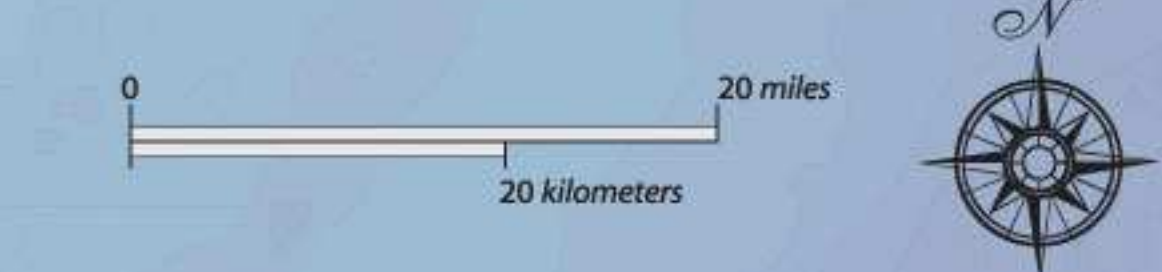


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**Key to Features**

- Public Reserved Land
- State Park
- State Historic Site
- City or Town
- Appalachian Trail
- Northern Forest Canoe Trail
- BPL Property
- Other Conserved Land



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# Recreational Guide to Public Reserved Lands

## Aroostook County

**Deboullie (A-3)**

Deboullie's low yet rugged mountains and scenic trout ponds await visitors to this 22,000-acre property. Hiking trails and pond-side campsites make for memorable destinations, and visitors can find ample open space and pristine waters to explore. Snowmobilers frequently pass through the unit on their way from Eagle Lake to the Allagash.

**Eagle Lake (A-3)**

Eagle Lake Public Reserved Land consists of 24,000 acres that includes most of the shoreline along Eagle Lake's eastern half. Located south of Fort Kent, next to the Town of Eagle Lake, it includes the thoroughfare connecting the Eagle and Square Lake.

**Round Pond (A-3)**

The public reserved land at Round Pond takes its name from a 744-acre pond within Allagash River known as Round Pond. Canoeists from the river can stretch their legs on the Round Pond Mountain hiking trail. This 20,000 acre parcel straddles both shores of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway and is a popular hunting area in the fall.

**Salmon Brook (A-4) Lake Bog**

Located in the Aroostook County town of Perham, 1,857-acre Salmon Lake Brook Bog is a unique ecological area with extensive wetlands. It is accessed via a trail spur from the Bangor & Aroostook multi-use trail. A new hiking trail and picnic site have been established on unit as well.

**Scopan (B-4)**

Located between Presque Isle and Ashland, this 16,700-acre parcel contains some of the most rugged terrain in this part of the state, including Scopan Mountain (1,400 ft). This forested area, bordering a U-shaped lake, attracts visitors who enjoy snowmobiling and ATV riding on more than 40 miles of motorized trails, as well as hunting, fishing, and water-access camping in a semi-remote setting.

## The Maine Highlands

**Big Spencer (C-3)**

Flat-topped Big Spencer Mountain (3,230 feet) rises prominently from the forests northeast of Spencer Bay on Moosehead Lake's eastern shore. The 4,242-acre parcel is ecologically important for Bicknell's thrush, a bird species of special concern. A single trail to the summit is slightly under two miles in distance, one-way, and affords vast views in all directions.

**Bradley (D-3)**

At just under 10,000 acres, the Bradley Public Lands north and east of Bangor/Brewer provide important habitat and motorized trail linkages. Extensive wetlands are found here and support a variety of plant and animal species.

**Chamberlain Lake (B-3)**

Chamberlain Lake is a group of public land parcels abutting the large lakes forming the southern end of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. Canoeists can access the hiking trail to the lower atop Allagash Mountain to enjoy fine views of the sprawling lakes and forests. Paddlers and snowmobilers alike visit the historic logging tramway linking Chamberlain and Eagle Lakes.

**Gero Island (B-3)**

Gero Island is a large island in Chesuncook Lake. The water access campsites on the shore are popular with anglers and canoeists paddling the West Branch of the Penobscot River (Penobscot River Corridor). This parcel of public land also includes most of historic Chesuncook Village on the mainland.

**Little Moose (C-2)**

Located west of Greenville, the Little Moose Public Lands cover more than 15,000 acres in Moosehead Junction and Big Moose Townships. The property includes most of the Little Moose Mountain Range with its steep slopes, rocky streams, and remote ponds. The Big Moose Mountain Trail leads to an impressive view of the Moosehead region. In addition to hiking, visitors can enjoy snowmobiling, fishing, hunting, and camping in this remote setting.

