

# News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **NH Designated Rivers Local River Management Advisory Committees (LACs) Win the 2008 Spirit of New Hampshire Volunteer Service Award**

Concord, NH - The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) is proud to announce that on November 13 the Local River Management Advisory Committees (LACs) were honored at the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Spirit of NH Awards Ceremony. The LACs received the Volunteer Champion Award in the State and Local Government category for their tireless efforts to advise DES and their communities on actions and issues to protect and manage the state's 15 designated rivers. The award was presented by Senator-elect Jeanne Shaheen as part of a collaborative effort between Volunteer NH! and the Office of Governor John Lynch to acknowledge exemplary volunteer service in the state.

Representative Judith Spang, Chair of the House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee, stated in her support of the LACs that they, "embody the 'true New Hampshire way' by achieving remarkably sophisticated results through efforts of their volunteer members. They fill needs left by underfunded state agencies through efforts such as sophisticated water quality monitoring programs."

As the DES Commissioner's only appointed advisors, the LACs serve as a vital connection between the state and local river protection efforts. "The LACs are structured so that they are recognized at the state and local levels for the value of their input. The DES receives vital information for their permitting, legislation, rules and other proposals and procedures. The value of this local voice for our municipalities cannot be underestimated," stated Michele Tremblay, chair of the Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee

Over the past year the 121 members of the state's 15 LACs have contributed hundreds of hours helping to protect New Hampshire's rivers. "Without the LACs dedication and local leadership, DES would not be able to successfully manage and protect NH's designated rivers", stated Tom Burack, Commissioner, DES. "The value added by their volunteer efforts can not be overstated. The State and DES is truly appreciative of the LAC efforts."

For more information about the NH Designated River Local River Management Advisory Committees or the River Management and Protection Program please contact Steve Couture, Rivers Coordinator, 29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095; (603) 271-8801; [steven.couture@des.nh.gov](mailto:steven.couture@des.nh.gov) or visit <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/rivers/lac/index.htm>.

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