

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*2010 ANNUAL REPORT*  
for  
*Public Reserved, Non-Reserved, and Submerged Lands*  
to the  
*JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE*  
on  
*AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION, AND FORESTRY*



Halfmile Pond in the Amherst Community Forest

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011



**MAINE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION**  
**Bureau of Parks and Lands**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

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, conservation easement lands, and other lands as provided by law.

This report constitutes required annual reporting pursuant to:

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

The report is submitted by March 1st of each year to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Conservation. It provides an overview of the scope of the Bureau's responsibilities, and information on the Bureau's management activities during the 2010 calendar year. As required, the report includes information on gates and barriers that prevent public vehicle access to Public Reserved and Non-reserved Lands, recreation facility fees charged for the use of these lands, and a status report on Ecological Reserves.

Included in the report is financial information on both a calendar year (2010) and fiscal year (2012) basis. The ACF Committee has the obligation to report by March 15th to the Appropriations Committee on the Bureau's Lands Division FY 2012 budget.

The "Lands" division of the Bureau is a dedicated revenue component of the agency funding almost all of its administrative, planning, management, and operational activities from revenue generated from the land base, with some additional sources of funds provided through various grant programs.

***The Bureau is statutorily mandated to manage the Public Reserved and Non-reserved Lands, 591,254 acres in 2010, 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 MRSA 1833 and 1847).

Fifteen year, multiple-use plans for the major properties guide the Bureau's management activities. Benefits from the wise management of these lands include:

- *Access to recreational opportunities*
- *Production of forest products*
- *Enhancement of wildlife habitat*
- *Protection of unique natural and cultural resources*

The Bureau also has responsibility for managing 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.

Finally, the Bureau protects the public rights and values acquired through conservation easements, public access easements; and oversees project agreements with local entities the Bureau sponsors to enable these local entities to purchase lands and easements using Land for Maine's Future funds.

## II. 2010 HIGHLIGHTS

***Forest Certification*** – Since 2002, the Bureau's forest management activities have been certified as sustainable under two independent certification systems - the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI). Each year the Bureau's forestry operations and overall forest management system are "audited" by these two certification systems, with all criteria addressed over a period of three years for SFI certification and a "full" audit for FSC conducted once every five years.

In 2010 FSC and SFI programs conducted coordinated surveillance audits (a dual certification audit). Auditors visited exemplary timber harvests, innovative water crossings, and diverse wildlife management practices in the Bureau's Northern Region. Once again the Bureau's timber operations fully met both independent audits, though the Bureau was requested to complete an update to its Wildlife Management Guidelines. The FSC full five-year audit is scheduled for 2011.

***Timber Management Program*** - In 2010 logging contractors on Bureau lands harvested 121,700 cords (up from 111,790 in 2009), helped by the driest summer in several years. This harvest met the Bureau's targeted sustainable yield harvest.

With help from the Federally mandated Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP), contractors harvested over 15,000 cords of biomass, more than twice the amount for 2008, at prices similar to those for hardwood pulp. Bureau timber operations provided wood and wood fiber to approximately 45 mills statewide in 2010.

**Firewood Permit Program:** The demand for *individual* firewood permits continued to fall in 2010 from the peak demand in 2008; while demand for permits for *logging contractors* delivering firewood to customers was strong though somewhat diminished from 2009. Over 3,000 cords of firewood was supplied from Bureau –managed lands in 2010, down from 4,800 cords in 2009.

**Land Acquisitions** – Acquisitions in 2010 totaled just over 2,600 acres, with about 1,100 acres in fee and 1,500 acres in conservation easements (Appendix B). Although small in acreage, these acquisitions include generous donations, and a focus on access to existing lands, access to water, rail trails and parcels adjacent to existing state parks. At the close of 2010 conservation lands held by the Bureau of Parks and Lands in fee and easements totaled 1,026,800 acres (including 9,800 acres of Forest Legacy conservation easements delegated to the Bureau by the US Forest Service). Public Reserved and Non-reserved fee lands account for 591,254 acres of this total.

A number of other acquisitions neared closing in 2010, and are expected to close in 2011 (Appendix C). The Bureau continues to advance a number of large working forest conservation easements that have been approved for federal Forest Legacy Program funding, and worked with the state Forest Legacy Committee to identify additional projects for future federal funding approval.

In addition to these acquisitions, the Bureau continued to sponsor land trust and local government acquisitions through the LMF Program in 2010, with 15 projects closing (2,700 acres). In total the Bureau now holds 98 sponsored LMF Project Agreements covering approximately 52,000 acres.

**Recreation** – Downeast Sunrise Trail: Perhaps the most significant new recreation opportunity achieved in 2010 was the completion of the Downeast Sunrise Trail, a multi use rail trail stretching 87 miles from Ellsworth to Pembroke.

The Bureau's Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Division oversaw this multi-year project, entirely funded by the sale of the rails and ties. The Trail provides a common recreational corridor that can be linked to other local/regional trails and Bureau lands across Hancock and Washington Counties. Already a local club has extended the trail to Perry; and the Bureau's Eastern Region staff, working with ORV and local clubs, extended a connector to the Rocky Lake Public Reserved Lands Unit north of Machias. The trail has generated significant new economic activity throughout the region.

Eastern Region -Downeast Tourism Focus: For the second year in a row, the Eastern Region benefited from a privately-funded Senior Planner position to help provide extra recreation planning and outreach capacity in the Downeast region. This position has allowed the Bureau to actively collaborate with the Vacationland Resources Committee and other recreation and economic development groups to implement recreation investments consistent with regional priorities.

Recreation Improvements: In 2010 work continued on recreation improvements recommended in recently completed management plans, making use of access improvement funds available through the Land for Maine's Future Program, federal Recreational Trails Program funds and bureau timber revenues. Throughout the State, improvements and new facilities were built on sixteen Public Reserved Lands Units and included winter and summer trails, trailheads, campsites, public access roads, and parking areas.

The Bureau's regional staff were assisted in many of these projects by the Maine Conservation Corps (non-motorized trails and campsites) and the Bureau's Off-Road Vehicle Division (multi-use trails, snowmobile trails and ATV trails). In addition, each of the three Public Lands Regions employed an AmeriCorps Environmental Educator (a federally subsidized internship program administered by the Maine Conservation Corps) to assist with these projects.

Partnerships: The management of recreation resources on Public Reserved Lands is also assisted by numerous partnerships further described in this report. These partnerships are an integral part of the recreation management system for the public reserved lands. Partners range from very small organizations such as the many local snowmobile and ATV clubs, to large organizations such as the North Maine Woods recreation management system. The Bureau recognizes and

appreciates the important role of these partnerships:

- Appalachian Trail Club
- Maine Appalachian Trail Club
- Baxter Park Authority
- Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance
- Cobscook Trails Coalition
- Damariscotta River Association
- Mahoosuc Land Trust
- Maine Island Trail Association
- Machias River Corridor partners (local, state and federal)
- North Maine Woods/KI-Jo Mary systems
- Northern Forest Canoe Trail
- South Arm Campground
- Western Mountain Community Foundation
- Numerous snowmobile, ATV, and other recreational user group clubs

**Land Management Planning** – This year multiple use management plans were completed for the Western Mountains Region (66,275 acres of Public Reserved Lands including the Mahoosuc, Bald Mountain, Four Ponds and Richardson Lake parcels, and a number of smaller public reserved lots); the Amherst Community Forest (4,974 acres), and the Pineland Unit (838 acres). Two of these plans included closely linked state parks also covered in the Plans: Rangeley Lake State Park (900 acres) and Grafton Notch State Parks (3,191 acres) in the Western Mountains Region and Bradbury Mountain State Park (731 acres) as part of the Bradbury-Pineland Plan.

**Submerged Lands and Coastal Islands Program** – Submerged lands are managed by the Bureau 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. Lease fees are used to support shore and harbor management activities and improve public access. In 2010 \$200,000 was distributed as grants to municipalities for 17 projects.

The Bureau also manages coastal islands under public ownership. The Bureau provides funding from the submerged lands leases to support to the Maine Island Trail Association, which manages recreation on public

and private islands that are part of the Maine Island Trail. In 2010 \$50,000 was awarded to the Maine Island Trail Association for this purpose.

The Bureau's brochure "Your Islands and Parks on the Coast" shows the location of approximately 40 State-owned islands suitable for recreational use and explains the Bureau's visiting, camping, and resource protection policies.

### III. SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES

#### HISTORY OF THE BUREAU

The Bureau of Parks and Lands is an agency within the Department of Conservation, that historically merged from two previously separate Bureau's – the Bureau of Parks and Recreation and Bureau of Public Lands. The Bureau of Public Lands was created in 1973 to manage the state's interests in "original public lots," 1000 acres set aside in each township as a source of revenue to support schools when and if they became settled. In total these accounted for over 400,000 acres.

Beginning in the mid-1970's many of the original public lots were traded with lands of other landowners to consolidate the State's holdings into larger management units having greater public use values. Additional public lands have been acquired since 1990 largely through the Land for Maine's Future Program for the purpose of adding to these consolidated public lands, or creating new public lands to be managed for multiple uses including recreation, wildlife and forestry. Other lands, such as coastal islands, and surplus institutional lands have been assigned to the Bureau for management.

#### CURRENT LANDS AND PROGRAMS

The Bureau of Parks and Lands is now responsible for management of Public Reserved and Non-Reserved Lands, state-owned coastal islands, State Parks, Historic Sites, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, the Penobscot River Corridor and state-owned coastal islands.

In addition the Bureau is responsible for protecting public rights and public values on certain lands. These include the public trust

rights to fishing, waterfowl hunting, navigation, and recreation on submerged lands beneath coastal waters to the 3-mile territorial limit and under natural Great Ponds. This responsibility also includes protecting public rights and values acquired from private landowners through conservation and public access easements donated to or purchased by the Bureau. Finally, the Bureau has an oversight role for public values associated with lands acquired by municipalities and local land trusts purchased through the Land for Maine's Future Program with Bureau sponsorship.

In 2010 lands under the Bureau's ownership, management or oversight included:

- 591,254 acres of Public Reserved and Non-reserved Lands held in fee;
- 84,925 acres of fee lands held as Parks or Boat Access Sites;
- 2.3 million acres of the State's marine and freshwater submerged lands, and 1086 publicly owned coastal islands;
- 339,143 acres of conservation easements;
- 9,815 acres of Forest Legacy Conservation Easements delegated to the Bureau to enforce by the US Forest Service);
- 378,140 acres of third party conservation easements (where the Bureau is a back-up Holder and may also have an active role in ensuring the Holder adequately monitors and enforces the terms of the easement) ;
- 629,900 acres of public access rights granted by easement by three large private landowners; and
- 52,000 acres of lands acquired by local interests through the Land for Maine's Future Program, with Bureau sponsorship.

Beyond the Bureau's land management responsibilities, several programs within the Bureau support public recreational access and trails. These include the Boating Facilities program to build boat access sites on state lands and fund municipal boat access sites; the Snowmobile and ATV Programs which provide grants to local clubs to build and maintain trails on both public and private lands; and the Grants and Community Recreation Program, which distributes federal grant funds for state and local recreation projects.

## TRENDS AND ISSUES

Expanding Responsibilities for Easements and Project Agreements: Since 1995, the fee ownership managed by the Lands Division has increased by roughly 117,000 acres (a 25% increase). However, conservation easements have increased dramatically compared to fee lands, from only 5,000 acres in 1995 to now over 348,600 acres, with nearly 291,000 acres of these conservation easements acquired between 2003 and 2009. That is nearly a *ten-fold increase in the past 7 years*. The Bureau now holds 54 conservation easements; is delegated by the US Forest Service to enforce 3 others; and is 3<sup>rd</sup> party enforcer on an additional 17 easements. (See also Appendix A – map of BPL fee and easement properties, and Appendix D, for BPL's Easement Program description)

### **What Are Conservation Easements**

Conservation easements have grown in popularity as a means of protecting public values on private lands, while keeping those lands productively owned and managed by the private landowner. Instead of acquiring the land outright (fee acquisition) the state acquires only selected rights with high public values, with the landowner retaining many rights to use the land for economic benefit. All conservation easements are negotiated with willing-sellers.

The protected lands range from 2 acres of sand dunes to 190,000 acres of working forest. These lands are highly productive and contribute to Maine's economy through the following uses: collection of sap and production of maple syrup; timber harvesting; hydroelectric power generation; apple orchards; hunting; extraction of spring water; organic farming; home of a summer camp for disadvantaged youth; tourism and recreation; sand and gravel production; snowmobile, ATV, and hiking trails; overnight accommodations including lodges and campgrounds; water quality protection; shellfish harvesting; and others.

Increasingly conservation easements have been used to keep land in working forests, protect sensitive resources, and provide public recreational access. In the simplest form, a willing landowner is paid for the development rights, grants the right of public pedestrian access, and agrees to manage the forest in accordance with certain standards (generally sustainable harvests; and state law). The Federal Forest Legacy Program has provided funds for such easements totaling over \$50 million since 1994, matched in part with State LMF funds.

In 2007 the State enacted legislation requiring all conservation easement holders to monitor these easements for compliance with easement terms at least once every three years (33 MRSA 477-A(3)). Annual compliance monitoring is required by the Federal Forest Legacy Conservation Easement Program, which has funded 15 large working forest conservation easements covering over 80 percent of the Bureau's easement acreage. As shown in Appendix C, another 66,500 acres of working forest conservation easements have been approved for Forest Legacy funding and are expected to close sometime in the next one to two years.

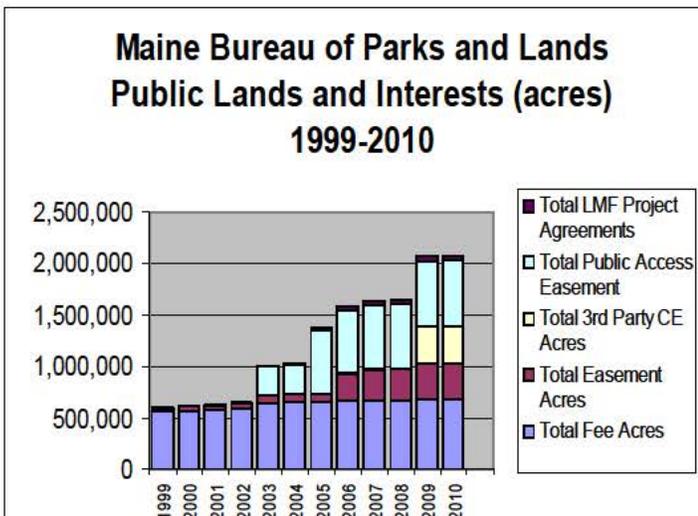
In 2009, as a result of LURC's approval of the Plum Creek Moosehead Region Concept Plan, the Bureau was designated 3<sup>rd</sup> party holder to 366,000 acres of conservation easements (the terms of these easements are being enforced pending resolution of administrative appeals to the LURC decision). Unlike other 3<sup>rd</sup> party easements held by the Bureau, this one obligates the Bureau to conduct periodic "audits" of the easement holder, the Forest Society of Maine, and so imposes a new responsibility for the Bureau.

