



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

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March 2, 2021

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) to award an Aquatic Resource Mitigation ("ARM") Fund grant to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests ("SPNHF"), Concord, NH (Vendor Code #177170-B002) in the amount of \$125,000 for the purpose of conserving a 73.97-acre parcel of land in Northfield, effective upon Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2022. 100% ARM Funds.

Funding is available in the account as follows:

	<u>FY'21</u>
03-44-44-442010-38710000-073-500581	\$125,000

Dept. Environmental Services, In-Lieu Wetland Mitigation, Grants – Non - Federal

EXPLANATION

New Hampshire RSA 482-A:3 requires a wetland permit for any proposed project that involves dredging or filling of a wetland. Before a wetland permit is issued, applicants must show that the proposed project will avoid adverse impacts to wetlands and will minimize and provide compensation for those wetland impacts which are unavoidable.

The DES wetlands program adopted a set of mitigation rules that establish what is necessary for an applicant to provide for wetland compensation. The current department rules spell out ratios for wetland compensation that include creating a new wetland, restoring a former wetland site, or protecting a high-quality aquatic resource by preserving adjacent upland habitat. The newest improvement, begun in 2006, to the mitigation options is commonly referred to as an *in-lieu fee program*. This mitigation option is ideal for projects that have difficulty in locating an appropriate mitigation site. The Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund (ARM) authorizes the collection of mitigation funds in lieu of other forms of wetland mitigation as part of a Wetlands Permit Application.

The Department issued the request for proposals for ARM Funds available in the Merrimack River watershed in February, 2020. The SPNHF application was received and on November 12, 2020, DES announced the decision to fund the SPNHF project in the Merrimack River watershed. The project proposed by the SPNHF was recommended for funding by the ARM Fund Site Selection Committee.

STATE OF NH
DEPT OF JUSTICE

2021 MAR -3 PM 12: 31

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Attachment A lists the proposals received and Committee members involved in the decision. The review of the awards by the Army Corps of Engineers and the New Hampshire Wetland Council resulted in full support of the recommendations.

The project will protect 1,200 linear feet of undeveloped frontage along the Merrimack River and two miles of intermittent streams. The parcel includes eight acres of wetlands which are integral to the integrity of the valuable aquatic resources on the adjacent Stillhouse Forest— a 215-acre parcel protected in 2018 by ARM funds. Stillhouse Forest and a large portion of this new 76 acres is within the Source Water Protection Area and within the Wellhead Protection Area of the Penacook Boscawen Water Precinct's 3 drinking water wells located directly across the river. The wells are classified as a Major Community Water System serving a population of 3,800, with 1,180 service connections. Attachment B includes a map of the property.

In the event that other funds no longer become available, general funds will not be requested to support this program. This agreement has been approved as to form, content, and execution by the Attorney General's Office.

We respectfully request your approval.


Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

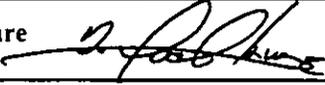
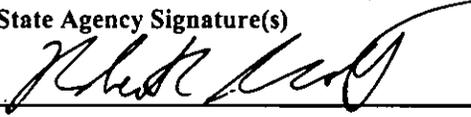
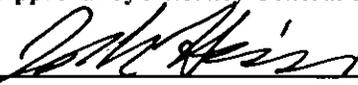
Subject: Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund Grant

GRANT AGREEMENT

The State of New Hampshire and the Grantee hereby mutually agree as follows:

