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SPRING 2017

# MAINE Environment

## Damaging Maine: Impacts of Proposed Cuts to the EPA Budget

BY PETE DIDISHEIM, ADVOCACY DIRECTOR

### Help Defend Maine's New Monument!

At the request of Governor Paul LePage, the Department of Interior (DOI) included Katahdin Woods and



Waters on a list of 27 national monuments to be "reviewed." DOI is seeking comments during a 60-day public comment period. Depending on the outcome, DOI Secretary Ryan Zinke could recommend that Maine's National Monument be changed—or even *abolished*. We can't let this happen! Submit comments today at [nrcm.salsalabs.org/kwwcomments/](http://nrcm.salsalabs.org/kwwcomments/)

The Trump Administration has proposed deep cuts to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) programs that reduce pollution in Maine, save the lives of Maine people, and strengthen our communities and economy.

As described in our comprehensive new report, *Damaging Maine*, the Administration's unprecedented proposed cuts to EPA would cause widespread harm to efforts to protect clean air and water, achieve economic redevelopment at shuttered paper mills, and protect Maine people from toxic hazards.

These cuts would cause serious harm nationwide but would be particularly damaging for states like Maine where our environment and economy are tightly intertwined. The Trump Administration's Fiscal Year 2018 Budget singles out EPA for the deepest cuts of any federal agency, cutting its budget by \$2.6 billion (31%), staff by 3,800 (25%), and completely eliminating more than 50 EPA programs. Adjusted for inflation, these cuts would be at levels not seen since the 1970s. Unprecedented in the 47-year history of the agency, they would cause crippling reductions to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), which depends heavily on EPA funding. DEP received \$11.4 million in funding from EPA last year, which supported critical environmental programs.

#### What's at Risk

The proposed EPA budget cuts would damage virtually all aspects of environmental protection in Maine. It would be especially harmful in the following areas:

**Clean Water** The budget proposes deep cuts in EPA funding that is vital for the protection of Maine's

**"EPA funding to Maine serves as a catalyst that supports countless efforts by towns, nonprofit organizations, businesses, colleges, and citizens who participate in collective efforts to protect Maine's precious environmental resources."**

—Pete Didisheim, NRCM Advocacy Director

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## Troubled Times: What Can You Do?

So, you want to stop attacks on our environment from state and federal officials? These are tough times, and the people of NRCM are central to combating attempted rollbacks and moving things forward, too. We're welcoming huge numbers of members at our events, trainings, rallies, marches, and more all over the state. If you're seeking ways to plug in and make a difference, help combat the naysayers in Washington and Augusta, and make progress for our environment, visit [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org) or get in touch via [nrcm@nrcm.org](mailto:nrcm@nrcm.org).



T.Martin/NRCM



Steve Cartwright



B.Comeau/NRCM

Left and center: Hundreds of concerned Maine citizens participated in the Earth Day March for Science at the University of Maine in Orono. NRCM staff helped organize the event, where NRCM's staff scientist Nick Bennett (left) rallied the crowd, saying, "Facts don't speak for themselves. They need defenders. They need people to speak for them." Lucy Hull (center photo) is one of many NRCM supporters who attended the Orono event, one of more than 600 March for Science locations across the country.

Far right: Solar supporters joined NRCM Clean Energy Director Dylan Voorhees and others at the State House, calling on the Legislature to get our state back on track for solar power.



• THE BIG PICTURE •  
Sayings That Get Me Through

Familiar sayings comfort me in times of great distress. Indeed, the Trump Administration’s attacks on our environmental protections and on science-based policymaking—and his complete disregard for truth—infuriate me every day. “This too shall pass,” is an adage that reminds me I have lived through several national crises, and I will live to see better days return.

For now, I have the great benefit of joining my NRCM colleagues each day to strategize courses of action to stand up for Maine’s environment in every way we can. It helps to know we are part of a phenomenal resistance movement that is growing daily.

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times,” is another saying that inspires me these days. This one is from *A Tale of Two Cities*, by Charles Dickens, describing the eve of the French Revolution. It seems we are facing the worst of times, but we are also witnessing the best in people. Across the country, there is active protest: marches, phone calls, petitions, kitchen parties with friends writing postcards to policy makers, Facebook posts sharing articles from undaunted journalists shedding light on what is really going on, and much more. The long “winter of despair” is turning into a spring of hope, as we rally for science, for the truth about climate change, and demand action from our elected officials.

