

Multi-Use of Forest Lands An Overview of the North Maine Woods Management Program



**Prepared for
Members of
NERCOFE**

March 13, 2017

**By Al Cowperthwaite, Executive Director
North Maine Woods Inc.**

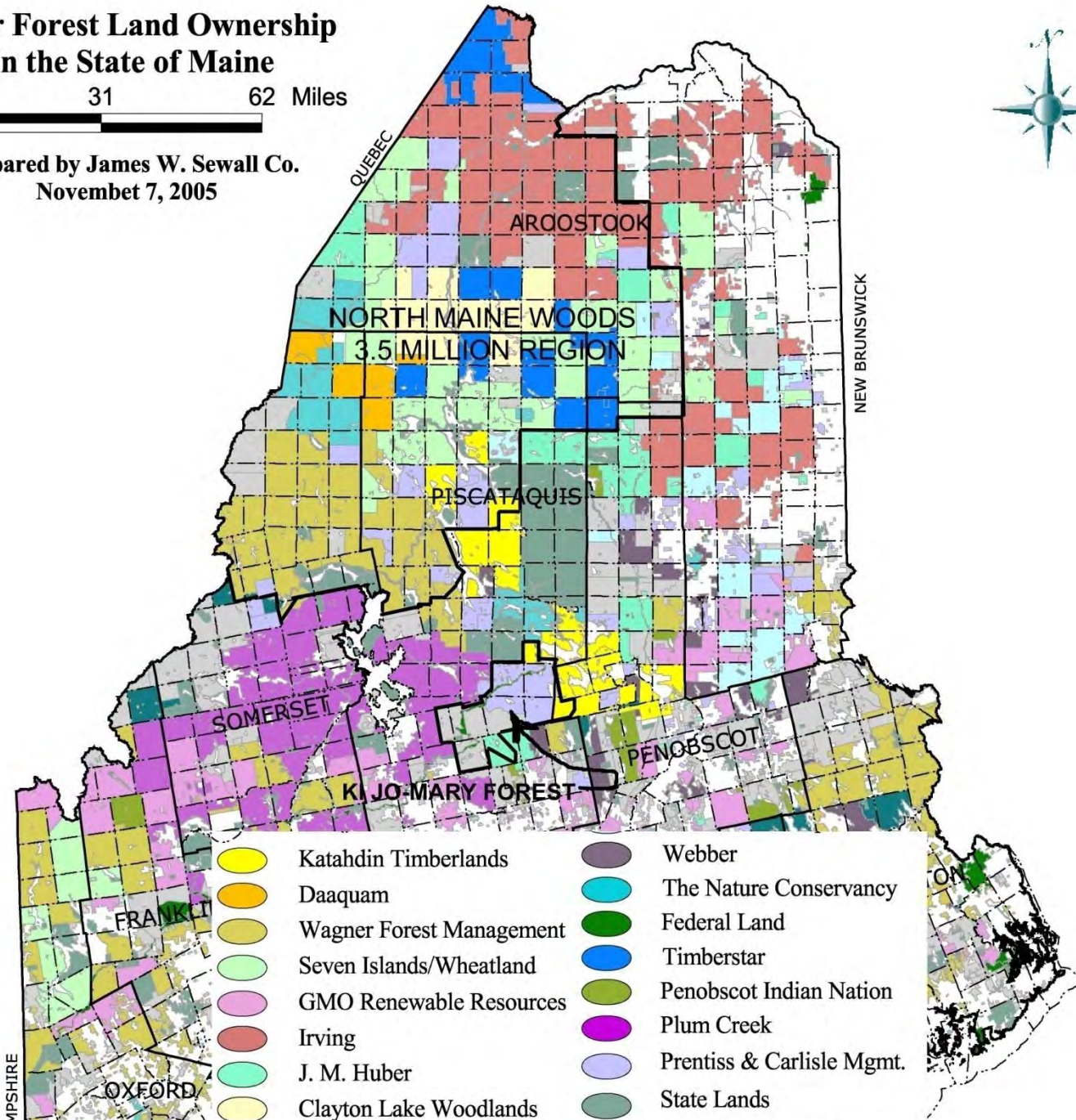
North Maine Woods, Inc.

*A Non-Profit Organization Keeping
Private and Public Forestland Open for
Public Use and Recreation on
3.5 Million Acres in Northern Maine*

Major Forest Land Ownership In the State of Maine



Prepared by James W. Sewall Co.
November 7, 2005



Landowners / Members 2016:

Clayton Lake Woodlands LLC (5)

Conservation Forestry LLC (4)

Dunn Heirs (2)

Dunn Timberlands Inc. (6)

Fish River Company (2)

Great North Woods, LLC (7)

Irving Woodlands LLC

Katahdin Forest Management LLC

McCrillis Timberlands, LLC. (2)

Pingree Associates, Inc. (1)

Timbervest Partners Maine LLC (5)

The Nature Conservancy (5)

Webber Timberlands (2)

North Woods Maine LLC (4)

St. John Timber LLC (4)

State of Maine

John Cassidy Timberholdings (2)

Sylvan Timberlands LLC (4)

Griswold Heirs (2)

Huber Resources Corp. (4)

John Cassidy Timberholdings (2)

Lost River Company (2)

Merriweather LLC (3)

Prentiss & Carlisle Co, Inc (2)

Timbervest LLC: St. Aurelie Timberlands(5)

Sandy Gray Forest LLC (4)

Yankee Fork Corp. (2)

(1) Refers to family ownerships managed by Seven Islands Land Company

(2) Refers to family ownerships managed by Prentiss & Carlisle Management Company

(3) Refers to ownerships managed by Wagner Forest Management Company

(4) Refers to lands managed by Huber Timber LLC.

(5) Refers to lands managed by LandVest Inc.

(6) Refers to lands managed by Orion Forest Mgt. Co.

(7) Lands Managed by Northwoods Management LLC

The area is diversified by owner type

By area:

39% is owned by families

33% is owned by corporations

17% is owned by institutional investors

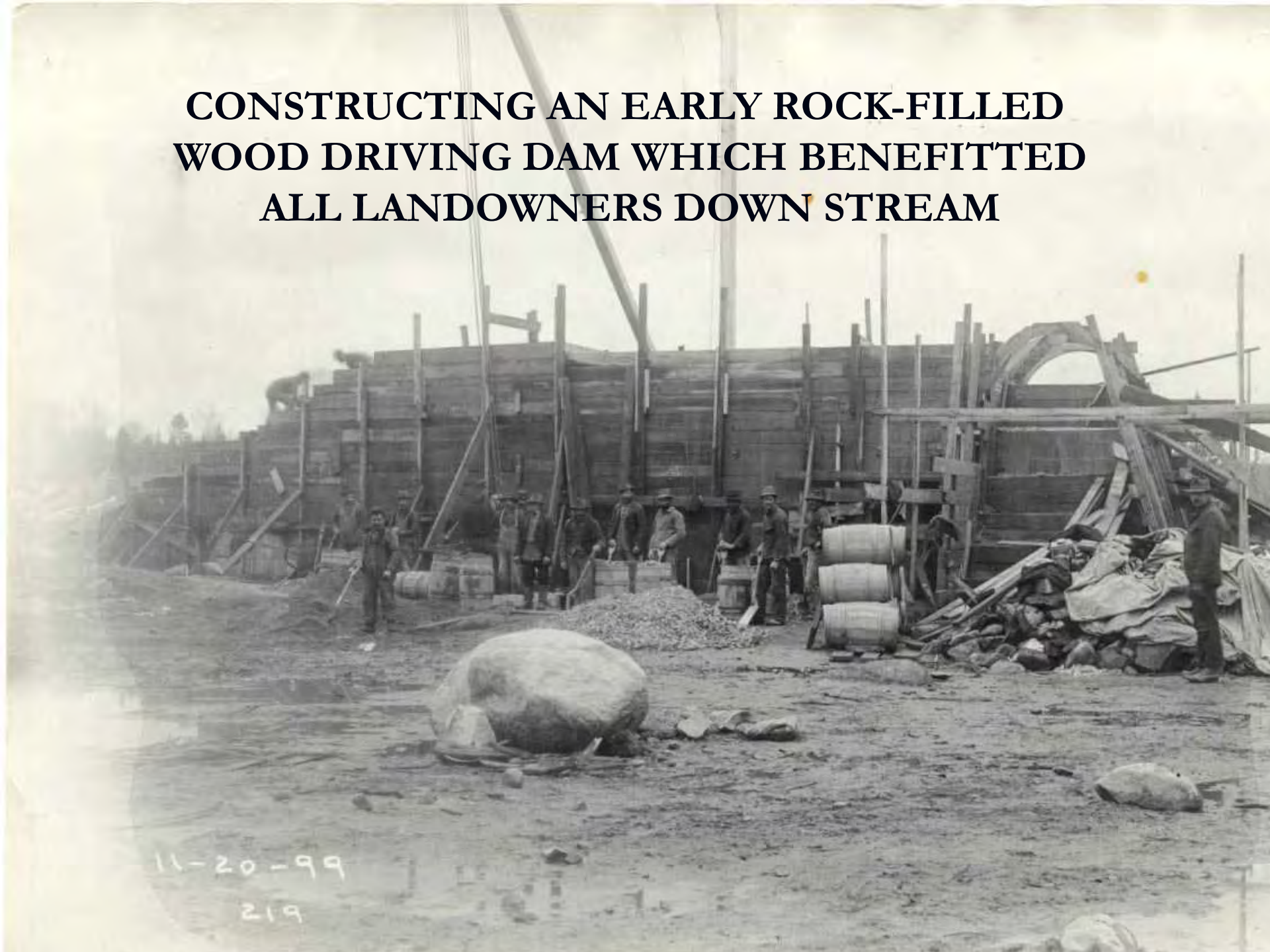
6% is owned by conservation organizations

