

Management Recommendations (Plan pages 161-170)

General: Applies to All Lands	Actions taken/Comments:
<p>Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems & Habitat Management</p>	
<p>1. Keep recreationists on trails, especially in alpine areas, through scree walls, education, etc.</p>	<p>Horns Pond Caretaker educates hikers on the Appalachian Trail (AT).</p>
<p>2. Protect natural communities and rare plant populations from impacts related to land management by consulting with MNAP prior to harvesting in areas containing rare plants or plant communities, exemplary natural communities, or areas identified as potential ecological reserves in the 1998 Janet McMahon report, "An Ecological Reserves System Inventory."</p>	<p>Routinely consult with MNAP prior to harvesting in these areas.</p>
<p>3. Consult with the MNAP prior to establishing new trails or cutting vegetation for view opportunities in an ecological reserve.</p>	<p>No activity this period.</p>
<p>Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species; Species of Special Concern</p>	
<p>4. Manage areas around rare animal sites according to MDIFW or USFWS guidelines, as appropriate.</p>	<p>No activity this period.</p>
<p>Wildlife Management</p>	
<p>5. Manage public reserved lands to increase the quality and quantity of softwood dominated stands amongst the predominance of hardwoods to increase forest diversity and benefit many wildlife species.</p>	<p>Ongoing objective.</p>
<p>6. Follow Bureau-adopted "beech management guidelines" to assure the continuance of beech as a viable component of hardwood stands. Maintaining beech in the face of severe disease problems is a regional goal. Beechnuts are an important food for more than 40 wildlife species, and important to bear reproduction.</p>	<p>Severe mortality has limited BPL's ability to manage beech.</p>
<p>7. Provide significant amounts of multi-aged forests (this general goal will enhance wildlife habitat over time).</p>	<p>Ongoing objective.</p>
<p>8. In cooperation with Florida Power and Light, MDIFW, and MDOT, as appropriate, pursue ways to educate the public about threats to the fishery from illegal stocking of non-native fish, which diminish native populations, and threats to the health of the region's lakes and ponds from the introduction of invasive aquatic weeds.</p>	<p>The number of invasive species of concern in Maine has grown substantially to include a variety land and water plants and animals. Information is plentiful but has yet to be consolidated into a single format suitable for posting on BPL signboards/kiosks. The BPL website will soon include links to invasives information provided by Environmental Protection, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Maine Forest Service for each area searchable under "Find Parks & Lands."</p>

Bigelow Preserve	Actions taken/Comments:
<p>Flagstaff-Lake Focused Recreation: In cooperation with Florida Power and Light and constituent groups develop a coordinated plan for Flagstaff Lake related recreational facilities. Areas to address include:</p> <p><u>Water Access Camping:</u> When the need can be documented and resources are available, consider additional remote water access sites at:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the Savage Farm Site across from Myers Lodge 2. the Reed Brook area 3. additional areas identified in the Bureau’s Multiple Use Coordination Reports (developed as part of the forest management prescription process) 	<p>The FERC Flagstaff Project license requires Brookfield (formerly Florida Power and Light/Next Era Energy) to develop a Comprehensive Recreation and Land Management Plan, in consultation with DPPL and other state and federal agencies by July 31, 2013. Division staff met with Brookfield and their consultant in January and June 2013. Key issues discussed included recreation facility enhancements, potential new recreation sites, and sharing of costs for recreation site development and management. The Division has provided comment on the Draft Plan and will be seeking further input from user groups during the Plan update process.</p>
<p><u>Walk-to or Drive-to Camping and Recreation:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Redesign Trout Brook Sites – limit vehicle access to the lake on the north side of the brook and define 4 individual party walk-to sites; continue to provide drive-to group site on the south side of the brook. 	<p>South side drive-to site was improved.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Work with Florida Power and Light to remove the shack near old boom dam and limit vehicle access creating a walk-to/water access site or sites. 	<p>Shack was removed. Further work to limit vehicle access will be addressed in the Comprehensive Recreation and Land Management Plan being developed by Brookfield (formerly Florida Power and Light/Next Era Energy) in consultation with the Division.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Limit further development at the Round Barn site to not more than two additional sites on the east side of the cove; and a designated disabled access site near to the parking area. Improve the privy nearest the parking area to be compliant with the American with Disabilities Act. 	<p>Limited activity. Improved accessibility of privy near parking area.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Continue to allow trailered boat access to Flagstaff Lake at Round Barn during the fall waterfowl hunting season only. 	<p>Trailered boat access to Flagstaff Lake at Round Barn is allowed during the fall waterfowl hunting season only.</p>
<p>Land-Based Recreation <u>Additions to the Bigelow Preserve:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consistent with Bureau Policy on additions to the Preserve, add the following to the Bigelow Preserve: the Range Trailhead (Coplin Pit); and the Wyman Lot East (north and east of powerline and Route 27; excepting a small area near the powerline needed for a proposed ATV trail following the powerline to bypass of the transformer station); and excepting a buffer along the CMP powerline of 500 feet; and a small buffer north of the Boralex powerline as shown on the allocation maps. 2. Close to motorized public use two small spur roads that branch southerly off the Stratton Brook Road on parcels added to the Preserve. 	<p>Done. Requires GIS update.</p> <p>Spur roads have grown over and are not vehicle-passable.</p>

