

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

**St. John Uplands Region Management Plan
Advisory Committee Meeting #2**

November 21, 2019 5:30 – 8:00 PM
BPL Northern Region Office, Ashland ME

MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT [*: non-Advisory Committee members]

Matt LaRoche, Superintendent, Allagash Wilderness Waterway (AWW)
Wade Kelly, Tylor Kelly Camps
Frank Frost, Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, Region G - Fisheries
* Cathy Johnson, Natural Resources Council of Maine
* Vern Labbe, retired former BPL Northern Region Manager

BPL STAFF PRESENT

Doug Reed, Deputy Director
Jacob Guimond, Northern Region Manager
Sarah Spencer, IF&W Wildlife Biologist assigned to BPL
Jim Vogel, Management Plan Coordinator

Welcome/Introductions

Jim Vogel welcomed the attendees, and asked all present to introduce themselves. Handouts provided include an agenda (Attachment A) and copies of the dominant resource allocation maps and management recommendations. The complete Draft Plan was distributed several weeks in advance via email. Introductions were followed by a statement of the meeting's purpose: to review the contents of the Draft Plan with an emphasis on Vision statements, resource allocations, and management recommendations contained in Section IV of the document. Attendees were reminded of the opportunity to provide additional thoughts or comments over the next few weeks, and that contact information is provided on the bottom of the meeting agenda. PowerPoint slides summarizing the public planning process and the Draft Plan were projected to assist in the discussion (Attachment B).

Discussion

The Public Reserved Lands units addressed in the Plan were addressed in the order they appear in the document – from largest to smallest. Specific comments and questions made during the meeting included the following (the comments and, where applicable, BPL staff responses, are summarized or paraphrased here).

[Written comments were submitted in advance via email by Matt LaRoche, AWW; Shawn Haskell, IF&W Region G; and Kevin Dunham, IF&W Region F (Attachment C).]

General Comments

Cathy Johnson:

- The issue of climate change is not addressed in the Plan.
 - Jim Vogel responded that the BPL Chief of Silviculture is working on the climate change topic as related to BPL forest management and will be consulted as to how the topic might be mentioned in the Plan.
- The lands closest to the AWW (i.e., within the one-mile zone) should be allocated to Non-Mechanized Backcountry Recreation, for several reasons; these areas provide a different experience than the lands further from the AWW, are important for wildlife, etc.
- The AWW statute [MRS Title 12, Chapter 220, subchapter 6, section 1877] requires that any lands acquired by the Bureau adjacent to the waterway should become part of the AWW.
- All management roads should be gated at the one-mile point from the AWW
- Need to define “busiest canoe season” as used in the Draft Plan. Should be defined as May 1 to Oct. 15.

Telos Unit

Recommendation to consider developing carry-in boat access to Webster Lake

Cathy Johnson:

- Oppose developing carry-in or trailered boat access to Webster Lake, as requested by IF&W and others; current access via existing trails and Telos Lake is adequate; should be maintained as a unique wilderness experience with only carry-in access and without motorized boats.

Recommendation to move trailer/RV storage from Kellogg Brook to Chamberlain parking area

- Oppose proposal for trailer storage at Chamberlain parking area; such year-round storage is not appropriate on public lands and certainly not at Chamberlain where wilderness experience is important.

Round Pond Unit

Recommendation to move gate near SE corner of Unit to near the firetower

Cathy Johnson:

- Oppose moving gate from near southeast corner of Unit (near entrance) to near fire tower; currently gated roads provide backcountry hunting experience; moving gate will be problematic for AWW visitors and degrade the wilderness experience for them when they encounter visitors who drive in to the tower; concern that drive-in visitors will use trail to AWW and cause conflicts at the shoreline campsite.

Wade Kelly:

- Expressed support for moving gate so that more people could enjoy the rehabbed fire tower

Vern Labbe:

- Provided historical background on what roads have been left open and what gates have been installed on both the west and east sides of the Unit; some gates on west side were installed in coordination with IF&W in accord with the Habitat Management Agreement;

east side was gated when roads were improved in recent years, pending discussion of the issue during the development of the management plan.

[there was additional general discussion regarding the AWW campsite at the start of the fire tower trail and potential impacts on campers, and potential relocation or closure of the campsite and/or trail near the campsite]

Chamberlain Unit

Vern Labbe:

- In response to the earlier general comment that portions of the Plan area should be allocated to Non-mechanized Backcountry Recreation -- commented that the Chamberlain Ecological Reserve (30% of the Unit) functions as such an area, although it is allocated to Special Protection as required due to its reserve status.
 - Jim Vogel stated that the plan will be revised to add Non-mechanized Backcountry Recreation as a secondary allocation, to make this recreation opportunity more explicit, as has been done in other management plans with ecological reserves

Recommendation to consider moving gate in Indian Pond subunit at Indian Stream

Cathy Johnson:

- Oppose moving gate at Indian Stream to facilitate AWW visitor's access to boardwalk to shoreline; visitors use the stream to reach the lake when flow is high enough; it is only 900 feet from the parking area to the boardwalk; moving the gate will invite management problems.

Wade Kelly:

- Generally neutral on issue, but asked "why wouldn't we do it"; new gate would not allow vehicles any closer to AWW or shoreline

Matt LaRoche:

- Boardwalk is mainly used by those who leave larger boats at the shoreline, as allowed for up to 2 weeks, versus other non-local AWW visitors embarking on a AWW trip

New trail and relocated parking area for access to historic locomotives in AWW, adjacent to ecoreserve

Cathy Johnson:

- Oppose the new trail because it degraded the AWW visitor's wilderness experience; gate should be moved back to its former location one mile from the AWW, where the existing road entered the one mile zone.

Wade Kelly:

- Described visiting the site with his wife using the new trail; believes site should be accessible by trail as it is now, not just to those who would paddle in; there are very few historic sites like this that people can visit; does not agree that meeting hike-in groups at the trains is denigrating to the entire AWW experience.

Vern Labbe:

- Commented that there were multiple-user created trails and that it was a popular hike before the new trail was developed

[There was additional general discussion about the effect of the new trail on the number of hike-in visitors, with general agreement that use has increased; also about occasional large groups going to the site – one recent group in particular that contacted AWW beforehand – and the publicizing of the historic site by various media outlets in past years which increased public interest on knowledge]

Proposed Remote Recreation dominant allocation and potential timber harvesting on The Boot and Pump Handle peninsulas

Cathy Johnson:

- Encourage BPL to keep/designate these areas as “unregulated” recognizing the ecological values present and the close association with the AWW

Vern Labbe:

- Believes there is an opportunity to show the public on these areas a different mode of timber harvesting than they would likely view when driving into the region; i.e., “light-touch” harvesting that is not very apparent, particularly after a few years have passed.

Gero Island/Chesuncook Unit

Recommendation to consider sale of undeveloped lots to abutting lot owners

Cathy Johnson:

- BPL should put a restriction on development of any camp or lease lots that would be sold to abutting lot owners (e.g., don’t allow subdivision)
 - Others commented that the lots in question are small (~0.5 acre) and probably could not be further subdivided

Recommendation to evaluate Graveyard Point bunkhouse for repair or removal

Jacob Guimond:

- Commented on occasional past use of the bunkhouse by the Bureau, and stated it has not been used in a number of years; provided additional details on the deteriorated condition of the structure, which is being further evaluated, and noted it would be costly to do the necessary repairs.

