

Cold Stream Forest



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June 13, 2012

Maine Forest Legacy Committee
Department of Conservation
State House Station #22
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Legacy Committee Members:

On behalf of the Trust for Public Land, I am pleased to submit the enclosed application for the Cold Stream Project to Maine's Forest Legacy Committee for consideration of FY 14 funding. TPL, in partnership with Trout Unlimited, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands is pursuing the acquisition that will achieve multiple working forest, ecological, and local economic objectives. The project would conservative in fee 8,150 acres in West Forks Plantation, Johnson Mountain Township, and Parlin Pond Township for which we are seeking \$6,000,000. An amount of \$2,000,000 will be raised in matching funds.

This acquisition represents an important opportunity to maintain and manage a working forest that supplies timber and pulp throughout the region, and conserves habitat that is home to threatened species, native brook trout, whitetail deer and offers critical land base for traditional recreation. It also complements nicely recent Forest Legacy investments in the region.

We are grateful for your consideration of this Forest Legacy proposal.

Sincerely,

Wolfe Tone
Maine State Director



A. Maine Forest Legacy Program Summary Information Form

Maine Forest Legacy Program proposals are due once each year, generally June 1st. Proposals in five copies must be sent to the Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands, 22 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0022. An electronic copy of the proposal must also be submitted by CD or DVD. Please provide the following information as part of your Maine Forest Legacy Program proposal.

Date: June 15, 2012

Project Title: Cold Stream Forest

Project Location (township and county): West Forks Plantation, Johnson Mountain Township, Parlin Pond Township, Somerset County

Name, Address, Telephone Number and Contact Person of Landowner:

- Plum Creek Timber Company, Luke Muzzy, 1 Plum Creek Road, Greenville, ME, 04442, 207-695-9002, Luke.Muzzy@plumcreek.com

Name, Address and Telephone Number and Contact Person of Partner Organization (if applicable):

- The Trust for Public Land, Diano Circo, Field Representative, 30 Danforth Street, Suite 106, Portland, ME 04101, 207-772-7424
- Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Sarah Demers, Conservation Biologist, 284 State Street, Augusta, ME 04333, 207-287-5497
- Trout Unlimited, Jeff Reardon, Maine Brook Trout Campaign Director, 9 Union Street, 3rd Floor, Hallowell, ME 04347, 207-615-9200

Land Protection Method (easement or fee) and Management Entity Proposed:

The property will be acquired in fee by the Maine Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands and managed in cooperation with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Abstract of Project:

The Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands will acquire the 8,000-acre Cold Stream Forest parcel from a real estate investment trust that could otherwise sell it on the open market. The property supports a long standing commercial forest and contains arguably the most important deer wintering areas and wild native brook trout habitat in northwestern Maine. Additionally, half of the property has been designated critical habitat for the federally listed threatened Canada Lynx. In addition the trout ponds and streams included in this project are popular destinations for wild brook trout fishing, and the property abuts and potentially includes sections of the Maine Huts and Trails system planned to connect the Bethel area to the Moosehead region with 180 miles of continuous cross-country ski/ hiking trail served by backcountry lodges.

Conservation of this parcel will guarantee public access for recreation, provide a source of income to the state from timber harvesting, and protect more than 30 miles of streams and 8 miles of pond shoreline. The Cold Stream property will enhance popular and abundant recreational opportunities in the area, ranging from white water rafting and back country camping, and the acquisition will secure unique opportunities for remote fishing for the nationally renowned eastern brook trout and deer and upland bird hunting, as well as snowmobiling in the winter.

The Cold Stream Forest abuts a corridor of more than 2 million acres of protected working forest land stretching from the parcel to Baxter State Park. The Property adjoins a 20-mile protected corridor along upper Kennebec River including conservation easements and deed covenants stretching from its source at the East Outlet of Moosehead Lake to the junction with the Dead River in The Forks, including the shorelands of Indian Pond and the famed scenic Kennebec Gorge section of the river, one of Maine's premier whitewater rafting destinations. It also is near to the confluence of the Kennebec and Dead Rivers – with the Dead River being another of Maine's iconic whitewater rafting destinations. The Forks, the local village at this confluence, is home to a number of whitewater rafting and outdoor recreation outfitters. In addition it adds to other nearby recreation destinations including 100-foot high Moxie Falls on Maine Public Reserved Lands opposite the junction of Cold Stream and the Kennebec River, and major regional and interstate snowmobile and ATV trails. The Cold Stream Forest lands, if protected, together with these adjoining public recreation and natural resource assets, will add another dimension to the "destination" cachet of The Forks which is increasingly becoming known as a recreation and eco-tourism destination of national significance.

For these same reasons, - the Cold Stream property's accessibility and proximity to large population centers, popular and abundant recreational opportunities - and its development potential with large amounts of frontage on undeveloped ponds and extensive timber road network providing access to these, make portions of it very attractive for and vulnerable to future development.

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$8,175,000

Acquisition cost: \$8,000,000

Preacquisition costs including, but not limited to, legal, survey and appraisal costs: \$175,000

Forest Legacy Funding Request (must not exceed 75% of the above Total Project Cost): \$6,000,000

Matching Funds to be provided (\$ and source) (must equal at least 25% of the Total Project Cost):

The required match for this parcel will be raised by TPL, TU, BPL, and IF&W through applications to the Land for Maine's Future program and a private fundraising campaign.

Annual Management Costs and Easement Stewardship Endowment Commitment (see BPL's Easement Monitoring Costs and Stewardship Endowment Levels for

Maine Working Forest Easements for requirements:

<http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/forestlegacy.shtml>:

This is a fee purchase to be held by BPL with timber revenue so there is no stewardship fee required.



Applicant Signature

B. Maine Forest Legacy Program Minimum Required Criteria

1. Parcels must be within Maine's Forest Legacy Area.

The Cold Stream Forest property is in West Forks Plantation, Johnson Mountain Township, and Parlin Pond Township in Somerset County which is listed in the 2010 Maine Forest Legacy Program Assessment of Need as within the Maine Forest Legacy Area.

2. More than 50% of land must meet definition of commercial forest land (land used primarily for growth of trees to be harvested for commercial use, but does not include ledge, marsh, open swamp, bog, water and similar areas, which are unsuitable for growing a forest product or for harvesting for commercial use even though these areas may exist within forest lands).

The Cold Stream Forest property is 8,150 acres of traditional working forest. The majority of the property is operable timberland and has a long history of commercial forest management.

3. Parcels must be threatened by conversion to non-forest use (contain characteristics making it attractive to changes so that traditional uses are at risk such as: close proximity to public roads and/or utilities; short travel time from population centers; existence of scenic values and water resources such as streams/rivers/ponds/lakes; or presence of outdoor recreation opportunities). It is recognized that pre-acquisition of land may occur by a land protection partner at the request of the State as part of the land protection strategy for particular parcels. In this case, the parcels must have been threatened by conversion to non-forest use prior to preacquisition to meet the Minimum Required Criteria for Maine's Forest Legacy Program.

The Cold Stream Forest parcel is highly susceptible to conversion to non-forest uses. The property is easily accessible, abuts the major travel corridor (Route 201) between Quebec and the eastern seaboard of the United States, and contains exemplary natural resources and diverse public access and outdoor recreation opportunities that attract recreationists and sportsmen from throughout Maine and beyond.

Nearby Parlin Pond, Moxie Gore Township, and Upper Enchanted Township have seen extensive development and parcelization. In particular, the parcel contains nine undeveloped ponds, eight of which support populations of wild brook trout. None of these ponds have any current development or shorefront structures. Several have good road access and would be attractive for either small subdivisions or "kingdom lot" sales for development. Undeveloped ponds that support high quality wild trout fisheries so close to major state highways are exceptionally rare.

4. Proposed holder of right, title or interest in parcel must be among those cited in Maine's Statewide Forest Resource Assessment.

The Maine Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands has agreed to be the holder of the fee interest. The Bureau is also committed to a memorandum of

agreement with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in the area of wildlife and fisheries management.

5. To the extent that it has the legal authority to do so, the landowner must guarantee unencumbered foot access to the parcels.

The Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands allows open public access on all of their lands, subject to terms set forth to protect wildlife and fisheries habitat. This property would similarly be open to a multitude of public recreational opportunities.

6. Landowner must guarantee access on the parcels for non-motorized recreational uses of the parcels, such as hunting, fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing and wildlife watching by the general public.

This property is highly valued for its recreational opportunities. The Bureau of Parks and Lands in concurrence with the MOA with Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife would continue to allow all forms of non-motorized recreational uses compatible with wildlife and fisheries habitat.

7. Proposal must meet Forest Legacy Program match requirements (the Forest Legacy Program will pay no more than 75% of the total project costs).

