

# Forest Notes

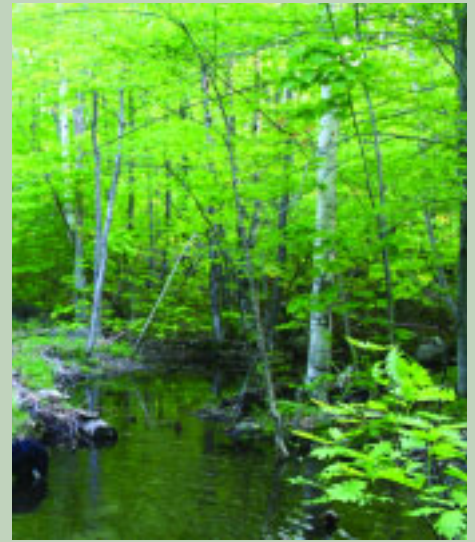
SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FORESTS

Autumn 2007

**Another Million Acres:  
Can We Do It?**

**Connecting Kids**

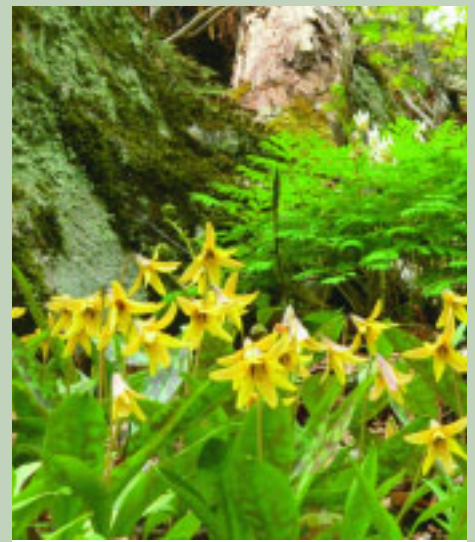
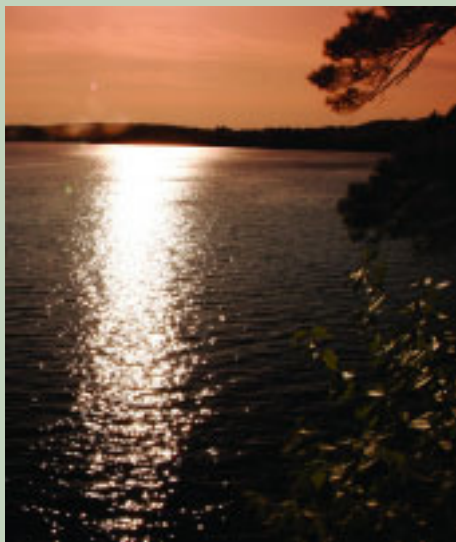




# The Million-Acre March

*Five Years' Progress Toward a  
New Hampshire Everlasting*

By Dan Sundquist



# Big ideas require bold visions. Turning the vision into reality takes many partners.

With the announcement of its New Hampshire Everlasting vision in 2001, the Forest Society set a bold 25-year goal for the state to conserve an additional 1 million acres of key lands. At that time, the Granite State featured 1,406,405 acres of private and public lands protected in perpetuity. Now, five years into the challenge of New Hampshire Everlasting, we have gained an additional 266,280 acres of land through the concerted efforts of many allied organizations and agencies, bringing the total conserved land base up to nearly 1,673,000 acres. Thus, with one-fifth of the calendar towards 2026 marked off, the New Hampshire conservation community has met more than one-quarter of its goal of a million acres of newly protected land.

Good news, right? Certainly we should take some comfort in the fact that 30 percent of New Hampshire's land area is permanently protected. But we can't be sanguine about the fact that 70 percent of our 5.9 million acres is unprotected—and that during the same 2001-2006 period, forest land was lost to development at a rate not seen since the real estate boom of the 1980s.

As we move past the 30 percent protected milestone, do we dare to dream of a New Hampshire 40 percent protected—a New Hampshire Everlasting—with 2.4 million acres of conserved land? Are we protecting enough land to reach the goal by 2026? As with many things, the devil is in the details.

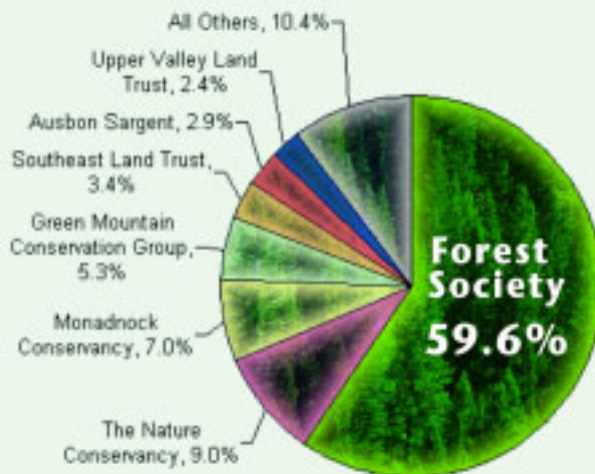
## Details Revealed

The "Acres Protected" table below shows the breakdown of land protection by primary protecting agency type for the period 2001-2006. This data is drawn from the GRANIT conservation lands database—the state's official database—as well as protected lands data collected by the Forest Society but not yet mapped into GRANIT. These data were combined in an effort to be as current and as accurate as possible statistically.

Clearly, the state agencies show the greatest gain in

ACRES PROTECTED 2001-2006				
	2001	2006	2001-2006 Gain	% Gain 2001-2006
Municipal	157,840	178,936	21,096	7.9%
Federal	778,015	781,260	3,245	1.2%
State	222,743	410,068	187,325	70.3%
Private	241,025	294,921	53,896	20.2%
Quasipublic	6,782	7,500	718	0.3%
	<b>1,406,405</b>	<b>1,672,685</b>	<b>266,280</b>	

Land Protected by Trusts 2001-2006



protected land at 70 percent of the total acreage protected. However, 171,300 acres of that gain is found in one very unusual land protection project: the Connecticut Headwaters in Pittsburgh and Clarksville. Without that huge acreage, the private land trusts of New Hampshire rise to the top of the statistics with more than 20 percent share of all land protected from 2001 to 2006. And it should also be noted that municipalities have contributed significantly during this period at nearly eight percent of the total.

## Land Trusts and Communities

Looking at the gains in the private land protection, the Forest Society has been directly responsible for nearly 60 percent of all land conserved by land trusts in the state. This is about 33,000 acres of land statewide that was protected by land trusts from 2001 to 2006. Significant gains have also been made by several other statewide and regional land trusts, as can be seen in the chart above.

Sizeable projects include the 2,600-acre Trout Pond-Freedom Town Forest project in Freedom by the Green Mountain Conservation Group, the 955-acre Fall Mountain preserve in Langdon and Charlestown by The Nature Conservancy, the 632-acre Hermit Hill project in Lyme by the Upper Valley Land Trust, the 420-acre Woodland Hill Farm in Greenfield by The Monadnock Conservancy, and the 390-acre Piscassic Wildlife Management Area in Newfields and Exeter protected by the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire, to name only a few significant projects.