

# WOODS & WATERS ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Dear Friends,

In 2019, we celebrated a year of threes and accomplished so much in the three main pillars of our strategic plan: visitation, infrastructure, and revitalization. In 2020, much of that good work continued, and in the upheaval of a pandemic, we created new space for new relationships and priorities to take root and grow.

As spring came to life, we found common cause and resilience through the inspiration of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument and the surrounding communities. The national monument, with some of the darkest night skies east of the Mississippi River, provided light to guide us forward. On May 8, 2020, these exceptional night skies were recognized with the designation of the "International Dark Sky Sanctuary" at Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. It is the first such designation on the eastern seaboard of the United States and only the 12th in the world.

While we spent much of the year connecting remotely to build community strength and move forward, we also gave time and space to present-day contexts inextricable from the land we support. This landscape, where the waterways of the Wassataquoik, Seboeis, and East Branch of the Penobscot run, is the traditional territory of the Penobscot Nation, and sacred land to the Wabanaki Nations, including the Aroostook Band of Micmacs, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, Passamaquoddy at Sipayik, Passamaquoddy at Motahkomikuk, Penobscot Indian Nation, and Wolastoqiyik and Mi'kmaq of the Canadian Maritimes. In acknowledging the nations that live in relationship to these lands, we here at Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters commit ourselves to the necessary reflection about the ongoing legacy of colonialism in institutions like our own. New Moon Teachings, a webinar series conceptualized in 2020 and taking place monthly in 2021, is an early expression of our commitment to centering Wabanaki people in helping to shape narratives about this landscape.

In this booklet, our second Annual Report for Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters, we'll provide updates on last year's work on the three pillars of our strategic plan — visitation, infrastructure, and revitalization — and recap a year unlike any other.

Thank you for all you did to make 2020 everything that it was and for your continued support as we look forward to fulfilling our mission for the inspiration and enjoyment of all generations. The work of this organization is made possible through your time, talents, and treasures.

Molly Ross, Board President

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### Andrew Bossie, Executive Director

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Cover photo: Stars Over Katahdin, by James E. Francis, Sr. (Penobscot); Opposite: Whetstone Bridge on the East Branch of the Penobscot River.

### visitation

One of the great joys of 2020 was welcoming visitors to Katahdin Woods and Waters, as well as some of the folks who moved here to work and enjoy the Katahdin Region year-round. Throughout this annual report, you'll see a series of Q & As with new staff members of the National Park Service.

While it was a challenging year to support visitation, people flocked to open spaces to experience the rejuvenation of the north Maine woods. Unable to gather large groups of people in the monument, we worked to bring the monument home to you. In April, we put together a "digital care package," which included videos, multimedia, podcasts, and reading to offer folks a connection to the land.

We continued to produce the visitation materials provided in previous years, printing and distributing an updated version of the Loop Road Interpretive Map, a second edition version of the Dark Sky Guide, and the Bird Checklist. For those paddlers who were interested in ground-truthing maps of the East Branch of the Penobscot, Seboeis, and Wassataquoik, we shared draft copies of the Three Rivers Paddling Guide (a working title).

For those who have made the trip to the monument, or even considered the trip, you know that sometimes the best maps and guides can't accommodate all that is new or evolving about the national monument, and so our staff have done what we can to support the park service through personal outreach with our members and supporters. If you're planning a trip, we're here to help.

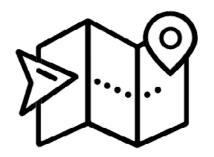
Sam Deeran, Deputy Director

WE HAVE SEEN AN INCREASE IN VISITATION EACH YEAR SINCE THE MONUMENT WAS ESTABLISHED. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING THAT TREND AND WE ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO FIND THEIR PARK AT KATAHDIN WOODS AND WATERS NATIONAL MONUMENT."

- TIM HUDSON, SUPERINTENDENT

Above: Paddlers on the Seboeis River.

