

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

PUBLIC RESERVED LANDS OF MAINE



INTEGRATED RESOURCE POLICY

Bureau of Public Lands
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Bureau of Public Lands
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

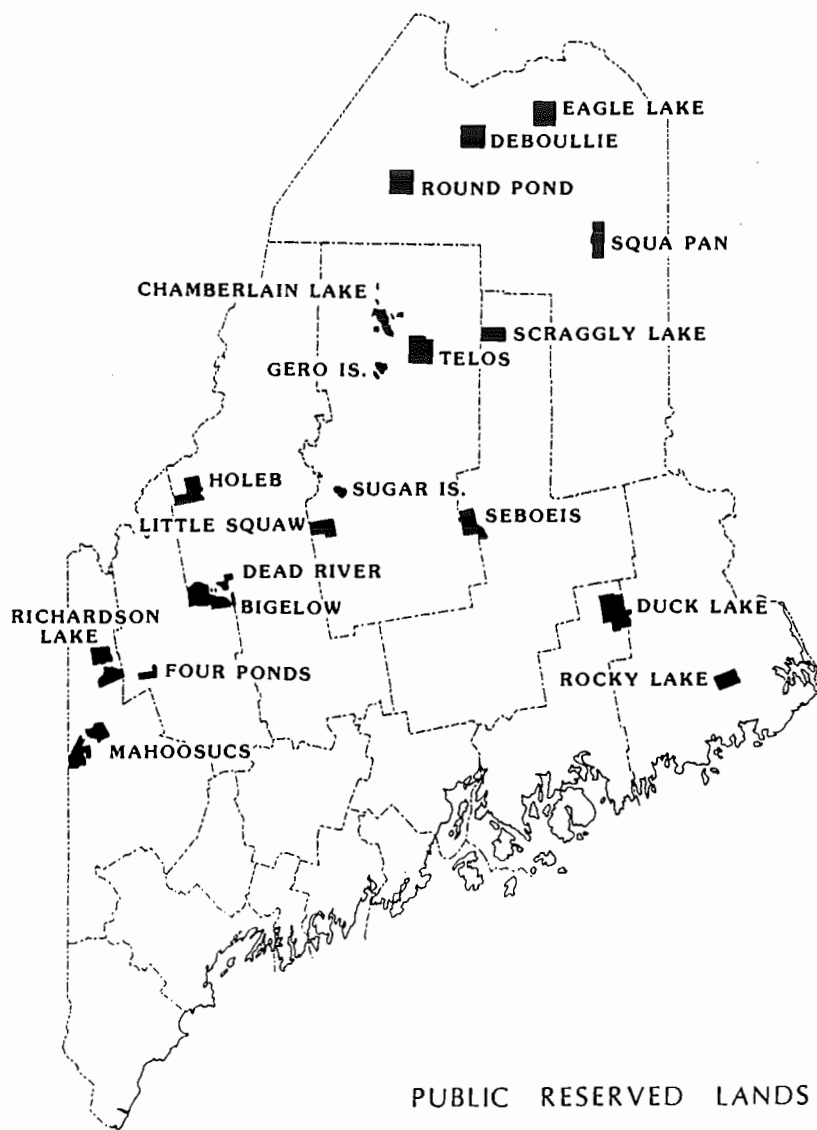
Integrated Resource Policy

CONTENTS

| | | |
|------|---|----|
| () | ADOPTION CITATION..... | i |
| I | INTRODUCTION..... | 1 |
| II | PURPOSE & LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION..... | 2 |
| III | SCOPE..... | 2 |
| IV | TERM & AMENDMENT PROCEDURES..... | 3 |
| V | CHARACTER & ROLE OF THE PUBLIC RESERVED LANDS..... | 3 |
| VI | MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES..... | 4 |
| VII | THE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM..... | 6 |
| VIII | RECREATION USE & DEVELOPMENT..... | 11 |
| IX | TIMBER MANAGEMENT..... | 17 |
| X | WILDLIFE HABITAT DEVELOPMENT & MAINTENANCE..... | 24 |
| XI | SPECIAL PROTECTION..... | 28 |
| XII | SOILS & GEOLOGY..... | 29 |
| XIII | WATER RESOURCES..... | 30 |
| XIV | VISUAL RESOURCES..... | 30 |
| XV | TRANSPORTATION..... | 31 |
| XVI | COORDINATION, RESEARCH & COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS..... | 32 |
| XVII | APPENDICES..... | 35 |

ADOPTED DECEMBER 30, 1985

REVISED DECEMBER, 1988




PUBLIC RESERVED LANDS OF MAINE
CONSOLIDATED
MANAGEMENT UNITS

ADOPTION CITATION


In accordance with the provisions of 30 MRSA
ss 4162 (3) and, the Integrated Resource Policy,
governing management and administration of the
Public Reserved Lands of Maine is hereby adopted.

RECOMMENDED:


Robert H. Gardiner, Jr.
Director
Bureau of Public Lands

DATE: Dec 30, 1985

APPROVED:


Richard B. Anderson
Commissioner
Department of Conservation

DATE: Dec. 30, 1985

SECTION I - INTRODUCTION

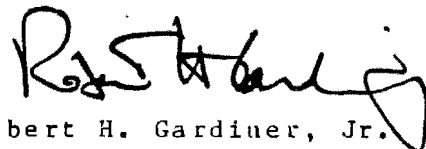
This document constitutes an integrated statement of resource policy for Maine's Public Reserved Lands System, combining timber, wildlife, recreation and other resource values into a single and unified management enterprise. The Bureau has selected this manner of presentation as a means of demonstrating the essential quality of balance which characterizes multiple use management and to underscore the systemic interaction among resources in the natural environment.

The policy deals, in turn, with the character and role of the Public Reserved Lands, management objectives, system components through which management will be conducted and guidelines which will govern various program activities. Overall, it represents the sort of long-term commitment which will ensure continuity in the management program and --of even greater significance-- safeguard the Trust status of these lands for the people of the State of Maine.

Since mid-July, three advisory committees have contributed to this effort, discussing issues related principally to timber, wildlife and recreation. The members (listed in Appendix 2) were selected for their expertise in a variety of fields and represent a cross section of interests from government, industry, public interest organizations and the general public. The role of the committees, working in a spirit of consensus, has been to provide the first stage of public involvement in this effort, to ensure from the outset that this work represents a balanced response to the general public interest, diverse technical view-points and extensive personal experience. Both collectively and individually, they have done their work well; and I extend my deep appreciation for their willingness to participate and for the consistent high quality and purposefulness of their discussions. Their contributions were invaluable in the formulation of this material.

It is important to note, however, that it is the Bureau of Public Lands which is ultimately responsible for the content of this policy. The committee members have not been asked to endorse this work; nor does their participation imply any endorsement by their employers or constituents.

This work is dedicated to the future of Maine's Public Reserved Lands --and those generations which will have the opportunity to use and enjoy them.



Robert H. Gardiner, Jr.
Director

SECTION II - PURPOSE AND LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION

The purpose of this document is to ensure a consistent and unified approach to the management of Maine's Public Reserved Lands --to acknowledge the landbase as an integrated system of resource values and to provide a balanced presentation of benefits on a sustained and economically self-sustaining basis.

The Legislature has directed:

"...that the Public Reserved Lands shall be managed under the principles of multiple use and to produce a sustained yield of products and services....

"...(that) multiple use shall mean the management of all the various renewable surface resources of the public reserved lots, including outdoor recreation, timber, watershed, fish and wildlife and other public purposes; it means making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources over areas large and diverse enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions; it means that some land will be used for less than all of the resources; and it means harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources, each with the other, without impairment of the productivity of the land, with consideration being given to the relative values of the various resources, and not necessarily the combination of uses that will give the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output.

"...and that such management should be effected by the use of both prudent business practices and the principles of sound planning...." [30 MRSA ss 4162 1, 2(A)]

SECTION III - SCOPE

The material contained in this document applies to all of the Public Reserved Lands, the bulk of which occur within the consolidated management units --those tracts acquired through trades with surrounding private landowners expressly for their multiple use values. These units range in size from 3,000 to 30,000 acres and comprise nearly 70 percent of the 452,000-acre Public Reserved Lands System. They are distinguished from the original Public Lots by their greater size, diversity and

suitability for broad program application. For this reason, although resource policies will be applied consistently throughout the system, the smaller (original) Public Lots -- offering fewer opportunities for diversified management -- will be subject to less formal planning requirements.

NOTE: This policy applies only to the Public Reserved Lands System. It does not apply to other lands administered by the Bureau of Public Lands, among which are coastal islands, submerged lands and former institutional lands.

SECTION IV - TERM AND AMENDMENT PROCEDURES

This policy will be reviewed and updated at 10-year intervals, subject to public review and comment.

It is important to note that this policy attempts to project, in a single document, procedures for managing the Public Reserved Lands over time and changing circumstance. It may be necessary, therefore, to modify certain provisions prior to periods of scheduled review. In order to facilitate this process, the Bureau will provide notice of any proposed changes, giving interested parties an opportunity to comment.

SECTION V - CHARACTER AND ROLE OF THE PUBLIC RESERVED LANDS

Maine's Public Reserved Lands are a resource of unique and extraordinary value. Set aside during the 18th and 19th Centuries in small scattered parcels, they are today one of the major and most diversified ownerships in the State --and they constitute the largest public landbase devoted to a balanced, self-sustaining program of public benefits through multiple use management.

Efforts to consolidate these lands over the past 10 years have focused on the creation of a system of lands which represents at once the diversity and vitality of the Maine landscape and its capacity to produce a variety of public and environmental benefits on an economically self-sustaining basis. These values are evident in its extensive forests, its mountains, and its lakes and wetlands --a combination of landforms in which the contrasts of tone and texture provide a dramatic view of Maine's wild interior. Portions of such nationally known features as the Appalachian Trail, the Bigelow Preserve and the Allagash Wilderness Waterway contribute to the Public Reserved Lands'

experience --and there are innumerable, though lesser known areas of regional and local appeal which serve equally to illustrate the beauty and diversity of this landscape.

The benefits to be derived from this landbase are many, but they will require a deliberate and responsive approach to management, indeed, stewardship --for the human presence here is cast into a broader spectrum of interaction with the natural environment than in most other land management situations. Commodity values, regardless of purpose, remain important; but they are, in this context, only weights on a scale, each contributing a measure to the definition of a greater purpose: the integrity of the landbase itself. No individual resource or activity is entirely self-serving, for none exists apart from the larger resource system --and it is to this larger purpose that multiple use management is dedicated.

SECTION VI - MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Management objectives for the Public Reserved Lands, as stated below, are designed to acknowledge the simultaneous requirements of a variety of resource values and user interests, as defined throughout this material. If fully achieved, the end product will be a forest environment characterized by the diversity and vitality of its resources --an environment of productive forest growth, rich in wildlife and appealing for primitive recreational use and enjoyment. Resources will be allocated in such a manner as to provide for a wide range of forest conditions, including a balanced distribution of commercial age classes, old-growth preserved for its own sake, habitat for both game and non-game species of wildlife, opportunities for hunting and fishing, and a full spectrum of primitive recreation activities. In short, management will strive to produce the most harmonious combination of environmental, economic and aesthetic benefits. The Bureau's underlying commitment to a balanced program of resource values and uses --emphasizing the natural integrity of the landbase-- will render inconsistent certain activities which might otherwise be interpreted as benefits and/or services. This applies particularly to the disposal of waste products, especially nuclear and other toxic wastes, which might, because of the nature of the waste, serve to discourage public interest in its Constitutional right to the use and enjoyment of these lands.

It is important to note that these objectives are stated in ideal terms and that, while they will constitute the motivating force behind all decisions and program activities, there may be

short-term situations --due to costs, priority, natural conditions, etc.,-- in which certain transitional measures may have to be adequate. It will, for example, require a long-term commitment to establish a completely balanced distribution of timber age classes or to establish ideal conditions of diversity for wildlife habitat; but this should not detract from the overall purpose of these objectives to press management constantly against the limits of what is perceived to be either possible or practical.

1. MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY OF THE LANDBASE: Management decisions will be determined according to the character of the resource base, assigning, restricting or combining program activities on the basis of most appropriate use --while seeking to integrate the various resource values and activities in the most harmonious and cost-effective manner.

2. PROTECT THE LANDBASE AND ITS VARIOUS RESOURCES: The Bureau will, within cost-effective limits, protect the resources of the Public Reserved Lands against natural occurrences such as insect and disease infestations, fire and erosion --and against the effects of inappropriate human use and behavior.

3. ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN DIVERSITY: Management will strive toward establishing a balanced distribution of (timber) age classes and species, developing and maintaining such other elements of diversity, including identification and preservation of natural areas, as the landbase will accommodate --in order to sustain the health and vitality of the natural environment for Maine's many species of wildlife and to ensure a sustained yield of commercial forest products.

4. PROVIDE FOR PUBLIC USE: Management will, within the general context of dispersed and primitive recreation activity, provide appropriate access and facilities for public use and enjoyment, emphasizing such traditional uses as camping, hunting and fishing, hiking, etc.

5. DEVELOP AND ENHANCE WILDLIFE HABITAT: Management will strive to establish and maintain a broad array of habitat conditions for all indigenous species of wildlife, as appropriate, consistent with landforms, existing forest types and other plant associations.

6. PRODUCE HIGH-QUALITY COMMERCIAL FOREST PRODUCTS ON A SUSTAINED YIELD BASIS: Management will emphasize long rotations and the growth of large diameter, high quality timber, consistent with species, site quality and other resource objectives.

7. OBTAIN THE BEST UTILIZATION OF PRODUCTS IN THE MOST COST EFFECTIVE MANNER: The Bureau will establish standards for utilization and operational oversight, taking an active role in monitoring and obtaining markets for both high- and low-quality products, to ensure that all merchantable material is delivered for highest value to the most appropriate outlets.

