

BANGOR DAILY NEWS

Two Maine projects recognized in federal Great Outdoors initiative

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WASHINGTON — Two Maine projects have gained mention on a list of the nation's most promising ways to reconnect Americans to the natural world, according to a U.S. Department of the Interior press release.

The Penobscot River Restoration Project and Keeping Maine's Forests are on a list that will be released next week in a final report compiled as part of the federal [America's Great Outdoors Initiative](#).

According to the press release, the report is a result of 50 meetings with U.S. governors and stakeholders held by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and other senior Interior officials, during which participants were asked for ideas of the best ways to implement the America's Great Outdoors Initiative in their states.

"Under the America's Great Outdoors Initiative, we are listening to the people of Maine and communities across America and working with them on locally based projects that will conserve the beauty and health of our land and water and open up more opportunities for people to enjoy them," Salazar said.

Two projects in each state will be highlighted in the report. [Several of those projects](#) have already been announced.

The Penobscot River Restoration Project involves the removal of two dams and the building of a fish bypass at a third, which will open hundreds of miles of migration and spawning habitat to 11 species of sea-run fish.

Keeping Maine's Forests is a partnership of forest landowners, private organizations and state and federal government agencies working to promote forest stewardship. According to the release proposed pilot projects are poised to have a significant impact on wildlife habitat across Maine.

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