603) 271-3710; jmartin@des.state.nh.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Steve Couture, 603 271-8801

Laura Weit, 603 271-8811

New Isinglass River Management Plan Completed

*DES provided funding to the Strafford Regional Planning Commission
to Complete the Plan*

Concord, NH – The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services announced today that the Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPS) have completed the Isinglass River Management Plan. The plan was prepared for the Isinglass River Local Advisory Committee (IRLAC) in coordination with and funding from the DES Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP). The RMPP complements and reinforces state and federal water quality laws and establishes instream flows for designated rivers to enhance the outstanding characteristics for which the river was nominated into the program.

“The completion of the Isinglass River Management Plan is another success of the collaborative efforts of the Rivers Program with local communities and the joint commitment to the sustainability of our natural resources,” said DES Commissioner Tom Burack. In 2002, The Isinglass River became one of 15 rivers designated in New Hampshire to be managed and protected for its outstanding natural and cultural resources in accordance with RSA 483 - The Rivers Management & Protection Act.

The plan proposes management practices focused on protecting and conserving resources while balancing the development of land and water uses for recreation with other public needs within the river corridor and watershed. The five priority management issues identified in the plan are water quality, flood management, land protection, watershed planning, and stewardship. Cooperative partnerships and public involvement will support all phases of implementing the plan. The IRLAC commended the Strafford Regional Planning Board’s incorporation of the organizations concerns regarding the sensitive nature of the riparian communities of the river.

Elizabeth Evans, Chair of the IRLAC, reflecting on the experiences of the last few years stated that the plan allows stakeholders to “be able to include language addressing our concerns with key river management issues such as maintaining stream flow and protecting riparian habitat.” The IRLAC is well underway in this summer's water quality monitoring and stream assessments, and Evans said that the members are “ready to move ahead with other projects to begin implementing our new plan.”

The Isinglass River Management Plan is available on the DES website at http://www.des.state.nh.us/rivers/documents/isinglass_management_plan.pdf

Local citizens are nominated by their local municipal officials and appointed by DES Commissioner to serve on a local river management advisory committee (LRMAC). For more information about the Rivers Management and Protection Program please contact Steve Couture,

Rivers Coordinator at (603) 271-8801 or steven.couture@des.nh.gov or visit the RMPP homepage at <http://www.des.nh.gov/Rivers/index.html>.

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