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Maine Department of Conservation Employee News and Information Bulletin, January 1995

Maine Department of Conservation

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Maine Department of Conservation Employee News and Information January 11, 1995

BULLETIN

FORESTRY GEOLOGY LAND USE REGULATION PARKS AND RECREATION PUBLIC LANDS

Commissioner's Column

I wish each of you a very happy new year and a safe and successful 1995. May this be your best year ever to achieve your personal and professional goals.

Governor Angus King has nominated Ronald Lovaglio as conservation commissioner. Mr. Lovaglio, a long-time forester and manager for International Paper company, is well-known to many in the department.

The governor asked me to continue as acting commissioner during the confirmation and transition process. This may extend through February, depending on the legislature's pace. I plan to continue in office during this period and take all possible steps to help guide the transition and continue providing strong support for DOC and our conservation programs. I have contacted Mr. Lovaglio to offer information and assistance.

We will provide periodic updates to you as key decisions are announced by the new administration. I ask each of you to join me during this time in helping ensure continuation of the exemplary work for which we are known.

Recently we were asked to summarize some of the key accomplishments we have achieved in the past few years in the management of state government and the conservation of Maine's natural resources. In putting this summary together it was quickly evident that these accomplishments are a tribute to the collective efforts of DOC employees. We will distribute the summary to the department's "Management Points" so you can see what we have achieved. The summary, "Jobs and Maine's Economy: Moving to the Future with our Natural Resources," underscores the importance of departmental programs to Maine's economy. Of course, such a summary does not enable us to include everything but it does contain the highlights of greatest interest to the department's customers. Thanks to each of you for making these outstanding accomplishments possible.

I look forward to working with you during the coming months and appreciate your expressions of support.

Ed Meadows

Conservation TQM At A Glance

• TQM Firmly Endorsed

Governor King firmly endorsed the TQM concept during a meeting with state managers in mid-December. The governor made it clear that his administration is committed to continuing the quality management process within state government.

• PAT On Safety Discussed By DOC Quality Council

The DOC Quality Council named Sue Meyers, Debbie Phillips and Steve Vondell to a safety process planning team on December 14. The team's work, which includes priority setting and a proposed problem statement, is preparatory to council chartering of a Process Action Team (PAT) on safety. The council's agenda for today's Bolton Hill meeting includes implementation of the DOC vision and values.

• Administrative Services Vision Statement Takes Shape

The Administrative Services Quality Council's second meeting on December 15 was very productive and focused on establishing ground rules and a vision statement according to Will Harris. Work on the vision statement continued yesterday during the group's third meeting.

• BPR Council Minutes Sent To All Bureau Employees

The Bureau of Parks and Recreation Quality Council's first meeting took place in December and included discussion about training, processes, ground rules, and seasonal employee participation. Minutes of the meeting will be sent to all BPR employees. BPR's next quality council meeting is January 18 according to Sheila McDonald.

• BPL's Vision On January 19 Agenda

The Bureau of Public Lands Quality Council held its first meeting in December with Rolanda Klapatch facilitating. The council established ground rules, talked briefly about infrastructure, and elected Tom Morrison as chair. The bureau's vision statement tops the council's January 19 meeting agenda according to Pat Simard.

• LURC Builds TQM Foundation

In December, Shelby Rafter facilitated the Land Use Regulation Commission Quality Council's first meeting according to council member Dave Mercier. The council discussed TQM tools, strategies, and principles needed to create LURC's vision and value statements and to charter a pilot process action team.

• Employees Respond To Communications PAT Survey

About 120 employees from all bureaus responded to the Conservation Intradepartmental Communications PAT survey according to PAT member Mark Loiselle. Approximately 700 employees, including seasonal employees, were invited to participate. The PAT will present its findings and recommendations in late spring.

Conservation Notes

MFS's Insect and Disease Management Division will send 2,000 questionnaires to customers in early February according to **Dave Struble** and **Tom Wood**.

Sixty fire control rangers attended fire suppression tactics training in December. Instructors for the forty-hour course were **Bruce Reed**, **Roddie McLellan** and **Mike Ricci**.

