



# Mt. Blue and Tumbledown Mountain Forest Legacy Tract, Maine

December 2001, March 2002, December 2002 and April 2003

One of Maine's most popular and prized recreational destinations is now larger and buffered by protected lands, thanks in part to the USDA Forest Service Forest Legacy Program. A series of land acquisitions and conservation easements totaling 19,073 acres in the Mt. Blue State Park and Tumbledown Mountain project area will keep this prized timber resource and recreational destination as forest forever. "It's got a little bit of an aura to it," said Matt Hancock, president of Hancock Land Company. "Tumbledown Mountain has a personality to it that other hiking destinations just don't have."

The first acquisition occurred on December 19, 2001, when the State of Maine purchased 2,468 acres of forest land from New River Franklin and added it to Mt. Blue State Park. A total of \$310,000 of the \$989,500 purchase price was from the Land and Water Conservation Fund; the remaining funds were from State and private fundraising efforts.

---

*"We still have a lot of work to do, however, before we reach our goal of protecting 30,000 acres and preserving the values this beautiful region of the state is known for: outstanding recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, and a steady supply of timber for the forest-products industry."*

*Tumbledown Conservation Alliance Member Bob Kimber*

---

A fee acquisition of 797 acres from Dillon Logging Company was added to Mt. Blue State Park on March 8, 2002. The \$279,000 purchase price used \$148,000 from the Forest Legacy Program, \$56,600 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and \$74,400 in private donations.

Two more acquisitions occurred on December 9, 2002, when 3,778 acres was acquired in fee from Hancock Land Company and 7,832 acres also owned by Hancock were placed under a conservation easement to be held by the Maine Department of Environmental Conservation. The \$3,300,000 value for the fee and easement purchases used \$2,141,000 from the Forest Legacy Program and \$1,150,000 from the Land for Maine's Future Program, with the remainder coming from a Tumbledown Conservation Alliance and Trust for Public Land fundraising effort.

A conservation easement, also to be held by the Maine Department of Environmental Conservation, was put in place on three additional parcels adjacent to the State Park on May 16, 2003. Two of the parcels, 2,445 acres and 845 acres, are owned by Hancock Land Company; the third parcel of 910 acres is owned by Dillon Logging. The easement for the three parcels,

valued at \$481,000, was paid for by the Forest Legacy Program.

"The success of this terrific project demonstrates how conservation interests and private companies can work together with remarkable results. By participating in the long-term protection of Tumbledown Mountain, Hancock Land Company is demonstrating its reputation as a leader in sustainable forestry," said U.S. Senator Susan Collins. "It is also a wonderful example of Federal-State-private partnerships through the Forest Legacy Program, the Land for Maine's Future Program, and private fundraising."

The Tumbledown Conservation Alliance, which has been a driving force for land protection in the area, has more plans in the works. Alliance member Bob Kimber commented about the March 2003 acquisitions, "We still have a lot of work to do, however, before we reach our goal of protecting 30,000 acres and preserving the values this beautiful region of the State known for: outstanding recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, and a steady supply of timber for the forest products industry."

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.



Hikers will continue to enjoy the view from the summit of Tumbledown Mountain with recreational opportunities and sustainable forest management activities continuing on the Mt. Blue and Tumbledown Mountain Forest Legacy Project.

Photo by Jerry and Marcy Monkman