

**Rangeley Lakes National Scenic Byway 2006 Visitor Survey
TECHNICAL REPORT**



View from Height of Land, Rangeley Lakes National Scenic Byway

Prepared for Rangeley Lakes National Scenic Byway

By

Marilynne Mann, Graduate Research Assistant
Jessica Leahy, Asst. Professor & CenTRO Tourism Fellow
Parks, Recreation & Tourism Program
School of Forest Resources
University of Maine
Orono, ME 04469

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INTRODUCTION

This technical report summarizes the findings of the 2006 Visitor Survey conducted by the Maine Department of Transportation with the Rangeley Lakes National Scenic Byway (RLNSB). The overall purpose of the survey was to gather information about visitors, their preferences, experiences, and place attachment/sense of place.

The purposes of the National Scenic Byway Program are to ensure that Americans know and appreciate the nation's scenic byway corridors and protection and enhancement of natural and cultural resources (Yamada, Ostergaard, Jilbert & Brunswick, 2002). Rangeley Lakes National Scenic Byway (RLNSB) in partnership with Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust is working to protect "the integrity of the landscape, the character of the region, and the quality of life cherished by residents and visitors alike" (Watersheds, 2005, 4).

According to a historical record kept by Edward Ellis in 1893, the area was originally Abnaki hunting and fishing camps. In 1796, 31,000 acres of land was purchased by four men from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for timber and mineral rights. Squire Rangeley, son of one of the original owners, bought out the other owners and moved to the area in 1825 (five years after Maine won statehood). By 1860, the series of 112 interconnected lakes and ponds was renowned as a fisherman's paradise. In 1900, 200 fishing guides made their living in the area and by the 1930's the area was the destination of tourists who traveled to the Rangeley by railroad and stayed in extravagant resort hotels and sporting camps located primarily on Mooselookmeguntic Lake and Rangeley Lake (Pine Tree Publishing, 2003).

By 1884, the first narrow gauge railroad ran between Kingfield and Strong and was extended to Rangeley by 1890. Writing in *Discover Maine*, Lisa Melone reported that the railway was "expanded in response to the demands of timber barons and tourists" (2006, 23). Tourists rode on velvet-covered swivel seats to the end of the line at Marbles Hotel in Rangeley, a lakeside resort with its own rail station.

Many wealthy, influential families from large cities along the eastern seaboard owned private camps and "summered" here. World War II brought an end to this way-of-life and Rangeley's prosperous hotel era came to an end. Wealthy tourists became more mobile, summer camps were sold, large resorts were destroyed by fire and not rebuilt, and the last remaining resort was torn down in 1958 (Pine Tree Publishing, 2003).

Today, Rangeley Lakes remains a destination vacation spot providing magnificent mountain, lake and river views. With 1,200 permanent residents, Rangeley is still a summer resort and summer home destination for many. Cabins, camps, campgrounds and the Rangeley Lakes State Park bring visitors close to nature. The RLNSB passes over 33,000 acres of conserved public access lands. Year round recreational activities include boating, fishing, hiking, hunting, skiing, snowmobiling, swimming, and wildlife watching (Chamber of Commerce, 1997-2000).

STUDY METHODS

Questionnaire

Visitors along the RLNSB were contacted in MDOT rest areas during the summer of 2006. Over one third of the surveys were conducted in Lakeside Park on Rangeley Lake near the Chamber of Commerce. This location, the focus for the 4th of July celebration, brings large crowds to Rangeley. It is also the location of the public swimming and boating areas. Smalls Falls is the only rest area location with picnic tables, fire pits and outhouse facilities on the RLNSB. This spot provides an impressive display of four waterfalls within a colorful gorge, complete with swimming holes and cliff jumping for the thrill seekers. Whip Willow Overlook is a new rest area built on the site of the first dancehall, post office, library and buckboard stop and provides a panoramic western view of Rangeley Lake and Bald Mountain, located on Route 4 in Dallas Plantation just south of the Town of Rangeley. Rangeley Overlook is on Route 17 just south of Oquossoc and provides a panoramic 180 degree eastern view of Rangeley Lake, Saddleback Mountain and a western view of Mooselookmeguntic and Cupsuptic Lakes.

It was observed that most traffic comes from the south via Route 17 from the Mexico/Rumford area or via Route 4 from Farmington. Route 16 from Stratton to Rangeley is part of the historic Old Megantic Trail System. Charles Francis reports that the roads in western Maine “were part of the old Indian system of trails, portages and waterways connecting the St. Lawrence to the Maine coast” (2006, 31). Construction of this roadway was overseen by Paul Dudley Sargent during the first three decades of the twentieth century. “A region that stretched, for the most part, through deep valleys, across bogs, swamps and streams, and over mountains that had previously known only the tramp of moccasin-clad and booted feet saw bulldozers, backhoes, trucks and other heavy earth-moving equipment invade it” (Francis, 31).

Survey Administration

Visitors who stopped in the rest areas were approached and asked to take time and respond to the questions of the survey, using an interview-style questionnaire. In the case of couples or larger mixed groups, surveyors attempted to ask male and female travelers equally to respond to the survey. Survey respondents were interviewed by the surveyors except in the case where respondents preferred to fill out the survey themselves. The survey contained 2 pages with 18 questions and map identification questions. The questionnaire was developed with input from the State Director of Maine Scenic Byways, Bob LaRoche, and the current Byway Director, Rebecca Kurtz.

The survey objectives were to collect basic visitor characteristic data concerning who was visiting in the RLNSB area. Permanent residents and summer residents were surveyed along with visitors to the area. Participants were questioned about name recognition of this National Scenic Byway. Repeat visitors identified during the survey, were questioned to determine how many years they had been visiting the area and to obtain their opinion on changes that had or had not taken place in the Byway area. Questions were designed to tap into the multiple reasons people might visit the Byway. Several questions were included in the survey to get a sense of place:

- Place of origin
- Purpose for the trip
- Party demographics
- Method of travel

- Length of stay

Respondents were given a list of nine aspects of the RLNSB area and asked how important they were in their decision to visit the area. These aspects included the lake and mountain views, a quiet, uncrowded and rural setting, and the natural resources of the area (lakes, rivers, forests, wildlife). A follow-up question asked how their expectations about the same list of aspects were met once they had arrived in the area. Respondents were also given the opportunity to identify other aspects of the area that were important to them. The map response questions asked respondents to identify three “most special places” and three “most threatened places.”

Socio-demographic questions were included in the questionnaire. These were:

- Age
- Gender
- Level of education
- Annual household income

BRIEF LITERATURE REVIEW

One of the best sources for information about scenic byways is the America’s Byway Resource Center. In 2002, they commissioned the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment to include 39 questions in its annual survey in order “to obtain nationally representative data about auto-based travel behavior and preferences, and public use of interpretive resources” (Koth, 1). The NSRE findings demonstrated that driving for pleasure is a popular activity to 56% of survey respondents. Two-thirds of visitors who travel Scenic Byways show interest in using roadside exhibits and historic markers, reading information guides and educational pamphlets while en route. Fifty percent of travelers reported stopping at roadside displays or visitor centers if they are not in a hurry. Roadside displays were viewed by 80% of travelers if the displays were interesting (Koth, 2000).

An interesting fact that came out in the NSRE findings is that the average person who does scenic driving has a fairly high income level. This is in agreement with the finding of the RLNSB survey. One of the desired results of the national scenic designation is economic development for the area. Both of these surveys demonstrate that the travelers visiting scenic destinations have the potential for increasing economic wealth in a region if this wealth can be tapped. Table 1 shows a comparison of income level between the two studies. It is noteworthy that the RLNSB survey showed nearly 30% of respondents with an income level over \$100,000 yearly compared to nearly 17% on the national survey.