Allagash Lots

Proposed Resource Allocations on Southeast Lot

Cathy Johnson:

- The portion of the Southeast lot between the highway and the river was formerly identified as potential ecological reserve, and should be designated ecoreserve now, or given Special Protection allocation (beyond the shoreline strip so designated in Draft Plan) to preserve those values

Vern Labbe:

- Described the condition of the deer wintering area on the lot and explained the need for active management now (removal of hardwoods that are suppressing softwood growth) in order to develop the desired deer shelter, which designation as ecoreserve would

prevent; also noted that a considerable portion of the lot upslope of the road is unregulated due to steepness, thus if combined with the desired ecoreserve status, the area available to harvest would be too small to be economically harvested.

Falls Pond Lot

Potential projects to enhance brook trout habitat

Frank Frost:

- Described in some detail the high value fishery resource in the pond and its scarcity in the area; mentioned that IF&W is in the early stages of a potential project to maintain the brook trout habitat by raising the water level slightly; stated the resource may be at risk from climate change, due to the shallowness of the pond, could be lost like Little Falls Pond upstream has been lost without action.

Wade Kelly:

- Spoke of the historical importance to residents of the region of this uncommon fishery, and in favor of IF&W investment in a project to maintain this fishery.

T14 R11/T15 R11 Lots

- No comments

Next Steps and Concluding Comments

Attendees were advised that a public meeting or meetings will be scheduled to present and take comments on the Final Draft Plan when revisions to the Draft Plan have been completed by the Bureau, and that the Final Draft Plan will be distributed to the committee in advance of the meeting(s). Members were reminded that updates, meeting notices and documents will be posted on the plan website.

The meeting was concluded with a thank you to all who attended and was adjourned at approximately 8:00 pm.

*Respectfully Submitted by
Jim Vogel*

Written Comments submitted since the meeting

Attachment A: Meeting Agenda

Attachment B: PowerPoint Slides

Attachment C: Written Comments submitted before the meeting

Attachment D: Written Comments submitted after the meeting



St. John Uplands Region Management Plan

Advisory Committee Meeting

November 21, 2019

5:30 to 8:00 pm

BPL Northern Region Office, Ashland ME

Agenda

- 5:30 Welcome and Introductions, Meeting's Objectives and Goals
- 5:35 Telos Public Lands – Review of character of Unit, Vision, proposed Resource Allocations and Management Recommendations [35 min.]
- 6:10 Round Pond Public Lands – Review of character of Unit, Vision, proposed Resource Allocations and Management Recommendations [20 min.]
- 6:30 Chamberlain Public Lands – Review of character of Unit, Vision, proposed Resource Allocations and Management Recommendations [20 min.]
- 6:50 Break [10 min.]
- 7:00 Gero Island and Chesuncook Public Lands – Review of proposed Resource Allocations and Management Recommendations [25 min.]
- 7:25 Town of Allagash, Falls Pond & T14/T15 R11 Lots – Review of proposed Resource Allocations and Management Recommendations [25 min.]
- 7:50 Next Steps

Adjourn

You may send **written comments** to be considered in preparing the Final Draft Plan **by December 13 to:**

Jim Vogel
Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands
22 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
OR
Jim.Vogel@maine.gov

The webpage for the St. John Uplands Region Plan can be found at:

http://www.maine.gov/dacf/stjohn_uplands

This page will be updated with the Final Draft Plan and announcements about upcoming meetings and written comment periods.

ATTACHMENT B

St. John Uplands Region Management Plan

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

St. John Uplands Region Advisory Committee Meeting
November 21, 2019



DRAFT PLAN REVIEW



Public Planning Process

- **Step 1: Scoping (6 mo.)**
 - Gather and share information on the resources present on the lands
 - Seek input from the public regarding their interests and ideas for uses and management of the property and issues of concern
- **Step 2: Draft Management Plan (9 mo.)**
 - BPL crafts a 15 Year plan for the lands that protects the exceptional natural and biological resources and balances the variety of land uses and recreation interests on the parcels
 - BPL presents Draft Plan to the Advisory Committee for review and comment
 - BPL revises Draft Plan as needed
- **Step 3: Final Draft Management Plan (1-2 mo.)**
 - BPL presents Final Draft Management Plan to public for comment and discussion
 - BPL responds to comments and prepares Final Plan
- **Step 4: Final Management Plan (1 mo.)**
 - Presented to BPL Director for recommendation
 - Presented to DACF Commissioner for approval
 - Plan is adopted with signature of Commissioner

Public Reserved Lands of the St. John Uplands Region

- 4 major Units and 3 smaller lots and groups of smaller lots in Northern Piscataquis & Aroostook Counties
- >63,000 acres in total
- Major Units account for >90% of the public lands in the region

Name	Fee acres
Telos Unit	22,761
Round Pond Unit	20,803
Chamberlain Unit	9,462
Gero Is. & Chesuncook Unit	3,916
Allagash SW Lot	1,011
Allagash NW Lot	982
Allagash SE Lot	993
T18 R10 (Falls Pond) Lot	988
Allagash NE Lot	750
T14 R11 Lot	509
T15 R11 Lot	490

Agenda / Objectives

- We will focus on review of **Section IV – Resources and Management Issues** of the Draft Plan, specifically:
 - Vision (major units only)
 - Dominant Resource Use Allocations
 - Management Recommendations
- Will spend most of our time on 4 major Units
- Followed by less detailed review of smaller lots
- Feel free to ask questions or offer comments at any point in presentation
- Comments are also welcome on any of the other sections of the Draft Plan though we won't review them here


Telos Unit



View of Coffeelos Pond from north shore

Character of the Unit

- Nearly 23,000 acres of primarily forested land; a major source of timber in the St. John Uplands Region
- Telos Road and extensive management road system provide access to most of Unit; access to Baxter State Park (by road and water)
- Coffeelos Pond and Webster Lake both host significant cold water fisheries; Coffeelos is a Heritage Brook Trout pond
- Several primitive drive-to campsites near Coffeelos Pond, with short shoreline access trails
- Portage trail along Webster Stream, campsites at stream outlet & N shore
- AWW parking, winter RV camping, 2 tent campsites & privy at Chamberlain parking
- ~50+ acre exemplary fen ecosystem



South Coffeelos Pond campsite

General Vision for the Unit

- Accommodate primitive camping, boating, fishing, and hunting experiences
- Continue to provide access to AWW and camping for AWW visitors at Chamberlain parking area
- Consider developing carry-in boat access to Webster Lake
- Protect ecological values associated with ponds and exemplary fen
- More than 80% of the unit managed primarily for timber, emphasizing high value forest products, while providing a variety of wildlife habitats and protecting other significant resources

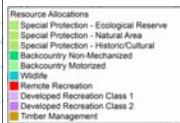


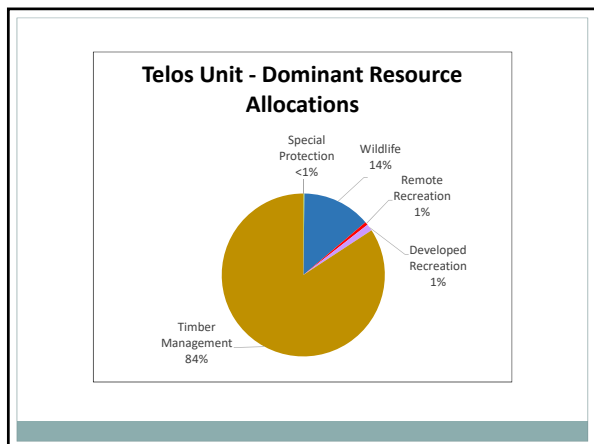
New road at Telos (July 2017)

Resource Allocations

- **Summary of allocations:**
 - Special Protection allocation protects exemplary fen community
 - Wildlife allocation protects wetland beyond Special Protection area, other riparian areas, and deer wintering areas
 - Remote Recreation allocation applied to shoreland areas adjacent to AWW parcels (within 500 feet of shore)
 - Developed Recreation allocation is applied to road corridors, campsites, and Chamberlain parking area
 - Timber Management allocation continues the historical emphasis on timber production on most of the unit, with appropriate visual, recreation, and wildlife considerations.


