

Wildlands and Woodlands

A Vision for the New England Landscape

2012 UPDATE

New England is an extraordinary forested landscape of immense economic and ecologic importance—to us, our communities, and the globe. It is also a landscape at a crossroads: New England forests experienced a remarkable recovery after massive deforestation 150 years ago, but that trend has peaked, and every state in the region is now experiencing net annual forest loss.

In 2010, a group of scientists from across the region released *Wildlands and Woodlands, A Vision for the New England Landscape*, an ambitious call for all New Englanders to work together to retain 70% of the region in forest, a total of 30 million acres. The details include:

- ▶ 90% of conserved forests as “Woodlands,” sustainably managed for many uses, from recreation and wildlife to wood products, and
- ▶ 10% of conserved forests as “Wildland” reserves shaped only by the natural environment.

This three-fold increase in conserved land would be achieved through easements from willing landowners paired with strategic conservation acquisitions and enhanced economic incentives for conservation.

Harvard Forest scientists initiated the Wildlands and Woodlands (W&W) effort based on the recognized value of forests to nature and society and on compelling historical inspiration: the return of New England’s forests provides us with a remarkable second chance to conserve this invaluable resource.

The W&W vision accommodates further development—indeed, as much as a doubling of existing amounts—and is squarely complementary to other evolving visions for more efficient and sustainable approaches to transportation, commercial and residential development, and energy and resource use. W&W also envisions conservation of existing farmland to provide an increasing array of local farm products, and could accommodate a tripling of agricultural land to meet future demand.

Importantly, Wildlands and Woodlands refers to both a conservation vision *and* the growing network of groups and individuals seeking to achieve it. Conservation in New England, which is characterized by private ownership and an ethic of self-determination, must be led by grassroots efforts backed by commensurate public and private resources. Fortunately, the response to W&W has been deeply and broadly enthusiastic. W&W’s partner organization list is in the hundreds, while many organizations, agencies, communities, and individuals are advancing W&W on an informal basis.

This Update celebrates some of the recent innovations and success stories in increasing the pace of New England conservation—and the many committed people behind that success.

—David Foster, Harvard Forest and Highstead

CONSERVATION SUCCESS

Groups and individuals across New England are finding new ways to work together to accelerate the pace of conservation. A handful of inspiring examples follow. Additional Conservation Success stories, video interviews, and a link to submit your own story can be found at www.wildlandsandwoodlands.org.

Conservation Aggregation

A New Model for Advancing Regional Conservation

The New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) has been working with seven groups across New England to further the conservation goals of the W&W vision through an innovative, multi-parcel conservation easement process called “conservation aggregation.” Consultants Keith Ross of LandVest, Alex Van Alen of True North, and NEFF are now working with nearly 100 land trusts and watershed associations to plan and implement conservation aggregation initiatives in coastal Maine; western and central Massachusetts; western, central, and coastal Connecticut; and southern New Hampshire. Additional collaborations are forming in central Vermont and eastern Massachusetts.

In this new model, new or existing land conservation partnerships come together across community and even state boundaries to address large-scale land conservation opportunities or land-use threats. As “conservation intermediary,” NEFF provides initial support to organize

a series of meetings to help the participants identify shared local and regional conservation goals, articulate an overall conservation theme inspired by the W&W vision, and establish a set of criteria to guide project selection.

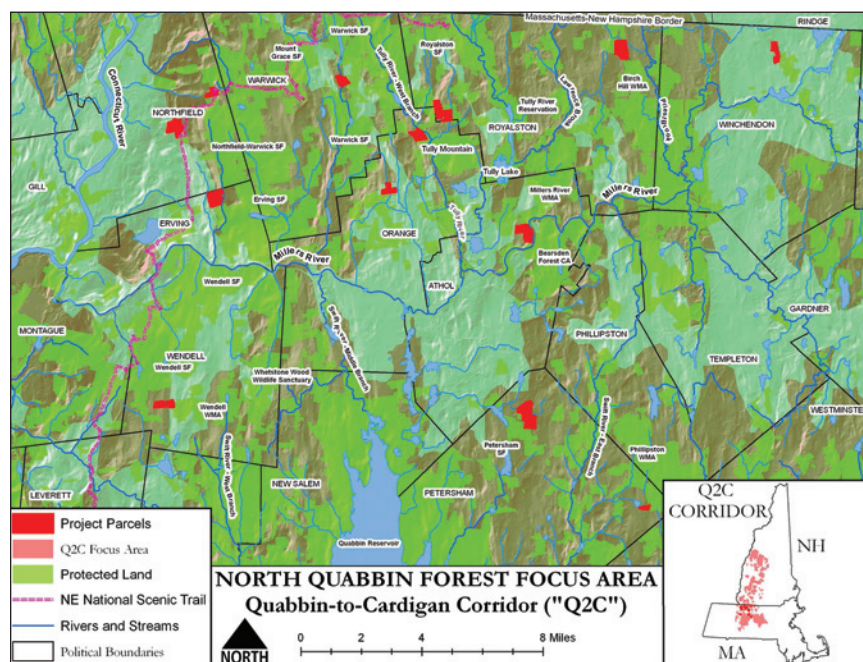
Participating land trusts then use the conservation theme to recruit individual landowners who want to put conservation easements on their property and be part of this compelling story. The land trusts bundle appraisals, negotiations, and legal and baseline documentation expenses to lower the cost of those individual conservation transactions. In most cases, the conservation easements are purchased at 75% of the appraised value with a 25% bargain sale required from the landowner. The groups also collaborate on fundraising from new local, regional, and national funding sources that are attracted to the larger conservation vision.

