

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE

Inter-Departmental Memorandum Date April 8, 1980

To Baxter State Park Authority Dept. _____
From Rufus E. Brown, Senior Assistant Dept. Attorney General
Subject Funding for Publication of Baxter State Park

On March 7, 1980, the Baxter State Park Authority (the Authority) authorized its staff to examine the possibility of funding the editing and publication of John Hakola's "History of Baxter State Park," at a projected cost of \$26,707, from the Baxter State Park Trust Fund (the BSP Trust Fund) or the Governor Baxter Trust.

The purpose of this memorandum is to determine whether either trust is in a position to finance the Park history. For reasons to be explained more fully below, we have concluded that neither are. The income from both trusts are limited to expenditures for the "care, protection and operation" of the Park. The publication of the history of the Park is not remotely related to either the "care" or the "protection" of the Park. Nor would the cost of publication constitute an expenditure incurred directly for or incidental to the "operation" of the Park as that term is used in its ordinary sense and also as viewed against the background of Governor Baxter's expressions of how the trust funds should be used.

Background

The BSP Trust Fund was initially created in 1961 by a gift to the State of Maine of 1000 shares of stock of the Proprietors of Portland Pier Corporation, valued at \$488,942.64. Private and Special Laws, 1961, chapter 21. Baxter made a similar gift to the State in 1965 consisting of 1000 shares of stock of the Congress Realty Company, valued at \$1,106,213.42. Private and Special Laws, 1965, chapter 30. In both cases, the Private and Special Laws accepting the gifts recited that "Baxter wishes to share with the State in part the cost of caring for, protecting and operating" Baxter State Park. The terms of the trust, as specified in Private and Special Laws, 1961, ch. 21 ~~is~~ stated as follows:

are ~~A~~
to be held IN TRUST forever for the benefit of the people of the State of Maine and to be known as Baxter State Park Trust Fund the principal thereof to be invested and reinvested, the income therefrom to be used by said State for the care, protection and operation of forest land known as BAXTER STATE PARK. (Emphasis added)

The 1965 gift provided that the gift would be added to the Baxter State Park Trust Fund to be used for the same purposes.

The Governor Baxter Trust was initially established in 1927 as a revocable trust to be administered by the Boston Safe Deposit and Trust Company. Pursuant to an amendment to this trust dated May 18, 1966, Governor Baxter provided that, after his death and after payment of specific bequests provided for, the remainder of the Trust would be managed, invested, reinvested and administered by the Boston Safe Deposit and Trust Company as follows:

To pay the net income therefrom at least as often as quarterly to the "BAXTER STATE PARK TRUST FUND" created by Chapter 21 of the Private and Special Laws of 1961 enacted by the Legislature of the State of Maine for the care, protection and operation of the forest land known as BAXTER STATE PARK and for other forest lands hereinafter acquired by the State of Maine under the provisions of this TRUST for recreational or reforestation purposes. [Emphasis added]

The Trust further provides that the principal of the Trust is restricted to acquisition of additional lands for the Park. Accordingly, as in the case of the BSP Trust Fund, the income from the Governor Baxter Trust Fund may only be used for the "care, protection and operation" of the Park.

Consistent with the terms of both trusts, 12 M.R.S.A. §901 provides:

The authority shall receive monies available from trust funds established by the donor of the park and shall include fees collected, income from park trust funds invested by the Treasurer of the State and other miscellaneous income derived from the park for maintenance and operation of the park. [Emphasis added]

Analysis

It is clear from the foregoing that income from both the BSP Trust Fund and the Governor Baxter Trust may only be used for the "care, protection and operation" of the Park. Also see, Op. Atty. Gen., November 14, 1967 and Op. Atty. Gen., July 17, 1972. Obviously, the publication of a history of the Park is not remotely related to either the "care" or the "protection" of the Park. So the issue to be examined is whether the publication of the Park history can be considered as arising out of the "operation" of the Park.

The term "operation" has been defined both by the dictionary (Webster's Third New International Dictionary) and by case law to mean the "work" or "function" of an organization. See, e.g., New York S.&W.R. Co. v. United States, 200 F.Supp. 860 (D.N.J. 1961); Memorandum of John W. Benoit to Maynard F. Marsh, March 8, 1973

concerning the Baxter State Park Trust Fund. Thus the ordinary use of the term "operation" suggests, especially when used in conjunction with the words "care" and "protection," that it is intended to limit the use of income from the trust fund to the actual functioning or work of the Park, such as for personnel and maintenance and other activities incidental to such purposes.

Because a fair reading of the trust instruments appear to provide an unambiguous answer to the question being considered, it is unnecessary to look to extrinsic evidence to interpret the trusts. Compare, Fitzgerald v. Baxter State Park, Me., 385 A.2d 189, 199 (1978). But even if we were to look at Governor Baxter's expressions of intent and conduct in relation to the trusts, we would come to the same conclusion.

A review of his correspondence reveals that Governor Baxter was conservative in his view of the purposes of the BSP Trust. He did not want interest of the Trust expended during his lifetime without his consent, and on those occasions where he did consent to the use of the trust income he usually reimbursed the Trust. See, e.g., Feb. 15, 1962 letter from Governor Baxter to Austin Wilkins^{1/} and June 1, 1967 memorandum from Austin Wilkins to Messrs. Erwin, Speers and Cranshaw.^{2/} Baxter's purpose was for the BSP Trust Fund to accumulate during his lifetime so that the Park could eventually be independent from State appropriations for its operations. See August 30, 1961 letter from Governor Baxter to M. C. McDonald, President of Great Northern Paper.^{3/} Very soon after making the first gift constituting

1/ In this letter Governor Baxter stated that he would repay the BSP Trust Fund the sum of \$3,032.16 expended for the salary of two rangers. He also indicated that he would repay the trust fund the sum of \$850 used to pay for the snowmobile of Helon Taylor. He concluded the letter by stating that "I want to keep the TRUST FUND intact without withdrawals so please keep this in mind for I want to be consulted."

