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**SWIFT RIVER  
CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**Swift River Management Advisory Committee**

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May, 1994

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## INTRODUCTION

The Swift River is aptly named. It is a steep, free-flowing stream which tumbles over rocks and boulders through the rugged natural beauty of the White Mountains of New Hampshire. The land surrounding the river is essentially unpopulated leaving the river shoreline in natural vegetation. There are no dams or impoundments on the river's 26 miles and the water quality is high. Most of the river and its watershed lie within the White Mountain National Forest, which attracts thousands of visitors each year. The Swift River provides a variety of opportunities for recreation including whitewater boating, fishing and swimming, as well as sight-seeing. With tourism being the major industry of the Mt. Washington Valley, the region where the Swift River is located, the local economy is dependent on maintaining the high quality of the river and the other natural features in the region.

The Kancamagus Highway which follows the Swift River valley has been declared by the US Forest Service as a National Forest Scenic Byway. It not only provides an opportunity for sightseers to view the beauty of the Swift River watershed, but also provides access to the many recreational resources of the region.

Because of the exceptional quality of the white-water boating, the availability of camping areas, and the beauty and sparsely developed nature of the surrounding area, the resources of the Swift River have significant value at the statewide level.

In 1990 the Swift River was designated as part of the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program because it is one of the state's premier rivers. Within the NH Rivers Program the Swift River is classified as a Natural river, except for the last 2 miles before its junction with the Saco River where the river is classified as Rural. Here it flows through the Saco River floodplain in the town of Conway.

Under the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program, a local management advisory committee is appointed for each designated river. The committee has at least seven members who represent a broad range of river interests, including local government, business, conservation, recreation, agriculture, and riparian landowners. In addition to advising government officials at the state and local level about matters pertaining to the river, the local management advisory committee is charged with the development of a corridor management plan.

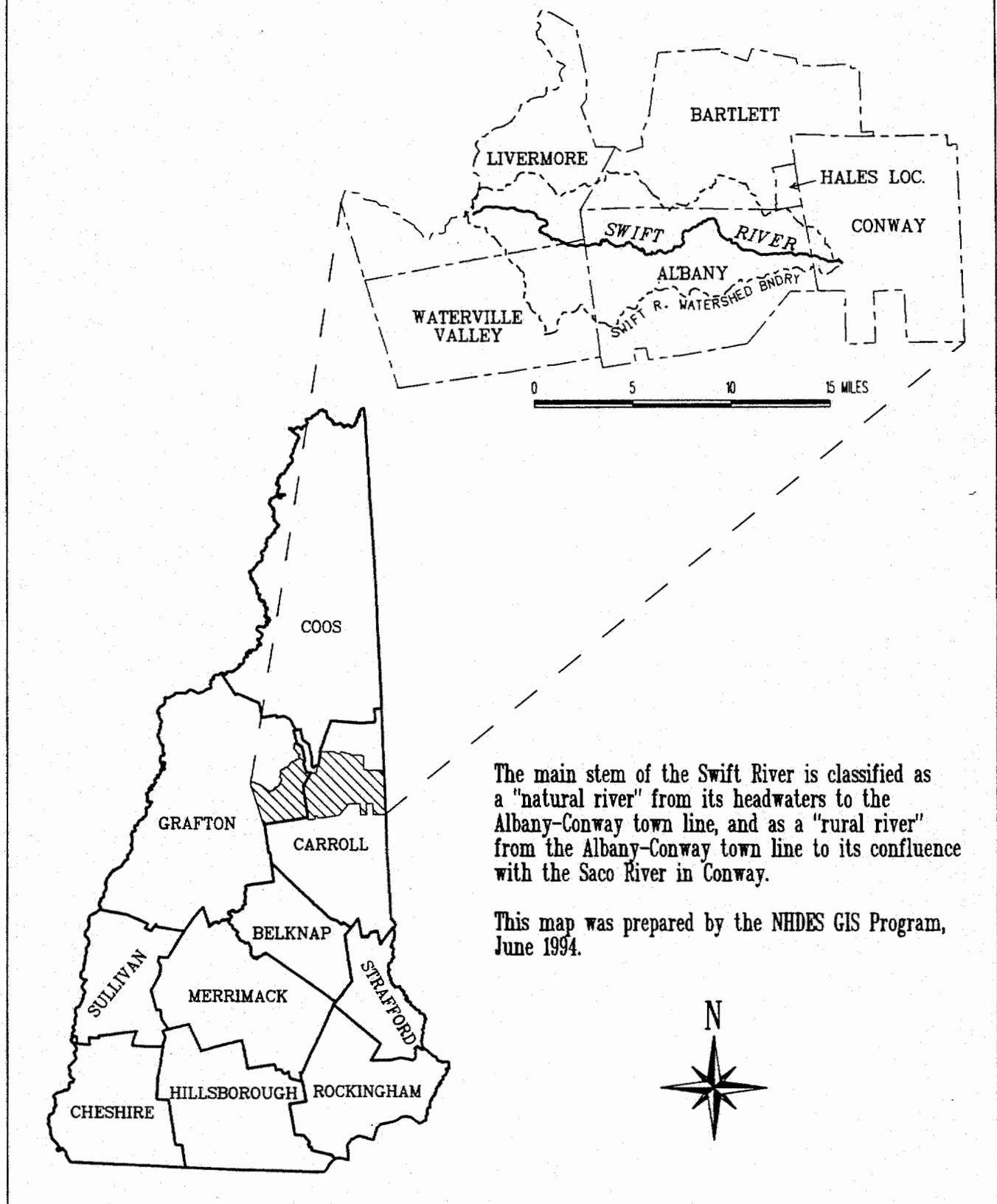
The purpose of the Swift River Corridor Management Plan is to provide an overall framework for the regulation and management of activities dependent on or affecting the Swift River. Because the river flows through the jurisdiction of the White Mountain National Forest and several towns, the Corridor Management Plan will provide a basis for consistency of regulations as well as a means of coordinating the actions of the US Forest Service and the towns relative to the river.

The overall goal of the Swift River Corridor Management Plan is to protect and maintain the high quality of the natural resources of the Swift River and its corridor for the benefit of the natural environment, the local residents and the visiting public. Management of activities on the river and in its basin will be focused on utilizing its resources for recreation, forestry, and agriculture, without causing degradation to the resources themselves.

Within the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program, the river corridor is defined as the river and all land within 1320 feet of the normal high water mark or within the 100 year floodplain, whichever is greater. The portion of the Swift River Corridor affected by municipal river conservation regulations is all the land within 250 feet of the high water mark of the Swift River or the 100 year floodplain, whichever is larger. For some of the discussion in the Corridor Management Plan a broader perspective is needed, at which time the entire watershed will be considered.

The Swift River Corridor Management Plan contains three major sections. The first section is the Resource Assessment in which the various resources of the Swift River corridor are discussed. The Matrix of Existing Regulations summarizes the laws and rules at the federal, state, and local level which presently regulate activities in the river corridor. The final section lists the Goals, Objectives, and Recommendations that the Swift River Management Advisory Committee has developed for the management of the resources of the Swift River.

# SWIFT RIVER LOCATION MAP



The main stem of the Swift River is classified as a "natural river" from its headwaters to the Albany-Conway town line, and as a "rural river" from the Albany-Conway town line to its confluence with the Saco River in Conway.

