



Pierce Pond

Forest Legacy Tract, Maine

April & August 1996, March 1998

Landowners around Pierce Pond, one of the most prized trout fishing ponds in Maine, have ensured permanent protection of the pond and its surroundings under the Forest Legacy

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Donald Mansius, Maine Forest Service Maine

Program. The landowners voluntarily gave up development rights on their property while retaining the rights to manage the land for timber. The USDA Forest Service paid to protect 12 miles of pond frontage. The Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust was paid \$210,000 on April 24, 1996, for interests on their 1,770-acre tract, and SD Warren was paid \$1,490,000 for interests on their 6,773-acre tract on August 15, 1996. The State of Maine protected the 1,315-acre Valentine Parcel under the new State Grant Option for \$250,000 on March 26, 1998.

“Pierce Pond is a beautiful lake that truly warrants the protection of its shoreline from ever increasing development pressure,” said Ed Griffith, a USDA Forest Service official who worked on the project. “Through the cooperative efforts of the adjoining landowners, good forest management will continue and at the same time give the necessary protection this Maine jewel deserves.”

“We are pleased to be a part of this effort to protect these properties from development, while ensuring their continued availability for forest management,” stated Donald Mansius, Maine Forest Service official. “The Pierce Pond watershed is an outstanding recreational and

ecological resource, and this Legacy project demonstrates the value of partnerships in protecting working forest land.”

The conservation easement enhances public access to the property. The Appalachian Trail skirts the southern tip of the pond in the hills west of the Kennebec River near Caratunk.

“Remote campsites will be available on the property and pond access for trout fishing is assured,” noted Ralph Knoll of the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, who coordinated the project with all the landowners.

The State of Maine will manage the conservation easements as part of the Federal-State partnership built into the Forest Legacy Program.



Forested to the shoreline, Pierce Pond will be in a natural setting forever. Photo by Jerry Bley

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.