
THE
TRUST
for
PUBLIC
LAND



THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND
CONSERVING LAND FOR PEOPLE



Return on Investment in Land for Maine's Future

Implications for the Down East Region



Land for People:

The Trust for Public Land conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come.

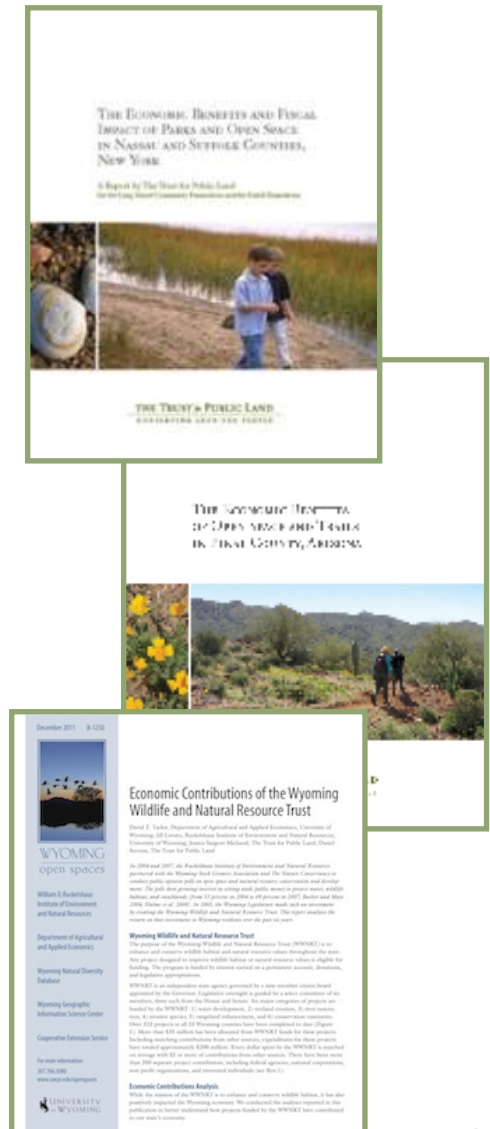
Mission Statement

With over 400 staff working in 40 offices, with a local TPL office in Portland



TPL's Experience

- TPL has a wealth of experience measuring the economic benefits and fiscal impacts of land conservation.
- Select recent TPL publications
 - North Carolina's Return on the Investment in Land Conservation, 2011
 - Economic Benefits of Open Space and Trails in Pinal County, Arizona, 2011
 - Economic Contributions of the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, 2011
 - Economic Benefits of New York's Environmental Protection Fund, 2012





Investment in Land Conservation

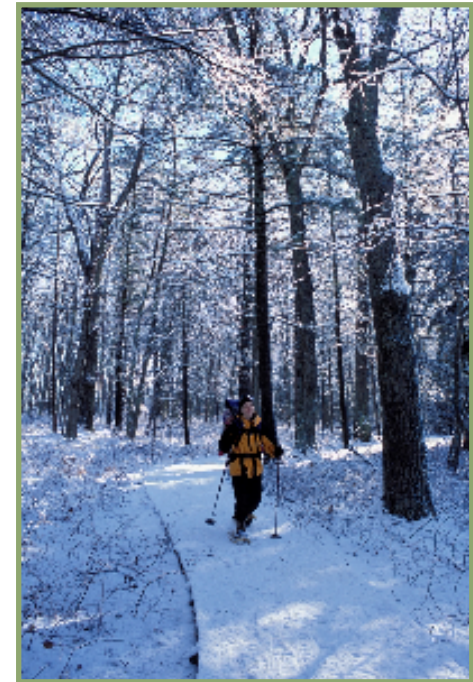
- Average annual spending on land conservation
 - \$4.78 million
- Average annual acres conserved
 - 42,300
- Average cost per acre of acquisition
 - \$113





Methodology

- Mapped in GIS lands acquired through LMF
- Aligned the LMF spending for acquired lands
- Determined the underlying land cover type of each acre acquired
 - National Land Cover Dataset
- Consolidated into 13 categories of land cover types





Mapped Acquisitions

Year	Acres	Spending
2010	335	\$107,000
2009	7,990	\$2,910,000
2008	9,970	\$3,210,000
2007	44,400	\$7,400,000
2006	200,000	\$5,420,000
2005	15,600	\$2,570,000
2004	30,300	\$8,360,000
2003	88,400	\$9,070,000
2002	22,700	\$7,860,000
2001	6,950	\$3,210,000
2000	22,400	\$1,140,000
1999	284	\$693,000
1998	1,160	\$100,000



