

# 124<sup>th</sup> Annual Report





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\* Denotes non-trustee or former trustee.



Forest Society staff in the clouds at Cannon Mountain.

All photos from Forest Society Archive unless otherwise noted.

The mission of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests is to perpetuate the forests of New Hampshire through their wise use and their complete reservation in places of special scenic beauty.

## Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

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# Sustaining Today, Shaping Tomorrow

Fiscal Year 2025  
(May 1, 2024–April 30, 2025)

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to report, on behalf of the Board of Trustees and staff, that the Forest Society had another remarkably strong year in Fiscal Year 2025. With the generous support of our members and donors, we met important goals in land conservation, stewardship, recreation and forest management, public engagement and policy impact, and we concluded the fiscal year with greater financial stability. Thank you. We hope you share our sense of accomplishment as you read this annual report.

This report highlights a selection of our mission-driven achievements. We conserved our 200th Forest, the 280-acre Bean Forest in Farmington, with a total fee ownership by the end of FY25 of more than 66,000 acres. In Berlin, we acquired the Cascade Hill Forest, just our fourth conserved working forest located in a city. Nearly adjacent, the affordable housing group AHEAD secured a large lot suitable for future housing with access to trails.

In September 2024, we celebrated completion of a sustainable trail project at Mount Major, improving the hiking experience for 80,000 annual visitors. With a dry summer and cold winter, we were met with numerous silvicultural objectives through 13 timber harvests, generating stumpage earnings that are re-invested in our mission-driven activities.

Our strong financial performance is due in large part to our diverse revenue streams. Philanthropic support for our mission—keeping forests as forests—remains strong from gifts through membership, annual fund, bequests and planned giving, project support and gifts of land. Visitation at Lost River (conserved in 1912!) brought in record revenue by the end of season in the Fall of 2024. Our operations at Forest Society North at The Rocks, including the Christmas Tree Farm, are on an upward trajectory with a new Program Director and new Christmas Tree Farmer in place. Rent at our campuses and classrooms in Concord, Portsmouth and Bethlehem help support the costs of those places where our staff work daily: advocating, educating, conserving and stewarding our land and easements.

We are fortunate to have put ourselves in a position of strength given that FY25 was also a year of dramatic change and disruption in programs and funding at the federal level. While our operations are not directly dependent on federal grants, some of our projects and some of our partners are affected. Our focus remains as always on conserving and managing forests sustainably while advocating and supporting the efforts of others to do the same.

We are grateful to have a strong foundation as we look forward to celebrating our 125th anniversary in 2026. We are at a moment when we can think further ahead, as our founders did in 1901, to how we can best serve New Hampshire by championing the astounding benefits of our region's forests. For all we have accomplished, there is much work to do as new threats imperil the resilience of the natural world that nurtures us all. With your help, we will meet the challenge.

Sincerely,



  
Jack Savage  
President



  
Drew Kellner  
Board Chair



## 2024–2025 Board of Trustees

**Front row (from left):** Don Floyd, Janet Zeller, Jason Hicks

**Back row (from left):** Susan Arnold, Amy Reagle Meyers, Bill “Tuck” Tucker, Patricia Losik, Peter Fauver, Drew Kellner, Jack Savage, Jamey French, Tom Wagner, Michael Morison, George Epstein, Allyson Hicks

**Not pictured:** Phil Bryce, Deb Buxton, Liz Salas

# Strengthening a Network of Conserved Lands

In FY25, the Forest Society permanently protected nine key properties encompassing nearly 2,400 acres. This included places of many shapes, sizes, locations and configurations. In Berlin, conserving the Cascade Hill Forest brought together multiple sources of private funding to protect 730 acres within the city limits of Berlin for continued sustainable forest management and recreational access. At the opposite end of the state, along the Hollis/Milford town line, we acquired 1.78 acres at the entrance to Monson Village, one of the Forest Society's most beloved walking and historic spots in the southern part of the state. Now, the parking area and access to Monson is secured through Forest Society fee ownership.

In the Monadnock Region, we protected similar bookends, purchasing 30 acres adjacent to the Old Toll Road Trailhead at Mount Monadnock to protect recreational access, and also receiving the incredibly generous gift of 735 acres of outstanding forestland, now the Ewing Family Forest in Chesterfield. The Nye Family in Sandwich and the Stone Family in Warner added key lands to their existing conservation easements—and in the case of the Nyes, extended the protected area at the confluence of the Whiteface and Cold Rivers to nearly 900 acres.

We are deeply grateful for the commitment and generosity of landowners, grant makers, communities and individuals who make these lasting

conservation achievements possible. Together we are strengthening the links between protected areas and fostering the connection between people and place through recreational access.

## Easement Stewardship

The Forest Society is responsible for monitoring and enforcing more than 800 conservation easements, executory interests and deed restrictions to ensure that the commitments made in the past are honored for the benefit of the future. Our easement stewardship staff work closely with landowners across the state to uphold these protections and to address challenges as they arise.

