



Dartmouth Forest Legacy Tract, New Hampshire

August 1998

Along the Appalachian Trail (AT), a network of other trails are used for hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling. The USDA Forest Service purchased 556 acres of forest land that contains some of these trails from the Trustees of Dartmouth College. On December 29, 1998, the Forest Legacy Program paid \$205,720 for property that joins with other Forest Legacy parcels to form a large protected forest near Smarts Mountain.

In the 1980's, the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC) identified the Holts Ledge area as an outstanding view shed along the AT. Since the land

“A short spur trail from the AT leads to the Holts Ledge Viewpoint,” said Doreen Urquhart, a Forest Service official who worked on the project. “From this point hikers can see a 180-degree panorama. The

Dartmouth Tract is a very important component of that view.”

“The Forest Legacy acquisition protects Winslow Ledge and its associated peregrine falcon habitat. It is in the viewshed

of Holts Ledge,” Jim Carter of the NH Division of Forests and Lands observed.

The Forest Service and the State of New Hampshire agreed the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF)

will administer this land, because the forest administers land all along the Appalachian Trail within New Hampshire. Donna Hepp, WMNF Supervisor noted, “this property will be managed to promote its long-term integrity and be covered in our Forest Management Plan.”

“Dartmouth College was not doing anything with the land,” said Susan Weider of the College Real Estate office. “We are pleased and happy to work with the Forest Service to put it to good use.”

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.

“The Dartmouth tract, along with other protected land, is a wonderful amalgam of conservation land that encompasses dramatic ridges and ledges.”

Kevin Peterson, Appalachian Trail Conference



The view from the summit of Winslow Ledge on the Dartmouth Tract. Photo by Doreen Urquhart

making up the view shed was in private ownership, the ATC began encouraged landowners to voluntarily protect their land. “We were very excited when we heard about this Forest Legacy Project,” said Kevin Peterson of the Appalachian Trail Conference. “The Dartmouth tract, along with other protected land, is a wonderful amalgam of conservation land that encompasses dramatic ridges and ledges.”

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