

**America's Great Outdoors**  
**Notes from Listening Session**

Location: Bangor, Maine

Date: September 2, 2010

*President Obama launched a national conversation about conservation in America at the White House Conference on the Great Outdoors on April 16, 2010. The President understands that protecting and restoring the lands and waters that we love and reconnecting people to the outdoors must happen at the local level. Therefore, President Obama directed the principal leaders of the Initiative to travel across the country to listen and learn from people directly involved in finding grassroots solutions to conserve our lands, waterways, historical and cultural resources and to reconnect Americans with the Outdoors. The President indicated that the sessions should engage the full range of interested groups, including tribal leaders, farmers and ranchers, sportsmen, community park groups, foresters, youth groups, businesspeople, educators, State and local government, recreation and conservation groups and others. The President placed a special priority on engaging with America's youth. Below are notes from the breakout groups at the Listening Session sorted by Discussion Question. Please feel free to use the ideation tool at <http://ideas.usda.gov/ago/ideas.nsf/> if you would like to share your thoughts.*

Discussion Questions

1. What works: Please share your thoughts and ideas on effective strategies for conservation, recreation and reconnecting people to the outdoors.
2. Challenges: What obstacles exist to achieve your goals for conservation, recreation, or reconnecting people to the outdoors?
3. Federal government role: How can the federal government be a more effective partner in helping to achieve conservation, recreation or reconnecting people to the outdoors?
4. What additional tools and resources would help your efforts be even more successful?

Comment	Question (1-4)
Landscape conservation as it merged is the best way to achieve the greatest goals. Means looking at large parcels of land and making sure animals can roam freely. If we look at landscape in a river for example, we are looking at an entire watershed--a system as opposed to isolated parts. Landscape conservation has emerged as the best way to achieve the greatest goals - maintaining connectivity across habitats and systems. Penobscot River System includes all the watersheds, all the feeder streams, all the dams all the way to the ocean.	1
We don't really have the time to work with one project at a time we need to look at these river systems on a whole. We don't have the time to work one project at the time as we have loq numbers; we need to look at landscapes.	1
Focus on one tool in particular. Important that the people at the table were comfortable and in agreement. The tool is really empowerment. Allowing the people that do the work in the field enough authority and autonomy to do the work and move the ball forward. In order to advance conservation we must use resources wisely. Penobscotts make decisions for seven generations into the future. Do the federal employees in the field have enough power to move a project forward? They need to be able to move forward, not just go back and forth between agencies. Empower agency employees.	3, 4

Comment	Question (1-4)
<p>Penobscot River and some of the issues seen: For years we had been looking at dams on an individual bases. When Scott got involved here, we saw it as a real opportunity to take a basin wide approach. One thing that was different about this project was that we all wanted to spend more money on the resources and less money on the lawyers. There has to be a better way to do business. I think for the tribe, it is our homeland, and we are lucky to be able to live in our homeland. The current project is a landscape scale project. We used to examine one dam at a dam. When PPL bought the dams that was our chance to manage with a basin-wide approach. This took 3 years of discussion to understand everyone's interest in the various projects. We wanted to spend and money on projects, not on lawyers. It is the largest river conservation project east of the Mississippi. This is important to our people - the Penobscot have a responsibility and duty to give back to the natural world and help fix that river.</p>	1
<p>By working with the system as a whole then we can really get the context for the river down. We tried to take this approach (landscape) 30 years ago. It wasn't until we were able to get the river in context of the landscape that we could really make a difference.</p>	1
<p>What happens in the rivers really affects what happens on the land and vice versa. What happens on the land affects the streams. What happens in the stream affects what happens in the ocean. Look at the Machias River Forest which has been protected so that the watershed can be protected and produce healthy Atlantic Salmon.</p>	1
<p>I've been participating in the effort that has been working on the 'Keeping Maine's Forests' Initiatives. The unique thing about this is that we were asked to come together and talk with each other. Sharing perspectives and goals rather than 'tell' them. Measures of success for this process are: A stable or increasing flow or availability of wood; conserve or enhance key fish and wildlife habitats; sustain local economies...etc. Our suggestion for going forward is to select a number of pilot areas in order to focus on these goals. Talking to and with each other makes all the difference. Maine's forests are extensive and unique in the eastern US. Our measures of success for sound management are: include a steady or increasing flow of wood, protecting ecosystems, provide economic benefits. We utilize conservation easements, focus areas for key resources.</p>	1
<p>Recreation: Snowmobiling is extremely important to the non-coastal areas of Maine. In these areas winter is THE season. Visitation to these areas has opened up winter; fortunately in that particular area, we've had great rapport over the years with land owners. Dealing with private landowners is something I greatly enjoy because I'm in the position of having a back and forth relationship with them. The federal government could help us by making funds available to help us. We cannot sustain ourselves without snowmobiling. It's disconcerting to me when I have guests who find snowmobiling environmentally unfriendly when it is our driver for the economy. Snowmobiling is very important to the non-coastal portions of Maine. In some areas, winter is "the" season for economic strength. Canoeing and kayaking have dropped off in central Maine.</p>	1, 3
<p>I've had a lot of people ask why private landowners allow recreation to happen on their property. I think it is because of tradition. As managers we cannot allow it to become too costly otherwise we are not helping the landowner we are working for. Recreation Liability Law is also really important in Maine. With our state land, there is a challenge in how to fund these things. The fed government could help states do some trial projects on state land. It can't all come from tax money, but can be supported by other things like user fees.</p>	2, 3

