

Northeastern U.S. National Parks: What is and What Could Be

By Jonathan G. Way

www.EasternCoyoteResearch.com & www.MyYellowstoneExperience.org



Moose in proposed 'Kancamagus National Park'

E-book

- To order a copy of this and my other books, and to help spread the theme of more National Parks in the East, please visit: <http://www.easterncoyotersearch.com/store/>
- Citation:
 - Way, J.G. 2020. E-book (2021, revised). Northeastern U.S. National Parks: What Is and What Could Be. Eastern Coyote/Coywolf Research, Barnstable, MA. 312 pages. Open Access URL: <http://www.easterncoyotersearch.com/NortheasternUSNationalParks/>
- Copyright © 2020 by Jonathan G. Way, Ph.D., Founder of Eastern Coyote/Coywolf Research
- All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, e-mailing, or by any information storage, retrieval, or sharing system, without permission in writing (including email) to the publisher (Jonathan Way, Eastern Coyote Research).

Frozen pond inside proposed Kancamagus National Park



Pay it Forward

Dear Reader,

I wrote this as an e-book to maximize the book's exposure as much as possible. There are some amazing natural treasure's in our backyard here in America and I hope that this tome clearly articulates that. To increase access for all people, rich or poor, majority or minority, I am offering it for free to anyone in the world who wants to read it.

This book ([and related talk](#)) makes the case to expand the National Park (NP) System in the Northeast, beyond just having Acadia National Park as its only large "natural" park, by adding 3 units: Cape Cod NP, Kancamagus NP in NH, and Maine Woods NP and Preserve. These 3 units are already existing federal land and could immediately be turned into true national parks by an Act of Congress. Giving National Park status to these areas would provide an important, higher level of protection to better safeguard these areas especially during politically volatile times.

These 3 units are significant because all areas are relatively large (~45,000 acres or bigger) which would offer ecosystem level protection not currently enjoyed on most of these federal lands. Demographic trends and the large number of people who spend millions of dollars on wildlife watching clearly support such designations where all resources are 'protected unimpaired for future generations'. This book makes a plea to politicians that this is "America's Best Idea" and is worth accomplishing here in the urbanized Northeast. It is my hope that the pictures, stories, and ideas in this >310 page, 600 picture book ([and related talk](#)) will inspire [bipartisan support and legislation for this idea](#). To support creating more national parks in the Northeast, please [click on this link for a sample letter to write to politicians](#).

If you enjoy this e-book, all I ask in return is that you *pay it forward* by sharing and please consider a donation of \$10.00 to support my research and education efforts, as well as supporting the book's Open Access format. That is about the price of one movie ticket and you get to own this book, and all of its pictures, forever.

I may occasionally update the text – an advantage of e-books – so feel free to visit the webpage and see when the latest version appeared. If you do not want to donate from [my website](#), you are welcome to email me and I can provide you with a physical address: jon@easterncoyotersearch.com or easterncoyotersearch@yahoo.com.

Thanks in advance!

Jon Way

Contents

• Preface and Acknowledgements	5
• Background	6
Why is this important?	7
Current areas in the Northeast that fulfill mandates of NPS	11
Statistics on the importance of wildlife watching	13
• The Future of National Parks in the Northeast	16
• What is: Acadia National Park	18
• What Could Be: Cape Cod National Park	56
Background: Cape Cod National Seashore	57
Indiana Dunes National Park Precedent	133
• What Could Be: Kancamagus National Park	134
White Mountain National Forest	136
• What Could Be: Maine Woods National Park & Preserve	213
Baxter State Park and Katahdin Woods & Waters NM	214
• Summary: Importance of National Parks	305
Wolves in the Northeast	306
Five Reasons to Create these new NPS units	310
• What you can do to help create these National Parks	312

Preface and Acknowledgements

This book is the result of my years of exploring the wilds of the Northeast. Through my travels I have observed and taken images of many special things, including wildlife and scenery, that we are fortunate to have in this region. These trips have given me much time to reflect on the importance of protecting these areas as national parks, the highest level of protection for ecosystems and a designation that prevents their political manipulation. For example, Cape Cod National Seashore and our National Wildlife Refuges are currently strongly influenced by hunting groups even though less than 1% of the people in Massachusetts hunt. Similarly, White Mountain National Forest is strongly influenced by many user groups including timber cutting and hunting. Lastly, Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument has already undergone presidential review to alter its enabling legislation.

I have experienced the politics of consumptive uses on our national, public lands. I worked as a ranger for Cape Cod National Seashore from 2010-2017 and despite having reviews that were always outstanding (and well within the range of being able to be hired back the following year), I was not hired back to my job by the Acting Superintendent because of a petition that 8,200 people signed that supported treating the Seashore like a national park and hiring me as full-time carnivore biologist: <https://www.change.org/p/superintendent-of-national-seashore-and-other-park-staff-make-cape-cod-national-seashore-a-true-national-park-ban-carnivore-killing>. You know when something like this angers – rather than inspires – the park service, that there is a problem. Therefore, it is my hope that the pictures, stories, and ideas in this almost 500 picture treatise will inspire [bipartisan support and legislation for this idea](#).

Many people have traveled with me over the years to these special areas. We have camped, swam, kayaked, hiked (a lot), watched wildlife, and had a great time. My parents initially got me interested in the outdoors by taking me camping in the White Mountains. Subsequently, I have taken many friends and family including my brother, Jeff, and brother-in-law, Tom, back there. My sister, Nicole, and I initially discovered the Baxter/Katahdin region together as young adults. And my son, Nathan, and dog, Rescue, have traveled with me the most often to these special locations that I hope will one day in the near future be named National Parks.

My mother, Robin Way, provided useful comments and suggestions as she always does with my writing, and Barbara Dougan helped with fact checking. Bill Buckley correctly identified the birds on page 275 as being hooded mergansers and not buffleheads.

Background

- National Park's are often regarded as “America's Best Idea” yet the vast majority are relegated to the Western United States, leaving most people in the Eastern U.S. needing to travel far distances to get to large protected areas.
- The point of this talk is to show that we can immediately add more sizeable, ecosystem-sized national parks to the Northeast starting with 3 areas:
 - Already existing: **Acadia National Park** (~49,000 acres)
 - **Cape Cod National Park** – repurposing CC National Seashore and possibly adding additional land (44,000+ acres).
 - **Kancamagus National Park** – repurposing 50-75,000 acres of the White Mountain National Forest.
 - **Maine Woods National Park & Preserve** – 87,000+ acres by renaming the existing Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument and potentially adding extra units over time. Each area could be their own district (e.g., “Katahdin”).

Why is this important?

- Americans love National Parks and spend lots (\$ millions) of money in local economies.
- Yet there are just a few places in the Northeast where wildlife can live naturally and fulfill the purpose of the NPS **“to conserve the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wild life in the [National Park System] units and to provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wild life in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”**
- Scientists are repeatedly stating that there needs to be some ecosystems free from human control and direct killing whereby species (even common ones like deer) can evolve “naturally”.
 - What better places than units of the National Park Service.

Eastern Coyote/Coywolf scent marking:
This animal is a unique canid living in the Northeast
that has virtually no legal protection throughout its range.



Why is this important?

- Not only do Americans love National Parks and spend lots of money in local economies, but National Parks offer the highest level of protection for ecosystems – and animals that inhabit them – than any other system that we currently have. And they are beloved by the American public and from visitors from all over the world.
- This highest level of protection is important to safeguard especially during politically volatile times. Most difficult protected status to undo.
 - For example, Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument was donated by a private philanthropist and was created by Presidential proclamation in 2016 using the Antiquities Act of 1906 yet was reviewed in 2017 by the incoming President to determine if it would be overturned. While it was not undone, other National Monuments (both in Utah) were altered – will those designations stay permanent?
 - Bears Ear NM – reduced by 85%.
 - Grand Staircase-Escalante – reduced by almost half.



Mount Katahdin and
East Branch of the
Penobscot River



Current areas in the Northeast that fulfill the mandates of NPS

- Acadia National Park - just under 50,000 acres.
- Baxter State Park – most of its 209,500 acres are managed as a wilderness with limited human intrusion. Note: this is a state not federal/national park.
- Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument – adjacent to Baxter SP with over 50,000 acres preserved like a NP whereas an additional ~35,000 acres of the monument allow consumptive/extractive activities.
 - This is a reasonable compromise given current values and the fact that a private citizen donated this land to the U.S.
- Many other much smaller units; most are historic not natural parks.
- Other places such as Cape Cod National Seashore and White Mountains National Forest are large protected areas but sanction all hunting allowed by the states of MA and NH/ME. Thus, they do not provide any significant legal level of protection for certain wildlife within their borders, especially predators.
 - In fact, animals could experience more persecution in these “parklands” than surrounding areas.

Champney Falls, White Mountains



Statistics on the Importance of Wildlife Watching: Local

- In a 2011 survey, USFWS found:
 - 56,000 people went hunting in Massachusetts (<1% of MA pop.), slightly more than half of whom did so on public land,
 - Yet 1,828,000 engaged in **wildlife watching** recreation, 662,000 of whom traveled to a natural area like Cape Cod National Seashore to do so. This is over **30x** the **number of hunters**.
 - **\$1.3 billion** (14.6 times higher than hunting) annually is spent on **wildlife watching**.
 - In part because of this use-disparity, the majority of people are averse to lethal control.
 - Finally, despite the slogan that “sportsmen pay for wildlife,” budgetary analysis demonstrates hunting and fishing revenues account for only 4.6 % of NPS funding.
- Sources:
 - USFWS & U.S. Census Bureau. 2011. National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation—Massachusetts. 22 pages.
 - Smith, M.E., and D.A. Molde. 2014. Wildlife Conservation & Management Funding in the U.S., Nevadans for Responsible Wildlife Management 1-12.
<https://www.mountainlion.org/featureimages/whopaysforwildlife/USA-O-NRWM-Smith-Molde-2014-WildlifeConservation-Management-Funding-in-the-US.pdf>.

National Statistics

- 11.4 million (4.7% of) Americans hunt & spend \$26.2 billion annually.
- 86 million people in the U.S. watch wildlife and spend \$75.9 billion on wildlife watching (USFWS 2016).
- These values are 7.5 times more wildlife watchers than hunters contributing about 3 times more money to the economy.
- These disproportionate numbers are consistent throughout the U.S., especially urbanized states, and recent research estimates that over 90% of funding for wildlife conservation comes from non-hunters despite the repeated claims by wildlife agencies that hunters pay for wildlife management (Smith and Molde 2014).
- **The point of this talk is NOT intended to be anti-hunting & politically divisive but rather to show the tremendous benefits of having places like protected NPS sites dedicated to wildlife watching.**



The Future of National Parks in the Northeast

- Now let's take a journey into what is:
 - Acadia National Park
- And what could Be:
 - Cape Cod National Park
 - Kancamagus National Park
 - Maine Woods National Park & Preserve

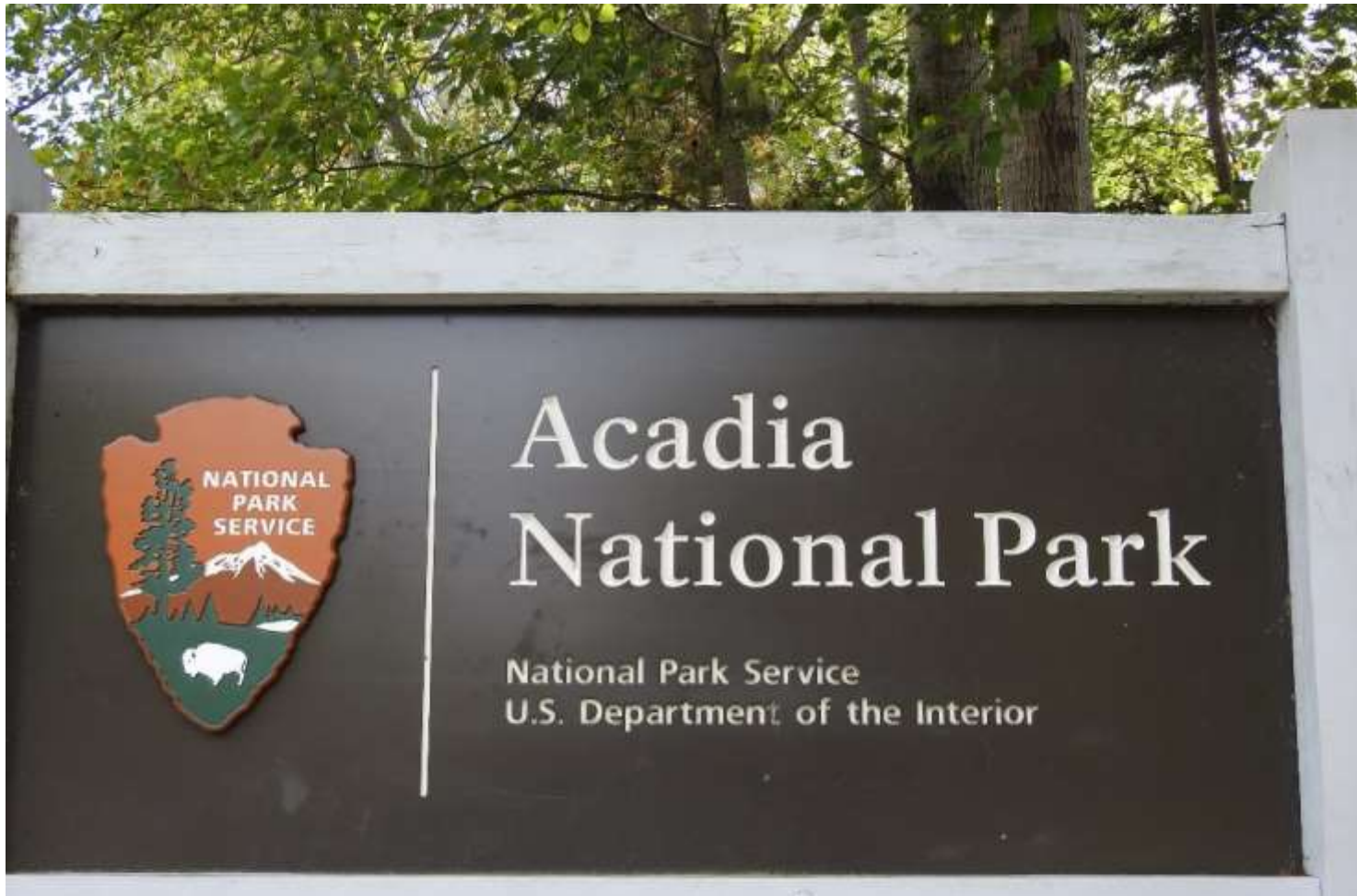


Leaving the congestion: Boston



What is: Acadia National Park

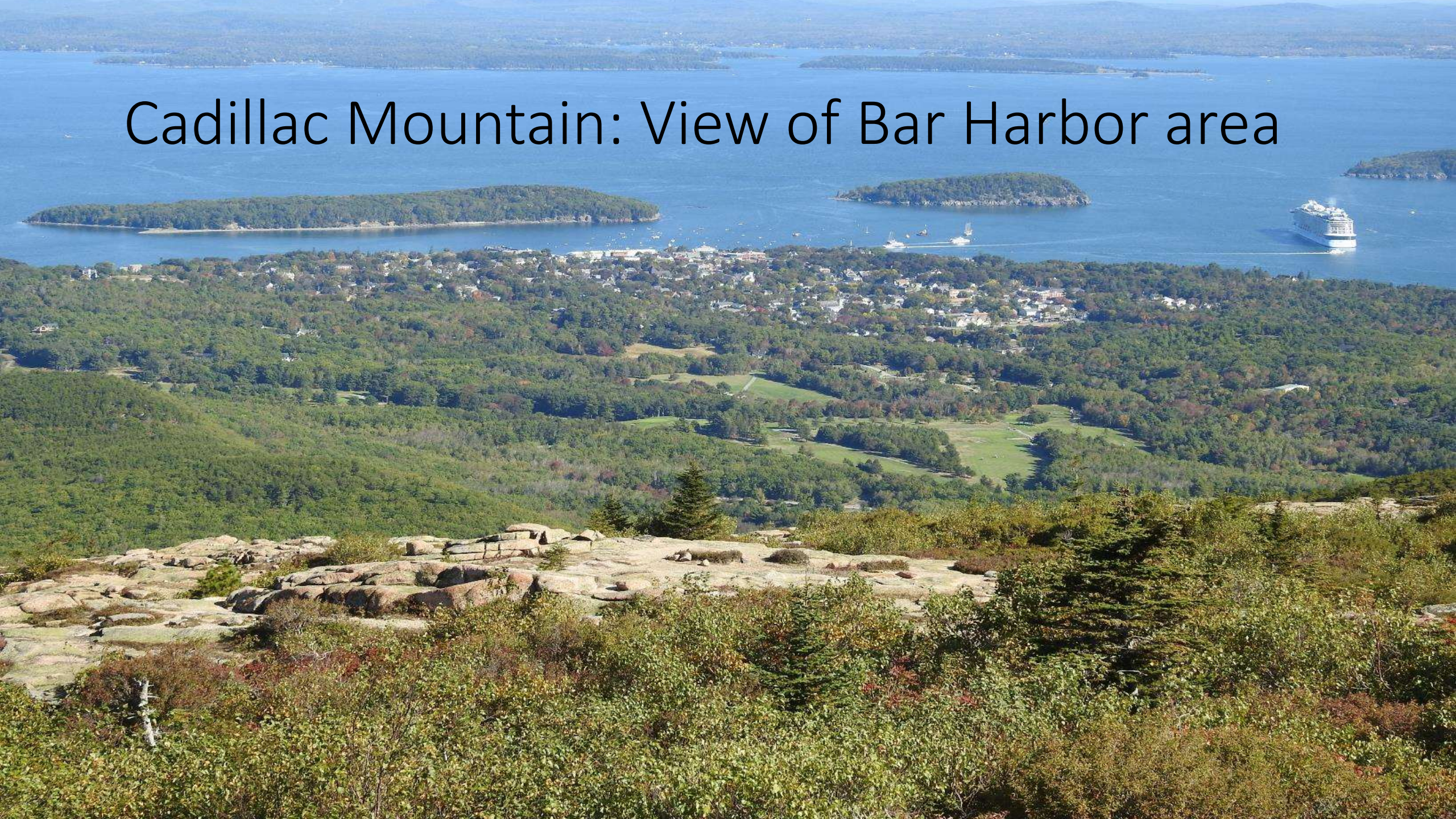
- There is just a different feeling when entering a true National Park
 - While that isn't intended to belittle other areas, I get this feeling whenever entering one: Yellowstone, Glacier, Olympic, Badlands, Wind Cave, Acadia...



Smaller area than all proposed parks in this talk



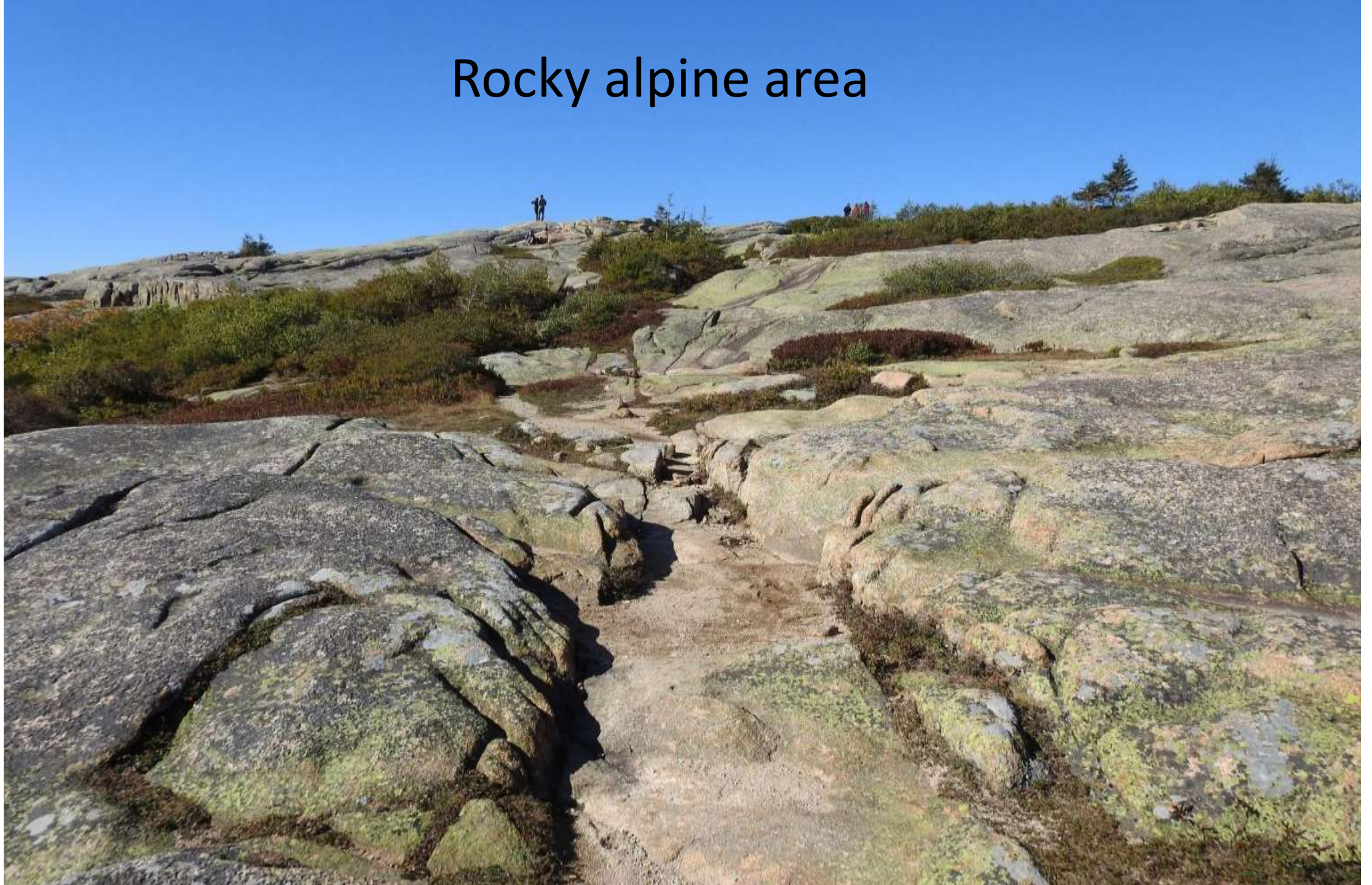
Cadillac Mountain: View of Bar Harbor area



Earliest sunrise in the U.S.!



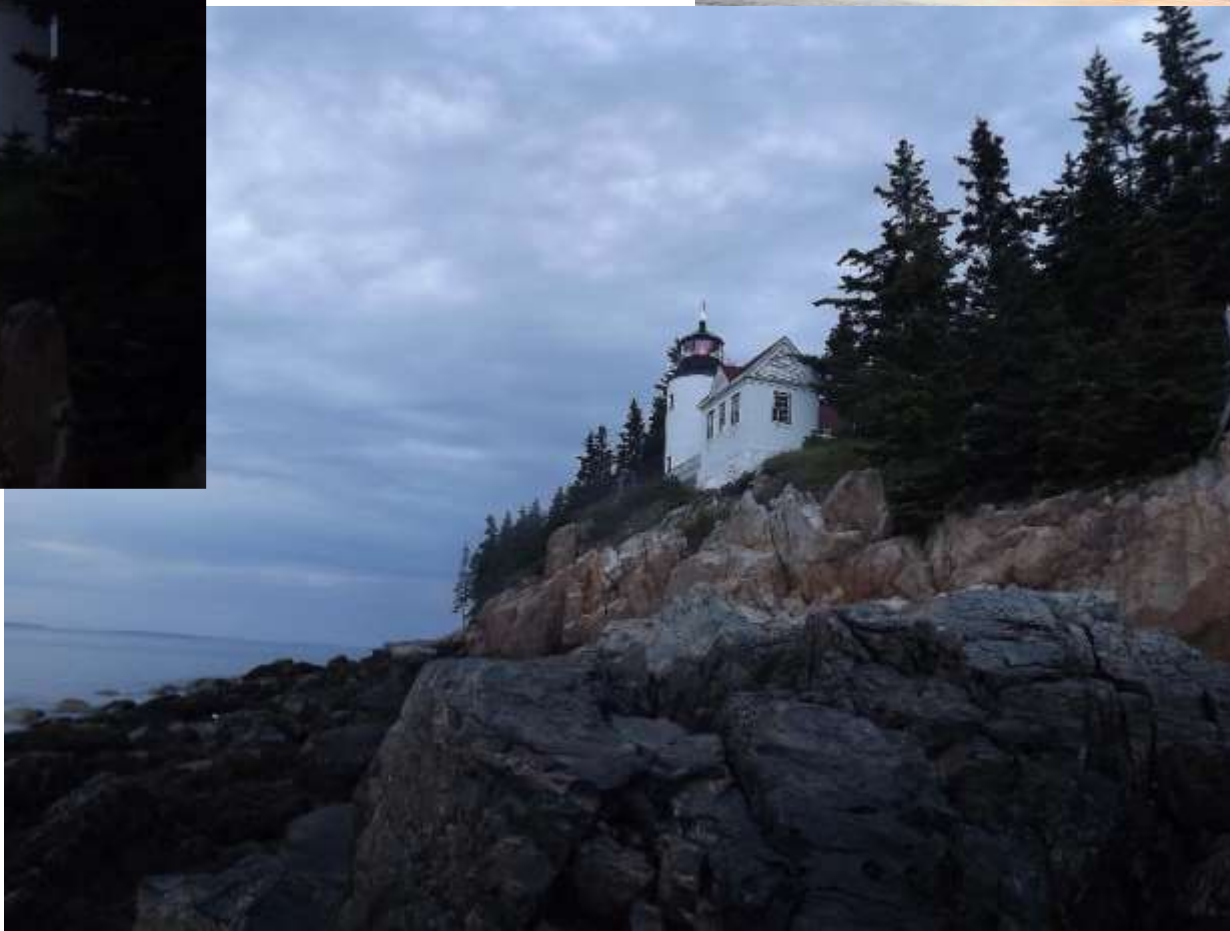
Rocky alpine area



Unprecedented view of the coast!



