

## Prologue

By Carl Wallman

This CPN report describes the natural/ecological resources of 2,600 acres of contiguous, permanently conserved properties, held by 17 different landowners in Northwood, NH. It also tells the story of NALMC (Northwood Area Land Management Collaborative), an informal group of private and public neighbors in Northwood, NH and surrounding towns that have discovered, or rediscovered, the value and benefit of talking to their neighbors about their land and thinking beyond their individual property lines.

The NALMC story is a reflection of a community process – a story of broadening a land ethic in the Upper Lamprey River watershed – and an evolution of relationships among neighbors and their connection with the land. The outcomes from these personal relationships have collectively served to maintain and enhance the ecological, social, recreational, and economic resources of the local landscape.

This report is designed to capture the critical elements of this story, including the ecological basis for this region, the major milestones in the development of NALMC, and the community voices that reflect the ripple effect of this important, innovative and impactful endeavor. This report will also answer some of the questions about NALMC that we get from people who want to know who we are, what we do, and how we got started and how we identify opportunities to collaborate across our neighborhood to the benefit of the land that we love.

**“The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants, and animals, or collectively: the land... In short, a land ethic changes the role of Homo sapiens from conqueror of the land-community to plain member and citizen of it. It implies respect for his fellow-members, and also respect for the community as such ...**

**I have purposely presented the land ethic as a product of social evolution because nothing so important as an ethic is ever 'written,' it evolves in the minds of a thinking community...”**

**Aldo Leopold**