

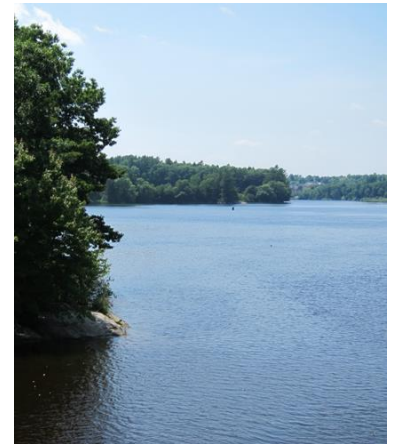
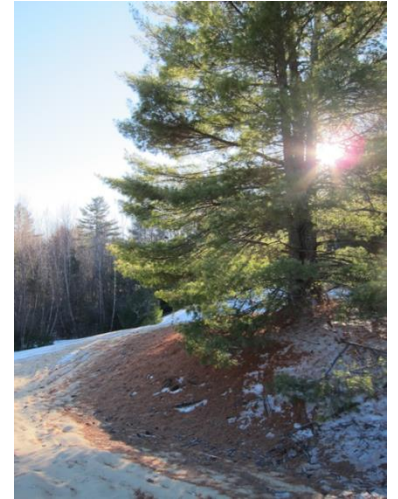
Nineteen Percent of Maine in Conservation - How we got here and Issues for the Future.

Lloyd C. Irland
The Irland Group and
Univ. of Maine, SFR (associate)



