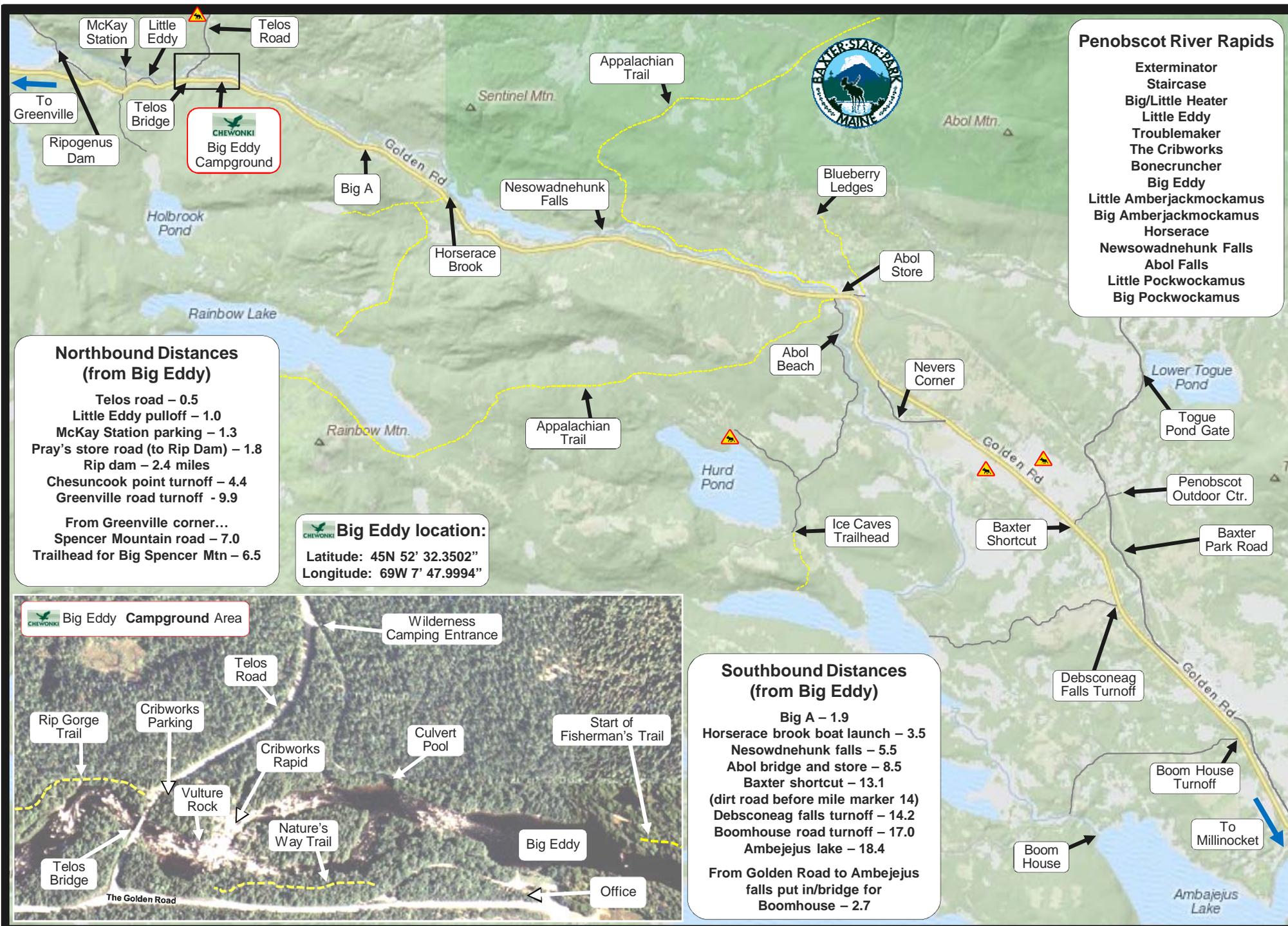


# Penobscot River and The Golden Road



## Chewonki's Big Eddy Campground

Chewonki's Big Eddy campground, nestled on the shores of the West Branch of the Penobscot River is situated in the heart of Maine's North Woods. The campground is a few miles to the west of Baxter State Park within the largest forested area in the United States. It is home of the Big Eddy, a world famous landlocked salmon fishing pool and is surrounded by some of the most challenging whitewater rapids in the East.

This beautiful section of the West Branch has delighted fishermen, canoeists, kayakers and rafters for years.

The Chewonki Foundation is a nonprofit educational institution established in 1962 and located on a 400-acre peninsula in Wiscasset, Maine. We are dedicated to helping people grow individually and in community with others by providing education experiences that foster an understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of the natural world. Our leaders challenge participants both physically and intellectually with activities that build self confidence, a sense of community, and a greater awareness of the inter-relatedness of the world around us.

Chewonki's stewardship goal is to maintain the natural beauty of Big Eddy for a true wilderness experience. Chewonki promotes low-impact camping and a thorough respect for the natural world.

## Activities around Chewonki's Big Eddy

Searching for Moose – River Pond off the Golden Road, William's Pond Road off the Telos Road, Hurd Pond off the Hurd Pond Road. Go out at dusk, bring your Gazetteer, compass and hope for luck!!!

The Boom House – Step back to the logging days when visiting this facility which once housed log drive river drivers. It is a treasure trove of pictures and logging artifacts. Admission by donation. Boat access only so check with the Big Eddy office about a loaner canoe and equipment for this trip.

The Ice Caves – Grab a flashlight and enjoy this 1+ mile wooded path. Branch off for a breathtaking view of the Debsconeag Lakes or hike down for a picnic and swim.

Blueberry Ledges– A 1.5 mile walk into the southern edge of Baxter park for excellent panoramic views, pool plunges and blueberry picking (at the right time of year).

Rip Gorge trail – Hike from Rip dam all the way down to Big Eddy along a beautiful, lush wooded trail with views deep into Ripogenous gorge.

Try paddling your canoe or Stand-Up Paddleboard out onto Harrington Lake, the Sowadnahunk deadwater or in the slower current from below the Falls to Abol bridge.

Check with our knowledgeable office staff for more ideas!

## Debsconeag Lakes Wilderness Area

Nestled in the shadow of Mount Katahdin, just south of Baxter State Park, The Nature Conservancy's Debsconeag Lakes Wilderness Area (DLWA) is a vital link in nearly 500,000 acres of contiguous conservation land. Debsconeag means "carrying place," named by native people for the portage sites where they carried their canoes around rapids and waterfalls. The DLWA contains the highest concentration of pristine, remote ponds in New England, as well as thousands of acres of mature forest.

Nearly half the forests in the DLWA show no signs of past logging. Trees as old as 300 years are found in more remote areas. Old, undisturbed forests like these are rich in diversity and complexity. The forest floor is covered with logs and mosses and ancient trees and whether standing or fallen, provide habitat for many woodland creatures.

Portions of the DLWA support excellent examples of natural forest communities including an old-growth hemlock forest and a spruce-northern hardwood forest, with red spruce, sugar maple, white birch, American beech, and yellow birch. Towering white pines are scattered throughout the property.

To date, 215 plant species have been documented in the DLWA. Wildlife inhabiting the property's rich forests include pine marten, spruce grouse, moose, bobcat, black bear and boreal chickadees.