



Five Rivers  
Conservation  
Trust

# Five Rivers Review

AUGUST 2006

## Dimond Hill Farm Protected

Scenic Concord Landscape Will Remain a Working Farm  
Thanks to Special Conservation Agreements



One of the premier farm landscapes in New Hampshire, Dimond Hill Farm, a 112-acre tract of fields, forests, greenhouses, and historic farm buildings located on Hopkinton Road in Concord, has now been protected from development. Conservation and historic easement documents were recently signed under special agreements with several nonprofit organizations.



Under the agreements, Five Rivers Conservation Trust was deeded conservation easements for both the farm and forest portions of the property. These are protective legal instruments ensuring that Dimond Hill's landscape will forever remain in its present undeveloped state. The signed agreements will also ensure that Dimond Hill will continue to operate as a working farm.

Conserving land for future generations is something that invariably requires working closely with a number of people. In this instance, a conservation-minded landowner who loves her (seventh generation) family farmland and who very much wanted to keep the landscape as an actively-run farm played a key role in this protection project's successful outcome. The Trust for Public Land (TPL), a nationally known conservation group, served as the project coordinator. Also, Five Rivers trustees David Howe, Mark Zankel, and Chris Kane were each very instrumental in the project's successful outcome.

*Continued on next page*



Thanks in no small way to the vision and long-term conservation goals of the current farmer, Jane Presby, this special landscape will continue to remain both as a scenic resource for the people of central New Hampshire and as a viable agricultural operation. The newly signed farm conservation easement

also provides for public recreation through a special trail network that allows people to enjoy the scenic landscape through walking, horseback riding, snowmobiling, and cross country skiing.

A working farm since the late 1700s, Dimond Hill Farm sits atop a sloping hillside that affords panoramic views across the Merrimack River Valley and to distant uplands. Its key location on the outskirts of Concord serves as a remarkable visual landmark for travelers entering and leaving the city along Hopkinton Road (Route 202). The farm also serves as a treasure for those who love the fresh, locally-grown produce and other agricultural products sold at Dimond Hill's popular barn farmstand – tomatoes, corn, and other vegetables, along with specialty items grown on-site.

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## Dimond Hill Farm Protected – Continued



Other organizations playing critical roles included Equity Trust, the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance (NHPA), and the USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Equity Trust is a nonprofit organization focused on agricultural protection. It will now own the farm while the former owner continues to conduct the farm's day-to-day operations. NHPA is a statewide historic preservation organization that now holds an historic easement on the farm buildings, ensuring that the Dimond Hill Farm complex retains its historic character. NRCS is a federal agency that, through its New Hampshire office, provided important project grant funds under its Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program.

As the farmland's active easement holder, Five Rivers will regularly conduct stewardship monitoring to ensure that the property's conservation restrictions are met. Further, under a separate easement agreement in this unique, multi-faceted project, Five Rivers also holds the conservation easement for the property's forested portion, a 34-acre section located along Currier Road. Akin to the farm easement, this Dimond Hill forest easement will ensure that the property's woodlot is managed to conserve productive forest land and provide for low-impact public recreation.

Funding for this major \$1.2 million dollar conservation project was secured through a variety of ways. In addition to the NRCS grant, amounting to approximately \$300,000, the City of Concord provided about \$600,000, allocated from both the city's conservation fund and its open space bond fund. Also, a large amount of funds, close to \$300,000, was raised through donations from private citizens. The Trust for Public Land did a wonderful job of coordinating this critical effort, a major fundraising drive that culminated this past winter.

In short, a great number of people and groups helped out with their generosity and with their time and energy. It is obvious that Dimond Hill Farm is certainly held in special regard across the region, and people were simply not willing to miss this opportunity to protect it for future generations.

Agricultural lands are becoming increasingly rare, and knowing that this scenic, highly-productive farmland will never go the way that so many other once-active farms have gone is very satisfying. Five Rivers' gratitude goes out to all those whose commitment to conservation led to protecting this remarkable Concord landmark.