#### 2020 VISITATION STATISTICS



41,000 VISITORS TO KATAHDIN WOODS AND WATERS NATIONAL MONUMENT

SPENDING IN NEARBY COMMUNITIES SUPPORTED 38 JOBS





\$3.3 MILLION CUMULATIVE BENEFIT TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Visitation statistics courtesy of the National Park Service press release shared on June 10, 2021. The report, and other interactive tools, are available at <a href="mailto:nps.gov/subjects/socialscience/vse.htm">nps.gov/subjects/socialscience/vse.htm</a>

### **JEANNE ROY**

Interpretation and Education Program Manager Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument

Q: How long have you worked for NPS?
A: I started working as a volunteer in 2002 at Pipe Spring National Monument in Arizona. Nearly 20 years and 11 more NPS sites later, I've worked a total of about 17.5 years for the park service as a volunteer, intern and paid employee.

Q: What's your favorite place in the national monument?

A: I haven't explored the whole monument yet, but so far I've most enjoyed the trip to Orin Falls.

Q: What's your favorite outdoor activity? A: A highlight of my return to the northeast has been seeing lightning bugs again. I love to be by water and hope to get the chance to paddle in the monument soon.



### infrastructure

In the gateway communities of the national monument, we provided financial support to rent two visitor contact stations for the National Park Service, one at the Lumberman's Museum in Patten and one on Penobscot Avenue in Millinocket. Since early in the days of our partnership with the park service, we have provided rent-free office space and accommodations for the park staff at the "Patten House" in downtown Patten. Each winter, we fund snow plowing to the northern gate of the monument, creating access for winter recreationists.

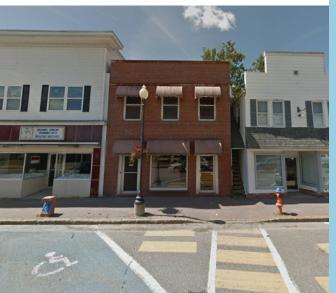
In 2020, as the growing park service established itself within their offices and new roles, we renewed our focus to what we could do within the boundaries of the national monument. Thanks to reserved rights held by Elliotsville Foundation, Inc. (the operating non-profit established by the Quimby-St. Clair family), there was work we could jump to quickly to develop new camp sites. Working with CES, Inc. (now Haley Ward), and empowered by an early gift from L.L. Bean, we secured further funding from the National Park Foundation and the Roxanne Quimby Foundation to build new tent sites by the historic Lunksoos Camps. The project was largely quiet in the virtual days of 2020, though, as of the printing of this annual report, the seven new tent sites have become a reality. We worked through concept schematics that featured two group sites and five single-party sites, including an ADA accessible site. The National Park Service supported the project with their valuable consultation and by installing a new vault toilet near the facilities. The tent sites, accessible by road and river, improve overnight opportunities for families, school groups, and recreationists of all types.

In late 2020, the park service and Friends co-hosted virtual public meetings to share early drafts of the park's Management Framework. In the years to come, further development and protection of the monument's natural and cultural resources will largely be guided by the Management Framework and the Foundation Document.

Andrew Bossie, Executive Director

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Left to right: the visitor contact station at 200 Penobscot Ave in Millinocket, the visitor contact station at the Lumbemen's Museum in Patten, the Patten House; Opposite: site plans for the Lunksoos Tent Sites project.







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"FRIENDS IS DOING WHAT FRIENDS GROUPS DO

BEST, GIVING THE MONUMENT A MARGIN OF

EXCELLENCE BEYOND WHAT THE PARK SERVICE

- W. KENT OLSON, FORMER CEO & PRESIDENT

CAN ACCOMPLISH ALONE."

OF FRIENDS OF ACADIA



**DEWEY LOFT** 

PICNIC / FIRE A

Maintenance Supervisor

Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument

Q: How long have you worked for NPS?

A: I have worked for government agencies for the last 12 years, 10 of which were for the National Park Service.

Q: What's your favorite place in the national monument?

A: My favorite place in the monument so far is the confluence of the Seboeis River and East Branch of the Penobscot River. So Big Seboeis campsite I suppose.

Q: What's your favorite outdoor activity? A: Favorite outdoor activity is hiking to an awesome swimming hole.



**LUNKSOOS TENTSITES** 

**GRAPHIC SCALE** 

# revitalization

Below: Students from Katahdin Elementary show off the results of their fall season nature bingo; Opposite: Students match colors to natural objects.



