



Pond Pitch The East Branch of the Penobscot River drops over 200 feet in 10 miles, forming waterfalls (pitches).
NPS / BETSY EHRLICH

*We cannot live without water.
We are connected to the environment, whether it's the woods or the water. . . .
If we don't take care of the woods and the water, then it won't take care of us.*
—Jason Mitchell, Water Resources Field Coordinator, Penobscot Nation

Water—sometimes turbulent, sometimes still—winds its way through the forested landscape of northern Maine. The Penobscot relationship with the land and waterways goes back over 11,000 years. The culture and traditions of the Penobscot, Maliseet, Mi'kmaq, and Passamaquoddy Nations (collectively, Wabanaki) are forever linked to this sacred area.

Wabanaki respect and care for the lands and waters that sustain and enrich life. In 2016 the creation of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, which lies within the Penobscot Nation homeland, further protected this dynamic landscape. You, too, can be part of the stewardship legacy.

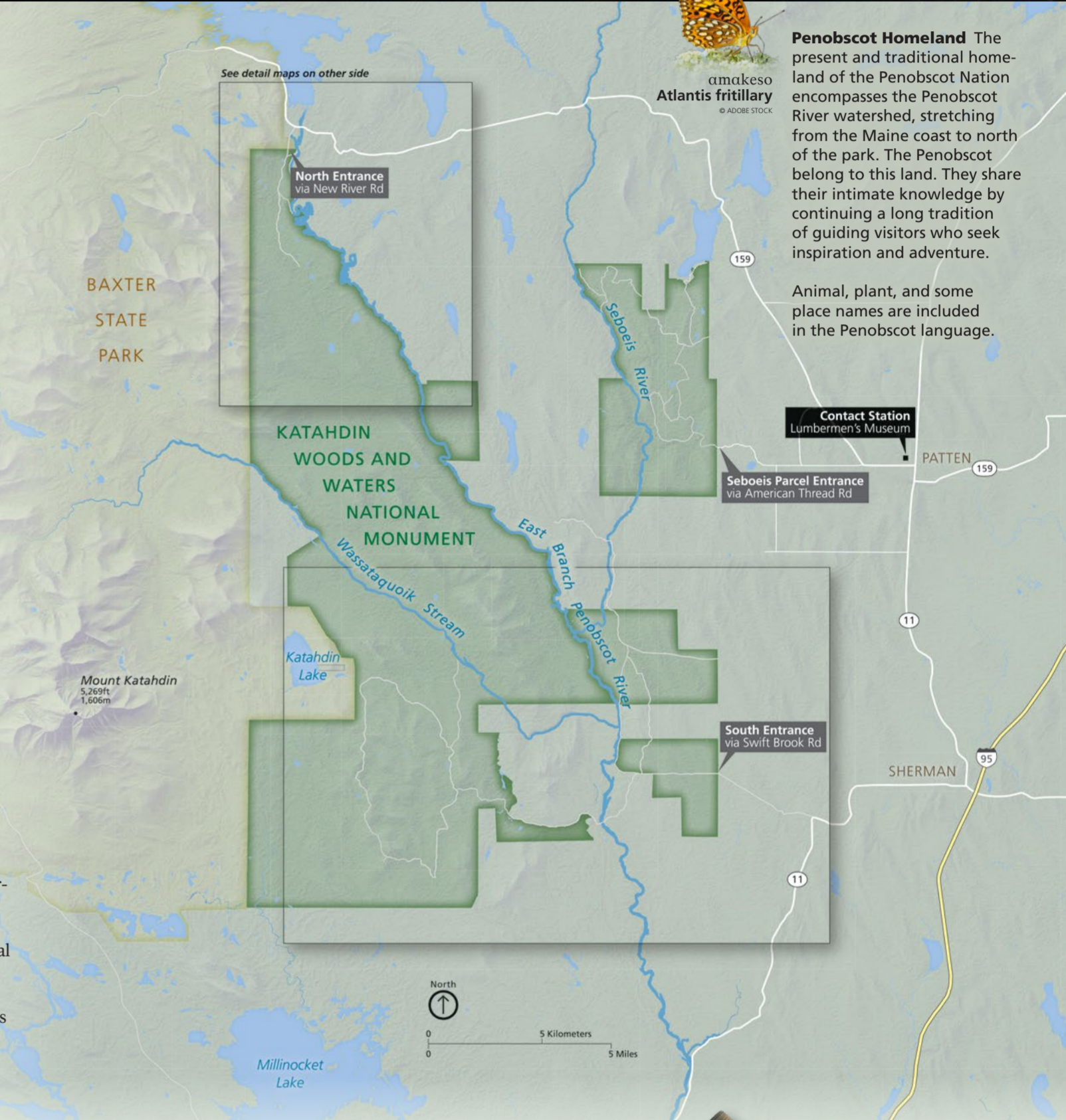
Exploring Katahdin Woods and Waters offers a wild, remote experience unlike other units of the National Park System on the East Coast. Here you can spot moose and lynx, paddle the crystal waters of nationally significant rivers and streams, gaze at the star-studded night sky, discover logging traditions, or hike a trail connected through geology to faraway lands.