Table 1. Household income

Comparison OCR Survey with NSRE National Survey 2002	Income Rating	RLNSB Percentage	NSRE Percentage
What is your household income?	Under \$35,000	14.3	29.5
	\$35,000 – 49,000	19.1	17.6
	\$50,000 – 74,999	23.0	24.1
	\$75,000 – 99,999	14.6	12.1
	\$100,000+	29.0	16.7
Total		100.0	100.0

Rodney B. Warnick (2005), reporting on recreational trends in the northeast using data from the National Sporting Goods Association and the National Family Opinion, Inc, revealed that several recreational activities offered in the RLNSB area are in growing markets. Warnick reports that “in general, recreation activity markets in the Northeast have rebounded from previous study finding of stability or limited numbers of growing activities” (248). When the most popular individual activities were examined for 2002, overnight camping showed the highest growth with 55.4 million participants from the general population, increasing from 45.5 million in 2001. Many visitors to the Rangeley Lakes area are interested in camping and the area provides camping at private campgrounds as well as Rangeley Lakes State Park. Swimming, a popular activity in the Rangeley area, did not show an increase in activity nationally, but 54.7 million people reported engaging in this recreational activity in 2002 (2005). National trends show kayaking/rafting among “the five fastest growing activities with 9% growth” (244). Backpacking (9.3%) and hiking (5.7%) experienced steady growth in the number of participants in the period from 1993 to 2002.

One of the two winter-based activities experiencing strong growth is snowmobiling. In the period from 1995-2001/2002, “the number of riders has increased in the Northeast from 1.5 million to 2 million” (Warnick, 2005, 247). This rate of growth (9.2%) is faster than the national growth rate of 8.8% (average annual rate change). Downhill skiing and snowboarding are well supported in the Rangeley area at Saddleback Mountain and Sugarloaf/USA not far away in the Carrabassett Valley. Snowboarding demonstrates the greatest growth of all winter-based recreational activity with 17.1% growth while there is a 1.9% decline for downhill skiing. Warnick further reports that although the trend is down for downhill skiing, 2.4 million people reported participation in this activity in 2001/2002 with 1.7 million participating in snowboarding. Although a portion of snowboarders are converted skiers, Warnick reports that the largest increase in snowboarders are youth who learned to snowboard 10 to 30 years ago and are now in the 18 to 34 age segment; “the only segment where downhill skiing decreased” (248).

STUDY FINDINGS

A. Who was surveyed and where

Systematic random on-site surveying during the peak summer season resulted in 678 completed surveys. The mix of times was almost equal between the AM surveying times (10 00 am. to 2 00 pm.) and the PM times (2 00 pm. to 6 00 pm.). There was nearly an equal mix of weekends and weekdays and half as many holidays.

Table 2. Survey Location, Day and Time

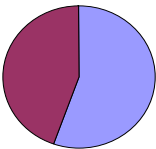
Random Surveys by Rest Area	N	Percent	Day of the Week			Time of Day	
			Holiday	Weekend	Weekday	AM	PM
Chamber's Lakeside Park	249	36.7	2	2	1	1	4
Smalls Falls	229	33.8	1	3	3	6	1
Rangeley Overlook	123	18.1	1	2	2	2	5
Whip Willow Overlook	77	11.4	0	2	2	3	1
Total	678	100.0	4	9	8	12	11

B. Socio-Demographic Characteristics

Male respondents outnumbered female respondents 55% to 45% (Table 3, Figure 1). Respondents ranged in age from 18 to 83 years old (Table 4). The median age was 47.

Table 3. Gender

Question	Rating	N	Percent
What is your gender?	Male	374	55.2
	Female	304	44.8
Total		678	100.0



Source Question 15.

Table 4. Age

What year were you born?	Age	N	Percent
1979-1988	18 - 27	58	8.6
1969-1978	28 - 37	118	17.5
1959-1968	38 - 47	171	25.3
1949-1958	48 - 57	150	22.2
1939-1948	58 - 67	120	17.8
1929-1938	68 - 77	48	7.1
	78+	10	1.5
Total		678	100.0

Source Question 16.

C. Education

Our findings demonstrate that people who drive for pleasure are more highly educated and have slightly higher income levels. Survey respondents were well educated with over 48% holding a Bachelor's Degree or higher level of education and 75% reporting some form of higher education beyond high school.

Table 5. Education

Question	Rating	N	Percent
What is your highest level of education?	Some high school	7	1.0
	High school graduate	161	23.8
	Vocational school	22	3.2
	Some college	161	23.8
	Bachelor's degree	165	24.4
	Post-graduate study	161	23.8
Total		677	100.0

Source Question 17.

D. Income

Eighty-eight percent of survey respondents were willing to share household income (n=596). The mean income was in the \$50,000 to \$74,999 category and over two-thirds of survey respondents had an income level of \$50,000 or more. Nearly 44% had an income level of \$75,000 or more and 29% reported annual incomes over \$100,000. The last three categories of respondents are nearly equal in number which is consistent with the pattern observed in level of education.

Table 6. Household Income

Question	Rating	N	Percent
What is your household income?	Under \$35,000	85	14.3
	\$35,000 – 49,000	114	19.1
	\$50,000 – 74,999	137	23.0
	\$75,000 – 99,999	87	14.6
	\$100,000 – 124,999	89	14.9
	\$125,000+	84	14.1
Total		596	100.0

Source Question 18.

E. Origin Where are people coming from

Forty individuals reported home zip code of 04970 (Rangeley, Dallas, Kennebago Lake or Sandy River). Another 11 reported zip codes of 04966 and 04983 (Strong or Phillips) and indicated they were residents of the area. Without this group which represented 14.4% of the state, the number of respondents from Maine and from other US locations was nearly equal. The number of non-U.S. travelers was only 2%. Routes 4 and 17 are not travel routes, only a section of Route 4, shared with Route 16, is a back-country link between Maine and New Hampshire.

Table 7. State or country of origin

Origin of travelers	N	% of ME	N	Percent Overall
State of Maine			304	44.8
Town of Rangeley	40			
Strong and Phillips	11			
Total Rangeley area	51	14.4	51	7.5
USA (Non-Maine)			308	45.4
Other (Non-USA)			15	2.3
Total			678	100.0

Source Question 1

F. Residency

When asked directly if respondents were a seasonal or part-time resident 16% responded affirmatively. Another 9% said they were residents of the areas (n=63).

Table 8. Residency

Question – Are you a seasonal or part-time resident?	N	Percent
Not a seasonal or part-time resident	388	57.7
Yes a seasonal/part-time resident	110	16.3
Resident of the area	63	9.3
No Response = First-time visitor	117	16.8
Total	678	100.0

Source Question 8.

G. Length of current trip

Thirty-five percent of respondents reported being on a one-day tri Forty-six percent of respondents reported being on a 4 day or longer tri Many respondents did not answer this question indicating that they considered themselves residents and “not on a trip” (n=81).

Table 9. Length of current trip

Length of Trip	N	Valid Percent
1 Day	209	35.0
2-3 Day	112	18.8
4 Day or Longer	276	46.2
No Response	81	
Total	678	100.0

Source Question 2

H. Time in the RLNSB area

When specifically asked how long respondents were staying in the area, 12% said they would be spending less than a day in the Byway area (n=83). Nearly 31% reported they would only be spending 1 to 2 hours on the Byway. An additional 37% indicated they would spend 3 to 4 hours in the area.

