

# Brief Primer on The Conservation Fund (“TCF”) (*Who??!*)

## TCF’s Mission:

*We are in the business of conservation, creating innovative solutions that drive nature-based action for climate protection, sustainable economies and vibrant communities.*

- ↑ Expertise = conservation real estate and finance; forestry/carbon
- ↑ Pre-acquisition and Bridge Loans – we have a “revolving fund” and financing tools
- ↑ Our partners define land project priorities; invite us in; we are temporary
- ↑ 9 million acres conserved since 1985; 522,105 acres in Maine
- ↑ Sampling of Maine Work:
  - Bold Coast - Cutler
  - 10 coastal islands
  - Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge
  - Forest Legacy Program and other working forest conservation easement projects
  - Reed Forest (32,444 acres with Apple and FSM)
  - Downeast Sunrise Easement (311,000 acres)
  - 36 land trust projects (150,000 acres *plus* Sunrise)
  - 29 agency projects (70,000 acres)
  - AMC partnership (55,000 acres in 100-Mile Wilderness)
  - Working Waterfronts - underway
  - Tribal projects

# Primary Strategic Focus Areas

## TCF's Vision:

*An America where nature and land are protected and valued as the engines driving climate solutions, sustainable economies and vibrant communities.*

**“Land Sustains Us”... (yes, “30 X 30” of course!)**

## Primary Focus Areas:

1. Save places that matter most
2. Mitigation solutions for renewable energy transition
3. Restore lands to Indigenous people
4. Working lands conservation:
  - 🌲 Food Security – protect at-risk farmland and make accessible to next gen. farmers
  - 🌲 Climate Smart Working Forest Conservation
    - 🌲 37 million acres of U.S. forests to be lost to development in the coming decade
    - 🌲 Wildlife habitat – 60% of at-risk species in U.S. forests
    - 🌲 Habitat connectivity
    - 🌲 Climate resiliency for species
    - 🌲 Climate mitigation - Carbon sequestration - ½ billion MT CO<sub>2</sub>e/year (U.S.)
    - 🌲 Water resources
    - 🌲 Stabilize or expand rural economies
    - 🌲 Recreation

# As the most forested state in the U.S., and with the highest percentage of private timberland, Maine is a strategic focus for TCF

## TCF's Working Forest Fund® Program

Since 2009 Start of WFF program:

- ↑ >1.2 million acres
  - ↑ 208,000 ac. in ME
- ↑ >\$1 billion revolving capital invested/reinvested
  - ↑ including first of its kind “green bond”
- ↑ 254 Metric Tons CO2e stored U.S.
- ↑ 7,380 jobs sustained in U.S.
- ↑ Active, certified forest management of all properties
- ↑ Goal = 5 million acres of highest risk/highest ecological value forests conserved in U.S.



TCF also has an analogue *pilot* program “Working Farms Fund”

# Some Limiting Factors In Realizing Maine's Goal

- 🌲 **Continued turnover of forest lands to investors**
  - 🌲 A big focus for TCF
- 🌲 **Lack of incentives for owners to participate in permanent conservation**
  - 🌲 Need more financial incentives – e.g. capture \$\$ value of public access
- 🌲 **Temporary nature of carbon agreements**
  - 🌲 Include carbon-focused management in FLP easements (with added financial incentive)
- 🌲 **State-side funding to match wall of federal funding**
  - 🌲 Re-up/ramp-up LMF and other funding mechanisms
- 🌲 **Lengthy public transactional/funding process (state and federal)**
  - 🌲 Do a quick “efficiency” review of state process to spot areas for improvement
  - 🌲 Recruit more qualified appraisers
- 🌲 **Growing anti-forestland conservation movement in rural U.S.**
  - 🌲 Stay ahead of this with continued community engagement on all projects
- 🌲 **Lack of forest products markets to support the landscape**