How will this special place speak to you?



Timbering Logging has been part of this landscape since the early 1800s. In the winter, loggers, many of them Wabanaki, harvested white pines with axes and handsaws. After spring thaws, river drivers worked dangerous log drives. They moved millions of feet of logs downstream to lumber mills and, later, paper mills. The East Branch of the Penobscot River saw its last log drive in 1971.

Today logging continues outside the park, supporting jobs essential to the area's economy. Logging companies use mechanical equipment to selectively harvest and transport timber, making the process safer and more efficient. You may encounter timber-harvesting activities and logging trucks on roads in the park (see *safe-driving tips on other side*).



Penobscot Homeland The present and traditional homeland of the Penobscot Nation encompasses the Penobscot River watershed, stretching from the Maine coast to north of the park. The Penobscot belong to this land. They share their intimate knowledge by continuing a long tradition of guiding visitors who seek inspiration and adventure.

Animal, plant, and some place names are included in the Penobscot language.

READING THE LANDSCAPE

Traveling along the East Branch of the Penobscot River is like a trip through time. Its stair-stepped pitches and riverside boulders represent different millennia in Earth's history. The oldest rocks, near Grand Pitch, are over 500 million years old. Fossils found here match ones across the Atlantic Ocean. This discovery links remnants of the ancestral Appalachian-Caledonian Mountains and demonstrates plate tectonics. From its start in the park, the International Appalachian Trail follows this ancient mountain range into Canada and resumes across the Atlantic.

Volcanoes and vast oceans also left their mark. Volcanic and sedimentary stones in the distinctive Haskell Rock conglomerate show the transition from volcanic islands to seas. Glaciers transformed the landscape when they retreated about 15,000 years ago. Eskers (winding ridges of sand and gravel) and glacial erratics are the evidence left behind.

The geologic story of the park is still being written as scientists continue to study and learn. What discoveries lie ahead?



Fossil brachiopods found in the park
NPS / VINCE SANTECCI

WOODS

kačəkikiləhso Boreal chickadee
© GARY BEYERBERGER

awəhsəh Black bear
MOOSE PRINTS GALLERY / © ANITA MUELLER

tōləpə Wood turtle
WIKIMEDIA / PAUL KISAK

matekənihleho Northern long-eared bat
© SHERRI AND BROCK FERTON

kəskəkək'əhso Canada jay
MOOSE PRINTS GALLERY / © MARK PICARD

kəi-pə-so Canada lynx
ADOBE STOCK / SILLARI

mačihleho Ruffed grouse
MOOSE PRINTS GALLERY / © ANITA MUELLER

mačihleho Spruce grouse
MOOSE PRINTS GALLERY / © MARK PICARD

The park sits in a diverse transition zone where northern boreal and southern broadleaf deciduous forests overlap. Logging contributed to this diversity and left patchwork stands of differently aged trees. Plants and animals find important habitat and movement corridors in the park and surrounding conservation lands. Most plants are native to the area, which has few invasive species. Threatened animals like northern long-eared bat and Canada lynx make their homes alongside moose, black bear, and grouse.

