

## NASH STREAM FOREST

ODELL, COLUMBIA, STRATFORD, STARK

The 39,601 acres of former Diamond International holdings in the Nash Stream drainage are located in the towns of Columbia, Stratford, Odell, and Stark. This tract is by far the largest of all LCIP acquisitions. It is also unique nationally in that the land is owned by the State of New Hampshire (managed by the Department of Resources & Economic Development), with a conservation easement held by the federal government (USDA Forest Service).

The impetus for this project arose from the proposed sale of large landholdings of Diamond International to a developer. Conservation groups formed a coalition to identify and protect this tract, the core of the NH holdings, for permanent conservation use. The Nash Stream Forest is a complete ecosystem which has abundant wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. Future management will be through cooperative efforts of the State of New Hampshire and the USDA Forest Service. The area holds much potential as an environmental education living laboratory and interpretive center; in addition, it promises to be a model for sustainable timber harvesting and possible future revenue for the State of New Hampshire.

The land in the Nash Stream drainage is hilly and remote. Elevations range from about 1500 feet above sea level in the valleys to about 3700 feet on top of Sugarloaf Mountain. Two striking mountains, the Percy Peaks, stand one mile east of Nash Stream and are visible from many parts of Coos County.

The headwaters of Nash Stream are located on the southeast slopes of Whitcomb Mountain. Surrounding hills are ribboned with perennial brooks which augment the flow of Nash Stream into the Upper Ammonoosuc River, one of the main northern tributaries for the Connecticut River. In addition to the brooks and streams, several ponds lie in the valleys--Whitcomb, Little Bog, and Trio Ponds. Long Mountain Pond is located at about 3400 feet at the head of a

dramatic glacial cirque. The largest of all the waterbodies, Nash Bog Pond, was man-made but washed out in the mid-1970s when heavy spring flooding destroyed the dam. These hills, streams, and ponds are the principle features which support abundant wildlife and afford this land its special character of remote wildness.

A little over fifty percent of this land is forested in typical northern hardwood stands, comprised mostly of sugar maple, yellow birch, white birch, and American beech. Other hardwood species frequently associated with this type are white ash, aspen, red maple, and on the south-facing lower slopes, northern red oak. The hardwood stands occupy the drier, better drained soils at middle elevations.

In the low lying wet areas

### SUMMARY INFORMATION

**DIAMOND INTERNATIONAL (STARK, ODELL, STRATFORD, COLUMBIA) PARCEL:**

GRANTOR: Diamond International Corporation  
GRANTEE: State of NH (D.R.E.D.)  
ACRES: 39,601.0  
DATE ACQUIRED: 10-28-88  
INTEREST ACQUIRED: Fee Simple  
TOTAL PURCHASE PRICE: \$7,986,933.  
BOOK/PAGE NUMBER OF DEED CONVEYED: 737/840

and on the tops of ridges and mountain plateaus, thick stands of softwood grow very well. These boreal softwood stands are made up of balsam fir, red spruce and white spruce, and comprise about nine percent of the total cover. Occasional small stands of hemlock can be found on moist sideslopes above brook beds. Many large white pine can be identified over much of the property where individual pines on well drained soils tower over a lower understory.

Predictably, in the transition zones between the hardwood and softwood types, stands of mixed hardwood and softwood occur. This type accounts for about twenty-six percent of the total cover. The remaining twenty percent of the forest in this Nash Stream valley falls into the categories of wetlands, ledges or alder swamps and inaccessible places such as steep hillsides and remote mountain tops.

This land was optioned by Nashua developer Claude Rancourt. The state had to act fast to secure a purchase and sale agreement on the property. A loan by The Nature Conservancy and the Society for the Protection of NH Forests made the acquisition possible, pending the receipt of funds from the federal government for their portion of the purchase price.

The scope and the size of this project sparked much interest at the local, state, regional, and national levels. As a result of the public interest and awareness stimulated by this project, the federal government commissioned a study of similar land trends and their impact on forest economies entitled "The Northern Forest Lands Study." Subsequently, the Northern Forest Lands Council was created to help retain the region's working forests.

