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Bulletin: Prepared for the Employees of the Maine Department of Conservation, March 1989

Maine Department of Conservation

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BULLETIN

Prepared for the Employees of the Maine Department of Conservation

MARCH 1989

Commissioner's Column

March is International Women's Month and a good time to recognize the professional contributions women are making to the department in an increasing range of job classifications. It is also a time to renew our commitment to ensuring women have full and equal opportunities in the Department's workforce.

"Growth management" is a topic we'll be hearing a lot more about.

DOC will play a key role among state agencies in this new program which will affect every Bureau. We see the new law as a positive opportunity to work more closely with towns to assist them in planning for better resource management and outdoor recreation programs.

The Growth Management Law was enacted last spring. For DOC this is an exciting opportunity to encourage thoughtful and more complete management of natural resources throughout the state. The attention on growth management will put proper resource stewardship in the public eye. This is a positive step and could mean more support for DOC and its programs. The law requires all town to do a thorough assessment of their community's natural resources, development, infrastructure, growth trends, and other resource planning matters. By 1996 each town is to adopt a comprehensive plan outlining how it will cope with future growth and development. The plans must provide areas for growth and natural resources protection and management.

State agencies, including DOC, are to review each plan from the nearly 500 communities in Maine. The purpose is to ensure the plans adequately address the resource issues relevant to the state agency. The plans do not require approval by the state; but if a plan is found inadequate, it may affect the amount of state aid that town receives.

Each agency is required to submit a plan by January 1, 1990, on how it has incorporated growth management objectives into its own programs.

Each Bureau in DOC will be asked to review each plan to assure the proper attention is given to such items as forest management, groundwater, mineral development, public recreation programs and facilities, resource protection, and sound planning. Bureaus will also play specialized roles: MGS developed guidelines for groundwater; MFS in developing guidelines on forestry; LURC will play a role in all plans of towns adjacent to LURC jurisdiction; and BPL will be reviewing land protection procedures.

I have asked Steve Oliveri of BPL to serve as DOC's coordinator. Steve's resource background and his planning and writing skills will help make our role a success. Each Bureau will have a representative; together they will function as DOC's Growth Management Team. They are: Ancyl Thurston, Forestry; John Williams, Geology; Fred Todd, LURC; Tom Cieslinski, Parks; and Steve Oliveri will serve as BPL's representative as well.

The Office of Comprehensive Planning in the Department of Economic and Community Development administers the program.

I ask each of you to help us make DOC the leading department in state government in support and creative assistance to the growth management program.

ED MEADOWS COMMISSIONER

CONSERVATION CALENDAR

MARCH 17 - LURC meets (Augusta)
20 - Western Maine Forest Forum (So. Paris)
(non-game wildlife management)
30 - NeLMA Annual Meeting
31 - Maine Sportsman's Show (Augusta)
APR 1-2 - Sportsman's Show continues

MONEY FOR COLLEGE:

THE JAMES C. DURHAM SCHOLARSHIP

Employees of the Department of Conservation who have sons or daughters attending the College of Forest Resources at Orono and are studying for a degree in Forestry may be eligible for the James C. Durham Scholarship Award made annually by the College. During the past few years two scholarships of \$500.00 each have been made to deserving students, first priority is to qualifying children of members of the Department.

The Durham Scholarship was made possible by Mr. Durham's family during the mid-1960's when they deeded interest in a 100 acre woodlot located in Northport to the State. This lot has become known as the Durham State Forest and income resulting from the sale of timber is kept by the State Treasurer. Accrued interest makes these scholarships possible. The forest is managed by the Department and was the subject of an article appearing in the Summer, 1988 issue of "A Report on Maine Forests Parks and Lands."

If you have a son or daughter studying Forestry at Orono and wish to know more about the scholarship, please contact Dr. Fred Knight, Dean, College of Forest Resources, Nutting Hall, University of Maine, Orono, Maine 04469. Telephone number is (207) 581-2842. You should contact Dr. Knight soon, because he is working on all scholarships at this time.

