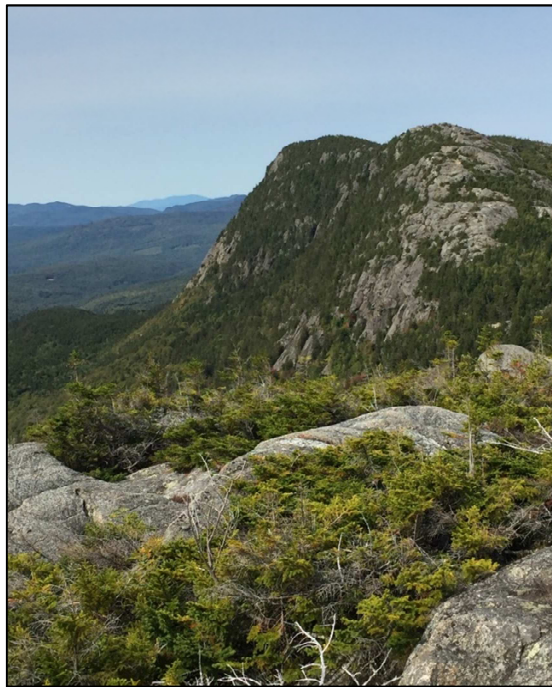


**FISCAL YEAR 2020
ANNUAL REPORT**

to

the JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
on AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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



Tumbledown Mountain at Tumbledown Public Land

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

Bureau of Parks and Lands

March 1, 2021



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FISCAL YEAR 2020
ANNUAL REPORT
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Bureau of Parks and Lands

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I. INTRODUCTION

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

This report constitutes required annual reporting pursuant to:

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

This report provides an overview of the scope of the Bureau's responsibilities and information on the Bureau's management activities during fiscal year 2020 (FY 20). As required, the report includes information on gates and barriers that prevent public vehicle access to Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands (Public Lands), recreation facility fees charged for the use of these lands, and a status report on Ecological Reserves. Also included in the report is information on timber, recreation, and wildlife management carried out on Public Lands during the fiscal year.

Income and expenditure information is provided for fiscal year FY 20, and a report is also included for the ongoing FY 21 budget. The ACF Committee has the obligation to report by March 15th to the Appropriations Committee on the Bureau's Public Lands upcoming FY 22 budget. The "Public Lands" division of the Bureau is a dedicated revenue component of the agency, funding almost all of its administrative, planning, management, and operational activities from revenue generated from the land base, with some additional sources of funds provided through various grant programs.

The management of Public Lands is directed by statute. Title 12 MRSA §1833 and §1847 direct the Bureau to manage the Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands (635,712 acres in FY 20) *"under the principles of multiple land use to produce a sustained yield of products and services in accordance with both prudent and fair business practices and the principle of sound planning."*

In addition, management of Public Reserved Lands must *"demonstrate exemplary land management practices, including silvicultural, wildlife and recreation management"* (Title 12 MRSA §1847). The Bureau's Public Lands management activities are directed by 15-year multiple-use plans for the major properties. Benefits from the sound management of these lands include:

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

The Bureau also has responsibility for managing and reporting to the ACF Committee public trust rights to Submerged Lands and Coastal Islands. When granting leases for the use of Submerged Lands, the Bureau includes conditions to maintain customary and traditional public access, navigation, and commercial marine uses.