## An Annual Meeting to Remember

**Hold an annual meeting in a barn!?** Pretty unusual! But that's just what Five Rivers Conservation Trust did this May. And what fun it was! Of course this was no ordinary barn. This was the historic barn at Concord's Dimond Hill Farm. With its great vistas, the farm is an almost magical place, and spending awhile in its magnificent barn proved a delight to all who attended. Following the meeting, everyone was treated to a fascinating tour of this wonderful farm.



## Five Rivers Conservation Trust

*Serving the towns of...*

Boscawen, Bow, Canterbury, Chichester, Concord, Dunbarton, Henniker, Hopkinton, Loudon, Northfield, Pembroke, Salisbury, Warner, and Webster.

### **Board of Trustees**

David Howe, *Chair*  
Mark Zankel, *Vice Chair*  
William Chapin, *Treasurer*  
Sarah Denoncourt, *Secretary*

Kristin Claire  
Lee Carbonneau  
Peter Helm  
Tom Irwin  
Chris Kane  
Steve Lee  
Jared Nylund  
Liza Poinier  
Tabitha Riley  
Lori Sommer

## NEW TRUSTEE PROFILE



### Liza Poinier

New Board member Liza Poinier learned about Five Rivers last summer at the Concord Farmers' Market, where Board Chair David Howe was manning a card table with a pop-up display and a friendly

smile. (See, outreach works!) Liza spends her weekdays in the Public Affairs division at the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, working on media relations and other marketing and communications projects such as the website, various publications including NH Wildlife Journal magazine, and Wildlife Action Plan outreach. A Concord resident for 5 years, Liza and her husband Bruce Clendenning (who works for Appalachian Mountain Club) are fixing up an old house in Concord's South End and trying, sometimes in vain, to train Wiley the mutt puppy. Liza is an enthusiastic but definitely amateur hiker, paddler, gardener, and explorer, and welcomes the opportunity to learn more about and help in conserving the best of the Five Rivers region!

## Businesses Join Five Rivers in Helping Protect Landscape

Five Rivers has been receiving the support of an increasing number of companies who recognize that New Hampshire's special landscape plays an essential role in the quality of our lives. We welcome each of the following as corporate members, and we thank them for sharing Five Rivers' vision of working toward land protection throughout central New Hampshire's communities.

Aries Engineering, Inc.  
BAG Land Consultants  
Albert Binder, DMD, PA  
Blue Moon Environmental, Inc.  
Bradley Associates  
Delta Dental  
Dwight Keeler & Co., LLC  
Mason & Rich, PA  
Merrimack County Savings Bank  
Metzger/McGuire  
Natural Resource Consulting Services  
Sanborn, Head & Associates, Inc.

## Director's Corner

Every so often in the life of an organization, events seem to come together in a way that takes things to a higher level. That's just what occurred for Five Rivers Conservation Trust early this summer.

In the space of just a few weeks in June, Five Rivers secured conservation easements on three separate properties – Dimond Hill Farm in Concord and both the Myron and Carson properties in Hopkinton. All of these landscapes are now permanently protected for future generations! Each is a remarkable piece of central New Hampshire landscape, and each represents a dedicated commitment to conservation by landowners and many others.

Moreover, the combined land area of these three properties, 258 acres, now brings Five Rivers' total protected landscapes to just over 1,000 acres! This is no small milestone. And, as the charts on the back page show, with these new additions, over twenty properties across our heartland region of New Hampshire have now been set aside in perpetuity...with the promise of more to come in the near future. These are indeed exciting times for those of us who are members of this vibrant...and obviously growing... organization.

*These accomplishments did not of course just happen. They took a lot of hard work by a whole lot of people. Over the years, many Five Rivers trustees, volunteers, and landowners with both vision and perseverance are due the credit for putting together this portfolio of protected properties. And down the road still others will no doubt step up to the plate and commit their time and talents to implementing Five Rivers' open space protection mission. People care. Five Rivers' members care. And when opportunities arise, as was the case with the three latest protected properties, this organization was not content to let them pass by. Nor will our organization forget its special responsibilities for conducting regular, long-term monitoring to ensure stewardship consistent with these properties' conservation easements. That's our role.*

*But in the meantime, those of us who are members of Five Rivers Conservation Trust can take a moment to savor the satisfaction that comes from these recent accomplishments..... before we once again roll up our sleeves and pursue the protection of other farms, other forests, and other places of special beauty and natural richness.*



**Chuck Knox** – Executive Director

# Five Rivers Conservation Trust

## Survey of Land Protection Priorities

Five Rivers Conservation Trust is very active in carrying out its mission “to preserve and protect important open space lands in Central New Hampshire for present and future generations.” This activity has been expanding rapidly in recent years, with many land conservation proposals increasingly being brought to our attention.

