2011 ANNUAL REPORT

to the JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
on AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

MAINE PUBLIC RESERVED, NONRESERVED, AND SUBMERGED LANDS

Sandy Stream in Millinocket Forest

March 1, 2012

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Bureau of Parks and Lands

2011 ANNUAL REPORT
Maine Department of Conservation
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Cover Photo by Andy Cutco, Maine Natural Areas Program

I. INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) within the Department of Conservation (DOC) is responsible for the management and administration of Maine's Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, Submerged Lands, Coastal Islands, conservation easement lands, and other lands as provided by law.

This report constitutes required annual reporting pursuant to:

- 12 MRSA 1853, 1839 and elsewhere.
- 12 MRSA 1850(1) and 1836(1) and elsewhere related to vehicular access to Bureau lands
- 12 MRSA 1805 and 1853 related to ecological reserves on Bureau lands.

The report is submitted by March 1st of each year to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Conservation (ACF). It provides an overview of the scope of the Bureau's responsibilities and information on the Bureau's management activities during the 2011 calendar year. As required, the report includes information on gates and barriers that prevent public vehicle access to Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, recreation facility fees charged for the use of these lands, and a status report on Ecological Reserves. Also included in the report is information on timber, recreation and wildlife management carried out on public lands during the calendar year. Financial information is provided on both a calendar year (CY2011) and fiscal year (FY2013) basis. The ACF Committee has the obligation to report by March 15th to the Appropriations Committee on the Bureau's Lands Division FY 2013 budget.

The "Lands" Division of the Bureau is a dedicated revenue component of the agency, funding almost all of its administrative, planning, management and operational activities from revenue generated from the land base, with some additional sources of funds provided through various grant programs.

The Bureau is statutorily mandated to manage the Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, 599,164 acres in 2011, in a manner consistent with the principles of multiple land use to produce a sustained yield of products and services in accordance with both prudent and fair business practices and the principle of sound planning (Title 12 MRSA 1833 and 1847).

Fifteen-year, multiple-use plans for the major properties guide the Bureau's management activities. Benefits from the wise management of these lands include:

- *Production of forest products*
- *Access to recreational opportunities*
- *Enhancement of wildlife habitat*
- *Protection of unique natural and cultural resources*

The Bureau also has responsibility for managing public trust rights to Submerged Lands, and, when granting leases for the use of Submerged Lands, includes conditions to maintain customary and traditional public access, navigation, and commercial marine uses.

Finally, the Bureau protects public rights and values acquired through conservation and public access easements; and oversees project agreements with local entities the Bureau sponsors to enable them to purchase lands and easements using Land for Maine's Future (LMF) funds.

II. 2011 HIGHLIGHTS

Forest Certification – Since 2002, the Bureau's forest management activities have been certified as sustainable under two independent certification systems: the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI). Each year the Bureau's forestry operations and overall forest management system are "audited" by these two certification systems, with all criteria addressed over a period of three years for SFI certification and a "full" audit for FSC conducted once every five years.

In 2011, the Bureau had a second full re-audit under the FSC program and the annual surveillance audit under the SFI program. As was done for the fall 2010 FSC re-audit, the contract for auditing was awarded competitively, and a different certification firm, Bureau Veritas, was selected this year. As the new firm had not previously seen the Bureau's lands, the audits were conducted in all three of the BPL regions. Auditors visited exemplary timber harvests, innovative and efficient water crossings, diverse wildlife management practices, and well-planned recreation facilities.

The Bureau intends to conduct forest management in compliance with the 2010-2014 certification standards, principles, and criteria of both SFI and FSC programs for all upcoming audits. The Bureau also intends to conduct several forest management operations under the outcome-based forestry model described below.

Outcome Based Forestry (OBF) – "Outcome Based Forestry" refers to a section of Maine's Forest Practices Act that offers land managers added flexibility for timber management in exchange for up-front planning and expert review. The Bureau is planning harvests under OBF in each of its three regions. In the North, the objective is the establishment of high value hardwoods, yellow birch and sugar maple, while creating hardwood browse for wildlife, along with a companion project to accelerate the development of core winter cover for deer.

Rapid growth of prime white pine sawtimber is the OBF objective in the Eastern and Western regions, accomplished by thinning to relatively low stocking to allow this windfirm species to grow with minimal competition. Operations layout will be ongoing during 2012, while harvesting is expected to begin on these projects in 2013.

Timber Management Program - In 2011, timber harvests on Bureau-managed lands totaled 126,500 cords, an increase from 121,700 cords in 2010. Though summer conditions for logging were challenging, especially in the North, winter conditions were nearly ideal. The Bureau and its contractors supplied wood to 45 mills statewide in 2011.

Firewood Permit Program - Individual firewood permittee volumes totaled about 550 cords in 2011, similar to the year before. Logging contractors delivered over 2,400 cords of firewood to customers, so nearly 3,000 cords of firewood was supplied from Bureau–managed lands in 2011.

Sugar Bush Leases - The Lands Western Region currently has two sugar maple lease agreements. The Bald Mountain operation consists of 1,561 taps with plans to expand to 2,500 taps over the next year. The operation includes a tap system and a collection tank. The sap is processed off site. The Sandy Bay Township operation was bid out in the fall of 2011 and has the potential for 14,000 taps. The lessee is now developing the site and expects to have 5,000 taps online in 2012. The area is expected to be fully utilized with 14,000 taps in 2016. When complete, the lessee will produce finished maple syrup onsite.

Western Region staff is exploring additional sugar maple opportunities in Sandy Bay Township and at other locations in the region.

Land Acquisitions – Acquisitions in 2011 totaled over 9,600 acres, with about 5,500 acres in fee lands and 4,100 acres in conservation easements (Appendix B). These acquisitions conserve forests, wetlands, stream shores and lake shores; secure important recreational trail and water access opportunities; and add to existing state park and Public Reserved and Nonreserved lands. Sustainable forest management is expected to continue on over 80% of the lands acquired in 2011, while the conservation of Maine's largest peatland - the Great Heath has been expanded by the addition of 370 acres of significant plant and wildlife habitat.

At the close of 2011, conservation lands held by the Bureau of Parks and Lands in fee and easements totaled 1,036,608 acres, including 9,815 acres of Forest Legacy conservation easements delegated to the Bureau by the US Forest Service. Public Reserved and Nonreserved fee lands account for 599,164 acres, or 58% of this total.

The Bureau continues to advance a number of large working forest conservation easements that have been approved for federal Forest Legacy Program funding and has worked with the state Forest Legacy Committee to identify additional projects for future federal funding approval. Both approved and proposed Forest Legacy projects, some of which are expected to close in 2012, are summarized in Appendix C.

In addition to these acquisitions, the Bureau continued to sponsor land trust and local government acquisitions through the Land for Maine's Future Program with five projects (664 acres) closing in 2011. In total, the Bureau now holds 100 sponsored LMF Project Agreements covering over 52,000 acres.

Recreation – Blackwoods Byway. Route 182 from Franklin to Cherryfield is a state-designated Scenic Byway - the Blackwoods Byway, which passes through Donnell Pond public lands. Over

the past few seasons, recreation facilities on the state lands have been improved to create an attractive destination for Byway travelers and visitors to the Downeast region. These improvements include: the Tunk Mountain-Hidden Ponds trail system; expansion and improvement of trailhead and day use parking areas; construction of a new trailered boat access on Long Pond; and installation of roadside and parking area signage. The Land for Maine's Future Program and the federal Recreational Trails Program provided much of the funding for these improvements.

To accomplish this work, The Bureau collaborated with the Blackwoods Byway Committee, which includes local advocates and partners; the Maine Departments of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Transportation; the Hancock County Regional Planning Commission; and the Downeast Resource Conservation and Development Service. The Maine Conservation Corps was employed to construct trails at Tunk and Caribou Mountains, and Northern Region Parks staff assisted with fabrication and installation of trailhead kiosks and bulletin boards.

Public Information about Recreation Opportunities. The Bureau strives to provide current information about the recreation opportunities on its parks and public lands. At this time, the following brochures are in progress: Bigelow Preserve; Deboullie; the Mahoosucs and Grafton Notch State Park; Nahmakanta; Moosehead Shoreline and Mt Kineo; Seboeis; Seboomook Public Lands the Penobscot River Corridor; and Tumbledown Public Lands and Mount Blue State Park. The printing of some brochures is delayed when information about a new land acquisition should be added or when use of the lands may be affected by a pending management plan. Information about Bureau lands, facilities and events is also available through online information websites, including the Bureau website at www.maine.gov/doc/parks.

Information about non-motorized trail opportunities on Parks and Lands can now be found on the Maine Trail Finder website (www.mainetrailfinder.com), operated by the nonprofit Center for Community GIS in Farmington. The Bureau works with the Center to develop online trail descriptions and interactive maps, which are then posted on the website. To date, 36 trails or trail systems located on Maine Public Lands and 54 trails/systems at State Parks and Historic Sites appear on the website. Additionally, with support from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund and the Recreational Trails Program, the Bureau has worked with the Center to expand trail listings on the website, adding trails managed by other groups such as land trusts, municipalities and the National Park Service.

Land Management Planning – Multiple use management plans for the Mahoosucs, Bald Mountain, Four Ponds, Richardson Lake, and Pineland were completed in 2010 and adopted in January 2011. A management plan for the 6,000 acre Kennebec Highlands located in Kennebec and Franklin counties was completed and adopted in October 2011. Also during 2011, the Bureau continued to update existing management plans for Nahamakanta, Seboeis and Wassataquoik public lands and develop new plans for the East Turner Mountain and Millinocket Forest parcels, all part of the Central Penobscot planning region. Management plans for Chamberlain, Round Pond, Telos, Gero Island/Chesuncook, Holeb, Moosehead and Little Moose are scheduled to begin in 2012.

Submerged Lands and Coastal Islands Program – Submerged lands are managed by the Bureau under the Public Trust Doctrine to ensure protection of the public trust rights of fishing, waterfowl hunting, navigation, and recreation. The Submerged Lands Program plays an important role in maintaining a balance among competing uses of submerged lands and resolving conflicts between public trust rights and the demand for private and commercial uses of these lands. Lease fees are used to support shore and harbor management activities and improve public access.

The Bureau also manages unregistered coastal islands. The Bureau provides funding from the Submerged Lands leases to support the Maine Island Trail Association, which manages recreation on public and private islands that are part of the Maine Island Trail. In 2011, $50,000 was awarded to the Maine Island Trail Association for this purpose.

The Bureau's brochure "Your Islands and Parks on the Coast" shows the location of approximately 40 state-held islands suitable for recreational use and explains the Bureau's

visiting, camping, and resource protection policies.

III. SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES

HISTORY OF THE BUREAU

The Bureau of Parks and Lands is an agency within the Department of Conservation, a merger of two previously separate Bureaus – the Bureau of Parks and Recreation and Bureau of Public Lands. The Bureau of Public Lands was created in 1973 to manage the state's interests in its "original public lots," which ranged from 1,000 to 1,280 acres and were set aside in each township as a source of revenue to support schools when and if they became settled. In total, these included over 400,000 acres.

Beginning in the mid-1970s many of the original public lots were traded with lands of other landowners to consolidate the State's holdings into larger management units having greater public use values. Additional public lands have been acquired since 1990 largely through the Land for Maine's Future Program for the purpose of adding to these consolidated public lands, or creating new public lands to be managed for multiple uses including recreation, wildlife and forestry. Other lands, such as coastal islands, and surplus institutional lands have also been assigned to the Bureau for management.

CURRENT LANDS AND PROGRAMS

The Bureau of Parks and Lands is now responsible for management of Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, State Parks and Historic Sites, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, the Penobscot River Corridor and state-held coastal islands.

In addition, the Bureau is responsible for protecting public rights and public values on certain lands. These include the public trust rights of fishing, waterfowl hunting, navigation, and recreation on submerged lands beneath coastal waters from mean low tide to the 3-mile territorial limit and under natural Great Ponds. This responsibility also includes protecting public rights and values acquired from private landowners through conservation and public access easements donated to or purchased by the Bureau. Finally, the Bureau has an oversight role for public values associated with lands acquired by municipalities and local land trusts through the Land for Maine's Future Program with Bureau sponsorship.

In 2011, lands under the Bureau's ownership, management or oversight included:

- 599,164 acres of Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands held in fee;
- 85,032 acres of fee lands held as Parks, Historic Sites or Boat Access Sites
- 2.3 million acres of marine and freshwater submerged lands and 1095 publicly held coastal islands;
- 342,596 acres of conservation easements;
- 9,815 acres of Forest Legacy conservation easements delegated to the Bureau by the US Forest Service for enforcement;
- 378,140 acres of third-party conservation easements (the Bureau is a back-up Holder and may also have an active role in ensuring the Holder adequately monitors and enforces the terms of the easement);
- 602,423 acres of public access rights granted by easement by three large private landowners; and
- 52,299 acres of lands acquired by local interests through the Land for Maine's Future Program with Bureau sponsorship.

Beyond the Bureau's land management responsibilities, several programs within the Bureau support public recreational access and trails. These include the Boating Facilities program, which builds boat access sites on state lands and funds municipal boat access sites; the Snowmobile and ATV programs which provide grants to local clubs to build and maintain trails on both public and private lands; the Grants and Community Recreation Program, which distributes federal grant funds for state and local recreation projects; and the Maine Conservation Corps (MCC), which provides trail crews that construct and rehabilitate recreational trails using federal AmeriCorps funds and fees charged for service. MCC trail crews are commonly used to improve trails on Bureau lands.

TRENDS AND ISSUES – LAND CONSERVATION AND PUBLIC ACCESS

Conservation Easements – Expanding Public Access, Keeping Maine's Forests as Working Forests, Conserving Maine's Special Places.

Since 1995, the fee ownership managed by the Lands Division has increased by roughly 124,000

acres while conservation easements have increased from only 5,000 acres in 1995 to 330,188 acres today, with nearly 291,000 acres of these conservation easements acquired between 2003 and 2009. The Bureau now holds 56 conservation easements; is delegated by the US Forest Service to enforce 3 others; and is 3rd party enforcer on an additional 17 easements. (See Appendix A – map of BPL fee and easement properties.)

