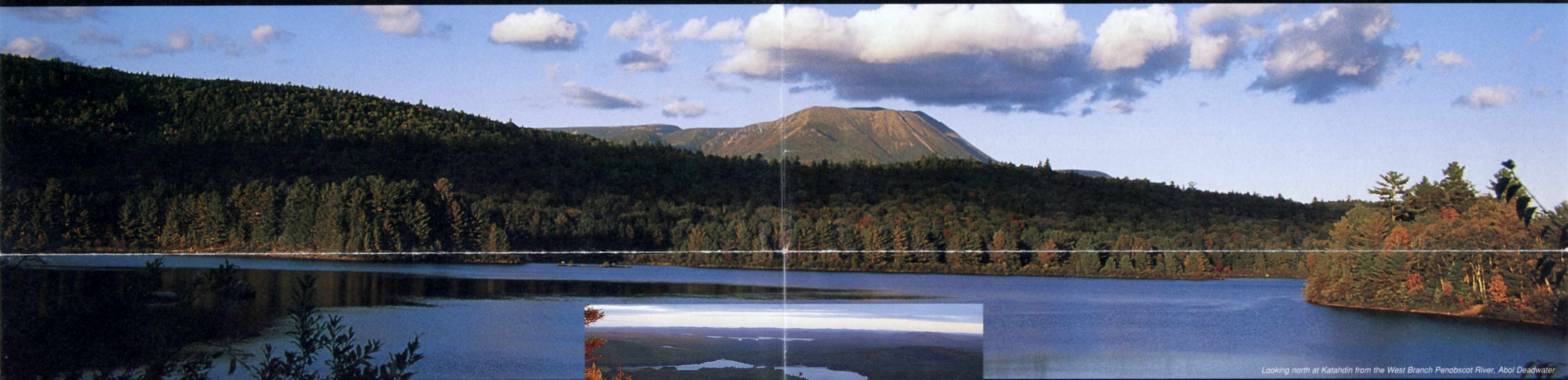


Maine Woods

Proposed National Park & Preserve A Vision Of What Could Be



An American Crown Jewel



solitude and spiritual renewal to civilization-weary people. And the Park is an immense "time capsule" that preserves irreplaceable parts of our cultural heritage. It is truly an American "crown jewel."

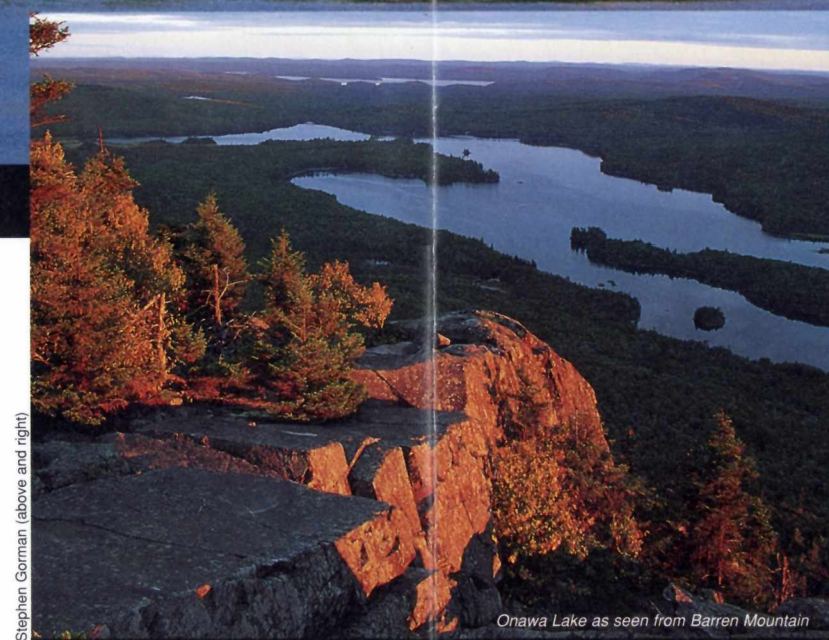
"Primeval, untamed, and forever untameable Nature" was how Henry David Thoreau described the Maine Woods after exploring it in 1846. Maine Woods National Park is a place worthy of Thoreau's vision. The Park covers 3.2-million acres, an area larger than the state of Connecticut. Baxter State Park lies entirely within the National Park boundary, and continues to be owned and managed by the people of Maine as a "forever wild" state park.

