



## *Ammonoosuc Hanno Pond/Floodplain Restoration*

**Awardee:** Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust

**Award Amount:** \$160,000

**Total Project Cost:** \$160,000

The Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust utilized ARM funds in 2012 to purchase and protect stream bank and valuable riparian buffer on a stretch of the Ammonoosuc River in Lisbon. The property includes portions of two parcels that contain a complex of wetland and agricultural land surrounding Hanno Pond, a 6-acre oxbow pond that was physically separated from the Ammonoosuc River in the 1850s. The WAP notes much of the site as having the highest ranked habitat in the biological region due to the juxtaposition of river and open water habitat. The property provides significant habitat for migratory waterfowl and neotropical songbirds. The land across the Ammonoosuc to the north contains an active bald eagle nest, the only known one on the Ammonoosuc River. Together the two parcels are now the Ammonoosuc River Wildlife Management Area.

In 2013, a second proposal was funded to begin habitat improvements along the river. This section of the river has seen severe flooding and bank erosion. Ice jams occur quite frequently; the most recent ice jams occurred in late 2010 and 2012, which contributed to a substantial loss of riverbank. The proposal to restore 4 acres of riparian forest buffer and vegetating 1,000 feet of eroding river bank will provide shoreline anchoring and assist in minimizing future erosion.

The site is approximately one-third of a mile

upstream of Lisbon Village and directly downstream of potential pollution sources, including substantial commercial development in the Ammonoosuc River floodplain in Littleton. The land across the river to the south is owned by the Town of Lisbon and contains the town's water supply consisting of gravel-packed wells. Protecting the lands around water supplies or potential water supplies is important to ensure a safe, clean water supply into the future. Every acre conserved helps to keep down the costs of water treatment.

The long-term goals for this project are to restore and protect floodplain forest and restore/create riparian, wetland and upland functions and values. Additional goals are to buffer and enhance the Hanno Pond wetland complex and provide increased educational and recreational values. The site offers a wide variety of educational opportunities for Lisbon School students, both for field trips and for participation in conservation land management and enhancement. The school has already been involved in the dormant stake planting along the river bank. A total of 2,250 shrubs and trees were planted on the site including a 35-foot shrub buffer along the top of the bank along the Ammonoosuc River. Restoring a forested floodplain may take 40 to 50 years, but the initial steps undertaken on this property will result in a riparian forested buffer and a stabilized shoreline in a critical location for protection of water quality in perpetuity.