



**SOUHEGAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLANNING
AREA COMMITTEE**

NH Rivers Management and Protection Program
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UPDATE - June 16, 2005

TO: Souhegan WMPAAC Members
FROM: Wayne Ives, Instream Flow Specialist
DATE: June 16, 2005
RE: Status update for the Souhegan River Instream Flow Pilot

The Souhegan WMPAAC last met in October 2004 to discuss the Multi Criteria Decision Analysis and how it is to be applied in the Water Management Plan. The irregular natures of the timing of task completion and of WMPAAC involvement mean that there will be busy periods and slow periods. This is a slow period. Because it has been a long time since our last meeting, but there are no immediate responsibilities for the Souhegan WMPAAC, I thought an update on the progress and a projected time schedule would be appropriate.

The WMPAAC's duties are to provide information towards the completion of protected instream flow studies and water management plans and to review and comment on water management plan. The identification and approval of IPUOCRs has been completed. The next major review will be on the draft protected flows task. Part of this task is identifying the Target Fish Communities for the two major divisions of the Designated River, which should be done by July. There is also one more on-stream habitat survey to complete for one of the model's data inputs. The survey will be done by the end of June if an appropriate range of flows occur. (Completion of Task 2—the groundwater/surface water interactions investigation—is also waiting for flows to drop.) The review of the resulting protected flow is mainly a Technical Review Committee responsibility, but your input will be sought also on that task. Following the approval of the draft report, a public hearing will be held jointly with the legislature within the watershed. At this time the anticipated schedule is that the Draft PISF report will be ready for review in November 2005. The public hearing is likely to occur in February 2006.

Future steps, dependent on the results from the PISF study, are the development of the conservation, water use, and impoundment management plans for each AWU and ADO as components of the Water Management Plan. I expect that the WMPAAC will be heavily involved in interim and final review of the Water Management Plan. The values of the ADOs and AWUs are being compiled for input to the Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis. Some of you have been or may be contacted in regards to input information on the Water Management Plan components. I encourage each of you to continue to review the materials on the website (<http://www.des.state.nh.us/rivers/instream/>)—both DES's and UNH's—and also if possible to attend the Technical Review Committee meetings so you are thoroughly familiar with the scientific basis for the development of the Protected Flows. The Target Fish Community will be the subject of the next TRC meeting. That meeting will probably be in July.

Finally, the WMPAAC chair, Pierce Rigrod has moved out of the watershed and consequently has resigned his position on the committee. Pierce has been a dedicated and proactive chair and will be missed. Thank you, Pierce. Committee members should consider who will step in to the role of chair. Peter de Bruyn Kops is the vice chair and will be acting chair in the interim.