

# TRAILS

- **Cook Interpretive Trail (CIT): 1.2 mi.**

At the Whitney Brook Road trailhead, proceed clockwise. Climb Sheep Juniper Hill to an overlook and bench with views of Ragged, Kearsarge and Sunapee mountains. The trail descends into Whitney Brook Valley, crosses under the powerlines, and intersects the Brook where several bridges cross. A short climb back under the powerlines returns you to the trail head.

- **Elkins Erratics Trail: .2 mi.**

This trail connects the Pleasant Lake High Trail (PLH) to the (CIT). From the PLH, it descends northwards, crossing the Powerline Parallel Trail, intersecting the CIT near Whitney Brook.

- **Pleasant Lake High Trail: .9 mi. (on the Cook Property)**

This trail circumnavigates much of the Cook Property and connects to Langenau Forest Trails and the Webb Forest Interpretive Trail, via the Deming Conservation Easement. 2.7 miles in its entirety, it traverses the overlook and once on the Deming property, crosses between two beaver ponds, favorable for wildlife viewing. Please be aware that year-round hunting and trapping occur on this property. **All dogs must be leashed.**

- **Powerline Parallel Trail: .5 mi.**

This trail diverges northwards from the CIT and the PLH trails a short distance from the trailhead. It trends mostly west, parallel with the powerlines with easy grades. It is a convenient route to connect to the western portion of the PLH to continue to the Webb and Langenau Forest trail network.

**Trails continued on the back...**

- **1830 Spring Trail: .2 mi.**

This trail connects the CIT and the PLH to the Powerline Parallel Trail and provides a shorter loop within the Cook Property.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

**Glacial Erratics** - Glacially-deposited boulders strewn on hillsides that were left by the retreating glaciers 10,000 years ago.

**Stone Walls** - Built in the early 1800's during the heyday of New England sheep farming. By the mid-1900's farming efforts were abandoned.

**The Overlook** - A panorama of Ragged and Moose Mountains, Mts. Sunapee and Kearsarge, the Belknap, Mink and Bradford Hills, Rowell and King Hill, and Pleasant Lake (in winter).

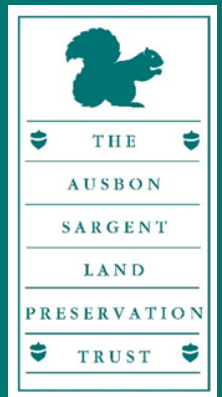
**Power Line** - A 200' wide easement granted to PSNH in 1948. Trees are cut and chipped every five years to expedite needed line maintenance.

**Whitney Brook** - Part of the Blackwater River watershed. The headwaters are the beaver ponds on the Deming Conservation property. The Whitney family first settled and farmed this area in the early 1800's.

**The Seven Sisters** - Find seven split-apart glacial erratics near the end of the CIT. In Greek mythology, the seven sisters were the daughters of Atlas, placed in the Pleiades star cluster by Zeus.

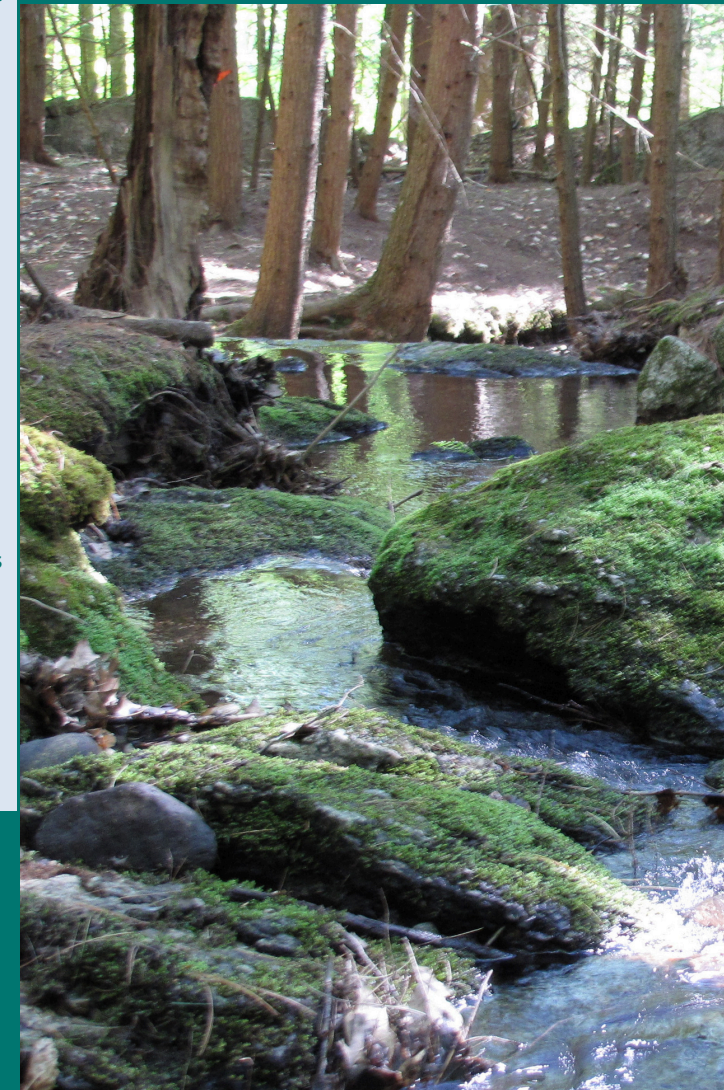
**Quarry** - Common on most NH farms, a quarry was used to split granite for foundations, etc. Star-drilling by hand and wooden wedges were used. This is evidenced by several stones you will find with drill marks every few inches.

**Trees** - White pine and ash, hop hornbeam, yellow birch, eastern hemlock, cherry, and red and sugar maples are common.



## Cook Conservation Property

**69 acres in New London, NH**



## THE AUSBON SARGENT MISSION

Helping preserve the rural landscape of the Mt. Kearsarge/Ragged/Lake Sunapee region.

Serving the towns of: Andover, Bradford, Danbury, Goshen, Grantham, New London, Newbury, Springfield, Sunapee, Sutton, Warner, and Wilmot

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## ABOUT

The 69-acre Cook Conservation Property, accessed from Whitney Brook Road in Elkins, was gifted in 2007 by David and Celeste Cook to the Town of New London. The property adjoins the Deming Conservation Property and several loop options vary in length from .5 to 3 miles. The original trails were designed and constructed by the Cooks, and feature stone walls, glacial erratics, Whitney Brook, a mixed forest of hard and soft woods, remnants of sheep pastures, a hill and connection to a wider trail network via the Pleasant Lake High Trail.

Recently, the New London Conservation Commission (NLCC) assumed stewardship of the trail system and has upgraded the network with signs and consistent blazing.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- These trails are rated easy to moderate with an elevation gain of 370'
- Parking is on the west side of Whitney Brook Rd, just south of the powerline
- Trails are open to foot traffic only
- Hunters may be active - wear red or orange during hunting season. **Dogs must be leashed year round on the Deming Conservation Property**
- Please carry-in/carry-out (including pet waste) and do not disturb the trail, natural features or wildlife

