

2001 ANNUAL REPORT

On Maine's Pubic Reserved and Non-reserved Lands, Submerged Lands, and Coastal Islands

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

LAW & LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY

MAR 1 2 2002

43 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA AND 04333-0043



HD
243
.M2
M38
2001

Submitted By:

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION Bureau of Parks and Lands

February 28, 2002

· .

.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 1
II.	HIGHLIGHTS OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS 1
 III.	PREFACE
IV.	INTRODUCTION
V.	LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING
VI.	WILDLIFE
VII.	RECREATION
VIII.	TIMBER MANAGEMENT
IX.	TRANSPORTATION
 X.	PUBLIC ACCESS
XI.	LAND TRANSACTIONS
ХЦ.	SUBMERGED LANDS
XIII.	SHORE AND HARBOR MANAGEMENT FUND
 XIV.	COASTAL ISLAND PROGRAM
 XV.	INCOME AND EXPENDITURES ACCOUNTING
 XVI.	ADMINISTRATION
XVII.	FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FY 2002
XVIII	. CONCLUSION

1. 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 forest 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 2001

 Submerged Lands - Completed work on the sale of submerged lands to Bath Iron Works, which will lead to the funding of the Shore and Harbor Management account; helped develop statutory provisions to facilitate the recovery of sunken pulpwood.

- Forest Certification Dual audit of forest lands completed, with preliminary results indicating the Bureau will be certified in the SFI and FSC programs
- Wildlife The planting of 30 disease- resistant American Chestnut seedlings at 6 locations within the former range of the tree; continued habitat restoration work on 7 acres of the Kennebunk Plains
- **Recreation** Completed a 6.5 mile trail system in the Debsconeag Backcountry area of the Nahmakanta Unit; completed Card Mill boat launching facility on Donnell Pond
- Planning New brochures printed and distributed for the Bigelow Preserve, Little Moose Unit, and the Mahoosuc Unit
- Acquisitions Completed 15 transactions, including the purchase of 4,200 acres from nine different landowners in the Belgrade Lakes region.

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 2001 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 2001.

Lastly, a Financial Report for FY 2003 is included as part of this document. 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 approximately 481,000 acres of Public Reserved Lands, 4,200 acres of Non-reserved Lands, 35,000 acres of conservation easements, 2,300,000 acres of the State's marine and freshwater Submerged Lands, and approximately 1,325 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, many 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., § 1833, 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 29 consolidated units and 137 non-consolidated parcels. Of the 29 consolidated units, 22 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, back page).

RESOURCE ALLOCATION SYSTEM

The Bureau's Integrated Resource Policy adopted in 1985 and revised in 2000 governs 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 and a draft plan has been developed, it is presented at a public meeting at which everyone with an interest is invited 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. New or revised management plans were not developed in 2001, with staff resources directed towards forest certification activities.

	Table I. Manage	
1	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	Dodge Point	Adopted Nov. 1991
9	Donnell Pond *	Adopted Jan. 1992
10	Duck Lake	Adopted Feb. 1989
11	Eagle Lake	Adopted Mar. 1990
12	Four Ponds	Adopted Oct. 1989
13	Gero Island	To Do
14	Great Heath	Adopted Aug. 1984
15	Holeb	Adopted Dec. 1989
16	Little Moose (former Little	Adopted Oct. 1988
	Squaw)	
17	Mahoosuc	Adopted Feb. 1988
18	Moosehead	Adopted July 1997
19	Nahmakanta	Adopted Nov. 1995
20	Pineland '	Adopted Sept. 1988
21	Richardson	Adopted Mar. 1990
22	Rocky Lake	Adopted Dec. 1989
23	Round Pond	Adopted Dec. 1992
24	Salmon Brook Lake Bog	To Do
25	Scraggly Lake	Adopted Oct. 1988
26	Seboeis	Adopted Feb. 1990
27	Squa Pan	Adopted Mar. 1990
28	Telos	Adopted Feb. 1990
29	Wassataquoik	To Do
		

Table I. Management Plans

* 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. No inventories were conducted in 2001.