Resource Allocations – Telos





Management Recommendations

- **Recreation:**
 - Continued maintenance of Coffeelos campsites by NMW and rehab of Webster Lake campsite, with Baxter SP
 - Close Kellogg Brook site; work with AWW on a plan for developing RV/trailer storage sites at Chamberlain Bridge parking area
 - Consider development of carry-in boat access on south side of Webster Lake
- **Wildlife:**
 - Survey and evaluate the DWAs on the Unit
 - Work with IF&W on development of a draft HMA



RVs and trailers stored at Kellogg Brook (Aug. 2019)

Timber Management

- Continuation of long-term program to improve timber quality on the unit, with the overall objectives of growing high value timber products while maintaining visual integrity and enhancing the diversity of wildlife habitat
- Harvesting in areas abutting the AWW allocated to Remote Rec. will be light and will seek to mimic harvests in Visual Class I areas
- Areas visible from the AWW waterbodies will be subject to Visual Class II considerations; AWW will be notified when harvests are planned within the one-mile zone

Administrative Issues

- **Signage and Visitor Information:**
 - Assess signage and visitor information at Chamberlain parking area for possible improvements
- **Coffeelos Pond Boat Storage:**
 - Take steps to bring boat storage at pond into compliance with BPL policy



Unusable boat stored at Coffeelos Pond

Round Pond Unit



View toward Round Pond from fire tower platform

Character of the Unit



- 20,000+ acres of forestland on both sides of the Allagash River and crossed by several tributary streams
- Former MFS fire tower with viewing platform; under rehabilitation
- Day hike trail to fire tower from AWW shore/campsite
- Exemplary natural communities on 3 hardwood knolls, and along Schedule Brook; rare plant within small wetland
- Since 2006, 10,000+ acre DWA managed under HMA developed with IF&W



Fire tower with platform

General Vision for the Unit

- Enhance deer wintering habitat as guided by Deer Wintering Area HMA
- Work toward full rehabilitation of fire tower and enhancement of its recreational and historical value
- Expand public access to the road system in the SE quadrant of the Unit
- Manage timber as primary use on ~48% of unit, respecting wildlife habitat needs and visual concerns in relation to AWW-visible areas

Gate near SE corner of Unit


Resource Allocations

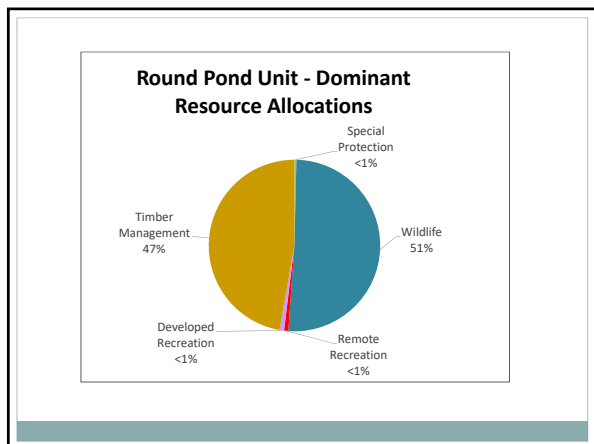
- Special Protection allocation on 3 hardwood knolls in NW quadrant of unit (to be resurveyed by MNAP)
- Wildlife allocation within the area subject to the Deer Wintering Area HMA, and riparian areas outside HMA
- Remote Recreation buffer surrounding fire tower trail outside HMA area
- Developed Recreation allocation along roads open to the public
- Timber Management allocation on remaining acres

Resource Allocations – Round Pond

Resource Allocations

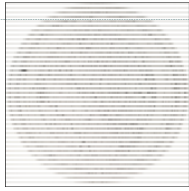
- Special Protection - Ecological Reserve
- Special Protection - Natural Area
- Special Protection - Historic/Cultural
- Backcountry Non-Motorized
- Backcountry Motorized
- Wildlife
- Remote Recreation
- Developed Recreation Class 1
- Developed Recreation Class 2
- Timber Management






Management Recommendations

- **Recreation and Public Access:**
 - Complete rehabilitation of fire tower;
 - develop interpretive information and displays
 - Move existing gate to location near where fire tower trail crosses management road
- **Wildlife:**
 - Continue implementation of Habitat Management Agreement in coordination with IF&W
- **Timber Management:**
 - Management for high quality forest products and improvement of forest quality (in accord with HMA), while protecting visual quality
 - Mapped AWW Visible Areas will be subject to Visual Class I considerations




Chamberlain Unit



Abandoned Eagle Lake & West Branch RR line within Chamberlain Ecological Reserve

Character of the Unit

- 8 non-contiguous tracts of forestland on Big Eagle, Chamberlain and Allagash Lakes, totaling ~9,500 acres
- All 8 tracts abut the AWW along the lakeshores
- Largest subunit has been designated Chamberlain (aka Bear Mountain) Ecological Reserve (2,890 ac)
- Exemplary natural communities have been documented within the reserve and three other tracts
- Chamberlain ecoreserve and several other tracts have no roads, or none open to the public
- Eagle Lake Tramway Historic District encompasses west part of reserve
- Recreation facilities
 - short trail to historic locomotives (within AWW) and tramway portage trail within ER
 - Allagash Mtn. fire tower and trail to tower from lakeshore
 - Short trail to high point on Pump Handle peninsula




Allagash Mountain fire tower

General Vision for the Unit

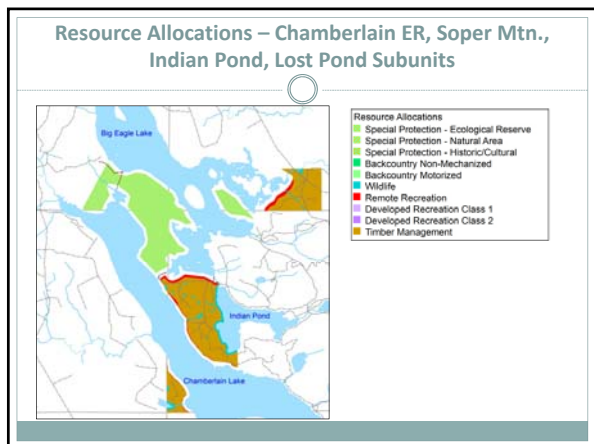
- About 30% of the unit managed as Ecological Reserve
- Continue to maintain trail to fire tower, tramway portage trail, and Pump Handle trail (with AWW) and new trail to locomotives
- Continue to provide snowmobile routes across parcels, linking the lakes
- Remainder managed primarily for timber, emphasizing high value forest products, while providing a variety of wildlife habitats and protecting other significant resources

