

NORTHEAST



WILDERNESS
TRUST

A sanctuary for nature and people in New York's West Champlain Hills

Eagle Mountain Wilderness Preserve



Please help Northeast Wilderness Trust

safeguard this remarkable, low-elevation landscape of forests, cliffs, streams, and wetlands cascading down from the High Peaks of the Adirondacks to the biologically rich West Champlain Hills.

gaze out from the summit of Eagle Mountain after a strenuous bushwhack, and the scale is difficult to comprehend. Follow the arc of a peregrine falcon into the distance, and the vastness of this low-elevation, biologically rich landscape is unveiled, the canopy unfurling at your feet, stretching unbroken towards the High Peaks of the Adirondacks to the west.

The Eagle Mountain Wilderness Preserve, northwest of Essex, New York, encompasses 2,434 acres of glacial-carved topography and unique water features in the foothills of the Northeastern Adirondacks, in a landscape that is underrepresented in protected areas in the Adirondack Park and across the Northeast. The project is a strategic conservation opportunity to secure an important wildlife corridor and habitat for a state-listed endangered species and other rare plants and animals.

Eagle Mountain is the beating heart of a large forest block that connects the High Peaks to lower elevation lands near Lake Champlain. Surrounding protected areas include New York State's Jay Mountain Wilderness and Taylor Pond Wild Forest (home to the local landmark, Poke-O-Moonshine Mountain), as well as other privately conserved lands.

Continuing a local tradition. Since 2003, the transition lands between Lake Champlain and the Adirondack High Peaks have been a focal area for Northeast Wilderness Trust. In the Split Rock Wildway to the south, the Wilderness Trust has completed nine transactions to protect an important "sea-to-sky" wildlife corridor. Eagle Mountain Wilderness Preserve represents an opportunity to expand on this concept and ensure connectivity in a critical corridor to the north.

Building on years of partnership in the Split Rock Wildway, Northeast Wilderness Trust will team up with Westport-based Champlain Area Trails (CATS) to develop foot paths on the property that minimize impacts to plants and wildlife while showcasing the beauty of the area. Adirondack Land Trust, a longtime conservation leader in the region, will hold a forever-wild easement on the property.



The dramatic cliffs (left) of Eagle Mountain Wilderness Preserve harbor premier nesting habitat for rare Peregrine Falcons, the fastest animal on the planet. These New York State-listed endangered birds have been documented successfully nesting within the boundaries of the proposed Preserve for the past several years.

Champlain headwaters. The acquisition of Eagle Mountain will protect more than five miles of headwater streams that feed into the North Branch of the Boquet River. These streams are cold, clear, and support rich native brook trout habitat. The exceptional water quality of this stream system is demonstrated by the presence of the Eastern Pearlshell, a rare freshwater mussel found in only a few locations in New York State and at risk throughout its historic habitat due to water pollution and dams.

In addition to the fish and wildlife that depend on clean water in the Lake Champlain Basin, approximately 145,000 people rely on the lake for drinking water. With warming temperatures and agricultural runoff threatening the lake's water quality, protecting headwater streams is an insurance policy for a healthier future.

Within the Preserve are 155 acres of intact wetlands and thousands of acres of mixed northern hardwood and conifer forest, including rare stands of mature red pine. The Preserve is home to bear, moose, deer, and Peregrine Falcons, a New York State endangered species that has successfully nested in cliffs on the property for at least the last five years.

Eagle Mountain's unique, low-elevation habitat will only prove more valuable over time with the onslaught of climate change, assisting wildlife as they stair-step across this large landscape.



Right: Views of Eagle Mountain Wilderness Preserve and a Black-and-white Warbler.

Left: One of the unique pristine brain coral lichen slab glades on the property.

LEFT: BRETT ENGSTROM
RIGHT: BRENDAN WILTSE

Eagle Mountain Wilderness Preserve at a Glance

Size Approx. 2,500-acres

Context Part of a large, intact forest block in the Northeastern corner of the Adirondack Park, between privately conserved lands, the 7,951-acre Jay Mountain Wilderness, and several units (totaling upwards of 3,000-acres) of the Taylor Pond Wild Forest

