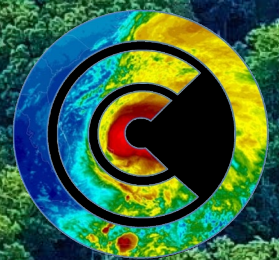




ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2024



OUR CLIMATE COMMON

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## Our Climate Common Board



Dr. Jessica Reilly-Moman  
Round Pond, Maine



Amy Doering Smith  
Sandwich, Massachusetts  
Secretary



Dr. Michael Reed  
Concord, Massachusetts  
Treasurer



Ruisha (ShaSha) Kingston  
Boise, Idaho



John Hagan  
Georgetown, Maine

## Cover Photo

700-acre tract of true old-growth forest “hidden” in the Maine North Woods, discovered by Our Climate Common with LiDAR in 2023. (photo by J. Hagan)

## Letter from the President

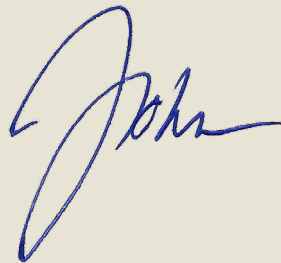
After two years of long hours in the field and behind the computer screen, Our Climate Common completed the first-ever map of late-successional and old-growth (LSOG) forest in Maine’s 10M acres of unorganized townships.

This work matters. Without a map, there was little anyone could do to conserve LSOG—we didn’t know how much there was or where it was. Now we do. Only about 4% of the Maine North Woods is in this ecologically extraordinary age class, and we’re losing what remains at 2% per year. Half of what remains will be lost in 35 years, unless we undertake conservation strategies.

Our attention in 2025 will be to work with partners—commercial forest landowners, land trusts, and environmental groups—to find practical ways to conserve what we’ve now mapped with acre-level precision.

Also in 2024, I had the honor of writing a report celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Forest Society of Maine titled “Maine Forest Conservation Easements for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.” This report outlines the scientific basis for continuing to keep this globally significant ecosystem—The Maine North Woods—free from development.

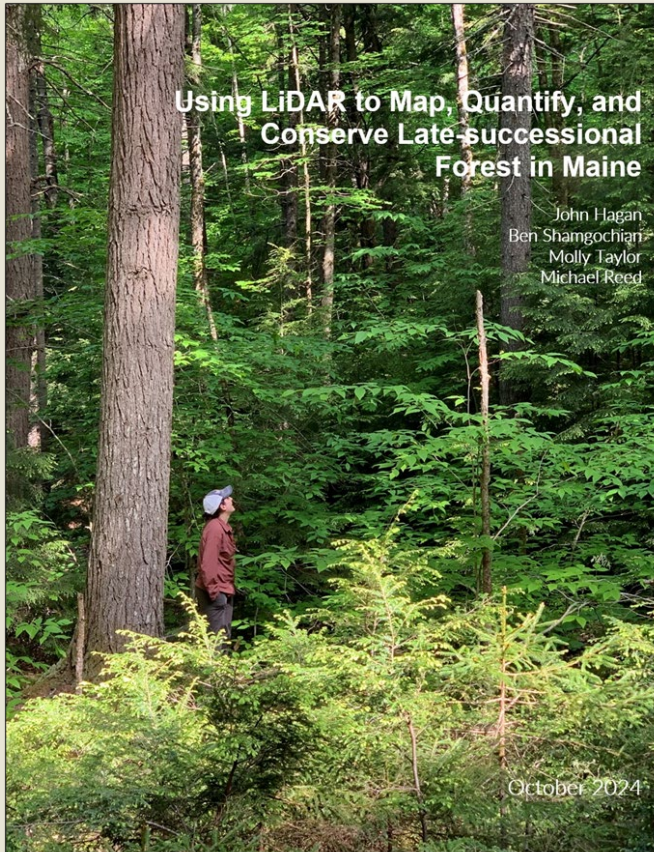
I thank all our generous funders, our field crew, and Our Climate Common’s faithful and dedicated board, for making our work possible.



John Hagan  
President and CEO

# 1 Mapping late-successional & old-growth (LSOG)

When we were replicating the early 1990s birds-and-forestry study in 2021 and 2022, we discovered that LiDAR (light ranging and detection) could identify late-successional and old-growth forest. LiDAR didn't exist when the first bird study was done.