In FY25, easement stewards visited 397 properties encompassing 125,000 acres across the state! In the process, they met with 162 different landowners who care for land protected by conservation easements. In addition, our team of seven volunteer easement monitors conducted 20 visits to easement lands, or 3,587 acres.

Every year, we also monitor conservation easement lands using satellite imagery provided by Upstream Tech. This year we acquired satellite imagery for 705 properties statewide.

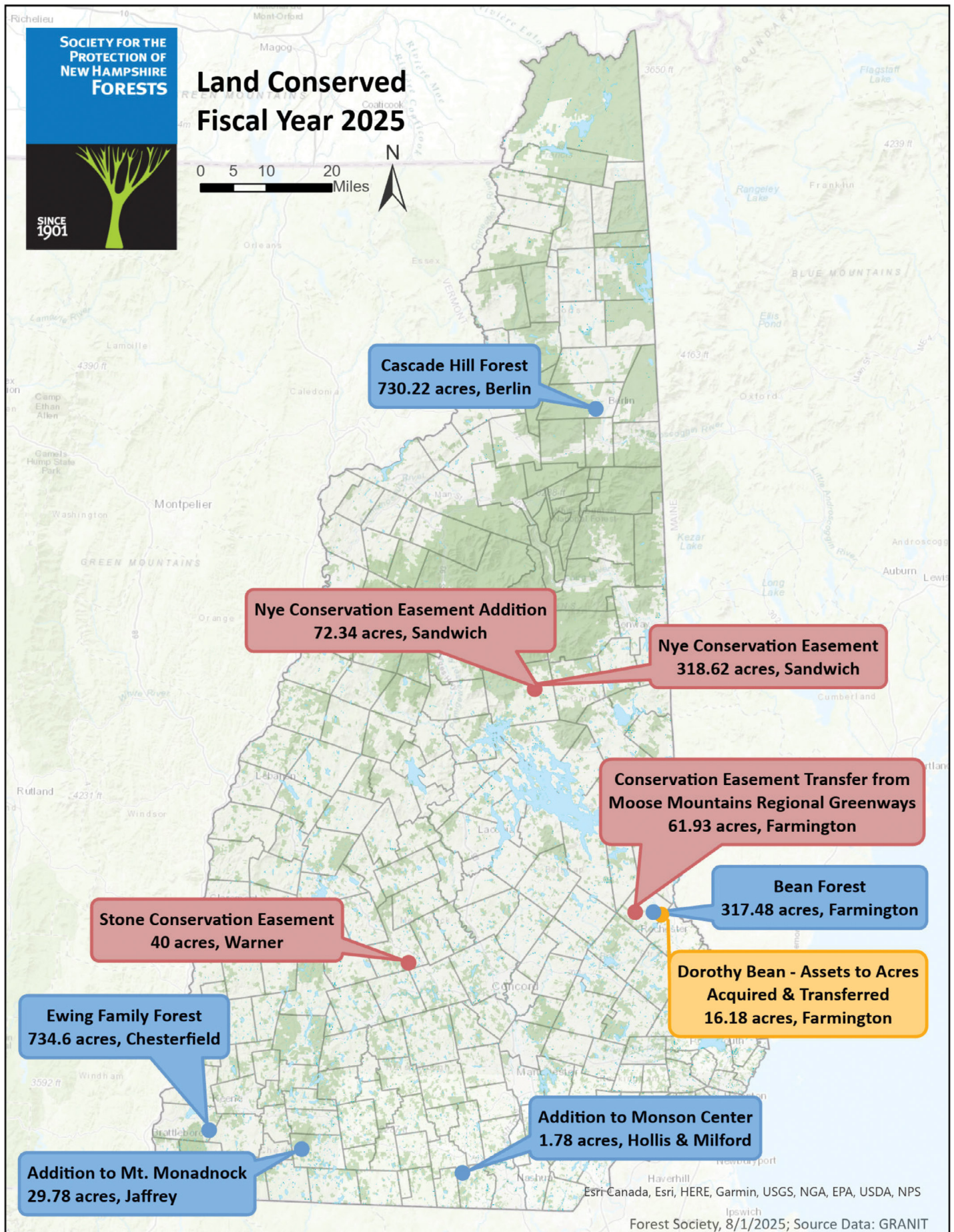
CONSERVATION EASEMENTS			
Landowner	Acres	Location	Property Name
Joseph S. Nye, Jr. and Mary H. Nye	72.34	Sandwich	Nye Conservation Easement Addition
Joseph S. Nye, Jr. and Mary H. Nye	318.62	Sandwich	
Moose Mountains Regional Greenways	61.93	Farmington	Conservation easement transferred from Moose Mountains Regional Greenways
Jonathan Stone	40.00	Warner	
Total: 4 projects	492.89		