What Are Conservation Easements?

Conservation easements have grown in popularity as a means of protecting public values on private lands, while keeping those lands productively owned and managed by the private landowner. Instead of acquiring the land outright (fee acquisition) the state acquires only selected rights with high public values, with the landowner retaining many rights to use the land for economic benefit. All conservation easements are negotiated with willing-sellers.

The protected lands range from 2 acres of sand dunes to 190,000 acres of working forest. These lands are highly productive and contribute to Maine's economy through the following uses: collection of sap and production of maple syrup; timber harvesting; hydroelectric power generation; apple orchards; hunting; extraction of spring water; organic farming; home of a summer camp for disadvantaged youth; tourism and recreation; sand and gravel production; snowmobile, ATV, and hiking trails; overnight accommodations including lodges and campgrounds; water quality protection; shellfish harvesting; and others.

Increasingly conservation easements are used to keep land in working forests, protect sensitive resources, and provide public recreational access. In the simplest form, a willing landowner is paid for the development rights, grants the right of public pedestrian access, and agrees to manage the forest in accordance with certain standards (generally sustainable harvests and state law). The federal Forest Legacy Program has provided funds for such easements, pending and closed, totaling over $74 million since 1994, matched in part with State LMF funds.

In 2007, the State enacted legislation requiring all conservation easement holders to monitor these easements for compliance with easement terms at least once every three years (33 MRSA 477-A(3)). Annual compliance monitoring is required by the Federal Forest Legacy Conservation Easement Program, which has funded 16 large working forest conservation easements accounting for over 80 percent of the Bureau's easement acreage. As shown in Appendix C, another 97,000 acres of working forest conservation easements have been approved for Forest Legacy funding and are expected to close sometime in the next one to two years.

To monitor the 59 conservation easements it directly oversees, the Bureau has used existing staff, supplemented by contracted services. These costs are funded largely by monitoring endowments established by acquisition partners as part of acquisition fund-raising. These funds are invested and held by the Maine Community Foundation (MCF).

Since 2008 the Bureau has worked to develop an efficient and cost-effective monitoring system for its conservation easements. Grants from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund have been instrumental in helping the Bureau with the development stages this program. The resulting monitoring protocol uses science-based remote sensing techniques, centralized administrative support, and targeted use of regional staff.

Maine's Forest Legacy Program. Many of the Bureau's conservation easements were funded in part with federal Forest Legacy funds, a program to prevent conversion of forests to non-forest uses by acquisition of fee or easement interests. Since 2000 this program has conserved 682,500 acres of forest land in Maine; with 295,000 acres of that held as conservation easements and 71,000 acres held in fee by the Bureau, and the remaining 316,500 acres in conservation easements held by others (the Department of Marine Resources, Bureau of Sea Run Fisheries for Machias River conservation easements; the Forest Society of Maine for West Branch Penobscot conservation easements, and The Nature Conservancy for a conservation easement adjacent to the Sunkhaze Meadows National Wildlife Refuge.)

What is the Forest Legacy Program? The Forest Legacy Program was created by Congress in 1990, in response to findings of the Northern Forest Lands Council which documented changing land ownership patterns that resulted when paper

companies began divesting of their timberlands. This federally funded program requires that the State hold right, title or interest in any lands protected with Forest Legacy Program funds, although other entities, such as nonprofits, can acquire lands or conservation easements that are offered as financial match for the Forest Legacy Program dollars. The Forest Legacy Program can provide up to 75 percent of the costs for acquisition of lands or conservation easements from willing landowners.

Each participating state defines its objectives and the process by which projects will be selected to compete nationally for federal funds. Maine's Forest Legacy Program aims to prevent the conversion of Maine's forest to non-forest uses, thereby protecting an array of traditional forest uses and a wide range of public values that Maine's forest provide. (See sidebar.)

Maine forests provide the following public values:

- production of timber, fiber and other forest products;
- economic benefits from non-timber resources
- public recreation opportunities, including tourism activities;
- high environmental value plant and animal habitat identified by state, regional, or federal programs;
- habitat for rare, threatened or endangered plant or animal species and rare or exemplary natural communities;
- water supply and watershed protection, and/or important riparian areas, wetlands, shorelines, or river systems;
- scenic resources; and
- historic, cultural and tribal resources of significance.

Traditional forest uses in Maine include, but are not limited to:

timber harvesting	horseback riding
public access	picnicking
hunting	boating
fishing	swimming
trapping	bicycling
hiking	outdoor education
camping	nature observation/study
cross-country skiing	scientific research
snowshoeing	archeological research

The Forest Legacy Program operates on a competitive basis, nationwide. Maine projects, initially selected by an established Maine Forest Legacy Committee, are ultimately evaluated by a national panel against projects in 47 other states and 3 territories. The program solicits proposals on an annual cycle.

Maine has consistently submitted winning projects. Since the Forest Legacy Program began its competitive process in 2000, Maine has been awarded funding for projects every year. Total pending and closed Forest Legacy awards to Maine since 2000 topped $74 million, with the most recent awards announced in January 2012. Thirty percent of all acreage conserved in the US through the Forest Legacy Program through 2011 is located in Maine.

The total value of all Maine projects (closed and pending) funded with Forest Legacy grants to date is approximately $153 million. This has been leveraged by an investment of $19 million in Land for Maine's Future funds, which secured $74 million in Forest Legacy Grants and $60 million in additional funds raised through private donations and other grant funds.

All of these projects have involved non-governmental organizations as partners to the Maine Department of Conservation. These partners, including the Trust for Public Lands, the Nature Conservancy, the Forest Society of Maine, The Conservation Fund and the Downeast Lakes Land Trust, are important liaisons with the landowners and are critical in providing fundraising to push these projects to completion.

Expanding Public Access through Land for Maine's Future Projects and Access Easements. Two other programs have added significantly to guarantee public access to the outdoors in Maine. Since 2004 the Bureau has acquired over 600,000 acres of lands with public access easements (see accompanying map – Appendix A). The Bureau has the option but not the obligation to maintain or improve certain designated roads on 592,880 acres of these easements.

In addition, since 2001, non-state projects have been eligible for LMF funds, if sponsored by a state agency and subject to a recorded Project Agreement which specifies terms for conservation and use and provides for public access. Through these project agreements over 52,000 acres of land have been acquired

providing public recreational opportunities (many increasing public access to water), and protecting important wildlife, scenic and cultural values. The total number of BPL Project Agreements in 2011 rose to 100. There is no funding provided for the ongoing responsibility to oversee these projects.

Increased Interest and Demand for Recreation Opportunities on Public Reserved Lands. For many reasons, awareness about and interest in Public Reserved Lands has increased significantly in the recreating public over the last ten years. One driving factor was the Bureau's focus on updating the management plans completed in the 1980's - initiated in early 2000, which includes a robust public involvement process. Other factors include: an increasingly user-friendly Bureau web presence providing information about these lands, most recently including a partnership with MaineTrailFinder.com as a central source of information about non-motorized trails; the rapid expansion of statewide trails systems for ATVs and snowmobiles with interest in these lands as connectors and destinations; the rise of eco-tourism; and some high profile additions to the system, including Big Spencer Mountain, Seboomook, Mount Abraham, Tumbledown Mountain, the Machias River Corridor, and Cutler Coast, among others. These new lands were acquired primarily because of special recreational and ecological values.

Funding and Staffing. These various trends, most having emerged only in the last decade – increasing demand for recreation opportunities on Public Reserved Lands; increasing access to private lands through conservation and access easements and attendant pressures and expectations for the State to maintain access roads on these private lands; the growth in conservation easements and LMF Project agreements requiring monitoring by the Bureau – have created management challenges for the Bureau, particularly in the areas of recreation development, natural resource planning, and easement and Project Agreement monitoring.

The Bureau's operational field staff for Public Lands, consisting of 25 full-time and 5 seasonal positions, manages recreation and timber harvesting on Reserved Lands.

This staff has been increased by only one position since 2002 (a forest technician position was filled in the Eastern Region in 2010). To assist the field staff in all regions, the Bureau presently has one Outdoor Recreation Specialist; one Senior Planner position responsible for management plans on Bureau lands; and one Senior Planner position responsible for conservation easement monitoring, LMF agreements, and leases and agreements on Bureau lands. These positions are supported in large part by timber revenues from Reserved Lands.

Partnerships to address recreation management needs. One strategy for addressing the increased recreational use pressure on Bureau lands has been engaging in partnerships with trail groups and land trusts to assist with both maintenance and management of these lands, and drawing on grant programs including the federal Recreational Trails Program. In addition, the Bureau has partnered with the Maine Conservation Corp's AmeriCorps program to assign interns to work with staff on a variety of recreational programs on both Parks and Lands. This program provides good value to the Bureau and meaningful work experience to the interns. The challenge with these partnerships is that they require staff training and supervision; and many are reliant on federal funds which are increasingly at risk.

IV. LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING

The Bureau owns 153 Public Reserved Land units and 14 Nonreserved Public Land units. The number of actively managed reserved and nonreserved units (not including lands leased to or managed by others, small islands, and lands with a minority common and undivided interest), is 150. These range in size from 60 acres to 47,440 acres.

The Bureau is statutorily mandated to manage Reserved and Nonreserved Lands for multiple public values. Land management planning is also a required element of forest certification. Bureau staff involved in managing Reserved and Nonreserved Lands include specialists in planning, forest transportation, wildlife, recreation, and field forestry. All collaborate to ensure a balanced approach to the management of the various resources on these lands.

The Bureau's ***Integrated Resource Policy*** (IRP) adopted in 1985 and revised in 2000 guides resource management decisions and governs management planning for all Public Reserved and Nonreserved lands. Management Plans are prepared consistent with the IRP and taking into consideration comments received from a defined public process. The planning process allocates areas for specific uses including:

- *Special Protection (Natural/Historic)*
- *Wildlife*
- *Recreation*
- *Timber*

These areas often overlap, creating zones where management is designed to accommodate a variety of uses. The relative impact of one use upon another is carefully weighed to establish a hierarchy of resource management that protects the most sensitive resources and uses, while allowing other management to continue. For example, planned timber harvests in deeryards can provide a sustained yield of forest products and deer browse, while maintaining the winter shelter value of these areas.

Historically, resource management plans were prepared every ten years for each of the larger parcels (or management units), many of which are consolidations of former public lots. Today, management plans are prepared regionally for a period of 15 years, with five-year reviews, and a single plan addresses all of the Reserved and Nonreserved lands within a planning region.

Regional management plans are developed with robust public involvement. For each plan, a Public Advisory Committee is established representing local, regional, and statewide interests. These committees serve as forums for discussion of draft plans. Public meetings are held providing interested parties an opportunity to provide input on management issues and to comment on plan drafts. After considering these comments, the Bureau submits the final Plan to the Department Commissioner, upon recommendation by its Director, and the Plan is effective upon the Commissioner's approval.

MANAGEMENT PLAN STATUS

1	Mount Abraham[1]	Adopted June 2007
2	Amherst	Adopted Dec. 2010
3	Bald Mountain[2]	Adopted Jan. 2011
4	Bigelow Preserve[1]	Adopted June 2007
5	Chain of Ponds[1]	Adopted June 2007
6	Chamberlain	Begins 2012
7	Cutler Coast[3]	Adopted March 2007
8	Dead Riv/Spring Lake[1]	Adopted June 2007
9	Deboullie[4]	Adopted June 2007
10	Dodge Point	Begins 2013
11	Donnell Pond[3]	Adopted March 2007
12	Duck Lake[5]	Adopted July 2009
13	Eagle Lake[4]	Adopted June 2007
14	**East Turner Mtn[8]**	**Plan in Progress**
15	Four Ponds [2]	Adopted Jan. 2011
16	Gero Isl/Chesuncook	Begins 2012
17	Great Heath[3]	Adopted March 2007
18	Holeb	Begins 2012
19	Kennebec Highlands	Adopted October 2011
20	Little Moose	Begins 2012
21	Machias River[5]	Adopted July 2009
22	Mahoosuc[2]	Adopted Jan. 2011
23	**Millinocket Forest[8]**	**Plan in Progress**
24	Moosehead	Begins 2012
25	**Nahmakanta[8]**	**Revision in Progress**
26	Pineland[6]	Adopted Jan. 2011
27	Richardson[2]	Adopted Jan. 2011
28	Rocky Lake[3]	Adopted March 2007
29	Round Pond	Begins 2012
30	Salmon Brk Lake Bog[4]	Adopted June 2007
31	Scraggly Lake[7]	Adopted August 2009
32	**Seboeis[8]**	**Revision in Progress**
33	Seboomook	Adopted March 2007
34	Scopan[7]	Adopted August 2009
35	Telos	Begins 2012
36	Tumbledown Mt.	Begins 2013
37	**Wassataquoik[8]**	**Revision in Progress**

[1] Flagstaff Region
[2] Western Mountains Region
[3] Downeast Region
[4] Northern Aroostook Region
[5] Eastern Interior Region
[6] Bradbury-Pineland Region
[7] Aroostook Hills Region
[8] Central Penobscot Region

V. NATURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORIES (NRIs)

The Maine Natural Areas Program, a division of the DOC's Bureau of Geology and Natural Areas, conducts inventories of natural resources on lands managed by the Bureau under a Memorandum of Understanding. In general,

inventories are done in advance of management planning to provide up-to-date information.

NRIs completed in 2011. In preparation for the Central Penobscot Region Management Plan, the field components of Natural Resource Inventories were completed for Nahmakanta, Seboeis, Millinocket Forest, Wassataquoik and associated smaller lots. Examples of completed Natural Resource Inventories and associated management plans are available at: http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/programs/planning/index.html

ECOLOGICAL RESERVES

History, Status Related to Statutory Acres Limits. Ecological reserves are designated areas containing representative native ecosystem types managed as special protection areas. These areas serve as benchmarks against which to measure changes in both managed and unmanaged ecosystems; provide habitat unlikely to occur in managed forests; and serve as sites for long term scientific research, monitoring, and education.