Lighthouses



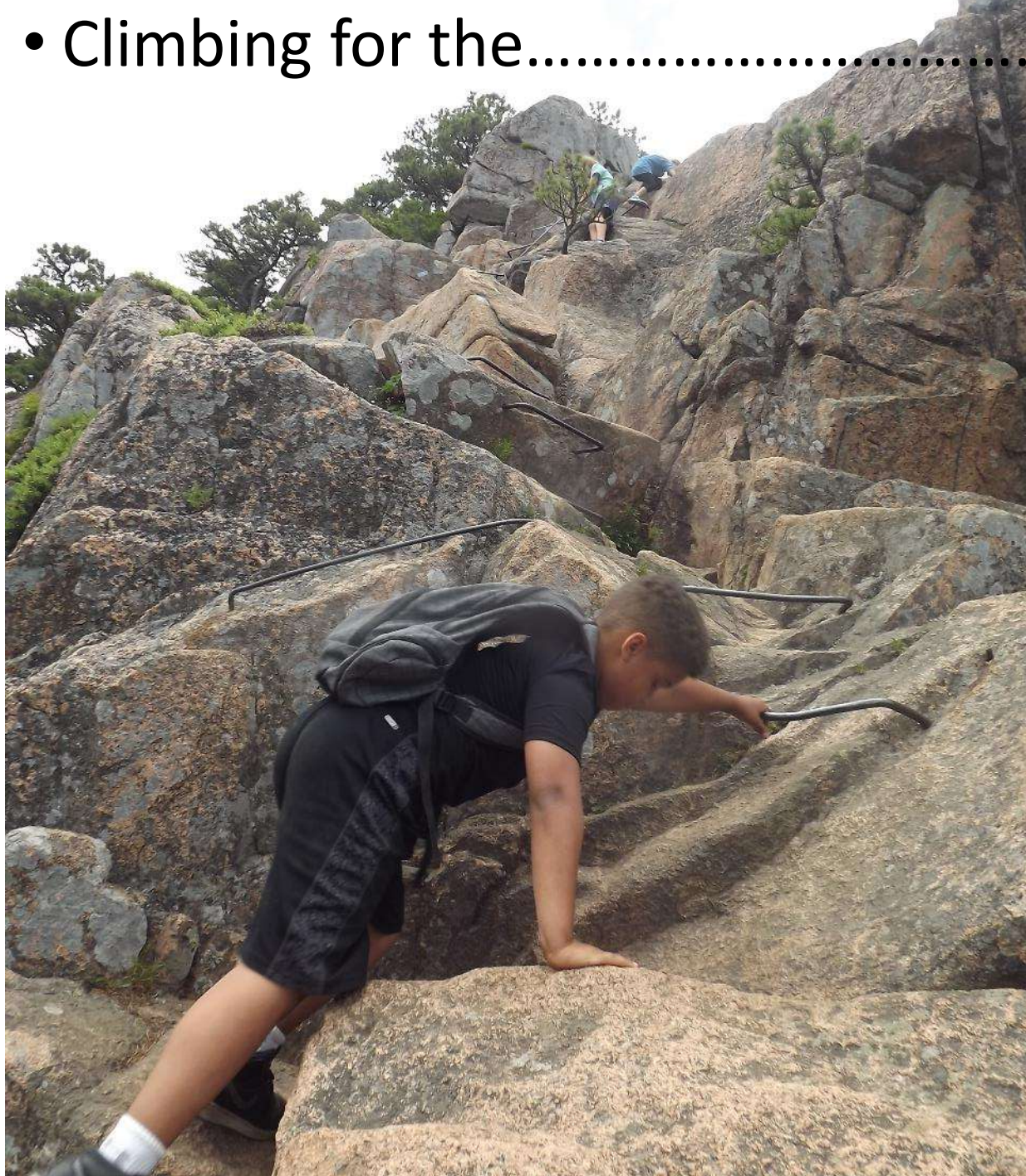
Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse



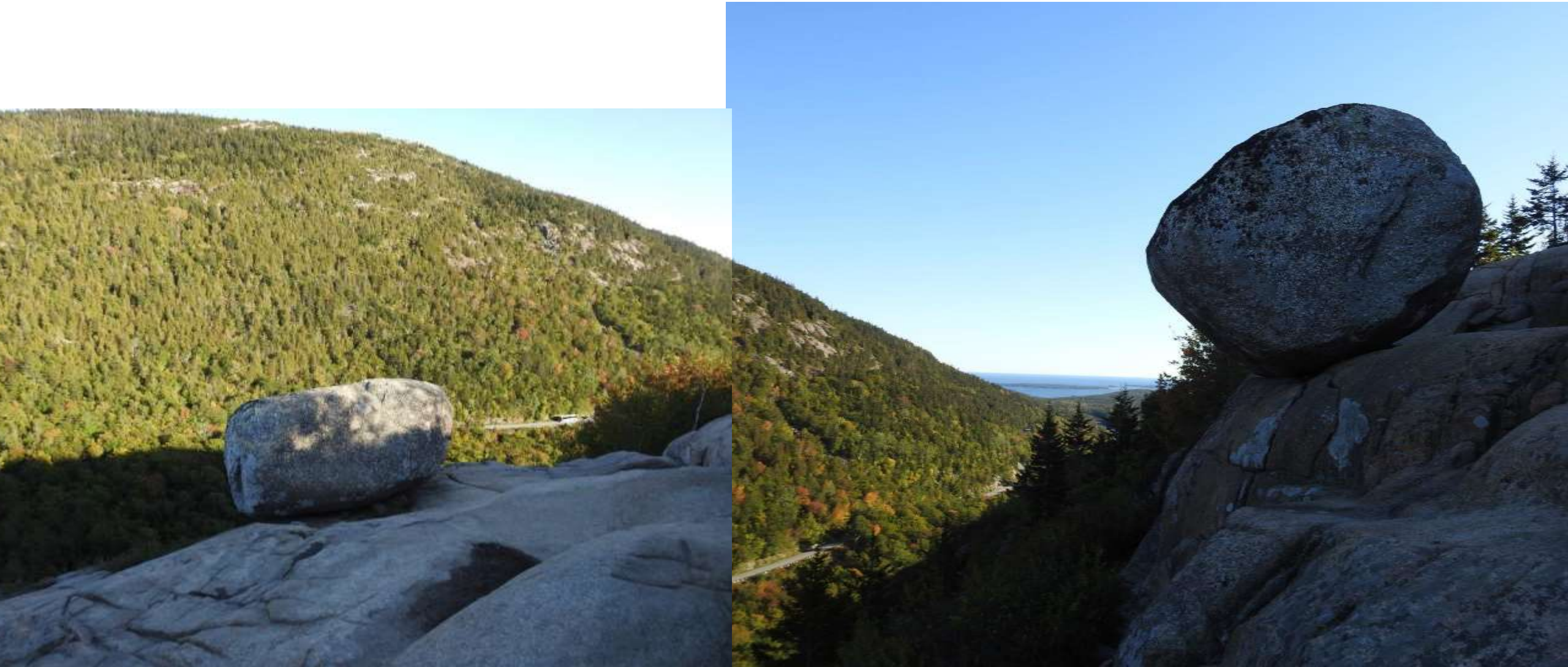
Hiking: Beehive Trail



• Climbing for the.....View



South Bubble Mountain

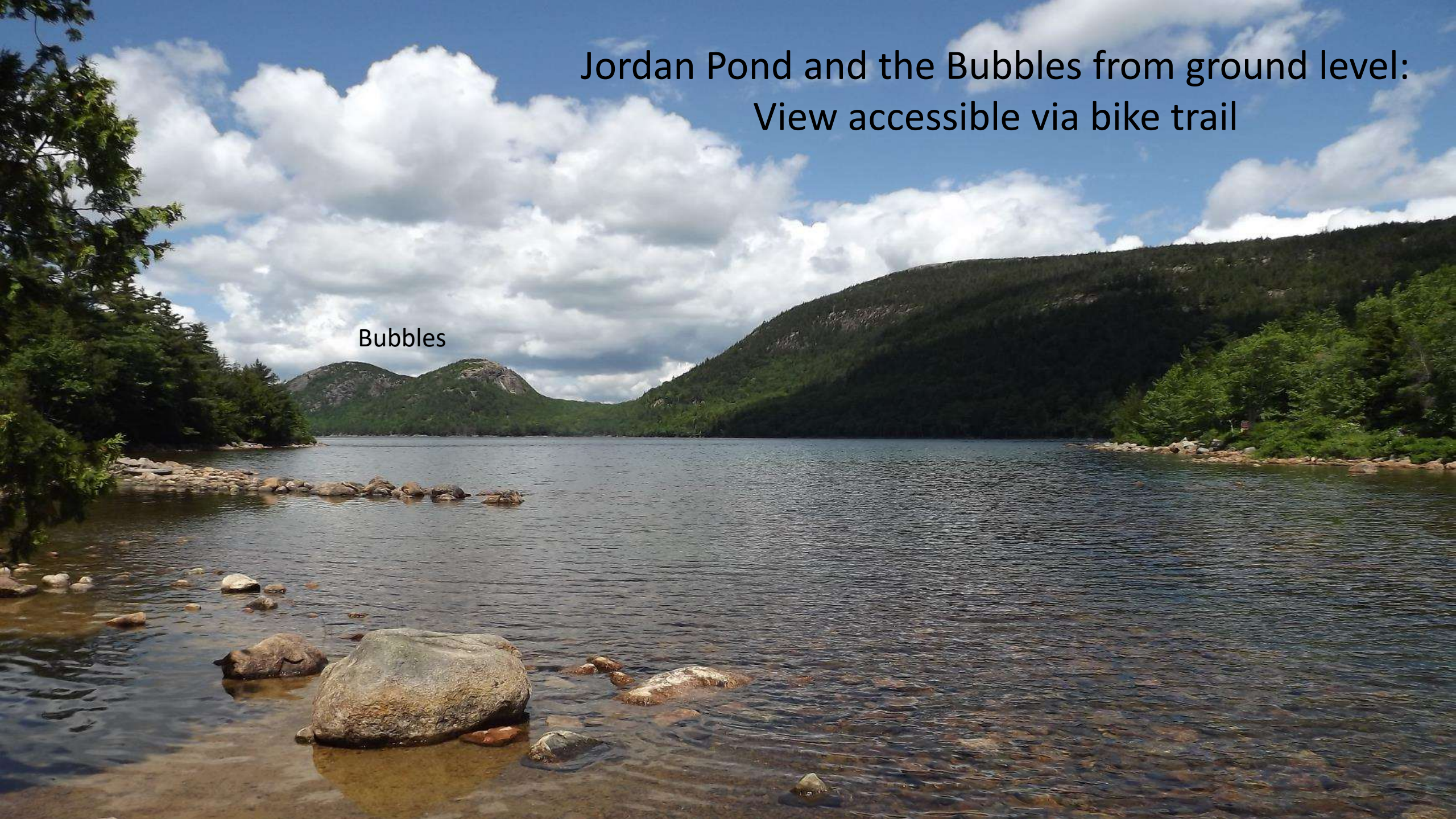


Jordan Pond and Bay: View from South (left) and North (right) Bubble Mtns



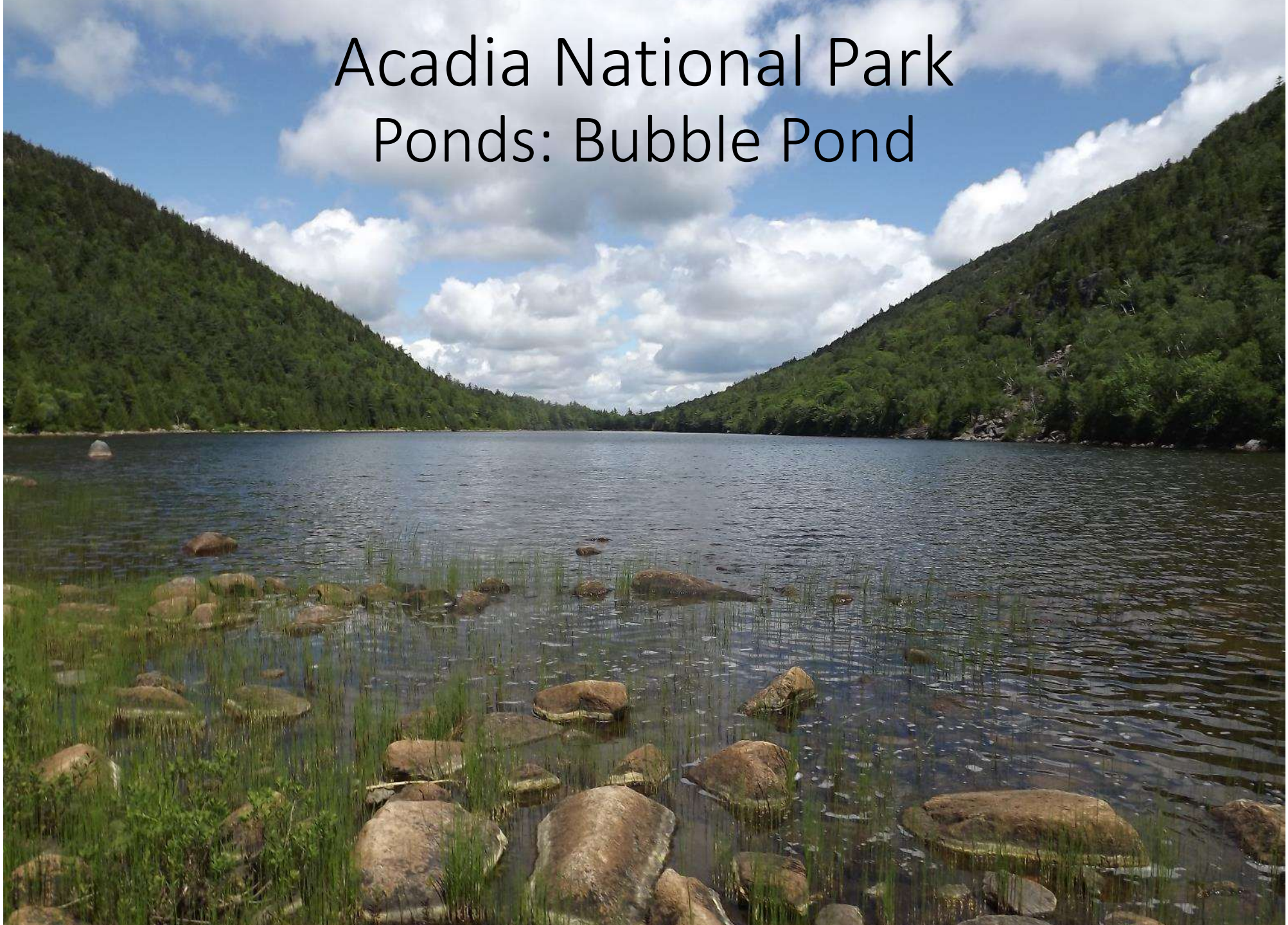
Jordan Pond and the Bubbles from ground level:
View accessible via bike trail

Bubbles



Acadia National Park

Ponds: Bubble Pond





↑
Bubble Pond

Eagle Pond
↓





Eagle Pond (both pics)





Beaver Pond



Carriage Roads: Access to Acadia's backcountry



Eagle Pond



Carriage road overpass over park loop road





Park loop road
Amazing design: Through the forest...

...and the coast



Maine coast: wild and rugged... and accessible





Otter
Cliffs

people



Gulls & Sea Ducks



Rock hopping





People



Sand Beach:
Cold water,
swimmable to
some (not
many) people...





↑
Mud flats: Seal Harbor and Otter Cove
↓



Acadia's wildlife: Deer and more deer



Seawall campground area

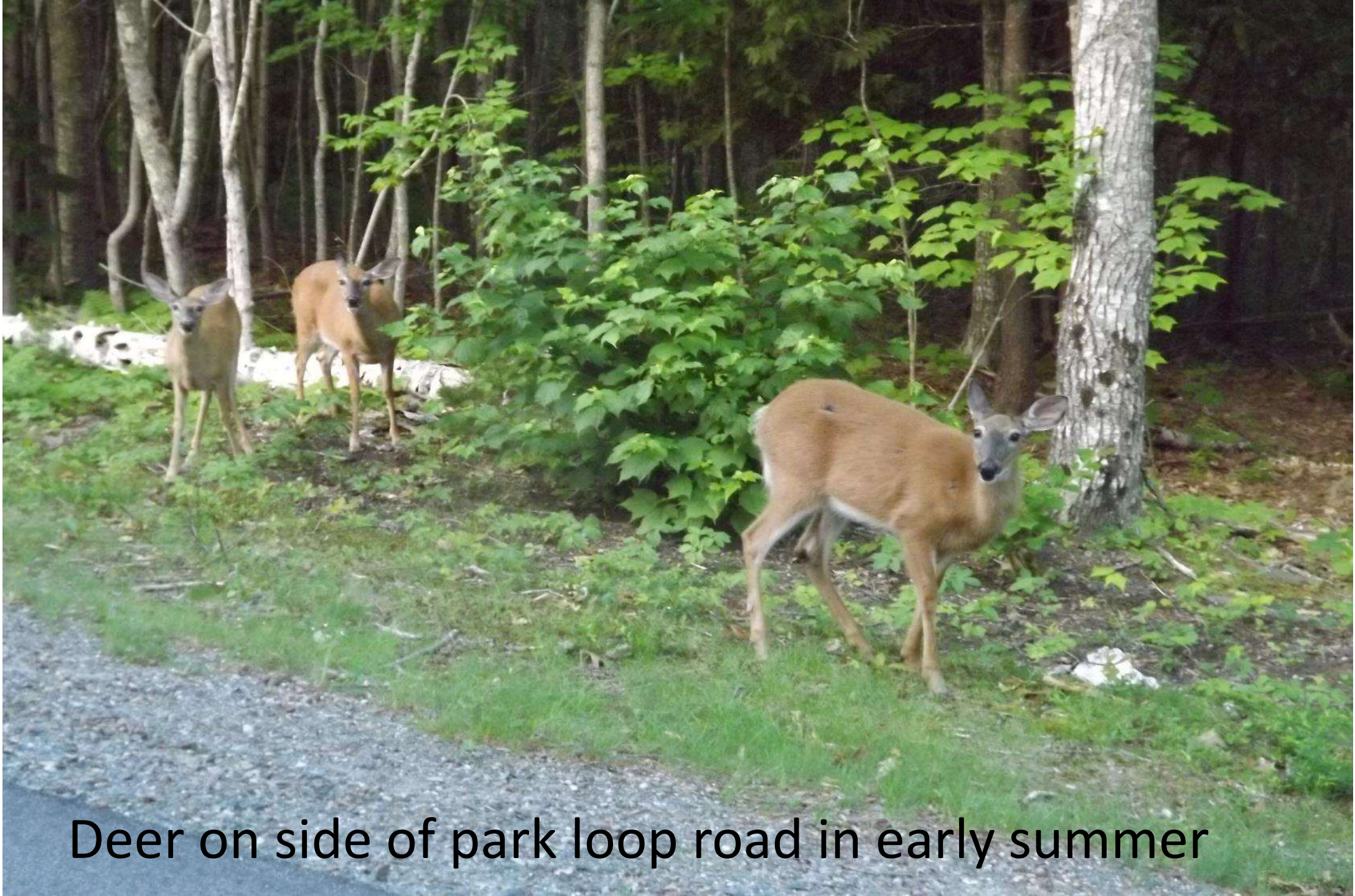


Doe during fall



Spring grazing





Deer on side of park loop road in early summer



8-point buck in Fall



Eastern Coyote/Coywolf

(pictured in MA, not Acadia)



Red squirrel and porcupine



Peregrine falcon nest



Sunset: Next morning we'll do it all again!



What Could Be: Cape Cod National Park

- Recent work to better protect wildlife in Cape Cod National Seashore has been hugely supported by local residents:
 - 8,200 people signed a locally generated petition to treat “Cape Cod National Seashore like a true National Park” <https://www.change.org/p/superintendent-of-national-seashore-and-other-park-staff-make-cape-cod-national-seashore-a-true-national-park-ban-carnivore-killing>
 - This proposal, to date, has been ignored by Seashore officials despite strong public support. See: <https://www.peer.org/coyote-killing-contests-don-t-belong-in-national-parks/>
 - Highly political – I lost my ranger job over the petition (which 8,200 people signed)
- While the Seashore is part of the park service, making this area an actual “national park” would by default give wildlife and resources within its borders full protection, something the majority of citizens support.
- Establishing additional lands such as town of Barnstable conservation units or the Mass Military Base (“Otis”) could be additional units to a Cape Cod National Park area.

Background: Cape Cod National Seashore

- This park is currently ~44,000 acres which is about the size of Acadia National Park
 - Protecting these lands as a true national park protects a sizeable area.
- Park managers have many stakeholders and currently have a daunting task balancing multiple competing interests. While they have done a tremendous job managing park resources, their hands are tied in certain regards.
- Most obvious among them is that Seashore officials currently follow MassWildlife's hunting seasons including:
 - 3 months of deer hunting, the longest since colonial times.
 - 5.5 months of eastern coyote/coywolf hunting including on park lands.
 - 4 months of fox hunting.
 - 2.5 months of bear hunting including on the Seashore (even though there are no bear populations within 100 miles of the park).
 - Wild turkey hunting until just before Memorial Day.
- Is this the way that Park Service officials intended to manage this park?
 - There is no data in the park on any of these species. Not even how many are killed per year?

Sunrise: Fort Hill



There is always a new day to explore on Cape Cod

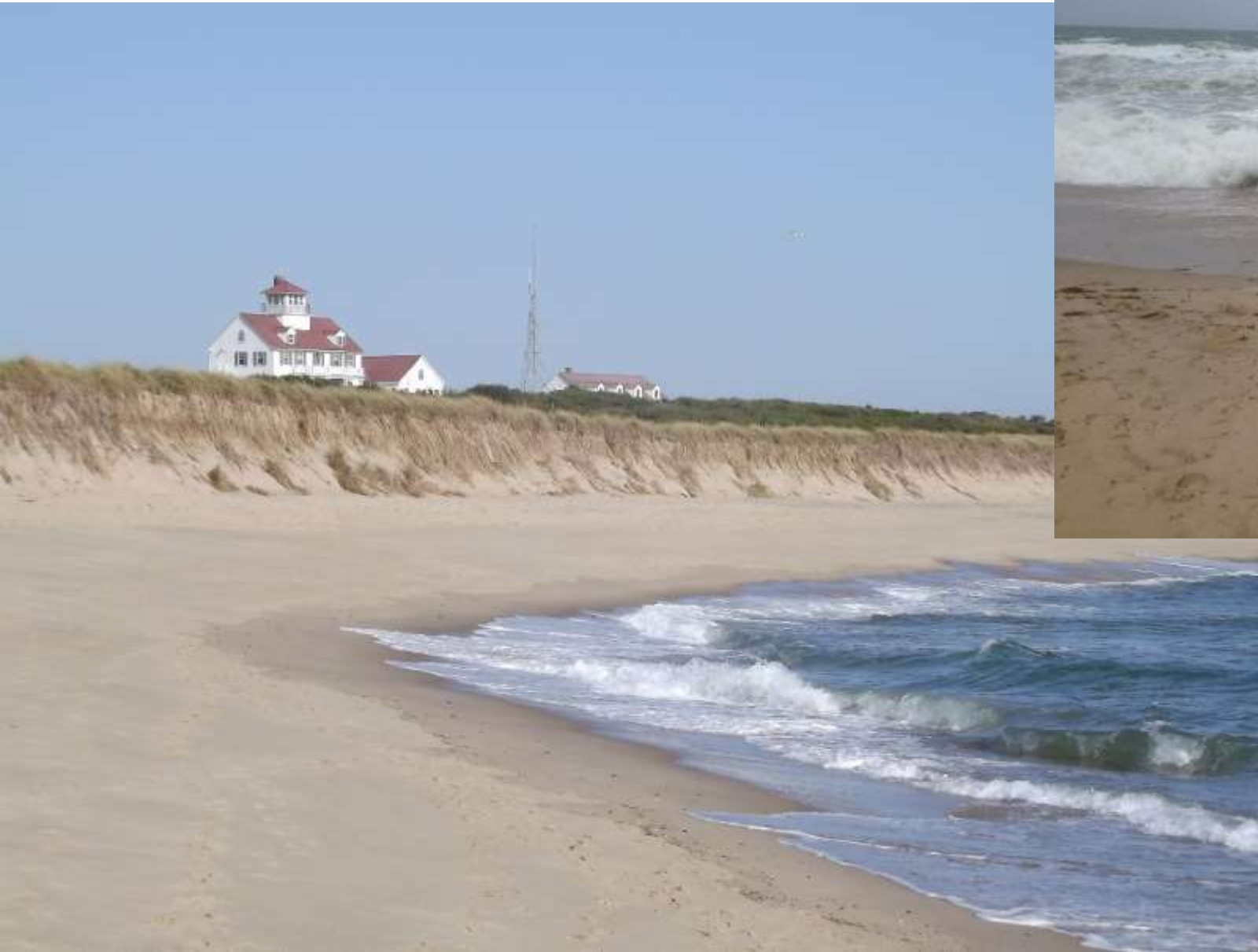




Jeremy's Point, Wellfleet



Cape Cod is known for its beaches





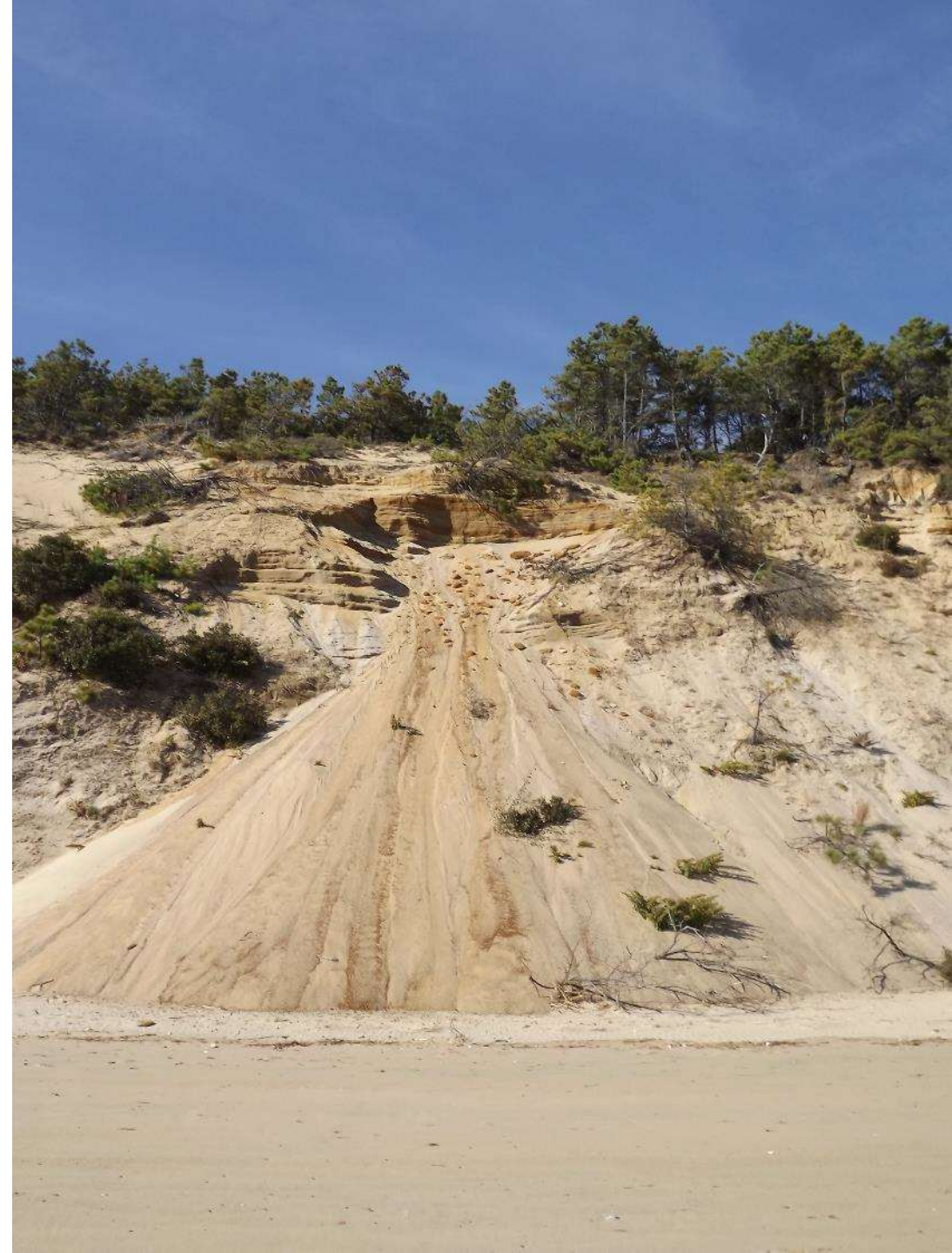
Coast Guard Beach area



Ocean, beach, salt marsh, and uplands habitats



Dunes



Native American shell midden on Great Island



But beyond the foredune is a whole new world...



