

## Who owns the Maine Woods?

Even though people come from all over the world to recreate here, this area is not a national park or forest. In fact, the majority of the Maine Woods is owned by dozens of private and non-profit landowners including large commercial timber companies, investment and real estate trusts, and conservation organizations. Other important parcels are managed for the public by state and federal agencies.

While landowners in the Maine Woods may have different missions, all agree that sustainable management of Maine's working forests is good for both the state's economy and its environment.

Maine boasts a long, proud tradition of allowing public use of private lands. Innovative partnerships are helping diverse interests find a balance between profitable management, conservation, and recreation that will benefit people and the land for years to come.

## What are the traditions of the Maine Woods?

For more than 200 years, most of the region's forests have been privately owned and managed for production of lumber, pulp and paper. The land has always been open for other traditional uses like hunting and fishing, spawning a long history of respectful public access going hand-in-hand with working forests. This tradition remains strong today; visitors are likely to see a full range of uses from haul trucks piled high with logs to pickups and cars hauling snowmobiles, canoes, kayaks, or big game like moose and bear.

***As more people come here to enjoy the natural beauty and adventure of the Maine Woods, it is ever more important to understand how working forests and recreation can coexist.***



***In Maine, well-managed forests don't need to be replanted since they regenerate so quickly on their own.***

## What does a working forest look like?



Loggers stockpile harvested trees at log landings until they can be loaded on trucks and taken to mills for processing.

You may see hillsides that look like a patchwork quilt. This pattern is created by landowners who manage sections of their property for different tree species and harvest on different rotations.



Professional foresters look carefully at a stand of trees to determine what will be cut in a given harvest. They work with the logging crew to ensure that the right trees are harvested to improve the stand and encourage growth of the remaining trees.

Since logging roads often cross streams, there are thousands of culverts and bridges throughout the Maine Woods. In some areas, landowners are replacing undersized culverts to create more natural stream conditions, which allow fish like native brook trout to migrate up and down streams freely.



There are thousands of miles of private logging roads crisscrossing the Maine Woods. These are literally the lifelines of the forest products industry. Because logging trucks are so large and heavy, they must drive in the center of the road.



## What can you do?



***Carry out your trash, camp at designated camp sites, use established fire rings, and find out if you need a fire permit.***

***If you see a logging truck approaching, pull over as you would for an emergency vehicle. Remember you are on a private road where trucks have the right of way.***



***Give loggers and heavy equipment operators a wide berth, but if you must pass, let them know you are in the vicinity and wait for their signal before approaching.***



***Prevent the spread of invasive species! Don't bring firewood from out of state (it's illegal), and never put non-native fish species (including bait fish) into ponds or lakes.***



***Please read and obey all hunting and fishing regulations — they are in place to ensure healthy wildlife populations. Consider hiring a Registered Maine Guide to greatly enhance your experience.***



Mud season is no joke in the Maine Woods. ***Don't drive on muddy logging roads*** — you can damage the road, and might not be able to get help quickly if you run into trouble.



***Support local businesses whenever possible for groceries, lodging, equipment and supplies, guide services, and more.***

Tourism is an important part of the local economy in the Maine Woods, and locals' knowledge of the area is your best source of up-to-date information on what to see and where to visit.





## What is the Maine Woods?

The Maine Woods is a vast forested landscape nearly twice the size of Massachusetts. It's an area of mostly privately-owned lands including nearly 11 million acres where you'll find few public roads and limited services. The Maine Woods has major rivers, grand mountains, and thousands of remote ponds and lakes from the New Hampshire border to Canada. The Maine Woods includes thousands of miles of smaller streams, hundreds of miles of trails, and important habitat for fish and wildlife.

But the Maine Woods is more than a world-class playground for outdoor enthusiasts—it is also one of the state's most important economic engines. The Maine Woods has long been a working forest, producing lumber for boats and buildings, pulp for paper, 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 – all while providing critical environmental services like water quality, wildlife habitat and carbon storage.

## Keeping Maine's Forests



### Who are we?

*Keeping Maine's Forests* is a proactive partnership representing large forest landowners, forest product industries, recreation, conservation, environmental, and economic development interests. KMF members share information and resources, promote sustainable forest management and conservation, improve stewardship of forest lands, and speak with one voice to state and federal elected officials.

For more information, please visit  
[www.keepingmainesforests.org](http://www.keepingmainesforests.org).

***Keep Maine's forests productive, healthy  
and beautiful. Respect the land, enjoy  
your visit, and come back soon!***

*Welcome*  
to the Maine Woods!  
**Tips to enjoy your visit.**

## Welcome to the Maine Woods.

Whether you have come to hike, hunt, fish, camp, canoe, snowmobile, ski or just be here, you've chosen an exceptional place to take a break. This brochure answers common questions that will help you enjoy your visit to the fullest and become part of the unique legacy of the Maine Woods.

Keeping  
Maine's  
Forests