5% is owned by the State of Maine

**OWNERSHIP AND USE OF
NORTH MAINE WOODS
HAS REQUIRED COOPERATION
BETWEEN PRIVATE
LANDOWNERS AND STATE
GOVERNMENT
SINCE THE EARLY 1900'S**

- **USE OF WATER THROUGH CREATION AND MAINTENANCE STORAGE DAMS**
- **BOUNDARY LINE MAINTENANCE**
- **FOREST FIRE, INSECT AND DISEASE PREVENTION**
- **ROAD CONSTRUCTION**
- **PUBLIC USE...NORTH MAINE WOODS INC.**

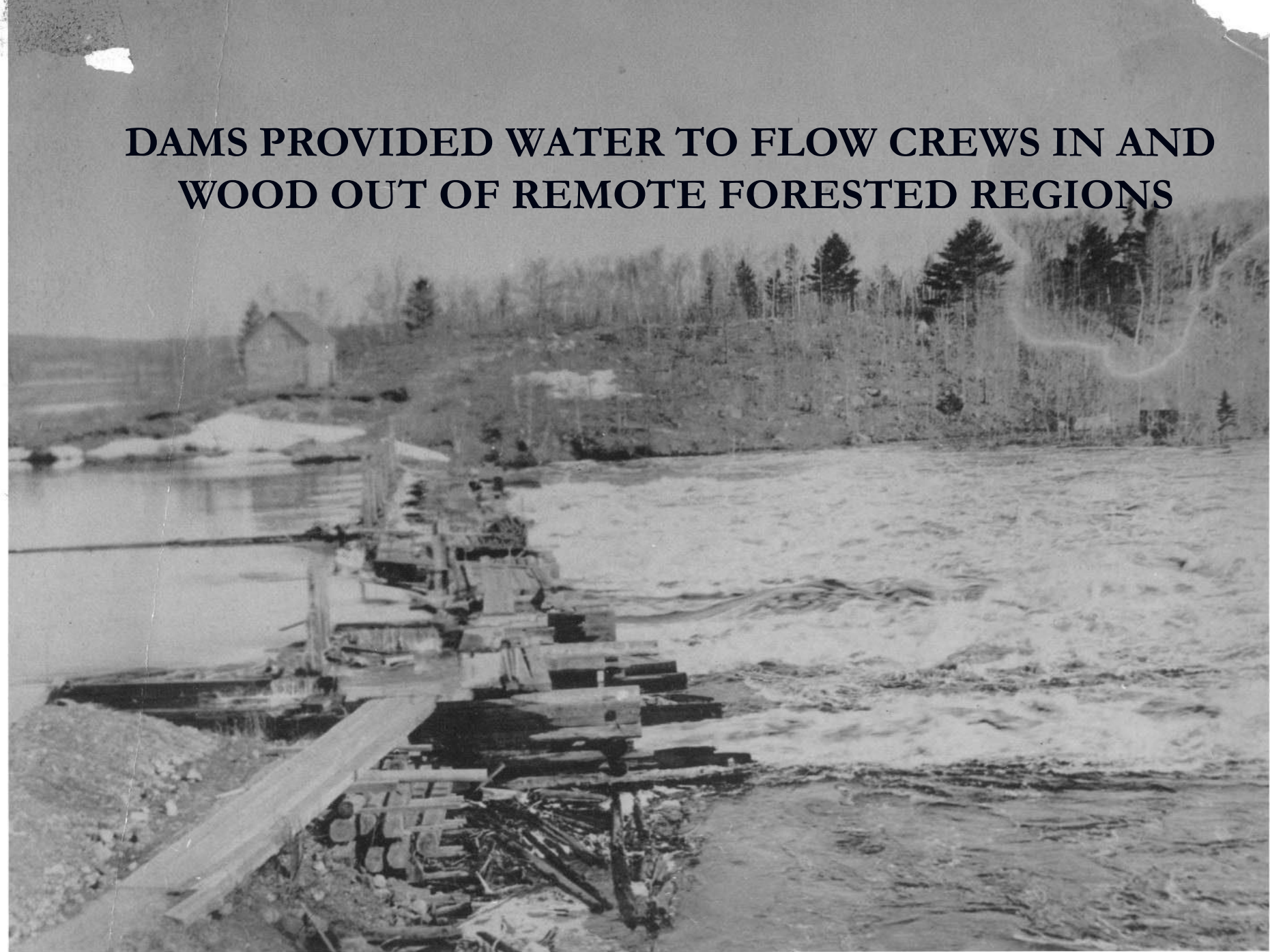
**CONSTRUCTING AN EARLY ROCK-FILLED
WOOD DRIVING DAM WHICH BENEFITTED
ALL LANDOWNERS DOWN STREAM**



