



COLLINS BROOK HEADWATERS PROJECT

The Francestown Land Trust (FLT) is proud to announce the acquisition of the COLLINS BROOK HEADWATERS property. This project was the result of the collaborative effort of the Francestown Land Trust and the Francestown Conservation Commission (FCC). This purchase adds a critical one hundred acre lot to the Shattuck-Dinsmore land protection initiative that includes the Dinsmore Brook Conservation Area and the Shattuck Pond Town Forest. The property, accessed off Wilson Hill Rd., contains headwater streams of Collins Brook, frontage on two remote ponds, wet meadow/shrub wetlands, several vernal pools, and a swamp. These diverse habitats of mixed forests include 40-acres of Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat in the state, 50 acres of Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat in the Region, and 10 acres of supporting landscape according to the 2015 NH Fish & Game's Wildlife Action Plan maps. Ben Haubrich, FLT's land manager, says this is the most prolific wildlife habitat he has encountered anywhere in the Monadnock Region.

The Collins Brook Headwaters project total cost neared \$200,000, including: appraisal, survey, environmental assessment, baseline documentation report, stewardship plan, recording costs, legal fees, stewardship endowment, and more. The purchase was made possible by a New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) grant award in the amount of \$60,000. In addition to the LCHIP grant, FLT received a \$19,000 NH State Conservation Committee (Moose Plate) grant, \$10,000 from the Fields Pond Foundation, \$7500 from the Francestown Conservation Commission, \$7,000 from the Quabbin-to-

Cardigan Partnership and \$5,000 from the Davis Foundation, and \$15,000 from an anonymous grant. There were also significant private contributions, and many hours of donated time and services that helped make this project happen.

The Land Trust and the Conservation Commission will announce a celebratory hike on the property when the ground dries out. For more information on the Land Trust and a map (Miller and Dinsmore Brook Conservation Area):

<http://www.francestownlandtrust.org/> and the Conservation Commission:

http://francestown-nh.gov/Pages/FrancestownNH_ConCom/Index