ECOLOGICAL RESERVES

In 2000, the 119th legislature authorized the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to designate ecological reserves from among areas of its ownership identified in a 1998 report ("An Ecological Reserves System Inventory," J. McMahon, July 1998). The purpose of ecological reserves is to represent native ecosystem types in a protected system. In turn, these areas serve as benchmarks to measure changes in both managed and unmanaged ecosystems, provide habitat that would be unlikely to occur on managed lands, and serve as sites for scientific research, monitoring, and education. In response, 13 reserves were designated, totaling 68,994 acres. In 2001, the Ecological Reserves Monitoring Committee made significant progress in developing a generic monitoring protocol for plants and animals, with Ecological Reserves at Spring River Lake, Salmon Brook Lake Bog, and the Bigelow Preserve selected as pilot areas for gathering data in 2002. This project received funding through a grant from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund.

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 Bureau through a cooperative agreement between the two agencies. The primary responsibility of the position has been to develop and implement a habitat management program for Bureau managed lands. During 2001, the following projects were undertaken:

Reviewed 16 integrated resource timber 1) management prescriptions covering 13,480 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) Long-term habitat management agreement between the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Bureau of Parks and Lands was drafted.

3) Planted 30 American Chestnut Trees (donated by the Maine Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation) in 6 locations throughout the state, primarily within the area identified as the normal range for the species.

4) Maintained 107 waterfowl nesting boxes, with 20 new boxes installed.

5) Seeded 34 acres of disturbed soil for wildlife forage and erosion control.

6) Continued as a member of the Bureau's Audit Review team as part of the dual Forest Certification process and activities conduct in 2001; accompanied auditors during the field review portion of the audit.

7) Assisted the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in habitat restoration work on 7 acres of sand plain on the **Kennebunk Plains** public lot. This area is important habitat for the grasshopper sparrow, a member of the endangered species list. Continued restoration work on grassland bird habitat at **Days Academy Grant.**

8) Deer wintering area aerial surveys conducted in Bradley, Cutler, Rocky Lake, Donnell Pond, Holeb, and Sugar Island.

9) The seasonal wildlife field assistant conducted waterfowl brood counts and loon nest location/monitoring work, and assisted in the construction of two disability-access fishing stations on the Little Moose Unit.

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's Lands Division is responsible for 204 campsites, 187 miles of hiking trails, 35 trailored and hand-carry boat launching areas and 129 miles of public access roads. In 2001, 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 35 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 Conservation Corps and Maine Appalachian Club members constructed the first 5.2 miles of the trail on Bureau-managed lands.

2) Nahmakanta Unit. Construction was completed of a 6.5 mile section of hiking trail in the Debsconeag Backcountry.

3) *Little Moose Unit*. Extensive rehabilitation of trail steps was conducted on the Big Moose Mountain (formally Big Squaw Mountain) hiking trail.

4) Donnell Pond Unit. Construction was completed of the Card Mill boat launching and parking facility on Donnell Pond, in the town of Franklin.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Bureau continued to print and distribute pocket-sized brochures describing the location of hiking trails, campsites, and other recreation opportunities for the management units listed in the table below. New brochures for the **Bigelow Preserve, Little Moose, and Mahoosuc Unit** were printed and distributed, with work continuing on updates for the **Pineland, Duck Lake, Scraggly Lake, and Squapan Units**. Work continued on a brochure for the coastal islands.

Table 2. Completed Brochures
Bigelow Preserve
Cutler Coast
Deboullie
Dodge Point
Donnell Pond
Duck Lake
Holeb
Little Moose
Mahoosuc
Pineland
Richardson/Bald Mountain
Rocky Lake
Scraggly Lake
Seboeis
Squapan

STAFFING

A full-time Recreation Specialist and five recreation involved in rangers are seasonal management activities. The seasonal rangers, located in the Northern, Western, and Eastern Regions of the Bureau's Lands Division are responsible 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 also performed by permanent Bureau staff with the assistance of 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 continues to be accomplished on Reserved and Non-reserved Lands with labor supplied by 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 been an efficient and cost effective means for developing recreational opportunities and performing other work on Bureau managed lands. In 2001, three 10,920 hours. worked college corps teams accomplishing trail development on the Nahmakanta and Little Moose Units. 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) Approximately 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 2001, Maine resident camping fees were \$5.00 per night per person and \$4.00 per day per person for day use. Fees are retained by NMW for facility maintenance and development, except that camping fees at **Deboullie** (a consolidated unit within the NMW system) are returned to the Bureau once the Bureau's seasonal park ranger assumes campsite 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 land managed by the Seven Islands Land Company. In 2001, 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 program. Visitors to the area passed through checkpoints operated by North Maine Woods, Inc. which collected the Penobscot River Corridor'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) Management of recreation sites on Webster Lake in the Telos Unit 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 Baxter State 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:

- Appalachian Trail. The Bureau continued its partnership with the Maine Appalachian Trail Club to accomplish stewardship and trail maintenance along the AT corridor in the Mahoosuc, Four Ponds, Bald Mountain, and Nahmakanta Units, as well as the Bigelow Preserve.
- **Bigelow Preserve.** An agreement is in place with the Maine Áppalachian Trail Club to ensure a summer staff presence at heavily used areas of the Appalachian Trail in the Preserve.
- **Dodge Point.** An arrangement is currently in place with the Damariscotta River Association to assist with the maintenance of trails and facilities.
- **Coastal Islands.** The Bureau continued to participate in an island recreation and stewardship project sponsored by the Maine Island Trail Association.
- Moosehead Lake Properties. The Bureaus of Parks and Lands and Forestry have combined 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 on the lands under its care through a carefully planned multiple use program that balances timber management with all other natural resource values. An important facet of the Bureau's timber management program is examination and inventory of the forest resource. The complete re-inventory of forest land is ongoing. The field data acquired during 1999 detailed timber, site, and natural resource measurements. This data was analyzed during 2000 and 2001, to provide information for both Bureau staff and third-party forest certification auditors.

Analysis revealed a total inventory of nearly 7 million cords on 349,414 regulated acres (the acres used in calculating sustainable harvest levels), or a stocking of 20 cords per acre. This is approximately a 30 percent increase from what was reported for all of Maine's timberland by the U.S. Forest Service in 1995. The most abundant tree species on BP&L lands is red spruce, and its volume per acre is over 50 percent greater than that shown statewide in the 1995 report.

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 15-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 services, which include timber, wildlife, and appropriate recreational uses. In 2001, Bureau staff examined and prescribed 5,622 acres for a wide range of resource management activities. This figuure is down significantly from previous years (13,400 in 2000) in large part because of staff limitations. These prescriptions are developed by foresters with the assistance of staff specialists in wildlife, recreation, and transportation to ensure 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 by assuming the marketing Also, 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 ensure contract compliance, and to ensure 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 2001, the implementation of prescriptions resulted in:

- A total of 48,506 cords (allowable cut is 105,000 cords) harvested from 6,625 acres (allowable acreage is 12,582 acres).
- Of the 48,506 cords harvested, the Bureau marketed 3,085 cord equivalents to Bureau held contracts with local saw mills and pulp mills.
- A total of 36 operations were ongoing in 2001. 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.

The 2001 harvest was 3,202 cords less than reported the previous year, with a corresponding increase in acres operated at 681. This represents 44% of the Allowable Cut as compared to 50% in the previous two years. Additional workloads resulting from the forestry audit, the limitation of available staff time, as well as a decline in market prices and demand during the 2001 calendar year impacted the total harvest volume compared to the previous year; the increase in operated acres was due primarily to an increase in blowdown salvage activity in the northern and western regions. The figures for 2001, however, are well within the allowable limits.

The Bureau needs 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.

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 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 A field trip was not through on-site dialogue. conducted 2001 due to forest certification field audit forest Bureau's activities conducted on the management lands during the year. The field audit component was similar in scope to field activities normally conducted by the Committee, except that 40 different locations statewide including most field staff were involved. Committee field trips are scheduled to resume in 2002.

BOUNDARY LINES

In the past year the Bureau continued to place importance on the maintenance of boundary lines. In 2001, Bureau staff, with assistance from the Maine Conservation Corps., maintained 10.5 miles of property lines. However, this is well below the goal of maintaining 10% of all property lines within the state ownership each year.

FORESTRY AUDIT

The Bureau under went a third-party audit of its timberlands during the past year. The purpose of the audit was to certify that the these lands were being managed on a sustainable basis. The process for conducting the audit was unique in that the Bureau contracted with two separate audit firms in 2000, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), with the audits conducted simultaneously in 2001. The audit was comprised of a field analysis of forest management practices at selected sites around the state, and an analysis of the Bureau's financial, personnel, policy development, and record-keeping systems.

Although final reports had not yet been issued in 2001, preliminary results indicated that the Bureau had passed both certification programs, with certain conditions that would need to be met in order to maintain certification status over the coming years.

