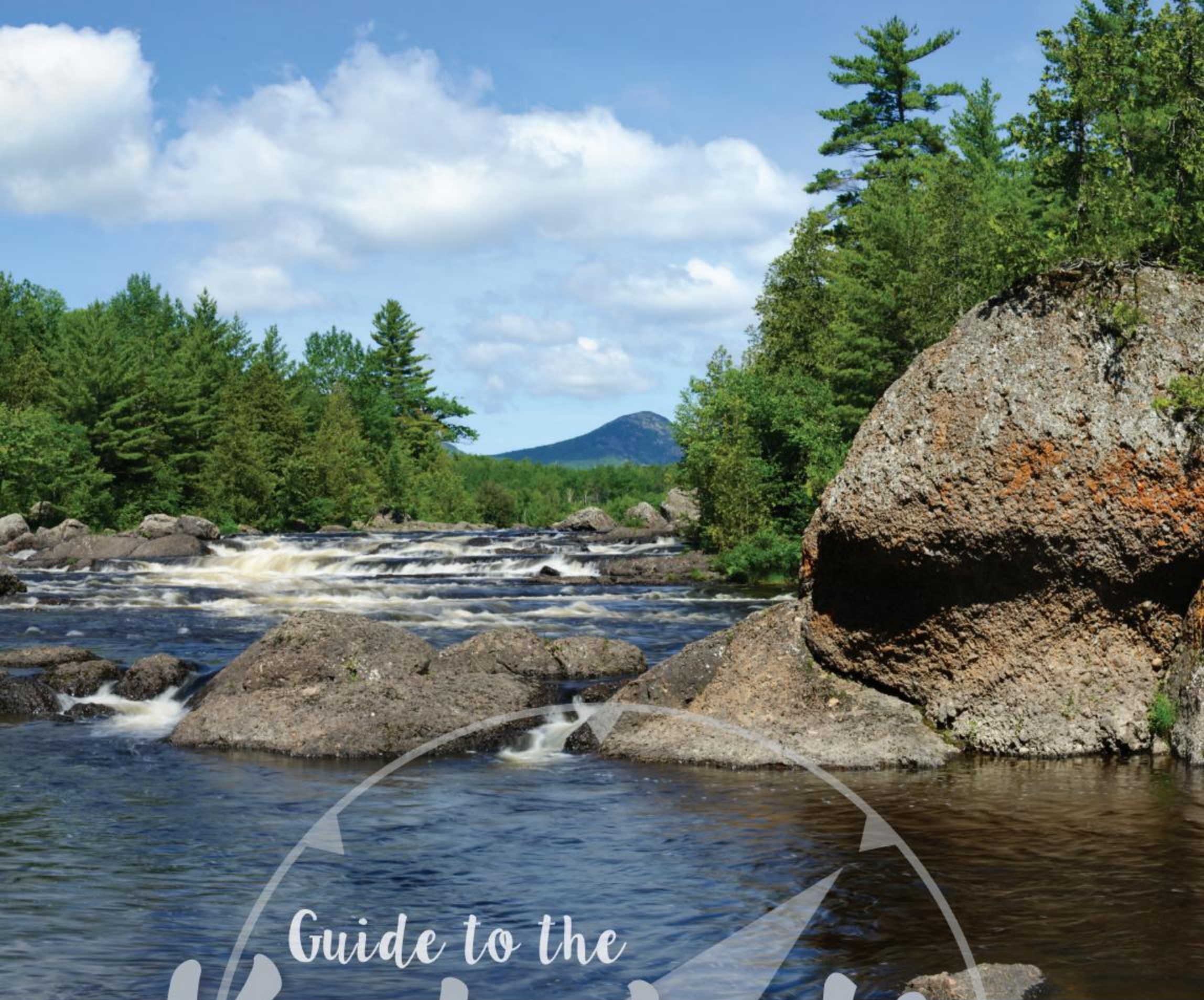




Guide to the
Katahdin

WOODS AND WATERS NATIONAL MONUMENT



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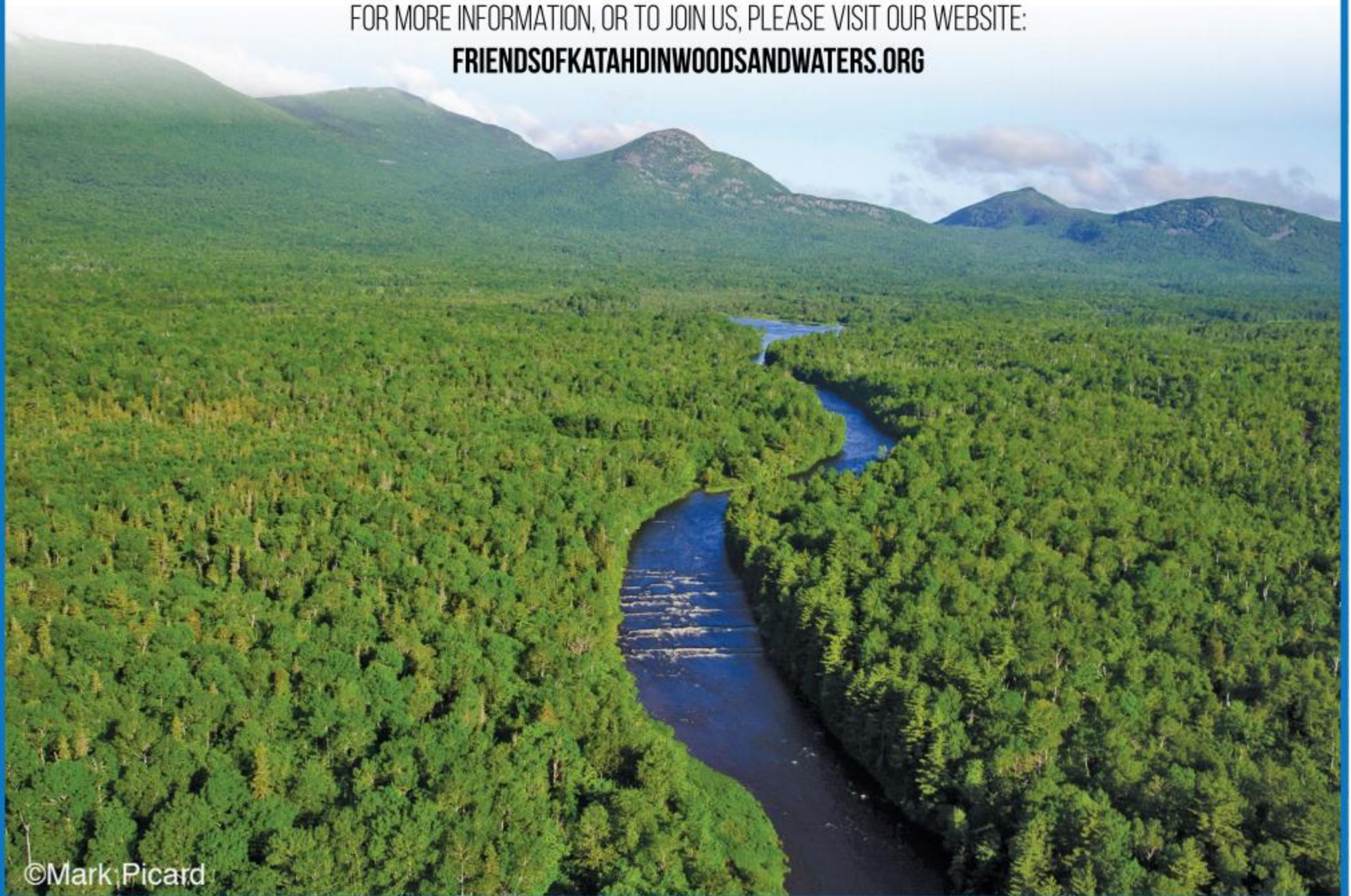


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Welcome

THE KATAHDIN REGION IS ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACES THAT I HAVE EVER BEEN.

Since the last ice age the Katahdin region, her mountains and rivers, were considered sacred to the Wabanaki People. Pilgrimages to the flanks of the mountain, up the rivers, and to the hunting grounds around Grand Lake Matagamon were common. Thousands of years ago, the Wabanaki people would make a similar trip from the coast to the inland, although they traveled in birch bark canoes and by foot, as opposed to the cars modern day visitors use.

Carved out of the northern forest over a century ago, these communities were the hubs of paper making and at one time had the largest paper-making mills on the planet. While the towns of Millinocket and East Millinocket were manufacturing centers, the woods and waters nearby had been attracting visitors for over 150 years. Henry David Thoreau paddled down the East Branch, climbed to near the summit of Mt. Katahdin and even went on a moose hunt in the region. He wrote about the magical place and those inspirational three journeys to Maine in his famous book "The Maine Woods."

President Theodore Roosevelt, as a young man, was also inspired in this region. He came to northern Maine when he attended Harvard University and spent several weeks trekking through the woods, climbing Mt. Katahdin, and hunting and fishing in the nearby lakes and rivers.

While the Katahdin region has transitioned from its paper-making past, the history and culture of these American frontier towns is still alive and well. There are fantastic sights to see along the Katahdin Woods and Waters Scenic By-Way, great museums and historic societies to visit, and of course Baxter State Park and the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

