
SOCIETY FOR THE
PROTECTION OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE
FORESTS



117th ANNUAL REPORT

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Thanks to a conservation-minded landowner and collaboration among partners, the Forest Society acquired an easement on 36 acres of Emery Farm along the Oyster River. The easement ensured permanent protection of the river frontage and allowed the ongoing use of the land as a farm.



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The Forest Society's Board of Trustees: (front row, from left) Rebecca Oreskes, Amy McLaughlin, Deanna Howard, Peter Fauver, Margo Connors, Charlie Bridges, Bill Crangle; (middle row, from left) Drew Kellner, Andy Lietz, Jane Difley, John Brighton, Karen Moran; (back row, from left) Bill Tucker, Stephen Froling, Andy Smith. Not pictured: Deb Buxton, Lorin Rydstrom, Barbara Russell, Merle Schotanus.

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Note: Deanna Howard, chair,
is notified and welcomed to attend
all committee meetings



117th Annual Report

May 1, 2017–April 30, 2018

To our members:

Over the course of the Forest Society's 117-year history, we have taken on challenges large and small.

We were founded in 1901 to help protect the forests of the White Mountains from further liquidation. In 1911, we helped to convince the U.S. Congress to enact the Weeks Act, which created the eastern national forest system. In 1918, the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) acquired its first parcels of land in Grafton County. This year, we celebrate with our partners the 100th anniversary of the founding of the WMNF. The mature forests now growing in the Whites speak to the success of this last century of work.

As a forestry organization tasking ourselves with “perpetuating the forests of New Hampshire through their wise use and complete reservation in places of special scenic beauty,” we have never idled in our quest to fulfill that 1904 mission statement. We celebrate milestones such as protecting Mount Monadnock, Mount Sunapee, Mount Kearsarge, Franconia Notch, and the Connecticut Lakes headwaters—more than a million acres of protected land over the course of a century.

In February, after eight years of advocacy, we added the defeat of the Northern Pass transmission line proposal to our list of conservation successes when the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) voted unanimously to deny the project a permit.

As with other major accomplishments, we worked with partners to defeat Northern Pass. In addition to working with the Appalachian Mountain Club and the Conservation Law Foundation, we also banded together with cities and towns who shared our conviction that Northern Pass was not a project that benefited New Hampshire. Most importantly, we stood with thousands of New Hampshire citizens and landowners who opposed Northern Pass and who, time and again, spoke up in favor of a landscape unspoiled by transmission towers across two-thirds of our state. Citizens spoke eloquently and passionately in favor of trees not towers. We thank everyone who committed their time and resources to help the right thing for New Hampshire happen for the right reason.



From left: As part of the Forest Society's Mount Major Outdoor Classroom, volunteer educator Russ Wilder (bottom left) led a course on landscapes and literature for a group of 11th and 12th graders from Oyster River High School; just a short drive from downtown Portsmouth, Creek Farm has become a favorite spot for hiking, paddling, and nature-based programming; (top right) a group of North Country landowners in opposition to Northern Pass prepare for a cross-examination during the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee hearings in October 2017. These landowners were among thousands of citizens willing to speak up on behalf of New Hampshire's landscapes; (bottom right) in February, newspapers covered the NH Site Evaluation Committee's rejection of the Northern Pass proposal.

That said, the fight against Northern Pass is not yet over. Eversource has appealed the SEC decision to the New Hampshire Supreme Court, and we are actively fighting to defend the hard-won victory. So, as I thank you for the generosity and participation that allowed us to beat back Northern Pass, I trust we can count on your ongoing support.

During the last eight years, the Forest Society has worked to defend conserved lands from Northern Pass and protected some 34,000 additional acres. In this past fiscal year, we conserved 1,004 acres through 12 projects. Seven of those were lands we acquired in fee, including four additions to existing Forest Reservations. We continue our effort to improve and protect our reservations through strategic additions of abutting lands.