RESOURCE MANAGERS MEET

Natural resource professionals from throughout New England and Eastern Canada begin a three-day conference today in Portland. During the session, members of the New England Society of American Foresters, Maine Chapter of the Wildlife Society, and Atlantic International Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will consider the theme, "Forest and Wildlife Management in New England: What Can We Afford?"

The Department will be well represented at the conference including the following "presenters" and conference planners.

Sue Bell - Moderator, Major Conservation Proposal Panel
Dick Bradbury - "Insect Problems in Conifers"
Jim Ecker - Poster Session
Greg Foster - Conference Planner
Walter Gooley - Conference Planner
Steve Oliveri - Moderator, Public Access Panel
Ed Meadows - Welcome/Keynote
Elizabeth Swain - "Regulation"
Tom Whitworth - Conference Planner
Joe Wiley - Poster Session

CONSERVATION NOTEBOOK

Ralph Knoll, BPL Western Region Manager and Bob Leso, MFS Forester, were recent guests on radio WKJT's (Farmington) "Grapevine Show." Land management was the subject. *** Joe Wiley talked about natural resource careers and wildlife conservation with a Leeds Cub Scout Pack. *** Leigh Hoar, Tom Charles, and Joe Wiley attended the Forest Vegetation Management Conference sponsored by Monsanto at Sugarloaf USA. *** The annual MFS survey of whole tree chipping operations prepared by Gary Morse will be published with a grant from the New England Governor's Congress. *** New MGS publications on Maine mineral collecting and Acadia National Park geology have been nominated to the American Library Association for their 1988 list of outstanding state documents. *** The first volume of the Maine Geological Survey's sesquicentennial "Studies in Maine Geology" series has been printed. It contains a collection of articles on the bedrock geology of Maine, edited by Bob Marvinney and Bob Tucker. *** The MGS assisted the State Museum in the selection and purchase of one of the largest specimens from the recent discovery of amethyst crystals in Sweden, Maine. The two-foot cluster of deep purple crystals was mined last fall and will be included in a future exhibit at the museum. *** MGS marine geologists Joe Kelley and Steve Dickson carried out side-scan sonar investigations of the floor of Sheepscot Bay this month in cooperation with a fisheries study by the Department of Marine Resources.

THE LURC MANAGEMENT STUDY

During the Special Legislative Session, the Department of Conservation received \$25,000 for a management study which is due to the Legislature on March 17. Peat-Marwick has studied the following topics and made recommendations on how they may be implemented:

- o Organizational structure
- o Management and supervision
- o Staffing and personnel utilization
- o Work load, activities and productivity
- o Computer systems
- o Office space
- o Funding sources and future planning needs

The study shows LURC to be at a critical juncture in its evolution as a regulatory agency. Its ability to carry out its statutory duties and enforce its regulations through a small central office with a minimum of formal policies and procedures has clearly been exceeded by the volume and complexity of its current work load. The agency's historical emphasis on developing and implementing environmental policies and regulations must now be joined by an equal emphasis on developing sound management systems. These systems are essential to assure effective utilization of LURC's resources as well as timely and consistent permitting and enforcement decisions. This transition will require new skills, new attitudes and a clearly defined strategy that will guide the agency through the next several years.

Changes will need to be made in the agency's management practices and standard operating procedures. These changes must be accompanied by greater employee training, word processing systems, and the utilization of more standardized methods for much of their internal and external communications.

Of equal importance are changes in the agency's organizational structure, and a new emphasis on LURC's regional field offices to be accompanied by gradual delegation of certain permitting, enforcement and public information responsibilities to each regional staff.

PAGE ONE NEWS

*** A field training trip for LURC staff to Albany Township on February 24 was page one news in the Bethel Citizen, complete with a photo of some of the LURC crew.

*** The Portland Press Herald reported in a March 3 page one story the Land For Maine's Future Board plan to acquire 495 acres on the Damariscotta River which the Bureau of Public Lands will manage with the Town of New Castle. According to the article, "Tom Doak, an employee of the Bureau who helped negotiate the sale, said the project is ideal for scenic trails, hiking, cross country skiing, nature study, and hunting".

