

Maine Wilderness Guides Org.

An Association of Registered Maine Guides



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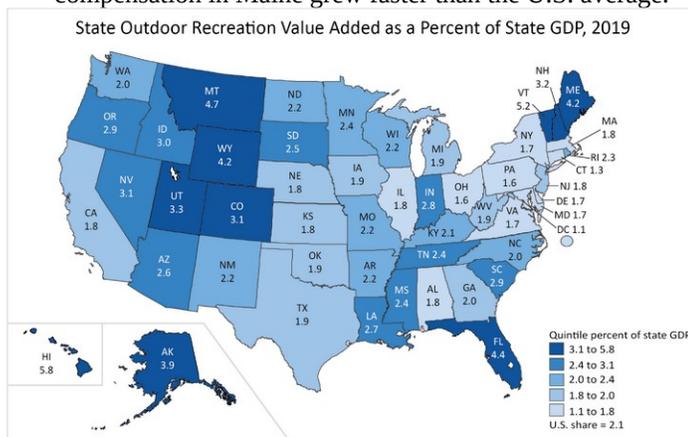
Maine's Recreation Economy is Growing: Opportunities to Guide Can Grow with It

by Jeanne Christie, MWGO President

Over the past 10 months Covid-19 social distancing has inspired families in Maine and nationwide to spend more time outdoors. Many are learning to enjoy their outdoor time and are becoming interested in new experiences and deepening their understanding of the natural world. Registered Maine Guides have a unique relationship with their clients. They can provide context and a deeper knowledge and appreciation for forests, lakes, rivers, mountains and more. This is a good time to be thinking about strategies for the coming year and beyond.

A recent report from [Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce](#) summarizes the scope of the [outdoor recreation economy for the nation, and each state](#) in 2019 (the year before Covid-19) documenting how important recreation is to Maine's economy. [Maine Outdoor Brands](#) highlighted the Maine findings in a [recent press release](#): concluding that, compared to the rest of the United States, Maine is uniquely positioned to be a leader in the outdoor recreation space. Key 2019 Maine highlights show that:

- Outdoor recreation made up 4.2% of Maine's economy – double the national average.
- Maine is one of the top five states in the country in the value outdoor recreation adds to statewide GDP.
- Outdoor recreation continues to support more than 40,000 jobs in Maine, accounting for 4.7% of employment.
- From 2018 to 2019, the outdoor recreation employment and compensation in Maine grew faster than the U.S. average.



U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

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Short Bytes:

LUPC kicks off Moosehead Region Planning Project by Melanie Sturm, NRCM

The Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) kicked off its Moosehead Region Planning Project to determine how to rezone the nearly 17,000 acres that were slated for development under the former Plum Creek Concept Plan. At this stage, the LUPC is collecting stakeholder and community input to determine how the rest of the process will take shape. Areas such as Lily Bay, Upper Wilson Pond, Indian Pond, and Blue Ridge all remain vulnerable to development. (The pink outlined areas on [this map](#) show the areas that may be rezoned.) This is a chance to share your thoughts about how you think LUPC should begin planning future conservation and development in this critically important and special region. Go to the LUPC's [new website](#) and fill out the [survey](#) to share your ideas. After collecting an initial round of input, the LUPC will create discussion maps with different possible zoning scenarios and will release those to the public for feedback in a couple months.

Governor Mills announces Maine's Climate Action Plan by Jeanne Christie, MWGO President

On December 1, Governor Janet Mills announced Maine's new statewide Climate Action Plan. The Plan is grounded on the [most comprehensive scientific analysis](#) of the effects of climate change on Maine, including from scientists at the University of Maine. The Climate Action Plan details actions needed to reduce climate pollution and create new jobs as part of the transition to a clean energy economy that will benefit Maine people, businesses, and our environment.

- [View Maine's Climate Action Plan](#)
- [Read stories about how acting on climate helps Mainers](#)
- [Read the NRCM blog post](#) from Climate & Clean Energy Director David Costello about how NRCM will support implementation of the Plan

The Climate Action Plan was created by the Maine Climate Council who determined that the costs of inaction greatly exceed the costs of taking action to accelerate the transition already underway to clean transportation, renewable energy, and resilient infrastructure.