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

- **Managing unprecedented recreational use:** Like parks and open spaces across the country, Maine's Public Lands saw historic levels of use last year. 'Hot spots' of high use, like Tumbledown Mountain, the Bigelow Preserve, and the Cutler Coast, required special attention and prompted forward-thinking and planning regarding resource impacts, carrying capacity, and user experience.
- **Adapting in uncertain times:** More than ever, the past year has brought out the best in the Bureau's creativity, flexibility, and dedication – characteristics that will serve us well in the coming year and long into the future. New tools and technologies were employed internally and to reach the public at home. And countless Bureau functions that can't be done 'virtually' – marking trees for harvest, inspecting trails and campsites, and monitoring easements – went on seamlessly. Despite challenging timber markets, the Bureau harvested more than 100,000 cords of wood during calendar year 2020, supporting Maine's economy and forest products industry. The Bureau has the staff coordination, planning, and commitment in place to handle challenges with grace, humor, and resounding success.
- **Climate change:** Any conversation on the future of forestry or conservation in Maine inevitably turns to the topic of climate change. How will our woods and waters change, and what will the impacts be on recreation, wildlife, and our forest economy? From presenting to the Maine Climate Council's Natural and Working Lands Group, to identifying climate-resilient lands for conservation, to managing Public Lands to enhance carbon sequestration, the Bureau of Parks and Lands plays a critical role in climate conversations. A recent study by the University of Maine indicates that the Bureau's Ecological Reserves capture approximately 35,000 metric tons of carbon per year, equivalent to the yearly emissions of 7,500 cars. Looking ahead, the Bureau will continue to recognize this important role of our Public Lands, as this additional "multiple use" will be balanced with the other important functions of providing recreation, ecological protection, and forest management that supports rural communities.
- **Partnerships for acquisition and stewardship:** Acquisition and management of Public Lands is not accomplished by the Bureau of Parks and Lands alone. It is achieved through collaboration with members of the public as well as a variety of stakeholders, conservation partners, and industries. The Bureau continues to see increased interest in conservation easements and acquisitions that represent a broad suite of values, including recreation, ecological values, and working forests. Multiple Forest Legacy projects have scored well at the national level and are awaiting final funding and approval from the US Forest Service. The Bureau values partnerships with land trusts and NGOs that help facilitate all aspects of these complicated projects. Partners also play an important role in navigating the changing world of recreation. The Bureau is seeing increasing participation in traditional recreation as well as the emergence of new sports and activities, such as e-biking, that require forward-thinking recreation planning.

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

II. SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES

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

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

Maine statute authorizes the Bureau to acquire lands and interests in lands. Easements that provide for the protection of public interests become a public trust responsibility for the Bureau, which is supported by stewardship endowments and revenues from Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands. Finally, the Bureau has an oversight role for public values associated with lands acquired by municipalities and local land trusts through the Land for Maine's Future Program with Bureau sponsorship.

In FY 20, lands under the Bureau's ownership, management, or oversight included:

Acres	Type
635,712	Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands held in fee
389,829	Conservation and recreation easements
9,815	Forest Legacy conservation easements delegated to the Bureau for enforcement by the US Forest Service
378,140	Third-party conservation easements (the Bureau is a back-up Holder);
602,423	Public access rights granted by easement by three large private landowners
85,742	Fee lands held as Parks, Historic Sites or Boat Access Sites
2.3 million	Marine and freshwater submerged lands
1,095	Publicly held coastal islands
100	Lands leased from or under agreement from others for management as Parks
50,413	Bureau-sponsored lands acquired by local interests (Land for Maine's Future Program)

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

- **Boating Facilities:** builds boat access sites on state lands and funds municipal boat sites;
- **Snowmobile and ATV Programs:** provide grants to local clubs to build and maintain trails on both public and private lands. In FY 20 the Governor's ATV Task Force made a number of recommendations to the legislature regarding ATV size, trail maintenance, and funding. As of February 2021, those recommendations were being considered by the legislature;

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

III. LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING

The Bureau manages 152 Public Reserved Land units and 13 Nonreserved Public Land units. The number of actively managed Reserved and Nonreserved units (not including lands leased to or managed by others, small islands, and lands with a minority common and undivided interest), is 149. These range in size from 30 acres to 44,000 acres.

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

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

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

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

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

Management plans address all the Reserved and Nonreserved lands within a planning region and cover a period of 15 years, with five-year reviews. Completion of the Tumbledown/Mount Blue plan will mark a major milestone, after which management plans for all of the major land units will be in place. The five-year review process provides an update on progress in implementing the Plan recommendations and addresses any changing conditions that may

warrant amendments to the Plan. The Bureau's responsibilities for management of Public Reserved Lands are divided among Northern, Eastern, and Western Regions (see Appendix B). The status of management plans for each of the 42 major Public Reserved Lands Units is provided in Appendix C.

