

# **Crocker Mountain Unit Management Plan**

**Adopted April 2015**

## **Appendices**

- A. Public Consultation Process: Advisory Committee Members; Public Consultation Summary; Public Comments and Responses
- B. Guiding Statutes and Agreements
  - MRSA Title 12
  - Commemorative Agreement Celebrating the Crocker Mountain Conservation Project
  - Letter to State of Maine from The Trust for Public Land – Crocker Mountain Ecological Reserve
- C. Integrated Resource Policy (IRP) Resource Allocations - Criteria and Management Direction
- D. Crocker Mountain Ecological Reserve Nomination
- E. Caribou Valley Road Easement
- F. Sources



**Appendix A: Public Review Process**

***Advisory Committee Members; Public Consultation Process;  
Public Comments and Bureau Responses***

**Flagstaff Region Advisory Committee Members:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Tarsha Adams	Natanis Point Campground
Rep. Jarrod S. Crockett	House District 91
Debi Davidson	Izaak Walton League
Ernie DeLuca	Brookfield White Pine Hydro LLC
Thomas Dodd	American Forest Management
Eliza Donoghue	Natural Resources Council of Maine
Greg Drummond	Claybrook Lodge
Rep. Larry C. Dunphy	House District 88
Dick Fecteau	Maine Appalachian Trail Club
Jennifer Burns Gray	Maine Audubon Society
Bob Luce	Town of Carrabassett Valley
Douglas Marble	High Peaks Alliance
Rick Mason	E. Flagstaff Lake Property Owners Assoc.
John McCatherin	Carrabassett Valley Outdoor Association/C.V. ATV Club
Bill Munzer	JV Wing Snowmobile Club
Claire Polfus	Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Josh Royte	The Nature Conservancy
Allan Ryder	Timber Resource Group
Senator Tom Saviello	Senate District 18
Dick Smith	Flagstaff Area ATV Club
Ken Spalding	Friends of Bigelow
Josh Tausas	Carrabassett Region Chapter, NEMBA
Senator Rodney Whittemore	Senate District 26
Kenny Wing	none
Charlie Woodworth	Maine Huts & Trails

## Public Consultation Process:

Plan Phase/Date	Action/Meeting Focus	Attendance/Responses
<b>Public Scoping</b>		
July 15-16, 2014	Notice of Public Scoping Meeting	Press release sent out; meeting notice published in papers.
July 22, 2014	Public Scoping Meeting held at Carrabassett Valley Public Library, 6-8 pm; presented resource information on Crocker Mountain Unit lands and the planning process; received public input on issues of concern, Q and A on management issues	13 AC members and general public, plus BPL staff attended.
August 22, 2014	End of Public Scoping Comment Period.	3 public comments received, including letters from High Peaks Alliance and Appalachian Trail Conservancy and a Crocker Mountain Concept Plan from CR NEMBA.
<b>Draft Plan</b>		
February 10, 2015	Draft Plan made available online and plan document with written notice sent to Advisory Committee, with notice of February 25 meeting.	
February 25, 2015	Advisory Committee meeting: review of Draft Plan. Comment deadline of March 13 given to attendees.	6 AC members, 5 members of the public plus BPL staff attended.
March 13, 2015	End of comment period.	1 AC member and the Town of Carrabassett Valley submitted written comments.
<b>Final Draft Plan</b>		
March 10, 2015	Public meeting scheduled for March 18 in Farmington, with comment period ending March 26. Draft AC meeting minutes and revised Draft Resource Allocation map sent to AC members, with notice of March 18 meeting.	
March 11, 2015	Notice of Public Meeting posted in papers.	
March 17, 2015	Final Draft Plan made available online and sent via email to AC members.	
March 16, 2015	Press Release on upcoming public meeting approved by Governor's office.	
March 18, 2015	Public Meeting held, UM Farmington campus, 6:00 - 7:30 PM: presented Final Draft Plan.	13 AC members and members of the public plus BPL staff attended.

March 26, 2015	End of Comment Period.	4 comment letters and emails received (listed below).
----------------	------------------------	---

**Comments received on the Final Draft Plan**

<b>Comment source</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Form received</b>
Larry Warren, MH&T board member	March 17, 2015	Email
Bob Weingarten	March 22, 2015	Emailed letter
Richard Fecteau	March 22, 2015	Email
John McCatherin, Carrabassett Valley ATV club	March 24, 2015	Emailed letter

**Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry  
Bureau of Parks and Lands  
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT  
WITH BUREAU RESPONSE**

<b>Summary of Written Comments on the Final Draft of the Crocker Mountain Unit Plan (March 19, 2015 – March 26, 2015).</b>	
Some comments have been paraphrased and/or excerpted. Full comments are available from BPL.	
<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
Topic: Trail proposed by Maine Huts & Trails (MH&T)	
From: Larry Warren, MH&T board member	
<p>The trail proposed by MH&amp;T is included on the map on page B-10 of the Appendix [map attached to a letter from The Trust for Public Land to the Bureau, dated May 22, 2013]. It is not located on the Caribou Pond Road. Is there a reason that the layout was not provided for and included within the allocation map in the Final Draft?</p> <p>[BPL note: The trail alignment as proposed prior to acquisition is mainly <u>east and downslope</u> of Caribou Valley Road, generally closely following the west bank of the Carrabassett River and includes a bridged crossing to the east side of the river 1/2 mile north of the unit boundary.]</p>	<p>The Crocker Mountain Agreement (see Appendix B) signed by BPL provides for “a groomed cross-country ski trail connection along or over the Caribou Valley Road” within the Unit. The general route depicted on the TPL map referenced in the comment was considered during the Plan’s development. However, the general trail route the proposed in the Plan and discussed with the Executive Director of MH&amp;T during the Plan’s development, is <u>west/upslope</u> of the road. The Ecological Reserve boundary west of the road was placed 300 feet upslope, and a “recreation secondary use area” within the Timber Management dominant area surrounding the road was delineated in the Plan to facilitate this and other future trails.</p> <p>The opinion of the IF&amp;W’s wildlife biologist assigned to the Bureau is that the Bureau should seek to minimize potential impacts to the winter wildlife travel corridor in the riparian buffer and adjacent areas near the river. In general, the goal is to concentrate impacts of motorized use and trail development to the extent possible along the existing road corridor and outside of the riparian travel corridor. Locating the proposed groomed ski trail upslope of and parallel to the road helps to accomplish these objectives.</p> <p>The route initially proposed prior to acquisition was subject to BPL’s development of a management plan. In accordance with the Bureau’s Integrated Resource Policy, wildlife and special protection areas, such as the proposed Ecological Reserve, take precedence over groomed ski trails. Hence the trails should not be within the 75-foot riparian Wildlife Management area, unless there</p>

	<p>are no other safe, cost effective alternatives. Similarly, in the Special Protection/ Ecological Reserve east of the river, new motorized trails (including groomed ski trails) must meet the same criteria.</p> <p>The Plan does provide for a possible alternative summer, non-motorized trail east of the river through the Ecological Reserve and possibly including a crossing of the river, with a possible connection to a spur trail to the AT, pending consultation with MATC and the ATC, and evaluation of impacts to sensitive resources and suitability for trail construction.</p>
--	---

Topic: Motorized trails on the Crocker Mountain parcel and unauthorized motorized recreation on adjacent lands

From: Richard Fecteau

<p>During the Crocker Mountain Unit scoping and management planning process the local snowmobile and ATV clubs have requested trail corridors from Rt. 27 to the southern boundary of the Crocker Mountain Unit parcel. Kathy Eickenberg stated at the last meeting on 3/18/15 that it Bureau policy not to design trails that end at boundaries between public and private lands.</p> <p>It is well known by myself, BPL staff and the officers of the snowmobile and ATV clubs that there has been ongoing motorized recreational traffic from the Crocker parcel south to Barnjum, east to the Rapid Stream Valley and southeast onto Mt. Abraham which has trespassed onto both private and public lands that prohibit motorized use.</p> <p>I am requesting that the following proposal be included into the management plan as a way to lessen future negative interactions with all adjacent landowners and land managers: “Prior to any new motorized recreational trail being considered, BPL and the officers of the snowmobile and ATV clubs must formulate and implement a plan to prevent motorized use onto unauthorized areas of adjacent public or private lands. If such a plan does not succeed then any motorized recreational trail that contributes to the problem must be closed until a suitable solution to the incursions can be found.”</p>	<p>The Crocker Mountain Plan provides for continuation of the snowmobile club trail on Caribou Valley Road to the south boundary of the Unit (which terminates in the vicinity of Caribou Pond just south of the Unit), provided the adjacent landowner allows the trail to continue to the pond. It also provides an option for a motorized trail in a corridor along the east boundary of the Unit, if permission to use the Caribou Valley Road to access the Unit is lost, and for ATV use of Caribou Valley Road and development of connected short destination trails, if ATV clubs obtain permission to use Caribou Valley Road to access the Unit. No trails would be designated to end at a boundary where this use is not allowed by the adjacent landowner.</p> <p>As the comment suggests, these existing and potential trails may encourage some snowmobile and ATV riders to ride in unauthorized areas on public and private land south and east of the Unit. The frequency or extent of these violations is not well known. Consistent with our approach to this issue, generally, in conjunction with consideration of expanded snowmobile or ATV access or new motorized trails, in addition to requiring permission of the adjacent landowner prior to designating snowmobile or ATV trails on the Unit that ends at a boundary, BPL will also work with snowmobile and ATV clubs to identify and actively discourage unauthorized motorized use on the Unit and in unauthorized areas accessed via roads that continue beyond the Unit. .</p>
---	---