Where beachgrass and other rare plants live.



Beachgrass

and

Poverty grass
(genus: *Hudsonia*)

Dunes and pitch pines



Dunes: Provincelands



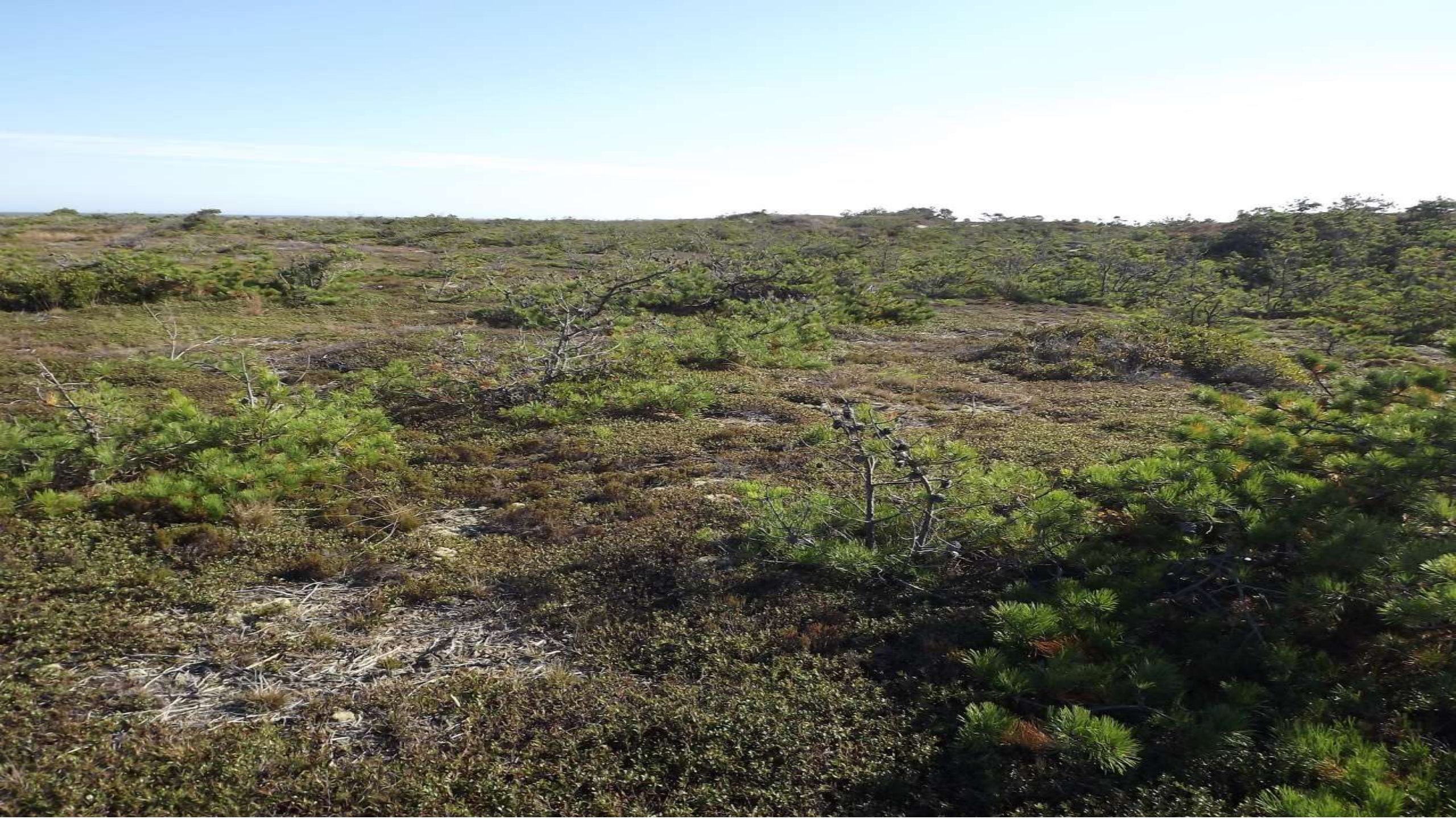
Globally rare heathlands are just beyond the ocean: salt resistant plants characterize these areas.





Heathlands in Marconi area which are maintained by prescribed fires





Pine savannahs

Little understory, sandy areas





Grasslands at Fort Hill





Wildflowers



Lupine at Fort Hill with salt marsh and ocean in background





Salt marshes: Ecologically important and very productive areas



Nauset Marsh



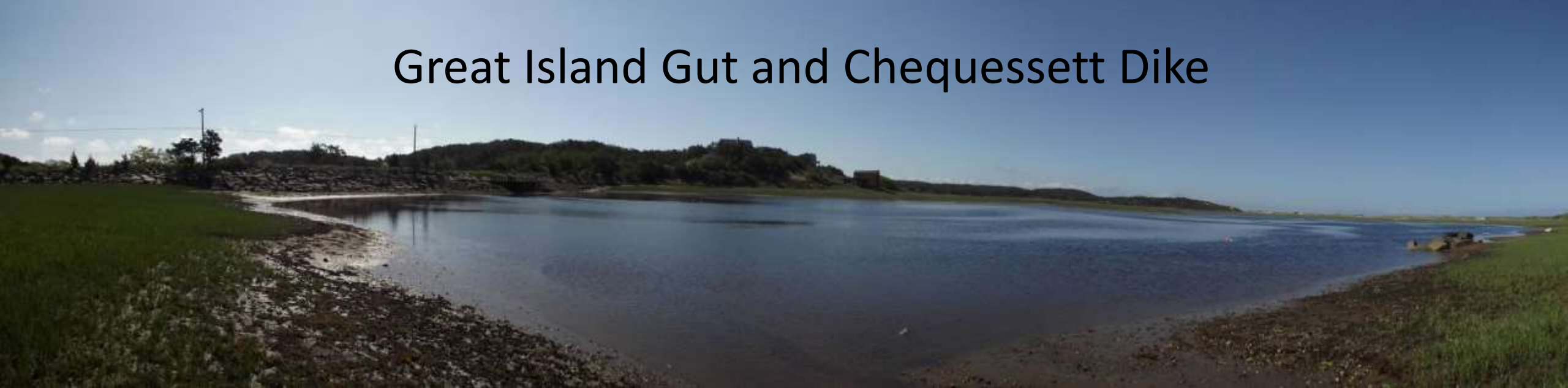
Great Island salt marsh and horseshoe crab



Nauset Marsh (hiking) trail



Great Island Gut and Chequessett Dike



Swan flying over Nauset Marsh



Red Maple Swamp





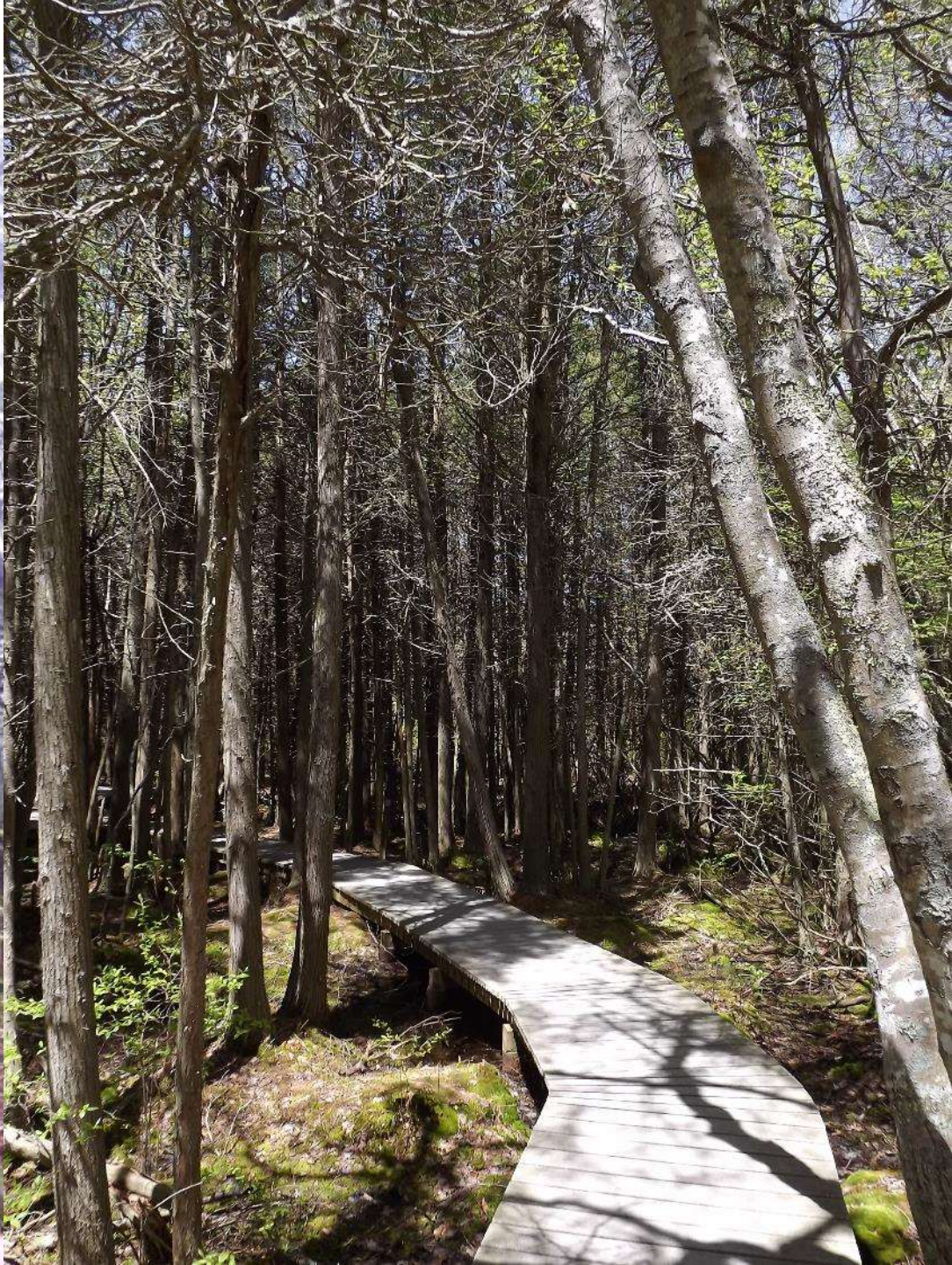
Atlantic White Cedar swamp



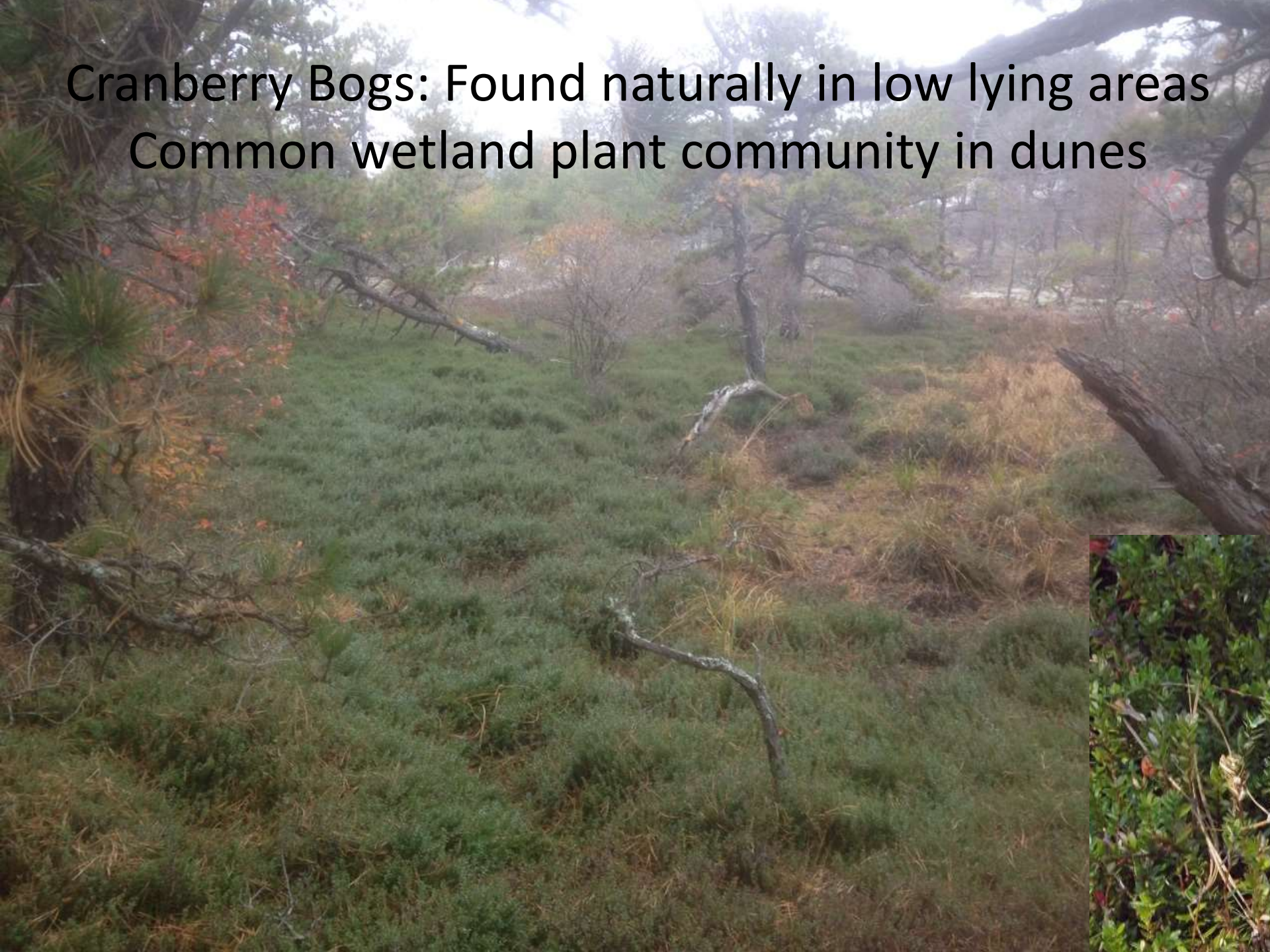




Cedar Swamps are a fairy-tail, mystical like setting



Cranberry Bogs: Found naturally in low lying areas
Common wetland plant community in dunes





Cape Cod: Freshwater ponds abound too

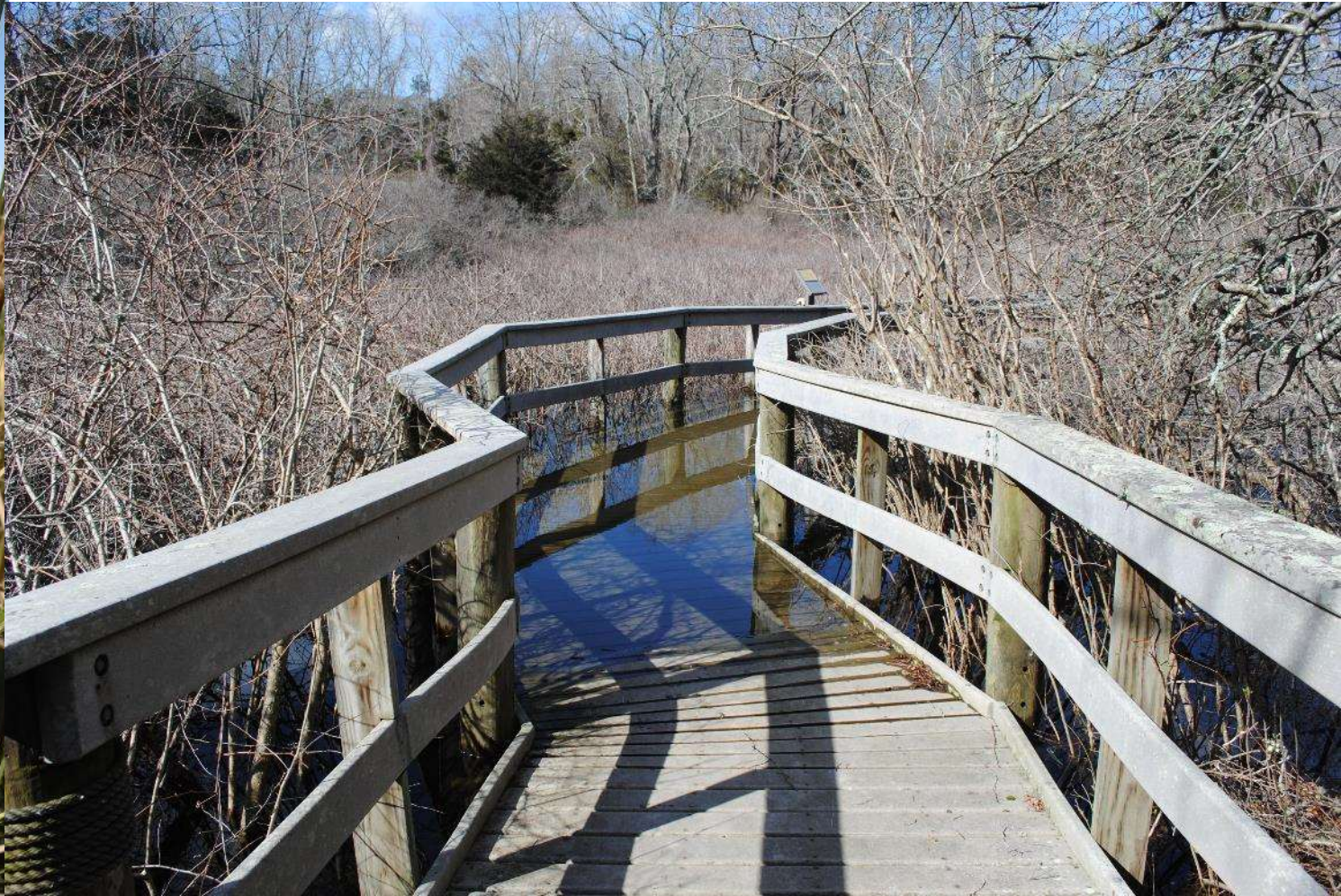




Cattails



and Buttonbush pond



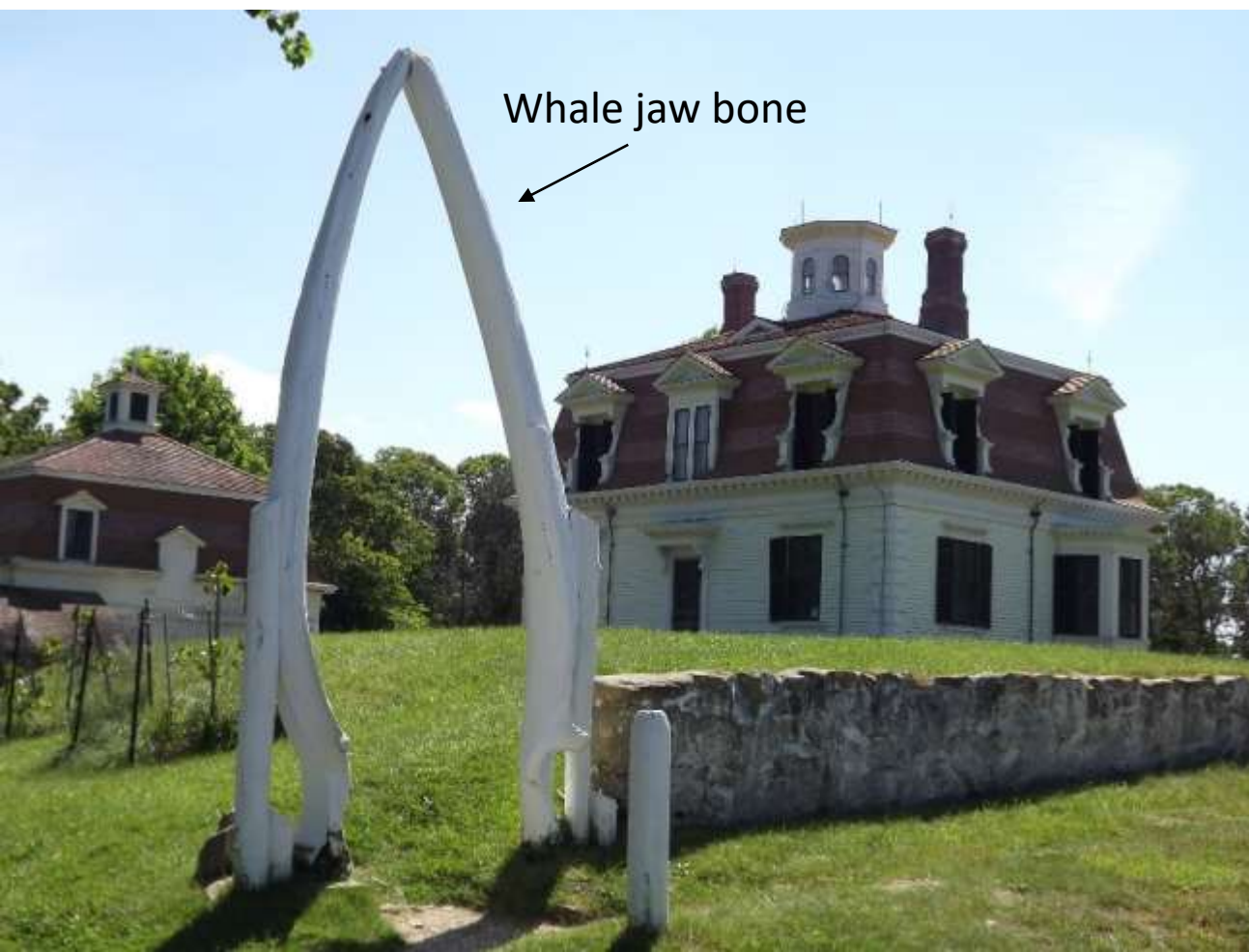
Salt Pond Visitor Center lot



Historic areas: Nauset Lighthouse & Doane Rock



Penniman House: Famous whaling family



Old Harbor Life Saving Station & 1 of 3 Sisters Lighthouses



3 Sisters Lighthouses



Race Point Lighthouse, Provincetown



With all these diverse
areas, wildlife abounds



Box Turtle





Red squirrel (left)
Gray squirrel (bottom left)
Spotted turtle





Mourning dove (left)
Willow flycatcher (bottom right)