The other five projects yielded conservation easements on nearly 300 acres. We continue to focus, strategically, on land with particularly high conservation values, such as the easement on land owned by David Hills in Durham that is rich farmland

with frontage on the Oyster River in the Great Bay estuary. That project was made possible in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and the Town of Durham with additional funding from the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. All our conservation projects only happen thanks to the generosity of our donors and the landowners who choose to work with us.

As of the end of the 2018 fiscal year, we own 185 Forest Reservations constituting 56,122 acres in more than 100 communities in New Hampshire. Additionally, we hold more than 700 conservation easements protecting 129,462 acres statewide. These protected lands—along with the White Mountain National Forest, state parks, state forests, and conserved lands of others—are part of what makes New Hampshire, New Hampshire.

As the accompanying reports show, our fiscal year was strong thanks to the long-term vision of our members who continue to advance our work through significant bequests and endowment



From left: Dave Anderson, Forest Society senior director of education, leads a “Five Hikes in Five Weeks” tour on maple tap and tubing technology in Lyndeborough; a February 2018 harvest of hardwood logs from the western side of Monadnock Reservation in Jaffrey.

gifts. On the expense side, the cost of stewardship—for easements as well as our fee-owned Forest Reservations—is significant.

Stewardship is rewarding work that contributes directly to our long-term goals of promoting healthy working forests, clean water, diverse wildlife habitat, sustainable farmland, and a bounty of recreational opportunities.

We do derive revenue from our forest management activities even as we seek to improve the stands of timber we own. Despite challenging weather conditions over the winter, we conducted 15 harvests, treating 620 acres yielding 1.75 million board feet of saw logs and 16,000 tons of chips. Looking ahead, we face the same challenges as other forestland owners because of the weakness of the low-grade wood market.

Maintaining existing and developing new markets for low-grade wood are among the priorities of our advocacy. As the paper industry has faded, and with wood energy struggling to compete economically with natural gas, the energy market for biomass is stressed. Emerging technologies may change the equation in the future. Strong markets help landowners keep forests as forests.

Advocacy at the state and federal level remains one of our most effective tools to advance natural resource protection. We are pleased with the outcome of the state commission on protection of water resources, especially the decision to make funding available for additional land conservation that focuses on protecting water quality. In most instances, the cost-effective way to provide clean water is to protect the forests that are within a watershed.

No less important is our desire to ensure that the conservation ethic of our current members is embraced and valued by a broad spectrum of the population, including younger generations. We recognize the need to engage urban and suburban audiences in forest conservation, and we see the opportunity to use our Forest Reservations to welcome people to the woods.

To that end, we have enjoyed success with our popular “Five Hikes in Five Weeks” programs in partnership with WMUR. In FY2018, we also reinvigorated our outreach at our Creek

Farm Reservation in Portsmouth, partnering with the Gundalow Company, Shoals Marine Lab, and other organizations. Our Mount Major Outdoor Classroom, in which we engage with schools in providing an educational component to annual hiking field trips, continues to grow with more than a dozen schools involved.

We also welcomed multiple schools at The Rocks in Bethlehem for the “Ag in the Classroom” curriculum, where we also host the NH Maple Museum and spring Maple Education Programs.

We also began two new initiatives: We developed a digital trails experience called Forest Explorer to engage and provide helpful information for people on our Reservations—it’s already in place at Mount Major. We also began filming a documentary about the Merrimack River, a threatened resource we rely on more than ever.

Our work is powered not just by generous donations and strategic partnerships. We trained 24 new volunteer land stewards during the fiscal year, bringing our total of land stewards to 185, providing 100 percent coverage of Forest Society Reservations. Our pilot Volunteer Easement Monitor Program (VEMP) saw seven volunteers monitor more than 20 conservation easement properties. Overall, we count more than 450 people as faithful volunteers.

I want to thank you, our members, for your consistent and generous support. The Forest Society can explore new initiatives, strive for aspirational goals, and take on stewardship challenges because of you.



