



Natural Resources Council of Maine  
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**The Natural Resources Council of Maine's Recommendations Regarding Winter Use in  
Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument  
February 5, 2018**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments as part of the land management planning process for winter use in Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

The most important issue to consider when planning for winter recreational use in the Monument is the impact on the resources, including wildlife. Trails should avoid deer wintering areas, wildlife travel corridors, and other wildlife habitat that is heavily used in winter.

To create the highest quality winter recreational experience in the Monument, it is desirable to provide separate dedicated single-use trails for different types of users, not just for motorized and non-motorized users, but also for various types of non-motorized users.

Specific recommendations:

1. Increase opportunities for **cross-country skiing**, groomed and ungroomed, day use and backcountry.
  - a. Dedicate the existing trails in the northern part of the Monument west of the East Branch of the Penobscot River specifically for cross-country skiing.
  - b. Seek opportunities to access the southern part of the Monument west of the East Branch for cross-country skiing.
  - c. Seek opportunities on the eastern portion of the Monument for day use cross-country ski trails in areas away from snowmobile trails.
  - d. Continue to provide Haskell and Big Spring Brook Huts for multi-day cross-country skiers' use.
  - e. Increase the opportunities for multi-day backcountry trips (on ungroomed trails) on the west side by adding two or more backcountry bunkhouses (similar to the bunkhouses in Baxter) south of Big Spring Brook Hut so that skiers could traverse the Monument from north to south (or vice versa) and, potentially, connect west to the sporting camp at Katahdin Lake, directly to the Baxter perimeter road and out to Togue Pond Gate or Abol Bridge, or east to Lunksoos (see number 5 below.)
2. Increase opportunities for **snowshoeing**.
  - a. Designate separate trails specifically for snowshoeing in the northern, southern, and eastern parts of the Monument.
3. Seek opportunities for **fat-tire bike** trails.

- a. Designate separate trails specifically for fat-tire biking in the southern and eastern parts of the Monument.
4. Consider relocating the current **snowmobile trail** on the Sebeois Road east of the East Branch away from the East Branch and Lunksoos Camps and up onto the hills to the east.
  - a. Seek to create additional viewpoints (on Lookout Mountain?) along a relocated snowmobile trail east of Lunksoos.
5. If the snowmobile trail is relocated, consider allowing non-motorized winter users to use one or more cabins at Lunksoos as additional backcountry bunkhouses.
6. Continue to maintain the west side of the Monument for non-motorized uses, except for the deeded snowmobile trail, ITS 85, that runs along the Stacyville Road.
7. Consider designating the west side of the Monument, north of Katahdin Brook and Wassataquoik Stream, a Wilderness Area.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us.

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