FORESTS			
Grantor	Acres	Location	Property Name
The Conservation Fund	730.22	Berlin	Cascade Hill Forest
Charles and Linda Saytanides	1.78	Hollis & Milford	Addition to Monson Center
Dorothy Bean	317.48	Farmington	Bean Forest
Yankee-Arrowhead, Inc.	734.6	Chesterfield	Ewing Family Forest
580 Mountain Road LLC	29.78	Jaffrey	Addition to Mt. Monadnock Reservation
Total: 5 projects	1,813.86		

ASSETS TO ACRES PROPERTIES ACQUIRED & TRANSFERRED			
Dorothy Bean	16.18	Farmington	Assets to Acres property sold to a private party

GRAND TOTAL: 10 PROJECTS, NEW ACRES PROTECTED:	2,306.75		
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# Managing Forests and Wildlife Habitat

Most of the practice of forestry is focused on growing trees rather than cutting them—fostering more diverse and resilient forests, creating and improving habitat for native plants, pollinators, and sensitive species, and managing water resources. In FY25, our foresters and stewardship staff worked on projects across the state, including:

## Trees for the Future

In partnership with the NH State Forest Nursery, the Forest Society trained a volunteer Seed Seeker team to collect seeds from select native trees and shrubs throughout the growing season for cultivation as future growing stock for habitat restoration, research projects, and landowner planting. Thanks to the Forest Society's well-kept land records, inventory data and forest management plans, we were able to work with the nursery to locate stands of desired tree species on our properties and activate volunteers to collect seeds from specimens across the state.

The Forest Society also worked with the State Forest Nursery to cut white oak scions from trees on our lands. The white oak scions have been grafted to swamp white oak root stock and will be cultivated into a seed orchard to research white oak's climate adaptability.

## Timber Harvests

In FY25, we conducted 13 timber harvests on 725 acres of Forest Society land (about 1% of our ownership). This year, the amount of acreage treated was only slightly above average, yet the Forest Society accrued its highest ever revenue from stumpage. Dry summer conditions allowed for efficient work on the ground, and our consulting foresters were skilled at assessing the market to secure the best prices for our wood. The harvests generated 2.9 million board feet of timber and 27,000 tons of low-grade wood, which is used for pulp, firewood, and biomass.

## Turtle Nesting Support

Funded by the Wildlife Management Institute, the Forest Society expanded suitable habitat for native turtle species on a Lakes Region property while maintaining an existing nesting site. With Martin Forestry Consulting, we used specialized equipment to clear saplings and create open nesting areas along a gravel esker favored by turtles. NH Fish and Game biologists installed monitoring cameras so that we can track nesting activity and determine future actions to enhance this site, with the goal of offering healthier conditions for turtle populations to thrive.

## Black Mountain Bird Banding Station

Following some forestry preparation to create open patches, FY25 was our first year working with biologist Lindsay Herlihy to establish a new Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) station at Black Mountain Forest in Sutton. The MAPS program is organized by the Institute for Bird Populations to collect important information on breeding birds. Volunteers and Kearsarge Regional High School students participated throughout the May-August season, tagging a wide variety of species as they passed through the leafy summer forest. This data will be tracked over at least a five-year period.



**Top:** Seed Seekers in training watch Billy Kunelius demonstrate how to pluck a cluster of soft mast fruit for seed collection.

**Center left:** Forest Society Field Forester Ben Aldrich holds up seed during the training.

**Center right:** An adult male chestnut-sided warbler visits the Black Mountain Bird Banding Station.

**Bottom:** NH Fish and Game captures a snapping turtle laying eggs in the habitat we helped create.



# Connecting People and Place

In FY25, the Forest Society hosted 26 volunteer workdays on Forest Society properties, bringing together staff, community members, and partner organizations. Volunteers from Hypertherm, Mainstay Technologies, Garnet Hill, Laars Heating Systems, The Well School, Southern New Hampshire University, the University of New Hampshire, and many others helped build new bog bridges at the David Dana Forest in Dalton, create a trail to connect the library to the Gipson Forest in Greenfield, manage habitat at the summit of the Morse Preserve in Alton, care for the American chestnut orchard at the Tom Rush Forest in Deering, and working on trails at Monadnock Trails Week in September.

The Forest Society trained 19 new volunteer land stewards in trail maintenance, boundary monitoring, stewardship, and community outreach. Now in its 31st year, the Land Steward Program includes more than 180 active and trained volunteers who extend our stewardship reach across the state.

## Mount Major Sustainable Trail, Alton

In September 2024, we celebrated the completion of a Major project to construct a half-mile section of sustainable trail along the Main Trail at Mount Major in Alton. Engineered and constructed by Town4Trails and OBP Trailworks, the new trail will withstand intense visitor use and more frequent heavy rain events that were causing erosion. The new trail meanders through boulder fields, replacing a beloved but badly damaged section of the Main Trail that has since been closed.



