

**FISCAL YEAR 2021
ANNUAL REPORT**

to

the JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
on AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION, AND FORESTRY

**MAINE PUBLIC RESERVED, NONRESERVED,
AND SUBMERGED LANDS**



Wiggins Brook Bog at Little Moose Public Land

**MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION
AND FORESTRY**

Bureau of Parks and Lands

March 1, 2022



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FISCAL YEAR 2021
ANNUAL REPORT
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Bureau of Parks and Lands

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL), within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF), is responsible for the management and administration of Maine's State Parks, Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, Submerged Lands, Coastal Islands, conservation easement lands, and other lands as provided by law.

This report constitutes required annual reporting pursuant to:

- 12 MRSA §1853, 1839 and elsewhere,
- 12 MRSA §1850(1), 1836(1) and elsewhere related to vehicular access to Bureau lands, and
- 12 MRSA §1805 and 1853 related to Ecological Reserves on Bureau lands.

This report provides an overview of the scope of the Bureau's responsibilities and information on the Bureau's management activities during fiscal year 2021 (FY 21). As required, the report includes information on gates and barriers that prevent public vehicle access to Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands (Public Lands), recreation facility fees charged for the use of these lands, and a status report on Ecological Reserves. The report also includes information on timber, recreation, and wildlife management on Public Lands during the fiscal year.

Income and expenditure information is provided for FY 21, and a report is also included for the ongoing FY 22 budget. The Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee has the obligation to report by March 15th to the Appropriations Committee on the Bureau's Public Lands upcoming FY 23 budget. The "Public Lands" division of the Bureau is a dedicated revenue component of the agency, funding almost all of its administrative, planning, management, and operational activities from revenue generated from the land base, with some additional sources of funds provided through various grant programs.

The management of Public Lands is directed by statute. Title 12 MRSA §1833 and §1847 direct the Bureau to manage the Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands (635,743 acres in FY 21) *"under the principles of multiple land use to produce a sustained yield of products and services in accordance with both prudent and fair business practices and the principle of sound planning."*

In addition, management of Public Reserved Lands must *"demonstrate exemplary land management practices, including silvicultural, wildlife and recreation management"* (Title 12 MRSA §1847). The Bureau's Public Lands management activities are directed by 15-year multiple-use plans for the major properties. Benefits from the sound management of these lands include:

- *Production of forest products*
- *Public access for recreational opportunities*
- *Enhancement of wildlife habitat*
- *Protection of unique natural and cultural resources*

The Bureau also has responsibility for managing and reporting to the ACF Committee public trust rights to Submerged Lands and Coastal Islands. When granting leases for the use of Submerged Lands, the Bureau includes conditions to maintain customary and traditional public access, navigation, and commercial marine uses.

The past 18 months have made it clear that Mainers find strength in connection with each other and with nature, and Mainers realize the incredible value of our Public Lands. Key features of the Bureau's work in the past year include:

Bringing our Trails up to Standard: Learning to live with the pandemic, the Public Lands division had to put a pause on much-needed trail work in the summer of 2020. However, the division was able to once again partner with Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) crews in the summer of 2021 to advance trail work, with major improvements across the state at some of the most popular Public Land units. Downeast at the Cutler Coast, 1.25 miles of trail was rerouted to protect wetlands and keep the feet of hikers dry. In the Northern Region, the popular new Tramway Trail was improved with bog bridging to benefit thousands of hikers using this remote but popular trail. In the Western Region, the heavily trafficked Brook Trail at Tumbledown benefited from major upgrades with 27 new stone steps that will prevent erosion and improve the footing and safety of hikers. At Dodge Point in Newcastle, MCC crews built a pair of sturdy stone staircases to accommodate traffic at the most heavily visited Public Lands site in Maine.



Challenging Times for Timber Management: Maine's Public Reserved lands rely almost entirely on revenue from the sustainable harvest of timber. Recent developments in the timber economy, including major declines in demand for office paper, as well as a labor shortage, present major challenges in generating revenue to meet budgets. Unlike some other sectors of business and government, the Public Lands division has seen no appreciable stimulus or financial assistance to stabilize funding during the pandemic. As a result, the Public Lands budget has sustained losses of more than \$3M in the last two years. While ups and downs in timber revenue are expected, the current situation is concerning. Many of the logging contractors we work closely with are likewise struggling with labor shortages and the financial challenges of the pandemic. Fortunately, the Bureau holds a robust cash reserve as a rainy-day fund which, coupled with cautious spending, has enabled continued operations. As we pass the mid-point of FY 22, it is encouraging to note that timber harvest volumes and revenue are rebounding significantly from recent lows. Credit is due to our team of nearly two dozen professional foresters and the hard-working logging community that we partner with daily to do our work.

Expanding Recreation: In recent years the Bureau has seen growing interest in accommodating new recreational activities, such as glade skiing and backcountry

snowmobiling, and expanding existing uses, such as mountain biking. This interest often stems from community efforts to further develop a four-season recreation economy. In 2021, the Bureau approved plans for the first phase of a purpose-built single-track mountain bike trail system at Little Moose Public Land. The trails were discussed and approved through a public process and will be built and maintained by a local mountain bike group that aims to provide an attraction for the local community and visitors to the area. A similar project is underway at the Crocker Mountain Unit near Carrabassett Valley. Though mountain bike trails are found on Public Lands across the state, most existing trails are co-located on management roads or associated with trail networks that rely on abutting lands. The Bureau will continue to consider these proposals where they are consistent with the vision for the land, working to balance new or expanded uses with competing uses and demands.

Planning Milestones: In 2021, the Bureau completed most of the work on a management plan for the Tumbledown/Mount Blue State Park region, fulfilling its commitment to develop 15-year management plans for each public reserved and non-reserved land unit¹. The plan was signed by Commissioner Beal in early 2022, and this completion marks a major milestone! Since 2007 the Bureau has worked steadily to adopt 12 regional plans that together cover most of the state, plus unit-specific plans for Kennebec Highlands and Pineland Public Lands. Scheduled five-year reviews of these plans have continued apace and provide a good way to adapt and evolve with community input. Several plans have been amended through a public process to address new uses or incorporate newly acquired public lands in the plan area. The Bureau is currently developing a process to update the 15-year regional plans as they expire, recognizing that much of the information and direction contained in the original plans and five-year reviews remains valid. In addition, work has begun on an update of the Integrated Resource Policy, the Bureau's primary multiple-use management guidance document, adopted in 2000.

Essential Places, Essential People: Research and data tell us that Maine's outdoors – including outdoor recreation, forest products, and tourism – has long been a driver of our economy that is hard to overstate. The pandemic has cast a bright light on the fact that not only does the outdoors fuel Maine's economy, it also soothes souls. As Bureau staff welcomed the public in ever-growing numbers, they have been reminded how Maine's Parks, Public Lands, boat launches, trails, and other outdoor recreation resources are essential to Mainers and visitors alike who seek out the state's remarkable outdoors. Bureau staff, a team of dedicated foresters, biologists, planners, and other professionals, are essential to ensuring these resources are cared for and available for the future. Partnerships with other agencies, nonprofit and community organizations, private partners, and volunteers continue to elevate the Bureau's capacity and show the strength and value of our natural resources and the importance of collaboration as we continue to steward resources and serve the public.

While the Bureau is charged with stewardship of Maine's Public Lands, these are treasured places for all Mainers – as evidenced by their popularity this year as places to unplug and unwind. As we look ahead to the coming year, and the challenges we know it will bring, we hope that new users return, long-time outdoor enthusiasts find new places to explore, and that all Mainers enjoy those special places that form the natural fabric of our home state.

¹ The only exceptions are four small, isolated non-reserved lots in the Southern Maine and Central Interior plan areas that were transferred or gifted to the Bureau. There are no major public land units in those areas, therefore regional plans have not been developed. Management plans for those lots will be developed as staff resources allow.

II. SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The Bureau of Parks and Lands is responsible for the management of Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, State Parks and Historic Sites, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway (AWW), the Penobscot River Corridor (PRC), submerged lands, and state-held coastal islands (see Appendix A). A separate report has been provided to the legislature on the activities of the AWW.

In addition, the Bureau is responsible for protecting public rights and public values on certain lands. These include the public trust rights of fishing, waterfowl hunting, navigation, and recreation on submerged lands beneath coastal waters from mean low tide to the 3-mile territorial limit, on tidal portions of rivers, under natural Great Ponds, and under international boundary rivers. This responsibility also includes protecting public rights and values acquired from private landowners through conservation and public access easements donated to or purchased by the Bureau.

Maine statute authorizes the Bureau to acquire lands and interests in lands. Easements that provide for the protection of public interests become a public trust responsibility for the Bureau, which is supported by stewardship endowments and revenues from Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands. Finally, the Bureau has an oversight role for public values associated with lands acquired by municipalities and local land trusts through the Land for Maine’s Future Program with Bureau sponsorship.

In Fiscal Year 2021, lands under the Bureau’s ownership, management, or oversight included:

Acres*	Type
635,743	Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands held in fee
389,829	Conservation and recreation easements
9,815	Forest Legacy conservation easements delegated to the Bureau for enforcement by the US Forest Service
378,140	Third-party conservation easements (the Bureau is a back-up holder);
602,423	Public access rights granted by easement by three large private landowners
85,742	Fee lands held as Parks, Historic Sites or Boat Access Sites
2.3 million	Marine and freshwater submerged lands
1,095	Publicly held coastal islands
100	Lands leased from or under agreement from others for management as Parks
50,413	Bureau-sponsored lands acquired by local interests (Land for Maine’s Future Program)

**Acreages presented in this report are based on land transaction records, parcel boundaries mapped in geographic information systems (GIS), and in some cases, land surveys. Because survey-grade mapping is not available for all lands, reported acreages may have an inherent mapping error around 2%.*

Beyond the Bureau’s land management responsibilities, several programs within the Bureau support public recreational access and trails. These include:

- **Boating Facilities:** builds boat access sites on state lands and funds municipal boat sites;
- **Snowmobile and ATV Programs:** provides grants to local clubs to build and maintain trails on both public and private lands. In FY 21, recommendations of the Governor’s

ATV Task Force were signed into law, including a width limit of 65 inches and a weight limit of 2,000 lbs. for ATVs to be registered and used on designated state-approved ATV trails. Annual registration fees, used to support trail maintenance, have been increased by \$25;

- **Grants and Community Recreation Program:** distributes federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and Recreational Trails Program grant funds for state and local recreation projects; and
- **Maine Conservation Corps (MCC):** provides trail crews to construct or rehabilitate recreational trails using federal AmeriCorps funds and fees charged for MCC services. MCC trail crews are commonly used to improve trails on Bureau lands.

III. LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING

The Bureau manages 147 Public Reserved Land units and 16 Nonreserved Public Land units. These do not include lands leased to or managed by others, small islands, and lands with a minority common and undivided interest. The number of actively managed Reserved and Nonreserved units is 156. These range from 30 acres to 44,000 acres.

The Bureau is statutorily mandated to manage Reserved and Nonreserved Lands for multiple public values. Land management planning is also a required element of forest certification. Bureau staff involved in managing Reserved and Nonreserved Lands include specialists in planning, forest roads, wildlife, terrestrial and wetland ecology, recreation, and forestry. All collaborate to ensure a balanced approach to the management of the various resources on these lands.

The Bureau's ***Integrated Resource Policy*** (IRP), adopted in 1985 and revised in 2000, guides resource management decisions and governs management planning for all Public Reserved and Nonreserved lands. The Bureau is currently in the process of updating the IRP. This process will include opportunities for public comment and input. Management plans are prepared consistent with the IRP and take into consideration comments received from a defined public process. The planning process allocates areas for specific uses, including:

- *Special Protection (Natural/Historic)*
- *Wildlife*
- *Recreation*
- *Timber*

These areas often overlap, creating zones where management is designed to accommodate a variety of uses. The relative impact of one use upon another is carefully weighed to establish a hierarchy of resource management that protects the most sensitive resources and uses while allowing other management to continue.

Regional management plans are developed with robust public involvement. For each plan, a Public Advisory Committee is established representing local, regional, and statewide interests. These committees serve as forums for the discussion of draft plans. Public meetings are held providing interested parties an opportunity to provide input on management issues and to comment on plan drafts. After considering these comments, the Bureau submits the final Plan to the Commissioner, upon recommendation by its Director, and the Plan is effective upon the Commissioner's approval.

Management plans address the Reserved and Nonreserved lands within a planning region and cover a period of 15 years, with five-year reviews. Completion of the Tumbledown/Mount Blue plan will mark a major milestone after which management plans for all of the major land units will be in place. The five-year review process provides an update on progress in implementing the Plan recommendations and addresses any changing conditions that may warrant amendments to the Plan. The Bureau’s responsibilities for management of Public Reserved Lands are divided among Northern, Eastern, and Western Regions (see Appendix B). Appendix C provides a list of management units by region and plan area. The status of management plans for each of the 44 major Public Reserved Lands Units is provided in Appendix D.

Fiscal Year 2021 Planning Activities

St. John Uplands Region	The Bureau held a virtual public meeting in January 2021 to present and discuss the final draft of the Management Plan, which addresses over 63,000 acres of Public Lands in the Northern Region.
New Acquisitions	Virtual public meetings were held to present and discuss the final draft plans for two newly acquired public Reserved lands in the Eastern Region, the Orient , and West Branch Pleasant River Units.
Tumbledown/Mount Blue Region	In the Western Region, work continued on the Tumbledown/Mount Blue Region Management Plan, with additional fieldwork and an Advisory Committee meeting, followed by the distribution of the draft Management Plan in June 2021.
Moosehead Region	In response to a community proposal and following public review and comment, an amendment to the management plan was adopted which allows up to 25 miles of mountain bike trail to be developed within three zones of the Little Moose Unit .
Five-Year Reviews	The five-year review was completed for the Western Mountains Region Plan (Adopted 2011, 2 nd Review), and initiated for the Bradbury Mountain State Park & Pineland Public Lands Plan (Adopted 2011, 2 nd Review).
FY 22 Update	The plans were finalized and adopted for the St. John Uplands Region and the Orient and West Branch Pleasant River Units. Work also continued on the Tumbledown/Mount. Blue Region plan, with an Advisory Committee meeting held in July 2021 and a public meeting held in December 2021 to review and discuss the draft plan and final draft plan, respectively. That plan was to be adopted in early 2022. The Bradbury/Pineland Plan five-year review was also completed.

IV. NATURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORIES (NRI's)

The Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) conducts inventories of natural resources on lands managed by the Bureau. In general, inventories are done in advance of management planning to provide up-to-date information for the development of plans. Examples of completed NRI reports and associated management plans are available at www.ParksAndLands.com.

