

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Bureau of Parks and Lands

**Moosehead Region Management Plan
Public Meeting to Review Final Draft Plan**

April 27, 2016 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Center for Moosehead History, Greenville

MEETING NOTES

The Public Meeting was attended by approximately 15 people (see attached sign-in sheet).

Additionally, the following BPL staff members were present: Peter Smith, Western Region Lands Manager; Jim Vogel, Plan Coordinator; Scott Ramsay, ORV Program Supervisor; Rex Turner, Recreation Planner.

Welcome/Introduction

Jim Vogel welcomed the attendees, and asked Bureau staff to introduce themselves. A meeting agenda was provided (attached).

Presentation

The meeting was structured around a PowerPoint presentation given by Jim Vogel, which began with background information on the public planning process, the purpose and scope of the Bureau's regional management plans and on the Moosehead Region as defined for the Plan. The presentation then provided an overview of the Vision (for the larger management units), Dominant Resource Allocations, and Management Recommendations for each of the Bureau's Public Reserved Lands and undeveloped State Park lands that are addressed by the Plan. Questions were answered at various points during the presentation as they arose, and after each major reserved land unit and other Bureau lands were presented, an opportunity was provided for taking comments and questions, as reflected in the following record.

The presentation concluded with a few slides presenting the Seboomook Unit's Little W Acquisition and the Bureau's plan for future management of the 72-acre shoreline parcel in the Seboomook Plan Area.

Public Comments/Questions (paraphrased from notes)

LITTLE MOOSE UNIT

The Little Moose Unit presentation began with reviewing the **vision** and proposed **resource allocations** for the Unit, including Special Protection, Backcountry Recreation, Wildlife, Developed Recreation, Remote Recreation, and Timber Management uses. Resource Allocations were described with the aid of a large print of the Resource Allocations Map.

A comment was made questioning if the Big Moose area should be mentioned as backcountry in the Vision. Jim explained that the portion of Big Moose Mountain encompassed by the corridor extending 500 feet on either side of the hiking trail is designated as a Remote Recreation zone, not backcountry; the remainder of the area is designated Timber Management.

A comment was made about 2/3 of the Unit being a Timber Management dominant allocation and concern about the level of timber cutting. BPL staff responded that the majority of the unit has historically been allocated to Timber Management, and this will be the case in this Plan cycle, but with some reduction due to the increase in proposed hiking trails with Remote Recreation buffers.

It was suggested that the new segment of proposed trail that would link the Little Moose trail to the proposed new trailhead off Rt. 6 should have a Remote Recreation buffer. The Plan provides for such a buffer in the text, but the Bureau will revise the Plan maps to indicate it also.

Lastly, it was commented that the allocation maps don't reference any landmarks, and that doing so would help people read them. While the Bureau is open to some changes to map formats, across all the region plans the practice has been to focus on the resource allocations on the allocation maps, with minimal other background information shown.

Review of the **proposed recommendations** focused on the Plan's continued focus on backcountry hiking and walk-in camping and fishing on the Unit, with a limited number of additional or expanded facilities proposed or to be considered. The only comment on the recommendations was that the proposed new hiking trail loop would also provide day hiking opportunities.

DAYS ACADEMY UNIT

The **vision** for the Days Academy Unit and the proposed **dominant resource allocations** (Special Protection, Wildlife, Developed and Remote Recreation, and Timber Management) for the Unit were reviewed, the latter with the aid of a large print of the Resource Allocations Map. No comments were made.

As with the Little Moose Unit, the Plan Coordinator reviewed the **proposed recommendations** for the Days Academy Unit. In particular, the review covered recommendations related to development of a new non-motorized trail in the unit, increased trail maintenance, and "shared use road" signage. A question was asked whether timber management to "improve forest quality" for the sake of forest productivity; BPL staff responded that, Yes, the Bureau's timber management will result in both higher timber values as well as enhancing other values such as wildlife habitat.

SUGAR ISLAND AND MOOSEHEAD LAKE EAST SHORE LANDS, KINEO AND FARM ISLAND

A more abbreviated presentation of **dominant resource allocations** and **proposed recommendations** for Sugar Island and the East Shore Lands, followed by Kineo and Farm Island undeveloped State Park lands, was provided next. The only comments were given on behalf of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail (NFCT), voicing support for site name signage at boat-in campsites, as well as for sign-in boxes. (The Bureau is presently installing site name signs at the boat-in campsites.) A question was also posed whether the causeway to Kineo (not State-owned) was man-made, and Jim responded that historic maps indicated that some natural linkage to the lands east of the lake has existed since the area was first explored and settled.

