

Management Recommendations (Summarized on Plan pages 36-38)

Amherst Mountains Community Forest Unit	Actions taken/Comments: [2014 entries: standard font, 2019 entries: <i>bold italic</i> font]
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<i>Special Protection Management Recommendations</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibit motorized use and make efforts to prevent unauthorized use. 	Roads into protected areas have been blocked to vehicular traffic with rocks.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor sensitive resources, including <i>red-pine woodland</i> on Bald Mountain. 	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow the continuance of the existing camplot on Partridge Pond. Issue Special Use Permits to allow limited ATV access to and from the camp on the existing trail system. 	Permits issued annually.
<i>Wildlife Management Recommendations</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for/expand opportunities to enhance mature softwood habitats for softwood dependent species, especially deer. When feasible, coordinate deer habitat management with adjacent landowners, particularly across the western boundary of the Unit. 	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage riparian areas with a goal of retaining key structural elements such as snag and den trees, to encouraging a variety of tree species and age classes, and to maintain sufficient shoreline cover necessary for wildlife habitat and water quality protection. 	Ongoing
<i>Recreation and Visual Management Recommendations</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt the Bald Bluff Mountain, Halfmile, Partridge and Ducktail ponds trail systems. Monitor use and implement signage, relocation or rehabilitation projects as necessary. 	Done, with MCC trail crews providing several improvements. <i>An addition has been made to the Bald Bluff Mountain trail to form a loop trail.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt the Partridge and Ducktail Pond campsites. Monitor use and address environmental concerns. 	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with IF&W to monitor recreation impacts on identified wildlife and fisheries resources, including Halfmile Pond’s wild brook trout population and peregrine nesting on Halfmile Pond Cliffs. 	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess demand for longer day-hikes. Explore the feasibility of providing such opportunities by connecting existing hiking trail networks. 	No requests for expanded trails to date.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the possibility of working with the Town of Amherst to provide boat storage or landing practices on the ponds. 	No action to date.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow the continuance of the “Halfmile Trail” snowmobile trail which 	Ongoing; but pond has been closed to ice fishing, so this may

<p>has provided direct winter access to Halfmile Pond for ice fishing. Make efforts to prevent unauthorized ATV use and monitor impacts on Halfmile Pond and surrounding Special Protection Areas.</p>	<p>deserve another look. ATV misuse has been minimal with no degradation noted. <i>With closing of ice fishing the need for access has been reduced; the Bureau intends to close this trail.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the former lease site on Indian Camp Stream as an additional camp site or day use area. 	<p>Site has been developed as a day use area with a parking area and directional signage. The former camp is also used by staff engaged in trail work. <i>The Bureau intends to remove the camp structure and associated out buildings; the day use area will remain.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt and improve trailhead areas for Halfmile Pond trail, Partridge and Ducktail pond trails, and Bald Mountain Bluff trails. 	<p>Done</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the potential and need for linking the 22-00-0 Rd to a planned expansion of the Salt Shed Trail system via the 9-25 Rd and a historical snowmobile trail. 	<p>Ongoing</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop informational signage for climbers accessing Halfmile Pond Cliffs via informal trails near Halfmile Pond to help protect nearby peregrine nesting sites. 	<p>No action to date. Planned for summer 2015. <i>Has not been accomplished; the Bureau will work with MDIF&W on this signage.</i></p>
<p><i>Timber Management Recommendations</i></p>	
<p><i>Evaluation of the potential for an initial timber harvest should be conducted with the Town of Amherst. The threshold volume of 11.5 cords/acre across the 3,000 acres of the leased area, as specified in the AMCF Concept Plan (Plan Appendix B) has been reached. Annual contributions by Forest Society of Maine to the Town, per FSMs Agreement with the Town (Plan Appendix D), were to continue until this threshold was reached and have ended. However, it may be several more years before active timber management is economically feasible. A management prescription would need to be prepared by a forester to guide any harvest. The Bureau will wait on guidance from the Town before taking any action.</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage to allow the softwood component to increase, by preferential harvest of hardwoods and favoring of softwood regeneration. 	<p>No timber management done to date. <i>[see note above]</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To the extent practical, favor those species best suited to the site. Species which do well on sites of limited fertility, spruce, pines, to a lesser extent oak, should be encouraged. 	<p>No timber management done to date. <i>[see note above]</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restoring high softwood component in riparian buffers and in deer cover will not be easy but should be a priority. 	<p>No timber management done to date. <i>[see note above]</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain healthy beech, including those with beech bark disease but full crowns, wherever feasible. Favor oak at all times. 	<p>No timber management done to date. <i>[see note above]</i></p>