Fiscal Year 2021 Activities

MNAP submitted a Natural Resource Inventory of Public Reserved Lands in the Tumbledown/Mount Blue Region in support of the ongoing management planning process.

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

The Bureau's 15-year Management Plans include information on the history of BPL parcels taken from historic reports, input from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC), and the public process for plan development.

ECOLOGICAL RESERVES

Ecological Reserves are designated areas containing representative native ecosystem types managed as special protection areas. They serve as benchmarks against which to measure changes in both managed and unmanaged ecosystems, to provide habitat unlikely to occur in managed forests, and to serve as sites for long-term scientific research, monitoring, and education.

Designation

Subject to statutory limitations noted below, the Bureau Director may designate Ecological Reserves on:

- Bureau lands included in "An Ecological Reserves System Inventory: Potential Ecological Reserves on Maine's Existing Public and Private Conservation Lands" (*Maine Biodiversity Project, July 1998*), and
- Additional lands in conjunction with the adoption of a management plan, when that process includes public review and comment, and with notification to the Scientific Advisory Committee as described in the next section.

Scientific Advisory Committee

An Ecological Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee (Sci Ad Committee) was established in the mid-1990s to guide the inventory and assessment of a potential Ecological Reserve system in Maine. Once the Reserve system was established in 2000, the Committee was maintained to guide monitoring and research within the system. The Sci Ad Committee also reviews potential Ecological Reserve additions according to science-based criteria and any research project proposed and conducted by third parties.

Reporting

This annual report includes the status of these Reserves and the results of monitoring, scientific research, and other activities related to the Reserves (12 MRSA §1839 and §1853). It also fulfills the Bureau's requirement to notify the ACF Committee when a management plan proposes the designation of an Ecological Reserve (12 MRSA §1805). The history of Ecological Reserve designations can be found in Appendix E.

Current Status

Statutory Limits

- By statute, the total land acreage designated as Ecological Reserves may not exceed 15% of the total acreage under Bureau jurisdiction or 100,000 acres, whichever is less. Lands acquired after the effective date of the statute (2000) with a condition that the donated or acquired land be designated as an ecological reserve are not included when calculating acreage limits.

FY 21 Status: 15% of the current total unrestricted acreage is 104,497 acres (Figure 4.1). This means the current upper limit of the first statutory condition is 100,000 acres.

- In addition, no more than 6% of the operable timberland on Public Lands may be designated as Ecological Reserves.

FY 21 Status: 2,985 acres of operable timberland remain eligible for Ecological Reserves designation (Figure 4.2).

Figure 4.1 Ecological Reserves as a Proportion of Total Acres Under Bureau Jurisdiction	
Land Type	Acres
State Park Lands	85,175
Boat Access Lands	567
Public Reserved Lands	631,121
Nonreserved Public Lands	3,622
Unregistered Coastal Islands	1,095
Subtotal	721,580
Land acquired on condition of ecological reserve designation	-24,934
Total Unrestricted	696,646
15% of Total Lands	104,497

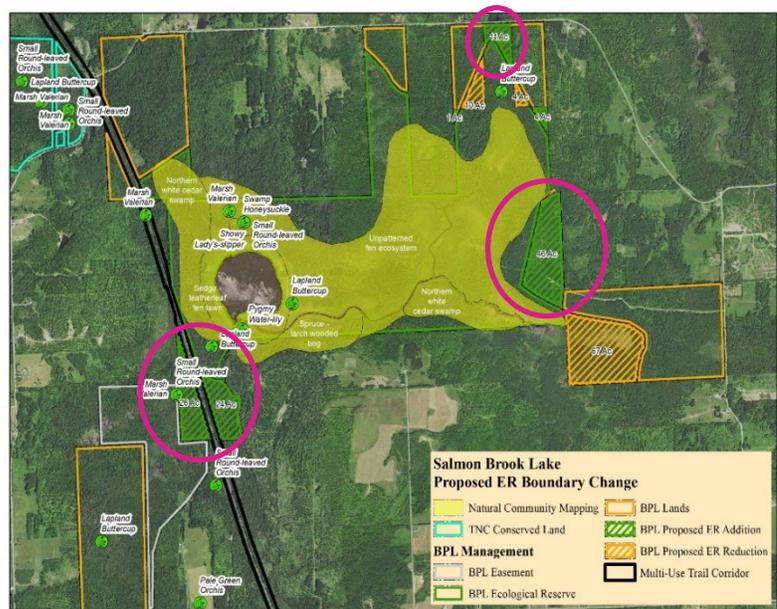
Figure 4.2 Ecological Reserves as a Proportion of Operable Timberland Acres* on Public Lands	
Land Type	Operable Timberland Acres
Total Operable Lands	428,994
6% of Operable Lands	25,740
Operable in Qualifying Reserves	22,755
Net available operable acres for ER designation	2,985

* Operable timberland acres are on lands held in fee, not including Ecological Reserves designated as a condition of the acquisition. The total includes an estimated 9,600 acres for Cold Stream Forest, Orient, and West Branch Pleasant River Units, for which field data is not yet available. Operable acres in Ecological Reserves include modifications adopted in 2007 and after (see Appendix E).

Fiscal Year 2021 Additions and Modifications to Ecological Reserves

Salmon Brook Lake Bog

In the spring of 2021, modifications to the Salmon Brook Lake Bog Ecological Reserve were finalized. The modifications consolidated ecological reserve and managed forest areas within the Salmon Brook Lake Bog Unit and added more northern white cedar swamp to the ecological reserve. Benefits include protecting multiple occurrences of rare plants in portions of the added cedar swamp, while removing from the reserve beaver-impacted wetlands and recently managed upland forest with no known occurrences of rare plants or areas that are ecologically sensitive. The changes resulted in a net increase of 26 acres to the ecological reserve.



Ecologically sensitive areas were added to Salmon Brook Lake Bog Ecological Reserve in three locations.

Chamberlain Lake (Bear Mountain)

In the fall of 2020, a pair of unique forest areas adjacent to the Allagash Wilderness Waterway were added to the Bureau's Ecological Reserve system (this then-recent change was reported in the FY 20 report as an FY 21 "heads up"). The 'Boot' (T9 R13) and the 'Pump Handle' (T8 R13) peninsulas are located on the west side of Eagle Lake. Neither peninsula has been harvested since at least the 1920s when the Great Depression temporarily slowed timber harvesting along upper portions of the Allagash. Both peninsulas contain exemplary forest occurrences and add scenic value to the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. Both areas were not harvested historically due to lack of access; recent harvesting by neighboring forest owners made access possible and caused the Bureau to evaluate them for harvest or protection.

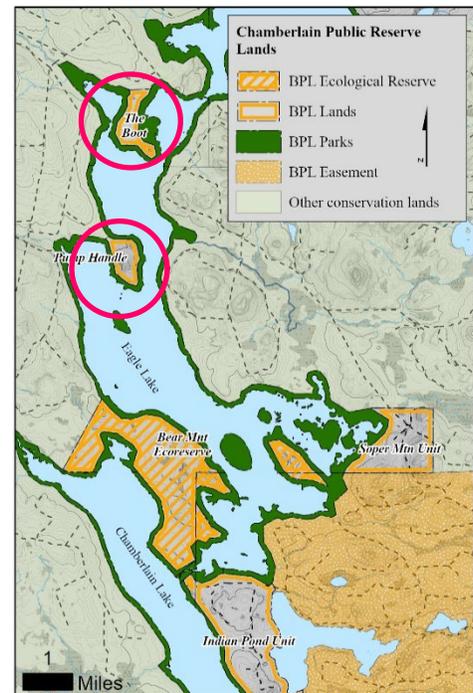
The Pump Handle Peninsula (284 acres) contains an exemplary Spruce-Northern Hardwoods Forest, with a Red-Spruce Mixed Conifer Woodland along low summits. Older trees within the stand were cored at ~180 years, though stand age varies due to natural disturbance, including spruce budworm. A notable aspect of this site is an abundance of large diameter coarse woody debris (dead trees and logs), which provides unique micro-habitats and contributes to soil carbon sequestration.

The Boot Peninsula (328 acres) contains an exemplary Spruce-Fir Wet Flat, dominated by 130-year old black spruce. There are relatively few examples of this forest type remaining that have not been intensively managed in the last 30-50 years. The understory includes heath shrubs such as lowbush blueberry, sheep-laurel, and sphagnum mosses carpet the understory.

Ecological Reserves Monitoring

MNAP collects baseline ecological data and conducts monitoring for the Bureau's Reserve inventory. This monitoring fulfills two key purposes of the enabling legislation for Ecological Reserves – that they serve as: 1) a "benchmark against which biological and environmental change may be measured," and 2) sites for "ongoing scientific research, long term environmental monitoring and education."

In FY 21, MNAP re-sampled 24 forest monitoring plots at Number 5 Bog Ecological Reserve (July-Aug 2020) and 48 plots at the Spring River Lake portion of Donnell Pond Ecological Reserve (June 2021). This was the third monitoring round for these inventory plots. There are now 540 permanent plots on the 19 State Reserves. Results from this Continuous Forest Inventory can be found on MNAP's website at www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/reservesys/index.htm.



Ecological Reserve acreage was added at the Boot and Pump Handle (First and Second Ridges) Peninsulas.



Diverse forest structure featuring a 24+ inch sugar maple at the Pump Handle.

V. WILDLIFE RESOURCES

A key component of the Bureau's integrated resource management program is coordinating land management activities with fisheries and wildlife habitat enhancement. Since 1984, a wildlife biologist from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIFW) has been assigned to the Bureau through a cooperative agreement between the two agencies. The primary responsibility of the biologist has been to develop and implement a habitat management program for Bureau-managed lands.

Wildlife management activities conducted in FY 21 on lands managed by the Bureau include:

Habitat Management Highlights

- Eighty waterfowl nesting boxes were maintained in the Northern and Eastern Regions. The water control structure at Blanchard Flowage (Dead River Unit) was re-flooded in early FY 21 after being in drawdown status during FY 20.
- Invasive plant surveys and/or control was conducted on 17 Public Lands units across the state.
- Field mowing activities to benefit grassland birds and other species of open habitats were performed on 110 acres, including Bigelow, Upper Richardson, Days Academy, Augusta, Hebron, Pineland, and Chain of Ponds. Prescribed fire was used to burn 16 acres of fields at Pineland Public Lands in spring 2021.
- Contracts for routine beaver control activities were maintained by BPL regional offices.
- At the Cold Stream Unit, two culverts were replaced with open-bottomed culverts to improve stream and riparian area function for fish and wildlife.
- In the Eastern Region, several small bridges were replaced on constructed to improve fish passage.
- Approximately 41 acres of herbaceous seeding were established on Public Lands for wildlife forage and erosion control.
- An 8-acre apple orchard at the Hebron Unit was enhanced by pruning deadwood from old trees and caring for trees planted in the last five years.
- Surveys for waterfowl, grassland birds, deer, songbirds, peregrine falcons, loons, snowshoe hare, bats, and lynx were completed on Public Lands across the state.

Deer Wintering Areas (DWAs)

The Bureau monitors and assesses approximately 35,800 acres of DWAs on Public Lands as part of its balanced wildlife management strategy. When winter travel conditions for deer are restrictive, aerial and ground surveys for deer activity are conducted on BPL managed lands using DIFW protocols. This information is used to delineate cooperative winter habitat management areas for deer and other softwood-dependent wildlife.



Fiscal Year 2021 Activities

- Ground surveys for deer were conducted at the Orient and Telos Units to inform management activities.
- The BPL staff biologist reviewed 21,271 acres of DWA as part of harvest planning, harvest site visits, and plan agreements for both zoned and cooperatively managed areas, such as at the Scraggly Lake and Seboomook Units, where harvests incorporate DWA management guidelines beyond the acreage zoned as DWA.
- The Bureau continued to cooperate with the Northeast Deer Research Partnership via DIFW on its final year of study to understand the movement and mortality of deer in the Northeast's northern forests.

Lynx Habitat Management

In FY 21, Bureau staff continued implementation of a forest management plan for the Seboomook Unit as part of an agreement with DIFW to manage a ~22,000-acre area for Canada lynx, which is currently listed as a threatened species by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The Bureau's goal is to create 4,200 acres of High-Quality Hare Habitat (HQHH) within the managed area by 2029. Timber market constraints limited harvests within the agreement area, limiting the creation of HQHH to ~820 acres through FY 21, which is short of the 1,400-acre target set for the 2016-2020 timeframe. DIFW and Bureau staff met to review achievements of the first five years of the agreement and discuss plans for the coming years, which include the use of new forest structure mapping tools available through the use of LIDAR imagery to refine potential habitat creation locations (harvest areas). The goal of this analysis is to accelerate harvest activity leading to the creation of new HQHH in alignment with established goals.

Harvest Prescriptions

The BPL staff biologist reviewed timber harvest plans to ensure fish and wildlife habitat compatibility on 45,267 acres in or adjacent to the planned harvest units.

VI. RECREATION RESOURCES

The Bureau's Public Lands Division is responsible for:

- 454 campsites;
- 228 miles of day hiking and backpacking trails (excluding 71 miles of Appalachian Trail located on Public Lands);
- 56 trailer accessible and hand-carry boat launching sites, dozens of trailhead parking locations; and
- Several hundred miles of public access road logging roads generally maintained for travel by two-wheel drive vehicles with reasonable ground clearance, as well as adjacent forest management roads that are more suitable for four-wheel drive access.



Allagash Mountain fire tower with new cab, Northern Region.



Fire-spotting map table in new Round Pond fire tower cab, Northern Region.

Managing High Recreational Use

Like parks and open spaces across the country, Maine’s Public Lands saw record levels of public use in 2020, the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, use levels remained elevated but with fewer instances of extreme crowding that strained parking areas and other facilities such as outhouses. The most popular trails, campsites, water access, and other locations remain busy. The pandemic has highlighted those areas that need improved facilities, expanded parking, or rebuilt trail systems.

The Bureau expects that social media and word of mouth will continue to help drive strong demand for outdoor recreation on Public Lands in Maine. Staff at BPL continue to work hard at investing resources in trails, campsites, roads, and information to make Public Lands more accessible and enjoyable.

