

**Summary of Advisory Committee Comments and Parks and Lands Responses  
on the Eastern Interior Region Management Plan 5-Year Review for 2014<sup>1</sup>  
Comment Period Dec. 26, 2014 – January 23, 2015  
(Does not include typographical, grammatical, or formatting comments)**

Comment	Response
<b>From: D. Gordon Mott, Forester, Lakeville</b>	
<p>Regarding the Lakeville Lots:</p> <p><u>Wildlife Management Recommendations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The timber harvesting that was conducted in 2009 - 2010 was excellently performed from both silvicultural and wildlife habitat perspectives.</li> </ul> <p><u>Recreation Management Recommendations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The statement: "The residents generally seem opposed to a hand carry site on Keg Lake as per meetings with them. The offer was made in conjunction with the parking area" probably should be revised to "Vehicle access to a potential hand-carry launch site on Keg Lake was developed with donated funds".</li> <li>I attended all meetings that have been held with the Lakeville Selectmen and the few interested citizens that ever attended. There were two meetings when the launches were discussed. The first was Oct. 11, 2011. I don't have a record of the date of the second. There is in fact concern if any trailer-able boat launch is ever to be developed on the Duck Lake shore. While desirable access would thereby be provided to the public to Duck Lake and via Duck Stream to Junior Lake where there is no public access to the lakes, careful design and an open public input process would be required that involves both Lakeville residents and the general public that uses these lakes, before any such decision is ever made. A launch would seriously transform the natural character and use of this area. It is</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bureau appreciates the comment.</li> <li>The 5-Year review table incorrectly stated that there has been opposition to a hand carry launch on Keg Lake; it should have stated, as the commenter points out, that there has been opposition to a <u>trailer launch</u>.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> This five-year review also included the 2010 Amherst Mountains Community Forest Management Plan; no Advisory Committee comments were received on that Plan.

likely that other ongoing efforts to provide Junior Lake access will be productive and eliminate the need for any access here.

The second meeting was called by Lakeville Selectboard to hear concerns from two individuals who had property on Junior Lake and one on Keg Lake. It was resolved at the meeting that vehicle access was developed to the 250-foot line in accord with the original plan and that access expense was provided by donated funds. No record exists of an opposing decision by Selectboard or any general public discussion of the matter at the time of review of the original plan or subsequent to that meeting.

- Minor walking trail improvements should be made to the origin on the lake of the old portage trail for hand carry access in accord with the original plan. It should also be noted that there are two potential water-access campsites available in the Keg Lake public lot that are not otherwise accessible in any other way for any purpose.

Transportation and Administrative Recommendations

- Discussion has taken place between BPL and Lakeville Selectboard in which I believe the Selectboard agreed to swap the right of way from Bottle Lake Road to the Keg Lake lot across the Town-owned parcel, from Long Point road where a bridge has fallen into disrepair and the road requires costly maintenance because of the presence of springs, to another road to the south that will have better permanent footing and improved connection to the internal public lot road system.

It is recommended that legal completion of this agreement be added to the Management Plan. The agreement should include some provision for joint maintenance of the Town-owned segment and seasonal closure as required.

- There is an informal hand carry launch at the terminus of the portage trail. BPL improved access to that by constructing a parking area near the site, and plans to improve the trail from the parking lot to the launch this year.

- BPL did receive permission from the Town to cross a portion of the town lot with an access road for timber management, and subsequently improved that road for access. BPL is very interested in working with the Town to secure a permanent ROW over that road, for all purposes. BPL has already discontinued use of its ROW to the north, as we agree it is problematic environmentally. Note that the ROW was granted to the Bureau by the Penobscot Indian Nation in 1992, for all purposes, and was the same ROW the Penobscot Indian Nation had already conveyed to Lakeville Shores, Inc. in 1988.

**From: Eliza Donoghue, Natural Resources Council of Maine**

<p>Thank you for passing along information about the Five-Year Review of the Eastern Interior Region Management Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Natural Resources Council of Maine has reviewed the plan recommendations and the actions taken by the Bureau and has not identified any new issues or circumstances that we feel warrant input or action on behalf of the Advisory Committee or amendment to the Plan.</li><li>• We were pleased to learn that Loon counts have been and plan to be conducted on Third and Fourth Machias Lakes, that the Division of Sea-Run Fisheries and Habitat provided input for the forest management prescription for the Machias River Unit, and that the Warden Service is monitoring Duck Lake during heavy use periods. NRCM appreciates these commitments by the Bureau to protect the outstanding qualities of these units.</li></ul> <p><u>Regarding the Duck Lake Unit:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Why has feasibility of managing the Ecological Reserve within the Duck Lake Unit as a non-mechanized backcountry area not been explored yet?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Comment noted.</li><li>• The Bureau appreciates the comments.</li><li>• The Bureau has seen no evidence of snowmobile use of the discontinued primitive snowmobile trail on the esker along Fifth Lake Stream and only very limited use of the allowed primitive snowmobile use of the Portage Trail between Fourth Lake and Gassabias Lake, primarily by trappers. An ATV trail that predates state ownership crosses the reserve on the 42-00-0 road just north of Fifth Machias Lake. Otherwise, the area is a de-facto non-mechanized backcountry area.</li></ul>
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**From: Gerald Poulin, Wagner Forest Management**

<p><u>Regarding the Duck Lake Unit:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wildlife Management Recommendations call for a component of early-successional forest for wildlife that benefit from this forest type, including Canada Lynx, but the Timber Management Recommendations seem to be all about late-successional forests. There is a</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The primary goal for timber management on the unit is to manage for late successional character, and much of the area allocated to Wildlife Management is to be managed for mature softwoods to maintain and expand deer wintering habitat. Although no acreage target has</li></ul>
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<p>conflict between expanding white tail deer wintering habitat and early-successional forests. Is there a goal for a certain number of acres for each forest type?</p>	<p>been established for early-successional forest, the Bureau does seek opportunities to manage for some young softwood habitat, to complement that existing on adjacent lands.</p>
<p><b><i>From: James Hall, MDIF&amp;W Wildlife Biologist</i></b></p>	
<p><u>Regarding deer wintering areas (DWAs) in the Machias River Drainage:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We would like review and input into the timber management plans along the main stem and major tributaries, out to ¼ mile and further on mapped DWAs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As described in the Eastern Interior Region Plan, there are zoned DWAs in the Duck Lake and Machias River Units, within the Machias River drainage. Since 1984 there has been a MDIF&amp;W Wildlife Biologist assigned to BPL to coordinate with MDIF&amp;W regional biologists on prescriptions. BPL will continue this longstanding practice. Under agreement with MDIF&amp;W, BPL treats stands that have characteristics of a DWA according to a set of recommendations drafted by MDIF&amp;W.</li> </ul>