

**Northeastern Area Forest Legacy Program
The Tract Record
Third Quarter Fiscal Year 2008
July 9, 2008**

2009 Forest Legacy Budget Works Way through House

The House of Representatives Interior and the Environment Appropriations Subcommittee marked up the 2009 Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriation bill on June 11, 2008. No information on Forest Legacy Program (FLP) funding is known at this time. The information will not be available until after the House Appropriations Committee meets and votes on the bill, which is not yet scheduled.

Ready, Set, Go...FY2010 Forest Legacy Program Call for Projects Announced

Instructions for the States served by NA to submit Forest Legacy Projects for the FY2010 funding cycle were sent to the State lead agencies on June 26. In the letter, Area Director Kathryn Maloney sets the date of October 15, 2008 for States to enter their project information into the Forest Legacy Information System (FLIS). States can submit up to three projects and up to \$10 million for a total request; no single project request can exceed \$7 million. The NA FLP staff will review and provide input for the project submissions. States may update FLIS up to the national December 1, 2008 deadline.

Great Meeting Held on a Great Lake

Thought-provoking presentations facilitated excellent discussions among participants at the NA FLP meeting, held in Traverse City, MI, (located on the shore of Lake Michigan) on May 20-21. FLP coordinators from 14 States served by NA rated conservation easement monitoring and record keeping speakers Doug Fuller of the Little Traverse Conservancy and Vic Lane from the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, highly. Cindy Burkhour, from the Kellogg Foundation Access to Recreation Initiative, challenged attendees to think when designing recreational opportunities. Cindy led a "cheerleading" exercise to remind designers of the clearances associated with universal design.

Recently Completed Forest Legacy Program Projects

Michigan Protects Hemingway's Two-Hearted River

The Two-Hearted River watershed in Michigan, made famous by Ernest Hemingway's "Big Two-Hearted River" story, had 3,300 acres protected on April 28, when The Nature Conservancy transferred a 36,716-acre conservation easement to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The conservation easement, purchased from Heartwood Forestland Fund IV, encompasses more than 68 lakes, 21 miles of Class I trout streams; 1,357 acres of forested wetlands; and 708 acres of emergent shrub wetlands in the Upper Peninsula. The Forest Legacy Program contributed \$1.97 million, and the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund supplied \$3.54 million toward the total value of \$5,507,400 for Phase 3 of this multi-phased project.

Massachusetts Nature Sanctuary Propagates New Forest Land

Massachusetts Audubon Society's (Mass Audubon) 1,500-acre Rutland Brook Wildlife Sanctuary grew by 133 acres when two Forest Legacy conservation restrictions were sold to the Town of Barre. The properties are mostly located within Boston's public water supply watershed boundary, and will be open year-round for hiking and nature study. The May 30 transactions culminated a 4-year collaboration among Mass Audubon, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, the Town of Barre, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the U.S. Forest Service. The Forest Legacy Program provided \$369,500 towards the purchases, valued at \$433,000, which are part of the 2,100-acre, Quabbin Corridor Connection Project.

Iowa Oak-Hickory Forest is a Carbon Sink Where Ice Ages Ago there was None

Important woodland in the glaciated segment of Allamakee County, IA, which is also a prime housing development area, has been saved from conversion. The 209-acre Monona conservation easement was acquired with FLP funds from landowners Ronald and Rebecca Berns on May 29 at a bargain sale of \$187,650. The appraised value was \$250,600. The landowners, with the help of the Bureau of Forestry of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, developed a Forest Stewardship Plan that will guide the management of the oak-hickory forests on the property. (Managed forests are a carbon sink as opposed to an area where vegetation has been removed, say by a glacier.)

Iowa Public Recreational Opportunities Uninterrupted

An 80-acre addition to the Yellow River State Forest in Northeastern Iowa plugs a hole in the public recreation, wildlife habitat and forest management opportunities. The tract is bordered by Yellow River State Forest on 3 sides, and by private land with a permanent conservation easement on the fourth side. The Luster Heights tract was purchased from the Iowa Natural Heritage Trust in January. The \$165,000 acquisition price paid by the State was covered with \$123,750 in FLP funds, which were reimbursed to the State on May 14, after FLP standards were met, and \$41,250 provided by the Iowa REAP (Resource Enhancement and Protection) program.

Rhode Island Forest Puzzle Compiled Piece by Piece

The 45-acre Duval Trail West forested property in South Kingstown, RI, was protected with a Forest Legacy conservation easement in December 2007. This tract is located along the western boundary of 220-acres protected by The Nature Conservancy and the South Kingstown Land Trust. The 166-acre Duval Trail Corridor, protected through the FLP in 2001, is the southern boundary of those tracts. The Forest Service transferred \$363,900 in Forest Legacy funds to the State of Rhode Island on June 11, after FLP standards were met. In addition, \$61,000 from the State of Rhode Island and landowner Larry Webster's donation of \$60,300 comprised the non-Federal cost share of the project.