8. SEEK IMPROVEMENTS IN THE QUALITY OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT THROUGH RESEARCH, DEMONSTRATIONS AND COOPERATION: The Bureau of Public Lands will, as appropriate, participate in or support research --and, through cooperative ventures and demonstrations, seek to disseminate information regarding cost-effective means to implement a broad-based multiple use program.

SECTION VII - THE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The system under which the Public Reserved Lands will be managed is comprised of three basic elements: (1) Unit Planning, (2) Compartment Analysis and (3) Monitoring and Control. Each of these elements will play a distinct role in identifying and quantifying resource values and ensuring that program development is consistent with the character of the landbase and its intended use.

1. Unit Planning

On the basis of dominant use, a 10-year plan will be developed for each management unit. For timber and wildlife purposes, unit planning will include development of information on forest type, size-class and density as a first-eschelon means to assess resource needs on a unit wide basis. The plan will also identify existing and potential recreation sites and appropriate user activities. Each plan will reflect the character of the unit under consideration and define the manner in which various resources and activities may be integrated in subsequent program development. Broad decision-making and conflict resolution will take place at this level of planning --establishing the general direction for management during the following 10-year period. Project decisions, however --that is, the timing and actual commitment of resources to conduct certain activities-- will be reserved for review processes associated with compartment examinations and normal work planning and budgetary procedures to which all State agencies are subject.

Unit plans will be maintained as primary documents within 10-year management files. However, they will not be static in nature. Supplemented from time to time with appropriate documents

dealing with compartment examinations, analyses and review, prescriptive treatments, etc., the unit plan will be in a continual state of growth and development throughout its term, reaching completion only upon the date of its expiration. At this time, it will serve as the basis for the next 10-year plan.

The Bureau will also maintain an active program of public participation in policy development and unit planning, submitting all pertinent materials for public review prior to adoption, as described in the Planning Policy for the Public Reserved Lands.

Funding for all project development will be considered during the annual budget and work planning processes. Program spending will be considered on the basis of need --relating first to the biological requirements of the resource base and then to public use. Because of the increasing and fluctuating nature of demand on this landbase, the Bureau will not establish pre-determined rates of funding for separate programs; for this purpose it will rely on the biennial budget system, which governs program spending for all State agencies.

One of the primary tools in developing the unit plan will be the process of resource allocation based on identified dominant and secondary uses. First addressed in Planning Policy for the Public Reserved Lands (adopted June 11, 1985), resource allocation is a way of acknowledging that, while every acre cannot serve every purpose equally, there is generally a need to integrate several uses or resource values, if the broad character of the landbase is to remain the focal point of management. It also provides a quantifiable measure of overall program balance --and, through its assignment of dominant and secondary uses, a means to facilitate the resolution of resource conflicts.

Each unit plan, therefore, will identify specific areas and acreages in which several categories of resource use will be considered dominant. Simultaneously, a series of secondary uses or resource values will be identified for integration within the dominant management strategy. Generally, the Bureau has identified seven areas of concern for this purpose. These include recreation, timber, wildlife, resource preservation, soils & geology, water and visual resources.

The secondary use column in the following chart indicates the extent to which the Bureau will attempt to integrate resource values; it should be noted that whenever a resource value occurs as a secondary use, it will operate to specialized standards either to complement a dominant use (harvesting in riparian areas will occur principally to maintain habitat) or simply to remain as non-competitive as possible (recreational use of areas designated for timber will be primitive, informal and subject to operational contingencies).

These allocations will be determined at the outset of unit planning --first priority going to those uses, such as Critical Areas, which have the most specific management/protection requirements, followed by those, such as timber production, having the least.

The following guidelines apply, when designating areas for dominant and secondary uses.

| DOMINANT USE | AREA DESCRIPTION | SECONDARY USES |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Recreation | Sites associated with significant mountains or alpine environments; water oriented sites suitable for camping and fishing, etc.; larger areas which will be designated as backcountry for more extensive primitive recreational use. | Wildlife Timber Visual Rs. |
| Timber | Operable areas of the forest which are both available for and capable of producing commercial volumes of timber. | Wildlife Recreation Visual Rs. |
| Wildlife | Wetlands (marshes, bogs, etc.) | Recreation Visual Rs. |
| | Riparian Areas (330-foot upland buffer adjacent to all shoreland). | Recreation Timber Visual Rs. |
| | Featured Habitat Areas (limited habitat types which are anomalous to surrounding forest conditions). | Recreation Timber |
| Resource Preservation | Any area designated for inclusion on the State Register of Critical Areas, or as a forest preserve or historic, scientific, educational or archeological site. | As recommended |
| Soils & Geology | This is a generic designation which addresses gravel pits, mining operations and areas where erosion potential is particularly high. | Timber Recreation Wildlife |
| Water | This designation will be covered generally by recreation, wildlife or soils & geology, expressing the Bureau's concern for both surface and ground waters. | n/a |

| | | |
|---------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Visual Resources | Public access roads, shorelands, slopes within the "zone of influence" of recreation areas, areas clearly visible from trails, recreation areas. | Wildlife Timber Recreation |
|---------------------|---|----------------------------------|

2. Compartment Examination & Analysis

Each management unit will be subdivided into compartments for the purpose of continuing resource evaluation and to provide the basis for monitoring and refining management plans and activities. Annually, regional managers --with the assistance of technical staff-- will be responsible for conducting detailed compartment examinations on 10 percent of the the land-base for which they are responsible. All management recommendations made as a result of compartment examinations will be subject to interdisciplinary staff review prior to adoption or implementation. Information gathered will include:

Forest Cover, to include forest types, stand sizes, site quality, distribution of age-classes, growth, volume, condition and recommended prescriptive treatments.

Wildlife Habitat, to include species/cover type associations, evidence of use, specialized habitat types, critical areas (as defined by the State Planning Office) and recommended prescriptive treatments.

Recreation Use & Development, to include existing and potential sites/areas, evidence of unmanaged use, maintenance requirements, recommended development and constraints on other management activities.

Soils, to include broad classifications as to type and specific information in areas of high-risk potential.

NOTE: These are the primary data under consideration; however, consideration will also be given by either direct staff involvement or external agency coordination, to all values/uses included under resource allocation. Generally, efforts to identify preservation areas will be coordinated independently on a unit-wide basis through other agencies and private contractors having special expertise.

Administrative Records, for all resource activities, including economic data, leases, harvest, use or yield levels, statistical results, etc., will be included in compartment analysis files, as they become available. These records will be maintained on standardized forms in order to facilitate retrieval and subsequent use.

Over time, this information will provide for updating and evaluating resource situations and serve the continued growth and development of the unit plan, as it is implemented during the 10-year planning cycle. Also, as this data is translated into specific prescriptive treatments, the compartment examination and review process will provide the primary planning vehicle for the smaller Public Lots remaining within the Public Reserved Lands System.

3. Monitor and Control

Overall responsibility for the management program on the Public Reserved Lands will reside with the Regional Managers, the principal line officers, acting under the authority of the Director. They will participate in all planning, review and inspection activities and hold primary responsibility for the conduct of annual compartment examinations and implementation of program activities. Staff specialists in planning, timber/silviculture, recreation, wildlife and transportation will provide such technical assistance as may be necessary and will participate in the review of ongoing and completed projects, planning and development efforts, and compliance with standards, policies and applicable Federal, State and local ordinances. This responsibility will include such field oversight of project operations, as the Director may deem necessary. Included among the means for monitoring program performance will be the following:

Inspections. In order to maintain an active and supportive line/staff field relationship, operational and site inspections will be conducted jointly on a regular basis.

Compartment Examinations. Compartment examinations will be designed as general resource analyses, and will reflect close consideration of all resource values. Staff resource specialists will participate in all compartment examinations which appear to offer significant opportunities for use or development in their areas of expertise --or appear to require special coordination of resource activities. Reports of findings and recommendations will be developed and considered under full staff review, when major operations or project developments are anticipated.

SECTION VIII -- RECREATION USE AND DEVELOPMENT

A. General: The Public Reserved Lands are among the last remaining publicly owned areas in the State where outdoor recreation can be pursued in a spirit of exploration and discovery. These are working, productive forestlands, but they are expressly available for public use --particularly primitive recreation which stresses self-reliance. This establishes a critical distinction from other public ownerships in the State, where use is often more closely regulated and supervised. Recreational use of the Public Reserved Lands will rely principally on those natural values derived from the character of the landbase: remoteness, natural beauty, etc. --and on the ability of visitors to camp, hike, and pursue other activities in a responsible fashion. Development, therefore, will favor dispersed activities (hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, trapping, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, etc.) --and the resolution of potential user conflicts will generally be in favor of those uses having the least impact. Boatlaunch sites, for example, will be designed to favor smaller sporting craft as opposed to large recreational powerboats. Generally, the Bureau will provide a variety of experiences/facilities, representing a range of both dispersed and medium-density uses, accessible by vehicle, on foot or over water.

B. Camping/Use of Fire: Use of open fire on the Public Reserved Lands will be restricted to designated sites authorized for such use. Except as such use relates to ice fishing and other winter activities, during periods of snowcover, campfires or open cooking fires will not be permitted at any other locations. Although individuals are allowed to camp at sites of their own choosing (provided their use of fire is limited to self-contained stoves which do not rely on fuels leaving disposable residue or ash), the Director shall retain the discretion to close existing sites or to provide for "camping at designated sites only". Such decisions will normally be made during the unit planning process.

C. Levels of Development: The following guidelines will be used to determine appropriate levels of development, as recommended by the Recreation Staff Planner.

(1) Campsites: Unless otherwise provided, campsite facilities will be limited to fire-rings and privies, although at certain locations, the Bureau may install tentpads, Adirondack-type shelters and picnic tables. Vehicular camping areas (no provision for motor homes) and campgrounds to accommodate more than five parties will be provided in certain areas, consistent with recreational values, as described in unit plans. In those areas, where vehicle access is

not permitted, the Bureau will install parking facilities to serve campsites, trailheads and other developed facilities. In order to protect the recreational experience around developed campsites, there shall be a 500-foot buffer in which harvesting will be limited to uneven-aged methods (principally for purposes of public safety or site enhancement); such harvesting in the vicinity of campsites during the summer season shall be coordinated with the Recreation Staff Planner in order to ease potential conflicts between timber and recreation use; some volume of residual material may be left in the vicinity of campsites to provide a source of firewood.

Consistent with existing standards within the Department of Conservation, occupancy of campsites will be limited to not more than 14 consecutive days in any 45-day period.

(2) Boatlaunches: Launch sites will be generally primitive (gravel launch pad) in nature, allowing only limited space for access and parking, in order to favor the use of small sporting craft.

(3) Trails: As appropriate, the Bureau will install trails in featured and scenic areas, providing primitive campsite facilities and trail-head parking. In order to protect trail environments, a 200-foot trail corridor will be maintained in which harvesting will be designed principally for aesthetic purposes and coordinated, as a part of adjoining commercial activities, with the Recreational Staff Planner. NOTE: The Appalachian Trail is managed, by cooperative agreement, under the authority and standards of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation.

(4) Snowmobile Trails: The Bureau will coordinate development of snowmobile trails with the Bureau of Parks & Recreation.

(5) Private Commercial Uses. It is not the State's intent to compete with private, commercial development in the vicinity of the Public Reserved Lands. Rather, it will seek to develop an appropriate role within the context of existing private development --providing such opportunities for primitive and dispersed recreation as might not otherwise be available. With respect to the operation of private facilities or the provision of private commercial services within the Public Reserved Lands System, all such activities will be governed by special use permit or lease and each use or category of use will be judged on a case-by-case basis consistent with other management objectives. In those situations where there is private, commercial activity on land

subsequently incorporated within the Public Reserved Lands System the Bureau will allow, as a minimum, a period of one year within which to evaluate the propriety of continuing such use; and it will allow at least one year's notice prior to termination, if such use is to be discontinued. All leases and special use permits will be subject to fees at current market rates. Rules, governing the administration of private commercial uses --and exempting certain small-scale activities which are decidedly temporary in nature-- will be promulgated following adoption of these policies.

(6) Organizational Use: Any non-commercial organization (e.g. Boy Scouts, church groups, schools, outdoor adventure groups) which engages in regular and continuous use of the Public Reserved Lands, for any purpose, will be regulated by special use permit. All user groups, under lease or permit, will indemnify the State of Maine against any and all claims arising from such use.

(7) Backcountry: Certain areas, because of their special combination of features (superior scenic quality, remoteness, wild and pristine character, capacity to impart a sense of solitude, etc.), will be designated as Backcountry and allocated for dominant recreation use.

Management of backcountry areas will be characterized by the following: low-density, dispersed use, minimal campsite facilities, harvesting (where permitted) by uneven-aged methods only, designed to retain the natural character of the area and reduce conflicts with recreation users. Typically, no public vehicular use is allowed in a backcountry area, with the exception of snowmobiles in designated areas.

(8) Visual Consideration Zones: Visual consideration zones, as described under resource allocation, are a managed part of the forest environment. Although the dominant value in such zones is scenic quality, other activities will be allowed, as appropriate. This zone shall not be interpreted as an area in which disturbance to the forest environment (harvesting, for example) is prohibited. Identification of visual consideration zones and development of associated plans and operating standards (on a case-by-case basis) will be the responsibility of the Recreation Staff Planner.

D. Supervision and Maintenance: Recreation developments under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Public Lands will be designed for a minimum of user supervision. In those situations, where routine and continuing supervision/maintenance is

required, the Bureau will coordinate such activities through cooperative or contract arrangements. There will be no provisions for the disposal of trash (except as provided at supervised sites). The Bureau will, therefore, adhere to a "Carry in-Carry out" policy; and all recreation sites will be posted to this effect.

E. Permits & Reservations: The Bureau may develop a permit and reservation system for campsites and other recreation facilities, if it becomes necessary to restrict or distribute use in order to protect the resource or preserve the remoteness of an area.

F. Information and Education: Management of the Public Reserved Lands, for recreational purposes, is designed principally to serve the needs of Maine residents. The Bureau, therefore, will undertake a variety of information and education activities in an effort to make these lands available for public use and to increase public understanding of resource issues. However, in order to preserve the remote and primitive character of these lands and to safeguard them against over use, the Bureau will not engage in wholesale promotional activities which are designed specifically to increase use.

