

## Beebe River Protected Forever

**GRAFTON AND CARROLL COUNTIES, N.H. (April 11, 2022)** — The Conservation Fund, New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands, and the Squam Lakes Conservation Society (SLCS) announced the completion of a multi-year effort to protect 6,395 acres of forestland and aquatic resources within the Beebe River watershed in central New Hampshire. Sharing a 6.5-mile boundary with White Mountain National Forest (WMNF), the newly conserved contiguous land will remain privately owned and sustainably managed to support forest industry products and jobs, while ensuring public recreational access, wildlife habitat and water resource protection.

The conservation of the Beebe River area is a tremendous win for the region. Uniquely situated between the White Mountain National Forest and the Squam Lakes, this area is noted for its wildlife habitat, well-managed forests, large road-less areas, and for its geographic connection between New England's largest block of public land and one of its most renowned lakes. This iconic forested landscape also has a deep history in the timber industry, providing spruce for the construction of airplanes used in the First World War. The protected area guarantees public pedestrian access to hunt, fish, cross-country ski and hike, as well as motorized snowmobile access on designated trails. The conservation of the Beebe River basin and Squam Range is a project of statewide and national significance.

“New Hampshire is home to some of the most beautiful outdoor spaces in the world, and the Beebe River plays an important role bolstering that reputation. I’m grateful to The Conservation Fund, the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands, the Squam Lakes Conservation Society and the many other partners who helped to make this project a success so that Granite Staters and visitors from all over can enjoy the beauty and historic significance of the Beebe River and Squam Community,” said Senator Jeanne Shaheen. “This investment from the Land and Water Conservation Fund will benefit the Granite State’s outdoor recreation economy, protect wildlife habitats and water resources, support our forest products industry and ensure that this land can be enjoyed by families for generations to come.”

The Conservation Fund, a national environmental nonprofit, purchased the land in 2014 through its Working Forest Fund with support from the Richard King Mellon Foundation as part of 30,000 acres of former industrial timberland across New Hampshire, Vermont, New York and Maine. In 2016, an award from the USDA enabled efforts by The Conservation Fund, New Hampshire Fish and Game and Trout Unlimited to remove and replace stream crossings that compromised fish passage in five tributary streams into the mainstem of the Beebe River. This effort successfully restored habitat connectivity and natural flow regimes, reduced water temperature and streambank erosion, and ultimately improved aquatic habitat.

The purchase of the conservation easement came 75% from a federal grant awarded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund’s Forest Legacy Program, and 25% from Squam donors through SLCS, making the permanent protection of this working forest landscape possible.

“It’s an extraordinary accomplishment to achieve both conservation and restoration goals, while improving the health and vitality of a forested watershed for wildlife, climate resilience and nearby communities,” said Sally Manikian of The Conservation Fund. “Finally, the fate of this land has been confirmed and it will continue to be managed as a working forest — ensuring jobs and revenue will stay in the region. Thanks to these efforts and the generous support from local and public partners, people and wildlife will be able to enjoy this important landscape for many years to come.”

“New Hampshire simply would not be New Hampshire without its forests and all that they provide,” said State Forester Patrick Hackley, director of the N.H. Division of Forests and Lands. “We are pleased to have a role in making sure this property will continue to be a multi-faceted resource for all to enjoy.”

“The Squam community applauds and thanks the many partners who worked together to complete this huge project to protect the north slope of the Squam Range and so much of the Beebe River watershed. The dream of walking from the shores of Squam Lake to the height of Mt. Washington on conserved land is now a reality,” said Roger Laroche, executive director of the Squam Lakes Conservation Society. “By working together, we’ve demonstrated that private and public institutions can achieve more than any one of us could do by ourselves. It’s a great example of what makes New Hampshire and Squam so special. We are grateful to the many Squam donors who had the vision and commitment to invest in the protection of these neighboring lands. Once again, Squam stands out not only as a beautiful watershed, but also as an exemplary community.”

The Squam Lakes Conservation Society is a dedicated land trust serving the Squam Lakes Region. Since 1960, the Conservation Society has been preserving the unique quality and character of Squam by permanently protecting lands for present and future generations. Visit our website at [foreversquam.org](http://foreversquam.org) or call 603 968-7900.

# Beebe River Uplands

Campton & Sandwich, NH

THE CONSERVATION FUND

