

Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

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Case Study Name:	Conflict management and community support for conservation in the Northern Forest: Case studies from Maine		
Author:	Cottle, M. A. and, Howard, T.E.		
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Country:	United States		
Ecosystem Type:	Forest		
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Scale of Study:	Protected area		
Resource Type:	Protected area		
Type of Initiative:	Research-driven project		
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as well as conservation. Local people have experienced differing degrees of participation in land use decisions. We examine two conservation projects from the Northern Forest state of Maine. This paper presents the policy processes from these projects and an assessment of their impact on conflict and support for the project. One project was a top-down approach, and the second was a grassroots, private effort by local citizens to conserve forestland. We gathered data via person interviews, mail surveys, and analysis of legislative testimony. Our findings indicate that early local involvement leads to less conflict and greater acceptance of the project. Important aspects of effective public involvement include shared learning and two-way dialogue. In addition, we found that regardless of the process employed, respondents were generally satisfied with the outcomes of the processes.

