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A Report on Maine Forests Parks & Lands, Fall 1991

Maine Department of Conservation

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a
report
on

maine



Forests Parks & Lands

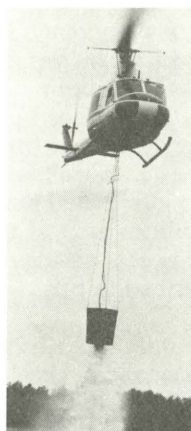
News from the Maine Department of Conservation

Fall 1991

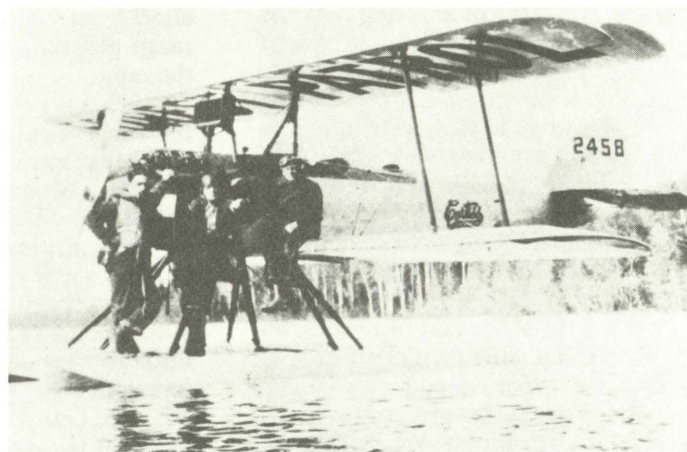
Maine Forest Service Marks 100th Year

The Maine Forest Service celebrates its 100th birthday this year. The Forest Service's first century is highlighted by leadership in forest conservation.

- **Forest Fire Protection-** Early in the 1900's, losses to forest fire in Maine averaged more than 60,000 acres per year. Despite a fivefold increase in the number of fires, annual losses now average less than 2,500 acres.
- **Forest Survey-** Maine published pioneering forest surveys in 1894. Today, the MFS surveys the forest by satellite.
- **Forest Health-** Maine created the nation's first state forest insect ranger system and today leads in the development of a prototype, national forest health monitoring system. □



Maine first used aircraft for fire patrol in 1927 (photo upper right). Powerful, turbine powered helicopters now support forest rangers on the ground.



Allagash Wilderness Waterway Celebrates 25th

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the creation of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, an event commemorated by over 100 people at an August 25 celebration at Churchill Dam.

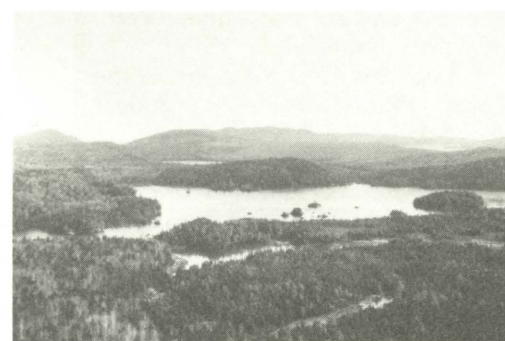
The Allagash was long noted for canoeing, fishing and other backcountry recreation prior to the creation of the waterway and its state management. In 1955, a federal committee looking at the New England region, singled out the Allagash as deserving of special protection. Several years later, the U.S. Department of the Interior proposed a federally-owned Allagash National Recreation Area to be managed by the National Park Service. State officials and private landowners argued for state ownership of the Allagash, however, and worked with the federal government to shift focus from federal to state protection of the Allagash's lands and waters. In 1966, after several years of planning work, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway was established by Maine's legislature. That same year, a \$1.5 million bond issue for land acquisition and recreational development on the Allagash was overwhelmingly approved by Maine voters.



About ten thousand people enjoy visits to the Allagash Wilderness Waterway every year.
Photo by George Tooze

Today, the 92-mile long Allagash Wilderness Waterway continues to maintain its international reknown as a premier recreational experience under the management of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation. □

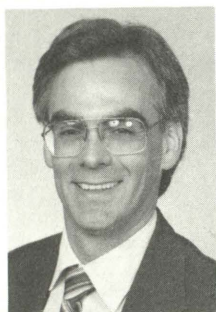
Maine Land Use Regulation Commission Turns 20



Chesuncook Pond, Township 3, Range 11 WELS

The Maine Land Use Regulation Commission has provided planning and zoning services for nearly one-half of Maine since 1971.

