13-Mile Woods

Forest Legacy Tract, New Hampshire

August 1997

The shoreline of the Androscoggin River in Northern New Hampshire was protected with a Forest Legacy conservation easement on August 4, 1997. The 2,754-acre tract stretches along the east side of an area known as Thirteen Mile Woods. The west side of the river was already protected owing to the initiative of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) and Brown Company. Paul Boffinger, retired Director of SPNHF is particularly pleased with the project. "I recall more than 25 years ago when a gentlemen's handshake was all that protected easements on the west side."

"The Forest Legacy Program offers a unique, collaborative approach to North Country concerns."

New Hampshire Governor Jeanne Shaheen

The U.S. Forest Service purchased a conservation easement from the Hancock Timber Resource Group for $555,000. Henry Whittemore, Northeast Regional Forester for Hancock, said, "It's one of the most beautiful places in northern New Hampshire." Lush stands of hemlock, spruce and pine edge the Androscoggin, home to everything from white tailed deer to red-tailed hawks. "It is the kind of land where people want to build homes," said Dick Ackerman, the U.S. Forest Service official who coordinated the purchase.

New Hampshire State Forester, Philip Bryce had a unique interest in the success of the project. "It gives me great pleasure to see this project completed, having submitted the original application while working for James River Corp.—the former landowner," says Bryce.

The agreement allows Hancock to cut wood, even clearcut some sections, and build logging roads, but it ensures there will not be any camps, condominiums or billboards lining the east side of the Androscoggin. The land will still be on the tax rolls, the regions timber-dominated industry can be assured a sustainable timber supply, and recreation, such as snowmobiling, hunting, fishing, camping, and wildlife viewing will be available to the public.

At a celebration of the tract closing, Governor Jeanne Shaheen said the Forest Legacy Program offers a unique, collaborative approach to North Country concerns. "We're not done yet. There is lots more work to be done to preserve what is special about New Hampshire," the Governor said.

The State of New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands will monitor the tract every year.

Fall colors along the Androscoggin River, New Hampshire

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

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