

# Community Forests: A path to prosperity and connection

## RANDOLPH TOWN FOREST

### NOTABLE BENEFITS



RECREATION



TOURISM



FOREST-BASED PRODUCTS

ACRES: 10,198

YEAR ESTABLISHED: 2001

OWNERSHIP: Town of Randolph, easement held by New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development (funded by FLP)

MANAGEMENT: Town of Randolph

COMMUNITY SERVED: Randolph, New Hampshire

POPULATION: 398

TOTAL ACQUISITION COST: \$4,010,000

Funded in part by U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy Program



JOE KLEMENTOVICH

In 2001, after two years of hard work by a coalition of residents, officials, and nonprofit organizations, the Town of Randolph created a new 10,198-acre community forest. Simultaneously, there was an additional 3,000 acres that included the Pond of Safety – a nearby area of cultural and historical importance – that was added to White Mountain National Forest. The community forest protection was part of a larger ongoing effort to connect the two units of the White Mountain National Forest, and create an 800,000 acre block of contiguous conserved forest lands that contribute to the local timber and outdoor-recreation based economies.

**Randolph Town Forest** is providing demonstrable economic benefits for local residents. This investment reinforced the region's forest-based economy by providing opportunities for timber and maple syrup production, and also providing access for traditional outdoor activities and bolstering the region's recreational assets that are critical to the region's identity, tourism economy, and sense of place.



JOE KLEMENTOVICH

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](http://www.tpl.org/economic-benefits-community-forests)



### Generating timber revenue and maple syrup:

Timber and maple syrup: In the first two years of harvesting, the town realized \$19,600 in net revenues, with management activities providing jobs for a three-person professional forestry team. More recently, timber harvests have occurred approximately once every two years. The town also entered a contract with a local maple syrup producer who plans to lease 35,000 maple taps on 750 acres of the forest, a project that keeps five people employed full-time. The maple project is expected to bring in 50 percent more revenue to the town over 15 years than it would if the same section of the forest were managed for timber. Timber and maple revenues are used to make payments to the town in lieu of taxes, resulting in no loss of the town's tax base, which prior to its protection received tax revenue for the property's forest land uses.

**Enabling recreation:** Randolph Town Forest boasts dozens of miles of trails, forest roads, and glade lines for hiking, cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, and snowshoeing. These trails are used to host the Randolph Ramble, a trail running race that attracts over 50 participants and is held annually in the fall. The property and Pond of Safety create opportunities for hunting, fishing, and limited trapping. During winter, snowmobiling is popular on over 15 miles of trails maintained by three local clubs.

**Bolstering tourism:** The forest provides critical connectivity in the region, connecting two sections of the White Mountain National Forest, which is an important recreational asset. Each year, recreation spending from visitors to the White Mountain National Forest support 5,170 full- and part-time jobs, about \$177 million in labor income, and \$305 million in contributions to GDP.

**Promoting economic development:** The community forest supports local businesses, such as Hub North, which provides unique glamping – or upscale camping – accommodations in Gorham, New Hampshire. According to owners Kara and Jason Hunter, their target audience is outdoor enthusiasts, including backcountry skiers who use the community forest's glades. Mike Chabot, the owner of Gorham Hardware and Sport also sees recreational amenities, such as the community forest, as assets for his business because they give visitors more reasons to come to the area and rent or buy outdoor equipment. The community forest also helps preserve the area's rural character and quality of life, which preserves the seasonal resident culture and provides income for residents that provide caretaking and other services to seasonal residents.

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](http://www.tpl.org)

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