

A black bear is the central focus, standing amidst a dense thicket of tall, golden-brown grasses and bare, thin branches. The bear is looking towards the left of the frame. The background is a soft-focus landscape with a body of water and distant hills under a hazy sky. The overall scene is set in a natural, wild environment during autumn.

NORTHEAST
WILDERNESS
TRUST

2018 Annual Report

VISION *A New Geography of Hope*



We are, at Northeast Wilderness Trust, a little bit obsessed with the idea of wilderness and how our work—protecting forever-wild places—responds to the great ecological challenges of our times. We have an enduring faith in nature’s resilience and confidence that the direct, on-the-ground tactic of saving habitat offers numerous benefits to our fellow citizens in the land community as well as for humans.

While little progress is being made in Washington, and the bold action needed to solve global environmental threats remains elusive, forever-wild private land conservation offers an effective and hopeful alternative. Northeast Wilderness Trust remains nimble and is able to quickly respond to strategic conservation opportunities. Through a growing network of wildland philanthropists and supporters like you, this work is becoming more efficient and effective. *Thank you.*

In 2018, the Wilderness Trust added 2,647 acres to what now totals over 27,300 forever-wild acres we’ve helped permanently conserve across the Northeast. Every one of these properties provides nature with the space and time to direct its own future while helping us chart ours, too. Mature forests store immense amounts of carbon, a finding backed up by a growing body of scientific literature. With only approximately 4% of the Northeast protected as forever-wild,

Burnt Mountain in Vermont’s northern Green Mountains is a 5,487-acre forever-wild easement scheduled for completion in 2019

these places not only safeguard rare old-forest habitat for our wild cousins, they also serve as a baseline with which to compare the surrounding managed landscape in an era of unpredictable change.

We are proud to protect nature for its own sake, while we celebrate the many ways that wildlands support human communities. We feel those benefits every time we hike in the Wapack Wilderness or paddle Alder Stream or conduct wildlife monitoring in the Split Rock Wildway.

Wilderness areas offer an unmatched ability to provide solace for the human spirit in this busy and hectic world. As Wallace Stegner wrote in his famous “Wilderness Letter,” “We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in. For it can be a means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, a part of the geography of hope.”