Meanwhile, nature calls us outside to rake, clean flower beds, and pick daffodils, as if it were any other year. That is a great relief and reminds me of a quote from Rachel Carson, who wrote in *Silent Spring*, “Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter.”

I even hear my dear Dad’s voice who, in the face of our challenges, would simply say, “Don’t weaken.” We will not. So keep up the amazing work you are all doing. Hang onto every shred of wisdom you can find to keep your sanity, and remember to enjoy the natural beauty that surrounds us, and that will keep us going year after year. —Lisa Pohlmann, Executive Director

**Damaging Maine** - from Page 1

rivers, lakes, streams, and coastal waters. Of particular concern, the budget calls for elimination of the Non-Point Source (NPS) pollution program, which protects lakes from polluted runoff. Maine lakes provide \$3.5 billion to Maine’s economy annually and support 52,000 jobs.

**Air Pollution and Health Threats** The proposal cuts funding by 30% for programs that help DEP protect Maine people from dangerous air pollution. Because Maine has some of the highest asthma rates in the country, increased air pollution would result in more emergency room visits, hospitalization, and premature deaths.

**Safe Homes** The EPA budget would eliminate programs that address radon pollution (a leading cause of cancer), and that reduce risks to children from lead-based paint. Elimination of EPA’s lead program would put more Maine children at risk of learning disabilities, lower IQ, speech delay, hyperactivity, aggressive behavior, and other problems caused by lead poisoning.

**Redevelopment of Brownfield and Waste Sites** The EPA Brownfield Program would face deep cuts, impeding the ability of Maine communities to secure economic redevelopment of contaminated sites, such as closed paper mills. Cuts in the Superfund program threaten to slow down the cleanup of the former Callahan mine in Brooksville.

**Drinking Water** The budget eliminates funding for the Leaking Underground Storage Tanks program. These funds help DEP protect groundwater, drinking water, and human health by ensuring that underground petroleum storage is done responsibly. Cuts to this program would lead to more leaks from tanks—and increased contamination of drinking water.

**Healthy Beach Program** The Trump budget eliminates funding for beach water quality testing. Eliminating this program puts Maine residents and visitors at risk. Maine beaches receive an estimated 12 million visitors each year, contributing more than \$1.6 billion annually to Maine’s economy.

**Climate Change** The budget eliminates most EPA climate initiatives, including funding for the Clean Power Plan, international climate programs, and climate research. Maine faces serious risks from climate change. Eliminating climate research will reduce the ability of Maine people to understand and prepare for changes already underway that affect property, businesses, and Maine’s economy.

**Scientific Research** EPA research would be cut by nearly 50%, which would cripple its ability to provide facts and analysis policymakers, including Maine lawmakers, need to make sound decisions about health and environmental protection. These cuts would disrupt efforts to understand the impacts of thousands of chemicals currently in the marketplace or under development.

“The proposed cuts would hit the Maine DEP like a wrecking ball,” says David Van Wie, former director of DEP’s Bureau of Land & Water Quality. “Protecting the environment doesn’t just happen. It comes about through the work of career professionals like we have at DEP, working with businesses, communities, organizations, and Maine people. These cuts would shatter many of those relationships.”

Lidie Robbins, executive director of 30 Mile River Watershed Association, is especially concerned about Maine’s lakes. “Our lakes are facing significant threats from polluted runoff, development pressures, and climate change. If these EPA cuts are accepted, our ability to protect Maine lakes would be much more difficult.” In addition to Maine’s lakes, other surface waters would be more polluted, and communities with brownfield and Superfund sites, including paper mill towns, may never see those sites cleaned up. Maine people would get sick from air and water pollution, and businesses that depend on clean air and water, and on our current climate (the ski industry, for example, and maple syrup producers) would face growing challenges and possible closures.

EPA funding to Maine serves as a catalyst that supports countless efforts by towns, nonprofit organizations, businesses, colleges, and citizens who participate in collective efforts to protect Maine’s precious environmental resources. The EPA budget cuts would reverberate across Maine by putting existing partnerships, cooperative agreements, matching funds, and informal collaborations in jeopardy. This budget represents an unprecedented and radically irresponsible step by the Trump Administration to dismantle efforts to protect the environment. It would move Maine backward many decades in our efforts to protect the environment, causing harm that would last generations.

