



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY
BUREAU OF PARKS AND LANDS
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GOVERNOR

AMANDA E. BEAL
COMMISSIONER

TO: St. John Uplands Region Management Plan Advisory Committee
FROM: Jim Vogel, BPL Senior Planner
DATE: April 11, 2024

Re: Potential Ecological Reserve Addition at Allagash Mountain

The purpose of this memo is to present a proposal to designate an Ecological Reserve at the Allagash Mountain subunit of the Chamberlain Unit of the Public Reserved Lands and to request your review and comment.

In March 2022, the Governor approved the Legislature's revisions to 12 MRSA §1805 that modified the statutory limits on total acreage and operable timberland that may be designated as Ecological Reserve. As a result of the revisions, total acres available for Ecological Reserve designation increased by 15,000 acres, and operable timberland available for designation increased by 8,626 acres.

This statutory change has provided the Bureau with the opportunity to provide the highest level of protection to additional ecologically important areas. In response, the Bureau, in collaboration with the Maine Natural Areas Program, identified several areas for new Ecological Reserve designation.

All these areas have been reviewed by the Ecological Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee.

The proposal would add 690 acres (all of the Allagash Mountain subunit) to the existing 3,502-acre Chamberlain Ecological Reserve. The attached nomination document provides information on the specific ecological characteristics of the proposed addition and other details, and a map.

The Bureau requests that you review the nomination and respond by May 10 with any comments or questions.

If requested by Committee members, the Bureau would be happy to schedule a videoconference meeting to discuss the nomination and any concerns in more detail.

Following this review, the Bureau will prepare a Plan amendment that applies revised Resource Allocations to the final ecological reserve addition area. (In accord with the Integrated Resource Policy, the entire area would be reallocated to Special Protection – Ecological Reserve; see the

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attached maps of the area, depicting the current allocations and allocation with the Ecological Reserve.) A public meeting will then be scheduled to present and take comments on all proposed Plan amendments resulting from the new reserve designations.

Thank you for your committee participation and your attention to this matter. Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Attachments

- 1) Nomination Form – Allagash Mountain Ecological Reserve
- 2) Maps: Allagash Mountain Subunit, Current and Proposed Resource Allocations