2/ This memorandum advises that Baxter rescinded the prior authorization permitting the use of interest from the BSP Trust Fund to construct headquarters for the Park Supervisor. Also see letters of Baxter to Frank S. Carpenter, State Treasurer, July 19, 1961 and letter to Governor Reed and Executive Council, July 12, 1961.

3/ Also see, July 24, 1961 letter from Wilkins to Roland H. Cobb and Frank Hancock and July 31, 1968 letter from Austin Wilkins to David Stevens, Chairman, Maine State Highway Commission indicating that "It was quite apparent to me and has been for some time that Governor Baxter does not wish any moneys to be taken from the Baxter State Park Fund, either interest or principal, until sufficient time is permitted an accumulation of interest to permit regular operations and expenses of the Park."

the BSP Trust Fund Governor Baxter explained that:

My object in giving the State this substantial fund is to provide additional funds apart from and in addition to the usual legislative appropriations. This income may be used for lean tos, camping places . . . plumbing, trails and other matters that are not provided for by legislative action

Letter from Governor Baxter to Earl W. Davis, February 28, 1961.^{4/}

Not only does this correspondence indicate that Baxter desired to be conservative with the BSP Trust Fund, preserving it for essential operating expenses for the Park, but additional correspondence indicates that, as a general proposition, he did not approve of advertising of the Park.^{5/} Nor did Governor Baxter want the Park to be held out as a memorial to himself.^{6/}

In 1963 Governor Baxter did approve the cost of a publication entitled "A Guide to Baxter State Park" (copy attached) and later he approved the cost of republication of the booklet.^{7/} The publication was paid from the Maintenance and Improvement Fund, established on November 7, 1945 from rentals of park land for the purpose of development and maintenance of the Park.^{8/} Even though the purposes of the

^{4/} Also see letter from Wilkins to Baxter, September 13, 1961 and from Baxter to Wilkins dated September 18, 1961 indicating that the BSP Trust Fund should be used principally in the future for personnel, and letters of Baxter to Wilkins dated September 27, 1962 and from Baxter to Frank E. Hancock, October 9, 1962, indicating that the BSP Trust Fund should be used for "future emergencies."

^{5/} See, e.g., October 13, 1959 letter from Baxter to Attorney General Frank E. Hancock disapproving of cutting of a Christmas Tree from the Park for the White House. In this letter he rejected the notion that the tree would be a good advertisement for the State. "In my opinion it is best not to advertise the Park because it sufficiently advertises itself by those who visit it."

^{6/} In an August 30, 1965 letter to Ronald T. Speers, Commissioner of Inland Fish and Game, he stated that "This park is not to be used in Memorial to anybody not even to myself."

^{7/} See letters of Wilkins to Henry Cranshaw, February 14, 1963 and November 4, 1965 and Cranshaw to Baxter, January 20, 1967.

^{8/} See Baxter letter to Joseph McGillicuddy, September 10, 1945 and Council Order #281, November 7, 1945.

Maintenance and Improvement Fund are analogous to the BSP Trust Fund, Baxter's approval of the publication of the guidebook does not establish precedent for publication of the Baxter history because there is a fundamental difference between the two publications. The guidebook describes the Park itself and how to use it. It is in a practical sense a publication which is incidental to the actual "operation" of the Park and accordingly is the type of publication which might well be funded from the BSP Trust Fund. The same cannot be said for the Park history which, of course, is a history which does not facilitate the use of the Park.

We conclude, therefore, that at least in the absence of obtaining approval from the courts pursuant to a petition for instructions, the Park history cannot be funded either directly from the BSP Trust Fund or indirectly from income received by that fund from other sources, including the Governor Baxter Trust Fund, because the history is not incidental to the "operation" of the Park.^{9/} This conclusion does not preclude the Authority, however, from seeking alternative ways to publish the history. Although the Park possesses no independent borrowing power, and therefore cannot incur a direct obligation to repay loans for the publication, there may be a publishing house willing to recover its fees from the proceeds of the sale of the book. Alternatively, there may be a benefactor who would be willing to advance monies for the publication under similar arrangements.



