**94-293**

**BAXTER STATE PARK**

2016-2017 Regulatory Agenda

August 7, 2016

*(as amended November 1, 2016)*

AGENCY UMBRELLA-UNIT NUMBER: **94-293**

AGENCY NAME: **Baxter State Park**

**CONTACT INFORMATION (RULE-MAKING LIAISON)**: Georgia Manzo, 64 Balsam Drive, Millinocket ME 04462. Telephone: (207) 723-9500 x2222. E-mail: Georgia.Manzo@baxterstatepark.org .

**EMERGENCY RULES ADOPTED SINCE THE LAST REGULATORY AGENDA**: None

**EXPECTED 2016-2017 RULE-MAKING ACTIVITY**:

**CHAPTER 1, Section 1. Rule 1.2**: Camping permitted by reservation only and only in authorized campgrounds and campsites, May 15 through October 15 and December 1 through March 31.

STATUTORY BASIS: The current rule specifies the dates of May 15 through October 15 as the permitted dates summer season camping in Baxter State Park. The Park has extended the camping season at three campgrounds to October 22.

PURPOSE: In recognition of warmer seasons and later date of first winter snowfall, the Park is providing more opportunity for the public to camp in Baxter State Park.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Between December, 2016 and March 2017

LISTING OF AFFECTED PARTIES: Baxter State Park Visitors, Baxter State Park Rangers

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

CONTACT FOR THIS CHAPTER: Jensen Bissell, 64 Balsam Drive, Millinocket, ME 04462. Telephone: (207) 723-9500. E-mail: Jensen.Bissell@baxterstatepark.org .

**CHAPTER 1, Section 1. Rule 1.3**: Persons entering or leaving the Park by way of the Appalachian Trail must register at Katahdin Stream Campground

STATUTORY BASIS: The proposed rule change affects persons entering the Park for the purpose of hiking all or part of the Appalachian Trail.

PURPOSE: To amend rule to integrate the AT-Katahdin Hiker Permit Card system into the process.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Between December, 2016 and March 2017

LISTING OF AFFECTED PARTIES: Baxter State Park Visitors, Baxter State Park Rangers, Gate Attendants and Reservation Staff.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

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**CHAPTER 1, Section 3. Rule 3.1**. Hunting with dogs is prohibited

STATUTORY BASIS: Current rule states hunting with dogs is prohibited. The proposed rule change provides a more reasonable and balanced approach to the hunting methods in an area that is already open to hunting.

PURPOSE: To provide a more reasonable and accommodating approach to the existing hunting regulations in this area, with specifications. Schedule for Adoption: Between December, 2016 and March 2017

LISTING OF AFFECTED PARTIES: Baxter State Park Visitors/Hunters, Baxter State Park Rangers

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

CONTACT FOR THIS CHAPTER: Jensen Bissell, 64 Balsam Drive, Millinocket, ME 04462. Telephone: (207) 723-9500. E-mail: Jensen.Bissell@baxterstatepark.org .

**CHAPTER 1, Section 4. Rule 4.1**. Pets or domestic animals are not allowed in the Park.

STATUTORY BASIS: The proposed rule change adds “with the exception that dogs are allowed north of Trout Brook and Wadleigh Brook in T6 R9; and in T6 R10 (the Scientific Forest Management Area). Dogs shall only be admitted by permit through the Matagamon Gate.”

PURPOSE: To amend rule to accommodate the allowance of dogs in a less visited, less populated area of the Park that is open to hunting and trapping.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Between December, 2016 and March 2017

LISTING OF AFFECTED PARTIES: Baxter State Park Visitors, Baxter State Park Rangers, Gate Attendants and Reservation Staff.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

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**CHAPTER 1, Section 5. Rule 5.5**: Operation of Motorcycles

STATUTORY BASIS: Following a multi-year trial allowing winter bike use on the Abol Pond Trail, the proposed rule change will allow bicycle use on that trail for 4 months.

PURPOSE: To amend and align rule to accommodate growing interest in this winter activity.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Between November, 2016 and March 2017

LISTING OF AFFECTED PARTIES: Baxter State Park Visitors

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

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**CHAPTER 1, Section 5, Rule 5.6**. Taking off and landing of aircraft in the Park

STATUTORY BASIS: To further enforce UAV use with the following addition: “The possession of a UAV on any trail, waterway or body of water within the Park is prohibited.”

PURPOSE: To further accommodate and protect the Wilderness Experience of the Park for its visitors and wildlife as this aircraft becomes more popular and prevalent in society for personal and commercial use.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Between December, 2016 and March 2017

LISTING OF AFFECTED PARTIES: UAV owners, Park Visitors, Park Rangers

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

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