Maine
19 million acres – 89% forested
$8.5 billion forest products industry

- 94% privately owned
- 180,000 landowners
- 2/3 land owned by 20 landowners
- Wide range of ownership patterns and habitats
- 6,000 lakes & ponds, 6 major rivers, 32,000 miles of streams
Pingree Family Forest

- ~820,000 acres in northern & western Maine
- Family owned since 1841, 8 generations

Objectives

1. Protect ownership rights and land & timber value
2. Produce stable revenue, comparable over the long term with competitive uses of capital
3. Protect aesthetic values
4. Manage as a commercial forest & provide for multiple use
5. Increase utilization per acre & develop new markets
Hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, canoeing, foraging, snowmobiling...

Adventure racing (hike, bike, paddle)
Bonsai collecting, Gravel grind (bike),
Bee yards (raspberry honey production),
Hotdog wagon on a snowmobile trail,
Winter campsites for dog-sled trips,
Fir tipping, Can Am sled dog race,
Photo fashion shoots, Geocaching,
Military exercises, SCCA sports car rally,
Commemorative plaques, Burials
Public Access Tradition
Open lands policy is unique in Maine

• Custom
• Permission
• Privilege
• Highly valued
Public Understanding, Expectations & Appreciation of Private Land Vary
Knowledge and Acceptance of the Forest Products Industry Ranges.
Land Use Policies

- Camping & fires in designated sites only
- No ATVs, dirt bikes, motorcycles, bicycles, horses on logging roads
- No snowmobiles on plowed roads
- Observe “Rules of the Road” driving
- No rental of camps on recreational leases
- Hike/walk anywhere, no official “trails”
- Traditional uses/uses that “fit” welcome (ask first if policy unknown)
North Maine Woods
A region, an organization, a spirit

• 3.5 million acres
• Management of public recreation in concert with timber management
• Uniform policies, fees
• Visitor safety and guidance
• Welcome those who come, no advertising
• Info & education – receptionists, brochure
• National recognition, unique
Campgrounds/ Remote Camp Sites

Base campground
Remote sites in geographic area/watershed

• Meets public demand for camping & water access, variety of opportunities
• Livelihood for campground facility owner
• Income to land owner, local jobs
• Resource protection – fire rings, toilets
Leases, Licenses & Permits
Special Events
As a Result

- Local economy strengthened
- Natural resources protected
- Community benefits: diversified opportunities and jobs
- Forest is productive, remains on tax rolls
What does it take?

• Staff time and money
• Partners
• Technology – in the case of NMW, electronic checkpoints.
• Landowner Liability Law
KEY: Maine’s Liability Law

• One of the strongest in Nation

• Landowner incurs no liability for “recreational or harvesting activities - on land, roads, water, in buildings

• Whether or not land is posted

• State defends, court awards legal fees

• Non-exclusive, non-commercial fees are fine

• Excludes commercial Ag or timber harvesting

• Does not apply in a case of malicious failure to guard or warn against a hazard
The Toughest Challenge

Educating People: It’s an ongoing, never ending effort.
Advice

Recreational users – particularly those whose business depends upon use of private land – should contact landowners first.

Learn and respect their policies. See what uses “fit.”

Don’t over-promote, or expect landowners to change their business significantly to enhance yours.
Communicate, Respect all users.