The annual report describes the status of these reserves and the results of monitoring, scientific research and other activities related to the reserves (12 MRSA §1839 and §1853). The Bureau is also required to notify the Ecological Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee when a management plan proposes designation of an Ecological Reserve (12 MRSA §1805). This section of the report addresses both requirements.

The Bureau Director may designate Ecological Reserves on Bureau lands included in "An Ecological Reserves System Inventory: Potential Ecological Reserves on Maine's Existing Public and Private Conservation Lands," Maine Biodiversity Project, July 1998. The Director may designate additional reserves in conjunction with the adoption of a management plan, when that process includes public review and comment on the plan and notification to the Ecological Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee of the proposal.

Since 2007, the Bureau has operated with an informal policy of not designating any additions to the ecological reserve system, other than those deeded as such (and if recommended by the Ecological Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee) until management plans for all Public Reserved Lands have been updated under the 2000 IRP. As discussed below, the Bureau is constrained by statute on the number of acres that can be designated as an ecological reserve. Presently the Bureau is within 3,400 acres of that limit. Therefore, all possible additions will be evaluated before any new designations are made.

Some management plans have noted potential additions to the ecological reserve system. In 2011, the Bureau acquired property abutting the Great Heath Ecological Reserve, which may eventually be designated as part of that reserve. Most recently, two pending acquisitions may include deeded ecological reserves: 1) a portion of the just-approved Crocker Mountain Forest Legacy project (potentially 4,400 acres of an 11,800 acre fee parcel); and 2) a portion of the Machias III Washington Bald Forest Legacy project (approximately 600 acres of a 27,000-acre project to be added to an adjacent ecological reserve at Duck Lake).

Original Ecological Reserves Designated in 2001 and Modifications Adopted in 2007

Name	Original 2001 Acres	Changes adopted in 2007
1. Bigelow Preserve ER	10,540	
2. Chamberlain Lake ER	2,890	
3. Cutler Coast ER	5,216	+5
4. Deboullie ER	7,253	-350*
5. Donnell/Tunk ER	5,950	+274
6. Duck Lake ER	3,870	
7. Gero Island ER	3,175	
8. Great Heath ER	5,681	-40
9. Mahoosucs ER	9,974	
10. Nahamakanta ER	11,082	
11. Rocky Lake ER	1,516	
12. Salmon Brk Lake ER	1,053	
13. Wassataquoik ER	775	
Total Acres	68,975	-111

* Estimated acres at this time

Original Reserves. In 2001, the director designated thirteen ecological reserves totaling 68,975 acres on Public Reserved Lands included in the above-referenced inventory. These original reserves were designated using the best available information at the time, with the understanding that adjustments may be needed as conditions on the ground are researched in conjunction with management plans.

The Downeast Region Management Plan (adopted in 2007) recommended and adopted changes to three original reserves because of recent land acquisition at Donnell Pond, deed conditions affecting use of the Great Heath, and fieldwork on the natural communities at Cutler Coast. The Northern Aroostook Region Management Plan (adopted in 2007) recommended and adopted changes to the ecological reserve at Deboullie where the reserve boundary overlaps an area of 300-400 acres with developed facilities and significant public use. The total change in ecological reserve acreage resulted in a net reduction of approximately 111 acres.

Deeded Additions. Between 2002 and 2004, the Bureau acquired three areas with the condition that the lands be designated ecological reserves: Big Spencer Mountain, the Saint John Ponds and Mount Abraham. These areas were formally designated as Ecological Reserves with the adoption of the Seboomook Management Plan and the Flagstaff Region Management Plan in 2007.

Ecological Reserves Designated as a Result of Deed Restrictions	
Name	Acres*
Big Spencer ER (ADOPTED 2007)	4,242
Mount Abraham ER (ADOPTED2007)	5,186
St John Ponds ER (ADOPTED2007)	3,917
Machias River ER (ADOPTED 2009)	2,780
Number 5 Bog (DEEDED 2009)	4,809
Total Reserves acquired through deeds,	20,934

*Acres reported in deed.

In 2006, as part of the Phase II acquisition of the Machias River project lands, 2,780 acres were conveyed to the state by the Conservation Fund subject to a deed restriction that the lands be designated as an Ecological Reserve. This area expanded by 400 acres an existing reserve on Fourth Machias Lake on the Duck Lake unit, and added a 2,380-acre adjacent area that includes frontage along Fifth Machias Lake and Fifth Lake Stream. These additions to the Ecological Reserve system were adopted as part of the Eastern Interior Region management planning effort in 2009.

In 2009 the Bureau acquired 4,809 acres of land at Number Five Bog as a deeded ecological reserve.

Ecological Reserves as a Proportion of Total Acres Under Bureau Jurisdiction in 2011	
Land Type	*Total Fee Acres*
State Park Lands	84,480
Boat Access Lands	552
Public Reserved Lands	595,529
Nonreserved Public Lands	3,635
Unregistered Coastal Islands	1,095
Subtotal	685,291
Land acquired on condition of ecoreserve designation	-20,934
Total	664,367
Lesser of 15% of Lands under Bureau Jurisdiction or 100,000	99,654
Acres in Qualifying Reserves	68,864

Statutory Limits. By statute, the total land acreage designated as ecological reserves may not exceed 15% of the total land acreage under Bureau jurisdiction or 100,000 acres, whichever is less. In addition, no more than 6% of the operable timberland on Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands may be designated as ecological reserves. Lands acquired as deeded reserves after the effective date of the ecological reserve statute (2000) are not included when calculating acreage limits.

Ecological Reserves as a Proportion of Operable Timberlands on Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands in 2011*	
Land Type	*Operable Timberland Acres*
Total Operable Lands	**404,970**
6% of Operable Lands	24,298
Operable Acres in Qualifying Reserves	20,896
Net available acres for ER designation	3,402

*Operable timberlands are public reserved and nonreserved fee lands the Bureau considers viable for commercial timber harvest operations, excluding deeded ecological reserves. Operable acres on Ecological Reserves include modifications adopted in 2007.

Presently, Bureau fee lands, including Parks, Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, Boating Facility lands and unregistered coastal islands, total 685,291 acres. The 15% limit would

then be 15% applied to the total acres, less 20,934 acquired with deed restrictions, or 99,669 acres. This means that the 99,669 acres are presently the actual upper limit with regard to the first statutory condition. The current qualifying Ecological Reserves comprise 68,864 acres.

Regarding the 6% rule, there are currently approximately 404,970 acres of operable timberland on Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, with 20,896 acres of these located in qualifying reserves. This is 3,402 acres below the 6% limit set in statute.

Baseline Data Collection in 2011. An annual Memorandum of Understanding has been developed with the Maine Natural Areas Program to collect baseline ecological data for the Bureau's Reserve inventory. This monitoring fulfills two key purposes of the enabling legislation for Ecological Reserves: that they serve as a "*benchmark against which biological and environmental change may be measured*" and that they serve as sites for "*ongoing scientific research, long term environmental monitoring and education*". These surveys are being conducted in accordance with established monitoring guidelines. This ongoing effort will provide information necessary for measuring ecological changes on Reserves over time.

With the completion of monitoring at Number 5 Bog in 2010, the first round of baseline monitoring on Ecological Reserves is now completed. Monitoring reports may be found at: http://www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mnap/reservesys/reports.htm.

Ecological Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee. An Ecological Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee was established in the mid-1990s to provide guidance regarding the inventory and assessment of a potential Ecological Reserve system in Maine. The committee produced a status report on Ecological Reserves in 2009 (*"Ecological Reserves in Maine: A Status Report on Designation, Monitoring, and Uses"* (www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mnap/reservesys/sci_ad_report_july2009.pdf). The role of the Committee includes reviewing potential Ecological Reserve additions according to science-based criteria that new ecological reserves must meet.

The Committee met in June 2011 to discuss the status of Ecological Reserves on IFW lands and the status of a proposed acquisition of land at Crocker Mountain that may include a deeded ecological reserve. The Committee gave preliminary approval to the potential reserve, pending further details about reserve design and recreational issues based on on-the-ground reconnaissance.

Number Five Bog Deeded Ecological Reserve

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL INVENTORIES

The Bureau's Historic Site Specialist provides information on the history of parcels subject to the management planning process. This information, along with input from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) and the public process that accompanies plan development, is included in the management plans. The MHPC is the lead agency in identifying significant historic resources on state lands, including designating historically sensitive areas for special protection.

VI. WILDLIFE RESOURCES

A key component of the Bureau's integrated resource management program is coordinating land management activities with fisheries and wildlife habitat enhancement. Since 1984 a wildlife biologist from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW) has been assigned to the Bureau through a cooperative agreement between the two agencies. The primary responsibility of the biologist has been to develop and implement a habitat management program for Bureau-managed lands. Wildlife management activities conducted in 2011 on lands managed by the Bureau are described below.

Wildlife Inventory and Survey Work. Most of this work is performed by a seasonal Wildlife Technician during a 16 week season, typically mid-May to mid-September. In 2011, waterfowl brood counts were completed in early June and repeated in early July at 5 man-made and natural impoundments under Bureau management. High elevation bird counts were conducted at Coburn Mountain focusing on Bicknell's thrush.

Habitat Management. One hundred and two (102) waterfowl nesting boxes were maintained by regional staff and showed 45% use by nesting birds. With assistance from the seasonal position, 12 acres of old field were mowed and invasive species control was conducted on 5 acres at 3 sites. Eight and one-half (8.5) acres of right-of-way was treated at Bradley to control brush for improved sight distances, and the Bureau assisted IFW Region B with invasive species control on 8 acres of the Steve Powell Wildlife Management Area (Swan Island).

Seeding Program. Ninety-two (92) acres of herbaceous seeding was established on 23 parcels of public lands for wildlife forage and erosion control.

Coastal Habitat Agreements. The Bureau and IFW renewed agreements for the management of four state park surf beaches that have piping plover and least tern habitats. The agencies also renewed a predator control agreement for piping plovers and least terns at these beaches through 2014.

Deer Wintering Areas (DWAs): Currently BPL manages over 31,000 acres of deer wintering areas (DWAs) on Public Reserved Lands. This includes 14,771 acres zoned for fish and wildlife protection (P-FW) by LURC and 16,800 acres of "cooperative" DWAs. This equates to 7.9% of the BPL lands available for management. About 3,200 acres of DWAs were added to Bureau lands in the last ten years, including most notably the Seboomook Lake parcel with 2,359 acres, the Amherst Community Forest with 240 acres, the Seboeis Lake addition with 367 acres, and the Machias River purchases with 300 acres.

The Bureau manages deer winter habitat under an overall cooperative agreement with IFW initiated in 2002. This agreement sets the standards for the management of softwood dominated habitat. Under the agreement, LURC zoned P-FWs and cooperative agreement areas jointly identified with IFW are managed to provide softwood stands with high crown closure on one-half of the acres. The other half of the DWA is devoted to growing trees into winter shelter.

Timber harvests in DWAs are coordinated with the IFW regional biologist and are conducted following a written plan agreed to by all parties after site visits. The Bureau manages DWAs in accordance with the recently published "IFW Guidelines for Wildlife: Managing Deer Wintering Areas in Northern, Western and Eastern Maine." Two harvest plan agreements for deer yards were completed with IFW in 2011.

Other management practices that benefit deer include the Bureau's seeding program (described above), which provides forage for deer. In addition, BPL's management planning process avoids important wildlife habitats such as DWAs, where possible, in locating recreational trails.

The Bureau monitors and assesses DWAs as part of its management strategy. Aerial surveys for deer activity are conducted on BPL managed lands when travel conditions for deer are restrictive using IFW protocols. This information is used to delineate cooperative winter habitat management areas for deer and other softwood dependent wildlife.

On March 4, 2011, the Wildlife Biologist and regional staff conducted aerial surveys of 9 parcels in the Lands Eastern Region to document wintering deer locations under restrictive travel conditions. Particular attention was paid to lots with harvests proposed for the coming year. No wintering deer activity was observed on the 4800 acres surveyed. Some local concern was expressed about a harvest proposed for the Grand Lake Stream public lot and its potential impact on deer. Staff met with local citizens on-site to review the proposal and again at a follow-up meeting in Bangor in December 2011. The harvest was approved by the IFW and DOC Commissioners as proposed.

Harvest Prescriptions. Timber harvest plans for compartments totaling 9,135 acres of public lands were reviewed for fish and wildlife habitat compatibility and potential habitat enhancement.

Research Requests. Special activity permits for surveys of high-elevation "fishless" ponds for

amphibian and invertebrate communities and to establish survey points for Bicknell's thrush and other birds at Mount Abraham were reviewed and approved in consultation with the Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP).

***Forest Certification*.** Planning and administration for fisheries, wildlife, and biodiversity issues related to forest certification conditions in both the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) programs continued. In 2011, the Wildlife Biologist participated in the initial compliance audits conducted by Bureau Veritas for both certification programs for the next five-year period (2012-2016).

VII. RECREATION RESOURCES

The Bureau's Lands Division is responsible for 326 campsites, over 150 miles of day hiking and backpacking trails (excluding 71 miles of Appalachian Trail located on state-owned lands), 35 trailered and hand-carry boat launching sites, and over 150 miles of public access road.

2011 PROJECTS

In accordance with management plan commitments, and in response to public demand, the Bureau continued to develop or make upgrades to recreation facilities on its lands. A summary of 2011 projects follows.

Western Region

The Western Region of the Lands Division continued to maintain and provide a diversity of outdoor recreation facilities and resources. In addition to routine maintenance, a number of projects were undertaken.

Bradbury-Pineland Trail Corridor Project**.** In 2011, the Bureau's Southern Parks Region led trail improvement efforts, including construction of a key footbridge over Chandler Stream in Pownal. Work continues along a 3-mile section of non-motorized trail from the northwest corner of Bradbury Mountain State Park across Public Lands to a junction with the CMP power line right-of-way. The power line corridor has been improved by BPL's Off Road Division for motorized and non-motorized uses, and will eventually link the Public Lands adjacent to the state park to Pineland.

Chandler Stream Bridge at Bradbury-Pineland

Bigelow Preserve. A parking area and a campsite were reconstructed at Little Bigelow. Three miles of trail from Stratton Brook to Huston Brook were rehabilitated to accommodate mountain bikes and other uses.