SMALLER LOTS EAST AND WEST OF MOOSEHEAD

Review of the allocations and recommendations for the Smaller Lots (no Vision statements were drafted for the individual small lots) began with the **Frenchtown Lot**, and proceeded to the **Shawtown Lot, Beaver Cove Lot, Bowdoin College Grant Lot, West Outlet Lot, Rockwood Strip Lot** and lastly the **Sandwich Academy Grant Lot**. Review of the recommendations for these lots primarily highlighted timber management, and recreation uses and proposed enhancements, where applicable.

Few comments were made about the proposed resource allocations or management recommendations (the smaller lots generally have few proposed recommendations). A question was asked if harvesting was proposed for the near future at Bowdoin College Grant, and AMC's preference regarding such harvesting given the presence of their trails on the unit. BPL staff acknowledge that the lot is in the midst of the AMC recreation system, but that the lot also had high value for timber, and the Bureau would consult with AMC to minimize impacts on trails where possible.

General questions were voiced about provisions for wildlife habitat needs (e.g., connected travel corridors) and older tree growth areas/saving large trees in the Bureau's timber management. BPL staff responded that these values are addressed in the standard forest prescription process. Other comments voiced support for the proposed trail and Moosehead shoreline access on the West Outlet Lot, and the opinion that the Moose River access from the Rockwood Strip East Lot needed to be made more publicly known. Finally, a request was made for more "lay person's" language about wildlife and harvesting in the Plan.

LITTLE W SEBOOMOOK UNIT INHOLDING

Jim presented the purposes of the Little W acquisition in 2014, and the plans for future management focused on a potential water access day use site and potential water access campsites. A comment was made on behalf of NFCT that good sites for potential campsites have been identified on the parcel.

CLOSING COMMENTS

The Plan Coordinator mentioned that comments on the Final Draft Plan would continue to be accepted through May 18 (three weeks), and that the email and U.S. mail address for comments was provided on bottom of the meeting agenda. The next steps toward completion

of the plan were described, including consideration of comments received and any resulting revisions to the Plan, followed by review of the Final Plan by the MFS Director (who has been administratively assigned to oversee the Bureau's Lands division), and the eventual recommendation by the Director to the DACF Commissioner for plan approval and adoption.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 pm.

*Respectfully Submitted by
Jim Vogel*

Attachment 1: Meeting Agenda

Attachment 2: Sign-In Sheet



Moosehead Region Management Plan

Public Meeting

April 27, 2016

6:00 to 8:00 pm

Center for Moosehead History, Greenville

Agenda

- 6:00 Welcome and BPL Staff Introductions; Review of Planning Process to Date and Plan Content
- 6:15 Little Moose Public Lands – Review of character of Unit, Vision, proposed Resource Allocations and Management Recommendations [35 min.]
- 6:50 Days Academy Public Lands – Review of character of Unit, Vision, proposed Resource Allocations, and Management Recommendations [15 min.]
- 7:05 Sugar Island and East Shore Public Lands – Review of proposed Resource Allocations and Management Recommendations [10 min.]
- 7:15 Break [10 min.]
- 7:25 Farm Island and Kineo Undeveloped State Park Lands – Review of proposed Resource Allocations and Management Recommendations [15 min.]
- 7:40 Smaller Lots East and West of Moosehead Lake – Review of proposed Resource Allocations and Management Recommendations [15 min.]
- 7:55 Next Steps

Adjourn

You may send **written comments** on the Final Draft Plan **by May 18** to:

Jim Vogel

Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands

22 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

OR

Jim.Vogel@maine.gov

The webpage for the Moosehead Region Plan can be found at: http://www.maine.gov/dacf/moosehead_region. This page will be updated with the Final Plan when it is ready, with any comments received and the Bureau's responses.

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April 27, 2016 ~ 6:00 PM
 Center for Moosehead History, Greenville

Name & organization (if any)	Mailing Address (optional)	Email Address (optional)
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