

**FY 2013 ANNUAL REPORT**  
to  
the JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
on AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY  
**MAINE PUBLIC RESERVED, NONRESERVED,  
AND SUBMERGED LANDS**



**Crocker Mountain Unit**

**MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION  
AND FORESTRY  
Bureau of Parks and Lands**

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FY 2013 ANNUAL REPORT  
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry  
Bureau of Parks and Lands

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) is responsible for the management and administration of Maine's Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, Submerged Lands, Coastal Islands, conservation easement lands, and other lands as provided by law.

This report constitutes required annual reporting pursuant to:

- 12 MRSA §1853, 1839 and elsewhere.
- 12 MRSA §1850(1) and 1836(1) and elsewhere related to vehicular access to Bureau lands
- 12 MRSA §1805 and 1853 related to ecological reserves on Bureau lands.

The report is submitted by March 1st of each year to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (ACF). It provides an overview of the scope of the Bureau's responsibilities and information on the Bureau's management activities during the 2013 fiscal year. Note that this report departs from past reports in that it is based on the fiscal year, pursuant to amendments to 12 MRSA § 1839 and 1853 and elsewhere enacted in 2013. As required, the report includes information on gates and barriers that prevent public vehicle access to Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands (Public Lands), recreation facility fees charged for the use of these lands, and a status report on Ecological Reserves. Also included in the report is information on timber, recreation and wildlife management carried out on Public Lands during the fiscal year. Income and expenditure information is provided for fiscal year FY2013 and a report is also included for the upcoming FY15 budget. The ACF Committee has the obligation to report by March 15th to the Appropriations Committee on the Bureau's Public Lands upcoming FY 2015 budget.

The "Lands" division of the Bureau is a dedicated revenue component of the agency, funding almost all of its administrative, planning, management and operational activities from revenue generated from the land base, with some additional sources of funds provided through various grant programs.

***The Bureau is statutorily mandated to manage the Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, 616,952 acres as of June 30, 2013, in a manner consistent with the principles of***

***multiple land use*** to produce a sustained yield of products and services in accordance with both prudent and fair business practices and the principle of sound planning (Title 12 MRSA 1833 and 1847).

Fifteen-year, multiple-use plans for the major properties guide the Bureau's Public Lands management activities. Benefits from the wise management of these lands include:

- *Production of forest products*
- *Public Access to recreational opportunities*
- *Enhancement of wildlife habitat*
- *Protection of unique natural and cultural resources*

The Bureau also has responsibility for managing public trust rights to Submerged Lands, and, when granting leases for the use of Submerged Lands, includes conditions to maintain customary and traditional public access, navigation, and commercial marine uses.

Finally, the Bureau protects public rights and values acquired through conservation and public access easements; and oversees project agreements with local entities the Bureau sponsors to enable them to purchase lands and easements using Land for Maine's Future (LMF) funds.

## II. FY 2013 HIGHLIGHTS

***Forest Certification*** – Since 2002, the Bureau's forest management activities have been certified as sustainable under two independent certification systems: the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) and Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI®). Each year the Bureau's forestry operations and overall forest management system are "audited" by these two certification systems, with all criteria addressed over a period of three years for SFI certification and a "full" audit for FSC conducted once every five years.

In FY 2013, the Bureau had annual surveillance audits under both the FSC and SFI programs. The auditors working with our certification agency, Bureau Veritas, visited thirteen separate sites on eight different townships in the Bureau's North Region, viewing exemplary timber harvests, innovative and efficient water crossings, diverse wildlife management practices, and well-planned recreation management. They were particularly impressed with the quality of road construction, commenting on the roadwork at numerous sites.

The Bureau intends to conduct forest management in compliance with the 2010-2014 certification standards, principles, and criteria of both SFI and FSC programs for all upcoming audits. The Bureau also intends to conduct several forest management operations under the outcome-based forestry model described below.

**Outcome Based Forestry (OBF)** – “Outcome Based Forestry” refers to a section of Maine’s Forest Practices Act that offers land managers added flexibility for timber management in exchange for up-front planning and expert review. The Bureau has conducted harvests under OBF in each of its three regions. In the North, the objective is the establishment of high value hardwoods, yellow birch and sugar maple, while creating hardwood browse for wildlife, along with a companion project to accelerate the development of core winter cover for deer.

Rapid growth of prime white pine sawtimber is the OBF objective in the Eastern and Western regions, accomplished by thinning to relatively low stocking to allow this windfirm species to grow with minimal competition. Operations are ongoing in the Western Region and have been completed in the East and North, though the work to accelerate deer winter cover is ongoing. Permanent growth plots were established at the East’s OBF site, to track how the pines are responding to the treatment. Additional opportunities for working within OBF will be evaluated as they become apparent.

**Timber Management Program** - In fiscal year 2013, timber harvests on Bureau-managed lands totaled 145,400 cords, a 35% increase over FY2012, when heavy rains from hurricane Irene resulted in little harvesting being done during the period September-December 2011. Several rain and thaw events made for a challenging winter though it was far better for harvesting than the previous year, and summer weather was about average for working on unfrozen ground. The Bureau and its contractors supplied wood to 45 mills statewide in FY2013.

**Firewood Permit Program** - Individual firewood permittee volumes totaled about 300 cords in FY2013, a 25% decrease from the year before. Logging contractors delivered over 3,000 cords of firewood to customers, so over 3,300 cords of

firewood was supplied from Bureau-managed lands in FY2013.

**Sugar Bush Leases** –The Lands Western Region currently has two sugar maple lease agreements, one at Bald Mountain Unit and one in Sandy Bay Township.. The Bald Mountain operation consists of 1,555 taps with plans to expand to 2,500 taps over the next year. The operation includes a tap system and a collection tank. The sap is processed off site. The Sandy Bay Township operation was bid out in the fall of 2011 for 14,000 taps to be developed by 2016. The lessee had 5,000 taps online in 2012 and was scheduled per contract to have 10,000 in the 2013 season. The area is scheduled to be fully utilized with 14,000 taps in 2014. When complete, the lessee will produce finished maple syrup onsite.

Western Region staff is exploring additional sugar maple opportunities in Sandy Bay Township and at other locations in the region. The Bureau will be seeking bids in FY 14 to establish a second sugar bush lease on 300 acres in Sandy Bay Twp., with approximately 2,000 taps.

In the Eastern Region, a timber harvest in Codyville on approximately 100 acres of selected hardwood stands was designed to enhance sugar bush potential. Healthy sugar maples were retained at the desired spacing where present, with the top quality sawlog and veneer sugar maples harvested prior to any maple sugar operation.

**Land Acquisitions** – Public Lands Acquisitions in FY 2013 totaled 33,916 acres, with 12,046 acres in fee lands (Crocker Mountain acquisition in Carrabassett Valley) and 21,870 acres in conservation easements (West Grand Lake) as shown in Appendix B. These acquisitions conserve forests, wetlands, stream shores and lake shores; secure important recreational trail and water access opportunities; and add to existing Public Reserved and Nonreserved lands. Sustainable forest management is expected to continue on over 80% of the lands and interests in lands acquired in FY 2013.

At the close of FY 2013, conservation lands held by the Bureau of Parks and Lands in fee, lease, recreation trail easements, or conservation easements totaled 1,079,343 acres, (including Parks, Boating Facilities, and Coastal Islands, and 9,815 acres of Forest Legacy conservation easements delegated to the Bureau by the US Forest Service). Public Reserved and

Nonreserved fee lands account for 616,952 acres, or 57% of this total.

The Bureau continues to advance a number of large working forest conservation easements that have been approved for federal Forest Legacy Program funding and has worked with the state Forest Legacy Committee to identify additional projects for future federal funding approval. Both approved and proposed Forest Legacy projects, some of which are expected to close in FY 2014, are summarized in Appendix C.

In addition to these acquisitions, the Bureau continued to sponsor land trust and local government acquisitions through the Land for Maine's Future Program. In total, the Bureau now holds 102 sponsored LMF Project Agreements covering 52,326 acres.

**Recreation** – The Bureau's Lands division is responsible for 326 campsites, over 150 miles of day hiking and backpacking trails (excluding 71 miles of Appalachian Trail located on state-owned lands), 35 trailered and hand-carry boat launching sites, and 263 miles of public access road.

**RTP and MCC:** Managing these assets takes both time and resources. To help keep this manageable, the Bureau has a long history of working with recreation and conservation partners, and supplements funds received from timber sales with federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grants. RTP funds totaling approximately \$131,500 from federal FY 2013 allocations were available for trails projects on Public Lands. In addition, maintaining hiking trails on challenging terrain - both mountainous and through lowland wet areas - requires a specialized skillset which the Bureau acquires through contracts with the Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) usually using RTP funds for most of the cost. Both of these programs, the RTP and MCC programs, are available through federal grants, and ongoing federal budget discussions raise concerns about continued availability of these programs.

**Trail Improvement Projects:** Recreational trails work in FY2013 focused on some of the Bureau's most popular trail destinations across the State including:

- hiking trails on the Cutler "Bold Coast" Unit in Washington County (bog bridge restoration);
- the "Great Circle Trail" on the Nahmakanta Unit in Piscataquis County - a backcountry loop connecting with the Appalachian Trail

and remote trails on the adjacent TNC-owned Debsconeags Wilderness area (new trail segments);

- remote hiking trails on the Deboullie Unit in Aroostook County (9.3 miles of new trail);
- the very popular ATV trails on the Scopan Unit in Aroostook County (trail upgrades);
- the Tumbledown Mountain hiking trails in Franklin County (restoration);
- The Bald Mountain trail in Rangeley, Franklin County (trail upgrades)
- New single-track mountain biking trails on the Kennebec Highlands in Kennebec County, as well as an important new ATV and snowmobile trail linkage through that Unit;

This is not a complete listing (see Section VII for more information, listed by Region).

**Moosehead Region Trails Planning:** In FY 2013 the Bureau received funds from Plum Creek Company to begin planning for a regional non-motorized trail system in the Moosehead Region, as a result of the terms of the approved Plum Creek Moosehead Region Development Concept Plan. The trails system can include improvements to trails on Public Lands that are part of the system of trails as determined with public input. This is an unprecedented trails opportunity involving a public-private partnership. In FY 2013 an advisory committee was established and planning began to identify possible trail routes.

**Land Management Planning** – During FY 2013, the Bureau continued to develop a new 15-year management plan for Public lands in the Central Penobscot Region including the Nahamakanta, Seboeis and Wassataquoik public lands units, all having previous management plans, and new plans for the East Turner Mountain (acquired in 2006) and Millinocket Forest (acquired 2011). In addition, 5-year Plan Reviews were initiated on the Northern Aroostook, Downeast, Seboomook, and Flagstaff Region Management Plans, all completed in 2007. A 5-year plan review involves a status report on implementation of plan recommendations, and identifying any new issues that might require a plan amendment.

**Submerged Lands and Coastal Islands Program** Submerged lands are managed under the Public Trust Doctrine to ensure protection of the public trust rights of fishing, waterfowl hunting, navigation, and recreation. The Submerged Lands Program plays an important role in maintaining a balance

among competing uses of submerged lands and resolving conflicts between public trust rights and the demand for private and commercial uses of these lands. Lease fees support shore and harbor management activities and improve public access.

The Bureau is responsible for managing coastal islands under public ownership. Using funding from the submerged lands leases (\$50,000 in FY 2013), it supports the Maine Island Trail Association (MITA), which manages recreation on public and private islands that are part of the Maine Island Trail. The Bureau's brochure "Your Islands and Parks on the Coast" shows the location of approximately 40 State-owned islands suitable for recreational use and explains the visiting, camping, and resource protection policies.

Funds from the Submerged Lands program also support a position in the Department of Marine Resources within its Public Health Division shellfish program by transferring \$80,000 to DMR each year.

### III. SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES

#### HISTORY OF THE BUREAU

The Bureau of Parks and Lands is an agency within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, a merger that occurred in 2012 involving the Departments of Agriculture and the Department of Conservation. The Bureau of Parks and Lands itself was a merger of two previously separate Bureaus— the Bureau of Parks and Recreation and Bureau of Public Lands. The Bureau of Public Lands was created in 1973 to manage the state's interests in its "original public lots," which ranged from 1,000 to 1,280 acres and were set aside in each township as a source of revenue to support schools when and if they became settled. In total, these included over 400,000 acres.

Beginning in the mid-1970s many of the original public lots were traded with lands of other landowners to consolidate the State's holdings into larger management units having greater public use values. Additional public lands have been acquired since 1990 largely through the Land for Maine's Future Program for the purpose of adding to these consolidated public lands, or creating new public lands to be managed for multiple uses including recreation, wildlife and forestry. Other lands, such as coastal islands, and surplus institutional lands

were also assigned to the Bureau of Parks and Lands for management.

#### CURRENT LANDS AND PROGRAMS

The Bureau of Parks and Lands is now responsible for management of Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, State Parks and Historic Sites, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, the Penobscot River Corridor and state-held coastal islands.

In addition, the Bureau is responsible for protecting public rights and public values on certain lands. These include the public trust rights of fishing, waterfowl hunting, navigation, and recreation on submerged lands beneath coastal waters from mean low tide to the 3-mile territorial limit, on tidal portions of rivers, under natural Great Ponds, and under international boundary rivers. This responsibility also includes protecting public rights and values acquired from private landowners through conservation and public access easements donated to or purchased by the Bureau. Finally, the Bureau has an oversight role for public values associated with lands acquired by municipalities and local land trusts through the Land for Maine's Future Program with Bureau sponsorship.

In FY 2013, lands under the Bureau's ownership, management or oversight included:

- 616,952 acres of Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands held in fee;
- 85,265 acres of fee lands held as Parks, Historic Sites or Boat Access Sites
- 968 acres of lands leased from or under agreement from others for management as Parks lands
- 2.3 million acres of marine and freshwater submerged lands and 1095 publicly held coastal islands;
- 365,248 acres of conservation and recreation easements;
- 9,815 acres of Forest Legacy conservation easements delegated to the Bureau for enforcement by the US Forest Service;
- 378,140 acres of third-party conservation easements (the Bureau is a back-up Holder and may also have an active role in ensuring the Holder adequately monitors and enforces the terms of the easement);
- 602,423 acres of public access rights granted by easement by three large private landowners; and
- 52,326 acres of lands acquired by local interests through the Land for Maine's Future Program with Bureau sponsorship.