This is part of the largest intact forest in North America. There are incredible things to see and do while you are here that can only be experienced here in Maine. Hire a Maine guide and float down the scenic East Branch of the Penobscot River. Fish for brook trout and smallmouth bass (there is no shortage of places to fish). In the fall, the upland bird hunting is fantastic and this is one of the best places to hunt for woodcock and the famous ruffed grouse.

There are hundreds of miles of hiking trails from the short and simple to multi-day day treks. If you find yourself here in the winter, there are hundreds of miles of perfectly groomed snowmobile trails. There are even cross country ski trails with remote huts for overnight use.

This guide should be a great place for you to begin your travel plans to the great North Woods and the Katahdin region. We hope you take the time to explore, get to know some of the locals, visit local shops, restaurants and inns, and take some time to slow down. Listen to the call of the loon, the sound of the wind through the trees, the falling snow, the rushing water, and take in the star-filled sky. We look forward to seeing you soon in the Katahdin region.

— Lucas St. Clair

PRESIDENT, ELLIOTSVILLE PLANTATION, INC.



PHOTO: BDN FILE



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Overseeing A NATIONAL MONUMENT

AN INTERVIEW WITH TIM HUDSON, KATAHDIN WOODS AND
WATERS NATIONAL MONUMENT SUPERINTENDENT.

BY MATT CHABE



On August 24, 2016, President Barack Obama signed into law the creation of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, setting aside 87,563 acres for preservation and public enjoyment. Not long afterward, Tim Hudson took up his position as superintendent there, overseeing the monument's administration, upkeep and public outreach.

We recently had an opportunity to sit down with Hudson to ask him about his background and what makes the monument so special.

WHAT'S YOUR BACKGROUND?

