



Enact the Unanimous Recommendations of the Public Reserved Lands Study Commission

Maintain the high quality of Maine's public forests as a resource for all Maine people

Protecting our public forests is an investment in Maine people and our way of life

We owe it to future generations to preserve and enhance the value of Maine's public forests

- Our Public Reserved Lands consist of approximately 600,000 acres of forests in more than 30 separate parcels across the state, including the Bigelow Preserve, Kennebec Highlands, Tumbledown, and Cutler's Bold Coast.
- Public Reserved Lands are enjoyed for their outstanding hiking, camping, birding, fishing, and hunting opportunities.



A bipartisan study commission has issued unanimous recommendations

- In 2015, a bipartisan study commission comprised of legislators and opinion leaders from the forest products industry and recreation sector studied how these lands can be managed to preserve and enhance their significant recreational, economic, and wildlife value into the future.

The Public Reserved Lands Bill captures the recommendations of the study commission by

- requiring a detailed forest inventory every five years, ensuring that state foresters are able to make informed management decisions,
- requiring the Bureau of Parks and Lands to report forest growth and harvest levels for each public land unit to keep state foresters and the public informed on how these lands are managed, and
- creating a grant program to educate new loggers who can help ensure that our public forests will continue to be managed in an exemplary fashion.

The bill helps rural Maine communities by increasing recreation opportunities

- The bill directs the State to identify and prioritize recreation infrastructure needs, such as bridges, trailheads, and signage that will bolster recreation opportunities in our public forests.

The bill improves public access to state forests, including for Mainers with disabilities

- This bill directs the State to identify areas where there is insufficient public access, to help establish priorities for investment to improve public access.
- The bill allocates existing special revenue funding for infrastructure projects that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, allowing all Maine people to enjoy these resources.



Support the Public Reserved Lands Study Commission Bill

For more information, please contact Eliza Donoghue, Natural Resources Council of Maine, 207-430-0118 or eliza@nrcm.org



Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition

is a partnership of 34 environmental, conservation and public health organizations representing over 100,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs and quality of life that our environment provides.

We are counting on Maine policymakers to take the important steps needed to make wise use of Maine's extraordinary environment so Maine people and Maine communities can thrive

Acadia Center	Maine People's Alliance
Appalachian Mountain Club	Maine Public Health Association
Atlantic Salmon Federation	Maine Rivers
Bicycle Coalition of Maine	Maine Wilderness Guides Organization
Conservation Law Foundation	Midcoast Conservancy
Environmental Health Strategy Center	Natural Resources Council of Maine
Environment Maine	Physicians for Social Responsibility Maine Chapter
Friends of Casco Bay	RESTORE: The North Woods
Islesboro Island Trust	Sierra Club, Maine Chapter
Maine Association of Conservation Commissions	Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative
Maine Audubon	The Ocean Conservancy
Maine Center for Economic Policy	The Trust for Public Land
Maine Conservation Alliance	The Wilderness Society
Maine Council of Churches	Toxics Action Center
Maine Council of Trout Unlimited	Upstream
Maine Interfaith Power & Light	350 Maine
Maine Lakes Society	
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association	