

Summer 7-1-1990

A Report on Maine Forests Parks & Lands, Summer 1990

Maine Department of Conservation

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a
report
on

maine



Forests Parks & Lands

News from the Maine Department of Conservation

Summer 1990

Natural Resource Decisions Aided by New Geographic Information System

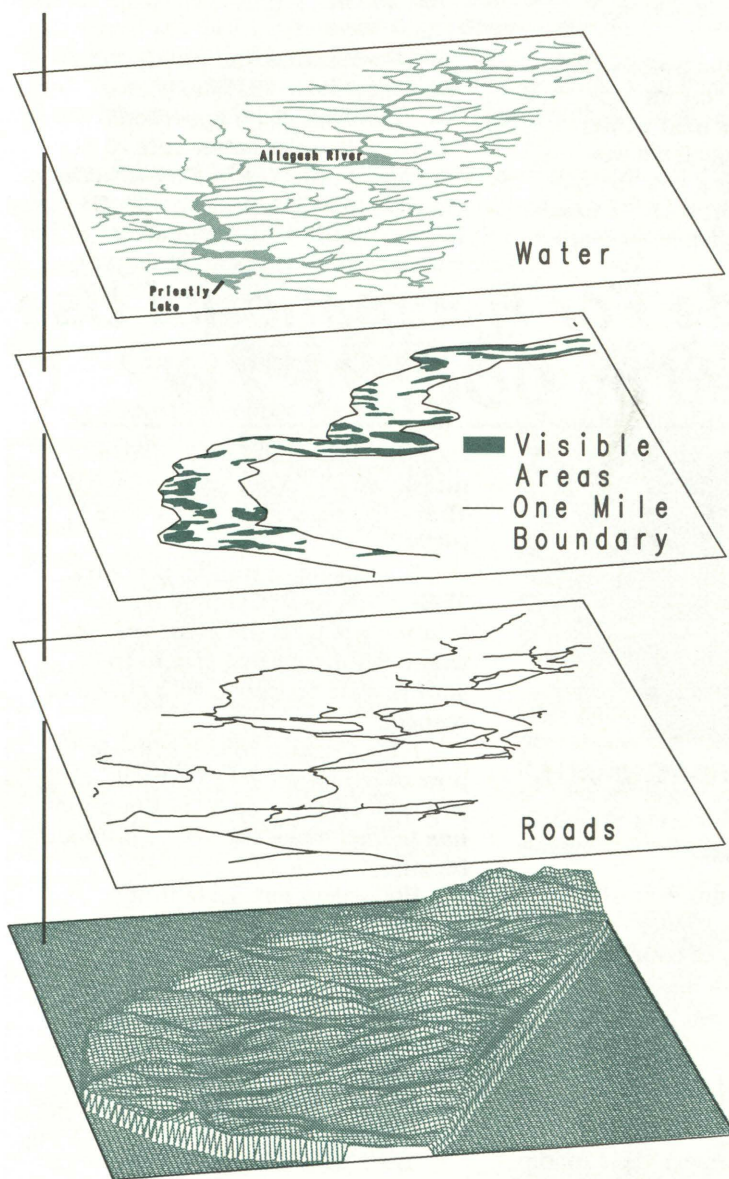


Figure 1- Each "spatial data layer" needed for the Allagash Wilderness Waterway application was acquired or digitized and added to the GIS database. Final products will include interpretive maps and reports.

In January, the doors to Maine state government's first Geographic Information System (GIS) were opened. Since then, it has been "full speed ahead" as state agencies have quickly embraced this new computer technology. Numerous state agencies are using the facility to design and implement GIS pilot projects.

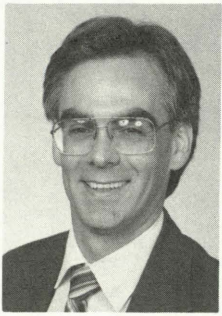
The Department of Conservation, which is administering the program and supplying technical support, is also beginning to use GIS. The Maine Geological Survey (MGS), which began working towards GIS capability 5 years ago, has been the primary force behind the department's system and the state's efforts to implement GIS in a comprehensive fashion.

MGS is currently working toward complete automation of their natural resource database. In the future, the inventory, update and analysis of data, and production of hard copy and digital products will take place in the GIS environment. The many scientific endeavors of the survey will bring to bear the full power of GIS.