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. IDENTIFICATIONS

1.1 State Agency Name NH Department of Environmental Services		1.2 State Agency Address 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03302-0095	
1.3 Grantee Name: Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests		1.4 Grantee Address 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord NH 03301	
1.5 Effective Date Upon G&C approval	1.6 Completion Date June 30, 2022	1.7 Audit Date N/A	1.8 Grant Limitation \$125,000.00
1.9 Grant Officer for State Agency Lori Sommer, DES Wetlands Bureau		1.10 State Agency Telephone Number (603) 271- 4059	
1.11 Grantee Signature 		1.12 Name & Title of Grantee Signor David Jackson Savage (Jack)	
1.13 Acknowledgment: State of <u>New Hampshire</u>, County of <u>Merrimack</u> On <u>2 / 3 / 2021</u> , before the undersigned officer, personally appeared the person identified in block 1.12., or satisfactorily proven to be the person whose name is signed in block 1.11., and acknowledged that s/he executed this document in the capacity indicated in block 1.12.			
1.13.1 Signature of Notary Public or Justice of the Peace (Seal) 			
1.13.2 Name & Title of Notary Public or Justice of the Peace Maria E. Stewart – Notary Public MARIA E. STEWART, Notary Public State of New Hampshire My Commission Expires September 5, 2023			
1.14 State Agency Signature(s) 		1.15 Name/Title of State Agency Signor(s) Robert R. Scott, Commissioner	
1.16 Approval by Attorney General's Office (Form, Substance and Execution) By:  Attorney, On: <u>3 / 8 / 2021</u>			
1.17 Approval by the Governor and Council By: _____ On: <u> / /</u>			

2. **SCOPE OF WORK.** In exchange for grant funds provided by the state of New Hampshire, acting through the agency identified in block 1.1 (hereinafter referred to as "the State"), pursuant to RSA 21-O, the Grantee identified in block 1.3 (hereinafter referred to as "the Grantee"), shall perform that work identified and more particularly described in the scope of work attached hereto as EXHIBIT A (the scope of work being referred to as "the Project").

3. **AREA COVERED.** Except as otherwise specifically provided for herein, the Grantee shall perform the Project in, and with respect to, the state of New Hampshire.

4. **EFFECTIVE DATE; COMPLETION OF PROJECT.**

4.1 This Agreement, and all obligations of the parties hereunder, shall become effective on the date in block 1.5 or on the date of approval of this Agreement by the Governor and Council of the State of New Hampshire whichever is later (hereinafter referred to as "the Effective Date").

4.2 Except as otherwise specifically provided for herein, the Project, including all reports required by this Agreement, shall be completed in ITS entirety prior to the date in block 1.6 (hereinafter referred to as "the Completion Date").

5. **GRANT AMOUNT; LIMITATION ON AMOUNT; VOUCHERS; PAYMENT.**

5.1 The Grant Amount is identified and more particularly described in EXHIBIT B, attached hereto.

5.2 The manner of, and schedule of payment shall be as set forth in EXHIBIT B.

5.3 In accordance with the provisions set forth in EXHIBIT B, and in consideration of the satisfactory performance of the Project, as determined by the State, and as limited by subparagraph 5.5 of these general provisions, the State shall pay the Grantee the Grant Amount. The State shall withhold from the amount otherwise payable to the Grantee under this subparagraph 5.3 those sums required, or permitted, to be withheld pursuant to N.H. RSA 80:7 through 7-c.

5.4 The payment by the State of the Grant amount shall be the only, and the complete, compensation to the Grantee for all expenses, of whatever nature, incurred by the Grantee in the performance hereof, and shall be the only, and the complete, compensation to the Grantee for the Project. The State shall have no liabilities to the Grantee other than the Grant Amount.

5.5 Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, and notwithstanding unexpected circumstances, in no event shall the total of all payments authorized, or actually made, hereunder, exceed the Grant limitation set forth in block 1.8 of these general provisions.

6. **COMPLIANCE BY GRANTEE WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS.** In connection with the performance of the Project, the Grantee shall comply with all statutes, laws, regulations, and orders of federal, state, county, or municipal authorities which shall impose any obligations or duty upon the Grantee, including the acquisition of any and all necessary permits.

7. **RECORDS AND ACCOUNTS.**

7.1 Between the Effective Date and the date seven (7) years after the Completion Date the Grantee shall keep detailed accounts of all expenses incurred in connection with the Project, including, but not limited to, costs of administration, transportation, insurance, telephone calls, and clerical materials and services. Such accounts shall be supported by receipts, invoices, bills and other similar documents.

7.2 Between the Effective Date and the date seven (7) years after the Completion Date, at any time during the Grantee's normal business hours, and as often as the State shall demand, the Grantee shall make available to the State all records pertaining to matters covered by this Agreement. The Grantee shall permit the State to audit, examine, and reproduce such records, and to make audits of all contracts, invoices, materials, payrolls, records or personnel, data (as that term is hereinafter defined), and other information relating to all matters covered by this Agreement. As used in this paragraph, "Grantee" includes all persons, natural or fictional,

affiliated with, controlled by, or under common ownership with, the entity identified as the Grantee in block 1.3 of these general provisions.