**TAKE ACTION!**

**OPPOSE RADICAL EPA BUDGET CUTS**

Maine’s Congressional delegation needs to hear loudly, and clearly, that Maine people overwhelmingly oppose the Trump Administration’s irresponsible EPA budget cuts. Please call them today:

- Senator Susan Collins: (202) 224-2523
- Senator Angus King: (202) 224-5344
- Rep. Chellie Pingree: (202) 225-6116
- Rep. Bruce Poliquin: (202) 225-6306

To request a copy of our report, visit [www.nrcm.org/our-maine/publications/damaging-maine-impacts-proposed-cuts-epa-budget/](http://www.nrcm.org/our-maine/publications/damaging-maine-impacts-proposed-cuts-epa-budget/)



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Wolfe’s Neck State Park, a My Maine This Week photo, by Anne Kotchek

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Augusta, ME 04330  
[nrcm.org](http://nrcm.org)

## A Generous Legacy Takes NRCM on a Journey to a Better Maine



Courtesy Photo

Katharine “Kit” Kirkpatrick grew up in various homes in Maryland, New Jersey, and Illinois in the 1950s and 60s and traveled much of the world. She found her home, though, in Maine. Her love of the state began when she was a young girl. Every summer, the

family traveled to their camp at Mountainy Pond in East Holden. There, Kit paddled the pond and explored the forest. Naturally curious, she took in everything she saw and experienced.

Kit went on to teach school, rebuild urban neighborhoods, and complete a vast array of construction and craft projects. “She was full of life and just freer than most of us,” says her niece Elizabeth Mumford. “Her life was punctuated with big changes, followed by big journeys.”

One such change brought her back to Maine. Kit packed her belongings in a VW Bug, drove it across the frozen pond, and took up full-time residence at her family’s nonwinterized camp.

Her family was not surprised. “Kit was incredibly grounded,” Elizabeth says. “She lived a clean life, raising organic vegetables and foraging for berries and other edible plants. She canned what she couldn’t eat. She tried to have as small a footprint as possible.”

Kit eventually moved to Bradley, surrounded by her gardens and more than 3,000 books. She worked at Eastern Maine Medical Center, running a lifeline program for seniors, until her retirement a few years ago. She was active in the community and enjoyed spending time in the outdoors with friends.

Kit lived below her means and gave other people the spotlight. Before she passed away last summer, Kit charged Elizabeth to select two charities to receive special bequests from her estate. One comment led Elizabeth to NRCM.

“Kit set aside a percentage of her estate for ‘a charitable organization that supports conservation efforts in the state of Maine.’ She gave NRCM as an example, and I can see why.

“Kit was incredibly curious and quick at putting ideas together,” says Elizabeth. “She absorbed everything she read and watched on television. She understood the implications of public policies and how they can make our lives better—or not.”

Guided to NRCM, Elizabeth dug into the organization’s priorities and future plans. She ultimately designated the bulk of Kit’s bequest to underwrite a new position at NRCM, an attorney who will focus on policies and legislation to mitigate climate change. “The full threat from climate change was not well understood until recent decades,” says Dylan Voorhees, NRCM’s climate and clean energy director. “Our energy infrastructure, laws, and policies must be overhauled to confront this challenge. If we don’t do that, Maine’s identity and natural legacy will be dramatically altered for the next generation and beyond. We’re grateful for the opportunity to further explore how strong, effective laws and policies can increase clean energy and reduce the threat of climate change.”

In her final moments, Kit inspired one last journey, this one for the state she loved so dearly. —Gretta Wark, Senior Director of Philanthropy



Pam Wells

We also are grateful for the support of two other members who passed away in 2016. Thelma “Terry” Dodge of Cushing and Marion Berry of Damariscotta worked to make their communities better and gave generously, during their lifetimes and in their estates, to protect Maine’s natural resources. We are honored to have been remembered and entrusted by them to continue to protect the state they loved.

