Visiting AMC’s Maine Wilderness Lodges: AMC’s Approach to Recreation, Sustainable Forestry, and Land Stewardship

Thank you for choosing to visit AMC’s Maine Wilderness Lodges! These lodges are surrounded by 66,500 acres of AMC-owned conservation land in the 100-Mile Wilderness region in the heart of the Maine Woods. AMC’s lands are a part of an 80-mile corridor of state and private conservation lands stretching to the northern end of Baxter State Park.

AMC’s land ownership is the foundation of our Maine Woods Initiative (MWI), our plan for land conservation in the 100-Mile Wilderness region. This is the largest project in AMC’s 136-year history, balancing outdoor recreation, resource protection, sustainable forestry and community partnerships.

Recreation

While you are here, we hope you get out and experience the wonder of the Maine Woods. AMC’s conservation lands offer 80+ miles of hiking trails and ski routes; paddling and fishing on remote, undeveloped ponds; scenic views, and extraordinary wildlife- and bird-watching. AMC is building new trails, campsites, and water access sites that are available for the public to enjoy.

Ecological Protection

AMC has designated 20,000 acres as forest reserve, where no motorized recreation or timber harvesting occurs. These areas protect sensitive wetland and aquatic habitat, including the headwaters of an important wild brook trout fishery, and provide a baseline for scientific research on forest systems where no timber harvesting occurs.

Sustainable Forestry

AMC harvests timber on about a third of its lands, taking a conservative approach to timber management by harvesting well below the growth level, and promoting the establishment of a more mature, multi-aged forest over time. A strong emphasis is put on protecting the aesthetic character of the forest and protecting important recreational and ecological resources (including trail corridors, wildlife habitat, wetlands and water quality). AMC does not re-plant, rather allowing the native forest species to grow naturally. Our timber lands also provide a “green endowment” – a sustainable green fund that helps maintain our trails and bridges. Our timber harvesting employs local loggers, and our wood goes to local Maine mills.
You may see or hear timber harvesting activity during your stay. If you encounter timber harvesting activity, it is important to follow certain procedures for the safety of both yourself and the logging crew:

• If you come upon a landing (an area where logs are collected at roadside and loaded onto trucks), stop at a safe distance within sight of the crew. Do not proceed until signaled by the crew that it is safe to do so. Please be patient, as it takes time for the crew to clear the roadway.

• Always give logging trucks the right of way. If you encounter a truck on the road, pull as far to the right as you can, and stop until the truck has passed.

• If you wish to stop and observe the operation, you may do so. Park at a safe distance as far off the road as possible. Stay at a safe distance unless the crew indicates it is safe to approach more closely. The crew may be willing to answer questions, but they may not be able to do so at all times.

• If you come across a landing when operations are not active, please do not tamper with, or climb on, harvesting equipment.

If you have any questions about AMC trails, lodges, forest reserves or timber harvesting, we encourage you to ask our staff, who will be pleased to answer questions, or find the answers for you.

Read more at:

http://www.outdoors.org/conservation/wherewework/maine/index.cfm