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Katahdin Woods and Waters Executive Summary 7-12-2017.docx

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Executive Summary of Review of National Monuments under EO 13792 (April 26, 2017)

Key Information about Ironwood Forest National Monument

Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument (KAWW) was established by Presidential Proclamation 9476 on August 24, 2016. KAWW consists of 87,500 acres in Penobscot County, Maine. The area consists of 13 parcels donated by Elliotsville Plantation, Incorporated (EPI). The Proclamation designated “approximately 87,500 acres” and states that acreage is “the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.” The NPS manages for multiple use within the Monument (hunting, recreation), while protecting the vast array of historic and scientific resources identified in the Proclamation and providing opportunities for scientific study of those resources.

The resources identified in the Proclamation include biological, geological and archaeological objects. Overall, multiple use activities are allowed in Ironwood Forest National Monument that are compatible with the protection of resources and objects identified in the Presidential Proclamation. Multiple use activities are subject to decisions made in current and future BLM resource management planning efforts which include public participation. National Monuments and other conservation areas managed by the BLM continue to allow for multiple uses according to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (depending on proclamation language).

Summary of Public Engagement Prior to Designation

The BLM conducted no public outreach activities prior to designation. Monument designation was a citizen’s proposal. The Board of Supervisors of Pima County, Arizona, proposed the establishment of an “Ironwood Preserve” and signed Resolution 2000-63 “Request(ing) that the United States of America through the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, consistent with the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, work cooperatively with Pima County to establish the Ragged Top and Silverbell Ironwood Preserve in the Silverbell Mountains.” in March of 2000.

Summary of Public Scoping in Development of Resource Management Plan

KAWW does not yet have a management plan, as the Monument was established less than one year ago. Community listening sessions were held in Stacyville, Medway, Millinocket, and Orono during the fall of 2016. Over 550 interested citizens attended these sessions and numerous others shared written comments delivered by email, regular mail, and in-person to the NPS welcome desks in Millinocket and Patten. The Monument is organizing a number of follow-up workshops that will build upon topics and concerns raised during the listening sessions. Input received from ongoing community listening sessions will be used to draft a management plan to guide the long-term direction for Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

Summary of National Monument Activities since Designation

Included below is a summary of Monument activities since designation:

- Recreation: Quantitative visitor use data is limited, as the Monument did not open until

August 24, 2016. Gathering accurate visitor use data for KAWW is a challenge; there are 7 roads leading into the Monument, as well as entrance by the East Branch of the Penobscot.

- No production of coal, oil, gas, or renewable energy has occurred since designation. No transmission infrastructure has been developed since designation.
- No mineral production has occurred since designation.
- Approximately 80 cords of hardwood will be sold this year as the result of a road clearing project within the boundary of the Monument. At this time, KAWW is not aware of any additional projects that would result in timber harvest.
- No grazing has occurred since designation.
- Researchers believe that much of the 11,000-year archeological record of Native American presence in KAWW remains to be discovered. Limited quantitative information about cultural resources is available due to the recent designation of KAWW. The cultural uses and values for KAWW have not changed since designation.
- Hunting is permitted (with a Maine state license) in the "recreational" areas of the Monument.
- Fishing is permitted (with a Maine state license) throughout Monument.
- Some fiddlehead gathering occurs on the Monument, but NPS does not have quantitative data.
- Approximately 12.5 percent of BLM-administered lands within the monument has been inventoried for cultural resources. The number of known and/or documented cultural resources sites has doubled since monument designation. 310 sites have been documented, with an average density of approximately 11 cultural resources sites per square mile. Projected total estimate is 3,000 to 6,000 sites likely to exist across the entirety of the monument.

Summary of Activities in Area for Five years Preceding Pre-Designation

Included below is a summary of monument activities five years preceding designation:

- No estimates of recreation use were made prior to designation. A recreation study completed shortly after monument designation indicated approximately 10,000 annual visits.
- No coal, oil, gas, or renewable energy production occurred on the site during the five years prior to designation.
- All existing energy transmission infrastructure was developed prior to designation, including a total of 76.1 miles of right of way.
- A small mineral material sale (decorative rock) quarry was operating prior to designation. No other mining operations or mineral production occurred on federal lands during the five years prior to designation.
- No timber production occurred on IFNM in the five years prior to designation.
- Designation did not change the number of AUMs permitted; 7,849 AUMs were permitted

each of the five years prior to designation. The number of AUMs sold each year was at the lessee's discretion based on weather and forage production, with numbers being lower during drought years.

- In the five-year period prior to monument designation, approximately 8,000 acres had been inventoried for cultural resources, and approximately 150 sites had been documented. The surveys were primarily conducted in support of BLM-permitted activities associated with grazing, mining, and/or utility line construction projects.

Summary of Available Economic Information since Designation

According to the Bureau of Land Management's economic analysis for FY2016, total visitor spending at IFNM was \$1,401,970 and average expenditures per visit was \$59.41. The total non-BLM jobs supported by the Monument is 21 with a total labor income supported of \$726,234. This resulted in a total economic output supported by the Monument of \$1,995,362. An economic snapshot summarizing economic information is located within this drive ([Ironwood Forest NM-Economic snapshot.pdf](#))

Summary of Any Boundary Adjustments since Designation

The IFNM boundary encompasses 188,628 acres of land; this number of acres, and the configuration of the boundary, have not changed since designation. Acquisitions from willing sellers of private land within the monument boundary added 358 acres in 2014 and 602 acres in 2016, bringing the BLM-administered acres from 128,398 at monument designation to 129,358.