I'm a civil engineer. My technical background is in water, sewer and garbage. I spent a long time in construction management. I started with the National Park Service in 1967. I spent most of my time in large parks out west—I was at Yellowstone for 31 years. I was the associate regional director for operations in Alaska. We moved to Bangor in 2009 to potentially retire, and a job came up in 2013 in the New York City area. I said I'd only take it if I could commute from Bangor to Staten Island, so that's what I did for three years until I was formally transferred to Maine.

HOW'D YOU FALL INTO THIS JOB?

When the monument started to become a reality, [the NPS] asked if I could...take over and help them out because it was a type of park area that I'd worked at for many years. I was happy to be able to live at home and get back to areas where things are a lot more rustic and rural.

WHAT MAKES THE MONUMENT STAND OUT?

The natural and cultural resources of the area are right up there at the top. You've got the three rivers that run through it—the Seboeis River, the East Branch of the Penobscot River, and Wassataquoik Stream. And you've got the history of the timber industry over the years, you've got Native American occupation for at least eight thousand years. The Wassataquoik, in particular, is literally unchanged. There's a lot of extraordinary geology in the monument, and I think that how it's set up right now, where we have a large amount of traditional activities still going on inside the monument, makes it not unique in the park service, but unusual in some respects. I've got quite a mix of activity there.



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The history in [the monument] is really remarkable, from way back from prehistoric and even historic times, and a lot of things have transpired over the years. We'd like to help promote that around the area, and interact with the state and the seven or eight communities that surround the park.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE AREA OF THE MONUMENT?

I really enjoy going along the Wassataquoik. Basically, you can be by yourself. I enjoy the north end [of the monument], and coming down along the river on the west side. You can hike, you can mountain bike on that side. And you've got a lot of traditional activities on the east side—hunting, snowmobiling, skiing.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE "WOW" AREAS FOR VISITORS?

People often go to the viewing areas when the leaves are out. I've seen quite a few people's jaws drop. People in the west don't see this kind of color. A visitor came up to me and said, "We don't have anything like this. I never saw anything like it." They lived in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

HOW DO YOU SEE THE MONUMENT DEVELOPING?

Well, that's what we're in the process of determining. We're holding listening sessions... to determine how people use the area. I don't see huge developments in the park. You've got access, and you're not that far from other areas that are their own destinations in the towns around here.

We've been trying to work with the communities around the monument to come up with an integrated plan. As far as huge developments, like hotels and things like that, I don't see that.

WHAT'S THE TOUGHEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

The toughest part of my job right now is that there's not much staff. So I try and go out and meet people whenever I can. And I still have paperwork to get ready to do to get ready for the summer. Meeting people is the fun part of the job. The paperwork isn't the fun part, but everything has to be put in order. Winter doesn't ever last as long as you think it does.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE PEOPLE TAKE AWAY FROM THEIR VISIT THERE?

You know, the history, the beauty of the area, the solitude that they can get. You've got great night skies—it's one of the better places in the lower 48 states, certainly on the east coast, for night skies. You don't have that light pollution. You've got little noise. You won't be bothered. You'll be out in the wilderness—your cell phone doesn't work in the monument, so you're not going to have that kind of [distraction]. You can camp [without] a lot of people in one spot. There's enough out here where you can walk not that far and really get away from things.

We work very hard with the communities [around the monument] and look at this as one place that's part of the region to make things work for everyone, and if we can help that along we certainly will. ✕



ACTIVITIES BY SEASON

What seasonal activities does Superintendent Tim Hudson recommend? Read on to find out.

SUMMER: "For the visitor that wants to get an overview, see the terrain, and learn what's going on, the 17-mile loop road around the southwest corner lets you see Katahdin and the expanse of the area. There's a lot of nice walks out there. You can bike out there, as well as go into Orin Falls or the Wassataquoik. For the heavy-duty recreation user, there's the north end, and running the East Branch all the way down from the Matagamon area. You can canoe and kayak with portages...as far down as Bangor. And you've got the International Appalachian Trail—literally, the very beginning of it as it makes its way through Canada and Europe."

FALL: "The fall goes pretty late because you've got hunting in designated sections. Then you've got three or four weeks for snow to collect, and then the [snowmobile] clubs come in and groom them, and we open up for skiing up at the north."

WINTER: "The loop road isn't plowed, but snowmobiling goes through five main sections of the monument...and connects with [the ITS trails]. You've got hunting that's very popular in the section that's outside of Patten. We groom about 30 miles of ski trails in the north section. We have two huts that have been extremely popular to stay in this winter—in fact, one is booked almost every night."

SPRING: "There's not a lot going on in mud season. We'll make the roads stabilized before we let people back in."

For a more-detailed breakdown of activities, visit nps.gov/kaww.

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FIRST Launch

MY CANOE TRIPS DOWN THE EAST BRANCH HAVE SHOWN
ME VISITORS WILL LOVE THE MONUMENT LAND.

BY MIKE WILSON



My son, Tom, and I launched our canoe into the East Branch of the Penobscot River, just below the Matagamom Dam, at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 24. This was our third annual trip to the East Branch, and the first time we were starting at the top. We were feeling ready for the rapids and portages to come in those first 11 miles.

Tom likes the East Branch largely because we catch fish there—lots of big bass. I like that because fishing with kids is always more fun when you actually catch fish. We also count on seeing lots of wildlife and almost no people as we explore the quietly stunning landscape. I know Tom likes that, too.

