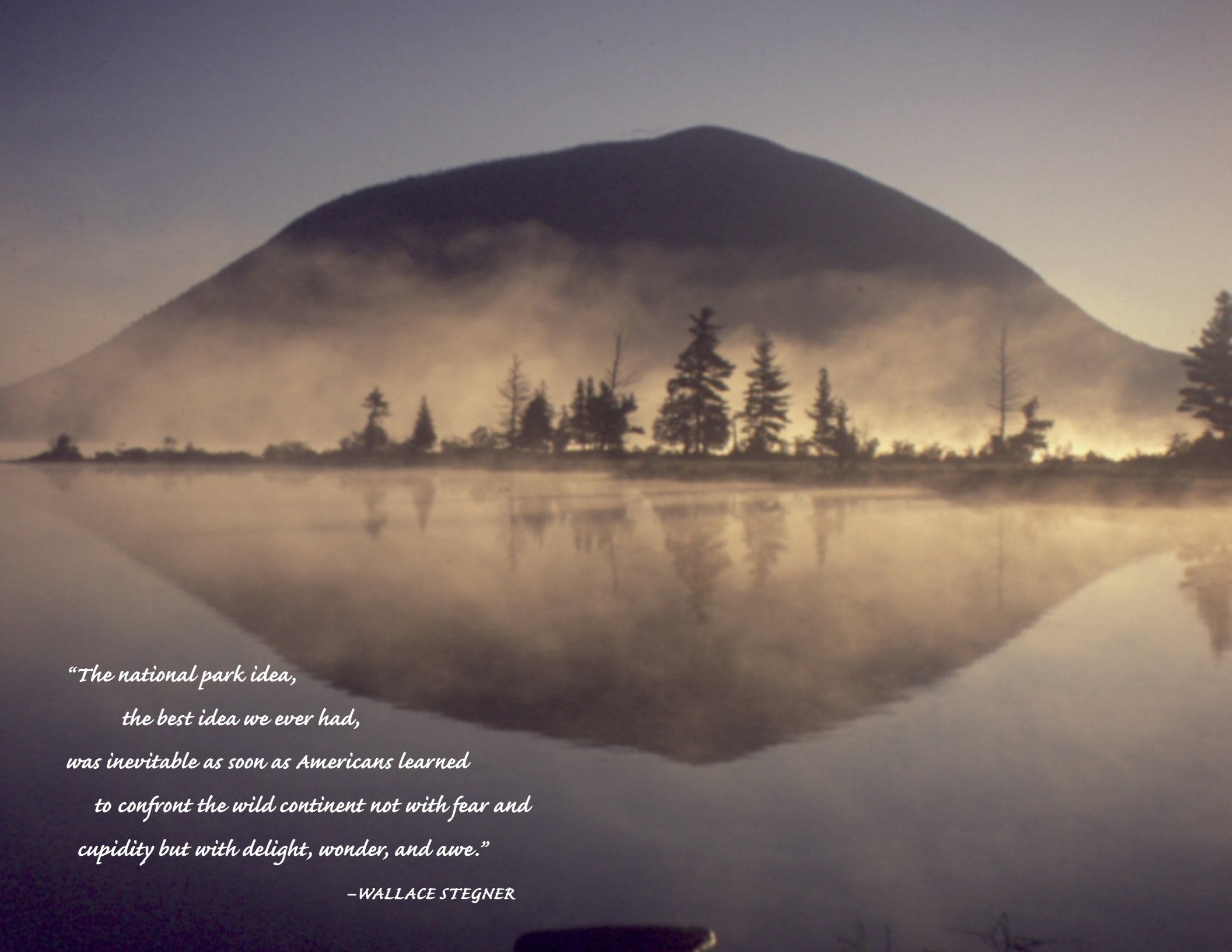


America's Next Great National Park

Preserving Our Maine Woods Legacy





*“The national park idea,
the best idea we ever had,
was inevitable as soon as Americans learned
to confront the wild continent not with fear and
cupidity but with delight, wonder, and awe.”*

—WALLACE STEGNER

America's Next Great National Park— **Maine Woods National Park**

Maine Woods National Park and Preserve is an idea whose time has come. A century and a half ago, Henry David Thoreau envisioned the creation of a “national preserve” in the heart of the Maine Woods. Today, Thoreau’s dream could become reality. As we enter the new millennium, we have an extraordinary opportunity to save, for all time, the largest remaining wilderness east of the Rockies.

