

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Acadia National Park, Maine



Draft Transportation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

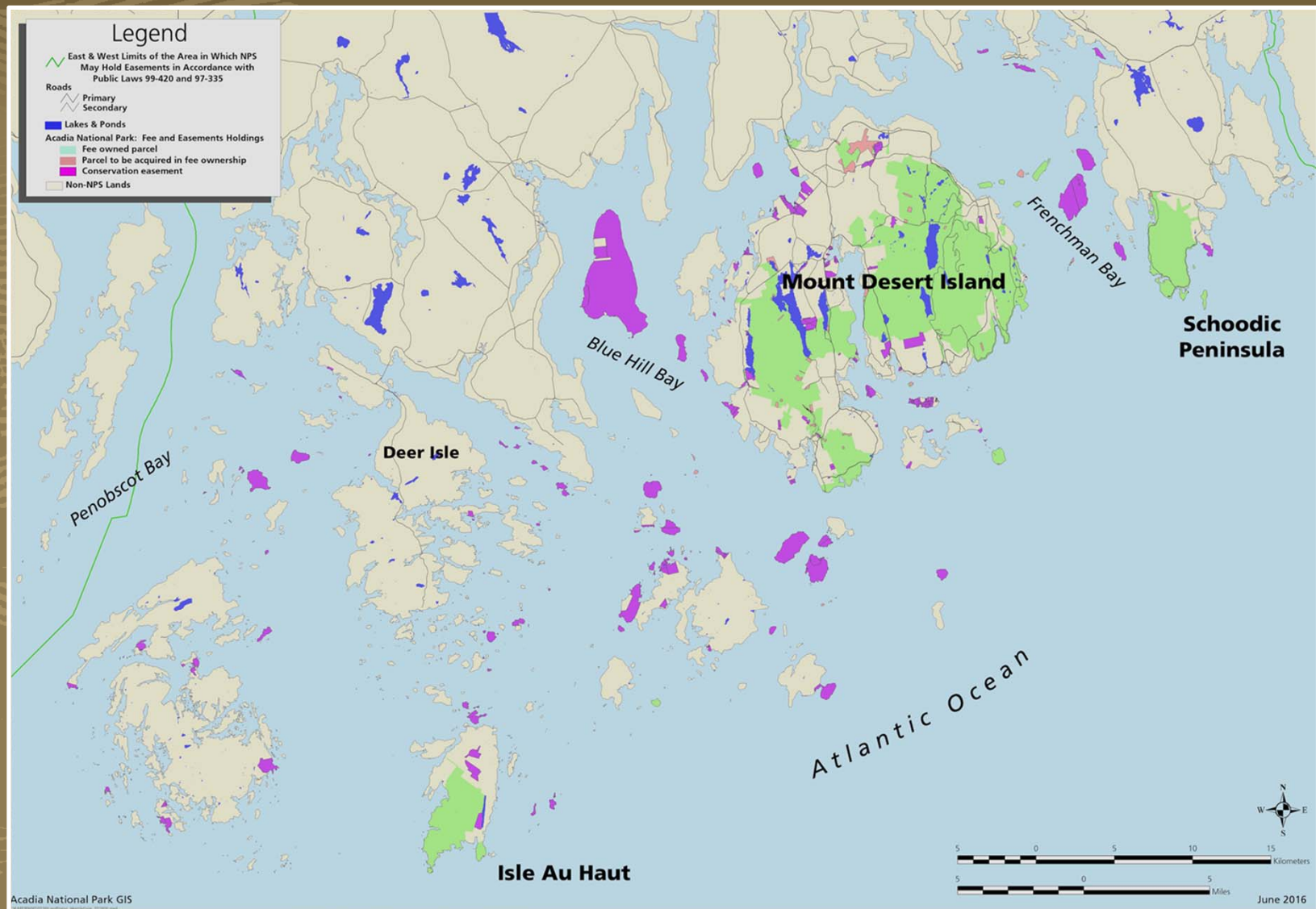
Virtual Online Public Information Meeting
June 13, 2018



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Meeting Overview

- Planning Schedule
- Background
- Purpose of the Plan
- Need for the Plan
- Goals and Desired Conditions
- Alternatives Overview
- Ways to Comment on the Plan



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Park Loop Road



Planning Schedule

- Conduct public outreach; collect data - Summer 2015
- Analyze public comments; develop preliminary concepts - Fall 2015
- Conduct public review of preliminary concepts - Fall 2016
- Analyze public comments; prepare the draft plan - Winter 2017
- **Public review of the draft plan/EIS – Spring 2018**
- Analyze public comments; prepare the final plan/EIS - Summer 2018
- Release final plan/EIS; prepare Record of Decision – End of 2018

Background

- 2016 visitation 3.3 million up 58% from 2006
- 2017 visitation 3.5 million - up 6% from 2016
- 350% increase in cruise ship passengers since 2000
- 50+ points of entry off state and local roads
- Park and communities are interspersed and interconnected



