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**FISCAL YEAR 2023  
ANNUAL REPORT**

to

the JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
on AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION, AND FORESTRY

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



Blueberry field on Vienna Mountain – Kennebec Highlands Public Land

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

**Bureau of Parks and Lands**

**March 1, 2024**



Amanda E. Beal  
Commissioner

Randy Charette  
Deputy Commissioner

Nancy McBrady  
Deputy Commissioner

18 Elkins Lane  
Augusta, ME 04333

(207) 287-3200  
[www.maine.gov/dacf](http://www.maine.gov/dacf)

FISCAL YEAR 2023  
ANNUAL REPORT  
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry  
Bureau of Parks and Lands

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## I. INTRODUCTION

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

This report constitutes required annual reporting pursuant to the following:

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

This report provides an overview of the scope of the Bureau's responsibilities and information on the Bureau's management activities during fiscal year 2023 (FY 23). As required, the report includes information on gates and barriers that prevent public vehicle access to Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands (Public Lands), recreation facility fees charged for the use of these lands, and a status report on Ecological Reserves. The report also includes information on timber, recreation, and wildlife management on Public Lands during the fiscal year.

Income and expenditure information is provided for FY 23, and a report is also included for the upcoming FY 25 budget. The legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (ACF) has an obligation to report by March 15<sup>th</sup> to the Appropriations Committee on the Bureau's Public Lands' upcoming FY 25 budget. The Public Lands division of the Bureau is a dedicated revenue component of the agency, funding almost all of its administrative, planning, management, and operational activities from revenue generated from the land base, with some additional sources of funds provided through various grant programs.

The management of Public Lands is directed by statute. Title 12 MRSA §1833 and §1847 direct the Bureau to manage the Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands (638,814 acres in FY 23)<sup>1</sup> *“under the principles of multiple land use to produce a sustained yield of products and services in accordance with both prudent and fair business practices and the principle of sound planning.”*

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

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

The Bureau is also responsible for managing and reporting on public trust rights to Submerged Lands and Coastal Islands to the ACF Committee. When granting leases for Submerged Lands, the Bureau includes conditions to maintain customary and traditional public access, navigation, and commercial marine use. This report covers FY 23 along with some highlights from the first

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<sup>1</sup> This figure reflects updated property records and improved GIS data, as well as acquisitions and dispositions that occurred in FY 23.



half of FY 24. The past 18 months have made it clear that Maine's people find strength in connection with each other and nature and realize the incredible value of our Public Lands. Key features of the Bureau's work in the past year include:

**Enhancing Recreational Facilities:** The Public Lands division partnered with Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) crews in the summer and fall of 2022 to advance trail work, with major improvements across the state at some of the most popular Public Lands. MCC crews completed trail work at 11 Public Lands units, rehabilitating and maintaining about 85 miles of trail, including removing blowdowns, installing bog bridging in wet areas, and constructing over 1.5 miles of new trail. The Bureau worked on campsite upgrades at 10 Public Lands, improving numerous sites with new picnic tables and new or maintained privies. Signage improvements were completed at 6 Public Lands, including new yardarm signs at entrances, new kiosks, and other information signage at trailheads and other key locations. BPL staff in the Northern Region constructed kiosks, information boards, and picnic tables to provide them for use across all three management regions. Special recreation projects included the installation of a new roof on the fire warden's cabin at Debouille Mountain and removing numerous damaged or abandoned canoes from remote pond shorelines at the Cold Stream Forest Public Land.



**Expanding Recreation:** In recent years, the Bureau has seen growing interest in accommodating new recreational activities, such as glade skiing and backcountry snowmobiling and expanding existing uses, such as mountain biking. This interest often stems from community efforts to further develop a four-season recreation economy. In 2022, the first phase of a single-track mountain bike trail system was constructed at Little Moose Public Land. The trails were discussed and approved through a public process and are being built and maintained by a local mountain bike group that aims to provide an attraction for the local community and visitors to the area. A similar project is underway at the Crocker Mountain Unit near Carrabassett Valley. Though mountain bike trails are found on Public Lands across the state, most existing trails are co-located on management roads or associated with trail networks that rely on abutting lands. The Bureau will continue to consider new trail proposals consistent with the management vision for the land, working to balance new or expanded uses with competing uses and demands.

**Continued challenges for Timber Management:** Maine's Public Reserved Lands rely almost entirely on revenue from the sustainable harvest of timber. As a result of the universal market disruption caused by the pandemic, the Public Lands budget sustained more than \$3M in losses across FY 20 and FY 21. While timber markets stabilized in FY 22 and some product pricing was exceptionally high due to the housing market, soft markets in some products, such as hardwood and softwood pulp, remain a limiting factor. Less dependable winter conditions, high fuel costs, labor shortages, and loggers leaving the industry have created challenges for loggers, mills, and timberland managers, and BPL is no exception. The Bureau's cash reserve acts as an important source of funds to support year-round operational needs, and despite these challenges, the strong softwood markets coupled with the Bureau's dedicated staff of foresters and contract loggers enabled the Public Reserved Lands account to maintain a healthy fiscal position that will be important given the continued uncertainty in the forest products market.

**Planning Milestones:** In 2022, the Bureau adopted the management plan for the Tumbledown-Mount Blue State Park region, fulfilling its commitment to developing 15-year management plans for each public reserved and non-reserved land unit.<sup>2</sup> Commissioner Beal signed the plan in early 2022, and this completion marks a major milestone! Since 2007, the Bureau has worked steadily to adopt 12 regional plans that cover most of the state, plus unit-specific plans for Kennebec Highlands and Pineland Public Lands. Scheduled five-year reviews of these plans have continued apace and provide an excellent way to adapt and evolve with community input. Several plans have been amended through a public process to address new uses or incorporate newly acquired public lands in the plan area. The Bureau is developing a process to update the 15-year regional plans as they expire, recognizing that much of the information and direction contained in the original plans and five-year reviews remain valid. In addition, substantial progress was made on an update of the Integrated Resource Policy, the Bureau's primary multiple-use management guidance document, adopted in 2000.

**Essential Places, Essential People:** Research and data tell us that Maine's outdoors – including outdoor recreation, forest products, and tourism – has long been a driver of our economy that is hard to overstate. The pandemic highlighted the fact that the outdoors fuels Maine's economy and also soothes souls. As Bureau staff welcomed the public in ever-growing numbers, we have all been reminded how Maine's Parks, Public Lands, boat launches, trails, and other outdoor recreation resources are essential to Maine residents and visitors alike. Bureau staff, a team of dedicated foresters, biologists, planners, and other professionals, are critical to ensuring these resources are cared for and available for the future. Partnerships with other agencies, nonprofit and community organizations, private partners, and volunteers continue to elevate the Bureau's capacity and show the strength and value of our natural resources and the importance of collaboration as we continue to steward resources and serve the public.

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

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<sup>2</sup> The only exceptions are four small, isolated nonreserved lots in the Southern Maine and Central Interior plan areas that were transferred or gifted to the Bureau. There are no major public land units in those areas; therefore, regional plans have not been developed. Management plans for those lots will be developed as staff resources allow.

## II. SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES

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

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

Maine statutes authorize the Bureau to acquire lands and interests in lands. Easements that protect public interests become a public trust responsibility for the Bureau, supported by stewardship endowments and revenues from Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands. Finally, the Bureau oversees public values associated with lands acquired by municipalities and local land trusts through the Land for Maine's Future (LMF) Program with Bureau sponsorship.

**In Fiscal Year 2023, lands under the Bureau's ownership, management, or oversight included:**

Acres*	Type
638,814	Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands held in fee.
401,184	Conservation and recreation easements
9,815	Forest Legacy conservation easements delegated to the Bureau for enforcement by the US Forest Service.
378,140	Third-party conservation easements (the Bureau is a backup holder)
602,423	Public access rights granted by easement by three large private landowners
85,602	Fee lands held as Parks, Historic Sites, or Boat Access Sites
2.3 million	Marine and freshwater submerged lands
1,095	Publicly held coastal islands
100	Lands leased from or under agreement from others for management as Parks
54,135	Bureau-sponsored lands acquired by local interests (LMF Program, fee, and easement)

*\*Acreages presented in this report are based on land transaction records, parcel boundaries mapped in geographic information systems (GIS), and, in some cases, land surveys. Because survey-grade mapping is unavailable for all lands, reported acreages may have an inherent mapping error of around 2%.*

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

- **Boating Facilities:** builds boat access sites on state lands and funds municipal boat sites;
- **Snowmobile and ATV Programs:** provides grants to local clubs to build and maintain trails on both public and private lands;

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

### III. LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING

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

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

The Bureau's ***Integrated Resource Policy*** (IRP), adopted in 1985 and revised in 2000, guides resource management decisions and governs management planning for all Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands. The Bureau is updating the IRP, a process that includes opportunities for public comment and input. Management plans are prepared consistent with the IRP and consider comments from a defined public process. The planning process allocates areas for specific uses, including:

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

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

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

Management plans address the Reserved and Nonreserved Lands within a planning region and cover fifteen years, with five-year reviews. Management plans for all major land units are now in place, a significant milestone reached in FY 22. The five-year review process provides an update on progress in implementing the Plan recommendations and addresses any changing

conditions that may warrant amendments to the Plan. The Bureau's responsibilities for managing Public Reserved Lands are divided among Northern, Eastern, and Western Regions (see Appendix B). Appendix C provides a list of management units by region and plan area. The status of management plans for each of the 44 major Public Reserved Lands Units is provided in Appendix D.

#### **Fiscal Year 2023 Planning Activities**

<b>Five-Year Reviews</b>	Work continued on the five-year review and plan update for the Kennebec Highlands Public Land Plan (adopted 2011, 2 <sup>nd</sup> review). The process incorporates planning for 800 acres of land acquired in 2022 and developing a non-motorized trails plan for the 6,882-acre unit in response to stakeholder interest in potential new and expanded trails.
<b>FY 24 Update</b>	An update was initiated for the Flagstaff Region Plan, adopted in 2007 and due for renewal in 2022. The update will provide a substantial review of the management issues and recommendations for the 67,000 acres of public lands addressed in the 2007 plan and the 12,000 acres addressed by the Crocker Mountain Unit Plan appended to the Flagstaff Plan in 2015. It will also incorporate planning for nearly 8,700 acres of additional lands acquired in 2023-24.

## **IV. NATURAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES**

### NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORIES (NRIs)

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

#### **Fiscal Year 2023 Activities**

MNAP continued to conduct inventories of significant botanical resources at various locations across the Public Lands. No active management planning efforts in 2023 required natural resource inventories.

### HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

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

### ECOLOGICAL RESERVES

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

#### **Designation**

Subject to statutory limitations noted below, the Bureau Director may designate Ecological Reserves on Bureau lands in conjunction with adopting a management plan, with a planning process that includes public review and comment, and with notification to the Scientific Advisory Committee as described in the next section.



### Scientific Advisory Committee

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

### Reporting

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

### Current Status

The Bureau manages 18 designated Ecological Reserves with a total of 100,379 acres.

### Statutory Limits

- The total Bureau land acreage designated as Ecological Reserves by statute may not exceed 115,000 acres.

**FY 23 Status: 14,621 total acres remain available for Ecological Reserve designation.**

- In addition, no more than 8% of the operable timberland on Public Lands may be designated as Ecological Reserves. Lands acquired after the statute's effective date (2000) with the prior designation as an ecological reserve are not included when calculating acreage limits.

**FY 23 Status: 11,952 acres of operable timberland remain eligible for Ecological Reserves designation (Figure 4.1).**

<b>Figure 4.1 Ecological Reserves as a Proportion of Operable Timberland Acres* on Public Lands</b>	
<b><i>Land Type</i></b>	<b><i>Operable Timberland Acres</i></b>
Total Operable Lands	433,835
8% of Operable Lands	34,707
Operable in Qualifying Reserves	22,755
Net available operable acres for ER designation	11,952
* Operable timberland acres are on lands held in fee, not including Ecological Reserves designated as a condition of the acquisition. Operable acres in Ecological Reserves include modifications adopted in 2007 and after (see Appendix E).	

### Fiscal Year 2023 Additions and Modifications to Ecological Reserves

As a condition of the acquisition, 4,965 acres of the newly acquired 6,578-acre Perham Stream parcel was added to the existing Mt. Abraham Ecological Reserve during FY 23. The addition will be addressed in the update of the Flagstaff Region Management Plan that is currently underway. Multiple Ecological Reserves are under consideration for expansion in FY 24.



