

Appendix E: Additional Correspondence

The following correspondence was received during the period of the Community Listening Sessions via mail and email.

Name: Ashley Lodato

Title/Organization: none given

City, State: former resident of Greenville, ME

As a former Maine resident and frequent visitor to the area in the new Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, I was delighted to learn of the region's appointment to the National Monument roster in August. The area is a unique and beautiful part of Maine's North Woods; conserving it will ensure continued recreational opportunities for residents and visitors and will, I believe, prove to be of economic benefit to the entire state, as visitors travel from afar to explore the new monument.

I understand that you are allowing comments from the public regarding the new monument's management plan and I'd like to weigh in. Increased tourism will have an immediate positive economic impact, but balancing increased recreational access with conservation goals will be challenging. Below are some of my thoughts regarding the management plan.

1) Visitor management--locate services in gateway communities

- a. Situate the visitor centers in the Millinocket/Medway area and the Patten/Sherman area, not within the monument itself.
- b. Rely on local communities surrounding the monument to provide visitor services such as food, lodging, and equipment rental, rather than establishing such facilities within the monument itself.
- c. Within the monument, provide only adequate but simple facilities such as picnic tables, restrooms, interpretative signs, etc. Upon entry to the monument, visitors can collect maps etc. at gate houses on the outskirts of the monument.

2) Roads--reduce and naturalize

- a. Many logging roads exist within the monument. Other than the Loop Road and the Messer Pond Road (north of Haskell Gate), determine which roads should be maintained as bike paths and discontinue use of the rest of the roads and naturalize them.
- b. Protect the wilderness character of Katahdin Lake and Wassataquoik Stream by keeping vehicle traffic at least one mile (preferably more) away from these areas.
- c. Limit vehicle use west of the East Branch to the Loop Road and the Messer Pond Road.
- d. Consider the eventual exclusive use of shuttle buses to minimize traffic and parking needs within the monument, as has been done in many other national parks and monuments with great success.

3) Ecological concerns--conservation before recreation

a. All new facilities, roads, and trails should be constructed with ecological concerns paramount. Protection of habitat, native wildlife, native plants, and ecological systems should govern decisions.

b. Visitors should be educated in Leave No Trace philosophy and practices, particularly regarding staying on trails and proper human waste disposal.

4) Summer trails--non-motorized use

a. Create appealing loop trails for day use and overnight use.

b. Move existing trails off gravel roads and into the woods.

c. Determine which roads should be maintained as bike paths and discontinue use of the rest of the roads and naturalize them (see Roads section).

d. Take "historic motorized use" arguments with a grain of salt. The landowner of part of the Loop Road has NEVER allowed ATV use on his land. All "historic motorized use" on the Loop Road to this point has been illegal.

5) Winter trails--non-motorized use

a. Open the Katahdin Loop Road to cross country day skiers.

b. Severely limit or prohibit snowmobile use. There are dozens of places in Maine that heartily welcome snowmobile traffic; consolidate use in those areas and allow the backcountry character of the new monument to be experienced at leisure through the quiet, sweet-smelling forest.

6) River designation--aim for wilderness designation

a. Admit the East Branch of the Penobscot, Seboeis Stream, and Wassataquoik Stream into the National Wild and Scenic River program, putting them on par with the Allagash River.

7) River use--non-motorized use, consolidate impact

a. Prioritize non-motorized use on the East Branch of the Penobscot

b. Improve campsites on the East Branch by constructing outhouses, fire rings, and picnic tables to consolidate impact. Limit group size to 12 people.

c. Limit drive-in access to the East Branch and construct a hand-carry boat launch south of Bowlin Camps on the east side of the river.

d. Consolidate impact in places such as portage routes and interesting features (Stair Falls, etc.) by increasing signage.

Finally, I hope that you will seriously consider designating most of the land encompassed by the new monument into several wilderness areas over the ten years allowed for this process. Although many Mainers have long had an aversion to the word "wilderness," and although there will undoubtedly be a vocal minority opposing any wilderness efforts every step of the way, I believe that most Mainers understand the benefits of wilderness designation--not just the immediate economic benefits but, more importantly, the concept of a significant legacy for future generations. As you know, Maine has only a tiny fraction of congressionally-designated wilderness land, which is both curious and a bit disgraceful in a state that boasts so much forested, undeveloped land. The Katahdin Woods and Waters

National Monument offers an opportunity to designate small and medium-sized parcels of land into wilderness areas that Mainers can embrace and be proud of and which visitors can appreciate and admire.

Congratulations on the designation of the new monument and good luck with the management plan. Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Name: Aaron Megquier

Title/Organization: Executive Director, Friends of Baxter State Park

City, State: Belfast, ME

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, and more than 1,000 members around the world, welcome to the Katahdin region! We look forward to working with you and your staff over the coming years as the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument (KWWNM) takes shape.

Friends of Baxter State Park (FBSP) has been carefully following conservation efforts on the KWWNM lands for more than 12 years. In late 2004, our Board recognized that permanent conservation of these lands could provide an important ecological buffer for Baxter State Park (BSP). In 2011, FBSP was the first conservation organization in Maine to expressly support a feasibility study for a national park on the EPI lands. In 2014, FBSP sent letters to the Maine congressional delegation reaffirming our support for conservation of these lands, and in 2016 we expressly supported the creation of a national monument.

As you begin the management planning process, we would like to share some ideas and issues that are important to our organization. We provide these as a starting point for discussion and to identify areas that need detailed consideration during the management planning process. FBSP requests the opportunity to serve on the advisory committee for the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

Wildlife

The border between BSP and KWWNM is a human construct - there is no border from an ecological perspective. Many species of wildlife move freely across the border and will continue to do so. We encourage KWWNM to protect wildlife from the impacts of visitor use, consistent with protections in the sanctuary areas of BSP whenever possible. Taken together, BSP and KWWNM contain nearly 300,000 acres, and could offer a vast amount of forest interior for species that depend upon large, unfragmented blocks of habitat. Road density, vehicle speed limits, pets, and visitor rules related to wildlife harassment are all relevant management issues from a wildlife perspective.

Invasive Species

We encourage KWWNM to use the best available scientific data to identify and manage species that should be considered invasive and establish policies to limit the ecological threat posed by invasive species. In particular, we support policies that:

- Prohibit the introduction of invasive plants and animals onto KWWNM.
- Prohibit fishing with live bait on water bodies in KWWNM where native fish species would benefit from such protection.

- Prohibit the transportation of all firewood, or firewood from outside Maine, into KWWNM to limit the spread of invasive insects.
- Remove populations of invasive organisms where possible and manage others to limit their spread on KWWNM and adjacent lands.

Roads

Roads on KWWNM will have a strong impact on the visitor experience and may have significant impacts on wildlife and viewsheds. We encourage KWWNM to consider the following actions related to roads:

- Move the Katahdin Loop Road to a location farther away from Katahdin Lake and adjacent wilderness areas in BSP. The section of greatest concern to us is between mile posts #10 and #13. NPS should ensure that lands surrounding Katahdin Lake are adequately buffered from inappropriate public access and noise from roads and trails on KWWNM. We suggest that the Loop Road be located at least 3 miles from Katahdin Lake to protect the exceptional wilderness character of this area.
- Discontinue the current parking area near Katahdin Brook , just before mile marker 12.
- Consider a shuttle bus system , similar to the one used successfully in Acadia National Park, to provide visitor transportation on the monument.
- Keep the overall road density on the monument to a minimum .

Trails

Trails are one of the most important recreational features of a protected area for visitors. Baxter State Park has a 225-mile trail system spread over 209,644 acres, or approximately 1 mile of trail for every thousand acres. Baxter State Park also maintains a number of large, trail-free zones. We recognize that potential trail connections between KWWNM and BSP will be a topic of discussion over the long term. During the initial management planning process, however, we encourage KWWNM to avoid constructing trails, trailheads, or parking areas that would encourage hikers to cross the BSP boundary, particularly near Katahdin Lake and in areas where BSP maintains trail-free zones. We also urge you to consider relocating the International Appalachian Trail and the trail to Barnard Mountain to a route off the road and farther from the BSP boundary.

Climate Change

We encourage KWWNM to coordinate with BSP on climate change monitoring, adaptation, and mitigation when appropriate. FBSP is preparing to launch a major, two-year study of climate change in BSP and Maine's western mountains. We would welcome the participation of KWWNM in this effort, and invite the National Park Service to join as a partner in this study.

Water Management

The dam on the East Branch of the Penobscot, located at the outlet of Grand Lake Matagamon , impacts the hydrology of a large section of the East Branch of the Penobscot, including large areas in BSP and KWWNM. We recognize that this dam is privately owned , and is not under the control of either BSP or KWWNM. The management of this dam is very important to both, however, as well as to the Penobscot Nation. We encourage KWWNM to carefully consider the ownership, maintenance, and long-term management of this dam, and its role in the recreational and ecological values of the East Branch watershed.

Scenic and Viewshed Impacts

Maintaining scenic quality and viewsheds is critical to both BSP and KWWNM. With a long, shared boundary, and a substantial elevation gradient, visitors to both BSP and KWWNM will spend a great deal of time looking across the border onto neighboring lands. We recognize that KWWNM visitors want beautiful views of Katahdin, and that hikers on Katahdin want beautiful views of surrounding wilderness. We encourage KWWNM to avoid constructing buildings, roads, parking areas, and other infrastructure that would adversely impact views from BSP, especially from Katahdin and other 'mountain summits. We also encourage KWWNM to avoid night lighting that would diminish the exceptional dark skies in the region.

Fire

BSP has a detailed Fire Management Plan that views fire as an integral part of the Park's forested ecosystems. We encourage KWWNM to review this fire plan, and to carefully consider its implications for your management planning. BSP currently employs a wildland fire suppression management strategy on about 59% of the Park, and a wildland fire use strategy on about 41 % of the Park. We encourage KWWNM to establish working partnerships with both BSP and the Maine Forest Service, and to coordinate fire management whenever possible.

Infrastructure

We encourage KWWNM to focus new infrastructure development – including buildings such as visitor centers - in local communities, rather than on the monument itself. We believe this approach will have considerable ecological and economic benefits.

Regional Land Use Planning

We encourage KWWNM to support regional land use planning efforts by gateway communities, and to carefully consider the impact that roads and other infrastructure will have on patterns of human activity outside the monument boundary. We believe a thoughtful approach will help to ensure that the benefits of economic development are optimized to preserve the quality of life and rural character of the Katahdin region.

Cooperation and Planning

We encourage ongoing communication and cooperation between Baxter State Park, the National Park Service, and Friends of Baxter State Park. A trusting, positive working relationship will be beneficial to all parties. Katahdin is part of the name of the monument, and part of the identity of the region. The success of the monument will hinge largely on the quality of its relationships with surrounding communities, and its relationship with Baxter State Park. FBSP is committed to playing a constructive role in the development of positive relationships and in the management planning process over the long term.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments. We look forward very much to working with you over the coming years. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Name: Sierra Club Maine Executive Committee

Title/Organization: Sierra Club Maine

City, State: Portland ME

Sierra Club Maine enthusiastically welcomes the creation of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. Our group has worked to create large-scale conservation areas in northern Maine for over 25 years and we see the creation of the monument as a tremendous accomplishment that will benefit wildlife, recreation, and the economy of Maine. Our members have studied, traveled, and recreated on these lands for decades and are deeply committed to strong ecological stewardship.

These comments will specifically address proposed management options regarding: the management of the river corridors, facility planning, road development, trails, relationships with surrounding lands, and other uses of the monument. However, the key management issue for the Sierra Club is the establishment and maintenance of a large, contiguous wild area in the heart of the new monument. Unlike Acadia National Park, we believe that Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument should remain mostly undeveloped and managed for a remote and undeveloped recreational experience and for ecological connectivity. Although not technically designated wilderness, Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument offers a remote wilderness-like experience that should be fostered and celebrated. Specifically, we would like to see the area of the monument North of Wassataquoik Stream on the west side of the East Branch and the corridor surrounding the East Branch of the Penobscot River and the Seboeis River to remain as undeveloped as possible. This means:

- No new roads should be constructed in these parts of the monument
- No new bridges should be built across the East Branch of the Penobscot River, the Seboeis River, or Wassataquoik Stream
- No new snowmobile trails or other motorized trails should be built in these areas
- Existing logging roads should be closed and ultimately restored in these areas
- The Messer Pond Road should not be extended or upgraded but can remain.
- No roads should be constructed or reopened that approach within ¼ mile of the East Branch of the Penobscot south of the Grand Lake Road and north of Lunksoos Camps
- ATV's should not be permitted on any roads, trails or other lands of the monument.

Maintaining the ecological integrity and sense of remoteness on the western part of the monument through conscious management choices will protect the values for which the monument was established. This is the Sierra Club's bottom-line goal. The following are specific aspects of our management recommendation.

Management of the river corridors

As President Obama proclaimed "Among the defining natural features of Katahdin Woods and Waters is the East Branch of the Penobscot River system, including its major tributaries, the Seboeis River and the Wassataquoik Stream, and many smaller tributaries. Known as one of the least developed watersheds in the northeastern United States, the Penobscot East Branch River system has a stunning concentration of hydrological features in addition to its significant geology and ecology." (Presidential Proclamation -- Establishment of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument August 24, 2016) Simply put, the East Branch of the Penobscot River is a gem. Challenging rapids and significant portages have limited the number of canoeists who travel the length of the river, but it is truly one of the best remote canoeing trips in the Eastern United States. The Department of the Interior determined that the East Branch of the Penobscot River, including the Wassataquoik Stream, qualified for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System based on its outstandingly remarkable values. (1977) Protecting those outstandingly remarkable

values, including the remote feel of the river, through a protected corridor is essential to preserving this experience. In particular the stretch of river from above Stair Falls, through Haskell Rock Pitch, Pond Pitch, Grand Pitch, the Hulling Machine, down to Bowlin Falls should remain accessible only by foot or personal watercraft.

The beautiful silver maple floodplain forest below the Friske Brook campsite is also extraordinary and although the natural topography makes development less of a threat, there should be a wide protective corridor here as well. Although the river corridor can be shared with the International Appalachian Trail and potentially other foot traffic, it should not be accessible by vehicles of any type except at Grand Lake Road in the north and the Swift Brook Road in the south. This would require closing vehicular access at the Elbow. At this point, the NPS should monitor watercraft use on the river to determine an appropriate carrying capacity but should not set quotas or other use restrictions. Campsites should be minimally improved by the installation of outhouses and other safety features but should not be developed further. Portage trails should be effectively signed.

The Seboeis River and Wassataquoik Stream do not offer the same world-class canoe tripping opportunities, but they are ecologically, historically, and scenically outstanding resources that should be managed to protect those features. Similar to the East Branch there should be a protective corridor on both streams and no new crossings or vehicular access should be created. Orin Falls on the Wassataquoik should remain only accessible by foot.

Facility planning

Most visitor facilities should be developed close to neighboring communities or even outside of the monument itself. The towns of Patten, Sherman Mills, and Staceyville could provide sufficient lodging and dining facilities so that food and lodging concessions are not needed within the monument itself. The NPS should encourage private campgrounds like Matagammon Wilderness Campgrounds at the north entrance to the monument to provide camping and lodging opportunities for visitors. This would reduce the amount of development in the park and also provide economic opportunities for neighboring towns. Gas stations and other retail establishments should not be developed inside of the monument. Use of existing facilities and institutions such as the Patten Lumber Museum for interpretive programming would save money and utilize an incredible local resource.

Sierra Club believes that development of park service facilities should be minimal. Any necessary development should be on the east side of the East Branch or in the very south of the monument where the Katahdin Loop Road presently exists. It would be much preferable to develop any campgrounds within the monument on the East side close to Staceyville or Patten. A campsite in the northeast area off of the Grodin or Waters Roads just outside of Patten would be convenient, ecologically preferable, easier to maintain, and better for the neighboring towns. Similarly, a NPS campground if absolutely necessary in the southern part of the monument, would be better adjacent to the Swift Brook Road before it descends into the valley. The monument visitor center and headquarters could be located in Patten, Staceyville, or Sherman Mills.

Road development

Ever since the days of Stephen Mather, the Park Service has used roads as the default method of enabling visitors to enjoy national parks and monuments. From Acadia to Yosemite, Zion and Smokey Mountains, the Park Service has begun to see the folly of that approach. Although the Sierra Club does not see an obviously feasible way for Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument to use mass transit or public transport in its initial

management plan, that should remain an option for the future and management actions now should prepare for that opportunity, not undermine it. Reestablishment of rail along the old Bangor and Aroostook line could make it possible to access this area from Bangor. In the meantime, the Park Service should not construct miles of roads inside the monument. Upgrading the existing Katahdin Loop road and some key existing access roads into the monument would suffice for most visitor needs.

The default for the Park Service should be to abandon any existing logging road or to make it into a hiking trail, not to turn it into a permanent road. Existing “town roads”, such as the Sherman Lumber Company Road, should be evaluated for their impact on wildlife and visitor experience before making any improvements to the roads. No new roads should be built within the river corridors as noted above or within the core ecological area north of the Wassataquoik on the western side of the East Branch. To the extent possible, roads should be moved out of shoreland zones and other sensitive habitats. At the end of 10 years there should be considerably fewer roads in the national monument than there are at present and very few permanent roads.

Trails

Both multi-day and day-use hiking trails should be a major feature of the new monument. The existing International Appalachian Trail, the Keep Path, and several more recent trails should be maintained. Existing logging roads should be evaluated to assess their suitability for further trail or cross-country ski trail development. Trail access to Haskell Rock Pitch, Pond Pitch, Grand Pitch, and the Hulling Machine should be limited to overnight backpacking excursions and not short day hikes in order to preserve the sense of remoteness and relative solitude that so distinguishes that part of the river. Trails should be developed in the southwestern and northeastern segments of the park, to encourage dispersed visitor use and to take pressure off of the East Branch and Wassataquoik corridors.

Relationships with surrounding lands

It is problematic that the Park Service only holds fee title to lands on the west side of the East Branch of the Penobscot River for most of its length (with the exceptions of the areas near Lunksoos camp and by Big Spring Brook). This will make management of the river corridor along the East Branch difficult at best and potentially disastrous as the east side lands will be very attractive for amenity development. Although State of Maine Shoreland zoning provides some protection, to realistically manage this central resource in the monument will require some control over the full corridor west and east. The NPS should endeavor ASAP to purchase or obtain easements on the east side of the East Branch and along the Seboeis as soon as possible. Similarly, the block of land south of Lunksoos Camps on the east side of the East Branch should be put under a conservation easement as well.