Transportation and Administrative Management Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau should continue to work cooperatively with abutters to manage public access affecting neighboring parcels. 	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau should explore options for obtaining more clear legal access for public recreation to the east side of the Unit. 	Ongoing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate the 22-00-0 Rd and the 9-13 Rd and its associated Halfmile Pond spur road as Public Use Roads – providing north-south vehicular access through the Unit as well as access to the Halfmile Pond trailhead. 	Done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate the remaining road network as management roads—including spurs off the 22-00-0 Rd, the 9-25 Rd and western portions of the 9-13 Rd. 	Done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate the 22-00-0 Rd, the 9-13 Rd, the Halfmile Pond spur road, and a portion of the northeast spur on the 22-00-0 Rd as shared use roads—providing two important links to regional motorized trail networks as well as to key recreation destinations with the Unit. 	Done and signed as shared use roads.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicate what uses will be permitted on shared use roads. With one exception, shared use roads will be open to passenger vehicles, ATVs, horses and bicycles when conditions permit. The portion of the 9-13 Rd west of the Halfmile Pond spur road will be closed to ATVs to discourage unauthorized traffic on abutting parcels. 	Ongoing as per BPL Integrated Resource Policy. The west end of the 9-13 Road, beyond the Halfmile Pond spur, has been signed as no ATV use. Coordination with the abutting landowner is ongoing and has resulted in the removal of boulders that prevented vehicular traffic from continuing to the adjacent property from the Unit.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrict public motorized access as necessary on the northeast spur of 22-00-0 Rd management road beyond where it is designated for shared use to address safety and maintenance concerns. 	Done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrict public motorized access as necessary on the 9-25 Rd to prevent unauthorized motorized use within the Special Protection Area and to address environmental and maintenance concerns. 	Done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore possible uses by special permit for the Penobscot 4WD club. 	No recent communications.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue working with the local snowmobile, ATV, and 4WD clubs to minimize conflicts on road use and for safety purposes. 	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the condition of the structures at the former recreational lease site on Indian Camp Stream to determine whether the camp 	Camp has been successfully used to house trail crews. As stated above, the Bureau intends to remove the camp

can be used to shelter trail crews.	structures.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimize road improvements and additions in the Unit. Use existing roads to accomplish management whenever possible. 	Current road system is adequate for public access and management needs.

Monitoring and Evaluation (Plan pages 43-44)	Actions taken/Comments: [2014 entries: standard font, 2019 entries: bold italic font]
Implementation of Plan Recommendations	
The Bureau will develop, within two years of Plan adoption, an action plan for implementing and monitoring the management recommendations in this Plan. This will include an assignment of priorities and timeframes for accomplishment that will be utilized to determine work priorities and budgets on an annual basis. The Bureau will document annually its progress in implementing the recommendations, plans for the coming year, and adjustments to the priorities and timeframes as needed.	Individual projects are planned and budgeted for during annual planning exercises. New initiatives, particularly larger projects, are planned in two year cycles. The detailed action plan for implementing and monitoring management has been replaced by the 5-year Plan review and BPL yearly planning process that prioritizes projects based on the Plan recommendations and resources available.
Recreation – Public Use	
<p>The Bureau will monitor public use to determine:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) if improvements to existing facilities or additional facilities are needed and compatible with general objectives (2) if additional measures are needed to ensure that recreational users have a high quality experience (which could be affected by the numbers of users, and interactions among users with conflicting interests) (3) if use is adversely affecting sensitive natural resources or the ecology of the area (4) if measures are needed to address unforeseen safety issues (5) if changing recreational uses and demands present the need or opportunity for adjustments to existing facilities and management (6) if any changes are needed in the management of recreation in relation to other management objectives, including protection or enhancement of wildlife habitat and forest management. 	The Region utilizes Recreational Logs to determine the type and quantity of use at major units and recreational sites. The BPL recreational planner also provides some input and direction as well as the Unit foresters. When perceived safety issues arise, targeted patrols by either the Maine Warden Service or various County Sheriff’s offices are commissioned. If there are environmental or rare/threatened/endangered species issues, the MNAP or LUPC or DEP are contacted.
Wildlife	
The Bureau, through its Wildlife Biologist and Technician, routinely conducts a variety of species monitoring activities statewide. The following are monitoring activities that are ongoing or anticipated for	No prescriptions or harvests have occurred in this period. However, the region works closely with IF&W on fish and wildlife issues. The Bureau has evaluated with IF&W all of the

<p>the Amherst Mountains Community Forest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau will cooperate with IF&W in the monitoring of fish and wildlife species. • The Bureau will identify and map significant wildlife habitat such as vernal pools and den trees in the process of developing its detailed forest management prescriptions. The boundaries of any sensitive natural communities will also be delineated on the ground at this time. Any significant natural areas or wildlife habitat will then be subject to appropriate protections. 	<p>stream crossings on the 22-00-0 road for suitability for brook trout and any barriers to fish passage.</p>
<p>Timber Management</p>	
<p>Timber management and operating plans will be prepared by the Town in accordance with Bureau policies specified in its <i>Integrated Resource Policy</i>. Timber management activities shall be in compliance with all local, state and federal laws and include implementation of the appropriate “Best Management Practices” for minimization of erosion and siltation.</p>	<p>No prescriptions or harvest have occurred in this period.</p>
<p>The Bureau is currently developing a post-harvest monitoring plan to assist forest managers in assessing harvest outcomes on all managed lands. The monitoring plan will also address water quality and Best Management Practices (BMP’s) utilized during harvest activities.</p>	<p>No prescriptions or harvest have occurred in this period.</p>
<p>Third party monitoring is done mainly through the forest certification programs of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). Each program conducts rigorous investigations of both planning and on-ground practices. An initial audit by both programs was completed in 2000, with certification awarded in 2002. A full re-audit of both programs was conducted in the fall of 2006 with certification granted in 2007. The Bureau is also subject to compliance audits during the 5-year certification period.</p>	<p>Continuing/ongoing. Full audit was conducted in 2011 for both programs. The most recent annual surveillance audit was conducted in Fall 2014. The Eastern Region was the focus of this annual audit. No issues were noted on these lands. <i>The Eastern Region was once again the focus of the annual audits conducted in Fall 2018. Minor issues noted related to culverts and design of bridge decking over streams have been addressed.</i></p>

Issues for Advisory Committee Attention

New Issues or Circumstances Not Addressed in the Plan: None.

Other Items of Special Concern or Interest: None