

Conservation Innovation Update

The Program on Conservation Innovation at the Harvard Forest



Join us Thursday, May 27 at 11 am EDT for a live, online discussion of

WILDLANDS AND WOODLANDS NEW ENGLAND

Register [here](#) for this online event.

Dear Colleagues in Conservation:

The Program on Conservation Innovation at the Harvard Forest, Harvard University, along with the Conservation Finance Forum, will be hosting an expert chat on May 27, 2010 at 11 am Eastern Daylight Time featuring the newly released study on "Wildlands and Woodlands: A Vision for the New England Landscape." David Foster, the Director of the Harvard Forest and the study's lead author, will be on hand to discuss the Wildlands and Woodlands vision and science-based



overview of the region. David's discussion will be introduced with comments made by Theodore Roosevelt IV at the study's release event on May 19, 2010 on the campus of Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Jim Levitt, the session's moderator and a study co-author, will also be on hand to comment on the conservation finance and landscape-scale conservation concepts relevant to W&W.

David Foster has been a Harvard faculty member in Biology since 1983 and is Director of the Harvard Forest, Harvard University's 3500-acre ecological laboratory and classroom in central Massachusetts. He is the Principal Investigator for the Harvard Forest Long Term Ecological Research program, sponsored by the

National Science Foundation and involving more than 100 scientists and students investigating the dynamics of New England landscape as a consequence of climate change, human activity, and natural disturbance.

David has a Ph.D. in ecology from the University of Minnesota and has conducted studies in forests all over the globe in addition to his primary research on landscape dynamics in New England. He currently serves on the boards of The Nature Conservancy -Massachusetts, Trustees of Reservations, Conservation Research Foundation and Highstead Foundation. At Harvard University David teaches courses on forest ecology and environmental change and directs the graduate program in forest biology. He lives in Shutesbury, Massachusetts with his wife Marianne Jorgensen and their two children.

Theodore Roosevelt IV has a distinguished career that spans the public, private and non-profit sectors. He is managing director at Barclays Capital Corporation, serving its clients worldwide. Prior to his start in investment banking in 1972, he served as a Navy Seal and a Foreign Service Officer posted by the U.S. Department of State to Ouagadougou, Upper Volta (now Burkina Faso).

As a leader in the non-profit sector, he Chairs the Pew Center for Global Climate Change, and is currently or has recently served as a member of the board of: the Alliance for Climate Protection, the Wilderness Society, the League of Conservation Voters, the American Museum of Natural History, The World Resources Institute, and Trout Unlimited. He graduated from Harvard College (1965) and the Harvard Business School (1972), and lives with his wife Constance in Brooklyn, New York.



We look forward to participation in the online session by colleagues from the domestic and international conservation community. You can sign up to listen and submit live questions during the course of this expert chat with David Foster by logging onto the event page ([click here](#)) on the Government Innovators Network.

Best regards,

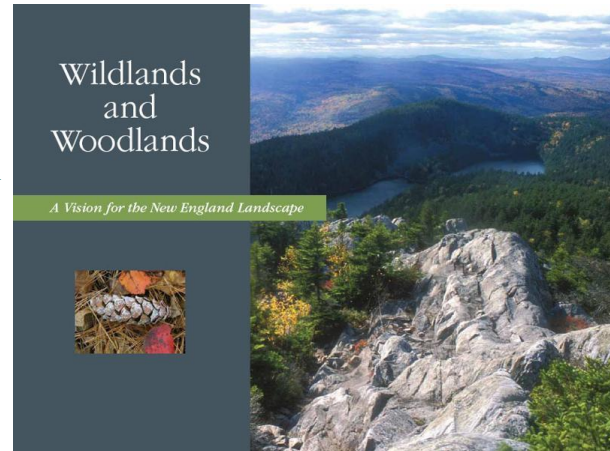
Jim Levitt, Editor and Director of the Program on Conservation Innovation
Kate Isenberg, Assistant Editor

[Wildlands and Woodlands: A Vision for the New England Landscape](#)

New report sets lofty goals for conservation in New England

(Editor's Note: the following excerpt is borrowed from the press release distributed on May 19, 2010, to call attention to the release of the new report. The press release and the event celebrating the report's release were expertly handled by Kathleen Fallon Lambert and Clarisse Hart, both of the Harvard Forest).

