

Maine Woods

Proposed National Park & Preserve *A Vision of What Could Be*



America’s Next Great National Park

Maine Woods looking north from Mount Kineo

Early in the 20th Century, a group of visionary citizens worked tirelessly to protect an awe-inspiring portion of the Maine Coast for the benefit of the American people. The result was Acadia National Park, one of our country’s finest natural treasures. Today, we are the beneficiaries of their efforts and foresight.

Maine Woods National Park & Preserve. We now have an opportunity to create a magnificent new national park in Maine that will complement Acadia. Maine Woods National Park & Preserve will protect 3.2 million acres of wildland in the heart of the largest undeveloped landscape in the eastern U.S., preserve and interpret the area’s rich history and traditions, and offer a wide range of outdoor recreational activities close to the most densely populated region of the country.

Park Management. The Park & Preserve will be managed by the National Park Service, an agency with a century of experience in land management, public education, and recreational programs. Similar to Alaska parks, there

will be two contiguous units — a National Park and a National Preserve — each providing major benefits.

- **National Park.** With “National Park” designation, the area will become one of America’s natural crown jewels; prestigious, globally recognized, and protected much like Yellowstone, Yosemite, Grand Canyon, and Great Smoky Mountains National Parks. This “brand” will bring with it significant economic and social benefits.
- **National Preserve.** “National Preserve” designation provides for additional sporting activities, such as hunting and snowmobiling. However, in most aspects, National Preserves resemble National Parks. Public input will help to set the Preserve’s boundaries and ensure the continuation of these important recreational pursuits — as with Alaska’s Denali and other National Preserves.

Economic Benefits. The proposed Maine Woods National Park & Preserve will help significantly improve and revitalize the struggling, resource-dependent economy of northern Maine. Studies have shown that every dollar invested in our National Parks returns ten dollars in economic value to the public. Nationwide, this creates billions of dollars of local economic activity and supports hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Jobs for Local Towns. Acadia National Park generates tens of millions of dollars annually for coastal Maine. Comprehensive studies have concluded that a National Park & Preserve in northern Maine could similarly benefit the economy there, supporting thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in economic activity at the local and regional levels.

Gateway communities, such as Millinocket, Greenville, Rockwood, and Patten, will also see significant benefits from a National Park and National Preserve. Job

creation in the tourism sector, coupled with small business development, will attract professionals and entrepreneurs who are drawn to a small-town environment that offers a healthy lifestyle focused on nature and outdoor recreation.

Most of the Region Will Remain Private. Although expansive, a National Park & Preserve in northern Maine will leave more than 70 percent of the Maine Woods unaffected. The vast majority of the region will remain privately owned and managed. Baxter State Park will remain a state park, independent and under the control of the Baxter State Park Authority.

There are only few special places in America where it is still possible to create magnificent National Parks on a grand scale. The Maine Woods is such a place. Just as we thank the visionaries who created Acadia National Park, future generations will thank you for establishing a Maine Woods National Park & Preserve.

Natural Wonders



Hiker on Borestone Mountain
George Wuertner

A Great American Wildland. Maine Woods National Park & Preserve will become one of America’s premier wild-land destinations, protecting immense spruce-fir and hardwood forests, and most of New England’s remaining old-growth tracts. It will embrace thousands of miles of clear streams, including the headwaters of five of Maine’s major rivers — Allagash, Aroostook, Kennebec, Penobscot, and St. John.

the greatest population of wild native brook trout in the East.

Endangered Species Recovery. Imperiled plants and animals will have a chance to thrive — including the Atlantic salmon, marten, northern bog lemming, bald eagle, spruce grouse, Bicknell’s thrush, wood turtle, Tomah mayfly, small whorled pogonia, and what is likely the most abundant Canada lynx population in the lower 48 states.

Wildlife Restoration. The Park & Preserve will be the best place in the eastern U.S. to restore wilderness species, such as the eastern wolf and cougar. Large native predators are vital in maintaining healthy forests and populations of game species.