WATERS

sk'amək Atlantic salmon
USFWS / TRAVISY KERRIP

mos Moose
MOOSE PRINTS GALLERY / © MARK PICARD

əss Tidewater mucket
USFWS / MATTHEW WITTEGSON

áčolask Wood frog
© TERRY HIBBITTS

tə mahk'e Beaver
© ERIC HANS

áčəssahtək'e Dragonfly
© MATT BERG

Rivers and streams provide critical habitat for brook trout and federally endangered Atlantic salmon, a culturally important species to the Penobscot and other Wabanaki Nations. These sea-run fish migrate between fresh water and salt water. The Atlantic Salmon Recovery Plan seeks to reestablish Atlantic salmon and other sea-run fish in eastern waters, including the East Branch of the Penobscot River and its associated watershed. The plan is a partnership effort among federal, state, Tribal, and other entities.



Black Ash Some Wabanaki creation stories tell how the first people were made when Gluskabe the transformer shot an ash tree with an arrow, freeing the spirits inside. For hundreds of years, Wabanaki have made functional and decorative baskets from ash trees. The invasive emerald ash borer threatens this tradition central to their culture and livelihood.

apásnote Ash basket
HUBERT'S LOG AND TIMBER SHAP COLLECTION, HUDSON MUSEUM, UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

wikopi Black ash leaves
© MINNESOTA WILDFLOWERS

Gabriel Frey, twelfth-generation Passamaquoddy basket maker
© GRETA RYBIS

Emerald ash borer
ADOBE STOCK

wahsehtj East Branch of the Penobscot River
© MARK PICARD

Enjoy the Woods and Waters



Dark night skies like these over the East Branch of the Penobscot appear over most of the park.
© T. LUSING/TERRA GALLERIA

The Penobscot River is the first relative on our census, it's the first citizen of the Penobscot Nation. Because when you ask me who I am, where I come from, I answer with one word: Penobscot. That's who I am, that's who the river is, that's who the land is, and we are all one. All of us.

—Sherri Mitchell, Penobscot

View the stars above this International Dark Sky Sanctuary, the first in New England, and realize you're seeing the same scene as people for thousands of years. Wabanaki, Penobscot guide Joe Polis who led Henry David Thoreau and other travelers, loggers, recreation enthusiasts, and others have connected to this area in

Northern Section Take ME 159 from Patten. The northern section offers hiking, mountain biking, fishing, and paddling along the East Branch of the Penobscot River. Hike or bike to Stair Falls, Haskell Rock Pitch, Grand Pitch, and other scenic waterfalls.

Southern Section From ME 11 in Sherman, take Swift Brook Road to reach the unpaved 17-mile Katahdin Loop Road. Go slowly and watch for logging trucks. Allow at least 1½ hours to drive the entire loop. Reach hikes like Orin Falls and Barnard Mountain more quickly by traveling counterclockwise from the start of the road.

Scenic Byway Katahdin Woods & Waters National Scenic Byway winds 89 miles

through the Katahdin region. www.katahdinwoodsandwaters.com.

Hiking Hikes are available for all levels. Check the park website or use the NPS App.

International Appalachian Trail (IAT) The IAT connects significant geological elements across continents. From its start at the Barnard Mountain Trailhead, the IAT travels 30 miles in the park. It continues north to Canada, with sections in Europe and North Africa. www.maineiat.org

Biking Bicycles and Class 1 electric bicycles are allowed on public and gated administrative roads and in parking areas open to motor vehicles.