**Moosehead Lake (C-2)**

Moosehead Lake includes Sugar Island and most of the shore in Days Academy and Kineo Townships. There are dozens of boat access campsites on the islands and eastern shore of Maine's largest lake. Hiking trails provide visitors access to the spectacular views from the summit of Mount Kineo. Boats may be launched at several locations on the lake including Lily Bay State Park and Rockwood. Open-water and ice fishing are storied activities at Moosehead.

**Nahmakanta (C-3)**

Nahmakanta encompasses more than 43,000 acres and is the largest tract in the public reserved lands system. The Appalachian Trail crosses the property following the shore of Nahmakanta Lake. In total, more than 35 miles of backcountry trails await hikers. Lakeshore campsites accessible by canoe provide destinations for water-based camping. A popular snowmobile trail linking Millinocket and Greenville crosses this public land.

**Scraggly Lake (B-3)**

Scraggly Lake is the centerpiece of this 10,000-acre unit located northeast of Baxter State Park. The unit is comprised of gently rolling, heavily forested land, with numerous ponds, brooks and bogs, which provide a diverse range of habitats that host more than 200 of Maine's indigenous species of wildlife. Fishing, hunting, camping, and hiking are popular activities.

**Seboeis Lake (C-3)**

Seboeis contains a considerable amount of shoreline on two large lakes located south of Millinocket. Campers and day visitors to this 13,000-acre parcel enjoy fishing and impressive views of the nearby mountains, including Katahdin. Snowmobilers pass through in winter, traveling from Milo to Medway.

**Telos (B-3)**

Telos is a 23,000-acre property that surrounds Telos Lake and the southern end of Chamberlain Lake, the most popular starting point for canoeists traveling the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. Campsites are located on Coffeol Pond, which is popular with anglers.

**Wassataquoik (C-3)**

Wassataquoik features several miles of scenic shoreline on the East Branch of the Penobscot River and Wassataquoik Stream. Primitive campsites are available on the stream shore.

## Downeast & Acadia

**Amherst Mountains Community Forest (D-4)**

The Amherst Mountains Community Forest is a 4,974-acre parcel with recreation trails and ecologically important forestland surrounding six ponds in the town of Amherst. Wildlife, including Peregrine falcons, brook trout, deer, bear, partridge, and woodcock thrive here; and thousands of migratory birds arrive each spring to nest on these lands. Forest management on the property is practiced in partnership with the Town of Amherst to the benefit of local and regional economies.

**Cutler Coast (D-5)**

Those seeking a taste of wilderness along Maine's coast will enjoy exploring the Cutler Coast Public Lands. The property is a 12,234-acre expanse of blueberry barrens, woodlands, and peatlands with 4.5 miles of headlands (interspersed by pocket coves and cobble beaches) overlooking the Bay of Fundy. Hikers can enjoy 10 miles of trails, three remote tent sites, and spectacular views from the property's steep cliffs—part of the dramatic "Bold Coast" that extends from Cutler to Lubec.

**Donnell Pond (D-4)**

Donnell Pond includes more than 14,000 acres of remote forestland with crystal clear lakes, secluded ponds, and rugged mountains with panoramic views. Hiking, swimming, paddling, camping, and fishing are favorite activities on this property located in Hancock County between Franklin and Cherryfield. The 85-mile Downeast Sunrise Trail runs through southern segments of the Donnell Pond Public Lands.

**Duck Lake (D-4)**

Located in northern Hancock County, Duck Lake comprises more than 27,000 acres of forested land with gently rolling terrain and many lakes, streams, and wetlands. Visitors enjoy fishing, camping, boating, swimming and snowmobiling in this semi-remote area.

**Great Heath (D-4)**

Great Heath in Washington County includes the Pleasant River where it flows through the center of a large peat bog. Adventurous canoeists can experience meandering flat water paddling interspersed with frequent beaver dams.

**Machias River (D-4) Corridor**

The Machias River, one of Maine's most renowned waterways, flows for 76 miles from Fifth Machias Lake to tidewater in downtown Machias. The State oversees stewardship and recreational use along its nearly unbroken shoreline, thanks to a remarkable effort that has protected more than 60,000 acres in the Machias River watershed, the country's largest self-sustaining wild Atlantic salmon run.

**Rocky Lake (D-5)**

With 11,000 acres of woodlands and wetlands bordering three lakes near East Machias, the Rocky Lake Public Lands provide opportunities for boating, camping, and fishing in a wildlife-rich setting. Although most of the property borders Rocky and Second Lakes, BPL also manages 117 acres and a day-use area on Patrick Lake, three miles east of Rocky Lake.