This map was prepared by the NHDES GIS Program, June 1994.



# Swift River: Upper Portion

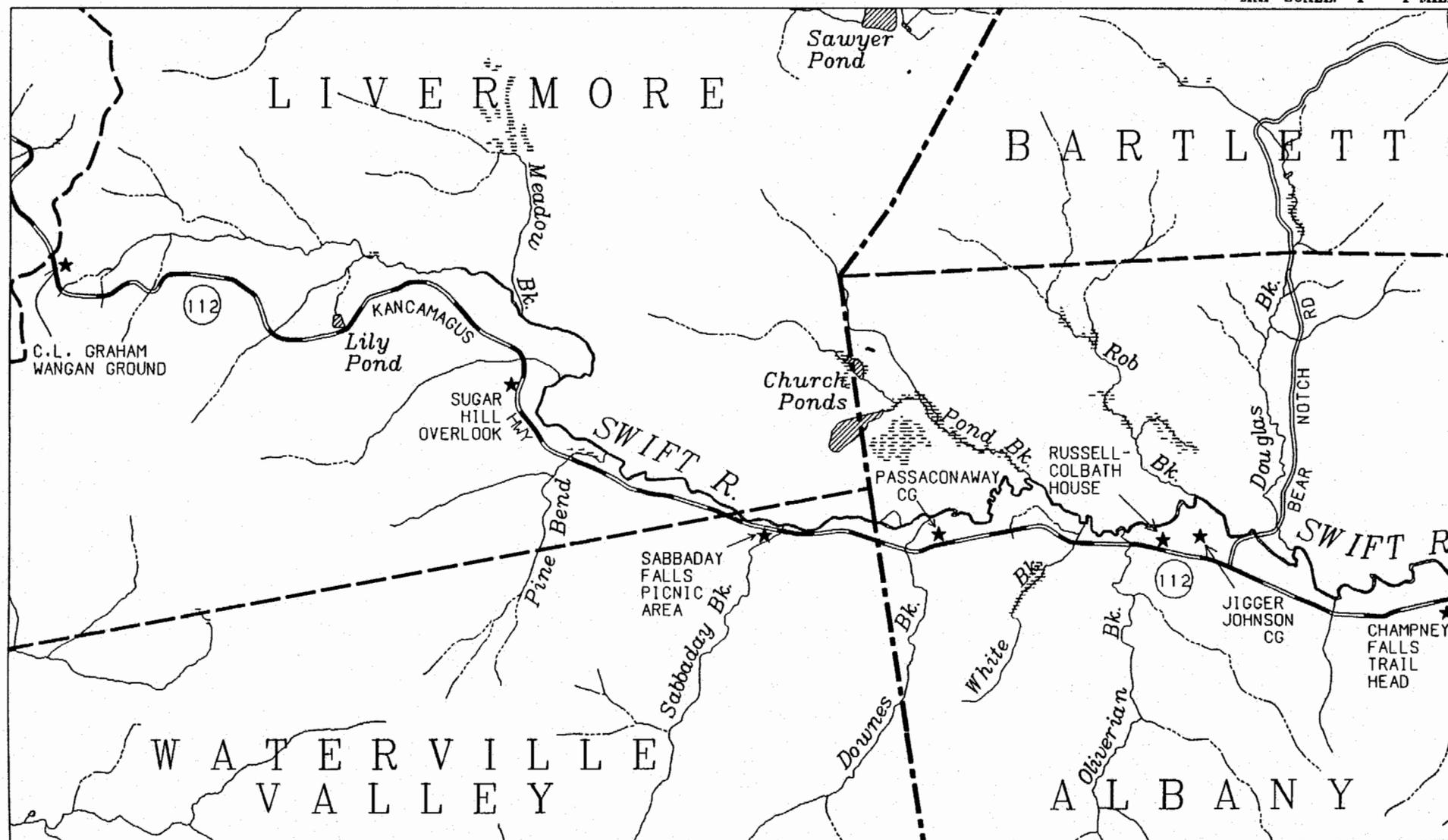
This map was prepared by the NHDES GIS Program, June 1994.

## LEGEND

- |   |                 |   |                       |
|---|-----------------|---|-----------------------|
|  | River, stream   |  | Secondary road        |
|  | Pond            |  | County boundary       |
|  | Wetlands        |  | Town boundary         |
|  | Primary highway |  | Recreational facility |



MAP SCALE: 1" = 1 MILE



# Swift River: Lower Portion

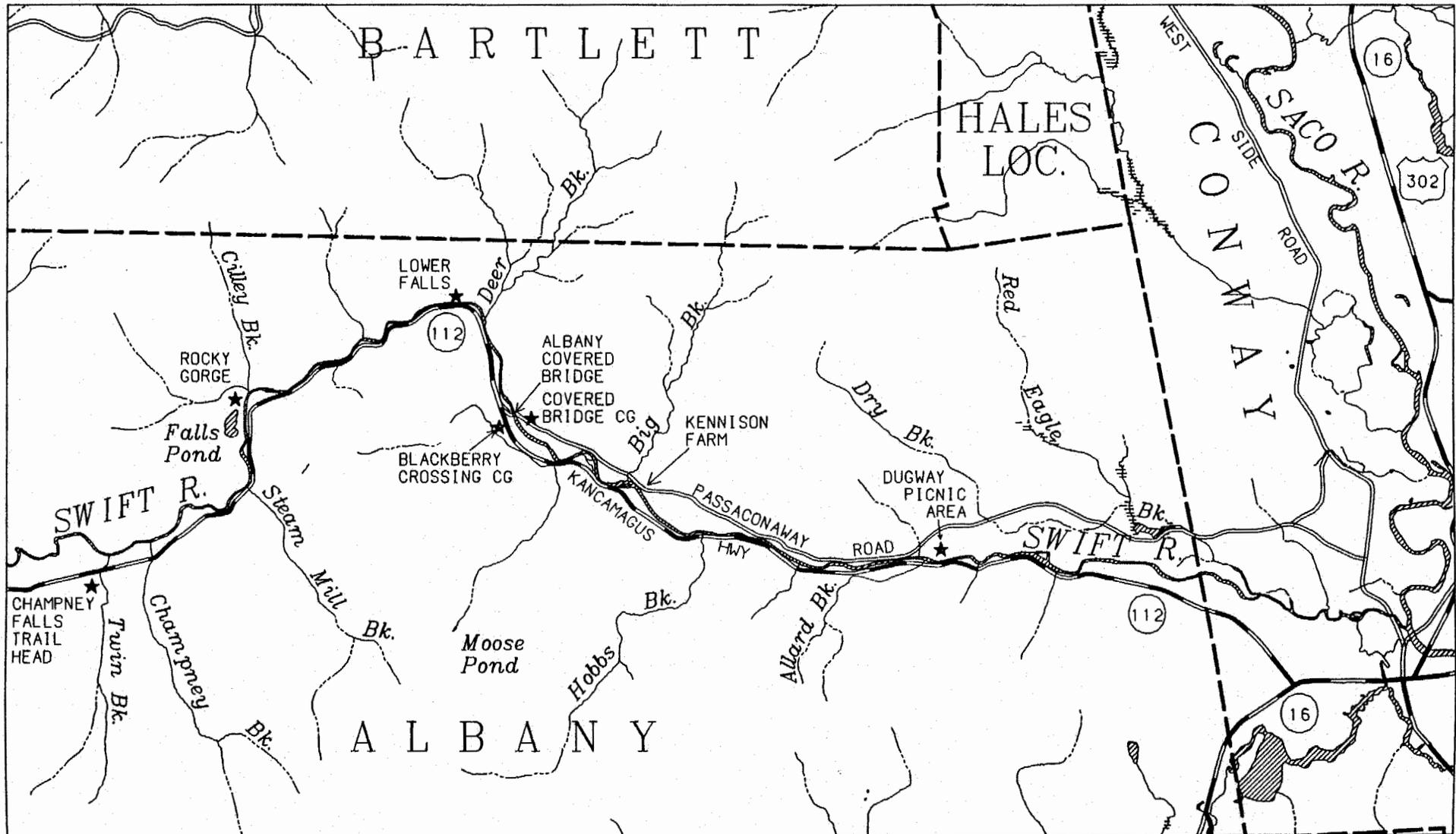
This map was prepared by the NHDES GIS Program, June 1994.

