

News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: July 24, 2008

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DES and Ski NH Sign Partnership Agreement

Agreement signed as part of DES Partners Program

Concord, NH – The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and Ski NH today signed a partnership agreement at DES’s 2008 Green Slopes Workshop held at Cannon Mountain. This partnership is meant to further their common goals of environmental stewardship and the protection of the state’s natural resources.

This partnership agreement is the sixth to be signed as part of the Partners Program that DES has initiated with a wide range of organizations across New Hampshire. “Our new Partners Program will strengthen the informal partnerships DES currently has with more than 100 different groups by bringing greater recognition and structure to these relationships and enabling us to better align our joint efforts in support of the Department’s goals and the goals of our partner organizations,” stated DES Commissioner Tom Burack.

DES and Ski NH have worked cooperatively to ensure environmental stewardship to New Hampshire’s ski facilities. Ski NH has been instrumental in creating a link between the ski facilities and DES for the annual Green Slopes workshop, environmental committee meetings and site visits to facilities.

Building on these successes and to bring greater recognition to future partnership efforts, DES and Ski NH have entered into a more formal Partnership Agreement. The specific areas of cooperation are detailed in a work plan covering the period from July 24, 2008 to December 31, 2010.

It is anticipated that this Partnership Agreement will result in enhanced communication between DES and Ski NH and improved environmental protection. Through targeted outreach and education the DES will assist Ski NH and its stakeholders to: (1) understand how to best use available resource information on pollution prevention techniques and ways to decrease their carbon footprint; and (2) be more effective in educating how to protect critical natural resources and minimize negative environmental impacts. In return, Ski NH will assist DES to better understand the information and technical assistance needs of ski facilities to achieve responsible stewardship. They will also provide communication venues, through written materials, conferences, and workshops, for DES to discuss better environmental practices with local ski facilities. Lastly, both organizations will encourage NH ski facilities to more efficiently and effectively implement environmental initiatives.

The Ski NH environmental committee’s purpose is to provide resources for ski areas to assist them in becoming the best possible environmental stewards in an economically viable way, with the goal of encouraging every member resort to implement a minimum number of environmental programs.

DES has initiated the DES Partners Program to advance the agency's mission of sustaining a high quality of life for all citizens by protecting and restoring the environment and public health in New Hampshire. It is anticipated that the Partners Program will help to raise environmental awareness through a strengthening of the Department's current relationships with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), trade associations, industry, business and other organizations in New Hampshire, as well as the development of new collaborative relationships.

A copy of the agreement will be posted with this press release at www.des.nh.gov/partnersprogram/index.html or is available upon request. For more information about the agreement or the DES Partners Program, please call Sharon Yergeau at (603) 271-2918.

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