*Hikers enjoy the new Main Trail at Mt. Major.*



## Tom Rush visits the Tom Rush Forest, Deering

Singer-songwriter Tom Rush visited his namesake forest as part of Deering's 200th anniversary celebration. He joined a morning visit to the orchard, sharing reflections on his family's land and appreciation for the American chestnut restoration project in progress. The Tom Rush Forest is the site of our American chestnut seed orchard, part of a large-scale effort to cultivate disease-resistant trees with the American Chestnut Foundation. Volunteers helped to thin and care for the orchard throughout the year.

## Washburn Forest Bog Bridging, Stewartstown

The Washburn Forest includes more than six miles of frontage along the Upper Connecticut River, a favorite of anglers as well as hikers. This year we partnered up with the Student Conservation Association crews to replace more than 50 bog bridges along a one-mile trail along the Connecticut River. Supported in part by the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund at the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, these new bridges help protect sensitive riparian habitat—and helps reduce wet feet for hikers!

## Granite State Ambassadors Training

We hosted a training session for 25 new volunteers at the Conservation Center, preparing them to represent The Forest Society and share information about our conservation lands at visitor centers and other venues.



*Top: Senior Director of Education Dave Anderson and Tom Rush.*

*Bottom: Holiday visitors enjoy a wagon ride at The Rocks.*





**Left:** Volunteers at work!



**Middle:** Volunteer crew in action during Monadnock Trails Week.



**Right:** Nigel Manley with Bethlehem students taking part in the Forevergreen Program.

## People, Partnerships, and Building Community

At the heart of the Forest Society's mission is the belief that conservation is not only about protecting land, but also about cultivating a community that values and cares for it. Each year, our outreach and education staff, joined by dedicated volunteers, venture throughout the state to bring this vision to life. From outdoor classrooms along forest trails to lecture halls and community centers, we create opportunities for people of all ages to engage with the natural world. In FY25, we reached over 15,000 people through programs and events—as well as the 80,000 annual hikers at Mt. Major, 200,000+ hikers at Mt. Monadnock and 50,000 annual visitors to Lost River Gorge.

Our program centers—Creek Farm in Portsmouth, The Rocks in Bethlehem, and the Conservation Center in Concord—serve as anchors for this work, welcoming neighbors, students, and partners. Beyond our own campuses, we collaborate with schools, garden clubs, retirement associations, libraries, and civic groups who share a commitment to stewardship and learning.

Some programs have become beloved traditions, open to members and newcomers alike. The annual *5 Hikes Challenge* continues to inspire explorers to discover new landscapes each fall, attracting 150 participants in FY25, while the 21st annual *Cottrell-Baldwin Environmental Lecture Series* featured four regional authors to share reflections on forests, nature, and love, with nearly 300 participants at Fox Forest in Hillsborough. In Bethlehem, the *Bretzfelder Lecture Series*—now in its twice-yearly rhythm—continues to connect North Country residents with timely topics in science, culture, and conservation.

At the same time, we embrace new opportunities to spark curiosity and connection. FY25 highlights included hosting the New Hampshire Fish and Game summer watershed education institute for teachers at The Rocks; welcoming the UNH Active Retirement Association to a four-part nature and history series at Creek Farm; joining the Natural NH Winter program series at the Peterborough Town Library with two presentations on sustainable trails and maple sugaring; and engaging students and civic groups in Concord, from elementary classrooms to Girl Scouts and regional retirees.

Special events brought our extended community together in meaningful ways. Members and friends gathered for the 123rd Annual Meeting in Peterborough, where field trips and keynote speaker Annie Proulx highlighted the enduring importance of conserving fens, bogs and swamps. We celebrated the protection of Deepwood Forest in Canterbury and Northfield, and we came together at Monson Center to honor the memory of land donor and caretaker Russ Dickerman—a poignant reminder of how individual legacies shape our collective future.

Across all these programs and gatherings, the common thread is people: connecting with one another, with the land, and with the shared purpose of conservation. These experiences strengthen community, deepen appreciation for New Hampshire's forests, and build lasting relationships that sustain the Forest Society's mission.

### Forest Society North at The Rocks

After its first full year back in operation following renovations, The Rocks has quickly become a vibrant hub for the North Country. Visitors often remark on the beauty of the restored Carriage Barn and the sweeping views from its arched window.

In FY25, The Rocks welcomed thousands of people for community gatherings, educational programs, and celebrations. From nonprofit meetings and professional workshops to weddings, birthdays, and memorials, the campus became a backdrop for milestones both personal and public. Forest Society educational programs like the NH Maple Experience, the annual Wildflower Walks, and the Women Landowners Summit drew enthusiastic participation, while a new holiday craft fair hosted with WREN added to the seasonal festivities. The holidays remain a highlight of the year, with families from across New England making traditions here.

