# Tenny River Corridor Protection Project

**Purpose**

We are requesting $10,000 towards a total project cost of $226,000 to help purchase 32 acres of land along the Tenny River in Raymond Maine. This is Phase 1 of a larger planned effort to preserve all of the land along both sides of the mile-long river, which flows between Crescent Lake and Panther Pond. The land to be purchased abuts Camp Hinds, the flagship campus of the Pine Tree Council (PTC) of the Boys Scouts of America. The PTC signed a purchase and sale agreement with the seller in August 2011. The land had been on the market, is zoned for two-acre house lots, and the seller was motivated; he had partially cleared one building lot on the river to enhance its marketability. There is clear danger of residential development.

**Expected Results**

The Tenny River Corridor Protection Project will preserve habitat, protect water quality, and expand availability of low-impact recreational opportunities. The PTC will negotiate a conservation easement with Loon Echo Land Trust to help protect the land in perpetuity. The shallow, slow moving Tenny is home to a wide range of fish, birds, and other wildlife, including redbreast sunfish, bullhead and largemouth bass, heron, loons, painter and snapping turtles, and butterflies, and many others. Grasses and reeds along the sides of the boating channel provide shelter for young fish and other aquatic life. The woods along the banks provide shade, and filter runoff that could harm water quality. Since the Tenny is part of the Casco Bay watershed, this is a vital contribution. The land along the river is also part of the recharge area for the aquifers supplying the Lakes Region.

In 2010 the Loon Echo Land Trust, the Trust for Public Land, and many other communities and stakeholders completed a "Greenprint" for the Lakes Region, to identify the lands that contribute most to quality of life and should be protected (see http://loonecholandtrust.org/html/lake_region_greenprint.html for more information about this process). The Greenprint identified seven goals; the top two priorities were protecting water resources and preserving plant and animal habitat. As the attached map illustrates, the land bordering the Tenny is listed as high priority for protection of water resources, and very high/high on the map for preserving plant and animal habitat. Acquiring the land along the Tenny, starting with this first parcel, will help make measurable progress towards the goals identified in the Greenprint.

Lake residents and visitors travel through the Tenny to enjoy its natural beauty, and to explore or fish in the lakes on either end. A public boat launch on the southern end of Crescent Lake, right by the northern tip of the Tenny, allows for public access as well. The volunteer boat inspectors at the Crescent Lake launch estimate that approximately one-third of the 610 boats they counted on weekends between Memorial Day and Labor Day went through the Tenny. Finally, each year 5,700 youth come to Camp Hinds for summer programs, camporees, and other special programming, assisted by over 3,450 adults. The Tenny features prominently in Camp Hinds' programming. The land purchase will protect land abutting Camp Hinds, providing a buffer from residential development, and preserving the pocket of wildness that for many Scouts is their first introduction to Maine's unparalleled outdoor recreation opportunities.

**How Results will be Measured**

In the next 18 months, we will measure results by the following methods:

- Tracking progress towards fundraising goals, including private, foundation, and corporate contributions that allow us to complete the purchase of the first parcel by the 2014 deadline. Other funding will come from a combination of private, foundation and corporate contributions. Already, a group of Panther Pond landowners have contributed $70,000 towards the purchase.
- Negotiating and signing the conservation easement with Loon Echo Land Trust.
- Securing a purchase and sale agreement with another Tenny River property owner who has already signaled her interest in selling the parcel (Phase 2).
- Opening discussions with the final Tenny River landowner around acquiring that property, and signing an option or a purchase and sale agreement to secure that parcel (Phase 3).