Acres Acquired by Land Cover Type

Land Cover Type	Acres	Percent
Evergreen Forest	145,000	32.2%
Mixed Forest	129,000	28.7%
Deciduous Forest	62,900	14.0%
Shrub/Scrub	54,100	12.0%
Woody Wetland	35,600	7.91%
Grassland/ Herbaceous	8,280	1.84%
Emergent Herbaceous Wetland	6,370	1.42%
Open Water	3,100	<1%
Developed Open Space	1,950	<1%
Barren Land	1,360	<1%
Pasture/Hay	1,160	<1%
Developed Other	831	<1%
Cultivated Crops	255	<1%
Total	450,000	100%



Methodology

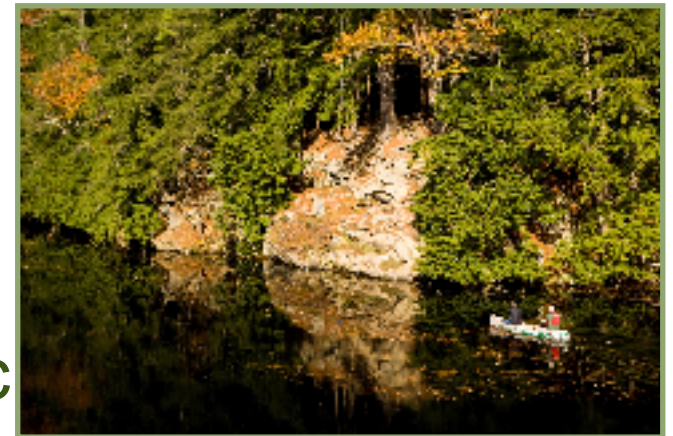
- Using existing literature estimated the kinds of benefits these ecosystems provide and the value of these benefits.
- Multiplied the economic value per acre by the number of acres in each ecosystem category.
- Compared the benefits generated to the state's investment in land conservation.





Results

- The investment of \$76.0 million (present value) in land conservation has
 - Helped acquire 450,000 acres
 - Yields \$833 million in public benefits
 - Every dollar invested in LMF returns \$11





Drinking Water Protection

- Branch Lake
 - Sole water source for Ellsworth
 - Conservation easement on 1,170 acres and 3.5 miles of shoreline
 - Conversion to residential development would have required \$4 million retrofit and \$100,000 in annual operating costs



Land for Maine's Future Board of Directors. Evaluating the Economic Benefits of Land Conservation in Maine. June 2011.



Commercial Fishing

Subsector	Sales (billions)	Income (millions)	Jobs
Commercial Harvesters	\$0.20	\$73.8	19,800
Seafood Processors & Dealers	\$0.09	\$28.7	2,350
Seafood Wholesalers & Distributors	\$0.13	\$64.4	825
Retail	\$0.60	\$360	1,240
Total	\$1.01	\$527	15,400



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, Fisheries Economics of the U.S. – 2008



Tourism & Outdoor Recreation

- Outdoor Recreation
 - Hunting, fishing, & wildlife recreation
 - \$2.95 billion in sales
 - 47,700 jobs
 - \$210 million sales tax
 - Guiding industry
 - Snowmobiling
 - All Terrain Vehicles
 - LMF Recreation (5 projects)
 - \$17.3 million revenue
 - 510 jobs





Forest Products

- Forestry and logging
 - 2,460 jobs
 - \$94.8 million in wages
- Forestry related manufacturing
 - \$2 billion value added
 - 13,000 jobs





Agriculture

- Farming and its related industries add
 - \$1.7 billion in value added
 - 8,220 jobs
- Wild Blueberries
 - \$49.5 million processing value of production
- Organic Farming
 - \$36 million value added
 - 1,600 jobs
- Potatoes
 - \$540 million in sales
 - 6,100 jobs
- Agri-tourism
 - \$28.3 million in sales
 - 1,760 jobs

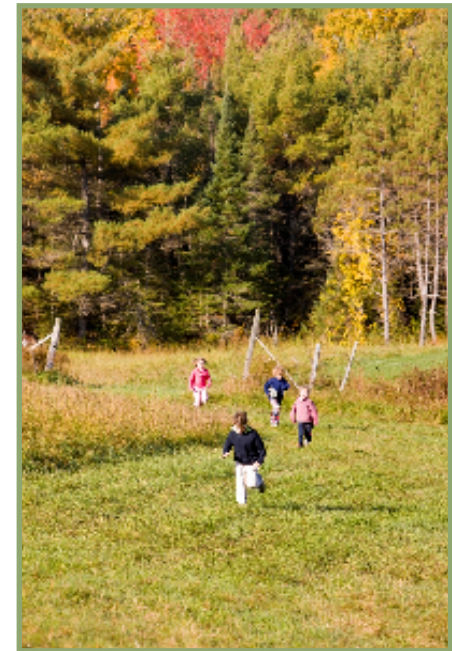


Maine Agriculture in the Classroom
www.ag4me.org



Impact

- Shared results with legislative leaders from both parties
- Released to public
- Media coverage
- \$5 million LMF bond referred to November ballot





Implications for the Down East Region

- Likely high ROI
- Supports local economies
- High quality of life
- Economic development strategy





Report available at:

www.tpl.org/maine



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