G. Public Access: The statutes provide the following guidance on access to the Public Reserved Lands:

"...full and free public access to the public reserved lands...together with the right to reasonable use thereof, shall be the privilege of every citizen of Maine....The Legislature further declares that it recognizes that such free and reasonable public access may be restricted to assure the optimum value of such lands as a public trust....(and that) the Director of the Bureau of Public Lands shall have the authority to restrict public access to any portion of the public lands or public reserved lots....when they reasonably relate to the protection of the public health, welfare or safety, or to the protection of the economic interests or natural resources of the State..." [12 MRSA ss 556]

In keeping with the policy that these lands shall be available primarily for primitive and dispersed recreational use, there shall be no restrictions on foot- or water-access. However, public vehicular access to and within the Public Reserved Lands shall be limited to roads designated for public use. Vehicular travel routes will be designated in unit plans for access to developed campgrounds, bodies of water with facilities for launching trailer-drawn boats and other watercraft, major

trailheads, and parking areas servicing any facilities on the Public Reserved Lands. Other roads will be posted to prohibit public vehicular use.

The Bureau shall reserve the right to close public use roads on a temporary basis, when public travel may be endangered by commercial operations, cause deterioration to road-beds (mud season), during periods of high fire danger or during periods when roads are under repair. As appropriate, the Bureau will also coordinate road use with the needs of abutting landowners/managers --and with the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, if hunting, fishing and trapping affect either these resources or the remote quality of the recreational experience.

Public use of private roads that provide access to the Public Reserved Lands occurs subject to conditions imposed by private landowners.

H. Use of Motorized Vehicles: In keeping with the defined purpose that the focal point for recreational use and enjoyment of this landbase shall be essentially primitive, off-road travel by motorized vehicles of any sort (except snowmobiles) is prohibited. Within this context, it has been determined that all terrain vehicles (ATV's) generally reflect an incompatible use. In addition to posing a threat to the resource base (erosion, damage to new forest growth, disruption of habitat, etc.), they enable such intrusions into the backcountry as to diminish its value for solitude and primitive use. Use of such vehicles, therefore, will be limited to administrative purposes and to extraordinary situations covered by special use permit, at the discretion of the Director. However, in order to contribute in a positive fashion to the resolution of problems associated with ATV use, the Bureau will, while continuing the general prohibition on their use, cooperate, on an experimental basis, with duly constituted and legally incorporated groups engaged in bona fide research on this issue. Such groups, in addition to complying with other conditions determined appropriate by the Bureau, must demonstrate financial responsibility for the conduct of their work and potential claims arising therefrom.

Certain areas will be designated in unit plans in which all motorized vehicular use (including snowmobiles and motorized watercraft) is prohibited to allow for enjoyment of more primitive, non-motorized recreation.

I. Storage of Private Property: Storage of private property on the Public Reserved Lands is generally not permitted. However, under certain circumstances (available space and compatibility with existing uses), where private use is routine and continuing and at the discretion of the Regional Manager, the Bureau may provide for the storage of certain types of equipment (boats, ice shacks, etc.) by special use permit. Such

opportunities will be identified in the unit plans. Permits for such use will be subject to an annual fee; and all persons obtaining such permits will be liable for the removal of their stored property upon request by the Director. Failure to remove such property within 30 days of notice will result in the forfeit of said property and payment of a penalty by the permittee. These provisions will be written on the permit and applicants will be required to agree in writing prior to issuance. (Note: where lessees of water-access only camplots have arrangements with the Bureau for temporary, seasonal boat-storage, the annual fee will be considered part of their normal lease fee. Rules, governing fees and penalties, will be promulgated following adoption of these policies.)

J. User Fees. To date, fees have been charged for individual recreational use only where administration of the Public Reserved Lands has been associated with a larger recreational enterprise (i.e., the North Maine Woods Association). However, as both demand and use accelerate --particularly for those activities which require increased development or maintenance-- the Bureau may need to initiate a system of selective user fees, based on average existing rates for similar services within the private sector and other public agencies.

K. Work Program: The general program of work during the term of this policy will include the following:

(1) Conduct ongoing assessments of recreation opportunities through compartment examination and analysis procedures.

(2) Monitor use and coordinate schedules/contractual arrangements for maintenance activities.

(3) Coordinate the integration of recreation values with other resource activities through participation in program reviews and field inspections.

(4) Undertake necessary planning and contracting for the development of campsites, trails, boatlaunches and related facilities as described in unit plans.

(5) Identify and coordinate scheduling of harvests for visual and site enhancement purposes.

(6) Develop a system for measuring and evaluating levels of public demand for certain facilities and activities.

SECTION IX -- TIMBER MANAGEMENT

A. General: The forests which comprise the Public Reserved Lands of Maine are distributed primarily throughout the northern two-thirds of the State and reflect a broad range of physiographic conditions and forest cover types. Most of these forests are former industrial lands acquired through land trades with private owners since 1975.

Existing forest conditions are characterized by a disproportionate amount of rapidly maturing even-aged timber of diminishing quality. This is due to the combined influence of a variety of elements, including insect and disease infestations, extensive logging for sawlogs, market trends for shorter rotation products such as pulp, and a general lack of past improvement cuttings --also, wildfires, hurricanes and severe windstorms.

Addressing these conditions, timber management on the Public Reserved Lands will be directed toward longer rotations and, consistent with site quality and species, larger and higher quality forest products.

B. Forest Regulation: Forest regulation deals with the structuring of commercial forest resources to meet program objectives for the distribution of age classes and species and the establishment of sustainable harvesting levels. As added benefits, such regulation also creates improved wildlife habitat through increased diversity and provides certain natural barriers against the spread of insects and disease for healthier more vigorous forest growth.

The Bureau has determined that a system of area control, as opposed to volume control, is the most practical way to achieve forest regulation. Under this system, long-range planning will consider the entire regulated acreage to determine how much area is to be operated each year in each major type. Based on compartment examinations, operations will focus on those stands most in need of treatment. The annual allowable harvest will be based on rotation age for even-aged management and cutting cycle for uneven-aged management --and then calculated as a percentage of the landbase. The allowable cut will be calculated on a regional basis, recognizing the overall differences between forests from one region to the next. Regional personnel will thus be given the flexibility to choose those units or compartments with the most stands in need of attention.

The regulated forest extends primarily to those areas of the landbase designated for timber as a dominant use. However, certain other areas, where timber harvesting is a regular, although secondary part of management, will also contribute to calculations of regulated acreage --riparian zones, for example. In such cases, harvest levels will be modified to reflect the dominant use.

C. Timber Management Program: In order to achieve both the general and specific goals outlined in the preceding material and to respond effectively to existing forest conditions, the Bureau's timber management program will include the following elements:

1. Site Suitability: The Bureau will attempt to manage the composition of stands according to optimum site requirements for individual timber species, considering both biological and commercial factors. Where species and sites are mismatched, the Bureau may attempt to re-establish suitable species.

2. Requirements for Diversity: For both silvicultural and wildlife purposes, the Bureau will maintain conditions of diversity in the forest cover through the orderly treatment of stands, to produce a variety of age-classes from seedlings through maturity and a natural mixture of species and forest types, consistent with site capability. This forest will consist of a series of edges, between mature trees and saplings, poles and seedlings, hardwoods and softwoods. Additional benefits will include natural barriers created against insects and disease dependent on a particular stand condition.

Specific operating requirements will include:

- a. Stand Size and Distribution: Much of the forest cover on the Public Reserved Lands is comprised of relatively small and varied stands of timber; and it will be managed to continue or increase this variability in forest composition. As a long-term goal, even-aged stands will range up to 150 acres, with at least four age classes per square mile and characterized by irregular edges. By contrast, stands managed on an uneven-aged basis may be more extensive in size, recognizing that desired age and species diversity will occur throughout the stand.

- b. Retention of Den Trees: Consistent with existing conditions, at least one active and one potential den tree per acre of operated forestland will be retained for wildlife.

c. Retention of Snags: Consistent with existing conditions and operator safety, all snags will be retained for wildlife.

d. Retention of old-growth timber: The Bureau will retain up to 10% of the forest in old-growth. This component of the forest --characterized generally by the presence of tall stems, dbh of 18" or more and age-classes exceeding 80 years (up to 150 years for longer-lived species)-- will be distributed across the land-base --but will be achieved primarily in areas where timber production is not the dominant use or where operational constraints are such that harvesting occurs only at extended intervals. Within timber dominant areas, it shall include den and seed trees and such other growth as may be critical to specific wildlife needs.

e. Herbaceous Seeding: Stream crossings, areas of high erosion potential and other areas of major soil disturbance will be seeded with grasses and legumes for erosion control and wildlife, working toward a long term goal of seeding one acre for each square mile of operated forestland.

3. Silvicultural Systems: The Bureau will distinguish between even- and uneven-aged stands of timber in the following manner: a stand will be considered even-aged when it contains no more than two age-classes; stands containing three or more age-classes will be considered uneven-aged. As a general rule, the Bureau will not attempt to convert existing stands from uneven- to even-aged.

The Bureau will develop specific silvicultural guidelines and harvesting standards for all major timber types and site conditions on the Public Reserved Lands, incorporating state-of-the-art practices consistent with overall management directives. In general, however, the following standards will apply:

a. Even-aged management: The Bureau will generally rely on shelterwood harvesting for the regeneration of even-aged stands of timber. This harvest system is characterized by the removal of between 20 and 75 percent of the existing stand in either one or two cuts, leaving the remainder to provide a seed source and to protect new growth until it is well established --at which time the remaining overstory will be removed. Not more than 20 percent of a management unit will be regenerated by even-aged

methods within a single 10-year period, under normal circumstances.

The application of clearcutting, distinguished from shelterwood harvesting in that it (clearcutting) removes all merchantable timber from a site in a single operation, will be reserved for special situations, such as salvage removals and regeneration of certain intolerant hardwoods. As a general rule, they will be limited to 20 acres or less --ranging up to 150 acres only upon documented necessity. All clearcuts will be separated by wind-firm residual stands, and any removal of these adjacent stands will be done only after regeneration in the clearcuts has reached eight to ten feet in height. Openings of over 10 acres will be irregular in shape to create more edge environment for wildlife, and to make the openings more natural in appearance.

b. Uneven-aged management: Uneven-aged management will utilize either single tree or group selection cuts, and will be accomplished by marked-wood methods, ensuring that residual stand composition is characterized by species of commercial value and capable of sustaining re-entry at 10- to 30-year intervals.

4. Location and maintenance of log landings: Log landings will be located back from all roads designated for public use. Methods for managing any resulting accumulations of slash will be determined before operations are initiated. At the conclusion of operations, all log landings, where there has been major soil disturbance, will be seeded to herbaceous growth to stabilize soil, provide wildlife benefits and retain sites for future management needs.

5. Operational Safeguards: All timber harvesting and road construction, including the layout of skid trails, will be conducted in such fashion as will minimize soil disturbance and residual stand damage.

6. Inspections & Reports: Contracts will address all areas of concern and Regional Managers will enforce compliance to the greatest degree practicable through operational and post operational inspections. All post-harvest inspections will include a written report, evaluating the quality of operations against contract requirements and goals set forth in prescriptions.

D. Integration Requirements: Following is a summary of integration requirements, governing constraints on harvesting

where timber is the dominant use and indicating the manner in which harvesting may occur where other resource values are dominant.

| DOMINANT USE | PROVISIONS FOR TIMBER MANAGEMENT |
|-------------------|---|
| Timber | Maintain stand sizes, den trees and snags, as prescribed for wildlife; coordinate visual resources; set landings back from public use roads; seed landings, stream crossings and other scarified areas; safeguard against soil erosion; coordinate operations near critical areas; develop transportation plans and harvest schedules to ensure that timber-dependent wildlife areas can be managed in a timely and cost effective manner. |
| Wildlife | Restrict harvesting in riparian areas to individual and group selection cuts; retain all den trees and snags in riparian areas and wetlands; coordinate harvesting plans with Staff Wildlife Biologist in areas identified as featured habitat. |
| Recreation | 500-foot modified harvest zone around campsites; operations during the recreational use season coordinated with Recreation Staff Planner to ease potential conflicts between timber and recreational use at campsites; minimum 200-foot modified harvest corridor along established trails; harvesting in back-country areas must be modified to limit disturbance and timing and layout must be coordinated with the Recreation Staff Planner. |
| Critical Areas | Coordinate harvesting according to recommendation of the Critical Areas Program and, as appropriate, the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife. |
| Visual Rs. | Coordinate harvesting/road construction with Staff Recreation Planner. |
| Soils/ Geology | Limit harvesting on steep slopes to methods which will have the least impact on soil stability; provide for erosion control in harvesting and road construction plans. |

E. Forest Improvement Practices. Throughout its management program, the Bureau will, on a cost-effective basis, prescribe such cultural treatments as will improve the growth and quality of commercial timber --generally, in the following manner:

1. Timber Stand Improvement: The Bureau will undertake various timber stand improvement projects including commercial and pre-commercial thinnings, spacing, release cuttings, pruning and the application of herbicides. These will be aimed at ensuring survival and maintaining growth on quality stems of high value species. All such activities will be coordinated with the Staff Wildlife Biologist to identify and implement habitat enhancement opportunities, as appropriate.

2. Species Modification: Where timber species are unsuited for the sites on which they occur, the Bureau may choose to rehabilitate the stand by replacing it with another species. This practice will be limited to better than average sites and to cost-effective opportunities. All such rehabilitation projects will be coordinated with the Staff Wildlife Biologist.

3. Herbicides: Generally, the Bureau will attempt to avoid the use of herbicides, attempting to retard the growth of competing hardwood vegetation in softwood stands by silvicultural design. However, where there is no feasible alternative to herbicide treatment, the Bureau will use those agents and application procedures with the greatest target specificity.