The Park Service should manage the monument lands adjacent to Baxter State park to complement Baxter’s “forever wild” and trail-free management goals. Ultimately, those could become shared goals as the Park Service seeks to manage the western part of the monument for a similar remote experience that emphasizes ecological connectivity over recreational use. The State of Maine Public Reserve lands along the Wassataquoik might provide a different challenge. Although those lands are of exceptional ecological value, the State of Maine has not always been a good steward and the Park Service should use all

means at its disposal to encourage thoughtful and ecologically sound harvesting if it is to take place on these lands.

Lastly, the Park Service needs to work closely with surrounding towns to try to guide development along the boundaries of the park. Sierra Club has worked diligently across the nation to try to protect national parks from inappropriate development just outside their boundaries. Although the Park Service has no legal authority outside of the monument boundaries, they can offer technical assistance and other support to neighboring towns who would like that kind of support. One of the great resource assets of the monument is its strikingly dark skies. The absence of light pollution provides an unobscured view of the heavens rare in the Eastern United States. Of course all monument facilities should be "dark sky friendly", but through collaboration and outreach, surrounding facilities on private land should seek to maintain the dark sky resource as well.

Other uses of the monument

Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument has an opportunity to be a different kind of park than others in the east – it truly can be wild and remote. Potential uses such as ATV's or other motorized uses will destroy that unique aspect of this park. Hunting and snowmobiling are permitted in the eastern segments of the monument so there is room for those uses, but the western part of the monument should remain free of any uses that will impair visitors' experiences and the ecological integrity of the areas. Minimal development with carefully planned and incrementally established facilities is the way to proceed. We are confident that the Park Service will take the time to fully understand the landscape before any alterations are undertaken. This is a special place and we have the money and time to do it right, we owe future generation that obligation. In the words of Secretary Jewell, you are in the "forever business." This is the first big step into that forever, let's start it off in the right direction.

If you have any questions about these comments or would like additional information, the Sierra Club Maine would be happy to meet with you or your staff.

Name: Allen Wicken

City, State: none given

Title/Organization: Correspondent, Rangeley Highlander

Personally Checking Out the Maine Property That All of Us Now Own

I am, of course, talking about the new "Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument (KWWNM)" as designated by President Obama in late August, the day before the 100-year anniversary of the National Park Service. Last week I and a friend explored the monument lands to see its features firsthand !

Regular readers of this column will recall my North by NorthEast essay in late May of this year, recounting my bus trip from the headquarters of the Maine Audubon Society in Falmouth to the University of Maine campus in Orono along with hundreds of other like-minded supporters from all around the state. The goal was to show support, and in some cases, provide testimony before, the Director of the National Park Service, Jonathan Jarvis,

who traveled to Maine at the invitation of Senator Angus King to hear Maine citizens, both for and against the monument designation.

I provided supportive testimony, and forwarded followup written copies of my statement of support, to both Senator King and Director Jarvis. A key part of my testimony was to make the point that creation of the KWWNP would not only be beneficial for the economy of the Katahdin/Millinocket region, but also for all inland Maine tourism destination areas...i.e. the Rangeley Lakes Region, for example.

So, last week I, and my good friend since the late '70s when we both lived in Cape Elizabeth, Steve Hill, decided that a joint exploration of these lands was in order, so off we went for a 36-hour visit to those many acres that are now the property of all of us Americans...

I have been a strong advocate for a national park in that area ever since it was first proposed in the early '90s. That wasn't to be, especially because a park would require congressional approval which would have been hard to accomplish, even if the lands, and the money to develop and maintain the lands properly were offered free of charge by Roxanne Quimby and her family. We all know that a national park designation would be impossible for the foreseeable future, given the fractured congress we now have to rely on for anything constructive. A presidential national monument designation was possible, however, and it came to pass last month.

Steve has also supported the idea, however a bit more cautiously than me. Before our trip, he was still in a "wait and see" mode, insofar as whether or not these lands east of Baxter State Park and Mount Katahdin were worthy enough to attract New Englanders and others from around the country, to come to appreciate what upcountry Maine has to offer. The only way we could truly render an honest assessment of the new national monument was to go there. So, last week we did.

Finding both the northern and southern entrances makes one recall old "Bert and I" Maine humor phrase; "You can't get there from here". Well, you can get there from wherever you are, but you need a bit of local guidance in addition to the newly created NPS map of the area.

We entered the northern section in the early of afternoon of Monday the 12th, parked about 10 miles in and subsequently took an extended hike along the East Branch of the Penobscot River...with side hikes to Staircase Falls, the wide spot in the river called the Haskell Deadwater, and the the downstream Haskell Pitch and a very interesting volcanic formation known as Haskell Rock. It was a great, and very interesting, 6-mile hike overall, on the first of two beautiful September days.

After a fine evening communal dinner with other guests at the Mount Chase Lodge on Upper Shin Pond about 15 miles from that northern entrance, and a good, and justly earned, night's sleep....Steve and I got up early and were on the road before 6 a.m. in order that we might capture some early morning sun reflecting off the eastern faces of Mount Katahdin from the "Katahdin Loop Road" in the southern part of the monument.

It is a bit slow going on the slightly improved pavement and mostly gravel logging roads one needs to traverse to get to the southern entrance, hence, the early start. After finally getting there, and crossing the East Branch of the Penobscot on a very scenic single lane bridge, one

reaches the southern entrance, and the most informative sign in the monument (see photo). I trust that many more directional signs are on the NPS's "to-do list" for the coming year.

The Loop Road was spectacular in its viewpoints of the great mountain of Maine...Katahdin (see second photo). We agreed that those viewpoints were worthy enough for a northern Maine woods and waters (and mountain) showcase. We also agreed that there were ample streams, ponds, and small mountaintops for further remote and pristine camping and hiking services. We also agreed that it will take a few years to take full advantage of the monument's potential....just like it took years for the rest of the National Park Services' park and monument jewels to come into their own...these jewels of what has been called "America's Greatest Idea" for 100 years.

On our way out, late on Tuesday morning, we again crossed that one-lane access bridge over the Penobscot's East Branch. As we crossed, we noticed a cluster of about 30 lifejacket-clad middle school-age youngsters and a dozen or more canoes crowded into a "put-in" area on the riverbank to the right. As we completed our bridge crossing, we called out to some guides and/or teachers, and the school bus driver, as the last of the canoes were being unloaded. We shouted out a few questions from Steve's truck cab: Where you from? "Millinocket" was the answer. High school students? "Nope, 8th-graders" was the answer.

For me, that said it all. Here were teachers and school children from one of the paper mill towns in the area that have been hit hard in recent years by mill closings, yet the residents still hanging on, opposed to the establishment and significant economic potential of a change to a tourism economy focused on these abundant natural assets. The parents of many of these kids were probably among those who had significant reservations regarding the establishment of the monument.

This Millinocket middle school's faculty and administration (and hopefully the parents) have clearly been giving the area's future a lot of thought...and it rests with the proper fostering of an appreciation of the natural environment on its own terms through the educational experiences of the region's next generations.

The subsequent ride back home for me was filled with many great images, the greatest of which was the image of those kids eagerly awaiting the first strokes of their paddles as they headed downriver. The forward-thinkers have prevailed on many levels, and it seems they have all rolled up their sleeves and are already working to help make their positive visions for the area's future come to pass.

Name: John W. Gale; Robert R. Bryan

Title/Organization: Conservation Director, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers; Co-Chair Backcountry Hunters & Anglers New England Chapter

City, State: Missoula, MT; Harpswell, ME 04079

Dear Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument Planning Team:

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA) is a rapidly growing national organization of sportsmen and women that advocates for our wild public lands, waters, and wildlife. As an organization founded on access to and sound management of public lands for hunting and

fishing, BHA remains invested in the future of KWWNM and intends to engage in the planning process that will determine how this monument will be managed so that Maine traditions and our outdoor heritage will be considered as a priority. With the recent transfer of the lands that make up the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument (KWWNM) to the public domain and establishment of the Monument, the New England Chapter of BHA and BHA's national office recognize the KWWNM planning process as an important opportunity to speak up on behalf of fish and wildlife habitat and management of hunting and fishing opportunities.

Our comments focus on:

- Conservation of native and wild brook trout and other wild salmonid populations and associated concerns regarding increased access and associated fishing pressure.
- Creation of backcountry hunting opportunities to the west of the East Branch of the Penobscot.
- Establishment of significant backcountry areas throughout KWWNM.

1. Conservation of Native and Wild Brook Trout and Other Wild Salmonids:

As defined by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), the forested regions of northern Maine include populations of "native" (never stocked) and "wild" (some prior stocking but now self-reproducing) brook trout. The Wassataquoik River and a number of other streams and ponds in the KWWNM have nationally significant populations of native and/or wild brook trout, and the East Branch of the Penobscot is a noted fishery resource. As noted by MDIFW, preservation of native and wild brook trout will require minimizing additional loss of habitat, restoring degraded habitat, protecting water quality, preventing the introduction of competing fish species, and protecting native and wild populations from overharvest. BHA is confident that the NPS will address habitat loss, habitat restoration, and protection of water quality. However, to address introduction of competing fish species and protect native and wild populations from overharvest, NPS will need to carefully consider its fishing regulations and recreation infrastructure.

Introduction of competing fish species. This can be addressed by regulations that require artificial lures only, by enforcement, and by not expanding access to waters that are currently remote.

Overharvest of wild populations. Various strategies can be used to address this concern, including reducing bag limits, increasing minimum sizes and/or establishing slot limits for fish, requiring catch and release only, and not significantly expanding access to remote ponds, streams, and rivers.

Given BHA's concerns regarding introduced fish species and potential overharvesting described above, what steps will NPS take to ensure that populations of native and wild brook trout and other wild salmonids are maintained?

2. Creation of Backcountry Hunting Opportunities to the West of the East Branch of the Penobscot:

From the end of the last ice age until just a few years ago the entire area was open to hunting. As noted in the Presidential Proclamation, the area has attracted non-native hunters, anglers, and hikers since the 1800s. While hunting with certain restrictions is permitted by deed on monument lands located to the east of the East Branch of the

Penobscot River, the KWWNM map shows that hunting is not allowed in the area west of the river: approximately 54,000 acres, or 62 percent of the national monument. This is surprising because the Proclamation states that the monument was established to conserve the "natural, historical, and cultural heritage" of the area, yet a significant historical and cultural heritage--hunting--is prohibited on almost two-thirds of the Monument. Due to the size of this area, BHA believes that significant backcountry hunting opportunities can be created to the west of the river without creating conflicts with non-hunting visitors.

Given BHA's concerns about the loss of traditional hunting areas described above, what steps will NPS take to restore hunting in backcountry areas west of the East Branch of the Penobscot River?

3. Establishment of Backcountry Areas:

Development of the KWWNM is likely to involve some improvement of vehicular access and could threaten the backcountry values of the area. As part of the overall plan and prior to developing roads and other infrastructure, the NPS should designate backcountry areas of significant size to provide wilderness experiences for hunters, anglers, and other recreationists. Backcountry areas of particular concern to BHA include the areas surrounding the Wassataquoik River, other river corridors, the large blocks of forest between the current road network and Baxter State Park, areas within one to two miles of remote ponds, and other forest areas not divided by roads.

Given BHA's concerns about infrastructure development and interest in backcountry described above, what steps will NPS take to establish and/or restore significant backcountry areas throughout the KWWNM?

Thank you for considering our comments and integrating BHA into the management planning process for Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. With millions of acres of public lands managed by the Department of Interior providing incredible habitat for fish and wildlife, our members know how extremely important they are to hunters and anglers. We appreciate your dedication to retaining important recreational opportunities like hunting and fishing on America's public lands and look forward to our continued work together to ensure that this unique legacy remains uncompromised for the hunters and anglers that follow us and inherit our example of thoughtful stewardship. Please don't hesitate to include us in future planning processes or contact BHA if you would like to discuss our comments in greater detail.

Name: James C. Tassé, PhD

Title/Organization: Assistant Director, Bicycle Coalition of Maine

City, State: none given

The Bicycle Coalition of Maine is the statewide organization that works to make Maine better for bicycling and walking. We support and provide assistance to all projects and community efforts to create environments that are safe and welcoming for those traveling or recreating on foot or bicycle.

We are writing to provide comments for consideration as the management plan is created for the newly formed "Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument."

1. We urge that the management plan of the Monument take into consideration the needs of persons walking or riding bicycles in all on-road transportation-related decisions. Good shoulders provide a safer place for walkers and bike riders on the road, and narrower travel lanes are recognized by FHWA to improve speed limit compliance by motorists and increase space for other users. Paved roadways in the Monument should be designed to include 5 foot shoulders and travel lanes of 10.5 feet or less. All visitor areas should include bike racks and good sidewalk systems.

2. We assume that the Monument will include backcountry hiking trails, but we want to encourage the inclusion of backcountry biking trails in the plans for the land. Off-road trail riding opportunities are a proven economic driver. Vermont's Northeast Kingdom Trails are the best New England example of how a great trail system can stimulate millions of dollars in economic activity, but Maine's Carrabassett Region is an in-state example of how "if you build trails, they will come." The Eliot Plantation lands are already a known but under-utilized backcountry bicycling area in Maine. The KAWW National Monument affords a unique opportunity to use the burgeoning interest in off-road riding to immediately draw visitors and stimulate the local economy by appealing to a market of users that is low impact, environmentally friendly, and healthy. The management plan should take advantage of the opportunity to create a monument that appeals to all, but that offers special value to off-road riders seeking backcountry riding opportunities in the 10-100 mile range.

3. The Bicycle Coalition of Maine is happy to join any discussions regarding on or off transportation and recreation planning in the new National Monument.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Name: Jym St. Pierre

Title/Organization: RESTORE: The North Woods

City, State: Hallowell, ME

RESTORE: The North Woods is submitting the following preliminary comments concerning the National Park Service (NPS) Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument (KWWNM) management planning process. Because our organization has been involved with this project from its inspiration, we intend to follow it closely and to have further comments as the planning process continues.

1. Guiding principles. The lands and waters within KWWNM traditionally have been considered part of the Maine wildlands. The management plan should emphasize:

- restoring and maintaining wilderness character
- providing low-impact recreational activities
- achieving a balance to meet ecological, recreational and economic needs

2. Conform to the deeds, proclamation and NPS policy. The deeds transferring the land to the Department of Interior, the presidential proclamation creating the Monument, and National Park Service policy allow and limit particular activities. Monument lands west of the Penobscot River East Branch generally should be managed as a National Park. The lands east of the Penobscot River East Branch generally should be managed as a National Preserve.

2.1. Allowed uses. The lands and waters within the Monument traditionally have been used for low-impact, remote recreational activities. The plan should emphasize continuation of these uses, including sightseeing, picnicking, day hiking, backpacking, tent/shelter camping, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, nature study and photography, landscape painting, wildlife watching, and paddling the Penobscot River East Branch and Seboeis River. If congestion becomes a concern at popular sites, Baxter State Park provides a good model for dispersing recreational use through a reservation system for campsites and huts and by controlling parking in particular areas.

2.2. Prohibited uses. There should be no commercial forestry, mining or other resource extraction, no commercial and industrial development, and no use of drones on Monument lands (except possibly for NPS approved resource management studies).

2.3. Wildlife. Management of wildlife on Monument lands should be consistent with NPS law and policy. That generally means restoring and protecting the full diversity of native animal and plant species and managing their habitats according to sound ecological principles. In conjunction with Baxter State Park, The Nature Conservancy, and others with conservation properties in the vicinity, the Monument offers an extraordinary opportunity to manage habitat in the Maine Woods especially for species that require or thrive in large forest interiors. Non-native animals and plants, especially invasive species, should be prohibited. If dogs are allowed, they should be required to be under leash control at all times.

2.4. Paddling. Canoeing is a traditional activity on the Penobscot River East Branch, the Seboeis River, and on rare occasions on Wassataquoik Stream. NPS should work with the private sector to provide canoe shuttle service and professional guides for users paddling the Penobscot East Branch and Seboeis River. NPS should also anticipate other recreational water uses, including rafting.

2.5. Fishing. In accordance with NPS policy, fishing can be allowed on Monument lands subject to state regulation. Use of live bait should be prohibited in waters that are at risk from invasive species.

2.6. Hunting. In accordance with NPS law and policy, hunting should not be allowed on Monument lands west of the Penobscot River East Branch. In accordance with the proclamation and deeds, hunting can be allowed on Monument lands east of the Penobscot River East Branch subject to applicable law. Hunting may be restricted in designated zones and during designated periods for reasons of public safety, administration, or resource protection. Hunting of bears with bait or dogs is prohibited on Monument lands.

2.7. Trapping. In accordance with the deeds, trapping is not allowed on Monument lands except as part of an NPS species or ecological management plan.

2.8. Snowmobiling. In accordance with the proclamation, snowmobiling should be allowed only on designated trails on Monument lands east of the Penobscot River East Branch and on one small area west of the river.

2.9. Mountain biking. Mountain biking can be allowed on appropriate trails on Monument lands.

3. Wilderness Areas. The plan should identify areas that qualify for formal Wilderness designation. The central core of the western part of the Monument, for example, between Haskell Gate in the north and the Loop Road in the south, may qualify as Wilderness. The plan should also identify other portions of the Monument that may not be designated as Wilderness Areas but that can be managed to maintain their remote backcountry character.

4. Wild & Scenic Rivers. As the proclamation notes, "a 1977 Department of the Interior study determined that the East Branch of the Penobscot River, including Wassataquoik Stream, qualifies for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System based on its outstandingly remarkable values, and a 1982 Federal-State study of rivers in Maine determined that the Penobscot East Branch River System, including both the Wassataquoik Stream and the Seboeis River, ranks in the highest category of natural and recreational rivers and possesses nationally significant resource values." The Penobscot River East Branch, Wassataquoik Stream, and the Seboeis River should be designated as Wild Rivers within the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

5. Viewsheds. Scenic views are one of the most treasured assets of the Monument, especially to and from adjoining Baxter State Park. NPS should site all buildings, roads, and other constructions to avoid adverse scenic impacts. One of the greatest assets of the Monument is being located in an area of the U.S. that still has minimal intrusion from artificial light. NPS should maintain the dark skies as a priority natural resource.