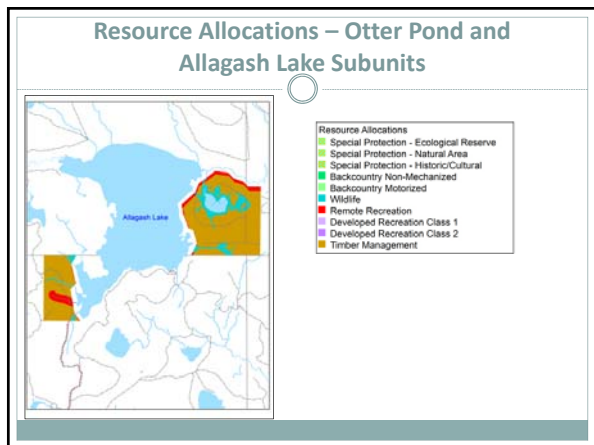
Resource Allocations – The Boot and Pump Handle peninsulas

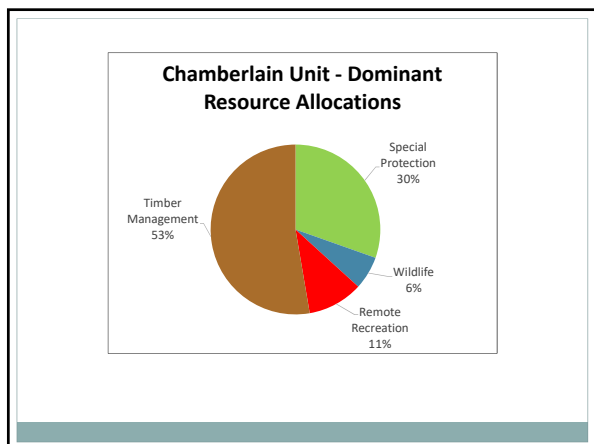


Resource Allocations

- Special Protection - Ecological Reserve
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- Backcountry Non-Mechanized
- Backcountry Motorized
- Wildlife
- Remote Recreation
- Developed Recreation Class 1
- Developed Recreation Class 2
- Timber Management









Management Recommendations

- **Recreation:**
 - Consider actions to facilitate carry-in access to AWW at Indian Stream
 - Continue coordination with AWW for trail maintenance; reroute steep portions of fire tower trail
 - Evaluate options for Allagash Mtn fire tower (repair or replacement of cab, removal)
- **Timber Management:**
 - continue management for high quality forest products and improvement of forest quality
 - Visual Class I considerations will apply for areas visible from the AWW



Remains of tramway along portage trail


Gero Island and Chesuncook



Gero Island campsite maintained by FRC

Resource Allocations

- **Allocations**
 - Special Protection allocation on Gero Island (ecoreserve)
 - Wildlife allocation along Chesuncook lakeshore buffer
 - Developed Recreation in Chesuncook Village area
 - Timber Management allocation on remaining acres



Resource Allocations

- Special Protection - Ecological Reserve
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- Remote Recreation
- Developed Recreation Class 1
- Developed Recreation Class 2
- Timber Management

Management Recommendations

- **Roads**
 - Work with county on maintenance plan for roads and named streets
- **Administrative Issues**
 - BPL will consider selling leased lots and undeveloped camplots to abutters
 - Evaluate whether to repair or remove the bunkhouse
 - Develop lease for CLH seasonal dock and use of cove
- **Timber Management**
 - Little or no harvest anticipated this plan period
 - Areas near Village and lakeshore subject to Visual Class I considerations



Bureau staff inspection of Graveyard Point bunkhouse (Aug 2019)



Cove near Chesuncook Lake House and dock

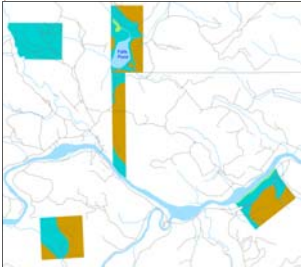
Allagash Lots




Deer utilizing DWA

Resource Allocations & Mgmt. Recommendations

- **Allocations:**
 - Special Protection along St. John River shore on SE lot due to rare plants
 - Most acres allocated to Wildlife due to large DWA and St. John River frontage
 - Remainder to Timber Management
- **Recommendations:**
 - Timber management targeting hardwood/mixedwood stands
 - Work to retain and expand conforming winter cover for deer
 - Visual Class I consideration in areas visible from river and Rt. 161



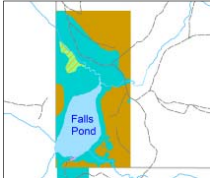
Falls Pond Lot



Boat launch on Falls Pond

Resource Allocations and Mgmt. Recommendations

- **Allocations:**
 - **Special Protection** in area of exemplary northern white cedar swamp
 - Nearly half of the acres allocated to **Wildlife** due to large DWA and extensive wetlands
 - **Developed Recreation** in boat launch and campsite area
 - Remainder to **Timber Management**
- **Recommendations:**
 - BPL will coordinate with IF&W on any harvests planned for the DWA
 - Consider PCT in sapling stands
 - Collaborate with IF&W on potential fisheries project in outlet stream



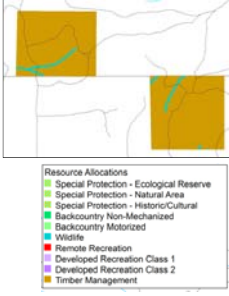
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Timber Management

T14 R11 & T15 R11 Lots



Resource Allocations and Mgmt. Recommendations

- **Allocations:**
 - Wildlife in the minor riparian zones associated with small streams
 - Remainder to Timber Management
- **Recommendations:**
 - BPL will coordinate with AWW prior to timber harvests within the AWW visual zones



Resource Allocations

- Special Protection - Ecological Reserve
- Special Protection - Natural Area
- Special Protection - Historic/Cultural
- Backcountry Non-Mechanized
- Backcountry Motorized
- Wildlife
- Remote Recreation
- Developed Recreation Class 1
- Developed Recreation Class 2
- Timber Management

Next Steps and Comments

- BPL will revise the Draft Plan over the next month or so
- In addition to comments provided here, all are welcome to comment during the next three weeks, via a phone call or in writing (email or regular mail)

Jim Vogel
18 Elkins Lane, Harlow Building
22 State House Station
Augusta ME 04333-0022

Jim.vogel@maine.gov
207-287-2163

Thank You!



ATTACHMENT C

Vogel, Jim

From: LaRoche, Matt
Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2019 3:49 PM
To: Vogel, Jim; Al Cowperthwaite; Alec Giffen (alecgiffen@gmail.com); Clayton McBreairty (claytonmcbreairty@hotmail.com); Eben Sypitkowski (eben.sypitkowski@baxterstatepark.org); Frost, Frank; Greaves, Bill; London, Trevor (t.london@huber.com); mcbeg2@yahoo.com; Nick Baser (nbaser@sevenislands.com); philbrook.josh (philbrook.josh@jdirving.com); Martin, John; Sally Stockwell; Jackson, Troy; Davis, Paul; Haskell, Shawn; Stearns, Paul; Bishop, Tammy; Ward, Thomas; Wade Kelly (tkcamps@hotmail.com); Haskell, Shawn; Kane, Douglas; Dunham, Kevin
Cc: Reed, Doug C.; Higgins, Joe; Bronson, Brian N.; Guimond, Jacob; Turner, Rex; Spencer, Sarah M; Charles, Tom T.; Andrew Cutko; at (freetobeyoume@aol.com); Bill Patterson (wpatterson@tnc.org); Brent Hardy (hardyt7r11@gmail.com); Cathy Johnson; Chace Joe Jackson; David & Luisa Surprenant (greatnorthernvacations@gmail.com); David Basley (dbasley@roadrunner.com); Ed Meadows; Eliza Donoghue; 'Jamie_Fosburgh@nps.gov'; KAREN MCKAGUE (KamJag@msn.com); Melford Pelletier (melpell45@gmail.com); Pamela Ashby (pam.ashby@maine.edu); Thomas Lizotte (countymanager@piscataquis.us); Toby Pineo (pineo.toby@jdirving.com); William Hull (Hull@hullforest.com)
Subject: RE: Draft St John Uplands Plan - PART 4 and Appendices

