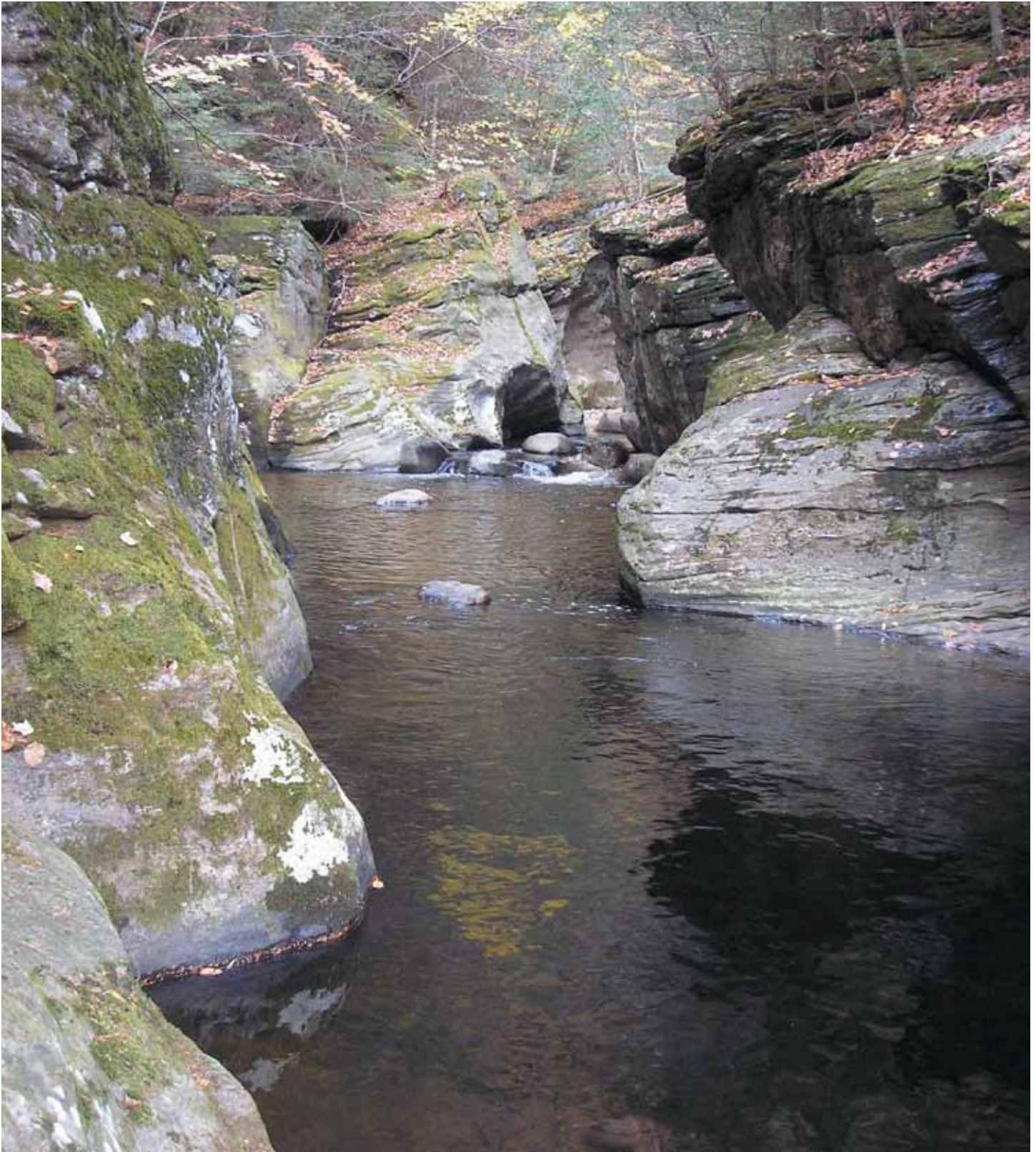


# Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Management Plan *June 2011*





**West Branch Salmon Brook** Photo: Joyce Kennedy

**Front Cover: Farmington River upstream of Unionville, photo by Tom Cameron**

Though originally from the Midwest, Tom Cameron and his wife have adopted and are truly at home on the Farmington River near Collinsville. For the last 7 years his photography work has been almost entirely outdoors. Special interests include unique lighting conditions, water subjects such as reflections and captured motion, sunrises, and a variety of critters from heron to spiders.