Comment	Question (1-4)
Maine has been a leader in the forest legacy program funds. Many of those have been supported by both public and private money. We were able to purchase millions of acres to be used as conservation land, and those lands can be used by the public. At the same time many are required to do sustainable forestry. Asking Senators to fully fund the conservation program will help the parks in this country. Maine has been a leader in using Forest Legacy funds as well as private and foundation funding. If state dollars were used, than those lands are open to the public. There is a tremendous need to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund. I invite you to contact your congressional representatives.	1
We have two large conservation easements. One in the Penobscot area. It is important to keep these as simple as possible because circumstances will change, but I think they do offer the best of several worlds: forestry-agriculture.	1
Dollars is the biggest challenge. We need help. The land and water conservation fund is a great place to help. But we also need flexibility in the funds we have now. We need to be able to move money in order to fund projects. I think that the challenges that the federal government has given us really put a spark plug underneath us to get things moving forward.	2, 3
I think good use of dollars is also important. This Penobscot River Restoration project is good use, where as there are other projects that may not be.	1
We need the leadership, but we also need a culture of 'yes.' It was a real collaborative effort. Solutions start locally and if the culture is the same all the way up it makes it successful.	1
We also need a long-term time commitment. These commitments go longer than political cycles. It takes a long time to make some of these things come to fruition.	2, 3
As we look to some of the federal stewardship programs, it strikes me that there are quite a few with different details. Maybe it would be good to combine these programs make it broader and make it more flexible. Conservation easements allow the working forest or working agricultural to meet economic needs as well as provide non-economic benefits. We have two large conservation easements. A 200,000 easement that eliminates all commercial development and allows the public access for all traditional uses. The other easement is a 400 foot strip along both sides of the Penobscot River. Conservation easements provide the opportunity for the best of both worlds.	1, 3
Money is always the problem. This is an industry that relies on volunteers. Grooming 14,000 miles of trails is not easy, and the expectation to have well groomed trails exists. If the legislature would allow us to govern ourselves then we would have more money in the system.	2
We all have a common goal to preserve the precious resources we have. Maine is unique in its strong history of philanthropy. Donations are going down so the LWCF money becomes far more important. Flexibility in federal funding is very important.	3
The conventional wisdom to date has always involved NGO's, government, but I'd strongly encourage you to engage businesses. Create a culture of "yes". The Penobscot challenge is one example. It was a collaborative effort and the two Secretaries' challenges were a key part of is coming together.	3

Comment	Question (1-4)
Thanks for the feds coming to town to hear us. Maine is the most heavily forested state in the country in a per-acre basis. We still have some time to get it right, and there are a couple projects in the works now that can be used as examples. Maine has always been a leader in conservation. Let us do our work. It has taken a long time to create these environmental problems and they require a long term commitment to solving them.	1
Encourage the fed government to support innovation. The projects happening here are innovative projects. I think some of this innovation is out ahead of the federal government. Some of our innovation is ahead of the federal curve. We require cross-agency involvement and that is sometimes difficult.	3
Take a risk. Keeping Maine Forests as Forest - all the grants have real specific requirements and the programs should be carried over across administrations.	3
Feds can watch what's happening in Maine. Please help us financially to compensate the landowners. 14,000 miles of groomed trail across the state - the highest number in the northeast. But the entire system is built on the backs of volunteers and the volunteers are getting older and not enough young people are interested in grooming and riding. We need to increase registration fees.	3
Connecting children with the outdoors, children are small and don't drive cars, remember as a kid going in the backyard to play, don't need much and don't need a big area, open space in urban areas, get a farm close to the malls, community gardens. Connectivity needs regional planning, encourage towns and land trusts to do regional planning, Gov provide money for facilitating regional planning.	1, 3
Best way to connect Maine people with the land is to get them out there, Maine knows how to make collaboration work. The more we can get people out to see the resources the more likely they will want to convey to the future generations.	1
Leadership the last few years willing to have conversations across groups, breaking down silos, leaders willing to look into the future, come to common denominators and that is working in Maine.	1
People work together well in Maine, with each other	1
Federal Gov NPS protects wildlife habitat, and supports the Maine North Woods Nat Park,	1
Implementing forestry knowledge requires large tracts of land what has worked well is the Northeast Research Coop.	1
Private busing system on the Acadia without Fed.	1
Maine has long tradition of Land Trust community, ground up conservations. The towns look to the land trust and the land trusts look to the community leadership. Look up to NPD for River and trails programs.	1
Diversity interns working with Fish and Wildlife Service.	1
Create the Maine North Woods National Park and a feasibility study	1
Greatest way to maintain the forest land is eliminate estate	1
People in Maine have trails and opportunities available and a conservation ethic	1
Leading people outside and world class adventures, Federal lands to recreate on. Fed lands easy to sell marketing. Don't create competition across programs for environmental education programs.	1, 2
Amazing earth fest on the Colorado plateau, something that could be recreated elsewhere, encourages and excites people about their public lands.	1, 3

Comment	Question (1-4)
Partnerships and collaborations BPL owns land timber lease held by town, town gets benefit. Collaborate with PLT to get out on the land, Forest Legacy and State money was key to success.	1
Lots of different spectacular public lands, different programs help to fit specific lands to certain programs.	1
LMF is a great program and should not go unmentioned.	1
State Wildlife plans.	1
Lot of professionals that are retired and donate to land trust and help.	1
Access on Private land is what works, keep the working forests.	1
It takes a collaborative effort. We all take a role to maintain the sustainability, the imposing Federal regulations that could shut down biomass plants, proposed regulations, and no longer considering woody bio plants carbon neutral.	1
Carrying cost associated with owning land. Farmers' priorities sometimes compromised to meet uses and objectives of recreationists, no compensation to landowners.	2
Posted no trespassing signs.	2
Generally, no one funding source to complete entire projects, requirements of multiple funding sources start to collide with conflicting needs.	2
In many fed programs, many landowners are not eligible for many programs in the already fragmented lands.	2, 3
Wildlands and Woodlands to conserve 30 million acres will take a long time.	2
Environmental Protection Agency, Endangered Species Act, Best Management Practices. Maine has terrific wildlife management plan, Fed is coming in and upsetting the apple cart with Lynx. EPA new green house gas rules will be a problem in Maine. BMP works beautifully in Maine. New fed court ruling determines log roads are a point source and again upsetting the efforts and work.	2, 3
FLP very successful in Maine. Raising private money for the stewardship for the project.	1
FLP consider some of the money going to landowner comes back.	1
Local land trusts need more help with stewardship. Woodswise - get that out, it works and funded. Recreation trails, Fed highways and recreational transportation enhancement very successful, but limit of no ATV's. Fully fund the LWCF.	1
Challenge is not fully staffed national monuments	2
Agency blinders. Like the multiple funding sources but limitations of specific funding. Fund only remove dam, only fund fish way. Paperwork of grant reporting 6 weeks of work after project was down. Separate record keeping.	2
Money - depends on time and donations of people, getting harder and harder to find money, Federal money more infrastructure and engagement to get people out on the land and interest them in the land and more likely to donate.	2, 3
Grants tracking takes lots of effort, difficult to find the matching requirements	2
Recreational opportunity and the sense of community. A person's concern for the local environment based on experience. Community development and stewardship based on recreational opportunity. Fed comes in and interferes with recreational opportunities. Recreation angling for Atlantic Salmon would have benefits.	2
Open access is why I come to Maine. The threat of a National Park is that many areas are off limits and limits the enjoyment of large areas. Jobs would be eliminated.	2