<p><u>Hiking, Biking and Camping Opportunities:</u> 3. In consultation with the MATC and ATC, evaluate and document the need for additional hiking trails to relieve heavily used areas or provide new opportunities for which there is a documented demand. Implement, if the need can be demonstrated, and the resources are available, one or both of the following:</p>	<p>No activity this period on Avery Peak Bypass or North Col trails.</p>
<p>a. <u>Avery Peak Bypass Trail:</u> This could provide additional loop possibilities and a thru trail option that does not require the very difficult and intimidating summit of Avery Peak. It could also provide a safe alternate route during times of inclement weather for planned hikes that start on one side of the ridge and go to the other. Currently parties must make the choice to go over the peaks in dangerous conditions or turn back. The safest choice is often difficult one to make. There appears to be a demand with many aging hikers for such an alternative. The entire route area has been scouted.</p>	
<p>b. <u>North Col Trail:</u> This could provide a loop from the Round Barn Campsite decreasing pressure on the heavily used Safford Brook Trail. Upper portions of the closed Parson's trail could be utilized with lower sections rerouted to bring hikers to the East Flagstaff Road Extension. Further evaluation of the possible location of this trail is needed, if the need can be justified.</p>	
<p>4. Work with MATC to develop walk-to campsites on the east shore of Flagstaff Lake on Bureau lands, to meet existing demand associated with the A.T.</p>	<p>Constructed one campsite and monitor use for additional need.</p>
<p>5. Explore developing a summer hiking trail through the eastern shore area of the Bigelow Preserve, connecting with the Western Mountains Foundation (WMF) Trail, in consultation with MATC and the ATC.</p>	<p>Done. The AT was relocated closer to the lake and the former AT route now connects to the WMF trail.</p>
<p>6. Install a foot bridge over the outlet of Stratton Brook Pond on the Fire Wardens Trail.</p>	<p>No activity this period.</p>
<p>7. Reconfigure the parking area and campsite in the gravel pit that serves the Little Bigelow Trailhead. a. Maintain as a year-round parking area for AT hikers, boaters, and cross-country skiers. Provide a pit privy that is ADA compliant to serve the parking area and other allowed uses.</p>	<p>The Little Bigelow parking area and campsite were reconfigured, and the parking area is maintained year-round. Installation of an ADA-compliant privy occurred in 2012.</p>
<p>b. Investigate the feasibility of providing a path to the lake from this parking area for hand-carry boat access (including an option of a connector trail to the Bog Brook Road).</p>	<p>This path exists and is lightly used.</p>
<p>c. Develop/designate one or more camping areas (depending on demand) limited to tent camping to serve parties that arrive late in the day to start a hike or boat trip the following day. Limit use of the site(s) to one or two nights only, as deemed appropriate based on use.</p>	<p>Work on these campsites is complete.</p>