This was certainly a year to remember for our revitalization efforts in the Katahdin Region! 2020 started off better than ever for our youth education program, the Katahdin Learning Project; between visits to local schools and eight days of cross-country skiing in the monument as a part of Head North Ski Days, we had more than 1,300 student engagements by March — about the same number we had in the entire 18/19 school year! After our last visit to the monument in March, we quickly pivoted our programs and supported teachers and classes through virtual teacher lounges and classroom visits.

One of the most incredible parts of this year was a new program that we were able to support through a partnership with Wabanaki Youth in Science: Maine's first Ancestral Lands Trail Crew! We spent 10 weeks supporting the work of the Ancestral Lands Trail Crew as they built new ADA-accessible trails in the monument and conducted archaeological digs with the Penobscot Nation's Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.

In the fall, while school trips were still on hold, we brought the monument out into local communities. We made weekly visits to Katahdin Elementary School and Southern Aroostook Community School, leading programs on everything from beavers to erosion and maple trees. These school visits were such a success that we're planning on continuing them as a regular part of our programs each winter and spring when the monument is harder to reach.

Although this has been a strange year, it's still been one of growth! In addition to the incredible volunteers who make this program happen, Scarlet McAvoy joined us during the summer as a seasonal place-based educator and Will Tjeltveit joined us in May as an AmeriCorps Stewards VISTA. We also began work on a three-year strategic framework, taking advantage of the lapse in frequent programs to focus on sustaining these programs for the long haul. The strategic framework, finished in spring 2021, is available now on our website!

Kala Rush, Education Director

Kala Rush

Will Tjeltveit, AmeriCorps VISTA



## happenings

2020 was a year in which many of us—at Friends, in the Katahdin Region, in Maine, and beyond—came to truly understand the value of community. As we adapted to Zoom screens, webinars, and virtual happy hours, we mourned the loss of most of our everyday personal interactions and special occasions.

At Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters, we did our best to sustain our community in all the ways we could connect and gather. More than ever, people sought experiences in nature, including in the monument itself. For those who couldn't make it to Maine or to Katahdin Woods and Waters, we brought the monument to you through webinars and virtual events, personal outreach, and rallying around our common love for this special place.

While we weren't toasting an anniversary together under a tent or gazing at stars through the same telescope, we brought people together through shared experience and common cause. Through our screens and usually-working internet connections, we held our Friends close in spirit and looked eagerly forward to brighter days ahead.

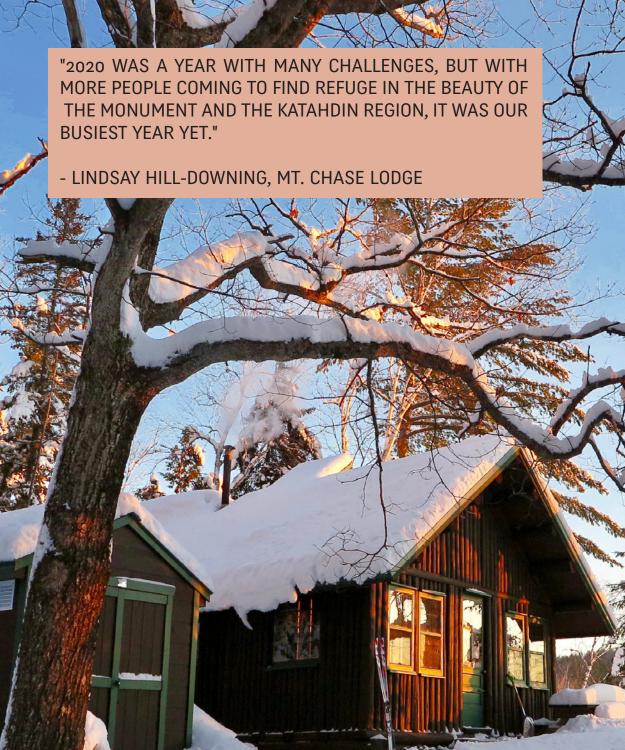
Meghan Cooper, Development Manager

HEAD NORTH SKI DAYS

Maglan Cooper

Head North Ski Days marked the last in-person gathering for Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters in 2020 before COVID-19 struck Maine in full force. Friends staff hosted a public ski and snowshoe day, and the Katahdin Learning Project hosted 8 school groups and brought over 159 students into the monument on skis and snowshoes during the first two weeks of March.





