



RESTORE: The North Woods

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

January - RESTORE's campaign to expand America's National Park System was highlighted in an article published by National Parks Traveler. We coordinated a letter signed by 20 organizations representing thousands of citizens to the Massachusetts legislature in support of a bill to "Ensure Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions."

February - RESTORE's Maine Director, Jym St. Pierre, completed his 37th annual winter backpacking trek in the North Woods with a 5-day inspection of Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument. We joined with more than 200 organizations, institutions, and businesses, in supporting the "Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act of 2020."

March - RESTORE'S pioneering advocacy for new National Parks was featured in podcasts by the Rewilding Institute. We joined 25 state and national conservation, science, labor, and religious organizations in condemning racial violence against people of color and indigenous people, and vowing to work for a safer, more diverse, and more equitable future with access to clean air, land, and water for all.

April - RESTORE co-hosted a talk on the 50th anniversary of Earth Day by Dahr Jamail about his book, "The End of Ice," which describes his journeys around the world alongside front-line scientists to document the impacts of climate disruption. We shared an essay by RESTORE's Board Chair, George Wuerthner, about how the Trump Administration was on the warpath against the environment.

May - RESTORE joined two dozen other organizations in sending a letter to Maine Gov Janet Mills stressing the importance of having a strong plan to address the threat that climate change poses to our economy, environment, and communities. With more than 30 other conservation organizations, we challenged excessive overflights in order to maintain quiet skies in our national parks for the majority of visitors.

June - RESTORE Board Chair, George Wuerthner, recorded an interview explaining why the protection of intact forests is one of the most important actions we can take to fight climate disruption. We and other groups across the country, representing millions of citizens, sent a letter to Congress rejecting President Trump's executive order directing federal agencies to waive compliance with our nation's bedrock environmental laws.

July - RESTORE's Executive Director, Michael Kellett, recorded a podcast concerning "Wilderness and Wildlife" and he gave a Zoom presentation with Dr. Bill Stubblefield, about "Protecting Massachusetts Forests." Jym St. Pierre, RESTORE's Maine Director, completed a pair of field trips to inspect restoration in Baxter State Park.

August - RESTORE co-sponsored a talk by Susan Masino, a Professor at Trinity College and a Fellow at Harvard University, about "Forests and Your Brain." We broke the news about a visual intrusion in the iconic view of Katahdin in Baxter State Park, which became a front-page story in the Maine Sunday Telegram.

September - RESTORE's board chair, George Wuerthner, posted a piece that debunked misinformation about wildfires used to justify more logging in our national forests. We featured an essay on wildlife crossings by John Davis, executive director of The Rewilding Institute and a board director of RESTORE.

October - RESTORE's Executive Director, Michael Kellett, published an op-ed stressing the urgent need to reduce the burning of fossil fuels and to allow forests to grow old to store carbon to prevent runaway global warming. With more than 70 other organizations, we sent a letter to Massachusetts lawmakers raising serious concerns about a bill to require municipalities to purchase power from polluting biomass plants.

November - RESTORE became a founding member of a new Standing Trees Vermont coalition, which has a mission to defend the state's public lands from resource extraction and to restore them to protected natural forests. We celebrated the defeat of the reelection of the Trump Administration, the most destructive in history.

December - RESTORE reached a milestone with more than 75,000 articles, alerts, and events posted during the past decade on our popular Maine Environmental News online webpage. We continued to oppose a massive power line from Quebec through wild forests in Maine to send electricity from destructive hydropower dams to southern New England.