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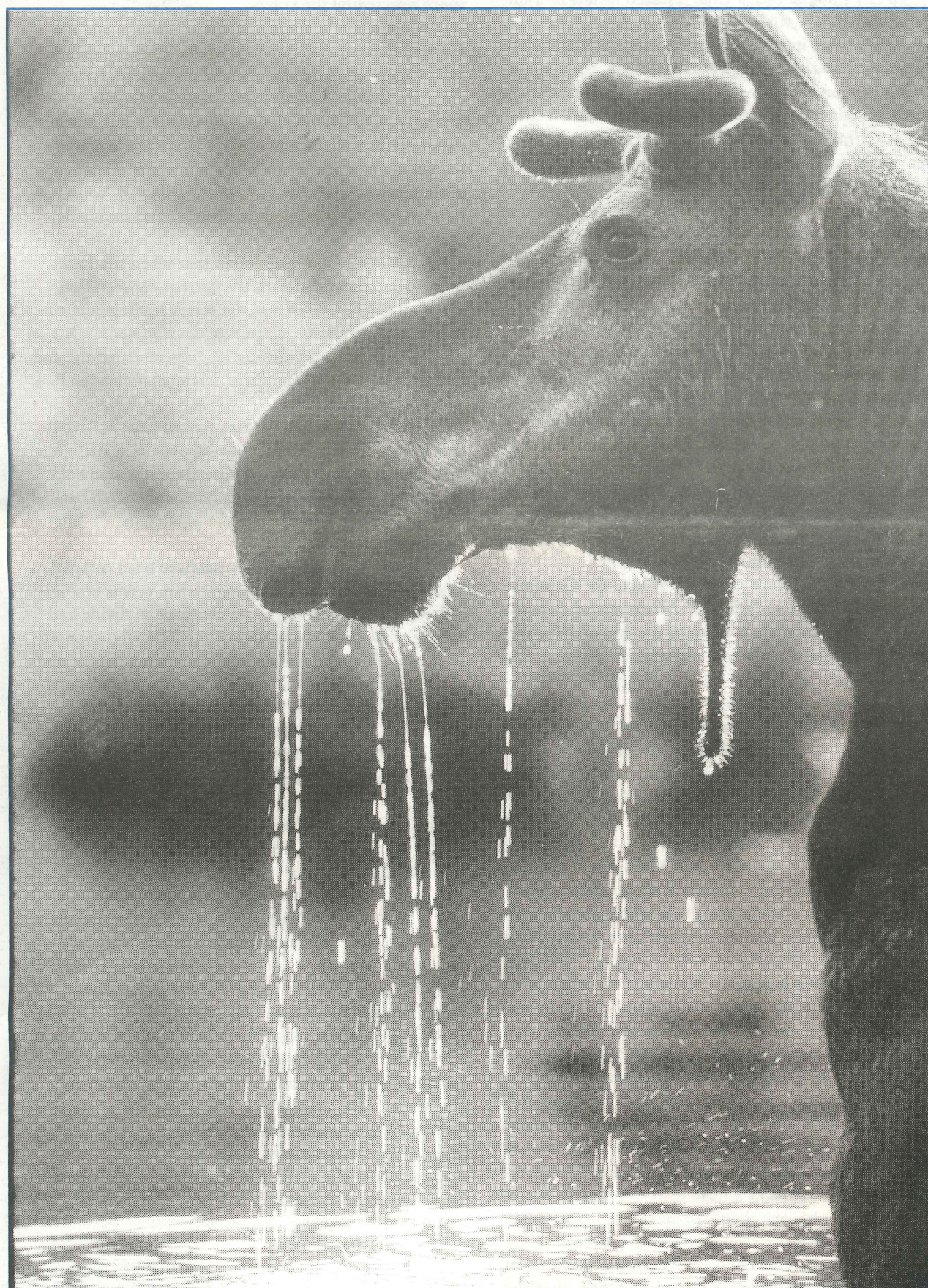
# THE NORTHERN FOREST FORUM

*WORKING FOR SUSTAINABLE NATURAL & HUMAN COMMUNITIES*

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A Special Pull-Out Section:

## *The Maine Woods National Park*



## THE NORTHERN FOREST FORUM

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al to the address above.

Please address letters for publication specifically to the  
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e-mail: [nff@sover.net](mailto:nff@sover.net)  
We Like Letters!

## The People Get It; Why Can't the Politicians?

*"You can't fool all of the people all of the time."*  
—A. Lincoln

*F*or almost six years Maine's astoundingly popular gov-  
ernor, Angus King, has ridiculed the proposal to create a  
3.2 million acre Maine Woods National Park (MWNP).  
In view of the Governor's witticisms ("The worst idea  
since the Red Sox sold Babe Ruth."), his fearmongering  
(the economy will collapse; there will be no jobs; fishing  
and hunting will be prohibited), and the near universal  
hostility of Maine's powerbrokers to the Park (Maine's  
two US Senators, the Executive Director of Maine's  
largest hunting group, and the large absentee landown-  
ers, to name just a few), one would think support for the  
Park among Maine citizens is virtually non-existent. The  
state's leading environmental groups have publicly taken  
no position on this political hot potato and have sought  
to distance themselves from the idea.

In late July the Sierra Club released results of a sur-  
vey of 500 Maine voters conducted in April. The find-  
ings suggest that in spite of the opposition to the Park by  
the political and economic elites of Maine, the skimpily  
funded campaign for the Park led by RESTORE: the  
North Woods is succeeding. Citizens of Maine believe  
that a 3.2 million acre National Park is a much better  
idea than continued industrial liquidation logging  
accompanied by a cosmetic conservation policy of con-  
servation easements, green certification, and acquisition  
of strips of shorefront land. Mainers prefer the real thing:  
big chunks of wildlands that will permit the eventual  
recovery of dynamic maturing forests and the wildlife  
that thrived for millennia in them.

According to the survey 63% of Maine voters sup-  
port the Park and only 22% oppose the idea.

In response to the release of the Sierra Club poll,  
Governor King alleged that as people learn more about  
the park, support will fade. I hope some hardbitten news  
reporter presses him to explain. Does he mean that sup-  
port for the Park was closer to 100% before he began his  
remorseless campaign to discredit it? How does he  
explain such strong support for an idea promoted by an  
organization that has been shunned as a pariah by almost  
everyone in Maine's political and conservation establish-  
ment? How many more years will it take for Governor  
King and his allies to "educate" Maine voters that the  
best way to preserve the essence of the Maine Woods is  
through continued industrial liquidation logging and  
herbicide spraying, further erosion of logging and mill  
jobs, and greater restrictions on access to these lands?

"What we're talking about here is ownership, man-  
agement control of 15% of the state of Maine..." he  
warned ominously after the Sierra Club poll was  
released, "...not managed by elected officials, not man-  
aged by anyone accountable to you or me..." (*Portland  
Press Herald*, July 25, 2000, page 1.) Now, Angus was  
attacking Federal ownership and Washington bureau-  
crats, but he unwittingly described the current state of  
affairs in Maine — except that the absentee corporations  
own closer to 50% of Maine, and they have systematical-  
ly degraded the Maine woods for decades.\* Mainers,  
unlike their governor, apparently reason that if they can't  
own the land, then at least some of it should be owned  
by *all the people* — you, me, even Governor King — and  
it should be managed to protect ecosystem integrity, not  
plundered for the benefit of absentee investors.

Weirder still, the Governor of "Vacationland"  
ridicules the Park idea as coming from out-of-staters  
who want a "play land" where they can "contemplate  
nature." Horrors! Allowing the Prols an opportunity to  
rest, relax, and reconnect a little with the natural world!  
They ought to be out there hacking down the forest,  
making money for the global economy Governor King  
promotes so aggressively. Nearly three-quarters of  
Mainers believe the state's forests are at risk, that the  
large landowners are cutting softwood twice as fast as it  
is growing, and that this trend will grow worse as more  
and more blockbuster land sales occur.

The Sierra Club poll has put the lie to claims of Park  
opponents who would set rural Mainers (62% of whom  
favor the Park) against urbanites (65% support);  
Northern Mainers (55% support) against Southern  
Mainers (66% support); native Mainers (62% support)  
against those —like Governor King — who were born

out of state (64% support). The poll showed stereotyping  
and clever sound bites don't always work.

Faced with the greatest political crisis in America's  
history, Abraham Lincoln preached a message of recon-  
ciliation with the South in his Second Inaugural Address  
in 1865. He knew demagogic, divisive rhetoric could  
only produce more killing, more suffering, more evil,  
more tragedy. He also knew you can't fool all the people  
all the time. We hope Angus King learns these lessons in  
the remaining two and a half years of his lame duck  
tenure.

\* \* \*

*M*aine's fractured conservation community has once  
again provided cover for anti wilderness politicians. The  
state's mainstream conservation groups have declined to  
support the Park idea. Instead, they have opted for polit-  
ical solutions to ecological problems. In 1996 they col-  
laborated with the large landowners and Governor King  
to devise the Forest Compact as an alternative to the Ban  
Clearcutting Referendum. Despite the overwhelming  
support from Maine's political elites, the Compact was  
twice rejected by the voters.

More recently, Maine Audubon Society and the  
Natural Resources Council of Maine have enthusiasti-  
cally supported "Green Certification" of J. D. Irving,  
(see pages 6-8 for analysis of the recent certification of  
Irving) one of Maine's largest clearcutters and raw log  
exporters, as well as importers of Canadian loggers who  
are willing to work for rock-bottom wages. These  
groups also support the Governor's policy of "conserva-  
tion easements" (that permit clearcuts and herbicide  
spraying).

The Sierra Club poll found that when the Park  
proposal is contrasted with the current conservation  
policy of the Governor and the state's leading environ-  
mental organizations—acquiring development rights on  
timberlands while permitting logging, clearcutting, and  
herbicide spraying to continue, Mainers prefer the Park  
54% to 25%.

Until now, the mainstream groups have believed  
that it is politically "realistic" to support such half-  
measures instead of risking political capital on a bold  
plan such as the Maine Woods National Park. That  
reasoning is much less tenable in light of the findings of  
the Sierra Club survey.

For too long, conservationists have been trapped by  
a false dichotomy: political pragmatism versus ecologi-  
cal pragmatism. So long as we continue to divide and  
conquer ourselves, the wishes of the 22% who support  
Governor King and Maine's political elites, the interests  
of the absentee landowners who have liquidated north-  
ern Maine's forests will prevail over the 63% who  
understand that the Maine Woods National Park pro-  
posal is a more responsible ecological policy.

Political and ecological conservationists need not  
resolve all our differences. Indeed, dynamic tension  
nurtures creativity in the movement. But we need to  
realize we need each other. Ecological pragmatists need  
political assistance and political pragmatists need to  
back an ecologically-based program that captures the  
hearts and minds of Maine citizens. The Sierra Club  
poll tells us it is pragmatic politics to support a bold  
ecological proposal — such as the proposed Maine  
Woods National Park — and that the public does not  
support cosmetic conservation strategies.

Just as Lincoln sought to heal the wounds of North  
and South, growing numbers of Americans want to  
heal the breach between Euro-American culture and  
North American ecosystems. The Maine Woods  
National Park affords us a wonderful opportunity to  
begin that healing process in the Northern  
Appalachians. The ecological and political stars are  
aligned in favor of the MWNP. Let there be no further  
delay.

—Jamie Sayen

\*King's unedited statement was: "What we're talk-  
ing about here is ownership, management control of 15  
percent of the state of Maine in Washington, D.C. —  
not managed by elected officials, not managed by any-  
one accountable to you or me, but by the federal  
bureaucracy."



## Efforts to Acquire Easement on Connecticut Lakes Lands Put on Fast Track

*Will Easement Permit Clearcuts, Herbicides & Prohibit Forever Wild Protection?*

THE AUGUST 2 ISSUE of the *Coös County Democrat* reported that International Paper, the new owner of the 171,000 acres of the Connecticut Lakes region in northern New Hampshire (formerly owned by the late, lamented Champion International) is accelerating efforts to sell a conservation easement on these lands. (See *Forum*, volume 8, number 3, *Summer Solstice 2000*, p. 6.)

IP has appointed the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) and the Alexandria, Virginia-based Conservation Fund to help it work out a deal, which is estimated will cost between \$13-\$25 million (\$75-150 an acre) for development and subdivision rights. The deal makers hope to siphon off scarce public conservation funds to acquire development rights that would permit IP to continue to clearcut and overcut, spray herbicides, and (possibly) restrict public recreational access. On April 5, at a public meeting in Pittsburg, NH, supporters of acquiring the development rights on the Connecticut Lakes tract stated that clearcuts and herbicide spraying would be permitted under terms contemplated for this easement.

Although only a small fraction of these lands is under any threat of development (but all are threatened by continued unsustainable logging and herbicide spraying), the dealmakers have the enthusiastic support of most of the NH Forest Legacy Board and State Forester Phil Bryce. They hope to secure most of the funding for this expensive, cosmetic conservation plan from the Legacy program. At its May 31 meeting, the

Legacy Board considered adopting a provision that would prohibit lands under "working forest" Legacy easements from subsequent protection via a "Forever Wild" covenant.

Patrick Noonan, President of the Conservation Fund, also sits on the Board of Directors of IP. Whose interests will his organization represent during negotiations to spend public money to help prop up a failed industrial forestry operation?

The Conservation Fund was one of the parties involved in concocting the Forever Logging covenant in Vermont that requires cutting 50% of growth after 2040 on the 84,000 acre "working forest" portion of the former Champion lands in the Northeast Kingdom.

Easements have proven to be defective conservation tools in NH. While preventing development, many have done little or nothing to prevent unsustainable, industrial-style liquidation logging. The Forest Society holds an easement on 1300 acres in Stratford. The easements imposes no meaningful restrictions on logging. The landowner has clobbered the land and SPNHF failed to monitor the logging. Recently, the state cited the landowner for violations of state laws regarding erosion control and water quality. What guarantees will the public have that its \$13-25 million will not be used to underwrite similar unmonitored abuses?

**Please contact Paul Doscher at SPNHF and tell him not one red cent of public money for clearcuts, overcutting, herbicide spraying, no forever logging covenants or anti-Forever Wild covenants. All future "conservation easements" must require that a substantial percentage of the forest be allowed to recover tree age classes greater than 150 years and that cut is less than growth. And the easement holder must aggressively monitor all management activities. Paul Doscher's address is SPNHF, 54 Portsmouth St, Concord, NH 03301. Tel. (603) 224-9945.**

—Jamie Sayen

### APOLOGIES TO FOREST SOCIETY

IN THE LAST ISSUE of the *Forum*, I mistakenly reported that the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests was promoting a "Forever Logging" covenant for an easement it is trying to negotiate with Champion International for its Connecticut Lakes lands, approximately 171,000 acres. (International Paper has since swallowed up Champion and now owns the Connecticut Lakes tract.)

The Forever Logging covenant was hatched up during negotiations between the Vermont Land Trust, the Conservation Fund, Governor Howard Dean, and some members of the Vermont Legislature to acquire the Champion lands in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. It was applied to the 84,000 acres subsequently sold to the Essex Timber Company and it mandates that at least 50 percent of annual growth (in a given 10 year period) must be cut after the year 2040. This misguided covenant has zero basis in science and is indeed the height of ignorance and presumptuousness.

Several groups in New Hampshire and throughout the region have expressed strong opposition the Forever Logging covenant. I misunderstood something I was told, and made an incorrect presumption that SPNHF was promoting Forever Logging on the Connecticut Lakes deal. While not yet publicly opposing the Forever Logging covenant, SPNHF is not currently promoting it on the Connecticut Lakes negotiations. I have apologized to Paul Doscher of SPNHF for my mistake. I hope that SPNHF will join other opponents of Forever Logging and publicly repudiate this irresponsible concept now and forever.

—Jamie Sayen

## EXPERIMENTAL PROSPECTIVE ZONING THREATENS INTEGRITY OF ANDROSCOGGIN HEADWATERS WILDLAND

By Pamela Prodan

FOR OVER A YEAR, the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) has been working on the Rangeley Regional Prospective Zoning Project. The project is intended to direct development to a large stretch of unorganized towns from Saddleback Mountain to the New Hampshire border. Despite the word Rangeley in its name, Rangeley is an organized town and will not be subject to the plan. Ten townships and plantations are affected by the proposed zoning, a couple of which (Township C and Magalloway Plantation) are not even accessible by road from the Rangeley area:

Adamstown Township  
Dallas Plantation  
C Township  
D Township  
E Township  
Magalloway Plantation  
Rangeley Plantation  
Richardsontown Township  
Sandy River Plantation

The townships and plantations in the western part of the project area surround Mooselookmeguntic, Aziscohos and Upper and Lower Richardson Lakes. They are also in the heart of the Androscoggin Headwaters Wildland, a region designated for conservation by the Northern Forest Alliance. Apparently, the impetus for rezoning the Lower Richardson and Aziscohos Lakes regions, neither of which are proximate to the Rangeley area, is the desire by Seven Islands and Mead Corporation to create major developments there. Seven Islands excluded a significant percentage of its land from a large conservation easement it recently conveyed, leaving many to wonder what it intends to do with those lands not protected from development. Seven Islands is well known for its image-building advertising on Maine public radio. LURC held a public hearing on the prospective zoning project in July and the deadline for written comments was August 9.

The regional prospective zoning project proposes a 20-year plan and the zoning of areas appropriate for development using existing and new development subdistricts. Standards for development within the new subdistricts are also proposed. It trades the current zoning system, where development is allowed only in certain zones, with a standards-based system where development is allowed without permits. For example, under the current system, a subdivision would typically require rezoning of the land to a subdistrict where development is allowed, as well as building permits. Under the proposed system, no permit whatsoever would be required for a subdivision that meets the new standards, and no review of the proposal would take place by LURC. There would also be no opportunity for the public to comment on the development.

The prospective zoning project was originally proposed because some townships adjoining the town of Rangeley, like Sandy

River Plantation, have been experiencing growth at a faster rate than other parts of LURC jurisdiction, and there was a need to provide appropriate zones to accommodate that new development. The project is now considered an experiment that may be extended to the rest of LURC jurisdiction, although the Commissioners are not quite ready to do that yet. At their May 17, 2000 meeting, when the Rangeley proposal was discussed, they asked the staff to remove language in each of the proposed new subdistricts that would allow these zones to be applied in areas beyond the Rangeley region by petition to the Commission.

Land use planner Holly Dominie has headed up the prospective zoning project, under the supervision of John Williams, LURC Director. The approach of lowering protection by eliminating permits for uses that conform to certain standards was also initiated under Williams' watch in a revision of Chapter 10 of LURC's rules. In those revisions, boat launches, recreational gold mining in streams, gravel pits and driveways are among the uses proposed to be allowed without a permit. There has been no discussion about increasing compliance monitoring to see whether people actually follow the standards for these uses. Boat launches are expected to proliferate once the revisions to Chapter 10 take effect. Action to adopt these changes is expected later this summer.

The Rangeley prospective zoning proposal has the serious potential to create sprawling development in what is now primarily a Wildland region, especially by allowing subdivisions without permits or opportunity for public hearing. Another controversial provision of the project would allow minor home occupations without a permit, in all subdistricts, even in protection subdistricts, whose zoning purpose is not development, but protection of natural resources, wildlife or geology. The loosening of the rules in existing zones and creation of new subdistricts where development is encouraged will facilitate permanent home construction in remote and sensitive areas, since people can telecommute to work or start businesses there. In addition, as the timber resource base is subdivided and sold off to people not necessarily interested in managing a woodlot, less wood will be available for harvest and use in forest products industries. Property taxes will rise for local people as prices paid for land escalate and more expensive homes are built. Just as important for local people, access to the land for traditional uses will be lost forever as the forest is fragmented and parts of it are turned into subdivisions.

I recently spoke to Cathy Johnson, staff attorney for the Natural Resources Council of Maine, who emphasized that the whole point of this type of prospective zoning is to guide development but also address protection.

Johnson believes that LURC's failure to provide for additional resource protection anywhere at this time to compensate for the loss to development violates LURC's legal mandate to balance development with protection. Considering the scope of the proposal as it now stands, it is a serious threat to the integrity of the wild mountains, lakes, forests and rivers of the Androscoggin Headwaters region that may make it impossible for the Northern Forest Alliance or any other entity, public or private, ever to accomplish meaningful protection of the region.



# All We Are Saying is Give Trees a Chance

## *By a margin of 3:1, New Englanders Voice their Support for Setting Aside Roadless Areas on our National Forests from Logging and Road Building*

by Julie Wormser and Mary Krueger

**"People are often put into categories—either the timber logging group or the extreme environmentalists," began Evelyn MacKinnon in her testimony before the Forest Service at a hearing in Gorham last month. "I was born and raised in Berlin. My father worked in the mill. My brother has always been and still is in the logging business here. And most importantly, I'm married to a logger and our only income is from the logging he does.**

"So I certainly recognize the need for logging and wood products," she continued. "But even more importantly, I recognize the need to protect special places in the White Mountain National Forest and all national forests...That's why I'm here today to say that I'm in favor of [ending logging and road building in roadless areas on our national forests] and I'd like to see the Tongass National Forest included."

In June, the Forest Service held public hearings in Concord and Gorham, NH and Rutland, VT on the Administration's efforts to protect roadless areas across the National Forest System. These hearings were part of a massive agency effort to find out how the American public wants them to manage the wildest places left in our national forests.

Roadless areas are defined by the Forest Service as "public lands typically exceeding 5,000 acres or more that met the minimum criteria for wilderness consideration under the Wilderness Act of 1964." In the east, the Eastern Wilderness Act of 1975 governs what can be called a roadless area. Recognizing that virtually all of our forests have been cut over, the Eastern Wilderness Act allows up to one half mile of road length per 1,000 acres to be present in a roadless area. Remnants of old roads or skid trails no longer in use are not considered roads at all. This has clearly caused some confusion.

Why do roadless areas matter? For one thing, many New Hampshire and Vermont residents drink water that runs off the White Mountain and Green Mountain National Forests, and scientists have learned that road building and logging significantly pollute streams and rivers. Similarly, fish and other aquatic organisms suffer when these activities are

permitted. Roadless areas in New England's national forests provide some of the best opportunities around to enjoy camping, hiking, hunting, and related activities. Finally, large, roadless areas afford unsurpassed habitat for rare species that require mature, remote forest habitats, including pine martens, Canada lynx, spruce grouse and black-backed woodpeckers. Set aside from logging, road building, and other development activities, these areas will grow back to old growth conditions similar to those found by the first European settlers.

Last October, President Clinton announced what he called "one of the largest land preservation efforts in America's history to protect these priceless, back-country lands...[They] represent some of the last, best, unprotected wildland anywhere in our nation." He directed the Forest Service to draft regulations to protect large roadless areas from "activities that would degrade the land."

The Forest Service followed up on President Clinton's announcement with a two-month public comment period to gauge the level of public support for protecting these areas. The response was tremendous: out of 541,000 comments received, over 87 percent were strongly in favor of letting some of the wildest places left in the United States remain wild.

In May, the Forest Service produced draft regulations proposing only to ban road building in 43 million of these 52 million acres, and excluding the Tongass National Forest in Alaska, the largest intact temperate rainforest in North America. A collective groan came out of the environmental community at how far short the draft fell from the promise of the initial announcement. The comment period that followed included nearly 400 meetings across the country, ending on

July 17. Julie was in Salt Lake City that day, along with activists from all over the country, to help hand-deliver an estimated 750,000 letters and postcards to the Forest Service urging them to make the final regulations far stronger than the draft.

This sentiment was expressed as well across New England. At each of six public hearings in Vermont and New Hampshire, the audience was overwhelmingly in support of protecting roadless areas in our national forests, with a much smaller minority concerned with the potential loss of motorized access or timber harvesting.

In fact, there was no middle ground to the testimony given at the hearings. The vast majority of speakers—by a 3:1 margin—wanted far stronger protection than proposed in the draft regulations—no logging, no off road vehicles, nothing that harmed their wild character. And they thought that all national forests should be included—the Tongass in Alaska, and our own White Mountains, which Senator Gregg is trying to exempt using a controversial rider.

The outpouring of support came as no surprise. Poll after poll in New England shows that New Englanders support strong protection for roadless areas in our national forests. A 1998 Forest Service survey showed that 91 percent of New Englanders supported protecting these areas in New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest. A poll by Lake and Associates taken last October showed that 72 percent of NH voters favor a proposal that permanently prohibits road building on all roadless areas of 1,000 acres and larger on all national forest lands. What's more, 78 percent favored prohibiting commercial logging in these areas.

And these numbers are repeated over

and over across the country. Men and women; east to west; Democrats, Republicans, Independents. It's part of the American psyche—people overwhelmingly want some places to remain truly wild and they think these are the right places to protect.

Those who were at the roadless hearings in Northern New England heard the heartfelt testimony ordinary citizens gave hour after hour, on why they wanted these places given as much protection as possible.

Like the bus driver from Burlington, Vermont, who stood up (still in his uniform) to say, "I'm a bus driver. I know roads. I want to be able to get out of my bus and off a road and go hiking in the woods where there are no roads and I can't hear any motors. Look at us—we're in the middle of a town [Rutland] with lots of roads. Where is the wildlife? When you build roads, you chase the animals away."

Or the Latino woman from southern Massachusetts who said, "I had to drive four hours to come to this hearing [Gorham] today because there are no hearings in Massachusetts. Our forests are gone. Do you know what it's like not to be able to walk a quarter mile through the woods without hitting another road or hearing cars?"

Or Fred Lavigne, Evelyn MacKinnon's husband, who said "For the last few years, it's like I'm thinking about nothing but roads. Mostly, I'm thinking of the impacts roads have on our natural world. Yesterday a calf moose was caught in an open culvert on Sandwich Notch Road, its leg broken off. We plugged the hole in the road, but the cries from that moose will be with me forever."

These and literally hundreds of thousands of other Americans across the country have spoken out in support of the strongest possible protection for all roadless areas in our national forests. We urge the Forest Service to act on this overwhelming mandate.

At this point, the initiative is in the hands of the Clinton Administration; the final regulations are due out this fall. Over a 1.5 million people have spoken, the vast majority in support of strong regulations. The Forest Service will now take these comments and use them to craft their final policy. Please contact President Clinton and Vice President Gore and let them know you support the strongest possible regulations to protect roadless areas in all of our national forests, including the Tongass in Alaska and the Whites here in New Hampshire. The address is:

Office of the President (or Vice President)

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500.

Or call 202/456-1414 for the President and 202/456-2326 for the Vice President.

*Julie Wormser is the Northeast Regional Director and Mary Krueger is Northeast Regional Associate of The Wilderness Society*

## On the Other Hand...

Why are some people opposed to roadless area protection? A healthy minority of participants at recent Forest Service hearings expressed a number of concerns. Some of the people testifying argued that to remain healthy, forests need to be actively managed. But as Dave Publicover, forest ecologist for AMC put it, "Forest Management is not medicine, nad a natural forest is not something that needs to be cured." In fact, forests allowed to reach old growth conditions are among the most structurally complex and support a range of species that contribute substantially to forest health.

Others expressed concern that protection of roadless areas will result in the loss of jobs in the timber industry. The Forest Service's own study estimated a loss of 7-14 timber jobs if roadless areas on the White Mountain National Forest are closed to logging. In fact, there is no direct correlation between acreage logged and number of timber jobs. Over the last 30 years in Maine, harvest levels have gone up while the number of industry jobs have decreased, largely due to mechanization. In addition, the potential increase in jobs such as guiding and outfitting have been largely ignored in discussions of the effects of this policy.

Finally the issue of local access was raised as a concern. Many believe that protection of roadless areas will lock them out of the forest, particularly if they enjoy motorized recreation. However, on the White Mountain National Forest alone there are over 500 miles of maintained roads, 300 miles of snowmobile trails and hundreds of more hiking trails. What is missing are the places without roads where you can go to get away from it all.

The roadless policy is not about closing roads; it's about maintaining the few areas left that contain no roads. We too care a great deal about the issues of forest health, jobs and access. We feel that this policy protects these values.