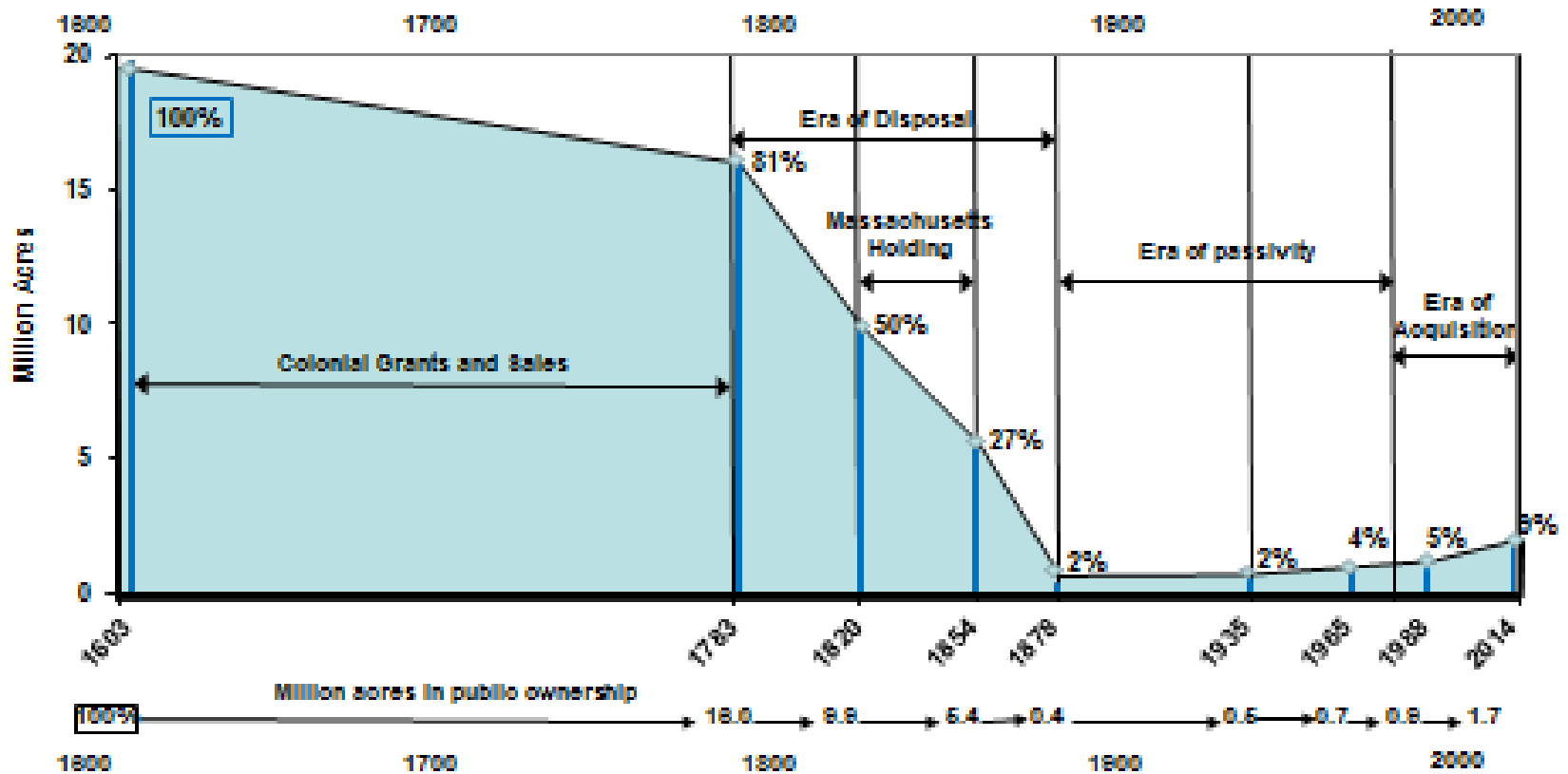
Contents

- History – from 1603
- History changes direction post 1972
- Current Status
 - Public Estate
 - All conservation lands
- Unexpected Reaction
- What this says about Maine:
 - Why 100 mi on Allagash – how much on Lower Kennebec?