### **Ecological Reserves Monitoring**

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

In FY 23, MNAP continued its ongoing forest inventory in Ecological Reserves. There are now 540 permanent plots on the 18 State Reserves, which are revisited at ten-year intervals. Methods and results from this Continuous Forest Inventory are on MNAP's website at [www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/reservesys/index.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/reservesys/index.htm).

## **V. WILDLIFE RESOURCES**

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

**Wildlife management activities conducted in FY 23 on lands managed by the Bureau include:**

### ***Habitat Management Highlights***

- In the Western and Northern Regions, 89 waterfowl nesting boxes were maintained.
- Field mowing activities to benefit grassland birds and other species of open habitats were performed on 76 acres at Days Academy, Hebron, and Eagle Lake Public Lands.
- BPL maintained contracts for routine beaver control activities.
- Approximately 25 acres of herbaceous seeding were established on Public Lands for wildlife forage and erosion control.
- Surveys for waterfowl, grassland birds, deer, songbirds, peregrine falcons, loons, snowshoe hares, and bats were completed on Public Lands across the state.
- On the Moro Plantation West lot, 3 acres of alders were mulched to enhance woodcock habitat, and three acres of apple orchard maintained for deer and other wildlife were released by removing and girdling competing trees; 1.5 acres of the apple trees were pruned, and the branches piled to provide additional habitat benefit.
- Eastern Region staff participated in prescribed burn training at the Machias River Unit, where periodic burning maintains unique habitat conditions for wildlife.

### ***Deer Wintering Areas (DWAs)***

The Bureau monitors and assesses approximately 35,800 acres of DWAs on Public Lands as part of its balanced wildlife management strategy.<sup>3</sup> When winter travel conditions for deer are restrictive, aerial and ground surveys for deer activity are conducted on BPL-managed lands using DIFW protocols. This information is used to delineate cooperative winter habitat management areas for deer and other softwood-dependent wildlife.



### **Fiscal Year 2023 Activities**

- A forest growth and yield modeling project was started for the Scraggly Lake unit, where Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) data has previously been used to quantify forest characteristics. This project required ground-truthing of remotely sensed data by Northern Region staff to verify conditions for model inputs. This is the second phase of the project, which is providing an additional tool for maintaining appropriate habitat conditions for deer within the working forest.
- The BPL staff biologist reviewed 5,559 acres of DWA as part of harvest planning, harvest site visits, and plan agreements for both zoned and cooperatively managed areas, such as at the Round Pond and Seboomook Units, where harvests incorporate DWA management guidelines beyond the acreage regulated as DWA.

### ***Lynx Habitat Management***

In FY 23, Bureau staff continued implementing a forest management plan for the Seboomook Unit as part of an agreement with DIFW to manage ~22,000 acres for Canada lynx, currently listed as a threatened species by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The Bureau's goal is to create 4,200 acres of High-Quality Hare Habitat (HQHH) within the managed area by 2029. Timber market constraints for small-diameter softwood continued to limit harvests within the agreement area. Staff prepared to collect data that will contribute to an update on the amount of HQHH in the agreement area to DIFW. This analysis aims to accelerate harvest activity, creating new HQHH in alignment with established goals.

### ***Harvest Prescriptions***

The BPL staff biologist reviewed timber harvest plans to ensure fish and wildlife habitat compatibility on 29,880 acres on or adjacent to the planned harvest units.

### ***Other Research***

BPL worked with various partners to facilitate wildlife-related research on Public Lands, including projects conducting songbird surveys on marine islands, assessments of bald eagle health and movement, mesocarnivore camera trapping surveys, and northern bog lemming distribution surveys.

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<sup>3</sup> These acres include mapped DWAs in organized towns, LUPC zoning in unorganized territory, Habitat Management Areas (HMAs) outside/adjacent to zoned areas managed under HMA agreements, and other "biological" DWAs the Bureau manages without any formal DIFW agreement.



## VI. RECREATION RESOURCES

The Bureau's Public Lands Division is responsible for the following:

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



### Managing High Recreational Use

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

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

### – FISCAL YEAR 2023 PROJECTS –

#### CAMPSITES & DAY USE AREAS

Scopan	Four new picnic tables were constructed and installed at campsites on the unit.
Nahmakanta	In the Debsconeag backcountry, a new hike-in campsite was installed, and another was expanded.
Four Ponds	MATC volunteers replaced the tent platform at a Sabbath Day Pond campsite.

<b>Deboullie</b>	A composting privy was installed on top of Deboullie Mountain to accommodate increased use of the improved observation tower.
<b>Moosehead Lake</b>	With the assistance of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail organization, the Bureau replaced outhouses at two shoreline campsites at the Days Academy and Kineo Units.
<b>West Branch Pleasant River</b>	An outhouse was replaced at the Hay Brook campsites.

## **TRAILS**

<b>Cutler Coast</b>	New bog bridging was flown in with assistance from the Maine Forest Service (MFS) and installed.
<b>Nahmakanta</b>	An MCC trail crew cleared 4 miles of the trail corridor, removed 59 blowdowns, installed 11 bog bridges, and cut 52 feet of sidehill to improve drainage.
<b>Little Moose</b>	BPL staff worked with a local nonprofit on planning and routing the first phase of approved mountain bike trails on the unit, resulting in 8 miles of trails constructed in the Gravel Pit Pond area. Work is underway on the second phase of trail development on the south side of Little Moose Mountain.
<b>Tumbledown</b>	An MCC trail crew cleared 0.3 miles of trail corridor and installed 25 stone steps, crib and check steps, 18 stepping stones, and four reinforced water bars. The crew also began work on more than a quarter mile of rerouted trail, with additional work on the tread completed this fiscal year.
<b>Winter Trail Maintenance</b>	The Bureau maintained plowed parking areas at popular winter trail destinations, including the East Outlet of Moosehead Lake, Range Trail on the Bigelow Preserve, Dodge Point Unit in Newcastle, two trailheads on Kennebec Highlands, and Donnell Pond.

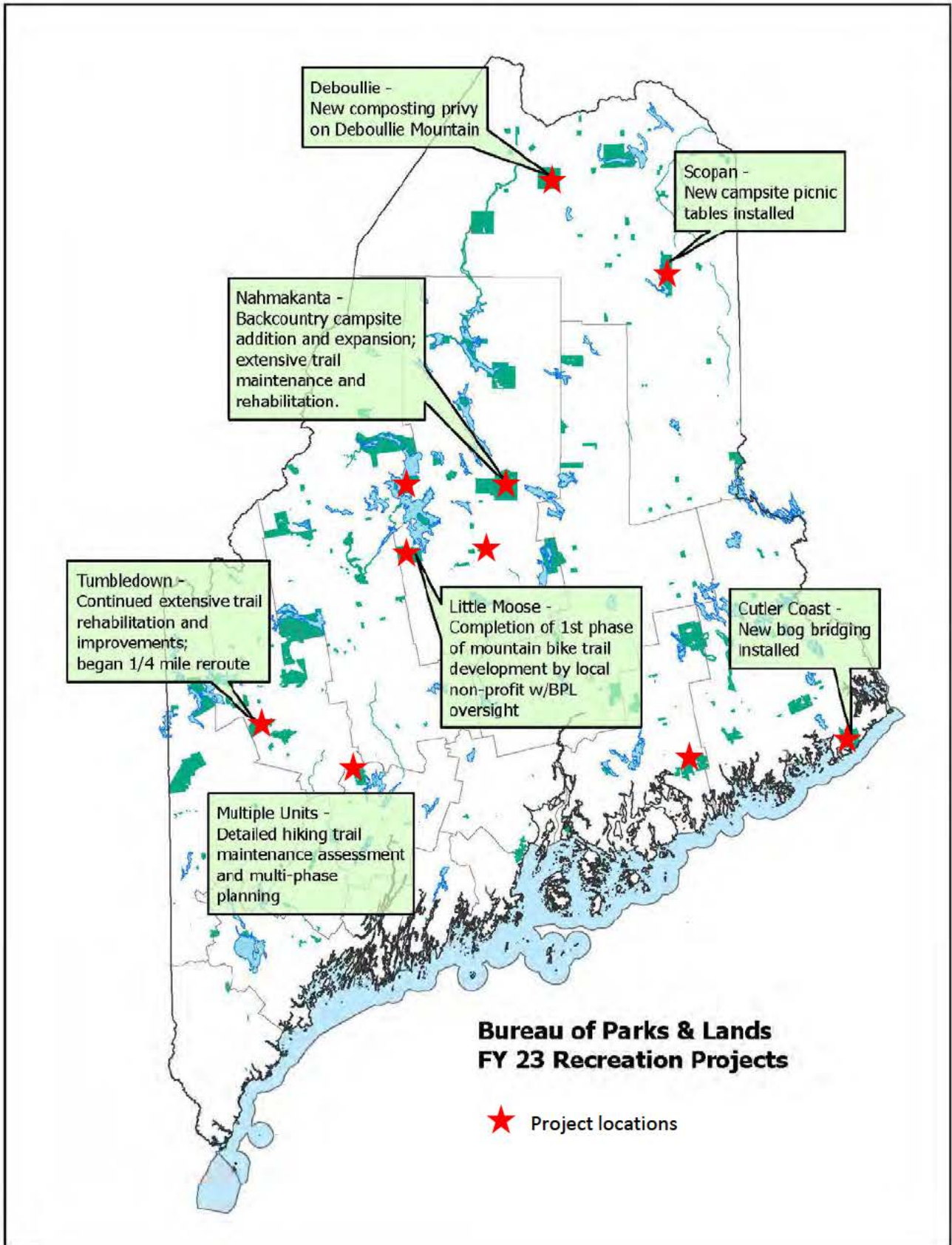
## **SIGNAGE IMPROVEMENTS**

<b>Entrance Signs</b>	New yard-arm signs were installed at the Tumbledown Unit (2) and Bald Mountain.
<b>Kiosks and Info. Boards</b>	New kiosks were installed at two Moosehead Region recreation sites (Weyerhaeuser donation parcels) on Misery Pond and Rum Pond. Signage was also upgraded at the Seboeis and Duck Lake Unit campsites. The kiosks and signboards were constructed by Northern Region staff.

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

<b>Nahmakanta</b>	Installation of a new roof and other maintenance was completed on the Henderson gatehouse, used to control entry to the unit from the adjacent private forest lands, where the KI-Jo Mary organization manages recreation and access.
<b>Multiple Units</b>	The RTP Trail Planner conducted extensive field assessments of trail maintenance needs for several highly trafficked hiking trails and produced reports on the results. The assessments identified locations where stonework improvements (e.g., stone stairs, crib steps, retaining walls), tread improvements (e.g., turnpikes, sidehill cuts), bog bridging and footbridges, and trail reroutes, are recommended and categorized as high or low priority. Time, labor, and cost estimates and recommended project phasing were also provided. Reports were produced for trails at the Cutler Coast, Donnell Pond, Bald Mountain-Oquossoc, and Kennebec Highlands units.





## Recreation Staffing

- Two year-round and four seasonal rangers were involved in recreation management activities in FY 23. Seasonal rangers are responsible for the maintenance and construction of recreation facilities and for informing visitors about recreational opportunities and Bureau rules. The BPL rangers were assisted by five individuals contracted for recreation maintenance.
- The Volunteer Campground Host Program continued at Cowan's Cove and Spencer Bay (Moosehead Lake) and the maintenance and construction of recreation facilities at Cold Stream Forest with an additional host at the Bigelow Preserve to assist at Big Eddy and other campgrounds on the Unit. These campgrounds are free to the public, and the length of stay is limited to 14 days in a 45-day period. Volunteer hosts oversee these campgrounds in return for extended stays.
- A volunteer position created in 2020 at Kennebec Highlands continued to assist with trail management.
- In cooperation with Mount Blue State Park, the Western Lands Region utilized the AmeriCorps Environmental Steward program to provide staffed assistance with recreational monitoring and management at Tumbledown Public Land, which hosts one of the busiest trailheads in Maine.



## Special Use Permits

- The Bureau issued a total of 29 permits for a range of activities, including tree stands, a trail running race, ATV use, fir tipping and other gathering, brown and black ash tree cutting for Native American cultural uses, a survey for invasive milfoil on boats launched at the Donnell Pond Unit, a white oak study, tick studies, furbearer monitoring, and several other ecological research projects.

## VII. FEES

Most access to Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands is free. However, in some circumstances, fees are charged because these lands are accessed through private recreation management systems (e.g., North Maine Woods and KI-Jo Mary) or because the Bureau has contracted with nearby recreation providers (South Arm Campground and Baxter State Park). The Bureau also charges a fee for bear bait permit sites. Other than a small increase in day-use fees within the KI Jo-Mary managed area, there were no fee increases in FY 23.

