

# Eightmile River Watershed Conservation Compact



e recognize that:

1. The Eightmile River and its tributaries are considered treasures by the people who live there. A number of federal, state, and private agencies also have recognized this as an area of world-class natural resources.
2. The area of the Eightmile River Watershed, which drains to these rivers and streams, is vital to the protection of these waterways and is a wildlife habitat of high importance in its own right.
3. The Watershed is shared principally by the Towns of East Haddam, Lyme, and Salem.
4. The ecological health of the Watershed is inextricably linked to the economic and social activities of these communities.

Furthermore, We understand that:

1. Land use in our towns is the key determinant of the health of the Watershed's natural resources.
2. A healthy watershed ecosystem is consistent with our town goals of promoting a healthy community, preserving rural character, and nurturing suitable economic growth.

Therefore, the Towns of East Haddam, Lyme and Salem enter into this voluntary Conservation Compact that acknowledges our commitment to balance conservation and growth by:

1. Protecting and enhancing the water resources of the watershed, including both the quality of the water, and the integrity of normal stream and groundwater flows.
2. Connecting and maintaining habitats and rural landscapes throughout the watershed.
3. Ensuring the long-term social, economic, and environmental health and vitality of the communities in the watershed.

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First Selectman, East Haddam

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Date

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First Selectman, Lyme

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Selectman, Salem

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date