



Moxie Pond Wilderness Preserve

*Boosting Wilderness,
Climate Resilience, and
Outdoor Recreation
Along the Appalachian
Trail in Maine*

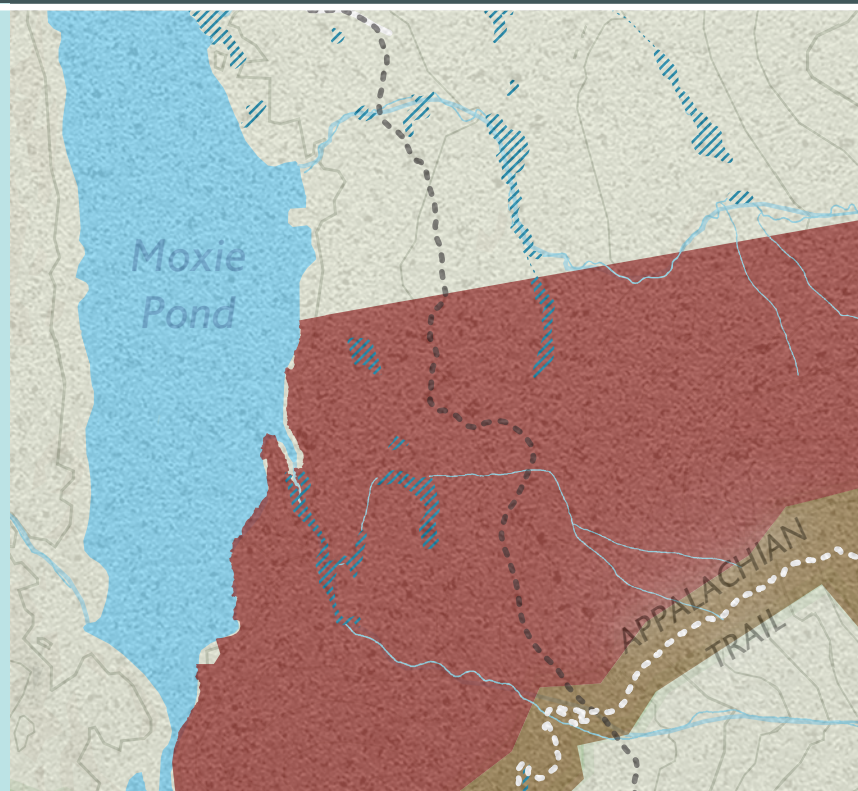
NORTHEAST



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Moxie Pond Wilderness Preserve

View of Moxie Pond from west shore
Lynnette Batte

The Appalachian Trail is one of America's most iconic long-distance footpaths, stretching over 2,000 miles from Georgia to Maine. Its value lies not only in recreation but in its role as a living corridor of biodiversity, remote landscapes, and cultural heritage. Yet this character is increasingly vulnerable. While long stretches of the Trail corridor are owned by the National Park Service, large portions of the surrounding land or "buffer zone" in New England remain privately held and unprotected. It is these surrounding lands that anchor the Trail's sense of remoteness, provide local trail access, and enable wildlife movement across the landscape. Without this buffer zone, the experience and ecology that define the Appalachian Trail are at risk.

Now, Northeast Wilderness Trust and Trust for Public Land have an opportunity to secure more than 1,800 acres of that buffer zone in central Maine. The future Moxie Pond Wilderness Preserve will preclude development and logging along a five-mile section of the Trail, which forms the Preserve's southern border. When hikers traverse this stretch, they will walk through permanently protected rewilding forests, enhancing the wilderness experience on the Trail and galvanizing appreciation for the many public and private efforts that make it possible.

The Appalachian Trail corridor has been a major focal point of both NEWT and TPL's conservation efforts over the years because of the biodiversity, outdoor recreation, and climate resilience potential

of the landscape. This project will bring Northeast Wilderness Trust's forever-wild lands along the Appalachian Trail to nearly 18,000 acres, and TPL has protected 345,000 acres along the A.T. from Georgia to Maine.

Securing Wildlife Habitat and Public Access

Along the property's western edge lies a mile of shoreline of Moxie Pond. This undeveloped frontage contributes to the high development pressure on the parcel and underscores the urgency of protecting it. Safeguarding the forests on the pond's shore will protect the rural nature of Moxie Pond and scenic views of and from Bald Mountain along the A.T. Protecting the shoreline will also help cool and filter its waters for the trout and other native fish that call the pond and its tributaries home. The parcel includes 37 acres of wetlands and 3 miles of mountain streams, making the Preserve a haven for aquatic natural communities.

Hikers are not the only ones who will enjoy the fruits of Moxie Pond Wilderness Preserve's protection. A mile of the Bald Mountain Trail, a well-loved local snowmobile and ATV route, passes through the property. As part of the project, public access to this route will be guaranteed by a state-held trail easement. Hiking and hunting of prey species like deer, turkey, and moose will be welcome, ensuring that local communities can continue to enjoy the diversity of uses for which Maine's outdoor landscape is renowned.

A Critical Piece in a Larger Conservation Puzzle

Applying a wider lens to the Preserve's location accentuates its conservation value. Moxie Pond sits among a matrix

of conserved public and private lands held by the federal and state governments and other conservation organizations. To the east and south of the Preserve is another Trust for Public Land success, the 2,600-acre Bald Mountain Pond project, which is bordered on its eastern side by a large property owned by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Land. Together, these holdings form a sizeable portion of more than 20,000 acres of contiguous conserved land.