Jim,

Thank you for all the work you have done on the St. John Uplands management plan. I have a few suggestions I would like to make prior to the meeting so that everyone has a chance to give them some thought before the meeting. See suggestions below:

- **Under timber management throughout the document in areas within the AWW mile zone.** I would suggest that the “busiest canoeing season” be changed to, or defined as from Memorial Day – October 1st. Also, whenever possible, that harvest and/or road building activities not occur from Memorial Day – October 1st.
- **Under Management Recommendations for the Telos Unit:**
 - I would like to see BPL use small scale logging equipment when operating in and near mapped deer wintering areas. In other words, one skidder all winter, harvesting low volumes over several winters.
 - This would provide food and packed skid trails for deer over an entire winter for more winters than the way current harvests are being carried out.
 - Change wording for the construction of a boat launch on the south shore of Webster Lake . To more definitive language. I suggest the following:
 - Will construct a hand-carry boat launch on the south shore of Webster Lake with a small (4 or 5) vehicles parking area.
 - This boat access would provide summer access to Webster Lake. Many people would like to fish at Webster that are not affluent enough to fly into this lake. The perception is that this lake is managed only for sporting camps that fly sports into the lake.
 - I do not believe that a horse power limit would be needed if the boat launch were constructed so that trailers could not be backed into the water.
 - I know that many more canoeist would paddle Webster Stream if they did not have to run or portage the section of Webster Stream from Telos Dam to Webster Lake (class III whitewater).
 - The boat access would also provide winter access to Webster Lake.
 - At Kellogg Brook, shifting of that use to the Chamberlain Parking lot is not appropriate for AWW.
 - Camping is not allowed, by rule in Chamberlain parking lot from May 16 – 30th.

- There are two campsites located in the woods near the rear of the parking lot. These sites were constructed primarily for late arrivals to the AWW.
 - The AWW has no interest in managing a trailer storage area in the Chamberlain Parking lot.
- **Under management recommendations for the Round Pond Unit:**
 - The AWW oppose moving the gate on the southeast entrance of the unit to within ¼ mile of the tower trail. I would suggest moving the gate no closer than a mile from where the road crosses the tower trail.
 - A road to the trail could create a conflict with AWW visitors as many hikers would take the trail down to the AWW campsite located at the trailhead.
 - The AWW would like to see more definitive language regarding the repair or replacement of the fire tower cab or observation platform. The current platform is not safe.
 - **Under management recommendations for the Chamberlain Lake Unit:**
 - The AWW would like to see more definitive language regarding the repair or replacement of the fire tower cab. The current cab is not safe.
 - The AWW will provide signage directing people to the portage trail near Indian Stream.

Matthew LaRoche
Superintendent, AWW
207-695-3721 x3
Maine.gov/allagash

From: Vogel, Jim

Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2019 2:58 PM

To: Al Cowperthwaite <al@northmainewoods.org>; Alec Giffen (alecgiffen@gmail.com) <alecgiffen@gmail.com>; Clayton McBrearty (claytonmcbrearty@hotmail.com) <claytonmcbrearty@hotmail.com>; Eben Sypitkowski (eben.sypitkowski@baxterstatepark.org) <eben.sypitkowski@baxterstatepark.org>; Frost, Frank <Frank.Frost@maine.gov>; Greaves, Bill <Bill.Greaves@maine.gov>; London, Trevor (t.london@huber.com) <t.london@huber.com>; LaRoche, Matt <Matt.LaRoche@maine.gov>; mcbeg2@yahoo.com; Nick Baser (nbaser@sevenislands.com) <nbaser@sevenislands.com>; philbrook.josh (philbrook.josh@jdirving.com) <philbrook.josh@jdirving.com>; Martin, John <john.martin@legislature.maine.gov>; Sally Stockwell (sstockwell@maineaudubon.org) <sstockwell@maineaudubon.org>; Jackson, Troy <troy.jackson@legislature.maine.gov>; Davis, Paul <paul.davis@legislature.maine.gov>; Haskell, Shawn <Shawn.Haskell@maine.gov>; Stearns, Paul <paul.stearns@legislature.maine.gov>; Bishop, Tammy <Tammy.Bishop@maine.gov>; Ward, Thomas <Thomas.Ward@maine.gov>; Wade Kelly (tkcamps@hotmail.com) <tkcamps@hotmail.com>

Cc: Reed, Doug C. <Doug.C.Reed@maine.gov>; Higgins, Joe <Joe.Higgins@maine.gov>; Bronson, Brian N. <Brian.N.Bronson@maine.gov>; Guimond, Jacob <Jacob.Guimond@maine.gov>; Turner, Rex <Rex.Turner@maine.gov>; Spencer, Sarah M <Sarah.M.Spencer@maine.gov>; Charles, Tom T. <Tom.T.Charles@maine.gov>; Andrew Cutko <andrew.cutko@TNC.ORG>; at (freetobeyoume@aol.com) <freetobeyoume@aol.com>; Bill Patterson (wpatterson@tnc.org) <wpatterson@tnc.org>; Brent Hardy (hardyt7r11@gmail.com) <hardyt7r11@gmail.com>; Cathy Johnson <cjohnson@nrcm.org>; Chace Joe Jackson <chacejoejackson1@gmail.com>; David & Luisa Surprenant (greatnorthernvacations@gmail.com) <greatnorthernvacations@gmail.com>; David Basley (dbasley@roadrunner.com) <dbasley@roadrunner.com>; Ed Meadows <avocet2014@yahoo.com>; Eliza Donoghue <edonoghue@maineaudubon.org>; 'Jamie_Fosburgh@nps.gov' <Jamie_Fosburgh@nps.gov>; KAREN MCKAGUE (KamJag@msn.com) <KamJag@msn.com>; Melford Pelletier (mellpell45@gmail.com) <mellpell45@gmail.com>; Pamela Ashby (pam.ashby@maine.edu) <pam.ashby@maine.edu>; Thomas Lizotte (countymanager@piscataquis.us) <countymanager@piscataquis.us>; Toby Pineo (pineo.toby@jdirving.com) <pineo.toby@jdirving.com>; William Hull (Hull@hullforest.com) <Hull@hullforest.com>

Subject: Draft St John Uplands Plan - PART 4 and Appendices

Vogel, Jim

From: Haskell, Shawn
Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2019 4:54 PM
To: LaRoche, Matt
Cc: DeMusz, Amanda J; Spencer, Sarah M; Vogel, Jim; Ward, Thomas
Subject: RE: Draft St John Uplands Plan - PART 4 and Appendices

Matt, thanks for the comment on DWAs. I think it's a really good idea. However one might want to define a 'small equipment operation', the intent is clear. Shawn

Shawn P. Haskell
Regional Wildlife Biologist
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
Ashland Regional Headquarters
P.O. Box 447
Ashland, Maine 04732-0447
207-435-3231 ext. 86872

