

**Bureau of Parks and Lands**

**Eastern Interior Region Management Plan  
5-Year Review and Update**

**March 6, 2015**

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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY  
BUREAU OF PARKS & LANDS  
22 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0022

Walter Whitcomb  
COMMISSIONER

Date: December 23, 2014

To: Eastern Interior Region Plan Advisory Committee Members  
From: Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry,  
Bureau of Parks and Lands  
Re: Five-Year Review of the Eastern Interior Region Management Plan

Enclosed for your review is the first Five-Year Review of the 2009 Eastern Interior Region Management Plan covering the period from 2009 through 2014.

The plan guides the management activities of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands on public lands at Duck Lake; Bradley; Machias River; and 21 smaller lots, all under 1,000 acres in area. While the plan was adopted for a 15-year period, the Bureau is required to report to the Advisory Committee at five-year intervals on accomplishments and changing conditions that may warrant amendments to the plan. (The plan can be viewed at <http://www.maine.gov/dacf/easterninterior>.)

The enclosed Five-Year Review, prepared in a table format:

- lists plan recommendations (left column) and actions taken (right column) to implement each recommendation; and
- identifies from the Bureau's perspective any new issues or circumstances that were not addressed in the plan that may warrant Committee discussion or action (at end of table).

The Bureau asks the Eastern Interior Plan Advisory Committee members to review the enclosed material and identify any new issues or circumstances they feel warrant Committee input or action.

If the Advisory Committee does not identify any new issues or circumstances that warrant Committee input or action, the Bureau will notify the Committee that the 5-year review process is completed.

If any of the Advisory Committee members identifies new issues or circumstances that, in their opinion, may require an amendment to the plan, or that should be discussed with the Committee prior to the Bureau taking action without amending the plan, then the Bureau will seek Committee comment through correspondence or a meeting. Depending on Committee input, a decision will be made to formally amend the plan or to take action without amending the plan.

If a decision is made to formally amend the plan, the Bureau will hold a public meeting to gather public input on the proposed amendment(s), document public comments and Bureau responses, and adopt the plan amendment. If a decision is made to take action without amending the plan, the Bureau will document the Committee discussion and the specific actions that can be taken without a plan amendment.

For the Eastern Interior Region Plan, the Bureau found no new issues or circumstances that were not addressed in the plan that warrant Committee input or action at this time.

We look forward to receiving your response to the Five-Year Review regarding any additional new issues or circumstances that may warrant Committee input or action. Please direct your comments or questions **by January 9, 2015** to Jim Vogel via email ([Jim.Vogel@maine.gov](mailto:Jim.Vogel@maine.gov)) or post (Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands, #22 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0022).