Beyond the Bureau's land management responsibilities, several programs within the Bureau support public recreational access and trails. These include the Boating Facilities program, which builds boat access sites on state lands and funds municipal boat access sites; the Snowmobile and ATV programs which provide grants to local clubs to build and maintain trails on both public and private lands; the Grants and Community Recreation Program, which distributes federal grant funds for state and local recreation projects; and the Maine Conservation Corps (MCC), which provides trail crews to construct or rehabilitate recreational trails using federal AmeriCorps funds and fees charged for MCC services. MCC trail crews are commonly used to improve trails on Bureau lands.

## LAND CONSERVATION AND PUBLIC ACCESS

### Conservation Easements – Expanding Public Access, Keeping Maine's Forests as Working Forests, Conserving Maine's Special Places.

Since 1995, the fee ownership managed as Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands has increased by roughly 143,000 acres while conservation easements on Public Reserved Lands have increased from only 5,000 acres in 1995 to just over 352,000 acres today, with nearly 309,500 acres of these conservation easements acquired since 2003. The Bureau holds another 13,000 acres in conservation easements classified as Parks. In total, the Bureau now holds 58 conservation easements; is delegated by the US Forest Service to enforce 3 others; and is 3<sup>rd</sup> party enforcer on an additional 17 easements. See Appendix A: Map of BPL lands and easements

In 2007, the State enacted legislation requiring all conservation easement holders to monitor these easements for compliance with easement terms at least once every three years (33 MRSA 477-A(3)). Annual compliance monitoring is required by the Federal Forest Legacy Conservation Easement Program, which has funded 17 large working forest conservation easements accounting for 90 percent of the Bureau's easement acreage. As shown in Appendix C, another 7,250 acres of working forest conservation easements have been approved for Forest Legacy funding and are expected to close sometime in the next two years.

To monitor the 61 conservation easements it directly oversees, the Bureau has used existing

staff, supplemented by contracted services. These costs are funded largely by monitoring endowments established by acquisition partners as part of acquisition fund-raising. These funds are invested and held by the Maine Community Foundation (MCF).

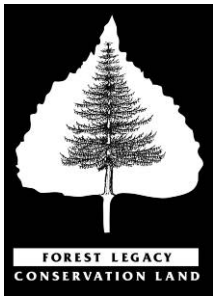
Since 2008 the Bureau has worked to develop an efficient and cost-effective monitoring system for its conservation easements. Grants from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund have been instrumental in helping the Bureau with the development stages of this program. The resulting monitoring protocol uses science-based remote sensing techniques, centralized administrative support, and targeted use of regional staff.

### **What Are Conservation Easements?**

Conservation easements have grown in popularity as a means of protecting public values on private lands, while keeping those lands productively owned and managed by the private landowner. Instead of acquiring the land outright (fee acquisition) the state acquires only selected rights with high public values, with the landowner retaining many rights to use the land for economic benefit. All conservation easements are negotiated with willing-sellers.

The protected lands range from 2 acres of sand dunes to 190,000 acres of working forest. These lands are highly productive and contribute to Maine's economy through the following uses: collection of sap and production of maple syrup; timber harvesting; hydroelectric power generation; hunting; extraction of spring water; organic farming; home of a summer camp for disadvantaged youth; tourism and recreation; sand and gravel production; snowmobile, ATV, and hiking trails; overnight accommodations including lodges and campgrounds; water quality protection; shellfish harvesting; and others.

Increasingly conservation easements are used to keep land in working forests, protect sensitive resources, and provide public recreational access. In the simplest form, a willing landowner is paid for the development rights, grants the right of public pedestrian access, and agrees to manage the forest in accordance with certain standards (generally sustainable harvests and state law). The federal Forest Legacy Program has provided funds for such easements since 1994, matched in part with State LMF funds.



Maine's Forest Legacy Program.

Many of the Bureau's conservation easements were funded in part with federal Forest Legacy funds, a program to prevent conversion of forests to non-forest uses by acquisition of fee or easement interests. Since 2000 this program has conserved approximately 722,000 acres of forest land in Maine; with the Bureau holding 316,900 as conservation easements and 95,600 acres held in fee, and the remaining 309,500 acres in conservation easements held by others (the Department of Marine Resources, Bureau of Sea Run Fisheries for Machias River conservation easements; the Forest Society of Maine for West Branch Penobscot conservation easements, and The Nature Conservancy for a conservation easement adjacent to the Sunhaze Meadows National Wildlife Refuge.)

What is the Forest Legacy Program? The Forest Legacy Program was created by Congress in 1990, in response to findings of the Northern Forest Lands Council which documented changing land ownership patterns that resulted when paper companies began divesting of their timberlands. This federally funded program requires that the State hold right, title or interest in any lands protected with Forest Legacy Program funds, although other entities, such as nonprofits, can acquire lands or conservation easements that are offered as financial match for the Forest Legacy Program dollars. The Forest Legacy Program can provide up to 75 percent of the costs for acquisition of lands or conservation easements from willing landowners.

Each participating state defines its objectives and the process by which projects will be selected to compete nationally for federal funds. Maine's Forest Legacy Program aims to prevent the conversion of Maine's forest to non-forest uses, thereby protecting an array of traditional forest uses and a wide range of public values that Maine's forest provide. (See sidebar.)

The Forest Legacy Program operates on a competitive basis, nationwide. Maine projects, initially selected by an established Maine Forest Legacy Committee, are ultimately evaluated by a national panel against projects in 47 other states and 3 territories. The program solicits proposals on an annual cycle.

Maine has consistently submitted winning projects. Since the Forest Legacy Program began its competitive process in 2000, Maine has been awarded funding for projects every year. *Thirty percent of all acreage conserved in the US through the Forest Legacy Program is located in Maine.*

The total value of all Maine projects closed with Forest Legacy grants to date is approximately \$133 million. This has been leveraged by an investment of \$17 million in Land for Maine's Future funds, which secured \$65 million in Forest Legacy Grants and \$50 million in additional funds raised through private donations and other grant funds.

**Maine forests provide the following public values:**

- production of timber, fiber and other forest products;
- economic benefits from non-timber resources
- public recreation opportunities, including tourism activities;
- high environmental value plant and animal habitat identified by state, regional, or federal programs;
- habitat for rare, threatened or endangered plant or animal species and rare or exemplary natural communities;
- water supply and watershed protection, and/or important riparian areas, wetlands, shorelines, or river systems;
- scenic resources; and
- historic, cultural and tribal resources of significance.

**Traditional forest uses in Maine include, but are not limited to:**

timber harvesting	horseback riding
public access	picnicking
hunting	boating
fishing	swimming
trapping	bicycling
hiking	outdoor education
camping	nature observation/study
cross-country skiing	scientific research
snowshoeing	archaeological research

All of these projects have involved non-governmental organizations as partners to the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. These partners, including the Trust for Public Lands, the Nature Conservancy, the Forest Society of Maine, The Conservation Fund and the Downeast Lakes Land Trust, are important liaisons

with the landowners and are critical in providing fundraising to push these projects to completion.

Expanding Public Access through Access Easements and Land for Maine's Future Projects.

Since 2004 the Bureau has acquired a significant amount of public access easements and vehicular travel rights of way across private lands as a side benefit of conservation projects. The right of permanent public access is now guaranteed on over 600,000 acres of lands through public access easements (see accompanying map – Appendix A). The Bureau has the option but not the obligation to maintain or improve certain designated roads on 592,880 acres of these easements.

In addition, in 2012 the Plum Creek Moosehead Region Concept Plan, approved by the Land Use Regulation Commission in 2009, was upheld by the courts and became effective, triggering a requirement for deeded vehicular public access to be granted to the Bureau on certain roads within the concept plan, covering approximately 57 miles, to be granted concurrent with the approval of development.



Further, since 2001, non-state projects have been eligible for LMF funds, if sponsored by a state agency and subject to a recorded Project

Agreement which specifies terms for conservation and use and provides for public access. Through project agreements executed with the Bureau, over 52,000 acres of land have been acquired providing public recreational opportunities (many increasing public access to water), and protecting important wildlife, scenic and cultural values. BPL now holds 102 Project Agreements. There is no funding provided for the ongoing responsibility to oversee these projects.

Increased Interest and Demand for Recreation Opportunities on Public Reserved Lands.

For many reasons, awareness about and interest in Public Reserved Lands has increased significantly in the recreating public over the last ten years. One driving factor was the Bureau's focus on updating the management plans completed in the 1980's - initiated in early 2000, which includes a robust public involvement process. Other factors include: an increasingly user-friendly Bureau web presence

providing information about these lands, most recently including a partnership with MaineTrailFinder.com as a central source of information about non-motorized trails; the rapid expansion of statewide trails systems for ATVs and snowmobiles with interest in these lands as connectors and destinations; the rise of eco-tourism; and some high profile additions to the system, including Big Spencer Mountain, Seboomook, Mount Abraham, Tumbledown Mountain, the Machias River Corridor, and Cutler Coast, among others. These new lands were acquired primarily because of special recreational and ecological values.

Funding and Staffing.

These various trends, most having emerged only in the last decade – increasing demand for recreation opportunities on Public Reserved Lands; increasing access to private lands through conservation and access easements and attendant pressures and expectations for the State to maintain access roads on these private lands; the growth in conservation easements and LMF Project agreements requiring monitoring by the Bureau – have created management challenges for the Bureau, particularly in the areas of recreation development, natural resource planning, and easement and Project Agreement monitoring.

The Bureau's operational field staff for Public Lands, consisting of 25 full-time and 5 seasonal positions, manages both recreation and timber harvesting on Reserved Lands. This staff has been increased by only one position since 2002 (a forest technician position was filled in the Eastern Region in 2010).

To assist the field staff in all regions, the Bureau presently has a Chief of Silviculture, one Outdoor Recreation Specialist; one Senior Planner position responsible for management plans on Bureau lands; one Senior Planner position responsible for conservation easement monitoring, LMF agreements, and leases and agreements on Bureau lands, a property records manager, and one GIS specialist/coordinator. The Bureau also supports a Wildlife Biologist position that assists the planning staff and the regional foresters in management issues related to wildlife and wildlife habitat. These positions are supported in large part by timber revenues from Reserved Lands.

Partnerships to address recreation management needs.

One strategy for addressing the increased

recreational use pressure on Bureau lands has been engaging in partnerships with trail groups and land trusts to assist with both maintenance and management of these lands, and drawing on grant programs including the federal Recreational Trails Program. In addition, the Bureau has partnered with the MCC's AmeriCorps program to assign interns to work with staff on a variety of recreational programs on both Parks and Lands. This program provides good value to the Bureau and meaningful work experience to the interns. The challenge with these partnerships is that they require staff training and supervision; and many are reliant on federal funds which are increasingly at risk.

#### IV. LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING

The Bureau owns 154 Public Reserved Land units and 14 Nonreserved Public Land units. The number of actively managed reserved and nonreserved units (not including lands leased to or managed by others, small islands, and lands with a minority common and undivided interest), is 151. These range in size from 60 acres to 47,440 acres.

The Bureau is statutorily mandated to manage Reserved and Nonreserved Lands for multiple public values. Land management planning is also a required element of forest certification. Bureau staff involved in managing Reserved and Nonreserved Lands include specialists in planning, forest transportation, wildlife, recreation, and field forestry. All collaborate to ensure a balanced approach to the management of the various resources on these lands.

The Bureau's *Integrated Resource Policy* (IRP), adopted in 1985 and revised in 2000, guides resource management decisions and governs management planning for all Public Reserved and Nonreserved lands. Management Plans are prepared consistent with the IRP and taking into consideration comments received from a defined public process. The planning process allocates areas for specific uses including:

- *Special Protection (Natural/Historic)*
- *Wildlife*
- *Recreation*
- *Timber*

These areas often overlap, creating zones where management is designed to accommodate a variety of uses. The relative impact of one use upon another is carefully weighed to establish a hierarchy of resource management that protects

the most sensitive resources and uses, while allowing other management to continue. For example, planned timber harvests in deeryards can provide a sustained yield of forest products and deer browse, while maintaining the winter shelter value of these areas.

Management plans for are prepared regionally for a period of 15 years, with five-year reviews. The Plans addresses all of the Reserved and Nonreserved lands within a planning region.

#### MANAGEMENT PLAN STATUS

1	Mount Abraham <sup>1</sup>	Adopted June 2007
2	Amherst	Adopted Dec. 2010
3	Bald Mountain <sup>2</sup>	Adopted Jan. 2011
4	Bigelow Preserve <sup>1</sup>	Adopted June 2007
5	Chain of Ponds <sup>1</sup>	Adopted June 2007
6	Chamberlain	To do
7	Cutler Coast <sup>3</sup>	Adopted March 2007
8	Dead Riv/Spring Lake <sup>1</sup>	Adopted June 2007
9	Deboullie <sup>4</sup>	Adopted June 2007
10	Dodge Point	Adopted 1991
11	Donnell Pond <sup>3</sup>	Adopted March 2007
12	Duck Lake <sup>5</sup>	Adopted July 2009
13	Eagle Lake <sup>4</sup>	Adopted June 2007
14	<b>East Turner Mtn<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>Plan in Progress</b>
15	Four Ponds <sup>2</sup>	Adopted Jan. 2011
16	Gero Isl/Chesuncook	Adopted 1980
17	Great Heath <sup>3</sup>	Adopted March 2007
18	Holeb	Adopted 1989
19	Kennebec Highlands	Adopted October 2011
20	Little Moose	Adopted 1988
21	Machias River <sup>5</sup>	Adopted July 2009
22	Mahoosuc <sup>2</sup>	Adopted Jan. 2011
23	<b>Millinocket Forest<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>Plan in Progress</b>
24	Moosehead	Adopted 1997
25	<b>Nahmakanta<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>Revision in Progress</b>
26	Pineland <sup>6</sup>	Adopted Jan. 2011
27	Richardson <sup>2</sup>	Adopted Jan. 2011
28	Rocky Lake <sup>3</sup>	Adopted March 2007
29	Round Pond	Adopted 1992
30	Salmon Brk Lake Bog <sup>4</sup>	Adopted June 2007
31	Scraggly Lake <sup>7</sup>	Adopted August 2009
32	<b>Seboeis<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>Revision in Progress</b>
33	Seboomook	Adopted March 2007
34	Scopan <sup>7</sup>	Adopted August 2009
35	Telos	Adopted 1990
36	Tumbledown Mt.	To do
37	<b>Wassataquoik<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>Revision in Progress</b>

<sup>1</sup> Flagstaff Region

<sup>2</sup> Western Mountains Region

<sup>3</sup> Downeast Region

<sup>4</sup> Northern Aroostook Region

<sup>5</sup> Eastern Interior Region

<sup>6</sup> Bradbury-Pineland Region

<sup>7</sup> Aroostook Hills Region

<sup>8</sup> Central Penobscot Region

Regional management plans are developed with robust public involvement. For each plan, a Public Advisory Committee is established representing local, regional, and statewide interests. These committees serve as forums for discussion of draft plans. Public meetings are held providing interested parties an opportunity to provide input on management issues and to comment on plan drafts. After considering these comments, the Bureau submits the final Plan to the Commissioner, upon recommendation by its Director, and the Plan is effective upon the Commissioner's approval.

