Bureau of Parks and Lands

Seboomook Unit Management Plan 5-Year Review and Update #2 with Plan Amendment

AMENDMENT ADOPTION

In accordance with the procedure outlined in the 2007 Seboomook Unit Management Plan for five-year reviews of the Plan and consideration of proposed Plan amendments, the amendment presented on pages 3-4 of this report is hereby adopted.

RECOMMENDED: Douglas Demos DATE: 8-8-18

Douglas Denico

Director

Maine Forest Service

APPROVED:

Walter E. Whitcomb

Commissioner

Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

[this page intentionally blank]

Table of Contents

- 1. Summary of the Seboomook Unit Management Plan 5-Year Review Process
- 2. Plan Amendment with revised Seboomook parcel Resource Allocation map

Appendices

- A. Advisory Committee Members and Bureau Staff contributing to the Five-Year Review
- B. Table of 2007 Plan Recommendations, Status of BPL Actions to Implement the Plan, and New Issues Identified (4/2/18)
- C. Public Meeting Agenda and Sign-In Sheet (5/17/18)

1. Summary of the Seboomook Unit Review Process and Background to the Proposed Plan Amendment

Summary of Review

The Seboomook Unit Management Plan adopted in March of 2007 guides the management of public lands at the Seboomook and Canada Falls Unit (Pittston Academy Grant, Soldiertown Twp., Plymouth Twp., Seboomook Twp., and Little W Twp.); the St. Johns Ponds (T4R17 WELS); Baker Lake (T7R17 WELS); and Big Spencer Mountain (TXR14 WELS and T2R13 WELS). The Bureau is required to report to the Advisory Committee (AC, Appendix A) at five-year intervals on accomplishments and changing conditions that may warrant amendments to the plan. The second Five-Year Review, covering the period of 2013-17, was initiated with an email message to AC members on April 2, 2018. (The message also reported on the outcome of the first Five-Year Review, which was never formally concluded.)

The message included as an attachment the Five-Year Review table summarizing actions taken to implement the Plan recommendations (Appendix B), and requested comments on the table. The Bureau also requested comments on a proposal that would be the primary focus of discussion: revision of the dominant resource allocations on the Seboomook parcel to better align with the wildlife management focus that is now applicable to most of the land. Specifically, the Bureau proposed to revise the dominant resource allocations within the boundaries of the Lynx Habitat Management Area (HMA) designated in 2014 and biological deer wintering areas (BDWAs, one of which overlaps the HMA in part); all acres were proposed to be allocated to Wildlife Management as the dominant use, excepting areas allocated to Special Protection and Developed Recreation. Most of these acres were allocated to Timber Management in the 2007 Plan. Maps depicting the current and proposed resource allocations were also provided to the AC. One AC member commented (via a phone call) in support of the proposal.

Plan Amendment

A Plan amendment is required to formally change the dominant resource allocation. The Bureau prepared a Draft Plan amendment describing in some detail the reason for the changes and what specific areas of the parcel would be affected. This was accompanied by a summary of the number of acres that would be designated within each resource allocations category, and the change from the 2007 Plan in both number and percent of Seboomook parcel acres.

In addition, the amendment assigned resource allocations to property acquired and added to the Seboomook Unit since the Plan was adopted, within Seboomook Twp. (Seboomook Wilderness Campground, acquired in 2009) and Little W Twp. (shoreline parcel, acquired in 2014). The campground parcel was proposed to be allocated to Wildlife (within the 330-foot shoreline riparian buffer zone) and Developed Recreation Class 1 (the remainder of the parcel). The Little W shoreline parcel was acquired for both natural resource values and recreation potential, particularly water access primitive campsite or sites to supplement an existing site on nearby Seboomook Point. Consequently, the parcel was allocated to Wildlife, which allows for primitive campsites as a secondary use, per the Integrated Resource Policy.

On April 26, 2018, the AC was sent the Draft Plan amendment and summary and informed of a public meeting at which the amendment would be presented for comment from the public. Section 2 presents the Plan Amendment.

Public Meeting

A public meeting was held in Greenville on May 17, 2018 to allow the Bureau to hear public comments on the proposed Plan amendment. As noted above, AC members were informed of the time and place of the meeting in advance. Three AC members and members of the public attended. The meeting agenda and sign-in sheet are provided in Appendix C.

The attendees gave verbal comments in support of the Plan amendment; there were no comments in opposition to the proposal or the Plan amendment. The attendees, the Bureau's forester for the Seboomook parcel and the IF&W biologist assigned to the Bureau further discussed details of how the increased wildlife management focus within the HMA and BDWAs might affect timber harvesting on the unit.

The meeting was followed by a two-week period during which written comments could be submitted; no comments were received.

2. Seboomook Unit Management Plan Five-Year Review #2 – Plan Amendment

The following amendment to the 2007 Seboomook Unit Management Plan is adopted to align the dominant resource allocations with the wildlife habitat enhancement management focus that now applies to most of the Seboomook Lake parcel, as has been presented to the Advisory Committee and the public for comment during the Five-Year Review process. In addition, property acquired since the Plan was adopted within Seboomook Twp. (Seboomook Wilderness Campground, acquired in 2009) and Little W Twp. (shoreline parcel, acquired in 2014) and added to the Unit are assigned Wildlife and Developed Recreation Class 1 allocations.

Amendment: Revised Dominant Resource Allocations for the Seboomook Lake Parcel (pages 69-85 of Plan):

In October 2014, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service accepted the Incidental Take Plan (ITP) for Maine's Trapping Program submitted by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W). The ITP includes a Lynx Habitat Management Area (HMA) covering 22,046 acres of the 40,583 acre Seboomook Lake parcel. Under the provisions of the ITP, this area is to be managed primarily for the benefit of Lynx, rather than timber production or other uses. The Seboomook Unit Management Plan allocates most of the HMA to timber management and remote recreation as the dominant uses (see pp. 82-85), and is therefore not in alignment with the ITP nor the Bureau's current and future management of the resources as required under the ITP.