d. Allow use of a portion of the parking area for special events associated with the Trail, subject to approval of a Special Use Permit.	Special events are allowed by permit.
8. Remove the Fire Tower from Avery Peak after consultation with the Maine Forest Service. The tower is in very poor shape and an attractive nuisance. Damaged walls provide access and fires have burned through the floor. Structure would be dismantled and burned on site. Stone foundation would be left providing defined durable surface for trail users.	Done.
9. Retain Fire Warden's cabin and maintain structure for continued seasonal use by the MATC.	MATC uses and maintains this structure.
10. Continue to cooperate with MATC's Caretaker and Ridgerunner Education (CARE) program at Horns Pond, The Col volunteer program and other MATC partnerships.	Cooperation with MATC is ongoing.
11. Designate mountain biking routes as follows: along the existing public use roads; along the Stratton Brook and Huston Brook Roads (the latter also known as the "Sixties haul road"); and the woods road from the Range trailhead to the Stratton Brook Road.	These roads are designated for bicycling. Improvements to Huston Brook Road trail were completed by the Carrabassett Region Chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA).
<u>Winter Recreation:</u>	
12. Develop routes for two backcountry skiing areas. Explore possible trails connecting to Jones Pond area with the National Park Service, MATC and ATC.	No activity this period.
13. Designate the existing high elevation snowmobile route crossing through north leg of The Horns ecological reserve as the primary snowmobile route on the north side of Bigelow; and designate the existing lower elevation route as an alternate trail to be improved and used when the Bureau is actively harvesting in the higher elevation areas.	Done. Requires GIS update.
14. Design snowmobile trails to be not more than 12 feet wide, maintaining natural contours to discourage high speed travel and ensure safety to about a 25 mph speed. Major stream crossings will have bridges built to protect not only the riders from the steep slopes and rocky bottoms but to allow the streams to flow unimpeded during the spring runoff.	No new trails were constructed. Any major improvements to existing trails would have to meet this standard.
15. Winter Parking	
a. Continue to plow area at Range Trail	Done.
b. Explore options to provide a winter parking area serving the south side of the Preserve for access to cross-country ski trails and winter hiking; and on the north side at Gravel pit parking area near Bigelow Trailhead.	Now considering options in these areas.
16. Continue to cooperate with both local snowmobile clubs to provide groomed sled trails. Additional seasonal barricades are required to control inappropriate summer use.	Have repaired one gate and installed an additional gate to control summer use.

<p><u>Use of the Bigelow Lodge:</u> 17. Develop operational procedures and guidelines for use of the Bigelow Lodge for summer and winter use.</p>	<p>No activity this period.</p>
<p>18. Manage the Bigelow Lodge to minimize its impacts on other users in the Preserve.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>
<p>Historic Resources 1. Any activities that would result in ground disturbance in historic and archaeologically sensitive areas must be reviewed by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC). Sensitive areas include areas close to the original Dead River channel – Round Barn and Ferry Farm where there could be artifacts from the Arnold Expedition; and areas determined to have potential for prehistoric artifacts – all shoreline areas.</p>	<p>Follow as required.</p>
<p>Administrative Issues 1. Execute a lease for the Wing Camp.</p>	<p>No activity this period.</p>
<p>2. Gravel extracted from pits within the Preserve may only be used for purposes within the Preserve. All depleted pits will be rehabilitated.</p>	<p>Gravel restriction observed.</p>
<p>3. Seek to acquire in-holdings within the Preserve boundaries, or lands adjacent to the Preserve that have valued public resources, if these lands are placed on the market and can be acquired at fair market value, and funds are available for the acquisition.</p>	<p>No opportunities emerged this period.</p>