The Forevergreen program, our partnership with Bethlehem Elementary School, continues to thrive. Students returned to care for trees they planted years earlier, learning firsthand about stewardship, how to pull cones, and cycles of the forest.

Our experiment in short term lodging at the Gardener's Cottage resulted in total of 62 nights of occupancy with 18 rentals in total and we continue to upgrade the cottage with mini-splits that offer cooling as well as heating and advance our net-zero goals for the campus at The Rocks.



# What We Accomplished Together

*Together, we are making a difference. These numbers reflect the tangible outcomes of your generosity and commitment. They are milestones—but they are also starting points. With continued support, we can build on this impact and meet the challenges ahead.*

## CONSERVATION

- 9 properties protected, totaling nearly 2,400 acres
- 735 acres donated to create the new *Ewing Family Forest* in Chesterfield
- 730-acre *Cascade Hill Forest* conserved within Berlin city limits
- 200th forest conserved (Bean Forest, 280 acres in Farmington)
- Ground monitoring visits to 397 conservation easement properties, totaling 125,000 acres
- Visits with 162 different landowners who hold land protected by Forest Society conservation easements

## STEWARDSHIP & FORESTRY

- 13 timber harvests on 725 acres, producing 2.9M board feet and 27,000 tons of low-grade wood
- Volunteer Seed Seeker team collected seeds for future climate-resilient forests
- White oak grafting project launched with NH State Forest Nursery
- Turtle nesting habitat restored and monitored in the Lakes Region
- Black Mountain MAPS station launched, with students and volunteers tracking breeding birds
- Held educational timber harvest tours and continued partnership to host Women in the Woods workshops and annual summit

## VOLUNTEERS & COMMUNITY

- 26 volunteer workdays in more than 100 towns
- 19 new land stewards trained (180+ active volunteers)
- 50+ bog bridges rebuilt at Washburn Forest in Stewartstown
- 25 Granite State Ambassadors trained to represent NH and Forest Society lands
- 15,000+ people reached through programs and events

## POLICY & ADVOCACY

- Convened nine diverse partner groups to file an Amicus brief in support of the White Mountain National Forest Management Plan
- Convened a coalition of groups to research and produce an updated analysis of the benefits of conservation and open space
- Hosted the Governor and Executive Council Meeting in July 2024 at The Rocks in Bethlehem

## EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT

- 5 Hikes Challenge: 150 participants
- 21st Annual Cottrell-Baldwin Lecture Series: ~300 attendees
- Bretzfelder Lecture Series (2 programs in Bethlehem)
- Teacher training: NHFG Watershed Institute at The Rocks
- UNH Retirement Association 4-part series at Creek Farm
- New programs delivered in Peterborough, Concord, and across the state