—JW & MK



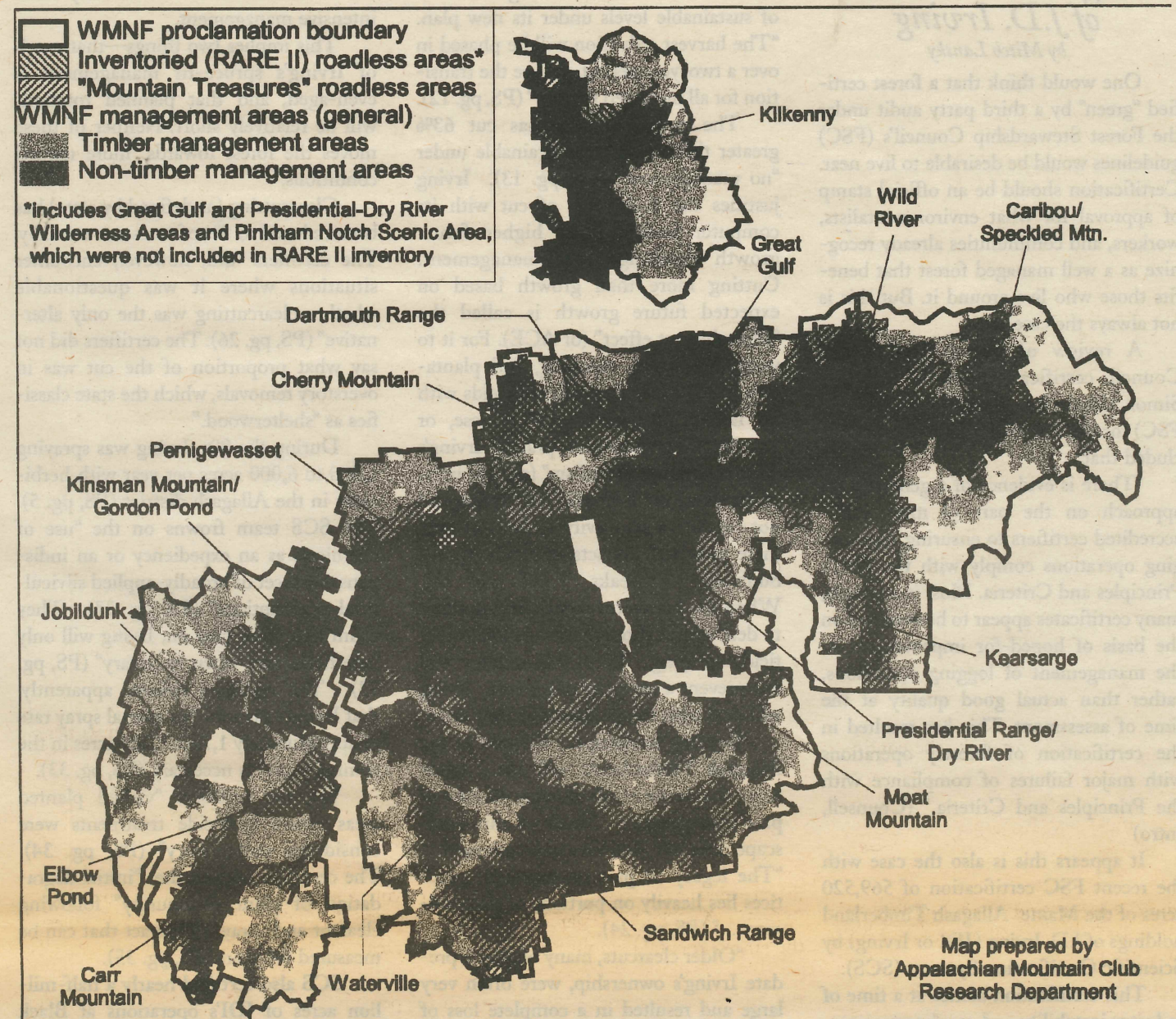
# Conservation Groups Identify Additional 150,000 Acres of Roadless Areas in WMNF

In the Roadless Area Review & Evaluation II process of the US Forest Service in the late 1970s, 326,000 "roadless" acres were identified in the White Mountain National Forest. Previously designated wilderness areas (Great Gulf and the Presidential Range-Dry River) bring that total to about 357,000 acres. These acreages are shown on the above map as "Inventoried (RARE II) Roadless Areas."

The Appalachian Mountain Club, The Wilderness Society, and the Conservation Law Foundation conducted a review of roadless areas in the WMNF over the past couple of years. They identified approximately 506,000 roadless acres, which they propose for protection under the revised White Mountain National Forest Plan. The Clinton Roadless Plan relies on the RARE II inventory. The three conservation groups call the 506,000 roadless acres "Mountain Treasures".

Although there are a few differences, nearly all the RARE II roadless acres (about 340,000 acres) are included in the Mountain Treasures Inventory. (Crosshatched areas on map indicate areas included in both RARE II and Mountain Treasures.)

About 165,000 acres are included in Mountain Treasures areas but not RARE II. Most of this difference is due to the fact that the conservation groups extended the boundaries of the



roadless areas farther than the Forest Service did during RARE II. Significant additional roadless areas are noticeable around the edges of the Wild River, Pemigewasset and Sandwich Range areas. It appears that the RARE II process was extremely

conservative in designating roadless areas.

No satisfactory explanation has been offered regarding how RARE II lands were designated. Perhaps political and management considerations (such as the desire not to have large parts of the for-

est open for wilderness consideration) played a significant role in the smaller roadless designations.

Map courtesy of Appalachian Mountain Club Research Department.

## 'The New Hampshire Way'

The following letter to the editor appeared in the Coos County Democrat, July 12, 2000.

To the Editor:

The words and actions of U.S. Senator Judd Gregg concerning the protection of roadless areas in the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) is an excellent example of revisionist history and someone who is out of touch with public involvement in the management of the WMNF.

If one were to believe Senator Gregg, the WMNF would be better managed if the "New Hampshire way of doing things" would be followed. Let's take a look at the way New Hampshire has managed the area known as the White Mountains.

The State of New Hampshire once owned most of the land that makes up the White Mountain region. Starting in the mid-to late 1800s, the State began selling the land for about 15 cents per acre, bringing about \$28,000 to the state coffers. Much of the land made its way into the hands of businessmen known as timber barons. These businessmen stripped the mountains of trees, leaving the area ravaged by erosion and fire.

The destruction and resulting devastation was not

lost on the public. People started calling for the protection of the White Mountains and urged the State to buy the land back. Instead of being proactive, the State urged the federal government to buy the land and create a national forest.

Despite the urging, the New Hampshire state and federal political leaders failed to protect the area. It took a U.S. Congressman from Massachusetts, John Weeks [ed. note: who had strong ties with Lancaster, NH] to sponsor legislation that allowed the federal government the right to purchase land within the White Mountains and create the WMNF.

Senator Gregg moved to exempt the WMNF from the roadless protection process by attaching a "rider" to a piece of legislation. Riders are usually not subject to public hearings or committee debates. In fact, Sen. Bob Smith, the senior U.S. Senator from New Hampshire has stated that he will "oppose most environmental riders" because of the lack of scrutiny. Why did Senator Gregg resort to a "back-door" political maneuver to push his point?

Senator Gregg and other opinion leaders claim that the protection of roadless areas in the WMNF should be decided by local people as part of the forest manage-

ment plan revision process. Input to the revision process is not just limited to local people. Any citizen of the United States, including citizens living in Kansas, Idaho, Florida, and Massachusetts can participate. And the final decision of accepting the revised plan will be made by a Forest Service official based in Milwaukee, not Laconia. The bottom line—local people will not be making the final decision as to the management of the WMNF.

The history of "the New Hampshire way" of managing the White Mountains is the reason why the National Forest Service and not New Hampshire manages the area. If Senator Gregg had challenged the entire national roadless area protection process instead of just the WMNF, his effort would deserve a hearing. But for him to attempt to exempt just one national forest through a legislative maneuver that does not include public hearings, his actions have less legitimacy than the process he is challenging. Indeed, his actions further erode the public trust in Congress and the political process.

David Carle, Executive Director, Conservation Action Project, Nashua, NH.



# Green Practices or Promises?

## *A Review of the Public Summary of the Certification of the Allagash Timberlands of J.D. Irving*

by Mitch Lansky

One would think that a forest certified "green" by a third party audit under the Forest Stewardship Council's (FSC) guidelines would be desirable to live near. Certification should be an official stamp of approval for what environmentalists, workers, and communities already recognize as a well managed forest that benefits those who live around it. But this is not always the case.

A review of Forest Stewardship Council certification world wide by Simon Counsell (a founding member of FSC) for the Rainforest Foundation concluded that:

"There is evidence of a generally lax approach on the part of most FSC-accredited certifiers to ensuring that logging operations comply with the FSC's Principles and Criteria. Most worryingly, many certificates appear to be awarded on the basis of hoped-for improvement in the management of logging operations, rather than actual good quality at the time of assessment. This has resulted in the certification of forestry operations with major failures of compliance with the Principles and Criteria." (Counsell, Intro)

It appears this is also the case with the recent FSC certification of 569,520 acres of the Maine Allagash Timberland holdings of J.D. Irving (JDI or Irving) by Scientific Certification Systems (SCS).

This certification comes at a time of industry instability and regulatory uncertainty. At a time when industrial landowners have been selling off heavily cut lands, JDI, however, is buying. With more than 1.5 million acres, Irving is now the largest landowner in Maine. The company seems to be in for the long haul. It also, however, has a legacy of industrial management and labor relations that don't quite fit the image of a "well-managed forest."

The certification summary document shows many past and even present problems, but the certifiers gave Irving high grades (mostly in the 90s) based on recent policy changes and future plans. In some cases, the certifiers minimized the problems by comparing them to even worse practices by other landowners.

The following are just a sampling of problems noted (or in a few cases, blatantly ignored) by the certifiers:

**Sustainability.** The most basic requirement for certified forest lands is that cutting is sustainable. Yet Irving, through much of the 90s, based on a computer model and management plan was doing some serious overcutting. The summary document stated that the former strategy, "would, if continued, have depleted the growing stock to sub-optimal levels and threatened future sustainability." (PS, pg. 15).

Certification is based on a new management plan, but it is so new that certifiers could not assess whether the plan "was an effective internal document." (PS, pg. 19). Cut of spruce-fir, based on

the new plan, will go down 43% from peak harvesting during the 1990s. (PS, pg. 12).

The level of cut at the time of certification was still above Irving's estimate of sustainable levels under its new plan. "The harvest reduction will be phased in over a two-year period, to ease the transition for all impacted parties." (PS, pg. 12).

The new plan still has cut 63% greater than would be sustainable under "no management." (PS, pg. 13). Irving justifies the high level of cut with its computer projection of higher future growth resulting from management. Cutting more than growth based on expected future growth is called the "allowable cut effect" (or ACE). For it to work, herbicides, thinning, and plantation have to lead to predicted yields with no failures due to insects, disease, or weather. The certifiers praised Irving's "sincere attempt at realism" (pg. 15) in its projections, yet it noted that "Irving did not conduct a sensitivity analysis to estimate potential impacts of future spruce budworm outbreaks..." (PS, pg. 14). When the budworm comes, Irving plans to deal with it through salvage and insecticide spraying. Even this strategy will not prevent a lowering of growth. Irving will deal with the problems as they arise.

**Existing landscape.** Visitors to the Allagash Timberlands will see a landscape that is the result of many decades of past management. Much of this landscape does not look very well managed. "The legacy of past management practices lies heavily on portions of the landscape..." (PS, pg. 24).

"Older clearcuts, many of which pre-date Irving's ownership, were often very large and resulted in a complete loss of structural diversity." (PS, pg. 26)

"...in the past Irving removed or crushed downed woody debris, further reducing the structural diversity of the future stand." (PS, pg. 25). Irving now retains some trees (live and dead) in its clearcuts.

"In addition, many acres that were clearcut and planted resulted in substantial areas of stand conversion." (PS, pg. 25).

According to SCS, "a goal of certification,... is restoring heavily managed forests to more natural conditions." (PS, pg. 23). The Irving plan will have mixed results towards this goal.

**Intensive management.** So far, around 2% of the Allagash Timberlands landscape has been planted, with only a small amount of this in Norway spruce, an exotic species. FSC discourages planting of exotics. The SCS document referred to Norway spruce as a "closely related species" and reasoned that its use was "prudent" (PS, pg. 27), but they did not recommend its use.

Irving claims that it will be planting in the future to fill in natural regeneration gaps. Yet, over the next 25 years, Irving plans to increase plantations by 350% to 7% of the landscape (PS, pg. 5), which means that 20% of softwood stands will have been planted. Apparently, Irving is anticipating a lot of gaps. Irving has been doing around twice as much pre-commercial thinning (PCT) as planting. If this ratio continues, in 25 years 40 per-

cent of softwoods (assuming all PCT is in softwood stands) will have been pre-commercially thinned. This combined with plantations would mean that 60 % of softwoods will have received early stand intensive management.

This implies two things—that much of Irving's spruce-fir management is even-aged, and that planned rotations will be relatively short. Neither of these moves the forest towards "more natural conditions."

Clearcutting (as defined by state) has been reduced to 8% of acres cut annually. The certifiers "did, however, encounter situations where it was questionable whether clearcutting was the only alternative" (PS, pg. 26). The certifiers did not say what proportion of the cut was in overstory removals, which the state classifies as "shelterwood."

During the 90s, Irving was spraying 1,600 to 6,000 acres per year with herbicides in the Allagash district (PS, pg. 5). The SCS team frowns on the "use of chemicals as an expediency or an indispensable facet of broadly-applied silvicultural prescriptions" (PS, pg. 33). They claim that from now on, Irving will only "use herbicides when necessary" (PS, pg. 33). The certifiers believe, apparently, that Irving's plan for "an annual spray rate of approximately 1,750-3,000 acres in the coming years" is necessary (PS, pg. 33).

Yet, the certifiers "visited planted areas where herbicide treatments were considered unnecessary" (PS, pg. 34). The certifiers noticed the "initial degradation of plant community" following clearcut and spray, an impact that can be measured for years (PS, pg. 35).

SCS also certified nearly a half-million acres of JDI's operations at Black Brook in New Brunswick. The certifiers never asked JDI for a list of the chemicals used or checked chemicals used with FSC's guidelines. Some of these chemicals, the certifiers now acknowledge, "could be interpreted as meeting the characteristics of FSC banned chemicals" (PS, pg. 33). At least one of these chemicals, Garlon 4, was used by JDI on its Allagash Timberlands in 1999.

**Partial cuts.** Clearcutting is not Irving's primary silvicultural tool in its Allagash Timberlands. According to the summary document, 77% of cuts are "selection" or other partial cuts (PS, pg. 15). The document did not break this figure down as to what proportion of these partial cuts are true "selection" (to create uneven-aged stands) and what are thinning in even-aged stands.

Irving foresters, apparently, "are more experienced with implementing final regeneration cuts than they are with managing multi-cohort stands" (PS, pg. 25).

The foresters have 2-4 times the load of acres than other certified operations (PS, pg. 16). They do not have time to mark stands, instead leaving decisions of what trees to cut up to loggers, who have to interpret Irving prescriptions. Loggers do not get extra pay to be forest technicians.

The certifiers "observed a number of prescription outcomes that were less than optimal." The team, however, "is not charging that many outcomes were 'poor' to the point of being uncertifiable; just

that many could have been much better." As an example, they found examples of "somewhat subtle highgrading"—where the biggest and best trees were removed in ways that "compromised the stand's future growth potential or ability to regenerate to an improved species mix" (PS, pg. 16).

The certifiers believe that at least 40-60% of certified harvested stands ought to be marked, especially those that cannot be cut based on simple rules (PS, pg. 17). Foresters for Baxter State Park Scientific Forest Management Area (BSPSFMA), for example, mark most of the wood to be cut because mechanical operators can not see crown conditions well from inside the machines. Because cutting decisions at the BSPSFMA are made by foresters, and loggers are paid based on weight (regardless of tree value), this removes the incentive for highgrading, subtle or otherwise.

**Forest structure.** Forest structure on both a stand and landscape base was a problem area for the certification team.

Irving foresters were inconsistent when dealing with woody debris. "It was apparent to the team that most foresters have more to learn to properly recognize high quality downed woody debris or cavity trees." (PS, pg. 25).

The Allagash Timberlands have serious problems with age structure, which is currently "not well balanced for the purposes of providing a continuous flow of mature timber" (PS, pg. 22). Historically, spruce-fir has been overcut and hardwoods have been undercut. During the 70s, 80s, and 90s, there were a lot of clearcuts in spruce-fir and mixedwood stands, supposedly to deal with the budworm (which went away in 1985). Inadequate markets for low-grade hardwoods help explain the highgraded condition of the hardwood resource. The certifiers noted (PS, pg. 14) that even with Irving's new forest plan, there is still a concern over a continued "serious imbalance."

Age structure is important not only for timber sustainability, but for biodiversity. Key is to assure that there is adequate representation of older age classes in the landscape. With Irving's latest plan, older spruce-fir forests would decrease over the next 25 years (PS, pg. 25).

JDI has specific policies to ensure older stand representation. Within each broad forest type, Irving will maintain at least 10% in "old" and 3% as "very old." Irving did not pass the straight-face test with these standards as it defined "old" as over 70 years and "very old" as over 100 years (PS, pg. 23). The certifiers suggested that at a minimum, 100 for old and 180 for very old would be more appropriate thresholds (PS, pg. 24). SCS gave Irving its lowest grade (75) for Forest Community Structure and Composition (PS, pg. 21). Since this is below passing grade (80) certification could only be awarded with conditions attached to remedy the problem. In the future.

**Roads.** Irving imposes a gridwork of roads on the landscape. "A standard criticism of Irving's road network," write the SCS team, "is its straightness and rigid



geometric patterns, regardless of the terrain or landscape. We encountered one instance where a minor relocation up slope would have avoided constructing a right-of-way through an enriched old-growth cedar habitat." (PS, pg. 18).

"We also observed site specific instances where putting a slight curve in an otherwise straight road would have avoided a wetland completely..." (PS, pg. 33).

Irving has a mile of roads for every 300 acres (2.1 miles of road per square mile of forest). In contrast, the Fundy Model Forest in New Brunswick (where Irving owns some land) has a guideline to keep road distribution to less than a mile for every square mile of forest to minimize impacts on biodiversity.

**Logging.** Sixty-five percent of JDI's cutting on the Allagash Timberlands is with feller bunchers and grapple skidders (whole tree harvesting or WTH) (PS, pg. 18). Some certifiers (such as the Silva Forest Foundation in British Columbia) won't certify timberlands that rely on whole tree harvesting, not because they ban the machines, but because it is so difficult to meet guidelines for trail width and distribution, soil disturbance, residual damage, and slash management with feller bunchers and grapple skidders (Vasbinder).

WTH requires wide, frequently distributed trails, leading to excessive areas taken in trails, unavoidable damage (as bunches of trees with tops and branches are pulled down the trails), and much more removal of nutrients than with bole-only harvesting. WTH also requires large yarding areas to process trees—tops, branches and all. While SCS certifiers were pleased that harvesters took slash back into the woods and left it along the trails, they noted that this does not leave the slash well distributed (PS, pg. 28).

The certifiers did not say how wide or how far apart the trails were. They gave no indication of what distribution of roads, yards, and trails would be acceptable. The certifiers gave no figures for average residual damage per acre, nor what an acceptable level of damage should be. These criteria can easily be measured in the field.

SCS certifiers compared Irving's cutting to other industrial landowners in the region—the "all-too-common practice of simply minimizing short-term operating costs" (PS, pg. 19). Based on such a comparison, the certifiers found the job of implementing harvest prescriptions to be "adequate," "given the time and attention devoted to the process" (PS, pg. 16). While this is a less-than-subtle put-down of typical cutting in area, it is not an adequate unit of comparison for certified harvesting.

**Forest soil and forest wetlands.** According to the summary document, Irving foresters do not adequately not consider soil type when developing harvest prescriptions. The certifiers expressed concern because, "this can lead, in some instances, to soil compaction or desiccation and reduced site productivity, and can specifically influence the success or failure of establishing regeneration of some species." (PS, pg. 28). This concern was not just academic: "We observed some sites with relatively thin soils that had been compacted during harvesting." (PS, pg. 28).

The certifiers were not too happy

with some cutting in wet areas, such as cedar or spruce-fir flats. They found "desiccation of the sphagnum moss ground layer" on some sites (PS, pg. 25).

"...at several sites, we observed harvest trails going through very wet areas when there were alternatives that were clearly more benign." (PS, pg. 28).

"...in some instances wood harvested from the wetter sites (...) is of relatively low quality, which is in sharp contrast to the high ecological value of the wetland system." (PS, pg. 28). These types of sites sometimes have such features as vernal pools or rare plant species.

"We did encounter several cases where excessive rutting had occurred..." (PS, pg. 28).

"...in isolated instances, excessive rutting has compromised productivity on a small scale." (PS, pg. 28).

"We did notice a few site-specific examples of erosion, but these were the exception..." (PS, pg. 32). (One would be really concerned if erosion were the rule, I suppose).

**Social benefits.** When it came to social aspects of certification, the report strains credibility. Principle #4 of FSC criteria states that "Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well-being of forest workers and local communities." While the SCS team cites evidence that this has not been the case, it gave Irving high scores nonetheless.

The SCS team did a dozen community interviews and concluded, "We found no indication of poor community relationships in these interviews" (PS, pg. 29). As to employees, the document states that, "In our observation, the employees are motivated and enthusiastic" (PS, pg. 42).

During the 1980s, the towns of New Sweden, Stockholm and Westmanland passed local ordinances to curb Irving's aggressive clearcut and spray activities in the area. The town of Allagash lost the majority of its population over the last few decades in part due to raw log exports, mechanization, and Canadian labor imports—trends to which Irving contributed. At the time of certification, loggers set up blockades of the border to Canada to protest export of raw sawlogs and import of Canadian labor. Truckers set up an unrelated blockade of the border at Fort Kent, complaining of Irving's payment policies. Irving pays truckers by weight and by the mile. To break even, truckers felt forced to drive overloaded trucks.

In a recent *Maine Times* article about Irving's labor practices, a spokesman for the truckers said that workers "are fearful" of the changes Irving is forcing on them and scared of reprisal if they speak out. "That's what happens when a company is the only ballgame in town." (Austin)

The summary document admits that margins in logging have fallen and there are fewer people who want to work in the woods. Irving requires contractors to work their equipment on double shifts (80-100 hours), which means that some loggers work their equipment in the woods at night. Irving suggests that contractors "get used to two shift operations..." (PS, pg. 42).

The summary document admits that "there are many stories of contractor discontent with this management approach. It is easy to see these methods as a form of squeezing against suppliers with little or no bargaining power" (PS, pg. 43).

The SCS team interviewed six current contractors working on the Irving

lands. "We found what we would expect to find, in a relationship where some tension is normal..." (PS, pg. 43).

"...many contractors have only a limited choice of where to work and they feel boxed in."

"Statements that Irving pays the 'lowest rates' in the industry were common, along with statements that other owners are cutting rates to follow suit."

"Mechanical contractors, once having made the decision to invest, often feel pressured to accept whatever terms they can negotiate." (PS, pg. 43).

The certifiers did not mention that rates paid to mechanical operators in other states are double what is paid by Irving in Maine.

The certifiers said the migrant workers (mostly from Mexico) doing thinning and planting are "happy" with their pay—pay so low for work so hard that "the use of migrant workers does not result in any American workers losing employment opportunities" (PS, pg. 44).

Hiring these migrants, according to SCS, results in community benefits. The money these workers make "contributes to the local economies..." (PS, pg. 44) in their Central American towns (where much of the money is sent). The certifiers have distorted the intent of FSC guidelines to support local economies if they use Mexico as "local" for the Allagash region of Maine.

The SCS certifiers gave Irving a "92" for contractor/employee relations despite their statement that "we have noted the frequent expression of discontent" (PS, pg. 45). The SCS document suggested that "there's always another side to the story" (PS, pg. 43). This statement hardly justifies the SCS rating, given problems already noted, and given that we are not told a convincing other side.

The document does try to take blame off of Irving and instead put it on "market pressures" (PS, pg. 45). That too is an insufficient justification for the 92 rating, given the nature of logger labor markets in northern Maine.

Lloyd Irland, who wrote the socioeconomic section, was also a part author of a Department of Labor study on bonded Canadian woods labor. That study, done at the same time as certification, concluded that the labor market in the north woods is not a free market, but an oligopsony. The landowners dominate the market and can set the terms, take-it-or-leave-it. Over the last few decades, inflation-adjusted wages for loggers have gone down by 32% while stumpage profits for landowners have gone up by 169%. The wages are low because the landowners don't want to pay any more than they have to. So they have squeezed the contractors who have squeezed workers.

Irving is getting rid of large contractors and is instead hiring smaller "independent" contractors. These workers are not considered "employees" and are not subject to OSHA protection, worker's compensation, health plans, or withholding for FICA or Medicare. The DOL study said that "from the standpoint of U.S. Labor law, these workers do not exist." (PAC, pg. 64)

Irving is not forced by the market to treat workers this way. This is the company's choice.

**Conclusions.** The certification of Irving undermines forestry activists con-

*Continued Next Page*



*Branta canadensis goslings. Photo © Roger Irwin.*



## IRVING CERTIFICATION

(FROM PAGE PREVIOUS)

cerned with overcutting, clearcuts, or herbicides by legitimizing those practices. It also undermines labor struggling for better wages or working conditions because it gives high grades to the status quo.

Although, the governor, editorial writers, and some environmental groups in Maine have claimed that certification is an alternative to regulation, this is not the case. Regulation is a way to prevent worst abuses. Those who do the worst highgrading and liquidation do so because it is profitable and legal. They are interested in short-term returns, and can make more money this way than managing for certified markets.

Certification, theoretically, is an incentive for best forestry, not a deterrent for worst. With the certification of Irving, the role of certification as a high bar, seems to have been neglected. Perhaps forestry in Maine has been down so long it is starting to look like it is up to SCS certifiers.

The certification of Irving will send confusing signals to the market. To the extent that members of the public see Allagash forests that look very unnatural or hear of woods workers and truckers protesting Irving's labor policies, they will wonder what certification represents.

While it is commendable that JDI has some practices that are better than the typical industrial operations in the area, or that it has intentions for improving its practices, these are not sufficient standards for certification. The standards should be based on desirable outcomes, not comparisons with undesirable outcomes. Some outcomes, (such as landscape structure) take many decades to achieve, but should be a clear target in management plans. Other outcomes, such as minimizing residual logging damage, minimizing size and distribution of roads, yards and trails, or managing without biocides (except for emergencies) should only be certified when they are actual practices, not promises. This applies to labor relations as well.

The rush to certify large areas as soon as possible may backfire for FSC. Controversies over JDI's certifications in Maine and New Brunswick are hurting the credibility of forest certification.

In New Brunswick, SCS certified Irving's Black Brook holdings without trying to ensure that Irving met the regional standards that were being developed by the Maritimes Committee. When these standards passed, Irving, which had a representative on that committee, appealed those standards and waged a public-relations campaign to discredit the committee. When FSC upheld the standards, Irving withdrew its Black Brook certification (until it can get the committee to be restructured and back down from the unwanted standards). In the meantime, Sierra Club Canada's appeal of the certification was rejected by FSC on a technicality related to the time of filing.

With such controversies swirling around, the Maine Low-Impact Forestry Project, which was preparing to have thousands of acres of woodlots certified in the Hancock County area, has withdrawn from such efforts until FSC takes actions to make forestry certification more transparent.



A young *Odocoileus virginianus*. Photo © Roger Irwin

Simon Counsell, in his critique of FSC world wide, raised a key question regarding the goal of certification: "Is its object to try and reward the highest quality forest management, or should it reward those that are not necessarily the highest quality, but are trying to improve." (Counsell, pg. 8).

After reviewing controversial certifications world wide, Counsell concluded: "the actual label on the products resulting from such certification does not necessarily indicate to the consumer the actual high quality of the forest management, but rather the intended quality of the management." And he added, "...there has sometimes been a very large gap between the intention and the reality..." (Counsell, pg. 68).

