

BIGELOW PRESERVE & FLAGSTAFF LAKE

PUBLIC LANDS

GUIDE & MAP

A National Natural Landmark renowned for its scenic views, AT connection, and lakeside camping.

THE KENNEBEC VALLEY AND MAINE LAKES AND MOUNTAINS REGIONS

DIRECTIONS

Access to Bigelow Preserve is gained over gravel roads off Route 27 in Carrabasset Valley, and by the Long Falls Dam Road from North New Portland.

Lat 45.108027, Lon -70.365374

ONLINE INFORMATION

- www.maine.gov/bigelowpreserve
- Online information for all Maine Parks and Lands sites: www.parksandlands.com
- Camping at State Park Campgrounds: www.campwithme.com
- Boat Launch Listing: www.maine.gov/dacf/boatlaunches

CONTACTS

Western Public Lands
Bureau of Parks and Lands
P.O. Box 327 / 129 Main Street
Farmington, ME 04938
207-778-8231
www.maine.gov/bigelowpreserve

Franklin County Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 123 / 615 Wilton Road
Farmington, ME 04938
207-778-4215
www.franklincountymaine.org

Somerset County
41 Court Street
Skowhegan, ME 04976
207-474-9861
www.somersetcounty-me.org



SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Know applicable laws.**
- The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) Warden Service does search-and-rescue operations and enforces state fish and game laws, boating laws (on inland waters), and ATV and snowmobile laws. To learn more about applicable laws and to purchase appropriate licenses, visit www.maine.gov/ifw.
- Help stop the spread of invasive species.**
- Eurasian Milfoil is an aquatic invasive.
 - Clean all watercraft before they are launched and after retrieval. FMI: www.maine.gov/dep/water/invasives/
 - Buy only local firewood, do not transport out of state firewood. FMI: www.maine.gov/forestinvasives
- Cell phones should not be counted on in an emergency.**
- Coverage is generally poor and spotty in this area, so have a backup plan.
- 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.



TRAILHEADS

- Fire Warden's Trailhead:** Access off Stratton Brook Pond Road (gravel, northward) from Rte.16/27. Trailhead is 2 miles down road and 1/4 mile west of the Pond.
- Little Bigelow Trailhead:** Starting from North New Portland follow the Long Falls Dam Road 17.4 miles north to East Flagstaff Road (gravel, left turn). Parking is on the right just before the A.T. crosses the road at about 1.0 mile. Additional parking, on the left, is just beyond the trailhead.
- ME Route 16/27- AT Trailhead:** From Kingfield drive 18 miles northwest on ME Route 16/27 (Carrabasset Drive). From Stratton drive 5.2 miles east on ME Route 16/27. Trailhead parking is west of ME Route 16/27
- Range Trailhead:** Access off Route 16/27 on Currie Street (opposite the town ball field) 0.8 miles south of the center of Stratton. Follow Currie Street to its end 0.7 miles to parking and trailhead.
- Safford Brook Trailhead:** Use the Little Bigelow directions above to E. Flagstaff Rd. then continue on road for about 4.5 miles to an open sandy parking area. The Round Barn campsites are accessed by a right turn just after this trailhead.

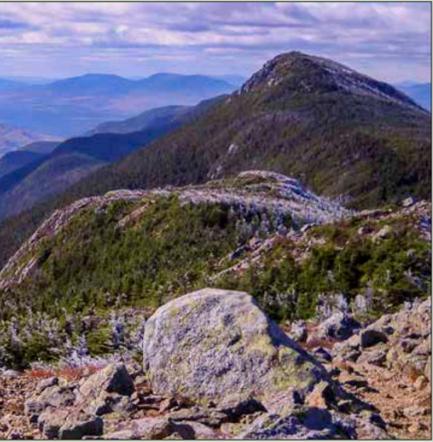
VISITOR RULES

- Fires** Kindle fires only in authorized campsites with fire rings. Do not cut live vegetation.
- Pets** Pets in campsites must be leashed and attended; outside of campsites, pets must be under control.
- Trash** Carry out all trash.
- Firearms** Do not discharge weapons within 300 feet of any picnic area, camping area, parking area, marked hiking trail or other developed area. Loaded firearms are not permitted at campsites or on hiking trails.
- Fishing** All those fishing must have a valid license and review the State's open water fishing regulations. Fishermen are asked to use lead-free sinkers and jigs to prevent metal poisoning of loons, eagles and other wildlife. www.maine.gov/ifw/
- Power Equipment** Use no chainsaws, generators or other power equipment around campsites.
- Limit of Stay** Campers may not exceed a 14-day stay in a 45-day period
- Abandoned Property** 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).

