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Land and Community Heritage Investment Program Awards over \$3 Million in Grants
LCHIP Grant Round 8 yields astonishing leverage ratio!

CONCORD, NH – The Board of Directors of the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) voted this week to award \$3.1 million in matching grants to 33 projects in 28 New Hampshire communities. The \$3.1 million in funding is leveraging over \$32 million in other sources; meaning that for every \$1 of public funding awarded, over \$11 in other funds are being spent.

LCHIP's funding to these 33 projects will help conserve over 37,000 acres and work towards the protection of 19 historic structures and sites. The round will also fund LCHIP's first ever block grant program, enabling the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance to make 10-15 small matching grants for planning studies of historic structures throughout the state.

Among the many projects receiving funding this year are Bohanan Farm, a working Dairy farm in Hopkinton, the NH Farm Museum in Milton, a working town forest in Lyman, the Langdon Meeting House, and a multi-phase land conservation project in Errol and surrounding towns protecting over 30,000 acres.

“LCHIP is pleased to be able to award these greatly needed funds to so many deserving communities in these economic times,” says Rusty McLear, the LCHIP board chair. “The LCHIP Board worked hard to stretch the \$3.1 million to impact as many communities as possible in their decision making.”

Community groups and non-profit organizations submitted 50 project proposals to the LCHIP Board in October of 2009 for consideration in funding nearly \$6 million in requests. Over the past several months, the LCHIP board, staff and consultants have worked tirelessly to review each proposal for imminence of threat, community support, history and plans for stewardship of the project, how funds will be secured, and the cultural, historic, or natural resource value to the people of the state.

This is the first grant round LCHIP has held using the newly created dedicated funding source for these important projects around the state. LCHIP's ability to make these matching grants comes from a small \$25 fee charged on four documents recorded at the county registrars' offices: deeds, mortgages, mortgage discharges, and plans. This fee is paid to the Registry of Deeds at the time the documents are recorded just like other recording fees. These small fees build up over time to allow LCHIP to continue the work of protecting New Hampshire's most valuable natural, cultural, and historic resources.

The Land and Community Heritage Investment Program is an independent state authority that provides matching grants to New Hampshire communities and non-profits in an effort to protect and preserve the state's most important natural, cultural, and historic resources. Its mission is to ensure the perpetual contribution of these resources to the state's economy, its environment, and the quality of the life in New Hampshire. LCHIP funds have helped 116 New Hampshire communities conserve nearly 260,000 acres and 99 historic structures and sites to date. For more information about LCHIP call 603.224.4113 or visit www.lchip.org.

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