

Backcountry hiking, fishing and camping by clear ponds and rugged hills

DEBOULLIE PUBLIC LANDS GUIDE & MAP

AROOSTOOK COUNTY REGION

DIRECTIONS

Access is via gravel logging roads; yield to oncoming logging trucks. **From the north**, travel on Route 161 to the St. Francis checkpoint, paying the North Maine Woods user fee. Proceed south approximately eight miles on the St. Francis Road to reach the western boundary of the Deboullie Public Lands. This road is open late spring through fall.



Lat 46.958481 / Lon -68.838026

From the south, take Route 11 North from Ashland to Portage and turn left onto West Road (before Portage Lake). After 1 mile, turn left onto a Fish Lake Rd / Rocky Brook Rd (by signs for several sporting camps). After about four miles, stop at the Fish River checkpoint to pay use fee. After two more miles, turn right onto Hewes Brook Road and follow that approximately 12.5 miles to T15 R9 Rd / Red River Rd, then 7 miles to Deboullie Public Lands.

NOTE: The map in this guide shows selected access roads. For complete road information carry another map such as The Maine Atlas Gazeteer.

FEES

Day use and camping fees are charged at the North Maine Woods recreational system checkpoints (see Special Considerations).

• www.northmainewoods.org

View online information for all Maine Parks and Lands sites

• www.parksandlands.com

Camping at State Parks: www.campwithme.com

CONTACT

Northern Public Lands Office
Bureau of Parks and Lands
45 Radar Road
Ashland, ME 04732-9722
207-435-7963
www.maine.gov/deboullie



SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Fees are required to access the North Maine Woods.

- Deboullie Public Lands lie within the North Maine Woods recreational system so visitors must pass through a checkpoint and pay the required day use or camping fees. The State of Maine is a member of North Maine Woods, an organization that manages recreation on nearly three million acres in northern Maine. Fees collected at checkpoints defray the costs of managing public access and maintaining recreational facilities. www.northmainewoods.org.

Know applicable laws.

- The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) Warden Service does search-and-rescue operations and enforces state fish and game laws, boating laws (on inland waters), and ATV and snowmobile laws. To learn more about applicable laws and to purchase appropriate licenses www.maine.gov/ifw

Help stop the spread of invasive species.

- Eurasian Milfoil is an aquatic invasive.
 - Clean all watercraft before they are launched and after retrieval. www.maine.gov/dep/water/invasives/
- Buy only local firewood, do not transport out of state firewood. www.maine.gov/forestpests

Pet owners should exercise caution

- Trappers are permitted to use Maine Public Lands so be careful with your pets.

Be a responsible visitor and Leave No Trace

- Learn more at www.lnt.org



Moose, bear and other large animals are abundant.

- Observe from a safe distance; do not flush wildlife.
- Drive slowly on area roads, particularly at times of low light.
- Food must be securely stowed when camping.
- Tents must be kept free of food and food odors.
- Avoid areas with nesting birds, dens or young animals (even those that appear abandoned).

Logging trucks frequent area roads. Watch out for them and:

- Pull over and stop for trucks regardless of which direction they're headed as they have the right of way.
- Avoid roads that are too narrow for two vehicles.
- Do not block side roads or stop in a spot with poor visibility.
- Be prepared for rugged gravel roads (dusty, washouts): travel slowly and carry a spare tire.

Trailerable and hand-carry boat launches are highly variable.

