

Beyer, Jim R

From: Burke, Ruth A
Sent: Friday, October 08, 2021 8:33 AM
To: Beyer, Jim R
Subject: FW: CMP on Public Lands

Ruth Ann Burke
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Board of Environmental Protection
Commissioner's Office

From: Linda Woods <greenladywoods@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 7, 2021 6:38 PM
To: Burke, Ruth A <Ruth.A.Burke@maine.gov>
Subject: CMP on Public Lands

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To: Maine Department of Environmental Protection

From: Linda Woods, Waterville
Date: October 5, 2021
Re: CMP's Access of Public Lands

Frankly I am confused by the need to hold this meeting. The Legislature has clearly indicated four times that CMP's lease to cross public lands was a substantial alteration and, therefore, requires a $\frac{2}{3}$ legislative vote of approval. This was affirmed by the final action of the First Special Session of the 130th Legislature when it passed SP 594. If Director Cutko had followed the law and brought CMP's request to the legislature, there would be no need for this inquiry.

Yet, somehow CMP has begun cutting in Section 1: cutting in the largest contiguous forest east of the Mississippi. Even after Justice Murphy ruled that Director Cutko had exceeded his authority by granting a lease, CMP is ignoring the fact that the New England Clean Energy Connect would significantly alter the value and use of the public land in Somerset County between Johnson Mountain and Wilson Pond. This area is a home to at least 2 species that are listed on the Maine Department of Fish and Wildlife List of endangered species: the roaring brook mayfly (*Epeorus frisoni*) and the Bicknell thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*). Additionally, the habitat of indigenous brook trout which is a popular quest for anglers is disturbed. They depend on the shaded overstory to breed successfully. In my Maine Master Naturalist class, I learned the importance of vernal pools. As a keystone species, amphibians indicate the health of an area. These, too, require a treed overstory to successfully move into the woods after birth in the vernal pool. Each of these individually should have been enough to deny CMP's permit. Collectively they certainly equal denial of continued disruption.

Please weigh these facts carefully while making this decision. Maine's identity is about our outdoors, woods, waterways, and ocean for our seasonal activities like hiking, fishing, hunting, skiing, and snowmobiling. Most of these activities happen on our public land; therefore, I encourage you to support protecting public lands. Allowing this company to continue construction without a resolution is inflicting unnecessary damage on Maine's environment, vistas and valuable wildlife habitat. CMP should not be allowed to continue clearing trees and erecting poles needs to be held to the same high standard as every other infrastructure project in this state. Allowing this company to continue construction without a resolution is inflicting unnecessary damage on Maine's environment, vistas and valuable wildlife habitat.

**All that you touch You change. All that you Change changes you. The only lasting truth is Change.
(*Parable of the Sower* by Octavia E. Butler)**