The required match for this parcel will be raised by The Trust for Public Land, Trout Unlimited, and Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife through applications to a variety of state funding sources, dam relicensing funds, private foundations, and a private fundraising campaign.

C. Maine Forest Legacy Program Scoring Criteria
(for applications that meet Minimum Required Criteria)

Maximum Total Points: 110

IMPORTANCE CRITERIA (30 points maximum)

1. Identify total size of project: (0 pts if < 10,000 Acres; 5 pts if >10,000 Acres).

Approximately 8,000 acres in fee to the Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands, to be managed in cooperation with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

2. Describe to what extent the project contains each public value

- a. Economic benefits from timber and potential forest productivity (including landowner commitment to sustainable forest management in accordance with a management plan and whether land is third party certified; whether forestry activities contribute to the region's resource-based economy; and whether the property contains characteristics to sustain a productive forest)**

The 8,000-acre Cold Stream Forest property has a long history as a commercial working forest. Situated in Somerset County, the land has been part of the northern Maine wood basket since the 1800's and has passed through the hands of a steady stream of Maine's largest forest products companies. The current landowner has owned the property since 1998 and utilized it to supply pulp and saw mills across Maine.

Approximately 7,600 acres of the property are considered operable and according to Natural Resource Conservation Service data, much of the parcel contains high productivity forest soils. The largest aspects of the Somerset County forest economy are Maple sap, logging, paper and pulp and manufactured wood products for fuel.

The Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands, will be the fee owners of the property. The Bureau's lands are dual certified under the Forest Stewardship Council and Sustainable Forestry Initiative. This property would continue to be managed sustainably providing high quality timber products for local mills and revenue to support the Bureau's other management objectives - public recreational access and conservation of important wildlife and fisheries habitat and natural communities.

The parcel's boundaries are primarily based on the existing timber haul road network to ensure ease of future management throughout the property. The landowner will grant access rights needed for public access and DOC management access to the property. Rights of way across the property's extensive haul road network will be retained by Plum Creek Timber to ensure their access to abutting working forest and public access properties. The parcel's proximity to Route 201 provides easy and economical access to all timber markets.

This project will link together two existing isolated BPL Public Reserve Units to expand the Bureau's operable land base in the area to approximately 12,000 contiguous acres; opening the opportunity for more efficient forest management of the Units.

BPL manages approximately 600,000 acres of public reserved lands, the vast majority of which are managed for multiple use including timber production. BPL is recently entering into outcome-based forestry protocols in which specific timber lands are managed for twin primary objectives of profitable timber production and primary habitat for specific wildlife and fisheries species.

The two anchors of the northern Maine economy are the forest products industry and tourism/recreation. So too with this project, which adds another piece to the fabric of conservation and forested lands in Northern Maine. The northern two-thirds of Maine constitutes the largest privately owned contiguous commercial forestland east of the Mississippi. Millions of acres of conservation easements ensuring the perpetuation of a tradition of multiple use management (with lands open to the public for recreation); together with a high percentage of third party certified lands, provide long term support for a sustainable fiber supply to a vertically and horizontally integrated forest industry.

Maine's complex soils profile allows for a continuum of forest practices from intensive silviculture to selective cutting and outcome based forestry that focuses on wedding a particular management practice with a particular wildlife or fishery habitat - in the case of the Cold Stream Forest such indicator species as the white tail deer, native brook trout, snowshoe hare, and Canada lynx.

Like much of northern Maine, the primary drivers of The Forks region's economy are forestry and recreation. In a county where 95%¹ of the timberland is privately owned, the protection of the Cold Stream Forest property will help ensure a well managed land base for both will continue to be available.

b. Economic benefits from non-timber products (such as non-timber forest products and guided outdoor recreation)

In addition to the timber economy, outdoor recreation is the prime driver of the economy of The Forks region. The Cold Stream Forest parcel plays a critical role in all four seasons of the local recreation economy, with early spring whitewater kayaking on Cold Stream; spring, summer and fall fishing for native brook trout on Cold Stream and multiple ponds; fall hunting for moose, bear, upland birds, and whitetail deer; winter snowmobiling, snowshoeing, and cross country skiing; and winter hunting for snowshoe hare.

¹ Somerset County Natural Resource Assessment, Somerset County Soil & Water Conservation District, March 2011

The region has been a destination for sportsmen for more than a century. Brochures for the Parlin Lake House, a sporting camp located just east of the parcel, highlighted hunting and angling opportunities on Cold Stream, Lang Pond, Berry Pond. Parlin Lake House at one time had rustic lodging on Lang Pond and Berry Pond to allow overnight use by hike-in guests.

The property hosts more than 2,000 acres of one of the region's best remaining active deer wintering areas, 8 miles of pond and 14 miles of stream shoreline on the most accessible and productive wild brook trout waters in the region, and includes 8 miles of ITS 86 & 87. Whitewater kayaking is also popular on Cold Stream in the spring and after heavy rains. The Forks Area Chamber of Commerce lists 10 whitewater rafting companies, 16 lodging facilities and multiple guides and outfitters who operate in The Forks region, home of two of Maine's premier whitewater rafting destinations – the nationally acclaimed Kennebec River Gorge, and the Dead River.

Because of its importance a portion of the Cold Stream property is under a voluntary cooperative agreement to protect its deer wintering area, however this agreement could be abandoned by a new owner. Hunting is woven into the fabric of The Forks region with generations of Maine residents utilizing the forests in this area and a guiding industry built around it. No game species is more important to the local culture than Whitetail deer; a mainstay of the regions economy for over a century. Historically, deer wintering areas nurtured the whitetail populations through Maine's tough winters. Today the northern Maine deer herd has dramatically decreased. A mix of factors has led to a precipitous decline in deer wintering areas in this part of Maine and put at risk the hundreds of millions of dollars deer hunters contribute to the economy of this state each year. According to the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, it's estimated that deer hunters contributed more than \$200 million to the Maine economy in 1996 alone.

Reflecting the importance of wildlife to the region, the 2011 Somerset County Natural Resources Assessment recognizes the stresses on the County's forests:

North of Bingham, Somerset County epitomizes what many identify as 'the north Maine woods'. However, increased development and land use has the potential to degrade natural habitat. A decline in species creates changes in diversity, communities, resources, and economy. While adaptable, wildlife in Somerset County must cope with more and more challenges as technology, changes in land use, and climate change alter this landscape.

Conservation of the Cold Stream Forest property will protect more than 2,000 acres of deer wintering habitat identified by Inland Fisheries and

Wildlife as critical for the protection of the deer herd in this region and an essential first step to ensuring the future of the whitetail population.

Snowmobiling is the mainstay of the winter economy in The Forks region. In a remote part of the state this area is a critical entry and stopover point for riders on the Interconnected Trail System (ITS). Two major trail arteries, ITS 87 moving north and south, and ITS 86 going east and west, meet in The Forks. About 8 miles of ITS trails are on the Cold Stream property and provide access to the only crossing of the Kennebec River in the region. Loss of this important crossing would sever the connection between trails to the north of The Forks and the ITS system east and south of The Forks. The next ITS crossing of the Kennebec is 30 miles south of The Forks in Solon. According to the Maine Snowmobile Association, Maine is a \$300 million to \$350 million business responsible for 23,000 jobs statewide and the backbone of the state's winter economy.

Loss of public access to the Cold Stream Forest property would cut off regional snowmobile connectivity, eliminate easily accessible high quality fishing opportunities, and reduce access to productive private hunting lands on which the local economy relies.

c. *Public recreation opportunities*

The Cold Stream Forest parcel is home to a diversity of recreational opportunities. The parcel has long been a community resource for recreation compatible with a working forest; hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, paddling, ATV riding, wildlife viewing, and informal camping all occur seasonally. While providing an important land base for the regional guiding community, it has also been the recreational backyard for local residents for generations. Fishing, hunting, camping, snowmobiling and ATV riding are extremely popular on the property.

The nine headwater brook trout ponds that make up the northern section of the property are the center of much of the fishing and camping use of the property. It is not unusual to find dozens of people camped along the roads near the ponds during the summer months. Fishing opportunities within the parcel include 4 "remote" ponds that require a hike of at least ½ mile from the nearest logging road; 2 ponds accessible with short hikes; and 3 ponds with roadside access and hand carry launches for canoes or small boats.

Several primitive campsites near the more accessible ponds see near constant use during the fishing season. On Lang Pond, one of the designated "remote" ponds, several dozen canoes have been left on the shoreline by anglers who hike in regularly to fish the pond. There are also significant numbers of "stashed" canoes at the end of the shorter trail leading in to Big Berry Pond.