## V. NATURAL/HISTORIC RESOURCES

### NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORIES (NRI's)

The Maine Natural Areas Program within the Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning conducts inventories of natural resources on lands managed by the Bureau of Parks and Lands under a Memorandum of Understanding. In general, inventories are done in advance of management planning to provide up-to-date information.

#### ***NRI's completed in FY 2013***

In association with the Central Penobscot Region Management Plan, a Natural Resource Inventory was completed for the Seboeis Unit. Field work was also conducted for public lots in the Moosehead region. Examples of completed Natural Resource Inventories and associated management plans are available at the Bureau of Parks and Lands website at:

[www.maine.gov/dacf](http://www.maine.gov/dacf)

### ECOLOGICAL RESERVES

***History, Status Related to Statutory Acres Limits.*** Ecological Reserves are designated areas containing representative native ecosystem types managed as special protection areas. They serve as benchmarks against which to measure changes in both managed and unmanaged ecosystems, to provide habitat unlikely to occur in managed forests, and to serve as sites for long term scientific research, monitoring, and education. This annual report includes the status of these reserves, and the results of monitoring, scientific research and other activities related to the reserves (12 MRSA §1839 and §1853).

The Bureau is also required to notify the committee when a management plan proposes designation of an ecological reserve (12 MRSA §1805). This section of the report addresses this requirement. The Bureau director may designate Ecological Reserves on Bureau lands included in "An Ecological Reserves System Inventory: Potential Ecological Reserves on Maine's Existing Public and Private Conservation Lands," Maine Biodiversity Project, July 1998. The Director may designate additional reserves in conjunction with the adoption of a management plan, when that process includes public review and comment on the plan and notification to the committee of the proposal.

Since 2007, the Bureau has operated with an informal policy of not designating any additions to the ecological reserve system other than those deemed as such (and if recommended by the Ecological Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee), until management plans for all Public Reserved Lands have been updated under the 2000 IRP. As discussed below, the Bureau is constrained by statute on the number of acres that can be designated as an ecological reserve. Presently the Bureau is within 3,700 acres of that limit. Therefore all possible additions will be evaluated before any new designation. Some areas have been noted in the new management plans as potential additions to the ecological reserve system. In addition, a pending acquisition (Crocker Mountain) has a component that is a potential candidate for ecological reserve status. See discussion under Ecological Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee, below.

**Original Reserves:** In 2001, the Director designated thirteen Ecological Reserves totaling 68,975 acres on public reserved lands included in the above-referenced inventory. These original reserves were designated using the best available information at the time, with the understanding that adjustments may be needed as conditions on the ground are researched in conjunction with management plans.

The Downeast Region Management Plan (2007) adopted changes to three original reserves because of land acquisition for the Donnell Pond Unit, deed conditions affecting use of the Great Heath, and fieldwork on the natural communities at Cutler Coast. The Northern Aroostook Region Management Plan (2007) adopted changes to the ecological reserve at Deboullie where the boundary

overlaps an area with developed facilities and significant public use. The total change in ecological reserve acreage resulted in a net reduction of approximately 111 acres; resulting in the current acreage of 68,864.

<b>Ecological Reserves Designated as a Result of Acquisition Conditions</b>	
Name	Acres
Big Spencer	4,242
Mount Abraham	5,186
St John Ponds	3,917
Machias River	2,780
Number 5 Bog	4,809
Crocker Mountain (pending)	~ 4,000
Total Reserves acquired through acquisition terms	24,934

**Additions Based on Acquisition Conditions:**

Between 2002 and 2004 the Bureau acquired three areas with the condition that they be designated Ecological Reserves: Big Spencer Mountain, the Saint John Ponds and Mount Abraham. These areas were formally designated as Ecological Reserves as part of the Seboomook Unit Management Plan and Flagstaff Region Management Plan in 2007.

In 2006, as part of the Phase II acquisition of the Machias River project lands, 2,780 acres were conveyed to the state by the Conservation Fund subject to a deed restriction that the lands be designated as an Ecological Reserve. This area expanded by 400 acres an existing Reserve on Fourth Machias Lake on the Duck Lake Unit and added a 2,380-acre adjacent area that includes frontage along Fifth Machias Lake and Fifth Lake Stream. These additions to the Ecological Reserve system were adopted as part of the Eastern Interior Region management planning effort in 2009.

In 2009 the Bureau acquired 4,809 acres of land at Number Five Bog as a deeded Ecological Reserve.

In June of 2013 the Bureau acquired the 12.046-acre Crocker Mountain parcel, subject to a funding agreement to designate approximately 4,000 acres as an ecological reserve.

**Statutory Limits:** By statute, the total land acreage designated as Ecological Reserves may not exceed 15% of the total acreage under Bureau jurisdiction or 100,000 acres, whichever is less. In addition, no more than 6% of the operable timberland on public

lands may be designated as Ecological Reserves. Lands acquired after the effective date of the statute (2000) with the condition that the donated or acquired land be designated as an ecological reserve are not included when calculating acreage limits.

Presently Bureau fee lands, including Parks, Public Reserved and Non-reserved Lands, and Boating Facility lands, total 702,218 acres. The 15% limit would then be 15% applied total acres less 24,934 acquired with deed restrictions; or 101,592 acres. This means that 100,000 acres is presently the actual upper limit with regard to the first statutory condition. Current qualifying Ecological Reserves comprise 68,864 acres.

<b>Ecological Reserves as a Proportion of Total Acres Under Bureau Jurisdiction in FY 2013*</b>	
<i>Land Type</i>	<i>Total Fee Acres</i>
State Park Lands	84,713
Boat Access Lands	552
Public Reserved Lands	612,317
Non-reserved Public Lands	3,635
Unregistered Coastal Islands	1,095
Subtotal	702,218
Land acquired on condition of ecoreserve designation	-24,934
Total	677,284
Lesser of 15% of Lands under Bureau Jurisdiction or 100,000	100,000
Acres in Qualifying Reserves	68,864

Regarding the 6% rule, there are approximately 418,500 acres of operable timberland on public reserved and non-reserved lands, with approximately 21,400 acres of these located in qualifying reserves. This is roughly 3,700 acres below the 6% limit set in statute.

<b>Ecological Reserves as a Proportion of Operable Timberland Acres on Public Lands in 2012*</b>	
<i>Land Type</i>	<i>Operable Timberland Acres</i>
Total Operable Lands	418,500
6% of Operable Lands	25,110
Operable Acres in Qualifying Reserves	21,400
Net available acres for ER designation	3,700
*Operable timberland acres are lands held in fee, not including Ecological Reserves designated as a condition of the acquisition. Operable acres on Ecological Reserves include modifications adopted in 2007(see previous table).	

**Ecological Reserve Monitoring:** An annual Memorandum of Understanding with the Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) enables the collection of baseline ecological data for the Bureau's Reserve inventory. This monitoring fulfills two key purposes of the enabling legislation for Ecological Reserves: that they serve as a "benchmark against which biological and environmental change may be measured", and that they serve as sites for "ongoing scientific research, long term environmental monitoring and education". These surveys are conducted in accordance with established monitoring guidelines. This ongoing effort will provide information necessary for measuring ecological changes on Reserves over time. In 2010, with the completion of baseline monitoring at Number 5 Bog Ecological Reserve, baseline monitoring on all BPL ecological reserves was completed. In FY 2013, MNAP began the 10-year re-sampling effort by revisiting the established long term forest monitoring plots established in 2002. A total of 96 plots were revisited: 48 at the Bigelow Ecological Reserve, 30 at the Spring River Lake Ecological Reserve, and 18 at the Donnell Pond Ecological Reserve. Information from this long term monitoring program will yield insights into how Maine's natural forests and natural communities are changing over time.

Monitoring reports may be found at MNAP's website at the Bureau of Natural Resource Information and Land Use Planning within the Department's website : <http://www.maine.gov/dacf>

**Ecological Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee:** An Ecological Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee was established in the mid-1990s to provide guidance regarding the inventory and assessment of a potential Ecological Reserve system in Maine. The committee produced a status report on Ecological Reserves in 2009 (*Ecological Reserves in Maine: A Status Report on Designation, Monitoring, and Uses*; available at the Natural areas website cited above.

The role of the Committee includes reviewing potential Ecological Reserve additions according to science-based criteria that new Ecological Reserves must meet. The Committee met in December 2012 to review a potential utility corridor crossing at the Cutler Ecological Reserve. The Committee raised concerns about potential impacts of the corridor crossing. Those concerns were communicated to BPL and have

been taken into account as the planning for that project continues.

## HISTORIC AND CULTURAL INVENTORIES

The Bureau's Historic Site Specialist provides information on the history of parcels subject to the management planning process. This information, along with input from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and the public process that accompanies Plan development, is then included in the management plans. The MHPC is the lead agency in identifying significant historic resources requiring preservation and protection of these resources on the State's ownership, including designating historically sensitive areas for special protection.

## **VI. WILDLIFE RESOURCES**

A key component of the Bureau's integrated resource management program is coordinating land management activities with fisheries and wildlife habitat enhancement. Since 1984 a wildlife biologist from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has been assigned to the Bureau through a cooperative agreement between the two agencies. The primary responsibility of the biologist has been to develop and implement a habitat management program for Bureau-managed lands. Wildlife management activities conducted in FY 2013 on lands managed by the Bureau were as follows:

**Wildlife Inventory and Survey Work.** During this reporting period, waterfowl brood counts were completed in early July at five (5) man-made and natural impoundments under division management.

**Habitat Management.** Fifty seven (57) waterfowl nesting boxes were maintained by regional staff. With assistance from a seasonal position, fifteen (15) acres of old field were mowed at five (5) sites and invasive species control was conducted on nine (9) acres at 7 sites. Assistance was provided to MDIF&W Region B with eighteen (18) acres of invasive control on the Steve Powell WMA. Contracts for routine beaver control activities were developed by BPL regional offices. Wetland management activities involving maintenance of existing siphon pipe/fence

installations were performed at Farmington. No new structures were built.

On Parks land, foraging strips for the state threatened New England cottontail rabbit (NEC) were maintained by mowing at Crescent Beach State Park in Cape Elizabeth.

**Seeding Program.** 71.9 acres of herbaceous seeding was established on thirty-one (31) public lands parcels for wildlife forage and erosion control. An experimental special wildlife mix utilizing feed turnips was developed and planted out.

**Deer Wintering Areas (DWAs):** Currently BPL manages over 31,000 acres of deer wintering areas on Public Reserved lands. This includes 14,771 acres of LURC zoned P-FW and 16,800 acres of "cooperative" DWAs. This equates to 7.9 % of the BPL lands available for management.

The Bureau monitors and assesses DWAs on public lands as part of its management strategy. Aerial surveys for deer activity are conducted on BPL managed lands when travel conditions for deer are restrictive using IFW protocols. This information is used to delineate cooperative winter habitat management areas for deer and other softwood dependent wildlife. No surveys were conducted during this reporting period due to a lack of restrictive snow conditions.

In FY 2013 BPL coordinated harvesting activities on 3,488 acres of DWA with MDIF&W.

**Lynx Habitat Management.** The Bureau has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with MDIFW to manage a 12,000 acre portion of the Seboomook Unit for the federally threatened Canada lynx. The MOA describes management actions the Bureau will undertake during the 15 year term of the agreement such as timber harvesting activities that will maintain and enhance optimum habitat for snowshoe hare, the primary prey of lynx.

**Harvest Prescriptions.** The wildlife specialist reviewed timber harvest plans for compartments totaling 10,288 acres of public lands for fish and wildlife habitat compatibility and potential habitat enhancement.

**Research Requests.** Special activity permits for surveys of high elevation "fishless" ponds for amphibian and invertebrate communities and for

research on sparrows, rusty blackbirds, Bicknell's thrush, and the Maine butterfly survey were reviewed and approved in consultation with MNAP. Three permits for capturing transient peregrine falcons at Popham Beach S.P. were issued

**Forest Certification.** Planning and administration for fisheries, wildlife, and biodiversity issues related to forest certification conditions in both the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) programs continued.

## VII. RECREATION RESOURCES

The Bureau's Lands Division is responsible for 326 campsites, over 150 miles of day hiking and backpacking trails (excluding 71 miles of Appalachian Trail located on state-owned lands), 35 trailered and hand-carry boat launching sites, and 263 miles of public access road.

### FY 2013 PROJECTS

In accordance with management plan commitments, and in response to public demand, the Bureau continued to develop or make upgrades to recreation facilities on its lands. A summary of FY 2013 projects follows.

#### **Western Region**

The Western Region of the Lands Division continued to maintain and provide a diversity of outdoor recreation facilities and resources. The Region was assisted by an AmeriCorps Environmental Educator placed at the Bigelow Preserve, and by MCC crews for many projects. In addition to routine maintenance, a number of projects were undertaken.

Pineland. Trail planning and design efforts were undertaken to link the South Loop Trail to a multi-use trail corridor owned by Central Maine Power. FY 2013 saw this regional project linking Pineland to Bradbury Mountain State Park in Pownal move forward with trail layout amounting to 2.1 miles of trail prepared for Maine Conservation Corps trail construction beginning shortly into FY 2104.





**A Mt. Bike-Friendly Bridge Constructed in the Pineland Public Lands**

Bigelow Preserve. A 900 hour Maine Conservation Corps Environmental Steward position assisted management efforts and visitor education at the Preserve. Work was completed on the Gravel Pit Campsite near Little Bigelow. The Safford Brook Trail relocation was finished. Existing campsites were renovated and internal pathways between the multiple sites were cleared at Round Barn.