PROPERTY HISTORY

- 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

- Pet owners should exercise caution**
- Trappers are permitted to use Maine Public Lands so be careful with your pets.
- Be a responsible visitor and Leave No Trace**
- Learn more at www.lnt.org



PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

- The Bigelow Mountain Preserve was established by public referendum in a June 1976. In March of 1976 the J.M. Huber Corporation gifted 5,261 acres on Bigelow Mountain. An additional 8,465 acres was acquired with the help of the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund in 1978. Several large purchases were made during the 1980's & 90's to bring the Preserve to its current size of over 36,000 acres.
- Maine Appalachian Trail Club (MATC) maintains the AT and official blue-blazed side trails and supports a Horns Pond caretaker program.
 - Maine Huts & Trails provides additional area trails, including a groomed cross-country ski trail; and a hiking trail that connects their Poplar Stream Falls and Flagstaff Huts.
 - Carrabasset Region Chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA) maintains the Esker Trail.
 - Western Mountains Corporation plans to connect Coburn Gore to Kingfield through the Bigelow Preserve.
 - Flagstaff Area ATV Club has a small connector trail through a portion of the lands not within the Preserve.
 - Arnold Trail Snowmobile Network Inc. and the J.V. Wing Snowmobile Club maintain a local trails.
 - Brookfield White Pine Hydro LLC partnered with the Bureau to upgrade camping and day use sites on Flagstaff Lake.
 - Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) performs natural resource inventories and monitoring.
 - AmeriCorps members, including Maine Conservation Corps, have provided support to recreation management.

This brochure was made possible in part by funding assistance through the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program (RTP), administered by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands.



Old circa 1936 CCC day use lean-to at Horns Pond.

OVERVIEW

Located in western Maine just east of the village of Stratton about 40 miles north of Farmington, Bigelow Preserve includes over 36,000 acres of Public Land. The preserve 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. Bounded on the north by 20,000-acre Flagstaff Lake, the preserve offers many opportunities for outdoor recreation.

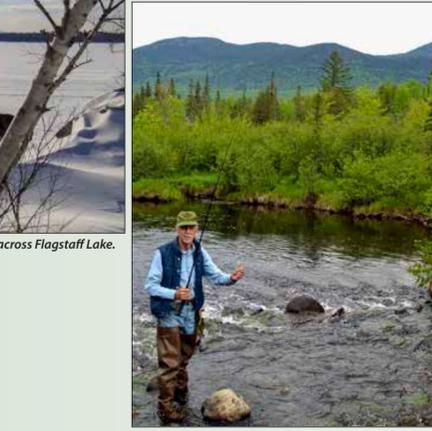
Flagstaff Lake is part of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, an historic 740-mile water trail through New York, Vermont, Quebec, New Hampshire, and Maine.

Bigelow Mountain is designated as a National Natural Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Flagstaff lake covers what was, more than 50 years ago, the villages of Dead River and Flagstaff, and the Dead River Plantation. Legislative approval for a dam was given in the 1920s. It was not until the late 1940s that the dam was built and during the autumn of 1949 the water level was allowed to rise to cover the towns.



Sunset on Flagstaff Lake.