Topic: Ecological Reserve values (comment excerpted)	
From: Bob Weingarten	
<p><u>The Ecological Reserve is being compromised by the inclusion of an adjacent motorized corridor:</u> It was...alarming to see BPL...re-allocate approximately 500 acres of proposed Ecological Reserve to a 500' to 1000' motorized corridor to run adjacent to the boundary of one of the planned Ecological Reserves. Even if BPL adds acreage to the Ecological Reserve in another area to make up for the re-allocation, the values of the Ecological Reserve are still damaged by being adjacent to a loud, fossil-fuel burning, motorized playground. This is particularly the case due to "edge effect."</p>	<p>The Bureau has proposed to allocate approximately 275 acres, not 500 as suggested, to Backcountry Recreation - Motorized use in a narrow strip along the east boundary of the Ecological Reserve. The 275 acres had been preliminarily allocated to Ecological Reserve in the Draft Plan and are now allocated to Backcountry Recreation – Motorized. This corridor has been established in order to provide an option for a motorized trail connection from Route 27 to the southern portion of the Unit, to be used only in the eventuality that use of the Caribou Road as a snowmobile trail is discontinued by the landowner.</p> <p>The Bureau, after consultation with MNAP, believes the Ecological Reserve proposed in the Final Draft Plan achieves the primary purpose of the reserve -- to protect rare plants and exemplary natural communities, primarily on the higher elevations of the Unit, as mapped by MNAP (map figure 3 in the Plan).</p> <p>New acres were added to the Ecological Reserve elsewhere on the Unit. These lands are at a higher elevation, consistent with the criteria for the Ecological Reserve, and appear less disturbed by recent timber harvests than the lands re-allocated for the Backcountry Motorized allocation. The total Ecological Reserve area is proposed at approximately 4,000 acres consistent with the acquisition agreement signed by the Bureau, the Town of Carrabassett Valley, and TPL representing all the partners to this project.</p> <p>"Edge effects" and fragmentation of habitat are a concern in the Bureau's resource allocation decisions, particularly in potential Ecological Reserves. However, because the motorized recreation corridor is placed at the edge of the unit and the Ecological Reserve, it does not create openings within or fragment the Ecological Reserve.</p>
Topic: Motorized recreation on the Unit (comment excerpted)	
From: Bob Weingarten	
<p><u>The emphasis on motorized recreation in the Unit is misplaced:</u> The High Peaks region represents an</p>	<p>BPL believes that the Final Crocker Mountain Plan strikes an appropriate balance of resource</p>

<p>outstanding area that can and should be preserved in its most natural state with the least amount of human incursion or development. I attended a number of the meetings associated with the planning for the Crocker Mt. Unit and was disappointed to see the heavy emphasis placed on carving out motorized access and the lack of attention to the needs of wildlife and preserving habitat.</p>	<p>protection and uses, and is in accord with prior agreements for future management of the lands (see Appendix B of the Plan). The agreements stipulate the creation of an approximately 4,000 acre Ecological Reserve, and for continuation of motorized trails, expansion of recreation opportunities, and management of a working forest producing timber products on a majority of the Unit's acres.</p> <p>Regarding the needs of wildlife, the lands allocated as Ecological Reserve and also the high elevation areas allocated to Backcountry Non-Mechanized will provide a significant benefit for wildlife, including the changing needs of wildlife under a changing climate. In a letter from Andy Cutko (MNAP) supporting the request for LMF funds for both the Crocker Mountain and Orbeton Stream projects, it was pointed out that both projects "will conserve a vital and viable mountain corridor that provides a broad habitat connection between protected lands along the Appalachian Trail and the Bigelow Reserve. Under a changing climate, such high elevation corridors are expected to serve as crucial links for gradual species shifts and adaptation."</p> <p>Additionally, wildlife and habitat needs have been important considerations in the 660 acres in riparian corridors allocated to Wildlife Management. Areas designated dominant for Timber management also provide wildlife habitat for a variety of species.</p> <p>Generally speaking, the management of Public Reserved Lands under the Bureau's Integrated Resource Policy is de facto habitat protection, as the majority of the acres are dedicated to low intensity recreation, wildlife, protection of significant natural communities, and timber management sensitive to all these values.</p>
<p>Topic: Bear bait sites on the Unit (comment excerpted)</p>	
<p>From: Bob Weingarten</p>	
<p><u>Accommodating bear baiting</u>: It is unfortunate that BPL is planning to allow bear baiting on this new Unit simply because it was allowed by the prior owner...BPL should take a more enlightened approach and ban bear baiting on its land.</p>	<p>BPL is aware of the controversial nature of bear baiting. However, the Bureau allows hunting consistent with state law. Further, Land for Maine's Future funds were used to acquire the property, and subject to the requirements of that program, as prescribed in the authorizing bond language, the Bureau cannot prohibit hunting,</p>

	<p>fishing or trapping. Bureau staff work closely with an assigned biologist from IFW to ensure this hunting practice is in compliance with wildlife management objectives. At Crocker Mountain, BPL has made a commitment to continue traditional forms of recreation, including hunting, that have occurred for many years on the property. BPL believes properly managed and appropriately located bear bait sites can be accommodated on the Crocker lands as they have been in the past.</p>
--	---

Topic: Future Vision for the High Peaks Region (comment excerpted)

From: Bob Weingarten

<p><u>Future vision for the High Peaks– connectivity for wildlife:</u> With the acquisition of the Crocker Mountain Unit, BPL has the potential to create seamless and extensive landscape-level protected wildlife habitat. BPL speaks about hiking, biking, and motorized corridors, what about a vision for creating a wildlife corridor in this region that connects Mt. Abraham, Crocker and Bigelow?</p>	<p>The Crocker Mountain Unit lands will function as a wildlife corridor connecting federal, state and private conservation lands and working forest lands to the north and south. See previous response to comments under the Motorized Recreation on the Unit topic above.</p>
--	---

Topic: Opportunities for expansion of ATV access and potential new ATV trails on the unit (excerpted)

From: John McCatherin, Carrabassett Valley ATV Club

<p>It is and has been the proposal of the Carrabassett Valley ATV Club, supported by other ATV clubs in northern Franklin County, that the trail delineated on the referenced map [Trust for Public Land map, dated 7/24/12; see TPL letter to BPL, Appendix B] be a part of the final Management Plan. We have conceded that continuing that trail west to connect to the Nash Stream area, as shown, is impractical considering the cost to make it ATV-useable.</p> <p>But permitting it to follow a portion of the existing snowmobile trail north from Caribou Pond would afford an ATV destination with stunning views of the Caribou Valley region and Crocker, Sugarloaf and Spaulding Mountains and the Redington Pond Range. Additionally, it would provide proximity to the Redington Mountain hiking trail, eliminating a four-mile hike in to access that trail.</p> <p>To facilitate that, on Page 31 of the final plan draft, the second sentence in the final paragraph, should be deleted and substituted by the following: "A destination ATV trail is permitted into the unit following the existing snowmobile trail to the vicinity where it turns west toward the Nash Stream</p>	<p>The Plan will provide for consideration of ATV use on Caribou Valley Road within the Unit and designation of short destination ATV trails on connected management roads, if ATV clubs obtain permission for ATV use of Caribou Valley Road across Plum Creek lands. Designation of short destination trails would also require that ATV clubs obtain permission from Sugarloaf Corp. for ATV use of the 0.4 mile portion of Caribou Valley Road crossing Sugarloaf lands south of the Unit, or development of a bypass trail on the Unit.</p> <p>The intended route would generally coincide with that shown on the referenced map as a “proposed motorized trail,” excepting the portion of the trail extending to the northwest between South Crocker and Redington peaks toward the Nash Stream area. It should be noted that the management road extending north into the Unit from the vicinity of Caribou Pond is not part of the current approved snowmobile trail, which terminates at Caribou Pond.</p> <p>The Plan will not include a recommendation related to ATV use of “logging trails east of Caribou Pond proceeding south” as all roads and trails in the area</p>
---	--

<p>trail, subject to the approval of the landowners of the Caribou Pond Road. In addition, ATV use of former logging trails east of Caribou Pond proceeding south will be explored if future circumstances allow for the possibility of motorized trail connections to the Redington Lot and Madrid Township."</p> <p>To further facilitate our proposed trail, on Page 38 of the plan, under the heading "Motorized Recreation", under the third bullet, delete the portion of that section reading, "such consideration will not occur until such time that an extension of a motorized trail south from Crocker Mountain to Madrid Township, requiring an approved crossing of the A.T. in the vicinity of the Redington Lot, is approved by BPL, NPS and abutters."</p>	<p>described are on abutter's land. However, the ATV trails allowed for above would provide the necessary connection to Caribou Pond and the abutter's property, if local ATV clubs choose to pursue additional ATV access south of the Unit with the appropriate landowner permission.</p> <p>The statement on page 38 referenced in the comment has been deleted from the Plan. Therefore, consideration of expanded ATV access and potential new trails as described above will not be dependent on prior approval of ATV trails extending south on abutters property (provided the trail does not terminate at the border of an adjacent landowner that does not allow the trail to continue) or on a new approved motorized crossing of the AT in the vicinity of the Redington Lot. Note however, that the Plan would allow, within the Unit, construction of a new connector trail off the Caribou Valley Road to link management roads within the Unit to provide destination trails, if needed to avoid crossing onto the adjacent lands.</p>
<p>Topic: Response to and prevention of unauthorized motorized recreation on the Unit and adjacent lands (excerpted)</p>	
<p>From: John McCatherin, Carrabassett Valley ATV Club</p>	
<p>...We share [concerns expressed by Richard Fecteau in his comments (included in table above)] over unauthorized motorized use into the Crocker parcel and other areas. In fact, an important duty of ATV clubs is the education of its members and other riders in this regard. A significant portion of our trail signage, for instance, points out specifically areas where ATVs are prohibited. We would welcome the opportunity to work with BPL, snowmobile clubs and other parties to formulate additional educational programs towards eliminating these violations.</p>	<p>The Plan will include a management recommendation that BPL, in conjunction with consideration of expanded snowmobile or ATV access or new motorized trails, work with snowmobile and ATV clubs to identify and actively discourage unauthorized motorized use on the Unit and in unauthorized areas of adjacent public or private lands that expanded access or new trails could contribute to. The Bureau also welcomes all club and motorized recreation community contributions to education and other efforts to minimize unauthorized riding.</p>



## *Appendix B: Guiding Statutes and Agreements*

- *MRSA Title 12, §1805, 1846 and 1847*
- *Agreement of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Town of Carrabassett Valley and The Trust for Public Lands*
- *Letter from The Trust for Public Land to Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry – Crocker Mountain Ecological Reserve*

### **§1805. DESIGNATION OF ECOLOGICAL RESERVE** *(selected sections)*

The director may designate ecological reserves on parcels of land under the jurisdiction of the bureau that were included in the inventory of potential ecological reserves published in the July 1998 report of the Maine Forest Biodiversity Project, "An Ecological Reserves System Inventory: Potential Ecological Reserves on Maine's Existing Public and Private Conservation Lands." The director may designate additional ecological reserves only in conjunction with the adoption of a management plan for a particular parcel of land and the process for adoption of that management plan must provide for public review and comment on the plan. When a proposed management plan includes designation of an ecological reserve, the director shall notify the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over matters pertaining to public lands of the proposal. [1999, c. 592, §3 (NEW) .]

