



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**860 ACRES OF PERMANENT LAND PROTECTION IN 7 NH TOWNS AND 1 MAINE TOWN MADE POSSIBLE FROM
LAND TRANSACTION GRANT FUNDS**

The GBRPP and PREP award \$47,950 in funding to ten applicants to use for land transaction costs.

Durham, NH – In late-winter 2015, the Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership (GBRPP) and the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP) awarded a total of \$47,960 in grant funds that will contribute to the conservation of 860 acres of land in five New Hampshire communities and support the prospective conservation of an additional 729 acres of land in three communities in both New Hampshire and Maine. The projects also total of \$220,314 in matching funds.

This is part of the organizations' Land Transactions Grant Program which is aimed at assisting land trusts, conservation organizations and municipal governments within the Piscataqua Region coastal watershed area with the transaction costs associated with permanent land protection such as conservation easements, full fee acquisitions and donations of land. This round of awardees are conservation properties located in areas designated as Conservation Focus Areas (10 conservation focus areas), representing a diversity of natural resources including woodlands, agricultural lands, open fields, wetlands, ponds, riparian shoreline. The properties are located across the coastal watershed – Barrington, Durham, Kensington, Middleton, Nottingham and Portsmouth, NH and Acton, ME and many promote pedestrian public access and recreational opportunities.

The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire's Forests (SPNHF) was an awardee of this round of grant funds. They intend to use the funds towards the purchase of 150-acre addition to the Moose Mountains Forest Reservation in Middleton, NH.

"This land conservation project will benefit hunters and wildlife watchers as well as diverse wildlife, from the frogs and salamanders that breed in this property's many vernal pools to the roaming moose, bobcats, deer and bears that utilize this large, intact habitat," explains Dave Anderson from SPNHF. "The addition will also bring a critical access point into the larger recreational trail systems for hiking, skiing and snowmobiling."

Applications for the next Land Transaction Grants cycle are now available online

<http://prepestuaries.org/summer-2015-land-transaction-grant-funds-now-available/> and are due June 19, 2015.

For questions about this grant opportunity contact:

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About PREP:

The Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP) has been working to protect and preserve the Great Bay and Hampton-Seabrook Estuaries since 1995. Through water testing, monitoring and research efforts, the PREP staff is able to keep Federal, State and Municipal leaders informed on the ever-changing conditions of our community's water sources in the 52 Seacoast towns served. <http://www.PREPEstuaries.org>

About the Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership:

The Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership is a collaboration of conservation organizations in the coastal region that promotes landscape-scale land conservation and stewardship. Funding for the Land Protection Transaction Grant program is provided by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. The Nature Conservancy serves as the fiscal and administrative agent for the GBRPP. <http://www.greatbaypartnership.org>

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