Paddling Canoeing and kayaking are popular activities.

their own way, all under that same sky that both brings us together and reminds us how small we are. Today you, too, can choose how to experience this special place. Pick a season, an activity, a place. Explore these lands and waters and make the experience your own.

Some areas are dangerous for inexperienced paddlers. Use a river map and know where the portages are.

Hunting Hunting is permitted on park lands east of the East Branch of the Penobscot River (see maps). A Maine state hunting license is required.

Fishing The East Branch of the Penobscot River and surrounding tributaries offer excellent fishing. A Maine state fishing license is required.

Camping Camping is permitted only in designated campsites. Reserve at www.recreation.gov.

Winter Explore the park on snowshoes, skis, or snowmobiles. About 15 miles of trails in the northern section are groomed for cross-country skiing. Snowmobiling is allowed

on up to 20 miles of trails (varies annually) but not on the loop road or most roads and trails west of the East Branch of the Penobscot River. Local snowmobile clubs groom trails, which are part of a larger trail network in Maine. Pick up a map at local businesses. Maine registration is required.

Safety Logging trucks always have the right of way (see *safety-driving tips below for important precautions*).

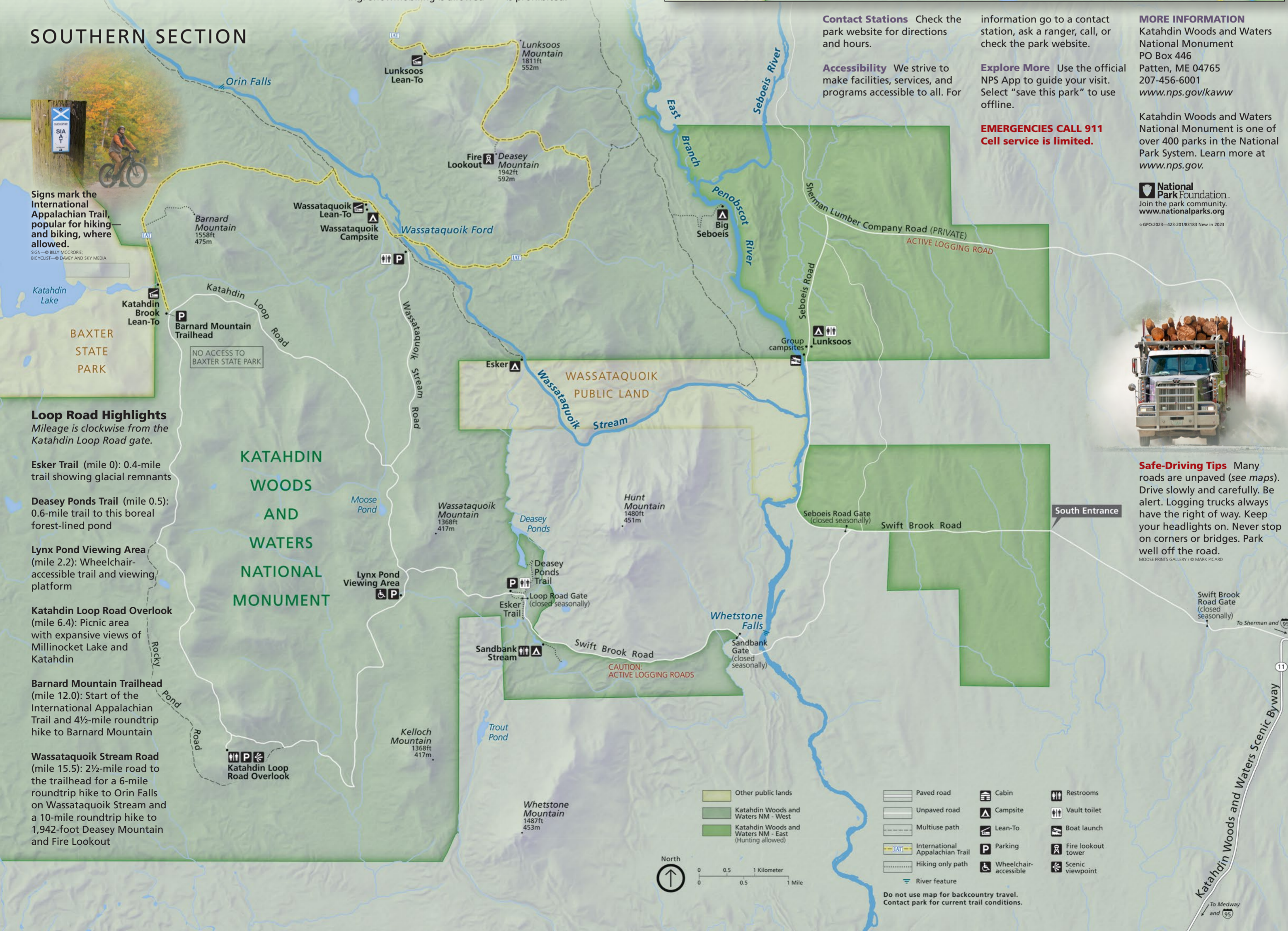
Regulations Federal laws protect all natural and cultural features in the park. • Untreated firewood from out of state is banned. Buy firewood locally. • For firearms regulations check the park website. • Dogs are allowed on trails but not in shelters and must be leashed. • Using remotely piloted aircraft like drones is prohibited.