### **ISABEL ASHTON**

Integrated Resource Program Manager Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument

Q: How long have you worked for NPS? A: 13 years

Q: What's your favorite place in the national monument?

A: I still have too many places to visit to have a favorite, but I enjoy the Seboeis Unit for the good views, reliable moose sightings, and solitude.

Q: What's your favorite outdoor activity? A: With the right clothing and bug spray, I enjoy most outdoor activities. My favorites are cross-country skiing, surfing, hiking, and long-distance swimming.





## happenings

### 4th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

While the Friends community was unable to gather in person to mark the occasion of the 4th Anniversary of Katahdin Woods and Waters, members and supporters stepped up in appreciation of the monument's birthday and all gifts from nature during a tumultuous year. Meeting and exceeding a donor challenge match of \$12,000, the Friends community raised nearly \$30,000 to support FKWW operations year-round, and we all raised a glass to 4 years of progress and to the hope of being back together in person in 2021.

#### STARS OVER KATAHDIN

While still occurring in a virtual space, the 2020 Stars Over Katahdin webinar, in partnership with Dark Sky Maine, marked the largest event—live or virtual—that Friends has held to date, with over 500 registrants. A panel of speakers shared presentations on constellations and dark sky viewing, Micmac star stories, and dark sky protection. Attendees even enjoyed a musical guest performance!

### WOODS & WATERS Q & A

As we adjusted to the "new normal," and the many pivots of 2020, Friends hosted two summer webinars to provide new perspectives on Katahdin Woods and Waters. The first, discussing the confluence of conservation and business in Maine and beyond, featured Executive Chairman Shawn Gorman and CEO Steve Smith of L.L. Bean, as well as Friends board member Lucas St. Clair, and was moderated by Executive Director Lise Aangeenbrug of the Outdoor Industry Association. The second webinar discussed leadership, the creation of Katahdin Woods and Waters, and the intersections of private industry, philanthropy, and the common good. This webinar featured Roxanne Quimby and former REI President and CEO and Former U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell.



Above: the summer view of Lynx Pond (moose not included); Opposite: Observer at from the Mile 6.4 Overlook by Jamie Walter. To watch the two 2020 Woods & Waters Q & As, visit the Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters YouTube channel.

# gratitude

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James Peavey Elizabeth Peters Daniel Pickard

Christopher & Margaret Pickles

Lisa & Russ Pierce Graham Pingree Lisa Pohlmann Bill & Carol Pond **Brad Porter** 

Brownie Carson & Dana Porter

Tod Price

Emily Prud'homme

Lynn Rampacek Susan Ramsey Earl Raymond Jim Robbins Mat Robedee

Heather Roberson Marie Robinson

Jere Leary & Rita Rogers Mary-Margaret Roseberry Deb & Don\* Rountree

Alan Rowsome

Mike Fitz & Jeanne Roy Nancy & Walter Ruark

Anne Rush

Patricia & Stanley Rusk Mark & Wende Sairio

David Salmon Theodore Sattler Judy Sawin

Jane Danforth & James Schneider

Laura Sebastianelli

Sharon McHold & Tom Settlemire

Andrew Shaw

Andrew Flanagan & Susan Sheehan

Sarah Short Bart Simon

Joyce & Mickey Sirota

Jeff Smith

Tracy Snow-Cormier Beth Solomon Howard Solomon

Ken & Susanne Spalding

George St. Clair Cheryl & Kirk St. Peter

Jym St. Pierre Heidi & Ted Steele Milton Stein

Andrea Perry & Toby Stephenson

Beth & Brian Sterner

Mike Sucy Andrew Sullivan Joseph & Nancy Sullivan

Kristen Sykes

Betsi Taylor

Kathy Taylor

Simon Thompson

Linda & Steuart Thomsen

Lenore Tipping

Andy Tolman

Joel Tompkins

Diana McDowell & Terry Towne

Sara Trafton

Paul Travis

Ethan Tremblay

Waino Tuominen

Catherine Turner

Helen Turner,

in memory of John S. Dilday, Jr.