Sincerely,

Jane A. Difley

Jane A. Difley
President/Forester

Land Stewardship and Educational Outreach Summary

Fiscal Year 2018 (May 1, 2017–April 30, 2018)

LAND STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS

Property Name	Location	Project
Diehl Family Forest	Lempster	Harvesting
Milton Street Tract	Sharon	Habitat and timber stand improvement
Kauffmann Forest	Stark	Road work and harvests
Mount Monadnock	Jaffrey	Monadnock Trails Week and multiple harvests
Harmon Preserve	Freedom	Prescribed burn
Quarry Mountain	Alton	Major storm repairs
Wenny-Baker Forest	Hillsboro	Building removal
Buxton Forest	Weare	Harvesting
Brundage Forest	Pittsburg	Boundary lines and monitoring
Porter Rogerson Forest	Tamworth	Harvesting
Kelley Forest	Gilmanton	Harvesting
Madame Sherri Forest	Chesterfield	Inventory completion
Creek Farm	Portsmouth	Landscaping volunteer workdays

Total: 13 projects

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH INITIATIVES

Mount Major Reservation	Alton	Mount Major Outdoor Classroom
Black Mountain Forest Reservation	Sutton	Kearsarge Outdoor Classroom
Creek Farm	Portsmouth	Creek Farm summer programs
The Rocks	Bethlehem	The Rocks educational programs
Merrimack Conservation Center	Concord	Conservation Center programs
Hay Reservation	Newbury	Spring and summer programs with The Fells
Grafton Pond	Grafton	Various programs
Farm and Forest Expo	Manchester	Public outreach
Fox Forest	Hillsboro	Cottrell-Baldwin Lecture Series continuation

Total: 9 projects

Grand Total: 22 Land Stewardship Projects and Educational Outreach Initiatives

Land Conservation Summary

Fiscal Year 2018 (May 1, 2017–April 30, 2018)

Special thanks to those whose names are in bold and italics for having made a significant donation of their land or conservation easement's value.

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Landowner	Acres	Location	Property Name
<i>George and Nancy Bates</i>	68	Sandwich	Cold River
<i>Linda R. Lee</i>	109	Meredith	Leavitt Mountain
Charles and Elizabeth Goss	33	Madbury	The Powder Major's Farm
<i>David E. Hills</i>	36	Durham	Emery Farm on the Oyster River
Total: 4 projects	246 acres		

RESERVATIONS

<i>Evan and Jonathan Snyder</i>	213	Salisbury	Porkepyn Rylle Forest, completing gift initiated by their late mother, Gracia Harris Snyder
<i>Wayne Carter Estate</i>	39	Dublin	
<i>Jean Jordan</i>	24	Haverhill	
Lewis Jeffrey	72	Walpole	Addition to High Blue Reservation
<i>John and Pamela McPherson</i>	204	Groton	Addition to Cockermouth Forest
Equality Federation Institute	67	Clarksville	Addition to Washburn Family Forest
Kathleen and Barry Williams	91	Middleton	Addition to Moose Mountains Reservation
Total: 7 projects	710 acres		

LAND SOLD SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION EASEMENT

Upper Saco Valley Land Trust (buyer)	48	Bartlett	Trailhead on East Branch Rd., part of land given to Forest Society by Richard A. Ware
	48 acres		

Grand Total: 12 Projects, New Acres Protected	1,004
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Land Conservation, Stewardship, and Educational Outreach Initiatives

Fiscal Year 2018

Total of 12 new land conservation projects protecting 1,004 new acres.

Total of 22 new land stewardship projects and educational outreach initiatives.