GIS is also being incorporated into the Bureau of Parks and Recreation toolbox. The bureau is responsible for assuring that timber harvests in visible areas within one mile of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway north of Churchill Dam are screened from canoeists and fishermen. The GIS application involves acquiring or digitizing the location of the waterway, one mile boundary, designated "visible areas," topography and timber harvest location (see figure 1). As new timber harvest applications are reviewed, their locations will be digitized and immediately displayed on a computer screen or paper map with the other data layers. Information about prior timber harvests in that vicinity can be extracted from the database associated with the map features.

To examine the effects of a proposed mining operation in Lower Enchanted Pond Township, LURC is designing a GIS application and database. The study will yield GIS coverages of soils, topography, hydrography, transportation, LURC zoning, wetlands surficial geology and bedrock geology. Once in the GIS database, the data layers can be overlayed and analyzed to help program managers and field inspectors assess the potential impact of the mining project on the environment. Prior applications and violations for the same geographic area will be added to the database. Methodologies will be tested to tie LURC's report requirements to the unique spatial data handling ability of GIS. □

Dan Walters, GIS Administrator



C. Edwin Meadows, Jr.
Commissioner

Commissioner's Column

It's field season—prime time for an agency whose key focus is field programs. Few departments are as diverse or wide spread across the state.

The pace speeds up. The number of employees doubles. This poses a major challenge in recruiting, training, and equipping. The field programs include the office staff and support services that make it all happen.

Most people know we prevent and fight forest fires, operate state parks, analyze geological resources, manage public lands, and provide services to the LURC jurisdiction. But did you know that on a given day in field

season you might also find:

—LURC staff on a coastal island meeting with local officials to protect a working waterfront;

—a statewide network of citizens collecting weather and rainfall data which helps predict fires, floods, water supplies, air quality, and forest health. A similar group collects insects to help predict potential damage;

—volunteers from several nations building new hiking trails on state-owned land;

—geological field crews from 18 universities all over the country working to map sand, gravel, and bedrock deposits to analyze the quality and quantity of Maine's groundwater;

—and, even on the hottest days, thoughts of snow as crews construct snowmobile trails for next winter.

The projects range from the small, such as mowing at a Brunswick site commemorating the first around the world flight, to the very

large, such as identifying wildlife improvement projects on a 35,000 acre tract of public land—or working with municipal officials to incorporate wise use of natural resources into growth management plans.

This brief sampling omits scores of other important programs. They contribute to the economy and well being of forestry, fishing, farming, recreation, tourism, geology, and other uses of Maine's resources.

Managing a field organization is a special challenge. It requires teamwork, skill, and training. We are able to succeed because department employees are dedicated to providing quality public service and take pride and satisfaction in their professionalism.

Bond issues number 5 and 8 enhance these vital programs. These two bond issues, if approved, will allow us to take better care of what we now own while adding to Maine's heritage for the future. □

TREAT ME RIGHT-A Guide For Recreational Use of Private Land Published by DOC, I F & W



A new guide to recreational use of private land has been published by the Departments of Conservation and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Designed to promote partnership between Maine landowners and land users, the brochure provides tips for those who use private land for recreation and useful information about opportunities on public land as well.

The brochure, which is being distributed with fishing and hunting licenses and by game wardens and forest and park rangers, was produced with the cooperation of the Maine Forest Products Council, Maine Office of Tourism, the Paper Industry Information Office, the Small Woodland Owners of Maine, and the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine. □



"Landowners sharing with land users is a Maine tradition."

Just think how much the Maine outdoors has to offer. Maine's hunting and fishing, of course, are famous. And there is hiking, backpacking, bird watching, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and even berry picking.

But did you know that 95 percent of Maine is privately owned? For years, private landowners have made millions of acres available to everyone for free or for a small fee.

Landowners sharing with land users is a Maine tradition. But it's a

tradition that could be in danger unless we all do our part to save it. That's the reason for TREAT ME RIGHT.

On private or public property, TREAT ME RIGHT simply means treating the land the same way you would want someone else to treat your private property, with care and respect.

It's not much to ask considering how much we all get in return. And you'll be carrying on a tradition that has helped make the Maine outdoors famous.

We're very fortunate that recreational activities are permitted on so much privately owned property. It is a longstanding tradition of sharing and caring between the landowner and the land user. If we all continue to respect both the land and the owner, we'll enjoy the benefits of this special relationship for years to come.

So TREAT ME RIGHT and make sure you're welcome on private land.

