

Chapter 1: BAXTER STATE PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS

Summary: These rules, adopted by the Baxter State Park Authority (the "Authority") pursuant to 12 M.R.S.A. §903, govern the use of Baxter State Park (the "Park") by the public. No provision of these rules applies to law enforcement or administrative personnel in the course of their official duties. Any delegation of authority to the Director under these rules includes delegation to the Director's designee. In addition to any specific provision contained in these rules, the Director may restrict public uses or activities within the Park as necessary to preserve or protect the Park or to assure the safety of Park users.

1. CAMPING, RESERVATIONS AND REGISTRATION

- 1.1 The Authority and Director may establish **administrative policies and procedures** for the processing of reservations.
- 1.2 **Camping is permitted by reservation** only and only in authorized campgrounds and campsites during certain dates and times, as specified by the Park. Campers must register at the gatehouse no later than 8:30 p.m. Camping by groups of more than 12 people is permitted only at designated group camping areas
- 1.3 All **persons entering the Park by road or trail** must register their entrance at the first opportunity at a staffed gatehouse or self-registration station. Long Distance Hikers entering the Park for the purpose of hiking all or part of the Appalachian Trail must secure an AT-Katahdin Hiker Permit Card and register with Baxter State Park prior to hiking the Hunt Trail to or from Baxter Peak. All other persons entering the Park on foot must register with Park Headquarters or a gatehouse in advance.

2. HIKING AND DAY USE

- 2.1 **The maximum size of a hiking group shall be 12 persons.** Affiliated groups on the same trail separated by less than one mile shall be considered one group.
- 2.2 Hiking or **mountain climbing** may be restricted at the discretion of the Director. Park users must be reasonably prepared and equipped for the activity they are engaged in, and must take reasonable precautions against endangering themselves or others. Hikers must carry a working flashlight. No children under the age of six (6) years are allowed above timberline. Children under the age of six (6) years walking under their own power may be authorized to travel above timberline by special use permit, subject to conditions set by the Director. Registration of technical rock/ice climbers is required. The Baxter State Park Authority may request reimbursement of search and rescue costs in cases of reckless hikers.

3. HUNTING, TRAPPING AND FISHING

- 3.1 **Hunting and trapping** are prohibited within the Park. Use or possession of any firearm, bow and arrow, sling shot, crossbow, air rifle or pistol is prohibited. Firearms may be transported through the Park if kept in a car trunk, enclosed in a case, or otherwise inaccessible to use. Bows may be transported through the Park if unstrung or enclosed in a case. This rule does not apply north of Trout Brook and Wadleigh Brook in T6 R9; in T6 R10; or in T2 R9 and in T2 R10 north of the West Branch of the Penobscot River, east to the thread of Abol Stream and west to the thread of the West Branch of the Penobscot River. Hunting with dogs is prohibited. In the areas within the Park where hunting and trapping are permitted, the general laws of the State pertaining to hunting and trapping apply, except that moose hunting and baiting any animals for hunting purposes are prohibited.
- 3.2 **Maine fishing laws** and the rules of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife apply within the Park. Maine fishing licenses are required.

4. RESOURCE PROTECTION AND WILDERNESS PRESERVATION

- 4.1 **Pets** or other domestic animals are not allowed in the Park. Releasing or introducing any animal in the Park is prohibited.
- 4.2 No person may **feed, bait, or disturb any animal** within the Park, with the exception that baiting of animals for trapping purposes is permitted north of Trout Brook and Wadleigh Brook in T6 R9; in T6 R10; or in T2 R9 and in T2 R10 north of the West Branch of the Penobscot River, east to Abol Stream and west to the West Branch of the Penobscot River. The use of audio, visual, electronic or any other device in any way that may disturb or harass wildlife is prohibited.
- 4.3 **Fires or other cooking or heating devices** are permitted only in designated campsites or picnic areas. At Chimney Pond and Davis Pond, open fires are prohibited and only backpack-type stoves are allowed. The removal of bark from, or the cutting or defacing of live or standing dead trees is prohibited.
- 4.4 No person may leave a **fire** without totally extinguishing it, nor discard any burning cigarettes, cigars, matches, or any other burning material within the Park. Any fire outside a designated fireplace must be reported to the nearest Park Ranger at once.
- 4.5 **All trash, rubbish, litter, camping gear, equipment, and materials** carried into the Park must be carried out of the Park. No trash, rubbish, or litter shall be deposited in any type of vaulted or un-vaulted toilet. All unattended food, garbage, and scented items shall be securely stowed in a vehicle, suspended on a bear hang, or enclosed in a bear-proof container.
- 4.6 Where toilets are not available, **human waste** must be disposed of at least 200' from water or trail. Below treeline, human waste must be buried or carried out. Above treeline, the digging of catholes is prohibited, and human waste must be carried out or left on the surface of the soil or a rock.

