

# RESTORE:



December 2009

## WHAT'S NEW?

### **THE NATIONAL PARKS: AMERICA'S BEST IDEA**

This six-episode historical documentary series was directed by acclaimed filmmaker Ken Burns and written and co-produced by Dayton Duncan. It is the story of preserving the most special places in the nation, not for royalty or the rich, but for everyone. With spectacular scenery as a backdrop, from Acadia to Yosemite, Yellowstone to Hawaii Volcanoes, and the Everglades to the Gates of the Arctic, this is also the story of many of the people who created the parks and who have preserved them. If you missed the series on PBS the first time in September-October 2009, you can see it on DVD. The companion book is also becoming a best seller.

### **PUTTING MAINE WOODS NATIONAL PARK INTO PERSPECTIVE**

At a pre-screening of their new film on *The National Parks* in Maine last summer, Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan were asked about the proposed Maine Woods National Park. They explained how the history of many of our national parks shows that local and special interests often have resisted, but later supported the creation of new parks. They acknowledged that there is a special challenge in Maine because the land is not already public. They confirmed that the history of our parks shows that even small numbers of people who are committed to a cause can and do prevail. They gave a thoughtful and passionate response urging Maine Woods National Park advocates to persevere.



Jym St. Pierre presents a 2009 RESTORE award to Ken Burns.

Following up on *The National Parks* film, former newspaper editor George Neavoll published an op-ed in the October 11, 2009, Maine Sunday Telegram. He pointed out that "Of course there will be opposition; there is always opposition. The Portland Press Herald called the proposed purchase of what would become Baxter State Park in the 1920s 'the silliest proposal ever made to a legislature.' Today, like Acadia National Park on Maine's Atlantic Seaboard, it is a state icon, a tribute to the foresight of its founders."

### **PRESIDENT OBAMA HEARS ABOUT MAINE WOODS NATIONAL PARK**

Historian Douglas Brinkley, author of the acclaimed new book *The Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and the Crusade for America*, recently met with President Barack Obama and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar. He encouraged them to look into creating new national parks, including in the north woods of Maine. See his interview about this on CBS at [http://www.restore.org/Maine/brinkley\\_newparks.html](http://www.restore.org/Maine/brinkley_newparks.html)

### **MAINE WOODS NATIONAL PARK ON PUBLIC TELEVISION**

Maine Watch host Jennifer Rooks interviewed Jym St. Pierre, Maine Director of RESTORE: The North Woods, about the proposed Maine Woods National Park & Preserve this fall. Gene Conlogue of the Maine Woods Coalition represented the opposition. You can watch the show online at the Maine Public Broadcasting Network website: [www.mpbnet.net/Television/LocalTelevisionPrograms/MaineWatch/tabid/477/Default.aspx](http://www.mpbnet.net/Television/LocalTelevisionPrograms/MaineWatch/tabid/477/Default.aspx)

## **MAINE WOODS NATIONAL PARK ONLINE**

Photographer and author Scot Miller has created a beautiful, **short film** called *Maine Woods National Park: The Time Has Come*. It has received national attention on **YouTube** and at screenings in New York City. You can now follow the progress of our park campaign on **Facebook** and **Twitter** and join the thousands of others who have already signed the online park petition. See <http://apps.facebook.com/causes/138803> and <http://twitter.com/MaineNorthWoods>

## **ROXANNE QUIMBY: PARKS CHAMPION**

The National Parks Conservation Association has named Roxanne Quimby a National Park Champion. The profile says: "Her non-profit foundation, Elliotsville Plantation, Inc., has bought and conserved approximately 90,000 acres of wild lands in the Maine Woods....Roxanne hopes to donate all of her acres of land to the National Park Service on its 100th anniversary in 2016, perhaps creating the nation's next national park: Maine Woods National Park and Preserve." See <http://www.npca.org/bestidea/champions.html>

## **New National Parks Project**

Citizens working to expand  
America's National Park System

RESTORE launched our New National Parks Project the same day Ken Burns' parks series premiered. NNPP is an independent initiative that will wage a national campaign to expand America's National Park System. Michael Kellett, RESTORE's Executive Director, is Director of the New National Parks Project. There are hundreds of priceless natural landscapes and cultural sites that qualify as new national parks, including the Maine Woods, and dozens of existing parks that should be expanded. Now is the time to preserve these irreplaceable treasures. The NNPP website will expand as the project grows. See [www.newnationalparks.org](http://www.newnationalparks.org)

## **NATIONAL PARKS SECOND CENTURY COMMISSION**

The blue ribbon panel, National Parks Second Century Commission released its final report September 24, 2009. *The Future Shape of the National Park System Committee* report recommends that "The National Park Service should...identify new areas....There is strong regional and national interest in a Maine Woods National Park..." See <http://www.visionfortheparks.org/resources/npscc-committee-reports.pdf>

## **LURC APPROVES PLUM CREEK PLAN; RESTORE APPEALS**

On September 23, 2009, the Land Use Regulation Commission voted to approve the largest development plan in Maine's history. It would allow thousands of new houses and two large resorts spread around Moosehead Lake in the heart of the proposed Maine Woods National Park. It also includes conservation elements, but the easements are weak and Plum Creek is being paid for most of those. Through our attorneys, Phil Worden and Lynne Williams, on October 21 RESTORE and the Forest Ecology Network, filed a court appeal of LURC's approval of 16,000 acres of new development zones. Our appeal is on the RESTORE website.

## **MAINE SPORTSMAN PUBLISHER ON TARGET**

In the November 2009 issue of *The Maine Sportsman*, New England's largest readership outdoor publication, publisher Jon Lund connected the dots. An excerpt: "What have we learned from the Plum Creek fracas?...We cannot count on LURC, or perhaps any other administrative agency to provide permanent protection for the remote character of the North Maine woods which many hunters and fishermen and other outdoors people have come to expect....There are many varieties of national ownership that might fit well here. For instance, there are national forests, national preserves, national parks, national monuments, and wilderness areas....The right combination could be an economic engine that would give a boost to the economy that is unlikely to happen no matter how many millions of dollars we spend on conservation easements." You can read the whole column at [http://www.restore.org/Restore/News/NP\\_oped\\_ME\\_Sportsman.pdf](http://www.restore.org/Restore/News/NP_oped_ME_Sportsman.pdf)