Land Conservation Projects

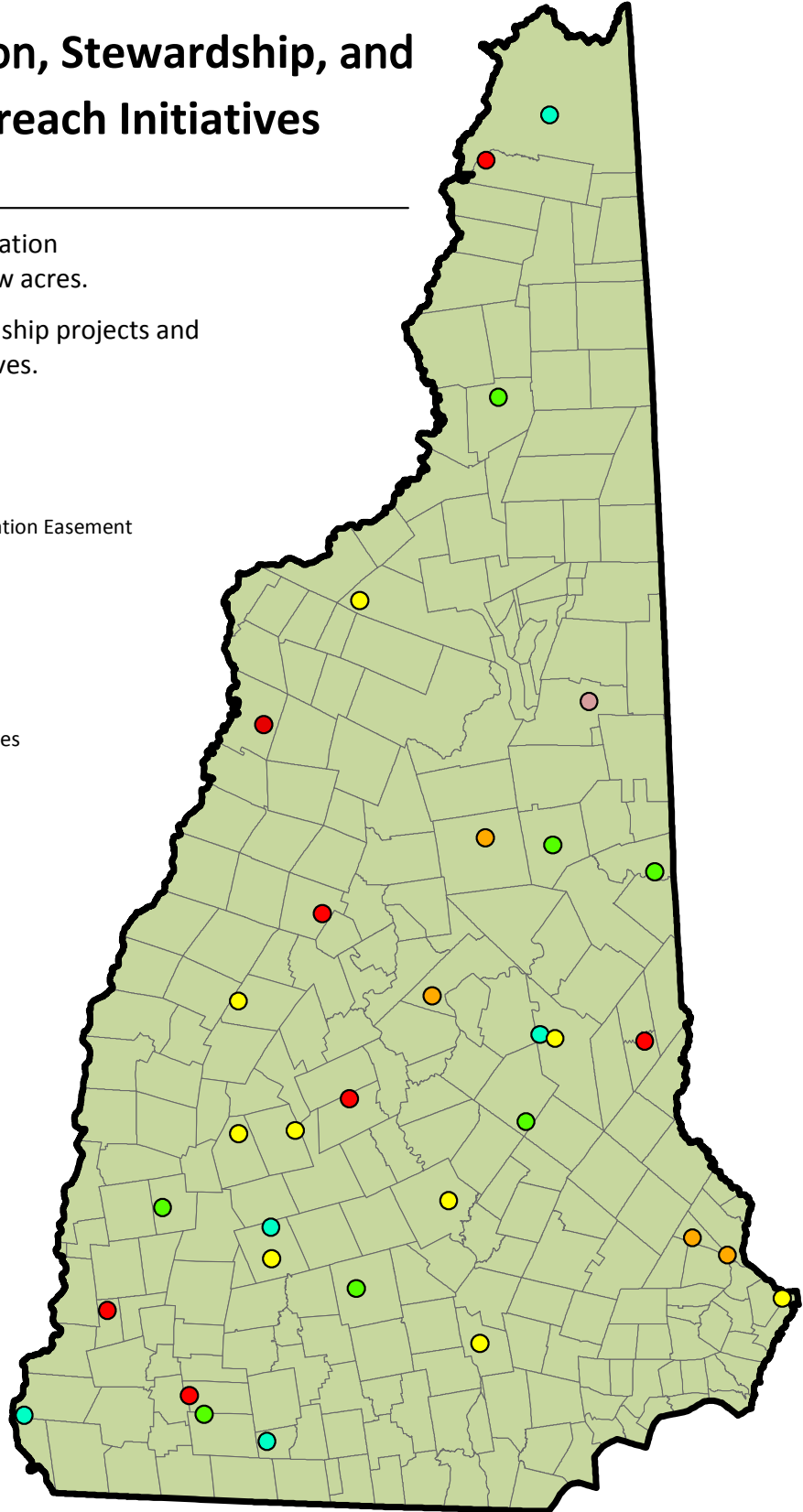
- Fee Reservations
- Easements
- Land Sold Subject to Conservation Easement