In addition, IF&W has delineated two extensive Biological Deer Wintering Areas (BDWAs), the Seboomook BDWA and the Pittston Complex BDWA, about 20,000 acres of which overlie the Seboomook Lake parcel. Within the BDWAs, the Bureau's forest management is focused on maintaining and enhancing winter habitat for deer. Therefore, on the portions of the BDWAs allocated to timber management and remote recreation rather than wildlife management, those resource allocations are not in line with the Bureau's management. (Note: Because the Seboomook BDWA within the Seboomook Lake parcel lies entirely within the Lynx HMA, there is no additional effect of this BDWA on the resource allocations.)

Therefore, this amendment revises the dominant resource allocations within the boundaries of the HMA and the BDWAs so that all acres are allocated to Wildlife Management as the dominant use, excluding areas allocated to Special Protection (e.g., Mud Cove Bog, Carry Bog) and Developed Recreation (developed drive-to campgrounds, public use roads, and snowmobile trails).

Lastly, the 147-acre Seboomook Wilderness Campground addition to the Unit is allocated to Developed Recreation Class 1 (113 acres, covering all the parcel except the shoreline riparian

buffer zone) and Wildlife Management (34 acres, shoreline riparian buffer) and the 81-acre Little W shoreline addition to the Unit is allocated to Wildlife Management.

Historic use of the campground parcel for the commercial campground and public boat access to the lake will continue. Management of the campground parcel is governed by the current Seboomook Wilderness Campground lease issued in 2017 (expires June 2022). Management will also be consistent with the Seboomook-Carry Brook Management Plan (currently in development and which references the lease), required under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) hydropower project license for the Moosehead Project (#2671).

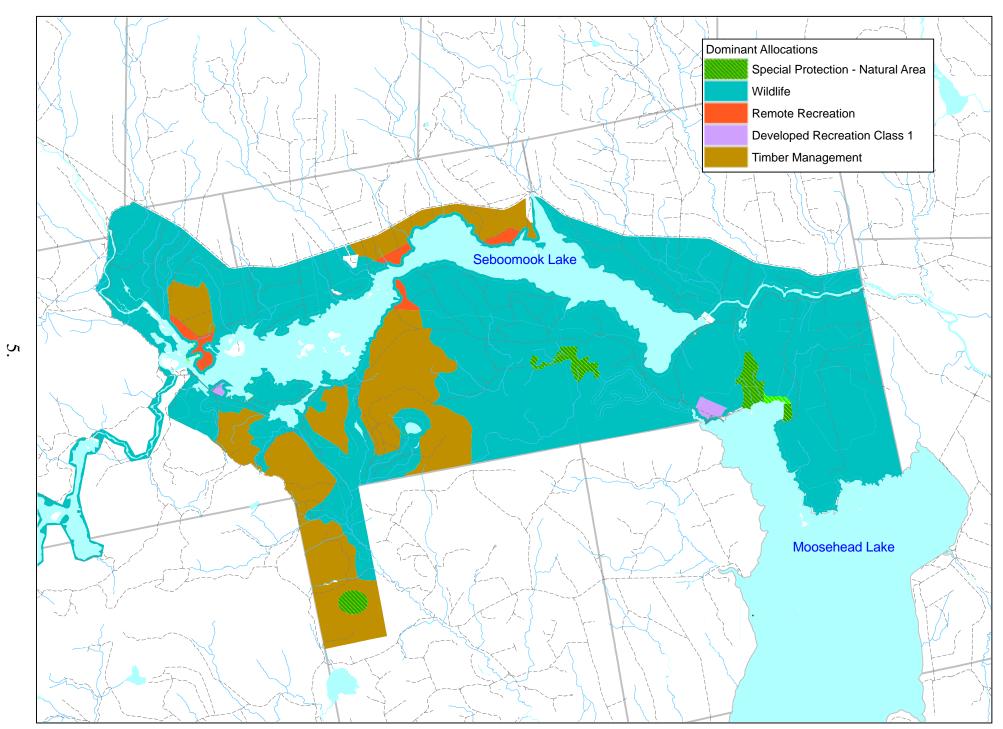
The Little W shoreline parcel will be managed for wildlife habitat values as well as for potential primitive shoreline boat-access campsite or sites to supplement the existing campsite at Seboomook Point, 1.25 miles to the west.

With these additions, the total acreage of the Seboomook Lake Parcel is increased from approximately 41,437 acres to 41,648 acres.

The table below summarizes the changes in acreage allocated to each dominant use that result from this action. A map depicting the revised dominant allocations is provided on page 5.

Dominant Resource Allocation	2007 Plan acres	Revised acres	Change
Special Protection	747	747	0
Wildlife Management	9,588	32,088	+22,500
Remote Recreation	3,974	368	-3,606
Timber Management	27,101	8,306	-18,795
Developed Recreation	27	139	+112

Note: acreage figures are based on GIS metrics rounded to nearest acre, and are subject to measuring error and the limits of GIS precision.



APPENDIX A.

BPL Staff participating in the 5-year review

Peter Smith — Western Region Manager
Jim Vogel — Management Plan Coordinator
Mandy Farrar — Forester, Seboomook Unit
Rex Turner — Outdoor Recreation Planner
Tom Charles — Chief of Silviculture
Nate Webb — IF&W Wildlife Biologist assigned to the Bureau of Parks and Lands
Brian Bronson — ATV Coordinator, Off-Road Vehicle Program
Joe Higgins — Snowmobile Coordinator, Off-Road Vehicle Program
Tammy Bishop — Penobscot River Corridor Manager

Other DACF staff

Don Cameron - Maine Natural Areas Program

2017 Seboomook Unit Advisory Committee Members

First Name	Last Name	Organization	
John	Banks	Director, Dept. of Nat. Resources, Penobscot Nation	
Kevin	Bernier	Great Lakes Hydro America, LLC	
Fred	Candeloro	Kokadjo Trading Post/First Roach Riders ATV Club	
Albro	Cowperthwaite	North Maine Woods, Inc.	
Senator Paul T.	Davis	Maine Senate District 4	
Paul	Fichtner	Penobscot Lake Lodge, Inc	
Rep. Chad	Grignon	Maine House District 118	
Bob	Guethlen	[unaffiliated]	
Cathy	Johnson	Natural Resources Council of Maine	
Erica	Kaufmann	Forest Society of Maine	
Dan	Legere	Maine Guide Fly Shop	
Norman	Lewis	Seboomook Wilderness Campground	
Jennifer	Mills	Historic Pittston Farm	
Paul	Napolitano	Ragged Riders Snowmobile Club	
Bill	Patterson	The Nature Conservancy	
Greg	Shute	Chewonki	
Rep. Paul	Stearns	Maine House District 119	
Senator Rodney	Whittemore	Maine Senate District 3	