About 42% reported the amount of time in the area in days (n=284). Over 30% planned to stay 1 day and nearly 24% 2 to 3 days. An addition 36% planned to stay from 4 to 7 days.

Table 10. Time spent in the RLNSB area

Amount of time	N	N	Percent
Hours	1-2	20	30.7
	3-4	33	36.7
	5-8	24	25.8
	9+	6	6.8
Total Hours		83	100.0
Days	1	87	30.6
	2-3	68	23.9
	4-7	101	35.6
	8-14	14	4.9
	15-30	12	4.2
	More than 30	2	0.7
Total Days		284	100.0

Source Question 10.

I. Purpose for traveling

When questioned concerning the primary purpose for their trip, 58% of respondents indicated they were on vacation or involved in a leisure activity. Scenic riding brought nearly 14% of the visitors to the Byway. Those who responded that they were either a resident or owned a second home in the area were 14% of the respondents for this question. Eleven percent were in the area due to interaction with friends or family. Three percent of respondents were traveling for work or business reasons.

Table 11. Primary purpose of trip

Purpose of Trip	N	Percent
Vacation	392	57.8
Scenic Ride	92	13.6
Visit Friends and Family	76	11.2
Resident	47	6.9
2 nd Home	47	6.9
Business	22	3.2
Medical care	2	0.3
Total	678	100.0

Source Question 3

J. Accommodations

Forty two percent of respondents stayed at their home the night before traveling on the Scenic Byway. Of those staying in the area, 21% stayed at second homes, camps, or cabins, 15% were guests of friends or family, 9% stayed at a campground, 7% at a hotel or motel, and 3% had accommodations at a time share or condominium.

Table 12. Stayed last night

Stayed	N	Valid Percent
At home	282	41.7
2 nd home, cabin, camp	139	20.5
With friends or family	99	14.6
Campground	60	9.2
Hotel or motel	48	7.1
Time Share/Condo	19	2.8
Rental	14	2.1
Bed & Breakfast	6	0.9
Other	8	1.2
No Response	1	0.0
Total	678	100.0

Source Question 4.

K. Size of party

Over half (56.5%) of adults were traveling with one other adult. Over half of travelers (57.4%) were traveling without children. Of those with children, 27% had 1 or 2 children in their party.

Table 13. Number of people in party

Number of people	N	N	Percent
Adults in party	1	88	13.0
	2	383	56.5
	3-5	163	24.0
	6+	44	6.5
Total Adults in party		678	100.0
Children in party	0	389	57.4
	1	82	12.1
	2	103	15.2
	3	55	8.1
	4+	49	7.2
Total children in party		678	100.0

Source Question 5 and 6.

L. Method of travel

Over two-thirds of travelers (64.3%) were traveling by car. SUV's and trucks accounted for 27% of travelers. Other methods of travel included motorcycles (5.2%), travelers on the Appalachian Trail (1.3%), and 2 people (1.3%) on the Northern Forest Canoe Trail.

Table 14. Method of travel

Method of Travel	N	Percent
Car	436	64.3
SUV/Truck	183	27.0
Motorcycle	35	5.2
Foot	9	1.3
RV	9	1.3
Airplane	2	0.3
Canoe	2	0.3
Bicycle	1	0.1
Bus	1	0.1
Total	678	100.0

Source Question 7.

M. Repeat visitors

Nearly 83% of visitors who were surveyed in the Byway area were return visitors.

Table 15. Repeat visitors

Question	Rating	N	Percent
Is this your first visit to this area?	Yes	117	17.2
	No	561	82.8
Total		678	100.0

Source Question 8.

Over 20% of visitors have been coming to this area since Route 17 and Route 4 were designated a National Scenic Byway in 2000. The mean response was 22 years. Many visitors have been coming to this area for over 40 years (13.2%). Over half of the visitors have been coming for twenty or less years (57.1%) and numbers decrease with years visiting, indicating a new influx to this area.

Table 16. Years visiting

Number of years visiting	N	Valid Percent
1-5	114	20.4
6-10	75	13.4
11-15	62	11.1
16-20	68	12.2
21-25	43	7.7
26-30	51	9.1
31-35	27	4.8
36-40	45	8.1
41-50	44	7.9
51-60	17	3.0
61-80	13	2.3
Non-Response	2	
Total	561	100.0

Source Question 8.

N. Change in the area

Respondents were asked if they felt the area had changed for better or worse in the years that they had been visiting. Nearly 40% indicated a change for the better. Nearly 15% felt that changes were for the worse.

Table 17. Area change

Change	N	Percent
Better	220	39.4
No Change	142	25.4
Worse	83	14.8
Not sure	114	20.4
Total	559	100.0

Source Question 8.

O. Reasons explaining perceptions on change

Regardless of the responses given for Question 8 (Table 17), when asked to specify the reasons why change was better or worse respondents gave comments indicating change for the better (n=234) and for the worse (n=175).

The top reason given for changes being better was an increase in services/amenities (31.2%). Nearly 17% of respondents identified growth/development in the area as change for the better. Include in the top five reasons for better change were better facilities on the RLNSB (11.5%) general appearance/cleanliness of the area (10.3%), and the roads (10.3%). Eight percent expressed that everything was better, 7% mentioned economic issues as better and 6% commented that more people and improvements at Saddleback Mountain were better changes.

The top reason for changes being worse was growth/development (36%). Answers were more spread out in this category. Included in the top five comments concerning changes for the worse were more people (11.4%), cultural/character change (6.3%), and sharing fifth place; economic issues and general appearance/cleanliness of the area (5.1%).

Table 18 demonstrates that characteristics deemed better by some respondents were deemed worse by others. Growth/development, for instance, were mentioned 102 times, by nearly one-quarter of respondents. Thirty-eight percent classify growth/development as a change for the better, while 62% categorized it as a change for the worse. Services/amenities were commented on by over 18% of respondents and 97% (n=73 of 75) classified them as change for the better.

Table 18. Change for better or worse

Characteristics for “better/no change/worse/not sure”	N Changes for better	Percent for better	N Changes for worse	Percent for worse	Total N	Total Percent
Growth/Development	39	16.7	63	36.0	102	24.9
Services/Amenities	73	31.2	2	1.1	75	18.3
Appearance, cleanliness	24	10.3	9	5.1	33	8.1
RLNSB facilities	27	11.5	5	2.9	32	7.8
Roads	24	10.3	8	4.6	32	7.8
More people	6	2.6	20	11.4	26	6.4
Economic issues	7	3.0	9	5.1	16	3.9
Culturally/character	3	1.3	11	6.3	14	3.4
Environmental issues	3	1.3	8	4.6	11	2.7
Need for regulations/zoning	1	0.4	8	4.6	9	2.2
Everything	8	3.4	0	0.0	8	2.0
Real estate issues	1	0.4	7	4.0	8	2.0
Change	5	2.1	2	1.1	7	1.7
Saddleback Mountain	6	2.6	0	0.0	6	1.5
Timber harvesting	0	0.0	6	3.4	6	1.5
Locals have no voice	0	0.0	4	2.3	4	1.0
Poland Springs issues	0	0.0	4	2.3	4	1.0
AT and trails	1	0.4	1	0.6	2	0.5
Jet skies	0	0.0	2	1.1	2	0.5
Too many regulations	0	0.0	2	1.1	2	0.5
Other	6	2.6	4	2.3	10	2.4
Total	234	100.0	175	100.0	409	100.0

Source Question 11.

