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Maine Department of Conservation

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Bulletin

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February 1989

Commissioner's Column

The Legislative Session is underway. That has a large impact on the Department and many of you will be called on to participate in one way or another before adjournment in June. As a key agency in state government we have a large role in developing public policy through the legislative process. This is a large responsibility that affects management of the Department every day.

Recently we held a workshop for Bureau Directors and Resource Administrators to go over how DOC can play an effective and responsive role in promoting sound resource management. Together we developed goals and procedures to use during the session. Many of you will likely be asked to help at specific times on research, analyzing impact of bills, suggestions on procedures, and other ways the Department can assist. These are high priority needs this time of year.

Over 2000 bills (AKA legislative documents or L.D.'s) are expected this session. Sue Bell and Cathy Ward work with the Bureaus to review all of these. We generally end up tracking 150-200 L.D.'s that directly affect DOC.

The primary Committee that hears bills affecting us is the Joint Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. In late January, we made presentations to the Committee on the programs and current projects in each Bureau. Some of that material will be circulating FYI. This was a good opportunity to update them on our progress and provide our perspective on the issues before the real hearings begin.

We will provide periodic updates on legislation that affects DOC. The proposed budget includes over \$500,000 in new funding for DOC. The increase will enhance the Department's programs in three key areas:

- *Land use regulation, where funds will provide for better enforcement of LURC laws and improved capacity to review major development projects;

- *Forestry, where the Maine Forest Service will be provided with resources to improve information gathering on forest harvesting practices and improve forest fire control through consolidation and continued upgrading of equipment and staff opportunities;

- *Outdoor recreation, where the Department will add a program in outdoor recreation, public access, and land conservation, as well as increase resources to State parks and municipal recreation programs through an increase in planning capability.

Paul Frederic has announced he plans to return to teaching at the University of Maine at Farmington starting in mid-May. He plans to continue as LURC Director while we search for a replacement, then take some well-deserved time off before teaching. Paul directed LURC at a critical time in its history as it has gone through huge growth, vastly increased work load, and changes in personnel and procedures. The experience he gained as manager for one of the unique land planning programs in the country will be of great benefit to him and his students in his professional field of geography.

We plan to conduct an open search for a new LURC Director.

Ed Meadows, Commissioner

Conservation Notebook

Joe Kelley has been named an Associate Editor of the Journal of Coastal Research, an international forum for the littoral sciences. *** Catherine Ward is the Department's new 504 Coordinator, handling issues related to access for the handicapped. *** Kathy Nitschke, Maine Service Forester for Cherryfield's Downeast R.C.&D. in Washington County, has put together a cost sharing proposal for landowners who wish to improve their fir stands for wreath brush production. *** Steve Spencer has explored hiking trail opportunities on the Squa Pan and Pineland Public Land Units and has been busy preparing LURC permit applications for Squa Pan campsites to be built this summer. *** Sales of publications by the Geological Survey neared \$25,000 in 1987, nearly 2 1/2 times 1985 sales. *** Ed Meadows informed USFS Chief Dale Robertson that Smokey Bear has remained on the job in Maine. Ed wrote Robertson in response to a news article stating that Smokey had been hibernating for the past few years but would be "returning" to his fire prevention work. *** Joe Wiley and Jim Ecker, Bureau of Public Lands, are preparing a wildlife poster on "Firtblast/Coated Seed" for the March Forestry/Wildlife Conference in Portland. *** Tom Charles says the first harvest managed by the Bureau of Public Lands at the 125 acre Beatrice Baxter Memorial Forest in Topsham is going well. The state was given the lot in 1969. It will be managed to grow high quality white pine according to the wishes of the late John Baxter. *** Tom Morrison, Bureau of Public Lands Director, says 2' x 3' wall maps of all Public Land parcels are available at no cost. *** Patty Bailey, Interpretive Specialist and Naturalist at Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park in Freeport, has seen record numbers of people attending her weekly Sunday nature programs at the park. Over the past four Sundays, 214 people have enjoyed programs on winter plants, animals, and birds. Patty reports that this year has also seen increased winter use by school groups. *** Joe Powers, Ranger at Aroostook State Park, has researched the origin and early years of the park. 1989 marks the 50th anniversary of Aroostook State Park's opening and, as a result of Joe's research, the park will feature a display of photographs and information this summer about the park's history. *** Scott Ramsay, Supervisor of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation's Off-Road Vehicle Division, joined Marshall Wiebe and staff from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife at Mt. Blue State Park recently to assist in filming public service announcements promoting snowmobile trail safety. *** Forest Rangers are actively training town fire departments and industry groups throughout the state. These fire fighter trainees will be utilized primarily for in-state work. They will also be qualified for assignment to major, out-of-state fires through our cooperative agreement with the U.S. Forest Service. *** A training course for town fire chiefs dealing with fires in the wildland/urban interface is being developed. *** Nine Forest Service Fire Control people attended a winter training meeting in Rutland, Vermont of the Northeast Forest Fire Protection Commission. Each state and province presented a 10-15 minute talk on existing or potential problems with wildland/urban interface fires. These discussions should include existing or needed legislation, suppression and prevention practices, relations with other fire agencies, and cross-training practices. Attendees were: Roger Milligan, Myron Witherall, Kenny Wing, Roger McLellan, Bill Getchell, Michael Myster, David Gibbs, Bill Orcutt, and Leslie Wiles. *** Woody Thompson, Geological Survey, has submitted a proposal to the National Science Foundation for support of earth science education in Maine schools. The Survey's proposed CREST project (Curriculum Resources for Earth Science Teachers) would provide middle school and high school teachers with written and videotaped instructional materials, and summer internships with professional earth scientists working in Maine. *** The new 1:24,000-scale topographic map of the Mt. Katahdin quadrangle is now available from the Maine Geological Survey. This map should be especially interesting to hikers.

