

CHAPTER 202-D
DESIGNATED LANDS

§598. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 1993, c. 639, §1 (NEW).]

1. Lands or land. "Lands" or "land" means real estate held by the State.
[PL 1993, c. 639, §1 (NEW).]

2. Proceeds. "Proceeds" means money arising or obtained from the sale of designated lands, excluding the costs of the sale.
[PL 1993, c. 639, §1 (NEW).]

3. Real estate held by the State. "Real estate held by the State" means real estate wholly owned by the State by fee simple title. "Real estate held by the State" does not mean land partially owned by the State or land owned by someone other than the State in which the State holds an easement, right-of-way or covenant.
[PL 1993, c. 639, §1 (NEW).]

4. Reduced. "Reduced" means a reduction in the acreage of an individual parcel or lot of designated land under section 598-A. "Reduced" does not mean a reduction in the value of the property. "Reduced" does not mean the conveyance of an access right by easement in accordance with section 1814-A.
[PL 2011, c. 278, §3 (AMD).]

5. Substantially altered. "Substantially altered," in the use of designated lands, means changed so as to significantly alter physical characteristics in a way that frustrates the essential purposes for which that land is held by the State. The essential purposes of state parks, historic sites, public access sites, facilities for boats and the Allagash Wilderness Waterway are the protection, management and improvement of these properties for public recreation, conservation, scenic values, nature appreciation, historic preservation and interpretation, public access and related purposes. The essential purposes of public reserved and nonreserved lands are the protection, management and improvement of these properties for the multiple use objectives established in section 1847. The essential purposes of lands acquired through the Land for Maine's Future Board that are not held by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife or by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry are the protection, management and improvement of those lands for recreation, conservation, farming, open space, plant and animal habitat, scenic values, public access and related purposes. The essential purposes of state-owned wildlife management areas and game farms are the protection, management and improvement of those properties for fish and wildlife habitat and propagation, hunting, trapping, fishing, recreation, propagation and harvesting of forest and other natural products and related purposes. "Substantially altered" does not mean the conveyance of an access right by easement in accordance with section 1814-A.
[PL 2011, c. 278, §4 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §5 (REV).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 639, §1 (NEW). PL 1997, c. 678, §7 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 278, §§3, 4 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §5 (REV).

§598-A. Designated lands

The following lands are designated lands under the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 23. Designated lands under this section may not be reduced or substantially altered, except by a 2/3 vote of the Legislature. It is the intent of the Legislature that individual holdings of land or classes of land may be added to the list of designated lands under this section in the manner normally reserved for amending the public laws of the State. Once so designated, however, it is the intent of the Legislature that designated lands remain subject to the provisions of this section and the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 23 until such time as the designation is repealed or limited by a 2/3 vote of the Legislature. [PL 1993, c. 639, §1 (NEW).]

Designated lands are: [PL 1993, c. 639, §1 (NEW).]

1. Certain Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife lands. The following lands held by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife:

A. State-owned wildlife management areas and public access sites described in section 10109, subsection 1 and section 12708; and [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. B, §20 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

B. Lands held and managed as a state game farm under the provisions of section 10109, subsection 2; [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. B, §20 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]
[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. B, §20 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

2. Public lands and public reserve lots.
[PL 1995, c. 502, Pt. E, §16 (RP).]

2-A. Certain lands of the Bureau of Parks and Lands. Lands under the care, custody, control and management of the Bureau of Parks and Lands, including:

A. Lands that constitute a state park or historic site as those terms are defined in section 1801; [PL 1999, c. 127, Pt. A, §24 (AMD).]

B. Lands that constitute the Allagash Wilderness Waterway as defined in chapter 220, subchapter VI; [PL 1999, c. 127, Pt. A, §25 (AMD).]

C. Lands used for public boat facilities under the provisions of chapter 220, subchapter IX, including launching ramps, locks, parking sites and access roads; [PL 1999, c. 127, Pt. A, §26 (AMD).]

D. Public reserved lands as defined in section 1801, subsection 8; and [PL 1997, c. 678, §8 (AMD).]

E. Nonreserved public lands as defined in section 1801, subsection 6. [PL 1999, c. 127, Pt. A, §27 (AMD).]

Designated lands do not include: submerged lands; and all parcels of public reserved land in the towns of Bradley, LaGrange and Bradford held by the Bureau of Public Lands on January 1, 1994. [PL 1999, c. 127, Pt. A, §§24-27 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §24 (REV).]

3. Certain Bureau of Parks and Recreation Lands.
[PL 1995, c. 502, Pt. E, §18 (RP).]

4. Baxter State Park Authority lands. Lands managed by the Baxter State Park Authority not acquired by deed of gift and not contiguous to Baxter State Park. Specifically, lands deeded by Governor Percival P. Baxter by deeds of gift and lands managed by the Baxter State Park Authority that are contiguous to Baxter State Park are not designated lands; [PL 1993, c. 639, §1 (NEW).]

5. Lands gifted to the State. Except as provided in subsection 4, lands acquired by a deed of gift for conservation purposes; and

[PL 1993, c. 639, §1 (NEW).]

6. Lands acquired pursuant to referendum. Lands acquired by the State through the Land for Maine's Future Board under Title 5, Part 15-A.

[PL 1993, c. 639, §1 (NEW).]

Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a state agency owning or holding designated land under this section may contract to operate or manage that land, provided that the contract does not violate any other provision of law. [PL 1993, c. 639, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 639, §1 (NEW). PL 1995, c. 502, §§E16-18 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 678, §8 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 127, §§A24-27 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 414, §B20 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV). PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §24 (REV).

§598-B. Proceeds from the sale of designated land; limitation

Proceeds from the sale of designated land under section 598-A must be used to purchase additional land in the same county for the same purpose. [PL 1993, c. 639, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 639, §1 (NEW).

§598-C. Process for determination of reduction or substantially altered use of designated land

The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands shall adopt rules to establish an objective evaluation process for determining if a proposed activity on land designated under this chapter and under the jurisdiction of the bureau would cause the land to be reduced or the uses of the land to be substantially altered. In the case of a high-impact electric transmission line crossing or utilizing such land or a portion of such land that is a rail trail or recreational corridor or land of similar configuration, as determined by the bureau, the rules must include criteria for determining that the high-impact electric transmission line would not cause the land to be reduced or the uses of the land to be substantially altered. In adopting the rules, the bureau shall observe the requirements relating to designated lands in the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 23 and ensure proper exercise of the bureau's public trust responsibility. These rules must also include provisions for public notice and comment before authorizing any such activity and for determining the appropriate instrument to be used to authorize that activity, including but not limited to whether an easement, lease, license or other instrument should be used. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. [PL 2023, c. 644, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 654, §1 (NEW). PL 2023, c. 644, §1 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the First Special Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature and is current through October 1, 2025. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.