Evan Twarog

Bev Uhlenhake

David & June Vail

Eben Sypitkowski & Lucy Van Hook

Jenny Ward

Mary Anne Clancy & David Whalen

Kay White

Kim White

**Bob Whyte** 

Catherine Wiejaczka

Fran & Jim Willard

Fred & Sally Williams

Katharine Wojcik

Monique Wolanin

William Wood

Debbie & Dick Woodbury

Kara Wooldrik

Kate Ziminsky

Lynne & Roger Zimmerman

We make every attempt to provide an accurate listing of donors and volunteers. If we have omitted your name or if other changes should be made, please contact us at (207) 808 - 0020 and we will correct your record immediately.

# FOUNDATIONS, BUSINESSES, and ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERS

Amazon Smile Foundation

Appalachian Mountain Club

**Bob Crewe Foundation** 

**Boothbay Brewery** 

Burt's Bees

Cornelia Cogswell Rossi Foundation

Davis Conservation Foundation

Ellis Family Market

Havana Restaurant

Jessie D. Bullens-Crewe Foundation

Jonathan Stein Charitable Fund

Katahdin Trust

Kieve Wavus Education

L.L. Bean

Lee Auto Malls

Lennox Foundation

Maine Beer Company

Maine Woods Forever

Mt. Chase Lodge

National Park Foundation

National Park Trust

National Parks Conservation Association

Natural Resources Council of Maine

Onion Foundation

Overhills Foundation

Patagonia Works

Pisces Foundation

Quimby Family Foundation

Richardson's Hardware

Roger N. Heald Fund

S.A. Hutnak & Associates, LLC

Samuel Freeman Charitable Trust

Scott & Jessica McClintock Foundation

Sewall House Yoga Retreat

Shelburne Farms Resources

Small Business Administration

Veverka Family Foundation

The VIA Agency

VP Kelly Fund

The Wilderness Society

#### IN-KIND GIFTS

Bangor Daily News
Down East Magazine
John Meader
Norman, DeHanson, & Troy
Molly Ross
Chris Shane
David Still II
Jamie Walter

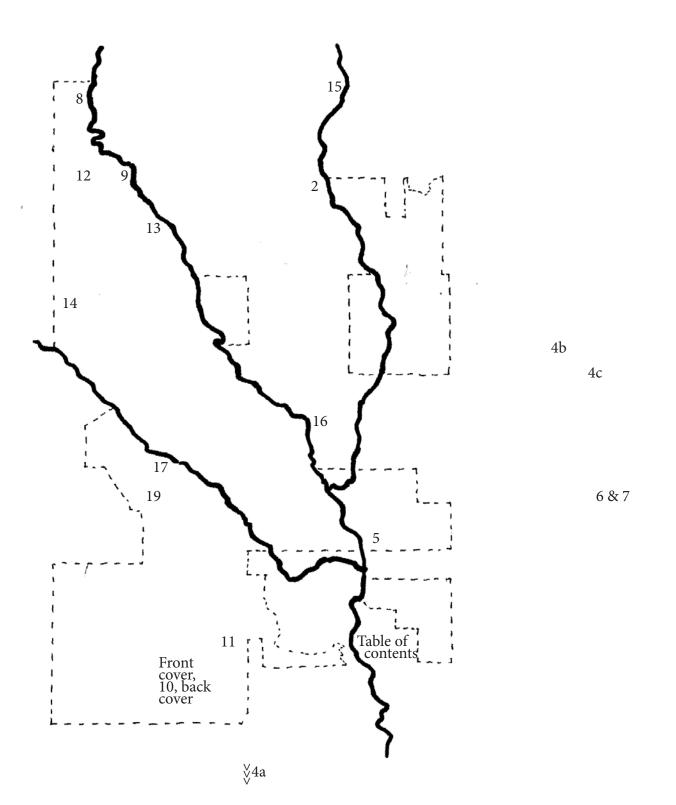
Taylor Walker

#### THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteers were an integral part of the following committees, programs, and events. We're grateful to all those who have contributed to this meaningful work for the benefit of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument and the surrounding communities.

Board of Directors
Dark Sky Maine
Development Committee
Executive Committee
Finance Committee
Governance Committee
Head North Ski Days
Katahdin Learning Project programming
Planning Team for the Katahdin Learning Project
Lands & Connectivity Committee
Mailing Appeals
Stars Over Katahdin
Steering Committee

Want to become more involved in volunteering with Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters? Send us an email at info@friendsofkww.org!



