

Community Forests: A path to prosperity and connection

13 MILE WOODS COMMUNITY FOREST / ERROL TOWN FOREST

NOTABLE BENEFITS



RECREATION



TOURISM



FOREST-BASED PRODUCTS

ACRES: 7,108

YEAR ESTABLISHED: 2005

OWNERSHIP: Town of Errol

MANAGEMENT: Town of Errol

COMMUNITY SERVED: Errol, New Hampshire

POPULATION: 234

TOTAL ACQUISITION COST:
\$4,620,000
(\$4,050,000 in Phase I and
\$570,000 in Phase II)

For a comprehensive review of the community and economic benefits provided by this forest and others, go to the full report at www.tpl.org/economic-benefits-community-forests



The 13 Mile Woods Community Forest, also known as **Errol Town Forest**, was created by the 234 residents of Errol, New Hampshire in 2005, to protect the character of their community, ensure economic stability, and safeguard their forest-based economy. Stemming from a broad partnership, the town originally protected a 5,269 acre forest using a mix of funding. In 2009, the town added an additional 1,839 acres, bringing the community forest to 7,108 acres. Since then, the community forest has proven to be an incredibly important community investment that protects a way of life, safeguards the forest-based economy, and provides recreational opportunities for residents and tourists.





Bolstering tourism: The forest, and the adjacent Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge, provide an essential gateway entrance to the Town of Errol. The 11-mile trail network within the forest provides connections between the motorized recreational trail system and the town amenities that visitors seek on their trips, such as gas stations and lodging. The outdoor opportunities afforded by the forest bring visitors. These visitors spend money in the local economy. For example, snowmobiling, fishing, and hunting provide more than **\$2.2 million** in visitor spending in the Errol area annually, with hunting and fishing accounting for over half of the visitor economic impact. This spending is estimated to support **20 jobs** in Errol.

According to Bill Freedman, an Errol resident, former selectman, hotel owner, and fly fisherman, "13 Mile Woods has helped to keep Errol beautiful. Our only economic drivers up here are our forest products and recreation. It's very important to have land conservation—people want to see moose, osprey, eagles; they want to fish and hike. And when they come up here, the town benefits."

Generating timber revenue: In the first seven years of town management, the forest produced **\$1.7 million** in net revenues and generated over **\$2 million** in earnings in the logging sector. Each year, the forest supports **two local full time equivalent jobs** in forestry and logging and indirectly supports **10 additional jobs** in other sectors of forest products and manufacturing. It is estimated that sustainable timber management over the next ten years would result in over **\$1.07 million** in revenue.



This project was completed in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and would not have been possible without generous support from the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities and the U.S. Forest Service.

The Trust for Public Land creates parks and protects land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come.

www.tpl.org

For additional information: Michael Giammusso | National Lands Initiative Lead
3 Shipman Place | Montpelier, VT 05602 | (802)249-9512

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.