In addition Cold Stream is a highly popular stream fishery for brook trout, and Cold Stream Forest would protect it from its source at Cold Stream

Pond to its mouth on the Kennebec River—over 12 miles. In addition to the importance of Cold Stream as a fishery, it provides spawning habitat and summer thermal refuge for brook trout from the Kennebec and Dead Rivers (which meet in “the Forks” just downstream from where Cold Stream enters the Kennebec), and is believed by biologists from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to be critically important to supporting highly popular fisheries on more than 25 miles of these larger mainstem rivers.

Snowmobiling is popular on the 8 miles of ITS trails on the property and it provides critical access to a crossing of the Kennebec River that ties together major regional trail networks.

The nationally recognized Maine Huts and Trails (MHT) has acquired rights of way and plans to build nearly two miles of trail across the southern end of the property connecting The Forks to Carrabassett Valley, two of Maine’s emerging eco-economy gateway destinations. Future plans call for a full service hut site abutting the parcel and extending the trail to Mooshead Lake, a third emerging eco-economy destination. MHT is investing millions of dollars into the region to expand and diversify regional tourism opportunities. MHT is a non-profit that has opened 3 full service huts and 30 miles of cross-country skiing and mountain biking trails in the Carrabassett Valley region. MHT’s goal is to provide a world-class recreation corridor stretching from the New Hampshire border to the Moosehead Lake region.

- d. High value plant and animal habitat as identified by state, regional, or federal programs, including but not limited to Significant Wildlife Habitat; Beginning with Habitat Focus Areas; habitat for rare, threatened or endangered plant or animal species (including Essential Habitat and Critical Habitat); and rare or exemplary natural communities.¹*

The northern half of the Cold Stream Forest parcel has been designated critical habitat for the federally listed threatened Canada Lynx by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The southern section of the property is within the “Cold Stream/West Forks” Focus Area for conservation identified by Beginning with Habitat and the Maine Wildlife Action Plan. The property contains two Rare and Exemplary Natural Communities; the spruce-fir-northern hardwoods ecosystem and the tall grass meadow community. The natural features included within this focus area help to support a thriving recreational economy in The Forks and the larger region.

The unusual geology and steep topography of the Cold Stream corridor combined results in an area rich in rare plants and high quality natural communities. The bedrock that lies under this focus area includes layers of limestone and mafic (magnesium-rich) volcanic rock, a very uncommon combination in Maine. The resulting soil chemistry and higher-pH wetlands support a remarkable concentration of rare plants, including

several rare orchids. Cold Stream is one of the few rivers in this part of Maine that still exhibits characteristics of a natural flooding regime, including a rare tall grass meadow community along the stream shore. Combined with the surrounding forest that has seen very little harvesting, this area is a remarkable example of a naturally functioning riparian system.

For native eastern brook trout, the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture has identified Maine as “the last true stronghold for brook trout in the eastern United States”, supporting more than twice as many “intact” stream watersheds as all other states combined. Maine also supports 97% of “intact” lake and pond populations. The Cold Stream Forest would protect Cold Stream, an “intact” stream population from source to mouth, and protect 100% of shoreline and tributary and outlet streams for 8 “intact” lake and pond populations.

In addition to the importance of Cold Stream as a fishery, it provides spawning habitat and summer thermal refuge for brook trout from the Kennebec and Dead Rivers (which meet in “the Forks” just downstream from where Cold Stream enters the Kennebec), and is believed by biologists from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to be critically important to supporting highly popular fisheries on more than 25 miles of these larger mainstem rivers. Fisheries studies during the relicensing of the Indian Pond hydroelectric project revealed extensive use of Cold Stream for thermal refuge and spawning, with some fish spawning as far as seven miles up Cold Stream. MDIFW has also conducted an extensive habitat survey of Cold Stream that indicate its high value, and worked with several partners to implement habitat restoration projects at a limited number of degraded sites.

e. water supply and watershed protection, and/or containing important riparian areas, wetlands, shorelines, or river systems

This project provides the unique opportunity to protect the majority of the Cold Stream watershed including all of the stream’s unprotected headwater ponds and the entirety of the stream itself, including 8 miles of shorefront on lakes and ponds, 14 miles of Cold Stream, and 15 miles of other streams.

According to the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture Maine has more intact subwatersheds than the rest of the east combined. 97% of the intact lake and pond populations of eastern brook trout are in Maine; making it the last true stronghold for brook trout in the United States.

Eight of the nine ponds within the Cold Stream Forest are designated as “Heritage” brook trout ponds by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife—three as “native” ponds that have never been stocked; and five as “wild” ponds that have not been stocked in more than 25 years. Seven of the ponds are managed for “quality” fisheries, where anglers can expect to catch trout of larger than average size. Three of the ponds

are designated as “remote” ponds, requiring at least a ½ mile hike from the nearest logging road for access.

Cold Stream earns its name from its cold spring fed waters that maintain temperatures cold enough to support brook trout even in the warmest summer months. Trout Unlimited has identified Cold Stream as suitable habitat for the eastern brook trout even under a 3-degree Celsius increase in summer air temperatures, assisting with climate adaptation for this sensitive species.

The US Forest Service’s Forests to Faucets program ranks the Cold Stream Subwatershed at the top of its Surface Drinking Water Importance Index. The ranking puts it amongst the most important in Maine’s Forest Legacy Area.

Cold Stream is a primary tributary of the Kennebec River. In addition to critical aquatic habitat, as an important part of the Kennebec watershed, Cold Stream contributes to the public drinking water supply for nearly 7,000 people from Skowhegan to Fairfield.²

Under the guidance of the Maine Department of Conservation’s foresters, and IF&W wildlife biologists, this project will ensure appropriate timber management on Cold Stream and its headwater ponds and limit development to appropriate forestry and recreation related activities, protecting it from siltation, temperature elevation, runoff and pollution that threaten its value as a cold water fishery and put this critical habitat at risk.

f. scenic resources (such as mountain viewsheds, undeveloped shorelines, visual access to water, areas along state highway system)

The Cold Stream Forest property is accessed via the nationally designated Old Canada Road Scenic Byway (Route 201). Paralleling the upper Kennebec River, the byway is noted for its access to traditional backcountry recreation destinations in The Forks region, abundant wildlife, undeveloped forests, and historic cultural importance as a major travel corridor between Maine and Canada since before European settlement.

The Cold Stream valley is exceptionally scenic, flanked by Coburn Mountain, Johnson Mountain and Parlin Mountain to the west and Cold Stream Mountain, Chase Stream Mountain and Misery Ridge to the east. From numerous locations within the property—and particularly from the shoreline or a boat on the surface of one of the ponds—there are striking views of steep wooded hills rising above the bogs and forests.

² Maine Center for Disease Control Drinking Water Program

The gorge along Cold Stream is also exceptionally scenic, featuring two prominent waterfalls and numerous whitewater rapids during periods of high flow. In the woods surrounding Cold Stream and the ponds on the property are more intimate viewsheds, particularly during the spring when numerous wildflowers, including two rare plants, the ram's head lady slipper and the showy lady slipper, are in bloom. The Cold Stream Forest also offers exceptional habitat and viewing opportunities for northwoods wildlife, including moose, common loons, and, particularly in winter when populations are concentrated in wintering areas, whitetail deer.

g. *historic/cultural/tribal resources of significance as formally documented by a government agency or non-governmental organization*

Rural Maine landowners have historically allowed extensive public recreational access. As a result a sporting tradition was developed throughout northern Maine that has lasted over a century. Plum Creek Timberland has continued this historic open lands policy. The Cold Stream Forest parcel hosts hunting, fishing and paddling opportunities that are the bedrock of northern Maine culture. As these large parcels of working forest land are fragmented and subdivided into smaller pieces and new owners who are not rooted in Maine's traditions move in, public access is lost and what has been a critical piece of Maine's culture disappears. Securing public access to this parcel will ensure that these traditional recreational uses can continue in perpetuity.

Abutting the Cold Stream project, the Old Canada Road Scenic Byway (Route 201) has played an important historic role in the region. During the 19th century this route was the gateway for thousands of Irish and French Canadians who drove Maine's manufacturing boom and forever shaped the culture of the state.

(1 pt for each public value significantly represented by the project; 0 additional pts if project is of primarily regional significance; 4 additional pts if project is of state significance; 8 additional pts if project is of national significance)

3. *Describe access to the project for recreational purposes: (0 pts if foot access to the parcel is not being guaranteed and/or vehicle access to project will not be available; 5 pts if foot access to the parcel is being guaranteed and vehicle access to the project will be available; scoring will recognize that vehicle access to certain lands such as high elevation parcels may not be appropriate).*

The entire Cold Stream parcel will be open to pedestrian recreational use under BPL ownership. Through an MOA BPL will focus its management on multiple use working forest and outdoor recreation activities, road and trails and water access systems and IF&W will address wildlife and fisheries management. The property benefits from a network of timber management roads that will facilitate recreational access for fishing, hunting, paddling and snowmobiling. BPL and IF&W would be able to work with surrounding landowners to manage this road system, including any decisions about gating or limiting access.