### Sources:

(Austin) "Lean and mean: Irving says global pressures tighten pay rates," Phyllis Austin, *Maine Times*, May 30, 2000.

(Counsell) *Trickery or Truth? An Examination of the Effectiveness of the Forest Stewardship Council*, Simon Counsell, the Rainforest Foundation, UK, June, 1999

(PAC) *Maine Logging Industry and the Bonded Labor Program: An Economic Analysis*, Pan Atlantic Consultants/The Irland Group, Maine Department of Labor, November, 1999.

(PS) *Public Summary of the Certification Report*, Michael Thompson, Woodlot Alternatives, Inc. SCS Northeast, Topsham, Maine, May 2000.

(Vasbinder) Wendy Vasbinder, Certification Program Co-Manager Silva Forest Foundation, personal communication, 7/4/00

## CLEARCUTTING IN PERSPECTIVE

The Nova Scotia Public Interest Group (nspig) has put together an apparently annual 36 page tabloid on forest practices — chiefly clearcutting — in the province. It also profiles viable alternatives to overcutting and assesses the status of protected lands in the province. Linda Pannozzo focuses on adverse environmental and human health effects of glyphosate, the popular forestry herbicide that its manufacturer Monsanto has widely touted as "safe." All familiar stuff to readers of this rag.

Clearcutting is the focus of the piece because Nova Scotian timber companies are busy cutting more wood than grows — and much of this wood is being removed from Crown lands with the blessings of the government. Meanwhile, a federal mandate for a system of representative reserves has not been fulfilled (see [www.publicland.ca](http://www.publicland.ca) for more information on current planning processes). Jim Drescher's essay "Clearcut Death for Atlantic Salmon" addresses in layman's terms what happens to watersheds that lose the regulating cover of old forest: spring waters rush, summer water levels fall, and habitat quality suffers. Canoe guide Bruce Graves concurs: there is little wilderness left in Nova Scotia to guide visitors to: "The 'wilderness' is now a flat, barren, erosion-prone moonscape with no trees and no habitat for wildlife."

Contact Nova Scotia PIRG at Room 314 Dal Student Union Building (Halifax presumably); [nspig@is2.dal.ca](mailto:nspig@is2.dal.ca)

## Pond of Safety Forest Protection Sought by Towns of Randolph & Jefferson, NH

(The following is excerpted from a four page flyer on The Pond of Safety Forest. It was prepared by The Randolph Foundation, POB 283, Gorham NH. Inquiries about the project may be directed to John Mudge, 374 Dogford Road, Etna, NH 03750. telephone 603-643-6640 or [PondofSafety@aol.com](mailto:PondofSafety@aol.com)).

**The Opportunity:** The devastating ice-storm of 1998 has created an opportunity for the Town of Randolph, by itself or in conjunction with the Town of Jefferson, to acquire and manage a tract of 10,00± acres of woodlands which are currently owned by the Hancock Timber Resource Group (Hancock).

**Why is the land important?** This land is an important ecological corridor connecting the Presidential Range of the WMNF with the Kilkenny region to the north, the Nash Stream Forest north of that and other areas of the Northern Forest. Many people and organizations have long recognized the strategic importance of the undeveloped watershed of the Pond of Safety. It is an important timber resource, and it is rich in ecological value, and it has long provided the public with many forms of outdoor recreation and has even greater recreational potential in the future.

**[Role of Forest Legacy]:** In 1997, the Randolph Planning Board learned that Hancock had submitted an application in 1995 to place 10,00± acres of its lands in Randolph and Jefferson into the Forest Legacy Program. This is a federal program which buys conservation easements on forest land at fair market value from *willing sellers*. The aim of the program, and the associated easements, is to prevent forest land from being lost to housing and other forms of development and at the same time to permit traditional uses such as timber harvesting and recreation to continue.

[...] Meanwhile, as Hancock came to appreciate the full effect of the 1998 ice-storm on these woodlands, it decided that it would prefer to sell outright all of its holdings, including the land behind the Proclamation Boundary of the WMNF that includes the Pond of Safety. [Land and Water Conservation Funds enabled the US Forest Service to purchase the Pond of Safety lands within the Proclamation Boundary. Forest Legacy funds have been earmarked for the remainder.]

As legislation was being passed in Washington, TPL [The Trust for Public Land] was negotiating with Hancock on behalf of the Towns. TPL obtained an option to purchase the property which will remain in force through the end of 2000, allowing time for details to be worked out. TPL is committed to the creation of a conservation easement on this land and will use the allocated federal funds for this purchase. That, together with the inclusion of the Pond of Safety into the WMNF, means that the Town will never again need to worry about the effects of any large development on this land.





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# Proposed MAINE WOODS NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE



MAINE WOODS  
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PARK



RESTORE website:  
[www.restore.org](http://www.restore.org)

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## America's Next Great National Park



# Shhhh. I want to tell you a secret. Ready?

by Jym St. Pierre

The eastern United States is a vast megalopolis surrounded by endless suburbs, right? Even the rural areas are nothing but towns, woodlots and farmlands tamed by centuries of development and domestication, right? There are no big wildlands left here, right. Wrong.

Imagine a place which rivals the Boundary Waters Canoe Area with hundreds of remote lakes and thousands of miles of rivers and streams. Imagine a place which encompasses the most rugged stretches of the most famous hiking route in America, the Appalachian Trail. Imagine a place with more wild trout ponds and more majestic moose per square mile than any other spot in the United States. Imagine a place harboring the last elusive lynx in the eastern U.S. Imagine a place where native people have lived for more than a hundred centuries, but which has no cities or towns even today. Imagine a place so alluringly big and wild that it attracted Henry David

RESTORE: The North Woods is a non-profit conservation organization working to restore, preserve, and defend the natural integrity of the North Woods of the United States and Canada through advocacy, public awareness, and citizen activism.

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*"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... Countless lakes....and mountains..."*  
— Henry David Thoreau

Thoreau, Teddy Roosevelt, Justice William O. Douglas and untold numbers of less well known wilderness adventurers.

Is this place for real? Yes. Is it one of our great national parks? Sadly, no. Not yet, but it could be. The place is the Maine Woods, the largest surviving part of the great North Woods that once stretched unbroken from the Maritimes to Minnesota.

For many generations, the Maine Woods was owned by those who knew and cared about Maine. However, as the global economy has grown, most of the land has been sold to timber corporations and investment companies driven more by short-term profit than by local concerns or long-term forest health. In one short generation, an area larger than the state of Delaware has been clearcut, tens of thousands of miles of private logging roads have been built, and millions of acres have been sprayed with toxic pesticides.

At the same time, key tracts have been subdivided and thou-

sands of houses have been built or expanded, especially along remote, unspoiled lakeshores. Meanwhile, pressures continue to mount for new powerlines, pipelines, dams, energy plants, waste dumps, mines, and other industrial developments.

Yet, the crisis in the Maine Woods also offers an historic opportunity. Expansive tracts of land have been changing ownership. Five million acres have been sold in the last few years. For \$250 an acre or less, the heart of these forest lands, 3.2 million acres, could be purchased and preserved as a new Maine Woods National Park & Preserve. Protecting the wilderness character of this region would be one of the most rewarding and affordable investments the people of America could make.

A keen observer once said that national parks represent the best idea America ever had. Maine Woods National Park would be the largest national park in the East, the second largest (after Death Valley) in the lower 48 states. It would be a chance to restore lands

that have endured years of overcutting. We could preserve wildlife habitat, ensure public access for recreation and protect water quality in the headwaters of five legendary rivers. And we could nurture a healthier, more diverse economy throughout Maine and help communities supplement the struggling forest and paper industry.

Establishing a Maine Woods National Park would safeguard a national treasure where the haunting yodel of loons echoes through the warm, blue summer air off surrounding green hills. It would give us an opportunity to restore to the legendary wilderness of Maine the song of the wolf, the splash of the Atlantic salmon, and the magic of caribou gliding through wild woods like massive, mysterious shadows. It would be a magnificent people's park for the twenty-first century and a fitting millennial memorial for future generations of all species.

I hope you keep this our little secret. But it's OK if you tell everyone you know.

*Jym St. Pierre is Maine Director of RESTORE: The North Woods. He was formerly senior staff in Maine for The Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, and Maine Department of Conservation.*



*Lazy Tom Bog and Big Spencer Mountain. © Jym St. Pierre.*



# The Maine Woods - A Wilderness Under Siege

by Jym St. Pierre

I remember. Growing up in Maine hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, driving, fishing, hunting and flying in the Maine Woods, the memories are too vivid to forget.

I remember an early camping trip with my family, in the summer of 1960. We swam where trout and salmon thrived in the cold lake water. We splashed for hours; we shivered; we didn't care. We got sun burned; we didn't care. Our borrowed canvas tent had no floor and one night a skunk paid a visit. My mother climbed onto the picnic table. My father shooed it. The skunk nosed under one side of our tent and, after a moment, ambled out the other. My sister and brother, asleep inside, never awoke. On that trip I climbed my first big hill, Bald Mountain, giddy with the birds-eye view of endless forest.

There are memories of excursions up other Maine mountains, too. Memories of impossibly green partridgeberry vines snaking over feathery clumps of sphagnum moss on Azischohos Mountain; of a pre-dawn peek into a mysterious, dank rock slide cave on Peaked Mountain; of blueberries sanguinely lining an autumn trail on Speckled Mountain; of a foggy scramble up a glacial scattering of lichen-encrusted boulders on Deboullie Mountain; of a winter whiteout at the climax of a snowshoe trek to the top of Little Jackson Mountain; of twilight shadows outlining gold-tinted hills that rippled to the horizon from the summit of Old Speck.

I remember running spring freshets on the St. John and Sandy Rivers and Seboeis Steam, racing the current down the Penobscot, Allagash and Kennebec rivers, and floating with the summer sun on Moosehead Lake. I remember teasing landlocked salmon in Pierce Pond with wet flies and brook trout in Nesowadnehunk Lake with dry ones. I remember stalking grouse in Madrid. I remember, at Big Reed Reserve, being awe-struck by trees growing larger than I thought possible in this part of the world.

I remember standing alone deep into a February night, as far from city lights as you can get around here, watching a performance of the northern lights from a front row rock on a frozen wilderness pond. I remember sharing a thermal with a bald eagle near Grand Lake Matagamon one breathtakingly clear summer afternoon.

Sadly, many of my bright memories of the Maine Woods have become crowded with dark images in recent years. I have witnessed wild forests being transformed into intensively managed fiber factories. I have watched unbroken shorelands be advertised for development with headlines that scream, "Maine Land Liquidation." I have felt profound loss as suburbia has displaced wooded hillsides because they had a marketable view. I have listened to the whine of overpowered outboards slashing across lakes where quiet used to prevail. I have been shocked to fly to favorite remote spots and find the wilderness impaled by new roads. I have been numbed by the huge number of workers tossed out by mechanization and "downsizing" in the forest products industry.

Almost without our realizing it, a massive shift has been underway over the past few decades that could permanently alter the traditional character of the Maine Woods. Poor forest practices, creeping development, and economic decline have become the norm. (See Maine Woods Besieged.)

Current protection efforts fall far short of what is needed to save the Maine Woods. State and federal politicians and bureaucrats lack the vision to initiate bold action. They have proposed a variety of pale green projects which are intended to shore up the so-called working forest more than to protect the public interest at risk from the assault of changes buffeting the Maine Woods. Tens of millions of dollars are being paid to large landowners to buy easements on the wrong lands, lands that are under little pressure. Each of these easement deals is touted as a win-win, but most of them offer no guarantee of public recreational access, no assurance of sus-



A clearcut within the proposed Maine Woods National Park. © Jym St. Pierre

tainable forestry, no promise that biodiversity will be preserved. They are great for public relations, but not necessarily for the woods.

Conservation organizations are advocating positive steps, such as restricting clearcut logging, modestly expanding state land acquisition, and strengthening land use regulations in northern Maine. Yet these are only a beginning. The proposed

Maine Woods National Park would represent a major step toward conservation, preservation and restoration — what well-known conservationist David Brower calls an essential CPR program — in the heart of this unique, endangered region. The need is urgent. The opportunity is now.

Jym St. Pierre, a Maine native, is Maine Director of RESTORE: The North Woods.

## Maine Woods Besieged

### Forest Mismanagement

- Over 2,000 square miles—an area the size of Delaware—have been clearcut.
- More than 25,000 miles of logging roads have been built, enough to circle the earth at the equator.
- Millions of acres have been sprayed with toxic pesticides and herbicides.

### Absentee Land Ownership

- Maine has the largest concentration of industrial and institutional ownership and the highest proportion of foreign land ownership of any state.
- Most of the major private landowners are absentee transnational corporations headquartered out-of-state.
- Over half the lands in the Maine Woods have changed hands in recent years, causing great uncertainty about the continuation of public use of these lands for traditional recreational activities. Between 1998-2000 alone, five million acres were sold.

### Real Estate Development

- Permits have been granted for 5,000 houses and camps—most of them on pristine lakeshores, along rivers, or in other scenic places.
- Nearly 2,000 lots have been approved for subdivision and future development.
- 200,000 acres have been divided into developable lots without public review due to legal loopholes.

### Industrial Development

- Recent and pending development proposals include bridges over free-flowing rivers, radio towers on mountain summits, biomass energy plants, high voltage powerlines, hydropower dams, ridgetop wind-farms, and open-pit and underground mines.
- Proposals have been made to dump solid, hazardous, radioactive, and industrial sludge wastes in the forest.
- High-power boats are increasingly disturbing remote ponds while all terrain vehicles are rutting up back-country trails.

### Economic Decline

- Forest industry mechanization, downsizing, and cost-cutting have eliminated 40 percent of woods jobs and nearly 20 percent of mill jobs in recent years.
- Many transnational paper companies have sought and received huge property tax abatements, leaving towns struggling to cut school and other essential services.
- Annual exports of raw logs cut in Maine cost an estimated 2,500 Maine jobs.

### Lack of Permanent Protection

- Less than six percent of Maine is owned by the public, one of the lowest proportions of any state.
- Only one percent of the landscape in Maine is permanently protected as wilderness.
- Nearly 25 percent of Maine's native plants and non-marine mammals are endangered, threatened, rare, of special concern, or extinct.



# America's Next Great National Park

By Kristin A. DeBoer

Maine has something that few places in this country have left—a big wild place. At the beginning of the 21st century, the Maine Woods stands alone as the largest remaining wildland east of the Rockies. In the American mind, it is still the wilderness frontier made famous by Henry David Thoreau. The Maine Woods remains a place that extends far into the northern reaches of our imagination. Indeed, this forest seems so big and so wild that many people believe it must already be permanently protected. Sadly, except for a few islands of green, it is not. Not yet. But there is an idea for preserving a magnificent part of this wildland which is gaining national attention—the creation of a new Maine Woods National Park.

All types of people care about the Maine Woods. There is the fifth generation Mainer, who diligently tends to his hundred-acres in the “old-way,” while cursing those blasted new clearcuts. The animal lover who wakes at dawn to watch moose feeding in the river. The backpacker who treks each season to her favorite remote pond. The “Maine expatriate,” who left home for a job in a city, but whose heart is still in the forest. The couple “from away” who moved north for a better life. The scientist who knows this region is the best hope for recovering endangered wildlife. The entrepreneur who is building a successful business by selling the Maine mystique. The family from Main Street USA who cherishes remote places

*“I know Maine well and respect its people and history. In 1994, I flew over the magnificent area proposed as a national park, and give my whole-hearted support to this bold, timely effort. Preserving these wildlands is a gift to future generations of Maine and the nation.”*

— Christopher Reeve

to find refuge. And, the ecological types, like me, who care deeply about the Maine Woods for the same reasons that the all the Earth's forests, oceans, and deserts just matter.

## An Historic Opportunity

Giant corporations have acquired nearly all of the millions of acres which remain in Maine's big woods. No other state in the country has such an intense concentration of industrial and institutional ownership. Companies are liquidating much of the forest for quick profit. In the process, jobs and economic stability are cut short as well. But a change is underway that could put some of the land back into the hands of the public. These corporations are unloading millions of acres.

The fact that such enormous areas of the Maine Woods are available presents an amazing possibility. If we act to purchase some of these lands, happily it would mean the end of clearcutting, herbicides, and fiber farms for a vast portion of the forest. It would be the beginning of a concerted effort to restore an entire landscape and revitalize

troubled local economies.

However, to purchase and protect such a magnificent wildland, it is clear that we will need to bring greater resources to bear than Maine alone can muster—the public support, financial capability, and political leadership that only the nation can offer. That is why a growing number of people realize that creating a new Maine Woods National Park would be a wonderful way to generate national support and take advantage of this major economic transition.

## Protecting Maine's Wildland Heritage

In 1994, when RESTORE: The North Woods proposed a 3.2 million acre Maine Woods National Park & Preserve, to some the idea smacked of federal intrusion. Now, it is increasingly seen as a practical and permanent solution. Indeed, a new national park would not mean giving the land away to the feds. It would mean returning it to the people, to the wildlife, and to the inheritance of our children.

In few, if any, other places in the country does the public have the option to buy millions of acres of

wildland from willing sellers at bargain prices. At \$250 an acre or less, the entire park could be purchased for less than what we spend on Doritos in the United States each year. As it has done for hundreds of other areas, Congress could authorize a Maine Woods National Park. Then funds could come from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and countless individuals and foundations across the nation to purchase this priceless area.

Creating a national park in northern Maine would preserve one of Maine's greatest assets, its wilderness heritage. It would provide a permanent home for imperiled wildlife. It would protect the headwaters of virtually all of Maine's major rivers. It would provide world-class opportunities for recreation. And, just as important, a national park would be the foundation of a healthier economy. Indeed, 10 billion dollars are generated each year in the U.S. thanks to national parks.

## Our Next Great National Park

The people of America love national parks. Anyone who has ever really explored them knows why they are America's crown jewels. I will never forget the golden spires of Bryce Canyon at sunset, the awesome Redwoods reaching toward the clouds, searching out signs of wolves on Isle Royale, or the desert wildflower bloom in Joshua Tree. But the best part about those national park experiences is that I know they will last, not only in my memory, but also for future generations.

The experiences the Maine Woods has to offer can endure too. Thoreau came to the Maine Woods a century and a half ago and discovered that “in wildness is the preservation of the world.” By chance, parts of the wildness Thoreau experienced survive today. However, unless we acquire these lands for the public trust, the wildlands of Maine may not withstand the storm winds of change. Now, more than ever before, we need to rally the people of Maine and America, and our state and national elected representatives to permanently protect the heart of the Maine Woods. We have an historic opportunity to create America's next great national park, and in so doing preserve an irreplaceable part of the natural and cultural heritage not only of Maine, but the nation.

Kristin A. DeBoer is Program Coordinator for RESTORE: The North Woods.

## Endangered Maine Woods Wildlife: Canada Lynx

*The reclusive nature of the Canada lynx (Lynx canadensis) has long kept the presence of this species somewhat of a mystery. Lynx have been spotted in the Maine Woods for centuries, but most people go a lifetime without ever seeing one. This is why the recent sightings of female Canada lynx and kittens in northern Maine are so exciting. Many people take this as a sign that populations of lynx can recover and thrive in Maine, the last vestige in the eastern U.S. of their historic range.*

*RESTORE continues to fight for greater protection of the lynx under the national Endangered Species Act and for permanently protected habitat through a Maine Woods National Park & Preserve.*

*Drawing © Melissa Belanger*





# PRESERVING A WORKING ECOSYSTEM

by George Wuerthner

The boundaries of the proposed Maine Woods National Park & Preserve would encompass 3.2 million acres of some of the most geologically and scenically significant landscapes in the United States. However, the proposed park would be much more than an array of beautiful landscapes. It would be a key link in the ecological restoration of the North Woods ecoregion and the northeastern foundation of a system of natural reserves, buffer areas and wildlife corridors throughout North America.

The United States has protected 200 million acres of wilderness areas and parks, yet at the same time the rate of species extinction and ecological degradation is increasing. How is this possible? Some scientists believe that it is because many national parks and wilderness areas have been created based on their scenic beauty and recreational values, rather than ecological principles.

The proposed Maine Woods National Park & Preserve is critical because it would restore biological diversity and ecological integrity, as well as aesthetic and recreational values. To accomplish this goal the proposed park was designed with the principles of conservation biology in mind. Conservation biologists have come to realize that we cannot just protect small areas piece by piece, or save species one at a time. We need to preserve whole, working ecosystems which actually maintain the evolutionary processes that generate biological diversity. Biologist, Michael Soule, translates the scientific criteria for creating natural preserves which accomplish this into these simple principles:

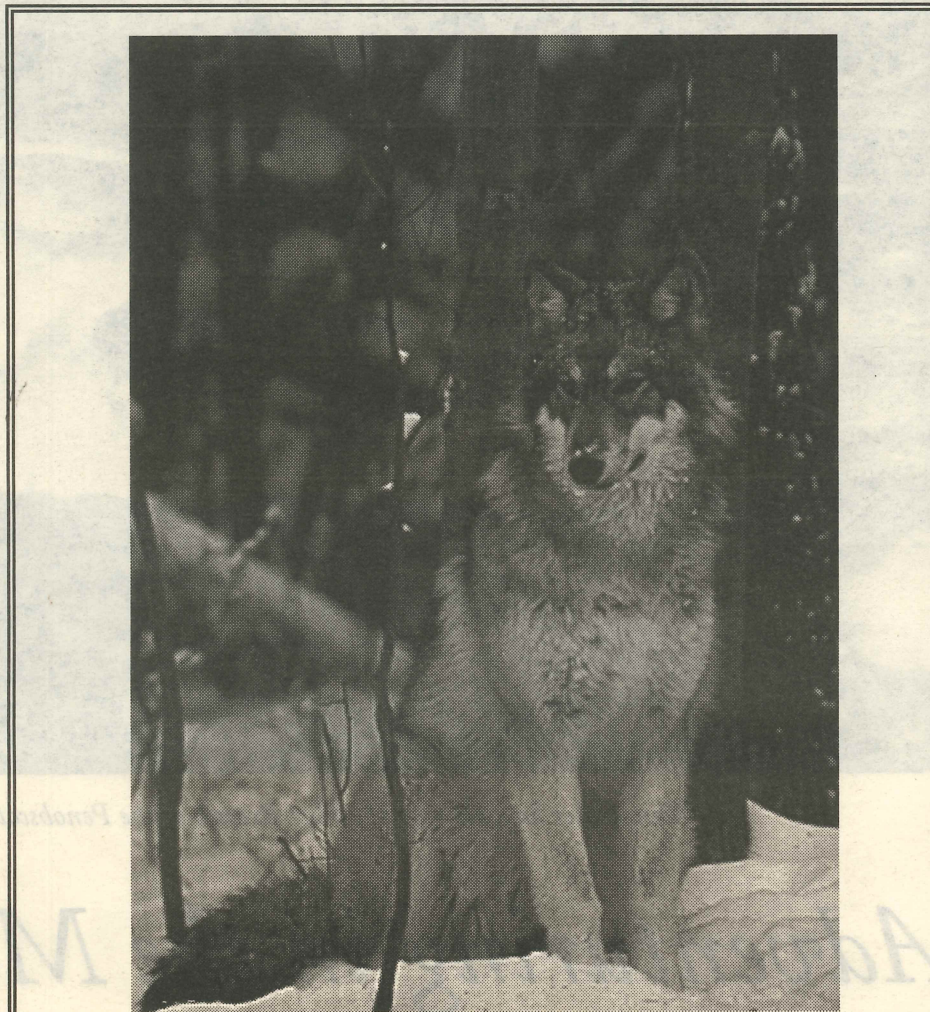
- Bigger areas are better than small ones.
- Connected areas are better than disconnected ones;
- Natural habitats are better than artificially disturbed ones.
- Some large predators are better than none.

Here are a few examples of how these principles would operate in the proposed Maine Woods National Park & Preserve.

## BIGGER IS BETTER THAN SMALL

Protected areas must be big enough for plants and wildlife to respond to and recover from large-scale change. Ecosystems are not static. They transform over time due to long-term global climate change and natural disturbances. If a protected natural reserve is too small, it could be completely wiped out by one major natural disaster. The Maine Woods National Park & Preserve would include most ecosystem types found in northern New England, including northern hardwood, boreal, and Laurentian forest types. Plants and wildlife would literally have the room to move to other areas, if one area is impacted by a wildfire or hurricane, for example.

With more than 3 million acres, it is likely that the proposed national park and preserve would be large enough to ensure that nearly all native species can maintain self-sustaining populations, especially if it is eventually connected to a system of



## Endangered Maine Woods Wildlife: Wolves

*Wolves were eradicated from the Maine Woods by hunters by the beginning of the twentieth century. Today, there is a great opportunity to welcome wolves back. RESTORE has been working toward this goal since 1993. For wolves to successfully recover in this region, they need large expanses of wildland unbroken by development and with limited human disturbance. A 1998 study identified suitable habitat in northern Maine encompassing the proposed Maine Woods National Park. A national park would restore and protect much of this land, providing a safe haven for wolves to run free in the Maine Woods once again.*

Photo © Lynn Rogers

regional reserves. Relatively abundant populations of animals like the black bear, whitetail deer, moose, beaver, porcupine, snowshoe hare, red squirrel and brook trout would be guaranteed survival if their habitat is protected. For many sensitive and rare species like the lynx, northern bog lemming, bald eagle, marten, and blueback trout, a large protected area would help restore their populations to more stable levels. This area would also be large enough to include the headwaters of Maine's major rivers. By sustaining clean and free flowing rivers the park would facilitate the restoration of the imperiled Atlantic salmon since water quality is critical to their spawning habitat.

## CONNECTED IS BETTER THAN DISCONNECTED

Clearcutting and road building fragment or eliminate habitat for many different kinds of wildlife. For example, the caribou, wolverine, cougar and wolf, now gone from the Maine Woods, require territories

of hundreds of square miles to survive. By setting aside large enough areas with limited human disturbance, it is possible that many of these species would have the space to thrive in Maine once again. Neotropical songbirds, like the hermit thrush, black-throated green warbler and cerulean warbler need dense interior forest to survive. If these birds are forced to breed near forest edges, next to clearcuts or roads, their eggs are often eaten by crows, skunks and raccoons. The proposed park would be a large contiguous forested area, protecting the interior forest these birds need.

## NATURAL HABITAT IS BETTER THAN ARTIFICIALLY DISTURBED

The proposed Maine Woods National Park would allow the forest, a diverse community of trees, shrubs, flowers, animals, birds and insects, to follow its own natural processes without overt human intervention. One example of a natural process is death and decay. The logic of industrial

forestry says that if trees are dead or dying they are worthless and should be cut and removed. But ecological science has shown that dead trees are actually the reason many species survive.

A natural, mature forest in the Maine Woods is typically dominated by large, old, shade-tolerant trees, with an abundance of dead tree snags, and small forest gaps caused by natural tree falls. Downed logs or standing snags provide natural habitat for numerous species. Many cavity-nesting birds rely upon fire, disease or insect-killed snags for breeding. Mammals such as the marten are known to burrow into the large pulpy interiors of logs to conserve heat during cold snaps in winter. A forest floor thick with leaves, twigs, branches and decaying logs provides lots of different habitat structures for all kinds of life. Decaying trees and debris also supply critical nutrients to the soil, allowing new trees to grow and thrive.

## LARGE NATIVE PREDATORS ARE BETTER THAN NONE

Many top-predators native to the Maine Woods, such as the wolf and cougar, have been driven out. These species may never be able to recover unless large areas of wildland habitat are protected, as in the proposed Maine Woods National Park & Preserve. Large carnivorous predators perform a key function in the health of an ecosystem. They influence the distribution, numbers and age structure of moose, deer and other prey species. To quote the poet Robinson Jeffers, "What but the wolf's tooth whittled so fine the fleet limbs of the antelope?" The protection of large predators would further ecosystem recovery in the North Woods.