Climate Change. Huge amounts of carbon will be secured in the trees and soils of the Park & Preserve, helping to moderate the climate. The resiliency of protected native ecosystems will enable them to adapt to climate impacts. Native species will be able to migrate via connections to wildlands in Canada to the north and along the Appalachians to the west and south, as global climate change shifts habitats.

Rich History



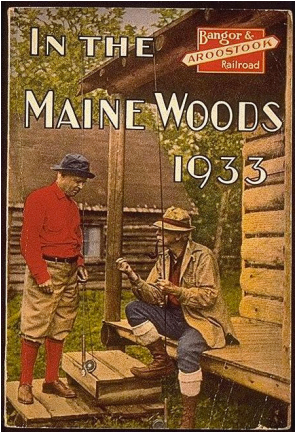
“Twilight in the Wilderness”
Painting of the Maine Woods by Frederic E. Church (1860)

Preserving Maine History. For thousands of years, Native Americans hunted, fished, and found spiritual inspiration in the Maine Woods. Forest products companies produced timber and paper. Adventurers such as Henry David Thoreau and Theodore Roosevelt gained a lifelong commitment to conservation. Artists captured the region’s natural beauty. Guides and sporting camps offered a unique backcountry experience.

Discovering Maine Traditions. A Park & Preserve will expand our knowledge of, and pride in, Maine Woods history and culture. Visitor centers will offer historic exhibits, maps, and guidebooks. Rangers and guides will offer field trips for those seeking to learn more. You might join a docent or historian at an ancient Native American flint quarry, watch an old-time logging demonstration, or retrace Thoreau’s historic route by canoe.



William Sewall, Wilmot Dow, and Theodore Roosevelt hunting in Maine, 1879
from Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace NHS



In the Maine Woods magazine, Bangor & Aroostook Railroad, 1933

Wildland Recreation

Endless Opportunities. Maine Woods National Park & Preserve will ensure public recreational access to more than three million acres of magnificent wildlands.

Visitors will be greeted with breathtaking vistas, a diversity of wildlife, and a wide range of recreational opportunities. They will be able to hike and backpack on wilderness trails; canoe, kayak and raft rushing rivers; fish for native brook trout in clear, cold streams; hunt for elusive North Woods game; swim and boat on peaceful lakes and ponds; bicycle on networks of recovered forest roads; and cross-country ski, snowshoe, and snowmobile on hundreds of miles of trails in a winter wonderland.

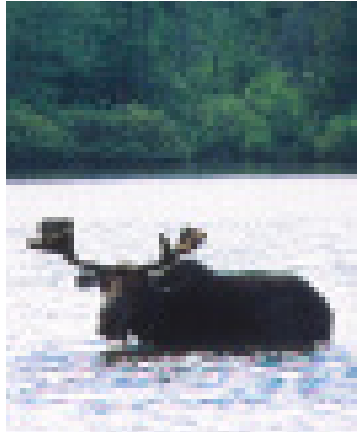
Family Vacations. Maine Woods National Park & Preserve will offer unforgettable and affordable family vacations. Special ranger programs will be available to introduce young people to the wonders of the wild. Woodland campgrounds and traditional Maine sporting camps will provide family accommodations in beautiful settings. Outdoor activities will offer healthy recreation for visitors of all ages.



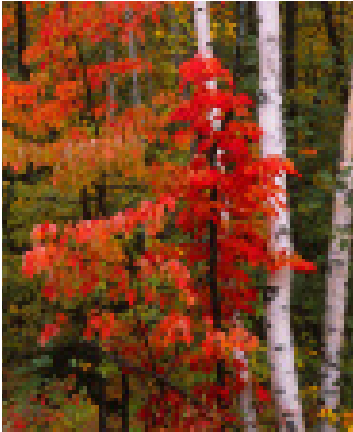
Camping on Lobster Lake
George Wuertner

Consistent Stewardship. A number of Maine Woods attractions already have some level of public or private conservation protection. However, most are scattered and many are surrounded by lands open to damaging development. The Park & Preserve will connect, safeguard, and ensure public enjoyment of these attractions under consistent National Park Service stewardship.

