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In favor of LD 404

When I purchased my property over 20 years ago, it was backed by resource protected deer wintering habitat. (WMD 23)

A couple years ago there was a timber "harvest". When I reached out to the state agencies to complain about logging in a designated deer wintering habitat, I was told, "there is plenty":

I bet that is what they thought up North before extensive clear cutting decimated the deer herd.

WMD 23 is under tremendous hunting pressure, with the highest number of any deer permits fall 2020. Another bit of evidence of this is the bear "harvest" map which shows no bears have been taken in this bear habitat rich area.

I believe that is because any bear that ventures into the area is immediately taken or marked for taking by local hunters.

Once deer wintering yards are cut, one fluke winter could cause high deer mortality. Given what has just happened in Texas, it is not far fetched to see that IFW/Maine needs to do all it can to preserve and increase habitat for ALL species-not just those preferred by hunters, to maintain a healthy ecosystem and wildlife populations that are large enough to recover from massive loss.

Perhaps give tax incentives to landowners to NOT cut in areas designated as habitat, change deer wintering areas to "critical" habitat-now, before they are all cut off-or offer a tit for tat option where an adjacent area is recovered enough to be deer wintering habitat-ie, softwood regrowth 25 years or older-(Or whatever canopy fulfills the need of the deer) to allow logging in the adjacent parcel.

Logging would need to be restricted in deer wintering areas in the season the deer need the habitat-not done in the depths of winter stressing the herd.

Some of these suggested changes could be justified further under the Climate Action plan for the state.

I support LD 404 to increase habitat protections-in this case- deer wintering yards.