Management Recommendations (Plan pages 90-97)

Seboomook and Canada Falls Parcels Actions taken/Comments: [2012 entries: standard font, 2017 entries: bold italic font]

Special Protection Areas [Note: these areas are primarily designated "Wildlife" in the dominant resource allocations, rather than "Special Protection": Timber harvesting is an allowed secondary use.]

Protection"; Timber harvesting is an allowed secondary use.]	
RTE and special concern species habitat protection	
 Wood turtle: within 330-foot riparian zone along the entire length of the North Branch and the West Branch, manage timber harvests according to MDIFW "Threatened and Endangered Species in Forests of Maine: A Guide to Assist with Forestry Activities," including: no harvests in the 25 ft of riparian zone nearest the waterway; remainder of riparian zone managed with single tree or small group selection cuts that maintain 60-70% cover; road and log landing construction within the riparian zone avoided or minimized. 	No timber harvests this period.
 Broad-tailed shadowdragon and extra-striped snaketail (along the West Branch below Seboomook Dam); and creepers, (small mussel in Carry Brook): avoid broad-spectrum insecticides within a ¼ mile buffer of the stream for 0.6 mi. (1 km) upstream and 0.6 mi. (1 km) downstream from the occurrence. 	No activity this period.
Bald eagle nesting sites (Essential Habitat law) Within 1,320 feet of nest, manage activities in consultation with MDIFW's regional biologist.	Ongoing
Rare plants & exemplary natural communities	
Invasive species: educate boaters at boat launches about spreading invasive aquatic plants into these lakes and rivers.	North Maine Woods brochure briefly advises visitors about invasive aquatic plants. See Endnote about invasive species education.
 Grasses & sedges: avoid herbicides that target grasses and sedges; and avoid excavation in areas with Orono sedge (<i>Carex oronensis</i>), e.g., near intersection of 20-Mile Rd and South Seboomook Rd. 	No activity this period.
Northern Fir-moss (<i>Huperzia selago</i>) near outlet of Socatean Pond #1: avoid hiking or horse riding s in vicinity of occurrence.	No activity this period.

Wildlife Management

Deer Yards:

- Review current deer yard designations and expand these areas where appropriate.
- Designate areas that are re-allocated from Remote Recreation to Wildlife
 Dominant with Remote Recreation as a secondary use (applies to the 950
 acres of Remote Rec surrounding the western bay of Seboomook Lake that
 are adjacent to deer yards).
- Deer yard designations are currently being reviewed by DIFW to develop a proposal for expanded areas.
- Expanded areas are expected to be finalized within the next two years, at which time they will be re-allocated from Remote Recreation to Wildlife Dominant with Remote Recreation as a secondary use.
- · See note on revised resource allocations below table.
- The Bureau will inventory deer usage to track the effects of management within the Biological Deer Wintering Areas.

Canada lynx and deer:

 Manage some areas for blocks of young softwoods to serve the complementary needs of both animals.

- DPPL has signed an agreement with IF&W to manage approximately 11,000 acres on the eastern side of the Unit as a hare/lynx habitat management area. The area will be managed to complement existing deer wintering areas.
- On October 24, 2014, BPL signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MDIFW to provide at least 6,200 acres of high quality hare habitat (HQHH) by 2025. The MOU identifies 22,046 acres on the eastern side of Seboomook Unit as Lynx Habitat Management Area (HMA). Harvests within the HMA are reported annually to MDIFW. The MOU requires BPL to develop a detailed management plan.
- BPL reported to MDIFW on forest management within the HMA in both 2016 and 2017. The Management Plan for the Lynx HMA was completed in November 2017.
- The Lynx HMA will also result in re-allocation of Remote Recreation and Timber Management areas to Wildlife. See note on revised allocation below table.

Bear baiting: Continue existing bait sites pending:

- review for consistency with Bureau policy and
- development of a woods road use management plan identifying vehicle access roads.
- Limit number of sites to not more than the current 11.

Oak and beech stands: retain for mast production.

Other species: examine potential for habitat management on other areas of the parcel, e.g., for grouse and woodcock. See also discussion under Timber Dominant areas.

- No action taken this period.
- See notes on woods road management plan.
- · Number of sites remains the same
- Will be examined during prescription review.
- Established a grouse management area in the Carry Brook drainage. See note below under Timber Management.
- Ongoing.

Loons: observe special protections defined by deed for loon nest sites, including:

- No new non-forestry improvements (other than replacements for those existing at the time of acquisition by the State) within 1,000 ft of a nest site.
- No forest management activities within 250 ft of a nest site during nesting season (from May 1 to July 31st).
- All forest management within 250 ft of a nest site shall be conducted so as
 to protect the integrity of the nest site.
- Continue to monitor loon populations and nesting on Seboomook and Canada Falls Lakes after the conclusion of the USFWS-sponsored studies.

Other Species of Concern:

 Monitor/evaluate areas where added protections are required to reduce impacts to wildlife habitat. (See management recommendations for protected species under Special Protection Areas.)

- No forest management has occurred within the protected zones.
- BPL is working with the Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI), to continue a loon monitoring program for Seboomook, Canada Falls and Baker Lakes. BRI monitored these populations for the US Fish & Wildlife Service.
- Existing wildlife management guidelines and the IRP continue to be adequate.

Recreation

General:

- Extend Penobscot River Corridor (PRC) to include water-based campsites on Canada Falls, the South Branch, the North Branch, and Seboomook Lake.
- Coordinate management of the PRC and the Seboomook Public Reserved Lands.
- Develop and provide to public a combined PRC/Seboomook Unit brochure and information packet.

