

# NORTH ATLANTIC LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE GRANT 2013 PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one)

**2013 1<sup>st</sup>**

2013 2<sup>nd</sup>

2013 3<sup>rd</sup>

2013 4<sup>th</sup>

Grant Program, Number and Title: Grant 2012-04 "WHITE MOUNTAINS TO MOOSEHEAD LAKE INITIATIVE—  
PARCEL LEVEL PLANNING, PROGRESS TRACKING AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT TO ADVANCE  
RESILIENT LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION

Organization: The Trust for Public Land

## Project Leader:

Kelley Hart, Associate Director  
The Trust for Public Land  
101 Montgomery Street, Suite 900  
San Francisco, CA 94104

Abstract: Please provide a short (1-2 paragraphs) abstract that addresses EACH of the following: the objectives of your project, accomplishments to date, future plans and timelines with an estimate for when the project will be completed.

The project's overarching objective is to create a science-based (GIS) framework for future conservation in the White Mountains to Moosehead Lake study area. This includes developing a parcel level analysis to prioritize tracts for conservation and other activities (e.g., development of ecological reserves on existing conservation land) based on their significance for climate resilience (among other key values). Our method for achieving the project objective is to: (1) identify the appropriate GIS data sets, (2) incorporate expert local knowledge and stakeholder input, (3) analyze priorities for resilience at the parcel level, and (4) create an online portal (DataBasin) and tracking tool (Measures of Progress Site). We envisioned that once DataBasin was built, we would (5) hold meetings for stakeholders, private landowners, and others who can play a role in utilizing this information for the development of projects, forest plans, and other relevant activities. And we would (6) present about this project at conferences and workshops. As part of this project we set forth a goal of coordinating with LCC staff to assure that all relevant NALCC science products are utilized and integrated appropriately.

At the time of the last report, we had already completed steps #1 - #4, though we knew there was additional data and stakeholder input that could be incorporated. At the outset, we had envisioned that we would continue to add relevant datasets with expert advice in 2013. During this quarter we added several datasets (supporting #1 - #3 above) and continued outreach to potential partners and DataBasin users (supporting #5 above).

Here's a quick rundown of some of the data we recently added:

**Appalachian Trail Viewshed:** Paul Mitchell at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) has generated a viewshed model that identifies the areas in the region most visible from the Appalachian Trail (AT). In addition, Paul has created a map that identifies potential wind resources within the AT viewshed. Given the importance of the AT and the on-going statewide discussion around wind power siting, it's very interesting to see these issues represented graphically and Paul has spent a lot of time developing this one-of-a-kind analysis.

**Contiguous Ecological Cores:** Dr. Pete McKinley from The Wilderness Society (TWS) has added a map/layer that identifies cores within the White Moose focal area that represent candidate areas for future land protection efforts, especially for ecological reserve with minimal or no management activities. Pete's analysis utilizes a number of data

sets, including the Human Footprint model, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Matrix Forest Blocks, TNC Climate Resilience data, and site specific habitat information. Pete's work really digs deeper into identifying the most important ecological gems in the region.

**Designing Sustainable Landscapes:** The Trust for Public Land has added results from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperatives' (LCC) Designing Sustainable Landscapes Phase I analysis. These are limited to the Kennebec watershed section of the White Moose, but there are 4 new data sets: 1) Ecological Settings - similar settings are expected to be more resilient to climate change. 2) Index of Ecological Integrity - a 0 -1 scaling rating the integrity of that spot in relation to rest of the Kennebec watershed. 3) Integrity predictions for 2030 - areas that currently have high integrity that are under threat of development in 2030. 4) Integrity predictions for 2080 - areas that currently have high integrity that are under threat of development in 2080.

We continued outreach with these key activities:

- We held a fourth stakeholder meeting in late March (see attached agenda), where several individuals presented on related activities; a few partners did demonstrations using the DataBasin tool as a way to educate the group on how the tool can be used and give examples for how to use DataBasin to advance one's work; and the group brainstormed about how they would like to collaborate in the year ahead.
- We negotiated Memoranda of Understanding with four local organizations to assist us in making sure we can reach others who can utilize DataBasin and the Measures of Progress for the development of projects, forest plans, and other relevant activities. Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust, Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust, Mahoosuc Pathways Inc., and the High Peaks Alliance have all agreed to assist in this endeavor.
- Maine Audubon cited our leadership in the creation of the framework in their most recent state-wide newsletter, *Habitat*. Over the course of the summer of 2013, Maine Audubon is conducting stream corridor assessments across the upper reaches of the Kennebec watershed, in the White Moose, to inventory impaired fish passages. They intend to utilize the DataBasin Tool to display and share their findings, and, in turn, to work with local towns, landowners, and public and private partners to improve stream crossings and culvert restoration in the region.

