

May 30, 2008

Maine Forest Legacy Committee
C/O Alan Stearns
Maine Department of Conservation
Bureau of Parks & Lands
22 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Forest Legacy Committee:

I am pleased to submit the enclosed FLIS entry data for the Katahdin Forest Expansion Forest Legacy Project to Maine's Forest Legacy Committee. Given that this project is being resubmitted for a second FLP budget cycle, Deputy Director Alan Stearns has suggested that the full Forest Legacy Application be left in draft form until after the LMF funding cycle has run its course so that the application to the U.S. Forest Service can be more current. The attached FLIS entry form, submitted for this project last November, will represent this project until the Department requests a full and amended application.

BPL seeks to purchase fee and conservation easement interest in 5 parcels totaling 19,647 acres in T2 R8 WELS, T3 R7 WELS, T4 R7 WELS, Lakeview Plantation and T4 R9 NWP, Piscataquis County. The Bureau is seeking \$5,100,000 in Forest Legacy funding to complete these important acquisitions.

The nearly 20,000 acres of working forest land will build upon Maine's largest contiguous block of conservation lands –over 500,000 acres—in the Millinocket/Baxter region. The two Seboeis Lake parcels represent a critical addition to the 13,372 acre Seboeis Public Lands Unit managed by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands. The properties include 14 miles of frontage on Seboeis Lake commanding spectacular views of Mount Katahdin and completing the state's ownership of the entire shoreline. The other three parcels are along the East Branch of the Penobscott River and immediately southeast of Baxter State Park and are under contract to be acquired in a mix of fee and easement. Of the nearly 20,000 acres to be acquired, approximately 7,300 acres will be in fee and the remainder in working forest easement. All five of the parcels are linked by long term conservation holdings to the FY'05 Katahdin Forest Legacy Easement.

The entire package represents a remarkable balance of regional priorities -- the protection of working forests, the conservation of opportunities for hunting and motorized recreation, and conservation of key unique habitats – while helping to resolve the difficult public access issues in the region.

Thank you for your consideration of this Forest Legacy proposal.



