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BULLETIN

FORESTRY

GEOLOGY

LAND USE REGULATION

PARKS AND RECREATION

PUBLIC LANDS

Commissioner's Column

Northern Forest Lands Council (NFLC) members have chosen an unconventional route to making recommendations for action by seeking public comments on their *Findings and Options for public policy changes affecting the 26 million acre Northern Forest of Maine, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont* before they decide on draft recommendations.

Saying that they do not have all the answers to know what is best for the forest and people of the region, council members chose to seek public comment at this stage, continuing their policy of full and open public participation to the final phase of the NFLC process.

The findings describe what the council has learned over the past two years. The options represent possible public policy changes. The options address the opportunities for, and barriers to, land conservation in the northern forest as identified in the findings.

A number of the council's findings and options have important implications for DOC programs, and the department plans to submit a critique. Here are a few examples of findings and options that may affect us. (I've omitted the finding and options on taxes due to limited space. I encourage anyone interested in an analysis of this important area to read them).

Land Conversion - Findings: During the 1980-91 period, at least 203,000 acres of land across the region were parcelized in connection with the sale of large tracts of forest land (500 acres). **Options:** Review results of land use regulation to ensure they are consistent with conservation goals; improve state's ability to monitor and assess the effects of conversion; make incentives available for new, long-term investment in forest land.

Biological Resources - Findings: Among the many new concepts to enhance biological diversity are the Stewardship Incentive Program and the Forest Legacy Program. **Options:** Promote the modification of existing incentive programs, such as Stewardship and Legacy, to encourage the enhancement of biological diversity; and urge the U.S. Forest Service to make timely decennial surveys and expand monitoring programs.

Conservation Strategies - Findings: Funding for state public conservation and management programs is often inadequate. Further, additional management funding is rarely tied to new public land acquisitions, and funding for repairs and improvements is down. **Options:** Find new federal funding mechanisms for Land and Water Conservation Fund state grants and Forest Legacy; create a National Outdoors Stamp for recreation; and institute a dedicated recreation equipment tax (e.g. hiking gear) to fund state-based conservation/recreation initiatives.

Local Forest-Based Economy - Findings: Maine's forests make an economic contribution of more than \$7.4 billion and account for twelve percent of the state's jobs. However, rural economic problems and resource management agencies are often not high priorities, decision-making is often controlled by urban areas, and the importance of natural resources to rural economies is not well understood. **Options:** Increase communication and cooperation between in-state agencies promoting value added industry and natural resource conservation; continue regional marketing of forest products and amenities on the world market; make regulatory system easier to understand and use by appointing a lead agency which identifies necessary permits for a business; and establish a forest products specialist in each state's development agency.

Recreation and Tourism - Findings: Forest-based recreation and tourism are inextricably linked to the region's natural resources; small lot parcelization and conversion of forest land often runs counter to open space recreation and tourism needs; communication and cooperation between land owners and land users is essential to meet tourism and recreation goals. Effective communications are found in organizations like North Maine Woods. **Options:** Establish new partnerships similar to North Maine Woods; adequately fund public land management to meet recreational demand; investigate current and projected demand for public lands and seek ways to relieve overuse; and define public and private roles in the recreation and tourism industry.

Those with a stake in the future of the northern forest—and that's all of us—have the opportunity to comment on the Findings and Options before October 18, the last day when the council can guarantee to consider comments prior to the November work session on draft recommendations. If you need more information on how you can critique the options, please contact Don Mansius at 287-4906.

Ed Meadows

Conservation Notes

1993 Forest Ranger Academy graduates are: **Jay Bernard, Jon Blackstone, Jeffery Currier, Claudette Desautels, Ritchie Hafford, Courtney Hammond, Rick Henlon, John Leavitt, Jim Post, Garnett Robinson, and Dan Skillin.** **Greg Hesslein, Darell Rich** and **Keith Smith** were part-time students.