- 4.7 Use of any **soap or detergent**, or the disposal of **food scraps** within 200' of any waters is prohibited.
- 4.8 No person may create a **disturbance** that impairs the enjoyment of the Park by others. Campground quiet hours are posted and enforced. The use of electronic devices in any way that impairs the enjoyment of the Park by others is prohibited.
- 4.9 **Chainsaws, generators, and other power equipment** may not be operated within the Park.
- 4.10 Collection or removal of any **cultural object** from the Park is prohibited. No person may deface, paint, damage, mutilate, or vandalize any cultural object or any structure or sign within the Park. Possession of paint or marking materials, or tampering with, altering, or removing any sign, marker, or structure, is prohibited. Driving nails or permanently installing any object is prohibited. The use of metal detectors or similar devices is prohibited.
- 4.11 The removal from, or introduction of, **natural objects, materials, plants or animals** to the Park is prohibited, with the exceptions that fish and other wildlife may be collected for personal use in authorized areas of the Park as defined in 3.1, 3.2, and 4.2, above and that wild edible or medicinal plants and mushrooms may be collected for personal use only. Gathering of wild edible or medicinal plants and mushrooms for sale or commercial purposes is prohibited.
- 4.12 **Research** studies and Commercial Media projects within the Park require a special use permit issued by the Director. Commercial use activities within the Park require a commercial use permit issued by the Director.

5. VEHICLES AND TRANSPORTATION

- 5.1 No **vehicle** over nine (9) feet high, seven (7) feet wide, or 22 feet long for a single vehicle or 44 feet long for combined units may enter the Park. Oversize units may be authorized to use the Park road system by special use permit, subject to conditions set by the Director. The Director may restrict the use of vehicles by persons without camping reservations.
- 5.2 Within each campground or picnic area, all **vehicles** must park in designated areas. A maximum of two vehicles may park at each campsite for which parking space is provided. No vehicle may park on the traveled portion of any Park road, or obstruct a designated parking space.
- 5.3 All **vehicles** must display an entrance permit while in the Park. Vehicles parked overnight without an entrance permit displayed or with an invalid permit may be towed away at the owner's expense.
- 5.4 The operation of Motorized **trail bikes, and ATVs** (all-terrain vehicles) is prohibited within the Park except as specified in 5.7 below. The operation of **Motorcycles** is prohibited beyond Togue and Matagamom gatehouses within the Park. Unless further restricted for safety reasons, **bicycle** use within the Park shall be restricted to maintained

roads and the Dwelley Pond Trail. Bicycle use is allowed on the Abol Stream Trail December 1 to April 1.

- 5.5 Take-off and landing of **aircraft** in the Park is prohibited except on Matagamon, Nesowadnehunk, and Webster Lakes. Persons landing aircraft on permitted waters in the Park must register with Park Headquarters or a gatehouse in advance. "Aircraft" is defined to include any machine or device capable of deriving support in the atmosphere from the reactions of the air, including, but not limited to model craft, hot air balloons, hang gliders, para-sails, para-gliders and **unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)**. The possession or use of a UAV within the Park boundaries is prohibited. UAVs may be transported through the Park if kept in a car trunk, enclosed in a case, or otherwise inaccessible to use.
- 5.6 All **boats** and canoes left in the Park and not registered with Park Headquarters will be disposed of as abandoned property. The use of motor boats or outboard motors in the Park is prohibited except on Matagamon, Nesowadnehunk, and Webster Lakes. Outboard motors of ten (10) horsepower or less are permitted on Upper and Lower Togue Ponds.
- 5.7 **Snowmobiles** and ATVs (all terrain vehicles) may be used on (the frozen surface of) Matagamon, Nesowadnehunk, Webster Lakes, and Lower Togue Pond. Snowmobiles may be used on the following road or trail segments within Baxter State Park:
- 5.7A. The Park Tote Road between the southern Park boundary at so-called Caribou Pit and the Park boundary just south of Matagamon Landing;
- 5.7B. The so-called Logan Pond Road along the north shore of Lower Togue Pond;
- 5.7C. The spur road between the Park Tote Road and Camp Phoenix; and
- 5.7D. The existing trail along the East Branch of the Penobscot River from Second Lake Matagamon to the northern boundary of the Park.

Unauthorized use of snowmobiles in any other portion of the Park is prohibited. Operators of snowmobiles must comply with all requirements of State Law.

6. ADMINISTRATION

- 6.1 The Authority may from time to time establish **fees** for the use of the Park by the public.
- 6.2 All **groups of five (5) or more persons under 16 years of age** must be accompanied by at least one (1) person, of at least 18 years of age, responsible for the supervision of a maximum of five (5) youths.
- 6.3 **During periods of forest fire danger or other emergency conditions**, the Authority or Director may close the Park or any portion thereof. No person may enter or remain in closed areas except as authorized by the Authority or Director.
- 6.4 The **sale or offering for sale** of any object or merchandise is prohibited within Baxter State Park.

- 6.5 General laws of the State pertaining to **alcohol and drugs** apply within the Park. Maine law prohibits the drinking of alcoholic beverages in public places.

7. VIOLATIONS

A person who violates any of the rules of the Baxter State Park Authority or a condition of a permit issued under those rules commits a civil violation for which a fine of not more than \$1,000 may be adjudged. Persons violating other applicable laws within the Park may also be punished in accordance with the provisions of those laws. In addition, persons violating these rules may be required immediately to leave the Park, and the Authority may revoke the privilege of any person who violates these rules to enter the Park for a specified period.

Baxter State Park, 64 Balsam Drive, Millinocket, ME 04462
baxterstatepark.org

(207) 723-9616
TTY: (207) 723-4419