

National Monument – A first step toward a National Park and National Recreation Area Fact Sheet

(1) National Park and National Recreation Area – EPI has put forth a very comprehensive proposal to donate land for the creation of a National Park and National Recreation Area, revitalizing the rural, formerly timber driven economy of Maine's North Woods and conserving a small but incredible natural and historic part of the nation. This designation requires leadership from Maine's Congressional Delegation.

(2) Establishment – Despite overwhelming support throughout Maine, including 67% of the second congressional district Congress has not introduced legislation. In light of the opportunity presented by the 2016 Centennial of the National Park Service, President Obama can designate EPI's property as a National Monument under the Antiquities Act of 1906

(3) History – Many of our nation's most treasured National Parks, like Grand Canyon and Denali, began as National Monuments. Maine's own Acadia was first established as Sieur De Monts National Monument, becoming a National Park several years later.

(4) Economic Impact –Independent economists estimate that if 10%-15% of Acadia's visitors travelled north to the National Park and National Recreation Area it would create between 450 and 1000 direct and indirect jobs. A National Monument is a step toward this future for the Katahdin Region and Maine as a whole.

(5) Visitors – Acadia National Park attracts about 2.5 million visitors per year. 10 – 15% would mean as many as 250,000 to 375,000 people, considerably more than the 80,000 or so that annually visit Baxter State Park.

(6) Cost - Elliotsville Plantation, Inc. (EPI) would donate its lands, currently about 87,500 acres east of Baxter for the Maine Woods National Monument. EPI would also establish an endowment to help pay for operations and maintenance.

(7) Hunting – Hunting, in accordance with Maine laws, would be allowed in the proposed National Recreation Area on the lands east of the East Branch of the Penobscot. That land would be managed to include hunting under a monument deesignation.

(8) Snowmobile Trails – Access to snowmobile trails within the National Recreation Area would be guaranteed forever, 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).

(9) Impact on Timber Supply – EPI's land is not managed for commercial timber harvest. The establishment of a Maine Woods National Monument will not remove a single tree from the state's commercial wood basket.

(10) Clean Air Act Regulations – Designation of a the area as a National Park and National Recreation Area or National Monument will not increase the level of Clean Air Act regulations because the area would continue to be designated as a Class 2 Air Shed, as it is currently.

(11) Timber Cutting on Neighboring Lands - The National Park Service would have no authority over timber harvesting outside the boundary of the National Park and National Recreation Area or a National Monument. Throughout the country there are examples of active timber harvesting operations existing alongside National Parks.

(12) Maine Preferences – The National Park Service would be required by law to give preference to Maine-based companies for concession, outfitter and guide contracts and permits, and to use local timber for any building projects.

(13) Celebrate Logging and Paper-Making History – The National Park Service would provide educational exhibits about the logging and paper-making history of the region. The NPS has a long history of excellence regarding the presentation of historical and cultural contexts for the lands in the agency's care.

(14) Visiting the Land – The land is open for public use now. Snowmobile and cross country skiing trails are open. In the spring, summer and fall, when road conditions allow, the existing 18-mile scenic loop road, and hiking and biking trails are open. Contact Mark and Susan Adams, EPI Recreation Managers, (207) 852-1291; Lunksoos@gmail.com for more details on the condition of roads and trails and how to visit.

(15) Endorsements – The proposed new National Park and National Recreation Area is supported by the Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce, Katahdin Rotary Club, Greater Houlton Chamber of Commerce, Maine Innkeepers Association, the Medway Board of Selectmen, the Bangor City Council, and over 200 individual businesses in the Katahdin, Houlton, Presque Isle, Bangor, and Acadia regions.

(16) Support – A National Monument is a step toward a new National Park and National Recreation Area, which is supported by overwhelming majorities of Mainers in every poll to date. This support has also been expressed directly to Senator King and Congressman Poliquin at public meetings they have convened.

If you have other questions, please contact Ryan Parker at (207) 430-0144 or rparker@nrcm.org or Elliotsville Plantation, Inc. at (207) 518-9462 or elliotsvilleplantation@gmail.com