John R. McKernan
Governor of Maine

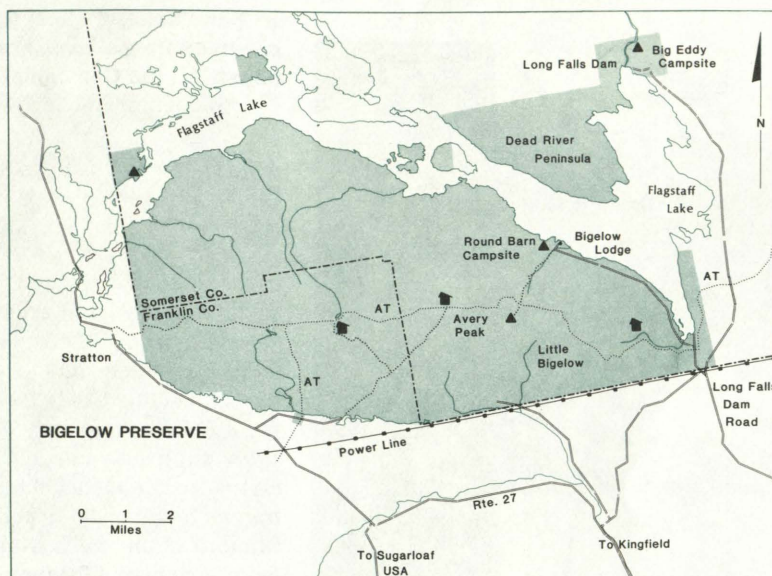
Your Public Lands: Bigelow Preserve

✓ **General Description:** This 35,027 acre parcel in Franklin and Somerset Counties is dominated by spectacular Bigelow Mountain, with its twin 4,000 foot peaks. Bigelow Preserve is a National Natural Landmark.

✓ **How to find it:** The preserve is due east of the Sugarloaf USA ski resort located 20 miles north of Kingfield. It is bounded by Flagstaff Lake on the north and a powerline and the thread of Stratton Brook on the south. Additional Public Land offering views of the Bigelow Range lies north of the lake.

✓ **What to see and do:** Located in the heart of a four-season recreation area, Bigelow Preserve offers many opportunities for individuals and small groups seeking a remote "backcountry" experience. The attractions are the spectacular scenery, interesting geology and the chance to observe the diverse wildlife residing in the rich mix of cover types. Basic facilities provided to enhance your visit include 30 miles of hiking trails, high country campsites, primitive lakeside campsites and 20 miles of groomed snowmobile trails. In the winter, Bigelow Lodge is open weekends for warming and coffee.

✓ **Forest Land Management:** Forest management goals for the preserve are to grow and harvest high quality timber, protect scenic values, enhance recreational opportunities and improve wildlife habitats. A strong network of volunteers including the Maine Appalachian Trail Club and local snowmobile clubs provide expert trail maintenance. State hunting and fishing regulations apply within the preserve. □



Map by Jeanne Kannegieser, BPL

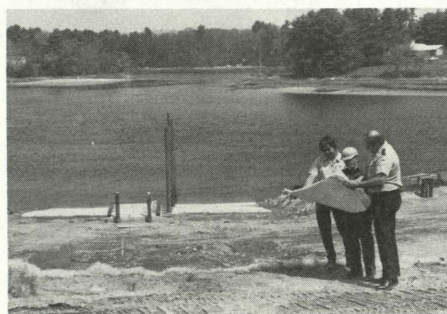
Saco Boat Site Expanded

Maine's most heavily used public boating facility, the Saco River state boat launching site in Biddeford, has undergone a major expansion which doubled the area's launching and parking capacity.

The expanded facility includes three parking areas designed to accommodate about 70 boat trailer-vehicle rigs. A single launching ramp has been replaced with two, twenty-foot-wide concrete plank launching ramps separated by a linear float. Toilet facilities and access to the boarding float are barrier free, and parking spaces are reserved for persons with disabilities.

To make the most efficient use of the facility, lanes are marked on the pavement near the ramps where boats can be prepared for launching and highway travel. This includes transferring equipment between boats and tow vehicles, removing or attaching tie-downs, installing and removing drain plugs, and adjusting the position of the motor.

The 10 acre site is located on the west side of the river about two miles upstream from Camp Ellis in Saco on a section of the river known as



DOC Engineering Technician Ron Yates (center) describes work in progress to Bureau of Parks and Recreation employees Tom Skolfield (r) and John Polackwich, who will manage the boat site. Photo by M. Wiebe.

Meeting House Eddy. A blue and white sign marks the reconstructed access road off Route 9/208 (Pool Road). The site is the only all-tide state boat launching facility between South Portland and the Piscataqua River on the New Hampshire border.

