



Moosehead Forest Conservation Project

A COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE FOR LARGE-SCALE CONSERVATION
IN MAINE'S NORTH WOODS





A Keystone Conservation Project for the North Maine Woods

Two million acres of conserved land in northern Maine stretching westward from Baxter State Park, around Moosehead Lake and northward to the St. John River—that's the vision embodied in the Moosehead Forest Conservation Project. The project will permanently conserve more than 400,000 acres near Moosehead Lake and create an unprecedented corridor of conservation across Maine's North Woods.

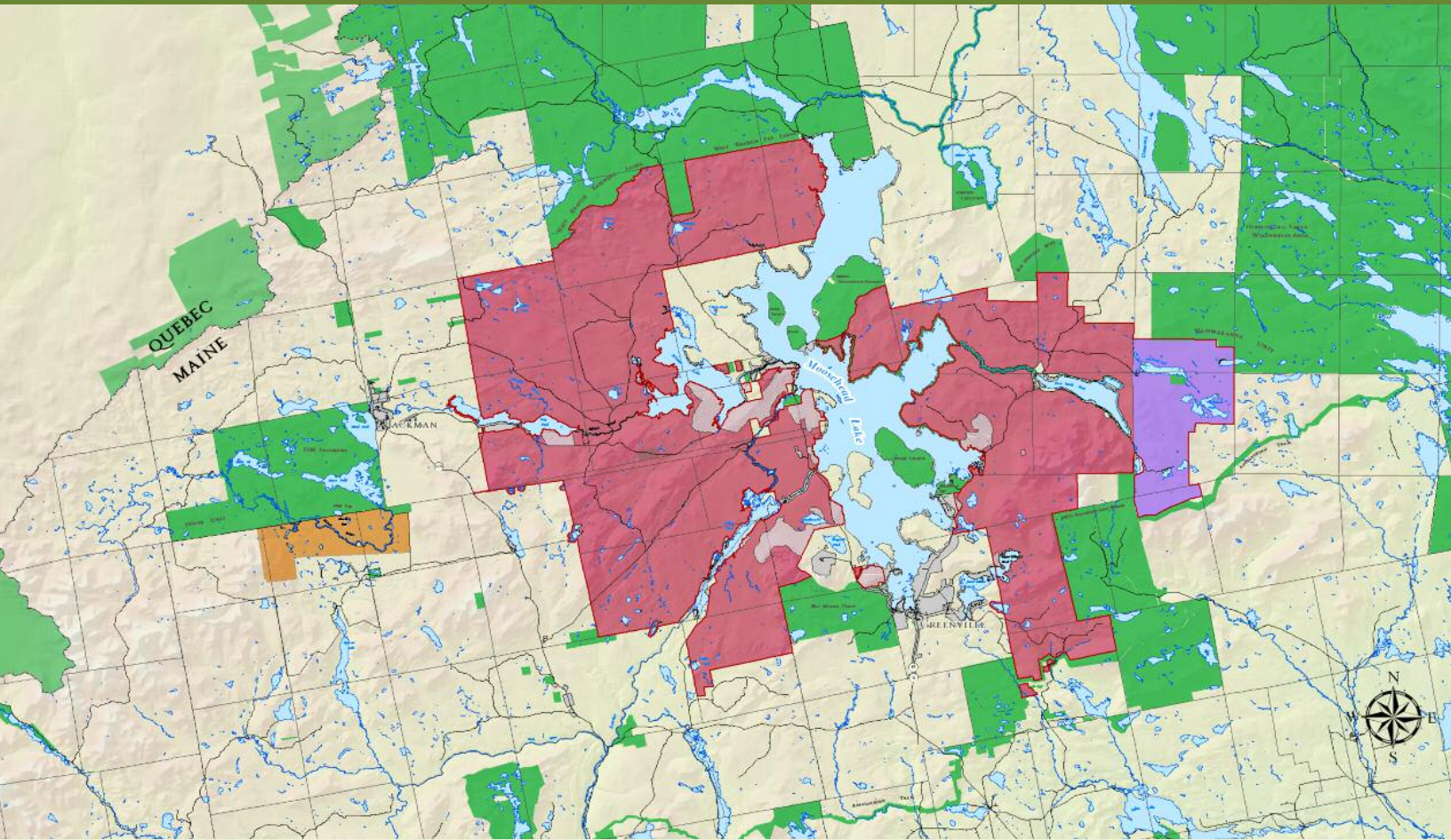
These lands are a vital piece of the movement to conserve the forests, waterways and natural habitats of the North Woods. They bring the big picture into focus.

It is a picture of pristine waters and forested mountains with remote opportunities for paddling, hiking, camping, skiing, fishing and hunting. It is a picture of protection for priceless ecological treasures: the headwaters of some of Maine's major rivers, untouched ponds and peatlands and habitat for rare plants and animals. And it is a picture of vast, unfragmented forests managed in a way that supports the local economy while providing a home to wide-ranging mammals such as moose, marten, fisher and Canada lynx.