Canada Geese



Wild Turkeys









White-tailed
deer

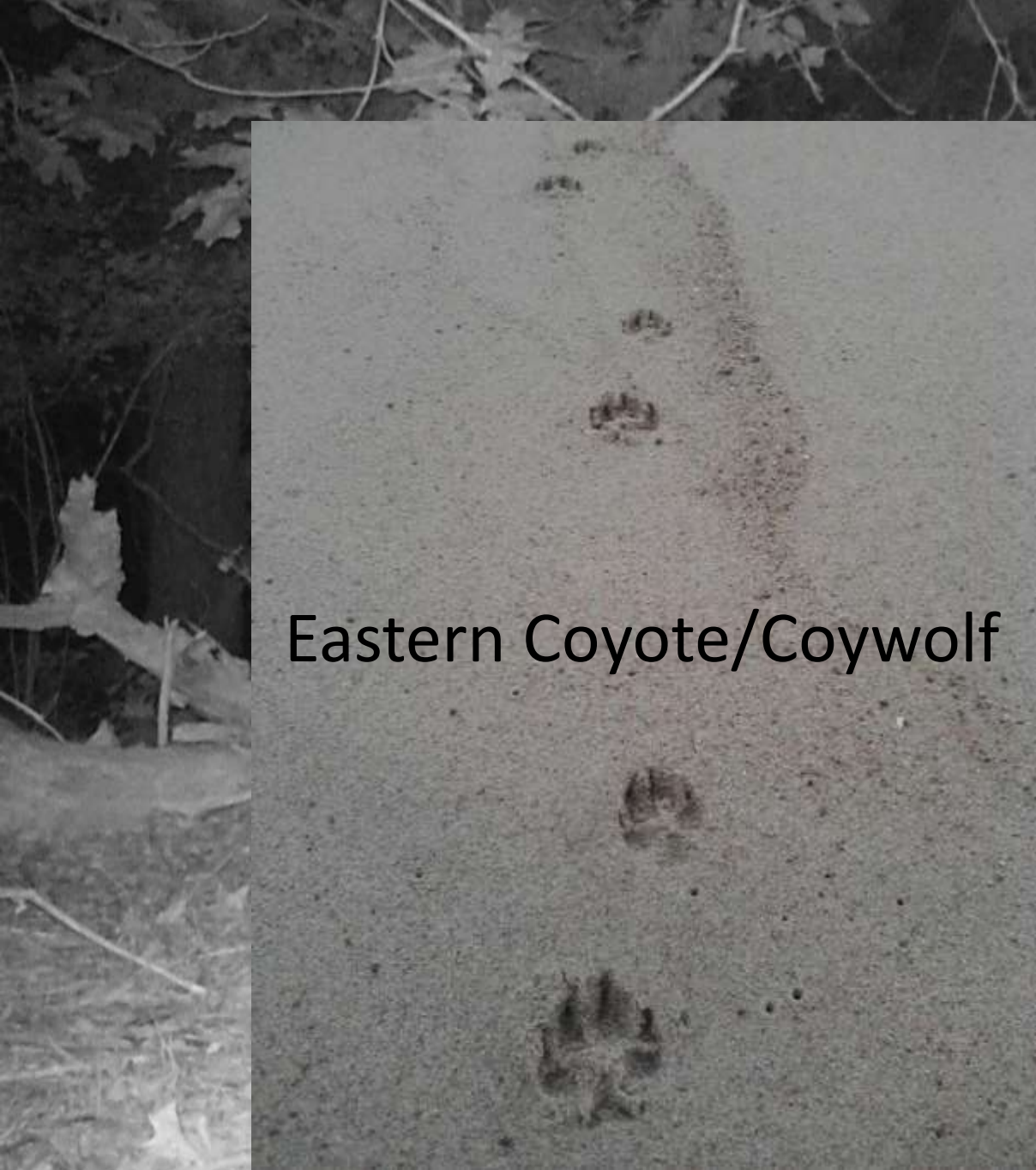






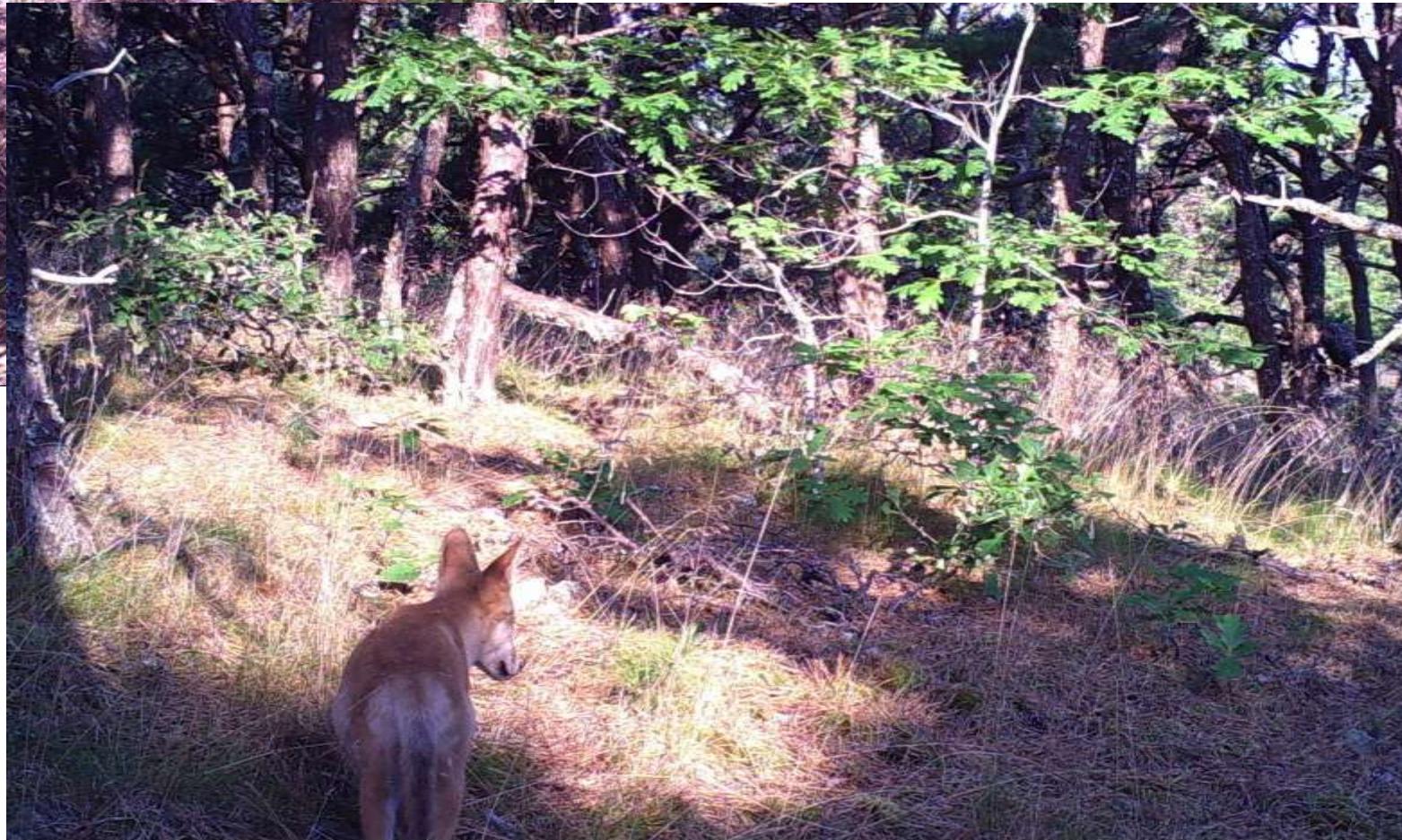






Eastern Coyote/Coywolf

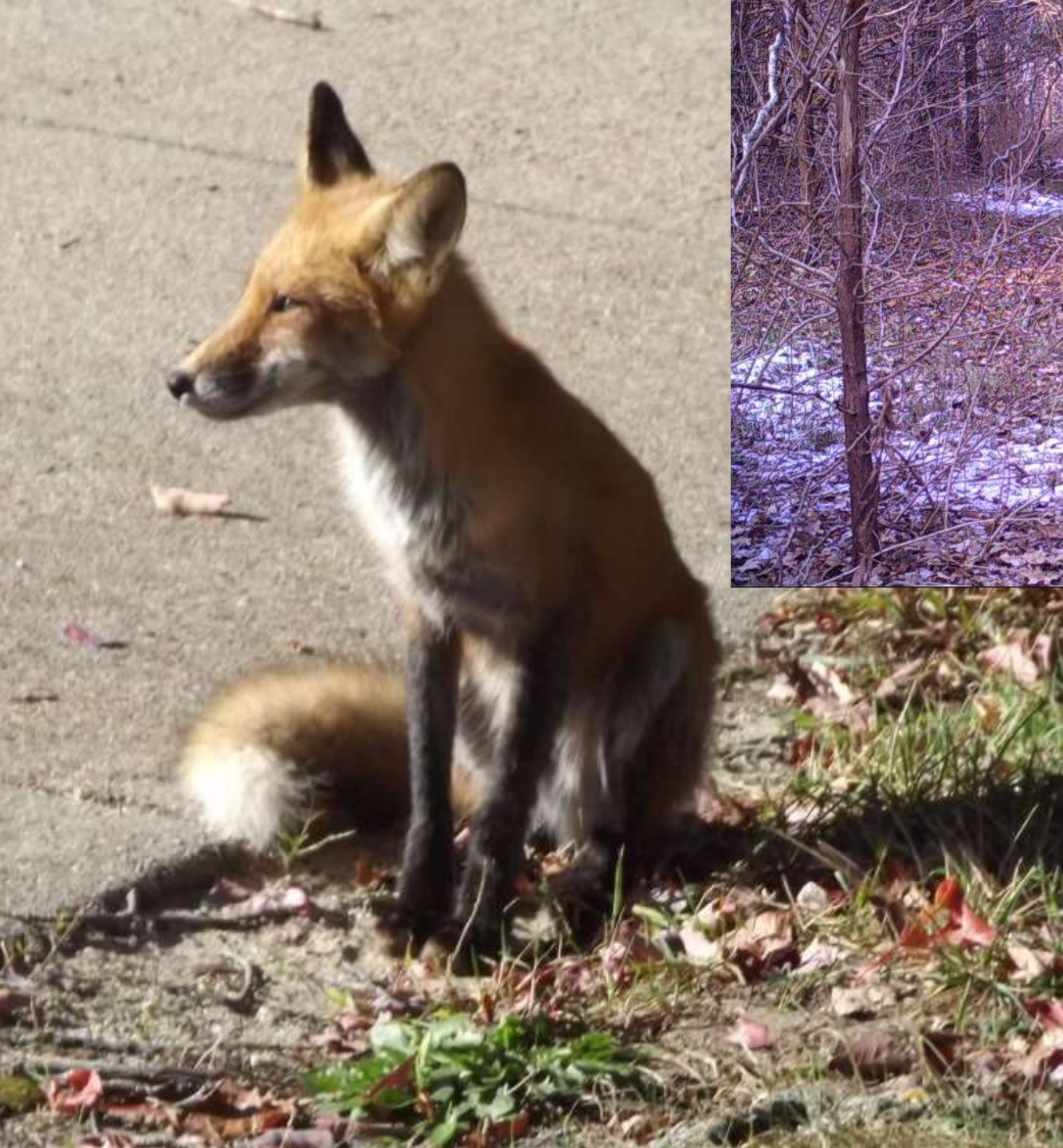






Eastern Coyote/Coywolf pack
scent-marking (top) and
Traveling (bottom right)





Red fox



Raccoon (left)
Cottontail rabbit (bottom left)
Striped Skunk (bottom right)



Fisher







Otter







Gulls at herring run



Gulls by ocean





Green crab



Fiddler crab



Horseshoe crabs





Crabs, mud snails, ribbed mussels

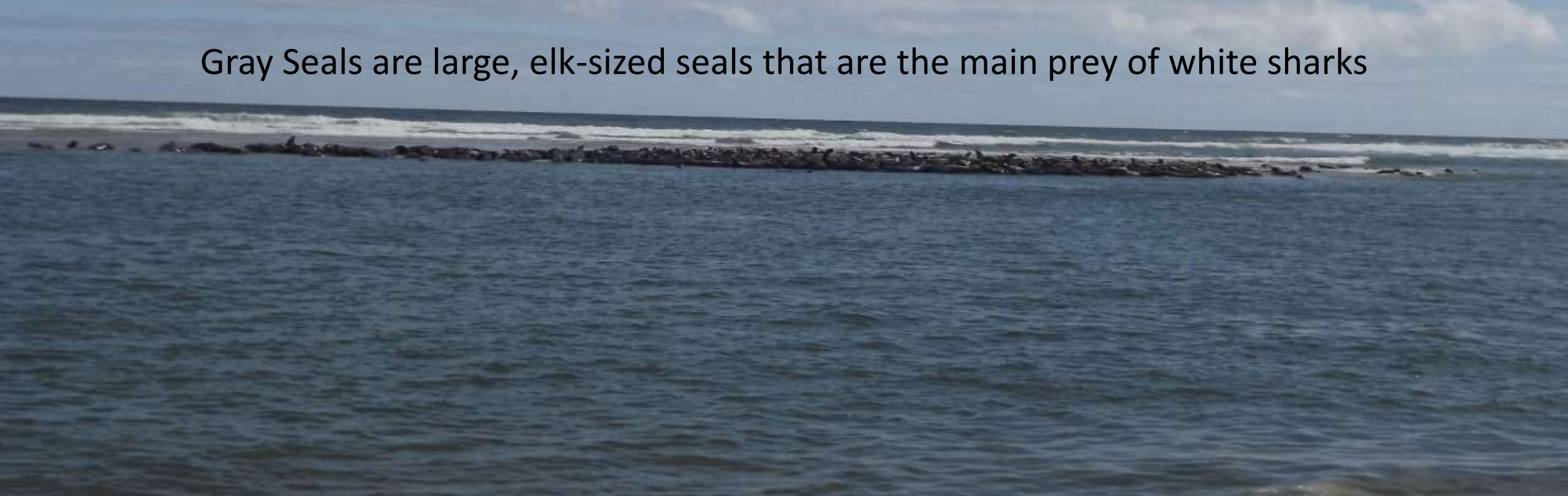


Gray Seals





Gray Seals are large, elk-sized seals that are the main prey of white sharks





Whales



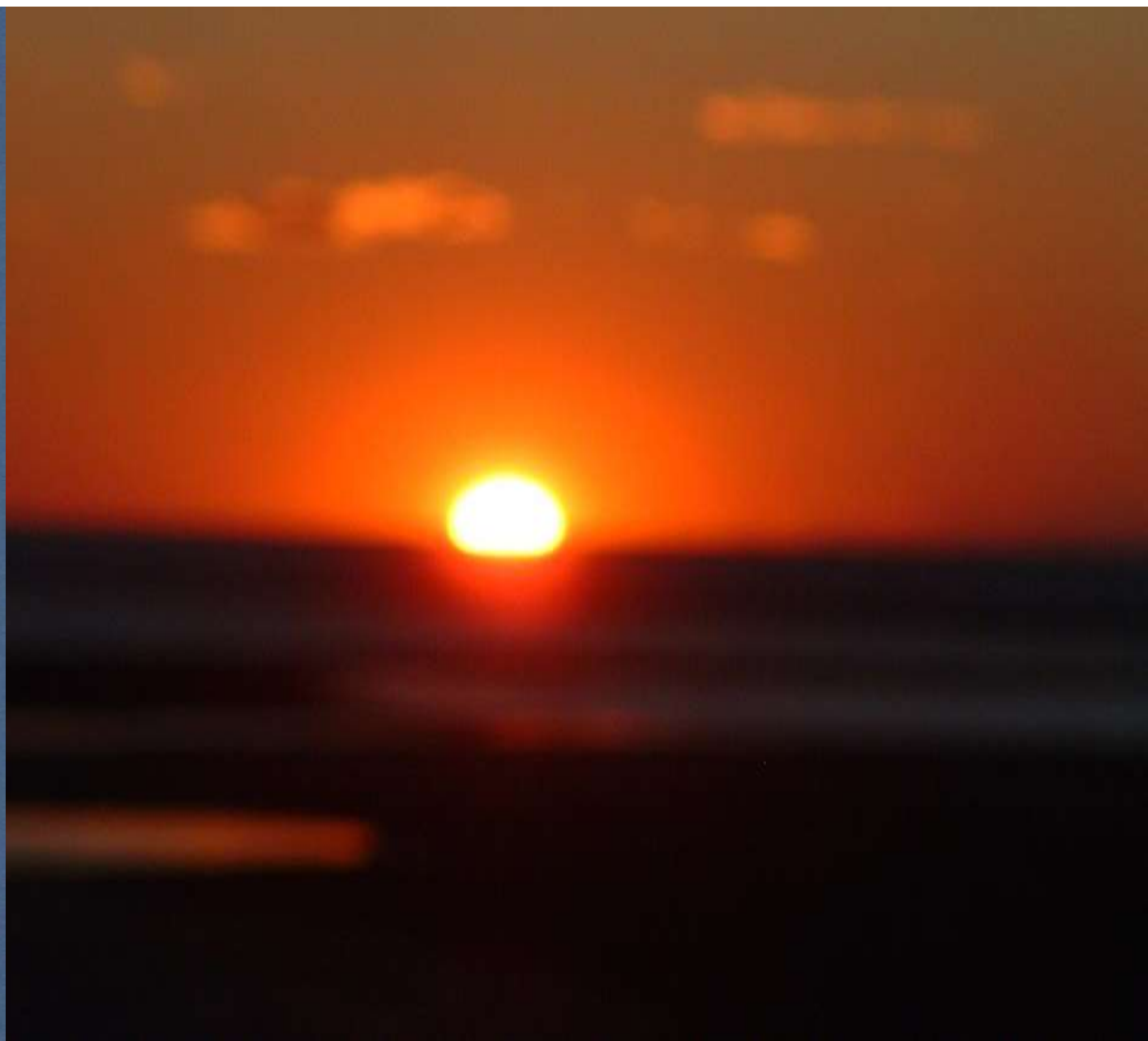
Sunset
Herring
Cove
Beach



Moon



Sunset



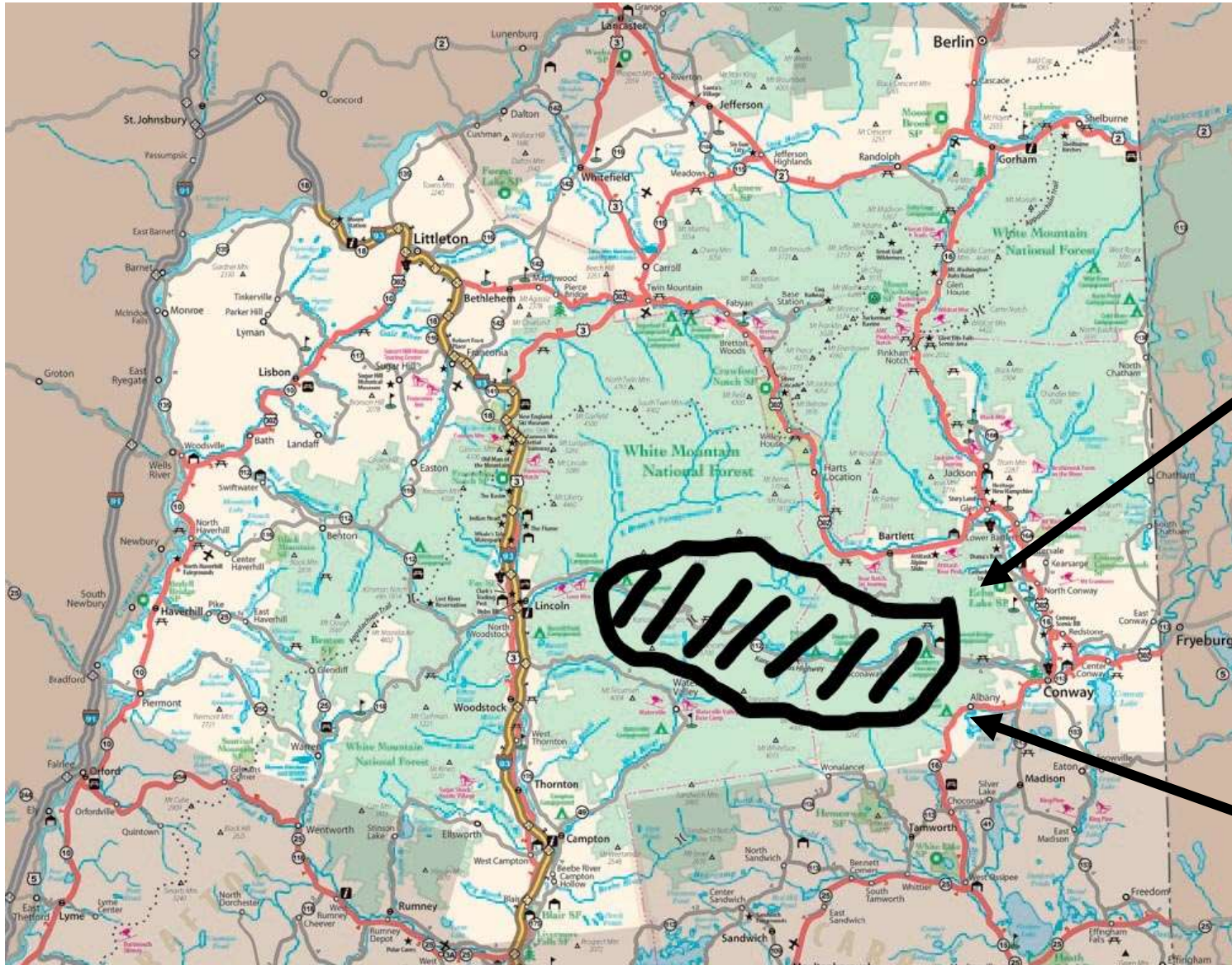


Supermoon

Indiana Dunes National Park Precedent

- Legislation to create Cape Cod National Park would NOT be unprecedented.
- Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore was created in 1966 and was designated the 61st **National Park** in **2019**.
- Indiana Dunes NP is ~15,000 acres; ~3 times smaller than Cape Cod.
- There will undoubtedly be special interests that try to curb this legislation.
 - But please consider this legislation for the benefit of society and future generations.

What Could Be: Kancamagus National Park



Simply repurposing a section of the White Mountain National Forest North and South of the ~30 mile long Kancamagus Highway (Route 112) could make this area a national park and a core wildlife protection area in the heart of northcentral NH.

Location of Kancamagus National Park

- This proposed National Park unit would extend to each respective mountain peak on the North and South side of the scenic byway (The “Kanc”, Rt. 112) between Lincoln and Conway, NH.
- Specifically the Southern boundary would be south of Route 112 (going West to East) to Black Mountain, Scar Ridge, Mt. Osceola, Mt. Kancamagus, Flume Peak, Tripyramid Mtns, Potash Mtn, Mt. Passaconaway, Hedgehog Mtn, Mt. Chocorua, Blue Mtn, White Ledge, and Sugarloaf.
- The Northern boundary of the proposed park would be from north of Route 112 to (going West to East) Big Coolidge Mtn, Potash Knob, Mount Hitchcock, South and North Hancock, Sawyer Pond Scenic Area and Mount Tremont, Bear Mtn, Table Mtn, Big Attitash Mtn, North Moat Mtn and South Moat Mtn.
- Total area – ~75,000 acres

White Mountain National Forest

- The Whites are 750,000 acres with 148,000 designated as wilderness.
- Managers have done a tremendous job protecting this area, especially given the multiple use mandates of national forests, but more needs to be done. There should be more places where wildlife are fully protected and resources are not extracted.
- Designating Kancamagus National Park (KNP) within the Whites would still leave over 650,000 acres (about 85%) of the original White Mountains as multiple use surrounding KNP.
- Protecting KNP would provide a core protected area in the heart of the ecosystem.
- This area could be co-managed by the park service and existing forest service, at least to start with, with national park status for the lands.

Importance

- National parks generate a tremendous amount of revenue to the local communities near where they are established.
- Think of Lincoln and Conway, NH; areas that could have a tremendous amount of increased tourism given that they would receive increased visitation with re-designating a segment of the current national forest into a national park.
- Scientists continue to note how important fully protected regions are like the various national parks of the West.
- We could have that here in the East and specifically in New Hampshire.

Driving the “Kanc”







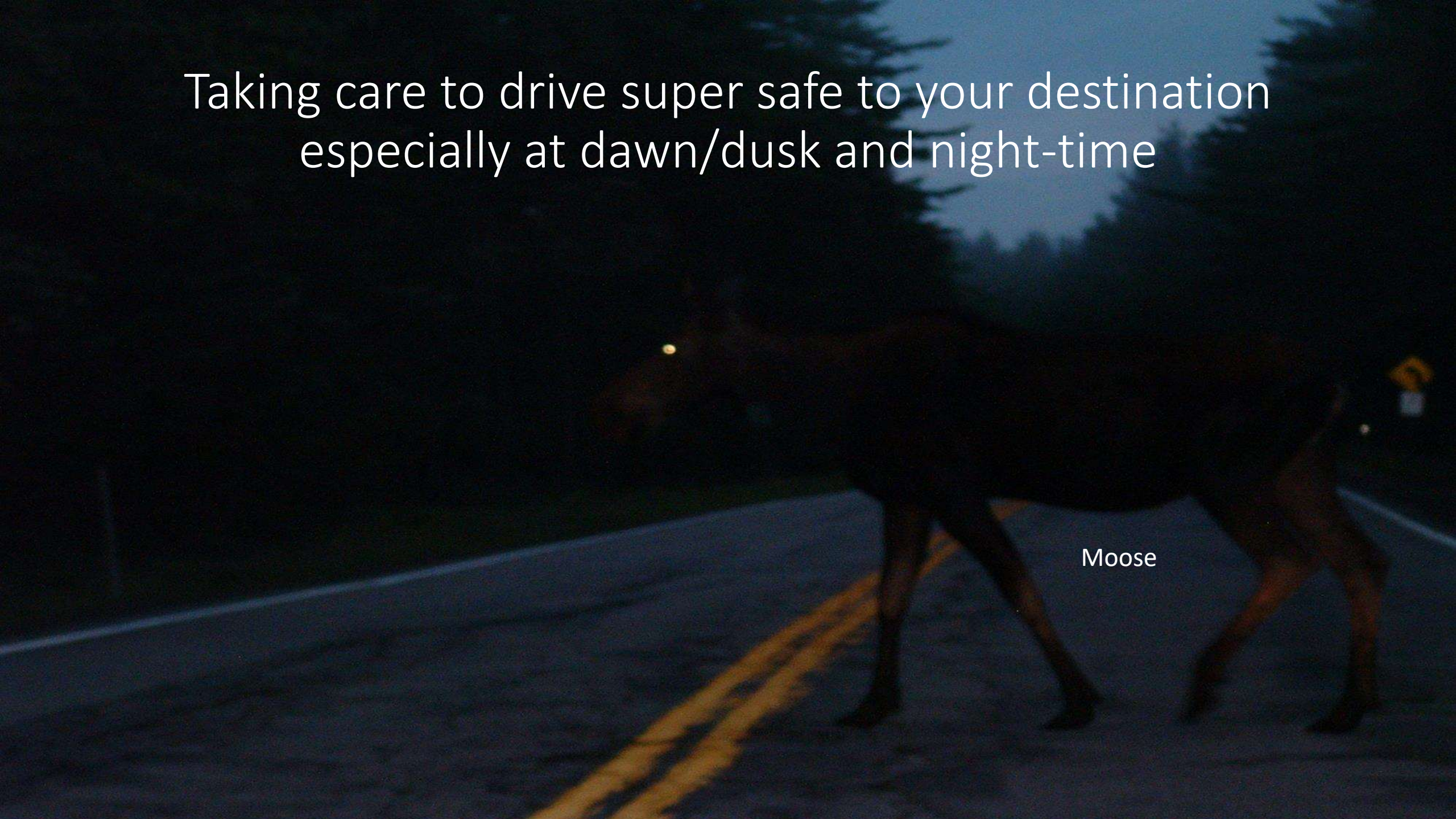
Fall foliage on the “Kanc”

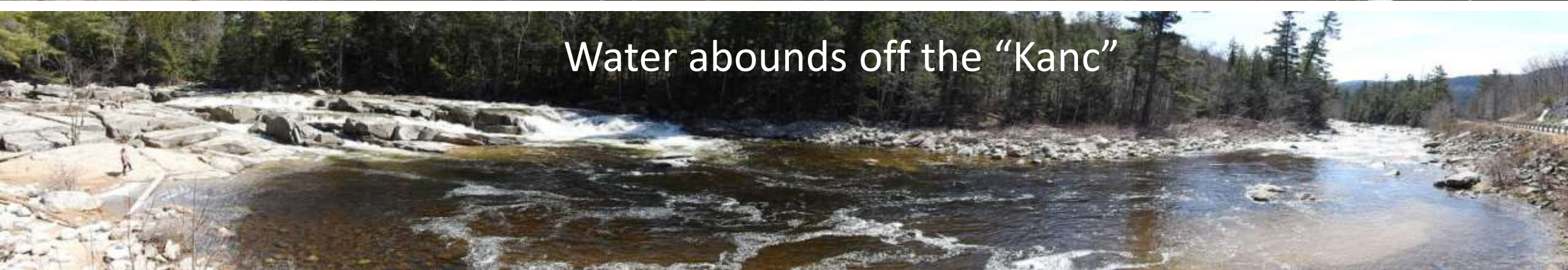
Amazing views from pullouts right off the “Kanc”



Taking care to drive super safe to your destination
especially at dawn/dusk and night-time

Moose

A photograph of a moose crossing a road at night. The moose is in the center-right of the frame, walking from left to right. The road has yellow double lines. The background is dark with some distant lights and trees.