## CONCLUSION

The purpose of the proposed Maine Woods National Park & Preserve is not to straight-jacket ecological processes. We cannot predetermine exactly how many acres of mature forest are needed for a functioning ecosystem. Nor can we pin down the correct number of moose or wolves. Instead, the proposed park would protect the self-determining processes of a healthy, diverse ecosystem that generates biological diversity and ecological integrity. Protecting 3.2 million acres of contiguous natural forest and entire watersheds would go a long way toward protecting a major component of the northern forest ecosystem and provide a core region where genuine wildlife recovery and ecological restoration can become a reality. The Maine Woods can be much more than a fiber factory operated under the rubric of the "working forest." It presents one of the best opportunities in North America to preserve and restore a working ecosystem.

George Wuerthner is a member of RESTORE's board of directors. He is a writer, photographer, and ecologist. He has published a book on the Maine Coast and has extensively explored the Maine Woods.



## Preserving Public Access

by Michael Kellett

A national park can guarantee access to a true Maine Woods wilderness experience. Instead of a national park, the Maine Woods is becoming an industrial park. The present timberland owners consider public recreation a nuisance to be tolerated. When they do come, visitors see a landscape scarred by clearcuts, roads, logging yards, and gravel pits. They are never far from the sights, smells, and noises of logging trucks, cars and pickup trucks, snowmobiles, motorboats, and airplanes.

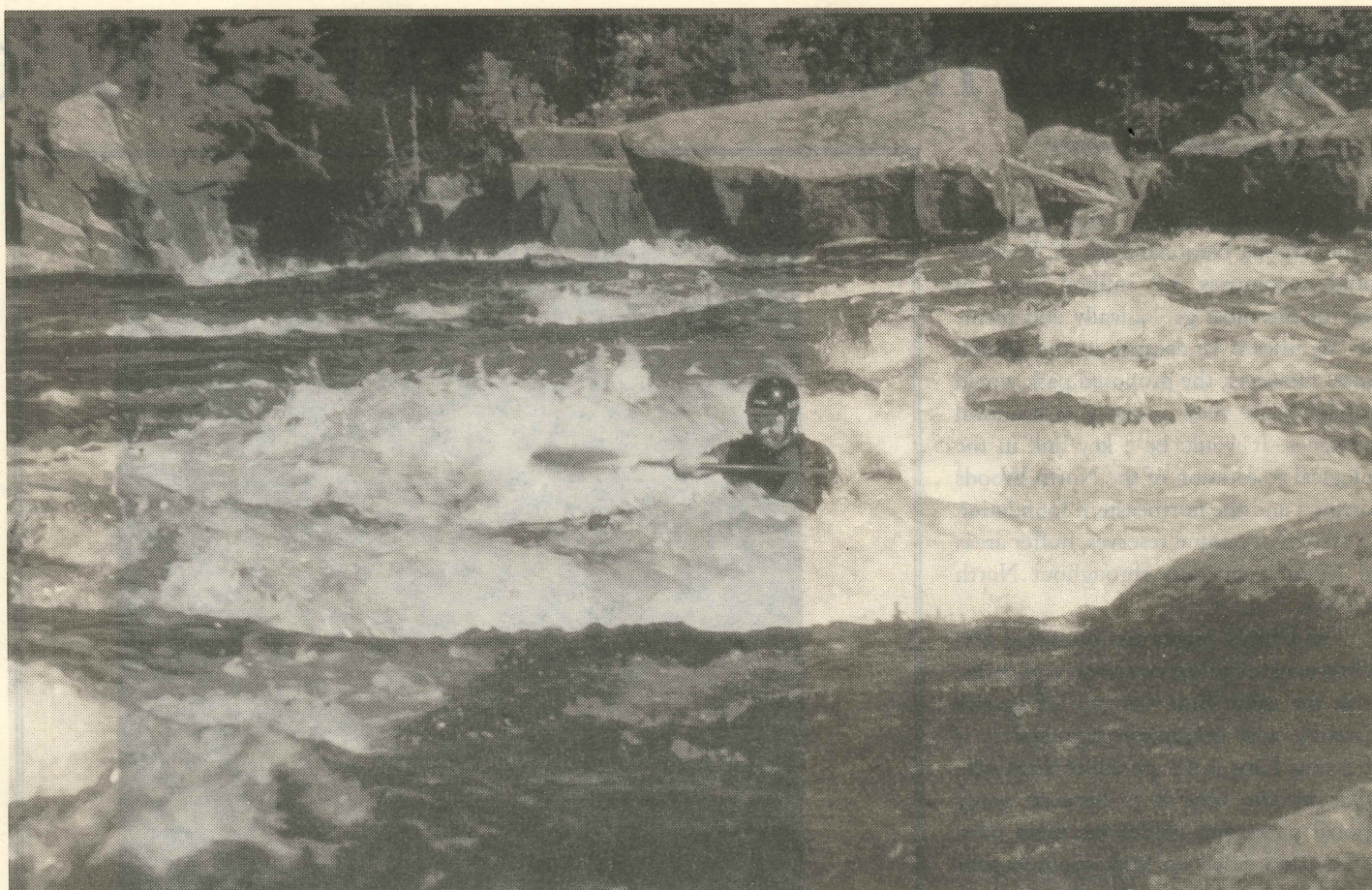
The tradition of free public access is dying. Now, a visitor must pass through a tollgate to reach much of the region. Moreover, it often costs more to visit Maine's "working forest" industrial park than to visit a protected national park.

The big wilderness of the traditional Maine Woods stretched from horizon to horizon with no sign of human development. Today, there is no big wilderness in the Maine Woods. The Appalachian Trail and Allagash Wilderness Waterway are only narrow corridors, with massive clearcuts and roads just beyond a thin "beauty strip" of trees. Baxter State Park is a spectacular place, but it is too small—filled to capacity in the summer and increasingly surrounded by clearcuts and roads. No other public and private lands in the state can offer a real Maine Woods wilderness experience.

The proposed Maine Woods National Park & Preserve would restore big wilderness to the Maine Woods. This vast new park would be more like the great Alaskan parks than those in the lower 48 states. Much, perhaps most, of the area would be designated as a national park with a large core of wilderness. The backcountry recreational possibilities would be endless. The rest of the area would be a national preserve, which could accommodate snowmobiling and hunting. These uses would be carefully managed to avoid conflicts and ecological degradation.

The Maine Woods National Park & Preserve would be one of our least crowded national parks. Contrary to the popular myth that national parks are "loved to death," this would be a place for solitude and wilderness recreation. Unlike often-crowded Acadia, which is one of our smallest national parks (only 40,000 acres in size), Maine Woods would be one of our largest, encompassing an area the size of Connecticut. The new park would need 200 million annual visitors to be as crowded as Acadia. A more likely estimate is three million visitors per year, a density similar to wild and uncrowded parks such as Canyonlands, Great Basin, and Voyageurs.

Michael Kellett is Executive Director of RESTORE: The North Woods.



Whitewater kayaking on the West Branch of the Penobscot. © Jym St. Pierre

## Adventuring in the Maine Woods

by Jon Luoma

Skiing one winter near Moosehead Lake, we set out each day from the cabin in a different direction. Yet whichever way we skied, the trail quickly and unavoidably emerged from the woods into a clearcut. We were forced to snake through mazes of stumps and over heaps of abandoned slash, or to struggle dispiritedly along muddy skidder tracks and logging roads, searching for a side trail that would lead into the "real" woods. (Surely the "real" woods were somewhere just around the corner.) But, the real woods were not to be found: only mile after mile of puckerbrush and clearcuts; or strips of trees along brooks or pond shores, 75 or 100 feet wide at most; or high-graded scrub with occasional lonely sentinel trees to remind us of the forest that once stood there, unbroken from ridge to ridge and across valleys and hills.

The proposed Maine Woods National Park & Preserve seeks to restore these degraded remnants to health, and to protect permanently the scattered tracts of "real woods" that still survive. This would have tremendous benefits for recreationists. Yet to focus only on such a park's recreational potential is to miss the larger purpose. Most campers, hikers and fishers know this: that their pleasures and hobbies take their deepest satisfactions precisely from a dependence on the larger, non-human universe—from the bedrock and groundwater below to the starlight descending from above, from the air currents and weather to the mysterious processes of evolution and change.

Still, the possibilities for "recreation"—or let's say: *re-creation*, spiritual, or psychological renewal—in a big national park are enough to cause an involuntary lifting of the heart in even a halfway enthusiastic hiker, angler, backpacker, camper, hunter, canoeist, skier, snowshoer, snowmobiler, kayaker, rafter, birder, photographer, ambler, dawdler, layabout, do-

nothing, peruser, and anticipator of the infinite, the unexpected, the unpredictable, the rare, the beautiful, the wild. The "recreational" potential of such a park is akin to the "recreational" potential of a great museum: so rich and unlimited that a lifetime's exploration and return would not exhaust them.

The proposed 3.2 million acre Maine Woods National Park would preserve intact a good chunk of the last large undeveloped forest of the East. It would connect existing parks, preserves, public lands, traditional canoe routes, and trails into a larger whole. Those who have explored Baxter State Park (surrounded by the proposed national park but continuing under its own management), the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, the Appalachian Trail, the West and East Branches of the Penobscot River, or Moosehead Lake and hundreds of other remote ponds and streams, can imagine and appreciate the potential for multiplying opportunities. Not only could hundreds of miles of new land and water trails be created, but the national park would preserve public access to such places as well as providing buffer zones around existing public lands and—of course—permanent protection to areas now without it.

To take one example, the national park and preserve would make the southern portion of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway what it should have been from the beginning: connected and undeveloped lakes set in an expanse of real, wild forest. A Wilderness Waterway requires a bit of real wilderness to wend within. In fact, the single greatest recreational benefit of the Maine Woods National Park might well be its protection of unique and distinct lake and river country—from Moosehead to Chesuncook, the Debsconeags, and the Allagash—which Baxter State Park, for all its spectacular features, does not, for the most part, provide.

These long-distance water routes are some of the finest and most beautiful in the country, and are an irreplaceable part of Maine's heritage. Likewise, the park would place the Appalachian Trail's famous "100 mile wilderness" into a similar context, and would amplify it in an extended network of hiking and other trails leading to the north and west. Such longer routes—including long-distance ski trails—would be the beneficiaries of restored forests, improved wildlife habitat, and permanent protection.

Those who suggest that such recreational opportunities already exist in Maine, are not looking far enough ahead. Without public protection, these resources over time will be inevitably degraded, diminished, and lost. Larger undeveloped tracts—recreationally speaking, the longer routes—are especially vulnerable. Anyone who has traveled off-road outside of Baxter State Park and the few other existing reserves knows that year by year, season by season, the Great North Woods—other than scrub, clearcut, and puckerbrush—is increasingly hard to find. The skier or snowmobiler finds herself crossing from clearcut to clearcut, weaving through stumps and slash; the canoeist or angler finds his favorite campsite newly occupied by a cabin or house or roadhead: a public resource changed forever from a secluded spot in the wilds available to anyone, into one person's private, posted backyard.

Today we take for granted Baxter State Park, the largest wilderness area in New England, as a priceless part of our heritage. Fifty years from now—or maybe only 10 or 20—the Maine Woods National Park & Preserve will surely seem similarly inevitable, if we act on our best instincts now.

Jon Luoma is an artist, writer and wilderness adventurer who lives and works in Maine.



# The Economic Value of Protecting Wildlands

For centuries people have cherished the Maine Woods as a home for a rich mix of wildlife, as a resource for timber and paper, and as a place to enjoy canoeing, camping, hiking, hunting, and other recreational activities. Yet, an over-reliance on a declining forest products industry has made the economy of Maine vulnerable, especially in an increasingly competitive global market. There are opportunities for the public to purchase and protect large areas as the foundation of a more diversified economy for Maine and the Northeast. Creating a new Maine Woods National Park & Preserve could be one of the most beneficial economic development initiatives for northern Maine in decades.

## An Economic Problem: Over-reliance on a Declining Forest Products Industry

Numerous studies have found that forest industry jobs have declined dramatically in Maine, despite increased logging. Overall employment in forestry jobs may stabilize if smaller businesses prosper in niche markets, but more jobs are expected to be lost in the dominant pulp and paper sector whether or not the mills and woods operations are modernized. Indeed, expanding mechanization and automation will leave fewer traditional forestry jobs for Maine workers.

- Even though total timber cutting in Maine increased by 67% between 1960-1994, total employment in Maine's lumber and paper industries decreased by 27% during that period. In 1960, the cutting of 1,000 cords of timber supported 9.6 jobs in Maine. In 1994, cutting the same amount of timber supported fewer than half (4.2) as many lumber and paper jobs. Similarly, in 1960, 1 in 11 people were employed in the forest industry in Maine. Now it is fewer than 1 in 23.

- Employment in the Katahdin-Moosehead region is especially vulnerable to shifts in the forest industry. In that region, about 13% of total employment is in the forest products industry, compared to less than 5% in the rest of Maine. From 1984-94, 3,500 forest industry jobs were lost there, a 44% decline. Logging jobs alone fell even farther, dropping 54%.

- The U.S. General Accounting Office projects that forest products industry employment will decrease by at least 27% over the next 50 years, even if timber cutting across the nation increases by 55%. The Maine Department of Labor forecasts that employment in Maine's lumber and paper industries will decline at least another 4 and 7 percent respectively by 2005.

- Not only jobs are at risk. A legislative Commission on the Future of the Paper Industry found that sales and income taxes from paper manufacturing in Maine plummeted from \$39 million in 1988 to less than \$12 million in 1992.

## Part of the Solution: Expanding Public Lands

The healthy forests, unspoiled mountains, pristine waters, clean air and diverse wildlife of the traditional Maine Woods

*"The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased and not impaired in value."*  
— Theodore Roosevelt

have long made northern Maine an extraordinary place to live, work and recreate. This unique wildland heritage is the foundation of the region's quality of life and its economy. If these special qualities of the Maine Woods are permanently protected, they could provide an economic advantage over other regions. Maine has a tremendous opportunity to capitalize on the most distinctive natural asset of the Katahdin-Moosehead region, its legendary reputation as one of America's great wilderness areas. The proposed Maine Woods National Park & Preserve offers enormous economic value to the public.

- Wildlands have important ecological values, such as water and air filtration, biodiversity protection, recreation and scenic beauty. Only recently have economists

been able to measure the economic value of these "ecosystem services." Based on the estimated ecosystem services values calculated in one recent study, the nearly 5 million acres of forest land sold in Maine in 1998-2000 would have been worth more than \$500 million per year if protected in public ownership.

- Protecting more public wildlands will attract clean businesses to Maine. The number of new high tech and service jobs created in Maine between 1986-1994 was 16 times greater than the number of lumber and paper industry jobs lost during the same period. However, most of the new jobs were in southern Maine. We will attract well-paying service and professional jobs (such as trade, transportation, finance, business, health care, legal serv-

es and education) to northern Maine if we protect and restore the natural environment in key areas through public ownership.

- At the same time, we should not underestimate the economic potential of tourism. Already tourism has become at least a \$3 billion industry in Maine. Tourism employs over 78,000 people, making it the state's single largest employment sector. But the vast majority of those jobs are in southern Maine. Similarly, lodging in northern Maine generates only one-tenth as much as along the coast. A Maine Woods National Park & Preserve in northern Maine would attract tourists who want to visit beautiful forests. Such permanently protected public areas are a magnet for new bed and breakfasts, inns, motels, and resorts.

- The potential particularly for ecotourism businesses in the wild Maine Woods is enormous. The growth in non-consumptive activities, such as wildlife watching, kayaking, canoeing and backpacking, has been explosive. Birders alone spend over \$5 billion a year on goods and services in the United States and birding is one of the fastest growing recreational activities. Wildlife recreation contributes in excess of \$1 billion to the economy of Maine every year.

- There are economic advantages to keeping wildlands undeveloped since open space costs much less to service than developed land. Studies from the Northeast show that open space costs government an average of \$0.34 for each \$1.00 in revenue generated by those lands. In contrast, residential land costs \$1.15 for each \$1.00 in revenue.

- Properties near protected lands are worth more than otherwise similar properties. The value of land in the New Jersey Pinelands National Reserve rose by an average of 35% after the reserve plan went into effect there. Near the Green Mountain National Forest in Vermont land is approximately 8% more valuable in towns with federal Wilderness Areas than in towns without.

- The economies of rural counties with national parks, such as Rocky Mountain in Colorado and Yosemite in California, support higher incomes, lower unemployment, less poverty, a higher level of education, and more employees in professional jobs than the forest products-dependent economies of Maine. For example, the average household income is almost \$9,000 higher in counties with national parks, than in Maine's Piscataquis County.

- A study of the proposed Maine Woods National Park & Preserve shows that it could generate between \$109 million and \$435 million in annual retail sales, it could bring in payments-in-lieu-of-taxes that would exceed current property taxes, and it could support 5,000 to 20,000 jobs in Maine. Yet, at 3.2 million acres, it would be eighty times as large as Acadia National Park. So there would be plenty of room for visitors to spread out.

### HOW MUCH WOULD A MAINE WOODS NATIONAL PARK COST?

Based upon today's prices, the land for the proposed 3.2 million acre Maine Woods National Park & Preserve could be purchased for an estimated \$500-900 million. While that represents an enormous sum for an individual, it is still a bargain investment for our nation. To put it in perspective, here are a few things that would cost about the same or more than a Maine Woods National Park:

ITEM	\$ PRICE TAG
Amount spent each year on gambling in America	\$600 billion
Exxon Mobil Corporation's 1999 sales	\$161 billion
Nike Inc.'s 2000 sales	\$9 billion
Hershey Food Corporation's 1999 sales	\$4 billion
DDG-51 Destroyer	\$3.4 billion
McDonald's January, 2000 sales	\$3.2 billion
NSSN Attack Submarine	\$2 billion
LPD-17 Landing Ship	\$1.5 billion
Amount spent each year on Christmas trees in U.S.	\$1 billion
Joint Strike Fighter	\$857 million

### WHAT YOU WOULD RATHER HAVE?



# MAINE WOODS NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE

A century and a half ago, Henry David Thoreau envisioned the creation of a "national preserve" in the heart of the Maine Woods. Today, Thoreau's dream could become reality. As we enter the new millennium, we have an extraordinary opportunity to save, for all time, the largest remaining wilderness east of the Rockies.

We all know it is too late for many areas. Open space is being devoured at a breathless pace. Yet there are a few special places in America where it is still possible to create magnificent national parks; parks which can join Yellowstone, Denali, and Grand Canyon as world-class protected landscapes. The Maine Woods is such a place.

The Maine Woods is a land of superlatives. It is the largest surviving part of the great North Woods wilderness. It is a land with unsurpassed natural values—deep forests, rugged mountains, clear waters, and abundant wildlife. It is a land with rich cultural values—spectacular scenery, challenging recreation, colorful history, and time-honored traditions. Most of all, the Maine Woods is a BIG land, encompassing jaw-dropping, horizon-to-horizon, seemingly endless expanses of rolling forest that are more like Alaska than the rest of the lower 48 states.

The need to protect this national treasure grows more urgent with each day. These wildlands are in jeopardy and can vanish if we do not muster the will and the funds to save them. Quite simply it is up to the people of Maine and America to seize this opportunity, for it will not come again. Our children and their children and their children will thank us for having the wisdom and resolve to restore the heart of the legendary Maine Woods to the public domain as America's next great national park. May they never look back and marvel that we did not.

## Choosing Our Future

For many generations, the Maine Woods was owned by those who knew and cared about Maine. This is why much of the region's wild grandeur survives to-day. But change is inevitable. As the global economy has expanded, most of the forest has been sold to timber and paper corporations. Today those companies are driven more by short-term profit than by local concerns or long-term forest health.

Indeed, clearcutting and other unsustainable logging practices have diminished vast acreages in the Maine Woods. In one short generation, an area larger than the state of Delaware has been clearcut, tens of thousands of miles of logging roads have been built, and millions of acres have been sprayed with toxic pesticides. Key tracts have been subdivided and thousands of houses have been built or expanded, especially along remote, unspoiled lakeshores. Pressures continue to mount for new powerlines, pipelines, dams, energy plants, waste dumps, mines, and more.

At the same time, more than half of the lands in the Maine Woods have changed ownership in the last two decades, exacerbating the instability of the region. In two

brief years, from 1998 to 2000, nearly five million acres were sold in a handful of large transactions.

The crisis in the Maine Woods also offers an historic opportunity. For a price of \$250 an acre or less, some of these industrial forest lands could be purchased and preserved as a new Maine Woods National Park & Preserve—returning this irreplaceable part of our heritage to the people of this and future generations. Such a national treasure may never be as affordable again.

We can no longer depend on the ways of the past to preserve the forest for the future. As millions of acres of forestland are put up for sale, we are presented with a clear choice—try to patch together a failing status quo or purchase some of the most important lands and restore them as a great Maine Woods National Park.

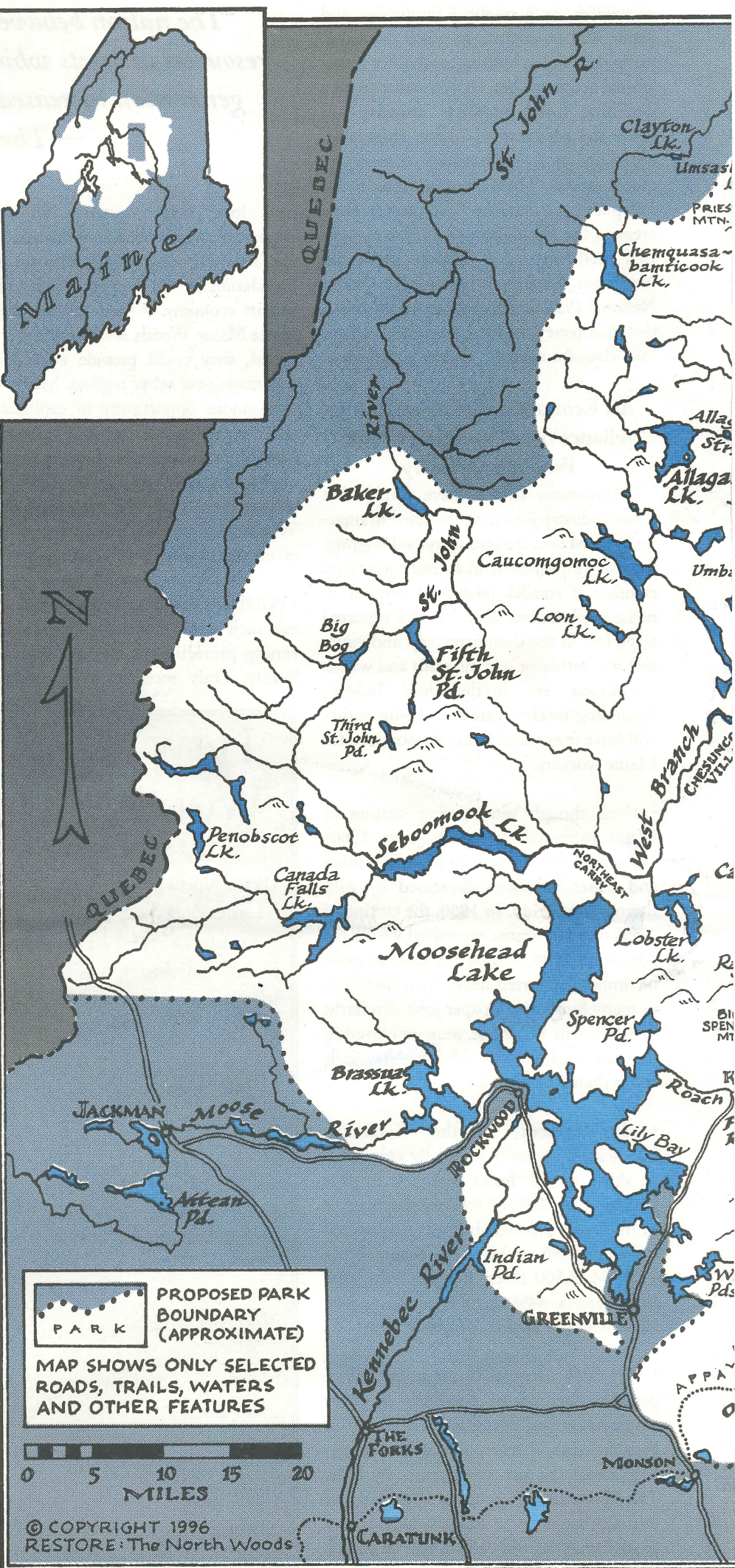
## Protecting Our Natural Treasures

The proposed Maine Wood National Park & Preserve would protect one of the most important concentrations of ecological, recreational, and cultural features in the United States. This majestic park would encompass:

- 3.2 million acres of wildlands, an area larger than Yellowstone and Yosemite combined, making it the second biggest national park in the contiguous U.S;
- thousands of miles of clear-running rivers and streams, including the headwaters of five of America's legendary rivers—Allagash, Aroostook, Kennebec, Penobscot, and St. John;
- a wide variety of natural wonders, including some of New England's last old-growth forests; scenic landscapes of lush, green woods punctuated by steep mountains; powerful waterfalls and rapids; scores of remote lakes and ponds; and deep canyons and gorges;
- critical habitat for endangered and sensitive wildlife, and the rare opportunity to restore a healthy ecosystem that includes the full range of native species;
- wilderness recreation on an Alaskan scale, featuring more than 1,250 miles of hiking trails, including the famed 100 Mile Wilderness section of the Appalachian Trail; the lake portion of the legendary Allagash Wilderness Waterway; hundreds of miles of wild streams; and world-class angling and hunting opportunities;
- a hundred centuries of human history, including Native American sites, places explored by Henry David Thoreau and other adventurers, and important early logging-era artifacts.

## Providing a Sanctuary for Wildlife

Not so long ago the Maine Woods was covered with old-growth forests of spruce,



fir, pine, maple, oak, birch and other northern hardwoods and evergreens. These, along with innumerable rivers, lakes, wetlands, mountains, and meadows, provided habitats for a rich diversity of wildlife.

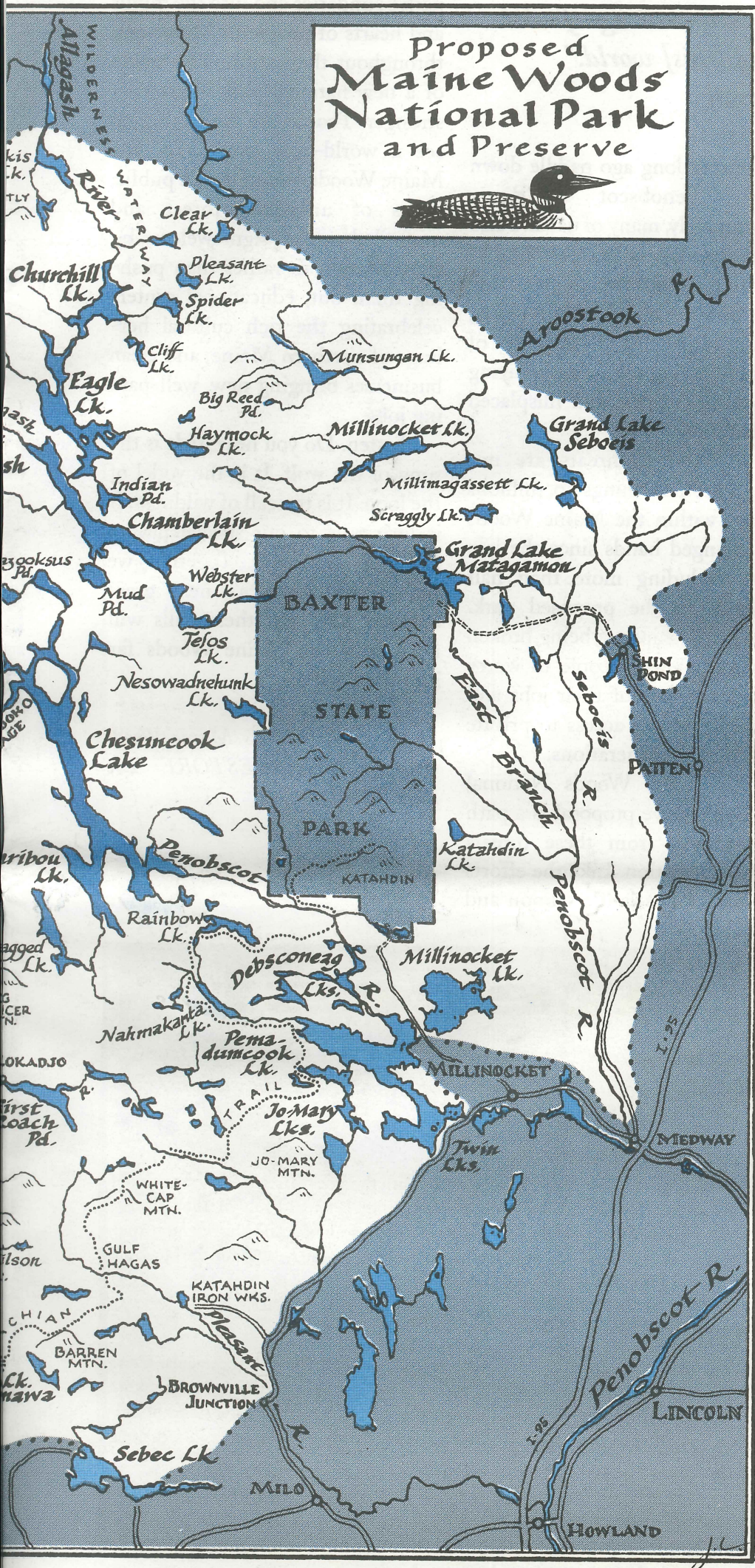
Most native wildlife species still live here. The black bear, moose, beaver, loon, broad-winged hawk, and blue-spotted salamander are common. But overhunting, overfishing, and industrial logging have diminished the populations of many species. The

spruce grouse, Canada lynx, American marten, and wild Atlantic salmon are rare or threatened. The wolf, cougar, wolverine, and caribou have been driven out altogether.

