

# FOREST LEGACY

Keeping important forests for future generations

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No. 11



## Utah!

By Ann Price  
Salt Lake City, UT

Utah Senator Bob Bennett declared, “The donation portion is the largest gift of land value ever donated to the State of Utah and to the entire Forest Legacy Program nationally.” With a flourish, Utah became actively involved in Forest Legacy, protecting 10,000 acres of forestland from development on two working ranches and ensuring that traditional uses of the land will be maintained for future generations.

Working in partnership with The Trust for Public Land, the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands has spent nearly 2 years in negotiation with landowners on two separate parcels of land. The first, Peaceful Valley Ranch in East Canyon—a short distance from the rapidly developing areas of Park City and Salt Lake City—has been in family ownership for over 100 years. Included on the property are a portion of the Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail, an historic farmhouse and barn, and a restored Pony Express Station. The ranch contains some of the most significant wildlife habitat in the State, including habitat for elk, mule deer, mountain lion, and black bear. In the first phase of the easement acquisition, Utah brought 1,790 acres of the total 7,300 acres under easement at a fraction of the \$6.4 million value.

While negotiations progressed with East Canyon, other family

members became interested in Forest Legacy for their 8,890 acres in Chalk Creek, approximately 30 miles north. The three siblings who owned this stunning landscape felt a deep attachment to the working ranch so cherished by their mother and father. In a

gesture that still overwhelms the Utah staff, Shirley Macfarlane, and Howard and Doug Haynes donated the conservation easement valued at \$8.5 million to the Legacy Program.

The property contains the watershed for Chalk Creek, from the snow-covered peaks and alpine lakes forming the headwaters to the rich pastureland and meadows below. It includes thick stands of aspen, ponderosa pine, spruce, and gambel oak. Stewardship plans administered by the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands will guide the management direction in perpetuity for these parcels.

The family will continue their cattle and sheep grazing, hunting, and harvesting of timber. Shirley, who has managed the ranch for the last 20 years,



Howard Haynes, landowner; Kevin Wells, Legacy Administrator; Shirley Haynes Macfarlane, landowner; checking boundaries of the 8,890-acre Chalk Creek Property.

stated, “Our goal was to preserve it like my dad had it,” and now that will happen in the continuation of a working landscape.

### Land Protected to Date

(Updated to include donations and State purchases)

State	Acres	Value	Federal Payment
CT	352	\$ 390,000	\$ 390,000
MA	1,185	6,179,000	3,362,000
MD	668	775,000	0
ME	11,130	2,793,000	2,793,000
NH	12,797	5,112,000	1,804,000
NJ	1,345	4,712,000	612,000
NY	638	337,000	337,000
RI	288	653,000	650,000
UT	10,680	9,500,000	900,000
VT	48,587	7,550,000	5,336,000
WA	2,272	11,233,000	6,203,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>89,942</b>	<b>\$49,234,000</b>	<b>\$22,387,000</b>

## Boy Scouts Will Revel in Camp Protection

By Don VanHassent  
Annapolis, MD

Maryland has recently closed its first three Forest Legacy easements, which are the State match for upcoming Federal acquisitions. The tracts are contiguous—Caveat (24.3 acres), McDaniel (153 acres), and Camp Rodney (491 acres). Camp Rodney, a Boy Scout camp, shares a long border with Elk Neck State Park, resulting in a protected block of forest almost 3,000 acres in size. The site is located at the head of the Chesapeake Bay between the expanding suburbia of Baltimore to the southeast, and Philadelphia and Wilmington to the northeast. This expansive block of forestland is important habitat for forest interior dwelling birds.

The easements also protect a 30-acre wetland that has known populations of at least six State or Federally listed rare species. The three easements were purchased for a total cost of \$774,762 with State funds from Maryland's Program Open Space. Program Open Space is an important partner in Maryland's Forest Legacy Program. Their commitment to the program is shown by their dedication of all funds necessary to complete these three projects. Maryland expects to complete two Federally funded Forest Legacy projects this fall.

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## House Appropriations Staffer Questions Forest Legacy Program Operations

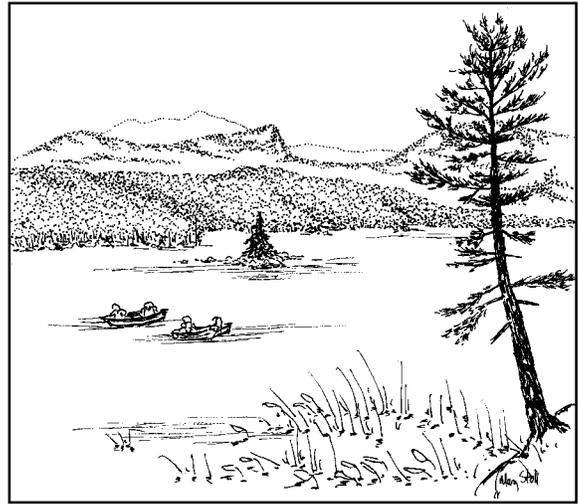
Piermont, NH—

An early morning canoe tour on Lake Tarleton provided the setting for a discussion about the Forest Legacy Program with Chris Topik, a Staff Assistant for the House Appropriations Subcommittee for