Water abounds off the “Kanc”



Otter Falls, East Branch of Pemigewasset River





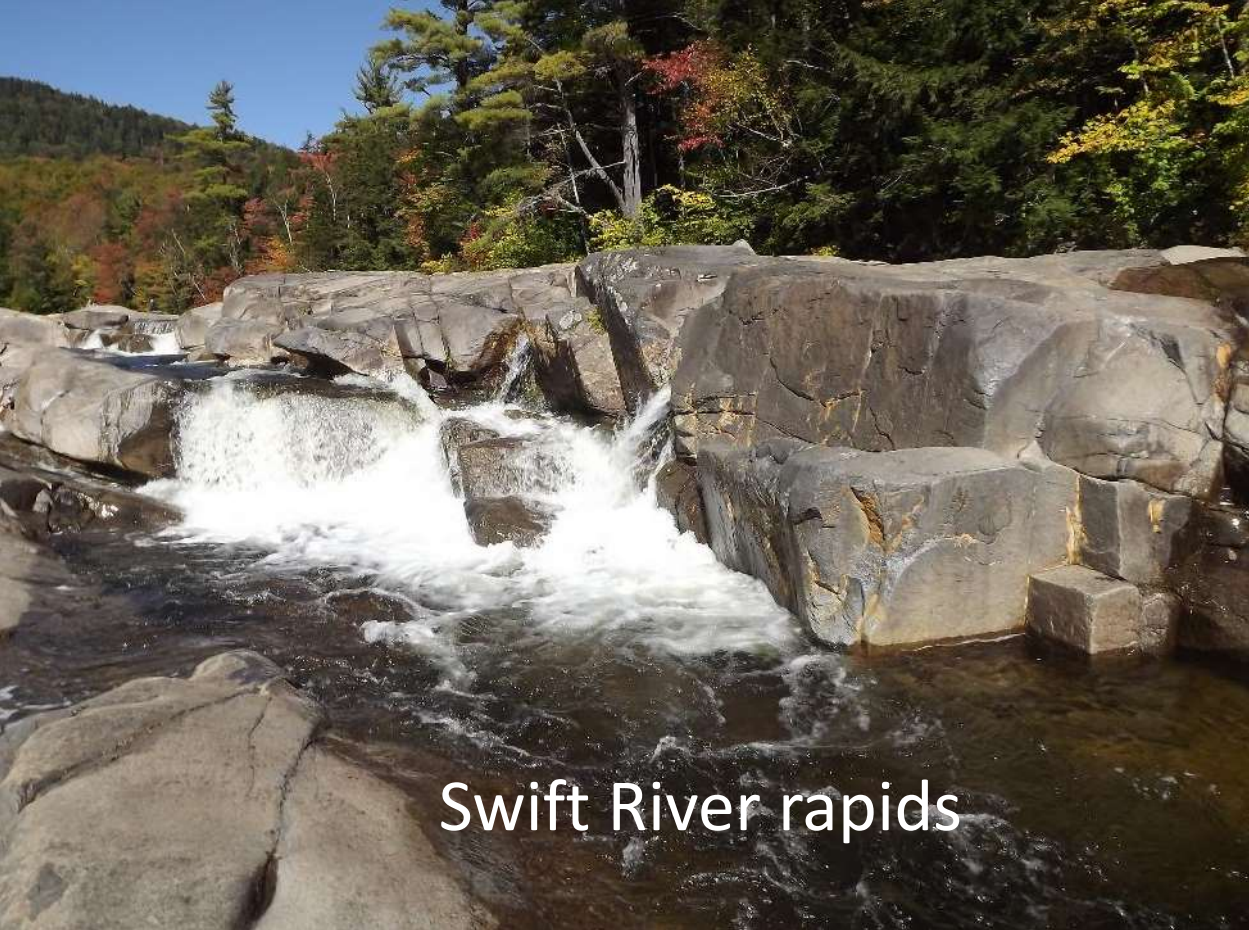
Lower Falls on the Swift River



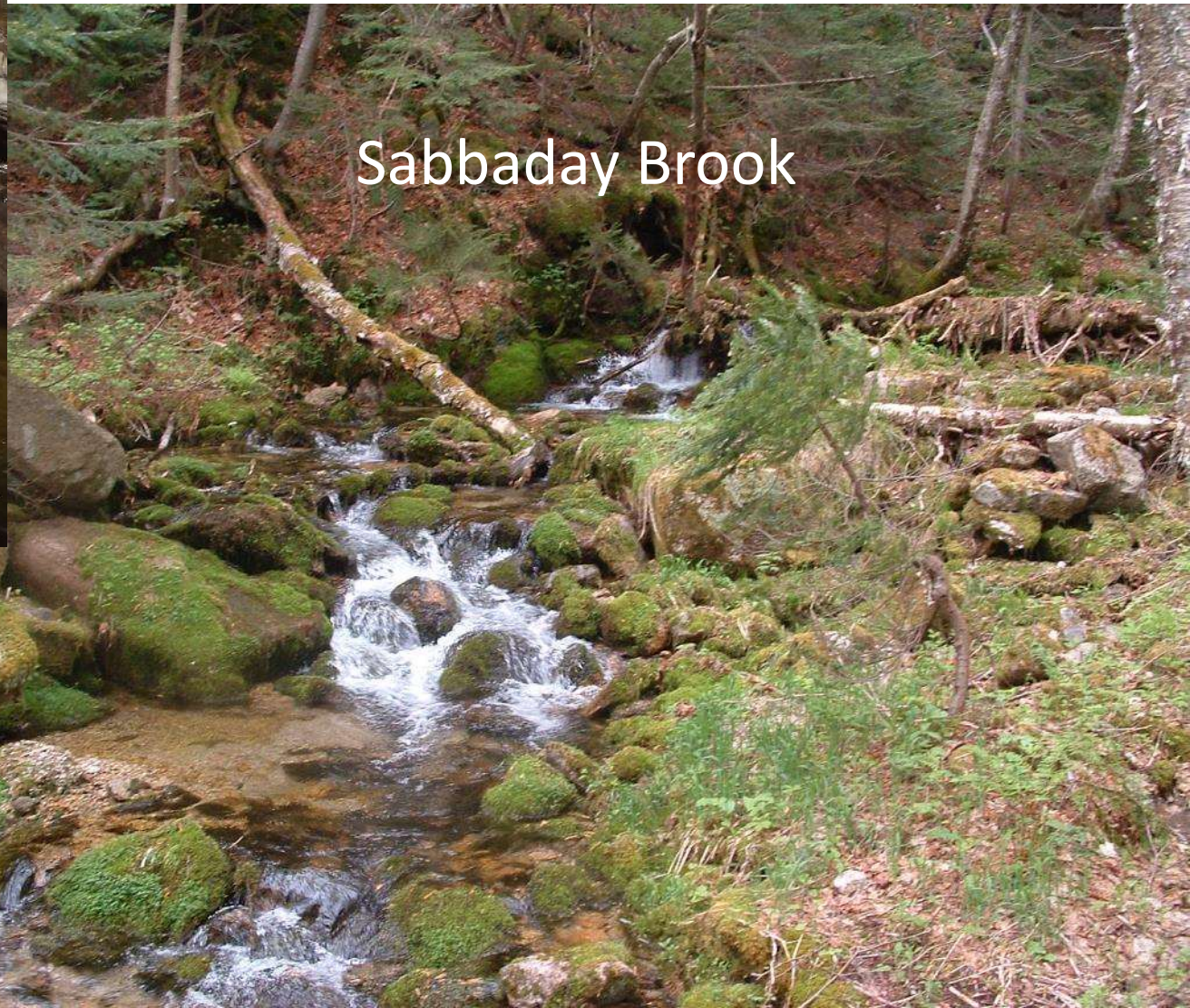
Swift River



Lower Falls swimming basin

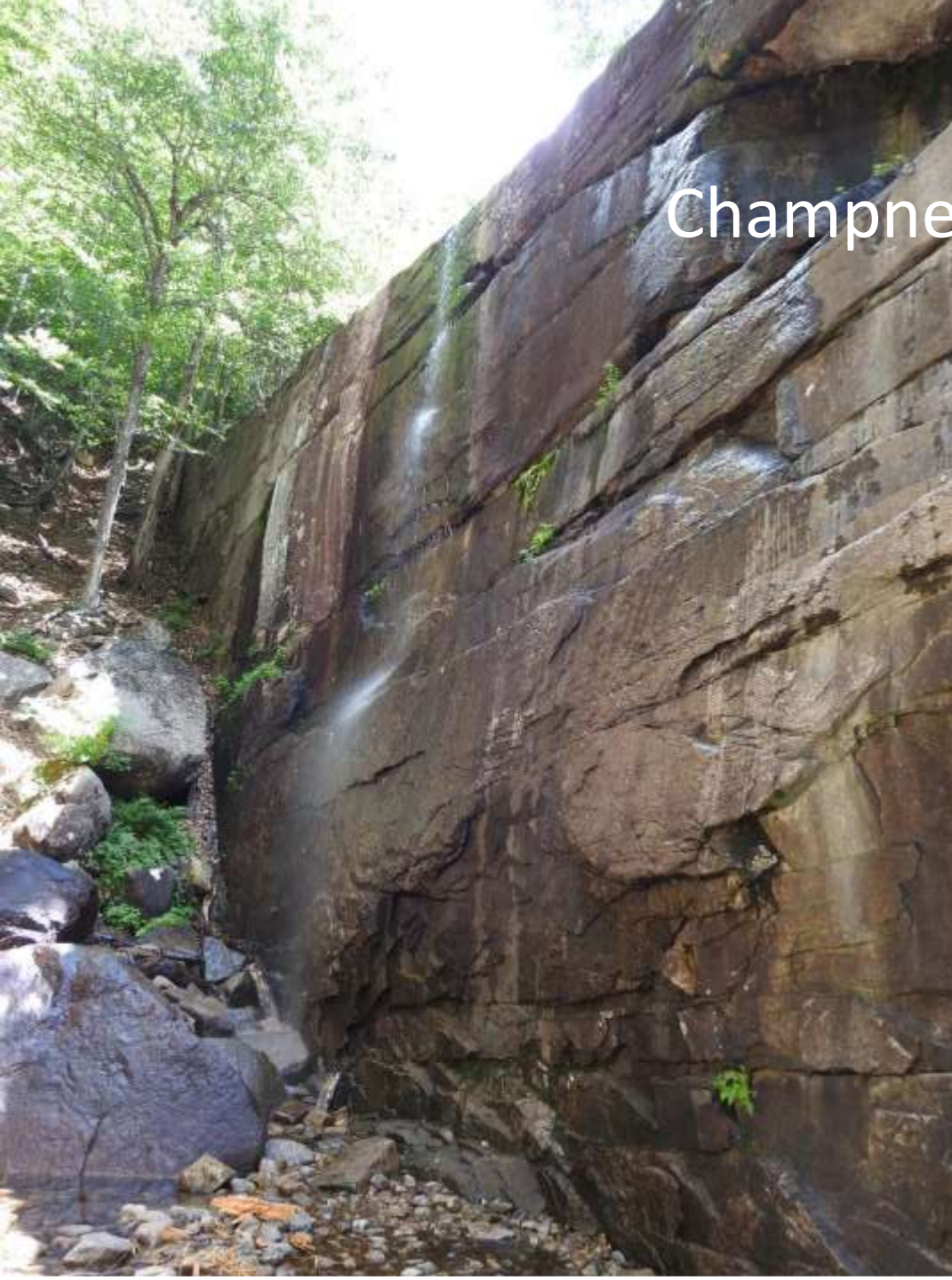


Swift River rapids

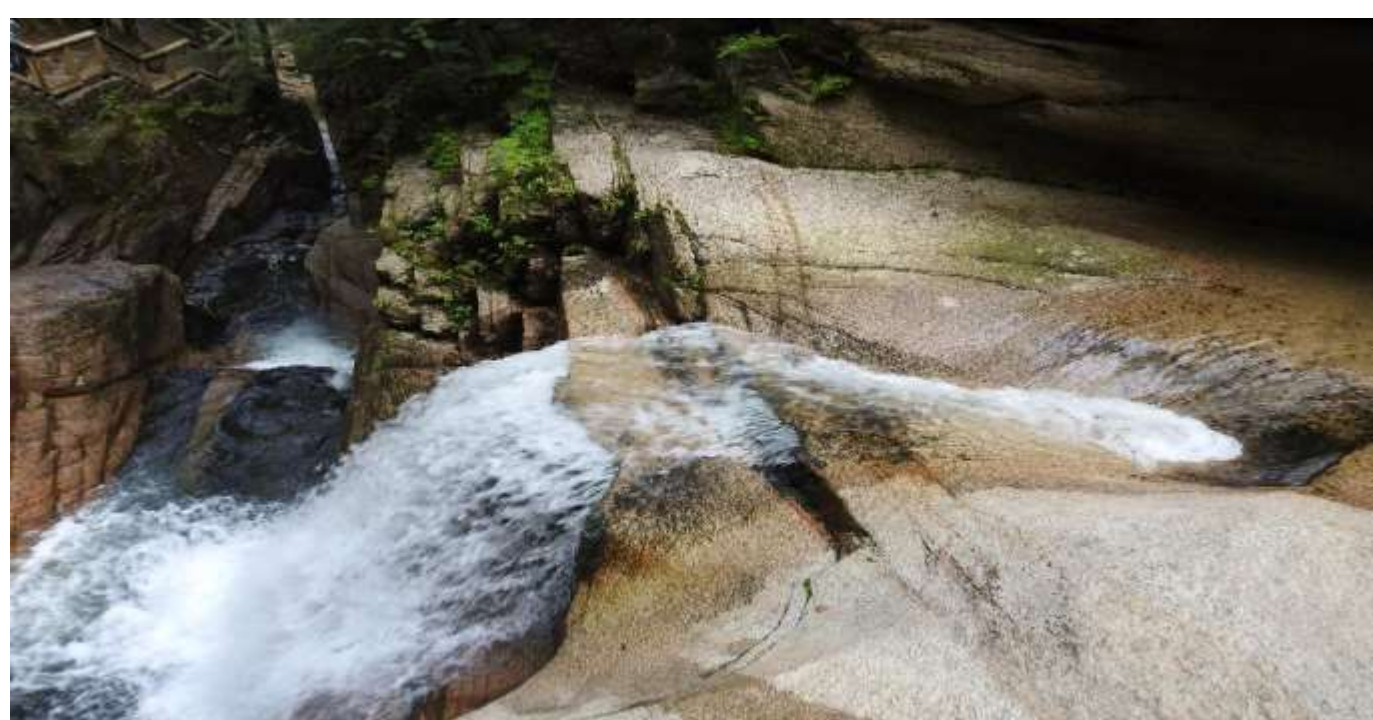


Sabbaday Brook

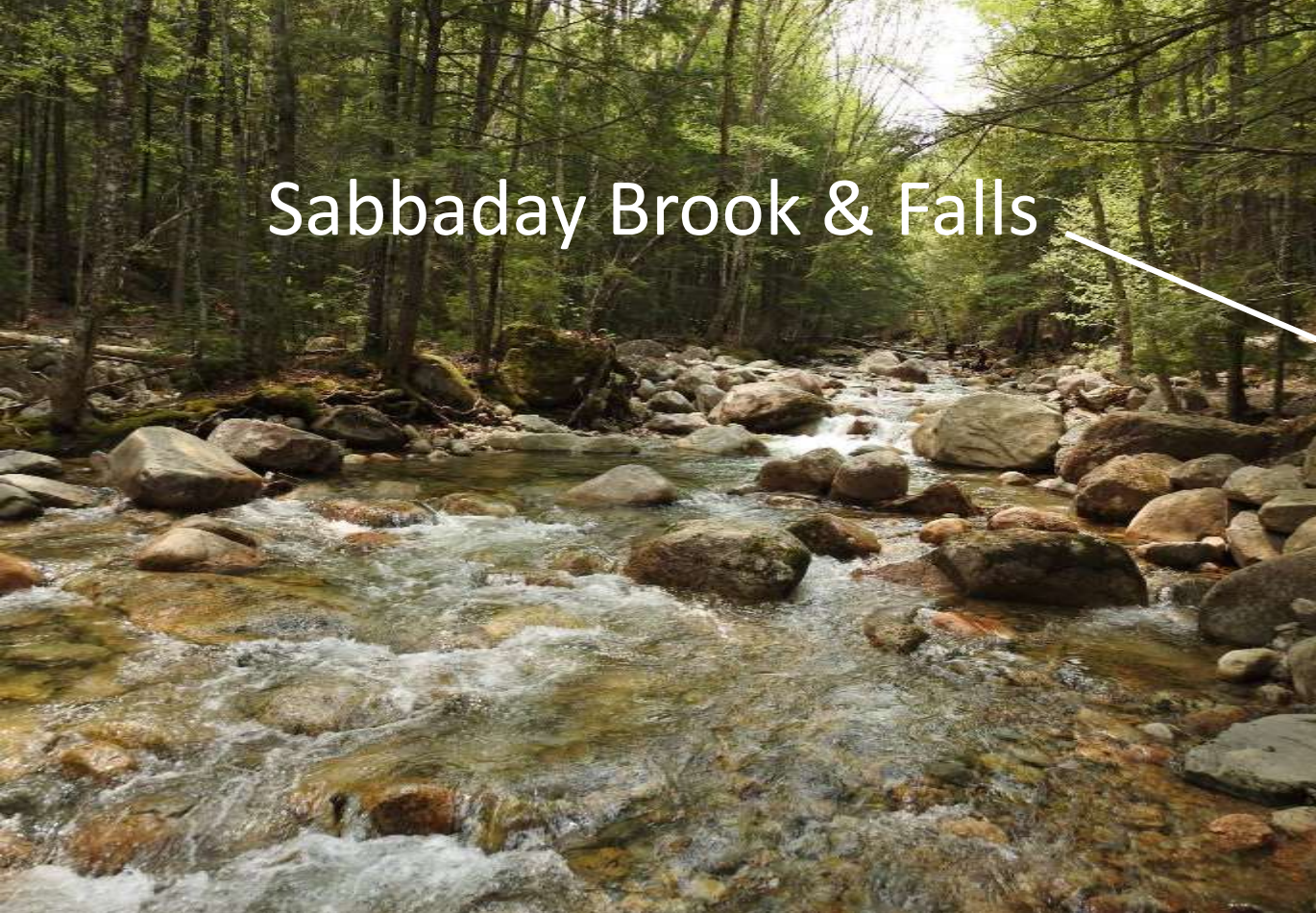
Champney Falls



Sabbaday Falls

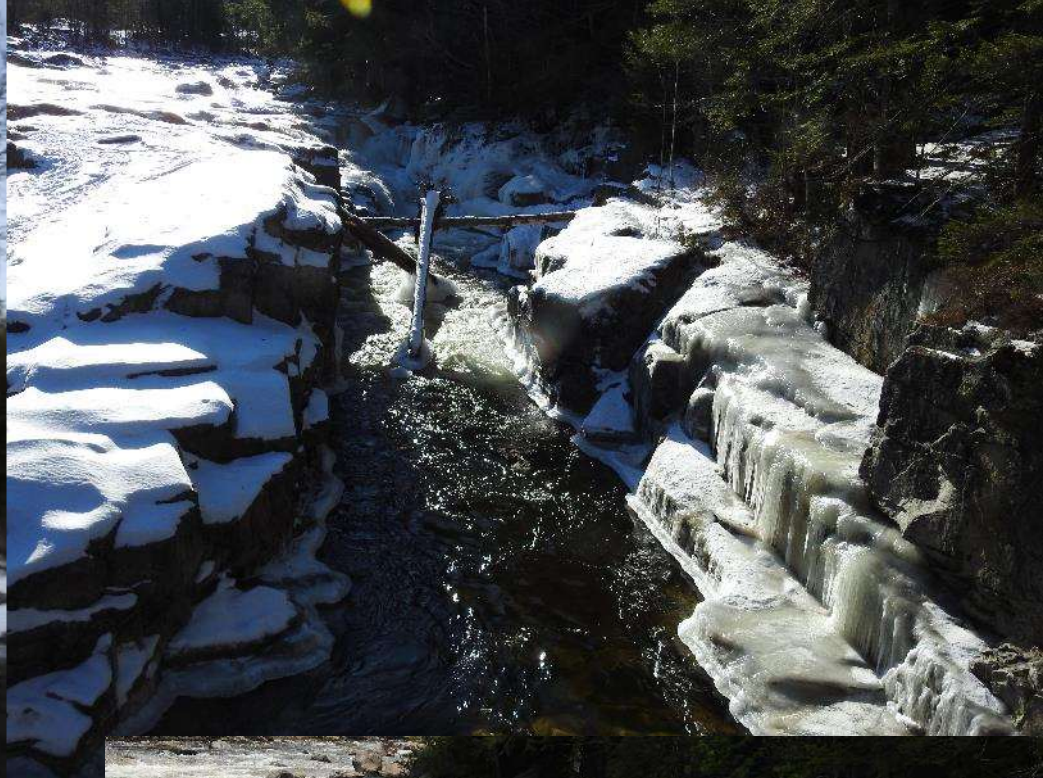


Sabbaday Brook & Falls





Rocky Gorge, part of the Swift River







Falls Pond in winter

Falls Pond in summer



Painted turtle



Beaver with branch

Chocorua Lake and Mt. Chocorua



Beaver







Contrasts: winter versus summer





There are endless areas to explore year-round off the “Kanc”





Beavers are common in almost all water bodies off the “Kanc”



Wood ducks



Beavers are ecosystem engineers





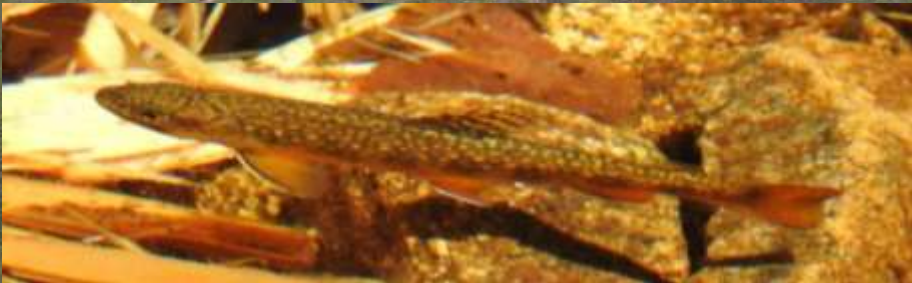
Wetlands attract a variety of wildlife:
Canada geese and white-tailed deer



White-tailed deer “flagging,” quick to escape danger



Moose love wetlands





Bull Moose

Otter
With
Fish





Garter snakes



Hiking: the best way to see the sights



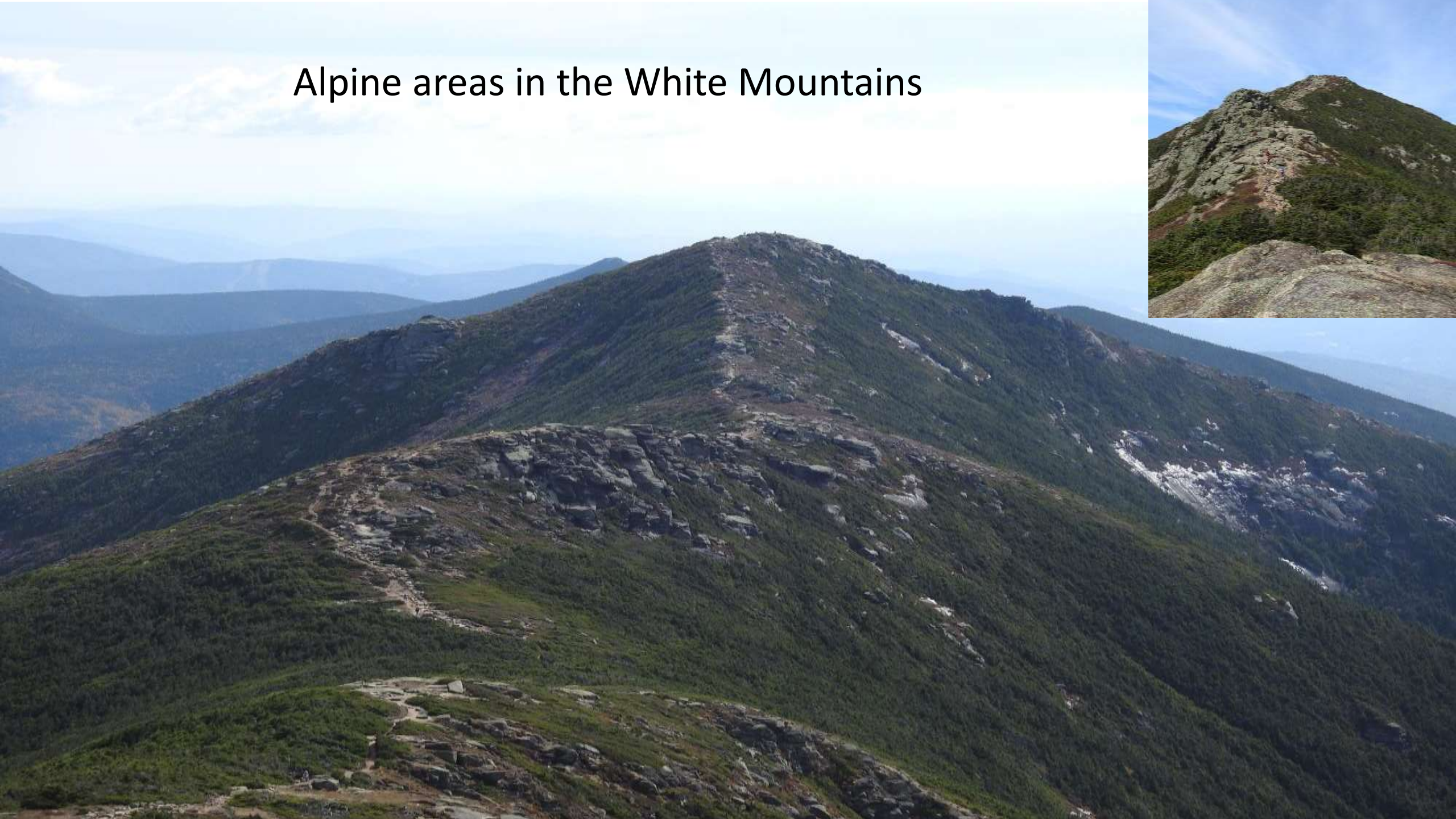
Mt. Chocorua



The area contains high elevation alpine areas
where trees don't grow or grow stunted



