

December 2008

Dear Friend of Maine's Mountains:

Saddleback, The Horn, Abraham and seven other of the most beautiful and inspiring 4,000-foot summits in the East are here in western Maine's High Peaks Region. This is the largest contiguous mountain area in the State, encompassing over 200,000 acres, and providing critical wildlife habitat and unsurpassed recreational opportunities. It is also host to 50 miles of one of the three most spectacular sections of the entire Appalachian Trail (AT).

The High Peaks Region and this section of the AT are threatened by changes in the traditional patterns of land use and ownership. Paper companies no longer own and manage large tracts for the long term. They have been replaced by smaller tract owners looking for a short term return on investment and by large estate residential buyers. While hiking over the summit of Saddleback this summer, I saw the change myself: a mansion being built to the south where the year before we saw nothing but unbroken forest. If we fail to act, we may lose the last of the best in the East.

The Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust (MATLT) has made protection of the High Peaks Region our highest conservation priority. Frankly, when we started 6 years ago, we were one of the only voices calling for land conservation in the High Peaks Region.

In 2002, MATLT bought land and a conservation easement in the High Peaks Region, on the southeast slope of Saddleback Mountain and the ridgeline of Mt. Abraham. All our protected land is open to the public.

In 2007, we researched and published the first Ecological Study of the High Peaks Region and learned that the elevation changes in the project area provide habitat for a wide variety of species, several of them threatened or endangered. (Report is available online at [www.matlt.org](http://www.matlt.org)).

We are now working with the State and others to protect two more parcels, totaling 7,500 acres, that will help build the larger vision of our High Peaks Initiative. Conserving these parcels will guarantee public access for recreation; management for sustainable forestry; and protection for this unique landscape.

Please read the enclosed brochure and help support our High Peaks Initiative work with your financial gift. Gifts can be made by mail or by credit card on our secure website, [www.matlt.org](http://www.matlt.org).

Sincerely,



William L. Plouffe  
President of the Board of Directors

PROTECT  
PRESERVE