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A Report on Maine Forests Parks & Lands, Winter 1989-90

Maine Department of Conservation

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a
report
on

maine



Forests Parks & Lands

News from the Maine Department of Conservation

Winter 1989-90

BPR Snowmobile Program Boosts Winter Recreation, Economic Activity

This winter marks the 20th snow season for the Bureau of Parks and Recreation's Snowmobile Program. The program, with its innovative partnership among local snowmobile clubs, private landowners, municipalities, volunteers, and the Maine Snowmobile Association, has participated in the growth of snowmobiling from a controversial new pastime to today's well-organized, broadly supported winter recreational activity.

Over the past twenty years, the Bureau's Snowmobile Program has also been a major player in the development of recreational snowmobiling into a significant component of Maine's winter tourism industry.

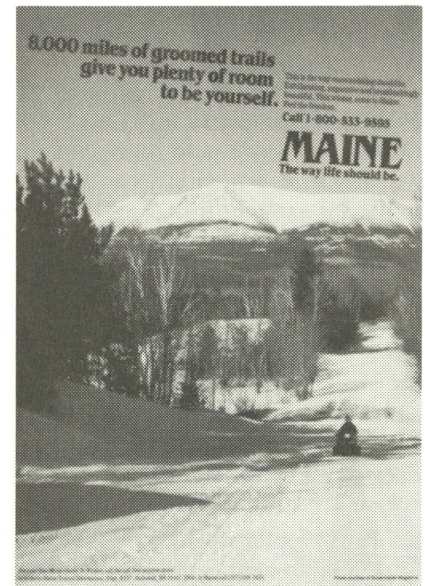
The Snowmobile Program is funded by portions of the gasoline tax and the annual fee snowmobilers pay to register their machines. Through this revenue source, the program awards grants to clubs and municipalities for trail development and maintenance, promotes responsible snowmobile use, provides technical

assistance, and coordinates activities essential for the growth and well-being of the sport. This winter, the program will return approximately \$500,000 to local clubs and towns to offset the costs of trail maintenance.

With program support and local contributions, nearly 30,000 snowmobile operators, organized into 260 clubs, are involved in the development and maintenance of 6,000 miles of club trails in Maine. Seventy municipalities working with clubs, Chambers of Commerce, and contractors, operate and maintain another 3,000 miles of main artery connecting trails. The latest addition to this trail network is the Northeast Snowmobile Trail, which will run through Maine and connect New Brunswick and Pennsylvania with a groomed snowmobile trail.

Ninety five percent of snowmobile trails in Maine are on private land. The success of the Bureau's Snowmobile Program and the sport greatly depends on the cooperation of the thousands of large and small private landowners across the state. These landowners have seen trail use increase dramatically with as many as 1,000 snowmobiles a week in some areas. A higher volume of trail use has meant more land use pressure and increasing demands on clubs to acquire larger, more expensive equipment to groom wider trails.

The impact of snowmobiling on state and local economies has echoed the growth in other facets of the sport. Recent studies in Millinocket have shown that snowmobiling generated over \$1.1 million to the local economy in 1987-88. Similar studies in Caribou have shown over \$1.6 million in economic impact there. No statewide economic analysis has been developed



Ads promoting Maine snowmobiling are appearing in national magazines. Ad courtesy of the Maine Office of Tourism.

recently, but estimates indicate that the impact of snowmobiling is over \$50 million annually.

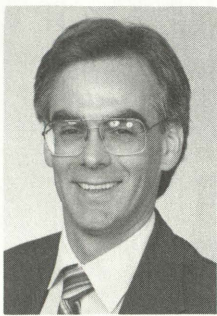
The popularity of snowmobiling and the cooperation of volunteers, clubs, the Maine Snowmobile Association, and local governments have been key to the success of the Bureau's Snowmobile Program. Although concerns are emerging over the high speeds modern snowmobiles are able to attain, the next twenty years bode well for the continued well-managed growth and overall quality of snowmobiling as a vital winter recreational activity. □

Scott Ramsay
Bureau of Parks and Recreation

For more information about the Snowmobile Program, contact the Off-Road Vehicle Division, Bureau of Parks and Recreation, Station 22, Augusta, Maine 04333.