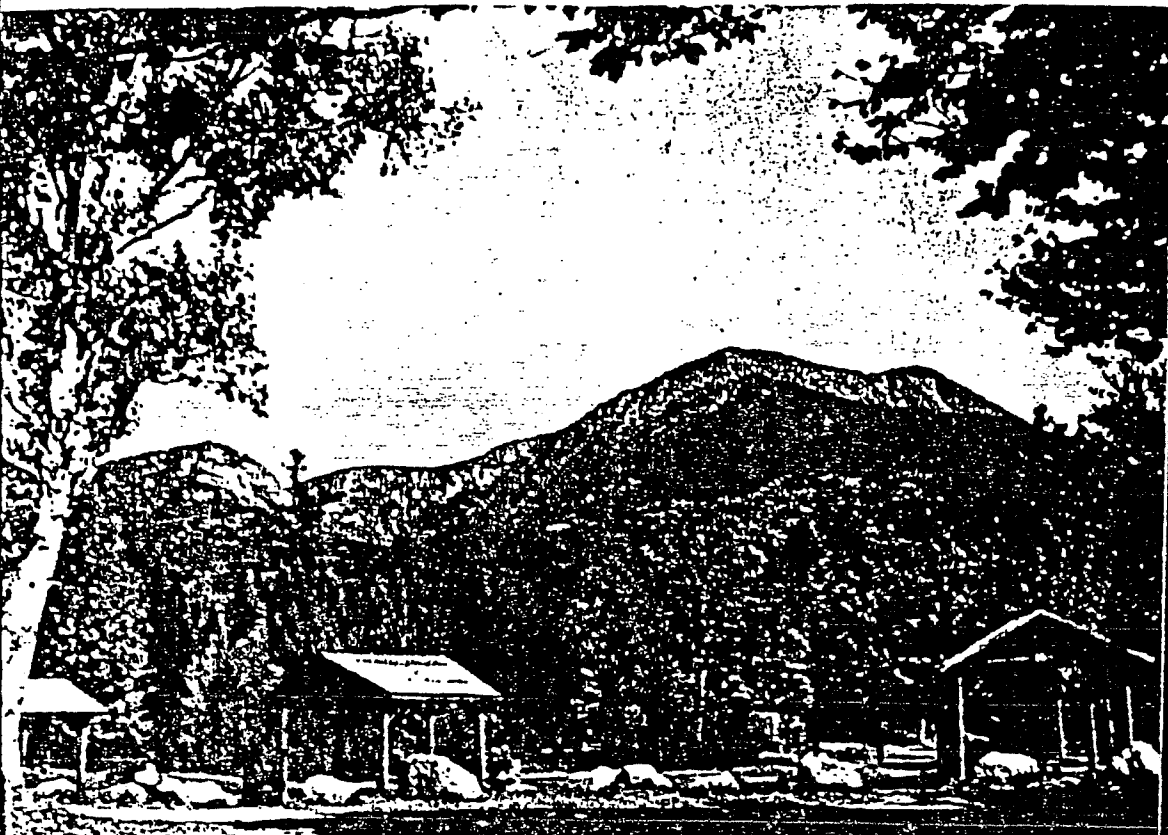
RUFUS E. BROWN

Senior Assistant Attorney General

REB:jg

^{9/} A recent communication from the Boston Safe Deposit and Trust Company indicates that their in-house counsel, after examination of the question examined here, concurs completely with this conclusion.

A Guide to **BAXTER STATE PARK**
and MOUNT KATAHDIN in
MAINE



*"Katahdin in its grandeur will forever remain
the Mountain of the people of Maine."*

P. P. BAXTER



Published by
**BAXTER PARK AUTHORITY and
MAINE DEPARTMENT of ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

PERCIVAL P. BAXTER
PORTLAND, MAINE



THE PROMISE OF THE STATE OF MAINE

The PEOPLE OF MAINE by Legislative Acts (1930-1963) signed by several Governors have accepted my gifts of 201,018 acres of land known as BAXTER STATE PARK and by these enactments these acres have been dedicated for use of the PEOPLE OF MAINE,

"FOREVER TO BE HELD BY THE STATE OF MAINE IN TRUST FOR PUBLIC PARK, PUBLIC FOREST, PUBLIC RECREATIONAL PURPOSES, AND SCIENTIFIC FORESTRY, THE SAME ALSO FOREVER SHALL BE HELD IN ITS NATURAL WILD STATE AND EXCEPT FOR A SMALL AREA FOREVER SHALL BE HELD AS A SANCTUARY FOR WILD BEASTS AND BIRDS."

Percival P. Baxter

Front Cover: Katahdin Stream Campground and Mt. Katahdin.

More than forty years ago Percival P. Baxter, then a young member of the Maine Legislature, became keenly aware of the wild, unspoiled beauty of the Katahdin region. In his mind's eye, he saw this region preserved for all time as a retreat for Maine's citizens and visitors; a spot that would stand forever as a natural barrier to encroaching civilization.

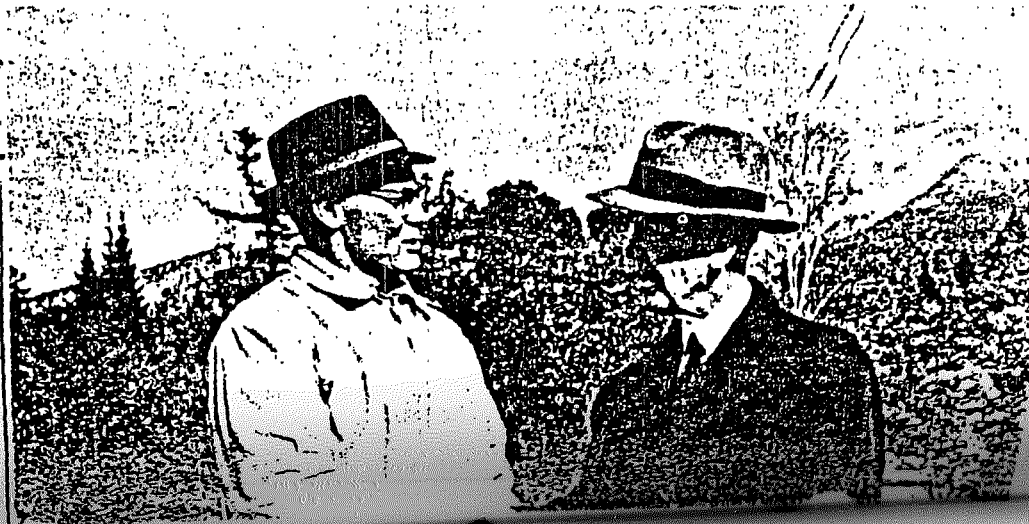
Through five legislative sessions and two terms as Governor, he worked unceasingly to have the State purchase and set aside at least a portion of this incomparable region. Invariably, however, his plan met defeat. He was not able to convince his contemporaries of its worth. Returning to private life in 1925, he resolved that action could be put off no longer. He decided to use his own funds to create: Katahdin Park.

In 1930 he made his first land purchase, a 6,690 acre tract which included most of Mt. Katahdin. The land was deeded to the State with the stipulation that "it be held by the State as Trustee, in Trust for the benefit of the People of Maine," and that it "forever be left in its natural wild state, forever be kept as a sanctuary for wild beasts and birds and forever be used for public forest, public park and public recreational purposes." Additional purchases since have raised the total Park area to 201,018 acres.

By resolve of the Maine Legislature in 1931, the area was officially designated as "Baxter State Park." The summit of Mt. Katahdin was named "Baxter Peak" in his honor.