Among the treasures of Maine Woods National Park are:

- The headwaters of the Allagash, Aroostook, Kennebec, Penobscot, and St. John Rivers;
- Moosehead Lake and hundreds of backcountry lakes and ponds;

- Old-growth forest stands and immense tracts of second-growth forest;
- Habitat for endangered, threatened, and sensitive wildlife species;
- A landscape shaped by glaciers, water, and volcanic activity;
- Native American, Colonial, and logging-era sites and travel routes;
- The area explored and immortalized in writing by Henry David Thoreau and Justice William O. Douglas; and
- The Appalachian National Scenic Trail and a wide variety of other recreational opportunities.

Maine Woods National Park lies within the 26-million-acre Northern Forest Ecosystem, the largest expanse of wildland in the eastern United States. As a major anchor for a region-wide system of nature reserves, the Park has importance that extends far beyond its boundaries.



Stephen Gorman (above and right)

Onawa Lake as seen from Barren Mountain

North Woods Wildlife



William Ridg

George Wuerthner

Robert Michelson

Gary Braasch

Most of Maine Woods National Park is covered with rich spruce-fir and northern hardwood forests. These, along with innumerable rivers and lakes, wetlands, mountains, and meadows, provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species.

Wildlife commonly found in the Park includes

moose, deer, black bear, beaver, loon, broad-winged hawk, blue-spotted salamander, and brook trout. But the Park also provides habitat for endangered and sensitive species including the bald eagle, spruce grouse, Canada lynx, pine marten, northern bog lemming, blueback trout, and small whorled pogonia. River headwaters provide critical spawning habitat for the imperiled Atlantic salmon.

During the 19th and 20th centuries, the natural ecosystems of the Maine Woods were damaged by

"In the middle of the night... we heard the voice of the loon, loud and distinct, from far over the lake.

It is a very wild sound...unlike the voice of a bird. I could lie awake for hours listening to it, it is so thrilling. When camping in such a wilderness as this, you are prepared to hear sounds from some of its inhabitants which will give voice to its wildness. Some idea of bears, wolves, or panthers runs in your head naturally...."

—Henry David Thoreau, *The Maine Woods*

logging, pesticide use, and other industrial activities. Numerous species of wildlife, including the eastern timber wolf, cougar, wolverine, and woodland caribou were driven out. Today, Thoreau's Maine Woods is re-emerging. The region west of Baxter Park—once devastated

by clearcutting—is again cloaked with a dense mantle of spruce and fir trees. A new pack of wolves has been sighted near Whitecap Mountain by hikers on the Appalachian Trail. And, for the first time in over a century, Atlantic salmon are spawning in Wassataquoik Stream.

Remember that you are the visitor. Wild animals can be dangerous if they feel threatened—especially if they have young. Try to observe wildlife at a respectful distance.

Recreation: Enjoying the Park

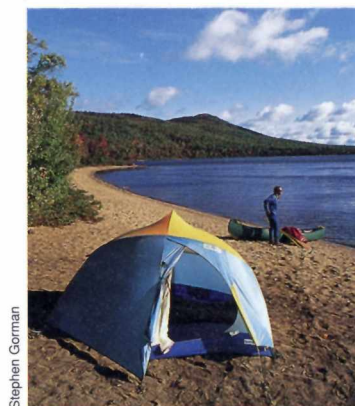
Visitor Centers:

We hope you will stop at one of the Visitor Centers. Park rangers can provide information, assistance, and hunting and camping permits. Services include displays, activity schedules, trip planning, maps, publications, and first aid. Nature walks and campfire programs are offered regularly during the main visitor season.



Stephen Gorman

The park contains over 700 miles of outstanding rivers



Stephen Gorman

Backcountry camping

Hiking & Camping:

There are more than 1,250 miles of trails through the Park. For overnight camping in the backcountry, you will need to obtain a camping permit at one of the Visitor Centers. Trails are usually passable at the lower elevations by late May, but many of the mountainous areas may not be free of snow by that time.

Boating & Fishing:

Boating and fishing are permitted on most of the lakes and rivers in

the Park. Be sure to check on motor boat and motor size regulations before you embark on a fishing trip. Excursion boat cruises originating in Greenville and Rockwood are offered on Moosehead Lake.

Hunting & Snowmobiling:

Hunting and snowmobiling are permitted within designated National Preserve areas. Check with a Visitor Center for maps of the snowmobile trail system and information regarding hunting, guide services, and traditional hunting camps.

Guide Services:

Visitor Centers post lists of Registered Maine Guides. Make arrangements well in advance, as guides' schedules fill quickly.

Floatplane Charters:

Private air charter companies can provide fly-in access to designated lakes.

