

What is a working forest?

Maine's forests are more than a world-class playground for outdoor enthusiasts. For generations, the Maine Woods have produced lumber for boats and buildings, pulp for paper products, and firewood and chips for heat and electricity. The Maine Woods supports thousands of jobs for Mainers and contributes billions of dollars to the state's economy, while enhancing water quality, wildlife habitat, and carbon storage.

Public access to these working lands is a unique privilege thanks to the generosity of private landowners and the respect of visitors like you.

Did you know?

Well-managed forests in Maine do not have to be replanted because they regenerate so fast on their own.

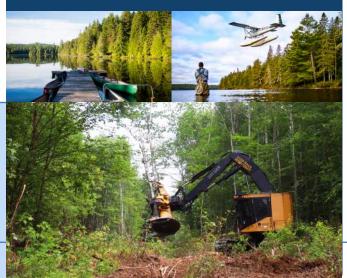
Keeping Maine's Forests

Keeping Maine's Forests (KMF) is a collaboration of representatives from large forest landowners, forest product industries, recreation, conservation, environmental, and economic development interests. KMF members share information and resources to promote sustainable forest management and conservation of working forests.

A tradition of open access.

We're grateful to Maine's forest landowners for their stewardship and generosity, including private landowners, conservation groups, and tribal nations. In return, visitors are expected to treat this land with respect. Together, we can keep Maine's forests healthy.

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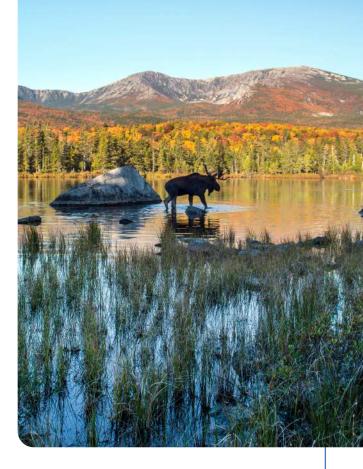


Welcome to the Maine Woods!

YOUR GUIDE TO A FUN, SAFE VISIT.



KEEPINGMAINESFORESTS.ORG



You are here.

Boasting grand mountains, major rivers, and thousands of remote ponds and lakes, the Maine Woods is a vast working forest covering over 17 million acres. This land is the heart of Maine's economy, a popular destination for outdoor adventure, and provides critical habitat for fish and wildlife.

You can help ensure access to these woods for generations to come by enjoying the wonders of the Maine Woods safely and respectfully.



Before you check out the view...

Check out these principles.

When visiting the Maine Woods, it's important to respect nature, Maine's culture, and local landowners. Here's how.



Know before you go. Research local regulations, such as hunting permits and fire restrictions. If you're planning an excursion on private land, make sure you have permission.



Pull over for logging trucks.

If you see a logging truck approach, pull over as you would for an emergency vehicle. They have the right of way.



Keep a safe distance from equipment.

Remember: the Maine Woods is a working forest. Maintain a safe distance (at least 200 feet) from active logging operations. Never pass active equipment on the road unless the operator waves you by.



Stay off muddy roads.

Mud season is no joke. Turn around if you come upon a muddy logging road—you could damage the road or get stuck far from help.



Practice fire safety.

Make sure you only have fires in designated areas and remember that fires are not allowed during Red Flag Warnings.

Did you know?

90% of all wildfires in Maine are caused by people and are **preventable**. Never leave a campfire unattended. **And make sure it is cool to the touch before leaving**.



Prevent the spread of invasive species.

Don't bring firewood from out of state (it's illegal!) or move firewood around the state to prevent the spread of damaging insects and disease, and never put non-native fish species—like bait fish—in waterways.



Leave no trace.

Carry out all waste (including pet waste and food scraps), travel on established trails and roads, and camp in designated areas only.



Respect Wildlife.

Those famous Maine moose are a sight to see—from a distance. Never approach or feed wildlife, and be mindful of times when wildlife might be particularly active, such as breeding and migration seasons.



Support local business.

Think local for all your trip needs. Consider hiring a Registered Maine Guide, shopping for supplies in town, and staying and eating at local establishments.



Did you know?

The Wabanaki are famous for their basket making. Traditional materials include birchbark and brown ash.



Meet the people of the Dawnland.

Maine has four federally recognized tribes: the Houlton Band of Maliseet, Mi'kmaq Nation, Penobscot Nation, and the Passamaquoddy Tribe.
Collectively, these tribes are known as the Wabanaki Nations and "People of the Dawnland." The Wabanaki people have inhabited the land we now call Maine since time immemorial.

We encourage visitors to learn about and respect Wabanaki culture, and to be mindful of cultural sites and tribal land when exploring.