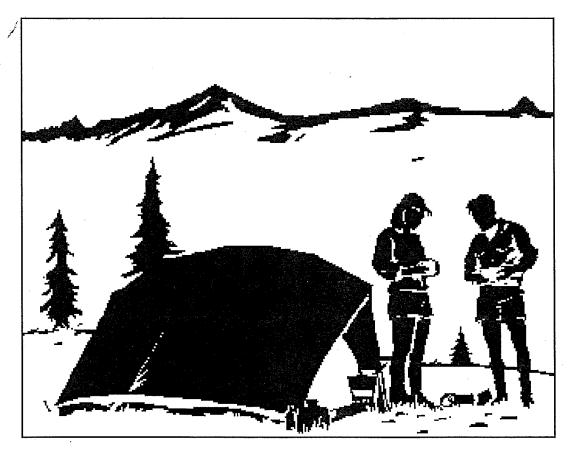




1999 ANNUAL REPORT

To the Joint Standing Committee On Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry



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L	 Bureau of Parks and Lands

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Report on Maine's Public Reserved and Non-reserved Lands, Submerged Lands, and Coastal Islands For Calendar Year 1999

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bureau of Parks and Lands is responsible for the management and administration of Maine's Public Reserved and Non-reserved Lands, Submerged Lands, Coastal Islands, and other lands as provided by law. The Bureau is statutorily mandated to manage the Public Reserved and Non-reserved Lands in a manner consistent with 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 (Title 12 M.R.S.A., § 1833 and 1847).

The "Lands" division of the Bureau is a dedicated revenue component of the agency funding all of its administrative, planning, management, and operational activities for these lands from revenue generated from the land base. Ten year, multiple-use plans for the major properties guide the Bureau's management activities. These plans are prepared with the assistance of a Public Advisory Committee and discussed in a public meeting before adoption by the Commissioner. Benefits from the wise management of these lands include:

- protection of unique natural and cultural resources
- enhancement of wildlife habitat
- access to recreational opportunities
- production of timber products

The Bureau also has responsibility for protecting public trust rights to Submerged Lands, and, when granting leases for the use of Submerged Lands, includes conditions to maintain customary and traditional public access, navigation, and commercial marine uses.

II. HIGHLIGHTS OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 1999

- Submerged Lands conducted survey of pre-1991 easement and lease holders in order to update the status of those agreements
- **Timber Management** completed inventory of timber resources and wildlife habitat features on Bureau lands
- **Recreation** developed camping/hiking facilities on the Nahmakanta Unit, and camping facilities on the Rocky Lake Unit.
- **Planning** developed an alternative ecological reserve design proposal for legislative consideration in 2000
- **Transportation** completed upgrade and reconstruction of 6 miles of public use road on the Little Squaw Unit
- Acquisitions completed 7 transactions, the most significant being the acquisition of 65 miles of lake and river shoreline from Plum Creek Timber Co.

III. PREFACE

Title 12, M.R.S.A., § 1839 requires the Bureau of Parks and Lands to prepare a yearly report of its Reserved, Non-reservred, and Submerged Lands. This report is submitted on or before March 1st of each year to the joint standing committee of the legislature having jurisdiction over natural resources. The first section of this Report provides a summary of the Bureau's management activities during the 1999 calendar year in the following program areas:

- Land Management Planning
- > Wildlife
- > Recreation

- > Timber Management
- > Transportation
- Land Transactions
- Submerged Lands
- > Public Access
- Shore and Harbor Management Fund
- Coastal Island Program
- Income and Expenditures Accounting
- > Administration

As required, information on gates and barriers preventing public vehicle access to Public Reserved and Non-reserved Lands is included, as well as campsite or recreation facility fees charged for the use of these lands. The report also contains information on income and expenditures for calendar year 1999.

Lastly, a Financial Report for FY 2001 has been included as part of this document. This reflects a change from reporting methods of previous years, when the Financial Report was submitted separately from the accomplishments of the previous calendar year.

The ACF Committee, in turn, has the obligation to report by March 15th to the Appropriations Committee on the Bureau's budget.

IV. INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Parks and Lands is an agency within the Department of Conservation. In addition to its responsibilities for the management of State Parks, Historic Sites, Allagash Wilderness Waterway, Penobscot River Corridor, Boat Facilities. Snowmobile and ATV programs, the Bureau has responsibility for the management of 488,142 acres of Public Reserved Lands, 5,125 acres of Non-reserved Lands, 2,300,000 acres of the State's marine and freshwater Submerged Lands, and approximately 1,350 public coastal islands. The Bureau staff involved with the management of Reserved and Non-reserved Lands includes specialists in planning, forest transportation, wildlife, outdoor recreation, and field forestry; all of whom collaborate to ensure an integrated and balanced approach to the management of resources on these lands to benefit Maine citizens.

Since the creation of the Bureau of Public Lands in 1973, most of the remaining small, scattered, original public lots have been traded with other landowners to consolidate the State's holdings into larger, more efficient management units with higher public use values. Other lands, such as coastal islands, surplus institutional lands, and land acquired by the Land for Maine's Future Program have been assigned to the Bureau for management. The Bureau is statutorily mandated to manage these Reserved and Non-reserved Lands "under the principles of multiple use to produce a sustained yield of products and services by the use of prudent business practices and the principles of sound planning" (12 M.R.S.A., § 1847).

Submerged Lands beneath coastal waters to the 3-mile limit and natural Great Ponds are managed by the Bureau under the Public Trust Doctrine to protect the public trust rights to fishing, waterfowl hunting, navigation, and recreation. In addition, the Bureau maintains the Coastal Island Registry, which catalogs the ownership of all coastal islands.

V. LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING

The Bureau manages 27 consolidated units and 137 non-consolidated parcels. Of the 27 consolidated units, 20 have adopted plans, and plans for the other 7 units will be developed. (See Table 1, page 3, and map showing location of the consolidated units, page 17).