Photo by John Patriquin, Maine Sunday Telegram.



Commissioner's Column

C. Edwin Meadows, Jr.
Commissioner

The Department of Conservation is changing as Maine grows and changes. This column is a brief look at what we have been doing to meet the challenge of natural resource management and protection in this climate of change.

The Department has responded by developing innovative and cost effective approaches to management, ensuring that proper environmental standards are met in a timely fashion. A few of the many successes achieved in 1989 include:

- * The Maine Forest Service has been consolidated, featuring updated equipment and methods of fire detection, prevention, and control to reduce the number of facilities and free up the work force to perform additional needed functions;
- * Streamlined LURC procedures now provide more timely analysis and action on applications and violations, while increasing environmental protection. Maine Forest Rangers were trained to help with enforcement;
- * A formal course has been developed with assistance from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to provide training of department staff in the enforcement of conservation laws;
- * The job training efforts of the Maine Conservation Corps were increased. The Corps completed 36 conservation projects to benefit the public and helped 145 individuals develop useful job skills;
- * Permanent funding for the Department's marine geology program was secured;
- * Increased funds for repairs and equipment for State Park and Historic Sites have been provided. Prisoners from state and local correctional centers assisted with maintenance at State Park facilities;
- * The State's ability to manage important coastal and inland submerged lands has increased;
- * Several new important public land acquisitions were made;

* Internal department operations were computerized;

* A state-of-the-art affirmative action program was launched with training available to all department supervisors.

These accomplishments and others were achieved while we continued to carry out the Department's major public service and natural resource management functions. All of these successes are testimony to how well Department employees are performing their "old" jobs as well as the new ones which are growing and changing in response to emerging issues.

Some of the challenges which lie immediately ahead include:

- * Implementation of the Forest Practices Act;
- * Relicensing review of 35 hydroelectric projects;
- * Development of scientific data needed for sound decisions affecting solid waste disposal, ground water protection, and coastal planning;
- * Appropriate state action on the Northern Forest Lands Study;
- * Preparing for the decennial forest survey;
- * Pursuit of additional public land in conjunction with the Land for Maine's Future program;
- * Major capital improvement projects at Maine's invaluable State Historic Sites and Parks;
- * Additional coordination of our programs with those of other departments relating to laws which give agencies joint jurisdiction over the same issue.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see many other examples of the changing trends and increasing complexity of natural resource management issues of concern to the Department of Conservation.

Thank you and good reading. As always, your comments are welcome.

DOC Installs GIS

A Geographic Information System (GIS) is being installed at the Department of Conservation, and key staff are participating in a GIS inter-agency planning process established by Governor McKernan.

GIS is a sophisticated computer system designed for the storage, analysis, and output of spatial data. A GIS system ties graphic and descriptive information together and displays the data through graphics such as maps. Map layers can be overlain and combined to generate new types of maps.

Natural resource data—forest, wildlife, bedrock, water resources, clam flats, soil—are almost exclusively spatial data. Map related data is essential to many programs, and GIS can be a useful tool in natural resource inventories, as well as in permitting, regulatory, planning, and siting processes. As the State of Maine grapples with issues such as the siting of solid waste facilities, a geographic information system can integrate a variety of natural resource and socioeconomic factors in making more accurate and timely decisions.

One of the immediate goals at the Department of Conservation is putting the basic program in place. Dan Walters, former project manager for the Rhode Island Geographic Information System at the University of Rhode Island, is the new GIS Administrator. Converting existing ground-water information will be the first GIS project.

