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Bulletin: Information for Maine Department of Conservation Employees, November 1991

Maine Department of Conservation

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November
1991

BULLETIN

Information for Maine Department of Conservation Employees

Commissioner's Column

Maine's economy remains slow. During the three months ending in June, Maine ranked 50th among the states in personal income growth. Personal income in Maine actually declined--a highly unusual event indicating that these are unprecedented times.

Obviously less income and fewer jobs mean less revenues available to support state government. As a result, state spending must be reduced by \$125 million this fiscal year.

All agencies have been directed to submit a proposal to achieve a ten percent reduction in the balance of funds for the remainder of FY 92. The cuts apply to general fund accounts. For DOC, this means a cut of \$1.25 million.

All departments have been asked to identify possible cuts and then to describe the effects of those proposals. Final decisions on which cuts will actually be recommended for legislative action will be made within a short time. As the *Bulletin* was being printed, department managers were identifying alternative ways to meet our ten percent target.

As we have done before, we will continue to keep you informed of the department's plans. The time table for the budget revision is short, however, and the rapid pace of events may result in changes to our budget before we are able to notify all employees.

The department's goal is to clearly identify what the impact of further cuts on our programs will be and to encourage recognition of the importance of protection, oversight and stewardship of Maine's natural resources. Natural resources are the key to our state's economic future. The need to achieve budget savings in the short-term must be balanced with the necessity of ensuring a sound future for the state.

We appreciate your support for the MSECCA campaign. At the time this newsletter was prepared, ninety-five DOC employees had contributed \$7688. There is still time to provide assistance to those in need. It is rewarding to know we are helping others.

Ed Meadows

Bruce Farnham

Park Manager of the Year

Bruce Farnham, manager of Mt. Blue State Park in Weld, has been selected as Maine's State Park Manager of the Year for his efforts in providing quality service to the public in fulfilling the mission of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation. The award is evaluated on the basis of professionalism, initiative, self-improvement, positive public relations and supervisory excellence.

Bureau director Herb Hartman cited Bruce for an outstanding job in the day to day management of Mt. Blue and for important initiatives in interpretation, cross-country ski trail development and the production of public information materials.

Bruce joined BPR in 1978 as an assistant park ranger at Ferry Beach State Park where he later became manager. He also managed Aroostook State Park before becoming manager at Mt. Blue in 1987.

Attention DOC Program Managers

Proposals for 1992 MCC projects are due December 13. Call Ken Spalding at 289-4931 for tips on making a successful project.

Restructuring Update

The Special Commission on Governmental Restructuring was created to:

- consolidate, restructure, and realign functions of departments of state government;
- streamline administration and services through functional integration of similar operations;
- create unified and functionally integrated operating agencies to coordinate and consolidate the effective delivery of services to affected populations.

The commission consists of 22 members with the co-chairs jointly approved by the governor, president of the senate, and the speaker of the house of representatives.

The commission regards its mandate as finding ways for government to do "better with less" that will translate into improved quality, effectiveness, and cost-effectiveness of programs. The commission will attempt to increase public participation in and access to decisions, increase public accountability of government officials, and reduce the negative economic and social impact of government programs. The commission is not charged with reducing the size of government.

The Committee on Physical Resources--one of six committees established by the commission--focuses on "any area of natural resource management, regulation, or program administration." The committee is co-chaired by Patrick McGowan and Robert Cope. Former DOC Commissioner Richard Anderson also serves on the committee.

The commission will meet November 1 & 8 to develop a draft report which will be distributed prior to public hearings scheduled from 3 to 7 p.m. on November 19 (Bangor), 20 (Augusta), and 21 (Portland).

Prior to the Augusta hearing on November 20, hearings will be held via the interactive television system in Fort Kent, Presque Isle, Machias, and Farmington. Details have not been announced.

Several recommendations from the committee on Physical Resources are expected to be discussed with the commission on November 1 and 8. The three most significant issues are:

- establishment of a "Facilities Consolidation Commission" with a five year goal of closing, leasing, or consolidating 20 to 40 percent of the facilities owned by the five natural resource agencies;
- a recommendation to the governor to establish an interagency task force to identify areas for the cross-training of personnel for natural resource law enforcement; and
- creation of a new Division of Recreational Vehicles and Boating in the Bureau of Parks and Recreation (BPR). This proposal calls for the collection of registration fees at IF&W while adding to the bureau the responsibility for administration and dissemination of funds back to IF&W and DMR. The proposal further directs BPR to take oversight of enforcement of recreational vehicle laws by IF&W and DMR. The commissioners of DOC, IF&W, and DMR have proposed an alternative to the committee.

Proposals to combine natural resource agencies may be discussed by the time this *Bulletin* is distributed. Draft reports will be available after November 8 and prior to the public hearings.