**Fees charged in Fiscal Year 2023 on Public Reserved Lands are as follows:**

<b>North Maine Woods, Inc. Recreation Management (NMW)</b>	Seven checkpoints, staffed seasonally, control primary access from main points to 95,000 acres of Public Reserved Land, including Baker Lake, Deboullie, Round Pond, Chamberlain, Telos, and portions of Seboomook. Camping fees are returned to the Bureau when the Bureau assumes maintenance responsibilities, as at Deboullie.	<u><b>Residents/Non-Residents</b></u> Day-use: \$11/\$16 per person Camping: \$12/\$15 per person/night (no fees for people <18 years old, free day-use for people 70+)
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<b>KI Jo-Mary Recreation Management</b>	Three checkpoints, staffed seasonally, control access to 175,000 acres of primarily private lands where public recreation is allowed, subject to fees. About 2,200 acres of Public Reserved Land in Bowdoin College Grant East lies within this system. Day-use fees also apply for entrance or exit to the Nahmakanta Unit from the south via the KI-Jo Mary system.	<u>Residents/Non-Residents</u> Day-use: \$12/\$17 per person Camping: \$14/\$14 per person/night (no fees for people <18 years old, free day-use for people 70+)
<b>South Arm Campground</b>	Boat-access campsites on Upper Richardson Lake are leased to South Arm Campground, a privately owned facility on adjoining private land. The campground retains a portion of fees to cover maintenance of the twelve campsites and the Mill Brook public boat launch facility at the north end of the lake.	<u>Camping Fees</u> \$18 per night per site
<b>Bear Bait Permits</b>	By state rule (01-670, Chapter 54), a permit from the Bureau is required before placing bait for bear on Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands that are not managed jointly with another entity. In FY 23, the Bureau issued 482 bear bait permits: 225 for personal sites and 257 for commercial sites, with permit revenues totaling \$23,455.	<u>Personal/Commercial</u> \$30/\$65 per site

## VIII. PUBLIC INFORMATION

### Bureau Website

The Bureau uses its website ([www.ParksAndLands.com](http://www.ParksAndLands.com)) to provide maps and facility information for most of its Public Lands, State Parks, and Historic Sites. As resources allow, enhancements are made to increase its usefulness to visitors and the broader conservation and environmental education communities. The website received over 1.4 million page views across all programs and 112,660 downloads of documents in FY 23. Use is stable compared with the prior year but has more than tripled from FY 21.

### NEW IN FISCAL YEAR 2023

- Right-side Navigation Improved – The right-side navigation was streamlined on the Bureau website, on both the HTML portion of the site and on the database-driven search feature to the homepages for individual Parks and Public Lands.

### UPDATES on Web Developments

*All use and subscription rates continue to increase:*

- Alerts & Conditions – Live field updates that are distributed by text, email, and web were developed for all Public Lands Regions in FY 20. During FY 23, subscriptions almost quadrupled over the previous year to 7,086 subscribers for the Public Lands alerts. ([www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/trail\\_activities/publiclands\\_trail\\_conditions.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/trail_activities/publiclands_trail_conditions.shtml))
- Off-Season and Winter Camping – BPL's webpage provides information about shoulder seasons and camping opportunities at Public Lands and State Parks. We currently have over 4,981 subscribers to Backcountry Camping updates and over 3,812 subscribers to Winter Camping updates, representing a 3.5% increase from the prior year. ([www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/camping/off-season-camping.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/camping/off-season-camping.shtml))

- Timber Harvest Information – BPL provides continued messaging and signage improvement about scheduled and active timber harvesting on Public Lands utilizing QR codes in the field that link to online messaging and through the use of the Public Lands Alerts system.
- Closures & Trail Information – Messaging for Tumbledown Public Land's camping closure, trail improvements, and opportunities for the public to join the Maine Conservation Corps and BPL staff members for trail improvement projects were continued this year. They continue to be well received and valuable for engaging with the public about trail management.

### **Guide & Map Brochures**

The Bureau continues to develop its series of in-depth brochures, available online and in printed form ([www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/publications\\_maps/index.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/publications_maps/index.shtml)). An inventory of lands without a map or guide has been conducted, and work is proceeding to develop materials for those units. More emphasis has been placed on making the guide and map series available online. FY 23 activities included:

- New Guides Completed in 2023 – Pineland Public Land and Ferry Beach State Park.
- Updates Completed in 2023 – Tumbledown Public Land/Mt. Blue State Park, Camden Hills State Park, Allagash Wilderness Waterway, and Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park.

### **Bureau Newsletter**

An e-newsletter featuring Bureau news and events is sent monthly to over 30,921 e-mail and text alert subscribers, an increase of 4,761 subscribers from last year. Articles on Public Lands featured topics such "staff in the spotlight," trail improvements, emerald ash borer and forest health, the cultural importance of brown ash to the Wabanaki, BPL's logging and forestry education grant, firewood and forest pests, and winter camping and ice safety. Sign-up is available through text to subscribe (text DACF BPL NEWS to (888) 514-7527) or at: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MEDACF/subscriber/new>.

### **Interpretation**

FY 23 projects included:

- We Outside Program – Collaborated with the Maine Association for New Americans and the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust to offer programs at Mahoosuc Public Land/Grafton Notch State Park. Programs will be expanded in FY24 to include winter programs and additional locations.
- Teens to Trails – Held an evening program for Teens to Trails participants during their service project at Camden Hills State Park.
- Emerald Ash Borer Education – Games, displays, and information showcased during Bureau events, including Feathers Over Freeport, the anniversary celebration at Wolfe's Neck Woods, and during program outreach at campgrounds.
- Sebago Shoreline Project – Multi-agency project for shoreline restoration. On-site interpretive panel developed and companion webpage: <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/sebagolake-shoreline.shtml>
- Nature Note – A weekly e-note about the natural world was started in April 2020 and currently has 3,785 subscribers, an increase of 631 subscribers from last year. Text DACF NATURE to (888) 514-7527 to subscribe or view at: [www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/discover\\_history\\_explore\\_nature/nature\\_exploration/nature\\_note.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/discover_history_explore_nature/nature_exploration/nature_note.shtml).

- Bat Research and Programs – In 2022, in partnership with DIFW, a grant was secured to purchase Echo Meters for use in both bat acoustic survey work and public programs. Bat survey work continued in 2023. Bat programs held during the summers of 2022 and 2023 were very well received and will be expanded during the summer of 2024. An online Lunch & Learn program about bats was presented for all DACF staff, and bats will be a topic in the 2024 Ranger Academy – Interpretation training session.
- Dark Skies Initiative – This effort promotes the importance of Dark Skies for ecological and human health, as well as for star gazing, bat and moth viewing, bird migrations, and other nighttime nature observations and research. BPL partnered on a Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund (MOHF) grant with *Mountains of Stars* (a group promoting and connecting people to dark skies) and the filmmaker Tara Roberts Zabriskie, whose grant-funded film *Defending the Dark*, traveled throughout Maine during the summer of 2022. It will featured in BPL educational programs in 2023 in conjunction with the MOHF grant-supported telescope purchases for the night sky programs. The weather was a limiting factor in 2023, although making the evening programs a combined bat, owl, and star talk allowed visitor engagement and education on cloudy nights.

## IX. PARTNERSHIPS ON PUBLIC LANDS AND STATE PARKS

The acquisition and management of Public Lands are achieved through collaboration with members of the public as well as a variety of stakeholders, conservation partners, and industries. The Bureau's partnerships take many forms – from formal agreements with local entities to manage recreational use to partnering with state agencies on resource management and planning and collaborating on events and outings that help connect new users to Public Lands. Several noteworthy partnerships from FY 23 include:

<b>Maine Island Trail Association (MITA)</b>	In FY 23, MITA and the Bureau continued over 30 years of partnership in managing the Maine Island Trail, which now extends 375 miles and consists of over 200 islands and mainland sites for day visits or camping. Funds from submerged land leases support ongoing trail stewardship (\$70,000 in FY 23). MITA monitors public use, marshals volunteers, and deploys staff to clean and maintain these wilderness sites along the Maine coast. Two caretakers are staffed at BPL sites on Jewell and Little Chebeague Islands in busy Casco Bay.
<b>Maine Trail Finder</b>	Information about non-motorized trails on Public Lands may be found at <a href="http://www.mainetrailfinder.com">www.mainetrailfinder.com</a> , operated by the nonprofit Community Geographics. The Bureau has worked with the Center to develop descriptions and interactive maps for 40 trails located on Maine Public Lands.
<b>University of Maine - Orono</b>	The Northern Region provided access to a BPL timber harvest and input for the UMO winter Forestry Camp. In addition, the Bureau collaborated with UMO researchers on a survey of Maine residents focused on outdoor recreation issues and trends and qualitative research to better understand historically underrepresented communities and their use of outdoor recreation in Maine. These research efforts will inform the upcoming Maine State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and help guide Bureau outdoor recreation priorities. The Bureau continues to contribute funding and staff expertise to the University of Maine Cooperative Research Unit, which is focused on forest research priorities, including silviculture, wildlife, and other forest-related science.

<b>State Agency Partnerships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MNAP – oversees long-term monitoring of BPL Ecological Reserves and provides technical review of potential acquisitions and management plans.</li> <li>• DIFW – provides a BPL staff biologist and helps coordinate activities related to lynx habitat management, Deer Wintering Areas, invasive species, and development of statewide acquisition priorities.</li> <li>• Maine Office of Outdoor Recreation, Maine Office of Tourism, and the Maine Tourism Association – identify outreach opportunities for delivering information about the Public Lands to various stakeholders and the public.</li> <li>• MFS and the State Entomology Lab – provide outreach about invasive insects and remind visitors to “Burn it Where You Buy It” through notifications on the website, materials sent to campers, and posts at campsites. MFS also conducts spruce budworm and emerald ash borer trapping on Public Lands to monitor population growth and detect potential outbreaks of these destructive pests.</li> <li>• Maine State Parks have numerous partnerships with nonprofit entities and vendors, including Impact Melanoma, the Nature-Based Education Consortium, LL Bean, the Girl Scouts, and many more.</li> </ul>
<b>Land Trusts</b>	<p>The 7 Lakes Alliance assists the Bureau in managing trails and trailheads at the Kennebec Highlands and pursuing additional land acquisition opportunities. The Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust assists with the maintenance of trails and facilities and helps the Bureau refine messaging, kiosks, and other signs at Dodge Point. Royal River Conservation Trust (RRCT) has coordinated volunteers to conduct trail maintenance and has collaborated with the Bureau on other trail issues at Pineland Public Lands. In FY 23, RRCT and BPL continued working toward acquiring new parcels near Pineland Public Lands, completed in December 2023. The Greater Lovell Land Trusts manages Sabattus Mountain for the Bureau.</p>
<b>Maine Conservation Corps (MCC)</b>	<p>The MCC provides trail crews to construct or rehabilitate recreational trails using federal AmeriCorps funds and fees charged for MCC services. MCC trail crews are commonly used to improve trails on Bureau lands and completed several projects in FY 23.</p>
<b>North Maine Woods / KI Jo-Mary</b>	<p>For many years, the North Maine Woods and KI Jo-Mary organizations have contracted with BPL to maintain numerous day-use recreation facilities and campsites on Public Lands within their management areas.</p>
<b>Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC)</b>	<p>AMC maintains Nordic skiing and snowshoeing trails on Public Lands abutting their properties as part of their extensive winter trails network.</p>
<b>New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA)</b>	<p>Local NEMBA chapters are collaborating with BPL on planning, development, and maintenance of purpose-built single-track mountain bike trails at Crocker Mountain, Kennebec Highlands, and Little Moose.</p>
<b>Moosehead Outdoor Alliance (MOA)</b>	<p>With the cooperation and oversight of the Bureau, MOA completed work on several miles of purpose-built mountain bike trails at the Little Moose unit near Greenville and began work on a second phase of trail development with more challenging trails.</p>
<b>ATV &amp; Snowmobile Clubs</b>	<p>Numerous clubs collaborate with the Bureau’s Off-Road Vehicle division on trail planning, funding, construction, and maintenance (including winter grooming of snowmobile trails). The statewide ATV and snowmobile trail networks provide hundreds of miles of riding opportunities, primarily on private lands.</p>

**Research Requests**

Special activity permits for several research projects on Public Lands were issued for vegetation and soil surveys, a study of white oak chemical and genetic composition, tick and emerald ash borer studies, a Canada jay study, and studying movements and survival of deer.

**Logging and Forestry Education Grants**

The Bureau awarded a second round of \$50,000 competitive grants to the St. John Valley Technical Center in Frenchville and Brewer High School. The schools will use the funds to buy forestry equipment to serve hundreds of students and support forestry education programs that train and inspire the next generation of Maine loggers. BPL has now committed a total of \$250,000 since 2021 to five programs in Maine.

