

AMC ROACH POND

Piscataquis County, Maine

The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) launched the Maine Woods Initiative (MWI) in 2003 as an innovative approach to land conservation that combines outdoor recreation, resource protection, economic development, sustainable forestry, and community partnerships in the Moosehead region. The strategy represents the most significant investment in conservation, recreation and certainly economic development in the AMC's 130-year history.

The first step in the MWI was the purchase of 37,000 acres in the region, completed in 2004 with the help of CEI Capital Management (CCML) and New Markets Tax Credits (NMTCs). The AMC Roach Pond deal serves as the next step in the process, adding an additional 29,500 acres of sustainable working forest and the Medawisla Wilderness Lodge and Cabins. The project also provides funds for the improvement of AMC's Gorman-Chairback camps.

Under AMC-ownership, public access to the Roach Pond Tract will be increased, including the placement of an easement on the lands held by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands which will ensure public access for hiking, skiing, hunting & fishing in perpetuity and the creation of the Moosehead Schools Project, which will offer outdoor learning experiences to every elementary, middle, and high school student in Piscataquis County, at least three times over the course of his or her school career for free or a nominal fee.

AMC's purchase of this land provides stability in the region in concert with other economic development, including the Maine's Land Use Regulation Commission's (LURC) recent approval of the Plum Creek Plan for the Moosehead Lake Region.

CCML allocated \$15 Million in NMTC capacity to finance the project. U.S. Bancorp CDC provided equity and AMC provided debt for this deal, which closed December 17, 2009.

Key Benefits

- Working forests certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).
- Public access easement on lands.
- Provides outdoor educational experiences to area schoolchildren.
- Provides stability for further development in the region.
- Creates eco-tourism jobs.
- Expands public recreation infrastructure.

Qualifying Features

- Non-Metropolitan Tract
- Maine Pine Tree Recreation Zone

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