Since 2004 the Bureau has acquired nearly 629,000 acres of lands with public access easements (see accompanying map – Appendix A). The Bureau has the option but not the obligation to maintain or improve certain designated roads on 592,880 acres of these easements. However, holding these rights has altered the public's perceptions about the Bureau's role in providing access to private lands.

Finally, over the last decade the Bureau has sponsored local projects for LMF Funding and acquired additional ongoing responsibilities for overseeing these projects through recorded Project Agreements. Since 2001, non-state projects have been eligible for LMF funds, if sponsored by a state agency and subject to a Project Agreement which specifies terms for conservation and use. In 2010, 15 BPL-sponsored projects were closed covering 2,700 acres. Total number of BPL Project Agreements in 2010 rose to 98, with approximately 22 others pending (including all pending projects from previous years). A new round of LMF funding is under way using recent voter approved bonds. Through these project agreements 52,000 acres of land have been acquired providing public recreational opportunities (many increasing public access to water), and protecting important wildlife, scenic and cultural values. However, the associated administrative burden for sponsoring and overseeing these project agreements, for which no LMF funds may be provided, adds to the growing set of unfunded obligations that are challenging the Bureau's limited resources.

Increased Interest and Demand for Recreation Opportunities on Public Reserved Lands: For many reasons, awareness about and interest in Public Reserved Lands has increased significantly in the recreating public over the last ten years. One driving factor was the Bureau's focus on updating the management plans completed in the 1980's - initiated in early 2000, which includes a robust public involvement process. Other factors include: an increasingly user-friendly Bureau web presence providing information about these lands, most recently including a partnership with MaineTrailFinder.com as a central source of information about non-motorized trails; the rapid expansion of statewide trails systems for ATVs and snowmobiles with interest in these lands as connectors and destinations; the rise of eco-tourism; and some high profile additions to the system including Big Spencer Mountain, the Seboomook Unit, Mount Abraham, Tumbledown Mountain, the Machias River Corridor, and the Cutler Coast; among others.

These new lands were acquired primarily because of the special recreational and ecological values, and added little to the timber basket that pays for their management. The



exception is the acquisition of the Seboomook Unit – 40,500 acres with a predominance of manageable timberland - however, it will be 15-20 years before it will produce much timber revenue.

Funding and Staffing Challenges: The result of these various trends, most having emerged only in the last decade – increasing demand for recreation opportunities on Public Reserved Lands; changing interests and expectations for public access; the growth in conservation easements held by the Bureau, including a new unprecedented role in protecting the public's interests in landscape level conservation easements like the Plum Creek Moosehead Region easement; an increasing number of LMF Project agreements - has been to create an *escalating management challenge for the Bureau, particularly in the areas of recreation development, natural resource planning, and easement and Project Agreement monitoring.*

These new and increasing responsibilities have fallen on regional management staff and the Bureau's Planning Division, which are supported in large part by timber revenues from Reserved Lands. Despite the increased workload and cost for this added responsibility, the Bureau's land management staffing has only increased by one position since 2002 (a forest technician position was filled in the Eastern Region in 2010).

Revenue to cover increasing costs is lagging behind the needs. Overall, potential revenues from new fee lands are not sufficient to cover the increased costs associated with the acquired lands. Impacts include a deficit in staff resources, including cutbacks on existing staff. Due to cost considerations, for some period of months between 2009 and 2010 the Bureau opted not to fill the Interpretive Specialist position. That position was filled in late 2010.

Recreation management needs: One strategy for addressing the increased recreational use pressure on Bureau lands has been engaging in partnerships with trail groups and land trusts to assist with both maintenance and management of these lands, and drawing on grant programs including the federal Recreational Trails Program. In addition, the Bureau has partnered with the AmeriCorps program to assign interns to work with staff on a variety of recreational programs on both Parks and Lands. This program provides good value to the Bureau and meaningful work

experience to the interns. The challenge with these partnerships is that they require staff training and supervision and are not entirely filling the gap.

Conservation Easement Program Needs: Managing the 57 Conservation Easements held by the Bureau has become a major issue for the Bureau as no new staff have been added to cover this responsibility. Instead, the Bureau has used existing staff (at the expense of other responsibilities) contracted out monitoring of some of its easements and supplemented the effort with interns provided through the AmeriCorps program. This has been funded in part by monitoring endowments established by acquisition partners as part of acquisition fund raising. These funds are invested and held by the Maine Community Foundation (MCF). Market volatility of those endowment funds due to the recent global economic crisis resulted in loss of one third of the value in 2008. Subsequent gains have yet to restore those losses fully. Increasingly stretched timber revenues must now also supplement the endowments to support monitoring costs for conservation easements.

Since 2008 the Bureau has worked to develop an efficient and cost-effective monitoring system for its conservation easements. Grants from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund have been instrumental in helping the Bureau with the development stages this program. The resulting monitoring protocol uses science-based remote sensing techniques, centralized administrative support, and targeted use of regional staff.

The Bureau has concluded that the approach of using short-term interns to assist existing staff, and contracting out monitoring services, is not sufficient or sustainable. Because of the repeated training needed for AmeriCorps interns, and unpredictability of future funding, use of this program is not a reliable or efficient as a long-term solution. Contracting out monitoring services can only partially address the range of responsibilities involved; there are many other responsibilities that can only be addressed by the Bureau directly. A staff position largely dedicated to easements and other monitoring/oversight responsibilities including Project Agreements and leases would advance efficiency in the use of staff resources, allow further refinements to the easement program, and could operate within the funds available from easement endowments, leases and other related dedicated funds.

## IV. LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING

The Bureau owns 147 public reserved land units and 21 non-reserved public land units. The number of actively managed reserved and non-reserved units (not including lands leased to or managed by others, small islands, and lands with a minority common and undivided interest), is 152. These range in size from 60 acres to 47,440 acres.

The Bureau is statutorily mandated to manage Reserved and Non-reserved Lands for multiple public values. Bureau staff involved in managing Reserved and Non-reserved Lands include specialists in planning, forest transportation, wildlife, recreation, and field forestry. All collaborate to ensure a balanced approach to the management of the various resources on these lands.

The Bureau's *Integrated Resource Policy* (IRP) adopted in 1985 and revised in 2000 guides resource management decisions and governs management planning for all Public Reserved and Non-reserved lands. Management Plans are prepared consistent with the IRP and taking into consideration comments received from a defined public process. The planning process allocates areas for specific uses including:

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

These areas often overlap, creating zones where management is designed to accommodate a variety of uses. The relative impact of one use upon another is carefully weighed to establish a hierarchy of resource management that protects the most sensitive resources and uses, while allowing other management to continue. For example, planned timber harvests in deeryards can provide a sustained yield of forest products and deer browse, while maintaining the winter shelter value of these areas.

Historically, resource management plans were prepared every ten years for each of the larger parcels (or Management Units), many of which are consolidations of former public lots. Today, management plans are prepared regionally, for a period of 15 years, and a single plan addresses all of the reserved and non-reserved lands within a planning region.

Regional management plans are developed with robust public involvement. For each plan, a Public Advisory Committee is established representing local, regional, and

statewide interests. These committees serve as forums for discussion of draft plans. Public meetings are held providing interested parties an opportunity to provide input on management issues and to comment on plan drafts. After considering these comments, the Bureau submits the final Plan to the Department Commissioner, upon recommendation by its Director, and the Plan is effective upon the Commissioner's approval.

### MANAGEMENT PLAN STATUS

1	Mount Abraham <sup>1</sup>	Adopted June 2007
2	Amherst	Adopted Dec. 2010
3	Bald Mountain <sup>2</sup>	Adopted Jan. 2011
4	Bigelow Preserve <sup>1</sup>	Adopted June 2007
5	Chain of Ponds <sup>1</sup>	Adopted June 2007
6	Chamberlain	Scheduled to begin 2012
7	Cutler Coast <sup>3</sup>	Adopted March 2007
8	DeadRiver/Spring Lake <sup>1</sup>	Adopted June 2007
9	Deboullie <sup>4</sup>	Adopted June 2007
10	Dodge Point	Scheduled to begin 2013
11	Donnell Pond <sup>3</sup>	Adopted March 2007
12	Duck Lake <sup>5</sup>	Adopted July 2009
13	Eagle Lake <sup>4</sup>	Adopted June 2007
14	Four Ponds <sup>2</sup>	Adopted Jan. 2011
15	Gero Island/Chesuncook	Scheduled to begin 2012
16	Great Heath <sup>3</sup>	Adopted March 2007
17	Holeb	Scheduled to begin 2012
18	<b>Kennebec Highlands</b>	<b>Plan in Progress</b>
19	Little Moose	Scheduled to begin 2012
20	Machias River <sup>5</sup>	Adopted July 2009
21	Mahoosuc <sup>2</sup>	Adopted Jan. 2011
22	Moosehead	Scheduled to begin 2012
23	<b>Nahmakanta</b>	<b>Revision in Progress</b>
24	Pineland <sup>6</sup>	Adopted Jan. 2011
25	Richardson <sup>2</sup>	Adopted Jan. 2011
26	Rocky Lake <sup>3</sup>	Adopted March 2007
27	Round Pond	Scheduled to begin 2012
28	Salmon Brook Lake Bog <sup>4</sup>	Adopted June 2007
29	Scraggly Lake <sup>7</sup>	Adopted August 2009
30	<b>Seboeis</b>	<b>Revision in Progress</b>
31	Seboomook	Adopted March 2007
32	Scopan <sup>7</sup>	Adopted August 2009
33	Telos	Scheduled to begin 2012
34	Tumbledown Mt.	Scheduled to begin 2013
35	<b>Wassataquoik</b>	<b>Revision in Progress</b>

<sup>1</sup> Flagstaff Region

<sup>2</sup> Western Mountains Region

<sup>3</sup> Downeast Region

<sup>4</sup> Northern Aroostook Region

<sup>5</sup> Eastern Interior Region

<sup>6</sup> Bradbury- Pineland Region

<sup>7</sup> Aroostook Hills Region

## V. NATURAL/HISTORIC RESOURCES

### NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORIES (NRI's)

The Maine Natural Areas Program, a division of the Bureau of Geology and Natural Areas, conducts inventories of natural resources on lands managed by the Bureau under a Memorandum of Understanding. In general, inventories are done in advance of management planning to provide up-to-date information.

***NRI's completed in 2010.*** A Natural Resource Inventory was completed for Bradbury Mountain State Park and the Pineland Unit, in preparation for the Bradbury and Pineland Management Plan. In preparation for the Central Penobscot Region Management Plan, Natural Resource Inventories were substantially completed for the Nahmakanta Unit, the Seboeis Unit, and the Wassataquoik Units. An NRI was also completed for the Tumbledown Mountain Unit in preparation for the Management Plan to begin in 2012.

### ECOLOGICAL RESERVES

***History, Status Related to Statutory Acres Limits.*** Ecological reserves are designated areas containing representative native ecosystem types managed as special protection areas. These areas serve as benchmarks against which to measure changes in both managed and unmanaged ecosystems, to provide habitat unlikely to occur where active management occurs, and to serve as sites for scientific research, monitoring, and education.

The annual report must indicate the status of these reserves, including acres of reserved and nonreserved lands designated as ecological reserves and the results of monitoring, scientific research and other activities related to the reserves (12 MRSA §1839 and §1853). The Bureau is also required to notify the committee when a management plan proposes designation of an ecological reserve (12 MRSA §1805). This section of the report addresses both requirements.

The bureau director may designate ecological reserves on bureau lands included in "An Ecological Reserves System Inventory: Potential Ecological Reserves on Maine's Existing Public and Private Conservation Lands,"

Maine Biodiversity Project, July 1998. The Director may designate additional reserves in conjunction with the adoption of a management plan, when that process includes public review and comment on the plan and notification to the committee of the proposal.

Since 2007, the Bureau has operated with an informal policy of not designating any additions to the ecological reserve system, other than those deeded as such (if included in the list of potential ecological reserve areas recommended in 1998, and if recommended by the Ecological Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee), until all Public Reserved Lands have been updated under the 2000 IRP. As discussed below, the Bureau is constrained by statute on the number of acres that can be designated as an ecological reserve. Presently the Bureau is within 3,000 acres of that limit. Therefore all possible additions will be evaluated before any new designation. Some areas have been noted in the new management plans as potential additions to the ecological reserve system. In addition, the Bureau notes that a number of pending or proposed acquisition properties have areas that are potential candidates for ecological reserve status. See discussion under Ecological Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee, below.

<b>Original Ecological Reserves Designated in 2001 and Modifications Adopted in 2007</b>		
Name	Original 2001 Acres	Acres Changes adopted in 2007
1. Bigelow Preserve ER	10,540	
2. Chamberlain Lake ER	2,890	
3. Cutler Coast ER	5,216	+5
4. Deboullie ER	7,253	-350*
5. Donnell/Tunk ER	5,950	+274
6. Duck Lake Unit ER	3,870	
7. Gero Island ER	3,175	
8. Great Heath ER	5,681	-40
9. Mahoosucs ER	9,974	
10. Nahamakanta ER	11,082	
11. Rocky Lake ER	1,516	
12. Salmon Brook Lake ER	1,053	
13. Wassataquoik ER	775	
Total Acres	68,975	-111

\* Estimated acres at this time

**ORIGINAL RESERVES:** In 2001, the director designated thirteen ecological reserves totaling 68,975 acres on public reserved lands included in the above-referenced inventory. These original reserves were designated using the best available information at the time, with the understanding that adjustments would be needed as research in conjunction with management plans revealed different conditions on the ground and other factors affecting the lands included in the reserves.

The Downeast Region Management Plan (adopted in 2007) recommended and adopted changes to three original reserves because of recent land acquisition for the Donnell Pond Unit, deed conditions affecting use of the Great Heath and fieldwork on the natural communities at Cutler Coast. The Northern Aroostook Region Management Plan (adopted in 2007) recommended and adopted changes to the ecological reserve at Deboullie where the boundary overlaps an area of 300-400 acres with developed facilities and significant public use. The change in ecological reserve acreage resulted in a net reduction of approximately 111 acres.

