

Janet S. McMahon

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EDUCATION

M.S. in plant ecology, University of Maine, 1990. Thesis title: The Biophysical Regions of Maine: Patterns in the Landscape and Vegetation. Phi Kappa Phi.

B.A. in biology and geology, Colby College, 1979. SEA Semester W-38 (Woods Hole, Massachusetts to the Gulf of Mexico and back). Graduated from Colby with distinction in the majors.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ecologist - self-employed consultant, various locations in Maine. 1991 to present.

Examples of completed projects include: (1) evaluation of ecological significance of the Western Maine Mountains region, (2) development of a regional conservation plan for 800,000 acres in midcoast Maine for the 12 Rivers Conservation Initiative, (3) landscape-scale conservation plans for the Medomak River, St. George River, and Sheepscot River watersheds and the Blue Hill peninsula that identified, mapped, and described priority conservation areas for the land trusts that serve these areas; (4) strategic plan on alewife enhancement and alewife habitat survey for the town of Waldoboro; (5) ecological assessment and conservation site design for 250,000 acres along the Allagash River for Clayton Lake Woodlands, (6) SmartWood Green Certification evaluation for the Baxter State Park Scientific Forest Management Area, (7) natural resource inventory of the 90,000 acre Medomak River watershed for the Medomak Valley Land Trust, and (8) ecological assessment and design of Fourth Machias Lake Reserve for Downeast Lakes Land Trust.

Conservation Biologist, The Nature Conservancy – Brunswick, Maine. January 1993 to 1998.

Evaluated tracts of land and designed potential reserves using conservation biology principles. From 1994 to 1998, I coordinated an inventory of Maine's public and private conservation lands for the Maine Forest Biodiversity Project to determine which sites had ecological reserve potential.

Senior Planner, Ecological Reserves Study, Maine State Planning Office - Augusta, Maine.
January 1990 to February 1991.

Developed a blueprint for a statewide ecological reserves system in Maine. Responsibilities included developing a Maine ecosystem classification, coordinating an inventory of Maine's public and private conservation lands to determine which natural ecosystem types were represented and adequately protected, developing guidelines for reserve design and management, outlining protection strategies, and identifying ways to integrate the reserve system with other land conservation efforts. Worked closely with the state's natural resource agencies, private conservation organizations, and university scientists to develop ecological reserve legislation, which passed in 2000.

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Land Stewardship Director, Maine Audubon Society - Falmouth, Maine. March 1985 to July 1987.

Managed Maine Audubon's sanctuary program. Responsibilities included administration, raising all program funds, developing management plans for ten sanctuaries, working with prospective donors, overseeing trail crews and stewardship committees, conducting natural resource inventories, and developing educational programs in the Bath and Bangor areas.

Educational Consultant, The Atlantic Center for the Environment and The Foundation for PRIDE - Turks and Caicos Islands, British West Indies. January to June 1984.

Worked on a natural resource curriculum for the Turks and Caicos Islands' school system and evaluated the effectiveness of island-wide education programs developed by PRIDE Foundation.

Biologist/Geologist, Maine Critical Areas Program - Augusta, Maine. 1979 to 1982.

Designed and conducted an inventory (aerial and ground surveys) of whitewater rapids in Maine and wrote a report recommending exceptional areas for protection. The results provided a building block for a statewide river protection plan - The Maine Rivers Study. Also worked closely with major landowners toward the voluntary protection of recommended areas.

Program Director, Ocean Horizons, The Atlantic Center for the Environment - Fogo Island, Newfoundland. Summers 1981 and 1982.

Directed a marine education program on Fogo Island, Newfoundland that offered instruction and first-hand experience in ecology, natural history, and resource management to children and adults of the province. Responsibilities included working closely with local residents, educators, and resource managers on overall program design, supervising a staff of five, and designing a curriculum.

Coordinator, Saint John River Expedition, The Atlantic Center for the Environment - Maine and New Brunswick. May through August 1979.

Coordinated a seven week canoe trip down the Saint John River from Baker Lake, Maine to Saint John, New Brunswick. Natural history, resource and social issues, and the feasibility of running similar trips for valley residents were studied. Co-authored a report describing the expedition and its results.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Faculty, Watershed School - Camden Maine. 2008 to present.

I teach courses in Global Climate Change and World Geography at Watershed School, an independent high school that serves students from Belfast to Damariscotta. Highlights have included working with students to develop a blueprint for a carbon neutral Maine, a street light inventory of Rockland, Maine, and a survey of midcoast high school students views on the issue of global warming.

Allagash Wilderness Waterway Advisory Council - Appointed by Governor John Baldacci to a 7-member council charged with advising the Bureau of Parks and Lands on long-term governance, management and oversight of the Waterway. 2007 to 2015.

Ecological Reserves Scientific Advisory Board - Appointed by Governor Baldacci to a 12-member board that advises the Maine Natural Areas Program on selection and monitoring of ecological reserves

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in Maine and is developing guidelines for recreational use on reserves. 2008 to present.

Maine Forest Biodiversity Project - Participant in a 100-member consortium of forest landowners, conservationists, scientists, sportsman and public agency representatives that developed strategies to protect the biodiversity of Maine's forests through a combination of reserves, sustainable forest management, and education. 1994 to 1999.

Maine Council on Sustainable Forest Management - Appointed by Governor Angus King to a 10-member council that was charged with assessing the sustainability of Maine's forest resources. 1995 through 1996.

Medomak Valley Land Trust - Helped found a land trust centered around the Medomak River watershed in 1991 and served on the board and as chair of its lands committee until 2007. I currently serve on the lands working group of Midcoast Conservancy which merged with Medomak Valley Land Trust in 2019.

Recipient of the following:

- New England Wildflower Society's 2001 Maine State Award
- Natural Resources Council of Maine's 1998 Environmental Activist Award for work on ecological reserves
- Maine Association of Planners Special Recognition Award for the 1994 report: The Medomak River Watershed - A Natural Resource Inventory.