

Tenny River Corridor Protection Project

Conservation Easement: Executive Summary

Background

Since 2010 a group of local landowners, the Pine Tree Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and the Loon Echo Land Trust have been working together to preserve land along the Tenny River. The Town of Raymond's 2009 Conservation Plan identified the Tenny as an important area for protection. The long term goal is to protect the entire length of the river between Panther Pond and Crescent Lake.

We are requesting \$15,000 from the Town of Raymond's conservation fund to support the Phase 1 of the project, which will cost approximately \$220,000. We have raised half of this to date and are actively raising the remainder.

The conservation easement has been drafted with input from all the parties, and is ready for signature once the fundraising is complete. The Pine Tree Council (PTC) will own the land and be the grantor of the easement, which will be held by Loon Echo Land Trust (LELT).

Summary of Easement Terms

- The primary purpose of this project is to protect habitat and water quality; the Tenny is part of the Sebago Lake watershed which supplies water to 200,000 Greater Portland residents. The Tenny also offers significant habitat for a wide range of fish, birds and other wildlife including the redbreast sunfish, largemouth bass, heron, loons, and turtles.
- A secondary purpose is to preserve the wilderness feel of the river, and to provide limited public access.
- In this easement, "limited public access" means access for snowmobilers, mountain bikers, horseback riders, and hikers. The public can also access the land from the river.
- Use of the land by the general public will be restricted during the summer when the PTC will use the land for its programming. The PTC plans to use it for low impact "wilderness camping".
- Hunting will be allowable with the permission of the PTC.
- There will be no parking area provided, and no dock on the Tenny River.
- The PTC (in consultation with LELT) will have the right to control use by the general public that interferes with the conservation purposes of the easement (such as loud activities, use by hunters, or access by pets, etc.)
- No permanent structures will be allowed, other than privies or composting toilets (which must meet local and state guidelines for construction), fire rings, some trails, bog bridges, barriers to prevent access by motor vehicles or ATVs, and signage.
- Commercial forest management will be allowed, but must comply with Best Management Practices for Forestry: Protecting Maine's Water Quality," prepared by the Maine Department of Conservation, Maine Forest Service (or other standards approved by LELT).