Appendix B. Progress since 1997

Since publication of the first *Connecticut River Corridor Management Plan* in 1997, much progress has been made. Water quality monitoring programs have begun on the Israel's, Ammonoosuc, Wells, and Stevens Rivers. The Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee has formed to involve citizens in learning more about their river, beginning with successful nomination into the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program. An energetic volunteer watershed group has assembled on the Israel's River. Water quality is improving St. Johnsbury works to eliminate combined sewer overflows. Both states have greatly improved public access to water quality information in the last several years, through their web sites. The most current data for the Connecticut River are posted at www.des.state.nh.us/wmb/swqa.

The State of New Hampshire has applied the protections of the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act to the New Hampshire side of the Connecticut River, and in some towns, local governments have enacted even stronger water quality protection for their shorelines, most notably Bath. Littleton enacted a 100-foot building setback from the Ammonoosuc River. New Hampshire has enacted a grant program to provide assistance to farmers for nutrient management. Vermont has assembled citizen basin planning groups on the Wells and Stevens Rivers, and funded the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program to help Vermont farmers with water quality-related improvements. The Upper Valley Land Trust has protected many more acres of agricultural floodplain in Newbury and Haverhill, keeping this essential "green infrastructure" open and functioning for flood control and farming while protecting valued valley views.

Following five years of work and cooperation by New England Power Company, state and federal agencies, and non-profit organizations, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued a new operating license for the three hydro dams at Fifteen Mile Falls, greatly expanding knowledge of the area's history, water quality, and fisheries, prompting conservation of the thousands of forested acres that protect the view and the river's quality at Moore Reservoir, and establishing a mitigation and enhancement fund that has benefitted the river and its tributaries in many ways.

The Connecticut River has been the focus of energetic assessment of its waters, sediments, and fish in recent years, in response to the 1997 *Connecticut River Corridor Management Plan*. In preparation for the update of this plan, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, with support from the Environmental Protection Agency, conducted an assessment of the entire 275 miles of the river during the summer of 2004. The extensive study provided greatly improved information over what had previously existed. Two studies of sediment quality by EPA brought new information that will be useful in many ways.