Forest Management and Recreation are Compatible
Hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, canoeing, foraging, snowmobiling...

- Adventure racing (hike, bike, paddle)
- Bonsai collecting
- Bee yards (raspberry honey production)
- Hotdog wagon on a snowmobile trail
- Winter campsites for dog-sled trips
- Fir tipping, Can Am sled dog race
- Photo fashion shoots, Geocaching
- Military exercises
- Commerative plaques, Burials
Public Access Tradition

Open lands policy is unique in Maine

- Custom
- Permission
- Privilege

- Highly Valued
North Maine Woods
A region, an organization, a spirit

• 3.5 million acres, founded in 1971
• Management of public recreation in concert with timber management
• Uniform policies, fees
• Visitor safety and guidance
• Welcome those who come, no advertising
• Info and education – receptionists, NMW brochure
“Traditional Uses”
Sporting Camps, Guides & Outfitters
Hiking Trails
Maine Huts & Trails
Motorized Recreation
Cultural & Historical
New England Forest Rally
Northwoods Gravel Grind
Protecting Ownership Rights & Values

• Public notices posted on roads and filed in registries of deeds stating ownership and granting permission for public use.
• Signs – private roads, safety
• Leases, licenses, permits
• Liability Law, insurance
• Management – N M Woods, campgrounds, sporting camps, guides & outfitters
• Public Education & Outreach
• Legislative Monitoring
Challenge -
The public must understand:

• Public use of private land is a privilege, and comes with responsibilities
• Commercial “working” forest
• Compatible uses are welcome
• Timber pays the bills, including roads
• Natural resources management is based on science
• Private forests provide wood, jobs, wildlife, recreation, water, air Q...at no cost to taxpayers
Successful Projects

• Communications, communications, ...
• Understand goals of land owners and educate them to user desires, collaborate
• Ask... don’t assume or demand
• Heed policies, safety requirements and any use restrictions
• Respect other recreational users / uses, compromise
• Show appreciation
• Work with us, not against us
Thank you

(North Woods Truck Wash)