Flagstaff Lake/Surrounding Properties	Actions taken/Comments:
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<p>Coordinated Recreation Planning for Flagstaff Lake: 1. In cooperation with Florida Power and Light and constituent groups develop a coordinated plan for recreational facilities on Flagstaff Lake. In general, evaluate the demand and needs for additional water access camping sites on Flagstaff Lake in cooperation with user groups such as the Northern Forest Canoe Trail organization, Outward Bound and Chewonki, and local guides. Implement when the need is documented and resources allow. 2. Develop a formal agreement with Florida Power and Light regarding the management of lands and recreation resources within the 1146-foot and 1150-foot elevation contours of shoreline adjacent to Bureau ownership. 3. Discuss/pursue erosion control along the shoreline of Flagstaff Lake with Florida Power and Light.</p>	<p>The FERC Flagstaff Project license requires Brookfield (formerly Next Era Energy/Florida Power and Light) to develop a Comprehensive Recreation and Land Management Plan, in consultation with DPPL and other state and federal agencies by July 31, 2013. Division staff met with Brookfield and their consultant in January and June 2013. Discussion at these meetings addressed a coordinated management approach and an accurate inventory of recreation sites and ownership. There was only general discussion of potential new water access camping sites. The Draft Plan addresses coordinated recreation site development and management and a potential future formal agreement, and shoreline erosion control. The Division has provided comments on the Draft Plan and will be seeking further input from user groups during the Plan update process.</p>
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<p>Flagstaff Lake Focused Recreation: <u>Water Access Camping:</u> <u>Islands:</u> 1. Evaluate the need and feasibility of adding water access sites on Flagstaff Island.</p>	<p>See #1 under Coordinated Recreation Planning.</p>
<p><u>Dead River Peninsula:</u> 1. Designate the North Flagstaff Road (Picked Chicken Hill Road) as a public use road. 2. If the demand can be documented, and as resources allow, provide additional remote water access camping sites. The shoreline of the Dead River Peninsula has been identified as the preferable location for through-trippers on the Northern Forest Canoe Trail due to prevailing winds and aspect.</p>	<p>Done. See #1 under Coordinated Recreation Planning.</p>
<p><u>Walk-to or Drive-to Camping and Recreation Opportunities on Flagstaff Lake:</u> <u>Myers Lodge:</u> 1. Designate the access road as a public use road. 2. Limit vehicle access to the lake. Remove the culvert through the drainage area and replace with a foot-bridge wide enough for carry-in boat access. 3. Develop drive-to campsites on high ground near the footbridge. Designate one handicapped accessible site. 4. Provide one or more vault toilets, including one that is ADA compliant. 5. Manage the beach area for carry-in boat access and day use, except in areas designated for walk-to campsites; manage a portion of the beach for day use.</p>	<p>Road is maintained for public use. Requires GIS update. The Division has discussed these improvements with Brookfield and they are addressed in the Comprehensive Recreation and Land Management Plan that the Division has reviewed and that Brookfield is to submit to FERC by July 31, 2013.</p>
<p><u>Northern Shoreline – Flagstaff Township:</u> 6. Explore the potential for ATV access to the northern shoreline of Flagstaff Lake (the area that was the original Flagstaff Pond) for a remote ATV camping opportunity (requires agreements with adjacent landowners). As with other remote sites, provide a parking area with footpaths to campsites and the lake. Design at least one site to be handicapped accessible. (Note: these sites would also be accessible by water).</p>	<p>This concept is no longer being pursued due to restrictions placed on ATV access by the abutting private landowner.</p>
<p><u>Dead River Peninsula:</u> 7. Redesign site on west end of Dead River Peninsula lot to be walk-in or water access; block the spur road to this site and provide a parking area for walk-in users.</p>	<p>Done.</p>

<p>Boat Access: Pursue parking improvements to the Flagstaff Lake boat access facility on the Spring Lake parcel with Florida Power and Light (responsible for this facility under their Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license).</p>	<p>The Division has discussed these improvements with Brookfield (formerly Florida Power and Light/Next Era Energy) and they are addressed in the Comprehensive Recreation and Land Management Plan that the Division has reviewed and that Brookfield is to submit to FERC by July 31, 2013.</p>
<p>Dead River Focused Recreation: 1. Improve the Big Eddy Campsite sanitation facilities.</p>	<p>Vault toilets were installed in 2012.</p>
<p>Land Based Recreation 1. <u>Wyman Lot (south) and Carrabassett Valley lots:</u> Work with the Flagstaff Area ATV Club to develop a route connecting trails in Coplin Plantation to Kingfield via the Wyman lot south of Route 27, crossing the AT along Route 27, connecting to the CMP powerline on the east side of Route 27 (involving a bypass around the transformer station using an existing road and a small portion of the Wyman lot north and east of Route 27), and then connecting to the existing snowmobile trail heading south of the Preserve. 2. <u>Wyman Lot (south):</u> Construct an interpretive trail through the Old Growth Stand, as resources allow. 3. <u>Spring Lake and Dead River Peninsula Lots:</u> Designate the road on the Spring Lake Lot beginning at the bridge over the Dead River, and continuing across the top of the Dead River Peninsula as a public use road. Allow public use of the management road that branches south from this road on the Dead River Peninsula (this will be maintained only to the standard of a woods management road, and may be used by ATV's and for pedestrian uses).</p>	<p>Done. Secured funding for trail construction. Done. Done.</p>
<p>Historic Resources: Any activities that would result in ground disturbance in historic and archaeologically sensitive areas must be reviewed by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC). Sensitive areas include areas close to the original Dead River channel –where there could be artifacts from the Arnold Expedition; and areas determined to have potential for prehistoric artifacts – the entire shoreline of Flagstaff Lake.</p>	<p>Follow as required.</p>
<p>Administrative Issues: 1. Survey the boundary line on the Northern Flagstaff Lake shoreline parcels acquired from Plum Creek.</p>	<p>No activity this period.</p>