Park administration is under the Baxter Park Authority, comprising the State Attorney General and Commissioners of Forestry and of Inland Fisheries and Game.

Maine Governor John H. Reed and Mr. Baxter at Katahdin Stream Campground.



There are three major highway approaches to Baxter State Park; from the west, south and northeast.

The route from the west is from Greenville over the Greenville-Millinocket Road, a private road, open to public use. Approximately forty miles from Greenville, at Ripogenus Dam, the road forks. The northern fork is the shortest route to campgrounds in the western and northern areas of the Park. (Nesowadnehunk and South Branch Pond.) The fork leading to the east is the shortest route to southern and eastern areas of the park. (Katahdin Stream, Abol and Roaring Brook Campgrounds.)

The route from the south begins at Millinocket, 24 miles from Mattawamkeag via Maine Highway 157 (63 miles from Bangor on U. S. Route 2). At 16.2 miles from Millinocket the dirt road to Roaring Brook branches to the right, leading to Park headquarters at Togue Pond and beyond to a terminus at Roaring Brook, 26 miles from Millinocket. Those wishing to reach the southwestern or northern areas of the Park should continue on the main road to a point 20 miles from Millinocket, where the Nesowadnehunk Tote Road branches right to Abol, Katahdin Stream and Nesowadnehunk Campgrounds.

From the northeast the approach to the Park is from Patten via the Grand Lake Road, which branches toward the Millinocket-Greenville road at Nesowadnehunk Campground (the route to Greenville) or continues toward Millinocket via the Nesowadnehunk Tote Road. The road leading to South Branch Pond campground branches south from the Grand Lake Road approximately 30 miles from Patten.

The portions of these roads within Baxter Park are often narrow and winding. Drive with care and obey speed limits. An automobile accident, no matter how slight, could spoil your trip.

Camping in Baxter State Park

GENERAL INFORMATION

Season: May 15 to October 15.

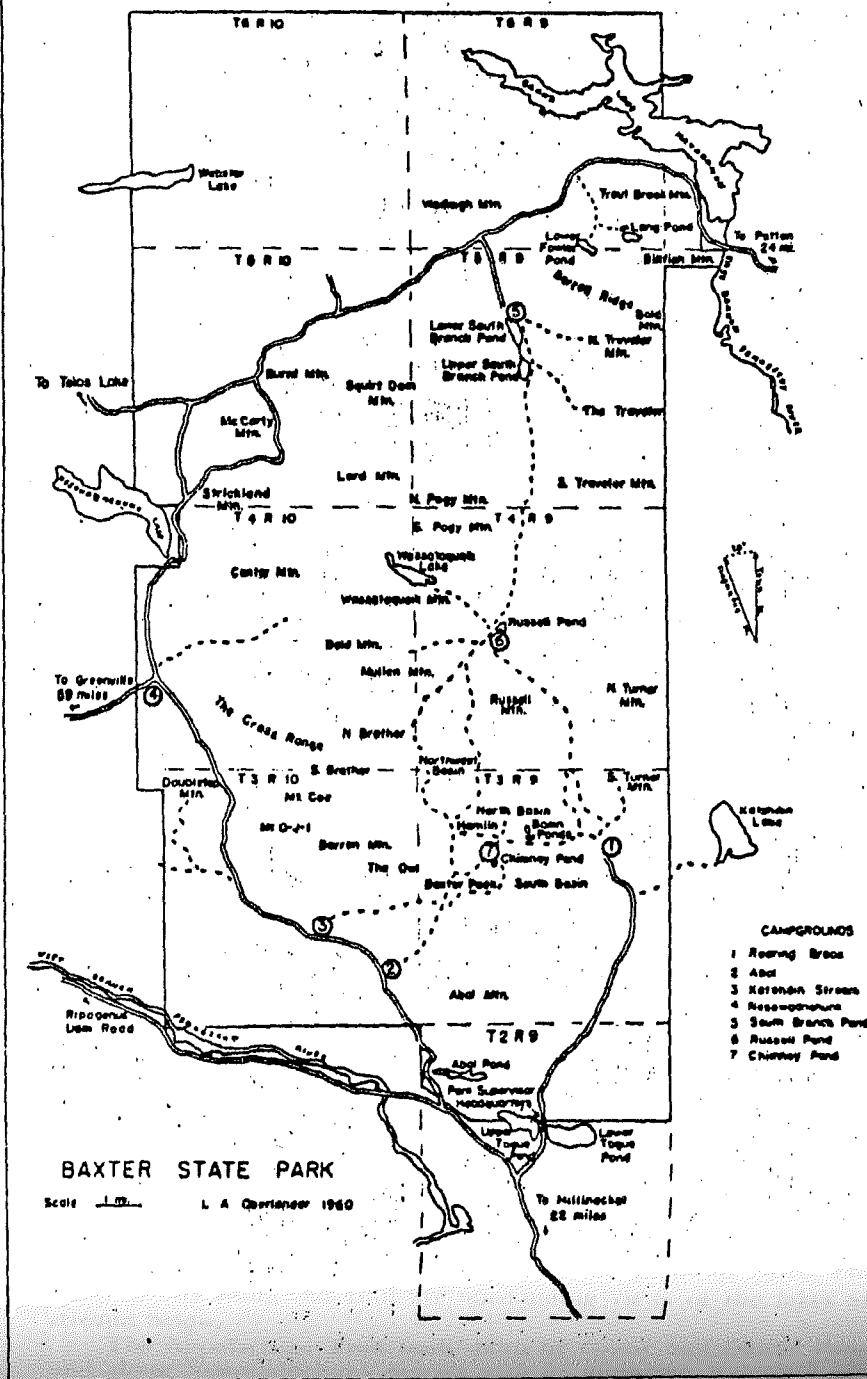
Camping is restricted to designated campsites or campgrounds. A ranger is in charge of each campground and assigns space to campers. Camping or the use of fires along the trail, on the tableland or the summit of Mt. Katahdin is prohibited.

