



# Loon Preservation Committee

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24 June 2016

RE: NHB15-3768 Westward Shores Campground Expansion, Ossipee, NH

Wetlands Bureau  
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services  
29 Hazen Drive; Post Office Box 95  
Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095

Greetings to all concerned:

I am writing to summarize Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) views on loon impacts from a campground expansion proposed at Westward Shores on Ossipee Lake. The campground is owned by Northgate Ossipee, LLC. The following summary reflects discussions between LPC and Northgate representative Daniel Flores, of SFC Engineering Partnership, and discussions with other stakeholders, including NH Fish and Game, about potential impacts to loons and planning and mitigation options.

Although LPC has welcomed the opportunity for productive discussions with the applicant, basic concerns about the potential impact of the project to loons and loon breeding habitat remain. As detailed in our previous comments, the increased dispersed recreation from the campground expansion is likely to increase the risk of reproductive failure and territory abandonment at the Ossipee Lake loon nest site near the campground. A substantial reduction in the scope of the campground expansion is likely the only conservative, realistic approach to addressing this biological concern.

LPC supports the conservation easement proposed by the applicant as a reasonable measure to address concerns about impacts to loons, bald eagles, and other wildlife and natural communities. However, we remain concerned that dispersed recreation from the expanded campground—in spite of the conservation easement buffer—may eventually make the loon nesting site untenable for the loons.

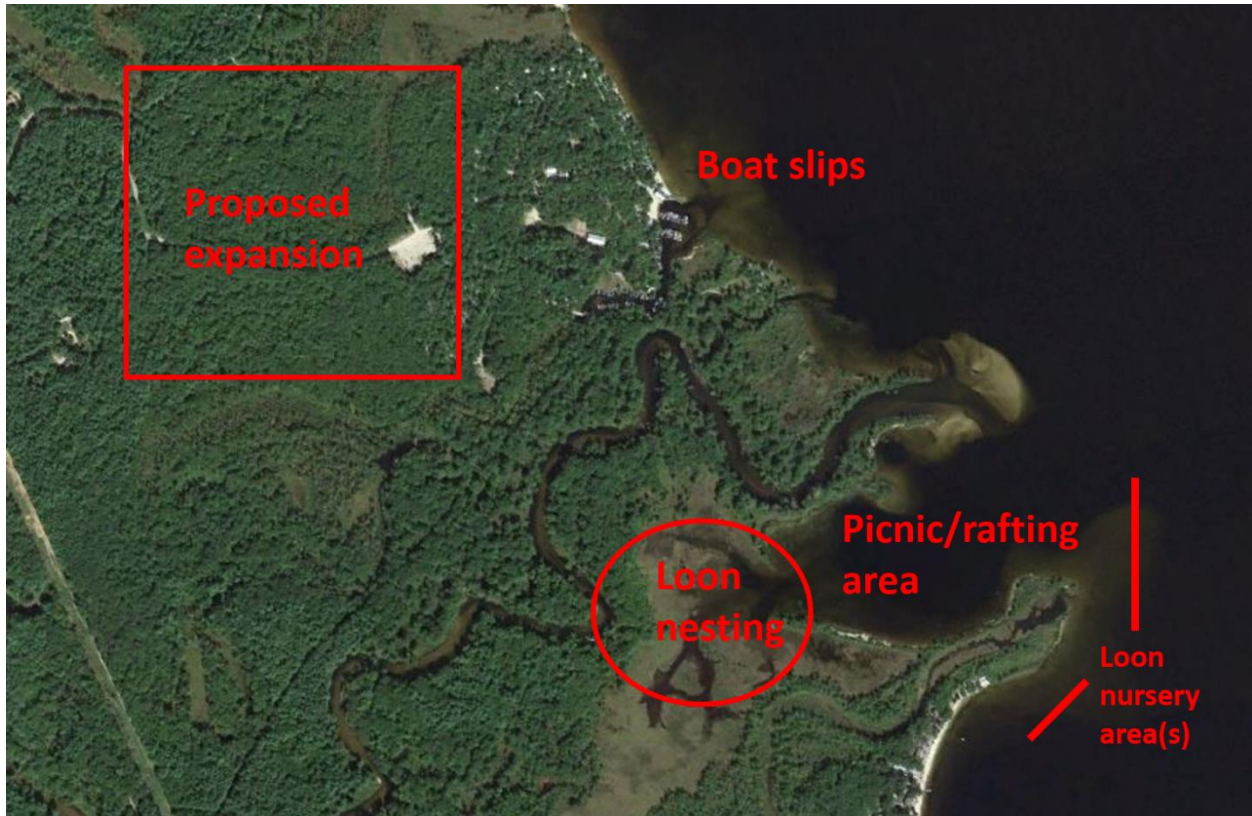
Because of the impact from dispersed recreation, if the permit application is approved, we would be strongly opposed to any further expansion in the number of boat ramps, docking facilities, or other access points on the waterfront at or near the campground in the future. Instead, we recommend that lake access for the additional camping sites be channeled through the existing waterfront boat slips, beaches, and ramp, as the applicant response has stated.

Further, if the permit application is approved, we recommend the mitigation measures previously discussed and articulated in the applicant's response letter of June 20th, including a waterfront educational kiosk, fishing tackle disposal receptacle, and communication with LPC field staff about outreach and nest site monitoring and management. LPC welcomes support from Northgate for sign and ropeline management at the Ossipee Lake nest site, and such support would be helpful in managing potential impacts at the site.

Respectfully,

John Cooley Jr.  
Senior Biologist  
Loon Preservation Committee  
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(603)476-5666

Carbon copy (electronic): New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, Kim Tuttle, Wildlife Biologist  
New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, Michael Marchand  
SFC Engineering Partnership, Inc., Daniel Flores  
Harry S. Vogel, Senior Biologist/Executive Director, Loon Preservation Committee  
New Hampshire Dept. Environmental Services, Shoreland Program



Bearcamp River/Ossipee Lake loon nest and nursery areas and Westward Shores proposed campground expansion. Increased boat traffic and shoreline use at the nearby picnic/rafting area from the additional 264 campsites is likely to increase the risk of disturbance to nesting and brooding loons.