

12-1-1993

# Maine Department of Conservation Employee News and Information Bulletin, December 1993

Maine Department of Conservation

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## Recommended Citation

Maine Department of Conservation, "Maine Department of Conservation Employee News and Information Bulletin, December 1993" (1993). *Conservation Newsletters*. 49.  
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# Maine Department of Conservation Employee News and Information December 1993

## BULLETIN

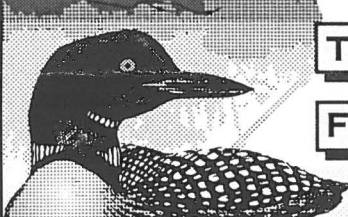
FORESTRY GEOLOGY LAND USE REGULATION PARKS AND RECREATION PUBLIC LANDS

### Conservation License Plate Gift Certificates Available In Time For Christmas



**MAINE**

**TWENTY DOLLARS AND NO CENTS**



TO: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_

**REDEEMABLE ONLY FOR A MAINE CONSERVATION REGISTRATION PLATE**

**A NATURAL TREASURE**

GIFT  
CERTIFICATE  
NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Gift certificates redeemable for a Maine conservation registration plate are now available for \$20 at state motor vehicle registries, participating municipalities\* or by mail to: Conservation Plates, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, State House Station #29, Augusta Maine 04333. Please include a copy of your current registration.

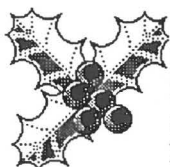
The fee is non-refundable, may be used only for the purchase of a conservation registration plate, and is in addition to the regular \$22 registration fee. To ensure that conservation plates are valid for a full year, wait until the normal re-registration time to redeem the certificate.

The attractive conservation registration plates will be available in April 1, 1994 and will be similar to the design shown on the sample certificate above. Once program costs are reimbursed to the Secretary of State, income will be shared by the Bureau of Parks and Recreation and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

According to BPR Director Herb Hartman, the legislature deappropriated \$300,000 from BPR's FY94 General Fund, All Other account in anticipation of income from the sale of the plates. As a result, BPR has insufficient All Other money for the fourth quarter. Hartman says he expects this issue to be resolved this winter so that parks will be open and operating in the spring.

\* Town offices where conservation gift certificates are available: Acton, Arundel, Auburn, Belfast, Belgrade, Bethel, Brownfield, Buckfield, Buxton, Cambridge, Corinth, Cornville, Cumberland, Dayton, Denmark, Dover-Foxcroft, Eddington, Edgecomb, Eliot, Enfield, Farmingdale, Garland, Georgetown, Gray, Greene, Harmony, Hartford, Hebron, Hiram, Houlton, Jackman, Jonesboro, Kittery, Lamoine, Lyman, Mechanic Falls, Montville, Naples, Newburgh, Newport, Oakland, Otisfield, Palmyra, Parsonfield, Passadumkeag, Portland, Presque Isle, Scarborough, Searsport, Shapleigh, Skowhegan, Smithfield, South Bristol, Solon, St. Albans, Standish, Topsfield, Tremont, Turner, Vassalboro, Waterville, Wayne, Weld, Westport, Wilton, Winn, Winslow and York.

### Commissioner's Column



Enclosed with this paycheck is a Total Quality Management newsletter. The letter was developed by volunteers from the state's Quality Management Council for distribution to all state employees. It is the beginning of regular updates on quality management activities in state government, training schedules, and other items of interest. Beginning in January, a number of training sessions will be available for employees. We will provide information as we receive it on the schedule and availability of such sessions for Department of Conservation employees.

Our department Quality Management Council has begun work on a draft vision statement for the department. This statement will outline general principles on what we would like to be and how we can be the best in protecting and managing the conservation of Maine's natural resources and provide the best possible service to our customers. Once finished, the vision statement will be distributed to employees, and we will provide opportunities for discussing it as part of our Quality Management program.

We thank all those employees who contributed to the MSECCA effort this year. Your support provides important assistance to the citizens and agencies supported by the campaign.

I want to say thanks to each of you for all you have achieved over the last year. It has been a challenge, and we continue to adjust to all the changes. Nevertheless, we accomplished a lot—and the credit goes to each and every employee.

I wish you the very best for the holiday season and in the new year.

**Ed Meadows**

### DOC Efforts to Protect Endangered Wildlife Recognized

Alan Hutchinson, head of Inland Fish & Wildlife's Endangered Species Program, expressed appreciation for DOC efforts to protect Maine's endangered species during a recent meeting with Tom Morrison, BPL; Ancyl Thurston, MFS; Henry Nichols, LURC; and Pat Bailey, BPR.

Hutchinson thanked the Maine Forest Service for alerting landowners to the importance of checking endangered species maps at town offices to see if their planned activities would have an impact on nesting bald eagles. He also praised the Bureau of Parks and Recreation's cooperative efforts to educate visitors and protect endangered least terns and piping plovers at Popham Beach and Reid State Parks. BPR will seek volunteer park naturalists to help with this work in the spring and will review the proposed Essential Habitat designations for least terns and piping plovers in January.

The meeting included a discussion of IF&W's rule-making to adopt:

1. The first definitions of Significant Wildlife Habitat under the Natural Resources Protection Act;

2. A procedure for determining species which will be designated as endangered and threatened under the Maine Endangered Species Act; and

3. New Essential Habitats under the Maine Endangered Species Act.



## **Cooperative Effort Benefits Allagash Hikers**

Three Department of Conservation bureaus have cooperated to give hikers visiting the Round Pond Mountain fire tower in the Allagash an enjoyable and safe experience. The tower, located in T13 R12 on the Bureau of Public Land Round Pond Unit, is reached by hikers via a 2.4 mile trail from Round Pond on the Allagash Wilderness Waterway.