## LEGEND

- |   |                 |   |                       |
|---|-----------------|---|-----------------------|
|  | River, stream   |  | Secondary road        |
|  | Pond            |  | County boundary       |
|  | Wetlands        |  | Town boundary         |
|  | Primary highway |  | Recreational facility |



MAP SCALE: 1" = 1 MILE



# RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

## Location and Description

The Swift River, a tributary to the Saco River, is located within the White Mountain National Forest in east central New Hampshire. The Swift River has its headwaters on Mt. Kancamagus, and flows easterly about 7 miles in the town of Livermore. The next river mile is in the northeast corner of the town of Waterville Valley. Then the Swift River flows 16 miles through the town of Albany. The last 2 miles of the Swift River are in Conway where the Swift River joins the Saco River. The river drops about 2400 feet in its 26 mile length, and has a drainage area of about 114 square miles, which is almost entirely within the White Mountain National Forest. (USDA, 1974)

## Geological Resources

The Swift River flows through the White Mountains which are characterized by rounded mountain ridges and peaks separated by deeply cut valleys. The surficial geology of the basin consists of silt, sand, cobbles and boulder deposits (collectively called till) laid down by glaciers that covered New England about 10,000 years ago. These deposits are generally thick in the valleys, but thin out on the upper slopes and mountain tops to expose the underlying bedrock. The bedrock within the Swift River corridor is predominantly granite.

The Swift River flows between mountains ranging in elevation from 2000 to 4000 feet. Starting at the Kancamagus Pass, the Swift River is bounded to the south by Mt. Kancamagus, Scaur Peak, the North Peak of Mt. Tripyramid, the Fool Killer, Potash Mtn., Hedgehog Mtn., Mt. Passaconaway, Paugus Mtn., Mt. Chocorua, and White Ledge. The peaks to the north, from west to east, are Mt. Huntington, Greens Cliff, Birch Hill, Bear Mtn., Table Mtn., and the Moat Range.

At its headwaters the Swift River is a small stream tumbling down over steep rock strewn slopes, dropping 1300' in its first 4 miles. The next ten miles are known as the Albany Intervale, a narrow valley in which the river drops another 400'. Though the gradient is less in the Intervale, the river still has many rapids. The steep mountain slopes come close to the river at the base of the Albany Intervale to form Rocky Gorge. For the next 9 miles the river cascades over difficult rapids and waterfalls, and drops about 600'. In the last 3 miles, the rapids become less severe as the Swift River enters the broad floodplain of the Saco River.

## Forestland

With the exception of a few fields, the land adjacent to the Swift River is forestland. The higher elevations in the watershed are dominated by spruce/fir forests, which give way to mixed hardwood species at lower elevations. Typical hardwood species are beech, birch, maple, ash and oak.

Forestland helps to enhance good water quality in the rivers by retaining precipitation, controlling runoff, preventing erosion, and maintaining an adequate water table. Shade provided by forests functions to keep water temperatures lower, which can be beneficial to fish populations. The fact that such a large portion of the Swift River watershed is within the White Mountain National Forest gives some assurance of protection of the Swift River's present high water quality.

The forestland in the Swift River drainage contributes to the economy of the region by providing pulpwood for paper, saw timber for lumber, mill wood for finished items, and occasionally wood chips for power generation. But the most significant contribution that forestland makes to the local tourist-based economy is in the recreational opportunities it provides. The White Mountain National Forest is probably one of the most heavily used national forests for recreational pursuits.

### **Wetlands**

Wetlands are those areas where the presence of water, at or near the surface of the soil, is a dominant factor controlling the types of plant and animal life occurring there. Among the beneficial functions of wetlands are the absorption of precipitation, reducing the chance of flooding and recharging groundwater supplies, the removal of certain pollutants from the water, and as important wildlife habitat, especially for waterfowl.

The soils maps in the Soil Survey of Carroll County (USDA, 1977), and topographic maps of the watershed area show a number of small areas of wetland soils adjacent to the Swift River. In Livermore, there is one wetland area near the Swift River below Lily Pond, and another near the confluence of the Swift River and Pine Bend Brook. A large area of wetland soils exists along the Swift River in the Albany Intervale, stretching from just below the Albany town line to Bear Notch Road, and extending up the tributaries of Pond Brook, White Brook, and Rob Brook. This wetland is excellent habitat for moose, which have been frequently sighted here. Along the lowest section of the Swift River where it flows in the Saco River floodplain there are a number of small areas of wetland soils.

### **Wildlife Resources**

According to the literature review conducted by the Saco River Basin USDA Cooperative Study (1983a), there are 36 species of fish, 32 species of amphibians and reptiles, 165 species of birds, and 56 species of mammals using the various habitats which occur in the Saco River watershed, which includes the Swift River. Because the dominant habitat type found in the watershed is forestland, the most common species occurring would be those which can utilize the forest habitat. With the watershed being almost entirely within the White Mountain National Forest, the continued presence of forest habitat of sufficient size to support stable populations of most of the existing forest species is likely.

### **Fish Resources**

The Swift River is an important coldwater sport fishery. Species present include native brook trout and introduced brown and rainbow trout. Historically, the Swift River was one of the premier trout fishing rivers in the region. Now, the fishing pressure exceeds the reproductive capability of the native populations so overall fishing success is largely dependent on the stocking of hatchery reared brook and rainbow trout. The Kancamagus Highway provides good public access both for stocking and fishing.

There are no anadromous fish runs on the Swift River, because of the numerous dams on the Maine portion of the Saco River. With considerable good habitat for salmon spawning in the Swift River, the potential exists for reestablishing the salmon runs if the barriers presented by the dams can be overcome. There is interest in setting up a salmon restoration program for the Saco and Swift Rivers, but it would require considerable effort and coordination between New Hampshire and Maine to be successful.