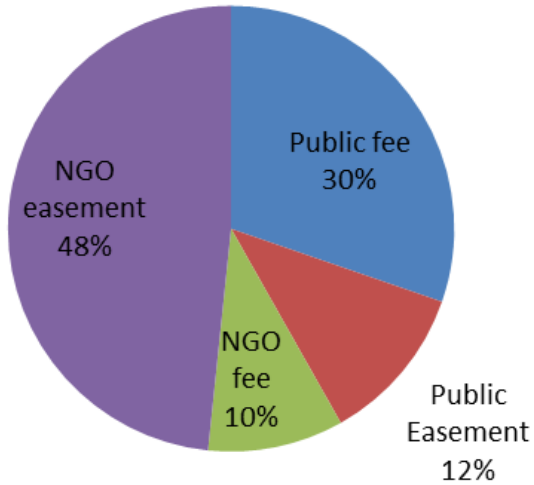


History of Public Ownership in Maine

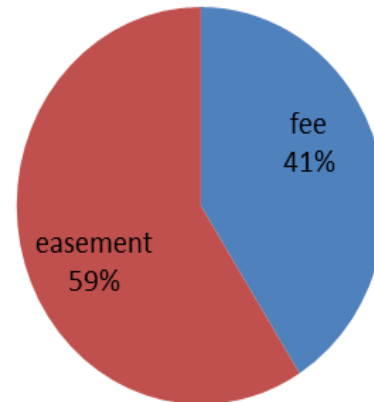
Total Acres: 19.8 Million



**Maine's Pub. & Cons. Lands, 2014
Total 3.8 MM A.**



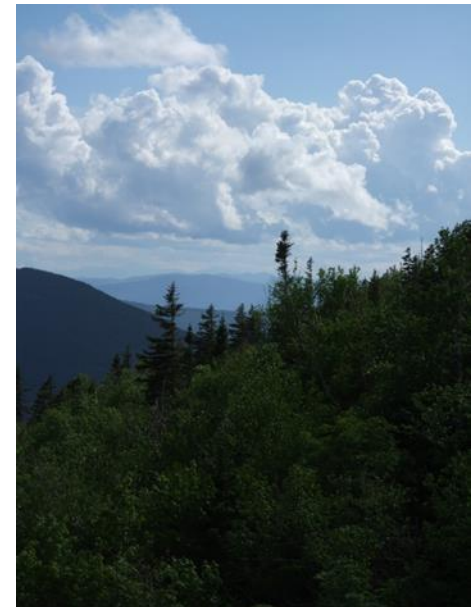
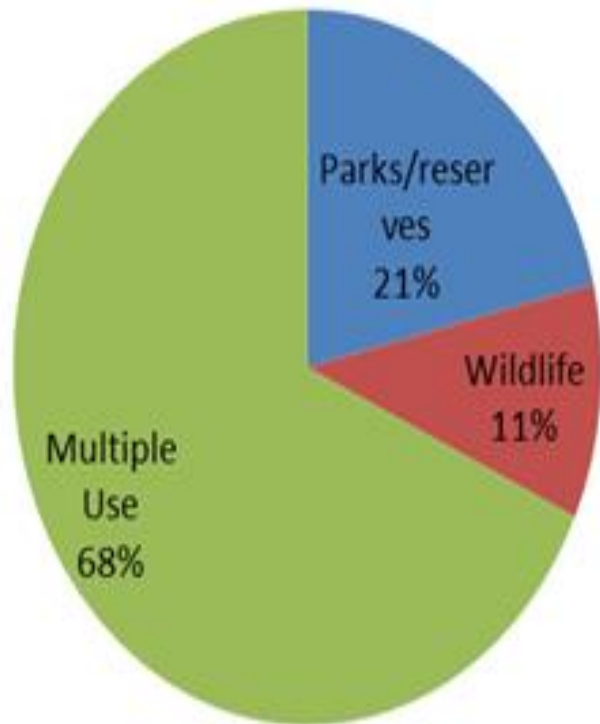
**Maine Conservation Lands
2014 Total 3.8 MM acres**



