

STATE OF THE HIGH PEAKS

A REPORT OF OUTDOOR RECREATION
& TRAILS IN **MAINE'S HIGH PEAKS REGION**



HIGH PEAKS

ALLIANCE



HIGH PEAKS INITIATIVE'S BELIEF- PEOPLE SHOULD ALWAYS HAVE ACCESS TO THE OUTDOORS. WE LEAD THE REGION IN CONSERVING LAND, BUILDING AND MAINTAINING TRAILS, AND CONNECTING PEOPLE TO EACH OTHER AND THIS LANDSCAPE. BECAUSE WHEN WE DO, WE BUILD STRONGER COMMUNITIES AND MORE PEOPLE WILL DESIRE TO LIVE, WORK, AND RECREATE IN THIS REGION, BRINGING ECONOMIC VITALITY TO THE AREA.

**A PROJECT OF THE HIGH PEAKS INITIATIVE BY BRENT WEST,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HIGH PEAKS ALLIANCE.
MAPPING DONE BY CENTER FOR COMMUNITY GIS
REPORT DESIGNED BY DESIGNLAB, MILLINOCKET, MAINE**

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INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

The Maine High Peaks Region is rich with opportunities to explore and traverse the thousands of acres of open space that span the most mountainous section of Maine. This area has a long history of outdoor recreation and adventure across a wild landscape which includes 10 of the 14 highest peaks in Maine, vast expanses of working forests, and pristine waters. Access to these natural features has long been made possible through the practice of public access to private lands. This report outlines the various forms of usage and provides a general inventory of trails used by the public in the Maine High Peaks Region. In doing so, it informs various stakeholders of some of the broad opportunities and challenges these trails will likely face in the future.

Nationally, 50% of Americans enjoy outdoor recreation. In Maine, that percentage rises to 70% (OIA, 2017). The Maine Office of Tourism reports 5.56 million visits to the Maine Lakes and Mountains Region every year. To put this into perspective, the U.S. Census Bureau reports approximately one-third of housing units in Franklin County are seasonal or recreational. The trails via which these residents, visitors and other recreationalists explore Maine's High Peaks are core to a sustainable and healthy future for the region. In the Maine High Peaks, there is a sense of identity associated with the community and the natural landscape - numerous businesses and organizations like the High Peaks Artisans Guild, High Peaks Pet Sitting, and the High Peaks Creative Council all utilize the name of the region. The network effect of linking trails allows more people to interact, thus supporting a vibrant, physically and socially active lifestyle.

Trails also promote an economic solution to rural and remote communities. In 2017, the Bureau of Economic Analysis estimated that outdoor recreation made up 4.8% of Maine's GDP. The Outdoor Industry Association estimates that outdoor recreation provides 76,000 direct jobs to Mainers and annually contributes \$8.2 billion dollars to Maine's economy (BEA, 2021). Historically, the region has seen a

diverse mixture of trail groups responsible for the creation and maintenance of trails without coordination of a regional vision or plan. The open source nature of trails in the High Peaks has resulted in an incomplete inventory of the region's infrastructure. Considering all the potential benefits of trails, a coordinated approach is warranted to ensure continued access and the full realization of all the region has to offer. The State of the High Peaks report represents a significant step towards this coordinated approach and will help trail managers, municipalities, the State of Maine, and numerous nonprofits understand and recognize opportunities and challenges involved in creating a recreational destination. To plan for the future, a detailed understanding of the present state of recreation infrastructure in Maine's High Peaks is necessary.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the State of the High Peaks report is to document and map the recreational resources that are found in the High Peaks Region. This project aims to identify all recreational trails in the region and identify the level of protected public access via conserved lands, licenses, or leases for each of the trails. In doing so, this report will establish a baseline outdoor recreation infrastructure census for the High Peaks Region of Maine. By collecting this data on recreational trails, lodging, parking areas, and conservation lands it will allow local, state and regional planners to create a shared vision for investment for the High Peaks Region. Chambers of commerce, economic development groups and statewide reports have indicated that natural resources and tourism are a growth sector for our region (AVCOG, 2018). The report will conclude with recommended next steps for the High Peaks Initiative to best utilize the information for the next phase of on the ground assessments and recommended improvements to Maine's High Peaks recreational infrastructure.

PROCESS

1. The High Peaks Alliance partnered with the Center of Community GIS to document and compile all the trail data for the covered region. There was extensive GPS data collection and analysis to document miles of unmapped motorized trails.
2. This data was then used to create maps by trail type.
3. Supplementary maps were created to document vital resources connected to outdoor recreation and accessibility (conserved lands, overnight accommodations, ecological resources).
4. The maps are supplemented with data and narrative to explain the state of the trails within the High Peaks.

76K
DIRECT JOBS
for Mainer's provided by
outdoor recreation



70%
OF MAINERS
enjoy outdoor recreation

HIGH PEAKS INITIATIVE

OVERVIEW

This report was created through the work done in the High Peaks Initiative (HPI), a regional conservation partnership. The information below was developed by the partners in 2017 to help define the vision of the collaborative.

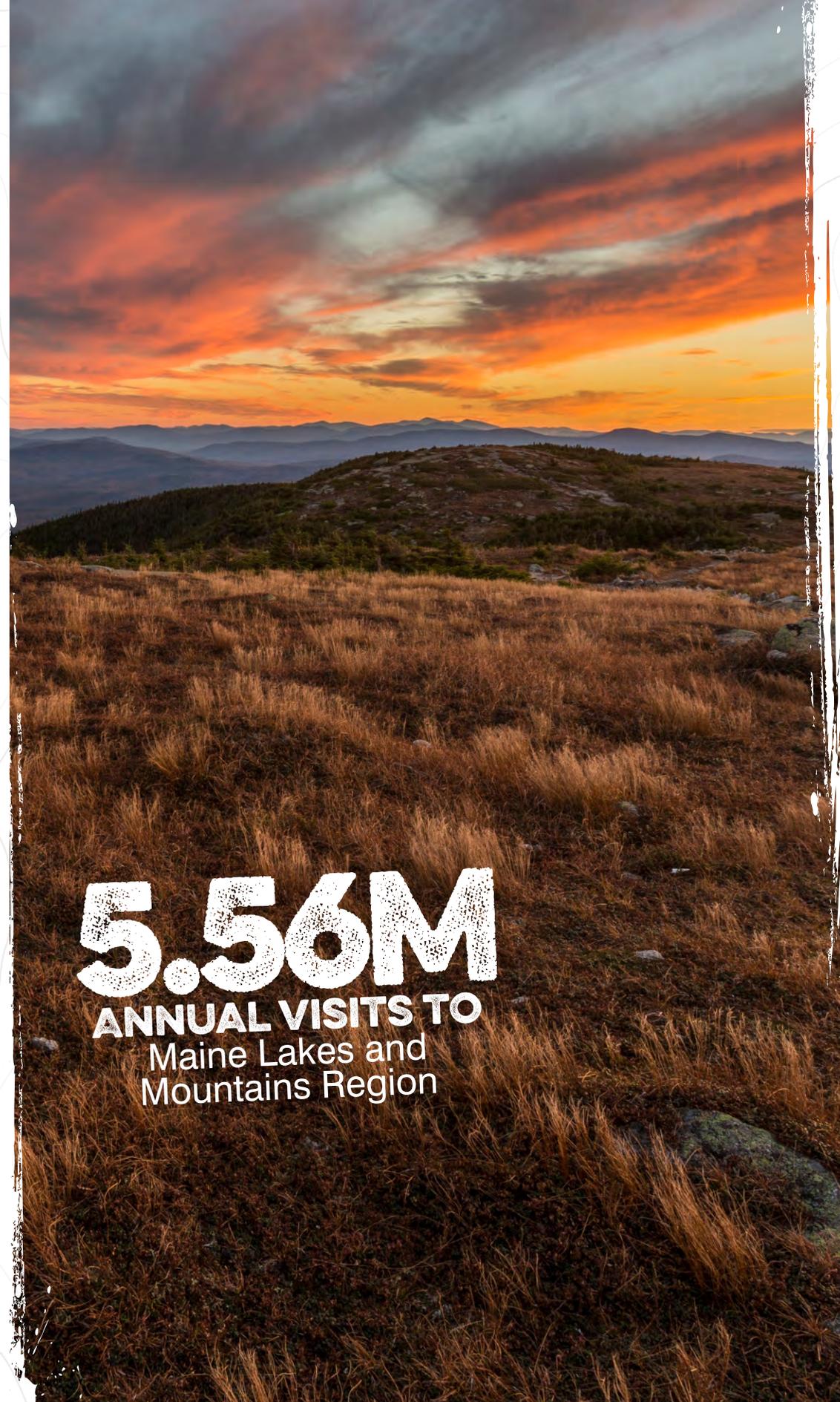
HPI is a collaborative of local, regional, and national organizations working in the High Peaks Region. The mission is to protect important natural resources, secure public access, and support healthy human and natural communities in Maine's High Peaks.

HPI advances its mission through network-based collaborative approaches that:

1. Advance tangible multi-sector projects to deliver near term benefits to people, communities, and the environment
2. Attract resources and implement projects that address persistent challenges and enhance long-term community well-being.

Within this context, HPI partners are currently focused on:

1. A coordinated approach to land conservation, resource management, public access, and recreational use
2. Permanently protecting key pieces of the region's forests through a mix of conservation tools
3. Ensuring a well-managed and maintained regional trails system which provides a quality and safe recreational experience
4. Integrating the region's recreation/conservation infrastructure into the regional and state economy through coordinated efforts which engage partners and stakeholders.



5.56M
ANNUAL VISITS TO
Maine Lakes and
Mountains Region

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. HPI's work is driven by community values and is dependent on a rich understanding of people, place and history.
2. HPI relies on strong relationships, collaboration and shared learning to generate new opportunities and build local capacity.
3. HPI's initiatives rely on local voices, technical expertise, and thoughtful comprehensive planning that cultivates diverse support.

REGIONAL COLLABORATION

The focus area for this project, Maine's High Peaks, is renowned for its vast forest, abundant recreation opportunities, spectacular scenery, and ecological integrity including:

1. 10 of the 14 highest peaks in Maine
2. The largest cluster of peaks over 4,000 feet in elevation in Maine
3. The largest contiguous area of land over 2,700 feet in elevation in Maine
4. The headwaters of the Androscoggin River, Dead River, and Kennebec River, remote lakes and ponds that support native Maine brook trout, and numerous fast-flowing streams that are recognized as prime spawning habitats of the endangered sea-run Atlantic salmon.

Maine's High Peaks Region is recognized in numerous ecological and community planning efforts including:

1. Maine Wildlife Action Plan
2. Beginning with Habitat Program
3. Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture

4. NOAA's Atlantic Salmon Restoration Plan
5. LUPC's Comprehensive Land Use Plan
6. Comprehensive Plan for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail
7. High Peaks Conservation Plan developed by the MATLT
8. High Peaks Backcountry Trail Plan developed by HPA

Recreational infrastructure and capacity includes:

1. Saddleback and Sugarloaf Mountain resorts
2. Maine Huts and Trails
3. The Appalachian National Scenic Trail
4. Northern Forest Canoe Trail
5. Fly Rod Crosby Trail
6. Interconnected Trail System (ITS) network of snowmobile trails
7. Maine Scenic Byway – High Peaks
8. National Scenic Byway – Rangeley Lakes
9. Hundreds of miles of multi-purpose local, regional, and statewide trails
10. Dozens of locally owned small businesses which support and are supported by outdoor enthusiasts that provide guide services, lodging, equipment, supplies and more
11. Thousands of acres of conserved land held by state entities, federal entities, local entities, and conservation organizations protecting traditional public access and uses.