– FISCAL YEAR 2021 PROJECTS –

CAMPSITES & DAY USE AREAS

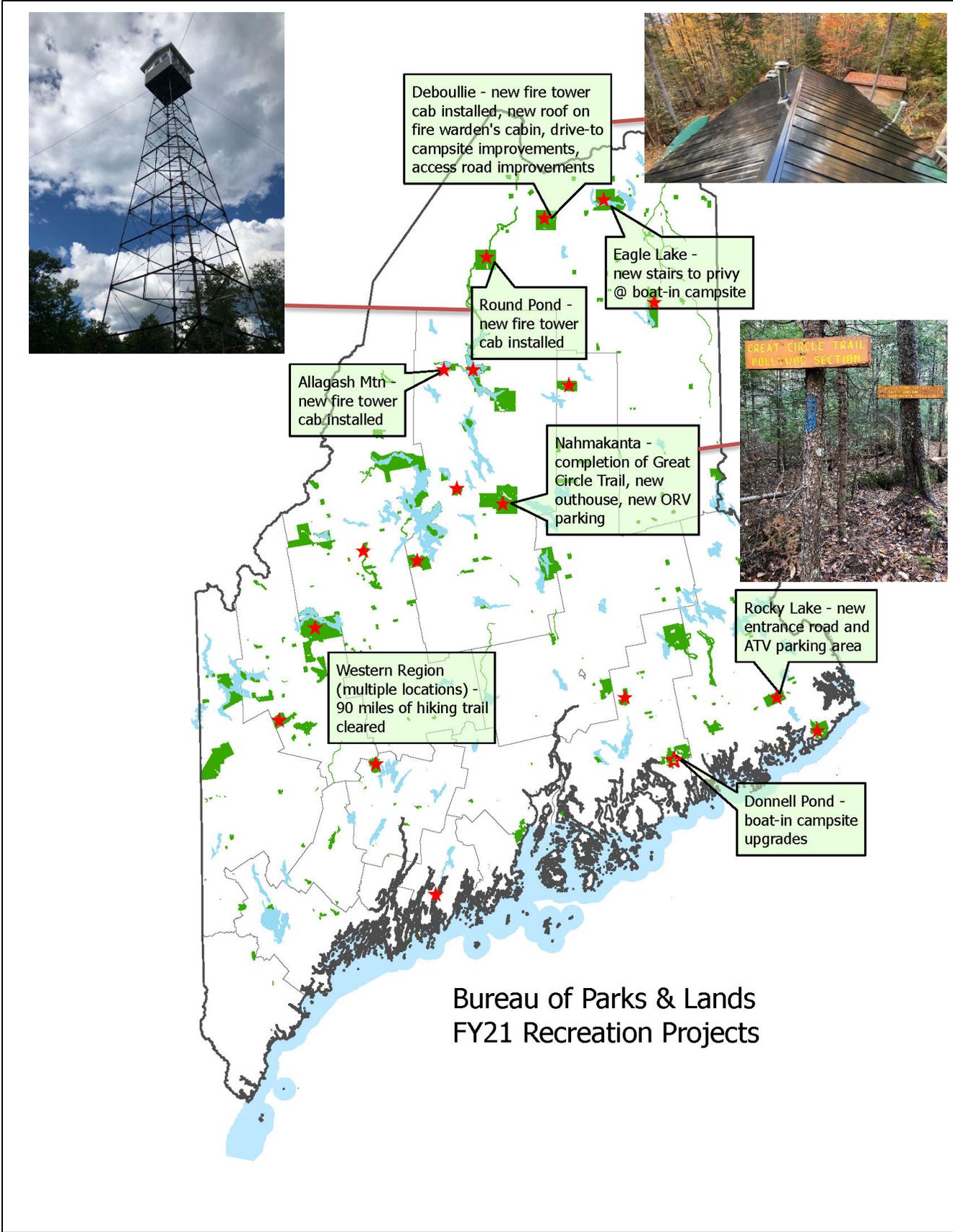
Donnell Pond	At Redman’s Beach, the Bureau upgraded boat-in/hike-in campsites and installed a new outhouse.
Amherst Community Forest	At Indian Stream Day Use Area (a former lease site), an old cabin was removed, and improvements to signage and the short trail to the site were also made.
Nahmakanta	At the Wadleigh Pond south campsite, a new outhouse was installed, and at the Wadleigh Pond group campsite, a new parking area for ATVs and snowmobiles was cleared.
Deboullie	Improvement and upkeep work included a new vault privy at the Thorofare campsite, enlargement of the Pushineer Dam campsite to accommodate RVs, replacement of several campsite picnic tables, and staining the exterior of several privies.
Scraggly Lake	A new campsite was installed, and the exteriors of several privies were re-stained at this Unit.
Eagle Lake and Scopan	Several campsite picnic tables were replaced, and the exteriors of several privies were re-stained on these Units.

TRAILS

Deboullie	An MCC crew rehabilitated and upgraded 1.5 miles of hiking trail and cleared blowdowns on 33 miles of trail using funding from the Recreational Trails Program.
Cutler Coast	Work began on over 1 mile of trail rerouting to decrease environmental impact and reduce long-term maintenance.
Nahmakanta	FY 21 marked the official opening of the Great Circle Trail, which enhances Nahmakanta as a backcountry hiking destination. Begun in 2009, this project connects over 30 miles of trail in the Unit. Staff installed 80 trail signs and hosted a public celebration event in September 2021. Considerable work was also completed by an MCC trail crew, with 6.3 miles of trail corridor cleared, 87 blowdowns removed, 40 feet of bog bridging and 40-foot log side rail installed, and 15 water bars cleaned/extended.
Rocky Lake	A 0.5-mile segment of an ATV/snowmobile trail was repaired and improved.
Chamberlain	With assistance from AWW personnel, staff transported three lifts of bog bridging to the Tramway Trail for trail upgrades.
Western Region	After multiple windstorms, 90 miles of hiking trails were cleared at several Units across the region: Tumbledown, Kennebec Highlands, Little Moose, Big Spencer, Bald Mountain, Dodge Point, Cold Stream Forest, and Bigelow Preserve.
Winter Trail Maintenance	The Bureau maintained plowed parking areas at popular winter trail destinations, including the East Outlet of Moosehead Lake, Range Trail on the Bigelow Preserve, Dodge Point Unit in Newcastle, two trailheads on Kennebec Highlands, and Donnell Pond.

SIGNAGE & ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

Eagle Lake	Northern Region staff constructed a 30-foot staircase to the privy at a boat-in campsite.
Rocky Lake	Construction of a new entrance from the state highway to increase traffic safety was completed, and an ATV parking area was added.
Deboullie	2.3 miles of road to access campsites was upgraded.
Signage	New yard-arm signs with the Bureau's recently updated design were installed at seven Public Land units in the Northern Region and four units in the Eastern Region. New signs are part of a larger effort to upgrade materials, standardize messaging, and provide space for safety alerts related to timber harvesting and other management.



SPECIAL PROJECTS

Deboullie	Northern Region staff installed a new roof on the Deboullie Mountain fire warden's cabin, following other rehabilitation work completed on the structure over the previous five years.
Cold Stream Forest	A detailed inventory of several hundred privately owned canoes stored at ponds on the Unit was completed, an initial step in a multi-year effort to bring boat storage at several backcountry ponds into conformity with Bureau policy and to improve the aesthetics of the storage areas. Boat users have expressed support and appreciation.
Fire Tower Lookouts	Old cabs or platforms were removed at the Round Pond, Deboullie, and Allagash Mountain fire towers, and new cabs were airlifted into place with funding from the Recreational Trails Program (federal grant).

Recreation Staffing

- One year-round and five seasonal rangers were involved in recreation management activities in FY 21. Seasonal rangers are responsible for recreation facilities maintenance and construction and for informing visitors about recreational opportunities and Bureau rules.
- The Volunteer Campground Host Program continued at Cowan's Cove and Spencer Bay (Moosehead Lake), Cold Stream Forest, and resumed at Big Eddy (Flagstaff Lake Unit). These campgrounds are free to the public, and the length of stay is limited to 14 days in a 45-day period. Volunteer hosts oversee these campgrounds in return for extended stays.
- A volunteer position created in 2020 at Kennebec Highlands continued to assist with trail management.
- The Western Lands Region, in cooperation with Mount Blue State Park, utilized the AmeriCorps Environmental Steward program to provide staffed assistance with recreational monitoring and management at Tumbledown Public Land, among the busiest trailheads in Maine.



Special Use Permits

- The Bureau issued a total of 47 permits for a range of activities, including tree stands, trapping, a trail running race and a group hike, ATV use, a red spruce study, a survey for invasive organisms targeting boats launched at the Donnell Pond Unit, a climate data collection station, fir tipping, and other gathering, trapping, and research projects.

VII. FEES

Most access to Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands is free. However, in some circumstances, fees are charged because these lands are accessed through private recreation management systems (North Maine Woods and KI-Jo Mary) or because the Bureau has contracted with nearby recreation providers having similar management objectives (South Arm Campground and Baxter State Park). There were no fee increases in FY 21.

Fees charged in Fiscal Year 2021 on Public Reserved Lands are as follows:

North Maine Woods, Inc. Recreation Management (NMW)	Seven checkpoints, staffed seasonally, control primary access from main points to 95,000 acres of Public Reserved Land including Baker Lake, Deboullie, Round Pond, Chamberlain, Telos, and portions of Seboomook. Camping fees are returned to the Bureau when the Bureau assumes maintenance responsibilities, as at Deboullie.	<u>Residents/Non-Residents</u> Day-use: \$11/\$16 per person Camping: \$12/\$15 per person/night
KI Jo-Mary Recreation Management	175,000 acres of primarily private lands where public recreation is allowed subject to fees. About 2,200 acres of Public Reserved Land in Bowdoin College Grant East lies within this system. Day-use fees also apply for entrance or exit to the Nahmakanta Unit from the south via the KI-Jo Mary system.	<u>Residents/Non-Residents</u> Day-use: \$11/\$16 per person Camping: \$14/\$15 per person/night
South Arm Campground	Boat-access campsites on Upper Richardson Lake are leased to South Arm Campground, a privately-owned facility on adjoining private land. The campground retains a portion of fees to cover maintenance of the twelve campsites and the Mill Brook public boat launch facility at the north end of the lake.	<u>Camping Fees:</u> \$15 per night per site
Bear Bait Permits	By state rule (04-059-Chapter 54), a permit from the Bureau is required before placing bait for bear on Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands that are not managed jointly with another entity. In FY 21, the Bureau issued 459 bear bait permits: 186 for personal sites and 273 for commercial sites, with permit revenues totaling \$23,325.	<u>Personal/Commercial</u> \$30/\$65 per site
Baxter State Park	Management of campsites at the west end of Webster Lake on the Telos Public Land unit has been assigned to the Baxter State Park Authority (BSPA), and the sites are subject to BSPA rules and policies.	

VIII. PUBLIC INFORMATION

Bureau Website

The Bureau uses its website (www.ParksAndLands.com) to provide maps and facility information for most of its Public Lands, Parks, and Historic Sites. As resources allow, enhancements are made to increase its usefulness to visitors and the broader conservation and

environmental education communities. The website received over 500,000 page views and 48,000 downloads of documents in FY 21.

NEW IN FISCAL YEAR 2021

- Safety Page – A new webpage as a one-stop site for safety information, including COVID precautions, was developed (www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/safety/index.shtml). This page increases efficient access of information for visitors and efficiency of postings for BPL's webmaster. Topics include: Browntail Moth Alerts, Camping & Hiking Safety, Closures, Mud Season, Ticks, and Water Safety.

UPDATES on 2021 Web Developments

- Alerts & Conditions – Live field updates are distributed by text, email, and web were developed for all Public Lands Regions. Over 1,000 subscribers have signed up for each region's Alerts - up over 750 each from last year. (www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/trail_activities/publiclands_trail_conditions.shtml)
- Off-Season and Winter Camping – BPL's webpage provides information about shoulder seasons and opportunities at Public Lands and State Parks. We currently have over 4,200 subscribers to Backcountry Camping updates and over 3,200 subscribers to Winter Camping updates. (www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/camping/off-season-camping.shtml)
- Timber Harvest Information – BPL provides continued messaging and signage improvement about scheduled and active timber harvesting on Public Lands; Dodge Point continued as a test location for the new temporary signage.

Guide & Map Brochures

The Bureau continues to develop its series of in-depth brochures, available online and in printed form (www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/publications_maps/index.shtml). An inventory has been conducted of lands without a map or guide, and work is proceeding to develop materials for those units. More emphasis has been placed on making the guide and map series available online. FY 21 activities included:

- Updates for 2021 – Cutler Coast was updated with a new trail re-route. Nahmakanta map was updated in conjunction with the opening of the Great Circle Trail, and the brochure is being updated for 2022. Scapan and Scraggly map updates were completed; full guides are planned for release in 2022.
- Work on new guides for release in 2022 – Kennebec Highlands, Pineland, Salmon Brook Lake Bog. Additional map priorities for 2022 are being developed.
- Trailhead Kiosk Maps – Brochure maps are sent to Maine DOT for printing on weather-resistant material for the Public Lands trailhead kiosks.

Bureau Newsletter

An e-newsletter that features Bureau news and events is sent out monthly to over 24,177 e-mail and text alert subscribers, an increased distribution of 2,577 subscribers from last year. Articles on Public Lands featured topics such as timber harvesting and forestry practices, the Forestry Education Grant, Forest Legacy Program application, management planning, trail projects, conditions on Tumbledown Public Lands, the tower cab restoration at Deboullie Mountain, hiking and camping in bear country, and continued COVID updates. Sign-up is available through

text to subscribe (text DACF BPL NEWS to (888) 514-7527) or at:
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MEDACF/subscriber/new>.

Interpretation

FY 21 projects included:

- **Nature Note** – A weekly e-note about the natural world was started in April 2020 and currently has 2,407 subscribers, an increase of 850 subscribers from last year. Text DACF NATURE to (888) 514-7527 to subscribe or view at: www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/discover_history_explore_nature/nature_exploration/nature_note.shtml.
- **Natural Heritage Hikes** – In partnership with MNAP/DACF, Natural Heritage Hikes were released for Mount Abraham and Deboullie Public Lands:
 - <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/assistance/hikes/MtAbraham.pdf>
 - <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/assistance/hikes/deboullie.pdf>

IX. PARTNERSHIPS

The acquisition and management of Public Lands is achieved through collaboration with members of the public as well as a variety of stakeholders, conservation partners, and industries. The Bureau’s partnerships take many forms – from formal agreements with local entities to manage recreational use, to partnering with state agencies on resource management and planning, and collaborating on events and outings that help connect new users to Public Lands. Several noteworthy partnerships from FY 21 include:

**Maine
Island Trail
Association**

In FY 21, MITA and the Bureau continued over 30 years of partnership in the management of the Maine Island Trail, which now extends 375 miles and consists of over 200 islands and mainland sites for day visits or camping. Funds from submerged lands leases support ongoing stewardship of the trail (\$70,000 in FY 21). MITA monitors public use, marshals volunteers, and deploys staff to clean and maintain these wilderness sites along the Maine coast. Two caretakers are staffed at BPL sites on Jewel and Little Chebeague Islands in busy Casco Bay.

**Maine Trail
Finder**

Information about non-motorized trails on Public Lands may be found at www.mainetrailfinder.com, operated by the nonprofit Center for Community GIS in Farmington. The Bureau has worked with the Center to develop descriptions and interactive maps for 40 trails located on Maine Public Lands.