Guaranteed Access. Generations of visitors to the Maine Woods were allowed recreational access by traditional timberland owners. Now, changing ownerships and development are eroding that heritage. A Park & Preserve will guarantee public access to the Maine Woods so that future generations can continue to enjoy Maine’s recreational traditions.



Bull moose
George Wuertner



Fall maples and birches
Michael Kellett



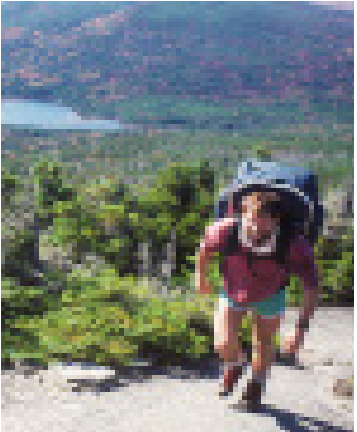
Canada lynx
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Skiing the quiet backcountry
George Wuertner



Fly fishing, Big Eddy, W. Br. Penobscot River
Jym St. Pierre

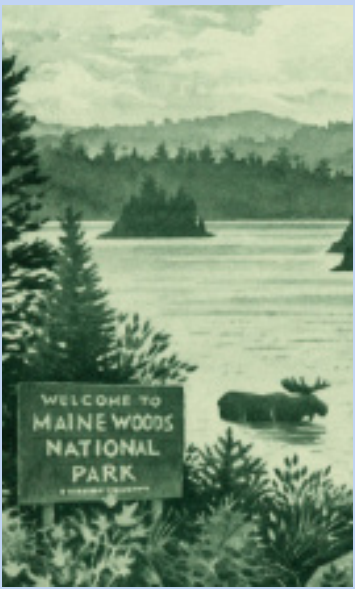


Hiking the 100 Mile Wilderness
George Wuertner

Choosing the Future of the Maine Woods



Diano Circo



Jon Luoma

Traditional Ownership. Henry David Thoreau was so inspired by the wild Maine Woods of the mid-1800s that he envisioned the region as a “national preserve.” Instead, most of this once-public land was transferred to a few large private owners. Fortunately, though they logged the forests, these traditional landowners avoided major development and allowed public access.

Growing Threats. In recent years, the situation has changed dramatically. Most of the region has been acquired by transnational corporations and speculators, who are often driven more by short-term profit than sustainable forest management. Some key lands have gained limited protection, but most of the Maine Woods faces increasing threats from land subdivision, resource degradation, and loss of public access due to:

- Misplaced real estate development on unspoiled shorelines
- The posting of no trespassing signs on private lands
- Highways, energy facilities, oil and gas pipelines, and power lines
- Industrial mines that could contaminate surface and ground waters
- Whole-tree chipping operations and biomass burning plants
- Expansion of off-road motorized recreation into sensitive areas
- Weakening of public land regulations for the benefit of special interests

We can no longer depend on the ways of the past to preserve the Maine Woods for the future. We have a clear choice — to struggle with a declining status quo or to protect the heart of the region as a Maine Woods National Park & Preserve.

Choosing a Park & Preserve. The creation of Maine Woods National Park & Preserve will halt unsustainable resource exploitation. It will prevent inappropriate residential, industrial, and commercial development. It will ensure public access so we, and generations to come, can enjoy this beautiful region.

How a Park Is Created. A rigorous public process is required before a National Park & Preserve can be established. Typically, the first step is a feasibility study of the options, with extensive public review and input. Provided the study's outcome is positive, creation of a Park & Preserve requires congressional hearings, public involvement, and an act of Congress and presidential signature.

After congressional authorization of a Park & Preserve, a comprehensive management plan is developed, with the full participation of the public. Park legislation can include creation of a citizen advisory committee with local representation. In contrast, the public has very limited say about the future of privately held lands.

Willing-seller Acquisition. Lands for a Park & Preserve will be acquired gradually, over time, through donations or by purchase from willing sellers. Baxter State Park will remain under state ownership and management. Towns, residences, and major roads will also be excluded.