## X. TIMBER RESOURCES

The Bureau manages the natural resources on the lands under its care through a carefully planned multiple-use program that balances timber management with all other resource values. Timber revenues support the Bureau's Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands management expenses, including recreation facilities, public access roads, and wildlife management. Other public benefits include contributing to the local economy through contractor employment opportunities and supplying raw materials to regional forest products industries. The focal point of all Bureau forestry is demonstrating exemplary multi-aged management focused primarily on mature quality timber.

### FY 23 HARVEST AND MARKET ANALYSIS

Timber harvested in FY 23 on Bureau lands from inventory totaled 102,900 cord equivalents harvested from 8,500 acres. This figure is below the ten-year average harvest level and represents 65% of the 2018 Bureau-established Sustainable Harvest Level (SHL) of 159,000 cords. The SHL is the maximum volume that can be sustainably harvested (i.e., harvest is calculated as approximately 90% of growth). The table below presents ten, five, and three-year averages of harvest levels as percentages of SHL.

	<b>Ten year Average</b>	<b>Five year Average</b>	<b>Three year Average</b>
Total Cord Equivalents	123,600	111,000	101,300
Total harvest as a percent of SHL	80%	67%	64%

*FY period averages; values are rounded to the nearest 100 cords.*

Reasons for harvest levels below SHL include highly variable markets, weather conditions, and logging contractor availability. While demand and pricing for spruce and fir remained significantly high, hardwood and especially softwood pulp markets remained weak in some regions. The 11% drop in harvest level from FY 22 were most likely attributed to challenges related to logging contractor availability. BPL's reduced harvest generally reflected similar trends across the forest products industry.

Despite challenging conditions, the Bureau and its 20+ highly valued logging and road contractors supplied wood to over 40 mills and wood buyers statewide in FY 23. A total of 23 logging operations occurred in FY 23. These operations are a combination of newly established sales and sales carried over from previous years.



Investments since 2015 in logging road networks on Public Lands allowed the Bureau to respond to changing markets, the changing climate, and other challenging conditions.

For FY 23, the average price paid to the Bureau per cord rose across all three regions, climbing by approximately 13% Bureau-wide, following an increase of 27% in FY 22. This increase resulted from stable pulp markets and a continuation of very high softwood dimensional lumber prices due to increased demand. The table below provides a breakdown of harvest in each region and Sustainable Harvest Unit (SHU) within regions. In each of the three Public Land regions, growth significantly exceeded harvest. One SHU exceeded the SHU-level annual sustainable harvest limit in FY 23. No SHU exceeded SHL on a 3-year average basis. (Note that SHL, as shown in the table below, is set conservatively at approximately 90% of growth.)

SHU	Annual SHL (FY 23)	3-Year Annual Average Harvest	FY 23 Harvest	FY 22 Harvest
ZE1	10,400	5,700	6,200	7,900
ZE2	11,400	4,000	4,400	4,400
ZE3	15,700	12,200	13,100	12,000
ZE4	9,200	8,900	6,500	9,200
ZN1	16,100	14,300	21,300	13,700
ZN2	11,500	8,600	5,900	12,800
ZN3	9,700	10,100	11,400	12,500
ZN4	10,600	6,900	2,700	7,900
ZW1	17,000	8,400	9,600	14,900
ZW2	13,300	6,400	2,700	7,900
ZW3	7,800	3,800	7,500	1,200
ZW4	9,400	4,400	0	4,600
ZW5	2,500	600	0	0
ZW6	14,500	7,000	11,600	7,100
<b>EAST</b>	46,700	30,200	30,200	33,500
<b>NORTH</b>	47,900	39,900	41,300	46,900
<b>WEST</b>	64,500	30,600	31,400	35,700
<b>TOTAL</b>	159,100	101,300	102,900	116,100

*\*All figures are cord equivalents, rounded to the nearest 100 cords.*

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



## HARVEST OPERATION IMPACTS

### **Logger Work Force**

High levels of veteran logger retirements, low new recruitment, and competitive wages in other sectors, especially trucking, have resulted in a significant shortage of available logging contractors. This trend is occurring across the forest products industry. Securing contracts for timber harvests remains a challenge, especially for winter harvests. The Bureau has increased investments in upgrading roads for operation in summer months, which increases the ability to retain loggers throughout the year. Improved roads are also more resilient to high-severity rainfall events (see Changing Climate discussion below). On top of allowing the Bureau to build roads to its standards, the implementation of contract logging services (CLS) has enabled the Bureau to better match harvest scheduling with markets and the availability of harvest equipment.

### **Insects and Disease**

To address the threat of a spruce budworm outbreak, the Bureau has for decades targeted the more budworm-susceptible balsam fir when harvesting, resulting in a spruce-to-fir ratio much higher than for the state. The Bureau-managed forest holds nearly three cords of spruce for each cord of fir, while the overall Maine forest has 1.6 cords of spruce per cord of fir. This fir management practice will be continued by taking a higher proportion of the otherwise healthy younger fir and modifying harvest locations to focus on areas with higher fir components. Particularly in northern and central Aroostook County, a marked increase in spruce budworm activity was detected in the summer of 2020. As a result, the Bureau has responded with timely harvests in New Sweden, Hamlin, and Round Pond between 2021 and 2023, where active budworm defoliation and/or high stocking of fir was detected. MFS findings for 2022 indicated stable to slightly elevated budworm populations following a steep decline in 2021 (the weather in the spring of 2021 was not favorable for reproduction and flights). Bureau staff monitor for budworm symptoms (as well as other forest pests and diseases) on the ground and engage with state-wide surveillance efforts given the continued high levels of budworm presence west of the St. Lawrence River and the Gaspé.

*“Despite the recent downward trend in local Maine SBW populations and activity reflected in our monitoring program, we cannot conclude that SBW populations have returned to and will remain at endemic levels in the upcoming years. As historical knowledge tells us and as evidenced in our more recent long-term dataset going back to 1992, populations are likely to continue to fluctuate. For that reason, we will continue to carefully monitor the situation and provide timely updates to our stakeholders.”*

*– Maine Forest Service, 2022 SBW Annual Report*

### **Changing Climate**

The Bureau routinely experiences challenges imposed by a changing climate. These challenges include the absence of frozen ground in a reduced winter harvest season and increased intensity of rain and wind storms and stream flows. Longer growing seasons may be causing gradual increases in invasive species. Bureau staff monitor statewide and regional discussions, conferences, and research regarding climate-adapted forestry practices. In addition, Bureau management maintains a higher stocking of long-lived species across its managed forests, which, combined with Ecological Reserves, maintain a high rate of carbon storage and sequestration. A recent report by the University of Maine indicates that the Bureau's Ecological Reserves store 30% more carbon on average than a typical acre of Maine forest. The

implications of Maine's changing climate on timber management will be addressed in the Bureau's Integrated Resource Policy update.

### TIMBER INVENTORY

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

Benchmark field data acquired in 1999 provided detailed timber, site, and natural resource measurements. This inventory was fully updated in 2011 and again in 2016, and it continues to be important for forest management planning and third-party forest certification. The growth recorded using inventories in 1999, 2011, and 2016 showed a forest inventory increase from 20.9 cords per acre in 1999 to 23.5 cords per acre in 2016. The Bureau employed growth and yield models to update the 2016 inventory information to support the current SHL estimates. Observed growth rates and the forest model completed early in 2020 indicate an inventory increase between 0.4 and 0.6 cords per acre, bringing the BPL timber-management lands up to 24 cords per acre. Net growth on regulated acres is approximately 0.43 cords/acre/year, and the Bureau's harvest rate over the past three years has been significantly below growth (64% of the SHL).

Staff have begun to explore options related to state-of-the-art inventory methods, such as Enhanced Forest Inventory (EFI), both Bureau-wide and in more discrete projects, such as the deer wintering area analysis of the 10,000-acre Scraggly Lake Unit. This analysis incorporated EFI, traditional cruising, stand typing, and growth and yield modeling to assess current and future deer habitat under a variety of management scenarios. EFI's are "wall to wall" estimates of conventional stand and forest measurements (such as volume, average tree size, etc.) for an entire area, as opposed to traditional inventories, which expand values from individual field points. LIDAR is used to develop height and density measurements from point clouds cross-referenced with field-based measurements to generate the EFI.

### ***Status of Current Inventory and Annual Allowable Cut (AAC)***

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

The table below shows the changes in AAC for FY 13 through FY 23. When the inventory increase and the harvest volumes during the previous twelve years are considered, the net growth rate on the Bureau's Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands ***is 18% higher than that for Maine's forests as a whole***. As a result, the yield curves calculated from the AAC were reworked using the increased stocking levels. This resulted in the AAC increasing for FY 13 and beyond by about 20%, from 115,000 to 141,500 cords (as previously reported for CY 12). Including 27,565 acres of operable land in recent acquisitions warranted a recalculated AAC of 19,000 cords/year in FY 16.

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>AAC Cords</b>	<b>Rationale, Support for Changes*</b>
2013	141,500	Model 2012, 15% discount
2014	141,500	Model 2012, 15% discount
2015	141,500	Model 2012, 15% discount
2016	149,000	Included 27,565 “new” acres
2017	157,500	2016 inventory warrants a 10% discount due to operationally inaccessible acres
2018	159,000	A small addition to acreage
2019	159,000	No change from 2018
2020	159,000	No change from 2018
2021	159,000	No change from 2018
2022	159,000	No change from 2018
2023	159,000	No change from 2018
2018-23	159,000	<i>Avg. Actual harvest: 114,000 cords</i>

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

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

Harvest levels are guided by up-to-date timber stand typing and a spatially explicit forest model. These tools allow the Bureau to identify the most appropriate places to consider for achieving silvicultural goals. In recent years, a new timber-typing data layer was created to update information that was last created in the mid-1990s. Complementing tree inventory data, these new typing maps are an important resource for Bureau field staff when examining and prescribing management activities in the forest. The next inventory update is scheduled for 2024.

### PRESCRIPTIONS

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

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

Compartments are examined on a 15-20-year cycle to identify timber and wildlife resources and recreational opportunities. Based on the field examination and the information collected, “prescriptions” are developed to ensure adequate protection of special resources and a sustained yield of forest goods and services, including timber, wildlife, and appropriate recreational uses. This work includes collaboration with MNAP as well as DIFW staff. For

example, the Seboomook Unit is part of a Memorandum of Understanding with DIFW concerning Canada lynx. Similar work is occurring in the Scraggly Lake Unit and other sites totaling more than 38,000 acres where winter deer habitat is a high priority.

### **TIMBER SALES**

A timber sale is developed if a timber harvest is prescribed in a compartment. Most timber contracts are put out to competitive bid following State rules and procedures governing the sale of State property and purchase of services. Occasionally, sales are negotiated, following State rules, when no bids are received, for special circumstances, or for small volumes to allow new contractors to gain experience working on Bureau lands to Bureau standards.

Before 2012, most timber was sold as “stumpage.” The Bureau has increasingly used the Contracted Logging Services (CLS) option over the past several fiscal years (see discussion below), as the Bureau retains greater control over marketing of the wood. CLS tends to offer a better financial return to the Bureau. Objectives for CLS are three-fold: 1) to improve stability in achieving harvest goals, 2) to enhance Bureau timber revenues, and 3) to have logging roads built under contract rather than being part of the stumpage permit, thus better ensuring that roads are of high-quality and established well in advance of harvests. Where CLS has been utilized, the feedback from the mills and contractors has mainly been positive. CLS allows the Bureau better control over its road management. The Bureau sometimes executes stumpage contracts if circumstantially beneficial due to variables such as regional contractor availability and/or markets.

Bureau staff work closely with contractors and supervise each harvest by providing loggers with strict harvesting criteria. These criteria specify which trees should be harvested, how and where to locate harvest trails, and any additional job-specific instructions. Ecologically and economically high-value stands are generally “marked” (painted to cut) to ensure compliance with the prescription. The development of global positioning systems (GPS) in harvest machinery has allowed Bureau field staff to monitor contractor performance more effectively. Bureau staff monitor harvest operations at minimum every week.

### ***Firewood Permit Program***

BPL provides “firewood” permits to residents by request. Trees are marked standing, and permits to harvest them are sold to private individuals on a per-cord basis (generally up to four cords per customer).

### ***Sugar Bush Licenses***

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

### **EXEMPLARY MANAGEMENT MANDATE**

By Maine Statute (12 MRSA § 1847), the Bureau must manage Public Reserved Lands “to demonstrate exemplary land management practices, including silvicultural, wildlife and recreation management practices.” In support of this mandate, the Bureau’s forest management is consistent with dual third-party certification – the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI®) and

the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) programs – as well as a Silvicultural Advisory Committee and participation in the MFS Outcome-Based Forestry initiative and the Cooperative Forest Research Unit (CFRU).