In order to fulfill our mission most effectively, several years ago Five Rivers developed a Land Protection Policy that sets forth certain criteria that provide guidance in deciding which types of lands are most worthy of our attention. The policy states that Five Rivers will favor land protection projects that meet one or more of the natural resources criteria listed below.

It would be helpful in Five Rivers’ decision-making process to learn which of these listed criteria our members value the most. Therefore, please take a moment to complete the following survey.

*Thank you.*



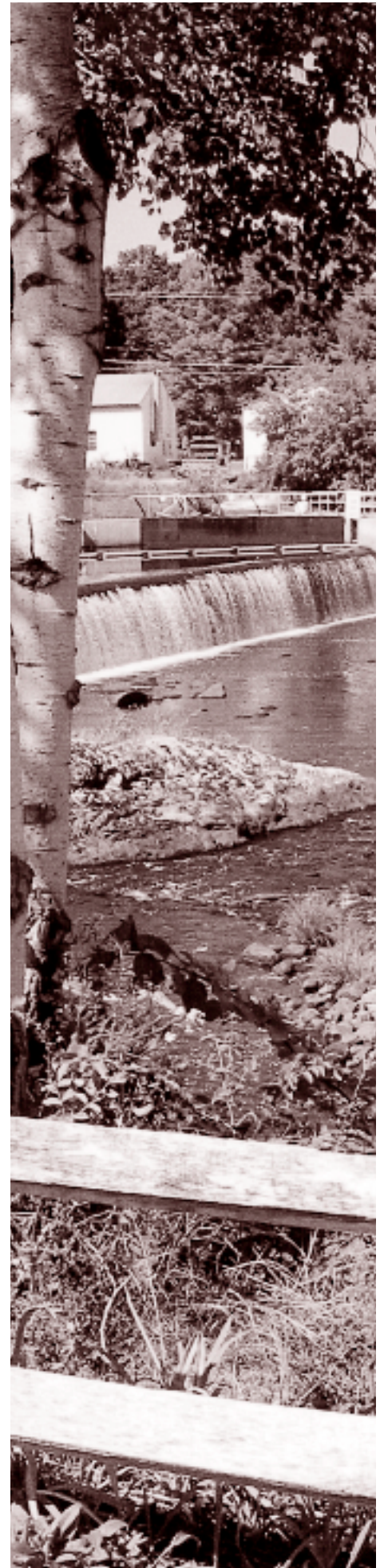
## Five Rivers Land Protection Priorities Survey

Summer 2006

Please place a check mark next to the three land protection criteria that you regard as warranting the most attention by Five Rivers in its land preservation efforts. In other words, which three types of land should Five Rivers consider its highest protection priorities. Please mail your completed survey to:  
Five Rivers Conservation Trust – 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301.

### Five Rivers’ protected properties should:

- Enhance other existing protected land by expansion or linkage.
- Have important frontage on a major water body.
- Contain significant water resources including wetlands and aquifers.
- Contain productive forest or farm land.
- Support habitat for rare, threatened, or endangered animal or plant species, contain an exemplary natural community, or provide significant wildlife habitat.
- Contain a portion of a major trail corridor, or have significant public recreation opportunities.
- Provide a scenic view from a public road, trail or waterbody.
- Contain important cultural, historical, or archaeological resources.