Anne Bills of North Whitefield will fill BPL's Planning and Resource Associate I (Natural Resource) position beginning January 23. Anne has a BS degree in forest management from the University of Maine, Orono and has worked for International Paper Company, most recently as a Landowner Assistance Program forester. Anne is married and has three children.

Christopher Cloutier has been hired as a Forest Ranger II. Cloutier graduated from Unity College, earning a Bachelors Degree in environmental science with an emphasis on conservation law enforcement. After completing the state law enforcement basic school at the criminal justice academy, Cloutier will be permanently assigned to the Masardis area.

Jean Lettre has accepted the Clerk Steno. III position in the Commissioner's Office. Jean promoted from MDOT.

Ranger transfers include: **Joel Davis**, from Island Falls to Alfred. **Jay Bernard** from Alfred to Weld.

Tom Parent presented retiring Game Warden Lt. **Carter Smith** with a plaque for his commitment to interagency cooperative training, and for helping formulate the new state basic law enforcement school. Parent said Carter Smith was a "tremendous partner in training and assisting the fire control division in its day to day operations."

Pat Ebarb, assistant director of the Northeastern Area for the USFS presented an award to the state of Maine and the Maine

Forest Service expressing gratitude for Maine's assistance during this year's outbreak of devastating forest fires in the west. The Maine Forest Service filled a record 158 requests for fire fighters and fire control specialists. A total of 113 individuals, including rangers and civilians assisted with fire control efforts in the west. During the December 15 ceremony, a special posthumous award to **Carl Bowen** was presented to **Mrs. Carl Bowen** of Morrill, and Forest Fire Prevention Specialist **James Downie** received the Eugene F. McNamara Wildfire Prevention Award.

Tom Morrison and **Robin Smith** recently inspected the 5.4 mile hiking trail loop completed on the BPL's Cutler Coast Unit by Conservation Corps teams supervised by **Tom Bradbury**. Morrison was impressed by the quality and artistry of the stone steps and bog bridges the crews built to protect the trail to and along the spectacular coastal cliff-tops.

Bigelow Preserve Lodge on the south shore of Flagstaff Lake in Dead River Township has opened to snowmobilers, cross country skiers and other weekend travelers. **John Hinkley** is lodge attendant. New trails have been developed which tie into points west to Rangeley and points north to Canada. Spectacular vistas continue to be a big draw in this area. The season has been known to stretch into mid-March. For more information on snowmobiling and skiing on the Bigelow Preserve, contact **Steve Swatling**, preserve manager, Maine Bureau of Public Lands, Western Region Office, Farmington, Maine Telephone (207) 778-4111.

A number of forest rangers have attended an introduction to wildland fire behavior course taught by Rangers **Doug Getchell**, **Ken Wing** and **Gregg Hesslen**.

Maine's program for wetland regulation will be streamlined and more predictable if changes proposed by the Wetlands Task Force are enacted according to **Don Mansius**. Don and **Henry Nichols** of LURC represent DOC on the task force which will present its report to the Legislature by February 1, 1995.

Tom Doak is serving on a seven-person task force appointed by U.S. Forest Service Chief **Jack Ward Thomas** to review the Forest Legacy Program and make recommendations for improvements. The task force expects to brief Chief Thomas on their findings in February.

Liz Cody, **Lisa Sirols**, **Dot Arbour** and **Betty Barry** of the MFS recently helped prepare and mail over 7,300 landowner report forms.

Joe Kelley and **Steve Dickson** of the Maine Geological Survey presented the findings of a study entitled "A Sand Budget for Saco Bay, Maine" to the Old Orchard Beach Town Council at their regular meeting on January 3rd. Contemporary and historical information on beach erosion, storm damage and river dredging are part of the MGS Open-File report to be released later this month.

Steve Spencer described Bureau of Public Lands' coastal island recreation management at a January 7 conference on seabird nesting in Penobscot Bay hosted by the Island Institute in Rockland.

Forest Rangers **Joe Mints**, **Matt Gomes** and **Shane Nichols**, attended methods of instruction training.

Jim Mangin of BPR's snowmobile program recently spoke to representatives of fifteen central Maine snowmobile clubs. Jim discussed trail design and construction, and bridge building with the group.