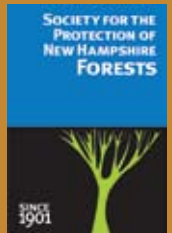




The Ashuelot River Headwaters

*Help the Forest Society protect the source
of the Ashuelot River in southwestern New Hampshire.*





1,750 acres including the peak of Silver Mountain and frontage on Sand and Long Ponds

The more we learn about preserving water quality, the more we understand the importance of protecting the headwaters of the New Hampshire rivers that provide our drinking water. Today we need your help to purchase 1,750 acres of forestland and streams that are the source of the Ashuelot River.

Three Miles of Water Frontage

Located just south of the conserved lands surrounding Mount Sunapee and adjacent Pillsbury State Park, the Ashuelot River Headwaters project includes more than a mile of undeveloped frontage on two great ponds, Long Pond and Sand Pond, and more than 11,000 feet of frontage on the Ashuelot River—all used heavily by the public for recreation. Even more important, the forestland and streams are critical to maintaining clean drinking water downstream. The Ashuelot River watershed encompasses 25 towns as its waters flow via the Ashuelot River to the Connecticut River, providing drinking water for the citizens of Keene.

The summit of Silver Mountain is a popular hiking and blueberry picking destination with spectacular southern and western views. These lands include the viewshed from two public boat launches on Sand and Long Ponds, and their conservation would secure a state-designated snowmobile corridor. Even today, the two ponds remain one of the top fishing locations in the region.



Forest Society courtesy photo.

A Tradition of Recreation

Sand Pond, located in the western portion of the project area, was first settled as a summer recreational destination in the early part of the 19th century. By the early 1900s, its western shore had become a small lakefront cottage community that included a girl's camp known as Trail's End. By the early 20th century, there were 46 small cottages on Sand Pond, with the first electrical lines connected in 1940 and the first year round residents in 1970. Many cottages survive, as do the cellar holes of those that didn't.

An island near the eastern shore of the lake was a popular picnic spot with a diving rock, and there are many accounts of boating adventures and fishing trips. The pond was known for its black bass, pickerel, perch and sunfish until the 1950s, when the state installed a boat landing and began stocking brown trout and lake trout. Even today, the two ponds remain one of the top fishing locations in the region. Anecdotal accounts note that the exceptionally clear and clean spring-fed waters of Sand Pond were suitable for drinking.

The Ashuelot River Headwaters also includes the bald summit of Silver Mountain, which forms the view from two public boat launches on Sand and Long Ponds. This popular hiking and blueberry-picking destination offers spectacular southern and western

views. Silver Mountain is also visible from the Monadnock-Sunapee Greenway, a through-trail that is traveled by hundreds of hikers annually.

A Place for Wildlife

The Ashuelot River and its surrounding landscape are home to many animals that require large range areas including moose, bear and bobcat. Abutting the conserved lands surrounding Pillsbury and nearby Mount Sunapee State Parks, the property is part of a 10,000- acre block of forestland. It also forms the critical link between two of the largest blocks of connected forestland south of the White Mountains: the 25,000-acre Pillsbury-Sunapee Highlands and the 11,000-acre Andorra Forest area.

The Ashuelot River Headwaters is a high priority in three state-of-the-art natural resource conservation plans: the bi-state Quabbin-to-Cardigan Conservation Plan, the New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan, and the regional Ashuelot River Land Conservation Plan. The protection of these lands is also consistent with the Master Plan of the Town of Lempster.

The Ashuelot River is home to many endangered plant and animal species, including the common loon. All together, the region supports 57 documented occurrences of rare species and exemplary natural communities in New Hampshire, including 13 different species of rare plants of which two species are listed as Endangered and nine species are listed as Threatened. It also supports seven different species of rare animals, including Endangered and two species listed as Threatened, and 11 different types of rare or exemplary natural communities and ecosystems.

Support the Local Economy

Portions of the property will continue to be managed sustainably as a working forest, thus remaining in the timber base and contributing to the forest economy.

The 1,750-acre project includes several forest community types but is dominated by lowland spruce-fir and northern hardwoods, reflecting the area's northern "highlands" character and setting it apart from the hemlock-beech-oak-pine forests that dominate most of the region.



The forestland and streams targeted for protection are critical to maintaining water quality downstream – the Ashuelot River watershed encompasses 25 towns as its waters flow via the Ashuelot River to the Connecticut River, providing drinking water for the citizens of Keene.