**Management Recommendations** (Summarized on Plan pages 133-138)

Duck Lake Unit	Actions taken/Comments:
<b><i>Special Protection Management Recommendations</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field staff will continue to identify and protect areas of ecological significance outside the Ecological Reserve. One such area is the seven acre mature sugar maple stand designated for protection by the Bureau in 1993.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primitive, non-groomed snowmobiling will be allowed on the existing Gassabias Portage Trail.</li> </ul>	Continuing, although no evidence of much use
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Snowmobiling on the “Horseback Trail” in the Ecological Reserve will be discontinued. Signage explaining the non-motorized policy will be placed in appropriate places as determined by Bureau staff.</li> </ul>	No evidence of use of this trail by sleds. Signs have not been placed yet.
<b><i>Wildlife Management Recommendations</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loon counts on Third and Fourth Machias Lakes will be prioritized, per deeded requirements that were made part of the Machias Phase II acquisition.</li> </ul>	Third Machias Lake was surveyed in 2011. Fourth Machias Lake is scheduled to be surveyed in 2015.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain a component of early-successional softwood forest within the Unit to enhance habitat for Canada lynx and other species.</li> </ul>	Topic to be addressed in the forest management prescription for the area northeast of Lower Unknown Lake; prescription is tentatively scheduled for Summer 2015.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look for/expand opportunities to enhance mature softwood habitats for softwood dependent species, especially deer. When feasible, coordinate with surrounding landowners in the provision of deer habitat on a regional basis. Continue the Bureau semi-permanent seeding program to compliment adjacent landowner’s wildlife food plots.</li> </ul>	Addressed in prescription development for all compartments, where appropriate.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The management goal for the 5,985-acre area between Gassabias Lake and Upper Unknown Lake portion allocated for wildlife is to increase the softwood stocking to maintain and expand use as deer wintering habitat, and to maintain a significant wildlife travel corridor between Fourth Machias Lake and the ownership boundary north of Upper Unknown Lake. Existing roads will be used in accomplishing wildlife management goals whenever possible.</li> </ul>	Topic to be addressed in the forest management prescription for the area (Compartment #13), northeast of Lower Unknown Lake, tentatively scheduled for Summer 2015. Active communications with Downeast Lakes Land Trust (DLLT) and the Passamaquoddy tribe (abutters) on harvesting within that area to coordinate and enhance wildlife management objectives.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue implementation of the grouse habitat where sites conditions are favorable.</li> </ul>	Considered in all forest harvest prescriptions.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooperate with IF&amp;W in implementing an experimental brook trout fishery in Upper Unknown Pond for a three-year trial period. Stocking of yearling brook trout will occur in the fall.</li> </ul>	<p>An IF&amp;W survey of the pond determined that it was not suitable for brook trout stocking.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to manage wetlands primarily through protective measures, but also include careful multi-age management of adjacent timber to encourage species diversity. Wood duck boxes will continue to be placed and maintained in appropriate areas.</li> </ul>	<p>Continuing/ongoing efforts; 12 new duck boxes were constructed in 2013.</p>
<p><b><i>Recreation and Visual Management Recommendations</i></b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primitive (non-groomed) snowmobiling from Fourth Machias Lake onto the “Horseback Trail” will be prohibited. Bureau staff will place signage explaining the non-motorized policy in appropriate locations and reserves the right to place barriers as necessary.</li> </ul>	<p>No evidence of use. Signs have not been placed at this time. Evaluate during winter 2015.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If an alternative to ITS 81 due to road plowing is needed in the future, the Bureau will seek to find an alternate route that avoids the ecological reserve and that utilizes trails or roads more suited to groomers. Staff will assess a new alternative to ITS 81 to be located in the Drag Brook Area, connecting into the existing Gassabias Road system. Any alternate trail will avoid the deer wintering area.</li> </ul>	<p>Consideration of alternative trails is continuing. No scheduled winter harvests at this time to conflict.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The trail to Upper Unknown Pond will be managed for foot or snowmobile use.</li> </ul>	<p>Continuing/ongoing</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety, environmental, and ADA improvements will be made to the various primitive boat launching areas around the Unit as time and resources allow. The rustic nature of the facilities in the area will be considered when making improvements.</li> </ul>	<p>Accessible picnic tables have been set at some of the suitable campsites.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with area residents and other interests in determining the suitability of providing a trailered boat access site on Nicatous Lake, to be located on the “fee connector” portion of the Unit. As an alternative, also evaluate improving the existing launch.</li> </ul>	<p>No active consideration at this time. The site has been known to be a possible alternative since the property was obtained. No complaints received at Bangor office of current site since plan was adopted.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to monitor and develop strategies for managing popular public use areas on Duck Lake and the Unknowns.</li> </ul>	<p>Continuing/ongoing. Areas have been subject to focused Maine Warden Service patrols during heavy use periods for last 5 years.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Because of the importance of motorized trail use in this area, continue to work with local ATV and snowmobile clubs and the Off-road Vehicle Division on an ongoing basis to address future connectivity or safety concerns.</li> </ul>	<p>Continuing/ongoing</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a more formal trailhead off the Duck Lake Road near the Ecological Reserve on the northeast corner of Gassabias Lake for</li> </ul>	<p>The trailhead parking area is in the queue for the FY 2016 budget. The trailhead will provide access to non-motorized</p>