Maine Woods National Park & Preserve would be a vast sanctuary for wildlife, safe from logging and industrial development. This new park would provide critical habitat for all the native creatures which today call this region home. It would allow for the eventual recovery of species



# SERVE: AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME



are not looking far enough ahead. Without public protection, over time these resources inevitably will be degraded, diminished, and lost to public access. Already, over two million acres of private lands in Maine are posted against trespassing. As additional lands are developed and posted, the public can expect to lose access to more areas. The Maine Woods National Park could preserve public access to more than three million acres to ensure people's right to enjoy them forevermore.

## Fueling a Healthy Economy

The economy of northern Maine is in serious trouble. The forest products industry, traditionally the economic backbone of the state, is declining. Thousands of jobs have been cut due to mechanization, phasing out of inefficient mills, and overcutting of the forest. In the past few decades, half of the logging jobs and a quarter of the mill jobs have been lost. Unemployment in Maine's northern counties typically runs several times higher than the national average.

National parks offer economic opportunity to local communities. Each year Acadia National Park helps to bring over \$100 million to the economy of coastal Maine. One study found that a Maine Woods National Park could generate several times that amount in annual retail sales, and support up to 20,000 new jobs. Clean service industries are drawn to national parks because of the high quality of life they offer to employees. New jobs could include education, trade, information, finance, business, health care, legal services, transportation, and other well-paying professions. Meanwhile, 80 percent of the commercial forestland in Maine would remain available to support timber jobs.

A new Maine Woods National Park would add enormously to the economic potential of tourism, also. Indeed, tourism already employs more people in Maine than any other business, including forestry. Most tourists want to visit big, beautiful, natural places, not industrial landscapes. Protecting the wilderness character of the heart of the Maine Woods would be one of the most rewarding investments that the people of Maine and America could make.

## Moving from Vision to Reality

The Maine Woods National Park & Preserve (MWNP) proposal is the result of years of careful planning. The full range of possible options was considered before reaching the conclusion that a national park could be the best way to preserve the region's outstanding features and crucial values.

- The creation of MWNP will take an act of Congress. This will require the support of people in Maine and across America.
- Virtually all of the lands in the proposed MWNP are in "unorganized territories" where there are no towns. The small number of people living within the proposed park area could retain their homes or camps.
- Maine has the largest concentration of industrial ownership and one of the lowest proportions of public land (under

6%) of any state. Creation of a national park would help restore the balance of public and private ownership. Outside of the park, four-fifths of Maine's commercial timberlands would remain unaffected. State-owned lands within MWNP, such as Baxter State Park, would stay under state management.

- The proposed MWNP would be a combination of national park and national preserve, guaranteeing public access for the full range of recreational uses. Fishing would be allowed throughout. Hunting and snowmobiling would continue in the preserve portion. Other traditional recreational uses would continue in both the park and preserve.
- The MWNP proposal takes into account the needs of local people. It allows public access in accordance with longtime Maine Woods tradition; provides for assistance to the state and nearby communities to help them manage opportunities for tourism and economic development; calls for the establishment of a citizen advisory commission to provide public oversight of management decisions; and requires federal payments in-lieu-of-taxes (which are estimated to be higher than current property taxes).
- As with many of our greatest public reserves—such as Great Smoky Mountains and Shenandoah National Parks, White Mountain National Forest, Adirondack Park, and Maine's Baxter State Park—much of Maine Woods National Park would need to recover from past industrial damage. As lands come under public ownership, logging and other resource extraction would be phased out. Core areas would be restored to a wild condition. Appropriate road access would continue in other areas.

## What You Can Do

Maine Woods National Park & Preserve is not only a bold vision. It is a practical solution. Over the last decade, conservationists have tried virtually every strategy available to save the forests of Maine—except the creation of a new national park. Unfortunately, none of the other strategies has worked. Meanwhile, time continues to run out.

Now, more and more people are coming to believe that our last best chance to preserve and restore the glory of the Maine Woods is to return the heart of the region to public ownership as a magnificent national park. A small state like Maine alone does not have the money to acquire and protect these immense forest lands. It will take the support of the American people and the resources of our national government to meet this challenge.

*Please join us in creating  
America's next great  
national park!*

## Preserving World-Class Recreation

The possibilities for recreation in the proposed Maine Woods National Park are

enough to lift the spirits of any hiker, angler, backpacker, camper, hunter, canoeist, snowshoer, snowmobiler, cross-country skier, naturalist, kayaker, rafter, birder, photographer, ambler, peruser, and anticipator of the infinite, the unexpected, the rare, the beautiful, the wild. In fact, the recreational opportunities are so rich and numerous that a lifetime of exploration may not exhaust them.

Those who suggest that such recreational opportunities already exist in Maine,

that are now endangered or missing from the Maine Woods. Finally, the park could be the foundation of an even larger system of interconnected public parks and reserves stretching across the North Woods from Maine to the Adirondacks, and across the border to the wildlands of Canada.



# To Restore the Wildness of the Legendary Maine Woods

by Beth Wheatley

Many people have heard the call of wildness. This is the call that lures us to our special places, often places we grew up with as children like a backyard forest of eastern white pine or a stream in which we first paddled through thrilling rapids. Years later, our return to these special places can bring a sense of loss rather than fulfillment when the wildness we once knew is gone. But out of this loss, many of us are motivated to do *something*. This *something* is restoration. And people in Maine are doing *something*.

Think of the removal of Edwards Dam. People grabbed this opportunity for restoration, and now the Kennebec is coming alive again as a healthy, free-flowing river. People are also working to rescue the Atlantic salmon from extinction in the U.S., revealing possibilities for the future restoration of other native wildlife species.

Through efforts such as these, the hope of restoration flows into the minds and hearts of people across the country. And these people are beginning to think beyond

*"Only within the moment of time represented by the present century has our species...acquired significant power to alter the nature of [this] world."*

— Rachel Carson

one species and beyond one river to the restoration of an entire landscape, the landscape of the heart of the legendary Maine Woods.

It is in these woods that many of us first discovered our special places. It is here that many of us first discovered that, without action, these special places will not stay wild forever. Now it is in these woods that we are gaining hope for restoration through the creation of a new Maine Woods National Park.

The proposed Maine Woods National Park & Preserve would encompass 3.2-million acres — from Moosehead Lake in the south to the mighty Allagash River in the north, from the Seboeis River in the east to the Canadian border in the west. People from Maine and across the country have found special places here, whether it be through a journey by foot or through the words of another

adventurer's long ago paddle down the Penobscot River. Unfortunately, many of us have also found these special places to be disappearing. They are disappearing for reasons: unsustainable logging, fragmentation by thousands of miles of logging roads, the spraying of toxic herbicides, and misplaced development.

As if these threats are not enough to shake things up, millions of acres within the Maine Woods have changed hands since the late 1990s, including more than half the lands in the proposed park. Large ownerships are being broken up, leaving many people to worry about the future of their jobs and the loss of public access to private lands used for generations.

The Maine Woods National Park & Preserve proposal is a path leading away from these threats toward restoration. Like the efforts to restore the Atlantic salmon and

the Kennebec River, this effort is bringing hope beyond the proposed park boundaries and into the minds and hearts of people in Maine and throughout the nation. The vision of a new national park is growing stronger. People are beginning to see a world-class portion of the Maine Woods owned by the public, miles of unbroken forest and unspoiled waters, signs welcoming recreationists in rather than pushing them out, educational centers celebrating the rich cultural heritage of northern Maine, and clean businesses bringing new, well-paying jobs.

Listen. Do you hear it? It is the song of the wolf. It is the yodel of the loon. It is the call of wildness. It is luring us to our special places. Let's do *something*. Together we can create America's next great national park and these calls will flow from the Maine Woods far into the future.

*Beth Wheatley is Maine Woods Coordinator for RESTORE: The North Woods.*

## Points of Interest

*The proposed Maine Woods National Park & Preserve encompasses numerous outstanding natural, historic, and recreational features. Here are 10 exciting places to visit. Some of these are managed by public agencies or private conservation organizations.*

### Appalachian Trail

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail crosses 2,200 miles of ridgelines along the spine of the Appalachian Mountains from Maine to Georgia. The "100 Mile Wilderness" section of this world famous hiking trail begins on Katahdin, winding south along the shores of Nahmakanta Lake and over White Cap, Chairback, and Barren mountains.

### Moosehead Lake

Almost 75,000 acres in size, Moosehead is the largest lake in New England and the top rated of thousands of wildland lakes in Maine. The recreational opportunities here are endless, including canoeing, sailing, swimming and ice fishing.

### Katahdin

It is difficult to journey through the Maine Woods without seeing Maine's highest mountain. Katahdin (in Baxter State Park) reaches more than 5,270 feet into the sky. Hikers often rise at 4 AM to begin climbing to reach the summit before afternoon clouds block the spectacular views. The trek brings you through old-growth forests, tundra, and stunning glacial landscapes.

### Debsconeag Lakes

If you are searching for wildness, you can find it in the Debsconeag Lakes area south of Katahdin. This remote region of clear lakes and streams, rugged hills, and hardwood and softwood forests provides backcountry solitude.

### Chesuncook Village

On the shores of Chesuncook Lake, this is one of the few surviving examples of a 19th century logging village. Chesuncook Village can be reached by canoe following Thoreau's route from Greenville up Moosehead Lake and down the West Branch of the Penobscot.

### Penobscot West Branch

Henry David Thoreau became well-acquainted with the West Branch of the Penobscot River. He paddled its waters twice—in September of 1853 and July of 1857. Today, people travel to the Penobscot for whitewater rafting, kayaking, canoeing. For a quieter time, try fishing in Penobscot Lake which provides prime habitat for the blueback trout, a unique Maine species.

### Gulf Hagas

This three-mile long canyon offers a day's worth of exploration with spectacular views of the gorge and five major waterfalls. To explore this region further, you can climb nearby White Cap Mountain, stroll through The Hermitage, a majestic stand of old-growth white pines, or visit Katahdin Iron Works, a mid-1800's frontier iron making foundry.

### St. John Ponds

These ponds feed the headwaters of the St. John River, the longest free-flowing river in the eastern U.S. Canoeists journey down the St. John in May to catch the high waters that the winter icemelts provide.

### Big Reed Reserve

At 5,000 acres, this area is the largest remaining tract of old-growth forest in New England. Check with The Nature Conservancy for access information. Big Reed is south of Munsungan Lake, which was explored by Teddy Roosevelt in the late 1870s.

### Allagash Wilderness Waterway

For more than a century and a half, the Allagash has attracted wilderness adventurers from across America and beyond. This river and lake system offers an extraordinary, multi-day, remote recreation experience. Since 1970, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway has been part of the national Wild & Scenic Rivers System.



# Maine Woods National Park & Preserve

## Questions & Answers

In 1994, RESTORE: The North Woods proposed the idea of creating a 3.2-million-acre Maine Woods National Park & Preserve (MWNP). As a first step, we have called for a feasibility study of the park idea. Here are some of the questions we are most commonly asked and our answers.

### 1. What makes this place so special?

The proposed Maine Woods National Park & Preserve would lie in the heart of the largest remaining wildland in the eastern United States. This new park would encompass (1) the headwaters of Maine's major rivers, including the Allagash, Penobscot, and St. John; (2) most of Moosehead Lake and hundreds of remote ponds; (3) critical habitat for lynx, bald eagle, salmon and other sensitive wildlife; (4) 100 miles of the Appalachian Trail and other spectacular recreation opportunities; and (5) unique historical sites important to Native Americans, loggers, and wilderness adventurers such as Henry David Thoreau. This is a place that stands alongside Yellowstone, Grand Canyon and other existing national parks as one of America's greatest natural treasures.

### 2. Isn't the Maine Woods already being well cared for?

Most of the region is now owned by a few large corporations and investment companies based far from Maine. Driven by global pressures to maximize short-term profits, they have been over-cutting the forest, spraying toxic pesticides, building new logging roads, and subdividing pristine shorelands. To cut costs, they have sought tax breaks and eliminated thousands of jobs. Without protective action the Maine Woods—and a valued way of life for Mainers—may soon be lost.

### 3. Why a national park?

The world-class values of the Maine Woods face global threats. The State of Maine alone cannot protect such a large area. But a Maine Woods National Park would make it possible to safeguard the land for the public benefit. It would protect the forests, watersheds, and wildlife while restoring past damage; ensure public access for backcountry recreation; and bring new economic benefits to the region. And the strong widespread public support for existing national parks makes it likely that we can gain support for a new one.

### 4. How would the Maine Woods National Park & Preserve affect the economy?

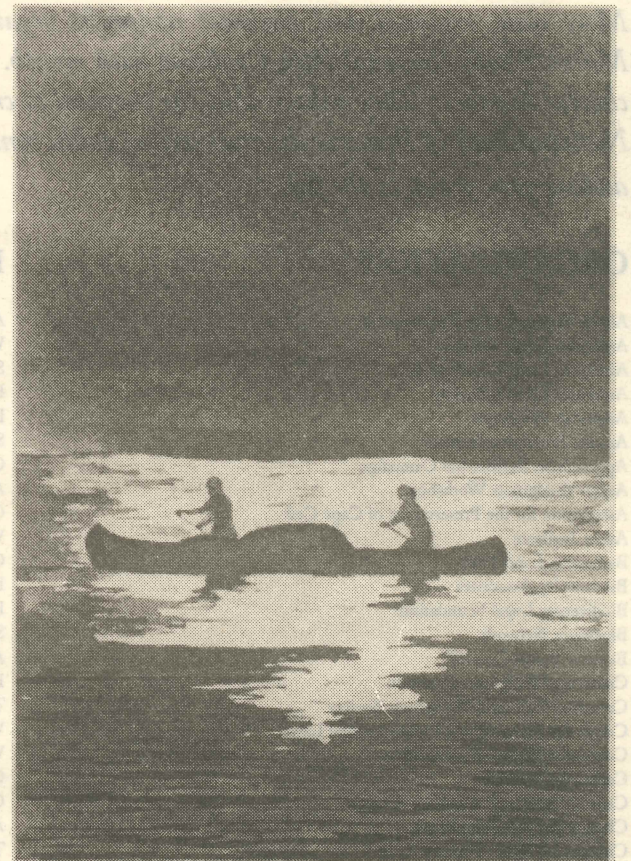
It would help by revitalizing and stabilizing the troubled economy of the region. Studies show that over-reliance on the forest products industry has seriously weakened the economy of Maine and that the number of forest industry jobs will continue to decline even if logging increases. While woods and paper industry jobs dwindle, service sector jobs in Maine are growing, especially where environmental values are protected. By contrast, the rapid industrialization of the Maine Woods is putting Maine at a comparative economic disadvantage by damaging the wildland values that can be the basis of a healthy economy. Under existing programs the MWNP could also pay more to state and local governments than property taxes now provide. The park would help diversify the economy, while leaving four-fifths of Maine's commercial timberland unaffected.

### 5. How would the Maine Woods National Park & Preserve affect recreation?

It would help by protecting habitat and securing public access. The MWNP would be a combination park and preserve. Fishing and other traditional uses would continue in both portions. Hunting, trapping and snowmobiling would continue in designated preserve areas without the worry that access might suddenly be cut off by changes in private land ownership. MWNP would reduce conflicts by separating incompatible uses. The public would decide the size and location of park and preserve areas.

### 6. How would the park affect existing sporting camps and private camps?

It would help camp owners by providing longer term stability. Camps on lease lots could continue within the MWNP, but they would probably be eligible for long-term leases, rather than the increasingly expensive short-term leases common now. On owned lots, if camp owners wanted to sell, there could be a willing buyer. If they just wanted to keep their camps and pass them on, they could. Moreover, camp owners would not have to worry about the forest around them being ruined by industrial forest practices. They would have much more assurance than they have now of being in a high quality natural environment.



### 7. Would private or state lands be taken to create the new park?

No! Under this proposal, park land would be acquired by the public from willing sellers at fair market value only. The focus would be on the large timber and real estate company holdings, which have been changing ownership frequently in recent years. Owners of smaller parcels could keep or sell their property as they choose. Towns and year-round homes would not be part of the park. Baxter State Park would stay under its current state ownership and management.

### 8. Would crowds and over-development be a problem?

Wildland values would be protected on park lands. New commercial development would not be allowed in the park. MWNP would provide vast open space for people to spread out and restored wilderness for those seeking solitude. Meanwhile, nearby towns could take advantage of new economic opportunities. Working together with park staff, the towns could guide growth, prevent unwise development, and protect their quality of life. The proposed feasibility study would assess these important issues.

### 9. Who will decide whether or not to create the park?

The public will decide. The proposed study would assess the feasibility of the park idea, consider alternatives, cooperate with landowners and state officials, and ensure public participation. The study would give people the information they need and the opportunity to give their viewpoints. If the study showed strong public support, this could lead to a new law to authorize the park.

### 10. Is creating a Maine Woods National Park feasible?

Early in the twentieth century, protecting the White Mountains, Acadia, and Katahdin were called "politically unrealistic." Yet today these areas are magnificent public reserves. Similarly the vision of a new Maine Woods National Park could bring together the public support and financial resources needed to make it a reality. Vast tracts of land could be acquired from willing sellers. The total price tag: less than the cost of one B-2 Stealth bomber. Now is the time to act for this and future generations.

## Preserving Our Cultural Legacy

by Michael Kellett

The Maine Woods has one of the most compelling stories to tell of any wild place in the country—but few people have heard this tale.

Native Americans lived in the Maine Woods for millennia, leaving behind ancient flint quarries, trails, and evocative place names such as Allagash, Munsungan, and Umsaskis. Europeans came to cut the great forest, establish the timber and paper industries, and build the railroads. Adventurous people have come as well, including Benedict Arnold, Henry David Thoreau, Frederic Church, Theodore Roosevelt, Percival Baxter, Myron Avery, and Justice William O. Douglas.

The proposed Maine Woods National Park is the only initiative that would safeguard and tell the full story of the cultural heritage of the Maine Woods. The new national park would restore and protect the wild, open landscape that has drawn people to the region and the sites, artifacts, and traditions that they left behind. The proposed park would invite people to learn about the Maine Woods through visitor centers, guidebooks and maps, displays, self-guided trails, and ranger talks. Finally, the park would encourage people to experience the Maine Woods story by exploring the vast wilderness on their own.

The National Park Service is well prepared for the challenge. The Park Service cares for some of the world's most important cultural sites, such as Mesa Verde, Gettysburg, Independence Hall, and the Washington Monument. The National Park System comprises one of our country's major educational institutions, making programs of research, interpretation, and education available to tens of millions of people each year. The Park Service's vast skill and experience would ensure that the Maine Woods story is finally heard by the American people.



# MAINE WOODS NATIONAL PARK COALITION LAUNCHED!

More state, regional and national nonprofit organizations are joining the Maine Woods National Park Coalition each month. The groups listed here are charter members. They believe that the proposal to create a new Maine Woods National Park & Preserve deserves serious public consideration. You can help by adding your group to the list.

## ORGANIZATION

Alaska Center for the Environment  
American Lands Alliance  
American Land Conservancy  
American Littoral Society  
American Wildlands  
Animal Protection Institute  
Appalachian Restoration Campaign  
Aspen Wilderness Workshop  
Association for the Preservation of Cape Cod  
Avena Institute  
Barnstable Land Trust  
Biodiversity Associates  
Biodiversity Legal Foundation  
Bluewater Network  
Buckeye Forest Council  
California Wilderness Coalition  
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society  
Center for International Environmental Law  
Center for Marine Conservation  
Center for Wildlife  
Central Highlands Audubon Society  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Citizens for Better Forestry  
Coalition for Buzzards Bay  
The Conservation Alliance of the Great Plains  
Dogwood Alliance  
Earth Island Institute  
Earth Restoration Alliance  
EarthWorks Projects  
The Ecology Center  
Endangered Species Coalition  
Environmental Protection Information Center  
Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs  
Forest Ecology Network  
Forest Guardians  
Forest Reform Network  
Forest Watch  
Friends of Animals, Inc.  
Friends of the Earth  
Grand Canyon Wildlands Council  
Grassroots Environmental Effectiveness Network  
Great Old Broads for Wilderness  
Great South Bay Audubon Society  
Greater Laurentian Wildlands Project  
Greater Yellowstone Coalition  
Gulf of Maine Native Forest Network  
Heartwood  
Hells Canyon Preservation Council  
Hoosier Environmental Council  
A Hunter's Voice  
Indiana Forest Alliance  
Institute for Environmental Learning

## LOCATION

Anchorage, Alaska  
Washington, DC  
San Francisco, California  
Highlands, New Jersey  
Bozeman, Montana  
Sacramento, California  
Charlottesville, Virginia  
Aspen, Colorado  
Orleans, Massachusetts  
West Rockport, Maine  
Cotuit, Massachusetts  
Laramie, Wyoming  
Boulder, Colorado  
San Francisco, California  
Athens, Ohio  
Davis, California  
Toronto, Ontario  
Washington, DC  
Washington, DC  
Cape Neddick, Maine  
Greenville, Maine  
Annapolis, Maryland  
Trinity Center, California  
New Bedford, Massachusetts  
Lincoln, Nebraska  
Brevard, North Carolina  
San Francisco, California  
Englewood, Colorado  
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts  
Missoula, Montana  
Washington, DC  
Garberville, California  
Seattle, Washington  
Augusta, Maine  
Santa Fe, New Mexico  
Dallas, Texas  
Montpelier, Vermont  
Darien, Connecticut  
Washington, DC  
Flagstaff, Arizona  
Washington, DC  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
East Islip, New York  
South Burlington, Vermont  
Bozeman, Montana  
Verona Island, Maine  
Bloomington, Indiana  
LaGrande, Oregon  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
Eugene, Oregon  
Bloomington, Indiana  
Lyndonville, New York

**Contact RESTORE to sign-up new member organizations as part of the Maine Woods National Park Coalition.**

Kalmiopsis Audubon Society  
Kettle Range Conservation Group  
The Lands Council  
LightHawk  
Loki Clan Wolf Refuge  
Maine Friends of Animals  
Maine Woods Conservancy  
New York Rivers United  
North Carolina Coastal Federation  
Northcoast Environmental Center  
Northeast Ecological Recovery Society, Inc.  
Northern Appalachian Restoration Project  
Orca Quest  
Oregon Natural Resources Council  
Predator Conservation Alliance  
Rainforest Action Network  
RESTORE: The North Woods  
Rising Wolf International  
Safe Alternatives for Our Forest Environment  
San Diego Baykeeper  
Save America's Forests  
Save San Francisco Bay Association  
Save Our Shores  
Save The Bay, Inc.  
Save-the-Redwoods League  
Shenandoah Ecosystems Defense Group  
Southern Appalachian Biodiversity Project  
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance  
Superior Wilderness Action Network  
Thoreau Institute  
Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club  
Toxics Action Center  
Trees Foundation  
The Walden Woods Project  
Western Maine Audubon Society  
Western Nebraska Resources Council  
Western North Carolina Alliance  
Wetlands Social Justice & Environmental Activism Center  
Wild Alabama  
Wilderness Inquiry  
Wildlands Center for Preventing Roads  
Wild Earth  
Yggdrasil Institute

Port Orford, Oregon  
Republic, Washington  
Spokane, Washington  
Seattle, Washington  
Conway, New Hampshire  
Falmouth, Maine  
Dover-Foxcroft, Maine  
Rome, New York  
Newport, North Carolina  
Arcata, California  
Mineola, New York  
Lancaster, New Hampshire  
Redmond, Washington  
Bend, Oregon  
Bozeman, Montana  
San Francisco, California  
Hallowell, Maine  
Englewood, Colorado  
Hayfork, California  
San Diego, California  
Washington, DC  
Oakland, California  
Santa Cruz, California  
Providence, Rhode Island  
San Francisco, California  
Charlottesville, Virginia  
Asheville, North Carolina  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
St. Paul, Minnesota  
Lincoln, Massachusetts  
Norfolk, Virginia  
Portland, Maine  
Redway, California  
Lincoln, Massachusetts  
Farmington, Maine  
Chadron, Nebraska  
Asheville, North Carolina  
New York City, New York  
Moulton, Alabama  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Missoula, Montana  
Richmond, Vermont  
Georgetown, Kentucky

## Maine Woods National Park Coalition MISSION STATEMENT

The *Maine Woods National Park Coalition* is comprised of organizations that seek to restore and preserve natural ecosystems, native wildlife, and intact watersheds; guarantee public recreational access; and provide for a diverse and sustainable economy in the north Maine Woods. Toward this end, we are promoting serious public consideration of the proposal for a new Maine Woods National Park & Preserve by working to:

- (1) encourage the National Park Service to complete a public study of the feasibility of establishing a 3.2 million acre Maine Woods National Park & Preserve surrounding Baxter State Park in north-central Maine. The study should assess the benefits and costs of creating a park, consider a broad range of alternative actions, be done in cooperation with landowners and government agencies, and ensure public review and participation;
- (2) build state, regional and national public awareness of the Maine Woods National Park & Preserve proposal through research, education, and grassroots outreach that focuses on the potential ecological, economic, and recreational benefits of national parks and other protected public lands; and
- (3) support efforts to achieve interim protection of lands within the proposed Maine Woods National Park & Preserve boundaries for possible future inclusion in such a park.

## National support is growing for the proposed Maine Woods National Park & Preserve!

"The Maine Woods—the wild rivers, majestic mountains, abundant wildlife and vast forests—are a national treasure. But distant multinational paper companies and the whims of Wall Street increasingly control the destiny of our North Woods. Please help...preserve this national treasure and revitalize the economy of northern Maine: Support a Park Service study for a Maine Woods National Park and Preserve."

—Sierra Club

"There is a crisis in the woods and we have a unique opportunity to do something of national significance to solve it that could have an immense and lasting impact on future generations of Mainers and Americans. The creation of a Maine Woods National Park and Preserve would double the public recreation lands in New England, restore the ecological integrity of the region, and also be an economic boon to northern Maine."

—Friends of the Earth

"NPCA supports the protection of Maine Woods resources and heritage values. Specifically, the organization believes the area warrants consideration as a national park unit."

