

Help Protect the Future of Maine's North Woods

Support A Strong Comprehensive Land Use Plan



Maine's Unorganized Territories are home to beautiful undeveloped lakes, rivers, ponds, islands and mountains, and an amazing variety of plants, animals, and natural communities. These quality places are a cornerstone of the state economy. How we manage and care for these lands and the people and wildlife whose lives depend on them is of paramount importance.

Maine's North Woods are the largest undeveloped forest east of the Mississippi River

The pressures on Maine's North Woods have increased dramatically in the last ten years, but the state is still basing its decisions on a land use plan written in 1997. Times have changed. Most of Maine's North Woods are now owned by out-of-state companies that answer only to their shareholders and quarterly profits, increasing the likelihood the land will be subdivided and developed.

The Maine Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) serves as the planning board for Maine's 10.5 million acre "Unorganized Territories." LURC currently is in the process of updating its 1997 Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP), which will guide the future of Maine's North Woods for the next decade. This is the plan that LURC commissioners will use to evaluate whether future development proposals are consistent with long-term protection of the special features of Maine's North Woods.

Why You Should Be Involved:

LURC rewrites this very important planning document only once every ten years. Corporations already are lobbying hard to weaken the CLUP to maximize their future profits. They want it to be easy to build resorts, subdivisions, and other developments throughout the North Woods. Maine people have a huge stake in how the CLUP is drafted. Please share your views so that Maine's North Woods will be protected for future generations.

What You Can Do:

Use the information below to write a letter or email to the Commission.

Land Use Regulation Commission
22 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333, 207-287-2631, lurc@maine.gov

The Comprehensive Land Use Plan Should:

Adopt Policies to Protect the Remote and Undeveloped Character of Maine's North Woods

- ◆ Maintain the large undeveloped forest landscape that is unique in all of the eastern U.S. by limiting development in the jurisdiction.
- ◆ Guide development into or close to existing communities and infrastructure, and away from remote areas, sensitive natural areas, high value plant and animal habitat, productive timberlands and agricultural lands, and valuable recreational resources.
- ◆ Eliminate exemptions that allow scattered unplanned development.
- ◆ Increase protections for remote ponds and valuable recreational resources.

Enhance Protection of Wildlife and Habitat

- ◆ Expand protection of ecologically important areas.
- ◆ Enhance riparian buffers and implement riparian harvest standards that better protect water quality and wildlife habitat and movement.
- ◆ Establish a comprehensive roads policy to minimize erosion, habitat fragmentation, road kill and conversion of woods roads to more permanent roads.

Retain the Commission's four principle values

1. Remoteness and natural character values
2. Diverse and abundant recreational opportunities, particularly for primitive pursuits
3. Diverse, abundant and unique natural resource values
4. Fiber and food production, and the tradition of a working landscape

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