

Katahdin Woods & Waters

Our Monument ❖ Our Community



Voices from the Region



Natural Resources Council of Maine

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Coming Together and Moving Forward

The Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument is bringing communities in the Katahdin region together as they seek to create a stronger economy for the future. Established on August 24, 2016, the Monument already is a source of new hope, excitement, and pride.

Residents, business owners, and civic leaders are seeing the benefits of the Monument every day. They report that foot traffic is up in stores from Millinocket to Patten. Real estate sales have increased. And people are making investments and expanding businesses to take advantage of the new opportunities for commerce.

Since the establishment of the Monument, new visitors have traveled to the area from out-of-state and across Maine to experience the natural beauty and recreational opportunities of the region, and learn about the area's rich history. Katahdin Woods and Waters is shining a spotlight on a part of Maine that deserves attention, recognition, and a visit.

Following years of discussion and debate about land conservation in the area, residents are more unified than ever in wanting to focus on the future. They believe that creation of the Monument is a settled matter, and they are eager to make the most of it. Good things already are happening.

Through the eyes of local residents, Katahdin Woods and Waters is off to a great start.





Gail Fanjoy

KATAHDIN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
MILLINOCKET, MAINE

“The National Monument has brought hope to our region at a time when it is desperately needed. As a lifelong resident of Millinocket, I can tell you that we are in a struggle for our very survival. The Monument has brought businesses and communities together with a sense of optimism that we haven’t seen in some time. Good things are happening. The Monument is bringing national attention to the Katahdin region, just as we hoped it would.”





Barry Davis

PRESIDENT, TWO RIVERS CANOE & TACKLE
MEDWAY, MAINE

“There has been a big jump in visitors to the region. I’ve seen it in my store, where people I haven’t seen before are here to check out the Monument. This is good for business. 2016 was our best year since 2009.”



Terry Hill

CO-OWNER, SHIN POND VILLAGE
MT. CHASE, MAINE

“I did not originally support the Monument or a national park. In fact, I helped organize a meeting with over 100 people to see what we could do to stop this whole idea. But now I believe that the National Monument will be the economic driver that helps turn our communities around. My views changed because the proposal changed, with lots of local input.

“Our business has seen a 20 percent increase in inquiries. Our July 4th had a 50 percent increase over last year. We created a new rental business because of the Monument. Before the Monument was designated, it was difficult, if not impossible, to make an investment like this. Our son has been able to return to the area with his family



to take over our business in the future, and the Monument was a big factor in his decision.

“We’ve seen lots of license plates from Missouri, Idaho, different states that we wouldn’t normally see. And we’re getting calls daily about the Monument. So it’s exciting and we look forward to the future.”

Richard Schmidt

PATTEN SELECTMAN

PATTEN, MAINE

“This Monument has and will continue to create and sustain jobs while bringing economic prosperity to our region. The days of one industry carrying this region are over. The value that the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument has started to bring to the Katahdin region is irrefutable, and the fact that it is still being contested is outrageous.”





Dan Corcoran

BROKER, NORTH WOODS REAL ESTATE;
LICENSED FORESTER
MILLINOCKET, MAINE

"The Monument already has been a welcome boost to our local economy, including the real estate market, and it has great potential in the years ahead. I worked in the forest products industry for 30 years, including on some of the lands that are currently part of the National Monument. It's been quite an eye-opener for me to deal with members of the public that are coming to the area for the first time because they heard about the National Monument and after being in town for just a few days, they want to buy real estate. It's amazing.

"We have seen a significant increase in property sales because of the Monument. During the first year since creation of the Monument, we doubled our staff, from three real estate brokers to six, and we'll be expanding further. That's a big deal in a small town. The National Monument is bringing people here. They're falling in love with the area. Many want to buy property. I see an opportunity for tourism and forest products manufacturing to succeed side-by-side in our area."



Marsha Donahue

OWNER, NORTH LIGHT GALLERY
MILLINOCKET, MAINE

“Artists have been coming to this area for inspiration for hundreds of years. Katahdin Woods and Waters has so many wonderful locations where the rivers, streams, wildlife, and landscape call out for artistic expression. Visitors are stopping in my gallery interested in paintings from the Monument. We now have an opportunity to integrate art into a broad array of activities in the Monument and see the art leave Maine for places far away. This is an exciting time for our communities.”





Mathew Polstein

OWNER, NEW ENGLAND OUTDOOR CENTER, TWIN PINE CAMPS, AND RIVER DRIVERS RESTAURANT MILLINOCKET, MAINE

“The Monument breathed new life into our fall business. In its first year, the Monument drove a 33 percent year-over-year increase in revenue at the River Drivers Restaurant. This proved to be a good warm-up for this past winter when our overall business, driven by snowmobiling, grew 61 percent, easily passing our best winter ever. This growth is astonishing and unprecedented in the 21 years we have run Twin Pine Camps, enabling us to invest more in our operations and hire more employees from the area.”

