National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior



Partnership Rivers News

Lamprey River Leveraging resources protects land



Fall colors blaze along the protected banks of the Lamprey River in New Hampshire.

On the Lamprey River in New Hampshire, an impressive collaboration of organizations and individuals has protected 1,437 acres through 16 projects. The projects protect farmland, forested land, wetlands, special wildlife habitats, and historic resources from development, safeguarding 6 miles of riparian habitat.

National Park Service contributions of about \$650,000 have leveraged a total investment of nearly \$5.6 million in the projects—a whopping 850% return on the agency's investment in this community-wide effort.

Lamprey River 23.5 miles flowing from Epping to Newmarket, New Hampshire Designated in 1996 Collaborators in the project include the Lamprey River Advisory Committee, municipalities, private foundations, community groups, individuals, the National Estuarine Research Reserve, and the Great Bay Partnership (a consortium of federal, state, and nonprofit conservation interests).

Bargain sales, by which landowners donate a portion of the value of their land to a town or non-profit organization for conservation, have contributed \$1.3 million. Other financial support has come from foundations, individuals, and government agencies and grants.

"The extent of protection that has occurred would never have been possible without the enthusiastic involvement of many individuals and organizations," said Judith Spang, chair of the Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC). "Our strong focus on protecting riverfront lands has even prompted the State Department of Transportation to

See "Lamprey" page 5

Partners gain from collaboration

Welcome to the second issue of the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers newsletter. We hope these newsletters will offer yoù an insight into what "partnership rivers" are all about.

Unlike most of the 160 rivers in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, partnership rivers flow through private lands. Local people work with staff from the National Park Service to manage and protect the special resources for which these rivers were designated. In addition to seven rivers in the North-east, there is an eighth partnership riverthe Wekiva-in central Florida and three rivers under study for addition to the System, the Eightmile in Connecticut, Taunton in Massachusetts, and Musconetcong in New Jersey.

In this edition you will find stories of local partnerships, folks working together to develop volunteer support, leverage money, and gather new friends for their river. You will read about river festivals and water trails that brought the rivers to life for members of the business and tourism commu-See "Partners" page 2

Study quantifies economic benefits of Farmington River

A new analysis released recently concludes that recreational use of the West Branch of the Farmington River in Connecticut has increased property values and helped diversify the local economy.

The focal point of this study, a 14-mile stretch of the Farmington, is part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. After surveying nearly 500 river users in 2001 and 2002 about their activities and expenses, researchers also concluded that users were more sensitive to the quality of their river trips than to the cost.

The study was jointly sponsored by American Rivers, Inc. and two National Park Service programs: Park Planning and Special Studies and Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance. The research was conducted by Drs. Roger Moore and Christos Siderelis, professors in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management at North Carolina State University. They have extensive experience with outdoor recreation and economic research on rivers, trails, greenways, and parks.

Farmington (West Branch) 14 miles flowing from Hartland to Canton, Connecticut Designated in 1994

According to this study, the federally designated stretch of the Farmington River leverages considerable wealth for local communities and is worth a lot to those who enjoy it. Key findings include:

- Recreational river use generated an estimated annual economic impact of \$3.63 million for the towns nearest the river stretch studied;
- The total economic benefit to recreational users (their willingness-to-pay for the experience) was estimated to be \$9.45 million;
- Proximity to the Farmington River accounted for approximately 8% of the value of nearby residential land;
- The West Branch was estimated to receive



A new study shows the designated section of the Farmington makes a major economic contribution to surrounding towns.

77,400 recreation visitors annually, of these:

- 90% were day trips, 10% involved overnight stays;
- 60% were fishing trips, 30% were tubing trips, and 8% were boating trips;
- 17% used the services of a commercial outfitter during their visit.