- Online sortable listing: www.maine.gov/dacf/boatlaunches

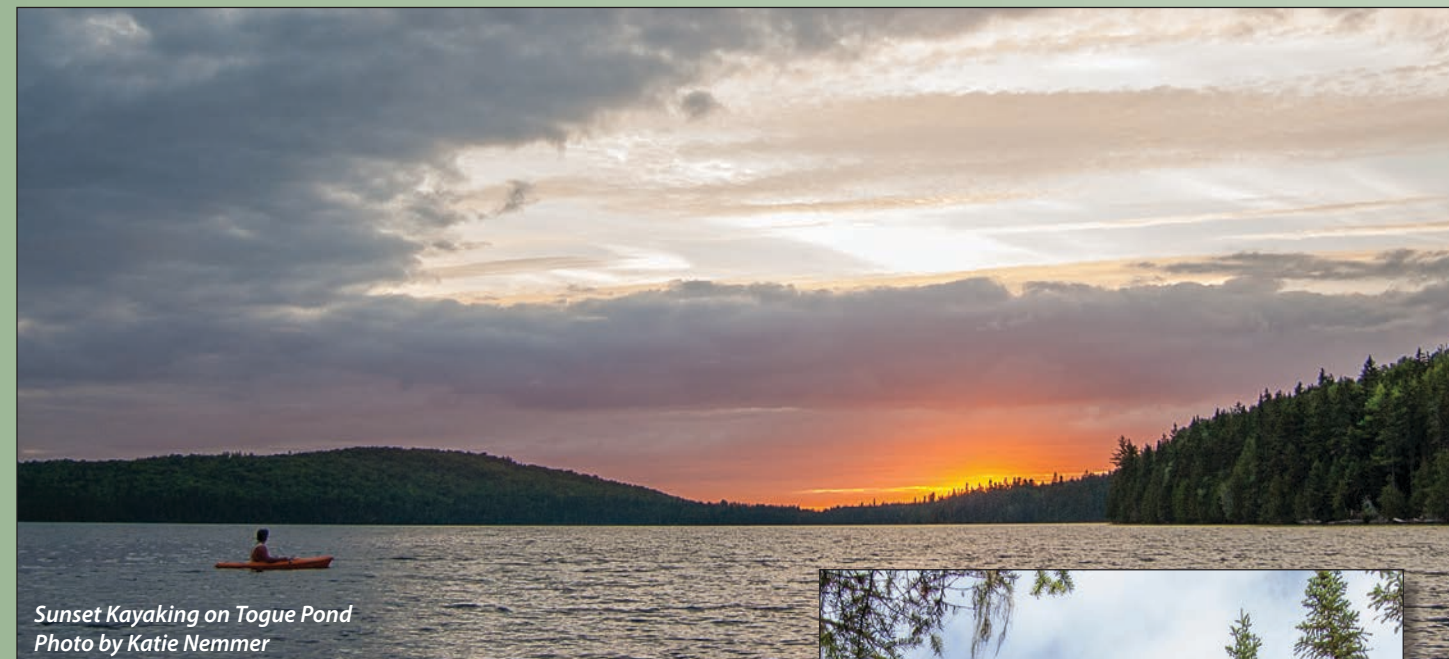
Red River Camps

- Red River Camps leases property from the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands and operates a traditional sporting camp on Island Pond.

Cell phones should not be counted on in an emergency.

- Coverage is spotty to non-existent. The North Maine Woods Fish and St. Francis Gates have communications, as does Red River Camps for emergencies only.

Wear blaze orange during hunting season.



Sunset Kayaking on Togue Pond
Photo by Katie Nemmer



Photo by Katie Nemmer

VISITOR RULES

- Fires** Kindle fires only in authorized campsites with fire rings. Do not cut live vegetation. www.maine.gov/forestpests
- Pets** Pets in campsites must be leashed and attended; outside of campsites, pets must be under control.
- Trash** Carry out all trash.
- Firearms** Do not discharge weapons within 300 feet of any picnic area, camping area, parking area, marked hiking trail or other developed area. Loaded firearms are not permitted at campsites or on hiking trails.
- Fishing** Several ponds are fly fishing only. All those fishing must have a valid license and review the State's open water fishing regulations. Fishermen are asked to use lead-free sinkers and jigs to prevent metal poisoning of loons, eagles and other wildlife. www.maine.gov/ifw/
- Power Equipment** Use no chainsaws, generators or other power equipment around campsites.
- Limit of Stay** Campers may not exceed a 14-day stay in a 45-day period
- Abandoned Property** Bureau of Parks and Lands staff may take custody of any personal property left unattended for more than 3 days (unless advance written permission is given).