11-20-99

219

**DAMS PROVIDED WATER TO FLOW CREWS IN AND
WOOD OUT OF REMOTE FORESTED REGIONS**







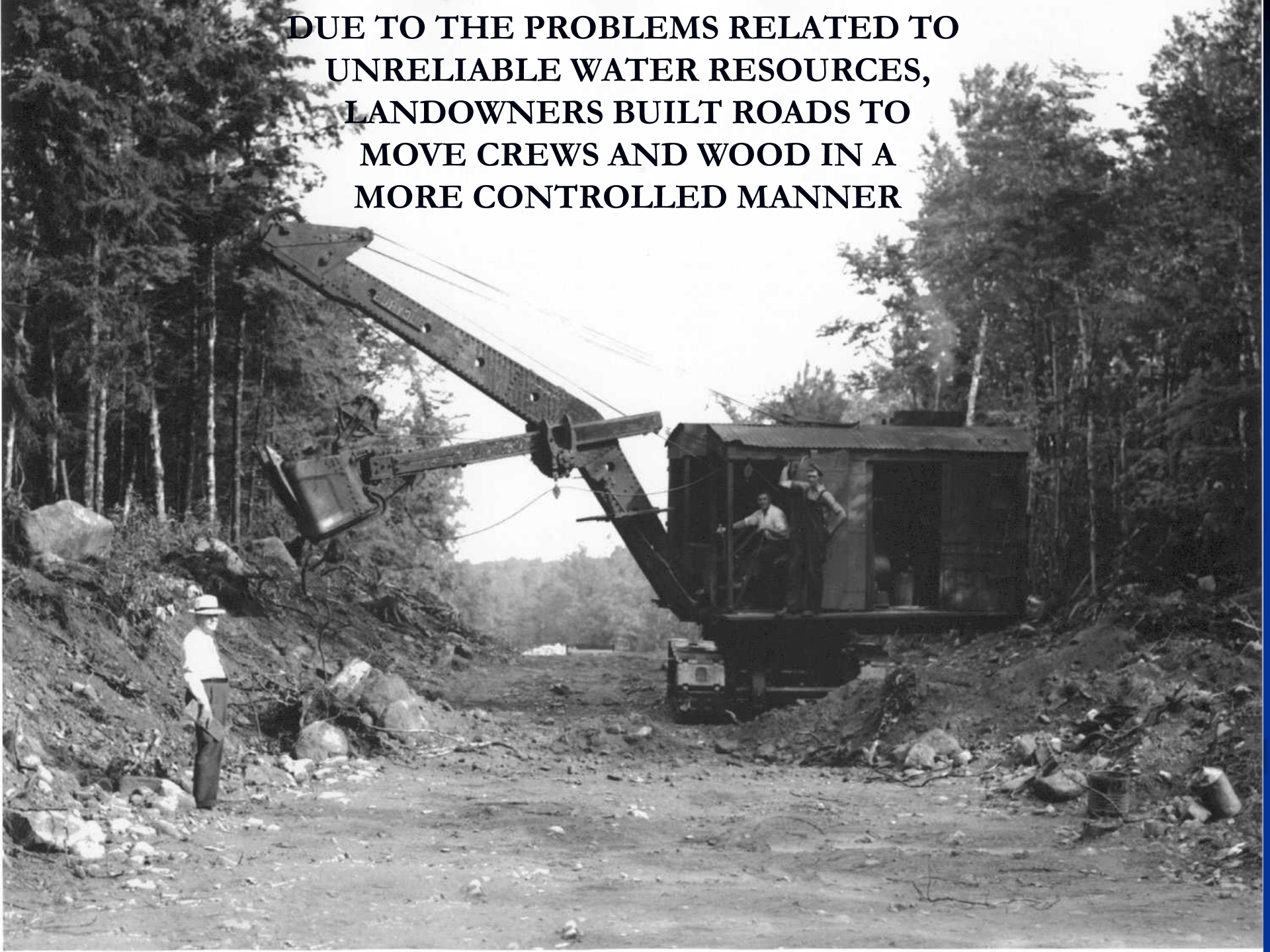
**BOUNDARY LINE
MAINTENANCE
REQUIRES
COOPERATION
FROM
NEIGHBORING
LANDOWNERS**



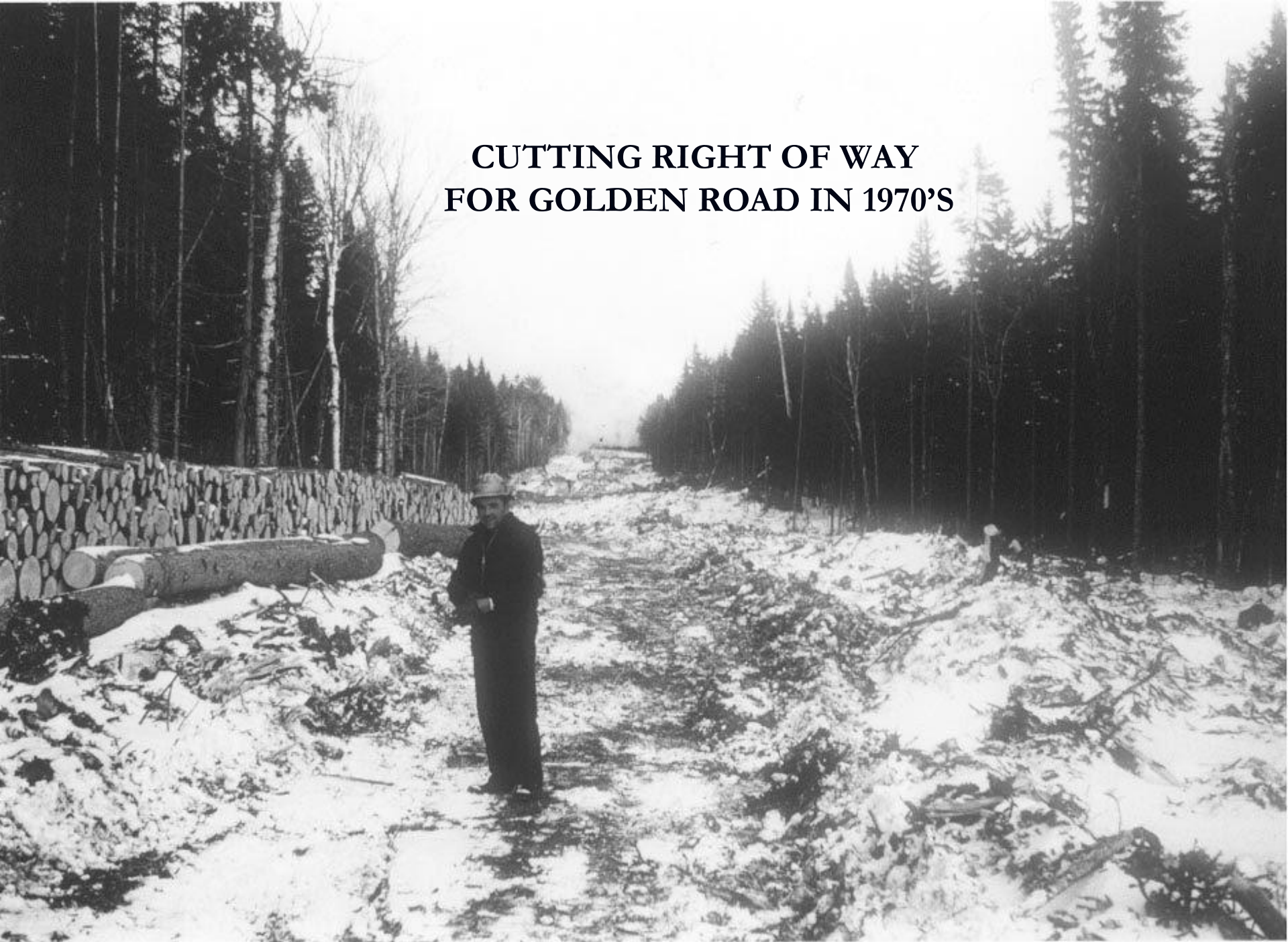


LANDOWNERS CREATED THE INITIAL
FOREST FIRE SUPPRESSION PROGRAM ABOUT 1900.
THIS COOPERATION EVENTUALLY BECAME
THE MAINE FOREST SERVICE

**DUE TO THE PROBLEMS RELATED TO
UNRELIABLE WATER RESOURCES,
LANDOWNERS BUILT ROADS TO
MOVE CREWS AND WOOD IN A
MORE CONTROLLED MANNER**



**CUTTING RIGHT OF WAY
FOR GOLDEN ROAD IN 1970'S**





LANDOWNERS DEVELOPED A SYSTEM OF ROAD TOLLS AS A FAIR WAY TO PAY FOR ROAD BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE COSTS

**ROADS ATTRACTED INCREASING
NUMBERS OF
RECREATIONAL VISITORS
AND A NEED FOR
PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT
NORTH MAINE WOODS**



Goals

- Manage public use in concert with timber production
- Provide opportunities for high quality traditional recreation experiences
- Standardize and simplify visitor use policies on multiple ownerships
- Operate on a financially self-supporting basis
- Accommodate rather than promote use

Organizational Structure

- **Board of Directors** - Private Owners & Agency Commissioners (ex officio)- Sets policy
- **Administrative Committee**- Recommends budgets and policy
- **Campsite Committee**- Oversees campsite program
- **Public Affairs Committee**- Assists with brochures and public information
- **St. John River Advisory Committee**- Oversees St. John River Protection Plan



ANNUAL MEETING OF NMW BOARD 2011

Landowner Contributions

Landowners in the program donate substantial staff time and equipment to help keep user fees minimal. They provide staff time on the various operating committees, donate professional services of draftsmen, soils evaluators, and other professionals. None of the user fees paid by visitors is used for road maintenance.