Mount Abraham**.** Following up on 2010 trail improvements, sections of the upper Fire Warden's Trail were rehabilitated to minimize erosion. Collaboration between the Bureau and the Maine Appalachian Trail Club allowed the creation of a multi-cell campsite along the trail in the general vicinity of the former fire warden cabin, which no longer stands. In total, 2.5 miles of trail were upgraded. The complete destruction by Tropical Storm Irene of two bridges over Rapid Stream currently presents an access challenge to Mount Abraham.

Holeb (Moose River Bow Trip). As in 2010, Land for Maine's Future access improvement funds were used to enhance the access and the recreation experience on the Moose River Bow Trip. In particular, Northern Forest Canoe Trail workers installed more bog-bridging along the main portage trail.

Big Spencer Mountain Ecological Reserve. In 2011, trailhead parking and the section of trail from the trailhead to the former fire warden's cabin were improved. This enhanced conditions for hikers and mitigated erosion problems. The Forest Society of Maine assisted with the removal of non-burnable materials from the warden's cabin site, consistent with improvements recommended by the management plan.

Wright Trail, Mahoosucs. The Wright Trail is a hiking trail originating at the Sunday River Road in Ketchum and leading to the summit of Goose Eye Mountain. In total, there are approximately 5.6 miles of trail on BPL property. In 2011, a Maine Conservation Corps trail crew rehabilitated 1 mile of the trail.

Tumbledown Mountain. Two and a half miles of hiking trails were improved to minimize erosion and improve hiking experiences.

Dodge Point. A Maine Conservation Corps trail team rehabilitated 3 miles of this locally popular hiking trail system.

Little Moose. The Trout Pond campsite was improved and new toilet was installed.

Kennebec River East Outlet. Portable toilets were made available for the public.

Kiosks and Signage. New kiosks, bulletin boards or sign boards, and associated signage were installed at Bald Mountain, Tumbledown, Holeb, and the Mahoosucs; and at Mooselookmeguntic and Mill Brook boat launches at Richardson Lakes

Eastern Region

A multitude of recreation resources are found on lands managed by the Eastern Region Lands Office. Each year regional staff performs maintenance and visitor services, and each year brings new projects to benefit the recreating public. Over $200,000 in access and recreational improvements were funded by Land for Maine's Future Access grants. Projects for 2011 are outlined below.

Donnell Pond. The Bureau used Land for Maine's Future Program access funds and federal Recreational Trails Program funds to improve and develop recreational opportunities in the northern half of Donnell Pond. At Tunk Mountain, off the Blackwoods Scenic Byway (Rt. 182), road signage, a vault toilet, and a kiosk were installed, and improvements to the trailhead parking lot continued. These new facilities also serve the recently completed Tunk Mountain and Hidden Ponds trails, enhancing a significant hiking destination in eastern Maine.

Further east along the Scenic Byway, a walk-in campsite was established at the outlet of Spring River Lake. The BPL Boating Facilities Division constructed a new trailerable boat launch on Long Pond to replace an unsafe informal site. The Spring River Lake day-use area parking lot at Donnell Pond was expanded by 60% and a bulletin board and signage were added. New bulletin boards were also installed at trailheads for Black and Schoodic Mountains.

An AmeriCorps Environmental Educator funded by the Recreational Trail Program was assigned to Donnell Pond to assist with recreation management and visitor education.

Amherst Community Forest. Three miles of new hiking trails, a campsite and new day-use area were constructed and signed at the Amherst Mountains Community Forest.

Cutler Coast. The Maine Conservation Corps maintained and improved 3 miles of the Cutler Coast Trail, and two new parking areas and signage were installed.

Bradley. The Bradley property in the Old Town/Orono area was signed to improve the visibility of these public lands.

Machias River Corridor. Three new vault toilets were installed and four carry-in boat launches were refurbished in the Corridor.

Nahmakanta. Hiking trail connectivity was improved at Nahmakanta with two projects: one-half mile of new trail was created from the Debsconeag Loop trailhead to the trail, eliminating the need to use the road to reach the trail; and a one-mile hiking trail from Pollywog Pond to the Appalachian Trail was constructed in the vicinity of Crescent Pond. One new vault toilet was installed at Nahmakanta.

Northern Region

The Northern Region Lands Division provides quality recreational experiences on lands across northern Maine. The Northern Lands office maintained 69 campsites and 15.5 miles of hiking trails; collaborated with motorized trail clubs; and

provided access to numerous water bodies. The Northern Region continues to partner with North Maine Woods, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, the Penobscot River Corridor, and Baxter State Park to manage recreation.

Deboullie. Northern Region staff, with assistance from the Maine Conservation Corps and funding from the Recreational Trails Program, constructed stone steps, water bars and started construction of the Whitman Mountain Trail. Trailhead parking for the Deboullie and Black Mountain trail loops was constructed and 2 vault toilets were installed at the Deboullie site. Staff also constructed and installed hiking trail signage.

Scopan. Using funding from the Recreational Trails Program, the Northern Region upgraded 7.3 miles of ATV trail at Scopan, including the mountain trail. Staff developed a campsite off an ATV trail, including an Adirondack shelter and a 0.5 mile walking trail.

Scraggly Lake. A Maine Conservation Corps trail crew constructed stone steps on the Owls Head trail and developed a new 1.4-mile trail from the Scraggly Road to the Owls Head Trail, which was formerly accessible only by boat. One vault toilet was installed.

Scraggly Lake: Owl's Head Trail Improvements

Salmon Brook Lake Bog. The Maine Conservation Corps and regional staff constructed an observation platform and boardwalk.

Other. The Northern Region prepared and provided an Adirondack kit to the Fort Kent ATV club.

Recreational Trails Program

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP), administered by the Federal Highway Administration, is funded by the transfer of a percentage of gasoline taxes from the Highway Trust Fund paid on non-highway recreational use in off-highway vehicles. It is a significant source of funding for recreational trails for the Bureau of Parks and Lands, other qualifying sub-divisions of state government, non-profit groups, and municipalities. In 2011, the following RTP grants were awarded to aid in trails projects and management of recreation on Maine's Public Lands.

Western Region:

- $20,000 for 3.0 miles of trail improvement work on the Wright Trail in the Mahoosucs
- $30,000 for continued work on Tumbledown Mountain hiking trails
- $16,817 for improvements to 1.5 miles of hiking trail on Bald Mountain in Rangeley
- $10,000 for improvement to the hiking trail at Big Spencer Mountain in the Moosehead region
- $8,000 for an Environmental Educator (AmeriCorps) to assist in recreation management on the Bigelow Preserve
- $11,550 to provide an improved trailhead and parking area for the Little Bigelow Mountain trail

Eastern Region:

- $24,860 for continued improvements to hiking trails at Cutler Coast
- $22,500 for a hiking and multi-use trail project at Nahmakanta (Tumbledown Dick Trail)
- $9,040 for an Environmental Educator (AmeriCorps) to assist in recreation management at Donnell Pond
- $22,500 for trail construction at Tunk Mountain at Donnell Pond

Northern Region:

- $25,00 for continued improvements to the hiking trail at Scraggly Lake
- $35,000 for trail work at Deboullie
- $22,198 for trail improvements at Scopan

PUBLIC INFORMATION

During 2011, the Bureau continued to develop, revise, and distribute information on the

location of hiking trails, campsites, and other recreation facilities and opportunities available on Bureau lands.

Map and Guide Project: Starting in 2008, the Bureau undertook a pilot effort in Washington County to develop new standards for maps and guides detailing property features and opportunities. This work was completed in 2009, and in 2010, the map & guide effort was expanded to eight additional Public Lands sites.

Most 2011 brochure projects are in the final stage of page layout and approval or have been approved for printing. However, the Bigelow Preserve, Nahmakanta, Seboeis, and Penobscot River Corridor/Seboomook brochures are temporarily delayed because of pending acquisitions or management plans.

New or Updated Public Lands Brochures in Progress during 2011
• Bigelow Preserve • Deboullie • Mahoosucs & Grafton Notch State Park • Nahmakanta • Moosehead Shoreline, including Mt Kineo State Park • Seboeis • Seboomook Public Lands & Penobscot River Corridor • Tumbledown Public Lands & Mount Blue State Park

Website Updates. The Bureau continues to use its website www.parksandlands.com to provide photos, maps, and facility information for most of its parks and pubic lands. As resources allow, enhancements are added to increase its usefulness to visitors and to the broader conservation and environmental education communities.

Maine Trail Finder Website Collaboration. In addition to the brochure project, the Bureau of Parks & Lands has been working in partnership with the nonprofit Center for Community GIS, based in Farmington, to develop online trail descriptions and interactive maps for numerous non-motorized trail opportunities on Public Lands. These can be viewed on the Maine Trail Finder website (www.mainetrailfinder.com). To date, 36 trails or trail systems located on Maine Public Lands are listed on the Maine Trail Finder website. An additional 54 State Parks and Historic Sites trails/systems are also listed.

RECREATION MANAGEMENT STAFFING

Six seasonal rangers were involved in recreation management activities in 2011. The seasonal rangers were responsible for recreation facilities maintenance and construction, and informing visitors about Bureau rules. The Western Lands Region continued its Volunteer Campground Host program at two Bureau-owned campgrounds on Moosehead Lake: Cowans Cove and Spencer Bay. These campgrounds are free to the public, and like all Bureau campsites, stay is limited to 14 days in a 45-day period. The volunteers oversee these campgrounds in return for extended stays at the campground.

Also in 2011, the Western Lands Region utilized the AmeriCorps Environmental Educator program to provide a resident staff person at Bigelow Preserve to assist the full-time Preserve Manager with recreation management. The Eastern Lands Region employed an Environmental Educator to assist with recreation management at the Cutler Coast and Donnell Pond. These positions were funded by Recreational Trail Program grants.

FEES

Fees are generally not charged on Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands managed by the Bureau. However, in some circumstances fees are charged because these lands are within or accessed through private recreation management systems (NMW and KI-JoMary); or because the Bureau has contracted the management with nearby recreation providers having similar management objectives (South Arm Campground and Baxter State Park). Fees charged in 2011 on Public Reserved Lands are described below.

North Maine Woods Recreation Management System. This is a privately operated system involving 3 million acres of primarily private lands where public recreation is allowed subject to fees collected at a series of checkpoints. Approximately 95,500 acres of Public Reserved

Lands managed by the Bureau, including Deboullie, Round Pond, Chamberlain, Telos, Gero Island, and the North Branch, South Branch and Canada Falls portions of Seboomook are within the North Maine Woods (NMW) system. To access these lands, the public passes through NMW checkpoints, where fees are paid for day use and camping. (NMW camping fees apply, except for campsites on the Allagash Wilderness Waterway and the Penobscot River Corridor, where Parks fees set for those campsites apply.) Visitors then travel over roads on private land within the NMW system.

In 2011, NMW day use fees were $6.00/person for residents and $10.00/person for nonresidents. Camping fees were $8.00/person/night for Maine residents and $10/person/night for nonresidents. Fees are retained by NMW for facility maintenance and development, except that the camping fees are returned to the Bureau when the Bureau assumes maintenance responsibilities, as at Deboullie.

Penobscot River Corridor. The Penobscot River Corridor (PRC), managed by the Bureau's Parks Division, includes campsites on Public Reserved Lands on Gero Island on Chesuncook Lake, and on a portion of Seboomook (Seboomook Lake, South and West Branches of the Penobscot River, and Canada Falls Lake). PRC staff maintains the campsites at these locations, and charge Bureau-set camping fees. In 2011, PRC camping fees were $4/person/night for residents and $8/person/night for nonresidents. When these areas are accessed via a NMW Checkpoint, NMW day use fees ($6.00 and $10.00 per person respectively for residents and nonresidents in 2011) are also charged for the day traveled in and the day traveled out and retained by North Maine Woods to cover operating costs for the checkpoint system. If the trip involves passing through only one NMW checkpoint, a single day use fee is charged (as in trips originating at Seboomook and ending at the takeout on lower Chesuncook Lake).

An exception to this general rule is that the NMW day use fee is charged for all trip days for access to the PRC sites on the South Branch, North Branch, and Canada Falls Lake as these allow vehicular access to the entire NMW system.

Camping fees at sites operated by the PRC on Seboomook are collected onsite by a ranger or with "iron ranger" collection boxes. However, visitors to these areas that pass through checkpoints operated by North Maine Woods, Inc., pay camping fees at the checkpoints, which are then paid to the Bureau (a portion of the fees is retained by NMW to cover administrative costs.)

KI-Jo Mary Recreation Management System. Similar to the NMW system, this is a privately operated gated system involving 175,000 acres of primarily private lands where public recreation is allowed subject to fees. The 960-acre Bowdoin College Grant East Public Reserved Land lies within this system.

Day use fees ($6/person/day resident and $9/person/day nonresident) are charged at checkpoints in Katahdin Ironworks and West Bowdoin College Grant for access to this property and other lands within the system. Camping is $10/person/night. Public access to Nahmakanta, which abuts the KI/Jo-Mary System, is free from the west, but if accessed from the south via the KI/Jo-Mary System, a day use fee for the day-in and day-out applies. Exit from Nahmakanta through the south will also involve a fee, if access was gained from the west.

South Arm Campground. The Bureau leases campsites on Richardson Lakes (Upper Richardson Lake) to South Arm Campground, a privately owned campground on adjoining private land. In 2011, the campground owner charged $15.00 (including tax) per night per site. The campground retains a portion of this fee to cover its costs for maintenance of the 12 campsites and the Mill Brook public boat launch facility at the north end of lake.

Baxter State Park. Management of campsites at the west end of Webster Lake at Telos has been assigned by mutual agreement to the Baxter State Park Authority (BSPA), and the sites are subject to BSPA rules and policies. Most use of Webster Lake is connected with the Webster Stream canoe trip, which traverses the northern end of Baxter State Park.

Bear Bait Permit Program. By state rule (04-059-Chapter 54), a permit from the Bureau is required before placing bait for bear on Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands that are not managed jointly with another entity. The permit program is administered by the Bureau's three regional offices. Beginning in 2006, the annual permit fee is $30 for a personal bait site and $65

for a commercial bait site. In 2011, the Bureau issued 350 bear bait permits: 162 for personal sites and 188 for commercial sites, with permit revenues totaling $17,545.