Snowmobilers in Deboullie

PROPERTY HISTORY

The name Deboullie is an adaptation of the French word, débouler, which means to tumble down—referring to the talus (rock) fields. The geology you see today formed deep underground 370 million years ago when molten rock pushed up through a layer of slate, combining with it as it cooled to form "hornfels," an extremely hard metamorphic rock. Over millions of years erosive forces gradually exposed the hornfels- the mountain peaks and ridges you see today. Glaciers carved steep-sided valleys and cliffs through the softer slate 12,000 to 25,000 years ago. Steep sections of the rock eroded to form the talus slopes and fields that still border many of the ponds.

While native tribes have inhabited this forested region for roughly 10,000 years, the Deboullie lands were more likely hunting and fishing grounds (being too far from a major river to have a significant settlement). After European settlers arrived in the mid-1800s, the area was logged for roughly a



Photo by Katie Nemmer

TIMBER MANAGEMENT ON MAINE'S PUBLIC LANDS

Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) actively manages its public land units to achieve multiple sustainable benefits: resource protection, public recreation, wildlife habitat and marketable forest products (revenues from which help fund public land management). The Bureau employs scientifically based practices to achieve exemplary forest management that foster the health and viability of landscape-scale ecosystems. BPL's forest practices are green-certified by two independent auditors: the Forest Stewardship Council™ and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative™. No-harvest zones are regularly established to buffer sensitive natural resources and recreational areas in addition to the Bureau's ecological reserve system.



PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

- **Maine Conservation Corps AmeriCorps** members have constructed and rehabilitated trails since 2006, expanding the hiking trail system from 7 to 30 miles.
- **Boy Scouts of America's Fort Kent Troop** set rocks for one of the first trails across the Deboullie rockslide in the 1960s.
- **University of Maine, Presque Isle** conducts glacial geology and geophysical research in the Deboullie Lakes Ecological Reserve.
- **Maine Natural Areas Program** performs natural resource inventories and monitoring.
- **Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program**, administered by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, provided funding assistance to Deboullie trail project and this brochure.

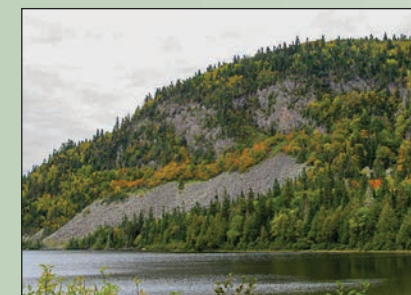


Photo by Katie Nemmer

RELEVANT CONTACTS

Fort Kent Area Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 430
Fort Kent, ME 04743
207-834-5354
www.fortkentchamber.com

North Maine Woods, Inc.
P.O. Box 425
Ashland, ME 04732
207-435-6213
www.northmainewoods.org



Photo by Katie Nemmer

century (most recently in the late 1950s and 1960s). Between 1910 and 1920, two mills were constructed along with the dam on Pushineer Pond.

Rich fishing opportunities and scenic attractions have lured outdoor enthusiasts for more than a century. A cabin on Island Pond, now part of a private sporting camp, was originally built before 1900 as a private camp of the Whitman Textiles family of Boston. One of the early camp owners reportedly brought—not just their family—but a tutor for their children, a barber, and a piano player for evening dances.

The State acquired the initial Deboullie lands in 1975 as part of a larger land trade with Great Northern Nekoosa Corporation involving other properties around Maine. Similar trades in 1984 and 1985 enabled the State to assemble the current tract, which encompasses all of Township 15 Range 9 (Deboullie Township).