6. Climate change. Accelerating climate disruption is one of the biggest issues facing all parks. In cooperation with other federal agencies, state agencies, the University of Maine, and nonprofit organizations working to address climate change, NPS should set up a system to monitor, and where feasible mitigate, the impacts of climate change in the Monument.

7. Advisory Committee. As is done at other National Parks, NPS should form an Advisory Committee to provide ongoing input to NPS management of the Monument. Membership should include a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives of area communities, Monument users, conservation and recreation organizations, and interested citizens qualified by their professional expertise and/or experience to provide valuable input. RESTORE requests a seat on the Advisory Committee.

8. A good neighbor to BSP. The Monument is adjacent to the most important wilderness park in New England, Baxter State Park (BSP). The plan should protect the wilderness character of Baxter State Park, including, as mentioned elsewhere in these comments, by protecting views from BSP to KWWNM and discouraging illegal entry into BSP from KWWNM lands. Also, BSP may serve as a good model of management for wilderness and backcountry values.

9. A good neighbor to private landowners. NPS should cooperate with public and private landowners, to provide effective signage to the Monument, to ensure safe travel on roads leading to the Monument, and to provide efficient flow of wood from surrounding commercial forestlands.

10. A good neighbor to area communities. As is done at other National Parks, NPS should work with towns in the region to provide effective signage to the Monument, to encourage smart growth policies, to support land use planning by gateway communities to preserve their quality of life and rural character, and to ensure a sustainable environmental and economic future for the Katahdin region.

11. Friends group. As is done at many other parks, an independent organization could be set up to monitor and, where appropriate, support activities by NPS in the Monument. Although this is not the responsibility of NPS, a Friends group can provide vital service in supporting the mission of the NPS and to add strength, capacity and a measure of excellence to NPS operations.

12. Infrastructure. Where appropriate, it makes sense to continue the use of existing campsites, huts, roads and trails and other infrastructure in the Monument.

12.1. Campsites and campgrounds. The plan should consider the number and location of campsites (with privy, picnic table and fire ring) and, where appropriate, continue the use of existing campsites. Camping in the area west of the Penobscot River East Branch should be limited to tent and shelter use and not involve use of RVs and other motorized camping facilities. Campgrounds should be sized and located in a manner that does not detract from the natural resources and scenic values of the area, and should not include electrical or water hookups. NPS should work closely with surrounding communities and the private sector to provide RV camping facilities in Millinocket, Shin Pond, Patten, and/or other appropriate nearby areas. To minimize the chance of introducing invasive insects, firewood from outside the state should be prohibited.

12.2. Huts. The plan should consider the number and location of huts or cabins and, where appropriate, continue the use of existing cabins. Electricity, water, sewage and other utilities should be limited to maintain the primitive nature of these facilities.

12.3. Trails. The plan should consider the location and condition of trails and, where appropriate, continue the use of existing trails. Changes to the International Appalachian Trail should be made to restrict inappropriate access to Baxter State Park from the Monument. All trails should be well built to sustain significant use; Baxter State Park offers a good model. Special attention should be given to protecting wildlife habitat and wilderness and scenic character.

12.4. Roads. There are numerous logging roads in the Monument from earlier forestry operations. The plan should identify which of these woods roads should be converted to trails and which should be actively or passively restored to natural forest conditions. The northernmost part of the Loop Road should be relocated further from the Baxter State Park boundary to ensure that the wild character of lands around Katahdin Lake is protected from inappropriate access from and activities occurring in the Monument. A shuttle bus system, as is successfully used in other national parks, should be considered to reduce vehicular use in the Monument.

12.5. Discovery center. A high quality discovery center with interpretive displays would enhance the visitor experience of KWWNM. The plan should identify an appropriate location, inside or outside the Monument, for a discovery center and a timeline for developing the facility. In designing and siting any visitor or discovery centers, special attention should be given to protecting wildlife habitat and wilderness and scenic character. It may be important not to fix the location of any visitor center(s) in or near the Monument until the primary road access is finalized.

12.6. Headquarters. As with Baxter State Park, the Monument headquarters would be best located in one of the gateway communities, such as Millinocket.

12.7 Dams. The private Matagamon Dam at the outlet of Grand Lake Matagamon, which has a major impact on flows in the Penobscot River East Branch, is in need of significance maintenance. NPS should consider alternative futures, including if the dam is repaired or removed.

13. Programming. Among the services NPS provides especially well are interpretive talks, walks and other programs for visitors. The plan should outline appropriate programs for visitors featuring the natural and human history of the Monument and the region. NPS should also work with area schools to provide interpretive programs inside and outside the Monument for students, and NPS should consider establishing an artist-in-residence program.

14. Information. NPS should work with Eastern National Parks and Monuments Association, the NPS Harpers Ferry Center, and/or other service providers to produce books, brochures, maps, videos, computer apps and other materials to aid interpretation of the Monument.

15. Ecological integrity. KWWNM is comprised of fragmented parcels. To ensure ecological integrity, the Monument should be expanded by adding lands through donations and acquisitions from willing sellers.

Name: Kevin Slater; Polly Mahoney

Title/Organization: Founding Board Member of Maine Wilderness Guides Organization;
Co-owners Mahoosuc Guide Service

City, State: Newry, ME

Recommendations for the Process of Developing the Management Plan for Katahdin Woods and Water National Monument

These recommendations for the proposed National Monument are made with the following goals in mind:

- Protection and conservation of the areas unique natural features
- Insuring economic benefits to the affected regions economy
- Addressing locals concerns about loss of control and traditional uses

1. Moving Toward a Co-operative Management Plan

The listening sessions are a good start to gather public input. There is however a real concern that when policies and regulations are developed, it will be behind closed doors without public input or involvement.

Parks Canada has developed a different model of management for it's newest National Park - Torngat Mountains. The main feature of this model is the co-operative management board that recognizes area residents and the general public as full partners in developing the management plan. The board is composed of area stakeholders and others who have special expertise and knowledge of the area.

While some aspects of the Parks Canada model may not apply to Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument (i.e. Inuit Land Claims) much of it does and I believe would go a long way to address local concerns about the management of the monument. For more info go to: Parks Canada Torngat Mountains/Park Management. (<http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/nl/torngats/plan.aspx>).

KWW National Monument could have a 7 member co-operative management board appointed to meet regularly with the Superintendent to develop Park policies and regulations. This would go a long way in increasing local support for the monument and in the end result in better decisions being made. For example the board could include:

- Baxter State Park staff member (Jensen Bissell or Baxter State Park Chief Ranger)
- Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife member
- 2 Local member at large - (for example an adjacent large landowner and a local town selectman)
- Local Registered Maine guide who is knowledgeable of the area
- Eliotsville Plantation representative

- Member of the Penobscot Nation (for example John Banks, Butch Phillips or James Francis)

2. Monument Impact and Benefit Agreement:

This would essentially outline how the monument agrees to work with local communities to have a positive economic impact. It would address topics such as:

- Local hire preference
- Guides & outfitter assurances that they can continue to operate without excessive fees & paperwork
- Contracted work - local hire preference
- Local goods procurement preference
- Others to insure the local economy receives as much benefit as possible from the creation of the monument
- Grandfathered clauses for sporting camps, guides, outfitters, etc.

3. Management of the River Corridor

The most outstanding natural feature of the proposed National Monument area is the East Branch of the Penobscot River. The National Monument contains most of the western shore of the river, but a conservation river corridor needs to be included for the eastern shoreline. There is currently a state conservation easement that prohibits any further shoreline development. I would encourage KWW to work towards the protection, conservation, and eventual inclusion of the eastern shoreline of the river corridor. To achieve this it may take anything from leasing campsites to fee acquisition from willing sellers.

Topics that need to be addressed under this area include:

- Permitting of river guides
- Development of campsites along the river; especially those on the east shore on private land (i.e. the Oxbow, Grand Pitch)
- Protection of the eastern shoreline not included in the monument (campsites, historic carry trails, non motorized buffer)
- Safety - how to insure that canoeists attempting the East Branch have the experience necessary to do it safely
- Management of campsite use

Thanks for taking the time to read and consider the above comments.

Name: Ken Spalding

Title/Organization: none given

City, State: Wayne, ME

Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument Management Planning Suggestions

- Management needs to be within the parameters set by the Presidential Proclamation, the deeds that transferred the property to the U.S., and National Park Service policy.
- Maintain the essential wild character of the Maine Woods, with low impact, dispersed recreation

- Manage the lands west of the East Branch of the Penobscot River as national parks are generally managed. With the exception that, according to the deeds, snowmobiling is allowed in the southern parcel in T3R7 WELS.
- Manage the lands east of the East Branch of the Penobscot River (East Branch) as national preserves are generally managed.
- Maximize wilderness management, especially west of the East Branch.
- Ensure that all access roads are safe, especially regarding truck traffic related to private logging operations, and that such truck traffic is not impeded by Monument traffic. This may require separate roads for the two uses.
- Enhance the wilderness character of Baxter State Park (BSP) by managing lands near the BSP border, such as within 3 miles, as wilderness. Avoid management that brings Monument users close to BSP, especially vehicles. Ensure that no Monument facilities promote unmanaged access to BSP.
 - If the Loop Road is maintained generally in its current location, move the road a significant distance away from BSP and Katahdin Lake
 - The IAT is an exception, but vehicle access points to the IAT should be at least 3 miles from the BSP boundary.
 - Future cooperative management with BSP that allows for interconnected hiking trails should not be ruled out.
- Determine the basic infrastructure needs and ideal locations for infrastructure based on the resources and natural assets of the Monument and the external road systems. After the basic ideal infrastructure is outlined, consider the existing structure to determine what existing structure should be used and what should be newly created. Also consider the possibility that the two parcels named in the proclamation that remain in private ownership, could be acquired.
- Locate a visitors center in the most convenient location for all visitors, regardless of visitors' point of entry to the monument. After determining the best general location, site the center in a desirable natural setting. This may be on the Monument, but may very well be closer to Route 11.
- Co-locate an education center with the visitor center. Take advantage of the natural and cultural history for a vibrant educational program.
- Recognizing that the Monument is a national resource, be especially considerate of Maine and local area needs and concerns. To the extent legally possible, use Maine and local providers for materials and services. Provide assistance to area communities to be able to plan for making good advantage of the Monument while avoiding undesirable outcomes. This should include assistance with municipal land use planning.
- Dispersed camping, such as currently exists should be the preferred type of camping in the Monument. If a campground is deemed needed to accommodate the number of visitors, providing that facility should be considered as a private facility outside the Monument, but a campground within the Monument should also be considered on the east side of the East Branch. RV camping should be provided privately outside of the Monument.

Name: Jensen Bissell
Title/Organization: Director, Baxter State Park
City, State: Millinocket, ME

We welcome an opportunity to work with our new neighbor, Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument (KWWNM), and provide some background on Baxter State Park as well as articulate some concerns we hope you will consider as you develop your management plans for KWWNM.

Baxter State Park is best considered as a large public trust. The Park was assembled by former Maine Governor Percival P. Baxter. During his tenure as a state legislator and later as Governor, Baxter worked to promote the establishment of the area around Maine's highest mountain, Katahdin, as a State Park. His efforts were unsuccessful, so after leaving public service in 1925, Baxter quietly began work to establish the park on his own. His first purchase of 5,960 acres in 1931 included Baxter Peak and Katahdin. After establishing ownership, Baxter gifted the parcel to the Maine legislature in trust accompanied by communications to guide the management of the land in a "Forever Wild" condition. This first gift was followed by 27 others, completed by a final gift in 1962, bringing the Park to 201,018 acres. The 28 parcels, accepted in trust by the People of Maine, are bound together as a single trust known as Baxter State Park.

The Baxter Deeds of Trust and Formal Communications provide the foundational guidance for the Park's mission and management, including the placement of the protection of the Park's resources ahead of the provision of recreational opportunities.

"This area is to be maintained primarily as a Wilderness and recreational purposes are to be regarded as of secondary importance and shall not encroach upon the main objective of this area which is to be "Forever Wild."

As the visitation to the Park increased in the 70s and 80s, the Authority instituted policies limiting the number of people with daily access to Katahdin trails and Baxter Peak in order to control and stabilize the impact of hikers on trails and the alpine zone of Katahdin. This limited use model is one of the defining features of management in the Park and is intended to preserve natural systems and provide a wilderness experience "for those willing to walk and make an effort to get close to nature".

In addition to the land, Baxter included two other critical components to ensure the durability and independence of the Park. In 1939, legislation was enacted to form the Baxter State Park Authority. The Authority, consisting of the Director of the Maine Forest Service, the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Maine Attorney General, act as the Trustees for the Park. This body has administered the management of the Park in accordance with the Trust provisions for more than 75 years. Lastly, with his death in 1969, Baxter provided an endowment for the management of the Park. The endowment is managed for generational sustainability and has provided 60% of the annual operating revenue for the Park for almost 50 years. The remaining 40% of the Park's revenue is captured from user fees and the sale of forest products from the Park's Scientific Forest Management Area. The Park receives no appropriations from the Maine Legislature, and due to its trust nature is defined as a "quasi-State agency".

Since 1969, the Baxter State Park Authority has acquired additional lands appropriate to protect the Park's boundaries or to complete Baxter's vision for the Park. These acquisitions bring the current size of the Park to approximately 209,643 acres. The Park manages

approximately 100 miles of boundary with more than a half dozen public, corporate and private landowners, conservation easements and recreational leases.

Baxter State Park has been managed in accordance with the Deeds of Trust since 1931. During the summer season, the Park employs more than 60 people as well as 20 or more additional personnel working under contracted services, making the Park one of the largest employers in the region. The annual budget for the Park is just under \$4 million and the annual visitation is around 75,000 people. Although the majority of our visitation is during the summer season, the Park hosts a significant number of winter users. The Park is managed in accordance with a Management Plan, most recently approved in 2012 by the Baxter State Park Authority. An Economic Impact Study conducted in 2007 indicates that Baxter State Park drives approximately \$7,000,000 in revenue to the Katahdin region each year. The Park Management Plan, the Economic Impact Study and other detailed information about Baxter State Park can be found on the Park's website www.Baxterstateparkauthority.org.

I hope that you find this brief background helpful as we work toward building a relationship as neighbors and as you begin a challenging planning effort in defining the scope, structure and management guidance for the Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument. Recently, we have taken some time to consider potential issues regarding resource protection and visitor experience that may arise regarding our shared boundary due to differences in our core missions and use expectations of our respective organizations.

Access – Roads

For a significant distance westward of our shared boundary, the majority of the Baxter Park landscape is free of roads or trails available for motorized access. The nearest Park road to the KWWNM is the Roaring Brook Road. The Roaring Brook Road approaches to approximately 4 miles from the KWWNM at the Park's Avalanche Field Trailhead. North of Katahdin Lake our shared boundary borders some of the most pristine wilderness areas in the Park, including North Turner Mountain, the Wassataquoik Basin and the Traveler Range. The landscape of the KWWNM has a long history of human use. Various human activities have left an in-situ footprint of roads, buildings and trails that you will have to consider in your planning of the design and application of access and facilities for the KWWNM. Numerous roads suitable for motorized access on the KWWNM approach very near to the Park's eastern boundary in many locations. Historically, these roads have been utilized for forest management and wood products transportation. Recreational access has been sporadic and limited. Improved access routes and/or the encouragement of more motorized access by the public up to or near the Park's boundary would be a serious concern for the preservation of the pristine and un-crowded nature of the Katahdin Lake, Wassataquoik Valley, North Turner, and the Traveler areas along the Park's eastern side. Russell Pond is considered to be the most remote place in the state, as defined by the distance from roads. We are proud of this remoteness and hope you will work with us to preserve it.

Access – Trails

Many of the same concerns expressed above for motorized trail access also exist for hiking trail access to or near the Park boundary. Currently, the Park has one hiking trail that travels briefly across KWWNM lands. This trail provides day-use hiking access to Twin Ponds from Katahdin Lake and Katahdin Lake trails. Access was authorized through a Memorandum of Agreement between Baxter State Park and

Elliotsville Plantation, Inc. The Park has not installed an authorized campsite at Twin Ponds and hiking access to this area is day-use only, typically backcountry campers staying at the Park's North Katahdin Lake Lean-to (-4 miles from the Avalanche Field Trailhead on the Roaring Brook Road), or from Katahdin Lake Wilderness Camps, by visitors who canoe to the north end of the lake and access the Twin Ponds Trail there. The access to Twin Ponds has been purposely limited to protect the pristine nature of the Twin Ponds area. Access to this area by large numbers of people would threaten to damage the intrinsic qualities that are consistent with Park objectives in the management of this area.

The Park also currently maintains a one mile trail from Katahdin Lake Wilderness Camps to the former Rocky Pond Road on KWWNM land. The trailhead also currently serves as the southern terminus of the International Appalachian Trail.

Other options exist for this terminus of the IAT. The establishment of motorized or easy hiking access to this trailhead by significant or substantial numbers of people would jeopardize the pristine nature of Katahdin Lake Wilderness Camps. These historic camps have a long history in the Park, including a visit by Theodore Roosevelt in 1879 and a subsequent visit by Percival Baxter in 1920. The aura and nature of the camps are predicated and defined by a long history of back country access and limited use. The potential for significant increases in the number of people accessing this area from KWWNM is a serious concern for our continued management of this facility.

In the Park's 2012 Management Plan, the Baxter State Park Authority approved the establishment of several Trail-Free Zones within the Park.

4.4.2.6.3 Action Establish four Trail-Free Zones within the Park totaling 64,463 acres, in which new trail construction will be prohibited for the following reasons: To protect the Park's most wild and pristine areas from the impacts that direct trail access will bring. To protect the Park from assuming trail maintenance responsibilities outside its staffing or financial capability to support. Resolved: The proposal for the establishment of four Trail Free Zones in the Park was included in the proposed management plan. The approval of the plan on March 9, 2012 established the Trail-Free Zones within the Park as defined in the map included in sec. 10.2

The original design left a corridor along Wassataquoik Stream from the eastern Park boundary to the south branch of Wassataquoik Stream. After consideration, the Baxter State Park Authority removed this corridor, combining two Trail Free Zones by the inclusion of Wassataquoik Stream into the Trail-Free Zone by unanimous vote during an October 10, 2014 public meeting.

The Trail-Free Zone delineation applies to at least 50% of our shared boundary. The remaining boundary is around the Katahdin Lake acquisition. As discussed above, the protection and preservation of the pristine nature of these historic camps and the limited backcountry campsites and hiking trails installed after the acquisition is a very important concern to the Park. We are concerned about the potential for motorized and non-motorized access by large numbers of people with the establishment of the KWWNM, and we urge you to consider methods that would buffer or mitigate visitor use impacts and complement the Park's wilderness management west of the KWWNM property line.