In applying chemicals or contracting for their application, the Bureau will comply with all State and Federal ordinances, licensing and application requirements. When the Bureau must conduct spray applications, it will post notices at spray locations at least one week prior to the start of operations.

F. Regeneration: The Bureau will normally regenerate stands naturally, taking advantage of appropriate silvicultural practices to reduce both planting costs and the extensive use of pesticides.

Regenerated areas will be checked within two growing seasons following harvest operations to determine success rates for the establishment of desirable seedlings. Where failure has occurred, artificial regeneration will be undertaken, consistent with site quality and cost-effectiveness. In salvage operations, where the removal of merchantable material may result in a lack of natural regeneration, prescriptions will include a plan and cost-analysis for artificial regeneration as part of the

justification for salvage. [Note: areas managed by uneven-aged methods will be subject to regeneration checks at each re-entry]

G. Forest Protection: Within its overall management program, the Bureau will attempt to protect the forest resource against loss or damage due to insects, disease and fire.

1. Insects and Disease: The Bureau will apply an integrated approach to insect and disease protection in the following order of priority, coordinating its efforts with other agencies of government having specific technical expertise in such matters.

(a) Silvicultural control will utilize silvicultural and management practices to manipulate forest conditions and minimize any potential need for insecticide use.

(b) Biological control will utilize applications of biological preparations which include Bt and other predators and parasites.

(c) Chemical control, the final line of defense, will utilize the application of target specific chemicals and application procedures in accordance with all applicable laws and safety requirements.

2. Fire: Protection against wildfire will be accomplished primarily by silvicultural and other management practices. Salvage and intermediate operations will remove standing dead and dying trees posing a wildfire threat. Slash will be handled to reduce the potential threat of this wildfire fuel source. Fire prevention, presuppression and suppression activities will be coordinated with the Maine Forest Services' Fire Control Division.

H. Economic Analysis & Marketing: All components of the timber management program will be subject to economic analysis in order to achieve stated program goals in a cost-effective manner --and to demonstrate the viability of pursuing multiple use management objectives within the context of commercial forestry. The Bureau will also seek the highest utilization in marketing forest products, while capitalizing on markets for low quality and short-rotation products as a means for improving the general quality of the forest resource. As a means of supporting Maine's economy, the Bureau will favor in-state markets wherever they provide outlets for equivalent products. Shipments out of state will be limited to markets enabling higher utilization or those situations where in-state markets are either non-existent or dramatically uncompetitive.

I. Work Program: The general program of work during the term of this policy will include the following:

(1) Complete unit planning on all consolidated units to include transportation planning, use allocations and coordination, compartment examination scheduling and assessment of related timber management activities.

(2) Development of silvicultural guidelines and harvesting standards for use in compartment examinations, prescription reviews and inspections.

(3) Development and maintenance of an overall program recordkeeping system including boundary lines, title information, aerial photography, maps, timber inventory and management activities, and the means for tracking the biological and financial impacts of management.

(4) Design and implement a timber inventory and operational cruising system. Further refine and monitor the area regulation/allowable cut system.

(5) Conduct a timber sale program to include preparation, marking, layout, sale administration and accounting.

(6) Develop investment guidelines for and conduct timber stand improvement and protection programs.

(7) Conduct project work planning on an annual basis to include projected budget levels and forest product market conditions.

(8) Conduct training and education for the Bureau's staff and field personnel.

SECTION X -- WILDLIFE HABITAT DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

A. General: Wildlife management on the Public Reserved Lands will address issues of habitat development and maintenance, particularly as they relate to sustaining long rotations within the general mosaic of forest growth. In this way, there will result a broader array of habitat conditions for indigenous plant and animal associations (including fisheries). This will be achieved through the identification and management of specialized habitat zones, harvesting designed to enhance vegetative diversity throughout the forest, and direct-cost projects which address specific habitat associations. The Bureau's intention is

to provide an environment characterized by a rich variety of species and to provide habitat conditions which will enhance population levels.

B. Specialized Habitat Zones: Generally, the forest can be classified into three zones for wildlife purposes. These are wetlands (bogs and marshes), riparian areas (travel corridors along lake shores and rivers) and uplands (the major portion of the forest characterized by contiguous stands of timber). Each of these zones, individually and in combination, contributes to the maintenance of diversity throughout the forest environment --a key element for wildlife habitat and a primary management objective on the Public Reserved Lands. Wetland and riparian areas will be designated, as indicated in the section on resource allocation, for dominant wildlife use; upland areas, unless otherwise provided, will be designated for dominant timber use --with wildlife integrated as a secondary use. One additional zone, referred to collectively as featured habitat, is comprised of a variety of isolated habitat types and opportunities, including small watersheds, alpine areas, limited stands of old-growth or nut-producing species, deer wintering areas and raptor nesting sites, etc.

(1) Wetlands: Wetlands are freshwater bogs and marshes characterized by the presence of sufficient water/moisture to sustain a diverse growth of aquatic vegetation. They are important for a variety of game and non-game species of wildlife, including aquatic furbearers, waterfowl, fish and song-birds --and as natural sponges which store groundwater, stabilize surface water, curb erosion and act as firebreaks. For wildlife purposes, wetlands should be viewed as having essentially three components: water, food and cover. These components --particularly in the more valuable shallow and deep fresh water marshes-- will be maintained by the following means:

(a) Maintain water levels through the use of artificial impoundments and a variety of beaver management techniques.

(b) Maintain habitat balance for brood cover (rearing habitat consisting of a combination of shrubs, water, trees and emergent plants), nest cover (dry shrub/grass islands) and open water. Sites which possess these characteristics naturally should be selected as candidates for improvement projects.

(c) Coordinate hunting, fishing and trapping with the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife.

(d) Maintain all snags, consistent with operator safety, and modify harvesting to favor those species of timber of value to wetland wildlife.

(e) Maintain all den trees.

(f) To the extent possible, lay out roads around wetlands to avoid fragmentation.

(g) Develop and maintain a waterfowl nestbox program.

(2) Riparian Areas: Riparian areas are comprised of the forest edge around lakes and ponds and along stream/river systems and wetlands. These are, according to current research, some of the most productive areas of the forest environment for wildlife purposes because, in addition to providing habitat for certain range-limited species, they exist as corridors for all species to reach and travel along water courses. They also serve to maintain fisheries by providing shade and preventing sedimentation of stream channels. Maintenance and enhancement of riparian areas will be accomplished in the following manner:

(a) Riparian areas will be identified during resource allocation, providing 330 feet (40 acres per mile) around lakes, ponds and wetlands and along both sides of permanent stream and river systems (80 acres per mile). On some small streams designated PSL-2 by the Land Use Regulation Commission, on small feeder streams or in upper watershed areas, the riparian zone may be reduced to the statutory 75 feet (either side of the stream) upon recommendation of the Staff Wildlife Biologist.

(b) Harvesting in riparian areas will be subject to review by the Staff Wildlife Biologist and will generally adhere to standards requiring maintenance of all den trees and snags, consistent with operator safety, and the removal of forest products by either individual or group selection methods. The first 75 feet of the zone will be subject to light harvesting or no harvesting at all, as recommended, in order to retain shading and avoid siltation. The remainder will be managed according to uneven-aged methods.

(c) Maintain the continuity of riparian areas throughout watersheds and provide for connecting areas of forest cover with adjacent uplands.

(d) Coordinate access and development near or into remote ponds with the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife.

(3) Uplands: Uplands are generally comprised of those lands designated for dominant timber use: the regulated forest. Within this zone, wildlife is a secondary resource value. However, it is within this zone, that many species find both cover and food and that much recreational use associated with wildlife occurs. For these reasons it is important that a broad array of habitat opportunities are maintained --particularly with respect to principles of diversity. In order to ensure that such requirements (distribution of age-classes and forest types, shape of even-age harvest blocks, etc.) are not overlooked, they have been written as standards for the timber program.

(4) Featured Habitats: Featured habitats, as indicated previously, are areas of unique characteristics by virtue of landform (alpine areas, small watersheds, etc.), the occurrence of particular vegetation (mast-producers, conifer areas in which deer seek winter cover, perch- or nesting trees, etc.) or some other specialized habitat feature related to a particular species (wetlands for beaver). Also included in this category would be habitat for species listed as rare and endangered and portions of the forest in which timber should be retained as old-growth to meet specialized habitat requirements. Each of these situations will require special consideration on a case-by-case basis and will be managed subject to recommendations of the Staff Wildlife Biologist.

C. Work Program: The general program of work during the term of this policy will include the following:

(1) Establish, through review of maps, photography and field examinations the character of wildlife habitat throughout each unit at the outset of unit planning.

(2) Conduct ongoing assessments of wildlife habitat development opportunities through compartment examination and analysis procedures, seeking balance in provisions for wildlife habitat on a unit-wide basis.

(3) Monitor habitat use and coordinate integration of wildlife values with other resource activities through participation in program reviews and field inspections.

(4) Identify opportunities for direct-benefit projects (duck boxes, impoundments, seeding, etc.) and coordinate schedules and contractual arrangements for their accomplishment.

SECTION XI -- SPECIAL PROTECTION

Special protection, as previously indicated, will generally refer to those areas/resources, the management of which is essentially protective in nature. This includes Critical Areas, Forest Preserves and sites identified for archeological, educational, scientific or historic purposes.

A. Critical Areas: This program, coordinated with the Critical Areas Program, is designed to identify and protect certain areas of significant flora and fauna, rare and endangered species, as defined under Federal law, geological formations and other unique elements of the environment within the State of Maine and the Public Reserved Lands System. The Bureau has and will continue to provide active support for this effort, making the landbase available for examination and providing limited matching grants to cover survey costs. To date, more than 120,000 acres of the Public Reserved Lands have been examined --and a number of critical areas, principally rare plants and old-growth timber stands, have been identified. Management in areas where such designations have been made shall be coordinated with the Critical Areas Program during unit planning. It should be noted that certain elements of featured habitat (see Wildlife) may also be designated as critical areas (eagle nesting sites, for example). In such situations, management will be coordinated through both the Critical Areas Program and the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife.

B. Forest Preserves: These are areas set aside in order to preserve the succession of plant species through natural processes --and to serve as controls in studying the impacts of cultural disturbances of the forest environment. Efforts to establish a system of preserves are currently being studied by the University of Maine and the Nature Conservancy, among others. Although selection criteria and other details are still being formulated, it is generally agreed that such areas should be identified on the basis of landform, soil, climate, etc., as opposed to existing patterns of vegetation which are subject to successional change. The Bureau will cooperate with this effort to the extent that (1) it shall provide for areas not generally available on other public lands and (2) provision for such areas will not jeopardize the productive capacity of the commercial landbase.

C. Cultural Resources: The Bureau will take such steps as necessary to identify sites of particular value for archeological, educational, scientific and historical purposes.

Identification of such sites will occur, to the extent possible, during compartment examinations and through coordination with appropriate agencies of government during unit planning. Subsequent management will be coordinated, as appropriate, with those agencies having primary responsibility (Historic Preservation Commission, Maine State Museum, Department of Education, University of Maine, etc.).

SECTION XII -- SOILS & GEOLOGY

Stable soil conditions are critical to environmental quality and the maintenance of vigorous and productive forests and fisheries. In the further development of its management system the Bureau will:

- (1) Develop a soils data base which will enhance its silvicultural and other management programs.

- (2) Take such steps as are necessary, particularly regarding timber harvesting, road construction, stream crossings and other management activities to monitor and provide safeguards against erosion and soil compaction.

- (3) Resist all attempts to establish disposal facilities of any sort which may have an adverse impact on the resource base.

- (4) Include gathering and analysis of soils information as a component of compartment examination procedures.

With respect to mining (other than sand and gravel), there are, at present, no known concentrations of minerals in commercial volumes on the Public Reserved Lands. At such time as discoveries are made, decisions regarding their development will be made on a case-by-case basis, consistent with current Mining on State Lands statutes and other resource requirements and coordinated with the Maine Geological Survey --either within the unit planning process or on a special project basis. To the extent that sand and gravel are necessary for the management of the Public Reserved Lands, deposits will be generally available for use. When gravel pits are discontinued for an extended period of time, banks will be stabilized; exhausted pits will be graded and revegetated. Development of gravel resources along public use roads will be coordinated with the Staff Recreation Planner to minimize impacts on visual resources. As a general rule, sand and gravel will not be available for commercial purposes outside the Public Reserved Lands.

SECTION XIII -- WATER RESOURCES

As indicated under Unit Planning (Resource Allocation), maintenance of water quality will be covered generally in requirements for recreation and wildlife --governed by established standards for watershed management and the provisions of the Maine Rivers Act. The Bureau will take such steps as necessary to maintain soil stability in project operations, protecting areas of high erosion potential and maintaining vegetative buffers along all water courses. The Bureau will also work with appropriate agencies to identify and map aquifers on the Public Reserved Lands, and to provide for their protection --ensuring against enactment of any programs, particularly waste disposal, which will operate to the detriment of this resource and other management purposes for which these lands have been established.

Currently, with the exception of small impoundments for wildlife purposes, there are no known opportunities for hydro-power development. Since many of these lands were acquired and incorporated within the Public Reserved Lands System for the extraordinary aesthetic value of their water resources, their development for hydro-electric power would have to be considered an incompatible use. A reversal of this policy would occur only under extraordinary circumstances; and any such proposal would be submitted for broad public review prior to the Bureau's reaching a decision. (It should be noted that this policy does not apply to the development of small impoundments for wildlife purposes.)

SECTION XIV -- VISUAL RESOURCES

Visual resources address the appearance of the forest environment from an aesthetic point of view, as it relates to public use and enjoyment. They play a critical role, therefore, in areas identified for recreational use --and such surrounding areas as may have an impact on the quality of the recreational experience. To a large extent, management of these resources will require constraints on other activities in an effort to maintain the aesthetic character of the forest. For purposes such as campsite development and road and trail construction, it will require the active manipulation of vegetation as a means of enhancing and protecting the inherent beauty of the landscape.