We all know it is too late to save many areas. Open space is being devoured at a breathless pace. Yet there are a few special places in America where it is still possible to create magnificent national parks; parks which can join Yellowstone, Denali, and Grand Canyon as world-class protected landscapes. The Maine Woods is such a place.

The Maine Woods is a land of superlatives. It is the largest surviving part of the great North Woods that once stretched unbroken from Maine to Minnesota. It is a land with unsurpassed natural values—deep forests, rugged mountains, clear waters, and abundant wildlife.

It is a land with rich cultural values—spectacular scenery, challenging recreation, colorful history, and time-honored traditions. Most of all, the Maine Woods is a BIG land, encompassing jaw-dropping, horizon-to-horizon, seemingly endless expanses of rolling forest that are more like Alaska than the rest of the lower 48 states.

The need to protect this national treasure grows more urgent each day. These wildlands are in jeopardy and can vanish if we do not muster the will and the funds to save them. It is up to the American people to seize this opportunity, for it will not come again. Our children and their children and their children will thank us for having the wisdom and resolve to preserve the heart of the Maine Woods as America’s next great national park. May they never look back and marvel that we did not.



Maine Woods National Park or Industrial “Working Forest”— Choosing Our Future

For many generations, the Maine Woods was owned by those who knew and cared about Maine. This is why much of the region’s wild grandeur survives today. But change is inevitable. As the global economy has expanded, most of the forest has been sold to timber and paper corporations. Today those companies are driven more by short-term profit than by local concerns or long-term forest health.

Indeed, clearcutting and other unsustainable logging practices have diminished vast acreages in the Maine Woods. In one short generation, an area larger than the state of Delaware has been clearcut, tens of thousands of miles of logging roads have been built, and millions of acres have been sprayed with toxic pesticides.

Key tracts have been subdivided and thousands of houses have been built or expanded, especially along unspoiled lakeshores. Pressures continue to mount for new powerlines, pipelines, dams, energy plants, waste dumps, mines, and more. At the same time, more than half of the lands in the Maine Woods have changed ownership in the last two decades, exacerbating the instability of the region.

The crisis in the Maine Woods also offers an historic opportunity. For a price of \$250 an acre or less, some of these industrial forest lands could be purchased and preserved as a new Maine Woods National Park and Preserve—returning this irreplaceable part of our heritage to the people of this and future generations. Such a national treasure may never be as affordable again.

We can no longer depend on the ways of the past to preserve the forest for the future. As millions of acres of forest land are put up for sale, we are presented with a clear choice—try to patch together a failing status quo or purchase some of the most important lands to create a Maine Woods National Park.