The students thank the following instructors for making the academy a success: **Russ Beauchemin, Rick Cole, Gary Cook, Harry Doughty, Jim Downie, Jim Dyerall, Bill Getchell, Bill Greaves, Steve Harding, Alan Johnston, Harold Jones, Kendal Knowles, Tom Martin, Mark Mayhew, Sue Myers, Jerry Parsons, Bruce Reed, Bill Williams, Kenny Wing, Ron Wright and Dave York, MFS; Brian Bronson, BPR; E. Sven Carlson, Division of Forests & Lands, state of New Hampshire; and Carol Michel, DOC.**

Julie Flanagan, manager of Swan Lake State Park, is Maine's State Park Manager of the Year. BPR Director **Herb Hartman** made the announcement and presented Outstanding Service Awards during BPR's annual fall meeting in Augusta.

"It is fitting that Julie Flanagan has been selected as Park Manager of the Year during Swan Lake's tenth anniversary season. Under Julie's leadership, Swan Lake consistently achieves its mission of delivering quality recreation services to the public. The small staff works as a cohesive unit, responding with friendliness and enthusiasm to the needs of park visitors. The park is clean and neat even during peak use periods and despite limited resources for maintenance. Reports, records and other administrative tasks are accomplished accurately on or ahead of schedule. The enthusiasm of Swan Lake's staff for customer service is recognized in frequent compliments from visitors," Hartman said.

1993 State Park and Historic Site Outstanding Service Awards were presented to **Steve Barden**, maintenance mechanic supervisor; **Cindy Bastey**, planner; **Thomas Cieslinski**, chief planner; **Thomas Collins**, Fort McClary State Historic Site manager; **Leland Griffin**, Lamoine State Park manager; **Robert Hunt**, Rangeley Lake State Park manager; **Dave Milligan**, Allagash Wilderness Waterway ranger; and **Scott Thompson**, Quoddy Head State Park manager.

All employees need to be aware of new state policy on medical and family leave announced by a recent Employee Notice of Rights to Family and Medical Leave. If you have not received the notice, or have questions, contact your supervisor or **Debra Phillips** at 287-4925.

David Struble received an award for his contributions to the nation's forest health monitoring system during the 71st annual meeting of the National Association of State Foresters (NASF). Forestry officials from all states and U.S. territories attended the September meeting in Bar Harbor. **Sue Bell** welcomed NASF members and invited guests prior to the start of the conference general session, "Framing the Future: Sustaining Long-term Forest Productivity." The meeting was hosted by the Maine Forest Service.

Charles Corliss, Jim Jacobsen, Dorothy Eaton and Gloria Allen hosted an open house at the Land Use Regulation Commission Old Town field office in the Department of Conservation building.

Roger Stanley, MFS mechanic supervisor in Old Town, recently exchanged fire fighting equipment ideas with other forest fire control professionals from throughout the country during a seminar at the USDAFS Research Center in Ross Commons, Michigan.

Woody Thompson's article on the Deer Hill amethyst discovery in Stow, Maine has been accepted for publication in *Rocks & Minerals* magazine. **John Poisson's** color photos of the amethyst gems and crystals will illustrate the piece.

Forest Ranger Pilot **Harold Jones**, who has flown fixed and rotary wing aircraft for forty-six years, received a lifetime achievement award from fellow pilots at the Bingham Fly-in and Air Show.

Nearly 250 K-3 students of SAD 41 helped kickoff **Smokey Bear's** 50th anniversary on October 1 with a birthday cake in Milo. The next day, the Falmouth Fire Department recognized Smokey Bear's Golden Anniversary with a party. Fire Control Supervisor **Tom Parent** presented Falmouth Fire Chief **Jim Robertson** with a plaque citing the department's contributions to fire prevention and public awareness.

The College Conservation Corps of Maine is looking for service projects within commuting distance of Unity College. If you are interested in sponsoring a service project, please contact **Dave Gerkins** at 287-6107.