Sincerely,

Sam Hodder
The Trust for Public Land
Maine State Director

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Project Information

Project Name:	Katahdin Forest Expansion
Forest Legacy Area:	Maine Forest Legacy Area
Location:	T2 R8 WELS, T3 R7 WELS, T4 R7 WELS, Lakeview Pl. and T4 R9 NWP (Penobscot and Piscataquis County), ME
Description:	<p>The Katahdin Region, anchored by Baxter State Park, represents Maine's largest block of contiguous conservation lands (over 500,000 acres) including 194,751 acres of easement lands protected through the Katahdin Forest Project (FY'05 Legacy). The Katahdin Forest Expansion seeks to add five critical parcels, totaling 19,647 acres, to these conservation holdings. The three northern tracts (East Branch tracts) are located east of Baxter Park on and near the spectacular East Branch of the Penobscot River. They include the Millinocket Forest (4,956 acre fee), Lookout Mountain (3,574 acre easement) and Hunt Farm (3,073 acre easement) tracts. Acquisition of the East Branch tracts will secure critical pieces of a popular snowmobile trail network. Further to the south, BPL seeks to acquire easements on two tracts totaling 8,044 acres surrounding Sebobeis Lake. The Sebobeis tracts (Sebobeis South and West), which include about 19 miles of shore and island frontage would complete the State's conservation ownership around Sebobeis Lake, a wilderness lake offering outstanding views of Mount Katahdin. All five properties have traditionally been under active commercial forest management and are key contributors to the local wood products industry.</p>
Project Number:	None
Provisional:	No
Lat/Lon:	45.657, 68.710
Project Locator Map:	None
Detailed Project Map:	katahdin_forest_expansion_11_07.jpg
Priority Rank:	None
Important:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● A. FORESTRY: All five parcels have traditionally been managed for forest products by major forest product companies and are well suited to commercial forest management.● B. FORESTRY: The five parcels are strategically located near communities such as Millinocket and Lincoln whose economies are heavily dependent on forest products industries.● C. WATER-RIPARIAN: The landmark 1982 Maine Rivers Study, conducted by NPS identified the East Branch–Sebobeis River System as "one of the least developed watersheds in the northeast U.S." and ranked it as 1 of 9 "outstanding river segments," in Maine.● D. WATER-RIPARIAN: The Study identified the following high resource values on the East Branch: hydrologic, ecological, undeveloped, scenic, fisheries, and boating and Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection classified it as AA, its top water quality rank.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● E. WATER-RIPARIAN: The Millinocket Forest tract includes expansive wetlands with diverse cover types such as spruce-fir swamp, dwarf shrub bog, mixed fen, alder swamp, and emergent marsh as well as two major stream drainages: Sandy Stream and Mud Brook. ● F. WATER-RIPARIAN: The Seboeis Lake tracts include about 19 miles of shore and island frontage including 5 miles of wetlands determined by Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (MDIF&W) to be of "special significance." ● G. WATER-RIPARIAN: The State's "Wildlands Lake Assessment" rated Seboeis Lake to be of "statewide significance," the highest ranking, due to its significant fisheries, wildlife, scenery, and cultural values. ● H. HABITAT: One third of the Millinocket Forest tract is mapped by MDIF&W as Inland Wading Bird and Wildlife Habitat and likely supports species including Virginia rails, black ducks, American bitterns and great blue herons. ● I. HABITAT: The river channels and tributaries in the northwest section of the Lookout Mountain parcel have been identified by Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) as an Acadian Rivershore Ecosystem, an important natural community. ● J. HABITAT: MNAP has identified a glacial ribbed moraine format on the Millinocket Forest tract as a unique natural community. ● K. HABITAT: Recent inventories have identified 29 nesting loons on Seboeis Lake, the highest total of any lake in northern Maine other than Moosehead Lake. ● L. HABITAT: State biologists have mapped a major deer wintering area west of Northwest Pond and extensive wading bird and waterfowl habitat both along the lake shore as well as open wetlands away from the lake. ● M. ENDANGERED SPECIES: There are two known bald eagle nesting sites located just off the Seboeis West tract on BPL land. The protection zone around one of the nests extends onto this property. ● N. ACCESS-RECREATION: The Mahoosuc Guide Service describes the East Branch of the Penobscot as "the most spectacular wilderness river in the northeast. The many falls and gorges are interspersed with majestic views of the Baxter Park Mountains." ● O. ACCESS-RECREATION: MDIF&W states that the "East Branch supports fisheries for brook trout, landlocked salmon, and smallmouth bass offering a myriad of experiences from fly fishing for brook trout and landlocked salmon to spin fishing for bass." ● P. ACCESS-RECREATION: Acquisition of the East Branch tracts will help to secure the integrity of Interstate Trail System #85 in the area between Medway to Matagammon, a critical goal of the Maine Snowmobile Association. ● Q. ACCESS-RECREATION: The Lookout Mountain parcel includes uplands commanding spectacular views of Mount Katahdin and offering opportunities for both motorized and non-motorized recreation. ● R. ACCESS-RECREATION: The proposed acquisition will secure public access to 14 miles of shore on Seboeis Lake and 5 miles of island frontage for boating, angling and water access camping. ● S. ACCESS-RECREATION: The Katahdin Forest Expansion parcels have traditionally offered sportsmen opportunities for hunting deer, moose and bear, as well as angling opportunities for native brook trout and other species. ● T. ACCESS-RECREATION: Each of the Katahdin Forest Expansion parcels include important opportunities for motorized recreation including important links in snowmobile and ATV trail systems. ● U. SCENIC: The Maine Wildland Lakes Assessment rated Seboeis Lake as having "outstanding scenic values" because of its views of Mount Katahdin and the Chairback Range. ● V. SCENIC: The upper elevations of the East Branch tracts offer striking views of Mount Katahdin and are part of the viewshed visible from Katahdin's peak, the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail. ● W. CULTURAL: Both the East Branch and Seboeis Lake were well traveled routes through the Katahdin region for Native Americans. ● X. CULTURAL: The Hunt Farm was the eastern terminus of the first hiking trail ever built up Mount Katahdin. Famous individuals who travelled through Hunt Farm include author Henry David Thoreau and famous landscape artist Frederic Church.
Threatened:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A. The current owner of the East Branch tracts has eliminated commercial forest management and multiple use recreation from the properties. The easement and