Designation of the Rangeley Lakes National Scenic Byway

A little over one in every two survey respondents were aware of the National Scenic designation of Routes 4 and 17 as the Rangeley Lakes National Scenic Byway.

Table 19. Recognition of the Rangeley Lakes National Scenic Byway

Question	Rating	N	Percent
Were you aware of this designation before today?	Yes	332	49.0
	No	346	51.0
Total		678	100.0

Source Question 9.

Q. Additional tourism services

Survey respondents were asked if there were any additional tourism services they would like to see offered in the Byway area. Seventy-two percent responded that they did not have any additional service needs.

Table 20. Additional tourism services

Question	Rating	N	Percent
Are there any additional tourism services you would like to see offered in this area?	Yes	192	27.5
	No	486	72.0
	No response	3	0.5
Total		640	100.0

Source Question 11.

R. Additional services that make the visit more enjoyable

Two hundred and fifty respondents offered comments concerning desirable additional tourism services. In responding, nearly 13% (n=33) specifically commented that they did not want to see any changes. Over 54% (n=142) mentioned various amenities.

Table 21. Services Suggested

What additional tourism services would you like to see offered in this area?	N	Percent
Amenities	142	54.4
Recreational Services	51	19.5
Communications	35	13.4
No changes	33	12.6
Total	261	100.0

Source Question 11.

Several amenities were mentioned as important to survey respondents. Of 142 comments, restrooms topped the list with close to a 28% response followed by specialty shops (13%) and additional kids oriented activities (12%). Boat rentals/tours on Rangeley Lake were mentioned by approximately 11% of the respondents. Other comments are shown in Table 22.

Table 22. Amenities suggested as additional tourism services

Amenities	N	Percent
Restrooms	39	27.5
Specialty shops (coffee, donut, candy, fast food)	19	13.4
Kids activities/services	17	12.0
Boating rental/tours on the lake	16	11.3
Cell phone service	5	3.5
Cultural/evening entertainment for adults	5	3.5
Roads	5	3.5
Car wash	4	2.8
Expanded accommodations	4	2.8
Public transportation	4	2.8
Horse Riding	3	2.1
More restaurants	3	2.1
Drinking fountains	2	1.4
Hospital/emergency room	2	1.4
Other	14	9.9
Total	142	100.0

Source Question 11.

Nearly 20% of additional responses desired more recreational services (n=51). Recreational services mentioned include; picnic tables and additional rest area facilities (19.6%), camping (15.7%), and better access to natural resources (11.8%). Clean outhouses and better trail services were mentioned by 10% of respondents in this category. Guiding services and more of a focus on fly fishing were concerns that were expressed. Nearly 6% desired to see trash cans in the rest areas.

Table 23. Recreation related services suggested as additional tourism services

Recreational Services	N	Percent
Picnic tables & rest area facilities	10	19.6
Camping	8	15.7
Access to natural resources	6	11.8
Clean outhouses	5	9.8
Trails, access and promotion	5	9.8
Guide or tour services	4	7.8
Fly fishing, access and promotion	3	5.9
Trash cans	3	5.9
Other	7	13.7
Total	51	100.0

Source Question 11.

Better communications was a concern of over 13% of respondents (n=35). Of this group, 31% mentioned wayfinding signage as most important. Internet services, services provided by an Information Center and access to maps and brochures were also mentioned.

Table 24. Communication services suggested as additional tourism services

Communication Services	N	Percent
Wayfinding signage	11	31.4
Internet	8	22.9
Information center	8	22.9
Maps/brochures	5	14.3
Other	3	8.6
Total	35	100.0

Source Question 11.

S. Other destinations in Maine

Visitors were asked to indicate if they had plans to visit the other National Scenic Byways in Maine and/or Baxter State Park on their trip. Seven percent of travelers had plans to visit the Kennebec River area (The Old Canada Road National Scenic Byway) while 5% of visitors had plans to visit Acadia National Park. About 2% planned to visit Baxter State Park on their trip and nearly 2% had plans to visit the Schoodic area.

Table 25. Other places visiting in Maine

Question	Rating	N	Percent
Kennebec River area (Old Canada Road)	Yes	50	7.3
	No	628	92.7
Acadia National Park	Yes	33	4.9
	No	645	95.1
Baxter State Park	Yes	15	2.2
	No	663	97.8
Schoodic area	Yes	11	1.6
	No	667	98.4

Source Question 12.

T. Destination

Visitors were asked by Field Surveyors if they would state their destination and about 9% of respondents mentioned a destination other than the four offered near Maine's National Scenic Byways. Of that 9%, over 43% were planning on visiting destinations on the coast of Maine. Over 11% mentioned visiting somewhere else in Maine or another state in New England. More than half of those visiting another State mentioned New Hampshire. Nearly 10% were headed to Canadian destinations. The remaining visitors mentioned destinations in Maine neighboring the Rangeley area.

Table 26. Other places visiting on this trip

Destination	N	Percent
Coastal Destinations	27	43.5
Other Maine	7	11.3
Other US	7	11.3
Canadian Destinations	6	9.7
Eustis/Stratton area	6	9.7
Swift River area/Mt. Blue State Park	5	8.1
Carabassett Valley	4	6.5
Total	62	100.0

Source Question 12.

U. Important aspects of RLNSB

To determine the specific aspects of the area that were important to visitors in their decision to visit the area, respondents were asked to rate nine items on a five-point scale from 1 (Very important) to 5 (Very unimportant). Overall, respondents highly rated the natural aspects of the area with the exception of rivers and forests which were rated lower than other natural features. The aspects with the greatest importance to visitors (above 75% very important) were the lakes, mountain views, a quiet setting, lake views and wildlife. The aspect with the lowest level (below 70% very important) was a rural setting.

Table 27. Importance of specific aspects of the RLNSB area in the decision to visit

Table Sample								
Aspect (n=678)	Mean^a	SD	Percent of respondents by response category					
			1	2	3	4	5	Don't know
Lakes	1.45	1.20	79.6	9.3	6.5	1.0	2.2	1.3
Mountain views	1.51	1.32	77.7	10.0	7.1	0.7	2.7	1.8
Quiet setting	1.53	1.31	77.3	9.3	7.5	0.9	3.5	1.5
Lake Views	1.55	1.33	76.1	9.3	9.1	0.7	3.1	1.6
Wildlife	1.59	1.38	75.2	10.3	7.1	2.4	3.2	1.8
Rivers	1.60	1.29	71.5	11.8	10.8	2.4	2.1	1.5
Forests	1.60	1.35	72.9	11.7	9.0	1.8	3.1	1.6
Uncrowded setting	1.60	1.36	73.7	10.3	10.3	0.7	3.1	1.8
Rural Setting	1.68	1.40	68.1	14.2	11.4	1.6	2.8	1.9
Other	6.18	3.82	35.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	64.7

Source Question 9.

^a Responses based on a five-point scale where 1=Very important, 3=Somewhat important, 5=Very unimportant, 9=Don't know/not sure.

Aspects, other than the nine offered, were important for 35% of respondents (n=239) who mentioned 288 other reasons for visiting. Nearly 65% of respondents did not mention other reasons. Taken together friends and family represented 30% of the other reasons mentioned and fishing topped recreational activities (14%). Winter recreational activities of skiing and snowmobiling were mentioned by over 9%. Five percent of survey respondents were in the area for business reasons. Other comments are shown in Table 28.