The West Branch of the Farmington River was added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System in August 1994. The 14-mile river segment in western Connecticut is served by two commercial outfitters and includes a nationally renowned trout fishing area. Just 30 minutes from Hartford and within two hours of Boston, New York, Albany, and Springfield, the Farmington flows through a mix of rolling wooded hills, farms, and small communities that give the river a remarkably rural and undeveloped character. For a copy of the full report, Use and Economic Importance of the West Branch of the Farmington River, please visit www.FarmingtonRiver.org.

Partnership projects leverage results

"Partners" continued from page 1

nities; new funding for land conservation and water quality assessments; and changes in regulatory processes to provide coordinated permit review. An economic study completed on the Farmington River underscores the value of river recreation to property values and economic diversity.

These are stories about creative and inspired river management that benefits both the rivers and the communities they flow through.

For more information on this unique community-based conservation program, visit www.nps.gov/pwsr or contact any of the individuals mentioned on the back page.

Sudbury, Assebet & Concord Rivers 30 groups join forces to bring people to RiverFest

The first rays of early morning sun were just filtering through the trees as Scott Cleveland and Matt Zedak slid their canoe into the brisk Sudbury River to launch the RiverFest River Relay. The River Relay was one of 35 events taking place June 7 as part of RiverFest, a celebration of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Wild and Scenic rivers. With a course from Framingham to Billerica, Massachusetts, a total of 29 miles, the day's activities also ended with the relay.

Now in its second year, RiverFest has been a great success. It was conceived of as a day to invite people to have fun on the rivers, with the hope that this would heighten their awareness of river issues and ultimately create a stronger advocacy network for the rivers' long- term protection. RiverFest has done this, and more.

Instead of one large festival in a central location, RiverFest has used the strength and energy of more than 30 local groups to create a series of events up and down the entire 29 miles of rivers. In this way, local residents can enjoy the unique nature of the river in their communities.

This year a wide array of groups as diverse as the Concord Art Association, the Wayside Inn and Grist Mill, Framingham Boy Scouts, Carlisle Trails Association, Wright Tavern for Spiritual Renewal, and Silver Leaf Jazz Band all created events. In so doing, these groups made a connection between their purposes and the rivers, and showed that it is not just environmental groups that are invested in our rivers.



Paddlers of all ages and boats of all sorts took part in the 29-mile long RiverFest Relay.

"It is as if tendrils have been spread far and wide, connecting people and organizations to the fragile and important Wild and Scenic Rivers that are so deserving of our special care, attention, and protection," said John Kerr, former selectman from Lincoln, Mass.

Participating organizations also established new partnerships among themselves. For example, Musketaquid Arts and



Floating musical entertainment was part of the fun at the second annual RiverFest on the Sudbury, Concord, and Assabet rivers.

Environment, a small Concord-based non-profit which introduces people to environmental issues through the arts, teamed up with Massachusetts Audubon Society, the largest environmental organization in the state. Together, the two organizations planned a series of classroom and field workshops prior to RiverFest to teach fifth-grade children about river ecology and water quality. On RiverFest day, the kids built earth floats and launched them down the Sudbury River for everyone to enjoy.

"We had a wonderful time," said Richard Fahlander of Musketaquid. "And I expect this will open up future collaborative possibilities."

As RiverFest becomes established, more organizations want to participate. This year, the League of Women Voters (LWV) created The River Steward Awards program to highlight innovative thinking, exemplary service, and brave positions dedicated to protecting the rivers. The Awards were a perfect way to get press coverage in each local community and provide an opportunity to explain more about the unique qualities of the Wild and Scenic rivers. The River Steward Awards are now a model that the LWV is considering for other watersheds in the state.

RiverFest grows each year. It is a day of fun, with many, many ripples that benefit our Wild and Scenic Rivers throughout the year. Sudbury, Assabet, Concord Rivers 29 miles flowing from Framingham to Billerica, Massachusetts Designated in 1999

Musconetcong study nearly completed

The Musconetcong Wild and Scenic River Study, begun in 1998, is nearing completion. As this newsletter goes to print, drafts of both the Musconetcong River Management Plan and Final Wild and Scenic River Study Reports are being released for comment.

