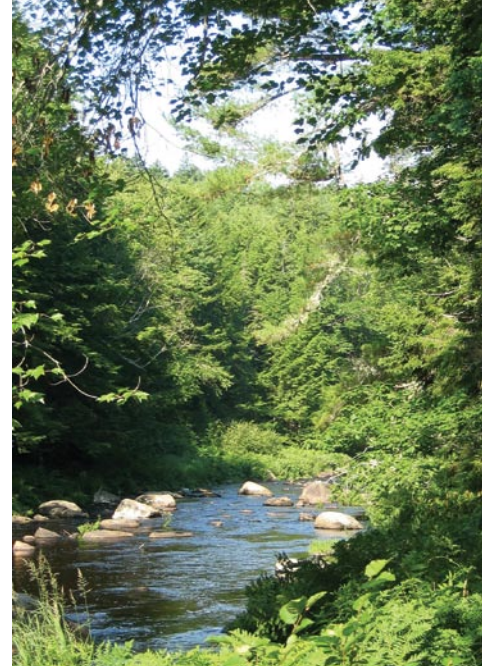




Twenty-six partner groups joined forces in 1995 to form the Ducktrap Coalition, a collaborative effort to conserve the natural integrity of this midcoast river, one of only eight statewide that still support wild Atlantic salmon. The Coalition attributes its remarkable success at watershed-scale protection to the following principles and practices: 1) always collaborate; 2) act at a regional scale; 3) set ambitious goals; 4) respect landowners; and 5) plan for long-term stewardship.



Conserving Whole Natural Places

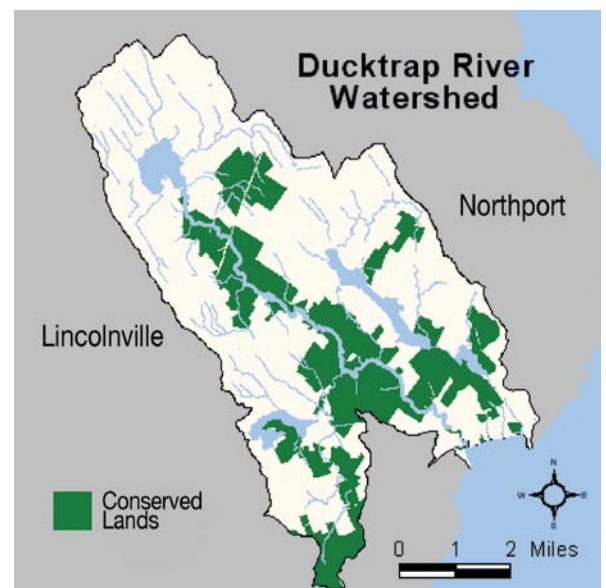
“We cannot preserve the river—its salmon, and the fullness of its extended family of life, the multitudes of species that comprise its ecosystem—without protecting the headwaters that become the river itself. The most effective tool in our conservation workbook is maintaining a broad, forested buffer beside all water bodies, from the headwater brooks through the wetlands, ponds, and along the river.”

– Scott Dickerson, Executive Director, Coastal Mountains Land Trust and author of *To Save A River*

Through persistent efforts spanning more than a decade, the Ducktrap Coalition has succeeded in protecting 83 percent of the riparian lands along the Ducktrap River and 43 percent of the lands along its three major tributaries (as of 2007). These protected lands provide essential wildlife habitat and abundant opportunities for hiking, birdwatching and environmental education.

landscapes. New buildings and roads fragment the large blocks of undeveloped land needed to sustain many wildlife species. Increased development often degrades the habitats that remain as well—polluting waters through stormwater runoff and introducing invasive species.

To sustain a diverse array of native plants and animals, Maine’s coastal communities must protect large blocks of relatively unfragmented habitat. Conserving whole landscapes requires careful planning, collaboration, persistence and fundraising. The rewards of these projects are commensurate with the extra effort they require. Many natural and human communities in Maine—such as those in the Ducktrap River watershed—now benefit from the collective work that has gone into protecting whole places.





A student releases wild Atlantic salmon fry that she and classmates had cared for since the egg stage. Educational programs like this one help deepen children's ties to their region's ecology.

“What it’s really about is having a functioning ecosystem, and having the community really get behind having that—and working together, joining with state agencies and federal agencies. It’s really this model of collaboration that has made the efforts of the Ducktrap Coalition so successful.”

- Melissa Laser,
Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission

HOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

- ✓ **Explore opportunities for collaboration and landscape-scale conservation.** Bring together all those who share an interest in protecting key natural assets and discuss ways to pool resources to foster greater land protection. Successful conservation partnerships tend to draw on the combined strengths of nonprofit organizations, businesses, foundations, municipalities, and state and federal agencies.
- ✓ **Inventory your community’s natural areas** and determine which provide significant habitat for wildlife. The State’s Beginning with Habitat Program (see below) can help in this mapping exercise.
- ✓ **Foster ongoing public stewardship of natural resources** in your watershed through educational outings, work days and seasonal celebrations.
- ✓ **Learn from the experience of those who have organized successful regional conservation efforts.** Contact the Maine Land Trust Network or U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Gulf of Maine Coastal Program for suggested contacts.
- ✓ **Seek out funders to support your habitat protection work.** Places to begin looking include the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Gulf of Maine Coastal Program and the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund.

FURTHER RESOURCES

- Beginning with Habitat Program, www.beginningwithhabitat.org
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Gulf of Maine Coastal Program, www.fws.gov/northeast/gulfofmaine/
- Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, www.maine.gov/ifw/outdoorheritage/
- Coastal Mountains Land Trust, www.coastalmountains.org
- Maine Land Trust Network, www.mltn.org
- Maine Natural Areas Program, www.mainenaturalareas.org
- *To Save A River* by Scott Dickerson and Dennis Schultz, Coastal Mountains Land Trust/Aperture, 2002

More information about this project and the Maine Coast Protection Initiative can be found at www.protectcoastalmaine.org.



“With fish and wildlife threatened by habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation in Maine and

around the globe, large tracts of contiguous habitat are critical to maintaining viable populations. Taking a regional approach to coastal conservation can help keep forest and aquatic ecosystems healthy and sustain biodiversity.”

- Lois Winter, Conservation Biologist/Outreach Specialist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Gulf of Maine Coastal Program