Holeb (Moose River Bow Trip). In addition to performing ongoing basic maintenance, trail use data and visitor surveys collected in 2012 were analyzed for management insight.

Big Spencer Mountain Ecological Reserve. Consistent with improvements recommended by the management plan, the former fire warden cabin on Big Spencer Mountain was purposefully burned and the site was rehabilitated with assistance from the Forest Society of Maine. A pit toilet was constructed on site.

Mahoosucs. Public use monitoring and survey data associated with the 38-mile Grafton Loop Trail was analyzed and presented to trail management collaborators including the Appalachian Mountain Club, Maine Appalachian Trail Club, Mahoosuc Land Trust, and select Bureau staff.

Tumbledown Mountain. In FY 2013 BPL continued hiking trail rehabilitation efforts including 5 weeks of Maine Conservation Corps trail crew work rerouting trail, constructing rock steps and water bars, and otherwise improving trails.

Bald Mountain – Rangeley. BPL rehabilitated 0.25 miles of hiking trail on this Unit in FY 2013.

Dodge Point. The parking area/trailhead was resurfaced and the Old Farm Road Trail had erosion control improvements. The dock on the Damariscotta River was repaired.

Kennebec Highlands. Work continued to develop a single track bicycle trail originating at the Round Top trailhead. Volunteer labor from the Central Maine Chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association worked towards providing a significant new remote-setting mountain bike trail in Kennebec County. Access enhancements to the northern portions of the Kennebec Highlands were made by improving the Roxy Rand Road. The Off-road Vehicles Program upgraded and established new components to the ATV trail system.

Parker Pond Islands. Western Region Lands worked with the Parker Pond Association to upgrade campsites and campsite signage on the Parker Pond Islands owned by the Bureau.

### ***Eastern Region***

Eastern Region lands provide a wide array of recreational opportunities. In FY 2013 the Eastern Region was assisted by an AmeriCorps Environmental Educator, and by MCC crews. Projects for FY 2013 are outlined below.

Seboeis. A section of the new ATV trail on the Seboeis Unit was upgraded and a new bridge was installed. Funding came from the Recreational Trails Program. A lightly used campsite near the Seboeis Lake outlet was refurbished to enable access by those seeking to camp by ATV.

Cutler Coast. The Maine Conservation Corps, funded through the Recreational Trails Program, continued work replacing bog bridging at the Cutler Coast Trail.

Duck Lake. A new vault toilet was installed at the Gassabias Lake campsites.

Nahmakanta. Trail development continues to enhance Nahmakanta as a backcountry hiking destination offering several loop trail options ranging in duration from moderate day hikes to multi-day backpacking excursions. The bridge deck was replaced on the Pollywog Stream Bridge.



Campsite on Nahmakanta Lake

An additional recreation management project involved a survey of boats stored at remote ponds on the Nahmakanta Unit. Boat owners were notified of upcoming enforcement of the boat storage policy, which has been established to protect the character of remote ponds.

A 900 hour Maine Conservation Corps Environmental Educator position assisted management efforts and visitor education at Nahmakanta.

Amherst Community Forest. The MCC rehabilitated 5.5 miles of hiking trails in addition to adding 0.75 miles of new trail.

**Northern Region**

The Northern Region Lands Office provides quality recreational experiences on lands across northern Maine. In FY 2013, this Region maintained 69 campsites and 19.3 miles of hiking trails; collaborated with 6 motorized trail clubs; and provided access to numerous water bodies. The Northern Region continues to partner with North Maine Woods, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, the Penobscot River Corridor, and Baxter State Park to manage recreation.

Deboullie. Northern Region staff, with assistance from MCC and funding from the Recreational Trails Program, started construction of the Whitman Mt. hiking trail. Overall, MCC and staff worked on 9.3 miles of hiking trails at Deboullie. Trailhead parking was constructed for the Deboullie and Black Mt. Loops. Hiking trail signage was improved and staff constructed an Adirondack shelter at Gardner Point campsite.

Scopan. MCC constructed a new, 3.5 mile hiking trail on Scopan Mt. Using funding from the

Recreational Trails Program (RTP). RTP funds were also used to upgrade 2.2 miles of ATV trail, including a trail over Scopan Mt. Staff developed an ATV access campsite, including a half-mile walking trail and Adirondack shelter. Staff also replaced the bridge deck on an ATV bridge.

Scraggly Lake. One new vault toilet was installed. Hiking trail signage was improved. Using Recreational Trails Program funds, the Maine Conservation Corps constructed 0.7 miles of hiking trail from the campground and installed stone steps on the Owls Head Trail.

Salmon Brook Lake Bog. MCC and regional staff constructed 1.0 miles of hiking trail, a footbridge, and 100' of boardwalk at Salmon Brook Lake Bog (with Recreational Trails Program funds). A road project funded by the Land for Maine's Future was completed.



Salmon Brook Lake Bog observation platform during construction

**Recreational Trails Program**

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP), administered by the Federal Highway Administration, is funded by the transfer of a percentage of gasoline taxes from the Highway Trust Fund paid on non-highway recreational use in off-highway vehicles. It is a significant source of funding for recreational trails for the Bureau of Parks and Public Lands, other qualifying subdivisions of state government, non-profit groups, and municipalities. In FY 2013, the following RTP grants were awarded to aid in trails projects and management of recreation on Maine's Public Lands.

Western Region:

- \$20,000 for continued work on Tumbledown Mountain hiking trails\*

- Remaining fund balances from prior years were used to improve 0.25 miles of hiking trail on Bald Mountain in Rangeley
- \$8,000 for an Environmental Steward (AmeriCorps) to assist in recreation management on the Bigelow Preserve

Eastern Region:

- \$22,500 for continued improvements to hiking trails at Cutler Coast\*
- \$31,378 for a hiking project at Nahmakanta.\*
- \$8,000 for an Environmental Educator (AmeriCorps) to assist in recreation management at Nahmakanta

Northern Region:

- \$ 20,000 for trail work at Deboullie\*

\*The Recreational Trails Program's fiscal year is a calendar year (e.g. FY 2013 is 1/1/13 – 12/31/13).

**PUBLIC INFORMATION**

During FY 2013, the Bureau continued to develop, revise, and distribute information on the location of hiking trails, campsites, and other recreation facilities and opportunities available on Bureau lands.

**Map and Guide Project:** Starting in 2008, the Bureau undertook a pilot effort in Washington County to develop new standards for maps and guides detailing property features and opportunities. This work was completed in 2009, and in 2010, the map & guide effort was expanded to eight additional Public Lands sites.

Most brochure projects listed below are in the final stage of page layout and approval or have been approved for printing. However, the Bigelow Preserve, Nahmakanta, and Penobscot River Corridor/Seboomook brochures are temporarily delayed because of pending acquisitions or management plans. Parks brochures completed related to this project include: Lily Bay, Peaks-Kenny, Rangeley Lake, and the Androscoggin Riverlands.

**Down East Sunrise Trail Downloadable Guide Project:** Work was completed on an on-line downloadable trip planner and guide for the 85-mile Down East Sunrise Trail (DEST) that highlights trail amenities, trailside attractions, and interesting

nearby destinations. Among the destinations promoted are the Public Lands: Cutler Coast, Donnell Pond, Great Heath, and Rocky Lake. A final draft for public review and comment was released spring, 2013. This is available online on the Bureau's and Sunrise Trail Coalition's websites. A final version with an addition of a trail overview page was due for release autumn, 2013.

New or Updated Public Lands Brochures in Progress during FY 2013
<b>Bigelow Preserve</b> - map released, full brochure pending
<b>Deboullie</b> – Spring, 2014 release
<b>Donnell Pond</b> – map in progress; brochure pending
<b>Mahoosucs &amp; Grafton Notch State Park;</b> Late 2013 release
<b>Nahmakanta</b> – in progress
<b>Moosehead Shoreline</b> , including Mt. Kineo State Park Spring, 2014 release
<b>Seboeis</b> – Spring, 2014 release
<b>Seboomook Public Lands &amp; Penobscot River Corridor</b> – in progress
<b>Tumbledown Public Lands &amp; Mount Blue State Park</b> – Spring, 2014 release

**Website Updates.** The Bureau continues to use its website [www.parksandlands.com](http://www.parksandlands.com) to provide photos, maps, and facility information for most of its Parks and Lands. As resources allow, enhancements are added to increase its usefulness to visitors and to the broader conservation and environmental education communities. A newly redesigned Departmental website is due for release spring, 2014.

**Outdoors in Maine brochure:** Work was begun to review and update this overview guide to the Public Lands, State Parks, and Historic Sites. It includes a listing of the recreational opportunities, on Bureau properties throughout the State. Anticipated spring, 2014 release.



Information about non-motorized trail opportunities on Parks and Lands can now be found on the Maine Trail Finder

website ([www.mainetrailfinder.com](http://www.mainetrailfinder.com)), operated by the nonprofit Center for Community GIS in Farmington. The Bureau works with the Center to develop online trail descriptions and interactive

maps, which are then posted on the website. To date, 38 trails or trail systems located on Maine Public Lands and 57 trails/systems at State Parks and Historic Sites appear on the website. Additionally, with support from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund and the Recreational Trails Program, the Bureau has worked with the Center to expand trail listings on the website, adding trails managed by other groups such as land trusts, municipalities and the National Park Service.

## **RECREATION MANAGEMENT STAFFING**

One year-round and six seasonal rangers were involved in recreation management activities in FY 2013. The seasonal rangers were responsible for recreation facilities maintenance and construction, and informing visitors about Bureau rules. The Western Lands Region continued its Volunteer Campground Host program at two Bureau-owned campgrounds on Moosehead Lake: Cowan's Cove and Spencer Bay. These campgrounds are free to the public, and like all Bureau campsites, stay is limited to 14 days in a 45-day period. The volunteers oversee these campgrounds in return for extended stays at the campground.

Also in FY 2013, the Western Lands Region utilized the AmeriCorps Environmental Educator program to provide a resident staff person at Bigelow Preserve to assist the full-time Preserve Manager with recreation management. The Eastern Lands Region employed an Environmental Educator to assist with recreation management at the Nahmakanta Unit. These positions were funded by Recreational Trail Program grants.

## **FEES**

Fees are generally not charged on Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands managed by the Bureau. However, in some circumstances fees are charged because these lands are within or accessed through private recreation management systems (NMW and KI-Jo-Mary); or because the Bureau has contracted the management with nearby recreation providers having similar management objectives (South Arm Campground and Baxter State Park). Fees charged in FY 2013 on Public Reserved Lands are described below.

## ***North Maine Woods Recreation Management***

This is a privately operated system involving 3 million acres of primarily private lands where public recreation is allowed subject to fees collected at a series of checkpoints. Approximately 95,500 acres of Public Reserved Lands managed by the Bureau, including Baker Lake, Deboullie, Round Pond, Chamberlain, Telos, Gero Island, and the North Branch, South Branch and Canada Falls portions of Seboomook are within the North Maine Woods (NMW) system. To access these lands, the public passes through NMW checkpoints, where fees are paid for day use and camping. (NMW camping fees apply, except for campsites on the Allagash Wilderness Waterway and the Penobscot River Corridor, where Parks fees set for those campsites apply.) Visitors then travel over roads on private land within the NMW system.

In FY 2013, NMW day use fees were \$6.00/person for residents and \$10.00/person for nonresidents. Camping fees were \$8.00/person/night for Maine residents and \$10/person/night for nonresidents. Fees are retained by NMW for facility maintenance and development, except that the camping fees are returned to the Bureau when the Bureau assumes maintenance responsibilities, as at Deboullie.

***Penobscot River Corridor.*** The Penobscot River Corridor (PRC), managed by the Bureau's Parks program, includes campsites on Public Reserved Lands on Gero Island on Chesuncook Lake, and on a portion of the Seboomook Unit (Seboomook Lake, South and West Branches of the Penobscot River, and Canada Falls Lake). PRC staff maintain the campsites at these locations, and charge Bureau-set camping fees. In FY 2013, PRC camping fees were \$4/person/night for residents and \$8/person/night for nonresidents. When these areas are accessed via a NMW Checkpoint, NMW day use fees (\$6.00 and \$10.00 per person respectively for residents and nonresidents) are also charged for the day traveled in and the day traveled out and retained by North Maine Woods to cover operating costs for the checkpoint system. If the trip involves passing through only one NMW checkpoint, a single day use fee is charged (as in trips originating at Seboomook and ending at the takeout on lower Chesuncook Lake).

An exception to this general rule is that the NMW day use fee is charged for all trip days for access to the PRC sites on the South Branch,

North Branch, and Canada Falls Lake as these allow vehicular access to the entire NMW system.

Camping fees at sites operated by the PRC on Seboomook are collected onsite by a ranger or with "iron ranger" collection boxes. However, visitors to these areas that pass through checkpoints operated by North Maine Woods, Inc., pay camping fees at the checkpoints, which are then paid to the Bureau (a portion of the fees is retained by NMW to cover administrative costs.)

***KI-Jo Mary Recreation Management System.***

Similar to the NMW system, this is a privately operated gated system involving 175,000 acres of primarily private lands where public recreation is allowed subject to fees. The 960-acre Bowdoin College Grant East Public Reserved Land lies within this system.

Day use fees (\$6/person/day resident and \$9/person/day nonresident) are charged at checkpoints in Katahdin Ironworks and West Bowdoin College Grant for access to this property and other lands within the system. Camping is \$10/person/night. Public access to the Nahmakanta Unit, which abuts the KI/Jo-Mary System, is free from the west, but if accessed from the south via the KI/Jo-Mary System, a day use fee for the day-in and day-out applies. Exit from Nahmakanta through the south will also involve a fee, if access was gained from the west.

***South Arm Campground.*** The Bureau leases campsites on Richardson Lakes (Upper Richardson Lake) to South Arm Campground, a privately owned campground on adjoining private land. In FY 2013, the campground owner charged \$15.00 (including tax) per night per site. The campground retains a portion of this fee to cover its costs for maintenance of the 12 campsites and the Mill Brook public boat launch facility at the north end of lake.

***Baxter State Park.*** Management of campsites at the west end of Webster Lake at Telos has been assigned by mutual agreement to the Baxter State Park Authority (BSPA), and the sites are subject to BSPA rules and policies. Most use of Webster Lake is connected with the Webster Stream canoe trip, which traverses the northern end of Baxter State Park.