## Kennebec & Moose River Valleys

**Dead River (D-2)**

Dead River encompasses several miles of shoreline on Flagstaff Lake and the first few miles of the Dead River after it leaves the lake. Visitors enjoy camping at the lake's sites, accessible by boat, and at the vehicle accessible campground at Big Eddy.

**Holeb (C-1)**

Holeb's popular three-day canoe trip carries visitors through the heart of 20,000 acres of public reserved land in western Maine. Several class I and II rapids can be either run or portaged, and a scenic waterfall highlights the trip in this remote area. Moose and loons accentuate the special character found at Holeb, as wildlife watchers are kept busy viewing the more than 200 species found here.

**Kennebec Highlands (D-2)**

The Kennebec Highlands is comprised of over 5,800 acres of public land in northwest Kennebec County and southeastern Franklin County. It includes Kennebec County's highest elevations—McGaffey and Vienna Mountains—numerous streams and wetlands, and five undeveloped ponds. Managed collaboratively with the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance, the Kennebec Highlands provides trails and open space-based recreation close to numerous population centers.

**Seboomook Lake (C-2)**

The State's 41,436 acres of gently rolling hills and forests around Canada Falls and Seboomook Lake offer remote recreation opportunities, including hunting (deer, moose, bear, grouse and woodcock), fishing (wild brook trout and landlocked salmon), boating (the start of the Penobscot River Corridor), wildlife watching and challenging whitewater paddling on the South Branch of the Penobscot River. Primitive campsites border the rivers and lakes, providing family camping opportunities and base camps for boating and fishing excursions. Two private lodging options exist for those who prefer less rustic options.

## Maine Lakes & Mountains

**Bald Mountain (D-1)**

Covering 1,900 acres, Bald Mountain offers scenic views of Rangeley, Cupsuptic and Mooselookmeguntic Lakes and the Height of Land. A one-mile hike rising 950 vertical feet leads to an observation tower and spectacular views of the Rangeley Lakes Region. Hardwood and boreal forest habitats attract a diversity of bird species to observe and hear.

**Bigelow Preserve (D-2)**

The Bigelow Preserve includes over 36,000 acres of public land and encompasses the entire Bigelow Range, which includes seven summits. The highest of these at 4,150 feet is West Peak, one of only 10 Maine summits over 4,000 feet in elevation. Crossed by nearly 18 miles of the Appalachian Trail and 15 miles of official AT side trails, Bigelow Preserve is a major hiking destination. Bounded on the north by 20,000-acre Flagstaff Lake, the preserve also offers many opportunities for four-season outdoor recreation.

**Chain of Ponds (C-1)**

The Chain of Ponds Public Reserved Lands includes Natanis, Long, Bag, and Lower Ponds, which are joined by short thoroughfares to form the "chain." History abounds here, as it was once part of Benedict Arnold's route for an ill-fated attack on the British at Quebec. The parcel includes frontage on each of the ponds and offers lake shore camping at primitive remote sites. A privately operated commercial campground on Natanis Lake is connected to a regional ATV trail system.

**Four Ponds (D-1)**

Four Ponds lies east of Mooselookmeguntic Lake and the Height of Land on the Rangeley Lakes Scenic Byway. The Appalachian Trail traverses the length of this 6,000-acre property with a lean-to at Sabbath Day Pond and a campsite at Little Swift River Pond. Fishing and swimming are popular activities. Winter visitors pass through on snowmobiles heading from Rangeley to Weld.

**Mahoosuc (D-1)**

The Mahoosuc Public Lands, together with interlocked Grafton Notch State Park, are a premier recreational destination lying amidst some of Maine's most spectacular mountains—the Mahoosuc Range. These lands offer rugged terrain for backcountry hiking and include 12 of the most challenging miles along the entire Appalachian Trail. Hikers who negotiate the steep summit trails are rewarded with spectacular views. Those who seek tamer adventures can find short walks leading to impressive waterfalls and gorges as well as opportunities for nature photography and wildlife watching.

**Mount Abraham (D-2)**

Mount Abraham's summit forms an extensive treeless ridge supporting some of Maine's largest alpine habitat outside of Baxter State Park. Three different types of alpine communities are present, and together these rare communities provide habitat for six rare plant species. Hiking trails link this unique mountain setting with the Appalachian Trail.

**Richardson (D-1)**

Located in the scenic Rangeley Lakes Region of western Maine, the 22,000-acre Richardson Public Lands includes 21 miles of shoreline on Richardson and Mooselookmeguntic Lakes, as well as frontage on several small ponds. The lakes are part of the 740-mile long, multi-state Northern Forest Canoe Trail.