## Remember Us in Your Will or Trust

Gifts made through your estate enable the Natural Resources Council of Maine to help protect Maine’s forests, air, waters, and wildlife for generations to come. It is easy to leave a legacy. You may use the same language, whether you are rewriting your will or setting up a trust. Here is sample language:

“I devise and bequeath to the Natural Resources Council of Maine, a nonprofit corporation whose tax identification number is 01-0270690 and is currently located at 3 Wade Street, Augusta, Maine, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (or, \_\_\_\_\_% of my estate) to be used to support the charitable activities of the Natural Resources Council of Maine for the protection of Maine’s environment.”

Do you have a deductible IRA or a retirement account funded with pre-tax income? You may designate NRCM to receive all or a portion of these assets simply by updating the beneficiary form provided by your plan administrator. You will need this information:

Natural Resources Council of Maine  
3 Wade Street, Augusta, ME 04330  
Federal Tax ID #01-0270690

Your legacy—large or small—helps NRCM do two things: to act quickly and to fight for as long as we are needed. For more information or to let us know that NRCM is already in your estate plan, please contact Gretta Wark, Senior Director of Philanthropy, at (207) 430-0108 or gwark@nrcm.org for a confidential conversation. Thank you!

**Thank you! Here are just a few of our members whose inspiring words, actions, and increased donations go a long way in making NRCM's work possible!**



*"[An extra donation] in protest of D. Trump and in support of NRCM's great efforts to save Maine's natural resources."*

**Linda Shaffer, New Harbor**



*"Please keep up your excellent work! Keep up the pressure. I grew up in ME and it's hard to watch [LePage] attempt to undo 65 years of environmental progress."*

**Jim Kelley, Dover, NH**



*"I increased my monthly donation to NRCM because of my concerns about how the Trump Administration and Governor LePage are trying to reverse the progress that has been made in improving the environment of Maine and the nation. It is more important than ever to be vigilant. I know that NRCM is always at work to protect Maine's environment. I want to do what I can to help."*

**Betty Hartley, Brunswick**



**Now Accepting Nominations for NRCM's 12<sup>th</sup> annual**

**People's Choice Award**

Help us honor someone (or a group) who has gone above and beyond to protect a special place, or helped pass a particular safeguard for Maine's environment, or worked to stop polluting companies from contaminating our state—a volunteer who has devoted their time and effort to making future generations will enjoy the kind of Maine we know and love today.

**Make your nomination by Monday, August 7!** We'll compile the nominees and post finalists on our website by Friday, August 11. Then, through Tuesday, September 12, you, your friends, and your family can vote for the person you think most deserves this year's People's Choice Award. (We cannot consider someone currently sitting on a regulatory board or who is in the Legislature, or who is or was serving in a paid position while carrying out the work. The People's Choice Award honors volunteers.) *If you nominated someone in the past and they were not selected, please feel free to nominate them again.* The winner will be presented with the award at our Conservation Leadership Awards this fall. **Send us your nomination today!**

Candidate's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe below why you believe this person deserves the 2017 People's Choice Award (include any of the nominee's organizational affiliations). Be as specific as possible about this person's accomplishments for Maine's environment. Use a separate sheet if you need more space.

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Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you!** We will notify you and your nominee, if that person is selected as a finalist for NRCM's People's Choice Award. Please return this form to Beth Comeau, NRCM, 3 Wade Street, Augusta, ME 04330-6317. You can also nominate online at [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org).

**Gift Memberships NOV 1, 2016 TO APR 30, 2017**

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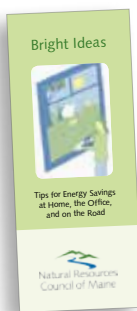
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**Tip of the Day**

**SQUIRT IT CLEAN.** Use a trigger nozzle when washing your car. You could save about 20 gallons of water! Request our "Bright Ideas" and our "Clean and Healthy Housekeeping" brochures for more tips like these to save energy and reduce toxics and pollution. For a green tip of the day every day, visit NRCM's website at [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org).



**MY MAINE THIS WEEK**

*"Sunset with the full moon rising at Moosabec Reach in Jonesport, Maine." —Tom Meredith, Milan, New Hampshire*

**Do you have a photograph of Maine you'd like to share? A short poem? Send your submissions to [beth@nrcm.org](mailto:beth@nrcm.org). Visit "My Maine This Week" online at [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org) for guidelines and more photos.**