Table 28. Other reasons important in the decision to visit

Other reasons for visiting	N	Percent
Family	64	22.2
Fishing	40	13.9
Friends	21	7.3
Skiing	16	5.6
Snowmobiling	11	3.8
Work or business	14	4.9
Friendly people/community	9	3.1
Hiking	9	3.1
Scenic beauty	8	2.8
Food, shopping, medical	8	2.8
Hunting	7	2.4
Wildlife viewing	6	2.1
ATV	5	1.7
Boating, paddling, canoeing	5	1.7
Falls	5	1.7
Birding	5	1.7
Community special events	4	1.4
Golf	4	1.4
Roads	4	1.4
Swimming	4	1.4
Camping	3	1.0
Moose viewing	3	1.0
Mountains	3	1.0
Peace and quiet	3	1.0
Reich Museum	3	1.0
Biking	2	0.7
Other	22	7.6
Total	288	100.0

Question 12.

V. Expectations for RLNSB

To determine visitors' satisfaction with specific aspects of the Rangeley Lakes area, respondents were asked to rate nine items on a five-point scale from 1 (expectations fully met) to 5 (expectation not met). Overall, respondents highly rated their expectations at the level of fully met.

Five aspects had satisfaction levels higher than expectations; forests, rural area, mountain views, lake views and rivers. Mountain views had the highest expectation level and forests had the highest satisfaction level. The remaining aspects of quiet setting, wildlife, uncrowded and lakes had a lower satisfaction level than expectation level. Quiet setting had the greatest difference between expectation and satisfaction while wildlife had the lowest satisfaction level overall. Fifty respondents offered comments concerning their expectation for the RLNSB area. Comments are listed in Appendix A by rating.

Table 29. Satisfaction with specific aspects of the RLNSB area

Table Sample								
Aspect – Expectations concerning (n=678)	Mean ^a	SD	Percent of respondents by response category					Don't know
			1	2	3	4	5	
Mountain views	1.44	1.62	87.6	5.8	1.9	0.0	0.7	4.0
Forests	1.46	1.64	87.2	5.8	2.1	0.1	0.7	4.1
Lakes	1.48	1.65	86.4	5.8	2.8	0.0	0.9	4.1
Lake Views	1.48	1.66	86.9	5.3	2.7	0.0	1.0	4.1
Rivers	1.53	1.74	85.1	6.3	2.8	0.6	0.4	4.7
Rural setting	1.54	1.65	82.0	8.4	4.3	.03	1.0	4.0
Quiet setting	1.64	1.74	79.2	7.8	6.2	0.7	1.8	4.3
Uncrowded setting	1.68	1.75	76.5	9.9	6.3	0.7	2.2	4.3
Wildlife	1.69	1.84	79.8	6.8	5.0	0.4	3.2	4.7
Other	6.23	3.77	33.0	0.6	0.4	0.0	1.5	64.5

Source Question 9.

^a Responses based on a five-point scale where 1=Fully met, 3=Somewhat met, 5=Not met.

W. Special Places

One of the goals of this survey was to determine visitor attachment to the natural features and places along the RLNSB. Survey respondents were asked to examine a map of the area and designate three most special places. Over five hundred respondents offered a most special place (n=537).

Table 30. Most Special Places Rated as Number 1

Number One Special Places	N	Percent
Smalls Falls	107	20.0
Height of Land	56	10.5
Rangeley Lake and shoreline	43	8.1
All or everything in the area	37	6.9
Town of Rangeley, Restaurants/Shops	31	5.8
Saddleback Mountain	29	5.4
Mooselookmeguntic Lake area	21	3.9
Rangeley Overlook	17	3.2
Oquossoc area	17	3.2
Coos Canyon	11	2.1
Rangeley Lakes State Park	10	1.9
Rangeley Lakes Town Park (Chamber's)	10	1.9
Appalachian Trail	8	1.5
Rangeley Lakes National Scenic Byway	8	1.5
Bald Mountain	7	1.3
Kennebago Lake area	7	1.3
Mount Blue State Park area	7	1.3
Natural areas in general	7	1.3
Richardson Lake area	7	1.3
Beaver Mountain Lake area	6	1.1
Cupsuptic Lake area	6	1.1
Mingo Spring Golf Course & area	6	1.1
Routes 16 & 27 to Eustis	6	1.1
Whip Willow Rest Area	6	1.1
Angel Falls	5	0.9
Cascade Stream Gorge	5	0.9
Reich Museum	5	0.9
Carrabassett Valley	4	0.7
Haley Pond	4	0.7
Quimby Pond	4	0.7
Sandy River area	4	0.7
Wilson Mills area to N.H.	4	0.7
ATV Trails	2	0.4
Aziscoos Lake area	2	0.4
Dallas Plantation area	2	0.4
Dodge Pond	2	0.4
Hunter Cove	2	0.4
Stephen Phillips Game Preserve	2	0.4
Parmachenee area	1	0.2
Miscellaneous	16	3.0
Total	537	100.0

Survey respondents also named their second and third ranked places and additional places were also mentioned. Smalls Falls took top place for the most special place overall and Height of Land and the Town of Rangeley (and facilities) were designated as the overall second and third most special places. Rangeley Lakes and the shoreline areas were fourth in rank.

Table 54. Most Special Places All Responses

Special Places – combined placement	S1-N	S2-N	S3-N	OtherN	TotalN	Percent
Smalls Falls	107	40	18	7	172	13.3
Height of Land	56	33	17	8	114	8.8
Rangeley Lake and shoreline	43	27	14	3	87	6.7
All or everything in the area	37	14	10	7	68	5.2
Town of Rangeley, Restaurants/Shops	31	41	24	8	104	8.0
Saddleback Mountain	29	25	28	2	84	6.5
Mooselookmeguntic Lake area	21	20	6	2	49	3.8
Rangeley Overlook	17	18	12	3	50	3.9
Oquossoc area	17	16	10	3	46	3.5
Coos Canyon	11	10	8	2	31	2.4
Rangeley Lakes State Park	10	15	6	4	35	2.7
Rangeley Lakes Town Park (Chamber's)	10	16	11	3	40	3.1
Appalachian Trail	8	2	3	4	17	1.3
Rangeley Lakes National Scenic Byway	8	3	4	2	17	1.3
Bald Mountain	7	6	12	2	27	2.1
Kennebago Lake area	7	18	7	1	33	2.5
Mount Blue State Park area	7	1	3	4	15	1.2
Natural areas in general	7	10	5	10	32	2.5
Richardson Lake area	7	7	5	2	21	1.6
Beaver Mountain Lake area	6	2	3	2	9	0.7
Cupsuptic Lake area	6	7	6	2	21	1.6
Mingo Spring Golf Course & area	6	8	4	1	19	1.5
Routes 16 & 27 to Eustis	6	2	7	6	21	1.6
Whip Willow Rest Area	6	2	1	0	13	1.0
Angel Falls	5	5	4	2	15	1.2
Cascade Stream Gorge	5	4	4	1	15	1.2
Reich Museum	5	1	1		7	0.5
Carrabassett Valley	4	3	4	2	14	1.1
Haley Pond	4	0	1	0	6	0.5
Quimby Pond	4	1	1	1	6	0.5
Sandy River area	4	7	0	1	12	0.9
Wilson Mills area to N.H.	4	7	3	4	17	1.3
ATV Trails	2	0	0	1	5	0.4
Aziscoos Lake area	2	5	1	0	8	0.6
Dallas Plantation area	2	1	0	0	4	0.3
Dodge Pond	2	1	1	0	4	0.3
Hunter Cove	2	0	1	3	2	0.2
Stephen Phillips Game Preserve	2	0	3	0	6	0.5
Parmachenee area	1	0	2	0	3	0.2
Magalloway	0	2	2	1	5	0.4
Miscellaneous	16	11	14	2	43	3.3
Total	534	391	266	106	1297	100.0

X. Threatened Places/Things

In an attempt to measure respondent's perceptions of environmental and cultural threatened places, survey respondents were asked to identify any "threatened or endangered places or things in the area" in order of importance, by referring to a map. The highest number of responses for a threatened issue, at all levels, was overdevelopment. Concerns expressed about Rangeley Lake were also associated with overdevelopment along the shorelines. The highest number of responses for a threatened place was Rangeley Lake and issues concerning the lake (other than overdevelopment). Cultural issues and wildlife were mentioned as the next two highest concerns. Tables in the Appendix B, list the individual comments made by respondents in this category by issues or places.