State Agency Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maine Natural Areas Program – oversees long-term monitoring of BPL Ecological Reserves and provides technical review of potential acquisitions and management plans. • Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife – provides a BPL staff biologist and helps coordinate activities related to lynx habitat management, Deer Wintering Areas, invasive species, and development of statewide acquisition priorities • Maine Office of Outdoor Recreation, Maine Office of Tourism, and the Maine Tourism Association – identify outreach opportunities for delivering information about the Public Lands to various stakeholders and the public. • Maine Forest Service and the State Entomology Lab – provide outreach about invasive insects and remind visitors to Burn it Where You Buy It through notifications on the website, materials sent to campers, and posted at campsites. MFS also conducts spruce budworm and emerald ash borer trapping on Public Lands to monitor population growth and detect potential outbreaks of these destructive pests.
Land Trusts	<p>The 7 Lakes Alliance assists the Bureau in managing trails and trailheads at the Kennebec Highlands and in pursuing additional land acquisition opportunities. Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust assists with the maintenance of trails and facilities and helps the Bureau in refining messaging, kiosks, and other signs at Dodge Point. Royal River Conservation Trust has coordinated volunteers to conduct trail maintenance and has collaborated with the Bureau on other trail issues at Pineland Public Lands.</p>
Maine Conservation Corps	<p>MCC provides trail crews to construct or rehabilitate recreational trails using federal AmeriCorps funds and fees charged for MCC services. MCC trail crews are commonly used to improve trails on Bureau lands.</p>
North Maine Woods / KI Jo-Mary	<p>For many years, the NMW and KI Jo-Mary organizations have contracted with BPL to maintain numerous day-use recreation facilities and campsites on Public Lands within their management areas, which are comprised primarily of privately-owned commercial forest land.</p>
Appalachian Mountain Club	<p>AMC maintains Nordic skiing and snowshoeing trails on Public Lands abutting their properties, as part of their extensive winter trails network. In FY 21, AMC donated several culverts and grading on a new access road into Nahmakanta.</p>
New England Mountain Bike Association	<p>Local NEMBA chapters are collaborating with BPL on planning, development, and maintenance of purpose-built single-track mountain bike trails at Crocker Mountain, Kennebec Highlands, and Little Moose.</p>
ATV & Snowmobile Clubs	<p>Numerous clubs collaborate with the Bureau’s Off-Road Vehicle division on trail planning, funding, construction, and maintenance (including winter grooming of snowmobile trails). The statewide ATV and snowmobile trail networks provide hundreds of miles of riding opportunities, primarily on private lands.</p>
Research Requests	<p>Special activity permits for several research projects on Public Lands were issued for the collection of seeds for plant conservation, deployment of stationary acoustic detectors for bat species of conservation concern, and for studying movements and survival of deer.</p>

X. TIMBER RESOURCES

The Bureau manages the natural resources on the lands under its care through a carefully planned multiple-use program that balances timber management with all other resource values. Timber revenues support the Bureau's Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands management expenses, including the provision of recreation facilities and wildlife management. Other public benefits include the contribution to the local economy through employment opportunities for contractors and supply of raw materials to area mills. Provision of low-cost firewood through the Bureau's firewood harvest permit program is a secondary benefit. Demonstration of exemplary multi-aged management focused primarily on mature quality timber is the focal point of all Bureau forestry.

FISCAL YEAR 2021 HARVEST AND MARKET ANALYSIS

Timber harvested in FY 21 on Bureau lands from inventory totaled 84,327 cords (84,917 cords including biomass) from 7,320 acres. This figure represents only 53% of the 2018 Bureau-established Sustainable Harvest Level of 159,000 cords and is a 17% decrease from FY 20. The Sustainable Harvest Level (SHL) is the maximum volume that can be sustainably harvested (i.e., harvest is less than or equal to growth).

As a percentage of the 10-year average harvest level of 124,000 cords, 2021 was 32% below average, which is directly reflected in the \$2.2M net loss on the budget for the year. Contributing factors include highly variable markets, weather conditions, and limits to available logging workforce. While strong demand and pricing for spruce and fir existed due to the strong housing market, hardwood and especially softwood pulp markets remained weak to non-existent in some regions depending on the distance to the mill. As in FY 20, demand for all hemlock products remained weak. BPL's reduced harvest generally reflected similar trends across the forest products industry due to the pandemic.

Despite challenging conditions, the Bureau and its highly valued 27 logging and road contractors statewide supplied wood to over 40 mills statewide in FY 21. A total of 30 distinct logging operations occurred in FY 21. These operations are a combination of newly established sales and sales carried over from previous years.

This ongoing trend of weak markets for certain products creates a significant challenge in scheduling viable harvest prescriptions and locations. Fortunately, significant investments since 2015 in logging road networks on Public Lands leave the Bureau well positioned to respond to changing markets, the warming climate, and other challenging conditions.

In addition to market constraints, an extremely warm and early spring in 2021 brought 70-degree days to Northern Maine in March and shortened the winter harvest period by at least a month. Loss of late winter harvest opportunities caused a drop in harvest volume and critical revenue, presenting challenges for landowners and loggers alike.

For FY 21, the average price paid to the Bureau per cord climbed by 17% in the Northern Region due to a substantial increase in the softwood component of the harvests compared to FY 20. The average price increased by 36% in the Western Region due to a variety of factors including a different product mix and a decrease in stumpage harvests in the region. Rates in the Eastern Region decreased by about 7%. Due to decades of careful management, Public Lands are well-stocked with high quality, mature stands, and the abundance of high-quality spruce brought strong prices at the mill to partially offset the major decline in total harvest

volume. The softwood portion of harvest volume rose to 62%, an increase of 5% compared to FY 20 and 5% greater than the 57% softwood share of the Bureau's forest inventory.

The **FY 21 Harvest Table** provides a breakdown of harvest in each region and Sustainable Harvest Unit (SHU) within regions. In each of the three Public Land regions, growth significantly exceeded harvest. In terms of individual SHUs, harvest exceeded growth in FY 21 in only one SHUs (E4), by about 19%. (Note that Sustainable Harvest Level, as shown in the table below, is set conservatively at approximately 90% of growth.) Severely constrained timber markets greatly limited marketing options in FY 21. The E4 harvest volumes were justified by the forest condition (stands heavy to balsam fir were targeted to reduce susceptibility to spruce budworm), the decision to keep Bureau contractors working, and the need to offset lost income from reduced harvests in SHU's without viable markets in FY 21.

Sustainable Harvest Unit	Sustainable Harvest Level (annual)	FY 21 cords
E1	10,350	3,001
E2	11,400	3,257
E3	15,700	11,603
E4	9,200	11,002
EAST	46,650	28,863
N1	16,100	7,936
N2	11,500	7,004
N3	9,700	6,327
N4	10,600	10,011
NORTH	47,900	31,278
W1	17,000	634
W2	13,250	8,591
W3	7,800	2,670
W4	9,400	8,643
W5	2,500	1,898
W6	14,500	2,340
WEST	64,450	24,776
ALL BPL	159,000	84,917

FY 21 Harvest Table - All units in cords

In contrast to FY 21, timber harvest volume to date for FY 22 was at a much improved 65,364 cords through January 13, 2022, which is nearly 48% greater than this time in 2021. Even though warm weather delayed winter 2022 start-up for many frozen-ground operations, strong summer harvest activity offset the late onset of winter. Prescriptions completed to date in FY 22 thus far cover about 19,000 acres, with much of that work often done during the spring mud season while harvest operations are inactive. All indications for FY 22 are that harvesting volume and revenue will be significantly higher compared to FY 21 due to less restrictive market conditions.

As part of its multiple-use management, the Bureau will continue to emphasize maintaining the multi-year harvest volume at a sustainable level, while continuing to practice the highest quality silviculture. Operational issues and natural events will continue to affect harvest volumes both negatively and positively.

HARVEST OPERATION CHALLENGES

COVID-19

The pandemic has affected harvests through its notable impact on the economy. Reductions in office printing paper consumption are reducing demand for pulp grade timber, while softwood demand for dimensional lumber has been driven up by a spike in housing construction and home improvement projects. This effect continues to be a strong factor in FY 22.

Logger Work Force

Securing contracts for timber harvests remains a challenge, especially for winter harvests. The winter is often the preferred time to harvest wood and is often when land managers conduct most of their harvesting, such that logging contractors have more than enough work. Since 2011, the Bureau has significantly increased the proportion of Contract Logging Service contracts for timber harvest operations to create more stability for both the Bureau and contractors. To further increase this stability, the Bureau has invested in upgrading/constructing many miles of logging road to summer road standards, such that more harvests are spread out over the summer and fall seasons than winter. Contractors find this attractive, as they can more easily continue operations throughout the year. This program requires the Bureau to build roads ahead of time to minimize costs, maximize market opportunities, and increase the flexibility to move harvests to firmer ground when weather turns wet. Implementation of CLS has enabled the Bureau to better match scheduling with markets and with the availability of harvest equipment. Despite these adjustments, FY 21 brought serious challenges with contractors struggling to find and retain workers for logging and trucking operations due to the general labor shortage. In addition to weak timber markets, the logging workforce was a key factor in the FY 21 decline in harvest volume and revenue.

Insects and Disease

To address the threat of a spruce budworm outbreak, the Bureau has for decades targeted the more budworm-susceptible balsam fir when harvesting, resulting in a spruce-to-fir ratio much higher than for the state as a whole. The Bureau-managed forest holds nearly 3 cords of spruce for each cord of fir, while the overall Maine forest has 1.6 cords of spruce per cord of fir. Going forward, this fir management practice will be continued, both by taking a higher proportion of the otherwise healthy younger fir that might have been retained in the absence of budworm, and in some alteration of harvest locations to focus on areas with higher fir components. Particularly in northern and central Aroostook County, a marked increase in spruce budworm activity was detected in the summer of 2020, and as a result, the Bureau has responded with timely harvests in New Sweden and Hamlin during Winter 2021-22 to mitigate the potential loss of mature fir to the spruce budworm in these specific locations. Eagle Lake is another management unit where the Bureau is observing threshold levels of spruce budworm activity and planning harvests aimed at capturing value in advance of mortality in areas of concentrated fir while most other units do not yet appear to be in imminent danger of infestation. Fortunately, Maine Forest Service preliminary findings for 2021 indicate a steep decline in budworm populations as the weather in the spring of 2021 was not favorable for reproduction and flights.

Changing Climate

The Bureau is keenly aware of challenges imposed by a changing climate. These challenges include a reduced winter harvest season, increasing intensity of storms and stream flows, and gradual increases in invasive species. Bureau staff monitor statewide and regional discussions and conferences regarding the incorporation of climate-adapted forestry practices. In addition, Public Lands, including Ecological Reserves, maintain a strong role in carbon sequestration. A report released by the University of Maine indicates that the Bureau's Ecological Reserves store

30% more carbon on average than a typical acre of Maine forest. Implications of Maine's changing climate for timber management will be addressed in the ongoing update of the Bureau's Integrated Resource Policy.

TIMBER INVENTORY

An important facet of the timber management program is inventory and monitoring of the forest resource. The inventories are conducted on the 'regulated' acres portion of the land base under the Bureau's management, which is that portion on which net growth and annual allowable cut are calculated. Though forest inventories are only a sampling of the trees, the total volume estimates are quite reliable, with a 5% margin of error. By statute, the Bureau is directed to present to the ACF Committee an updated inventory.

Benchmark field data acquired in 1999 provided detailed timber, site, and natural resource measurements. This inventory was fully updated in 2011 and again in 2016, and it continues to be important for both forest management planning and third-party forest certification. The growth recorded using inventories in 1999, 2011, and 2016 showed a forest inventory increase from 20.9 cords per acre in 1999 to 23.5 cords per acre in 2016. Observed growth rates and the forest model completed early in 2020 each indicate an inventory increase of between 0.5 and 0.6 cords per acre, bringing the BPL timber-management lands up to 24 cords per acre at present.

Status of Current Inventory and Annual Allowable Cut (AAC)

Compared to the 1999 and 2011 volumes per acre, the current inventory shows that most softwood species have increased, especially spruce and white pine. Among hardwoods, aspen had the largest decrease in volume, while most other hardwoods remained about the same. The drop in aspen comes both from the natural mortality of old trees of this relatively short-lived species and because of Bureau harvests targeting it because of that senescence.

The table below shows the changes in AAC for FY 12 through FY 21. When both the inventory increase and the harvest volumes during the previous twelve years are considered, the net growth rate on the Bureau's Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands is 18% higher than that for Maine's forests as a whole. As a result, the yield curves from which the AAC was calculated have been reworked using the new and greater stocking levels. This resulted in the AAC being increased for FY 13 and beyond by about 20%, from 115,000 to 141,500 cords (as previously reported for CY 12). The inclusion of 27,565 acres of operable land in recent acquisitions warranted a recalculated AAC of 149,000 cords/year in FY 16.

As part of the 2015 budget document, the legislature included the following: "...timber harvesting on Public Reserved lands and Nonreserved Public Lands may not exceed in total an average of 160,000 cords per year over any 3-year period." The language also mandated that any change of allowable harvest levels must be implemented through the state's rulemaking process.

The updated inventory conducted late in 2016 provided a statistically rigorous look at how the increased harvest levels during the five years FY 12 through FY 16 impacted the stocking of the managed forest. Harvesting for those five years averaged 131,400 cords per year, and volume on those lands sampled in both 2011 and 2016 increased by 3.5 percent. Implementation of the 2020 forest model further increased confidence in net growth on Bureau lands.

Fiscal Year	AAC Cords	Rationale, Support for Changes*
2012	114,860	Model 2006
2013	141,500	Model 2012, 15% discount
2014	141,500	Model 2012, 15% discount
2015	141,500	Model 2012, 15% discount
2016	149,000	Included 27,565 “new” acres
2017	157,500	2016 inventory warrants a 10% discount
2018	159,000	Small addition to acreage
2019	159,000	No change from 2018
2020	159,000	No change from 2018
2021	159,000	No change from 2018
<i>2017-21</i>	<i>158,700</i>	<i>Avg. Actual harvest: 114,000 cords</i>
* “Discount” is net growth impractical to harvest, due to access costs or low volumes per acre.		

Harvest levels are guided by up-to-date timber typing and a spatially explicit forest model. These tools allow the Bureau to identify the most appropriate places to consider for achieving silvicultural goals. In recent years a new timber-typing data layer was created, updating information that was last created in the mid-1990s. Complementing tree inventory data, these new typing maps are an important resource for Bureau field staff when examining and prescribing management activities in the forest.