FY 20 Planning Activities

St. John Uplands Region	The Bureau drafted a Management Plan which addresses over 63,000 acres of Public Lands in the Northern Region and held an Advisory Committee meeting to discuss the draft and take comments.
New Acquisitions	Draft plans were completed for two newly acquired public Reserved lands in the Eastern Region, the Orient , and West Branch Pleasant River Units.
Tumbledown/Mt. Blue	In the Western Region, work began on the Tumbledown/Mount Blue Region Management Plan, with public scoping and Advisory Committee meetings held in early 2020.
Five-Year Reviews	Five-year reviews were completed for: - Aroostook Hills Region Plan (Adopted 2009, 2nd Review) - Eastern Interior Region Plan (Adopted 2009, 2nd Review) - Central Penobscot Region Plan (Adopted 2014, 1st Review)
FY 21 Update	Virtual public meetings were held and plans finalized for the St. John Uplands, Orient, and West Branch Pleasant River Units. Those three plans are anticipated to be adopted in early 2021. Work also continued on the first draft of the Tumbledown/Mt. Blue Region Management Plan, with a virtual Advisory Committee meeting held in September 2020.

IV. NATURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORIES (NRI's)

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

FY 20 Activities

MNAP submitted a Natural Resource Inventory of Tumbledown Public Reserve Lands in support of the ongoing management planning process.

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

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

ECOLOGICAL RESERVES

Ecological Reserves are designated areas containing representative native ecosystem types managed as special protection areas. They serve as benchmarks against which to measure changes in both managed and unmanaged ecosystems, to provide habitat unlikely to occur in

managed forests, and to serve as sites for long-term scientific research, monitoring, and education.

Designation

Subject to statutory limitations noted below, the Bureau Director may designate Ecological Reserves on:

- Bureau lands included in “An Ecological Reserves System Inventory: Potential Ecological Reserves on Maine’s Existing Public and Private Conservation Lands” (*Maine Biodiversity Project, July 1998*)
- Additional lands in conjunction with the adoption of a management plan, when that process includes public review and comment, and with notification to the Committee

Scientific Advisory Committee

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

Reporting

This annual report includes the status of these Reserves and the results of monitoring, scientific research, and other activities related to the Reserves (12 MRSA §1839 and §1853). It also fulfills the Bureau’s requirement to notify the Sci Ad Committee when a management plan proposes designation of an Ecological Reserve (12 MRSA §1805). A history of Ecological Reserve designations can be found in Appendix D.

Current Status

Figure 4.1 Ecological Reserves as a Proportion of Total Acres Under Bureau Jurisdiction	
<i>Land Type</i>	<i>Acres</i>
State Park Lands	85,175
Boat Access Lands	567
Public Reserved Lands	631,090
Nonreserved Public Lands	3,622
Unregistered Coastal Islands	1,095
Subtotal	721,549
Land acquired on condition of ecological reserve designation	-24,934
Total Unrestricted	696,615
15% of Total Lands	104,492

Figure 4.2 Ecological Reserves as a Proportion of Operable Timberland Acres* on Public Lands	
<i>Land Type</i>	<i>Operable Timberland Acres</i>
Total Operable Lands	428,994
6% of Operable Lands	25,740
Operable in Qualifying Reserves	22,132
Net available operable acres for ER designation	3,608
*Operable timberland acres are on lands held in fee, not including Ecological Reserves designated as a condition of the acquisition. The total includes an estimated 9,600 acres for Cold Stream Forest, Orient, and West Branch Pleasant River Units, for which field data is not yet available. Operable acres on Ecological Reserves include modifications adopted in 2007 and after (see previous table).	

Statutory Limits

- By statute, the total land acreage designated as Ecological Reserves may not exceed 15% of the total acreage under Bureau jurisdiction or 100,000 acres, whichever is less. Lands acquired after the effective date of the statute (2000) with a condition that the donated or acquired land be designated as an ecological reserve are not included when calculating acreage limits.