REGIONAL DESTINATIONS

The Deboullie Public Lands lie in the heart of Aroostook County, Maine's largest and northernmost county (referred to throughout Maine as "the County"), which encompasses much of the Allagash and St. John River watersheds. Nearby destinations include:

- **Allagash Wilderness Waterway (AWW)**, a nationally designated Wild and Scenic River and popular canoe route, parallels the western border of the Deboullie Lands, about six miles west of the boundary.
- **Eagle Lake Public Lands**, south of Fort Kent, consists of 24,000 acres including most of Eagle Lake. The unit abuts Square Lake to the east with a thoroughfare connecting the two lakes.
- **Fort Kent State Historic Site**, is one of Maine's few National Historic Landmarks. The original wooden blockhouse was constructed in 1839 to secure Maine's claim to the northern forest during the "Aroostook War."
- **Round Pond Public Lands**, takes its name from the 744-acre oxbow pond along the Allagash River. This 20,000 acre parcel straddles both shores of the AWW and is a popular hunting area in the fall.
 - **Scopan Public Lands**, south of Ashland, offer 16,700 acres of rugged terrain with primitive waterfront camping on Scopan Lake, and opportunities for fishing, hunting, ATving, and snowmobiling.
 - **Aroostook State Park**, Maine's first state park, near Presque Isle, offers a 700-acre expanse where visitors can enjoy hiking, lakefront camping, boating and winter sports.

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

- **The Town of Fort Kent**, has hosted multiple national and international nordic and biathlon events and international sled dog races. As of 2014, the 250-mile Can-Am Crown International Sled Dog Race race passes through Deboullie Public Lands.
- **Visit www.gorooostookoutdoors.com** for more information on outdoor opportunities available in Aroostook County.
- **Maine's Million Dollar View Scenic Byway**, a 12 mile stretch of Route 1 between Danforth and Orient provides unsurpassed views of lakes, rolling hayfields, mountains, and Mount Katahdin.

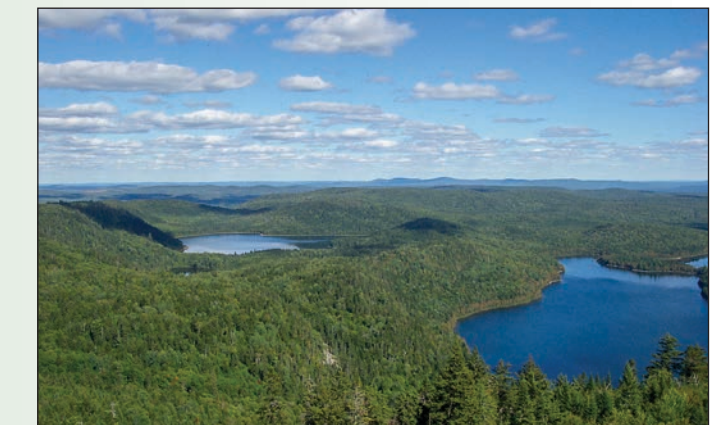
OVERVIEW

The 21,871-acre Deboullie Public Lands offer remote campsites on crystal-clear trout ponds surrounded by low rugged mountains. These lands, encompassing 17 ponds ranging in size from 8 to 341 acres, lie in northernmost Maine, east of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway and 30 miles from the Canadian border.

The area has a reputation for outstanding fisheries, with native brook trout in many ponds and landlocked salmon and lake trout in Togue Pond. Several ponds have populations of blueback trout (landlocked arctic charr), an unusual variety that is the world's northernmost freshwater fish. A 30-mile trail network leads to many remote ponds and to Deboullie Mountain (1,981 feet) where a former fire tower offers expansive views of the surrounding region. Hikers can enjoy mountain-top blueberries in August and still find "ice caves" in denser woods—narrow, shaded crevices where snow and ice can remain year-round (supporting unusual plants such as the arctic sandwort). Several small waterfalls offer attractive places to cool off during warm-weather hikes.

During winter, snowmobilers frequently pass through Deboullie Public Lands, enjoying the scenic beauty of its remote ponds on their way between Eagle Lake and the Allagash. The only maintained trail is the primary public access road, which forms an important connector in the State's Interconnected Trail System (ITS).