Comment	Question (1-4)
Mythology of what a National Park would be. Some parks allow hunting, and there is different access. Showcase different models of parks to diffuse some of the mythology. Possibly create a new model for a National Park.	2
Polarization of the groups that want NP and the groups that want it the way it was 25 years ago. Open large paper lands.	2
Accessing available dollars to get the youth to work on public lands; difficult in knowing that the money is out there but how to get to it. There are thousands of young people who want to serve. More systematically and more effectively fund the programs to protect the lands.	2, 3
Endangering Endangered Species Act for development puts wildlife photography at risk.	2
Climate Change big challenge - need adaptation plans, conservation models, habitat and wildlife corridors.	2
Leaders of AGO need to say we are part of the web of life and the National heritage; important that humans are part of nature and work with nature.	3
Fundamental tool - good science is needed. We need fed government to make serious sustained investments in science to monitor changes from climate change, preparing us as good stewards of the land. Good Science has highest return on investment.	3
Need to get the message out to the Public. Feds can be a Public Relations firm to get the word out. Need to let people know what Maine already has	3
Feds educate people about the natural resources. Consider a feasibility study for Maine North Woods National Park.	3
Upper right corner of transportation corridor doing a pretty good job of managing private lands. Please pay attention to Maine scale - small impact is BIG.	1
Maine has most tremendous opportunity but has been ignored. Atlantic Salmon funding versus Pacific Salmon funding. Maine has largest remaining forest in the east and has a great opportunity.	2
Utilizing the networks that currently exist; utilizing private sector for marketing. Instead of creating more and utilize what exists.	4
Need innovative collaborations, keeping Maine's Forests report, and seed money to continue.	4
2 Million acres of private lands conserved with 3:1 Private to public funding. Ecosystem service that will reward the forest landowner for the public services the land provides regardless if they are participating in a CE program.	1
Farming example, Fed owns lots of land in the west and farmers that graze cattle in the west pay a fee to the government in Maine. How about State pays farmers a grazing fee for the "State owned" Wild life (Ecological Service)?	4
Extend CE tax benefits, fund more CE programs.	4
Very important to listen to different perspectives. Maine does great things locally. Science, land trusts, creating projects. Need support without interference. Cooperative conservation and allow local systems to work as long as broad goals met.	1, 3
Keeping Maine's forest and keeping Maine's economy. Lack of Broadband access to the rural areas of Maine limits future business success.	2
Caps in programs to limit funding amounts in single year. Guarantee phase funding to do landscape efforts.	3
Enhancing the partners program and reinstating landowner's incentive program.	3

Comment	Question (1-4)
No more programs, but more funding for the existing successful programs.	3
Marketing advice – obstacles and fear of fed government in Maine. It is better marketing fed LWCF money and other successes with the great collaboration in Maine. Marketing this land protected by land trust with funds from Feds. Also, if you guarantee public access then you must advertise this. Also need line item to fund recreational management plans.	3
Make NLCS lands a priority.	3
American Heritage Rivers - River navigator deals with the bureaucracy and may be beneficial to model on other programs.	1
Money is necessary to get the kids outdoors, need to be funding what Maine is doing well. Education - Park and Zoning "dirty words". Educate the public.	4
Look to the Dept of Education to update criteria to get them outdoors.	3
Landowners under stress to maintain public access. All levels of government to help landowners to keep land open instead of purchasing.	2, 3
Goals are good. Come back to Maine in 2016 for 100th anniversary of Acadia and National Park Service.	3
Open use policy is enhanced by the liability law that was passed in Maine.	1
Encourage philanthropy leveraging with public dollars. Encourage young people through conservation education. Invest in science to improve science based management decisions.	4
Observed that, when taking young children hunting, fishing, and camping, boys commented that they wanted to stay longer and didn't miss TV, etc. How lucky Mainers are to have access to natural areas for little or no cost. Important to keep that access available.	1
Having national parks well advertised and available enhances usage. Having media spots will get more people out.	1
Two older sons not interested in farming. Would like to keep farm as a protected land trust to continue farming/natural area. Concerned that the production of the farm will be adequate to keep the trust going. Perhaps the federal government can help? His farm is in Central Maine, and most farm trusts/easement opportunities are in Southern Maine. Wants farm land to be protected for his children or grandchildren. Money needed to maintain the trust and not sure if money from farm enough to do that.	2, 3
Rarity of space and type of natural areas are extensive, but not well advertised. Rare and precious are the vast openness of the natural areas. Not promoted well, people think it can be cut away. But there are hundreds of miles of snow mobile trails and rivers that can be convoked for days without crossing a road.	2
Lake science instruction for students/young people. There should be more access to this type of instruction with provisions made to have people come. Need to do more to get kids out, but it's tough to even afford a bus to take a group of kids out. Not every kid has a dad that will take them to these places.	2
Land liability statute has helped land stay open for use. Other states have asked for input on how Maine does this. Leveraging volunteerism is an important resource.	1

Comment	Question (1-4)
Owns 150 acres in Maine that is open to others for use. Uses others lands for hunting, etc. With open access come challenges. Could there be funding to enhance users of private land on impacts of that use. Funding is very low for current programs and are the first to be cut. Understanding use responsibilities would help to decrease cost of maintaining the private lands. Users should be as respectful of private lands as they are of public lands. Also, if there could be funds available to mitigate issues from usage that could result in environmental law infraction and fines. EX: dumping happens near population centers.	2, 3
They are having a positive reaction from landowners who don't typically like conservation by offering up sustainability ideas.	1
Canoe trips are being reduced, but the state parks' first time camping program works because it's simple. Gets people out of cars. Watershed Council runs guided canoe trips at no cost for kids who have never paddled before. These are kids who were afraid of bugs, but found they weren't as bad as they had feared.	1
Private funders and public funders working together to leverage resources works. The more groups that get together to leverage resources = more leveraging.	1
Making a living on land; NRCS programs helpful (EQIP, etc.), working with conservation districts. Challenges that others have voiced. As Fish and Wildlife Service educator know that education is important, especially the young people. Students or people with young children need to be introduced to the natural areas. Land users have access to some programs, such as hunter safety, etc. But there isn't much available for land owners. Youth camps are very pricey and often available to non-residents. These camps should be made more available and affordable for local children to take advantage of. Funding is hard to come by for these camps experiences. Higher funding would be helpful to get youth involved so that respect for the land will grow. He is a grandfather of 5 and can see the greater appreciation that kids that have access to natural areas have in comparison to kids who have not had the access.	1, 2
Land conservation discussions are usually focused on a certain parcel or area. Need to identify how these protected parcels protect a larger habitat area. We need to have a consistent language between non-profits and government so that people can understand what each other are talking about.	1
Leveraging volunteers works well. People are enthusiastic to help save land that they love. It is more helpful if they feel that their volunteerism is supported by federal funding, and not instead of it.	1, 3
Interesting paradox: Landowners like to share their land, want others to use their land. BUT lots of users don't know how to use the land. Landowners are not necessarily getting an economic benefit, but would be happier to see an education program to teach people to be responsible USERS of land that others have opened for access. Visitor's need to realize they are there at the grace of the landowners. There should be no dumping; they should carry out what they bring in. There have been people who have four-wheeled through a wetland that could have caused him to be fined for an environmental infraction. Maine is 92% privately owned, so there is plenty of opportunity for private land use if people are respectful.	2, 4
Laws are good, but enforcement needs to be increased-bolstering availability so that there are wardens available to enforce laws and be available when there's trouble. There isn't federal funding to assist in hiring more wardens.	2, 3

