



Dolloff Dam with middle two stop logs removed 9 AM August 31, 2022.

Water Released: Lamprey River Alert

Steve Soreff, MD

Water was released from Pawtuckaway Lake and Mendums Pond on the morning of Wednesday, August 31, 2022. Here is what the [NHDES waters/rivers and lakes/in-flow](#) statement said. “This is a notification that low flow conditions have continued on the Lamprey River. Relief pulses from Pawtuckaway Lake and Mendums Pond were most recently executed on August 23rd through 25th and are being planned again on August 31st. The lower Lamprey River also remains subject to a Stage 2 Water Use Alert under the [Lamprey River Water Management Plan](#).”

According to Joseph Schmidl, PG, CWS, DSDS Instream Flow Specialist, about the Monday, August 31, 2022 release, “the situation of the Lamprey River is desperate. We are working on 8-day loop Release for 2 days, and monitor for the next 6 day. If Lamprey River flow is not at or average 16 cubic feet per second (cfs), there will be another release. This helps to explain the DES in-flow statement “Yesterday’s average daily streamflow was 10.1 cubic feet per second (cfs) and is currently 10.1 cfs: Conditions below 16 cfs have persisted for 33 days; if not interrupted by natural rain, the river will have been below 16 cfs for more than 5 days since the end of the previous relief pulse (August 25th), prompting the upcoming relief pulse. Relief pulses from both waterbodies will continue approximately every 8 days through early October until streamflow consistently exceeds 16 cfs *or* the water level in Mendums Pond or Lake Pawtuckaway would be greater than 1.5 feet below their spillway due to the relief pulse, in which case relief pulses from *that* waterbody will be discontinued.”



The North River off McGrillis Road Thursday, September 1, 2022 noon with the Drowns Dam release

Schmidl pointed out that the fish and reptiles on the Lamprey River are endangered. That Raymond and Epping are under a water alert but Durham is not. The in-flow website adds this “Abnormally dry and drought conditions persist across the state and there is no strong indication of weather in the long-term .” There is much evidence of the drought. This includes the low river and lake water levels and the [fire in the Boulder Fields](#) of Pawtuckaway State Park.

In fact, NH DES has a Drought Management website. It says this.” A drought occurs when a region experiences below-average precipitation over an extended period of time, resulting in low stream flows and low surface water and groundwater levels. Because New Hampshire appears water rich in comparison to many other regions of the United States, people mistakenly think the occurrence of drought is a rare event. In actuality, New Hampshire experiences drought quite frequently. For example, between the years 2000 and 2020, drought conditions occurred within 11 of those 20 years”.