(Over)

Conservation Calendar

Feb.	15	Eagle Lake Unit Advisory Meeting
	16	LURC Commission Meeting (Augusta)
	17	CES/MFS Task Force Meets
	25	Community Trees Workshop (Lewiston)
	27	Through March 3 - PERF Hearings (Machias)
March	8	Holeb Unit Public Meeting (Jackman)
	10	Northern Forest Lands Study (Burlington, VT)
	10-12	Bangor Sports Show
	15-17	Forestry/Wildlife Conference (Portland)

*** Twenty-six of LURC's 28 authorized positions are filled; the last two will probably be filled by the end of the month. *** The Lakes Action Plan for 1500 lakes has been approved by the Land Use Regulation Commission. Rule making and public hearings come next. *** Fred Todd invites comments ASAP on LURC's Comprehensive Plan, now being revised.

Personnel News

Beginning on April 1, 1989 there will be a change in the Case Management Program administered by the Bureau of Employee Health. The new program is called the Managed Care Program and has the same purpose as the current program: to hold down health care costs by reducing unnecessary hospitalizations and surgery. In addition, it is designed to provide better information to those covered by health insurance so that they can make the most informed choices about their own health care.

The Managed Care program will include: hospital pre-admission review, including medical, surgical, and psychiatric admissions; substance abuse pre-admission pre-admission review; pre-surgical review; continued stay review; discharge planning; and case management. In late March new health insurance booklets and identification cards will be issued to all participants in the State Employees Health Insurance Program. If you do not receive your informational packet by March 29th, please call the State Employee Health Insurance Office at 289-6780 or 1-800-422-4503.

You should continue to use the current Case Management Program until April 1, 1989. We will keep you updated on further changes in your health insurance program.

Promotions:

- * Larry Oberlander - from Engineering & Realty to Waterways Division as Outdoor Recreation Planner (Feb. 20, 1989)
- * Steve Oliveri - promoted from LURC to Public Lands Resource Administrator (Feb. 23, 1989)
- * Michael Ricci - promoted in Forestry from Forest Ranger II to Forest Ranger IV (Jan. 30, 1989)
- * Kim Lynch - promoted from Fire Control to LURC Environmental Specialist II (Jan. 16, 1989)

To Other Agencies:

- * Donna Folsom - from Administrative Services, promoted to Business Manager I, Department of Economic & Community Development (Jan. 30, 1989)
- * Ann Alexander - from ATV Program, transferred to Human Services (Jan. 30, 1989)

