

RESTORE:



September 2010

WHAT'S NEW?

CAST YOUR "VOTE" FOR A MAINE WOODS NATIONAL PARK

President Obama has launched a national dialogue to hear what the people of America have to say about preserving our outdoor spaces. The America's Great Outdoors (AGO) initiative has held listening sessions across the country, including in Bangor, Maine. An AGO website seeks ideas and gives people a chance to vote to "promote" ideas they support. A report will be presented to the President in mid November. One of the ideas on the AGO website is "Create the Maine Woods National Park & Preserve." This idea has gained more than 400 "promote" votes. RESTORE's goal is to get as many "promotes" as possible, maximizing the chance that the park idea will be included in the report to the President. **Cast your vote now for Maine Woods National Park!** You may need to register, but it is easy. This link will take you to the AGO web page: <http://tinyurl.com/35bo8kn>



Photo © Jvm St. Pierre

NEW POLL SHOWS STRONG SUPPORT FOR A MAINE WOODS PARK

On September 1, 2010, the National Parks Conservation Association released the findings of a new poll. According to the public opinion survey conducted independently by Zogby International, 75 percent of Maine voters support setting aside 10 to 20 percent of the Maine Woods for a public park. This corroborates the results of earlier polls. Since the mid 1990s numerous independent surveys have shown majority support among Mainers for the Maine Woods National Park & Preserve idea.

MAINE WOODS NATIONAL PARK CAMPAIGN MOVES FORWARD

A remarkable convergence of events in recent months has created a resurgence of support for national parks across America and the proposed Maine Woods National Park & Preserve, in particular, including:

- The Ken Burns PBS documentary "**The National Parks**" has reached **33 million viewers** with its message about the importance of our national parks and past efforts to expand them.
- The blue-ribbon National Parks Second Century Commission has issued a groundbreaking report with a short list of **potential new national parks — including the Maine Woods.**
- Philanthropist Roxanne Quimby has acquired another 29,500 acres **increasing her conservation lands** within the proposed Maine Woods National Park to 120,000 acres.
- The Obama administration has said it is actively interested in **expanding the National Park System** and the Maine Woods is one of the areas under consideration.

- In June 2010, a diverse group of Maine citizens joined RESTORE staff for a meeting with U.S. Rep. Chellie Pingree to discuss possible **legislation authorizing a Maine Woods feasibility study** that would include a new national park option.

*The more wild land we protect today,
the better the future will be....*

*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

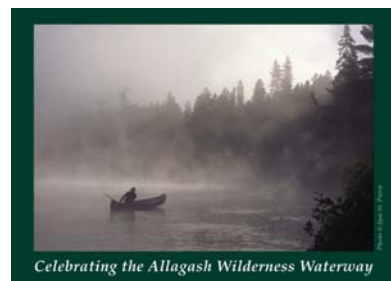
- RESTORE has made **many presentations** about the proposed Maine Woods National Park & Preserve, including to the Maine Outdoor Adventure Club (Portland and Lewiston), Bangor Nature Club, Vienna Grange, Tin Mountain Conservation Center, Machias Rotary Club, and University of Maine at Fort Kent.
- A new Maine Woods National Park & Preserve **Volunteer Action Network** has been formed by dedicated individuals who are committed to the park vision.
- Our Maine Woods National Park & Preserve **petition on Facebook** has garnered more than 3,600 signatures to be added to tens of thousands of signatures on our paper petition.
- Even Maine state government and corporate landowners **acknowledged the national significance** of the Maine Woods in a proposal called Keeping Maine's Forest, which was sent to federal agencies in August.
- RESTORE is coordinating with a growing network of groups across the country through our New National Parks Project on possible **omnibus legislation for new parks, including in the Maine Woods**.

LEGAL APPEAL OF PLUM CREEK DEVELOPMENT MOVES AHEAD

In October 2009, state regulators caved in to pressure and approved Plum Creek corporation's massive Moosehead Lake real-estate development scheme. The plan would allow more than 2,300 housing units and up to three commercial resorts within the proposed Maine Woods National Park & Preserve. RESTORE and the Forest Ecology Network immediately challenged Plum Creek's plan in court. Our pro bono attorneys filed our formal legal brief in August 2010. Response briefs by Plum Creek and others were filed in September. With the current real-estate downturn, Plum Creek has not been eager to rush into development. As time passes the chances increase that Plum Creek will change its development plans and sell more land for conservation.

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, RESTORE has continued to work to strengthen protection of the AWW. We helped to convince the State of Maine to prevent the sale of a key inholding at Lock Dam by a forestry company to private interests. We have watchdogged the formulation of a first-ever strategic plan for the AWW. And through the Citizens to Protect the Allagash coalition, which RESTORE coordinates, we have been monitoring negotiations for possible public acquisition of private parcels within the mile-wide AWW zone.



Celebrating the Allagash Wilderness Waterway

Photo © Jym St. Pierre

ALL THE MAINE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS THAT FITS

Maine Environmental News was launched ten years ago as a project of the non-profit Maine Environmental Policy Institute (MEEPI). When MEEPI could not continue the electronic news clipping service, RESTORE agreed to take on the responsibility. Since January 2009, we have added more than 6,000 articles and announcements to the Maine Environmental News website (<http://www.maineenvironews.com/>). It has become the most comprehensive compilation of online conservation news in Maine. A recent grant from the Quimby Family Foundation will allow us to expand the reach of this respected news clipping service.