PARTNERSHIPS

For some properties, the Bureau has entered into partnership agreements with other organizations to assist in managing recreational use. Noteworthy examples of partnerships in place in 2011 are described below.

Appalachian Trail (AT). In 2011, the Bureau continued its partnership with the Maine Appalachian Trail Club (MATC) to accomplish stewardship and trail maintenance along 43 miles of the AT corridor in the Bigelow Preserve, the Mahoosucs, Four Ponds, Bald Mountain, and Nahmakanta. An additional 28 miles of the AT is located on lands within state parks or on lands subject to Bureau-held conservation easements.

Bigelow Preserve. In addition to providing trail maintenance of the AT on the Bigelow Preserve, an agreement is in place with the Maine Appalachian Trail Club to ensure a summer staff presence at the more heavily used areas of the Appalachian Trail; in particular, the Horns Pond campsite near the center of the Bigelow Range.

Coastal Islands. In 2011 the Bureau continued its partnership with the Maine Island Trail Association for the management of certain state-held islands along the coast of Maine that are part of the Maine Island Trail.

Cutler Coast. The Downeast Coastal Conservancy provided stewardship and visitor information at the Cutler Bold Coast Trail in 2011.

Dodge Point. An ongoing arrangement is in place with the Damariscotta River Association to assist with the maintenance of trails and facilities.

Frenchman's Hole, Mahoosucs. A partnership is in place with the Mahoosuc Land Trust to assist in the maintenance of this day use area.

Grafton Loop Trail. The Bureau continues to be an active member of a coalition of nonprofit organizations and private landowners that developed this 39-mile hiking trail in the Mahoosuc Mountains. The trail branches off from the Appalachian Trail in the Mahoosucs public lands and continues east over private land to Puzzle Mountain, where it then returns to the Appalachian Trail.

Kennebec Highlands. This property is managed in part through a partnership with the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance.

Northern Forest Canoe Trail (NFCT). The Bureau has growing relationship with the multi-state NFCT, which promotes canoe and kayak trips and stewardship across many public and private properties in Maine.

Machias River Corridor. The Bureau cooperates with the Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA, Project SHARE and local watershed councils to protect and enhance Atlantic salmon habitat in this area.

Western Mountain Charitable Foundation. *(WMCF, or Maine Huts and Trails).* In 2007, the Bureau worked with WMCF to facilitate the development of a network of large huts connected by trails. The Bureau holds a conservation easement over portions of the trail, and entered into agreements authorized by the legislature to allow the trail to cross portions of the Bigelow Preserve. In 2009, the Bureau worked with the MATC and WMCF to establish a connector trail from the new Flagstaff Lake Hut to trail systems on the Bigelow Preserve and through to the Poplar Stream Falls Hut south of the Preserve. The growth of the Huts and Trails network will require ongoing cooperation between the Bureau and WMCF.

VIII. TIMBER RESOURCES

The Bureau manages the natural resources on the lands under its care through a carefully planned multiple use program that balances timber management with all other resource values. Timber revenues support the Bureau's Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands management costs, including provision of recreation facilities and opportunities, and wildlife management. Other public benefits include contribution to the local economy, provision of

low-cost firewood through the Bureau's firewood harvest permit program, and demonstration of exemplary multi-aged management focused primarily on mature quality timber.

TIMBER INVENTORY

An important facet of the timber management program is examination and inventory of the forest resource. Benchmark field data acquired in 1999 provided detailed timber, site, and natural resource measurements. This inventory was fully updated in 2011 and continues to be important for both forest management planning, and third-party forest certification auditors.

Status of Current Inventory. The landbase-wide inventory completed during the autumn of 2011 is still being analyzed. Preliminary results show that the total merchantable timber volume on 404,970 acres is about 9.3 million cords. This is an increase of about 1.5 cords per acre since 1999. When the harvest volumes during the previous twelve years are considered, this points to a net growth rate more than 20% higher than that for Maine's forests as a whole. Given this significant increase in volume, along with timber harvests essentially achieving the annual allowable cut (AAC) over the past five years, the yield curves from which this AAC was calculated need to be reworked using the new and greater stocking levels. This will result in the AAC being greater, as appropriate for both BPL forest management objectives and net growth rates.

Compared to the 1999 volumes per acre, the current inventory shows that all softwood species have increased, especially white pine and hemlock. Spruce remains the most common species, and its per acre volume is more than 75% higher than the statewide average. Among hardwoods, beech, paper birch, and aspen have decreased in volume while most other hardwoods remained about the same. The drop in paper birch and aspen comes both from the mortality of overmature stems on these relatively short-lived species, and Bureau harvests targeting them because of that overmaturity. Natural mortality in beech is an increasingly common statewide phenomenon across essentially all landowners.

PRESCRIPTIONS

Planning for the timber management of Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands is a two-step process:

- A management plan for the unit as a whole is prepared and adopted;
- More detailed plans for discrete areas between 500 - 2,000 acres (known as compartments) are then developed for the unit.

Compartments are examined on a 15-year cycle to identify timber and wildlife resources and recreational opportunities. Based on the field examination and the information collected, work plans called "prescriptions" are developed to ensure adequate protection of special resources and a sustained yield of forest goods and services, which include timber, wildlife, and appropriate recreational uses.

Prescriptions in 2011. Bureau staff examined and prescribed 19 compartments totaling 23,341 acres for a wide range of resource management activities.

TIMBER SALES

If a timber harvest is prescribed in a compartment, a timber sale is developed. The majority of timber sales are put out to competitive bid, following State rules and procedures governing the sale of State property and purchase of services. Most timber is sold as stumpage. Under this system, the contractor agrees to pay the Bureau a bid price per unit for each type of forest product harvested. Occasionally timber is sold using contracts for logging services. Under this system, the Bureau pays the contractor to harvest timber and deliver it to specified mills; these mills then pay the Bureau directly for these products.

Once the timber contracts are awarded, Bureau foresters and forest technicians work closely with contractors to ensure contract compliance, and that timber management objectives are met.

Bureau staff closely supervises each harvest by marking individual trees for removal or by providing loggers with strict harvesting criteria. These criteria specify which trees are to be harvested. All harvest operations are inspected

by Bureau staff on a weekly basis; more often when individual situations warrant.

2010 Harvest operation at Richardson Lakes

Summary of Timber Sales in 2011. The implementation of prescriptions in 2011 is summarized below.

- A total of 126,500 cords was harvested from 10,600 acres. This exceeded the current annual allowable cut (AAC) of 115,000 cords, but two points are important. First, harvesting over the five years 2007-2011 has been almost exactly at the Sustainable Harvest Level (99%), while the ten-year average (2002-11) is 81% of AAC. Second, the increased stocking revealed by the 2011 inventory shows that the current AAC is conservative.
- A total of 35 operations were ongoing in 2011. These operations are a combination of newly established sales, and sales carried over from previous years, and do not include permits for firewood sales issued to individuals (see below).
- In concert with the Bureau's contractors, wood was marketed to 45 mills statewide.

2011 Contract Logging Services (CLS) Project. In 2011, the Northern Region initiated a 6,500 cord CLS project with a two-fold purpose: 1) to evaluate the impact on timber revenues, and 2) to determine if CLS would improve stability in achieving harvest goals. A mandatory bid showing was attended by 6 logging contractors, with bids for cutting and hauling submitted by 2 contractors with significant experience on Bureau stumpage sales. The timber was also bid out, which resulted in contracts with 8 mills.

The feedback from the mills was very positive for this CLS project. Through the summer and fall approximately 4,300 cords were harvested on two units. The timber revenues increased by 38%-45% for CLS over the Bureau's traditional stumpage program. The mills prefer contracting directly with the landowner. Most logging contractors work under CLS contracts, not stumpage contracts. CLS projects require increased up-front costs, which in turn will require a higher level of cash reserves to be maintained in order to be successful with this initiative.

The winter portion of the project is ongoing so the total project will be evaluated in the spring of 2012. Most of the staff time necessary to initiate the project, develop contracts and track the accounting was undertaken by the Regional Manager. The extra staff time needed for CLS was not significant, but the increase in revenues is potentially significant.

Firewood Permit Program: Individual firewood permits totaling 450 cords were issued by the Bureau in 2011. This is somewhat less than last year's volume, and similar to such volumes several years ago, before lofty fuel prices boosted demand in 2008. Firewood harvests by logging contractors remain high, with about 2,400 cords of firewood supplied by these contractors from lands managed by the Bureau.

2011 Harvest and Market Analysis. Timber harvesting on Bureau lands totaled 126,500 cords, about 5,000 above the 2010 total. This was accomplished with the assistance of nearly ideal winter weather and in spite of summer conditions that were often unfavorable. The 2011 figure is 110% of the Bureau-established "allowable cut." However, the harvest volume included over 13,000 cords of biomass energy wood, most of which would not meet the merchantability standards that were assumed for calculating allowable cut. Without those "sub-merchantable" cords, the harvest was very close to 100% of that allowed.

The average price paid to the Bureau per cord was 13% higher in 2011 than it had been in 2010. Only about 25% of the increase was due to higher stumpage rates, while 75% was due to a change in the ratios of species and products harvested, as detailed below.

Prices paid for various species and products had only modest changes, with spruce-fir sawlogs nearly constant, pine a bit lower, and

hemlock higher. Hardwood sawlog prices decreased about 5% while pulpwood/biomass price averages rose by about the same amount. The more valuable softwood products made up 44% of 2011 harvest volume, compared to 34% in 2010. The hardwood harvest of 56% of total volume continues the Bureau objective of increasing the proportion of softwoods by preferentially harvesting hardwoods: the current yield curves show softwoods producing 68% of net growth and hardwoods just 32% of that growth. Since less than 10% of the hardwood volume was sawlogs and veneer, these harvests are also increasing overall resource quality and value.

As part of its multiple use management, the Bureau will continue to emphasize maintaining the harvest volume at a level near the allowable cut, while continuing to practice the highest quality silviculture.

Larger volume, multi-year sales have been initiated during the past three years in an effort to provide stability for contractors, which in turn should increase annual harvest volumes. These contracts have attracted contractors with desired harvesting equipment. In addition, this approach should foster better working relationships and improve efficiency. However, economic conditions that result in poor markets, and weather events that can reduce harvest levels, will remain beyond the Bureau's control.

HARVEST OPERATION CHALLENGES

For the last 3-4 years, contractors have had difficulties in meeting contractual obligations in the Northern Region. This winter, it is anticipated that only 50%-60% of the volume under contract will be harvested, which poses a number of issues for the region in achieving its' sustainable harvest goals. The winter is the best time to harvest wood and usually when most of the harvesting activity occurs. Currently there is an equipment and labor shortage, especially regarding logging trucks. With an increase in trucking distances, the trucking capacity is significantly reduced.

In order to maximize the total volume harvested this winter, several of the harvest operations will have "piledown," where the wood will not be trucked until June or July. Piledown has several implications: lower mill prices, higher fuel prices, weight loss, value loss, negative road impact and potential conflict with summer recreational users. The Bureau will continue to explore options that create more stability for both the Bureau and contractors in regard to timber harvest operations.

SILVICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In 1986, the Bureau established a Silvicultural Advisory Committee with representatives from environmental groups, academia, and forest managers from public and private landowners, to review and critique forest management policies and practices on public lands. Each year the Bureau sponsors a field trip on which the Committee examines work the Bureau has completed or is planning, providing valuable input to staff through on-site dialogue.

***Committee Tour in 2011*:** In 2011, the field tour was in the Northern Region, and the major theme was comparing the results of several different machinery combinations in mixedwood stands. Participants observed a dangle-head processor at Scopan; then a fellerbuncher laying down wood for two dangle-head processors at Winterville; then a fixed head processor at Round Pond. All operations featured in-woods limbing and log-length wood yarded with forwarders rather than skidded.

At Round Pond, the group observed some large (2-5 acre) patchcuts with retention trees in modest quality hardwoods. Due partly to light highgrades prior to state acquisition, and more recently to some mortality in overmature trees, these stands had abundant small sapling regeneration dominated by beech. Though retaining a beech component is important for wildlife, the regeneration was about 80% beech, far more than desirable for either wildlife or timber. There was considerable discussion about whether we had left sufficient trees within the patches for both regeneration of more valuable species (sugar maple and yellow birch) and for structural diversity. Several committee members suggested we revisit this area in about ten years, so they can check both the regeneration and the condition of the overstory both within and outside the patches.

BOUNDARY LINES

The Bureau progressed on the maintenance of boundary lines, with 61 miles maintained in 2011.

FOREST CERTIFICATION

The Bureau was awarded certification of its forestlands under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) programs in 2002. These third-party audits were conducted to determine if these lands were being managed on a sustainable basis. The Bureau underwent the two audit programs simultaneously, a rigorous and unique process. The audit included a field analysis of forest management practices at selected sites around the state, and an analysis of the Bureau's financial, personnel, policy development, and record-keeping systems.

Successful completion of the FSC/SFI systems qualified the Bureau to enter into the "chain of custody" program to market its "green-certified" wood. Since 2003, green-certified wood has been marketed from Bureau managed lands.

Following its initial certification, a Bureau-wide certification team was implemented to address "conditions" and "minor nonconformances" stipulated in the audit reports, including: significant enhancements to forest inventory data; development of a computerized forest-modeling program; a timeline for updating management plans for the entire land base; improvements in the use of Best Management Practices to protect water quality; and new commitments to public outreach and education programs. The Bureau is required to meet these conditions within certain timeframes in order to keep its certification status in good standing over the five-year certification period.

Certification Accomplishments in 2011. This year the Bureau was required to have a full recertification audit under the FSC program, as had been done five years before, and the annual surveillance audit under SFI. As noted on page 2, the audit was done by an agency new to BPL, Bureau Veritas, and their auditors visited sites throughout the Public Reserved Lands. Accompanied by the appropriate Bureau field staff, auditors looked at harvest areas on four or five separate tracts in each region. The Sustainable Forestry Initiative portion of the audit resulted in seven Corrective Action Requests (CAR), none of which will be difficult to address; and the Forest Stewardship Council audit generated three CARs, two of which mirror two of the SFI CARS. Auditors were especially complimentary toward the condition of recently harvested stands, our High Conservation Value Forests, and recreation management.

