



Natural Resources

Strengths

- Access to people, resources & organizations
- Conservation Commissions
- Landowner rights and involvement to control their resources
- Large number of involved private landowners
- Strong conservation ethic
- Strong conservation organizations and large number of acreage of conserved land & trail networks
- Productive soils, diverse array of forest types
- Scenic landscapes including private property
- Loss in investment in value added process
- Current use program – strengthen it

Challenges

- Length of time to accomplish goal
- Increase in conflicting uses for public lands
- Lack of appreciation for private landowners
- Lack of understanding of needs for wildlife
- Lack of education regarding ecosystem understanding
- Inexactness of info on climate change
- Loss of youth to work the land
- Lack of hunters to control certain wildlife populations
- Lack of inventory of natural resources needing protection & management
- Lack of support for conservation commissions and districts
- Housing affordability

Opportunities

Top 3 Action Steps and Priorities:

1. Ability to make a living from the land
2. Need for education on environment
3. Flood resilience planning on a regional scale.

- Ability to make a living from the land
- Need for education on environment
- Adaptation to climate change can create opportunities
- River flooding planning on regional scale
- Empower landowners to conserve and be good land stewards
- People keeping land for benefit of their kids
- Sustaining economics of rural working landscape
- Provide more stable support for conservation
- Many strategies for coordinating housing/conservation
- Impact of policies regarding infill development
- Educating children about resources