



## Mission Statement and Background October, 2019

**The Mission** of the Katahdin Collaborative is to create a positive environment to facilitate communication, leverage resources and foster collaboration among community members, volunteer groups, businesses, non-profit organizations, institutions, and municipalities working toward the revitalization of the Katahdin Region.

**Background:** Recent years have seen increased activity among a variety of economic and community development groups in the Katahdin region. These include long standing groups such as the Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce, Northern Timber Cruisers, Katahdin Higher Education Center, and the Katahdin Tourism Partnership as well as new groups such as Our Katahdin, Katahdin Revitalization, Thrive Penobscot and Regional Economic Development Director, among others. At the encouragement of local leaders, representatives from these groups met in December 2015 to discuss the potential for collaboration. Thus, the Katahdin Collaborative organized informally and a one-year grant in support of collaborative work was secured from the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation by The Nature Conservancy.

**Participation in the Katahdin Collaborative:** The Katahdin Collaborative started as an informal roundtable of interested Katahdin area community, recreation and economic development groups including local governments. The intent is not to duplicate or replace the unique work of any individual group but to encourage collaboration and leverage resources. Participation is open to a wide range of groups working in the Katahdin region to increase communication and collaborate on the revitalization of the region. In the fall of 2019, the Collaborative formalized a structure for governance and working together. Collaborators agree to uphold the guiding principles, simple rules and engage at a collaborator level that is sustainable. All meetings are open to the public.

### **Benefits of the Katahdin Collaborative:**

- Increasing and enhancing connections within and throughout the Region
- Reciprocity (give & take)
- Accomplish work together that none of us can accomplish on our own

- Sharing your story will advance others' work
- Learning from others will advance your work
- Sharing lessons learned
- Regional resources (grants) that individually we could not win

**Geography:** The geographic scope roughly includes the towns between Millinocket and Mt. Chase and surrounding rural communities.

**Leadership:** Collaborators will select a 5-7 person steering committee with varied term limits for continuity (1-3 years). The leadership should represent a diversity of groups, interests and communities within the region to the extent possible.

**Meeting frequency & locations:** The Katahdin Collaborative will meet quarterly or more frequently as needed to exchange information among the participants and groups and conduct any business that may be needed. Meetings will rotate through the region to encourage participation and a call-in line will be made available when possible.

**Staff Support:** Currently, Our Katahdin provides staffing support to organize and facilitate meetings and periodically communicate activities to the broader communities.