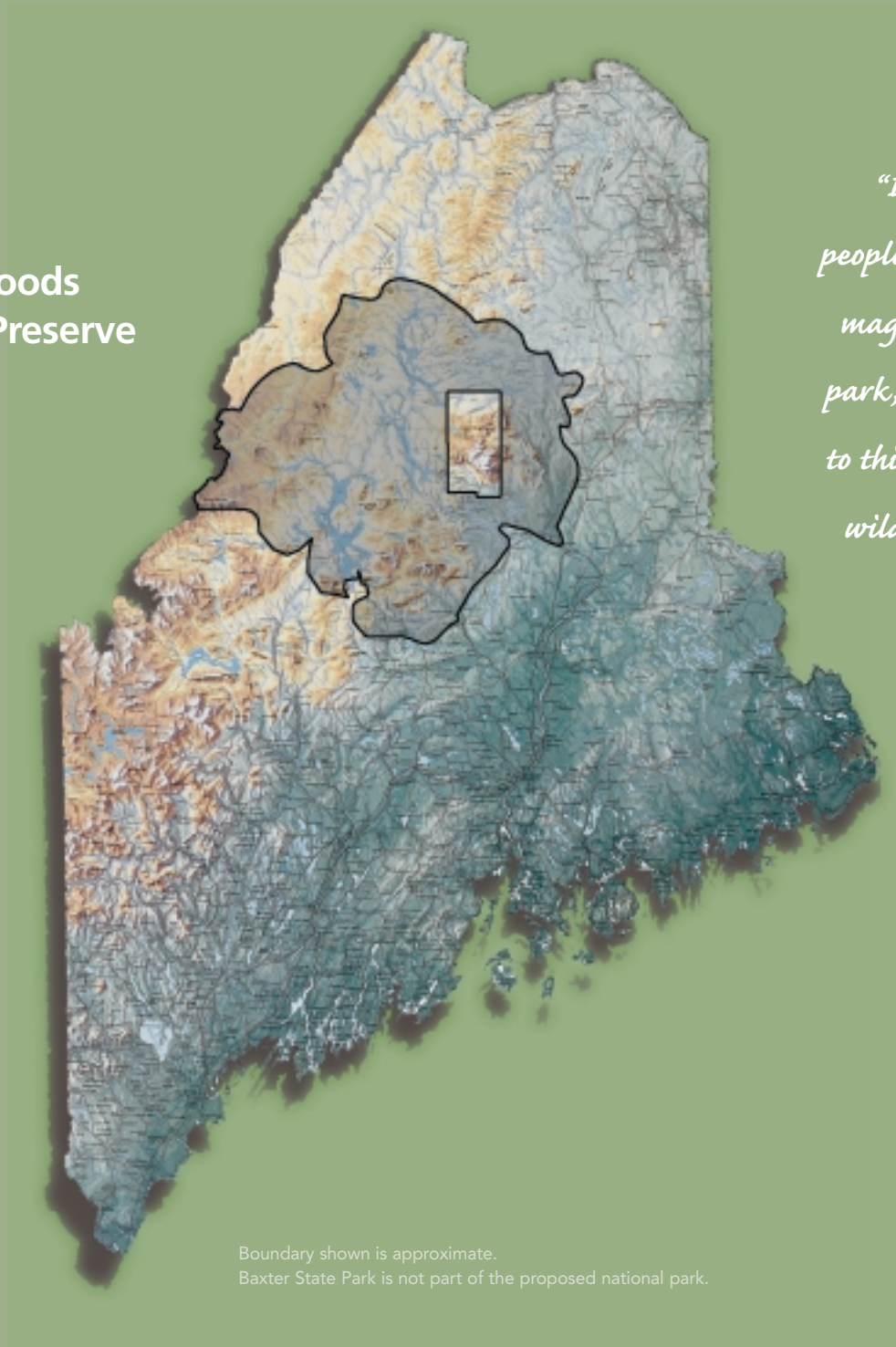


A wide-angle photograph of a vast forest landscape. In the foreground, a rocky, grey outcrop is visible on the left. The middle ground is filled with a dense forest of trees, many of which have turned vibrant shades of orange, yellow, and red, indicating autumn. The forest extends to the horizon, where rolling hills and mountains are visible under a sky filled with soft, white clouds.

*"Only within the moment of time
represented by the present century has
our species...acquired significant
power to alter the nature of [this] world."*

-RACHEL CARSON

Proposed Maine Woods National Park and Preserve



Boundary shown is approximate.
Baxter State Park is not part of the proposed national park.