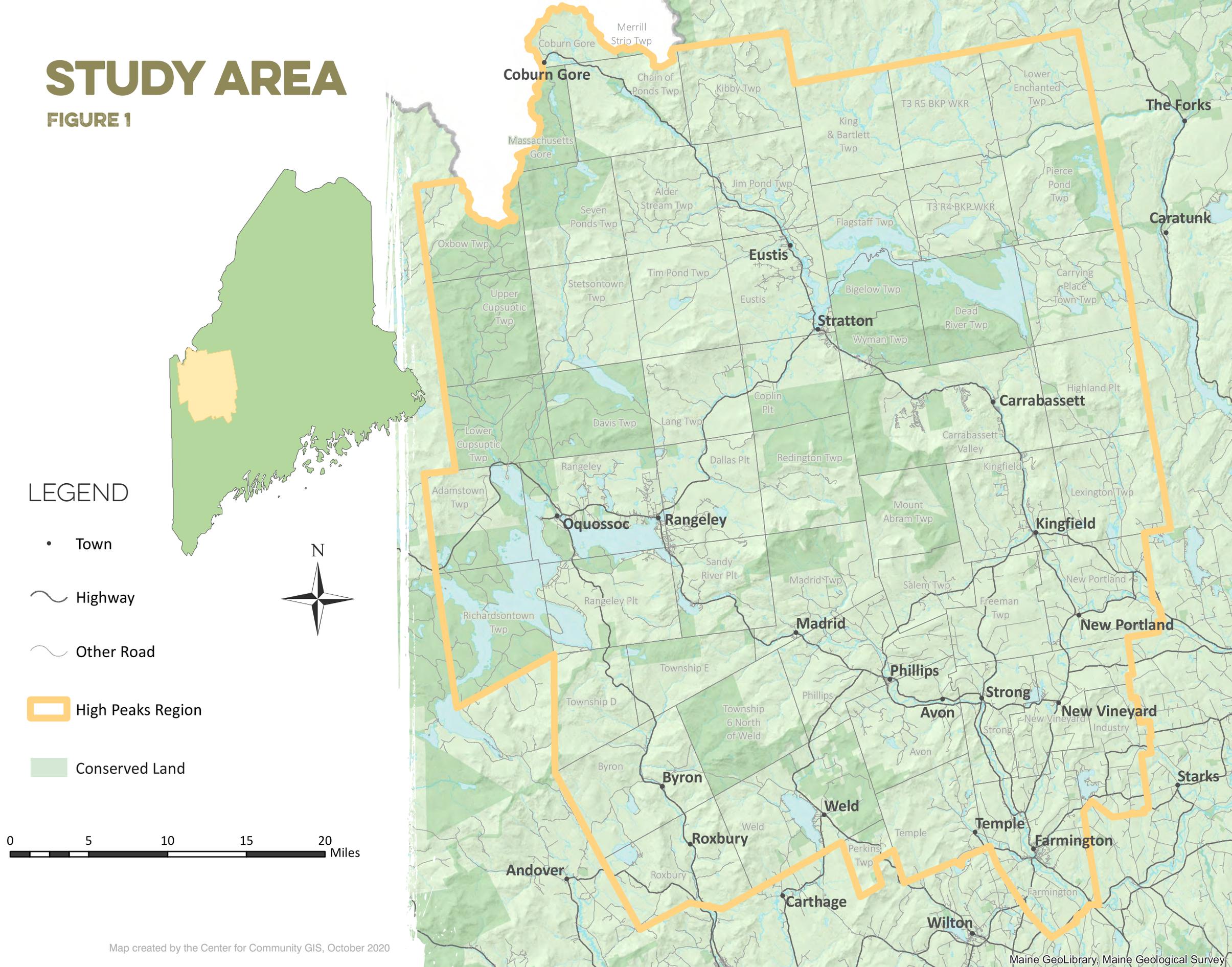
HIGH PEAKS INITIATIVE

PARTNERS

1. HIGH PEAKS ALLIANCE
(CO-COORDINATOR)
2. MAINE APPALACHIAN TRAIL LAND TRUST (CO-COORDINATOR)
3. APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY
4. MAINE MOUNTAIN COLLABORATIVE
5. NEW ENGLAND FORESTRY FOUNDATION
6. NORTHERN FOREST CENTER
7. THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY
8. CENTER FOR COMMUNITY GIS
9. MAINE HUTS AND TRAILS
10. NORTHERN FOREST CANOE TRAIL
11. RANGELEY LAKES HERITAGE TRUST
12. TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND
13. LONGFELLOW MOUNTAIN HERITAGE TRAILS
14. RANGELEY HEALTH AND WELLNESS
15. GREATER FRANKLIN DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
16. U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

STUDY AREA

FIGURE 1



STUDY AREA

GEOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION

The study area for the report is shown in Figure 1 and comprises 1,380,053 acres. This landscape is home to diverse and unique physical and environmental attributes that make the region the focus of numerous local, state and regional assessments. This region was documented in Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust's report, *An Ecological Study of the High Peaks Region of Maine's Western Mountains*. The High Peaks of Maine is home to 10 of the 14 tallest mountains of Maine, all of which are over 4,000 feet in elevation. These include West and Avery Peak of the Bigelow Range, Sugarloaf Mountain, Crocker Mountain, South Crocker Mountain, Saddleback Mountain, the Horn of Saddleback, Mount Abraham, Mount Redington, and Spaulding Mountain. This region contains the largest contiguous mountain area over 2,700 feet in elevation in Maine. Maine's High Peaks offer a diversity of forest and habitat types that sustain a wide range of wildlife, habitat types and ecosystems. Within these mountains lie the headwaters of the Androscoggin River which flows southwest, and the Dead, Carrabassett, and Sandy rivers, flowing southeast all eventually draining into the Kennebec River. Significant lakes within the region include Mooselookmeguntic, Richardson, Rangeley, Kennebago, Flagstaff, Webb and Pierce Pond.

The three major hubs for recreation were deemed integral in terms of providing services and are included in the geographic scope of the report are the greater Farmington area, the Rangeley Lakes, and Carrabassett Valley. The map shows the extent of the study area which comprises the Rangeley Lakes Region to the west, the Canadian border to the north, Farmington to the south and the Kennebec River to the east. The majority of the High Peaks region is in Franklin County, but also includes the towns of Roxbury and Bryon in Oxford County. In the eastern side of the survey area, portions of Somerset County are included, as the Bigelow Range extends beyond the county line. The core of

the High Peaks Region is the wild area surrounded by Routes 149, 27, 16 and 4. This region contains roughly 230,000 acres of mountainous terrain which includes the largest contiguous area over 2,700 feet in the state, 8 of the 14 tallest mountains in Maine, large unroaded areas, working forests, and many trails.

The diversity of land cover and terrain allowed for the development of outdoor recreation. The region was first settled in Farmington in the late 1700s due to rich agricultural soils along the Sandy River. Rivers were the first means of travel into the region, connecting Canada to central Maine through the Kennebec-Chaudière River system; these travel routes were pioneered by the tribes of the Abenaki Confederacy. North of Farmington, the land becomes rockier and mountainous, with soil types less fit for agriculture. With the increase in elevation, there is a transition from predominantly northern hardwood forests to predominantly softwood forests (McKinley 2007).

Within the High Peaks region this study counted 294,635 acres of conserved land including both conservation easements and fee ownership. The conservation entities who manage and/or monitor these lands are a mix of Federal, State, local, and non-profit organizations. These conserved lands are integral to the recreational opportunities found in this area. There are currently over 50,000 acres of additional conservation in the pipeline across Maine's High Peaks and

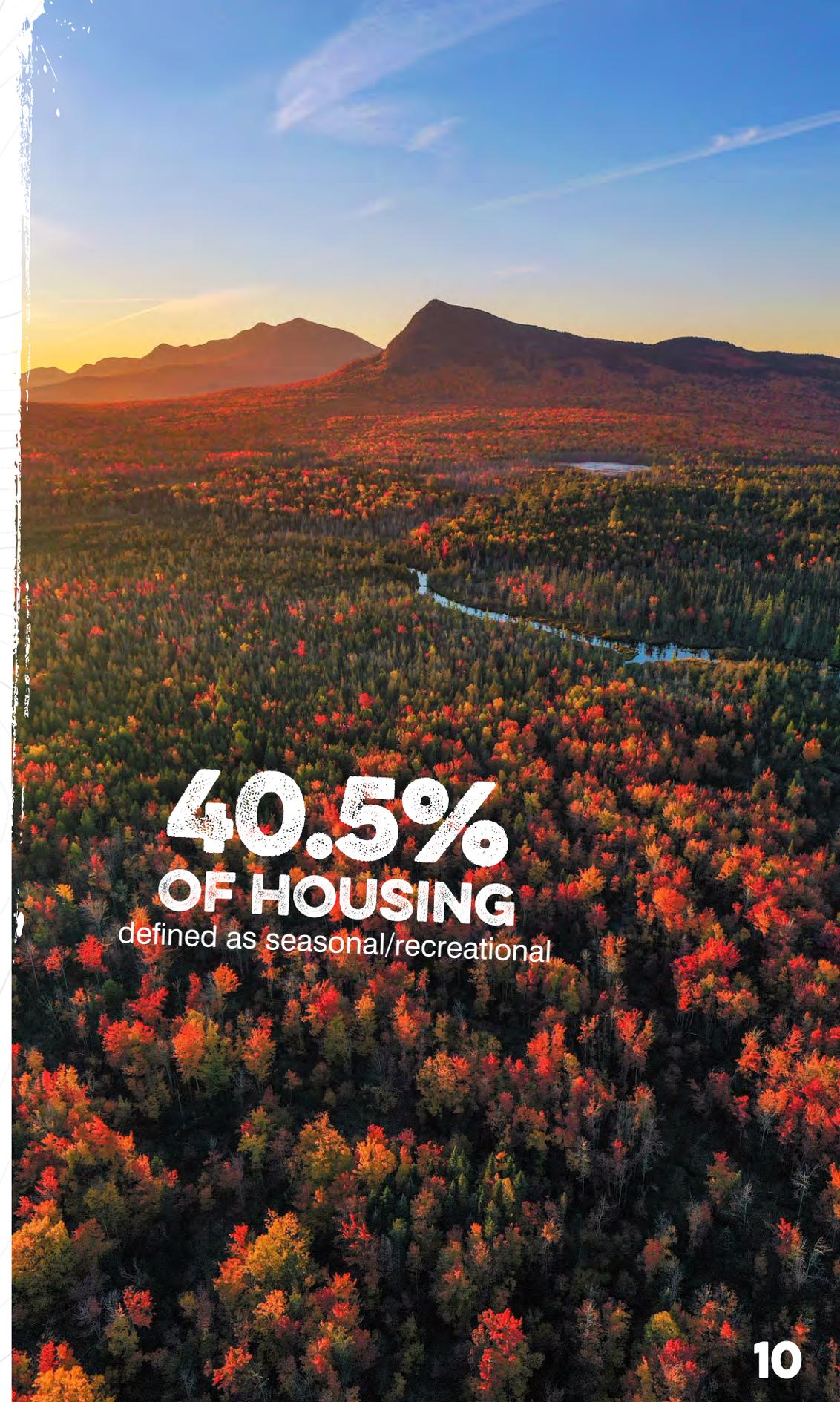
230K
ACRES OF
wild mountain terrain

it will be important to understand existing and potential recreational infrastructure that could be incorporated into those projects. The differences of these conservation lands are discussed in later sections of the report.

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

The U.S. Census Bureau *Quickfacts* estimated in 2021 the population of Franklin County to be 29,982, having shrunk over the last decade by 2%. Considering that 15.5% of Franklin County's population has some form of disability (3% higher than national average), planning of trails and open spaces should address accessibility to meet community needs (U.S. Census Quickfacts, 2021). In addition, there are 22,386 housing units in Franklin County, of which 40.5% are defined as seasonal or recreational homes (U.S. Census, 2019). This is an indicator of the importance of recreation to the local tax base and economy, as the national average of seasonal or recreational homes is 3.8%. The median value of home owner occupied housing is \$139,800, below the national average of \$217,500 which further attracts second home buyers.

Of concern, the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments (AVCOG) estimated that, between 2010 and 2030, Franklin County will lose 20% of its working age population (AVCOG, 2018). The largest employer industries in the county are healthcare/social assistance, educational services, and retail trade (AVCOG, 2018). The report also links the protection of local, natural landscapes to more resilient communities and that quality of place provides the region with a competitive advantage in attracting new residents. These goals should be the focus of future investment, and in particular investment in features like water access, four-season recreational opportunities, scenic vistas, natural landscapes, lakes, and mountains.