The Musconetcong River, a 42-mile tributary of the Delaware River in Hunterdon and Warren counties in New Jersey, is nestled in the heart of what is known as the "New Jersey Highlands." The river features a diverse array of natural and cultural resources, including unique geologic limestone features. Steep slopes, forested ridges, and gorges in the upper reaches of the river corridor contrast with the developed villages, meadows, and rolling agricultural lands downstream.

The study has determined that 28.5 miles of the Musconetcong River are suitable for designation into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The study findings and completion of the River Management Plan set the stage for designation action, which is being pursued by the Musconetcong Advisory Committee, a partner in the study, and American Rivers, a national nonprofit river advocacy organization.

For further information contact Paul Kenney of the National Park Service at Paul_Kenney@nps.gov.

Towns in Eightmile River watershed seek cooperation

The 6o-square-mile Eightmile River watershed is arguably the most outstanding river system in the lower Connecticut River region. The Nature Conservancy named this region—known locally as the "Tidelands"—as one of the 40 "Last Great Places" in the Western Hemisphere in 1993.

As a riverine ecosystem, it is remarkably intact, free-flowing, and virtually dam free. With excellent water quality and 85% forest cover, the river system is a haven for diverse and abundant fish populations, from native brook trout to blue back herring. This unusually robust river system contains globally rare species, an internationally recognized fresh water tidal marsh, and indicators of outstanding health such as native fresh water mussels. Scenic beauty, historic character, and great fishing flourish in this, the largest unfragmented forest region in coastal Connecticut.

These natural qualities—alongside increased development pressure in the watershed—prompted community leaders to seek the knowledge and resources necessary to ensure that growth is approached in a way compatible with preserving the outstanding values of the Eightmile River. They found what they were looking for in the Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers Program.

"During the last decade it became clear that incremental and poorly planned growth posed the greatest threat to the special qualities of the river system," said Anthony Irving, Study Committee chairman. "We were worried that fragmenting forests and habitats, poorly managing storm water runoff, and paving over important groundwater sources would slowly degrade the features that make the Eightmile River watershed so unique."

The communities of East Haddam, Lyme, and Salem, Connecticut comprise 90% of the Eightmile River watershed. The remainder is in the communities of Colchester and East Lyme.

Town boards, residents, area land trusts, and river-front landowners urged U.S. Rep. Rob Simmons and Senator Chris Dodd to request that the Eightmile River be studied for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River Program. The entire Connecticut Congressional delega-



Though still high in water quality and forest cover, the Eightmile watershed is under growing development pressure.

tion supported the study bill, which Congress approved and President George W. Bush signed in 2001 (Public Law No. 107-65).

The study, being conducted by the locally led Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Study Committee, has three primary components: 1) determining if the river is eligible for inclusion in the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System by demonstrating what makes it so special; 2) determining if the river is suitable for Wild & Scenic designation by substantiating local support and commitment to designation; and 3) developing a locally supported watershed protection management plan.

The federal resources committed to the study are leveraged many times over through local ownership of the process and outcome, which is critical to its success. The study provides a unique opportunity for Eightmile River towns to come together, create a public input process, and realize a locally shaped vision for their communities and the future of the Eightmile River. The study also has leveraged input from The Nature Conservancy, the Department of Environmental Protection, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, all of which have joined the Study Team in a substantive and vital way. The study is expected to be completed in the spring of 2005.

For further information contact Kevin Case of the National Park Service at Kevin_Case@nps.gov.

White Clay Creek Water sampling adds up in watershed

Since 1991, volunteers have been monitoring the water quality in the White Clay Creek watershed by sampling the diversity and quantity of macroinvertebrates at 15 stream sites. This year, they hope to analyze and share the data they've accumulated to provide a record of the health of the watershed.

The White Clay Watershed Association (WCWA) and the Delaware Nature Society (DNS) have been running the volunteer Stream Watch Program with guidance from the Stroud Water Research Center (SWRC).