The Forest Society proposes to purchase the property and protect it for long-term multiple uses, including water quality, public recreation, wildlife habitat, scenic value, and forest management.

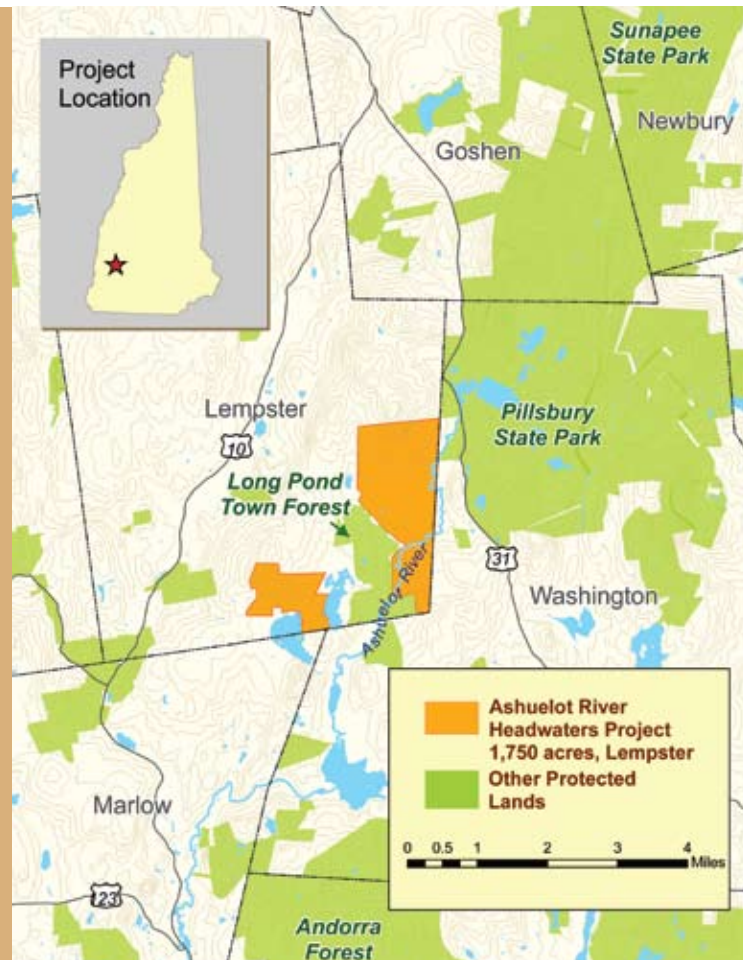
What's Next?

The Forest Society only has until December 1, 2009 to raise the funds to conserve the land. If we do not successfully raise the \$2.18 million, we cannot guarantee the permanent protection of this land.

With six months to go, we have already raised \$1.17 million toward the completion of the project thanks to grants from the state-funded Land and Community Heritage Investment Program, NH Fish & Game LIP program, and a total of \$500,000 from two private foundations. However, with the deadline fast approaching, we must still raise another \$1 million—or more than \$165,000 per month!

This will take an extraordinary effort on the part of donors like you who understand the importance of permanently protecting our drinking water, our working forests, and our most scenic recreational areas in New Hampshire.

The Ashuelot River Headwaters project forms the critical link between the 25,000-acre Pillsbury-Sunapee State Parks and Long Pond Town Forest. The 11,000-acre Andorra Forest is located just downstream. (see map to right).



We need your help! Please make your gift today to help us permanently conserve 1,750 acres providing clean water, recreational opportunities, scenic values and wildlife habitat forever.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

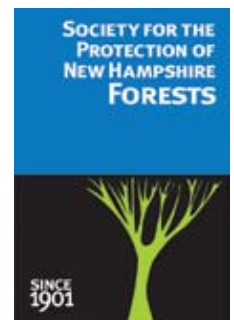
Telephone _____ Email _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____

Please charge my tax-deductible contribution to my credit card in the amount of \$ _____

Visa MasterCard Credit Card Number _____ Exp Date _____

Signature _____



Donate online at www.forestsociety.org! Or make your check payable to: *The Forest Society—Ashuelot River Headwaters*
 Please mail the completed form to: *Susanne Kibler-Hacker, The Forest Society, 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301.*
 For information regarding pledges or donations of stock and securities, contact Susanne at (603) 224-9945 or skhacker@forestsociety.org
 For more project information, contact Brian Hotz at (603) 224-9945 or bhotz@forestsociety.org