<b>Ecological Reserves Designated as a Result of Deed Restrictions</b>	
Name	Acres*
Big Spencer ER (ADOPTED 2007)	4,242
Mount Abraham ER (ADOPTED 2007)	5,186
St John Ponds ER (ADOPTED 2007)	3,917
Machias River ER (ADOPTED 2009)	2,780
Total ER Designated by Restricted Deeds and adopted by Management Plan	16,125
Number 5 Bog (DEEDED 2009, pending adoption through Management Plan)	4,809
Total ER Acquired through deeds,	20,934

\*Acres reported in deed.

**DEEDED ADDITIONS:** Between 2002 and 2004, the Bureau acquired three areas with the condition that the lands be designated ecological reserves: Big Spencer Mountain, the Saint John Ponds and Mount Abraham. The March 2006 annual report to the ACF committee reported the acceptance of these reserves. These areas, acquired as public reserved lands, were formally designated as Ecological Reserves as part of the adoption of the Seboomook Unit Management

Plan and the Flagstaff Region Management Plan in 2007.

In 2006, as part of the Phase II acquisition of the Machias River project lands, 2,780 acres were conveyed to the state by the Conservation Fund subject to a deed restriction that the lands be designated as an Ecological Reserve. This area expanded by 400 acres an existing Ecological Reserve on Fourth Machias Lake on the Duck Lake Unit, and added a 2,380-acre adjacent area that includes frontage along Fifth Machias Lake and Fifth Lake Stream. These additions to the Ecological Reserve system were adopted as part of the Eastern Interior Region management planning effort in 2009.

In 2009 the Bureau acquired 4,809 acres of land called the Number Five Bog, an area originally considered for ecological reserve designation but not qualifying since not enough of it was in Bureau ownership. As noted below, in 2009 the Ecological Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee met to review the acquisition to determine if it qualified for Ecological Reserve designation, as called for in the acquisition deeds, and determined that it was qualified. This land will be managed as an Ecological Reserve, with formal designation pending adoption of a management plan subject to public review and comment.

**STATUTORY LIMITS:** By statute, the total land acreage designated as ecological reserves may not exceed 15% of the total land acreage under bureau jurisdiction or 100,000 acres, whichever is less. In addition, no more than 6% of the operable timberland acres on public reserved and nonreserved lands may be designated as ecological reserves. Lands acquired after the effective date of the ecological reserve statute with the deeded condition that the land be designated an ecological reserve are not included when calculating acreage limits.

Presently Bureau fee lands, including Parks, Public Reserved and Non-reserved Lands, and Boating Facility lands, total 677,275 acres. The 15% limit would then be 15% applied total acres less 20,934 acquired with deed restrictions; or 98,451 acres. This means that the 98,451 acres is presently the actual upper limit with regard to the first statutory condition. The current qualifying Ecological Reserves comprise nearly 69,000 acres.

<b>Ecological Reserves as a Proportion of Total Acres Under Bureau Jurisdiction in 2010*</b>	
<i>Land Type</i>	<i>Total Fee Acres</i>
State Park Lands	84,373
Boat Access Lands	552
Public Reserved Lands	587,350
Non-reserved Public Lands	3,905
Unregistered Coastal Islands	1,095
Subtotal	677,275
Land acquired on condition of ecoreserve designation	-20,934
Total	656,341
Lesser of 15% of Lands under Bureau Jurisdiction or 100,000 Acres in Qualifying Reserves	98,451
	68,864

Regarding the 6% rule, there are currently approximately 404,970 acres of operable timberland on public reserved and non-reserved lands, with 20,896 acres of these located in qualifying reserves. This is 3,080 acres below the 6% limit set in statute.

<b>Ecological Reserves as a Proportion of Operable Timberland Acres on Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands in 2010*</b>	
<i>Land Type</i>	<i>Operable Timberland Acres</i>
Total Operable Lands	404,970
6% of Operable Lands	24,298
Operable Acres in Qualifying Reserves	20,896
Net available acres for ER designation	3,080
*Operable timberland acres are lands held in fee, not including deeded ecological reserves. Operable acres on Ecological Reserves include modifications adopted in 2007.	

**Baseline Data Collection in 2010.**

An annual Memorandum of Understanding has been developed with the Maine Natural Areas Program to collect baseline ecological data for the Bureau's Reserve inventory. This monitoring fulfills two key purposes of the enabling legislation for Ecological Reserves: that they serve as a "benchmark against which biological and environmental change may be measured" and that they serve as sites for "ongoing scientific research, long term environmental monitoring and education". These surveys are being conducted in accordance with established monitoring guidelines. This ongoing effort will provide information necessary for

measuring ecological changes on Reserves over time.

In 2010, the Maine Natural Areas Program completed baseline monitoring on the Moose River/Number 5 Bog Ecological Reserve. This Reserve encompasses the Moose River Bow canoe trip and is home to the largest jack pine forest in Maine, as well as the remarkable 2, 000 acre Number 5 Bog.

Additionally, in a collaborative project with the University of Vermont, a graduate student worked with our Ecological Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee to develop a long term monitoring program for wetlands in Ecological Reserves. This monitoring program, funded by Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, was created to complement related science-based efforts by Department of Environmental Protection, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service.

Monitoring reports may be found at: <http://www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mnap/reservesys/reports.htm>.

**Ecological Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee**

An Ecological Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee was established in the mid-1990s to provide guidance regarding the inventory and assessment of a potential Ecological Reserve system in Maine. Following the designation of Reserves on DOC lands in 2000, an Ecological Reserves Monitoring Committee (consisting of many of the same representatives as the original Advisory committee) was assembled to work with the Maine Natural Areas Program to create an Ecological Reserve Monitoring Plan (2003).

In 2009, the Committee was re-established as an on-going Committee as an outcome of a report reviewing continuing issues with the uses and designations of ecological reserves. (*Ecological Reserves in Maine: A Status Report on Designation, Monitoring, and Uses*, July of 2009, [www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mnap/reservesys/sci\\_ad\\_report\\_july2009.pdf](http://www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mnap/reservesys/sci_ad_report_july2009.pdf).) The role of the Committee includes reviewing potential Ecological Reserve additions according to science-based criteria that new ecological reserves must meet.

The Committee met in February 2010 to consider a proposal to designate an ecological reserve on the recently acquired Amherst Mountains Community Forest. The Committee recommended not designating the acreage based

on the criteria, however, suggested re-visiting the proposal if the conservation status of surrounding lands changes.

The Committee met again in December 2010, to review monitoring reports, scientific research, and a potential Ecological Reserve on a portion of a pending Bureau acquisition at Crocker Mountain (see Appendix C, Carrabasset Valley). The Committee concluded that portions of the site meet the criteria for an Ecological Reserve, however, further fieldwork needs to be done to determine potential ER boundaries, with the final determination to be made as part of the Bureau's management plan process for the lands after acquisition.

In addition, the Bureau is considering acquisition of a property abutting the Great Heath ecological Reserve, which may eventually be designated as part of that existing reserve.

## HISTORIC AND CULTURAL INVENTORIES

The Bureau's Historic Site Specialist provides information on the history of parcels subject to the management planning process. This information, along with input from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and the public process that accompanies Plan development, is then included in the management plans. The MHPC is the lead agency in identifying significant historic resources requiring preservation and protection of these resources on the State's ownership, including designating historically sensitive areas for special protection.

## **VI. WILDLIFE RESOURCES**

A key component of the Bureau's integrated resource management program is coordinating land management activities with fisheries and wildlife habitat enhancement. Since 1984 a wildlife biologist from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has been assigned to the Bureau through a cooperative agreement between the two agencies. The primary responsibility of the biologist has been to develop and implement a habitat management program for Bureau-managed lands. Wildlife management activities conducted in 2010 on lands managed by the Bureau were as follows:

***Wildlife Inventory and Survey Work.*** Most of this work is performed by a seasonal Wildlife Technician during a 16 week season, typically mid-May to mid-September. In 2010, Waterfowl brood counts were completed in early June and repeated in early July at 5 man-made and natural impoundments under bureau management. High elevation bird counts were conducted at Mt. Abraham focusing on Bicknells thrush. Third Machias Lake was surveyed for Common Loons.

***Habitat Management.*** Seventy four waterfowl nesting boxes were maintained by regional staff. With assistance from the seasonal position, 21 acres of old field were mowed; 10 old apple trees were released; and invasive species control was conducted on 13 acres. Fifteen acres of right-of-way was treated to control brush for improved sight distance at Scraggly Lake.

***Seeding Program.*** Fifty eight acres of herbaceous seeding was established on public lands for wildlife forage and erosion control.

***Coastal Habitat Agreements.*** The Bureau and IFW developed cooperative agreements for the management of four state park surf beaches that have piping plover and least tern habitats.

***Deer Wintering Areas (DWAs):*** Currently BP&L manages over 31,000 acres of deer wintering areas on Public Reserved lands. This includes 14,771 acres of LURC zoned P-FW and 16,800 acres of "cooperative" DWAs. This equates to 7.9 % of the BP&L lands available for management. About 3,200 acres of DWAs were added to Bureau lands in the last ten years, including most notably the Seboomook Lake parcel with 2,359 acres, the Amherst Community Forest with 240 acres, the Seboeis Lake addition with 367 acres and the Machias River purchases with 300 acres of DWA.

The Bureau of Parks and Lands (BP&L) manages deer winter habitat under an overall "cooperative" agreement with IFW initiated in 2002. This agreement sets the standards for the management of softwood dominated habitat. Under the agreement LURC zoned P-FWs and "coop" areas jointly identified with IFW are managed to provide softwood stands with high crown closure on one half the acres. The other

half of the DWA is devoted to growing trees into winter shelter.

Timber harvests in DWAs are coordinated with the IFW regional biologist and are conducted following a written plan agreed to by all parties after site visits. The bureau follows the recently published IFW " Guidelines for wildlife: Managing Deer Wintering Areas in Northern, Western and Eastern Maine" for its DWA management. Three harvest plan agreements for deer yards were completed with IF&W in 2010.

Other management practices that benefit deer include the Bureau's seeding program (see above), which provides forage for deer. In addition, as part of BP&Ls management planning process important wildlife habitats such as DWAs are avoided, where possible, in designing recreational trails.

The Bureau monitors and assesses DWAs as part of its management strategy. Aerial surveys for deer activity are conducted on BP&L managed lands when travel conditions for deer are restrictive using IFW protocols. This information is used to delineate cooperative winter habitat management areas for deer and other softwood dependent wildlife.

In 2007 the bureau contracted with a biologist to develop a long-term forest model for its largest DWA located on the Round Pond Unit. The model predicts growth and harvest rates over time to ensure a continuous supply of winter shelter for deer within this large DWA. The model was completed in 2010.

**Harvest Prescriptions.** Timber harvest plans for compartments totaling 20,267 acres of public lands were reviewed for fish and wildlife habitat compatibility and potential habitat enhancement.

**Research Requests.** Special activity permits for research on ants, ginseng, plant voucher specimens, sphagnum moss (2), lichens, vegetation plots and fishless ponds were reviewed and approved in consultation with MNAP.

**Forest Certification.** Planning and administration for fisheries, wildlife, and biodiversity issues related to forest certification conditions in both the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) programs continued. The Wildlife Biologist participated in yearly compliance audits conducted by both programs.

## VII. RECREATION RESOURCES

The Bureau's Lands Division is responsible for 326 campsites, over 150 miles of day hiking and backpacking trails (does not include the 71 miles of Appalachian Trail located on state-owned lands), 35 trailered and hand-carry boat launching areas, and 131 miles of public access road.

### 2010 PROJECTS

In accordance with management plan commitments, and in response to public demand, the Bureau continued to develop or make upgrades to recreation facilities on its lands. A summary of 2010 projects is provided below.

#### **Western Region**

The Western Region of the Lands Division continued to maintain and provide a diversity of outdoor recreation facilities and resources. In addition to routine maintenance, a number of projects were undertaken.

Bradbury-Pineland Trail Corridor Project. Thanks to prior acquisition efforts, BPL now has the legal right and approved permission to establish a multi-use trail connecting Bradbury Mt. State Park in Pownal with the Pineland Public Reserved Land Unit in Gray and North Yarmouth. By the conclusion of 2010, the Bureau had begun development of two sections of trail that will help link Bradbury Mt. State Park and the Pineland Public Lands. Trail planning, layout, and an initial brushing (clearing) occurred along a roughly 3 mile non-motorized route from the northwestern corner of Bradbury Mountain State Park through to the junction of the CMP power corridor. BPL's Off Road Division further developed this multi-use motorized & nonmotorized trail segment of approximately 3 miles in length between the public lands adjacent to Bradbury Mt. State Park and the public lands at the Pineland Unit.

Bigelow Preserve. A new group campsite, new individual campsite, and new outhouse were constructed adjacent to a reroute of the Appalachian Trail located along the eastern shore of Flagstaff Lake.

Mount Abraham. Land for Maine's Future access funds were used to rehabilitate the lower half of the Fire Warden's Trail.

Bald Mt. (Rangeley). A contract for major trail improvements to the popular Bald Mt. Trail was awarded in 2010 using Land for Maine's Future access funds. This work also included improvements to the trail head parking area.

Holeb Unit (Moose River Bow Trip). Land for Maine's Future access funds were used to improve the access and experience of paddling the Moose River Bow Trip. New cedar bog-bridging replaces deteriorating bog-bridging along the main portage trail. Additionally, the Northern Forest Canoe Trail was contracted with to arrange a field crew and volunteer to improve entry and exit to the river and access to campsites at the Spencer Rips area. Improvements included seasonally removable log ladders and access path stabilization/improvements.

Wright Trail, Mahoosuc Unit. The Wright Trail is a hiking trail originating from the Sunday River Rd. in Ketchum and leading to the summit of Goose Eye Mt. In total, there are approximately 5.6 miles of trail on BPL property. This rugged, challenging trail has been the focus of recent trail improvement efforts. In an effort to improve the rapidly deteriorating trail conditions and to improve visitor experiences and environmental quality, BPL contracted for 5 weeks of Maine Conservation Corps trail crew work in 2010.

### **Eastern Region**

A multitude of recreation resources are found on the lands stewarded by the Bureau's Eastern Region Lands Office. Each year, regional staff performs ongoing maintenance work and visitor services activities. In addition, each year brings new projects serving the recreating public. These projects for 2010 are outlined below.

Prior to discussing 2010 projects, it should be noted that the Eastern Region benefitted from a second of year of a privately-funded position to help provide extra planning and outreach capacity in the Downeast region (see Staff below). This position has allowed the Bureau to actively collaborate with the Vacationland Resources Committee and other recreation and economic development groups to implement recreation investments consistent with regional priorities.