In May of 1989, Governor McKernan issued an Executive Order establishing a GIS Steering Committee to provide leadership, promote, plan, direct, and coordinate the development and implementation of a statewide GIS. Membership on the Steering Committee includes policy level representatives from federal, state, and local governments, the University of Maine and private industry. Ed Meadows and Chip Morrison, Commissioner of Administration, are co-chairing the committee. The Office of Information Services in conjunction with Sue Bell and Bob Marvinney (MGS) are staffing the planning process. □

Sue Bell
Department of Conservation

Your Public Lands : PINELAND

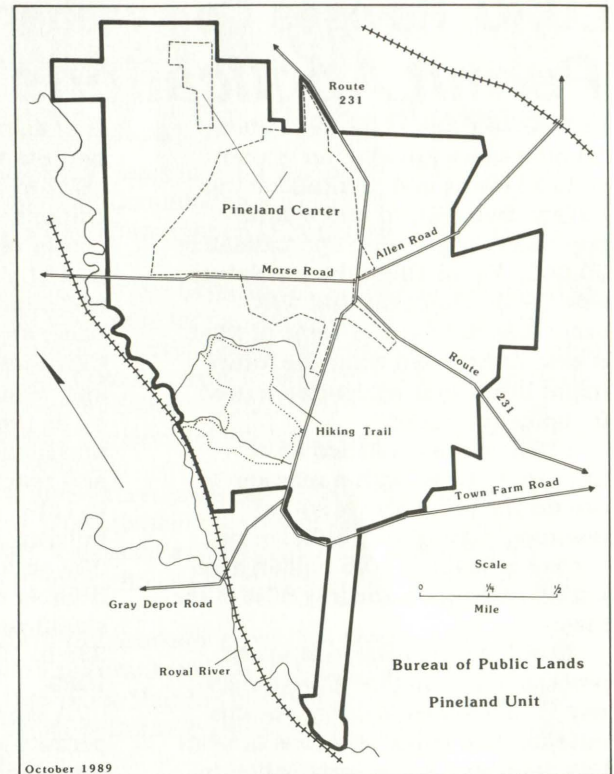
✓ **General Description:** This 1200 acre parcel in Gray, New Gloucester, Pownal and North Yarmouth, is managed by the Bureau of Public Lands for wildlife, recreation, timber and agricultural resources.

✓ **How to get there:** Pineland is located approximately half way between Lewiston and Portland, and is roughly a thirty minute drive from either city. From the Maine Turnpike, take exit 11 in Gray and head east on Route 115 for 2 miles, take a left onto the Depot road and in another 3 miles you will reach the parking area and trailhead. The Depot road can also be reached by Route 231 (see map at right).

✓ **What to see and do:** Pineland is an ideal place for a family outing to enjoy the woods and open space that make Maine special. A one and one-half mile trail built by the Maine Conservation Corps loops through scenic woodlands and is open year round for hiking or cross-country skiing. A second loop and a picnic area are planned for construction in 1990. Pineland is a good place to see and photograph Maine wildlife. It is also open to hunting, but hunters should be careful to stay a safe distance away from the hospital and grounds of the Pineland Center.

✓ **Wildlife Management:** Pineland's forests, fields, and streams provide cover for deer, fox, grouse, beaver, herons, wood ducks and songbirds. The Bureau's management goals are to ensure that the rich mix of cover types is maintained and that the area will continue to be a haven for wildlife.

✓ **Timber Management:** Timber management is a small but important part of the multiple use plan for Pineland. The objective at Pineland is to produce high value sawlogs and veneer, enhance wildlife habitat, and retain the scenic and recreational value of the area. □



Map by Jeanne Kannegieser, BPL

Stephen Spencer
Bureau of Public Lands



Maine wreath makers like Lucille Veinote of Newburgh, pictured above, will make more than three million wreaths this year, with a retail value of \$12-15 million. Maine Christmas tree growers are expected to harvest about 300,000 trees in 1989, with an approximate retail value of \$7 million.

Management of Submerged Lands Expanded

Maine's 114th Legislature enacted significant changes in Maine's Submerged Lands Law. The Bureau of Public Lands, which has the responsibility for managing publicly-owned submerged lands (see "Maine's Largest Public Ownership Is Submerged," FP & L Winter 1988-1989 issue), will be expanding its Submerged Lands Program.