IX. TRANSPORTATION

2011 Management Road Construction at Nahmakanta

The Bureau continued to improve road access within its public lands, focusing primarily on recreational needs and implementation of its timber management program. There are currently about 263 miles of public use roads on Public Lands.

BRIDGES

The Bureau's Northern Region oversaw the reconstruction of Henderson Brook Bridge in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway in 2010. The Bureau's labor costs for this project are now being reimbursed semi-annually through bridge tolls based on timber volumes carried over the bridge.

In the Eastern Region, two vehicle bridges were re-decked at Duck Lake, and one new vehicle bridge was constructed in Lakeville in 2011.

ROADS & ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

Road Construction. To facilitate both summer and winter timber harvesting activities across the state, approximately 34 miles of road were constructed or reconstructed.

Road Maintenance. Each year the Bureau contracts for maintenance services for grading and brushwork on public use roads. In 2011,

approximately 65 miles of roads were maintained under contract in the Northern region, 100 miles in the Western Region, and 90 miles in the Eastern region for a total of 255 miles of public use/shared use road maintained under contract.

X. PUBLIC ACCESS

Eighty four percent of the Public Reserved Lands were accessible to the public without fee or special arrangements in 2011. There are a few circumstances where public vehicle access is limited or restricted. As required in 12 MRSA § 1853, the following is a report of barriers that affect primary motor vehicle access.

EXTERNAL GATES TO PUBLIC LANDS

North Maine Woods Checkpoints. There are seven checkpoints, staffed seasonally, controlling primary access from Maine points to 95,000 acres of Public Reserved Land within the nearly three million acre North Maine Woods area, including Deboullie, Round Pond, Chamberlain, Telos, and portions of Seboomook. These checkpoints are all on private land and facilitate management of recreational use on both public and private land. See also discussion on fees on page 16.

KI/Jo-Mary Checkpoints. The Katahdin Iron Works checkpoint controls access to the 960-acre public lot in Bowdoin College Grant East. A gate has been funded and operated by the Bureau at the border between Nahmakanta and the KI/Jo-Mary system at Henderson Brook. This controls access from Nahmakanta into the KI/Jo-Mary system. In 2009 the checkpoint was converted to an electronic gate, which is operated remotely from the Route 11 Checkpoint. See also discussion on fees on page 16.

Cary Plantation, Aroostook County. A locked cable gate on private land restricts access to this 230-acre parcel.

Magalloway Plantation, Oxford County. A locked metal gate on private land restricts access to this 1,000-acre parcel.

Cupsuptic Gate, Franklin County. A staffed gate leased by the Kennebago Campowners Association on private lands limits access to the 62-acre public lot in Stetsontown Twp. on Kennebago Lake. A public access agreement with the Association allows up to three vehicles at any one time to access the lake via the public lot, and to park at the Grants Camps lease site located on the lot.

Davis Township Lot, Franklin County. A locked gate on the private road north of the Dallas Plantation Public Lot was added in 2010, restricting use of the Loon Lake Road out of Rangeley to access the Bureau's Davis Twp Lot on Kennebago Lake. However, this lot can still be accessed via the Bridge Road off Route 16 in Langtown Mill (Lang Twp).

Seboeis Plantation Lot, Penobscot County. A new external gate was installed on a private road by the campowners' association, after repeated vandalism of private camps, limiting vehicular access to the 1136-acre Seboeis Plantation lot.

INTERNAL GATES

The Bureau maintains 23 internal gates for safety purposes, to protect sensitive areas, to limit vehicle traffic on service roads, or to control certain recreational uses. This includes two new internal gates installed in the Eastern Region in 2011: one at Nahmakanta to restrict truck access to an ATV/snowmobile trail; and one on at Donnell Pond to restrict access to the discontinued General Cobb Road. The area accessed by the discontinued road is accessible by vehicle from other maintained roads. None of the barricades restrict foot traffic into these areas. Many of these barriers are left open during the winter season to allow safe passage by snowmobiles.

LAND OPEN TO HUNTING

Public Law, Chapter 564 of the 123rd Legislature, amending 12 MRSA § 1847 sub-§ 4 (Public Reserved Lands Statute), requires that lands open to hunting on Public Reserved Lands include at least the acreage open to hunting on January 1, 2008. Since 2008, no land has been removed from the acreage available for hunting at that time.

The law also requires the Bureau to report annually to the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee the acreage of Public Reserved Lands available for hunting, and any changes from the January 1, 2008 levels. There were 587,184 acres of Public Reserved Lands on January 1, 2008; of which 586,505 were available for hunting (excludes three small game preserves). On January 1, 2012, the total acreage of public reserved fee lands had increased by 8,345 acres, all open to hunting, so that the *current acreage available for hunting is 594,850 acres (99.9% of Public Reserved Lands)*.

XI. LAND TRANSACTIONS

ACQUISITIONS

Appendix B provides a list of all Bureau acquisitions in 2011. Appendix C shows pending acquisitions. Forest Legacy Program funding has been approved for the acquisition of 51,000 acres of conservation easements and 6,600 acres of fee lands and motorized trail easements, all expected to close in 2012. Other Forest Legacy Program funding approved for future acquisitions includes another 39,000 acres, about 70% of which are conservation easements and 30% are fee lands.

In addition to these acquisitions, the Bureau continued to sponsor land trust and local government acquisitions through the LMF Program with 5 projects (664 acres) closing in 2011.

ACQUISITIONS IMPACTING VECHICULAR ACCESS

Pursuant to various sections of law, "if an acquisition is made that does not include guaranteed public vehicular access; the Bureau shall describe the acquisition (in this report) and the justification for that acquisition." Below is the required justification for selected acquisitions from Appendix B, two of which concern state park lands and one concerns Public Reserved Lands.

Camden Hills State Park – Dunning Inholding. This landlocked parcel is undeveloped property surrounded on three sides by the state park. It includes nearly 70 acres of Mount Megunticook slopes, and it buffers the park from development along State Route 52. Public vehicle access to the park is available from US Route 1 in Camden and from the Youngstown Road in Lincolnville. A public parking area on Route 52 provides trail access to Mount Megunticook.

Whistle Stop RR Trail in Jay. This acquisition from Maine Central Railroad, once improved, will extend the popular multi-use trail southward over 1 mile to the Otis Mill Complex in Chisholm (Jay/Livermore Falls). The trail is not for standard vehicle use, but public parking to access the trail by foot, bicycle, ATV and snowmobile is available at a public recreation area in Jay, where the trailhead for the existing trail is located.

Oxford County Road Access Easements – Pingree Associates. This exchange of road access easements, primarily for land management purposes, gained public vehicle access over the Pine Point Road to existing Bureau lands on the Narrows between Upper and Lower Richardson Lakes.

DISPOSTIONS

Appendix B provides a summary of dispositions in 2011 that were authorized by Legislative Resolve or statute. These totaled 0.04 acres of Parks fee land and a number of trail crossing and road access easements on both Parks and Public Reserved Lands.

LAND TRANSACTIONS BILLS

Resolves 2007, Chapter 179

- To convey in the Town of Newport, Penobscot County, a trail crossing easement to benefit the properties of M.M. Greene and P.A. Greene, Jr. and J.S. Burrill and C.A. Burrill. Conveyed in 2011.

Resolves 2009, Chapter 209

- To convey in the Town of St. Francis, Aroostook County, a road crossing easement across the St. John Valley Heritage Trail. To benefit the property currently owned by Thomas Pelletier. Conveyed in 2011.
- To convey in the town of Lubec, Washington County, a small parcel of land located on the southeasterly corner of the existing Johnson Bay public boating facility, to the Town of Lubec, conditioned pursuant to requirements of federal

funds use to acquire the property, that the parcel be used only for recreation and open space purposes and be available to the general public. Conveyed in 2011.

Resolves 2011, Chapter 209

- To convey in Lincoln Plantation, Adamstown Township and Richardsontown Township, Oxford County, road access rights by easement to the owners of land managed by Pingree Associates, Inc. Conveyed in 2011.

XII. SUBMERGED LANDS

These lands are managed under the Public Trust Doctrine to ensure protection of the public trust rights of fishing, waterfowl hunting, navigation, and recreation. The Submerged Lands Program plays an important role in maintaining a balance among competing uses of submerged lands and resolving conflicts between public trust rights and the demand for private and commercial uses of these lands.

Project/Permit Applications. In 2011, the Submerged Lands Program processed 121 applications for proposed and existing waterfront structures and dredging projects. Fifty-four (54) leases and easements were granted and an additional 67 projects were determined to require no conveyance. With these new projects, the program now administers 1,940 conveyances.

Lease Rental Rate Changes. In 2010, the Bureau began implementing the lease rental rates that were approved by the legislature to improve equity statewide in conjunction with the repeal of a $1,200 annual rental cap in 2009. The new rent structure provides fair compensation while reducing the average rental rates. In 2012, the Bureau continues its 5-year phase-in of rents for larger lease holders.

Constructive Easements. The Bureau continues to research information on constructive easements (structures in existence prior to October 1, 1975) to identify those that may require a submerged lands conveyance. To date, the Bureau has executed nearly 800 new leases and easements for these structures.

Sunken Logs. Two applications to recover sunken logs from public submerged lands at Eagle Lake and Moosehead Lake were received in 2011. Over 100 logs were recovered from Moosehead Lake with a total volume of 18,262 board feet. No logs were recovered from Eagle Lake.

Water Quality Monitoring. In 2009, the legislature authorized funding from the submerged lands leasing program to support water quality monitoring efforts at the Department of Marine Resources shellfish program. In 2011, that funding at $80,000 per year was extended through 2013.

XIII. SHORE AND HARBOR MANAGEMENT FUND

In 1991, the Legislature created the Shore and Harbor Management Fund in anticipation that annual revenues from the Submerged Lands Program would exceed operating costs. These funds could then be used to support shore and harbor management activities and improve public access.

In 2011, funds were provided toward efforts to rehabilitate or replace the public access pier at Colonial Pemaquid. In addition, $50,000 was provided to the Maine Island Trail Association in support of the continuing partnership for recreation management of State owned coastal islands.

XIV. COASTAL ISLAND PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

Maine's Coastal Island Registry was created by the 106th Legislature as a means of clarifying title to 3,166 coastal islands by establishing and registering ownership. By now most island owners have registered their islands. The Bureau continues to receive periodic requests to register an island or make changes in existing registrations (address or ownership changes). There are also many requests for ownership information from persons with a general interest in Maine islands.

The Maine Island Trail is a water trail extending along the entire coast of Maine and includes both publicly and privately owned islands. The Bureau continues its partnership with the Maine Island Trail Association in the management and oversight of the State-owned islands on the Trail. In addition, the Bureau provides a brochure "Your Islands and Parks on the Coast" showing the location of approximately 40 State-owned islands suitable for recreational use and explaining the Bureau's visiting, camping, and resource protection policies.

XV. ADMINISTRATION

OVERVIEW

During 2011 staff responsibilities to support the Bureau's various programs and activities and to manage responsibilities over newly acquired land continued to increase as noted in Section III, Trends and Issues.

The Bureau's land management staffing has increased by one position since 2002 (a forest technician position was filled in the Eastern Region in 2011). Three forestry-related positions authorized in 2002 remain unfilled due to ongoing budget constraints. There have been no staff increases since 2002 for land management support, including natural resource planning and easement and project agreement monitoring.

The Bureau continues to explore and utilize new technology, and look for ways to deal effectively with its increasing workload, increased expenses and inadequate revenues to fund all program activities. The Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund (MOHF) and other private grants have for some time substantially supplemented Bureau resources for costs associated with natural resource inventories and ecological reserve baseline monitoring services provided by the Maine Natural Areas Program, and with easement monitoring. (See also Section VII, Staff).

CAMPLOT LEASE PROGRAM

The Bureau continues to administer a Camplot Leasing Program for 291 residential camplots and 9 commercial sporting camps and campgrounds across the state. In 2012, the Bureau will reissue camplot leases for a new five-year term (2013-2017), and will make adjustments to the lease rental schedule to reflect any recent increases in tax-assessed values. The Bureau has a statutory requirement to charge lease fees based on these values. The camplot program also administers 9 tent site rental agreements.

OTHER LEASES

Communications Tower on Bald Mountain, Rangeley

The Bureau administers 51 leases on public lands, for a variety of purposes as shown below. These leases have terms that range from 5 to 25 years. Over 50% of the leases involve no payment to the Bureau, and 24 include lease payment provisions. Leases in 2011 included:

14	utility corridor leases
7	agricultural leases
5	telecommunication facility leases
19	miscellaneous leases
1	dam lease
1	boat access lease
3	warden camp leases
1	university camp lease

The no-rent leases include state lands leased to communities; recreation associations such as the Capital Area Recreation Association (CARA) ball fields in Augusta; nonprofit environmental organizations such as the Viles Arboretum in Augusta; municipal utilities for waterlines and pumping stations; and the Maine Warden Service for staff housing in remote locations. All no-rent leases either allow public access or are providing a public service.

XVI. INCOME AND EXPENDITURES ACCOUNTING – CY 2011

OVERVIEW

The Bureau has several different accounts established for specific purposes with statutory restrictions on their use. **The statutes require that financial summaries be prepared on a calendar year basis.** The figures presented below do not match those reported elsewhere **on a fiscal year basis**, and may tend to exaggerate the Bureau's income and expenditures in any one calendar year, depending upon where the income and expenses actually fall within the fiscal year.