Lodging:

A number of traditional sporting camps are available which provide meals and lodging. Space is limited and reservations should be made well in advance.

Winter Activities:

Winter is a season when nature is in control, so approach a winter trip with respect and preparation. The season usually runs from late November to March. Always check with a ranger before setting out and check in again upon your return. Unless you are an experienced winter camper, you are urged to plan a trip with a Registered Maine Guide.

Private Property:

Certain lands within the Park remain in private ownership. Some of these are open by permission of the owner. Please respect landowner rights where land is posted.

Seasons



Stephen Gorman

Fall leaves in the Maine Woods

Spring in Maine Woods National Park begins with ice-out on the lakes—generally occurring from late April to early June. As the days lengthen, deciduous trees begin to mist over with what poet Robert Frost once called "green gold."

Summer is the season of blue lakes, jumping fish, the haunting cry of the loon, and the occasional afternoon thunderstorm.

Dusk falls slowly, and the camper who stays up late may be rewarded with a dramatic night view of the aurora borealis.

Some fall days are so clear that it almost hurts to look. Visibility in excess of 100 miles is common from Mt. Katahdin.

As fall progresses, hillside maples work through the spectrum from green to brilliant reds and oranges.

Finally, the legendary Maine winter sets in where temperatures

fall at times below -40°F. The Allagash River freezes over, and Mt. Katahdin drapes itself in a white winter mantle. Winter camping memories can include the unforgettable sight of stars from horizon to horizon, and the sound of crisp snow crunching underfoot.



Stephen Gorman

Snowshoe trekking on Chesuncook Lake



David Carle



Jeff McEvoy



Stephen Gorman

The establishment of Maine Woods National Park culminated over a century of efforts to protect this nationally significant region.

Most of the Maine Woods was once owned by the public. But by 1878, the state had sold or granted virtually all of the land to private interests. Early landowners logged the forest, but kept cutting levels relatively low, discouraged development, and allowed public access.



Henry David Thoreau

By the late 20th century, however, most of northern Maine was controlled by less than two dozen large corporations and private trusts. With industrial efficiency, vast areas of the Maine Woods were clearcut, including much of the land now within the boundaries of Maine Woods National Park.

The idea of protecting the Maine Woods goes back to Henry David Thoreau who, after his 1853 visit, urged that such wild places become "national preserves." But many other people have shared Thoreau's vision. Over the next several decades, many called for large-scale protection of the Maine

Woods. Proposals included a half-million acre state park centered around Mt. Katahdin in 1895 and a major forest reserve in 1910. In 1919, state representative and future governor Percival P. Baxter was unsuccessful in his efforts to secure state protection for the Mt. Katahdin area. He proceeded to purchase over 200,000 acres with his own money, and generously donated the land to the

History of the Park

The works of men are short-lived. Monuments decay, buildings crumble, wealth vanishes, but Katahdin and its massive grandeur will forever remain the mountain of the people of Maine.

—Former Maine Governor, Percival P. Baxter

people of Maine as "forever wild" Baxter State Park.

In 1933, Governor Louis Brann proposed a million-acre "Roosevelt National Park" in northern Maine. This was followed in 1937 by Congressman Ralph Brewster's proposal for a 400,000-acre "Katahdin National Park"—a proposal supported by the Millinocket Chamber of Commerce and the Appalachian Trail Conference. Unfortunately,

these later efforts to preserve the Maine Woods were unsuccessful.

Public outrage during the 1990s over intensive logging, real-estate development, and industrial activities finally led to creation of Maine Woods National Park. Since then, private lands have been acquired from willing sellers — most from a few large timberland owners. The boundary still encompasses some state and private conservation lands, private camps, and other non-federal lands.

As with some of our greatest public reserves including Baxter State Park, White Mountain

National Forest, Adirondack Park, and Great Smoky Mountains National Park, portions of the park were damaged by past logging and other development. Today, logging has been phased out on lands under public ownership. Most logging roads and other unnecessary development have been eliminated. Nature is being allowed to heal the land.



Stephen Gorman

Clearcut circa 1988

You Can Make This Vision a Reality



Gulf Hagas —Screw Auger Falls

From this elevation, just on the skirts of the clouds, we could overlook the country, west and south, for a hundred miles. There it was, the State of Maine.... Immeasurable forest for the sun to shine on.... No clearing, no house. It did not look as if a solitary traveler had cut so much as a walking-stick there. Countless lakes,... and mountains also, whose names, for the most part, are known only to the Indians. The forest looked like a firm grass sward, and the effect of these lakes... is that of a mirror broken into a thousand fragments, and wildly scattered over the grass, reflecting the full blaze of the sun.

