

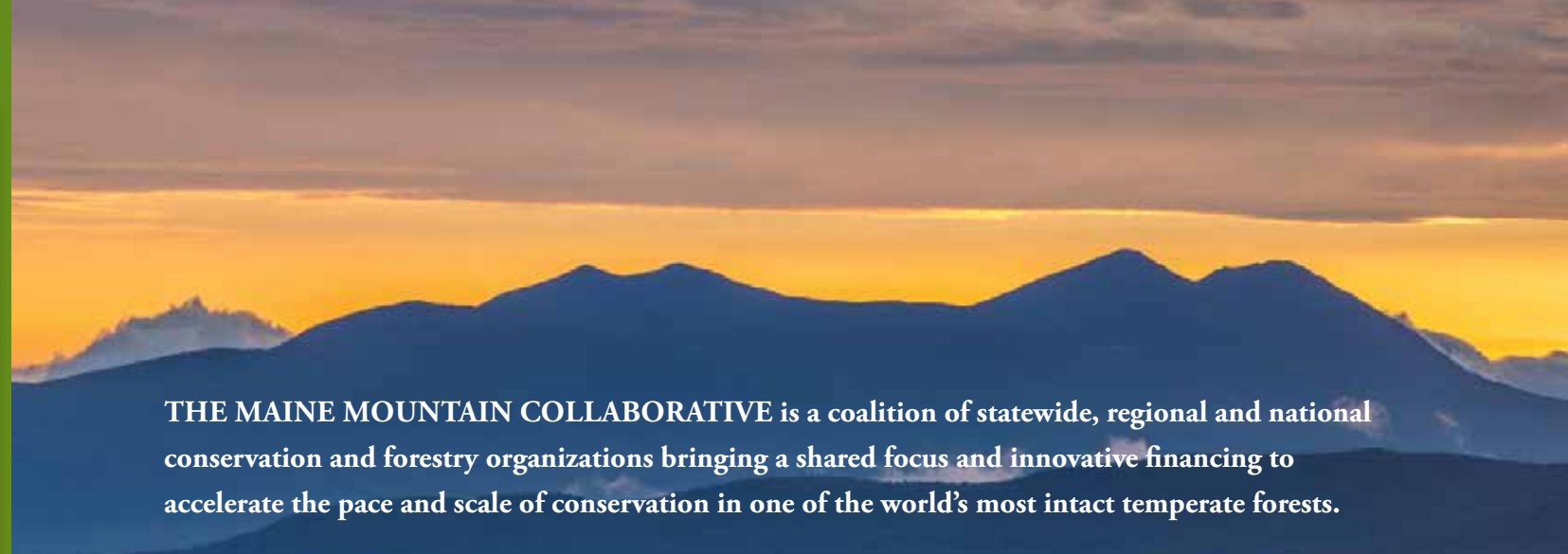
FROM HIGH-MOUNTAIN BOREAL FORESTS that stretch for 250 miles to low elevation hardwoods, the forests of Maine's mountains support diverse and abundant wildlife.

The Mountains of the Dawn are a vital part of the vast Maine forest that is home to:

- The largest moose population in the lower 48 states;
- The elusive, rare and endangered Canada lynx;
- Essential breeding grounds for many species of birds including warblers, thrushes and hawks that migrate from distant regions;
- Rivers that harbor the last native populations of the endangered Atlantic salmon in the US;
- Pristine lakes, ponds and streams supporting the nation's only population of wild, self reproducing brook trout.



Photo courtesy of The Trust for Public Land; Jerry Monkman, EcoPhotography.org



THE MAINE MOUNTAIN COLLABORATIVE is a coalition of statewide, regional and national conservation and forestry organizations bringing a shared focus and innovative financing to accelerate the pace and scale of conservation in one of the world's most intact temperate forests.