**1. Allowed uses.** Allowed uses within an ecological reserve must be compatible with the purpose of the ecological reserve and may not cause significant impact on natural community composition or ecosystem processes. Allowed uses include nonmanipulative scientific research, public education and nonmotorized recreation activities such as hiking, cross-country skiing, primitive camping, hunting, fishing and trapping. For the purposes of this subsection, "primitive camping" means camping in a location without facilities or where facilities are limited to a privy, fire ring, tent pad, 3-sided shelter and picnic table. The removal of trees and construction of facilities associated with these allowed uses are allowed. The director may allow other uses when their impact remains low and does not compromise the purpose of the ecological reserve. Recreational use of surface waters is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. [ 1999, c. 592, §3 (NEW) .]

**2. Trails and roads for motorized vehicle use.** The director shall allow the continuing use of an existing snowmobile trail, all-terrain vehicle trail or a road if the director determines the trail or road is well designed and built and situated in a safe location and its use has minimal adverse impact on the ecological value of an ecological reserve and it cannot be reasonably relocated outside the ecological reserve.

A new snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle trail or a new road is allowed only if the director determines all of the following criteria are met:

A. No safe, cost-effective alternative exists; [1999, c. 592, §3 (NEW) .]

B. The impact on protected natural resource values is minimal; and [1999, c. 592, §3 (NEW) .]

C. The trail or road will provide a crucial link in a significant trail or road system. [1999, c. 592, §3 (NEW) .]

**3. Incompatible uses.** Uses that are incompatible with the purpose of an ecological reserve are not allowed. Incompatible uses include timber harvesting, salvage harvesting, commercial mining and commercial sand and gravel excavation. For the purposes of this subsection, "salvage harvesting" means the removal of dead or damaged trees to recover economic value that would otherwise be lost.

[ 1999, c. 592, §3 (NEW) .]

## §1846. ACCESS TO PUBLIC RESERVED LANDS

**1. Legislative policy.** The Legislature declares that it is the policy of the State to keep the public reserved lands as a public trust and that full and free public access to the public reserved lands to the extent permitted by law, together with the right to reasonable use of those lands, is the privilege of every citizen of the State. The Legislature further declares that it recognizes that such free and reasonable public access may be restricted to ensure the optimum value of such lands as a public trust but that such restrictions, if and when imposed, must be in strict accordance with the requirements set out in this section.

[ 1997, c. 678, §13 (NEW) .]

**2. Establishment of restrictions on public access.**

[ 2001, c. 604, §10 (RP) .]

**3. Unlawful entry onto public reserved lands.**

[ 2001, c. 604, §10 (RP) .]

**4. Development of public facilities.** The bureau may construct and maintain overnight campsites and other camping and recreation facilities.

[ 1997, c. 678, §13 (NEW) .]

**5. User fees.** The bureau may charge reasonable fees to defray the cost of constructing and maintaining overnight campsites and other camping and recreation facilities.

[ 1997, c. 678, §13 (NEW) .]

### SECTION HISTORY

1997, c. 678, §13 (NEW). 2001, c. 604, §10 (AMD).

## §1847. MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC RESERVED LANDS

**1. Purpose.** The Legislature declares that it is in the public interest and for the general benefit of the people of this State that title, possession and the responsibility for the management of the public reserved lands be vested and established in the bureau acting on behalf of the people of the State, that the public reserved lands be managed under the principles of multiple use to produce a sustained yield of products and services by the use of prudent business practices and the principles of sound planning and that the public reserved lands be managed to demonstrate exemplary land management practices, including silvicultural, wildlife and recreation management practices, as a demonstration of state policies governing management of forested and related types of lands. [ 1997, c. 678, §13 (NEW) .]

**2. Management plans.** The director shall prepare, revise from time to time and maintain a comprehensive management plan for the management of the public reserved lands in accordance with the guidelines in this subchapter. The plan must provide for a flexible and practical approach to the coordinated management of the public reserved lands. In preparing, revising and maintaining such a management plan the director, to the extent practicable, shall compile and maintain an adequate inventory of the public reserved lands, including not only the timber on those lands but also the other multiple use values for which the public reserved lands are managed. In addition, the director shall consider all criteria listed in section 1858 for the location of public reserved lands in developing the management plan. The director is entitled to the full cooperation of the Bureau of Geology and Natural Areas, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission and the State Planning Office in compiling and maintaining the inventory of the public reserved lands. The director shall consult with those agencies as well as other appropriate state agencies in the preparation and maintenance of the comprehensive management plan for the public reserved lands. The plan must provide for the demonstration of appropriate management practices that will enhance the timber, wildlife, recreation, economic and other values of the lands. All management of the public reserved lands, to the extent practicable, must be in accordance with this management plan when prepared.

Within the context of the comprehensive management plan, the commissioner, after adequate opportunity for public review and comment, shall adopt a specific action plan for each unit of the public reserved lands system. Each action plan must include consideration of the related systems of silviculture and regeneration of forest resources and must provide for outdoor recreation including remote, undeveloped areas, timber, watershed protection, wildlife and fish. The commissioner shall provide adequate opportunity for public review and comment on any substantial revision of an action plan. Management of the public reserved lands before the action plans are completed must be in accordance with all other provisions of this section. [ 1999, c. 556, §19 (AMD) .]

**3. Actions.** The director may take actions on the public reserved lands consistent with the management plans for those lands and upon any terms and conditions and for any consideration the director considers reasonable. [ 1997, c. 678, §13 (NEW) .]

**4. Land open to hunting.** The bureau and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall communicate and coordinate land management activities in a manner that ensures that the total number of acres of land open to hunting on public reserved lands and lands owned and managed by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife does not fall below the acreage open to hunting on January 1, 2008. These acres are subject to local ordinances and state laws and rules pertaining to hunting. [ 2007, c. 564, §1 (NEW) .]

### SECTION HISTORY

1997, c. 678, §13 (NEW). 1999, c. 556, §19 (AMD). 2007, c. 564, §1 (AMD).

**Commemorative Agreement  
Celebrating  
The Crocker Mountain Conservation Project  
Closed June 7, 2013**

*In celebration of the acquisition of the Crocker Mountain Conservation Project, the signatories hereto do hereby jointly commemorate the transfer of 12,046 acres in the Town of Carrabassett Valley and Mount Abram Township, by*

**Plum Creek Maine Timberlands, L.L.C,**

*to the*

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

*all as made possible through the assistance of  
**The Trust for Public Land***

*and the contributions and support of many parties during the acquisition, without whom this project would not have been possible, including:*

**U.S. Forest Service, Forest Legacy Program  
State of Maine Land for Maine's Future Program  
Town of Carrabassett Valley  
Carrabassett Valley Outdoor Association  
Carrabassett Valley Chapter, NEMBA  
Greater Franklin Development Corporation  
Maine Huts and Trails  
Penobscot Nation  
Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust  
Rangeley Lakes National Scenic Byway Council  
High Peaks Alliance  
Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust  
Appalachian Trail Conservancy  
Appalachian Mountain Club  
National Park Service- Appalachian Scenic Trail  
Natural Resources Council of Maine  
Maine Chapter, Sierra Club  
The Nature Conservancy  
Open Space Institute  
The Wilderness Society  
Two Countries- One Forest  
U.S. Senator Susan Collins  
U.S. Senator Angus King  
U.S. Representative Mike Michaud  
And many private donors**

***Vision and Understandings:*** This Agreement also commemorates and honors the vision and understandings for conserving and managing the lands acquired on Crocker and Sugarloaf Mountains that were developed and shared as foundational to the acquisition. These understandings and vision have been memorialized through a variety of grant applications and requests for funding support jointly developed by the Town of Carrabassett Valley, the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, and The Trust for Public Land; and are hereby incorporated in this Agreement.

***Understandings:*** The following understandings are the basis of a joint vision for the future of the Crocker Mountain Project Lands, which lands contain exceptional forestlands, ecological resources, and recreational trails.

1. The 12,046-acre property Crocker Mountain parcel is a tract of recreationally and ecologically important forestland surrounding a 9.7-mile segment of the Appalachian Trail on Crocker Mountain in the Western Mountains of Maine. The property contains 3 of Maine's 4,000-foot peaks (North Crocker, South Crocker and Sugarloaf) and spectacularly scenic mountain terrain.
2. The property is underlain by ultramafic bedrock which is quite rare in Maine, supporting multiple rare natural communities and rare plant species. The Maine Natural Areas Program and its Ecological Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee have identified and rated these natural communities as worthy of Ecological Reserve status. The parties understand and support that a portion of the property will be designated as an ecological reserve, respecting the need for recreational trails connectivity.
3. The majority of this property is within the Town of Carrabassett Valley with the remainder in Mount Abraham Township. This property has been open to and used by residents of Carrabassett Valley and the surrounding region for traditional outdoor recreational activities for generations.
4. Town of Carrabassett Valley is home to the Sugarloaf Ski Area. The Carrabassett Valley Board of Selectmen supported the project because they believed that new conservation and recreation lands would enhance the town's reputation as a recreation destination.
5. The property includes approximately three miles of Maine's snowmobile trail system and four miles of the state-sanctioned ATV trail system, both being important links in the state's network of motorized trails. Acquisition of the property will provide for continued use of these, as well as hunting. New hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling and ATV trails and related recreation infrastructure will be pursued subject to development of a management plan, permitting and funding. Such projects will help expand and diversify the tourism economy of Carrabassett Valley.
6. Sugarloaf Mountain Corporation owns an abutting parcel of land at Caribou Pond that may be developed with a dam for water storage to facilitate snowmaking or other purposes. The parties understand and agree that the

Crocker Mountain Project will not detract from this development potential on Sugarloaf owned lands, nor in any way constrain Sugarloaf's access to the property via the Caribou Valley Road.

7. The property is an important connector to the Maine Huts and Trails system in Carrabassett Valley. The parties understand and agree that a groomed cross-country ski trail connection along or over the Caribou Pond Road within the acquired lands will be permitted under state ownership, subject to any state or local regulations.
8. The property has sustained a flow of forest products for centuries to the benefit of the local and regional economies. The parties understand and agree that a majority of the property will be managed as a multiple-use working forest for quality timber, respecting wildlife habitat needs and accommodating recreational trails.

***Vision for Management of the Property:*** Building on these understandings, the following vision for management of the property is supported by the parties:

The Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) will manage the property for multiple uses including public access, wildlife habitat and natural areas protection, scenic protection, production of forest products, maintenance and development of trails (motorized and non-motorized), and water quality protection. BPL's management will be guided by a formal management plan drafted through the BPL's Integrated Resource Policy (IRP). The IRP process incorporates public input and best available science into a written management plan intended to guide decision making for a 15 year term. Residents of the Town of Carrabassett Valley will be invited to provide input on the development of this plan through representation on the Management Plan Advisory Committee. The Town of Carrabassett Valley may also create "Community Forest Committee" to provide additional input to the Management Plan.

