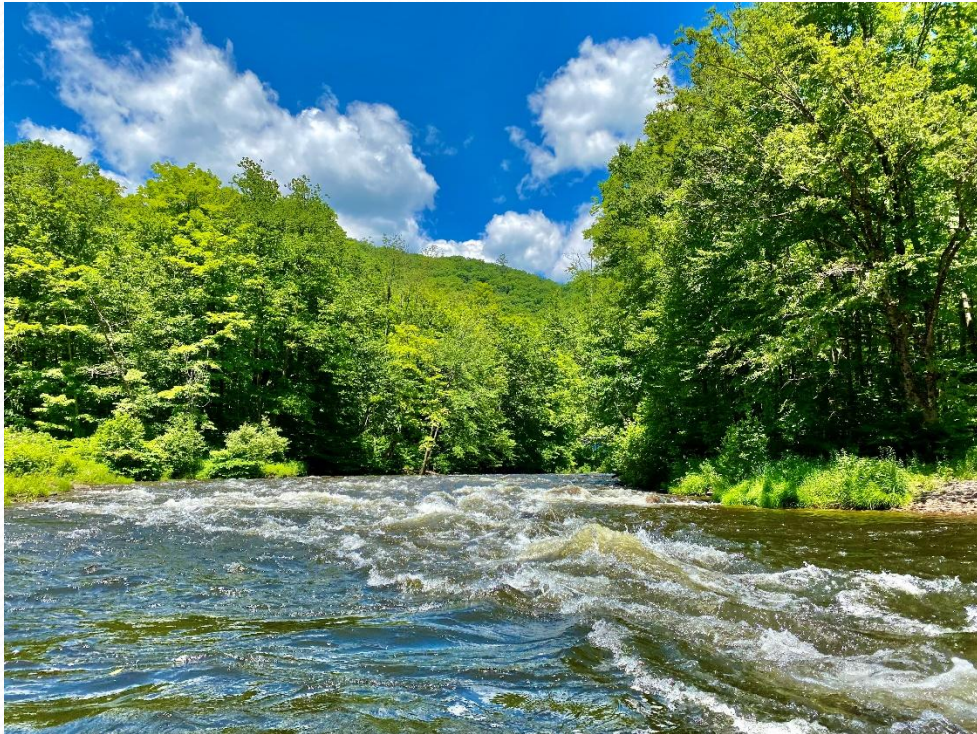
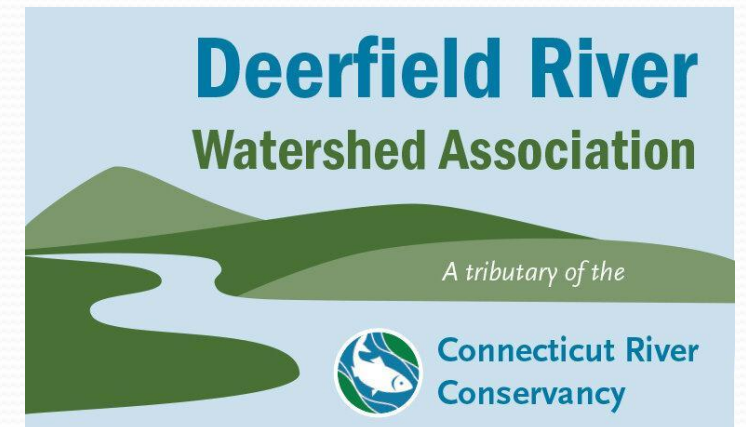