PRESCRIPTIONS

Planning for the timber management of Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands is a two-step process:

- 1) A multiple-use management plan for the unit as a whole is prepared and adopted, providing broad management direction and allocating lands to their dominant uses; and
- 2) More detailed harvest plans for discrete areas between 500-2,000 acres (known as compartments) are then developed for the unit.

Compartments are examined on a 15-year cycle to identify timber and wildlife resources and recreational opportunities. Based on the field examination and the information collected, work plans called “prescriptions” are developed to ensure adequate protection of special resources and a sustained yield of forest goods and services, which include timber, wildlife, and appropriate recreational uses.

Prescriptions in Fiscal Year 2021

Bureau staff examined and prescribed 14 compartments totaling 16,8000 acres for a wide range of resource management activities. This work includes collaboration with the MNAP as well as DIFW staff. By way of example, the Seboomook Unit is part of a Memorandum of Understanding with DIFW concerning Canada lynx. Similar work is occurring in the Scraggly Lake Unit and other sites totaling more than 38,000 acres where winter deer habitat is a high priority.

TIMBER SALES

If a timber harvest is prescribed in a compartment, a timber sale is developed. The majority of timber contracts are put out to competitive bid (highest responsive bid) following state rules and procedures governing the sale of state property and purchase of services. Occasionally, sales are negotiated when no bids are received, for special circumstances, and for small volumes to allow new contractors to gain experience working on Bureau lands to Bureau standards.



Before 2012, most timber was sold as 'stumpage.' Under this system, the contractor agrees to pay the Bureau a bid price per unit to purchase each type of forest product harvested. Occasionally timber was sold using contracts for logging services. Under this system, the Bureau pays the contractor to harvest timber and deliver it to specified mills; these mills then pay the Bureau directly for these products. The Bureau has increasingly used the CLS option over the past several fiscal years (see discussion below), as the Bureau retains greater control over the marketing of the wood. CLS tends to offer a better financial return to the Bureau. Once the timber contracts are awarded, Bureau foresters and forest technicians work closely with contractors to ensure compliance with timber management objectives.

Bureau staff closely supervise each harvest by providing loggers with strict harvesting criteria. These criteria specify which trees are to be harvested. In some cases, the Bureau will mark individual trees for removal, such as high-value stands or other high-value resources, including riparian areas or Deer Wintering Areas. Also, when working with a new contractor, the Bureau may do sample marking for each area. The development of accurate electronic location tracking devices mounted in harvest machinery has often allowed Bureau field staff to precisely target areas to be treated. All harvest operations are inspected by Bureau staff on a weekly basis, and more often when individual situations warrant.

Contract Logging Services (CLS)

Since FY 15, the Bureau's Northern Region implemented CLS on all harvests except individual firewood permits. By FY 20, the East and West Regions had moved almost entirely to CLS sales, which provided more than 98% of the total FY 21 volume. Objectives for CLS are three-fold: 1) to improve stability in achieving harvest goals; 2) to enhance Bureau timber revenues; and 3) to have logging roads built under contract rather than being part of the stumpage permit, thus better ensuring that roads are of high quality and established well in advance of harvests. Where CLS has been utilized, the feedback from the mills and contractors has been largely positive. Many mills prefer the predictability of working directly with the landowner. In northern Maine, most logging contractors are used to working under CLS contracts, not stumpage contracts, while stumpage contracts remain an important tool for the Bureau to use when needed. CLS projects do require increased up-front costs, especially for road building (also increasing the quality of construction), which in turn requires a higher level of cash reserves to be maintained to be successful with this initiative.

Firewood Permit Program

Individual firewood permits totaling about 110 cords were issued by the Bureau in FY 21 – about the same as FY 20, but continuing the longer-term trend of decreasing demand. There were no logging contractor firewood sales in FY 21.

Sugar Bush Licenses

The Bureau's Western Region currently has three sugar bush licenses – one at Bald Mountain Unit in Rangeley and two in Sandy Bay Township. All are for five-year terms. The 40-acre Bald Mountain operation consists of approximately 2,200 taps and includes a tap system and a collection tank. The sap is processed off-site. The Sandy Bay Township operations, when fully utilized, will include approximately 34,000 taps on up to 400 acres. This includes two full-service sugar houses to produce finished maple syrup, one serving 14,000 taps and the other 20,000 taps. Currently, the two Sandy Bay licenses are at about 50% and 25% of full utilization, respectively, with plans to add taps each season.

EXEMPLARY MANAGEMENT MANDATE

By Maine Statute (12 MRSA § 1847), the Bureau must manage Public Reserved Lands “to demonstrate exemplary land management practices, including silvicultural, wildlife and recreation management practices.” To meet this mandate, the Bureau's forest management is consistent with dual third-party certification – the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI®) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) programs – as well as a Silvicultural Advisory Committee and participation in the Outcome-Based Forestry initiative and the Cooperative Forest Research Unit (CFRU).

Forest Certification

Since 2002, the Bureau's forest management activities have been certified as sustainable under two independent certification systems: the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) and Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI®). Each year the Bureau's forestry operations and overall forest management system are “audited” by these two certification systems.

In FY 21 (October 2020), the Bureau had annual surveillance audits under both the FSC and SFI programs. The auditors working with our certification agency, Bureau Veritas, visited sites in the Bureau's Northern Region where auditors inspected roadwork, campsites, bridge construction, Ecological Reserves, and both completed and active timber harvests. In FY 22 (October 2021), the dual surveillance audits took place in the Bureau's East and West Regions and included a full recertification audit of all indicators for FSC. The Bureau's required periodic competitive bidding process also resulted in the switch to a new auditing firm, with Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) winning the bid for the next five-year contract.

Silvicultural Advisory Committee

In 1986, the Bureau established a Silvicultural Advisory Committee (SAC) with representatives from environmental groups, academia, and forest managers from public and private landowners, to review and critique forest management policies and practices on Public Lands. Each year the Bureau sponsors a field trip on which the Committee examines work the Bureau has completed or is planning, providing valuable input to all forestry staff through on-site dialogue.

Committee Tour: The FY 21 SAC field tour was held during August 2020 in the Eastern Region, visiting Public Lands as well as the University-managed Penobscot Experimental Forest, Bradford LaGrange, and the Amherst Community Forest. Themes mainly addressed the challenge of practicing silviculture in highly constrained markets for low-value products,

coupled with related challenges in managing beech bark disease and the economics of thinning young hardwood stands. Detailed minutes of the meeting are available on the Bureau's website.

Cooperative Forest Research Unit (CFRU)

The Bureau participates in a research cooperative housed at the University of Maine at Orono, originally formed in 1975 in response to the spruce budworm outbreak at that time. Membership includes forest landowners (BPL and 26 private landowners representing 8.3 million managed forest land acres), representatives of two wood processors, and six corporate/individual members. Together, contributions amount to approximately \$500,000 per year to support research projects of interest to the members. With the threat of another spruce budworm outbreak, research is again focused on that issue. The Bureau contributes \$25,000/year, proportional to acres in managed timberland. After a pause by the CFRU led to an absence of new research projects in FY 20 with no new funds requested from contributors, the January 2021 Advisory Committee considered a number of relevant research proposals and funding resumed.

DEMONSTRATION FORESTS

As a means to display the benefits of woodland ownership, the Bureau of Parks and Lands partnered with the Maine Forest Service to develop "Demonstration Forests" on two separate parcels managed by Public Lands, beginning in 2016. Keeping forests as forests in Southern Maine's rapidly changing environment is a priority for those involved in land conservation today. Thousands of woodland owners throughout our state all have varied reasons for owning and managing their woodlands, but many are unaware of the benefits of timber management.

The Hebron public lot, also known as the Ernest Rand Memorial Forest, is on the site of the former Western Maine Sanatorium and has been in state ownership since 1915. Once the sanatorium was closed, through a series of conveyances, the lot came under the management of the Maine Forest Service in 1966 for the explicit purpose of becoming a State Forest Demonstration and Research area. Many experimental plots were established on the lot throughout the 1960s and 70s, but the concept of a Demonstration Forest on-site was never fully realized, and management of the parcel was transferred to Public Lands in 1976 along with all other State Forests. In 2016, Public Lands, in partnership with the Maine Forest Service, re-established this goal and upgraded access to the site, installed a kiosk for display materials, and continued efforts to control the many invasive plants impeding forest growth. Restoration of the 8-acre apple orchard featuring heirloom varieties was accomplished in 2017. Future work will include the development of interpretive materials for the range of silvicultural treatments used on the lot.

The Skowhegan Public Lands have a similar origin, having been part of the former Women's Correctional Center. The management of these parcels was assigned to the Bureau of Public Lands in 1976. In 1982, the Department assumed a cooperative role with the Yankee Woodlot Demonstration Program, an informal effort of several organizations to provide public education in small woodlot management. The cooperative nature of management on this lot still exists, and in 2016, the Maine Forest Service assumed responsibility to oversee the management alongside BPL and the Somerset County Soil and Water Conservation District. A series of forestry workshops on-site concluded in May 2017 and were centered around a timber harvest occurring on the property. The workshops were designed to educate woodland owners (current and future) for their own management activities. In FY 20, this forest was visited by both the Silvicultural Advisory Committee and the annual forest certification surveillance

audits. The first timber harvest following the establishment of the Yankee Woodlot took place in the early 1990s, and the second was conducted on frozen ground in 2017 and 2018, yielding a bit more than 1,000 cords each year. Revenue from this volume has allowed improvement of the infrastructure that is vital to the tract’s function as a demonstration forest.

Funding for the development of these demonstration forests is supported through several federal and state grants. Timber harvesting revenue on the Skowhegan lot is deposited to a special account held by the Somerset County Soil and Water Conservation District and supports the ongoing management of the Yankee Woodlot. Continued support for these projects is through the Maine Forest Service.

BOUNDARY LINES

The Bureau progressed on the maintenance of boundary lines, with about 39 miles maintained in FY 21. In total, about 250 miles have been completed. This is an area that can use more attention as additional resources become available.

XI. TRANSPORTATION

The Bureau continued to improve road access within its Public Lands, focusing primarily on recreational needs and implementation of its timber management program. There are currently about 252 miles of public access roads on Public Lands.

ROADS & ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

Timber Management Road Construction

To facilitate both summer and winter timber harvesting activities across the state, approximately 32.3 miles of timber management road were constructed and approximately 7 miles were upgraded or reconstructed in FY 21, and several temporary wood and concrete bridges were installed. All three Bureau regions have purchased and are deploying folding steel temporary truck bridges.

Public/Shared Use Road Maintenance

Each year, the Bureau contracts for maintenance services for grading and brushwork on public use roads and shared use roads, as well as certain management roads open to the public.² In FY 21, approximately 166 miles of these roads were maintained under contract in the Northern Region, 84.5 miles in the Western Region, and 78.5 miles in the Eastern Region. Roadside vegetation control was conducted on 20 miles of roads in the Eastern Region, 18.6 miles in the Northern Region, and 7 miles in the Western Region.

New Roads – FY 21 (miles)

Type	North	West	East	Total
Public Access	0	0	0	0
Summer Management	12.9	14.5	3.4	30.8
Winter Management	0	1.5	0	1.5

² As defined in the IRP, public use roads are all-weather roads designed to facilitate access to recreation facilities; shared use roads are those that are open to ATVs, horses and/or bikes in addition to passenger vehicles.

Upgraded roads – FY 21 (miles)

Type	North	West	East	Total
Public Access	0	5.0	0	5.0
Summer Management	0	3.25	1.4	4.65
Winter Management	0.9	1.5	0	2.4

Roads Maintained – FY 21 (miles)

Type	North	West	East	Total
Public Access	68.0	80.5	74.0	222.5
Summer Management	98.0	4.0	4.5	106.5
Winter Management				

FY 22 to date roads summary**New Roads – FY 22 to date (miles)**

Type	North	West	East	Total
Public Access	1.2	0	0	1.2
Summer Management	5.4	6.3	1.3	13.0
Winter Management	0	0.6	0	0.6

Upgraded roads – FY 22 to date (miles)

Type	North	West	East	Total
Public Access	0	0	0	0
Summer Management	0	3.2	2.4	5.6
Winter Management	0	4.5	1.1	5.6

Roads Maintained – FY 22 (miles)

Type	North	West	East	Total
Public Access	68.0	78.5	45.0	191.5
Summer Management	77.6	12.0	5.0	94.6
Winter Management	0	5.0	0	5.0

BRIDGES

In FY 21, the Bureau installed and rehabilitated several bridges, as listed below:

Eastern Region	Installed a new bridge and redecked another at the Nahmakanta Unit, and installed two temporary bridges at the Rocky Lake Unit.
Western Region	Installed four new bridges at the Mahoosuc, Bigelow, and Bald Mountain Units and rehabilitated bridges at the Richardson and Bald Mountain Units.
Northern Region	Installed one temporary bridge at the Eagle Lake Unit and redecked a bridge at the Scraggly Lake Unit as well as the 330-foot Chamberlain bridge adjacent to the Telos Unit (acquired by the Bureau in 2018).



New bridge to enhance fish passage at Cold Stream Forest Unit, BPL Western Region

XII. PUBLIC ACCESS

Eighty-four percent of Public Reserved Lands were accessible by motor vehicle to the public without fee or special arrangements in FY 21. The following is a report of the few circumstances where barriers affect primary motor vehicle access, as required in 12 MRSA §1853.

EXTERNAL GATES TO PUBLIC LANDS

North Maine Woods	7 checkpoints, staffed seasonally, control primary access from main points to 95,000 acres of Public Reserved Land including Deboullie, Round Pond, Chamberlain, Telos, and portions of Seboomook.
KI Jo-Mary	2 checkpoints, staffed seasonally, control access to public lots in Bowdoin College Grant East totaling 2,200 acres. A third checkpoint controls access to the 44,000-acre Nahmakanta Unit. Additionally, a gate funded and operated by the Bureau at the border between Nahmakanta and the KI Jo-Mary system controls access from Nahmakanta into the KI Jo-Mary system.
Cary Plantation	A locked cable gate on private land restricts access to this 230-acre parcel.
Magalloway Plt.	A locked metal gate on private land restricts access to this 1,000-acre parcel.
Cupsuptic	A staffed gate leased by the Kennebago Camp Owners' Association on private lands limits access to the 62-acre public lot in Stetsontown Twp. on Kennebago Lake. A public access agreement with the Association allows up to three vehicles at any one time to access the lake via the public lot and to park at the Grants Camps lease site located on the lot.
Davis Township	A locked gate on the private road north of the Dallas Plantation Public Lot was added in 2010, restricting use of the Loon Lake Road out of Rangeley to access the Bureau's Davis Twp. Lot on Kennebago Lake. However, this lot can still be accessed via the Bridge Road off Route 16 in Langtown Mill (Lang Twp).
Seboeis Plantation	An external gate was installed on a private road by the camp owners' association after repeated vandalism of private camps, limiting vehicular access to the 1,136-acre Seboeis Plantation lot.