The reconstruction project will cost approximately \$215,000, with 25 percent coming from the Maine Boating Facilities Fund and 75 percent from the federal Sport Fishing Restoration Act (Wallop-Breaux) Fund administered by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. □

Steve Swatling, Preserve Manager

PUBLIC
BOAT ACCESS



Bureau of Parks and Recreation
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

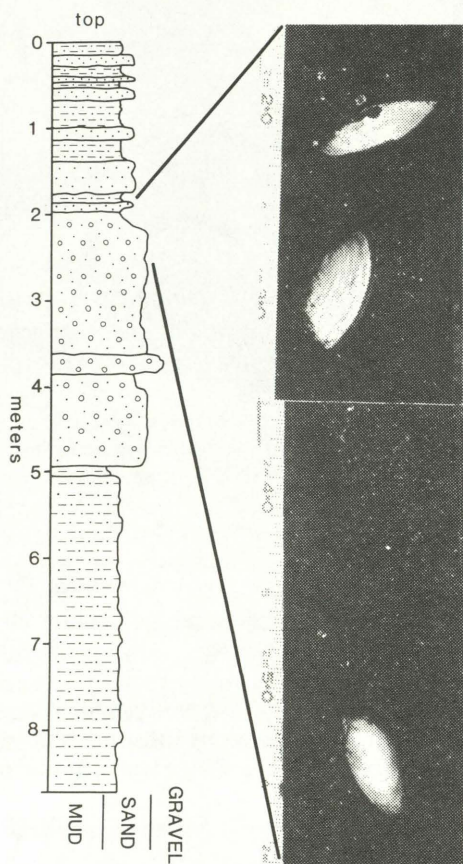
**Boating Fund
Provides
Access to
Waterways**

The land where the Saco boat site is located was purchased in the mid-1960's by the Bureau of Parks and Recreation with money from the Maine Boating Facilities Fund. The fund is composed of 1.5 percent of the state tax on gasoline, approximating the amount of tax paid by recreational boaters for fuel.

Two-hundred and twenty-five state-owned or state-assisted boat launching sites have been built by the Maine Boating Facilities Program since it began in 1966.

According to the National Marine Manufacturers Association, \$85.7 million was spent in Maine in 1988 for the purchase of boats, motors, boat trailers and accessories. Maine ranks 29th in the country in the number of registered boats with 123,723 registered in 1988. □

Ancient Clams Mark Sea Level



In a continuing quest to understand changes in sea level along the Maine coast, Maine Geological Survey marine geologists Joe Kelley and Steve Dickson collected a dozen sediment cores from sandy offshore areas in the fall of 1988. One core recovered from less than a mile from Seguin Island off the mouth of the Kennebec River included two intact, articulated soft shell clams, *Mya arenaria*. Dr. Robert Stuckenrath of the University of Pittsburgh determined with radiocarbon dating methods that the clams were 9,100 years old. Since *Mya arenaria* live in intertidal (clam flat) environments, they are a good indicator of the position of sea level. The ancient clam shells from offshore were from a depth of 20 meters (65 feet) below sea level, suggesting significant changes in Maine's sea level in the last few thousand years. With these and other data, marine geologists will improve our knowledge of past sea level changes along the coast and hope to better anticipate coastal conservation issues with future sea level rise. □

Steve Dickson, Marine Geologist

AVOIDING A LURC VIOLATION

Thinking about building or other land use activities in Maine's unorganized townships and plantations? Please remember that land use activities within the state's unorganized townships, plantations, a few towns and more than 300 coastal islands and ledges are regulated by the Land Use Regulation Commission. Also remember that although a permit is not required for some activities, there are minimum standards that must be followed to comply with the state's land use laws.

All of the area within LURC's jurisdiction has been zoned. Land use activities which are compatible with the natural resource or land use activity for which a zoning subdistrict was established are specified in the land use standards. To avoid a LURC violation, your activity must be allowed within the land use subdistrict that the property is located in and the activity must be conducted in conformance with LURC standards for such activity. If a permit is required, the permit must be issued

prior to any work being done on the site. The following are some tips to ensure that your project complies with all three of these criteria.

✓ **Get the Facts:** LURC has numerous publications available that describe and explain the rules, regulations, permit requirements and zoning designations.

✓ **Seek assistance from LURC staff:** Our main office is in Augusta, but we also have staff to assist you in regional offices located in Greenville, Old Town and Presque Isle. You can call the Augusta office toll free from within Maine at 1-800-452-8711.

✓ **Read and abide by the Conditions of Approval of your LURC permit:**

To avoid a LURC violation, please abide by your permit conditions or seek an amendment to the permit prior to commencing work on the site.