### ***Forest Certification***

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

In FY 23, the Bureau had annual audits under the FSC and SFI programs. The auditors, working with our certification consultants, Scientific Certification Systems (SCS), visited sites in the Bureau's Northern Region where auditors inspected roadwork, campsites, bridge construction, Ecological Reserves, and completed and active timber harvests. All audit findings from the previous year were addressed by the Bureau by September 2022 and accepted by the auditors. No new findings of non-conformance were identified during this audit. More information on the Bureau's certification program can be found at:

<https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/about/formgmt.shtml>.

### ***Silvicultural Advisory Committee (SIAD)***

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

Committee Tour: The FY 23 SIAD field tour was held during August 2022 in BPL's Western Region, visiting the Riley and Richardson Units. Beech management and timber stand improvement in spruce-fir stands were focal points of the tour.

### ***Cooperative Forest Research Unit (CFRU)***

The Bureau participates in a research cooperative housed at the University of Maine at Orono, initially formed in 1975 in response to the spruce budworm outbreak. CFRU membership includes forest landowners (BPL and 26 private landowners representing 8.3 million acres), representatives of two wood processors, and six corporate/individual members. Together, contributions amount to approximately \$500,000 annually to support research projects of interest to the members. With the potential for another spruce budworm outbreak, research is again focused on that issue. The Bureau contributes approximately \$25,000/year to CFRU, proportional to our acres in managed timberland.

## **XI. TRANSPORTATION**

The Bureau continued to improve road access within its Public Lands, focusing primarily on recreational needs and the implementation of its timber management program. There are currently about 253 miles of public access roads on Public Lands.

### **ROADS AND ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS**

#### ***Timber Management Road Construction***

To facilitate summer and winter timber harvesting activities across the state, approximately 16.82 miles of timber management road were constructed, and 14.75 miles were upgraded or

reconstructed in FY 23. Several temporary wood and concrete bridges were also installed. All three Bureau regions have purchased and are deploying folding steel temporary truck bridges. In addition, the Western Region repaired a washed-out section of road on Penobscot Indian Nation land that provides management access to the Bigelow Preserve.



*A folding steel temporary bridge installed at the Eagle Lake Unit, BPL Northern Region. The bridge addressed a barrier to fish passage at this stream crossing and improved access to a significant amount of upstream trout habitat.*

### **Public/Shared Use Road Maintenance**

Each year, the Bureau contracts maintenance services for grading and brushwork on public-use roads and shared-use roads, as well as certain management roads open to the public.<sup>4</sup> In FY 23, approximately 80 miles of roads were maintained under contract in the Northern Region, 98.5 miles in the Western Region, and 128 miles in the Eastern Region. Roadside vegetation control was conducted on 10 miles of roads in the Eastern Region, 2.3 miles in the Northern Region, and 3.5 miles in the Western Region.

#### **New Roads – FY 23 (miles)**

Type	North	West	East	Total
Public Access	0.0	0	0	<b>0.0</b>
Summer Management	7.0	8.0	2.8	<b>17.8</b>
Winter Management	0.8	1.5	0	<b>2.3</b>

#### **Upgraded roads – FY 23 (miles)**

Type	North	West	East	Total
Public Access	0	0.0	0	<b>0.0</b>
Summer Management	0	5.0	3.5	<b>8.5</b>
Winter Management	0	5.3	0	<b>5.3</b>

#### **Roads Maintained – FY 23 (miles)**

Type	North	West	East	Total
Public Access	68.0	89.5	128.0	<b>285.5</b>
Summer Management	12.0	9.0		<b>21.0</b>

<sup>4</sup> As defined in the IRP, public-use roads are all-weather roads designed to facilitate access to recreation facilities; shared-use roads are those that are open to ATVs, horses, and/or bikes in addition to passenger vehicles.



**FY 24 to date roads summary**  
**New Roads – FY 24 to date (miles)**

Type	North	West	East	Total
Public Access	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Summer Management	0.0	2.5	1.1	<b>3.6</b>
Winter Management	0.1	3.0	0	<b>3.1</b>

**Upgraded roads – FY 24 to date (miles)**

Type	North	West	East	Total
Public Access	0	5.0	0	<b>5.0</b>
Summer Management	4.7	2.5	3.9	<b>11.1</b>
Winter Management	0	1.5	0.5	<b>2.0</b>

**Roads Maintained – FY 24 to date (miles)**

Type	North	West	East	Total
Public Access	57.0	85.0	95.0	<b>237.0</b>
Summer Management	51.0	19.0	30.0	<b>100.0</b>
Winter Management	0	3.5	0	<b>3.5</b>

**BRIDGES**

In FY 23, the Bureau installed and rehabilitated several bridges, as listed below:

<b>Eastern Region</b>	Installed a new bridge and redecked another at the Rocky Lake Unit.
<b>Western Region</b>	Installed five new bridges at the Bigelow (2), Mahoosuc (2), and Little Moose Units and rehabilitated four bridges at the Little Moose (2) and Seboomook (2) Units.
<b>Northern Region</b>	Replaced the running deck on the 330 ft—Chamberlain Bridge at the Telos Unit/Allagash Wilderness Waterway.



*New bridge installed over Trout Brook at the Little Moose Unit, BPL Western Region*

## XII. PUBLIC ACCESS

Eighty-four percent of Public Reserved Lands were accessible to the public by motor vehicle without fee or special arrangements in FY 23. The following is a report of the few circumstances where barriers affect primary motor vehicle access, as required in 12 MRSA §1853.

### EXTERNAL GATES TO PUBLIC LANDS

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

### INTERNAL GATES

The Bureau maintains 32 internal gates for safety purposes, to protect sensitive areas, to limit vehicle traffic on service roads, or to control certain recreational uses. None of the barriers restrict foot traffic; many are left open during winter to allow safe passage by snowmobiles. Some temporary gates are used for security during harvest operations.

### LAND OPEN TO HUNTING

Public Law, Chapter 564 of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Legislature, amending 12 MRSA §1847 sub-§ 4, requires that lands open to hunting on Public Reserved Lands include at least the acreage open to hunting on January 1, 2008. Since 2008, apart from trail buffers required by law, no land has been removed from the acreage available for hunting. The law also requires the Bureau to report annually to the legislature's Joint Standing Committee of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife the acreage of Public Reserved Lands available for hunting and any changes from the January 1, 2008 levels.

- On January 1, 2008, there were 587,184 acres of Public Reserved Lands, of which **586,505 acres** were available for hunting (excluding three small game preserves).

- In FY 23, 634,391 **acres** (**over 99%** of Public Reserved Lands) were open for hunting.

### **XIII. LAND TRANSACTIONS**

The Bureau continues to see increased interest by landowners and partner conservation groups in conservation easement and land acquisitions representing various values, including recreation, ecological values, and working forests.

#### **FISCAL YEAR 2023 TRANSACTIONS**

##### Acquisitions

- **East Grand Lake - Weston Conservation Easement** – With funding from the USDA Forest Legacy Program (FLP) and the LMF Program, the Bureau purchased a working forest conservation easement on 4,327 acres on the shores of East Grand Lake. The project includes 21.5 miles of lake frontage, public access for a wide range of recreational opportunities, and the best view on Maine's Million Dollar View Scenic Byway.
- **Little Concord Pond** – The Bureau acquired 175 acres adjacent to Little Concord Pond State Park in Woodstock with Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program (MNRCP) funding. The property includes one mile of wild brook trout habitat and significant wetlands and provides a key landscape-scale connection between the park and nearby conservation easement lands. The parcel was designated as Public Reserved Land and will be managed under MNRCP guidelines.
- **Perham Stream and Quill Hill** – With FLP funding, the Bureau acquired the 6,578-acre Perham Stream parcel in Madrid and Mt. Abram Townships, adjacent to the Bureau's Mt. Abraham Ecological Reserve, and a working forest conservation easement on the 7,028-acre Quill Hill property in Dallas Pt. The U.S. Department of Defense Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program also provided funds. Three-fourths of the Perham Stream parcel will be added to the existing ecological reserve. These acquisitions protect critical habitat, provide direct benefits to Maine's forest products and outdoor recreation economies, and enhance public access to unique recreational amenities, including securing public access to the Quill Hill Scenic Lookout.
- **Orbeton Keystones** – The Bureau is working in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust to conserve a collection of parcels in the High Peaks region with frontage on Orbeton and Perham Streams and abutting the Perham Stream parcel. These lands provide a critical ecological connection between other conserved lands, provide important cold-water habitat for brook trout and other species, and support the potential for Maine forests to play a vital role in mitigating impacts from climate change. Five cascading waterfalls that are privately owned but long-cherished by visitors are the highlight of the project's scenic and recreational values. The first several parcels were acquired in March 2023 and total 1,200 acres. The Bureau closed on several additional parcels in January 2024 (see below).
- **Rangeley Lake State Park** – The Bureau received an 8-acre parcel as a gift from Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust for the purpose of environmental education programs and recreational activities. Non-motorized low-impact public recreation activities such as walking, cross-country skiing, and nature observations are allowed on the parcel and across the 1,080-acre park.
- **Vaughn Woods State Park** – The Bureau completed a 2.9-acre parcel swap through a boundary line agreement with abutters at the 168-acre park in South Berwick, York County.

## Dispositions

No sales of Bureau property occurred in FY 23.

## **FISCAL YEAR 2024 TO DATE and PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT**

### Acquisitions

- **Talking Brook** – Two hundred acres of forest land in New Gloucester and Auburn is now conserved as Public Land. The protected properties, which feature scenic brooks, waterfalls, and an extensive trail network, have been permanently protected for outdoor recreation and to conserve these special woodland, wetland, and wildlife habitats. The project consists of a 156-acre parcel, managed by private land owners and open to the public for years, and a 44-acre parcel, formerly known as the Big Falls Preserve, which the Royal River Conservation Trust donated. LMF and LWCF each contributed \$140,000 to the project.
- **Square Lake** – The Bureau is working to acquire 4,145 acres on Square Lake and Cross Lake in Aroostook County. This property includes over 5.5 miles of undeveloped lake shoreline, 3 miles of wild brook trout habitat, and 1,763 acres of wetlands in the Cross Lake Fens Focus Area. The property will be designated Public Reserved Land and managed for multiple uses, including recreation, timber, and resource protection. The Bureau is developing plans for a new trailered boat launch on Square Lake. The Bureau was awarded \$890,000 from LMF Program, \$750,000 from LWCF, and just over \$993,000 from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act for this acquisition.
- **Orbeton Keystones** – In January 2024, the Bureau acquired six additional tracts totaling 905 acres in Mt. Abram, Salem, and Madrid Townships. The Bureau expects to complete the project in 2024 by acquiring six remaining parcels. All are adjacent to parcels acquired in 2023.
- **Millinocket ORV Trail Easement** – The Bureau, with funding from its snowmobile and ATV programs, has recently purchased a 50-foot-wide trail corridor easement in T1 R7 W.E.L.S., Grindstone Township. The mile-long trail corridor provides critical linkages for the snowmobile and ATV trail systems in the Katahdin Region.

### Projects in Development

- **Hadley Lake** – With funding from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, the Bureau intends to acquire 610 acres of land on the northeastern end of Hadley Lake, at the mouth of the East Machias River in East Machias. The property contains nearly 200 acres of wetlands and an exemplary Streamshore Ecosystem. The parcel provides excellent habitat connectivity along the East Machias River and has strong climate resilience and wildlife values. Recreation benefits stem from the property's river and lake frontage, with water connectivity to campsites and boat launches. The Bureau plans to add the property to the Rocky Lake Public Land unit to expand its Ecological Reserve.
- **Chadbourne Tree Farm** – The Bureau has been awarded \$7,990,000 from the FLP and \$995,000 from the LMF Program to acquire a working forest conservation easement on 10,675 acres in the Bethel region. The property contains a trail network connecting multiple regional recreation hubs, over four miles of river access, and 27 miles of wild brook trout streams. It contributes to Maine's \$8.5 billion forest economy. This project is expected to close in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2024.

- **FY 23 Forest Legacy Projects** – Congress approved \$3,665,000 in FY 23 Forest Legacy funding for the Bureau’s acquisition of a working forest conservation easement on 13,830 acres in Rangeley Plantation along the National Scenic Byway and connecting Rangeley Lake State Park and the Bureau’s Four Ponds Unit. The project will conserve 31 miles of wild brook trout habitat, secure public access for fishing, hunting, and outdoor recreation, and contribute to Maine’s forest products economy. This project is expected to close in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2024.

