



## NEWS RELEASE

July 15, 2008

Contact: Lois Winter, Executive Director 207-518-7793 [loiswinter@pleasant-river.org](mailto:loiswinter@pleasant-river.org)

### Land for Maine's Future Board Announces \$796,000 Grant for Heads of the Estuaries Partnership Projects

**Addison, Maine:** The Land for Maine's Future Board announced that it has made a preliminary allocation of \$796,000 of LMF funds to the Heads of the Estuaries Partnership to assist in the purchase of seven conservation properties by the Pleasant River Wildlife Foundation (PRWF) and Great Auk Land Trust (GALT). The grant includes \$50,000 of Water Access Funds to support the acquisition of the water access site at Long Creek Point on Pleasant Bay. The LMF funds will be augmented by \$1.2 million in matching contributions from private donors, PRWF, GALT and Ducks Unlimited and grants from non-governmental organizations. Federal grants and generous landowner bargain sale gifts will make up the balance of the funding.

The Heads of the Estuaries Partnership is a consortium of land trusts and governmental agencies originally convened by Pleasant River Wildlife Foundation and working together to protect in perpetuity the important intertidal and adjacent fresh water habitats of southwestern Washington County, Maine. The Partnership puts particular emphasis on the needs of waterfowl, notably the American black duck, and of shorebirds, wading birds and woodcock.

In April of 2008 two Heads of the Estuaries Partners, PRWF and GALT, submitted a grant application to the Land for Maine's Future Board for funding to help acquire important estuarine properties fronting on Pleasant Bay and Wohoa Bay in Addison and Mason Bay in Jonesboro.



*Salt marsh on the east side of Crowley Island*

These properties were selected because of their high habitat value for waterfowl, notably the American black duck, as well as for wading birds, shorebirds and woodcock. Together these properties are valued at over \$2 million and will be protected in perpetuity as a consequence of the LMF grant. The group of properties together amount to 400 acres of uplands with 19,000 feet of intertidal frontage on salt marshes and intertidal flats.

These properties will be open to the public for traditional use and the Long Creek Point Property will provide water access to Long Cove in Addison.

The Select Board of the Town of Addison said that *“These projects are important to the people of the town because they will help assure the long term health of the intertidal mudflats and salt marshes that are so critical to the local economy and to wildlife. In addition these projects will provide permanently guaranteed access to recreational lands for hunting and other outdoor pursuits.”*

With the grant announced, PRWF and GALT will begin the process of gathering the documentation required by the LMF Board and moving towards closing on the properties identified in the grant. As each project closes the LMF funds will be dispersed to PRWF or GALT to help fund the purchase of the property. If all goes well all the acquisitions should be closed by the end of 2009.

**Pleasant River Wildlife Foundation  
PO Box 154/Addison, ME 04606**