The commission has a dual mandate with respect to conservation and development. Commission goals and policies support and promote wise management of natural resources to enhance living and working conditions for Maine people; ensure separation of incompatible uses; and conserve, protect and enhance water, air, forest, wildlife and other natural resources. □



Commissioner's Column

C. Edwin Meadows, Jr.
Commissioner

With so much attention on the state budget in recent months, you may be interested in knowing how the Department of Conservation has been working to operate effectively in difficult economic times.

Even prior to the recent budget cuts, we had initiated a plan to reduce costs and consolidate programs by better utilizing available resources, increasing professionalism and reducing the number of field facilities.

Then, over the last two years, as the state's economy continued to decline, we experienced major reductions in our budget, with a corresponding reduction in our capacity to deliver services.

Last winter, each department prepared a "no increase" budget, requiring further program reductions. During the legislative process, we were fortunate that significant funding was restored to some (but not all) department programs. I believe the restoration of these funds was in recognition and support of the work we do and, especially, of the professionalism and accomplishments of department employees.

Here are a few highlights of the changes that occurred to our budget proposal:

- \$700,000 was restored to the Bureau of Parks and Recreation, partially funded by increases in park user fees.
- Six positions were restored to LURC, with a portion of the cost funded by higher application fees.
- Fourteen forest rangers, a mechanic and a forester were restored to the Maine Forest Service. Funding was provided for this year for 22 of the 27 forest fire watch towers. No funds were provided for FY '93. A proposal to phase out state staffing of fire towers must be presented to the legislature in February.
- All state employees will be required to take 17 days off without pay (27 days - or five weeks - for supervisors).

What does this mean for the future? The challenge ahead is to examine the impacts of these changes on our programs and adjust both our short-term priorities and the long-range planning we had begun before the cuts.

This is not a new approach for the department. Over recent years the number of employees has been reduced. We have taken steps to create new efficiencies, reduce travel costs, conserve energy, consolidate programs and have eliminated more than two dozen facilities around the state. Some of these cost savings initiatives are described in this newsletter.

We plan to maintain our commitment to professionalism, excellence and team work, and to providing leadership in the formation of public policies affecting the wise use of Maine's natural resources.

Department employees are committed to the quality delivery of services and programs. With the reduction in resources available, it will become an increasing challenge to do this as quickly and as effectively as before. We ask your understanding and patience as all of us in state government adjust to these changes.

Part of the plan we have developed involves seeking alternative and cost-effective methods of performing the responsibilities we have. The administration and legislature supported the upcoming bond issue for capital investments in state parks and historic sites. On November 5, voters have an opportunity to support critically needed funds for long overdue capital improvements in the state park system. A "Yes" vote on Question 7 will authorize the investments needed to keep these valuable facilities safe and accessible for public use and enjoyment. □

NOTE

As a cost-saving measure, only one edition of *Maine Forests, Parks and Lands* will be published in 1991. The newsletter brings important information to those affected by DOC programs.

Consolidation Cuts Costs, Improves Services

Income from the sale of twenty-four surplus Forest Fire Control Division field offices, storehouses and other buildings from York County to Aroostook is being used to improve consolidated facilities throughout the state. The consolidation cuts operation and maintenance costs while improving field services delivery and program efficiency by combining offices and other shared facilities. When complete in 1995, 32 or 46 % of the division's field installations will have been sold for use as private homes and businesses.

Most of the division's surplus facilities are sold at public auctions. The money is used for improvements at the consolidated field installations. Services provided by forest rangers, state park administrators, land use regulation field staff and public land managers, as well as forest management and forest insect and disease specialists, will be provided from shared offices in many of the upgraded facilities. □

MFS Commended

The U.S. Forest Service has given the Maine Forest Service high marks for "superlative" performance in the administration of cooperative programs for forest fire control, insect and disease management, and forest management.

