

Martha Spiess

2017 Conservation Leadership Award

For her work as a citizen activist/videographer volunteering hundreds of hours of video production for environmental protection

When a person is passionate about what they do, it's obvious. And Martha Spiess is passionate about environmental protection. Martha has volunteered countless hours to NRCM's priority issues, videotaping dozens of public hearings and other events, and most recently producing a [video about the Allagash River](#), featuring long-time NRCM member and natural history author Dean Bennett.

Martha's skills as a videographer and video editor were crucial in our efforts to defeat the weak mining rules that came before the Maine Legislature. When she couldn't make the trip herself to the proposed mining site in Aroostook County, she generously entrusted her video equipment to NRCM staff members so we could film people in the region who are concerned about mining there. Martha also spent dozens of hours working with our staff to create two short mining videos, one targeted specifically to legislators, and one that delivered our message to NRCM members. Martha attended every meeting on the mining issue held by the Board of Environmental Protection. She was there at every legislative hearing and work session—and captured every moment on film. Her success can be measured not only in the high-quality videos she created but ultimately by the fact the Maine now has the strongest mining laws of any state in the nation.

"The hours Martha has put in to producing videos to help stop mining pollution in Maine has been incredible," says Pohlmann. "Anyone who has seen her work knows that she has made tremendous contributions to protecting Maine's environment. We are grateful for her tireless efforts."



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