visitors to the Gassabias-Fourth Machias Lake Portage Trail old growth area.	visitors to the Portage Trail. A directional sign to guide visitors driving to the Ecological Reserve has been made but not installed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore the feasibility of managing the Ecological Reserve as a non-mechanized backcountry area and developing a hiking trail along the "Horseback Trail" at Fifth Lake Stream in conjunction with the trailhead to the Gassabias Portage Trail mentioned above.</li> </ul>	No action
<b><i>Timber Management Recommendations</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage most of the well-stocked softwood acres to retain high spruce, hemlock, and pine components and a late-successional character, while producing high quality timber products and respecting viewsheds.</li> </ul>	Continuing/ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work to improve quality in the abundant acres of burn origin stands where quality is currently modest but the site allows for good growth.</li> </ul>	Continuing/ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage growth of pines, especially white pine, in both pine type stands and as significant components of softwood and mixedwood stands.</li> </ul>	Continuing/ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target mistletoe-infected spruce to the extent feasible given the above items.</li> </ul>	Continuing/ongoing
<b><i>Transportation and Administrative Management Recommendations</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The location of the evacuation sites will be put on Bureau maps and brochures.</li> </ul>	No action; they are signed on the ground, however.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued communication between the Bureau and local snowmobile and ATV clubs is necessary to minimize conflicts on road use and for safety purposes.</li> </ul>	Continuing/ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bureau will continue to communicate with its neighbor south of Gassabias Stream regarding the possible reinstallation of vehicular access from the south.</li> </ul>	Contact with the new owner's representative was made with a request for vehicle access. Request was denied.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bureau will decide which, if either, of the two Bureau camps on the Unit will be saved, and if so, how they will be maintained in an acceptable condition.</li> </ul>	Efforts have been made to give away the camp on the 32-00-0 road (commonly known as the PD camp), to be moved from the site, but unsuccessfully. Gassabias camp would be the one kept, if either is. Considerations are continuing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimize road improvements and additions in the relatively unroaded portion of the Unit to those deemed necessary to accomplish wildlife management goals. Use existing roads to</li> </ul>	Continuing/ongoing

accomplish management whenever possible.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place a barrier on the 42-08-0 Road where it crosses the ecological reserve boundary on the east side of Fifth Lake Stream to restrict motorized use.</li> </ul>	Done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To enhance appearance and improve safety, no new log landings will be constructed on public access roads on the Nicatous portion of the Phase II Machias project.</li> </ul>	None have been constructed

<b>Bradley Unit</b>	<b>Actions taken/Comments:</b>
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<b><i>Special Protection Management Recommendations</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bureau will apply the standard 330 foot major riparian zone buffer around these special protection areas (at the suggestion of MNAP).</li> </ul>	Standard operating procedure.
<b><i>Wildlife Management Recommendations</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage the timber in a way to retain all red oak as a hard mast food source.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There will be very light cutting in cedar dominant areas.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retain shelter values of softwood stands that may support wintering deer.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply IF&amp;W management guidelines for areas containing Northern Leopard Frogs.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
<b><i>Recreation and Visual Management Recommendations</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate activities and development at the [Kittridge Lot] boat launch with IF&amp;W and the Town of Bradley.</li> </ul>	Ongoing communications with both partners regarding seasonal installation of the fish ladder and needed improvements at the boat landing area and the access road.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate with local ATV and snowmobile clubs to provide interconnecting trails in appropriate places as needed.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
<b><i>Timber Management Recommendations</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to manage for pine where feasible. Pre-commercial treatment may be necessary to keep some regeneration from being dominated by fir and hardwoods.</li> </ul>	Ongoing with early commercial thinnings being done to evaluate feasibility.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regenerate/salvage high risk black spruce stands in upland areas</li> </ul>	Ongoing efforts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce fir component in young stands as they become operable.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with abutting landowners (current and future) toward securing access for timber management.</li> </ul>	Legal ROW established through land purchase on Kingsbury Road. Negotiations ongoing for Parant Road access.

<b><i>Transportation and Administrative Management Recommendations</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to work with the abutting landowners towards obtaining access rights for administrative, camplot lease, and general public use purposes.</li> </ul>	See above comments.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Webber Heirs to resolve title issues on land and camplot lease north of Great Works Stream.</li> </ul>	No action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As Bangor Hydro works toward purchase of their powerline corridor, look to secure the right to cross with new roads in any place legally permitted.</li> </ul>	No action, as Emera Maine (formerly Bangor Hydro) has not initiated purchase efforts.

