

CMP HELPS LAND TRUST END 2010 ON A HIGH NOTE: Single Biggest Land Project to Date

(SEARSPORT)--In late December Coastal Mountains Land Trust completed its largest single land conservation project ever, thanks to a land donation of more than 705 acres from Center Maine Power (CMP). Two properties, spanning the towns of Searsport, Stockton Springs, and Prospect, were transferred to the Land Trust as mitigation for wetlands alterations necessitated by CMP's recent grid expansion. Completion of this project now conserves forever an extensive area of inland forests and picturesque wetlands for the enjoyment of all in Waldo County and beyond.

The Main Stream Preserve, in Stockton Springs and Prospect, contains 249.6 acres and more than 6,000 feet of stream frontage. The Long Cove Headwaters Preserve in Searsport contains 455.7 acres. (Click [here](#) for a map showing location of two preserves.) Both properties feature a variety of wetlands, some of which have been enlarged and enhanced by beaver activity. Main and Half Moon Streams on the Main Stream Preserve have the potential to provide a secluded, scenic canoe trail during high water seasons. In addition to wetlands and waterways, the two preserves also offer a diverse array of wooded wildlife habitats, including rich, densely forested uplands and areas of regenerating young forest.

Ian Stewart, the Land Trust's Stewardship Director, expressed excitement over the two new preserves coming into his care: "Conservation of these two large properties is significant, and we're very grateful to CMP for the efforts they put into making these transfers happen as smoothly as possible. Both preserves have the potential to offer a wide range of outdoor opportunities, including hunting, fishing, canoeing, and hiking in a classic Maine woods setting."

The Land Trust intends to develop trails and improve public access to these preserves over the next few years, supported by generous stewardship funding from CMP and the Pollinator's Fund of the Maine Community Foundation. Ecological inventories will be carried out to inform the management plan of each preserve, including where trails and parking areas should be located.

Coastal Mountains Land Trust has worked for 25 years to permanently protect land to benefit the natural and human communities of the western Penobscot Bay region. The CMP transfer boosts the Land Trust's conserved land total to more than 8,800 acres, which including 24 preserves (comprising 61 individual tracts) protecting wildlife habitat and special places that are open to the public for low-impact outdoor recreation.