"I know Maine well and respect its people and history. In 1994, I flew over the magnificent area proposed as a national park, and give my whole-hearted support to this bold, timely effort. Preserving these wildlands is a gift to future generations of Maine and the nation."

—CHRISTOPHER REEVE

Protecting Our National Treasures

The proposed Maine Woods National Park and Preserve would protect one of the most important concentrations of ecological, recreational, and cultural features in the United States. This majestic park would encompass:

- 3.2 million acres of wildlands, an area larger than Yellowstone and Yosemite combined, making it the second biggest national park in the contiguous U.S.;
- thousands of miles of clear-running rivers and streams, including the headwaters of five of America's legendary rivers—Allagash, Aroostook, Kennebec, Penobscot, and St. John;
- a wide variety of natural wonders, including some of New England's last old-growth forests; scenic landscapes of lush green forests punctuated by steep mountains; powerful waterfalls and rapids; scores of remote lakes and ponds; and deep canyons and gorges;
- critical habitat for endangered and sensitive wildlife, and the rare opportunity to restore a healthy ecosystem that includes the full range of native species;
- wilderness recreation on an Alaskan scale, featuring more than 1,250 miles of hiking trails, including the famed Hundred Mile Wilderness section of the Appalachian Trail; thousands of miles of wild streams; and world-class angling and hunting opportunities;
- a hundred centuries of human history, including Native American sites, places explored by Thoreau and other adventurers, and important early logging-era artifacts.





*"From this elevation, just on the skirts of the
clouds, we could overlook the country, west and south,
for a hundred miles. There it was, the State of
Maine.... Immeasurable forest for the sun to
shine on.... Countless lakes...."*



*...and mountains....The forest looked like a firm
grass sward, and the effect of these lakes...is that of
a mirror broken into a thousand fragments...
reflecting the full blaze of the sun."*

—HENRY DAVID THOREAU

Providing a Sanctuary for Wildlife

Not so long ago the Maine Woods was covered with old-growth forests of spruce, fir, pine, maple, beech, birch and other northern hardwoods and evergreens. These, along with innumerable rivers, lakes, wetlands, mountains, and meadows, provided habitats for a rich diversity of wildlife.



Most native wildlife species still live here. The black bear, moose, beaver, loon, broad-winged hawk, and blue-spotted



salamander are common. But overhunting, overfishing, and industrial logging have diminished the numbers of many species. The spruce grouse, Canada lynx, American marten and wild Atlantic salmon are rare or threatened. The wolf, cougar, wolverine, and caribou have been driven out altogether.

Maine Woods National Park would be a vast sanctuary for wildlife, safe from logging and industrial development. This new park would provide critical habitat for all the native creatures which today call this region home. It would allow for the eventual recovery of species that are now endangered or missing from the Maine Woods. Finally, the park could be the foundation of an even larger system of interconnected public parks and reserves stretching across the North Woods from Maine to the Adirondacks, and across the border to the wildlands of Canada.



A photograph of a moose with large, light-colored antlers. The moose is dark brown and is looking slightly to the left. The background is a dense forest with green foliage. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

*"If a portion of Maine's northern wilderness
could be set apart for...all of the animals, and
all of the song birds...what a wonderful
national park it would be."*

-SPRAGUE'S JOURNAL OF MAINE HISTORY, 1916

*"I remember first coming into
the Maine Woods...and being utterly enchanted
with the deep woods. All that wildness."*