Some of the rare, threatened or endangered plants, wildlife habitats, and natural communities found on the property are intended to be permanently protected through the designation of an ecological reserve. This reserve will be focused on the upper elevations where the majority of the rare ecological features are concentrated. The ecological reserve portion of the property will be off limits to timber harvesting and motorized recreation with no interruption to existing regional motorized trail networks or planned Maine Huts & Trails corridors. Traditional hunting, fishing and trapping will be allowed within the ecological reserve, as will hiking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing and other non-motorized recreation compatible with the protection of ecological reserve values. Most of these uses will occur on designated trails designed to avoid impacts to the functions and values of the ecological reserve.

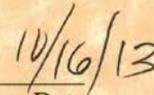
The lands will stay undeveloped, maintaining one of the largest tracts of undeveloped forestland in the region, and helping to protect the remote, scenic character of the High Peaks. At least 50% of the property will be managed as a multiple use working forest managed sustainably to supply high quality forest products

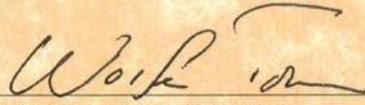
supporting the local and regional economy. Forestry will be sensitive to the importance of the scenic views from the Appalachian Trail and the Highway 27 Scenic Byway. Access for hiking, hunting, fishing, camping, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, ATVing, and other traditional recreational activities will continue. Opportunities for expanding existing and developing new ATV and snowmobile trails, and addition of backcountry ski trails, snowshoe trails, and mountain biking trails will be pursued during the management planning process. New uses compatible with the management goals for the property as expressed herein will also be considered through the management planning process. Maine Huts and Trails will be granted permission by lease or license, subject to any regulatory requirements, to construct and maintain a groomed cross country ski trail across the property. The State will work collaboratively with adjoining managers and providers of recreational trails and facilities to provide connectivity of trails and support and enhance the recreation and eco-tourism economy of the area.

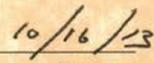
*Now Therefore, the parties to this agreement, in acknowledgement of the understandings of all the parties that worked to accomplish the Crocker Mountain Conservation Project, do hereby commit to the Vision set forth herein, by and through*

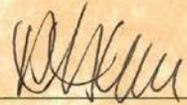
**Signatures:**

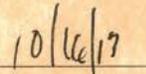
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter E. Whitcomb, Commissioner  
For Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

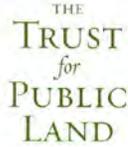
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Wolfe Tone, Maine Director  
For The Trust for Public Land

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Luce, Chairman  
Carrabassett Valley Board of Selectmen

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



Maine Office  
30 Danforth Street  
Suite 106  
Portland, ME  
04101  
T. (207) 772-7424  
F. (207) 772-7420  
www.tpl.org

May 22, 2013

Willard R. Harris, Director  
STATE OF MAINE  
Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Division of Parks and Public Lands  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

Matter: Crocker Mountain Ecological Reserve

Dear Mr. Harris:

As you know, The Trust for Public Land (TPL) has been working with the Division of Parks and Public Lands and with a number of other public and private funders to permanently conserve the Crocker Mountain Property located in Carrabassett Valley and Mount Abram Townships. This property consists of 12,046 +/- acres, which is accessed from Maine Route 27, Caribou Valley Road, Rapid Stream Road, and the Stoney Brook Road, all as more particularly described in that certain Contract of Sale by and between the State of Maine and The Trust for Public Land dated March 13, 2013 (hereinafter the "Crocker Mountain Property").

As you are aware, the Crocker Mountain Property will be acquired, in part, with federal funds from the Forest Legacy Program in accordance with the provisions of Title XII of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (16 United States Code ("USC") Section 2103c), as amended, which was enacted to protect environmentally important private forest areas threatened by conversion to non-forest uses; and in part, with funding from the Land for Maine's Future Program in accordance with the Land for Maine's Future Act, at Title 5, Maine Revised Statutes, Chapter 353, as amended, and P.L. 2009, c. 414, § E-6, as a natural area important for recreation, hunting and fishing, conservation, wildlife habitat and scenic beauty. A proposed Crocker Mountain Ecological Reserve was included in the application materials for both the Forest Legacy funds and the Land for Maine's Future funds for the Crocker Mountain acquisition.

Both the Forest Legacy funds and the Land for Maine's Future funds require matching funds, which in this case includes approximately \$1.3 million provided to the State of Maine by The Trust for Public Land. TPL has solicited gifts from many private foundations and individuals for the Crocker Mountain Property with the understanding that the State of Maine will designate approximately 4,000 acres as an Ecological Reserve. As contemplated, the Ecological Reserve would consist of three separate land units, all in Carrabassett Valley and shown conceptually as "Proposed Crocker Mountain Ecological Reserve" on the attached map. The three units are separated by the National Park Service's Appalachian Trail lands, by the South Branch of the Carrabassett River, and by the Caribou Valley Road, along which there is a critical corridor for timber management roads and motorized trail infrastructure.



Page Two  
May 22, 2013

The proposed Crocker Mountain Ecological Reserve concept was reviewed by the Maine Natural Areas Program Scientific Advisory Committee and was found to have the ecological characteristics, size and natural features to be a worthy addition to Maine's system of ecological reserves. Outreach to the local community via a series of public meetings indicated acceptance of the general configuration of the Ecological Reserve provided that a motorized recreation corridor is maintained along the Caribou Valley Road and the South Branch of the Carrabassett River. This recreation corridor is particularly significant as it aligns with one of the few legal crossings of the National Park Service's Appalachian Trail corridor (see Franklin County Registry of Deeds Book 1056 Page 317 for the Right of Way to cross NPS Tract 111-03).

Consistent with the representations made to donors and to the community, The Trust for Public Land is donating the matching funds to the State of Maine with the understanding that the Division of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture Conservation and Forestry will designate approximately 4,000 acres as an Ecological Reserve to be managed under the State's system of Ecological Reserves consistent with 12 M.R.S. Section 1801, Sub-Section 4-A, and Section 1805, for the protection of the rare natural community, natural habitat, and ecological values. It is understood that designation of the lands described herein as an Ecological Reserve can only be made through the development of a management plan, which we understand the Division will pursue as a priority following acquisition of the property. We ask that this letter be referenced in future management plans.

I believe that the above understandings are consistent with our shared work to plan for this important acquisition of the Crocker Mountain Property and for the designation of a portion of it as an Ecological Reserve. The Trust for Public Land sincerely thanks the Department for their assistance on this project and for their commitment to the Eco-Reserve.

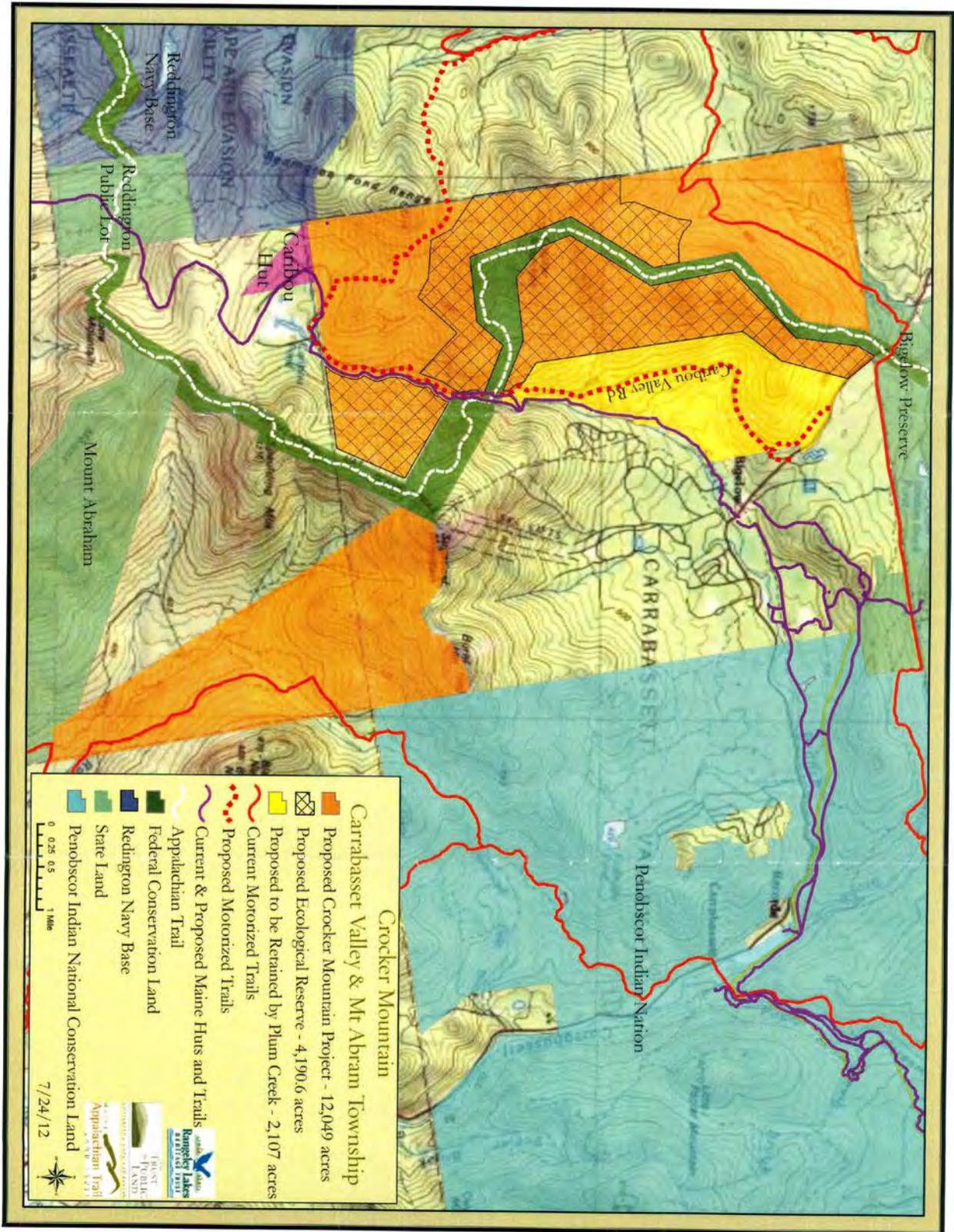
Sincerely,



Wolfe Tone  
Maine State Director

Copy:

J.T. Horn, Project Manager, TPL Vermont Office  
Denise Mullane, Legal Counsel, TPL Boston Office



## Appendix C:

# ***IRP Resource Allocation System, Allocation Criteria and Management Direction***

## **SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS**

### ***Designation Criteria***

- 1. Natural Areas**, or areas left in an undisturbed state as determined by deed, statute, or management plan; and areas containing rare and endangered species of wildlife and/or plants and their habitat, geological formations, or other notable natural features;
- 2. Ecological Reserves**, established by Title 12, Section 1801: "*an area owned or leased by the State and under the jurisdiction of the Bureau, designated by the Director, for the purpose of maintaining one or more natural community types or native ecosystem types in a natural condition and range of variation and contributing to the protection of Maine's biological diversity, and managed: A) as a benchmark against which biological and environmental change can be measured, B) to protect sufficient habitat for those species whose habitat needs are unlikely to be met on lands managed for other purposes; or C) as a site for ongoing scientific research, long-term environmental monitoring, and education.*" Most ecological reserves will encompass more than 1,000 contiguous acres.
- 3. Historic/Cultural Areas** (above or below ground) containing valuable or important prehistoric, historic, and cultural features.