RESOURCE ALLOCATION SYSTEM

The Bureau's *Integrated Resource Policy* and *Planning Policy*, both adopted in 1985, govern management planning for all Public Reserved and Non-reserved lands. The planning process allocates areas for specific uses including:

- Special Protection
- Wildlife
- Recreation
- Timber

Because of the nature of multiple-use management, 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 activities, such as timber harvesting, to proceed where conflicts are avoided or where mutual benefit can be realized. For example, planned timber harvests in deer yards can provide a sustained yield of forest products and

deer browse, while maintaining their winter shelter value.

DEVELOPMENT OF UNIT MANAGEMENT PLANS

The unit management planning process involves the public in two ways. For each unit, a Public Advisory Committee of 15-30 individuals is established, representing local and statewide interests. The committee meets during the course of plan development to serve as a forum for discussion of management issues and ideas, to provide local knowledge and a statewide perspective to the planning process, and to review draft plans. When the Bureau and advisory committee have discussed all the issues χ and a draft plan has been developed, it is presented at a public meeting at which everyone with an interest is encouraged to comment. After consideration of these comments, the Bureau develops a final plan which is subsequently adopted by the Commissioner of the Department of Conservation.

The Bureau was directed by the Legislature to complete management plans on all of its units by the end of 1989. This legislative requirement was enacted in 1987. The understanding has been that this provision applies to parcels owned at that time, and management plans for those units that supported significant public use were completed for those properties. New or revised management plans were not developed in 1999, with staff resources directed towards revision of the *Integrated Resource Policy (see upcoming discussion)*.

	Bald Mountain	To Do
2	Bigelow	Adopted August 1989
3	Chain of Ponds	To Do
4	Chamberlain Lake	To Do
5	Cutler Coast	Adopted Nov. 1993
6	Dead River/Spring Lake	To Do
7	Deboullie	Adopted Jan. 1987
8	Donnell Pond *	Adopted Jan. 1992
9	Duck Lake	Adopted Feb. 1989
10	Eagle Lake	Adopted Mar. 1990
11	Four Ponds	Adopted Oct. 1989
12	Gero Island	To Do
13	Great Heath	Adopted Aug. 1984
14	Holeb	Adopted Dec. 1989
15	Little Squaw	Adopted Oct. 1988
16	Mahoosucs	Adopted Feb. 1988
17	Moosehead	Adopted July 1997
18	Nahmakanta	Adopted Nov. 1995
19	Richardson	Adopted Mar. 1990

Table 1. Management Plans

20	Rocky Lake	Adopted Dec. 1989
21	Round Pond	Adopted Dec. 1992
22	Salmon Brook Lake	To Do
	Bog	
23	Scraggly Lake	Adopted Oct. 1988
24	Seboeis	Adopted Feb. 1990
25	Squa Pan	Adopted Mar. 1990
26	Telos	Adopted Feb. 1990
27	Wassataquoik	To Do

* To include the LMFB acquisition of Spring River Lake

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORIES

As part of its management planning process, the Bureau contracts with ecologists to conduct natural resource inventories. These inventories identify rare animals and plants, significant natural communities, and other natural features to be considered for "Special Protection" status within management plans. "Special Protection" areas are set aside by the Bureau to avoid detrimental impacts that might occur from active land management practices. Although no forest management occurs in "Special Protection" areas, dispersed recreation is often a compatible use.

MAINE FOREST BIODIVERSITY PROJECT (MFBP)

Background

The Bureau has been an active participant in the MFBP project from its beginnings in 1994 until its close in January of 1999. The project was a collaborative effort among a diverse group of stakeholders to find ways to protect forest biodiversity in Maine. Its accomplishments include a report on the status of biodiversity in Maine, a field manual for foresters published in 1999 on biodiversity friendly forest management practices, an inventory of significant natural features of the conservation lands of Maine, and a potential design for a system of ecological reserves on conservation lands. At that time, 179,520 acres of Bureau lands were identified as potential ecoreserves, with 164,215 acres identified for the "lands" division.

Bureau Ecological Reserves Design

During 1999, Bureau staff developed an alternative design for an ecological reserve system on Pubic Reserved and Non-reserved lands using data from the above-mentioned 1998 report. Bureau staff met with members of the MFBP scientific advisory committee who developed that report. Their reaction to the alternative design was that the Bureau had done a commendable job in maintaining representation of ecological communities, but less well in ensuring maintenance of certain ecological functions.

Ecological Reserves Legislation

In response to the ecological reserves inventory report released in 1998, the Bureau worked with stakeholders from the environmental, sportsman, and forest products communities to develop a proposal to present before the 119th legislature. If enacted, the proposal would authorize the Bureau Director to designate ecological reserves from among the areas identified in the 1998 report. Acres designated would be limited to 15% of the total acres managed by the Bureau, with no more than 6% of those Reserved and Non-reserved lands deemed operable for timber harvesting. The proposal also provides guidance as to the compatible and incompatible uses of these areas.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE POLICY

In February of 1998, an Advisory Committee and five Technical Working Groups were formed to discuss issues related to various resource areas, and to provide guidance to the Bureau in the revision of this Policy. Once completed, the Policy will guide the types of activities that will occur on the land base. The members were selected for their expertise and experience in a variety of fields, and represent a cross section of interests from government, industry, public interest organizations, and the general public. Their role in advising the Bureau has included providing a balanced response to the general public interest as well as a diversity of technical viewpoints.

In 1999, the Advisory Committee met four times and completed a first draft of the Policy, which in turn was presented to Bureau staff for their review and comment. The Committee will meet one more time in 2000 to assist in preparing a final draft for consideration at public meeting(s), with an anticipated completion date of July 1, 2000 for adoption of the revised Policy.

VI. WILDLIFE

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 has been assigned to the staff of the Bureau through a cooperative agreement between the two agencies. The primary responsibility of the position has been to develop and implement a fisheries and wildlife program for Bureau managed lands. During 1999, the following projects were undertaken:

1) Reviewed 13 integrated resource management prescriptions covering 12,779 acres to ensure that habitat guidelines were incorporated into land management activities. Many of these prescriptions involved significant amounts of hardwood and mixedwood stands, where the management of American beech for nut production is a major concern. The approved harvesting should provide sustainable levels of nut-producing trees for future generations of wildlife.