### PHOTO LOCATIONS & CREDITS

Front Cover - Mile 6.4 Overlook by

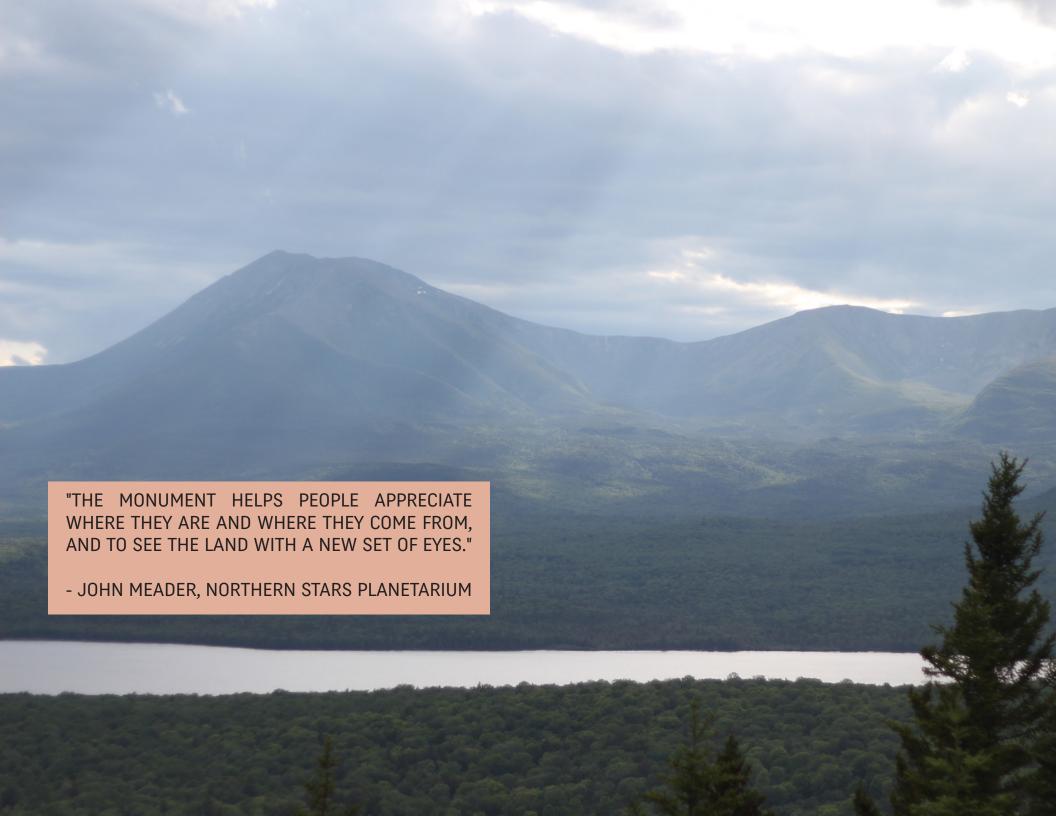
James E. Francis, Sr. (Penobscot)

Table of contents - Whetstone Bridge

- 2 Seboeis River north of the Philpott Bridge
- 4a the visitor contact station in Millinocket
- 4b the visitor contact station at the Lumberman's Museum in Patten
- 4c Patten House
- 5 Lunksoos Tent Sites
- 6 & 7 Katahdin Elementary School
- 8 The North Gate
- 9 Haskell Hut by Hope Rowan
- 10 Mile 6.4 Overlook by Jamie Walter
- 11 Lynx Pond
- 12 Haskell Gate looking north to Bald Mt.
- 13 Grand Pitch Lean-to
- 14 The Lookout
- 15 Grand Pitch on the Seboeis River
- 16 View from Fiske Brook Campsite
- 17 Orin Falls
- 19 Katahdin from Barnard Mt.