Public Reserved Lands Management Account (014.04A.0239.22)

This account is restricted to uses related to the management of lands that have Public Reserved Lands status, which includes the original public lots, land acquired through trading Public Reserved Lands, and other lands designated as Public Reserved Lands. Sources of income to this account include the sale of timber stumpage, camplot leases and other special leases on the Reserved Lands, and interest on the account balance. In 2011, the Lands Division accomplished harvest volumes exceeding 100,000 cords for the fifth year in a row. The price paid to the Bureau per cord was 13% higher in 2011 than it had been in 2010. At the same time, expenses for personnel services, vehicle operations, information technology and management costs for non-revenue generating activities have increased. Income for calendar year 2011 was $4,625,995 with expenditures of $4,616,973. Because the Bureau's largest source of revenue is timber, income fluctuates from year to year in response to the amount of wood harvested and economic conditions that affect timber markets. The cash balance is drawn down when expenses exceed revenues. Revenue generated in calendar year 2011 was $9,022 more than expenditures, adding to the account balance.

Not shown in either the income or expenditure figures above are the portion of moneys received from camplot leases and timber sales that are shared with towns and plantations pursuant to 12 MRSA §1854. Based on the income received in 2010 (payable in 2011), the Bureau revenue sharing amounts total $80,704.12 paid to 18 towns and plantations.

Income from the Reserved Lands Account supports most of the administrative, planning, timber, transportation, recreation, and wildlife management activities on the land base.

Concerted efforts to reduce costs and increase revenue, including developing new sources of recurring revenues will be necessary to maintain financial viability in this dedicated revenue account.

Public Nonreserved Lands Management Account (014.04A.0239.23)

This account is used for the management of lands not in the Public Reserved Lands System. These Nonreserved Public Lands include institutional lands (those lands considered surplus by other State agencies) assigned to the Bureau for natural resource management, and coastal islands. Income is primarily derived from agricultural leases, though the sale of timber contributes occasionally when timber harvests are completed on Nonreserved Lands. Income for calendar year 2011 was $3,511 with expenditures of $228. The cash balance is drawn down when expenses exceed revenues. The Bureau plans its expenditures for each fiscal year based on a level of income it projects to receive from its various revenue sources. If projected income is not sufficient, then the Bureau determines whether the balance in its contingency fund is sufficient to carry it through until additional revenues are received. If both revenue projections and contingency funds are insufficient, then the Bureau postpones planned expenditures until revenue returns to an adequate level.

Submerged Lands Account
(014.04A.0239.27)

The Submerged Lands Account is comprised of funds generated from leases and easements on the State's submerged lands. Most of the fund's income is derived from leases of coastal waterfront properties to allow commercial uses such as marinas, piers, and boatyards. Additional revenues were generated from application and easement registration fees and the sale of gravel. The legislature directed on-going transfers from the Submerged Lands Fund to the DMR Shellfish Fund of $80,000 per year. Total revenues in 2011 were $289,744 with expenses of $165,061. The cash balance is drawn down when expenses exceed revenues. Funds for personnel services (salaries) comprise the majority of the program's budget.

Shore and Harbor Management Fund (014.04A0239.29)

A Shore and Harbor Management Fund was established in 1991 to provide grants to municipalities for harbor planning, public access, and similar local management activities on submerged lands. This account receives funds from the Submerged Lands account when income from leases exceeds the operating costs of the program. In 2000 and 2001, one-time revenues totaling $1,537,500 from the sale of submerged lands and dredge materials to BIW were deposited to this account. Since 2005, all of this revenue plus contributions from the Submerged Lands Fund, totaling $2,219,575 has been transferred to provide funding for municipal grants ($951,000), the Bureau's Boating Facilities Program ($600,000), and coastal island management ($515,000). Total expenses in 2011 were $50,000 for the management of the Maine Island Trail and Casco Bay state-owned islands. Total revenues in 2011 were $150,370, mostly from transfers from the Submerged Lands Fund and interest. This revenue contributed to a calendar year-end balance of $153,936.84

Land Acquisition Fund
(014.04A.0239.24)

Funds from this account are restricted by statute and the constitution to the acquisition of conservation lands, and acquisition-related costs. These funds cannot be used for operation or maintenance of existing land, and therefore, expenditures do not take place on a regular basis. Income that accrues as a result of sales, trades, or interest is carried forward until needed for future acquisitions. Income for calendar year 2011 was $77,708 against expenditures of $23,846. Balance at the end of the calendar year was $782,291.09.

Income this year was derived from interest earned on the account balance and the sale of interests in land to Bangor Hydro in Hancock County. Expenses included various acquisition-related costs such as surveys and appraisals. In all cases, funds were expended in conjunction with other funding sources outside of the Bureau. Funds from this account are restricted by constitutional amendment (Article IX, Section 23) to the acquisition of lands having significant conservation and recreation value in the same county in which the sale of lands generating the funds took place.

Nonreserved Land Acquisition Fund
(014.04A.0239.37)

This account was established to receive revenue from the sale of Public Nonreserved Lands. Expenses for calendar year 2011 were $10,412 with no income. Balance at the end of the calendar years was $153,492.35 Funds from this account are restricted by constitutional amendment (Article IX, Section 23) to the acquisition of lands having significant conservation and recreation value in the same county in which the sale of lands generating the funds took place.

Mackworth Island Trust Fund
(014.04A.0239.30)

Section 2 of Chapter 102 Public Law 1998, authorized the proceeds from the sale of a 157 acre Bureau of Parks and Lands property in Colorado to be invested as a separate trust fund and managed by the State Treasurer for the benefit of Mackworth Island. In November 1999, the Colorado property was sold. The proceeds of $60,000 have been deposited into this trust fund. A non-lapsing account receives interest income from the trust fund. This account is used to manage public recreational activities and related resources on land under the Bureau's care on Mackworth Island in Falmouth. Income for calendar year 2011 was $1,076 with no expenditures.

Forest Legacy Fund
(013.04A.0239.35)

This account was established to receive grant revenue from the Forest Legacy Program for purchase of unique valuable land. Land acquisition projects are reviewed and approved at the national level. We also receive annual admin grants that support the pre-acquisition costs for the Forest Legacy land purchases. Land for Maine's Future funds are typically used as match for these Forest Legacy grants to purchase land. Total expenses in 2011 were $1,561,172 which included the purchase Katahdin Forest and Millinocket Forest as well as $49,113 in admin grant expenses. Total revenues in 2011 were $1,561,172. At the end of calendar year 2011 the account had a balance of $0.

XVII. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FY 2013

OVERVIEW

Pursuant to Title 12 M.R.S.A., Sections 1839 and 1853 the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry must review allocations for the Bureau of Parks and Lands dedicated funds and revenue accounts pertaining to Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands for the upcoming fiscal year, and submit a written report to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs by March 15th. To assist in the preparation of that report, the Bureau is submitting information regarding Bureau income, expenditures, and management of the following eight dedicated accounts:

- ***Public Reserved Lands Management Fund***
- ***Public Lands Management Fund (Nonreserved Public Lands)***
- ***Public Reserved Lands Acquisition Fund***
- ***Public Nonreserved Lands Acquisition Fund***
- ***Submerged Lands Fund***
- ***Shore and Harbor Management Fund***
- ***Coastal Island Registry***
- ***Mackworth Island Trust***
- ***Forest Legacy Fund***

These accounts derive revenue from the sale of forest products, from lease fees, from interest on cash balances, and from the sale of land. Programs funded by these accounts receive no support from the State's General Fund. The dedicated revenues in these accounts must cover all operating expenses. The Bureau plans its expenditures for each fiscal year based on a level of income it projects to receive from its various revenue sources. If projected income is not sufficient, then the Bureau determines whether the balance in its contingency fund is sufficient to carry it through until additional revenues are received. If both revenue projections and contingency funds are insufficient, then the Bureau postpones planned expenditures until revenue returns to an adequate level. The Bureau has established internal financial management procedures to accomplish this process and reviews budgetary matters on a monthly and quarterly basis.

In the past, this internal management has proven successful. The Bureau has adjusted its expenditures and managed its financial resources so that core program activities have continued to be funded. The Bureau continues to manage the State-owned Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands to produce timber on a sustained yield basis and within established levels for allowable harvest to generate revenue to support resource protection, wildlife, and recreation programs. However, it is becoming more difficult to maintain the financial viability of this arrangement with existing sources of revenue as personal services and fixed costs continue to increase. The addition of new lands and management responsibilities places increasing strain on the Bureau's capacity to remain financially self-sufficient. Presented below are the FY 2013 budget allocations proposed for each of eight dedicated accounts within the Bureau's "Lands" division. These allocations represent the limits within which the Bureau must operate.

FY 2012 ACCOUNT SUMMARIES

1. Public Reserved Lands Management Fund Account # 014.04A.0239.22

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	$30,000	Personal Services	$3,466,588
Rent of Lands*	$890,000	All Other (not including STACAP)	$978,640
Camplot Leases*	$295,000		
Misc Services & Fees	$32,000	**Capital**	
Recreational Use of Lands	$11,000		
Sale of Stumpage *	$3,727,019		
Misc Income	$105,000	Capital Subtotal	
Reg Transfer Personal Svcs	$37,330		
Legis Transfer of Revenue	($73,317)		
DICAP**	($440,167)	STACAP	$131,307
Total Income	**$4,613,865.00**	**Total Expenses**	**$4,576,535.00**

* Represents the major components of the Bureau's income stream.

** Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a "revenue debit," although it is actually an expenditure.

The Bureau, as of December 31, 2011, had an account balance of $980,197.69 in the Public Reserved Lands Management Fund which serves as its contingency fund. Because most of the Bureau's timber harvesting takes place during the winter (to minimize environmental impacts and potential conflicts with recreational users), there is a significant seasonal fluctuation in income. The contingency fund enables the Bureau to operate during the first half of the fiscal year when income is low and expenses are relatively constant. It also serves as a buffer to cover operating costs when expenses exceed revenues.

The current balance is significantly below the optimum level, which would be half of the annual operating expense. It is below the level necessary to support all program needs. A concerted effort, with particular emphasis on the timber management program, and modifications to harvest preparation and sale practices, has been ongoing for the past four years. In addition, effort to identify new, recurring sources of revenue must be pursued if this system is to remain financially viable and meet future needs. As a result of those circumstances many desired program expenditures will need to be curtailed and alternative sources of revenue will need to be explored and developed.

New Initiative

Dedicated Revenue	Income	Requested for 2013	Expenses
Sale of Stumpage	$255,000	Personal Services	**$0**
DICAP	$1,285	All Other	
		Insurance	$1,285
		All Other Subtotal	**$1,285.00**
		Roads and Bridges	$165,000
		Asset Construction	$90,000
		Capital Subtotal	**$255,000.00**
TOTAL	**$256,285.00**	**TOTAL**	**$256,285.00**

Increases in all other are requested to address increased rates being charged to the Bureau for insurance. Other increases in fuel oil, utility services, and rental vehicles by Central Fleet Management were requested but not funded. The capital requests are for routine capital improvements on buildings, roads, and bridges.

2. Public Nonreserved Lands Management Fund Account # 014.04A.0239.23

Income		**Expenses**	
Earnings on Investments	$3,000	All Other (not including STACAP)	$32,947
Rent on Lands and Buildings	$16,850	Capital	
Sale of Stumpage	$77,582	STACAP	$575
Misc Income	$2,500		
DICAP**	($2,040)		
Total Income	**$99,932.00**	**Total Expenses**	**$33,522.00**

** Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a “revenue debit”, although it is actually an expenditure.

Both income and expenses will be less than the budgeted allocations in this account. The account has a balance of $13,428.44, which is used as a contingency fund to cover expenses that occur between the relatively small and infrequent timber harvests on these lands. It is unlikely the Bureau will harvest the amount of timber needed to meet the proposed revenue projection. Therefore, management expenditures and associated activities will be limited.

3. Public Reserved Lands Acquisition Fund Account # 014.04A.0239.24

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	$144,000	All Other (not including STACAP)	$203,579
Sale of Land	$290,475	Capital	
DICAP**	($20,380)	STACAP	$5,896
Total Income	**$414,095.00**	**Total Expenses**	**$209,475.00**

** Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a "revenue debit", although it is actually an expenditure.

By statute, the money in this account is used only for purposes related to the acquisition of interest in land. Lands purchased with the funds from this account have Public Reserved Land status. These funds are necessary to acquire rights-of-ways, in-holdings, conservation easements, and additions to the existing land base. As in most years, it is difficult to predict the timing, income, and expenditures involved in potential land transactions. This budget allows the Bureau, if the opportunity arises, to acquire land or other interests within the available allocation. The "All Other" expenses are used to cover the cost of legal assistance for title searches, drafting deeds, appraisals, and related items. At the end of calendar year 2011 this account had a balance of $782,291.09. At this time, all of the funds in this account are limited for use in the specific counties from which the revenue was generated, as required by the Constitution. This situation will limit the Bureau's ability in the future to pursue acquisition projects in counties without funds.

New Initiative

Dedicated Revenue	Income	Requested for 2013	Expenses
Sale of Land	$700,000	Capital Land	$700,000
TOTAL	**$700,000.00**	**TOTAL**	**$700,000.00**

This initiative provides funding for land acquisitions and related closing costs. Land acquisitions require appraisals, title searches, and other legal matters in order to protect the State's interests.

4. Public Nonreserved Lands Acquisition Fund Account # 014.04A.0239.37

Income		Expenses	
Sale of Land	$270,000	All Other (not including STACAP)	$61,114
DICAP**	($6,200)	Capital	
		STACAP	$1,770
Total Income	**$263,800.00**	**Total Expenses**	**$62,884.00**

** Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a "revenue debit", although it is actually an expenditure.

The money in this account is used only for purposes related to the acquisition of interest in nonreserved land. Lands purchased with the funds from this account have Public Nonreserved Land status. These funds are necessary to acquire rights-of-ways, in-holdings, conservation easements, and additions to the existing land base. As in most years, it is difficult to predict the timing, income, and expenditures involved in potential land transactions. This budget allows the Bureau, if the opportunity arises, to acquire land or other interests within the available allocation. The "All Other" expenses are used to cover the cost of legal assistance for title searches, drafting deeds, appraisals, and related items. At the end of calendar year 2011 this account had a balance of $153,492.35.

New Initiative

Dedicated Revenue	Income	Requested for 2013	Expenses
Sale of Land	$200,000	Capital Land	$200,000
TOTAL	**$200,000.00**	**TOTAL**	**$200,000.00**

This initiative provides funding for land acquisitions and related closing costs.