- 4. Describe the future forest management objectives, what entity will be responsible for future forest management and how the property will be sustainably managed to protect the values identified in #2. Scoring is based upon the degree to which future forest management will be consistent with the Land for Maine's Future Program's most current policy for working forest easements: (0 pts if not consistent; 5 pts if highly consistent).**

Future forest management objectives will be at the discretion of the Bureau of Parks and Lands, which will be the fee owner, working in close consultation with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The Bureau's forestry operations are dual certified by the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. It is anticipated that BPL would continue to operate on the property for timber and that they would use their normal management planning process working with IF&W to develop harvest plans that comply with best management practices and habitat needs. Given BPL & IF&W's strong track record, it is the applicant's expectation that the agencies will do an excellent job balancing ecological, recreational and timber objectives on this property. Based on current stocking levels and habitat needs, we anticipate that there will be some harvestable wood available immediately to enhance growth rates and carrying capacity of the land for deer; and that after the first 10 years the commercial volume are expected to increase significantly.

¹*“Relevant data to this criterion may be obtained from MDIFW, the Maine Natural Areas Program, or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Other private or non-profit sources or individuals may have additional information relevant to this criterion.*

THREATENED CRITERION (20 points maximum)

- 5. Describe the extent to which the values identified in #2 are under threat of loss or conversion to non-forest uses (or were under threat prior to pre-acquisition). Describe the type, severity and imminence of the threat. Include a description of any legal protections that currently exist on the property; landowner circumstances; adjacent land use; and physical attributes of the parcel that could facilitate conversion: (5 pts if threat of loss or conversion is low; 10 pts if threat of loss or conversion is moderate; 20 pts if threat of loss or conversion is high).**

If placed on the open market this property is at significant threat of conversion to non-forestry uses that could imperil the recreational, ecological, and timber resources of the parcel. The property is well suited for conversion to non-forest uses via residential development or private commercial recreational development. The Cold Stream Forest parcel is owned by a Real Estate Investment Trust and is being made available for a conservation sale at this time. If the sale does not proceed to the state or a conservation organization the landowner could place the property on the open market to realize its development value. The company has successfully rezoned some of its other forest lands in this region for development.

Cold Stream Forest abuts Route 201; the major travel artery between Quebec, Maine and beyond to the eastern seaboard of the United States. The accessibility afforded by Route 201 puts the property within an easy day's drive of all the major metropolitan areas between Quebec and New York City.

The property contains some of the best accessible examples of undeveloped native and wild brook trout ponds and highly productive stream habitat in Maine. The parcel has historically been widely used by Maine sportsman for fishing and hunting because of its accessibility and productivity. Three of the 9 ponds (Big Berry, Lang, and Little Lang) on the property are designated Remote Ponds (P-RP) by the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) and are not developable. The remaining 7 ponds are Management Class 7 and developable. The entire 14-mile Cold Stream corridor is zoned P-SL2 which allows development with a small buffer from the stream. The property has approximately one mile of frontage on Route 201 just north of The Forks.

Given the highly valued deer and fisheries habitat, scenic location, road infrastructure, and accessibility the property is especially susceptible to conversion to large parcel development. Large acreage lots, so-called "kingdom lots," are being sold to individuals and organizations who often restrict public access and timber harvests and create barriers to economic, recreation, and wildlife corridors alike.

While not as popular in Maine as they are in the western and southern United States, the characteristics of the property are unique enough that development of a private gated sporting club or conservation club is also a probability. The relatively low cost of Maine timberland compared to similar forestlands nationally, rare high density of undeveloped productive wild brook trout ponds and streams, deer habitat, and adjacency to large tracts of conservation land adds to the attractiveness of this property for such conversion.

Data from the Land Use Regulation Commission shows that significant subdivision has occurred around the Cold Stream property. Adjacent to the southern portion of the parcel, just across the Kennebec River, most of Moxie Gore Township has seen significant parcelization. Just west of Cold Stream, about 3 miles across Route 201, Upper Enchanted Township has also seen widespread subdivision. While most of this conversion occurred under LURC rules that have since been changed, it highlights the high desirability of this area. In addition, less than a mile west of the northern section of the Cold Stream parcel, Parlin Pond has seen extensive shoreline development.

STRATEGIC CRITERION (30 points maximum)

- 6. Describe the property's relevance or relationship to conservation efforts on a broader level. Describe the scale of the broader conservation plan, the scale of the project's contribution to that plan, and the placement of the project within the plan area. Describe whether the project is adjacent to or otherwise located so as to significantly enhance the values of existing conservation land. (0 pts if property is not part of a broader conservation plan; 15 pts if the property makes a modest contribution to a conservation effort and is***

near already protected lands; 30 pts if the property significantly advances a landscape scale or watershed-based conservation strategy through infill and/or key linkages and supports previous conservation investments.)

The Cold Stream Forest property would become the southwestern edge of a 2 million-acre contiguous block of largely privately owned protected lands that would stretch from The Forks to Baxter State Park. The property directly abuts the 360,000-acre Moosehead Lake Conservation Easement, the Bureau of Parks and Lands' West Forks Plantation Public Reserve Unit (1,240 acres), lands protected for conservation with deed covenants by Central Maine Power along the Kennebec Gorge (1,300 acres), and BPL's Dead River conservation easement corridor (1,100 acres) is just across route 201 from the property. The Bureau's Moxie Falls Unit (1,200 acres) is just across the Kennebec River from the project. Cold Stream Forest would connect all of these conservation lands and consolidate several isolated BPL Public Reserve Units together to create a more than 13,000-acre publicly owned corridor from Cold Stream Pond to the south side of the Kennebec River and west along the Dead River. This corridor would protect more than 40 miles of flowing waters, from the source of Cold Stream to the Kennebec and Dead Rivers.

The Cold Stream Forest parcel is a strategic acquisition according to numerous conservation planning efforts:

State and Multi-State Planning Efforts

- This property includes a Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, Beginning with Habitat program (BwH) Focus Area and recognized in the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) as a conservation priority. BwH Focus Areas are, "Landscape scale areas that contain exceptionally rich concentrations of at-risk species and natural communities and high quality common natural communities, significant wildlife habitats, and their intersection with large blocks of undeveloped habitat".
- Cold Stream Forest is in the White Mountain to Moosehead Lake corridor that has been named one of just three pilot projects within the US Department of Interior's America's Great Outdoors Initiative Northern Forest Landscape, and is a demonstration project for the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative lead by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.
- The northern half of the property has been designated critical habitat by US Fish and Wildlife Service for the federally listed threatened Canada Lynx.
- The Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture's Conservation Strategy states that "efforts to improve the status of brook trout should begin by protecting "the best of the best" habitat that supports existing healthy, stable populations." Virtually all of the aquatic habitat within the Cold Stream Forest falls within this category, and the boundaries of the parcel were selected to maximize protection of stream miles and intact brook trout ponds.
- Analysis by Trout Unlimited (Healing Troubled Waters, Preparing Trout and Salmon Habitat for Changing Climate, 2007) identifies northern and western

Maine, including northern Somerset County, as a refugium that would maintain suitable habitat conditions for brook trout even with a 3 degree Celsius increase in average July air temperature. Protection of intact blocks of habitat within areas that will remain thermally suitable is a key strategy for maintaining trout populations through projected climate change.

International Planning Efforts

- Initial data released by the US Fish and Wildlife Service's North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative identifies priority lands on the Cold Stream Forest property expected to be the most resilient to the effects of climate change. These priority lands were identified by a research group from The Nature Conservancy led by scientist Mark Anderson. They analyzed everything from species distributions to river barriers to land ownership patterns across 13 states and Canada. The lands identified are expected to be the most resilient to the effects of climate change and critical for protecting our natural resources across a large landscape of interconnected lands.
- This project is within the North East Kingdom VT-Northern NH-Western Maine Mountains high priority linkage for wildlife movement identified by Staying Connected. Staying Connected is "a collaboration of twenty public and private entities working together to maintain landscape connections across the northern forest region."
- The Cold Stream property lies within an area designated by the Wildlands Project in its Wildlands Network Design for the Greater Northern Appalachians as "Primary lands of High Biological Significance." Areas of high biological significance are lands identified as having significant conservation value. The Wildlands Project (now known as the Wildlands Network) is an international conservation organization engaged in large-scale regional conservation planning to identify areas in need of protection; focusing specifically on habitat connectivity across state and national boundaries.
- The Cold Stream Forest project is within several important wildlife corridors identified by Two Countries One Forest (2C1F) utilizing models created at Clemson University. These models highlight critical wildlife corridors connecting existing protected lands stretching from New Hampshire through Maine into Quebec and New Brunswick. This project is located within all of 2C1F's published connectivity models, emphasizing its importance for connecting wildlife to protected lands across the two-country landscape. 2C1F is an international organization dedicated to using landscape conservation to protect and maintain the Northern Appalachian/Acadian ecoregion, which includes 33-million hectares (80-million acres) and forests spanning the eastern edge of North America.

