

Kirkland, April

From: kraustinn@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Kristin Nam <kraustinn@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 04, 2019 7:30 PM
To: DEP, NECEC
Subject: NECEC Wildlife Impacts Not Properly Avoided, Mitigated, or Compensated

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Dear Maine Department of Environmental Protection,

I would like to speak up for the birds and animals who have no legal representation. For them, losing the freedom of the North Woods is a travesty. It will cause the death of individuals displaced and deminish species of birds that are already under pressure due to habitat destruction. It will limit the ability of other animals to travel as needed in search of food and mates. These are called basic human rights, but they are basic to all creatures.

I understand that the DEP is considering the adequacy of the compensation offered for impacts that cannot be reasonably avoided or mitigated. Maine Audubon estimates that Segment 1 of the proposed corridor would impact more than 5,000 linear acres of habitat. Applying a standard multiplier, this would suggest conservation of 40,000 to 100,000 acres of protected lands to offset impacts associated with fragmentation.

These lands should be large blocks of unfragmented habitat near the proposed transmission line, preferably of a diverse biogeographic nature and managed for mature forest characteristics in order to provide habitat for the many interior forest and wide-ranging species that would be adversely affected. Conservation could come in the form of fee acquisition, conservation easements, or a combination of the two. This compensation should be in addition to the approximately 2,700 acres already offered to compensate for direct impacts to wetlands in the corridor.

Such compensation should be in addition further steps to avoid and minimize wildlife habitat impacts

Sincerely,
Kristin Nam
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