The ponds, streams, marshes and forests at Deboullie support an array of wildlife, and visitors may spot black bears, loons, moose and birds of prey. The wetland habitats support the rare northern bog lemming while upland forests offer shelter to the elusive Canada lynx. The Deboullie Public Lands incorporate one of the State's Ecological Reserves, a 6,903-acre area that encompasses the shorelines and waters of 11 ponds. These sensitive ecosystems (including old-growth spruce and mature hardwoods) will remain in their natural condition and be monitored over time. Ecological Reserves are established to ensure the habitat of both plant and animal species that need additional protection and as an area for long-term environmental monitoring, scientific research and education.



WHEN TO VISIT

Boaters and campers enjoy visits during warm weather months, followed by hunters in October and November. Surface fishing for salmon and trout is usually best in the weeks following ice out (typically early to mid-May) or when waters cool in September. Be prepared for black flies and mosquitoes, particularly in May and June.



Photo by Katie Nemmer

SERVICES & FACILITIES

- 30 primitive single-party campsites with privies (23 of which are drive-to) on or near Togue, Denny, Perch, Upper, Pushineer, Deboullie and Gardner Ponds. One group campsite is available on Perch Pond.
- 30 miles of hiking trails (including pond destinations and Deboullie, Black, Gardner, and Whitman Mountains)
- Drive to campsites can accommodate small RVs. These are primitive sites, no hookups available.
- Four trailerable boat launches (on Togue, Perch, Pushineer and Deboullie Ponds) www.maine.gov/dacf/boatlaunches
- Three hand-carry boat launches (on Sixth Pelletier Brook Lake, Denny Pond, and Perch Pond)
- Ten miles of the ITS 120 snowmobile trail run through Deboullie.

DEBOULLIE PUBLIC LANDS

HIKING TRAILS

Deboullie's 30 mile hiking trail system provides multiple loop opportunities of varying difficulties and lengths. Some loops are completed by walking along the road.

Tower Trail (moderate to difficult, 4-mile roundtrip, allow 4 hours) begins by a parking area at the east end of Deboullie Pond. The trail follows the pond shore west for 1.3 miles and crosses a large rockslide before entering a clearing with a picnic site—where a side trail heads steeply up for seven-tenths of a mile to the summit (with views in all directions from the 48-foot fire tower). Trail includes switchbacks, several staircases, vistas and a footbridge. Look for ice caves along the way (crevices where ice can remain year-round).

Deboullie Loop Trail (easy to difficult, 6-mile roundtrip, not counting spurs, allow 5 hours) begins at the east end of Deboullie Pond, and follows the pond shore west 1.8 miles, passing the summit trail, and continuing west to the end of the pond. The trail turns south (with a short spur leading to Gardner Pond) and then forks. Right spur goes 1.8 miles through woods to Denny Pond. Continue 3 miles through woods to the shore of Pushineer Pond. The hiking trail ends at the road to Red River Camps and a one-mile walk along the access road leads back to the original trailhead.

Black Mountain Loop Trail (easy to difficult, 5.5 miles round trip, allow 4 hours) begins at the east end of Deboullie Pond. Follow the Little Black Ponds Trail to Black Pond, then the right-hand trail to Black Mountain. The scenic vistas on Black Mt. provide spectacular views of Black Pond, the Gardner rock slide, pond and Mt. The trail continues along the top of Black Mt., across the saddle between Black and Deboullie Mountain then up the north side of Deboullie Mt. to the tower. Follow the Tower Trail back to the trailhead parking.

Gardner Loop Trail (easy to difficult, 8.4 miles roundtrip minimum, multi-day hike opportunity if including other loop trails). Terrain varies from flat to very steep slopes. There are numerous scenic vistas, and a footbridge over an unnamed inlet brook at north end of Gardner Pond. The trail also passes by a small upland pond frequented by moose.