Describing the Maine Forest Service as an "excellent partner and cooperator" during the past five years, several MFS programs received special commendation including:

- Forest Fire Control for exceeding national standards for fire training on safety and firefighter certification;
- Insect and Disease Management for important contributions to the New England Forest Health Monitoring Program ; and
- Forest Management and Utilization for the most effective Forest Stewardship Program in the northeast. □

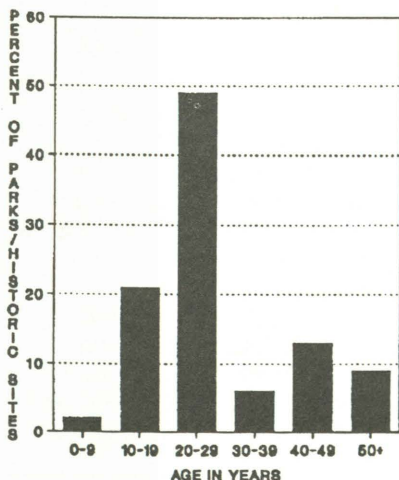
Aging State Park Facilities Target of November Bond Issue

More than 30 state park facilities managed by the Bureau of Parks and Recreation would receive badly needed capital improvement funds if a bond issue on November's ballot is approved by Maine voters.

The bond issue, appearing on the ballot as Question 7, asks voters: "Do you favor a \$5,000,000 bond issue for major renovations and improvements at state parks and for the preservation of historic buildings open to the public?" Of the bond issue's \$5,000,000, state parks would receive \$3,500,000 and a matching grant program managed by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission would receive \$1,500,000. This same bond issue was narrowly defeated by voters in 1990. It appears again this year because the need for capital improvements at state parks and historic buildings open to the public has grown even more acute over the past year, threatening continued safe use and public access.

Several incidents this past summer provide examples of the deteriorating condition of much of the state park system's aging infrastructure. The twenty year old water and septic systems at Lake St. George State Park, repeatedly stressed by freeze and thaw cycles, failed during a busy July weekend. As a result, the park's day-use area was closed for nearly two weeks. Campground visitors were without potable water and shower facilities for three weeks until water line leaks could be located and patched.

**AGE OF MAINE STATE PARKS
AND HISTORIC SITES**



The problems at Lake St. George were echoed in Kittery at the bureau-managed Fort McClary picnic area where the 30 year-old septic system failed completely in early June. The area was without running water and sanitary facilities and the park's gates were closed, discouraging public use for the remainder of the season.

At Fort Knox, which is managed by the bureau as a state historic site, persistent problems with water infiltration, inadequate drainage and deteriorating masonry have caused several areas of the fort to be closed because they are unsafe for visitors.

Bond issue monies have been targeted by the bureau to correct major water and septic system problems, such as those that lead to the system failures at Lake St. George and Fort McClary. The large granite structure at Fort Knox, built in the mid-nineteenth century, will receive funds for restoration of its roof and rehabilitation of its drainage system.

Additional major capital improvement needs that affect public health and safety and continued public access to state parks throughout the state will also receive attention if the bond issue is approved. Water systems at four major state parks must be replaced in order to comply with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act by 1993. A number of state park areas must be upgraded to provide access for persons with disabilities, thereby bringing the park system into compliance with accessibility laws and standards. Obsolete electrical systems and sanitary facilities at several parks are targeted for upgrading, and the structure at Montpelier State Historic Site will receive needed exterior and interior wall restoration.

By authorizing funds for improvements in state park facilities, Question 7 represents a needed investment in the bureau's physical plant. This includes water and septic systems, buildings, electrical systems and roads and bridges valued at an estimated \$75 million. If approved, Question 7 will help ensure the preservation of important natural and cultural resources and the full use and enjoyment of Maine's state parks and historic buildings. □



Water infiltration through Fort Knox's roof is so severe that icicles often form inside the building. Freezing and thawing of water that has leaked into the fort damages granite and brick masonry, leading to structural instability. Photo by Mike Leighton.

QUESTION 7 AT A GLANCE

- Bond issue total - \$5 million**
- \$1.5 million to the **Maine Historic Preservation Commission** for matching grants to preserve historic buildings open to the public
- \$3.5 million to the **Bureau of Parks and Recreation** for major capital improvements at state parks and historic sites
- ✓ \$400,000 for installation of wells at four state parks
- ✓ \$300,000 to modify park facilities to provide access for persons with disabilities
- ✓ \$500,000 to replace obsolete septic systems at 15 state parks
- ✓ \$125,000 to replace electrical systems at 13 state parks
- ✓ \$300,000 to replace water system components at 14 state parks
- ✓ \$1,500,000 to restore the roof and drainage system at **Fort Knox State Historic Site**
- ✓ \$200,000 to refurbish exterior and interior walls at **Montpelier State Historic Site**
- ✓ \$175,000 to replace out-moded sanitary facilities at **Camden Hills and Sebago Lake State Parks**

MGS Receives National Science Foundation Grant for Earth Science Education in Maine

The Maine Geological Survey has received a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for a major three-year project to improve earth science education in Maine. The CREST project (Curriculum Resources for Earth Science Teachers) grew out of the survey's perception that science teachers would benefit from the development of curriculum materials describing the geology of Maine and the economic and environmental importance of earth resources.