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Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has partnered with the Maine Office of Tourism to develop an advertising campaign to increase awareness of opportunities that exist to hire the services of registered Maine guides or enjoy a getaway at a Maine sporting camp or lodge. The ads direct people to a page on visitmaine.com that highlights Maine businesses who offer guiding or lodging experiences.

As a registered Maine guide or sporting lodge or camp owner, you can add a business listing to the page for **free** to help more people learn about your services and find your website. To include a listing for your business, [click here to create a free account](#). It takes about 24 hours to get an account approved and once your account is approved, you can log onto the website, create a listing, add photos, post deals, etc. The TechShare website has training videos and documents that can help you as you add, edit and update your listing and other content.

In addition, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is becoming more engaged in encouraging people to recreate outside safely. Their 3R campaign directed to hunters (retention, recruitment and reactivation) will include expanded education and outreach activities for skills that all outdoor recreators can benefit from. The [Education Page](#) on their website includes resources for [teachers and educators](#). Future winter offerings from IF&W staff and partners will include learning skills such as wilderness survival (including constructing survival shelters and making a fire), snowshoe wildlife tracking and ice fishing.

Field Tested Recipe: S'mores Indoors



Whether you live in an area that is not conducive to having a campfire, you are stuck inside due to quarantine, or you just need a quick fix of camping goodness (or just an excuse for some chocolate), you can make this classic campfire treat indoors, too. Shish-kebob skewers, a carving fork, or similar utensils can substitute for a stick, and your gas or electric range can substitute for the campfire. Be sure to add Graham Crackers, Marshmallows, and Hershey's Chocolate Bars to your next grocery list and enjoy a bit of the outdoors, indoors!

Photo Credit: Reid Anderson

Tips from the Pros

That Z-drag kit you keep with your paddling gear works in winter too! Move that kit to your snowmobiling gear for an easy way to get your sled out of the deep stuff!

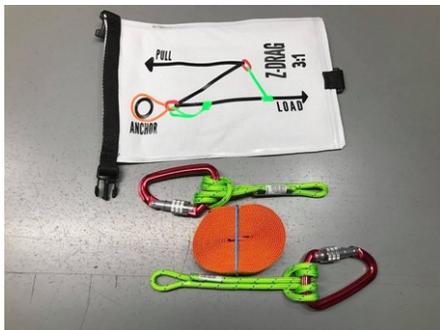


Photo Credit: Shawn Alexander, [Fall Line Canoes](#)

Quick Links

- [Coalition calls on everyone to get outside safely this winter](#)
- [Off Season and Winter Camping Locations, Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands](#)
- [Winter Across Maine by L.L. Bean January 1-March 26: Free and Discounted Outings](#)
- [How to exercise outdoors this winter in Maine](#)
- [Join Judy Outside: Opening Day](#)
- [Birding: Far-flung visitor has been putting on a show](#)

Upcoming Events and Dates

- Dec 27-Jan 3: [NRCM \(Virtual\) Polar Bear Dip and Dash](#). NRCM's 13th annual Polar Bear Dip & Dash registration is going virtual! Run, Walk, Make a Splash at this benefit for NRCM's work to fight climate change.
- Mar 6-Jun 13: [Maine Recreational Guide Course](#) by North Star Adventures, Unity, ME. Module format, register by module or for the full course consisting of two days, four evenings, and one canoeing weekend. Contact Nancy Zane: (207) 956-0045 or NorthStarAdventures1@gmail.com.

MWGO Professional Members are eligible for a \$50 reimbursement (\$25 for Supporting Members) for WFA, WAFA, WFR, WEMT or Recertification Courses.

From the Field



A sure sign of winter... Katahdin gets a covering of snow (photo from Nov 21). Photo Credit: Joy Bengston Giffen

Do you have an article, link, recipe, tip, event, or photo to share in the next eNews?

Send your submission to: newsletter@mwgo.org!