40.5%
OF HOUSING
defined as seasonal/recreational

HIGH PEAKS HISTORY

OVERVIEW

In this section, a timeline of recreational developments in the High Peaks is provided to illustrate the history of outdoor recreation. Native American trails through river systems were initial access-points that settlers and adventurers used in this area. The book *Above the Gravel Bar* by David S. Cook offers insights to the travel routes that utilized these waterways. It wasn't until after the Revolutionary War that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts sold large tracts of land across this region to account for war debts, with the hopes of populating the area with productive citizens. Due to this and other factors, Maine has less conserved land than the rest of New England. The Maine Land Conservation Task Force reports 20.4% of Maine is conserved compared to 27.2% of the rest of New England due to the reliance on public access to private lands to compensate for it.

In conjunction, Maine's forest products industry created jobs and became a driving force in attracting residents to the region. These residents were the pioneers of the outdoor recreation industry in the High Peaks region. Tim Pond Camps, the oldest continuously run sporting camp in America, was built in 1832 as a logging camp and converted to meet the increased demand for recreation in 1877. Throughout the 1800s, the High Peaks became a destination for hunting, fishing and adventure with the first Maine guide, Cornelia "Fly Rod" Crosby, introducing many people to the region through her promotion at sporting shows and publishing journal articles.



“Fly Rod” Crosby dubbed Maine as “the nation's playground” (NEHS, 2021). At the turn of the century, large scale forest fires put the forest products industry on high alert, resulting in the creation of the fire tower system with attendant trails leading to the summit of numerous mountains in the region, with the first being the Bigelow Fire Tower (1905). Throughout the decades, this region developed hundreds of miles of trails,

both motorized and non-motorized. In conjunction with the completion of the Appalachian Trail in 1937, the interest in trails and recreation has steadily increased throughout the region to the present day.



TIMELINE OF RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 1832** TIM POND CAMPS ESTABLISHED
- 1879** SANDY RIVER RAILROAD ORGANIZED
- 1897** CORNELIA "FLY ROD" CROSBY BECOMES FIRST MAINE GUIDE
- 1905** BIGELOW FIRE TOWER CONSTRUCTED
- 1910** TUMBLEDOWN FIRE TOWER CONSTRUCTED
- 1913** SADDLEBACK FIRE TOWER CONSTRUCTED
- 1924** MT. ABRAHAM FIRE TOWER CONSTRUCTED
- 1932** MT. BLUE FIRE TOWER CONSTRUCTED
- 1937** APPALACHIAN TRAIL COMPLETED
- 1939** FRANKLIN SKIING AND OUTING CLUB ORGANIZED (TITCOMB MOUNTAIN)
- 1950** PURPOSEFUL FLOODING OF FLAGSTAFF LAKE
- 1953** SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN'S 1ST SEASON
- 1955** USDA TRANSFERRED LAND TO THE STATE TO CREATE MT. BLUE STATE PARK
- 1960** LAND FOR RANGELEY STATE PARK WAS ACQUIRED
- 1960** SADDLEBACK AND BALD MOUNTAIN OPENED SKI AREAS
- 1968** BALD MOUNTAIN SKI AREA CLOSED
- 1976** BIGELOW PRESERVE REFERENDUM PASSED
- 1976** KENNEBEC RIVER'S LAST LOG DRIVE- INCREASED FORESTRY AND WHITEWATER RAFTING
- 1993** BALD MOUNTAIN IN OQUOSSOC ACQUIRED BY THE STATE
- 2001** MT. ABRAHAM PROTECTED

2001

NEW ENGLAND FORESTRY FOUNDATION COMPLETED THE LARGEST FORESTLAND CONSERVATION EASEMENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE US - OVER 60,000 ACRES IS IN THE HIGH PEAKS

2002

TUMBLEDOWN MOUNTAIN PROTECTED

2003

MEADWESTVACO SOLD 519,00 ACRES OF TIMBERLAND IN MAINE TO BAYROOT LLC, A TIMBER INVESTMENT COMPANY, MUCH OF IT IN THE MAINE'S HIGH PEAKS

2006

NORTHERN FOREST CANOE TRAIL COMPLETED

2006

HIGH PEAKS INITIATIVE WAS FORMED

2008

MAINE HUTS AND TRAILS OPENED FIRST HUT

2008

REDINGTON WIND POWER APPLICATION DENIED

2009

KIBBY WIND POWER CONSTRUCTION STARTED

2010

CARRABASSETT CHAPTER OF NEW ENGLAND MOUNTAIN BIKE ASSOCIATION FORMED

2012

FLY ROD CROSBY TRAIL OPENS

2012

HIGH PEAKS INITIATIVE PARTNERS HELP CONSERVE ORBETON STREAM

2014

SADDLEBACK WIND CONSTRUCTION STARTED

2015

SADDLEBACK MOUNTAIN RESORT CLOSED

2016

MAINE MOUNTAIN COLLABORATIVE WAS ESTABLISHED

2020

SADDLEBACK MOUNTAIN RESORT REOPENED

2021

ACCESSIBLE TRAIL BUILT BY HIGH PEAKS ALLIANCE AND UMAINE IN FARMINGTON

TRAIL INVENTORY

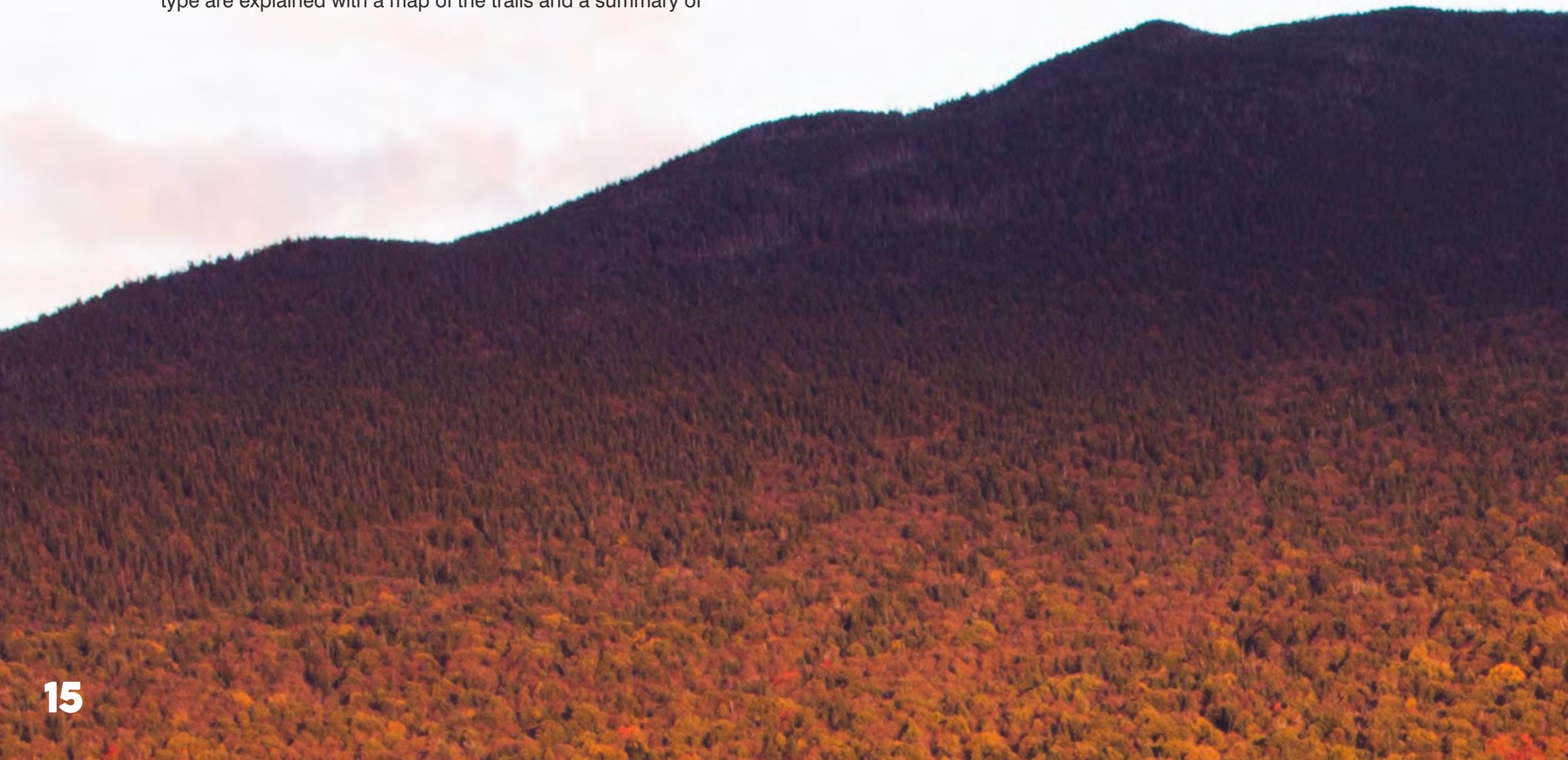
OVERVIEW

In total, 1,722.3 miles of trails were documented. This consisted of 525.7 miles of ATV trails, 772.2 miles of snowmobile trails, 147.5 miles of paddling trails, 419.6 miles of footpaths (hiking trails), 154.6 miles of groomed cross-country skiing trails and 164 miles of biking trails. Of the total 1,722.3 miles of trails in the High Peaks Region, 54.2% (933.2 miles) of these trails exist in Unorganized Territories (unincorporated townships with no local government).

Described in the following sections are trail types and regional context for each. The current conditions for each type are explained with a map of the trails and a summary of

the experiences they provide. It is also noted how many of these trails occur on conserved lands and what some of the trends are with respect to trail types. Management of each trail is also reviewed.

It is important to note that many multi-use trail systems in the region share corridors depending on the season. For example, winter snowmobile trails can double as ATV trails in the summer. Some of these trails have been moved, re-routed and in some cases closed since the issue of this



report. Some of these disruptions occur as a result of change of ownership or management decisions. Some are temporary and some may be permanent. This highlights the importance of developing and maintaining good relationships with landowners. It may also suggest the need for a permanent structure for trail corridors beyond simple landowner

permission. This inventory is meant to be used for planning and documentation but may have some discrepancies due to changes like these.

1,722.3
MILES OF TRAILS
documented in this report

OVERVIEW

This inventory includes trails that are shorter and more centrally located in town, all the way up to longer backcountry trails. Some trails are multi-use and some are pedestrian only. There are 419.6 miles of trails available for walking and hiking throughout the region. A total of 251.4 miles of trail are in Unorganized Territories which account for 59.9% of all walking and hiking trails. There are 168.1 miles of footpaths or walking trails in the organized towns. The percentage of these trails occurring on conserved land amounts to 47.8% or 252 miles. Carrabassett Valley has the highest mileage for walking and hiking trails with 97.5 miles. This is followed by Farmington with 41.8 miles of trails. The Appalachian Trail and side-trails managed by the Maine Appalachian Trail Club account for 113.7 miles of trails in the study area. This is followed by Maine Huts and Trails with 69.6 miles, the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center in collaboration with CRNEMBA with 50.2 miles, and High Peaks Alliance overseeing 27.3 miles. There are 26 organizations in the region that manage trails in Maine's High Peaks Region.

UNOFFICIAL TRAILS

Many trails in the High Peaks Region have been created on private land, due to Maine's permissive landowner liability law, a high percentage of private land and the aforementioned low percentage of public land. These trails can be very popular, but often lack an "official" trail manager or documentation permitting their use and maintenance. Some trails are at risk for closure due to vandalism, a change in ownership, forestry operations or poor landowner relations. Many unofficial trails have been in use for decades, including Mosher Hill Falls, Pico Ledges, Reed Brook Falls, Angel Falls, Savage Mountain and Kibby Mountain. Some of these trails are included on numerous trail apps which are not always curated and can provide inaccurate information (for example, on access to a trailhead over logging roads). There are numerous examples of unofficial trails which should be designated and maintained as "official" trails.

ACCESSIBLE TRAILS

Accessible trails are defined as trails that comply with generally accepted principles from the Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines which give specific parameters to be considered accessible. There are two trails that have been advertised as "accessible" in the region. The trail to Quill Hill in Dallas Plantation has not been evaluated for compliance with accessible trail standards. The other trail, a project of the High Peaks Alliance and the University of Maine at Farmington, was completed in 2021. This half-mile, crushed stone trail is 6-feet wide, and was built to the US Forest Service's standards for accessibility.