**Tumbledown (D-1)**

More than 10,000 acres of state-owned public lands and state-held easements protect the Tumbledown Mountain Range. Tumbledown Mountain, with an alpine pond near the summit and several trail routes, is the most popular destination, but surrounding lands offer many other attractions for hikers, hunters, and other outdoor enthusiasts.

## Mid-Coast/Greater Portland & Casco Bay/The Maine Beaches

**Dodge Point (E-2)**

Dodge Point, located on the western shore of the Damariscotta River, encompasses 521 acres in the Town of Newcastle and boasts over 8,000 feet of river frontage. Outdoor recreational activities abound here including hiking, cross-country skiing, skating, swimming, and fishing. This well-managed forest bears the distinction of being named the State of Maine's 1978 Tree Farm of the Year and is managed collaboratively with the Damariscotta River Association.

**Pineland (E-2)**

Located on both sides of Route 231, Pineland includes more than 600 acres in New Gloucester, Gray, and North Yarmouth. This rolling land with its forests and agricultural fields once supplied the needs of the Pineland Center, which it surrounds. Now, this tract of undeveloped land helps fill the growing need for open space and outdoor recreation in populous Cumberland County.

### KEY TO RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- ATV Riding
- Boating
- Fishing
- Hunting
- Snowmobiling
- Swimming
- Biking (Gravel roads)
- Camping
- Hiking
- Paddling
- Snowshoeing
- Wildlife Watching
- Bird Watching
- Cross-country skiing
- Horseback Riding (Gravel roads)
- Picnicking

Find detailed property information at: [www.parksandlands.com](http://www.parksandlands.com)  
Search for non-motorized trails at: [www.MaineTrailFinder.com](http://www.MaineTrailFinder.com)

### What Are Public Reserved Lands?

Public reserved lands offer something for everyone. They provide the perfect backdrop for activities such as camping, hiking, cross-country skiing, hunting and fishing as well as motorized recreation like snowmobiling and ATV riding.

Public reserved lands ranging in size from 500 to more than 43,000 acres and include numerous, smaller scattered lots. Combined, there are more than 590,000 acres of public lands managed by the Bureau of Parks & Lands across the state. Generally fees are not charged to visit these lands. The funds generated from careful timber management cover the cost of managing recreational use. In a few instances, units are managed in cooperation with neighboring landowners or managers, such as North Maine Woods, Inc. and fees are collected.

Visitors to public reserved lands need to be prepared for a rugged, remote backcountry experience. Unpaved private roads provide access to many of these backcountry recreation areas, and public reserved lands are not staffed the same way as state parks or historic sites are. You are encouraged visit BPL's website where more detailed information can be found for each public reserved land featured in this map and guide. Follow the "Find Parks and Lands" link from [www.parksandlands.com](http://www.parksandlands.com).

### Purchasing Land for the Public

Two programs provide a majority of the funds for the acquisition of public reserved lands – the state funded Land for Maine's Future (LMF) Program and the federally funded Forest Legacy Program.

LMF was created in 1987 when citizens voiced their desire to have Maine's most special places held forever in the public trust for all to enjoy. The Maine Legislature created the LMF Program to secure "the traditional Maine heritage of public access to Maine's land and water resources or continued quality and availability of natural resources important to the interests and continued heritage of Maine people." Five bonds supporting the LMF Program with a total of \$122 million over 20 years have passed by overwhelming margins.

Since its creation, the Program has assisted in the acquisition of more than 510,000 acres from willing sellers, including 247,000 acres protected through conservation easements, much of which is managed as public reserved land.

Maine's Forest Legacy Program was established in 1994 at the culmination of the work of the congressionally mandated Northern Forest Lands Council. The Council identified over thirty-five actions to reinforce the Northern Forest region's traditional patterns of land ownership and use, the first of which was to ensure the consistent and adequate funding by Congress of the Forest Legacy Program. This recommendation came at a time when both public and private efforts were growing to protect forestland in Maine from conversion to non-forest uses. To date more than \$50 million has been awarded to the Maine for the acquisition of nearly 675,000 acres of public reserved land.

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*"From Deboullie to Nahmakanta to Cutler Coast, Scraggly Lake to Duck Lake and the Unknowns, Maine provides a diverse offering of public lands. Just about any recreational activity you can think of is available and few activities are not allowed."* -Tom Hanrahan

Read more about Tom's adventures on public reserved lands in his book: *Your Maine Lands: Reflections of a Maine Guide*

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