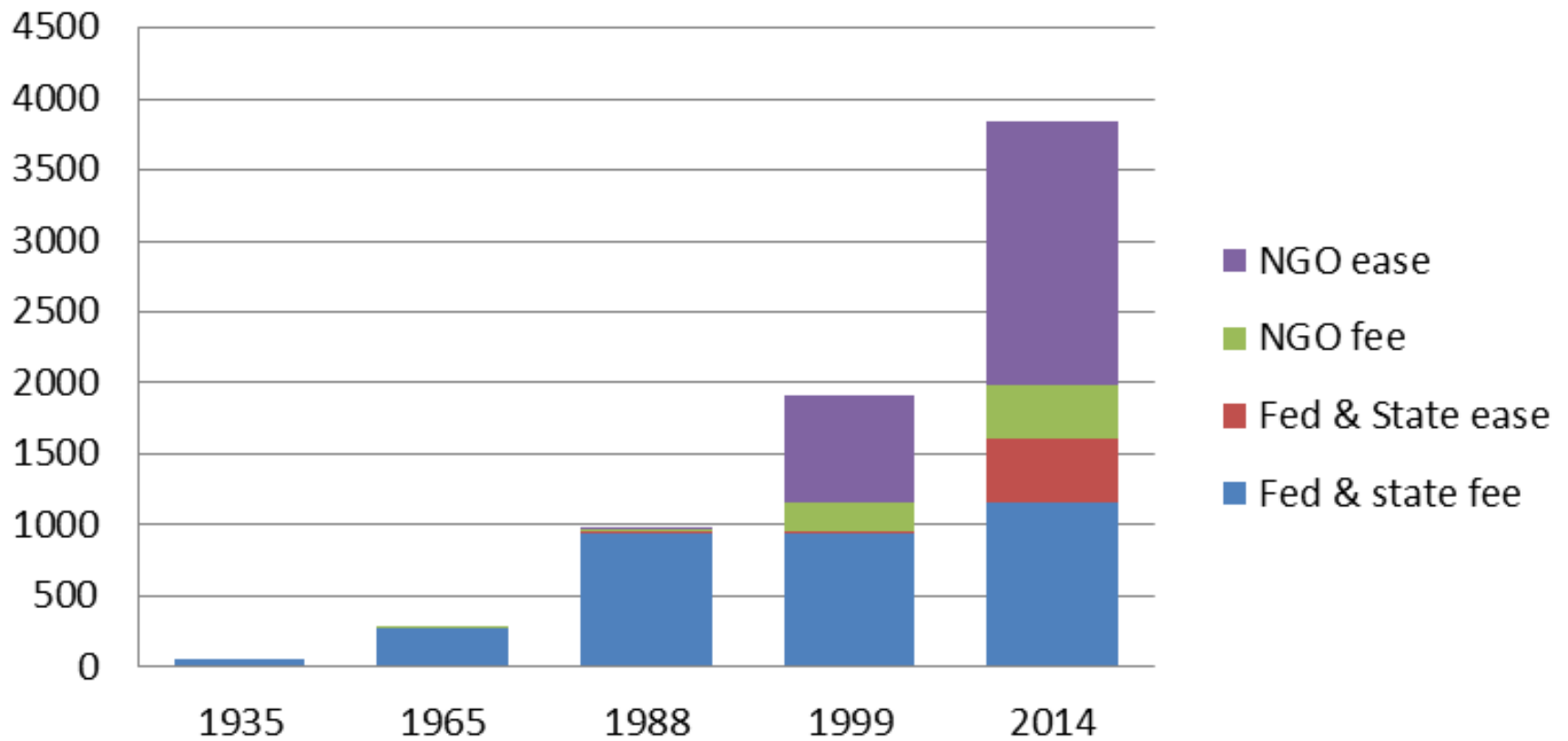
Public Estate and Conservation Lands

Public fee		1,164.0	
Public Easement		442.2	
NGO fee		377.7	
NGO easement		1,857.0	
		3,840.9	

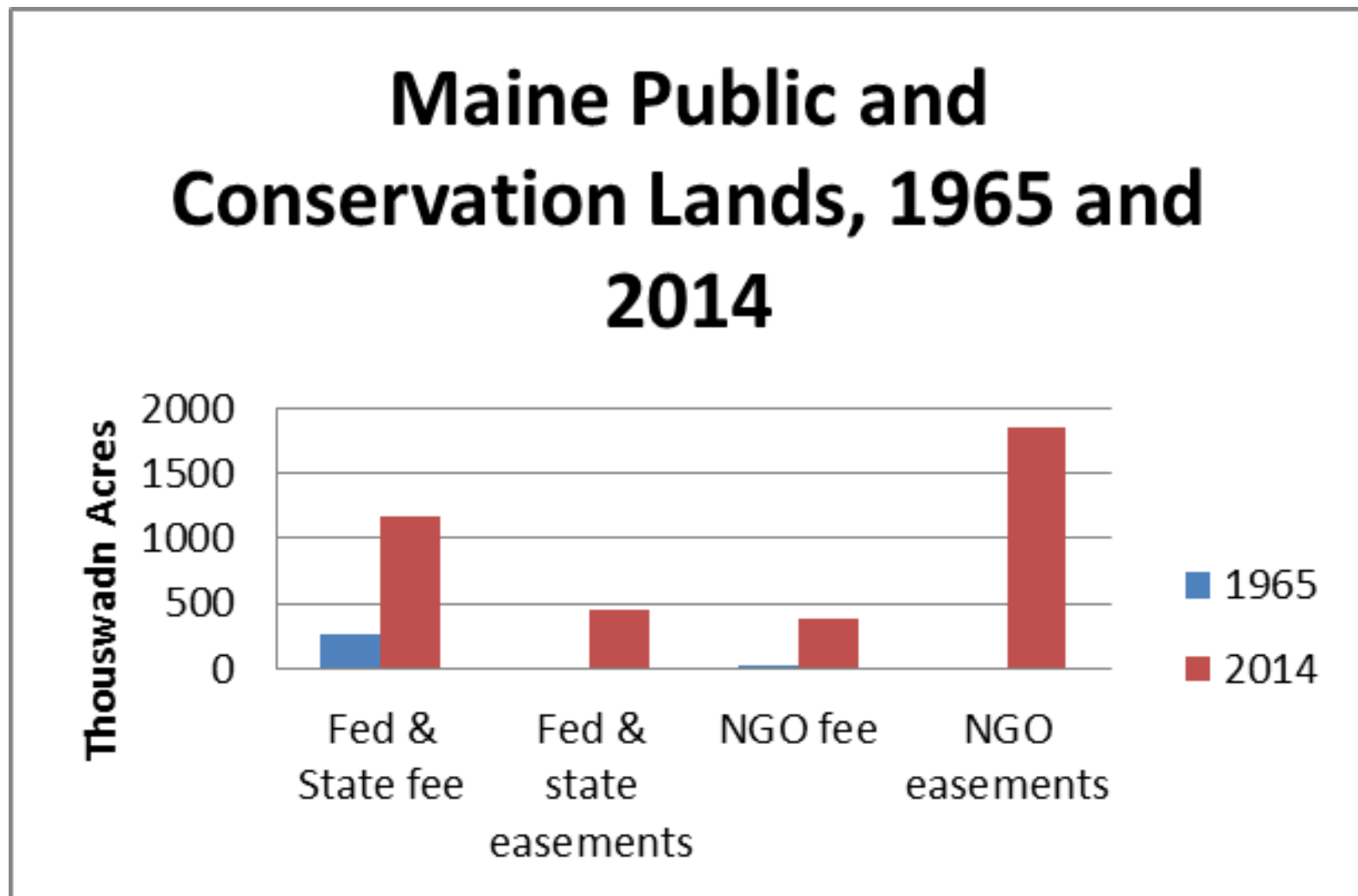
Maine Conservation Lands, 2014 Area by Principal Use Total 3.8 MM A.