#### **XIV. SUBMERGED LANDS**

The State of Maine holds title to submerged lands in all coastal waters and Great Ponds. In coastal waters, submerged lands extend from the mean low-tide line seaward to the three-mile territorial limit of state waters. Maine’s Submerged Lands are managed under the Public Trust Doctrine to protect the public trust rights of fishing, waterfowl hunting, navigation, and recreation. The Submerged Lands Program plays an important role in balancing competing uses of submerged lands and resolving conflicts between public trust rights and the demand for private and commercial uses of these lands.

##### **Project and Permit Applications**

- The Program received 163 applications for new Coastal Development Projects.
  - 55 were determined to be exempt from the leasing requirements under the program rules
  - 24 new lease and easement documents were prepared and completed
- Staff processed four applications for new leases and easements for existing structures found non-compliant after a 2015 inventory.
- Staff completed 82 requests for conveyance renewals, amendments, and transfers.
- Two new applications to recover sunken logs from submerged public lands were received and approved in FY 23.

**Water Quality Monitoring.** In 2009, the legislature authorized funding from the Submerged Lands leasing program to support water quality monitoring efforts at the Department of Marine Resources shellfish program. Funding of \$80,000 per year has been extended through FY 23.

**Tidal Energy Pilot Project.** In 2012, the first tidal energy pilot project was installed on the seafloor at Cobscook Bay, with testing and environmental monitoring continuing through FY 25. Power generated by the facility connects to the grid by a submarine cable to the shore at Lubec. Eighty percent of the lease revenue is directed to the Renewable Ocean Energy Trust Fund. It is utilized by the Department of Marine Resources for fisheries research and mitigation efforts associated with offshore energy projects.

#### **XV. SHORE AND HARBOR MANAGEMENT FUND**

In 1991, the Legislature created the Shore and Harbor Management Fund in anticipation that annual revenues from the Submerged Lands Program (SLP) would exceed operating costs. These funds could then support shore and harbor management activities and improve public access. In FY 23, funds were provided to the Bureau and other state agencies for:



- Total reconstruction of the Colonial Pemaquid State Historic Site boat ramp and the boat ramp at Meddybemps Lake.
- Public boat ramp renovation at Toddy Pond, Orland;
- Maine DMR design of a new hand-carry boat launch in Thomaston;
- Maine DIFW relocation of a public boat ramp facility on Annabessacook Lake in Winthrop; and
- MITA support of ongoing recreation management of State-owned coastal islands.

FY 23 was the seventh year of SLP's Harbor Management and Access (HMA) grant program. SLP awarded HMA grants to five municipalities, including Castine, Chebeague Island, Wells, Lincolnville, and Sorrento. All the projects funded construction activities at new or existing water access facilities in coastal waters.

## **XVI. COASTAL ISLAND PROGRAM**

Maine's Coastal Island Registry was created in 1973 by the 106th Legislature to clarify title to 3,166 coastal islands by establishing and registering ownership. Most island owners have registered their islands. The Program continues to receive periodic requests to register an island or change existing registrations (address or ownership changes). There are also many requests for ownership information from persons interested 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 MITA in managing and overseeing the State-owned islands on the Trail. In addition, the Bureau provides a brochure, "Your Islands and Parks on the Coast," showing the location of approximately 40 State-owned islands suitable for recreational use and explaining the Bureau's visiting, camping, and resource protection policies.

## **XVII. ADMINISTRATION**

### **LEASES/LICENSES**

#### **Campplot Leases**

The Bureau administers a Campplot Leasing Program for 284 residential campplots and nine commercial sporting camps and campgrounds across the state. In FY 23, the Bureau was in the fifth year of a five-year term (2018-2022) for campplot leases and most commercial sporting camps and campgrounds. In 2023, one campplot lease in the Eagle Lake Unit, Aroostook County, was removed from inventory. The campplot program also administers seven tent site rental agreements.

#### **Other Leases and Licenses**

The Bureau administers 55 leases and licenses on Public Lands for various purposes. These leases and licenses have terms that range from 5 to 25 years. Twenty-five include annual lease payment provisions, and the remainder involves no payment or payment of a one-time administrative fee to the Bureau. Leases and Licenses in place in FY 23 included:

18 Utility leases

6 Warden camp leases

7 Agricultural licenses	1 University camp lease
5 Telecommunication facility leases	3 Sugarbush licenses
1 Dam lease	13 Miscellaneous leases
1 Boat access license	

No-rent leases include State lands leased to communities; recreation associations such as the Capital Area Recreation Association (CARA) ball fields in Augusta<sup>5</sup>; nonprofit environmental organizations such as the Viles Arboretum in Augusta; municipal utilities for waterlines and pumping stations, and the Maine Warden Service for staff housing in remote locations. All no-rent leases either allow public access or provide a public service.

## XVIII. INCOME AND EXPENDITURES ACCOUNTING – FISCAL YEAR 2023

### OVERVIEW

The Public Lands Program (Lands Program) has several different accounts established for specific purposes with statutory restrictions on their use. The Program is funded entirely from dedicated funds with no General Fund support. **The revised statutes require that financial summaries be prepared on a fiscal year basis instead of the previous calendar year summaries.** This change began with the FY 13 report. The figures presented below may not compare to those reported in earlier years **on a calendar year basis.**

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

This account is restricted to uses related to the management of Public Reserved Lands status, including the original public lots, land acquired through trading Public Reserved Lands, and other lands designated as Public Reserved Lands. Sources of income to this account include revenue generated from the harvest of forest products, camplot leases and other special leases on the Reserved Lands, grants, endowments, or dedicated funds and interest on the account balance. In FY 23, the Lands Program conducted timber harvests that yielded 102,907 cords.

Income for FY 23 was \$19,378,316, with expenditures of \$16,620,712 for net revenue of \$2,757,604. Because the Land Program's largest source of revenue is timber, income fluctuates from year to year in response to the amount of wood harvested and the economic conditions that affect timber markets. The cash balance accumulates when revenues exceed expenses. The cash balance as of June 30, 2023, was \$8,160,542.

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

The income or expenditure figures above include the monies received from camplot leases and timber sales shared with towns and plantations pursuant to 12 MRSA §1854. Based on the

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<sup>5</sup> Legislation enacted in May 2023 directs the Bureau to convey fee ownership of the ball fields to CARA during fiscal year 2024.

income received in the calendar year 2022 (payable in 2023), the Lands Program revenue sharing amounts total \$211,844.28, paid to fourteen towns and plantations.

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	\$144,564	Personal Services	\$3,434,097
Rent of Lands (1)	\$1,337,714	All Other	\$11,791,841
Grants from State Agencies (2)	\$120,893	Capital	\$758,175
Camp Lot Leases	\$423,019		
Registration Fees (3)	\$38,721		
Sale of Stumpage *	\$17,922,395		
Sale of Forest Products *(4)	\$380		
Recovered Cost (5)	\$43,859		
DICAP**	(\$777,069)	STACAP	\$636,599
Trust & Private Contributions	\$293,959		
Late Fees & Misc. income	\$11,131		
Svc. Fees Charged by Other Depts. (6)	(\$140,251)		
Legislative Transfer of Revenue	(\$41,000)		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$19,378,316</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$16,620,712</b>

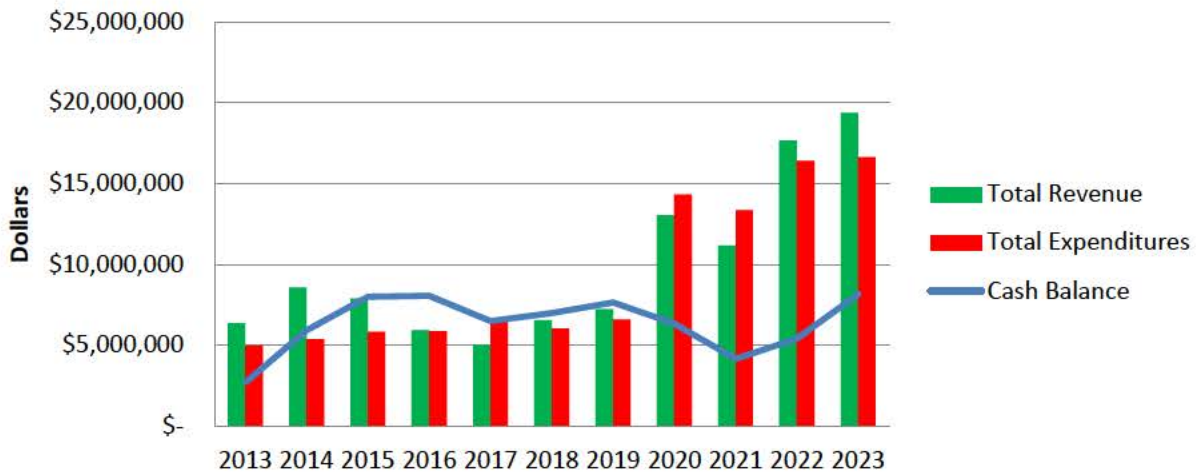
\* Represents the major components of the Division's income stream and is shown as the gross income before logging and trucking costs are paid; those costs are included as expenses as a portion of "All Other."

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

- (1) Rent of lands is primarily the payment for Long Falls Dam on Flagstaff Lake and smaller amounts for sugarbush and other commercial leases.
- (2) Grants from state agencies include dedicated funds at the Maine Community Foundation and federal grants from the LWCF and RTP.
- (3) Registration Fees are bear-baiting site permits.
- (4) Sale of forest products is from fir tip sales.
- (5) Recovered costs are road tolls collected for logging truck use of Bureau roads by neighboring timberland owners.
- (6) Service fees to other Departments are payments made to MNAP for the Public Lands Ecologist and for invasive species management.

The chart below shows the total revenue, the total expenditures, and the cash balance for the Public Reserved Lands Management Account for the period 2013 – 2023.

## Public Lands Cash Balance, Expenditures, and Revenue by Fiscal Year 2013 - 2023



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

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

This account is used to manage lands not in the Public Reserved Lands System. These Nonreserved Public Lands include coastal islands and institutional lands (those lands considered surplus by other state agencies) assigned to the Bureau's Lands Program for natural resource management. Income is primarily derived from agricultural leases, though timber sale occasionally contributes when timber harvests are completed on Nonreserved Lands. Income for FY 23 was \$1,885 with zero expenditures. The ending cash balance was \$7,554. The Public Lands program plans its expenditures for each fiscal year based on the level of income it projects to receive from its various revenue sources. If projected income is insufficient, the Program determines whether the balance in its contingency fund is sufficient to carry it through until additional revenues are received. If both revenue projections and contingency funds are insufficient, then the Program postpones planned expenditures until revenue returns to an adequate level.

Income		Expenses	
Rent of Lands	\$1,885	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$0
		Capital	\$0
DICAP**	(\$0)	STACAP	\$0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,885</b>		<b>\$0</b>

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

**Land Acquisition Fund (014.01A.Z239.24)**

Funds from this account are restricted by statute and the constitution to the acquisition of conservation lands and acquisition-related costs. These funds cannot be used to operate or maintain existing land; therefore, expenditures do not occur regularly. Income that accrues from sales, trades, or interest is carried forward until needed for future acquisitions. Income for FY 23 was \$452,453 against expenditures of \$315,680. The balance at the end of the fiscal year was \$1,285,591.

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

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	\$25,832	All Other	\$50,961
Grants from State Agencies	\$437,000	Capital	\$262,582
DICAP**	(\$10,379)	STACAP	\$2,137
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$452,453</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$315,680</b>

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

Z23924 – Public Reserved Lands Acquisition Account Balances*		
Account	County	Balance at FYE 2023
2400	Acquisition	\$71,815.27
2403	Cumberland County	\$11,044.21
2404	Franklin County	-\$750.00
2406	Kennebec County	\$168,654.89
2409	Oxford County	\$970,635.52
2410	Penobscot County	-\$85.50
2413	Somerset County	-\$57.00
2415	Washington County	-\$14.25
2418	Wilderness Society Grant	\$3,140.03
2419	Kendall Grant	\$2,698.19
Z239	Land Management & Planning	\$58,509.17
		<b>\$1,285,590.53</b>

\*Accounts will be balanced through account reconciliation in FY 24.



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

This account was established to receive revenue from the sale of Public Nonreserved Lands. There was no revenue and no expenses for FY 23. The balance at the end of the fiscal year was \$289,858. Funds from this account are restricted by Constitutional Amendment (Article IX, Section 23) to the acquisition of lands having significant conservation and recreation value in the same county in which the sale of lands generating the funds took place.