✓ **Take careful measurements:** If you have difficulty determining the normal high water mark, or other point from which to measure, please contact a LURC office. □

Bill Galbraith
Supervisor of Enforcement

MFS Monitors Forest Health

Concern for the health of New England's forests has led the U.S. Forest Service in 1990 to initiate a cooperative forest health monitoring program with state forestry agencies. This program, a prototype for a planned national effort, utilizes a grid pattern of permanent ground plots.

As Maine's portion of the program, 125 permanent plot locations have been identified. At each location, specific plot data will be collected, characterizing site/soil conditions and stand composition, and monitoring tree growth rates and vigor indicators.

While the initial emphasis is on establishing baseline values and spatial patterns, subsequent annual remeasurements will identify trends and detect unexpected changes. The monitoring program will examine the effects of insects, disease, weather and other factors that stress forests.

As lead cooperating agency, the Maine Forest Service's Insect and Disease Management Division is responsible for the location, establishment and initial measurement of these permanent plots. Private individual and corporate landowners have provided the land base and assistance in this statewide, public/private cooperative effort. □

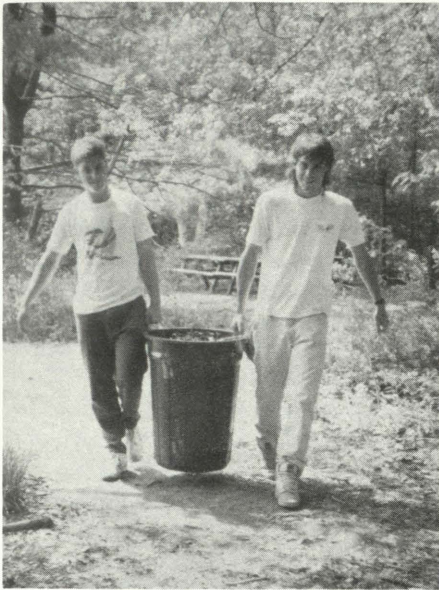
Lyme Disease Info Available

While there have been only a few confirmed cases of Lyme disease in Maine, the Forest Service continues to receive inquiries about it. The deer ticks which transmit the bacteria causing the disease are fairly common in coastal York and Cumberland counties and are occasionally found elsewhere. It should be noted that most ticks are not deer ticks, and most deer ticks do not carry the disease.

Information on how to protect yourself from Lyme disease is available at state parks or by calling the Forest Information Center at 1-800-367-0223. □

Dave Struble
State Entomologist

SERVE/Maine Volunteers, Maine Conservation Corps Teams Work for DOC

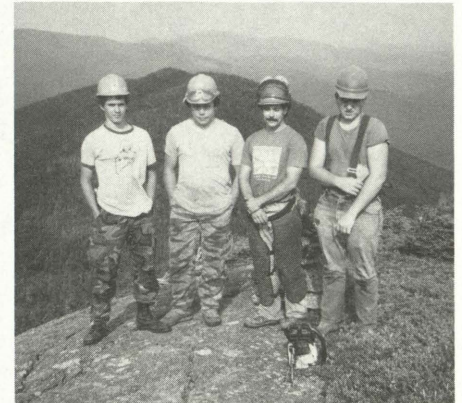
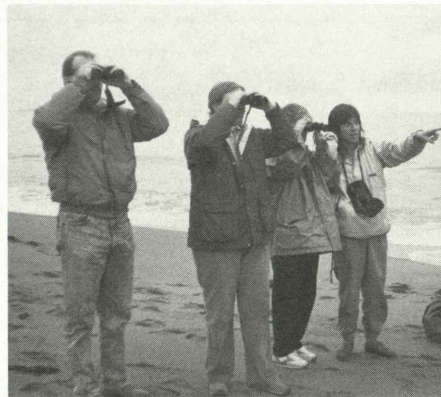


SERVE/Maine volunteers from Yarmouth High School and North Yarmouth Academy assisted Bradbury Mt. State Park staff with spring clean-up projects. Pictured are Craig Oestreicher and Tim Brook from the academy. Photo by Libbey Seigars



Cleaning and raking a campfire ring at Squaw Brook Campsite on Moosehead Lake are SERVE/Maine volunteers Abby Hoke and Shaun Donovan. The volunteers are part of the Maine Forest Service Adopt-a-Campsite volunteer project. Photo by Sue Myers

Bureau of Parks and Recreation SERVE/Maine volunteers are assisting the Maine Audubon Society and Maine Department Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to protect the nationally endangered piping plovers and least terns at Popham Beach and Reid State Parks this summer. Viewing a nesting site are volunteer Phil Brown, BPR Interpretive Specialist Pat Bailey, volunteer Janice Biloudeau and Maine Audubon's Justin Logan. Photo by Libbey Seigars



1989 MCC Goose Eye Team. Photo by Ken Spalding

A Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) team is completing a new Bureau of Public Lands (BPL) hiking trail in the Mahoosuc Range. The four member team made up of area young people and BPL employee and Team Leader Mike Cooper live in tents on site and work in this wilderness setting for eight weeks from June through August.

