



# Smarts Mountain Forest Legacy Tract, New Hampshire

June & July 1997



All the land that you can see and more has been protected by the Forest Legacy Program. Unfortunately, much of the land was encased in fog, the day New Hampshire Governor Jeanne Shaheen (center) hiked up Smarts Mountain.

Photo by Adair Mulligan

On clear days, “the spectacular, undeveloped, panoramic view from the Appalachian Trail will be visible for centuries,” said Forest Service official Doreen Urquhart. The Forest Legacy Program conserved land through an outright purchase on 1,690 acres and through conservation easement purchases on 2,310 acres. The Forest Service paid Reservoir Pond Associates \$25,000 for their tract valued at \$25,700, and Lyme Timber \$625,000 for two tracts valued at \$630,000 on June 11, 1997. The excess value was donated to the program by the owners. The VanVleck deed was transferred for \$17,000 on July 21, 1997

New Hampshire Governor Jeanne Shaheen hiked up Smarts Mountain to announce New Hampshire's largest land transaction to date. “This major addition to the Forest Legacy Program will make an enormous difference for these forests and the people who use them for generations to come,” Shaheen said.

Timber harvesting will continue under perpetual limitations to protect the view and ensure a continuous

supply of timber. Susan Francher of the NH Division of Forests and Lands says, “The State wants to maintain private working forests. We can do that and keep scenery, too.”

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***“The protection of this land from development is key to the hiking experience on the Appalachian Trail.”***

Kevin Peterson  
Appalachian Trail Conference

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Some spur trails from the Appalachian Trail cross this land, which will continue to be available for use by the public. “The protection of this land from development is key to the hiking experience on the Appalachian Trail,” says Kevin Peterson of the Appalachian Trail Conference. “Furthermore, the town of Lyme has given a lot of thought on how to use the land, and this fits into their vision,” Peterson says.

Jeanie McIntyre, a Lyme resident and Director of the Upper Valley Land Trust, noted how well the project fits with community, State and Federal goals. “The Lyme Town Plan Zoning Ordinance recognizes the importance of forestry through large lot zoning in this part of town,” McIntyre says.

The Smarts Mountain project area encompasses a sector of the old Appalachian Trail, as well as its current location. It was originally an old road bed that rangers used to access the fire tower on top of Smarts Mountain. The restored tower is on the National Register of Historic Fire Towers.

The Forest Service will manage the fee parcels in conjunction with their management plan for the Appalachian Trail corridor, and monitor the easements at least once a year.

The Forest Legacy Program protects important forests from conversion to non-forest uses. Important forests provide important wildlife habitat; water quality protection, 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 at the same time ensuring it remains forest forever through the use of conservation easements.