



# Pinebrook

## Forest Legacy Tract, Connecticut

June 1999

The Forest Legacy Program not only protects individual tracts from development, but also helps protect natural resource values in the surrounding area. One such property, the Pinebrook Forest Legacy property in East Hampton, Connecticut, is now protected from development and is helping maintain water quality in a key watershed focus area.

The USDA Forest Service paid the landowners, Eric Sandin, Jr. and his sister Anna Ruth Masters, \$100,000 to protect 127 acres at the Pinebrook property on June 17, 1999. This tract adds to the surrounding 35,000 acres of protected land and abuts the State-owned 471-acre Wopowog Wildlife Management Area in central Connecticut.

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***“The protection of the Pinebrook tract is another success story in our continuing efforts to maintain the integrity of the forest and water resources in this pristine part of the State.”***

Don Smith, Connecticut State Forester

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One boundary of the Legacy property runs 4,500 feet along Pine Brook, a feeder stream to the Salmon River, which is part of the Atlantic Salmon Restoration Project. The Salmon River watershed occupies more than 140 square miles of land in central Connecticut and is a key component in what is considered to be the most pristine large river tidal ecosystem in the Northeastern United States—the lower Connecticut River Watershed. The land will continue to be managed for the production of



*Landowners have options to acquire other products from their property in addition to timber. Here, a small Shiitake mushroom operation remains on the Pinebrook tract from the previous growing season. Photo by Neal Bungard*

forest products in accordance with a forest management plan.

Don Smith, Connecticut State Forester, commented on the project and the watershed: “The Salmon River watershed is a focus area for our stewardship and land protection programs. The protection of the Pinebrook tract is another success story in our continuing efforts to maintain the integrity of the forest and water resources in this pristine part of the State.”

The Forest Legacy Program protects important forests from conversion to nonforest uses. These forests provide essential wildlife habitat, protect water quality, offer outstanding recreation opportunities, afford outstanding scenic views, are home to historic sites, and/or provide the opportunity to continue traditional forest uses. A Federal-State partnership allows landowners to keep their land private while ensuring it remains forest forever through the use of conservation easements.

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