

# New Hampshire Environmental Literacy Plan



Presentation to  
NEEEA 2010

# Environmental Literacy

- Understanding of the natural world and its systems
- Ability to make decisions about the environment based on scientific, economic and aesthetic considerations.



# Leave No Child Inside Act

- Proposed amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
  - Senate Bill 866
    - 18 Senators are co-sponsors
  - House of Representatives Bill 2054
    - 122 Representatives are co-sponsors

# Summary of Federal Legislation

- Requires each state to develop a statewide environmental literacy plan that includes environmental education standards and teacher training
- Provides for:
  - Competitive state sub-grants for teacher training
  - Matching grants to improve activities and support environmental education

# Research Findings

## Environmental Education:

- Increases overall student engagement and motivation
- Increases critical thinking and problem solving
- Increases academic achievement and performance on assessments
- Increases physical and mental health
- Increases positive collaboration among educators



# Environmental Literacy Plans Will Require...

- Objectives
  - Prepare students to understand, analyze and address major environmental challenges
  - Provide field experiences as part of regular school curriculum and create programs that contribute to healthy lifestyles through outdoor recreation and sound nutrition
  - Create enhanced teacher development that improves teachers' environmental subject matter knowledge, pedagogical skills in teaching

# Environmental Literacy Plans Will Require...



- Plan for how the state will measure environmental literacy of students through relevant state academic content areas
- Teacher Professional Development
- Plan for implementation

# New Hampshire's Planning Effort

- Gap analysis and correlation of current curricula frameworks
- Engage stakeholders through community forums
- Gather information from teachers
- Hold focus groups
- Develop Time Line
- Continually communicate with other players; update the NH working grp.
- Develop implementation steps
- Prepare plan



# NH Planning Team

- New Hampshire Environmental Educators
- NH Children in Nature Coalition
- NH Fish and Game Department
- NH Department of Environmental Services
- NH Division of Forests and Lands
- NH Department of Education
- Squam Lakes Natural Science Center
- Southern NH University
- The Rey Center
- Plymouth State University
- Antioch New England University
- NH Sierra Club
- Appalachian Mountain Club
- United States Forest Service
- Other individuals