

1986

• **Resource Protection**

ISSUE: *To preserve New Hampshire's scenic beauty and significant natural and cultural resources for today and future generations.*

Land Conservation

New Hampshire's scenic beauty is reflected in its land resources—the mountains, forests, lakes, rivers and coast that make up the landscape of the state. The quality and character of these resources are the principal factors influencing outdoor recreation within the state. Preserving this legacy for future generations is one of the most challenging tasks facing New Hampshire. During the last five years, governments, conservation organizations and individuals have worked hard to identify and protect irreplaceable land resources. Major progress has been made in preserving the state's open spaces, scenic views, forests, farmland, watersheds and wildlife. However, the job is far from complete.

Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP) and Trust for New Hampshire Lands

1993 marked the completion of what has been called "the most far-reaching conservation effort since the creation of the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) in 1911". The Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP) was established in 1987, at a time when New Hampshire was the second fastest growing state east of the Mississippi River. While that growth brought much prosperity, forests and farms were disappearing at an alarming rate of 20,000 acres a year. Under the LCIP \$20 million was initially appropriated for state and local acquisitions of land. In 1989 and 1991, additional appropriations were made for a total state contribution of \$48.76 million. Under the local program, state funds were matched with funds from municipalities and local organizations in the form of cash and donated land or easements. Private funds raised by the Trust for New Hampshire Lands, the non-profit arm of the program, provided funding for education, marketing and administrative expenses.

Under the LCIP, over 100,000 acres of conservation land was protected (through outright purchase or easement) representing one in every 57 acres in the state. LCIP parcels included 385 tracts of farmland, forest, trail, waterfront, wildlife habitat and unique lands in 132 municipalities in all ten counties in the

state. Many of these lands are open for public recreational use such as hiking, fishing, hunting and cross-country skiing. Noteworthy parcels include Canterbury and Enfield Shaker Villages, shoreland along Lake Umbagog and the Great Bay Research Reserve, farmland along the Connecticut River, state parks, lake and river frontage, forests and mountain ridges. The LCIP also played an important role in the State's efforts to acquire 40,000 acres within the Nash Stream watershed following Diamond International's decision to sell northern forest land to a private developer.

The LCIP program is an example of one of New Hampshire's most successful public/private partnerships. The State's investment protected over \$83.3 million worth of land. The educational programs of the Trust for New Hampshire Lands and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) have considerably increased public awareness about the need for land protection and effectively educated conservationists about land protection techniques.

LCIP Monitoring Endowment Program

The LCIP legislation (RSA 221-A) made provisions for the long-term stewardship of the protected lands by assigning management responsibility to either a state agency or municipality and establishing a monitoring endowment program. The monitoring program is intended: (1) to monitor LCIP-pro-