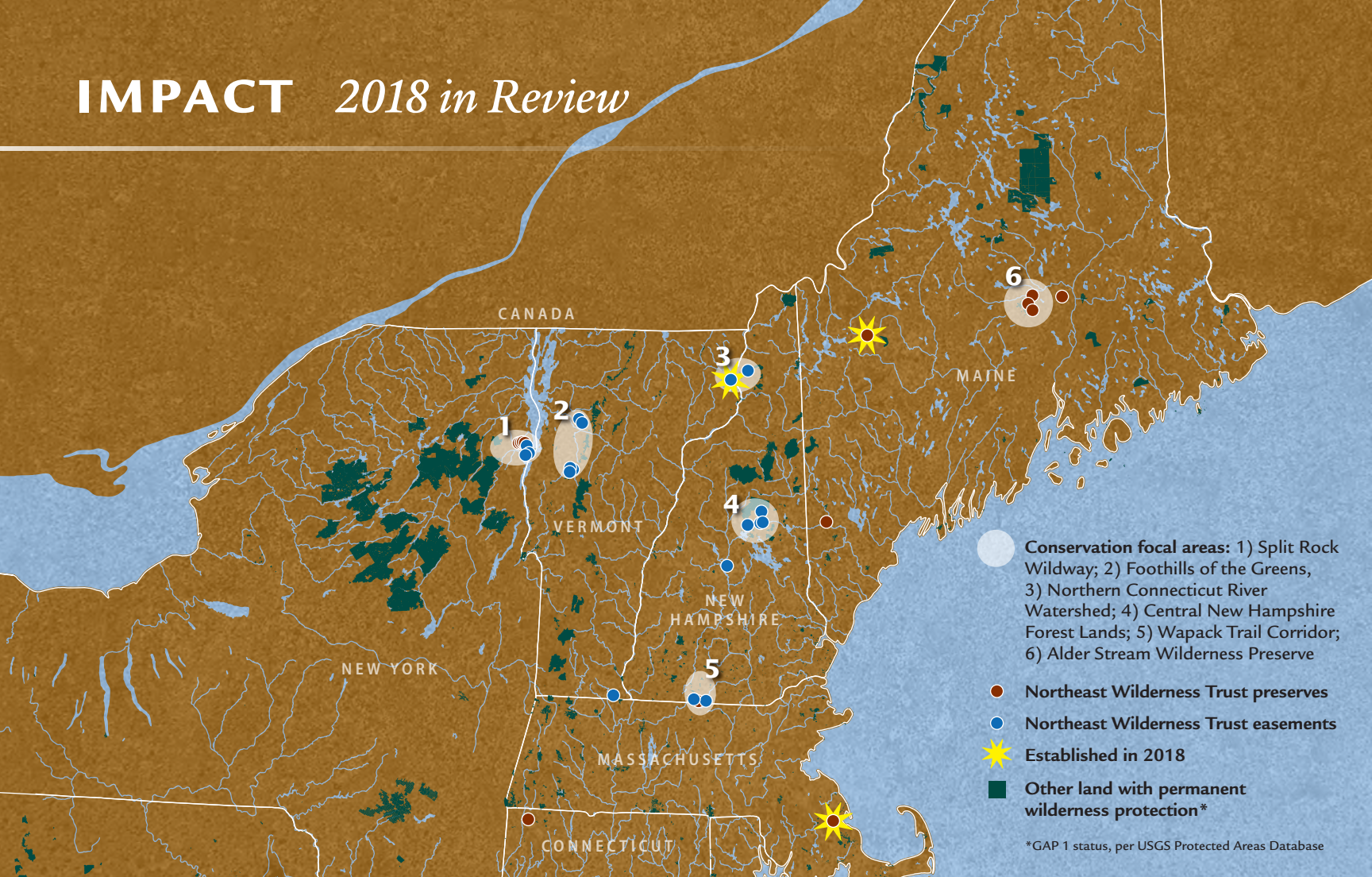
Somewhere across this stunning landscape that we call home a black bear finds safety in the cavity of a fallen log, a coyote howls under the canopy of a wild forest, and a fisher raises its family in a grove of ancient trees, snags, and downed woody debris. *You* help make it happen.






Thank you for supporting the work of Northeast Wilderness Trust.



Jon Leibowitz, Executive Director

IMPACT *2018 in Review*



-  Conservation focal areas: 1) Split Rock Wildway; 2) Foothills of the Greens, 3) Northern Connecticut River Watershed; 4) Central New Hampshire Forest Lands; 5) Wapack Trail Corridor; 6) Alder Stream Wilderness Preserve
-  Northeast Wilderness Trust preserves
-  Northeast Wilderness Trust easements
-  Established in 2018
-  Other land with permanent wilderness protection*

*GAP 1 status, per USGS Protected Areas Database

Marking another year of progress for forever-wild preservation

JANUARY Sweet Water Trust transfers the 1,170-acre West Mountain forever-wild easement to Northeast Wilderness Trust for permanent safekeeping, further cementing a close partnership between these two organizations, as well as The Nature Conservancy of Vermont, which owns the property.

MARCH Northeast Wilderness Trust acquires its first fee-owned property in Massachusetts, permanently safeguarding 322 acres of Atlantic Coastal Pine Barrens through the establishment of the Muddy Pond Wilderness Preserve.

JULY The Wilderness Trust protects the 1,155-acre Lone Mountain Wilderness Preserve in Maine's High Peaks Region, safeguarding core wildlife habitat and buffering two miles of the Appalachian Trail.

AUGUST Northeast Wilderness Trust hires Zack Porter as its new Outreach and Communications Coordinator to build the base of support for wilderness preservation throughout the region.