The Stream Watch Program uses aquatic macroinvertebrates to assess water and habitat quality. The watershed is monitored at specific stream sites at the same time once a year. Samples of the aquatic macroinvertebrates, which consist mainly of insects, are collected, then sorted, identified, and counted.

Some macroinvertebrates are known to be more sensitive to environmental insult than others. It is the presence of the sensitive types, the biodiversity, and total numbers of individual types that indicate the health of a water course.

Over the years, the Stream Watch Program—which White Clay Creek 190 miles flowing from West Marlborough, Pennsylvania to Newcastle County, Delaware Designated in 2000



Students have played a big part in collecting stream data in the White Clay watershed. Now partners are collaborating to compile, analyze and share the wealth of data they've collected.

has involved the three lead organizations, students, and others—has collected a tremendous amount of quantitative data on macroinvertebrates from the 15 sampling sites within the bi-state watershed.

"A project of this magnitude just wouldn't be possible if any of us were working alone," said John Jackson, associate research scientist, SWRC. "Collecting and analyzing this level of quantitative data is very labor intensive. Without the collaborative approach taken by the partners and support from the White Clay Creek Wild & Scenic Management Committee, this kind of information about the health of the streams within the White Clay Creek watershed would not be known or available."

With 12 years of data in hand, however, the challenge of analyzing, interpreting, and disseminating this amount of data is immense. To tackle the analysis phase of the project, White Clay Watershed Association and Stroud Water Research Center have applied for a "Growing Greener" grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. "We want to make this information widely available to everyone who needs it," said Jackson.

To keep the data current and to leverage Growing Greener grant dollars, volunteers from all three groups collected samples from the White Clay Creek sites in March 2003. The Watershed Association and the Research Center will process the samples from the 12 Pennsylvania sites listed in the grant at an estimated cost of \$14,268. The Watershed Association has pledged \$10,000 for this effort, and the White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic Management Committee will contribute the balance.

At a minimum, this project will classify each site sampled in 2003 as excellent, good, fair, or poor. The classifications will be used to identify management and conservation priorities. "If our grant application is approved, we'll be able to use the 2003 data to describe the average stream condition and to say whether that quality has improved or declined between 1991 and 2003," said Jackson.

Lamprey matches federal funds for land protection

"Lamprey" continued from page 1

acquire 19 acres of critical Blandings turtle floodplain habitat along 1,615 feet of river frontage as mitigation for a bridge improvement project downstream of the site."

Over the past several years a growing number of people in and around the watershed have become involved in land conservation at community and regional levels. While relentless development pressures have spurred some of this growth, on-the-ground land conservation successes resulting from the Lamprey River collaboration have also sparked participation.

"Towns are more willing to spend money when they see their dollars getting matched," said Margaret Watkins of the National Park Service. "People are more likely to extend themselves when they know they are not alone in their efforts. And we've found that many funding sources look favorably toward regional efforts with multiple cooperators."

Maurice River partners complete boardwalk

Partners along the Maurice River have completed a 120-foot observation boardwalk at the Peek Preserve in Millville, New Jersey. The boardwalk gives visitors panoramic views of both the river's mainstem and the state's largest wild rice field flanking the Jenkins Landing area of the nature preserve.

The National Park Service, the Natural Lands Trust, and the nonprofit Citizens' United To Protect The Maurice River collaborated on the project. The Park Service's \$25,000 contribution toward construction leveraged \$43,000 in private donations from the Trust, Citizens' United, and individuals, as well as a significant amount of volunteer labor.

Sensitive to the aesthetic

quality of the river viewshed, the Park Service and Natural Lands Trust worked together to design the boardwalk. "It gives visitors great views without being obtrusive," said Steve Eisenhauer, manager of the Trust's Peek Preserve.

A small vegetated island screens the low-lying boardwalk, making it difficult to spot from the river. Original plans for a dock connecting boaters and paddlers along the river to the preserve were scrapped due to aesthetic concerns.