Back cover - Mile 6.4 Overlook

Note: Photo locations are approximated on this hand-drawn map. For more detailed location info, we suggest using the Katahdin Woods and Waters Trail Map, by Map Adventures, available for purchase at <a href="https://www.friendsofkww.org/shop">www.friendsofkww.org/shop</a>



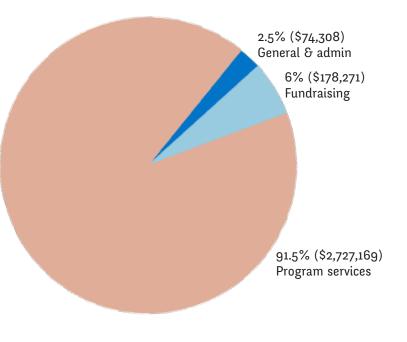
# **finances**

### Statement of Financial Position - December 31, 2020

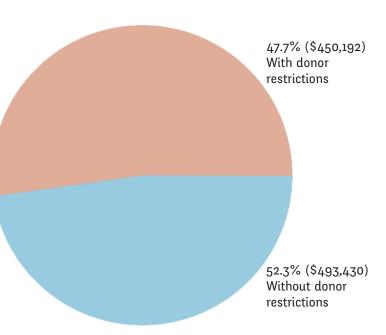
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ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 655,555
Accounts receivable	102,908
Unconditional promises to give receivable - current portion	132,740
Total Current Assets	891,203
Property and Equipment	
Buildings	203,475
Equipment	3,827
	207,302
Less accumulated depreciation	16,189
Property and Equipment, Net	191,113
Other Assets	
Unconditional promises to give receivable, less current portion, net	153,679
Security deposit	675
Investments	
Total Other Assets	154,354
Total Assets	\$ 1,236,670
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts payable	\$ 258,169
Accrued payroll and payroll taxes	34,879
Total Current Liabilities	293,048
Net Assets	
Without donor restrictions	493,430
With donor restrictions	450,192
Total Net Assets	943,622
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 1,236,670

### **EXPENSES BREAKDOWN**



### COMPOSITION OF NET ASSETS



#### Statement of Activities - Year Ended December 31, 2020

	Without donor	With donor	
	restrictions	restrictions	Total
Revenue and Other Support			
Grants	\$ 80,500	\$ 460,814	\$ 541,314
Contributions	147,632	2,591,500	2,739,132
Memberships	124,342		124,342
Interest income	1,229		1,229
Gain (loss) on investment	(34)	136	102
Other income	1,047		1,047
Total Revenue and Other Support - Before			
Net Assets Released From Restriction	354,716	3,052,450	3,407,166
Net Assets Released From Restriction			
Satisfaction of time and purpose restrictions	2,706,084	(2,706,084)	
Total Revenue and Other Support	3,060,800	346,366	3,407,166
Expenses			
Program services	2,727,169		2,727,169
General and administrative	74,308		74,308
Fundraising	178,271		178,271
Total Expenses	2,979,748		2,979,748
	24.25		
Change in Net Assets	81,052	346,366	427,418
N. A. A. D. C. C.	410.050	102.026	F1 < 20 4
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	412,378	103,826	516,204
NI (A C E I CV	Ф 402 422	Φ 450 103	Φ.0.42.622
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 493,430	\$ 450,192	\$ 943,622

Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters is a nonprofit, tax exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Audited financial statements were prepared by PGM, LLC. Complete copies of audited statements and the organization's 2019 Form 990 are available at <a href="https://www.friendsofkww.org/about/annual-info/">www.friendsofkww.org/about/annual-info/</a>

### MISSION + STRATEGIC PLAN

The mission of Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters is to preserve and protect the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality and distinctive cultural resources of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument and surrounding communities for the inspiration and enjoyment of all generations.

To learn more about our three-year strategic plan, adopted in 2018, visit www.friendsofkww.org/plan

#### REPORT CREDITS

This report was produced through a collaboration of the 2021 Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters Communications Team, with contributions from photographers and quoted members attributed throught the report. The Communications Team includes Sarah Andre, Andrew Bossie, Meghan Cooper, Sam Deeran, Ruger Pearson, and Will Tjeltveit. Graphic design by Sam Deeran. Copyediting by Meghan Cooper. Photos of NPS staff courtesy of staff members featured. Photos without attributions are provided by Friends staff, including Sam Deeran, Kala Rush, and Will Tjeltveit.

We end this report with gratitude to the landscape and the Friends community that brings our shared stories to life. Thank you.

Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters PO Box 18177 Portland ME 04112

(207) 808 - 0020 friendsofkww.org



