

**Katahdin Woods and Waters National Park &
National Recreation Area Legislation:
Conceptual Framework for Legislation**

This conceptual framework for federal legislation that would designate a Katahdin Woods and Waters National Park and National Recreation Area is the product of hundreds of conversations with stakeholders and feedback from interested parties. It lists the fundamental elements that Elliotsville Plantation, Inc. is committed to incorporating into future legislation.

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(1) Size

The National Park and National Recreation Area would be roughly equal in size and could not be expanded to more than approximately 150,000 acres absent passage of future legislation by Congress.

(2) Cost

Elliotsville Plantation, Inc. (EPI) would donate its lands for the National Park and National Recreation Area. In addition, a \$40 million endowment would be established to pay for operations and maintenance costs, \$20 million of which would be donated directly by EPI and the remainder of which EPI would raise.

(3) National Park

Lands on the west side of the East Branch of the Penobscot River would be managed as a National Park by the U.S. National Park Service. Recreational opportunities would include boating, bicycling, camping, cross-country skiing, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, snowshoeing, swimming and other sports and activities.

- Entrances, Visitor Center and Scenic Drives: Entrances to the National Park could be located in Sherman, Patten, Mt. Chase, Medway, Stacyville, East Millinocket or Millinocket.
- Scenic Drives: A scenic loop road would highlight scenic vistas, interpretive sites, trailheads, and other attributes of the property of interest.

(4) National Recreation Area

Lands on the east side of the East Branch of the Penobscot River would be managed by the U.S. National Park Service as a National Recreation Area. Recreation opportunities in the National Recreation Area would include hunting and snowmobiling as well as most activities taking place in the National Park.

(5) Hunting

Hunting would be allowed in the National Recreation Area according to the laws of the State of Maine and hunting activities would be managed in cooperation with Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. All tags and licenses would be handled by the State. Seasons would be posted on the National Park Service website and at kiosks and other physical locations.

(6) Snowmobile Trails

The law establishing the National Park and National Recreation Area would permanently guarantee access on a north-south route and an east-west route, generally along the routes followed by the existing ITS 85 (from Millinocket to Matagamon), the existing ITS 83 (from Medway to Sherman Station) and the existing Club Trail 114 (from the intersection with ITS 85 to Shin Pond). The trails would be groomed.

(7) Forestry Matters

- **Clean Air Act:** Neither the National Park nor the National Recreation Area would be considered a Class I Airshed under the Clean Air Act. Additionally, timber, milling or manufacturing operations would be exempt from any additional Clean Air Act requirements due to the existence of the National Park and National Recreation Area.
- **Timber Cutting:** The National Park Service would have no authority over timber harvesting outside the boundary of the National Park and National Recreation Area. Federal agencies would be prohibited from asserting a “buffer” of any kind around the Park or National Recreation Area lands.
- **North Woods Forestry Heritage:** Any management plans for the National Park and the National Recreation Area would honor and educate the public about the rich cultural logging heritage of the North Maine Woods, among other topics, at the visitor center(s) and other interpretation sites. Interpretive signage would herald the history and heritage of the Maine forest products industry and its importance to the cultural and economic development of the region, including "green" building benefits of utilizing wood as a building material.
- **Require Local Timber be Utilized for Park Infrastructure:** To the extent possible, infrastructure (including visitor's center(s), entrance huts, etc.) would be required under law to be built utilizing timber harvested in the region and milled locally.

(8) Preference for Maine-Based Concessionaires, Outfitters and Guides

The National Park Service would be required to give preference to Maine-based companies for concession, outfitter and guide contracts and permits.

(9) Advisory Input

Communication and input between the National Park Service and Maine citizens, including residents of the Katahdin region, will be a critical component when preparing a general management plan.