No pets are allowed in the Park.

Reservations are recommended to assure accommodations. Reservations must be paid in advance and confirmed. Contact reservation clerk, Millinocket, Maine. Telephone Park 3-5201.

Fees: Bunkhouse	\$1.50 per person per night
Shelters (lean-tos)	.75 per person per night — minimum \$1.50
Trailer or tent space	.25 per person per night — minimum \$1.00 per site.

No charge for children under 6 years of age.



... please abide by them.

(Several smaller campsites are located within the Park, marked by yellow signs. These sites are designed primarily to handle overflow from the major campgrounds.)

Baxter Park Campgrounds

(Listed in same numerical order as shown on map, page 5)

Campgrounds Accessible by Automobile

1. ROARING BROOK CAMPGROUND

This campground is located on the south bank of Roaring Brook, on the southeast side of the Park, 26 miles by automobile road from Millinocket. The area around it is in natural wilderness, but the several cleared and marked foot trails make it possible to enjoy and explore it readily. Some of the trails ascend mountains; others are along streams or through more or less level wooded areas, so vary in the effort required, but all are rewarding.

Moose are frequently seen at Sandy Stream Pond, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile on the Sandy Stream Pond Trail. This trail also provides a circuit trip from camp of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The South Turner Trail (2 miles) is steep and rugged, but the view of the Katahdin basins and Baxter Peak from the summit of South Turner is unsurpassed. Ed's Lookout, only $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, is a nice climb for children or beginners. There is a splendid view east. The trails to Chimney Pond (3.3 miles) and Russell Pond (7 miles) have interesting features and are easily reached from the campground. Across Roaring Brook is a bog which attracts many interested in natural features.

Moose are frequently seen feeding at Sandy Stream Pond.



... especially popular with family groups, nature lovers, bird watchers, and those who are merely looking for a place camp in woodland surroundings.

It is the nearest automobile approach to the Chimney Pond and Russell Pond campgrounds and is particularly suitable as a stop-over for a night or some days for those coming or going to those campgrounds intending to climb the mountain from Chimney Pond or explore the center of the Park from Russell Pond.

Facilities: 12 lean-tos, 14 tent sites, 12-person bunkhouse, 3 sheltered picnic tables.

2. ABOL CAMPGROUND

This campground is on the southwest side of the Park, 24 miles from Millinocket by automobile road. It is the newest of the campgrounds, the smallest reached by automobile, and is located in wooded area at the foot of the Abol Trail.

This trail is the oldest and most historic of all the Katahdin trails. It utilizes a landmark, the Abol Slide, which came down in 1816. For many years climbers from the West Branch of the Penobscot River reached the summit by way of this slide.

The Abol Trail provides a direct ascent to the summit of Katahdin, $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles to the Tableland and another mile to Baxter Peak.

Many trails lead off the Nesowadnehunk road (the approach road to ponds and along streams in the area and to the Appalachian Trail leading down Nesowadnehunk Stream to the Penobscot West Branch).

The campground is particularly suitable for those who wish to spend most of their time on the Tableland or slopes of the mountain; those who like a secluded woodland camping area, those who wish more quiet and privacy than can be found in larger campgrounds, or who wish a quiet base from which to explore the many trails to mountains and ponds on the south and west side of Katahdin which may be reached by car on the Nesowadnehunk tote road.

Facilities: 12 lean-tos, 8 tent spaces.

3. KATAHDIN STREAM CAMPGROUND

This campground is on the southwest side of the Park, 26 miles from Millinocket by automobile road. It is the oldest and probably best known campground in the Park. It occupies the site of an old lumber camp, which accounts for the grassy, open space and apple tree. Katahdin Stream flows through the campground where washing and bathing are allowed. There is a splendid view of the mountain from the campground.

The Appalachian Trail goes through the campground and follows the Hunt Spur to the Tableland ($3\frac{1}{2}$ miles) and on to Baxter Peak (5.2 miles). A mile up this trail are beautiful Katahdin Falls. From many points along this trail are outstanding views of the lakes and streams below.

The Appalachian Trail leads south by Grassy and Ducey Ponds and along Nesowadnehunk Stream with its numerous waterfalls and rapids, to the Penobscot West Branch ($5\frac{1}{2}$ miles). It continues down

ground, so use of a car to return eliminates the ascent on the return trip. There are trails to Grassy and other ponds in the area. O-J-I, Doubletop, and Sentinel Mountains may also be reached by trails leading from the approach road.

The campground is one of the largest in the Park, and due to size and open space is particularly suitable for groups of campers or family parties where some members prefer to take their ease in camp, rather than spend it on wooded trails or ascents (such as where small children are in the party). It is also a good base for a hiker with a car who wishes to explore the numerous trails to summits and ponds on the south and west side of the mountain, as the majority of such trails leave from the Nesowadnehunk tote road. (the approach road).

Facilities: 15 leantos, 17 tent spaces (10 with sheltered tables) and a 4 and a 6-person bunkhouse.

4. NESOWADNEHUNK CAMPGROUND

This campground is on the west side of the Park, 36 miles from Millinocket (9½ miles beyond Katahdin Stream campground) and 55¼ miles from Greenville by automobile road. It occupies part of the extensive Nesowadnehunk Field, the site for many years of successive lumber camps, at the crossing of Nesowadnehunk Stream by the Nesowadnehunk tote road.

There are splendid views of the outlying mountains here. The campground affords a good base for exploration of the western peaks and ranges, such as the Brothers, the Cross Range, and Doubletop, and the valley of Nesowadnehunk Stream.

The stream is a particularly attractive feature. There is good fishing in the stream (fishing license is required).