Photo courtesy Keith Williams



Photo courtesy AMC

We are working together to:

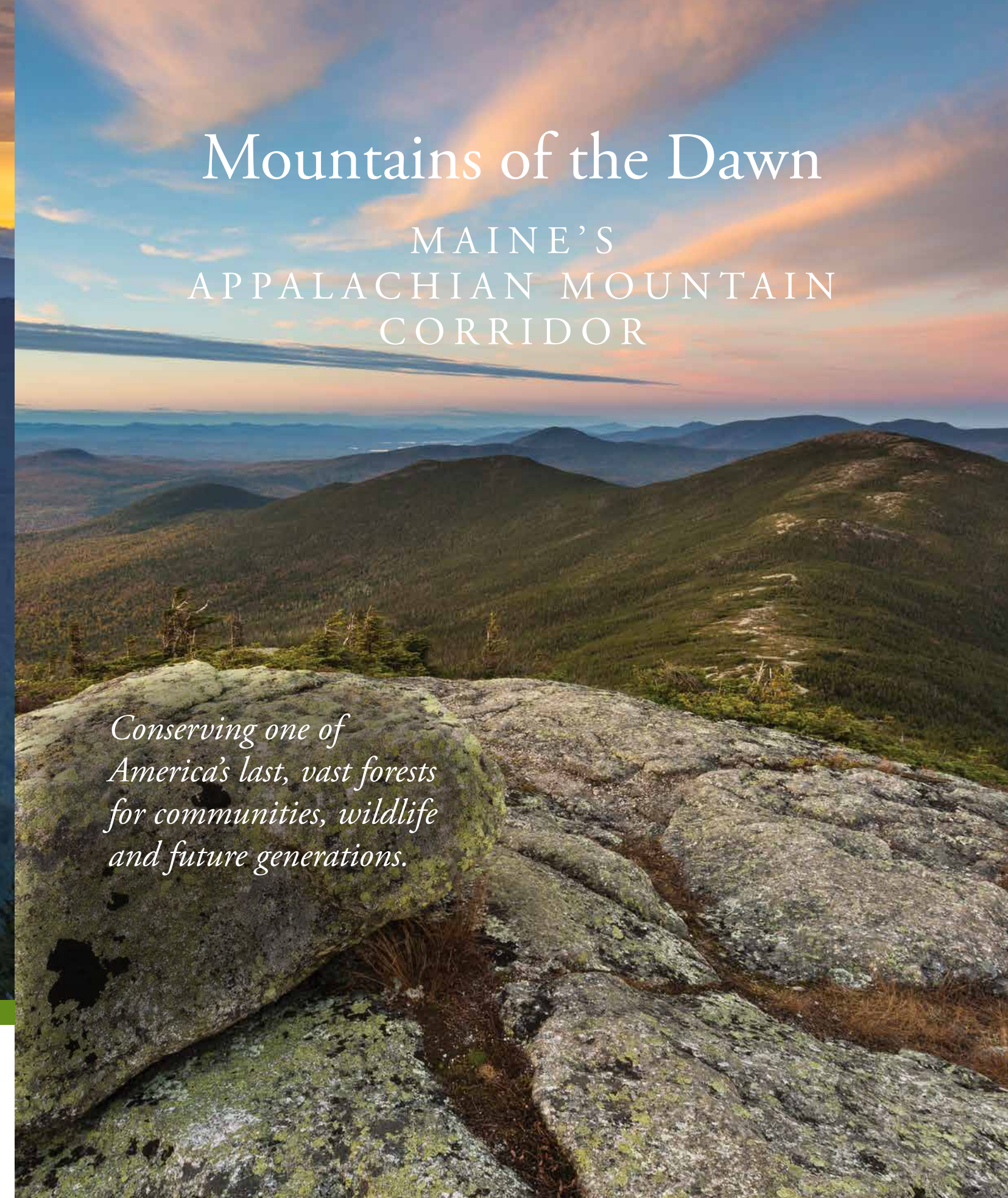
- Bring attention to the region's national ecological significance.
- Highlight its critical role as a wildlife corridor now and as the climate changes.
- Communicate the region's exceptional recreational, economic and cultural importance.
- Identify critical parcels and conserve both well-managed forests and ecological reserves to provide landscape-level connectivity and support communities.
- Increase philanthropic support and conservation-minded investment through traditional and innovative approaches.