***Bear Bait Permit Program.*** By state rule (04-059-Chapter 54), a permit from the Bureau is required

before placing bait for bear on Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands that are not managed jointly with another entity. The permit program is administered by the Bureau's three regional offices. Since 2006, the annual permit fee has been \$30 for a personal bait site and \$65 for a commercial bait site. In FY 2013, the Bureau issued 369 bear bait permits: 161 for personal sites and 208 for commercial sites, with permit revenues totaling \$18,350.

**PARTNERSHIPS**

For some properties, the Bureau has entered into partnership agreements with other organizations to assist in managing recreational use. Noteworthy examples of partnerships in place in FY 2013 are described below.

***Appalachian Trail (AT).*** In FY 2013, the Bureau continued its partnership with the Maine Appalachian Trail Club (MATC) to accomplish stewardship and trail maintenance along 43 miles of the AT corridor in the Bigelow Preserve, the Mahoosucs, Four Ponds, Bald Mountain, and Nahmakanta Unit. An additional 28 miles of the AT is located on lands within state parks or on lands subject to Bureau-held conservation easements.

***Bigelow Preserve.*** In addition to providing trail maintenance of the AT on the Bigelow Preserve, an agreement is in place with the Maine Appalachian Trail Club to ensure a summer staff presence at the more heavily used areas of the Appalachian Trail; in particular, the Horns Pond campsite near the center of the Bigelow Range.

***Coastal Islands.*** In FY 2013 the Bureau continued its partnership with the Maine Island Trail Association for the management of certain state-held islands along the coast of Maine that are part of the Maine Island Trail.

***Cutler Coast.*** The Downeast Coastal Conservancy provided stewardship and visitor information at the Cutler Bold Coast Trail in 2012.

***Dodge Point.*** An ongoing arrangement is in place with the Damariscotta River Association to assist with the maintenance of trails and facilities.

***Frenchman's Hole, Mahoosucs.*** A partnership is in place with the Mahoosuc Land Trust to assist in the maintenance of this day use area.

***Grafton Loop Trail.*** The Bureau continues to be an active member of a coalition of nonprofit organizations and private landowners that developed this 39-mile hiking trail in the Mahoosuc Mountains. The trail branches off from the Appalachian Trail in the Mahoosucs public lands and continues east over private land to Puzzle Mountain, where it rejoins the Appalachian Trail.

***Kennebec Highlands.*** This property is managed in part through a partnership with the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance.

***Northern Forest Canoe Trail (NFCT).*** The Bureau has a growing relationship with the multi-state NFCT, which promotes canoe and kayak trips and stewardship across many public and private properties in Maine.

***Machias River Corridor.*** The Bureau cooperates with the Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA, Project SHARE and local watershed councils to protect and enhance Atlantic salmon habitat in this area.

***Maine Huts and Trails (MHT).***

In 2007, the Bureau worked with MHT to facilitate the development of a network of large huts connected by trails. The Bureau holds a conservation easement over portions of the trail, and entered into agreements authorized by the legislature to allow the trail to cross portions of the Bigelow Preserve. Since 2009, the Bureau and MHT have cooperated on a connector trail from the Flagstaff Lake Hut to trail systems on the Bigelow Preserve and through to the Poplar Stream Falls Hut south of the Preserve. The new Stratton Brook Hut's connector trail passes through Bureau land in the Town of Carrabassett Valley. The growth of the Huts and Trails network will require ongoing cooperation between the Bureau and MHT.

***Plum Creek.*** As part of the Moosehead Lake Region Concept Plan, Plum Creek and the Bureau are now working cooperatively to implement a provision by which the Bureau is granted the right, through easements, to establish a non-motorized trail system in the Moosehead Lake Region on

Plum Creek and/or Bureau lands. Up to 121.8 acres of trail easements may be developed and a fund has been established by Plum Creek for trail planning and construction.

## VIII. TIMBER RESOURCES

The Bureau manages the natural resources on the lands under its care through a carefully planned multiple use program that balances timber management with all other resource values. Timber revenues support the Bureau's Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands management costs, including provision of recreation facilities and opportunities, and wildlife management. Other public benefits include contribution to the local economy through employment opportunities for contractors and supply of raw materials to area mills, provision of low-cost firewood through the Bureau's firewood harvest permit program, and demonstration of exemplary multi-aged management focused primarily on mature quality timber.

### TIMBER INVENTORY

An important facet of the timber management program is examination and inventory of the forest resource. Benchmark field data acquired in 1999 provided detailed timber, site, and natural resource measurements. This inventory was fully updated in 2011 and continues to be important for both forest management planning, and third-party forest certification auditors.

#### ***Status of Current Inventory and Annual Allowable Cut (AAC).***

The landbase-wide inventory completed during the autumn of 2011 shows that the total merchantable timber volume on just over 400,000 acres is about 9.3 million cords. This is an increase of about two cords per acre since 1999. Compared to the 1999 volumes per acre, the current inventory shows that all softwood species have increased, especially white pine and hemlock. Spruce remains the most common species, and it's per acre volume is more than 75% higher than the statewide average. Among hardwoods, beech, paper birch, and aspen have decreased in volume while most other hardwoods remained about the same. The drop in paper birch and aspen comes both from the mortality of overmature stems on these relatively

short-lived species, and Bureau harvests targeting them because of that overmaturity. Natural mortality in beech is an increasingly common statewide phenomenon across essentially all landowners.

When both the inventory increase and the harvest volumes during the previous twelve years are considered, this points to a net growth rate more than 20% higher than that for Maine's forests as a whole. Given this significant increase in volume, along with timber harvests essentially achieving the existing AAC over the past six years, the yield curves from which this AAC was calculated have been reworked using the new and greater stocking levels. This had resulted in the AAC being increased for FY2013 by about 20%, from 115,000 to 141,500 cords (as previously reported for CY 2012).

During 2012/2013 the Maine Forest Service (MFS) expressed concern about the high timber inventory (merchantable cords/acre) being carried on Public Reserved lands. MFS advocated for the Bureau to reduce its inventory and lower its discount level to avoid continued increases in stocking, excess mortality, and lessen risk from spruce budworm and other potential insect/disease problems.

For a number of years the Bureau has discounted (reduced) the calculated annual gross growth by 15% to determine AAC because not all growth occurs on acres with sufficient volume to harvest economically or is accessible. This rate was applied to intentionally increase stocking levels until new inventory information was obtained. With new inventory information now available the discount rate has been adjusted to 10%, which will limit future increases in timber inventory across the landbase, while adding 8,350 cords to the annual allowable cut.

Carrying higher levels of inventory does come with the risk of higher levels of mortality and 2006 MFS data indicates that the level of mortality on public lands was 13% higher than that on total forest ownership surveyed. However, net growth on public lands was also higher than the state average by 18%.

Regarding the risk of losses from a spruce budworm outbreak, spruce budworm impacts historically have become epidemic throughout northern New England and eastern Canada every 30 to 40 years. Populations are building to our north, and it seems likely that this major threat to the State's fir and spruce resource

will arrive in large numbers sometime in the next five years or so.

To address concerns of mortality and risk, the Bureau will gradually reduce the current merchantable volume per acre, 23 cords per acre, by about 6.5% over a twenty-year period, to a stocking level of 21.5 cords per acre. To accomplish this will require that the timber harvest objective be increased to 180,000 cords per year from the current AAC of 141,500 cords per year. The Bureau will increase the target harvest level to 160,000 cords for FY2015 and to 180,000 cords for FY2016. The Bureau will also be employing a spatially explicit forest model, to identify the most appropriate places to consider for achieving the increased harvest, and to check at approximately five-year intervals to evaluate whether the greater harvest is accomplishing the inventory reduction objective. Bureau staff will also be looking at potential impacts to both timber and non-timber values, to ensure that management continues to follow the management mandates of the Bureau's enabling legislation.

## PRESCRIPTIONS

Planning for the timber management of Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands is a two-step process:

- A management plan for the unit as a whole is prepared and adopted;
- More detailed plans for discrete areas between 500 - 2,000 acres (known as compartments) are then developed for the unit.

Compartments are examined on a 15-year cycle to identify timber and wildlife resources and recreational opportunities. Based on the field examination and the information collected, work plans called "prescriptions" are developed to ensure adequate protection of special resources and a sustained yield of forest goods and services, which include timber, wildlife, and appropriate recreational uses.

***Prescriptions in FY 2013.*** Bureau staff examined and prescribed 20 compartments totaling 17,440 acres for a wide range of resource management activities.

## TIMBER SALES

If a timber harvest is prescribed in a compartment, a timber sale is developed. The majority of timber sales are put out to competitive bid, following State rules and procedures governing the sale of State property and purchase of services. In the past, most timber was sold as stumpage. Under this system, the contractor agrees to pay the Bureau a bid price per unit for each type of forest product harvested. Occasionally timber was sold using contracts for logging services. Under this system, the Bureau pays the contractor to harvest timber and deliver it to specified mills; these mills then pay the Bureau directly for these products.

Once the timber contracts are awarded, Bureau foresters and forest technicians work closely with contractors to ensure contract compliance, and that timber management objectives are met.

Bureau staff closely supervises each harvest by marking individual trees for removal or by providing loggers with strict harvesting criteria. These criteria specify which trees are to be harvested. All harvest operations are inspected by Bureau staff on a weekly basis; more often when individual situations warrant.



Harvest operation at Richardson Lakes

**Summary of Timber Sales in FY2013.** The implementation of prescriptions in FY2013 is summarized below.

- A total of 145,400 cords was harvested from 10,965 acres. This was very close to the updated AAC of 141,500 cords.
- A total of 39 operations were ongoing in FY2013. These operations are a combination of newly established sales, and sales carried over from previous years, and do not include permits for firewood sales issued to individuals (see below).
- In concert with the Bureau's contractors, wood was marketed to 45 mills statewide.

### **Contract Logging Services (CLS) Project.**

In FY2013, the Northern Region increased harvesting through CLS to about 60% of its overall harvest volume, and CLS sales were set up in each of the other regions, though harvesting on these jobs began after the end of the fiscal year. Objectives for CLS are two-fold: 1) to improve stability in achieving harvest goals, and 2) to enhance Bureau timber revenues. The feedback from the mills and contractors has been positive for this CLS project. The mills prefer contracting directly with the landowner. Most logging contractors are used to working under CLS contracts, not stumpage contracts. CLS projects require increased up-front costs, which in turn will require a higher level of cash reserves to be maintained in order to be successful with this initiative.

**Firewood Permit Program:** Individual firewood permits totaling 300 cords were issued by the Bureau in FY 2013. This is about 25% less than last year's volume. Firewood harvests by logging contractors remain high, with about 3,000 cords of firewood supplied by these contractors from lands managed by the Bureau.

**Sugar Bush Leases** –The Lands Western Region currently has two sugar maple lease agreements. The Bald Mountain operation consists of 1,555 taps with plans to expand to 2,500 taps over the next year. The operation includes a tap system and a collection tank. The sap is processed off site. The Sandy Bay Township operation was bid out in the fall of 2011 for 14,000 taps to be developed by 2016. The lessee had 5,000 taps online in 2012 and was scheduled per contract to have 10,000 in the 2013 season. The area is scheduled to be fully utilized with 14,000 taps in 2014. When complete, the lessee will produce finished maple syrup onsite.

Western Region staff is exploring additional sugar maple opportunities in Sandy Bay Township and at other locations in the region. The Bureau will be seeking bids in FY 14 to establish a second sugar bush lease on 300 acres in Sandy Bay Twp., with approximately 2,000 taps.

In the Eastern Region, a timber harvest in Codyville on approximately 100 acres of selected hardwood stands was designed to enhance sugar bush potential. All softwoods were removed to reduce red squirrel numbers and associated damage to tubing. Healthy sugar maples were



retained at the desired spacing where present, with the top quality saw log and veneer sugar maples harvested prior to any maple sugar operation. Sufficient hardwoods of other species were retained to meet MOFGA standard for organic production.

**FY2013 Harvest and Market Analysis.** Timber harvesting on Bureau lands totaled 145,400 cords, about 35% above the FY2012 total. This was accomplished with the assistance of nearly normal summer weather and winter conditions that were often favorable though a couple of serious thaws made for some challenging times. The FY2013 figure is 103% of the current Bureau-established “allowable cut”.

The average price paid to the Bureau per cord was 18.5% higher in FY2013 than it had been in FY2012. On average, the stumpage rates for individual products actually held almost steady on the whole, but the increased revenue from CLS plus some better markets for utilizing hardwoods enabled the significant rise in average price per cord. The hardwood harvest of 56% of total volume continues the Bureau objective of increasing the proportion of softwoods by preferentially harvesting hardwoods: the current yield curves show softwoods producing 62% of net growth and hardwoods just 38% of that growth. Since only 7% of the hardwood volume was saw logs and veneer, these harvests are also increasing overall resource quality and value.

As part of its multiple use management, the Bureau will continue to emphasize maintaining the harvest volume at a level near the allowable cut, while continuing to practice the highest quality silviculture. However, economic conditions that result in poor markets, and weather events that can reduce harvest levels, will remain beyond the Bureau’s control.

## HARVEST OPERATION CHALLENGES

For the last several years, contractors have had difficulties in meeting contractual obligations in the Northern Region, especially for winter harvests. The winter is the best time to harvest wood and usually when most of the harvesting activity occurs. Currently there is an equipment and labor shortage, especially the latter. The Bureau has significantly increased the proportion of CLS contracts that

create more stability for both the Bureau and contractors in regard to timber harvest operations.

## SILVICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In 1986, the Bureau established a Silvicultural Advisory Committee with representatives from environmental groups, academia, and forest managers from public and private landowners, to review and critique forest management policies and practices on public lands. Each year the Bureau sponsors a field trip on which the Committee examines work the Bureau has completed or is planning, providing valuable input to staff through on-site dialogue.

**Committee Tour in FY2013:** The field tour was held during August of 2012 in the Eastern Region, and had two themes, different ideas for pine management on day one and ways to improve composition in low quality hardwood stands on day two. On the first day the group visited the recently completed thinning for low-density pine management done on the Donnell Pond Unit as part of the Division’s Outcome Based Forestry projects. Pines were thinned to 70-80 quality stems per acre and the best were pruned to 17 feet early in 2013, so that the faster growth on trees released from competition will be high-value clear wood. At Machias River we looked at red pine plantations on relatively infertile soils. These need to be thinned, both to increase the modest growth rates and to release the white pine which is coming in underneath. Lastly, we considered some younger pine-rich stands at Bradley, where the proposed treatment is similar to the low-density pine management at Donnell, but implemented on smaller and younger trees.