"Visitors can peer through vegetation openings," said Eisenhauer. "Cutting has been kept to an absolute minimum." Visitors and school children have been using the boardwalk for nature watching since it opened in March 2003.



The new observation boardwalk gives great views of Maurice River bird life.

"Visitors from the New Jersey Audubon Society were treated to a battle over a nesting site between pairs of Osprey and Eagles in late March. The birds fought for about 10 minutes, with the Osprey finally driving the Eagles away from the site. It was amazing," said Eisenhauer. In addition to its cash contribution, the Park Service assisted the Trust with the state permit application process. Citizens' United to Protect the Maurice River donated time to construct a nearby restroom and contributed financially, as did private donors and the Trust. Maurice River 35.4 miles flowing from Millville to Delaware Bay, New Jersey Designated in 1993

The Park Service also is contributing \$20,000 toward the improvement of the Jenkins Landing Road, which provides handicapped visitors access to the boardwalk.

For information about visiting Peek Preserve, call Steve Eisenhauer at (856) 447-3425.

Taunton group teams with Riverways

Last year, the Upper Taunton Wild and Scenic River Study Committee ran into a problem when they realized just how critical four tributaries are to the ecology, recreational use, and management of the 22-mile mainstem of the Upper Taunton. To expand the scope of the study to fully include these tributaries was impractical; to ignore them was unacceptable.

The solution came in the form of a partnership with the Massachusetts Riverways Program, which suggested matching study funding with staff assistance through its Adopt-A-Stream Program to implement the Adopt-A-Stream Survey approach on all four tributaries.

Riverways/Adopt-A-Stream Program uses a "bottomsup" process, involving steering committees—local residents, local organizations, and municipal officials—to develop each survey. A survey includes physical characteristics, habitat, water quality, instream flow, and other key factors related to "Wild and Scenic" values and management

Adopt-A-Stream staff train

the volunteers to conduct the surveys, and they facilitate an action planning process with participants to turn priorities into action items. The resulting plans and reports from the surveys will be presented to town boards and state agencies and will become part of the Wild & Scenic Management Plan for the Taunton River.

Survey results include (1) raised awareness about the tributaries; (2) education about river issues; (3) increased understanding about Wild and Scenic issues; (4) a base of constituents for designation; and (5) in each town, a coalition of municipal officials, citizens, and nonprofit organizations that can help implement the education, land-use, recreation, and conservation strategies for the Upper Taunton River.

Such a successful treatment of these tributaries could not have been accomplished without the partnership between the Wild and Scenic River Study, its community-based Committee, and the Massachusetts Riverways Program.

For more information on the Taunton River Wild and



Volunteer Jim Ross and an Upper Taunton resident come face to face during tributary survey.

Scenic Study see www.tauntonriver.org; for more information on the Riverways Programs (including data sheets), see www.massriverways.org.

Water trail seeks to link three Scenic units on Delaware

A water trail is in the works to link the three Wild and Scenic River units along the Delaware River between Hancock, N.Y., and Philadelphia. Like hiking trails, water trails have trailheads and natural, scenic, and cultural/historical points of interest along their courses.

The project is a collaboration of the non-profit Delaware River Greenway Partnership (DRGP), the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)—a regional water resource management agency representing four states— and others. They've received a \$75,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Community Conservation Partnership Program to develop a trail plan, web-site, sign prototypes, trail maps, a trail guide, and maintenance recommendations.

The department's initial investment has leveraged more than \$200,000 in cash and in-kind services for trail planning.

The Delaware River is the largest free-flowing river east of the Mississippi. It extends 283 miles from the confluence of its East and West branches near the Catskill Mountain town of Hancock, N.Y., to the head of Delaware Bay. Three quarters of the non-tidal section of the river about 150 miles—is included in the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System.

The idea for the Delaware River Water Trail originated at the 1999 Delaware River Watershed Conference, "Flowing Toward the Future." Conference brainstorming sessions showed a desire to link the many river corridor attractions, including the three National Wild and Scenic River units, in a comprehensive manner.

