

Northeastern Area Forest Legacy Program (FLP) The Tract Record Fourth Quarter Fiscal Year 2008

2009 FLP Operating By Way of a Continuing Resolution So Far

The Fiscal Year 2009 budget will be put into action through a continuing resolution that extends through March 6, 2009. Continuing resolutions include legislative direction on how to proceed. Until legislative direction is received, Forest Legacy operations will be limited to administrative activities.

Recently Completed FLP Projects

Famed Adirondack Park Offers New Recreation Opportunities in New York

With several peaks greater than four thousand feet in elevation and lakes, ponds and streams that provide fishing habitat unsurpassed in the in the heart of the Adirondack Park, the previously inaccessible Tahawus property is now publicly owned. With the help of the FLP, The State of New York purchased the 6,813-acre tract, which is located in the Town of Newcomb. The Department of Environmental Conservation will manage this mountainous property as a Forest Preserve. The acquisition by the State took place on January 31, 2008 for \$5,096,124 from the State's Environmental Protection Fund. After all FLP Standards were met on July, 11, 2008 the FLP reimbursed New York State \$1,676,000.

Massachusetts Quality Conservation Continues in Quabbin Corridor Connection

The Massachusetts Quabbin Corridor Connection project added a sixth project to the completion tally of this multi-tract project. The 11-acre Day tract conservation restriction was purchased for \$120,000 from the Day Family Trust by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on September 3, 2008. State and other due diligence for the conservation restriction provided \$19,800 in cost share. Additionally, project cost share is being secured with tracts that are acquired with non-Federal funds or are donations. Managed under the guidance of a Massachusetts forest management plan the property will continue to provide forest products into the future. As part of the Quabbin Corridor Project the Day Family previously donated a conservation restriction on an adjacent 29-acre tract on December 28, 2007.

West Virginia Completes their First Forest Legacy Project

The State of West Virginia acquired their first FLP conservation easement along the South Branch of the Potomac River, which will help protect drinking water quality for much of Washington, D.C., and help clean the Chesapeake Bay. On September 8, 2008, a conservation easement was purchased by the State of West Virginia from landowner Timothy Stewart. The 764-acre forested Trough tract conservation easement was valued at \$458,124 and was acquired at a bargain sale from the landowner with \$343,593 in FLP funds. West Virginia is working on additional tracts in the South Branch project for further conservation opportunities through the FLP.

Vermont Persists in Protecting Forests with Public Access

Adding 3 conservation easements to 10 previously protected tracts, Vermont is like a fine-tuned machine in protecting productive forests, key wildlife habitat and recreation trails. Three Chittenden County Uplands project tracts closed this quarter. First, the Green Crow Corporation sold a 191-acre conservation easement to Vermont on July 30, 2008 for \$59,000 of FLP funds, thus protecting an uncommon red pine natural community. The second easement is on 1,677 acres that are adjacent to Mount Mansfield State Forest. Vermont purchased the conservation easement for \$690,000 in FLP funds on September 25, 2008 from the Barbara Buttolph Revocable Trust. The property has been carefully managed by the Buttolph family. The third easement was purchased from Betty and William Preston on 203 acres using \$450,000 of FLP

funds also on September 25, 2008. All three easements include the requirement for dispersed, pedestrian public access. Cost share for the FLP acquisitions came through the generous donation of 228 acres in the towns of Stowe and Waterbury from the Scheur estate to the State of Vermont. The Scheur property is now managed as part of Mount Mansfield State Forest.