READINESS FACTORS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS (30 points maximum)

- 7. Describe the degree of match being provided as a percentage of the Total Project Cost** (the Total Project Cost is the sum of acquisition and preacquisition costs, but does not include stewardship endowment; do not include funds raised for stewardship endowment as match):
(0 pts if percent match is <50%; 5 pts if percent match is 50% or greater).

We are requesting 73% of the purchase price from the federal Forest Legacy Program. The required match for this parcel (25%) will be raised by TPL, TU, and IF&W through applications to the Land for Maine's Future program, Kennebec Fisheries Enhancement Fund and a private fundraising campaign. TPL will also cover all pre-acquisition costs related to survey, appraisal, title, and environmental due diligence.

- 8. Describe the degree of project readiness including the status of each of the following:**

a. preliminary appraisal

Ongoing. We anticipate updating the Legacy Committee with firm appraisal data once it is complete and prior to national project ranking.

b. agreement on easement or fee acquisition conditions between landowner and state

The Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands, has been thoroughly briefed about the opportunity and has indicated strong interest in acquiring Cold Stream Forest parcel in fee. No contractual agreement in place.

c. cost-share commitment has been obtained from a specified source

None. The project has just begun, but we are confident that we can raise private funds and LMF funds to meet the required Forest Legacy match.

The Fisheries Enhancement Fund, created during the relicensing of the Indian Pond Hydroelectric Project on the Kennebec River, has indicated a strong interest in contributing up to \$500,000 towards the purchase of this property because of the critically important spawning and thermal refuge habitat in Cold Stream for the Kennebec River's brook trout population. All of the members of the committee that administers the fund have indicated they would support funding for the acquisition of the Cold Stream Forest. We expect a formal commitment process later this summer.

d. signed option or purchase and sales agreement is held by the state or at the request of the state OR at the request of the state, conservation easement or fee title is held by a third party

Letter of interest from landowner will be forthcoming.

e. title search is completed

Landowner has provided deeds and all known title encumbrances to facilitate preliminary appraisal. A formal title commitment from a reputable title insurance firm will be pursued if the project is ranked for funding.

f. minerals determination is completed

Minerals determination will be completed if the project is ranked for funding.

g. stewardship plan or multi-resource management plan is completed

This is a fee purchase so there is no stewardship plan required. BPL and IF&W will have to incorporate this property into their unit management planning process. This will occur through an amendment or update to the Region Unit Management Plan. Proposals for new trails, roads or other improvements would go through normal BPL and IF&W environmental review on a project-by-project basis.

(1 pt for each readiness factor completed, up to 5 pts maximum).

- 9. Describe the nature of ongoing management and stewardship of the fee or easement parcel. If fee, describe the potential for the parcel to generate revenue through timber harvesting, recreational fees, or other revenue streams directly connected to the parcel. Describe the annual management and stewardship costs of the parcel and the size of endowment needed to cover these costs using, in the case of easements, the model recommended in BPL's Monitoring Costs and Stewardship Endowment Levels for Maine Working Forest Easements <http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/forestlegacy.shtml> or more recent BPL guidance, or, in the case of fee lands, most recent BPL guidance on the issue. Describe landowner or conservation partner's commitment to raise the necessary endowment. (0 pts if easement without commitment to raise full stewardship endowment; 20 pts if easement with commitment to raise full stewardship endowment; 10 pts if fee parcel with no or partial endowment commitment; 20 pts if fee parcel with commitment to raise full stewardship endowment or applicant demonstrates that land management will yield sufficient revenue, beginning at closing, to fully support land stewardship)**

The Cold Stream Forest property will become part of the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands Public Reserve system and managed in conjunction with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Like all Public Reserve Units, the property will be open for public recreation and sustainably managed for timber. Timber revenue from property will be used to directly fund the Bureau's operations.

The property has a mix of stocking and there are pockets of commercial timber that could be harvested in the near term, while other areas have been harvested in the last 25 years and are in a regeneration phase. Currently most of the road system is well maintained and passable, there are no known management

headaches (such as dumps or abandoned buildings), and there are no immediate recreation access needs (such as a boat ramps or parking lots).

The addition of this property to the Public Reserve land base may create additional financial benefits by connecting some isolated Public Reserve Units together and providing a larger contiguous land base that is more economically efficient to manage. In light of these management considerations and the anticipated timber revenue, it is TPL's opinion that this parcel meets the criterion of being a fee parcel with sufficient revenue to support land stewardship costs. If the Forest Legacy Committee feels otherwise, TPL is open to discuss any required management or stewardship funding needs.



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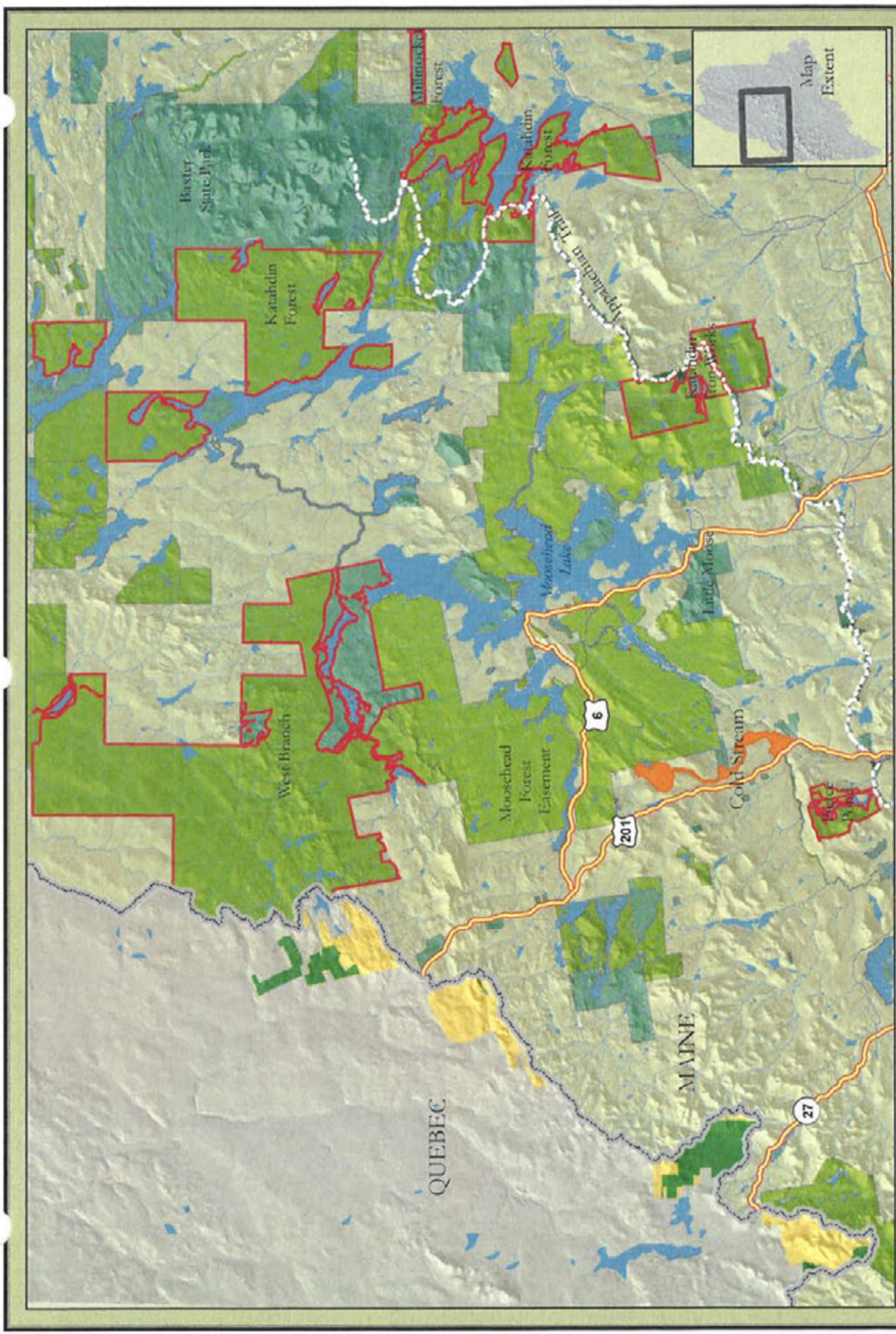
**COLD STREAM CONSERVATION PROJECT
SOMERSET COUNTY, MAINE**