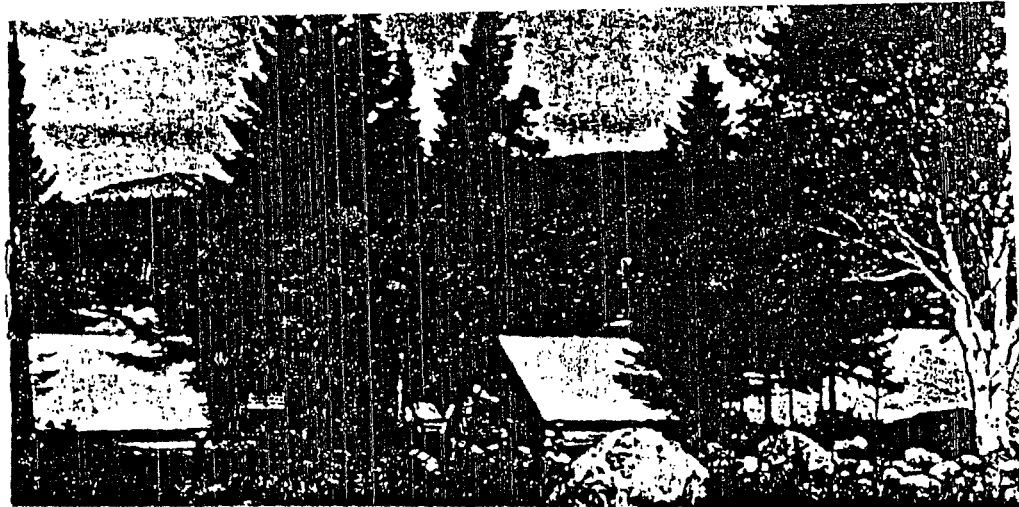
This campground is especially popular with family parties, with those who want to loaf and fish, and with those who are familiar with the more frequented trails on Katahdin and wish to explore the lesser known western ranges.

Facilities: 12 leantos, 11 tent spaces, and a 12-person bunkhouse.

5. SOUTH BRANCH POND CAMPGROUND

This campground is located in the northern portion of the Park, on Lower South Branch Pond. It is 35¼ miles from Patten via the Grand Lake and South Branch Ponds roads. The view down the ponds toward Katahdin is impressive and in the autumn the foliage is outstanding.

This campground is the base for a climb of The Traveler, one of the outstanding and trailless mountains of the Park. There is a marked trail to the summit of North Traveler (3 miles). The Pogy Notch Trail, leading 9½ miles to Russell Pond campground, makes accessible by trail the delta and ravine of Howe Brook, the Upper South Branch Pond, and other interesting areas. For those with cars, there are many trails leading from Grand Lake road to mountains and ponds in the northern section that are well worth a visit. Moose, bear, and other game are frequently seen.



Appalachian shelters are provided at major Park campgrounds.

The ponds afford opportunities for swimming and boating. Fishing is permitted (license required). Boats and canoes are available for rent.

This campground is preferred by those who want to explore the northern section of the Park. It is suitable for the rugged hiker who wants to climb the trailless Traveler and also for those who like canoeing, the short and nearby trails, and the beautiful view.

Facilities: 15 leantos, 19 tent spaces and a 6-person bunkhouse.

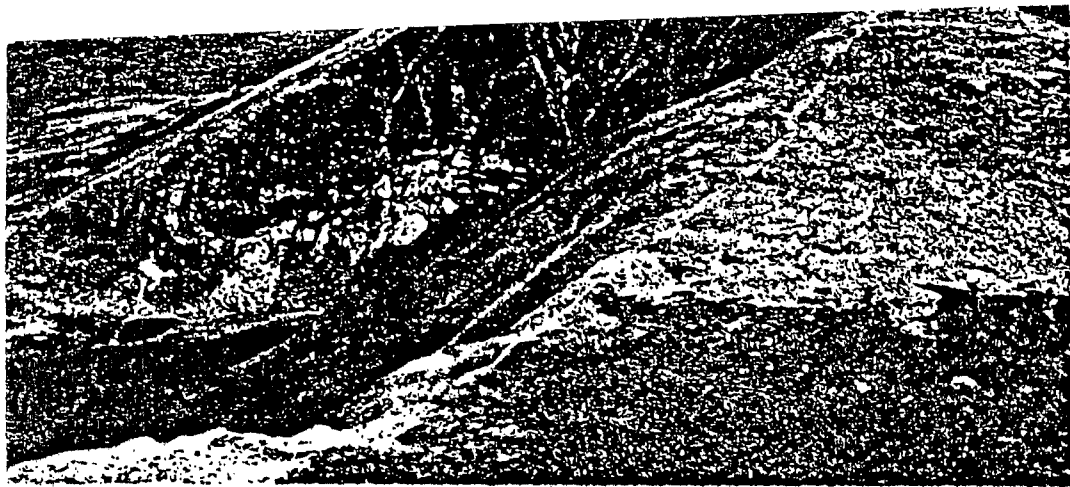
Campgrounds Accessible by trail only.

6. RUSSELL POND CAMPGROUND

This campground is in the center of the Park. It is reached only by foot trails, 7 miles north from Roaring Brook campground or 9½ miles south from South Branch Pond campground. It is small and isolated and an ideal place to see game and birds. Moose often feed in the bog adjacent to the camp or may be seen at dusk at Turner Deadwater near by. Beaver have a long dam at the foot of the pond and may be watched, with glasses, swimming about their house. Numerous varieties of birds and small game are often seen.

The Lookout Trail leads 1½ miles to ledges giving far-flung views of the North Peaks, Turner, and the Wassataquoik Valley.

Russell Pond is the focal point of trails leading to Wassataquoik Lake (2.5 miles); the Wassataquoik tote road with its Grand Falls and Inscription Rock; the Pogy Notch Trail (9½ miles) to South Branch Pond campground; the Old Pogy road (10½ miles to McCarty Field); the North Peaks and the Northwest Basin Trails leading on to Katahdin; and the Russell Pond Trail through Wassataquoik South Branch Valley to Roaring Brook campground; all affording access to interesting areas enroute.



