



New England Regional Council on Forest Engineering
Wells Conference Center
University of Maine

Bill Williams
Deputy Executive Director
Maine Woodland Owners

Multi-use of Private Lands and Land Trusts
A Small Landowner Perspective

Multi-use of Private Lands and Land Trusts

Maine Woodland Owners

- Formed in 1975, formerly as an educational non profit in 1976
- A resource for woodland owners regarding forestland ownership
- Strong advocate for woodland owners in the legislature
- Added a land Trust in 1995 – Responding to a need from members
- Currently several thousand members, 5,000 acres of fee land and 3,622 acres under conservation easement

Multi-use of Private Lands and Land Trusts



Multi-use of Private Lands and Land Trusts

Title 14 – 159-A Limited Landowner Liability Law

B. "Recreational or harvesting activities" means recreational activities conducted out-of-doors, **including, but not limited to**, hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, environmental education and research, hiking, rock climbing, ice climbing, bouldering, rappelling, recreational caving, sight-seeing, operating snow-traveling and all-terrain vehicles, skiing, hang-gliding, noncommercial aviation activities, dog sledding, equine activities, boating, sailing, canoeing, rafting, biking, picnicking, swimming or activities involving the harvesting or gathering of forest, field or marine products. It includes entry of, volunteer maintenance and improvement of, use of and passage over premises in order to pursue these activities. "Recreational or harvesting activities" does not include commercial agricultural or timber harvesting.

6. Costs and fees. The court shall award any direct legal costs, including reasonable attorneys' fees, to an owner, lessee, manager, holder of an easement or occupant who is found not to be liable for injury to a person or property pursuant to this section.

Multi-use of Private Lands and Land Trusts

- **An Act To Prohibit Foraging on Private Land without Permission**
- **12 MRSA §8842-A, sub-§1**
 - A. Cut or harvest Christmas trees ~~or~~, evergreen boughs or edible wild food on land of another without securing written permission or a bill of sale from the owner or the owner's authorized agents and having a copy of this written permission or bill of sale in immediate possession. Violation of this paragraph is a Class E crime; or.....

Multi-use of Private Lands and Land Trusts

Ownership Philosophy

- 501 C3 Educational non-profit
- Use land trust properties for on-the-ground events, education and forest management
- We enroll all of our properties in Tree Growth or Open Space current use taxation programs and pay property taxes based on these programs which distinguishes us from other typical land trusts – Taxes this year were more than half of timber sale revenue
- Fill a need for owners of a few hundred acres up to a few thousand, to provide for the future of their woodland.
- Manage land for multiple objectives as any other landowner – Timber management, water quality, wildlife habitat, educational opportunities etc.

Multi-use of Private Lands and Land Trusts

Maine Woodland Owners Public Use Policies

- Fee land is open to the public for recreational activities including hiking, birding, hunting, biking etc. (We have only one property where the donor, as a condition of the donation, refused to allow hunting)
- ATV and Snowmobiling is allowed but requires a written agreement with a local club. ATV's allowed only when there is an existing trail at time of acquisition
- Hunting, although allowed, tree stands and cameras are not allowed
- No overnight camping or campfires are allowed
- Very limited vehicle traffic – controlled by gates, signage, rocks etc. (Excellent results with unlocked gates)

Multi-use of Private Lands and Land Trusts



Multi-use of Private Lands and Land Trusts



Multi-use of Private Lands and Land Trusts



Multi-use of Private Lands and Land Trusts



Multi-use of Private Lands and Land Trusts



Multi-use of Private Lands and Land Trusts



Our next big challenge !

Multi-use of Private Lands and Land Trusts

Standish Bridge Locations

Write a description for your map.

Legend

- ATV Trail
- Oak Hill Road

ATV Trail Head 43°45'17.52"N 70°35'23.03"W

Crossing A 43°45'2.51"N 70°35'18.93"W

Crossing B 43°44'47.82"N 70°35'10.55"W



USE OF PRIVATE LAND IS A PRIVILEGE
RESPECT THE LAND AND THE OWNER
THANK YOU!