Land Stewardship Projects

- Timber Harvests
- Other Projects

Educational Outreach

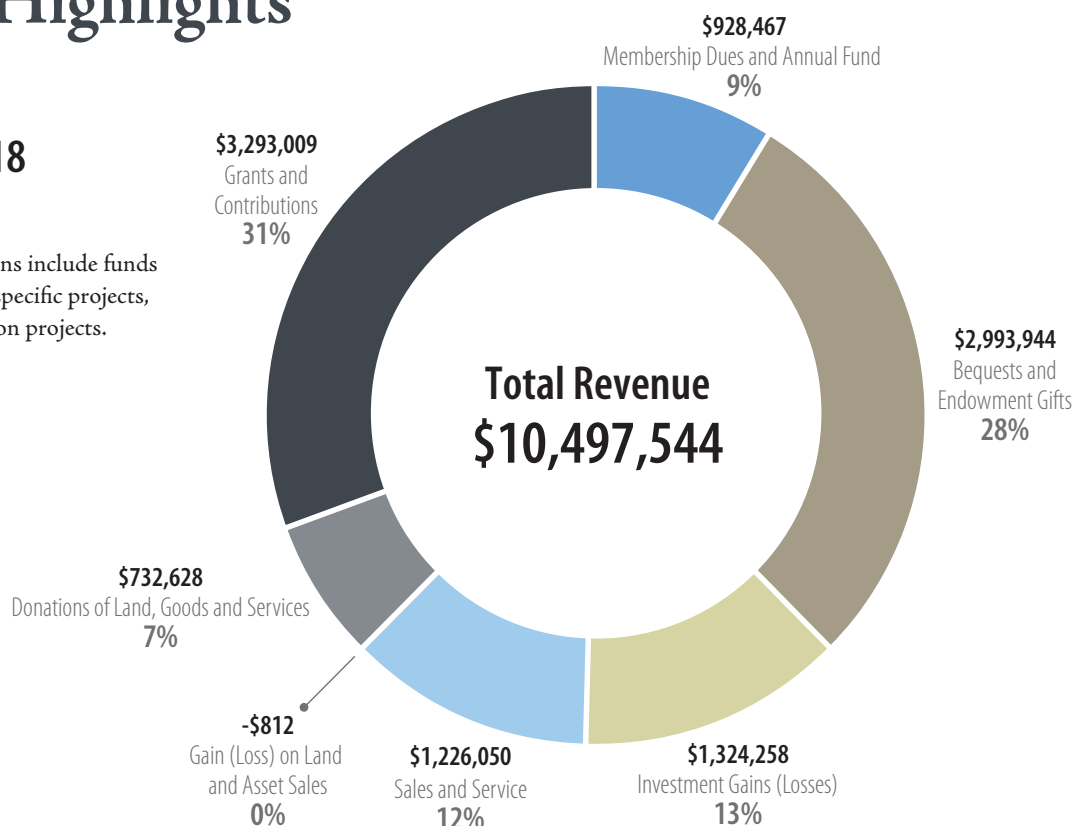
- Educational Outreach Initiatives



Financial Highlights

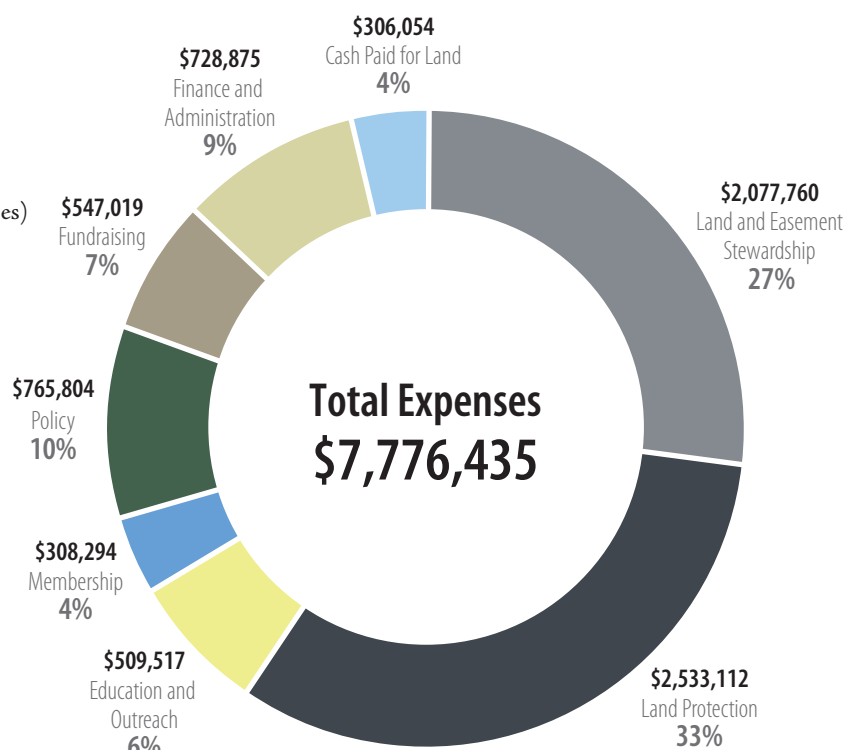
Fiscal Year 2018 Revenue

Grants and contributions include funds for operations and for specific projects, including land protection projects.



