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It is unbelievable that the Bureau of Public Lands would violate not once but multiple times the State Constitution that requires a 2/3rd vote of the Legislature for approval when the use of state lands held for conservation are substantially altered. What cutting a 150-wide swath through a forest and then controlling the growth of capable species (species that will grow sufficiently tall to require control to prevent conflicts with overhead lines) for the life of the transmission line is not substantially altering the conservation purpose?

The Johnson Mountain and West Forks Plantation parcels were acquired for the people of Maine for the protection of these forest tracts and the environments they provide. Cutting a swath through them of course alters them. I have worked my entire life in the private sector. These BPL management idiots that are unaware of the State Constitution should be fired with cause. I would be if I did something similar in my private sector. The people of Maine did not elect these BPL management idiots to make these decisions behind closed doors without public notice. The Constitution is clear. The Legislature, who the people vote for, are responsible authority for making that decision.

CMP could certainly cross the parcels without altering it. Technology is available to bore under them. The combined width of both parcels that are adjacent to one another is less than a mile. In 2019 Michels bored a 2.5-mile long hole under a Missouri River reservoir to pull a 20-inch gas pipe

<https://www.michels.us/blog/2019-horizontal-directional-drilling-michels-20-in-bakken/>.

Michel's did the boring work in Maine in the late 1990s for the Maritimes and Northeast natural gas pipeline. CMP could have easily chosen a modestly different route about 1.5 miles to the west and crossed less than 1,000-feet of State conserved land in the Cold Stream parcel. That boring project would have been a piece of cake. Years ago I hired a local Maine company to bore and pull a water pipe several hundred feet under a small river in Hollis. Before I got to the job site they were done and packing up. What the hell CMP can't do a 1,000-foot bore in 2020? CMP needs to grow up and play with the big boys and State agencies need to stop pandering to CMP. Eversource for their Northern Pass project in New Hampshire was going to lay 60-miles of that project's transmission line underground. CMP could easily have bored and pulled a lousy 1,000-feet of cable. It is not the Mainer's concern that CMP left several hundred million on the table for the Massachusetts bid compared to the Eversource's bid for the same Hydro-Quebec project.

How does putting a transmission line through a forest alter it? I live on the farm I grew up on. In the 1960's CMP ran a transmission line through the forest. About every 4-years they come, at least they did until recently, and cut the capable species under the lines and the encroachment from the surrounding forest. Now under those lines are the largest Asiatic honeysuckle (an invasive species) that I'm aware of. They are about 12-feet tall and produce thousands of berries each. They don't grow much taller than 12-feet so CMP never cuts them. They like them. Because they block out the growth of capable species. They are 18-years old. I know because last year I cut one down. CMP has had four opportunities when they have passed through every 4-years to cut down these invasive Asiatic honeysuckle. But they have not. They have cut capable species within 4-feet of these 12-foot tall Asiatic honeysuckles but CMP leaves the honeysuckle. So the birds eat the berries, fly into the surrounding woods, defecate spreading seeds throughout the forest. When I harvest some wood on my property, exposing the forest floor to more sunlight in which invasives thrive, they explode in their growth and then I must spray them because CMP never controlled invasives on their property. I can't fault CMP for invasives in Maine. They are brought in by birds and become established along roadways where the land is disturbed. From there they spread onto CMP transmission lines which are in a perpetual state of disturbance by CMP cutting capable species every few years.

Maine DEP is another Maine agency that panders to CMP. CMP's invasive management plan they submitted for the NECEC project is despicable. Maine DEP staff apparently have never gone into the field to control invasives – unlike me. If you doubt what I'm telling you come on down and visit me at 1047 Intervale Road, New Gloucester. The Maine DEP approved invasives management plan has CMP assessing the number of invasives per area prior to construction. After construction they treat to control the numbers to no more than what was present prior. Four years later upon their first pass for vegetation management they control again to the levels that were present prior to construction. Then they are done for the life of the transmission line. The invasives on the CMP line that bisects my property did not show up until more than 30-years after CMP installed their transmission line. CMP's invasives species management plan is a farce and Maine DEP is too ignorant to recognize it.

If CMP crosses the Johnson Mountain and West Forks Plantation parcels as proposed with the invasive species management plan that Maine DEP has approved, invasives will invade the Maine public conserved lands altering the lands forever. It is not an easy task to remove invasive species once they take hold. If you or Maine DEP think otherwise, come on down to my farm to spray and cut invasives.