Donnell Pond Public Reserved Land Unit. In 2010, the Bureau received funds from both the Land for Maine's Future program and the federal Recreational Trails Program to improve and develop recreational opportunities in the northern half of the Donnell Unit. Trailhead and trail improvements were made at the Caribou Mountain Trail. A parking lot and newly adopted trails were put in off the Blackwoods Scenic Byway. These improvements will provide trail access and safe parking for hikers interested in visiting Tunk Mountain and the small ponds beneath its south slope. Further east along the Scenic Byway, the parking lot for the Spring River Lake day-use area was expanded and the road leading towards Spring River Lake's outlet (Tunk Stream) was improved. This road work was coordinated with the creation of a parking lot and walk-in campsite at the outlet site.

In addition to the projects mentioned above, the Bureau also used its own funds to make improvements to the 1000 Road, to support ongoing maintenance of the road to the Donnell Pond boat launch, and to work collaboratively with Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Maine Department of Transportation to install new trash receptacles at the Tunk Lake Boat Launch.

Amherst Community Forest. A Land for Maine's Future access grant funded a new bridge and major reconstruction of another, four trailhead parking lots, nine miles of road resurfacing, nine miles of roadside mowing (for safety), and new signage.

Cutler Coast Public Reserved Land Unit. Access funds from the Lands for Maine's Future program were used in 2010 to perform several important improvements. The parking area for the popular coastal hiking trails was expanded to twice its size to avoid vehicles parking along the main road. Following input from the Town of Cutler Select Board, entrances were reconstructed for both the Cocoa Mountain and East Stream roads. The Recreational Trails Program also supported 2010 improvements at the Cutler Coast Unit. Three sets of stairs were replaced along the coastal trail. Additionally, several hundred feet of bog bridging were replaced on this same trail.

Rocky Lake. The Eastern Region Lands cooperated with the Off-Road Vehicle Division and local clubs to construct an access trail from the Downeast Sunrise Trail onto the unit.

Bradley Unit. Deeded access to the Bradley Unit was obtained.

Duck Lake. Rocks were removed from the 32-00-0 Road in order to improve ATV and snowmobile safety. Additionally, Maine snowmobile trail ITS 81/84 bypass was re-opened.

Machias River Corridor. Land for Maine's Future access funds were used to complete a rebuild of the Little River Road, which provides access towards Grand Lake Stream. This work was conducted in cooperation with Downeast Lakes Land Trust, Typhoon Forest Management, and Wagner Forest Management. Fifteen miles of road within the corridor were resurfaced. Access to 7 campsites was improved. The access roads to 6 Route 9 campsites received surfacing and clearing upgrades. Five miles of roads were refurbished for improved public use.

Nahmakanta Unit. The Turtle Ridge loop hiking trail parking lot was expanded. An ATV/snowmobile look-out on Farrar Nubble was constructed, including an authorized campsite with a new lean-to. This work was performed by the Off-Road Vehicle Division. Eastern Region staff coordinated with Chewonki Foundation for a Student Conservation Association trail crew working on the Debsconeag Wilderness Loop hiking trail.

### ***Northern Region***

The Northern Region of the Lands Division provides quality recreational experiences on lands across northern Maine. Northern Lands continued maintenance of 65 campsites and 12.5 miles of hiking trails while also collaborating with motorized trail clubs and providing access to numerous waterbodies. The Northern Region continues to partner with North Maine Woods to manage recreation.

Deboullie Unit. The Bureau's Northern Region Public Lands staff, with assistance from the Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) and funding from the Recreational Trails Program, constructed an Adirondack shelter at a campsite on Gardner Pond, installed stone steps and water bars on Deboullie Mountain trails, and started construction of the Whitman Mtn. loop. In addition, a trailhead was developed for the Whitman Mountain Loop Trail. Staff also constructed and installed kiosks as well as new trail signage.

Scopan Unit. Using funding from the Recreational Trails Program, the Northern Region improved 1.25 miles of ATV trail. Other activity included replacing an ATV trail gate.

Scraggly Lake Unit. Staff constructed and installed a table shelter (day-use), an Adirondack shelter (camping), and kiosks.

### ***Recreational Trails Program***

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP), administered by the Federal Highway Administration, is funded by a transfer of a percentage of gasoline taxes paid on non-highway recreational use in off-highway vehicles from the Highway Trust Fund. It is a significant source of funding for recreational trails for the Bureau of Parks and Lands, other qualifying sub-divisions of state government, non-profit groups, and municipalities. In 2010, the following RTP grants were awarded to aid in trails projects and management of recreation on Maine Public Land Units. Some of the projects summarized above were funded with these grants.

#### Western Region:

- \$20,000 for 3.0 miles of trail improvement work on the Wright Trail in the Mahoosuc Unit
- \$30,000 for continued work on Tumbledown Mountain hiking trails
- \$16,817. for improvements to 1.5 miles of hiking trail on the Bald Mountain Unit in Rangeley, Maine
- \$10,000 for improvement to the hiking trail up Big Spencer Mountain in the Moosehead region
- \$8,000 for an Environmental Educator (AmeriCorps) to assist in recreation management on the Bigelow Preserve
- \$11,550 to provide an improved trailhead and parking area for the Little Bigelow Mountain trail

#### Eastern Region:

- \$23,000 for 3 miles of hiking trail improvements on the Cutler Unit, and construction of a new trailhead and hiking trail on the Donnell Unit on Caribou Mountain
- \$22,500 for a hiking and multi-use trail project at the Nahmakanta Unit (Tumbledown Dick Trail)

- \$8,000 for an Environmental Educator (AmeriCorps) to assist in recreation management on the Cutler and Donnell Units

Northern Region:

- \$20,000 for 2 miles of improvements to hiking trails and construction of a new 3 mile trail and on the Deboullie Unit
- \$22,500 for improvements to 2.5 miles of hiking trail on the Scraggly Lake Unit
- \$50,000 for improvements to 2 miles of a multi-use trail on the Scopan Unit

General

- \$6,253 for an intern to complete gaps in the GIS trails layer

**PUBLIC INFORMATION**

During 2010, the Bureau continued to develop, revise, and distribute information on the location of hiking trails, campsites, and other recreation facilities and opportunities available on Bureau lands.

**Map and Guide Project:** Starting in 2008, the Bureau undertook a pilot effort in Washington County to develop new standards for maps and guides detailing property features and opportunities. This work was completed in 2009, and in 2010, the map & guide effort was expanded to 8 land units.

New or Updated Public Land Unit Brochures  
In progress during 2010

Bigelow Preserve
Deboullie
Mahoosuc / Grafton Notch State Park
Nahmakanta
Moosehead Shoreline (Includes Mount Kineo State Park)
Seboeis
Seboomook Public Lands/ Penobscot River Corridor
Tumbledown Public Lands/ Mount Blue State Park

With the exception of the Bigelow Preserve, which is also in development but is not as far advanced, all brochure projects worked on in 2010 are in the final stage of page layout and approval. A new map and text have already been applied to the

Mahoosuc Public Lands webpage and more web updates are to come online shortly.

**Website Updates.** The Bureau continues to use its website [www.parksandlands.com](http://www.parksandlands.com) to provide photos, maps, and facility information for most of its parks and consolidated public reserved lands units. As resources allow, enhancements are added to increase its usefulness to parks and lands visitors, and the broader conservation and environmental education communities.

**Maine Trail Finder Website Collaboration.** In addition to the brochure project, the Bureau of Parks & Lands has been working in partnership with the non-profit Center for Community GIS, based in Farmington, to develop online trail descriptions and interactive maps for numerous Public Lands non-motorized trail opportunities. These can be viewed on the Maine Trail Finder website ([www.mainetrailfinder.com](http://www.mainetrailfinder.com)). To date, Bureau managed trails listed on Maine Trail Finder include: the Tumbledown Mountain Trail, Little Jackson Mountain Trail, and Blueberry Mt. Trail (Tumbledown Public Lands); the Fire Warden Trail (Mount Abraham Ecological Reserve); the Bald Mountain Trail (Bald Mountain Public Lands); and trails at the Cutler Coast Public Lands. 2011 should see the addition of a number of other Public Lands trails to this site, in addition to State Park trails also shown on the website.

**RECREATION MANAGEMENT STAFFING**

Six seasonal rangers were involved in recreation management activities in 2010. The seasonal rangers were responsible for recreation facilities maintenance and construction, and informing visitors about Bureau rules. The Western Region also continued its Volunteer Campground Host program at two Bureau-owned campgrounds on Moosehead Lake, at Cowans Cove and Spencer Bay. These campgrounds are free to the public, and like all Bureau campsites, stay is limited to 14 days in a 45-day period. Volunteers oversee these campgrounds in return for extended stays at the campground.

In addition, in 2010, the Western Lands Region utilized the MCC-administered AmeriCorps Environmental Educator program to provide a resident staff person at the Bigelow Unit to assist full-time Bigelow Preserve Manager with recreation management, and the Eastern Lands

Region employed an Environmental Educator to assist with recreation management at the Cutler and Donnell Units. These positions were funded using RTP grant funds.

Also in 2010, the Bureau was able to continue, for the second year in a row, a project position funded with outside grants to assist in recreation and management plan activities in the Eastern Region's Downeast area. A planner headed up the Bureau's management plan process for the newly acquired Amherst Community Forest Lands, continued work on trails issues and coordination with Maine's Office of Tourism, and began a recreation planning effort on the St. Croix waterway in coordination with the Maine Department of Inland fisheries and Wildlife, and the St. Croix International Waterway Commission. Because of the continued success of this position, the Bureau is exploring extending this project position another year with additional grant funds.

## **FEES**

Fees are generally not charged on Public Reserved and Non-reserved Lands managed by the Bureau; however, in some situations fees are charged because these lands are within or accessed through private recreation management systems (NMW and KI-JoMary); or the Bureau has contracted its management duties with nearby recreation providers having similar management objectives (South Arm Campground and Baxter State Park). Fees were charged in 2010 on Public Reserved Lands as described below:

***North Maine Woods Recreation Management System.*** This is a privately operated system involving 3 million acres of primarily private lands where public recreation is allowed subject to fees collected a series of Checkpoints. Approximately 95,500 acres of Public Reserved Lands managed by the Bureau, including the Deboullie, Round Pond, Chamberlain, Telos, Gero Island Units, and the North Branch, South Branch and Canada Falls portions of the Seboomook Unit, are all within the North Maine Woods (NMW) system. To access these lands, the public passes through NMW checkpoints, where fees are paid for day use and camping (NMW camping fees apply except for campsites on the Allagash Wilderness Waterway and the Penobscot River Corridor,

where Parks fees set for those campsites apply). Visitors then travel over roads on private land within the NMW system. In 2010, NMW camping fees were \$8.00/person/night for Maine residents and \$10/person/night for non-residents; and day use fees were \$6.00/person for residents and \$10.00/person for non-residents. Fees are retained by NMW for facility maintenance and development, except that the camping fees are returned to the Bureau when the Bureau assumes maintenance responsibilities (Deboullie Unit).

In 2009, the 20-mile NMW Checkpoint gate was moved to allow 40,500 acres of the Seboomook Unit to be removed from the NMW system. Portions of the Unit remain within the NMW systems however, including Canada Falls Lake, the North Branch and most of the South Branch of the Penobscot River. For portions removed, NMW fees were eliminated if accessed via the 20-Mile Road from Rockwood. However, if the Unit is accessed by passing through a portion of the NMW system (via the Caribou gate, for example), the visitor must pay a NMW day use fee for the day-in; and if returning via the NMW system, a day-out day use fee is also charged.

In addition, within the Seboomook Unit, Penobscot River Corridor (PRC) camping fees are charged by the Bureau as these campsites were officially added as part of the Penobscot River Corridor (PRC) in 2007 (see additional discussion under the Penobscot River Corridor below).

***Penobscot River Corridor.*** The Penobscot River Corridor (PRC), managed by the Bureau's Parks Division, includes campsites on Public Reserved Lands on Gero Island on Chesuncook Lake, and a portion of the Seboomook Unit (Seboomook Lake, South and West Branches of the Penobscot River, and Canada Falls Lake). PRC staff maintain the campsites at these sites, and charge Bureau-set camping fees. In 2010 PRC camping fees were \$4/person/night for residents and \$8/person/night for nonresidents. When these areas are accessed via a NMW Checkpoint, NMW day use fees (\$6.00 and \$10.00 per person respectively for residents and non-residents in 2010) are also charged for the day traveled in and the day traveled out and retained by North Maine Woods to cover operating costs for the checkpoint system. If the trip involves passing through only one NMW checkpoint, a single day use fee is charged (as in trips originating at the Seboomook Unit and ending at the takeout at the bottom of Chesuncook Lake).

An exception to this general rule is that the NMW day use fee is charged for all trip days for access to the PRC sites on the South Branch, North Branch, and Canada Falls Lake as these allow vehicular access to the entire NMW system.

Camping fees at sites operated by the PRC on the Seboomook Unit are collected onsite by a ranger or with "iron ranger" collection boxes. However, visitors to these areas that pass through checkpoints operated by North Maine Woods, Inc., pay camping fees at the checkpoints, which are then paid to the Bureau (a portion of the fees is retained by NMW to cover administrative costs.)

***KI-Jo Mary Recreation Management System.***

Similar to the NMW system, this is a privately operated gated system involving 175,000 acres of primarily private lands where public recreation is allowed subject to fees. The 960-acre Bowdoin College Grant East Unit lies within this system. Day use fees (\$6/person/day resident and \$9/person/day non-resident) are charged at checkpoints in Katahdin Ironworks and West Bowdoin College Grant for access to this Unit and other lands within the system. Public Access to the Nahmakanta Unit which abuts the KI/Jo-Mary System is free from the west, but if accessed from the south via the KI/Jo-Mary System, a day use fee for the day-in and day-out apply. Exit from the Nahmakanta Unit through the south will also involve a fee if access was gained from the west.

***South Arm Campground.*** The Bureau leases campsites on the Richardson Unit (Upper Richardson Lake) to South Arm Campground, a privately owned campground on adjoining private land. In 2010, the campground owner charged \$15.00 (including tax) per night per site. The campground retains a portion of this fee to cover its costs for maintenance of the 12 campsites and the Mill Brook public boat launch facility at the north end of lake.

***Baxter State Park.*** Management of campsites at the west end of Webster Lake in the Telos Unit has been assigned by mutual agreement to the Baxter State Park Authority and are administered subject to its rules and policies. Most of the use of Webster Lake is connected with the Webster Stream canoe trip which traverses the northern end of Baxter State Park.