The Appalachian Mountain Club, Forest Society of Maine and The Nature Conservancy have partnered to bring this picture to life. These groups are combining conservation expertise and working together to raise some \$30 million through both public funding and private donations to cover the project's costs. Please join us in protecting this magnificent landscape.



MOOSEHEAD FOREST CONSERVATION PROJECT



LEGEND ■ Conservation Easement ■ Moose River Reserve ■ Roach Ponds Parcel ■ Existing Protected Lands ■ Proposed Development Areas

Critical Lands and Waterways Make Up the Moosehead Forest Conservation Project

The opportunity is now to protect more than 400,000 acres in Maine's North Woods

The 363,000-acre **Moosehead Region Conservation Easement**, one of the largest easements in the U.S., anchors the project. It comprises 97,000 acres contributed by Plum Creek Timber Co. plus 266,000 acres being purchased by the partners at the remarkable bargain price of \$37 per acre. Strong ecological protections, sustainable forestry practices and public access for traditional recreation are guaranteed. The Forest Society of Maine will be the easement holder.

The **Moose River Reserve** represents 15,000 acres of natural and recreational treasures that will be acquired by The Nature Conservancy and managed as an ecological reserve. As a result of the purchase, the last unprotected portions of Number 5 Bog (one of the largest, most diverse and least disturbed peatlands in the Eastern U.S.) and the famous Moose River Bow Trip (among the best-known remote paddling routes in the state) will be completely conserved.

The **Roach Ponds Parcel** includes more than 26,500 acres straddling the headwaters of the Kennebec, Penobscot and Pleasant rivers. With 10 remote ponds and stunning natural scenery, this land completes a corridor of protection along the 100-Mile Wilderness section of the Appalachian Trail. The Appalachian Mountain Club will purchase this parcel to protect special ecological areas and provide access for year-round recreation and sustainable forestry.

The Benefits of the Project

In Maine's North Woods and around the world, the future depends on conservation action taken today. The Moosehead Forest Conservation Project represents a historic opportunity to work at a scale that will truly make a difference in the North Woods. This landmark deal balances the interests of all stakeholders including local communities, conservation organizations, visitors, landowners and the plants and animals that call the area home.

CONSERVATION AT THE SCALE OF NATURE

Gone are the days in which conservation meant just the purchase of small, isolated parcels. We know that for conservation to succeed, it must take on the scale and dynamism of nature itself. The Moosehead Forest Conservation Project works at such a scale, protecting hundreds of thousands of acres of forests and wetlands, scores of remote ponds and hundreds of miles of streams and rivers. And the project connects existing conservation lands to create a vast, 2-million-acre corridor of conservation through the North Maine Woods.



WILDLIFE AND ECOLOGY

The project creates a network of sustainable working forests and protected areas that provides critical habitat for countless species and protection for natural communities, all of which will be allowed to flourish for generations to come. The benefits will radiate beyond the woods, too, as tributaries that originate within the Moosehead forest generate pristine water that flows into the Penobscot and Kennebec River watersheds and beyond into the Gulf of Maine.



WILDERNESS RECREATION

The forests, streams, ponds and wetlands protected by the Moosehead Forest Conservation Project will remain accessible for future generations to explore and enjoy. Recreational highlights of the project lands include conservation of the last unprotected portion of the Moose River Bow canoe trip and a long segment of the 100-Mile Wilderness along the Appalachian Trail. Streams perfect for fishing and paddling, dozens of remote ponds and hiking and camping sites well off the beaten path will also be protected.



WORKING FORESTS

The Moosehead Forest Conservation Project was created to support both the economic and ecological vitality of the Moosehead region. The sustainable forestry easement supports that balanced approach—building lasting connections between people and communities and these protected lands. The project will support a healthy future for the forest products industry, as well as growing opportunities for outdoor recreation and nature-based businesses, all while sustaining the ecological values of the lands.



“On behalf of the people of Maine, I commend The Nature Conservancy, the Forest Society of Maine, the Appalachian Mountain Club and Plum Creek for working together to develop a conservation framework that ensures economic opportunities for the communities in the Moosehead region and provides public access for the people of Maine. This is an unprecedented opportunity for permanent conservation.”

– Governor John E. Baldacci

“I have spent my life in Maine’s North Woods and have seen great changes in recent years that bring uncertainty to the future of these lands. The Moosehead Forest Conservation Project will bring guarantees of traditional access while protecting fish and wildlife habitat, all without compromising the forest industry. Thank you for taking action so that this special place will remain available for future generations to enjoy.”

– Danny Legere, master Maine guide, Maine Guide Fly Shop, Greenville, Maine

“With less than 3 percent of Maine land currently set aside as forever wild, where natural processes can support biodiversity, wildlife and adaptation to climate change, Sweet Water Trust is very pleased to support the Moosehead Forest Conservation Project’s protection of ecological reserves within the great Maine woods.”

– Eve Endicott, executive director, Sweet Water Trust



Appalachian
Mountain Club



FOREST
SOCIETY
of MAINE

The Nature
Conservancy 
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

outdoors.org

fsmaine.org

nature.org/maine

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