In one example, the Western Massachusetts Pilot

Aggregation Project is on track to complete 33 projects totaling more than 4,000 targeted acres by the end of this year. Project leaders will raise the bulk of the money by combining new state grant awards for landscape-level conservation projects and a new state tax credit program. Several aggregation groups have successfully secured foundation grants to assist with staffing needs and appraisal costs for targeted projects.

The conservation aggregation model is new and evolving, and ongoing review of these early projects will provide valuable lessons for the next generation of initiatives. NEFF seeks to build on this work and develop new funding sources to support this innovative method of cost-effective, collaborative conservation.

—Keith Ross, LandVest



A map of aggregation projects in Western Massachusetts. The work is part of a larger multi-group conservation effort in the Quabbin to Cardigan (Q2C) corridor, shown in the bottom right corner.

3,200 Acres Conserved Adjacent to Acadia National Park

A spectacular 3,200-acre parcel on the Schoodic Peninsula, adjacent to Acadia National Park, contains a rich array of woodlands and wetlands, more than a mile of shore frontage, and an extensive shared boundary with the park. But the land's previous owners, Winter Harbor Holdings LLC, saw the location as an ideal spot for a new eco-resort—in 2008, they proposed building 1,000 new homes, two lodges, and a golf course.

Public hearings revealed major opposition to developing this prized property, with **Maine Coast Heritage Trust** (MCHT) and **Friends of Acadia** leading the way. The concern was that development would degrade important habitat and have major negative impact on the quality of Acadia National Park.

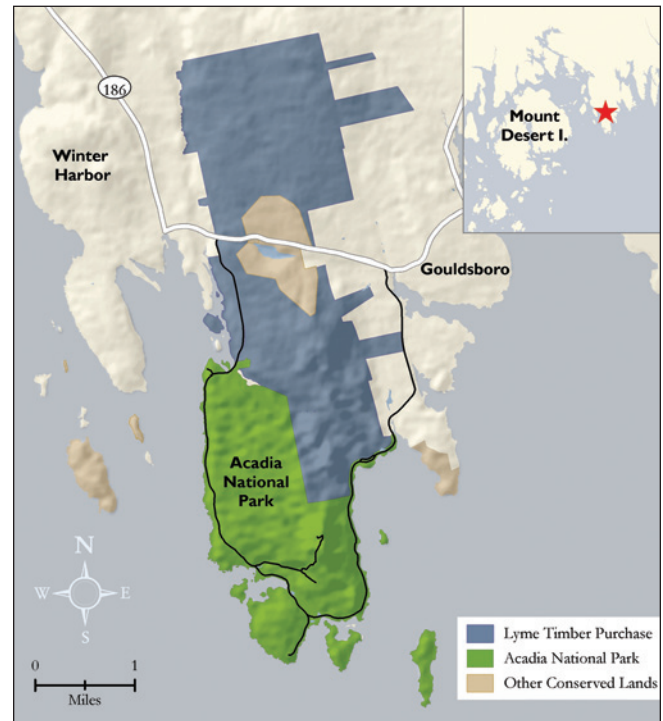
Looking for solutions, MCHT and the National Park Service approached the **Lyme Timber Company** LP about a possible conservation purchase. Lyme Timber is a private timberland investment management organization that focuses on lands with unique conservation values. Many of their deals have a conservation buyer component, and retained lands are sustainably managed, primarily under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification program.

After 12 months of negotiations, Lyme Timber purchased the 3,200 acres from Winter Harbor, closing the deal in December 2011. Lyme Timber also gave MCHT exclusive rights to buy a conservation easement on the southern 1,500 acres of the property over the next five years.

Lyme Timber will now work with MCHT, Friends of Acadia, and other stakeholders to create a plan for the

entire property. One potential plan is for the southern portion of the property to be added to Acadia National Park over time—a very different outcome than the massive development proposed just four years ago.

—**Talbot Eckweiler**, Highstead



Conservation on the Schoodic Peninsula. Purchasing land adjacent to other conserved spaces extends wildlife corridors and protects biodiversity.



Historic Conservation Deal Closes in Massachusetts

In December 2011, the **W.D. Cows Inc. Land Company** completed the sale of a conservation restriction (CR) to the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game on 3,486 acres of the company's woodlands on Brushy Mountain in Leverett and Shutesbury, creating the largest CR on contiguous private land in state history. The project was completed in partnership with **Kestrel Land Trust** and **Franklin Land Trust**.

The land represents one of several major forest holdings owned by the Cowls family's 272 year-old company, which is the 12th oldest family business in the US and the largest private landowner in Massachusetts. The 3,486-acre parcel is named the **Paul C. Jones Working Forest** to honor the family's 8th generation patriarch who passed away late last year.