Maine Conservation Lands 1935-2014



Era of Acquisition -- Principal Actors



LMFB a Critical Funder, Sparkplug

- LMFB Founded 1987
 - Bond funding
 - Program design attracted local/NGO Interest
 - Match and coordinating sparked many projects
 - Bipartisan support
 - Federal earmarks
 - NGO \$\$\$, Skills
- Cumulative to 2014:
1,000s
 - Total Acres 570
 - Fee 257
 - Ease 314
 - Breakout: Percent
 - Piscataquis 48%
 - Washington 15
 - Somerset 11
 - So Maine
 - 8 counties 14

WHY EASEMENTS?



What the 1% Wants
Today (These are
almost neighbors)

Maine leisure
residence, 1940s
(nr Newry)



Irland's law of real estate markets:

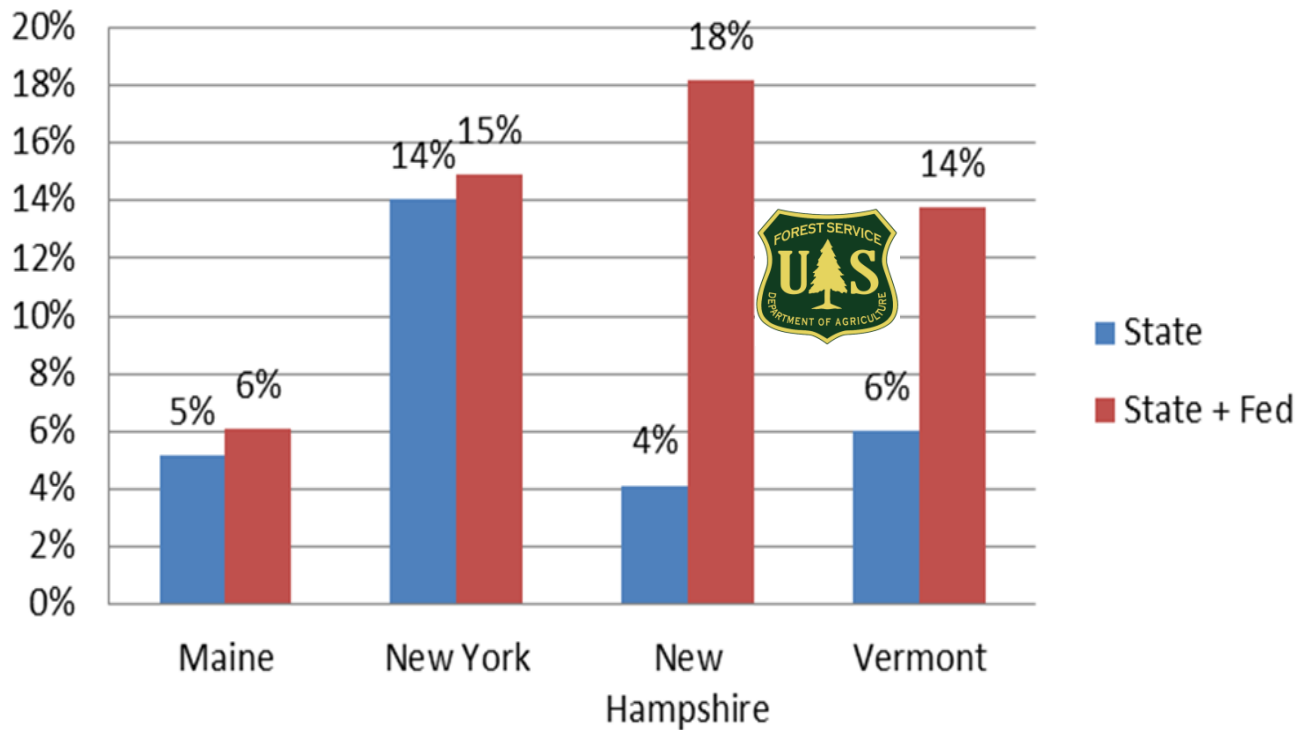
“Nice places attract capital until they are no longer nice”



How Much is Enough?

- What Conservation/Recreation/ Land use needs remain unaddressed?
- Is 81% of the State enough for future development?
- Many states with more Public Land than Maine have state policy goals to obtain more!
- Brundtland: 12%. (did not know of easements)
- Wildlands and Woodlands: in 50 yrs, 70% of region in forest, permanently protected against development .

Percentages of State and State plus Federal Land, 2012



Notes:

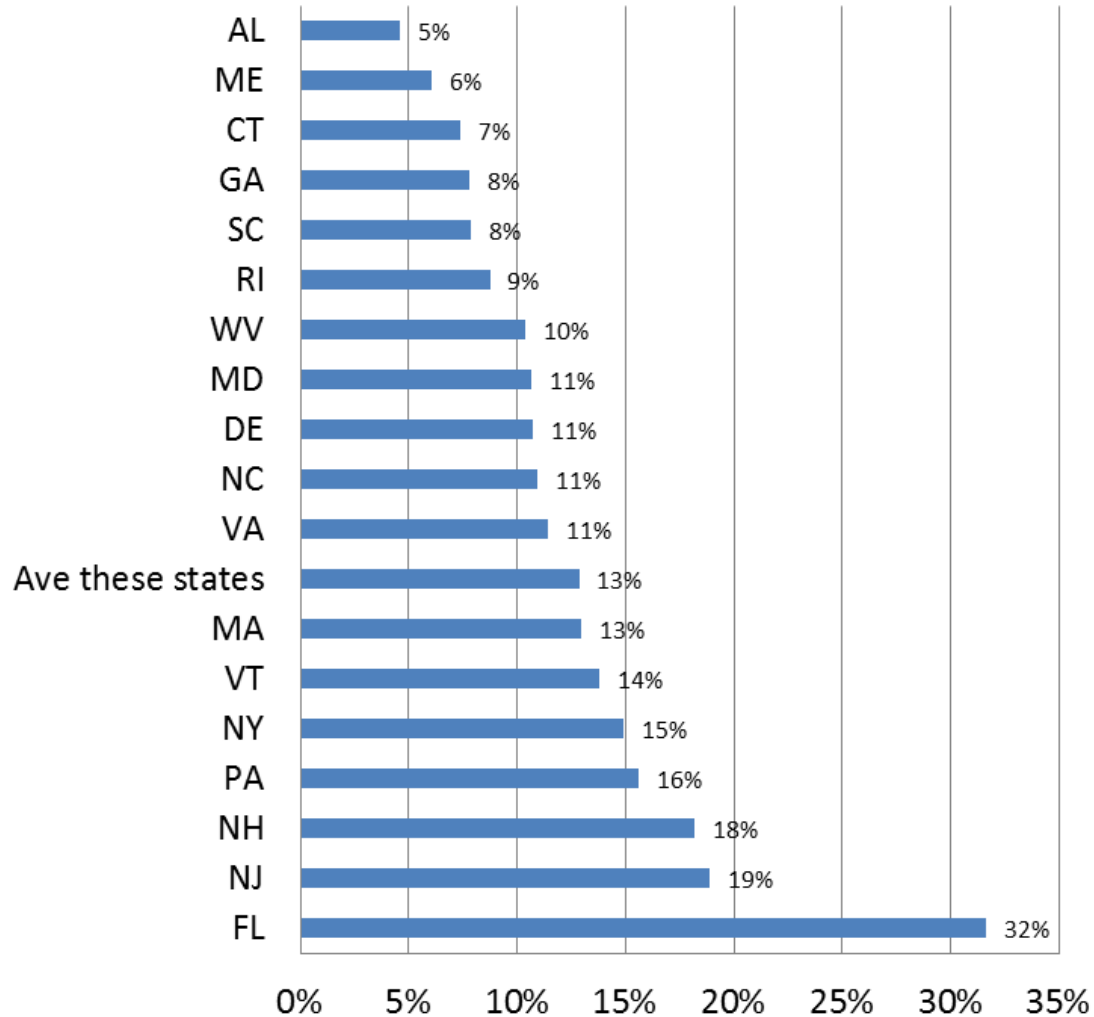
This is fee land.

