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Community-Owned Forests: Possibilities,  
Experiences, and Lessons Learned (June 16-19)

2005

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6-19-2005

### SLIDES: New England Forestry Foundation: Private Forests for the Public Good Since 1944

Frank Reed

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#### Citation Information

Reed, Frank, "SLIDES: New England Forestry Foundation: Private Forests for the Public Good Since 1944" (2005). *Community-Owned Forests: Possibilities, Experiences, and Lessons Learned (June 16-19)*. <https://scholar.law.colorado.edu/community-owned-forests/21>

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# NEW ENGLAND FORESTRY FOUNDATION



PRIVATE FORESTS FOR THE  
PUBLIC GOOD SINCE 1944

[WWW.NEWENGLANDFORESTRY.ORG](http://WWW.NEWENGLANDFORESTRY.ORG)

# NEW ENGLAND FORESTRY FOUNDATION

- Dedicated to promoting the conservation and sustainable management of the private and municipal forests of New England.
- We strive to accomplish our mission through:
  - Direct forestland protection
  - Forest management demonstration
  - Forest conservation education
  - Forest policy development
  - Forest conservation partnerships

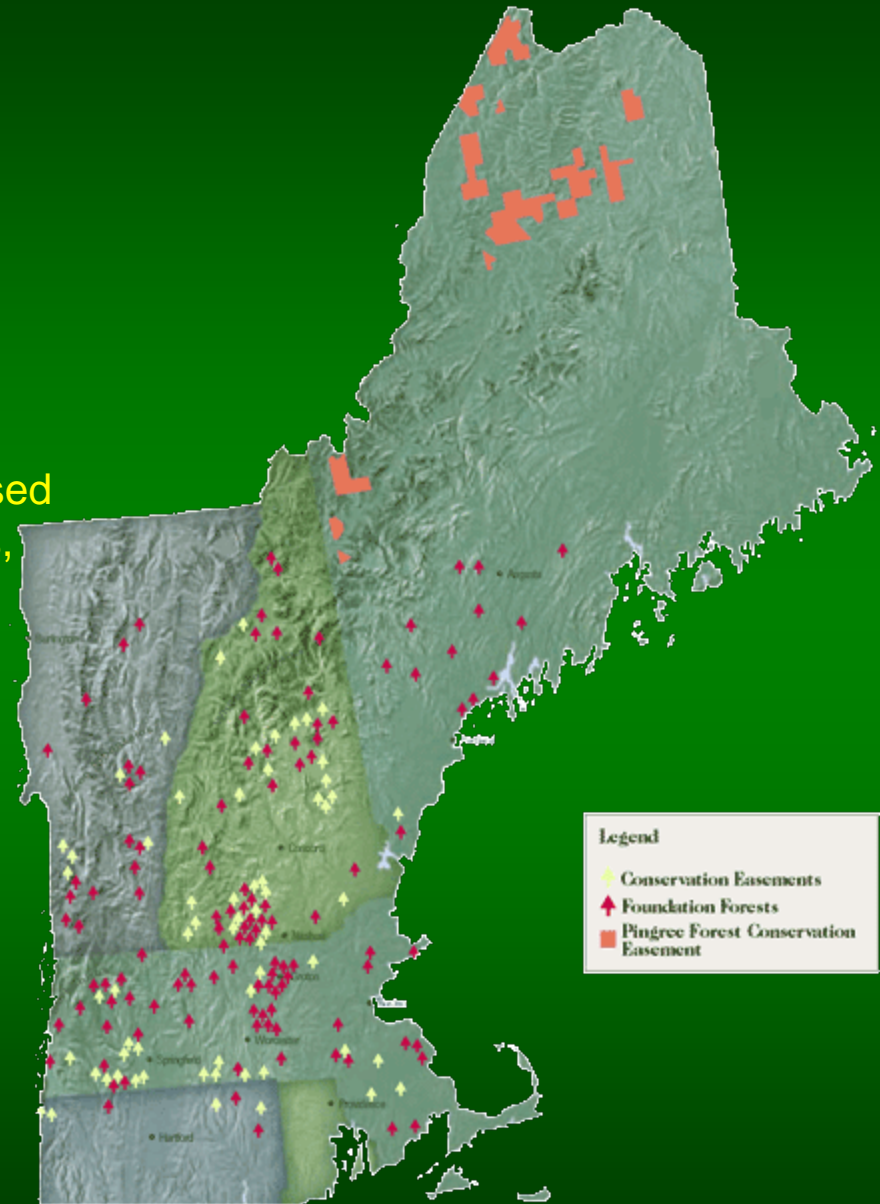


# NEW ENGLAND FORESTRY FOUNDATION

- One of New England's oldest conservation organizations (chartered 1944), with offices in MA and ME
- Owns and manages 123 community forests--23,000 acres of FSC certified forestland across five states
- Hold 97 easements: a national pioneer in the use of forest conservation easements
- Completed the largest and second largest forest conservation easement in the U.S., the 762,192 acre Pingree Conservation Easement in 2001 and the 311,648 acre Sunrise Conservation Easement in 2005.
- Developing a monitoring protocol for landscape scale easements using satellite imagery

