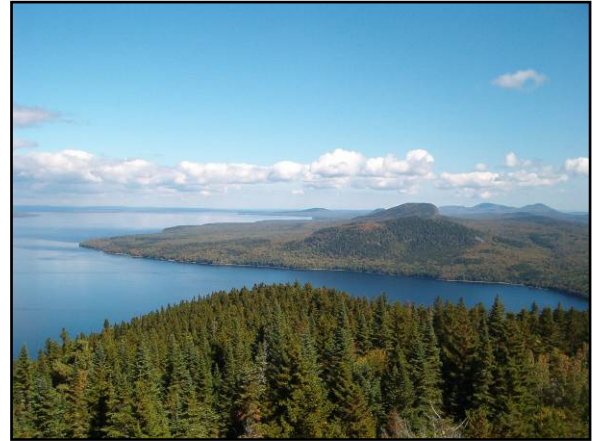


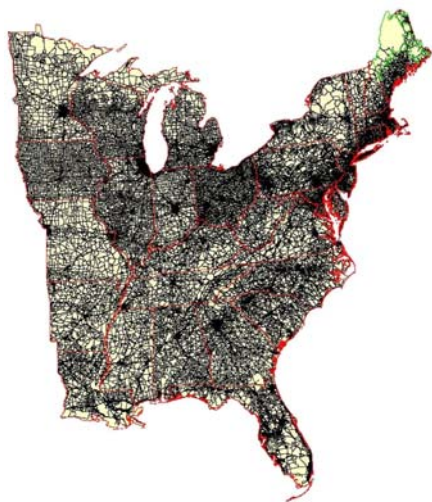
# Protecting Maine's North Woods

Maine's North Woods. There's literally no place like it left in the entire Eastern United States. Maine's forests include healthy ecosystems for a vast array of plant and wildlife species, and large swaths of uninterrupted backcountry that is cherished for remote recreation, camping, hunting, fishing, and traditional uses. Maine's forests can provide major economic value for timber production and tourism well into the future, but only if they are managed sustainably and if more of this incredible landscape is protected from development and fragmentation. That is the focus of the Natural Resources Council of Maine's North Woods advocacy – protecting this national resource from increased development, fragmentation and poor timber practices.



## The Year Ahead

Primary public roads



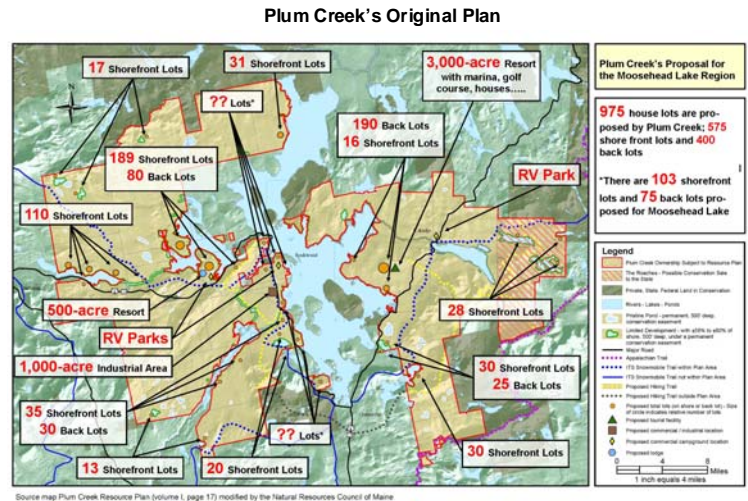
**Landscape-scale Conservation:** NRCM supports landscape-scale conservation of the North Woods. Maine's 10 million acres of undeveloped woodlands is the largest remaining forest east of the Mississippi, and we want to keep it that way – with its full range of values protected for future generations. This will be an enormous challenge. Land ownership in the North Woods has changed dramatically over the past decade, creating increased development pressures, and tight federal and state budgets limit available funds for conservation easements and land acquisition. NRCM is a member of the Keeping Maine's Forest initiative, seeking increased federal funding for additional land conservation. We will continue to be strong advocates for federal Forest Legacy Program funding, which has protected many important projects in Maine. And we will stay actively engaged with our conservation allies, and state and federal agencies, as we monitor success of the Keeping Maine's Forest program and

seek opportunities to protect the integrity of the North Woods.

**Blocking Inappropriate Development:** Maine's forestlands are no longer owned by a small number of companies like Great Northern. The traditional timber companies are mostly gone, and Maine's forests now are owned by a new breed of private investors, institutions, timber investment management organizations, and real estate investment trusts – such as Plum Creek. These entities are working to deliver profits to shareholders on a shorter timeframe than the old timber companies, and through activities that extend beyond timber management, to development, mining and water extraction, for example. NRCM is the state's leading group that reviews every permit application in Maine's North Woods, and fights to modify or block the ones proposed for inappropriate locations.



**Appealing Plum Creek Decision:** NRCM helped lead the fight against Plum Creek’s massive development proposal around Moosehead Lake. Over the course of four years, we won a broad range of changes that improved the final proposal. Many of the most objectionable parts of the sprawling proposal were dropped, as Plum Creek was forced back to the drawing board repeatedly by public outcry and the forceful advocacy campaign spearheaded by NRCM and Maine Audubon. But the staff at the Land Use Regulation Commission approved a plan that we believe remains seriously flawed, which is why NRCM appealed the decision. That appeal now is before the courts. We continue to believe that LURC violated its rules by, in effect, designing a plan for Plum Creek – then approving it. If we prevail, we will work to overturn LURC’s approval for a resort at Lily Bay on the East side of Moosehead Lake. Nearly 2,000 people submitted public comments opposed to development of a resort at Lily Bay. LURC seems to have ignored these comments.



**Implementing LURC’s Comprehensive Plan:** In spring 2010, after years of delay and many long, protracted public meetings and comment periods, Maine’s Land Use Regulation Commission finally adopted, and Governor Baldacci signed, a new Comprehensive Land Use Plan. This important planning document establishes the guiding principles for how Maine’s North Woods will be managed, and how they will be protected from development. The number of houses has increased by 70% in LURC jurisdiction since 1971, and the appropriateness of the location of two-thirds of the house lots was never reviewed. New landowners have sold “kingdom lots,” which have even included private landing strips (left) for remote North Woods mansions. NRCM will press LURC to go



through a serious exercise of identifying those areas most appropriate for development, and those that are least appropriate, as called for in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. If such work had been done ten years ago, as NRCM advocated, Plum Creek’s massive development might have been blocked.

**Land for Maine’s Future Program:** Since 1987 the Land for Maine’s Future program (LMF) has conserved more than 530,000 acres, including 293,000 acres in conservation easements, in all 16 Maine counties. The program has mountain summits, rivers, lakes, wildlife habitat, working forests, working waterfronts—and more than 1,100 miles of shoreline, 7,100 acres of farmland, 113 miles



of multi-use trails, even entire islands. LMF is widely considered to be Maine’s most successful land conservation program. However, it does not have the funding it needs, and the November 2010 bond measure provides only \$6.5 million. NRCM has been a champion for the LMF program at the Legislature, and we will continue to push for bond funds and an ongoing funding source.