There are also two multi-use rail-trails that offer a wide, even gravel surface, but do not conform to U.S. Forest Service accessibility standards. These include the 14-mile Whistle Stop Trail, which connects Farmington to Jay and allows for both non-motorized and motorized use, and the 6.6-mile Narrow Gauge Pathway in Carrabassett Valley. This trail is for non-motorized use only. Both of these trails are groomed in the winter.

PARKING, TRAILHEAD ACCESS AND SIGNAGE

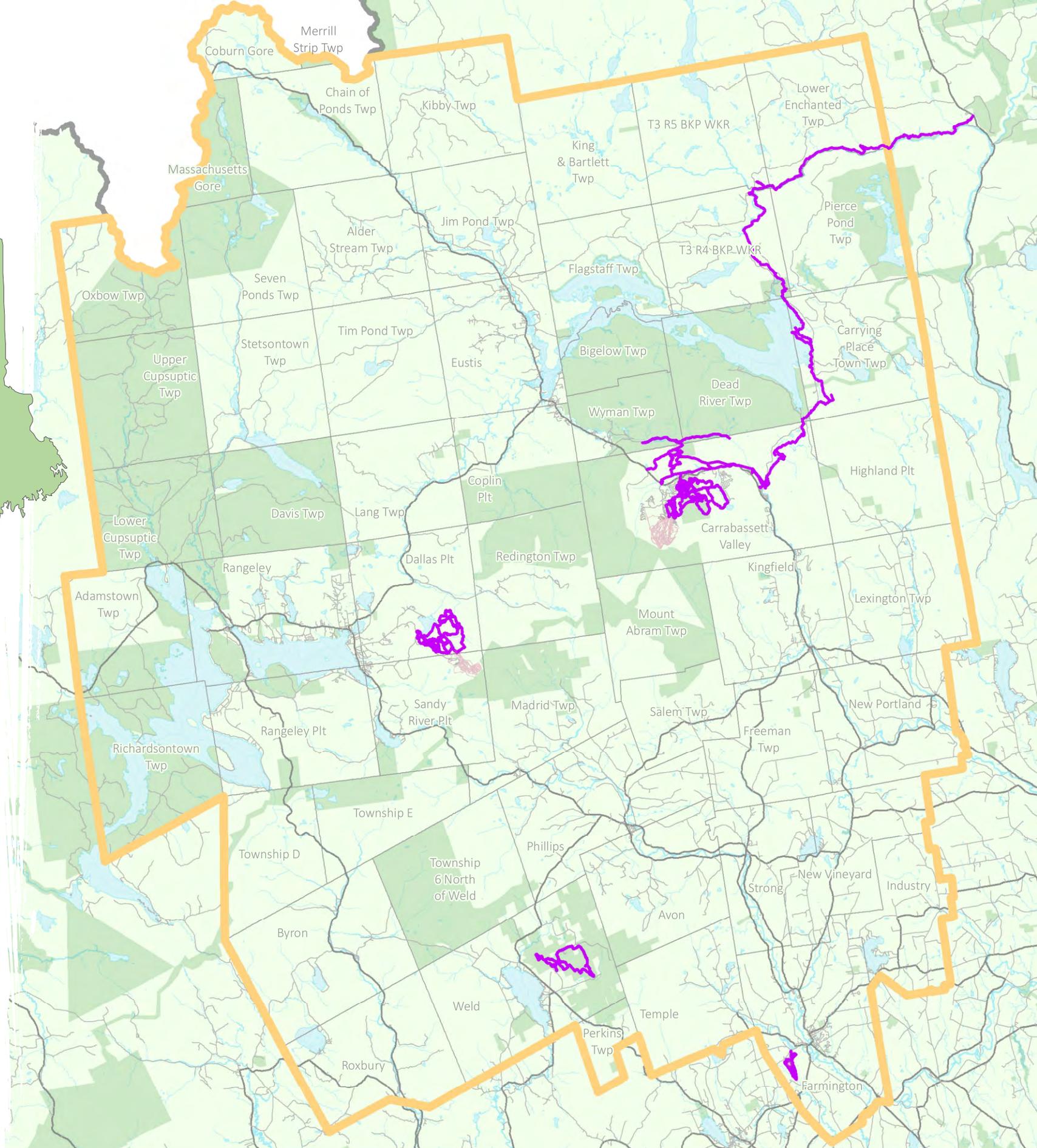
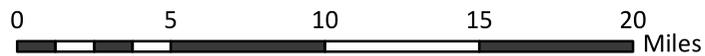
There are access points to trails which range from unofficial pull-offs to well-maintained and signed trailheads. We found 82 parking areas that are accessory to these trailheads from data that the Center for Community GIS maintains. Adequate infrastructure such as parking, trailheads, and signage are important in providing a safe and enjoyable recreational experience and maintaining good landowner and community relationships. These parking areas need to be surveyed for condition, capacity, and use.

SKIING

FIGURE 3

LEGEND

-  Highway
-  Other Road
-  XC Ski Trail
-  Downhill Ski Area
-  High Peaks Region
-  Conserved Land



Trail lines reflect the best available data at the time of publication. There may be gaps in the data and lines may not precisely portray what is on the ground. Map created by the Center for Community GIS, October 2020

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Due to the increasing availability of groomed facilities, the High Peaks Region has seen an increase in popularity of cross-country skiing. There are a total of 162.1 miles of trails open for cross-country skiing, with 134.6 miles being groomed in the winter. Only 51.3 miles of these trails are on protected land, but many of these trail miles are maintained by commercial businesses. There are five areas in the High Peaks that offer a groomed cross-country skiing experience. These areas are Carrabassett Valley, Maine Huts and Trails, Rangeley Lakes Trail Center, Mount Blue State Park, and Titcomb Mountain. Not included in this inventory are the trails the University of Maine at Farmington grooms around their Prescott fields because they have just begun this endeavor after our data collection. Despite lack of grooming or other management, hundreds of miles of terrain in the High Peaks is used for cross country skiing. These areas include snowmobile trails and privately groomed trails used by groups of neighbors.

Launched in 2001, Maine Huts and Trails is an 80-mile trail system for hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing with four lodges located in Carrabassett Valley, Carrying Place Township, and Lower Enchanted Township, providing for a hut-to-hut experience. Trails are regularly groomed by volunteer trail maintainers.



GROOMED TRAILS

LOCATION	MILES
Carrabassett Valley	56.2
Carrying Place Town Twp	9.9
Dallas Plt	24.3
Dead River Twp	1.0
Eustis	2.2
Farmington	10.7
Lower Enchanted Twp	8.5
T3 R4 BKP WKR	8.7
T3 R5 BKP WKR	1.4
Weld	11.4
Wyman Twp	0.4
TOTAL	134.6

UNGROOMED TRAILS

LOCATION	MILES
Carrabassett Valley	2.7
Dead River Twp	2.4
Farmington	7.5
Kingfield	2.4
Madrid Twp	2.2
Rangeley	6.9
Wyman Twp	2.3
TOTAL	26.5

ALPINE SKIING

The High Peaks Region is home to Sugarloaf, Saddleback Maine and Titcomb Mountain. These areas are important for integration into a four season multimodal recreational experience which numerous studies have indicated as a way for seasonal recreation destinations to become year-round destinations. In Maine, ski resorts logged 1.3 million visits in 2015, serving as true recreational anchors. As important businesses in the region, they're also known for exploring new avenues for trail development to attract different user groups. For example, mountain bike trails are being integrated into all three of those alpine ski areas. These resorts are also starting to offer guided trips to regional attractions off-mountain.

Sugarloaf

Sugarloaf is Maine's second tallest mountain at 4,237 feet and is home to the largest ski area east of the Rocky Mountains at 1,240 acres of skiable terrain. This resort is located in Carrabassett Valley, offering the only lift-served, above tree line skiing in the east. Sugarloaf has numerous options for lodging and other amenities. Sugarloaf has been offering a wider suite of recreational options including hosting new mountain bike races. Their current development plan calls for expanding trails for four-seasons used by mountain bikers, hikers, etc.

Saddleback

Located in Sandy River Plantation, Saddleback Maine also offers skiing above 4,000 feet with 600 acres of skiable terrain. The mountain recently reopened in 2020 after a period of being closed since 2015. Under new ownership, the resort is focused on innovative resort development including building new trails for mountain biking, offering guided trips to area trails, building a solar installation and potentially conserving parts of its land holdings.

Titcomb Mountain

Titcomb Mountain is much smaller than the other two resorts, at 45 skiable acres, and is a community-run, nonprofit managed by the Farmington Ski Club. Titcomb offers reasonable rates to encourage first-time skiers and local residents to participate in the sport. Titcomb's goal is to support the development of learn to ski programs by providing equipment, supplies, and financial support where necessary in order to increase participation in outdoor winter activities for Farmington area youth. The mountain offers night skiing and has a popular ski school for local youth. In addition, there are 10 miles of cross-country trails, and in the summer, a network of mountain bike and hiking trails. Titcomb Mountain is adjacent to the Whistle Stop Trail.

134 MILES
of groomed ski trails

26 MILES
of ungroomed ski trails



BIKING

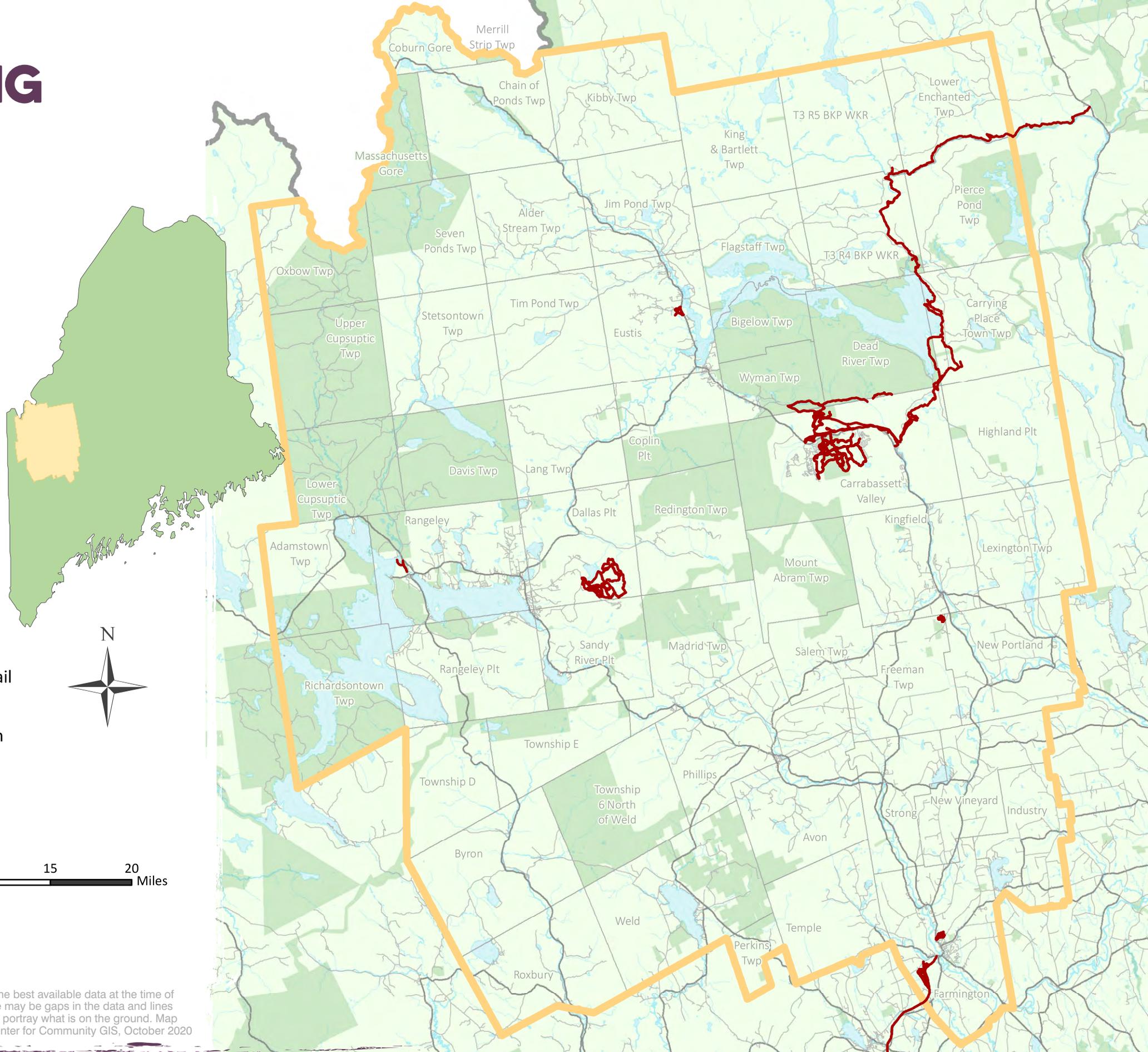
FIGURE 4

LEGEND

-  Highway
-  Other Road
-  Mountain Bike Trail
-  High Peaks Region
-  Conserved Land



0 5 10 15 20 Miles



Trail lines reflect the best available data at the time of publication. There may be gaps in the data and lines may not precisely portray what is on the ground. Map created by the Center for Community GIS, October 2020

There are 164 miles of trails available for mountain biking in the High Peaks Region. Two predominant trail types are accounted for when documenting biking trails - double-track and single-track. Double-tracks are mostly wide forestry roads or multi-use trails, rather than purpose-built trails. As the name suggests, double-tracks are wide enough for two people to ride side-by-side. This was the predominant trail type found when conducting inventory of bike trails. Single-track mountain biking trails are purposely designed and built for use by mountain bikes rather than adapted from multi-use trails. There were 129.1 miles of double-track and only 34.9 miles of single-track trails found in the High Peaks Region. The majority of the single-track trails have been built in the past decade.

