

# **Media Coverage of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument**

## **Through April 30, 2017**

*Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument has captured the imagination and earned the support from Mainers across the state.*

*Recent news coverage demonstrates the deep support and positive impact that the designation is having.*

*In a poll conducted in October, 72 percent of Mainers said they support the monument, and the state's largest newspapers have endorsed it and editorialized against any effort to rescind or undermine the designation.*

*Former opponents, business owners, and sportsmen have weighed in, and the verdict is clear: In just a few months, Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument has begun to live up to its potential.*

### [The Bangor Daily News, editorial:](#)

“The Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument has existed for only eight months. Already, the number of people who have visited the monument has surpassed the total population of many of the small towns near its borders. The number of winter visitors to the Mount Chase Lodge has doubled. Houses are selling in Millinocket, and a local motel was recently sold and is being refurbished.

“This is real economic development in a region that sorely needs it.”

### [The Portland Press Herald, editorial:](#)

“As the region begins to benefit from the designation, (Gov. LePage) should direct his energy toward helping Maine's forest products industry develop a long-term economic plan.”

“But six months later, the landscape looks different. Katahdin-region real estate agents and small-business owners – including at least one former critic of the monument – say they're seeing more visitors and potential clients, the Maine Sunday Telegram [reported](#) last month. The Butler Conservation Fund plans to spend \$5 million on an outdoor education facility and new trails near the monument. [Snowmobilers have been riding the trails](#) through the monument, some pleasantly surprised that they're not excluded from it.”

### [John Holyoke, outdoor columnist and former opponent:](#)

“Time for fighting's over. Instead, let's embrace Maine's national monument

“As an early opponent of a much larger, much more divisive attempt to turn much of the north woods of Maine into a national park, I came to appreciate the (eventual) course that Quimby took, turning the national park/national monument effort over to her son, Lucas St. Clair, and allowing him to mend relationships that seemed beyond repair.

“St. Clair won over many other opponents, one cup of coffee at a time, and convinced many of us that a national park or monument in the area east of Baxter State Park was not only a fitting use of the land that his mother had bought, but would live up to the grand tradition of the nation’s national park system — among the greatest gifts to the American people that have ever been created.”

[The Bangor Daily News, editorial:](#)

“The Katahdin monument is a great addition to Maine. (Gov.) LePage should stop fighting it.”

“People are investing in the Katahdin area, something his administration failed to deliver. Local residents and businesses don’t want that investment to go away.

“If LePage really wants to help the region, he’ll work with local leaders to attract more businesses and jobs to the region, not try to kill its one new economic bright spot.”

[Alan Caron, columnist, Portland Press Herald:](#)

“Here’s a better way to spend your time, governor: Pay attention to what Maine people outside your small circle are saying. Visit the people in the region who are actually coming up with new ideas and building the foundations of a new rural economy. They’ll tell you that there’s room enough in the northern forests for both traditional uses and new ideas.”

[David Farmer, columnist, Bangor Daily News:](#)

“Not content with taking food away from hungry kids or health care away from the sick and the elderly, Gov. Paul LePage has now set his sights on taking public lands away from everyone.

“LePage will [travel next week to Washington, D.C.](#), to testify at a kangaroo court of a hearing before the US House of Representative Committee on Natural Resources. There, he will continue to spread misinformation about the new Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.”

[Yvon Chouinard, founder of Patagonia and a Maine native:](#)

“Rather than harness the power of public lands for maximum benefit, some politicians on the right — including Utah Gov. [Gary Herbert](#), Maine Gov. [Paul LePage](#) and Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) — are trying to repeal laws that safeguard ecologically vulnerable landscapes.”

#### [Theodore Roosevelt IV](#)

“Teddy Roosevelt would have had high hopes for North Woods monument”

#### [Gabriel Perkins, outdoorsmen and trail developer:](#)

“Snowmobiles are allowed on monument land. As we’ve gone through this snowmobile season, there’s been no loss of access; the National Park Service cooperated with local snowmobile clubs in redecking some snowmobile bridges.

“The same is true for hunting. Some sportsmen claimed that the monument would cut off access for hunting. That just hasn’t happened.

“By creating the national monument, access for these traditional activities has been permanently protected. There is also cross country skiing, hiking, mountain biking, canoeing and fishing. All open to the public. All free.”

#### [Matt Polstein, business owner:](#)

“The monument breathed new life into our fall and drove a 33 percent year-over-year increase in revenue at the River Drivers restaurant as day and overnight visitation to the region grew. It proved to be a good warmup for this past winter when our overall business, driven by snowmobiling, grew 61 percent, easily passing our best winter ever.”

#### [Terry Hill, business owner:](#)

“The [Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument](#) is already spurring small business growth and helping the Katahdin region heal.

“As the owners of Shin Pond Village, my husband Craig and I can attest to the monument’s positive economic impact. In September and October, we got our first real glimpse at what a monument can mean for nearby businesses and communities. More people than ever were calling us to ask about the monument and book space with us and spend dollars that flow through our small business into those of our neighbors and our community.”

#### **Background:**

[Critical Insights:](#) 72 percent of Mainers support Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

[Congressional delegation](#) not backing LePage's request to abolish Katahdin monument

[National Monument Timeline](#): A timeline of the creation of the national monument

Images of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument [from Getty](#)

Lucas St. Clair talks about the national monument [with WCSH6](#).

[Maine Biz](#): National Monument Creates Fresh Hope for Millinocket Region

[Press Herald](#): Katahdin-area national monument already paying off for locals

[CNN](#): 17 Places to visit in 2017, including KWW National Monument

[Men's Journal](#): 14 reasons to get excited about Katahdin Woods, the newest national monument in Maine

[National Park Traveler](#): Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument: A pretty magical place

[Boston Globe](#): Solitude and adventure in Katahdin Woods and Waters

[Maine Biz](#): \$5M outdoor recreation facility proposed for Katahdin Region