



STATE OF MAINE
JOHN E. BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

Department of Conservation
LAND USE REGULATION COMMISSION
22 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0022



PATRICK MCGOWAN
COMMISSIONER

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC SCOPING SESSIONS

Members of the public are invited to present their views on issues that the Land Use Regulation Commission should consider in its review of a concept plan proposal for approximately 426,000 acres in the Moosehead Lake region

AUGUSTA, Maine (July 22, 2005) – Plum Creek Land Company and Plum Creek Maine Timberlands, LLC, have submitted to the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) a petition, in the form of a concept plan, to rezone 426,000 acres of its land in the Moosehead Lake region. The proposed concept plan sets forth areas that Plum Creek proposes to develop and other areas that Plum Creek proposes to conserve.

Due to the unprecedented scope of Plum Creek’s proposal, LURC staff will be holding four scoping sessions, at the times and places stated below, to receive information from the public for purposes of identifying issues that LURC should consider as it reviews the petition.

PUBLIC SCOPING SESSIONS: DATES AND LOCATIONS

All sessions will begin at 6:00 P.M. Doors will open to the public at 5:30 P.M.
Please call the LURC Augusta office (207-287-2631) for directions.

Tuesday, August 16, 2005 - Greenville

Greenville High School Auditorium
130 Pritham Avenue, Greenville

Thursday, August 18, 2005 - Rockwood

Rockwood Community Building
Jackman Road, Rockwood

Monday, August 22, 2005 – Jackman Area

Sky Lodge Conference Center
766 Main Street, Moose River

Wednesday, August 24, 2005 – Augusta Area

Maple Hill Farm Inn & Conference Center
11 Inn Road, Hallowell

During these scoping sessions, LURC staff particularly welcomes the public to identify issues related to:

- Consistency of the concept plan proposal with LURC’s Comprehensive Land Use Plan, including, among other things, the policies to protect the “principal values” of the jurisdiction (fiber and food production; recreational opportunities especially for primitive pursuits; high value natural resources; and the uniqueness of a vast, largely undeveloped forest); support and promote the management of all resources based on the principles of sound planning and multiple use; and guide development to the most suitable locations. LURC’s Comprehensive Land Use Plan may be viewed online at www.maine.gov/doc/lurc/reference/clup.html.
- Consistency of the concept plan proposal with LURC’s rezoning criteria, including, among other things, the demonstrated need in the area for the proposed rezoning and impacts of the proposed rezoning on existing uses and resources.

- Consistency of the concept plan proposal with LURC's review criteria for concept plans, including, among other things, protection of the natural environment at least equal to what is currently in place; striking a reasonable and publicly beneficial balance between appropriate development and long-term conservation of lake resources; and demonstration that conservation measures apply in perpetuity or provide for long-term protection of resources.

It is emphasized that these public scoping sessions are an informal part of the very initial stage of LURC's review of Plum Creek's rezoning petition. These sessions are designed to inform the LURC staff and consultants of issues that should be explored in the review process. The scoping sessions are not a forum for receiving public comment substantively addressing the proposal itself. There will be opportunities in formal public hearings and in writing for testimony and other information to be submitted to LURC concerning the merits of the proposal. These scoping sessions are not part of any formal public hearing process on Plum Creek's petition. Members of the public who wish to testify or present substantive information or views about this proposal or otherwise wish to participate in the public hearing process will have the opportunity to do so, as provided by the rules and procedures established for the conduct of LURC's public hearings.

All interested persons are invited to attend these scoping sessions, but doing so is not a pre-requisite to later furnishing substantive comments and testimony on the proposal. Comments appropriate to these sessions may also be submitted in writing to LURC (22 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0022). Persons with disabilities planning to attend the sessions are requested to inform LURC staff in advance to make arrangements for services they may require.

After August 5, 2005, members of the public may obtain further background documents related to these scoping sessions by contacting LURC's Augusta office (call 207-287-2631) or visiting the LURC web site (www.maine.gov/doc/lurc). For additional information about these scoping sessions or Plum Creek's rezoning petition, contact Agnieszka Pinette (call 207-287-8786 or e-mail agnieszka.pinette@maine.gov).
