



Natural Resources
Council of Maine



Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument

PHOTO BY JBERK/NRCM

On August 24, 2016, President Barack Obama designated about 87,500 acres east of Baxter State Park as the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. Landowner Elliotsville Plantation, Inc. (EPI), a non-profit foundation founded by Burt's Bees entrepreneur Roxanne Quimby, donated the property. EPI also donated a \$20 million endowment and committed to raising an additional \$20 million to support monument operations. NRCM played a central role in this campaign, working with citizens in the Katahdin region and across Maine to conserve this spectacular piece of Maine's North Woods.



PHOTO BY BILL DUFFY



PHOTO BY JON LUOMA

The Maine Way of Life

The Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument (KWWNM) is managed by the National Park Service. The entire area is available for hiking, paddling, wildlife watching, bicycling, cross-country skiing, camping, and other non-motorized activities. Lands east of the East Branch of the Penobscot River are available for all of the same activities, plus hunting and snowmobiling. The KWWNM will help revitalize the economy of nearby towns while permanently conserving a portion of Maine's iconic forests, safeguarding more than 30 miles of waterways, and protecting habitat for wildlife.

Conservation Values

The lands include unusual plants such as squirrel corn, and spectacular natural communities such as an exemplary silver maple floodplain forest. It provides habitat for iconic animals such as moose and black bear as well as rare species such as Canada lynx and pine marten. Rusty Blackbirds, a species of high conservation concern, breed in boggy wetlands here, and many of Maine's "boreal specialty" birds—Spruce Grouse, Gray Jay, and Boreal Chickadee—can be found in patches of spruce-dominated habitat. Common Loons, Bald Eagles, and a variety of northern songbirds are easily seen throughout the area.

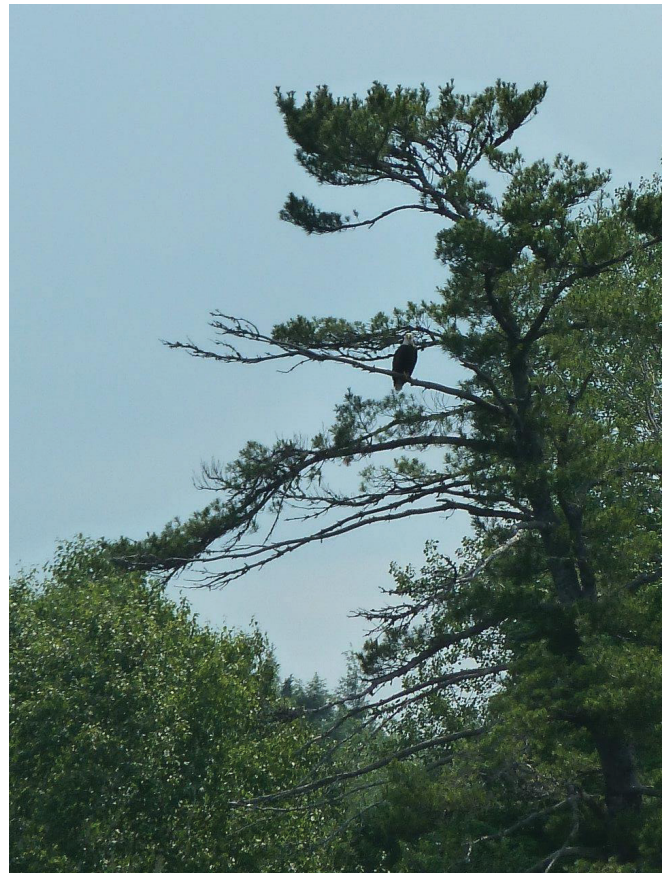


PHOTO BY JON LUOMA



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More than 30 miles of rivers and streams pass through the land, including the East Branch of the Penobscot River, with four outstanding rapids and falls. Other breathtaking waters include the lower reaches of Wassataquoik Stream, which flows out of Baxter State Park, and the Seboeis River, along with several beautiful ponds. The land also borders on other public and private conservation lands including Baxter State Park, the Appalachian Trail, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, and lands protected from development by conservation easements to the south and west of Baxter State Park.

Why a National Monument?

National monuments combine sustainable economic development and the protection of beautiful natural areas that enrich our lives. Many people plan trips to see places managed by the National Park Service. The KWWNM combines spectacular views of Katahdin, special ecological features, two of Maine's most pristine rivers, prime habitat for beloved and rare wildlife, and extensive historic and cultural resources.



Boosting the Economy

An April 2016 study of national monuments designated by President Obama (a total of 17 at that time) had a total economic impact of \$156 million per year on the local economies surrounding the monuments, including direct and secondary impacts. National monuments strengthen surrounding communities by drawing in tourists that benefit the economy and small businesses. Read the study at <https://www.smallbusinessmajority.org/sites/default/files/research-reports/040616-Economic-Impacts-of-Obama-Administration-Natural-National-Monuments.pdf>. Studies show that every dollar invested in National Park Service properties generates \$10 for the national economy, most of which stays in local communities.



PHOTO BY JON LUOMA

Visit the Monument

The national monument is open to visitors, with opportunities for hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, fishing, and hunting, among others. Check out the map of the property on the back and the National Park Service website, <https://www.nps.gov/kaww/>. Visit NRCM's website (nrcm.org) for recreation recommendations and local accommodation information.

Next Steps

NRCM's members, activists, and staff's connection to the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument runs deep. We are committed to playing an active role in the monument's management plan, and to ensuring an appropriate balance between conservation and public use. The management planning process will extend over the next three years. For more information go to <http://www.nrcm.org/projects-hot-issues/woodswildlife-and-wilderness/a-new-national-park-recreationarea-in-northern-maine/> or contact Eliza Donoghue at eliza@nrcm.org or (207) 430-0118.



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