2) Concluded the review and update of fisheries and wildlife policies for revision of the Bureau's *Integrated Resource Policy*, which guides the management of its lands. The staff Wildlife Biologist chaired the Fisheries and Wildlife Resources Technical Working Group, co-chaired the Natural and Geological Technical Working Group, was a member of the Timber/Renewable Resources Working Group, and participated as a member of the Advisory Committee.

3) Completed development of management guidelines for American beech, with final adoption expected in 2000.

4) The abandoned fields of the former Deer Head Farm at Days Academy Grant continued to be reclaimed and managed for grassland birds. Considerable resources have been committed to tree and brush removal, mowing, and re-seeding with grasses. Eighteen tons of lime were applied to the fields in 1999. Existing apple and fruit trees were released and pruned. More than 200 oak trees have been planted in adjacent forest stands to provide an additional source of mast for wildlife. The management goal of this site is to create and maintain a field complex of 30 acres. To date, approximately 10 acres of fields have been reclaimed. An additional 12 acres of alder strips in wetland areas adjacent to the fields were cut to rejuvenate feeding and nesting habitat for American woodcock.

5) Over 60 apple trees on 8 acres were released at Hebron, Webster Plt., and Harpswell. Sixty oak trees were released at Lakeville Plt.

6) Maintained 100 waterfowl nesting boxes.

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7) Seeded 51 acres of disturbed soil for wildlife forage and erosion control.

8) Implemented harvesting plans for deer wintering areas in the Scraggly Lake and Round Pond Units; continued the development of long-term DWA management plans for the Round Pond and Telos Units.

9) The seasonal wildlife field assistant completed 19 waterfowl brood counts, checked 1 lake for loon nest locations, monitored for peregrine falcons and Bicknells thrush, located vernal pools, and assisted regional staff with habitat restoration projects.

VII. RECREATION

In response to public demand, and in accordance with management plan commitments, the Bureau continues to develop new recreation opportunities on its lands. The Bureau is responsible for 201 campsites, 176 miles of hiking trails, 18 boat ramps and 129 miles of public access roads. In 1999, projects completed or worked on were:

1) *Grafton Loop Trail.* The Bureau continued to be an active member of a coalition of nonprofit organizations and private landowners developing a 22 mile hiking trail in the Mahoosuc Mountains. The trail will branch off from the Appalachian Trail on the Mahoosuc Unit and continue east over private land to Puzzle Mountain, where it will then return to the Appalachian Trail.

Maine Outdoor Heritage Funds (MOHF) were applied for and received to assist with trail design and landowner negotiations under the supervision of the Hurricane Island/Outward Bound School. Maine Conservation Corps and Maine Appalachian trail members have agreed to assist with trail construction in 2000.

2) Nahmakanta Unit. Two campsites were constructed on Nahmakanta Lake. The boat launch

constructed in 1998 was modified to facilitate the unloading of boats onto a supplied boat cart. Approximately 6.5 miles of new trail were constructed in the Debsconeag Backcountry. The Turtle Ridge trail system was completed with the installation of a trail head at its eastern terminus and a foot bridge across the outlet of Sing-Sing Pond. The trail was officially dedicated on National Trails Day in June.

3) *Rocky Lake Unit.* Two vehicle-accessible campsites, 3 water-access campsites, and a 10 place parking lot were constructed by University of Maine at Machias students through a cooperative effort funded by the MOHF.

4) *Little Squaw Unit.* Extensive rehabilitation of trail steps and bog bridges were conducted on the Little Squaw Mt. trail hiking network.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Bureau continued to print and distribute pocket-sized brochures describing recreation opportunities for the management units listed below. New brochures for the **Donnell Pond**, Little Squaw, **Mahoosuc**, and **Pineland Units** were developed, and will be available this spring. Each brochure contains a map showing the location of hiking trails, campsites, and other recreational facilities.

Bigelow Preserve
Cutler Coast
Deboullie
Dodge Point
Donnell Pond (new)
Duck Lake
Holeb
Little Squaw (new)
Mahoosucs (new)
Pineland (new)
Richardson/Bald Mountain
Rocky Lake
Scraggly Lake
Seboeis

STAFFING

A full-time Recreation Specialist and five seasonal rangers are involved in recreation management activities. The seasonal rangers, located in the Northern, Western, and Eastern Regions of the Bureau's Lands Division for recreation facilities maintenance and construction, and ensuring that visitors observe Bureau rules and outdoor etiquette. In addition, the Regional Managers and staff spend time on recreation management issues. The full-time **Bigelow Preserve** Manager spends most of the summer managing recreational use for the area. Recreation facility construction and maintenance are performed by permanent Bureau staff, seasonal recreation rangers, and volunteers. The expanding land base and increasing visitor use have required the Bureau to commit more resources to this effort.

Much of the recreation facility development accomplished on Reserved and Non-reserved Lands during the past year was done with labor supplied by the College Conservation Corps, a program within the Maine Conservation Corps (MCC). This program utilizes federal moneys in conjunction with Bureau allocations to fund corps members' salaries and project expenses. This has proven to be an efficient and cost effective means for developing recreational opportunities and performing other work on Public Reserved and Non-reserved Lands. In 1999, three college corps teams worked 11,190 hours, accomplishing trail development on the Nahmakanta and Little Squaw Units, and boundary line work in the northern region. The Bureau's Recreation Specialist, in coordination with regional staff, designed and located the trails and related camping facilities, and scheduled the work for the MCC crews.

FEES

Fees are not charged on most Public Reserved and Non-reserved Lands managed by the Bureau; however, in four situations fees are charged because these lands are near or within private recreation management systems where similar management objectives are shared. Each situation is discussed below:

1) About 88,500 acres of Public Reserved Lands managed by the Bureau are within the nearly three million-acre North Maine Woods (NMW) system. To access these lands the public must pass through checkpoints, where they are charged day use and camping fees at the NMW rates, and travel over roads on private land within the NMW system. In 1999, Maine resident camping fees were \$5.00 per night per person and \$4.00 per day per person for day use. A day use pass for the season was \$25. Fees are retained by NMW for facility maintenance and development, except that camping fees at **Deboullie** (which is a consolidated unit within the NMW system) are returned to the Bureau once our seasonal park ranger assumes management responsibilities for the summer months.

