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MAINE MOUNTAIN COLLABORATIVE OFFERING GRANTS FOR LAND CONSERVATION

Portland, ME, June 21, 2021– Today the Maine Mountain Collaborative (MMC) announced the re-launch of the Maine Appalachian Mountain Corridor Transaction Fund with a generous \$250,000 grant from the EJK Foundation in May, 2021. The Transaction Fund provides financial assistance for land conservation projects in the 5 million-acre Maine Appalachian Mountain Corridor (see map). Since the Transaction Fund was created in 2017 it has granted \$185,381 to 13 projects helping to conserve 36,541 acres for ecological protection, wildlife corridors, climate resilience, public recreational access, and sustainable forestry. The grant from the EJK Foundation is an investment in the successful and well-established purpose of the transaction fund and in seeking ecological uplift on lands in the region.

The Fund focuses support on transaction costs associated with land conservation projects that will advance ecological protection or restoration. Transaction costs may include surveys, appraisals, legal fees, title searches, closing services, deed preparation, baseline documentation, initial management plans. Grants of up to \$25,000 may be given for non-profit conservation organizations to cover all or a substantial portion of these transaction costs. Up to 20% of the grant may be used for staff time associated with the project.

Previous funding was provided in 2017 by the Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust (\$100,000) and an anonymous donor (\$100,000). The Fund is administered by the Maine Mountain Collaborative (<http://mainemountaincollaborative.org/>), and is available for non-profit (501c3) organizations that are working to conserve forestland with notable ecological, recreational, or forestry values in the Maine Appalachian Mountain Corridor. Preference will be for projects more than 500 acres, but lands with exceptional values of a smaller size will be considered.

Proposals are accepted on a rolling basis, and must demonstrate how they will advance ecological protection or restoration. This could include ecological reserve components, require minimum stocking levels, [Exemplary Forestry](#) practice standards, or have tailored protection for wildlife, fish, or plant habitats specific to the land.

The [EJK Foundation](#) makes grants to advance landscape-scale conservation initiatives that enhance ecological values and feature sound plans for permanent protection and long-term stewardship.

The MMC is a coalition of statewide, regional, and national conservation and forestry organizations bringing a shared focus and innovative vision to accelerate the pace and scale of conservation in one of the world’s most intact temperate forests.

The Maine Mountain Collaborative members include the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust, Maine Audubon, the Conservation Fund, the Forest Society of Maine, Mahoosuc Land Trust, the New England Forestry Foundation, Northeast Wilderness Trust, Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust, and the Trust for Public Land.



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