New developments are:

- Rental fees for submerged land leases will now reflect local property values;
- All "grandfathered" structures will have to be registered;
- Key elements of the commercial fishing industry will be protected from further encroachment;
- The Bureau will study how submerged land rental rates on lake-shores differ when several towns or unorganized territories border the lake;
- The Bureau will conduct a study of the environmental impact, methods and cost of removing eleven abandoned vessels, identified in an earlier study;
- The Bureau will encourage communities to develop comprehensive harbor management plans.

To carry out these new programs, the Legislature created the position of Submerged Lands Coordinator, which the Bureau expects to fill in the very near future. □

Stephen Oliveri
Bureau of Public Lands

LURC Revises Comprehensive Plan

Permit Applications Increase Significantly

In 1969, the Land Use Regulation Commission's jurisdiction of unorganized towns and plantations was largely undeveloped and sparsely populated, population approximately 10,000. Yet in 1969, the legislature saw the development that was occurring, did not like some of what it saw, anticipated what the future might bring, and recognized a need for some regulation.

LURC was established as of October 1, 1969, with a mission to extend the principles of sound planning, zoning, and subdivision control to Maine's 10.5 million acre unorganized area, roughly 50% of the state.

Now the Commission is in the process of revising the Comprehensive Plan adopted to carry out this mission, and is taking a look at what has happened in the jurisdiction in the last 20 years: How much and what sort of development has occurred, and where?

The overwhelming majority of activity is for seasonal camps and permanent homes. Records show

that approximately 5407 building permits were issued for dwellings from 1972 to 1989. There are four concentrations of activity: in the northeast corner of the state, south of Fort Kent and St. Agatha; along the northwest and southeast shores of Moosehead Lake; around the organized towns of Carrabassett Valley and Rangeley; and west of Millinocket.

In 1989, construction of camps and homes in the wildlands is growing and reaching a new high. From 1972 to 1984, the number of residential building permits ranged from 184 to 309 annually. Since 1985, the number of building permits has significantly increased, growing from 335 in 1985 to a projected 800 in 1989.

A large percentage of the building permits are for development of shoreland. In the last 5 years, 41% of building permits were for camps and homes on lakes. For the future, the Commission's new Lakes Action Program will provide new tools and direction to this home building, preserving our outstanding and

significant lake related resources, and permitting development on those lakes most able to absorb future development.

A look at the permits issued also shows that most of the property owners are from Maine. A sample of building permits from 1989 showed that 77% of the owners were permanent Maine residents.

Camps and permanent homes being built today have less impact on the environment than those built before LURC. Dwellings are set back from the shorelines of ponds and streams, buffer strips of trees and vegetation are being preserved to protect water quality and scenic values, and each camp or home is designed with an adequate sewage disposal system on suitable soils.

As the Commission develops the comprehensive plan for the years ahead, it will continue to assess the development that has occurred and include it in a vision of the future for the wildlands. □

Jeff TenPas

Land Use Regulation Commission

BPL Cites Timber Management Goals

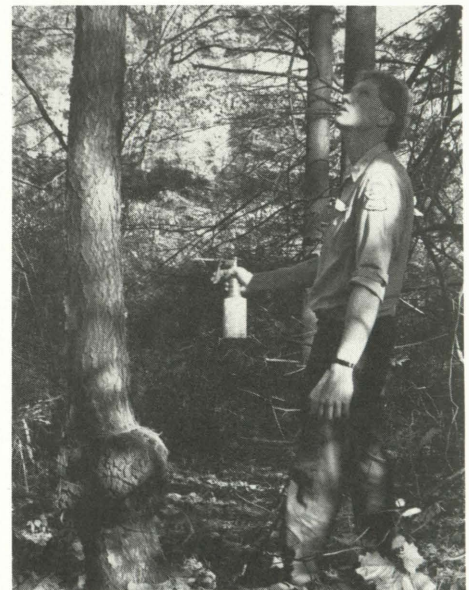
The amount of timber harvested from Public Lands is carefully controlled to ensure that the quantity of wood removed in any given year does not exceed annual growth. If adverse circumstances such as insects or disease make a larger harvest desirable in one year, it is balanced by a lowered harvest in subsequent years. At present, the Bureau is only cutting an estimated 50-70% of net annual growth. Income derived from silvicultural treatment and harvesting funds all Bureau activities including wildlife and recreation projects as well as timber management.