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From: LaRoche, Matt
Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2019 3:49 PM
To: Vogel, Jim <Jim.Vogel@maine.gov>; Al Cowperthwaite <al@northmainewoods.org>; Alec Giffen (alecgiffen@gmail.com) <alecgiffen@gmail.com>; Clayton McBreairty (claytonmcbreairty@hotmail.com) <claytonmcbreairty@hotmail.com>; Eben Sypitkowski (eben.sypitkowski@baxterstatepark.org) <eben.sypitkowski@baxterstatepark.org>; Frost, Frank <Frank.Frost@maine.gov>; Greaves, Bill <Bill.Greaves@maine.gov>; London, Trevor (t.london@huber.com) <t.london@huber.com>; mcbeg2@yahoo.com; Nick Baser (nbaser@sevenislands.com) <nbaser@sevenislands.com>; philbrook.josh (philbrook.josh@jdirving.com) <philbrook.josh@jdirving.com>; Martin, John <john.martin@legislature.maine.gov>; Sally Stockwell <sstockwell@maineaudubon.org>; Jackson, Troy <troy.jackson@legislature.maine.gov>; Davis, Paul <paul.davis@legislature.maine.gov>; Haskell, Shawn <Shawn.Haskell@maine.gov>; Stearns, Paul <paul.stearns@legislature.maine.gov>; Bishop, Tammy <Tammy.Bishop@maine.gov>; Ward, Thomas <Thomas.Ward@maine.gov>; Wade Kelly (tkcamps@hotmail.com) <tkcamps@hotmail.com>; Haskell, Shawn <Shawn.Haskell@maine.gov>; Kane, Douglas <Douglas.Kane@maine.gov>; Dunham, Kevin <Kevin.Dunham@maine.gov>
Cc: Reed, Doug C. <Doug.C.Reed@maine.gov>; Higgins, Joe <Joe.Higgins@maine.gov>; Bronson, Brian N. <Brian.N.Bronson@maine.gov>; Guimond, Jacob <Jacob.Guimond@maine.gov>; Turner, Rex <Rex.Turner@maine.gov>; Spencer, Sarah M <Sarah.M.Spencer@maine.gov>; Charles, Tom T. <Tom.T.Charles@maine.gov>; Andrew Cutko <andrew.cutko@TNC.ORG>; at (freetobeyoume@aol.com) <freetobeyoume@aol.com>; Bill Patterson (wpatterson@tnc.org) <wpatterson@tnc.org>; Brent Hardy (hardyt7r11@gmail.com) <hardyt7r11@gmail.com>; Cathy Johnson <cjohnson@nrcm.org>; Chace Joe Jackson <chacejoejackson1@gmail.com>; David & Luisa Surprenant (greatnorthernvacations@gmail.com) <greatnorthernvacations@gmail.com>; David Basley (dbasley@roadrunner.com) <dbasley@roadrunner.com>; Ed Meadows <avocet2014@yahoo.com>; Eliza Donoghue <edonoghue@maineaudubon.org>; 'Jamie_Fosburgh@nps.gov' <Jamie_Fosburgh@nps.gov>; KAREN MCKAGUE (KamJag@msn.com) <KamJag@msn.com>; Melford Pelletier (melpell45@gmail.com) <melpell45@gmail.com>; Pamela Ashby (pam.ashby@maine.edu) <pam.ashby@maine.edu>; Thomas Lizotte (countymanager@piscataquis.us) <countymanager@piscataquis.us>; Toby Pineo (pineo.toby@jdirving.com) <pineo.toby@jdirving.com>; William Hull (Hull@hullforest.com) <Hull@hullforest.com>
Subject: RE: Draft St John Uplands Plan - PART 4 and Appendices

Vogel, Jim

From: Dunham, Kevin
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 2:52 PM
To: Vogel, Jim
Cc: LaRoche, Matt
Subject: RE: Draft St John Uplands Plan - PART 4 and Appendices

Jim,

With a lake the size of Webster I feel there is a safety factor that needs to be considered when providing adequate access. A long hand-carry launch will relegate users to small canoes which in my mind becomes a dangerous situation when sudden storms or high winds come up on anglers unexpectedly. A proper launch will allow larger square stern canoes and small boats to be used and increase the safety factor. If the trail on that attached plan is vehicle width than I would suspect some users would use "car-top" size craft and that would meet our objectives, though a small trailer-able site would be the preference.

Kevin

From: Vogel, Jim
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 2:34 PM
To: Dunham, Kevin <Kevin.Dunham@maine.gov>
Cc: LaRoche, Matt <Matt.LaRoche@maine.gov>
Subject: RE: Draft St John Uplands Plan - PART 4 and Appendices

Kevin, thank you for the detailed comments, I will share with other staff working on the Plan.

Does the carry-in concept in the Draft Plan meet IF&W's objectives to some degree? The attached plan was produced by the Northern Region and shared at the 1st Advisory Committee meeting. I believe a shorter carry-in trail may be considered also.

Jim Vogel

Senior Planner, Bureau of Parks and Lands
Direct Telephone: Office 207.287.2163

From: Dunham, Kevin <Kevin.Dunham@maine.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 2:03 PM
To: Vogel, Jim <Jim.Vogel@maine.gov>
Cc: LaRoche, Matt <Matt.LaRoche@maine.gov>
Subject: FW: Draft St John Uplands Plan - PART 4 and Appendices

Hi Jim,

I would like to comment on the Draft St. John Uplands Plan, in particular the Telos Unit. I am responsible for the management of all fishery resources in IF&W's Region F, including Webster Lake, which is in the Plans Telos Unit. I am in favor of, and would very much like to see a boat launch established at Webster Lake. This office receives angler inquiries/comments/complaints regarding access to Webster Lake from time to time; it's apparent there is an access need and such an opportunity would be utilized. A small, trailer-able launch could be created in such a way as to provide safe, adequate angling access for the public while maintaining the wild aesthetics of Webster Lake. Any launch

constructed should be able to facilitate small boats/canoes up to say 16' and have sufficient parking for 4 or 5 vehicles w/trailers. We don't have any open water use estimates for Webster Lake due to lack of resources to obtain such data. Anecdotally, we are aware of low angler pressure during open water season through angler complaints of access issues. Winter use, with access being somewhat easier than summertime, has traditionally been low as well. The table below gives use and catch data from angler interviews during our last three winter creel census'. If a launch were developed at Webster Lake I would expect to see an uptick in use numbers, especially during the open-water season, but I don't think the lake would lose its wilderness appeal.

	# Parties	# Anglers	Mean party size	# Hrs Angled	% Anglers successful	# BKT kept	# BKT rel	# BKT sub-legal
2018	30	49	1.63	328	85.7	26	103	44
2013	22	54	2.45	295	79.6	32	87	27
2008	17	48	2.82	285	75.0	22	73	50

We manage Webster Lake for wild brook trout, lake trout, and whitefish populations and as such there are restrictive harvest regulations in place to protect those fisheries. There are bag and length limits on brook trout, a bag limit on lake trout, and a minimum length limit on whitefish. These regulations will protect the fishery if anglers are provided enhanced access. Based on data we've collected, it would appear the brook trout population could even benefit from some additional angler harvest.