**PROJECT BUDGET
AS OF JUNE 15, 2012**

EXPENSES	Amount	
Land Acquisition	\$8,000,000	
Survey	\$80,000	
Due Diligence (appraisal, title, environmental)	\$30,000	
Staff time and overhead (project management, legal, fundraising)	\$60,000	
Travel, office expenses, photos, misc	\$5,000	
TOTAL TRACT COST	\$8,175,000	
REVENUE		Status
Forest Legacy (federal)	\$6,000,000	Pending
Kennebec Fisheries Enhancement Fund	\$500,000	Pending (1)
Land for Maine's Future	\$750,000	To Be Approached
Private Fundraising Campaign	\$925,000	To Be Approached
Total Pending/To be Approached	\$8,175,000	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$8,175,000	

Budget Notes:

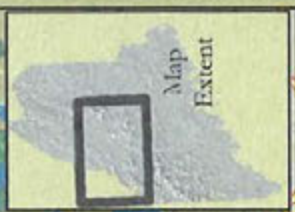
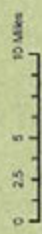
- (1) The Fisheries Enhancement Fund, created during the relicensing of the Indian Pond Hydroelectric Project on the Kennebec River, has indicated a strong interest in contributing up to \$500,000 towards the purchase of this property because of the critically important spawning and thermal refuge habitat in Cold Stream for the Kennebec River's brook trout population. All of the members of the committee that administers the fund have indicated they would support funding for the acquisition of the Cold Stream Forest. We expect a formal commitment process later this summer.

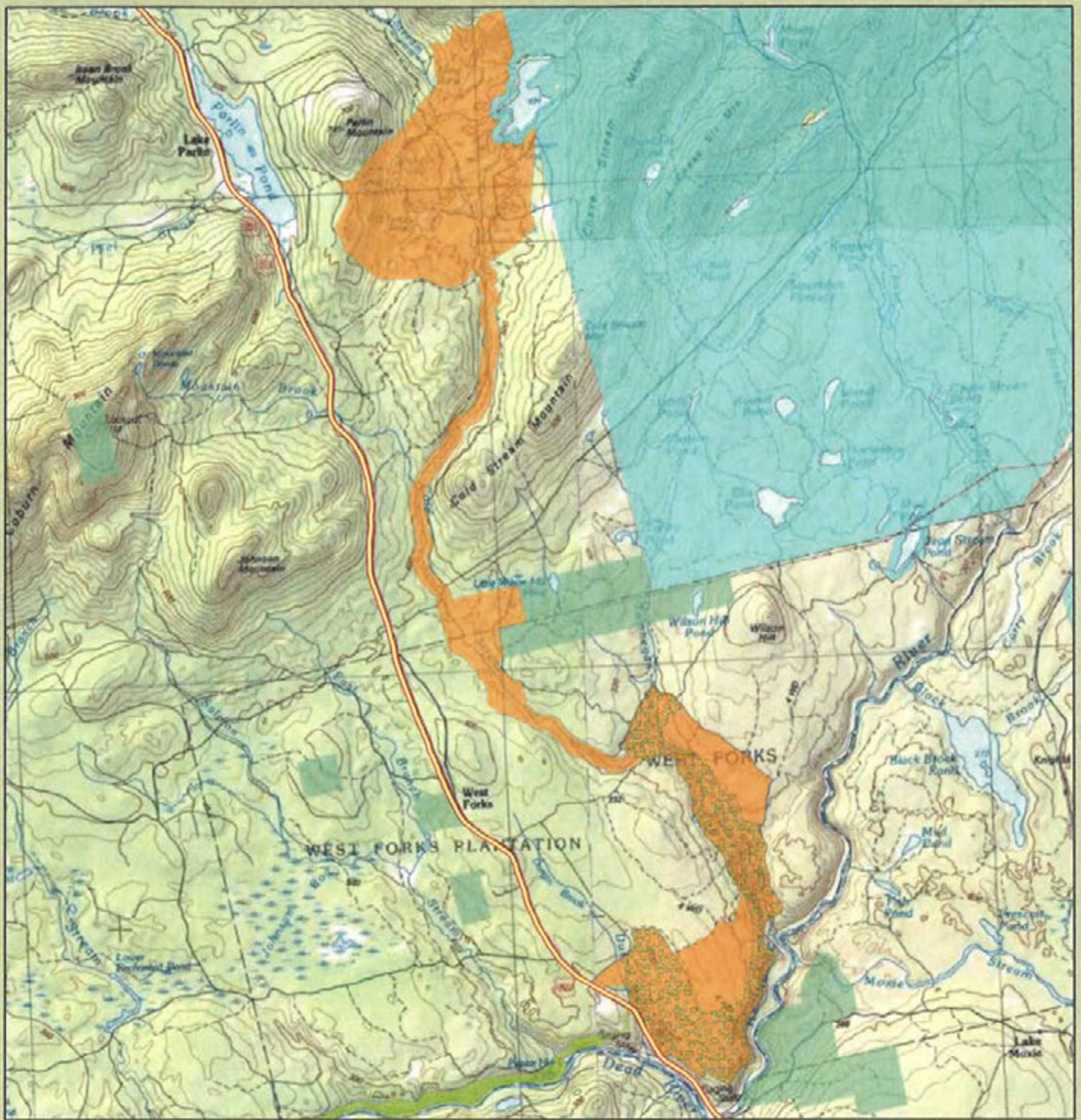







-  FY14 Forest Legacy Project: Cold Stream - 8,153 acres
-  Conserved with Forest Legacy funds: 608,150 acres
-  State Land
-  Private Conservation Land
-  Appalachian Trail
-  Canadian Protected Areas
-  Canadian Public Lands
-  Federal Land

Cold Stream Project Locus Somerset County, Maine

Boundaries are approximate. Map created by
The Trust for Public Land on 6/15/2012.
Information on this map is provided for purposes
of discussion and visualization only.



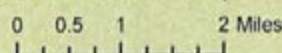


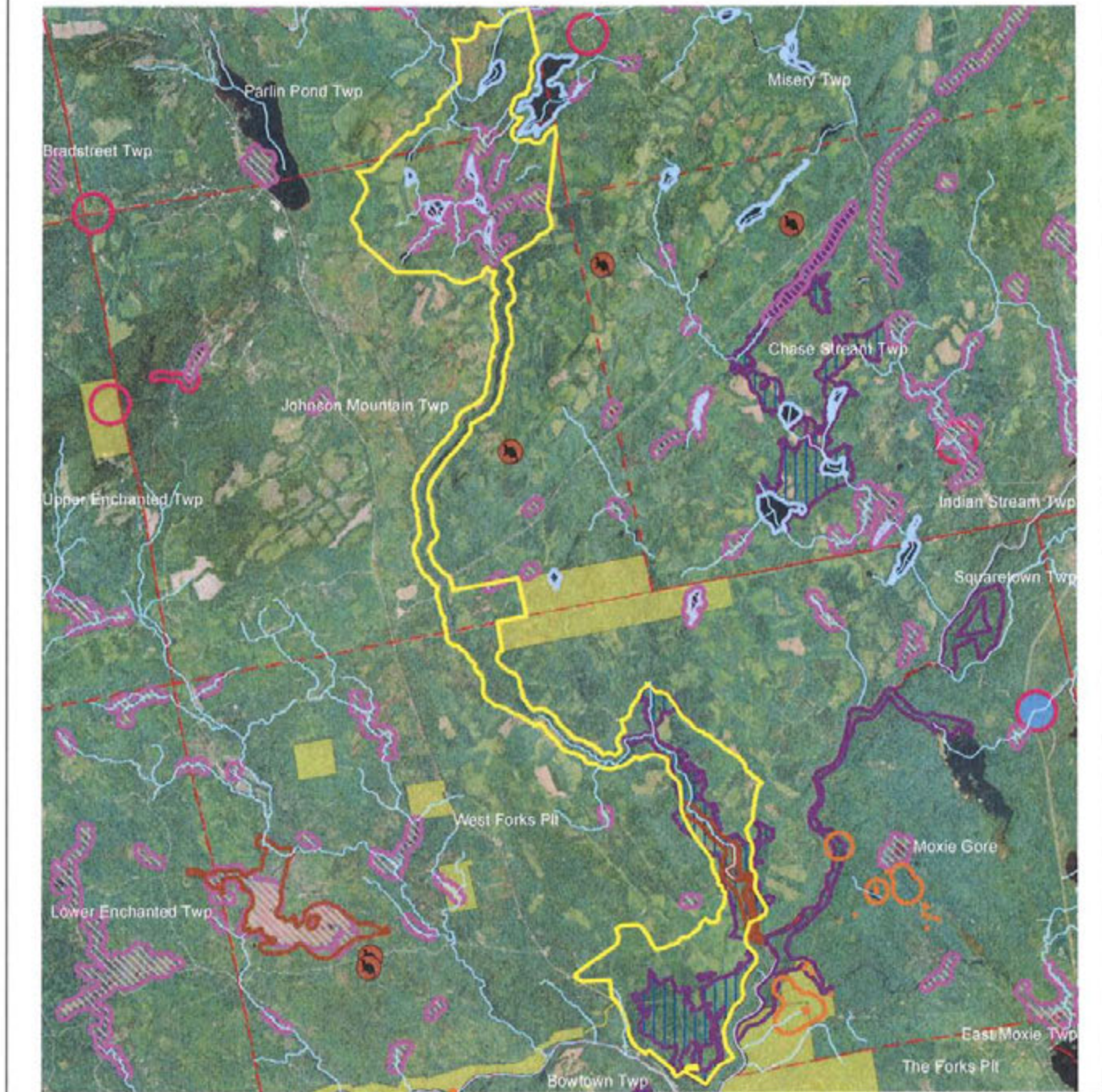
-  Proposed Conservation Area: 8,153 acres
-  Pending Conservation Easement
-  State Land
-  Private Conservation Land
-  Voluntary Deer Wintering Agreement Area: 2,152 acres

Cold Stream Project

Johnson Mountain TWP, Parlin Pond Twp
Moxie Gore & West Forks Plt, ME

Boundaries are approximate. Created by The Trust for Public Land on May 1, 2012.
Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.