SECRETARIAL SYMPOSIUM

According to a reliable, but unnamed source, The State will conduct its Secretarial Symposium again this year. To serve more people, there will be three sessions at two locations. Secretaries will have their choice of attending in Bangor on April 18, or in Augusta on April 20 or 21. This year's symposium will be held in conjunction with the University of Maine's new Secretary/Administrative Assistant Institute (SAAI). The symposium will provide participants with the opportunity to experience the institute to see if they would like to participate in it further.

Registration forms are being sent to all DOC regional offices or can be obtained from the Personnel unit in Augusta. Once completed, the registration forms should be returned to the DOC Personnel Unit in Augusta.

BOW TRIP

One of Maine's oldest classic canoe trips, the Moose River Bow Trip (following a route across Attean and Holeb Ponds and a portion of the Moose River), has been the subject of recent planning efforts involving several Department of Conservation bureaus. Herb Hartman, Craig Ten Broeck, Tom Morrison, Steve Spencer, Ralph Knoll, and Skip Bates have met recently with private landowners as part of a working group that will develop a comprehensive management plan addressing such issues as campsite maintenance and management and resource protection along the Bow Trip route.

CAMPING SHOW

The Bureau of Parks and Recreation will be represented at the Augusta Camping Show, to be held March 17-19 at the Augusta Civic Center. The bureau will have a booth at the show and staff members will be talking with camping show attendees about camping opportunities and facilities at state parks as well as the campsite reservation system. Bureau staff in attendance will be Tim Hall, David Percy, Ken Wiley, Bruce Farnham, Dalton Kirk, Jay McIntosh, Gordon Bell, Steve Vondell, Mick Rogers, and Ron Spiegel.

WATERWAY COMMISSION

Herb Hartman and Craig Ten Broeck participated in the second meeting of the St. Croix International Waterway Commission in St. Stephen, New Brunswick on March 1. The St. Croix River and Chiputneticook Lakes form over 100 miles of the Maine-New Brunswick border and the newly-created commission represents the first international waterway planning effort involving the state and province. The commission will be developing a plan for recreation and resource management on the the St. Croix River. The final plan resulting from the commission's work will ultimately be submitted to Maine's Governor McKernan and New Brunswick's Premier McKenna for adoption.

PERSONNEL NEWS

Retired

Joe Forti - State Park Regional Supervisor (Parks) - Feb. 28, 1989

Dan Day - Forest Ranger II (MFS) - February 28, 1989

Paul Chase - Communications Technician (MFS) - Feb. 28, 1989

To Other Agencies

Marie Plourd - from Administrative Service to Agriculture - March 13, 1989

New

Caroline Elliott - Chief Planner (LURC) - February 27, 1989

Nancy Beardsley - Geology Technician (Prjt. Pos.)(Geology) - February 13, 1989

Promotions

Andrea Perron - Administrative Services - Promoted to Account Clerk

MCC - SERVE/Maine

The Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) is hiring Conservation Team Leaders for its spring and summer projects. Three positions in State Parks are available from April 10 to June 10, and 21 people are needed to lead projects across the state with various natural resources agencies this summer. For more information, contact Ken Spalding (289-4931) as soon as possible.

TOWARDS A SMOKE-FREE WORKPLACE

Commissioner Meadows' February memo to Harlow Building workers described actions taken to alleviate the space crunch the building's residents have been painfully aware of for some time. One such action was the conversion of room 412, used by smokers, into needed office space.

Smokers are encouraged to take this opportunity to participate in a smoking cessation clinic and should contact Will Harris for information. Smoking is now limited to the north entrance to the Harlow Building (by the walkway to the Ray Building or facing AMHI).

Everyone's cooperation is appreciated.

INFORMATION PLEASE

We hope you find the information in the "Bulletin" and "A Report on Maine Forests Parks and Lands" useful and informative BUT we need your help with story ideas and information, so please call us, your correspondents:

Judy Andrews, Administrative Services - 289-2214

Tom Driscoll, Forestry (FP&L) - 289-2610

Ben Kreiton, Land Use Regulation Commission - 289-4983

Sheila McDonald, Parks - 289-4951

Pat Simard, BPL (Bulletin) - 289-3064

Lisa Sirois, Forestry (Bulletin) - 289-4990

Woody Thompson, Geology - 289-7178

Marshall Wiebe, Public Information - 289-4909