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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DRED RECEIVES TWO “BEST OF NH 2009” PICKS

Wellington State Park and Wine & Cheese Trails Honored

Concord, New Hampshire, March 27th, 2009 – The editors of New Hampshire Magazine have selected the work of two divisions within the Department of Resources and Economic Development to receive a “Best of NH 2009” award. “The Divisions of DRED work hard to develop programs and manage natural resources to benefit the residents, visitors and businesses within New Hampshire. It is an honor to get recognized for their efforts by New Hampshire Magazine,” stated George Bald, Commissioner for the Department of Resources and Economic Development. “My compliments to the Parks Team and the Travel & Tourism Team for their excellent work,” he added.

The Wine & Cheese Trails received the Editor’s Pick for “Best Foodie Trail”, while Wellington State Park garnered the Editor’s Pick for “Best Kept Park Secret”.

“We are pleased that New Hampshire Magazine has recognized this joint effort between the Division of Travel & Tourism and the Department of Agriculture to produce the wine and cheese trails brochure. Our agricultural assets are part of what make New Hampshire such a great place to visit and to live,” said Alice DeSouza, Director for the Division of Travel and Tourism Development. “In fact, the wine and cheese brochure has been so popular that an updated and expanded version will be released in the coming weeks.”

“We are elated to have Wellington State Park highlighted as an Editor’s Pick for this well known award program,” stated Ted Austin, Director of the Division of Parks and Recreation. “We feel that all of our parks are best-kept secrets. The Division has opportunities for outdoor recreation throughout the state, from the seacoast to the mountains and in between. Not to mention the ability to take a walk in time at our Historic Sites.”

New Hampshire Magazine gives “Best of NH” honors on an annual basis and presents the awards at a gala event. This year’s celebration is being held on June 25th at the Verizon Wireless Arena in Manchester, with admission fees going to benefit the New Hampshire Food Bank. Food, entertainment and door prizes will be part of the awards ceremony. More information is available at www.bestofnh.com. The Division of Parks and Recreation was honored last year for the Great Parks Pursuit, receiving an award for “Best Fresh Air Quest”.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Resources and Economic Development encompasses four divisions: Economic Development, Forest and Lands, Parks and Recreation and Travel and Tourism Development. New Hampshire's natural landscape provides the foundation for many of our activities, activities that drive the state's economy. Nearly five million acres of forest land sustain a thriving forest products industry; New Hampshire's parks, beaches, historic sites, trails and mountains provide endless recreation opportunities; and the state's tourism industry offers a wide array of dining, lodging, cultural and entertainment options. This quality of life, combined with the business-friendly and tax advantageous environment we have worked hard to create, also makes the state attractive to business growth and expansion.

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