

What alpine plant did New Hampshire hikers help take off the endangered list?

Robbins Cinquefoil, or *Potentilla robbinsiana*—a member of the rose family. It is found almost exclusively (95% of all specimens) in the alpine region of Monroe Flats in the Presidential range. The Crawford Path was built through this habitat, and by the 1980s the species was near extinction. In 1983, the Crawford Path and Dry River Trails were relocated out of the habitat and the area was closed to the public, and the AMC started a decades-long research project to guide recovery work. Importantly, the AMC focused on educating hikers on the cinquefoil and the need to stay on established trails to protect it. By 2002, the cinquefoil had rebounded so well that it was removed from the endangered list.

<https://www.outdoors.org/resources/amc-outdoors/conservation-and-climate/tiny-and-triumphant-how-a-team-approach-saved-robbins-cinquefoil-from-extinction/>

https://www.fs.usda.gov/wildflowers/Rare_Plants/conservation/success/potentilla_robbinsiana_recovery.shtml

Does NH get any federal money to protect the outdoors?

The **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** was established in 1964 to preserve and protect natural areas, water resources and cultural sites. If you hiked in any of these state parks, you were hiking on land that received federal grant money to protect and improve natural resources: Kearsarge State Park, Wilmot; Mt. Washington State Park; White Lake State Park, Ossipees; Franconia Notch State Park. Since 2020, it's been funded through oil and gas drilling royalties.

The **Great American Outdoors Act** - provided \$1.6billion in funding for restoration of parks and public lands through 2025, and was used to fund the rebuilding of the Old Bridle Trail and the relocation of the Ammonoosuc Ravine Trail.

The **America the Beautiful Act** is a bipartisan-supported bill to extend the GAOA's Legacy Restoration Fund for 8 years and provide \$2 billion annually for repairs and restoration projects at national parks and forests—like trails and recreational facilities in the White Mountains National Forest. AMC encourages members to write their representatives in support of this Act.

Fact Sheet on the America the Beautiful Act: [ATB General Fact Sheet.pdf](#)

Who was John Weeks and how did he save the White Mountains?

John Weeks was a US Representative from Massachusetts whose legislation created the White Mountains National Forest...but he was born in Lancaster, New Hampshire. The AMC and the Forest Society were lobbying the Federal Government hard to restrict logging in New Hampshire and preserve old growth forests, and they found a champion in Weeks – a Lancaster, NH native, who sponsored the Weeks Act, which allowed the Federal Government

to buy private land, protected headwaters of rivers and watersheds, and established what we now know as the WMNF. To date, the Weeks Act has protected nearly 20 million acres of forestland.

<https://foresthistor.org/research-explore/us-forest-service-history/policy-and-law/the-weeks-act/>

What's a snag, and why do we need them in our forests?

In ecology, a snag is a still-standing dead tree that provides food, shelter and nesting sites for birds and mammals. You can remember it by the SNAG acronym: Standing, Not Actively Growing. Snags with cavities larger than 18" can house porcupines, martins, fishers, foxes, racoons and bears. Foresters leave snags standing to promote a more diverse wildlife habitat in NH forests.

<https://extension.unh.edu/goodforestry/html/6-2.htm>

How much land in New Hampshire is conserved or protected?

According to a 2023 AMC study, NH had the highest amount of conserved land of the New England states—35.1%. Massachusetts was next at 29.1%, Vermont was at 28.1% and Maine was at 22.2%. AMC supports the COP15 goal of “30 by 30” - to protect at least 30% of the world's land and oceans by 2030. NH is the only state in the AMC region to meet this goal.

In NH, 1.85 million acres of land were either protected or privately conserved, as of 2014. Here's the breakdown:

Owner	# Of Tracts	Total Acres	% of Total
Federal	715	822,252	44.4%
State	1376	456,840	24.7%
Municipal	4343	180,280	9.7%
Quasi-Public (e.g. Forest Society)	230	10,320	0.6%
Private	3560	380,892	20.6%
TOTAL	10,224	1,850,584	100%

What happened in 1938 to change NH's landscape?

The Great New England Hurricane hit New Hampshire on September 21, 1938. It damaged 110,000 acres in the WMNF, mostly impacting large stands of white pine trees, which took over formerly cleared agricultural land in the 19th Century. The federal government sponsored the epic salvage operation to log the felled trees.

Afterwards, maple, birch and oak took root in the areas formerly dominated by pine. This “new” mix of trees (with all the well-known fall colors) is more like the original New Hampshire forest before the pines took over.

In some trail sections, if you see “pit and mound” topography. The ‘38 hurricane winds came from the southeast. A pit and mound oriented southeast (the pit) to northwest (the mound) is likely evidence of a tree that fell during the hurricane.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/1938-hurricane-revived-new-englands-fall-colors-180964975/>