



Maine Woods National Park: Vision to Reality

February 8, 2010

NR10018

The University of Maine at Fort Kent will host environmental speaker Jym St. Pierre, Maine director, for RESTORE: The North Woods, on Friday, February 12 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Cyr Hall, room 209. St. Pierre is an advocate to restore Maine's globally significant wild lands - including creating a spectacular 3.2-million-acre Maine Woods National Park.

The presentation is part of the Environmental Speaker Series on campus. The event is free and open to the public.

RESTORE's mission is to focus on action, not bureaucracy and to revive the grassroots spirit that led to the great conservation victories of the past. The organization has been challenging the status quo, advocating creative solutions to long-standing problems, and creating the foundation of a regional movement that can make the vision of The North Woods restoration a reality.

The park would restore native wildlife and ecosystems, protect the headwaters of Maine's major rivers, provide wilderness recreation on an Alaskan scale, diversify the boom-and-bust local economy, shift control from corporations back to the public, and inspire people across the nation to help save the Maine Woods. The Maine Woods National Park would truly be the "Yellowstone of the East."

Approximately 100,000 people have signed its petition, which calls for a National Park Service feasibility study of the proposed park. Hundreds of Mainer's sign the petition on Facebook each month. For more information about RESTORE: The North Woods, the proposed park, and its supporters can be found on-line at:

www.restore.org



The presentation is at the request of Jonathan Hayes, a UMFK environmental studies student and a supporter of the proposed park.

The Environmental Studies Speaker Series at UMFK regularly brings speakers to campus. These presentations are open to the public and cover such topics as water quality, waste management, wind power, endangered species, forestry and marine science. The program is offered in collaboration with the UMFK Environmental Studies degree program. Speakers are only scheduled during the academic year.

For more information on the Environmental Studies Speaker Series, contact Steve Selva at (207) 834-7617.