- Install information kiosks at all trailheads and parking areas displaying maps showing the recreation areas defined by the allocations, and posting Bureau policies for recreational uses. Provide brochures at these locations.
- Explore options for a Parks & Lands Ranger/Information station.
- Conduct a visual consideration analysis to determine Class I and Class II areas on the parcels.
- Evaluate the natural spring near the Seboomook Ledges campsite; if potable, manage to prevent contamination of the site.

- Completed by Financial Order and agreements with Great Lakes Hydro America and Merriweather in 2008; Merriweather License updated in 2013.
- Ongoing between Northern Region Parks and Western Region Lands divisions.
- A combined PRC/Seboomook map with campsites and boat access sites was prepared in 2008 and is available online: http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/. An updated brochure showing new facilities is under review and expected to be available for the 2014 season.
- A new color PRC/Seboomook map and was completed in 2016 and is being distributed to the public in hard copy and on the BPL website.
- Information kiosks or bulletin boards are provided at key points
 of access to the PRC and include Bureau rules for recreational
 use. Where suitable signboard space and weather protection
 exist or are developed, the updated brochure will be posted.
 Individual copies of the brochure and maps will be available
 online or by mail upon request.
- See note in preceding cell.
- No action taken this period.
- Expect to complete this in the next 2-5 years.
- No activity this period.
- No action taken this period.

APPENDIX B. 2007 Seboomook Management Plan: 2017 5-Year Review

_	mote Recreation:		
•	Maintain a "remote recreation" zone adjacent to Seboomook Lake, Canada	•	Accomplished by plan adoption. In areas that may be re-
	Falls Lake, and the North Branch, the South Branch, and the West Branch,		allocated Wildlife Dominant as a result of deer yard review,
	subject, in some areas, to wildlife management concerns (see Management		Remote Recreation will become the secondary allocation.
	Allocations – Wildlife Dominant with Remote Recreation Secondary).		
•	Designate these "remote" areas for water access or hike-to camping, and	•	Accomplished by plan adoption.
	non-motorized winter camping, skiing, and snowshoeing.		
•	Work with the local snowmobile clubs to locate groomed snowmobile trails	•	No actions taken this period. Preliminary discussions have
	away from designated remote areas, and to stop grooming the Canada		begun.
	Falls Road.		
•	Utilize the new whitewater boating take-out parking area near the South	•	No action taken this period.
	Branch bridge as a trailhead for nature trails, cross country ski or snowshoe		·
	trails along the South Branch, and provide signage and information at this		
	site for remote winter recreation.		
•	Protect the remote waters character on Seboomook Lake by pursuing a ban	•	No action taken this period.
	on personal watercraft and limits on boat motor size.		•
•	Protect the remote waters character on Canada Falls Lake by pursuing a	•	No action taken this period.
	ban on personal watercraft and limits on boat motor size, if other major		•
	landowners are in agreement (Passamaquoddy Tribe and Cassidy		
	Timberlands).		
•	Allocate any easements obtained from Great Lakes Hydro America LLC on	•	Easement were secured on Seboomook Lake islands in 2009.
	the islands in Seboomook Lake as Wildlife Dominant with Remote		Wildlife Dominant with Remote Recreation as a secondary use
	Recreation as a secondary use.		was effectively accomplished by plan adoption.
•	Evaluate the condition and adequacy of the existing water access	•	Sites are inspected annually. No major action taken this period
	campsites on Canada Falls Lake; upgrade as needed to meet Bureau		
	standards.		
•	Develop additional water access campsites on the North Branch, West	•	No action taken this period.
	Branch and Seboomook Lake. Any new facilities must not be closer than		The design takes and periods
	1,000 feet from any known loon nest, and must be approved by the USFWS		
	if within 2,000 feet of a loon nest. Relocate campsites if conflicts arise with		
	loon nest sites.		
•	Evaluate suitability and need for additional water access campsites on	•	No action taken this period.
	Canada Falls, and Moosehead lakes, subject to loon protection restrictions.		
	Construct new sites as resources allow.		
•	Evaluate suitability and need for remote hike-to campsites within the	•	No action taken this period.
	Remote recreation allocation on Seboomook Lake, subject to loon		actor the porton
	protection restrictions. Implement as resources allow. Construct new sites		
	as resources allow.		
Wa	ter Access:		
•	Work with Brookfield Power Co to maintain boat access facilities		GLHA maintains the boat access facilities: 3 trailerable boat
	appropriate for a remote waters experience on Seboomook and Canada		ramps (one on Canada Falls Lake and 2 on Seboomook
	Falls Lakes, and the West Branch.		Lake); DPPL manages the canoe portages around both
	. and Lance, and the freet branch.	1	zane, z. i z manageo mo canoc portageo arcana bom