INTERNAL GATES

The Bureau maintains 32 internal gates for safety purposes, to protect sensitive areas, to limit vehicle traffic on service roads, or to control certain recreational uses. None of the barriers

restrict foot traffic and many are left open during the winter season to allow safe passage by snowmobiles. Some temporary gates are used for security during harvest operations. In FY 21, two new gates were installed at each end of the Cutoff Road at Seboomook as a measure to protect the road during the spring mud season. At the Rocky Lake Unit, a gate was installed and another was moved to better manage Off-Road Vehicle travel.

LAND OPEN TO HUNTING

Public Law, Chapter 564 of the 123rd Legislature, amending 12 MRSA §1847 sub-§ 4, requires that lands open to hunting on Public Reserved Lands include at least the acreage open to hunting on January 1, 2008. Since 2008, no land has been removed from the acreage available for hunting at that time. The law also requires the Bureau to report annually to the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee the acreage of Public Reserved Lands available for hunting, and any changes from the January 1, 2008 levels.

- On January 1, 2008, there were 587,184 acres of Public Reserved Lands, of which **586,505 acres** were available for hunting (excluded three small game preserves).
- In FY 21, **630,334 acres** (over **99%** of Public Reserved Lands) are open for hunting.

XIII. LAND TRANSACTIONS

The Bureau continues to see increased interest by landowners and partner conservation groups in conservation easement and land acquisitions that represent a range of values, including recreation, ecological values, and working forests.

FISCAL YEAR 2021 TRANSACTIONS

Acquisitions

- **Moosehead Lake Region** – A donation by the Weyerhaeuser Company gave the Bureau fee ownership of 31 parcels totaling about 52 acres and ranging in size from about 1 to 4 acres. The donation completed a process stemming from the now extinguished Moosehead Lake Region Concept Plan (previously approved by the Maine Land Use Planning Commission). Select sites provide trailhead parking for over 26 miles of new hiking trails on easements previously donated by Weyerhaeuser. Some sites provide access to pristine trout ponds while others host existing or future campsites. Many of the sites are accessed by vehicle with more than 33 miles of permanent vehicular easements also given as part of the donation. Sites not directly accessed by road easement are accessible by trail easement and/or by water.

Dispositions

- **Richardson Lakes** – Three camp lot lease parcels in Adamstown Twp., totaling about 7.5 acres, were sold to the leaseholders.
- **Eagle Lake** – The former Eagle Lake Sporting Camps lease parcel, encompassing about 12.9 acres, was sold to the operator of the camp.
- **Little Moose** – A quarter-acre parcel in Moosehead Junction was conveyed to a residential abutter to resolve a boundary issue.

FISCAL YEAR 2022 and PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT

- **Scopan** – In August 2021, the Bureau acquired 4.6 acres adjacent to the Scopan Unit. Acquisition of this parcel provides direct access to a public road and allows the Bureau to build its road, securing permanent public access for the future.
- **East Grand Weston Project** – The Bureau has secured funding from the US Forest Legacy Program and the Land for Maine’s Future Program to purchase a working forest conservation easement on 4,327 acres situated on the shores of East Grand Lake. The project includes 21.5 miles of lake frontage, public access for a wide range of recreational opportunities, and the best view on Maine’s Million Dollar View Scenic Byway. It is expected to close in FY 23.
- **FY 22 Forest Legacy Projects** – FY 22 Forest Legacy funding totaling \$16M was requested for 2 working forest projects: 1) the 10,000-acre Chadbourne Tree Farm in Bethel will be protected through a working forest conservation easement; and 2) the 13,500-acre Quill Hill to Perham Stream project involves fee acquisition of 6,500 acres adjacent to the Bureau’s Mt. Abraham Ecological Reserve, and a working conservation easement on the 7,000-acre Quill Hill property.
- **Kennebec Highlands** – The Bureau has secured funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Land for Maine’s Future Program to purchase two parcels of land, totaling 813 acres, to be added to the Bureau’s Kennebec Highlands Public Land Unit. These parcels will be available to the public for a wide variety of recreational uses and will be managed for wildlife habitat, timber, and wild blueberry production.

XIV. SUBMERGED LANDS

These lands are managed under the Public Trust Doctrine to ensure the protection of the public trust rights of fishing, waterfowl hunting, navigation, and recreation. The Submerged Lands Program plays an important role in maintaining a balance among competing uses of submerged lands and resolving conflicts between public trust rights and the demand for private and commercial uses of these lands.

Project and Permit Applications

- The Program received 228 applications for new Coastal Development Projects.
 - 65 were determined to be exempt from the leasing requirements under the program rules
 - 41 new lease and easement documents were prepared and completed
- Staff processed 2 applications for new leases and easements for structures that were found to be in non-compliance after a 2015 inventory.
- Staff completed 120 requests for conveyance renewals, amendments, and transfers.
- In FY 21, the Submerged Lands Program devoted significant time to complete an application for a land-based aquaculture project in Belfast.
- One new application to recover sunken logs from public submerged lands was approved in FY 21.

Water Quality Monitoring. In 2009, the legislature authorized funding from the submerged lands leasing program to be provided to support water quality monitoring efforts at the

Department of Marine Resources shellfish program. Funding at \$80,000 per year has been extended through FY 21.

Tidal Energy Pilot Project. In 2012, the first tidal energy pilot project was installed on the seafloor at Cobscook Bay with testing and environmental monitoring continuing through FY 21. Power generated by the facility connects to the grid by a submarine cable to the shore at Lubec. Eighty percent of the lease revenue is directed to the Renewable Ocean Energy Trust Fund and is utilized by the Department of Marine Resources for fisheries research and mitigation efforts associated with offshore energy projects.

XV. SHORE AND HARBOR MANAGEMENT FUND

In 1991, the Legislature created the Shore and Harbor Management Fund in anticipation that annual revenues from the Submerged Lands Program (SLP) would exceed operating costs. These funds could then be used to support shore and harbor management activities and improve public access. In FY 21, funds were provided to the Bureau and other state agencies for:

- floating dock replacements at Rangeley Lake State Park;
- public boat ramp replacements at Rangeley Lake State Park, Belgrade, and Colonial Pemaquid;
- Maine DIFW to reconstruct boat ramp facilities at Jefferson and St. Albans; and
- Maine Island Trail Association in support of ongoing recreation management of State-owned coastal islands.

FY 21 was the fifth year of SLP's Harbor Management and Access (HMA) grant program. SLP awarded HMA grants to three municipalities including Sorrento, Poland, and Woolwich. All of the projects funded construction activities at new and existing water access facilities located on Great Ponds and coastal waters.

XVI. COASTAL ISLAND PROGRAM

Maine's Coastal Island Registry was created in 1973 by the 106th Legislature as a means of clarifying title to 3,166 coastal islands by establishing and registering ownership. Most island owners have registered their islands. The Program continues to receive periodic requests to register an island or make changes in existing registrations (address or ownership changes). There are also many requests for ownership information from persons with a general interest in Maine islands.

The Maine Island Trail is a water trail extending along the entire coast of Maine and includes both publicly and privately-owned islands. The Bureau continues its partnership with the Maine Island Trail Association in the management and oversight of the State-owned islands on the Trail. In addition, the Bureau provides a brochure "Your Islands and Parks on the Coast," showing the location of approximately 40 State-owned islands suitable for recreational use and explaining the Bureau's visiting, camping, and resource protection policies.

XVII. ADMINISTRATION

LEASES/LICENSES

Camplot Leases

The Bureau administers a Camplot Leasing Program for 285 residential camp lots and 10 commercial sporting camps and campgrounds across the state. In FY 21, the Bureau was in the third year of a five-year term (2018-2022) for camplot leases as well as most commercial sporting camps and campgrounds. In 2020, three camplot leases in the Richardson Lakes Unit, Oxford County were removed from inventory. The lessees bought their lease parcels as approved by the legislature (Resolve 2013, c. 56, § 4, as amended by Public Law 2017, Ch. 362, § 10, and 12 M.R.S. § 1851). The camplot program also administers seven tent site rental agreements.

Other Leases and Licenses

The Bureau administers 56 leases and licenses on Public Lands for a variety of purposes. These leases and licenses have terms that range from 5 to 25 years. Twenty-five include annual lease payment provisions, and the remainder involve no payment or payment of a one-time administrative fee to the Bureau. Leases and Licenses in place in FY 21 included:

18 Utility leases	4 Warden camp leases
8 Agricultural licenses	1 University camp lease
5 Telecommunication facility leases	3 Sugarbush licenses
1 Dam lease	13 Miscellaneous leases
1 Boat access license	

No-rent leases include: State lands leased to communities; recreation associations such as the Capital Area Recreation Association (CARA) ball fields in Augusta; nonprofit environmental organizations such as the Viles Arboretum in Augusta; municipal utilities for waterlines and pumping stations; and the Maine Warden Service for staff housing in remote locations. All no-rent leases either allow public access or are providing a public service.

XVIII. INCOME AND EXPENDITURES ACCOUNTING – FISCAL YEAR 2021

OVERVIEW

The Public Lands Program (Lands Program or Program) has several different accounts established for specific purposes with statutory restrictions on their use. The Program is funded entirely from dedicated fund sources with no General Fund support. **The revised statutes require that financial summaries be prepared on a fiscal year basis instead of the previous calendar year summaries.** The figures presented below may not compare to those reported in previous years **on a calendar year basis.**

Public Reserved Lands Management Account (014.01A.Z239.22)

This account is restricted to uses related to the management of lands that have Public Reserved Lands status, which includes the original public lots, land acquired through trading Public Reserved Lands, and other lands designated as Public Reserved Lands. Sources of income to this account include revenue generated from the harvest of forest products, camplot leases, and other special leases on the Reserved Lands, grants, endowments, or dedicated funds as well as

interest on the account balance. In FY 21, the Lands Program conducted timber harvests that yielded 84,917 cords.

Income for FY 21 was \$11,165,792 with expenditures of \$13,358,702. Because the Program's largest source of revenue is timber, income fluctuates from year to year in response to the amount of wood harvested and economic conditions that affect timber markets. The cash balance accumulates when revenues exceed expenses. The cash balance as of June 30, 2021, was \$4,150,589.

Income from the Reserved Lands Account supports most of the administrative, planning, timber, transportation, recreation, and wildlife management activities on the land base. The revenue described above supports the significant seasonal fluctuation in cash balances needed for contracted logging services and the Bureau's overall ability to support the Lands management program.

Included in the income or expenditure figures above are the portion of monies received from camplot leases and timber sales that are shared with towns and plantations pursuant to 12 MRSA §1854. Based on the income received in the calendar year 2020 (payable in 2021), the Lands Program revenue sharing amounts total \$135,058.53 paid to 13 towns and plantations.

Public Reserved Lands Management Account (014.01A.Z239.22)

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	\$34,886	Personal Services	\$3,459,999
Rent of Lands*(1)	\$1,234,888	All Other	\$8,232,271
Grants from State Agencies(2)	\$356,861	Capital	\$1,107,973
Camp lot Leases*	\$441,821		
Registration Fees (3)	\$22,692		
Sale of Stumpage *	\$9,873,631		
Sale of Forest Products *(4)	\$370		
Recovered Cost (5)	\$24,471		
DICAP**	(\$737,626)	STACAP	\$558,458
Trust & Private Contributions	\$5,736		
Late Fees & Misc. income	\$1,442		
Svc. Fees Charged by Other Depts. (6)	(\$82,576)		
Adj. To Balance Forward	(\$10,804)		
Total Income	\$11,165,792	Total Expenses	\$13,358,701

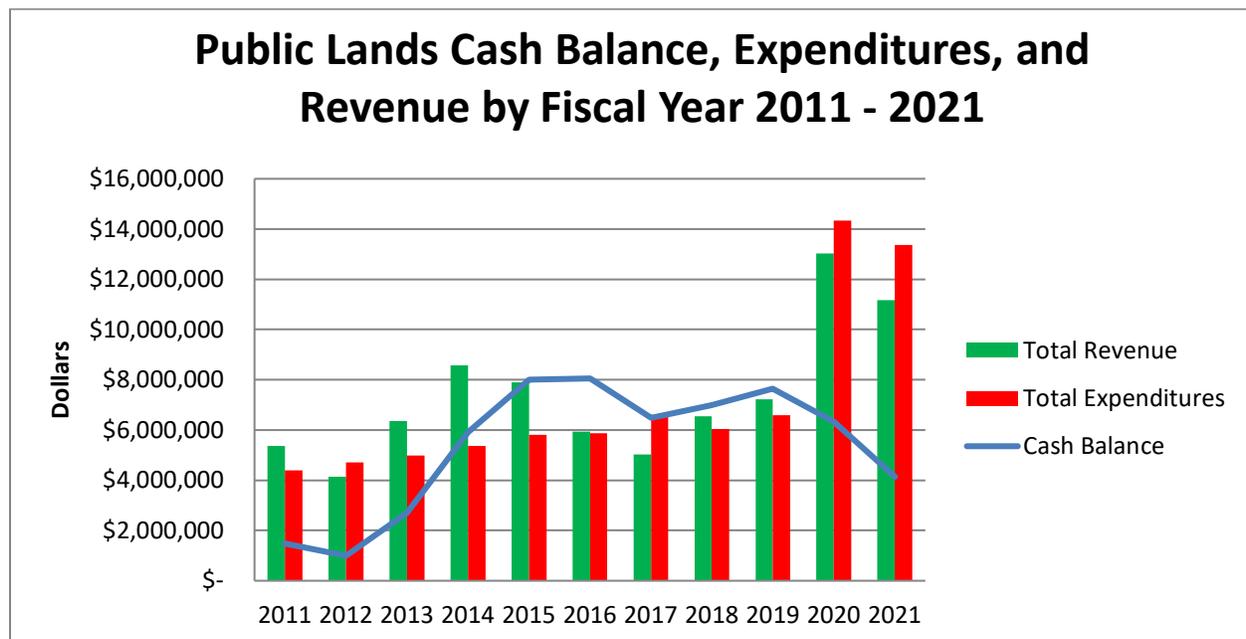
* Represents the major components of the Division's income stream and is shown as the gross income before logging and trucking costs are paid; those costs are included as expenses as a portion of "All Other."

** Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a "revenue debit," although it is actually an expenditure.

(1) Rent of lands is primarily the payment for Long Falls Dam on Flagstaff Lake as well as smaller amounts for sugarbush and other commercial leases.

- (2) Grants from State Agencies include dedicated funds at the Maine Community Foundation as well as Federal grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Recreational Trails Program.
- (3) Registration Fees are bear baiting site permits.
- (4) Sale of forest products is from fir tip sales.
- (5) Recovered costs are road tolls collected for logging truck use of Bureau roads by neighboring timberland owners.
- (6) Service fees to other Departments are payments made to MNAP for the Public Lands Ecologist and BPL invasive plant work.