Landowner Helping to Develop
New Campsite at Long Pond

Cooperating State Agencies

- Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
 - Division of Parks and Public Lands
 - Maine Forest Service
 - Land Use Planning Commission
- Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
 - Warden Service
 - Fisheries and Wildlife Management Divisions

North Maine Woods Staff

4 Full Time Employees:

- Executive Director
- Office Manager
- Field Manager
- Checkpoint Operations Manager

44 Seasonal Employees:

- 34 Seasonal employees staffing checkpoints
- 10 Seasonal employees maintaining campsites



Sammi, Mike, Kelli, Al

4 Major Purposes

- Welcome- 34 employees work in checkpoints to welcome over 70,000 visitors to the region annually.
- Security- Through the registration process of taking everyone's name, there is very little theft, vandalism or arson.
- Custodian- NMW staff clean road sides and over 350 campsites.
- Liability Protection for landowners- NMW is the first “umbrella” to protect landowners. NMW maintains a \$5 million insurance policy to cover damages to visitors.

Welcome the Public

“Walmart Greeter to the Maine Woods”

Receptionists are stationed at Nine Checkpoints at convenient hours to greet visitors. They provide information, road directions and copies of rules and regulations. They give visitors maps, brochures and trash bags to help control litter in the area.

Receptionists also assist visitors in emergencies and provide information to Game Wardens looking for sportsmen in emergency situations.

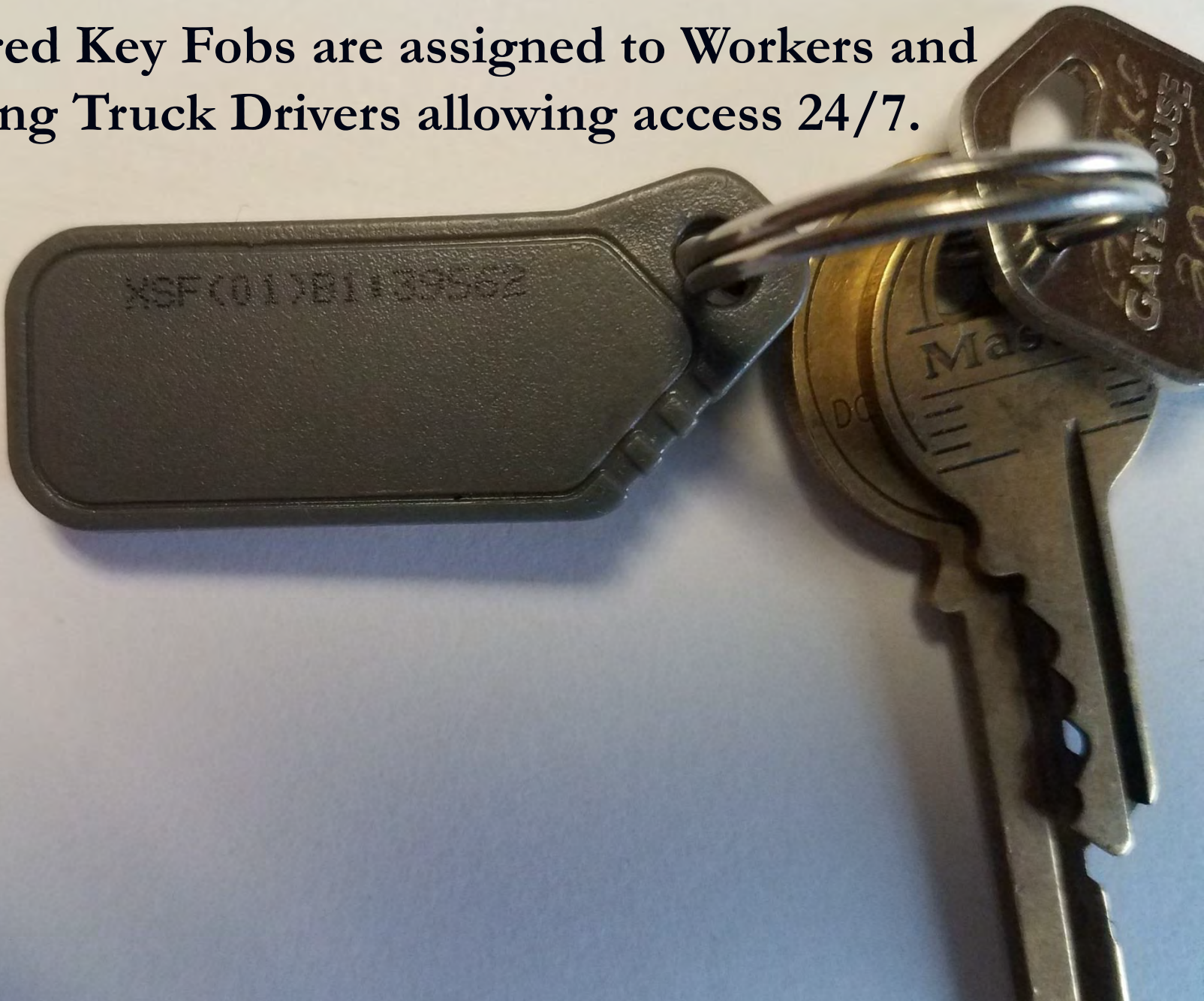


This is an electronic, unstaffed gate which allows access to and from the North Maine Woods region. Permission to pass through is obtained by communicating with NMW employees via radio or telephones. Passage is for visitors in possession of NL season passes, L and Guest Passes.

Lifting this arm may damage gears and motors. If you cause damage you will be liable for costs. In the case of equipment failure, remove wing nuts and bolts and fold end of arm back.

**North East Carry Automated Checkpoint.
One of Seven Automated Checkpoints.**

Numbered Key Fobs are assigned to Workers and Logging Truck Drivers allowing access 24/7.