Comment	Question (1-4)
Protection is hard while trying to be a good steward. It's hard to share when people do not respect the land. Thinking that posting is easier, but doesn't want to close off access.	2
There are different perspectives on the fact. There needs to be information to drive decisions and policy. For instance, landscape planning is expensive, but something that is desired. Science, data, education needed. Infrastructure is a great need. Infrastructure and promotion needs to be increased to increase the public use of these areas. Big difference between Acadia and the Northern Maine Woods; there isn't support for infrastructure to take the burden of private land owners.	2
1. A lot of people that come to the park want to know about volunteerism and how they can become involved. Government needs to leverage that desire through maybe a volunteer credits system that will equate to discounts later on? 2. Leveraging private dollars with federal dollars, i.e. Centennial Challenge?	2, 3
Most landowners are not looking for money, but working farms need to count the dollars. Special areas should be protected but impact the bottom line. Perhaps alleviating the tax burden on these areas would be helpful.	2
Tree growth tax going away will increase development because of tax burden to the landowner. Inheritance tax is also an issue in protecting open area.	2
Federal programs: there are a lot of niche programs so they are inefficient to deliver. Could niche programs be combined to make them more efficient to deliver?	3
Air quality affects the aesthetics of the views at the park. High mercury in aquatic species is a direct effect of water quality. Severe storms effecting the forested areas and shorelines. Species in danger of being lost due to climate change. Biomes are in danger of being lost.	2
Education comments need to be taken with a field based components and work with schools to incorporate into their instruction. Schools need the resources to take students to the field to work with environmental experts (Field days)	4
Elementary teachers don't often have the science background, so resources will be very helpful!	4
Government education programs are available, but there's a need to promote them and use as a resource.	3
School administrators need to be educated always.	2
Websites need to be easier to use; easier to find information. Currently information is buried too deep in the site to find. Websites should be more interactive and information readily accessible.	3, 4
SWCD, RC&D, School Districts - source of volunteers but funding is just too hard to come by. Can't federal government provide funds to support these types of groups' efforts for education and public access? Small amount would go a long way. Need to get be able to get to resources easily.	2, 3
Organization-North Maine Woods- who collaborate with landowners to develop maps and public access signage. But underfunded. There are some fees for access to support the information that is available, but if the federal government could fund it somewhat, the effect would be much much better.	3
Envirothon is very helpful for students to increase their awareness of natural resources and career opportunities related to natural resources. Envirothon brings kids outside and specialists into schools. Also, Nordic skiing is a big sport in Maine that is often overlooked.	1

Comment	Question (1-4)
His wife is a teacher and the problem is that everyone wants the schools to be the sources of environmental education. More education, hands on education, is needed, but schools seem to be the dumping ground for all the extracurricular stuff. Working extra things into the regular curriculum can be challenging. Funding outdoor education during the summer is an alternative if day camps can be funded partly by the federal government.	3
Need for large scale funding is there, but small scale funding is also a big need. EX: \$4000 grant helped make a festival possible to bring a community together around a fisheries project focus. It shouldn't be a cumbersome process to request small amounts.	2, 3
Land and water conservation funding needs to be supported. Public transportation is a BIG need. Public transportation is unavailable outside urban areas. People can't connect if they can't get to the open areas. Bicycle access should also be encouraged as a way to decrease obesity.	4
No child left inside-Maine is working on this effort. Having environmental education is a big priority with youth 15-25 years old, as heard in an AGO youth session this summer. Kids are saying that they want environmental education.	4
Forest Legacy: Maine has a very high percentage of privately owned forestland. Perhaps Maine should get a larger share of this funding to reflect the importance of forestry in Maine.	3
Public/Private dollars supporting schools to have community gardens at the schools to teach children how to grow food and where food comes from. Had experience with this in Harlem as part of the Green Harlem project and it was very successful.	1, 3
Council of State Governments should be advised on these comments to leverage information and to help some of these education efforts be more comprehensively delivered. Teachers can't do everything, but could be given more flexibility to incorporate ideas into their curriculum.	4
A former teacher and school administrator. She is also on the SWCD Board. Federal government programs should be given a chance to work by being fully funded and better distributed. Some programs aren't given a chance to work. Why aren't government facilities maintained and utilized to their best instead of moving money to new programs/facilities? Put money toward things that exist. Grants need to be easier to apply for. Streamline the process to make it easier. Environmental education can't always be done through schools. Schools are overburdened already. How can Environmental education be achieved outside the school system?	3
We like to conserve mountains. Bring opportunities to the people. Think about conserving iconic places; bring people to them through pathways for walking, biking, and strolling.	4
Local organizations, like Land Trusts, can get hands around community's needs.	1
Local resources Non-governmental Organizations (NGO). Have people take ownership of the places. Spend a buck to get 10 bucks back by having volunteers to help. Use local resources and local people. Keep the political bologna out of the science; it doesn't help the salmon. When studying salmon restoration, for too long politics has superseded science.	2
Our State Wildlife Action Plan and Beginning with Habitat program brought together partners, such as land trusts and agencies throughout the state. Our programs work with local decision makers in the municipalities to develop conservation priorities. This is not top down and helps build appreciation of wildlife habitat.	1