## Membership & Support

*Your membership and support is what makes Five Rivers Conservation Trust a successful and vibrant organization. Thank you to the following new and renewing members.*

Jeff Andrews  
Aries Engineering, Inc.  
BAG Land Consultants  
Anna Bartlett  
Lisa Bauer  
Kathleen Ann Belko  
Albert Binder, DMD, PA  
Blue Moon Environmental, Inc.  
Steve and Susan Booth  
Bradley Associates  
Frederick and Rebecca Bricetti  
Kathy and Ron Brockett  
Frank and Lorraine Brown  
Donald Brueggemann and  
Marjorie Waters  
Tom and Emilie Burack  
Colin and Paula Cabot  
Lee and Scott Carbonneau  
Dennis Card and Maureen McCarty  
Christopher and Mary Halpin Carter  
David Cawley  
Chichester Conservation Commission  
Frederick and Kerry Chormann  
Estate of Stella Ciborowski  
Jonathan and Kristin Claire  
Debra Clark  
Christopher Closs and Pam McDonald  
Richard Cook  
Peter and Sarah Crow  
Edward Damon  
Scott and Cathy Dias  
Maria Del Rio  
George and Janet DeVito  
Julie Dewdney  
Charles and Judy Dibble  
Mary Donovan  
The Eitrem Family  
Nathan Faulkner and Julia Burdick  
Steven Camarino and Marsha Rich  
Frederick and Patrice Ficken  
Peter and Susan Gagnon  
Frederick Graf  
Nada and Nuda Haddad  
Stan Hallinan  
Christian Hallowell and Cynthia Morrison  
Christine Hamm  
Judith Hampe  
Mary Louise Hancock  
John and Fernanda Harrington  
Kelly Haza  
Charles and Sara Head

Steven and Elizabeth Hengen  
Drew and Sarah Hoffman  
Mark and Jennifer Hopkins  
John and Linda Hopper  
Julie Iffland  
Harold and Betsy Janeway  
William Judd  
Dwight Keeler & Co., LLC  
Cleve Kapala and Lucia Kittredge  
Ron Klemarczyk  
Edward and Penelope Kyle  
Shawn Lafrance  
Laura Magzis  
Mason & Rich, PA  
Mark and Leigh Maynard  
Mike and Gianine McCluskey  
Merrimack County Savings Bank  
Jed and Katie Merrow  
Mike and Amy Metcalf  
Metzger/McGuire  
Sylvia Miskoe  
Howard Moffett  
Christopher and Suzanne Morgan  
Natural Resource Consulting Services  
Charles and Mabel Niebling  
Linda Nichols  
Jared and Jessica Nylund  
Chris Ojendyk and Terry Cronin  
Derek and Patricia Ruth Owen  
James Owers and Leslie Ludtke  
Melinda Payson  
Mary Byrd Platt  
Joe and Rita Quinn  
Robert Quinn  
The Rexford Family  
Marshall and Rachel Rowe  
Tom and Nancy Roy  
Sanborn, Head & Associates, Inc.  
Arpiar Saunders  
Stella Scheckter  
Brad and Anne Smith  
Geoffrey Smith  
Susanne Smith Meyer  
Charles Spalding and Natalie Duval  
Dan and Molly Sperduto  
Ken and Ilene Stern  
Hilary Thompson  
Marcia Thunberg  
Michele Tremblay  
Donald Ware  
Margaret Watkins  
Robert and Binney Wells  
Richard and Judith Wennerberg  
Robert Wilson  
Michael Wimsatt and Chiara Dolcino  
Steven Winnet and Laura Knoy  
Doug and Pamela Woodward  
Gary and Susie York

## Opportunities for Volunteers

FIVE RIVERS CONSERVATION TRUST WOULD LOVE TO RECEIVE HELP FROM VOLUNTEERS.

There are opportunities for involvement with the Land Protection Committee, the Communications and Outreach Committee, and with the Membership and Development Committee.

Some of the activities we can offer to volunteers include:

- Plan and coordinate an event
- Monitor or document protected properties
- Photograph easement properties for publicity
- Serve as a committee member
- Write for the newsletter
- Assist with fundraising
- Assemble member mailings
- Contribute to the website

If you are interested in learning more about these and other volunteer opportunities, please contact the office at 603-225-7225 or by email to [director@5rct.org](mailto:director@5rct.org)

## NEWS UPDATE

Design and development of Five Rivers' new website is in progress, and we look forward to launching it next month.