2) The Bureau leases campsites on the **Richardson Unit** (Upper Richardson Lake) to the owner of the South Arm Campground, who also leases other campsites on the lake managed by the Seven Islands Land Company. In 1999, the campground owner charged \$13.91 (including tax) per night per site. The owner retains a portion of this fee for maintenance of 12 campsites on the Bureau's ownership and the Mill Brook public boat launch facility at the north end of Richardson Lake

3) Recreation facility maintenance for Gero Island (Chesuncook Lake) is carried out by Parks Division staff because they can more efficiently manage the facilities as a part of the Penobscot River Corridor Visitors to the area passed through program checkpoints operated by North Maine Woods, Inc. which collected the Bureau's camping fee of \$4 per person per night for residents and \$5 per person per night for nonresidents. Camping fees were returned to the Bureau for reimbursement of campsite management and maintenance expenses. Resident and nonresident day use fees (\$4.00 and \$7.00 respectively) were charged and retained by North Maine Woods to cover operating costs for the checkpoint system.

4) For the Bureau's Telos Unit, management of recreation sites on Webster Lake have been assigned, by mutual agreement, to the Baxter State Park Authority. Most of the use of Webster Lake is connected with the Webster Stream canoe trip -- made famous through the travel journal of Henry David Thoreau -- which traverses the northern end of Baxter State Park. Under the agreement, campsites at the west end of Webster Lake are administered through the Park and subject to its rules and policies.

PARTNERSHIPS

For some properties, the Bureau has entered into partnerships with other organizations to cooperatively manage recreational use. Noteworthy examples are:

- **Dodge Point.** An arrangement is currently in place with the Damariscotta River Association to assist with the maintenance of trails and facilities.
- **Bigelow Preserve.** An agreement is in place with the Maine Appalachian Trail Club to ensure a summer staff presence at heavily used areas of the Appalachian Trail.
- **Coastal Islands.** The Bureau continued to participate in an island recreation and stewardship project sponsored by the Maine Island Trail Association.
- Moosehead Unit. The Bureaus of Parks and Lands and Forestry have pooled staff and financial resources to coordinate and supervise a private contractor for the maintenance of remote campsites on the lake.
- Cutler Coast. The Cobscook Trails coalition is providing trail stewardship and visitor information through a management agreement with the Quoddy Regional Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Maine Coast Trust Heritage Trust, Moosehorn Wildlife Refuge, Maine IFW, local businesses, and the Bureau.
- **Donnell Pond Unit.** The Bureau and the Tunk Area Protection Association share the services of a ranger who maintains recreation facilities on the Unit, as well as provides visitor information regarding both public and private area resources.

VIII. TIMBER MANAGEMENT

FOREST INVENTORY PROJECT

The Bureau manages the natural resources within the Lands Division through a carefully planned multiple use program that balances timber management with all other natural resource values. An important facet of a timber management program is examination and inventory of the forest resource. A complete re-inventory of Bureau forest lands was completed in 1999. Electronic Data Recorders were utilized at over 5900 locations to collect timber and wildlife habitat feature information, as well as site condition data. The field data was then downloaded into a computer system for analysis. This information will be used in future years to redetermine sustainable harvest levels, and to plan for the long term management of the Bureau's forest resources.

PRESCRIPTIONS

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

- A management plan for the unit as a whole is prepared and adopted;
- More detailed plans for discrete areas between 500 2,000 acres (known as compartments), are then developed for the unit.

Compartments are examined on a 10-year cycle to identify timber and wildlife resources and recreational opportunities. Based on the field examination and the information collected, work plans (prescriptions) are developed to ensure adequate protection of special resources and a sustained yield of forest goods and include timber, wildlife, and which services, appropriate recreational uses. In 1999, Bureau staff examined and prescribed 15,919 acres for a wide range of resource management activities. These prescriptions are developed by foresters with the assistance of staff specialists in wildlife, recreation, and transportation to insure that all aspects of multiple-use management have been considered. Once the prescription has been developed, it is carefully reviewed and approved in a formal process by this interdisciplinary group of resource professionals prior to implementation.

TIMBER SALES

If a timber harvest is prescribed in a compartment, a timber sale is developed. The majority of timber sales are put out to competitive bid. Contracts are awarded utilizing a bid process which follows State rules and procedures governing the sale of State property and purchase of services. Most timber is sold as stumpage. Under this system, the contractor agrees to pay the Bureau a bid price per unit for each type of forest product harvested. A lesser volume is sold using contracts for logging Under this system, the Bureau pays the services. contractor to harvest timber and deliver it to specified mills; these mills then pay the Bureau directly for these products. Logging service contracts provide an opportunity for contractors to operate on Public Reserved and Non-reserved Lands who could not otherwise secure a market for harvested products. They also allow the Bureau to accomplish forest management objectives which might not otherwise be Also, by assuming the marketing pursued.

responsibilities and being able to enter into agreements with local wood using mills for a specific volume of raw material, the Bureau can in most situations increase revenue.

Once the timber contracts are awarded, Bureau foresters and forest technicians work closely with the contractors to insure contract compliance, and to insure that timber management objectives are met. Bureau staff closely supervise each harvest by marking individual trees for removal or by providing loggers with strict harvesting criteria. These criteria specify which trees are to be harvested. All harvest operations are inspected by Bureau staff on a weekly basis, and more often when individual situations warrant.

In 1999, the implementation of prescriptions resulted in:

- A total 57,464 cords (allowable cut is 105,000 cords) harvested from 7,549 acres (allowable acreage is 12,582 acres).
- Of the 57,464 cords harvested, the Bureau marketed 8,775 cord equivalents to Bureau held contracts with local saw mills and pulp mills.
- A total of 44 operations were ongoing in 1999. These operations are a combination of newly established sales, and sales carried over from previous years.
- In concert with the Bureau's contractors, wood was marketed to over 50 mills statewide.

These figures for 1999 are well within the allowable limits. The 1999 harvest was 2,995 cords greater than reported the previous year, with a corresponding increase in acres operated of 477. This increase is attributed to continued staff effort towards working in closer proximity to allowable limits, while meeting revenue goals towards the operation of its various programs. The Bureau continues to work towards the goal of maintaining a significant amount of prescribed acres out ahead of harvest operations, thus aiding in efficient scheduling of harvests and a more even income flow.

