January 2022 - Cold River and NHDES Instream Flow Project

The Alstead Conservation Commission works with the New Hampshire DES to protect our watersheds. The NHDES Instream Flow Program was established in 1990. Wayne Ives provided links (offered below) to two of their recent publications and a video:

- NHDES Establishment Declaration for this program (17-page PDF, 1.3MB)
- Protected Instream Flow Study Report (167-page PDF, 37 MB) – See Executive Summary.
- YouTube video (6 minutes), NHDES Instream Flow Program: Water for People & Wildlife

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Emailed text – Friday, Feb. 11, 2022 - from Mr. Ives:

On January 25th, 2022, Robert Scott, Commissioner of the NH Department of Environmental Services, established as water quality standards the new criteria for protected instream flows for the Cold River. The protected instream flow criteria identify the stream flow pattern needed to support aquatic life, riparian species, and recreational uses on the Cold River. The Commissioner's *Establishment Declaration* summarizes the Cold River's protected instream flows. These criteria are now in effect and are available in the full report at *Protected Instream Flow Study Report – Cold River*.

The Cold River was designated in 1999 for special protections by the NH Legislature that included protected instream flows. The protected instream flow criteria are being used to develop management strategies to maintain those flows. Over the next months, the Instream Flow Program staff, water users and dam owners will be discussing plans for management strategies.

If you have questions about the Protected Instream Flow Program, NHDES has developed a short video, *Water for People & Wildlife*, describing the Instream Flow Program's goals and methods. Or contact me, Wayne Ives, Instream Flow Specialist, with your questions.