Pamola Peak, the Knife Edge and Baxter Peak tower above the campground at Chimney Pond.

There is fishing (license required) in Russell Pond. Canoes are available for rent. This campground is a favorite for those who can carry their own food and equipment sufficient for the entire time of their stay, and who enjoy rough trails and rugged country.

Facilities: 4 lean-tos, 3 tent spaces and an 8-person bunkhouse.

7. CHIMNEY POND CAMPGROUND

This campground is in the Great Basin of Katahdin. It is reached only by foot trails. The shortest and most usual route is from Roaring Brook, 3.3 miles, and 1,125 feet in elevation. Above it rise the 2,000 to 2,500-foot cliffs of Pamola, South Peak, and Baxter Peak, enclosing it in a half circle.

A list of trails leading onto Katahdin from this campground is found on page 11.

This campground is the base for those who can carry in food and equipment for the entire length of their stay and who want to see the Great Basin and its cliffs, traverse the Knife Edge, and see more of the summits of Katahdin than Baxter Peak and the portion of the Tableland between it and the Abol Slide and the Hunt Spur. If transportation facilities permit, a fitting end to a stay at Chimney Pond is to ascend once more to the Tableland and go out by way of The Appalachian Trail to Katahdin Stream campground.

Facilities: 11 lean-tos, 7 tent spaces and a 24-person bunkhouse.

Mt. Katahdin

Rising to an elevation of 5,267 feet above sea level, Mt. Katahdin is the highest point in the State of Maine. No nearby mountains challenge Katahdin in height or size: it stands in scenic domination of a

majestic mountain dominated the imagination of men since the first redmen called this region home. Indian legend says that Mt. Katahdin was created by the Council of Gods to serve as their sacred meeting place. Pamola, one of the lesser Gods, became angry when refused place at the Council and retreated to Pamola peak where he has since made his home. The Indians believed that those who ventured on the mountain could expect to incur Pamola's wrath and be seen no more. Even today, when storm clouds swirl around the summit and the wind whistles across the Knife Edge, the blame is placed at Pamola's door.

The first recorded ascent of the Mountain was made in 1804 by a party of land surveyors under the leadership of Charles Turner. As lumbering operations moved to the vicinity of the mountain, access became easier and ascents more frequent. In 1846, philosopher-naturalist Henry David Thoreau reached the Tableland by way of Abol slide. In the late 1800's, sporting camp owners began to advertise climbs of Katahdin as an attraction for guests. In this way, several trails to the peak were first established.

Baxter Peak, summit of Katahdin, is the northern terminus of the famed Appalachian Trail, a two-thousand mile foot trail reaching from Maine to Georgia. The Trail ascends the mountain from Katahdin Stream Campground over a route also known as the Hunt Trail.

Geologically speaking, Mt. Katahdin is the result of an intrusion of granite rock which has been sculptured to its present form by 300 million years of erosion and glacial action. ("The Geology of Baxter State Park and Mt. Katahdin", by Dabney Caldwell, a 51 page illustrated booklet, is suggested for those interested in Park geology.)

Principal land features of the mountain are: Pamola Peak, the Knife Edge, Baxter Peak (highest point), the Tableland, the Saddle Hamlin Peak, the Northwest Plateau, and the North Peaks. Lying below these features are the Great Basin, the North Basin, The Northwest Basin and the Klondike Plateau.

TRAILS ON KATAHDIN

Baxter State Park is intersected by approximately 75 miles of trails, many of them centering around or on Mt. Katahdin. The following is a brief description of the main trails in use today on the mountain.

From Chimney Pond Campground: Dudley Trail, up steep rocky ridge to Pamola Peak, (1.3 miles); .3 miles from campground, side trail leads 1/4 mile to Pamola Caves. Knife Edge Trail leads from Pamola Peak to Baxter Peak, 1.1 miles across a narrow rocky ridge of moderate steepness. Cathedral Trail leads from campground to base of Cathedral Rocks, then climbs steeply up the rocky slope to the Tableland and junction with Saddle Trail to Baxter Peak (1.7 miles). The Saddle Trail leads from campground to the lowest point in the wall of the Great Basin, ascending an old rockslide to the Tableland and junction with trails to Baxter Peak, Katahdin Stream and Abol Campground, Northwest Basin, Hamlin Peak, and North Peaks Trail. Chimney Pond to Saddle at head of slide, 1.2 miles; to summit of

of 1.9 miles to Hamlin Ridge and 2.2 miles to Caribou Spring, junction with trails to Saddle, North Peaks and Northwest Plateau. Various combinations of these trails provide a series of interesting round-trip hikes from Chimney Pond to Baxter Peak and return.

From Abol Campground the Abol Trail leads steeply up the south slope of the mountain 2.6 miles to a junction with the Appalachian Trail at Thoreau Spring. From there it is 1.1 miles further to Baxter Peak over a moderate slope. This is believed to be the oldest route up the mountain.

From Katahdin Stream, the Appalachian Trail (Hunt Trail) climbs through timbered lower slopes to boulder strewn Hunt Spur and then to the Tableland. From campground to Tableland is 3.7 miles, with Baxter Peak 1.5 miles further across a moderate slope. Lovely Katahdin Falls is located on this trail 1.1 miles from the campground.

The Baxter Peak Cut-Off Trail runs between Thoreau Spring and the Saddle, offering a route from one side of the tableland to the other without having to ascend to Baxter Peak.

From the Saddle, trails run northerly to the Northwest Plateau and thence into the Northwest Basin and down the Wassatquoik to Russell Pond Campground (8 miles from Saddle to Russell Pond) or across the North Peaks (Howe) Trail to Russell Pond, (7.7 miles from Saddle to Russell Pond).