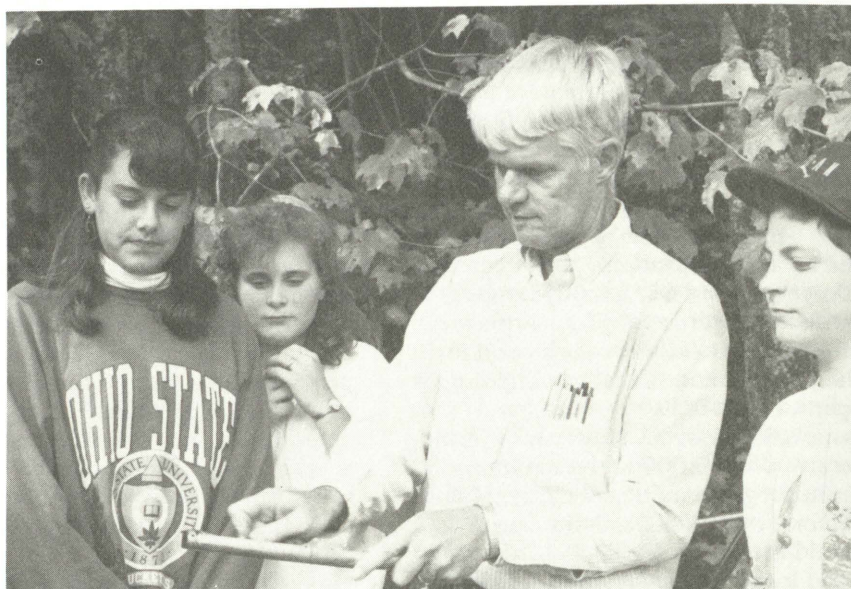
An interagency team of principal investigators was formed to write a proposal to the NSF's Teacher Enhancement Program, seeking funds to support this objective. In addition to the Maine Geological Survey, the team included representatives from the Department of Educational and Cultural Services, the Department of Environmental Protection and the University of Maine at Farmington. The team's proposal was rejected on the first attempt, but it was rewritten with successful results the following year.

The three goals of CREST are to: (1) improve teacher training through participation in research projects with professional earth scientists; (2) develop curriculum materials for teacher enrichment and classroom use; and (3) facilitate communication among teachers through interactive TV broadcasts and other means. During each year of the project, one of the state's leading earth science teachers will work full-time at MGS to implement these goals. Duane Leavitt, of Leavitt Area High School in Turner, has been selected for the 1991-92 school year, and is now developing the first year's CREST products.

CREST will substantially improve the training of Maine's earth science teachers and the quality of classroom instruction. The availability of CREST materials may encourage schools that presently do not teach earth science to add this important subject to the curriculum. The means will be sought to perpetuate this educational effort beyond the limited period of this National Science Foundation grant. □

Woodrow Thompson
Maine Geological Survey

CREST Program intern Grant Connors discusses a soil sample with students during a recent earth science field trip. Connors is a science teacher at Mt. Ararat School in Topsham. Photo by Duane Leavitt



CREST's Goal : Earth Science Literacy in Maine

What do the following statements have in common?

- **Rain comes from holes in the clouds.**
- **The soil we see today has always existed.**
- **Humans caused the extinction of dinosaurs.**

All these ideas - commonly held by American middle and high school students - underscore the need for science literacy, and more specifically, earth science literacy.

Often the poor cousin in school budgets, earth science educational materials and teachers are often "drafted" from other subject areas. If we expect educated decisions about water legislation, development proposals, solid waste disposal, and long-term nuclear waste storage, we must upgrade earth science education for teachers and students.