Comment	Question (1-4)
Engaging and empowering the local thinking works. Rise from the grass roots up. Grass roots and land trusts are important to bring in the other programs. In the long term, the community plays a key role.	1
We have a trust fund for Univ of Maine college students and youth to get them outdoors. Get other conservation groups (fly fishers and hunters) involved in their educational outdoor projects. We have started a Family Fun Day where all these conservation groups work with children. Activities include beginners fly-casting, bow hunting. It is all volunteer; you just have to ask.	1
Delphi Forecast Techniques to develop who will own forests in Maine in the future. It is anonymous. This technique the Federal Government ought to use. It identifies inherent polarization.	1, 3
Key to Project SHARE is that the federal government is a peer to other partners. It is a partnership of large landowners and agencies. It is not us against them.	1
The experience works; if you have it you can apply it to your life. Break away from the good old boys, traditional way it is done. Don't tell the government what we want. Tell them what we can do. Help each other and have government facilitate it. Dove-tail for results. Network with those in the room today. Information is far more important than regulation. Need good information. Government makes rules and needs to enforce their rules.	1, 3
Get kids outside. A lot of kids get scholarships to go to camps such as Bryant Pond Conservation Camp. This experience transformed the kids. The kids came back again and spread by word of mouth. Everyone needs to get the information out there about the camp experience.	1
1) In Acadia National Park 1.1 million visitors come to the park and I guide them. Primarily working with adults from cruise ships, no young families. Need to get young families and teenage groups involved. This is a small national park, 40,000 acres, with a small amount of staff. Need more permanent qualified staff and need to conduct research on air, water, soil quality, shore birds, wetland birds and habitat conservation. Friends of Acadia are volunteers doing a great job. Need new research on Schoodic Peninsula and Winter Harbor. 2) Need more involvement with scouts (girls and boys) and Maine schools and summer camps. 3) The proposal of a northwoods national park needs more research and cooperating agencies and other partners. Science and local politics are involved. This area of Maine is a nursery for Bald Eagles, Canada Lynx, and migrant birds and is the heart of the forest products industry. 4) Encourage TWS to get involved in education especially youth groups and schools. Woody Higgins and his group issued 33 \$1000 scholarships going to camperships.	2, 3
DLLT is a community-led partnership in Maine, which Grand Lake Stream residents founded in 2001. Community well-being through conservation. 350,000 acres of 370,000 acre area are conserved. 33,000 acre community forest. Managed multi-use. Public funding was matched 6:1. They have a forest manager and are Forest Stewardship Council certified. They have established forest trails and water trails that connect families to the outdoors and create an environment that allows local businesses (guides and lodges) to be successful. This land trust project was high on the Forest Legacy list and received support in the state of Maine. The town of Grand Lake Stream appropriated \$40,000 to help the land trust. Lots of interest by various groups helped with this conservation effort. Broad sweep of agencies and programs. This is a positive example of collaborative conservation effort.	1

Comment	Question (1-4)
Forest Legacy is a great program. Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP) is a good program for managing endangered species, but could be broadened to cost-share on management plans. NRCS needs to expand the program without adding hooks and restrictions so that people run the other way.	1, 3
Economy is bad. Forced into looking for pots of Federal money. Some fit, some don't. Need flexibility. The need for federal match is a problem. It is hard to find the [non-federal] match. Don't have a lot of time. Endangered Species Act creates a different playing field for different industries in the state. Balancing act. Need a level playing field for industries and still protect species. Streamline the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 and Section 10. Development of ESA Conservation plans need to be coordinated by all agencies, e.g. USFWS and Marine Resources.	2, 3
It is hard to make money from growing trees. Pellets and chips are energy sources that we could encourage, but Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is an obstacle.	2
Nearly 1 million acres have been conserved and 10 million acres needs to be conserved for sustainable supply of wood. HFRP is very creative and enabling language allows it to be used beyond endangered species, but in Maine it is only Canada lynx. Look at that program to see how it could be used by industry for non-endangered species. Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP) allowed the use of University of Maine to do creative management planning. Private land conservation easements also work but can become a problem depending on the easement terms. HFRP may allow for protection of certain sensitive areas while giving landowners funds.	1, 2, 3
Need to look at common ground, breakdown distrust and work together with feds, especially financially. There is fear of fed involvement. How to get beyond. This meeting is a start. Private landowners are critical stakeholders here in Maine. Private ownership is good and should remain. As Land trust representative, when we take on an easement, the job has just begun to monitor and manage the land. Most easements now include stewardship funds, 5-10%. Fed programs should also allow land trust to hold the easements and build in stewardship funds. Forest Legacy and HFRP are good programs and need to be promoted.	1, 2
Came to Maine because private landowners can do what they want without regulation on their land. [I was asked not to come] What works is without federal intervention. We don't need the feds. Federal government can't do anything right. If you get involved, what are the regulations? Do we want to trust the feds in Maine? Around this room are the betrayed and the betrayal. The whole wildlife project is backed by the United Nations. Executive Order is part of wildlife policies. Look up on computer that the feds and United Nations are in this together. Federal government and the United Nations want to have a wildlife refuge from Maine to the Adirondacks. Head Water Project - land acquisition and land grabs. Conservation Easements want to have Public/private ownership. U.S. does not allow this, but land trusts are what that is.	2
Fed match grants are 50%, this hamstring efforts. 75% [fed]-25% is a better match. USFWS data is consistent with state agency but state data sets are not necessarily consistent within the state. Conflicts occur with what is on each type of maps and known species [location]. Hard line reading of the Clean Water Act hampers effective work. Beginning With Habitat program is not getting implementation funds so not getting down to the local planners in order to do the conservation planning. Funds have dried up. Need more funds for this.	2, 3

Comment	Question (1-4)
For achieving large scale conservation, the Feds have done a good job to get programs going but only have a trickle of funds. These programs are underfunded. Need to increase the money. Current Farm Bill has caps and that makes it harder to do river restoration projects.	2
Need to fully fund Land & Water Conservation Fund	2
Project SHARE focuses on salmon restoration. It is successful because we will put up with the process. So much process is associated with fiscal year funds, that it is hard to sustain long-term programs. Farm Bill - NRCS was key partner with WHIP in 2006 and 2007, but the new Farm Bill put cap \$50,000 per client per year, so the new laws prevent doing large dam replacement projects. It is a statutory obstacle. It would need a legislative fix, not a rule fix. The land has to be privately owned, it can't be state-owned. State owns land under dams.	1, 2
U.S. Forest Service State and Private Forestry grants have been reduced and that makes it hard to do the conservation work that needs to get done. They have changed from formula to competitive awards.	2
Maine has 7,000 farmers with \$800 million in products and they own 1.34 million acres which is 7% of the total land in Maine. Most of this land is open, but farmers do not receive one penny for keeping their land open. Farmers and landowners need incentives, such as paying landowners to keep their land open. Federal grants through Farm Bill Cost Share programs should do this.	3
Forest landowners produce the wildlife habitat which is the basis for wildlife economy. In Maine farmers can't charge for hunters to hunt on their land. Landowners do not benefit like the guides, etc. do. The NRCS programs can provide compensation such as keeping trees on their land that provide deer habitat. NRCS programs can give some compensation for this if programs are configured properly. Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife is mapping the knowledge of what we have for natural resources. This will give people info as to what we have and is the key to get people outdoors. Need more of this. Could the feds combine this info in one spot?	3
If we trained our replacements, we can double ourselves. Need mentors to double youth interest. Knowledge is lost because we haven't educated the youth in what we know about the natural resources. Youth leave Maine, make money then come back when they retire. [a deep concern for building constituency in conservation.]	2
Incorporate into curriculum at all grade levels experiential conservation education and environmental awareness.	3
Transportation for field trips gets cut, kids don't get outdoors.	3
Build buses that are affordable so we can get kids outside.	3
Promote the outdoors. Let's have a program called "No child left indoors". A lot of our volunteers come from such an education program. We need to push the youth outdoors. Most Maine jobs are outdoors, like forestry, fishing, and recreation. Keep the kids here by educating them as to what we have. We need value-added such as in the recreational activity, site-seeing, and furniture.	3
Need scholarships, transportation, and equipment to get kids outside. Maine has camps that the kids get the outdoor experiences and kids talk to their parents about their [outdoor] experiences.	3