FY 20 Status: 15% of the current total unrestricted acreage is 104,492 acres (Figure 4.1.) This means the current upper limit of the first statutory condition is 100,000.

- In addition, no more than 6% of the operable timberland on Public Lands may be designated as Ecological Reserves.

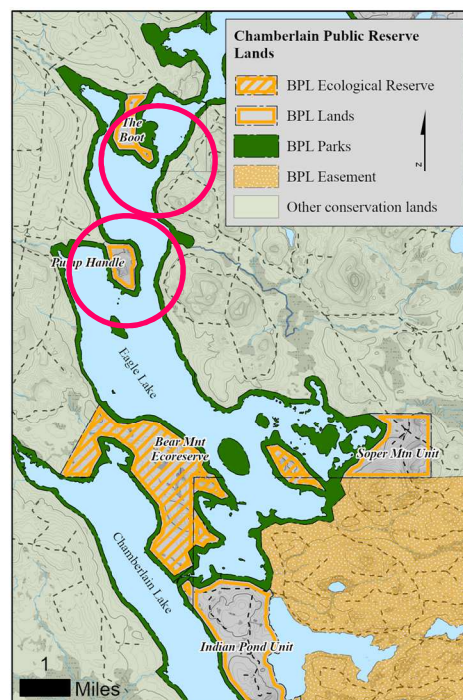
FY 20 Status: 3,608 acres of operable timberland remain eligible for Ecological Reserves designation (Figure 4.2.).

FY 21 Recent Modifications to Ecological Reserves

In the summer of 2020, a pair of unique forest areas adjacent to the Allagash Wilderness Waterway were added to the Bureau's Chamberlain Lake Ecological Reserve. The 'Boot' (T9R13) and the 'Pump Handle' (T8R13) peninsulas are located on the west and north sides of Eagle Lake. Neither peninsula has been harvested since at least the 1920s when the Great Depression temporarily slowed timber harvesting along upper portions of the Allagash. Both peninsulas contain exemplary forest occurrences and add scenic value to the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. Both areas were not harvested historically due to lack of access until recently, when harvesting by neighboring forest owners made access possible and caused the Bureau to evaluate them for harvest or protection.

The Pump Handle Peninsula (284 acres) contains an exemplary Spruce- Northern Hardwoods Forest, with a Red- Spruce Mixed Conifer Woodland along low summits. Older trees within the stand were cored at ~180 years, though stand age varies due to natural disturbance, including spruce budworm. A notable aspect of this site is an abundance of large diameter coarse woody debris (dead trees and logs), which provides unique micro-habitats and contributes to soil carbon sequestration and offers.

The Boot Peninsula (328 acres) contains an exemplary Spruce-Fir Wet Flat, dominated by 130 old black spruce. There are relatively few examples of this forest type remaining that have not been intensively managed in the last 30-50 years. Heath shrubs (including lowbush blueberry), sheep-laurel, and sphagnum mosses carpet the understory.



Ecological Reserve acreage adjacent to the Allagash Wilderness Waterway was added at the Boot and Pump Handle Peninsula (First and Second Ridges)

Ecological Reserves Monitoring

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

In FY 20, MNAP re-sampled 24 forest monitoring plots at Number 5 Bog Ecological Reserve. There are now 540 permanent plots on the 19 State Reserves. Staff at MNAP are now working on a major project to analyze the Ecological Reserve data with scientists at the University of Maine. Ecological Reserve Monitoring reports may be found at MNAP's website: www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/reservesys/index.htm.



Diverse forest structure featuring a 24+ inch sugar maple at the Pump Handle.