Cambridge, Mass. (May 19, 2010) - New England forests are at a turning point. A new study released this month by the Harvard Forest reports that, following almost 200 years of natural reforestation, forest cover is declining in all six New England states. The authors of the *Wildlands and Woodlands* report call for conserving 70 percent of New England as forestland, a target that they say is critical to protecting vital natural benefits that would be costly, and in some cases impossible, to replace.



"We've been given a second chance to determine the future of the region's forest. This report calls attention to the pressing need to couple New England's conservation capacity and shared land ethic with a vision for the next century in which forests remain an integral part of our livelihoods," said David Foster, lead author of the report and Director of the Harvard Forest. Foster points to clean water, climate protection, and renewable wood supply as examples of the forest's many benefits to society.

The report, *Wildlands and Woodlands: A Vision for the New England Landscape*, was produced by the Harvard Forest of Harvard University, and authored by 20 scholars in forest science, policy, and finance from across New England. It examines forest trends and promotes strategies for permanently retaining 70% of the New England landscape in forest over the next 50 years. The vision would triple the amount of conserved land in New England while still leaving ample room for future development. It calls for conserving most of the landscape (63%) as working woodlands owned and managed by private landowners, and protecting a smaller portion (7%) as wildland reserves.

The *Wildlands and Woodlands* report cites development and changing forest ownership patterns as two major drivers of forest loss and instability in the region. It points to the need to support the interests of the many private land owners who have stewarded the majority of the region's forests for decades and seek to keep their forestland intact. Rob Lillieholm, co-author and Professor of Forest Policy at the University of Maine, Orono, points out that a vision for conserving forests at this scale holds many benefits for the people of the region. "I think it's clear that we all stand to gain from the *Wildlands and Woodlands* vision. Landowners will have more options in how they choose to manage their lands. The region's forest products sector, vital to the economic health of countless rural communities, will benefit from a secure source

of timber. And residents and visitors alike will be able to enjoy these working landscapes and the wide range of services they provide now and in the future."

The *Wildlands and Woodlands* report outlines a suite of collaborative, voluntary approaches to accelerate conservation. The conservation strategies in the report present a model for other regions in the country. James Levitt, co-author of the report and Director of the Harvard Forest Program on Conservation Innovation, notes, "New England has, for nearly four centuries, been a leader in conservation. With the groundswell of regional interest in *Wildlands and Woodlands* specifically and in landscape-scale conservation generally, New Englanders are well-positioned to provide leadership in the practice of innovative conservation, this time in the 21st century."

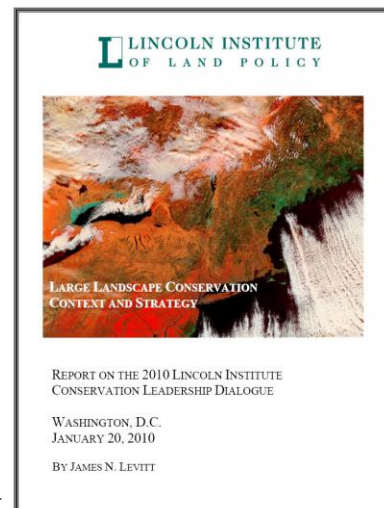
To see access the full *Wildlands and Woodlands* report, and to learn more about the initiative, [click here](#).

[Lincoln Institute of Land Policy's 2010 Conservation Leadership Dialogue on "Large Landscape Conservation: Context and Strategy"](#)

The report on this meeting, held in January 2010, is now available.

On January 20, 2010, the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy hosted a series of two meetings focused on the topic of Large Landscape Conservation. The first, held on the 19th at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, was organized and moderated by Matthew J. ("Matt") McKinney, Director of the Center for Natural Resource and Environmental Policy (CNREP) at the University of Montana. That meeting focused on the content of a Lincoln Institute Policy Focus Report (PFR) on Large Landscape Conservation that was in preparation. The PFR is expected, when published in 2010, to have a significant readership and potential policy impact.

Beginning at 9:00 am on the morning of the 20th at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, a second meeting sponsored was convened by Jim Levitt, Director of the Program on Conservation Innovation at the Harvard Forest, Harvard University. That meeting is the focus of this report. Its aim was to focus participants from the public, non-profit and private sectors on Large Landscape Conservation Context and Strategy. More specifically, the aim of the day was: to offer context to ongoing discussions of large landscape conservation with insights from individuals and organizations active in the field, ranging from major US foundations to public sector agencies and multilateral institutions, and; to consider how the Lincoln Institute and other institutions interested in large landscape conservation might strategically advance understanding and facilitate progress in the field (see an agenda for the day, attached as Appendix 1 to this



report).