Traditional birchbark canoes connect Wabanaki culture across generations.
COURTESY PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM / © NORTON HANBROCK



SOUTHERN SECTION



Signs mark the International Appalachian Trail, popular for hiking and biking, where allowed.
SIGN: © BILLY MCCORMICK; BICYCLIST: © DAVEY AND SKY MEDIA

Loop Road Highlights Mileage is clockwise from the Katahdin Loop Road gate.

Esker Trail (mile 0): 0.4-mile trail showing glacial remnants

Deasey Ponds Trail (mile 0.5): 0.6-mile trail to this boreal forest-lined pond

Lynx Pond Viewing Area (mile 2.2): Wheelchair-accessible trail and viewing platform

Katahdin Loop Road Overlook (mile 6.4): Picnic area with expansive views of Millinocket Lake and Katahdin

Barnard Mountain Trailhead (mile 12.0): Start of the International Appalachian Trail and 4½-mile roundtrip hike to Barnard Mountain

Wassataquoik Stream Road (mile 15.5): 2½-mile road to the trailhead for a 6-mile roundtrip hike to Orin Falls on Wassataquoik Stream and a 10-mile roundtrip hike to 1,942-foot Deasey Mountain and Fire Lookout

Contact Stations Check the park website for directions and hours.

Accessibility We strive to make facilities, services, and programs accessible to all. For

information go to a contact station, ask a ranger, call, or check the park website.

Explore More Use the official NPS App to guide your visit. Select "save this park" to use offline.

EMERGENCIES CALL 911 Cell service is limited.

MORE INFORMATION Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument PO Box 446 Patten, ME 04765 207-456-6001 www.nps.gov/kaww

Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument is one of over 400 parks in the National Park System. Learn more at www.nps.gov.

National Park Foundation. Join the park community. www.nationalparks.org

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Safe-Driving Tips Many roads are unpaved (see maps). Drive slowly and carefully. Be alert. Logging trucks always have the right of way. Keep your headlights on. Never stop on corners or bridges. Park well off the road.
MOOSE PRINTS GALLERY / © MARK PICARD

Other public lands	Paved road	Cabin	Restrooms
Katahdin Woods and Waters NM - West	Unpaved road	Campsite	Vault toilet
Katahdin Woods and Waters NM - East (Hunting allowed)	Multiuse path	Lean-To	Boat launch
	International Appalachian Trail	Parking	Fire lookout tower
	Hiking only path	Wheelchair-accessible	Scenic viewpoint
	River feature		

Do not use map for backcountry travel. Contact park for current trail conditions.