Income		Expenses	
Reg Transfer Unallocated Investments	\$0	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$0
DICAP**	(\$0)	STACAP	\$0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$0</b>

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

Z23937 – Public Nonreserved Acquisition Account Balances		
Account	County	Balance at FYE 2022
3703	Cumberland County	\$230,255.32
3753	Kennebec County	\$59,602.42
		<b>\$289,857.74</b>

### **Forest Legacy Fund (013.01A.Z239.35)**

This account was established to receive grant revenue from the federal USDA Forest Service FLP to purchase valuable land and conservation easements. Funding for land acquisition projects are reviewed and approved at the national level. Project development is reviewed and approved for submission at the State level. The Bureau also receives annual grants that support the program administration and pre-acquisition costs for the Forest Legacy land purchases. LMF funds are typically used as a match for these Forest Legacy grants to purchase land and interests in land. Total expenses in FY 23 were \$10,514,909. Total Forest Legacy revenues in FY 23 were \$10,482,313. At the end of FY 23, the account had a balance of -\$39,735.

Income		Expenses	
Federal Grants	\$10,499,483	Personal Services	\$34,632
		All Other	\$62,632
		Capital	\$10,413,567
DICAP**	(\$17,170)	STACAP	\$4,078
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$10,482,313</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$10,514,909</b>

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

## **XIX. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025<sup>6</sup>**

### **OVERVIEW**

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

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

The FY 25 account summaries of Bureau initiatives are generated from the State of Maine Budget and Financial Management System (BFMS). These accounts derive revenue from the sale of forest products, lease fees, interest on cash balances, and land sales. Aside from limited technical support funding, these accounts' programs receive no support from the State's General Fund. The dedicated revenues in these accounts, supplemented by grants and other outside sources of revenue, must cover all operating expenses. The Bureau mainly plans its expenditures for each fiscal year based on the income it projects to receive from its various revenue sources. If projected income is insufficient, 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, 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 monthly and quarterly.

The Bureau continues to manage the State-owned Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands (the "Public Lands Program") to produce timber on a sustained yield basis and within established harvest levels to generate revenue to support resource protection, wildlife, and recreation programs. Adding new lands and management responsibilities increases demand on the Bureau. Revenue in the Public Reserved Lands Management Fund is used to meet these additional responsibilities. Below are the FY 25 budget allocations proposed for each of the five dedicated accounts within the Public Lands Program. These allocations represent the limits within which the Bureau must operate.

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

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenses</b>	
Earnings on Investments	\$28,000	Personal Services	\$4,327,752
Grants from State Agencies	\$140,000	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$13,564,188
Rent of Lands*	\$1,240,000	Capital	\$3,000,000
Camp lot Leases*	\$437,000		

<sup>6</sup> Note that information provided in this budget section reflects plans and projections as of March 1, 2024.

Recreational Use of Lands	\$18,020		
Misc. Rents & Leases	\$14,000		
Registration Fees	\$22,000		
Sale of Stumpage*	\$20,084,388		
Sale of Forest Products	\$660		
Misc. Income	\$2,171,246		
Contrib. from Private Sources	\$209,494		
Recovered Cost/Land Damages	\$55,705		
Late Fees/Surcharges	\$4,100		
Reg Transfer Unallocated	(\$124,374)		
DICAP**	(\$2,655,701)	STACAP	\$752,598
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$21,644,538</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$21,644,538</b>

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

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

As of June 30, 2023, the Public Lands Program had an account balance of \$8,160,542 in the Public Reserved Lands Management Fund. Because most of the Program's timber harvesting takes place during the winter, there is a significant seasonal fluctuation in income. The Fund enables the Program to operate during periods of the fiscal year when income is low, and expenses are relatively constant. It also serves as a buffer to cover operating costs when expenses exceed revenues.

Timber markets in Maine can be highly variable from year to year. Over the last decade, several years with strong timber markets served to build a solid operating fund that acts as a contingency for periods of down timber markets, which are expected to continue into FY 25 and beyond. This fund supports contract logging services, personnel services, vehicle operations, information technology, management costs for road maintenance, forest inventory, monitoring systems, and expanded recreational facilities. Conservation easement monitoring costs are provided via dedicated endowment funds tied to specific easements.

The Public Lands Program anticipates harvesting 120,000 cords of wood, generating approximately \$6 million in net revenue in FY 25 available to cover Public Lands management expenses including major expenses such as staff, travel, and technology.<sup>7</sup> However, significant turbulence in markets, timber prices, and contractor availability can cause fluctuation in this projection. Current FY 24 timber market conditions include highly variable demand and pricing for many species of wood and products. Among the traditional mainstays of BPL harvests, softwood log pricing and demand remain strong; meanwhile, hardwood pulp prices are insufficient to provide markets for all regions because the cost of trucking will outweigh the value of the wood at longer distances. Unfortunately, logging and trucking capacity remains severely constrained due to labor shortages and the fact that many loggers continue to leave the business due to financial and labor market challenges. Despite challenges, FY 23 timber income was positive due to high pricing, even with harvest levels at only about 85% of the ten-year average.

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<sup>7</sup> Net stumpage revenue after harvest and transportation; does not include personnel or other costs.

The Bureau will continue to plan expenditures with caution based on quarterly updates of projected income. There remains a need to find supplemental funding sources to ensure exemplary management of the Bureau's increasingly popular recreational resources and extensive road system. Recreation management remains an area where infrastructure needs (signage, parking, trails, campsite, etc.) and limited recreation staff outweigh available resources. Likewise, the Bureau's extensive logging and public use road system has suffered increased management costs due to an increase in catastrophic bridge and road failures in recent years due to a high occurrence of extreme rain events each year. In just one month in 2023, catastrophic flooding caused more than \$500,000 in road and bridge washouts that were not budgeted for. An estimate is being prepared to proactively upgrade the entire road system to climate-resilient conditions.

*New initiatives below are dependent on budget approval by the legislature.*

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

This initiative continues and makes permanent one Forester II position previously established in Public Law 2023, chapter 635 through June 8, 2025.

Dedicated Revenue	Income	Requested for FY 25	Expenses
Misc. Income	\$8,034	Personal Services	\$6,820
DICAP	(\$1,023)	STACAP	\$191
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$7,011</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$7,011</b>

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

This initiative establishes one Public Service Manager II position as the Southern Region Lands Manager and provides funding for all related All Other costs.

Dedicated Revenue	Income	Requested for FY 25	Expenses
Misc. Income	\$160,982	Personal Services	\$133,160
		All Other	\$3,500
DICAP	(\$20,499)	STACAP	\$3,823
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$140,483</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$140,483</b>

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

The account had a balance of \$7,554 at the end of FY 23, which is used as a contingency fund to cover expenses that occur between the relatively small and infrequent timber harvests on these lands.

Income		Expenses	
Rent of Lands	\$3,000	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$32,761
Misc. Income	\$33,464	Capital	
DICAP**	(\$2,942)	STACAP	\$761
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$33,522</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$33,522</b>



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

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

By statute, the money in this account is used only to acquire 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 cover the cost of legal assistance for title searches, drafting deeds, appraisals, and related items. At the end of FY 23, this account had a balance of \$1,285,591. Funds generated from sales of properties may only be used for land acquisitions in the same county as required by the Constitution. This limits the Bureau’s ability to use this fund to pursue acquisition projects in counties without funds.

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	\$7,000	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$201,672
Sale of Land	\$330,000	Capital	\$0
DICAP**	(\$30,157)	STACAP	\$7,803
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$306,843</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$209,475</b>

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

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

The money in this account is used only for acquiring interest in Nonreserved Land. Lands purchased with the funds from this account have Public Nonreserved Land status. These funds are necessary to acquire rights-of-ways, in-holdings, conservation easements, and additions to the existing land base. As in most years, it is difficult to predict the timing, income, and expenditures involved in potential land transactions. This budget allows the Bureau, if the opportunity arises, to acquire land or other interests within the available allocation. The “All Other” expenses are used to cover the cost of legal assistance for title searches, drafting deeds, appraisals, and related items. At the end of FY 23, this account had a balance of \$289,858.

Income		Expenses	
Sale of Land	\$73,000	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$60,542
DICAP**	(\$9,053)	STACAP	\$2,342
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$63,947</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$62,884</b>

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

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

This account is used for USDA Forest Service FLP grant expenses related to the acquisition of nationally approved Forest Legacy land parcels and any associated pre-acquisition costs. The

figures above represent the “All Other” pre-acquisition budgets. For land acquisitions, financial orders are sent to the DACF Commissioner and Governor for signatures and to establish the capital needed for the land purchase. LMF funds are typically used as a match for these Forest Legacy grants to purchase land. At the end of FY 23, the account had a balance of -\$39,735.

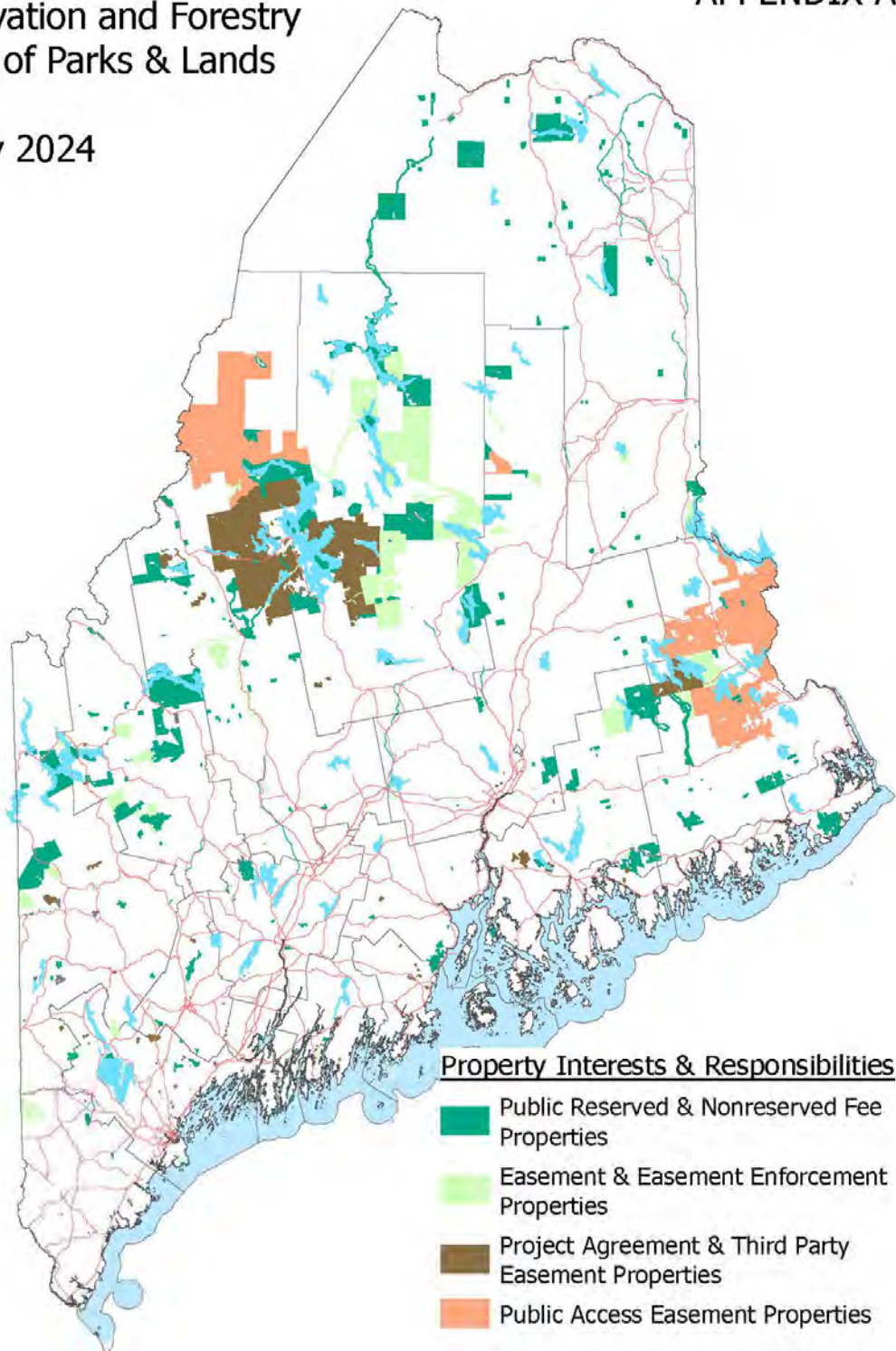
Income		Expenses	
		Personal Services	
Federal Grants	\$102,957	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$86,378
		Capital	0
DICAP**	(\$12,957)	STACAP	\$3,622
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$90,000</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$90,000</b>