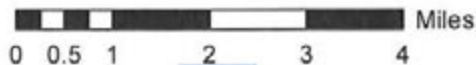




**Fish and Wildlife Observations and Priority Habitats
Cold Stream Project Area**



Maine Department of
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

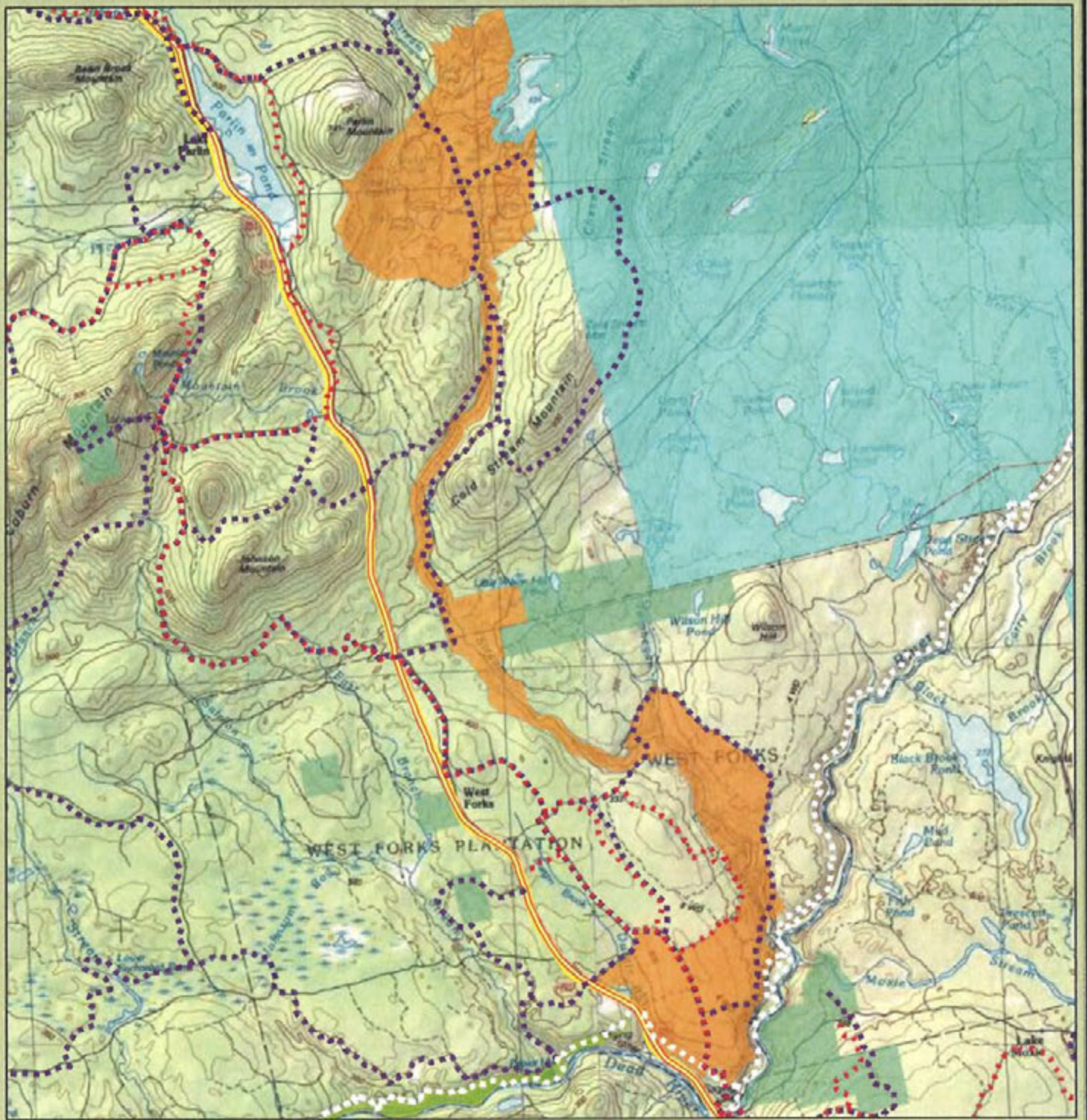


Projection: UTM, NAD83, Zone 19N

Date: 6/13/2012

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Project Boundary | A and B List Ponds |
| Brook Trout Stream | Arctic Charr Habitat |
| Deer Winter Area | Current lynx dist_2011Oct |
| Cooperative DWAs | Rare Plants |
| Inland Waterfowl/Wading Bird | Rare Communities |
| Significant Vernal Pools | Maine Conservation Lands |
| ETSc Occurrence | |
| Rare Mussels (5 mi review) | |



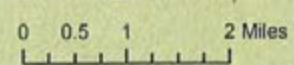


- Proposed Conservation Area: 8,153 acres
- Pending Conservation Easement
- State Land
- Private Conservation Land
- Old Canada Road Scenic Byway
- ATV trails
- Maine Huts & Trails
- Snowmobile Trails

Cold Stream Recreation Map

Johnson Mountain TWP, Parlin Pond Twp
Moxie Gore & West Forks Plt, ME

Boundaries are approximate. Created by The Trust for Public Land on June 12, 2012. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.





Top Left: View from Cold Stream property (DeLora Reardon).

Top Right: View of Cold Stream from Capital Road Bridge (Wolfe Tone).

Bottom Right: Lady's Slipper on the Cold Stream Property (DeLora Reardon).

Cover: View of Cold Stream through forest (Wolfe Tone). Inset: Brook Trout (DeLora Reardon).



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www.lakeparlinlodge.com

Kathy Eickenberg, Deputy Director
Bureau of Parks and Lands
Maine Department of Conservation
22 State House Station
18 Elkins Lane (AMHI Campus)
Augusta, ME 04333-0022

June 13, 2012

RE: Cold Stream Forest Legacy Proposal

Dear Ms. Eickenberg,

I'm writing to you today to express my support for the Cold Stream Forest Legacy Project. As the owner of an outdoor tourism based business, I cannot emphasize enough how critical it is to protect what is left of our unique natural resource. After spending time with Jeff Reardon from Trout Unlimited, I'm convinced that the benefits from this effort will be realized for years to come. This is a rare opportunity to preserve a fishery that has been vital to local businesses for over a hundred years. In fact the old Lake Parlin House, which was located where my current business is, used to advertise how fantastic these ponds and streams were for brook trout fishing. It's not often that such an accessible piece of forest remains intact, let alone becomes available for purchase.

The other major benefit, that is no less important, is the protection of a major deer yard near the confluence of Cold Stream and the Kennebec River. Forest harvesting practices in recent years have decimated the states deer yards. There is no question that this yard will face the same fate if not afforded the protection of the Cold Stream Forest project.

The importance of a project of this nature cannot be overstated. The impact to our local economy from tourist's dollars along with the protection from development of these pristine remote ponds and streams should make this a priority in the eyes of the State. Maine has an image of rugged, remote, and beautiful wild lands that have a way of taking people back in time. It is of critical importance to our economy that we keep that image. I will continue to follow and support this effort in the hopes that my grandchildren will be fishing and hunting this piece of forest.