In 2022, we quickly realized the potential of LiDAR to map LSOG forest for the entire 10M acres of unorganized townships of Maine. With this new map, conservation groups could develop plans to conserve it. Maine commercial landowners, most of which are certified as “sustainable,” would also now have a new map of their LSOG forest, making it easier to take steps to conserve it. Unfortunately, letting a forest get to 150 or 200 years old is not a smart way to manage a forest for optimal economic revenue.

In October 2024, we published a comprehensive report of everything we had learned to date. We provided our new LSOG map to forest landowners, with summary statistics for their particular ownership in relation to the entire study area. We offered to meet with landowners and help them develop conservation plans. Ten land trusts have already used our new maps to aid them in their conservation planning.

Download our 2024 LSOG report at:  
<https://ourclimatecommon.org/lsoq-project/>

Please visit our LSOG web page to download the report, and to listen to two great radio segments about the project.

## LSOG Team



John Hagan  
Our Climate Common



Ben Shamgochian  
Our Climate Common



Molly Taylor  
Ph.D. Student,  
Tufts University



Michael Reed,  
Tufts University

## 2 Maine Forest Conservation Easements for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Conservate easements became a big land conservation strategy in Maine in the 1990s and 2000s. Instead of buying land, conservation easements pay landowners to NOT do something—usually allow conversion of the forest to

some other landuse that would take the land out of forest cover. Easements cost money, because the landowner is generally agreeing to forgo potential financial income, usually in perpetuity.

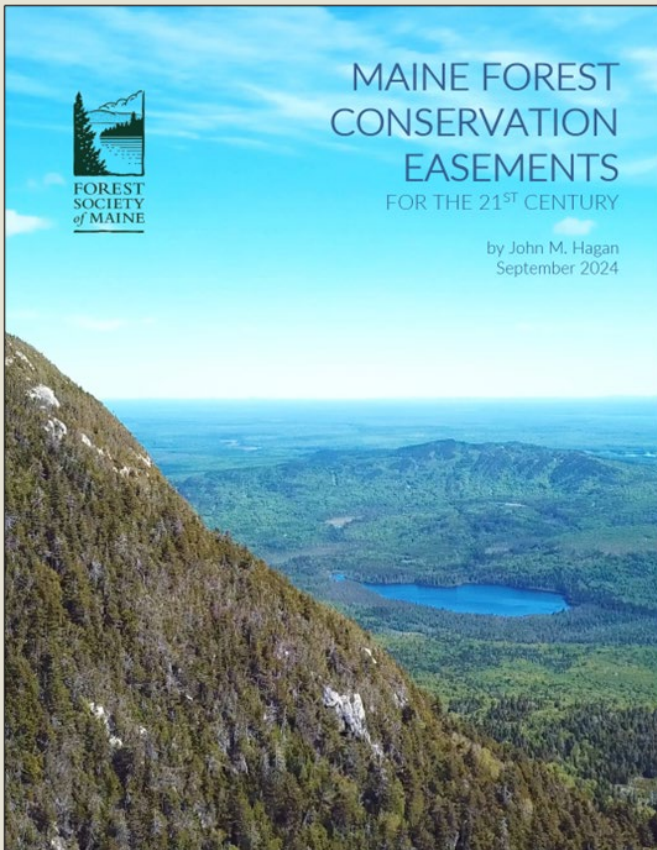
John Hagan (Our Climate Common) has been a critic of easements because they have generally done little to conserve the *most* vulnerable ecological aspects of the forest, such as LSOG forest discussed in the previous page.

However, the “30-YR Bird Study” gave John a new appreciation of the value of no-development easements. While easements have largely failed to protect LSOG forest (see Our Climate Common’s Oct. 2024 LSOG Report), they have prevented the *future* conversion of Maine’s forest to “not forest.”

Because 2021/2022 bird study showed increases in birds over the past 30 years in the working forest of Maine, John realized that just keeping this vast landscape as forest has, and will, pay biodiversity benefits for centuries to come.

Going forward, forest conservation easements can be improved to conserve LSOG forest too—not just to prevent development. In a way, easements have “matured.” We’ll have to pay more for easements that essentially by “timber rights” to not cut LSOG stands.” But the easement conservation “instrument” is well established. We can make it better.