SEPTEMBER The Wilderness Trust receives a \$160,000 grant from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board to support the Bridgewater Hollow project, marking the first time the Wilderness Trust has received funding from this important conservation partner.

OCTOBER Joe Falconeri joins Northeast Wilderness Trust's team as Southern New England Land Steward, a new position that boosts our capacity for monitoring and managing properties and easements in the most populous corner of our mission area.

DECEMBER The fundraising campaign to protect the Eagle Mountain Wilderness Preserve in the northeastern corner of New York's Adirondack Park passes the halfway mark towards a total project budget of \$1.8 million.




BY THE NUMBERS



27,315
total protected acres



17
*preserves owned by
Northeast Wilderness Trust*



18
*forever-wild easements held
by the Wilderness Trust*



9

active projects



26,180

public access acres



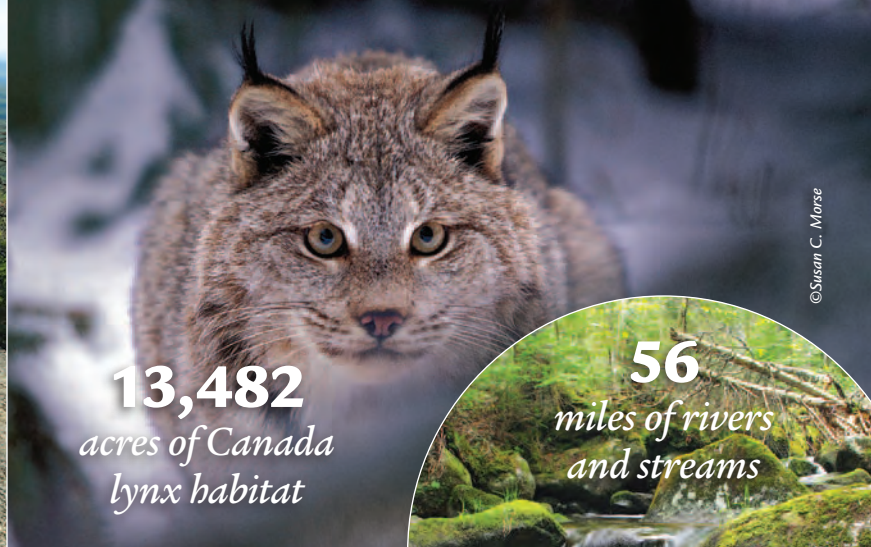
13,432

active project acres



19,462

*acres conserved below
2,500' elevation*



13,482

*acres of Canada
lynx habitat*



56

*miles of rivers
and streams*

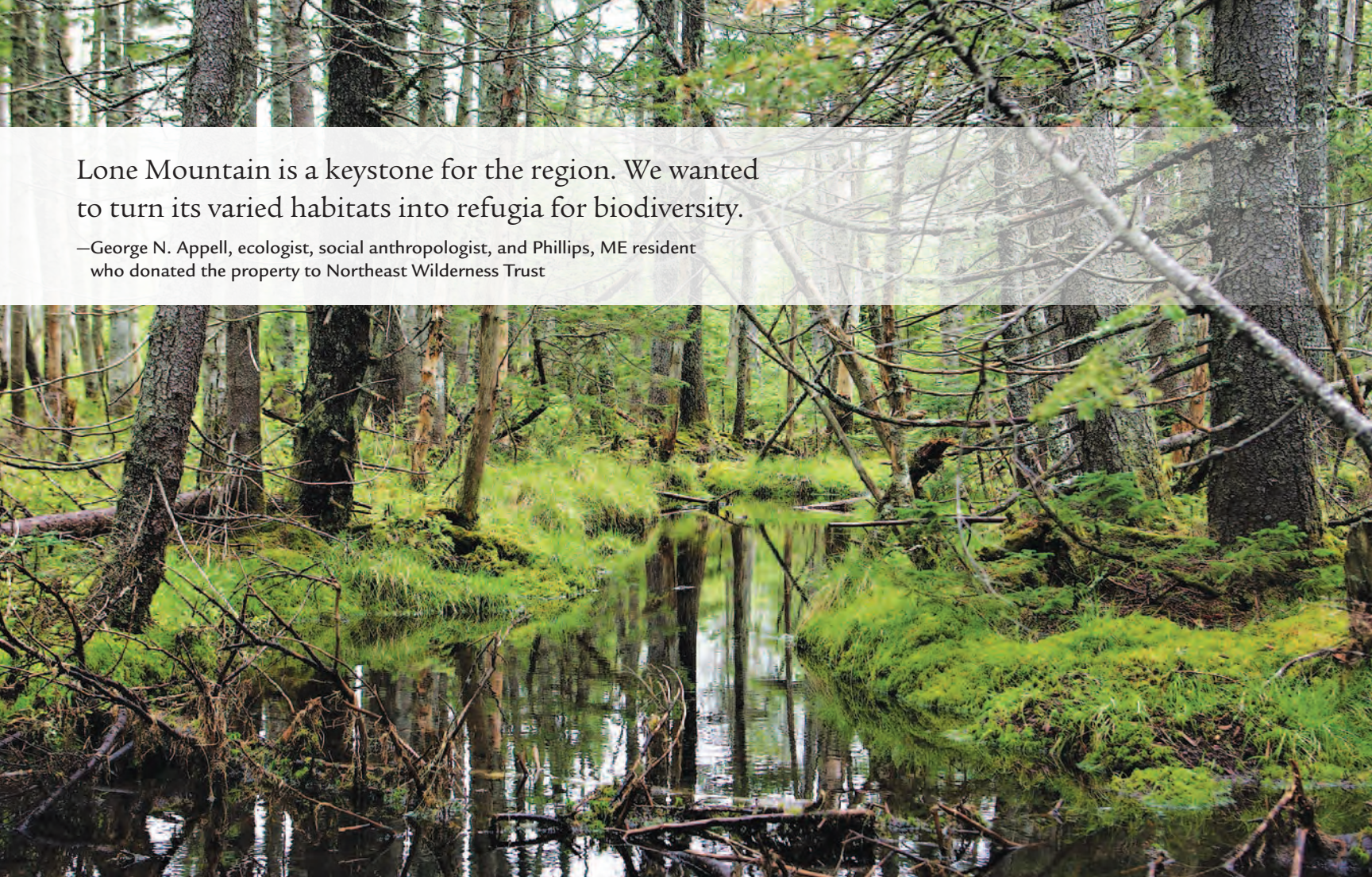


7,586

*acres of suitable breeding
habitat for the imperiled
Bicknell's Thrush*

©Susan C. Morse

Larry Master

A photograph of a forest stream. The water is calm and reflects the surrounding trees and foliage. The banks are covered in vibrant green moss and ferns. The trees are tall and thin, with some bare branches in the foreground. The overall scene is lush and serene.

Lone Mountain is a keystone for the region. We wanted to turn its varied habitats into refugia for biodiversity.

—George N. Appell, ecologist, social anthropologist, and Phillips, ME resident who donated the property to Northeast Wilderness Trust

Lone Mountain Wilderness Preserve

In late summer of 2018, Northeast Wilderness Trust accepted this generous gift of real estate from longtime Phillips, Maine resident George N. Appell, in honor of his late wife Laura W. R. Appell (née Reynolds).

The Lone Mountain Wilderness Preserve lies at the heart of the largest undeveloped ecosystem in the East, known as the Mountains of the Dawn. The region spans more than five million acres from the New Hampshire border to Mt. Katahdin—an area larger than Connecticut. It encompasses an incredible diversity of habitats from the rocky summits and high elevation bogs of the loftiest peaks in Maine to floodplain forests and deep river valleys. Moose, black bear, Canada lynx, and the rare Bicknell's Thrush, among other species, call this place home.