Stephen Oliveri and Carol DiBello attended the 1993 Submerged Lands Conference in New Brunswick, Canada where Steve presented a paper on "Lease Termination in Maine—Some Case Histories."

Henry Whittemore presented a paper on BPL's approach to integrated resource management at the Northeast Forest Resource Planners' Association Conference in Gettysburg, PA. The theme of the conference was "Forest Resource Planning in an Age of Ecosystem Management."

Prof. **Bjorn Andersen**, a glacial geologist from Oslo, Norway is working with MGS this fall in the Lincoln area. Bjorn is collecting data on the late glacial history of central Maine for the UM/MGS (EPSCoR) study of rapid climate changes since the close of the Ice Age.

Joe Kelley, Steve Dickson and University of Maine geologists have a research paper on seafloor "pockmarks" in Penobscot Bay coming out soon in the journal *Geology*. Thousands of these mysterious craters, some more than 100 meters across, are related to biogenic gas releases from beneath the bay.

An interview with **Ed Meadows** about the Northern Forest Lands Council Findings and Options report will be broadcast by WCSH-TV on October 21. Ed has also accepted an invitation to talk about DOC programs and activities related to Aroostook County on October 13 during the early morning WAGM-TV (Channel 8) *Potato Pickers Special*.

The Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) has been transferred to the Jobs Training Administrative Office within the Department of Labor. MCC will remain in the Harlow Building through the fall and will maintain close working relationships with DOC bureaus in the future according to MCC Director **Ken Spalding**.

Dave Gerkins says the College Conservation Corps (CCCM) began work at Camden Hills State Park on their first service project during the school year. Fifteen corpsmembers and three team leaders are working on the Megunticook Trail constructing rock stairs, treadways and rehabilitating other trail structures. Park Manager **Gordon Bell** and CCCM Team Leaders **Rich Bouchard, Tom Bradbury and Alison Hramiec** are working cooperatively on the Camden Hills project.

Park Manager **Gordon Bell** came to the rescue in September when a first-time hiker at Camden Hills State Park left his party and later became lost in the dark. Gordon and Game Warden **Larry Grant** searched the trails until 2 a.m. when the hiker was found, cold but unharmed, on "Zeke's Lookout."

More than 180 people attended the annual Pine Tree Workshop co-sponsored by the BPR's Off-Road Vehicle Division and the Maine Snowmobile Association. **Scott Ramsay, Jim Mangin and Sue Roderick** made presentations on the Snowmobile Grant Program and **Pat Gordon** distributed educational material.

Nine volunteers from France, Germany, England, Holland and Spain completed an international workcamp coordinated by BPR's **Mike Leighton**. **Wimpy Burnham** was the volunteer coordinator for the month-long program. **Jarvis Johnson** and park managers developed and supervised work projects for the group at several parks and historic sites in BPR's central region according to **Tim Hall**.

Michael Day, a LURC environmental specialist since '91, has accepted a position with the DEP. **Roger Johnstone**, who has been a LURC project analyst since 1988, has accepted a position as hydropower licensing coordinator at Kleinschmidt Associates in Pittsfield starting October 25.

Henry Whittemore, who joined BPL as chief planner in 1990, has accepted a position beginning at the end of the month as northeast regional forester with the Hancock Timber Resource Group. Hancock is a new landowner in New England, having recently acquired 270,000 acres in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont from the James River Company.

Project Learning Tree (PLT) facilitators will meet at the Northern Pines Conference Center October 9-11 to retrain for new curriculum materials according to **Lisa Knauf**, PLT coordinator for the Maine Forest Service. **Melissa Boardman** and **Tom Driscoll** will assist with the program, and **Ed Meadows** will comment on the need for environmental education during Monday's general session. Since PLT began in Maine in 1984, 2,476 educators, who have the potential to deliver conservation education to 47,000 students annually, have been trained.

Elaine Burge has joined Admin. Services as payroll clerk.