	Canada Falls and Seboomook dams; and the Roll Dam put-in/
Re-establish the historic Carry Brook canoe portage, including a campsite, if a suitable site can be located. Consult with Northern Forest Canoe Trail organization and local snowmobile club, which has a trail through this area, in developing this portage and campsite.	 boat launch. No action this period. Although BPL has not installed signs or made other improvements, NFCT provides information on this alternative route on the trail website ("Northeast Carry alternative route: paddle up Carry Brook to the snowmobile bridge, then portage on the snowmobile trail to the Seboomook Road, then down a camp road to Seboomook Lake."). A campsite on the Seboomook end of the portage may be considered, in consultation with NFCT, depending on demand and other factors.
Investigate possible locations for a motorized boat launch facility on the western shore of Moosehead Lake via Carry Brook or through a public-private partnership at Seboomook Campground; implement as resources allow.	In 2009, BPL acquired the 147-acre Carry Brook parcel (Seboomook Campground) in Northwest Cove, which includes a gravel trailerable boat launch east of the campground, using funds from LMF and Florida Power and Light available through a FERC license requirement for the Moosehead Project.
 Explore creating new carry-in boat access to the North Branch below the ledges at the bridge crossing near Leadbetter Falls. Pursue agreements with Wagner/Merriweather to create portage trail around the ledges in the North Branch at the bridge site. Implement as resources allow. 	No action taken this period.
 Participate with GLHA in developing appropriate put-in and take-out facilities for whitewater boaters on the South Branch and West Branch, including: signage; an alternate put-in with parking downstream from the Canada Falls dam put-in site: and a take-out with parking in the vicinity of the South Branch bridge near the Forest Ranger station. 	GLHA provided a grant to BPL to establish the new South Branch put-in and take-out as described, as well as improvements at Logan Brook on the West Branch below Seboomook dam.
 Monitor boating and rafting use on the South Branch and West Branch. If conflicts arise, pursue alternatives to regulate uses through MDIFW's whitewater boating regulation authority; and the Department's authority to regulate rafting access points on its lands. 	See endnote about monitoring public use.
 Drive-to Campsites: Evaluate condition and adequacy of existing campsite facilities; upgrade as needed to meet Bureau standards. 	Drive-to sites on Seboomook Lake, the West Branch, the South Branch, and Canada Falls Lake were evaluated and upgraded as needed when BPL designated them as part of the Penobscot River Corridor. In 2009 BPL had an MCC intern living on the site and helping to upgrade and manage them under the supervision of PRC Parks staff.
Work with GLHA to upgrade and reconfigure campsite at Seboomook dam to accommodate more campsites.	This site was improved along with improvements to the carry trail. Site limitations did not allow expansion of the site.
 Investigate suitability and need for additional drive-to campsites in general vicinity of existing drive-to campsites. Construct new sites as resources allow. 	No action taken this period.

Reconfigure group campsite at Roll Dam to provide a day use/lunch spot for Relocated and improved campsites to minimize conflicts whitewater boaters that will not conflict with the campsite use. between boaters and campers in 2008 and 2009. Investigate need for and feasibility of one or more designated group No action taken this period. camping areas. Construct as resources allow. Evaluate whether the existing campsite in the Nulhedus gravel pit should be No action taken this period. upgraded or relocated. Pursue cooperative agreement with GLHA regarding the maintenance and • A renewable lease agreement with GLHA (2008) is in place for management of existing drive-to campsites located on the Seboomook dam BPL to manage drive-to campsites at Seboomook and Canada parcel; and designation of these sites as part of the PRC. Falls dams. Pursue a cooperative agreement with Merriweather LLC regarding the • A license agreement with Merriweather (2009) was put in place for BPL to manage drive-to campsites at Canada Falls maintenance of the existing drive-to campsites on Canada Falls Lake and the South Branch. Acquire these sites if possible. dam; this has been renewed in 2013 and made automatically renewable. Recreational Trails: Evaluate feasibility and cost of a nature trail along the West Branch, and A preliminary trail location was scoped out in 2008; no further pursue as resources allow. action has been taken to construct it. • PRC staff recently reestablished the 1.5 mile Logan Brook Trail along the West Branch, by clearing blow-downs, reblazing and installing new trail signage. There are three access points to the trail. Although this cost has been borne by PRC, the Bureau will work to track maintenance cost of pedestrian trails, recognizing the growth in trail miles on the public lands and the associated maintenance responsibility. GLHA and BPL collaborated in the design and installation of Work with GLHA through its FERC license to ensure that the canoe upgrades to the West Branch portage trail in 2007 and the portage/angler access trail on the north side of the West Branch is in keeping with the remote character of the Unit and meets the needs of the portage trail below Canada Falls dam in 2008. GLHA provided recreating public. funds to BPL to oversee and carry out the work using the Maine Conservation Corps. Evaluate feasibility and cost of developing a trail along the South Branch to No action taken this period serve as a hiking/nature trail, and to allow paddlers on the South Branch to No action has been taken; however, all of the drops on the river can be easily portaged at low to moderate flows. easily circumvent difficult sections of the river. Pursue as resources allow. The Bureau will track the maintenance costs of existing and new non-motorized trails. Locate possible sites for trailheads and parking areas needed to serve any No action taken this period • There are 2 trailheads for the trail described above, but nature trails developed along the West Branch and South Branch. Pursue parking is still needed, and potentially an outhouse. as resources allow. Explore an ATV trail route (in common with the snowmobile trail, if possible) An ATV trail was built in 2009 that connects Pittston Farm with and consider establishing one or more dedicated camping areas for ATV adjacent trails to the Jackman/Rockwood area, making users outside of designated Remote Recreation areas, when a regional Pittston Farm available as a service hub for fuel, lodging and ATV trail system extends to the Seboomook Unit, to provide a multi-day food. There is as yet no regional connection to trails in the

APPENDIX B. 2007 Seboomook Management Plan: 2017 5-Year Review

extended ATV touring opportunity. Develop as resources allow.

- In coordination with the Off-Road Vehicle Program and snowmobile clubs, and as resources allow, discontinue use of the Seboomook and Roll Dam Roads as the primary snowmobile trail; evaluate the suitability of the offroad (now alternate) snowmobile trail that parallels the existing trail to serve as the permanent snowmobile trail; improve or relocate as needed to address safety or environmental issues, and conflicts with designated Remote Recreation areas. Designate the Seboomook and Roll Dam Roads as back-up snowmobile trails for low snowfall seasons, provided this does not conflict with Bureau timber management activities.
- Kokadjo area. • No action taken during this period. An off-road replacement
- will be explored and implemented over the next 2 years as BPL prepares to enter the Unit for timber harvest.
- BPL worked with Pittston Farm to plan the snowmobile reroute in the winter of 2015. The new snowmobile trail. utilizing existing roads, was built in the summer of 2016 and has been in use the past 2 winters. Part of the Seboomook Road is still used by snowmobiles (the causeways to Pittston Farm), but a separate winter trucking route and snowmobile route have been established. This opens the Seboomook Road to be used for the hauling of wood products in the winter. There is 1 mile of shared section that needs to be re-routed in the future.
- Evaluate need or desirability for improvements to the snowmobile trail to better serve snowmobilers. Pursue in coordination with Off-Road Vehicle Program and snowmobile clubs, as resources allow.
- Collaborate with Pittston Farm to develop and maintain trails suitable for horseback riding that may also be used for other purposes such as backcountry skiing and snowshoeing.
- In consultation with the Management Plan Advisory Committee, within two years of adoption of this Plan,
 - (1) identify which management or woods roads should be made available as multi-use trails (including, if appropriate, those suitable for motorized vehicular or mechanized uses such as bicycles), and which should be designated for pedestrian uses, with the overall goal of establishing a core for back woods pedestrian uses (as secondary uses subject to timber operations) including hiking, snowshoeing, back-country skiing, hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, etc.;