Retired:

- * William Dow - Forestry, Forest Ranger II (Jan. 31, 1989)
- * Norris Harrington - Forestry, Forest Ranger IV (Jan. 28, 1989)

New:

- * Robert McKee - LURC, Environmental Specialist II (Feb. 1, 1989)
- * Charles Corliss - LURC, Environmental Specialist II (Feb. 1, 1989)

Graduation

On Thursday, February 16, 29 employees will be honored as the first graduates of a 4 week conservation law enforcement training program at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy in Waterville. Commissioner Meadows, Bureau Directors, and other officials will be on hand for the ceremonies. The graduates are:

LURC: Kim Lynch

MFS:	Bruce Small	Andrew Mendes	Stephen Harding
	Edward Holman	Maynard Thornton	Leslie Thornton
	Calvin Hafford	Douglas Hafford	William Hamilton
	William Greaves	Harry Doughty	Henry Rhinebolt
	Richard Cole	Darcy Labbe	Alan Johnston
	Eric Nosel	Michael Ricci	David Wight
	Stephen Day	Brad Barrett	Darryl Rich
	Milton Bates	Russell Beauchemin	

BPR:	Gordon Bell	Bruce Farnham	Jay McIntosh
	Michael Rogers	Thomas Skolfield	

MCC - SERVE/Maine Projects

The Maine Conservation Corps has approved 35 projects for the spring and summer of 1989. Ten DOC facilities will have projects including: the Penobscot River Corridor and Camden Hills, Lake St. George, Rangeley Lake, Wolf Neck Woods and Bradbury Mt. State Parks, the Mahoosuc Mt. and Pineland Public Lands Management Units, and Masardis and Portage (or Island Falls) Forest Service Stations. The other projects will be with various international, federal, state, and municipal agencies and private nonprofit groups.

SERVE/Maine has received requests to help recruit over 250 volunteers and volunteer groups for Maine's natural resource agencies. Of the 76 projects on the Spring/Summer Volunteer Recruitment List, 44 are from the DOC Bureaus of Parks and Recreation, Public Lands, and Forestry.

New Publications Of Interest

Selected List of Books Recently Added to the Maine State Library - Jan/Feb '89 Source: Library, Station #64, Augusta

State Training Catalog, Winter/Spring '89 Source: Human Resources, Station #4, Augusta

Forestry Activities and Organizations Maine, 1988 - USDA Forest Service Source: Management and Utilization Division, MFS

Submerged Lands Study January, 1989 Source: Bureau of Public Lands

State Forest Fire Control Activities, 1984-88, January 1989 Source: Fire Control Division, MFS

Report on Maine's ATV Laws, Departments of Conservation and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, January 1989 Source: Off-road Vehicle Program, BPR

Living with the Coast of Maine, Joe Kelley and Others Source: Duke University Press, Durham, NC 27708

A Collector's Guide to Maine Mineral Localities, W.B. Thompson and Others, 1988, MGS Bulletin #41 Source: Maine Geological Survey

An Economic Assessment of the White Pine Blister Rust Control Program in Maine - 1989 Source: Insect and Disease Mgmt. Div., MFS

Forest for the Future Program Annual Report - 1988 Source: Forest for the Future Program, DOC

A Guide to Cross-country Skiing on State Parks and Public Lands - 1989 Source: BPR/BPL

The Geology of Mount Desert Island - 1989 Source: Maine Geological Survey

Midwinter Tip

Mt. Blue State Park's new cross-country ski trails are tracked and open. Be prepared for easy to more difficult skiing and superlative scenery.

Reminder

Just a reminder that the Bureau of Public Lands' regional office is in Farmington in a building shared with the Department of Human Service, County Court System (District), and two Maine Forest Service Foresters. The address and BPL Regional Manager is:

Western Region
Ralph Knoll, Regional Manager
25 Main Street P.O. Box 327
Farmington, Maine 04938

The BULLETIN is prepared for the employees of the Maine Department of Conservation. It will be distributed with paychecks each month to keep you informed about our department.