## Endangered and Threatened Species

Included in the list of species compiled by the Saco River Basin USDA Cooperative Study (1983a) are 13 endangered or threatened species of animals. Section 1532(6) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 defines an endangered species as: any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Section 1532(20) defines threatened species as: any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. The endangered and threatened species in the New Hampshire portion of the Saco River watershed are 4 endangered bird species (Pied-Billed Grebe, Common Tern, Sedge Wren, Loggerhead Shrike), 7 threatened bird species (Common Loon, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Harrier, Osprey, Arctic Tern, Common Nighthawk, Purple Martin), 1 endangered mammal (Canada Lynx), and 1 threatened mammal (Marten). These thirteen species were also included on a list of species compiled by the New Hampshire Audubon Society and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Dept. for inclusion under RSA 212-A, and Administrative Rules FIS 1000 passed in 1987 for the conservation of endangered species.

Comprehensive field surveys of the Swift River watershed for rare and endangered plant species have not been conducted and thus a definitive statement on the presence, absence, or status of species or natural communities can not be made. The database of the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Inventory indicates the presence of two records of a Northern New England Level Bog, an exemplary natural community, at Church Ponds and Bogs. There is also one record for *Poliioptila caerula* (Blue-gray Gnatcatcher), ranked as endangered in New Hampshire, along the river near the Dugway camping area. (New Hampshire Natural Heritage Inventory, letter of 3 November, 1989)

## Water Quality

The water quality of the Swift River is generally good to excellent. The main stem of the Swift River is classified as Class B water, while the upper portions of two of its tributaries (Dry Brook and Red Eagle Brook) are classified as Class A water. These two small streams were formerly part of Conway's water supply. A classification of Class A or B means that the water is acceptable for swimming, fish habitat, and, after adequate treatment, for drinking water supplies.

Of all the river basins evaluated by the NH Water Supply and Pollution Control Division, the Saco River Basin, which includes the Swift River, is the only basin in which all of the surface waters meet the goals of the Clean Water Act (Flanders, 1988). Because the Swift River watershed is almost entirely within the White Mountain National Forest, its present undeveloped state can be expected to continue into the future. The potential for significant point or non-point source pollution can be considered negligible.

The Swift River has no dams or impoundments. It is free-flowing for its entire length.

Precipitation in the Swift River watershed is distributed fairly uniformly throughout the year. Because precipitation during the winter months occurs as snow and is stored until spring, runoff does not occur evenly. About 50% of the basin's runoff occurs in March, April, and May, when melting snow combines with heavy rains.

## Water Withdrawals and Discharges

There are no significant water withdrawals from the Swift River. However, water is withdrawn from the groundwater aquifer associated with the river by domestic and municipal wells. The wells for the Conway Water Precinct are located between the Kancamagus Highway and the Swift River in Conway.

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requires that all dischargers have a NPDES permit. There are no dischargers with NPDES permits in the Swift River watershed.

## Land Use

Almost all of the land along the Swift River is in its natural forested state. Within the White Mountain National Forest a few areas have been developed for camping, picnicking and other recreational purposes. The land adjacent to the last mile or so of the Swift River in the Saco River floodplain is used for agriculture, and also for the athletic fields for the high school.

There are four small residential areas along the Swift River. To the west of Bear Notch Road there is a group of vacation cabins located in the Albany Intervale. Two are located between the Swift River and the Kancamagus Highway just east of the Passaconaway Campground, while the rest are to the south of the highway across from the Russell-Colbath House. Only two of the cabins south of the highway are presently being occupied on a year-round basis. There are 21 cabins and three year-round homes on the Bear Notch Road within a half mile of the river. Five of the cabins are located adjacent to the river. A group of summer cabins known as the Johnson Development is located on the north side of the river about a mile and a half east of the Albany covered bridge. The cabins are clustered closely together between the river and the Passaconaway road with five of the cabins located on the river. None of the cabins is occupied on a year-round basis at the present time. The fourth residential area is in the town of Conway at the confluence of the Swift and Saco Rivers.

The Swift River enters the southwest corner of the town of Conway and flows only two miles before it joins the Saco River. The village of Conway with a population of about 1600 is located at the junction of the Swift and Saco Rivers. The town of Albany has a population of about 550, which is centered on Rte 16 to the south of the Swift River valley, and outside of the river corridor. The population center of the town of Waterville Valley is outside of the Swift River watershed. The town of Livermore lies entirely within the White Mountain National Forest, is unincorporated and has no residents.

The Kancamagus Highway is located on the south side of the Swift River and travels through the full length of its valley. The road is within a mile of the river, but is next to the river only in places like Rocky Gorge where the valley walls are steep. The Passaconaway Road is to the north of the lower 6 miles of the Swift River, and comes close to the river only where the mountain slopes come steeply down to the river.

There are only 6 bridges across the Swift River: the Bear Notch Road bridge, the Rocky Gorge foot bridge, the Albany Covered Bridge, a railroad bridge for the Conway Scenic Railroad, the West Side Road bridge, and a covered bridge, recently restored for foot travel, just below the West Side Road bridge.

### Community Resources

The Swift River is a scenic and recreational asset for the residents of the towns of Albany, Conway, and the other towns in the Mt. Washington Valley. The aquifer associated with the river is also the major water source for residents in the area.

Because of the White Mountain National Forest and the development of recreation facilities along the Kancamagus Highway, the Swift River valley attracts many visitors and vacationers. In this way the Swift River contributes to the support of the tourist-based economy of the Mt. Washington Valley.

For the town of Albany, however, the White Mountain National Forest is a mixed blessing. With 86% of the land in Albany in the National Forest, only 14% is left as a tax base for the town. The town of Albany is paid a nominal fee per acre for National Forest land in the town. Thus the municipal services that must be provided by the town for residents and visitors alike are supported by a relatively small tax base.

### Land Use Controls

Albany: The town of Albany has both a Zoning Ordinance and a Master Plan. The Master Plan expresses the need to protect streams, ponds, woodlands, and wetlands. In 1993 the Zoning Ordinance was amended to include a River Conservation District for the Swift River. Setbacks for buildings and septic systems were established, and uses within the River Conservation District are restricted to residential, agricultural, forestry, and conservation uses.

Conway: Within Conway's Zoning Ordinance both a River Conservation District and a Wetland Conservation District are defined. In these districts no new residential construction is permitted; nor can there be any new septic systems constructed or dredge and fill activities except under the guidelines of very specific special exceptions. The premise on which these two districts were created is legally sound and has withstood challenge elsewhere. Moreover, the boundaries of these districts have been scientifically determined and are delineated on official town maps. The purpose and intent in creating the two districts is clearly stated and the effectiveness of this ordinance is evidenced by the lack of development in these designated areas.

### Recreational Resources

Most of the recreational facilities along the Swift River are in the White Mountain National Forest and are maintained by the US Forest Service. At the Kancamagus Pass is the C.L. Graham Wangan Ground, a picnic area and scenic overlook. A few miles down the Kancamagus Highway is the Sugar Hill scenic overlook. In the Albany Intervale are the Sabbaday Falls picnic area, and the Passaconaway and Jigger Johnson camping areas. There are recreation areas at Champney Falls, Rocky Gorge and Lower Falls. Near the Albany covered bridge are the Blackberry Crossing and Covered Bridge campgrounds. There are parking lots with rest rooms on both sides of the river at the Albany covered bridge. During the winter the parking lot is plowed and serves as the southern terminus of the Nanamocomuck cross-country ski trail. Further downstream on the Passaconaway Road is the Dugway Picnic area. Below the National Forest are two small private camping areas.