Purpose-built, single-track trails are highly sought after by mountain bikers. The increase in the construction of these trails can be linked to the organization of regional clubs made up of riders who promote and build trails. The two primary clubs building single-track trails in our region are the Carrabassett Region (CRNEMBA) and Central Maine (CEMENEMBA) chapters of the New England Mountain Bike Association. CRNEMBA is based in Carrabassett Valley and has partnered with the town to maintain a professional trail building crew. This investment has led to the largest network of mountain bike trails in Maine. CEMENEMBA has trails across Central Maine and has built popular trails on Titcomb Mountain.

In the study area, Maine Huts and Trails has 65.4 miles of trails open to biking. These trails are multiple-use and have been counted under double-track.

More recently, resorts have also leaned into the trend with Sugarloaf hosting an enduro-style race in 2021 and adding bike trails to their development plans. Saddleback Maine has been investing in single-track trails on their lands through a full time trail crew that helps employees have work year around. There is also a private trail network, Freeman Ridge Bike Park, with approximately 5 miles of single-track trails.

FAT BIKING

Fat-biking is a type of mountain biking that has gained popularity in Maine. Fat tire bikes have oversized tires that provide floatation when riding on packed snow in the winter. In the High Peaks, there are groomed fat biking trails in Farmington, Carrabassett and Rangeley. In addition to the specific trails that the mountain bike clubs pack for fat biking, there is increased usage of fat biking on area snowmobile trails. For the most part this has been accepted, however, there is a concern of safety when mixing these trail uses. The Rangeley Trail Center hosts fat biking trails and hosts a race every year. CRNEMBA works with the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center to also offer groomed fat biking.

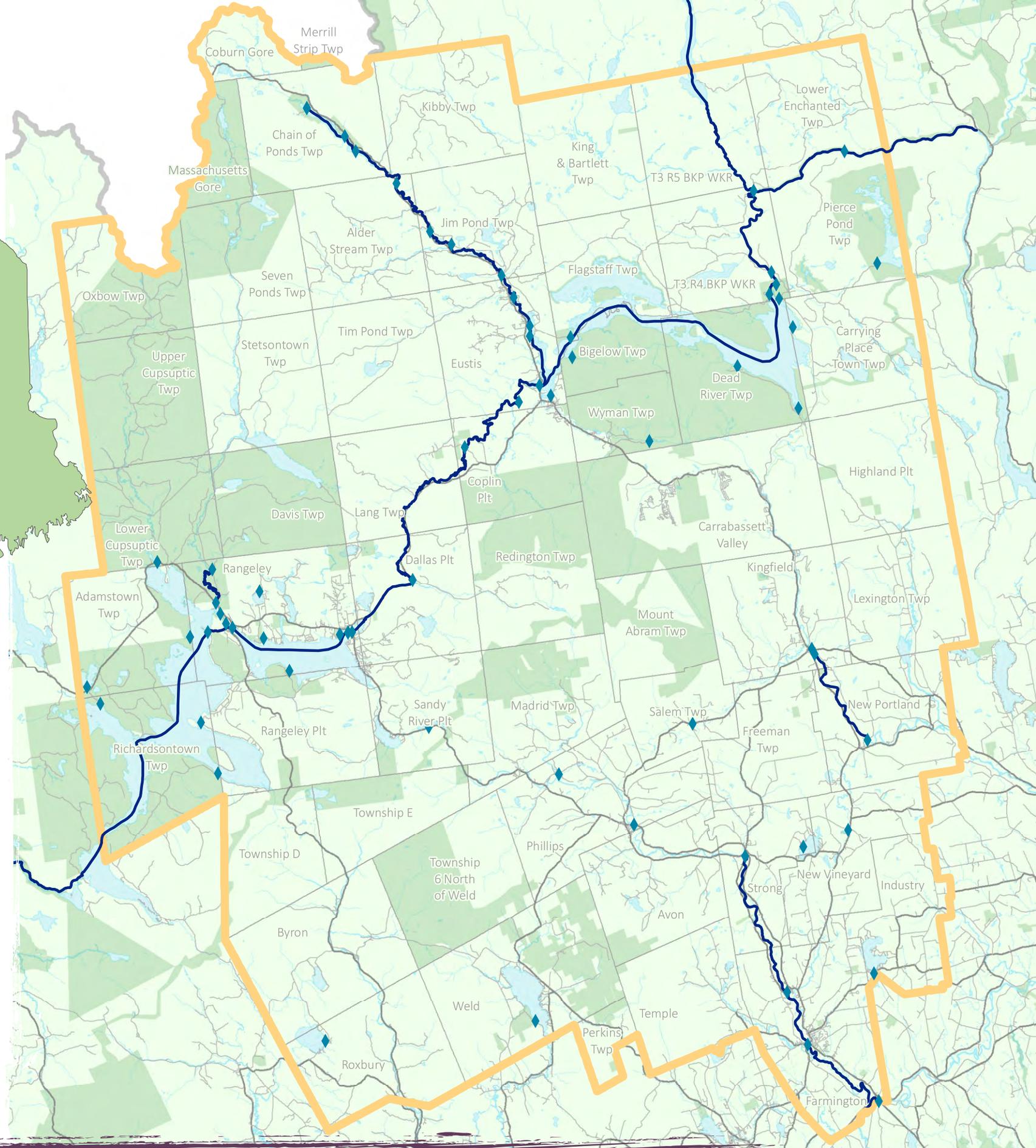
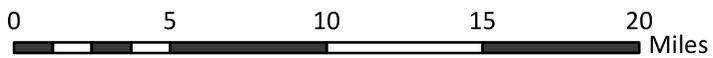
164 MILES
of mountain biking trails

PADDLING

FIGURE 5

LEGEND

-  Highway
-  Other Road
-  Paddle Trail
-  Boat Launch
-  High Peaks Region
-  Conserved Land



There are 147.5 miles of water trails in the study area. There are 66 boat launches, which consist of 29 vehicular and 37 hand carry launches. These do not include the numerous publicly-used, but not official, water access sites. In Maine, the boating facilities program run by Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has prioritized securing public access to Kennebago Lake, Kennebago River, and two sites on the North Branch of the Dead River. These sites are extremely popular but lack protected access (IF&W Report, 1995).

The majority of the water trails in the region have been curated by the Northern Forest Canoe Trail (NFCT) nonprofit organization. The trail leads paddlers from the Rangeley Lakes Region northeast through Flagstaff Lake; from there the waterways continue out of the study area. NFCT has also mapped routes along the North Branch of the Dead, Sandy, and the Carrabassett Rivers. The Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust has curated a paddle trail on the Kennebago River. These curated trails bring value by providing information on conditions and expected experience levels required. Paddle trails can include sections which require portaging and navigating rapids.

There are also many opportunities for boating and paddling from the 66 boat launches, many of which are located on lakes and ponds. Although not specifically covered in this report, swimming, which is one of the most common outdoor recreation activities, occurs during the summer months in many public and privately accessed water bodies. While many of these access sites also are used by swimmers, swimming is not permitted at motorized boat launches for safety reasons.

In total, there are 74 camping sites associated with paddling.

147.5 MILES OF
paddling trails



ATV RIDING

FIGURE 6

LEGEND

 Highway

 Other Road

 ATV Trails

 High Peaks Region

 Conserved Land



0 5 10 15 20 Miles

- ATV Clubs**
1. Carrabasset Valley
 2. Flagstaff Area
 3. Kingfield Quad Runners
 4. Narrow Gauge Riders
 5. Oquossoc
 6. Salem Trail Riders
 7. Sandy River Riders
 8. Temple Trail Riders

Trail lines reflect the best available data at the time of publication. There may be gaps in the data and lines may not precisely portray what is on the ground. Trail data unavailable for Byron and Roxbury. Map created by the Center for Community GIS, October 2020.



ATV riding has become a very popular sport in Maine with over 70,000 annual registrations in 2019 as reported by the Maine ATV Task Force. In this inventory, 8 trail clubs were surveyed. This report was not able to inventory the Roxbury ATV Club trail system so their data is not incorporated. In the survey area, 511 miles of ATV trails were documented. 262 miles of these trails run concurrently with snowmobile trails. 31.1 miles of ATV trails occur on roads. These trails are managed by individual clubs that receive funding from the State of Maine through annual ATV registrations and a portion of gas tax revenues. In 2012, a State of Maine-commissioned study reported that ATVing contributed \$754 million to the state's economy. The majority of ATV trails in this region are on private land with only 5.8% of these trails on any type of conservation land. Due to the prevalence of ATV trails on private land, ATV trails are more likely to suffer closures than other types of trails listed in this report.

In 2020 the State of Maine released a report from a governor-appointed ATV task force. This task force was established because of the heavy reliance on private landowners. This task force made the recommendations listed below:

- Limit the size and weight of ATVs that can be registered in Maine to 65 inches wide and 2,000 lbs.
- Adopt Best Management Practices (BMPs) for state-funded ATV trails.
- Create a standardized annual trail inspection process.

- Develop a collaborative communications campaign.
- Maintain a simple user-pay registration system with one sticker type and price.
- Raise fees across all ATVs equally, having a differential for residents and non-residents and directing the entire increase to trail funding.

In the High Peaks, there has been increasing interest in ATV trails and many businesses rely on these trails to attract visitors. For example, a local campground hosts a ride-in that brings over a hundred people to the campground for a weekend of exploring and riding. Concerns that have been raised by local clubs include lack of funding for trails, loss of landowner permission for trail access, and a lack of proper trail etiquette by some users. At the time of this report we did not have data from the Roxbury ATV club.

UNTRAILED AREAS/ACTIVITIES

There is a large interest in un-trailed area sports which include hunting, foraging, birding, photography and fishing. There has also been a tradition of backcountry exploration and navigation (i.e.: hiking, backcountry skiing and fat biking). These activities can take place via conserved public access and due to the rise in users, these uses should be considered in recreational planning. Also to be considered are safety and the impacts of these unmanaged uses on sensitive terrain and natural resources.

