



## Belknap Range Conservation Coalition

**2023 Annual Report (October 2022  
to October 2023)**

The Belknap Range Conservation Coalition (BRCC) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the conservation of open space, responsible stewardship, and low impact public enjoyment of scenic, natural, recreational and historical resources of the Belknap Mountain Range. Participating members include individuals/conservation commission members from the project area towns of Alton, Belmont, Gilford and Gilmanton as well as dedicated individuals who share an avid interest in the many resources that the Belknap Range provides. Conservation organizations with participating members include: Society for the Protection of NH Forests (SPNHF); Lakes Region Conservation Trust (LRCT); Belknap County Sportsmen's Association (BCSA); Belknap Range Trail Tenders (BRATTs); Gilmanton Land Trust (GLT); New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) and the Belknap County Conservation District (BCCD). The town of Barnstead has also supported BRCC with a membership.

Along with working to protect the largely unfragmented natural landscape that makes up the Belknap Mountain Range, BRCC also educates the public about the significance of the resources of the Belknap Mountain Range; develops, promotes, and implements methods and strategies for ensuring the long-term protection and responsible stewardship of these resources; and promotes opportunities for low impact public enjoyment and recreation. BRCC strives to facilitate cooperation and communication among conservation organizations, municipalities, other governmental entities and area landowners. BRCC helps coalition members secure funding, technical assistance and other resources for carrying out programs in support of this mission.

At our October Annual meeting, Greg Arnold, Alton resident was newly appointed and Bev Divaio, Brian Hotz, Bruce Jacobs and Nanci Mitchell were reappointed to the Board of Directors, all for 3-year terms. Also at the Annual meeting, the current officers: Russ Wilder, Chairperson; Bruce Jacobs, Vice Chairperson; Lisa Morin, Secretary; and Nanci Mitchell, Treasurer, were reappointed.

During the year, with the exception of July, the Directors met quarterly via Zoom conference. The July meeting was held in person at Russ Wilder's home in West Alton. The meetings offer important opportunities for members to share information about parcels within the focus area. At these meetings we focused on sharing information on parcels of land that may be available for conservation in the Belknaps. We are monitoring several such parcels and are supporting contacts with landowners who might be willing to participate in land conservation projects.

In April, members attended the Annual Saving Special Places Conference at Prospect Mountain High School. Also in April, members participated in the Forest Society's Mount Major Earth Day cleanup. In September, Russ Wilder made a presentation to the Alton Historical Society about BRCC's land conservation activities. Members routinely attend workshops and meetings held by the NH Land Trust Coalition.

BRCC continues to monitor management activities on acquired parcels and we continue to pursue additional conservation possibilities in the Belknap Range. For more information on the BRCC, please visit our website at [www.belknarange.org](http://www.belknarange.org) or contact the Belknap Range Conservation Coalition at PO Box 151, Gilmanton IW, NH 03837 or email us at [info@belknarange.org](mailto:info@belknarange.org).

Respectfully submitted,

Russell J. Wilder, Chair