Maine & NY: rely on State, little Federal.

VT, NH, National Forests.

Maine's Era of Acquis. more than a century behind the others!

State and Federal Land Percentage, ca. 2012



What's this Mean?

- Today:
 - Pure or semi-Pure wilderness 2.5% (?)
 - Brundtland Goal 12%
 - Protected against Development 19%
 - W & W Goal 70%
 - Minimum for biodiversity? D.k.

Conservation Lands by Regions

- Classified by percentage of total county land in conservation. State Ave = 19%
- Above 19%
 - Pisc, Som, Wash, Oxford 2.7 MM A 68%
- 10% to 17%
 - Han, AR, Frank, Sag, York .99 MM A 25%
- 7 to 8%
 - Knox, Pen, Cumb .21 MM A 5%
- 3 or 4%
 - Linc, Waldo, Kenn, Andro .7 MM A. 2%

Reaction against the era of Acquisition

- Political allergy to federal involvement
 - Citizens; local government
 - Local version of Sagebrush Rebellion
- “Tea Party” Movements
 - Resentments over regulation, LURC CLUP
 - Post 2006 Crash – frustration over weak economy; lashing out against “causes”
 - Individualism
 - Federalism – intensified tensions
 - Bipartisanship in a coma; parties themselves divided; demagogues rewarded
 - Conservation land acquisition a symbolic target with a big bullseye on it for large range of grievances
- Conservation groups blindsided
 - Me too (smug?)



An Eastern Sagebrush Rebellion?



Proposed Wayne Town Forest

- But for rounding out units and a few loose ends, N. Maine is arguably in good shape.
- Up there we want more *Easements*.
- The big Agenda is in Southern & Coastal Maine for virtually all forest values.

Key Points: Maine's History

- Usually (always?) Reactive – wait until the bulldozer arrives
- Private Initiative and Private wealth Critical in Many important cases
 - Government took initiative rarely, usually weakly
- Maine came WAY late to acquisition mode
 - Thereby maximizing the financial cost and political strains
 - Maximizing the loss of opportunities
- Maine loves conservation so long as it costs us little
- There is little broad interest – almost entirely place-based

How to Move Ahead?

