

# Policy: Land Use by Groups

(Authors: Frederick Faller, Tish Miller, Nan Nelson)

This policy acknowledges that the Monhegan Associates Bylaws are the governing document for all Monhegan Associates activities. With that in mind, this policy supersedes all prior policies or statements specifically related to the contents of this document. This policy is subject to review and change at any time with a vote of the current board of trustees.

***Italicized words in this document are defined below under definitions in the Policy section.***

## Purpose

This policy recognizes that land use by *groups* represents unique challenges to protecting and maintaining the *wildlands*.

The purpose of this policy is to protect the ecology, ecosystems and biodiversity of MAI *wildlands*.

In addition, the focus of this policy is to preserve the visitor's experience of the *wildlands*, so that visitors may enjoy serenity and peace in the *wildlands*.

## Scope

The scope of this policy covers issues related to *groups* utilizing the *wildlands* on Monhegan.

This policy does not cover issues faced by the Monhegan Plantation, such as food services, bathroom facilities, medical assistance and legal enforcement. However, MAI understands that these issues are intimately related to persons using the *wildlands*.

## Policy

### Definitions

**Group(s)** - collection of individuals, company, or other non-profit entity that provides any goods, activities, services, agreements, or other function for members, clients, or the public that:

**results in compensation, monetary gain, benefit, or profit for the entity** and

takes place in part or whole on MAI wildlands

**MAI** - Monhegan Associates, Inc.

**Wildlands** - Those areas of Monhegan, Manana, and other nearby islands owned by Monhegan Associates and not currently leased to another entity.

**[Land Use Policies](#)** (LUP) - a set of policies posted on the MAI website that describe how MAI governs the *wildlands*

**Coordinator/Organizer** - Individual or committee responsible for planning a *group* visit to Monhegan *Wildlands*

## Policy Statement

**Groups** represent a unique challenge to the *wildlands*. People in such *groups* often are unfamiliar with the place they are visiting, its customs, its unique needs and unique challenges.

*MAI Wildlands* are privately owned by MAI. *Groups* must abide by the "[Land Use Expectations for Groups](#)" (Appendix A) and the [Land Use Policies](#) of MAI.

*Coordinators/Organizers* are expected to read and understand the [Land Use Policies](#) of MAI and the "[Land Use Expectations for Groups](#)" handout in Appendix A.

*Coordinators/Organizers* of such *groups* visiting the MAI *Wildlands* will be expected to provide all *group* participants with the "[Land Use Expectations for Groups](#)" handout in Appendix A in advance of their arrival in the *Wildlands* at their own expense.

If the *Coordinators/Organizers* of such *groups* have questions, they are expected to consult with representatives of MAI. Email: [info@monheganassociates.org](mailto:info@monheganassociates.org)

MAI does not provide guides for any visitation to the *wildlands*.

## Implementation

These are the required steps for groups visiting Monhegan that enter the *wildlands*:

Read the [Land Use Expectation for Groups](#) (Appendix A)

Read the MAI [Land Use Policies](#) on the website.

Provide [Land Use Expectation for Groups](#) handout to each person in the *group*. This will be at the expense of the group *Coordinator/Organizer*.

## Internal References

Link to [MAI Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation](#)

Link to [MAI Land Use Policies Website Page](#)

## External References

External references - this might include links to all the articles that people have been finding about the effect of cruise ship intrusions on culture, quality of life, ecology etc. This is a very well written survey of the effects of Cruise Ships on the economy, the ecology and the culture of the places they visit,

<https://www.wmf.org/sites/default/files/article/pdfs/Charleston-Report.pdf>

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:243c4eff-8228-49df-81a6-25f7bb4b633e#pageNum=5>

## Rationale

MAI's policy has always been to allow visitors to the wildlands roam trails and rocky coastline freely. In the case of *groups* being brought to the island for short visits, new challenges are posed in the increased trail wear, trash, and the general change in the ambiance or the wildlands.

Communicating with the organizers so that the visitors are informed about the private nature of the MAI land, that it is not public land, that it costs money to maintain, that it is ecologically fragile, and that it needs to be respected is crucial to the continued openness of it.

This policy is an attempt to identify what actions *groups* need to take prior to such a visit. If our land is not respected we have the right to restrict its access. Making this clear to would-be tour organizers is important to keeping the wildlands wild and to the extent possible, free from overuse and abuse by excessive visitation on them.

## Appendix A

## Land Use Expectations for Groups

Monhegan Associates, the owners of the wildlands, ask all visitors to adhere to the guidelines below in order to protect and preserve the wildlands for current and future generations.

**Monhegan Associates land is privately owned.** It is maintained to be as wild as possible, while still accessible to visitors. Please respect the land as if it were your own.

**Stay on the trails:** This is for visitor safety as well as minimizing the disturbance to the environment. Use the Monhegan Associates map to plan your route according to your ability.

**Safety Considerations:** The wildlands of Monhegan are left purposefully as wild as possible. Because of this there are unique dangers:

The depth of the water immediately off the backside of Monhegan poses a unique danger from deep water waves. Stay well above the high tide line and black rocks. Deaths have occurred.

Do not swim, wade or scuba dive off the rocks around the island, as currents and waves make rescue almost impossible.

Trails are rugged and rescue is difficult. Medical help is limited. Wear appropriate footwear.

Poison ivy is present on the trails. Be alert and vigilant.

Hornet and wasp nests are common throughout the wildlands.

**IN THE EVENT OF EMERGENCY CALL 911. Cell phone coverage is often limited.**

### **Prohibited Activities:**

Smoking

Fires

Camping

Technical climbing

The landing, launching, and piloting of drones

Landing of any boats or water craft

Wheeled vehicles on trails

Sound amplification or radios etc.

Area lighting, laser lights

### **Toilets:**

There are no toilet facilities in the *wildlands*.

Limited public bathroom facilities are located in town.

Visitors should understand they will not have access to toilets in the *wildlands*. Plan accordingly to keep our *wildlands* pristine.

**Leave No Trace:**

Carry out what you carry in

There are no trash receptacles

Don't deface the *wildlands* in any way

Don't remove objects from the *wildlands* other than trash

Don't leave any paint supplies (paint, solvents, solutions, etc) or leave paint stains on the rocks.

Don't build structures of any kind.

**Monhegan Wildlands Etiquette**

Keep your group small (under 12 people)

Respect the peace and serenity of others at all times

Keep appropriate distance between you and other visitors

All dogs must be leashed. Dog waste must be packed out

**Guided Tours:**

Monhegan Associates doesn't provide any Guided Tours.

[Link to the Land Use Policy page](#)

[Link to donations to MAI](#)