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**MAINE WATER AND COASTAL MOUNTAIN LAND TRUST ANNOUNCE
COLLABORATION TO PROTECT LAND AND WATER**

Clean Water, Recreation and Open Space, Forever

(Rockport, ME) Maine Water is pleased to announce today a historic collaboration with the Coastal Mountain Land Trust that will permanently preserve the Company's watershed land around Mirror Lake and Grassy Pond, the two sources of public water for the area, while providing open space and recreational opportunities for these communities.

The Land Trust will purchase conservation easements on 1,400 acres of land owned by Maine Water for \$2.4 million, expected to occur in two transactions to close in 2017 and 2019. Maine Water will donate \$600,000 of the easement value as part of the second transaction. These easements will permanently prohibit development of these lands while allowing sustainable forest management to ensure the health of the forest and the watershed. The easements will forever protect the water quality in Mirror Lake and Grassy Pond, ensuring these natural resources continue as the high water quality supplies to serve the six communities of Rockport, Camden, Rockland, Thomaston, Owls Head and Warren.

"Partnering with the Land Trust on these conservation easements to forever protect this land not only ensures the natural habitat and beauty will always be available for the communities to enjoy, but also provides the long term protection of the watershed around the area's drinking water resources" stated Judy Wallingford, Maine Water President. "It is a win-win-win for the communities, the land and the water."

In addition, the easements will conserve critical wildlife habitat since the Maine Water land is part of a 5,500 acre block of largely undeveloped habitat with tremendous topographic diversity. The Company's land hosts several exemplary natural communities that support a variety of flora and fauna, including the smooth sandwort plant, listed as rare in the state, over 270 acres

identified as an important deer wintering area, and extensive high value wetland habitats for wading birds and waterfowl.

The easements also allow the development by the Coastal Mountain Land Trust of a low impact, multi-purpose, non- motorized trail network called the "Round the Mountain Trail". This nine mile trail system will provide four season opportunities to explore Ragged Mountain on foot, skis, snowshoes or bikes. Maine Water is donating \$200,000 toward the development of this trail. This trail will benefit the communities by the expansion of recreation, the promotion of community wellness, while strengthening economic development in every season.

The sale of the conservation easements has been approved by the Maine Public Utilities Commission, which allows the company to refund half of the net proceeds to its Camden & Rockland Division water customers once each transaction has closed. The company plans to use the remaining proceeds to continue to replace aging water infrastructure within this division.

Maine Water serves 32,000 customers, or a population of 100,000, in over 20 communities throughout the state of Maine. For more information, visit: www.MaineWater.com.

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Round the Mountain, Water Company Tour 2018

Route 17, Maine Water Company Facility, Rockland 1pm – 4pm: Carpool to Water Company from Samoset

CMLT is in the middle of the Round the Mountain Collaboration, a campaign to conserve 1,400 acre of Maine Water Company land surrounding the water source for six towns, and building the nine-mile multi-use Round the Mountain Trail. We'll meet at the Maine Water Company's water treatment facility to get a tour of the facility and discuss the Round the Mountain campaign and its importance to the community through water, recreation, open space, and habitat protection. The tour is limited to 20, so please email CMLT at info@coastalmountains.org to register, providing your name, email and phone number.