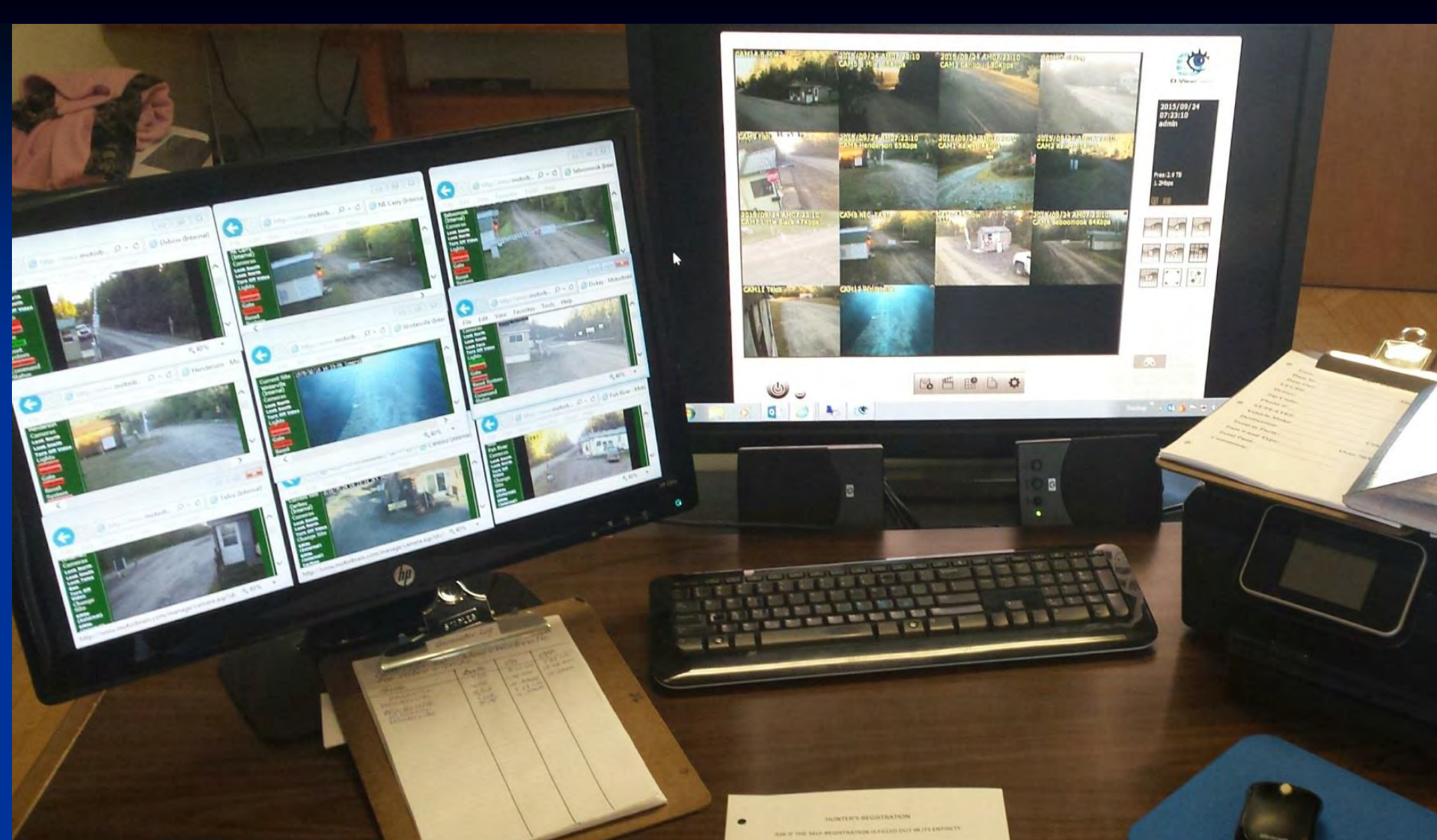


Security

Once through a checkpoint, visitors have access to 3.5 million acres. Even in such a large area, landowners, foresters, logging contractors and camp owners know that visitors have registered and they know there is less chance of theft or vandalism of property, equipment or forest products. As a further deterrent, NMW also offers a \$500 reward for any information that leads to the conviction of anyone committing theft or vandalism.



IN 2005 VISITOR REGISTRATION BECAME COMPUTERIZED



ALL ACCESS POINTS CAN BE VIEWED AND
MANAGED FROM THE ASHLAND OFFICE

HUNTER'S REGISTRATION
ALL OF THE SELF-REGISTRATION IS FILLED OUT IN ITS ENTIRETY

DATE/TIME: _____
FIREARMS: _____
ZIP CODE: _____
PHONE: _____
TOTAL NUMBER: _____
VIEW # _____
NAME _____

INITIALS _____

2011/09/14 PM04:07:01
CAM1 Kelley 67Kbps



2011/09/14 PM04:07:01
CAM2 Kelley 0Kbps



2011/09/14 PM04:07:01
CAM8 Telos 0Kbps



2011/09/14 PM04:07:01
CAM4 Caribou 68Kbps



2011/09/14 PM04:07:01
CAM12 Little Black 45Kbps



2011/09/14 PM04:07:01
CAM10 Fish 48Kbps



2011/09/14 PM04:07:01
CAM9 6 Mile 0Kbps



2011/09/14 PM04:07:01
CAM13 6 Mile 0Kbps



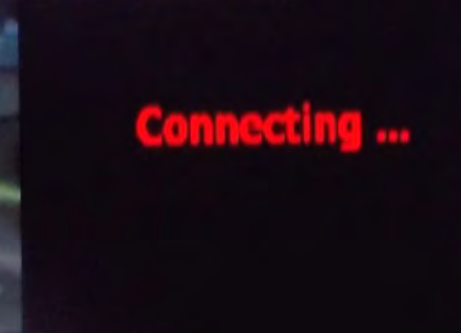
2011/09/14 PM04:07:01
CAM11 Henderson 0Kbps



2011/09/14 PM04:07:01
CAM6 Seboomook 66Kbps



2011/09/14 PM04:07:01
CAM3 Caribou 0Kbps



2011/09/14 PM04:07:01
CAM7 Dickey 136Kbps



Connecting ...

NMWS maintains 350 Authorized Campsites which are equipped with steel fire-rings, outhouses, picnic tables, some with covered shelters. The sites are mowed, raked and cleaned frequently by seasonal maintenance crews.



Picnic tables (350) have about a 20 year life span and are replaced on a regular basis



THERE ARE ABOUT 60 SHELTERS IN THE AREA

**We maintain over 200 outhouses in the Maine woods.
Here are new ones installed in 2016 to replace old ones.**



A man wearing a white protective suit, a cap, and gloves stands in a forest next to a wooden outhouse. He is holding a long metal rod that extends into the outhouse. The outhouse has a wooden door that is open, revealing a toilet inside. A green bucket is visible in the foreground on the right. The background consists of many trees in a forest.

OUTHOUSES ARE CLEANED ON A REGULAR BASIS

Forest Fire Prevention

The Authorized Campsite Program, verbal fire safety reminders from receptionists and the registration process at checkpoints reduce the threat of manmade fires. In the past 45 years there is no record of a forest fire ever starting from campsites maintained by NMW.



Trash and Solid Waste

Sportsmen and sportswomen, forest workers and landowners do not have to look at or deal with the refuse of others. NMW has a Carry In-Carry Out program and visitors are expected to help keep the area clean. There are no discarded tires, stoves, refrigerators, mattresses, auto batteries or abandoned vehicles.

Commercial Use Management

- In addition to having insurance protection to protect NMW from the public, anyone using the land base for business purposes must have a Commercial Use Permit.
- This permit requires guides, sporting camps, vehicle transporters, dog sled racers and others to have commercial liability insurance. Over 100 CUP are issued annually.

Finances

Non-Profit- , no visitor fees go to landowner members

Dedicated Relationships:

Revenues from:

- Day Use fees
- Camping fees
- Bait Site Mgt fees
- Service Contracts
- Retail Sales

Pay for:

- Registration facilities- Checkpoints
- Maintenance and Development of 350 Campsites
- Bait Site Mgt of about 2500 stands
- Provide for similar management for other areas and owners, including state lands
- Reduces dependence on user fees- hats, t-shirts, decals, maps



Traditional/Acceptable Uses

Hunting

Fishing

Canoeing

Camping

Guiding

Sight seeing

Berry and Fiddle head picking

Visiting private camps (800)

Snowmobiling

Non-traditional / Unacceptable Uses

All Terrain Vehicles

Mountain Bikes, bicycles

Motor Coach Tours

Oversize Recreational Vehicles, Camper-Trailers

Horseback riding

Moto-Cross racing

Organized, Off Road Vehicle Tours

Organized, Off Road Vehicle Tours Not Allowed



Is the area overcrowded?

No. If all 70,000 annual visitors arrived on the same day they would have 50 acres each.

NMW has National Significance.

In 1996, NMW was recognized by the “President’s Council on Environmental Quality” as one of the most exemplary private conservation organizations in the United States.

In 2000, NMW was invited to
serve on a panel before the
“Congressional House
Committee on Forests and
Forest Health.”

The panel was- “Lessons for
National Forests”

Washington DC, 2000



In 2015 NMW Received The Large Landowner of the Year Award from Maine's IF&W Department