8. **PERSONNEL.**

8.1 The Grantee shall, at its own expense, provide all personnel necessary to perform the Project. The Grantee warrants that all personnel engaged in the Project shall be qualified to perform such Project, and shall be properly licensed and authorized to perform such Project under all applicable laws.

8.2 The Grantee shall not hire, and it shall not permit any subcontractor, subgrantee, or other person, firm or corporation with whom it is engaged in a combined effort to perform such Project, to hire any person who has a contractual relationship with the State, or who is a State officer or employee, elected or appointed.

8.3 The Grant officer shall be the representative of the State hereunder. In the event of any dispute hereunder, the interpretation of this Agreement by the Grant Officer, and his/her decision on any dispute, shall be final.

9. **DATA; RETENTION OF DATA; ACCESS.**

9.1 As used in this Agreement, the word "data" shall mean all information and things developed or obtained during the performance of, or acquired or developed or obtained during the performance of, or acquired or developed by reason of, this Agreement, including, but not limited to, all studies, reports, files, formulae, surveys, maps, charts, sound recordings, video recordings, pictorial reproductions, drawings, analyses, graphic representations, computer programs, computer printouts, notes, letters, memoranda, papers, and documents, all whether finished or unfinished.

9.2 Between the Effective Date and the Completion Date the Grantee shall grant to the State, or any person designated by it, unrestricted access to all data for examination, duplication, publication, translation, sale, disposal, or for any other purpose whatsoever.

9.3 No data shall be subject to copyright in the United States or any other country by anyone other than the State.

9.4 On and after the Effective Date all data, and any property which has been received from the State or purchased with funds provided for that purpose under this Agreement, shall be the property of the State, and shall be returned to the State upon demand or upon termination of this Agreement for any reason, whichever shall first occur.

9.5 The State, and anyone it shall designate, shall have unrestricted authority to publish, disclose, distribute and otherwise use, in whole or in part, all data.

10. **CONDITIONAL NATURE OF AGREEMENT.**

Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, all obligations of the State hereunder, including without limitation, the continuance of payments hereunder, are contingent upon the availability or continued appropriation of funds, and in no event shall the State be liable for any payments hereunder in excess of such available or appropriated funds. In the event of a reduction or termination of those funds, the State shall have the right to withhold payment until such funds become available, if ever, and shall have the right to terminate this Agreement immediately upon giving the Grantee notice of such termination.

11. **EVENT OF DEFAULT; REMEDIES.**

11.1 Any one or more of the following acts or omissions of the Grantee shall constitute an event of default hereunder (hereinafter referred to as "Events of Default"):

11.1.1 failure to perform the Project satisfactorily or on schedule; or

11.1.2 failure to submit any report required hereunder; or

11.1.3 failure to maintain, or permit access to, the records required hereunder; or

11.1.4 failure to perform any of the other covenants and conditions of this Agreement.

11.2 Upon the occurrence of any Event of Default, the State may take any one, or more, or all, of the following actions:

11.2.1 give the Grantee a written notice specifying the Event of

Default and requiring it to be remedied within, in the absence of a greater or lesser specification of time, thirty (30) days from the date of the notice; and if the Event of Default is not timely remedied, terminate this Agreement, effective two (2) days after giving the Grantee notice of termination; and

11.2.2 give the Grantee a written notice specifying the Event of Default and suspending all payments to be made under this Agreement and ordering that the portion of the Grant Amount which would otherwise accrue to the grantee during the period from the date of such notice until such time as the State determines that the Grantee has cured the Event of Default shall never be paid to the Grantee; and

11.2.3 set off against any other obligation the State may owe to the Grantee any damages the State suffers by reason of any Event of Default; and

11.2.4 treat the agreement as breached and pursue any of its remedies at law or in equity, or both.