Not all of the land managed by the Bureau is available for harvesting; some of it is on steep slopes or other sensitive areas where cutting is often not feasible or desirable. Out of 450,000 acres, 75%, or roughly 335,000 acres, are available for timber production; the other 115,000 acres will be harvested seldom or not at all.

The Bureau manages for high quality wood products, such as sawlogs, which must be allowed to grow for 100 years or more. Where even-aged trees make up the stand, intermediate cuts are used to remove shorter lived or poorer quality trees, leaving more room for the "crop" trees. In uneven-aged stands, a partial cut typically is done every twenty years, so that new age-classes of trees are continually being established. Thus, the harvest interval for uneven-aged management allows an entry onto one-twentieth of the Bureau's uneven-aged forest, and the 100-year "rotation" age for even-aged stands dictates regenerating 1% of the even-aged forest annually, with another 2 or 3% being thinned.

To determine exactly when and where to cut and which methods to use, Bureau foresters examine each stand and prescribe a treatment based on silvicultural needs. Each prescription is reviewed by the Bureau's professional foresters and wildlife and recreation specialists, and often by outside agencies. In addition, the Bureau's silvicultural activities are reviewed by an independent silvicultural advisory committee. □

Tom Charles, Bureau of Public Lands



Matt Foust, BPL Forest Technician, marks a poor quality tree for removal for timber stand improvement.

DOC Launches Affirmative Action Plan

The Department of Conservation's programs deal with this state's diverse natural resources. As a public agency, the Department serves the needs of these resources and the interests of the taxpayers concerned about them. The Department of Conservation is also an employer. As such we deal with another resource, equally diverse. The human resources of the Department are critical to the programs we manage and essential to fulfilling our mandated responsibilities.

This month the Department completed an Affirmative Action Plan. This document outlines DOC's goals regarding Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action. Historically, many of the jobs at Conservation have been technically based, field oriented or related to law enforcement. This type of work has been considered non-traditional for members of the workforce such as women, minorities and people with disabilities. However, the workforce in the State of Maine is changing. Like other areas, Maine is facing a slower growing, aging and more diversified pool of labor. To ensure that our future employment needs are met, the Department is planning to take action to promote opportunities in the natural resource areas for women, minorities and people with disabilities.

The ultimate goal of the program is *"to have a fair personnel system which facilitates the employment and advancement of all persons."* The plan outlines specific actions the Department will take in the areas of recruitment, selection and training in an effort to meet this challenge. For more information about the plan or the Department's goals, contact Catherine Ward, AAO, Station 22, Augusta, ME 04330. □

Catherine Ward
Department of Conservation

Eighty Graduate from Conservation Law Academy

This year, eighty Forest Rangers, Park Rangers, Park Managers, Park Regional Supervisors, and Land Use Regulation Commission staff graduated from the first two sessions of the Department's new Conservation Officer Law Enforcement Academy.

The 170 hour course was designed by the Department in conjunction with the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to provide formal basic training for all department personnel with law enforcement responsibilities. The course was presented by staff from the State Law Enforcement Academy in Waterville and visiting specialists from the Offices of the Attorney General and District Attorney and Departments of Public Safety, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Marine Resources, Agriculture, Conservation, and Corrections.

The Academy equipped the Conservation personnel with skills and knowledge essential to the law enforcement professional: courtroom procedures, self-defense, public relations, conflict resolution and techniques of investigation, observation, and arrest. Daily physical fitness training was part of the four-week resident session.

Forest Rangers graduating from the Academy agree that they are now much better prepared to protect Maine's natural resources through law enforcement when necessary. In addition, they agree that the knowledge acquired from the intensive course will help them deal better with the increasingly confrontational environment in which they work.

Personnel attending from the Bureau of Parks and Recreation felt strongly that the training provided by the Academy greater developed the skills and confidence required to effectively interact with the public and to deal with the difficult situations that may arise during field operations.