The Staff Recreation Planner will have principal responsibility for visual resource management, developing guidelines both to enhance scenic quality in public use areas and to limit the impact of project operations in the vicinity of such areas.

SECTION XV -- TRANSPORTATION

Transportation planning and development on the Public Reserved Lands shall serve the dual purposes of protecting and managing resources --and providing for public access. It must be acknowledged, however, that, while extensive access adds convenience to administration and use, it can easily detract from the quality of the outdoor recreational experience and from the habitat requirements of either solitary or range-limited species of wildlife. For these reasons, the permanent transportation system will be as limited as practicable in extent. Planning for transportation will include consideration of:

- ☐ Public Access & Recreation Requirements
- ☐ Commercial Harvesting and re-entry Schedules
- ☐ Harvest-dependent Wildlife Habitat
- ☐ Fire Suppression
- ☐ The least road-intensive means for achieving access, for all purposes, in each management unit.

Consistent with other provisions in this document, the Bureau will incorporate the following types of roads into its transportation system:

| CLASS | TYPE | INTENDED USE & STANDARDS |
|-------|-------------------|---|
| I | Public Use | Primary access and service road, all weather gravel, designed for two-way travel to facilitate combined public and administrative use; facilities for parking will be provided at recreational sites, as appropriate; management will include roadside aesthetic values normally associated with travel influence zones; regular maintenance. |
| II | Forest Management | <p>A. Summer roads designed for timber management and administrative use only --generally available for extended use but sometimes taken out of service at the conclusion of operations; no public vehicular travel.</p> <p>B. Winter roads designed for limited use; no public vehicular travel.</p> |

Work Program: During the term of this policy, transportation planning will proceed in the following manner:

(1)Inventory. During unit planning, existing roads on all consolidated management units within the Public Reserved Lands System will be subject to inventory and maps will be up-dated, accordingly. At this time, decisions will be made regarding the designation of all-purpose roads and of areas which will remain unroaded.

(2)Project Planning. During the normal course of compartment examinations, at which time prescriptive treatments are projected for all resource values, specific transportation plans will be refined and specific road construction standards will be specified.

(3)Development Schedule. The development of public use roads, providing public access into the Public Reserved Lands System, shall be undertaken as a priority, consistent with available revenue. During unit planning, the Bureau will make decisions concerning the development or improvement of all purpose roads.

(4)Coordination. All transportation planning will be coordinated with other resource programs. To the extent possible, development will proceed as a coordinated function of the timber management program in order to achieve the highest degree of cost-effectiveness.

(5)Road-use Agreements. As part of the inventory process, the Bureau will identify those situations in which public access will depend, in whole or in part, upon travel over private roads --and negotiations will be undertaken with appropriate landowners to effect road use agreements which will serve public purposes.

SECTION XVI - COORDINATION, RESEARCH & COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

The Bureau will coordinate its program efforts, as appropriate, with other agencies of government, educational institutions, surrounding private landowners and public and private conservation organizations; and it will participate in such cooperative programs and research as will ensure optimum benefits from the Public Reserved Lands and contribute to improved standards of forest management throughout Maine. In these efforts, it will undertake projects both directly and cooperatively and it will make its landbase available for other,

independent studies on a case-by-case basis. Particularly, such work will be directed toward demonstrating the most practical means by which various resource programs may be integrated in a cost-effective land management program. To the extent possible and practical, the Bureau will also consider human resource programs in its work planning, providing training and employment opportunities for purposes of social and economic development.

At the Regional level, field managers will be responsible for coordinating programs with surrounding private landowners to provide a practical interface between public and private land use objectives and to share the benefits of mutually agreeable programs. Staff specialists will complement these efforts by exploring opportunities for broad program cooperation with other agencies of government and other user groups. In all of these efforts, the Bureau will attempt to make such information available for general distribution as will provide benefits to other land management programs in Maine.

As a first step in this effort, the Bureau will impanel a silvicultural advisory committee designed to serve as a sounding board for the agency's silvicultural program. It shall consist principally of individuals with expertise in forestry, harvesting and equipment application and design, but additional members will be versed in other aspects of land management, as well. The committee shall meet periodically at site locations to discuss issues relating to forest management and its proceedings shall be available for public distribution.

In a document of this scope it is appropriate only to outline the general intent and purpose of such cooperative efforts, leaving decisions regarding specific program activities for case-by-case review. However, to provide some indication as to the breadth of opportunity, the Bureau is currently (or has) engaged in the following:

- [] Cooperative agreements with recreation agencies and organizations to enhance recreational benefits on the Public Reserved Lands.

- [] Cooperation with non-commercial, private or public organizations to provide specific types of recreation oriented experience on the Public Reserved Lands.

- [] Cooperation with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in the conduct of research on the rare blueback charr and studies relating forest management to the maintenance of deer wintering areas --also, the installation of impoundments to improve wetland habitat.

- [] Cooperative agreements with government agencies to provide demonstrations in forest woodlot management.

[] Cooperation with private industry and others to demonstrate the practical effects of biomass harvesting for timber stand improvement and resource utilization.

[] Membership in the Cooperative Forest Research Unit, a consortium of public and private landowners/managers underwriting forest research projects through the University of Maine.

[] Cooperation with the Maine Conservation Corps, the Maine Youth Center, the Maine Department of Labor, etc., to provide employment, training and rehabilitation opportunities.

[] Cooperation with the State Planning Office and others to identify and protect areas/species of particular natural, historical or scientific significance.

[] Cooperation with local governments to provide benefits for residents living in areas where Public Reserved Lands are located.

SECTION XVII - APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 - Glossary

Allowable Cut: generally calculated in annual increments, the number of acres which can be harvested, within a given year or period of years, for long-term, sustained-yield production.

Age-class: the biological age of a stand of timber; in even-aged stands, age-classes are generally separated by 10-year intervals.

Clearcut: an even-age harvesting method in which all trees or all merchantable trees are removed from a site in a single operation.

Commercial harvest: Any harvest which produces a net income, after operating costs are subtracted from stumpage. By contrast, a pre-commercial harvest is designed principally to improve stand quality and conditions and may not produce any net revenue.

Commercial Forestland: that portion of the landbase capable of producing at least 20 cubic feet of wood or fiber per acre per year and available for such purposes.

Compartment: A compartment is the basic inventory unit, a parcel of forestland, easily identifiable on the ground and generally ranging between 500 and 1,500 acres in size.

Critical Areas: Those portions of the landbase identified and protected through the State Critical Areas Program because of rare or unusual associations of flora and fauna, rare and endangered species, unique geological formations, etc.

Cutting Cycle: in uneven-aged management, the interval between harvest operations.

Forest Type: a descriptive title for an area of forest growth based on similarities of species and size characteristics.

Intermediate Operations: cutting operations in even-age stands of timber prior to their final harvest.

Log Landing: an area, generally close to haul roads, where forest products may be yarded prior to being trucked to markets.

Mature Growth: the age of a tree when it reaches the maximum (biological) height range for its species and growth then slows appreciably.

Old-Growth: for the purposes of this document, the age of a tree after it reaches maturity.

Regeneration: both the process of establishing new growth and the new growth itself, occurring naturally through seeding or sprouting --and artificially by planting seeds or seedlings.

Regulated Forest Acreage: that portion of the commercial forest landbase on which the annual allowable harvest is calculated.

Release Cutting: any cutting operation designed to remove competing vegetation from or establish proper spacing intervals among featured trees.

Rotation: the age at which stands of timber are harvested for particular economic or silvicultural objectives.

Salvage: a harvest operation designed to remove dead and dying timber in order to "salvage" whatever value the stand may have before it becomes unmerchantable.

Scarify: Accomplished by a variety of methods, the process of exposing mineral soil in order to favor new growth among species of trees, the seeds of which do not germinate and survive readily in the layer of decomposed material on the forest floor.

Selection: Related to uneven-aged management, the cutting of individual or small groups of trees; generally limited in area to patches of one acre or less.

Silviculture: That branch of forestry which deals with the application of forest management principles to achieve specific objectives with respect to the production of forest products and services.

Site Quality: that combination of environmental factors/species' requirements which serve to measure the degree of success with which a particular species of timber will occupy a given area of the forest.

Stand: a group of trees, the characteristics of which are sufficiently alike to allow uniform classification.

APPENDIX 2 - Committee members

Recreation - Staff Specialist Bill Warner

| | |
|---|---|
| Dorcas Miller Natural Resources Council of Maine | Herb Hartman Director Bureau of Parks & Recreation |
| David Field Professor of Forest Policy Univ. of Maine - Orono | Dan Corcoran Management Forester Great Northern Paper Co. |
| Al Leighton Executive Vice President Seven Islands Land Co. | Fran Montville Extension Economist Univ. of Maine - Orono |

Timber - Staff Specialists: Hollis Teford
Tom Charles

| | |
|---|---|
| Kilt Andrew Public Affairs LL Bean, Inc. | Robert Withrow Woodlands Manager Boise Cascade Corp. |
| Robert Seymour Asst Research Professor Univ. of Maine - Orono | Charles Hewett Executive Director Maine Audubon Society |
| Charles Gadzick Woodlands Manager Baskahegan Land Co. | Vladek Kolman Dir., Mgt. & Utilization Bureau of Forestry |

Hewlett Crawford, Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Forest Service

Wildlife - Staff Specialist: Gary Donovan

| | |
|---|--|
| Wilmot Robinson Representative Sportsman's Alliance of Me. | Jane Arbuckle Wildlife Director Maine Audubon Society |
| Dr. Ray B. Owen Dir., Wildlife Div. Univ. of Maine - Orono | John Lanier Wildlife Biologist U.S. Forest Service |
| Frederick Hurley, Jr. Dir., Resource Management Inland Fisheries & Wildlife | Howard E. Spencer Wildlife Biologist (Ret) Inland Fisheries & Wildlife |

Tom Hartranft, Manager of Operations
Champion International Corp.

APPENDIX 3 - Public Comment

A. Public Hearing Attendees:

Presque Isle: November 19, 1985

Albro Cowperthwaite, North Maine Woods Association, Box 382,
Ashland 04732.

John Badger,
Kenneth Arndt, Northern Maine Reg. Plan. Comm., PO Box 779,
Caribou 04736

Bangor: November 20, 1985

Charles Gadzik, Baskahegan Land Company, RFD 1 - Box 83-D,
Springfield 04487.

Thomas Henderson, 40 Haven Road, South Portland, 04106.

Mark A. Doty, Box 121, Sebec Village, 04481.

Elizabeth Leonard, Box 55, Norwood Farms Road, York Harbor,
03911.

Elizabeth W. Swain, Sweetser Road, Pownal, 04069.

David Field, School of Forest Resources, University of
Maine, Orono 04473.

Ray Owen, Wildlife Division, University of Maine, Orono,
04473.

Floyd Newby, School of Forest Resources, University of
Maine, Orono, 04473.

Charles Fitzgerald, 116 E. Main St., Dover-Foxcroft 04426.

Edwin Meadows, Seven Islands Land Company, 27 State Street,
Bangor, 04401.

Wilnot Robinson, Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, 147 Medway
Road, Millinocket 04462.

Farmington: November 26, 1985

John M. Ouellette, 57 Main St., Livermore Falls, 04254.

Gardiner & Leola Defoe, Box 101, Kingfield, 04947.

Eileen M. Adams, Box 164, Dryden 04225.

Dana & Carol Nye, Rte 1 - Box 388, Belgrade, 04917.

Bruce & Ruby Keene, RFD 1 - Box 176, Belgrade 04917.

Robert T. Curtis, P.O. Box 307, Searsport, 04974.

Glen Conrad, Andover Wood Products, Andover, 04216.

Robert Kimber, P.O. Box 525, Temple, 04984.

John W. Starrett, P.O. Box 808, Farmington 04938.

Ervil & Doris Kennett, P.O. Box 54, Andover, 04216.

Rep. Gwil Roberts, 12 Knowlton Ave., Farmington, 04938.

Jules Beaulieu, 1225 Sebattus Road, Lewiston 04240.

Carl Sheehy, 13 Ames Ave., Lewiston 04240.

Richard Aishton, RFD 1 - Box 1061, Farmington 04938.

Verne Scribner, RR2 - Box 991, Phillips 04966.

Herbert Neil, Forster Mfg., Co., Wilton, 04294.

Francis Henry, RFD 1 - Box 1640, Norridgewock 04957.
James Parker, Biology Dept., University of Maine,
Farmington, 04938.
Tom Eastler, Geology Dept., University of Maine, Farmington,
04938.
Leon Favreau, Bethel Furniture Stock, Bethel 04217.
Larry W. Higgins, Higgins Sports Center, 65 North River Rd.,
Auburn 04210.

B. Individuals/Organizations Submitting Written Comments

Larry W. Higgins, Higgins Sports Center, 65 North River Rd.,
Auburn, 04210.
Rep. John L. Martin, Speaker of the House, State House
Station 2, Augusta 04333.
Barton M. Blum, Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, USDA
Building, University of Maine, Orono, 04469.
Jane Arbuckle, Maine Audubon Society, Gilsland Farm, 118
U.S. Rte. 1, Falmouth, 04105.
Hewlette S. Crawford, Northeastern Forest Experiment Sta-
tion, USDA Building, University of Maine, Orono, 04469.
Elizabeth C. Beverage, P.O. Box 67, New Gloucester, 04260.
Fred Beck, F.M. Beck, Inc., 198 Main St., Yarmouth, 04096.
Tom Ceislinski, Bureau of Parks & Recreation, State House
Station 22, Augusta, 04333.
Ray Leonard, Sea Sense, Inc., P.O. Box 8, Durham, NH 03824.
Charles E. Hewett, Exec. Director, Maine Audubon Society,
Gilsland Farm, 118 U.S. Rte. 1, Falmouth, 04105.
Mark Sullivan, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Conserva-
tion, State House Station 22, Augusta 04333.
Francis E. Montville, Cooperative Extension Service, Univ-
ersity of Maine, Orono 04469.
Chad M. Converse, District Ranger, White Mountain National
Forest (1920), RFD #2 Box 2270, Bethel 04217.
Richard B. Anderson, Commissioner, Department of
Conservation, State House Station 22, Augusta 04333.
Stephen J. Law, State Representative, State House Station
2, Augusta 04333.
Robert P. Weiller, President, Outward Bound, PO Box 429,
Rockland, Maine 04841.
John M. Kauffmann, Oak Hill, Mount Desert 04660.
Walter A. Anderson, State Geologist, Maine Geological
Survey, State House Station 22, Augusta 04333.
Everett B. Carson, Executive Director, Natural Resources
Council of Maine, 271 State Street, Augusta 04330.
Gene Arsenault II, PO Box 291, Hampden 04444.
Ed Meadows, Director, Governmental Affairs & Communications,
Seven Islands Land Co., 27 State Street, Bangor 04401.
Richard E. Barringer, Director, State Planning Office, State
House Station 38, Augusta 04333.
Michael H. Dann, Chief Forester, Seven Islands Land Co., 27
State Street, Bangor 04401.