CREST gives teachers a chance to work with practicing earth scientists. The program provides tested classroom and field trip activities and sources of quality audio-visual and other curriculum materials to all earth science teachers in the state. □

Duane Leavitt
CREST Program

Grants Important to MGS Programs

During the past 15 years, the Maine Geological Survey (MGS) has used federal grants to expand services and research activities beyond what is possible with state appropriations alone. Grants have enabled MGS to gather basic information, in the form of maps, to address a wide range of issues including geologic hazards, groundwater and mineral resources, and comprehensive planning. Besides CREST, current examples include U.S. Geological Survey support for bedrock and surficial mapping cooperatives, and marine studies funded by the Minerals Management Service.

Many grant programs are highly competitive, so MGS must submit quality proposals documenting Maine's needs, research plans and qualifications, and budget requests. It is especially important to demonstrate to the grantors that MGS has a strong core program supported by state government, since federal funds augment-but cannot replace- the basic state mandated MGS functions.

LURC Notes Accomplishments - Looks Ahead

The Maine Land Use Regulation Commission has entered its 20th year as the planning and zoning agency for Maine's 10.5 million acres of unorganized townships and plantations. On September 23, 1971, the land use regulation laws and the commission, as they now exist, were established. The legislature saw the need for regional land use planning for the unorganized half of Maine to promote and guide wise use of natural resources and to prevent uncontrolled development. The legislature envisioned the commission and its staff as the local agent for those areas having no local form of government to carry out these important land use responsibilities.

By planning regionally and implementing locally, the commission has accomplished a great deal during the past 20 years.

- A comprehensive land use plan for half the state was first adopted in 1976 and revised in 1983.
- The commission published an award winning land use handbook to guide development and land use.
- Erosion control guidelines for

forestry operations and roads were developed that are effective in protecting rivers and streams from siltation.

- 175 remote lakes and ponds and 275 miles of significant rivers and streams have been protected through special zoning, yet remain managed for multiple uses.

- About 175,000 acres of fish and wildlife protection subdistricts have been designated to assure long-term protection of critical deer wintering areas.

- Hydropower and metallic mineral mining rules and standards have been adopted to properly govern these complex activities.

- A long-term comprehensive lakes management program was adopted, utilizing a natural resource ranking for more than 1500 lakes and ponds, to guide lake shore development to appropriate areas and protect especially high value lakes.

The commission's work is unfinished, however. Development demands and changing forestry operations and land ownership patterns are placing new and increasing pressures on unorganized areas,

in ways not envisioned by the current Comprehensive Land Use Plan. In response, the commission has begun revision of its plan to better address these pressures on important natural resources and provide critical long-term land use planning for the future of the jurisdiction.

In the first phase of this two year effort, the commission is gathering background information and identifying issues of significance. Seven public meetings have been held throughout the state to give citizens an opportunity to raise issues which need to be addressed in the revised comprehensive plan. After this phase is completed, the commission will evaluate information gathered and develop policies and strategies to better conserve and manage natural resources important to the jurisdiction. Hearings will be held on the draft policies to solicit public comments. The commission anticipates adopting a revised Comprehensive Land Use Plan by July 1993. □

David Boulter
Director, LURC

Partnerships Benefit Maine's Public Lands

With fewer than three dozen people on staff and nearly a half million acres in its care, the Bureau of Public Lands must find efficient and innovative approaches to management. In a number of instances, the bureau has formed partnerships with organizations with overlapping interests. The bureau has combined funds, staff and expertise to achieve results that would have been far more difficult or expensive for either the bureau or its private partners to accomplish independently.

Examples of these effective partnerships include:

- **A loon research project with Maine Audubon on the bureau's Scraggly Lake Unit.** The study will provide information needed to avoid adverse impact on loons by recreational boaters in a remote area. The bureau provided technical review and made a \$2,000 grant to Maine Audubon. Audubon contributed \$3,500 to the project including study design and employment of a biologist to do field research and report findings.



Maine Island Trail Association members clear a trail on a coastal island. Photo courtesy of the Island Institute

- **A management agreement with the Maine Island Trail Association.** The bureau annually contributes technical assistance and a \$4,000 grant to MITA to help manage and protect forty state coastal islands. MITA volunteers maintain campsites, monitor use and educate users on safe boating and low impact camping to protect the environmentally sensitive islands.

- **A trail and campsite reconstruction project with the Appalachian Mountain Club.** BPL's \$3,250 contribution enabled the AMC to raise matching funds to rehabilitate heavily used trails and campsites in the fragile alpine areas on the Mahoosuc Mountain Management Unit. The total cost of the project is \$10,650.