### ***Management Direction***

In general, uses allowed in Special Protection areas are carefully managed and limited to protect the significant resources and values that qualify for this allocation. Because of their sensitivity, these areas can seldom accommodate active manipulation or intensive use of the resource. Secondary recreation use is allowed with emphasis on non-motorized dispersed recreation. For the two Ecological Reserves that are part of this property, Backcountry Non-Mechanized Recreation is designated as a secondary allocation for most of the area. Other direction provided in the IRP includes:

Vegetative Management on Ecological Reserves, including salvage harvesting is considered incompatible except in response to a threat that may spread to surrounding lands if not addressed (severe disease or insect infestation). Commercial timber harvesting is not allowed on either Ecological Reserves or Special Protection natural areas.

Wildlife management within these areas must not manipulate vegetation or waters to create or enhance wildlife habitat.

Management or public use roads are allowed under special circumstances, if the impact on the protected resources is minimal.

Trails for non-motorized activities must be well designed and constructed, be situated in safe locations, and have minimal adverse impact on the values for which the area is being protected. *Trail facilities and primitive campsites* must be rustic in design and accessible only by foot from trailheads located adjacent to public use roads, or by water.

Carry-in boat access sites are allowed on water bodies where boating activity does not negatively impact the purposes for which the Special Protection Area was established.

Hunting, fishing, and trapping are allowed where they do not conflict with the management of historic or cultural areas or the safety of other users.

Research, interpretive trails, habitat management for endangered or threatened species, are allowed in Special Protection natural areas unless limited by other management guidelines.

## **BACKCOUNTRY RECREATION**

### ***Designation Criteria***

- 1. Superior scenic quality**
- 2. Remoteness**
- 3. Wild and pristine character, and**
- 4. Capacity to impart a sense of solitude.**
- 5. Most will encompass more than 1,000 contiguous acres.**

There are 2 Backcountry Recreation Area designations in the IRP: Non-Mechanized, and Motorized. Only the Non-Mechanized designation is applied in this Region. The Bigelow Backcountry designation created for this Plan has many of the elements of the standard motorized backcountry designation; while the Bigelow Backcountry Non-Mechanized is similar to the Backcountry Non-Mechanized except that multi-age timber harvesting is allowed.

#### Non-mechanized Backcountry Recreation Areas include:

- no roads
- outstanding opportunities for solitude;
- outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of dispersed recreation;
- trails for non-mechanized travel; and
- no timber harvesting.

#### Motorized Backcountry Recreation Areas include:

- multi-use areas;
- significant opportunities for dispersed recreation;
- trails for motorized and mechanized activities;
- timber harvesting on a multi-aged basis; and
- management roads.

Both types may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, biological, or historical value.

### ***Management Direction***

Vegetative Management: Not allowed in non-mechanized backcountry; allowed in motorized backcountry as a secondary use designed to enhance plant and animal diversity (multi-aged management only). Salvage harvests are allowed in Motorized Areas but not allowed in Non-mechanized Areas

Wildlife Management: Within non-mechanized backcountry areas must not manipulate vegetation or waters to create or enhance wildlife habitat. No restrictions in motorized backcountry.

Management or public use roads: Only within motorized backcountry and Bigelow Backcountry.

Recreational Facilities: Trail facilities, carry-in boat access, and primitive single or group campsites for dispersed recreation are allowed; all trails must be well designed and constructed, situated in safe locations, and have minimal adverse impact on the values for which the area was created; campsites must be primitive, rustic in design and accessible from trailheads and parking areas located outside of the area or by water.

Hunting, fishing, and trapping are allowed where they do not adversely impact the safety of other users.

## **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT / RARE OR EXEMPLARY ECOSYSTEM AREAS**

### ***Designation Criteria***

- 1. Essential habitats** are those regulated by law and currently consist of bald eagle, piping plover, and least tern nest sites (usually be categorized as Special Protection as well as Wildlife Dominant Areas).
- 2. Significant habitats**, defined by Maine's Natural Resource Protection Act, include habitat for endangered and threatened species; deer wintering areas; seabird nesting islands; vernal pools; waterfowl and wading bird habitats; shorebird nesting, feeding, and staging areas; and Atlantic salmon habitat.
- 3. Specialized habitat areas and features** include rare or exemplary natural communities; riparian areas; aquatic areas; wetlands; wildlife trees such as mast producing hardwood stands (oak and beech), snags and dead trees, den trees (live trees with cavities), large woody debris on the ground, apple trees, and raptor nest trees; seeps; old fields/grasslands; alpine areas; folist sites (a thick organic layer on sloping ground); and forest openings.

### ***Management Direction***

Recreation and timber management are secondary uses in most Wildlife Management Areas. Recreational use of Wildlife Management Areas typically includes hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, trapping, and sightseeing. Motorized trails for snowmobiling and ATV riding (unless otherwise prohibited) are allowed to cross these areas if they do not conflict with the primary wildlife use of the area and there is no other safe, cost-effective alternative (such as routing a trail around the wildlife area). Direction provided in the IRP includes:

Habitat management for wildlife, including commercial and noncommercial harvesting of trees, will be designed to maximize plant and animal diversity and to provide habitat conditions to enhance population levels where desirable.

Endangered or threatened plants and animals – The Bureau will cooperate with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and Maine Natural Areas Program in the delineation of critical habitat and development of protection or recovery plans by these agencies on Bureau lands.

Timber management as a secondary use in riparian buffers will employ the selection system, retaining all den trees and snags consistent with operational safety. In other wildlife-dominant areas it will be managed to enhance wildlife values.

## **REMOTE RECREATION AREAS**

### ***Designation Criteria***

1. Allocated to protect natural/scenic values as well as recreation values. Often have significant opportunities for low-intensity, dispersed, non-motorized recreation.
2. Usually are relatively long corridors rather than broad, expansive areas.
3. May be a secondary allocation for Wildlife Dominant areas and Special Protection – Ecological Reserve areas.
4. Examples include trail corridors, shorelines, and remote ponds.

### ***Management Direction***

Remote Recreation areas are allocated to protect natural/scenic values as well as recreation values. The primary objective of this category is to provide non-motorized recreational opportunities; therefore, motorized recreation trails are allowed only under specific limited conditions, described below. Direction provided in the IRP includes:

Vegetative/Timber Management: Timber management is allowed as a secondary use. New woods management roads are not allowed within 500 feet of the Appalachian Trail or its side trails. Trail facilities and remote campsites will be rustic in design and accessible by foot from trailheads, management and/or public roads, or by water.

Existing snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle activity may be continued on well-designed and constructed trails in locations that are safe, where the activity has minimal adverse impact on protected natural resource or remote recreation values, and where the trails cannot be reasonably relocated outside of the area.

New snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle trails are allowed only if all three of the following criteria are met:

- (1) no safe, cost effective alternative exists;
- (2) the impact on protected natural resource values or remote recreation values is minimal (would not be allowed within 500 feet of the Appalachian Trail or its associated side trails except for trail crossings approved by the Appalachian Trail Conference, MATC and National Park Service); and
- (3) the designated trail will provide a crucial link in a significant trail system;

Access to Remote Recreation areas is primarily walk-in, or boat, but may include vehicle access over timber management roads while these roads are being maintained for timber management.

## **VISUAL CONSIDERATION AREAS**

Many Bureau-managed properties have natural settings in which visual attributes enhance the enjoyment of recreational users. Timber harvests which create large openings, stumps and slash, gravel pits, and new road construction, when viewed from roads or trails, may detract significantly from the visual enjoyment of the area. To protect the land's aesthetic character, the Bureau uses a two-tier classification system to guide management planning, based on the sensitivity of the visual resource to be protected.

Most Visual Consideration Areas are secondary allocations, as the dominant allocations assert the primary values to be maintained in the management of vegetation or timber for those allocations. For example, all lakeshores are allocated as wildlife dominant; visual consideration areas are also a standard allocation for lakeshores. While a visual consideration allocation along a hiking trail may result in tree removal to provide a vista, in a wildlife management riparian area, maintained as a vegetated travel corridor for wildlife, this may not be allowed.

### ***Designation Criteria***

***Visual Class I.*** Areas where the foreground views of natural features that may directly affect enjoyment of the viewer. Applied throughout the system to all shorelines, trails, public use roads, and management roads open to public vehicular traffic. Applied as a variable width buffer determined from line of sight (distance a person can see the forest floor when looking into the forest, which varies according to topography and type of forest).

***Visual Class II.*** Include views of forest canopies from ridge lines, the forest interior as it fades from the foreground of the observer, background hillsides viewed from water or public use roads, or interior views beyond the Visual Class I area likely to be seen from a trail or road.

#### ***Visual Class I Management Direction:***

Timber harvesting is permitted under stringent limitations directed at retaining the appearance of an essentially undisturbed forest.

Openings will be contoured to the lay of the land and limited to a size that will maintain a natural forested appearance.

Within trail corridors or along public use roads it may be necessary to cut trees at ground level or cover stumps.

Branches, tops, and other slash will be pulled well back from any trails.

Scenic vistas may be provided if consistent with the dominant allocation.

#### ***Visual Class II Management Direction:***

Managed to avoid any obvious alterations to the landscape.

Openings will be of a size and orientation as to not draw undue attention.

## **DEVELOPED RECREATION AREAS**

### ***Designation Criteria***

*Developed Class I* areas are low to medium density developed recreation areas, while *Developed Class II* areas have medium to high density facilities and use such as campgrounds with modern sanitary facilities.