**Back Cover: Painting by Bill Simpson, Artist/Fly Fisherman, [wmsimpson.com](http://wmsimpson.com)**

When viewing Bill Simpson's paintings there is the sensation of walking alongside him as he shares his favorite haunts with us. Together we search shoreline sandbars and rips where stripers and blues fight the tide with the safety of deep water near by, or he may lead us above a wooded stream where dappled light rakes the water camouflaging undisturbed trout.

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# Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Management Plan *June 2011*

Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study

C/o FRWA

749 Hopmeadow Street

Simsbury, CT 06070

860 658 4442

<http://www.lowerfarmingtonriver.org/>

# Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Management Plan *June 2011*

## The Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee

The Study Committee's membership includes locally appointed representatives from each town in the Study Area, and representatives from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP), the National Park Service (NPS), the Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA), the Salmon Brook Watershed Association (SBWA), Stanley Black & Decker, the Tariffville Village Association (TVA), the Connecticut Forest and Park Association (CFPA), Whitewater Triple Crown, and the Pequabuck River Watershed Association (PRWA).

### **Avon**

Diane Field\*–Conservationist  
Harry Spring\*–Former Inland Wetlands Commissioner  
Lisa Levin\*–Lawyer & Educator  
Rob House–Conservationist

### **Bloomfield**

Paula Jones\*–Conservationist  
Kevin Gough\*–Conservationist

### **Burlington**

Paul Rochford\*–Burlington Land Trust  
Thomas Small\*–Burlington Land Trust

### **Canton**

Cynthia Griggs–Conservationist  
David Leff\*–Author, Former Deputy Commissioner of CTDEP  
Alis Ohlheiser\*–FRCC Representative

### **East Granby**

Ian Clark\*–East Granby Land Trust  
Mike Krammen\*–Engineer

### **Farmington**

Walter Sargent\*–Executive Director, Farmington Land Trust  
Larry Schlegel\*–Angler  
Josef Treggor–Ecologist/Educator, MERA

### **Granby**

Carolyn Flint\*–Conservation Commission  
Eric Lukingbeal\*–Land-Use Attorney, Wetlands Commission

### **Hartland**

Susan C. Murray\*–Hartland Plan of C&D Committee, Hartland Land Trust Director  
Kathy Dunn\*–Hartland Land Trust

### **Simsbury**

Sally Rieger\*–Simsbury Land Trust, FRWA Volunteer  
Margery Winters\*–Simsbury Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission  
Suzanne Battos–Conservationist

### **Windsor**

Frank Davis\*–Chair, Conservation Commission, Riparian Landowner  
Betsy Conger\*–Loomis Chafee School Science Dept.  
Terry Langevin\*–Friends of Northwest Park Board Member  
Melissa Vanek–Environmental/Science Educator

### **Stanley Black & Decker**

Kurt Link–Lean, Productivity & Facilities Mgr., TSW

### **FRWA**

Sarah Hinks\*–FRWA Board, Volunteer  
Eileen Fielding\*–FRWA Executive Director  
Aimee Petras–FRWA Staff  
Jeff Bolton–FRWA GIS Specialist

### **CFPA**

Eric Hammerling\*–Executive Director

### **TVA**

Wanda Colman\*–TVA President, Photographer

### **SBWA**

David Tolli–Chair of Granby Wetlands Commission\*

### **PRWA**

Mary Moulton–PRWA President

### **Whitewater Triple Crown**

Andy Kuhlberg–Race Chair

### **CT DEP**

Susan Peterson\*  
Maryann Nusom Haverstock\*  
Sally Snyder (past member)