JULY 5 WINDSTORM

A powerful squall line on July 5 blew down a large volume of trees in portions of western and eastern Maine. The Bureau conducted salvage operations on the **Bigelow Preserve**, and **Richardson Lake Unit**, and in **Lincoln Plantation**; the latter to be accomplished in 2000. Nearly 1,500 cords of blow down wood was salvaged in 1999, with another 500-600 cords to be salvaged early in 2000. Two hundred cords were salvaged on Bureau lands in the town of **Bradley**.

SILVICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In 1986, the Bureau established a Silvicultural Advisory Committee. with representatives from environmental groups, academia, and forest managers from public and private landowners, to review and critique forest management on Public Reserved and Non-reserved 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 staff through on-site dialogue. This past year the committee returned to the Duck Lake Unit, where the committee had met in 1986 and 1996. Reserved Lands in Bradford and Lagrange were also visited. Attendees viewed and discussed both recent management activities. including and older cut-to-length harvesting, beech management for wildlife, and old growth forests. Five of the seven committee members, including the director of the Cooperative Forest Research Unit, participated in the 1999 field trip, along with Bureau staff from the Augusta and regional offices.

BOUNDARY LINES

In the past year the Bureau continued to place importance on the maintenance of boundary lines. In 1999, Bureau staff and contracted individuals maintained 60 miles of property lines.

FORESTRY AUDIT

The Bureau has committed to undergoing a third party audit to certify the public timber lands under its management are managed on a sustainable basis. Bureau staff are currently reviewing the various audit programs available with the intent of selecting a program this spring. The audit is scheduled to proceed during calendar year 2000.

IX. TRANSPORTATION

During 1999, the Bureau continued efforts to improve public access to consolidated units, focusing primarily on those units with timber stands requiring management and where public vehicle access was needed to take advantage of recreational opportunities. The following is a summary of those accomplishments:

- Completed reconstruction and upgrade of 6 miles of public access road on the Little Squaw Unit.
- Completed new or reconstruction of approximately 3 miles of management roads (used primarily for timber harvesting activities, but also open to the public) on the **Telos Unit**.
- Replaced Pollywog Stream bridge on the Nahmakanta Unit, Alec Brook bridge on the Eagle Lake Unit, and the Crater Pond Outlet bridge on the Deboullie Unit.
- Maintained 123 miles of public access roads.

X. PUBLIC ACCESS

Three-fourths of the Public Reserved Lands are accessible to the public without fee or special arrangements. There are a few circumstances where public vehicle access is limited or affected by restrictions. As required in 12 M.R.S.A., § 1853, the following is a report of barriers to public access where they block the sole or primary motor vehicle access.

EXTERNAL GATES TO PUBLIC LANDS

1) North Maine Woods Assoc. Checkpoints.

There are seven gates, staffed seasonally, controlling primary access from Maine points to 88,473 acres of Public Reserved Land within the nearly three million acre North Maine Woods area. These checkpoints are all on private land and serve to facilitate management of recreational use of the areas on both public and private land.

2) KI/Jo-Mary Checkpoint/Gate.

The Katahdin Iron Works checkpoint controls access to the 960 acre public lot in Bowdoin College Grant East. Access to the **Nahmakanta Unit** has been developed from the west and Nahmakanta is no longer managed as part of the KI/Jo-Mary system, in accordance with the management plan. However, historic access from Route 11 to the unit through the KI/Jo-Mary system continues as in the past.

3) Cary Plantation, Aroostook County.

A locked cable gate on private land prohibits access to the 230 acre lot.

4) *Magalloway Plantation*, Oxford County. A locked metal gate on private land prohibits access to a 1,000 acre parcel.

5) Dallas Plantation, Franklin County.

A chained, metal gate on private land prohibits access to the north lot in **Dallas Plantation**, and to the lot in **Davis Twp**. The total area of the two lots is 1,050 acres. The gate is owned and maintained by the camp owners on the south end of Kennebago Lake.

6) Lagrange, Penobscot County.

A pipe gate erected by Bangor Hydro on private land restricts access to this 900 acre public lot.

INTERNAL GATES

The Bureau maintains 14 internal gates to protect sensitive areas from vehicle traffic, on service roads, and for safety reasons. None of the barricades restrict foot traffic into the protected areas. Many of the barriers are left open during the snowmobile season to allow safe passage by the machines.

XI. LAND TRANSACTIONS

During 1999, the State acquired eight parcels ranging in size from 53 to 2,075 acres, along with seventy-six islands in **Nicatous Lake** with funds from the Bureau's Land Acquisition Fund, and the Legislature.

1) The most significant transaction in 1999 involved the acquisition of 3,296 acres, including 65 miles of lake and river shoreline in Western Maine. Specifically, the State purchased from Plum Creek Timber Company 29 miles along the eastern shore of Moosehead Lake, 14 miles along the northern shore of Flagstaff Lake, and 7.5 miles on both sides of the West Outlet of the Kennebec River. This acquisition ensures continued public access to some of the most treasured natural areas in Maine, while also maintaining traditional recreation uses. The funds for this purchase came from the Legislature.

2) Adjacent to the Duck Lake Unit, the State purchased 338 acres from the Robbins Lumber Company, including 7,500 feet of undeveloped shoreline on **Nicatous Lake**, and 76 islands in Nicatous Lake. These purchases are part of a larger acquisition project with Robbins Lumber Company that, once completed, will protect an additional 22,000 acres through a conservation easement. The acquisition of this easement will be completed in 2000. The funds for these purchases will from the Bureau, the Land for Maine's Future Board, and the Forest Legacy Program. The Bureau also received **Hardwood Island** (29 acres) in Nicatous Lake as a gift from The Nature Conservancy. Along with this gift, the Bureau also received \$40,000 to help defray management costs for these new acquisitions which will include expanding recreational opportunities by providing water access campsites and day use areas.