Sincerely,



Joe Kruse
Lake Parlin Lodge & Cabins
207-318-2577



SPORTSMAN'S ALLIANCE of MAINE

205 Church Hill Road, Augusta, Maine 04330-8210

Telephone: (207)622-5503 email: becky@sportsmansallianceofmaine.org
www.sportsmansallianceofmaine.org

May 29, 2012

Kathy Eickenberg, Deputy Director
Bureau of Parks and Lands
Maine Department of Conservation
22 State House Station
18 Elkins Lane (AMHI Campus)
Augusta, ME 04333-0022

RE: Cold Stream Forest Legacy Proposal

Dear Ms. Eickenberg:

I am writing to express the strong support of the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine for the Cold Stream Forest Legacy project. This project represents a tremendous strategic opportunity to maintain a working forest while protecting 3,000 acres of critical deer wintering areas, and 10 miles of stream and 10 headwater ponds essential to wild native brook trout in the region.

White-tailed deer have been a mainstay of Maine's rural economy for at least 125 years. Generations of Maine hunters and wildlife watchers, as well as thousands of nonresidents have depended on Maine's whitetail populations for outdoor-based recreation. In 1996, Maine had 160,000 deer hunters, and they contributed \$200 million to the economy of the state. Today there are fewer hunters, far fewer deer to enjoy, and the northern half of Maine is struggling economically.

Forty to fifty years ago, northern and eastern Maine were considered the places to go to hunt and watch deer. Whitetail populations were healthful and abundant. Beginning in the 1970s, deer wintering habitat in northern Maine began a decline that continues today. First, the spruce budworm insect infestation damaged or killed millions of acres of spruce and fir forests, including deer yards. This, in turn, precipitated a flurry of timber cutting as industrial forest owners sought to salvage their damaged softwood timber inventory. Consequently, the coniferous forests that shelter deer are at a 40-year low in the northern part of the state. This reduction in wintering area is a major factor limiting deer populations.

While this project won't guarantee the future of the northern Maine deer herd it is an essential first step.

Sincerely,

David Trahan
Executive Director

Kenneth L. Christopher
C. Moxie Gore Outfitters Inc.
PO Box 40
West Forks Maine 04985-0040

June 13, 2012

Kathy Eickenberg, Deputy Director
Bureau of Parks and Lands
Maine Department of Conservation
22 State House Station
18 Elkins Lane (AMHI Campus)
Augusta, ME 04333-0022

RE: Cold Stream Forest - Forest Legacy Proposal

Dear Ms. Eickenberg:

I am writing to express strong support for the State of Maine to apply for Forest Legacy funding for the Cold Stream Forest Project. The Cold Stream Forest Project will protect over 8,000 acres of ecologically important land in the Cold Stream watershed. Cold Stream is particularly important for brook trout populations in the Kennebec and Dead Rivers. Research by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and by contractors working for FPLE and Nextera Energy on the relicensing of the Indian Pond Dam demonstrates the use of Cold Stream as summer thermal refuge, spawning and rearing habitat for a significant proportion of the brook trout population in the Kennebec River.

The cluster of 10 brook trout ponds at the headwaters of Cold Stream—Cold Stream Pond and 9 ponds that would be protected within the parcel and represent an extraordinary concentration of native and wild trout. Three of these ponds have been designated as “native” never-been stocked Heritage Brook Trout Waters. Five of the remaining 6 ponds have been designated as “wild” brook trout ponds, not stocked for more than 25 years. Combined with a similar cluster of ponds in Chase Stream and Misery Township that was protected by the Moosehead Forest Easement this year, the Cold Stream Forest would provide an extraordinary resource for anglers in the Forks Region. Without protection from development, these ponds would be extremely attractive for development similar to what has been seen nearby on Parlin Pond and in Upper Enchanted Township.



William Oleszczuk
Maine Council Chair

May 31, 2012

Kathy Eickenberg, Deputy Director
Bureau of Parks and Lands
Maine Department of Conservation
22 State House Station
18 Elkins Lane (AMHI Campus)
Augusta, ME 04333-0022

RE: Cold Stream Forest Forest Legacy Proposal

Dear Ms. Eickenberg:

I am writing to express the Maine Council of Trout Unlimited's support for the state to apply for Forest Legacy funding for the Cold Stream Forest Project. The Cold Stream Forest will protect over 8,000 acres of ecologically important land in the Cold Stream watershed. Cold Stream is important for brook trout populations in the Kennebec and Dead Rivers. Research by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and by contractors working for FPLE and Nextera on the relicensing of the Indian Pond Dam demonstrate the use of Cold Stream as summer thermal refuge, spawning and rearing habitat for a significant portion of the brook trout population in the Kennebec River.

In addition, the cluster of 10 brook trout ponds at the headwaters of Cold Stream—Cold Stream Pond and 9 ponds that would be protected within the parcel—represent an extraordinary concentration of native and wild trout ponds in a small area. Three of these ponds have been designated as "native" never-been stocked Heritage Brook Trout Waters. Five of the remaining 6 ponds have been designated as "wild" brook trout ponds, not stocked for more than 25 years. Combined with a similar cluster of ponds in Chase Stream and Misery Township that was protected by the Moosehead Forest Easement this year, the Cold Stream Forest would provide an extraordinary resource for anglers. Without protection from development, we believe these ponds would be extremely attractive for camp or "kingdom lot" development similar to what has been seen nearby on Parlin Pond and in Upper Enchanted Township.

Improved management of forests in the riparian area of Cold Stream and along the shorelines of the parcel's ponds will enhance the value of these fisheries. In addition, the project will protect an intact deer yard near the confluence of Cold Stream and the Kennebec River, and provide for improved management to enhance its value for the local deer herd.

Sincerely,

William Oleszczuk

William Oleszczuk



P O Box 833
Skowhegan ME 04976

TRUSTEES:

John Gibson III VMD - Pres.
Ernest W. Hilton Esq. PE - V.Pres.
Gregory A. Dore - Treas.
David A. Barter - Sec/Clk.
Howard Charles
Henry Gates
Robert B. Haynes
Eric Lahti
M. Marie S. Lougee
Jeffrey McCabe
Dale Perkins
Roger J. Poulin

May 30, 2012

Kathy Eickenberg, Deputy Director
Bureau of Parks and Lands
Maine Department of Conservation
22 State House Station
18 Elkins Lane (AMHI Campus)
Augusta, ME 04333-0022

RE: Cold Stream Forest Forest Legacy Proposal

Dear Ms. Eickenberg,

I am writing to you on behalf of Somerset Woods Trustees (SWT) to urge the state to apply for Forest Legacy funding for the Cold Stream Forest Project. We are very pleased to have this opportunity arise to protect such important Brook Trout habitat in Somerset County. With over 8000 acres and many headwater ponds and streams included in the project area, protection of Brook Trout will receive a significant boost in their ability to survive and thrive. Maine has most of the viable Brook Trout habitat left in the United States. It is important to provide this heritage fish with reserve areas where their existence is no longer threatened. This project will help accomplish this in Somerset County.

Somerset Woods Trustees mission is to protect lands in Somerset County that have significant natural or cultural resources and to manage them in a sustainable way for public benefit. While we are not directly involved in this project, we would very much like to see it come to fruition. The public will be well served recreationally and economically. We hope the state will support it.

Sincerely,

Jack Gibson, Pres.



Kennebec Valley Chapter
80 East River Road
Whitefield, ME 04353

May 30, 2012,

Kathy Eickenberg, Deputy Director
Bureau of Parks and Lands
Maine Department of Conservation
22 State House Station
18 Elkins Lane (AMHI Campus)
Augusta, ME 04333-0022

RE: Cold Stream Forest Forest Legacy Proposal

Dear Ms. Eickenberg:

I am writing to express the Kennebec Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited's strong support for the state to apply for Forest Legacy funding for the Cold Stream Forest Project. The Cold Stream Forest will protect over 8,000 acres of ecologically important land in the Cold Stream watershed. Cold Stream is particularly important for brook trout populations in the Kennebec and Dead Rivers. Research by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and by contractors working for FPLE and Nextera on the relicensing of the Indian Pond Dam demonstrate the use of Cold Stream as summer thermal refuge and spawning and rearing habitat for a significant proportion of the brook trout population in the Kennebec River.

In addition, the cluster of 10 brook ponds at the headwaters of Cold Stream—Cold Stream Pond and 9 ponds that would be protected within the parcel—represent an extraordinary concentration of native and wild trout ponds in a small area. Three of these ponds have been designated as "native" never-been stocked Heritage Brook Trout Waters. Five of the remaining 6 ponds have been designated as "wild" brook trout ponds, not stocked for more than 25 years. Combined with a similar cluster of ponds in Chase Stream and Misery Township that was protected by the Moosehead Forest Easement this year, the Cold Stream Forest would provide an extraordinary resource for anglers in the Forks Region. Without protection from development, we believe these ponds would be extremely attractive for camp or "kingdom lot" development similar to what has been seen nearby on Parlin Pond and in Upper Enchanted Township.

Improved management of forests in the riparian area of Cold Stream and along the shorelines of the parcel's ponds will enhance these fisheries values. In addition, the project will protect an