—National Parks & Conservation Association



# Announcing Maine Woods National Park Business Partners!

*Hundreds of businesses in Maine and across the country have joined in support of creating a new Maine Woods National Park & Preserve and more are joining every week. Listed below is a small sample of the Business Partners to illustrate the incredible diversity of support. Many are local, family-owned businesses, while others are large companies that provide goods and services worldwide. Some business partners are in rural areas while others are located in major cities. There are Business Partners to represent every region of the United States and beyond. These businesses come together to make a strong statement that economic prosperity and conservation go hand-in-hand.*

SUPPORTING BUSINESS	LOCATION
Allagash Brewing Company	Portland, Maine
Amazon.com Associate Program	Seattle, Washington
American Retro	Bangor, Maine
Blackboards Restaurant	Bar Harbor, Maine

Burt's Bees, Inc.  
EcoPhotography  
Gregory Mountain Products  
Harmony (Seventh Generation)  
In The Woods  
J. Marco Galleries  
Kelty Pack, Inc.  
Kirwin Communications  
Liberty Crafts  
Maine Sport Outfitters  
Mary Ann's  
Mr. Tire & Company  
Once in a Blue Moon  
Patagonia, Inc.  
Rivers Electric Co., Inc.  
Vermont Energy Investment Corp.  
Weathervane Tack Shop  
Wild Things, Inc.  
WildWaters Nature Tours  
Wolf People

Raleigh, North Carolina  
Portsmouth, New Hampshire  
Temecula, California  
Broomfield, Colorado  
Edgartown, Massachusetts  
Medina, Ohio  
St. Louis, Missouri  
Park City, Utah  
Nyack, New York  
Rockport, Maine  
Putnam, Connecticut  
Thomaston, Maine  
Barrington, Illinois  
Freeport, Maine  
Sullivan, New Hampshire  
Burlington, Vermont  
Tiverton, Rhode Island  
Gainesville, Florida  
Armstrong, Ontario  
Cocolalla, Idaho

## Strengthen the Business Voice for the Park!

You can help to strengthen the voice of the Maine Woods National Park Business Partners by thanking them for their support and by recruiting new Business Partners.

**Contact RESTORE to  
sign-up new Maine  
Woods National Park  
Business Partners.**



*Drawing © Heron Dance*

## Poll Shows Strong Support for National Park in Maine

Numerous statewide and national polls in recent years have documented that Mainers and people across the United States favor strong forest conservation and environmental protection. One poll conducted in the spring of 2000, for instance, demonstrated powerful public support for the idea of creating a national park in the Maine Woods. Abacus Associates, a professional polling firm, was commissioned by the Sierra Club to complete an independent, statistically valid, statewide survey of Maine residents. The results were great news!

The poll showed that public support for the Maine Woods National Park idea is very high. A majority of every demographic group favored the park: residents of northern Maine and southern Maine; urban and rural; women and men; rich and poor, young and old, native Mainers and newcomers. Here are a few highlights from the poll:

- Statewide 63% of respondents favored the park. In an election, winning by 63% would be called a landslide.
- 80% believed that only a national park can insure the protection of animals that are important to Maine's heritage such as eagles, salmon, and moose.
- 82% believed that Maine's North Woods would be more accessible to the public as a national park than it would be if owned by multinational corporations.
- A majority statewide favored the park over simply buying development rights and letting landowners continue to log.

## A Restoration Park

*by Michael Kellett*

A national park can restore and protect the ecology of the Maine Woods. Thoreau described the Maine Woods—much of which was still public land when he visited in the mid-1800s—as “primeval, untamed, forever untamable Nature.” Today, the region is largely undeveloped, but biologically impoverished by decades of unsustainable logging. The majestic, primeval forest has become a private “managed forest”—analogous to a farm—dedicated to commercial crops of timber and fiber. Industrial exploitation has already driven out several native wildlife species and endangers a number of others.

Conservation biologists agree that to sustain native biological diversity, we need an extensive network of large wilderness preserves, habitat linkages, and sustainably managed buffers. Maine does not now have any major pieces of such a network. Less than six percent of Maine is publicly owned—one of the smallest proportions of any state—and most of this is open to logging and other industrial uses. Just one percent of the state is protected wilderness. Most existing private preserves are small and inadequate for preserving biodiversity. Industrial forest owners are driven by short-term profits, not ecosystem health.

The proposed Maine Woods National Park & Preserve is the only current initiative that could restore and permanently protect the full range of native wildlife and ecosystems in the Maine Woods. The national park would be an ecologically viable unit, surrounding the state's largest wilderness (Baxter State Park), embracing the headwaters of five major rivers, including enough habitat for wide-ranging predators, and containing a broad variety of ecosystems. Eventually,

the park could be an anchor for a vast ecological reserve network that reaches west to Adirondack Park, north into Canada, and south along the Appalachian Mountains.

Maine Woods National Park would be a restoration park, like Great Smoky Mountains, Redwood, Shenandoah, and Voyageurs. Private lands within park boundaries would be acquired by the public from willing sellers. Logging and other industrial uses would be phased out, and past damage would be healed. Eventually, the old-growth forest would return, providing the full range of wildlife habitats, recovering natural ecological and evolutionary processes, producing clean air and water, and mitigating global warming by sequestering massive amounts of carbon.

Such a nature preserve would allow wildlife to once again live wild and free, without artificial human manipulation. Imperiled species such as the Canada lynx, northern bog lemming, wood turtle, and Atlantic salmon would have a chance to recover. Extirpated species such as the wolf, cougar, wolverine, and woodland caribou could be restored. Prey species such as moose, deer, and beaver would benefit from natural predator-prey relationships.

As with existing national parks, Maine Woods National Park would be protected in perpetuity. Today, more than a century after becoming the first national park on the planet, Yellowstone is so healthy that it is considered an ecological benchmark. Indeed, with the recent reintroduction of wolves, the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem may well be the most ecologically intact landscape in the lower 48 states. Given time, the Maine Woods Ecosystem could be the Yellowstone of the East.



# National Parks: The Best Idea America Ever Had

by Brock Evans

I have been involved in quite a few campaigns to create new national parks. And every single time "those in the political know" considered it hopeless when we started out. Yet, from the North Cascades in Washington State in the 1960s to the Mojave in California in the 1990s, conservationists have sparked the creation of several dozen new national parks. These movements to create national parks succeeded, despite the "common wisdom" that it cannot be done because it is politically impossible.

How many times have we heard this about the proposed Maine Woods National Park? Some naysayers tell us, "A great new national park in Maine...no way! The 'wise use' people who hate federal ownership of anything, even if acquired from willing sellers, are too powerful." This reminds me of a couple of years ago when we were hearing (from the same naysayers), "don't ever use the word 'wilderness' up here, Mainers hate it..." or, "Mainers love logging and the timber industry, so don't attack clearcutting or they won't listen to anything else you say..." Well, guess what? Conservationists went out and used that dreaded word "wilderness" anyway — and found a lot of support. Then they went on to challenge destructive industrial logging — and found that a lot of Mainers agreed on that too.

So, I have learned in Maine, as I have with every other national park campaign, not to pay too much attention to the "common wisdom" of the naysayers. I have learned that if there is a cause that does the right thing in a dramatic and exciting way, then there will always be great support — and it will win, eventually, especially if people forge ahead and are not distracted by the naysayers. The dream of a great new national park in the heart of the Maine Woods is doable, precisely because it is the right thing to do. That is why people respond to it so powerfully.

In the early 1960s, when a small

band of us started the crusade for a North Cascades National Park it was considered the most hopeless of lost causes. Folks would say, "Hey, don't you understand? The timber industry owns most of this state and the mining industry owns the rest." They told us to compromise right away and just try to get the U.S. Forest Service to practice "better management" of these magnificent irreplaceable ancient forests. But we stuck it out. We realized that in the end, it would be easier and far more permanent, to draw a protective boundary around the places we loved, than to place any long-term confidence in the latest management whims of a politicized agency.

Our theme was: only a national park will *really and permanently* protect this great wilderness from destructive logging and mining. Of course, there was ferocious opposition from the usual players, timber and mining interests, hunting organizations, the anti-federal anything "wise use" advocates, even some downhill skiers. But we succeeded in creating the North Cascades National Park for two reasons. First, we had a dramatic and exciting new idea that would *really* do the job. And secondly, we were able to convince much of the opposition, like recreationists and

hunters, that a national park would benefit their interests too. In 1968, a magnificent new 700,000 acre North Cascades National Park was created to protect this wilderness forever. Why? Because a small band of ordinary folks had the courage to pursue their vision in the face of overwhelming odds because they knew it was the right thing to do.

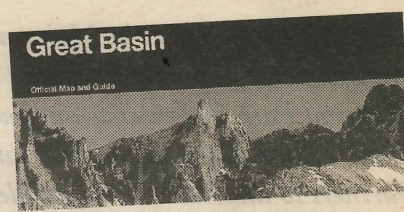
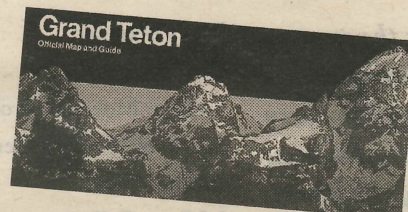
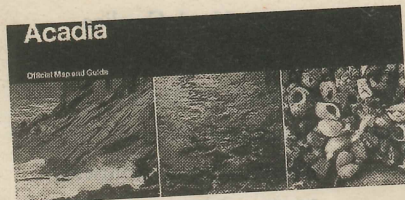
I saw this process happen again in South Carolina a few years later in a campaign to protect a 20,000 acre old growth forest (known locally as "Redwoods East"). This forest, a remnant of the giant trees that so inspired John James Audubon 150 years ago, was owned by a timber company which wanted to log it. But a small band of ordinary folks from the state's capital initiated another "hopeless" campaign to get the federal government to buy the land and make it a national park. Their challenge was to persuade arch-conservative senior Senator Strom Thurmond and the people of South Carolina, a bastion of state's rights, to support us, not oppose us. "Give" me a break" was the most frequent comment from the naysayers there. But once again, we put our confidence in the love most people — South Carolinians, Mainers, or anyone else — feel for their special places. Unfortunately, I cannot describe

the brilliant tactics of this campaign in this short article. I can only say that once again, it was the guts and sheer perseverance of a small band of committed people that carried the day. And in just three years, Ol' Strom did become our champion — and Congaree Swamp became a unit of the National Park System in 1976.

There are many more stories like this, the creation of Redwood National Park in 1968, the addition of 90 million acres of new parks in Alaska in 1980, Great Basin National Park in Nevada in 1986, Mojave National Preserve in the California Desert in 1994. The names of the places and the folks who fought for them are different, of course. But through all national parks campaigns over the past century, there are two common threads: intense and ferocious opposition right up to the bitter end from the "wise use" people, special interests, and naysayers; and second, the courage and steady perseverance of ordinary folks who loved their land, were determined to rescue it and make it safe forever — even if the "common wisdom" said it was impossible.

They just went on and did it anyway, and that is why we have such a magnificent legacy of national parks today, the gift of all those who came before us. Our own history tells us that there is absolutely no reason why people cannot accomplish the exact same thing in the great Maine Woods.

*Brock Evans is a member of RESTORE's board of directors. He has been a leader in forest and wilderness issues across the U.S. for decades. Several years ago he retired as Vice President of National Audubon Society, and went on to become the Executive Director of the national Endangered Species*



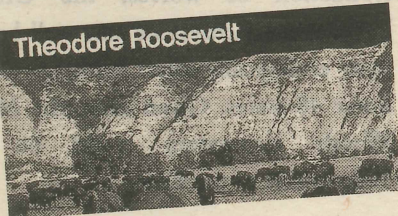
## How Are National Parks Created?

Areas are usually added to the National Park System by an act of Congress. However, before Congress decides about creating a new park it needs information about the quality of the resource and whether it meets established criteria. The National Park Service answers such questions by conducting studies that gather basic data about an area to determine its level of significance. If an area meets the standards of national significance, additional information is gathered about its suitability and feasibility as a park unit and alternatives for management and protection.

Studies are conducted in consultation with other interested federal, state, and local agencies, Indian tribes, and the public. The format for public involvement is determined by the study team considering the type of resource and level of interest in the proposal. The public may be invited to participate through informal contacts, workshops, meetings, and opportunities to review draft documents.

Congressional committees usually hold hearings on proposed additions to the System and ask the Secretary of the Interior for recommendations. Studies by the National Park Service provide information to help the Secretary develop a position and to help Congress decide what action to take. Study reports prepared by the National Park Service, however present information about the resources and do not normally contain recommendations. Legislation authorizing a new area will explain the purpose of the area and outline any specific directions for additional planning, land acquisition, management, and operations.

—Excerpted from the National Park Service website ([www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)).





# Maine Woods National Park: Just Buy It!

by Rudy Engholm

When RESTORE: The North Woods first proposed the creation of a 3.2-million-acre Maine Woods National Park, some people thought that it would be impossible to ever raise enough money to buy all that land. And even if we did, they thought the companies that own most of the land would never be willing to sell it. Think again.

On December 10, 1998, The Conservation Fund announced that it would purchase nearly 300,000 acres of forest land in northern New Hampshire, Vermont and New York from Champion International Corp. for \$76 million. The deal was the largest public-private land protection effort in U.S. history.

Only five days later, The Nature Conservancy announced it was purchasing 185,000 acres of forestland in northwest Maine from International Paper Company for \$35 million. The Conservancy plans to preserve some of the land as wilderness and allow sustainable logging and other uses on the rest. It may trade some tracts in the future to consolidate its holdings. This was the largest single conservation acquisition in Maine history.

These two huge land purchases will not only protect important natural areas. They have sent a powerful message that we have entered a new era of land preservation in the North Woods. What does this mean for the campaign to create a Maine Woods National Park and Preserve?

The North Woods is for sale. The lands bought by the Conservation Fund and Nature Conservancy were just the tip of the iceberg. Driven by global economic pressures, timber and paper companies have sold millions of acres of industrial forest land in the North Woods and are expected to sell millions more. In recent

years, more than half the lands within the boundary of the proposed Maine Woods National Park have been sold to new private owners for less than \$250 per acre. The next time lands within the proposed park come on the market, we need to be prepared to buy them for the public.

**The public wants to buy land for preservation.** These recent land purchases were welcomed by the public. There is growing support for significantly expanding conservation lands. Polls show that a substantial majority of Mainers favor acquiring land for a national park in the North Woods. We need to build on this momentum to acquire lands that can serve as the foundation for the proposed Maine Woods National Park.

**The money needed to buy the land is**

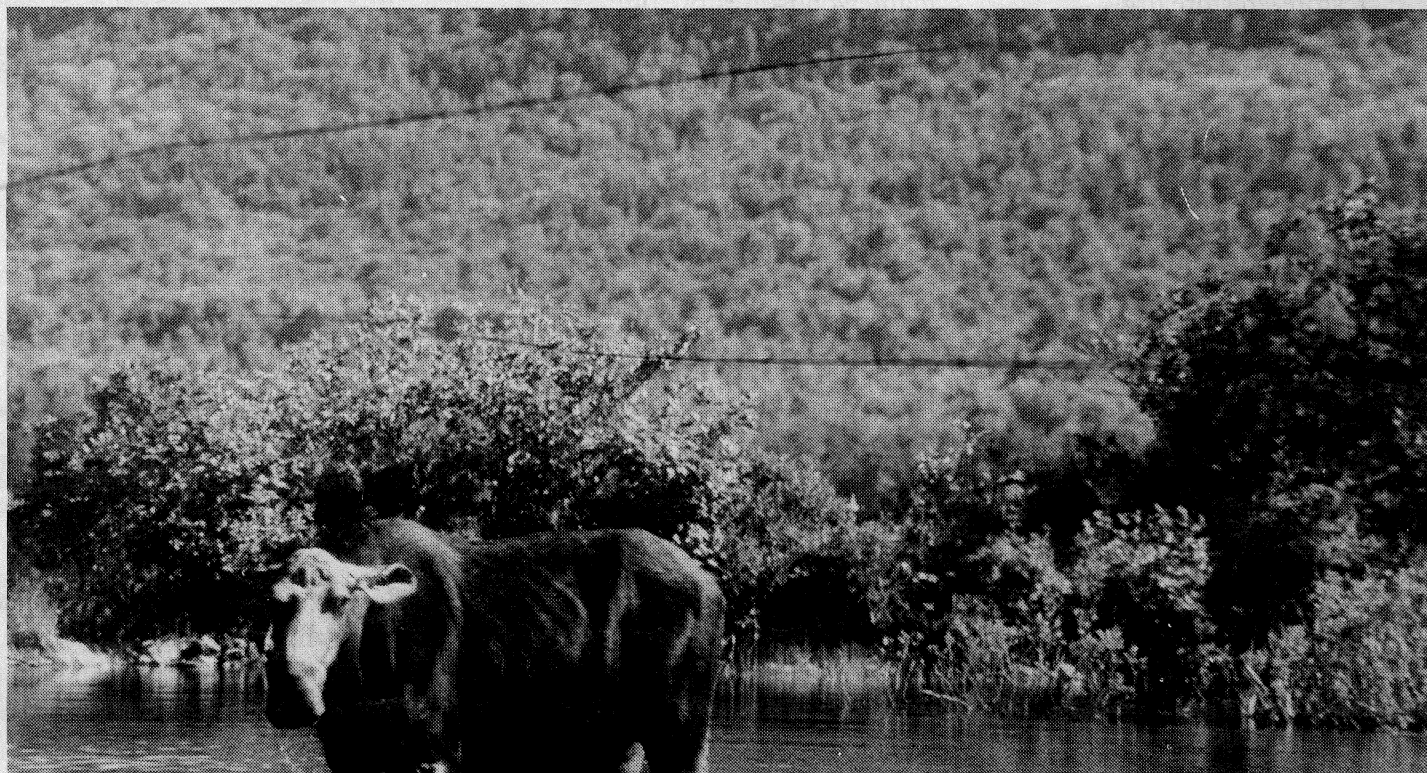
**available.** The Conservation Fund and Nature Conservancy raised tens of millions of dollars to fund their land purchases. This is helping revive a grand American tradition. In the past, the wealth of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and others helped buy lands to create Acadia, Great Smoky Mountains, Grand Teton, and many other national parks that we enjoy today. The bold vision and positive challenge of creating a Maine Woods National Park can inspire the next generation of wildland philanthropists, leaving a priceless legacy of wilderness for our children.

**The North Woods is gaining national attention.** Large land sales have attracted the interest of people from across the United States, including widespread coverage by regional, national, and even inter-

national news media. This brings us a major step closer to achieving the national support, political will, and financial resources required to make the Maine Woods National Park a reality.

RESTORE and others cooperating to create a Maine Woods National Park are working on several major initiatives to take the park campaign to people across Maine, the Northeast, and America. Contact one of our offices for more information on how you can help.

*Rudy Engholm is a board director of RESTORE: The North Woods.*



*Moose on Spencer Pond. © Jym St. Pierre*

## The Unknown Story behind the Maine Woods National Park

by Jym St. Pierre

History too often seems to be the story of inevitable events and bigger than life characters. Rarely do we hear the real story of risky decisions and coincidental actions by ordinary people. Here is a peek into the story behind the story of the proposed Maine Woods National Park & Preserve (MWNPN).

Early in 1987 a brash, young writer/photographer named George Wuerthner was researching a book on Vermont. George discovered that earlier in the century the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont had been proposed for national protection along with the Green Mountains in the southern part of the state. He described in his book how, even at the end of the twentieth century, the Northeast Kingdom remained one of the largest unprotected wildlands in New England. Soon after, in a separate article, George expanded on that theme to encompass the wildlands of the rest of northern New England. That article caught the attention of a number of people, including T.H. "Tom" Watkins.

Tom Watkins was editor of *Wilderness* magazine. He commissioned George to further explore the idea of national protection for some of the wildlands in the North Woods. Tom also introduced George to Michael Kellett, the Wilderness Society's new Northeast Regional Director. Michael and George made a factfinding trip into northern Maine in the winter of 1988. They discovered, as in Vermont, there was a long history of grand proposals for national protection of the best of the wildlands in Maine. George's article on the potential for creating new national parks in northern New England, with an empha-

sis on Maine, appeared in the Summer 1988 issue of *Wilderness*.

Meanwhile, George's original article suggesting national protection for wildlands in northern New England also had snagged the attention of Jamie Sayen and Charles FitzGerald. At the time, Jamie was working as a newspaper reporter in northern New Hampshire. He left that job to start a movement called Preserve Appalachian Wilderness. Then a few years later he founded a bimonthly newspaper called *The Northern Forest Forum*. Charles was a renaissance man with ventures in small scale hardwood products and organic farming. However, his passion was preservation. He had been assembling thousands of acres as a wilderness preserve near his home in Dover-Foxcroft, Maine.

Shortly after George's article was published in *Wilderness*, during the summer of 1988, Michael organized an historic gathering at Nahmakanta Lake in the heart of the Maine Woods. Assembled were about two dozen conservation-minded people from Maine and senior staff from The Wilderness Society. I was one of the people privileged to be invited to the meeting. Charles was there too. Out of that session came the decision to propose creation of a new Maine Woods Reserve and to open a Wilderness Society office in Maine to advocate for this new conservation proposal.

Because I was a Maine native who had worked on forest issues for a number of conservation agencies and groups, I was hired in the spring of 1989 by Michael to staff the new Maine office of The Wilderness Society. Among the people I met in the first few months at my new job were T.H. Watkins and Jamie Sayen. Before long

I also got to meet George.

After three years, Michael left The Wilderness Society to found RESTORE: The North Woods. George and Charles joined him as founding board directors. In the summer of 1994, as a refinement of the Maine Woods Reserve idea and with input from many friends in Maine and across New England, Michael formulated and RESTORE publicly proposed the creation of a new Maine Woods National Park & Preserve. The following spring I joined the RESTORE staff to advocate for the establishment of the proposed Maine Woods National Park.

A few years later, tempered by a decade on the frontlines of the conservation struggles and more convinced than ever in the wisdom of the MWNPN idea, Jamie was elected to the RESTORE board of directors and George was elected to chair the board. Then, in 1999, before he was struck down with cancer, Tom Watkins joined our Maine Woods National Park advisory committee.

Looking back, there have been many people who already have played important roles in the story of the proposed Maine Woods National Park. However, the lucky confluence of a few big thinkers has propelled the concept of creating America's next great national park in the heart of the Maine Woods. A notion that started with a few people realizing there was an urgent conservation opportunity in New England's backyard is becoming a national public policy issue.

Life is ephemeral. We live on only through our children and our grand ideas and deeds. Creating a Maine Woods National Park will require the hard work of many more people, but the bright spark has been lit. You can help to make sure it grows. Please join us.



# WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP CREATE THE MAINE WOODS NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE !!

1. *Learn more about the Maine Woods National Park & Preserve proposal.* Contact RESTORE: The North Woods for a full-color brochure, information sheets, news media clippings, and information about volunteer opportunities and upcoming public events:

RESTORE: The North Woods  
P.O. Box 1099  
Concord, MA 01742  
978-287-0320  
restore@restore.org

RESTORE: The North Woods  
9 Union Street  
Hallowell, ME 04347  
207-626-5635  
mainewoods@restore.org

2. *Tell others about the park proposal.* Help build a growing base of public support by telling your friends and family about the park proposal. Write letters to the editor of your local newspaper. Invite a RESTORE staff member or volunteer to speak about the proposal to your conservation or sporting group, business, school, church, or civic organization. Pass this guide on to someone else or contact RESTORE for more copies.

3. *Help circulate park study petitions.* RESTORE and other conservationists are collecting signatures on a citizen petition calling for a public feasibility study of the park proposal. Please sign the petition, circulate it among your friends and relatives, and encourage local businesses to display it for their customers. Contact RESTORE for more copies.

4. *Gain the support of your organization or business.* Contact conservation, sporting, animal welfare, cultural, or other groups to which you belong and ask them to endorse the Maine Woods National Park proposal. Ask local businesses to endorse it. RESTORE can provide sign-up forms.



Drawing © Heron Dance

## Support the Proposed Maine Woods National Park & Preserve

### Join RESTORE: The North Woods

RESTORE: The North Woods is a non-profit organization dedicated to restoring, preserving, and defending the natural integrity of the North Woods ecoregion of the United States and Canada through advocacy, public education, grassroots organizing, and research. The Maine Woods National Park campaign is an effort to protect a key portion of the North Woods as a thriving ecosystem.

To join RESTORE, please fill out this coupon and mail it to the membership department.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:

RESTORE: The North Woods	Protecting	\$25
Attn: Membership	Sustaining	\$35
P.O. Box 1099	Defending	\$50
Concord, MA 01742	Preserving	\$100
978-287-0320	Rewilding	\$250
	Student/Senior	\$15

RESTORE: The North Woods is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization.

Donations are tax deductible.

5. *Build political support for the Maine Woods National Park & Preserve.* Write to the Governor of Maine and to your representatives in Congress, calling on them to support a feasibility study of the Maine Woods National Park proposal. For the names of your elected officials, call the U.S. Capital Switchboard at 202-224-3121.

Office of the Governor 1 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333	The Honorable _____ U.S. Senate Washington, DC 20510	The Honorable _____ U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515
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6. *Become a park activist.* Contact RESTORE to join our Maine Woods National Park Activist Network. Receive periodic updates, action alerts, and our calendar of events.

7. *Learn about and visit the Maine Woods.* Read about the natural, cultural and historic significance of the region. Go hiking, backpacking, or canoeing in Baxter State Park to experience the beauty of a restored part of the Maine Woods. Drive through some of the privately owned areas to enjoy the spectacular values that still remain and see with your own eyes the ravages of industrial logging.

8. *Visit your national parks.* The National Park System encompasses more than 370 different units covering over 80 million acres. These are your parks. Get out and enjoy them! Then return home and help us create a new one in northern Maine.

9. *Visit the Maine Woods Visitor Center.* Above the "In the Woods" store at 160 Main Street in Bar Harbor, Maine, (across from the Village Green) you will find RESTORE's Maine Woods Visitor Center. See exhibits on the spectacular features of the region and the threats to those features, as well as large scale maps of the proposed Maine Woods National Park & Preserve. Talk to the Visitor Center staff about these issues, meet other concerned citizens, pick up informational materials, and participate in workshops and presentations. The Visitor Center is open each summer.

10. *Join RESTORE: The North Woods.* Fill out and send in the coupon on this page with your donation. Thank you in advance for your support!



# Pedal for the Park A NORTH WOODS BICYCLE TOUR FOR THE FUTURE MAINE WOODS NATIONAL PARK

*Creating the Future Maine Woods National Park —  
A Northern Forest Restoration Challenge*

Take out a map of North America. Turn your attention to the East Coast. Let your eyes float north from Florida through Georgia and the Carolinas. Continue looking northward, passing through the U.S. capital, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Connecticut and Rhode Island, Massachusetts. OK, stop. Look closely. What do you see? Do you see the criss-crossing lines of red highways fading into smaller rural roads? Do you see large cities fading into smaller towns? Do you see the stretch of forest beginning in upstate New York, rolling through Vermont and New Hampshire, and then fanning out into an amazing expanse of green in northern Maine?

You see the Northern Forest. And in the Northern Forest, we are experiencing something miraculous. Something that you cannot read on a map. Something that has been so slowly unfolding all around us that even the keenest observers do not easily see it. Something that has come about with a little luck and a lot of hard work. And something that connects the people of northern New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine more strongly than roads on a map. We are experiencing something called restoration.

If we venture into the Northern Forest, we see beaver in the Adirondacks, signs of cougar in the Green Mountains, white-tailed deer in the White Mountains, and peregrine falcons in the Maine Woods. A century ago such sightings would have been rare if not impossible. Overhunting and habitat destruction had caused these animals to all but disappear. Now we see white pine sprouting up in acres once cleared for farms and second growth woodlands becoming new old-growth forest. Restoration is happening all around us. And as native wildlife species reclaim this healing forest, the people of the

region are following their lead. We are reclaiming this healing forest as our restoration challenge.