As a result of previous legislation, the Bureau 3) completed two transactions involving a land trade with Huber Resources Corporation, and the sale of a parcel in Colorado owned by the State. In the land trade with Huber Resources Corporation, the Bureau conveyed common and undivided ownership in northern Maine and acquired 2,472 acres adjacent to the Bigelow Preserve. The additional land will enhance protection of the Appalachian Trail, ensure protection of significant snowmobile trails, and provide greater opportunities for public recreation. The 157 acre Colorado parcel, gifted to the State by Governor Baxter, was sold for \$60,000. This revenue, as directed by the Legislation, has been used to establish the Mackworth Island Trust Fund, the proceeds from which will be used to help the Bureau defray recreation management costs of the trail system on the island.

4) The Bureau completed two transactions that added 163 acres to the **Pineland Unit**. One involved the acquisition of 110 acres with Bureau funds. The second marked the completion of a land trade approved by the Legislature in 1999, in which the Bureau conveyed 4 acres and acquired 53 acres. As a result of these transactions, an additional 2,800 feet of the Royal River and significant deer wintering habitat have been permanently protected. There will also be opportunities for additional trail development.

5) In addition to authorizing the Bureau to convey property in the Pineland Unit, the legislature also authorized an exchange to acquire rights of way adjacent to the **Donnell Pond Unit**. The result of this transaction with the abutting landowner will be improved administrative and public access to the Unit and Fox Pond. The Legislature also directed the Bureau to convey a ¹/₂ acre parcel with a structure in the Town of Dennysville to the Dennys River Historical Society, to house the Society's collection of genealogical and historic materials. The rights of way exchange and conveyance in the Town of Dennysville will be completed in 2000. The Bureau anticipates an increase in the number of acquisition projects during the upcoming year, due to passage of the state's land acquisitions bond issue providing 50 million dollars to the Land for Maine's Future Board, and the availability of federal funds to fund future projects.

XII. SUBMERGED LANDS

These lands are managed under the Public Trust Doctrine to ensure 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.

1) In 1999, the Submerged Lands Program processed 64 applications for projects that required a submerged lease or easement. In addition, the Bureau reviewed 111 environmental permit applications and determined they did not require such a conveyance. The Program issued 45 new leases and 19 new easements, bringing the combined total to 1,498.

2) The Bureau conducted a survey of older coastal submerged land easements that were issued by the Bureau between 1975 and 1990. Over 500 easement holders were contacted and asked to provide current information on their coastal structures. The response rate was excellent. Owners whose structures still required easements were billed a \$50.00 registration fee (due once every five years) consistent with the fee now paid by holders of new easements and constructive easements. Over 100 structures were found to no longer need easements, and their associated conveyances were terminated.

The Submerged Lands Advisory Board met 3) four times during the year. This group, established by the legislature in 1997 to provide advice to the Director, discussed a variety of topics relating to submerged lands. The board recommended that funds received from the sale of submerged lands to Bath Iron Works should be deposited in the Shore and Harbor Management Account, which under law is reserved for funding municipal grants related to waterfront planning and improvements. The board also recommended that the BIW funds be used as "trust" moneys, and that the accrued interest rather than the principal be used to fund future grants. The board also discussed mooring fields, underwater cables, sunken log salvage, and the registration of older submerged lands easements.

4) The Bureau is currently in the process of revising several of its rules in order to address new trends and technologies, including provisions governing the siting of underwater cables and the salvage of sunken logs from publicly owned submerged lands.

XIII. 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 would exceed program operation costs. These funds could then be used to support shore and harbor management activities by providing grants to municipalities.

The \$1,200 cap on submerged lands rents that was passed by the legislature in 1997 has significantly reduced anticipated program revenues. However, over the next several years, this fund will be infused with significant revenues as installment payments are deposited from the sale of submerged lands to Bath Iron Works Company. It is the Bureau's intention to use the BIW funds as "trust moneys," and to use only accrued interest to fund municipal grants – thus ensuring a permanent source of funding.

XIV. COASTAL ISLAND PROGRAM

Maine's Coastal Island Registry was created by the 106th Legislature as a means of clarifying title to 3,000 coastal islands by establishing and registering ownership. By now most island owners have registered their islands. The Bureau continues to receive requests for changes in registrations, either changes of address for previous registrants or sales to new owners. There are also many requests for general ownership information from persons with an interest in Maine islands.

The Bureau's brochure "Your Islands on the Coast" continues to be updated each year. It shows the location of approximately 40 State-owned islands suitable for recreational use and explains the Bureau's visiting, camping and resource protection policies. The Maine Island Trail, a water trail extending along the entire coast of Maine and comprised of publicly and privately owned islands, was expanded to include two more publicly-owned islands. The Bureau continued its partnership with the Maine Island Trail Association in the management and oversight of the State-owned islands on the Trail.

XV. INCOME AND EXPENDITURES ACCOUNTING

The Bureau has several different accounts established for specific purposes with statutory restrictions on their use. The statutes require that these financial summaries be done on a calendar year basis. As a result, the figures presented in this report do not match those reported elsewhere on a fiscal year basis, and may tend to exaggerate the Bureau's income and expenditures in any one calendar year, depending upon where the income and expenses actually fall within the fiscal year.

Public Reserved Lands Management Account (014.04A.0239.22)

This account is restricted to uses related to the management of lands that have 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 the sale of timber stumpage and gravel, camplot leases and other special leases on the Reserved Lands, and interest on the account balance. Income for calendar year 1999 was \$2,609,213 with expenditures of \$2,391,213. Because the Bureau's largest source of revenue is timber, income fluctuates in response to the amount of wood harvested and economic conditions that affect timber markets. Not shown in either the income or expenditure figures above are the portion of moneys received from camplot leases and timber sales that are shared with towns and plantations pursuant to 12 M.R.S.A., § 1854. Based on the income received in 1998 (payable in 1999), the Bureau revenue sharing amounts total \$87,453 with 17 towns and plantations. Income from the Reserved Lands Account supports administration, planning, timber, transportation, recreation and wildlife.

Public Lands Management Account (014.04A.0239.23)

This account is used for the management of lands not in the Public Reserved Lands System. These Non-reserved Public Lands include institutional lands (those lands considered surplus by other State agencies) assigned to the Bureau for natural resource management, and coastal islands. Sources of income are primarily from a lease to the National Weather Service and the sale of timber, with a smaller amount derived from agricultural leases. Income for calendar year 1999 was \$10,505 against expenditures of \$10,955.