- Past reliance on Feds
 - Politically unpopular exc. as “Moneybags”
 - LAWCON is on hold -- Prospects?
- LMFB is in a coma, by Gubernatorial fiat
- Another Governor Baxter?
- Local, County funds?



Questions/Comments?

- Thanks for your time and attention...



Tumbledown.

ATTACHMENTS: DATA

- Attached tables provide some of the data used above.
- For narrative and data sources, see
- Lloyd C. Irland, Maine's Public and Conservation Lands, unpub. paper, Oct. 2, 2015.
- Email lcirland@gmail.com

Land for Maine's Future Projects in Southern Maine				
	No. of Projects	Total Acres	Fee Acres	Easement Acres
York	24	14,318	5,668	8,650
Cumberland	31	7,671	4,032	3,640
Andro	7	2,927	2,843	84
Kennebec	5	7,251	7,251	0
Knox	9	669	669	0
Lincoln	11	1,304	1,299	5
Sagadahoc	7	2,610	2,264	346
Waldo	7	1,214	1,214	0
So ME	101	37,963	25,238	12,725
Pct of State	51%	7%	10%	4%
Ave size		376	250	126
	Source:	LMFB		
	Note: counties spanning organized and large unorganized areas not included			

LMFB Projects by County Entire State, Acres rounded.				
SUMMARY - LMF C&R Projects 1987-2014				
		Total	Fee	Easement
Maine County	No. of Projects	Acres	Acres	Acres
Androscoggin	7	2,927	2,843	84
Aroostook	8	6,669	3,643	3,026
Cumberland	31	7,671	4,032	3,640
Franklin	10	40,045	34,298	5,747
Hancock	14	47,175	23,320	23,855
Kennebec	5	7,251	7,251	0
Knox	9	669	669	0
Lincoln	11	1,304	1,299	5
Oxford	14	10,531	6,725	3,806
Penobscot	9	8,997	8,997	0
Piscataquis	8	271,290	39,538	231,752
Sagadahoc	7	2,610	2,264	346
Somerset	5	63,919	62,276	1,643
Waldo	7	1,214	1,214	0
Washington	31	83,847	52,764	31,083
York	24	14,318	5,668	8,650
TOTALS	200	570,436	256,799	313,637

From 2015-20 SCORP at pp. 489 ff w. edits)				
Maine Public Estate and Conservation Lands				
estimates for 2014				
Federal		fee	ease	Total
	ANP	35,332	12,416	47,748
	WMNF	49,980		49,980
	NWR's	64,660		64,660
	Fed Total	149,972	12,416	162,388
State	Pub Lands	619,952	429,100	1,049,052
	Parks	85,000		85,000
	IFW WMAs	100,000		100,000
	BSP	209,644		209,644
	State total	1,014,596	429,100	1,443,696
	State + fed	1,164,568	441,516	1,606,084
	NGO	388,000	1,857,000	2,245,000
	Grand Total	1,552,568	2,298,516	3,851,084

County	Conservation Acres	County Acres	Percentage Conserved	Acres in class	Pct of Cons Acres
Piscataquis	1,076,557	2,795,178	39%		
Somerset	818,325	2,613,713	31%		
Washington	506,953	1,759,877	29%		
Oxford	263,786	1,389,533	19%	2,665,620	68%
Hancock	178,759	1,080,477	17%		
Aroostook	581,132	4,358,238	13%		
Franklin	142,649	1,113,551	13%		
Sagadahoc	18,502	163,855	11%		
York	65,559	646,670	10%	986,600	25%
Knox	18,540	240,535	8%		
Penobscot	154,309	2,271,263	7%		
Cumberland	38,163	587,558	7%	211,012	5%
Lincoln	12,895	304,792	4%		
Waldo	22,831	544,619	4%		
Kennebec	22,363	607,422	4%		
Androscoggin	9,189	317,531	3%	67,279	2%
Total	<u>3,930,511</u>	<u>20,794,812</u>	<u>19%</u>		
this is more than the total land area of the 6 smallest counties!					