Viewshed

Existing road infrastructure in the Kelloch Mountain area of the KWWNM includes areas providing unobstructed views of the southeast areas of the Park including the Keep Ridge, the North Basin of Katahdin, the Knife Edge and Pamola and Baxter Peaks. As these areas are clearly visible from these road-access viewing areas, Park hikers and campers in various locations can also see these higher areas to the east. We strongly suggest that the planning process for the facility and access structure of the KWWNM include the consideration of visual impacts to Park visitors on Katahdin and other mountains and ridges in the southeast corner of the Park. We are particularly concerned with the addition of significant structures that may be visible from areas on Katahdin, and from the impact of night lighting in the currently very night-sky-friendly area east of the Park. We would be very interested in participating in your infrastructure planning as it relates to view corridors.

Invasives

Invasive plants and animals are a continuing concern for Park management, and we expect that the planning of KWWNM will include management options for the protection of the KWWNM landscape from the introduction and impact of invasive plants, insects and animals. Baxter State Park has prohibited the transport of firewood into the Park by visitors as a protective measure against the import of a number of serious exotic insects. We regularly monitor the Park for invasive plants and cooperate with the Maine Forest Service and others on monitoring for invasive insects. We have been active in removing or containing found populations of purple loosestrife. We encourage the management of KWWNM to incorporate similar measures into their management and we look forward to cooperating with you on this important landscape management issue.

Fire Management

The Maine Forest Service provides statewide fire suppression authority for the forestland of the State of Maine. While there is a long history of anthropogenic fire in Maine, there is also a long natural history of fire on the Maine landscape, including extensive stand-replacement events. In cooperation with the Maine Forest Service, we have developed a comprehensive Fire Management Plan for Baxter State Park . This plan considers fire management in the wilderness context of Baxter State Park.

The prevailing winds in Maine are from the northwest; consequently we hope to work with you on fire management and suppression related planning.

In closing, we would like to once again welcome you to the Katahdin Region. We recognize the significant differences in our organizational structures, visitor volume, and foundational management guidance, but we believe we can build a trusting and effective working relationship as neighbors in this important region. Thank you for your consideration of these issues; we look forward to continuing our discussion as you settle into your work at the Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument.

Name: Lois Winter

Title/Organization: none given

City, State: Portland, ME

My background: I recently retired from a professional career in conservation - - mostly with the Dept. of the Interior. While I have worked all over the country (including ten grand and glorious national parks), I spent 28 years of my career in Maine. My National Park Service career (including ten years at Acadia) included seasonal jobs in six parks, mostly as a park naturalist/interpreter and permanent jobs in four parks as Public Information Specialist, Asst. Chief and/or Chief of Interpretation. At Acadia, I helped found Friends of Acadia. My U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service career in Maine focused primarily on coordinating partnerships to permanently protect coastal Maine lands, to restore important fish and wildlife habitat, and to conduct outreach work. After retiring from the Dept. of the Interior, I worked as Executive Director of a downeast Maine land trust, focusing on land protection initiatives and partnerships. I have Bachelors degrees in Biology and Geography and a Masters Degree in Conservation Biology. I have a lifetime interests in the philosophy of National Park management, environmental history and the interface between natural/cultural resource studies, park interpretation and public policy.

I have supported the establishment of a "National Anything" - - Park, Preserve, National Recreation Area, National Monument - - in Maine's North Woods for decades. I'm excited and delighted to know that Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument is off and running, and I wish you well in your ongoing work to establish a solid management plan for KWWNM. Feel free to contact me if you need to bounce ideas around or if you need volunteer support.

Here are my recommendations for KWWNM:

1. First, offer listening sessions in central and southern Maine where KWWNM has many fans and supporters.
2. Manage KWWNM to achieve ecological/cultural, recreational and community economic objectives (in that order).
3. Remember Frederick Law Olmsted's advice in developing natural (and cultural) area infrastructure. To paraphrase, "Those facilities that enhance the link between the visitor and the resources the park is intended to protect are generally appropriate. Those facilities that create a barrier between the park and the resources the park is intended to protect are generally inappropriate." For example, tennis is a fine game that is wonderful to play, but a tennis court has no reason to be installed at KWWNM. A classical music concert is a wonderful thing to experience, but because classical music has no connection to the rationale for establishing KWWNM, concerts should be held elsewhere. This "guiding light" from Olmsted is important, in my opinion, for all Park managers to keep in mind when making decisions on permitted infrastructure and activities.
4. In proportion to the entire 10 million acres of the LUPC jurisdiction in Northern Maine, KWWNM is fundamentally a pretty small piece of land. Moreover, KWWNM lands are significantly fragmented, especially east of the East Branch of the Penobscot. Clearly, the boundaries are purely political constructs, based on what EPI could purchase over the last

decade or so. The boundaries bear no resemblance to watershed/ecological boundaries. The small size creates two major challenges, with opportunities to remedy over time:

- **Ecological needs:** KWWNM is simply nowhere near large enough to maintain the full complement of flora and fauna that makes the North Woods whole, especially with intensive logging and/or development around NM boundaries and as climate change impacts everything. Solutions:
 - Start making the case, when appropriate, for large-scale land acquisition to better meet ecological needs of KWWNM. Acquisition could be directly through NPS or through NGOs focused on land protection initiatives (fee or easement) in Maine's North Woods. Currently, land trusts focused on Maine's North Woods in the region of KWWNM are few and far between, and focus primarily on protecting timber resources. This speaks to the need to build partnerships with existing statewide land trusts (i.e. Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy) and/or through a to-be-established KWWNM Friends organization that identifies land acquisition through willing sellers as one of its primary objectives.
 - Develop a strong professional resource management capacity at KWWNM to attract research dollars, document resource threats and identify/implement remedies when feasible.
 - Whenever feasible, build infrastructure such as Visitor Center and RV campgrounds outside of the current KWWNM boundaries.
 - Ensure that the KWWNM properties are managed in perpetuity as EPI has designated - - West of the East Branch, operate the lands as a National Park that would not permit snowmobiling and hunting. East of the East Branch, manage the lands as a National Recreation Area that would permit snowmobiling and hunting. No bear baiting, no bear hunting with dogs and no trapping will be permitted anywhere in KWWNM (except for NPS-approved research). No commercial forestry, mining or other resource extraction, no commercial and industrial development, no hotels, restaurants, gift shops within KWWNM.
 - Designate portions of KWWNM that will be designated as Wilderness Areas.
 - Designate the Wassataquoit, East Branch of the Penobscot and Sebois as National and Scenic Rivers.
- **Recreational needs:** Although KWWNM is significantly larger than Acadia, KWWNM by its very nature, does not offer the "recreational resources on steroids" that Acadia offers.
 - Start making the case, when appropriate, for large-scale land acquisition to better meet recreational needs. "Traditional" recreation in Maine means different things to different people. Within the scale of our current lifestyles, many in northern Maine think of snowmobiling as "traditional." From an even slightly longer perspective, snowmobiling is a recent intrusion and long-distance canoe travel and camping would be considered "traditional." It would take a significantly larger KWWNM to encourage traditional long-distance canoe travel - - an option I'd enthusiastically support.
 - Develop a strong and diverse interpretive program to dazzle visitors on their first trip - - and encourage repeat visitation. Through understanding, appreciation and through appreciation, long-term protection. High quality and diverse interpretive programming holds a key to encouraging repeat visitation and cultivating a loyal constituency committed to long-term protection of the Monument. The NPS should place strong emphasis on

developing a model program of interpretive offerings for visitors, featuring the captivating natural and human history of the Monument and area. NPS should also reach out to nearby communities to provide interpretive programs inside and outside of the Monument that focus on the needs and interests of area residents, including school children and adults.

- Permit and encourage low-impact recreational uses such as hiking, biking, tent camping, paddling. Human-powered, non-motorized uses effectively expand the perceived size of any recreation area by slowing down the speed of travel and eliminating the motorized noises of one user that can negatively impact the wildlands experience for many others.
- Consider carefully how to manage logging roads used by visitors and fast-moving lumber trucks. It's not an easy match.
- Build trails that meet the needs of diverse users - - walkers, hikers, backcountry users and bikers - - using the best available information on constructing well engineered trails that highlight the experience of the users. Well-built trails minimize long-term maintenance repair work and trails built with the experience of the users in mind highlight features that "sell" the area and create strong allies - - another long-term plus for KWWNM managers. (Don't default to using existing woods roads, just because they are there.
- Consider carefully whether or not the small KWWNM can accommodate backcountry camping outside the IAT corridor. Consult with Acadia National Park and other NP staffs about the pros and cons of permitting backcountry camping.
- Build a relatively small, aesthetically pleasing tent camping area in the Park. Of course, don't place it in an area that you will later regret due to overuse of an ecologically sensitive area.
- Work closely with local community of Maine guides to establish a canoe shuttle services and high quality canoe guiding services along the East Branch and the Sebois. I know that the East Branch, even under low flow conditions, can be treacherous for modest-skilled paddlers. Guides will help minimize accidents and if properly trained, can be a great interpretive asset for KWWNM. However, commercial guiding services require effective training and oversight by NPS to make their services a benefit for KWWNM.
- **Prioritize community relations.**
 - Build the Headquarters facility in proximity to community members and local business - - not in the Park. Being in Millinocket means that staff will be in town, where informal opportunities to meet community members along the street, in stores and local breakfast hangouts, will go a long ways towards building and maintaining local understanding and trust.
 - Offer a strong interpretive program with focused objectives for KWWNM that also focuses on needs/interests of adults and schoolchildren in the nearby community. Expand, as feasible, to attract schoolchildren from further afield in Maine.
 - From the "get-go," establish an Advisory Board, well-balanced with those who understand local community interests and with those who understand and support the mission of the NPS. By working together, all on the Advisory Board can learn from and honor the perspectives of others and provide effective counsel to the KWWNM staff.

- Support the immediate establishment of Friends organization. Philanthropic "Friends" organizations have demonstrated, time after time, their ability to provide vital service in supporting the mission of the NPS and to add strength, capacity and a "measure of excellence" to NPS operations. The Monument will be well served by the establishment of a Friends organization that can "hit the ground running," with political capacity, outreach skill and significant funding from its inception.
- Work in close coordination with Baxter State Park and honor their commitment to manage their Park as a wilderness. Ensure that KWWNM visitors enter Baxter State Park by routes approved by the Park. The biggest concern currently is that visitors to KWWNM may enter Baxter State Park from the new "loop road" that runs close to Katahdin Lake.
- Make the NPS a strong supporter of the local communities
- While the NPS cannot control what goes on outside its borders, take seriously the need to prevent the gateway communities from turning into ugly strips of commercial development. What happens in the nearby towns will be a critical component of visitors' experience in visiting KWWNM. KWWNM, the Advisory Board and Friends organization should make it a priority to work together to provide strong technical support in Smart Growth principles. Don't default into simply saying that "It's up to the towns to be what they want. That's a cop-out. I think that the NPS has the responsibility to help prevent gateway communities from losing their heart and soul through conversion to the excesses of Gatlinburgs or Ellsworth-Trenton sprawl. Don't let the Monument turn into the environmental conscience of the entire community. Don't be fooled by developers with deep pockets who will shortchange the distinctive identity and historic/cultural pride of local communities and replace it with short-term economic gain and cruddy-looking towns with little appeal. Instead, develop thoughtfully for the longer-term economic gain of the community - - and for building an attractive and distinctive community that honors its roots, a community that locals want to continue to live in and visitors will enjoy visiting.
- Encourage a Dark Skies Initiative inside and outside KWWNM boundaries. Visitors want to see dazzling stars, Northern Lights, etc.
- Building facilities outside the Monument boundaries, i.e. RV park, can encourage local entrepreneurship. Still, NPS should work with those entrepreneurs to build facilities that visitors will enjoy - - not simply facilities that will haul in cash for the owner. Ugly RV facilities, even outside the Monument, will negatively impact visitors' impression of KWWNM and will negatively impact repeat visitation and economic growth in the gateway communities.
- Same idea as the statement above applies to other tourism infrastructure developments in the local community. Restaurants with good food, comfortable overnight accommodations, gift shops and other infrastructure that tastefully honors the cultural traditions of the region will encourage repeat visitation and appropriate economic growth. Local communities can't wait for NPS to become the economic savior for the communities; the communities have the challenge and opportunity to do their part too.
- For a sympathetic historical view on land protection, tourism and local community impacts, I strongly recommend that you read Chapter 12:

Building a Tourist Landscape in a Fragile Ecosystem: Cape Cod in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Century (by John T. Cumbler) in A Landscape History of New England, edited by Blaake Harrison and Richard Judd. While this history comes from Cape Cod, it is surely relevant and informative in our noble efforts to inject a new National Monument and tourism economy in communities that have long prided themselves, for better and for worse, on an economy that had been based on natural resource extraction.

Name: Ole Amundsen III

Title/Organization: Executive Director, Maine Audubon

City, State: Falmouth, ME

On behalf of Maine Audubon and our 30,000 members and supporters, I am providing written comments in regard to the management of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

The Monument's lands contain a vast array of highly valuable natural resources. A top management priority should be to maintain and enhance the Monument's ecological values, which include:

- **Large Undeveloped/Unroaded Landscape** which is a limited and important resource for wildlife. The forest is primarily spruce-northern hardwoods, with beech-birch maple and spruce fir-broom moss as well.
- **Beginning with Habitat Focus Areas** are part of the acreage. These include the Baxter Region and East Branch Penobscot-Seboeis River-Wassataquoik Stream Focus Areas of Statewide Ecological Significance which were identified by federal, state and private entities. These are landscape scale areas that contain exceptionally rich concentrations of at-risk species and natural communities and high quality common natural communities, significant wildlife habitats, and their intersection with large blocks of undeveloped habitat. See attached factsheets for details about the resources in each Focus Area.
- **Extensive Wetlands** - including over Inland Wading Bird and Waterfowl Significant Wildlife Habitat wetlands.
- **Riparian Habitat** along more than 30 miles of rivers and streams including:
 - 25 miles of the East Branch of the Penobscot River
 - Lower reaches of the Wassataquoik Stream
 - Lower reaches of the Sebois River
 - At least 7 ponds
- **Critical Habitat** for the federally endangered Canada lynx.
- **Critical and Important Fish Habitat**. Including critical habitat for the federally endangered Atlantic salmon and important habitat for the nationally significant wild eastern brook trout.
- **Nine Rare Natural Communities** including silver maple floodplain forest, spruce-heath barren, bluejoint meadow, and maple-basswood-ash forest.
- **75 Species of Birds** have been identified on the property including spruce grouse and 14 types of warblers.
- **Forest Birds**. Over time, this area will provide prime breeding habitat for many of our boreal and migratory forest birds of high conservation concern that require

more mature forest structure and unfragmented interior forest - an increasingly uncommon forest age class across most of the northern forest landscape.

- **Additional Potential Sensitive Species** that occur in the surrounding area may also be present at this site, including state Special Concern wood turtle, Roaring Brook mayfly, spring salamander, rusty blackbird, pygmy snaketail, yellow lamp mussel, tidewater mucket, brook floater, and creeper. Many of these species require clean clear water.
- **Important Conservation Role in Landscape** by connecting to other public and private conservation lands, including Baxter State Park, the Appalachian Trail, the Debsconeag Wilderness, the 100-Mile Wilderness, and the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, and to lands protected from development by conservation easements south and west of Baxter State Park.
- **Climate Change Refugia** will be provided due to the elevation gradient, with its diversity of landforms and land cover types (forests, wetlands, streams etc.) that will allow species to migrate to higher elevations or further north as needed.

Roads

Increased traffic, roads and development in some areas of the monument has the potential to put some species at risk from human disturbance, road mortality, and habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation. Particular species of concern include the Canada lynx, Atlantic salmon, Wood turtle, and Rusty blackbird.

It is especially important to minimize the extent of roads and development and to locate roads and development away from high value habitat including aquatic resources. Given the large extent of existing logging roads, many should be put to bed. It also may be helpful to restrict traffic seasonally in some areas, create wildlife road crossings, and design and place road-stream crossings according to Stream Smart principles (see attached) and practices to minimize these potential impacts.

Forest Management

Forest management that encourages the growth of a structurally complex, multi-aged and multi-layered forest will benefit many of our forest birds, including those that depend on the northern forest as their primary breeding habitat and those that are suffering long-term population declines. Within the Monument itself, this could mean simply letting the forest grow old on its own, but in the Recreation Area, any active forest management should be conducted in a way that enhances habitat for birds that depend on interior and structurally complex forests over the majority of the property. Smaller areas could be managed to benefit early successional species important to hunters such as woodcock and ruffed grouse.

Climate Change

With our changing climate, conserved lands, particularly with higher elevations and cold streams and ponds, can play an important role in supporting fish, wildlife and fish and wildlife habitat. As climate changes, wildlife moves on the landscape. The NPS should maintain and enhance terrestrial and aquatic wildlife corridors and maintain cold water refugia for cold water fish.

Smart Growth

The Monument can provide the region much needed economic growth. It also has the potential to instigate sprawl and strip development. It's our hope that the region's economic

development occurs in a way that is consistent with the local communities' vision and maintains and enhances the local character. We urge the NPS to locate as many of the visitor services as possible in existing town centers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Philip Keyes

Title/Organization: Executive Director, New England Mountain Bike Association

City, State: Acton, MA

Dear Park Service Planners,

Thank you for allowing the New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA) and its five active chapters in Maine to submit comment as part of the Public Participation and Planning of this new National Monument. NEMBA has 26 chapters and over 5600 members throughout the New England states, and our mission is to promote and protect opportunities for responsible mountain bicycling.

We urge the National Park Service to incorporate a robust network of trails suitable to mountain biking and other nonmotorized forms of trail recreation in the Katahdin Woods. Developing trail-based recreation in the newly designated monument would serve to attract our nation's citizens to this otherwise remote park in an environmentally sustainable manner. Mountain biking has been proven to be a strong economic engine for other regions that have developed opportunities for riders.

There is a need among the hiking and mountain biking communities for more remote, backcountry experiences and trail systems. The development of a singletrack trails system is consonant with the core principles of National Monument to preserve the historic, cultural, and ecologically significant landscape. Creating a singletrack trail system at Katahdin Woods would allow public access and recreation, yet protect the resource from environmental damage.