David F. Allen, Executive Director, Sportsman's Alliance of
Maine, PO Box 2783, Augusta 04330.
John F. Schott, Manager, Motorcycle Supply, 46 Strawberry
Ave., Lewiston, 04240.

C. Comments & Response

The proposed Integrated Resource Policies for Maine's Public Reserved Lands were circulated for public review on November 4, 1985, following which, public meetings were conducted in Presque Isle, Bangor and Farmington. The period for submitting written comments closed on November 30. Altogether, more than 50 individuals, representing a wide variety of personal and organizational points of view, attended the public meetings and over 125 written comments were forwarded to the Bureau.

In order to respond as comprehensively as possible and to avoid repetition, the Bureau has taken the liberty of grouping the comments, wherever similar concerns were expressed. The Bureau's responses are organized according to the order in which they relate to the policy and page numbers are listed, as appropriate. Comments which did not relate to the substance of the policy are not considered here. Where the Bureau has made changes in the policy, responses are printed in bold type.

1. PURPOSE AND LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION

(1) STATUTES (P. 2). The full statutory text, explaining multiple use, should be included in the policy under Section II, "Purpose and Legislative Direction".

RESPONSE. We are in agreement; the policy has been modified, as follows:

SECTION II - PURPOSE AND LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION

"...(that) multiple use shall mean the management of all the various renewable surface resources of the public reserved lots, including outdoor recreation, timber, watershed, fish and wildlife and other public purposes; **it means making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources over areas large and diverse enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions; it means that some land will be used for less than all of the resources; and it means harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources, each with the other, without impairment of the productivity of the land, with consideration being given to the relative values of the various resources, and not necessarily the combination of uses that will give the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output.**"

2. SCOPE:

(1) IDENTIFICATION OF THE LANDBASE (P.2). Since the Bureau administers a variety of lands, the policy should state clearly which lands are affected by the policy.

RESPONSE. The following has been added to the policy: **NOTE: This policy applies only to the Public Reserved Lands System. It does not apply to other lands administered by the Bureau of Public Lands, among which are coastal islands, submerged lands and former institutional lands.**

3. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

(1) PROTECTION OF NATURAL AREAS (P. 5). The Bureau should add a primary management objective dealing specifically with the identification and protection of natural areas.

RESPONSE. Objective #3 has been modified, as follows: "...developing and maintaining such other elements of diversity, **including identification and preservation of natural areas,....**"

(2) PUBLIC USE (P. 5). Recreational use of the Public Reserved Lands (Objective #4) should emphasize traditional activities such as camping, hunting and fishing, hiking, etc. rather than "primitive and dispersed use."

RESPONSE. The term "primitive and dispersed use" provides a collective description for these activities. Nonetheless, this objective has been modified to read: **"...emphasizing such traditional uses as camping, hunting and fishing, hiking, etc."**

(3) TIMBER (P. 5). The Bureau should not always strive for the silvicultural ideal (Objective #6), since this may occasionally work against other resource values.

RESPONSE. We are in agreement on this point --as indicated in provisions for dominant use (P. 7) and integrating requirements (Pps. 20-21).

(4) TIMBER (P. 5). The production of larger timber on longer rotation is not a sufficiently scientific description of the Bureau's objectives (#6) for timber management.

RESPONSE. The Bureau's management objectives are designed to characterize an end product, one element of which is larger timber --raw material suitable for lumber and veneer as opposed to just fiber. Fulfillment of this objective, in addition to satisfying requirements for a prosperous market position, will contribute to the diversity of the forest for wildlife, recreation and aesthetic values. Enlarging upon this brief statement of purpose for the sake of scientific description will add little substance to the end product.

(5) INCONSISTENT USE (General). It should be clearly stated within the policy that nuclear waste disposal represents a use which is inconsistent with the purposes for which these Trust lands were established and are presently managed.

RESPONSE. We are in agreement on this point and would extend this concern to include the disposal of any waste material (sanitary landfills, etc.) on the Public Reserved Lands. The policy has been modified, as follows (Sections VI and XII):

SECTION VI - MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES (P.4)

"....In short, management will strive to produce the most harmonious combination of environmental, economic and aesthetic benefits. The Bureau's underlying commitment to a balanced program of resource values and uses --emphasizing the natural integrity of the landbase-- will render inconsistent certain activities which might otherwise be interpreted as benefits and/or services. This applies particularly to the disposal of waste products, especially nuclear and other toxic wastes, which might, because of the nature of the waste, serve to discourage public interest in its Constitutional right to the use and enjoyment of these lands."

SECTION XII -- SOILS & GEOLOGY (P.29)

It will also take such steps as are necessary, particularly regarding road construction and stream crossings, to provide safeguards against erosion. Given the importance of the soil as a productive base for all other resource considerations, the Bureau will resist all attempts to establish disposal facilities of any sort which may have an adverse impact on the resource base.

(6) DEDICATED USES (General). The policy should state explicitly that some lands will be dedicated exclusively for single uses.

RESPONSE. There are areas designated for single use purposes within the Public Reserved Lands System. These include Forest Preserves, Critical Areas.

(7) RESOURCE PROTECTION (General). The policy should clearly disqualify large areas of the Public Reserved Lands System from consideration as nuclear waste disposal sites.

RESPONSE. The Public Reserved Lands are totally inappropriate for nuclear waste disposal because of the incompatibility of this use with the Trust status of these lands and their legally mandated purpose for public use and enjoyment. Moreover, certain

National Forest Lands already exempt from consideration (Research/Natural Areas and Primitive Areas) are analagous to the Bureau's designation of Forest Preserves, Critical Areas and Backcountry Recreation Areas (including portions of the Appalachian Trail and Allagash Wilderness Waterway, which are already protected as national wilderness recreation areas) --and the Bureau would argue that other categories of land (campsites, boat launches, trails, deer wintering areas, featured wildlife habitat and waterfowl impoundments, among others) also meet the criteria for disqualification. These arguments are based on the Federal government's criteria --"Environmental Screening Variable (Step 2)"-- which would render these areas inappropriate and "irreconcilably in conflict with" the purposes for which this landbase has been established.

4. THE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM:

(1) DOMINANT USE (P. 7). Dominant use does not represent the most practical application of multiple use principles; nor, given that it encourages the isolation of uses, will it necessarily safeguard the inherent values of a balanced environment.

RESPONSE. As outlined in both the Planning Policy and the proposed Integrated Resource Policies, dominant use relies on the character of the resource base to establish management direction --and it acknowledges that no resource value or use occurs independently of other values and uses. For this reason, as the policy outlines a schedule of dominant uses, it is equally attentive to the requirements of secondary uses: (1) in its allocation of land for particular resource values, it assigns dominance on a priority basis to those values which have the most specific/critical management requirements and (2) where potentially disruptive values are dominant (timber management, for example), specific constraints are designed to safeguard associated secondary values.

(2) UNIT PLANNING (P. 9). The term "rates of funding" is unclear.

RESPONSE. This term is used in the context of allocating funds for different program activities, intending that all such allocations will be established competitively within each budget period. There will be no attempt to pre-determine either a percentage or actual amount of income to be expended routinely on a given activity. This issue is also treated in the Bureau's Planning policies.

(3) COMPARTMENT EXAMINATIONS (P. 9). A deadline should be established for completing the first round of compartment examinations; and no unit plan should be undertaken until all compartments in the unit have been examined. Also, the term compartment should be defined in the glossary.

RESPONSE. Regional managers are responsible for completing compartment examinations on 10 percent of their landbase each year -- a schedule which imposes a 10-year deadline for each planning cycle. However, the Bureau is now under a statutory deadline to complete planning for all of the

consolidated management units by 1989. Within the limits of this deadline, the Bureau will examine as much of each unit as time permits; and it will set careful priorities to ensure that the most critical compartments are examined first. It is important to note that all decisions made during unit planning will be subject to further budgetary and interdisciplinary technical review prior to implementation. These additional reviews will serve as second and third eschelon checks against inappropriate program development.

(NOTE: the term **compartment** has been added to the glossary).

(4) PRESERVATION AREAS (P. 9). Include "private contractors" with other agencies in coordinated efforts to identify areas for preservation.

RESPONSE. **Adopted.**

5. MONITOR AND CONTROL:

(1) STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEES (P. 10). The Bureau should impanel stewardship committees, comprised of knowledgeable local interests, to serve as a sounding board for management proposals on each of the major management units. It should also consider having private forest consultants review all timber prescriptions.

RESPONSE. The Bureau has proposed creation of a silvicultural advisory committee (P.33), comprised of persons knowledgeable in forestry and other disciplines, to review broad issues and their program application. This body will serve in addition to existing staff and Legislative oversight. Also, given the extensive public involvement associated with the planning process, the creation of additional committees at this time would produce unnecessary overlapping public involvement procedures. Sometime after management plans have been adopted, the Bureau will reconsider the need for such a mechanism.

(2) PROGRAM REVIEW (P. 10). As part of its control mechanism, the Bureau should regularly review projected and actual performance in all program areas.

RESPONSE. This is now a regular part of work planning and budget review. Additionally, there will be a silvicultural review committee, as indicated in the policy, for purposes of broad program review.

6. RECREATION:

(1) ACCESS. (P. 11). An inordinate amount of the landbase will be accessible only on foot or by water.

RESPONSE. The policy, as proposed, provides for destination travel within most management units. That is, visitors will have vehicular access to campsites, boat launches, trailheads, and other developed facilities. This transportation system will serve most activity-oriented needs and it will leave the remainder of the landbase --the special, out of the way places -- available for those personal pursuits characterized by the spirit of explor-

ation and discovery. Nonetheless, the policy has been modified, as follows:

Development, therefore, will favor dispersed activities (hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, trapping, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, etc.) --and the resolution of potential user conflicts will generally be in favor of those uses having the least impact. Boatlaunch sites, for example, will be designed to favor smaller sporting craft as opposed to large recreational powerboats. **Generally, the Bureau will provide a variety of experiences/facilities, representing a range of both dispersed and medium-density uses, accessible by vehicle, on foot or over water.**

(2) CAMPING/USE OF FIRE (P. 11). Add the following language: "The Director shall have the opportunity to limit camping to established campgrounds in certain areas when such action is necessary to protect the resource."

RESPONSE. The policy has been modified, as follows: "...open cooking fires will not be permitted at any other locations. **Although, individuals are free to camp at sites of their own choosing (provided their use of fire is limited to self-contained stoves which do not rely on fuels leaving disposable residue or ash), the Director shall retain the discretion to close exisiting sites or to provide for "camping at designated sites only". Such decisions will normally be made during the unit planning process.**"

(3) WINTER ACTIVITIES (P. 11). All winter activities should be exempt from the prohibition of fire at unauthorized locations during periods of snow cover.

RESPONSE: The policy has been modified, as follows: "...except as such use relates to ice fishing **and other winter activities** during periods of snow cover...."

(4) REGULATING SIZES OF WATERCRAFT (P. 11). There should be provisions regulating the size of watercraft.

RESPONSE. The size of watercraft will be generally limited by the facilities available for launching. For the most part, as indicated in the policy, the Bureau will favor small, primitive launch sites as a means of discouraging inappropriate use. In more critical situations (i.e. remote ponds, trophy-class fisheries, etc.), the Bureau will seek assistance from the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, which is legally responsible for such regulation. It is important to note, however, that there are situations, where access is onto large, recreational bodies of water; in these cases, the Bureau will provide facilities for larger boats.

(5) TIMBER HARVESTING (P. 12). Timber harvesting, if allowed at all in areas where recreation is the dominant use, should be accomplished only by marked wood methods and conducted during the off season.

RESPONSE. Under certain conditions and constraints, timber harvesting is a legitimate secondary use of areas designated principally for recreational use. For purposes of site development/enhancement and public safety, it provides a logical management tool at campsites and along trails and other travelways --while, in backcountry areas and in visual zones where recreational use is dispersed, light harvesting subordinated to recreational objectives contributes to the productivity of the resource base (including wildlife habitat development and maintenance) and helps to cover the costs of management. Except under unusual circumstances, all such harvesting will be accomplished by selection or group selection methods (uneven-aged management), trees will be marked and harvesting schedules will be coordinated with the Recreation Staff Specialist, as the policy currently provides. This provision carries with it the understanding that harvesting objectives will be recreation-oriented, including off-season harvests as appropriate, and that the maintenance of aesthetically pleasing, old-growth timber will be a central consideration.

(6). PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT (P. 12). The State should not compete with the private sector in its provision of recreation facilities -- and it should encourage the development of such private facilities on public land, where there would be advantages to the public. Moreover, where such facilities pre-date public ownership, they should be allowed to continue as a matter of policy.

