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**Town of Meredith
Conservation
Commission**

Press Release

Meredith, NH

4/3/2006

For Immediate Release

Meredith Wildlife Habitat Evaluation & Survey

The Meredith Conservation Commission is sponsoring a Town-wide wildlife habitat evaluation and survey as a part of Phase II of the Meredith Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) Project begun last year. This project, originating from the Commission's interest in better understanding wildlife and the location of important wildlife habitats in town, will take place throughout 2006 and into early 2007. Dr. Rick Van de Poll, of Ecosystem Management Consultants in Sandwich, N.H., will complete the field study. He will use the same NRI maps he developed for the Town last year. This study will initially focus on the 10 high-value "co-occurrence areas"; those areas in Meredith where a significant number of natural resources overlap. A map of these areas, as well as the NRI report, can be found on Meredith's web site at <http://www.meredithnh.org> under "Special Projects". A printed paper copy of this report is available to read on the counter of the town hall office.

The findings from this project will support a Conservation Commission goal of identifying wildlife corridors, particularly where road crossings may pose a hazard to wildlife as well as motorists. The project will also support the proper delineation of prime wetland areas, where the best available aquatic habitat has already been identified. The Commission is working in partnership with the Town Planning Department to further the goals of the NRI.

The public is invited to attend a presentation of the work tasks to be completed. This will occur on April 12th at 7:00 p.m. at Meredith's new Community Center on Route 3. The program will be conducted by Dr. Rick Van de Poll and the Meredith Conservation Commission. It is hoped that residents of Meredith, particularly those land owners who have just received property authorization forms will attend this informative presentation. This is a wonderful opportunity for any Meredith resident or property owner to ask any questions they may have. Additionally, several members of the Meredith Conservation Commission will be in their office on the second floor of the town hall annex from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday April 18th, 19th and 20th to answer the phone, 279-4538, ext. 222, or to host a visit. Please mark your calendars.