

For Immediate Release

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Announcing the publication of

**Twentieth-Century New England Land Conservation:
A Heritage of Civic Engagement**

Edited by Charles H.W. Foster

Harvard Forest (Harvard University Press)
Hardcover, 388 pages
ISBN: 978-0-674-03289-7

Six-state New England, once described by *Harper's* journalist Bernard DeVoto as the only part of the United States to be a finished place, is the setting for this account of land conservation during the twentieth century. Written by and about New Englanders, but relevant to others attempting to address conservation problems on a regional basis, the book dips into the more than three hundred years of personal experience the authors bring to the account. These are the stories of people acting the New England way — recognizing a need, taking on a responsibility without being asked, and applying the Yankee attributes of self-reliance, place connectedness, individual leadership, innovation, civic engagement, and ethical responsibility in order to bring about tangible conservation gains. But above all, the account is one of hope for the future for, as the authors document, conditions at the turn of the twentieth century were of a nature we would not tolerate today. This is in many respects the success story of a region.

At a time of growing concern for the environment both locally and globally, this unprecedented publication is far more than history brought to life. It is certain to inform and inspire the next generation of conservation leaders, here and elsewhere.

“This history is a classic example of how a few visionary people can lay the basis for meaningful change and progress.”

— *Philip H. Hoff, Governor of Vermont 1963-1969*