This year, by coincidence, we were the first people to paddle the East Branch after much of the surrounding area was designated by President Barack Obama as the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. We were first to run Stair Falls and Bowling Falls. First to portage around Haskell Rock, Pond Pitch, Grand Pitch and the Hulling Machine. We're also pretty sure we were the first to skinny dip in the new national monument (around 3 p.m. if anyone wants to challenge us).

I've been involved with rural economic, conservation and cultural issues in the Maine woods for the past 20 years, and I have run the upper stretch of the East Branch once before and the lower portions several times. What I noticed this year was that the national monument designation hadn't changed anything, at least not yet. The portages still were grueling. The rapids just challenging enough. The wildlife still was abundant (we recorded 22 different species, including moose, eagles and a luna moth caterpillar). The fish still were biting, and we had that quietly beautiful landscape all to ourselves.

We also still were traveling through a landscape of mixed public and private lands. Two of our portages were on monument lands and two followed traditional portage trails on the privately owned east side of the river. Both nights we camped at traditional sites on private land because that's where we found the right sites at the right times.

Tom and I didn't plan our canoe trip on the East Branch because the area had been designated as a national monument. We were there because it's a great place where people who know how to get around in the Maine woods have been experiencing and learning about nature for generations. It's a wild place that forces people to

pay attention and disconnect from their technology and routine. A place that gives adults a chance to recharge and kids a chance to come of age a bit.

The new national monument will inevitably bring change to this special area. And for those of us who've come to love it as it is—wild, remote, uncrowded and uninterpreted—some of that change will be bittersweet.

The national monument will attract more people from across the country and around the world to experience outdoor recreation and renewal in the Maine woods. People who live in the area will have the chance to create new and expanded business and share their love of the place as ambassadors helping visitors understand our tradition of balancing forest management and outdoor recreation.

The federal government will invest in valuable new recreational and interpretive resources, and I believe local landowners and communities will respond to this opportunity by finding new ways to support and benefit from increased visitation.

And, while Tom and I understand our future experiences on the East Branch may be different, I know the region's economy will get a sorely needed boost, and new visitors will leave richer for their time in the Maine woods.

I can't measure the ways my son and I have benefited from our trips together on the East Branch, and I'm sure we'll miss the feeling of being out there alone together, with no other people around and no one to rely on but ourselves.

The powerful experiences we've shared there, though, confirm for me that national recognition of the region's environmental and cultural values is well deserved, and that the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument will make Maine and the United States better places for the generations to come. ✕

Mike Wilson of South Portland is the senior program director for the Northern Forest Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to building economic and community vitality while fostering sound forest stewardship across the Northern Forest of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York.

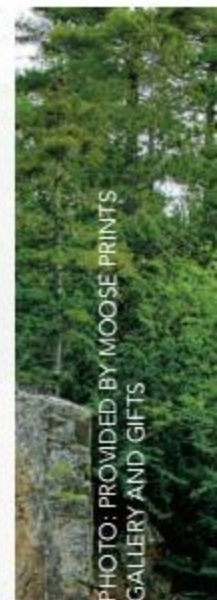
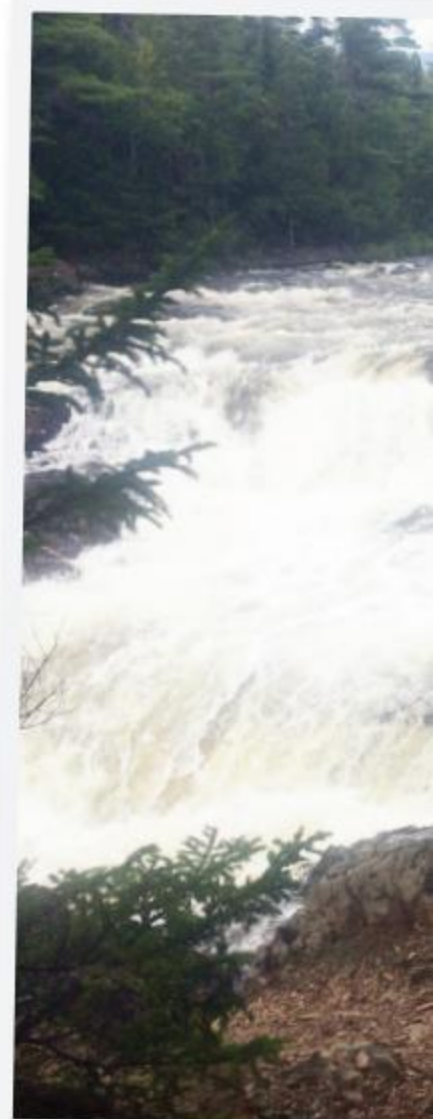


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TOM WILSON CHECKS OUT THE VIEW OF THE EAST BRANCH OF THE PENOBSCOT RIVER.
Photo by MIKE WILSON