MOUNTAIN CLIMBING GUIDE BOOKS

Two excellent publications are available for those wishing complete and accurate trail information for Mt. Katahdin and surrounding peaks. These are: Appalachian Mountain Club Maine Mountain Guide, First Edition, 1961, pocket-size, 200 pages with maps. Covers entire state. Available from the Appalachian Mountain Club, 5 Joy Street, Boston, Massachusetts. Cost \$3.50.

Katahdin Section of Guide to The Appalachian Trail in Maine, Fifth Edition, 1961, pocket size, 246 pages with maps. Available from The Appalachian Trail Conference, 1916 Sutherland Place, N. W., Washington 6, D. C. Cost \$1.25.

These guides may also be purchased at Baxter Park headquarters or at the Ranger Stations.

SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR COMFORT AND SAFETY

1. If you plan to climb the mountain or do any extensive hiking, wear proper footwear. High top hiking shoes or boots are recommended.
2. Black flies and other insects are prevalent during the summer months. Carry an ample supply of repellent.
3. Nights can be cool even during the summer, so bring warm sleeping gear. When windy, the summit can be chilly and a sweater is often worth the trouble needed to carry it on a climb.



4. Several of the ranger stations carry a small inventory of supplies for sale. However, it is best for the camper to come fully equipped with food, fuel, sleeping equipment and cooking utensils.
5. Wood is not plentiful at the well-used automobile campground and you can save much time and effort by bringing your own wood if possible.
6. If you plan to hike unmarked trails, bring a compass and know how to use it. Topographic maps of the Park are available from sporting goods stores in Millinocket and Greenville and usually at the ranger stations.
7. For hiking the summit trails during hot weather a small canteen of water will assure ample water.
8. Do not undertake trips beyond your capacity. If caught by darkness on a trail, stay where you are until searchers find you or daylight makes safe travel possible. The rugged character of the mountain terrain makes night-time travel without a light extremely hazardous.
9. The careless discarding of litter is not only a violation of Park regulations; it is a violation of outdoor decency and common sense. Save your papers and other trash until you can put them in a trash container.

Animals in Baxter Park

Baxter State Park is richly endowed with animal life. Perhaps more than any other section of the State, this area offers the wildlife observer opportunities to enjoy both northern and southern Maine animal forms.

Few places offer a better chance to observe and photograph the lordly Moose. These animals, once very abundant in Maine, are still represented in good numbers on the Park. Whitetail deer, Maine's most sought-after game animal, are also numerous and occasionally quite friendly to patient campers.

The black bear is a permanent resident of the park, and this timid fellow can be rather cantankerous when he becomes half-tame and used to getting handouts. Treat him with respect and he will do you no harm.

... interesting, because there are some songbird visitors which are rarely seen in southern Maine. An interesting bird is the Canada Jay, which is common in northern Maine and Canada. The ruffed grouse, or partridge, is a common resident of the park, along with its cousin, the lesser known spruce grouse. Ornithologists have long been interested in the bird life of the Park because of its variety and north-south characteristics.

There are dozens of smaller mammals living in the Park, many of which are rarely seen by the untrained observer. Two species of marten, the fisher and the smaller pine marten are common inhabitants. Mink, weasels, snowshoe hare, and many smaller animals are abundant.

Perhaps the most restricted animals are the fish species, which are represented chiefly by the eastern brook trout and lake trout. Most Baxter Park waters are clear and cold, and capable of supporting the fish species common to northern climates. By far the most abundant of these is the eastern brook trout, which may be found in every section of the Park.

The Plant Life of Baxter State Park

Two distinct vegetation zones are found in Baxter State Park. These are the forest zone which occupies most of the park and the alpine zone which is limited to the upper slopes and the tableland of Mt. Katahdin.

A very small part of the park area is occupied by the northern hardwood forest in which beech, birch, and maple are the dominant plants; found on scattered areas at lower elevations and often mixed with spruce and fir.

In much of the park the northern coniferous forest is the dominant type of vegetation, extending from the valleys up the slopes to timberline. The dominant black spruce and balsam fir trees form a dense evergreen canopy. The forest floor is covered with an almost continuous carpet of mosses, liverworts, lichens and clubmosses. Painted trillium, wild-lily-of-the-valley, starflower, yellow clintonia, goldthread, bunchberry, rose twisted-stalk, pink wood sorrel are common herbaceous flowering plants of this spruce-fir forest.

Where logging and fire have removed large areas of the virgin spruce-fir forest in the park, a vegetation has developed consisting predominantly of aspen and paper birch with some pin cherry, red maple and mountain ash. Spruce and fir seedlings are able to develop under the shade of the open canopy and will eventually replace the short-lived aspen and birch.

On the steep upper slopes and tableland of Mt. Katahdin are extensive areas exposed to strong winds where the spruce and fir are greatly stunted and gnarled forming a dense growth only a few feet high. This low matted forest, known as "Krummholz" is very difficult to traverse.

Perhaps the most interesting zone of vegetation is the alpine zone found on the steep upper slopes and tableland of Mt. Katahdin. Growing here are a number of arctic plants which are believed to have survived here since the arctic flora migrated northward following the last continental ice sheet. Plants found here include the alpine azalea, alpine bearberry, bog-bilberry, dwarf bilberry, Cassiope, Phyllodo mountain cranberry, Lapland rosebay and Diapensia. Black crowberry, purple crowberry, dwarf birch, bearberry willow and the herb-like willow are arctic shrubs of the alpine zone which form low matted growths of vegetation.

One of the most common herbaceous plants is the mountain-saxifrage. Other common herbaceous plants include several species of sedges, grasses and rushes. Much of the ground cover in the alpine zone is made up of mosses and lichens. Crustose lichens are pioneer plants on bare rock and by secreting acids they aid in the disintegration of the rock to form soil on which mosses and fruticose lichens might grow.

A Guide to **BAXTER STATE PARK**
and **MOUNT KATAHDIN** *in*
MAINE



*"Katahdin in its grandeur will forever remain
the Mountain of the people of Maine."*

P. P. BAXTER



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