Interior and Related Agencies. The morning of September 1, 1999, was clear and calm. Alan Hutchinson, Maine's Forest Society; Susan Francher, New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands; Mark McEathron, Vermont Land Trust; and Gerry Hertel and Deirdre Raimo from the Forest Service Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry floated out onto Lake Tarleton with Chris Topik to view the Piermont Mountain Forest Legacy Tract. After hearing a quick overview of the Forest Legacy Program, Chris asked questions to get a better understanding of how the program operates.

Chris, who works for the Subcommittee and answers to its Chair, Ohio Congressman Ralph Regula, explained what the Forest Legacy Program looks like to him. "When I get the list of projects, it looks like a haphazard list of tracts, not pulled together with any strategy," Topik said. The Land Trust and State representatives were articulate and responsive to Chris' comments. They emphasized that the Federal government helps States identify important forests. Generally, the land protected under the Forest Legacy Program expands a core of protected land that is made up of either State, Land Trust, or Federal land. Also, the Federal government rarely acts alone on financing big projects. States, Land Trusts, and landowners often contribute to the purchase price of the lands or interests in lands, if not donating outright. Indeed, a strategy is in place for each State's program.

An hour-long drift on the lake offered ample opportunity for additional questions. Chris was presented with a full range of answers that portrayed the Legacy Program as a sophisticated solution to a sophisticated goal.



Early morning on Lake Tarleton. Sketch by Mary Stoll.

[http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/legacy\\_tract](http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/legacy_tract)

Washington, DC—

Forest Legacy is on the Web! Higher-resolution copies of the Forest Legacy Feature Tract sheets are now on-line. After navigating to the title address, a map of the United States appears with each State color-coded by activity status: completed (i.e., active), pending, interested, or inactive. By clicking on the State or the name listed beneath the map, a list of projects for which information sheets have been finished appears. By clicking on the name of the tract, a color information sheet can be viewed through Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Mele Fong, a Webmaster at the Forest Service Washington Office, pulled together the information sheets assembled by the Northeastern Area and the respective States. Sandy Watts, a Washington Office based Computer Specialist, worked on the map information with data provided by Tom Luther, Geographic Information System Analyst from the Northeastern Area. Ted Beauvais provided vision and on-site quality control for establishing the Website, which will be refined and updated over time. Visit the Forest Legacy Website often for the latest information on the Forest Legacy Program.

**Recent Closings**

**East Hampton, CT—**

On June 17, 1999, the Connecticut Forest Legacy Tract called Pine Brook, also known as Sandin/Masters, was protected with a \$100,000 conservation easement over 127 acres. The Forest Service holds this easement, and the State has agreed to monitor the tract. Primary considerations for its inclusion in the Connecticut Forest Legacy Program are that it abuts the 471-acre Wopowag Wildlife Management Area, and it abuts 4,500 feet of Pine Brook—a major tributary to the Salmon River, which feeds into the Connecticut River. This brook has been the site for reintroducing salmon. The immediate area contains 35,000 protected acres.

**Burrillville, RI—**

On May 27, 1999, Rhode Island closed on the Wright Forest Legacy Tract. The value of the conservation easement on the 137-acre parcel was \$52,800. Of the total cost, \$50,000 came from the Forest Legacy Program and \$2,800 was a Rhode Island Open Space grant. Historically, this parcel was used as a hunt club for some of Rhode Island's elite. The current owner has been managing the land for forest products and will continue to do so.

The easement allows for limited public access, as well as deer and turkey hunting with permission. This tract is significant in that it lies within a greenway and may trigger interest in the program from adjacent landowners.



*Rhode Island's newest Forest Legacy Tract, the Wright Tract, has been managed for forest products as a "Tree Farm." Photo by Paul Ricard.*

**New States Poised to Join Forest Legacy: Budget and Legislative Update**

*By Ted Beauvais  
Washington, DC*

This is a busy time in the Forest Legacy Program, with six States completing Forest Legacy Assessment of Need plans. These States, their partners, and interested citizens and groups have contributed a tremendous effort in crafting Forest Legacy Programs during the past months. States that complete their plans and the Regional or Area Office review by September 15, 1999, will join the 17 States and territories already in the program. All will be eligible for fiscal year 2000 project funds to complete acquisitions. The States currently completing their plans are Tennessee, South Carolina, Montana, North Carolina, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania. Once these plans are finalized and the Forest Service Region or Area formally transmits the plan to the Washington Office with a recommendation of approval, the Forest Service Chief will add his recommendation and forward the plan to the Secretary of Agriculture for a final decision.

