

EAGLE LAKE FOREST

Where the Headwaters Meet

Land Worth Conserving

An opportunity has arisen to add about 5,000 acres to 451,000 acres of existing conservation in Hancock County in an area that includes the headwaters of three different river systems. The Eagle Lake Forest project will conserve important wetlands and forested uplands that together provide pristine water quality. The forests have been sustainably harvested and meticulously cared for over the last decade by one family. The project lands are also used locally for several forms of recreation including—hunting, fishing, ATV riding, and snowmobiling. The Forest Society of Maine will place an easement on these lands that will ensure their many values are maintained forever.



Forested Wetland—Jerry Monkman Photo

Landscape Conservation Values

The Eagle Lake project lands have exceptional conservation values that encompass several important ecosystems. They contain well-managed forests, much of the shoreline of Eagle Lake, the entire shoreline of Little Pickerel Pond, and 9 miles of freshwater streams. The headwaters of the Passadumkeag, Union, and Narraguagus rivers are found there, all of which support federally endangered Atlantic Salmon. The multiple streams on the property are high value brook trout habitat, and the land also supports deer wintering areas. The family works to ensure these managed forests help support a variety of other wildlife, such as ruffed grouse, wood ducks, woodcock, and large mammals. As development pressure creeps north in Maine, adding to existing conserved lands is increasingly important, especially on lands that have been identified by The Nature Conservancy as above average for their climate resiliency.

Atlantic Salmon

Making It Happen

The Forest Society of Maine will continue working with the landowner, local community members, state agencies, and others to bring this project to a successful conclusion by spring 2024. In order to do so, FSM needs to raise \$2 million. Reaching this goal will not only provide the funds needed to purchase the conservation easement but also provide necessary funds to oversee the easement in perpetuity and enable FSM to grow as it takes on significant easement projects for the benefit of all who enjoy Maine's North Woods.

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