IN., TRANSPORTATION

During 2001, 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:

- Replaced bridges on the Nahmakanta, Duck Lake, and Deboullie Units.
- Completed construction of 2 miles of management road on the Squapan Unit and several other small lots
- Completed reconstruction of approximately 5.5 miles of management road (used primarily for timber harvesting activities, but also open to the public) on the Eagle Lake, Telos, Deboullie, and Round Pond Units. and on several other small lots.

• Maintained 160 miles of public access roads.

2. 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 checkpoints, 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 16 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 winter season to allow safe passage by snowmobilers.

XI. LAND TRANSACTIONS

The Bureau continues to experience an increase in the number of acquisition projects, due to the availability of state (Land For Maine's Future and Maine Outdoor Heritage Funds) and federal (Forest Legacy and stateside Land & Water Conservation Funds) monies, public concern about protecting landowner natural resources, and important willingness to discuss acquisition opportunities. In following Bureau completed the 2001, the transactions:

1) As part of the 6,000 acre Kennebec Highlands project, the State acquired approximately 4,200 acres from nine different landowners. The funding for these acquisitons came from the Land for Maine's Future fund, Land & Water Conservation Funds, and private funds. The project area, located in the Belgrade Lakes region, will be managed for mutiple-use, including recreation, wildlife, and timber.

2) As part of the 6,000 Mt. Abraham project, the State acquired approximately 1,028 acres from Plum Creek Timber Co. The funds for this purchase came from the Land for Maine's Future Fund, and the Bureau's acquisition fund. The land will be managed for multiple-use, including recreation, wildlife, and timber.

3) Stevens Island, a 31 acre island, located in the Town of Addison was purchased from Maine Coast Heritage Coast using funds from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, and private funds. The island is one of 47 publically owned islands managed for day use and camping.

4) The Leglisature approved two transactions in 2001, both of which have been completed. The State completed an exchange with a privtae landowner adjacent to the **Donnell Pond Unit**. Specifically, the State released its rights over existing rights-of-way over the private ownership, in exchange for the private landowner constructing a new road across the State ownership. The newly constructed road improves public and administrative access to the Unit. An additional 44 acres on the **Pineland Unit** was sold to the October Corporation in a continuing effort to redevelop the Pineland Campus. The revenue generated from the sale must be used to purchase additinal land in Cumberland County.

5) The State converted an existing 666 acre conservation easement to fee around Little Pond, and purchased an additional 216 acres, both of which are adjacent to the **Donnell Pond Unit**. The funds for this pruchase came from the Land for Maine's Future Fund, the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, the Bureau's acquisition fund, and private sources. Conversion of the conservation easement to fee eliminates two developable lots on Little Pond, and the additional 216 acres enhances public access to this portion of the **Unit**.

6) The State received as a gift from Flordia Power & Light, a 740 acre conservation easement, along the shoreline of **Wyman Lake**. The gift was part of a F.E.R.C. settelment agreement. The easement eliminates further development, and ensures public access. The landowner also provided \$32,000 to the State to help defray future easement management costs.

XП. 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 2001, the Submerged Lands Program processed 68 applications for projects that required a submerged lease or easement. In addition, the Bureau reviewed 95 environmental permit applications and determined they did not require a conveyance. The Program issued 52 new leases and 16 easements, bringing the combined total to 1524. 2) The Bureau continued to research information on easements, and constructive easements that need to be registered in 2005 when their gradfathered status terminates.

3) The Submerged Lands Advisory Board met five 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, including abandoned vessels, mooring fields, and constructive easements.

4) The Bureau authorized 3 sunken log salvage operations at Moosehead Lake and along the Kennebec River in Augusta. Approximately 500 hardwood logs (45,000 board feet) were recovered.

5) In cooperation with the Town of Georgetown and an interested third party, the Bureau was able to authorize and contribute to the removal of a sunken trawler that had been abandoned in Robinhood Cove.

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 operating 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 the anticipated program revenues. However, during 2000 and 2001, this fund received significant revenues from the sale of submerged lands to Bath Iron Works Company. The sale was completed in June of 2001. It is the Bureau's intention to use the BIW funds as "trust monies," and to use only accrued interest to fund municipal grants - thus ensuring a permanent source of funding. The Bureau anticipates that interest growth will support the first round of grants in 2003.

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 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.

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 2001 was with expenditures of \$2,478,564. \$2,239,759 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 2000 (payable in 2001), the Bureau revenue sharing amounts total \$105,222 with 16 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 the sale of timber, with a smaller amount derived from agricultural leases. Income for calendar year 2001 was \$3,221 against expenditures of \$20,000.