BPL Forester Don Kidder constructed a new observation platform to replace the deteriorating tower cab. The old tower cab was removed and the new platform set in place by helicopter. Air operations were conducted by Maine Forest Service Ranger Pilots Otis Gray and Scott Bates along with Maine Forest Service Aircraft Mechanic Robert Irvine.

Ground support on the project was provided by Maine Forest Service Rangers Roger McLellan, Joe Mints, Ritchie Hafford and Alan Johnston and Allagash Wilderness Waterway Rangers Steve Wiperman and Dave Milligan.

## **MCC Seeks Funding**

The MCC is seeking alternative funding to continue SERVE/Maine. A grant proposal has been developed and submitted to a private company. The proposal is to provide funding for two years as a bridge between state funding, which was cut in the last legislative session, and the time SERVE/Maine would become self sufficient. Part of the proposal includes reinstituting intern positions with stipends.

## **BPR Hosts Workshop on R/W Recreation**

A one-day workshop on the conversion of abandoned railroad corridors to recreational use was held at DOC's Bolton Hill facility on December 8, 1993. The meeting was sponsored by the Bureau of Parks and Recreation, the Maine Department of Transportation and the National Park Service. More than forty people representing state agencies, land trusts, environmental groups and trail user organizations attended.

The workshop agenda included discussions of the current status of abandoned railroad corridor conversions, legal and management issues, future opportunities, and the state trail plan. The plan is being prepared by BPR and MDOT and is scheduled for completion in 1996.

BPR currently has eight railroad rights-of-way conversion of use projects. These abandoned railroad corridors have been purchased, leased or are used for recreation by permit agreement with MDOT or private owners.

## **DOC People**

### **New Hires**

- Geneva Duncan, Forestry, Forester I, Jonesboro
- Barbara Durand, Public Lands, Clerk Typist II, Augusta
- David Rochester, Forestry, Forester I, Houlton
- Scott Whitney, LURC, Environmental Specialist II, Augusta

## **Repairs To Churchill Depot Boarding House Begun**

Crucial repairs to the historic boarding house on the Allagash River at Churchill Dam began this fall. Volunteer contractors worked with BPR staff to replace posts and cribbing and will complete the work in the spring. The volunteer project is being supported with contributions of labor, equipment and materials by dedicated individuals, businesses, landowners and lumber companies.

The famous boarding house was home to loggers and others early in this century when a settlement was located at Churchill Dam. The boarding house is an important attraction for Allagash visitors and is described in several books about the Maine woods including Helen Hamlin's *Nine Mile Bridge*. Hamlin taught at Churchill Depot and lived in the boarding house. Kim Lynch, Ron Hunt, Doug Tyler, Tim Caverly, Tom Coon, Jim Kelly and Sheila McDonald are involved in the project.

## **SCORP Updated**

Governor McKernan will transmit the new State-wide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) this week to the National Park Service for approval. SCORP is updated every five years by the Bureau of Parks and Recreation to maintain eligibility for federal Land and Water Conservation Fund money. The money is available to the state and municipalities to acquire and develop public parks and outdoor recreation areas. The 1993 SCORP was developed with the assistance of six citizen task groups. A steering committee, chaired by Herb Hartman, included representatives from SPO, IF&W, MR, E & CD and the Maine Recreation and Park Association. BPR SCORP staff were: Cindy Bastey, Tom Cieslinski (chief SCORP planner), Mike Gallagher, Herb Hartman, John Picher, Sheila McDonald, Dick Skinner and Ruth Willette.

DOC task group participants were: Brian Bronson, Steve Curtis, Mike Gallagher, George Hannum, Don Mansius, John Picher, Scott Ramsay, Richard Skinner, Steve Spencer, Craig Ten Broeck, Fred Todd and Marshall Wiebe.

## **Parks Receives Bond \$**

As part of the \$15 million water pollution bond issue approved in November, the Bureau of Parks and Recreation will receive \$3.1 million for renovation, repair and replacement of septic systems, sanitary facilities and water supplies. The money will be used at parks and historic sites throughout the state. Water supplies at five parks will be upgraded to meet federal safe drinking water standards. Improvements include new gravel wells or installation of bag filtration systems for surface water supplies.

BPR will administer this major undertaking which is expected to take five years to complete.

## **CCCM News**

Initial plans have been developed for the College Conservation Corps of Maine (CCCM) to work cooperatively with the Maine Forest Service to maintain several fire towers in the Unity area. Regional Ranger Andrew Mendes and District Ranger Douglas Getchell conducted site visits at the Harris Mt. and Frye Mt. towers with CCCM staff to develop a work plan for tower maintenance. Work at the sites is expected to begin after the new year.

CCCM Team Leader Richard Bouchard met with Allagash Wilderness Waterway Supervisor Tim Caverly to develop a winter service project. A CCCM team will work in the Allagash clearing and marking boundary lines during semester break in January.

The CCCM is accepting applications for residential summer projects and internships. Residential projects are for 8 weeks and consist of 6 corpsmembers and a team leader performing outdoor recreation or conservation service projects. Internships are for 10 to 12 weeks. There are a limited number of teams and interns available, so please contact Dave Gerkens at 287-6107 as soon as possible if you are interested in sponsoring a team or intern.

## **BPL Invites Outdoor Writers**

The Bureau of Public Lands is among many Maine organizations and businesses offering field trips to outdoor writers who will attend the Outdoor Writers of America Conference in Orono next June.

BPL is offering one trip to the Donnell Pond Management Unit and another to coastal islands in Penobscot Bay. If the invitation is accepted, BPL's resource and recreation managers will have the opportunity to showcase multiple use management and the bureau's innovative partnership with the Maine Island Trail Association for managing recreational use of public and private coastal islands.