Nowhere is this restoration challenge met with more thoughtful passion and vision than in the Maine Woods, the largest unprotected wildland in the Northern Forest and beyond. Almost 80,000 people and hundreds businesses and nonprofit organizations have come together to support protection and restoration of the heart of this legendary landscape through the creation of a Maine Woods National Park & Preserve.

The park would encompass 3.2-million acres — from Moosehead Lake in the south to the mighty Allagash River in the north, from the Sebobeis River in the east to the Canadian border in the west. If you have canoed the West Branch of the Penobscot, fished in the Debsconeags, hiked along the 100 Mile Wilderness section of the Appalachian Trail, visited historic Katahdin Iron Works, or simply gazed out over Moosehead Lake, then you have traveled into the future Maine Woods National Park. And if you have traveled there, then you know the heart of the Maine Woods is imperiled.

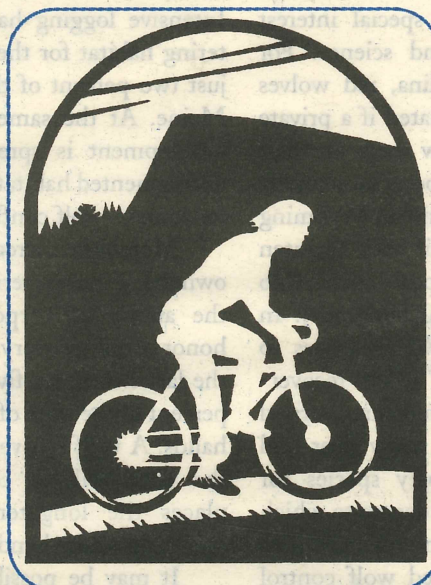
The Maine Woods is threatened by unsustainable logging, fragmentation by thousands of miles of logging roads, the spraying of toxic herbicides, and misplaced development. And as if these threats are not enough to shake things up, millions of acres within the Maine Woods have changed hands since late 1998, including more than half the lands in the proposed Maine Woods National Park. Large paper company ownerships are being broken up, leaving many people to worry about the future of their jobs and the loss of public access to private lands used for generations. A Maine Woods National Park would mean not just the restoration of a landscape, but the assurance of public access and of a healthy, more diverse economy.

If ever there was a place for the people of the North Woods to take on a restoration challenge together, it is in Maine's North Woods. And if ever there was a time to take on this challenge, it is now.

It is true that support is growing each day as more and more people who love the Maine Woods realize this unique landscape — forests of spruce and fir, whitewater rivers and peaceful ponds, and habitat for bald eagles, loons, moose and blueback trout — is threatened. But it is also true that a Maine Woods National Park cannot

be created without the support of the people of the Northern Forest.

People here know the land. We have experienced restoration. Together, we know we can protect and restore the heart of the legendary Maine Woods as America's next great national park. Let's take on this restoration challenge. Soon we will be walking into America's next great national park.



## Pedal for the Park A North Woods Bicycle Tour for the future Maine Woods National Park

THIS SUMMER, join RESTORE: The North Woods in spreading the good news about the future Maine Woods National Park. We are cycling from the Adirondack Park to the future Maine Woods National Park and invite you to participate in the challenge. Journey into the Maine Woods through one of our many slide presentations in towns throughout the Northern Forest region. Write a letter to the editor of your local paper to share your restoration experience and your support of the Maine Woods National Park idea. Or get on your bike and pedal for the park. Learn how you can become part of the growing number of Northern Forest citizens working to protect and restore the heart of the Maine Woods as an amazing new national park.

Take the restoration challenge! Journey to the future Maine Woods National Park through one or more of the following presentations this August-September.

August 31, 2000 at 12 noon  
Saranac Lake, NY  
Saranac Lake Free Library

September 5, 2000 at 7 PM  
Burlington, VT  
University of Vermont's Billings Student

Center  
Co-sponsored by  
University of  
Vermont Natural  
Areas Center,  
Greater Laurentian  
Wildlands Project  
and Wild Earth

September 6, 2000  
at 7 PM

Montpelier, VT  
Montpelier City Hall  
Arts Center  
Co-sponsored by  
Forest Watch

September 7, 2000  
at 3 PM

St. Johnsbury, VT  
Catamount Arts  
Center  
Co-sponsored by  
Northern  
Appalachian  
Restoration  
Project

September 8, 2000  
Lancaster, NH

Contact RESTORE for details.  
Co-sponsored by Northern Appalachian  
Restoration Project

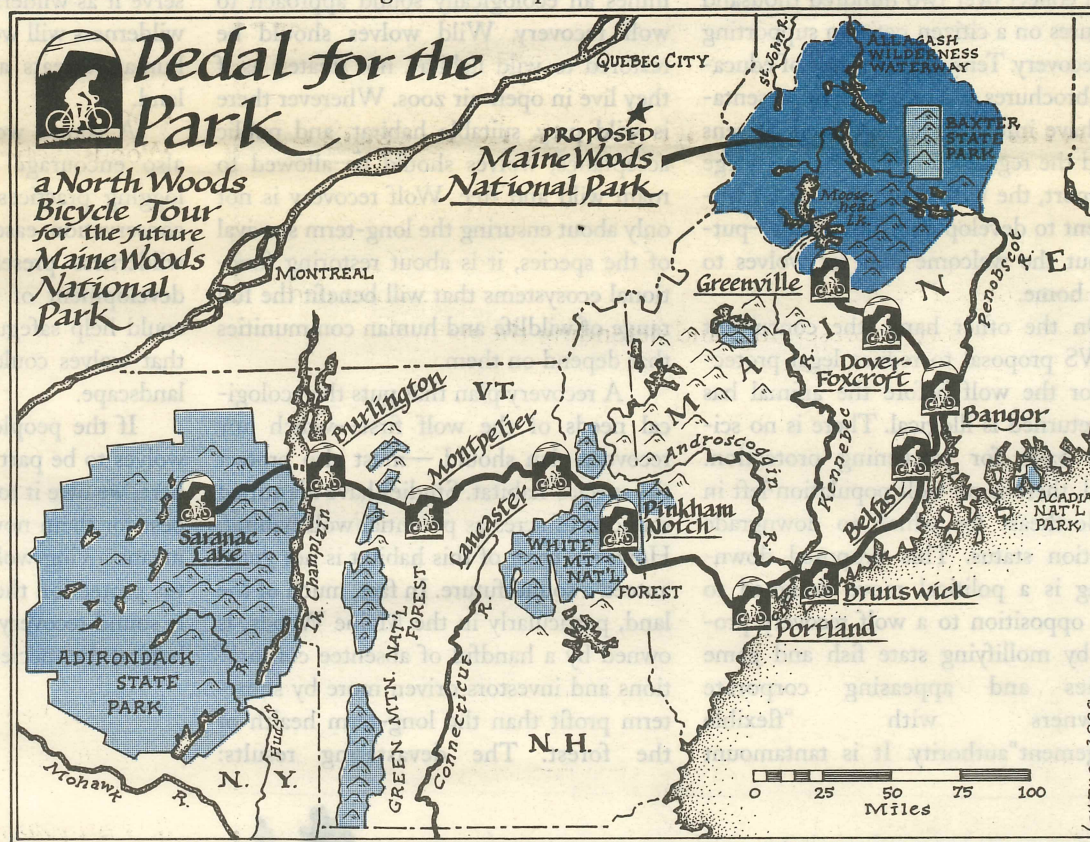
September 9, 2000 at 8 PM  
Pinkham Notch, NH  
Pinkham Notch Visitor Center

September 11, 2000 at 7 PM  
Portland, ME

State Street Church  
Co-sponsored by American Lands Alliance  
and the Toxics Action Center

September 12, 2000 at 1 PM  
Brunswick, ME

Gulf of Maine Books  
Co-sponsored by Gulf of Maine Books



September 13, 2000 at 6 PM  
Belfast, ME  
Belfast Free Library  
Co-sponsored by Friends of the Earth

September 14, 2000 at 7 PM  
Bangor, Maine  
Peace & Justice Center

September 15, 2000 at 12 noon  
Dover-Foxcroft, Maine  
University of Maine Cooperative Extension  
Service, Pisquattiquis County Office

For further information:  
RESTORE: The North Woods  
9 Union St.  
Hallowell, Maine 04347  
207-626-5635 or  
mainewoods@restore.org

Or check out our web site at  
www.restore.org



# WILD WOLVES NEED AN ECOLOGICALLY SOUND RECOVERY PLAN

by Kristin DeBoer

In the whole of human history, no other animal has loomed as large in our imagination as the wolf. Now, after centuries of persecution, we are learning to live with them again. Wild wolves are the ultimate symbol of wilderness and freedom. They are also an important measure of our ability to share this beautiful planet with other intelligent living creatures.

This July, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced its plans for the next phase of wolf recovery throughout the United States. As part of this process, the agency has proposed that in the Northeast the wolf be the subject of its own recovery plan. The USFWS also wants to downlist the wolf from "endangered" to "threatened"—a less urgent status under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). What do these conflicting messages mean for wolves in our region?

The good news is that northeastern wolf recovery has finally become a national conservation priority. More than thirty-five local, regional, and national conservation groups have joined together to form the Coalition to Restore the Eastern Wolf (CREW). Scientists have determined that there is enough suitable habitat to potentially support more than 1,000 wolves in this region. Scores of volunteers have helped collect over two hundred thousand signatures on a citizen petition supporting wolf recovery. Tens of thousands of educational brochures and hundreds of presentations have informed and inspired citizens around the region. Bolstered by this surge of support, the USFWS has made a commitment to develop a recovery plan—putting out the welcome mat for wolves to return home.

On the other hand, the concurrent USFWS proposal to reduce legal protection for the wolf before the animal has even returned is illogical. There is no scientific basis for weakening protection. Indeed, there is no wolf population left in the Northeast for which to downgrade protection status. This proposed downgrading is a political move designed to lessen opposition to a wolf recovery program by mollifying state fish and game agencies and appeasing corporate landowners with "flexible management" authority. It is tantamount

to giving them control over whether and how wolf recovery will proceed. But the foundation of wolf recovery should be based on ecological principles, not political compromise.

Unfortunately, politically driven "flexible management" is becoming the standard bureaucratic mode for wolf recovery. Experience with this approach in other regions shows that recovering wolves are too often manipulated and controlled based on the whims of special interest groups, rather than sound science. For example, in North Carolina, red wolves can be retrieved and relocated if a private landowner refuses to allow them on their land. Wolves which have been successfully reintroduced on public land in Wyoming and Idaho can be killed if they threaten nearby livestock, even if local ranchers do not practice sound animal husbandry. In the Northeast, the USFWS proposes to use "flexible management" to kill recovering wolves if hunting groups are worried that they are eating too many deer and moose—the natural prey species for wolves in this region. The degree to which politically powerful sporting organizations can influence the proposed wolf control proposal is unknown and the potential for abuse of the process is great. (For more detailed discussion of flexible management, see *Forum*, Spring 2000, page 8.)

This kind of management undermines an ecologically sound approach to wolf recovery. Wild wolves should be restored to wild habitat, not treated as if they live in open-air zoos. Wherever there is wild prey, suitable habitat, and public acceptance, wolves should be allowed to roam wild and free. Wolf recovery is not only about ensuring the long-term survival of the species, it is about restoring functional ecosystems that will benefit the full range of wildlife and human communities that depend on them.

A recovery plan that puts the ecological needs of the wolf first—which any recovery plan should—must also protect the species' habitat. Studies have identified millions of acres as potential wolf habitat. However, most of this habitat is not guaranteed a sound future. In fact, much of the land, particularly in the Maine Woods, is owned by a handful of absentee corporations and investors driven more by short-term profit than the long-term health of the forest. The devastating results:

clearcutting and overcutting of the forest, the conversion of native forests into exotic monocultures, massive networks of logging roads, and the spraying of vast areas of woodland with pesticides.

Although wolves may be able to survive in such an industrial "working forest," they would also face significant threats. Logging roads and motorized trails provide easy access for people who would rather kill wolves than see them restored. Intensive logging has reduced overwintering habitat for the white-tailed deer to just two percent of the forest in northern Maine. At the same time, second home development is spreading into formerly unfragmented habitat, raising the potential for human-wolf conflicts.

Moreover, increasingly unstable land ownership raises serious questions about the ability of corporate landowners to honor wolf recovery agreements. In just the last two years, five million acres or 25 percent of the state of Maine have changed hands. A wolf recovery plan that relies on the good will of corporate landowners places the long-term viability of the species in shaky hands.

It may be possible to launch a wolf recovery program on the existing large private land ownerships. But, in the long-term, the program will only be successful if significant efforts are made to purchase wolf habitat from willing sellers and preserve it as wilderness. Only in a protected wilderness will wolves find sanctuary from human threats and manipulation of the land.

A sound wolf recovery plan should also encourage ecologically sustainable logging practices and the acquisition of conservation easements on lands outside wilderness preserves to prevent further development of the North Woods. This could help safeguard wildlife corridors so that wolves could move freely across the landscape.

If the people of the Northeast want wolves to be part of the celebration of life here, we owe it to the species to do what is best for them now and in the future. This means giving wolves the "endangered" status protection they deserve, an ecologically sound recovery plan, and the wilderness habitat the species thrived in for millennia.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

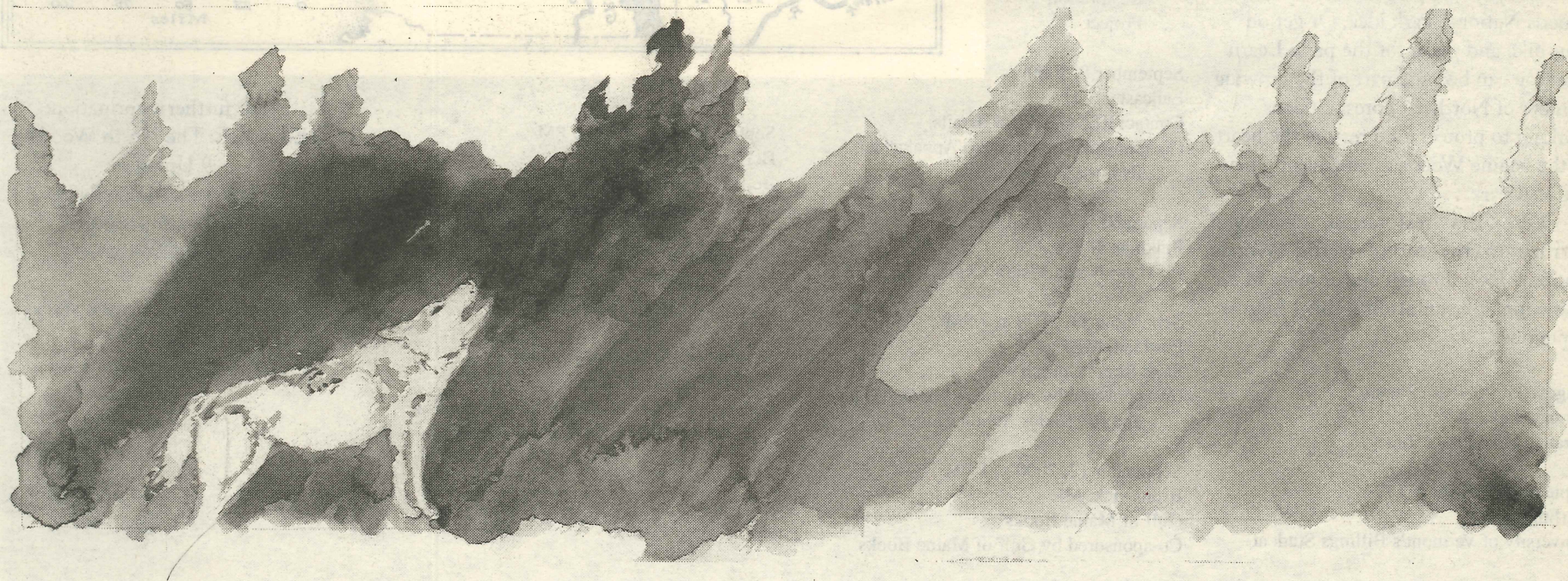
The USFWS will appoint a recovery team to draft a regional wolf recovery plan for Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York. During the recovery process, public input will be invited via comment periods and public hearings. If the USFWS finds that wolf recovery is socially and ecologically feasible, Congressional funds will be necessary to implement the recovery plan.

This is similar to the process that resulted in the successful restoration of wolves in other parts of the country, including the Great Lakes, Yellowstone National Park and Central Idaho and national forest wilderness areas in New Mexico and Arizona. Conservation groups in the Northeast are hopeful that the people of this region will be next to return the wolf to its former North Woods habitat.

Tell the US Fish & Wildlife Service that wolves need an ecologically based recovery plan that protects the eastern wolf as an "endangered" species. Send your comments to Content Analysis Enterprise Team, Wolf Comments, 200 East Broadway, PO Box 7669, Room 301, Missoula, Montana 59807 or [graywolfcomments@fws.gov](mailto:graywolfcomments@fws.gov) or fax 406-329-3021. The public has until November 10, 2000 to make their opinion known on how you want to see wolves restored to the Northeast.



Kristin DeBoer coordinates the Wolf Recovery Project for RESTORE: The North Woods. Founded in 1992, RESTORE: The North Woods is a regional conservation organization dedicated to restoring, preserving, and defending the ecological integrity of the North Woods through advocacy, public awareness, and citizen activism. For more information contact: RESTORE: The North Woods, PO Box 1099, Concord, MA 01742, 978-287-0320.





## WOLVES IN THE NORTHEAST? A WORKSHOP TO EXCHANGE VIEWS

For four days on a beautiful week this July, about fifty stakeholders gathered in Rumford, Maine, including paper and timber corporate representatives, state and federal wildlife agency bureaucrats, hunters and trappers, and conservationists. Why? To discuss the future of wolf recovery in the Northeast.

The meeting was sponsored by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Defenders of Wildlife, and it was facilitated by the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group of the IUCN, an organization that has helped diverse interests craft solutions to controversial wildlife issues across the world. This high level of sponsorship and the full range of interest groups that attended brought a certain level of gravity to the prospect of wolf recovery. For once, everyone in the room realized that wolves could actually be restored, and maybe even within their lifetime. The workshop also marked the first time a broad group of people, with various and opposing views, were brought together to try to come up with a shared vision of wolves in the Northeast.

That's the bright side. The problem is that it is difficult, if not impossible, to come up with a uniform vision, especially given the fact that several representatives are steadfastly, or at least mildly, opposed to reintroducing wolves. As a result many of the questions and concerns that were raised were relegated to the "unresolved differences" list — a list that grew over the days like a to-do list from hell. Those opposed to wolf recovery wanted to know: Will there be any land use regulations as a result of wolf recovery? Will wolves cost jobs? Will wolves eat our deer? Will wolves eat our cows? And from some of the conservationists in the room: Can wolves survive in an "industrial working forest"? Will wolves be over-managed and over-controlled once they are reintroduced? Don't wolves deserve the best quality wilderness habitat we can

secure? The wildlife managers were concerned about: How will wolves and coyote interact? Will wolves travel to areas with more dense human populations? Will the wolves adversely impact the deer population? The list went on...

So with all these questions and differences of opinion, what did we accomplish in these four days? The one thing the group unanimously agreed upon is that more study and more public input is needed to determine if, when, why, and how wolf recovery will move forward. Fortunately, this need will likely be met as the USFWS embarks on a process to develop a recovery plan for the Northeast over the next two years.

What are we to expect from the recovery planning process? Geneticists will likely conduct more research about the genetic identity of the species of eastern wolf that used to live in this region. Ecologists will generate more models about how a reintroduced wolf population would interact with the suite of carnivores native to this region, including coyote, lynx, bobcat, and black bear. Wildlife managers will try to determine the potential impact of wolves on prey populations. Hunting groups will wrestle with whether they can coexist with another predator. Wolf advocates will rally more and more people to speak out in favor of wolf recovery. Landowners will assess if they are willing to allow their land to be used for wolf recovery. Economists will conduct a cost/benefit analysis of wolf recovery. Conservationists will work to preserve more public land to secure wolf habitat for the future. State and federal wildlife agencies will hold dozens of public hearings. And the public will have an opportunity to make their views known.

It will take a several years or more to finish this planning process before wolves return to the Northeast. But we can take stock in the fact that the idea of wolf recovery is here to stay. And until the howl of the wolf is heard once again across the Northeast, you can be sure that there will be people in this region working to bring this species home. — *Kristin DeBoer*

### Read this Issue of *Wild Earth* Magazine

YOU WILL NOT want to miss the current issue of *Wild Earth*, the quarterly journal of The Wildlands Project. "History and Opportunity, American Parks and Protected Areas" offers a particular look at the Northern Forest region, presenting the draft proposal of the Maine Wildlands Network for ecological reserves adequate for the restoration of timber wolf and Atlantic salmon. Other stories include profiles of two local wildlands projects in southwest New Hampshire and coastal Maine (the Andorra Forest of Stoddard, NH and Sheepscot River watershed) and an in-depth look at the A2A initiative to link Adirondack and Algonquin Parks with habitat suitable for wolf migration.

If you have never encountered *Wild Earth*, this summer 2000 issue would make a fine introduction. Look for it at select newstands or write: *Wild Earth* POB 455 Richmond, VT 05477. Subscriptions are \$25/year/four issues; single issues are \$10 for non-subscribers, \$8 for subscribers.

## Reclaiming the Night Sky

By Adam Guest

As I rolled into Barton late one evening not so long ago, I looked out over the moonlit ice and cliffs of Crystal Lake, with mountains rolling off behind them in the west. Far from idyllic, however, the scene was sliced down the middle by a line of distracting streetlights, their orange glare a far cry from the mystique of the moon and the stars.



Now I know I'm not alone when I say that I live where I do because of the beauty of the land, not to mention the generous allotment of the common sense that seems to accompany these hills.

I came back to the Northeast Kingdom after attending school in Chicago. One of the most dismaying features of that city, and of most big towns, I believe, was that the street lights from so many miles of concrete and cars rarely allowed even a single star to peak through.

And while we can still see the stars here, although not quite so many in some places, some homesteads unfortunate enough to find themselves south of a well-lit town have been cut off from one of the most fantastic and enchanting phenomena of nature — the northern lights.

Why are streetlights here? A quick visit to the Barton village clerk's office and a reading of Darlene Young's *History of Barton*, failed to answer that question. But it did provide some information that might prove interesting.

First of all the light is orange because the bulbs, only 90 watts apiece, are very efficient. Even so, the village spent \$12,784 last year on electricity and maintenance costs (mostly new bulbs) to run its 163 lamps.

Some people are afraid of the dark and others of crime. I heartily welcome these folks to exercise their right to consume electricity and buy a porch light.

But I, myself, don't think it's so dark out there.



The above defense of the night sky — sadly appropriate throughout this region of mercury vapor glow — ran as an op-ed in the *Orleans County Chronicle* of Barton, Vermont on February 8, 1999. Adam Guest worked with the Chronicle as a reporter and editorial staffer. Adam, who once remarked that he would give his life for the environment, died this past winter, having contracted malaria while hiking in Guyana. Adam is missed by family and friends who recently celebrated his 24<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 7<sup>th</sup>.



# Gulf of Maine International Ocean Wilderness the key to restoring our marine public lands

by Ron Huber

**T**HE GULF OF MAINE International Wilderness will protect and restore the habitats for a variety of the North Atlantic's threatened, endangered and depleted marine animal and plant species, (and their more plentiful companions), in a jointly managed twenty mile wide band straddling the US/Canada offshore border across the outer Gulf of Maine and the submerged Georges Bank plateau, and down two vast undersea canyons to the North Atlantic Abyssal Plain. *Maps, info at [www.atlantisforce.org](http://www.atlantisforce.org)*

Brainchild of Dalhousie University professor of ecology J. H. Martin Willison, the Gulf of Maine International Ocean Wilderness is being promoted by a broad and deep coalition of both nation's top marine scientists, fishermen, conservationists, (and even Hollywood!), who, in late July of this year, formally asked President Clinton and Prime Minister Chretien to use their powers as Chief Executives to declare this twenty mile wide band of completely fully protected Ocean Wilderness.

## WHY OCEAN WILDERNESS?

Because in addition to making life easier for legions of wild marine animals, plants & algae native to the North Atlantic, the ocean wilderness will also bring joy to the hearts of the marine science community and federal regulators.

Presently there are NO places in the vast expanse of subtidal public lands within the Gulf of Maine (big as Massachusetts and Maine combined) where nature is allowed to exist permanently free of disturbance. Zip. Nada.

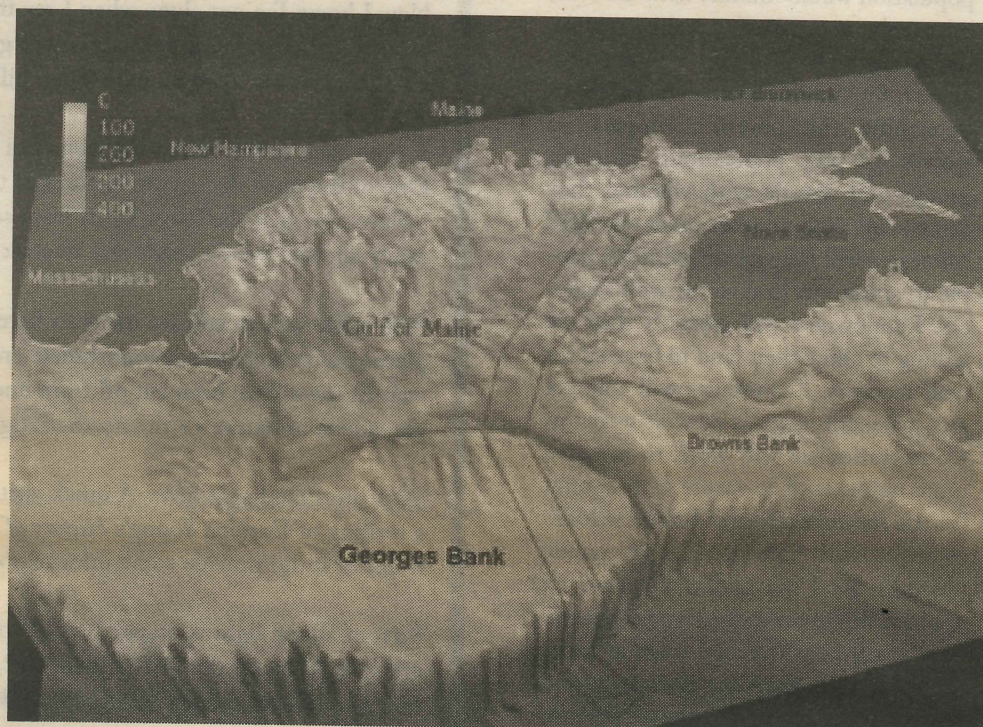
Despite the fact that understanding the ecological dynamics of wild vertebrates and invertebrates, and their wild habitats and co-habitants, is a *sine qua non* for developing realistic fishery management goals, the National Marine Fisheries Service (the marine analog of the US Forest Service) and its parent agencies, NOAA and the US Department of Commerce, have consistently and remarkably held that management of ANY marine public lands for natural biodiversity is unnecessary and even 'unfair' to the extractive industries.

NOAA's National Marine Sanctuaries, for example, have traditionally allowed intensive recreational and commercial fishing within their boundaries. Nearly every square foot of fish & shellfish habitat within the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary off Cape Cod, gets scraped by otter trawls and ton-and-

a-half scallop dredges every year. Hundreds of recreational fishers also take their toll on the wildlife within the "sanctuary". Resource extraction, it seemed, was the sole order of the day for our marine public lands.

But, Executive Order #13158 has changed that. Finally, a part of the Gulf of Maine is to be treated as if it were "Nature".

**HOW?** President Clinton's May 26, 2000 release of his Marine Protected Area (MPA) Executive Order is a major federal policy shift on federal management of



US saltwater environment & marine ecology. The Gulf of Maine International Ocean Wilderness, a first usage of this new policy, provides a 'test bed' for further implementation of the process in a way that has maximum gain for the effort.