Submerged Lands Account (014.04A.0239.27)

The Submerged Lands Account is comprised of funds generated from leases and easements on the State's submerged lands. Most of the fund's income is derived from leases of coastal waterfront properties to allow commercial uses such as marinas, piers and boatyards. In 1997, additional income was generated as part of a registration program requiring holders of constructive easements to pay a \$50 fee. This fee will not be collected again until the year 2001. Revenues in 1999 were \$156,435, with expenses of \$132,728. Funds for personal services (salaries) comprise the bulk of the program's budget.

Revenues in 1999 increased as a result of income from additional lease revenues, the sale of salvaged logs and gravel, and the leasing of lands to Bath Iron Works as part of its shipyard expansion project. FY 99 payments in this regard included \$30,000 for the annual lease rental fee and \$250,000 for reuse of dredged material as fill. From this amount, \$260,000 was transferred to the Shore & Harbor Management Fund. The Submerged Lands Program also received registration fees from the holders of easements issued between the years 1975 and 1992.

Shore and Harbor Management Fund (014.04A0239.29)

A Shore and Harbor Management Fund was established in 1991 to provide grants to municipalities for harbor planning, public access and similar local management activities on submerged lands. This account receives funds from the Submerged Lands account when income from leases exceed the operating costs of the program. In the past the current rental cap of \$1,200 has significantly limited the amount of money available for fund. However, with the infusion of monies from the Bath Iron Works, the fund balance is increasing. In 1999, \$260,000 was transferred into this account.

Land Acquisition Fund (014.04A.0239.24)

Funds from this account are restricted by statute to the acquisition of lands of significant public use and value for the Public Reserved Lands System and acquisition related costs. Funds from this account cannot be used for operation or maintenance of existing land, and therefore expenditures do not take place on a regular, scheduled basis. Income that accrues as a result of sales, trades or interest is carried forward until needed for land acquisition. Income for calendar year 1999 was \$69,523 against expenditures of \$614,380. This income represents interest earned on the account balance. The principal expenses included the purchase of 110 acres of land added to the Pineland unit, 2,500 acres of land in Wyman Township, 134 acres at Nicatous Lake, and 204 acres from the Duck Lake Connector, which added to existing units, with additional expenditures on legal, appraisal and survey costs associated with land acquisitions.

Mackworth Island Trust Fund (014.04A.0239.30)

Section 2 of Chapter 102 Public Law 1998, authorizes the proceeds from the sale of a 157 acre Bureau of Parks and Lands property in Colorado to be invested as a separate trust fund and managed by the Treasurer of State. In November 1999, the Colorado property was sold. The proceeds of \$60,000 will now be deposited into this trust fund. The Bureau has a non lapsing account, 014.04A.0239.30, set up to receive income from the trust fund interest. This account will be used to manage public recreational activities and related resources on land under the Bureau's care on Mackworth Island in Falmouth, Maine. Transfers in interest earnings will occur twice annually from the trust fund to this account.

XVI. ADMINISTRATION

During 1999, the Bureau continued to experience an expansion of staff responsibilities needed to support the increase in programs and activities, manage more land, and integrate related activities from its other divisions. The Bureau continues to explore and utilize current technology, and to look for more efficient ways to deal with its increasing workload.

XVII. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FY 2001

INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Title 12 M.R.S.A., § 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 Non-reserved Lands, 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 six dedicated accounts:

- Public Reserved Lands Management Fund
- > Public Lands Management Fund (Non-reserved Public Lands)
- > Public Lands Acquisition Fund
- > Submerged Lands Fund
- > Harbor Management Fund
- Coastal Island Registry

These accounts derive revenue from the sale of the forest products, lease fees, interest on cash balances, and the sale of land. Since programs funded by these accounts receive no support from the State's General Fund, the dedicated revenues must cover all operating expenses. The Bureau plans its expenditures for the ensuing fiscal year based on a level of income it projects to receive from its various revenue sources. If projected income is not expected to be 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 these internal financial management procedures, and reviews budgetary matters on a monthly and quarterly basis.

In the past, this internal management has proven successful. The Bureau has adjusted its expenditures and managed its financial resources in such a manner that core program activities have been funded. The Bureau continues to manage the State-owned Public Reserved and Non-reserved Lands 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. Presented below are the FY 2001 allocations proposed for our FY 2001 budget for each of six dedicated accounts within the Bureau's "Lands" division. These allocations represent the limits within which the Bureau must operate.

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Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments *	\$110,000	Personal Services	\$1,551,585
Rent of Lands*	\$666,730	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$908,840
Camp Leases	\$134,000		\$200,010
Registration Fees	\$5,000	Capital	
Sale of Gravel	\$5,000	Buildings	\$12,500
Sale of Equipment	\$3,000	Equipment	\$12,500
Sale of Stumpage *	\$2,150,000	Roads and Bridges	\$210,600
Misc Income	\$55,500	Capital Subtotal	\$235,600
DICAP**	(\$248,734)	STACAP	\$47,405
Total Income	\$2,880,496		
Para income	φ2,880,496	Total Expenses	\$2,743,430

1. Public Reserved Lands Management Fund Account # 014.04A.0239.22

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

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

The Bureau currently has an account balance of \$1,789,789, which serves as its contingency fund. Because most of the Bureau's timber harvesting takes place during the winter (to minimize environmental impacts), there is a significant seasonal fluctuation in income. The contingency fund enables the Bureau 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. In FY 2000/2001, the Part II budget request was approved for the following: a new lands acquisition position (Planning and Research Assoc. II), seasons extended for two Recreational Ranger positions, and a regional Clerk Typist was extended from 30 hours per week to full time.