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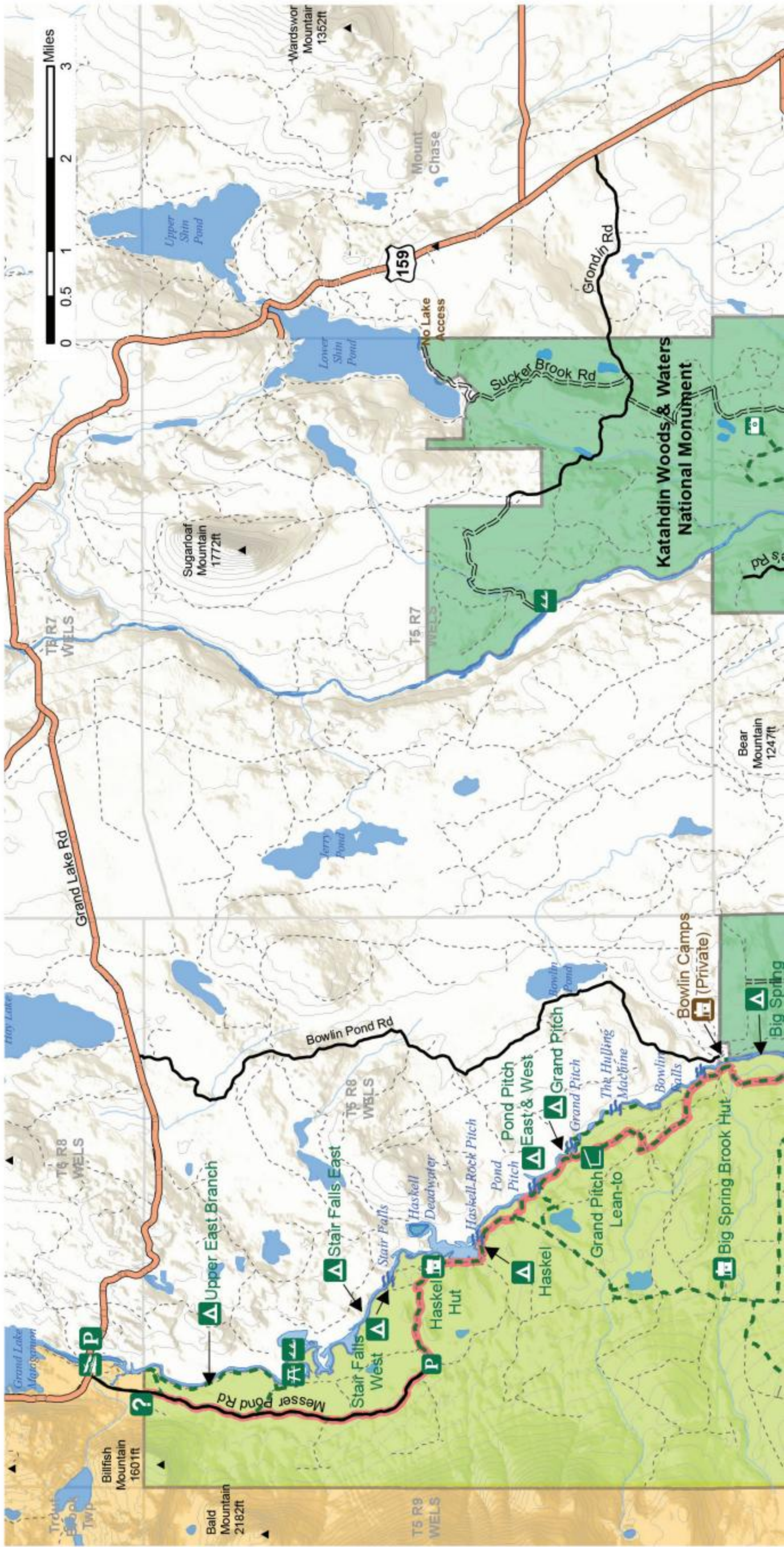
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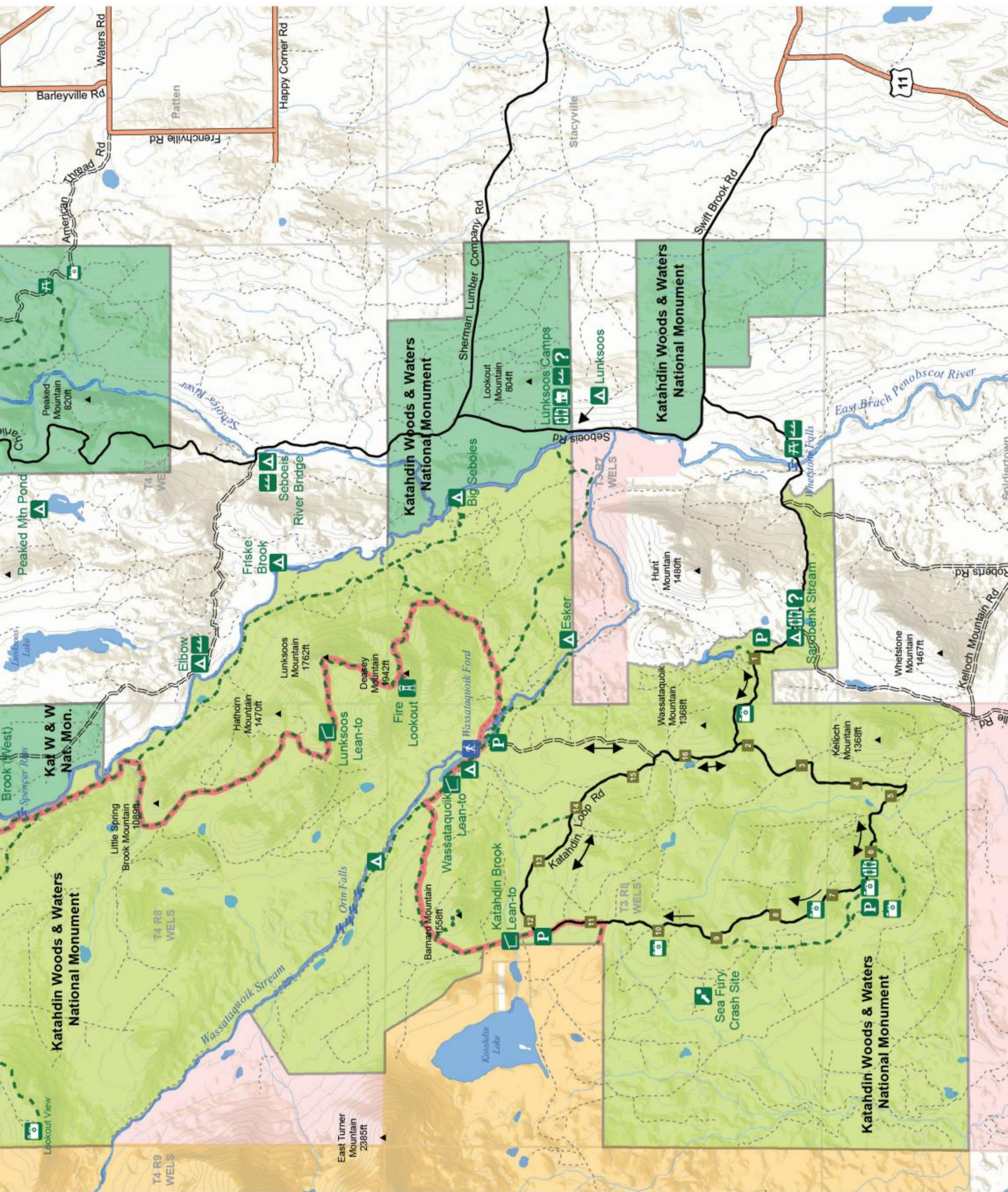
Katahdin