Mount Abraham	Actions taken/Comments:
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<p>Wildlife/Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems and Habitats</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with local snowmobile and ATV clubs to increase awareness of the impacts of these trails on the fragile alpine areas. 2. Block and post trails and roads on Bureau lands that are used to gain unauthorized motorized vehicle access into ecological reserve. Work with adjacent landowners to block and post trails that enter the Ecological Reserve from the western side. 3. Develop an agreement with MDIFW wardens to provide an enforcement presence if necessary, to ensure that ATV's and snowmobiles are not violating posted areas. 4. Remove the "cave" and metal structures, including the old fire tower, from the peak. 	<p>Problems are more associated with independent riders than with club members.</p> <p>Have blocked and posted routes on Bureau lands and worked with adjacent landowners to do the same. Most difficult use to control is winter snowmobile use.</p> <p>Will schedule additional enforcement patrols with the Maine Warden Service.</p> <p>No activity this period.</p>
<p>Recreation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Re-establish the hiking trailhead at the original lower elevation site and reroute the trail on Bureau lands to connect with the Warden's trail. 2. Remove the old Fire Wardens cabin and locate/construct a group tent site. 3. Block the logging roads that extend into the Ecological Reserve and put them to bed. 4. Evaluate alternatives to the road across the southern arm of the ecological reserve presently used as part of the snowmobile and ATV trail system in the area. Relocate these trails to other roads if reasonable, and discontinue the road on the ecological reserve. 5. Continue to allow ATVs and snowmobiles to use the existing gravel management road on the easterly edge of the non-ecoreserve portion of the property, provided there are no environmental issues. 	<p>Done.</p> <p>Cabin has been removed.</p> <p>No activity this period.</p> <p>No activity this period.</p> <p>Uses continue to be allowed.</p>
<p>Timber Resources</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluate forest management opportunities on the non-ecoreserve portion of the property. 	<p>No activity this period.</p>
<p>Administrative Issues</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine and mark the boundary of the ecological reserve where roads appear to cross the ecological reserve (southern and eastern boundary); and where woods roads appear useable by ATV's to illegally access the summit area (portions of the western line). 2. Assess any environmental issues with roads located on the Bureau lands. Put to bed any roads not needed for forest management purposes and not part of an approved snowmobile or ATV trail network. 	<p>No activity this period.</p> <p>No activity this period.</p>

<p>3. Develop a proposal to the MATC for extending the Appalachian side trail (blue-blaze trail) from the summit to the Bureau trailhead on the east side of the mountain.</p>	<p>No activity this period.</p>
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Chain of Ponds	Actions taken/Comments:
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<p>Recreation Resources</p>	
<p>1. Redesign Burnt Dam Campsites.</p>	<p>No activity this period.</p>
<p>2. Through the Boating Facilities Division, work with MDOT to provide improved public boat access to this string of ponds. Improve the boat ramp in the Natanis Campground to a concrete-plank ramp and provide additional parking. Block the informal access site onto Natanis Pond, just south of the entrance to the Natanis Campground to discourage its use (unsafe location).</p>	<p>Boat ramp and parking improvements at campground were completed. The informal site, created by MDOT on MDOT land, has not been blocked.</p>
<p>3. Provide an ADA compliant privy at the new boat launch facility on Natanis Pond; upgrade the privy at the Upper Farm site to be ADA compliant as resources allow.</p>	<p>Currently working with campground operator to provide accessible toilet at improved boat launch.</p>
<p>4. Work with the Boating Facilities Division and MDOT, using MDOT Water Access Bond money to develop an improved trailerable boat access onto Lower Pond, to replace a steep, gravel ramp at the same location.</p>	<p>The site has been determined unsuitable for an improved trailerable launch because of steep slopes, insufficient land and deep water at the shore.</p>
<p>5. Provide signage to identify hand carry boat access to the two middle ponds within the chain, Long Pond and Bag Pond.</p>	<p>No activity this period. Two hand-carry sites providing access to Bag and Lower Pond are located on Google Earth: http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/programs/boating/googlemaps.html</p>
<p>Historic Resources</p>	
<p>1. Any activities that would result in ground disturbance in historic and archaeologically sensitive areas must be reviewed by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC). Sensitive areas include areas in proximity to Natanis Point, Round Pond and Horseshoe Stream.</p>	<p>Follow as required.</p>
<p>2. Pursue interpretive efforts related to the Arnold Trail in cooperation with MDOT (related to interpretive panels to be erected at the new scenic overlook on Route 27, as part of the Scenic Byways program), and the Arnold Trail Historical Society, which maintains a trail around and above Round Pond.</p>	<p>MDOT panels describing the Arnold Expedition were installed on Route 27 turnout near Cathedral Pines in Eustis. Work with the Arnold Expedition Historical Society is expected in the future.</p>
<p>Wildlife/Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems and Habitats</p>	
<p>1. Periodically manage the old fields and apple trees to maintain their habitat attributes.</p>	<p>Periodic mowing and pruning occurs.</p>
<p>2. Monitor and evaluate the potential of the Horseshoe Stream area for designation as a managed deer wintering area.</p>	<p>No activity this period.</p>