Mountain bicycling is a legitimate form of recreation in National Monuments, and we hope the National Park Service will incorporate this activity into its recreational mix.

Sincerely,
Philip Keyes
Executive Director
New England Mountain Bike Association
Acton MA

Aaron Brasslett
President
Penobscot Region NEMBA
Bangor ME

Brian Danz
President
Greater Portland NEMBA

Portland ME

Chris Riley
President
Central Maine NEMBA
Fayette ME

John Anders
President
Midcoast Maine NEMBA
Rockport ME

Peter Smith
President
Carrabassett Region NEMBA
Carrabassett ME

Name: Catherine B. Johnson
Title/Organization: Senior Staff Attorney and Forests and Wildlife Project Director,
Natural Resources Council of Maine
City, State: Augusta, Maine

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on topics to be considered during the development of the management plan for the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

The Natural Resources Council of Maine is a conservation organization with over 16,000 members and supporters. We spent five years listening to and talking with residents from the Katahdin region and across Maine about the proposed Katahdin Woods and Waters national park unit. We were thrilled when President Obama signed the Proclamation establishing the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument on Aug. 24, 2016. We believe this Monument will conserve a beautiful part of Maine's North Woods, provide wonderful outdoor recreation opportunities for visitors, and provide opportunities for economic benefits in the communities around the Monument and in the entire state, as visitors travel to the new Monument.

Increased tourism in the region can have both positive and negative impacts on the Monument land itself and on the surrounding landscapes and communities. Balancing conservation with recreational access will be an ongoing challenge. We look forward to working with both the National Park Service and with residents of surrounding communities to maximize the positive impacts and minimize the negative impacts.

Below are our initial thoughts about issues to be addressed in the management planning process:

1. Habitat, Wildlife and Ecological Protection
 - a. Protection and restoration of habitat, native wildlife, and ecological systems should be paramount. The construction, restoration, rerouting, or closing of any

roads, trails or visitor facilities should be consistent with maximum habitat, wildlife, and ecological protection.

b. Educational programs and materials (both paper and digital) should emphasize proper outdoor behavior including leave no trace, stay on trails (particularly around small ponds), use outhouses or other proper human waste disposal methods, no collecting, keep sound to minimum (no radios), etc.

c. Management should take into account climate change, avoid measures leading to further climate change, and allow the environment to adapt to climate change.

d. Management should avoid the introduction of invasive species and work to eradicate any existing invasives.

2. Roads:

a. As the level of visitation increases, we encourage the eventual exclusive use of shuttle buses (preferably electric) on the Loop Road and the Messer Pond Road with parking lots for personal vehicles located east of the East Branch where possible. Limit vehicle use west of the East Branch to those two roads.

b. Consider rerouting the northern leg of the Loop Road so that it heads east roughly east of the southeast corner of the Baxter State Park (BSP) Katahdin Lake parcel (approximately mile 11) in order to protect the remote and wilderness character of Katahdin Lake, and rejoins the existing Katahdin Loop at approximately mile 14. Keep all roads at least three miles from Katahdin Lake.

c. Consider rerouting the Seboeis Road (and the existing snowmobile trail) between the Swift Brook Road and Lunksoos camps away from the river bank.

d. Keep all vehicle use at least one mile away from Wassataquoik Stream.

e. The land is has many existing logging roads. Other than the Loop Road and the Messer Pond Road north of Haskell Gate, over time, determine which roads are attractive bike paths, and reclaim and revegetate all other roads.

3. Trails:

a. Create loop hiking trails for both day and multi-day use. (e.g. create a loop trail connecting Deasey and Lunksoos Mountains with the Wassataquoik.)

b. Move existing hiking trails (IAT) off of gravel roads (e.g. create a loop trail through the woods that connects with the existing Barnard Mountain trail.)

c. Create a short walking trail off the Overlook.

d. Evaluate all existing logging roads, determine which ones are suitable biking trails, create connections for biking trail loops where needed and close other areas to off trail/road biking.

e. Consider the advisability of creating hiking trails that connect with BSP's Traveler Mountain trail, the Fowler Ponds trails, the Russell Pond area and the North Katahdin Lake/Twin Ponds trail.

f. Consider ways to make the Katahdin Loop Road accessible to cross country day skiers.

g. Consider adding two or more bunkhouses south of the Big Spring Brook Hut, connected by cross country ski trails and connecting with Katahdin Lake Camps, to allow multi-day cross country ski trips from north to south across the monument and, potentially, into BSP.

h. Improve trails leading to river features (i.e. Haskell Rock Pitch) to prevent erosion from heavy use.

4. Visitor Services

- a. Most visitor services, including food, lodging, supplies, canoe and bike rentals, etc. should be provided by local businesses in nearby communities, not on the National Monument itself.
- b. Visitor services on the land should be limited to such things as picnic tables, outhouse/bathroom facilities, tent sites, lean-tos, remote cabins, signs, maps, etc.
- c. Consider having the major "visitor center(s)" (with displays, movies, book sales, meeting rooms, administrative offices, etc.) in Millinocket/East Millinocket/Medway area and Patten/Sherman/Stacyville/Mt.Chase area and limit any this type of facility on the land to simple gate houses where people can get maps and get oriented.

5. River Recreation

- a. Construct a hand-carry boat launch south of Bowlin Camps on the east side of the river to facilitate non-motorized water recreation on the East Branch of the Penobscot.
- b. Increase signage on the East Branch of the Penobscot indicating portage routes and river features (e.g. Stair Falls, Haskell Rock Pitch).
- c. Improve campsites on the East Branch of the Penobscot to include outhouses, fire rings and picnic tables. Limit river camping group size to no more than 12 people.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and for all your work to date getting the National Monument open for visitor use. We have heard only positive things from those who have visited. Do not hesitate to let us know if there is anything we can do to assist.

Name: Paul Johnson
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: Oakland, Maine

The Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument represents an example of Maine's North Woods; undeveloped forested lands rich in geological, biological, historical, and cultural resources. As such it has been recognized as worthy of portrayal on a national scale by the National Park Service. It should be managed to conserve and interpret all of the resources present there to benefit current and future generations. Management should emphasize science, education, and recreation.

Some considerations in developing the Monument's management plan:

- ASAP - Establish a USGS stream gaging station on the lower reaches of Wassataquoik Stream to measure discharge (in cubic feet per second), air temperature, and water temperature. Other measurements of water quality (e.g. acidity, conductivity) should be measured periodically throughout the year at this site. Consider other smaller drainages within the monument for similar monitoring. (Flow information is currently available for Telos Dam and Matagamon Dam, and at USGS gaging sites currently operational on the Seboeis River at Route 159 and on the East Branch at Grindstone.)
- The State of Maine (Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife), in collaboration with the National Park Service, should to continue managing the fisheries and wildlife resources in the Monument. Engage the regional fisheries and wildlife personnel In the planning process

- For road crossings over all perennial streams use bridges or half culverts that maintain the natural substrate and slope of the stream bed.
- Maintain the entire length of the Old Telos Tote Road along the west side of the East Branch as a historic trail for non-motorized recreational traffic. Restore sections that are washed out or inundated by beaver flowages.
- Recognize the historical significance of the Little Spring Brook Hatchery, especially in maintaining Atlantic salmon runs in the Penobscot River in the early 1900's.
- Recognize the connection between the Monument and the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, a wild river in the National Wild and Scenic River system managed by the State of Maine. This will require collaboration among the NPS, Maine's Bureau of Parks and Lands, Baxter State Park, and the Penobscot Nation.
- Forest management objectives for Monument land east of the East Branch should include enhancing wildlife habitats, using timber harvesting as a strategy where appropriate.

Some concerns over the future use and development in and around the Monument:

- Maintain a sense of the Maine woods on the principal access routes to the Monument. Prevent sprawling
- and inappropriate development along the access roads. To accomplish this prepare a regional plan to identify the most appropriate locations and most appropriate types of development. The NPS should collaborate with the gateway communities, land owners, and the State of Maine (LUPC) in developing a regional plan.
- Campsites! Currently there are 14 small campsites along the East Branch from the north boundary of T5R8 downstream to Whetstone Falls. Seven of these are found in the Monument on the west side of the river; none accessible by vehicle at the present time. Over the past several years all 7 have been outfitted with picnic tables and fire rings. Seven campsites are located on the east side of the river, 2 accessible by vehicle, and all on private land outside of the Monument. To the best of my knowledge there has been no organized management of these sites. Under current low use, "Leave No Trace" principles have been adequate to maintain all 14 of these sites. However, use of the river will undoubtedly increase in the future, and that will require more intensive management. The NPS will be responsible for maintaining the 7 sites on the west side of the East Branch. The NPS will have to collaborate with landowners/land managers on the east side of the river to determine the future of these 7 sites.
- Perhaps beyond the scope of the management plan, but for me a great concern, is the fate of lands east of the East Branch that is not included in the Monument. There is a potential for uses on these lands that could be incompatible with those planned for the west side of the river in the Monument. All six waterfalls on the upper 10 miles of the East Branch are located in T5R8, and only the west side of the East Branch in T5R8 is included in the Monument. Although a conservation easement prevents development and subdivision within 500 feet of the east side of the East Branch in T5R8, land use activities beyond 500 feet from the river could affect the Monument. Protection of the East Branch within 250 feet of the river in T4R8, and T4R7, is limited to Maine Land Use Planning Commission provisions. Again, land use activities beyond 250 feet could affect the Monument. While I recognize the sensitivity of this issue among those opposed to the NPS presence here, there should be a plan to, over time when there are willing sellers, include more land east of the East Branch within the Monument, at least within a mile of the river. That land

would be included in the area open to hunting, snowmobiling, and forest management.

(I am a retired Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife fishery biologist with 35 years of experience managing waters in Maine's Moosehead Lake Region. Therefore I am familiar with the Maine Woods, its natural resources, and their traditional uses. Throughout my career I worked cooperatively with both public and private land owners and land managers. Since 2008, I have been involved in volunteer work on campsites and portage trails on EPI land along the East Branch, which has provided me firsthand experience in the Monument. Since 1995, my wife and I have visited 27 National Parks from Maine to Florida to California, along with National Monuments, National Lakeshores, National Seashores, and National Battlefields. Thus I am very familiar with and an avid supporter of the mission and efforts of the National Park Service.)

Name: Richard A. Hesslein Jr.

Title/Organization: none given

City, State: Brownfield, ME

Here is a copy of my letter in support of the idea of preservation of, and formation of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. I hope you can take a moment to peruse my plea and look at some of the links that illustrate some of these concerns

I believe there is a great opportunity to make beaver an important focus for visitor enjoyment, education, and most importantly, to demonstrate the value and restorative effects from beaver activity that will enhance all wildlife and ecology of the Preserve and beyond! While neighboring Baxter State Park is supposed to be (largely, but not totally) a wildlife SANCTUARY, there is perhaps less riparian areas suitable for beaver in this primarily alpine Park. Also, in the areas where beaver would be prevalent there have been conflicts with infrastructure and trails that have caused beaver removals. This is why and how the Katahdin Woods and Waters N.M. could differ in planning and design, plus greatly benefit from the sanctioned influence from beaver as described below.....:

I would like to express my strong support for the preservation of these lands and the designation as a National Monument with certain reservations. My concern arises primarily from any conflicts that might detract from the wilderness character of the proposed Monument arising from development and infrastructure. My understanding is that there will be sections of the Monument that will have different allowed uses and, I would assume, different levels of Park construction and infrastructure that may become a source for concern with associated impacts on the wilderness character and ecology.

In particular I have seen such impacts on wetland and riparian areas of Public and Private and Municipal Lands, and Parks, both State and Federal, in such places as Baxter State Park and Acadia National Park where conflicts in and around wetlands have been resolved with routine ruthlessness when it comes to beaver activity. This is a much bigger concern than seems to be known by Park managers. Beaver activity in our Northern wetlands are key to our Regional biodiversity and ecology for both plants and animals and are key to hydrology and fisheries including cold water species. It is emphatically not about whether beavers are present, but whether their full scope of activity is allowed. Their evolved uses of wetland and riparian areas represent true ecological restoration for plants, animals, and fisheries by

the creation of basic food chains and a web of life that percolate all through the whole ecology of our region. From the storage and breakdown of pollutants and sediments and the clarification of downstream waters, to the creation of habitat for myriad creatures great and small, for the mitigating effects for climate and catastrophic flood damage reduction, and the balancing of our ecology through the creation of such biodiversity that it can be compared to such known examples as the world's Tropical Rainforests and Coral Reefs; these creatures deserve much higher consideration!

I am not aware of a single case where either Baxter or Acadia have installed a single modern and effective "beaver baffler" system to resolve conflicts. These modern constructed devices are cost effective and low maintenance to maintenance free, and long lived (10 to 20 years plus). While there are well documented and reliable installers available (www.beaversolutions.com, www.beaverdeceivers.com, www.beaverbros-ecohumanesystems.com), and these devices can resolve most conflicts while preserving some part of the beneficial ecological effects as described above, still the emphasis should be to allow the space or create designs for needed infrastructure that accommodate this important cyclic wetland activity; again this is truly key to actually restoring the ecology of these and other places!

So to try and back up and give credibility to my story I would like to give you this quote from award winning Naturalist and Author: David M Carroll (Warner, New Hampshire), from his book; "Swampwalker's Journal, A Wetlands Year":

"There is a human tendency, arising from genuine concern and a taste for being proactive, to rush in and expend money and effort on heavily managed programs designed to save the last of the big cats in Africa, {or} the remnants of an isolated box turtle colony in the northeastern United States. It is hard to criticize the concern. But it arises from misguided sentiments and leads to unwise policy."

"Somehow the solution is never allowed to be a pulling back to a respectful distance from the natural landscape, finding a proper human proportion within it. We are unwilling to step back from the marsh and allow its rightful margins to stand, to let its complexity and biodiversity, its very destiny, play out along ancient and ongoing pathways. Our overwhelming anthropocentrism does not allow the solution to take the correct form, of limiting our own numbers and presence to create a balance in the biosphere. Instead, people encroach everywhere, in ever-greater numbers with ever-greater demands. We line the wetland with houses, then ask what we can do to help the turtles."

"We are the problem, and under the terms of the day, we cannot be the solution. It is beyond ironic that we can all but never say no to the housing project, shopping mall, hotel, highway, golf course, or expansion of agriculture, but that after the habitat has been fragmented, funds, agencies and groups can be drummed up to cage the final nests, relocate buckets of eggs, fast-forward hatchling turtles in aquariums, and dump them into encircled habitat remnants."

"The most direct, simple, and viable solution, to simply leave the place alone, has no place in the debate. It is rarely a matter of whether or not a project is to go forward but how it is to go forward, with various token, ecologically meaningless compromises and mitigations, together with management plans for the lost landscape. We look to feel good when we

should feel ashamed. "Wildlife management" is a sorry contradiction in terms. There already is a management plan. It has been unfolding since life's appearance on earth." David M. Carroll; "Swampwalker's Journal, A Wetlands Year", pg. 105

There are many other sources and documentaries that support the key values of beaver activity. Many of the links to some of these can be found through sites such as: www.BeaversWW.org, www.martinezbeavers.org, also PBS - <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature...>, NATURE, www.thebeaverbelievers.com, and recent and ongoing studies from various Universities are and will be available.

Thank you for any consideration

Name: Roy Hunter

Title/Organization: none given

City, State: Greenville, Maine

I welcome you, and the other KW&WNM staff, to Maine. You, your staff, and the Monument are just what I've been waiting for. No kidding.

I am 60 years old; my Grandfather was from Bradford, Maine, and I grew up hearing his tall tales of the Maine North Woods. He worked in the woods, hunted, and guided before there was a summer road north of Rockwood. In those days, there was big timber to be cut, but the cutting was all pretty close to the rivers; vast landlocked areas were true wilderness. Logging roads and paper mills, of course, changed all that. There are now roads, or gone-by roads, just about everywhere.

I write today, in order to provide input as you develop the management plan for the Monument.

I suspect, unlike many of those who are providing management plan input, I only want one thing from you. I want the vast majority of the western unit of the Monument to be designated as a Wilderness Study Area. In fact, everything other than a corridor along the Loop Road should go into one, or more, Study Areas.

The state of Maine is the most heavily forested state...but, we have very very few acres in Congressionally-designated Wilderness. While I do not have a list of Maine Wilderness Areas in from of me, I imagine the area I am suggesting will be the largest in the state.

I see from your bio, you have mostly been stationed out west...the land of multi-million acre Wilderness Areas. Being a career NPS guy, however, I know you are aware that since 1975, eastern Wilderness Areas can be of KW&WNM scale.

In 1975, Congress found:

"In the more populous eastern half of the United States there is an urgent need to identify, study, designate, and preserve areas for addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System...

In recognition of this urgent need, additional areas of wilderness in the more populous eastern half of the United States are increasingly threatened by the pressure of a growing and more mobile population, large scale industrial and economic growth, and development and uses inconsistent with the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of the areas' wilderness character.

Therefore, the Congress finds and declares that it is in the national interest that...areas in the eastern half of the United States be promptly designated as wilderness with the National Wilderness Preservation System, in order to preserve such areas as an enduring resource of wilderness which shall be managed to promote and perpetuate the wilderness character of the land and its specific values of solitude, physical and mental challenge, scientific study, inspiration, and primitive recreation for the benefit of all the American people of present and future generations."

That has KW&WNM written all over it.

You will also find that there is no "Pristine Test" for new eastern Wilderness Areas. Many of our eastern Wilderness Areas were designated as Wilderness even though they included old logging roads, dilapidated logging dams, abandoned trapper's cabins, and such.

Now, I know what you are thinking... The locals who didn't want any monument at all will hit the roof when they hear "Wilderness." How true. But, as you know, you have time on your side...designate the study area now, right now, and let demographics take their toll over the next decade. When it comes time to actually bring the Wilderness proposal to Congress, Maine will be a different place.

I am hoping you will take this opportunity to protect traditional pre-motorized uses of Maine's wild areas, ensure non-mechanized public access to these lands, and protect the aesthetic values of the East Branch region.

Good luck!

Name: Scot Miller

Title/Organization: none given

City, State: Dallas, TX

Thank you for the opportunity to offer ideas and input about Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. You have a jewel in the rough with tremendous upside potential. I hope you find these comments useful. Feel free to contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

INTERPRETIVE

Millinocket was created by the Great Northern Paper Company to house its workers in 1901 and for much of the 20th Century it was a bustling boomtown. Those days are long gone. Millinocket has gone through some

rough times, but Millinocket's, and the lumber industry's, impact on the area are undeniable and should be an important part of the interpretive, historical story the NPS tells about the Maine Woods

I hope the new park will find ways to tell the overall story about the history, etc. as it relates to the greater Maine Woods, not just the specific NM parklands only.