	<p>fee acquisitions will re-establish these traditional uses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● B. As recently as five years ago, most land in townships bordering the east side of Baxter Park was owned by two industrial forest landowners. Now, after more than a half-dozen transactions, these lands have all been divided and sold. ● C. If sold privately, the East Branch properties would likely be acquired by a land speculator, developer or kingdom lot buyer seeking to capitalize on the extensive river frontage, proximity to Baxter Park and spectacular views of Mt. Katahdin. ● D. One Seboeis landowner is marketing their property to second home developers and kingdom buyers. The other landowner has made it clear that if the state is not able to secure a conservation transaction, they will proceed to seek other buyers. ● E. The Seboeis tracts are under very high threat of conversion from forest uses to residential development. The 14 miles of lakeshore with spectacular views of Mount Katahdin could be split into many high quality camp lots. ● F. The Seboeis properties enjoy easy access from I-95 and Bangor International Airport and have a new power line at the boundary line. Nearby Schoodic Lake has over 400 camps. ● G. The Department of Conservation has documented a growing pattern of parcelization, timber liquidation, and subdivision of large timberland tracts in this region and throughout the Maine Woods.
<p>Strategic:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A. The Millinocket Forest Tract abuts Baxter State Park to the northwest, TNC's Trout Mountain Preserve to the east and private conservation land to the north. ● B. The Lookout Mountain parcel is bordered to the west by privately conserved land extending to the eastern boundary of Baxter Park. BPL owns and manages the Wassataquoik Public Lands Unit just to the west of the Lookout Mountain and Hunt Farm parcels. ● C. The East Branch tracts serve as critical buffer in a growing conservation landscape extending from the East Branch of the Penobscot River, west to Baxter Park, and on to the Allagash, and 100-Mile Wilderness. In total, these lands encompass over a half million contiguous acres in conservation. ● D. The Lookout Mountain easement will greatly enhance the natural features of the area. For example, the Acadian Rivershore ecosystem along the East Branch and its tributaries are located in part on the parcel and in part on adjacent conservation lands. ● E. The Lookout Mtn and Hunt Farm easements will help protect the sloping shoreline and upland buffer along the popular East Branch boating trip. ● F. Currently, BPL owns approximately 13,372 acres around Seboeis Lake including approximately 70% of the 43 miles of lake shorefront. The proposed easement acquisitions will protect the remaining 30% of the lakeshore. ● G. Viewed from a landscape perspective, the Seboeis acquisitions will add to the southern end of the largest contiguous block of conservation land in the state of Maine, over 500,000 acres. From Seboeis Lake, one can travel through the Katahdin Forest project to the Nahmakanta Reserve, through the 100 Mile Wilderness to Baxter State Park and the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. ● H. Through its location at the southern reaches of this conservation network, Seboeis Lake lies in a transition zone between established Maine communities such as Brownville and Millinocket and undeveloped forests and lakes. The camping opportunities, popular snowmobile trails, paddling and fishing resources offer an easily accessible experience in Maine's north woods. ● I. All of the Katahdin Forest Expansion parcels include critical trail linkages for regional snowmobile and ATV trails. These acquisitions will play a critical role in the Governor's Task Force on Public Lands' effort to balance motorized and non-motorized uses in the Katahdin Region.
<p>Ready:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A. PARTNERSHIP: The Trust for Public Land (TPL) has agreed to coordinate the conservation acquisition of the East Branch and Seboeis parcels in partnership with the Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands. ● B. PURCHASE AGREEMENTS: TPL has entered into an option agreement with the current owner of the Millinocket Forest, Lookout Mountain, and Hunt Farm parcels and is working to finalize agreements with the Seboeis landowners. ● C. APPRAISALS: Preliminary appraisal work has been completed on the Seboeis parcels. Timber inventories have been completed for the Lookout Mountain and Millinocket Forest parcels.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● D. EASEMENTS: The easements for the Lookout Mountain, Hunt Farm and Seboeis easements will follow the Land for Maine's Future easement guidelines (which is acceptable to Forest Legacy). ● E. SURVEY: Since most of the boundaries of the Seboeis properties include State lands, roads and waterbodies, only a limited amount of survey work will be needed to complete the transactions. ● F. COST SHARE: TPL and BPL plan to submit a state funding proposal for these lands to the Land for Maine's Future Program in April, 2008 to provide the required state match.
Interested Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Appalachian Mountain Club ● Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce ● Katahdin Area Working Group ● Natural Resources Council of Maine ● Northern Timber Cruisers ● The Wilderness Society ● Town of Millinocket ● Trust for Public Land

Tract Information for Tract 1 of 5

Tract Name:	Lookout Mountain
Status:	Proposed
Area (acres):	3,574
Tract Cost:	\$ 600,000
FLP Contribution:	\$ 450,000
Seller:	Elliotsville Plantation, Inc.
CE/Title Owner:	State
Purchase Type:	CE
Submitted Date (date that the tract record is identified as complete and submitted to be reviewed by the regional Forest Legacy Program manager):	13-Oct-2006
SFSCC Approval Date:	13-Sep-2007
Closing Date:	
Stewardship Plan Approval Date:	Not Identified
Dropped Date:	
Reason Dropped:	Not Applicable
State Grant:	Yes
State Grant Number:	Not Identified
Congressional District(s):	02

