



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY
BUREAU OF PARKS AND LANDS
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AMANDA E. BEAL
COMMISSIONER

Date: June 1, 2020

To: Central Penobscot Region Plan Advisory Committee Members
From: Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands
Re: Five-Year Review and Update of the Central Penobscot Region Management Plan;
Management Plan for Gulf Hagas Unit Acquired in 2016

This memo reports on Advisory Committee comments on the 2019 Five-Year Review of the 2014 Central Penobscot Region Management Plan and the response to those comments by the Bureau of Parks and Lands. This memo will serve as the Final Report on the Five-Year Review.

The Bureau emailed its 2019 Five-Year report for the Central Penobscot Region Plan to the Advisory Committee on June 24, 2019, requesting comments on the report. The Bureau identified one new issue that was not addressed in the Plan: The Bureau's December 2016 acquisition of over 1,200 acres of fee property and a conservation easement on over 7,000 acres of adjoining working forest land in Bowdoin College Grant East Twp. (the Whitecap/Gulf Hagas Project).

The Bureau received written comment on the Five-Year report from one Advisory Committee member: the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W) requested we revisit the issue of boat access at Nahmakanta Lake, in light of Order No. 3356 issued by the Secretary of the US Department of the Interior (DOI) in 2017. Order No. 3356 directed DOI agencies to seek opportunities to expand access on public and private lands and to promote hunting and fishing. Under the MOU signed by the Bureau and the National Park Service (NPS) in 2008, and the *Plan for the Management of Nahmakanta Lake Lands* drafted by Maine Appalachian Trail Club (MATC) in 1994 and referenced in the MOU, only carry-in boat access is to be provided across the federally-owned Appalachian Trail corridor at the south end of the lake.

In response to this request, the Bureau engaged in correspondence and conversations with MATC, NPS and IF&W. Any change in the current boat access would require a revision of the 2008 MOU with NPS and of the 1994 MATC *Plan for the Management of Nahmakanta Lake Lands*.

Because of these long-standing agreements regarding the Appalachian Trail at this location, neither BPL, NPS, nor MATC support changing access at this time. However, limited access (spring, fall) for anglers may be a topic to reconsider at some point in the future.

This completes the Five-Year Review process.

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Management Plan for the Gulf Hagas Unit Addition to the Central Penobscot Region

The committee was informed in the initial Five-Year Review memo that the Bureau was working on a draft plan for the Gulf Hagas fee parcel, for committee review. The Draft Management Plan was emailed to the committee on July 25, 2019 with a request for comments. The Bureau received three comments on the draft.

The enclosed Final Draft Plan reflects those comments and additional resource information received since the first draft was prepared. A summary of the comments and the Bureau's responses is provided in Appendix A of the Final Draft.

A public meeting to present the Final Draft Plan and take comments will be scheduled in the next few months. Due to restrictions on public gatherings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the public meeting may be conducted using videoconferencing services. The Advisory Committee will be informed in advance via email of the date, time and location of the public meeting or will be provided information on how to participate in the videoconference.