The conservation restriction prohibits future development (including cell towers and wind power), requires sustainable forestry practices, and guarantees continued public access to the land for hiking, hunting, and fishing. The CR was appraised for \$8.8 million, and Kestrel Land Trust and Franklin Land Trust took the lead to secure \$5 million from the Forest Legacy Program and \$839,600 from the Open Space Institute. The remaining \$2.46 million came from the state's open space bond authorization and from the sale of fishing and hunting licenses.

Although 3,500 acres is the largest CR on contiguous private land in state history, it is still just a small fraction of the Commonwealth's vast woodlands. Achieving the ambitious goals of W&W includes challenges that land trusts and landowners will have to negotiate to move this conservation vision forward.

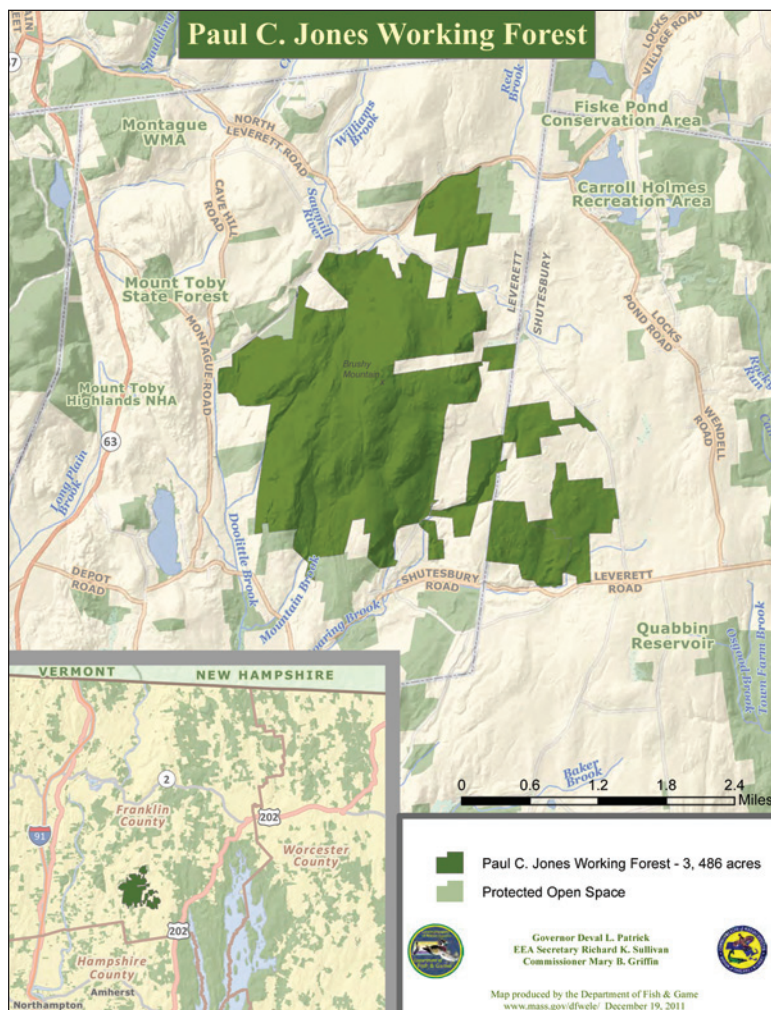
According to Cinda Jones, Cowls President, "the goals of W&W are over-reaching.

Protecting 100% of our holdings would be far too limiting for future generations." For a land company accustomed to thinking ahead by a hundred years, conserving 20–30% of its woodland for sustainable forestry in perpetuity is a goal better suited to the business, according to Jones.

For Kestrel Land Trust, the W&W vision is an inspiring conservation framework, and Kestrel has pledged to conserve 1,000 acres/year in its 19-town Connecticut River region to help make it a reality, building on the success of Brushy Mountain. However, Kestrel's Executive Director, Kristin DeBoer, admits that even conserving 1,000 acres every year will fall short of the W&W goal. "It is clear that achieving the W&W vision will require new pots of funding and more creative tools to motivate landowners to permanently conserve their land."

The good news is that landowners and conservationists are tackling this challenge together as never before. As Cinda Jones noted, “After years of turning down this opportunity, Kristin convinced me that selling the development rights was the option most compatible with our mission of sustainable forestry and growing the potential of our family business. I’m proud of what we accomplished together.”

—Talbot Eckweiler, Highstead



The Paul C. Jones Working Forest in Leverett and Shutesbury, Massachusetts. Landowners, towns, and community members can all benefit from the sale of conservation restrictions (also called conservation easements).