The Wilderness Trust's ownership will ensure that over two miles of the Appalachian Trail will be buffered by forever-wild forest. Even though much of the Preserve was logged in the past, an intense wild character remains. Moss-covered ravines are crisscrossed with moose tracks, and in the northwest corner of the property, a peaceful black spruce swamp conjures up images of a land forgotten by time. Scars from past logging will disappear within the century as the forest matures and the landscape rewilds.

The Wilderness Trust is exploring additional projects and partnerships in this area that aim to increase the wild character of this unique landscape.

MT. ABRAM, MAINE

Owned Preserve


1,155
total acres

3,280'
*height of
namesake
summit*

33
*acres of black spruce
swamp*

2
miles of Appalachian Trail buffer





Muddy Pond, or Camp Mishannock as it is known locally, embodies a deep sense of place. From Native American occupation beginning around 10,000 BCE, to more recent use by the Sisters of Divine Providence for outdoor education and a summer camp, this land is part of the fabric of our diverse community. We are grateful that the Wilderness Trust will steward the land as forever-wild.

—Meg Sheehan, conservation activist and native of Plymouth, MA

Muddy Pond Wilderness Preserve

Just an hour's drive from Fenway Park, the Muddy Pond Wilderness Preserve puts wilderness on the map in southeast Massachusetts. At Muddy Pond, residents will have an opportunity to watch a piece of their neighborhood grow wilder over time in an otherwise rapidly-developing area.

The property features a globally-rare Atlantic Coastal Pine Barren ecosystem, a habitat that exists in few other places on earth. Anchoring the Preserve is an outstanding 48-acre Coastal Plain Pond surrounded by mature woods.

A walk around the Preserve reveals a forest rich with biodiversity in the center of an exurban landscape. While the term "wilderness" may conjure grand views and rugged peaks for many, at Muddy Pond it is what's beneath your feet that will sweep you away. Over two dozen vernal pools dot the Preserve, providing refuge for turtles, frogs, and salamanders.

Situated within the Greater Boston metro area, the conservation of Muddy Pond marks a first for Northeast Wilderness Trust. Though the setting may be different from our usual properties, the underlying goal of protecting self-willed land is as relevant and crucial in southeast Massachusetts as it is in more remote corners of the Northeast. Muddy Pond's location makes it an ideal living classroom for wilderness education and stewardship.

Over the course of the next year, the Wilderness Trust will simplify the property's complex trail system down to two loop trails for pedestrian access, allowing the remaining trail mileage to rewild. Keep an eye out for updates and events at the Preserve throughout 2019.

KINGSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Owned Preserve


322
total acres

36
vernal pools

32
miles from Fenway Park

9
species of conservation concern



A scenic landscape photograph of a wetland area. In the foreground, there are tall, golden-brown grasses and some bare trees. A small pond or wetland area is visible in the middle ground, surrounded by more grasses and some trees. The background shows a dense forest of evergreen and deciduous trees under a blue sky with white clouds. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

Finding a forever home for this property helps ensure safe passage for wildlife roaming a key east-west corridor between the Northern Green Mountains, North Woods of New Hampshire, and Maine's Western Mountains.

—Eve Endicott, Trustee of Sweet Water Trust

West Mountain

In the Nulhegan Basin, the wild heart of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, is a 66,000-acre forest that remains unbroken by paved roads. At the core of this forest are four tracts totaling 1,170 acres where Canada lynx roam, moose ramble, and where catamount may one day return. Owned by The Nature Conservancy, these properties are protected by a forever-wild easement transferred to Northeast Wilderness Trust from Sweet Water Trust in early 2018.

Biodiversity abounds on West Mountain. Among the natural wonders found on the property is the stunning rose pogonia (sometimes called the Beard Flower)—a small and unassuming orchid that greets you with a burst of pink, magenta, and yellow, a pleasant fragrance, and delicate beard-like bristles.

This project is just the latest in a long-term partnership between Sweet Water Trust and the Wilderness Trust, which together have protected the Alder Stream Wilderness Preserve and Howland Research Forest in Maine and the Wapack Wilderness and Hersey Mountain conservation easements in New Hampshire. These properties represent some of New England's wildest forests.