- See above.
- A 2-3 mile route over existing woods roads was developed near Pittston Farm for horseback riding.
- Seboomook Wilderness Campground (under new ownership in 2017) has shown an interest in similar trails.

of roads available for public vehicular access with significant areas set aside

- Expect to accomplish this in the next 2-5 years as part of timber harvest planning.
- The Bureau's intention is that most, if not all, management roads will remain open only to pedestrian use after harvesting is complete. If the road is only to access timber, it will be blocked off after harvest, with the intent to only allow non-motorized access, leaving space where appropriate for a vehicle to park off the primary road. Most use of these roads is during hunting season. Ditches are seeded on all management roads to help with erosion and for food for wildlife. On winter management roads within the Lynx ITP, the road beds are also seeded to provide browse for wildlife.
- (2) review and evaluate any proposals from Pittston Farm proprietors for improvement and use of existing woods roads and trails for horseback riding as an extension of trails on the Pittston Farm property; and
- (3) consider options for a potential ATV trail that would connect to a regional ATV touring trail.
- Done. See note above.
- Options were considered and an ATV route to Pittston Farm established in 2009. There is as yet no regional connection to trails in the Kokadjo area.

APPENDIX B.

Timber Management

- Evaluate the condition of the forest over the next 2-5 years, and manage the timber in accordance with standards for Sustainable Forestry Initiative and Forest Stewardship Council third party certification; and subject to limitations imposed by the Wildlife Riparian, Remote Recreation, and Visual Class I and Visual Class II allocations.
- The 2011 inventory showed a significant increase in timber volume since the 2001 Wagner inventory, and this increase will continue as 1970s-80s clearcuts attain merchantable size. A significant portion of these young stands, on Little W and adjacent portions of Seboomook Twp., have been proposed as hare/lynx management areas for DIFW's Incidental Take Permit (ITP). Under the ITP, no thinning would be done on the subject acres as long as they were providing prime hare habitat.
- Determine which forest areas among those that are available for timber management are most in need of timely timber harvest or other treatment. This includes areas where significant delay would cause loss of timber value, loss of opportunity for improving stand quality, or loss of wildlife habitat enhancement opportunity. One area identified in this category is the mature/over-mature aspen in the Carry Brook drainage. Opportunities to recover timber value and to establish ruffed grouse management areas will decline rapidly as these stands pass beyond maturity.
- See note on page 2 under "Canada Lynx and deer".
 Timber management activity has focused on compartment exams and planning for harvests in accordance with the Lynx HMA.
- Initial harvests were done on the Carry Brook aspen areas, mainly patchcuts to foster aspen regeneration and establish ruffed grouse management areas in the stand. A nearby area of hardwoods and mixedwoods with late successional character had a selection harvest done in 2010. The total harvest volume for 2007-2011 was 9,200 cords, still below the sustainable harvest level. As a result of the 2011 inventory data, this SHL will increase significantly.
- Harvests during the period 2013-2017 totaled slightly over 26,000 cords. That volume was 58% hardwood pulpwood, as most harvests were intended to increase softwood proportion or take mature-overmature aspen. Harvests on the southwest portion of the unit, outside the Lynx HMA area, totaled 10,000 cords. In Plymouth Township north of the Seboomook Road, almost 13,000 cords were harvested in 2016-17. The remaining volume, almost 3,300 cords, came from the Carry Brook drainage on Seboomook Township, and had a high percentage of aspen. This was from follow up patch-cut harvests completed in the summer of 2016 within the grouse management area in Carry Brook. This area also falls within the Lynx HMA, but does not have the forest type favored by Canada Lynx or their favored prey, the snowshoe hare.

- Within 2 years of Plan adoption:
- (1) evaluate the condition of the existing woods road network and any environmental issues that need to be addressed.
- (2) determine, in consultation with the Maine Forest Service, which roads are needed for fire control.
- (3) identify management roads that will be needed in the near term for timber management; in the future for timber management; and roads that should be closed as management roads.
- (4) evaluate whether the Cut-off Road should be restored (as funds allow) to serve as a public vehicular access road or as a woods management road with specified uses allowed when it is not being actively used for timber management.

- Expect to accomplish this in the next 2-5 years. Extensive road improvements have already been made, both to make access easier and to correct environmental problems.
- Existing road network is evaluated every spring and throughout the year. There is a road maintenance budget and contract that is utilized to address any environmental/ maintenance/upkeep issues that arise.
- Expect to accomplish this in the next 2-5 years.
- The Socatean road, which is utilized as a snowmobile trail in the winter, had grown up and made a large area of the ownership inaccessible. This road is now drivable, but is gated. The Maine Forest Service has a key to this gate if fire control is needed in this area.
- Expect to accomplish this in the next 2-5 years.
- Roads needed for future management are identified yearly. Management roads that are slated to be closed after harvest are determined before the harvest takes place.
- Any work on the Cut-off Road will await timber harvesting in that area, and public access decisions can be made during planning for those harvests.
- The Cut-off Road was rebuilt in the summer of 2016 for use as a winter trucking road. This was key in separating snowmobiles and log trucks for our winter harvest. The Bureau is currently determining whether or not the cut-off road will remain open this summer (2018) for recreational traffic.