We began day two on the south end of the Seboeis Unit, inspecting small circular patch cuts done in low-quality hardwoods 12-13 years earlier, with the objective of securing regeneration less dominated by beech. Results were variable, with some patches holding the desired birch and maple and some with beech the major species. From there we traveled to a stand created by a circa-1980 clearcut in hardwoods, done on a tract acquired by the State in 1984. Here we discussed the need for (and feasibility of) a first commercial thinning. Some areas appear like they would benefit, while some are not yet ready for a harvest. We then looked at some larger patch cuts, 2-4

acres, done within the past year, and with retention trees left within the cut areas. These seemed to garner general approval as being more likely to succeed than the much smaller ones viewed earlier. Our last stop was where an under-canopy application of herbicide was conducted using skidder-mounted equipment in August of 2011. A low rate of glyphosate was applied in order to selectively control beech without harming sugar maple or softwoods. For the most part, this appears to have been very successful, though the full outcome cannot be known for several years. Revisits to this location and to the low-density pine areas in a few years were highly recommended by committee members.

### BOUNDARY LINES

The Bureau progressed on the maintenance of boundary lines, with 43.3 miles maintained, and 6 miles of boundary surveys in FY 2013. This is an area that can use more attention as additional resources become available.

### FOREST CERTIFICATION

The Bureau was awarded certification of its forestlands under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) programs in 2002. These third-party audits were conducted to determine if these lands were being managed on a sustainable basis. The Bureau underwent the two audit programs simultaneously, a rigorous and unique process. The audit included a field analysis of forest management practices at selected sites around the state, and an analysis of the Bureau's financial, personnel, policy development, and record-keeping systems.

Successful completion of the FSC/SFI systems qualified the Bureau to enter into the "chain of custody" program to market its "green-certified" wood. Since 2003, green-certified wood has been marketed from Bureau managed lands.

Following its initial certification, a Bureau-wide certification team was implemented to address "conditions" and "minor non-conformances" stipulated in the audit reports, including: significant enhancements to forest inventory data; development of a computerized forest-modeling program; a timeline for updating management plans for the entire land base; improvements in the use of

Best Management Practices to protect water quality; and new commitments to public outreach and education programs. The Bureau is required to meet these conditions within certain timeframes in order to keep its certification status in good standing over the five-year certification period.

### ***Certification Accomplishments in FY2013.***

This year the Bureau underwent the annual surveillance audits required to maintain certification between full audits. As noted on page 2, the audit was done by an agency new to BPL last year, Bureau Veritas, and their auditors visited sites throughout the Western Region. Accompanied by the appropriate Bureau field staff, auditors looked at harvest areas on ten separate operations within the region. Auditors were especially complimentary toward the condition of recently harvested stands, several major water crossings, and recreation management, especially for aesthetics.

## **IX. TRANSPORTATION**



Management Road Construction at Nahmakanta

The Bureau continued to improve road access within its public lands, focusing primarily on recreational needs and implementation of its timber management program. There are currently about 263 miles of public use roads on Public Lands.

### BRIDGES

In FY 2013, the Bureau's Eastern Region constructed 1 new bridge and re-decked two others; and the Northern region constructed one new bridge, on the Scopan Unit.

## ROADS & ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

**Road Construction.** To facilitate both summer and winter timber harvesting activities across the state, approximately 63 miles of road were constructed or reconstructed in FY 2013.

**Road Maintenance.** Each year the Bureau contracts for maintenance services for grading and brushwork on public use roads. In 2012, approximately 65 miles of roads were maintained under contract in the Northern region, 100 miles in the Western Region, and 130 miles in the Eastern region for a total of 295 miles of public use/shared use road maintained under contract.

## **X. PUBLIC ACCESS**

Eighty four percent of the Public Reserved Lands were accessible to the public without fee or special arrangements in FY 2013. There are a few circumstances where public vehicle access is limited or restricted. The following is a report of barriers that affect primary motor vehicle access **as required in 12 MRSA § 1853:**

### EXTERNAL GATES TO PUBLIC LANDS

**North Maine Woods Checkpoints.** There are seven checkpoints, staffed seasonally, controlling primary access from Maine points to 95,000 acres of Public Reserved Land within the nearly three million acre North Maine Woods area, including Deboullie, Round Pond, Chamberlain, Telos, and portions of Seboomook. These checkpoints are all on private land and facilitate management of recreational use on both public and private land. See also discussion on fees on pages 16-17.

**KI/Jo-Mary Checkpoints.** The Katahdin Iron Works checkpoint controls access to the 960-acre public lot in Bowdoin College Grant East. A gate has been funded and operated by the Bureau at the border between Nahmakanta and the KI/Jo-Mary system at Henderson Brook. This controls access from Nahmakanta into the KI/Jo-Mary system. In 2009 the checkpoint was converted to an electronic gate, which is operated remotely from the Route 11 Checkpoint. See also discussion on fees on pages 16-17.

**Cary Plantation, Aroostook County.** A locked cable gate on private land restricts access to this 230-acre parcel.

**Magalloway Plantation, Oxford County.** A locked metal gate on private land restricts access to this 1,000-acre parcel.

**Cupsuptic Gate, Franklin County.** A staffed gate leased by the Kennebago Camp owners' Association on private lands limits access to the 62-acre public lot in Stetsontown Twp. on Kennebago Lake. A public access agreement with the Association allows up to three vehicles at any one time to access the lake via the public lot, and to park at the Grants Camps lease site located on the lot.

**Davis Township Lot, Franklin County.** A locked gate on the private road north of the Dallas Plantation Public Lot was added in 2010, restricting use of the Loon Lake Road out of Rangeley to access the Bureau's Davis Twp Lot on Kennebago Lake. However, this lot can still be accessed via the Bridge Road off Route 16 in Langtown Mill (Lang Twp).

**Seboeis Plantation Lot, Penobscot County.** A new external gate was installed on a private road by the camp owners' association, after repeated vandalism of private camps, limiting vehicular access to the 1136-acre Seboeis Plantation lot.

### INTERNAL GATES

The Bureau maintains 24 internal gates for safety purposes, to protect sensitive areas, to limit vehicle traffic on service roads, or to control certain recreational uses. None of the barricades restrict foot traffic into these areas. Many of these barriers are left open during the winter season to allow safe passage by snowmobiles.

### LAND OPEN TO HUNTING

Public Law, Chapter 564 of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Legislature, amending 12 MRSA § 1847 sub-§ 4 (Public Reserved Lands Statute), requires that lands open to hunting on Public Reserved Lands include at least the acreage open to hunting on January 1, 2008. Since 2008, no land has been

removed from the acreage available for hunting at that time.

The law also requires the Bureau to report annually to the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee the acreage of Public Reserved Lands available for hunting, and any changes from the January 1, 2008 levels. There were 587,184 acres of Public Reserved Lands on January 1, 2008; of which 586,505 were available for hunting (excludes three small game preserves). At the close of CY 2012 the Bureau reported *total acreage available for hunting 600,591 acres. In June 2013 the Bureau acquired 12,046 acres on Crocker Mountain, bringing the total available for hunting to 612,637. (Over 99% of Public Reserved Lands).*

## **XI. LAND TRANSACTIONS**

### **ACQUISITIONS**

Appendix B provides a list of all Bureau acquisitions in FY 2013. Principal among these was acquisition of 12,046 acres on Crocker Mountain, to be designated Public Reserved lands; and a conservation 21,870-acre conservation easement on West Grand Lake. Appendix C shows pending acquisitions. Forest Legacy Program funding has been approved for the acquisition of 7,248 acres of conservation easements and 6,076 acres of fee lands, all expected to close in FY 2014. Other Forest Legacy Program funding expected to be approved for future acquisitions, pending approval of the federal FY 14 budget, includes another 8,231 acres in fee lands.

### **ACQUISITIONS IMPACTING VEHICULAR ACCESS**

Pursuant to various sections of law, "if an acquisition is made that does not include guaranteed public vehicular access; the Bureau shall describe the acquisition (in this report) and the justification for that acquisition." All properties acquired in FY 2013 are accessible by vehicle.

### **DISPOSTIONS**

Appendix B lists any dispositions that occurred in FY 2013 that were authorized by Legislative Resolve or statute.

## **XII. SUBMERGED LANDS**

These lands are managed under the Public Trust Doctrine to ensure protection of the public trust rights of fishing, waterfowl hunting, navigation, and recreation. The Submerged Lands Program plays an important role in maintaining a balance among competing uses of submerged lands and resolving conflicts between public trust rights and the demand for private and commercial uses of these lands.

***Project/Permit Applications.*** In FY 2013, the Submerged Lands Program processed 172 applications for proposed and existing waterfront structures and dredging projects. One hundred and six (106) leases and easements were granted and an additional 66 projects were determined to require no conveyance. With these new projects, the program now administers 1978 conveyances.

***Lease Rental Rate Changes.*** In 2010, the Program began implementing the lease rental rates that were approved by the legislature to improve equity statewide in conjunction with the repeal of a \$1,200 annual rental cap in 2009. The new rent structure provides fair compensation while reducing the average rental rates. In FY 2013, the Program continues its 5-year phase-in of rents for larger lease holders.

***Constructive Easements.*** The Program continues to research information on constructive easements (structures in existence prior to October 1, 1975) to identify those that may require a submerged lands conveyance. To date, the Program has executed 835 new leases and easements for these structures.

***Sunken Logs.*** One application to recover sunken logs from public submerged lands at Moosehead Lake was received in FY 2013. In total, 138 logs were recovered with a total volume of 17,802 board feet.

***Water Quality Monitoring.*** In 2009, the legislature authorized funding from the submerged lands leasing program be provided to support water quality monitoring efforts at the Department of Marine Resources shellfish program. Funding at \$80,000 per year has been extended through FY 2016.

**Tidal Energy Pilot Project.** In 2012, the first tidal energy pilot project was installed on the seafloor at Cobscook Bay with testing and environmental monitoring continuing through FY 2013. Power generated by the facility connects to the grid by a submarine cable to the shore at Lubec. Eighty percent of the lease revenue is directed to the Renewable Ocean Energy Trust Fund and is utilized by the Department of Marine Resources for fisheries research and mitigation efforts associated with offshore energy projects.

### **XIII. SHORE AND HARBOR MANAGEMENT FUND**

In 1991, the Legislature created the Shore and Harbor Management Fund in anticipation that annual revenues from the Submerged Lands Program would exceed operating costs. These funds could then be used to support shore and harbor management activities and improve public access.

In FY 2013, funds were provided to rehabilitate the public access pier at Colonial Pemaquid, publish the Maine Coastal Access Guide, and support municipal harbor planning efforts. In addition, \$50,000 was provided to the Maine Island Trail Association in support of our continuing partnership for ongoing recreation management of State owned coastal islands.

### **XIV. COASTAL ISLAND PROGRAM**

#### OVERVIEW

Maine's Coastal Island Registry was created by the 106th Legislature as a means of clarifying title to 3,166 coastal islands by establishing and registering ownership. By now most island owners have registered their islands. The Program continues to receive periodic requests to register an island or make changes in existing registrations (address or ownership changes). There are also many requests for ownership information from persons with a general interest in Maine islands.

The Maine Island Trail is a water trail extending along the entire coast of Maine and includes both publicly and privately owned islands. The Bureau continues its partnership with the Maine Island Trail Association in the management and oversight of the State-owned islands on the Trail. In addition, the Bureau provides a brochure "Your

Islands and Parks on the Coast" showing the location of approximately 40 State-owned islands suitable for recreational use and explaining the Bureau's visiting, camping, and resource protection policies.

### **XV. ADMINISTRATION**

#### OVERVIEW

During FY 2013 staff responsibilities to support the Bureau's various programs and activities and to manage responsibilities over newly acquired land continued to increase as noted in Section III, Trends and Issues.

The Bureau's forest management staffing has increased by one position since 2002 (a forest technician position was filled in the Eastern Region in 2011), while acreage being managed has increased by 143,000 acres. Increased use of Contracted Logging Services, and increased harvesting from recent adjustments to annual allowable cut are expected to provide additional financial resources, but also increased demands on already stretched administrative and forest management staff.

There also have been no staff increases for land management support, including management plans (required statutorily and for forest certification); or for easement and project agreement monitoring corresponding to the increased demands for these responsibilities over the last two decades. The Bureau now holds 60 easements which, since 2007, by statute must be monitored at least once every 3 years, and the 17 Forest Legacy easements (90% of the easement acreage) must be monitored annually. In addition, the Bureau has acquired over 100 LMF project agreements in the last 15 years. The Bureau continues to explore and utilize new technology and contracting to address this growing workload.

#### LEASES

**Camplot Leases:** The Bureau administers a Camplot Leasing Program for 293 residential camplots and 10 commercial sporting camps and campgrounds across the state. In FY 2013, the Bureau reissued camplot leases for a new five-year term (2013-2017), and made adjustments to the lease rental schedule to reflect any recent increases in tax-assessed values. The Bureau has a statutory

requirement to charge lease fees based on these values. The camplot program also administers 8 tent site rental agreements.



Communications Tower on Mount Blue, Avon  
In Mount Blue State Park

**Other Leases:** The Bureau administers 61 leases on public lands, for a variety of purposes as shown below. These leases have terms that range from 5 to 25 year. 28 include lease payment provisions, and the remainder involve no payment to the Bureau. Leases in FY 2013 included:

- 17 utility corridor leases
- 10 agricultural leases
- 6 telecommunication facility leases
- 20 miscellaneous leases
- 1 dam lease
- 1 boat access lease
- 3 warden camp leases
- 1 university camp lease

The no-rent leases include state lands leased to communities; recreation associations such as the Capital Area Recreation Association (CARA) ball fields in Augusta; nonprofit environmental organizations such as the Viles Arboretum in Augusta; municipal utilities for waterlines and pumping stations; and the Maine Warden Service for staff housing in remote locations. All no-rent leases either allow public access or are providing a public service.