Evans Mountain and Beyond

The W&W Vision Takes Shape in New Hampshire

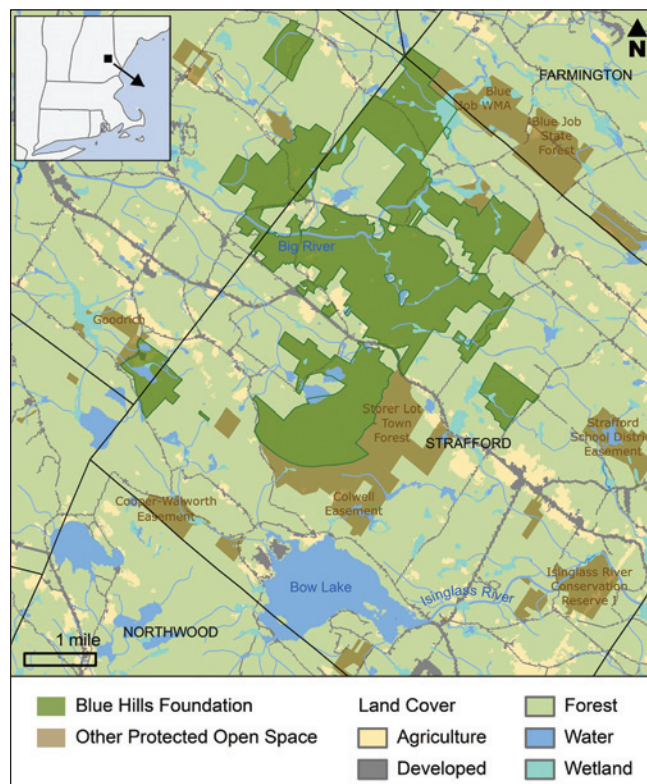
In 1964, George Lovejoy looked out across the 1,000-acre, clear-cut tract adjoining his family's summer home in Strafford, New Hampshire and decided to buy and conserve it before it was developed. Half a century later, he has completed more than 100 conservation deals and with the Blue Hills Foundation (BHF) he founded has permanently protected nearly 7,000 acres of forest and farmland. The area has become a focal area for the state under its **Wildlife Action Plan** and lies at the center of an expansive landscape of ridgetops, forests, wetlands, headwater streams, and ponds conserved by BHF, the town, state agencies, the **Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests** (SPNHF), and other private landowners. Most recently, Lovejoy worked in 2011 with the Town of Stratford and **Bear-Paw Regional Greenways** to conserve 1,015 ecologically valuable acres on Evans Mountain.

The record of conservation in the Blue Hills region is testimony to the ability of individuals, guided by vision and persistence, to make an enduring difference on the landscape.

Today, BHF lands are managed under a long-term plan guided in part by the Wildlands and Woodlands vision, with the land being zoned into actively managed farmlands and woodlands and a large wildland reserve. More than 125 permanent research plots from the **W&W Stewardship Science program**, established by **Harvard Forest** scientists and interns, are documenting long-term forest dynamics on both woodlands and reserves. Meanwhile, George

Lovejoy continues—as he has for decades—to work with his family and neighbors to expand the area's conservation footprint.

—**David Foster and Brian Hall**, Harvard Forest



Blue Hills Foundation lands in southeastern New Hampshire.

Advancing the New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan—and the W&W Vision

"The [Evans Mountain] property includes some of the most ecologically significant natural lands in southeastern New Hampshire and is part of one of the area's largest remaining forests. . . . Large, unfragmented forest ecosystems like this offer vital support to the region's biodiversity—wildlife species such as moose, bobcat, fisher and bear depend on these large areas of habitat to survive and some bird species, such as goshawks and veery, depend on forest interior habitats to breed. According to the Wildlife Action Plan, protecting threatened and essential habitat resources such as these is a priority."

— From "Bear-Paw and Blue Hills Foundation Acquire Evans Mountain," by Daniel Kern in the *Philbrick-James Forum*



