

DRAFT MEMORANDUM

Date: May 1, 2020

To: Greater East Grand Region Economic Planning Team

By: Elbridge

Re: **Traditional Outdoor Recreation – Economics & Infrastructure** - Hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering are traditional pursuits in Maine. The following is preliminary list of sporting camps and outfitters in the Greater East Grand Region that heavily depend upon the use of private lands and vehicle access to public waters.

List of Sporting Camps & Lodges

- Greenland Cove Camps – Danforth
- Cowger’s Lakeside Cabins – Danforth
- Rideout’s Lodge and Cottages – Weston
- Wheaton’s Lodge – Forest City
- Village Camps – Forest City
- Wilderness Escape Outfitters – Danforth
- Birchwood Cottages - Brookton
- East Branch Lodge - Haynesville
- First Settler’s Lodge - Weston
- Birch Hill Camps – Wytopitlock
- Paradise Cabins – Bancroft & Deering Lake
- Maine River Lodge – Wytopitlock

Outfitters & Guides (Not Exhaustive)

- Canoe the Wild – Dave Conley
- Rising Sun Outfitters – Ernie Spaulding
- David Apgar
- Tammy Matula
- Will Cliff
- Joe Dahl
- Earl Bubar
- John Gaskins
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Contribution to the Local Economy

While the economic impact of traditional sport fishing and hunting are readily available on a broad basis such as State and/or Federal levels it is difficult to measure impact on a regional basis. Estimates of hunting and fishing total GDC economic impact in the State of Maine is over 1 billion dollars or about 20% of all outdoor recreational activities. Given the preponderance of traditional outdoor recreation in the GEGR hunting and fishing would be much larger proportionally, potentially in excess of 70% to 80% of all outdoor recreation. The following is a table showing the relative impact on Gross GDC of hunting and fishing in Maine. (Data approximately 3 years old)

STATE OF MAINE - ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF SPORT FISHING & HUNTING

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Retail Sales</u>	<u>Total Multiplier</u>	<u>Salaries/Wages</u>	<u>Jobs</u>	<u>Taxes</u>	
					<u>State</u>	<u>Federal</u>
Hunting	\$238,805,452	\$406,415,048	\$134,255,944	4104	\$31,443,005	\$31,367,221
Fishing	\$435,261,217	\$675,841,590	\$221,282,571	7395	\$48,951,917	\$47,165,837
Combined	\$674,066,670	\$1,082,256,639	\$355,538,517	11500	\$80,394,924	\$78,533,059

ESTIMATE OF GDP FOR MAINE

Hunting & Fishing	\$1.08 Billion			
All Outdoor Recreation	\$8.2 Billion	\$2,200,000,000	76,000	\$548,000,000
Forest Products Industry	\$10.0 Billion			
State Total GDP	\$55.8 Billion			
<small>Adjusted to 2018 Numbers</small>				
Percent of Outdoor Rec	19.35%	16.16%	15.13%	14.67%
Percent of Forest Products	10.82%			
Percent of State GDP	1.94%			

Infrastructure (Lands and landowners)

Beyond the biological ups and downs of native fish and game populations and how each react to man-made influences such as catch, kill and habitat changes, there are two issues critically important to the wellbeing of the entire sporting and recreational economy. They are: **1) Access and 2) Use of private lands.** The following are a few GEGR statistics and guidelines:

- 1) Over 96% of the GEGR Region geographic area (in Maine) is privately owned
- 2) At least 23 of the 28 access points to public water is over land of less than formal public ownership.
- 3) Public ownership of land in the GEGR is estimated at 3.5% of total area.
- 4) Private lands open to the public for traditional outdoor recreation (hunting, fishing, and trapping - with permission) is estimated at 402,000 acres or approximately 87% of total geographic area (Maine only).
- 5) Under Maine's Great Pond Act the public has a right to access (by foot) a natural body of water over 10 acres in size. Such access is not assured to be over improved lands or roads.
- 6) Maine's landowner liability law provides statutory landowner liability protection from public use of private lands. Such provisions are voided if landowners charge more than a nominal fee for access or use. In such instances (such as bear baiting) users are required to show proof of liability insurance naming the landowner as a protected party.
- 7) Public use of private lands is not guaranteed in the State of Maine. Public use of private land is always by landowner permission either formal, informal or "deemed" if by the public at large.
- 8) All public snowmobile and ATV trails must have landowner permission in order to ensure the landowner is protected over above statutory with an additional insurance policy issued by the State.
- 9) Public use of private lands is not guaranteed. It is a privilege which can be withheld subject to misuse, damage or violations of a use agreement.
- 10) Most private lands under conservation easement assure in perpetuity some level of public access. In some situations those assurances disappear if the statutory landowner liability law were ever to be altered or removed by legislative action.
- 11) The following table shows the approximate amount of lands open to traditional public recreation within the GEGR. All acres with exception of public ownership recreational use is contingent upon careful attention to respect for the privilege of use.

<u>Type of Ownership</u>	<u>Area in Acres</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Land Trust	3,000	0.7%
Private Eased	56,000	13.9%
Private Not Eased	327,100	81.2%
Public	<u>16,600</u>	4.1%
	402,700	