ATV CLUB	MILES
Flagstaff Area ATV Club.....	185.6
Strong ATV Club.....	60.3
Narrow Gauge Riders.....	53.6
Kingfield Quad Runners.....	50.2
Oquossoc ATV Club.....	85.2
Carrabassett Valley ATV Club.....	40.1
Temple Trail Riders.....	37.7
Salem Trail Riders.....	34.7

Miles of protected ATV trails	
CONSERVATION TYPE	MILES
Private Conservation in Fee.....	1.4
Private Conservation Easement.....	3.1
State Land in Fee.....	18.1
State Easement.....	6.4
Federal in Fee.....	0.4
TOTAL	29.4

SNOWMOBILING

FIGURE 7

LEGEND

 Highway

 Other Road

 Snowmobile Trail

 High Peaks Region

 Conserved Land



0 5 10 15 20 Miles

Snowmobile Clubs

1. Arnold Trail
2. JV Wing
3. Narrow Gauge
4. North Franklin
5. Rangeley Lakes
6. Slippery Sliders
7. Sno Drifters
8. Sno Wanderers
9. Winter Wildcats

Trail lines reflect the best available data at the time of publication. There may be gaps in the data and lines may not precisely portray what is on the ground. Snowmobile trails in New Vineyard, Industry, New Portland, and Farmington are not shown on the map, but are included in the data. Lexington's Snowmobile Club data is incomplete. Map created by the Center for Community GIS, October 2020

Snowmobiling is an extremely popular winter activity in the High Peaks Region. Statewide there are close to 60,000 snowmobile registrations a year (Hathaway et al. 2020). In 2020, the University of Maine published an economic study of snowmobiling in Maine. This publication estimated snowmobiling has a \$606 million impact on the Maine economy. The study included a survey which noted that, in the Maine Lakes and Mountains tourism region (which includes Franklin, Oxford and Androscoggin counties), there were 231,112 snowmobiling days by residents and 199,467 by nonresidents. Survey data revealed that the highest-rated factor cited by snowmobilers was the scenery/natural beauty of the state, followed by trail width, trail grooming, and trailside services. The areas of highest dissatisfaction were availability of maps, trail signage and courtesy of other riders (Hathaway et al. 2020).

This study also surveyed other activities in which snowmobilers participate. In order of highest participation, respondents listed fishing, hiking, hunting, swimming, motor boating, canoeing, gardening, and camping. These were listed for 69% to 49% of survey respondents. Other listed activities indicate that snowmobiling correlates with enjoyment of other outdoors activities (Hathaway et al. 2020).

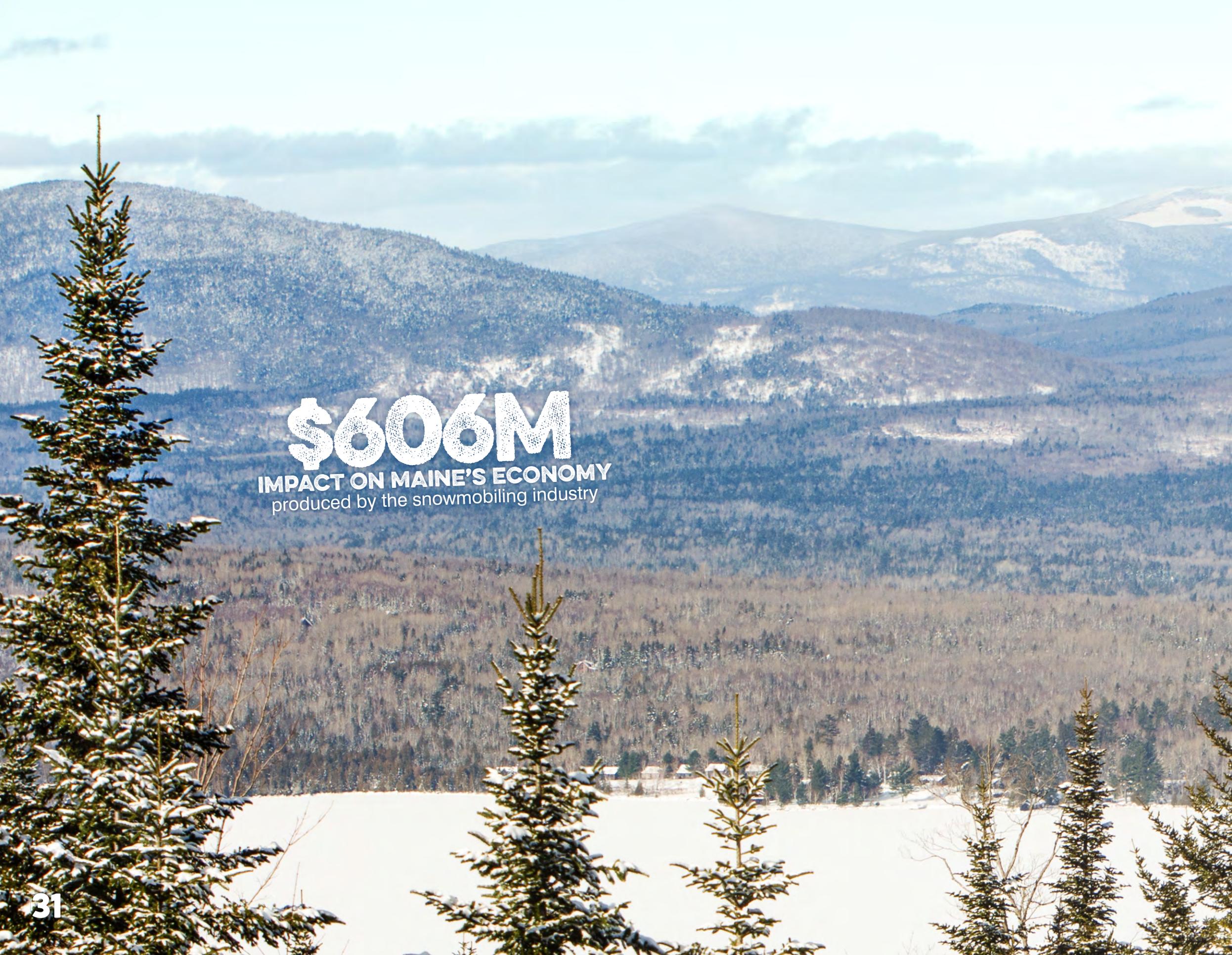
MILES OF TRAILS TOTAL (ITS/CLUB)

There are 772 miles of snowmobile trails in the High Peaks Region of Maine. There are 359 miles in the unorganized territories and 413 miles in the organized townships. The two largest clubs in the region are Rangeley Lakes Snowmobile Club and Arnold Trail Snowmobile Club. These clubs maintain 148 and 162 miles, respectively. There are 262 miles of trails that run concurrently with ATV trails. Only 15.7% of snowmobile trails occur on any type of conserved lands, with 7.9% of being on state-owned lands. Farmington, Industry, New Vineyard, New Portland, and Lexington were included in the mileages, reported from trail managers, but we did not have location data for the map.

PARKING

In the High Peaks region there are 24 snowmobile access points, of which 11 are private and 13 are public. These are areas used to park vehicles and off load snowmobiles. These areas are generally large plowed areas which can accommodate trucks with trailers. The general condition and amenities vary widely from no amenities to stores and lodging.

60K
STATEWIDE
SNOWMOBILE
registrations a year



\$606M
IMPACT ON MAINE'S ECONOMY
produced by the snowmobiling industry

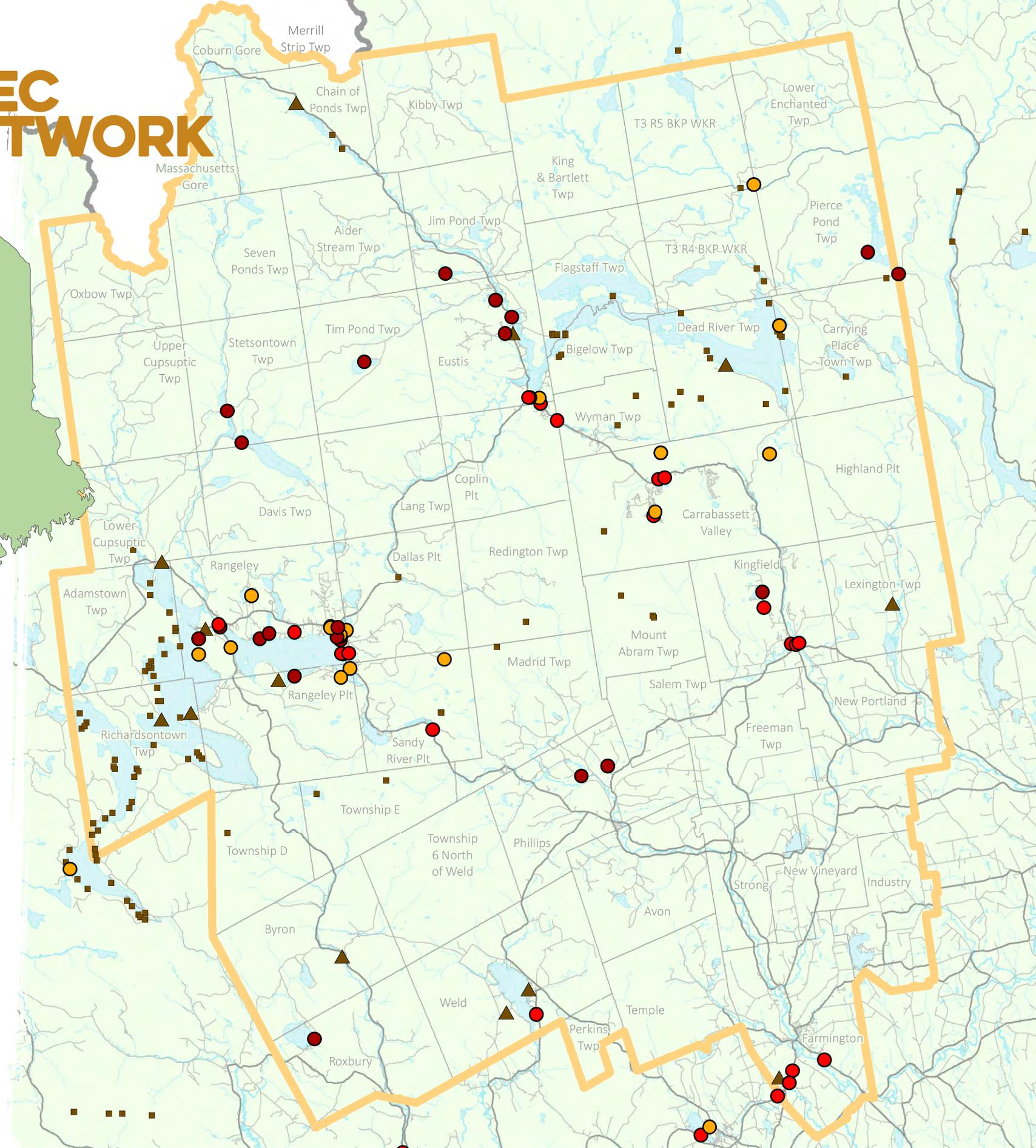
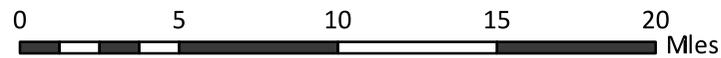


OUTDOOR REC SUPPORT NETWORK

FIGURE 8

LEGEND

-  Highway
-  Other Road
-  Campground
-  Hotel/Inn/B&B
-  Remote Campsite
-  Resort/Hunting Camp
-  Rental Cabins/Hut/Condos
-  High Peaks Region
-  Conserved Land



Trail lines reflect the best available data at the time of publication. There may be gaps in the data and lines may not precisely portray what is on the ground. Map created by the Center for Community GIS, October 2020

Services, including suppliers like grocery stores, restaurants, and lodging are integral for visitors and residents. An assessment of the supporting infrastructure for trail users can enhance opportunities to link recreational projects with existing support and services. Mapping all of the lodging sites in the region is a way to quantify where the most visitor services are located.

Five different types of lodging were counted in this study: hotels/inns/bed and breakfasts, resorts/hunting camps, rental camps/huts, campgrounds, and remote primitive campsites. The growing inventory of online services like Airbnb or VRBO have a large capacity and variety of locations in this region but were not mapped. There are also numerous property management businesses that rent seasonal homes as well.

An important feature to many of the recreational experiences is the ability to camp while hiking. The Appalachian Trail accounts for the majority of camping sites located along hiking trails across the region. There are 16 camping facilities near these trails, 13 of which are associated with the Appalachian Trail or its side trails.

