

## **Ken Kimball - Contribution to River Management 2017**

This award recognizes someone with longer tenure in their career with a history of accomplishments (as opposed to more recent accomplishments sometimes highlighted by the River Manager of the Year Award). Dr. Ken Kimball, director of research at the Appalachian Mountain Club was presented the Outstanding Contribution to River Management Award on March 27, 2017 at Pinkham Notch, New Hampshire.

Ken is recognized for the positive impact of his work in protecting rivers, riparian corridors and watershed resources throughout New England. His participation played a key role in developing a New England coalition that successfully implemented numerous interventions on hydropower projects undergoing relicensing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). With his colleagues, he led the way in developing “settlement agreements” as the preferred alternative in FERC relicensing, including the first landmark “Deerfield Settlement Agreement” that served as a template followed by many subsequent relicensing agreements.

In New England, he has led the coalition in developing other settlement agreements that include the Rapid and Magalloway Rivers in the upper Androscoggin basin, multiple dams on the main stem of the Kennebec River, and projects within the Penobscot basin that include the West Branch, Canada Falls, and Seboomook reaches. He has taken the lead role in negotiating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to restore recreational flows in the West River in Vermont, and at other Corps projects.

The results of his work in New England include 642 more days of guaranteed whitewater on six New England rivers, nearly 50 miles of riverside land protection, conservation easements on more than 20,000 acres of land, over \$1 million in enhancement funds, over \$600,000 for whitewater amenities such as stairways, and removal of all barriers to access, including fees.

His leadership and negotiating skills have often pulled together disparate interest groups, sometimes seemingly enemies, to focus on the resources and what mitigation might be lost in the name of selfish interest. Many times licensees and interest groups were completely antagonistic towards each other at the beginning of a meeting. Slowly and gradually Ken would find ways to develop common interests. His successful work in protecting rivers has been based on the recognition that “good science and good economics will produce good decisions.”

Part of Ken’s philosophy dictates that rivers are best protected when watersheds and lands are likewise preserved as part of a comprehensive view that encompasses both. To this end, at the Appalachian Mountain Club Pinkham Notch facility, he manages a staff of scientists, researchers, and cartographers whose task is to protect and in some cases, acquire, land areas that include ponds, wetlands, and streams with high resource values. He makes frequent presentations to general public audiences, at scientific conferences, university symposia, to the press and other forums. He directs the Club’s science (mountain ecology and air pollution, land protection, energy development) and cartography staff, which includes ensuring that the work achieves necessary quality control/quality assurance standards, is peer-reviewed and published, and that staff make their work and its implications available and understandable to the general public.

Appointed by the Governor of New Hampshire, Ken has been chair of the New Hampshire Rivers Management Advisory Committee whose task is to set flow standards for rivers within the state. His river conservation efforts have extended to the national stage as one of the founding members of the Hydropower Reform Coalition in Washington, DC, and as a Steering Committee member. Ken has participated as an important member of the Review Group of the Electric Power Research Institute in an effort to improve the relicensing process. He was a founding board member of the Low Impact Hydroelectric Institute, a third party independent certification entity using objective, science based, environmental criteria to certify U.S. low impact hydroelectric power. He has worked tirelessly with state and federal regulators and legislators to develop standards that protect rivers, land, and other important natural resources throughout New England.

Without Ken's hard work, tenacity, and intellect, those involved in relicensing and river protection work in New England would have never achieved the level of success they now enjoy. Ken was presented this award as recognition of a lifetime of work in the service of the public and the management of rivers of New England.