The trail, which provides access to some of the most spectacular views and challenging hiking opportunities in Maine, begins in the Sunday River Valley, leads to the summit of Goose Eye Mountain and connects to the Appalachian Trail. In addition to the MCC Team, a group of volunteers from Europe and the US will make this an international project when they arrive to work on the trail in August. The Mahoosuc International Volunteer Workcamp is cosponsored by BPL, Hurricane Outward Bound School and SERVE/Maine.

MCC Teams are made up of young people recruited through the local Job Training Offices. The Maine Conservation Corps provides corpsmembers with employment, job training and conservation education while accomplishing needed work for Maine's public and private, nonprofit natural resource agencies.

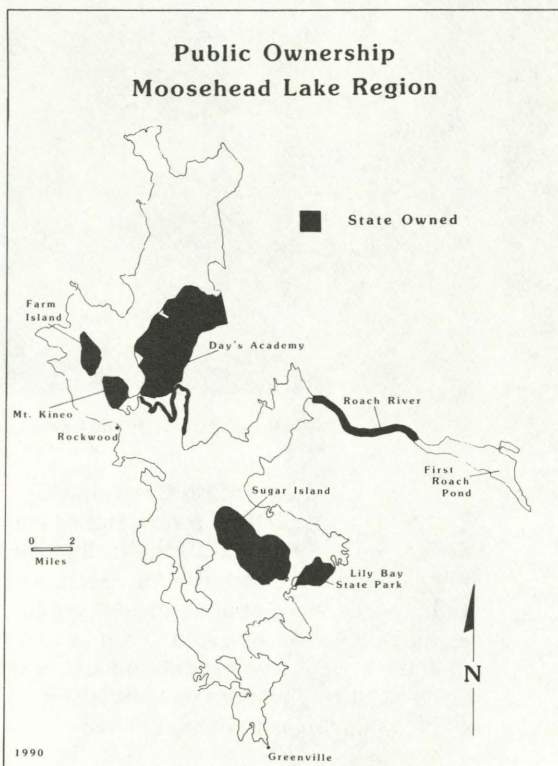
Other MCC Teams are working for the Bureau of Parks and Recreation at Lily Bay and Camden Hills State Parks, Allagash Wilderness Waterway and Shackford Head, for the Maine Forest Service in the town of Allagash, the Bureau of Public Lands at Pineland and at 13 other locations around the state. □

MCC Returns to Yellowstone, Goes to USSR

The Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) has been selected as the only conservation corps in the country to participate in the Greater Yellowstone Recovery Corps of 1990. The team of 6 young people is in Yellowstone National Park during July to help restore hiking trails and bridges damaged by the fires of 1988. Funding for the team's transportation to Yellowstone is being provided by grants from the Maine Community Foundation, Tom's of Maine and assistance from Continental Airlines.

Five year veteran MCC Corpsmember Tina Wormell of Lubec is one of 30 conservation corps delegates to go to the USSR this fall for four weeks to work on historic preservation, natural spring development and national park ecological work. The exchange is being arranged by the California Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Committee of Youth Organizations of the USSR.

Major Public Ownership Created on Moosehead Lake



Maine citizens now own 15,503 acres and 54.4 miles of shoreline on 117 square mile Moosehead Lake, the state's largest body of inland water.

Recent acquisitions of land and shoreline at Day's Academy Grant, Mt. Kineo, and the Roach River add substantially to holdings the state already had on Maine's premier lake, including Lily Bay State Park and all of Farm and Sugar Islands. The recent acquisitions ensure permanent protection of the land and provide public access to some of the state's most renowned and popular scenic recreation areas.

State agency management of this land is directed towards the maintenance of productive wildlife and fisheries habitat; access for hunting, fishing, boating, and general recreation; productive forest management and the protection of scenic shoreline and upland areas that are a hallmark of the Moosehead Lake Region.

The recent acquisitions involved the Land for Maine's Future Board, the Bureaus of Public Lands and Parks and Recreation, and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Public use and management information may be obtained by contacting the agency responsible for management. □ **Tom Morrison, Director, Bureau of Public Lands**

Parcel	Managing Agency	Acres / Shore (mi.)
Day's Academy Grant	Bureau of Public Lands (BPL)	7,832/17.0
Sugar Island	BPL	4,208/8.4
Farm Island	Bureau of Parks and Recreation (BPR)	980/5.2
Mount Kineo	BPR	800/3.6
Lily Bay State Park	BPR	956/8.2
Roach River	Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	727/12.0
		15,503/54.4

Maritime Development Subdistrict Created

LURC Protects Monhegan Island Waterfront

The waterfront areas of Monhegan Island, traditionally used for commercial fishing facilities, have received special protection under new land use regulations proposed by the Plantation Assessors and adopted by the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC).