—ALEXANDRA CONOVER, MAINE GUIDE

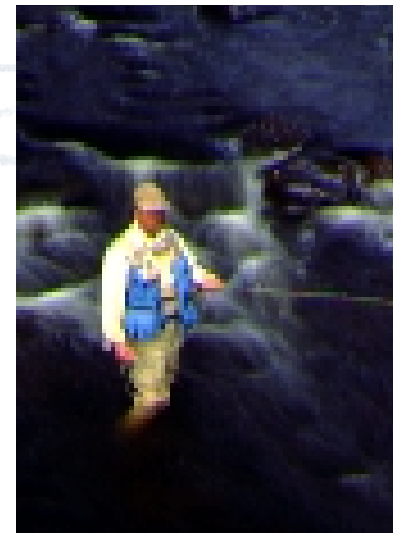


Preserving World-Class Recreation

The possibilities for recreation in the proposed Maine Woods National Park and Preserve are enough to lift the spirits of any hiker, angler, backpacker, camper, hunter, canoeist, snowshoer, snowmobiler, cross-country skier, naturalist, kayaker, rafter, birder, photographer, ambler, peruser, and anticipator of the infinite, the unexpected, the rare, the beautiful, the wild. In fact, the recreational opportunities are so rich and numerous that a lifetime of exploration may not exhaust them.

Those who suggest that such recreational opportunities already exist in Maine are not looking far enough ahead. Without public protection, over time these resources inevitably will be degraded, diminished,

and lost to public access. Already, over two million acres of private lands in Maine are posted against trespassing. As additional lands are developed and posted the public can expect to lose access to more areas. A Maine Woods National Park could preserve public access to more than three million acres of wildlands to ensure people's right to enjoy them forevermore.



Fueling a Healthy Economy

The economy of northern Maine is in serious trouble. The forest products industry, traditionally the economic backbone of the state, is declining. Thousands of jobs have been cut due to mechanization, phasing out of inefficient mills, and overcutting of the forest. In the past two decades, more than 40 percent of logging

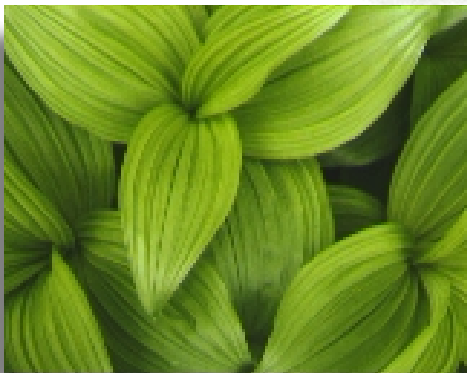
jobs and 20 percent of mill jobs have been lost. Unemployment in Maine's northern counties typically runs several times higher than the national average.

National parks offer economic opportunity to local communities. Each year Acadia National Park helps

to bring over \$100 million to the economy of coastal Maine. One study found that a Maine Woods National

Park could generate several times that amount in annual retail sales, and support up to 20,000 new jobs. Clean service industries are drawn to national parks because of the high quality of life they offer to employees. New jobs could include education, trade, information, finance, business, health care, legal services, transportation, and other well-paying professions. Meanwhile, 80 percent of the commercial forestland in Maine would remain available to support timber jobs.