TO LEARN MORE about specific conservation projects and how you can be part of this important work, please contact info@mainemountaincollaborative.org.

Photo courtesy of The Trust for Public Land; Jerry Monkman, EcoPhotography.org

Mountains of the Dawn

MAINE'S APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CORRIDOR



Conserving one of America's last, vast forests for communities, wildlife and future generations.



Convened by George and Laura Appell of the Mountain Conservancy, the Maine Mountain Collaborative includes Appalachian Mountain Club, Forest Society of Maine, New England Forestry Foundation, and The Trust for Public Land.

A project of the MAINE MOUNTAIN COLLABORATIVE



Come stand on a rugged mountain peak in western Maine to welcome a new day. Fading stars give way to a pink-streaked sky, a distant caw wafts up the side of a stony summit. A soft forest carpets the landscape as far as the eye can see. On its journey westward across the North American continent, the sun's rays will touch many legendary mountain ranges—the Rockies from Yellowstone to Yukon, the Cascades of the Pacific Northwest, California's Sierra Nevada. But vast wild landscapes are not reserved for the West. From the high peaks of remote mountain ranges in Maine, the day's first rays illuminate the largest undeveloped ecosystem in the East. These are the Mountains of the Dawn.

So named to honor the Wabanaki people of the northeast who call themselves People of the Dawn, the Mountains of the Dawn are the first American mountain ranges to greet the rising sun. They form the northern pathway of the ancient Appalachian Mountains that stretch sinuously for 1500 miles south to Georgia. Maine's Mountains of the Dawn are the backbone of a spectacularly intact region that encompasses more than five million acres of forests, thousands of pristine lakes and streams, vast wetlands, the headwaters of great rivers, and hundreds of miles of alpine ridges supporting unique boreal habitats. Its forests provide livelihoods and important products, and are vital to the region's communities and way of life. These forests are also a vital ecological link in the great Appalachian-Acadian forest that stretches from the Adirondacks in New York through Maine and into Canada.

The Mountains of the Dawn have long been a recreational paradise, with places remarkably wild and remote for the eastern U.S. It is paradise too for wildlife, a vital part of the vast Maine forest that is home to the endangered Canada lynx, the largest moose population in the lower 48 states, and a globally significant breeding habitat for many species of birds.



With its varied ecosystems and sweeping elevation gradients, the Mountains of the Dawn will become an increasingly critical corridor for plant and animal species as their ranges shift in response to a changing climate.

Millions of acres of this region have long been owned by a few large landowners including paper companies, and more recently, timberland investors. These large owners have upheld longstanding traditions of multiple use, where the land—managed for timber supply—is available for hunting, fishing and backcountry recreation, while supporting critical wildlife habitat for species that need large forest areas. But global economic forces are bringing profound change to the forest products industry and traditional ownership patterns. Millions of acres have been bought and sold. More is expected, bringing great uncertainty about the future of this unique mountainous forest corridor. The challenge is to keep this vast undeveloped forestland intact and to maintain its vital role as a linkage within the larger Northern Appalachian-Acadian forest. The future of this region's character, forest-based economy, and ecological integrity is at stake.

Let's leave the new day to warm these mountains. Join the effort of conservation organizations that are combining their expertise and focus to protect the heart of one of the world's most intact temperate forests. Become part of a powerful new initiative to conserve a landscape that supports local economies, abundant wildlife, vibrant ecosystems and biological diversity. Together, we can leave a legacy—that the Mountains of the Dawn continue to sustain life for generations to come.