The Swift River corridor is used by thousands of people annually from throughout New England and the Northeast for whitewater canoeing, kayaking, rafting, swimming, fishing, hunting, camping, skiing, and sightseeing. The river offers a variety of opportunities for water-based recreation and receives varying amounts of usage by those people living near it and by the many who visit this popular recreation

destination. The Swift River provides opportunities for recreation in all seasons, with the heaviest use occurring between the Fourth of July and Labor Day, and on weekends and holidays. Recreational use of the river has been increasing dramatically during the past twenty-five years.

During the spring run-off, the Swift River provides some of the best white water boating in New England. Most of the river can be paddled and is usually runnable from mid-April to the end of May. There is quickwater in the Albany Intervale alternating with Class III rapids. From Rocky Gorge to Lower Falls the rapids are continuous and difficult (Class III to Class IV). Though negotiable by an expert in an open canoe, this section and the one below it are more suitable for kayakers and rafters. The 6 miles of river below Lower Falls are Class IV and one of the most difficult uninterrupted runs in New England. The final three miles of the Swift River are quickwater with Class II - III rapids. (AMC River Guide, 1989)

During warm weather the river is used for swimming and sunbathing. Rocky Gorge and Lower Falls recreation areas are very popular, and receive heavy usage on hot summer days.

In the winter, cross country skiers are attracted to the river corridor for wilderness skiing. The Forest Service has developed a number of skiing trails, both along the river and into the surrounding areas. The Nanamocomuck Ski Trail runs along the north side of the Swift River from Lily Pond to the Albany Covered Bridge.

As stated above, a number of campgrounds are located along the Swift River. Both National Forest and private facilities are available to provide a full spectrum of camping opportunities. Wilderness camping also occurs within the White Mountain National Forest. Permits can be obtained for open campfires from local fire wardens.

Recreational fishing for trout is a popular activity on the Swift River during the warm weather months. Fishing pressure is greatest on weekends with the largest concentration of fishermen limited to the section between Rocky Gorge and the Albany/Conway town line. Due to a history of heavy fishing pressure, the trout populations in the Swift River are maintained through stocking. A handicap access fishing area is provided by the US Forest Service next to the Albany Covered Bridge.

The Rail 'n River Trail, located behind the Russell-Colbath House, is a short interpretive trail with self-guiding pamphlets. It leaves from the parking lot and is wheelchair accessible. The trail loops down along the river and crosses the roadbeds of the old Bartlett and Albany (1886 - 1893) and the Swift River (1906 - 1922) railroads. Both railroads carried logs out of the Intervale. Considerable information about the forest, the river, and the history of the area is available here.

It can be concluded from the above discussion that much of the recreational potential of the Swift River is already being utilized. The challenge is to maintain the quality of the recreational experience for future users.

### **Public Access**

Public access to the river is available for most of its length within the White Mountain National Forest. Many of the recreational facilities developed by US Forest Service provide access at numerous points along the river. These include the Passaconaway and Jigger Johnson campgrounds, the Russell-Colbath house, the Albany Covered Bridge. With the Kancamagus Highway paralleling the river, access to areas other than the developed facilities is relatively easy. There are at least 16 different locations along the highway where a car could pull off to park, and people could walk to the river. Summed together, these access points total over 3 miles of the river's length which are easily accessible to the public.

## Historical and Archaeological Resources

The Saco River drainage was utilized by early native American people. In 1672 a settlement containing 200 wigwams was reported where the Swift River joins the Saco River at what is presently Conway, NH (Harp, 1977). The Kancamagus Indian Trail followed along the Swift River. Archaeological excavations in 1987 suggest the presence of Indian activity in the Swift River valley near the Kennison Farm. The potential exists for further archaeological discoveries of evidence of Indian activities along much of the Swift River.

A major Euro-American exploration of the Saco River valley area occurred in 1725. By 1760 Indian presence in this area had diminished. Conway was incorporated in 1765 and by 1777 had grown to a population of 273 people (Pendery and Wallace, 1979).

The town of Albany was originally granted as Burton in 1766. Burton was taken from Grafton County on July 2, 1800. Then on July 2, 1833 the name of the town was changed to Albany (Perry, 1976).

By the early 1800s small farmsteads dotted the region particularly in lowland areas along the Saco and Swift Rivers. Numerous stone fences, dug wells, and cellar holes stand as a testimony to the industrious nature of these early pioneers. The Russell-Colbath House, built in the 1830s in what was then called Passaconaway, remains as an example of a farmhouse typical of that time. The house is owned by the US Forest Service and is open during the summer months, as a museum of Early American life. In 1987, the Russell-Colbath House was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Swift River is crossed by two covered bridges built in the mid 1800s. Major repairs are being planned by the town of Albany for the Albany covered bridge, while the Conway bridge has been rebuilt for foot travel only.

Picturesque scenery, outstanding trout fishing, and an extensive network of foot trails in the surrounding mountains began to attract numerous tourists into the region as early as the mid-19th century. Large hotels and summer residences, including a number of architecturally significant buildings, were constructed during this resort era.

During the late 19th century the logging industry flourished in the White Mountains. The Conway Scenic Railroad, running between North Conway and Conway, crosses the Swift River and is a reminder of the area's rich railroad and logging history. Rail lines were built and operated throughout the region from the 1870s through the turn of the century. Numerous logging camps were constructed along all the major rivers in the area. At this time the logging industry employed 1500 people in the Swift River valley. Today many of the area's popular roads and trails, including the Kancamagus Highway and Bear Notch Road, lie on top of former railroad beds. In 1918, the White Mountain National Forest was established, thereby bringing about the gradual demise of the excessive logging practices of that time.

Between 1933 and 1942 Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) activity flourished in the valley. Two camps existed along the Swift River, at Blackberry Crossing and near the Sawyer Pond Trail. An interpretive sign commemorating the contributions made by the CCC exists at the Blackberry Crossing Campground adjacent to the Swift River in Albany is planned.

## Scenic Resources

The Swift River exhibits outstanding visual characteristics. The headwater areas lie high within the White Mountains and offer outstanding views of the surrounding mountain ranges and the valleys below. The headwater areas have been described by the U.S. Forest Service, in their Land and Resource Management Plan for the White Mountain National Forest as visually "distinctive".

Along its length the river exhibits a variety of visual characteristics including waterfalls, large clear pools, water-sculptured granite slabs, and rapids with rock-strewn bottoms and banks. Enclosing these physical features is a variety of forest types including spruce-fir, mixed northern hardwoods, aspen-paper birch all intermingled with open meadows and fields in a mosaic pattern.

The Swift River is highly visible from the Kancamagus Highway, which has recently been declared a National Forest Scenic Byway by the U.S. Forest Service. Two of the most distinctive features on the Swift River are Rocky Gorge and Lower Falls. Rocky Gorge is classified and managed by the Forest Service as a National Scenic Area. Numerous hiking, cross-country skiing, and interpretive trails and other recreation facilities exist adjacent to the river.