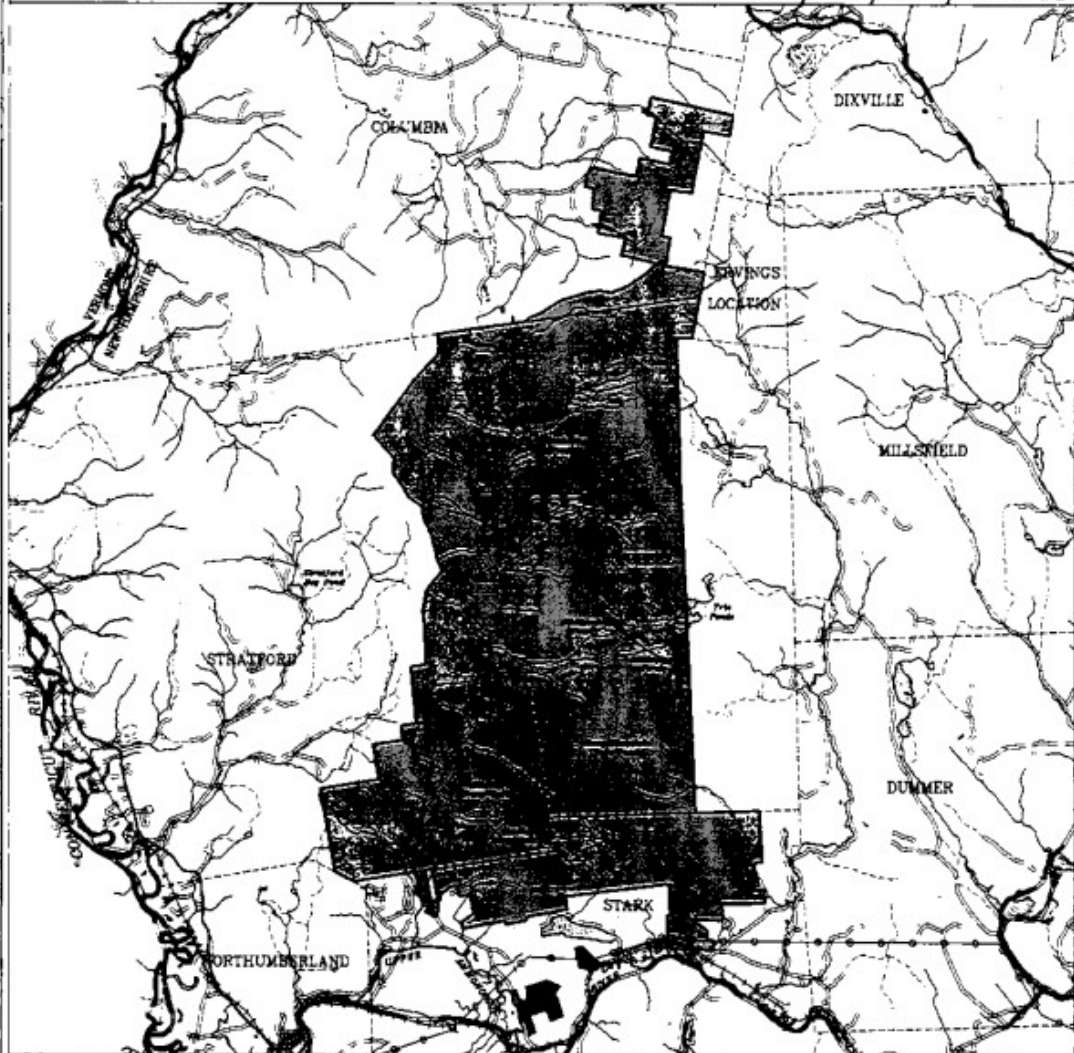
The state's purchase price for the Nash Stream parcel also covered the acquisition of 2615.5 acres in five additional parcels, which are now owned by the State of New Hampshire.

For further information regarding the other Diamond lands, see descriptions entitled, "Diamond International Parcels," and "Cape Horn Parcels," which were part of this transaction.

# LAND CONSERVATION INVESTMENT PROGRAM

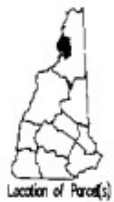
NASH STREAM FOREST

Columbia/Odell/Stark/Stratford



| PARCEL ID | ACREAGE | GRANTOR                    |
|-----------|---------|----------------------------|
| 025-01    | 39601.0 | DIAMOND INTERNATIONAL CORP |

- LCP parcel
- Other LCP parcels
- State-owned lands
- Surface water
- River or stream
- Town boundary
- County boundary
- State boundary
- Primary route
- Secondary route
- Road or street
- Unimproved road
- Other road
- Trail
- Railroad
- Pipeline/transmission line



SCALE 1:80,000  
(1 inch = 15000 ft.)

Map by:  
Cynthia Spence Research Center  
University of New Hampshire  
March, 1983