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Purpose of the Plan

To determine how best to provide safe and efficient transportation and a variety of high quality experiences to visitors within Acadia National Park while ensuring the protection of park resources and values

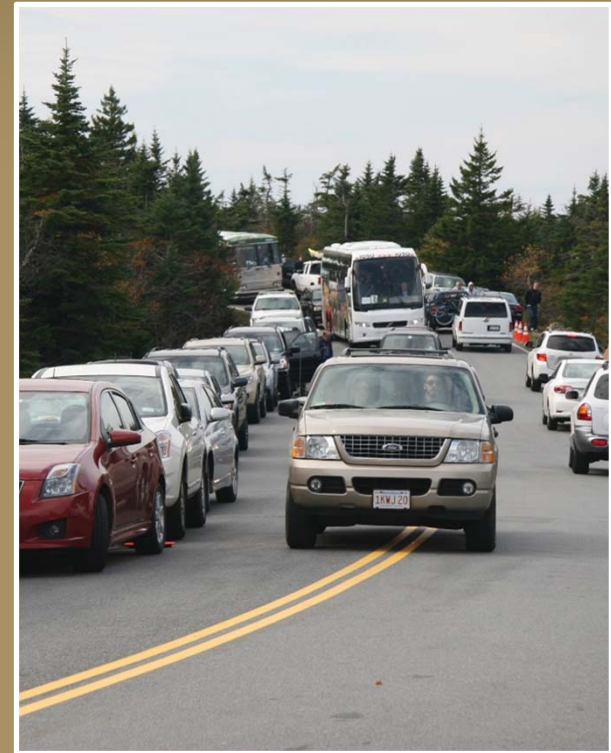


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Need for the Plan

High volume of visitors in key destinations at peak times is causing:

- Diminished visitor experience:
 - Gridlock
 - Crowding
 - Overwhelmed visitor facilities
- Safety concerns
- Emergency response delays
- Cultural and natural resource impacts



Goals and Desired Conditions

- Provide for a range of opportunities to experience the landscape that provide high quality, resource-related visitor experiences while ensuring a safe and positive social environment
- Protect the aesthetic and historic values of historic roads, historic carriage roads and trails in the park
- Protect, preserve, and rehabilitate the cultural landscapes of the park



Goals and Desired Conditions

- Protect and preserve the park's natural resources, giving priority to those that are exceptionally fragile or significant
- Maintain or improve air and water quality
- Preserve opportunities for visitors to enjoy the park's scenery

Environmental Impact Statement

- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) requires federal agencies to fully consider the impacts of proposals that would affect the human environment
- NEPA requires opportunities for public comment throughout the process



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Alternatives Overview

- Considered, but dismissed
- Common to all action alternatives
- Alternative A: No Action
- Alternative B: Site Management
- Alternative D: System Management
- Alternative C: Corridor Management (Preferred)

Considered, but Dismissed

- Transit access only
- Parking expansion or modification along historic roadway
- Signal controlled one-way traffic on Cadillac Mountain
- Restoration of two-way traffic pattern



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Common to All Action Alternatives

- Adaptive management
- Vehicle size requirements
- Enhanced commercial services including rideshare partnerships
- Increase public transit service frequency and duration
- Expanded education, signage, trip planning
- Monitoring at Schoodic Peninsula



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Alternative A: No Action

- Maintain existing access points, vehicle travel direction, right lane parking, and first-come, first-served parking in all lots
- Manage out of bounds parking, pullouts, social trails, crowding and congestion on a case-by-case basis
- Permit large motor coaches throughout the park



Alternative B: Site Management

- Parking reservations at five highest use lots (peak season)
- Other lots remain first-come/first-serve
- Discontinue right lane parking
- Redesigned/expanded Hulls Cove as primary visitor center

Alternative D: System Management

- Manage all access points onto the Park Loop Road
- Timed entry vehicle reservation system during peak use season
- Individual lots remains first-come / first-serve
- Most of the Park Loop Road becomes one way
- Allow some parallel (striped) parking near Sand Beach
- Hulls Cove redeveloped into an orientation and transportation hub
- Acadia Gateway Center serves as the primary visitor center

Alternative C: Corridor Management (Preferred)

- Adaptively implement reservations for private vehicles:
 - Ocean Drive, Cadillac Mountain, and Jordan Pond
 - Adaptively expand reservation system as necessary
- Double park and ride availability at Halls Cove and replace visitor center
- Partner with private sector to enhance commercial services
- Provide off-highway parking at Eagle Lake and Acadia Mountain
- Phase out right lane parking as alternative parking comes online

Ways to Comment on the Plan

Online at: go.nps.gov/AcadiaPlan (select "Open for Comment")

In writing to:

Acadia National Park
ATTN: Transportation Plan
PO BOX 177
Bar Harbor, ME 04609

Comments will be accepted through June 26, 2018



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