Comment	Question (1-4)
The "Learning Results" Standards need to integrate Maine natural history in school. After school programs are an opportunity to give experience in conservation studies. Youth Conservation Corp (YCC) program is good and should be expanded to get more work done. We have 100+ land trusts that could use YCC for trail maintenance, etc.	3
The entity that wants to do conservation has the same permitting process as a developer. Feds should come up with a permitting process that is different for putting a dam in and taking a dam out. Good conservation and returning [the land] back to natural should be easier. Feds got together 4 or 5 years ago. Has anything been done?	4
U.S. Forest Service Community Forest and Open Space program is good. Land for Maine's Future Board is admirable in that they build in recreation development funds for a new easement owner, so they can go through a streamlined grant process to help put in trails. It is 5% of original grant. Feds should get the same thing.	4
Salmon River restoration program. Folks don't have a sense of what it was like before [the dams]. Need federal funds for broader education and outreach grants, and need people to care about these things. Also need funds to train landowners on habitat connectivity, such as how to install culverts right.	4
Nationally there are lots of special projects in the America's Great Outdoors web site. Getting here you should have noticed the sheer scale of forests and waterways in Maine. If one thing would help us move ahead, let the Maine woods be an example at the national level. Maine forests need to rise to the top of the list at the fed level.	4
Keep federal designation as part of the mix. For example, Umbagog National Wild Refuge [a federal designation] assisted the local partnership in obtaining an expansion of the area in conservation.	4
Amend the federal estate tax law. Right now we don't pay any estate tax. The current exemption will be reduced to 1 million dollars and over 1 million will be taxed at 55% in 2011. This will affect a lot of landowners and forests. A lot of land will change hands [because the financial tax burden may cause landowners to sell their property].	4
There is a decline in the fragments we have left of important [undisturbed] forests [in Maine]. Find the places that are natural and preserve them. On our watch, dedicate resources to preserve the best of Maine natural resources.	4
I would like to develop a trail from my land to the town. I need money, legal advice, state officials, and town officials.	3
Science - I am concerned about the effects of windmills on our viewshed. We have to use the science to camouflage the turbines. We need to do that with noise as well - use science in everything we do. The government needs to provide this science.	4
Invasive Species. Prevention and management is a large challenge. Education and outreach efforts regarding forest pests. There are not enough state resources. NGO's have to fill in were state and federal officials cannot.	1
All messages have to relate to local impacts so that people can identify with the NNIS problems.	4
Just not enough resource to be able to act quickly enough. The global economy also presents problems with NNIS.	2
Cooperative Agriculture Pest Survey grants work well	1
USFS Forest Health Programs work well.	1

Comment	Question (1-4)
We need support for federal legislation to address NNIS. Also we need support for the National Invasive Species Council. It insures that federal agencies work cooperatively. The Council started well, but it has suffered from lack of support	3
Large scale partnership efforts work. The Penobscot Restoration effort works because the people who started it had the long term goal. The Eastern Brook Trout and the National Fish Habitat Plan is floundering. These efforts have been supported by local agencies and efforts. We need federal support for these on the ground projects in habitat restoration.	1, 3
We need expertise from engineers, environmental engineers, fish passage engineers, etc. In Maine we do not have a large engineering staff and we need this help.	4
Lack of qualified and competent project managers. The Federal government in key to funding, but we need these funds to be somewhat flexible. It is difficult to weed through all the funding opportunities to find the right fit.	2, 3
There is more to Maine fisheries than Atlantic Salmon. We should look at all fish.	3
Fully fund the National Park System. We have 340,000 members in our Association. PLEASE fully fund the LWCF. There are many programs that are working - please fund them.	3
Look at non-traditional funding opportunities. Look at kids with obesity. Look at getting kids out of urban area and into the outdoors.	2
Some type of partnership between the Maine Woods and the National Park Service. There has to be a way to set aside a part of the Maine Woods to establish a National Park.	3
Conservation means all of us. We are all part of the reason that the oil spill happened. We can all make a difference.	2
Maine is a blessed place because of the huge expanse of landscape. The Great Maine woods needs to be protected as an important part of the East Coast.	4
As our population grows, we need to fully fund the National Parks as these are often the first places where kids get outdoors.	3
We need to connect kids, and diverse populations of kids, so that these people become our future stewards. Teacher Ranger Teacher, and Acadia Qwest both work well to encourage kids to get outdoors	1
We need to encourage advocacy, not have the federal agencies discourage advocacy.	2
RTCA and LWCF both work well and should be continued.	3
Fully fund LWCF. The state should get a portion of the LWCF. The Forest Legacy Program is working well. We are limited by the funding we can get even though we have far more forest than any other state.	2, 3
We need a New England Forest Management Plan - we need to start thinking large scale	4
Acadia is a magnet. That is working. 2.5 million visitors. Visits are up 20% this year. It is an economic engine for 3.5\$ million. It is also a magnet for 3000 volunteers.	1
Acadia is like Swiss Cheese. We have \$8,000,000 in land with willing sellers and we have only \$1,000,000 to purchase land.	2
No Child Left Behind SHOULD include outdoor education.	4
Grants and technical programs work well but need additional funding. For example, LWCF, the Rivers and Trails Program. There are many state, local and private funding that works.	3
The National Parks connect people to the land better than any other tool. There is nothing more important than supporting national parks and funding national parks. A Maine Woods National Park should be created.	1, 3