**PARTNERSHIPS**

For some properties, the Bureau has entered into partnership agreements with other organizations to assist in managing recreational use. Noteworthy examples of partnerships in place in 2010 were:

***Appalachian Trail.*** In 2010, the Bureau continued its partnership with the Maine Appalachian Trail Club to accomplish stewardship and trail maintenance along 43 miles of the AT corridor in the Bigelow Preserve, Mahoosuc, Four Ponds, Bald Mountain, and Nahmakanta Units. An additional 28 miles of the AT is located on lands within state parks or on lands subject to Bureau-held conservation easements.

***Bigelow Preserve.*** In addition to providing trail maintenance of the AT on the Bigelow Preserve, an agreement is in place with the Maine Appalachian Trail Club to ensure a summer staff presence at the more heavily used areas of the Appalachian Trail; in particular, the Horns Pond campsite near the center of the Bigelow Range.

***Coastal Islands.*** In 2010 the Bureau continued its partnership with the Maine Island Trail Association for the management of certain state-owned islands along the coast of Maine that are part of the Maine Island Trail.

***Cutler Coast.*** The Cobscook Trails Coalition provided trail stewardship and visitor information through a management agreement with the Quoddy Regional Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Maine Coast Trust Heritage Trust, Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge, Maine IF&W, local businesses, and the Bureau.

***Dodge Point.*** An ongoing arrangement is in place with the Damariscotta River Association to assist with the maintenance of trails and facilities.

***Frenchman's Hole, Mahoosuc Unit.*** A partnership is in place with the Mahoosuc Land Trust to assist in the maintenance of this day use area.

***Grafton Loop Trail.*** The Bureau continues to be an active member of a coalition of non-profit organizations and private landowners that developed a 39-mile hiking trail in the Mahoosuc

Mountains. The trail branches off from the Appalachian Trail on the Mahoosuc Unit and continues east over private land to Puzzle Mountain, where it then returns to the Appalachian Trail.

**Kennebec Highlands.** This property is managed in part through a partnership with the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance.

**Northern Forest Canoe Trail (NFCT).** The Bureau has an increasingly strong relationship with the multi-state NFCT, which promotes canoe and kayak trips and stewardship across many public and private properties in Maine.

**Machias River Corridor.** The Bureau cooperates with the Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA, Project SHARE and local watershed councils to protect and enhance Atlantic salmon habitat.

**Western Mountain Charitable Foundation (Maine Huts and Trails).** In 2007 the Bureau entered into several new and formal relationships with WMCF in order to facilitate the development of a network of large huts connected by trails. The Bureau holds a conservation easement over portions of the trail, and entered into agreements authorized by the legislature to allow the trail to cross portions of the Bigelow Preserve. In 2009 the Bureau worked with the MATC and WMCF to establish a connector trail from the new Flagstaff Lake Hut to trail systems on the Bigelow Preserve and through to the Poplar Stream Falls Hut south of the Preserve. The growth of the Huts & Trails network will come with many new and expanding formal and informal relationships between the Bureau and WMCF.

## VIII. TIMBER RESOURCES

The Bureau manages the natural resources on the lands under its care through a carefully planned multiple use program that balances timber management with all other resource values. Timber revenues support the Bureau's public reserved and non-reserved management costs, including provision of recreation facilities and opportunities, and wildlife management. Other public benefits include contribution to the local economy, provision of low-cost firewood through the Bureau's firewood harvest permit program, and demonstration of exemplary multi-aged management focused primarily on mature quality timber.

### TIMBER INVENTORY

An important facet of the timber management program is examination and inventory of the forest resource. Benchmark field data acquired in 1999 detailed timber, site, and natural resource measurements. This inventory and subsequent updates continues to be important for both forest management planning, and third-party forest certification auditors.

**Status of Current Inventory.** The 2006 modeling update of the 1999 analysis revealed a total inventory of over 8 million cords on about 360,000 regulated acres (the acres used in calculating sustainable harvest levels). With Seboomook included the inventory is over 8.5 million cords on just under 400,000 acres, nearly 22 cords per acre.

This level of stocking is approximately 30 percent more than the average for all of Maine's timberland as reported by the U.S. Forest Service in 2004. The most abundant tree species on Bureau lands is red spruce, and its volume per acre is over 50 percent greater than that shown statewide in the 2004 report.

An updated field inventory is scheduled for the 2011 field season, with results and analysis completed by the end of the year.



2010 Harvest operation on the Richardson Unit

## 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 called “prescriptions” are developed to ensure adequate protection of special resources and a sustained yield of forest goods and services, which include timber, wildlife, and appropriate recreational uses.

**Prescriptions in 2010.** Bureau staff examined and prescribed 21 compartments totaling 18,433 acres for a wide range of resource management activities.

## 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, following 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. Occasionally timber is sold using contracts for logging services. Under this system, the Bureau pays the contractor to harvest timber and deliver it to specified mills; these mills then pay the Bureau directly for these products. In 2010 no timber was harvested under contracts for logging services.

Once the timber contracts are awarded, Bureau foresters and forest technicians work closely with contractors to ensure contract compliance, and that timber management objectives are met.

Bureau staff closely supervises 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; more often when individual situations warrant.

**Summary of Timber Sales in 2010.** The implementation of prescriptions resulted in:

- A total of 121,700 cords harvested from 11,600 acres. This is the first year in which harvests exceeded annual allowable cut (AAC) which is 115,000 cords, but two points are important. First, the 2010 harvest includes over 15,000 cords of biomass, most of which comes from tops and limbs, material not included in AAC calculations. Second, harvesting over the five years 2006-2010 averages 90% of AAC, and for the ten years 2001-2010, 74% of AAC.
- A total of 36 ongoing operations in 2010. These operations are a combination of newly established sales, and sales carried over from previous years, and do not include permits for firewood sales issued to individuals (see below).
- In concert with the Bureau’s contractors, marketing of wood to 45 mills statewide.

**Firewood Permit Program:** Individual firewood permits totaling 450 cords were issued by the Bureau in 2010. This is somewhat less than last year’s volume, and similar to such volumes several years ago, before lofty fuel prices boosted demand in 2008. Firewood harvests by logging contractors remain high, with about 2,400 cords of firewood supplied by these contractors from lands managed by the Bureau.

**2010 Harvest and Market Analysis.** Timber harvesting on Bureau lands totaled 121,700 cords, about 10,000 above the 2009 total. This was accomplished with the assistance of nearly ideal summer weather, and winter conditions were mostly favorable. The 2010 figure is 105% of the Bureau-established “allowable cut”. However, the harvest volume included over 15,000 cords of biomass energy wood, most of which would not meet the merchantability standards that were assumed for calculating allowable cut. Without those “sub-merchantable cords, the harvest was closer to 97% of the allowable.

The price paid to the Bureau per cord was 4% higher in 2010 than it had been in 2009, mainly due to a 33% increase in the price of biomass. Stumpage rates for other species and products were usually similar to those in 2009, with some lower and some higher. In 2010, prices paid for spruce/fir products decreased slightly, after the major decline in 2009, with pulpwood having had a greater proportional decrease than sawlogs/studwood.

Despite the increase in overall harvest volume, total volume for all softwoods was about 10% lower than in 2009 while hardwood volume increased by almost 15,000 cords. Thus the hardwood share of the total rose from 59% in 2009 to 67% in 2010, with 90% of hardwood being pulp or biomass, as the Bureau continued to remove low quality wood to favor the better trees for the future. In coming years the hardwood-to-softwood ratio is likely to be more balanced, which should increase the average revenue per cord.

As part of its multiple use management, the Bureau will continue to emphasize maintaining the harvest volume at a level near the allowable cut, while continuing to practice the highest quality silviculture.

Larger volume, multi-year sales have been initiated during the past three years in an effort to provide stability for contractors, which in turn should increase annual harvest volumes. These contracts have attracted contractors with desired harvesting equipment. In addition, this approach should foster better working relationships and improve efficiency. However, economic conditions that result in poor markets, and weather events that can reduce harvest levels, will remain beyond the Bureau’s control.

## 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 policies and practices on public lands. Each year the Bureau sponsors a field trip on which the Committee examines work the Bureau has completed or is planning, providing valuable input to staff through on-site dialogue.

**Committee Tour in 2010:** The 2010 field trip was held in the Western Lands Region, and included a visit to group selection/patchcuts in Northern hardwoods at the Mahoosucs, and a revisit to the cut-to-length thinnings of dense spruce poletimber at Richardsontown, seen by the committee in 1997.

The hardwood stands at the Mahoosucs were of variable quality with mostly beech regeneration established by 1980s BPL harvests. Though beech is very valuable for wildlife, it seems most vigorous, thus valuable, in mixture with other species such as yellow birch and sugar maple. The patchcuts of 0.5 to 1.5 acre were designed to establish this mixture, and a regeneration survey showed that to be taking place. We also visited an area where individual firewood permittees had harvested along a public access road, thinning a modest quality mid-aged hardwood stand and leaving a stand dominated by good quality sugar maple.

At Richardsontown we saw several different conditions in the thinned acres, but mainly excellent regeneration (though that was not the prime objective of the harvest) and a high value spruce/pine overstory. The main question was “next activity”, and the group had valuable suggestions to meet the differing overstory and understory conditions.

## BOUNDARY LINES

The Bureau continued to make progress on the maintenance of boundary lines this past year, with 26 miles maintained in 2010.

## FOREST CERTIFICATION

The Bureau was awarded certification of its forestlands under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) programs in 2002. These third-party audits were conducted to determine if these lands were being managed on a sustainable basis. The Bureau underwent the two audit programs simultaneously, a rigorous and unique process. The audit included 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.

Successful completion of the FSC/SFI systems qualified the Bureau to enter into the "chain of custody" program to market its "green-certified" wood. Since 2003, green-certified wood has been marketed from Bureau managed lands.

Following its initial certification, a Bureau-wide certification team was implemented to address "conditions" and "minor nonconformances" stipulated in the audit reports, including: significant enhancements to forest inventory data, development of a computerized forest-modeling program, a timeline for updating management plans for the entire land base; improvements in the use of Best Management Practices to protect water quality; and new commitments to public outreach and education programs. The Bureau is required to meet these conditions within certain timeframes in order to keep its certification status in good standing over the five-year certification period.

***Certification Accomplishments in 2010.*** The joint FSC/SFI surveillance audit was done this year on Northern Region lands, evaluating Bureau practices at Soper Mountain, Chamberlain, Telos, Scopan, and several smaller lots. The Sustainable Forestry Initiative portion of the audit resulted in one Corrective Action Request (CAR) related to updating the Bureau's wildlife management guidelines, subsequently satisfied in January, 2011, while the Forest Stewardship Council auditor issued no CARs. The SFI audit was conducted under their 2010-2014 standard, while the new 2010-2014 FSC standard took effect after the field audit was done. In 2011 the Bureau will undergo a full re-audit by FSC, using their 2010-2014 standard.

## IX. TRANSPORTATION

The Bureau continued to improve road access within its Units, focusing primarily on recreational needs and implementation of its timber management program.

### BRIDGES

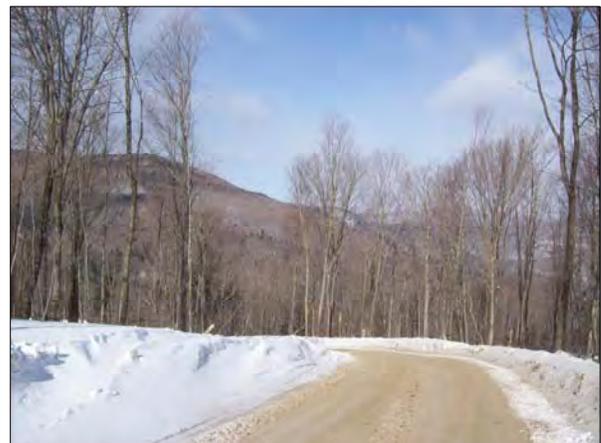
The Bureau's Northern Region Manager oversaw the completion of construction of a replacement for the Henderson Brook Bridge in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway in 2010. This involved more than 2,592 staff hours. The labor costs will be reimbursed through bridge tolls.

In the Eastern Region, in 2010 one bridge was re-decked; a new bridge was constructed in the Amherst Community Forest Unit; one new bridge was constructed in the Bradley Unit; and two 20'+ arches were placed on BP&L land on the Machias River Unit.

### ROADS & ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

***Road Construction.*** To facilitate both summer and winter timber harvesting activities across the state, approximately 30 miles of road were constructed or reconstructed.

***Road Maintenance.*** Each year the Bureau contracts for maintenance services for grading and brushwork on public use roads. In 2010, approximately 55 miles of roads were maintained under contract in the Northern region, 71 miles in the Western Region, and 152 miles in the Eastern region for a total of 278 miles of public use/shared use road maintained under contract.



Management Road – East Andover Surplus Lot

## X. PUBLIC ACCESS

Eighty four percent of the Public Reserved Lands were accessible to the public without fee or special arrangements in 2010. There are a few circumstances where public vehicle access is limited or restricted. As required in 12 MRSA § 1853, the following is a report of barriers that affect primary motor vehicle access.

### EXTERNAL GATES TO PUBLIC LANDS

**North Maine Woods Checkpoints.** There are seven checkpoints, staffed seasonally, controlling primary access from Maine points to 95,000 acres of Public Reserved Land within the nearly three million acre North Maine Woods area, including the Deboullie, Round Pond, Chamberlain, Telos, and portions of the Seboomook Units. These checkpoints are all on private land and facilitate management of recreational use on both public and private land. See also discussion on fees on page 16.

**KI/Jo-Mary Checkpoints.** The Katahdin Iron Works checkpoint controls access to the 960-acre public lot in Bowdoin College Grant East. A gate has been funded and operated by the Bureau at the border between the Nahmakanta Unit and KI/Jo-Mary system at Henderson Brook. This controls access from the Nahmakanta Unit into the KI/Jo-Mary system. In 2009 the checkpoint was converted to an electronic gate, which is operated remotely from the Route 11 Checkpoint. See also discussion on fees on page 16.

**Cary Plantation, Aroostook County.** A locked cable gate on private land restricts access to this 230-acre parcel.

**Magalloway Plantation, Oxford County.** A locked metal gate on private land restricts access to this 1,000-acre parcel.

**Cupsuptic Gate, Franklin County.** A staffed gate leased by the Kennebago Campowners Association on private lands limits access to the 62-acre public lot in Stetsontown Twp. on Kennebago Lake. A public access agreement with the Association allows up to three vehicles at any one time to access the lake via the public lot, and to park at the Grants Camps lease site located on the lot.

**Davis TWP Lot, Franklin County.** A locked gate on the private road north of the Dallas Plantation Public Lot was added in 2010, restricting use of the Loon Lake Road out of Rangeley to access the Bureau's Davis Twp Lot on Kennebago Lake. However, this lot can still be accessed via the Bridge Road off Route 16 in Langtown Mill (Lang Twp).