Fiscal Year 2018 Expenses

This chart includes the Forest Society's expenses by program (functional expenses) as well as the cash paid for land.



Questions on the financial statements should be emailed to Denise Vaillancourt (vice president of finance) at dvaillancourt@forestsociety.org or Susanne Kibler-Hacker (vice president of development) at skh@forestsociety.org.

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2018

Revenue and Support	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Annual fund	468,020	–	–	468,020
Contributions	109,190	1,736,435	–	1,845,625
Bequests	1,812,536	–	–	1,812,536
Endowment gifts	–	–	1,052,638	1,052,638
Grants	127,384	1,320,000	–	1,447,384
Contributions of land	52,327	–	532,301	584,628
Contributions for land and land stewardship	–	–	128,770	128,770
Investment income	106,168	219,128	20	325,316
Realized & unrealized gains on investments	294,159	704,783	–	998,942
Loss on disposal of assets	(812)	–	–	(812)
Membership dues	460,447	–	–	460,447
Rental income	305,915	–	–	305,915
Forest operations	273,589	–	–	273,589
Reimbursement for services	105,015	–	–	105,015
Sale of materials	434,608	–	–	434,608
Donated conservation easements, goods, and services	148,000	–	–	148,000
Cash surrender value of life insurance policy	106,145	–	–	106,145
Miscellaneous income	778	–	–	778
Total Revenue and Support	4,803,469	3,980,346	1,713,729	10,497,544
Net assets released from restrictions for satisfaction of purpose	3,739,192	(3,739,192)	–	–
Total Revenue, Support, and Net Assets released from restriction	8,542,661	241,154	1,713,729	10,497,544
Program Expenses				
Land and Easement Stewardship	2,077,760	–	–	2,077,760
Land Protection	2,533,112	–	–	2,533,112
Education & Outreach	509,517	–	–	509,517
Membership	308,294	–	–	308,294
Policy	765,804	–	–	765,804
	6,194,487	–	–	6,194,487
Supporting Services and General Expenses				
Fundraising	547,019	–	–	547,019
Finance and administration	728,875	–	–	728,875
	1,275,894	–	–	1,275,894
Total Expenses	7,470,381	–	–	7,470,381
Increase (decrease) in net assets	1,072,280	241,154	1,713,729	3,027,163
Net Assets, beginning of year	7,183,861	6,472,983	69,309,792	82,966,636
Net Assets, end of year	8,256,141	6,714,137	71,023,521	85,993,799

Assets

	FY 2018	FY 2017
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,597,447	3,522,418
Receivables		
Current portion of contributions receivable	1,726,923	2,065,317
Other receivables, including bequests	96,830	2,631
Inventories	195,067	208,890
Prepaid expenses	34,336	59,025
Total Current Assets	4,650,603	5,858,281
Land	62,876,335	61,985,653
Property and equipment (net)	2,667,565	2,811,150
Investments and Other Assets		
Investments	16,285,221	12,900,201
Contributions receivable (long term, net)	24,056	16,437
Inventories (long term)	276,446	276,043
Other long-term assets	–	105,437
	16,585,723	13,298,118
Total Assets	86,780,226	83,953,202



Softwood logs are processed on the Diehl Family Forest in Lempster. This seed-tree harvest removed mature white pine trees during an exceptional seed year with the goal of regenerating a new cohort of softwood trees.