<b>Machias River Unit</b>	<b>Actions taken/Comments:</b>
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<b><i>Special Protection Management Recommendations</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archeological sites will be left undisturbed according to guidance given in the IRP.</li> </ul>	Standard operating procedure (SOP).
<b><i>Wildlife Management Recommendations</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All wildlife management will be in cooperation with the BSRFH [formerly Bureau, now Division of Sea-Run Fisheries and Habitat] in order to address Atlantic salmon habitat needs.</li> </ul>	SOP. A forest management prescription for one of the Machias River compartments was developed with DSRFH input and review in 2014.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring and protection of loons is a priority.</li> </ul>	Ongoing. As noted above, Third Machias Lake was surveyed in 2011. Ponds on the unit were surveyed prior to state's acquisition in 2003.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management near known locations of bald eagle nests, the rare brook floater, pygmy snaketail dragonfly, and the wood turtle will be planned in consultation with IF&amp;W species management guidelines.</li> </ul>	Known sites are included in maps for the prescription in this area, one of which was completed in December, 2014.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect some areas for winter deer use, in cooperation with other landowners when feasible.</li> </ul>	Consideration given in the forest management prescription for this area.
<b><i>Recreation and Visual Management Recommendations</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage the recreation along the river and lakes consistent with the general remote character and quality of the river itself.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work closely with Project SHARE and BSRFH in planning and implementing any facility improvements in the Unit.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvements to boat launching sites will be further evaluated, particularly sites on Third Machias Lake, Salmon Pond, and the "wonderland" campsite.</li> </ul>	Salmon Pond boat launch evaluated for suitability as a handicapped accessible site with fishing dock and determined unacceptable. Second Lake hand carry in need of evaluation

	and modification, scheduled in FY 2016 work year.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with area guides and other recreational interests towards a coordinated effort in providing information, general management needs, and facility improvements along the water course.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider developing a non-motorized trail along the east side of the river, if there is sufficient interest and support for trail development, maintenance and stewardship.</li> </ul>	No interest has come forth yet, but 1 mile of road on BPL property was improved for recreational access and use.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with area ATV interests and surrounding landowner toward establishing a trail connection from the river lands to the nearby regional ATV system.</li> </ul>	American Forest Management, Inc. has allowed a short section of the 52-00-0 road from the Log Landing Campsite to the 50-00-0 road be an ATV access road. This has allowed that campsite and the West Branch Campsite to have direct ATV access to the statewide ATV trail system.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider any future proposals from the snowmobile community to re-locate snowmobile trails into the Unit. In evaluating potential trails, consider the resource allocations on the Unit, the IRP, and other management objectives on the Unit.</li> </ul>	Open for discussions, but no interest expressed to date.
<b><i>Timber Management Recommendations</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage the pine plantations with the goals of restoring the stands to a more natural condition and enhancing wildlife habitat.</li> </ul>	Forest management prescription just completed with a multi-year harvesting operation to implement this recommendation on a portion of the plantations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with MNAP and BSRFH before implementing any timber management.</li> </ul>	Continuing/ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In general, manage for late-successional species.</li> </ul>	Continuing/ongoing
<b><i>Transportation and Administrative Recommendations</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to work with Project SHARE on improvements to stream crossings.</li> </ul>	Crossing work with Project SHARE (Salmon Habiata and River Enhancement] was completed and the focus area was switched from the Machias to the Narraguagus watershed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate all roads in the Unit comparing their benefits to Bureau management with their potential threat to salmon habitat. Discontinue or relocate unnecessary or particularly poorly designed roads.</li> </ul>	Done in forest management prescription for a portion of the unit with input from DSRFH staff. Remaining portions of the Unit will be addressed as prescriptions for those areas are developed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to discuss the possibility of seasonal closure of 52-00-0 Road and other issues involving interactions between private and public roads with AFM. If seasonal closure of 52-00-0 Road is implemented, monitor the road to re-open as soon as feasible and encourage guides and the public to call the Bureau's Old Town office to find out the status of the gates.</li> </ul>	Thus far, the gate has been closed at Route 9 for spring mud season, but it has never been locked.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade 43-00-0 Road to handle increased traffic due to</li> </ul>	Done