## XVI. INCOME AND EXPENDITURES ACCOUNTING – FY 2013

### OVERVIEW

The Public Lands Program (Lands Program or Program) has several different accounts established for specific purposes with statutory restrictions on their use. The Program is funded entirely from dedicated fund sources with no General Fund support. **The revised statutes require that financial summaries be prepared on a fiscal year basis instead of the previous calendar year summaries.** The figures presented below may not compare to those reported in previous years **on a calendar year basis.**

#### **Public Reserved Lands Management Account (014.04A.0239.22)**

This account is restricted to uses related to the management of lands that have Public Reserved Lands status, which includes the original public lots, land acquired through trading Public Reserved Lands, and other lands designated as Public Reserved Lands. Sources of income to this account include revenue generated from the harvest of forest products, camplot leases and other special leases on the Reserved Lands, and interest on the account balance. In FY 2013, the Lands Program conducted timber harvests that yielded over 140,000 cords, almost exactly on the harvest volume targets. The price per cord paid to the program was 18.5% higher in FY 2013 than it had been in FY 2012.

At the same time, expenses for personnel services, vehicle operations, information technology, and management costs for non-revenue generating activities have increased. Income for fiscal year 2013 was \$6,355,169 with expenditures of \$4,980,388. Because the Program's largest source of revenue is timber, income fluctuates from year to year in response to the amount of wood harvested and economic conditions that affect timber markets. The cash balance is drawn down when expenses exceed revenues. Revenue generated in fiscal year 2013 was \$1,374,781 more than expenditures, resulting in an account balance of \$2,697,506 as of June 30, 2013.

Income from the Reserved Lands Account supports most of the administrative, planning, timber, transportation, recreation, and wildlife management activities on the land base. The increase in revenue described above will support the increased cash balances needed for contracted logging services, and addresses concerns expressed in recent years in regards to the financial viability of this dedicated revenue account and its overall ability to support the Lands management program.

Not shown in either the income or expenditure figures above are the portion of monies received from camplot leases and timber sales that are shared with towns and plantations pursuant to 12 MRSA §1854. Based on the income received in calendar year 2012 (payable in 2013), the Lands Program revenue sharing amounts total \$227,362.88 paid to 17 towns and plantations.

#### **Public Nonreserved Lands Management Account (014.04A.0239.23)**

This account is used for the management of lands not in the Public Reserved Lands System. These Nonreserved Public Lands include institutional lands (those lands considered surplus by other State agencies) assigned to the Bureau's Lands Program for natural resource management, and coastal islands. Income is primarily derived from agricultural

leases, though the sale of timber contributes occasionally when timber harvests are completed on Nonreserved Lands. Income for fiscal year 2013 was \$3,175 with expenditures of \$245.64 ending with a cash balance of \$17,436. The cash balance is drawn down when expenses exceed revenues. The Lands Program plans its expenditures for each fiscal year based on a level of income it projects to receive from its various revenue sources. If projected income is not sufficient, then the Program determines whether the balance in its contingency fund is sufficient to carry it through until additional revenues are received. If both revenue projections and contingency funds are insufficient, then the Program postpones planned expenditures until revenue returns to an adequate level.

**Submerged Lands Account**  
**(014.04A.0239.27)**

The Submerged Lands Account is comprised of funds generated from leases and easements on the State's submerged lands. Most of the fund's income is derived from leases of coastal waterfront properties to allow commercial uses such as marinas, piers, and boatyards. Additional revenues were generated from application and easement registration fees and the sale of gravel. The legislature directed on-going transfers from the Submerged Lands Fund to the DMR Shellfish Fund of \$80,000 per year. Total revenues in fiscal year 2013 were \$477,395 with expenses of \$236,611, including the transfer to DMR. The cash balance is drawn down when expenses exceed revenues. Funds for personnel services (salaries) comprise the majority of the program's budget.

**Shore and Harbor Management Fund (014.04A.0239.29)**

A Shore and Harbor Management Fund was established in 1991 to provide grants to municipalities and state agencies for harbor planning, public access, and similar local management activities on submerged lands. This account receives funds from the Submerged Lands account when income from leases exceeds the operating costs of the program. In 2000 and 2001, one-time revenues totaling \$1,537,500 from the sale of submerged lands and dredge materials to BIW were deposited to this account. Since 2005, all of this revenue plus contributions from the Submerged Lands Fund, totaling \$2,470,000 has been transferred to provide funding for municipal grants (\$1,051,000), the Division's Boating Facilities Program (\$600,000), and coastal island management (\$615,000). Total expenses in fiscal year 2013 were \$87,047 for the management of the Maine Island Trail and Casco Bay state-owned islands and for grants to support the Colonial Pemaquid Pier Project. Total revenues in fiscal year 2013 were \$48,241, mostly from transfers from the Submerged Lands Fund and interest. This revenue contributed to a fiscal year-end balance of \$165,494.

**Land Acquisition Fund**  
**(014.04A.0239.24)**

Funds from this account are restricted by statute and the constitution to the acquisition of conservation lands, and acquisition-related costs. These funds cannot be used for operation or maintenance of existing land, and therefore, expenditures do not take place on a regular basis. Income that accrues as a result of sales, trades, or interest is carried forward until needed for future acquisitions. Income for fiscal year 2013 was \$67,193 against expenditures of \$26,899. Balance at the end of the fiscal year was \$788,154.

Income this year was derived from interest earned on the account balance and few federal grant reimbursements. Expenses included various acquisition-related costs such as surveys and appraisals. In all cases, funds were expended in conjunction with other funding sources outside of the Bureau. Funds from this account are restricted by constitutional



amendment (Article IX, Section 23) to the acquisition of lands having significant conservation and recreation value in the same county in which the sale of lands generating the funds took place.

**Nonreserved Land Acquisition Fund**

**(014.04A.0239.37)**

This account was established to receive revenue from the sale of Public Nonreserved Lands. Income for fiscal year 2013 was \$65,735 (as corrective journals from previous year's sales) with no expenses. Balance at the end of the fiscal year was \$219,227. Funds from this account are restricted by constitutional amendment (Article IX, Section 23) to the acquisition of lands having significant conservation and recreation value in the same county in which the sale of lands generating the funds took place.

**Mackworth Island Trust Fund**

**(014.04A.0239.30)**

Section 2 of Chapter 102 Public Law 1998, authorized the proceeds from the sale of a 157 acre Bureau of Parks and Public Lands property in Colorado to be invested as a separate trust fund and managed by the State Treasurer for the benefit of Mackworth Island. In November 1999, the Colorado property was sold. The proceeds of \$60,000 have been deposited into this trust fund. A non-lapsing account receives interest income from the trust fund. This account is used to manage public recreational activities and related resources on land under the Bureau's care on Mackworth Island in Falmouth. Income for fiscal year 2013 was \$1,407 with no expenditures.

**Forest Legacy Fund**

**(013.04A.0239.35)**

This account was established to receive grant revenue from the Forest Legacy Program for purchase of unique valuable land and interests in land. Land acquisition projects are reviewed and approved at the national level. We also receive annual administrative grants that support the pre-acquisition costs for the Forest Legacy land purchases. Land for Maine's Future funds are typically used as match for these Forest Legacy grants to purchase land and interests in land. Total acquisition expenses in fiscal year 2013 were \$11,412,384 which included the purchase of West Grand Lake and Crocker Mountain as well as \$31,590 in administrative grant expenses. Total Forest Legacy revenues in fiscal year 2013 were \$11,412,164. At the end of fiscal year 2013 the account had a balance of \$3,153.

**Coastal Island Registry Fund**

**(014.04A.0241.26)**

This account was established to review new applications for island registrations. Most private coastal island titles have been reviewed so current program activity involves providing information to the public and occasionally reviewing application and deed information. Income for fiscal year 2013 was \$20 with no expenses. The cash balance at the end of fiscal year 2013 was \$790.

## XVII. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FY 2015

### OVERVIEW

Pursuant to Title 12 M.R.S.A., Sections 1839 and 1853 the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry must review allocations for the Bureau of Parks and Lands dedicated funds and revenue accounts pertaining to Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands for the upcoming fiscal year, and submit a written report to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs by March 15th. To assist in the preparation of that report, the Bureau is submitting information regarding Bureau income, expenditures, and management of the following nine dedicated accounts:

- ***Public Reserved Lands Management Fund***
- ***Public Lands Management Fund (Nonreserved Public Lands)***
- ***Public Reserved Lands Acquisition Fund***
- ***Public Nonreserved Lands Acquisition Fund***
- ***Submerged Lands Fund***
- ***Shore and Harbor Management Fund***
- ***Coastal Island Registry***
- ***Mackworth Island Trust***
- ***Forest Legacy Fund***

These accounts derive revenue from the sale of forest products, from lease fees, from interest on cash balances, and from the sale of land. Programs funded by these accounts receive no support from the State's General Fund. The dedicated revenues in these accounts, supplemented by grants and other outside sources of revenue, must cover all operating expenses. The Bureau plans its expenditures for each fiscal year based on a level of income it projects to receive from its various revenue sources. If projected income is not sufficient, then the Bureau determines whether the balance in its contingency fund is sufficient to carry it through until additional revenues are received. If both revenue projections and contingency funds are insufficient, then the Bureau postpones planned expenditures until revenue returns to an adequate level. The Bureau has established internal financial management procedures to accomplish this process and reviews budgetary matters on a monthly and quarterly basis.

In the past, this internal management has proven successful. The Bureau has adjusted its expenditures and managed its financial resources so that core program activities have continued to be funded. The Bureau continues to manage the State-owned Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands (the "Public Lands Program") to produce timber on a sustained yield basis and within established levels for allowable harvest to generate revenue to support resource protection, wildlife, and recreation programs. The addition of new lands and management responsibilities places increasing strain on the Bureau. Recent increases in revenue in the Public Reserved Lands Management Fund should help to provide adequate financial resources to meet these additional responsibilities. Presented below are the FY 2015 budget allocations proposed for each of the ten dedicated accounts within the Bureau's Public Lands Program. These allocations represent the limits within which the Bureau must operate.

FY 2015 ACCOUNT SUMMARIES

**1. Public Reserved Lands Management Fund Account # 014.01A.Z239.22**

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	\$0	Personal Services	\$3,276,144
Rent of Lands*	\$900,000	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$1,280,792
Camplot Leases*	\$350,000		
Misc Services & Fees	\$0	Capital	
Recreational Use of Lands	\$0	Structures	\$505,000
Sale of Stumpage *	\$3,670,731	Asset Construction	\$115,000
Sale of Forest Products	\$987,294	Capital Subtotal	\$620,000
Reg Transfer Personal Svcs	\$37,500		
Legis Transfer of Revenue	(\$72,358)		
DICAP**	(\$453,357)	STACAP	\$141,208
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$5,419,810.00</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$5,318,144.00</b>

\* Represents the major components of the Division's income stream.

\*\* Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a "revenue debit," although it is actually an expenditure.

The Public Lands Program, as of June 30, 2013, had an account balance of \$2,697,506 in the Public Reserved Lands Management Fund which serves as its contingency fund. Because most of the Program's timber harvesting takes place during the winter (to minimize environmental impacts and potential conflicts with recreational users), there is a significant seasonal fluctuation in income. The contingency fund enables the Program to operate during the first half of the fiscal year when income is low and expenses are relatively constant. It also serves as a buffer to cover operating costs when expenses exceed revenues.

Increases in annual allowable cut (AAC) and transition from stumpage sales to contract logging services have resulted in increased revenue, and a need for increased cash balances to support contract logging services. Increased revenues will also allow the Bureau to address increased costs, deferred maintenance, commitments to develop or expand recreational facilities, and growing responsibilities related to non-revenue generating activities such as conservation easement monitoring.

**New Initiative**

Dedicated Revenue	Income	Requested for 2015	Expenses
Sale of Forest Products		Personal Services	(\$52,359)
DICAP		All Other - STACAP	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(\$52,359.00)</b>

This initiative reorganizes one Deputy Director from Parks and Lands to the Land for Maine's Future program, PL 2013, Chapter 405 (LD 837).

**New Initiative**

Dedicated Revenue	Income	Requested for 2015	Expenses
Sale of Forest Products	\$17,314	Personal Services	\$15,303
DICAP	(\$1,527)	All Other - STACAP	\$484
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,787.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,787.00</b>

This initiative reallocates 30% of the cost of one Office Assistant II position from federal expenses in Parks to other Special Revenue Funds in the Public Reserved Lands Fund.

**New Initiative**

Dedicated Revenue	Income	Requested for 2014	Expenses
Sale of Forest Products	\$959,980	All Other	
DICAP	(\$29,696)	Professional Services	\$47,112
		Rents	\$112,786
		Road Maintenance	\$140,969
		All Other - STACAP	\$9,417
		<b>All Other Subtotal</b>	<b>\$310,284.00</b>
		Roads and Bridges	\$505,000
		Asset Construction	\$115,000
		<b>Capital Subtotal</b>	<b>\$620,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$930,284.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$930,284.00</b>

Revenues are expected to increase from the harvest of additional timber from public lands at sustainable levels. Forest inventory data indicate annual harvest levels can be increased. Increases in all other are requested to address increased road repair and maintenance as well as other increases in operating costs to include contract costs for forest certification, Central Fleet Management rates, and building rental rates,. The capital requests are for routine capital improvements on roads and bridges to support expanded timber harvest operations and maintain recreational trails and sites used by the public.

**2. Public Nonreserved Lands Management Fund Account # 014.01A.Z239.23**

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	\$0	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$32,947
Rent on Lands and Buildings	\$0	Capital	
Sale of Stumpage	\$36,773	STACAP	\$575
DICAP**	(\$3,251)		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$33,522.00</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$33,522.00</b>

\*\* Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a "revenue debit", although it is actually expenditure.

The account has a balance of \$17,436 at the end of fiscal year 2013, which is used as a contingency fund to cover expenses that occur between the relatively small and infrequent timber harvests on these lands. Timber harvests scheduled for FY 14/15 will generate sufficient income to cover budgeted expenses.

### 3. Public Reserved Lands Acquisition Fund Account # 014.01A.Z239.24

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	\$0	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$203,579
Sale of Land	\$229,568	Capital	0
DICAP**	(\$20,093)	STACAP	\$5,896
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$209,475.00</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$209,475.00</b>

\*\* Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a "revenue debit", although it is actually an expenditure.