Submerged Lands Account (014.04A.0239.27)

The Submerged Lands Account is comprised of funds generated from leases and easements on the State's Most of the fund's income is submerged lands. 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 was collected again in calendar year 2001, for the period of January 1, 2001 to December 31, 2005. Additional revenues were generated from the sale of salvaged logs and gravel, and the leasing of lands to Bath Iron Works as part of its shipyard expansion project and registration fees from the holders of easements issued between the years 1975 and 1992. Revenues in 2001 were \$145,111, with expenses of \$117,321. Funds for personal services (salaries) comprise the bulk of the program's budget.

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 this fund. However, with the infusion of monies from the Bath Iron Works, the fund balance is increasing. In 2001, \$490,000 was received from BIW for the sale of submerged lands and the reuse of dredged material as fill. This revenue, along with interest on the cash balance and previous payments from BIW, contributed to the year-end balance of approximately \$1,664,901.

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 2001 was \$48,999 against expenditures of \$712,926. This income represents interest earned on the account The principal expenses included the balance. conversion of an existing 666 acre conservation easement to fee and the purchase of 216 acres in the Town of Franklin that will add on the existing Donnell Pond Unit of Public Reserved Land, 1,028 acres at Mt. Abraham which is part of a ongoing effort to protect land on and adjacent to one of the last unprotected 4,000 ft mountains in Maine and home to seven rare plant species as well as old growth, 81 acres in Rome which is part of a series of acquisitions in the Belgrade Lakes Region; with additional expenditures on legal, appraisal and survey costs associated with land acquisitions.

Public Non-Reserved Land Acquisition Fund (014.04A.0239.37)

This account was recently established to receive revenue from the sale of Public Non-Reserved Lands. In 2001, \$138,471 of revenue was deposited from the sale of 44 acres in the Pineland Unit. This account does not have any planned budget for 2003 at this time. Funds from this account are restricted by constitutional amendment (Article IX, Section 23, § 598-B) to the acquisition of lands of significant public use and value for the Public Non-Reserved Lands System and acquisition related costs.

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 State Treasurer for the benefit of Macworth Island. In November 1999, the Colorado property was sold. The proceeds of \$60,000 has been 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.

XVI. ADMINISTRATION

During 2001, 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 received approval of a Part II budget request to address current and future responsibilities and management needs. These new positions are necessary to assist with the increasing workload. The Part II Budget provided funds to increase 2 Clerk Typist III positions from 30 to 40 hours per week, add a Planning & Research Associate II for 26 weeks, extend 2 seasonal Park Rangers by 3 weeks, add 3 new Park Ranger positions, 6 new Forester I positions, 1 new Chief Forester II, and 1 new Interpretive Specialist.

Budget constraints warrant a conservative approach in filling these newly approved positions. At this time it is anticipated that the Chief Forester, one Park Ranger, and the 26 week Planning & Research Associate II will be filled during FY02/03. The increase of two Clerk Typist III positions from 30 hours to 40 hours per week has already been completed.

The Bureau continues to explore and utilize new technology, and to look for ways to deal effectively with its increasing workload.

XVII. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FY 2003

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 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 seven dedicated accounts:

- > Public Reserved Lands Management Fund
- > Public Lands Management Fund (Non-reserved Public Lands)
- > Public Lands Acquisition Fund
- Submerged Lands Fund
- Shore and Harbor Management Fund
- > Mackworth Island Trust
- > 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 2003 Part I and Part II budget allocations proposed for each of seven dedicated accounts within the Bureau's "Lands" division. These allocations represent the limits within which the Bureau must operate.

FY 2003 ACCOUNT SUMMARIES

Income		Expenses	
	*152523		01.045.650
Earnings on Investments *	\$178,500	Personal Services	\$1,845,673
Rent of Lands*	\$683,899	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$890,718
Camplot Leases*	\$137,000		
Registration Fees	\$10,000		
Misc Services & Fees	\$1,200	Capital	
Sale of Gravel	\$5,000	Buildings	\$12,500
Sale of Equipment	\$3,000	Equipment	\$55,500
Sale of Stumpage *	\$2,372,853	Roads and Bridges	\$300,000
Misc Income	\$55,500	Capital Subtotal	\$368,000
DICAP**	(\$299,622)	STACAP	\$42,939
Total Income	\$3,147,330	Total Expenses	\$3,147,330

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 (Feb. 14, 2002) has an account balance of \$1,696,572, which serves as its contingency fund. Because most of the Bureau's timber harvesting takes place during the winter (to minimize environmental impacts and potential conflicts with recreational users), 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.