Now Is the Time for Action. We have a second chance to realize Thoreau's vision of a permanently protected Maine Woods as a grand Park & Preserve. We must act soon, before this unique window of opportunity is lost forever.



Lobster Lake sunset
Jym St. Pierre

Park & Preserve Highlights

Here are some of the outstanding features of the proposed Maine Woods National Park & Preserve. A number of them now have public access and some level of protection, but they are generally isolated tracts surrounded by lands threatened by development. The Park & Preserve will buffer, connect, and ensure permanent public access to special places such as these (listed from South to North):

1. Appalachian National Scenic Trail
The 100 Mile Wilderness is one of the most remote and beautiful stretches of this world-renowned hiking trail.

2. Borestone Mountain
This scenic mountain offers pristine ponds and panoramic views of the 100 Mile Wilderness region.

3. Waterfalls
Little Wilson Falls, one of the highest waterfalls along the Appalachian Trail, is an example of the many scenic cascades found throughout the proposed Park & Preserve.

4. West Branch Pleasant River
There is high potential here for the restoration of the endangered Atlantic salmon in one of the wildest rivers in the northeastern United States.

5. Katahdin Iron Works
A part of Maine's only 19th Century iron works operation, this facility is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

6. Gulf Hagas and The Hermitage
This three-mile canyon on the Pleasant River and majestic stand of old-growth white pines are both listed as National Natural Landmarks.

7. Moosehead Lake
At nearly 75,000 acres, this is one of America's least-developed major lakes, with deep, cold waters that provide ideal habitat for landlocked salmon, togue, and brook trout.

8. Kennebec River
The headwaters of the Kennebec offer challenging whitewater canoeing and rafting, as well as outstanding fishing opportunities.

9. Roach River
The Maine Woods is famous for world-class fishing, including this premier catch-and-release destination for brook trout and salmon anglers.

10. Snowmobile Trails
Snowmobilers will be able to enjoy the stunning winter landscape in the National Preserve unit via hundreds of miles of Maine's Interconnected Trail System (ITS), an important link between Maine Woods gateway communities.

11. Mount Kineo
This mountain's dramatic cliff face rises 800 feet above Moosehead Lake. It was a traditional Native American destination and the site of historic grand hotels for more than a century.

12. Landscape Art
The inspiring vistas of the Maine Woods have long attracted celebrated artists, such as Frederic Church, Marsden Hartley, James Fitzgerald, and Carl Sprinchorn.

13. Debsconeag Lakes
This remote region of pristine lakes and streams, rugged mountains, ice caves, and lush forests offers an unforgettable wilderness experience.