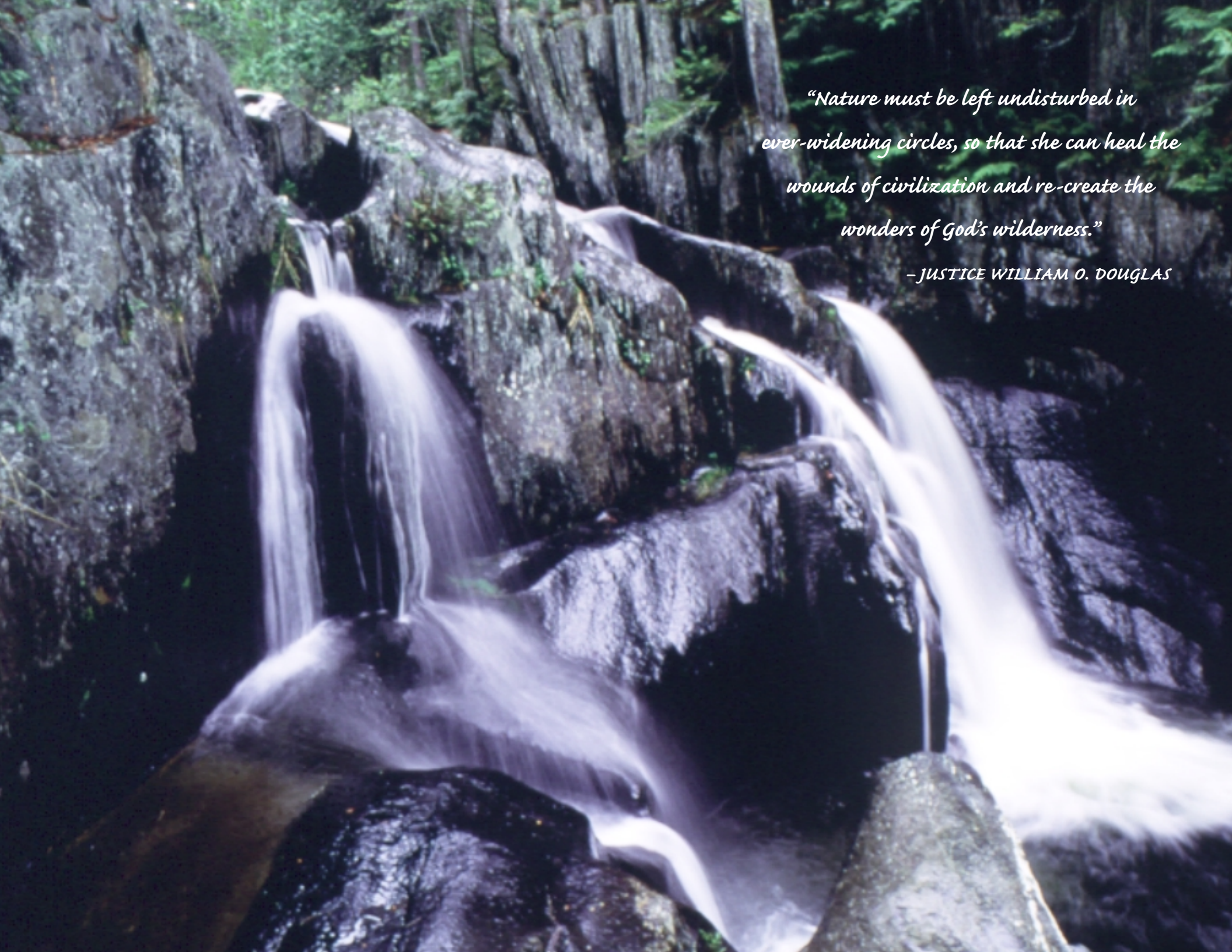
Also, a new Maine Woods National Park would add enormously to the economic potential of tourism. Indeed, tourism already employs more people in Maine than any other business, including forestry. Most tourists want to visit big, beautiful, natural places, not industrial landscapes. Protecting the wilderness character in the heart of the Maine Woods would be one of the most rewarding investments that the people of Maine and America could make.





*"The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources
as assets which it must turn over to the next generation
increased and not impaired in value."*

—THEODORE ROOSEVELT

A photograph of a waterfall cascading over dark, mossy rocks in a forest. The water is white and frothy as it falls, contrasting with the dark, textured rocks. The background is filled with green foliage and trees, creating a lush, natural setting. The lighting is soft, highlighting the textures of the rocks and the movement of the water.

*"Nature must be left undisturbed in
ever-widening circles, so that she can heal the
wounds of civilization and re-create the
wonders of God's wilderness."*

—JUSTICE WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS



*"The proposal to make the Katahdin region...
a National Park, should command the support of
all those who wish the heritage of the American
people to remain undiminished."*

—MYRON H. AVERY

Moving from **Vision to Reality**

The creation of a new Maine Woods National Park and Preserve (MWNP) will take an act of Congress. This will require the support of people in Maine and across America.