- **Cooperative management of the Moose River Bow Trip with Land Vest, managers for Lowell and Co.** This popular canoe trip passes through lands owned by BPL and the company. For several years, BPL has shared the cost of an attendant to maintain campsites, parking areas and monitor visitor use levels on the section of the trip where canoeists frequently cross between the owner-ships.

These partnerships represent significant cost savings to the state and additional values in terms of improved management and understanding of the bureau's multiple-use management program. □

Steve Spencer
Bureau of Public Lands

Your Public Lands : DUCK LAKE

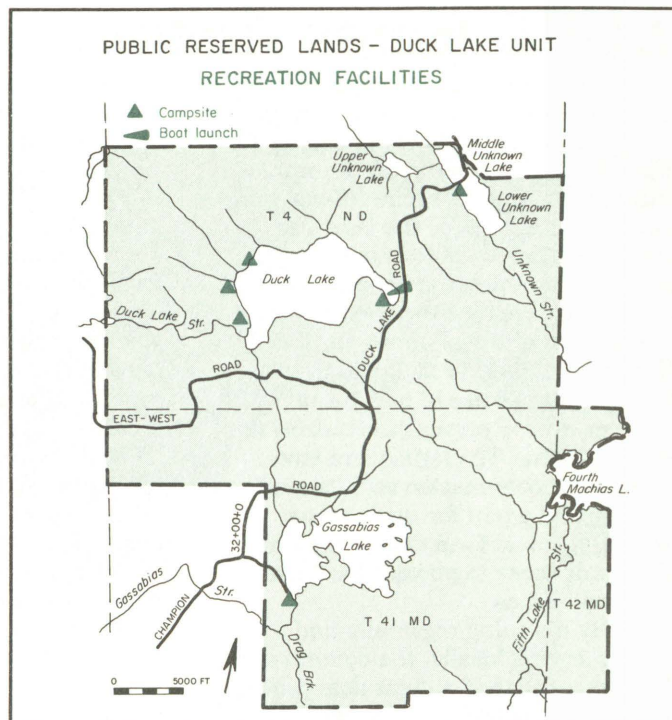
✓ **GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** This 25,220 acre track located in northern Hancock and western Washington counties, typifies the rolling forested terrain dotted with lakes characteristic of "downeast" Maine. The Duck Lake Unit includes six small lakes, numerous sand beaches and excellent cold and warm water fishing. In addition to recreation, the forest and wildlife are other important resources managed by the Bureau of Public Lands on this ownership.

✓ **HOW TO FIND IT:** Access to the unit from the south is over a gravel road from Champion International's Stud Mill Road, approximately 45 miles from Old Town. From the west, access is by a gravel road extension of Route 188 continuing beyond Nictaus Lake for a distance of approximately 30 miles from Enfield. From the north, access is over a network of gravel roads from either Springfield (20 miles) or Grand Lake Stream (20 miles).

✓ **WHAT TO SEE AND DO:** Duck Lake supports an excellent cold water salmon and trout fishery. The Unknown Ponds, Gassabias Lake and Fourth Machias Lake produce bass, pickerel and perch. Drive-to campsites are available on Duck, Gassabias and the thoroughfare between Middle and Lower Unknown Lakes. Water-access campsites on Duck Lake are

located on the western shore along picturesque and remote sand beaches. In addition to the water-based recreation, there are two stands of cathedral-like old growth pine east of Gassabias Lake. Wintertime sports include ice fishing and snowmobiling over trails maintained by local clubs.

✓ **LAND MANAGEMENT:** The unit's high-quality forest stands, principally consisting of spruce and hemlock sawtimber, are of significant commercial value and are being managed to grow high value products on long rotations. The goals of recent harvests have been to thin stands, establish regeneration and to create and improve wildlife habitat. To further encourage wildlife, grouse habitat management has been performed, duck boxes have been erected and wild rice has been sown in the shallows of Gassabias Lake.



Robin Smith
Land Manager, Bureau of Public Lands

MFS Surveys of Gypsy Moth and Hemlock Looper Defoliation Completed

Maine Forest Service aerial surveys show that gypsy moth caterpillars defoliated more than 614,000 acres in 1991. Most of the damage occurred in Androscoggin, Cumberland, Oxford and York counties. While hardwood mortality caused by gypsy moth is usually light, dead branches and tops are already common in the areas defoliated this year. Drought conditions this year may have exacerbated the effects of defoliation; the extent of the damage will not be known until spring.