Alpine areas in the White Mountains





Sandwich wilderness

Views are expansive

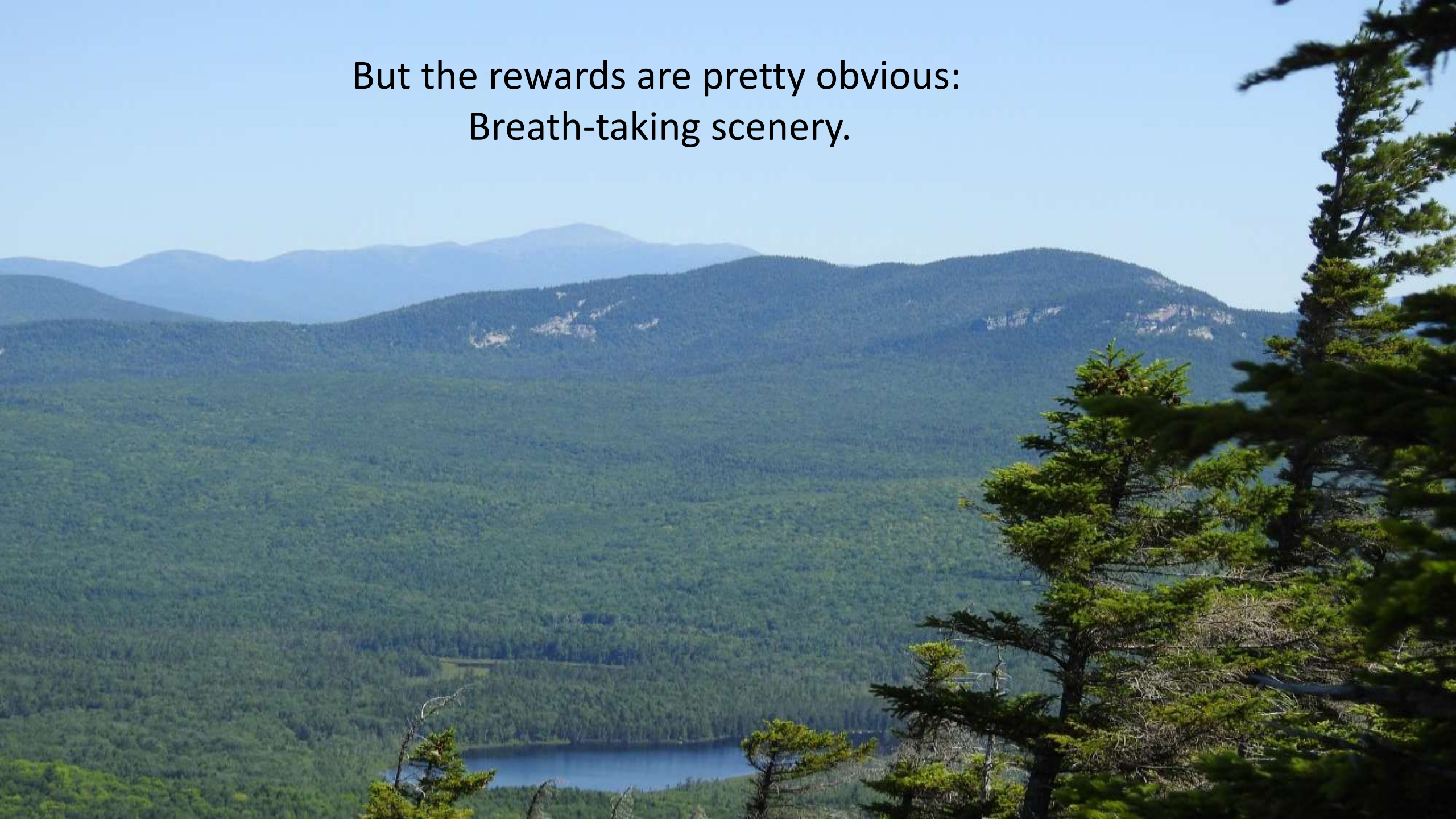




Getting to these views requires a lot of hiking & climbing!



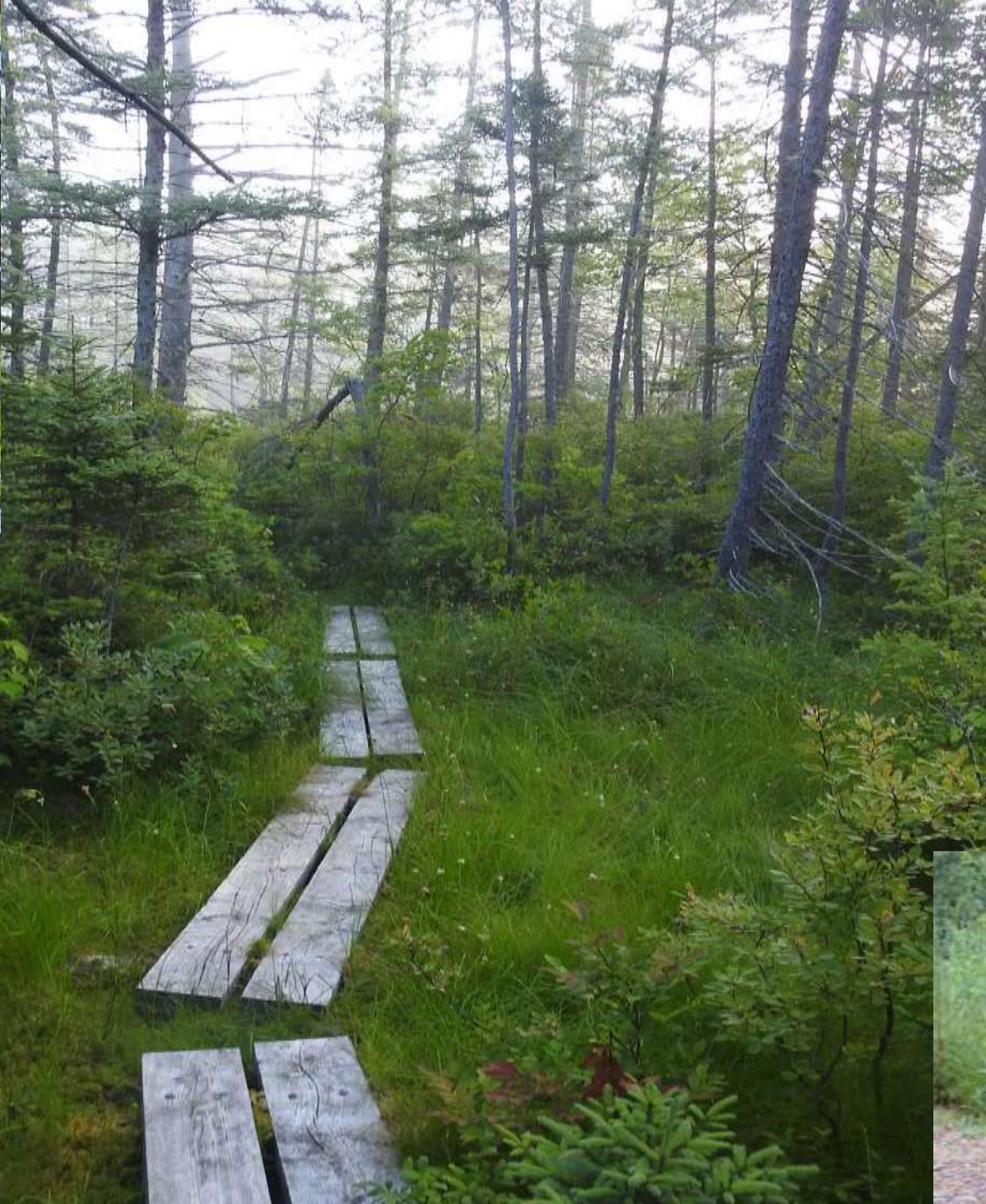
But the rewards are pretty obvious:
Breath-taking scenery.



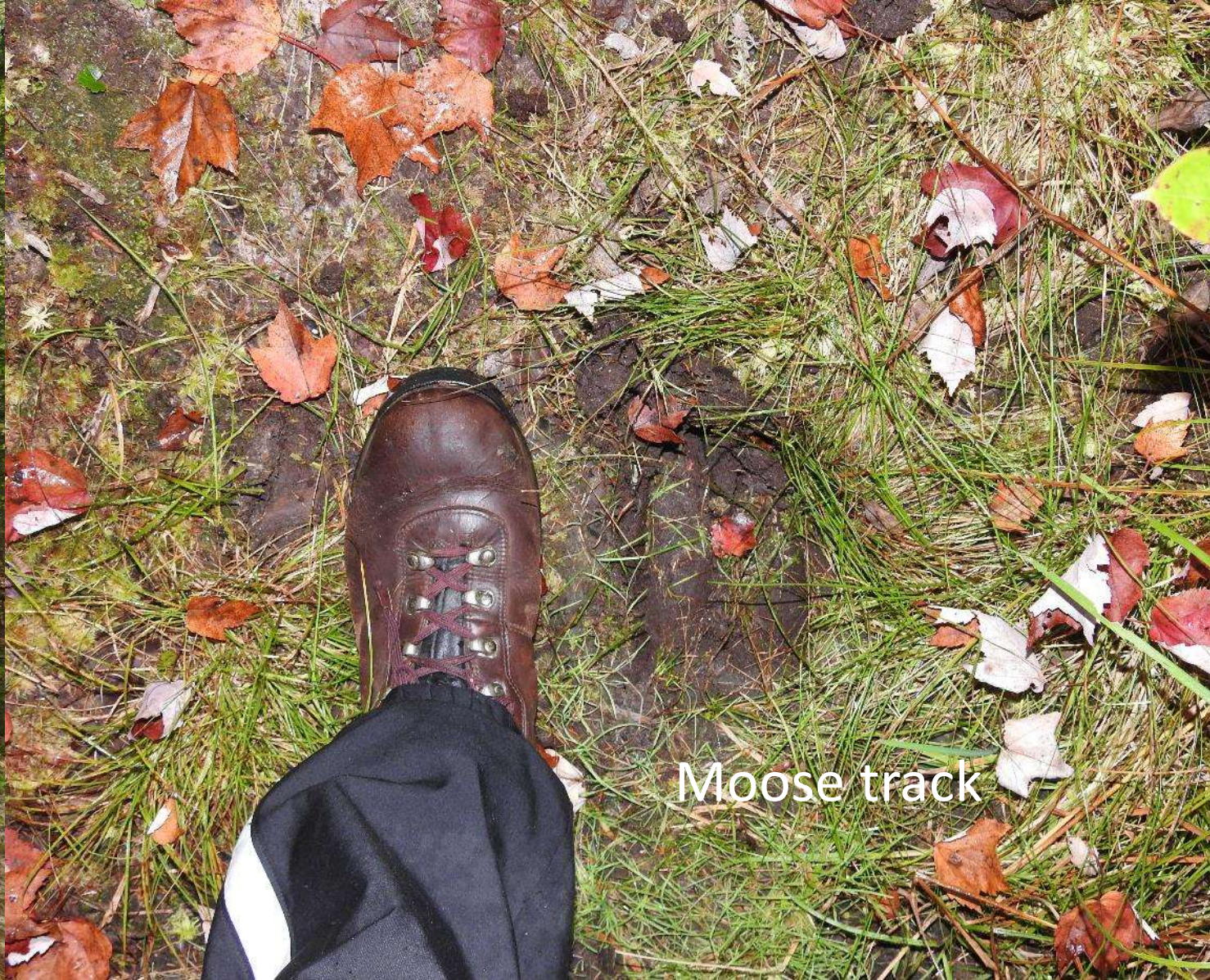
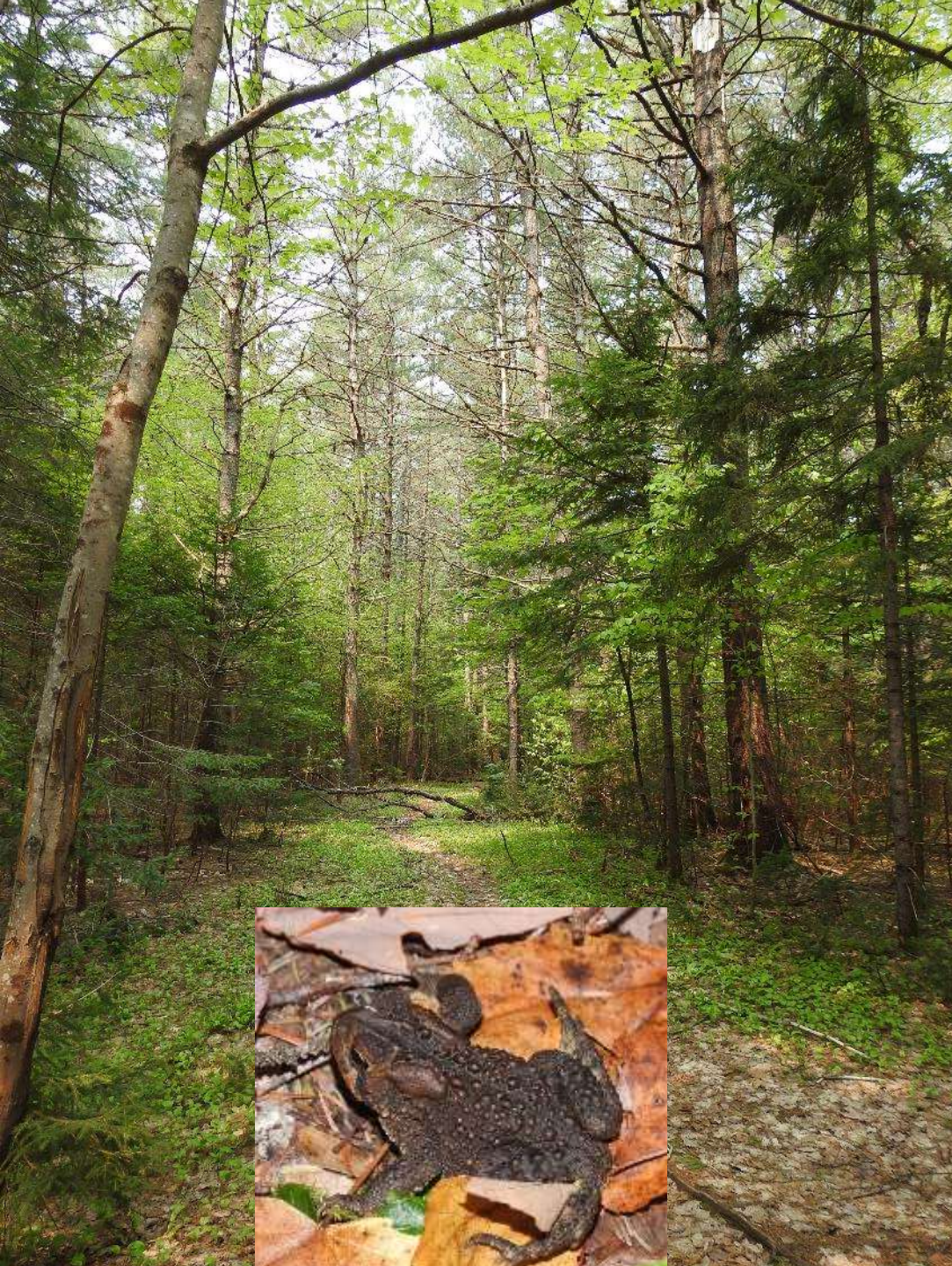


Bog bridges: not all hikes go up. Notice the wetlands!





These low elevation areas are excellent places to see wildlife and their sign.



Moose track



Moose tracks and scat



Black Bear track



Bobcat track



Eastern Coyote/Coywolf tracks

Eastern Coyote scat: filled with fur





Fisher tracks and trail

Snowshoe hare



Wild turkey





Muskeg bog: a unique, northern wetland ecosystem.







Black spruce are the common tree found in muskeg bogs.

These open areas makes it easier to get pictures of animals.





Black bears & snowshoe hare





Eastern Coyotes (Coywolves)









Eastern Coyotes/Coywolves in muskeg bog.

Red fox



Bobcat



Crows





Ravens and turkey vulture



Raccoon and red squirrel





White-tailed deer







Doe and 2 fawns



Moose









Camp: After a busy and sometimes exhausting day of activity





Camp among
red pines.
Wind traveling
thru these
trees produces
a tranquil,
calming sound.





It's very relaxing which makes....

...a perfect close of another fantastic day in the Whites!



What Could Be: Maine Woods National Park & Preserve

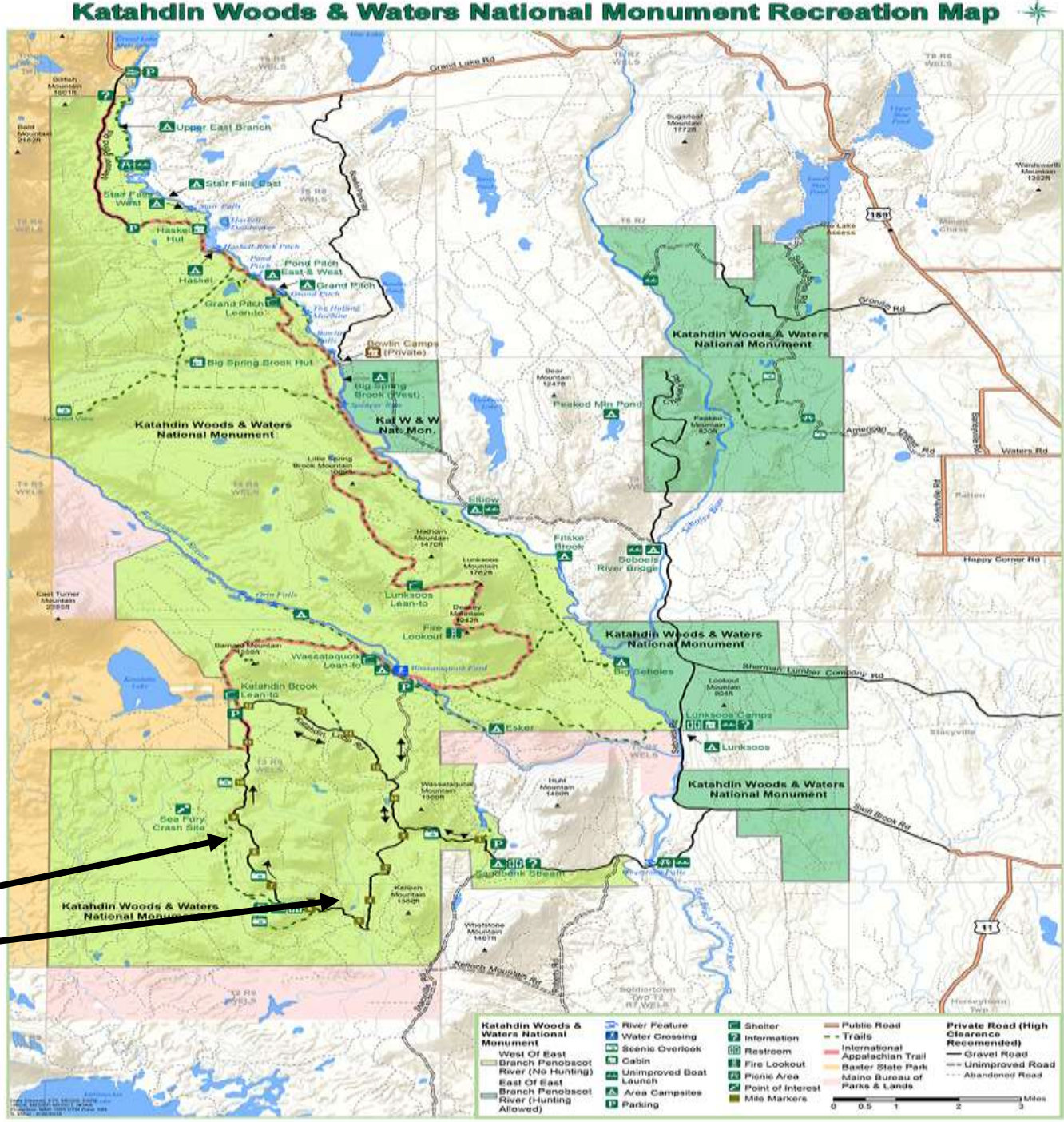
- Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument encompasses over 87,000 acres; about 52,000 acres are protected as a core area like a national park whereas the rest is treated more like a national preserve or forest allowing some extractive uses like hunting.
 - A good balance
- Establishing a Maine Woods National Park & Preserve “Katahdin Unit” would further protect this area from political interference and would leave open the chance of establishing other nearby units in the future.
- This has been suggested before, such as by the group [RESTORE: The North Woods](#) and by Bob Goldman in a great 2010 Appalachian Mountain Club *Wilderness Matters* article “[Let’s have a feasibility study of a Maine Woods National Park before it’s too late](#)”. I concur with those authors and offer specific suggestions in this chapter on how to make this dream a reality. Hopefully future efforts will enlarge the area.



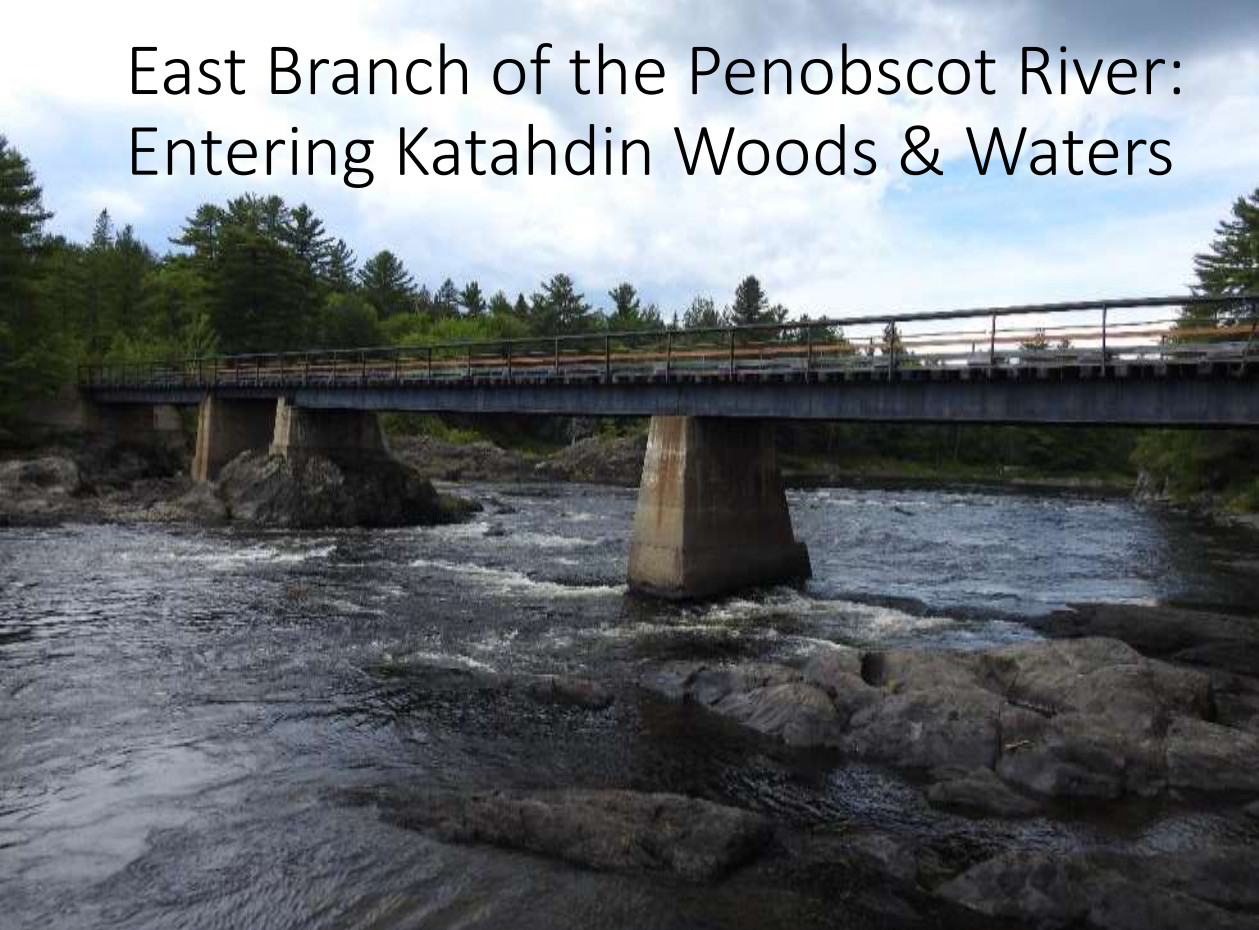
Baxter State Park and Katahdin Woods & Waters NM

Baxter State Park is here but is 2.5 times Bigger than KWW

Park loop road



East Branch of the Penobscot River: Entering Katahdin Woods & Waters



Entering Katahdin W&W Park Loop Road:
A true national park feel

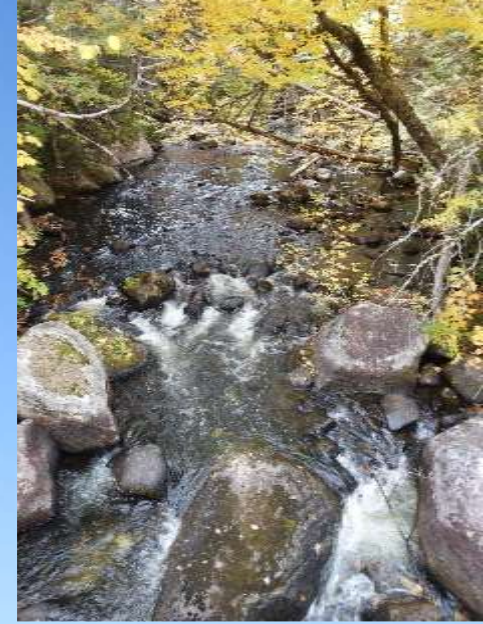




Top: Famous Mt Katahdin from the Overlook at the 6.5 mile mark of the park loop road with Millinocket Lake on the far left.
Bottom: The entrance to the 17 mile park loop road. This area gives one a true national park feeling as it is totally protected from any type of extraction.