RESPONSE. It is not the intent of the State to compete unfairly with the private sector; and, while the policy has been revised to this effect, it must be understood that such a policy cannot operate in any way to relieve the State of its responsibilities under law to provide for public use and enjoyment. Indeed, part of the planning process is designed to evaluate the role of the public landbase with respect to activities and opportunities available on surrounding private ownerships and to provide alternatives (preferably in a context of dispersed, primitive use) to existing commercial enterprises. The resource policies, as proposed, articulate this position and provide for assessing the propriety of private commercial development on a case-by-case basis. Such consideration will also be extended to existing commercial leases providing public services. The Policy has been changed as follows, combining both (5) Sporting Camps and (6) Other Commercial Uses into a single section:

(5) Private Commercial Uses. It is not the State's intent to compete with private, commercial development in the vicinity of the Public Reserved Lands. Rather, it will seek to develop an appropriate role within the context of existing private development --providing such opportunities for primitive and dispersed recreation as might not otherwise be available. With respect to the operation of private facilities or the provision of private commercial services within the Public Reserved Lands System, all such activities will be governed by by special use permit or lease and each use or category of use will be judged on a case-by-case basis consistent with other management objectives. In those situations, where there is private, commercial activity on land subsequently incorporated within the Public Reserved

Lands System the Bureau will allow, as a minimum, a period of one year within which to evaluate the propriety of continuing such use; and it will allow at least one year's notice prior to termination, if such use is to be discontinued. All leases and special use permits will be subject to fees at current market rates. Rules, governing the administration of private commercial uses --and exempting certain small-scale activities which are decidedly temporary in nature-- will be promulgated following adoption of these policies.

(7) COMMERCIAL USE BY PERMIT (P. 12). The Bureau should develop an annual permit system governing all commercial recreational use and eliminate the artificial standard proposed in Paragraph (6).

RESPONSE. See preceding response.

(8) BACKCOUNTRY (P. 13). Change language to read: "There are situations...."

RESPONSE. **Adopted.**

(9) FEES FOR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONAL USE (P. 12). Such fees should not be imposed, since they will create undue hardships and jeopardize the larger public purposes which many of these organizations serve.

RESPONSE. The Bureau will distinguish between non-profit and non-commercial users, regulating both by lease or special use permit, as a means of controlling use. However, only non-commercial users (those which exist for the sole benefit of their membership and whose activities, as they pertain to the Public Reserved Lands, do not constitute a commercial enterprise) may be exempt from fees.

(10) FEES (Pps. 13, 16). The Legislative requirement for free public access is contradicted by providing for user fees. If there are management costs, they should be borne by the sale of timber.

RESPONSE. Free public access, as defined by statute, applies principally to the availability of the landbase for public use and enjoyment. It declares that the people of Maine shall have the "reasonable right" to use this resource, which they do. It does not, however, judge against the imposition of fees as a management tool (to control certain types of use) or as a means of defraying costs associated with the development and maintenance of facilities. Currently, all but a portion of the cost of management is supported by the sale of public timber. However, with consolidation of the landbase nearly complete and interest in recreational use growing steadily, it is conceivable that there may be a need to augment income for both the development and maintenance of facilities and to upgrade roads, as provided in the statutes [30 MRSA 4162(4)(E)]. It may also be necessary to impose fees in certain areas, where it is necessary to restrict the level of use or to maintain a properly competitive position with regional private markets engaged in similar activities. At this time, the Bureau intends to limit the imposition of fees to those areas where it is necessary for management purposes.

(11) PERMIT/RESERVATION SYSTEM (P. 14). The Bureau should consider implementing a permit and reservation system for campsite use.

RESPONSE. The Bureau is generally supportive of this idea. However, until such time as planning and development activities have stabilized to the point where demand can be accurately assessed and until there are administrative means available for managing such a system, implementation would create a burden which would, more than likely, diminish rather than enhance benefits to the public.

(12) CARRY IN/CARRY OUT (P. 14). The Bureau should make provisions for centralized refuse disposal at each of its management units in order to strengthen its carry in/carry out policy.

RESPONSE. This may occur in certain areas; however, it remains an administrative decision which will be addressed in unit planning.

(13) STORAGE OF PRIVATE PROPERTY (P.15). The public should have the right to store certain private property on the Public Reserved Lands; if a fee must be charged, it should be considerably lower than \$100.

RESPONSE. The fact that these lands are public means that they are not generally available for exclusive private use (such as the storage of private property: boats, fishing shacks, etc.), which invite vandalism and frequently constitute eyesores; and the purpose of a fee serves as much to discourage as to regulate such use. The Bureau is in agreement, however, with criticism of the proposed fee --and that section of the policy has been modified as follows:

H. Storage of Private Property: Storage of private property on the Public Reserved Lands is generally not permitted. However, under certain circumstances (available space and compatibility with existing uses), where private use is routine and continuing and at the discretion of the Regional Manager, the Bureau may provide for the storage of certain types of equipment (boats, ice shacks, etc.) by special use permit. Such opportunities will be identified in the unit plans. Permits for such use will be subject to an annual fee; and all persons obtaining such permits will be liable for the removal of their stored property upon request by the Director. Failure to remove such property within 30 days of notification will result in the forfeit of said property and payment of a penalty by the permittee. These provisions will be written on the permit and applicants will be required to agree in writing prior to issuance. (NOTE: Where lessees of water-access only camplots have arrangements with the Bureau for temporary, seasonal boat-storage, the annual fee will be considered part of their normal lease fee. Rules, governing fees and penalties, will be promulgated following adoption of these policies.)

(14) ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES (P. 15). All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's) constitute a legitimate use of the Public Reserved Lands and should not be prohibited. Indeed, with private lands increasingly posted against such use, the State should provide leadership in resolving the problems currently associated with this recreational activity.

RESPONSE. All terrain vehicles represent a potentially intrusive, damaging and dangerous use which has been demonstrated to be essentially unmanageable. Further, within the framework of use intended on the Public Reserved Lands, they are inconsistent with proposed standards for solitude and threaten to "motorize" the concept of traditional uses --particularly, as their peak use period coincides with the normal recreation season (Memorial Day to Labor Day) for most backcountry-type activities. Nor does there appear to be legitimate argument that ATV use should be treated in the same fashion as snowmobiles, since the latter represents a highly organized and essentially self-regulating activity which takes place when there are few other conflicting uses ongoing. As for the use of these machines by sportsmen tending traps or hauling legal game during hunting season, the traditional use concept dictates against the introduction of all terrain motorized travel of this nature. Nonetheless, the Bureau will modify its policy as follows:

G. Use of Motorized Vehicles:

"....Use of such vehicles, therefore, will be limited to administrative purposes and to extraordinary situations covered by special use permit, at the discretion of the Director. However, in order to contribute in a positive fashion to the resolution of problems associated with ATV use, the Bureau will, while continuing the general prohibition on their use, cooperate, on an experimental basis, with duly constituted and legally incorporated groups, engaged in bona fide research on this issue. Such groups, in addition to complying with other conditions determined appropriate by the Bureau, must demonstrate financial responsibility for the conduct of their work and potential claims arising therefrom.

"Certain areas will be designated in unit plans in which all motorized vehicular use (including snowmobiles) is prohibited to allow for enjoyment of more primitive, non-motorized winter recreation."

(15) MOTORIZED VEHICLES (P. 15). There should be provisions designating areas for winter recreation in which all motorized vehicles are prohibited.

RESPONSE. See response to preceding comment.

(16) WORK PROGRAM (P. 16). The Bureau should incorporate within its recreational work program provisions for developing a system for measuring and evaluating levels of demand.

RESPONSE. The policy has been modified, as follows: **() Develop a system for measuring and evaluating levels of public demand for certain facilities and activities.**

7. TIMBER.

(1) MANAGEMENT PHILOSOPHY (P. 17). Add the following language under Par. A.: "The basic philosophy of this plan is that a management program designed to deal with stands of naturally occurring species composition must perceive management activities as an intervention of the natural processes of the forest. To be economically and biologically successful, this intervention must imitate natural occurrences as closely as possible."

RESPONSE. Throughout this document the Bureau has stressed the importance of integrating and toning its management activities to reflect the natural character and relationships of the landbase. Further articulation of this position should not be necessary.

(2) BACKGROUND INFORMATION (P. 17). The use of wood for its chemical properties has not been significant enough to be included in a list of historical influences which have shaped today's forest.

RESPONSE. **Adopted.**

(3) CHARACTER OF THE TIMBER RESOURCE (P. 17). The timber resource should be described in more quantitative terms.

RESPONSE. The purpose of this document is to set the direction and tone for management. In subsequent unit planning documents, all resource values will be described more quantitatively.

(4) ANNUAL ALLOWABLE HARVEST (P. 17). The annual allowable harvest should be calculated in terms of volume rather than acres of land available for treatment.

RESPONSE. A fully regulated forest, particularly where even-aged management is practiced to a significant degree, requires a balanced distribution of acres within a variety of age-classes. The most efficient and reliable means of achieving this end is by area regulation, relying on compartment examinations and standard production tables for the volume calculations.

(5) ALLOWABLE HARVEST/REGULATED FOREST (P. 17). There is a need to clarify these terms.

RESPONSE. The allowable harvest is that amount (acres or volume) of timber which can be harvested within a given period of time consistent with sustained yield production. The regulated forest refers to that portion of the landbase on which the annual allowable harvest is calculated. It should be noted that not all portions of the regulated forest will be equally productive due to site quality and other management constraints, etc.

(6) BALANCED DISTRIBUTION OF AGE-CLASSES (P. 18). The Bureau should be cautious not to overcut certain units and it should delay harvesting some of its mature and over-mature timber, as it seeks to balance the distribution of age-classes.

RESPONSE. The Bureau is committed to a program that will balance growth throughout the Public Reserved Lands System. In uneven-aged stands, it will operate on a 10- to 30-year re-entry cycle (P. 20) -- while, in areas of even-aged management, it will strive to maintain at least four age-classes per square mile (P. 18). Further, it will retain a portion of the forest in old-growth. These constraints, coupled with special management provisions in areas where timber is secondary, should ensure development of a balanced age-class structure.

(7) OLD GROWTH (P. 19). Timber retained as old-growth should be separated from regulated forest acreage for greater efficiency in the management of sustained yield production.

RESPONSE. Where old growth can be identified for retention in stand-sized units, such as forest preserves, it will not be included as regulated acreage. In other areas, such as riparian zones, where provisions are made for old-growth, a factor for reduced growth in the regulated forest will be applied to sustained yield calculations.

(8) LIMITATIONS ON EVEN-AGED MANAGEMENT (P. 19). Permitting the regeneration of 20 percent of a management unit by even-aged methods would appear to reduce the standard rotation age to 50 years and establish the unit, rather than the region, as the basis for controlling sustained yield production.

RESPONSE. This limitation represents a maximum, reflecting the shortest-term rotation for a very limited number of species under circumstances where even-aged management might be applied exclusively. The combined requirements of longer rotation ages, 10- 30-year re-entry cycles (uneven-aged management) and other management objectives will not permit such scheduling over the vast majority of the regulated forest. In addition, the 20 percent limit serves as a safeguard against overcutting at the unit level, forcing the annual allowable harvest to be distributed regionally.

(9) RETENTION OF OLD-GROWTH (P. 19). The Bureau should commit to retaining 10 percent of forest cover in old-growth.

RESPONSE. Principal sources of old-growth on the Public Reserved Lands will be in forest preserves, critical areas and riparian zones, although other areas of the forest, too, will contribute to the retention of this class of timber. In the absence of complete inventory data, the Bureau cannot project an exact percentage; however, preliminary estimates of the amount of land, which will be dedicated to special management purposes (other than timber production) and where old-growth might well be retained, amount to well over 10 percent.

(10) HERBACEOUS SEEDING (P. 19). Herbaceous seeding should be restricted to native species. Also, will the Bureau consider leaving some areas exposed to mineral soil for certain wildlife benefits -- or, perhaps, re-vegetating areas with no intention of providing wildlife benefits?

RESPONSE. For purposes of erosion control and wildlife habitat development, the Bureau will apply seed mixes as recommended by the appropriate agencies of government and other land managers. In certain high-hazard situations, it may seed areas without consideration for wildlife.

(11) CLEARCUTTING (P. 19). It would not be wise for the State to advance clearcutting as a good forest practice.

RESPONSE. Under the proper circumstances and with adequate controls, clearcutting is a generally accepted practice among professional foresters, wildlife biologists and other land management specialists. As may be noted in the policy, the Bureau distinguishes very carefully between clearcutting and other practices associated with even-aged management; and it reserves the application of clearcuts only "for special situations" --and these must be justified within the context of integration requirements governing all timber harvesting.

(12) EVEN-AGED VS. UNEVEN-AGED MANAGEMENT (P. 19, 20). The policy should clearly state the intended mix of even-vs. uneven-aged management.

RESPONSE. The selection of a management system depends upon stand type and condition and upon the long-term objectives of forest management. Given the diversity of the resource and broad range of resource values and uses under consideration, it is not possible to pre-determine such a balance.

(13) SHELTERWOOD VS. CLEARCUTTING (Pps. 19, 20). These two harvesting methods should be clearly distinguished in the policy.

RESPONSE. This distinction is implied in the policy; however the Bureau has clarified that language as follows: "The application of clearcutting, **distinguished from shelterwood harvesting in that it (clearcutting) removes all merchantable timber from a site in a single operation, will be reserved for special situations....**"

(14) SHELTERWOOD HARVEST (P. 20). Where 20 to 75 percent of the stand is removed, does that removal refer to basal area, stems or crown closure? Also, a 75% first-stage removal seems severe.

RESPONSE. It refers to either volume or basal area. With respect to the percentage of first-stage removal, 75% is the accepted limit, as defined by the Society of American Foresters and reflects the point of distinction between a shelterwood and a seed-tree harvest. As a general rule, the Bureau would not harvest this intensively in a first-stage removal.

(15) HARVESTING IN WILDLIFE AREAS (P. 21). Constraints on harvesting in areas where wildlife is the dominant use should be cross-referenced in the wildlife section.

RESPONSE. References are made in both sections. However, since these are constraints on the timber program, it was felt that the more complete table of integration requirements would serve the most practical use in the timber section.

(16) SHORELAND HARVESTING (P. 21). There should be provisions for modified harvesting along shorelands similar to those for recreational areas.