12. TERMINATION.

12.1 In the event of any early termination of this Agreement for any reason other than the completion of the Project, the Grantee shall deliver to the Grant Officer, not later than fifteen (15) days after the date of termination, a report (hereinafter referred to as the "Termination Report") describing in detail all Project Work performed, and the Grant Amount earned, to and including the date of termination.

12.2 In the event of Termination under paragraphs 10 or 12.4 of these general provisions, the approval of such a Termination Report by the State shall entitle the Grantee to receive that portion of the Grant amount earned to and including the date of termination.

12.3 In the event of Termination under paragraphs 10 or 12.4 of these general provisions, the approval of such a Termination Report by the State shall in no event relieve the Grantee from any and all liability for damages sustained or incurred by the State as a result of the Grantee's breach of its obligations hereunder.

12.4 Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, either the State or except where notice default has been given to the Grantee hereunder, the Grantee, may terminate this Agreement without cause upon thirty (30) days written notice.

13. CONFLICT OF INTEREST. No officer, member or employee of the Grantee and no representative, officer of employee of the State of New Hampshire or of the governing body of the locality or localities in which the Project is to be performed, who exercises any functions or responsibilities in the review or approval of the undertaking or carrying out of such Project, shall participate in any decision relating to this Agreement which affects his or her personal interests or the interest of any corporation, partnership, or association in which he or she is directly or indirectly interested, nor shall he or she have any personal or pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in this Agreement or the proceeds thereof.

14. GRANTEE'S RELATION TO THE STATE. In the performance of this Agreement, the Grantee, its employees, and any subcontractor or subgrantee of the Grantee are in all respects independent contractors, and are neither agents nor employees of the State. Neither the Grantee nor any of its officers, employees, agents, members, subcontractors or subgrantees, shall have authority to bind the State nor are they entitled to any of the benefits, worker's compensation or emoluments provided by the State to its employees.

15. ASSIGNMENT AND SUBCONTRACTS. The Grantee shall not assign, or otherwise transfer any interest in this Agreement without the prior written consent of the State. None of the Project Work shall be subcontracted or subgranted by the Grantee other than as set forth in Exhibit A without the prior written consent of the State.

16. INDEMNIFICATION. The Grantee shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the State, its officers and employees, from and against any and all losses suffered by the State, its officers and employees, and any and all claims, liabilities or penalties asserted against the State, its officers and employees, by or on behalf of any

person, on account of, based on, resulting from, arising out of (or which may be claimed to arise out of) the acts or omissions of the Grantee of Subcontractor, or subgrantee or other agent of the Grantee. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing herein contained shall be deemed to constitute a waiver of the sovereign immunity of the State, which immunity is hereby reserved to the State. This covenant shall survive the termination of this agreement.

17. INSURANCE AND BOND.

17.1 The Grantee shall, at its sole expense, obtain and maintain in force, or shall require any subcontractor, subgrantee or assignee performing Project work to obtain and maintain in force, both for the benefit of the State, the following insurance:

17.1.1 statutory worker's compensation and employees liability insurance for all employees engaged in the performance of the Project, and

17.1.2 comprehensive public liability insurance against all claims of bodily injuries, death or property damage, in amounts not less than \$2,000,000 for bodily injury or death any one incident, and \$500,000 for property damage in any one incident; and

17.2 The policies described in subparagraph 17.1 of this paragraph shall be the standard form employed in the State of New Hampshire, issued by underwriters acceptable to the State, and authorized to do business in the State of New Hampshire. Each policy shall contain a clause prohibiting cancellation or modification of the policy earlier than ten (10) days after written notice has been received by the State.

18. WAIVER OF BREACH. No failure by the State to enforce any provisions hereof after any Event of Default shall be deemed a waiver of its rights with regard to that Event, or any subsequent Event. No express waiver of any Event of Default shall be deemed a waiver of any provisions hereof. No such failure or waiver shall be deemed a waiver of the right of the State to enforce each and all of the provisions hereof upon any further or other default on the part of the Grantee.

19. NOTICE. Any notice by a party hereto to the other party shall be deemed to have been duly delivered or given at the time of mailing by certified mail, postage prepaid, in a United States Post Office addressed to the parties at the addresses first above given.

20. AMENDMENT. This agreement may be amended, waived or discharged only by an instrument in writing signed by the parties hereto and only after approval of such amendment, waiver or discharge by the Governor and Council of the State of New Hampshire.