<b>Hardwood Island Lot</b>	<b>Actions taken/Comments:</b>
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Work with area sportsmen and recreational interests to address campsite maintenance needs on the island.	No action
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<b>Lakeville Lots</b>	<b>Actions taken/Comments:</b>
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<b><i>Wildlife Management Recommendations</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas of late-successional character will be maintained as such and deer cover will be enhanced where feasible. No timber harvesting will be performed along the Weymouth Brook floodplain.</li> </ul>	Considered in prescriptions and implemented in most recent timber management activities (2009-2010).
<b><i>Recreation Management Recommendations</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with the town of Lakeville in planning and management of trails and recreational facilities on the Keg Lake Lot, and send Lakeville town officials a copy of the 5-year reports issued to the Advisory Committee on the status of plan recommendations.</li> </ul>	BPL worked with Town officials to construct an off-road parking area for access to both Keg and Duck Lakes via the historic portage trail. BPL staff have attended several town meetings over the course of five years to discuss both recreational and timber management issues. Our forester conducted a Saturday tour of the recent harvest operation which was attended by over 20 people and written up in a local paper.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine the suitability for a hand carry site on Keg Lake and a trailered boat launching facility on Duck Lake.</li> </ul>	The residents generally seem opposed to a hand carry site on Keg Lake, as per meetings with them. The offer was made in conjunction with the parking area. Duck Lake has limited site potential for a similar site on Public Lands. There has been some discussion of one or two boat access campsites on Keg Lake at meetings, but it didn't come up in the original plan.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the area ATV club to deter illegal use of the Upper Dobsis Lot, or to establish trails as appropriate.</li> </ul>	The Region has met with local ATV and sled groups to discuss trails concerns (along with ORV staff) on Public Lands.
<b><i>Transportation and Administrative Recommendations</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursue acquiring legal access to the Magoon Pond and Upper Dobsis Lots.</li> </ul>	No action

**Macwahoc Lot** **Actions taken/Comments:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage for deer winter cover in the Crossuntic Stream watershed.</li> </ul>	Incorporated in prescriptions and management activities.
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**Mattawamkeag Lands** **Actions taken/Comments:**

<b>Recreation Management Recommendations</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor the recreational use on these parcels and manage for their remote character.</li> </ul>	Ongoing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Campsites will be built on Long Point and Big Island.</li> </ul>	Done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss with the landowner of the easement area possible locations for backcountry, non-motorized areas, as stipulated in the easement.</li> </ul>	Backcountry access is primarily water-based. Discussion with the landowner has not been scheduled, but would involve the Bureau's easement monitor as well as the Eastern Region. It would more broadly address recreational access and facilities to support non-intensive dispersed uses, as permitted by the easement.

**Molunkus Lot** **Actions taken/Comments:**

No specific management recommendations. Management per resource allocations.	BPL has performed period grading of the road to the public boat launch; no harvests have occurred this plan period.
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**Reed Lot** **Actions taken/Comments:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consult with MNAP and/or IF&amp;W if performing any harvesting near habitat of the rare or endangered species on the Northwest Lot.</li> </ul>	No harvest activity this plan period.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursue acquiring legal access to the lots.</li> </ul>	No action

**Webster Lot** **Actions taken/Comments:**

No specific management recommendations. Management per resource allocations.	No management actions this plan period.
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**Monitoring and Evaluation** (Plan pages 128-130)

**Actions taken/Comments:**

<p><b>Implementation of Plan Recommendations</b></p>	
<p>The Bureau will develop, within two years of Plan adoption, an action plan for implementing and monitoring the management recommendations in this Plan. This will include an assignment of priorities and timeframes for accomplishment that will be utilized to determine work priorities and budgets on an annual basis. The Bureau will document annually its progress in implementing the recommendations, plans for the coming year, and adjustments to the priorities and timeframes as needed.</p>	<p>Individual projects are planned and budgeted for during annual planning exercises. New initiatives, particularly larger projects, are planned in two year cycles. The detailed action plan for implementing and monitoring management has been replaced by the 5-year Plan review and BPL yearly planning process that prioritizes projects based on the Plan recommendations and resources available.</p>
<p><b>Recreation – Public Use</b></p>	
<p>The Bureau will monitor public use to determine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) if improvements to existing facilities or additional facilities are needed and compatible with general objectives</li> <li>(2) if additional measures are needed to ensure that recreational users have a high quality experience (which could be affected by the numbers of users, and interactions among users with conflicting interests)</li> <li>(3) if use is adversely affecting sensitive natural resources or the ecology of the area</li> <li>(4) if measures are needed to address unforeseen safety issues</li> <li>(5) if changing recreational uses and demands present the need or opportunity for adjustments to existing facilities and management</li> <li>(6) if any changes are needed in the management of recreation in relation to other management objectives, including protection or enhancement of wildlife habitat and forest management.</li> </ul>	<p>The Region utilizes Recreational Logs to determine the type and quantity of use at major units and recreational sites. The BPL recreational planner also provides some input and direction as well as the Unit foresters. When perceived safety issues arise, targeted patrols by either the Maine Warden Service or various County Sheriff’s offices are commissioned. If there are environmental or rare/threatened/endangered species issues, the MNAP or LUPC or DEP are contacted.</p>
<p><b>Wildlife</b></p>	
<p>The Bureau, through its Wildlife Biologist and Technician, routinely conducts a variety of species monitoring activities statewide. The following are monitoring activities that are ongoing or anticipated for the Eastern Interior Region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) The Bureau will cooperate with the Bureau [now Division]</li> </ul>	<p>The region works closely with both the DSRFH and MDIFW on fish and wildlife issues. Significant wildlife habitat is noted and mapped when necessary in the prescription process, and also on the ground during harvesting operations. As noted above, loon surveys were conducted on Third Machias Lake (Phase II</p>