By statute, the money in this account is used only for purposes related to the acquisition of interest in land. Lands purchased with the funds from this account have Public Reserved Land status. These funds are necessary to acquire rights-of-ways, in-holdings, conservation easements, and additions to the existing land base. As in most years, it is difficult to predict the timing, income, and expenditures involved in potential land transactions. This budget allows the Bureau, if the opportunity arises, to acquire land or other interests within the available allocation. The "All Other" expenses are used to cover the cost of legal assistance for title searches, drafting deeds, appraisals, and related items. At the end of fiscal year 2013 this account had a balance of \$788,154. Funds generated from sales of properties may only be used for land acquisitions in the same county as required by the Constitution. This limits the Bureau's ability to use this fund to pursue acquisition projects in counties without funds.

### 4. Public Nonreserved Lands Acquisition Fund Account # 014.01A.Z239.37

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	\$0		
Sale of Land	\$70,000	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$61,114
DICAP**	(\$6,031)	STACAP	\$1,770
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$63,969.00</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$62,884.00</b>

\*\* Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a "revenue debit", although it is actually an expenditure.

The money in this account is used only for purposes related to the acquisition of interest in nonreserved land. Lands purchased with the funds from this account have Public Nonreserved Land status. These funds are necessary to acquire rights-of-ways, in-holdings, conservation easements, and additions to the existing land base. As in most years, it is difficult to predict the timing, income, and expenditures involved in potential land transactions. This budget allows the Bureau, if the opportunity arises, to acquire land or other interests within the available allocation. The "All Other" expenses are used to cover the cost of legal assistance for title searches, drafting deeds, appraisals, and related items. At the end of fiscal year 2013 this account had a balance of \$219,227.

**5. Submerged Lands Fund Account # 014.01A.Z239.27**

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	\$0	Personal Services	\$236,184
Rent of Lands	\$649,895	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$72,881
Reg Transfer Personal Svcs	(\$37,500)	STACAP	\$8,529
Transfer to S&H	(\$115,000)		
DICAP**	(\$30,624)		
Legis Transfer of Revenue	(\$80,000)		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$386,771.00</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$317,594.00</b>

\*\* Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a "revenue debit," although it is actually an expenditure.

Most of the rental income for the program is not received until late in the fiscal year because rent payments are due in February. Like the Public Reserved Lands account, the Submerged Lands account carries a balance that funds the program through the first portion of the fiscal year. This account had a balance of \$755,825 at the end of fiscal year 2013. In 2011, the Bureau began implementing a revised lease fee schedule adopted in 2009 with larger rental fees being phased in over a 5-year period ending in 2014. As revenues improve over the phase-in period, the Bureau will continue to carefully manage expenses and anticipates transferring more of the balance to the Shore and Harbor Management Fund.

**New Initiative**

Dedicated Revenue	Income	Requested for 2014	Expenses
Rent of Lands	\$16,571	Personal Services	\$14,665
DICAP	(\$1,447)	All Other - STACAP	\$459
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,124.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,124.00</b>

This initiative provides funding to increase the hours on one Planning and Research Associate II from 64 hours to 80 hours biweekly to support the increasing demands in the Submerged Lands program.

**6. Shore and Harbor Management Fund Account # 014.01A.Z239.29**

Income		Expenses	
Transfers and Earnings on Investments	\$5,527	Grants to Cities & Towns	\$150,085
Transfer from Submerged Lands	\$195,000	Grants to Public/Private Agencies	\$50,442
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$200,527.00</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$200,527.00</b>

This account was set up by the legislature in 1991 in anticipation that the Submerged Lands Program would eventually yield revenues that could provide benefits to the public beyond what was needed to administer the program. These funds are set aside in a special account and made available to municipalities and state agencies for grants to enhance shore and harbor management, planning, and public access efforts. A portion of the fund is also available to support management programs on coastal islands under the Bureau's jurisdiction. As noted above, with the implementation of a new lease fee schedule, the Bureau anticipates improved funding for municipal coastal planning and public access projects over the next several years. At the end of fiscal year 2013 this account had a balance of \$165,494.

**7. Coastal Island Registry Fund Account # 014.01A.Z241.26**

Income		Expenses	
Registration Fees	\$107	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$105
		STACAP	\$2
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$107.00</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$107.00</b>

Funding in this program covers the cost of reviewing new applications for island registrations. Most private coastal island titles have been reviewed and current program activity, for the most part, involves providing information to the public and occasionally reviewing application and deed information. The account currently has a balance of \$789.71.

**8. Mackworth Island Trust # 014.01A.Z239.30**

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	\$4,055	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$3,941
DICAP**	\$0	STACAP	\$114
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$4,055.00</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,055.00</b>

\*\* Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a "revenue debit", although it is actually an expenditure.

This account is used to manage public recreational activities and related resources on land under the Bureau's care on Mackworth Island in Falmouth, Maine. Section 2 of Chapter 102 Public Law 1998, authorizes the proceeds from the sale of a 157 acre Bureau of Parks and Lands property in Colorado to be invested as a separate trust fund and managed by the State Treasurer for the benefit of Mackworth Island. In November 1999, the Colorado property was sold. The proceeds of \$60,000 have been deposited into this trust fund. A non-lapsing account receives interest income from the trust fund. At the end of fiscal year 2013 the account had a balance of \$17,959, over and above the principle.

### 9. Forest Legacy Fund # 013.01A.Z239.35

Income		Expenses	
Federal Grants	\$41,148	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$36,500
DICAP**	(\$3,591)	STACAP	\$1,057
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$37,557.00</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$37,557.00</b>

\*\* Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a “revenue debit”, although it is actually an expenditure.

This account is used for Forest Legacy grant expenses related to the acquisition of nationally approved Forest Legacy land parcels and any associated pre-acquisition costs. The figures above represent the All Other pre-acquisition budget. For the land acquisitions, financial orders are sent to the Governor for signature and to establish the capital needed for the land purchase. Land For Maine’s Future funds are typically used as match for these Forest Legacy grants to purchase land. At the end of fiscal year 2013 the account had a balance of \$3,153 for the associated DICAP charges.

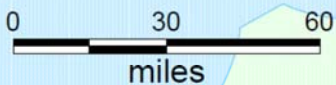
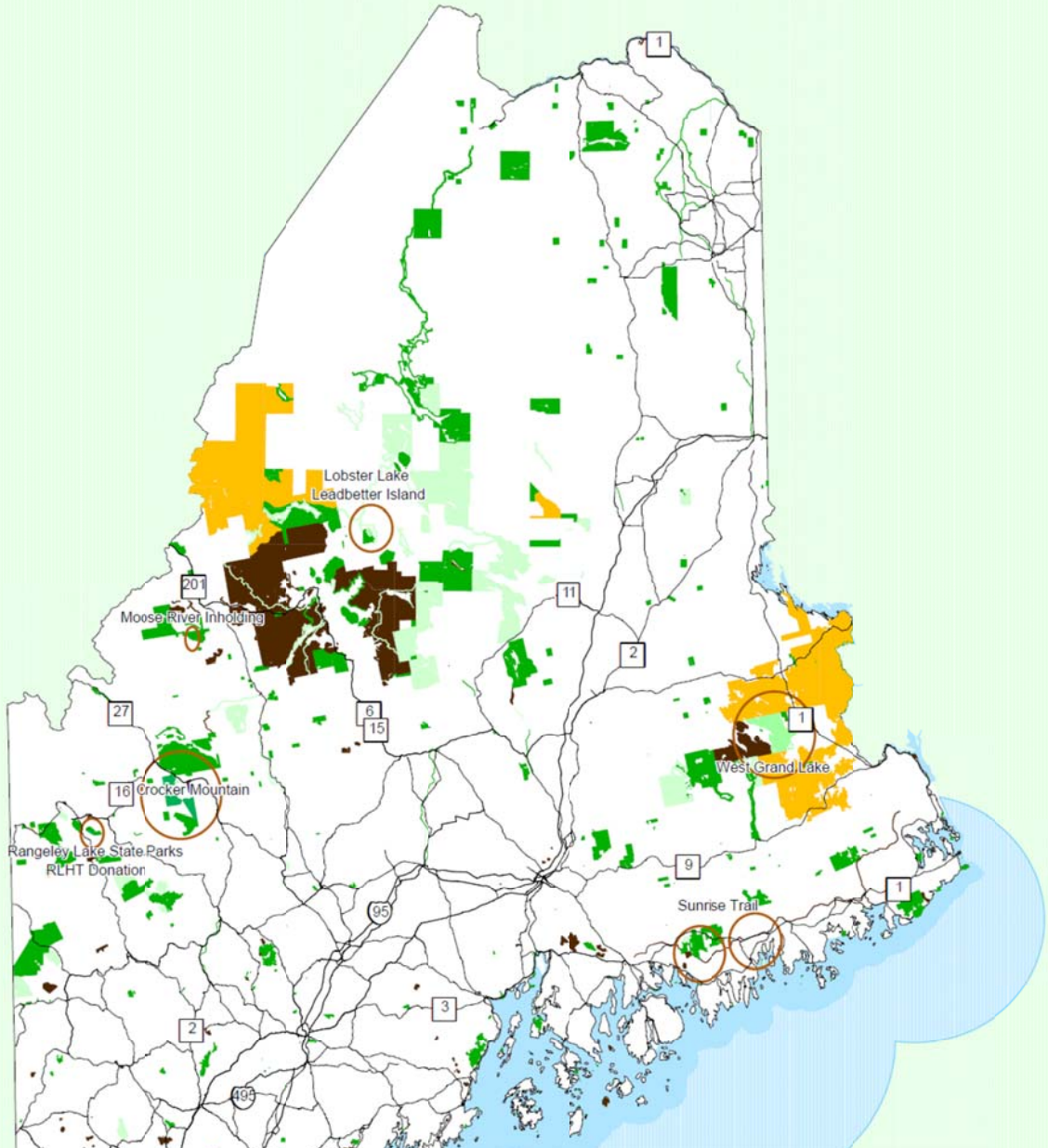
## XVIII. CONCLUSION

Expenditures will be managed to operate within the Bureau’s financial means for all accounts. The Public Reserved Lands Management Fund is under considerable pressure to meet increasing demands to cover rising costs in such areas as personnel services, health care, land acquisition, vehicle rental, information technology, and public information while assuming management responsibility for more and more non-revenue generating acres and activities. The Bureau has made a concerted effort to increase the volume of timber harvested. The annual allowable cut was increased in 2013 as a result of the recently completed timber inventory, and further increases will be realized due to adjustments to the applied discount rate and reducing stocking levels by 1.5 cords per acre, from 23 to 21.5 cords. This increase would be implemented over a three year period with annual allowable cut targets of 141,500 cords for FY14, 160,000 cords for FY15 and 180,000 cords for FY16. This effort will need to be balanced with continued demands on staff time related to non-timber related responsibilities, including recreation, and new acquisition initiatives. These increased harvest volumes coupled with the transition from stumpage sales to contract logging services will result in increased revenue and improved financial stability to the Public Reserved Lands Management Fund. Funds should now be available to support the increased cash balances needed for contracted logging services, invest in timber stand improvement and forest inventory initiatives, address deferred operational activities such as boundary line and road maintenance, pursue commitments in adopted management plans to develop recreational facilities, and address capacity issues related to operational and support staff, as well as the growing responsibilities related to conservation easements.



Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry  
 Bureau of Parks & Lands  
 Property Interests Acquired  
 between July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

**APPENDIX A**



**LEGEND**

- Bureau Fee Properties
- Easement & Easement Enforcement Properties
- Project Agreement & Third Party Easement Properties
- Public Access Easement Properties
- Fee & Easement Acquired Properties  
7/1/2012 - 6/30/2013
- Department of Transportation  
State Maintained Highways
- \*MEGIS Water Layer

All information depicted on this map is as accurate as available data allows. The property boundaries are an estimation. Base layers 1:24K are from the State of Maine MEGIS website. This is not a survey product.

February, 2014





## Appendix B: Summary of FY 2013 BPL Acquisitions and Dispositions

Acquisitions							
Parks/ Lands	Name (closing date)	Town	County	Fee Acres	Conservation Easement	Trail/Road Easement	Total Acres
Lands	Moose River Inholding (8/27/12)	T5 R7 WKR	Somerset	1.13			1.13
Lands	Crocker Mountain (6/7/13)	Carrabasset Valley	Franklin	9,344.4			9,344.4
		Mt. Abram Twp	Franklin	2,701.9			2,701.9
Lands	West Grand Lake Forest (12/17/12)	Grand Lake Stream Twp	Washington		18,470		18,470
		T6 ND	Washington		3,400		3,400
<b>Subtotal (Lands)</b>				<b>12,047</b>	<b>21,870</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34,077</b>
Parks	Rangeley Lake State Park RLHT donation (10/29/12)	Rangeley	Franklin	160			160
Parks	Leadbetter Island – Lobster Lake Leadbetter donation (12/18/12)	Lobster Twp	Piscataquis		500		500
<b>Subtotal (Parks)</b>				<b>160</b>	<b>500</b>		<b>660</b>
<b>Total Parks and Lands</b>				<b>12,207</b>	<b>22,370</b>		<b>34,737</b>

Dispositions – Authorizing Law		Town	County	Fee Acres	Utility/Service Easement	Trail/Road Easement
Parks	Whistlestop RR Trail Crossing Easement to Taylor Made Homes; Maine Resolves 2007 Chapter 91, as amended by P.L 691 (2012) (8/30/2012)	Jay	Franklin			+/- 174 ft
<b>Subtotal Parks Dispositions</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Parks and Lands Dispositions</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## Appendix C: Federal Forest Legacy Projects Approved and Pending

### Funded Forest Legacy Tracts: Closings expected in FY 2014

Name	Acquisition Rights	Location	Acres	Est. Total Cost	FLP award
Orbeton Stream (Authorized FY 2012)	Easement	Franklin County	5,798	\$2,315,000 estimated	\$1,730,000
East Grand Lake/Orient (Authorized FY 2013)	Fee 6076 acres Easement 1,450 acres	Washington County	7,536	\$3,605,000 estimated	\$1,800,000
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>13,334</b>		<b>\$3,530,000</b>

### Forest Legacy Projects, Pending Approval of the FY 2014 President's Budget

Name	Acquisition Rights	Location	Acres	Total Cost	FLP request
Cold Stream Forest Project	Fee	Somerset	8,150	\$ 8,000,000 estimated	\$6,000,000
Little W Twp, Seboomook Unit Inholding	Fee – 81 acres Easement 2 acres	Somerset	83	\$950,000 estimated	\$500,000
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>8,233</b>		<b>\$6,500,000</b>