5. Submerged Lands Fund Account # 014.04A.0239.27

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	$5,000	Personal Services	$220,146
Rent of Lands	$437,000	All Other (not including STACAP)	$17,422
Reg Transfer Personal Svcs	($37,330)	STACAP	$6,886
Transfer to S&H	($115,000)		
DICAP**	($23,260)		
Total Income	**$266,410.00**	**Total Expenses**	**$244,454.00**

** Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a "revenue debit," although it is actually an expenditure.

Most of the rental income for the program is not received until late in the fiscal year because rent payments are due in February. Like the Public Reserved Lands account, the Submerged Lands account carries a balance that funds the program through the first portion of the fiscal year. This account had a balance of $344,019.54 at the end of calendar year 2011. In 2011, the Bureau began implementing a revised lease fee schedule adopted in 2009 with larger rental fees being phased in over a 5-year period ending in 2014. As revenues improve over the phase-in period, the Bureau will continue to carefully manage expenses and anticipates transferring more of the balance to the Shore and Harbor Management Fund.

New Initiative

Dedicated Revenue	Income	Requested for 2013	Expenses
Rent of Lands	$62,150	All Other (not including STACAP)	$55,000
DICAP	($5,507)	STACAP	$1,643
TOTAL	**$56,643.00**	**TOTAL**	**$56,643.00**

This initiative provides funding for legal costs and contract costs to support the Submerged Lands program.

6. Shore and Harbor Management Fund Account # 014.04A.0239.29

Income		Expenses	
Transfers and Earnings on Investments	$5,527	Grants to Cities & Towns	$89,085
Transfer from Submerged Lands	$115,000	Grants to Public/Private Agencies	$31,442
Total Income	**$120,527.00**	**Total Expenses**	**$120,527.00**

This account was set up by the legislature in 1991 in anticipation that the Submerged Lands Program would eventually yield revenues that could provide benefits to the public beyond what was needed to administer the program. These funds are set aside in a special account and made available to municipalities and state agencies for grants to enhance shore and harbor management, planning, and public access efforts. A portion of the fund is also available to support management programs on coastal islands under the Bureau's jurisdiction. As noted above, with the implementation of a new lease fee schedule, the Bureau anticipates improved funding for municipal coastal planning and public access projects over the next several years. At the end of calendar year 2011 this account had a balance of $153,936.84.

New Initiative

Dedicated Revenue	Income	Requested for 2013	Expenses
Rent of Lands	$80,000	All Other (not including STACAP)	$79,473
		STACAP	$0
TOTAL	**$80,000.00**	**TOTAL**	**$79,473.00**

This initiative provides funding for increased grants to municipalities as well as to public/private organizations to enhance shore and harbor management, planning, and public access efforts.

7. Coastal Island Registry Fund Account # 014.04A.0241.26

Income		Expenses	
Registration Fees	$107	All Other (not including STACAP)	$105
		STACAP	$2
Total Income	**$107.00**	**Total Expenses**	**$107.00**

Funding in this program covers the cost of reviewing new applications for island registrations. Most private coastal island titles have been reviewed and current program activity, for the most part, involves providing information to the public and occasionally reviewing application and deed information. The account currently has a balance of $769.71.

8. Mackworth Island Trust # 014.04A.0239.30

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	$4,450	All Other (not including STACAP)	$3,941
DICAP**	($395)	STACAP	$114
Total Income	**$4,055.00**	**Total Expenses**	**$4,055.00**

** Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a "revenue debit", although it is actually an expenditure.

This account is used to manage public recreational activities and related resources on land under the Bureau's care on Mackworth Island in Falmouth, Maine. Section 2 of Chapter 102 Public Law 1998, authorizes the proceeds from the sale of a 157 acre Bureau of Parks and Lands property in Colorado to be invested as a separate trust fund and managed by the State Treasurer for the benefit of Mackworth Island. In November 1999, the Colorado property was sold. The proceeds of $60,000 have been deposited into this trust fund. A non-lapsing account receives interest income from the trust fund. At the end of calendar year 2011 the account had a balance of $16,005.73, over and above the principle.

9. Forest Legacy Fund # 013.04A.0239.35

Income		Expenses	
Federal Grants	$40,000	All Other (not including STACAP)	$36,500
DICAP**	($2,443)	STACAP	$1,057
Total Income	**$37,557.00**	**Total Expenses**	**$37,557.00**

** Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a "revenue debit", although it is actually an expenditure.

This account is used for Forest Legacy grant expenses related to the acquisition of nationally approved Forest Legacy land parcels and any associated pre-acquisition costs. The figures above represent the All Other pre-acquisition budget. For the land acquisitions, financial orders are sent to the Governor for signature and to establish the capital needed for the land purchase. Land For Maine's Future funds are typically used as match for these Forest Legacy grants to purchase land. the end of calendar year 2011 the account had a balance of $0.

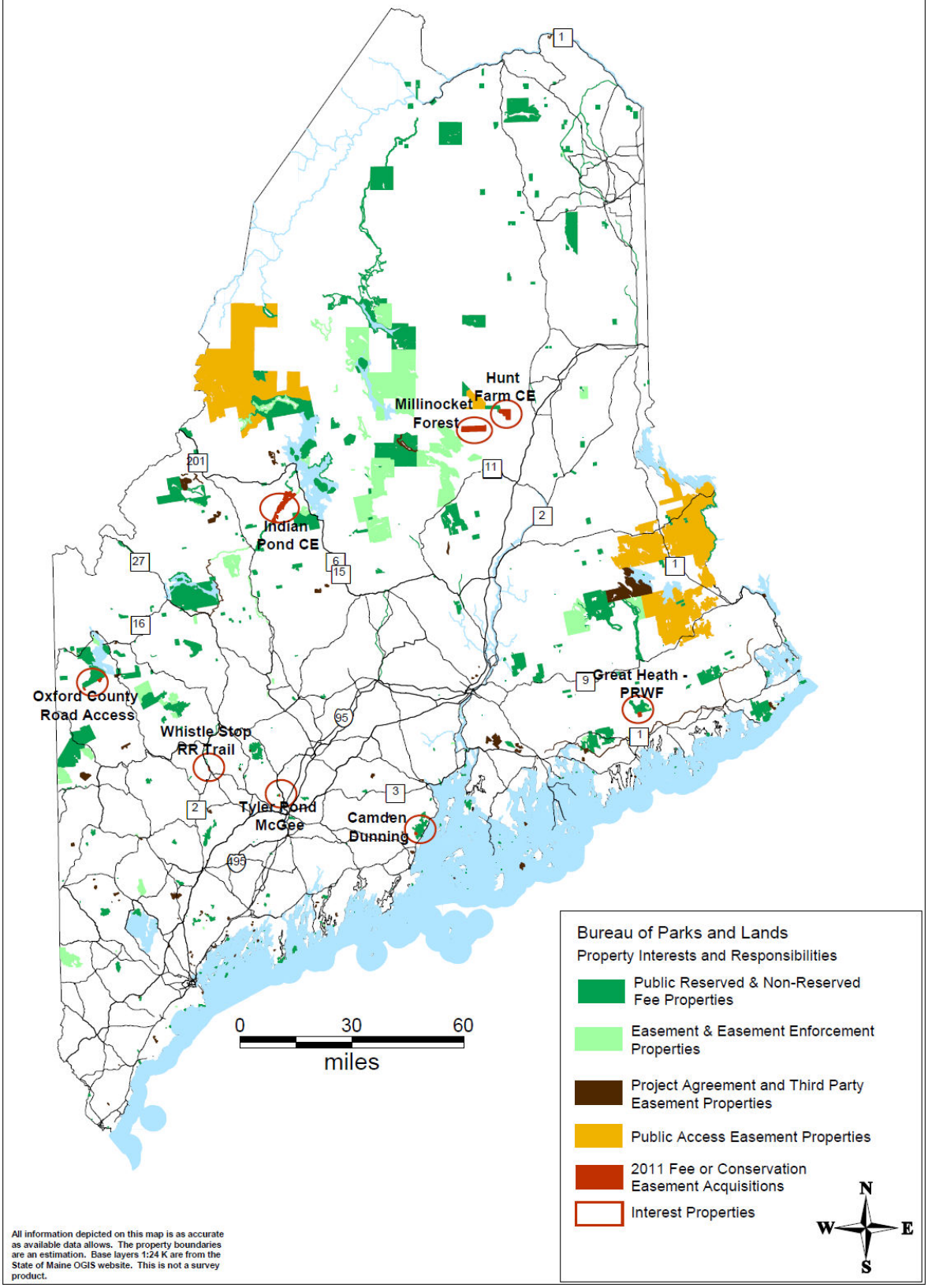
XVIII. CONCLUSION

Expenditures will be managed to operate within the Bureau's financial means for all accounts. The Public Reserved Lands Management Fund is under considerable pressure to meet increasing demands to cover rising costs in such areas as personnel services, health care, land acquisition, vehicle rental, information technology, and public information while assuming management responsibility for more and more non-revenue generating acres and activities. The Bureau has made a concerted effort to further increase the volume of timber harvested and currently harvests over the sustainable harvest level. However, with a continuation of these trends it will be necessary to identify new non-timber sources of revenue available on an annual basis. This effort will need to be balanced with continued demands on staff time related to new acquisition initiatives and non-timber related responsibilities, including recreation. The Bureau will continue to explore ways to stabilize revenues in all accounts, while managing Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands on a sustained yield basis.

APPENDIX A

Department of Conservation
Property Interests & Responsibilities

January, 2012



All information depicted on this map is as accurate as available data allows. The property boundaries are an estimation. Base layers 1:24 K are from the State of Maine OGIS website. This is not a survey product.

Appendix B: Summary of 2011 BPL Acquisitions and Dispositions

Acquisitions							
Parks/ Lands	**Name**	**Town**	**County**	**Fee Acres**	**Conservation Easement**	**Trail/Road Easement**	**Total Acres**
Lands	Millinocket Forest (Elliotsville Plt)	T2 R8 WELS	Penobscot	5,061	0	0	5,061
Lands	Katahdin Forest Hunt Farm (Elliotsville Plt)	T3 R7 WELS	Penobscot	0	2,849	0	2,849
Lands	Indian Pond (FPL Energy Maine Hydro)	Big Moose Twp	Piscataquis	0	72.5	0	72.5
		Chase Stream, Indian Stream, Sapling & Squaretown Twps	Somerset	0	1,205.5	0	1,205.5
Lands	Great Heath (Pleasant River Wildlife Fnd.)	Columbia	Washington	370	0	0	370
Lands	Oxford County Road Access (Pingree Assoc)	Lincoln Plt, Magalloway Plt, Twp C	Oxford	0	0	+/- 3.6 mi	0
			Subtotal (Lands)	**5,431**	**4,127**	**0**	**9,558**
Parks	Whistle Stop RR Trail (MCRR)	Jay	Franklin	11	0		11
Parks	Tyler Pond (McGee)	Augusta	Kennebec	0	0	+/- 675 ft	0
Parks	Camden Hills State Park (Dunning)	Camden	Knox	69	0	0	69
			Subtotal (Parks)	**80**	**0**	**0**	**80**
			Total Parks and Lands	**5,511**	**4,127**	**0**	**9,638**

Appendix B: Summary of 2011 BPL Acquisitions and Dispositions, continued

Dispositions – Authorizing Law		Town	County	Fee Acres	Utility/Service Easement	Trail/Road Easement
Lands	Lubec Boat Access Facility lot – to Town of Lubec Maine Resolves 2009, Chapter 209	Lubec	Washington	-0.04	0	0
Lands	Oxford County Road Access - to Pingree Assoc. Maine Resolves 2011, Chapter 72	Lincoln Plt, Adamstown Twp, Richardsontown Twp	Oxford	0	0	+/- 3.5 mi
			Subtotal Lands Dispositions	**-0.04**	**0**	**0**
Parks	St John Valley Heritage RR Trail crossing – to Pelletier Maine Resolves 2009, Chapter 209	St Francis	Aroostook	0	0	+/- 100 ft
Parks	Four Seasons Adventure RR Trail crossing – to Burrill & Greene Maine Resolves 2007, Chapter 129	Newport	Penobscot	0	0	+/- 100 ft
			Subtotal Parks Dispositions	**0**	**0**	**0**
			Total Parks and Lands Dispositions	**-0.04**	**0**	**0**

Appendix C: Federal Forest Legacy Projects Approved and Pending

Funded Forest Legacy Tracts Closings expected in calendar 2012

Name	Acquisition Rights	Location	Acres	Est. Total Cost	FLP award
Lower Penobscot – Great Pond (Authorized FY 2008)	Easement	Penobscot & Hancock Counties	24,753	Pending final appraisal	$2,889,000
Katahdin Forest Expansion - Seboeis Lake South Tract (Authorized FY2010)	Fee and motorized trail easements	Piscataquis & Penobscot Counties	5,801	Pending Final appraisal	$2,188,000
Machias River Phase III Washington Bald Tract (Authorized FY 2009)	Easement 26,352 acres Fee 806 acres	Washington County	27,158	Pending Final appraisal	$2,060,000

Funded Forest Legacy Tracts Closings expected in 2012 or 2013

Name	Acquisition Rights	Location	Acres	Est. Total Cost	FLP award
West Grand Lake (Authorized FY2011)	Easement	Washington County	21,700	$14,897,000 estimated	$6,675,000

Funded Forest Legacy Tracts Closings expected by end of 2014

Name	Acquisition Rights	Location	Acres	Total Cost	FLP award
Crocker Mountain (Authorized FY 2012)	Fee	Franklin County	11,798	$9,350,000 estimated	$7,000,000
Orbeton Stream (Authorized FY 2012)	Easement	Franklin County	5,808	$2,315,000 estimated	$1,730,000

Proposed Forest Legacy Projects, Pending Approval of the 2013 President's Budget

Name	Acquisition Rights	Location	Acres	Total Cost	FLP request
East Grand Lake/Orient (Rated #5 nationally)	Fee 6076 acres Easement 1,450 acres	Washington County	7,536	$3,605,000 estimated	$1,800,000