

# APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

Piscataquis County, Maine

This project is a major new business undertaking for the non-profit Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), which has maintained and operated the Appalachian Trail in New Hampshire for many years. In December 2004, AMC established a major recreational tourism business in western Maine while sustainably maintaining the commercial forestry of the area.

Commercial timbering is now conducted on about 25,000 of the 37,000 acres acquired. AMC is upgrading the quality of the standing timber while conducting its commercial timbering operations. Yet the recreational side of the business was the driving force behind this initiative. Previously, AMC had acquired a waterfront camp business and developed other waterfront camping facilities, including trail and hut development, within the project holdings. The complex facilitates both day use and multi-day use, particularly long-term destination use.

A major effort was made to include area communities, businesses, and interest groups in the planning process, to maximize community compatibility and positive economic impact. There has been substantial political and community support for this project because it is was designed to support both traditional and contemporary use of the land, and it is also congruent with the State of Maine's interest in promoting recreational tourism in the interior sections of the state.

This four-season recreational tourism/working forest business was developed with the help of Citizens Bank, the recipient of \$17 million of NMTC capacity and CCML's partnering lender for this project, which closed December 23, 2004.

## Qualifying Features

- Designated by the SBA as an area of particular economic distress

## Key Benefits

- Limits encroachment of development into environmentally sensitive working forests
- Creates additional recreational access opportunities
- High degree of community input
- Creates or retains 40-50 jobs associated with timber management, harvesting, and transportation
- Creates related jobs in the paper, sawmill, and wood products industries
- Will create new jobs for recreational access and eco-tourism business development (100-300)
- Preserves natural resources while allowing for certified stewardship of the working woodlands
- Protects vulnerable land

## CEI CAPITAL MANAGEMENT LLC

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