While preliminary analyses of overwintering gypsy moth egg masses show expanding populations in much of southwestern Maine, there are indications that populations may be starting to decline in those areas most heavily hit in 1991. However, current data do not predict any significant reduction in defoliation for 1992.

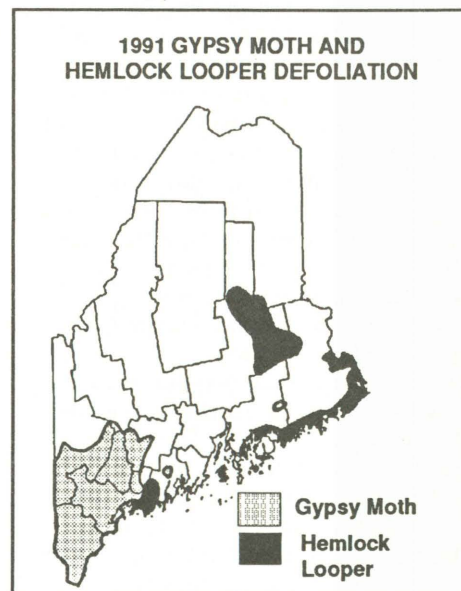
Hemlock looper caterpillars

caused severe defoliation on 225,000 acres in 1991. The insects left patches of dead and moribund hemlocks and severely defoliated stands of spruce and fir in coastal areas. Initial surveys show that hemlock looper populations are increasing.

During the upcoming fall and winter, the Insect and Disease Management Division (I&DM) will continue to survey damage and assess densities of overwintering eggs of each species to evaluate potential risk for next year. Reports of local conditions will be provided to all communities where defoliation was noted.

Landowners and municipal officials who wish to develop options for control may request training to sample populations using standard Maine Forest Service methods. The division will assess the samples and provide population data and recommendations to the landowner.

More information about gypsy moth and hemlock looper may be



obtained by calling the I&DM division in Augusta at 289-2791. □

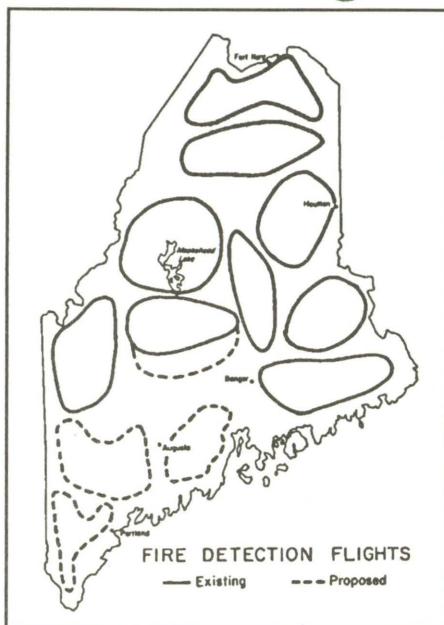
David Struble
State Entomologist

Statewide Fire Detection Flights Planned

Forest fires have been spotted from airplanes in Maine since the 1920's when the Maine Forest Service began using aircraft. In 1967, the first air detection contract was signed and airplanes gained a permanent role in Maine as aerial fire detection platforms. Contracted fire detection flights now provide fire detection for three-quarters of the state. Statewide flights are planned for 1992.

Each of Maine's air detection flight loops is positioned and scheduled by the Forest Service for the best coverage of the protected area. Topography and past experience with fire starts determine the location of the flight line and the plane's altitude along it.

Air detection pilots and their airplanes are ready to fly from April to November, Maine's normal fire season. Regional forest rangers manage the flights and send planes aloft according to fire hazard conditions. When the hazard is high, pilots expect to fly two or more flights each day. If a thunderstorm has passed through, the pilots know they



will be sent to look for wisps of smoke marking lightning strikes.

During the flight, radio contact is maintained with dispatchers at Forest Service field offices. At predetermined points along the flight path, 360 degree turns are performed,

giving the pilot a second look. Radio checks made at these turning points pinpoint the airplane's location on the dispatcher's map.