Less than two miles away, just across the New Hampshire line from West Mountain, a similar partnership between The Nature Conservancy, Sweet Water Trust, and Northeast Wilderness Trust led to permanent protection for the vast, 10,000-acre Vickie Bunnell Preserve, the largest forever-wild easement in the Granite State.

BRUNSWICK, VERMONT

Forever-wild Conservation Easement

1,170
total acres

111
acres of wetland

47
rare and uncommon plant species

37
animal species of greatest conservation need



LEGACY *Thanks to two retiring board members!*

Jim Dumont | The work of the Wilderness Trust has been and continues to be important to me for two reasons. One is that climate change is the overarching crisis of our time, and our approach to



forest management stores more carbon, more reliably, than any other. The other is that here and now, from Boston to St. Johnsbury to Upper Jay, people's lives—including my own—are made richer by being nearby to lands that are allowed to grow, die, decay and regrow without human intervention.

Tom Butler | Serving on the Wilderness Trust board and seeing so many fantastic conservation projects get completed through the years has been deeply gratifying. This direct, tangible work of saving habitat—acre by acre, place by place—gives me



hope that the trajectory of land health in our region can buck global trends and lead toward increasing beauty, wildness, and ecological integrity. I'm confident that Northeast Wilderness Trust will help lead that effort into the future and I look forward to supporting this positive work in every way I can.

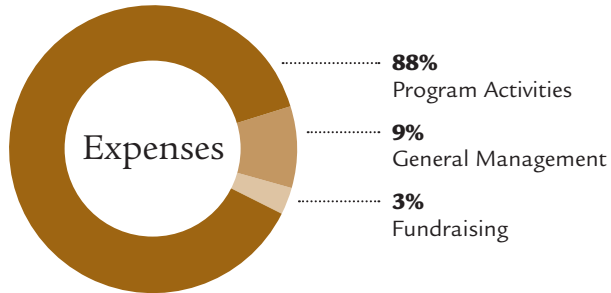
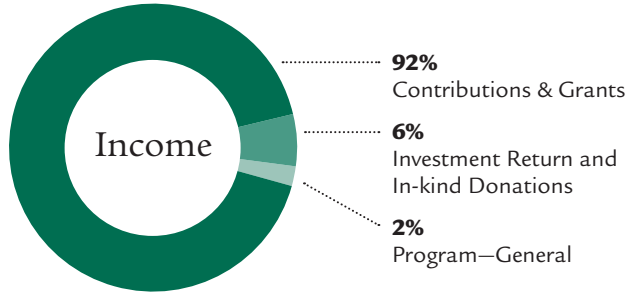
A Gift that Can Shape the Future of Wilderness Forever

Individuals of any means with a deep passion for wild places can make a difference with a bequest to Northeast Wilderness Trust. We are deeply grateful for all of the individuals who have already supported this work through planned giving. Consider making a legacy gift today and become part of the future of wilderness protection in the Northeast.



Common Loon *Larry Master*

Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2017–18



Northeast Wilderness Trust Corporation was incorporated in 2002 in Vermont as a 501(c)3 organization. All contributions to the Wilderness Trust are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Audited financial statements available upon request.

Summary Statement of Financial Position

Assets

Cash	1,151,227
Pledges receivable	648,061
Conservation land	5,047,980
Investments	2,438,186
Other assets	147,342

Total Assets **\$9,432,796**

Liabilities & Net Assets

Accounts payable and accrued expenses 38,985

Net assets

Unrestricted	
<i>Undesignated</i>	5,634,790
<i>Board designated, stewardship fund</i>	2,138,186
Temporarily restricted	1,320,835
Permanently restricted	300,000

9,393,811

Total Liabilities & Net Assets **\$9,432,796**



*Northeast Wilderness Trust conserves
forever-wild landscapes for nature and people.*

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NORTHEAST



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