September 10, 2015

Forest Society of Maine North Woods project:

The Gulf Hagas - Pleasant River Project ($100,000) will provide permanent protection of approximately 18,000 acres that includes 5,500 acres of high elevation land associated with Whitecap Mountain and three other mountain peaks bordering 11 miles of the Appalachian Trail corridor. It will also protect 17 miles of the West Branch of the Pleasant River and cold water tributaries arising in the peaks to be conserved and that are vitally important to brook trout and Atlantic salmon. A significant older growth floodplain forest and wetland complex, miles of undeveloped stream and lake shore, and thousands of acres of productive forestland will be conserved. The lands provide important habitat for multiple species of birds and wildlife including Bicknell’s thrush, Canada lynx, wood turtle, long-eared bat, and rare plant communities such as Fir-Heartleaf Birch sub-alpine forest. The project lands also provide camping, hiking, snowmobiling, fishing, hunting, and other similar recreational uses for more than 10,000 people every year. The Forest Society of Maine is working with two landowners, Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, and other organizations to successfully conserve these lands through a combination of fee and easement purchases. (Total project costs: $8,000,000)