Several key points emerged from the conference. First, there are several good examples of large landscape conservation areas that are a million acres or more in size. These areas, the product of many years of initiative by public, private and non-profit organizations, functionally connect disparate parcels in novel, strategically significant, measurably effective, transferable and enduring ways. Such initiatives include the Blackfoot Challenge in Montana's Blackfoot Valley and the Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership in Florida and Alabama.

Second, there is significant interest across the public, private and non-profit sectors in emerging opportunities to create new and innovatively organized landscape-scale conservation initiatives to achieve measurable objectives related to: biodiversity conservation; provision of ecosystem services, such as clean water and carbon sequestration; the sustainable harvesting of commodity products such as wood, seafood and grain; and the preservation and enhancement of amenities, ranging from scenic view-sheds to limited development projects, recreational venues and special sites of considerable spiritual value. Such interest was expressed by a diversity of presenters and panelists, ranging from John Nordgren at the Kresge Foundation in Troy, Michigan to Natarajan Ishwaran at UNESCO in Paris, France.

Third, there are a number of on-the-ground initiatives that are now working to advance the practice of managing across boundaries to achieve biodiversity, ecosystem service, commodity production and amenity-related objectives in the United States and beyond. From the Crown of the Continent in Montana, British Columbia and Alberta, Canada to the Acadian Forest along the Maine-New Brunswick border, and across the continent again to the Sonoran Desert in Arizona and New Mexico, the owners and managers of conserved working landscapes and protected wildlands are talking to one another about how they can work together: to build long-distance corridors for wildlife; to improve forest and soil-based capacities for carbon sequestration; to build environmentally-friendly ecotourism networks that can help to sustain their regional economies, communities and ecosystems, and; to complement nearby urban concentrations with residents that value periodic escapes to the wide open spaces.

Fourth, there appear to be ample opportunities for the Lincoln Institute, along with other public, private and non-profit organizations, to better understanding and to work to advance selected landscape-scale conservation initiatives both in the US and abroad. Given the complex challenges presented by climate change and widespread landscape fragmentation in the developed and developing world, landscape-scale conservation initiatives may emerge as one of the very best ways we have to address, at an appropriate scale, challenges to biodiversity, ecosystem services, sustainably produced commodities and treasured amenities.

Access the report along with the appendices by clicking on the links at the top of the page at [this website](#).

Where are they now? Patrick Behrer (Harvard '10)

Patrick Behrer is a young conservationist who attended and participated in the groundbreaking 2009 conference in Valdivia, Chile on CONSERVATION CAPITAL IN THE AMERICAS. Now graduating from Harvard, he is taking early career steps in the field of conservation. Here is a brief update on Patrick.

PATRICK BEHRER graduated from Harvard College this May with a degree in Economics with High Honors after completing his thesis on the impact of ridge-top construction on home prices in Asheville, North Carolina. The goal of his thesis was to attempt to provide a quantitative grounding for the valuation of an unobstructed mountain view and an economic justification for increasing zoning and slope restrictions in Buncombe County. His work has direct implications for land conservation by providing policy makers with solid numbers about the value of a view as an ecosystem service.

Upon graduation Patrick will be accepting a Fulbright Grant to travel to Wellington, New Zealand where he will enroll in the post-graduate honors degree program in Environmental Policy and Management at the Victoria University of Wellington. Within this program he will be focusing his research on access to global carbon markets for small-scale landowners in New Zealand, which will be a continuation of the work on carbon markets that he completed for Patagonia Sur SNP this summer. He describes his attendance at the Conference on Conservation Finance as an "invaluable" experience in helping him to develop both his thesis topic and the contacts that allowed him to work for Patagonia Sur and continue his work with a Fulbright.

Conservation Innovation UPDATE is a publication of the Program on Conservation Innovation at the Harvard Forest, with additional support from the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

Contact: James N. Levitt, Director

The Program on Conservation Innovation

at the Harvard Forest, Harvard University

Work telephone: 617-489-7800

james_levitt@harvard.edu