Comment	Question (1-4)
There are unique roles of the federal government. Making and enforcing rules and owning land is a unique function of the federal government. Existing Parks, Wildlife Refuges, and Forests need to be funded.	3
We need the Maine Woods National Park. Only 6% of Maine is in federal ownership. Only .09% is protected in Wilderness. These are some of the lowest percentages in the country. The Maine woods is under huge stress - biofuels, wind power, biomass are putting particular pressure on the Maine woods.	3
The Maine Woods National Park would be an economic engine, connect people to the land, and protect the north woods. The key is feasibility study that would look at the options and have an open public conversation and give a hard look at this possibility.	3
There is often much debate about creating a National Park, but there is almost unanimous support of a National Park once it has been established.	3
Our organization supports public access on private lands. Maine has a model to assure that private ownership supports private access.	1
Our Steelworkers Union also partners with the Sierra Club. It is called the Bluegreen Alliance. This is a good, working model.	1
Private Landowners Work. The reason environmentalists love Maine is because its residents have taken care of it for 400 years. Penthouse environmentalists don't really know Maine. In my lifetime, Maine has GAINED 77,000 acres a year. The addition of three townships of forests every year is the greatest carbon sink in the land. I can ride an ATV 100 miles on forests lands to the ocean. Private landowners make that possible.	1
Private ownership works. We are an outdoor people and landowners need help building more trails for snowmobiles and ATV's.	1, 2
We'd like the portion of the White Mountain National Forest back. Auction it off and give us the proceeds to build roads and trails.	4
Available federal funds to incentivize private owners to protect certain areas with particular resource values. For example, deer wintering yards.	3
We want environmental literacy legislation passed. Teachers need to get children outdoors. We need to be rewarding states that are doing this.	4
We provide landowners with conservation alternatives. We have conserved over 800,000 acres of easements. Maine has the largest contiguous forest land east of the Mississippi.	1
We have a successful partnership of a town of 300 people and the state and Forest Legacy Fund. The State owns the land, but the Town leases. Partnerships are the key to success.	1
Some federal grants require matching funds that preclude some really small projects.	2
Protecting environmental values, maintain traditional uses, and strengthen the rural economy - these are the three most important goals for Maine's forests.	1
Reward risk-taking in federal and state organizations. A failed risk should not be a career-ending decision.	3
Solve the most important problems through creative solutions. We need flexible programs and flexible solutions.	3
Allow the Sec of Interior and Agriculture to take risk and fund the most important projects first. Invest and learn.	3
Dealing with private lands is Gifford Pinchot's unfinished business. "Keeping Maine's Forest" is a good, working model.	1
We don't have time to protect forests. We must be nimble and come up with solutions now.	2

Comment	Question (1-4)
Although the local grade school had great natural resource education, the high school had budget cuts eliminate natural resource education. Our school standards do not require that students learn local biology - where a student lives and the student's relationship with biology.	2
Pharmaceuticals damage the environment. We have collected nearly a ton of un-used medications and disposed of them properly. This was fist funded by the federal government, but that money has run out. The State has back filled funds, but the money has run out. This needs to be fully funded.	2, 3
Fully fund the LWCF. The Allagash River is a special place. Participated with people of Maine's Forests, Penobscot River RP, Land use Conservation Fund. Canoeed the Allagash Waterway- It is a huge success, but it's a narrow strip. It needs more protection. <a href="http://www.nrcm.org/">http://www.nrcm.org/</a>	2
Student Conservation Association is wonderful program that provides jobs and experience in the woods. Entry level jobs in natural resources are very difficult. Build on the SCA or Americorps models for more advanced level jobs. This will keep people working in these types of jobs all across US.	1
Loves Maine and loves the world. Is a researcher. Struck by opening panel's emphasis on working forest and that the panel emphasized motorized recreation. Panel should have represented activities where humans tread lightly. Those areas are as important as working forests for our heritage and need to be emphasized.	2
We're not talking much about the ocean, but it is a part of our great outdoors. Willingness to innovate, which means taking risk. You don't always succeed but it's important to innovate and take risks. We need to evolve. Maybe all of our natural areas aren't perfect (e.g., gravel pit in natural area), but it got us to "yes." It's easy to say no, but that is not innovative. Penobscot project involved not asking for a lot of permission until they had something to show for the work they'd done. Project didn't only look at fish and river restoration but allowed the hydro work.	1
Models for future of Maine could be Florida now, Presidio, perhaps Chesapeake Bay. Takes people with common goals to work together. Should look at all resources throughout Maine and find best administrative structures to make everything come together. Going after individual pots of money from Feds may work, but larger line items need to be in the President's budget for a large variety of projects. Could be for ski trails, snow mobile trails. Need LWCF funds to finish acquisition of land at Acadia NP. "Finish" the Penobscot project. Scuitick Fish facility needs to be funded to educate young people and do research. Give serious consideration to implementing Keeping Maine Forests.	3, 4
Bought land for conservation. Worked with paper company to get the land but there were no incentives to keep land in conservation. Interest rate for land is 8% (high). A low interest rate program for people who want to buy land for conservation would be great. Private landowners don't get tax credits large corporations get so they have to think about changing how they manage their land (conservation vs. economic). Everyone needs to look at KMF website.	4

Comment	Question (1-4)
It's incredible how far wildlife conservation has come in the last 30 years. Conservation must be tied to economic development. Been in business for 25 years, and not considered viable operation by the bank. SBA loan is way too lengthy to be efficient (his was 6 inches thick). There must be benefit to local community for eco-businesses. Forest product industry is suffering in parts of State. Recreation is an industry in Maine and that needs to be recognized.	2
Wants to speak to urban end of spectrum. The mentality of people in Bangor that have camps don't think of conservation in the city. Not everyone has a car so it's important to have outdoor recreation opportunities in the city. #1 problem is finding funds for land acquisition. Stewardship and invasive species. Purple loosestrife is creeping along in the city. Don't have resources and guidance in how to deal with invasives and climate change. Need help. When do you fight and when do you resign self? Environmental literacy thread running through school programs is needed. Our agendas need to be in other branches of the government. Transportation corridors. Planning should involve how project will reduce sprawl. Need good overall philosophy on how to deal with invasives.	2
Need to deliver on promise of LWCF. National parks are America's best idea, but at Acadia it is unfinished. Need to follow through. Acadia is how I developed my love of the outdoors. There are 130 unpurchased parcels.	3
Manage 1 million acres of forest in Maine. He tried to get working forest in the KMF initiative. Private landownership works. Maine worker is an endangered species sometimes. Try to find ways to help us. Not sure federal money is a great thing, but could work on inheritance tax relief. Now people have to liquidate crop they grew or sell. Capital gains treatment has to be preserved for purchase timber off lands. Bank rates are phenomenal (bad). Feds could be careful with regulations. Broad brush impacts mills, foresters negatively. Land for Maine Future is a tremendous program. Straightforward conservation easements are excellent. Feds don't need to own much land to 'preserve.' Land needs to be in production.	1, 2, 3
What is landscape scale conservation? Islands are not urban or rural. LWCF and partnerships are important. 2 million people per year go to park and expect undeveloped views of islands. Like to see administration help us create partnerships that don't stymie progress. Trust fund, challenge fund for citizens by Fed Government instead of something tied to appropriations. Desert Island bus is a great partnership but need more bicycle lanes, more funding for gateway community to make area safe. Friends group is not allowed to lobby because of 501(c)3 regulations. That is not fair. Should be able to advocate.	2, 3
We live within 8 hours of 30 million people. Keep protected. His group is focused on resource extraction. Logs going to Canada and gravel going to Europe. People don't want to see clearcuts. Be wise about shipping raw materials out. Windmills are not going to improve economic development and tourists won't like to see them around every corner.	4
Pleased to see Presidential Initiative. Reagan had them. But particularly pleased with reaching broadly to all. Other documents from other initiatives can be challenging to use and should be provided to legislatures. Can lessons learned here be used to educate lawmakers as a whole to improve funding to Fed agencies that can benefit State programs?	4

