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Walter Whitcomb
COMMISSIONER

Date: March 6, 2015

To: Eastern Interior Region Plan Advisory Committee Members
From: Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry,
Bureau of Parks and Lands
Re: Five-Year Review of the Eastern Interior Region Management Plan

Enclosed are the Advisory Committee comments on the 2014 five-year review of the 2009 Eastern Interior Region Management Plan and the responses to those comments by the Bureau of Parks and Lands. (As outlined below, this review also addressed the 2010 Amherst Mountains Community Forest (AMCF) Management Plan. The AMCF is managed as part of the Eastern Interior Region. No comments were received on the AMCF Plan.)

The Eastern Interior Plan guides the management activities of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands on public lands at Duck Lake; Bradley; Machias River and 21 smaller lots. The Bureau is required to report to the Advisory Committee at five-year intervals on accomplishments and changing conditions that may warrant amendments to the plan. The Bureau identified no new issues or circumstances that were not addressed in the Plan that warranted Committee discussion or action at this time.

The Bureau mailed its 2014 five-year report for the Eastern Interior Region Plan to the Advisory Committee members on December 23, 2014, requesting their comments on the report. The five-year report for the AMCF Plan was mailed to Advisory Committee members on January 6, 2015, with a similar request for comments.

The Bureau received written comments from four Advisory Committee members and takes particular note of the following:

- Keg Lake Boat and Road Access: As a result of Committee member comments, the Final Report clarifies BPLs discussions with the community of Lakeville regarding boat access at Keg Lake and Junior Lake, and actions that have been taken to improve hand-carry boat access to Keg Lake. The report also clarifies the current status of road access to the Keg Lake Lot, the Bureau's actions to replace the former environmentally problematic ROW, and interest in obtaining a permanent legal ROW across the town lot.
- Duck Lake Ecological Reserve: In response to a Committee member question, the Final Report provides an update on the use and management of the reserve as a predominantly de-facto non-mechanized backcountry area.

- Duck Lake Unit Timber Management: In response to Committee member comments and questions, the Final Report clarifies the objectives for timber management on the Unit and the emphasis on managing for late-successional character while also seeking opportunities to manage for early successional forest to benefit Canada Lynx.
- Deer Wintering Areas on Machias River: In response to Committee member comments on deer wintering areas in the Machias River drainage, the Final Report clarifies the Bureau's management, in consultation with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W), regarding management of zoned deer yards in the Duck Lake and Machias River Units.

This completes the five-year review process.