- Nearly all the forestland in the proposed MWNP is owned by a few large trusts and multinational timber and paper corporations. Huge tracts frequently change hands. These lands would be acquired at fair

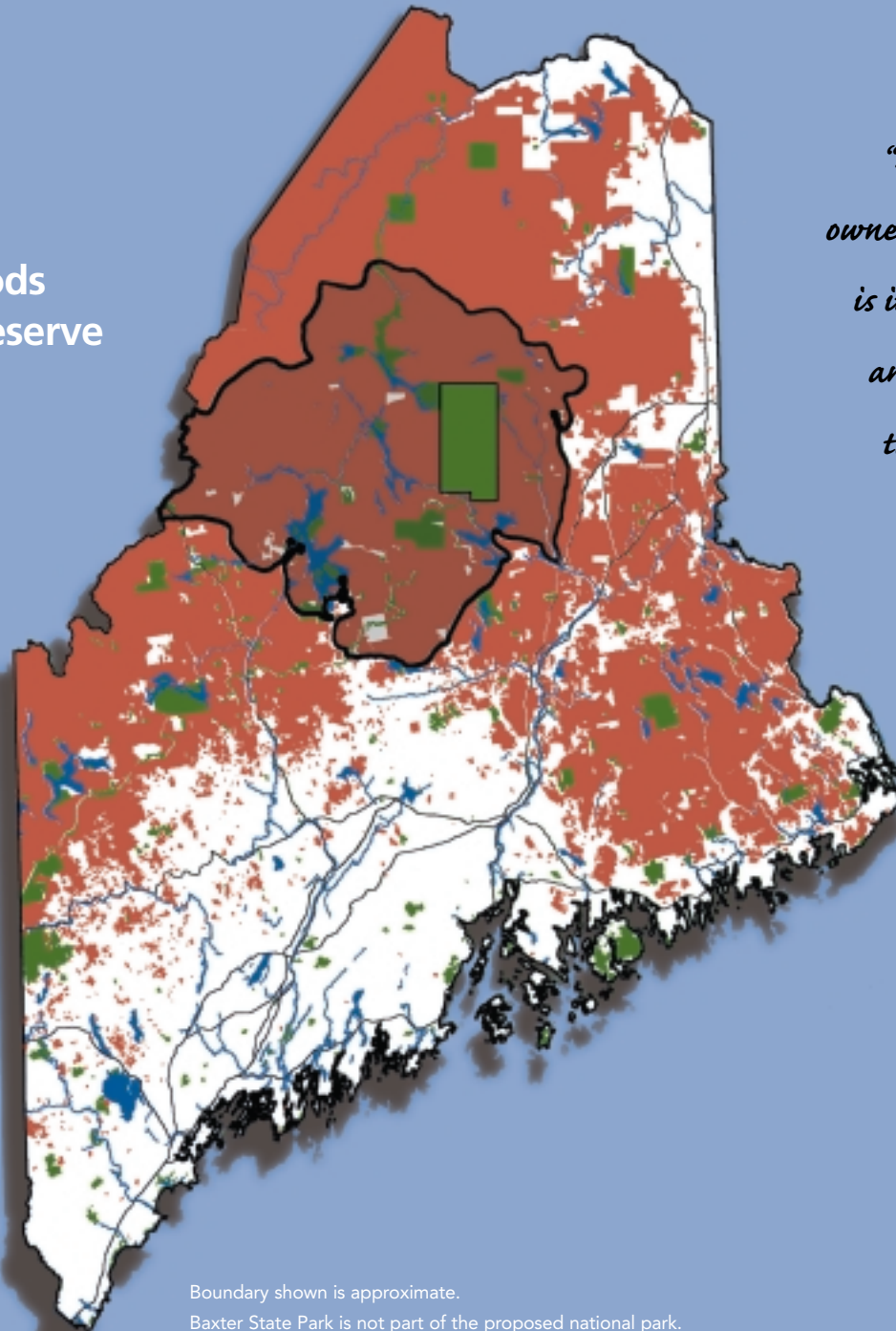
market value from willing sellers. Based on other land sales, the park could be purchased for under one billion dollars, much less than the cost of a single B-2 stealth bomber!

