

VISITOR RULES

- Kindle fires only in authorized campsites with fire rings and cut no live vegetation.
- Carry out all trash.
- Although hunting is permitted, do not discharge weapons within 300 feet of any picnic area, camping area, parking area, posted trail or other developed area. Loaded firearms are not permitted at campsites or on hiking trails.
- Bureau of Parks and Lands staff may take custody of any personal property left unattended for more than 3 days (unless advance written permission is given).

TRAILS - ON THE WATERWAY

The 76-mile canoe trip (with Class I-III whitewater, appropriate for experienced paddlers) begins at Fifth Machias Lake and reaches tidewater in Machias. The upper reaches of the river, between the five lakes, are narrow and have some stretches of rapids. The trip requires a minimum of six days to do in entirety, but can be split into two three-day trips (paddling the five lakes in the headwaters in one trip and the lower river on a second trip). Less experienced paddlers should engage a guide.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Moose, bear and other large animals are abundant.

- Observe from a safe distance; do not flush wildlife.
- Drive slowly on area roads, particularly at times of low light.
- Food must be securely stowed when camping.
- Tents must be kept free of food and food odors.

Cell phone's should not be counted on in an emergency as coverage is spotty to non-existent. Have a back-up plan in place.

Logging trucks frequent area roads. Watch out for them and:

- Pull over and stop for trucks regardless of which direction they're headed as they have the right of way.
- Avoid roads that are too narrow for two vehicles.
- Do not block side roads or stop in a spot with poor visibility.
- Be prepared for rugged gravel roads (dusty, washouts): travel slowly and carry a spare tire.

Trailerable and hand-carry boat launches are highly variable.

- Online sortable listing: www.maine.gov/dacf/boatlaunches

Eurasian Milfoil is an aquatic invasive.

- Clean all watercraft before they are launched and after retrieval. FMI: www.maine.gov/dep/water/invasives/

WHEN TO VISIT

- Paddlers travel the Machias River in May or early June (when water levels are adequate most years). The upper lakes can be paddled throughout the summer given moderate rainfall. Be prepared for black flies and mosquitoes in May and June.
- Fishermen and guides visit the long popular Fifth through First Machias Lakes, particularly during the spring run-off.
- Campers and ATV riders enjoy the corridor all summer,
- Hunters arrive in October and November.
- During the winter roads along the corridor are unplowed so only accessed by snowmobiles.

NEARBY DESTINATIONS

The Machias River runs through the heart of the Downeast-Acadia Region (www.downeastacadia.com) that encompasses Hancock and Washington Counties and represents the easternmost corner of the United States. Nearby destinations include:

- **Farm Cove Community Forest:** owned and managed by Downeast Lakes Land Trust, is a 33,000 acre expanse of conserved woodlands surrounding eight entire lakes west of Grand Lake Stream.
- **Rocky Lake Public Lands** offers 10,000 acres well suited to canoeing, fishing, and backcountry camping.
- **Roque Bluffs State Park** has a long pebble beach, hiking trails, picnic tables, playground and freshwater pond.
- **Duck Lake Public Lands** west of Grand Lake Stream encompasses 29,000 acres of woods and lakefront offering backcountry camping and fishing.

For additional hiking opportunities, see the *Cobscook Trails* guide available at area stores and from Downeast Coastal Conservancy (207-255-4500 or www.downeastcoastalconservancy.org).

PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

The Nature Conservancy, Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission, and Downeast Lakes Land Trust were key partners in achieving this ambitious conservation project, and passing protective easements to the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands for long-term stewardship. Major funders of the easement purchase included The Conservation Fund, Federal Forest Legacy Program, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, and Land for Maine's Future Program. Other project partners included the Machias River Watershed Council, Atlantic Salmon Federation, Quoddy Regional Land Trust, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Trout Unlimited, Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, International Paper Company and Project Share. This brochure was made possible in part by funding assistance through the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program, administered by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands.