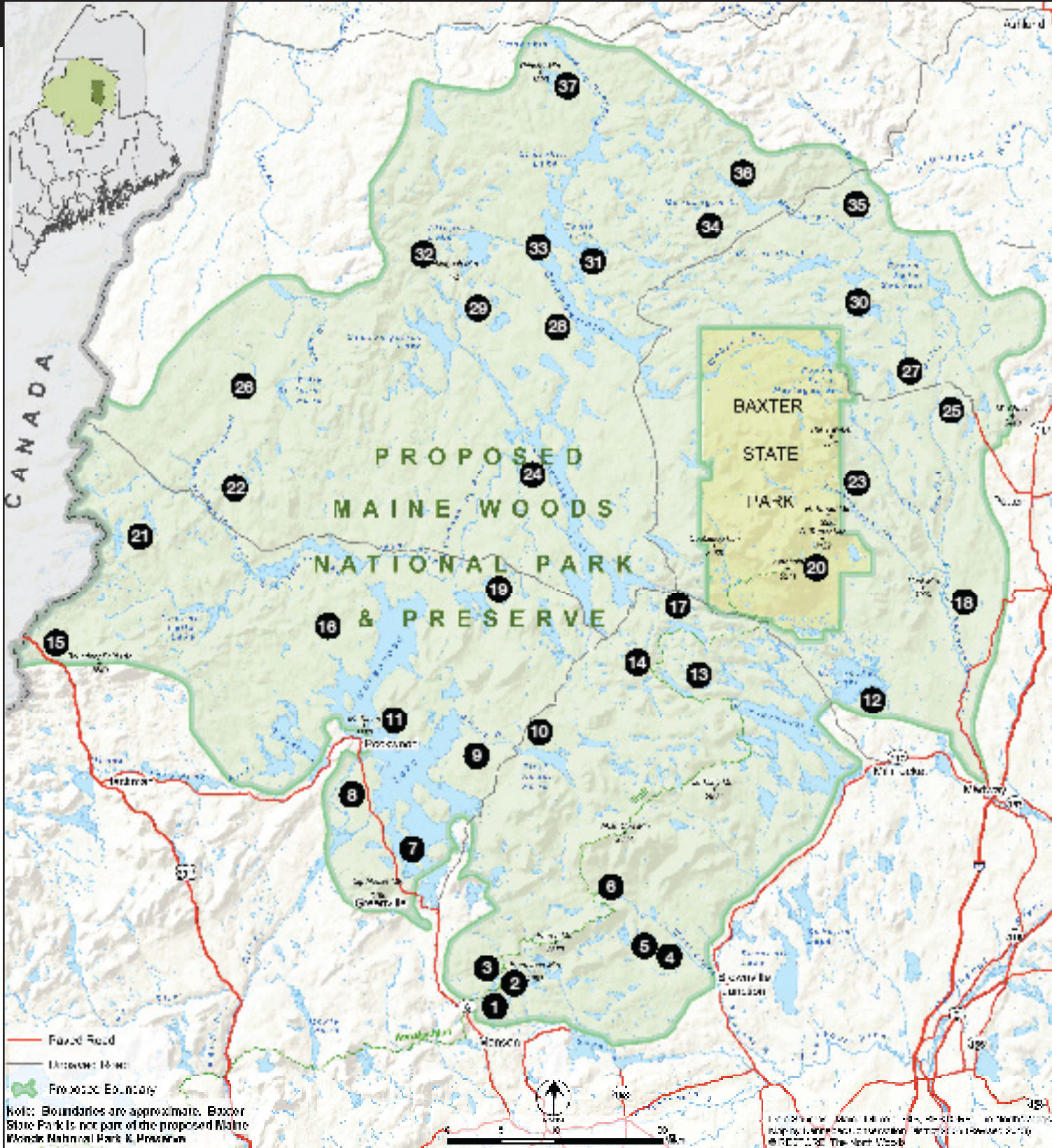
14. Sporting Camps
For well over a century, the legendary sporting camps of the Maine Woods have welcomed visitors. These camps will continue to serve hunters, anglers, and wilderness adventurers.

15. Boundary Mountains
This range, which forms the height of land between the U.S. and Canada, is a major migration route for Neotropical birds and habitat for endangered golden eagles.

16. Canada Lynx Habitat
Most of the Park & Preserve will encompass lands that have been officially designated as critical habitat for the Canada lynx, a federally listed threatened species.

17. West Branch Penobscot River
This river, which has qualified for National Wild and Scenic River designation, features mile-long Ripogenus Gorge, an exceptional landlocked salmon fishery, and superb opportunities for family canoe trips and whitewater rafting.

18. East Branch Penobscot River
This river also qualifies for National Wild and Scenic River designation, and it includes dramatic waterfalls and vital habitat for Atlantic salmon and imperiled plants.



Help Make Maine Woods National Park & Preserve a Reality!

There is growing support for the creation of a new Maine Woods National Park & Preserve.

• **The National Parks Second Century Commission** has listed the creation of a national park in the Maine Woods as a high priority in an expanded National Park System.

• **Americans for a Maine Woods National Park**, a national committee of prominent citizens, has endorsed the designation of a Park & Preserve.

• **Public opinion polls** have consistently found that a majority of Mainers favor a new national park or other large protected area in the Maine Woods.

Since the National Park & Preserve idea was first put forward, some significant lands within the proposed boundaries have gained increased protection by public agencies, land trusts, and individual philanthropists. The Park & Preserve will expand, connect, buffer, and ensure permanent protection for these special places.