Waterfall Loop Trail (moderate to difficult, 4.4 miles round trip from Gardner Loop Trailhead) north segment of trail passes the base of a seasonal waterfall, difficult sections include rock faces with boulder fields. Scenic vistas; scattered, large old growth trees.

Crater Trail (moderate, 1.7 miles one way from Whitman Valley Trailhead) beautiful short hike with sheer cliffs, vistas, shoreline and a log ladder. Ends at the south end of the Gardner Loop Trail. Turn right for a longer loop, or turn left for a short hike to the road. Turn left on the road to head back to the Whitman Valley Trailhead.

Denny Trail (easy 1.8 miles one way) relatively flat, mostly on old logging roads through mixed forest, nice easy walk. Trailhead and small parking area are on the east side of Denny Pond.

Whitman Valley Trail (mostly easy, some sections moderate due to boulders, 1.9 miles one way) passes the bottom of very steep cliff faces, one section of trail follows along a small, babbling brook with an active beaver pond. North end connects to Deboullie Loop Trail.

Whitman Ridge Trail (moderate difficulty, 2.6 miles one way) steep sections, vistas with panoramic views of Togue Pond, Perch Pond and Gardner Pond. North end connects to Deboullie Loop Trail.

Upper Pond Trail (0.9 miles) / **Island Pond Trail** (1 mile) (easy) used mostly by clients of Red River Camps; mostly flat through mixed forest, an easy walk on old logging roads.