ANT II Request			
Approved for 2002/2003		Dedicated Revenue	
Legislative Count	8.500		·
FTE Count	1.269		
Personal Services	\$509,718	Sale of Stumpage	\$1,000,000
All Other	\$65,450		
TOTAL	\$575,178	TOTAL	\$1,000,000

PART II Request

The Lands Division has experienced significant increases in responsibility due to additional acreage, new facilities, and raised public expectations. Exemplary land management, including silvicultural, wildlife and recreation management, as directed statutorily, cannot be accomplished with existing staff. Improved forest management, including public recreation, and enhanced wildlife habitat can be achieved through this self-funded proposal. These requests can be funded through the dedicated revenue generated from timber harvesting at increased rates while operating within sustainable levels. This proposal will also generate a significant amount of revenue for recreation and wildlife management activities and land acquisition.

A Part II budget request has been approved for FY 2002/2003 for the following: increasing 2 Clerk Typist III positions from 30 to 40 hours/week, extending 2 seasonal Park Rangers by 3 weeks, adding 3 new park Ranger positions for 20 weeks, adding a Planning and Research Assoc. II for 26 weeks, adding 6 new Forester I positions, adding 1 Forester II, and adding 1 new Interpretive in the account balance prior to filling these approved positions. As a result, a cautious approach will be used to transition to the approved increased staffing levels.

Income		Expenses	
	** ***		<u> </u>
Earnings on Investments	\$2,800	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$30,448
Rent on Lands and Buildings	\$16,000	Capital	\$22,000
Sale of Stumpage	\$35,829	STACAP	\$293
DICAP**	(\$1,888)		
Total Income	\$52,741	Total Expenses	\$52,741

2.	Public Lands Management Fund Account # 014.04A.0239.2	3

** 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 \$108,308, 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.

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

Income		Expenses		
Earnings on Investments	\$143,770	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$98,825	
Sale of Land	\$666,737	Capital	\$700,000	
DICAP**	(\$10,110)	STACAP	\$1,572	
Total Income	\$800,397	Total Expenses	\$800,397	

** 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, appraisals, and related items. This account currently has a balance of \$831,471.

.

Income	T	Expenses	<u></u>
Earnings on Investments	\$15,000	Personal Services	\$123,891
Rent of Lands	\$134,370	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$24,000
Sale of Gravel		STACAP	\$2,351
Misc Income	\$16,000		
DICAP**	(\$15,128)		
Total Income	\$150,242	Total Expenses	\$150,242

4. Submerged Lands Fund Account # 014.04A.0239.27

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

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 \$383,653. 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 anticipated 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.

PART II Request

Approved for 2002/2003		Dedicated Revenue	
Legislative Count	1.00		
FTE Count	-0.480	Rent of Lands	\$17,000
Personal Services	\$16,807		

The Submerged Lands Program will now fund a full-time year-round Planning & Research Associate I. The extra 27 weeks are needed to ensure the completion of a submerged land structures inventory in anticipation of the expiration of construction easements in 2005. The former seasonal position did not include an adequate amount of time to complete this task within the required time frame. Additional funds from the rent of lands will support the increase number of weeks.

5	Shore and Harbo	r Management Fi	and Account # 014A.0239.29

Income	Expenses		
Earnings on Investments	\$85,000	Grants to Cities & Towns	\$85,000
Total Income	\$85,000	Total Expenses	\$85,000

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. From the sale of submerged land and reuse of dredged material as fill to Bath Iron Works, the program received an additional \$490,000 to this account in FY 2001, the interest from which will be distributed to municipalities as grants. The account currently has a balance of \$1,669,730.

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments DICAP**	\$4,095 (\$376)	All Other (not including STACAP) STACAP	\$3,661 \$58
Total Income	\$3,719	Total Expenses	\$3,719

6. Mackworth Island Trust # 014.04A.0239.30

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

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.

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

T T	\$109	Expenses	\$99
Income	\$102	Ехрепясь	

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 \$3,053.

XVIII. CONCLUSION

Expenditures will be managed as necessary to operate within the Bureau's financial means for all accounts. Income and account balances are 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.

