

Pleasant River Headwaters Forest in Maine



The 100-Mile Wilderness lies in the heart of Maine’s North Woods, a region that features some of the largest areas of undeveloped forests, lakes, and ponds in the United States and an area of exceptionally high habitat connectivity and resilience to climate change.

The Conservation Fund and The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) are working to purchase and conserve 26,740 acres of working forestland here known as the Pleasant River Headwaters Forest. This property is a high priority for AMC as part of its Maine Woods Initiative (MWI), which seeks to conserve and protect a corridor of more than a million acres of the 100-Mile Wilderness from Monson to Baxter State Park. The property will be a significant addition to AMC’s plan to protect the entire watershed of the West Branch of the Pleasant River.



Together, AMC and The Conservation Fund are working to purchase and protect the Pleasant River Headwaters Forest. Using bridge capital, The Conservation Fund will acquire and hold the property, providing time for AMC to raise the necessary funds to permanently conserve this critical piece of Forestland.

“The Appalachian Mountain Club is pleased to partner with The Conservation Fund on permanently protecting the Pleasant River Headwaters Forest in Maine. Our organizations share similar values in land conservation and habitat protection, and we are grateful to The Conservation Fund for bringing the national significance to this project which it deserves.”

— Walter Graff,
Senior Vice President, The
Appalachian Mountain Club



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Why This Project Matters

AMC's Maine Woods Initiative is a model of exemplary forest conservation and land management.

Conserving the Pleasant River Headwaters Forest will add to the protection of the watershed of the West and East branches of the Pleasant River which will allow Atlantic salmon to return to the headwater streams of the West Branch of the Pleasant River and restore a renowned native brook trout habitat.

Acquiring the Pleasant River Headwaters Forest also adds area to a climate resilient landscape. As species begin to shift their ranges due to climate change they seek landscape diversity and local connectedness. Therefore, large areas of intact forestland are crucial.

Indeed, keeping forests intact is crucial to keep pace with a warming climate, and it is through active forest management that AMC is looking to increase the forest's ability to sequester and store carbon.

Finally, the Maine Woods Initiative is an important economic driver in the region. Through MWI, AMC has developed a robust nature-based tourism operation that includes a series of lodges, 130 miles of trails for hiking and skiing, an environmental education program for schools throughout the region and a significant sustainable forestry operation.

As a certified sustainable working forest, the Pleasant River Headwaters Forest will serve as a "green endowment." For AMC, timber sales will help offset the costs of managing the land and will help support long-term programming for MWI. Forestry operations will also bolster the regional economy.

On a broader scale, AMC's land is the southern anchor of a 60-mile corridor of conserved land encompassing over 500,000 acres owned by AMC, The Nature Conservancy, the state of Maine and the federal government. When adjacent working forest easement lands are included in this conservation landscape, the total continuous conserved land encompasses over 750,000 acres - nearly the size of the White Mountain National Forest. The Pleasant River Headwaters Forest is one of the few remaining large, key inholdings in this landscape.

About The Conservation Fund

We make conservation work for America. By creating solutions that make environmental and economic sense, we are redefining conservation to demonstrate its essential role in our future prosperity. Top-ranked for efficiency and effectiveness, we've protected 429,000 acres of land in Maine and more than eight million acres across the country since 1985.

Tom Duffus

Vice President and
Northeast Representative

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About the Appalachian Mountain Club

Founded in 1876, the Appalachian Mountain Club promotes the protection, enjoyment, and understanding of the mountains, forests, waters, and trails of America's Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. We believe these resources have intrinsic worth and also provide recreational opportunities, spiritual renewal, and ecological and economic health for the region.

Walter Graff

Senior Vice President

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Land Ownership in the 100-Mile Wilderness Region

-  AMC MWI lands
-  Pleasant River Headwaters Forest 1

- Conservation land
-  Federal
 -  State
 -  Private
 -  Easement

- Major landowners
-  Carrier
 -  Cassidy
 -  Elliottsville Plantation
 -  Great Northwoods
 -  Katahdin Forest Manage
 -  Malone
 -  McCrillis
 -  McPherson
 -  Penobscot Tribe
 -  Prentiss Carlisle
 -  Webber
 -  Weyerhaeuser
 -  Appalachian Trail

5 0 5 Miles
November 2018

