

Freedom Conservation Commission (FCC)  
Forest Advisory Committee (FAC)  
Freedom, NH 03836

## FAC INFORMATION PAPER

### TOWN ELECTED OFFICIALS

The Selectmen (3) representing the residents of the Town of Freedom (TOF) New Hampshire have established the Freedom Conservation Commission (FCC). The Selectmen have also established the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC), a standing sub-Committee under the FCC. To meet the requirements of the New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NH DNCR), the Town established a budget line-item to annually fund the forester contract.

### FOREST OVERVIEW

The TOF acquired the property in 2005 for \$1.6 million dollars with assistance from the following groups:

USDA Forest Legacy Program \$1,200,000  
NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program \$250,000  
Town of Freedom \$100,000  
Friends of Trout Pond  
Trust for Public Lands  
foundations and private individuals \$50,000  
Green Mountain Conservation Group  
Trust for Public Lands

The New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NH DNCR) has overseen the property since 2005, holds the Conservation Easement, and directs the Freedom Conservation Commission (FCC) through the Forest Stewardship Plan.

The total acreage of the Freedom Town Forest is 2,661 acres. The forest contains a mixture of native tree species (conifer & deciduous). This property in combination with the adjoining Madison Town Forest serves to protect 5,300 acres in the Freedom-Madison area. Additional conservation lands adjacent to the Freedom Town Forest have been acquired by The Nature Conservancy (TNC). These lands are commonly referred to as the "Pine Barrens", and abut the western boundary of the Freedom Town Forest. In total, the Freedom Town Forest, the Madison Town Forest, and the TNC Pine Barren's encompass approximately 6,375 acres of contiguous conservation land.

Trout Pond is a 21 acre natural pond located in the Freedom Town Forest. Trout Pond is fed by springs and localized surface water from its pristine watershed. Trout Pond is stocked annually by the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department in the early spring each year with one year old brook trout. Major trail and culvert reconstruction of the Trout Pond Trail was completed in early July 2025. This construction precluded stocking fish in 2025 and fish stocking is scheduled to resume in the spring of 2026. The Freedom Town Forest is bisected by Shawtown Brook and Cold Brook which are perennial streams and are tested regularly for quality annually. Hunting is permitted in the forest according to pre-established NH Fish & Game schedules and includes: deer, turkey, black bear, waterfowl, small game & fur-bearers, pheasant, and moose. Snowmobiling is permitted in the forest and significant trail maintenance is carried out by the Scrub Oak Scramblers (SOS) snowmobile club throughout the year.

## **FOREST FACTS**

### **FOREST COMPARTMENTS & STANDS & TRAILS**

Total Compartments - 3 Total acres - 2,661  
Compartment 1 Stands - 10 Total acres - 664  
Compartment 2 Stands - 10 Total acres - 1,455  
Compartment 3 Stands - 5 Total acres - 542  
Forest perimeter - 13 miles  
Trails - 10  
Footpaths - 3  
Total snowmobile trails - 9  
Walking trails & footpaths - 14.25 miles

### **EDUCATION / INFORMATION / SAFETY**

Total gates - 13  
Information Kiosks - 3  
Total junctions with GPS coordinates - 7  
Educational signs posted along Nature Walk  
SOS Sign Posts

### **PERMANENT GRASSLAND WILDLIFE HABITAT AREAS**

Total grassland habitat areas in the forest - 9

### **RARE SPECIES & ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES**

green snake, lady slippers, cranberry bog  
abandoned air strip, archaeological school & house foundations

### **MOUNTAINS**

Blazo Mountain - 1,138 ft  
Mary's Mountain - 700 ft  
Stacy Mountain - 1,400 ft

### **2025 PROJECTS**

Trout Pond Trail Re-construction

The Nature Conservancy Burn in the Freedom Town Forest

New Trail Signage

Scrub Oak Scramblers (SOS) Snowmobile Club:

- ♦ trail maintenance

Community Outreach:

- ♦ SOS member serves as advisor to the FAC
- ♦ Old Home Week Wagon Ride in the Forest
- ♦ Prospect Mountain High School Work Study Program