

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To provide greater regional access to the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in the State of Maine, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. KING introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide greater regional access to the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in the State of Maine, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Katahdin Woods and
5 Waters National Monument Access Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **AUTHORIZED ACQUISITION AREA.**—The
9 term “authorized acquisition area” means the des-
10 ignated area outside the boundary of the National

1 Monument depicted as “Authorized Acquisition
2 Area” on the map entitled “Katahdin Woods and
3 Waters National Monument Proposed Boundary Ad-
4 justment”, numbered 686/193,181 and dated March
5 2024.

6 (2) NATIONAL MONUMENT.—The term “Na-
7 tional Monument” means the Katahdin Woods and
8 Waters National Monument in the State of Maine
9 established by the Proclamation.

10 (3) PROCLAMATION.—The term “Proclama-
11 tion” means Presidential Proclamation Number
12 9476, dated August 24, 2016 (54 U.S.C. 320301
13 note).

14 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
15 the Secretary of the Interior.

16 **SEC. 3. ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL LAND FOR NATIONAL**
17 **MONUMENT.**

18 (a) BOUNDARY.—The boundaries of the National
19 Monument shall be the boundaries established by the
20 Proclamation.

21 (b) ACQUISITION.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
23 the Secretary may acquire, by purchase from a will-
24 ing seller, donation, or exchange, land or interests in
25 land within the authorized acquisition area.

1 (2) PROHIBITION ON USE OF EMINENT DO-
2 MAIN.—Nothing in this Act authorizes the use of
3 eminent domain to acquire land or an interest in
4 land.

5 (c) TREATMENT OF ACQUIRED LAND; BOUNDARY
6 ADJUSTMENT.—On acquisition by the Secretary of any
7 land pursuant to subsection (b)—

8 (1) the land shall be included in the National
9 Monument; and

10 (2) the boundaries of the National Monument
11 shall be adjusted accordingly.

12 **SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION OF NATIONAL MONUMENT.**

13 (a) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall admin-
14 ister the National Monument (including the land added
15 to the National Monument under this Act) in accordance
16 with—

17 (1) this Act;

18 (2) the Proclamation; and

19 (3) the laws generally applicable to units of the
20 National Park System.

21 (b) HUNTING, FISHING, AND OUTDOOR RECREATION
22 ON ACQUIRED LAND.—The Secretary shall allow hunting,
23 fishing, or any other outdoor recreation activity on land
24 acquired pursuant to section 3(b)—

1 (1) if that activity was in existence on the day
2 before the date of acquisition of the land; and

3 (2) consistent with the management of that ac-
4 tivity under the Proclamation.

5 (c) COLLECTION OF FIDDLEHEAD FERNS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
7 the Secretary shall allow the gathering by hand of
8 fiddlehead ferns (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*) in the
9 National Monument for noncommercial personal use
10 and consumption by the general public.

11 (2) LIMITATION.—If the Secretary determines
12 that the gathering of fiddlehead ferns (*Matteuccia*
13 *struthiopteris*) under paragraph (1) may adversely
14 affect resources of the National Monument, the Sec-
15 retary may limit the gathering of fiddlehead ferns
16 (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*) under that paragraph in
17 accordance with applicable regulations.

18 (d) PUBLIC EDUCATION.—In accordance with the
19 mission of the National Park Service, the Secretary shall
20 collaborate with local communities and Tribal govern-
21 ments to educate the public regarding the natural environ-
22 ment and history of land management in the National
23 Monument, including the shaping of that landscape by Na-
24 tive communities and practices, successive generations of
25 timber management, and other activities.

1 (e) FORESTRY.—In accordance with the management
2 plan for the National Monument, the Secretary may con-
3 duct such noncommercial timber harvests as the Secretary
4 determines to be necessary.

5 (f) PROTECTION OF EXISTING ACCESS.—Nothing in
6 this Act affects valid existing rights, including existing
7 rights of access through the National Monument for the
8 removal of timber outside the boundaries of the National
9 Monument.

10 (g) PUBLIC SAFETY.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
12 to the public appropriate safety education and notifi-
13 cation materials to ensure safe interactions between
14 visitors and logging trucks, equipment, and oper-
15 ations on roads in or adjacent to the National
16 Monument.

17 (2) PROCEDURES.—The Secretary shall collabo-
18 rate with affected stakeholders to establish proce-
19 dures to meet the needs of visitors to the National
20 Monument, logging and trucking operations, and
21 other users of roads in or adjacent to the National
22 Monument to ensure safe interactions between active
23 logging operations and visitors.

1 **SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATIVE SITES AND VISITOR FACILITIES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—To facilitate the administration of
3 the National Monument, the Secretary may acquire, by
4 purchase from a willing seller, donation, or exchange, not
5 more than 10 acres of land or interests in land, including
6 improvements, for the administration of the National
7 Monument and visitor services outside the boundaries, but
8 within the vicinity, of the National Monument.

9 (b) AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into
10 agreements with State of Maine, units of Tribal or local
11 government, or private entities—

12 (1) to carry out this section; and

13 (2) to develop a cooperative information center
14 for the National Monument.