## NEFF's community forests serve the public in four distinct ways:

- △ As **community resources**, providing environmental benefits, recreational opportunities and open space
- △ As **educational platforms** for field-based study, hands-on management activities, training and environmental monitoring
- △ As **stewardship examples** for private owners considering similar gifts and planning for the future of their land
- △ As **outreach sites** for engaging local officials and others in discussions about forestry issues and the protection of open space



# COMMUNITY FORESTS

- FORESTRY OPERATION MANAGED BY
  - LOCAL GOVERNMENT
  - COMMUNITY GROUP
    - NON-PROFIT
    - FOR PROFIT
    - NATIVE AMERICAN
    - COOPERATIVE
    - LIMITED LIABILITY CORPORATION
- BENEFITS ENTIRE COMMUNITY



# BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

- CLEANS WATER
- CLEANS AIR
- HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE
- PLACE FOR RECREATION
- WOOD FOR LOCAL ECONOMY



# VERMONT FAMILY FORESTS

## LITTLE HOGBACK COMMUNITY FOREST LLC

- Vermont Family Forests, in collaboration with the Vermont Land Trust and with the generous support of a sponsor, is offering the Little Hogback Community Forest, LLC to Addison County residents.
  - We plan to sell the Little Hogback Community Forest, a 115-acre parcel in Monkton, in a way that will achieve two main goals: protect forest health and allow community members to hold the carefully managed forest land. To meet the goals the LLC will sell shares in the land to local community members, many of whom could not, individually, afford forestland. Their purchase will be an investment that will yield financial returns; and will be an investment they can walk in, work with and be proud of. The Vermont Land Trust will hold a conservation easement on the parcel to ensure that the land will be carefully managed in perpetuity, and that it will never be subdivided or developed. The easement will also lower the share cost.
  - The contribution by a sponsor has further lowered the share cost to one that should provide a modest rate of return under careful management. A covenant will allow VFF to repurchase the land, if it is ever sold, at a price that could similarly yield a return. This makes the parcel perpetually affordable to community members who need a return on their investment.
  - The underlying rights—including rights to cut firewood, harvest timber, hike, hunt, camp, etc.--will be sold to a Limited Liability Company comprised of people who live in the area. Each member will own a share in the LLC and receive returns from the various products of the forest. Members can use their share of those products themselves or they can receive a return from the sale. Because of meticulous management geared toward the long term, the land should be more valuable as the forest grows older. We expect the members to receive about the same return on their investment that they would get if the money were in the bank.
  - Little Hogback Community Forest will be managed according to Vermont Family Forests' (VFF) principles, under the direction of a forester. This will not only protect forest health; it will also provide low-cost FSC certification and allow the LLC to be an active partner in VFF collaborative marketing opportunities such as the [VFF Certified Portfolio](#), the Family Forest® brand, and Lump-Sum Plus sales.
- The sixteen shares to be sold will cost less than \$3000 and half of the shares would be reserved for community members whose incomes are below the county median. VFF will set up a [revolving loan fund](#) to help lower-income community members with their investment. Learn about the LLC operations in greater depth by reading the documents on our [Organizational Details](#) page.



# DOWNEAST LAKES LAND TRUST

- Started by local citizens and Registered Maine Guides in the vicinity of Grand Lake Stream, Maine in 2001.
- Dedicated to ensuring the long-term environmental and economic well-being of the Downeast Lakes region through the conservation and exemplary management of its woods and waters.
- Teamed with New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) in 2002 and together they negotiated the purchase of 27,080 acres, the “Farm Cove Community Forest”.
- With NEFF, raised the \$12.5M needed to purchase the acreage and on May 25<sup>th</sup> became the owner of record.
- Will seek FSC certification and will manage the lands with continual community involvement in planning for trails, education, recreation, forestry, etc.

THANK YOU

[WWW.NEWENGLANDFORESTRY.ORG](http://WWW.NEWENGLANDFORESTRY.ORG)

