

**THE GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE REGARDING THE MANAGEMENT OF  
PUBLIC LANDS AND PUBLICLY-HELD EASEMENTS**

**MINUTES**

December 18, 2007

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Department of Conservation

Bolton Hill Facility

Augusta, Maine

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Task Force Members Present

Bruce Kidman – The Nature Conservancy  
Greg Chute – The Chewonki Foundation  
John Rust – Maine Professional Guides Association  
Al Cowperthwaite – North Maine Woods  
Karen Woodsum – The Sierra Club Maine Chapter  
Dan Mitchell – ATV Maine  
Walter Graff – Appalachian Mountain Club  
Marcia McKeague – Katahdin Timberlands  
George Smith – Sportsman's Alliance of Maine  
Sally Stockwell – Maine Audubon  
Alan Hutchinson - The Forest Society of Maine  
Jon Fitzgerald – Maine Huts & Trails  
Mac Hunter – University of Maine, Dept. of Wildlife  
Jon Lund – Maine Sportsman, Outdoor Writer

Agency Representatives / Staff

Paul Jacques, Chair (IFW)  
Will Harris – Director, Bureau of Parks & Lands  
Bob Duplessie - Department of Conservation  
Mackenzi Keliher – Department of Conservation  
John Titus, Bureau of Parks & Lands  
Tim Glidden, Land for Maine's Future Program  
Malcolm Burson, Department of Environmental Protection

Legislative Members Present

Senator Kevin Raye of Washington County  
Rep. Donald Marean of Hollis  
Rep. Thomas Watson of Bath

Task Force Members Absent

Bob Meyers, Maine Snowmobile Association  
Ray Wotten, Landowner  
Rep. Jackie Lundeen of Presque Isle  
Senator Bruce Bryant

Others Present

Andrew Whitman, Manomet Center for Conservation  
Debra Perkins, Northern Forest Alliance

**I. Introductions.**

- **Karin Tilberg, Senior Policy Advisor for the Governor, thanked the Task Force for and expressed her appreciation for what has been accomplished.** Paul applauded the work of the task force and identified the need to continue to work together, especially given the potential issues associated with the proposal to consolidate the State of Maine's natural resource agencies (NRA's).
- **Karen Woodsum indicated that this was one of the more positive enterprises that she has been involved in.**

**II. Members of the Task Force shared thoughts and highlights of public listening sessions and other thoughts:**

- Overwhelming support for Bradbury Mountain and Mick Rogers, is indicative of cooperative effort. Sunrise Trail also an example of coalition work.
- Some were struck by the acknowledgement that many made regarding their awareness that other users on the landscape and that they had needs as well. Users want to work together and

are looking for a forum. Also acknowledgment that not all uses can exist on same trail corridor.

- Need for information – signage, publications and mapping. Print the information that comes out of the management planning process. The Bureau of Parks and Lands has taken this request to heart.
- Need for additional equine and bike opportunities. (Rep. Marean indicated that the equine industry has a \$364 million economic impact annually, and is rising.)
- Need for access on the south coast.
- No solid suggestions on how to deal with conflict.
- Need for “users to put their money where their mouth is”.
- Positive feedback on the efforts of the Task Force.
- All user groups were represented in both locations.
- Need for backcountry and remote experiences (multi-day and loop trails)
- Recreation important to quality of life and rural economies.
- Economic need / benefit of motorized access.
- Concept of forum important to continuing conversation.
- Consider sustainability and concept of recreational carrying capacity.
- Inventory DVD does a good job conveying information.

Malcolm Burson, facilitator, recapped the discussion as follows:

- Managing information for a visually oriented society is important.
- Review concepts of carrying capacity and sustainability.
- Quality of life important.
- Different values for different uses.

**III. Malcolm Burson introduced the members of the subcommittee responsible for drafting the *Findings, Commitments and Recommendations* document, recapped the process to date and outlined goals for today. (Members include Sally Stockwell, George Smith, Tim Glidden, Bruce Kidman, Walter Graff, Karen Woodsum )**

- Goal for today is to determine the thoughts of the entire Task Force and outline the process for compiling the report to the Governor.
- Members of the subcommittee describe the process to date as terrific with many meaningful contributions from all members.
- The process encouraged participants to explore meanings and others thoughts and as a result they were able to work past places that had the potential to be incendiary.

**General comments from the Task Force and others present include:**

- Task Force is encouraged to think about cultural identity and what will be passed to the next generation.
- Search and Rescue burden is only on the Department of Inland, Fisheries & Wildlife.
- Buffer zones should be determined on a case by case basis and not be a set distance.

**Comments specific to the document will be reflected in the revised document, as it was reviewed and discussed item by item.**

**Chairman Jacques hopes that all members of the Task Force could sign off on the document, indicating that this is how “we will do business from now on”. This will**

**indicate to the people of Maine that the members of the Task Force are moving in a positive direction.**

- Others echoed the chair's comments and stated that it will signal openness to others and illustrate that a less confrontive way to agree can be achieved, thereby encouraging all groups to come to the table and support the work of the Task Force.
- There may be ceremonial signing of the document at some point, following the submission of the report to the Governor.
- It will be important for all signatories to uphold their commitment.
- The work of the Task Force indicated that the members understand that all may not always agree on issues, but agree to proceed respectfully.

**IV. After reviewing the entire *Findings, Commitments and Recommendations* document, Malcolm provided final instructions for ensuring agreement and moving forward. Specifically, he provided an opportunity for members to share final comments and encouraged them to share the document with their constituencies.**

**The entire Task Force was in agreement that the process worked well, particularly through the facilitation of Malcolm, and that great progress was made.**