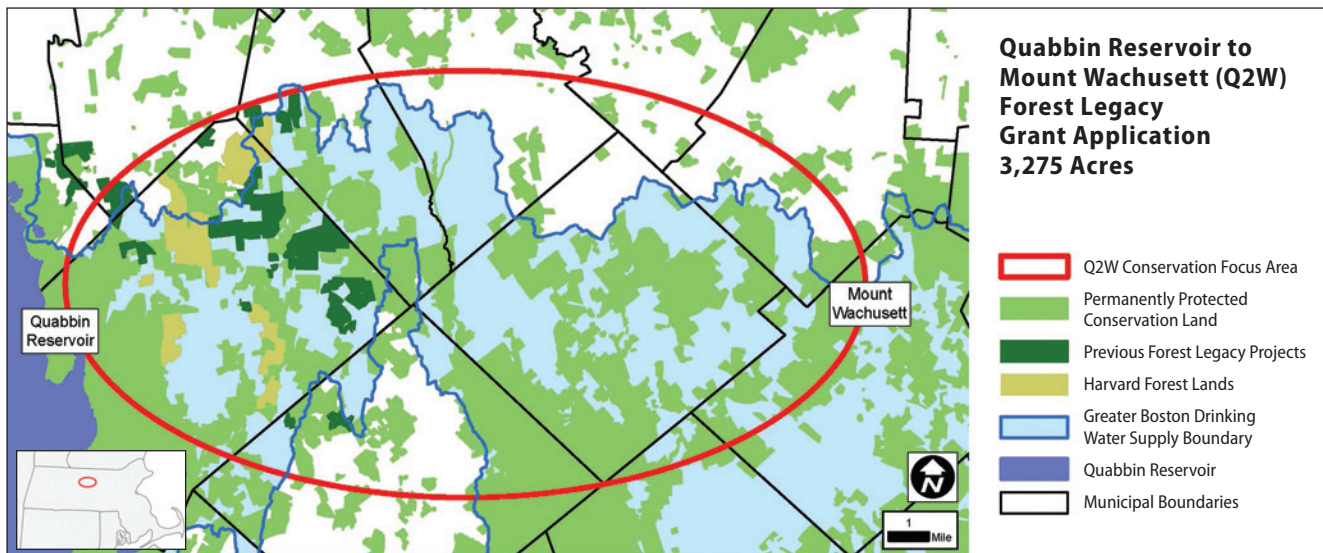
CONSERVATION FUNDING

Continued conservation success will depend on robust and innovative funding strategies—some of which are highlighted here.

Forest Legacy Program

The **Forest Legacy Program** awarded an impressive three out of its top five national grants for FY 2013 to conservation projects in New England states that will help leverage more than 50,000 acres of high-priority conservation.

- ▶ Massachusetts: the **Quabbin Reservoir to Wachusett Mountain project** received \$5,045,000. The goal of the project is to preserve 3,275 acres and major wildlife corridors in this region.
- ▶ Vermont: **Northern Green Mountains Linkage** received \$2,720,000 to continue its goal to protect approximately 40,000 contiguous acres straddling the U.S./Canada border, a vital habitat and wilderness recreation linkage from Mount Mansfield, Vermont to Mount Sutton, Quebec.
- ▶ Maine: **East Grand/Orient** received \$1,800,000 to protect 7,450 acres as part of the larger East Grand Watershed Initiative to conserve 12,200 acres in the upper St. Croix River watershed—the longest stretch of international boundary water east of the Great Lakes.



The Quabbin to Wachusett region provides many ecosystem services, including much of Boston's water supply. Forest conservation is an extremely cost-effective way to protect our region's abundant supply of clean water.

Massachusetts Land Initiative for Tomorrow (MassLIFT)

In 2010, the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust initiated a new AmeriCorps program in partnership with 14 land trusts, watershed groups, and woodland councils. AmeriCorps provides a \$260,000 grant to pay stipends for 20 volunteers each year to work with MassLIFT partners and increase the pace of conservation throughout the state. Learn more at www.mountgrace.org/ameriCorps-masslift.

Saving New England's Wildlife

This \$5 million capital fund was launched in 2009 with the generous support of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Administered by the Open Space Institute, the Fund has now re-granted all \$5 million to protect over 20,000 acres of critical wildlife habitat in New Hampshire, Maine, and Massachusetts.

The initiative funded 30 ecologically vital conservation projects and leveraged \$34 million additional dollars in federal grants, state funding, philanthropic capital, and local support. This major commitment of private capital has created an enduring conservation legacy in the region.

Climate Funding for Forests

Forests provide us with significant climate benefits through carbon sequestration and storage, and new programs are starting to pay landowners to conserve forests for this valuable and cost-effective service. Most notably, a new climate law in California mandates significant decreases in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 through a cap and trade program that requires regulated industries to progressively reduce their carbon emissions, but allows them to meet 8% of the compliance obligation through alternative means that “offset” carbon emissions, including permanent forest conservation. Forest conservation anywhere in the United States is eligible as a carbon offset and thus holds significant promise as a new revenue stream for landowners in New England who steward their forests for climate benefits (subject to CA standards). The current price of carbon credits for the California market is about \$14/ton, and the price in this emerging market should increase over the next few years as California law covers an increasing percentage of industry emitters. California is one of several emerging carbon programs in this country that are following in the footsteps of others in Europe and Asia.

Conservation Finance Innovation in Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Commission on Financing Forest Conservation recently completed a comprehensive report on new conservation finance strategies for Massachusetts. On February 13, 2012, conservation leaders—including Jim Levitt, Commission staff and Director of the Program on Conservation Innovation at the Harvard Forest, Leigh Youngblood, Commission Chair and President of Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, and David Foster, Director of the Harvard Forest—joined state legislators and Massachusetts Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Richard Sullivan at the State House to celebrate the completion of this five-year project. The report emphasizes four key themes: aggregation for conservation, mitigation for conservation, compact land development, and targeted forest-based economic development. The report is available online: www.wildlandsandwoodlands.org/MA-forest-finance.



The Massachusetts Commission on Financing Forest Conservation event at the Boston State House. Left to right: Robert O'Connor, Director of Land and Forest Conservation for the MA EEA; Stephen Brewer, Massachusetts State Senator; Matthew Zieper, Research Director at the Trust for Public Land; Keith Ross, LandVest Senior Adviser; Lynn Lyford, former Executive Director of the New England Forestry Foundation; Leigh Youngblood, Executive Director of Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust; Michael Fleming, Regional Planner at the MA Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR); Stephanie Cooper, EEA Assistant Secretary for Land and Forest Conservation; David Foster, Director of the Harvard Forest; Jim Levitt, Director of the Program on Conservation Innovation at the Harvard Forest; Richard Sullivan, EEA Secretary; Edward Lambert, DCR Commissioner.