- Virtually all of the lands in the proposed MWNP are in “unorganized territories” where there are no towns. The small number of people living within the proposed park area could retain their homes.
- Maine has the largest concentration of industrial ownership and one of the lowest proportions of public

land (under 6 percent) of any state. Creating a national park would help restore the balance of public and private ownership. Outside of the park, four-fifths of Maine’s commercial timberlands would remain unaffected. State-owned lands within the MWNP, such as Baxter State Park, would stay under state ownership.

- In compliance with existing law, federal payments in-lieu-of-taxes, would be higher than private property taxes paid to the state today.
- MWNP would be a combination of national park and national preserve, guaranteeing public access for the full range of recreational uses. Fishing would be allowed throughout. Hunting and snowmobiling would continue in the preserve portion. Other traditional recreational uses would continue in both the park and preserve.
- The National Park Service would provide assistance to help the state and nearby communities carefully manage opportunities for tourism and economic development.

Proposed Maine Woods National Park and Preserve



*"Since the people of Maine once
owned these great areas of timberland,
is it not fitting that...the grandest
and most beautiful portion of all
this great area...should again
become their property?"*

*—PERCIVAL BAXTER,
FORMER MAINE GOVERNOR*

MAJOR FORESTLAND OWNERSHIP

■ Private ■ Public

*"As we enter a new millennium, the creation of
a Maine Woods National Park would be a most fitting
act of generosity toward future generations of all species."*

-DAVID BROWER



Maine Woods National Park—What You Can Do

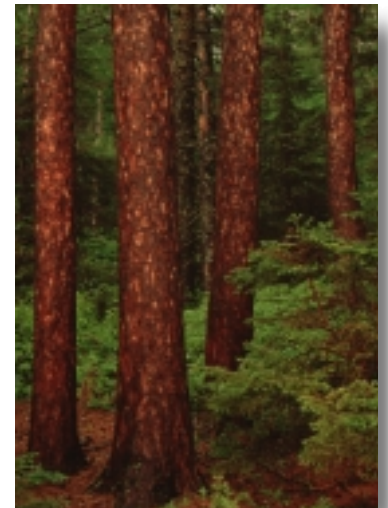
Maine Woods National Park is not only a bold vision. It is a practical solution. Over the last decade, conservationists have tried virtually every strategy available to save the forests of Maine, except the creation of a new national park. Unfortunately, none of the other strategies has worked. Meanwhile, time continues to run out.

Now, more and more people are coming to believe that our last best chance to preserve and restore the glory of the Maine Woods is to return the heart of the region to public ownership as a magnificent national park. A small state like Maine alone does not have the money to acquire and protect these immense forest lands. It will take the will and generosity of the American people and the resources of our national government to meet this challenge.

One of America's highest places of honor has been reserved for citizens who have helped create our

national parks. Often, the process is started by small groups of dedicated people answering a passionate call to protect a landscape dear to their hearts. In many cases the purchase of land by philanthropists has helped to catalyze the creation of a new park. Far-sighted political leaders, such as Theodore Roosevelt, have had the courage to see national park legislation through to its conclusion. Finally, the American people have continued to proudly support our great system of parks and enthusiastically embrace proposals for new national parks. Together, we can follow the path that leads to a magnificent Maine Woods National Park and Preserve. The journey has already begun.

Please join us in creating America's next great national park!



*“The fundamental purpose...
[of national parks] is to
conserve the scenery and the
natural and historic objects
and the wild life therein...
unimpaired for the enjoyment
of future generations.”*

*– NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ORGANIC ACT*



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