

Trout Unlimited, Monadnock Chapter
Edmund Henault, Secretary
31 Mountain View Drive
Peterborough, NH 03458-1300
September 28 2016
Site Evaluation Committee Subcommittee

Re: Antrim Wind Energy Application and Willard Pond

Willard Pond is a very special place for boaters, birders and fishermen. It is one of the few easily accessed ponds in the Southern part of New Hampshire that has no houses or structures on the shoreline, and therefore has the true feel of a remote pond.

The Monadnock chapter of Trout Unlimited values Willard Pond and contributed to the conservation purchase of land there. TU members and their guests regularly fish the pond and the later discussions of the trips center more on the natural beauty of the place than on the fishing. In the words of Henry David Thoreau,

Many men go fishing their whole lives without knowing it's not fish they are after.

It really goes without saying, but all the activities that take place at Willard Pond depend a great deal on the beauty of the location, not entirely on the activity itself.

Since it is common to fish by trolling there is plenty of time to enjoy the views of the mountain and the local birds. No gas powered engines are allowed and all fishing is done at a leisurely pace, with canoes and car top boats the norm.

The pond is frequented by eagles, loons, and a variety of other birds and waterfowl. This attracts a number of Audubon members - either afoot or afloat - as they follow the resident wildlife.

The boat landing is a frequent summer hangout for families of swimmers, who swim both near the landing but also across the lake on the main peninsula and at a variety of convenient boulders. It should be noted that there is no parking at the landing - cars and trailers must be removed to a remote parking lot. This helps preserve the remote feel of the pond.

At Willard Pond, the combination of easy access for townspeople and a true wilderness feel make this location an exceptional gem for public use, allowing families and users of all abilities the opportunity to experience a pristine forest setting. The members of Trout Unlimited are strong supporters of renewable energy. However, there are a variety of factors that need to be weighed in every situation. In this particular case, the very unique nature of the pond coupled with the diverse population of users make for an opportunity to enjoy a beautiful landscape that is unmatched in the Monadnock region. To disrupt the view from any location on the pond would be a fundamental mistake.

Willard is a special place and should remain unspoiled.

Respectfully submitted,

Edmund Henault

The Members of Trout Unlimited, Monadnock Chapter