Mt Katahdin and Katahdin Lake

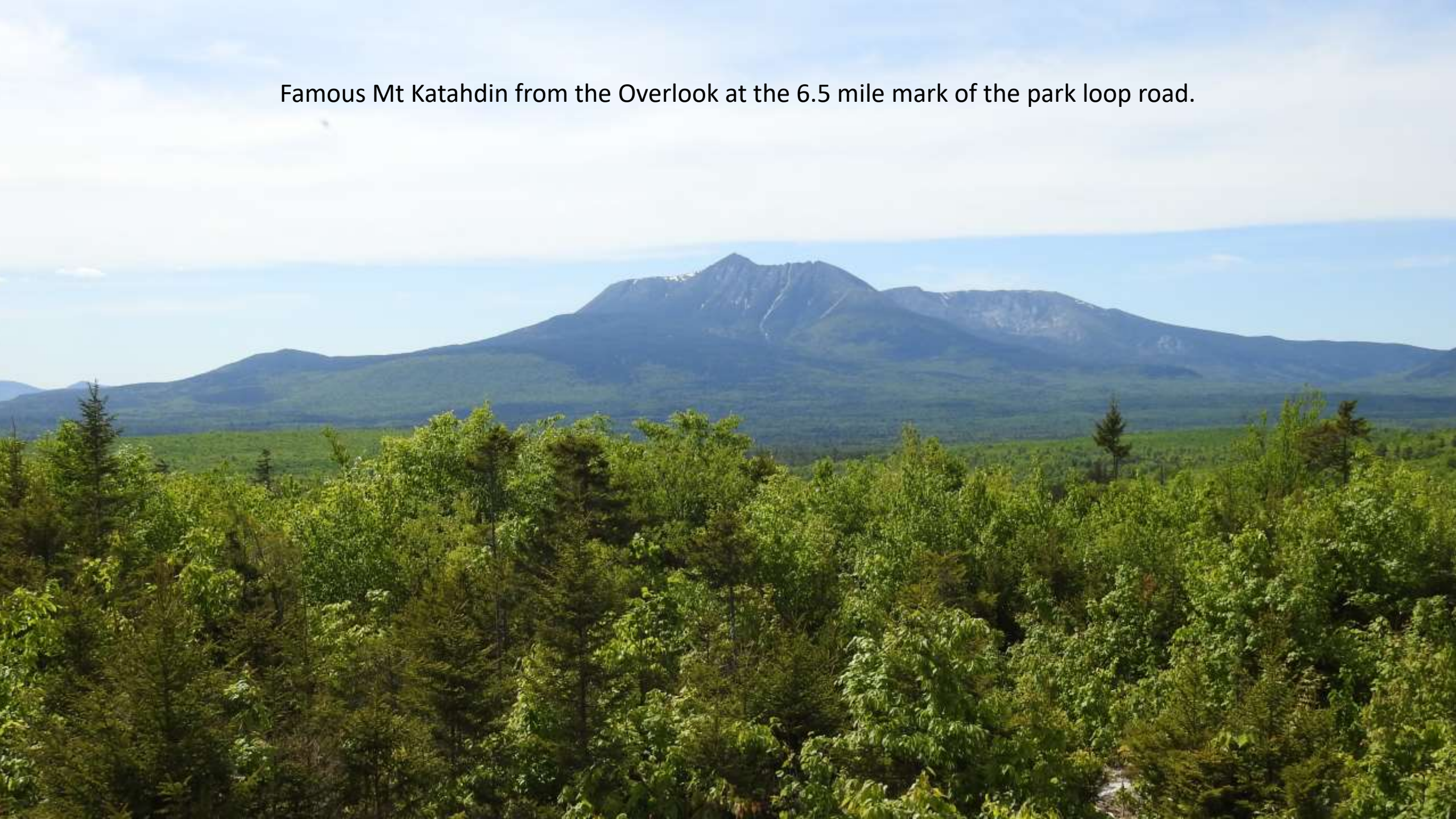


Katahdin Brook

Grouse



Famous Mt Katahdin from the Overlook at the 6.5 mile mark of the park loop road.



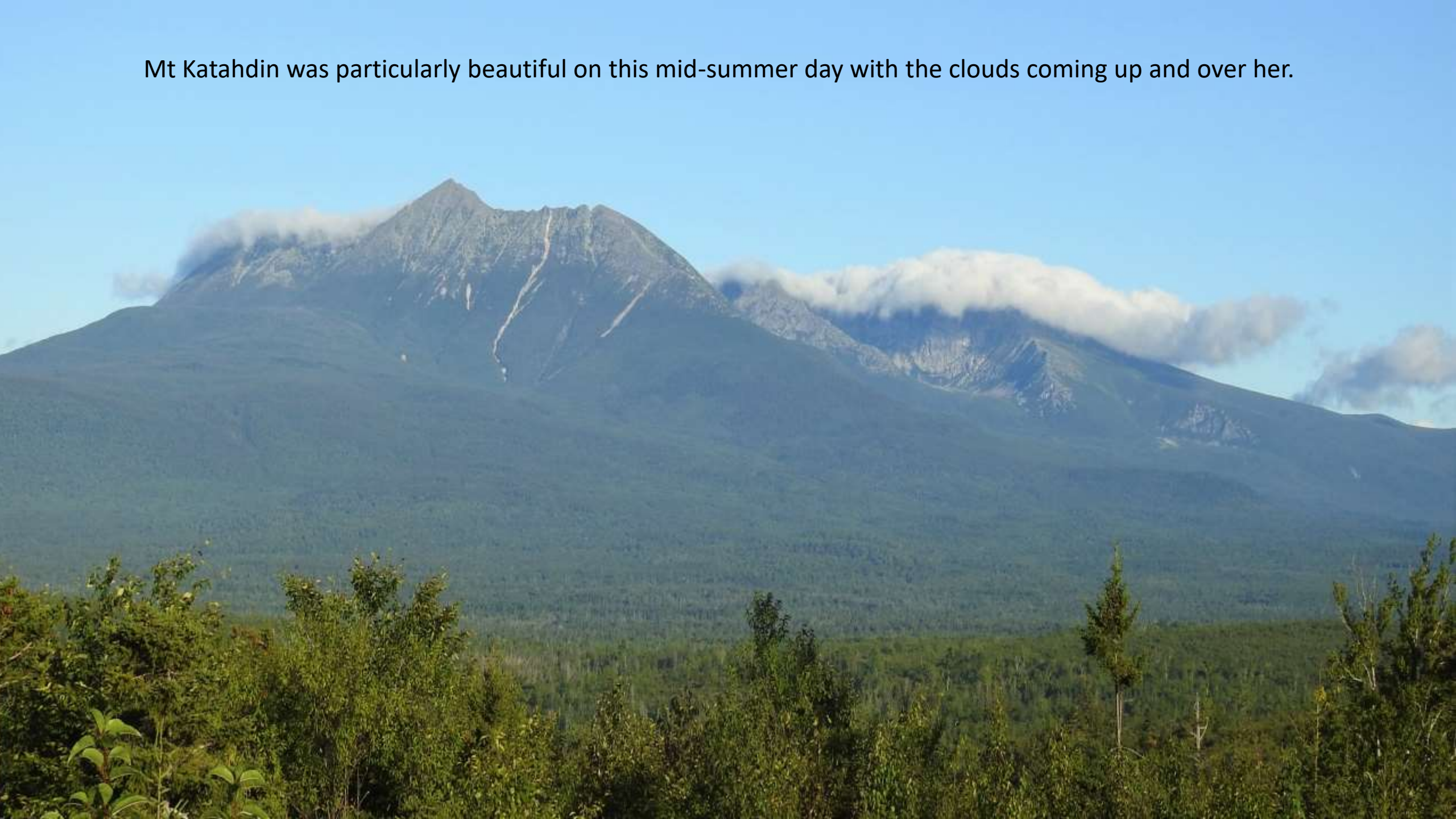
Mt Katahdin from the park loop road in late spring.



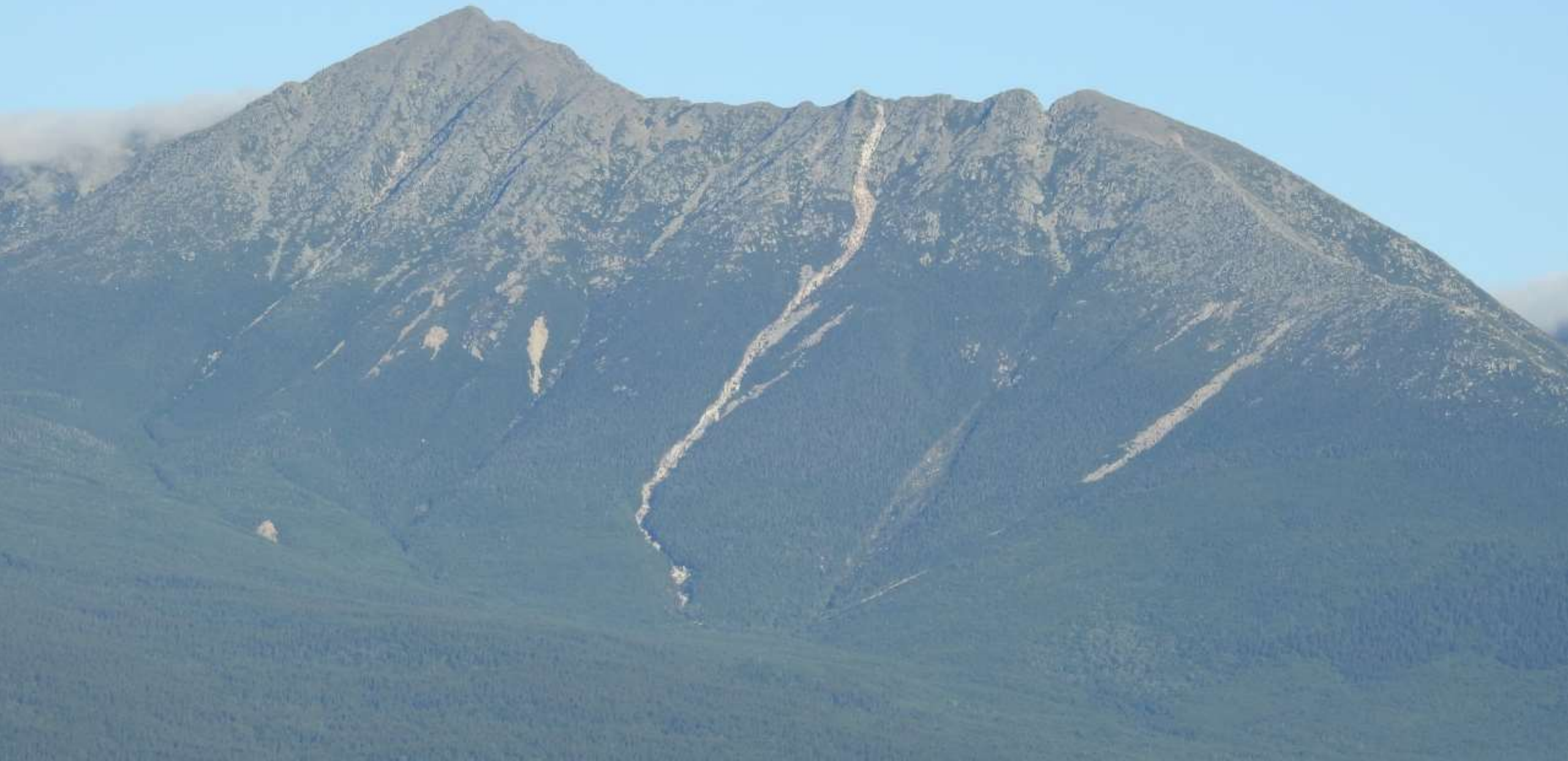
Mt Katahdin from the park loop road in mid-summer.



Mt Katahdin was particularly beautiful on this mid-summer day with the clouds coming up and over her.



Mt Katahdin zoomed in. The middle of the image is the ragged 'Knife's Edge', which is an amazing hike trail in Baxter State Park.



Mt Katahdin from 'First View' at dawn in mid-summer on a cloudy day.

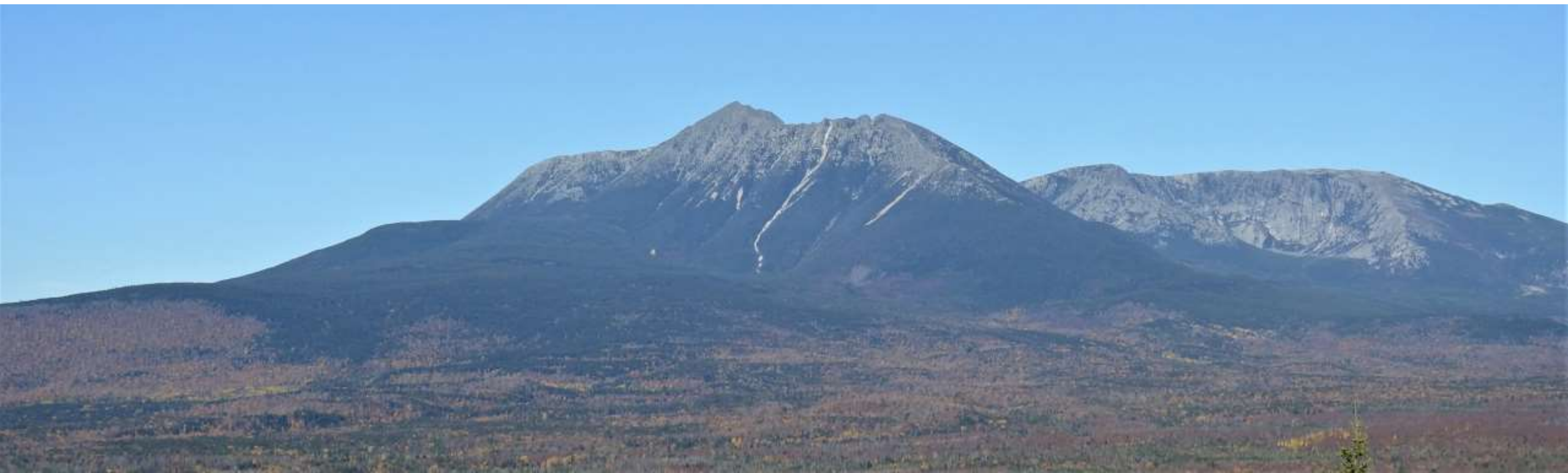


Mt Katahdin from 'First View' in mid-summer on a clear morning.



Famous Mt Katahdin during the fall.





Several perspectives of Mt Katahdin during the fall including the previous and next pages.





Lunksoos Lake from Lunksoos Mountain in the wilderness of Katahdin.

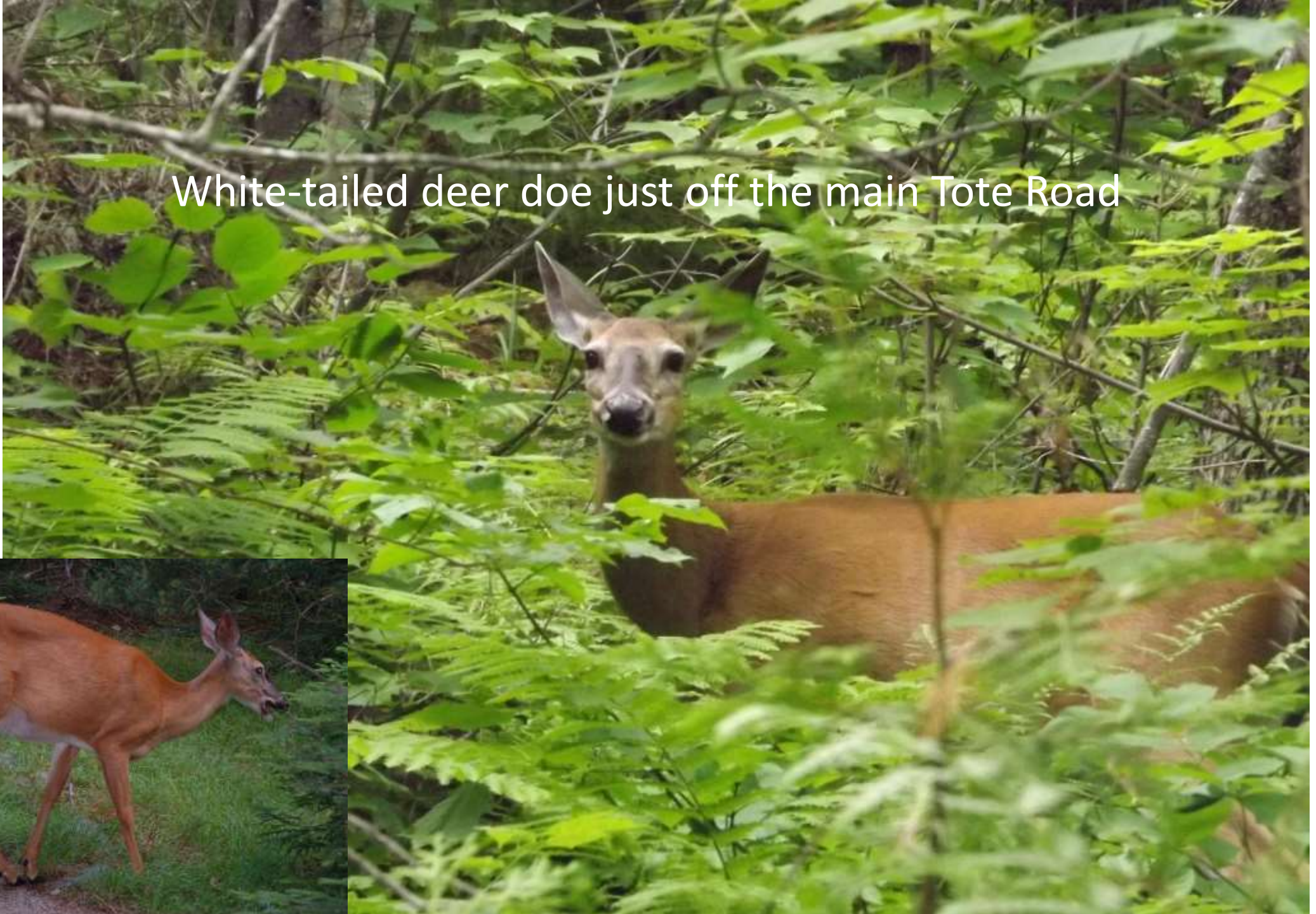




Wildlife, such as these 2 young bull moose, abounds in the area.



White-tailed deer doe just off the main Tote Road




10 point white-tailed deer buck.



Pregnant white-tailed deer doe.



A dirt road winds through a forest with vibrant autumn foliage. The trees are mostly bare, with some leaves in shades of yellow, orange, and red. The road is covered in fallen leaves and leads towards a distant hill. The sky is clear and blue.

Traveling the tote
roads is a good
way to see
wildlife.

Grouse off Tote Roads





Snowshoe hares are also commonly observed on the Tote Roads.





So are moose,

and smaller animals including toads, garter snakes and spotted salamanders.



Eastern coyote investigating a scent on old logging road.





Eastern coyote/coywolf



Eastern coyote/coywolf on trail.





Eastern coyotes/coywolves.



Marten, a member of the weasel family.



American Marten running in the snow.





American Marten.



Amazing sequence of an American Marten. The camera was tilted previously by a bull moose hence the 45° angle.





American Marten
image reframed.



Fishers are larger cousins to martens yet they are more successful and live in a variety of places including urbanized areas like eastern Massachusetts.

Below: This individual has the long limbed appearance of its larger cousin, the wolverine.



Next page: A composite of individual fishers (possibly the same one) traveling on a trail.

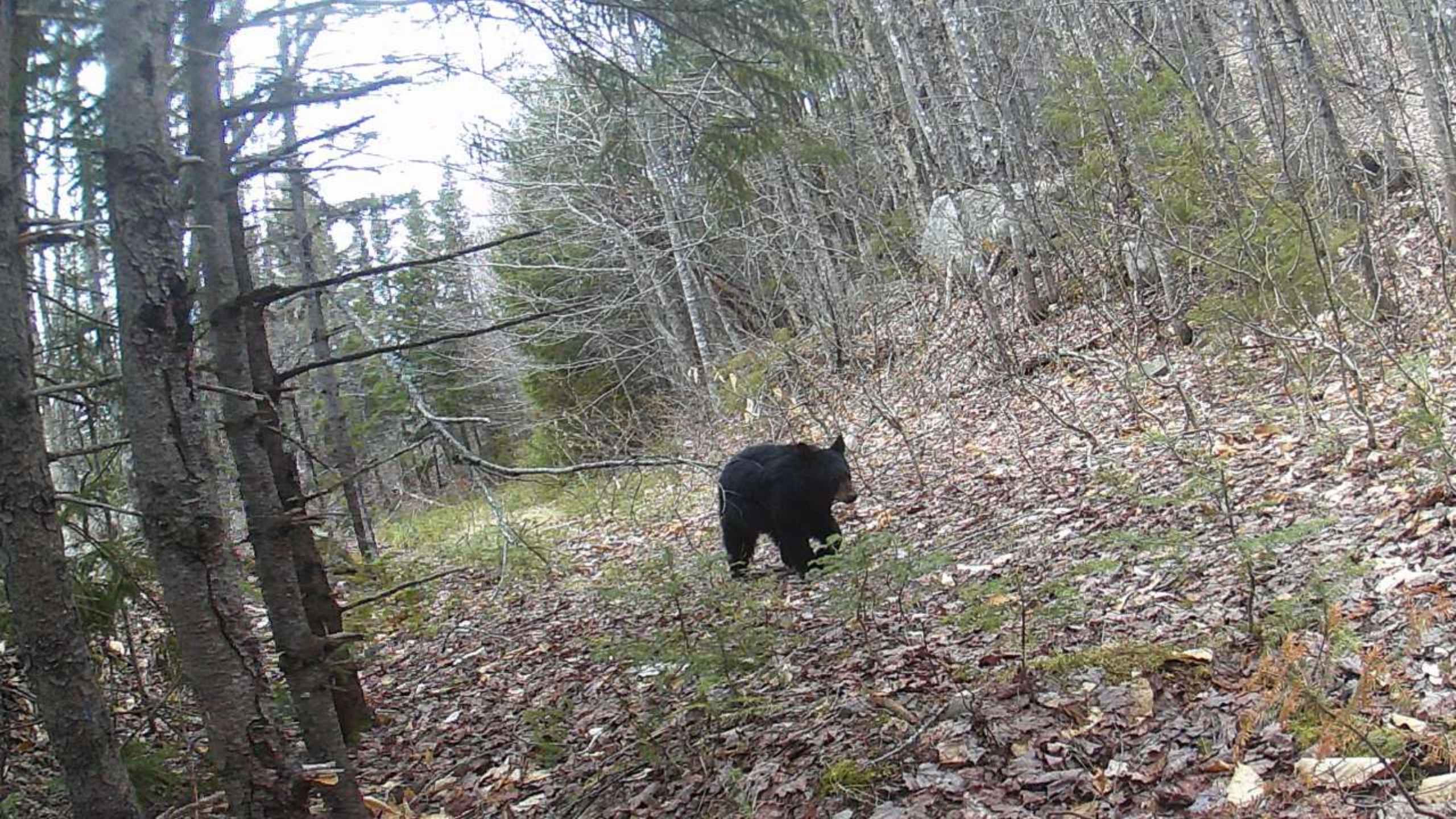




I don't frequently observe black bears in the park, but they are certainly present and sometimes mess with the camera (next page) on their travels.











Hawk on old logging road.



Snowshoe hares at night
in their white pelage.
Look at how large their
feet are! They are a
main prey source for the
predators shown herein.



Snowshoe hare surveying its snowy domain.



Moose are
common and
observed all over
the park.









Notice the second moose in the background.

Moose are often active at night.