REGIONAL DESTINATIONS

The Bigelow Preserve and Flagstaff Lake lie on the border of the Kennebec Valley and Maine Lakes & Mountains Regions. Destinations include:

- Chain of Ponds** includes Natanis, Long, Bag, and Lower Ponds joined by short thoroughfares to form the "chain". Lake shore camping available. Access by Route 27 north of Stratton. www.maine.gov/chainofponds
- Holeb Public Lands** popular three-day canoe Moose River "Bow Trip" carries visitors through the heart of this 20,000 acres in western Maine. Several class I and II rapids can be either run or portaged, and a spectacular waterfall highlights the trip in this remote area. Moose and loons accentuate the special character of Holeb, as wildlife watchers are kept busy viewing the more than 200 species found here. www.maine.gov/holeb
- Rangeley Lake State Park** is located in an area famous for trout and landlocked salmon fishing and offers some of the most beautiful scenery in the state. Well-spaced campsites, hot showers, and a diversity of recreational opportunities await. www.maine.gov/rangeleylake

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

- Maine Huts & Trails** is a nonprofit organization that creates and operates backcountry trails and eco-lodges in Maine's Western Mountain region. www.mainehuts.org
- Narrow Gauge Pathway** is a 6-mile trail for non-motorized use extending between Access Rd. and Huston Brook Rd. Map and complete description at www.carrabassetvalley.org
- Northern Forest Canoe Trail** an historic 740-mile water trail through New York, Vermont, Quebec, New Hampshire, and Maine. www.northernforestcanoetrail.org



WHEN TO VISIT

This is a popular three-season recreation area, with spring being the only time when there are few visitors. The Appalachian Trail (AT) and other trails as well as fishing, swimming, and camping offer a variety of outdoor activities at the Preserve.

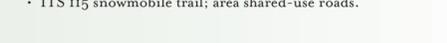
- Spring** Brings the least visitors; be prepared for wet conditions, late snow and unstable ice. Be alert for bears with cubs; expect black flies.
- Summer** Hikers enjoy the scenic vistas, diversity of trails, and testing their mettle on the AT.
- Autumn** Fall foliage is spectacular most years and can be viewed from the road or trails. Hikers you meet on the AT may be through-hiking enroute to Mt Kathadin. Wear blaze orange during hunting season.
- Winter** Snowshoers and cross-country skiers find beauty and solitude on the trails and unplowed roads. Snowmobilers travel over 25 miles of designated trails. (The Bureau does not encourage riding on lakes because of potential hazards).

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BIGELOW PRESERVE & FLAGSTAFF LAKE PUBLIC LANDS

Bigelow Preserve & Flagstaff Lake

- Trails and Interest Points**
- Hiking Trail
 - Appalachian Trail (A)
 - ATV Trail
 - Snowmobile Trail
 - Multi-use Trail (ATV & Snowmobile)
 - Cross-country Ski Trail
 - Mountain Bike Trail
 - Northern Forest Canoe Trail
 - Maine Hut Trail (Hike, Snowshoe, Bike, Ski)
 - P** Parking
 - TL** Boat Launch, Trailerable*
 - TH** Boat Launch, Hand-carry*
 - PA** Picnic Area
 - TA** Tent Site (Number of Sites)
 - TA** Tent Site (Permit Required)
 - LA** Lean-to (Number of Sites)
 - GA** Group Tent Site (Number of Sites)
 - OV** Overlook
- Transportation**
- Major road, Highway
 - Secondary Road, Street
 - Gravel Road
 - Gate
 - Barrier
- Land Designations**
- BPL Land
 - Other Conservation Land
 - Ecological Reserve
- * Trailerable and hand-carry boat launches are highly variable. Use the Online Sortable Boat Launch Listing: www.maine.gov/dacf/boatlaunches

ATV & SNOWMOBILE TRAILS

ATVs are prohibited within Bigelow Preserve. Shared-use roads provide access for ATVs, snowmobiling, horseback riding, and mountain biking and are signed with the designated recreational uses. Be prepared to encounter both pedestrians and vehicles. The Bureau does not encourage riding on frozen lakes because of potential hazards.

Bureau's Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office: (207) 287-4957. Within Maine Only: 1-800-462-1019.