<p>of Sea Run Fisheries and Habitat (DSRFH) and IF&amp;W toward the preservation and enhancement of important fish species</p> <p>(2) The Bureau will conduct common loon counts as required by deed as part of the Machias River Phase II acquisition project</p> <p>(3) The Bureau will cooperate with IF&amp;W in the monitoring of game species, including deer, moose, grouse, and black bear</p> <p>(4) The Bureau will identify and map significant wildlife habitat such as vernal pools and den trees in the process of developing its detailed forest management prescriptions. The boundaries of any sensitive natural communities will also be delineated on the ground at this time. Any significant natural areas or wildlife habitat will then be subject to appropriate protections.</p>	<p>acquisition) in 2011. The wildlife biologist assigned by IF&amp;W to the Bureau also assesses wildlife habitat and conducts some monitoring on BPL lands, and is consulted during the prescription process.</p>
<p><b>Timber Management</b></p>	
<p>The local work plans, called prescriptions, are prepared by professional foresters in accordance with Bureau policies specified in its <i>Integrated Resource Policy</i>, with input from other staff. These documents are then peer-reviewed prior to approval. Preparation and layout of all timber sales involve field staff looking at every acre to be treated. Trees to be harvested are often hand marked. Regional field staff provides regular on-site supervision of harvest activities, with senior staff visiting these sites on a less frequent basis. After the harvest is completed, roads, trails, and water crossings are discontinued as appropriate, although some management roads may remain open to vehicle travel. Changes in stand type resulting from the harvest are then recorded so that the Bureau's GIS system can be updated.</p>	<p>SOP - Ongoing</p>
<p>The Bureau is currently developing a post-harvest monitoring plan to assist forest managers in assessing harvest outcomes on all managed lands. The monitoring plan will also address water quality and Best Management Practices (BMP's) utilized during harvest activities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Third party monitoring is done mainly through the forest certification programs of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). Each program conducts</p>	<p>Continuing/ongoing. Full audit was conducted in 2011 for both programs. The most recent annual surveillance audit was conducted in Fall 2014. The Eastern region was the</p>

<p>rigorous investigations of both planning and on-ground practices. An initial audit by both programs was completed in 2000, with certification awarded in 2002. A full re-audit of both programs was conducted in the fall of 2006 with certification granted in 2007. The Bureau is also subject to compliance audits during the 5-year certification period.</p>	<p>focus of this annual audit. No issues were noted on these lands.</p>
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### **Issues for Advisory Committee Attention**

**New Issues or Circumstances Not Addressed in the Plan:** None.

**Other Items of Special Concern or Interest:** None



Paul Richard LePage  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY  
BUREAU OF PARKS & LANDS  
22 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0022

Walter Whitcomb  
COMMISSIONER

Date: March 6, 2015

To: Eastern Interior Region Plan Advisory Committee Members  
From: Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry,  
Bureau of Parks and Lands  
Re: Five-Year Review of the Eastern Interior Region Management Plan

Enclosed are the Advisory Committee comments on the 2014 five-year review of the 2009 Eastern Interior Region Management Plan and the responses to those comments by the Bureau of Parks and Lands. (As outlined below, this review also addressed the 2010 Amherst Mountains Community Forest (AMCF) Management Plan. The AMCF is managed as part of the Eastern Interior Region. No comments were received on the AMCF Plan.)

