

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 10, 2004

CONTACT: Rob Burbank, AMC Public Affairs Director  
(603) 466-2721, ext. 195  
[rburbank@amcinfo.org](mailto:rburbank@amcinfo.org)

Anne Sharman, AMC Media Specialist  
(617) 523-0655, ext. 123  
[asharman@amcinfo.org](mailto:asharman@amcinfo.org)

**Land for Maine's Future Board Commits \$1 million  
to AMC's Maine Woods Initiative**

PISCATAQUIS COUNTY, Maine — The Land for Maine's Future Board voted Jan. 26 to include the Appalachian Mountain Club's Katahdin Iron Works (KIW) tract in its latest round of funding for land conservation projects. The recently purchased tract is a major component of the AMC's Maine Woods Initiative, a strategy for land conservation that integrates habitat protection, recreation, education, and sustainable forestry in Maine's 100-Mile Wilderness region.

The Land for Maine's Future Board (LMFB) support will contribute significant funding for conservation of the 37,000-acre property, which AMC purchased in December 2003 from International Paper with assistance from the Trust for Public Land. The objectives of this award are to ensure sustainable forest management, restrict development, and ensure continued public access and traditional uses, such as hiking, skiing, hunting, fishing and snowmobiling.

“This is a great example of how Maine's working forests can be managed to sustain the traditional sources of the local economy while also developing new opportunities for conservation, recreation, and employment. AMC has demonstrated a willingness to work with Maine citizens at every level to make this effort successful,” said Tim Glidden, director of Land for Maine's Future.

LMFB has reserved \$1 million to support the project. It is one of 26 conservation projects recently supported by the state program, which is expected to allocate a total of \$12 million to this round of projects.

LMF funding comes from a \$50 million bond approved by Maine voters in 1999. The program has supported land conservation in each of the state's 16 counties.

“We are very pleased with this wonderful show of support from the Land for Maine’s Future Board,” said AMC Executive Director Andrew Falender. “Receiving this support within two months of closing on the KIW purchase reflects the level of interest and momentum behind this project in the state of Maine.”

AMC is seeking to address the ecological and economic needs of the Maine Woods region by supporting local forest products jobs and traditional recreation, and creating new multi-day backcountry experiences for visitors, attracting new, nature-based tourism to the region.

The Katahdin Iron Works property includes such important natural resources as the West Branch of the Pleasant River, a high-quality natural fishery and water source for Gulf Hagas Gorge, a wetland complex of over 1000 acres, spectacular scenery in the Barren/Chairback Range, and the south slopes of Baker Mountain.

The tract is traversed by nine miles of the Appalachian Trail. An additional eight miles of Appalachian Trail border the east side of the tract near Gulf Hagas Mountain. The parcel lies 10 miles east of Greenville.

“The continuing enthusiasm shown for our work in the 100-Mile Wilderness region is very encouraging, and we feel especially fortunate to have the support of the Land for Maine’s Future Board,” said AMC Deputy Director Walter Graff.

The AMC’s Maine Woods Initiative complements Gov. John E. Baldacci’s Maine Woods Legacy vision, which he announced in November.

“I am extremely pleased that the Land for Maine's Future Board has voted to support funding for conservation of the Appalachian Mountain Club's acquisition in the Katahdin Iron Works region," said Gov. Baldacci. "The AMC has a century-long tradition of conservation and backcountry recreation efforts throughout New England. This recent purchase of more than 37,000 acres will ensure recreational and economic opportunities in the Katahdin Iron Works region for generations. I wish to congratulate AMC and International Paper for their efforts protecting both traditional Maine jobs and the special places in Maine.”

“As we work with AMC and the Department of Conservation to secure additional public funds for this project, LMF’s commitment will provide leverage and momentum at a crucial time,” said Sam Hodder, project manager for TPL in Maine. “We are very enthusiastic about our efforts with the AMC, the State, and the local communities to bring conservation, recreation, and traditional use together on this spectacular landscape,” he said.

The purchase price of the KI tract was \$14.2 million. Short-term financing is being provided by Citizens Bank and the Open Space Institute. “While we have secured initial financing for the purchase, over the coming months we must find public and private funding to pay off these loans,” said Graff.

Also included in the Maine Woods Initiative is the AMC’s earlier purchase of Little Lyford Pond Camps, which lie within the KI property. The camps have been in operation since 1874, and the AMC is continuing to manage the property as a traditional sporting camp, which offers such activities as cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, paddling and fly-fishing. The camps offer an excellent base for exploring the region and are open to all, AMC members and non-members alike.

The AMC will be working with local interests, public and private, to ensure public access and determine how best to steward the KI property and accommodate multiple traditional uses, according to Graff. A management plan for the KI parcel will be developed over the course of the year that will determine which areas within the parcel will be managed specifically for conservation, recreation, forestry, or multiple use. AMC has retained Huber Resources Corporation, of Maine, to provide sustainable forest management on the property. A third party will certify sustainable forestry plans.

AMC’s work in Maine dates back to 1876. AMC members were the first to map Katahdin, and AMC trail crews built many early trails in Baxter State Park. The AMC has also been active in Maine conservation efforts as a leader of the Northern Forest Alliance and member of the Tumbledown Conservation Alliance. The AMC currently manages Echo Lake Camp on Mount Desert Island, Knubble Bay Camp on Georgetown Island, Beal Island Campground in Georgetown, and Swan’s Falls Campground in Fryeburg, as well as the newly re-opened Little Lyford Pond Camps, near Greenville. All are open to members as well as the general public.

Founded in 1876, the Appalachian Mountain Club is the oldest conservation and recreation organization in the United States. With 3600 members in Maine and more than 91,000 members in the Northeast and beyond, the nonprofit AMC promotes the protection, enjoyment, and wise use of the mountains, rivers, and trails of the Appalachian region.

###