**“It was not
always this way”**



ST. FRANCIS CHECKPOINT ARSON 1981



Little Black Checkpoint After Fire April 28, 2002



Dickey after 2002 arson

There Were Legal Challenges

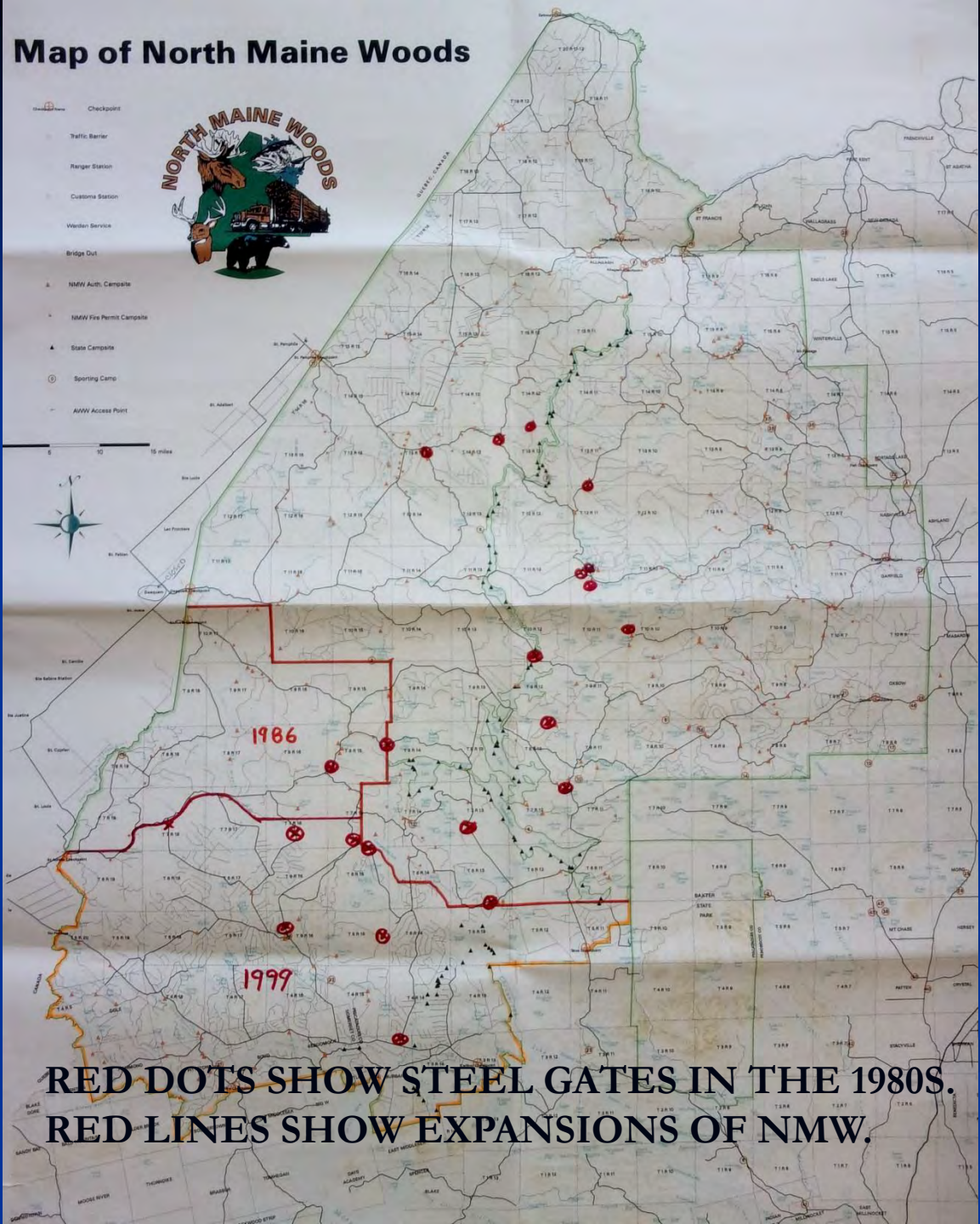
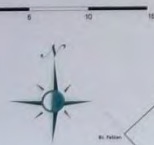
In the early years NMW was involved in many court challenges related to claims of:

- Prescriptive easement- a right to cross private land after years of permissive use
- Adverse Possession- a right to claim ownership of land after years of unchallenged use.

Most court challenges were defeated strengthening NMW ability to manage land use.

Map of North Maine Woods

- Checkpoint
- Traffic Barrier
- Ranger Station
- Customs Station
- Warden Service
- Bridge Out
- NMW Auth. Campsite
- NMW Fire Permit Campsite
- State Campsite
- Sporting Camp
- NMW Access Point



**RED DOTS SHOW STEEL GATES IN THE 1980S.
RED LINES SHOW EXPANSIONS OF NMW.**

Improved Fish & Wildlife Management

Through cooperative efforts with Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in the 1970's, a computerized visitor use program was developed so visitor use statistics could be generated to help state fish and wildlife biologists.

Historical Trends- Data Tells Us Fewer People are Visiting Maine's Outdoor Recreation Areas



NMW Visitor Days By Year- 41 Years

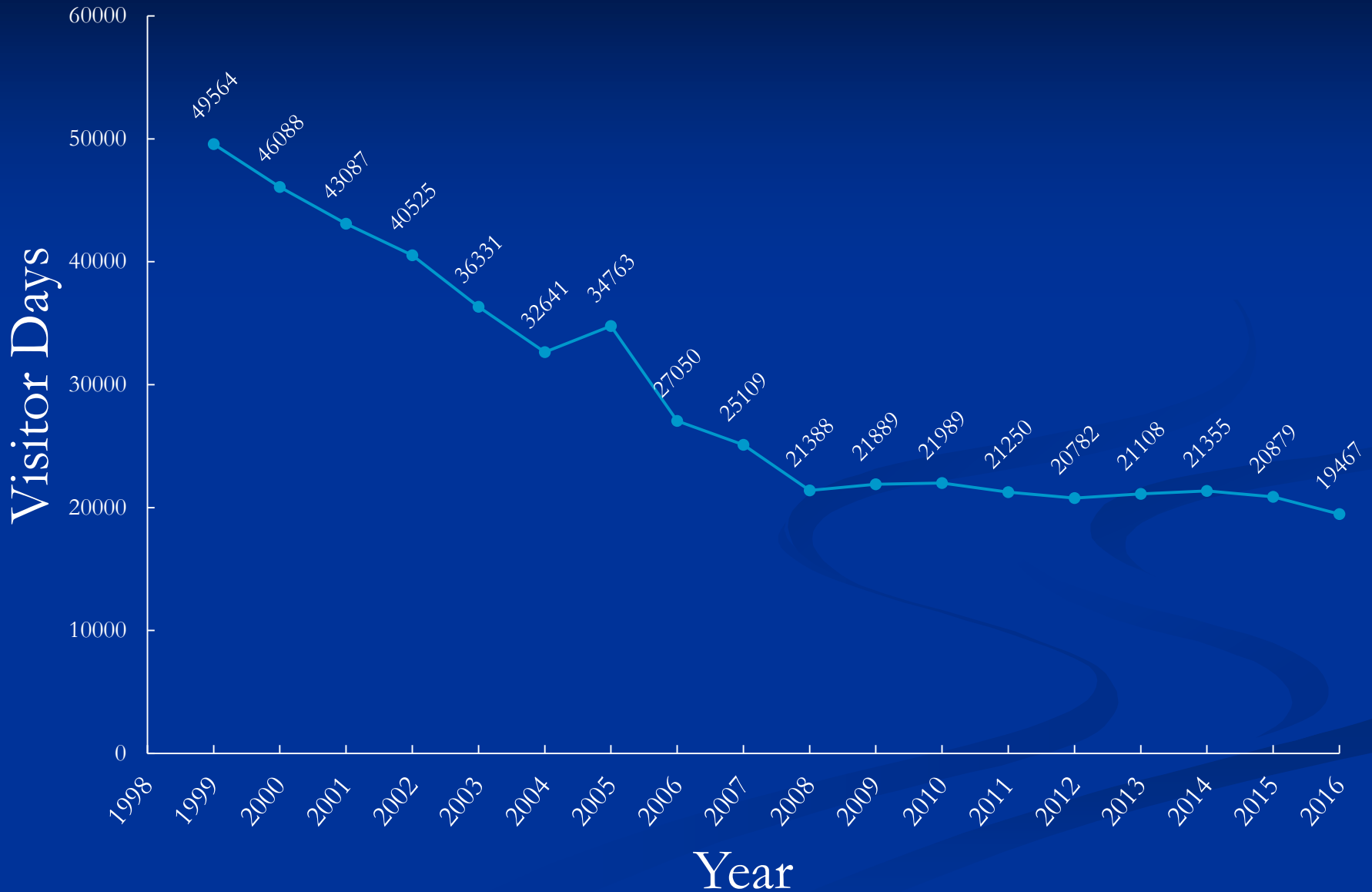


Reasons for Trend of Declining Use is mainly due to demographics:

- Population is aging and today's youth are less interested in outdoors
- More single parent families, less exposure to outdoors
- Dependent on cell phones and internet
- Conditioned toward structured schedule, less down time



Visitor Days Camping (18 Year Trend)