When reviewing the map, it is clear that the Rangeley Area and the Route 27 corridor from Kingfield to Eustis contain the majority of overnight accommodations. There is also a cluster of options in the Farmington area. This map is a relative indication of where visitors are staying while in the region.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

In the study area there is one hospital, Franklin Memorial Hospital in Farmington. This hospital serves the entire study area and also deploys the NorthStar EMS system for the region. Outside of the hospital setting, ambulances are stationed in Carrabassett Valley, Rangeley, Phillips, and Livermore. There are also health clinics that offer primary care and urgent care in Rangeley, Kingfield, and Strong.

SERVICES AND SUPPLIES

The majority of services and supplies are located near the population centers of Franklin County, most notably in Farmington. Farmington is the county seat of Franklin County and the largest municipality in the High Peaks Region. The resident population in Farmington was 7,592 people at the 2020 census. Farmington is home to the University of Maine at Farmington which has an enrollment of close to 1,700 students. Farmington is the natural gateway to the High Peaks Region being at the center of route 2, 4 and 27. Other service centers in the region include Rangeley, Eustis, and Kingfield. These towns have restaurants, banks, post offices, auto repair shops, hardware stores, grocery stores, health care facilities, and other services. In the High Peaks Region there has been a consolidation of services around population centers and more isolated service locations (small stores, restaurants, and other shops) have closed. The location of services is an important factor for outdoor recreation planning.

- 19** Hotels, Inns, or B&Bs
- 17** Resort or hunting camp-style establishments
- 16** Rental cabins or huts

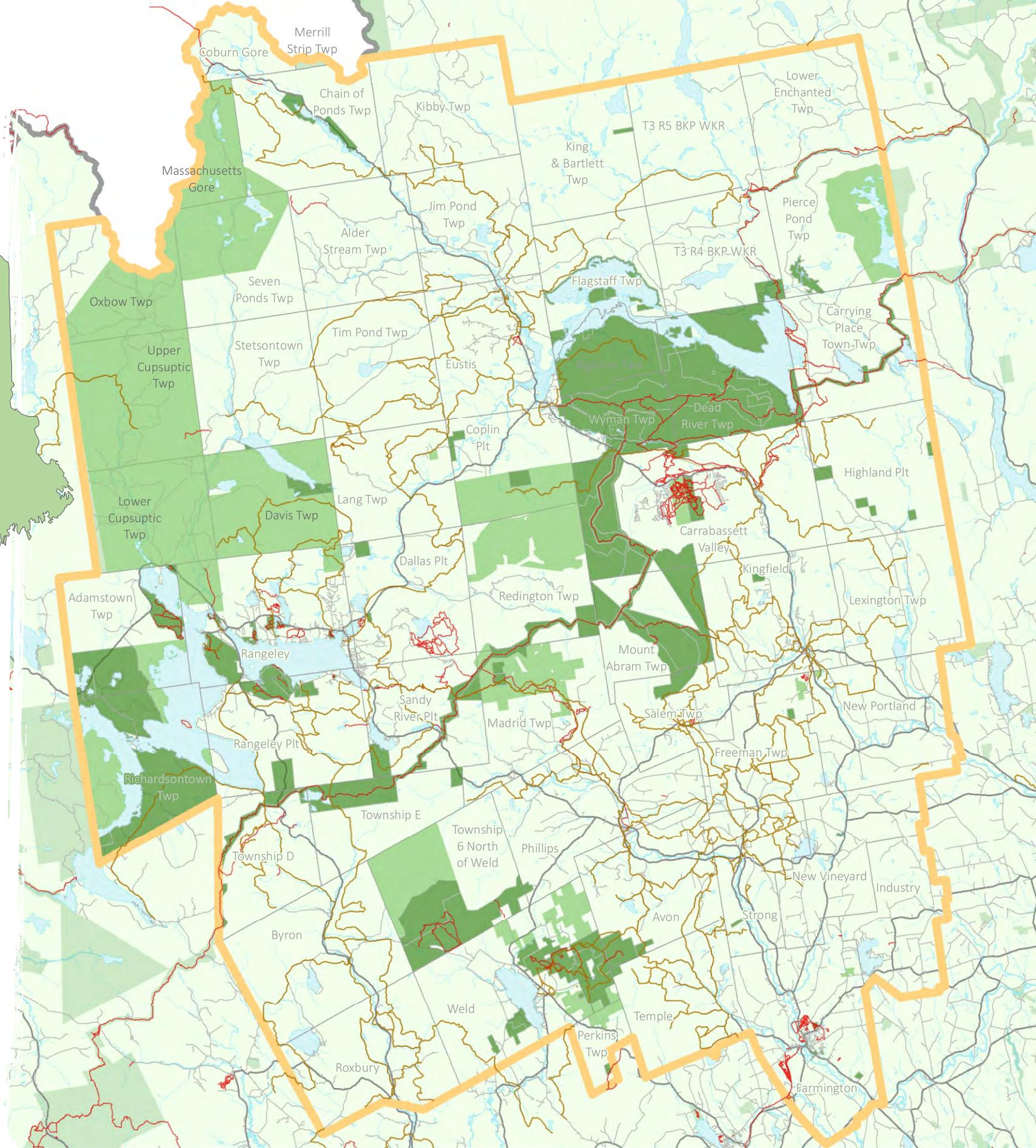
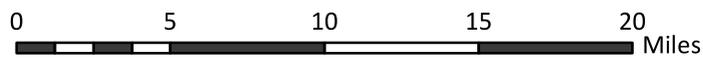
- 14** Campgrounds
- 74** Primitive campsites associated with paddling
- 15** Sites associated with hiking

CONSERVED LANDS

FIGURE 9

LEGEND

-  Easement
-  Fee
-  Motorized Trail
-  Non-motorized Trail
-  High Peaks Region



Trail lines reflect the best available data at the time of publication. There may be gaps in the data and lines may not precisely portray what is on the ground. Map created by the Center for Community GIS, October 2020

CONSERVATION LANDS

The table to the right summarizes the conserved land in the High Peaks Region by conservation type, access protection, and whether it is located in the organized or unorganized territories.

The study area is 1,380,052 acres in size with 294,635 acres of land that are currently listed as conserved as reported by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry. The meaning of 'conserved' usually pertains to lands that are no longer available for development, but the Maine Land Conservation Task Force defined it as the protection and careful stewardship of land to provide a wide range of public benefits. This doesn't mean that they are publicly accessible or untouched. Conservation lands span the breadth of land management practices from forever-wild, meaning that new trail building is prohibited and natural processes take place largely uninterrupted, to allow certain commercial uses like forest management. Maine's conservation land base includes fee ownership and conservation easements. Fee ownership of land occurs where a local, state, federal or non-profit organization owns the property outright. In the High Peaks Region, fee ownership constitutes 131,896 acres, which is 45% of the conserved land in the study area.

Maine State Parks

State Parks are administered by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands and offer higher levels of infrastructure and staffing than other forms of ownership in the region. Their mission is to protect and manage the natural and cultural resources under our care in order to offer a wide range of recreational and educational opportunities and provide environmental and economic benefits for present and future generations.

CONSERVATION LANDS

PUBLIC ACCESS	ACRES	% OF CONSERVATION LAND
Unknown	149	0.05%
No protected access	110,615	37.49%
Protected public access	184,311	62.47%

JURISDICTION	ACRES	% OF CONSERVATION LAND
Organized	35,714	12.12%
Unorganized	258,921	87.88%

CONSERVATION TYPE	ACRES	% OF CONSERVATION LAND
Easement	162,048	54.92%
Fee	131,896	44.70%
Lease	1.00	0.00%
Public Access Easement	0.83	0.00%
Restricted- Project Agreement	1,129.24	0.38%



294K+
ACRES
of conserved land

In the High Peaks there are two state parks; Rangeley Lake State Park and Mount Blue State Park. These state parks offer campgrounds, designated swimming areas, staff-led programs, trails, boat rental, and nature centers.

Maine State Public Reserved Lands

Maine Public Reserved Lands are publicly-accessible lands that are managed by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands for multiple sustainable uses according to integrated resource policies, resulting in reserved land that offers trails, ecological reserves, forestry, primitive camping, and motorized uses. In this study area, there are numerous reserved lands ranging in size from the 36,000+ acre Bigelow Reserve to small lots less than 100 acres scattered across the landscape. Examples of Public Reserved Lands include the Bigelow Preserve, Bald Mountain, Chain of Ponds, Dead River, Four Ponds, Mount Abraham, and Crocker Mountain. Each Public Reserve Land unit is administered according to a management plan which is updated every five years, at which time the public can offer input on how the land is managed. Multiple use management allows different areas of each parcel to have different management objectives. This is significant because, depending on the management designation, the allowable use of that portion of the land may change. This is called the integrated resource policy that designates primary and secondary management objectives. There are special protection areas that include ecological reserves and historic/cultural areas. Resource allocation designations also include wildlife dominant managed areas like riparian areas, wetlands, and significant habitats. Other considerations are the scenic qualities, remoteness, recreational uses (which include backcountry), remote, or developed recreational areas. The least restrictive zoning applies to timber management areas. These areas may have trails and other amenities but are primarily managed for timber revenue. Timber management areas are generally the most predominant allocation designation in reserve lands.

State Wildlife Management Areas

State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) are properties owned and managed by IF&W. These are managed for the enhancement and protection of wildlife and their habitats. Trails and activities like camping are prohibited. These areas are open for hunting, birding, fishing and other dispersed low impact activities. There are only three WMAs in the High Peaks Stump Pond in New Vineyard, Black Brook Flowage in Pierce Pond Township, both of which are wetland complexes, and a third located in Strong where offices of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife are located.

National Park Service

There are many parts of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (A.T.) that cross state-owned land; however, in all other instances, the A.T. corridor is owned and managed by the National Park Service and Appalachian Trail Conservancy. These lands have designated camping areas and shelters.

Non-profit Land Trusts

Within the High Peaks Region there are numerous land-holding nonprofit organizations. Given their different organizational missions there are different uses of these lands and different management objectives for each. For example, the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust conserves land along the Appalachian Trail in Maine. Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust conserves and stewards the natural and historical resources in the Rangeley Region, for the benefit of the community and future generations.

There are organizations like the Northeast Wilderness Trust that only preserve forever-wild landscapes where forestry and motorized access is prohibited. Other organizations in the region include Bonney Woods Corporation, Pierce Pond Watershed Trust, Maine Woodland Owners, University of Maine Foundation, Foothills Land Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, The Nature Conservancy, and the High Peaks Alliance.

Municipal Lands

Town-owned lands include recreational land but can serve a variety of other uses. These include old landfills, sewer facilities, water districts, or tax acquired lands. If they are not auctioned off to return the land to a tax-bearing status, these areas can be used by the public for recreation.

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Conservation easements are legal instruments which permanently restrict uses of the land. Conservation easements allow the landowner to own the fee property but sell or donate the development rights or other rights. In the High Peaks, conservation easements represent 55% of the conserved lands. These easements protect the land from development but do not necessarily protect public access. In the High Peaks, the majority of land conserved with easements does not protect any type of public access.

CONSERVATION IN UNORGANIZED TERRITORIES, PLANTATIONS, AND ORGANIZED TOWNSHIPS

The study area consists of 38 Unorganized Townships, 5 Plantations, and 15 organized Towns. Unorganized Territories are governed at the state and county levels. These areas are lightly populated with land use managed through the Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC). Plantations are unique to Maine and are between an unincorporated township and a town. They are generally low in population but do have a local town structure. In this study, Plantations are included with Unorganized Territories because their land use is also managed by LUPC. In the High Peaks, 88% or 258,921 acres of the conserved lands are located within the Unorganized Territories and Plantations. In the organized townships there are 12% or 35,714 acres of conserved land, predominantly in Rangeley, Carrabassett Valley, and Weld.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The State of the High Peaks report is the first attempt to fully document the recreational assets of the High Peaks Region of Maine. As shown in this inventory, a large network of trails varying in type exist. This baseline data will be used to inform a planning process to identify the most pressing recreational and conservation needs in support of these trail networks. The High Peaks Initiative is focused on the intersection of recreation, economy, and ecology. This inventory is the first step in creating a shared vision which allows communities to grow vibrant again while keeping the area wild.