<p>3. Post information at the trailered boat access on Natanis Pond related to procedures for avoiding introduction of invasive aquatic vegetation and fish.</p>	<p>The number of invasive species of concern in Maine has grown substantially to include a variety land and water plants and animals. Information is plentiful but has yet to be consolidated into a single format suitable for posting on BPL signboards/kiosks. The BPL website will soon include links to invasives information provided by Environmental Protection, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Maine Forest Service for each area searchable under “Find Parks & Lands.”</p>
<p>Administrative Issues</p> <p>1. Work with the Natanis Campground leaseholders to ensure continued reasonable public access to public resources including availability of short-term camping sites; access to the planned public boat access at the north end of Natanis Pond; access to ATV trails; and access to the Arnold Trail walk.</p> <p>2. Work with the commercial campground lessee to ensure the campground is in character with the scenic and primitive nature of the surroundings, and has as little impact on the lake and associated wetlands as possible.</p>	<p>Lease agreement with campground lessee addresses these objectives.</p>

Other Public Lots/Easement	Actions taken/Comments:
<p>Coplin Plantation West Lot (Deeryard Lot)</p> <p>1. Continue to manage for wildlife; monitor and evaluate use and ongoing studies related to the Deer Wintering area on this lot.</p>	<p>Due to natural occurrences, the cover on this lot has fallen apart and portions are no longer suitable habitat, although it still zoned for wildlife protection by LURC. A follow-up inspection/survey is needed to make further evaluation.</p>
<p>2. Define the Visual Class I area along the Dead River prior to any timber harvest in this area.</p>	<p>No activity this period.</p>
<p>Coplin Plantation Center Lot</p> <p>1. Continue to manage for late successional forest for high quality timber where appropriate, and a diverse wildlife habitat.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>
<p>Freeman Township Lot</p> <p>1. Continue to manage for high quality timber and diverse wildlife habitat.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Highland Plantation West Lot:</p> <p>1. Continue to manage for late successional forest for high quality timber where appropriate and wildlife values.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>
<p>2. Define the Visual Class I area along the Long Falls Dam Road prior to any timber harvest in this area.</p>	<p>Done. GIS update required.</p>
<p>Highland Plantation Double Lot:</p> <p>1. Continue to manage for late successional forest for high quality timber where appropriate and diverse wildlife habitat.</p>	<p>No activity this period.</p>

<p>Highland Plantation Southeast Lot:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage the portion of the lot west of Sandy Stream for wildlife. 2. Establish a Visual Class I area around the small ledge/waterfall on the north line of the parcel prior to any timber harvest in this area. 3. Provide signs along the gravel road visible to the public showing points of entry onto and exit from this lot. Provide a small parking area along the road if feasible. 	<p>No activity this period.</p>
<p>King and Bartlett Township Lot:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to manage for late successional forest for high quality timber where appropriate and wildlife values. 	<p>No activity this period.</p>
<p>Redington Township Lot:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to manage for late successional forest for high quality timber where appropriate, and wildlife habitat, subject to a variable width Visual Class I area and the 100-foot no-cut area along either side of the Appalachian Trail. 2. Avoid placement of new forest management roads within the remote recreation zone along the AT. 	<p>No activity this period.</p>
<p>Pierce Pond Easement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish and implement an annual monitoring program in cooperation with the US Forest Service (holder of the Plum Creek and Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust conservation easements), and the Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust (third party enforcer to the conservation easement held by the Bureau on the Charles and Gertrude Valentine property). 	<p>Established and ongoing.</p>