During the next quarter we plan to continue updating and refining the GIS data and working with the four organizations to get the word out about our tools. We will also work on disseminating information about this project beyond the region. The Trust for Public Land would still like to present its results to the NALCC Steering Committee in late 2013. The project is anticipated to be completed by December 2013.

#### Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter?

Yes, the project is substantially complete, as described in the section above.

#### Progress Achieved: (For each Goal/Objective, list Planned and Actual Accomplishments)

##### **Identify Appropriate GIS Data Sets**

- Accomplished:
  - Conducted online research
  - Consulted with local, state and NALCC experts
- Planned:
  - Continue to update and refine data, budget permitting

##### **Incorporate Expert Local Knowledge and Stakeholder Input**

- Accomplished:
  - Held Four stakeholder meetings
  - Convened "Technical Advisory Team"
  - Consulted with local, state and NALCC experts
  - We have coordinated and offered support for four Advisory Committee partner organizations to assist us in broader stakeholder engagement to maximize the potential for education and replication.
  -
- Planned:
  - At least one more Advisory Committee meeting in 2013.
  - Continue coordinating with four Advisory Committee partner organizations.

### Analyze Priorities for Resilience at Parcel Level & Create Online Portal and Tracking Tool

- Accomplished:
  - Incorporated GIS data, including NALCC data, into online portal and mapping analysis tool
  - Provided training to local partners on performing custom parcel analysis based on individual needs
  - Created progress tracking website ("Measures of Progress" site) to show the success of the initiative over time based on key metrics
- Planned:
  - None anticipated.

### Hold meetings for stakeholders, private landowners, and others to utilize this information and these tools

- Accomplished:
  - Incorporated training into two Advisory Committee meetings
  - Negotiated MOUs with 4 partner organizations to assist in disseminating information about this project with their networks.
- Planned
  - Track progress of 4 partner organizations

### Share information about this project at conferences, workshops, and other gatherings beyond the region

- Accomplished:
  - Presented this concept at the Regional Plan Association Large Landscapes conference in June of 2012
  - Presented on this project at an all-staff webinar for The Trust for Public Land employees located around the country.
  - Introduced this project in a variety of small group settings with federal agency partners.
- Planned
  - Present to NALCC steering committee
  - Look for other workshop and conference presentation opportunities.

**Difficulties Encountered:** None this quarter. We did make one deviation from our plan, which was that we decided not to create additional materials showcasing results of the project. We have a project description (see attached) and Measures of Progress interactive site ([tplgis.org/metrics\\_wmml](http://tplgis.org/metrics_wmml)). We believe these two products together give us plenty of material to showcase the project for the time being.

**Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:** The Trust for Public Land and our partners will continue adding data and using DataBasin and we will check in with partners about progress sharing these tools.

**Expected End Date:** December 2013.

### Costs:

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$163,854

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$20,000 from NALCC

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? yes

Signature:

*Kelley Hart*

Date:

6/6/13

**Project Description:**  
**White Mountains to Moosehead Lake Initiative**  
Updated April 2013

*Our Organization*

The Trust for Public Land works with landowners, community groups, and national, state, and local agencies, to bring open space into the public domain for conservation, natural resource protection, and outdoor recreation. TPL has worked for 16 years to conserve more than 144,000 acres in Maine and 220,000 acres in New Hampshire. Through its Greenprint program, TPL empowers communities to protect their unique quality of place by creating and implementing a shared vision for local and regional landscapes. TPL's conservation planning approach fosters collaborative land-use decision-making across political boundaries. The White Mountains to Moosehead Lake Initiative will protect and strengthen the regions' many unique values – both natural and built.

*Study Area*

Western Maine and Eastern New Hampshire contain exceptionally productive and large blocks of working forest, famed waterways and wetland complexes, and some of New England's most dramatic high elevation ridgelines and mountain peaks. The region is critical for the forest products industry and the hub of inland recreation and tourism in Maine. The study area for this project encompasses the Upper Androscoggin River, Mahoosuc Mountains and Lake Umbagog, the Rangeley Lakes, ten of Maine's fourteen 4,000-foot peaks, 145 miles of the Appalachian Trail, vast working forest, and numerous rare species. The region's world-class recreational opportunities – be it backpacking the A.T., skiing Sugarloaf and Sunday River, fishing the Sandy River, snowmobiling or ATVing endless miles of woods trails, hunting vast tracts of forest, or paddling the Rangeley Lakes – define the way of life and quality of place. In fact, these qualities justify why the Northern Forest was identified as one of the five Focus Landscapes in President Obama's America's Great Outdoors Initiative (AGO), has been named a pilot project within AGO, and is a demonstration project for the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

*Project Objectives*

For the White Mountains to Moosehead Lake Initiative, TPL is providing a structured, facilitated process within which participants are developing a common language and integrated maps to articulate a shared vision around the economic, cultural, and ecological values of the region. We are in the midst of capturing and depicting information and priorities in a common GIS database. The consensus vision that emerges from the process will:

- Amplify collaboration among various groups – A new generation of integrated, collaborative work in this region is underway, based on the foundation of four nationally recognized efforts developed over the last six to ten years: the Mahoosuc Initiative; the High Peaks Initiative; the Upper Androscoggin-Mahoosuc Pilot Projects under the Northern Forest Investment Zone; and Keeping Maine's Forest. Synthesizing these four leading efforts endows this new initiative with natural momentum in the form of strong community support and a baseline of prior accomplishments.

