

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc. Conserves 66 Acres of Forest Next to Mohawk State Forest and Red Mountain in Cornwall

Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc. is pleased to announce the purchase of 66 acres of forest in Cornwall to be named Red Mountain Preserve. This purchase was made possible by grants from the State of Connecticut Open Space program, The Federal Highlands Program and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy as well as private contributions.

The property was previously owned for many years by a group of hunters. They approached Cornwall Conservation Trust to see if it could be conserved as they had aged out of hunting. Cornwall Conservation Trust readily agreed to purchase the property for its appraised fair market value and apply for grants to pay for it. The property represented a keystone of forest and wildlife habitat between Mohawk State Forest and 300 acres of conserved forest on the Nancy Nauts Dobbs Preserve and the Greyledge Preserve previously donated to Cornwall Conservation Trust by generous Cornwall families. A portion of the Mohawk Trail (formerly the Appalachian Trail) runs through the property.

Harry White, Conservation Director for Cornwall Conservation Trust, had the following to report:

“The Red Mountain Preserve is located in the Northeastern Highlands Region that encompasses the Appalachian Mountain Range segment that extends across areas of Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania as designated by the Federal Highlands Conservation Act of 2004. The resulting Highlands Block encompasses 3.4 million acres, 25 counties, and 319 municipalities and contains a wealth of natural resources and associated benefits: forests of oak, hickory, ash, pine, and hemlock; a rugged landscape of discontinuous, steep-sided ridges and plateaus; streams and lakes that provide drinking water for millions; ecosystems that shelter hundreds of rare and beautiful plants and animals; and open spaces that offer diverse recreational opportunities. Congress designated the Highlands Region because development threatens to erase, fragment, and degrade forests, streams, and plant and animal communities. Also threatened are the benefits that these natural resources provide for residents of the Highlands and the vast metropolitan area to the east, such as clean drinking water and unfragmented forests. The Red Mountain Preserve advances the protection of every natural value cited in the Highlands Conservation Act.”

Cornwall Conservation Trust was established in 1987 to conserve open space and farmland in Cornwall and adjacent towns and to manage those resources to promote wildlife habitat, forest improvement, water quality, farming and public recreation. Cornwall Conservation Trust has conserved over 2000 acres in Cornwall since its founding and is accredited by the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission in recognition of meeting national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever.

For more information about Cornwall Conservation Trust visit www.cornwallconservationtrust.org.