You can help make Maine Woods National Park & Preserve a reality!

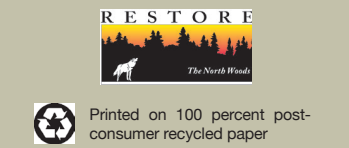
• Visit the Park & Preserve website at www.mainewoods.org.

• Join RESTORE: The North Woods to become a part of this important campaign.

• Contact:

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Map: Art Grindle, Kennebec Conservation District.
RESTORE: The North Woods is a nonprofit, membership organization whose purpose is to restore, preserve, and defend the natural integrity of the North Woods of the United States and Canada. Donations are tax-deductible.
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19. Lobster Lake
Recreationists can enjoy outstanding mountain views, sandy beaches, and some of America's best remote canoeing and backcountry camping on this natural, clear-water lake.

20. Katahdin
Maine's highest mountain is in Baxter State Park. It will be a majestic backdrop for much of the proposed Maine Woods National Park & Preserve, which will surround the state park.

21. Blueback Trout
Unique to Maine, this rare species is found in only a few Maine Woods waters, including Penobscot Lake.

22. St. John River Headwaters
The St. John, which begins in the proposed Park & Preserve, is the longest free-flowing river in the eastern United States. It provides habitat for rare plants such as the nationally endangered Furbish lousewort and the New England violet, and offers one of the country's finest wildland canoeing opportunities.

23. International Appalachian Trail
The proposed Park & Preserve will contain the original stretch of this epic hiking trail, which National Geographic calls one of the world's “top 20.”

24. Chesuncook Village
One of few surviving examples of a 19th-century logging village, this site on Chesuncook Lake was visited by Thoreau. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

25. Sugarloaf Mountain
This prominent peak features commanding views of Katahdin, an extraordinary fossil site, and some of the most ancient geological formations in Maine.

26. Big Bog
The Maine Woods has the largest moose population in the lower 48 states. Big Bog is one of many excellent places to see them.

27. Upper Sebobeis River Gorge
This striking, V-shaped gorge is over six miles long and up to 150 feet deep.

28. Northern Forest Canoe Trail
The wildest sections of this popular water trail, which reaches from the Adirondacks to the Canadian border, will be protected within the National Park & Preserve.

29. Hunting Opportunities
There are few opportunities in the eastern U.S. to hunt in such a remote wildland. A wide diversity of game species from moose to grouse will provide exceptional hunting in the National Preserve.

30. Roosevelt's Maine Woods
Theodore Roosevelt's trips to the Maine Woods in the 1870s with guides William Sewall and Wilmot Dow, while he was still a college student, inspired him to protect millions of acres in parks and monuments when he became President of the United States.

31. Thoreau's Maine Woods
Pillsbury Island, now in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, was the northernmost location reached by Henry David Thoreau on his three extensive trips to the Maine Woods in the 1840-50s.

32. Ice Caves
These talus caves on pristine Allagash Lake are often cold enough to hold ice all year.

33. Historic Logging Sites
The remains of a railroad and the Eagle Lake Tramway, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, are among many fascinating artifacts from the early days of logging in the Maine Woods.

34. Old-Growth Forest
The proposed Park & Preserve will encompass rare ancient forests, including almost 5,000 acres surrounding Big Reed Pond, the largest old-growth tract in New England.

35. Aroostook River
This remote river contains vital habitat for a globally rare orchid, the imperiled wood turtle, and the nationally endangered Atlantic salmon.

36. Native American Sites
A 10,000-year-old Native American toolmaking site near Munsungan Lake is listed on the National Register of Historic Places due to its archaeological significance.

37. Allagash Wilderness Waterway
The proposed Park & Preserve will include the southernmost 50 miles of this world-famous destination for wilderness canoeing and camping.



Hunting and snowmobiling will be allowed in Maine Woods National Preserve



George Wuerthner / Jym St. Pierre



Little Wilson Falls



Studying wild nature

George Wuerthner