**SWIFT RIVER CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PLAN  
MATRIX OF EXISTING REGULATIONS**

TOPIC	FEDERAL	STATE	CONWAY	ALBANY	WMNF
I. Water quality	Clean Water Act: 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1251 - 1376) Restore & maintain the chemical, biological and physical integrity of the U.S. waters.	RSA 483:9 Water quality shall be maintained at class A or B for rivers designated as "natural" or "rural". Env-Ws 430: Surface water quality standards Env-Ws 410: Ground water protection rules Env-W1 100-800: Wetlands Board rules Env-Ws 437: Protection of surface waters from degradation by pollutant discharge.			
IA. Sources of erosion and sedimentation	Soil Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 590a) Directs US Soil Conservation Service to prevent soil erosion through local regulations and watershed improvement projects.	RSA 485-A:17 Alteration of terrain permit, required for major earth disturbance. Env-Ws 415: Rules governing alteration of terrain (site specific) permits			
14 IA1. Timber harvesting practices		RSA 224:44a No more than 50% of the basal area of trees shall be cut, leaving a well distributed stand of healthy growing trees within 150 feet of any navigable river, or within 50 feet of any other stream which normally flows throughout the year, unless the timber cutting is for converting the use of the land and all necessary state and local permits have been secured. RSA 485-A:17 Best Management Practices required in timber harvesting. RSA 482-A:3V Forest Management limited to minimum impact activities.		River Conservation District Ordinance (RCDO)E6 No more than 50% of the basal area of trees and no more than 50% of total number of saplings shall be removed in a 20 yr. period leaving a well distributed stand of healthy vegetation.	-As a minimum retain at least 50% of basal area within 150 feet of a stream leaving uncut a well distributed stand of trees. -Limit amount of exposed soil to less than 5% of riparian area. -Locate landings a minimum distance of 100 feet from stream. -Avoid skidding within 100 feet of stream or limit to frozen ground conditions.
IA 2. Road, bridge and building construction	Rivers & Harbors Act of 1899: Section 404 of Clean Water Act: Need federal permit to construct dams, bridges, piers, etc, in any navigable water.	RSA 482-A:3 Construction of structures in or adjacent to wetlands or surface water require wetlands board permit.	Zoning 147.14 D Roads, bridges, utility lines, etc, are permitted in the Floodplain District by special exception.		-Attempt to locate roads outside of riparian area. -Align stream crossings so that the minimal possible area is disturbed. -Locate crossings in areas that are stable, have good flood carrying capacity and have flat approaches. -Ditches should be designed to drain into areas suitable for trapping sediment and not directly into the stream. -Temporary stream crossings will be located and designed to handle at least a 10-year flood. -Bridges or culverts will be used whenever roads or skid trails cross live streams or streambeds that receive heavy spring or storm run-off. -During culvert and abutment installation, the site should be isolated from streamflow. Construction debris and excess material disposal areas will be located outside of riparian areas.

TOPIC	FEDERAL	STATE	CONWAY	ALBANY	WMNF
IA 3. Land tilling near the river				RCDO-E5 A cover of natural vegetation shall be maintained in the riverbank buffer zone.	
IA 4. Dredge and fill activities	Clean Water Act Section 404: Establishes permit system for dredge and fill activities in navigable waterways.	RSA 485-A:17 A permit is required for any terrain alteration in or on border of surface waters or which will alter natural runoff. RSA 482-A:3 Permit from wetlands board required for excavation, dredge, fill or construction in or on any banks, flat, marsh or swamp in and adjacent to any waters of the state. RSA 483:9 No channel alteration activities shall be allowed in rivers designated as "natural".	Zoning 147.14 D.1.f Fill allowed in floodplain by special exception if beneficial purpose can be demonstrated. Zoning 147.14 E.10 No excavation in the Floodplain Conservation District. Subdivision Reg 131.40 C Proposals to alter or relocate watercourses require notification of N.H. Office of State Planning and Wetlands Board as well as copies to adjacent communities.	RCDO-G2 Soil disturbance in excess of 5000 sq. ft. requires a NH Alteration of Terrain permit.	
IA 5. Borrow pits, sand & gravel operations, removal of material from the corridor		RSA 155-E No excavations within 75 feet of any navigable river or within 25 feet of any other stream which normally flows throughout the year.	Zoning 147.14 D Limited agricultural extraction for non-commercial use is allowed in flood plain conservation district by special exception.	RCDO-E2 Restrictions on excavations in Riverbank Buffer Zone.	Heavily disturbed areas such as Borrow pits will be restored and restablized.
IB. Septic systems		RSA 485A:29 Permit is required before system construction, inspection required before system covered or used. Env-Ws 1000: Individual sewage disposal system design rules. Env-Ws 700: Sewerage and waste treatment system design standards.	Zoning 147.14 E.1 No new septic systems in floodplain. Zoning 147.14 D.2 b Replacement systems must be designed to minimize infiltration of floodwaters.		Leach fields will employ the best available technology to protect ground water quality.
IB 1. Set backs for septic systems		Env-Ws1008.03 Sewage disposal systems shall be at least 75 feet from surface water. Locate septic system no closer than 125 feet from wetlands or water course.		RCDO-E2 75' to 125' setback depending on soil.	
IB 2. Septage disposal		Env-Ws 800: Regulations for removal transportation, and disposal of septage and sludge.			

TOPIC	FEDERAL	STATE	CONWAY	ALBANY	WMNF
I C. Pollution from agricultural, residential, municipal and industrial sources		RSA 485-A: Water pollution and waste disposal regulations.			
I C 1. Pesticides and fertilizers		RSA 430: All pesticide applications must comply with rules adopted by Pesticides Control Board, NH Dept. of Agriculture.		RCDO-E3 Only lime and wood ash allowed on Riverbank Buffer Zone.	Only EPA approved pesticides will be used according to label directions.
I C 2. Manure spreading		RSA 431:33-35 Manure and chemical fertilizer handling must be done in accordance with NH Dept. of Agriculture Best Management Practices.			
I C 3. Storage facilities for petroleum &/or hazardous materials (under and above ground)		Env-Ws 411: Rules for underground storage and handling of oil & petroleum liquids.		RCDO-E1 Only fuel tanks for individual residences allowed in Riverbank Buffer Zone.	Fuel storage facilities will employ the best available technology to protect ground water quality.
I C 4. Road salt		RSA 485-C:11 Outdoor storage of road deicing chemicals is prohibited in designated wellhead protection areas.			
I C 5. Disposal of plowed snow		RSA 485-C:11 Snow dumps are prohibited in designated wellhead protection areas.		RCDO-E4 No dumping snow from outside Riverbank Buffer Zone.	
I C 6. Runoff from roads & parking lots; use of catch basins for dumping		RSA 485-A:17 Alteration of terrain permit requirements include practices to mitigate the affects of urban runoff.			Revegetate ditches following ditch restoration.
I C 7. Landfills; solid waste disposal, recycling depots; oil-collecting tanks		Env-Wm 1901 Solid Waste Management Rules RSA 483:9 No new solid waste landfills in corridor of designated "natural" river or within 500 year flood plain of "rural" river. No expansion of existing landfills within 500 yr flood plain of designated "natural" river. Land application of solid waste to be incorporated into soil and set back at least 250 feet from high water mark of designated "natural" or "rural" river.			-All solid waste generated on, or deposited on the WMNF will be disposed of through community or area-wide solid waste disposal systems. -Landfills will employ the best available technology to protect ground water.