The High Peaks Initiative is currently focused on developing regional recreation and conservation priorities but there hasn't been a data collection effort focused on recreational assets. Using this data, this project will identify access and infrastructure needs, maintenance needs, and local priorities for expansion of trails. This data will lead to the creation of an active recreation plan for the entire region, helping partners work together to create a connected landscape and thriving communities.

It is important to engage in an asset-based approach to strengthen the relationship between conservation, recreation, and the regional, nature-based tourism economy. Work is still needed to document, brand, and market the region's assets while engaging with stakeholders to manage the resources, protect ecologically sensitive areas, develop opportunities for diverse public uses and preserve and enhance public access.

The State of the High Peaks report will be presented at a trails summit including stakeholders from across the region. The purpose of the summit will be to bring together stakeholders and encourage cooperative work on issues of common interest. It will also provide an opportunity to review, verify and/or edit the data on current conditions presented in this report. Input from stakeholders will be used to refine the vision, mission, and goals, and to initiate the process for developing a High Peaks recreation plan.

This plan will include four segments detailed below. Each segment addresses a demonstrated need and will deliver valuable information and resources to support an integrated strategy for meeting our objectives.

- 1. Hiring a technician** to examine each recreational asset that has been inventoried in this study and in local plans. This examination will be based on a matrix/rubric and will include pictures, location data, and on-the-ground assessments of our recreational assets. This technician will help develop potential conservation and trail projects by identifying areas of need for public access. This will include surveys of access to conservation lands. These surveys will allow the project team to understand how the trails are currently being maintained and what are some of the areas of need.

2. A listening tour of trail clubs, recreational guides, and key stakeholders in town and county leadership positions to inform the project's priorities. This will also gauge readiness of projects and gather information on regional needs. This will help the project team to gain insight into local places that are in need of conservation and areas that could use better recreational infrastructure or maintenance.

3. Compilation of local comprehensive plans to identify the region's highest priorities. Each community in the High Peaks has done considerable public outreach and documented each town's assets and goals. These goals will help inform what the regional priorities should be.

4. Stakeholder engagement for future desires and needs of the community. Taking the information gathered from inventory and community outreach to identify and prioritize infrastructure needs, detailed cost estimates, and funding sources, including federal, state, and private. This will allow the High Peaks Initiative to work with partners to develop work plans, timelines, and budgets.



DATA

TOWN NAME

TOWN NAME	ATV MILES	SNOWMOBILE MILES	PADDLE MILES	FOOT MILES	GROOMED SKI MILES	BIKE MILES	NON-MOTORIZED LAND	NON-MOTORIZED TOTAL	TOTAL MOTORIZED	TOTAL TRAIL MILES
Adamstown	0.0	0.0	1.8	8.5	0.0	0.0	8.5	10.3	0.0	10.3
Alder Stream Twp	2.1	0.0	4.2	3.1	0.0	0.0	6.9	11.0	2.1	13.1
Avon	31.1	32.5	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	1.3	1.3	45.8	47.1
Bigelow Twp	0.0	9.0	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.6	14.0	9.0	23.0
Byron	0.0	31.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	31.0	31.0
Carrabassett Valley	36.5	31.2	0.0	97.5	58.9	68.3	102.6	102.6	43.2	145.8
Carrying Place Town Twp	0.0	0.0	0.0	31.1	10.9	12.3	34.7	34.7	0.0	34.7
Chain of Ponds Twp	18.5	14.3	6.1	0.9	0.0	0.0	10.9	17.0	18.5	35.5
Coburn Gore	0.6	0.6	0.0	2.4	0.0	0.0	3.9	3.9	0.6	4.5
Coplin Plt	16.0	12.2	6.8	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3	7.2	16.5	23.7
Dallas Plt	18.4	18.5	7.9	26.0	24.3	24.3	31.5	39.4	18.5	57.9
Davis Twp	0.0	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0	16.0
Dead River Twp	0.0	9.8	9.7	21.2	3.4	5.9	35.3	45.0	10.6	55.6
Eustis	35.8	35.3	13.5	2.2	2.2	2.2	10.7	24.2	44.5	68.7
Farmington	0.0	41.0	13.3	41.8	10.7	24.2	45.9	59.2	41.0	100.2
Flagstaff Twp	8.5	11.8	4.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.8	14.2	16.2	30.5
Freeman Twp	29.9	34.2	0.0	2.6	0.0	2.6	2.6	2.6	45.1	47.7
Highland Plt	2.6	15.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.2	15.2
Industry	0.0	8.1	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.5	8.1	8.6
Jim Pond Twp	18.5	22.2	7.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.7	15.6	33.0	48.6
Kibby Twp	7.0	2.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	7.3	7.4
King & Bartlett Twp	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.2	2.2
Kingfield	32.2	21.4	1.3	0.4	2.4	0.0	2.9	4.1	44.6	48.7
Lang Twp	19.5	29.9	6.8	1.7	0.0	0.0	1.7	8.5	38.1	46.6
Lexington Twp	9.8	6.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.2	12.2
Lower Cupsuptic Twp	0.0	8.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.7	8.7
Lower Enchanted Twp	0.0	14.4	4.8	8.7	8.5	8.5	8.7	13.5	14.4	27.9

Madrid Twp	15.1	12.3	0.0	20.6	2.2	0.0	21.7	21.7	17.1	38.8
Massachusetts Gore	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.2	2.2	2.5	4.7
Mount Abram Twp	5.1	6.5	0.0	13.5	0.0	0.0	13.5	13.5	6.7	20.2
New Portland	3.7	16.2	5.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.4	20.0	25.4
New Vineyard	2.1	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	26.0	26.0
Perkins Twp	0.0	0.6	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	1.3	1.3	0.6	1.9
Phillips	25.3	12.7	0.0	7.1	0.0	0.0	7.8	7.8	29.2	37.1
Pierce Pond Twp	0.0	0.0	2.6	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.5	3.1	0.0	3.1
Rangeley	0.2	30.2	14.1	16.8	6.9	0.0	16.8	30.8	30.2	61.1
Rangeley Plt	21.1	19.8	0.0	7.1	0.0	13	7.1	7.1	38.5	45.6
Redington Twp	2.1	2.1	0.0	5.7	0.0	0.0	5.7	5.7	2.1	7.8
Richardsontown Twp	0.0	0.0	10.3	1.6	0.0	0.0	1.6	11.9	0.0	11.9
Roxbury	0.0	41.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	43.0	43.0
Salem Twp	25.5	16.4	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.0	1.9	1.9	28.1	30.0
Sandy River Pt	16.8	11.4	0.0	21.9	0.0	0.0	21.9	21.9	20.2	42.1
Stetson town Twp	1.1	9.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.6	10.1	10.7
Strong	26.0	33.3	6.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.3	39.3	45.6
T3 R4 BKP WKR	0.0	12.9	9.9	10.1	8.7	9.8	10.1	20.0	13.0	33.0
T3 R5 BKP WKR	0.0	8.5	8.0	2.7	1.4	1.3	2.7	10.7	8.6	19.2
Temple	37.1	27.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	45.9	45.9
Tim Pond Twp	30.2	14.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	42.7	42.7
Township 6 North of Weld	0.0	2.5	0.0	12.0	0.0	0.0	12.0	12.0	2.5	14.5
Township D	11.2	0.0	0.0	19.7	0.0	0.0	19.7	19.7	11.2	30.9
Township E	0.0	5.9	0.0	7.6	0.0	0.0	7.6	7.6	5.9	13.5
Upper Cupsuptic Twp	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.0	1.2	1.2	13.9	15.1
Weld	12.1	25.7	0.0	0.7	11.4	0.0	14.6	14.6	40.4	55.0
Wyman Twp	1.5	6.3	0.0	16.6	2.7	3.4	18.2	18.2	7.8	26.0
TOTAL	525.7	772.2	147.5	419.6	154.6	164.0	527.0	674.5	1047.8	1722.3
UT TOTAL	283.5	359.2	93.7	251.4	62.1	69.3	323.9	417.7	515.5	933.2
UT PERCENT	53.9%	46.5%	63.6%	59.9%	40.2%	42.3%	61.5%	61.9%	49.2%	54.2%
TOWN TOTAL	242.2	413.0	53.7	168.1	92.4	94.6	203.0	256.8	532.3	789.1
TOWN PERCENT	46.1%	53.5%	36.4%	40.1%	59.8%	57.7%	38.5%	38.1%	50.8%	45.8%

APPENDIX

Groomed Trails, Table 1, page 21

LOCATION	MILES
Carrabassett Valley	56.2
Carrying Place Town Twp	9.9
Dallas Plt	24.3
Dead River Twp	1.0
Eustis	2.2
Farmington	10.7
Lower Enchanted Twp	8.5
T3 R4 BKP WKR	8.7
T3 R5 BKP WKR	1.4
Weld	11.4
Wyman Twp	0.4
TOTAL	134.6

Ungroomed Trails, Table 2, page 21

LOCATION	MILES
Carrabassett Valley	2.7
Dead River Twp	2.4
Farmington	7.5
Kingfield	2.4
Madrid Twp	2.2
Rangeley	6.9
Wyman Twp	2.3
TOTAL	26.5

Miles of Protected ATV Trails, Table 3, page 28

LOCATION	MILES
Private Conservation in Fee	1.4
Private Conservation Easement	3.1
State Land in Fee	18.1
State Easement	6.4
Federal in Fee	0.4
TOTAL	29.4

Untitled, Table 4, page 28

LOCATION	MILES
Flagstaff Area ATV Club	185.6
Strong ATV Club	60.3
Narrow Gauge Riders	53.6
Kingfield Quad Runners	50.2
Oquossoc ATV Club	85.2
Carrabassett Valley ATV Club	40.1
Temple Trail Riders	37.7
Salem Trail Riders	34.7
TOTAL	26.5

Conservation Lands, Tables 4, 5 & 6, page 34

PUBLIC ACCESS	ACRES	% OF CONSERVATION LAND
Unknown	149	0.05%
No protected access	110,615	37.49%
Protected public access	184,311	62.47%

JURISDICTION	ACRES	% OF CONSERVATION LAND
Organized	35,714	12.12%
Unorganized	258,921	87.88%

CONSERVATION TYPE	ACRES	% OF CONSERVATION LAND
Easement	162,048	54.92%
Fee	131,896	44.70%
Lease	1.00	0.00%
Public Access Easement	0.83	0.00%
Restricted- Project Agreement	1,129.24	0.38%

ORGANIZATIONS

High Peaks Alliance
Maine Appalachian Trail Club
Maine Huts & Trails
Rangeley Lakes Trail Center
Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust
Farmington Ski Club
Bonney Woods Corporation
Arnold Expedition Historical Society
Central Maine Chapter of the New England Mountain
Bike Association
Carrabassett Region Chapter of the new England Mountain
Bike Association
Wilhelm Reich Museum
Maine Woodland Owners
Maine Forestry Museum
Stephen Phillips Memorial Preserve
University of Maine at Farmington
Franklin Community Health Network
Cascade Brook School
Sugarloaf Outdoor Center
Town of Carrabasset Valley
Freeman Ridge Bike Park
Mount Abram High School
Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
Bureau of Parks and Lands
Slippery Sliders Snowmobile Club
Salem Sno Drifters
Narrow Gauge Snowmobile Club
North Franklin Snowmobile Club
Weld Winter Wildcats Snowmobile Club
Shiretown Riders (data has not yet been fully mapped)
Northern Lites Snowmobile Club (data has not yet been
fully mapped)
New Vineyard North Snowmobile Club (data has not yet been
fully mapped)
Wire Bridge Sno-Travelers (data has not yet been fully mapped)
Sno Wanderers Snowmobile Club
Lexington Highlanders (data has not yet been fully mapped)
Arnold Trail Snowmobile Club
Rangeley Lakes Snowmobile Club
JV Wing Snowmobile Club
Flagstaff Area ATV Club
Sandy River Riders ATV Club
Temple Trail Riders

Oquossoc ATV Club
Roxbury ATV riders club (data has not yet been fully mapped)
Narrow Gauge Riders ATV Club
Kingfield Quad Runners
Carrabassett Valley ATV Club
Mt Abram Trail Riders

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HIGH PEAKS

ALLIANCE

