

# WHITE MOUNTAINS TO MOOSEHEAD LAKE INITIATIVE COLLABORATION AND MEASURING PROGRESS

## **Project Overview**

The *White Mountains to Moosehead Lake Initiative* is a collaborative effort among conservation practitioners in the Northern Forests of Maine and New Hampshire. The project will result in a large landscape conservation strategy that will protect and strengthen the region's many unique resource assets.

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, upper reaches of the Kennebec River, ten of Maine's fourteen 4,000-foot peaks, 145 miles of the Appalachian Trail, vast working forest, and numerous rare species. The area has been designated as one of the five Focus Landscapes in the America's Great Outdoors Initiative.

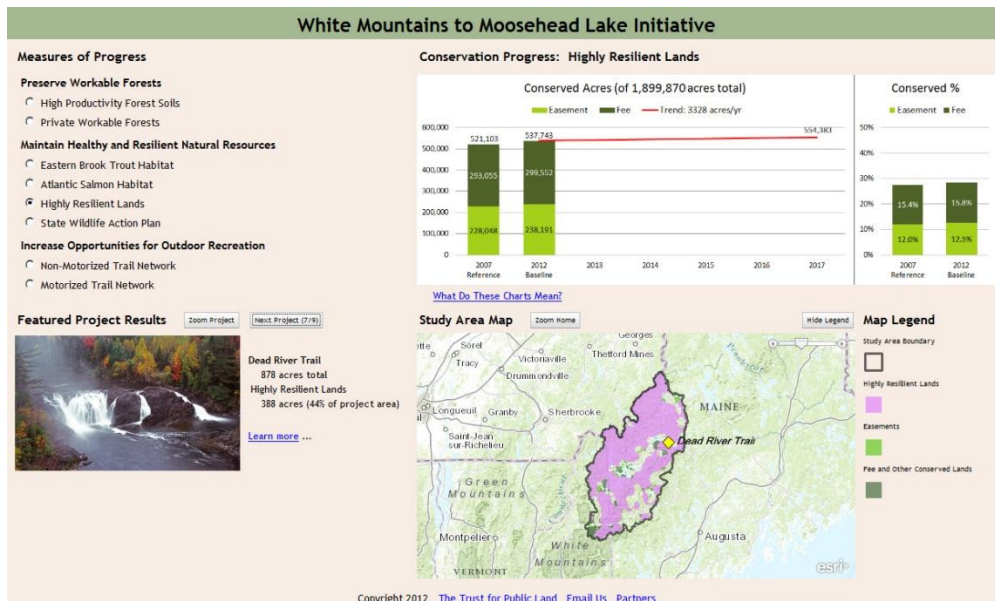
## **Collaboration**

The *White Mountains to Moosehead Lake Initiative* utilizes a Partners Data Exchange and Mapping Site to foster collaboration between conservation practitioners working in the region. The site enables group members to share data, download from a library of datasets, utilize working groups, analyze proposed conservation projects based on critical resource value, and collaborate spatially by creating and sharing maps. The site is hosted on DataBasin.org, however, at the group's election, access is password protected and limited to invited partners. Demonstrations of the site are available upon request.

## Measuring Conservation Progress

Long term viability of any large landscape initiative requires being able to define and measure “success” over time. This is essential to attract and maintain financial support, keep local partners engaged, and assess and adapt landscape strategies to meet long term needs.

The Measures of Progress Website for the *White Mountains to Moosehead Lake Initiative* provides an interactive display of visual progress toward identified landscape goals. This website can be used to highlight common objectives and track cumulative successes across participating organizations (shared goals, shared geographies, and collaborative efforts). It is intended to be a “dashboard” tool that allows project partners to select an identified metric, view annual progress and conservation trends for that metric, explore a map of targeted resources, and celebrate the success of recent projects that have significantly advanced conservation progress for that metric.



## For More Information

For a demonstration of the Partners Data Exchange and Mapping Site and/or the Measures of Progress Website please email [diano.circo@tpl.org](mailto:diano.circo@tpl.org)

## Acknowledgements

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## Partners

Appalachian Mountain Club, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Bethel Trails, High Peaks Alliance, Mahosuc Land Trust, Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust, The Trust for Public Land, Maine Audubon, New Hampshire Audubon, Northern Forest Canoe Trail, Northern Forest Center, Penobscot Indian Nation, Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust, The Wilderness Society.