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	\$2,600	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$24,575
Rent on Lands and Buildings	\$15,000	Capital	\$22,000
Sale of Stumpage	\$34,000	STACAP	\$324
DICAP**	(\$1,271)		ψυΖη
Total Income	\$50,329	Total Expenses	\$46,899

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2. Public Lands Management Fund Account # 014.04A.0239.23

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

Both income and expenses will be less than the budgeted allocations in this account. The account has a balance of \$38,781, which is used as a contingency fund to cover expenses that occur between the relatively small and infrequent timber harvests on these lands. It is unlikely the Bureau will harvest the amount of timber needed to meet the proposed revenue projection. Therefore, management expenditures and associated activities will be limited.

Income		Expenses		
Earnings on Investments	\$133,000	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$79,265	
Sale of Land	\$654,000	Capital	\$700,000	
DICAP**	(\$6,078)	STACAP	\$1,551	
Total Income	\$780,922	Total Expenses	\$780,816	

3. Public Lands Acquisition Fund Account # 014.04A.0239.24

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

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, inholdings, 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, and related items. This account currently has a balance of \$972,283.

4. Submerged Lands Fund	Account # 014.04A.0239.27	

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Іпсоте		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	\$54,000	Personal Services	\$108,285
Rent of Lands	\$98,500	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$56,926
Sale of Gravel		STACAP	\$3,221
Misc Income	\$13,500		
Sale of Land	\$500,000	•	•
DICAP**	(\$12,628)		
Transfer to Shore & Harbor	(\$200,000)		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Mngt Account			
Total Income	\$453,372	Total Expenses	\$168,432

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

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Most of the rental income for the program is not received until late in the fiscal year because rent payments are due in February. Like the Public Reserved Lands account, the Submerged Lands account carries a balance that funds the program through the first eight months of the fiscal year. This account currently has a balance of \$325,756. With the \$1200 rental cap that is now in place, annual program expenses exceed rental income, and this fund balance is needed to cover the shortfall through FY 2004. The fund balance will be drawn down during this period, but will be supplemented in 2005 by revenues from constructive easements being brought under lease. In FY 2000, the Bureau transferred \$200,000 to the Shore & Harbor Management Fund to distribute grants to municipalities. The added income is a result of the sale of submerged land to Bath Iron Works.

Income		Expenses	
			na
Rent of Lands	\$15,000	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$30,000
Transfer from	\$200,000	Grants to Cities & Towns	\$170,000
Submerged Lands			\$170,000
DICAP**	(\$2,300)	STACAP	\$587
Total Income	\$212,700	Total Expenses	\$200,587

5. Shore and Harbor Management Fund Account # 014A.0239.29

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

This account was set up by the legislature in 1991 in anticipation that the Submerged Lands Program would eventually yield revenues that could provide benefits to the public beyond what was needed to administer the program. These funds are to be set aside in this special account and made available to municipalities for grants to enhance their shore and harbor management, planning, and access efforts. The account currently has a balance of \$278,437. From the sale of submerged land to Bath Iron Works, the program received an additional transfer of \$200,000 to this account in FY 2000, the interest from which will be distributed to municipalities as grants.

6. Coastal Island Registry Fund Account # 014A.0241.26

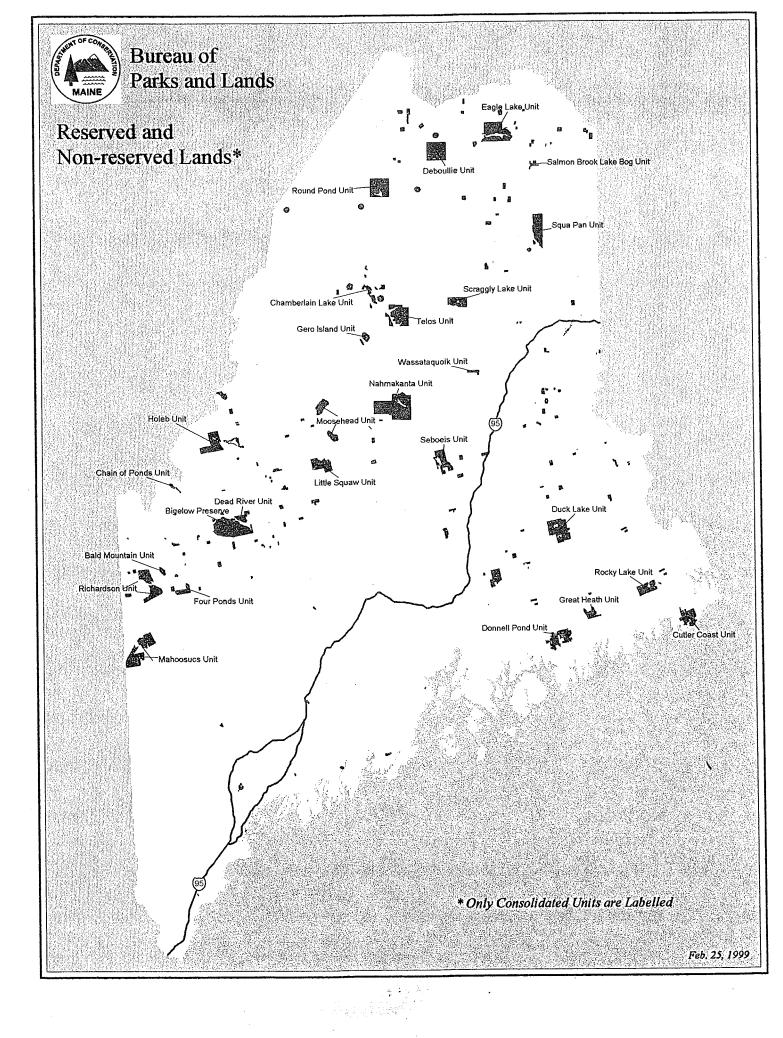
Income	\$107	Expenses /	\$99

Funding in this program covers the cost of reviewing new applications for island registrations. Most private coastal island titles have been reviewed and current program activity, for the most part, involves providing information to the public and occasionally reviewing application and deed information. The account currently has a balance of \$2,852.

XVIII. CONCLUSION

Expenditures will be managed as necessary to operate within the Bureau's financial means for all accounts. Income is expected to be adequate to cover expenses. The Bureau will continue to explore ways to stabilize revenues in all accounts, while managing Public Reserved and Non-reserved Lands on a sustained yield basis to provide numerous benefits for Maine citizens.

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