WOODS AND WATERS NATIONAL MONUMENT

RECREATION MAP

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---|
| WEST OF EAST BRANCH
PENOBSCOT RIVER
(NO HUNTING) | RIVER FEATURE | FIRE LOOKOUT |
| EAST OF EAST BRANCH
PENOBSCOT RIVER
(HUNTING ALLOWED) | WATER CROSSING | PICNIC AREA |
| BAXTER STATE PARK | SCENIC OVERLOOK | POINT OF INTEREST |
| MAINE BUREAU OF
PARKS & LANDS | CABIN | MILE MARKER |
| PUBLIC ROAD | UNIMPROVED BOAT
LAUNCH | PRIVATE ROAD
(HIGH CLEARANCE
RECOMMENDED) |
| TRAILS | AREA CAMPSITES | GRAVEL ROAD |
| INTERNATIONAL
APPALACHIAN TRAIL | PARKING | UNIMPROVED ROAD |
| | SHELTER | ABANDONED ROAD |
| | INFORMATION | |
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INTO THE North Woods

EXPLORING MAINE'S NEW NATIONAL MONUMENT.

BY AISLINN SARNACKI / BANGOR DAILY NEWS



The roar of the river grew louder as we pedaled our bikes through the forest toward the East Branch of the Penobscot River. Then, all of a sudden, the trees opened up and we were at our destination: Haskell Rock Pitch in the new Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

“Woohoo!” Bangor Daily News photojournalist Gabor Degre yelled as he steered his mountain bike off the path and out of sight.

“Oh my!” I exclaimed after following him around the bend.

On a rocky ledge, we stood with grins on our faces, looking upriver at the rapids. The frothing water tumbled and churned as it rushed down river, bending around boulders and plunging over hidden shelves to roll back onto itself in spirals of white. The grace and power of the river, illuminated in the afternoon sun, held us transfixed.

To be among the first people to play in the new Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument was a momentous occasion, rich with the smell of balsam fir and the gentle roar of the East Branch. It’s a memory I hope to relive, decades from now, for my children and grandchildren as we sit around a campfire.

The memory will go something like this:

Just hours after President Barack Obama signed into law the creation of the 87,563-acre national monument on Wednesday, Aug. 24, Gabor and I were on the property, signing the registration book at its north entrance. He shares my passion for outdoor recreation.

That morning, after the big announcement came from the White House, the two of us were chosen by BDN editors to head north and explore Maine’s new national monument for the day. Our mission was to document the adventure, get a feel for the property and bring that experience back to our readers.

As we neared the north entrance of the property, the traffic dwindled and our cellphones lost reception. Bordered on the west by Baxter State Park, the new national monument already features a network of old logging roads and trails used by hikers, mountain bikers and cross-country skiers. Running through the property’s heart is the East Branch of the Penobscot River, ideal for canoeing, fishing and whitewater paddling, with many campsites already established along its shore.

As we drove into the property on a gravel access road Wednesday afternoon, a frog hopped across the road, barely escaping the tires of our vehicle.

About 3.5 miles along the gravel road, a fallen aspen tree barred the way. While Gabor wrestled with the tree to the side of the road, I tried to help, bending a branch here and there—but for the most part I was just getting in the way.

“This makes me think we’re quite possibly the first people in the north section after it became a national monument,” Gabor pointed out after successfully moving the tree. “Although, who knows, maybe the tree just came down or someone could be in there camping.”

A short distance farther, we parked at Haskell Gate, which barred the old logging road, and



PHOTOS: AISLINN SARNACKI & GABOR DEGRE / BDN



(ABOVE) THE NORTHERN ACCESS ROAD TO THE NEW KATAHDIN WOODS AND WATERS NATIONAL MONUMENT.

(RIGHT TOP) BDN PHOTOJOURNALIST GABOR DEGRE PREPARES FOR A MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDE IN THE NEW KATAHDIN WOODS AND WATERS NATIONAL MONUMENT ON WEDNESDAY, AUG. 24, 2016, THE DAY PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA SIGNED THE ORDER TO CREATE THE NATIONAL MONUMENT.