Campsite Latitude / Longitudes			
Avery Col 45.1462, -70.2818	Horns Pond 45.1437, -70.329	Myers Lodge East 45.1886, -70.4152	School House Point 45.2196, -70.3567
Big Eddy 45.2310, -70.1954	Hurricane Island 45.1957, -70.2695	Myers Lodge West 45.1885, -70.4195	State Site 45.2067, -70.2828
Bigelow East Shore North 45.1467, -70.1714	Little Bigelow 45.1394, -70.1931	Parson's Brook 45.1729, -70.2513	Stratton Brook Pond - E. 45.1144, -70.3268
Boom Shack 45.1710, -70.4242	Little Bigelow Gravel Pit 45.1353, -70.1713	Round Barn 45.1687, -70.2347	Stratton Brook Pond - W. 45.1140, -70.3290
Cranberry Stream 45.1237, -70.3472	Long Falls Dam 45.2150, -70.1890	Safford Notch 45.1432, -70.2606	Trout Brook North 45.1735, -70.4120
Ferry Farm 45.1786, -70.2544	Moose Falls 45.1423, -70.2883	Savage Farm 45.1903, -70.4062	Trout Brook South 45.1729, -70.4139

Campsites are primitive. Each authorized site has a fire ring, picnic table, and privy. Sites shown with white icons require a fire permit.

HIKING TRAILS

Hikers can choose from many one-day or multi-day hikes on 30 miles of the white-blazed Appalachian Trail and the blue-blazed side trails. A popular, though strenuous, day-hiking loop runs via the Fire Warden's Trail, Appalachian Trail, and Horns Pond Trail for a total of 12.3 miles. This loop includes several scenic vistas and Old Man's Head, a point of interest just below Avery Peak on a southward spur off the AT.

Appalachian Trail (AT) (strenuous/difficult, 17.6 miles) traverses the seven peaks of the Bigelow Mountain range along 17.6 miles of this National Scenic Trail. This classic ridge walk includes significant elevation gain and loss. Eastern section is commonly referred to as the Little Bigelow Trail, a moderate to difficult route passing a lean-to, a series of pools, plus wonderful views of the Bigelow Range. In addition there are 14.8 miles of blue-blazed side trails managed as part of the AT system. Access: East Flagstaff Road and Safford Brook Trailheads.

Esker Trail (easy, 4.0 miles) is a flat ungraded single-track forested trail that follows the old 1960's haul road. Built for mountain bikes and maintained by NEMBA. Access: Fire Warden's trailhead.

Fire Warden's Trail (moderate to difficult, 4.6 miles) provides the shortest route to Avery Peak or West Peak from the south side of the Bigelow Range. Follow Stratton Brook Pond Road 0.4 mile east to Stratton Brook and another 0.4 mile east to the fork. Take the north fork (left) 0.3 miles to the old trail-

head clearing. The trail bears northeast along an old tote road and ascends gradually to the intersection with the Horn's Pond Trail. Moose Falls Campsite is located about 1 mile further up the Fire Warden's Trail. Shortly after this the trail ascends steeply for the last 0.7 mile until the Fire Warden's Trail ends at the AT. Access: Stratton Brook Pond Road off Route 16/17.

Range Trail (moderate to difficult, 4.6 miles) begins at the western end of the Bigelow Range on a woodland trail, a gradual climb begins at .3 miles along a wide logging road and

rises to barren ledges at about 2 miles, passing the waterless Arnold's Well, then up the ledges to several views before toping out at Cranberry Peak. The eastward descent is equally short and steep before moderate terrain leads to the north shore of Cranberry Pond before meeting the AT. Access: Currie Street off Route 16/27.

Safford Brook Trail (moderate to difficult, 2.2 miles) climbs gradually through forested lands crossing Safford Brook about 0.7 miles above East Flagstaff Road. The trail progressively

steepens until it reaches the junction with the Appalachian Trail near Safford Notch, an area renowned for its "house-sized" boulders. Access: East Flagstaff Road off Long Falls Dam Road from Route 16.

The Approach Trail (easy, 1.75 miles) follows an old road for an easy 0.25 miles before starting the ascent to the hut and connecting with Maine Huts & Trails routes. Access: Stratton Brook Pond Road off Route 16/27.

