Small Town, Big Forest
13 Mile Woods Community Forest
The Center helps create economic opportunity and community vitality from healthy working forests in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York.
J.T. Horn
Senior Project Manager

The Trust for Public Land conserves Land for People from the wilderness to the inner city.
Errol, Coos County, New Hampshire
The Town

- 60 square miles
- Timber
- Snowmobiling
- Fishing
- National Wildlife Refuge
- Two state parks
- Androscoggin River
The Community

- 253 people
- < 20 in local school
- Median age: 54
- Median family income $64,000
- Municipal budget $800,000
Figure 2.10 Northeastern Timberland Ownership, 1995

Source: James W. Sewall Co.
Figure 2.11 Northeastern Timberland Ownership, 2007

2007
Forest Land Ownership
In the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont & New York

Data Collection: Jan, 2007
Projection: UTM, NAD83, Zone 19

- Paper / Lumber Company
- Institutional / REIT
- ENGO
- Public
- NPS / Other

Copyright 2007
James W. Sewall Company
Old Town, Maine
Public and Private Conservation Land

Community Forests in Progress

& ▲ Community Forests Created or Assisted by Members of Community Forest Collaborative

Northern Forest Center

Thriving Communities & Healthy Forests

TRUST for PUBLIC LAND

Community Forest Projects 2002-2014

45,530 Acres Protected

- West Grand Lake Community Forest - 21,700 acres
- Machias River Community Forest - 925 acres
- Amherst Community Forest - 5,000 acres
- Bingham Forest - 2,400 acres
- Branch Lake - 447 acres
- Canaan Community Forest - 424 acres
- LaPlatte Headwaters Community Forest - 301 acres
- Lomington Town Forest - 1,470 acres
- Randolph Community Forest - 10,198 acres
- Sugar Hill Community Forest - 840 acres
- Alhambra Town Forest - 302 acres
- Raymond Community Forest
- Page Pond Community Forest - 567 acres
- Addition to Fanny Mason Town Forest - 44 acres
- Kimball Pond Conservation Area - 970 acres
- Stafford Community Forest - 868 acres
- Sprucewood Forest - 176 acres
- Winnicut Headwaters - 84 acres
- Hampton Falls Town Forest - 40 acres

- 13 Mile Woods Community Forest I & II - 7,339 acres
- McNaughton Community Forest - 925 acres
- Barre Town Forest - 355 acres
- Brushewood Community Forest I & II - 1,058 acres
- Freedom Community Forest - 2,600 acres
- Kennebec River Community Forest - 1,800 acres
- Pecky Mills Community Forest - 1,600 acres
- Knight's Pond, 201 acres
- Canco Woods, 13 acres
What was the impetus?

- Change in land ownership
- Desire for local control & access (vs. TIMO or Federal)
- Gateway to town
- Revenue potential
- Regional conservation
The Project

- 2005 – 5,300 acres
- 2009 – 1,800 acres
- Municipal ownership
- Conservation Easement held by State
Challenges

• Negotiating land purchase

• FUNDING

• TIMING

• Town vote
Partner Roles

**Town:**
- Selectboard
- Forest Commission

**Trust for Public Land:**
- Landowner negotiation
- Real estate expertise
- Conservation funding
- Community relations

**Northern Forest Center:**
- Preparing community
- Alternative Financing (New Markets Tax Credits)
- Stewardship Planning
Budget

$ 4.88 million purchase price across two phases
• $2.39 million NMTC/Town borrowing
• $ 1.72 million Forest Legacy (Federal)
• $ 500,000 LCHIP (State)
• $ 265,000 Private
Benefits from a Community Forest

- Local ownership
- Long-term sustainable forest management
- Traditional open access
- Revenue generation
- Education
- Social capacity building
Economic Analysis

• $3.7 million timber sales (First 7 years)
• Direct: 2 local jobs in forestry/logging
• Indirect: up to 10 jobs in other forest sectors
• Paid 50% of loan and interest
• $100,000 expected annual NET income
What’s next?

• Buying is just the beginning
  – Long term commitment

• Other communities
  – Errol is model
  – 45,000 acres
Critical for Success

- Community leadership
- Project reflects conservation AND community
- Time, timing, and patience
- Support & assistance
“People come here for beautiful forests and clean water; if we don’t take care of these, who will come?”

—Bill Freedman, Errol, NH
For more on Community Forests

Northern Forest Center
www.northernforest.org
Julie Renaud Evans
Director of Forestry
jevans@northernforest.org
603-724-8322

Trust for Public Land
www.tpl.org
J.T. Horn
Senior Project Manager
JT.Horn@tpl.org
802-223-1373