Comment	Question (1-4)
<p>We manage 1.1 million acres. Landscape planning scares hell out of him because others are deciding what land should be. Northern Maine is in good condition. Different land holdings have different objectives and when someone from the outside says what the vision should be is wrong. When you leave it to private ownership the mosaic is more diverse. Work should not be in north woods, it should be south of Augusta due to environmental issues that need to be addressed. Conservation easements are not worth it because landowners are dictated to by what they can do. Generationally, you have to focus on youth. No interest in the outdoors for visiting. We're doing a good job in North woods, but leave us alone.</p>	1, 2
<p>Penobscot is shining light of what can be done. 5 years ago they could do a trip and catch lots of striped bass and make a living guiding. Now there are none. The coast of Maine north of Kennebec is in trouble. In a few years things are going to be awesome. My business has declined 60% in last 5 years because of no stripers. People don't want to go north to freshwater fish when on the coast. I invested more in my business, bought bigger boat to chase tuna. Have to go 40 miles offshore - is dangerous. I want striped bass back. Chesapeake Bay is overfished/ mismanaged and the stripers there make up those that travel to Maine. Fed Government has not managed them well. There should be no commercial harvest of striped bass on the East Coast. Fed Government allows fishery for menhaden, which is the most important fish of sea. Only fish that eats red tide algae. If menhaden came to GOM there would be no algae. Feds need to find money to remove dams. Memo only mentioned fishing and hunting briefly, flowery language. I fear this agenda is only about watching, preserving, skiing. Need to allow recreation for all Americans.</p>	1, 2, 3
<p>We're in a key moment as Senate votes on oil spill bills. LWCF, Forest Legacy Fund have been great. Maine is an excellent place to use Fed funds due to prices. Want to see sense of spirit Congress had in enacting this legislation. See continue to focus on whole ecosystems. Fragmentation is a problem. Whole communities of interest for partnerships. Maine Forest Biodiversity Project worked together years ago. State's Land Fund program is a coalition that benefits the environment. It comes out of common sense - Maine has always made sure forests were taken care of. We've had engineers from China come to see Penobscot project. Keeping Maine's Forests is a discussion, not a final report. Economics have also been linked to the project. We need Fed participation in KMF program. There is a ton of work ahead not done by email, or a meeting every 6 months. A lot of people are talking about what the forest industry needs. This didn't happen 10 years ago. Conservation groups understand now that everyone needs to work together.</p>	1, 3
<p>Working forests specifically mean fiber extraction. Loggers are Master Logger certified and are very aware of land they are working on.</p>	1
<p>Maine has some of the best resources anywhere. Acadia NP is paramount and beautiful. It needs support. Needs LWCF to be made whole. The non-profits are working with landowners to acquire land. Linkages in landscapes, Appalachian Trail are important. Fed Government could look at the new models of partnerships. Feds can facilitate a process for partnership without being a landowner. DOI and USDA could work with the State to develop a "7th Generation" view.</p>	3
<p>Working south of Augusta...we have really cool projects in the region. Many land trusts are thinking smartly already. Trails...setting up easements for trail maintenance is important. Endangered Species Act is contentious about what it can do and fear of what it will do. Habitat Conservation Plans should be better used.</p>	1, 2

Comment	Question (1-4)
<p>Haven't heard much about work in southern Maine to protect coastal estuaries. NAWCA, Coastal Program (FWS) people are incredibly helpful. Appraisal process with FWS is a stumbling block. Recovery Act funding to protect buffers were great. We have to piece these things together, though. Make sure that land trusts know they can reach out to FWS Regional Office in Hadley, MA. NAWCA grant limits to a 1:1 match. If you have a \$6 million match you can only get \$1 million which is disadvantageous. Set priorities each year regionally that can move around to get more funding. NOAA should have been involved in this process.</p>	2, 3
<p>Private land works because it is treated like public land. It's better than Federal land. Can't take my son to a trout pond and catch limit. Roads everywhere. We have a mosaic of many landowners with many different objectives. There is no one solution for every acre. Nothing nicer than having a protected preserve next to your property. We might need fed land to keep our traditions due to increased access. I disagree that youth doesn't go into forest because of electronics. I have 6 kids. The Federal No Child Left Behind law is keeping kids out of nature. Just put it into the curriculum so it's required by teachers to incorporate it. Assessment drives instruction.</p>	2, 4
<p>5th generation slate miner. It's been taken for granted the resources we have. Over the last 10 years, things have changed. The percentage of people that could stay and make a living is rapidly declining. Keep knowledge base that we've developed here.</p>	2
<p>The Maine Youth Fish and game Association spends time with kids doing traditional outdoor activities. Have summer camp for 2 weeks.</p>	1
<p>Not sure whether or not a national park would be in the best interest in the area, but those in the business should be because we only need to look at Ellsworth or Bar Harbor to see the benefits of this. Those in business only have to look at those and see that it works. We only have to look at the work resulting to see that it will create jobs. I would rather keep the woods the woods. When you go into the real woods, which none of us see anyone, you can really see the benefit of seeing the great woods intact, not just for ourselves but for all the creatures.</p>	1
<p>Strongly in favor of north wood national park. It's one of the last largest semi wilderness areas east of the Mississippi left and it's a shame to see it being exploited by the timber industry. To my knowledge there is no national park in this country that wasn't controversial in the community in which it was proposed. That applies to Maine and what I would ask is there is great misunderstanding about what activities can and can't occur within a national park; it's up to the designation document that speaks to what can occur in the national park and Maine citizens are very ignorant about that. Having the Dept. of interior come and give public hearings around the state about the national park process and what can and can't occur in a national park (for example hunting and fishing can occur). But public doesn't know about that. I would thank Obama for holding a session such as this.</p>	4