RESPONSE. All shorelands are subject to harvesting restrictions as outlined for riparian zones (P. 21-Wildlife and P. 26-Riparian Areas).

(17) SPECIES MODIFICATION (P. 22). Why would timber species be unsuitable for the sites on which they occur?

RESPONSE. Most hardwoods require fertile sites for sustained, growth, while softwoods will usually produce quality stems on all but the poorest sites. Regardless of site quality, however, hardwood seedlings are more competitive than young softwood; and they may dominate a site and grow poorly, where softwood, given a chance, will produce valuable timber. In such situations, it may be appropriate to re-establish softwoods in order to achieve greater productivity from the landbase.

(18) HERBICIDE USE (P. 22). The Bureau's intention to retard hardwood growth on softwood sites would appear to violate its commitment to a diversified forest.

RESPONSE. In order to maintain a viable position in the forest products market, the Bureau must ensure continuing supplies of a variety of raw materials --hardwood and softwood. And, to accomplish this, it must, where necessary, protect potentially valuable growth. For the moment, much of this protection --whether by silvicultural practice or the use of chemicals-- must be invested to protect softwood growth against unwanted competition. But this does not diminish the Bureau's commitment to a diversified forest. Indeed, in its limitations on species modification activities (P. 21), it has clearly disclaimed the notion of extensive site conversion solely for economic advantage; and, in its requirements for diversity (P. 17), it has committed itself to a forest environment characterized by a variety of forest types and a balanced distribution of age-classes. These provisions notwithstanding, it is still necessary to protect the investment on which the entire management enterprise is based.

(19) PROTECTION OF NATURAL REGENERATION (P. 22). There should be provisions for the protection of natural regeneration. Also, in Paragraph F, use of the word herbicides would be more descriptive than pesticides.

RESPONSE. The Bureau has made no distinction between natural regeneration and planted stock in addressing this question. It will monitor the development of all new stands and undertake such protective measures as it deems necessary and appropriate. The reference to avoiding certain costs by regenerating naturally simply acknowledges that prudent harvesting practices (especially in softwood) can sometimes protect new growth against unwanted

competition. The policy has been modified, as follows: "....The Bureau will normally regenerate stands naturally, **taking advantage of appropriate silvicultural practices to reduce both** planting costs and the extensive use of pesticides....." Use of the word pesticides is retained to describe the entire range of responses to the combined risks of insects, disease and competitive vegetation.

(20) DISCOURAGE USE OF HERBICIDES (P. 22). The Bureau should discourage the use of herbicides within the Public Reserved Lands System.

RESPONSE. As outlined in the policy, the Bureau will apply herbicides only when there are no feasible alternatives. However, because of the need to sustain forest growth at commercially acceptable levels and to correct certain problem situations, such as removing competing hardwood vegetation from deer wintering areas, it cannot avoid their use altogether.

(21) SLASH MANAGEMENT (P. 23). Will all slash be piled, as might be indicated by the reference to slash pile management (Par. 2-Fire).

RESPONSE. The Bureau did not intend to imply that all slash would be piled. Indeed, except at mechanical delimbing sites, slash will generally be lopped and scattered. Wording in this section has been modified to read: "Slash **will be handled** to reduce the potential threat...."

(22) INSECTICIDES (P. 23). Modify paragraph 1B to read: "When insecticide use is deemed necessary...to the greatest extent possible."

RESPONSE. The policy has been modified, as indicated above, to establish a clear priority among the several protection mechanisms. Silvicultural controls are preferred; biological agents are next --and only upon failure of these means will the Bureau consider the use of chemicals.

(23) HAZARD RATING FOR INSECTS AND DISEASE (P. 23). The Bureau should develop a long-range hazard rating system to assist in planning for outbreaks of disease and insect infestations.

RESPONSE. The Bureau will coordinate these efforts with other agencies of government having specific technical expertise. The policy has been modified, as follows: "1. Insects and Disease: the Bureau will apply an integrated approach to insect and disease protection **in the following order of priority, coordinating its efforts with other agencies of government having specific technical expertise in such matters:**

(24) FIRE PROTECTION (P. 23). The policy should address fire protection in greater detail. Also, there appears to be a contradiction between retaining all snags (P. 18) and eliminating those (P. 22) which pose a fire hazard.

RESPONSE. The Bureau will coordinate detailed fire protection planning with the Fire Control Division of the Bureau of Forestry, as indicated in the policy. With respect to the contradictory statements, the provision on P. 18 is prefaced by "consistent with existing conditions" which refers, among other things, to conditions of fire hazard.

(25) MARKETING (P. 23). If the Bureau does not intend to sell wood out-of-State simply to obtain increased value, it should state this clearly.

RESPONSE. This is stated in the policy.

8. WILDLIFE

(1) RARE & ENDANGERED SPECIES (General). There should be provisions to re-introduce appropriate rare and endangered species of wildlife where habitat conditions permit.

RESPONSE. As indicated in Section XVI (Coordination, Research and Cooperative Programs), the Bureau is prepared to cooperate in any efforts of this nature; however, under law, State and Federal wildlife agencies hold primary responsibility for identifying opportunities and initiating programs.

(2) STATEMENT OF PURPOSE (P. 24). The Bureau's statement that it will not attempt to manipulate wildlife species and populations contradicts the practical effects of its proposed management.

RESPONSE. This statement has been clarified, as follows: **"....The Bureau's intention is to provide an environment characterized by a rich variety of species and to provide habitat conditions which will enhance population levels.**

(3) IMPOUNDMENTS (P. 25). In Maine, where water resources are so abundant, an energetic program to develop impoundments seems both unnecessary and even potentially damaging with respect to other ecological values.

RESPONSE. Maine is rich in wetlands. However, only a small percentage of them are of the most productive type for wildlife. The purpose of such projects is to sustain the productivity of existing quality wetlands and to enhance the productivity of certain marginal wetlands.

(4) PEATLAND (P. 25). Peatland should be identified as a special habitat zone and provided with special management attention.

RESPONSE. All bogs will be classified as wetlands and managed, as provided in the policy.

(5). ROADS IN RIPARIAN AREAS AND WETLANDS (P. 25, 26). The policy should contain a strong statement prohibiting the construction of roads in these areas.

RESPONSE. To avoid fragmentation of wildlife habitat, the Bureau will keep road construction to a minimum in these areas.

(6) REMOTE PONDS (P. 26). The Bureau should develop its own system to classify remote ponds and then petition other appropriate agencies to gain proper legal sanction.

RESPONSE. This will occur during resource allocation in the unit planning process.

(7) PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS (P. 27). The Bureau's project recommendations contradict its intent not to manipulate wildlife species and populations.

RESPONSE. The policy has been modified, as indicated above.

(8) FEATURED HABITAT (P.27). Critical areas should be identified within the discussion of "Featured Habitat".

RESPONSE. The policy has been modified, as follows: "....Also included in this category would be habitat for species listed as rare and endangered, **critical areas**, and portions of the forest in which old-growth should be retained...."

(9) PLANNING FOR FUTURE DEN TREES/SNAGS (P. 27). There should be provisions for the eventual "replacement" of den trees and snags.

RESPONSE. Maintenance of such wildlife trees will be a key element in riparian zones and other areas where timber is a permitted but secondary use --and they will be distributed throughout the regulated forest. On a cyclical basis, they will be replaced naturally or through the fulfillment of integration requirements for timber harvesting.

(10) WORK PLAN (P. 27). The Bureau should explore opportunities which would facilitate public viewing of wildlife.

RESPONSE. Coordinated management programs should increase the numbers and variety of wildlife species on the Public Reserved Lands. Individuals taking advantage of hiking trails and other opportunities to explore the landbase should be well-rewarded for their efforts.

9. RESOURCE PRESERVATION:

(1) FOREST PRESERVES (P. 28). Modify the last sentence to read: "The Bureau will cooperate with this effort to the extent that it does not significantly impact the Bureau's financial standing."

RESPONSE. Errors in this sentence, which went unnoticed prior to distribution, made it unreadable. The sentence has been modified to read: "...provision for such areas will not jeopardize the productive capacity of the commercial landbase."

(2) CRITICAL AREAS (P. 28). Prior to unit planning, a thorough Critical Areas study of each unit should be completed.

RESPONSE. The Bureau has a continuing agreement with the Critical Areas Program to accomplish this work. Where possible it will precede unit planning; otherwise, the Bureau will seek preliminary address of such issues through consultation with the Critical Areas Program during the planning process and through resource allocation procedures.

(3) NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY. (General) A complete natural resources inventory should be undertaken on all of the units.

RESPONSE. Through the normal course of compartment examinations, the Bureau's continuing relationship with the Critical Areas Program and a variety of projects with other agencies and organizations, such an inventory will be developed over time.

(4) ENDANGERED SPECIES (P.28). Rare and endangered species should be addressed in the Resource Preservation Section.

RESPONSE. The policy has been modified, under Critical Areas, as follows: "...is designed to identify and protect certain areas of significant flora and fauna, **rare and endangered species, as defined under State and Federal law**, geological formations and...."

10. SOILS & GEOLOGY:

(1) SOIL COMPACTION (P. 29). There is a need to address soil compaction resulting from the use of logging equipment and to create standards for this purpose.

RESPONSE. Studies of this matter are not conclusive at this time; however, it is a subject which warrants attention and the policy has been modified, as follows: **The Bureau will also monitor all areas subject to timber harvesting and other management activities and coordinate corrective action, as necessary.**

(2) MINING (P. 29). Revise the mining language as follows: "...At such time as discoveries are made, decisions regarding their development will be made on a case-by-case basis, consistent with current Mining on State Lands statutes and with other resource requirements, and coordinated with the Maine Geological Survey...."

RESPONSE. **Adopted.**

(3) SOIL MAPPING (P. 29). The Bureau should make a long term commitment to map soil types and minerals.

RESPONSE. The policy has been modified, as follows: **The Bureau will develop a data base which will enhance the Bureau's silvicultural and other management programs.**

(4) SOIL DISTURBANCE (P. 29). Prior to any activity which will cause major soil disturbance, there should be a thorough review of soil conditions for the entire area.

RESPONSE. The policy has been modified, as follows: **Compartment examination procedures will include identification of broad soil types with specific references to those situations in which soil classes and/or conditions may pose particular problems or opportunities.**

11. WATER RESOURCES:

(1) GROUNDWATER PROTECTION (P. 30). The policy should address aquifers and ground water protection.

RESPONSE. The policy has been modified, as follows: **The Bureau will also work with appropriate agencies to identify and map aquifers on the Public Reserved Lands, and to provide for their protection --ensuring against enactment of any programs, particularly waste disposal, which will operate to the detriment of this resource and other management purposes for which these lands have been established.**

(2) DEVELOPMENT OF HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER. (P. 30). Policy treatment of hydro-electric power potential provides little direction for future management.

RESPONSE. The policy has been modified, as follows: **Many of the lands acquired by the State for incorporation into the Public Reserved Lands System were selected for the extraordinary aesthetic value of their water resources. Use of these resources, therefore, for the development of hydro-electric power would have to be considered incompatible with the purposes for which they were acquired --unless justified by extraordinary circumstances and subject to public review, as provided in unit planning.**

12. TRANSPORTATION:

(1) CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS (P. 31). All roads should be built to minimum standards and closed when they are no longer needed in order to protect the remoteness of the landbase.

RESPONSE. The purposes for which roads will be built are outlined in this document, along with provisions for public vehicular travel. Specifications for construction are under development in a body of transportation guidelines. Decisions regarding the location and use of specific roads will be made during unit planning.

13. COORDINATION, RESEARCH AND COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS:

(1) RESEARCH AND COOPERATION (P. 32). The Bureau should cooperate with such agencies and organizations as will provide opportunities for job

training and strengthen research in wildlife and forest management (including the long-term effects of herbicides).

RESPONSE. As outlined in the policy, the Bureau will give consideration to all research and cooperative proposals. In those cases, where, because of limited expertise, it cannot take the lead in such projects, it will still make the landbase available.

14. MISCELLANEOUS:

(1) PROGRAM SUMMARY. This document should contain a program summary to give an indication of current status upon adoption of the policy.

RESPONSE. Such information is available in annual reports regularly forwarded to the Legislature. Their inclusion in a policy document would render it unduly cumbersome.

(2). FINANCE ADMINISTRATION. The Bureau's economic expectations should be clarified and based on established economic modeling techniques.

RESPONSE. This issue is outside the scope of this policy, but will be pursued as an administrative matter through the budget and work planning process. This issue was addressed generally in the Planning Policy for the Public Reserved Lands, adopted June 11, 1985.

(3) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. The Public Reserved Lands should play a more active role in Maine's economic development.

RESPONSE. While this question is beyond the scope of resource management, the Bureau will, as provided in Section XVI, consider proposals and explore opportunities for economic development. It should also be noted that the Bureau's timber program contributes significantly to the economic well-being of the State.

(4). PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. Efforts to gain public input in pre-planning stages should be undertaken.

RESPONSE. Procedures for this type of input are outlined in the Bureau's Planning Policies for the Public Reserved Lands, adopted June 1985.

(5) MILITARY USE OF THE PUBLIC RESERVED LANDS. Will the Bureau consider making the Public Reserved Lands available for military use?

RESPONSE. On a case-by-case basis, as outlined in the Bureau's Planning Policies, the Bureau will consider all requests for special uses.

(6) INTERPRETATION. The policies, as written, are not specific enough. They allow too much latitude for interpretation by subsequent generations of administrators.

RESPONSE. All policy documents must acknowledge that they reflect circumstances at a given moment in time. Having established a proper

direction for management, they must then rely on the propriety of subsequent administrators to continue to work in the best interests of the public.

15. GLOSSARY:

(1) CRITICAL AREAS (P.33). The term Critical Areas should be defined in the glossary.

RESPONSE. The following has been added to the Glossary: **Critical Areas refer to those portions of the landbase identified and protected through the State Critical Areas Program because of rare or unusual associations of flora and fauna, rare and endangered species, unique geological formations, etc."**