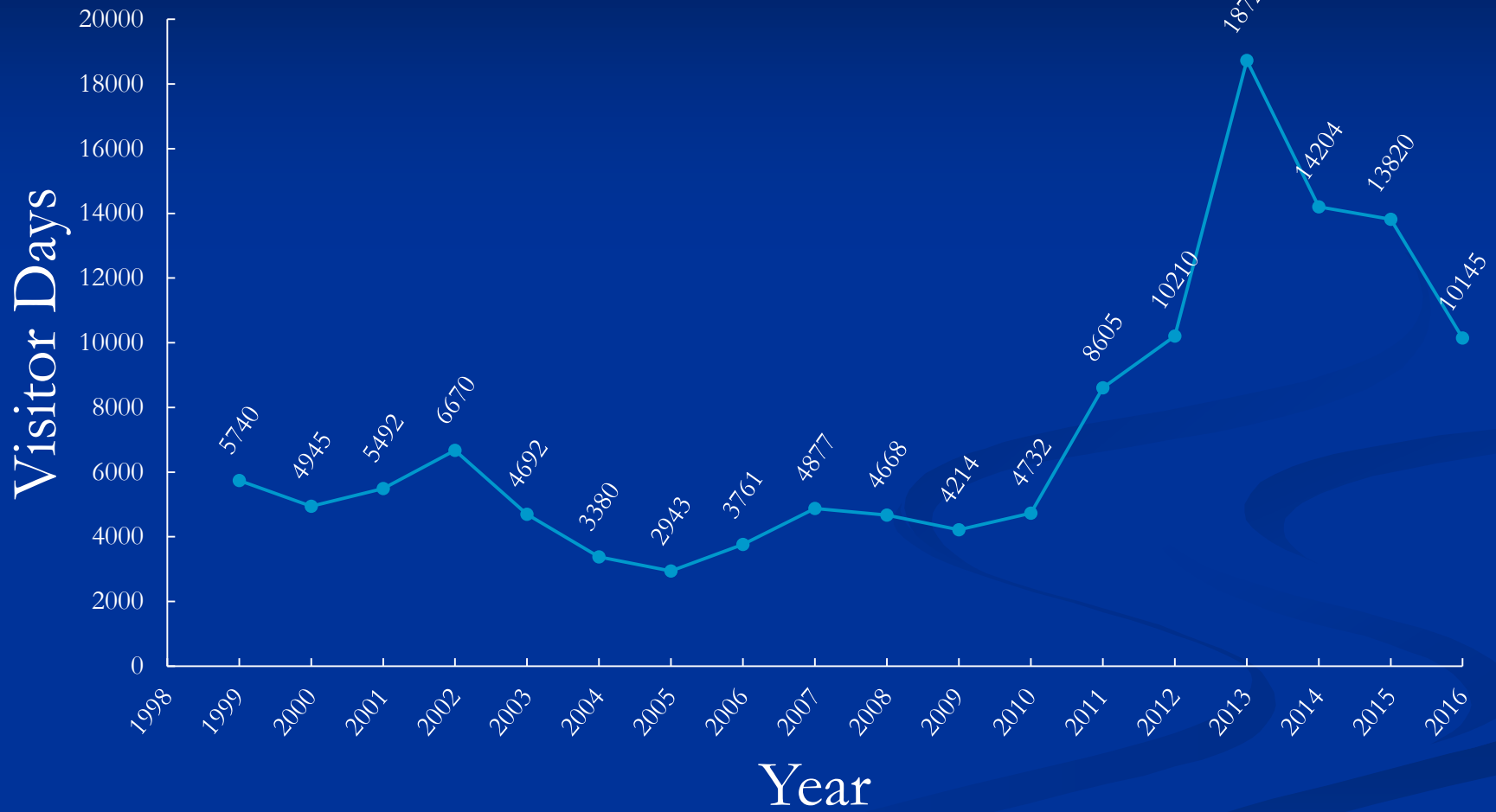
**LOGAN TEDESCO WITH HER
MACHIAS LAKE BEAR 2015**

Visitor Days Bear Hunting (18 Year Trend)



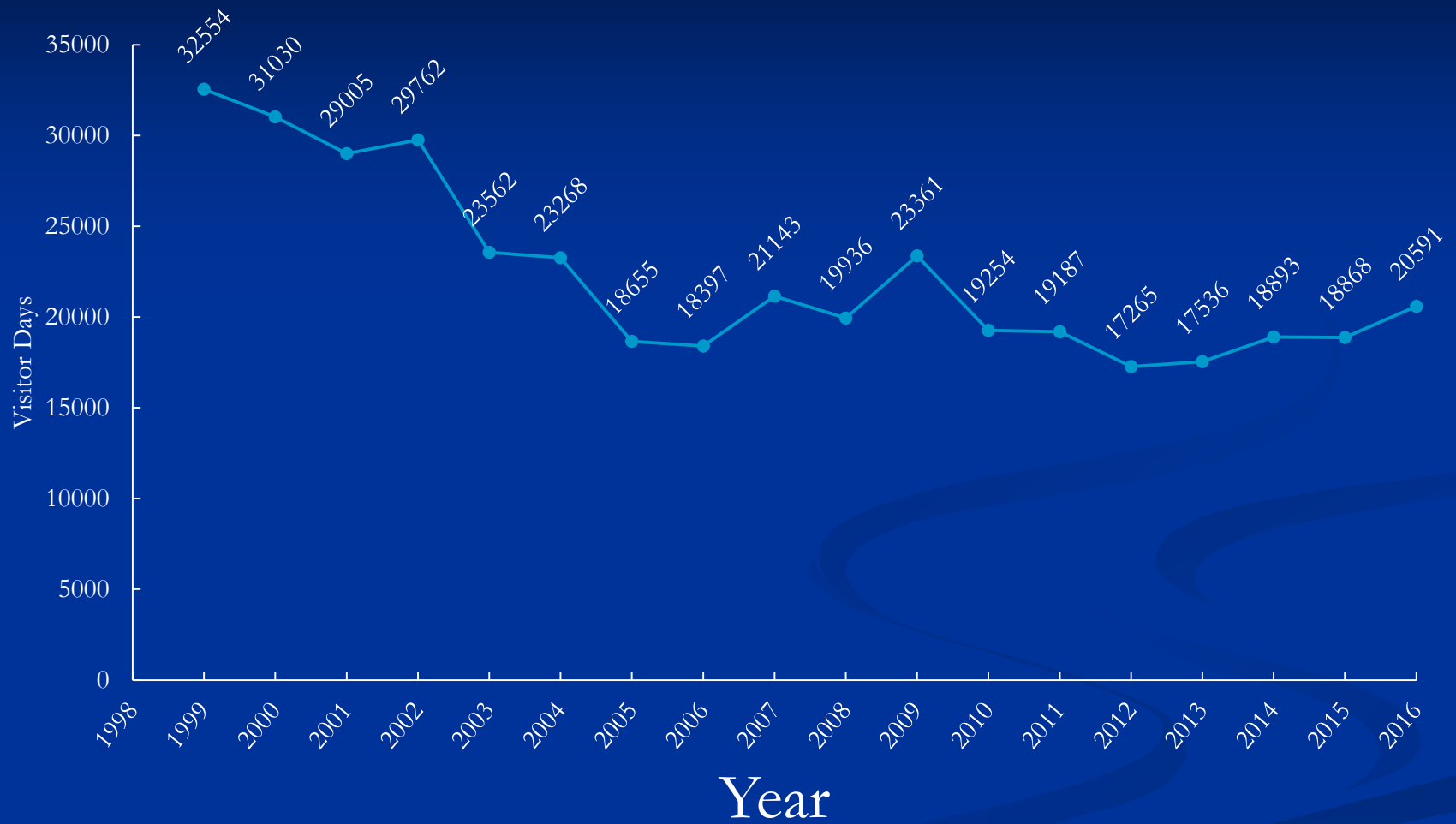


Visitor Days Moose Hunting (18 Year Trend)

