



Fox and Pownal Tanning

Forest Legacy Tract, New York

December 1997

The border between New York, Massachusetts, and southern Vermont is the Taconic Ridge, a nearly unbroken wilderness that has many values, including a significant biological, scenic, and timber resource. This ridge is well known for its tremendous views and recreational opportunities like hiking, hunting, and nature observation.

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Jim Beil, New York Assistant State Forester

A major attraction for outdoor recreational enthusiasts in the area is the Taconic Ridge Crest Trail, running 30 miles from North Pownal, Vermont, to Pittsfield, Massachusetts, jumping between the States of New York, Vermont, and Massachusetts in its winding path along the scenic Taconic Ridge line.

Land protection efforts have occurred along the trail and the ridge in all three States to preserve the scenic beauty and rural character of the area. On December 29, 1997, the State of New York added two significant pieces of ridge lands abutting the States of Vermont and New York to the protection effort with two full fee purchases. This prize acquisition in the first year of the State Grant Legacy option secures the northern terminus of the Taconic Ridge Crest Trail.

Multiple groups worked together for the protection of the Fox and Pownal Tanning tracts. Jim Beil, Assistant State Forester, commented, “The protection of these tracts are an excellent example of how State and Federal governments, and a not-for-profit entity, the Trust For Public Land, can work together to protect and maintain forests for future generations.”

The 100-acre Fox tract was purchased by the State of New York with \$50,000 in Forest Legacy funds. The adjacent 278-acre Pownal Tanning tract was purchased by the State with \$81,000 in Forest Legacy funds. The State of New York also provided \$131,000 in funds to purchase both tracts from the

Trust for Public Land, which had purchased the land and held it until the State could acquire the funding to protect the land.

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.



The Fox and Pownal Tanning tracts on the Taconic Ridge (in the background) will continue to provide both scenic and recreational opportunities with the help of the Forest Legacy Program.

Photo by Deirdre Raimo

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