

Beebe River Property

“The Beebe River lands are well loved! They’re our front yard.”

*—Resident at Community Forum
April 2014*

Location:

Towns of Campton and
Sandwich, New Hampshire

Total Acreage:

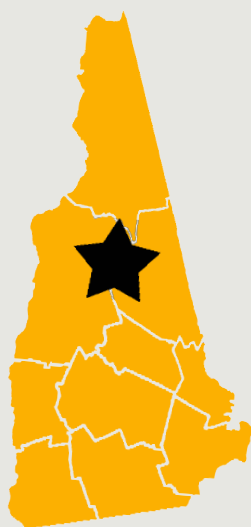
5,435 acres

Acquired:

May 2014

Key Facts:

The area is in the confluence of three ecological regions that contain Highest Ranked Habitat by Ecological Condition in New Hampshire designated in the 2010 NH Wildlife Action Plan and the Beebe River is a nursery stream for wild Eastern brook trout.



Conservation Context

The Beebe River Tract is a testament to the resiliency of the earth and its natural processes. In the early 20th century this land was bisected by a 26 mile long railroad that cut deep into the Sandwich Range. The Beebe River lands were home to hundreds inhabiting logging camps and produced millions of board feet of timber. Five fully loaded trains of 12-14 cars each moved logs out of the forest every day in the early 1920s, including top-quality spruce for the aircraft industry in World War I. Today, while there are evident remnants of its past, and it continues to be a working forest, the area is described as “wild and serene” by those who hike, fish and hunt there.

The Beebe River property is as unique in its ecology as its history. The area is at the confluence of three distinct eco-regions—the White Mountains, the New Hampshire-Vermont Uplands, and the Coastal Lowlands—with a wide variety of environmental conditions. The diversity of geology, landforms, and climates brings together an abundance of species, including numerous state-listed plant species like the Yellow Lady’s Slipper, Purple Clematis and Fern Leaved False Foxglove, as well as regionally diverse tree species from tupelo to oak and spruce-fir.

The property also features a mix of boreal and northern hardwood forests that provide suitable habitat for the federally threatened Canada lynx. In addition, the state-threatened American marten has been verified in the project area by the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department. These habitat types, combined with a common border of over six miles with the White Mountain National Forest, links the property to over 500,000 acres of protected land, and provides ideal critical reproductive habitat for both of these species. Free ranging species such as black bear thrive in this area as well.

The conservation of these lands will mitigate anticipated shifts in habitats and species due to global climate change. As a result, the impacts will be less severe in this area where a high diversity of elevations, soil types, and habitat types exist.

The Beebe River Tract includes roughly 50 percent of the unfragmented Beebe River watershed, the remainder of which lies in the White Mountain National Forest. A rarity, these completely undeveloped headwaters provide cold water streams that are spawning habitat for wild Eastern brook trout.

In addition to hunting and fishing, protection of this property will ensure the long-term use of the area by recreationists—notably snowmobilers and cross-country skiers. Conservation will also support continued public access to a number of hiking trails, especially a 2.5-mile section of the 17-mile Crawford-Ridgepole Trail that runs the length of the bordering Squam Range.

Status

The Conservation Fund used our Working Forest Fund to purchase the Beebe River tract in May 2014 as part of a 30,000 acre acquisition in four states in the Northern Forest. This literally buys time we need to craft a conservation outcome with federal, state and local partners. Working at the landscape scale in partnership with the Squam Lakes Conservation Society, the Fund will seek funding to place the Beebe River land and adjoining properties under conservation easement. The Fund will sustainably manage the property until it can be permanently protected.

THE
CONSERVATION FUND | www.conservationfund.org

1655 North Fort Myer Drive, Suite 1300, Arlington, VA 22209 phone: 703.525.6300 fax: 703.525.4610

The Conservation Fund, working with public, private and nonprofit partners, protects America’s legacy of land and water resources through land acquisition, sustainable community and economic development, and leadership training, emphasizing the integration of economic and environmental goals.