John’s scientific *and* social justification for easements should help donors and funders understand why their investments matter. The payoff will come in the future. Look forward for your return on investment, not backwards.

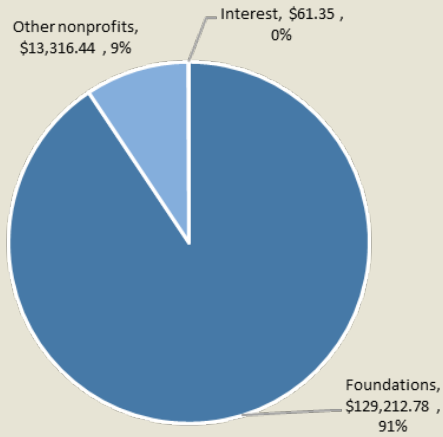


Read John’s report here ([link](#)).

## 2024 Revenue and Expenses

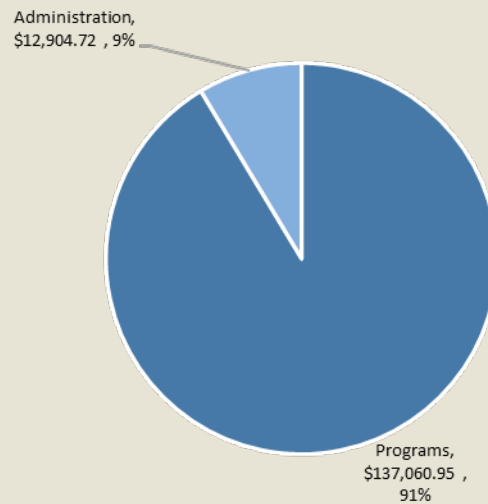
The work described in the previous pages reflects another successful year for Our Climate Common. We received ~\$142K in grants.

### 2024 Sources of Revenue



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### 2024 Uses of Revenue



## 2024 Statement of Financial Activity

	<b>Total</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	
Interest Income	\$61.35
Foundations	\$118,167.32
Non-Profit Donations	\$13,145.99
Unrestricted Contributions	\$11,215.91
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$142,546.46</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Conference fees	\$30.00
Contract & professional fees	\$57,991.44
Field Supplies	\$1,039.04
Insurance	\$1,133.00
Meals & Meetings	\$1,337.09
Bank fees & Processing Fee	\$74.11
Internet	\$689.94
Memberships & subscriptions	\$352.18
Mileage Reimb	\$612.38
Office supplies	\$937.23
Postage	\$154.53
Printing	\$118.14
Electronics	\$5,933.01
Software & apps	\$3,823.74
Payroll expenses	\$738.90
Payroll Administration	\$205.45
Salaries and Wages	\$41,500.19
FICA Tax	\$14,520.87
Workers Comp Insurance	\$1,630.00
Reimbursements for expenses	\$459.62
Repairs & maintenance	\$50.25
Books and Media	\$332.06
Supplies and Materials	\$410.55
Travel misc.	\$43.00
Field truck rental	\$8,165.05
Fuel	\$1,062.33
Field lodging	\$6,600.40
Website	\$23.17
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$149,965.67</b>
<b>Net Revenue-Expenses</b>	<b>-\$7,375.10</b>
Cash carryover from FY2023	\$106,653.00
Net cash assets Dec. 31, 2024	\$99,418.44

## FUNDERS

Emily J. Knobloch Foundation  
Horizon Foundation  
Maine Timberlands Charitable Trust  
National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, Inc.  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
The Arboretum Fund of the Maine Community Foundation  
The Betterment Fund  
The Dorr Foundation  
UMaine Cooperative Forest Research Unit

## YOUTH FELLOWSHIPS

ShaSha Kingston

## PARTNERS

Appalachian Mountain Club	Seven Islands Land Co.
Baskahegan Co.	The Nature Conservancy
Forest Society of Maine	The Weyerhaeuser Co.
Huber Forest Management	Tufts University
Irving Woodlands	UMaine Cooperative Forest Research Unit
Landvest	University of New Hampshire
Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands	The Weyerhaeuser Co.
Maine Environmental Education Association	Wheatland Geospatial Lab
Maine Natural Areas Program	
Northeast Wilderness Trust	
New England Forestry Foundation	





OCC's LSOG Mapping Project was featured on Maine Public Radio, November 25, 2025. ([link](#))