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For Immediate Release:

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NH Estuaries Project Helps Communities Plan for a Better Environmental Future

COASTAL WATERSHED– The New Hampshire Estuaries Project (NHEP) awarded nearly \$24,000 to organizations who applied to its annual Local Grants Program, that is designed to fund projects that significantly protect and enhance the state's estuaries.

The Town of Northwood was awarded \$10,000 to research appropriate storm water management treatment technologies and to create a municipal shoreland buffer ordinance. Consultants working with the town will rely heavily on evaluations conducted by UNH Stormwater Center to help determine appropriate stormwater management approaches in this small community located in the far reaches of New Hampshire's Coastal Watershed. Establishing shoreland buffer ordinances will protect valuable areas on private land near surface waters that are needed to primarily filter rainwater before it enters streams.

The Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission will assist the Town of Raymond to develop shoreland protection and riparian buffer regulations for the town's headwater and lower order streams. The \$5,000 grant from the NHEP will fund a public outreach program and the development of buffer regulations that will protect all natural areas in the town adjacent to surface waters.

Finally, Bear-Paw Regional Greenways will be assisted by nearly \$9,000 of NHEP funding to further their Isinglass River Conservation Corridor Project. The non-profit land trust will use the money to pay for the administrative costs to secure 288 acres of high conservation-value forestland along the Isinglass River in the Town of Strafford.

The New Hampshire Estuaries Project is a program based at the University of New Hampshire. The collaborative program is primarily funded by a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency and involves governmental agencies, university researchers, non-profit organizations, businesses, and the public. The NHEP Management Plan, project reports, and other resources are available at www.nhep.unh.edu.
