SLIDES: Community Ownership and Management of Productive Forestland: Building Natural and Social Capital

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Community Ownership and Management of Productive Forestland
Building Natural and Social Capital

Keith Bisson: Quebec Labrador Foundation
Rodger Krussman: The Trust for Public Land
Why Community Forests?

- Expanded Options for Conservation
- Strategy for Conserving and Linking Smaller Parcels
- Addresses Multiple Objectives
- Social Capital
Lessons from the Field of Community-based Natural Resource Management

- Improved management practices
- Improved governance
- Increased benefits
- Increased institutional, financial and technical support for conservation
Key Findings in Mt. Washington Valley

- All twelve towns receive economic returns from management of public and private forest land within the town;

- Town-owned forest land provides a complex suite of monetary and non-monetary benefits to the town ranging from water supply and quality, recreation, wildlife habitat, open space, support for other community priorities including social services and education, and building community capacity and social capital;

- Ten of the twelve towns own forest land, which makes up 1.3% (~6,000 acres) of all forestland in the Valley;

- For towns that own and manage forest land, the forests either pay their way or produce revenue for towns. In all cases, town ownership/management resulted in no net cost to the towns.
New England Town Forests

- More than just Conservation
- Ownership and Control of Resources adds to sustainable development
- Experience suggests Town Forest structure provides a variety of opportunities for improved management, improved governance, and increased benefits
Changing Attitudes

- Growing interest and capacity
- Growth Management
- Investment in Local Asset
Community Forest Initiative

A Collaborative project between The Trust for Public Land, Quebec Labrador Foundation/Atlantic Center for the Environment, Northern Forest Center

• Research: Maps, community surveys, analysis to determine potential
• Pilot Projects
• Traditional and Non Traditional Sources of Funding
Community Ownership and management increases local equity in the Region’s core asset offering a strategy to link conservation goals with community and economic development imperatives. A new model that requires community support and involvement to achieve both conservation goals and build social capital in northern New England.