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

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

APPENDIX A

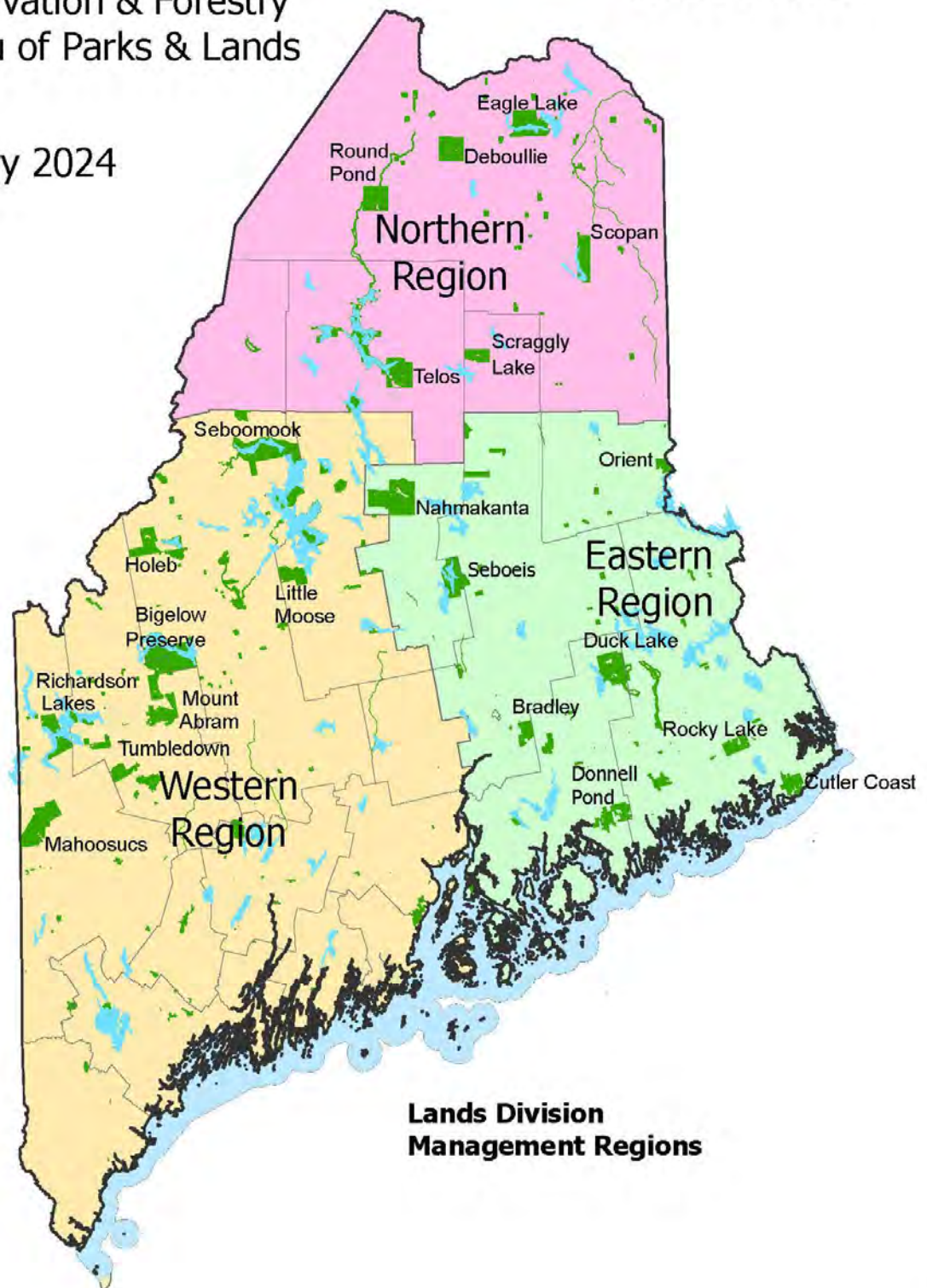
January 2024



Department of Agriculture,  
Conservation & Forestry  
Bureau of Parks & Lands

APPENDIX B

January 2024





# APPENDIX C

## PUBLIC RESERVED AND NONRESERVED LAND MANAGEMENT UNITS, BY PLAN REGION (1)

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

	Unit Name	acres		Unit Name	acres
BPL NORTHERN REGION	<b>Northern Aroostook Region</b>		BPL EASTERN REGION	<b>Eastern Interior Region</b>	
	Deboullie	21,871		Duck Lake	30,624
	Eagle Lake	24,084		Orient	5,992
	Salmon Brook Lake Bog	1,857		Amherst Mtns Community Forest	4,974
	Caswell	1,248		Bradley	9,277
	Cyr Plantation	1,000		Machias River	8,651
	Hamlin	982		Bradley Kittridge Lot	229
	New Canada	1,000		Cary – Border (East) Lot	230
	New Sweden West & East Lots [NRL]	292		Cary – Southwest Lot	105
	St. John Plantation North & South Lots	1,167		Codyville – Tomah Mountain Lot	940
	T16 R9	97		Codyville – Southeast Lot	175
	T17 R4	300		Codyville – Northeast Lot	135
	Westmanland	965		Grand Falls Schoolhouse ***	1
	Winterville Plantation	982		Grand Lake Stream Lot	915
	<b>Aroostook Hills Region</b>			Great Pond Lake Lot	450
	Scopan	18,905		Great Pond Outlet Lot	40
	Scraggly Lake	9,092		Hardwood Island [NRL] ***	49
	Garfield Plantation Lot	1,040		Lakeville – Duck/Keg Lake Lot	890
	Hammond Lot	960		Lakeville – Upper Dobsis Lot	610
	Moro Plantation East Lot	160		Lakeville – Magoon Pond Lot	265
	Moro Plantation West Lot	134		Macwahoc Lot	555
	Nashville Plantation North Lot	657		Mattawamkeag Lake Lot	190
	Nashville Plantation South Lot	319		Molunkus Lot	485
	Oxbow Plantation Lot	1,031		Nicatus Lake	162
	Sheridan Lot [NRL]	1,053		Reed – Thompson Deadwater Lot	995
	T9 R5 Lot	375		Reed – Wytopitlock Lot	540
	T12 R8 Lot	1,000		Webster Lot	790
	T13 R5 Lot	1,134		<b>Downeast Region</b>	
	<b>St. John Uplands Region</b>			Donnell Pond	15,384
	Telos	22,761		Rocky Lake	11,121
	Round Pond	20,803		Cutler Coast	12,234
	Chamberlain	10,291		Great Heath	6,447
	Gero Island/Chesuncook	3,180		Osborn North and South Lots	960
	Allagash C Lot	750		Number 14 Twp North & South Lots	970
	Allagash N Lot	982		T24 MD Lot	330
	Allagash SE Lot	993	BPL WESTERN REGION	<b>Moosehead Region</b>	
	Allagash SW Lot	1,011		Little Moose	13,951
	T14 R11 Lot	509		Days Academy	7,460
	T15 R11 Lot	490		Sugar Island	4,491
	T18 R10 Lot	988		Moosehead Lake East Shore Lands	1,660
BPL EASTERN REGION	<b>Central Penobscot Region</b>			Beaver Cove Lot	782
	Nahmakanta	43,966		Bowdoin College Grant East Lot	935
	Seboeis Lake	21,369		Frenchtown Lot	30
	Millinocket Town Forest Lot	5,061		Rockwood Strip Lots (2) [1 NRL]	297
	East Turner Mountain Lot	2,574		Sandwich Academy Grant Lot	491
	Wassataquoik Lot	2,099		Shawtown Lot	248
	Bradford/LaGrange Lot	2,010		West Outlet Lot	842
	Gray Ledge Deadwater Lot	960			
	Seboeis Plantation Lot	1,136			
	West Branch Pleasant River	1,262			

## PUBLIC RESERVED AND NONRESERVED LAND MANAGEMENT UNITS, BY PLAN REGION (2)

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

	Unit Name	acres		Unit Name	acres
BPL WESTERN REGION	<b>Seboomook Region</b>		BPL WESTERN REGION	<b>Tumbledown/Mt. Blue Region</b>	
	Seboomook and Canada Falls	41,508		Tumbledown	10,389
	St. John Ponds	3,917		Little Concord Pond	175
	Big Spencer Mountain	4,242		Bald Mountain Lot - Perkins	167
	Baker Lake	1,650		<b>Kennebec Highlands</b>	
	<b>Upper Kennebec Region</b>			Kennebec Highlands	6,889
	Holeb	23,713		<b>Individual Units</b>	
	Cold Stream Forest	8,152		Pineland [NRL]	881
	Sandy Bay	2,721		Dodge Point	495
	Bald Mountain Lot	1,650		<b>Other Non-Reserved Lands</b>	
	Bradstreet Twp. South Lot	178		Hebron Lot	448
	Caratunk North, South, East Lots	1,611		Augusta Surplus ***	328
	Coburn Mountain Lot	300		Yankee Woodlot ***	238
	Dennistown Plantation Lot	1,024		Baxter Memorial Forest/Topsham Lot	161
	Highland Plantation East Lot	210		Northport/Durham State Forest	108
	Johnson Mountain Lot	521		Kennebunk Forest	77
	Kennebec Gorge	1,483		Steven's Island ***	31
	Moose River North & South Lots	312		Hallowell ***	8
	Moxie Gore Lot	450		Lousy Island	2
	Pleasant Ridge Plantation Lot	173		<i>Note: Acreage figures are approximate and are based on management plan data; they may differ slightly from survey or GIS data.</i>	
	The Forks Plantation North & South Lots	1,068			
	West Forks Plt. NE, NW, C, SW Lots	1,189			
	<b>Flagstaff Region</b>				
	Flagstaff Lake/Bigelow Preserve	43,591			
	Crocker Mountain	12,046			
	Mt. Abraham/Perham Stream	14,080			
	Chain of Ponds	982			
	Coplin Plt. Central Lot	562			
	Coplin Plt. West Lot	398			
	Freeman Twp. Lot [NRL]	122			
	Highland Plt. Double Lot	362			
	Highland Plt Southeast Lot	121			
	Highland Plt. West Lot	408			
	King and Bartlett Twp. Lot	143			
	Redington Twp. Lot	1,020			
	<b>Western Mountains Region</b>				
	Mahoosuc	31,764			
	Richardson	18,480			
	Four Ponds	6,018			
	Bald Mountain – Oquossoc	1,873			
	Dallas Plt. North & South Lots	439			
	Davis Lot	960			
	Lincoln Plantation West & East Lots	919			
	Magalloway Plantation Lot	1,044			
	Rangeley Plantation Lot	469			
	Stetson town Lot	41			
	Township E (Smalls Falls) Lot	370			



## APPENDIX D

### MANAGEMENT PLAN STATUS (MAJOR UNITS)

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

## APPENDIX E

### Designation History of Ecological Reserves

Original Ecological Reserves Designated in 2001 and Modifications Adopted in 2007, '11, '18, '20, '21		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Original 2001 Acres</i>	<i>Changes adopted in 2007 and after</i>
1. Bigelow ER	10,540	
2. Chamberlain ER	2,890	+612
3. Cutler Coast ER	5,216	+5
4. Deboullie ER	7,253	-1,203*
5. Donnell Pond/Spring River Lake ER	5,950	+60*
6. Duck Lake ER	3,870	
7. Gero Island ER	3,175	
8. Great Heath ER	5,681	+739*
9. Mahosucs ER	9,974	
10. Nahmakanta ER	11,082	
11. Rocky Lake ER	1,516	
12. Salmon Brook Lake ER	1,053	-50*, +26
13. Wassataquoik ER	775	+1,325
<b>Original Total Acres</b>	<b>68,975</b>	
<b>Adjusted Total Acres</b>	<b>70,489</b>	
* These figures have been revised to delete areas of open water (e.g., ponds), which are not included in BPL fee ownership, and to reflect various boundary and other corrections.		

Ecological Reserves Designated as a Result of Acquisition Conditions	
<i>Name</i>	<i>Acres</i>
1. Big Spencer ER (2007)	4,242
2. Mount Abraham ER (2007), with Perham Stream add. (2023)	10,142
3. St. John Ponds ER (2007)	3,917
4. Fourth & Fifth Machias Lakes ER (2009)*	2,780
5. Number 5 Bog ER (2009)	4,809
6. Crocker Mountain ER (2013)	4,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,890</b>

\* Added to Duck Lake Ecological Reserve

Current Total Ecological Reserve Acres	
<i>Category</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Original Ecological Reserves, as modified	70,489
Ecological Reserves Designated as a Result of Acquisition Conditions	29,890
<b>Total</b>	<b>100,379</b>