Table 33. Most Threatened Places/Things

What places/things do you feel are threatened or endangered	Sub Total	T1	T2	T3	Other	TotalN	Percent
Overdevelopment		31	20	6	4	61	13.3
Building general	40						
Condominium concerns	13						
Environmental concerns	2						
Rangeley concerns	6						
Rangeley Lakes issues - Total		32	12	4	7	55	12.0
Milfoil	16						
Building on the lake	13						
Jet skies on the lake	7						
General & environmental	8						
Power boats on the lake	5						
Geese/dogs on lake front	4						
Airplanes on the lake	2						
Cultural Issues		22	10	8	8	48	10.4
Quaintness of Rangeley	23						
Impact on local economy	14						
Access to natural areas	8						
Social concerns	3						
Wildlife threatened - Total		24	6	0	4	34	7.4
General	13						
Habitat	9						
Fish	5						
Moose	3						
Geese	2						
Loons	2						
Everything		22	2	2	1	29	6.3
Forests, access, health, view		11	9	1	7	28	6.1
Harvesting practices	16						
General	12						
Elements of Town of Rangeley & area		15	6	6	0	27	5.9
Water quality issues	14						
Threatened places	16						
Poland Springs issues	12						
Scenic roadways	6						
More people	11						
Round Pond	11						
Hillsides, Mountain views (wind farms)	10						
Miscellaneous Recreation; Trails, Snowmobiling	8						
Misc. Environmental concerns	5						
Fishing	3						
Wilderness qualities	4						
Total		258	107	44	51	460	100.0

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APPENDIX A

Other comments offered concerning expectations of RLNSB (Questions 14)	N
Rating of 1 Fully met expectations	
Quiet is very important	3
Lack of quiet and over-crowding	2
Seasonally crowded and noisy.	2
Decline in lake aesthetics but not offensive yet.	1
Lack of information about areas to camp and fish (Chamber of Commerce provided upon arrival)	1
Prefer spraying and selective cutting to clear cutting.	1
Rangely Overlook best lake view.	1
Smalls Falls leaves a lot to be desired in cleanliness and toilet paper.	1
Rating of 3 Expectations somewhat met	
Getting crowded and more traffic	2
Rating of 5 Expectations not met at all	
Fishing decline	2
Accommodations not clean	1
Concerns about the Town of Rangely (less is better)	1
Lack of public transportation	1
No longer quiet, noisy traffic	1
No phones in town	1
No view from Pizza Rock	1
Rainy weather	1
Rating of 9 Not sure concerning expectation (Negative comments)	
Only quiet and uncrowded in off-season	6
Wildlife very important, like to see more (used to be more)	5
Too much wildlife for safety on road	1
Fishing interest	2
Canadian Geese are bad, need a plan to deal with them	1
Gated restrictions on land once open	1
Lake and pond erosion	1
Rangely Overlook, vandalism on rocks	1
Roads Disappointed in roads	1
Rural setting no longer but not yet city	1
Smalls Falls gone down, no upkeep	1
Best area in Maine	
Found about this area from a book; "What to do with Kids in Maine"	1
Leave it like it is	1
Transitioning from the coast for vacation	1
Roads DOT good job	1
Total	50

Threatened from Overdevelopment

Building General

Building

Building takes the territory

Change in some areas but there are enough buildings

Concern about over building

Concerned about over development

Development (2)

Development - hope it's wise development

Development - need comprehensive development plan without spot zoning or changes in zoning for development

Development and subdivisions effect on natural environment - wildlife

Development causing restriction of use

Development of ski area, supportive but concerned

Development concern for adequate control and management

Development it is hard to condemn others when we have done it too; we are part of the problem.

Don't know enough - worry is development

Getting overgrown like everything else

Highway and home construction

Impending development if not done right

More development

No good zoning covered at the governmental level

Not sure - a lot of development

Over building

Overdevelopment (3)

Overdevelopment is a possible threat

Overdevelopment threatens views and peace and contentment - big houses bother me

Overdevelopment - threatens land

Overdevelopment (keep zoning)

Overdevelopment demanding more services

Overdevelopment housing and attractions, man-made stuff

Possible Saddleback overdevelopment

Some building projects are tearing the guts out of the region while others are doing it nicely

Threat of overdevelopment

Too many houses being built all over

Too many people - too much development

Too many people moving in and development

Too much growth - from \$ people

Uncontrolled development will threaten everything; water quality, wildlife and scenic beauty

Whole Region threatened by development

Condominium Concerns

Concern for new condos on Rt. 4

Condominiums do not belong - eye sore

Condominiums - preserve old/don't bring in large resorts

Condos

Condos and building "Save Rangeley, Kill a Carpenter"

Condos are a scare

Condos are too large for this area

Condos are too much

Condos – We don't need another Old Orchard Beach - new 90 unit on Rt. 4 - they'll all be here (Town Park)

Downtown zoning too liberal - too many condos

Time Share is ugly - cut all those trees - from the air there is a big bear spot - nothing pretty -

Too developed with all the condos

We don't need another Old Orchard Beach - new 90 unit on Rt. 4 - they'll all be here (Town Park)

Environmental Concerns

Environment from people and houses

Environmentally - yes - building and clearing

Rangeley Concerns

Could be loved to death. I came here others want to come too. They will want to build. I have no right to restrict others but I am concerned for Rangeley being mobbed.

Do not want Rt. 4 to look so commercial with storage places etc. on every block

Do not want this to become Lake George

Hate to see it get too developed and too busy, like the quaintness

Rangeley losing quietness, more commercial every year due to building and commercialism

Rangeley overdevelopment

Total number of comments = 61

Rangeley Lake Threatened

Milfoil

Keep evasive weeds out of the lake

Invasive milfoil

Invasive plant, milfoil in Lakes

Invasive plants

Invasive Species

Lake threatened by weeds

Lakes - generally and milfoil

Lakes are threatened, milfoil

Milfoil (4)

Milfoil – Keep lake pristine for fishing

Milfoil invasive species

Milfoil, lakes and shores

Water quality, Milfoil

Building on the lake

A watch on development and power boats on Rangeley Lake

Building 250 Ft. set back on lakes and maintain shorefront natural

Building too much around the lake

Lake fronts and scenic views due to poor planning

Lake? Overbuilding on shore line

Lakefront development seems to be an issue

Lakes - overdeveloped

Rangeley Lake - Overdevelopment

Rangeley losing quietness, more commercial every year due to building and commercialism

Sewage systems on new developments on the lake - the leach fields? How long before it ruins the lake. If the lake dies you lose everything.