Location Chesterfield, NY

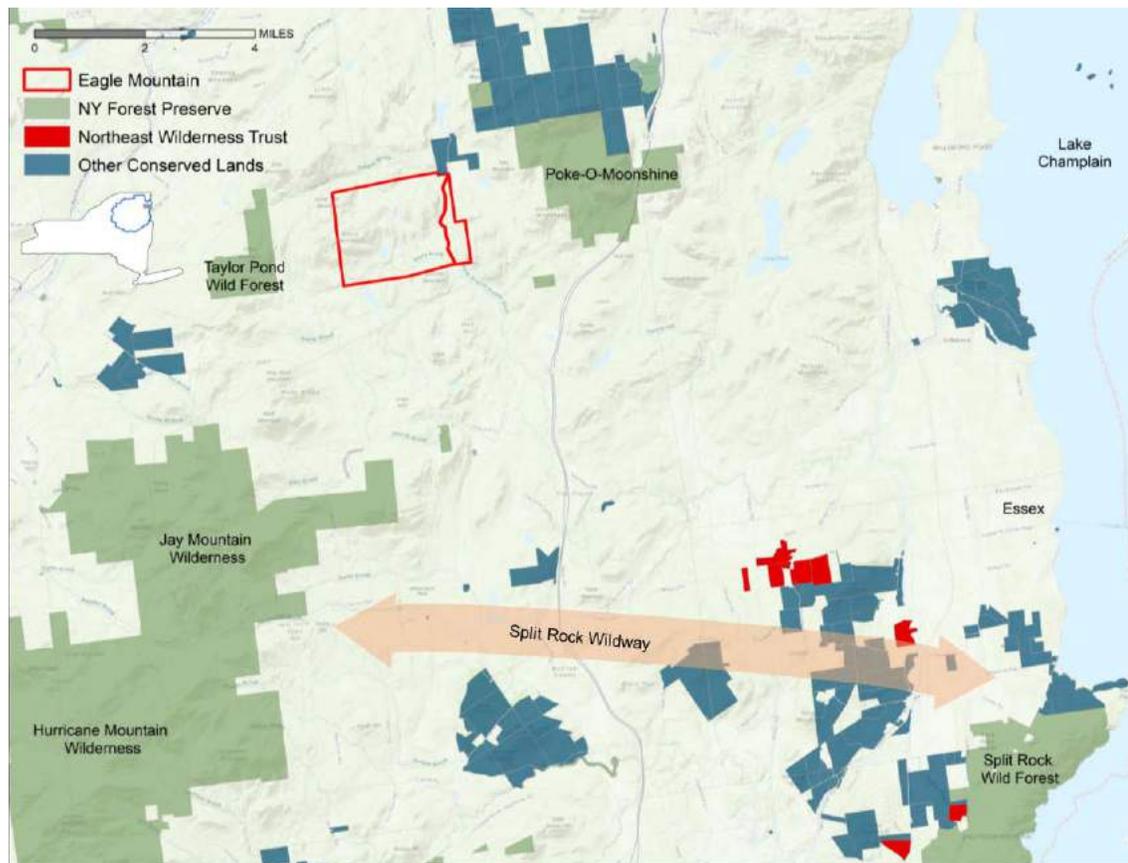
Objective Forever-wild ecological preserve

Habitat Northern hardwood and mixed conifer forest; stream, riparian, and wetland habitats

Creatures Moose, black bear, white-tail deer, Peregrine Falcon, beaver, native brook trout

Values Intact, low-elevation wildlife habitat, rich in biodiversity, and underrepresented in protected areas across the region and the US

Threats Timber harvest, motorized recreation, subdivision



Northeast Wilderness Trust is poised to make history by protecting Eagle Mountain as forever-wild. Will you help?

There is just a narrow window of time remaining to raise funds and close the deal to guarantee a wild future for the rich natural heritage of Eagle Mountain Wilderness Preserve. You can make a difference today. Please spread word about this landmark conservation opportunity. Financial donations of every size are needed to help us reach our fundraising goal of \$1.8 million. Please call or write to arrange a gift of stock. You can donate online at newildernesstrust.org/donate, or you can mail a check to the address below. *Thank you for your support!*

Eagle Mountain Campaign Committee

- **Tom Butler**, *Tompkins Conservation, Northeast Wilderness Trust Board Member*
- **Mike Carr**, *Executive Director, Adirondack Land Trust*
- **John Davis**, *Executive Director, The Rewilding Institute*
- **Carol MacKinnon Fox**, *Thomson Reuters*
- **Jon Leibowitz**, *Executive Director, Northeast Wilderness Trust*
- **Bruce McLanahan**, *Retired, Attorney at Law*
- **Susie O'Keeffe**, *College of the Atlantic, Northeast Wilderness Trust Board Member*



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Conserving forever-wild landscapes for nature and people

Thanks to our partners

Adirondack Land Trust • Champlain Area Trails • Sweet Water Trust • Conservation Alliance • Adirondack Wild