

## EDITORIAL ROUNDUP: The Concord Monitor on protecting lakes from invasive aquatic species, the Portland Herald on protecting Maine forests from development, and the Cape Cod Times on protecting coastal shores from pollution

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### **Protect the forests**

*The Portland Press-Herald cites a new Harvard report that finds that New England's forests are shrinking.*

... Maine, which is the most heavily forested state in the Northeast, would seem to have little to worry about, but the forest remains a cornerstone of our economy and a vital environmental asset. So this trend cannot be taken lightly. One ongoing effort, The Great Forest Initiative, has brought land owners, environmentalists and the state Forest Service together to find a uniquely Maine approach to preserve woodlands while letting commercial forestry and recreation expand ...

Their proposal is to start with a series of pilot projects that would buy development rights from landowners and provide incentives to manage their holdings in ways that maximize their environmental value. The idea is not to pay the landowners to meet their legal requirements, but to give them incentives to exceed them.

The initiative is seeking the support from the federal government, which would be the source of funding needed to make this happen.

Preserving Maine's forest is an important goal, and it's important to remember that it won't happen on its own. The forest in its current state has not always been here, and it could be lost if we don't take care of it.

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