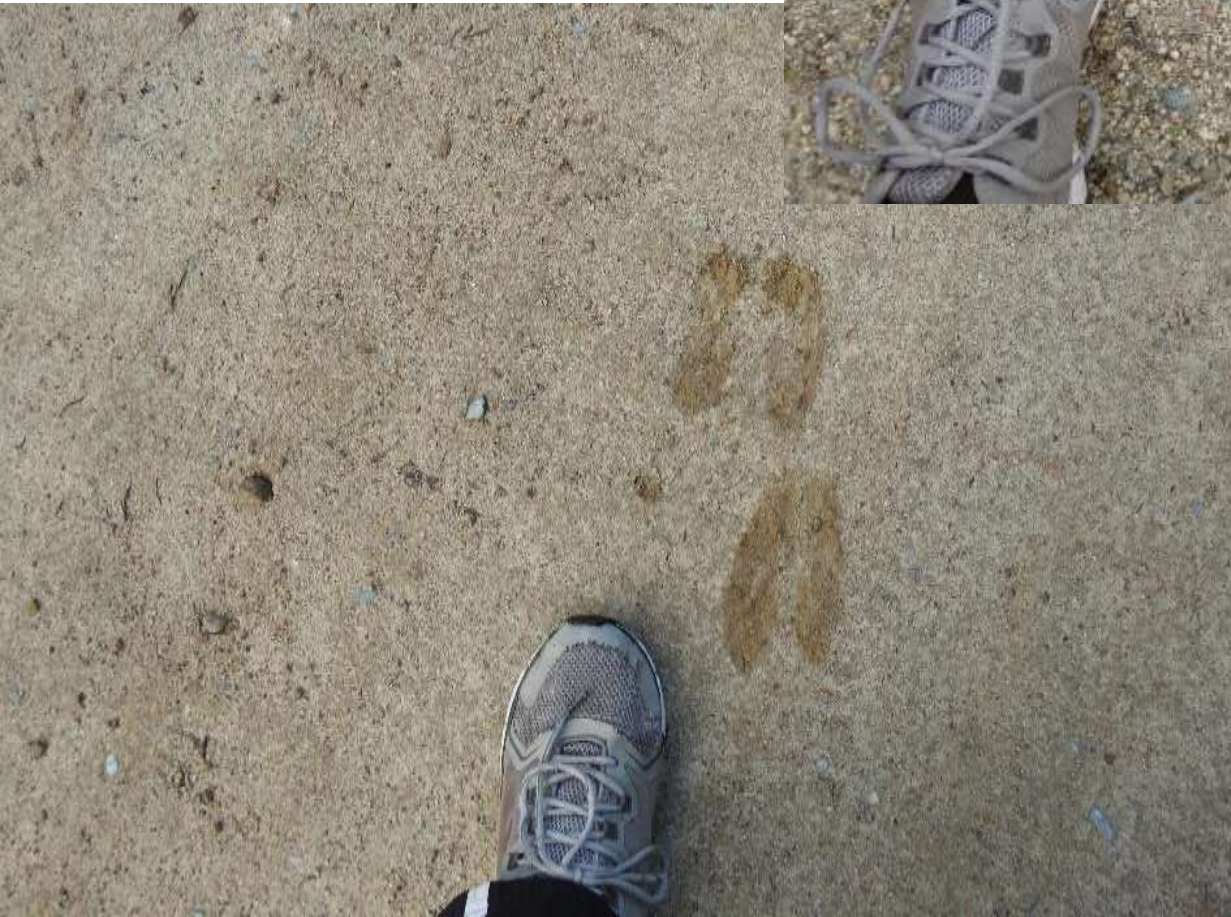
Snapping turtle juvenile and adult laying eggs



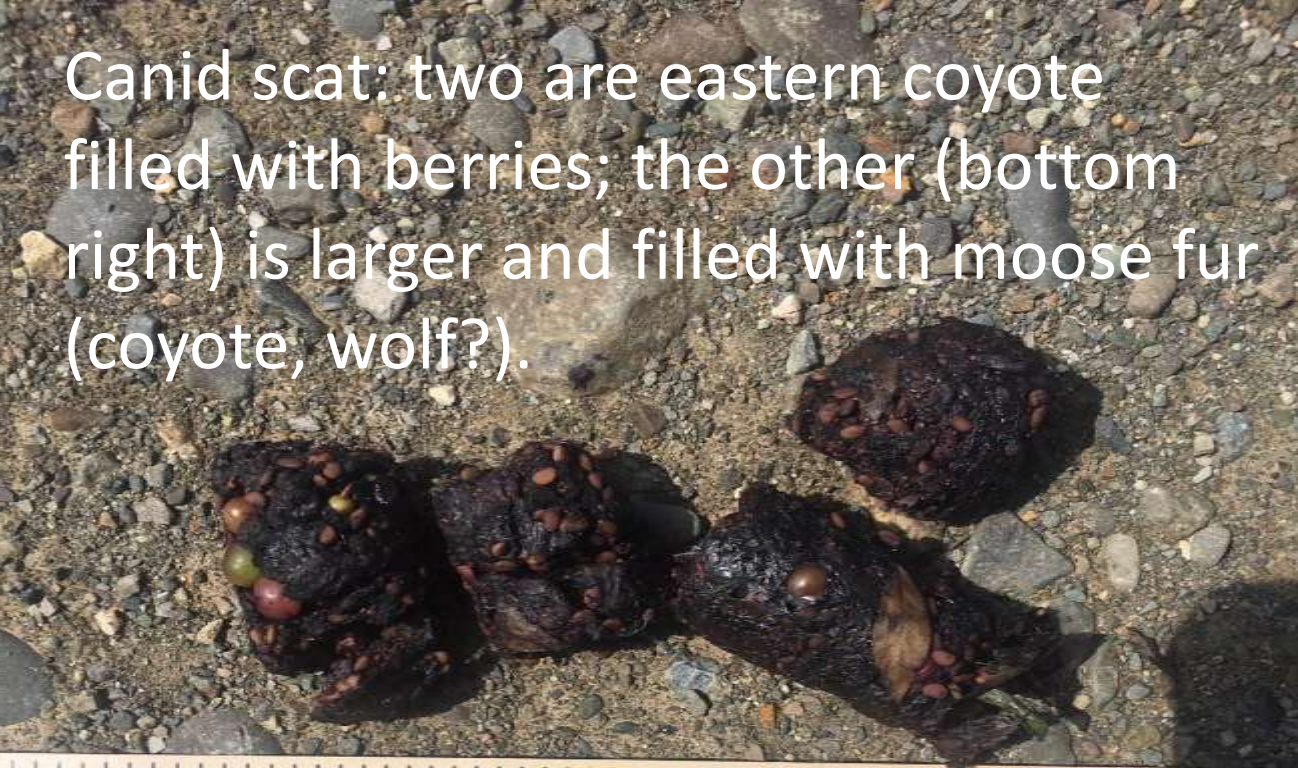
Moose tracks and scat
along park loop road.



Despite the cool pics that
you have seen it is much
more common to see
animal sign rather than
observe them directly.



Canid scat: two are eastern coyote filled with berries; the other (bottom right) is larger and filled with moose fur (coyote, wolf?).





Moose carcass found in backcountry with many canid scats nearby.

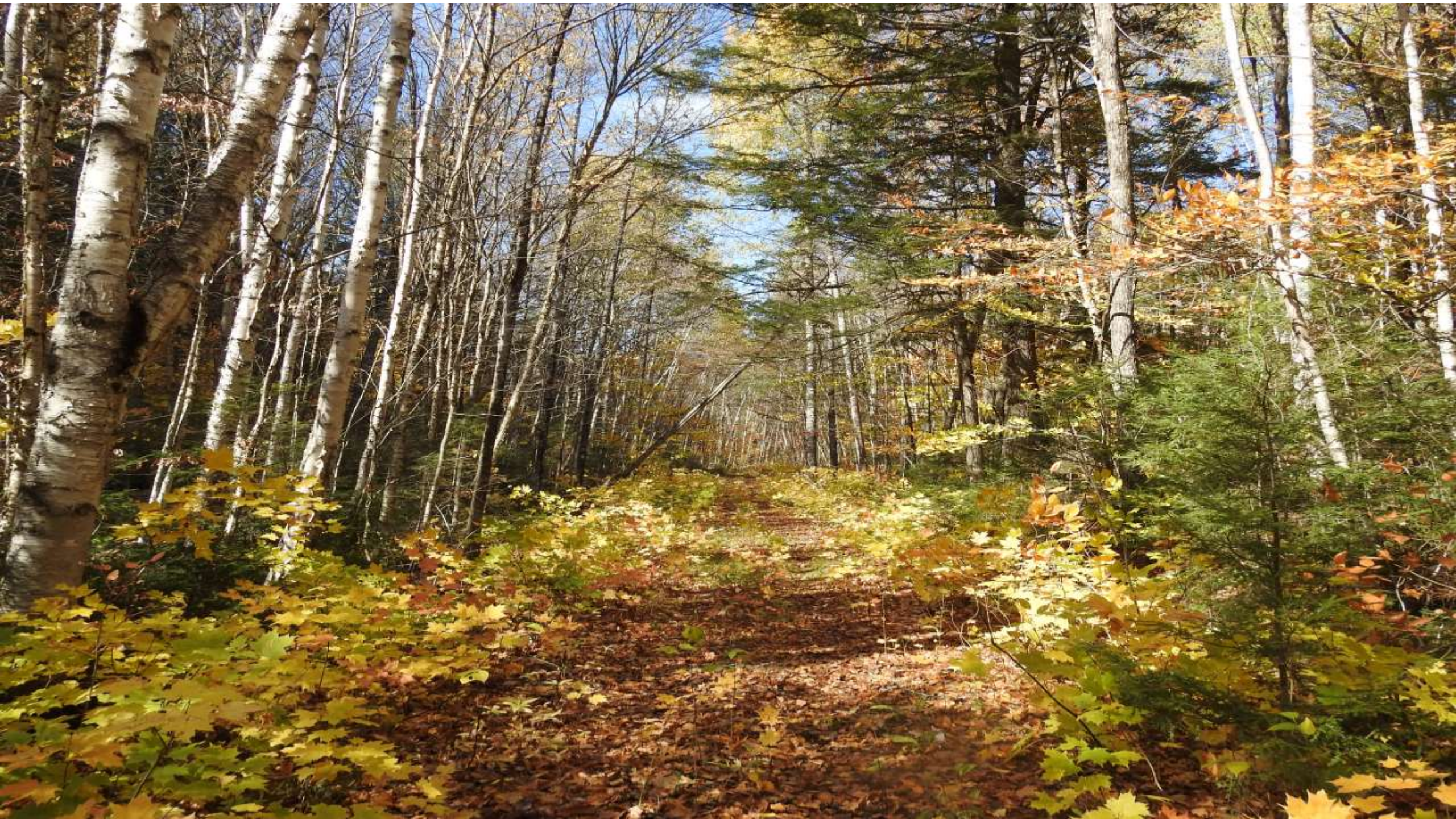


Bear Scat: It always gets your blood flowing knowing a large predator was there – even though they mostly eat vegetable matter!





Black bear at dusk.



“First View” of Mt. Katahdin from beginning of park loop road



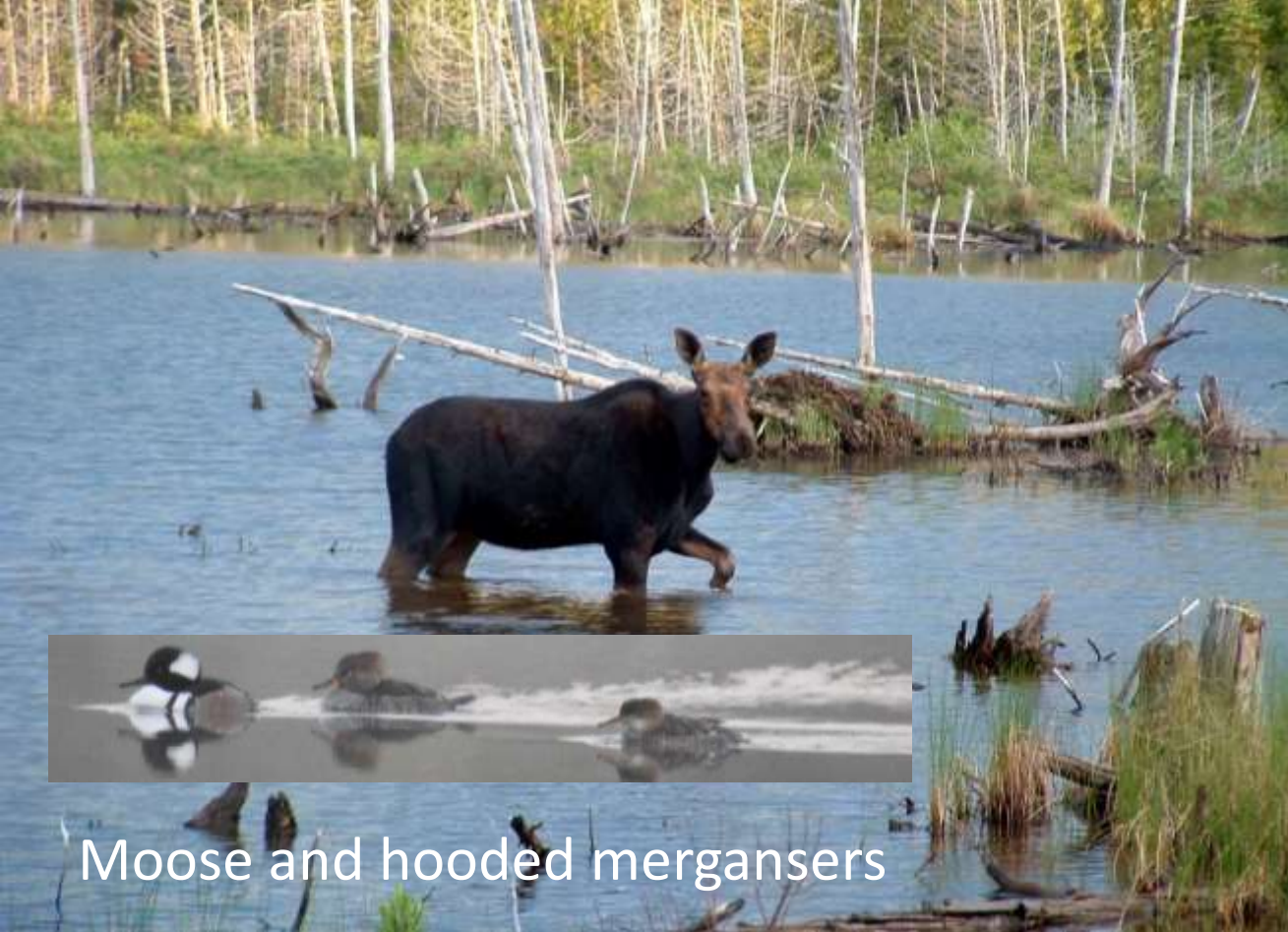
Raccoon



Lynx Pond with beaver & leopard frog.







Moose and hooded mergansers



Great blue heron



Moose Pond

Moose bull and white-tailed deer doe.



Deasey Pond





Moose
love
wetlands



Merganser family.





Osprey

Beautiful fall colors over stream





Great hiking: Wassataquoik Stream Trail
leads to...

Orin Falls.



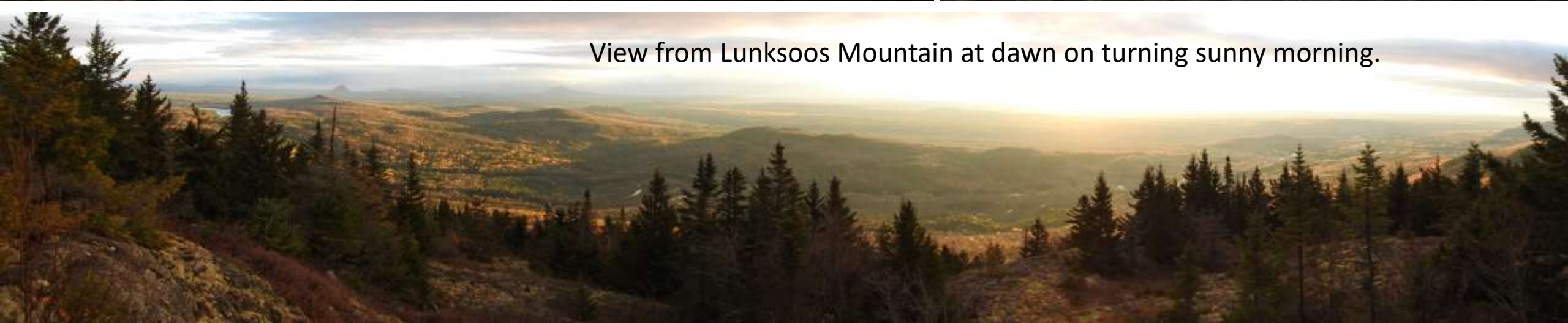


Deasey Pond Trail, an easy 1 mile round-trip hike at the beginning of the park loop road.

A white-out on the top of remote Lunksoos Mountain in the heart of the national monument (also see next page).







View from Lunksoos Mountain at dawn on turning sunny morning.

More great hiking: Mt. Barnard Trail





Moose at entrance to Mt. Barnard Trail

Hiking up Mt. Barnard.

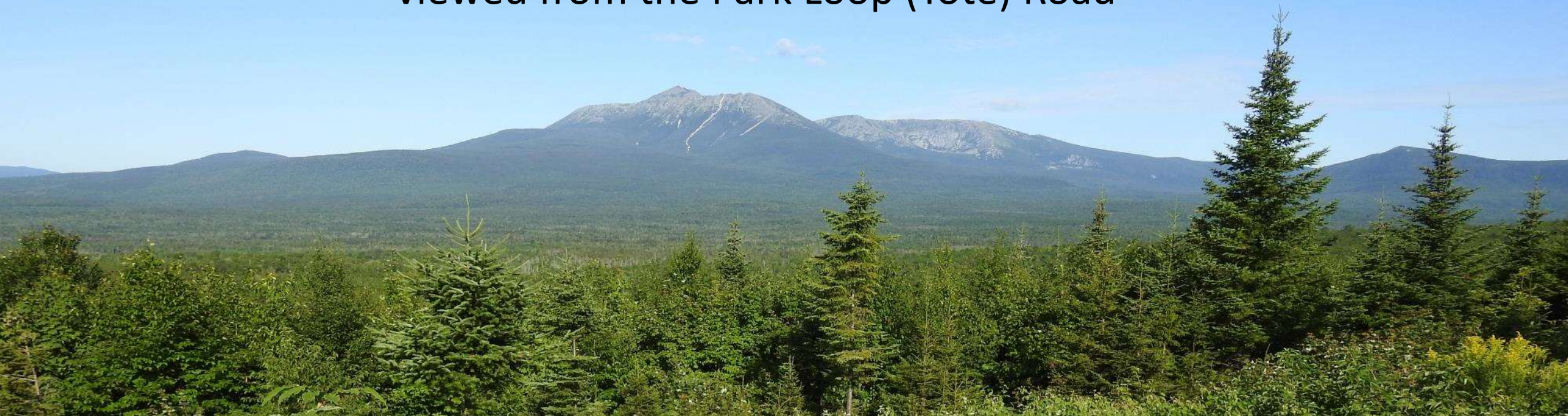


View of Katahdin Lake & Mt. Katahdin
from the top of Mt. Barnard during fall.





Famous Mt. Katahdin, the park's namesake and main attraction,
viewed from the Park Loop (Tote) Road



Mt. Katahdin viewed from Katahdin Lake



Baxter State Park



Katahdin W&W

The picture below is from Mt. Katahdin overlook in KWW National Monument, but in order to climb the mountain one has to be in Baxter State Park

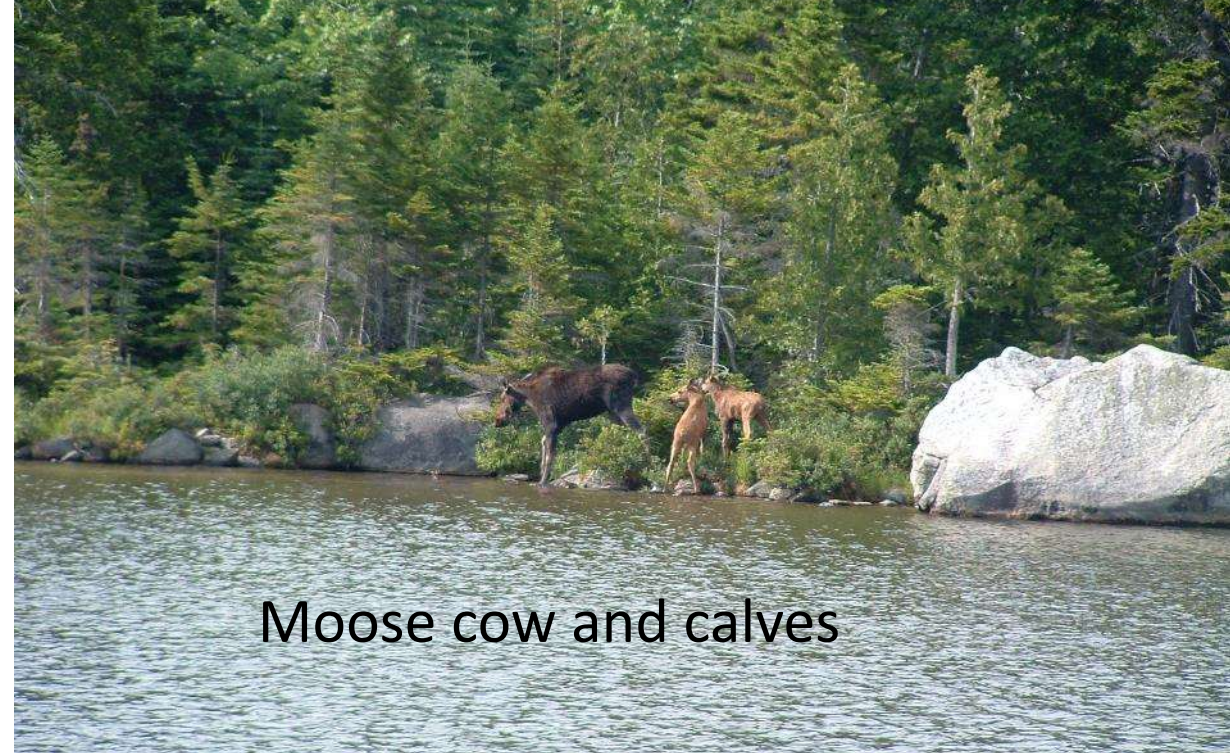


Hiking Knife's Edge Trail in Baxter SP is like no other trail, especially when cloaked in a dense layer of fog.



Traveling down Helon Taylor Trail with view of Katahdin Lake and the National Monument in the background.

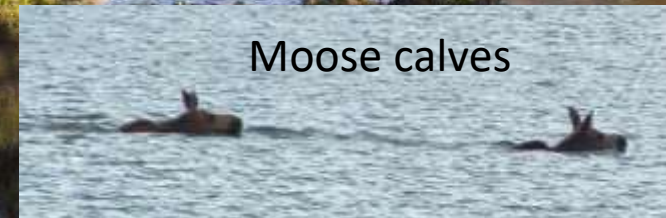
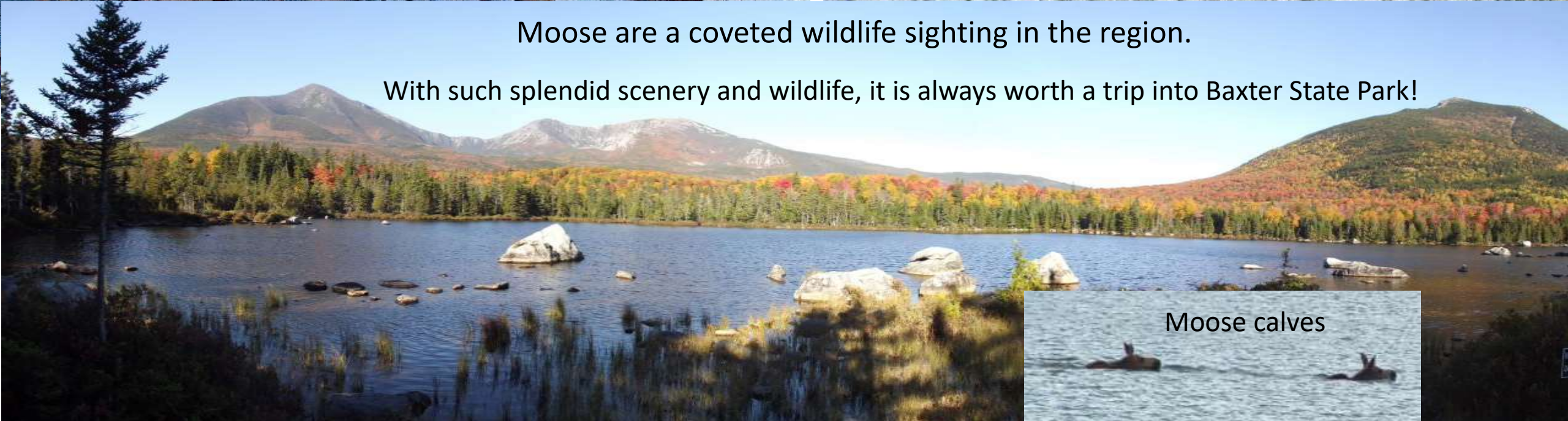




Moose cow and calves

Moose are a coveted wildlife sighting in the region.

With such splendid scenery and wildlife, it is always worth a trip into Baxter State Park!



Moose calves

Traveling back to camp after returning to
Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument



Meals on the go in beautiful locations



Trout Pond

The wood near the camp stove is “slash” from a logging pile I collected on the logging road coming into the park to avoid transporting wood from elsewhere which might inadvertently carry disease or exotic insects.



Beautiful Trout Pond!





Spending the evening at Sandbank campsite at the beginning of the park loop road. This is a very accessible site.



For the more adventurous traveler, there are remote camp and lean-to sites such as this scene at Lunksoos Lean-To, an 8 mile backcountry hike.





Dusk at the remote Lunksoos Lean-To area.

Mt. Katahdin just before dark on the way back to the campground. More people deserve to have these lands set aside as national parks so they can forever be notions of what is good in human society.



Summary: Importance of National Parks

One Example: Wolves Killed in Maine



© John Glowa, Maine Wolf Coalition



Wolves in the Northeast:

- Despite being on the Endangered Species Act, wolves have virtually no protections. Why?
- Eastern Coyotes/Coywolves are allowed to be hunted year-round in NH and ME and wolves have been killed in these areas.
- Hunters/trappers are not fined or even punished as “they thought they were killing a coyote”.
- All “coyotes” in the Northeast are actually coyote-wolf hybrids (aka coywolf) being about 60-65% coyote, 25-30% wolf, and 10% dog.
- Many think that this lack of protection is purposeful so these states don't have to manage or protect wolves. USFWS hasn't done anything to offer wolves any real protection.

Biologist's perspective:

- As someone who has studied the eastern coyote/coywolf for the better part of 20 years, how can we tell these animals apart from wolves, especially in low light or a far distance away which is typical of when hunting them?
- In truth we can't and science supports this (even for smaller western coyotes & larger gray wolves): Newsome et al. 2015. When shooting a coyote kills a wolf: Mistaken identity or misguided management? Biodiversity and Conservation 24: 3145-3149.



These are
eastern coyotes/
coywolves in MA

National Parks created in the Northeast will, by default, protect all canids!



All pictures are putative eastern coyotes/
coywolves but they can be very difficult to
distinguish from larger wolves.



Importance of National Park status: 5 Reasons to create these new NPS units

1. National Parks offer the highest level of protection for ecosystems and make worth converting/re-designating these 3 areas to NPs.
 - A. Currently, these 3 areas do NOT enjoy National Park status protection
2. National Parks generate tremendous economic activity to surrounding communities.
3. National Parks are often called “America’s Best Idea”.
4. National Parks offer a place for wildlife to live unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.
5. There is always local/political opposition for even the most famous of parks.
 - A. Yellowstone
 - B. Grand Canyon
 - C. Glacier
 - D. Acadia



Swift River in proposed Kancamagus National Park



What you can do to help create these National Parks

- Contact your local representatives that you want this
- Contact your Senators and members of the House of Representatives
 - Request they introduce legislation to establish these parks.
 - Focus on local support in MA, NH, & ME which will show that citizens in those states want these parks. The form letter below has it all spelled out:
 - For more, see <http://www.easterncoyoteresearch.com/EasternNationalParks/>
- Share this message with others to do likewise