#### ***Class I Developed Recreation Areas***

1. Typically include more intensely developed recreation facilities than found in Remote Recreation Areas such as:
  - drive-to primitive campsites with minimal supporting facilities;
  - gravel boat launch areas and parking areas;

- shared use roads and/or trails designated for motorized activities; and trailhead parking areas.
- 2. Do not usually have full-time management staff.

***Class II Developed Recreation Areas***

- 1. Are the most intensely developed recreation facilities managed by the Bureau and typically include:
  - campgrounds with modern sanitary facilities, showers, and running water;
  - beaches with improved parking areas, picnic tables, and foot trails;
  - family and group picnic areas;
  - shared use roads and/or trails designated for motorized activities; and
  - hard-surface boat launch ramps with improved parking areas for motor vehicles and boat trailers.
- 2. Usually have seasonal full-time staff.

***Management Direction***

Developed Recreation areas allow a broad range of recreational activities, with timber management and wildlife management allowed as secondary uses. Direction provided in the IRP includes:

Timber management, allowed as compatible **secondary use**, is conducted in a way that is sensitive to visual, wildlife and user safety considerations. Single-age forest management is not allowed in these areas. Salvage and emergency harvests may occur where these do not significantly impact natural, historic, or cultural resources and features, or conflict with traditional recreational uses of the area.

Wildlife management may be a compatible **secondary use**. To the extent that such management occurs, it will be sensitive to visual, and user safety considerations.

Visual consideration areas are often designated in a buffer area surrounding the Developed Recreation area.

Hunting and trapping: Not allowed.

**TIMBER MANAGEMENT AREAS**

***Designation Criteria***

- 1. Area meets Bureau guidelines as suitable for timber management, and is not prohibited by deed or statute.
- 2. Area is not dominated by another resource category. Where other uses are dominant, timber management may be a secondary use if conducted in a way that does not conflict with the dominant use.

## ***Management Direction***

The Bureau's timber management practices are governed by a combination of statute and Bureau policy, including but not limited to policies spelled out in the IRP. These general policies include:

*Overall Objectives:* The Bureau's overall timber management objectives are to demonstrate exemplary management on a large ownership, sustaining a forest rich in late successional character and producing high value products (chiefly sawlogs and veneer) that contribute to the local economy and support management of Public Reserved lands, while maintaining or enhancing non-timber values (secondary uses), including wildlife habitat and recreation.

*Forest Certification:* Timber management practices (whether as a dominant or secondary use) meet the sustainable forestry certification requirements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, and the Forest Stewardship Council.

*Roads:* Public use, management, and service roads are allowed. However, the Bureau, in practice, seeks to minimize the number of roads to that needed for reasonable public vehicular access or timber harvesting.

*Recreational Use:* Most recreational uses are allowed but may be subject to temporary disruptions during management or harvesting operations. The Bureau has latitude within this allocation category to manage its timber lands with considerable deference to recreational opportunities. It may, through its decisions related to roads, provide varying recreational experiences. Opportunities for hiking, snowshoeing, back-country skiing, horseback riding, bicycling, vehicle touring and sightseeing, and ATV riding all are possible within a timber management area, but may or may not be supported or feasible, depending on decisions related to creation of new trails, or management of existing roads and their accessibility to the public.

In addition, the IRP provides the following specific direction for timber management:

*Site Suitability.* The Bureau will manage to achieve a composition of timber types that best utilize each site.

*Diversity:* For both silvicultural and ecological purposes, the Bureau will maintain or enhance conditions of diversity on both a stand and wide-area (landscape) basis. The Bureau will manage for the full range of successional stages as well as forest types and tree species. The objective will be to provide good growing conditions, retain or enhance structural complexity, maintain connectivity of wildlife habitats, and create a vigorous forest more resistant to damage from insects and disease.

*Silvicultural Systems:* A stand will be considered single-aged when its tree ages are all relatively close together or it has a single canopy layer. Stands containing two or more age classes and multiple canopy layers will be considered multi-aged. The Bureau will manage both single- and multi-aged stands consistent with the objectives stated above for Diversity; and on most acres will maintain a component of tall trees at all times. Silvicultural strategy will favor the least disturbing method appropriate, and will usually work through multi-aged management.

*Location and Maintenance of Log Landings.* Log landings will be set back from all roads designated as public use roads. All yard locations and sizes will be approved by Bureau

staff prior to construction, with the intention of keeping the area dedicated to log landings as small as feasible. At the conclusion of operations, all log landings where there has been major soil disturbance will be seeded to herbaceous growth to stabilize soil, provide wildlife benefits, and retain sites for future management needs.

**Appendix D:**  
***Nomination for Addition to***  
***the Bureau of Parks and Lands Ecological Reserves***

**Project:** Crocker Mountain  
**Location:** Carrabassett Valley  
**Biophysical Section:** Western Mountains Ecoregion (M212Af, “Connecticut Lakes”)  
**Approximate Size:** ~4441 acres (~6,100 with adjacent AT corridor)  
**Applicant:** TPL  
**Date:** March 2011

**I. Project Area Description**

The potential Crocker Mt. Ecological Reserve encompasses two parcels on either side of the Appalachian Trail in Maine’s Western Mountains. The two tracts total 4,441 acres, which together with the bisecting AT, encompass approximately 6,100 acres. Roughly 2,200 acres, or just over half of the potential acquisition, lies above 2700’. The lands are dominated primarily by intact mid and high elevation forest (Montane Spruce Fir Forest and Fir-Heartleaf Birch Sub-alpine Forest), with multiple rare natural communities and rare plant species. The Trust for Public Lands is negotiating the acquisition from Plum Creek, with the state of Maine as the intended landowner.

**II. By which ecological criteria does this area qualify as an Ecological Reserve? (see Evaluation Criteria for Potential Ecological Reserves)**

Large patch and small patch communities: The proposed Ecological Reserve, together with adjacent AT lands, encompass 97% of an A-ranked Fir-Heartleaf Birch Subalpine Forest (S3). In addition, the proposed Reserve contains an A-ranked Boreal Circumneutral Outcrop (S2) and an A-ranked Subalpine Hanging Bog (S1).

Enduring Features: Much of the bedrock type here is 'gabbro' and 'ultramafic'. These are intrusive, dark, coarse-grained rocks rich in magnesium and tending to be more alkaline (higher pH) than the dominant acidic/granitic rocks that underlie most of Maine. Glacial action scoured the ridgetops here, exposing ledges and seeps and creating habitat for a number of rare plants. Ultramafic bedrock is quite rare in Maine, occurring in only a few places and accounting for less than 0.2% of the state. Within this ecological section, there is one small area of this bedrock type mapped in Newry and another on Moxie Mt. in Caratunk. Most of these other areas have no land protection.

**III. What is the current condition of the land?**

Most of the land within the proposed Reserve supports mature forest, with no signs of recent harvest (i.e., within the last 25 years). Some of the higher elevation steep slopes may not have been cut at all, though natural disturbance events have resulted in younger forest patches. Approximately 100 acres of high elevation forest east of the Carrabassett River were heavily cut about 20 years ago. Several hundred acres of just east of the Carrabassett River likely burned about a century ago and now support old aspen/birch forest. The remainder of the forest types include Montane Spruce Fir Forest, Spruce – Northern Hardwood Forest, and Beech Birch Maple forest. No invasive plants or animals are known from the property.

**IV. Are these natural features and Ecological Land Units already represented on Ecological Reserves elsewhere in this biophysical section or in the state?**

High elevation forests are represented on the nearby Bigelow Ecological Reserve to the north and the Mt. Abram Ecological Reserve to the south. However, these other Reserves lack the ultramafic bedrock and associated rare natural communities and plants (Boreal Circumneutral Outcrop, ranked S2, and three rare plant species).

**V. For which Ecological Reserve purposes is this area well suited? (benchmark, unique habitat, educational and scientific purposes) How natural are the features of this area?**

The first two purposes are most relevant:

- As the only Reserve in the state with significant acreage of ultramafic bedrock, the Crocker Reserve will serve as a 'one of a kind' benchmark for assessing change over time.
- Subalpine hanging bogs and Circumneutral Boreal Outcrops are both rare natural communities that, while generally inoperable, could be compromised by invasive species or altered hydrology resulting from incompatible land uses.

Nearly all of the proposed Ecological Reserve is mature forest, with significant high elevation/inoperable areas that have likely not been cut in many decades, if at all.

**VI. Do any of the features of the reserve require active management for their perpetuation?**

No needs for active management are foreseen.

**VII. What recreational uses currently exist within the area?**

The Appalachian Trail bisects the Ecological Reserve, and there is an AT shelter within the AT corridor. The Caribou Valley Road traverses the lower eastern slope of Crocker Mountain, ups`lope and west of the Carrabassett River. This gravel road is drivable by truck partway (to the AT crossing) and then only by ATV or snowmobile thereafter. It separates two portions of the Reserve. There may be some current recreational use on an old road between South Crocker Mt. and the Redington Pond Range.

**VIII. Are there any designated and maintained snowmobile or ATV trails on the property? If so are these part of a large organized trail network?**

Snowmobiles and ATVs use the Caribou Valley Road, and a possible motorized trail is being considered between South Crocker Mt. and the Redington Pond Range, as part of a broader loop trail. The design of the Reserve accommodates this potential recreational use.

**IX. How many acres of operable timber are there within the area? What would be the impact on the region's timber supply of inclusion of these acres within Ecological Reserve status?**

As part of this overall acquisition package, 11,798 acres are being acquired. Approximately 4,441 acres of this land is being considered for Ecological Reserve, but more than half that acreage is likely inoperable (steep, inaccessible, high elevation). The acquisition will result in approximately 7,300 acres of primarily operable forestland committed to long term, sustainable forestry and permanently conserved. In a recreational resort region of second home developments and parcelization, the secured acreage for timber production will help to offset acreage taken out of production.

**X. What are the surrounding land uses? Are they compatible as landscape context for a Reserve in this area?**

The area is surrounded by a combination of private working forestland, public lands, and the Sugarloaf ski resort. The Bigelow BPL property lies immediately to the north across Route 27. The Bigelow Ecological Reserve is less than two miles to the northeast, and the Mt. Abraham Ecological Reserve is less than two miles to the south. The Sugarloaf ski area and associated development are east of this parcel across the Carrabassett River but will be separated by a mile-wide buffer of state-owned working forest.

**Names of Individuals Knowledgeable about the Area**

Pete Smith and Tom Charles, Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands

Andy Cutko, Maine Natural Areas Program

JT Horn, Trust for Public Lands.

