

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 282

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 2, 2026

Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) **AUTHORIZED ACQUISITION AREA.**—The
7 term “authorized acquisition area” means the des-
8 ignated area outside the boundary of the National
9 Monument depicted as “Authorized Acquisition
10 Area” on the map entitled “Katahdin Woods and
11 Waters National Monument Proposed Boundary Ad-
12 justment”, numbered 686/193,181 and dated March
13 2024.

14 (2) **NATIONAL MONUMENT.**—The term “Na-
15 tional Monument” means the Katahdin Woods and
16 Waters National Monument in the State of Maine
17 established by the Proclamation.

18 (3) **PROCLAMATION.**—The term “Proclama-
19 tion” means Presidential Proclamation Number
20 9476, dated August 24, 2016 (54 U.S.C. 320301
21 note).

22 (4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
23 the Secretary of the Interior.

1 **SEC. 3. ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL LAND FOR NATIONAL**
2 **MONUMENT.**

3 (a) BOUNDARY.—The boundaries of the National
4 Monument shall be the boundaries established by the
5 Proclamation.

6 (b) ACQUISITION.—

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

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

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

18 (1) the land shall be included in the National
19 Monument; and

20 (2) the boundaries of the National Monument
21 shall be adjusted accordingly.

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

23 (a) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall admin-
24 ister the National Monument (including the land added
25 to the National Monument under this Act) in accordance
26 with—

1 (1) this Act;

2 (2) the Proclamation; and

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

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

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

11 (2) consistent with the management of that ac-
12 tivity under the Proclamation.

13 (c) COLLECTION OF FIDDLEHEAD FERNS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
15 the Secretary shall allow the gathering by hand of
16 fiddlehead ferns (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*) in the
17 National Monument for noncommercial personal use
18 and consumption by the general public.

19 (2) LIMITATION.—If the Secretary determines
20 that the gathering of fiddlehead ferns (*Matteuccia*
21 *struthiopteris*) under paragraph (1) may adversely
22 affect resources of the National Monument, the Sec-
23 retary may limit the gathering of fiddlehead ferns
24 (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*) under that paragraph in
25 accordance with applicable regulations.

1 (d) PUBLIC EDUCATION.—In accordance with the
2 mission of the National Park Service, the Secretary shall
3 collaborate with local communities and Tribal govern-
4 ments to educate the public regarding the natural environ-
5 ment and history of land management in the National
6 Monument, including the shaping of that landscape by Na-
7 tive communities and practices, successive generations of
8 timber management, and other activities.

9 (e) FORESTRY.—In accordance with the management
10 plan for the National Monument, the Secretary may con-
11 duct such noncommercial timber harvests as the Secretary
12 determines to be necessary.

13 (f) PROTECTION OF EXISTING ACCESS.—Nothing in
14 this Act affects valid existing rights, including existing
15 rights of access through the National Monument for the
16 removal of timber outside the boundaries of the National
17 Monument.

18 (g) PUBLIC SAFETY.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
20 to the public appropriate safety education and notifi-
21 cation materials to ensure safe interactions between
22 visitors and logging trucks, equipment, and oper-
23 ations on roads in or adjacent to the National
24 Monument.

1 (2) PROCEDURES.—The Secretary shall collabo-
2 rate with affected stakeholders to establish proce-
3 dures to meet the needs of visitors to the National
4 Monument, logging and trucking operations, and
5 other users of roads in or adjacent to the National
6 Monument to ensure safe interactions between active
7 logging operations and visitors.

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

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—To facilitate the administration of
10 the National Monument, the Secretary may acquire, by
11 purchase from a willing seller, donation, or exchange, not
12 more than 10 acres of land or interests in land, including
13 improvements, for the administration of the National
14 Monument and visitor services outside the boundaries, but
15 within the vicinity, of the National Monument.

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

19 (1) to carry out this section; and

- 1 (2) to develop a cooperative information center
- 2 for the National Monument.

Passed the Senate June 18, 2025.

Attest:

JACKIE BARBER

Secretary.