CONSERVATION COLLABORATION

A growing number of collaborative efforts are helping us increase the pace and scale of conservation in New England.

Regional Partnerships Build Capacity to Increase the Pace of Forest Conservation

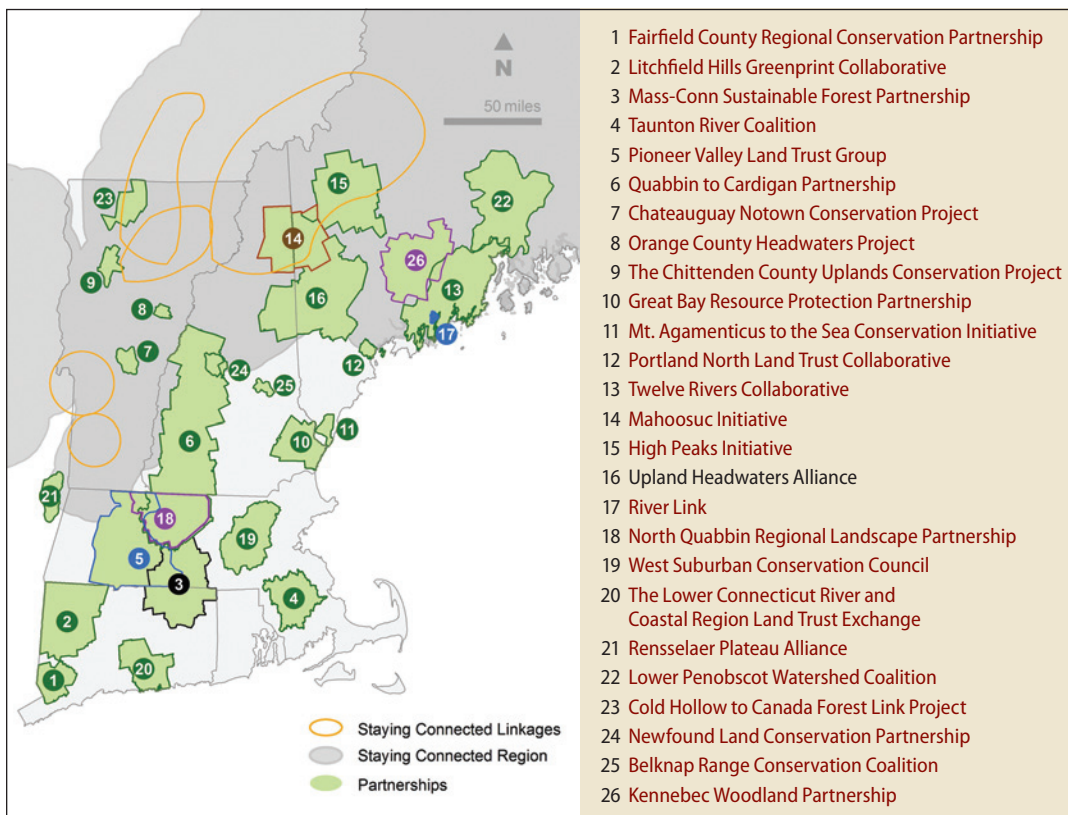
Across New England, conservation groups and communities are banding together to achieve conservation at a larger scale. These collaboratives, often called “regional conservation partnerships” (RCPs), vary in size and scope, but are generally informal networks of private and public organizations and agencies that work to implement a shared conservation vision. The 30 or more RCPs in New England play an increasingly important role in achieving large-scale conservation that is also firmly woven into the needs and interests of the local communities.

Highstead has convened regular W&W meetings since 2007 to help increase the networking and capacity of RCPs, and this year has worked with regional partners to create an RCP Network that institutionalizes the value of this regular peer exchange. Meetings focus on sharing technical tools and innovative strategies to increase the pace of regional conservation. The fall

2012 meeting, for example, will feature an in-depth capital campaign workshop led by Tom Curren, Project Director for the **Northeast Land Trust Consortium** of the Pew Charitable Trusts, and an in-depth workshop on conservation aggregation strategies led by the New England Forestry Foundation.

Another key goal of the Network is to attract increased funding for RCPs to achieve land protection. The RCP Network Gathering in 2010 led to the development of a US Forest Service-funded, six-state **landowner engagement project** in four large landscapes: Quabbin to Cardigan (NH and MA); the Southern New England Heritage Forest (RI, CT, and MA); the Green Mountain and Berkshire Hills (VT and MA); and the Taconics (CT, NY, VT, and MA). These four landscapes had been prioritized in the New England Governors Conference’s 2010 **Keep Forests as Forest Initiative**.

—**Bill Labich**, Highstead



Existing and emerging regional conservation partnerships (RCPs) are working across geo-political boundaries to advance landscape-scale conservation. These locally led, community-focused efforts are essential for the realization of the W&W vision.