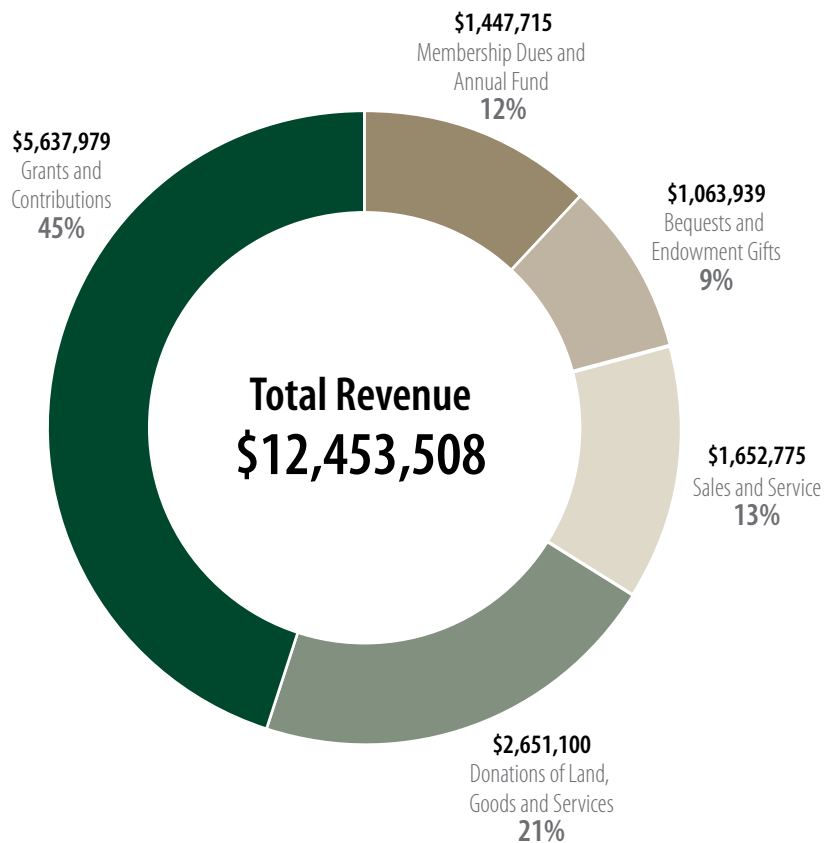
## FOREST SOCIETY NORTH AT THE ROCKS

- 10,000+ visitors welcomed at events, programs, and celebrations
- In 2024 we sold nearly 4,000 Christmas trees and 750 wreaths
- 62 nights of occupancy at the Gardener's Cottage (18 rentals)
- Celebrated completion of the Forest Society North at The Rocks renovation with donors, friends and neighbors
- Hosted more than 300 kids for 2024 NH Agriculture in the Classroom Day
- Hosted White Mountain Garden Club's Centennial Celebration with author Doug Tallamy, and hosted New Hampshire Charitable Foundation's Here For Good session in Northern New Hampshire
- Holiday Craft Fair launched with WREN
- Forevergreen program engaged Bethlehem Elementary students

# Financial Highlights

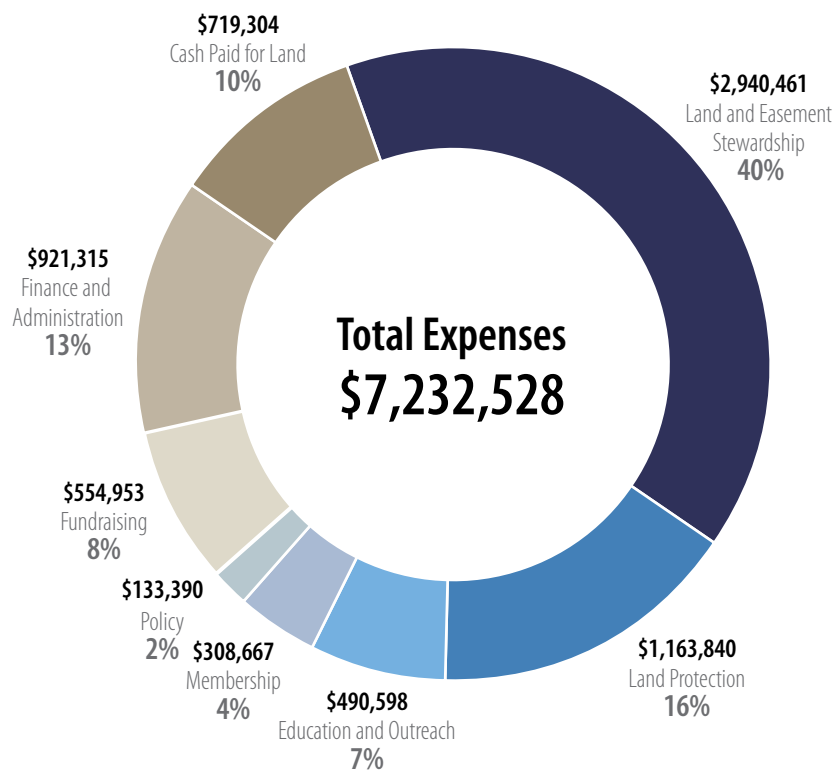
## Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Revenue

Grants and contributions include funds for operations and for specific projects, including land protection projects.



## Fiscal Year 2025 Expenses

This chart includes the Forest Society’s expenses by program (functional expenses) as well as the cash paid for land.



Questions on the financial statements should be directed to Tony Cheek, Vice President, Finance ([tcheek@forestsociety.org](mailto:tcheek@forestsociety.org)) or Anne Truslow, Vice President, Development ([atruslow@forestsociety.org](mailto:atruslow@forestsociety.org)).



# Statement of Operating Activities and Changes in Net Assets from Operations

For the fiscal year ending April 30, 2025

Operating Revenue and Support	Without donor restrictions	With donor restrictions	Total
Annual fund	982,022	—	982,022
Contributions	213,167	3,621,841	3,835,008
Bequests	462,880	504,653	967,533
Endowment gifts	—	96,406	96,406
Grants	214,352	1,588,619	1,802,971
Contributions of land	—	2,251,100	2,251,100
Membership dues	465,693	—	465,693
Rental income	477,284	—	477,284
Forest operations	715,939	—	715,939
Reimbursement for services	111,739	—	111,739
Sale of materials	347,142	—	347,142
Donated conservation easements, goods and services	400,000	—	400,000
Miscellaneous Income	671	—	671
<b>Total Operating Revenue and Support</b>	<b>4,390,889</b>	<b>8,062,619</b>	<b>12,453,508</b>
Net assets released from restrictions for satisfaction of purpose	2,733,379	(2,733,379)	—
<b>Total Operating Revenue, Support, and Net Assets released from restriction</b>	<b>7,124,268</b>	<b>5,329,240</b>	<b>12,453,508</b>
<b>Program Expenses</b>			
Land and Easement stewardship	2,940,461	—	2,940,461
Land protection	1,163,840	—	1,163,840
Education & Outreach	490,598	—	490,598
Membership	308,667	—	308,667
Policy	133,390	—	133,390
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>5,036,956</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>5,036,956</b>
<b>Supporting Services and General Expenses</b>			
Fundraising	554,953	—	554,953
Finance and administration	921,315	—	921,315
<b>Total Supporting Services and General Expenses</b>	<b>1,476,268</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,476,268</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>6,513,224</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>6,513,224</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) in net assets from operations</b>	<b>611,044</b>	<b>5,329,240</b>	<b>5,940,284</b>