A good starting point for stories to tell and interpret is the book *Penobscot East Branch Lands: A Journey Through Time* by David Little, John W. Neff and Howard R. Whitcomb.

I would like to see the NPS engage and create opportunities with the Penobscot Nation. Their history and stories go back not just hundreds of years, but millennia. I have spent a great deal of time at the Penobscot Nation Museum on Indian Island over the years, learning and cultivating relationships. There are great, and important, stories to be told. Examples... https://youtu.be/H_L97yEAV8o and <https://youtu.be/Ccnv6o5pqk>

My most recent collaboration with Harvard resulted in two exhibitions: "Thoreau's Maine Woods: A Journey in Photographs with Scot Miller" at the Harvard Museum of Natural History, and "The Legacy of Penobscot Canoes: A View from the River" at the Peabody Museum of Archeology & Ethnology at Harvard University. The Penobscot canoes exhibition (www.peabody.harvard.edu/node/938) is still on display. I would like to see creative, informative, inspirational collaborations between the NPS and the Penobscot Nation.

I would like to see the NPS embrace and encourage Arts & Literature, both from historical and contemporary aspects. Today, KW&W can serve as a wonderful place to inspire painters, photographers, writers, poets, etc. and creative ways should be considered to market to and entice artists, writers & other creative types, from all over the country and world, to go to KW&W.

I would like to see the NPS encourage and embrace the history and stories of the early pioneers in the Maine Woods as well as encouraging/facilitating "living history." In Yosemite, Lee Stetson is John Muir (<https://youtu.be/VdgXJ9W4ydY>). At Walden Pond, Richard Smith is Henry David Thoreau. Wouldn't it be nice to have actors portraying the likes of Teddy Roosevelt, Henry David Thoreau and Penobscot guide Joe Polis at KW&W?

I would like to see the long-term history of the forests of northern Maine told. What were they like 1,000 years ago? 200 years ago? How have they changed and why? How do you see the lands of KW&W progressing in future years? The rest of northern Maine?

TOWNS & INFRASTRUCTURE

Millinocket thrived for much of the 20th Century, resulting in the construction of a great downtown area. While many of the downtown buildings have been neglected in recent years, by and large, they that have great "bones" and character.

Something to consider... Millinocket makes sense, at least in the early years as visitation is building, as the location for the primary visitors center for Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, with smaller satellite centers closer to the parklands. There are substantial buildings to be had in the downtown area for a relatively small cost. Although

remodeling costs would need to be invested, it would cost far less than the expense of building a new center from the ground up in a more remote location with (currently) minimal hospitality infrastructure in place. With time, this might change.

There is far more infrastructure in place today in Millinocket, including food & lodging, than anywhere else in the immediate region. Note - the quality of the food and lodging services on whole have great room for improvement. Hopefully, that will come with time, along with more visitors.

Other key towns in the area are –

Stacyville - immediate access to the Loop Road, Lunksoos

Sherman - access to both Loop Road/Lunksoos and Matagamon areas

Patten - more immediate access to Matagamon area

Matagamon immediate access to upper Penobscot East Branch lands on the west side of the river (and potential KW&W camping?).

CONSERVATION

Keep buildings on the west side of the Penobscot East Branch rustic and to an absolute minimum. Put a premium on wilderness and wilderness experiences. Do not expand roads much, if at all, on the west side beyond the current access and loop roads. Old logging roads can be used as hiking trails (and for emergency access?), but keep motorized vehicles out of wilderness areas. Visitors should be able to hike a half-mile or mile off the roads and be able to experience quiet and solitude. Promote the quintessential American nature experience.

In the upper Penobscot East Branch area, keep a few strategic roads open that feed into hiking opportunities. Add strategically located, primitive parking areas at key trail heads, i.e. access to the Penobscot East Branch at Haskell Deadwater, Haskell Pitch & Haskell Rock... it's a 1+ mile hike into Haskell Deadwater from the locked gate at the road now.

Keep it that way. It's a nice, easy hike with big payoffs.

FORM A FRIENDS GROUP

KW&W should have a friends of the park group.

Marilyn and I have worked with Yosemite Conservancy for over 20 years and Friends of Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park (www.friendsoflbjnationalpark.org/) for nine years and have seen how valuable they are to their respective parks. Yosemite Conservancy (www.yosemiteconservancy.org) has raised more than \$100 million and Friends of LBJ NHP has raised over \$1 million to fund important projects in their parks. The LBJ friends group is more appropriate, sizewise, when talking about a friends group for KW&W. The LBJ park is in small towns (like KW&W in Maine) and also has an original benefactor family, the Johnsons. Lucy Baines Johnson is actively & effectively involved with the friends group (like hopefully Roxanne Quimby, Lucas St. Clair, etc. can be in Maine). We talked to Russ Whitlock, Superintendent of LBJNHP (until retirement in January), and he would be happy to share his friends group and other experiences to help the new KW&W if there is interest on your part.

The "Ways to Give - Support Yosemite" page (www.yosemiteconservancy.org/supportyosemite) on Yosemite Conservancy's website shows the variety of ways individuals, foundations and businesses can contribute. While not all may be applicable to KW&W, many could be. It's not just about donating every year, but including the park in estate planning, etc.

Seek involvement locally, regionally and nationally, by both individuals and businesses.

Think Big. While locals have, and should, play a key role in the future of KW&W, it would be wise to reach out to other parts of Maine (Bangor, Portland, etc.), and beyond, to engage and bring individuals, foundations and businesses into the process... Offer them an opportunity to be involved from the ground up. Create as wide a base of supporters as possible, geographically and otherwise.

Yosemite Conservancy has a Corporate Protectors group and holds special events in the park at least twice each year. KW&W should consider this.

ENGAGE & EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES WITH RELATED NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Three organizations come to mind and are listed here as examples. We have close working relationships with the first two.

Reach out to the Thoreau Society www.thoreausociety.org

Formed in 1941 by a mixed group of academics and enthusiasts, the Thoreau Society is today the oldest and largest single author society in the United States. The organization's members have devoted themselves to the exploration and preservation of knowledge of the Thoreauvian landscape through the active collection of documentation.

Promote the organizing of field trips to KW&WNM, research studies, etc.

Reach out to The Walden Woods Project www.walden.org

The Walden Woods Project preserves the land, literature and legacy of Henry David Thoreau to foster an ethic of environmental stewardship and social responsibility. The Project achieves this mission through the integration of conservation, education, research and advocacy.

Part of the WWP's mission is preserving and protecting the landscapes of Walden Woods and Thoreau Country in recognition of their worldwide literary, historical and environmental significance.

Another aspect of the WWP's mission is providing innovative programs built on the philosophy of Henry David Thoreau and grounded in the land and historic resources of Walden Woods and Thoreau Country's programs that foster environmental literacy and social responsibility among students, educators and lifelong learners in the United States and around the world.

The Walden Woods Project offers a wide range of educational programs, inspired by the life of Henry David Thoreau, for local and global audiences of all ages. Their programs foster an

ethic of environmental stewardship and social responsibility, both cornerstones of Thoreau's philosophy. Most programs are offered at no cost to participants.

The WWP works both online and onsite at the Thoreau Institute at Walden Woods. They welcome opportunities to work with others to adapt their existing programs and to come up with new programs to meet specific needs. Fostering links with school kids of all ages in Maine could be a great thing and maybe the WWP would be willing to collaborate on educational programs.

Reach out to the Theodore Roosevelt Association www.theodoreroosevelt.org

One of their missions is to partner with national historic sites and the TRA has been instrumental in preserving sites of importance to Roosevelt's life and legacy.

MISCELLANEOUS

Partner and coordinate with Baxter State Park to establish a limited number of wilderness hiking/overnighting trails, i.e. from the Penobscot East Branch, up Wassataquoik Stream to, Katahdin Lake & out through Baxter.

Much of the land that Roxanne Quimby purchased and donated to the park was clearcut before being sold to her. Take a negative and make a positive out of it. An opportunity exists to document and study the regrowth of the forest over a period of many years. Partner with Maine colleges, etc. to study and help the forest grow back healthier than ever. The results and lessons learned from this longterm, multigenerational project could prove useful in the future to other areas looking to undergo similar transformations.

Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument is a blank canvas. Let's create a masterpiece!

Name: Todd Devenish

Title/Organization: none given

City, State: none given

I sent the following letter through the Monument's website last week, but thought I should sent it to this address as well. Thank you for listening, and I hope this adds to the discussion.

This past week I backpacked 60+ miles that looped through Baxter State Park and Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. My trip started at South Branch Campground in Baxter and ended at Matagamon Wilderness Camps and Store on the Grand Lake Road.

I chose this route for several reasons, but primarily to see if a "loop" backpacking trip of extended mileage could be accomplished in Maine. Although Maine does offer many opportunities for backpacking trips (100 Mile Wilderness for example), they are mostly linear in nature, and require long shuttles or the time consuming practice of spotting a vehicle at the trails terminus

The trip left me with many impressions of the new Monument that I would like to share during KWWNM's initial information gathering and planning phase.

- Established a network of trails that allowed for a 3- 4 day backcountry experience. The knowledgeable backpacker can combine these trails with existing trails in Baxter for an extended stay in the Maine woods. With careful consideration and trail planning this type of trip is possible, and I feel that it could become a future classic among backcountry enthusiasts.
- The IAT currently utilizes a combination of highly engineered logging roads, historic tote roads and newly established trails. The most interesting part of the IAT in KWWNM is the section between the ford of Wassataquoik Stream and the Lunksoos Lean-to. Although the logging roads make for some easy, fast hiking and dry footing they do become monotonous. I suggest rerouting much of the existing IAT along a route that incorporates the Monument's interesting natural features including Ripley Ridge in the south and the ponds in the north.
- Even though on the map the IAT appears to travel along the East Branch of the Penobscot it is not close enough to river's edge for a hiker to be within sight and sound of it. I suggest establishing a trail along the river where visitors to the Monument can enjoy a more intimate experience of the river.
- Re-establishing both the Wassataquoik Tote Road and the Keep Path as hiking paths would provide visitors the opportunity to actually relive history both physically and as an intellectual endeavor.
- Prohibit ATV use on Monument lands between Baxter State Park and the East Branch of the Penobscot. ATV use is incompatible with a National Monument, and more importantly invites potential incursion of motorized access into Baxter S.P.
- Do not establish a North-South road through the Monument. I urge you to keep Wassataquoik Valley as pristine as possible. The current Loop Road and northern access off the Grand Lake road are adequate.
- Avoid paving park roads
- I understand that there is an enormous amount of pressure being applied to establish a North-South Snowmobile trail thru the Monument. I suggest restricting this type of motorized use to a single existing road.
- Establish campsite/lean-to at site of Fire Warden's Cabin on Deasey Mtn
- Lastly, but most importantly protect Baxter State Park. I believe the current foot access to and from Katahdin Lake is adequate.

After hiking through the Monument, reading articles and pouring over maps before my trip, I feel that KWWNM has the potential to suffer from an "identity crisis". If the focus remains primarily on Katahdin then the Monument becomes little more than a scenic overlook. And focusing on the East branch can be problematic when only one side of the river is fully protected by the Monument. I think one of the defining or distinguishing characteristics of the Monument is the regenerative power of Nature in New England, as exemplified by the resurgent Wassataquoik Valley. Focusing more on the Wassataquoik, the only large natural feature predominantly within the boundaries of the Monument, may help give the Monument its own identity.

I hope my impressions and suggestions offer something positive to those involved with creating the future management plan and infrastructure of KWWNM. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to have a voice in the planning of this great resource. Please feel free to contact me at anytime for questions or comments.

Name: Eric Hendrickson

Title/Organization: none given

City, State: none given

Ideas for Katahdin Woods And Waters National Monument, these are in no particular order. Please understand this is written as we are driving so please forgive errors. Some things could take place now, some in the future and others not at all. These are ideas we have come up with as we drive across the country visiting both national parks and national monuments. One thing we noticed today as we visit Mont St Helens National Volcanic Monument was the number of non American tourists in the visitor center. Some of these things could be done from peoples homes while others could be done by local chamber groups. As we have travelled we have downloaded park news paper to plan our adventures. Having the information on hand makes life so much easier. As an example here is a web pdf for KWWNM.

<https://www1.maine.gov/dacf/mgs/explore/bedrock/sites/oct05.pdf>

SUGGESTIONS

A. Ranger/volunteer led programs for the general public to include the following:

1. nature programs for children, tree, flowers, animal tracks and signs, geology of the area, birds
2. family hiking, biking, canoeing, kayaking trips, snowshoeing, cross country skiing
3. Donn Fender's Lost on a Mountain in Maine with a hike on part of the area around Lunksoos
4. importance of Fire Towers in Maine, hike to Deasey Fire Tower
5. The history of logging, hike to Deasey Dam, look at artifacts there
6. Camping trips for children, learning how to build a fire, learning what food to bring, clothes to wear
7. Fishing day for kids' providing rods and instruction with IF&W
8. Have a scavenger hunt for parents and children to do when touring the loop road, Junior Ranger type activity. Or photo contest.

B. Create a trail less area for places for people to explore, from north of the Wassataquoik to the park boundary, east of the IAT and Big Spring Brook road, excluding the Lookout Ledges

C. Create, mark, and maintain five biker/hiker loops – Oxbow Loop, Barnard Mountain Loop including Orin Falls, Loop past Big Spring Hut to include Lookout Ledges, a loop to Grand Pitch -KComp?, one in Southwest section using existing roads (Burntland Pond)

D. Hiking trails: Extend Orin Falls trail along Wasstaquiok past Robar Dam to the Black Spruce forest.

E. Create several nature trail hikes with written guides, to include trees, rocks, animal signs, etc.

F. A list of projects at the Visitor Centers for volunteers, volunteers are the lifeblood of any park or monument and have to be safe and happy workers to continue

G. Trail cleaning training to include PPE perhaps in conjunction with Baxter. Require people working on trails to take the training, use PPE (helmet, safety glasses, etc. available through the park), Require specialized training for motorized equipment using PPE to include chainsaw use, brush saw use, motorboat and snowmobile use, Strongly discourage the use of chainsaws by trail crews.

Not allow the use of ATVs by trail crews

H. Create a trip guide from Sandbank Campground around loop road explaining growth of trees, old road names, points of interest to stop, Create one also for Matagammon Road and area along the East Branch

I. Georeferenced maps of both the area and the monument should be online for folks to download into their phones and tablets

J. All guides, flyers and maps should be posted as PDFs so folks can download them into phones and tablets

K. The website should inform folks that cellphone service and WiFi coverage does not work in the area. This should also include a warning about the use of automobile gps unit to find and follow the roads.

L. Create a trip permit system for the river use. Make it free and the party leader can obtain it before or during the trip. This will keep track of numbers and usage and allow for future planning.

M. There are a number of access points to the lands. Each should have a point of self registration allowing the tracking of individual.

N. Mark trails in a consistent manner for better understanding by guests.

O. Create a permit system for all overnight stays in both winter and summer to include parking permits.

P. Create a list of river outfitters, guides and accommodations in the areas for folks to reference.

Q. Create a list of rental for canoes and other outdoor equipment.

R. Hold special weekend events such as Carnival of Colors (fall foliage) weekend, Sky and Star Party weekend, Family Camping Weekend, Music on the Mountain Weekend, or Paint the Mountain Artist Weekend.

S. Offer guide bus tours of the loop road on request.

T. Move the Haskell Gate about a half mile further in at the gravel pit for better parking.

Name: Caroline Shirley Woodward

Title/Organization: President, Rogers Camp Community

City, State: Winchester, MA

Congratulations to you on your new position as the superintendent of the new Katahdin Woods and Waters national monument. I know this is an exciting new project with many possibilities. My family and I are enthusiastic supporters of your mission to preserve the wild nature of this area of Maine.

I wanted to reach out and introduce myself, I am the current President of the Rogers Camp Community of the south end of Lower Shin Pond. We are a 100+ member family organization who own quite a few of the lots on the south end, including some that abut your waterfront property. I believe you may have already met some of our members, such as my cousin Frank Rogers at The Lumberman's Museum and my brother John Shirley who is your direct abutter. We have been there continuously since the late 1800's when my great great grandfather, Luther B. Rogers (father of Lore Rogers, founder of the museum) bought waterfront lots from Greenleaf Hunter Davis. To this day we live off the grid at Shin Pond. It connects us to the natural environment and helps preserve our strong family traditions and solidify family bonds when we spend time there together every summer.

The Rogers Camp Community, not to mention many other home and camp owners on Lower Shin Pond, have expressed concern about media reports that a boat landing, with boathouses, docks and the attendant visitors, may be developed on the southern end of the lake.

Shin Pond is a relatively small lake, where everyone knows everyone else to one degree or another. It is a community that is tolerant of various uses of the lake and lakefront. We watch out for each other and leave our camps unattended for 10-11 months out of the year with the knowledge that our neighbors will watch out for us as much as we watch out for them. Every once in a while some visitors will arrive on a party boat they have launched at the north end, and hang out in their boat blasting music, drinking beer and whooping the rebel yell. These isolated incidents are so unusual and disruptive that we still talk about them with disbelief years later. Access to this remote area by large numbers of non-resident visitors will threaten to damage not only the intrinsic peace and tranquility of the lake, but also the sense of community and security that has evolved there.

We assume the mission of EPI and Katahdin Woods and Waters is to preserve the wild woods, waters, along with the culture and history already in place. Therefore it is our sincere hope that as you work to develop the area and bring in a lot more traffic, you will bear in mind our concerns.

Installing a public boat launch, docks or swimming area at your waterfront locations at the south end of the lake would attract numerous visitors to this remote location, presumably many miles from monument staff who could monitor safety and security. These visitors would seek to enjoy the recreation of the outdoors in a beautiful waterfront setting. But they would not bring with them the sense of community, and some would not have the proper respect for the land or residents, both human and animal, of the area. We camp owners would have an abrupt and significant increase in noise and exposure, and the camps would be much more vulnerable to trespassers and vandalism during the many months we are not there. If you do plan to develop these waterfront locations, does the plan include having staff in place to oversee the activity that takes place and ensure that our properties are not damaged.