The Department plans to provide this training opportunity to all its designated law enforcement staff and is currently planning a third Academy set to begin in January. □

Thomas Parent, Maine Forest Service
John Titus, Bureau of Parks and Recreation

As Winter Approaches Coastal Storms Threaten

Winter gales along the Maine coast are generated by atmospheric low pressure systems and cause coastal flooding and erosion as they track through New England and the Gulf of Maine. Nine out of the 10 worst coastal storms in Maine were "northeasters." Winter northeasters will continue to threaten lives and cause millions of dollars in property damage in the years to come.

Coastal storm surges cause ocean levels to become elevated 1 to 3 feet below the storm center and act to elevate the tides. Astronomically enhanced tides raise ocean levels 2-3 feet above mean high water. The combined effects of storm surge and exceptionally high tides bring sea levels as much as 5 feet above mean high water a few times each century.

The most notable gales were the February 19, 1972 storm and the January 9 and February 7-8 storms

of 1978. The second 1978 storm had a flood level of 5 feet above mean high water in the Portland area. The 1972 storm caused \$2 million in damages in York County while the February 1978 storm caused \$20 million in damages there and \$80 million statewide.

Maine narrowly escaped a "100-year storm" in January 1989. On January 4, a rapidly intensifying northeaster formed east of the mid-Atlantic states and tracked through the Gulf of Maine. With 96 mile per hour sustained winds, 38 foot seas, and a 943 millibar central pressure, this storm was more intense than the February, 1978 blizzard. Had this storm travelled a more westerly course, Maine would have probably sustained millions of dollars in coastal property damage. □

Steve Dickson
Maine Geological Survey

Highlights of Maine's Forest Practices Act

The Forest Practices Act, passed during the last legislative session, significantly increases the Maine Forest Service's ability to monitor and protect forest resources. Major points of the Act include:

- **More Foresters in the Field** - 6 more for 1989 and 2 more in 1990. These increases will double the size of the field forester staff, providing significantly more assistance to private landowners.
- **Educational Assistance** - A Natural Resource Educator will be hired in 1990 to develop and coordinate natural resource education, workshops and training opportunities for school age children, forest landowners, forest product harvesters and forest managers. This employee will work closely with the Department of Educational and Cultural Services to integrate forestry and forest science programs into public schools.
- **Better Tracking of Harvesting Activity** - Starting on January 1, 1990, all landowners/contractors harvesting wood will be required to file prior notice of their operation to the Forest Service. The information received through the notification process, coupled with the existing law requiring landowners to report silvicultural methods and volume of wood harvested by species and product, will greatly enhance the Forest Service's ability to monitor changes in the forest.
- **Improved Information Services** - A toll-free 1-800 information service is being established to answer questions and handle referrals on a wide range of topics relating to natural resource management, including wildlife, forest and reservation management options and soil conservation, insect and disease management practices.
- **New Harvesting Rules** - By September 1, 1990, the Department will develop rules for clearcutting and regeneration standards. In addition, for any clearcut over 50 acres, a forest management plan conforming to these standards must be prepared by a professional forester in advance of the harvest. The Maine Forest Service will be conducting workshops throughout the State to solicit comments regarding clearcutting and regeneration standards prior to rules being adopted.

There are many other components to the Forest Practices Act. Anyone with an interest in the new law, particularly landowners and wood contractors, are encouraged to review a copy of the Act and attend the public workshops. A more detailed summary of the Forest Practices Act is available from the Maine Forest Service. □

Thomas Doak
Maine Forest Service



Maine Forest Service Director John Cashwell presents Governor McKernan with The National Woodland Owners Association Award recognizing the State of Maine for the Outstanding New State Forestry Law of 1989. Photo by Randal Tunks.

Forest Practices Act Wins National Award

Maine's Forest Practices Act has been selected by the National Woodland Owners Association as the Outstanding New State Forestry Law of 1989.

An independent organization of non-industrial, private forest owners in all 50 states, the Association described Maine's new law as model legislation for the sensitive regulation of landowner's rights, forest industry's long term needs, and the public's concern for good forest practices. □

Forest Ranger Dewayne Long, takes a snow core and measures snow depth during last winter's snow survey. The snow sample is then weighed to estimate the water content of snow, and the two measurements (depth and water content) used to estimate the total inches of water in the snow pack. Photo by Marc Loiselle.