Anita Mueller and Mark Picard

OWNERS, MOOSE PRINTS GALLERY & GIFTS
MILLINOCKET, MAINE

“As gallery owners and outdoor photography workshop leaders we know that people come from all over the country to see and capture the beautiful scenery and amazing wildlife we have. The National Monument is a big draw and provides endless opportunities for stunning imagery of birds, landscapes, moose, and other wildlife.”



Snapshots from the Monument







Jon Ellis

CO-OWNER, ELLIS FAMILY MARKET
PATTEN AND EAST MILLINOCKET, MAINE

“There have been expansions in the area. Just in Patten alone, hardware stores are expanding. We’re looking at expanding. There’s outside investment going on. This hasn’t happened for ages. And it’s happening because there’s increased foot traffic and more people coming to the area. People are asking me about the Monument all the time. It’s a real positive for the area, and I don’t see any negatives. We need to be willing to change to survive and thrive as a community.”

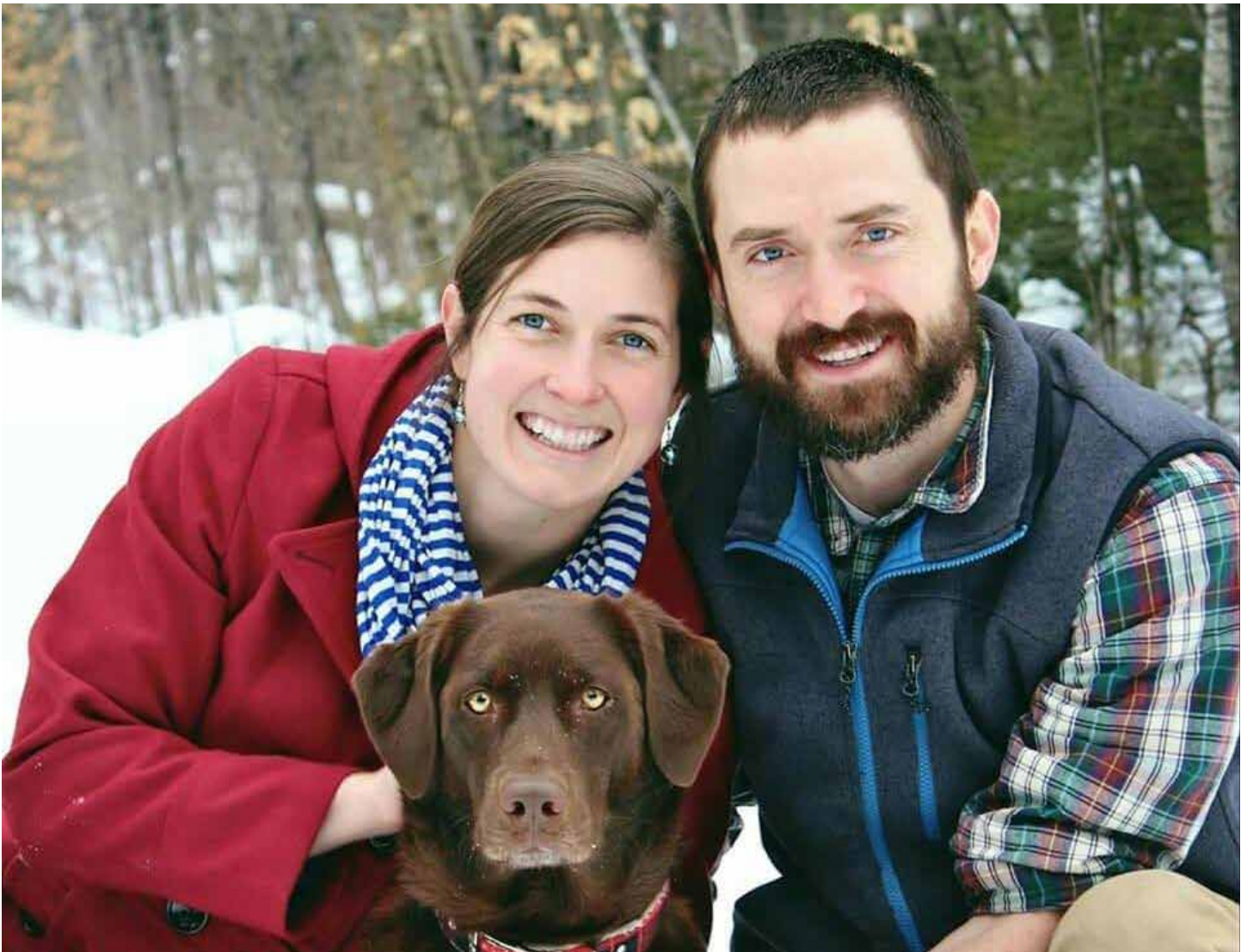


Marcia McKeague

PRESIDENT,
KATAHDIN FOREST MANAGEMENT, LLC
EAST MILLINOCKET, MAINE

“I was not an original supporter of the park or the Monument, but I think at this point, given all of the mill closures that we’ve had in the area, all of the changes in ownership and everything else, there is really absolutely nothing to be gained by revoking it. It would not help the forest products industry.”