Liabilities and Net Assets

	FY 2018	FY 2017
Current Liabilities		
Current portion of note payable	71,250	71,250
Current portion of annuities payable	31,914	35,639
Current portion of deferred compensation	–	21,000
Accounts payable	69,641	33,811
Accrued liabilities	93,073	96,363
Total Current Liabilities	265,878	258,063
Long-Term Liabilities		
Note payable (less current portion)	363,750	435,000
Annuities payable (less current portion, net)	156,799	167,089
Deferred compensation (less current portion)	–	126,414
Total Long-Term Liabilities	520,549	728,503
Total Liabilities	786,427	986,566
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	3,409,067	2,245,502
Unrestricted (invested in land, property, and equipment)	4,847,074	4,938,359
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	8,256,141	7,183,861
Temporarily restricted	6,714,137	6,472,983
Permanently restricted	71,023,521	69,309,792
Total Net Assets	85,993,799	82,966,636
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	86,780,226	83,953,202

For details, see the complete audited financial statements on our website at forestsociety.org/annual-reports.

Questions on the financial statements should be emailed to Denise Vaillancourt (vice president of finance) at dvaillancourt@forestsociety.org or Susanne Kibler-Hacker (vice president of development) at skh@forestsociety.org.

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The Forest Society acquired a 91-acre parcel from Barry and Kathleen Williams to conserve a key piece of land at the heart of Moose Mountains Reservation.

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A deer beds down in the grass above Beauty Ledge at Moose Mountains Reservation.

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Hannah Boisvert (right) and Natalie Duncan pose for a photo during their 2017 summer internship on Mount Major.

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WMUR's Mike Haddad reports from atop Pine Mountain on the Forest Society's Evelyn H. and Alvin D. Morse Preserve in Alton as part of a "Weather Wednesday" segment promoting the Forest Society's Five Hikes in Five Weeks series.

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During a timber harvest tour at Gap Mountain forest, consulting forester Eric Radlof of Bay State Forestry discussed his marking to meet Forest Society silvicultural goals.



Forest Society member Steve Grega, pictured with walking buddy Cleopatra, donated funds to help conserve an addition to High Blue Reservation in Walpole.

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Ann and Joe Kearns
Kiwanis Club of Concord
Legacy Linked Charitable
Fund – Fidelity

Marquis George MacDonald
Foundation, Inc.

Mr. Leonard Martin
The McIninch Foundation
Merrimack County Savings Bank



In fall 2017, the Forest Society assisted on a prescribed fire on 27 acres of the Harmon Preserve in Freedom. The Forest Society has worked for the past decade to restore the globally rare pitch pine–scrub oak community to this property, and to date, has prescribed burned nearly 150 acres.

Ms. Tami Nason
The Nichols Trust
Northeast Delta Dental
Northern Trust
Peter and Roni Pekins
James R. Pringle
Robin Colson Memorial Foundation
Robins Egg Fund – Schwab
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Dr. John and Mrs. Gale Sauter
Schnitzer Family Foundation
The Sim-Ayres Foundation
Lee Spyridakis
St. Paul's School
The Stettenheim Foundation
Tallman Fund – NHCF*
The Tarleton Fund – NHCF*
Trail Support Fund – NHCF*
The Virginia Cretella Mars Foundation
Winokur Family Fund –
TIAA Charitable
"You Have Our Trust" Fund – NHCF*

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David and Rosamond Carlson
Mr. and Mrs. John T. Cederholm
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Mr. Kevin D. Clark and
Ms. Sharon P. Kunz
Clifford and Linda Straw
Charitable Fund – Fidelity
Mr. John H. Clippinger



John and Pamela McPherson donated 204 acres of forestland adjacent to Cockermouth Forest in Groton, a property known for Bald Knob (above) and its scenic vistas.