Survey Provides Data on Flood Risks

Estimating the volume of water stored in the snow pack is an important part of an annual effort to evaluate the potential for spring flooding on Maine's rivers. Last spring, employees from the Maine Forest Service and Maine Geological Survey assisted in collecting data for the snow survey, measuring snow depth and water content in the mid-Maine area every two weeks from mid-January to mid-April. Measurements made by Department of Conservation employees furnished roughly 20 percent of the data used in constructing the mid-March snow pack map used in evaluating flood potential. Conservation employees who assisted in the snow survey were Marc Loiselle from the Maine Geological Survey and Stephen Day, Dewayne Long, and Paul Perry from the Maine Forest Service. □

Marc Loiselle
Maine Geological Survey

Bureaus Acquire Major New Land Parcels

The amount of publicly owned land administered by the Department of Conservation will increase by 3,085 acres with the recent or pending acquisitions of four properties using the Land for Maine's Future Fund. The \$35 million fund, approved by Maine voters in a 1987 referendum, provides funding for the acquisition of land for conservation, outdoor recreation, and wildlife purposes.

The Department's Bureau of Parks and Recreation will hold the deeds to three parcels, which include 85 acres at Shackford Head in Eastport, 100 acres at Sandy Point in Stockton Springs, and 800 acres on Mt. Kineo in Kineo Township. The Bureau of Public Lands will hold the deed to the largest parcel- 2,100 acres in Cutler.

Shackford Head, a wooded and rocky peninsula with two and one-half miles of shoreline on Cobscook Bay, includes scenic beaches, coves, rock formations, and forest. These features provide a variety of habitats as well as coastal access and recreational opportunities. The Bureau of Parks and Recreation will manage Shackford Head and plans to provide minimal access improvements including parking, trails, and sanitary facilities.

Sandy Point, includes 3,000 feet

of undeveloped coastal shore front with significant public beach access to the mid-coast and Bangor areas. Through a lease from the Bureau of Parks and Recreation, the town of Stockton Springs and the Stockton Springs Development Corporation will assume management responsibilities for Sandy Point and plan to ensure continued public access for recreation and the development of parking and sanitary facilities.

Mt. Kineo, (the peninsula's northern three-quarters) includes three and a half miles of shoreline, the Hardscrabble Point camping area, trails to the summit, and forested mountain slopes. The parcel will be

managed by the Bureau of Parks and Recreation to include hiking trails, primitive camping, and the preservation of Mt. Kineo's habitats, scenic beauty, and cultural resources.

The **Cutler** parcel includes four and one half miles of Washington County's easternmost "Bold Coast." The sparsely vegetated coastal headlands and windblown spruce fir forests are a natural ecosystem type endemic to the region. The Bureau of Public Lands will manage the property primarily for low impact recreation consistent with its natural character. Over half the land is forested. □

Herb Hartman

Bureau of Parks and Recreation



Mt. Kineo rises 700 feet from the frozen surface of Moosehead Lake. This Maine landmark will soon be managed by the Bureau of Parks and Recreation. Photo courtesy Land for Maine's Future Program.

Maine Forest Service Role Undergoes Change

There have been many changes to the Maine Forest Service in the past few years. Earlier trends of reduced staff and funding have been reversed, and the role of the Maine Forest Service has been redefined to meet current natural resource management challenges.

The Fire Control Division is now staffed by full time Forest Rangers. By reducing the total number of rangers and making year-round employees, the Bureau will be better able to manage its resources and meet its new responsibilities while increasing the Division's level of professionalism. New responsibilities include enforcement of forest related environmental as well as fire control laws. Training to meet these expanded duties has been stepped up with a variety of new training programs in progress.

The Insect & Disease Manage-

ment Division will continue its traditional role of forest monitoring and will implement a forest health monitoring system for atmospheric deposition and climatic change, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and private landowners.