- Build the Brand – Create a strong “brand” for the region that synthesizes the identity, messages, and conservation values developed separately through the Mahoosuc Initiative and the High Peaks Initiative.
- Add a new dimension to the work through two innovative evaluation modules. The first module is the Data Basin Partners Data Exchange interactive web mapping site containing a wealth of mapping data that enables participants, through a project impact calculator, to explore opportunities for having the greatest impact on overlapping objectives. This module provides a platform for organizations to collaborate through data sharing and mapping. Data contained on the site describes the following objectives:
  - Preserve working forests and strengthen the forest products economy,
  - Increase opportunities for outdoor recreation and enhance jobs in the nature-based tourism industry,
  - Contribute to maintaining a stable base of forestland through landowner incentives and permanent conservation, and
  - Maintain healthy and resilient natural resources, including fish and wildlife habitats, in an era of rapidly changing climate.

The second module is a Measures of Progress website that enables participants to visually see conservation progress across eight data measures. Included are graphs for each data measure that demonstrate progress based on an annual rate of conservation increase and featured projects that represent excellent conservation examples for each measure of progress.

- Make the case for federal, state, and local public funding. This project seeks to maintain the strong success of this region in attracting federal funding and state funding by sharpening the focus and strategy around conservation objectives of interest to government agencies while also balancing the objectives of local constituencies.
- Motivate and attract private funding: We will take the “big ideas” behind the Mahoosuc Initiative and High Peaks Initiative and roll them into a BIG IDEA that hits themes of interest to major private foundations and individual funders.

### *The Approach*

This initiative involves working with stakeholders across the study area to create a common vision. Among other strategies for the landscape, it includes seeking consensus around conservation projects.

This effort takes in past work of the Mahoosuc Initiative, the High Peaks Initiative, and the Northern Forest Center; each having established their own deep partnerships between a diverse set of local, state, and national groups. We are also engaging the Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust, Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust, Northern Forest Center, The Wilderness Society, Mahoosuc Land Trust, Androscoggin River Watershed Council, Appalachian Mountain Club, Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the High Peaks Alliance, among others, as well as municipal-level partners such as the Town of Carrabaset Valley and the Bethel Area Chamber of Commerce.

**NORTH ATLANTIC LANDSCAPE  
CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE GRANT  
2013 FINANCIAL REPORT**

Quarter: (circle one)

**2013 1<sup>st</sup>**

2013 2<sup>nd</sup>

2013 3<sup>rd</sup>

2013 4<sup>th</sup>

Grant Program, Number and Title:

**A. Current Quarter Grant Eligible Cost Summary:**

	GRANT FUNDS	MATCH*	TOTAL
<b><u>Personnel Service Cost</u></b>			
Salaries and/or Wages	1,416	4,331	5,747
Fringe Benefits	680	2,079	2,759
Personnel Service Indirect Cost 33%		2,853	2,853
<b><u>Non-personnel Service Cost</u></b>			
Travel	404	0	404
Equipment			
Supplies & Materials			
Contractual Services		3,769	3,769
Other			
Non-personal Indirect Cost 33%		1,400	1,400
<b>TOTAL</b>	2,500	14,432	16,932

\*Match is a requirement of some grant programs; list matching funds if specified in contract.

**B. Cumulative Total Grant Eligible Costs Claimed from Beginning of Agreement up-to-and Including Current Quarter:**

Total Life-to-Date Expenses	\$163,854
Less Previous Payments Processed	\$15,000
<b>Total Amount Due Grantee Now:</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>

**C. Personal Services Summary Grantee and 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Match\*:**


Date	Name, Affiliation, Title	Rate	Task	Hours	Total Cost
	ConVis Project Manager	\$37.98		37.3	\$1,416

\*Match is a requirement of some grant programs, document match if specified in contract.

**NOTE:** This certification must be signed prior to reimbursement of costs unless daily time and activity records summarizing personal services performed in relation to the project for each individual employee are signed by the appropriate supervisor and attached.

**CERTIFICATION OF  
GRANTEE AND 3RD PARTY MATCH**

I hereby certify that daily time and activity records for each individual detailing the specific hours devoted solely to this project which are distinguishable from work done on other projects during the same time frame, maintained in accordance with all applicable federal, state and general municipal accounting practices and procedures are available in our files for inspection.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Authorized Representative