# Assets

	FY 2025	FY 2024
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	10,868,411	8,468,743
Receivables		
Current portion of contributions receivable	1,448,065	434,000
Other receivables, including bequests	72,619	47,782
Inventories	30,356	15,800
Prepaid expenses	132,257	112,854
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>12,551,708</b>	<b>9,079,179</b>
Property and equipment, net	9,410,075	9,095,512
Investments and Other Assets		
Investments	18,699,383	17,796,355
Contributions receivable, long term, net	978,848	11,753
Inventories, long term	43,266	48,218
	<b>19,721,497</b>	<b>17,856,326</b>
Land	73,729,752	71,309,348
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>115,413,032</b>	<b>107,340,365</b>



# Liabilities and Net Assets

	FY 2025	FY 2024
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Line of credit	—	—
Current portion of notes payable	67,898	65,491
Current portion of annuities payable	11,481	11,481
Accounts payable	153,514	105,445
Accrued liabilities	358,413	299,160
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>591,306</b>	<b>481,577</b>
<b>Long-Term Liabilities</b>		
Note payable – less current portion	1,588,091	1,655,959
Annuities payable – less current portion, net	66,977	69,329
<b>Total Long-Term Liabilities</b>	<b>1,655,068</b>	<b>1,725,288</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>2,246,374</b>	<b>2,206,865</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Without donor restrictions	7,353,325	6,165,822
Without donor restrictions invested in land, property and equipment	10,264,611	9,950,048
<b>Total net assets without donor restrictions</b>	<b>17,617,936</b>	<b>16,115,870</b>
With donor restrictions	22,673,506	18,562,818
With donor restrictions invested in land	72,875,216	70,454,812
<b>Total net assets with donor restrictions</b>	<b>95,548,722</b>	<b>89,017,630</b>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>113,166,658</b>	<b>105,133,500</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>115,413,032</b>	<b>107,340,365</b>

For details, see the complete audited financial statements on our web site at [www.forestsociety.org/annual-reports](http://www.forestsociety.org/annual-reports).

Questions on the financial statements should be directed to Tony Cheek, Vice President, Finance ([tcheek@forestsociety.org](mailto:tcheek@forestsociety.org)) or Anne Truslow, Vice President, Development ([atruslow@forestsociety.org](mailto:atruslow@forestsociety.org)).

# Contributed Support

*The Forest Society relies on charitable giving to support its operations, for the perpetual stewardship and management of conservation lands, and for the acquisition of land and easements. We are deeply grateful for the diverse support of so many generous donors.*

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## Warm Thanks to Garnet Hill

**G**arnet Hill, the natural fiber clothing and furnishings company based in Franconia, NH, continued a long-time partnership with the Forest Society in FY25. In a natural pairing, Garnet Hill featured the Forest Society during Earth Month, raising funds to support our conservation mission and engaging Garnet Hill customers. On the ground, Garnet Hill volunteers helped put funds to work by establishing new native plant gardens at The Rocks and offering other volunteer support throughout the year. During the hottest week of June, the Garnet Hill holiday catalog production team arrived at The Rocks with fashion models dressed in cashmere, displaying amazing professionalism and cool as the thermometer read 92 degrees. Soon enough, the beautiful holiday catalogs arrived in mailboxes and true winter arrived, with Garnet Hill again to the rescue, providing a new selection of plush blankets to keep riders warm during snowy holiday wagon rides through the Christmas Tree fields. We are so grateful for this multi-faceted partnership with a New Hampshire-born business. Thank you Garnet Hill!



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## A Lifetime of Giving Back—Russ Dickerman

**R**uss Dickerman was a direct descendant of settlers who populated Monson Village in the mid-1700s. Russ devoted a lifetime to researching and interpreting the history of the settlement and its people, located in present day Hollis and Milford. As a volunteer, Russ welcomed visitors to the Gould House, a replica of the original dwellings, and passed along the secrets he learned from this land. In the 1990s, Russ and his wife Geri marshalled a grassroots movement to save Monson from a 28-unit subdivision proposal, raising funds for its acquisition by the Forest Society and then donating 125 acres of their family land.



