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Katahdin Woods & Waters

A proposed new National Park located along the East Branch of the Penobscot River would provide many conservation and recreation benefits.

Maine's North Woods offer diverse terrain and unmatched beauty for the many visitors to the area. A proposal for a new National Park and Recreation Area in the area would promote and conserve these lands but also encourage recreation of all kinds for visitors from near and far.

The proposed National Park and Recreation Area would protect:

- Up to 150,000 acres of primarily spruce-northern hardwoods forest, beech-birch-maple forest and spruce-fir-broom moss forest from future residential, commercial and industrial development. The only development allowed would be that associated with recreation and conservation.
- More than 30 miles of rivers and streams including portions of:
 - The East Branch of the Penobscot River. This stretch of the river has six significant named rapids and waterfalls;
 - The Sebois River;
 - Wassataquoik Stream which flows out of Baxter State Park and through two existing public land parcels.
- At least seven ponds including Messer and Little Messer.
- More than seven mountains, several with spectacular views of the Katahdin range to the west, and the eastern slopes of other mountains located mostly within Baxter State Park.
- Important plant and wildlife habitat including wetlands, unusual plants and natural communities, and habitat for iconic and rare animals including moose, black bear, lynx and pine marten.

The proposed lands for the new National Park and Recreation Area include uncommon and iconic ecological features found nearly nowhere else. The lands are home to nine rare natural communities in Maine including silver maple floodplain forest, spruce-heath barren, bluejoint meadow, and maple-basswood-ash forest. Additionally, over 75 species of birds call this area home as well as moose, black bears, fishers, deer, river otters, and the federally listed threatened Canada lynx.



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The land provides many recreation opportunities associated with Maine's North Woods, including:

- **Hiking** – Trails along the East Branch and Wassataquoik would provide easy, day hiking opportunities to spectacular rapids. And for the long distance hiker, approximately 35 miles of the International Appalachian Trail are located on the property, and back country, multi-day hiking loops could be developed.
- **White water paddling** – The upper stretches of the East Branch include multiple rapids for experienced white water paddlers.
- **Flat water paddling** – The lower reaches of the East Branch and the Sebois River provide quiet water paddling opportunities.
- **Fishing** - All the rivers and streams on the property provide great trout fishing.
- **Biking** – Former logging roads on the property provide extensive opportunities for biking.
- **Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing** – Excellent trails for cross country skiing and snowshoeing could be developed.
- **Wildlife watching** – Opportunities to find and watch moose and other wildlife abound on the land. Bird watching, particularly for northern forest species, could be a very popular activity.

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