**Seboeis Plt Lot, Penobscot County.** A new external gate was installed on a private road by the campowners' association, after repeated vandalism of private camps, limiting vehicular access to the 1136-acre Seboeis Plantation lot.

### INTERNAL GATES

The Bureau maintains 21 internal gates for safety purposes, to protect sensitive areas, to limit vehicle traffic on service roads, or to control certain recreational uses. This includes most recently a pre-existing gate on the 9-13 Road in the Amherst Mountains Community Forest acquired in late 2009, which will be managed to avoid damage during mud season, but otherwise left open. None of the barricades restrict foot traffic into these areas. Many of these barriers are left open during the winter season to allow safe passage by snowmobiles.

### LAND OPEN TO HUNTING

Public Law, Chapter 564 of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Legislature, amending 12 MRSA § 1847 sub-§ 4 (Public Reserved Lands Statute), requires that lands open to hunting on public reserved lands include at least the acreage open to hunting on January 1, 2008. The law also requires the Bureau to report annually to the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee the acreage of public reserved lands available for hunting, and any changes from the January 1, 2008 levels. There were 587,184 acres of Public Reserved Lands on January 1, 2008, of which 586,505 were available for hunting (excludes three small game preserves). On January 1, 2011 the total acreage had increased by 13,070 acres, all open to hunting, so that the *current acreage available for hunting is 590,575 acres (99.9% of Public Reserved and Non-reserved Lands).*

## XI. LAND TRANSACTIONS

### ACQUISITIONS

Appendix B provides a list of all Bureau acquisitions in 2010. Appendix C shows pending acquisitions. Forest Legacy Program funding has been approved for expected 2011 acquisition of an additional 22,000 acres of conservation easements; other forest Legacy Program funding approved for future acquisitions include potentially another 44,600 acres primarily in conservation easements with some fee.

In addition to these acquisitions, the Bureau continued to sponsor land trust and local government acquisitions through the LMF Program in 2010, with 15 projects closing (2,700 acres).

### ACQUISITIONS IMPACTING VEHICULAR ACCESS

Pursuant to various sections of law, "if an acquisition is made that does not include guaranteed public vehicular access, the bureau shall describe the acquisition (in this report) and the justification for that acquisition." Below is the required justification for selected acquisitions from Appendix B:

Mahoosuc Bayroot - Gilead and Oxford. This acquisition consisted primarily of Androscoggin River shoreland. Some parcels are accessible by water. The Bureau determined that some parcels inaccessible by road were valuable for riparian, scenic and fisheries benefits.

West Saddleback Connector – Sandy River Plantation. This acquisition consists of a trail corridor. Access from roads carries across National Park Service property.

### DISPOSTIONS

Appendix B provides a record of dispositions in 2010. These dispositions were authorized by Legislative Resolve or statute and totaled 3.7 acres of Public Reserved Lands and 0.8 acres of Park land.

### 2010 LAND TRANSACTIONS BILL

Resolves of 2009, chapter 209, enacted in 2010, authorized certain dispositions of Bureau lands and interest in lands. Below is a summary and status report for these:

- 1. To convey in Monhegan Plantation, Lincoln County,** any land and interests having reverted to the Bureau from the death of Evelyn Cazallis Carter to Monhegan Plantation. Not conveyed in 2010.
- 2. To convey in the Town of St. Francis, Aroostook County,** a road crossing easement across the St. John Valley Heritage Trail. To benefit the property currently owned by Thomas Pelletier. Not conveyed in 2010.
- 3. To convey in the Towns of Sullivan and Franklin, in Hancock County,** prior to April 1, 2013, any number of linear nonexclusive easements for electric transmission purposes together with access and tree trimming rights to benefit Bangor Hydro Electric Company. Conveyed in 2010 (see Appendix B).
- 4. To authorize, together with the Land for Maine's Future Board, in the Town of Sullivan, in Hancock County,** the Frenchman Bay Conservancy to convey prior to April 1, 2013, portions of certain interests in the Schoodic Bog parcel acquired with funding from the Land For Maine's Future Fund, for electric transmission purposes, to benefit Bangor Hydro Electric Company. Conveyed in 2010.
- 5. To convey in the town of Big Lake Township, Washington County,** a parcel of about 3 acres including a garage, located on West Street near Yates Point Road. Conveyed in 2010 (see Appendix B).
- 6. To convey in the town of Lubec, Washington County,** a small parcel of land located on the southeasterly corner of the existing Johnson Bay public boating facility, to the Town of Lubec, conditioned pursuant to requirements of federal funds use to acquire the property, that the parcel be used only for recreation and open space purposes and be available to the general public. Conveyed January 6, 2011.

## 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.

**Project/Permit Applications.** In 2010, the Submerged Lands Program processed 156 applications for proposed and existing waterfront structures and dredging projects. Ninety-six (96) leases and easements were granted and an additional 60 projects were determined to require no conveyance. With these new projects, the program now administers 1,947 conveyances.

**Lease Rental Rate Changes.** In 2010, the Bureau began implementing the lease rental rates that were approved by the legislature to improve equity statewide in conjunction with the repeal of a \$1,200 annual rental cap in 2009. The new rent structure provides fair compensation while reducing the average rental rates. In 2011, the Bureau continues its 5-year phase-in of rents for larger lease holders.

**Constructive Easements.** The Bureau continues to research information on constructive easements (structures in existence prior to October 1, 1975) and has identified approximately 1,000 structures that may require a submerged lands lease or easement. To date, the Bureau has received over 900 applications and executed nearly 800 new leases and easements for these structures.

**Sunken Logs.** One application to recover sunken logs from public submerged lands at Moosehead Lake was received in 2010. Over 250 logs were recovered with a total volume of 43,542 board feet.

## 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 operating costs. These funds could then be used to support shore and harbor management activities and improve public access by providing grants to municipalities. With the increase in the number of leases since 2005 and the repeal of the rental cap in 2009, the program is beginning to make significant contributions towards this effort in cooperation with other state agencies.

In 2010, the Bureau contributed \$100,000 for ten (10) municipal shore and harbor planning grants in cooperation with the State Planning Office Coastal Management Program, and \$100,000 for seven (7) grants approved through the Small Harbor Improvement Program (SHIP) administered by MDOT. In addition, \$50,000 was provided to the Maine Island Trail Association in support of our continuing partnership for ongoing recreation management of State owned coastal islands.

## XIV. COASTAL ISLAND PROGRAM

### OVERVIEW

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

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

use and explaining the Bureau's visiting, camping, and resource protection policies.

## **XV. ADMINISTRATION**

### OVERVIEW

During 2010 staff responsibilities to support the Bureau's various programs and activities and to manage responsibilities over newly acquired land continued to increase as noted in Section III Trends and Issues.

The Bureau's land management staffing has only increased by one position since 2002 (a forest technician position was filled in the Eastern Region in 2010). The Bureau has not had any staff increases since 2002 related to land management support including natural resource planning, and easement and Project Agreement monitoring.

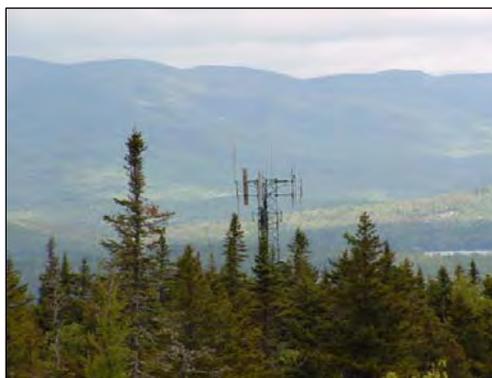
Budget constraints further limited staff resources in 2010, necessitating delays in filling vacant positions, including the Interpretive Specialist. This position was filled in late 2010. The Bureau also has three forestry-related positions unfilled since authorized in 2002 due to ongoing budget constraints.

The Bureau continues to explore and utilize new technology, and to look for ways to deal effectively with its increasing workload, increased expenses and inadequate revenue to fund all program activities. With generous grant support from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, (MOHF), private foundations, and the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), in 2009 and 2010 the Bureau was able to augment staff with a Planner focused on the Downeast Region public reserved lands and recreation management issues; and AmeriCorps Environmental Intern to assist with recreation management (see Section VII, Staff). In addition, MOHF and other private grants have for some time substantially supplemented Bureau resources for costs associated with Natural Resource Inventories and Ecological Reserve Baseline Monitoring services provided by the Maine Natural Areas Program, and easement monitoring.

### CAMPLLOT LEASE PROGRAM

The Bureau continues to administer a Camplot Leasing Program for approximately 300 residential camplots and 8 commercial sporting camps and campgrounds across the state. In 2008 the Bureau reissued leases for a new five-year term, and made adjustments to the lease rental schedule to reflect recent increases in tax-assessed values. The Bureau has a statutory requirement to charge lease fees based on these values.

### OTHER LEASES



Communications Tower on Bald Mountain Unit

The Bureau administers 51 leases on its public reserved lands, for a variety of purposes as shown below. The leases have terms that range from 5 to 25 years. Many of these involve no payment to the Bureau – only 29 include lease payment provisions. Leases in 2010 included:

- 7 Utility Corridor leases
- 6 agricultural leases
- 7 telecommunication facility leases
- 25 miscellaneous leases
- 1 dam lease
- 1 boat access lease
- 3 warden camp leases
- 1 University camp lease

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

## XVI. INCOME AND EXPENDITURES ACCOUNTING – CY 2010

### OVERVIEW

The Bureau has several different accounts established for specific purposes with statutory restrictions on their use. **The statutes require that financial summaries be prepared on a calendar year basis.** The figures presented below 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 Public Reserved Lands status, which includes the original public lots, land acquired through trading Public Reserved Lands, and other lands designated as Public Reserved Lands. Sources of income to this account include the sale of timber stumpage, camplot leases and other special leases on the Reserved Lands, and interest on the account balance. In 2010 the Lands Division accomplished harvest volumes exceeding 100,000 cords for the fourth year in a row. The harvest level represented 97% of the "allowable cut", excluding 15,000 cords of biomass energy wood which would not meet the merchantability standards that were assumed for calculating allowable cut. The price paid to the Bureau per cord was 4% higher in 2010 than it had been in 2009. At the same time expenses for personnel services, vehicle operations, information technology and management costs for non-revenue generating activities have increased. Income for calendar year 2010 was \$4,977,860 with expenditures of \$4,353,798. Because the Bureau's largest source of revenue is timber, income fluctuates from year to year in response to the amount of wood harvested and economic conditions that affect timber markets. The cash balance is drawn down when expenses exceed revenues. Revenue generated in calendar year 2010 was \$623,877 more than expenditures, adding to the account balance.

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 MRSA §1854. Based on the income received in 2009 (payable in 2010), the Bureau revenue sharing amounts total \$109,787 paid to 19 towns and plantations.

Income from the Reserved Lands Account supports most of the administrative, planning, timber, transportation, recreation, and wildlife management activities on the land base.

Concerted efforts to reduce costs and increase revenue, including developing new sources of recurring revenues will be necessary to maintain financial viability in this dedicated revenue account.

#### **Public Non Reserved 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. Income is primarily derived from agricultural leases, though the sale of timber contributes occasionally when timber harvests are completed on Non-Reserved Lands. Income for calendar year 2010 was \$7,727 with expenditures of \$224. The cash balance is drawn down when expenses exceed revenues. The Bureau plans its expenditures for each fiscal year based on a level of income it projects to receive from its various revenue sources. If projected income is not sufficient, then the 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.

**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. Additional revenues were generated from application and easement registration fees and the sale of gravel. The legislature directed one-time transfers from the Submerged Lands Fund to the DMR Shellfish Fund of \$80,000 on or before July 15, 2009 and again on or before July 15, 2010 for a total of \$160,000. Total revenues in 2010 were \$215,930 with expenses of \$250,766. The cash balance is drawn down when expenses exceed revenues. Funds for personnel services (salaries) comprise the majority 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 exceeds the operating costs of the program. In 2000 and 2001, one-time revenues totaling \$1,537,500 from the sale of submerged lands and dredge materials to BIW were deposited to this account. Since 2005, all of this revenue plus contributions from the Submerged Lands Fund, totaling \$2,219,575 has been transferred to provide funding for municipal grants (\$951,000), the Bureau's Boating Facilities Program (\$600,000), and coastal island management (\$515,000). Total expenses in 2010 were \$200,000 for municipal planning grants and \$60,000 for the management of the Maine Island Trail and Casco Bay State owned islands. Total revenues in 2010 were \$55,878 mostly from transfers from the Submerged Lands Fund and interest. This revenue contributed to a calendar year-end balance of \$53,566.45.

**Land Acquisition Fund**  
**(014.04A.0239.24)**

Funds from this account are restricted by statute and the constitution to the acquisition of conservation lands, and acquisition-related costs. These funds cannot be used for operation or maintenance of existing land, and therefore, expenditures do not take place on a regular basis. Income that accrues as a result of sales, trades, or interest is carried forward until needed for future acquisitions. Income for calendar years 2010 was \$321,785 against expenditures of \$551,865. Balance at the end of the calendar year was \$728,429.12

Income this year was derived from interest earned on the account balance and the sale of interests in land to Bangor Hydro in Hancock County, sale of a garage and lot in Washington County, sale of a building at lot to a homeless shelter in Augusta, as discussed and reported elsewhere in this annual report. Expenses included various acquisition-related costs such as survey and appraisal and acquisition of land on the Androscoggin River in Bethel in Androscoggin County, and on Browns Pond in the Town of Sebago in Cumberland County. Additional income and expenditures came from the pre-acquisition of parcels, repaid during the same year with other funds. Examples include the pre-acquisition of a parcel at Aroostook State Park repaid a few months later with funds from the Land for Maine's Future Program, and a similar transaction regarding a parcel in the Town of Turner providing access to the Androscoggin Riverlands State Park. In all cases, funds were expended in conjunction with other funding sources outside of the Bureau. Funds from this account are restricted by constitutional amendment (Article IX, Section 23) to the acquisition of lands having significant conservation and recreation value in the same county in which the sale of lands generating the funds took place.

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

This account was established to receive revenue from the sale of Public Non-Reserve Lands. Expenses for calendar year 2010 were \$65,000 with no income. Balance at the end of the calendar years was \$153,492.35. Funds from this account are restricted by constitutional amendment (Article IX, Section 23) to the acquisition of lands having significant conservation and recreation value in the same county in which the sale of lands generating the funds took place. Calendar year 2010 expenses consisted of a journal transfer to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife to support the Meier acquisition in Cumberland County.