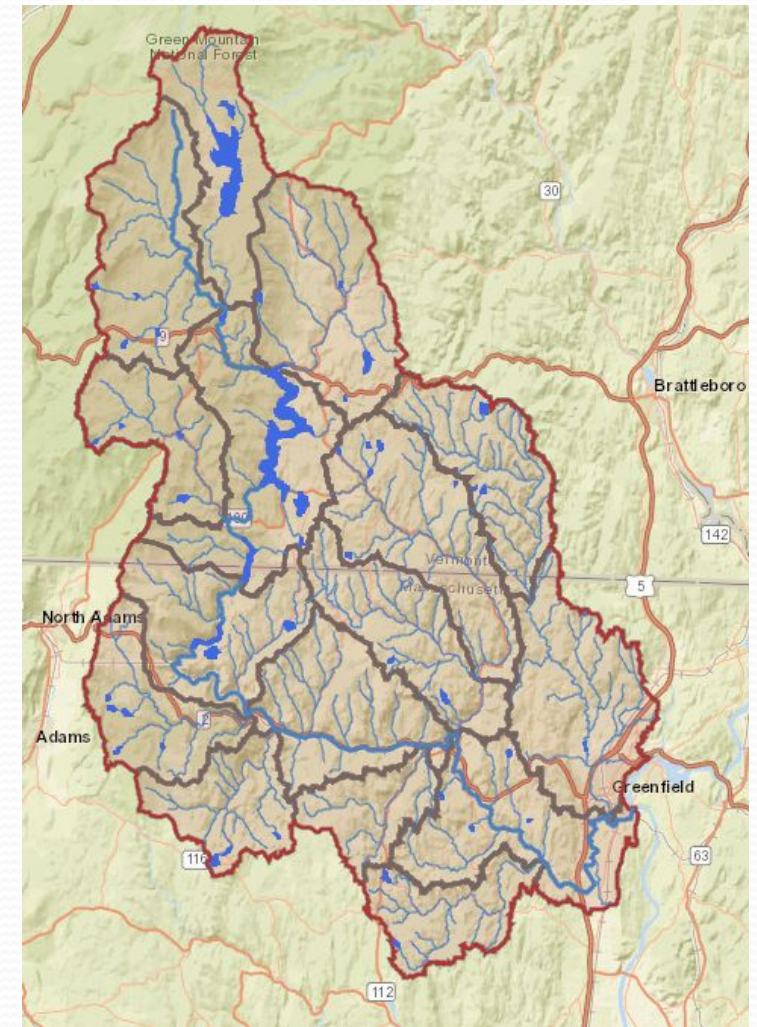
Deerfield River Wild & Scenic Initiative



Sponsored by the Deerfield River Watershed Association



The Deerfield River has exceptional qualities



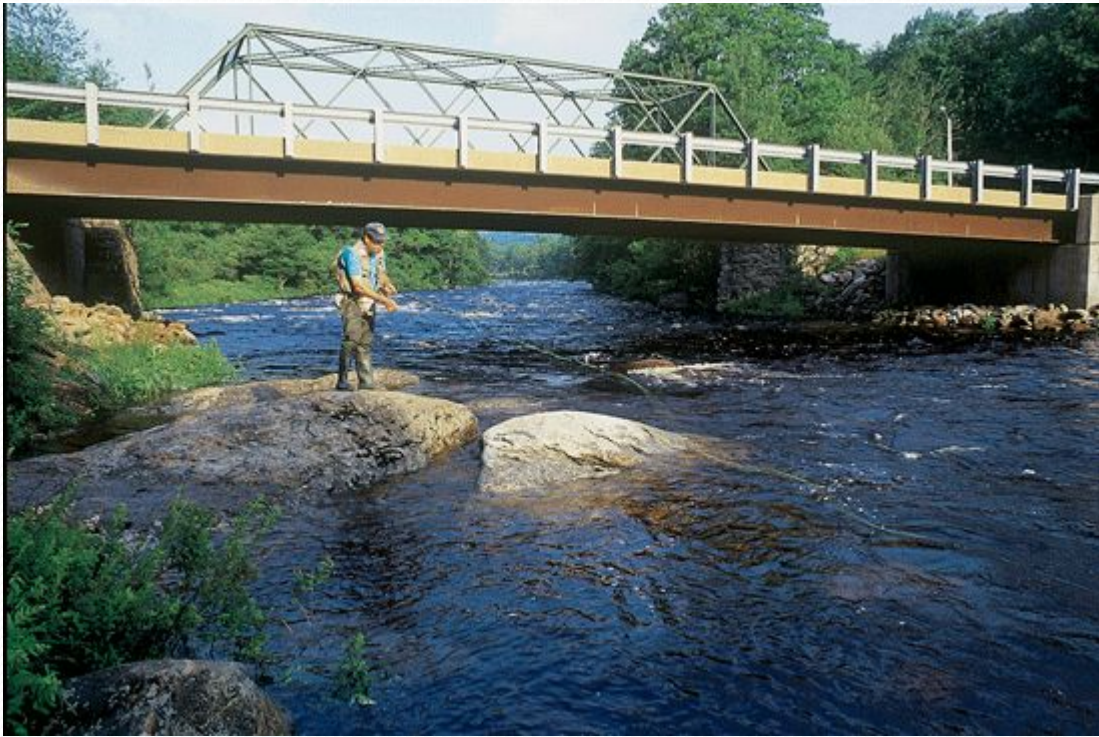
- Multiple segments of the Deerfield River were identified on the National Rivers Inventory as having “outstandingly remarkable” values, and eligible for National Wild and Scenic Rivers designation.
- Several tributaries, such as Cold River and Bog and Gulf Brooks, are wild free-flowing rivers.