Too many houses on the lakes

Too much development on this lake

Whip Willow and Rangeley Manor area, worried about development of lake front in this area

Jet Skies

Jet ski threatens the Lake and boating (Rangeley, they are banned on Mooselook Lake)

Jet skies - despise them

Jet skies - stay in the middle - restrain all motorized things, noise and fumes are these worst threats, airplane noisy

Jet skies on Lake - too many

Jet skies on lakes - no respect for private owners - damage is being done by non-owners

Jet skies on Rangeley

Jet ski's and their effect

General

Acid rain on fish in Rangeley Lakes

Access to water

Camp Rangeley

Lake starting to become threatened from erosion

Lead sinkers poisoning the fish and loons?

Rangeley Lake

Sign at Rangeley Town Park says "no dogs" yet there is a dog over there near the sign area - I keep my dog out they should too

The Lake - lots of people

Power Boats

More people means bigger boats

Motor boats polluting on small lakes

Power Boats - loud and pollution

Power boats on Rangeley Lake

Too many boats

Dogs and Geese

Dogs at the Lake - should not be here and their poop - it's not the geese it is the dogs

Geese in park and everywhere, lawns, golf course – something has to be done

Goose poop is better

Sign at Rangeley Town Park says "no dogs" yet there is a dog over there near the sign area - I keep my dog out they should too

Airplanes on the Lake

Planes (on the lake) are a nuisance

Plane on the lake came within 20 feet of us on the lake - we were in a kayak - Saw a plane almost hit a loon - they are dangerous

Total comments = 55

Culturally Threatened

Access to Natural Areas

A lady has closed off a whole area to the public near Shin Pond

Access - Kayaks or ATV/Snowmobiles

Culturally threatened by land purchases

No longer have access to some areas

Open spaces where we used to go

Outside buyers close off access

Parmachenee area is now gated sadly - my father was a warden and we used to go there all the time - now no access - out of state residents have put up a gate

Rt. 16 Poland Spring water thing - gated now, we used to camp up in there, now it is a mess and there is no access to the area

Impact on Local Economy

Can't afford to live here

Culturally - the price of things going up and having to bring labor in

People are being pushed out of camps that were leased and are now being forced to buy or get out at prices way beyond their income

Hard to find reasonable housing

Higher taxes are hard on some people

Like to see more affordable for Mainers to own property

Native Population - housing costs and local job opportunities

Price of land

Rangeley is unusual - high percentage from away and a small group of have-nots who clean cabins. The \$ people say they don't want anyone else but we need jobs and housing.

Real estate escalated

Real estate values are raising

Taxes too high due to influx not fair to local people

Tourism - too few places to rent. Rentals have become seasonal homes, no longer any rentals, they are now owned.

Worried about small businesses (From IGA and other big businesses)

Social Concerns

Native American history

Substance abuse

Kids vandalism in grocery store

Quaintness Rangeley

All of the old architecture is gone or not visible from the road

Change endangers the experience

Changes in the attitudes in people

Culturally

Demographic changes

Development effects culture but that is why I'm here - that the downside

Development has not swallowed this area like the coast

Don't hear the old names anymore

Love the 2 lane character of the road, hope that the new construction does not create a highway - people already travel too fast on the road

More houses being built everywhere threaten wildlife and the Maine way of life

Not environmentally threatened but culturally - too populated
Old cabins are gone
People and drinking are a cultural threat
Quality of Old Maine is lost
Rangeley is endangered to lose the small town feel
Residents being pushed out by the visitors
Seems touristy
Small town heritage - become resort town
Small towns and way of living
The whole area is seeing the results of overcrowding south of here - it is moving north from the coast
Too many out of state people causing property taxes to go up
Town of Rangeley a lot of new stuff is being built up and the charm is disappearing
Urban sprawl
Total Comments = 48

Wildlife Threatened

General Wildlife

Animals - less poaching so it is more fair for the rest of us

Black bears

Deer in residential areas

Pileated woodpeckers - saw 2

Wildlife (4)

Wildlife are scarce

Wildlife because of development

Wildlife don't know where to go

Wildlife seems hard to find

The wildlife on Quimby Lake is not nearly as much as it was 10 years ago - there is hardly anything there now.

Habitat

Building is bad for wildlife

Building threatens wildlife

Building threatens wildlife, keep it rustic and it will be great

Concern about over building and encroachment on wildlife habitat

Cutting of forests threatens wildlife

Development and subdivisions effect on natural environment - wildlife

More houses being built everywhere threaten wildlife and the Maine way of life

Speeding killing wildlife

Uncontrolled development will threaten everything; water quality, wildlife and scenic beauty

Fish

Native Fish species

At Smalls Falls the fish - idiots with glass and liter

Fish

Invasive fish

Ponds non-native fish

Moose

Moose and animals

Moose, maybe

Not enough moose

Geese

Geese - people don't like them, they need to be protected because many consider them a nuisance

Geese; Kids chasing at Rangeley Town Park on bicycles

Loons

Loons from jet skies

Loons from kayakers, too close, no space

Total comments = 34

Everything Threatened

A lot

All (2)

All areas are threatened

All areas are threatened

All of it is - we need to all do a little better to take care of it

All of the Town

All of them

All of them - seek quiet and hoping it was quieter than it is today

All threatened but not serious at this point

Environment

Environment - big picture, everything is threatened

Environment - dealing with LURC is a headache, every time you try to build, red tape

Everything (2)

Everything eventually

Everything if you don't take care of it

Everything is - more people means more threatened

Everything is threatened by people, development and roads

Everything is threatened by too much tourism

Everything with development

Plant life and natural vegetation endangered due to lack of knowledge

Protect our natural resources - concerned people are watching this

Unless we change our ways we are going to destroy the environment

Whole area

Whole area by tourism - outsiders push regular Maine people out - they have money that the average Mainer does not have.

Whole place

Whole Region threatened by development

Worry about the whole area

Total Comments = 29

Forest Threatened

General

Acid rain has threatened the trees, you can see the difference

All woodlands including the ponds and lakes are threatened

De-forestation

Forest(s) (4)

Like to see Maine take ownership of forest land

Old growth forests - protection of biodiversity

State needs to buy forest land

Tree damage due to beetles?

Woodlands

Harvesting Practices

Clear cutting

Clear cutting/lumbering sensitive area (although it is somewhat good for birding to have views)

Environmentally - yes - building and clearing

Forest getting cut down

Forestry practices

From timber harvesting

Loggers cut a lot of trees

Logging (2)

Logging is a concern

No longer pristine due to timbering, development everywhere

Oquossoc - Clear Cutting in the middle of trails?

Timber cutting maybe

Too much wood being cut too fast - beyond sustainable level

Tree cutting leaves scars and they can be seen from the main points of travel. Some harvesting looks responsible other looks like they just grabbed the wood and left.

