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FORUMS

MAINE'S FORESTS AND FORESTLAND

Forging a Common Vision for Maine's North Woods

Robert Lilieholm takes stock of the challenges and opportunities facing Maine's North Woods in the context of changing ownership patterns and development pressures. He suggests that a broader, regional vision for the North Woods might better serve the long-term interests of the area's forests and its struggling communities.

Robert J. Lilieholm 12

Are the Economics of a Sustainable Maine Forest Sustainable?

Mike LeVert, Charles Colgan, and Charles Lawton discuss the transformation of the economic environment of Maine's forests and forestland over the past two decades. They note that we need to develop management policies to address these changes if Maine's forests are to be kept as forests.

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Seeing the Forest for the Trees: The Future of Timber Investing in the North Woods, A Conversation with Clark S. Binkley

In this conversation with Peter Howell, Clark Binkley draws on his long-term experience as a timberland investment manager to give his analysis of and forecast for timber markets and timber investing in the Northern Forest.

Peter Howell 38

Houses in the Woods: Lessons from the Plum Creek Concept Plan

Kathleen Bell examines changes in the economics of rural land use in Maine. Public debate over Plum Creek's proposal for development in the Moosehead region reminds us that we need to increase our understanding of the interactions between residential growth pressures, changing landownership patterns, and new expectations for Maine's forestlands.

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CONSERVATION

From Diamond International to Plum Creek: The Era of Large Landscape Conservation in the Northern Forest

The last two decades have seen dramatic growth in conservation lands in the Northern Forest, stretching from upstate New York through Maine. Sara Clark and Peter Howell discuss how Maine has been a laboratory for some of the largest and most innovative land transactions in the region.

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The Importance of Maine for Ecoregional Conservation Planning

Ecoregional conservation planning aims at protecting biodiversity within a realistic social and economic framework. The authors note that Maine’s large, contiguous, undeveloped and unfragmented forests are the core of the Northern Appalachian/Acadian ecoregion. Compared to its neighbors, Maine has the largest proportion of unprotected forest, which should be considered in an ecoregional conservation perspective.

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Alternative Large-Scale Conservation Visions for Northern Maine: Interviews with Decision Leaders in Maine

Based on confidential interviews with 21 decision leaders in Maine, Elizabeth Baldwin, Laura Kenefic, and Will LaPage examine the complexity of the conflicts over visions for large-scale conservation in Maine. They present four alternatives: national forests, new U.S. forest service models, forest heritage areas, and the British national park model.

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and Will F. LaPage 78

LAND USE REGULATION COMMISSION

Plum Creek’s proposed Moosehead Lake Concept Plan has brought Maine’s Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) into the spotlight. Jerry Bley presents the history of this unique agency, the lands under its jurisdiction, how it has managed development, and what may lie ahead. In his commentary, Mark W. Anderson notes the need to recognize the strengths and limits inherent in what LURC does, while Mark Lapping’s commentary outlines his view that LURC’s mandate ought to be altered and enlarged.

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Can Maine’s North Woods be a “world-class” tourist destination? The short answer is “not yet,” according to David Vail in his article and Roger Milliken and Ann Czerwonka in their commentaries. The current mix of natural, cultural, and hospitality assets is not sufficiently unique, outstanding, or networked to draw large numbers of new visitors. Vail, Milliken, and the participants in Czerwonka’s roundtable discussion offer some specific suggestions and examples of how Maine could develop world-class tourism for the North Woods.

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