

# Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update

## *Pre-Process Informational Session*



### LAND AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ISSUES AND TRENDS

#### Topics for Discussion:

- Rare, threatened, and endangered species status and regulatory considerations
- Wildlife travel corridors and the importance of connectivity between large habitat blocks
- Conservation trends and changes since 2010
- Climate change considerations
- Impacts from development
- Effectiveness of current LUPC regulations

#### Session Information:

- **When:** Wednesday, **December 10**, 2025 at 10:00 am
- **Where:** Jeff's Catering, 15 Event Center Way, Brewer
- **What:** This is the third in a series of informational sessions planned to allow the Commission to learn more about specific topic areas before updating the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP). These sessions will take place during the Commission's regular business meetings and will include presentations by topic experts and/or roundtable discussions, with a question-and-answer portion to allow Commissioners to learn more from subject matter experts.
- **A Key Note:** These informational sessions are not intended to be public hearings, and the public will not be invited to comment. There will be *many* opportunities for the public to provide input and comment during the remainder of the pre-process, including through a public survey and community workshop meetings. People are also welcome to submit comments on the topic in writing to the LUPC by mail to Stacy Benjamin, LUPC, 22 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333, or email to [stacy.benjamin@maine.gov](mailto:stacy.benjamin@maine.gov).

#### Panelists:

- **Mark Berry**, Forest Program Director, The Nature Conservancy
- **Sally Stockwell**, Director of Conservation, Maine Audubon
- **Justin Schlawin**, Program Coordinator, Beginning with Habitat, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
- **Kristen Puryear**, Chief Ecologist, Maine Natural Areas Program, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry
- **Jake Metzler**, Vice President of Stewardship and Conservation, Forest Society of Maine

The panel presentations will be followed by a Roundtable Discussion  
with additional invited participants.

## **Conservation Related Information and Issues – What We’ve Heard So Far**

### ***Excerpts from Initial Outreach Interviews – Comments from Interviewees***

Environmental Impacts. Concern was expressed about development causing water quality issues, especially from development along shorelines, as well as noise and light pollution, and increased potential for toxic waste or other impacts from development. The increased pressure on recreational resources due to the pandemic, as well as environmental impacts from recreational activities, such as noise pollution from motorized vehicles and damage to trails from large off-road or all-terrain vehicles, are also concerns.

Location of Development. There is a lack of readily available developable land in towns and rural hubs, which can put more pressure on the Service Area for development.

Service Area Character. Unique habitats and wildlife are abundant in the Commission’s approximately 10.5-million-acre service area. Low levels of development keep these areas intact, which is important to many of the people who live, recreate, and work in the service area.

Land and Water Access. Conservation efforts have increased in recent years, and many large landowners have collaborated with conservation groups to conserve land in the Commission’s service area.

Climate Change. Many species are predicted to migrate north as weather patterns change and the climate warms. Migration north depends on undeveloped corridors and areas for plant and animal population survival.

### ***Informational Session Summary***

*To be added after 12/10 meeting*