In the announcement, Clinton expressly gives Interior (and other agencies) the directive to dive in and designate undersea protected areas in our marine public lands. NOAA may no longer to claim hegemony over marine life.

The Presidential Proclamation declares that:

"Each Federal agency whose authorities provide for the establishment or management of MPAs shall take appropriate actions to enhance or expand protection of existing MPAs and establish or recommend, as appropriate, new MPAs."

"...the Department of Commerce and the Department of the Interior, in consultation with the Department of Defense, the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Science



*Ron Huber monitoring the waterfront for invading crabs hitchhiking in ballast water discharged by ships*

Foundation, and other pertinent Federal agencies shall develop a national system of MPAs"

## Where can these these Marine Protected Areas be designated?

"those areas of coastal and ocean waters, the Great Lakes and their connecting waters, and submerged lands thereunder, over which the United States exercises jurisdiction, consistent with international law."

This clearly includes America's Exclusive Economic Zone out to 200 miles offshore. That area is a place where "the United States exercises jurisdiction, consistent with international law."

While the actual combination of protected areas expressed in the final wording of the President's Gulf of Maine International Ocean Wilderness will be up to he, his advisors, and the various agencies as they sort out their roles, it will very likely be a combination of several protective programs - the twenty-odd major shipwrecks charted within the protected area to be managed under the National Historic Landmark program; Georges Bank's swordfish- & right whale-frequented steep cliffs and large canyons, and the eastern ridges of its Georges Shoals Range may be managed under the National Natural Landmark Process; the cod, haddock and scallop nurseries, well-charted within the ocean wilderness area, as Ecological Reserves; the portion of the wilderness crossing the great basins of the Gulf of Maine, and the abyssal continental slope as a National Monument; the package of protective regimes to be coordinated with Canada's Oceans Act marine protected areas program in the shared area by the US State Department- via an existing

boundary waters agreement.

It is this *tapestry* of protective regimes that the President seeks to implement here - breaking the grip of NOAA's resource- extraction mentality over our marine public lands. Instead, all of our nature-nurturing agencies, from the Interior

Department's many subagencies to, surprisingly, NASA and the US Coast Guard, will gain an opportunity to learn and refine their own Marine Protected Area programs for application elsewhere within America's Oceans.

Allowed to regrow to maturity, the live bottom ecosystem of the Gulf of Maine within the narrow band of the Gulf of Maine International Ocean Wilderness will act as a 'larval export reserve', e.g., a cornucopia, out from which a steady supply of larval and juvenile fish and shellfish will continually re-seed and replenish the 95% of the plateau and Gulf that remains susceptible to the extractive industries.

## OFFSHORE WATERS ONLY: NO IMPACT ON INSHORE SMALL BOAT FISHERIES

The wilderness begins 12 miles offshore and is entirely in the Exclusive Economic Zone. This means that there is no impact to the inshore fisheries, which are already enmeshed in a highly complex web of state, federal and regional management regimes. The New England and Atlantic Canadian inshore fishing fleets have, through dint of dedicated work by the fishermen themselves, largely achieved sustainability in their principal target species: the American lobster, *Homarus Americanus*.

As a result, there is little if any opposition to the Gulf of Maine International Ocean Wilderness from the inshore fishing industry.

Only the offshore dragger/dredger fleet, dominated by absentee mega corporations, and its partisans among the eco-yuppies, has raised concern.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Participate in this historic creation of genuine wilderness in America's marine public lands! Write to President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Jean Chretien. Urge them to use their powers to immediately designate the Gulf of Maine International Ocean Wilderness on the offshore Atlantic border between our two nations.

For additional information, visit [www.atlantisforce.org](http://www.atlantisforce.org) or contact Task Force Atlantis: [coastwatch@acadia.net](mailto:coastwatch@acadia.net) or (207)594-5717

## WRITE:

President William Jefferson Clinton  
The White House  
Washington DC 20500  
email [president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)

Right Honorable Jean Chrétien  
Prime Minister of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa K1A 0A6  
email: [pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca)



# Maine Board of Environmental Protection asked to step in as state's richest lobster grounds face toxic runoff threat from coastal airport expansion plan

By Ron Huber

Conflict of interest by Knox County Commissioner alleged.

OWLS HEAD, MAINE. South Thomaston residents have formally requested the Maine Board of Environmental Protection to assume jurisdiction over the state permitting process for proposed expansions of the Knox County Regional Airport, in Owls Head, Maine. The residents say that permit reviewers in the Bureau of Land and Water Quality are giving too much credence to faulty data and are ignoring significant concerns raised by hundreds of area residents, including allegations of a conflict of interest by a Knox County Commissioner with financial ties to the airport, and likely impacts to Maine's richest lobster ground - the Mussel Ridge Channel of outer Penobscot Bay.

Read the text of the letter at <http://www.penbay.org/leesairport.html>

One of the chief concerns raised in the letter, written by South Thomaston resident Lee Schneller, is the impact to the area's lobster fisheries of the county plan to eliminate onsite wetland catch basins, and reroute the airport's parking, runway, machine shop and hangar runoff directly into the Weskeag River, the sole estuary of Maine's richest lobster grounds - Penobscot Bay's Muscle Ridge Channel. Critics say that adding a chronic pollution source to these pristine waters will degrade water quality and could reduce the survival of the area's juvenile lobsters.

Another issue is the apparent conflict of interest on the part of Knox County Commissioner Ed Sleeper, who is also an employee of Telford Aviation, an airline operating out of that airport. Sleeper stands to personally benefit from expansion at the site yet, continues to participate in the airport permit decisionmaking process, according to the letter.

See below for a summary of the 18 issues and requests presented to Maine Board of Environmental Protection Chairman John Tewhey. Full text of the Schneller letter is at <http://www.penbay.org/leesairport.html>

## ISSUES

1. The issue of safety pertaining to bird hazards has been grossly overstated.
2. There is a substantial amount of conflicting evidence concerning the drainage contours of the airport grounds.
3. The safety issue concerning wingtip clearance and apron size is based on undocumented observations by airport personnel who have everything to gain from airport expansion.
4. Ballyhac Cove and the Weskeag River are rich lobster nurseries which are threatened by polluted runoff from the airport.

5. Expanding the apron will create new safety issues which have not been addressed.

6. The apron expansion will endanger the drinking water supply of Owls Head residents.

7. The model used to justify the apron expansion project is a model of unlimited, demand-driven growth which ignores the negative impacts of that growth.

8. A petition signed in February and March 2000 by over 700 residents of Knox County proves that residents of Owls Head and South Thomaston as well as many, many people in the surrounding Knox County towns strongly support containing airport growth, making the airport accountable for pollution, controlling noise and protecting natural beauty.

9. County Commissioner Ed Sleeper is an employee of Telford Aviation, an airline operating out of the airport. He stands to benefit from airport expansion and has a clear conflict of interest in participating in airport-related decisions yet continues to participate in the process.

10. During the instrument landing system installation work in 1996, numerous violations were noted by South Thomaston selectman Jacob Snow, code enforcement officer Larry Terrio and private citizen George Hardt. These were brought to the attention of the DEP, but nothing was done.

11. Dufresne Henry has a history of presenting data as if it were ironclad, then changing it (and justifying the changes) when convenient.

12. Wetland mitigation sites were poorly constructed, not maintained as prescribed and not monitored according to design specifications. Now the county seeks to abandon them, in part because they do not function as intended due to the negligent construction and maintenance by the parties who sought their elimination from the start.

13. The airport manager, county commissioners and Dufresne Henry unilaterally downplayed the true importance and role of existing wetlands mitigation sites.

14. The DEP has been unresponsive to my requests for a detailed breakdown of impervious surfaces on the airport property as represented in the permit application which is document D3.

15. The copy of the present application on file for public viewing at the Knox County Commissioners' office lacks its supporting documents, a large roll of plans which should accompany the application.

16. Hundreds of citizens of Knox County have turned out again and again at town and county public hearings about the airport over the past five years to protest further expansion and to ask for amelioration of existing intolerable conditions.

17. Private wells around the airport should be tested for pollutants.

18. Filling existing wetland mitigation sites will destroy additional wetlands which were counted in the original wetland mitigation plan.

The Maine Board of Environmental Protection is expected to rule on whether to assume jurisdiction over the proposed airport expansion, by mid September.



## Letter from Canadian hook fisherman Sanford Atwood Endorses Marine Protected Areas

Derek [Jones] and I went to Halifax to represent the Canadian Ocean Habitat Protection Society (COHPS) at the First International Deep Coral Symposium. It was an honour and a pleasure to sit and listen and watch films from the world's greatest ocean scientists as well as other groups that cared about deep coral. People from all over the world spoke of how dragging destroyed their coral reefs which fish and every ocean creature depended on for survival with proven facts and films of the ocean floor.

I take my hat off to these people because they took action to save some of their ocean habitat but didn't close down their fisheries. Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans now has video footage of Romey's Peak within the area where COHPS chose for a Marine Protected Area (MPA).

Our MPA includes the area from the Peak of Brown's to Romey's Peak where there is coral and other living things with no boats fishing there now. So it would be a good idea to put a MPA there to save some habitat for the next generation since we do have the same problems as other fishing countries.

Canada does have hook and line fisheries where other countries have none or very little. Outside of the MPA where corals exist, COHPS would like to see less destructive methods such as hook and line used so Canadians could have a sustainable fisheries. It was very disappointing not to see Members of Parliament from our government level or representatives attending such a great symposium for the hook and line fishermen. Thanks to the U.S.A. there was a person there representing their Government.

Having 35 years of fishing experience as a hook and line fisherman I learned more about the ocean in four days than I would in a lifetime. It is too bad because our Government could of learned a lot and understand our ocean's habitat. Our Government is more interested in oil issues and cutting trees down because of an insect while our ocean is being destroyed.

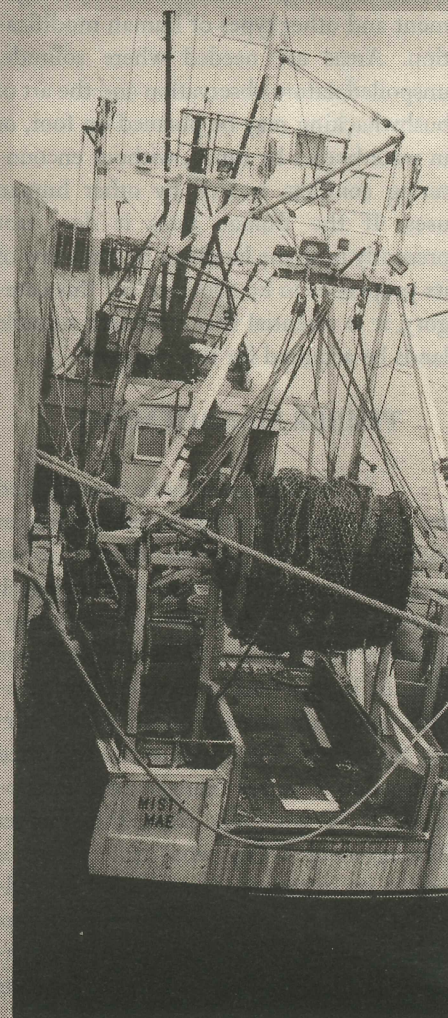
So hook and line fishermen, let's do something right by making sure a MPA is put in place. Each year our percentage of fish will get lower and lower like in the past until no hook and line fishermen are left.

We have to save our heritage for our future generation and it's not the coral's fault.

Sanford Atwood

Canadian Ocean Habitat Protection Society <http://cohps.atlantisforce.org>

The photos on this page show Nova Scotian long line vessels (top) and a Maine-based dragger (bottom). Governments in both the United States and Canada have failed to support the small-scale hook-and-line fishery as a key component of sustainable fishing off our coasts. Despite centuries of documented damage from bottom draggers, governments since the World Wars have retreated from early attempts to regulate the practice of levelling sea bottom and, indeed, have actively promoted large scale enterprises that deplete the ocean.





# Comments on the Maine Bureau of Public Lands Draft Policy on Land Use: Intensified, Multi-Use Philosophy a Threat to BackCountry Values

*Editor's note: The Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands is revising its Integrated Resource Policy. The following letter by NARP activist-attorney Pamela Prodan, comments on various aspects of the draft policy. The final policy, which will apply to most of the Bureau's properties, is expected to be adopted this summer.*

Dear Mr. Morrison:

I appreciate the opportunity to provide written comments concerning the proposed Integrated Resource Policy ("IRP" or "policy"). In general, I endorse the Resource Management System described in the IRP. I think the Bureau appropriately retains its evaluation of the "dominant" and "secondary" uses of the properties as the basis for planning, taking into account the character of the landbase in the Management Planning process. The Resource Allocation System also makes sense for the most part, with the exception of the glaring absence of a Backcountry Wilderness category.

The main focus of my comments below is the apparent shift in emphasis toward more intensive recreational uses and new commercial uses of Bureau managed lands in many of the policies articulated for the Resource Groups. For the most part, it is with these proposed policies that I take issue.

## BACKCOUNTRY WILDERNESS

In my view, a Backcountry Wilderness category is necessary to round out the range of types of lands available for recreation. Clearly, there is a growing demand for wilderness areas among the public. These should consist of areas of wild and pristine character, permanently off-limits to mechanized recreation, road and trail construction, harvesting of animals, forest management and other types of human modification. Areas are needed where solitude, unspoiled nature observation and the art of bushwhacking may be pursued on foot, or in waterbodies by canoe, without encountering conflicts created by other human uses. If the Bureau feels it does not presently have the landbase to allow any of its properties to be allocated for this category, it is essential that sufficient suitable lands be acquired for this category.

## TIMBER MANAGEMENT

The Bureau is to be commended for continuing its policy to conduct timber management to improve overall forest quality. The overall management approach to creating forest diversity in timber management areas (IRP, p.17) is correct. I urge that the Bureau plan to permanently maintain significant acreage of old growth forest for its own sake, within the regulated acreage, as a timber management component. It is not clear from the Timber Management Policy what time frame is meant by "temporary set-asides" for old-growth within the managed areas (IRP, p. 67), but permanence should also be a stated goal. The long-term ecological benefits

provided by permanent old-growth forest are probably inestimable at this time, but we know enough to decide it is worth making the investment in old-growth now.

## RECREATION

No doubt some of the changed emphasis in the new policy direction for recreation can be attributed to the fact that the IRP no longer applies just to the Public Reserved Lands, but also to Nonreserved Lands, State Parks and Historic Sites as well. Recreational activities conducted on this wider range of lands are necessarily of a more diverse nature than would be the case just on Public Reserved Lands. However, I remain concerned that the IRP does not make clear on what basis and to what extent decisions will be made to develop more intensive recreational uses, and which of the public lands are targeted for more intensive recreational development. The IRP should attempt to clarify the Bureau's intent.

I am particularly concerned that the Bureau has taken a policy document developed in North Carolina to deal with conflicts on multiple use trails and revised it to encompass all outdoor recreational uses. (IRP p. 45-47.) I don't think the two situations are analogous. To begin with, multiple use trails would only be developed in situations where conflicts are likely to be minimal anyway. One such example is the proposed policy for multi-use trails that provides for two or more activities occurring on the same trail at different times of the year. (IRP p. 61.) To assume that policies and principles that may work for multiple use trails can be applied to recreation over the entire land base administered by the Bureau is simply ridiculous. There are so many recreational uses that are simply incompatible with each other.

Why should the Bureau go to the effort of providing "positive interactions among users," as proposed in the policy (IRP, p. 46) when the obvious solution is to accept that many activities are incompatible and avoid contact between users altogether? While I would not necessarily object to the North Carolina policy being applied to multi-use and shared trails, it does not seem appropriate to apply it to all recreational uses. Rather than adopting the approach from North Carolina, the Bureau should allow the 1985 IRP's stance to continue to set the tone: "The resolution of potential user conflicts will generally be in favor of those uses having the least impact." (1985 IRP, p. 11.)

## LOW IMPACT RECREATION

The emphasis in the new IRP toward more developed recreational opportunities is problematic in that it is likely to increase management costs. Favoring recreational uses having the least impact, particularly when resolving potential user conflicts not only is consistent with preserving the integrity of the land, but is likely to reduce management costs. The reasoning behind the 1985 policy on least impact recreational use and development has not changed:



*Mt. Blue from multi-use trail on former United Timberlands land adjacent to Mount Blue State Park. Photo © Pamela Prodan*

The Public Reserved Lands are among the last remaining publicly owned areas in the State where outdoor recreation can be pursued in a spirit of exploration and discovery. These are working, productive forestlands, but they are expressly available for public use — particularly primitive recreation which stresses self-reliance. This establishes a critical distinction from other public ownerships in the State, where use is often more closely regulated and supervised. Recreational use of the Public Reserved Lands will rely principally on those natural values derived from the character of the landbase: remoteness, natural beauty, etc. — and on the ability of visitors to camp, hike, and pursue other activities in a responsible fashion. (1985 IRP, p. 11.)

Primitive recreational pursuits should continue to be emphasized on all Bureau properties, but especially on the Public Reserved Lands. As drafted, the proposed IRP no longer favors primitive recreational pursuits over developed recreation although conservation, implying low impact use, is the primary purpose of all the lands managed by the Bureau. The Legislature has further mandated that the Public Reserved Lands specifically be managed "to demonstrate exemplary land management practices, including silvicultural, wildlife and recreation management practices..." (12 M.R.S.A. §1847.1). While the 1985 policy on boat launches expressly provided, "Launch sites will be generally primitive (gravel launch pad) in nature, allowing only limited space for access and parking in order to favor the use of small sporting craft" (1985 IRP, p. 12), the proposed policy states that the range of sites will include "improved launch sites with hard surface ramps and parking areas for rigs favoring larger craft." (IRP, p. 51.) Granted, the 1985 policy applied only to the Public Reserved Lands and the proposed IRP applies to parks and non-reserved lands as well. However, it is not at all clear in the draft IRP how many new boat launches for large craft are proposed to be built or where, so one is left to ponder what impact this new policy will have. The Bureau should exercise caution, espe-

cially on Public Reserved Lands, and only build new launches that favor small sporting craft, consistent with primitive recreational opportunities.

## ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES (ATVs)

Also indicative of greater emphasis on intensive recreational development, the new IRP departs from the 1985 policy which stated "it has been determined that 'ATVs generally reflect an incompatible use.'" (1985 IRP, p.15.) The rationale for the 1985 policy on ATVs was:

All terrain vehicles represent a potentially intrusive, damaging and dangerous use which has been demonstrated to be essentially unmanageable. Further, within the framework of the use intended on the Public Reserved Lands, they are inconsistent with proposed standards for solitude and threaten to "motorize" the concept of traditional uses — particularly, as their peak use period coincides with the normal recreation season (Memorial Day to Labor Day) for most Backcountry-type activities. Nor does there appear to be legitimate argument that ATV use should be treated in the same fashion as self-regulating activity which takes place when there are few other conflicting uses ongoing. As for the use of these machines by sportsmen tending traps or hauling legal game during hunting season, the traditional use concept dictates against the introduction of all terrain motorized travel of this nature. (1985 IRP, p. 49.)

Although the Bureau's 1985 policy has essentially been overruled by the Legislature, the above comment made in the 1985 IRP about ATVs is still accurate. Despite the growing use of ATVs and the legislative policy directive to provide for their use on Bureau properties, they remain noisy, smelly, disturb wildlife and people, cause soil erosion and consume fossil fuels in an age where the State should be encouraging less consumption of fossil fuels. The Bureau should exercise extreme caution in allowing ATVs to be used on Bureau properties. Safety and environmental concerns as well as the dis-



ruption and annoyance caused these vehicles are valid reasons to restrict their use to the absolute minimum required under law.

Just because some enterprising manufacturers invent a new recreational "toy" does not mean that it is appropriate to allocate a portion of the public's land base for that toy. By their nature, ATVs disturb a large area and ruin the recreation experience of many users who seek to use the public lands to observe, listen to, smell, and enjoy the natural world in a relatively unaltered state. There are few places left in the world where one can go and not hear motors of some sort. If world peace should break out and U.S. Army surplus tanks became available to consumers, would the Bureau give in to demands that tank trails be designated on Bureau lands? The Bureau must continue to make clear that where resources are affected, it is human activities that must adapt, not the resource. The Bureau should not sacrifice the public's land for thrill seekers and noise makers to indulge their disruptive urges.

#### COMMERCIAL USES OF NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES

In a marked change from the 1985 IRP, the Bureau proposes that nonrenewable resources be available for sale for commercial purposes outside Public Reserved and Nonreserved Land, provided certain criteria are met. (IRP, p. 23.) Previously, the stated policy was that "as a general rule, sand and gravel will not be available for commercial uses outside the Public Reserved Lands." (1985 IRP, p. 29.) In addition, the proposed policy appears to expand the potential for removal of nonrenewable resources beyond sand and gravel by including "stone, peat, clay and topsoil" in "nonrenewable resources." Extraction of these nonrenewable resources are proposed to be allowed "when such use does not conflict with other resource values." (IRP, p. 23.) Although the policy states that "No new sources will be developed for commercial use," the vagueness of the policy in regard to what constitutes a conflict with other resource values and what is a new source is problematic.

It is not clear which lands the Bureau feels could be subject to nonrenewable resource extraction without compromising other attributes. Also, while the policy appears to allow for the development of new sources only for Bureau uses such as on site road development and maintenance, on the other hand, the policy could also be interpreted to allow a new source subsequently to be converted to commercial use. Because of the potential for irreversible impacts upon the land's resource values through the extraction of nonrenewable resources for commercial uses, the Bureau should retain the 1985 policy disfavoring commercial use of nonrenewable resources on Bureau properties. It is also imperative that the IRP retain all of the policy's proposed restrictions on commercial sales, including no reasonable alter-

native, no significant adverse impact, demonstrated clear public benefit and fair market value for the resource.

#### SPECIAL USES

The proposed IRP appears to expand the potential for commercial exploitation of Bureau managed lands. This is particularly reflected in the Special Use Policy. As worded, this policy is too broad and vague to be useful in providing meaningful guidance. Since the statutory uses allowed under 12 M.R.S.A. §§1816, 1838 and 1852 include such facilities as transmission lines, pipelines, public roads, dam sites, dump sites and flowage rights, the Special Use Policy amounts to a huge loophole in the IRP. I am particularly concerned that no protection is afforded to surface waters occurring within the Bureau's properties, although these are an essential component of healthy fisheries. Significant irreversible damage to the Bureau's properties and the State's resources could occur if the Special Use Policy is not limited by further wording such as that contained in the 1985 policy with respect to dumps. That 1985 wording came about in response to the possible siting of a low-level radioactive dump on Bureau property: "The Bureau will ... resist all attempts to establish disposal facilities of any sort which may have an adverse impact on the resource base." (1985 IRP, p. 29.) Similar wording should be inserted in the proposed IRP to make clear that although Special Uses may be provided for by statute, new Special Uses will be resisted if they would adversely impact the resource base.

In addition, the policy on Special Uses should contain more restrictions for permitting special uses. The proposed policy allows for private, commercial use on Bureau administered lands provided that "fair compensation is provided and/or a public benefit is demonstrated in the granting of exclusive rights and privileges." (IRP, p.75.) This is a significant departure from past policy, which stated that "all leases and special use permits will be subject to fees at current market rates. (1985 IRP, page 13.) At the very least, the same criteria should apply for special uses as apply for commercial uses of nonrenewable resources: "written permission of the Bureau Director in accordance with the following: no reasonable alternative exists, there is no significant adverse impact on visual or natural resources, clear public benefit is demonstrated, and the Bureau receives fair market value for the resources." (IRP, p. 23 at 4.B.)

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the draft IRP. I hope you will consider tightening up the policies to assure that the public lands receive the protection the public deserves and expects. I look forward to seeing new policies in place and I hope the Bureau actively monitors their performance. — *Pamela Prodan*



*Tumbledown/Little Jackson Mountains from Mount Blue State Park. Photo © Pamela Prodan*

## Forest Legacy in Western Maine

THIS SPRING, the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands submitted a Forest Legacy Project application to the USDA Forest Service for the Mt. Blue/Tumbledown Project Area for consideration for funding in fiscal year 2001. The proposed acquisition is part of Maine's Northern Forest Program. Phase I of the project involves fee acquisition of approximately 3,400 acres of former United Timberlands lands surrounded by and adjacent to the 5,000 acre Mount Blue State Park. Parts of the Park and the Phase I land that include a unique graminoid swale, deer wintering habitat and prime waterfowl habitat have been proposed as an ecological reserve. The inholdings also include key sections of the Park's multi-use trail. Phase II will focus on fee acquisition and conservation easements over 30,000 acres of largely unfragmented forest. This area includes popular recreational trails on Tumbledown, Little Jackson, and Blueberry Mountains as well as exemplary natural communities, including acidic summit, alpine ridge, krumholz, prominent cliffs, talus and acidic cliff communities and several high elevation ponds. Initial cost estimates are \$1.5 million for Phase I and \$8 million for Phase II. So far, though, no federal funds have been earmarked for the project.

## NEW LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN UP AND RUNNING TO SAVE SADDLEBACK

RECENT NEWS ARTICLES appearing in the Bangor Daily News indicate that negotiations for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT) acquisition over Saddleback Mountain are taking place once again and protection of the mountain may be at risk. The articles were written by George Chappell. An article in mid-July indicated that the parties to the negotiations, which include the landowner, the National Park Service and AT supporters, are abiding by a "self-imposed gag order" not to disclose details. The articles are based on leaks from the office of Senator Olympia Snowe.

A subsequent story in late July indicates that the major issues for the latest talks come down to water withdrawal from Eddy Pond for snowmaking; how many, if any, ski lifts would be permitted to be visible from the AT; and whether ski trails would be permitted to cross the AT. Apparently, one way of resolving the last two issues that is being discussed is the relocation of the AT off the mountaintop.

None of the talking points are new, but what is new is the involvement of attorney Severin Beliveau on behalf of the Saddleback owners. Beliveau is a prominent lobbyist based in Augusta, Maine who has a second home in Rangeley. He is well-connected in Democratic circles and reportedly has influence with top officials in the Interior Department.

Out of concern for Saddleback Mountain, a new and urgent letter writing campaign is up and running. To counter the stepped-up pressure on the National Park Service being applied by Beliveau, the owners of the ski area and Maine's two U.S. Senators, activists are urged to contact the Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt directly to insist on full protection of the AT and its viewshed over Saddleback Mountain.

A web site with more information, includ-

ing excellent color photo simulations of the different development scenarios and an easy email that can be sent to Secretary Babbitt, has been set up at <http://trailplace.com> (click on the link, "Urgent - save Saddleback"). The email is set up to be delivered to other key Department of Interior officials and the Maine Congressional delegation as well.

In another development, a local story in the Lewiston Sun Journal describes "the battle between landowners and the Park Service over Appalachian Trail ownership" in Garrison, New York. The Sun Journal is the major newspaper covering the geographic area of Rangeley/Saddleback. Scott Thistle, Franklin County Bureau Chief for the Sun Journal, is the author of this article. In New York, the landowner is a Franciscan monastery where more than 300 friars and nuns live. The press report, dated August 3, is entitled "Government moves to take friar's land" and states that "It is a saga similar to one that has unfolded in Franklin County on Saddleback Mountain where the government and the owners of a ski resort have locked horns for close to 20 years..." However, the story actually reveals that the Park Service, which asked the U.S. Justice Department in May to begin eminent domain proceedings to force the friars to sell 18 acres for the AT, now is asked for a postponement until one final negotiation session is held later this month.

The *Sun Journal* article quotes Chuck Cushman as saying that the Park Service's action against the friars is typical of how the agency acquires land. Cushman is a west coast property rights advocate who was retained by the owners of Saddleback Ski Area and brought to Maine to stir up local sentiment against the effort to protect the AT. AT Park manager Pamela Underhill is quoted as saying that the money to complete trail acquisition has been appropriated and that the Clinton administration wants the job completed before the end of this year. — *Pamela Prodan*



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Spruce Grouse, Fool's Hen, *Dendragapus canadensis*. Photo © Roger Irwin, Maidstone, Vermont.

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