As participants saw it, a link in the form of a water trail would connect people to the river, thus enhancing public recognition of the corridor as both a significant natural resource and a regional economic engine. Toward that goal the DRBC partnered with DRGP to apply for a grant from the State of Pennsylvania, leveraging additional support from a variety of organizations, including the three units of the National Wild and Scenic River System, the conservation agencies of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, and a variety of tourism offices.



The water trail flows through the counties of Northampton, Penn. and Warren, N.J.

By the end of the summer, project partners had created a water trail coordinating committee and begun a resource inventory and mapping. The project is schedule for completion in June 2005.

North American Water Trails defines a "water trail" as a recreational waterway containing guided access points and day use and/or camping sites for the boating public. Water Trails require safe parking areas, launch areas, directional signage, and maps indicating levels of difficulty, hazards, and the location of amenities. There are already more than 150 designated water trails throughout the U.S.

DRGP is a non-profit partnership with a mission of protecting the Delaware River between the Delaware Water Gap and Philadelphia in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The DRGP coordinates the Lower Delaware National Wild and Scenic River Management Committee to help protect the partnership river segment of the Delaware.

DRBC is a regional water resource management agency representing the four basin state governors (Delaware, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania) and the federal government. Delaware River— 176 miles designated, flowing from Hancock, N.Y., to the Delaware Bay, encompassing three units of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System



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For more information: www.nps.gov/pwsr

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

NJ streamlines permit process

Anyone who has tried to understand the state and federal permitting processes in New Jersey quickly realizes the need for help. Add designation as a National Wild and Scenic River to the standard layers of permitting and oversight on any project, and it gets even more complicated.

Recognizing the need to simplify the permitting process along a Wild and Scenic River in New Jersey, the National Park Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, and NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) worked together to design a better system for simple, uncomplicated projects along the Great Egg Harbor and Maurice National Scenic and Recreational rivers (see related article about the Maurice River on page 6).

The result is a one-stop process that allows waterfront property owners to apply directly to the NJDEP for both federal and state permits for certain projects. These projects include non-commercial piers, docks, mooring piles, boat lifts, timber breakwaters, and the replacement of existing bulkheads within 18 inches of existing serviceable bulkhead structures. Once the NJDEP determines that the proposed work conforms to the State Programmatic General Permit 19, any Waterfront Development permit and/or Wetlands permit issued by the State of New Jersey will also include the approval of the Army Corps.

However, the NJDEP can only issue the state and federal permits after receiving a letter from the National Park Service indicating that the proposed work will not have an Great Egg Harbor River 129 miles flowing from Winslow Township to Upper Township, New Jersey Designated in 1992

adverse effect on the outstandingly remarkable resource values for which the rivers were designated. If the Park Service indicates an adverse effect or a potential adverse effect, the NJDEP may not issue the federal permit, and the applicant is required to seek an individual permit from the Army Corps. Wherever possible, all three agencies work together to look at alternatives for the proposed work and explore options for redesigning the project to avoid negative impacts to resource values.

Establishing this one-stop process has reduced the amount of paperwork and confusion associated with the permitting process. The streamlined process leverages the involvement of each agency by freeing up time for improved enforcement and reducing the number of construction projects undertaken illegally. The combined permitting process also improves coordination among federal and state agencies to ensure that a construction project is appropriate for a Wild and Scenic River, and streamlines the permitting process for property owners.



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Lamprey River	Lamprey River Advisory Committee www.lampreyriver.org	Marg 603-2
Lower Delaware River	Delaware River Greenway Partnership www.state.nj.us/drbc/wild_scenic.htm	Willia 215-5
Maurice River	Citizens United www.cumauriceriver.org/pages/maurice.html	Paul_ 215-5
Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers	River Stewardship Council www.subury-Assabet-Concord.org	Lee_S 617-2
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Helping communities preserve and manage their own rivers in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System