There is no doubt a swimming area with canoes and kayaks would work at the north end of the lake near the paved Shin Pond road. This would act as an attraction to visitors, bring extra traffic to the businesses that are in place along the shin pond road, and would limit the exposure to the current residents of Shin Pond, human and animal alike.

We are not in favor of a public access motorized boat launch in any location on the lake, as we feel it would greatly increase water pollution, introduction of invasive plants, noise, disturbance of the peace, trespassing and vandalism on the lake.

Thank you for taking our concerns into account. We appreciate the inclusiveness and openness with which you conducted the campaign leading up to the proclamation, especially since the time you took over as point person. Furthermore, in that same spirit of openness, we hope you will include us in the conversation as you decide on the disposition of the shorefront areas at the southern end of Lower Shin Pond.

Along those same lines, let me extend an open invitation to come and meet our family and visit the camps, some of which have stood by the shore of the lake for nearly 100 years. We would love to share with you some of our family lore and traditions while enjoying the warmth of a campfire.

Name: Janice Kasper
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: Swanville, Maine

I was not able to attend any of the public comment sessions held on the management of the new Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument, therefore I would like to do so with this letter.

It is important that the Monument is adjacent to Baxter State Park. Baxter is an area I visit frequently and I am a great admirer on how the park has been set up and managed. I hope that the Monument will measure up to the same standards so that there is a continuous large track of land managed in a similar fashion.

What is important to me for both areas is-

- No Hunting or Trapping or Baiting of wildlife
- Limited road access
- Remote wilderness camping sites
- No ATVs or large recreational vehicles allowed
- (Although Baxter allows this) No snowmobiles

The Quimby family has set up a management plan of this area that I can agree with- I hope that the family's wishes on how this land is managed are honored. It is a tremendous gift to the people of Maine and to the Nation.

I am looking forward to visiting often.

Name: Eric Hendrickson
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: Presque Isle, ME

Just returned from climbing Mount Rainier to Camp Muir and have some thoughts to give you. Between the park planner to talked with and my daughter, she is works for the USFS in district 6 writing cave management plans I have some thoughts about the near future. Mount Rainier is proud of the fact that everything in the park was planed before it was built.

People want to start thing as soon as possible but there appears to be a better way. Take time to take stock of everything that is currently there and decide what is best and what is not, work to improve the best using volunteers to bring it to NP standards, signage, trail markers, etc. (I saw a photo of the bridge decking which is a good example of something that needed to be improved for safety) Allow no new projects until the plan is complete. In the mean times work with locals to get their opinions letting them know that nothing will be done until everyone has had their say, perhaps a two to three year process. That way more folks will come around to the process of a new owner, NPS. Once you have a complete plan for the future in order of most important to least follow the plan, something everyone will agree with while other items folks have varied opinions on what should be done. Make changes in either small steps or at the beginning of a new season, early spring after a long winter where folks forget.

Couple of suggestions:
Allow only certified weed-free feed for animals

Start a log of volunteer work and maintain a sign of volunteer hours in both offices. Volunteer hour should include both on the land/office and outside work.

Make kiosks for every possible entry point to track visitors, I am sure the NPS has some formula for determining #of visitor vs number registered.

Somewhere in the offices should be visitor days, once again the numbers from a counter are generally low due to number of counters and locations.

Well another two cents worth, so we are off again to the parks in BC and some biking. When we return we will plan to do some fall volunteering at what ever needs to be done. Enjoy the leaves here there is only yellow on the trees and red on the brush.

Name: Derek and Jeannette Lovitch

Title/Organization: none given

City, State: Freeport, Maine

We are pleased to see the creation of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, and fully support its designation. This will be a valuable addition to the publicly managed lands of Maine's Northern woods. As birders who own a retail store dedicated to bird and wildlife watching, and birding tour guides, we would like to make a few suggestions regarding the wildlife watching aspect of the monument. Non-consumptive wildlife "users" seem to have gotten the short stick in the pre-monument debate, as "traditional" hunting rights were frequently discussed.

However, the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Other Wildlife-Associated Recreation report cited that 72 million people in the United States enjoy some form of wildlife watching. More specifically, 47 million are considered birdwatchers. 30% of the nation's population is no small figure, and the National Park Service has a responsibility to provide opportunities for these recreationists, as they will travel to experience what our area has to offer. Moose and Common Loons of course stand out as attention grabbers, but birders come to Maine to see a variety of species that can be hard to see elsewhere, such as Spruce Grouse, American Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpeckers, Pine Grosbeak, and several species of warblers.

We would like to see NPS effectively manage habitat preservation and human access in order to put the best interests of our wildlife first. This would mean planning roads, campgrounds, buildings, and even hiking trails around, not through, sensitive habitat. And, this is no place for off-road vehicles – there are plenty of other areas in the vicinity for that. Even mountain bikes are detrimental to wildlife if they become too numerous. With so much privately owned land surrounding the monument that is logged, or otherwise compromised, Katahdin Woods & Waters could really be a safe haven for many species, especially those that depend on minimal disturbance and an eventual return to old growth forest.

One other element we would like to address is one that has not likely been discussed. While we love this opportunity for birders to experience the Northwoods birdlife of Maine, we also know that the use of "tape playback" in order to get the perfect look at a bird could become a concern. Unfortunately, this happens much too often. Birders play a species' song or call through a speaker or smartphone to get a bird to come out to where it is more visible. Numerous studies have shown that this causes undue stress by raising levels of the hormone, corticosterone, especially during the breeding season - although the linkage to detrimental effects remains unproven. The repeated use of playback can cause an individual bird to fail at its nesting attempt. But at the very least, it also impacts the birders' experience as countless sensitive breeding species have been "taped out" (no longer found, or no longer responding in a particular area) by overzealous birders and unskilled guides. The NPS bans the use of audio playback in National Parks, and we hope that the NPS extends this ban in the monument.

Maine already has Acadia National Park that is stunning, but managed heavily for visitors. We feel that Katahdin Woods & Waters could fill the niche of providing a place for people to experience the serenity and wildlife of the Maine Woods in its natural state if it is done right. We appreciate this opportunity to comment as the plan moves forward, and we offer our assistance in any way.

Name: Andrew Hubert
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: Londonderry NH

Consideration of Bikepacking Opportunities in the Park: I will be unable to attend the upcoming Public Participation and Planning sessions in Northern Maine. However, I would ask that the decision makers please consider enhancing "Bikepacking" opportunities (backpacking with a bike) within the park. Compared to the rest of the nation, the Northeast lacks bikepacking networks. With it's existing network of logging roads and double track, KWW should support multiple day trips with designated camping and/or lean to areas. Thanks in advance for your consideration.

Name: Marianne Sacknoff
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: none given

Thanks for sending me these emails. I am unable to attend these meetings and would like to put my 2Cents in about what I would like to see in the park:
Cabins, dry, nothing but screens, accessible by car for elder and minimally abled citizens, near a toilet. Each with picnic table and a fire ring.

Thanks for listening.

Name: Jon Way
Title/Organization:
City, State: Osterville, MA

Hello, I am very excited about the new National Monument (hopefully soon National Park) in Maine... I was just at Baxter State Park and very close to the NM and plan to go there next summer at the latest. I wanted to voice my opinion of the NM that you make sure to keep it as a National Park with no hunting in the majority or all of the region. I see that you can hunt east of the main river in the park... I'd advise you to tread lightly on that and have demands with hunting such as gently forcing the state of Maine to donate their state owned lands between Baxter and KAWW in order to allow hunting in those lands East of the river. I know that when I come to the park next year and in future years I am only going to spend time with my family in areas treated like a national park. I can't wait to get there and I hope you can add some land within the next few years to make the park even bigger. Thank you.

Name: Tonya Troiani
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: Meddybemps ME

Please, please DO NOT ALLOW ATVS. A national park should be a sacred place. A place where one goes to GET AWAY from the noise, pollution, and dust created by ATV's. In this time of concern for climate change, air quality, light and noise pollution, can't we have a few places to escape from all that? At there not enough roads cut through th firsts of ME already?! Seriously!!! No ATV's in this new park!! Let there be people hiking, walking, jogging. Let there be clean air (or as clean as you can get it these days). Let there be healthy life styles encouraged. ATV's have no place in any of this. They have their hundreds of miles of trails/roads now. Enough!!! Keep them out. I can stay here and listen to all that noise. Why would I want to travel to a park to "enjoy" noise, pollution and all that goes w/ATV's. Don't think the wildlife enjoy them either!!!

Name: Gregory Wallace, Ph.D.
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: Somerville MA

Katahdin Woods and Waters management plan: I am writing to share my opinion on management of the new Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. I am an avid outdoors recreationalist and have spent many wonderful days in the woods of northern Maine. I would very much like to have the wild areas of the Monument reserved for human-powered recreation, including the use of mountain bicycles, kayaks, canoes, and skis. Motorized vehicles should be restricted to existing roads, including snowmobiles. My reasoning for this is that motorized vehicles can cover enormous distances relative to human powered means of locomotion, making it difficult for non-motorized users to avoid the noise and disruption of motorized vehicles.

Name: Ignacio Pessoa
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: Mount Desert, ME

I believe that a priority should be to establish sufficient in-park services and amenities to attract a broad range of visitors. I do not believe that the Katahdin region needs another park which, like Baxter, primarily appeals to back-country aficionados.

Thus I would consider including a concessionaire to operate an appropriately themed lodging and restaurant facility at a suitable location within the park. The Ahwahnee Lodge, Old Faithful Inn and Skyland Lodge come to mind, particularly since the region is not well served by such facilities.

Name: Jon Way
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: Osterville MA

Hello, I recently shared my comments for the new national monument via the form from your website but I want to stress that this is a unique area and part of the national park service. I stress that you don't allow hunting in the majority of the unit. I plan to visit next summer at the latest (possibly this fall). I come to seek nature in a national park setting and this includes areas free from human interference so wildlife live undisturbed. I recognize that areas East of the main river will allow hunting but I stress that that be conditional and include a few things, like the state of Maine donating their properties near Baxter park to the park in exchange for allowing things like hunting on the eastern parts of KAWW.

I want to stress that allowing hunting in those areas, makes the area effectively no different than the rest of Maine. Those are areas I doubt I will visit as I seek unique areas similar to the majority of Baxter State Park.

I hope to see KAWW grow over time to include areas to the south and maybe even North and West... Maybe one day it will become the envisioned Maine Woods National Park....

Name: Bob Weston

Title/Organization: none given

City, State: Salt Lake City UT

PUBLIC SESSIONS: Unable to attend
Below is my input for the KAWW NM.

Background: New England Native; Hometown: Nashua, NH; Vietnam Era Veteran; Lives in Salt Lake City; Retired; Nordic Skier; Extensive Long-distance hiking experience; WM 4,000 Footers, Colorado 14er's etc.

Input for new monument:

- Enhance Winter recreational opportunities for visitors and business opportunities for local hospitality industry.
- Establish a nordic ski trail complex on existing old logging roads.
- Nordic ski trail system should minimize snowshoe impact.
- Snowshoe trails should be separate shorter trails with some joint use area.
 - Rationale: Significant speed and distance advantage for skiers, snowshoe use depredates ski tracks.
- May need (2) major trail bridges over a significant stream/river crossing.
- No snowmobiles, please!

In reviewing the available maps. It seems to be excellent terrain for nordic backcountry skiing, with multi-day ski touring possibilities.

A major selling point is minimal avalanche terrain, as compared to the Western US.

Local government and the State of Maine might consider exploring the opportunity to host an FIS World Cup Nordic ski competition by creating a seasonal course on one of the many large lakes in the area.

Name: anonymous

Title/Organization: none given
City, State: none given

Hopes: I cannot attend the listening sessions. But I would like to express my hope that some of the Baxter State Park trails be extended into the area of KWWNM with lean-tos or campsites. Especially the Wassataquoik Stream trail which follows the old tote road route to the east. Can't wait to hike in this wonderful area.

Name: Anthony Hubert
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: none given

Input on Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument - Bikepacking: Although I will not be able to attend the upcoming listening sessions, I would like to provide input.

There are very few areas in the Northeast in which to participate in an activity known as "bikepacking". Bikepacking can be thought of as "backpacking with a bicycle" or off-road bicycle touring. Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument offers a unique wilderness experience for this activity in that it has a myriad of service roads and places to camp. I would envision participants having multi-day journeys within the park enjoying all it has to offer. Additionally, people sometimes take advantage of fishing access that might not normally see typical foot traffic.

With the exception of developing some primitive camping spots, I don't see any expensive cash outlays for this activity. Most of the infrastructure required (dirt roads) is in place. Perhaps suggested "circuits" could be proposed depending upon the length of stay? Also, this activity is not to be confused with mountain biking. Although each sport shares many of the same characteristics, bikepackers tend to contribute much less erosion to the trail systems.

At any rate, thanks for the opportunity to express an idea.

Name: David Govatski
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: Jefferson NH

I regret that I cannot attend one of the public listening sessions but I did want to express my comments.

I am in full support of the new KAWW National Monument. I have currently visited 366 National Park units across our beautiful country. I am also very familiar with Baxter State Park and the Allagash Wilderness Waterway and the region that the new national monument will be in. I believe the new unit will have strong economic benefits for the local community and that the natural features inside the monument will become an attraction for many visitors.

I hope that Little Wilson Falls Gorge and Big Wilson Cliffs in Elliottsville Plantation are part of the KAWW. If not they should be added because of their unique geological and scenic value. I also hope that the National Park Service will be able to add additional lands and to

swap some lands with state agencies where that makes sense for the resource and needs of each agency. I also hope that the NPS can work with local planning agencies and the tourist industry to prepare for the onslaught of visitors.

I look forward to visiting KAWW and making it my 367 national park unit. This is a great addition to the national park system of the United States and I am so pleased that Roxanne Quimby and family was able to be such a generous benefactor.---

Name: Alan Pooley, Ph.D.
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: Brookline ME

I hope that firearms will be discouraged or forbidden, that hunting will be minimal, late in season, short duration but plenty of opportunity to remove excess herbivores (to encourage forest growth), that laws will be enforced, that impact on nature will be as small as possible, that ATVs and snowmobiles will be banned or reduced to minimum (snow mobiles for hunting herbivores in season) that as many peoples possible can enjoy the park but on a limited number of roads and parking areas and that most use will be observational and low impact camping and hiking.

Name: Jane Frost
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: Millinocket ME

Just a quick note to say thank you. My husband Bill has attended three of your informational sessions and has found them very helpful and inviting. We live in Millinocket, Maine and own 216 acres in Sherman Maine. We have wetlands, many vernal pools, fields and woodlots. We love the land and the animals that dwell there. We grow vegetables and herbs using organic and sustainable farming practices. One of our aims is to protect the land and the animals from stress. We have walking and bicycling trails on our property and we invite folks to cross-country ski, bicycle, and walk on the trails. We do not allow motorized vehicles access to our property, except at one area in one of our back fields where the snow mobile trail system passes through. We have worked with the local snow mobile club and we have allowed access and they have been for the most part respectful of our wishes for staying on the marked trail and not leaving rubbish behind. We are so thrilled with the Monument. We have visited and hiked multiple days, and we intend to spend much time there enjoying the peace and serenity of quiet place. We will be attending the informational session in Orono. I would like to see a few more sites for tenting. Also I wondered about trails that allow for more views along the streams. Anyway, I can't wait to see what is next.

Name: Geri Vistein
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: none given

I'm happy that you are seeking our suggestions regarding our new Monument in Maine. Thank you!

Here is my contribution ~

I am a citizen of Maine and a wildlife biologist. I, like so many other Mainers, have loved our Baxter State Park because of the way it is run. WILDLIFE is the first priority there, but at the same time Governor Baxter wanted all of us who spend time in that beautiful place to have a TRUE experience in nature.

I would like to see that same thing happen in Maine's new Monument, especially because it is adjacent to Baxter. It would be wonderful to have them both share that same "tone."

As a younger biologist, I did research in Yellowstone National Park, and all I can say is that I was appalled by the masses of people who overwhelmed that place and who had NO respect for the wildlife. I know that our national parks are experiencing some very troubling behavior toward our wildlife. THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE A REFUGE IN OUR NATIONAL PARKS.,

Let us make this park the beginning of a new Vision for our National Parks, and let it be inspired by Governor Baxter's desire to protect our wild places in northern Maine.

Name: Chris Johansen
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: none given

I would like you to reconsider the monument and designate it a National Forest.

Name: Richard Ray
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: none given

Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument Input: I would like to offer some input about how the could Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument can be managed. I have been going up to the Matagamon area since I was 13 years old. I will be 61 next week. Through the years I have passed on the experience of this wonderful area to my children, their spouses and now to my five grandchildren. It is the highlight for us every year to be able to go as a family and spend time up in this region. My youngest son, Nathaniel, was born with inoperable lymphatic tumors in his chest cavity which has limited his physical activity. What is now the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, was a great place to experience nature in all of its fullness. We could drive down the old logging road from Matagamon to gain access to the Messer ponds, the trail to Traveler Pond, and the trail to the Overlook. Now because of the gates that have been placed on the road to block access, the only way to experience the wonders of this part of the woods is to be healthy enough to be able to hike in and back for miles. The gates were installed with the intent of "protecting" the area, but one of the consequences has been that the area is now restricted to use by only "healthy" people. Because of my sons disability the gates have made this area no longer assessable to him. He can hike some distance, and enjoys it tremendously, but the installation of the gates has made the distances needed to be traveled beyond his capabilities.

Would you consider the removal of those gates so that people with physical limitations would be able to have access again to this wonderful area? To find himself suddenly "barred" from being able to participate because of this disability, has been difficult for him. My son is now married and has a two-year-old son himself. He hoped to be able to pass on to his son, the next generation, the experiences he had growing up exploring this region.

I would love to have further discussion with whoever about possible solutions to this issue.

Name: Carol Agnes
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: none given

This new national monument is currently up to this point very much a wilderness area thanks to the foresight of its "keepers/donor". Please keep it that way. Look to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota for a successful management plan, especially its entry point management system. The only way to keep our wilderness areas lovely is to put the well-being of the land, waters, flora and fauna at highest priority. Limited access for those unable to navigate rugged landscape is necessary and beneficial for all visitors but making vehicular access easily available to interior areas only invites masses of people ill prepared or unwilling to follow a "leave no trace" visiting policy. The hoards of people on Mt Washington every year is a good insight into what destruction is likely without effective recreational visitor and commercial use control.

