

RESTORE:



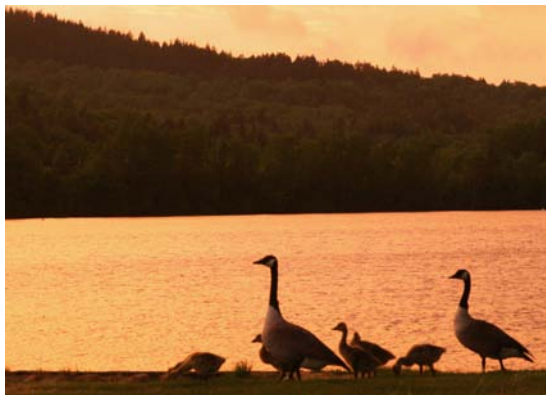
May 2010

WHAT'S NEW?

The more wild land we protect today, the better the future will be – for us, for posterity, for all living things. That's why I support the creation of a Maine Woods National Park. The future of the North Maine Woods does not lie in wood chips and toiler paper; it lies in keeping the largest expanse of unbroken woodlands east of the Mississippi intact. One hundred years from now, our descendants will look back and thank us.

~ Edgar Allen Beem, "It's time for a Maine Woods National Park," *The Forecaster*, February 8, 2010

MAINE WOODS NATIONAL PARK PROGRESS



Moosehead Lake Sunset (photo © Jym St. Pierre)

Support remains strong for the Maine Woods National Park idea. RESTORE's Maine Woods National Park Facebook page has gathered several thousand additional signatures on our online park petition (<http://apps.facebook.com/causes/138803>). A growing number of people are following RESTORE on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/MaineNorthWoods>). Several major opinion pieces have appeared in Maine newspapers during the last few months, endorsing the Maine Woods National Park proposal.

Meanwhile, philanthropist Roxanne Quimby has acquired another 29,500 acres within the proposed Maine Woods National Park. The lands she has protected in the future park now total nearly 120,000 acres.

Widespread public resistance to Plum Creek's sprawling development scheme for the Moosehead region has changed the dynamics of the Maine Woods debate. RESTORE was once considered radical for saying that the Maine Woods is nationally significant, that large-scale land conservation is needed, and that it will only happen with the help of our national government. Today, this is the conventional wisdom. Even Maine state government and corporate landowners are talking about federal funding for "working forest" easements and state purchases on northern Maine timberlands as part of a new Keeping Maine's Forest initiative, which acknowledges the national significance of the Maine Woods. Though this would provide only partial protection, it could offer interim conservation for key areas and could complement the designation of a large national park and preserve in the heart of the Maine Woods.

KEEPING THE PRESSURE ON PLUM CREEK

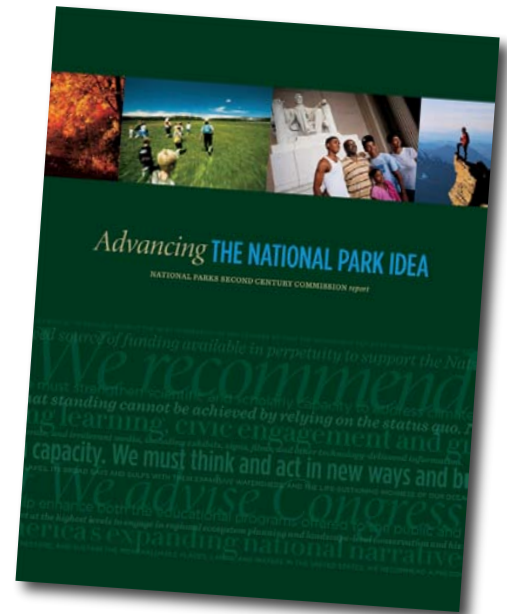
It has been more than four years since Plum Creek corporation proposed its massive Moosehead Lake real-estate development plan within the proposed Maine Woods National Park. State regulators caved in to pressure and approved the plan in late 2009. In October 2009, RESTORE joined with the Forest Ecology Network in filing a lawsuit in Maine Superior Court challenging Plum Creek's plan. Our legal appeal is pending. Meanwhile, there has been no development on those lands and sale of conservation areas has gone forward.

RESTORE's strategy of vigorously challenging Plum Creek's destructive development scheme has made a critical difference. Our leadership helped to pull together many groups to fight the proposal and to rally public opposition. We have not yet defeated Plum Creek's ill-conceived plan, but without RESTORE's leadership, development would be well underway, instead of halted.

NEW NATIONAL PARKS PROJECT

Our New National Parks Project is already having a major positive impact. In 2008-09, RESTORE served on a committee of park experts, which advised the blue-ribbon National Parks Second Century Commission. In its call for new national parks, the Commission mentioned three specific candidates, including the proposed Maine Woods National Park. You can download the Commission's report at <http://www.npca.org/commission/>

In November 2009, RESTORE was selected as one of the few grassroots groups invited to a conference in Tennessee sponsored by the National Parks Second Century Commission. At the conference we were able to meet several Commission members and other organizations working for new national parks across the country. We had a chance to speak with Jonathan Jarvis, the new National Park Service Director, about our Maine Woods National Park proposal and our New National Parks Project. He was very supportive of both and expressed an interest in working with us.



DEFENDING THE ALLAGASH

After convincing the national organization American Rivers to include the Allagash Wilderness Waterway (AWW) on its America's Most Endangered Rivers list, during the last year RESTORE has continued to work quietly to strengthen protection of the AWW. We helped to convince the State of Maine to prevent the sale of a key in-holding at Lock Dam by a forestry company to private, anti-wilderness interests. We watchdogged the formulation of a first-ever strategic plan for the AWW. And thanks largely to the Citizens to Protect the Allagash coalition, which RESTORE coordinates, public and nonprofit conservation interests are negotiating possible acquisition of significant parcels within the AWW mile zone.

PROTECTING MASS FORESTS



Old-growth white pine, Mohawk Trail State Forest, Massachusetts (Photo © Robert Leverett)

Many people in Massachusetts were outraged when it was revealed in 2009 that clearcut logging was underway on state park and forest lands. In response to growing public protests, the Commonwealth initiated a new "Forest Futures Visioning" process to rethink its forest management policies. RESTORE was invited to serve on the advisory committee. We took the lead in developing a citizens' proposal to ban logging on most state lands. In April 2010, state officials announced that they would protect 60 percent of state park and forest lands from logging — including all parklands. Although less than we proposed, it is a huge improvement over the status quo. You can download the complete final report at http://www.mass.gov/dcr/news/publicmeetings/tsc_final_recom mendations.htm