Mr. James D. Colthart and
Mrs. Jackie A. Colthart
Carolyn Coolidge
Mr. Robert J. Cote
Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Craven
Scott and Kim Cunningham
David and Kathleen Dandurand
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Ms. Elizabeth Schuyler Holcombe
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Ms. Meg Hydock

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Elizabeth S. Trayner
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BCM Environmental & Land Law, PLLC
Event Builders, LLC
Great Bay Resource
Protection Partnership
Lakes Region Conservation Trust
Merrimack Conservation Partnership
Merrimack County Savings Bank
Nathan Wechsler & Company

Onepath
Piscataqua Region
Estuaries Partnership

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(\$2,500–\$4,999)**

Anonymous
Meredith Village Savings Bank
Northeast Delta Dental
Northland Forest Products, Inc.
The Secret Agency, LLC
St. Paul's School

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(\$1,000–\$2,499)**

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NEMO Equipment, Inc.
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Corporation
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EOS Research, Ltd.
Fly By Disc Golf
Half Moon Enterprises
Harvest Capital Management, Inc.
Kiwanis Club of Concord
Life Safety Fire Protection, Inc.
Lyme Timber Company
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Association – Southern NH
Peabody & Smith Realty, Inc.
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Sunset Park Campground
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Jr. Chapter

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Nor'Easters Snowmobile Club
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Oracle Corporation
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BCM Environmental & Land Law, PLLC
Bully Boy Distillers
Event Builders, LLC
Nathan Wechsler & Company
New England Wood Pellet, Inc.
Onepath
The Secret Agency, LLC
Woodstock Inn Station & Brewery

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New Hampshire Bar Foundation
New York Community Trust
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Foundation
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Endowment Fund
Renaissance Charitable Foundation
Schwab Charitable Fund
The T. Rowe Price Program
for Charitable Giving
TIAA Charitable
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Endowment Program

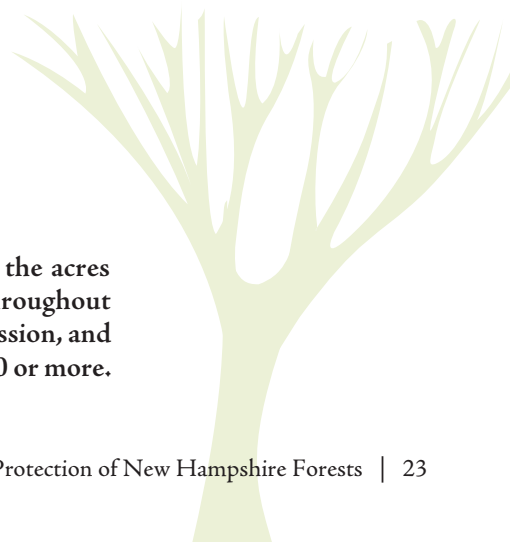
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THANK YOU

Though we count donations to the Forest Society in dollars, their impact is reflected in the acres we protect, the policy goals we achieve, and the passion for conservation we inspire throughout New Hampshire. The Trustees and staff thank all supporters for their dedication to our mission, and we only regret that our space limits our annual listing to those donors who contributed \$250 or more.





What Will We Leave Them?

Since 1901, members of the Forest Society have taken action to protect this land we call New Hampshire. Its natural beauty colors our lives. Our forests, lakes and streams contribute to the overall health and well being of our communities.

From the forests of the North Country to the shorelines stretching along the Connecticut River to the wetlands along the seacoast, our protective work becomes more and more important in a changing world. Ongoing care of our forests, mountains and fields nurtures an environment where wildlife thrives and the air and water can remain clean.

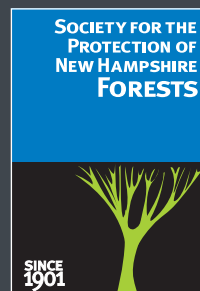
Your membership helps to preserve a way of life that is enriched by the landscape around us—the New Hampshire way of life.

Thank you for supporting the Forest Society. We can't do it without you.

Clockwise from top left: Gearing up for a hike on Gap Mountain; all ages can enjoy the Forest Society's Five Hikes in Five Weeks series; red columbine grows wild on a sunlit forest floor; volunteers lend a hand and some muscle during Monadnock Trails Week.

Front cover: Morning light blankets a grove of eastern hemlock in the Powder Major's Forest. Photo by Jerry and Marcy Monkman/EcoPhotography.

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