—Henry David Thoreau, *The Maine Woods*

Today Maine Woods National Park is only a vision. But you can help make this vision a reality.

Consider where we are presently heading. We are leaving future generations a legacy of depleted forests, vanishing wildlife, polluted waters, and declining economies. Acre by acre, the Maine Woods is being lost.

The heart of the Maine Woods deserves to be protected as a new national park. As a national park, the natural wonders of the region would belong to the public. The land, water, and wildlife would be preserved as priceless parts of our national heritage, safe from exploitation. Vast wildlands would offer solitude and spiritual renewal to civilization-weary people. And the Park would strengthen local economies by creating jobs in tourism, recreation, and ecological restoration.

The vision of Maine Woods National Park can inspire people across America. With

strong public support, this park can become a reality. Several of the existing large landowners are now marketing their "non-strategic" holdings within the proposed park boundaries. Most of the remaining lands are held by a handful of large landowners that are likely to be willing sellers in the future. Based on prevailing prices, these lands would cost approximately \$100 to \$300 per acre to acquire. For less than the cost of one B-2 stealth bomber, the American people could create a great Maine Woods National Park for this and future generations.

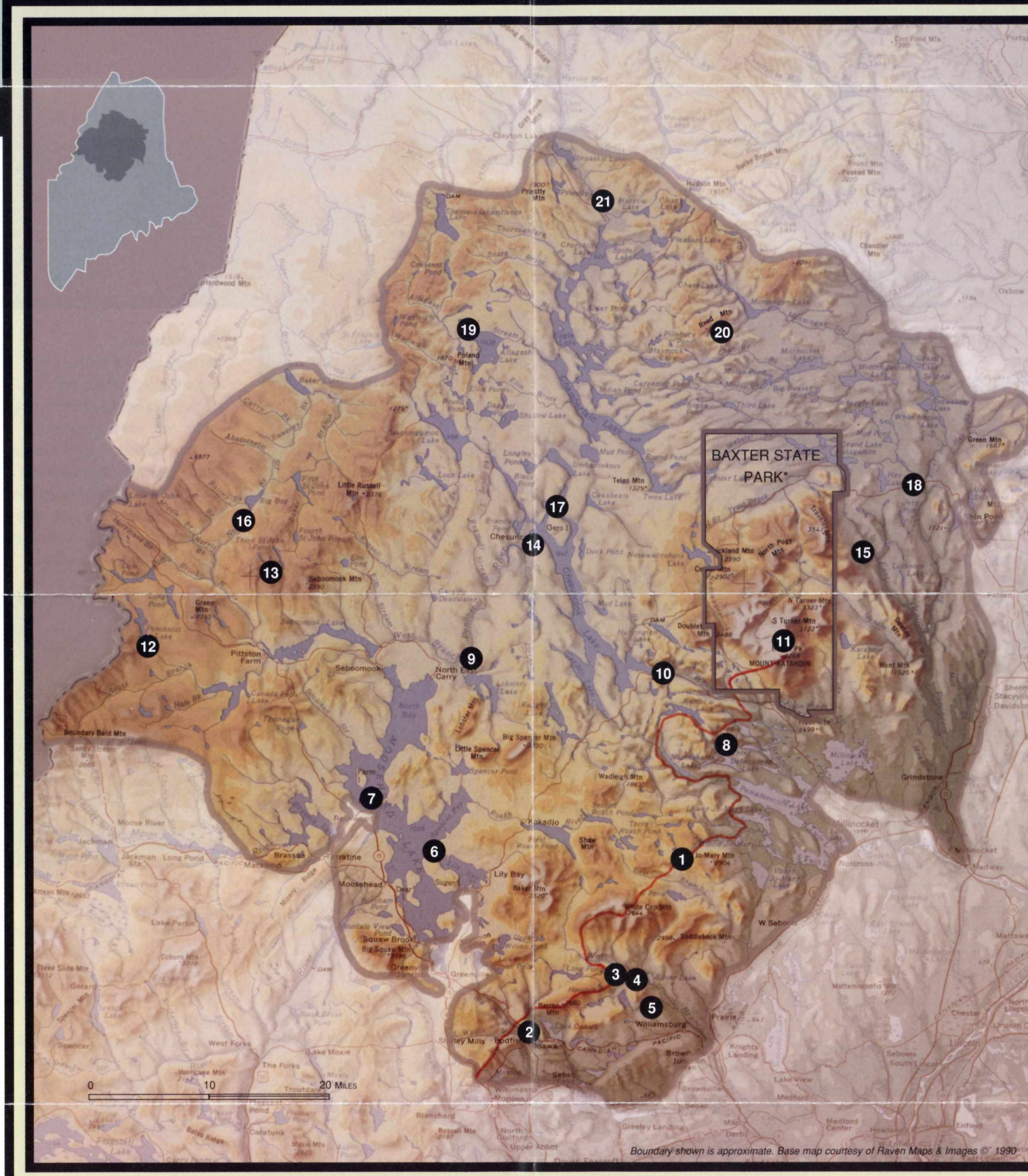
Like all generations past, our children and our grandchildren should be able to hear the cry of the loon, the song of the hermit thrush, and the howl of the wolf.