21. CONSTRUCTION OF AGREEMENT AND TERMS. This Agreement shall be construed in accordance with the law of the State of New Hampshire, and is binding upon and inures to the benefit of the parties and their respective successors and assignees. The captions and contents of the "subject" blank are used only as a matter of convenience, and are not to be considered a part of this Agreement or to be used in determining the intent of the parties hereto.

22. THIRD PARTIES. The parties hereto do not intend to benefit any third parties and this Agreement shall not be construed to confer any such benefit.

23. ENTIRE AGREEMENT. This Agreement, which may be executed in a number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between the parties, and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings relating hereto.

EXHIBIT A
SCOPE OF SERVICES

1. The State of New Hampshire, its successors and assigns, represented by the Department of Environmental Services (DES), agree to grant the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests ("SPNHF") the amount of \$125,000 for the purpose of acquiring land owned by James P. Moran, Trustee of The Moran Investment Trust, being a 73.97 acre parcel of land located on off Fiddlers Choice Road in the Town of Northfield, County of Merrimack, State of New Hampshire, identified on the Town of Northfield tax records as Map RS Lot 1 (hereinafter: the "Property.") This agreement shall be performed in accordance with New Hampshire RSA 482-A; all applicable sections of the Administrative Rules, Env-Wt 100-800, and all other pertinent New Hampshire laws.
2. The SPNHF shall use their grant funds to acquire the property and place conservation restrictions on the Property.
3. As Grantee of the Property, the SPNHF accepts the following conditions or restrictions:
 - a. To utilize the funds herein provided by the State of New Hampshire, acting through DES, for the acquisition and recordation of a conservation easement on the Property as soon as possible, time being of the essence. The project shall be completed by June 30, 2022.
 - b. To utilize the funds herein provided by the State on New Hampshire, acting through DES, to defray in part the acquisition and associated transaction costs incurred in securing a Conservation Easement on the Property.
 - c. To limit the use of the Property as hereinafter defined to conservation purposes in perpetuity.
 - d. That the Property acquired through this project will be monitored on an annual basis in accordance with the *Standards and Practices* for stewardship of the Land Trust Alliance, to ensure that the terms of the Conservation Easement are being adhered to, and to ensure that no actions are occurring which could be detrimental to the conservation attributes of the Property. The SPNHF agrees to submit a copy of the annual monitoring report to DES to document the actions taken.
 - e. The SPNHF agrees to place a sign, subject to its acceptability to the owner, at a prominent location on or near the Property. The sign should contain as a minimum the DES logo and the following statement: "This Property has been protected with assistance from the New Hampshire Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund." Should the DES sign be damaged or destroyed, the SPNHF agrees to work with the Department to repair or replace it with identical signage and to share any costs associated with that repair or replacement to the extent reasonably practicable. The SPNHF also agrees that where significant signage is placed at major access points, the ARM Fund program will be identified as a contributing partner to the acquisition of easement interests and the long-term protection of the Property;
 - f. To return to DES ARM Fund Program any funds herein provided to the extent of any loss due to any title that proves to be less than clear and marketable for all properties protected under this contract;
 - g. To return to DES ARM Fund Program any funds if the SPNHF fails to complete the Property acquisition.

Contractor Initials: DJS
Date: 2/3/2021

h. That all public access provided for in the terms of the Conservation deed will be in accordance with all federal and state policies of non-discrimination in public accommodation.

EXHIBIT B
BUDGET & PAYMENT METHOD

	Budget	Payment Method
(Tasks to be invoiced with amount noted per task)	\$125,000.00	Upon Closing
TOTAL DES ARM FUNDS	\$125,000.00	
<u>Total amount to be authorized following approval by the Governor and Executive Council:</u>	<u>\$125,000.00</u>	

Payments shall be made by DES to the SPNHF upon approval of stated outputs and verification of the value of completed work through submittal of invoices for services rendered. DES will pay the SPNHF within 30 days of receiving the invoice.

The payments listed above are inclusive of project labor and expenses. Invoices shall be formatted to note completion of services.