Administrative Concerns

Public (Vehicular) Use Roads

- Improve and maintain public use roads to Bureau standards.
- Pursue a cooperative agreement with Merriweather LLC regarding the maintenance of the vehicular access road to Canada Falls Dam and the 20-Mile or Rockwood Road.
- Considerable investment has improved the condition of the public use roads in the Unit since Plan adoption.
- The 20-Mile Road remains a key route connecting Rockwood to the Golden Road and the extensive road network to the north and west of Seboomook, providing commercial timber and public recreational access to the Seboomook Unit, the West Branch Easement lands and points beyond. BPL performs maintenance on the road under an agreement with Huber Resources (successor to Merriweather). BPL has recently agreed to purchase a replacement bridge for the South Branch Penobscot crossing near Pittston Farm; Huber will install the bridge.

complexes.

 Pursue a cooperative agreement with Plum Creek regarding the use and maintenance of the 20-Mile or Rockwood Road through Soldiertown Township.

Additional road and bridge work is required on the 20 Mile Road north of Canada Falls Dam Road. BPL will continue to collaborate with Huber Resources on these needs.

- As part of the Plum Creek Moosehead Region Concept Plan, effective in 2012, Plum Creek agreed to grant a public vehicular access easement across this road at a future point in time triggered by a threshold of sales of property associated with the Concept Plan. In the meantime, public use continues to be allowed.
- BPL pays road tolls to Weyerhaeuser (successor to Plum Creek) for transporting timber on this portion of road.

• In 2010 negotiations with NMW resulted in moving the 20-Mile checkpoint to the south side of the South Branch, in the former Maine Forest Service lease site. The portion of the Unit along the South Branch, North Branch and Canada Falls Lake continues to be part of the NMW system. Electronic gates were placed along two exit points at the eastern end of the Seboomook parcel. PRC camping fees are charged on the Seboomook Unit. PRC camping fees are charged at Canada Falls campsites as well as NMW day use fees. North Branch campsites are fully NMW managed and NMW camping and day use fees apply to these sites.

Public Access Fees and Use Limitations

 Examine alternatives to the present arrangement with North Maine Woods that will enable the Bureau to manage these parcels in accordance with its mission and statutory mandates for its reserved lands. Throughout this process, continue discussions with North Maine Woods.

· Avoid siting any new campsites in proximity to the shoreland wetland

sensitive archaeological sites on the parcel.

• Coordinate with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission to protect

Special Protection Areas Follow recommended guidelines for protection of wood turtle habitat at the south end of Baker Lake as listed above under the Seboomook parcel. Work with North Maine Woods to educate the motorized boating public about the threat of spreading invasive aquatic plants into the area lakes, including Baker Lake, which, because of its Muskie fishery, is attracting more motor boat fishing use. Actions taken/Comments: [2012 entries: standard font, 2017 entries: bold italic font] No activity this period. The current North Maine Woods brochure briefly advises visitors about invasive aquatic plants. See Endnote about invasive species education.

No activity this period.

· Completed.

APPENDIX B.

Wildlife Management

 Pursue a ban on personal watercraft for Baker Lake to protect loons. Observe special protections defined by deed for loon nest sites, including: No new non-forestry improvements (other than replacements of non-forestry improvements existing at the time of acquisition of the property by the State) within 1,000 feet of a loon nest site. No forest management activities within 250 feet of a loon nest site during the loon nesting season (from May 1 to July 31st). All forest management within 250 feet of a loon nest site shall be conducted in a manner that protects the integrity of the loon nest site. 	
Continue to monitor loon populations and nesting on Baker Lake after the conclusion of the USFWS sponsored studies, as resources allow.	 BPL is working with the Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI), to continue a loon monitoring program for Seboomook, Canada Falls and Baker Lakes. BRI monitored these populations for the US Fish & Wildlife Service.
Recreation	
 Investigate the possibility of a group campsite that could be water access or remote walk-in access from an established road and trailhead, subject to loon protection restrictions. 	Site was inspected, but no actions taken this period.
 Stabilize erosion issues at the existing camping area on the west shore near the outlet; relocate this campsite if needed. Manage the southern campsite as a water access campsite. 	Completed.
Determine the extent of the Visual Class I and Visual Class II areas	Expect to accomplish this in the next 2-5 years.
surrounding the lake and river.	No activity

Timber Management

- Evaluate the condition of the forest over the next two to five years, and manage the timber in accordance with standards for Sustainable Forestry Initiative and Forest Stewardship Council third party certification; and subject to limitations imposed by the Wildlife Riparian, Remote Recreation, and Visual Class I and Visual Class II allocations.
- Expect to accomplish this in the next 2-5 years.
- The inventory data received at the time of State acquisition shows stocking levels to be very low, thus there are unlikely to be any pressing timber management issues, and harvesting is quite unlikely during 2012-2017.
- No timber harvesting this period.

Administrative Issues

Develop a lease agreement with IF&W for the warden's cabin near the outlet.
 Lease agreement is in place.

Big Spencer Mountain	Actions taken/Comments: [2012 entries: standard font, 2017 entries: bold italic font]	
Manage as an Ecological Reserve and for remote recreation.	Ongoing.	
Within two years of Plan adoption, discontinue the existing snowmobile trail.	The trail has been discontinued.	
Pursue an aggressive effort to establish an alternate high vista destination	An alternate destination with scenic views and a camping	

APPENDIX B.

snowmobile trail in the same general vicinity as Big Spencer Mountain as a replacement to the existing primitive snowmobile trail that follows the old jeep trail to the abandoned warden's cabin. This replacement trail is a high priority for the Bureau; the goal is have an alternate trail in place within two years, or soon as practicable.	shelter was established on Farrar Mountain on the Nahmakanta Public Reserved Lands Unit, northeast of Kokadjo.
 Stabilize the existing erosion and drainage problems on the jeep trail to the warden's cabin. Rehabilitate and improve the trail for hiking and other pedestrian uses, if suitable; otherwise discontinue use of the trail and design an alternate hiking trail to the cabin site. 	The trail to the Warden's cabin site has been stabilized.
 Within two years of Plan adoption, remove the warden's cabin and associated structures; maintain the area as a scenic vista serving the hiking trail. Provide the Forest Society of Maine the option to relocate the cabin to a site off the ecological reserve, within that two year period. 	The Warden's cabin has been removed.
Develop a parking area off the Spencer Mountain Road to serve the trailhead for the hiking trail.	Completed.
Develop an interpretive panel commemorating the long service of the fire warden's post on Big Spencer, and place it at the trailhead or at the scenic vista to be retained at the cabin site.	No action taken this period.
Discontinue the existing woods management roads on the northwestern and southeastern sides of the parcel.	No action taken this period.
 Evaluate whether the existing section of the local snowmobile trail that crosses the southeastern area of the parcel can be reasonably relocated outside of the reserve. 	The trail was relocated outside of the reserve.
 Pursue the removal of unauthorized structures on the southern edge of the parcel. 	Completed.