Sue Bell, Deputy Commissioner

Conservation Notes

Outstanding Service Awards were presented at BPR's fall meeting to **Joe Powers**, park ranger; **Jarvis Johnson**, maintenance mechanic; and **Gordon Bell**, Camden Hills State Park manager. •• **Thomas Holz** has joined LURC as a project analyst. Tom is a UM graduate and was a DMR marine resource specialist. •• **Beth Reed** is the new MFS urban forester. Beth was hired in an acting capacity through the federally funded, urban forestry program. •• **John Titus**, BPR, made a presentation on recreational safety to the Pineland Center Wellness Council. •• **Henry Whittemore**, BPL, attended a workshop on New England conservation issues with Commissioner Meadows hosted by the Land Trust Alliance. •• Forest Ranger **Gary Cook** has been working with the Brownville Hot-Shot volunteer firefighter training program. •• **David Allen**, LURC project analyst, represented the commission at Woodsmen Day activities at the Farmington Fair where approximately 500 elementary school children visited the LURC/MFS booth. •• **Steve Oliveri** represented BPL at the 10th annual submerged lands conference in Mississippi. Steve presented a paper on Maine's submerged land rental fee system. •• **Art Holman, Darcy Labbe, Dave York, Cleve Goodblood and Mike Ricci** (MFS), and **Gordeen Noble, John Polackwhich, Brian Murray, Jay McIntosh, Jim Lord, Mark Wight, Mike Wilusz, Frank Applby, Joe Powers, Phil Farr, Mike Leighton, Pat Reardon, Dave Milligan and John Titus** (BPR), attended the Methods of Instruction Training Course at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. •• **Dick Skinner**, BPR, attended a national meeting in Seattle of the State's Organization for Boat Access. •• **Craig Ten Broeck** represented BPL at the Eastern Lands and Resources Council annual conference. •• **John Cashwell** is chairman of the National Association of State Foresters' Forest Health Monitoring Committee. •• **Dave Wight** is southern regional forest ranger with headquarters at Bolton Hill. The other fire control regional offices are at Island Falls (north) and Old Town (central). •• **Fred Todd**, director of LURC's Planning Division, gave a presentation on the Comprehensive Land Use Plan revision to a UM planning class. •• **Michael Day** has joined LURC as a project analyst. Michael is a graduate of Colby College and was employed in computer programming. •• Forest ranger **Jim Downey** reports that as of October 5, 1991, 904 wildfires reported in Maine had burned 2,200 acres. Debris burning and arson were the two leading causes. Forest rangers are now concentrating on public information and enforcement of laws protecting Christmas trees and brush used to make wreaths. •• BPL held a public meeting in Ellsworth on the draft Donnell Pond Management Plan. The unit has received much attention recently as the result of increasing recreational use and a "Maine Times" article. •• The Land Use Regulation Commission observed its 20th Anniversary on September 23, with an anniversary cake and reflections of accomplishments and highlights. •• **Andy Hutchinson**, manager at Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park in Freeport, recently hosted a group of visitors from Archangel, Russia. Archangel is Portland's Soviet Sister City. Andy made his guests feel at home by greeting them in Russian. •• **Sheila McDonald** spoke about the Montpelier Mansion during the 20th Annual Meeting of the Maine Citizens for Historic Preservation held at Montpelier in October. Other bureau employees contributing to the successful event that attracted 90 participants were **Scott Woodruff, Jarvis Johnson, Don King, Sandra Peterson, Grace Innis, Kathy Lindsey, Pete Carpenter and Tim Hall.**

Rangers Fight Forest Fires in Tennessee and Kentucky

Six Maine Forest Service rangers traveled to Tennessee and Kentucky during the last week of October in response to a request for assistance from the USDA Forest Service.

Harry Doughty served as air operations branch director at the Red Bird Fire Complex on the Daniel Boone National Forest in Kentucky. Tom, Lance and Arnold Martin, Rick Cole, and Courtney Hammond worked at forest fires in Tennessee. Tom was a bulldozer boss at the Polly Hollow Fire in Elizabethtown; Lance, Arnold, Rick and Courtney were assigned to the Green Mountain Fire in Greenville (Tennessee).

The rangers were requested under the terms of a mutual aid agreement between Maine and the USDA Forest Service. Ranger expenses and salaries are paid by the federal agency.

State Parks are the "Best of Maine"

The **Allagash Wilderness Waterway** was rated the best canoe trip and **Camden Hills State Park** the best day hike by *Maine Times* readers during the publication's recent "Best of Maine" poll. **Reid and Popham Beach State Parks** were rated as the best beaches and Screw Auger Falls in **Grafton Notch State Park** was named as the best waterfall. **Cobscook Bay, Camden Hills, and Lily Bay State Parks** followed **Baxter State Park** as the best campgrounds and **Cobscook Bay, Camden Hills and Reid State Parks** followed **Baxter** as the best state park.

DOCer's Change Image of Americans

Libbey Seigars, SERVE/Maine coordinator, recently thanked the Camden Rotary Club with a certificate of appreciation for financially supporting the 1991 BPR/Tanglewood 4-H International Workcamp.

The Rotarians- who seek to promote international understanding- told Libbey they were particularly pleased they had contributed to the project after seeing a workcamp volunteer from the Netherlands say during a TV news interview that her opinion of Americans changed completely thanks to this camp. "In Europe, the way we see Americans on television is really different from most people we met in Maine," she said. The workcamp volunteers' new, more favorable perception of Americans can be credited to the staff they worked most closely with: BPR's Jarvis Johnson, Chris O'Jala and retiree Wimpy Burnam. The Rotarians felt the SERVE/Maine International Workcamp accomplished needed work for BPR and furthered Rotary's goals of international understanding.

ARC/INFO Users Meet in Portland

The Maine Office of GIS hosted the 6th Annual Northeast ARC/INFO User Group Meeting in October. Dan Walters was the conference chair with Diane Hankinson and Bob Marvinney serving on the planning committee. More than 250 people from 10 states participated in training and technical sessions involving the use of ARC/INFO GIS in natural resource management, environmental protection, marketing, and local government. Sessions concerning GIS policy, data management, and map creation were also a part of the program.

DOC personnel contributing technical papers and posters were Diane Hankinson, Bob Marvinney, Mark Loiselle, Dick Bradbury, Steve Dickson, Jim Rae, Walter Anderson, Ben Wilson, Bob Tucker, Dan Walters and Dave Struble. Dan Walters and Sue Bell moderated the general session. Conference proceedings, giving a great overview of GIS, are available from Dan Walters at 289-3897.