Forging a New England-wide Policy Agenda for Forest Conservation

A coordinated policy voice for New England forests is critical to advancing W&W's conservation vision. Large landscape conservation depends on enhanced federal funding, stewardship and tax incentives, and climate and energy policies. New England also has conservation needs and opportunities different than the public land-dominated states of the west, and federal programs need to accommodate those differences. For example, conservation leaders worked with VT Senator Leahy and the NE congressional delegation 20 years ago to create the Forest Legacy Program specifically to provide federal funding for the private land conservation focus of the region.

A united New England voice is more important than ever in an era of tightening federal budgets. In 2010, Harvard Forest and Highstead convened a series of meetings with regional conservation leaders,

including the Trust for Public Land, Appalachian Mountain Club, The Nature Conservancy, Mass Audubon, and Forest Guild to articulate the region's top forest policy priorities. And for the past two years, what is now known as the New England Forest Policy Group has created a compelling document to help inform Congress, federal agencies, and the Obama Administration of New England's unique economic and dependence on our forests, and the major opportunities—and pressing need—for federal funding to support forestland conservation and sustainable forest-based economies. Eighty-five organizations across the region signed on in support of *A Policy Agenda for Conserving New England Forests FY13* in February 2012, and momentum on this important initiative continues to build. See www.wildlandsandwoodlands.org/FY13.

—Emily Bateson, Highstead

Conservation Investment is an Investment in Our Economy

"New England is the nation's most densely forested region and has developed an economy that is strongly dependent on the health and integrity of its forests. If we are to restore and sustain our economy, we must sustain and restore our forests. Current research shows that, without action, exponential forest loss is likely in the next 20 years."

—From the FY13 Forest Policy Agenda



A New Resource for the Conservation Community

The Practitioners' Network for Large Landscape Conservation (PNLCC)

Over the past year, several individuals engaged in the Wildlands and Woodlands Initiative played key roles in the formation of a new, national network focused on the practice of large-landscape conservation. The **Practitioners' Network for Large Landscape Conservation** (PNLCC) seeks to protect working and wild landscapes across jurisdictional, state, and even national boundaries. W&W Initiative leaders David Foster, Jim Levitt, and Bill Labich were among the 35 practitioners who attended the organizational meeting of the PNLCC at the **Lincoln Institute of Land**

Policy in Cambridge, Massachusetts in the spring of 2011. This emerging network was also the focus of a day-long seminar on large-landscape conservation held in October 2011 at the **Land Trust Rally** in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and, after a year of strategic planning, a larger PNLCC meeting was held in Tucson, AZ this spring. For further information, please contact Emily Bateson at ebateson@highstead.net or Jim Levitt at james_levitt@harvard.edu.

—**James Levitt**, Harvard Forest and
Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

New Conservation Leadership at Highstead

In 2012, the non-profit organization Highstead continued its leadership role in Wildlands and Woodlands, hiring Emily M. Bateson as its new Conservation Director and Coordinator of the W&W Initiative. Ms. Bateson has more than 25 years of experience in regional forestland conservation, including leadership positions as a land trust funder, regional forest conservation advocate, and co-founder and first director of **Two Countries, One Forest**, a collaborative, landscape-scale conservation initiative in the cross-border Northern Appalachian region of the U.S. and Canada. Highstead is dedicated to

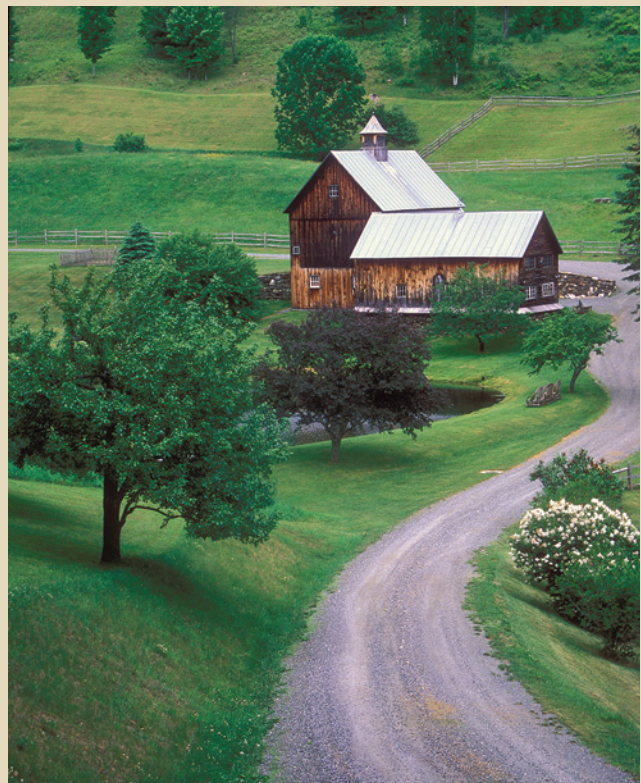
advancing the Wildlands and Woodlands vision through the activities of its science and conservation staff, Senior Fellows, and undergraduate interns.

Emily Bateson



Science Collaboration

Unique features of the Wildlands and Woodlands vision include its roots in scientific research and the collaboration of leading thinkers across the region. And new and ongoing research into the changing New England landscape continues to propel this conservation initiative. The next W&W Update will include in-depth stories on key scientific studies including future forest scenarios modeling, forest landowner research, as well as some new academic thinking on an emerging vision for farms in the W&W landscape.