New Issues or Circumstances Not Addressed in the Plan that May Warrant Committee Discussion or Action:

The Bureau found no new issues or circumstances that were not addressed in the Plan that warrant Committee discussion or action at this time.

<u>Summary of Dominant Resource Allocation Revisions Resulting from the Lynx ITP and HMA, and Biological Deer Wintering Areas</u>

In October 2014, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service accepted the *Incidental Take Plan (ITP)* for Maine's Trapping Program submitted by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W). The ITP includes a Lynx Habitat Management Area (HMA) covering 22,046 acres of the 40,583 acre Seboomook Lake parcel. Under the provisions of the ITP, this area is to be managed primarily for the benefit of Lynx, rather than timber production or other uses. The Seboomook Unit Management Plan allocates most of the HMA to timber management and remote recreation as the dominant uses (see pp. 82-85), and is therefore not in alignment with the ITP nor the Bureau's current and future management of the resources as required under the ITP.

In addition, IF&W has delineated two extensive Biological Deer Wintering Areas (BDWAs), the Seboomook and the Pittston Complex BDWA, about 20,000 acres of which overlie the Seboomook Lake parcel. Within the BDWAs, the Bureau's forest management is focused on maintaining and enhancing winter habitat for deer. Therefore, on the portions of the BDWAs allocated to timber management and remote recreation rather than wildlife management, those resource allocations are not in line with the Bureau's management. (Note: Because the Seboomook BDWA within the Seboomook Lake parcel lies entirely within the Lynx HMA, there is no additional effect of this BDWA on the resource allocations.)

Therefore, the Bureau proposes to revise the dominant resource allocations within the boundaries of the HMA and the BDWAs so that all acres are allocated to Wildlife Management as the dominant use, excluding areas allocated to Special Protection (e.g., Mud Cove Bog, Carry Bog) and Developed Recreation (developed drive-to campgrounds, public use roads, and snowmobile trails). The table below summarizes the changes in acreage allocated to each dominant use that result from this action. Maps depicting the HMA and BDWA's and the current and revised dominant allocations are attached.

Dominant Resource Allocation	Current acres	Revised acres	Change
Special Protection	747	747	0
Wildlife Management	9,588	32,088	+22,500
Remote Recreation	3,974	368	-3,606
Timber Management	27,101	8,306	-18,795
Developed Recreation	27	139	+112

Note: acreage figures are based on GIS metrics rounded to nearest acre, and are subject to measuring error and the limits of GIS precision.

Endnotes

Monitoring Public and Recreational Use

A number plan recommendations call for monitoring public and recreational use and gauging the need or demand for particular recreation opportunities or facilities.

Public use data for the PRC will be collected from the following sources, as staff time permit:

Source	Location	Captures	Туре
North Maine Woods	20-Mile Checkpoint	Visitors to So Branch, Canada Falls Lake & No Branch	NMW day use & PRC camping
North Maine Woods BPL	Caribou Checkpoint PRC Campsites	Visitors to the unit from the East (Golden Road) Visitors camping	NMW day use & PRC camping PRC camping

As a practical matter, most monitoring of site conditions occurs as observations made by seasonal recreation staff in the course of their routine duties; or as a result of conditions reported or requests made by visitors and others to field staff or to the Parks or Lands regional offices. The Bureau is experimenting with a number of monitoring tools to supplement these observations and reports, including visitor surveys. In 2009, the Bureau developed a survey to identify visitor characteristics, activities pursued on the PRC, satisfaction with the PRC experience and recommendations for improvements. The survey will be administered to river corridor visitors when staff, intern or volunteer time can be devoted to

APPENDIX B. 2007 Seboomook Management Plan: 2017 5-Year Review

the effort. An AmeriCorps Environmental Educator was posted on the Seboomook Unit from mid-May through mid-October in 2009 and logged use at the campsites, and administered surveys.

Invasive Species Education

The number of invasive species of concern in Maine has grown substantially to include a variety land and water plants and animals. Information is plentiful but has yet to be consolidated into a single format suitable for posting on BPL signboards/kiosks. The BPL website will soon include links to invasives information provided by the Departments of Environmental Protection and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and by the Maine Forest Service for each area searchable under "Find Parks & Lands."

Page 14 of 14



2007 Seboomook Unit Management Plan – 2nd Five Year Review **Public Meeting: Proposed Plan Amendments**

Greenville Town Office May 17, 2018 6:00 PM

AGENDA

6:00 PM

Welcome ~ *Introductions, Purpose of Meeting*

6:10 PM

Proposed Amendment ~ BPL presentation of proposed revised dominant resource allocations for Seboomook parcel to align with wildlife management focus on lands within the Lynx Habitat Management Area and two Biological Deer Wintering Areas

6:30 PM

Public questions and comments

6:45 PM

Public Comment Period and Steps to Finalize Plan Amendment

Adjourn

The Seboomook Unit Management Plan, Plan maps, and the proposed Plan amendment can be found online at:

http://www.maine.gov/dacf/seboomook

Written comments on the proposed Plan amendment can be sent to:

Jim Vogel

Bureau of Parks and Lands

22 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

-or-

Jim.Vogel@maine.gov

Seboomook Unit Management Plan - Five Year Review #2

Public Meeting May 17, $2018 \sim 6:00$ PM

Greenville Town Office

PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY

Name	Organization (if any)	Mailing Address & Email Address
ナーン		(optional and if not provided previously) PO Rox 417
Bob + Diane Guethlan		Sackread OANLS
Crico Kautwann	Frest Scartact Maine	is transpured as floor
	<u>)</u>	