Kevin Brusie

Help save these special places!

Proposed Maine Woods National Park



Points of Interest

Maine Woods National Park contains numerous outstanding natural, historic, and recreational features. Some of these are managed by the State of Maine or private conservation organizations. Check at a Visitor Center for access information.

- 1. Appalachian Trail**
The "100 mile Wilderness" section of this world-famous hiking trail, which begins on Mt. Katahdin.
- 2. Little Wilson Falls Gorge**
900-foot long gorge with 42-foot falls, among the highest in Maine.
- 3. Gulf Hagas**
Three-mile canyon near the Appalachian Trail with five major waterfalls.
- 4. The Hermitage**
Majestic 35-acre stand of old-growth pines.
- 5. Katahdin Iron Works**
Restored stone blast furnace and charcoal kiln on site of mid-1800s frontier iron works.
- 6. Moosehead Lake**
74,890-acre lake, the largest in New England.
- 7. Mount Kineo**
Massive flint mountain that rises more than 800 feet out of Moosehead Lake.
- 8. Debsconeag Lakes**
Wild region of pristine lakes and streams, rugged mountains, and lush forests.
- 9. Lobster Lake**
Natural, clear-water lake with outstanding mountain views and sandy beaches.
- 10. Ripogenus Gorge**
Mile-long gorge with a drop of 80 feet in 1-1/2 miles.
- 11. Mount Katahdin**
Maine's highest mountain at 5,271 feet, with virgin forests, tundra, and glacial features. (in Baxter State Park)
- 12. Penobscot Lake**
Wildland lake offers prime habitat for blueback trout, a unique Maine species.
- 13. St. John Ponds**
Ponds that feed the headwaters of the St. John River, the longest free-flowing river in the East.
- 14. Chesuncook Village**
One of the few surviving examples of a 19th-century logging village. Visited by Henry David Thoreau.
- 15. Grand Pitch**
Dramatic section of East Branch of the Penobscot River; one of four steep cataracts.
- 16. Big Bog**
Scenic habitat for moose, waterfowl, and other wildlife.
- 17. Umbazooksus Stream and Lake**
Archeological site, once a primary native American route.
- 18. Upper Seboeis River Gorge**
Striking, V-shaped gorge over 6 miles long and up to 150 feet deep.
- 19. Ice Caves**
Unique caves, cold enough for ice to remain throughout the year.
- 20. Big Reed Pond**
At almost 5,000 acres, the largest remaining tract of old-growth forest in New England.
- 21. Allagash Wilderness Waterway**
First 50 miles of one of the most famous canoeing river and lake systems in the United States.

Let your voice be heard!

☐ I/We request that the National Park Service complete an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the possibility of establishing a new, 3.2-million acre Maine Woods National Park surrounding Baxter State Park in north-central Maine. The EIS should assess the feasibility of creating a park, consider a broad range of alternative actions, be done in cooperation with landowners and other government agencies, and ensure public review and participation.

Signature(s): _____

☐ Send me information on how to join RESTORE: The North Woods

Name(s): _____ please print

Street: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Tel: _____

SEND THIS FORM OR A PHOTOCOPY TO:

**RESTORE:
The North Woods**
P.O. Box 440
Concord, MA 01742
Tel/Fax:
(508) 287-0320

RESTORE: The North Woods seeks an open public debate on the Maine Woods National Park proposal. We are working to build citizen support for a federal study on the possibility of establishing the Park. We urge people in Maine, in the Northeast, and across the nation who love the Maine Woods to join us in this important campaign.

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*Note: Baxter State Park is not a part of Maine Woods National Park

**RESTORE:
The North Woods**

is a non-profit, membership organization dedicated to restoring and preserving the natural integrity of the North Woods ecoregion of the United States and Canada. Donations are tax deductible.



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