**Mackworth Island Trust Fund**  
**(014.04A.0239.30)**

Section 2 of Chapter 102 Public Law 1998, authorized 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 Mackworth Island. In November 1999, the Colorado property was sold. The proceeds of \$60,000 have been deposited into this trust fund. A non-lapsing account receives interest income from the trust fund. This account is used to manage public recreational activities and related resources on land under the Bureau's care on Mackworth Island in Falmouth. Income for calendar year 2010 was \$895 with no expenditures.

## XVII. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FY 2012

### OVERVIEW

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 eight dedicated accounts:

- ***Public Reserved Lands Management Fund***
- ***Public Lands Management Fund (Non-reserved Public Lands)***
- ***Public Reserved Lands Acquisition Fund***
- ***Public Non-Reserved Lands Acquisition Fund***
- ***Submerged Lands Fund***
- ***Shore and Harbor Management Fund***
- ***Coastal Island Registry***
- ***Mackworth Island Trust***

These accounts derive revenue from the sale of forest products, from lease fees, from interest on cash balances, and from the sale of land. Programs funded by these accounts receive no support from the State's General Fund. The dedicated revenues in these accounts must cover all operating expenses. The Bureau plans its expenditures for each fiscal year based on a level of income it projects to receive from its various revenue sources. If projected income is not sufficient, then the Bureau determines whether the balance in its contingency fund is sufficient to carry it through until additional revenues are received. If both revenue projections and contingency funds are insufficient, then the Bureau postpones planned expenditures until revenue returns to an adequate level. The Bureau has established internal financial management procedures to accomplish this process and reviews budgetary matters on a monthly and quarterly basis.

In the past, this internal management has proven successful. The Bureau has adjusted its expenditures and managed its financial resources so that core program activities have continued to be 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. However, it is becoming more difficult to maintain the financial viability of this arrangement with existing sources of revenue as personal services and fixed costs continue to increase. The addition of new lands and management responsibilities places increasing strain on the Bureau's capacity to remain financially self-sufficient. Presented below are the FY 2012 budget allocations proposed for each of eight dedicated accounts within the Bureau's "Lands" division. These allocations represent the limits within which the Bureau must operate.

FY 2012 ACCOUNT SUMMARIES

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

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	\$25,000	Personal Services	\$3,348,755
Rent of Lands*	\$890,000	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$982,066
Camplot Leases*	\$295,000		
Misc Services & Fees	\$32,000	<b>Capital</b>	
Recreational Use of Lands	\$11,000		
Sale of Stumpage *	\$3,670,924		
Misc Income	\$35,000	Capital Subtotal	
Reg Transfer Personal Svcs	\$37,330		
Legis Transfer of Revenue	(\$71,538)		
DICAP**	(\$428,682)	STACAP	\$127,881
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$4,496,034.00</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,458,702.00</b>

\* 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, as of December 31, 2010, had an account balance of \$978,828.34 in the Public Reserved Lands Management Fund 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.

The current balance is significantly below the optimum level, which would be half of the annual operating expense. It is below the level necessary to support all program needs. A concerted effort, with particular emphasis on the timber management program, and modifications to harvest preparation and sale practices, has been ongoing for the past four years. In addition, effort to identify new, recurring sources of revenue must be pursued if this system is to remain financially viable and meet future needs. As a result of those circumstances many desired program expenditures will need to be curtailed and alternative sources of revenue will need to be explored and developed.

**New Initiative**

Dedicated Revenue	Income	Requested for 2012	Expenses
Sale of Stumpage	\$255,000	Personal Services	\$0
DICAP	\$571	All Other	
		Insurance	\$571
		<b>All Other Subtotal</b>	<b>\$571.00</b>
		Roads and Bridges	\$165,000
		Asset Construction	\$90,000
		<b>Capital Subtotal</b>	<b>\$255,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$255,571.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$255,571.00</b>

Increases in all other are requested to address increased rates being charged to the Bureau for insurance. Other increases in fuel oil, utility services, and rental vehicles by Central Fleet Management were requested but not funded. The capital requests are for routine capital improvements on buildings, roads, and bridges.

**2. Public Non-Reserved Lands Management Fund Account # 014.04A.0239.23**

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	\$3,000	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$32,947
Rent on Lands and Buildings	\$16,850	Capital	
Sale of Stumpage	\$77,582	STACAP	\$575
Misc Income	\$2,500		
DICAP**	(\$2,040)		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$99,932.00</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$33,522.00</b>

\*\* 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 \$10,145.71, 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 Reserved Lands Acquisition Fund Account # 014.04A.0239.24

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	\$144,000	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$203,579
Sale of Land	\$290,475	Capital	
DICAP**	(\$20,380)	STACAP	\$5,896
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$414,095.00</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$209,475.00</b>

\*\* 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, in-holdings, conservation easements, and additions to the existing land base. As in most years, it is difficult to predict the timing, income, and expenditures involved in potential land transactions. This budget allows the Bureau, if the opportunity arises, to acquire land or other interests within the available allocation. The "All Other" expenses are used to cover the cost of legal assistance for title searches, drafting deeds, appraisals, and related items. At the end of calendar year 2010 this account had a balance of \$728,429.12. At this time all of the funds in this account are limited for use in specific counties from which the revenue was generated, as required by the Constitution. This situation will limit the Bureau's ability in the future to pursue acquisition projects in counties without funds.

#### New Initiative

Dedicated Revenue	Income	Requested for 2012	Expenses
Sale of Land	\$700,000	Capital Land	\$700,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$700,000.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$700,000.00</b>

This initiative provides funding for land acquisitions and related closing costs. Land acquisitions require appraisals, title searches, and other legal matters in order to protect the State's interests.

**4. Public Non-Reserved Lands Acquisition Fund Account # 014.04A.0239.37**

Income		Expenses	
Sale of Land	\$270,000	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$61,114
DICAP**	(\$6,200)	Capital	
		STACAP	\$1,770
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$263,800.00</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$62,884.00</b>

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

The money in this account is used only for purposes related to the acquisition of interest in non-reserved land. Lands purchased with the funds from this account have Public Non-Reserved Land status. These funds are necessary to acquire rights-of-ways, in-holdings, conservation easements, and additions to the existing land base. As in most years, it is difficult to predict the timing, income, and expenditures involved in potential land transactions. This budget allows the Bureau, if the opportunity arises, to acquire land or other interests within the available allocation. The "All Other" expenses are used to cover the cost of legal assistance for title searches, drafting deeds, appraisals, and related items. At the end of calendar year 2010 this account had a balance of \$153,492.35.

**New Initiative**

Dedicated Revenue	Income	Requested for 2012	Expenses
Sale of Land	\$200,000	Capital Land	\$200,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$200,000.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$200,000.00</b>

This initiative provides funding for land acquisitions and related closing costs.

**5. Submerged Lands Fund Account # 014.04A.0239.27**

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	\$5,000	Personal Services	\$214,873
Rent of Lands	\$437,000	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$17,422
Reg Transfer Personal Svcs	(\$37,330)	STACAP	\$6,886
Transfer to S&H	(\$115,000)		
DICAP**	(\$23,260)		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$266,410.00</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$239,181.00</b>

\*\* 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 portion of the fiscal year. This account had a balance of \$219,336.68 at the end of calendar year 2010. In 2010, the Bureau began implementing a revised lease fee schedule adopted in 2009 with larger rental fees being phased in over a 5-year period ending in 2014. As revenues improve over the phase in period the Bureau will continue to carefully manage expenses and anticipates transferring more of the balance to the Shore and Harbor Management Fund.

**New Initiative**

Dedicated Revenue	Income	Requested for 2012	Expenses
Rent of Lands	\$62,150	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$55,000
		STACAP	\$1,643
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$62,150.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$56,643.00</b>

This initiative provides funding for legal costs and contract costs to support the Submerged Lands program.

**6. Shore and Harbor Management Fund Account # 014.04A.0239.29**

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenses</b>	
Transfers and Earnings on Investments	\$5,527	Grants to Cities & Towns	\$89,085
Transfer from Submerged Lands	\$115,000	Grants to Public/Private Agencies	\$31,442
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$120,527.00</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$120,527.00</b>

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 set aside in a special account and made available to municipalities and state agencies for grants to enhance shore and harbor management, planning, and public access efforts. A portion of the fund is also available to support management programs on coastal islands under the Bureau's jurisdiction. As noted above, with the implementation of a new lease fee schedule, the Bureau anticipates improved funding for municipal coastal planning and public access projects over the next several years. At the end of calendar year 2010 this account had a balance of \$53,566.45.

**New Initiative**

Dedicated Revenue	Income	Requested for 2012	Expenses
Rent of Lands	\$80,000	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$80,000
		STACAP	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$80,000.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$80,000.00</b>

This initiative provides funding for increased grants to municipalities as well as to public/private organizations to enhance shore and harbor management, planning, and public access efforts.

**7. Coastal Island Registry Fund Account # 014.04A.0241.26**

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenses</b>	
Registration Fees	\$107	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$105
		STACAP	\$2
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$107.00</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$107.00</b>

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 \$699.71.

**8. Mackworth Island Trust # 014.04A.0239.30**

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenses</b>	
Earnings on Investments	\$4,450	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$3,941
DICAP**	(\$395)	STACAP	\$114
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$4,055.00</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>)</b>

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

This account is used to manage public recreational activities and related resources on land under the Bureau's care on Mackworth Island in Falmouth, Maine. 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 Mackworth Island. In November 1999, the Colorado property was sold. The proceeds of \$60,000 have been deposited into this trust fund. A non-lapsing account receives interest income from the trust fund. At the end of calendar year 2010 the account had a balance of \$14,930.21.

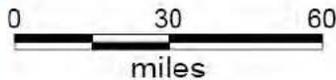
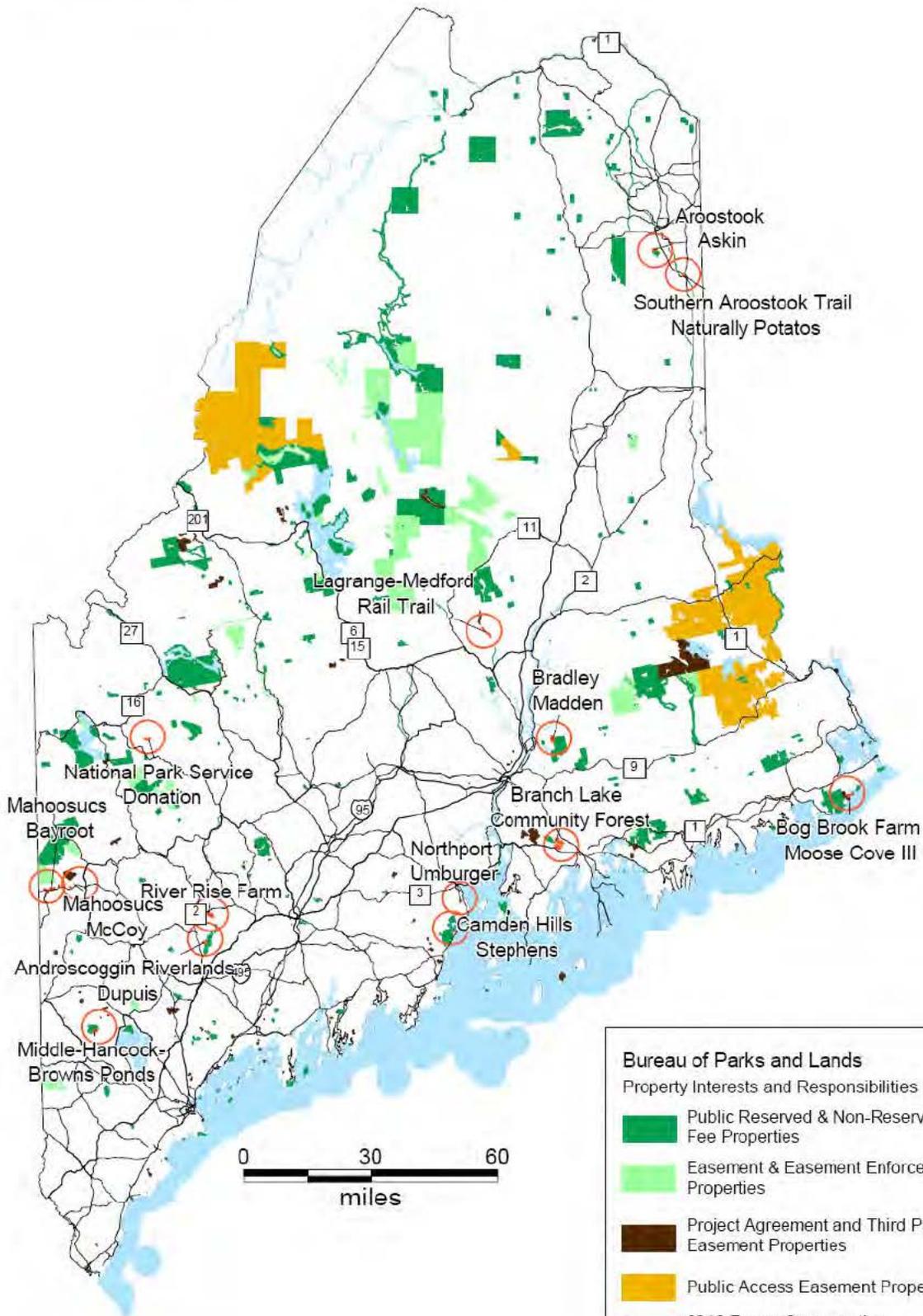
**XVIII. CONCLUSION**

Expenditures will be managed to operate within the Bureau's financial means for all accounts. The Public Reserved Lands Management Fund is under considerable pressure to meet increasing demands to cover rising costs in such areas as personnel services, health care, land acquisition, vehicle rental, information technology (computer), and public information while assuming management responsibility for more and more non-revenue generating acres and activities. The Bureau has made a concerted effort to further increase the volume of timber harvested and currently harvests over 97% of the sustainable harvest level. However, with a continuation of these trends it will be necessary to identify new non-timber sources of revenue available on an annual basis. This effort will need to be balanced with continued demands on staff time related to new acquisition initiatives and non-timber related responsibilities, including recreation. 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.