Lindsay and Mike Downing

OWNERS, MT. CHASE LODGE
MT. CHASE, MAINE

“The benefits were obvious right away. At Mt. Chase Lodge, we’ve seen a remarkable increase in both inquiries and visitation. Snowmobile season historically has been our busiest time, but last fall was so busy that we had to send people to neighboring businesses. And we’ve been able to hire staff, which we didn’t think would be possible for years.”



John Hafford and Jessica Masse

OWNERS, DESIGNLAB
MILLINOCKET, MAINE

“We own a graphic design and marketing firm in downtown Millinocket. We are surprised over and over again at the number of people who come to town to ask about and visit the National Monument. Our business is already benefiting directly by serving companies that are taking advantage of the increased traffic. We support the Monument 100 percent.”





Paul Corrigan, Jr.

OUTDOORSMAN, AUTHOR, MAINE GUIDE
MILLINOCKET, MAINE

“It’s no fluke that this many people are recreating on the lands near the East Branch of the Penobscot River in the deep mid-winter. These folks are drawn to the area by the National Monument. And they patronize area businesses, and spend money locally on gas, meals, and lodging. They represent a first wave of visitors here to ski and snowshoe on free, well-groomed cross-country trails with stunning river and mountain views. Their arrival holds out great hope for our ailing local economy.”



Nate Richardson

OWNER, RICHARDSON'S HARDWARE
PATTEN, MAINE

“Our family business, Richardson’s Hardware, is doubling its retail space on Main Street. We are expanding to include kayaks, paddle boards, tents, camping and RV supplies, and other outdoor sporting equipment. We have hired two additional employees and hope to go further as the demand increases. We are doing this in response to local optimism within the business community. Many people, including some who opposed the Monument, have elevated their expectations for the entire region based on the increased activity since the Monument was created.”





Clint Linscott

OWNER, LINSKOTT AUTO BODY
EAST MILLINOCKET, MAINE

“Homes are selling, businesses are looking to expand, and new businesses are looking at coming here. Almost all of this is because of the Monument.”

Debbie and Rick LeVasseur

OWNERS, 5 LAKES LODGE
T4 INDIAN PURCHASE, MAINE

“Snowmobiling is a big part of our local economy and of our business. The National Monument is protecting a crucial link in the snowmobile trail system and providing new reasons for people to visit the region in all four seasons.”





Jaime Renaud

OWNER, APPALACHIAN TRAIL CAFÉ
MILLINOCKET, MAINE

“Our restaurant in Millinocket has seen a noticeable increase in business and lots of our customers are talking about the National Monument. The Monument has clearly provided another reason for people to come to the area and to stay longer once they are here.”

Other Voices of Praise for Katahdin Woods & Waters

Bob Peterson

CEO, MILLINOCKET REGIONAL HOSPITAL
MILLINOCKET, MAINE

“When I consider the value of the National Monument to our area, I see virtually all pros and virtually no cons. This is an opportunity for our community to grow. It’s part of a multi-pronged approach to get the Millinocket area back on track, and we support it.”

Mary Alice Mowry

RESIDENT
MILLINOCKET, MAINE

“I am one of those new homeowners who moved here since the Monument was created. To me, national monuments like this one contribute to a high quality of life. This is an important factor when deciding where to settle down and raise a family or, like me, retire.”



Catie Clark

MANAGING PARTNER, ICE FISH INN, LLC
MILLINOCKET, MAINE

“We saw an immediate uptick in our business volume with the announcement of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, with several of our guests remarking they came up solely to see the new National Monument. Frankly, if the National Monument goes away, we will have to close this business and go elsewhere.”

Kevin Parker

RESIDENT
MILLINOCKET, MAINE

“Just miles from my house, the newly created Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument is already bringing new life to our city in the form of tourist dollars, while also preserving the beauty of our great state for generations to come.”

Deb Rountree

RESIDENT
MILLINOCKET, MAINE

“I’ve seen thousands of people in the greater Katahdin region lose their jobs due to the closure of paper mills in this area. Our community is struggling. We are grasping by our fingertips trying to stay alive, and for the first time in a long time there’s a sense of renewed hope because of the Monument and the sense of new possibilities that it has created. We are already seeing the positive effects in our region and are so very thankful for it.”

Tina Jamo

PRESIDENT/CEO, KATAHDIN FEDERAL
CREDIT UNION, MILLINOCKET, MAINE

Last year we had one of the best years we’ve had in a long time. It was the year they announced the National Monument. Was it a coincidence? I think not.



Natural Resources Council of Maine

The Natural Resources Council of Maine is a nonprofit membership organization working statewide for clean air, healthy waters, safeguards for our people and wildlife, forest protections, and clean, renewable energy solutions. We harness the power of science, the law, and the voices of more than 20,000 supporters across Maine and beyond.



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