(RIGHT MIDDLE) HASKELL HUT NEAR THE EAST BRANCH OF THE PENOBSCOT RIVER.

(RIGHT BOTTOM) THE INTERIOR OF HASKELL HUT.





VIEWS OF HASKELL ROCK PITCH ON THE
EAST BRANCH OF THE PENOBSCOT RIVER.



continued our journey on mountain bikes. Steering around the metal gate, we pedaled along the overgrown dirt road, which is also a section of the International Appalachian Trail. Through a mixed forest of birch, white pine and maples already starting to turn fall colors, we biked 1.5 miles, passing several wetlands and carefully navigating wooden bridges.

A sign marked the short side trail to Haskell Hut, an old cabin set on a grassy hill above a wide bend in the East Branch. The door was open, and we entered to find a clean, rustic living space, with wooden beds and a kitchen with a handpump placed over a wide sink. On a table sat a registration book, which we opened to find a handful of entries from people who'd stayed at the cabin over the past year, during the winter, spring and summer. Someone had sketched a mermaid on one page—the Mermaid of the East Branch?

WE TURNED OUR BIKES
AROUND AT HASKELL ROCK
PITCH AND HEADED BACK
TOWARD HASKELL GATE,
BUT WE WERE RELUCTANT
TO END OUR JOURNEY.
SO ON THE WAY BACK, WE
TOOK A FEW DETOURS.

Over the one doorway in the cabin, a “National Park Yes!” sign had been tacked up, next to a horseshoe. Leaving Gabor to take photos, I wandered outside and followed a footpath down the embankment to the river, where I crouched behind tall grasses and watched a female wood duck swimming nearby and a hawk wheeling overhead.

From the cabin, we continued our ride 0.5 mile to Haskell Rock Pitch, the magnificent rapids that were the high point of our trip. The sunlight had taken on the golden glow of late afternoon. We turned our bikes around at Haskell Rock Pitch and headed back toward Haskell Gate, but we were reluctant to end our journey. So on the way back, we took a few detours.

First, we visited the campsite and lean-to by the scenic Haskell Deadwater, just above Haskell Rock Pitch. The water was as smooth as glass, and the campsite was in a peaceful clearing of tall grasses and wildflowers, scattered with charred trees that told of a recent fire. At the shore, Gabor cupped the cool, clear water in his hands and splashed it over his face. Dragonflies darted over the river, and a bright orange viceroy butterfly made a brief appearance before disappearing into the bushes along the shore.

In the shallows of the boat landing, we watched a small frog swim along the bottom, then surface to float, seemingly without

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a care. A belted kingfisher flew across the river and perched in a maple leaning over the water, and I resolved to return to the peaceful location some day to pitch a tent.

Continuing on, we took one more detour: a 0.5-mile side trail to Stair Falls, which ended up being a series of very shallow “stairs” in the East Branch (less dramatic than Haskell Rock Pitch). Just past the falls was another campsite, set on a grassy ledge over the rushing water.

As we finished our bike trip, Gabor and I talked about how easy it was to bike to a number of campsites and scenic locations in just a few hours. The trails were easy enough for families to enjoy, and the intersections were already marked well with signs that gave mileages to different destinations on the property.

“I was shocked that nobody was in there,” Gabor said as we drove off the property. We hadn’t seen any other people on the trails that day, and all of the beautiful campsites had been empty, though they displayed evidence of being used, such as charred logs in campfire rings. It being such an important day for the property, we had expected to see visitors out biking, hiking and paddling in celebration. But we didn’t mind having the north end of the new national monument to ourselves.

On the way home, we stopped at Craig’s Clam Shop in Patten for sandwiches and fried pickles. Sitting at the picnic table, surrounded by locals eating dinner, Gabor edited photos of our trip and I jotted down notes before bits and pieces of the trip started to slip from my memory—a memory I’ll cherish for years to come. ✕



THINGS TO KNOW:

HUNTING: Hunting is permitted (with a Maine state license) in the recreational areas of the monument, designated in dark green on the monument map (see page 6). This includes the lands to the east of the East Branch Penobscot River. Bear baiting, trapping and chase dogs are not permitted.

CAMPING: Campsites, lean-to shelters and the Haskell Hut are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Dogs are not permitted in the cabins or shelters. At this time, there is no fee to use the lean-to shelters or huts.

FISHING: The East Branch Penobscot River and the surrounding tributaries offer excellent fishing opportunities. A Maine state fishing license is required.

For more information, visit nps.gov/kaww.

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MONUMENTAL *Change*

LOCAL BUSINESSES SEE BENEFITS FROM KATAHDIN
WOODS AND WATERS NATIONAL MONUMENT.

BY JOSHUA ARCHER



Barry Davis, owner of Two Rivers Canoe and Tackle in Medway, says he's already seen an uptick in business since last fall.

"We expect a pretty decent increase this summer," said Davis, a prior mill worker. "We had an increase last year because of it."

Davis has plans to add to his inventory to include what visitors crave most: tchotchkes.

"We probably will change and carry a few more items that people will be looking for," he said. "[The monument] is absolutely nothing but good for the area."

Some feel that, given some time, the monument could ease the pain felt by retail shops in an area of Maine wanting for customers following mill closures and population decline.

"Traffic is money, and anybody who knows anything about retail will tell you that," said Davis. "You have people going by, and people stop in and it's business."

Davis isn't alone in seeing positive impacts from the new monument.