Monitoring and Evaluation (Plan pages 171-173)

Actions taken/Comments:

<p>Implementation of Plan Recommendations</p> <p>Within 2 years of plan adoption, develop a process for implementing, accomplishing, and tracking the management recommendations in the Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include a framework of recommendations with priority levels assigned and targeted timeframes established by priority level. This framework will be utilized to determine work priorities and budgets on an annual basis. • Document annually progress in implementing the recommendations, plans for the coming year, and adjustments to the target timeframes as needed. 	<p>The Bureau implements plan recommendations through the process of calendar year planning, during which it schedules and budgets for projects for the coming year. Priorities are established within each Public Lands administrative region based on urgency of need (e.g., public safety, environmental impact); availability of resources (e.g., funds, staff, equipment, contractors); and opportunities available at the time (e.g., project consolidation, favorable weather). Yearly accomplishments are reported by administrative region in an annual report to the Legislature, which is posted on the Bureau's website.</p>
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<p>Recreation – Public Use Public use data for the Flagstaff Region, except for use on the Appalachian Trail and some scattered monitoring of snowmobile use on the Bigelow Preserve, does not exist. Fees are not charged for the use of these lands, so this avenue for collecting data does not exist for the Flagstaff properties. The Bureau will consider how additional use data could be gathered, perhaps by periodic user surveys.</p>	<p>No activity this period.</p>
<p>Recreation – Use Impacts In addition to gathering data on use, the Bureau will monitor use to determine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether improvements to existing facilities or additional facilities might be needed and compatible with the vision for the Unit; • whether additional measures are needed to ensure that recreational users have a high quality experience (which could be affected by the numbers of users, and interactions among users with conflicting interests); • whether use is adversely affecting sensitive natural resources or the ecology of the area; • whether measures are needed to address unforeseen safety issues; • whether changing recreational uses and demands present the need or opportunity for adjustments to existing facilities and management; and • whether any changes are needed in the management of recreation in relation to other management objectives, including protection or enhancement of wildlife habitat and forest management. 	<p>As a practical matter, most monitoring of public use occurs as observations made by seasonal recreation staff in the course of their routine duties; or as a result of conditions reported or requests made by visitors and others to field staff or to BPL regional and central offices. The Bureau is experimenting with a number of monitoring tools to supplement these observations and reports, including trail counters and visitor surveys.</p>
<p>Wildlife</p> <p>(1) Deer Wintering Areas: Of particular interest are the deer wintering areas on the Spring Lake, Chain of Ponds, and Coplin West lots, since there is a need for this habitat in the region. As staff and budgets allow, the Bureau will coordinate with MDIFW on aerial and ground surveys of these deer wintering areas to determine the distribution and use related to habitat quality and quantity. These surveys will be conducted during winter under snow conditions that restrict deer mobility.</p> <p>(2) Ruffed grouse: The Bureau also conducts periodic “drumming counts” for monitoring ruffed grouse populations in areas managed specifically for this species – on the Dead River Peninsula in this Region.</p> <p>(3) Bicknell’s thrush: In cooperation with the Vermont Institute of Natural Resources (VINS), the Bureau participates in monitoring high elevation birds, including Bicknell’s thrush, on Mount Abraham. VINS also monitors these birds on Bigelow Mountain, through another partner.</p>	<p>The Bureau routinely coordinates with DIFW on DWA surveys, and Spring Lake and Coplin Plantation lots have had winter surveys. No additional surveys were done during this 5-year period.</p> <p>The grouse patch management area at Dead River will be surveyed in the 2014 field season.</p> <p>The Vermont Center for Ecostudies, VCE (now separate from Vermont Institute of Natural Science, VINS) now monitors these areas.</p>