The funding outlook for next year is still where it stood when Congress

adjourned for the summer recess. When Congress returns after Labor Day, they will be busy with 11 appropriations bills, including the Interior and Related Agencies bill that funds the Forest Legacy Program. The differences between the House (\$7.040 million passed by the House) and Senate (\$14.012 million passed by the Appropriations Committee) versions will be reconciled in conference, and the final appropriation will be decided.

Significant changes have been proposed by Congress for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Several competing proposals have been introduced during the past 9 months, including H.R. 701 and H.R. 798, and similar Senate bills—S. 25 and S. 446. A new source of continuing funding for the Forest Legacy Program is proposed under Title IV, Section 403 of both H.R. 798 and S. 446. This proposal would establish a Farmland, Ranchland, Open Space, and Forestland Protection Fund which would receive some of the Outer Continental Shelf revenues received by the United States each year. The Forest Legacy Program would be eligible for up to \$50 million from this fund annually. The debates and deliberations will continue into the fall. It is impossible to predict what a final bill might contain or even if any bill will be enacted into law.

**Upcoming Conference**

**Land Trust Alliance Rally**  
October 14-17, 1999  
[www.lta.org/rally.html](http://www.lta.org/rally.html)



**We Can't Take Our Clean Water for Granted  
(Protecting Water Quality with Land Protection Programs)**

*By Sarah Thorne  
Concord, NH*

Clean drinking water and well-managed forestland go hand in hand. Natural lands are ideal "pretreatment plants" for our precious drinking water supplies. In New Hampshire, we have been blessed with clean water in large measure due to our extensive forests (84 percent of land base) and investment in waste water treatment. Decades ago, at a time when watersheds were only sparsely settled, our cities and villages created reservoirs and river intakes to supply their residents. Recently, our thirst for water has outstripped our surface supplies and we have turned to groundwater. New Hampshire's population has doubled since 1950. Undeveloped sites for new wells have become scarce in many towns.

Today, many of the health threats to our drinking water come from dispersed sources: underground storage tanks for petroleum products, pesticides, runoff from pavement, landfills, improperly stored or used chemicals, and transportation spills. The lands feeding water to our wells and reservoirs are being rapidly converted by development. We can no longer take our drinking water supply lands for granted.

Like many States, New Hampshire has made significant progress in protecting its drinking water supplies through education, monitoring, best management practices, land use regulation, and treatment plants. However, these methods alone cannot provide secure protection for our water supplies.

The best way to protect the most critical water supply lands for the long term is to buy them. A one-time investment in land can save hundreds of thousands of dollars down the road—and can provide many other public benefits such as forest products, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitat, recreation trails, and scenic beauty, as well as protection for high value wetlands.

To stimulate more land acquisition, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services entered into a contract with the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) to research the feasibility of a public water supply land conservation program for New Hampshire. Some findings were:

- Some towns have built over their best aquifers and must look out of town for water.
- Critical water supply lands are four times more developed and support twice as many roads as the statewide average.

- Since 1988, there have been at least 269 detections of contamination in public water supply wells; 67 percent of these are believed to be from human sources.

Communities can benefit from forest products that are sensitively harvested from water supply lands. In fact, most reservoir watersheds are managed by foresters to improve water quality. With adequate buffers from surface waters and wells, agriculture can also be practiced safely on most water supply lands. All of these lands offer scenic beauty and rural character to their communities.

The SPNHF recommended that the State of New Hampshire create a Water Supply Land Conservation Program to increase the level of protection for public drinking water supplies. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has provided funding for this research project. For the complete report, *Recommended Water Supply Land Conservation Program for New Hampshire*, send \$10 to SPNHF, 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord NH 03301, or call Sarah Thorne at (603)224-9945.

The EPA is setting up a system of low-interest loans through the 1996 amendment to the Safe Drinking Water Act. Money is provided to States that set up a "Drinking Water State Revolving Fund." Each State sets up its own rules for apportioning the funds. Money can be used for land purchase, water treatment, and planning. To find out how a State implements the program, contact the State's drinking water agency. A publication produced by the Land Trust Alliance, *Federal Funds for Protecting Local Watersheds*, provides information about the program. The Land Trust Alliance web page offers more information on ordering the publication: [www.lta.org](http://www.lta.org).

State and Federal programs, along with the Forest Legacy Program, can focus efforts where goals overlap, such as protecting forests for water quality.



*Forest Service Photo*



Forest Legacy is a program established in the 1990 Farm Bill. State and Federal Partners work together to implement the program. Information sharing occurs many ways including this periodic update. If you would like a copy, please send information to: Forest Legacy, USDA Forest Service, 271 Mast Road, P.O. Box 640, Durham, NH 03824-0640.

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