"We did see a difference late last summer and early fall after the designation," said Blaine King, manager of Shin Pond Village in Mount Chase.

"We saw a different type of traveler that we typically don't see in this part of the state," he said. "This a traditional 'hunter-fisherman' type of clientele that visits this area, and/or local people

that have camps here. We did truly see, last August and September, travelers from away who were here out of curiosity. If it happened that soon, it should definitely continue going forward."

King recognizes that some fellow business owners aren't fans of the monument, but said negativity won't get folks anywhere.

"It's one of those things where you might as well embrace change," said King. "We've always felt we're in a better position to have a seat at the table in the whole thing versus fighting it the whole way. We truly feel it will have a positive impact on the area. It's yet to be determined how positive that will be, how much of an impact it can have, but it certainly won't have a negative impact."

Anita Muller, co-owner of Moose Prints Gallery in Millinocket, grew up in a mill town in the Connecticut River Valley. She said she's seen it all before, and said folks need to remain positive and be open to adapt to new realities.

"The local folks here have lost two or three generations to [outward] migration," she said, "so their families have been torn apart because they have to go other places to work. I remain positive, and think it's a tough pill to swallow to think life has just changed so drastically, but it's happened all over the country. We have the advantage of this gift and I think it would be truly sad to not make the best of it." ✕

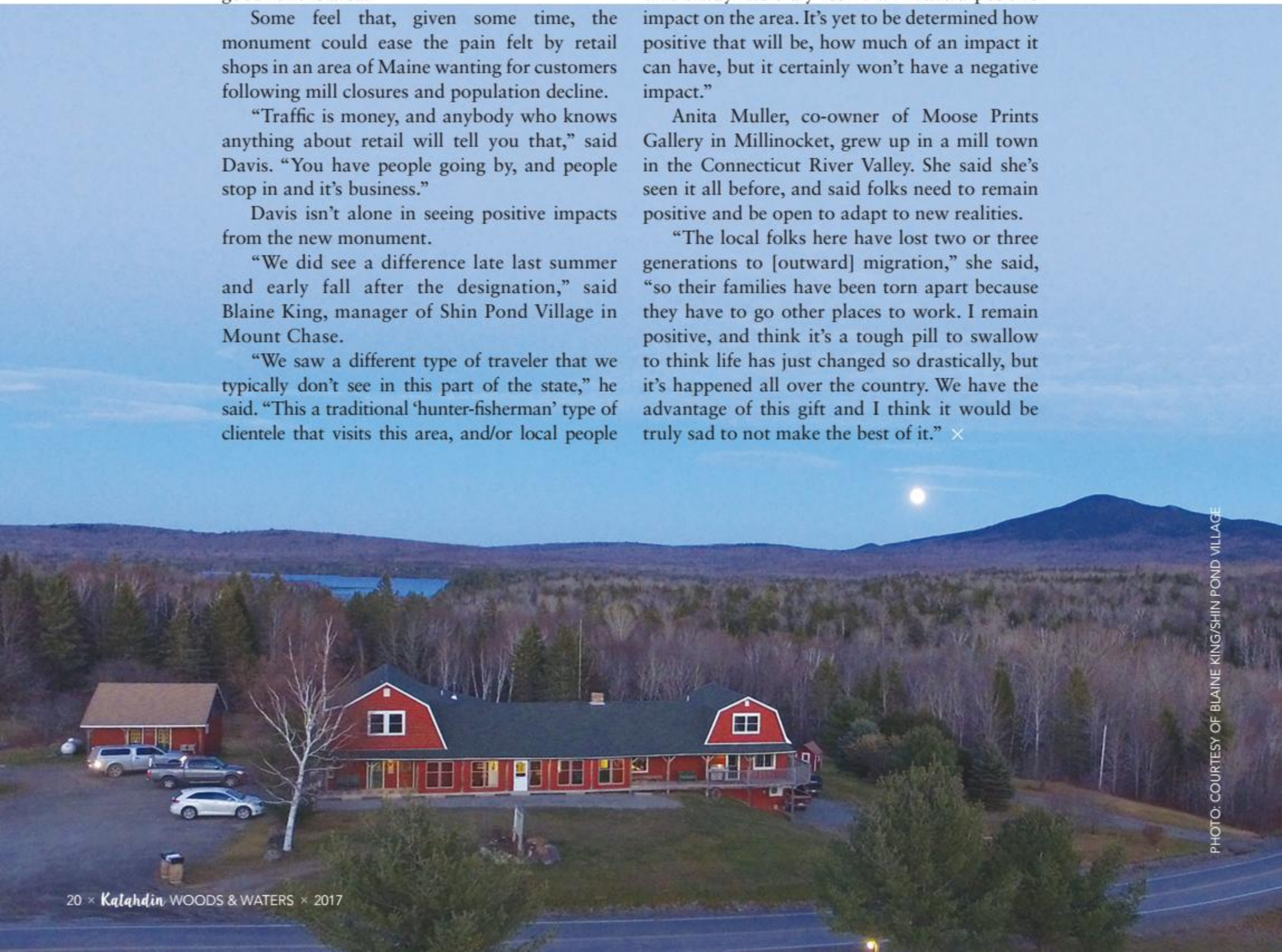


PHOTO: COURTESY OF BLAINE KING/SHIN POND VILLAGE



VISITOR CENTERS

While there are currently no "official" visitor centers in the monument, two welcome centers have been established for basic visitor information.

- 200 PENOBSCOT AVE,
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- LUMBERMAN'S MUSEUM,
61 SHIN POND ROAD,
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