Today, Monson encompasses 280 acres of fields, forests and miles of interpretive trails—including a 1.75 acre parcel that Russ's cousin sold to the Forest Society this year to secure the main access road. When he passed away in August 2024 at 94, Russ also bequeathed his antique cape and land in Milford to the Forest Society as part of our **Assets to Acres** program. The house will be sold subject to

conservation restrictions, with the proceeds supporting the Forest Society. Russ understood both the responsibility and the joy of land stewardship and we were lucky to have him as an ambassador at Monson for over 25 years.

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## Keep Doing What You're Doing

**L**orin Rydstrom was a big personality in a quiet man. Wry and wise, Lorin served on the Forest Society's Board of Trustees and committees for many years, bringing a business sense developed over his career with Seaboard International Forest Products and a passion for the woods, wildlife and wild places. He also understood the convergence of these things: for New Hampshire to sustain a vibrant workforce over new generations, we need to conserve our big landscapes and we need to get people out there to form their own bonds with nature. Honored as our 2022 Conservationist of the Year, Lorin was a leader in the re-building of Forest Society North at The Rocks, challenging his company to also contribute to the campaign, and he quietly supported land conservation and stewardship whenever the opportunity came along. In his final days, his emails repeated a refrain: just keep doing what you're doing! With his help, we acquired the 1,328-acre Rydstrom Family Forest in Bradford and Hillsborough soon after the end of FY25. His legacy is helping us to keep doing what we do.



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Donations by check, online via our website, and electronic transfer can support the Forest Society's general operations through the Annual Fund, or may be designated to support new land conservation through the Land Action Fund; management and care for our lands through the Reservation Stewardship Fund; or by giving to our Permanent Endowment.

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We gladly accept grants and gifts through donor-advised funds, community foundations, and through IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions. If you choose to use one of these methods, please feel free to contact us to be sure your name and the purpose of your gift are clearly communicated to us.

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## Endowment and Estate Planning

As an organization that has been dedicated to conserving New Hampshire's landscape for 124 years, the Forest Society is a reliable investment. You can leave a legacy in the place you love by including the Forest Society in your estate planning. Please contact us for more information.

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Believe it or not, that ski condo or that building lot you never built on can be turned into land conservation. Through our Assets to Acres program, you may donate real estate to the Forest Society which we then sell (sometimes subject to conservation restrictions if relevant) and apply the proceeds to furthering our conservation mission.

For more information, please  
visit our website or contact  
**Anne Truslow, Vice President for Development**  
[atruslow@forestsociety.org](mailto:atruslow@forestsociety.org)  
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Schwab Charitable)  
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
Fiduciary Trust Company  
Givinga Foundation  
Greater Horizons  
Greater Worcester  
Community Foundation  
Gulf Coast Community Foundation  
ImpactAssets  
Inland Empire Community  
Foundation  
Jewish Community Foundation of  
Central New York  
JPMorgan Charitable Giving Fund  
Morgan Stanley Global Impact  
Funding Trust, Inc.  
New Hampshire Charitable  
Foundation  
Renaissance Charitable Foundation  
The T. Rowe Price Program for  
Charitable Giving  
Thrivent Charitable Impact  
and Investing  
Vanguard Charitable  
Endowment Program

#### **GIVING PROGRAMS**

Anonymous  
1% for the Planet  
America's Charities  
Benevity  
The Blackburn Giving Fund  
by its agent YourCause  
EarthShare  
Fidelity Giving Marketplace  
Give Lively  
Granite United Way  
Network for Good  
United Way of Rhode Island  
United Way of Southern Maine  
\* New Hampshire  
Charitable Foundation

## **THANK YOU**

Though we count donations to the Forest Society in dollars, their impact is reflected in the acres we protect, the policy goals we achieve, and the passion for conservation we inspire throughout New Hampshire. The Trustees and staff thank all supporters for their dedication to our mission, and we only regret that our space limits our annual listing to those donors who contributed \$250 or more.





# Thank You for Making a Difference

Since 1901, members of the Forest Society have taken action to protect this land we call New Hampshire. The forests, mountains, lakes, and streams of this state support the health and well-being of our communities, from the Northern Forest to the banks of the Connecticut River to the saltmarshes of the Seacoast.

In a changing world, the Forest Society's conservation work is fundamental to ensuring that New Hampshire continues to thrive with clean air, clean water, vibrant wildlife, and beautiful places that soothe the soul. Caring for these lands in perpetuity is a privilege and a responsibility to future generations. Your membership helps to preserve a way of life that is enriched by the landscape around us—the New Hampshire way of life.

Your membership helps us meet the challenges of today, tomorrow, and beyond.

**Thank you for supporting the Forest Society. We can't do it without you.**

*Cover: A mother and daughter enjoy the summit of Mt. Major after hiking the newly improved Main Trail. Photo by Ryan Smith.*