FLP Funding Details:

Funding FY	Fund Date	Legacy Payment	Category	Comments	President's Request
2009		\$ 450,000	TBD		No
<i>Total</i>		\$ 450,000			

Cost Share Funding:

Partner		Cost Share		
Name	Type	Fiscal Year	Type	Amount
State and private funding	Other		Cash	\$ 150,000
<i>Total</i>				\$ 150,000

Photo Information:

File Name	Description	Selected	Credit
east_branch_tracts_11_07-1.jpg	Map of East Branch tracts.		MNAP

Within National Forest Boundary: Yes**Public Access:** Full**Public Access Notes:** ROW; Easement grants access**State Priority:** 4**Parcelization:** Not Identified**Tract Benefits:** Not Identified**Tract Information for Tract 2 of 5**

Tract Name:	Seboeis Lake - West Tract
Status:	Proposed
Area (acres):	2,256
Tract Cost:	\$ 1,870,000
FLP Contribution:	\$ 1,400,000
Seller:	Bayroot LLC
CE/Title Owner:	State
Purchase Type:	CE
Submitted Date (date that the tract record is identified as complete and submitted to be reviewed by the regional Forest Legacy Program manager):	30-Nov-2007

SFSCC Approval Date:	13-Sep-2007					
Closing Date:						
Stewardship Plan Approval Date:	Not Identified					
Dropped Date:						
Reason Dropped:	Not Applicable					
State Grant:	Yes					
State Grant Number:	Not Identified					
Congressional District(s):	02					
FLP Funding Details:						
	Funding FY	Fund Date	Legacy Payment	Category	Comments	President's Request
	2009		\$ 1,400,000	TBD		No
	<i>Total</i>		\$ 1,400,000			
Cost Share Funding:						
	Partner		Cost Share			
	Name	Type	Fiscal Year	Type	Amount	
	State and private funding	Other		Cash	\$ 470,000	
				<i>Total</i>	\$ 470,000	
Photo Information:						
	File Name	Description	Selected	Credit		
	monkman_menfr_d30273.jpg	Paddling along the shore of Northwest Pond.		Monkman		
	northwest_pond.jpg	View from Northwest Pond towards main section of Seboeis Lake.		Sam Hodder		
	seboeis_lake1.jpg	Map of Seboeis Lake parcels.		MNAP		
Within National Forest Boundary:	Yes					
Public Access:	Full					
Public Access Notes:	ROW; Adjacent state land; Easement grants access					
State Priority:	1					
Parcelization:	Not Identified					
Tract Benefits:	Not Identified					

Tract Information for Tract 3 of 5

Tract Name:	Seboeis Lake - South Tract					
Status:	Proposed					
Area (acres):	5,788					
Tract Cost:	\$ 1,600,000					
FLP Contribution:	\$ 1,200,000					
Seller:	Bigelow Timber, Inc.					
CE/Title Owner:	State					
Purchase Type:	CE					
Submitted Date (date that the tract record is identified as complete and submitted to be reviewed by the regional Forest Legacy Program manager):	30-Nov-2007					
SFSCC Approval Date:	13-Sep-2007					
Closing Date:						
Stewardship Plan Approval Date:	Not Identified					
Dropped Date:						
Reason Dropped:	Not Applicable					
State Grant:	Yes					
State Grant Number:	Not Identified					
Congressional District(s):	02					
FLP Funding Details:						
	Funding FY	Fund Date	Legacy Payment	Category	Comments	President's Request
	2009		\$ 1,200,000	TBD		No
	<i>Total</i>		\$ 1,200,000			
Cost Share Funding:						
	Partner			Cost Share		
	Name	Type	Fiscal Year	Type	Amount	
	State and private funding	Other		Cash	\$ 400,000	
	<i>Total</i>				\$ 400,000	
Photo Information:						
	File Name	Description	Selected	Credit		
	monkman_menfr_d30303.jpg	Paddling on Seboeis Lake with Katahdin in background.	Yes	Monkman		

monkman_menfr_d30321.jpg	Campers on the shore of Seboeis Lake.	Monkman
seboeis_lake.jpg	Map of Seboeis Lake parcels.	MNAP
seboeis_lake_view_toward_chairback_mountain_ra.jpg	View of Seboeis Lake toward Chairback Range.	Sam Hodder
seboeis_lake_view_toward_katahdin.jpg	View from Seboeis Lake towards Mount Katahdin	Sam Hodder
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Within National Forest Boundary:	Yes	
Public Access:	Full	
Public Access Notes:	ROW; Adjacent state land; Easement grants access	
State Priority:	2	
Parcelization:	Not Identified	
Tract Benefits:	Not Identified	