Tree lines from logging

Total Comments = 28

Elements of Town of Rangeley & Area Threatened

Airport used to be, not sure now
Area needs to be managed better
Cater to gas burners who do not use their feet
Downtown Rangeley
Downtown Rangeley - tourist development
Leased land
Meals - there are no bargain places
More of old Rangeley is disappearing, it's different
Quossoc not rustic looking anymore
Rangeley
Rangeley
Rangeley
Rangeley Inn has no breakfast service, no muffins - Need breakfast where we are staying.
Rangeley Inn restaurant is closed for dinner except the Pub - no chef - just not the same
Rangeley losing quietness, more commercial every year due to building and commercialism
Rangeley overdevelopment
Rangeley overdevelopment
Restrictions are not followed through.
Sane politicians
Subdivision in Rangeley Plantation
Town of Rangeley by Poland Springs
Town of Rangeley is not as active as it used to be except the 4th of July
Town of Rangeley not as small town, it's changing
Town of Rangeley threatened by growth
Town of Rangeley a lot of new stuff is being built up and the charm is disappearing
Traffic is loud and busy
Total Comments = 27

Water Quality Threatened

General Water Quality

Aquifer - Poland Springs - Congestion

Drinking Water

Freshwater

Pollution (2)

Uncontrolled development will threaten everything; water quality, wildlife and scenic beauty
Water

Water quality (3)

Water quality in the lakes

Water quality issues if pesticides are used

Water supply

General Waterway

All lakes due to development and lack of regulations - too political - tourism speaks

Certain waterways

Lakes

Lakes - generally and milfoil

Lakes and sources of water

Lakes and sources of water

Litter on side of streams

Ponds

Rangeley Lake

A sign at the State Park expressed concern about the water quality indicating a high bacterial count and warned against swimming. The Ranger said he thought it was okay to swim.

Keep the lake clean - no change

Lawns pollute the lake with fertilizers

Sewage systems on new developments on the lake - the leach fields? How long before it ruins the lake. If the lake dies you lose everything.

Town Park - Water is getting dirty

Water quality has suffered and deteriorated over the last 5-10 years see a big change - there is algae all along the edge of the lake - never there before

Total Comments = 27

Threatened Places

Bemis

Bemis road and back roads

Bemis Rd. housing development

Building on Haley Pond used to be 4 cottages now opened up the whole road for building and it is different - what is the plan?

Cascade Stream

Coos Canyon - threatened by house by ledge development

Dodge

Dodge Pond

Kennebago River

Lack of Modern Outhouses at Birch Island

Loon Lake

Moosehead and Baxter

Moselook Lake

Mt. Blue St. Park

Quimby is threatened, but development will happen

Quimby overdevelopment

Quimby Pond

Rapid River

Rumford/Mexico because of paper mills - stinks horrible

Smalls Falls

Smalls Falls - by the number of people using it

Smalls Falls - Garbage/trash

Tumbledown Mountain

Total Comments = 23

Poland Spring Threat

Anything by Poland Springs Area

Aquifer - Poland Springs - Congestion

Coca Cola company and water - not to do this

Hope Poland Springs doesn't come

Nestle bottle water plant will effect the water in the area

Poland Spring "thing"

Poland Springs (3)

Poland Springs - potentially a threat but could be good for economy

Poland Springs - too much traffic and noise

Poland Springs/Fast-food

Poland Spring Water - traffic issue, potential for 100 trucks a day

Poland Springs is a perfect example. The Planning Board wanted to partner with PS for public housing and a truck depot but others wanted to fight them. They left it on the table and we didn't get a thing because they weren't willing to work with them.

Poland Springs issue

Rt. 16 Poland Spring water thing - gated now, we used to camp up in there, now it is a mess and there is no access to the area

Town of Rangeley by Poland Springs

Traffic/Poland Springs (2)

Water trucks (2)

Total Comments = 21

Scenic Byway Threatened

Scenic views due to poor planning
Byway is about to be ruined if S curves are ruined
Byway system too commercial
Don't like the scenic turnouts, they are not natural and the plackets either
Don't straighten out the road
Hairpin turn around Smalls Falls (should not straighten road)
Heard that the state was planning to straighten the road; don't straighten. The road needs maintenance on shoulders and the pavement. Keep traffic at a nice speed - not straight, curvy, but safe. In Rangeley keep the commercial development in the village
Heavy rain has eroded away the road, no shoulders
Highway Views
Increased lumber trucks
People are not careful traveling on the roads
Pull outs on Rt. 17 where trees obstruct the view
Rt. 4 - don't need to straighten highway, lose what scenic highway is all about, driving slower and looking around
Rt. 4, fix but don't widen and straighten the road - no highway
So few with the beauty - it is shame to lose it
Trash on the roadway, bottles
Uncontrolled development will threaten everything; water quality, wildlife and scenic beauty
Widening Rt. 4 mixed - what will it do? I'm worried about my curve

Total Comments 19

More People Threaten the Area

All of them - too many out-of-state people causing property taxes to go up
Losing privacy and the things that make it special
Lots of people
Lots of people with big cars
Overcrowding (2)
Overcrowding is here
Over-Population
Overuse, too many people
People trashing things
The area is still rural but a lot more people, not touristy though. This is not a negative response though because there are no MacDonaldis and Starbucks.
The Lake - lots of people
The whole area is seeing the results of overcrowding south of here - it is moving north from the coast
Too crowded
Too many people - too much development
Too many people moving in and development
Too many tourists

Total Comments 17

Round Pond Threatened

Boys Camp on Round Pond (Potential Project)

Large camps

Large camp not feasible for this area

Round Pond (8)

Round Pond - Keep it quiet

Round Pond (don't want it)

Round Pond Camp

Round Pond Camp is a bad idea

Round Pond Camp is bad

Round Pond development plan

Total Comments = 17

Hillsides, Mountain Views (Wind farm) Threatened

Building on the mountain ridges - wind farms - ruins view from my place

Development threatens the "look" on the hills

House being built higher and higher on slopes may damage the views

In favor of a move to wind power - it may not go in if opposed and I would rather see it that the alternatives

Mountain tops, wind farm

Need to move toward renewal energy somehow - the wind mills may be one way

No - I am for wind farms

Redington-Black Nubble (windmills)

Sitting out on the lake you can see building on the mountain - condos? You can see it from the lake - don't like that.

Sugarloaf from wind energy

Wind farm concern

Wind mills are an issue but I'm neutral on this issue

Wind power plans is needed for Bigelow Mountains., like to see it go through like PEI

Wind farm - threatens scenic and intrinsic value

Total Comments = 14

Miscellaneous Recreational

Cross-country skiing association - concern for support
Hunting People who focus on gun bans - things they don't know about
Snowmobilers
Snowmobiles
Snowmobiles and jet skies on lakes - no respect for private owners - damage is being done by non-owners
Snowmobiling out of control in the winter - threatens solitude on the lake
Trail system in place, keep impact to limited area
Trail AT Corridor
Trail AT Trail
Trail Bald Mountain trails is overused and is suffering erosion
Trail Clear Cutting in the middle of trails? In Oquossoc
Trail Possible compromise of the A.T.
Trails Any Area open to four-wheelers
Wild blueberry picking - losing because of development

Total Comments = 13

Miscellaneous Environmental Concerns

Air Pollution(State of Maine)
Air quality
Cigarette butts everywhere
Cigarette butts
Littering(2)
Paint on rocks
Smut on rocks at Rangeley Overlook
Trash
Trash left in area
Vandalism on rocks at RO

Total Comments = 11

Fishing Threatened

Acid rain on fish in Rangeley Lakes

Don't rent a boat and fish anymore because never catch anything

Fishing - not stocked?

Fishing limit of 3

Fishing not what it used to be in Brooks and ponds near Saddleback - fish are gone - used to be big ones

Fishing, still good, used to be great

State Park should stock fish

Too many smelt, rotate brooks for smelting

Used to go smelting - now banned and all smelt die and end up on the beach - needs to be opened up again

Total Comments = 9

Wilderness Qualities Threatened

Isolation is an issue

Open Space

Peace and quiet

Quiet remote areas

Tranquility

Wilderness is being encroached

Wilderness spots being built up

Total Comments - 7