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

Map showing major forest land ownership in the State of Maine, with various ownership groups color-coded and labeled.
## Landowners/Members 2016:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landowners/Members</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clayton Lake Woodlands LLC</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation Forestry LLC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dunn Heirs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dunn Timberlands Inc.</td>
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<td>Fish River Company</td>
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<tr>
<td>Great North Woods, LLC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irving Woodlands LLC</td>
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<td>Katahdin Forest Management LLC</td>
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<tr>
<td>McCrillis Timberlands, LLC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pingree Associates, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Timbervest Partners Maine LLC</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Nature Conservancy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Webber Timberlands</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Woods Maine LLC</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John Timber LLC</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Maine</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Cassidy Timberholdings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sylvan Timberlands LLC</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Griswold Heirs</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Huber Resources Corp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Cassidy Timberholdings</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lost River Company</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merriweather LLC</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prentiss &amp; Carlisle Co, Inc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Timbervest LLC: St. Aurelie Timberlands</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy Gray Forest LLC</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yankee Fork Corp.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(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
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
LAN DOWNERS 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
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.
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
NMW 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.
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.
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.
Management of Placement of +2500 Bear Bait Sites
Over 4 million acres
## Finances

Non-Profit, no visitor fees go to landowner members

### Dedicated Relationships:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenues from:</th>
<th>Pay for:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day Use fees</td>
<td>Registration facilities- Checkpoints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping fees</td>
<td>Maintenance and Development of 350 Campsites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bait Site Mgt fees</td>
<td>Bait Site Mgt of about 2500 stands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Contracts</td>
<td>Provide for similar management for other areas and owners, including state lands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Sales</td>
<td>Reduces dependence on user fees- hats, t-shirts, decals, maps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Traditional/Acetable Uses

- Hunting
- Fishing
- Canoeing
- Camping
- Guiding
- Sightseeing
- 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
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.
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

Visitor Days:

- 350,000
- 300,000
- 250,000
- 200,000
- 150,000
- 100,000
- 50,000
- 0

Years:

- 1976
- 1978
- 1980
- 1982
- 1984
- 1986
- 1988
- 1990
- 1992
- 1994
- 1996
- 1998
- 2000
- 2002
- 2004
- 2006
- 2008
- 2010
- 2012
- 2014
- 2016

West Branch Region added In 1999

Graph showing visitor days by year with a peak in 1998 following the addition of the West Branch region in 1999.
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 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 Trapper’s Association
Maine Snowmobile Association  Maine Bowhunters Association
Maine Professional Guides Association  Sportsman’s Alliance of Maine.
ATV Maine

Forest Land Owner Organizations:
Plum Creek  Katahdin Forest Management Co.
7 Islands Land Co.  Maine Farm Bureau
Maine Forest Products Council  Huber Resources LLC
Irving Woodlands LLC  Landvest Inc.
Wagner Forest Management LLC  Prentiss & Carlisle Mgmt Co.

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.