

State of Maine



WHEREAS, on March 3, 1931, former governor Percival Proctor Baxter deeded to the people of the State of Maine 5,960 acres of land, including Katahdin, the highest mountain in our state, known to and cherished by the Wabanaki, Maine's first peoples, as the "Greatest Mountain;" and

WHEREAS, in the initial deed of trust, Governor Baxter wrote that "said premises shall forever be used for public park and recreational purposes, shall forever be left in the natural wild state, shall forever be kept as a sanctuary for wild beasts and birds;" and

WHEREAS, over the next 31 years, Governor Baxter presented to the people of Maine 27 additional parcels of public park land which he acquired at his personal expense, to "show to the people of my native state my appreciation of the honors they conferred upon me in the years gone by;" and

WHEREAS, in 1971 the Maine State Legislature adopted a statement of purpose for Baxter State Park, which begins: "Seldom has a more generous gift been presented to a people than has been given by Percival Proctor Baxter to the people of the State of Maine. It is incumbent upon them, the recipients, to preserve the trust impressed upon them, to ensure for themselves and for future generations the fullest use of Baxter State Park consistent with the desires of the donor;" and

WHEREAS, today Baxter State Park comprises some 209,644 acres, making it one of the largest state parks in the United States and the largest ever given by an individual; and

WHEREAS, Baxter State Park has been embraced by generations of visitors from across Maine and beyond, benefitting from the stewardship work of scores of volunteers and others who have labored to maintain trails and recreation amenities; and

WHEREAS, having endured natural disturbances, political upheavals, and changing expectations of wilderness, Baxter State Park still stands as a symbol of the solitude, steadfastness, and independence that is the spirit of the State of Maine;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim March 3, 2021 as

Baxter State Park Day

throughout the State of Maine, and I urge all Maine people to recognize and celebrate the determination, foresight and generosity of Governor Percival Baxter on this, the 90th Anniversary of his original enduring gift to the people of the State of Maine.



In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this twenty-fifth day of February Two Thousand Twenty-One

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State
TRUE ATTESTED COPY