The Eastern Interior Plan guides the management activities of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands on public lands at Duck Lake; Bradley; Machias River and 21 smaller lots. The Bureau is required to report to the Advisory Committee at five-year intervals on accomplishments and changing conditions that may warrant amendments to the plan. The Bureau identified no new issues or circumstances that were not addressed in the Plan that warranted Committee discussion or action at this time.

The Bureau mailed its 2014 five-year report for the Eastern Interior Region Plan to the Advisory Committee members on December 23, 2014, requesting their comments on the report. The five-year report for the AMCF Plan was mailed to Advisory Committee members on January 6, 2015, with a similar request for comments.

The Bureau received written comments from four Advisory Committee members and takes particular note of the following:

- Keg Lake Boat and Road Access: As a result of Committee member comments, the Final Report clarifies BPLs discussions with the community of Lakeville regarding boat access at Keg Lake and Junior Lake, and actions that have been taken to improve hand-carry boat access to Keg Lake. The report also clarifies the current status of road access to the Keg Lake Lot, the Bureau's actions to replace the former environmentally problematic ROW, and interest in obtaining a permanent legal ROW across the town lot.
- Duck Lake Ecological Reserve: In response to a Committee member question, the Final Report provides an update on the use and management of the reserve as a predominantly de-facto non-mechanized backcountry area.

- Duck Lake Unit Timber Management: In response to Committee member comments and questions, the Final Report clarifies the objectives for timber management on the Unit and the emphasis on managing for late-successional character while also seeking opportunities to manage for early successional forest to benefit Canada Lynx.
- Deer Wintering Areas on Machias River: In response to Committee member comments on deer wintering areas in the Machias River drainage, the Final Report clarifies the Bureau's management, in consultation with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W), regarding management of zoned deer yards in the Duck Lake and Machias River Units.

This completes the five-year review process.

**Summary of Advisory Committee Comments and Parks and Lands Responses  
on the Eastern Interior Region Management Plan 5-Year Review for 2014<sup>1</sup>  
Comment Period Dec. 26, 2014 – January 23, 2015  
(Does not include typographical, grammatical, or formatting comments)**

Comment	Response
<b><i>From: D. Gordon Mott, Forester, Lakeville</i></b>	
<p>Regarding the Lakeville Lots:</p> <p><u>Wildlife Management Recommendations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The timber harvesting that was conducted in 2009 - 2010 was excellently performed from both silvicultural and wildlife habitat perspectives.</li> </ul> <p><u>Recreation Management Recommendations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The statement: "The residents generally seem opposed to a hand carry site on Keg Lake as per meetings with them. The offer was made in conjunction with the parking area" probably should be revised to "Vehicle access to a potential hand-carry launch site on Keg Lake was developed with donated funds".</li> <li>I attended all meetings that have been held with the Lakeville Selectmen and the few interested citizens that ever attended. There were two meetings when the launches were discussed. The first was Oct. 11, 2011. I don't have a record of the date of the second. There is in fact concern if any trailer-able boat launch is ever to be developed on the Duck Lake shore. While desirable access would thereby be provided to the public to Duck Lake and via Duck Stream to Junior Lake where there is no public access to the lakes, careful design and an open public input process would be required that involves both Lakeville residents and the general public that uses these lakes, before any such decision is ever made. A launch would seriously transform the natural character and use of this area. It is</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bureau appreciates the comment.</li> <li>The 5-Year review table incorrectly stated that there has been opposition to a hand carry launch on Keg Lake; it should have stated, as the commenter points out, that there has been opposition to a <u>trailer launch</u>.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> This five-year review also included the 2010 Amherst Mountains Community Forest Management Plan; no Advisory Committee comments were received on that Plan.

likely that other ongoing efforts to provide Junior Lake access will be productive and eliminate the need for any access here.

The second meeting was called by Lakeville Selectboard to hear concerns from two individuals who had property on Junior Lake and one on Keg Lake. It was resolved at the meeting that vehicle access was developed to the 250-foot line in accord with the original plan and that access expense was provided by donated funds. No record exists of an opposing decision by Selectboard or any general public discussion of the matter at the time of review of the original plan or subsequent to that meeting.

- Minor walking trail improvements should be made to the origin on the lake of the old portage trail for hand carry access in accord with the original plan. It should also be noted that there are two potential water-access campsites available in the Keg Lake public lot that are not otherwise accessible in any other way for any purpose.