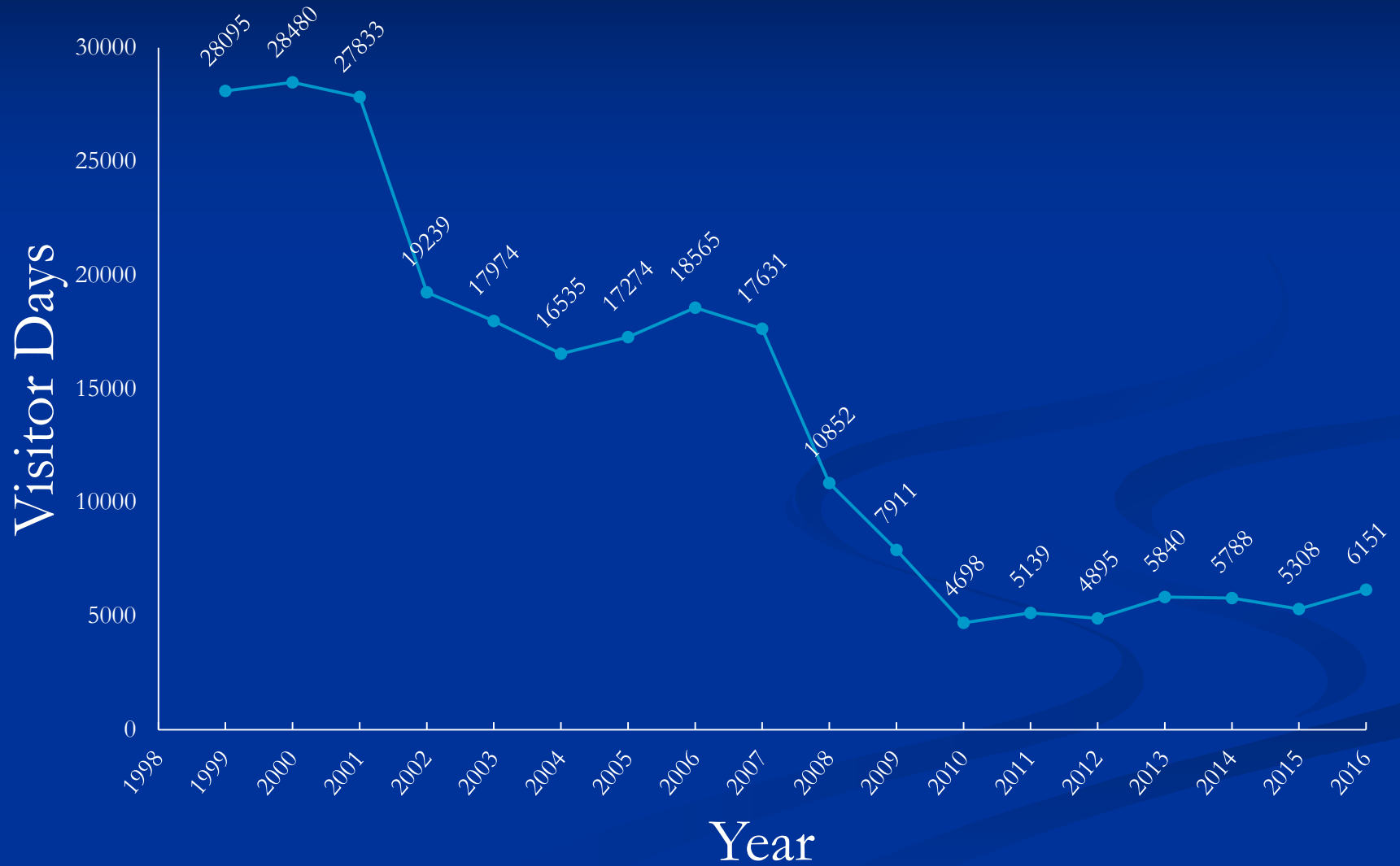




Visitor Days Fishing (18 Year Trend)

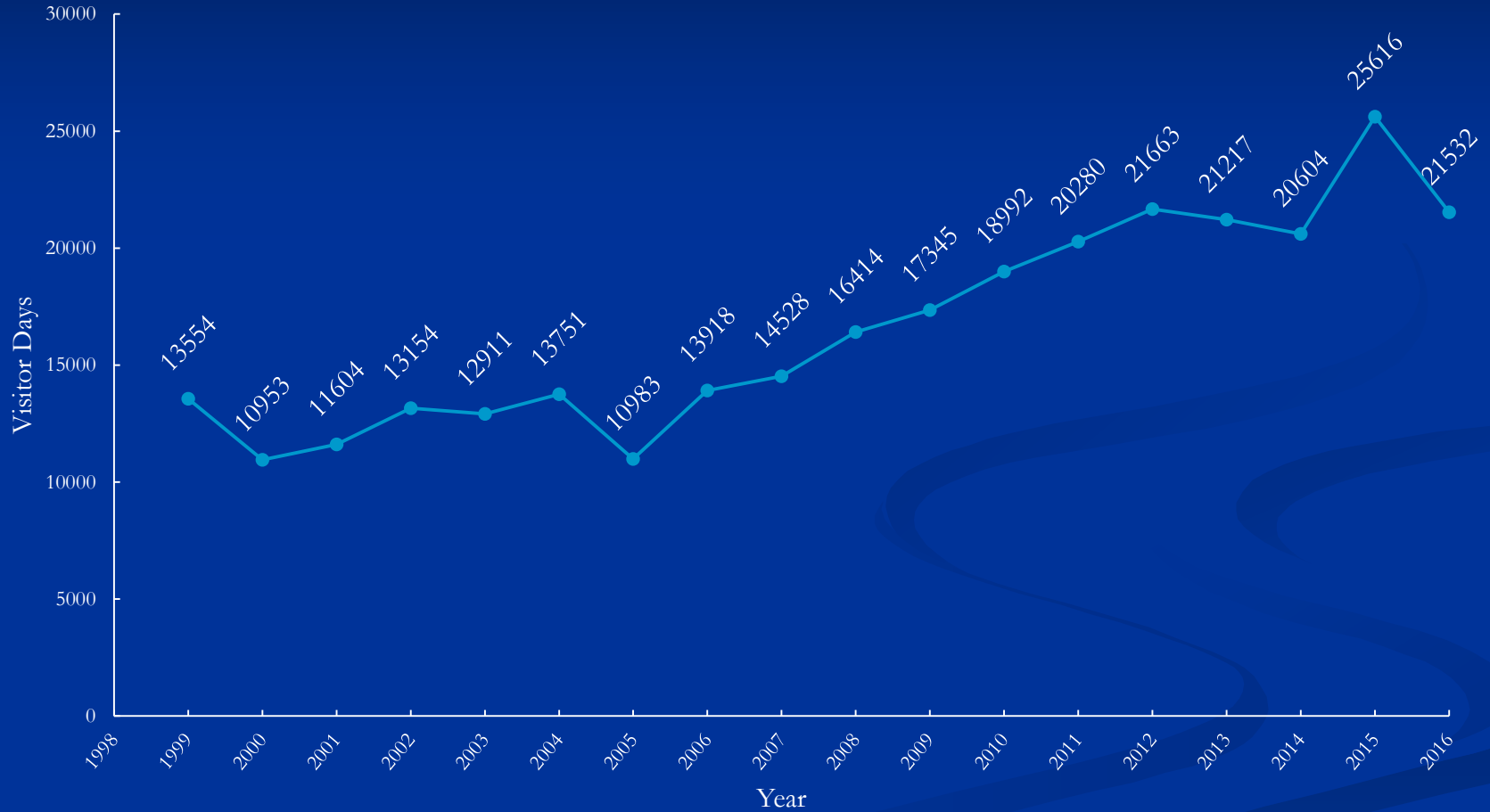


Visitor Days Deer Hunting (18 Year Trend)





Visitor Days Grouse Hunting (18 Year Trend)



COMMUNICATION WITH LAND USERS

- North Maine Woods was a founding member of the Sportsman's / Forest Landowner Alliance in 1991. It is an organization formed by private forest landowners and land user organizations. The Alliance works on resolving access and other issues related to public use of Maine's outdoors.

Members of the S/FLA

Land User Organizations:

Maine Sporting Campowners Assoc.
Maine Snowmobile Association
Maine Professional Guides Association
ATV Maine

Maine Trapper's Association
Maine Bowhunters Association
Sportsman's Alliance of Maine.

Forest Land Owner Organizations:

Plum Creek
7 Islands Land Co.
Maine Forest Products Council
Irving Woodlands LLC
Wagner Forest Management LLC
Small Woodland Owners Assoc.

Katahdin Forest Management Co.
Maine Farm Bureau
Huber Resources LLC
Landvest Inc.
Prentiss & Carlisle Mgmt Co.
North Maine Woods Inc.

Also representatives from the State of Maine:

Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Office of Tourism



**MEMBERS OF THE SPORTSMEN'S/
FOREST LANDOWNER ALLIANCE 2016**

**Continued Access to Maine's Private and
Public Forests
Remains Favorable Due to
North Maine Woods Inc.**