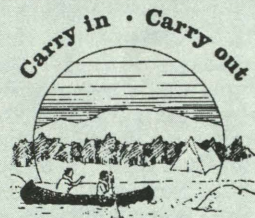
Under the new maritime zoning, shorefront areas traditionally used for commercial fishing facilities are specially zoned to protect fishermen's access to the coast and buildings with shore-dependent uses are maintained in those uses. Without these regulations fishermen's access to shoreland areas was being increasingly threatened by the gradual conversion of the properties.

Since the commission did not previously have a protection zone suitable for the proposed plan, the program involved addition of a new Maritime Development Subdistrict

to the commission's standards. Three shoreland areas of the island were placed in the new zone. The commission used its zoning powers to help the community attain its goal of protection for the fishing industry. At the same time the commission took care that the project could provide a model for other community and commission joint planning projects. The Department of Economic and Community Development assisted by providing grant funding for the project.

The island residents were broadly supportive of the program. An opinion survey conducted on the island found the vast majority in support of the changes, including those landowners within rezoned areas. □

Jeff TenPas
Education Coordinator



With the summer well underway, the Bureau of Parks and Recreation has found a favorable visitor response to its carry-in, carry-out trash disposal policy at state park picnic areas and beaches.

The policy has meant fewer trash barrels at state park "day-use" facilities. Park visitors have been encouraged to bring food and beverages in reusable containers, reduce the amount of solid waste they generate, and recycle cans and bottles.

While trash barrels have been reduced in number, they can still be found at concession stands, parking lots, restrooms, and campgrounds.

The bureau's policy raises awareness of how the state's solid waste disposal problems extend even to outdoor recreation and has given state park visitors an opportunity to be part of the solution. □

Peary's Eagle Island Library to be Restored

One of Admiral Robert E. Peary's treasured features of his historic Eagle Island home will open to visitors for the first time next year following restoration this summer.

The restoration work at the Bureau of Parks and Recreation's Eagle Island State Historic Site in Casco Bay will focus on an eighty-year-old nearly circular stone building that Peary used as his library. Peary, the famed Arctic explorer who reached the North Pole in 1909, designed and supervised the construction of the library in 1911, when it was added to the island's main house where Peary and his family spent their summers.

After the island's donation to the Bureau of Parks and Recreation by Peary's children in 1967, the library was closed to the public because of severe water damage. While Peary's main house was open for visitation, the library remained closed due to lack of restoration funds.

The current restoration project, jointly funded by the State of Maine

Admiral Robert E. Peary pictured at his desk in his library, Eagle Island, Maine ca. 1915. The tongue and groove wood panelling and shelf in background will be restored during the project.



and National Geographic Society, includes a new roof, restored interior floor, walls and ceiling, and masonry work.

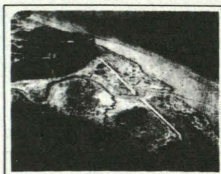
The restoration work is being done by contractors Mason Seal, Inc. of Auburn and Gardiner architect Sylvanus Doughty under the supervision of DOC's Division of Engineering and Realty and the Bureau of Parks

and Recreation. When it is restored and open to the public next year, the library will contain photographs, artifacts, and other materials that will highlight Peary's connections to Maine and his life on Eagle Island. □

Sheila McDonald
Resource Administrator

New Publications from the Maine Geological Survey

Neotectonics of Maine



Studies in Seismicity, Crustal Warping, and Sea-Level Change
Edited by W. A. Anderson and H. W. Borns, Jr.

Neotectonics of Maine - Studies in Seismicity, Crustal Warping, and Sea-Level Change
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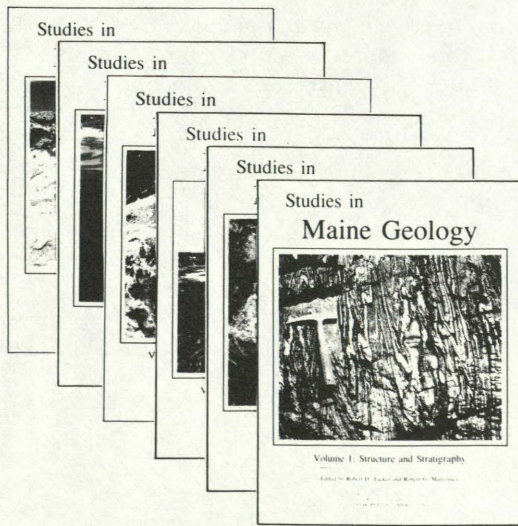
Multidisciplinary studies by marine geologists, archaeologists, and historians include papers on sea-level change, historical seismicity, and earthquake activity.