*Source: Ecological Reserve Scientific Advisory Committee*

[Note: The Ecological Reserve Scientific Advisory Committee met Dec. 10, 2010 and reviewed a draft of this proposal, agreed that the site meets criteria for an Ecological Reserve, and expressed support for the reserve as described, subject to refinement based on additional field work and consideration of other land values and uses.]

Appendix E: Caribou Valley Road Easement

2

Bk 3552 Pg199 #4555  
06-07-2013 @ 12:41p

FILED FOR RECORD AT THE REQUEST OF:  
Plum Creek Maine Timberlands, L.L.C.  
999 Third Avenue, Suite 2400  
Seattle, WA 98104

File No. 912-19.13-0040

**ROAD EASEMENT**  
(Caribou Valley Road)

THIS ROAD EASEMENT, dated this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2013 from PLUM CREEK MAINE TIMBERLANDS, L.L.C., a limited liability company of the State of Delaware, formerly known as SDW Timber II, LLC, whose address is 999 Third Avenue, Suite 4300, Seattle, Washington 98104, hereinafter called "Grantor," to the State of Maine, acting by and through its Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Division of Parks and Public Lands, hereinafter called "Grantee."

WITNESSETH:

I.

Grantor, for and in consideration of \$1.00 and other valuable consideration received by Grantor, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, does hereby grant to Grantee, subject to existing easements, a permanent, non-exclusive easement and right-of-way for the use of a roadway ("the Roadway") known as Caribou Valley Road, over, upon, along, under, and across the lands in Carrabasset Valley Township, Franklin County, State of Maine, said easement as shown on the attached Exhibit "A" incorporated herein by reference. Said easement being twenty-five (25) feet on each side of the centerline of the existing Roadway shown on Exhibit "A" (the "Easement"). The above grant and conveyance is subject to all matters of public record as of the date of this Easement.

II.

The parties hereto hereby agree that the rights hereinabove granted shall be subject to the following terms, provisions, and conditions:

1. Purpose. The Easement and right-of-way conveyed herein is for all purposes of vehicular (but not including unregistered vehicles, ATV, snowmobile, bicycle or horse) travel by Grantee, and for the public to use for recreational vehicular (but not including unregistered vehicles, ATV, snowmobile, bicycle or horse) purposes, to access the land of the Grantee located as shown on Exhibit A. Grantee shall notify Grantor before using the Roadway for commercial activity involving heavy trucking, so that the parties can agree upon the condition of the

Roadway before and after such commercial activity and that maintenance costs due to a party's commercial use can be allocated appropriately under Section 6 hereof. Notwithstanding the foregoing, commercial guides including, without limitation outfitters, traditional outdoor guides, commercial sporting camps, non-profit camping and educational and scientific institutions, and rafting companies, and their respective customers, may use the Roadway for commercial recreational purposes without prior notification.

2. Relocation. Grantor reserves unto itself, its successors and assigns the right at its expense to relocate said Roadway subject to the condition that, except for distance and curvature, such relocated Roadway provides the same type and quality of Roadway as exists at the time of such relocation.

3. Road Crossing. Grantor reserves unto itself, its successors and assigns, the right at all times and for any purpose to go upon, cross and recross, at any place on grade or otherwise, said rights-of-way and to use the Roadway in a manner that will not unreasonably interfere with the rights granted herein. Grantee and its successors and assigns shall have the right to use the Roadway in accordance with this grant, provided that such use shall not unreasonably interfere with Grantor's timber operations and off public highway hauling of timber. Grantee's and the public's use of the Roadway shall at all times be in compliance with applicable laws, ordinances and regulations.

4. Gates and Closures. It is the intent of Grantor to afford recreational vehicular access along the Roadway described herein at all reasonable times, but Grantor retains the right, at its discretion (at any time and from time to time), to temporarily post, gate and close such Roadway for any purpose associated with its timber management operations, including but not limited to public safety or environmental concerns. Grantor shall notify Grantee of the reason and anticipated duration of any such posting, gating or closing. Grantee shall have the right to limit public access under this Easement for the purpose of limiting damage to the Roadway and adjacent property and resources, to protect public safety and in the interest of recreation management.

5. Third Parties. Grantor may grant to third parties, by easement, license or otherwise, upon such terms as it chooses, any or all of the rights reserved by it herein, including but not limited to the right to vehicular access for commercial purposes in addition to those expressly permitted pursuant to paragraph 1 above; provided that such grant shall be subject to the terms and conditions of this Easement and shall not unreasonably interfere with the rights granted here.

6. Maintenance. Grantee recognizes that the Roadway has been constructed and maintained for logging and other administrative purposes. Grantee's exercise of the rights granted hereunder shall not interfere with Grantor's forestry or other operations. Grantor and Grantee shall each be entitled to maintain the Roadway, but no party has an obligation to maintain the Roadway for the benefit of any other public user of the Roadway. Each party is responsible for performing such maintenance as relates solely to that party's own use, if any, of the Roadway. Grantee must obtain the approval from Grantor prior to conducting any maintenance, construction or reconstruction activities.

7. Construction and Improvement. Unless the parties hereto agree in writing to share the cost of improvements, including maintenance, construction and reconstruction, to said Roadway in advance of such improvements being made, the costs of said improvements shall be borne solely by the improving party. Nothing in this Section may be construed as relieving either party of its responsibility, as set forth in Section 6, above, to perform such maintenance as relates solely to that party's own use, if any, of the Roadway.

8. Right-of-Way Timber. Grantor reserves unto itself all timber now on or hereafter growing within the Easement described herein.

9. Commercial Use of Easement. Grantee must first notify Grantor prior to using the Roadway granted herein for any commercial purposes. Upon such notification, the following commercial insurance requirements shall apply.

A. Commercial Insurance. Prior to any commercial use of the Roadway granted herein, Grantee shall obtain and maintain, throughout the period of such commercial use, liability insurance issued in a form and by an insurance company acceptable to Grantor. Coverage requirements shall be as follows and have an **AM Best's Key Rating Guide of B+ VI (financial class) or better rating**:

i. Commercial General Liability Insurance to include minimum limits of \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$1,000,000 annual aggregate Combined Single Limit Bodily Injury, Death and Property Damage. Extension of coverage to include Comprehensive Form, Premises and Operations, Contractual Liability, Products and Completed Operations, Independent Contractors, Personal Injury, Broad Form Property Damage, Cross Liability, and Pollution arising out of heat, smoke or fumes from a Hostile Fire. Additionally, the policy shall not exclude X, C or U (Explosion, Collapse, or Underground).

ii. Comprehensive Automobile Liability insurance covering owned, non-owned, hired and other vehicles, with a combined single limit of \$1,000,000 per occurrence Combined Single Limit Bodily Injury, Death and Property Damage.

iii. Employer's Liability Insurance, for employee bodily injuries and death, with a minimum limit of \$500,000 each occurrence. In the event Grantee has no employees, Grantee shall not be required to carry Employer's Liability Insurance.

iv. Worker's Compensation Insurance, with statutory limits as are required by the Workers' Compensation Law in the State in which work is being performed hereunder. If Grantee qualifies for a state exemption from workers' compensation insurance as an "owner/executive/partner" and if Grantor consents to such exemption prior to the execution of this agreement, Grantee may elect to be exempted from such coverage; provided, however, Grantee shall obtain and maintain during the term and any extension hereof, workers' compensation insurance in an amount of not less than statutory limits for any and all employees of Grantee. If Grantee loses such exemption or otherwise fails to comply with applicable workers' compensation law during the term of this agreement, Grantee shall refrain from

exercising its rights under this agreement until the required workers' compensation insurance is obtained.

v. The policies specified above shall include an endorsement which shall name Grantor and Plum Creek Timber Company, Inc., together with its subsidiaries and affiliates (collectively the "Plum Creek Companies") as additional insureds on a primary basis for the term of this agreement. The additional insured endorsement must be ISO CG20 10 11 85 (or other form with like wording).

vi. The policies specified above shall include an endorsement which shall provide that Grantor, at the address above, will be given a 30 - day written notice prior to cancellation, coverage modification or other material change in the policy. No such cancellation, modification or change shall affect Grantee's obligation to maintain the insurance coverages required by this agreement.

vii. All liability coverages must be on an "occurrence" basis as opposed to "claims made."

viii. All such insurance shall be in a form and company acceptable to Grantor sufficient to protect Grantee, contractors and its subcontractors, to the extent that they are involved in the work, and Grantor against the claims of third persons, and to cover claims by Grantor against Grantee, contractor and subcontractors for which Grantee has assumed liability under this easement agreement.

ix. Prior to Grantee's commercial use of the Easement herein granted, Grantee shall furnish to Grantor a certificate of insurance dated and signed by a stated, authorized agent for the insuring company or companies, in a form acceptable to Grantor and containing a representation that coverage of the types listed herein is provided with the required liability limits and the stated endorsements. Grantor reserves the right to require a certified copy of the policy(ies) or to examine the actual policy(ies). Said certificate(s) of insurance shall be issued to Grantor at the address above.

x. If Grantee retains the services of any contractor, Grantee shall cause each contractor to maintain insurance coverages and limits of liability of the same type and the same amount as are required of Grantee under this Easement. Grantee shall obtain, prior to the commencement of the contractor's services, the required certificates of insurance and additional insured endorsements.

xi. All persons using said Roadway for any purpose shall obtain and maintain a policy of Automobile Liability Insurance in a form generally acceptable in the State of Maine and customary in the area of said Easement and right-of-way.

**In the event that this Easement is assigned to the State of Maine, the Grantor acknowledges that these insurance provisions under this Paragraph shall not apply as the State of Maine is self-insured. Provided, however, in the event this Easement is later assigned to any other party, this provision shall be enforceable against such party. The remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.**

10. Indemnification. Grantee shall assume all risk of, and indemnify and hold harmless, and at its expense defend Grantor and Plum Creek Companies from and against any claims, loss, cost, legal actions, liability or expense on account of personal injury to or death of any persons whatsoever, including but not limited to Grantor and the Plum Creek Companies, their employees, agents, or contractors, or damage to or destruction of property to whomsoever belonging, including but not limited to property of Grantor and the Plum Creek Companies, their employees, agents or contractors, or any fire, resulting partly or wholly, directly or indirectly from Grantee's exercise of the rights herein granted; provided, however, that Grantee's undertaking herein contained shall not be construed as covering personal injury to or death of persons, or damage to or destruction of property resulting from the sole negligence of Grantor and the Plum Creek Companies.

