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Appalachian Trail Landscape Permanently Protected

The property is in Maine's High Peaks region

Rangeley, ME: The Trust for Public Land today announced the permanent protection of 8,532 acres near the Appalachian Trail in Maine's High Peaks region. The property is also a popular destination for trout fishing, hunting, hiking, and snowmobiling. The protection of this land ensures permanent public access in a part of Maine where many communities are looking for more places to get outside in all four seasons. The project also maintains one of the most scenic views from the Appalachian Trail, keeps the land as a working forest to sustain Maine's forestry sector, and buffers a wilderness training facility operated by the Navy. The property is permanently protected through a conservation easement held by the U.S. Navy.

"This property represents what makes the High Peaks so special and protects public access to a favorite recreation destination in the mountains of western Maine," said Betsy Cook, Maine State Director for The Trust for Public Land, "We're proud to provide 8,500 more acres for all Mainers to get outside during the COVID-19 pandemic while also strengthening our state's outdoor recreation economy."

This property was protected using funding from the Department of Defense's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program, which works to protect land surrounding military bases from development so that the military can safely continue operations and training while working to reduce impacts to the local community.

"This project ensures the continued realistic wilderness training for the Navy while protecting the natural beauty of Maine's High Peaks region," said Capt. Daniel Ettlich, shipyard and installation commander at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. "We are proud to be part of such a successful effort in support of our mission and our commitment as good stewards of the environment."

This project adds to land The Trust for Public Land has already conserved along the Appalachian Trail in the High Peaks, including [Redington Forest](#) (9,580 acres), Lone Mountain (1,155 acres), [Crocker Mountain](#) (12,046 acres), and [Orbeton Stream](#) (5,774 acres). The Trust for Public Land will continue to work in the region and plans to conserve an additional 16,000 acres in the High Peaks over the next three years.

The Maine Congressional Delegation was instrumental in supporting annual funding for the REPI program, enabling its use in Maine.

“Maine’s High Peaks are among our state’s greatest treasures, allowing Maine people of all backgrounds to connect with the beautiful lands that surround us and driving important economic sectors, including tourism and outdoor recreation,” said U.S. Senators Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Angus King (I-Maine), and Representative Jared Golden (D-Maine) in a joint statement. “The region also hosts an important military training facility, which ensures our servicemembers can hone the skills they need to keep our nation safe. We are thrilled that this effort will permanently protect more than 8,500 acres and allow future generations the same opportunity to enjoy this scenic Maine wilderness.”

About The Trust for Public Land

The Trust for Public Land creates parks and protects land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come. Millions of people live within a 10-minute walk of a Trust for Public Land park, garden or natural area, and millions more visit these sites every year. To support The Trust for Public Land and share why nature matters to you, visit www.tpl.org.