Department of Conservation  
Property Interests & Responsibilities

February, 2011



**Bureau of Parks and Lands**

Property Interests and Responsibilities

- Public Reserved & Non-Reserved Fee Properties
- Easement & Easement Enforcement Properties
- Project Agreement and Third Party Easement Properties
- Public Access Easement Properties
- 2010 Fee or Conservation Easement Acquisitions



All information depicted on this map is as accurate as available data allows. The property boundaries are an estimation. Base layers 1:24 K are from the State of Maine OGIS website. This is not a survey product. Imagery is NAIP 2009

## Appendix B: Summary of 2010 BP&L Acquisitions and Dispositions

Parks / Lands	Name	Town	County	Fee Acres	Conservation Easement	Trail/Road Easement	Total Acres
<b>Acquisitions</b>							
Lands	Mahoosucs – Bayroot, LLC (water access)	Gilead	Oxford	205.8			205.8
Lands	Mahoosucs - McCoy (water access)	Gilead, Bethel	Oxford	43.0			43.0
Lands	Bradley – Madden (land access)	Bradley, Milford	Penobscot	250.9			250.9
Lands	Bradley – Madden (land access)	Milford	Penobscot			0.5	0.5
Lands	Northport – Umberger (donation)	Northport	Waldo	3.4			3.4
<b>Subtotal (Lands)</b>				<b>503.1</b>		<b>0.5</b>	<b>503.6</b>
Parks	Aroostook State Park – Askins (partial donation)	Presque Isle	Aroostook	145.6			145.6
Parks	Southern Aroostook RR Trail – Naturally Potatoes	Mars Hill	Aroostook	6.0			6.0
Parks	Southern Aroostook RR Trail – Naturally Potatoes	Mars Hill	Aroostook			1.5	1.5
Parks	Androscoggin Riverlands State Park – Dupuis (access)	Turner	Androscoggin	87.0			87.0
Parks	River Rise Farm – Wadsworth (water access)	Turner	Androscoggin		348*		348
Parks	Middle Pond (Hancock Pond) – Browns Pond - Haynes (water access)	Sebago	Cumberland	114			114
Parks	West Saddleback Connector – National Park Service (donation)	Sandy River Plt	Franklin	25.5			25.5
Parks	Branch Lake Community Forest (water access)	Ellsworth	Hancock		1176.9*		1176.9
Parks	Lagrange/Medford RR Trail – MM&A RR	Lagrange	Penobscot	146.6			146.6
Parks	Lagrange/Medford RR Trail – MM&A RR	Medford	Piscataquis	21.3			21.3
Parks	Camden Hills State Park – Stephens (donation)	Lincolnton	Waldo	32			32
Parks	Moose Cove III – Bog Brook Farm	Cutler, Trescott	Washington			< 1	
<b>Subtotal (Parks)</b>				<b>578.0</b>	<b>1,526.4</b>	<b>1.5 +</b>	<b>2,106</b>
<b>Total Parks and Lands</b>				<b>1081.1</b>	<b>1,526.4</b>	<b>2.0+</b>	<b>2,610</b>
* Third party conservation easement							

<b>Dispositions – Authorizing Law</b>		<b>Town</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Fee Acres</b>	<b>Utility/Service Easement</b>	<b>Trail/Road Easement</b>
Lands	Winterville Plt – to Vaillancourt Maine Resolves 2006, Chapter 193	Winterville Plt.	Aroostook	-0.129		
Lands	Big Lake (No 21 Twp) – to Troiani Maine Resolves 2009, Chapter 209	No 21 Twp (Big Lake)	Washington	-2.812		
Lands	Donnell Pond Unit – to Bangor Hydro Electric Co Maine Resolves 2009, Chapter 209	Sullivan, Franklin	Hancock		- 31.9	
<b>Subtotal Lands Dispositions</b>				<b>- 2.941</b>	<b>- 31.9</b>	
Parks	Southern Aroostook RR Trail – to Naturally Potatoes Maine Resolves 2006, Chapter 193	Mars Hill	Aroostook		- 0.42	
Parks	Arboretum Trial House to Bread of Life Ministries Maine Resolves 2008, Chapter 179	Augusta	Kennebec	-0.82		
<b>Subtotal Parks Dispositions</b>				<b>- 0.82</b>	<b>- 0.42</b>	
<b>Total Parks and Lands Dispositions</b>				<b>- 3.761</b>	<b>- 32.32</b>	

## Appendix C: Projects Approved and Pending

### Federally Funded Forest Legacy Tracts Closings expected in calendar 2011 (authorized FY2008 )

No.	Name	Acquisition Rights	Location	Acres	Total Cost	FLP award
25a	Lower Penobscot – Great Pond	Easement	Penobscot and Hancock Counties	21,910	Pending final accounting	2,896,000

### Federally Funded Forest Legacy Tracts Closings expected calendar 2011 (authorized FY2010)

No.	Name	Acquisition Rights	Location	Acres	Total Cost	FLP award
27	Katahdin Forest Expansion (Seboeis Lake South Tract & Millinocket/East Branch Tracts)	Four tracts: Mix of Fee and Easement	Piscataquis & Penobscot Counties	17,491	9,000,000	\$3,700,000

### Federally Funded Forest Legacy Tracts Closings expected in calendar 2011 or later (Authorized FY2009 )

No.	Name	Acquisition Rights	Location	Acres	Total Cost	FLP award
26	Machias River Phase III Washington Bald Tract	Easement	Washington County	27,164	3,332,000	2,060,000

### Federal Priority Requests, Closings expected calendar 2011 or later (pending congressional action for FY2011)

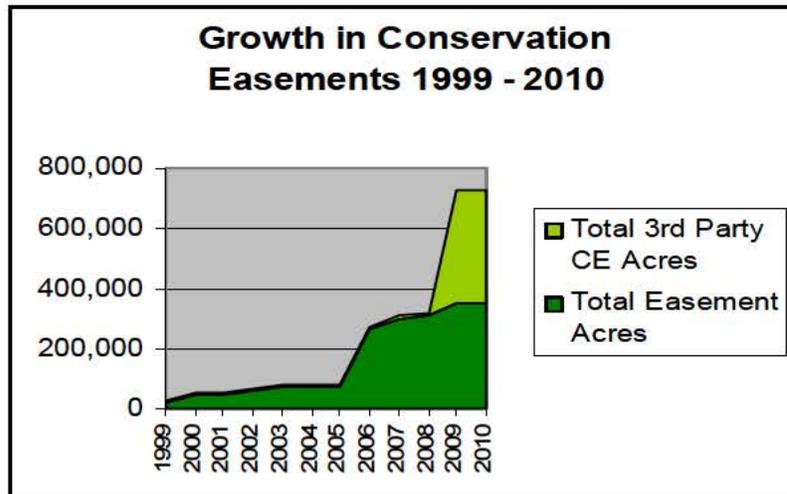
No.	Name	Acquisition Rights	Location	Acres	Total Cost	FLP request
28	West Grand Lake	Easement	Washington County	21,700	\$14,897,000	\$6,675,000

### FY 2012 Maine Requests (Pending Federal scoring and 2011 President's Budget)

No.	Name	Acquisition Rights	Location	Acres	Total Cost	FLP request
29	Crocker Mountain	Fee	Franklin Co, Town of Carrabasset Valley	11,798	pending	\$7,000,000
30	Orbeton Stream	Easement	Franklin Co, south slopes of Saddleback	5,808	pending	\$1,730,000

## Appendix D

### Bureau of Parks and Lands Conservation Easement Program



#### Purposes of Conservation Easements:

Conservation easements have grown in popularity as a means of protecting public values on private lands, while keeping those lands productively owned and managed by the private landowner. Instead of acquiring the land outright (fee acquisition) the state acquires only selected rights with high public values, with the landowner retaining many rights to use the land for economic benefit. All conservation easements are negotiated with willing-sellers. The vast majority of conservation easements held by the Bureau provide for continued commercial forest management. In the majority of cases these easements secure in perpetuity the right of public access and recreational use of the privately held easement lands, a Maine tradition that has been increasingly at risk.

The protected lands range from 2 acres of sand dunes to 190,000 acres of working forest. These lands are mostly undeveloped but include tracts with some development, including one with a summer camp for disadvantaged youth; and a few with overnight accommodations including lodges and campgrounds. The lands remain highly productive and contribute to Maine's economy through the following resource-based uses: timber harvesting; collection of sap and production of maple syrup; apple orchards; hunting; extraction of spring water; organic farming; sand and gravel production; snowmobile, ATV, and hiking trails; water quality protection; shellfish harvesting; hydroelectric power generation; and others.

#### Number, Size and Distribution of BPL-Held Conservation Easements

The Bureau of Parks and Lands presently holds over 348,950 acres of conservation easements in more than 57 separate easements. Most of these were acquired in the last ten years. These easements are located throughout the state (Appendix A provides a map) in all counties except Kennebec and Sagadahoc. The public has recreational access to 42 properties, totaling 347,477 acres.

Ninety-seven percent of all conservation easement acres held by the Bureau provide for continued commercial timber management. 291,650 acres in 15 separate easements are "working forest conservation easements" funded substantially through the federal Forest Legacy Program. As

shown in Appendix C, another 66,500 acres of working forest conservation easements have been approved for Forest Legacy funding and are expected to close sometime in the next one to two years. An additional 13 conservation easement properties covering 46,059 acres also allow timber management. Of these working forest conservation easements, 14 have less than 2000 acres; 10 are between 2000 and 10,000 acres; and 4 are over 10,000 acres.

### **Legal Monitoring Responsibility**

In 2007 the State enacted legislation requiring all conservation easement holders to monitor these easements for compliance with easement terms at least once every three years. See 33 MRSA 477-A(3). The Federal Forest Legacy Conservation Easement Program requires annual compliance monitoring. State legislation also required the State Planning Office to maintain a registry of all conservation easements, to ensure greater accountability of easement holders. See 33 MRSA 479-C.

### **Conservation Easement Program Responsibilities and Costs**

The full scope of responsibilities for the Conservation easement program includes pre-acquisition tasks, development and improvement of the monitoring program, conducting monitoring, assorted reporting requirements, budget development and funding, overseeing contracts, and administrative duties the Bureau is obligated to perform by the easement. These responsibilities are described further:

- Pre-acquisition tasks: working with the Deputy Director and Chief of Planning on acquisition phase activities including working with contractors for appraisals and other due diligence such as Environmental Hazard Assessments; assessment of endowment needs; and review of baseline condition documents showing existing development and natural features.
- Forest Legacy Program (FLP management): Administrative coordination and support for a state FLP committee and process (rates proposed projects for submission to the FLP for federal funding requests).
- Easement Program Development: securing, overseeing, and working with contractors to assist in development of cost-effective easement monitoring methods (Catamount Consulting; Steve Sader at the University of Maine School of Forestry), and development of an easement monitoring and tracking database.
- Easement Monitoring Protocols: developing or overseeing the development of monitoring protocols for each conservation easement, including converting/developing digitized baseline information for each easement.
- Easement Monitoring and documentation: There are 15 Forest Legacy Program easements that require annual monitoring; all 42 others require monitoring at least once in three years. Thus annually the Bureau must monitor 20 easements in order to be in compliance with state law and the Forest Legacy program requirements. In all cases a monitoring report is prepared, and follow-up with the landowner is common.
- Administrative Tasks: performing administrative functions including responding to information requests from the Federal Forest Legacy program and their program auditors; reporting annually to the State Planning Office as required by statute; and various administrative functions such as annual meetings with the landowners, tracking changes in ownership, and providing requested documents such as estoppel certificates.
- Contracts: administering and overseeing easement monitoring contracted services with the Forest Society of Maine – for Katahdin Forest easement, the largest Bureau-held easement.
- Endowment management: tracking the performance and balances of the endowment funds and managing the Bureau's requests for endowment funds from the Maine Community Foundation.
- Budget: annually preparing a budget incorporating grant and endowment funds which is tracked through the Lands Calendar Year budget process.

- Grant Proposals and Administration: developing and administering grant proposals needed to support some of the developmental costs for this program (currently managing three MOHF grants) including an award in early November 2010 for a Project Position from November 2010 through June 2011.

## Conservation Easement Stewardship Endowments

A number of easements have come with endowments established by fundraising partners at the Maine Community Foundation (MCF) to help offset the Bureau's administrative and monitoring costs. The funds are owned by the contributing partners, and the Bureau, by agreement, is authorized to use the funds for easement stewardship and monitoring. As of June 2010, endowments have been established in nine separate funds to cover Bureau easement monitoring costs. The total value of these endowments as of September 30, 2010 was \$1.32 million. The total amount originally invested from 2002 through 2009 was \$1.18 million. Six of the nine funds were established between 2002 and 2008, and lost 26% of their accumulated value during the market contraction in 2008. Were it not for the addition of \$395,000 in three new endowments in 2009 (Wabassus, The Roaches, and Stowe Mountain), the total value today would be less than the amount originally invested. Available funds in 2011 is \$42,810.

## Conclusions

Three years into a concerted effort to assess alternative approaches to staffing and funding the Bureau's conservation easement responsibilities, the Bureau has concluded:

- Reliance on interns is not sustainable: To date the Bureau has relied on temporary employees and one half of an existing staff position to meet the Bureau's monitoring responsibilities. Reliance on AmeriCorps Environmental Educators as an integral component of a monitoring program has been economically feasible, but the future of this program is in question. Further, experience has shown this to be an unsustainable approach: it requires individuals with the appropriate skill sets which cannot be guaranteed; the recurring training and oversight burden inherent with this approach limits the Bureau's ability to make effective use of Bureau staff and also limits advances and efficiencies through institutional knowledge and experience.
- Contracting with others for monitoring and administrative functions is not an appropriate or cost-effective model. (1) There are no true cost efficiencies: the Bureau at one point had contracts for monitoring ten working forest easements at an annual cost of \$49,000 (UMO); and three others with the Forest Society of Maine at an annual cost of nearly \$30,000. These contracts only covered 14 of the Bureau's 57 easements. In addition, the Bureau contracted administrative support for the Forest Legacy Program at a cost of nearly \$20,000 per year. These costs are in excess of what the Bureau has concluded it could do with Bureau staff. (2) The Bureau is ultimately responsible for administration and monitoring these easements. The Bureau, not contractors, must decide how the easement should be interpreted, and whether to pursue an enforcement action. Only the Bureau can provide the reviews, approvals and legal certifications required of it by easement terms, state law, and federal funders. These functions require an in-depth understanding of the easements and their history.
- The Bureau can effectively administer its Conservation Easement Program with centralized Augusta staff augmented as needed with the Bureau's regional foresters. A centralized staff can also effectively coordinate with adjunct state enforcement staff from LURC, DEP

and the Maine Forest Service when compliance with both easement terms and state law is an issue. A new staff position largely dedicated to easements and other monitoring/oversight responsibilities including LMF Project Agreements and leases would advance efficiency in the use of staff resources, and allow further refinements to the easement program. This staff position would provide support to the current staff, a senior planner working about half time on easements (whose other major duties include administering 51 leases on Bureau lands and oversight of 98 LMF Project Agreements).

- The Bureau can support a staff position dedicated to its various monitoring functions – for conservation easements, leases, and Project Agreements – with available dedicated funds, including endowment funds, leases and timber revenues.