Thanks for allowing this wilderness hiker/paddler of over 60 years to provide input for the future. We in the USA are SO fortunate to be beneficiaries of the unbelievable wisdom, courage, foresight and life long struggles of our forefathers to save these very special places for us to experience in very near their original state. May we now pick up the baton and carry it forward into the future

Name: Jon Lund
Title/Organization:
City, State: Hallowell ME

My hope is that the new monument will afford people an opportunity to leave the noise and clutter of civilization behind and see and experience the outdoors in as near natural settings as possible.

All recreation groups will be aggressively seeking their place in the sun, snowmobilers, ATVers mountain bikers and hikers, canoers and kayakers, even RV fans.

I hope the Monument will judiciously plan to allow for those users in a way that will minimally adversely affect the enjoyment by those who seek to enjoy the Monument with minimal equipment and noise.

Name: Anonymous
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: none given

I think it is awesome to have this National Monument in Maine. I hope the Park Service will partner with the Univ. of Maine and devote a section of the park to an educational and research oriented working forest. A place where the public can be educated on the history

of working the woods in the Northeast and the progression to sustainable forestry practices. Can't wait to visit!

Name: Edward Morgan
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: Stowe MA

The management plan must:

- Emphasize wilderness and remote backcountry, with low-impact recreational development.
- Stress wilderness recovery and conversion of woods roads to trails.
- Call for the Monument to be a good neighbor, including to:
 - cooperate with private landowners to ensure safe roads and efficient flow of wood;
 - protect Baxter State Park's wilderness and discourage illegal entry to the park.
- Manage the lands west of the Penobscot River East Branch as a national park is managed and the lands east of the river as a National Recreation Area is managed, which will conform to the proclamation and deeds that created the Monument, and conform to National Park Service policy:
 - prohibit logging, mining, other resource extraction, commercial and industrial development.

Name: Abi Morrison
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: Rockland ME

Public comments on monument use: I am writing about the management plan being developed for the new monument as an avid skijorer and future musher. I have enjoyed my pair of retired sled dogs for a number of years and would like to see more places where they may be without running risks of snowmobile encounters. It is difficult to skijor with out a packed trail as the dog(s) have a hard time getting the purchase they need to pull. Yet using regular skidoo trails can be quite dangerous given the speeds that they are traveled even wearing reflective gear. I think I speak for many mushers who find it a challenge to find places where they can safely train without fear of being run over. Too many parks restrict dogs unfairly. As a long time cross country skier I assert that dogs do not significantly interfere with trail conditions. I think a dog team would be a great way to groom trails if the monument ever wanted to do that. In addition they are a traditional mode of travel in the north country. I hope you will consider my request to allow dogs in the Western part of the new monument. I understand that they can be a problem with wildlife and that they should be under control at all times the year round. Thank you for your ears. Yours, Abi Morrison

Name: Dennis G. Wingle
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: none given

I am writing you to submit my suggestions for the management of the newly created Katahdin Woods And Waters National Monument in northern Maine. I would like to first say

that I believe that the lands in the monument west of the East Branch of the Penobscot River should be managed as a national park and wilderness area with no hunting or trapping allowed. There should also be no snowmobile or other off-road vehicle use allowed in this part of the monument. I also believe that the lands in Baxter State (west of the national monument) should be protected and maintained as wilderness with no illegal entry to the park allowed. As to the lands east of the East Branch of the Penobscot River, I would suggest that those lands be managed as a national recreation area with hunting allowed for those animals which are opened to hunting with the exception of Black Bears. As with the lands west of the East Branch of the Penobscot River, I believe that trapping should be forbidden in this section of the monument. I do believe that snowmobiles should be allowed on designated roads on the lands east of the East Branch of the Penobscot River portion of the national monument. I believe that logging, mining, oil and gas exploration and development, and fracking should be prohibited on the entire national monument—on lands both west and east of the East Branch of the Penobscot River. I also believe that former logging roads should be allowed to be transitioned to trails and only low-impact recreation be allowed on the entire national monument. I also believe that wilderness recovery should be allowed on the entire national monument. Also, I believe that fishing should be allowed throughout the entire national monument.

The content in the preceding paragraph are my own personal suggestions as to how I believe the new Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument should be managed. Thank you for taking the time to read my suggestions for the future management of the new Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument and for your consideration of my views.

Name: Diane D'Arcy
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: Corea ME

As a land owner in Maine I fully support the addition of these lands to the existing parklands.

Name: Jamie Gaudion
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: none given

Please understand that many of us who live in central Maine heartily support the idea of wilderness remaining wilderness as much as possible. Hikers need access to trails and wilderness camping opportunities, free of campers with generators and ATV trails. We believe there must be a place for both non-mechanized and mechanized activity--but the two cannot coexist together.

Many thanks for your work on behalf of all of us.

Name: William Turner
Title/Organization: Air Diagnostics & Engineering Inc.
City, State: none given

Hello, i am not able to attend your meetings, however I have some thoughts.

1) Get some type of a ring road developed early, and places for tourist to stay so the area can start reaping economic benefits and the locals will get on-board with the benefit of the wonderful decision to preserve the areas. I

2) Do some cultural education so the folks of Maine have some understanding of the out of country folks who will likely find their way to the monument and report back to their country.

3) Help the tour groups figure out how to have their clients visit both Acadia and Katahdin Woods and Waters to spread the wealth around.

Name: Matt Wickenheiser
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: Portland ME

My name is Matt Wickenheiser - I'm a native of Madawaska, Maine, and I live in Portland. I also run a Scout troop - Troop 1 in Portland. One thing I'd ask you to consider as you plan out usage: Think about a way to have a few group camping sites that are interior to the park -- i.e., - sites that hold 15 or 20 people (tents) - with an outhouse and fire rings that you have to hike into - say several miles. Maybe start with a parking lot; a 3 - 5 mile hike into one site; maybe another 2-3 mile hike to another group site and then a 3- mile hike or so back to the parking lot - sort of a loop. The opportunity for group camping (a troop, etc.) that is not 'car camping' is fairly limited, overall, currently. It would be great to take advantage of the land expanse to put in something innovative. The sites would have to have access to water; maybe there's a stream or some other feature that could be followed Happy to discuss further - and I wish you the very best of luck and success!! I'm taking my two sons up to Baxter this weekend, and we're hoping for good Mountain weather!!! Best - Matt Wick

Name: Ryan Hews
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: none given

Although unable to attend one of the four listening sessions provided by the Park Service, I wanted to share some feedback and ideas regarding Katahdin Woods and Waters. Having visited the monument lands twice, it's clear that this beautiful landscape is well deserving of its protected status alongside other national treasures. I am hoping that the future can bring enhanced visitor services that will include:

One or more visitor centers with cultural, historical, and natural science displays for education purposes. The history of native peoples, the logging industry, Henry David Thoreau, and Theodore Roosevelt would be appropriate and valuable. Access to the park from Millinocket north to the new loop road would be beneficial as would a road allowing access from the loop road to the northern features in the park. More hiking trails and camp sites that allow both day and overnight visits to the park. Creating a carriage-roads like experience using some of the old tote roads in the park would help with access for biking, skiing, and walking.

Partnership with outfitters that provide canoe and kayak tours (as is the case with the Snake River in Grand Teton National Park) could increase visitation and take advantage of the beautiful rivers that flow through the park lands.
Information kiosks at Acadia National Park and in Bangor and Portland would certainly encourage visitors to the area.

Thanks for working to make this park a reality. There are many in Maine who love and support this region and we are hopeful that the park will, in the years and decades ahead, come to be seen as much a treasure as Acadia.

Name: Paula Burton
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: Sandy Hook CT

I am a frequent visitor to Maine and to National Parks. I am also an avid mountain biker . This is an ideal place for single track opportunities for a great form of recreation. I also believe that well balanced recreation and conservation leads to more appreciation for the beautiful lands in this country.

I urge the National Park Service to incorporate a robust network of trails suitable to mountain biking and other non- motorized forms of trail recreation in the Katahdin Woods. Developing trail-based recreation in the newly designated monument would serve to attract our nation's citizens to this otherwise remote park in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Mountain biking has been proven to be a strong economic engine for other regions that have developed opportunities for riders.

There is a need among the hiking and mountain biking communities for more remote, backcountry experiences and trail systems. The development of a singletrack trails system is consonant with the core principles of National Monument to preserve the historic, cultural, and ecologically significant landscape. Creating a singletrack trail system at Katahdin Woodswould allow public access and recreation, yet protect the resource from environmental damage.

Mountain bicycling is a legitimate form of recreation in National Monuments, and I hope the National Park Service will incorporate this activity into its recreational mix.

Name: Pierre Rougny
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: Stetson ME

I fully support the new Katahdin Woods Monument. I would like you to consider the future development of trails that would attract mountain bikers(non motorized) as well as hikers. Mountain bikers in New England could be part of an economic driver to this somewhat remote region in Maine. Thanks, and I intend to explore this month. Pierre H Rougny, Stetson Maine.

Name: Dave Harding
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: Cumberland ME

I wanted to reach out with my support that mountain bike trails be allowed in this new monument. We have seen first hand what creation and maintenance of nice trails has done to other regions - mainly Northeast Kingdom in Vermont and more recently with Carrabassett Valley in Maine. This attracts visitors during a season that didnt otherwise have them and is lifting the economy along with it.

Name: Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt
Title/Organization:
City, State: Hamden CT

Suggestion for parking and hiking Barnard Mt: On Sept. 29 we were there and took the loop road and parked where the road is blocked to walk up Barnard Mt. I STRONGLY suggest that you allow cars to drive farther and park near the trailhead to Barnard Mt. There is NO VALUE in walking on that long gravel road for that far when one could park and then hike. The trail is NOT BLAZED up Barnard Mt. and at points is challenging to see what you think the trail is. We hiked all this with my sister who uses oxygen for her lungs. There was just NO value and NO view in walking that far on the gravel road. We thoroughly enjoyed all the nice lookouts toward the mountains before we parked to do this hike. Thanks for considering our suggestion and best wishes for KWWNM!!!. Carolyn

Name: Andrew Magoun
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: none given

I appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. I fully support the creation of a robust trail system for mountain biking. Mountain bikers are great stewards of the environment and, as an ever growing sport, will bring much needed money to the region.

Name: David Shouse
Title/Organization: Natural Resources Administrator, Raleigh PRCR
City, State: Cary NC

Planning participation from outside Maine: I have been blessed to visit BSP on several occasions since 1978, in particular during 1982-1983 while a FT employee of Maine High Adventure BSA. I returned in 2014 with my son for the full Allagash Waterway experience followed by the Mt. Katahdin climb. I have signed up through NPS for public participation updates, and hope input from outside the state is given full and serious consideration. I have 10 yrs exp. in park operations with Wake County (NC) Parks, Rec and Open Space and 20 yrs experience in professional park planning with Raleigh (NC) Parks, Rec and Cultural Resources. Thanks for your efforts, and I wish for you a robust, low conflict process that reaches consensus.

Name: David Vandiver
Title/Organization: Island Heritage Trust
City, State: Deer Isle ME

To address the twin issues of local distrust of the federal government and loss of local control, why not consider some form of monitoring by local conservation groups. This could range all the way from placing a Conservation Easement on all or on portions of the KAWW to non-binding monitoring and reporting by independent local groups who have demonstrated a commitment to conservation without political bias.

The reports resulting from this monitoring activity could then be brought to bear on future public discussion/debate, establishing an independent record and enabling local citizens to have another source of information on the track record of management and conservation other than federal officials. A local land trust (or two) with a good reputation might serve well here. This kind of public/private partnership should serve as a relationship builder over time between your staff and KAWW area groups and citizens. It also provides your office with a feedback mechanism, as you can contrast your management reports with the independent monitoring reports on a regular basis and get a read on potentially differing perceptions of your work and practices/policies.

As you likely know, this practice, in reverse, is already in place. Acadia N.P. holds CEs on parcels near their borders and monitors them regularly. My organization on Deer Isle also holds a CE on a State owned conservation property. Our presence on that property leads many local people to think of it as locally owned, even though it's clearly not so.

I'd be happy to receive a reply for further discussion if you find it desirable.

Name: James Ferreira
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: Portland ME

Given the opportunity, humans will complain about anything and everything. Sadly, that is our nature. Ms. Quimby has donated (that means FREE) this massive area of land and waterways to the United States, and in particular, to the people of Maine. The feds have made it a national monument. Yes, this means endless bureaucracy, but it also means guaranteed access and protection, both. It also means that much-needed revenue will soon start flowing into a battered Maine economy, no thanks to Gov. LePage and his cronies. The area in question is screaming for jobs. What part of this "win-win" is not understood? Why is there even controversy around this? Answer: because humans will complain about anything and everything, and put up road blocks where there is no need for them.

So this is my input: its a no-brainer. Make it happen !

Name: Bob Brooks
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: none given

I want to express my profound appreciation for this incredibly generous gift by the Quimby family and to Prrsident Obama for accepting it. I would like to see the park managed as a forever wild wilderness area with minimal human impact. Not to at all suggest that people be restricted from visiting but the ethic of respecting the land and all of its creatures and elements be instilled. This could be an excellent laboratory for humans to regain contact with our wonderful natural world. I realize that hunting and other such uses will be part of this equation but only in the area promised by the QF in perpetuity. Thank you and best of luck. Your job will be difficult at first but I am sure things will settle down.

Name: Anonymous
Title/Organization: not given
City, State: not given

Lower Shin Pond: A large number of land and camp owners on Lower Shin Pond have a real concern about invasive species introduction with plans for a dock area on the Monument Lands....specifically milfoil . Would please comment on this concern

Name: Lois Winter
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: Portland ME

I received notice of the listening sessions currently scheduled --and wonder if you plan to offer listening sessions in southern Maine too. If so, I'll wait for listening sessions closer to my home.

I'm also interested in knowing your process for selecting individuals to participate in the Advisory Council. I'm also interested in understanding the responsibilities and expectations for Advisory Council members. As I'm sure you appreciate, a diversity of voices is important -- including local economic interests as well as those with a clear understanding of the NPS history, mission, opportunities & challenges -- in and outside of the monument boundaries.

As a retired environmental educator & conservation biologist, with a lifetime of work experience in 10 National Parks, the US Fish & Wildlife Service (in Maine) & as executive director of a coastal Maine land trust, I've been a strong supporter of a national park/preserve/recreation area/monument in Maine's North Woods since the idea was first proposed by RESTORE: The North Woods a couple decades ago -- and am delighted with the milestone achievement of the new national monument.

I wish you all the best in your new endeavors to get Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument off to a great start.

Name: Rick Hesslein
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: Brownfield ME

I would like to add a further comment stemming from what I am hearing from a few folks at the hearings.....I strongly disagree with the idea that TRAPPING of any animals for

"recreation" "tradition" should occur in any National Park, Monument, or Preserve. Nor should there be any "recreational" hunting beyond the tenants of the deed agreements.

Name: Ryan Linn

Title/Organization: none given

City, State: Portland ME

I stopped in at the Millinocket office and met Christina a few weeks ago, but didn't get a chance to attend the community listening sessions and haven't gotten around to sending an email until now. I'm sure most of what I have to say has already been said, but I just wanted to add my voice to the list of those who are glad to have you at the new National Monument.

I've been into the KWW land twice over the past two winters on short xc ski trips, so I have a limited view of what is there so far. I hope to visit a few more times next year. I live in Portland, and have lived in Maine my entire life, growing up across Penobscot Bay from Acadia. My career is tied closely to the Appalachian and Pacific Crest Trails, I work seasonally in summers for NOLS in the Rocky Mountains, and I've worked for the Appalachian and Green Mountain Clubs in the past, so between all my life experiences I have a deep appreciation for public lands, and that in itself is reason enough for me to value the addition of KWW to my home state. I've also become much more familiar with Baxter State Park over the past few years, and have a strong appreciation for the strict regulations that the Park has put into effect to protect the environment and wilderness character. While I love Acadia just as much, finding solitude in the wilderness of Acadia is far more difficult than doing the same in Baxter.

The new National Monument seems to me like a good opportunity to introduce more people to the subtler joys of the North Woods-- while Baxter limits the number of visitors in order to preserve the wilderness of the Park, even if KWW also limits entrance, it still means more people can visit the combined area. And while Baxter has Katahdin and other high peaks, the boulder-filled streams and rapid rivers in the Park, which the Monument also has, are just as impressive as far as I'm concerned. And, of course, the longevity of a National Park or Monument means that the forest in there will be able to grow old just as Baxter State Park has done-- Governor LePage's remarks about the KWW land being worthless because it has been clear cut miss the point that Baxter State Park was also pretty thoroughly cleared before another governor with more foresight purchased it and allowed it to grow back. It won't be old growth in my lifetime, but I know it will get there.

As for plans for the management of the Monument, I'm sure you are thinking along the same lines I am, but I'd love to see the Monument take a page from BSP's book in keeping things low-key and local-- low-key meaning keeping use from getting out of hand like at Acadia's most popular places and allowing visitors to the wilderness to still find solitude and quiet, local meaning finding a way to favor Maine Guides and other local groups when contracts for guiding and such are being considered.

Well, I meant for this to be a short email, but I let myself ramble a little. Thanks for listening, and for doing the work that you're doing in setting up the Monument.

Name: Tom Tremblay
Title/Organization: none given
City, State: Concord MA

Grouse Hunting in KAW&WNM: I want to provide a few comments that I hope will be considered when drawing up the management plan for KAW&WNM.

First of all I am THRILLED that this land acquisition, donation, and designation has taken place. As the traditional patterns of land use in rural, wooded Maine has changed as the paper and wood products industry shrinks, the danger of further land ownership fragmentation is an increasing threat. With this acquisition, we can reverse the trend towards fragmentation and concentrate on maximizing the recreational and conservation value of these lands.

Second, let's not choke the forest product industry for the sake of doing so. We need this industry to be viable and to thrive in northern Maine for economic reasons.

Third, as a fisherman, ruffed grouse hunter, canoeist, kayaker, and hiker who regularly enjoys the Maine woods experience, I fully understand the issue of competing interests. I hope the management plan takes an even hand and wisely prioritizes these interests in a way that maximizes a given attribute/quality for each parcel within the KAW&WNM. For example, providing a liberal no-cut zone along streams and lakes to minimize soil erosion (to maintain water quality for fish) and to provide an unbroken view shed (important for canoeists). By the same token, we need to designate some lands as suitable for timber harvesting as well, which is also good for the grouse hunting. Limiting some activities and providing less than full access to some lands may not please everyone but this will make the key activities more rewarding.

Thanks for the opportunity to make these comments.