Experienced air detection pilots can see smoke, even small amounts, at surprising distances. When smoke is spotted, an initial report is made to the dispatcher, and the pilot may be directed to leave the flight line temporarily for a closer look. If people are tending the fire, the dispatcher will be notified and a check will be made to see if a fire permit has been issued in that area. If the fire is unattended, the pilot may "size up" the situation and provide information about fuel type, wind direction and terrain. In remote locations, the pilot may scout the best access routes and relay the information to the first ground units to arrive.

Despite the efficiency of aerial detection, the flights are not the primary source of information about forest fire starts. More than 90% of Maine's forest fires are first reported by citizens. □

SERVE/Maine Volunteers Aid DOC Staff

SERVE/Maine volunteers helped extend Department of Conservation staff efforts this year. The work projects included:

- Two International Workcamps of European volunteers spent 1500 hours building trails and bridges, repairing buildings and restoring shorelines at parks and public lands.
- Special programs for the Maine Conservation Corps were conducted and a new brochure was produced.
- Information was digitized for DOC's Geographic Information System.
- Volunteer hosts assisted at Montpelier State Historic Site.
- An expert on historic architecture is studying Allagash Wilderness Waterway buildings.
- Volunteers maintained campsites on Moosehead Lake in the Maine Forest Service "Adopt a Campsite" program.
- Nature walks for school children at Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park were lead and a new interpretive walk on the medicinal qualities of

local plants was designed.

- Articles about the Allagash Wilderness Waterway's 25th Anniversary and the SERVE/Maine International Volunteer Workcamp were written and published in the Bangor Daily News.
- The Kids in Crisis Conservation Corps contributed over 1100 hours of work at state parks.
- A college intern volunteered 675 hours coordinating MCC field operations.
- Over 100 hours were contributed researching, assembling and field checking information for the Bureau of Parks and Recreation's Coastal Beach Inventory Project.
- Volunteer Backcountry Rangers maintained campsites, trails and public use records for the Bureau of Public Lands.

Other SERVE/Maine volunteers



Tolga Erez of Turkey, Annett Sobe of Germany, and Claire Chapman of England, split wood at Camden Hills State Park. The three are part of a group of SERVE/Maine international volunteers who participated in four workcamps this year. Photo by L. Seigars

accomplished projects for the Departments of Environmental Protection, Marine Resources, Inland Fisheries & Wildlife and the State Planning Office; Soil Conservation Service; U.S. Forest Service and many other public natural resource agencies. □

Libbey Seigars
SERVE/Maine



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Geological Survey 289-2801
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Gov. McKernan Reviews GIS Oil Spill Emergency Plan



Gov. McKernan (seated) reviews natural resource information in the GIS database that will be used in oil spill response operations. Joining the governor at the Office of GIS are (from left) Dan Walters, GIS director; Sue Bell, DOC deputy commissioner; and Alan Prysunka, director of the DEP's Bureau of Oil and Hazardous Materials Control. Photo by John Poisson

The Office of Geographic Information System (GIS) is focused on statewide, multi-agency cooperative efforts. The Northern Forest Lands Study (NFLS), spearheaded by the Department of Conservation, and the Marine Oil Spill Response project, led by the Department of Environmental Protection, are examples. The NFLS, covering 15 million acres in Maine and 10 million acres in New York, New Hampshire and Vermont, will use the GIS to inventory the natural resource base of the northern forest. For the "Oil Spill Project," maps showing the

locations of coastal resources will be put into the GIS database and refined to identify sensitive areas. The computerized GIS maps will be used during the time of an oil spill to direct emergency operations. Project cooperators are the Departments of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Marine Resources, Economic and Community Development and the State Planning Office. Federal government and private sector participation is a key ingredient in both projects. □

Dan Walters
Director, GIS

Park Recycling Successful



Campers recycled solid waste at Camden Hills State Park in 1991. Photo by Helene Marsh

A pilot project to determine the feasibility of solid waste recycling in state parks was conducted at Camden Hills State Park this summer.

Most campers participated and spoke positively about recycling to preserve the environment. Campers were also pleased that garbage cans were no longer placed throughout the campground.

The project met its goal of reducing solid waste by ten percent. In addition, the time that park staff spent maintaining the recycling bins was about one-eighth of the time formerly spent emptying trash cans.

The recycling project will continue next year, and park staff hope to increase the number of categories of recyclable items. □

Helene Marsh
BPR Intern