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Summit to address state's environmental issues



Cars drive into the White Mountain National Forest as autumn leaves begin to change colors in Gorham, N.H. Sunday Oct. 6, 2013. Some privately run campgrounds in New Hampshire's White Mountains National Forest will be forced to close ahead of the lucrative Columbus Day weekend because of the federal government shutdown, according to the U.S. Forest Service. (AP Photo/Jim Cole) Jim Cole

By [SRUTHI GOPALAKRISHNAN \(/byline?byline=By SRUTHI GOPALAKRISHNAN\)](#)

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After the recent legislative session saw a lack of progress on environmental protection bills, concerned environmental advocates across New Hampshire are coming together to strategize a unified approach to safeguard the state's natural resources.

Save Forest Lake and New Hampshire Network: Environment, Energy, Climate are hosting an environmental summit on Saturday, to bring together voices from various communities across the state, all committed to preserving the environment and addressing future legislation.

With a surge in interest among New Hampshire residents on environmental issues, the upcoming summit serves as a platform for dialogue and networking among like-minded individuals, organizers said.

Jon Swan, founder of Save Forest Lake, said the gathering is a vital step in driving the needle toward environmental conservation.

“We’re at a point where we’re seeing a lot more environmental issues that are concerning to people, people are starting to pay attention,” said Swan. “We all have different fights and challenges but I felt it is important for us to meet in person to get to know each other better, so we can work together, help each other and provide mutual assistance.”

The upcoming summit on August 12 will concentrate on a range of issues, including clean energy, PFAS contamination, and solid waste management. It will be held at Prescott Farm Environmental Education Center in Laconia from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeL07bPmEZPI-uYU_w8RUSag4sxSDkB-GXAjMejHWm3683Rlg/viewform) is required.

The summit is aimed at facilitating a far-reaching impact on future legislation.

A key emphasis will be on working together to craft bills for the forthcoming legislative session, with the goal of ensuring that environmental protection remains a top priority on lawmakers’ agendas.

“The bottom line is we want to protect New Hampshire, our environment and natural resources because that’s why people come here,” said Swan. “That’s the driver for our tourism and outdoor recreation industries.”



Sruthi Gopalakrishnan covers environmental and energy stories in Bow, Hopkinton, Dunbarton and Warner for the Concord Monitor. In 2022, she graduated from Northwestern University with a master's degree in journalism, specializing in investigative reporting. She also has a bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Engineering and is always looking for new ways to incorporate data and visual elements into her stories. Her work has appeared in Energy News Network, Prison Reports and Crain's Chicago Business.

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