The billing address shall be as follows:

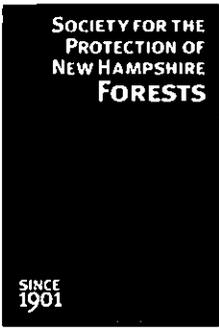
NH Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095
ATTN: Lori Sommer, Wetlands Bureau

Invoices shall be approved by the Contract Officer before payment is processed.

EXHIBIT C
SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This section is intentionally left blank.

Contractor Initials: DJS *DJS*
Date: 2/3/2021



54 Portsmouth Street
Concord, NH 03301

Tel. 603.224.9945

info@forestsociety.org

www.forestsociety.org

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EXCERPT

Be it noted that the Board of Trustees of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, in a board vote taken on October 2, 2019

VOTED to authorize David Jackson Savage (Jack), President, and Anne G. Truslow, Vice President of Development, to sign all contracts; checks, drafts and orders drawn on SPNHF General Funds or Restricted funds; and that they are hereby authorized to deposit checks and drafts payable to this Corporation; and further are authorized to sell, assign, and endorse for transfer, certificates representing stocks, bonds, annuities, or other securities now registered or hereafter registered in the name of this Corporation.

As the duly authorized Assistant Secretary of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, having been appointed at the meeting of December 4, 2019, I hereby confirm that the above Vote was taken by said Board of Trustees on October 2, 2019.

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Maria E. Stewart".

Maria E. Stewart, Assistant Secretary

Attested:

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Connelly A. Colton".

Connelly A. Colton, Notary Public

Commission expires: March 13, 2024

CONNELLY A. COLTON
NOTARY PUBLIC
State of New Hampshire
My Commission Expires
March 13, 2024



State of New Hampshire

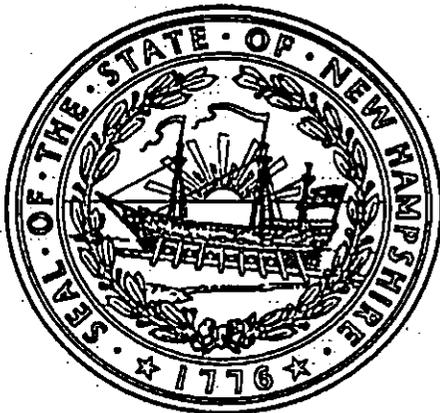
Department of State

CERTIFICATE

I, William M. Gardner, Secretary of State of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby certify that SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FORESTS is a New Hampshire Nonprofit Corporation registered to transact business in New Hampshire on March 03, 1910. I further certify that all fees and documents required by the Secretary of State's office have been received and is in good standing as far as this office is concerned.

Business ID: 64922

Certificate Number: 0005246094



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF,

I hereto set my hand and cause to be affixed
the Seal of the State of New Hampshire,
this 2nd day of February A.D. 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Gardner".

William M. Gardner
Secretary of State

ATTACHMENT A
2020 Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund Grants

Applications and Funding Amounts

Grant Applicant	Location/Town	Requested Funding Amount	Score	Approved for Funding
Society for the Protection of NH Forests	Northfield	\$125,000	51	Yes – full funding
Merrimack County Conservation District	Loudon	\$260,020	46	Yes – Partial funding of \$164,660
Piscataquog Land Conservancy	Goffstown	\$73,000	45	Yes – full funding
Northeast Wilderness Trust	New Ipswich	\$30,000	35	Yes – full funding

(Note: Each Committee member scores the projects and their scores are combined to create the total score.)

Site Selection Committee List

Name	Agency/Organization	Title	Years of Experience
Peter Bowman	NH Dept. of Resources & Economic Development	Ecological Information Specialist	22
Michael Marchand	NH Fish and Game Department	Nongame and Endangered Species Coordinator	18
Peter Steckler	The Nature Conservancy	Director Freshwater Science & Conservation	18
Michael Burke	NH Rivers Council/ American Rivers	Water Resources Engineer	16
Tracy Tarr	NH Association of Natural Scientists	Wetland Scientist	20
Stephen Walker	Office of Strategic Initiatives	CLSP Director	27

**ATTACHMENT B
STILLHOUSE FOREST-MORAN ADDITION/NORTHFIELD**