### **National Park Service**

Jamie Fosburgh–New England Team Leader  
Joyce Kennedy Raymes–Study Coordinator

\* Officially Appointed

# A Brief History of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study

In 1994, the upper 14 miles of the Farmington River in Connecticut were designated a Wild and Scenic River. As the passing years proved this designation to be a success in terms of facilitating river protection without infringing on local autonomy, interest arose in securing Wild and Scenic designation for the downstream segment of the river as well. The lower reach of the Farmington River is rich in recreational, historical, and biological values and has an important tributary, the Salmon Brook, also noted to be among the state's most significant coldwater resources. The groundbreaking Farmington Valley Biodiversity Project (FVBP) covering six of the ten Study Towns and published in 2006, laid important groundwork for the Wild and Scenic Study and Management Plan because it documented the exceptional biodiversity of the watershed. As a result, the Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA) led the effort to pursue congressional authorization for a Wild and Scenic Study of the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook. Under FRWA's leadership, all ten study area towns (Avon, Bloomfield, Burlington, Canton, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, Simsbury and Windsor) provided letters of endorsement to the Congress of the United States supporting a Wild and Scenic Study. The proposed study area extended from the Canton/New Hartford town line (the lower boundary of the designated segment of the upper Farmington River) down to the Farmington's confluence with the Connecticut River, and the east and west branches of Salmon Brook. (see Figure 1: General Location and Study Towns) Congresswoman Nancy Johnson and Senator Chris Dodd were instrumental in securing Congressional authorization and funding for the study. The Study bill was passed by Congress at the end of 2006.

A locally-based Wild and Scenic Study Committee began meeting in April, 2007. Committee members were appointed by their towns or respective organizations, and brought a wealth of knowledge and experience in governmental, ecological and organizational processes to the study team. Additional input from independent researchers, local supporting agencies, professional contractors, and the general public have helped ensure the study's progress and comprehensiveness.

The Study Committee's findings confirmed the view of many Farmington Valley residents

that the unique natural and cultural resources of the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook make the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook eligible for Wild and Scenic designation. The designation will highlight the Outstanding Resource Values (ORVs) of the watercourses, will provide a sense of connectedness and pride to the people of the Farmington River Valley, and will enhance economic opportunities. It will also allow river towns to benefit from National Park Service funding and technical resources in their locally-driven efforts to protect the natural and cultural resources of the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook.

# Acknowledgements

The Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee began meeting in April 2007 and will continue to meet until the river and brook are designated. The process benefitted immensely from the help of many individuals and organizations that shared their expertise, brought important questions to the Committee's attention, and generously provided their guidance and support. We are deeply grateful to them all. We owe a special debt of thanks to:

- Eric Hammerling, who got our Study underway in his former position as Executive Director of the Farmington River Watershed Association. He has helped us many times over the following years with his wisdom, his knowledge of the river and river issues and his understanding of state and local politics.
- Eileen Fielding, who became the current Executive Director of the Farmington River Watershed Association when the Study was only shortly underway, and had it dropped into her lap along with the rest of her new responsibilities. She has graciously accepted various writing assignments, reviewed and edited the work of other contributors, attended many meetings and made innumerable phone calls on our behalf. The Farmington River Watershed Association's contribution to the Management Plan and Study was supported in part by a grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. We deeply appreciate the Hartford Foundation's commitment to environmental stewardship in the greater Hartford region.
- Ralph Lewis, former State Geologist, who took most of a day to give us a crash course in the geologic history of Connecticut and then wrote the description of it for the Management Plan.
- Ken Feder, an Anthropology professor at Central Connecticut State University. He found a way to add a section to our Archaeology report predicting the likelihood of finding new archaeological sites in unexplored places, something we had not asked for nor expected. He came to all our Open Houses and was generous in sharing his collections and his infectious enthusiasm.
- Josef Treggor and Jay Kaplan organized and worked on the special Farmington River corridor bird survey done for our Study at no cost.
- The law firm of Robinson and Cole, LLC, through their generosity, the Study Committee received a review of the land use regulations of all ten towns in the Study Area, with most of the work done on a pro bono basis.

The study would not have been possible without the tireless commitment of many volunteers, organizations, contractors and agencies that dedicated their time and expertise. We apologize for any omissions. They are our responsibility and are not intentional.