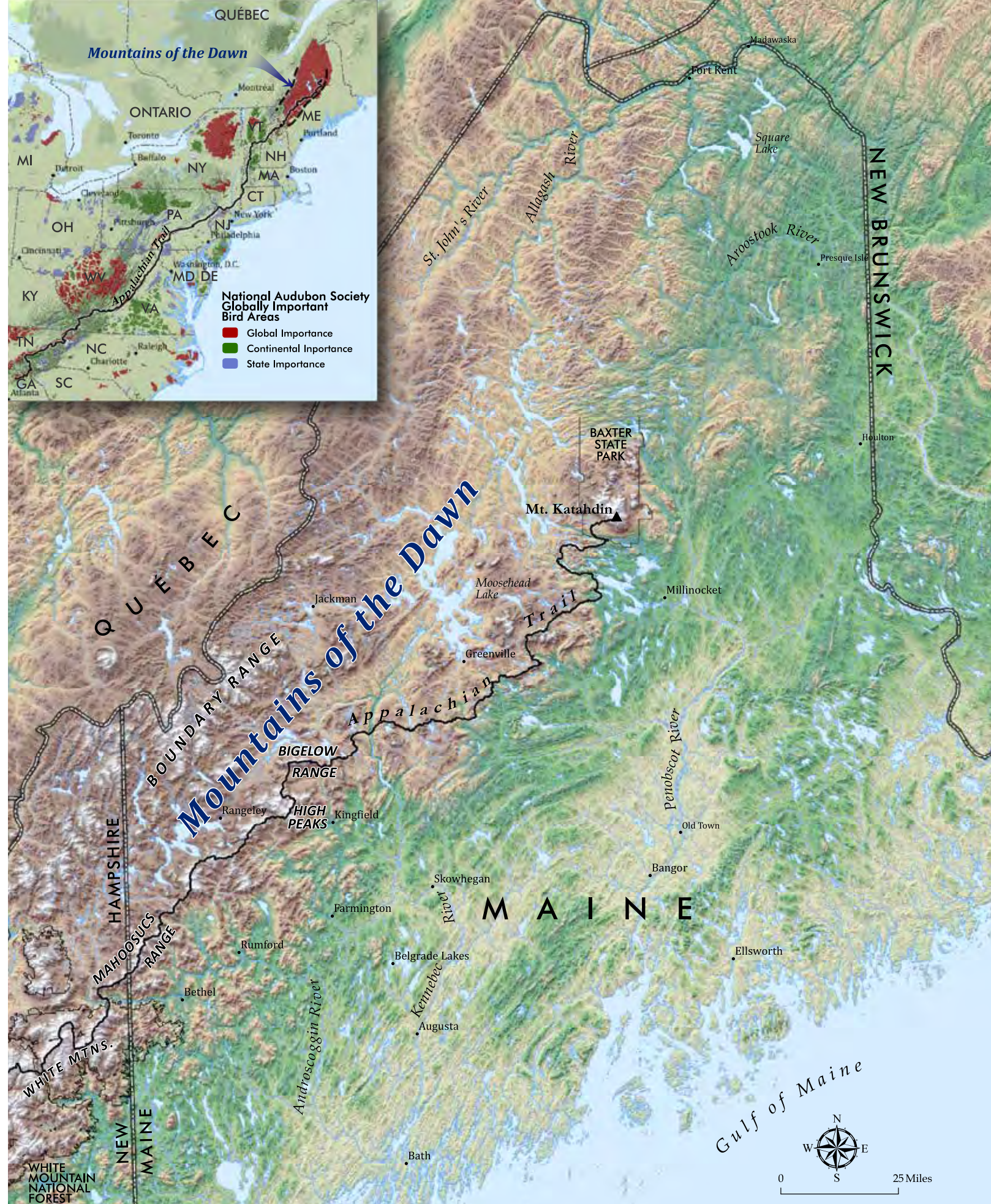


Photo courtesy Forest Society of Maine

“Maine’s Mountains of the Dawn region is a biodiversity stronghold and a critically important linkage within the greater Appalachian-Acadian forest.”

Janet McMahon, Ecologist



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