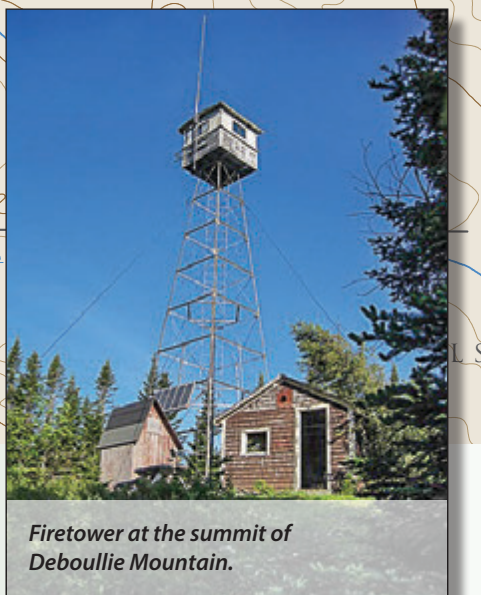
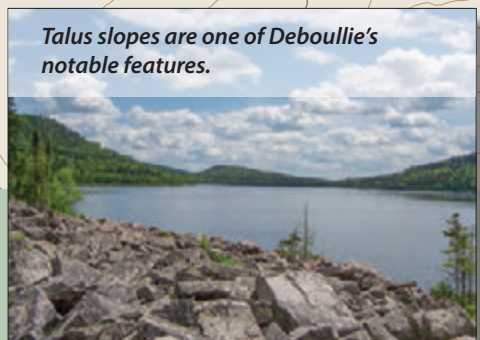
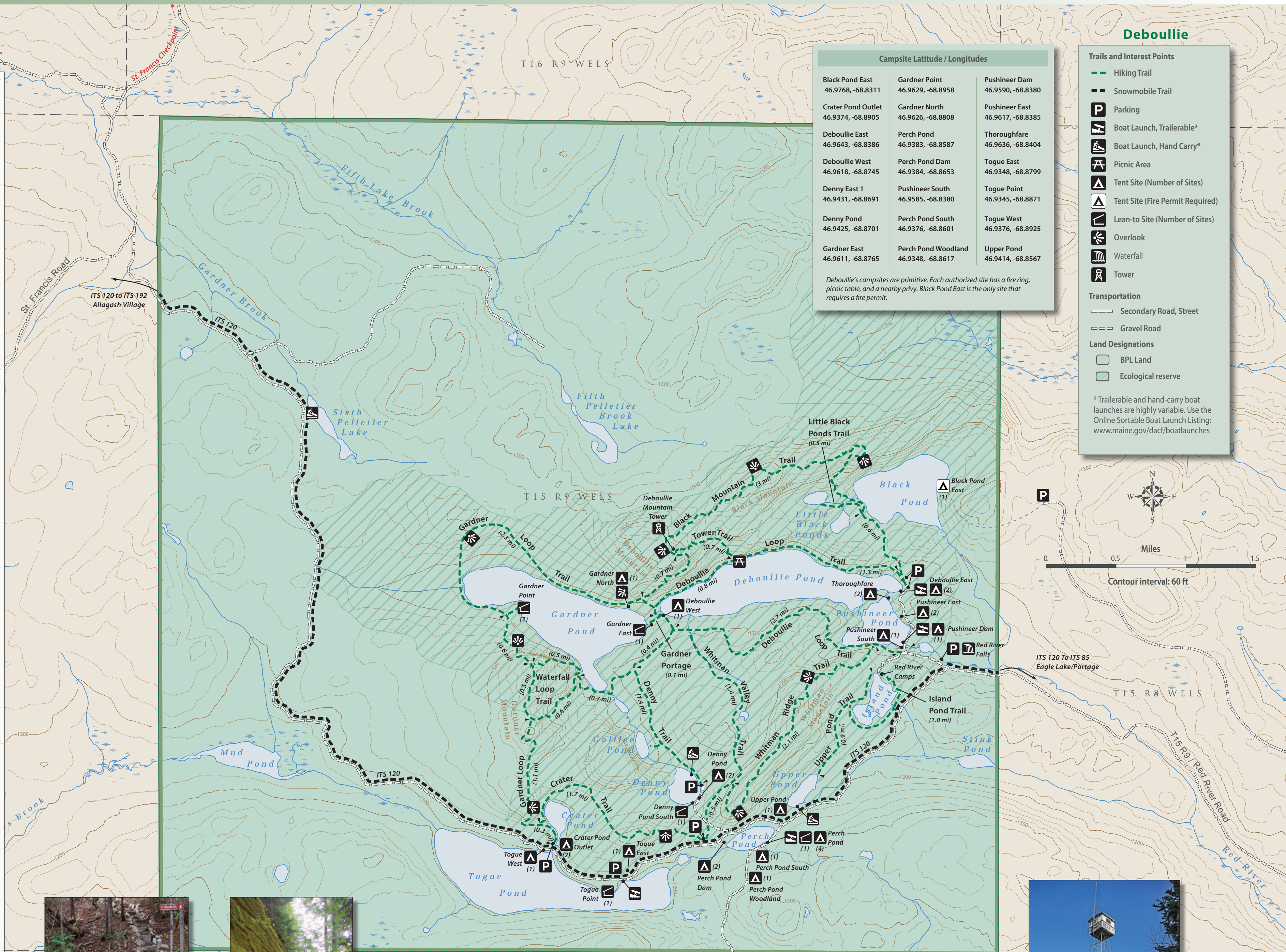
Little Black Ponds Trail (easy, 2.2 miles round trip) is a short easy spur trail off of the Black Mountain Trail, on an old logging road and used mostly by fishermen. There are no campsites on Little Black Ponds: this is a day-use area only.

MOTORIZED TRAILS

ITS 120 snowmobile trail runs through Deboullie along a shared-use road. Roads that have designated recreational uses are signed as shared-use. Road users should be prepared to encounter both pedestrians and vehicles. The Bureau does not encourage snowmobiling on lakes or ponds because of potential hazards.

For maps and additional information about Snowmobiling contact the Bureau's Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office at (207) 287-4957. Within Maine Only: 1-800-462-1019.

This map shows selected access roads. For complete road information use another map, such as *The Maine Atlas and Gazetteer*.



Talus slopes are one of Deboullie's notable features.

Photo by Katie Nemmer

Firetower at the summit of Deboullie Mountain.