**In the event that this Easement is assigned to the State of Maine, the provision under this Paragraph 10 shall be unenforceable. Provided, however, in the event this Easement is later assigned to any other party, this provision shall be enforceable against such party. The remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.**

11. Liability for Public Use; Termination of Easement by Grantor. Grantor and Grantee claim all of the rights and immunities against liability for injury to the public to the fullest extent of the law under Title 14 M.R.S.A. Section 159-A, *et seq.* as amended and successor provisions thereof (Maine Recreational Use Statute), under the Maine Tort Claims Act, and under any other applicable provision of law and equity.

At any time that Grantor reasonably anticipates that it will, or reasonably determines that it has, become subject to liability arising from the exercise rights granted under this Easement by members of the public which is greater than such liability as it existed as of the date of execution of this Easement, Grantor shall notify Grantee in writing, describing the nature of the change in liability (and if prospective, the expected date of the change). Until such time as Grantee or a third party is able to provide protection from liability that is equivalent to that which existed at the time of the execution of this Easement, Grantor may, by advance, written notice to Grantee, limit the rights granted herein to use of the Roadway by the Grantee for administrative purposes only, and Grantor may prohibit vehicular access across such Roadway by the public from the date of such notice until such time as such equivalent protection is afforded to Grantor. Within 60 days following the notice, representatives of the Grantor and the Grantee shall meet to discuss mutually agreeable arrangements that, if implemented, would result in reduction of such liability to the level that existed as of the date of execution of this Easement. If agreement

cannot be reached within a reasonable time regarding such arrangements and their implementation, the parties will participate in non-binding mediation with a neutral third party selected by mutual agreement. If the parties remain unable to reach mutual agreement within five years after Grantor's written notice, the rights granted in this Easement for the Grantee to allow members of the public to use the Roadway shall terminate upon Grantor's recording of a notice of termination in the Registry of Deeds, but not with respect to Grantee's rights for administrative purposes.

12. Liens. Grantee shall use good faith efforts to keep Grantor's property free from mechanics or materialmens liens arising in any manner out of the activities of Grantee and shall promptly discharge any such liens that are asserted.

13. Rights and Obligations. The rights and obligations hereunder shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the successors and assigns of the parties hereto.

14. Notices. All notices or other communications made pursuant hereto shall be in writing and shall be deemed properly delivered, given or served when (i) personally delivered against a receipted copy or (ii) mailed by certified or registered mail, postage prepaid, to the following addresses (or sent by facsimile and then delivered in above-described manner within forty-eight (48) hours):

Grantor: Plum Creek Maine Timberlands, L.L.C.  
49 Mountain Avenue  
Fairfield, Maine 04937  
Attn: General Manager  
Telephone: 207-453-2527  
Facsimile: 207-453-2963

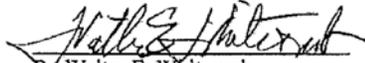
With a copy to: Plum Creek Timber Company, Inc.  
999 Third Avenue, Suite 4300  
Seattle, Washington 98104  
Attn: General Counsel  
Telephone: 206-467-3600  
Facsimile: 206-467-3799

Grantee: State of Maine, acting by and through its Department of  
Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Division of Parks  
and Public Lands  
Attn: Kathy Eickenberg, Chief of Planning  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022  
Telephone: 207-287-4963  
[katherine.eickenberg@maine.gov](mailto:katherine.eickenberg@maine.gov)



**GRANTEE:**

State of Maine, acting by and through its  
Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry,  
Division of Parks and Public Lands



By Walter E. Whitcomb  
Its Commissioner

**STATE OF MAINE**  
County of Kennebec, ss.

Date: June 5<sup>th</sup> 2013

Then personally appeared the above-named Walter E. Whitcomb, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and acknowledged the execution of the within Consent of Commissioner as his free act and deed in his capacity and the free act and deed of the State of Maine.

Before me,



Notary Public/Attorney at Law

Print Name:

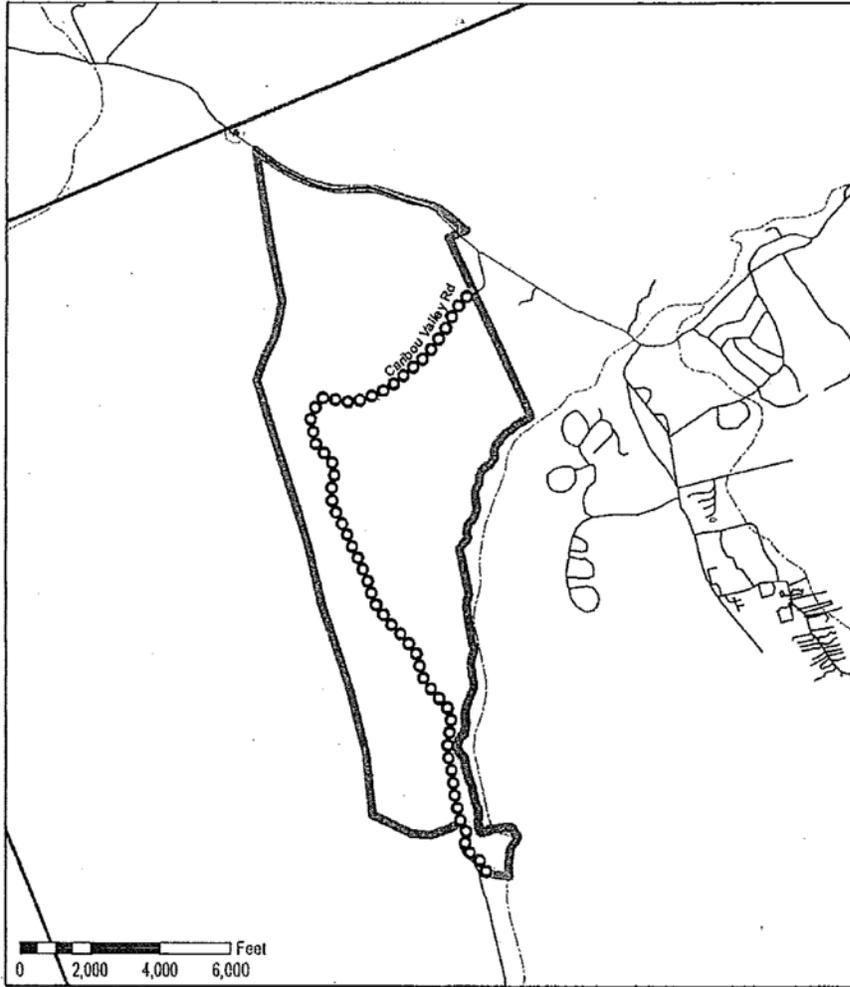
My Commission Expires:

Seal:

**KIMBALIE LAWRENCE**  
Notary Public, Maine  
My Commission Expires April 19, 2016

**SEAL**

EXHIBIT A



*Commonwealth of Land Title  
Portland, ME*



Carrabassett Township  
Somerset County, ME

○○○○○ Easement Grant



**Plum Creek**

*Growing Value from Exceptional Resources*

PMR - May 9, 2013

FRANKLIN COUNTY  
*Susan O. Black*  
Register of Deeds



## *Appendix F: Sources*

### General Background

Land for Maine's Future (LMF) Application for Land Acquisition Funding – Crocker Mountain Project (2011); prepared by the Bureau of Parks and Lands and The Trust for Public Land.

Nomination for Addition to Bureau of Parks and Lands Ecological Reserves – Crocker Mountain Project (2011); prepared by the Ecological Reserve Scientific Advisory Committee.

Maine Appalachian Trail Club. “New preserve buffers 10 miles of Maine AT.” Article published in *The Mainetainer*, Vol. 37, No. 3, Early Summer 2013.

### History/Cultural Resources

Archeology Research Center, Department of Social Sciences and Business, University of Maine at Farmington, Sept. 2009. Archeological Phase I Survey of the Proposed Sugarloaf Regional Airport Safety Areas Project (MHPC #1344-07), Carrabassett Valley, Franklin County, Maine.

Maine Resource Guide (online). Carrabassett Valley & Sugarloaf, Maine. Available at <http://maineguide.com/region/western/information/sugarloafarea.html>.

### Natural Resources

Code of Federal Regulations. 50 CFR 226.217 – Critical Habitat for the Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment of Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo Salar*).

Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station, University of Maine, March 1997. *The Soils of Maine* (Miscellaneous Report 402).

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIF&W). Undated. *Beginning with Habitat Report – Focus Areas of Statewide Significance: Bigelow Mountain – Flagstaff Lake – North Branch Dead River*.

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIF&W). 2012. *Recommended Management Guidelines for Land Use In or Adjacent To Roaring Brook Mayfly and Spring Salamander Habitats* (Draft January 5, 2012).

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIF&W). 2014. *Beginning with Habitat Program maps for Carrabassett Valley* (Primary Map 1 - Water Resources and Riparian Habitats, Primary Map 2 - High Value Plant and Animal Habitats, Regional Map).

National Park Service. 2010. *Maine Appalachian Trail Rare Mammal Inventory from 2006-2008*. (Natural Resource Report NPS/NETN/NRR-2010/177).

Stantec Consulting, Dec. 2010. Land Use Regulation Commission Application (revised), Highland Wind Project, Somerset County, Maine, Section 14 - Environmental Assessment and Appendix 14-4 – Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Wildlife Survey Report.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. On-line soil survey map utility, available at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Soil Survey of Franklin County Area and Part of Somerset County, Maine.

### Recreation

CR NEMBA website. Carrabassett Backcountry Cycle Challenge page. Available at: <http://carrabassett.nemba.org/carrabassett-backcountry-cycle-challenge-cbcc/>

Franklin County, Maine website. Recreation - ATVing page. Available at <http://www.franklincountymaine.org/visit-franklin/recreation>.

Healthy Maine Walks website. Narrow Gauge Pathway page. Available at <http://healthymainewalks.com/walks/narrow-gauge-pathway>.

Maine 4000 Footers website (Hiking Crocker Mountain and Hiking Spaulding Mountain pages). Available at <http://4000footers.com/crocker.shtml> and [spaulding.shtml](http://4000footers.com/spaulding.shtml).

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy website. Carrabassett River Trail page. Available at: <http://www.railstotrails.org/news/recurringfeatures/trailmonth/archives/0510.html>

Sugarloaf Outdoor Center website. Available at <http://www.sugarloaf.com/activities-and-nightlife/outdoor-center>.

Town of Carrabassett Valley. Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting, April 21, 2014.

Town of Carrabassett Valley. Carrabassett Valley Connections newsletter, Fall 2013 edition.