The chart below shows the total revenue, the total expenditures, and the cash balance for the Public Reserved Lands Management Account for the period 2011 – 2021



* Beginning in FY 20, accounting practices were updated to show Contract Logging Services (CLS) as expenses, rather than as a reduction to revenue. Thus, there no major changes in revenue or expenses from 2019 to 2020 -- just in accounting practices.

Coronavirus Relief Funds

The Bureau of Parks & Lands received Coronavirus Relief Funds during FY 21 in the amount of \$128,580. These funds were used to cover public health and public safety personnel service expenses allowable per US Treasury guidance. The expenses would have otherwise been paid out of the Public Reserved Lands Management Fund (014.01A.Z239.22).

Public Nonreserved Lands Management Account (014.01A.Z239.23)

This account is used for the management of lands not in the Public Reserved Lands System. These Nonreserved Public Lands include coastal islands and institutional lands (those lands considered surplus by other state agencies) assigned to the Bureau’s Lands Program for natural resource management. Income is primarily derived from agricultural leases, though the sale of timber contributes occasionally when timber harvests are completed on Nonreserved Lands. Income for FY 21 was \$889 with zero expenditures. The ending cash balance was \$3,480. The

Public Lands program plans its expenditures for each fiscal year based on a level of income it projects to receive from its various revenue sources. If projected income is not sufficient, then the Program determines whether the balance in its contingency fund is sufficient to carry it through until additional revenues are received. If both revenue projections and contingency funds are insufficient, then the Program postpones planned expenditures until revenue returns to an adequate level.

Income		Expenses	
Rent of Lands	\$2,389	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$0
		Capital	\$0
DICAP**	(1,500)	STACAP	\$0
Total Income	\$889		\$0

** Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a “revenue debit,” although it is actually an expenditure.

Land Acquisition Fund (014.01A.Z239.24)

Funds from this account are restricted by statute and the constitution to the acquisition of conservation lands, and acquisition-related costs. These funds cannot be used for the operation or maintenance of existing land, and therefore, expenditures do not take place on a regular basis. Income that accrues as a result of sales, trades, or interest is carried forward until needed for future acquisitions. Income for FY 21 was \$491,696 against expenditures of \$53,756. Balance at the end of the fiscal year was \$1,303,476.

Income this year was derived from the sale of land and interest earned on the account balance. Expenses included various acquisition-related costs such as surveys and appraisals. In all cases, funds were expended in conjunction with other funding sources outside of the Bureau. Funds from this account are restricted by constitutional amendment (Article IX, Section 23) to the acquisition of lands having significant conservation and recreation value in the same county in which the sale of lands generating the funds took place.

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	\$7,090	All Other	\$51,295
Sale of Land	\$492,268	Capital	
DICAP**	(\$7,662)	STACAP	\$2,461
Total Income	\$491,696	Total Expenses	\$53,756

** Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a “revenue debit,” although it is actually an expenditure.

Z23924 – Public Reserved Lands Acquisition Account Balances*		
Account	County	Balance at FYE 2021
2400	Acquisition	\$71,815.27
2402	Aroostook County	\$22,434.97
2403	Cumberland County	\$14,110.73

2404	Franklin County	-\$525.60
2406	Kennebec County	-\$126.90
2409	Oxford County	\$1,088,297.21
2410	Penobscot County	\$2,434.97
2411	Piscataquis County	-\$4,126.60
2418	Wilderness Society Grant	\$3,140.03
2419	Kendall Grant	\$2,698.19
Z239	Land Management & Planning	\$103,323.40
		\$1,303,475.67

*Accounts will be balanced through account reconciliation in FY 22.

Nonreserved Land Acquisition Fund (014.01A.Z239.37)

This account was established to receive revenue from the sale of Public Nonreserved Lands. Expenses for FY 21 were \$136 with \$6,911 in revenue. The balance at the end of the fiscal year was \$294,905. Funds from this account are restricted by constitutional amendment (Article IX, Section 23) to the acquisition of lands having significant conservation and recreation value in the same county in which the sale of lands generating the funds took place.

Income		Expenses	
Reg Transfer Unallocated Investments	\$6,930	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$130
DICAP**	(\$19)	STACAP	\$6
Total Income	\$6,911	Total Expenses	\$136

** Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a “revenue debit,” although it is actually an expenditure.

Z23937 – Public Non-Reserved Acquisition Account Balances		
Account	County	Balance at FYE 2021
3703	Cumberland County	\$230,255.32
3753	Kennebec County	\$64,649.41
		\$294,904.73

Forest Legacy Fund (013.01A.Z239.35)

This account was established to receive grant revenue from the federal USDA Forest Service Forest Legacy Program for the purchase of unique valuable land and interests in land. Land acquisition projects are reviewed and approved at the national level. The Bureau also receives annual grants that support the program administration and pre-acquisition costs for the Forest Legacy land purchases. Land for Maine’s Future funds are typically used as match for these Forest Legacy grants to purchase land and interests in land. Total expenses in FY 21 were \$88,497. Total Forest Legacy revenues in FY 21 were \$86,125. At the end of FY 21, the

account had a balance of -\$2,372. This negative balance resulted from an expense hitting the account before the federal cash draw and was cleared in FY 22.

Income		Expenses	
		Personal Services	\$1,980
Federal Grants	\$86,422	Capital	\$86,422
DICAP**	(\$297)	STACAP	\$95
Total Income	\$86,125	Total Expenses	\$88,497

** Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a “revenue debit,” although it is actually an expenditure.

XIX. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023

OVERVIEW

Pursuant to Title 12 M.R.S.A., Sections 1839 and 1853, the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry must review allocations for the Bureau of Parks and Lands dedicated funds and revenue accounts pertaining to Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands for the upcoming fiscal year, and submit a written report to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs by March 15th. To assist in the preparation of that report, the Bureau is submitting information regarding Bureau income, expenditures, and management of the following five dedicated accounts:

- ***Public Reserved Lands Management Fund***
- ***Public Lands Management Fund (Nonreserved Public Lands)***
- ***Public Reserved Lands Acquisition Fund***
- ***Public Nonreserved Lands Acquisition Fund***
- ***Forest Legacy Fund***

The FY 23 account summaries of Bureau initiatives are generated from the State of Maine Budget and Financial Management System (BFMS). These accounts derive revenue from the sale of forest products, from lease fees, from interest on cash balances, and from the sale of land. Aside from limited funding for technical support, programs funded by these accounts receive no support from the State’s General Fund. The dedicated revenues in these accounts, supplemented by grants and other outside sources of revenue, must cover all operating expenses. The Bureau plans its expenditures for each fiscal year in part based on a level of income it projects to receive from its various revenue sources. If projected income is not sufficient then the Bureau determines whether the balance in its contingency fund is sufficient to carry it through until additional revenues are received. If both revenue projections and contingency funds are insufficient, then the Bureau postpones planned expenditures until revenue returns to an adequate level. The Bureau has established internal financial management procedures to accomplish this process and reviews budgetary matters on a monthly and quarterly basis.

The Bureau continues to manage the State-owned Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands (the “Public Lands Program”) to produce timber on a sustained yield basis and within established levels for allowable harvest to generate revenue to support resource protection, wildlife, and recreation programs. The addition of new lands and management responsibilities

places increasing demand on the Bureau. Revenue in the Public Reserved Lands Management Fund is used to meet these additional responsibilities. Presented below are the FY 22 budget allocations proposed for each of the five dedicated accounts within the Public Lands Program. These allocations represent the limits within which the Bureau must operate.

1. Public Reserved Lands Management Fund Account # 014.01A.Z23922

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	\$132,000	Personal Services	\$4,073,474
Grants from State Agencies	\$232,770	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$13,417,431
Rent of Lands*	\$1,100,000	Capital	\$3,000,000
Camp lot Leases*	\$404,498		
Recreational Use of Lands	\$14,000		
Misc. Rents & Leases	\$12,000		
Registration Fees	\$25,000		
Sale of Stumpage*	\$21,333,526		
Sale of Forest Products	\$350,000		
Misc. Income	\$176,549		
Contrib. from Private Sources	\$40,000		
Recovered Cost	\$121,000		
Reg Transfer Unallocated	(\$120,360)		
DICAP**	(\$2,590,070)	STACAP	\$740,008
Total Income	\$21,230,913	Total Expenses	\$21,230,913

* Represents the major components of the Division's income stream.

** Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a "revenue debit," although it is actually an expenditure.

The Public Lands Program, as of June 30, 2021, had an account balance of \$4,150,589 in the Public Reserved Lands Management Fund which serves as its operating fund and as a contingency fund for down years such as FY 21. Because most of the Program's timber harvesting takes place during the winter, there is a significant seasonal fluctuation in income. The fund enables the Program to operate during the first half of the fiscal year when income is low and expenses are relatively constant. It also serves as a buffer to cover operating costs when expenses exceed revenues.

Timber markets in Maine can be highly variable from year to year. Several years with strong timber markets over the last decade served to build a solid operating fund that also acts as a contingency for periods of down timber markets such as are expected to continue into FY 23. This fund provides the cash balance to support contract logging services, personnel services, vehicle operations, information technology, management costs for non-revenue generating activities such as road maintenance, forest inventory, and monitoring systems, as well as commitments to develop or expand recreational facilities. Conservation easement monitoring costs are provided via dedicated endowment funds tied to specific easements.

The Public Lands Program anticipates harvesting 120,000 cords of wood which will generate approximately \$5.6 million in net revenue in FY 23.³ However significant changes in markets, timber prices, and contractor availability can cause fluctuation in this projection. While harvest volumes and resulting income in FY 22 through January have rebounded significantly from the pandemic lows of FY 21 and FY 22, the Bureau will continue to plan expenditures with caution based on quarterly updates of projected income. The first two-quarters of FY 22 have seen encouraging results with a return to an upward trend in the cash balance for the first time in three years. Additional measures to balance the budget include a phased reduction in road construction costs as we complete road buildout plans, continued efforts to expand logging contractor capacity and the development of alternative funding streams such as grants for recreation management.

New initiative below is dependent on budget approval by the legislature.

- **Requested New Initiative** (Pending review and approval)

This initiative establishes one limited-period Forester II position to focus on marketing forest products in the Western region and provides funding for related All Other costs. This position ends June 8, 2025.

Dedicated Revenue	Income	Requested for FY 23	Expenses
Misc. Income	\$106,442	Personal Services	\$98,043
		All Other	\$3,500
		STACAP	\$4,899
Total Income	\$106,442	Total Expenses	\$106,442

2. Public Nonreserved Lands Management Fund Account # 014.01A.Z239.23

The account had a balance of \$3,480 at the end of FY 21, which is used as a contingency fund to cover expenses that occur between the relatively small and infrequent timber harvests on these lands.

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments		All Other (not including STACAP)	\$32,761
Rent of Lands	\$2,500	Capital	
Recreational Fees	\$700		
Sale of Stumpage	\$33,580	STACAP	\$761
DICAP**	(\$2,952)		
Total Income	\$33,828	Total Expenses	\$33,522

** Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a “revenue debit”, although it is actually an expenditure.

³ Net stumpage revenue after harvest and transportation; does not include personnel or other costs.

3. Public Reserved Lands Acquisition Fund Account # 014.01A.Z239.24

By statute, the money in this account is used only for purposes related to the acquisition of interest in land. Lands purchased with the funds from this account have Public Reserved Land status. These funds are necessary to acquire rights-of-ways, in-holdings, conservation easements, and additions to the existing land base. As in most years, it is difficult to predict the timing, income, and expenditures involved in potential land transactions. This budget allows the Bureau, if the opportunity arises, to acquire land or other interests within the available allocation. The “All Other” expenses are used to cover the cost of legal assistance for title searches, drafting deeds, appraisals, and related items. At the end of FY 21, this account had a balance of \$1,303,476. Funds generated from sales of properties may only be used for land acquisitions in the same county as required by the Constitution. This limits the Bureau’s ability to use this fund to pursue acquisition projects in counties without funds.

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	\$16,000	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$201,672
Misc. Income	\$5,500		
Sale of Land	\$218,500	Capital	
DICAP**	(\$30,251)	STACAP	\$7,803
Total Income	\$209,749	Total Expenses	\$209,475

** Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a “revenue debit”, although it is actually an expenditure.

4. Public Nonreserved Lands Acquisition Fund Account # 014.01A.Z239.37

The money in this account is used only for purposes related to the acquisition of interest in Nonreserved land. Lands purchased with the funds from this account have Public Nonreserved Land status. These funds are necessary to acquire rights-of-ways, in-holdings, conservation easements, and additions to the existing land base. As in most years, it is difficult to predict the timing, income, and expenditures involved in potential land transactions. This budget allows the Bureau, if the opportunity arises, to acquire land or other interests within the available allocation. The “All Other” expenses are used to cover the cost of legal assistance for title searches, drafting deeds, appraisals, and related items. At the end of FY 21, this account had a balance of \$294,905.

