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NEW MAINE LAND CONSERVATION FUND ANNOUNCED

ASSISTS LAND AND EASEMENT DONATION IN THE MAINE MOUNTAIN REGION

Phillips, ME, July 17, 2017– Today the Maine Mountain Collaborative announced the launch of a new conservation fund for land protection in the Maine mountain region. The \$100,000 “Maine Appalachian Mountain Corridor Conservation Fund” provides financial assistance for land conservation projects in the 5 million-acre Maine Appalachian Mountain Corridor. The fund supports transaction costs associated with donated (50% or more of value) conservation lands or easements.

“The Maine Mountain Collaborative is seeking to bring new sources of conservation funding into the region as well as innovate new conservation strategies, and this fund does both,” said Bryan Wentzell, Executive Director of the Collaborative. “This funding is meant to assist both small and large land trusts across the entire region.”

When generous, willing landowners wish to donate their land or an easement on their land for conservation, transaction costs such as surveys and legal fees can be an obstacle. This program provides funding for conservation organizations to cover all or a substantial portion of these costs. The Maine Appalachian Mountain Corridor Conservation Fund is made possible by a grant from the Jesse B. Cox Charitable Trust Fund at the Boston Foundation.

The Grant Program is administered by the Maine Mountain Collaborative, and is available for non-profit (501c3) organizations who are working to conserve forestland with notable ecological, recreational, or forestry values in the Maine Appalachian Mountain Corridor. The Collaborative expects to make 5-10 awards before June 2018 each up to \$20,000 to cover the costs associated with donated conservation lands or easements.

The Maine Mountain Collaborative's mission is to accelerate land conservation in the Maine Appalachian Corridor using traditional and innovative financial strategies. 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 includes the Mountain Conservancy - founded by George and Laura Appell, the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust, the Forest Society of Maine, the New England Forestry Foundation, and the Trust for Public Land.

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If you would like more information about this fund, please contact Bryan Wentzell, Executive Director at 207-233-1602 or email at bwentzell@mainemountaincollaborative.org.