Sally Rieger  
*Chairman*

Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook  
Wild and Scenic Study Committee

*Note from the Study Coordinator:* The Wild and Scenic Study would not have been possible without the support and amazing commitment of the Study Committee representatives. When committee members accepted this assignment there was no way to know that the Study would extend beyond the four-year mark. Yet the committee remained engaged and enthusiastic about the ultimate goal of protecting the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook resources through Wild and Scenic designation. In particular, I would like to thank Sally Rieger, the Committee Chair for her leadership, vision and boundless energy. She put aside many professional and personal commitments to be involved at every step of the study process. Thanks also to Jamie Fosburgh, NPS New England Team Leader for his calm and insightful guidance.

**Towns of Avon, Bloomfield, Burlington, Canton, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, Simsbury and Windsor**

Towns Leaders and Staff

Town Commissioners and Board Members

Town Libraries: For Use of Display Cases and Space for Open Houses

Canton Parks & Recreation Department: For use of Community Center for Meeting Space

Simsbury Library: For Use of Conference Room for Four-Day LULA Workshop

Special thanks also to the residents of the Study Towns for their questions, participation and support

**Organizations & Partners**

American Rivers

Connecticut Forest and Park Association

Eightmile River Wild and Scenic River Coordinating Committee

Farmington River Coordinating Committee

Farmington River Watershed Association

Farmington Valley Trails Council

Hartford Audubon Society

Heads Up! Hartford

Historical Societies and Land Trusts of the ten Wild and Scenic Study Towns

Keep the Woods

Land Trust Alliance

Land Use Leadership Alliance and the Workshop Attendees

North Central Conservation District

Northwest Conservation District

Pequabuck River Watershed Association

Rivers Alliance

Roaring Brook Nature Center

Salmon Brook Watershed Association

Simsbury Community TV

Tariffville Village Association

The Nature Conservancy

**Federal and State Agencies**

Metropolitan District Commission

National Park Service

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

U.S. Geological Survey

**Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection**

With special thanks to:

Susan Peterson

MaryAnn Nusom Haverstock

Sally Snyder

Mike Beauchene

Steve Gephard

Brian Golembieski

Don Mysling

Ed Machowski

Jessica Morgan

Also thanks to: Wes Marsh, Arthur Christian, Rick Jacobson, Rob LaFrance, Betsey Wingfield, Robert Kaliszewski, Robert Gilmore, Jenny Dickson, Dawn McKay, Robert Hannon, David Fox, Steven Tessitore, Kim Czaplak, DeAva Lambert, Diane Ifkovic, Ernie Pizzuto

- CT State Representatives and their staff for support of state legislation
- Congressional Representatives and their staff for support of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Bill and the federal proposal for designation

**Consultants and ORV Experts**

Marc Banks

Jeff Bolton

Ken Feder

Ken Geisler

Leah S. Glaser

Hank Gruner

John Harmon

Jay Kaplan

Lucas Karmazinas

Ralph Lewis

David Maliar

Bill Moorhead

Ethan Nadeau

Princeton Hydro LLC (Laura Wildman)

Robinson & Cole (Eric Lukingbeal,

Michele Maresca, Gillian Bears)

Jim Thorson

Ben Tyson

Diana Sheil

Josef Treggor

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Collinsville Canoe & Kayak  
Flatbread Pizza  
Grist Mill Restaurant  
LaSalle Market  
Matthew's Restaurant  
Peaberry's Cafe

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Jason Natelle  
Alison Rau  
Robert Roehm  
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Dick Caley  
Kevin Case  
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Ken Geisler  
Rose Guimaraes  
Brendan Hanrahan  
Frank Haviland  
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Damon Hearne  
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Margaret Minor  
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**Report Design**

Linda Goldsmith Design  
Harwinton, CT

For further information on this plan and for general questions about the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic River Study, you may contact:

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Photo: Tom Cameron

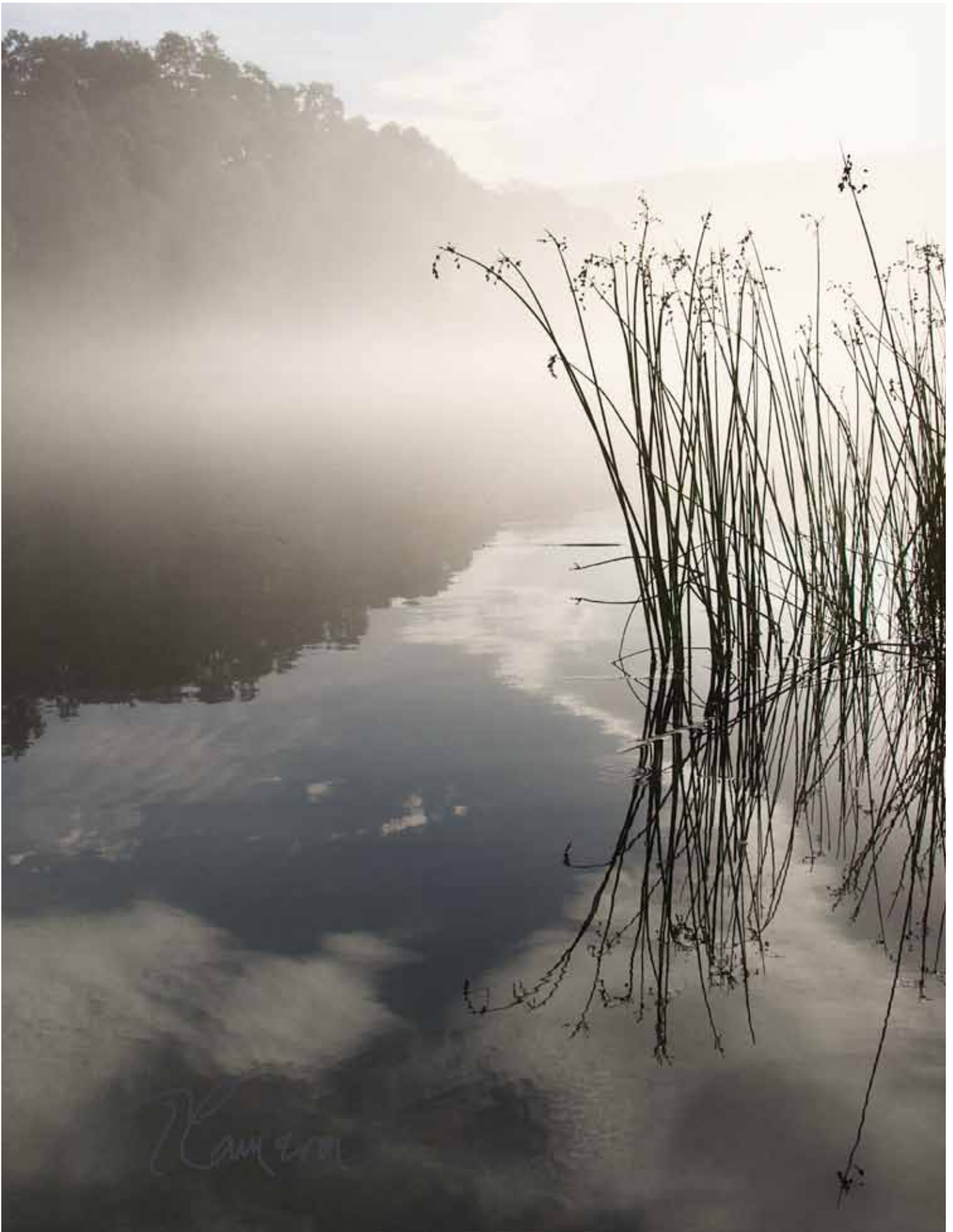


Photo: Tom Cameron

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Photo: Tom Cameron

# Appendices and Supporting Documentation\*

AVAILABLE DIGITALLY ON THE WILD AND SCENIC WEBSITE:

[HTTP://WWW.LOWERFARMINGTONRIVER.ORG/](http://www.lowerfarmingtonriver.org/)

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Connecticut legislation supporting Wild and  
Scenic designation, letters of endorsement  
and support, and examples of outreach and  
education conducted during the Wild and  
Scenic Study.