Founding Successes

The New England Natural Resources Center

Regional conservation owes much to pioneering initiatives including the New England Natural Resources Center (NENRC), which recently closed its doors after completing its final venture: promoting the 2010 *Wildlands and Woodlands* report.

Charles (“Hank”) H.W. Foster, a champion of New England regionalism, launched the NENRC in 1970 while on a Bullard Fellowship at Harvard Forest “to build credible bridges between business, government, and the citizen environmental movement and to serve as a stimulus to actions across state borders.” Over the years, NENRC trustees included agency leaders from every New England state, two governors, scientists, conservationists, newspaper editors, and private sector leaders from the Federal Reserve Bank in Boston to Northeast Utilities and the Dead River Group of Companies. The late Perry Hagenstein, President of the Institute for Forest Analysis, Planning, and Policy, served as the executive director for many years.

NENRC studies led by Harvard Forest scientists with a 2002 grant from the U.S. Forest Service helped inspire the 2005 *Wildlands and Woodlands* report for Massachusetts. NENRC subsequently sought funds to advance the W&W aggregation effort and Hagenstein and Foster played critical roles in developing the strategy for W&W implementation. Upon its dissolution,



Charles (“Hank”) Foster

NENRC transferred the remainder of its funds to promote the W&W initiative.

It is with deep gratitude and admiration that we recognize Hank Foster and the NENRC for their foundational contributions to the New England conservation community. A more complete history of the NENRC can be found at www.wildlandsandwoodlands.org/nenrc.

—Clarisse Hart, Harvard Forest



Hallmark NENRC projects include:

The New England Environmental Mediation Center, which led to the creation of a permanent state **Office of Dispute Resolution** for stakeholders in Massachusetts, one of the first in the country.

The Fund for New England, which employed settlement funds from pollution cases and private contributions to support grassroots, environmental projects in the region and also led to the formation of two permanent environmental trust operations: the **Saugus River Watershed Council** and the **Massachusetts Environmental Trust**.

A survey of natural areas in New England states, which has since been incorporated into state and regional natural heritage programs.

A seminal policy paper in 1987 that stimulated the creation of the Northern Forest Lands Council and the **Northern Forest Center**.



HARVARD FOREST

Harvard University

324 North Main Street
Petersham, MA 01366



Highstead

HIGHSTEAD

PO Box 1097
Redding, CT 06875



Reaching Out, Gaining Ground

In 2011, W&W Initiative leaders delivered more than thirty presentations at meetings and workshops ranging from the national Land Trust Alliance Rally in Milwaukee to the **Library of Congress** in DC. Five thousand copies of the W&W vision were distributed to individuals and organizations across the country, building on the eight thousand copies distributed in 2010. More than 100 media outlets featured W&W, and a recent *New York Times* article on the global role of forests in climate mitigation **included a graph** from the 2010 W&W report. Please contact us with your ideas on venues for W&W presentations, report distribution, or news coverage at info@wildlandsandwoodlands.org and visit our press archive, <http://wildlandsandwoodlands.org/events-press>, to browse past features.

Please join us

W&W has hundreds of partners across New England in conservation, landowner, forestry, and other sectors. Please join us at www.wildlandsandwoodlands.com where you can sign up for W&W updates, join a W&W network or working group, and also find out about W&W meetings, webinars, and other events. We also encourage you to contact us at info@wildlandsandwoodlands.org to add your own conservation success stories to the W&W website. We look forward to working with you to double the pace of forest conservation in the region.

Acknowledgements

The ambitious, 50-year trajectory of the Wildlands and Woodlands initiative would not be possible without a committed base of donors and partner organizations. Sincere thanks is owed to the **Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust**, the Fine Fund, the **Orchard Foundation**, the Blue Hills Foundation, the **Fields Pond Foundation**, the **Conservation and Research Foundation**, and the Friends of the Harvard Forest for their vigorous commitment to increasing the pace of conservation in New England. The scientific research bolstering the W&W vision is supported by the National Science Foundation's **Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) Program** and the **Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute**.

Although hundreds, if not thousands, of people across the region are helping to realize the W&W vision, there are particular people and organizations leading W&W activities, including: Highstead, Harvard Forest, New England Forestry Foundation, members of the **W&W Partnership**, and the **W&W vision authors**.

Design: RavenMark, Inc. • Printing: **ecolor** • Printed on Mohawk Options (100% post-consumer recycled, processed chlorine-free, FSC-certified)

Maps courtesy of: Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust (p. 2), Maine Coast Heritage Trust (p. 3), MA Dept. of Fish and Game (p. 4), Harvard Forest/Blue Hills Foundation (p. 5), North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership (p. 6), Highstead/Harvard Forest (p. 8). Photographs: John Burk (pp. 9, 10), Talbot Eckweiler (cover, pp. 6, 11, back), David Foster (pp. 5, 11), The Lyme Timber Company (p. 3), Jay Rasku (p. 7).