TOPIC	FEDERAL	STATE	CONWAY	ALBANY	WMNF
I C 8. Timber operations - slash & mill waste		RSA 485-A:151 Litter (garbage, scrap metal, old cars, trees, etc.) shall not be disposed of in, on the ice over, or on the banks of surface waters. RSA 224:446 No disposal of slash & mill waste within 50 feet of any navigable river, within 25 feet of any stream which will float a canoe at normal water level or in any stream which normally flows throughout the year.			Slash will not be left in any designated stream course.
I D. Water quantity, including water withdrawals	Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 791-) Every hydroelectric project on a navigable stream requires a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission permit.	RSA 483:9 No dams or interbasin transfers are allowed and a protected instream flow level shall be established for each river designated as "natural" or "rural." Env-Wr 700: Water uses over 20,000 gpd must be registered and report usage.			Water withdrawals projects must insure that flows in all perennial streams will be maintained at levels which will protect spawning and nursery habitat for all native fish including Atlantic Salmon.
II. Visual quality					
II A. Open space management					
II B. Riparian buffer zones			Zoning 147.14 Floodplain Conservation District	RCDO River Conservation District including 150' Riverbank Buffer Zone.	
II B 1. Setbacks for buildings and roads		RSA 482-A:26 No structure extending beyond the shoreline of public water may be used as a dwelling.	Zoning 147.14 C No structures in the Floodplain District. Zoning 147.17 C 75' from mean high water of all permanent streams.	RCDO-I 150' for primary structures 50' for accessory structures with special exception.	
II B 2. Permitted uses			Zoning 147.14 C Agricultural uses, residential accessory uses & sealed public water supplies permitted.	RCDO-D Residential, community, agricultural, forestry, recreation, etc. uses permitted.	
II B 3. Lot sizes and river frontage			Zoning 147.17.1 C 150' water frontage per dwelling unit.	RCDO-H Minimum lot size is 2 acres or greater depending on soils. Minimum river frontage of 150' per lot.	

TOPIC	FEDERAL	STATE	CONWAY	ALBANY	WMNF
II B 4. Building heights			Zoning 147.17.2 Maximum building height of 45 feet.	Zoning VII E Maximum of 2 1/2 stories, farm buildings excluded.	
II B 5. Mobile home regulations		RSA 674:32 Manufactured housing can be regulated but not completely excluded from a municipality.	Zoning 147.18 Mobile home regulations	Zoning IX Mobile homes allowed by permit from Board of Selectmen.	
II B 6. Junk yard restrictions		RSA 236:111-129 Junk yard regulations.			
II C. Location of roads and parking lots					-Roads, trails, and new recreation sites will be located to avoid impacts to lakes and streams. -Attempt to locate roads outside of riparian areas. Width of riparian areas will be at least 100 feet.
II D. Building material choices					
II E. Timber operations-cutting for views					Existing vistas will be scheduled for regular maintenance. Riparian vegetation management will be compatible with visual quality objectives.
II F. Signs			Zoning 147.19 All regulations apply.	Zoning X Maximum size of 50 sq. ft. plus 12 sq. ft. of accessory signs. Maximum height of 15 feet or 4 feet above roof.	
III. Recreation					
III A. Water sports		RSA 482-A:3 Wetlands board permit required for dock construction. RSA 483:9 No motorized watercraft on designated "Natural" river. On other designated rivers, headway speed only within 150 feet of shore.	Zoning 147.14 D Boat landings & access areas permitted in floodway by special exception.		Access to rivers is an accepted recreation use. Access may be limited to protect the riparian environment. River use will be monitored and guidelines, including limits on use, may be established to manage use on individual rivers. Applications for commercial use of river access will be considered on a case by case basis.
III B. Camping					Restricted use area regulations prohibit camping outside of developed campgrounds within one-quarter mile of the Kancamagus Highway and Bear Notch Road.
III C. Trail networking		RSA 215-A Off Highway Recreation Vehicle regulations			-Roads, trails, and developed recreation sites generally will be located to avoid unique areas sensitive to heavy use, as well as streams and lakes. -Recreation motor vehicle use will be permitted only on designated trails; off-trail cross country use is prohibited.

TOPIC	FEDERAL	STATE	CONWAY	ALBANY	WMNF
III D. Barrier-free access					Barrier free designs will be considered during planning for all new construction, reconstruction projects. All facilities within a site will be evaluated for the needs of the handicapped.
IV. Wildlife and Fisheries	<p>Dept. of Transportation Act of 1966; (49 U.S.C. 1651 - 59, Section 4 (f)) No U.S. Dept. Transportation projects are allowed on public land important for wildlife, recreation or historic properties unless there is no prudent and feasible alternative.</p> <p>Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act: (16 U.S.C. 661 -661c) Whenever a river is altered by a water resource development project, steps should be taken to conserve wildlife resources.</p>				
IV A. Wildlife					Habitat will be managed throughout the forest to maintain viable populations of all existing native and non-native fish and wildlife. Introduction of non-native wildlife species will be considered on a case by case basis, and carried out only if the State of NH agrees.
IV B. Fisheries					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Fish passage in streams will not be blocked.</li> <li>-Streams which are identified as Atlantic Salmon habitat will be managed to provide diverse habitat for all species.</li> <li>-Habitat restoration and enhancement projects will be planned where existing Atlantic Salmon spawning, rearing, and overwinter habitat is below its productive potential.</li> <li>-Habitat restoration and enhancement projects will only be considered where channels are stable. Emphasis will be on use of native materials, and structural restoration and enhancement techniques will meet visual quality objectives. Disturbances will be kept to a minimum so as to maintain federal and state water quality standards. Work within flood plains will be accomplished in compliance with NEPA and Clean Water Act, and applicable state permits (RSA 483-A).</li> <li>-Quality of fish habitat which is capable of supporting trout populations will be maintained.</li> <li>-Trout stocking will be done in cooperation with NH Fish and Game to produce a sustained fishery resource in accessible areas. Stocking will be directed towards producing recreational opportunities in areas with high use ratio and when natural production cannot sustain the fishery.</li> </ul>

TOPIC	FEDERAL	STATE	CONWAY	ALBANY	WMNF
V. Unique natural communities; threatened and endangered species	Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531-43)	RSA 212:A Endangered Species Conservation Act RSA 217-A NH Native Plant Protection Act Res - N 100-300 Administrative rules governing plant protection.			-Protect and/or enhance habitat of T-E and sensitive species. -Management activities will be conducted in a manner that will avoid either disturbance conflicts, or habitat deterioration, or loss of habitat for T-E species. New recreation facilities will generally avoid sensitive habitat. Roads, trails, and facilities can be temporarily closed to avoid disturbing T-E and sensitive species during breeding or young rearing seasons or at other times if the need is critical to the survival of this species.
VI. Historical & archaeological features					
VI A. Historical Sites	National Register of Historic Places	RSA 227-C Governs identification and protection of state historic resources and properties.			-Cultural resources surveys will be conducted by trained personnel prior to all earth disturbing activities. Activities will be designed to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects. -All cultural resource sites will be protected until they have been evaluated for potential inclusion in the national register of historic places. -National register sites and non-eligible sites chosen for enhancement and interpretation will be afforded protection as necessary.
VI B. Archaeological sites - Indian artifacts					-Archaeological testing will be permitted by qualified archaeologists. -Artifacts will be cataloged and made available for research and interpretation to qualified professionals.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

**OVERALL GOAL:** To protect and enhance the natural resources of the Swift River and its corridor, and to manage the activities within the corridor so that the resources can be utilized and enjoyed but not degraded.

