

My name is Linda Woods, and I live in Waterville. In 1991, I changed my last name to Woods to honor the primal connection I feel to the woods. They are my escape and my refuge. Evidently many Maine voters share my affinity with forested places since every Land for Maine's Future bond request has passed. Maine's identity is about our outdoors, woods, waterways, and ocean for our seasonal activities like hiking, fishing, hunting, skiing, and snowmobiling. Having the Pine Tree Amendment added to our Maine Bill of Rights is crucial as it protects both Maine's outdoor heritage and our recreational uses. Maine people want the Pine Tree Amendment as do dozens of Maine organizations, businesses, and individuals.

My history of concern about the environment dates back to 1964. When I was in eighth grade, my teacher at Benton Elementary School assigned an essay, "What have you seen change the most in your lifetime." My response was the loss of farmland to housing developments. Even at that young age, I knew the importance of land preservation.

Here is a snapshot of land conservation advocacy I have done in conjunction with the Natural Resources Council of Maine.

#### **Ban the Dickey-Lincoln Dam: 1972-3**

The proposed Dickey-Lincoln hydro dam would have flooded the headwaters of the St. John River. Fortunately biologists discovered the furbush lousewort (a perennial herb) grew along the banks of the St. John River. Even though I had never seen the plant (and still have not), I knew that preserving its habitat was crucial. Stopping the dam with this action was my first taste of success.

#### **Stop the Development of Bigelow Mountain: 1976**

Whenever I hike or ski in this preserve, I say a prayer of gratitude to the people of Maine for protecting Bigelow Mountain from encroaching development.

#### **Support Caribou-Speckled Mountain addition to White Mountain National Forest: 1990**

Since I had a camp in Newry, I was thrilled for additional protected land nearby.

#### **Stop the Plum Creek Development: 2005**

I remember camping and hiking in and around Moosehead Lake when I was a child, and I want future children to have similar experiences. Therefore, I worked to stop the Plum Creek Development near Moosehead Lake.

#### **Support the Creation of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument: 2016**

When Elliotsville Plantation offered 87,500 acres to become a national park, I mobilized in support by writing letters, e-mailing officials, and collecting signatures in support of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

Once the Pine Tree Amendment is added to Maine's Constitution, the work done by preservationists would be protected should a newly elected governor or legislature have differing ideas for the space. As someone who has dedicated most of my life to being a voice for the environment, I could rest easier knowing a healthy environment with multiple opportunities for outside recreation has been preserved. Future generations will appreciate your foresight. Please vote in support of LD 489. Thank you.