Tract Information for Tract 4 of 5

Tract Name:	Hunt Farm
Status:	Proposed
Area (acres):	3,073
Tract Cost:	\$ 600,000
FLP Contribution:	\$ 450,000
Seller:	Elliotsville Plantation, Inc.
CE/Title Owner:	State
Purchase Type:	CE
Submitted Date (date that the tract record is identified as complete and submitted to be reviewed by the regional Forest Legacy Program manager):	30-Nov-2007
SFSCC Approval Date:	13-Sep-2007
Closing Date:	
Stewardship Plan Approval Date:	Not Identified
Dropped Date:	
Reason Dropped:	Not Applicable
State Grant:	Yes
State Grant Number:	Not Identified
Congressional District(s):	02

FLP Funding Details:

Funding FY	Fund Date	Legacy Payment	Category	Comments	President's Request
2009		\$ 450,000	TBD		No
<i>Total</i>		\$ 450,000			

Cost Share Funding:

Partner		Cost Share		
Name	Type	Fiscal Year	Type	Amount
State and private funding	Other		Cash	\$ 150,000
<i>Total</i>				\$ 150,000

Photo Information:

File Name	Description	Selected	Credit
east_branch_tracts_11_07.jpg	Map of East Branch tracts.		MNAP

Within National Forest Boundary: Yes**Public Access:** Full**Public Access Notes:** ROW; Easement grants access**State Priority:** 5**Parcelization:** Not Identified**Tract Benefits:** Not Identified**Tract Information for Tract 5 of 5**

Tract Name:	Millinocket Forest
Status:	Proposed
Area (acres):	4,956
Tract Cost:	\$ 2,135,000
FLP Contribution:	\$ 1,600,000
Seller:	Elliotsville Plantation, Inc.
CE/Title Owner:	State
Purchase Type:	FE
Submitted Date (date that the tract record is identified as complete and submitted to be reviewed by the regional Forest Legacy Program manager):	30-Nov-2007

SFSCC Approval Date:	13-Sep-2007
Closing Date:	
Stewardship Plan Approval Date:	Not Identified
Dropped Date:	
Reason Dropped:	Not Applicable
State Grant:	Yes
State Grant Number:	Not Identified
Congressional District(s):	02

FLP Funding Details:

Funding FY	Fund Date	Legacy Payment	Category	Comments	President's Request
2009		\$ 1,600,000	TBD		No
<i>Total</i>		\$ 1,600,000			

Cost Share Funding:	Partner		Cost Share		
	Name	Type	Fiscal Year	Type	Amount
	State and private funding	Other		Cash	\$ 535,000
	<i>Total</i>				\$ 535,000

Photo Information:

File Name	Description	Selected	Credit
070611_ss_018.jpg	Wetlands surrounding Mud Brook Flowqage with Katahdin in background.		B. DeWolf
070611_ss_030.jpg	Mud Brook Flowage provides extensive waterfowl habitat and great views of Katahdin.		B. DeWolf
070618_ss_003.jpg	An example of red pine woodlands on sandy uplands which are a dominant land feature near Mud Brook Flowage.		B. DeWolf
070618_ss_007.jpg	Katahdin view across fen near Mud Brook Flowage.		B. DeWolf
070618_ss_017.jpg	Moos on edge of Mud Brook Flowage.		B. DeWolf
070618_ss_024.jpg	Sandy Stream showing glacial outwash gravel.		B. DeWolf
070710_ss_002.jpg	Ecological survey excursion to glacial wetlands near Sandy Stream.		B. DeWolf
east_branch_tracts_11_07-1-2.jpg	Map of East Branch tracts.		MNAP

Within National Forest Boundary:	Yes
Public Access:	Full
Public Access Notes:	Deeded ROW and adjacent state land; Fee ownership
State Priority:	3
Parcelization:	Not Identified
Tract Benefits:	Not Identified

Information last updated: January 10, 2008 12:46 AM

Report Prepared: June 2, 2008 02:23 PM