Adding the Moxie Pond Wilderness Preserve to this impressive forest block will strengthen landscape connectivity in central Maine, providing roving wildlife like fisher and bobcat with extensive corridors and intact habitat as they adapt to ecosystem shifts. The Nature Conservancy ranks the future Preserve in the top 5 percent of the most climate-resilient parcels along the Appalachian Trail in Maine. The future Preserve's forever-wild protection will ensure that natural and human communities alike reap the rewards of this exceptional resilience, all while putting down the roots of tomorrow's old-growth forest and maintaining the Appalachian Trail's wild character.



Moxie Pond Wilderness Preserve at a glance

LOCATION

Somerset County,
Maine

SIZE

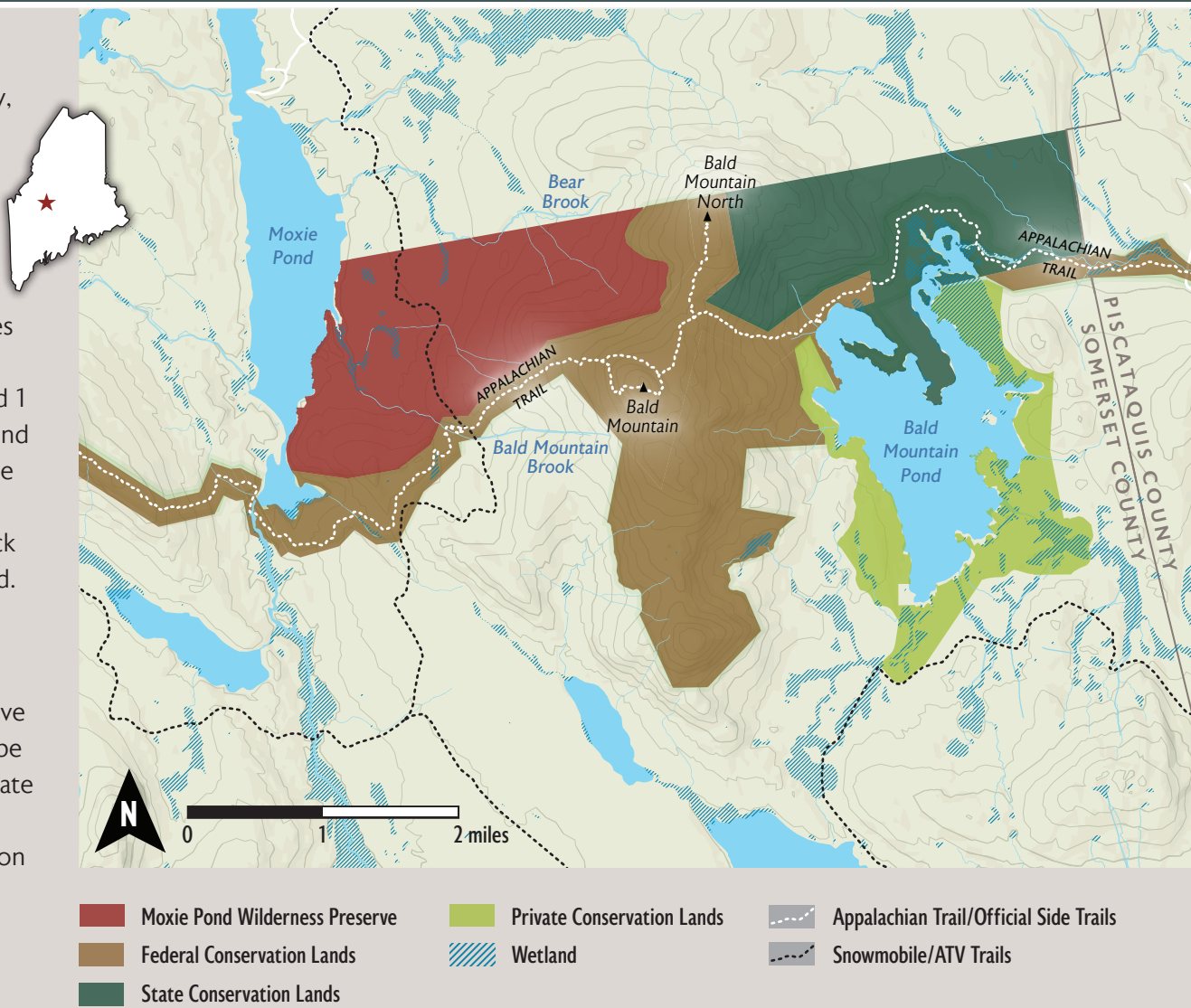
1,845 acres

CONTEXT

More than 5 miles of Appalachian Trail frontage and 1 mile of Moxie Pond shoreline enhance the integrity of a 20,000-acre block of conserved land.

OBJECTIVE

Forever-wild ecological preserve to boost landscape connectivity, climate resilience, and outdoor recreation opportunities.



Make your gift today!

newwildernesstrust.org/projects/moxie-pond



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Cover: Looking across the future Moxie Pond
Wilderness Preserve to Moxie Pond *Jerry Monkman*

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Moxie Pond shore
Jason Mazurowski