<p>Game Species: The Bureau cooperates with MDIFW monitoring of game species on the unit, including deer, moose, grouse, and black bear.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DIFW tracks deer, moose and bear harvests through harvest registrations, which are compiled and reported annually from registration station across the state. • DIFW does not survey ruffed grouse populations. BP&L runs drumming surveys where they have conducted grouse patch management, principally at Dead River and Seboomook. These two routes will be surveyed in the 2014 field season.
<p>Significant Wildlife Habitat: The Bureau will identify and map significant wildlife habitat such as vernal pools and den trees in the process of developing its detailed forest management prescriptions. The boundaries of any sensitive natural communities will also be delineated on the ground at this time. Any significant natural areas or wildlife habitat will then be subject to appropriate protections.</p>	<p>Ongoing. Process continues as described.</p>
<p>Ecological Reserves* The MNAP conducted natural resource inventories on the Horns and Mount Abraham ERs in 2005. Baseline data for long term monitoring using permanent plots were collected at the Horns in 2002 and at Mount Abraham in 2004. The areas will be re-inventoried periodically according to schedules developed by the Bureau and MNAP.</p>	<p>MNAP's re-inventory of The Horns ER is scheduled for 2013.</p>
<p>*An inventory interval of 10 years has been recommended by the Ecological Reserve Scientific Advisory Committee.</p>	
<p>Timber Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescriptions are prepared by professional foresters according to Bureau policies, with input from staff specialists, and peer-reviewed prior to approval. • Timber sales are prepared and laid out with field staff looking at most acres prior to harvest and with individual tree marking done on the majority of harvest acres. • Field staff are on-site to check on harvest practice and progress frequently; senior staff visit sites less frequently to obtain overall picture of what is taking place in the forest. • After harvest is completed, roads, trails, and water crossings are put to bed as appropriate, and any changes in stand type are recorded to update the Bureau's GIS system can be updated. 	<p>Process continues as described.</p>
<p>The Bureau is currently developing a post-harvest monitoring plan to assist forest managers in assessing harvest outcomes on all managed lands. The monitoring plan will also address water quality and Best Management Practices (BMPs) utilized during harvest activities.</p>	<p>Development of a current post-harvest monitoring plan is dependent on an update of sustainable harvest levels based on a full timber inventory completed in 2011. Preliminary results of that inventory show a significant increase in the volume of merchantable timber, which along with recent harvests at or near the annual allowable cut, require that yield curves be recalculated using the greater stocking levels. This recalculation is now under way.</p>

<p>Third party monitoring is done mainly through the forest certification programs of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). A full FSC audit was completed for all Bureau lands in 2006, including the Seboomook Unit.</p>	<p>In 2011, the Bureau had a full recertification audit under the FSC program and an annual surveillance audit under SFI. Auditors looked at harvest areas on four or five separate tracts in each of the three Lands administrative regions. A total of eight corrective action requests are now being addressed. Auditors were especially complimentary of the condition of recently harvested stands, the High Conservation Value Forests, and recreation management.</p>
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Issues for Advisory Committee Attention

New Issues or Circumstances Not Addressed in the Plan:

Mountain Bike Trail Request

The Carrabassett Region Chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA) has requested a trail across the northern “leg” of The Horns Ecological Reserve at Bigelow in order to complete a bike route around the mountain. Mountain bikes would cross the reserve on the same route as the primary high elevation snowmobile trail.

Maine Huts and Trails Request

Maine Huts and Trails has submitted a proposal to the Division and MATC to create a year-round trail from their new Stratton Brook Hut in Carrabassett Valley to the existing Stratton Brook Trail (ungroomed bike and ski trail) in Bigelow Preserve, intersecting near the Fire Warden’s Trail. Proposed uses include snowshoeing, hiking, mountain biking and potentially skiing (ungroomed). The proposed trail crosses The Horns Ecological Reserve in Wyman Twp.

Crocker Mountain Acquisition

Acquisition of 12,046 acres at Crocker Mountain, which abuts Bigelow Preserve, Mount Abraham and the Reddington public lot, was completed on June 7, 2013. Interest in the recreation potential of this land is such that a management plan for the area will be developed as soon as feasible, along with a recommendation that the Crocker Mountain plan be appended to the Flagstaff Region Plan.

Coburn Gore to Kingfield Trail

Western Mountains Corporation is working to develop a long-distance non-motorized trail from Coburn Gore to Kingfield. Proposed uses include hiking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and mountain biking. The trail would also include access to the Northern Forest Canoe Trail. The proposed trail would cross Public Lands at Chain of Ponds, the Bigelow Preserve and The Horns Ecological Reserve.

Other Items of Special Concern or Interest: None