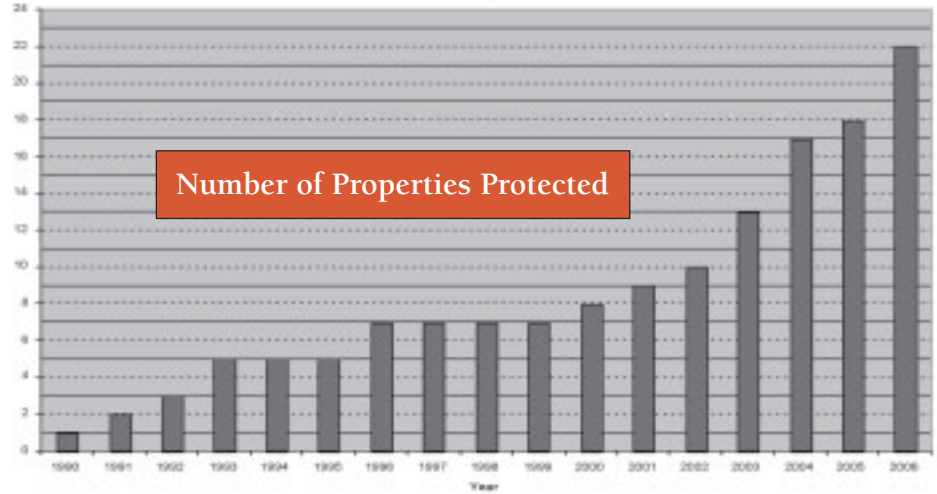
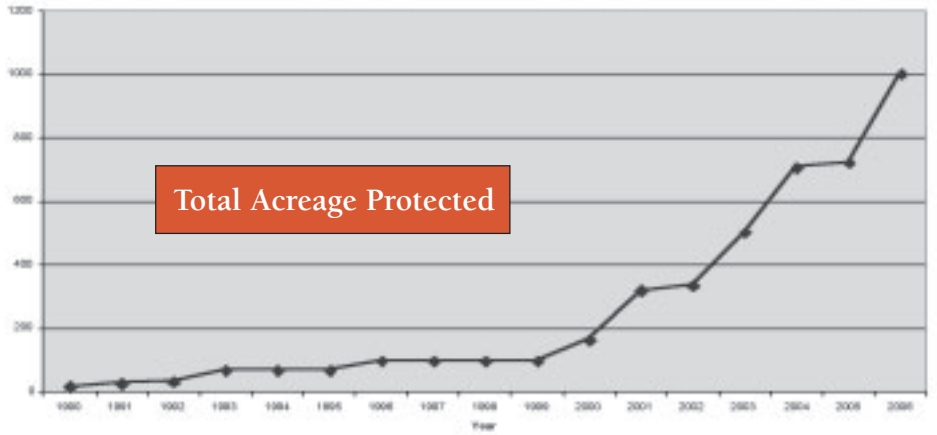


# OVER 1,000 ACRES NOW PROTECTED

We are excited to report that Five Rivers Conservation Trust now protects over 1,000 acres of special New Hampshire land on 22 properties.

Thank you for your support! Together we are making a noticeable difference and look forward to expanding our work in the months and years ahead.

Become part of this organization and its success, join us as a member and volunteer today.



Please mail to: Five Rivers Conservation Trust  
54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301  
If you have questions, please contact us at  
603-225-7225 or by email to [director@5rct.org](mailto:director@5rct.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

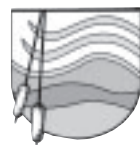
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

- Student \$15
  - Protector \$250
  - Individual \$25
  - Benefactor \$500
  - Family \$50
  - Steward \$1,000
  - Friend \$100
- Your membership in Five Rivers Conservation Trust will help us respond to the increasing number of worthwhile land protection projects in the region. Join us on our quest to preserve more of the places that make our area such a great place to live.

**Join Us!**



**Five Rivers  
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