The Management Division will double in size in the next year as the result of recent legislation. Divisional offices will be established in existing Fire Control locations for efficient delivery of services. New legislative mandates, such as growth management and forest practices, will add to the customary workload of this Division and will require additional training of field employees. Field foresters will provide technical assistance, help landowners define their objectives, and administer cost-share programs. In order to reach more people, they will not mark wood lots or supervise harvest operations.

A new Division of Policy, Planning and Information will collect, analyze, and publish information called for in the Forest Practices Act and provide natural resource management information to the general public. The Division will maintain a toll free number to answer questions about the forests of Maine and provide a referral service. The legislative program and growth management planning will be coordinated in this Division.

The Maine Forest Service will continue to be responsible for many of the traditional programs, but will be approaching those responsibilities differently. There are many changes going on in the Maine woods. The Maine Forest Service has redirected its efforts to keep pace with these changes. □

John Cashwell

Maine Forest Service



Maine Department of Conservation
State House Station #22
Augusta ME 04333

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Forest Service 289-2791
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Marshall T. Wiebe, Editor

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WINTER ACTIVITIES AT STATE PARKS AND PUBLIC RESERVED LANDS

Mt. Blue State Park in Weld will offer guided cross-country ski tours for groups by request from December through March. For more information or to arrange a tour, contact Bruce Farnam at 585-2261.

Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park in Freeport offers winter nature programs for groups and the general public in February. Public programs begin at the gate at 2:00 P.M. on Sundays, weather permitting, and group programs are offered Sunday through Thursday. For more information or to arrange a tour, contact Pat Bailey at 289-3821.

Many state parks and public reserved lands offer cross-country skiing trails. For more information about these trails, write to the Bureau of Parks and Recreation, Department of Conservation, Station 22, Augusta, Maine 04333. □

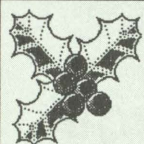
Volunteers SERVE/Maine

From Maine's mountain peaks to its ocean floor, SERVE/Maine volunteers continue to undertake ambitious assignments. While fire tower volunteers provided additional support to the Maine Forest Service during peak fire danger season this summer, amateur scuba divers will be working in the Gulf of Maine researching the sea urchin population with the Department of Marine Resources this winter.

During the summer, a visiting forester from China worked on a computer project for the Bureau of Public Lands while three International Work Camps brought participants from as far away as Algeria to work on maintaining hiking trails, repairing campground facilities and improving wildlife habitats.

A 1990 Volunteer Directory, available in late February, will outline details of many exciting new volunteer opportunities. The deadline for agencies to submit projects for inclusion in the Directory is January 17, 1989. Contact Libbey Seigars at SERVE/Maine, Department of Conservation, State House Station #22, Augusta, ME 04333, (207) 289-4945 to receive the Directory and a SERVE/Maine Application. □

Joan Saxe,
Maine Conservation Corps



HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

from the Department of Conservation

The Maine Geological Survey has several publications that would make ideal gifts for persons interested in Maine's natural history. These include two popular recently published booklets: ***The Geology of Mount Desert Island - A Visitor's Guide to the Geology of Acadia National Park*** and ***A Collector's Guide to Maine Mineral Localities***.

Other MGS publications describe the geologic history of Sebago Lake, Mount Blue, Two Lights, and Crescent Beach State Parks. Topographic maps are also available from MGS, and are useful to hikers or anyone wishing to know more about the terrain in a particular area. A complete list of publications and ordering information are available from: Maine Geological Survey, State House Station 22, Augusta, Maine 04333; Phone (207) 289-2801

Season passes for frequent visitors to Maine's State Parks and Historic Sites are being offered by the Bureau of Parks and Recreation. Passes may be purchased either for individuals or families.

For the first time this year, gift givers may also purchase **camping certificates** for those camping enthusiasts on their lists. Camping certificates must be for a specified length of time and a specified state park as identified by the gift giver.

For more information about season passes or camping certificates, contact: Bureau of Parks and Recreation, Station 22, Augusta, Maine 04333; Phone (207) 289-3821. □