**GOAL 1.** *To protect and maintain the existing high water quality in the Swift River.*

**OBJECTIVE A.** For activities in the Swift River basin which involve soil disturbance, encourage practices which minimize erosion and sedimentation in the river.

Recommendation 1: Timber harvesting practices which minimize erosion and sedimentation should be encouraged.

Recommendation 2: Construction practices for roads, bridges and buildings which minimize soil disturbance and control erosion and sedimentation should be encouraged.

Recommendation 3: Land within 50 feet of the high water mark of the river should not be tilled.

Recommendation 4: Enforcement of existing state and local regulations concerning dredge and fill projects, borrow pits, and sand and gravel operations should be supported.

**OBJECTIVE B.** To prevent pollution from septic systems.

Recommendation 1: Enforcement of existing state and local regulations concerning the setbacks for septic systems from the river should be supported.

Recommendation 2: Enforcement of regulations of the US Environmental Protection Agency and NH Department of Environmental Services concerning the disposal of sewage sludge and septage within the river corridor should be supported.

Recommendation 3: To reduce the possibility of irresponsible dumping of wastewater from recreational vehicle holding tanks, encouragement should be given to the US Forest Service or other interested party to establish a dump station.

**OBJECTIVE C.** To prevent pollution from agricultural, residential, municipal, commercial and industrial sources.

Recommendation 1: The use of pesticides and fertilizers within the river corridor should be in accordance with label directions and state regulations.

Recommendation 2: The storage or stockpiling of manure within the river corridor should not be permitted. Any manure spread should be tilled into the soil in a manner that minimizes the potential for erosion.

Recommendation 3: Storage facilities, under and above ground, for petroleum, hazardous materials, etc. should adhere to Ws411 and other appropriate regulations of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

Recommendation 4: Road deicing substances should not be stockpiled within the river corridor. The use of road salt on roads that drain directly into the Swift River should be minimized. The use of sand or other environmentally-safe substances should be considered as an alternative.

Recommendation 5: Snow removed from areas outside the river corridor should not be deposited within the river corridor.

Recommendation 6: Timber harvesting operations, including the disposal of slash and mill waste should be conducted in accordance with state regulations.

**OBJECTIVE D.** To maintain acceptable water quantity in the river.

Recommendation 1: Administrative rules which establish protected instream flows should be supported.

**GOAL 2.** *To protect and enhance the natural scenic appearance of the Swift River and its corridor.*

**OBJECTIVE A.** Any future development (including construction of buildings, roads, bridges, etc., and timber harvesting) in the Swift River corridor should be designed to be consistent with and not to detract from the natural scenic appearance of the river corridor.

Recommendation 1. The enforcement of the set-back and buffer zone regulations for the Albany River Conservation District and the Conway Floodplain Conservation District should be supported.

Recommendation 2. The design of developments involving multiple structures should employ concepts such as clustering to minimize the size of the area impacted by the development.

Recommendation 3. Building materials used for bridges and other structures within view of river should be in character with and not detract from the natural surroundings. (for example: use of wood in natural colors rather than bare metal, concrete or attention-getting colors)

Recommendation 4. The visual impacts of structures, roads and parking areas should be minimized using techniques such as screening with natural vegetation.

Recommendation 5. Timber harvests should be designed to minimize their visual impact on people using the river or viewing the river and its corridor from scenic vista points.

**OBJECTIVE B.** The erecting of signs within the corridor, especially those visible from the river, should be discouraged.

**OBJECTIVE C.** To maintain scenic vistas of the river valley.

Recommendation 1: A comprehensive and site specific plan for establishing and maintaining scenic vistas of the river valley should be developed utilizing input from the US Forest Service, the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, and the towns.

**GOAL 3.** *To protect and enhance opportunities for recreation, while maintaining controls to prevent overuse of the resources.*

Recommendation 1: Methods which could be used to prevent the level of recreational usage from exceeding the carrying capacity of the river corridor as measured by limits of acceptable change should be determined and implemented when necessary. (Methods which could be considered include: restricting parking to a set number of vehicles, restricting entrance to the area to a set number of people, restricting parking to large lots at the entrance to the area and provide shuttle bus service.)

Recommendation 2: Access and opportunities for swimming, fishing, and boating should be maintained.

Recommendation 3: Existing camping opportunities should be maintained and enhanced.

Recommendation 4: Enforcement activities to restrict overnight camping to designated areas should be supported.

Recommendation 5: A diverse year-round trail system for hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling should be maintained and expanded where appropriate.

Recommendation 6: Barrier-free access for the handicapped to recreation opportunities within the river corridor should be established and maintained.

**GOAL 4.** *To protect, maintain, and enhance a diversity of riparian and aquatic habitats within the river corridor.*

OBJECTIVE A. To protect, maintain, and enhance a diversity of river corridor ecosystems to sustain viable populations of existing wildlife.

Recommendation 1: Wildlife habitat improvement projects that promote wildlife diversity should be encouraged.

Recommendation 2: Proposed projects within the river corridor should be reviewed to ensure that there is minimal impact on critical wildlife habitat for federal or state listed threatened, endangered, or sensitive flora or fauna.

OBJECTIVE B. To protect, maintain, and enhance aquatic habitat for Atlantic salmon and other fish species.

Recommendation 1: Fish passage in the Swift River should not be blocked.

Recommendation 2: Habitat enhancement projects should not have detrimental effects on the water quality, the stability of the river banks or the natural appearance of the river.

Recommendation 3: Any aquatic or riparian projects, such as habitat enhancement projects, should be consistent with maintaining quality fish habitat capable of supporting trout populations as stocked by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department for recreational purposes.

**OBJECTIVE C.** Protect unique, fragile or ecologically important areas, such as wetlands, steep slopes or rare and endangered species habitats.

Recommendation 1. Activities within the Swift River corridor should not interfere with the functioning of the floodplain or wetlands. All applicable permits should be obtained.

Recommendation 2. Activities located on steep slopes (40% slope or greater) or on fragile soils (highly erosive, easily compacted or unstable soils) should be designed to minimize erosion, sedimentation, soil destabilization, and lack of vegetative regrowth.

Recommendation 3. No activities in the Swift River corridor should cause disturbance, habitat deterioration, or loss of habitat for federal or state listed threatened, endangered, or sensitive floral or faunal species.

**GOAL 5.** *To protect, enhance, and interpret historical, cultural and archaeological resources.*

**OBJECTIVE A.** Sites of known cultural significance should be protected.

Recommendation 1: If a site of known significance is not listed on the National Register, support should be given for application for its inclusion.

Recommendation 2: Efforts to identify and document additional significant sites should be supported.

**GOAL 6.** *Increase the public awareness of the Swift River as a valuable asset to the region and the local communities.*

Recommendation 1: Encourage the Forest Service to include information on the valuable characteristics of the Swift River and potential threats to the quality of the river in Forest Service educational brochures and informational displays.

Recommendation 2: Encourage the incorporation of curriculum designed to illustrate the value of the natural resources of the Swift River and to teach conservation and responsible use of river resources into environmental education and other school programs.

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