#### Transportation and Administrative Recommendations

- Discussion has taken place between BPL and Lakeville Selectboard in which I believe the Selectboard agreed to swap the right of way from Bottle Lake Road to the Keg Lake lot across the Town-owned parcel, from Long Point road where a bridge has fallen into disrepair and the road requires costly maintenance because of the presence of springs, to another road to the south that will have better permanent footing and improved connection to the internal public lot road system.

It is recommended that legal completion of this agreement be added to the Management Plan. The agreement should include some provision for joint maintenance of the Town-owned segment and seasonal closure as required.

- There is an informal hand carry launch at the terminus of the portage trail. BPL improved access to that by constructing a parking area near the site, and plans to improve the trail from the parking lot to the launch this year.

- BPL did receive permission from the Town to cross a portion of the town lot with an access road for timber management, and subsequently improved that road for access. BPL is very interested in working with the Town to secure a permanent ROW over that road, for all purposes. BPL has already discontinued use of its ROW to the north, as we agree it is problematic environmentally. Note that the ROW was granted to the Bureau by the Penobscot Indian Nation in 1992, for all purposes, and was the same ROW the Penobscot Indian Nation had already conveyed to Lakeville Shores, Inc. in 1988.

**From: Eliza Donoghue, Natural Resources Council of Maine**

<p>Thank you for passing along information about the Five-Year Review of the Eastern Interior Region Management Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Natural Resources Council of Maine has reviewed the plan recommendations and the actions taken by the Bureau and has not identified any new issues or circumstances that we feel warrant input or action on behalf of the Advisory Committee or amendment to the Plan.</li><li>• We were pleased to learn that Loon counts have been and plan to be conducted on Third and Fourth Machias Lakes, that the Division of Sea-Run Fisheries and Habitat provided input for the forest management prescription for the Machias River Unit, and that the Warden Service is monitoring Duck Lake during heavy use periods. NRCM appreciates these commitments by the Bureau to protect the outstanding qualities of these units.</li></ul> <p><u>Regarding the Duck Lake Unit:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Why has feasibility of managing the Ecological Reserve within the Duck Lake Unit as a non-mechanized backcountry area not been explored yet?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Comment noted.</li><li>• The Bureau appreciates the comments.</li><li>• The Bureau has seen no evidence of snowmobile use of the discontinued primitive snowmobile trail on the esker along Fifth Lake Stream and only very limited use of the allowed primitive snowmobile use of the Portage Trail between Fourth Lake and Gassabias Lake, primarily by trappers. An ATV trail that predates state ownership crosses the reserve on the 42-00-0 road just north of Fifth Machias Lake. Otherwise, the area is a de-facto non-mechanized backcountry area.</li></ul>
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**From: Gerald Poulin, Wagner Forest Management**

<p><u>Regarding the Duck Lake Unit:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wildlife Management Recommendations call for a component of early-successional forest for wildlife that benefit from this forest type, including Canada Lynx, but the Timber Management Recommendations seem to be all about late-successional forests. There is a</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The primary goal for timber management on the unit is to manage for late successional character, and much of the area allocated to Wildlife Management is to be managed for mature softwoods to maintain and expand deer wintering habitat. Although no acreage target has</li></ul>
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<p>conflict between expanding white tail deer wintering habitat and early-successional forests. Is there a goal for a certain number of acres for each forest type?</p>	<p>been established for early-successional forest, the Bureau does seek opportunities to manage for some young softwood habitat, to complement that existing on adjacent lands.</p>
<p><b><i>From: James Hall, MDIF&amp;W Wildlife Biologist</i></b></p>	
<p><u>Regarding deer wintering areas (DWAs) in the Machias River Drainage:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We would like review and input into the timber management plans along the main stem and major tributaries, out to ¼ mile and further on mapped DWAs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As described in the Eastern Interior Region Plan, there are zoned DWAs in the Duck Lake and Machias River Units, within the Machias River drainage. Since 1984 there has been a MDIF&amp;W Wildlife Biologist assigned to BPL to coordinate with MDIF&amp;W regional biologists on prescriptions. BPL will continue this longstanding practice. Under agreement with MDIF&amp;W, BPL treats stands that have characteristics of a DWA according to a set of recommendations drafted by MDIF&amp;W.</li> </ul>