Kevin

Kevin Dunham

Fisheries Biologist

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Fisheries Division – Penobscot Region

16 Cobb Road

Enfield, ME 04493

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From: LaRoche, Matt

Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2019 3:49 PM

To: Vogel, Jim <Jim.Vogel@maine.gov>; Al Cowperthwaite <al@northmainewoods.org>; Alec Giffen <alecgiffen@gmail.com> <alecgiffen@gmail.com>; Clayton McBreairty <claytonmcbreairty@hotmail.com> <claytonmcbreairty@hotmail.com>; Eben Syptkowski <eben.syptkowski@baxterstatepark.org> <eben.syptkowski@baxterstatepark.org>; Frost, Frank <Frank.Frost@maine.gov>; Greaves, Bill <Bill.Greaves@maine.gov>; London, Trevor <t.london@huber.com> <t.london@huber.com>; mcbeg2@yahoo.com; Nick Baser <nbaser@sevenislands.com> <nbaser@sevenislands.com>; philbrook.josh <philbrook.josh@jdirving.com> <philbrook.josh@jdirving.com>; Martin, John <john.martin@legislature.maine.gov>; Sally Stockwell

ATTACHMENT D



Natural Resources Council of Maine
3 Wade Street • Augusta, Maine • 04330 • www.nrcm.org

Comments on the Draft Management Plan for the St. John Uplands Region
Submitted by Cathy Johnson, Forests and Wildlife Program Director
Dec. 6, 2019

General comments:

- The plan makes no mention of climate change or how the Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) will adapt its management to address the climate crisis. Will BPL decrease its harvest levels over the next decade from its current “business as usual” levels to increase carbon sequestration and storage? Will BPL explore opportunities to participate in carbon credit programs? We urge BPL to commit to specific actions to address the climate crisis in this plan.
- No areas in the entire region, arguably the most remote part of the North Woods, have been designated non-mechanized backcountry. BPL should seek opportunities to designate areas for non-mechanized backcountry recreation. If areas adjacent to the Allagash Wilderness Waterway (AWW) are not added to the Waterway as required by 12 MRS §1877 (see below), those areas should be designated non-mechanized backcountry to enhance the natural resources and the recreational experience in the AWW.

Lands bordering the AWW (Telos; Chamberlain; Round Pond; T15R11; T14R11):

- 12 MRS §1877 states that “Any land acquired that is adjacent to the waterway becomes part of the waterway.” The purpose of this law was to provide an avenue to further enhance the wilderness character and protection of the natural resources of the AWW. There is no time limit on this law. With the exception of a few original public lots, the vast majority of the land in the Telos, Chamberlain, and Round Pond Units was acquired after the creation of the AWW and, pursuant to 12 MRS §1877, should be added to the AWW.
- In the event that the State fails to add the lands mentioned above to the AWW as required by law, the Bureau should, at the very least, provide further protection for the one-mile zone. This could be accomplished by adding the portion of those Units within the one-mile zone to the AWW. This additional protection could help address the climate crisis by ending harvesting on those lands. It would protect the wilderness recreation experience and setting. It would protect more wildlife habitat and travel corridors. It would avoid noise pollution from nearby harvesting and road travel. It would more fully protect the designated visible areas on public lands. And it would be consistent with the State’s responsibility to “develop the maximum wilderness character” of the AWW. Alternatively, if the lands within the one-mile zone are not added to the AWW, they should be designated as non-motorized backcountry areas.
- Gates should be installed on all roads at the point at which they enter the one-mile zone to protect the AWW wilderness experience.
- The plan should define the “busiest canoeing season” specifically as May 1 – October 15.

Telos Unit

- New boat launch: NRCM does not support any new road building, or extending or improving any existing roads, closer to Webster Lake, and we do not support creating a new boat launch (either trailered or hand carry) on Webster Lake. Webster Lake is one of a very few remote lakes of this size that remain relatively inaccessible. There are many lakes in the North Woods where boaters and anglers can access the water with either a trailered or hand carry launch. Webster Lake is currently accessible to boaters and anglers by way of the portage trail from Telos Lake, which is accessible by vehicle. This access ensures that the remote experience of Webster Lake, including the portion that is within Baxter State Park, remains. Making vehicle and boating access to Webster Lake easier would negatively impact this remote section of Baxter State Park. Paddlers paddling Webster Stream have other portages – the one from Telos to Webster is not a factor limiting Webster Stream use.
- Trailer storage: We agree with the superintendent of the AWW that the uses currently taking place at the Kellogg Brook site should not be shifted to the Chamberlain Bridge parking lot. Given that camping is limited to two weeks, trailers should be removed from the area for the remainder of the year, not moved closer to the AWW. Creating a trailer storage area within the AWW is inconsistent with the AWW's legal mandate to "develop its maximum wilderness character."

Round Pond Unit

- Southeast portion of Round Pond: NRCM supports maintaining the gate at its current location in order to "maintain non-motorized access for users seeking that type of experience." Backcountry hunters have very few places to hunt that are distant from vehicles; this area provides the opportunity for that type of experience. In addition, moving the gate closer to the fire tower trail would also degrade the remote hiking experience for AWW paddlers who choose to hike to the fire tower. This type of easy day-use access would lead to increased use of a character that is different from the use by those who are in the middle of a multi-day wilderness trip. Providing road access that close to the trail would also invite conflict with campers on Round Pond. BPL should be supporting the AWW's mandate to "develop the maximum wilderness character," not degrading it.

Chamberlain Unit

- Indian Stream access: BPL should retain the gate on the Lock Dam Road at its current location at Indian Stream. Moving it west 1000 feet along the Lock Dam Road as proposed would degrade the wilderness experience for paddlers. In addition, we agree with BPL staff that it would require construction of an additional parking area less than ¼ mile from Eagle Lake, and it would attract illegal campers causing sanitation and maintenance problems, all of which would degrade the AWW.
- Trail to Locomotives: The recently built trail to the locomotives has resulted in significantly increased day use/walk-in access to the shore of Eagle Lake, which has degraded the wilderness character of the AWW. Groups of 100 have been reported. Paddlers have reported a significant

degradation of the wilderness paddling experience when encountering large groups of day users at the locomotives. NRCM urges the Bureau to discontinue the trail or negotiate with the abutting landowner to move the trail head out to the point where the access road enters the one-mile zone (where the gate used to be).

- The Boot and Pump Handle: Given their exemplary natural resources, recreational value, and visibility from the watercourse, the Boot and Pump Handle parcels should remain unregulated and not harvested, and therefore not allocated to Timber Management as a secondary allocation. These are areas that should be provided greater permanent protection through designation as ecological reserves or non-motorized backcountry areas.

Allagash Southeast Unit

- High Conservation Value Area: Given its designation as a High Conservation Value Area, its status as a potential ecological reserve, and its numerous rare plants, the plan should clarify that no timber harvesting will take place on the portion of the parcel that is between Rt. 161 and the St. John River.
- Hemlock stand: The portion of the unit that includes the northwestern-most stand with a significant component of hemlock should be designated a special protection area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Vogel, Jim

From: Spencer, Sarah M
Sent: Friday, December 06, 2019 12:37 PM
To: Vogel, Jim
Cc: Guimond, Jacob
Subject: RE: Draft St John Uplands Plan - PART 4 and Appendices

Hi Jim,

I wanted to share some minor edit suggestions for the Draft St John Uplands Plan. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns:

- Page 6-Statutory and Policy Guidance, 2nd paragraph
 - Osprey does exist in the *Wildlife Guidelines* together with bald eagle; however, they are not currently one of IFW's species of special concern
- Page 13-Other Major Conservation Lands in the Region, 2nd paragraph
 - Canada lynx are federally threatened, and are considered a species of special concern in Maine but are not listed as endangered on either the state or federal endangered species lists.
- Page 17-last paragraph
 - MDIF&W 2012 isn't listed in the references in Appendix H. I'm not 100% sure what resource this is but can follow up if necessary
- Page 18-
 - The Chamberlain Fen is not mapped as inland waterfowl and wading bird habitat.
 - Consider changing "mapped" to "zoned" in the second paragraph to read "There are two *zoned* deer wintering areas..."
- Page 26- first paragraph
 - Pine isn't a particularly desirable species to manage for in deer wintering areas ("Overall management should favor spruce and pine in these types..."). I suspect the sentence references timber management on the Telos unit as a whole, but coming directly after the two sentences about deer winter cover it adds some confusion as to the management goals when trying to manage for deer winter cover.
 - In the bullet points, consider changing the second bullet to "In the HMA, the main objectives will be to develop and maintain conforming cover across 50% of the agreement area (excluding sites that are not suitable to produce conforming cover)."
 - In the first paragraph of **Wildlife and Habitat Protection**, add an "s" to Special Concern Species

