

**Public Notice**

**August 20, 2007**

## **Ossipee Lake Natural Area Beach Restrictions**

The Department of Resources and Economic Development announces that a portion of the Ossipee Lake Natural Area will be closed to public access to allow for the protection and restoration of rare and endangered plants and natural communities. The closure will begin on August 24, 2007 and will remain in effect while a management plan for the Natural Area is developed over the winter and prior to the summer of 2008. State personnel will be enforcing this restriction.

The portion of the Natural Area that will be closed to public access and landing of watercraft will extend along the water between a large white pine tree to the northeast, and the state property boundary beyond Pine River to the southwest. Approximately 1,500 feet of the beach along Ossipee Lake will remain open, starting 200 feet from the northeast property boundary adjacent to Long Sands, and extending southwest to the large white pine. Passive recreation will be permitted in this area in accordance with Department rules. The portion of the Natural Area immediately behind both the open and closed beaches is also closed to public recreation. This area begins at the top of the slope of the beach where vegetation is present. The open and closed areas of the Natural Area will be posted.

The Department will be consulting with members of the local community, lake users, conservation organizations, and others who are interested in the management of the Natural Area in development of the management plan. The plan will address the need for protection and restoration of the endangered rare plants and globally rare natural communities, determine appropriate public access and use of the area, address the protection of archeological resources, recommend educational programs, and identify the resources necessary to carry out the management plan.

The Ossipee Lake Natural Area is located on the south end of Ossipee Lake. The property is managed by the Department of Resources and Economic Development. The portion of the Natural Area adjacent to the lake hosts a regionally rare sandy pond shore system with two globally rare natural communities (twig rush sandy turf pond shore and *Hudsonia* inland beach strand). The system provides critical habitat for three state Endangered plants (grassleaf goldenrod, slender bog clubmoss, and mermaidweed) as well as one state Threatened plant (hairy *hudsonia*). The beach along the Natural Area is also a popular recreational site, being the longest remaining undeveloped stretch of shoreline on Lake Ossipee.

A public session was held in Ossipee on May 5, 2007 to provide information on the unique nature of and challenges to management of the property and to receive public comment. The department's presentation, a summary of public comment and additional information are on the Division of Forests and Lands website at [nhdf.org](http://nhdf.org). Public comment can continue to be sent to [Ossipee@dred.state.nh.us](mailto:Ossipee@dred.state.nh.us).