With rapids from Class II-V, it offers perhaps the best whitewater boating and rafting in Massachusetts.



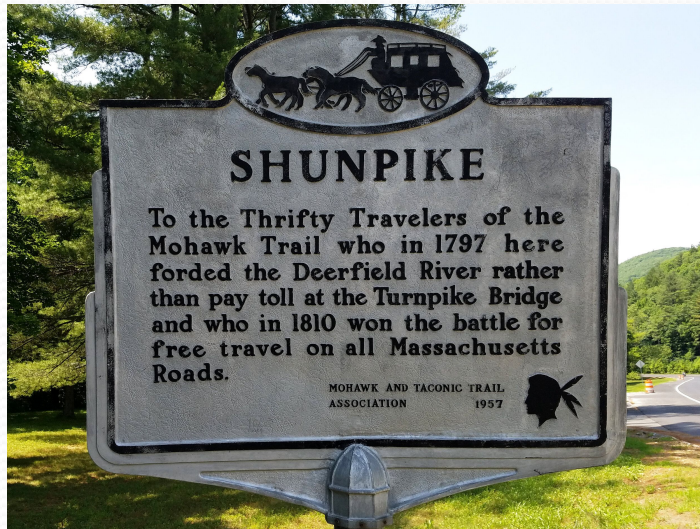
It is also an excellent trout fishery, with some of the best dry-fly fishing for wild trout in the East.



The historically significant Mohawk Trail ran along the river and was a principal Native American travel route.



- The river traverses many historic New England villages and sites.



How is a river designated as a National Wild & Scenic River?

1. Demonstrated local support.
2. Congress passes legislation for a feasibility study.
3. The National Park Service funds and conducts the study.
4. A local steering committee assists with the feasibility study.
5. Communities adopt a voluntary, locally-developed watershed stewardship plan.
6. Communities petition Congress that the river be designated as a Partnership Wild and Scenic River.
7. Congress passes Wild and Scenic River legislation.

Deerfield River Outreach Process

- DRWA began outreach in 2022
- DRWA has engaged communities, organizations, agencies and businesses
- To inform, educate and seek support for our Wild and Scenic Rivers initiative.