Income		Expenses	
Sale of Land	\$72,000	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$60,542
DICAP**	(\$9,082)	STACAP	\$2,342
Total Income	\$62,918	Total Expenses	\$62,884

** Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a “revenue debit”, although it is actually an expenditure.

5. Forest Legacy Fund # 013.01A.Z239.35

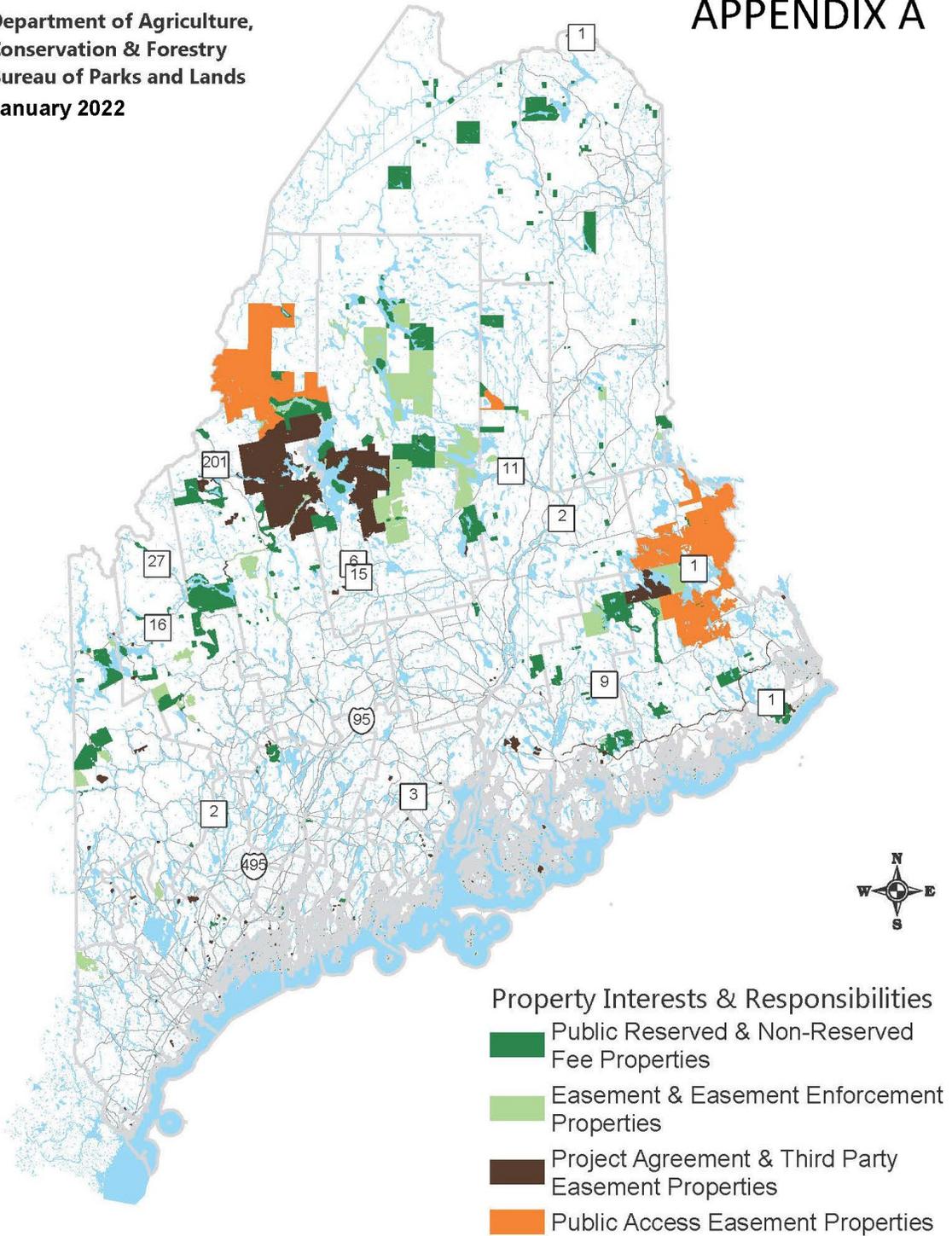
This account is used for USDA Forest Service Forest Legacy Program grant expenses related to the acquisition of nationally approved Forest Legacy land parcels and any associated pre-acquisition costs. The figures above represent the All Other pre-acquisition budget. For land acquisitions, financial orders are sent to the DACF Commissioner and Governor for signatures and to establish the capital needed for the land purchase. Land for Maine’s Future funds are typically used as match for these Forest Legacy grants to purchase land. At the end of FY 21, the account had a balance of -\$2,372.

Income		Expenses	
		Personal Services	
Federal Grants	\$43,000	All Other (not including STACAP)	36,158
		Capital	0
DICAP**	(\$5,425)	STACAP	1,399
Total Income	\$37,575	Total Expenses	\$37,557

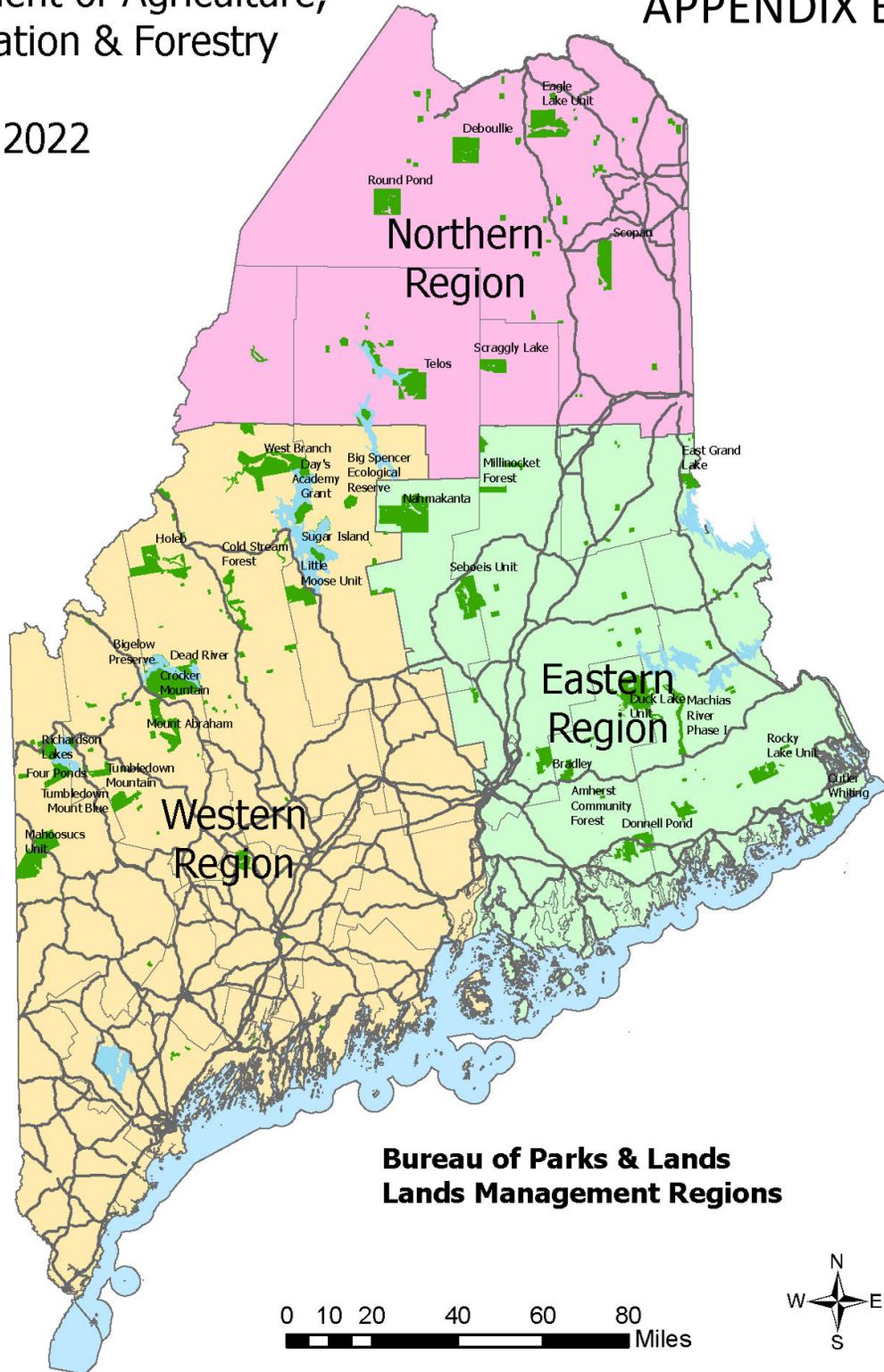
** Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a “revenue debit”, although it is actually an expenditure.

Department of Agriculture,
Conservation & Forestry
Bureau of Parks and Lands
January 2022

APPENDIX A



January 2022



**Bureau of Parks & Lands
Lands Management Regions**

PUBLIC RESERVED AND NONRESERVED LAND MANAGEMENT UNITS, BY PLAN REGION

Key: shaded units = >1,500 acres [NRL] = Nonreserved land *** = managed by others

	Unit Name	acres		Unit Name	acres
WEST	Seboomook Region		WEST	Tumbledown/Mt. Blue Region	
	Seboomook and Canada Falls	41,508		Tumbledown	10,389
	St. John Ponds	3,917		Bald Mountain Lot - Perkins	167
	Big Spencer Mountain	4,242		Kennebec Highlands	
	Baker Lake	1,650		Kennebec Highlands	6,076
	Upper Kennebec Region			Individual Units	
	Holeb	23,713		Pineland [NRL]	881
	Cold Stream Forest	8,152		Dodge Point	495
	Sandy Bay	2,721			
	Bald Mountain Lot	1,650		Other Non-Reserved Lands	
	Bradstreet Twp. South Lot	178	Hebron Lot	448	
	Caratunk North, South, East Lots	1,611	Augusta Surplus ***	337	
	Coburn Mountain Lot	300	Yankee Woodlot ***	238	
	Dennistown Plantation Lot	1,024	Baxter Memorial Forest	161	
	Highland Plantation East Lot	210	Northport/Durham State Forest	108	
	Johnson Mountain Lot	521	Kennebunk Forest	77	
	Kennebec Gorge	1,483	Steven's Island ***	31	
	Moose River North & South Lots	312	Hallowell ***	8	
	Moxie Gore Lot	450	Lousy Island	2	
	Pleasant Ridge Plantation Lot	173			
	The Forks Plantation N+S Lots	1,068			
	West Forks Plt. NE, NW, C, SW Lots	1,189			
	Flagstaff Region				
	Flagstaff Lake/Bigelow Preserve	43,591			
	Crocker Mountain	12,046			
	Mt. Abraham	6,301			
	Chain of Ponds	982			
	Coplin Plt. Central Lot	562			
	Coplin Plt. West Lot	398			
	Freeman Twp. Lot [NRL]	122			
	Highland Plt. Double Lot	362			
	Highland Plt Southeast Lot	121			
	Highland Plt. West Lot	408			
	King and Bartlett Twp. Lot	143			
	Redington Twp. Lot	1,020			
	Western Mountains Region				
	Mahoosuc	31,764			
	Richardson	18,484			
	Four Ponds	6,018			
	Bald Mountain – Oquossoc	1,873			
Dallas Plt. Lots – North & South	439				
Davis Lot	960				
Lincoln Plantation Lots – West & East	919				
Magalloway Plantation Lot	1,044				
Rangeley Plantation Lot	469				
Stetsontown Lot	41				
Township E (Smalls Falls) Lot	370				

APPENDIX D

MANAGEMENT PLAN STATUS (MAJOR UNITS)

	Management Unit	Status	Plan Region
<i>Northern Region</i>			
1	Chamberlain	Adopted August 2021	St. John Uplands
2	Deboullie	Adopted June 2007	Northern Aroostook
3	Eagle Lake	Adopted June 2007	Northern Aroostook
4	Gero Is./Chesuncook	Adopted August 2021	St. John Uplands
5	Round Pond	Adopted August 2021	St. John Uplands
6	Salmon Brook Lake Bog	Adopted June 2007	Northern Aroostook
7	Scraggly Lake	Adopted August 2009	Aroostook Hills
8	Scopan	Adopted August 2009	Aroostook Hills
9	Telos	Adopted August 2021	St. John Uplands
<i>Eastern Region</i>			
10	Amherst Forest	Adopted Dec. 2010	Eastern Interior
11	Bradley	Adopted July 2009	Eastern Interior
12	Bradford/LaGrange	Adopted May 2014	Central Penobscot
13	Cutler Coast	Adopted March 2007	Downeast
14	Donnell Pond	Adopted March 2007	Downeast
15	Duck Lake	Adopted July 2009	Eastern Interior
16	East Turner Mtn	Adopted May 2014	Central Penobscot
17	Great Heath	Adopted March 2007	Downeast
18	Machias River	Adopted July 2009	Downeast
19	Millinocket Forest	Adopted May 2014	Central Penobscot
20	Nahmakanta	Adopted May 2014	Central Penobscot
21	Orient	Adopted August 2021	Eastern Interior
22	Rocky Lake	Adopted March 2007	Downeast
23	Seboeis	Adopted May 2014	Central Penobscot
24	Wassataquoik	Adopted May 2014	Central Penobscot
<i>Western Region</i>			
25	Bald Mountain	Adopted Jan. 2011	Western Mountains
26	Bigelow Preserve/Flagstaff	Adopted June 2007	Flagstaff
27	Big Spencer Mtn	Adopted March 2007	Seboomook
28	Chain of Ponds	Adopted June 2007	Flagstaff
29	Cold Stream Forest	Adopted June 2019	Upper Kennebec
30	Crocker Mountain	Adopted April 2015	Flagstaff
31	Days Academy	Adopted Feb. 2017	Moosehead
32	Four Ponds	Adopted Jan. 2011	Western Mountains
33	Holeb	Adopted June 2019	Upper Kennebec
34	Kennebec Highlands	Adopted Oct. 2011	Kennebec Highlands
35	Little Moose	Adopted Feb. 2017	Moosehead
36	Mahoosuc	Adopted June 2007	Western Mountains
37	Mount Abraham	Adopted Jan. 2011	Flagstaff
38	Pineland	Adopted Jan. 2011	Bradbury SP/Pineland P.L.
39	Richardson	Adopted Jan. 2011	Western Mountains
40	Sandy Bay	Adopted June 2019	Upper Kennebec
41	Seboomook	Adopted March 2007	Seboomook
42	St. John Ponds	Adopted March 2007	Seboomook
43	Sugar Island	Adopted Feb. 2017	Moosehead
44	Tumbledown	Adopted Feb. 2022	Tumbledown/Mt. Blue

APPENDIX E

Designation History of Ecological Reserves

Original Ecological Reserves Designated in 2001 and Modifications Adopted in 2007, '11, '18, '20, '21		
Name	Original 2001 Acres*	Changes adopted in 2007 and after
1. Bigelow ER	10,540	
2. Chamberlain ER	2,890	+612
3. Cutler Coast ER	5,216	+5
4. Deboullie ER	7,253	-1,203*
5. Donnell Pond/Spring River Lake ER	5,950	+60*
6. Duck Lake ER	3,870	
7. Gero Island ER	3,175	
8. Great Heath ER	5,681	+739*
9. Mahosucs ER	9,974	
10. Nahmakanta ER	11,082	
11. Rocky Lake ER	1,516	
12. Salmon Brook Lake ER	1,053	-50*, +26
13. Wassataquoik ER	775	+1,325
Original Total Acres	68,975	
Adjusted Total Acres	70,489	

* These figures have been revised to delete areas of open water (e.g., ponds), which are not included in BPL fee ownership, and to reflect various boundary and other corrections.

Ecological Reserves Designated as a Result of Acquisition Conditions	
Name	Acres
1. Big Spencer ER (2007)	4,242
2. Mount Abraham ER (2007)	5,186
3. St. John Ponds ER (2007)	3,917
4. Fourth & Fifth Machias Lakes ER (2009)*	2,780
5. Number 5 Bog ER (2009)	4,809
6. Crocker Mountain ER (2013)	4,000
Total	24,934

* Added to Duck Lake Ecological Reserve

Current Total Ecological Reserve Acres	
Category	Acres
Original Ecological Reserves, as modified	70,489
Ecological Reserves Designated as a Result of Acquisition Conditions	24,934
Total	95,423