



# Jahoda / Johnson Forest Legacy Tract, New Hampshire

April 1996

The only known breeding pair of osprey in the Connecticut River Valley had their home protected by the Forest Legacy Program. On April 26, 1996, the USDA Forest Service acquired conservation easements over 400 acres on two properties owned by Margery and William Jahoda and William Johnson in Clarksville and Pittsburg, New Hampshire for \$157,000. The land was identified by the New Hampshire State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee as an important forest because of the critical wildlife habitat, and the commitment to education and recreation by the owners. The Jahodas and Mr. Johnson voluntarily submitted an application to join the Forest Legacy Program.

The land has been in Margery Jahoda's and William Johnson's family for 175 years and open to the surrounding community for recreation. In fact, the local school system is actively developing a long-term field study program there. One of the student projects will be monitoring three permanent ground-water-table stations established by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. In addition a new trail system, established by Margery's family, is being used by the public for nature study, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. No hunting, trapping, wheeled vehicles, or snowmobiles are allowed on the property.

Mr. and Mrs. Jahoda, who persisted with negotiations and federal acquisition process even through a rescission of funds for the Forest Legacy Program, said, "We are very fortunate that our entire family stood firmly united against pressures for development of the land." Pat D'Andrea of the Green Mountain National Forest, worked with the Jahodas to complete the acquisition for the Forest Service. "They provided me with frequent updates on thriving ospreys



The nest of the only breeding pair of Osprey in the Connecticut River Valley is in the background.

and woodpeckers, which made the mounds of paperwork worth it", D'Andrea said.

The New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development will monitor the conservation easement to ensure the landowner is abiding by its terms. The landowners will continue to manage the land guided by a Forest Stewardship Plan.

The Forest Legacy Program protects important forest areas from development. The Federal

Government purchases development rights from willing landowners. The landowner keeps all land rights not purchased by the government. Protected

forests may provide key wildlife habitat, protect water quality, offer outstanding recreation opportunities, provide outstanding scenic views, contain historical sites, or provide opportunities to continue traditional forest uses, such as timber harvesting.

The Forest Legacy Program is not just a federal program. A State may become a part of the Forest Legacy Program by completing an Assessment of Need. In this assessment the State designs a Forest Legacy Program to fit the needs of that individual state. Non-federal organizations provide at least 25 percent of program costs.

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Mr. And Mrs. Jahoda, Landowners