Price: \$10.00 plus 50¢ sales tax.

Studies in Maine Geology edited by R. D. Tucker and R. G. Marvinney.

Commemorating the 150th anniversary of the first geological survey of Maine, the 57 papers in this 6 volume series include the most current thought on significant geological issues by some of the most noted workers in the field. Volumes include structure and stratigraphy, igneous and metamorphic geology, and Quaternary geology.

Price: \$10.00 plus 50¢ sales tax per volume. For information on content and ordering individual volumes, contact the Maine Geological Survey.



Climate Change to be Studied

Maine Geological Survey and Forest Service staff will assist University of Maine investigators in a project of global importance in understanding the causes of ice ages and their relationships to oceanic, atmospheric, and biologic systems.

Reconstructions of past climates will help scientists foresee future changes in climate, sea level, and forest vegetation in Maine— changes which may result from both natural causes and human activities. This predictive ability will be valuable to Mainers whose livelihoods depend on forests, farms, and fisheries.

Geologic and botanical information spanning 14,000 years will be collected from deep sea sediments and combined with carbon-14 dates on fossils from land to determine the timing of glacial retreat and subsequent climatic events.

The project is Funded by the National Science Foundation and the State of Maine. □

Woodrow Thompson
Physical Geologist



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Augusta ME 04333

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Bureau of Public Lands 289-3061

Forest Service 289-2791

Geological Survey 289-2801

Land Use Regulation Commission 289-2631

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Marshall T. Wiebe, Editor

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Question Eight on November Ballot Bond Issue Proposed to Fund State Park Improvements and Historic Building Preservation

State park facilities managed by the Department's Bureau of Parks and Recreation are the subject of a bond issue that will be on Maine's November 1990 general election ballot.

The bond issue, which will appear as the ballot's Question Eight, authorizes a total of \$5,000,000 for preservation of historic buildings open to the public and improvements at state park facilities. If approved by voters, \$1,500,000 of the \$5,000,000 bond will be administered by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission for restoration grants for historic buildings open to the public. The balance, \$3,500,000, will be administered by the Bureau of Parks and Recreation for needed improvements at state park facilities.

Several major projects at more than 25 state parks across the state will be targeted in the bureau's share of the bonds. These projects focus on improving the park facilities' infrastructure in order to protect public health and safety and allow continued use of state parks by over 2.5 million visitors annually. Such projects include the federally mandated replacement of water systems at four major state parks, replacement of obsolete water system

infrastructure at 17 additional areas, leach field replacement at more than ten state parks, the restoration of the roof at Fort Knox State Historic Site, and up-grading of electrical systems and toilet facilities at a number of state parks.

The bond issue, if approved, would also help the Bureau of Parks and Recreation upgrade state park facilities to provide better access for persons with disabilities.

Question Eight on November's ballot, by authorizing funds for improvements in state park facilities operated by the Bureau of Parks and Recreation, represents an investment in the bureau's physical plant. This physical plant, which is aging fast, has an estimated value of \$75,000,000 and is essential to the continued safe public use and enjoyment of state parks.

By providing needed funds for restoration and improvement, the bond issue, if approved, will help Maine's people and visitors continue to use and enjoy Maine's valuable natural and cultural heritage as it is preserved in the state's parks and historic buildings. □

Sheila McDonald
Resource Administrator

Forest Practices Act Forest Data Gathered

The Forest Practices Act requires all landowners as of January 1, 1990 to notify the Maine Forest Service before beginning a timber harvest. Since then, more than 2,670 notifications have been received. The greatest number, 422, have come from Aroostook County.

Landowners submitting notification forms indicate that approximately 50% of the harvest operations are under the supervision of a professional forester. Taking advantage of an opportunity they may not have been aware of, 68 landowners have used the one page report form to request the services of a MFS field forester. The notification procedure is not a permit, but rather involves letting the Forest Service know where and when a harvest occurs and other information such as how many acres are planned for cutting and whether the harvest is being done for development.

The information will help the Maine Forest Service better track what is happening in the forests of Maine.

For more information, call the Forest Information Center at 1-800-367-0223. □

**Tom Driscoll, Forest
Information Center Manager**