Sarah

Sarah Spencer

Wildlife Biologist

Maine Dept of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

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Vogel, Jim

From: Eben Sypitkowski <eben@baxterstatepark.org>
Sent: Sunday, December 08, 2019 6:49 AM
To: Vogel, Jim
Subject: Re: Draft St. John Uplands Management Plan & upcoming AC meeting

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Jim,

Apologies that we couldn't send anyone to the last public meeting on the plan. I hope you'll accept our comments below. Happy to chat anytime.

Increasing boat access to Webster Lake could have dramatic, irreversible effects both the ecology of the upper East Branch drainage and the remote wilderness character of Webster Lake.

Offering vehicular access to Webster Lake will compromise the wilderness character of this remote waterbody in permanent and irreversible ways. The Bureau has done a wonderful job thus far protecting this, and it would be unfortunate to give up on that laudable goal now. Given that this shoreline is shared with the Park, which is managed as a wilderness area for those "who are willing to walk and get close to nature" as Governor Baxter wanted, the threat to the wilderness character of this remote lake is a threat to the wilderness experience within the Park. The Park is committed to working with the Bureau to continue to protect the character of this unique area. It is much more difficult to undo such access after it is increased, and instead of honoring and preserving the rare status of a lake of this size as a carry-in boating and remote fishing experience, this access would degrade the wilderness value and experience on Webster, making it similar to other large lakes in the region that provide easier access. There are few places where we can preserve this end of the spectrum of outdoor experience; we should be very careful about changing this special status.

Trailered boat launches especially offer an entry point for aquatic invasive species, both through the ease with which careless fishermen could introduce nonnative species, and the potential to bring in aquatic plant invasives. While the latter may not be a primary concern in the north country yet, the threat will come, and it will have been easier to keep access as it is now, rather than manage another entry point. Given the Bureau's limited resources for management in this area, it is unclear how the Bureau would monitor and manage this access sufficiently to prevent misuse.

Thanks, Jim.

Eben

On Thu, Oct 24, 2019 at 2:50 PM Vogel, Jim <Jim.Vogel@maine.gov> wrote:

Greeting AC members:

At long last, we have a Draft Plan ready for your review. My apologies to all for the unusually lengthy time it took for the Bureau to get to this milestone. The Plan document will be attached to this and several follow-up messages, in 4 parts plus appendices:

Vogel, Jim

From: Ed Meadows <avocet2014@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2019 2:31 PM
To: Al Cowperthwaite; Alec Giffen (alecgiffen@gmail.com); Clayton McBreairty (claytonmcbreairty@hotmail.com); Eben Sypitkowski (eben.sypitkowski@baxterstatepark.org); Frost, Frank; Greaves, Bill; London, Trevor (t.london@huber.com); LaRoche, Matt; mcbeg2@yahoo.com; Nick Baser (nbaser@sevenislands.com); philbrook.josh (philbrook.josh@jdirving.com); Martin, John; Sally Stockwell; Jackson, Troy; Davis, Paul; Haskell, Shawn; Stearns, Paul; Bishop, Tammy; Ward, Thomas; Wade Kelly (tkcamps@hotmail.com); Vogel, Jim
Cc: at (freetobeyoume@aol.com); Bill Patterson (wpatterson@tnc.org); Brent Hardy (hardyt7r11@gmail.com); Cathy Johnson; Chace Joe Jackson; David & Luisa Surprenant (greatnorthernvacations@gmail.com); David Basley (dbasley@roadrunner.com); Eliza Donoghue; 'Jamie_Fosburgh@nps.gov'; KAREN MCKAGUE (KamJag@msn.com); Melford Pelletier (melpell45@gmail.com); Pamela Ashby (pam.ashby@maine.edu); Thomas Lizotte (countymanager@piscataquis.us); Toby Pineo (pineo.toby@jdirving.com); William Hull (Hull@hullforest.com)
Subject: Re: St John Uplands Plan - webpage address correction

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Jim -

Please accept these comments on the DRAFT St. John Uplands Region Management Plan:

1. The Plan is well-written and easy to read. It provides useful historical context that will assist future land managers with helpful historical perspective to inform their decisions and actions. The information on prior owners, harvest records, etc. is important and useful.
2. When conservation easements are discussed, it would be useful to identify the owner of the property subject to the easement (p. 3), and to identify whether the monitoring is performed by another entity. Include that information also in any Table depicting conservation easements (eg., top of p. 5). This makes more complete the understanding of the easements, and the Bureaus' responsibilities.
3. I support administrative actions needed by the Bureau to bring non-compliant uses into compliance with legal and policy requirements (eg., boats at Coffelos Pond, p. 32). Implementing Bureau policy is a key objective of Management Plans.
4. The DRAFT Plan contains a good balance of multiple use with timber management objectives, for example as described on p. 33.
5. I don't recall seeing discussion of the problem beaver flowages can cause by warming stream water above the cold temperature required to sustain native brook trout population goals. Perhaps biologists don't see that as a concern in this Management Area.
6. In the past there has been considerable discussion regarding allowing, or not allowing, road access to cross the Tramway at Chamberlain/Eagle lakes (p. 52). Perhaps that is addressed in the AWW Plan, not this one.

7. Potential Sale of Chesuncook Village lots (p. 73). If decision is made to sell certain lots, BPL should be sure the sale price includes ALL costs of the transaction, in addition to market value of the land. Otherwise the public is subsidizing the buyers. Costs include appraisal, legal, closing, survey and administrative time needed to process the transactions. These costs are separate from the value of the land. Boundaries should be marked at buyer expense. Sale documents should require buyer to agree with all conditions of sale and future use, including provision for no trespassing, clearing, storing, etc. of public land adjacent to buyers' property.

8. The Allagash and Falls Pond lots contain important natural resources which should continue to receive priority emphasis in management decisions for those parcels.

9. Appendix H. Suggest include in the list of references all relevant statutes and BPL policy documents, including the IRP which was referenced several times, and others (p. 6 et al). These statutes and policy documents are mentioned in the draft plan, so it would be useful to list them out, including effective dates. In this way, there will be a complete list all in one place for easy reference out into the future.

Finally, as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Bureau's first "Integrated Resource Policy" (IRP) in the 1980s, I am pleased to see the well-constructed DRAFT Management Plan, based on holistic resource management principles.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Ed Meadows, Orono
Director, Bureau of Public Lands 1987-1988
Commissioner, Dept. of Conservation 1988-1995

On Wednesday, October 30, 2019, 1:05:07 PM EDT, Vogel, Jim <jim.vogel@maine.gov> wrote:

Hello All: I used an incorrect Plan webpage address in my message of 10/24/19 (left out the underscore between stjohn and uplands); my apologies. Correct address is below.

www.maine.gov/dacf/stjohn_uplands

Jim Vogel

Senior Planner, Bureau of Parks and Lands

Direct Telephone: Office 207.287.2163