Support for Designation



SUMMARY OF DEERFIELD RIVER WILD AND SCENIC LETTERS OF SUPPORT RECEIVED TO DATE

- **Vermont Towns (7):**

- Dover
- Guilford
- Halifax
- Marlboro
- Stratton
- Whitingham
- Wilmington

- **Massachusetts Towns (11):**

- Ashfield
- Buckland

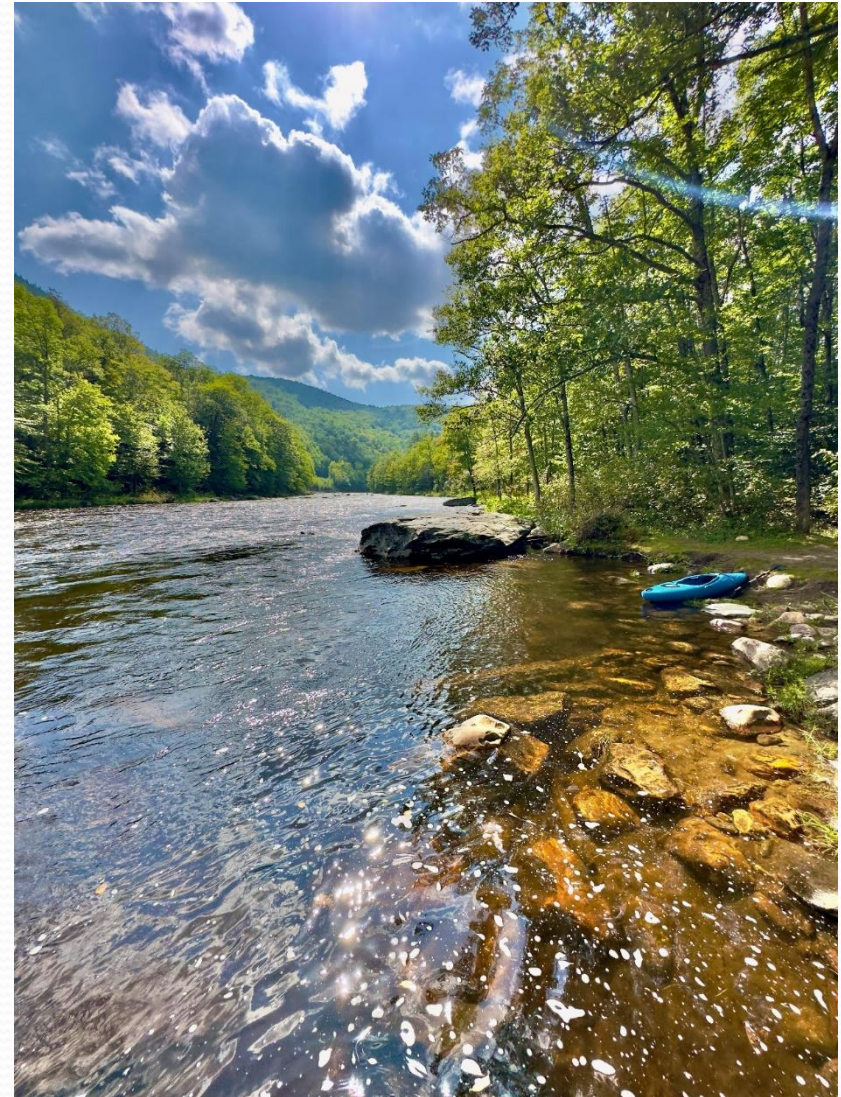
Support for Designation

Organizations and Agencies (11):

- Windham Regional Commission
- Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
- Vermont Natural Resources Council
- Green River Watershed Association
- Connecticut River Conservancy
- Trout Unlimited, Deerfield River Chapter
- Trout Unlimited, Connecticut River Valley Chapter
- Deerfield River Watershed Association
- Elnu Abenaki Tribe
- Franklin Regional Council of Governments
- Vermont Agency for Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation

Businesses:

- Crabapple Whitewater Rafting



Support for Designation

SUMMARY OF SUPPORTING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Legislators and Contacts (7):

- Congressman Jim McGovern (MA) (lead)
- Senator Edward Markey (MA) (lead)
- Congressman Richard Neal (MA)
- Representative Becca Balint (VT)
- Senator Peter Welch (VT)
- Senator Bernie Sanders (VT)
- Senator Elizabeth Warren (MA)



How will my town benefit if this designation occurs?

- Federal technical and financial resources to help enhance and protect the river.
- Economic benefit to communities as a recreational tourist destination.



What is a Partnership Wild and Scenic River?

- Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers predominantly flow through private, municipal, or state lands, with little or no Federal land ownership.
- Administered by the National Park Service in partnership with local governments and NGOs.
- Communities protect their Partnership Rivers through a collaborative approach
- There are 15 Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers in the Northeast U.S.



How can Federal Partnership Rivers resources help?

- Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers receive around \$220,000 per year.
- Funded Projects have included:
 - Canoe and boat access
 - Trail improvements
 - Informational kiosks
 - River festivals
 - Protecting and restoring river lands
 - Historic preservation
 - Nature preserves
 - Youth nature education
 - Monitoring & restoring aquatic ecosystems
 - Dam removal
 - Stream surveys
 - Water quality testing



What doesn't a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation do?

- Does not put land under Federal control
- Does not require public access to private land
- Does not force any changes in local land use decision-making or local ordinances
- Does not create new Federal permits or regulations
- Does not change any existing land uses
- Does not prevent access to or use of the river or watershed lands
- Does not affect hunting and fishing laws



What financial or other obligations are required by supporting river designation?

- Development and adoption of a watershed stewardship plan.
- No financial commitment is required from communities.
- If a river is designated, each town appoints a local advisory committee member.



Won't the dams on the Deerfield River disqualify it from Wild and Scenic designation?

- No. There are free-flowing segments of the Deerfield River and its tributaries.
- Some dammed segments can be eligible.



Where are we in the process so far?

- Study bill drafted
- Bill introduced (McGovern, Markey leads) with support of full MA/VT delegation
- Bill marked up and reported out of Senate ENR Committee
- House side no progress
- National Park Service funds for Reconnaissance Study requested and approved
- Additional fundraising and grantsmanship
- Recon Study to begin October, 2024