V. WILDLIFE RESOURCES

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

Wildlife management activities conducted in FY 20 on lands managed by the Bureau include:

Habitat Management Highlights

- Sixty-four waterfowl nesting boxes were maintained, and several boxes were replaced in the Scraggly and Seboeis Lake Units. The water control structure at Blanchard Flowage (Dead River Unit) remained in drawdown status during FY 20 and will be re-flooded in early FY 21.
- Invasive plant surveys and/or control was conducted on 19 Public Lands units across the state.
- Field mowing activities to benefit grassland birds and other species of open habitats were performed on 32 acres at Days Academy.
- Contracts for routine beaver control activities were maintained by BPL regional offices.
- At the Cold Stream Unit, a bridge was replaced to improve stream health and vehicle safety.
- In the Eastern Region, several traditional culverts were replaced with open-bottomed culverts to improve fish passage.
- At Eagle Lake, wood ash was spread on old fields to promote native grasses and enhance wildlife habitat.
- Approximately 87 acres of herbaceous seeding was established on Public Lands for wildlife forage and erosion control. The Bureau continues to evaluate whether new seed mixes are a viable alternative for providing improved forage for wildlife.

- Surveys for waterfowl, grassland birds, deer, songbirds, peregrine falcons, loons, snowshoe hare, bats, and lynx were completed on Public Lands across the state.

Deer Wintering Areas (DWAs)

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



FY 20 Activities

- Ground surveys for deer were conducted at Scraggly Lake, Telos, and Seboomook, in order to inform management activities and develop a long-term deer shelter management plan.
- The BPL staff biologist reviewed 2,791 acres of DWA as part of harvest planning, harvest site visits, and developing plan agreements for both zoned and cooperatively managed areas, such as at the Scraggly Lake Unit, where an ongoing harvest incorporates DWA management guidelines beyond the acreage zoned as DWA.
- The Bureau continued to cooperate with the Northeast Deer Research Partnership via IFW on its study to understand the movement and mortality of deer in the Northeast's northern forests.

Lynx Habitat Management

In FY 20, Bureau staff continued implementation of a forest management plan for the Seboomook Unit as part of an agreement with DIFW to manage a ~22,000-acre area for Canada lynx, currently listed as a Threatened Species by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Timber harvests generated 40 acres of high-quality hare habitat (early successional forest), and DIFW continued to survey lynx tracks and monitor snowshoe hare density.

Harvest Prescriptions

The BPL staff biologist reviewed timber harvest plans to ensure fish and wildlife habitat compatibility on 20,315 acres in or adjacent to the planned harvest units.

VI. RECREATION RESOURCES

The Bureau's Public Lands Division is responsible for:

- 450 campsites;
- 225 miles of day hiking and backpacking trails (excludes 71 miles of AT located on Public Lands);
- 56 trailer accessible and hand-carry boat launching sites, dozens of trailhead parking locations; and



- several hundred miles of public access road, including public use roads, generally maintained for travel by two-wheel drive vehicles with reasonable ground clearance, and forest management roads maintained for public access.

Managing Heavy Recreational Use

Like parks and open spaces across the country, Maine's Public Lands saw record levels of public use in 2020. For most locations, information on use is based on anecdotal observations, but the following data-based examples substantiate the phenomenon:

- In northern Aroostook County, 2020 brought the largest number of visitors to the Deboullie Unit since record-keeping began in the 1970s, resulting in a 40% increase in day use from the previous year.
- Vehicle counts obtained during 2020 at heavily used trailheads on the Tumbledown Unit in southern Franklin County suggest record levels in use of the trails, which were already among the most popular in the state.
- Among others, Dodge Point, Kennebec Highlands, Bigelow, Scraggly Lake, Donnell Pond, and Cutler Coast all exhibited high levels of visitation, and campsite use was high throughout the state.

The Bureau expects that 2021 will likely yield a similar pattern and that social media and word of mouth will lead to a continued increase in outdoor recreation on Public Lands in Maine. Staff at BPL continue to work to invest resources in trails, campsites, roads, and information to make Public Lands more accessible and enjoyable.

– FISCAL YEAR 2020 PROJECTS –

CAMPSITES

Moosehead Lake	At Sugar Island, three new tent platforms were constructed at boat-in campsites, and another site damaged by fire was rehabilitated, using gravel hauled over the ice. Several new fireplaces and outhouses were also installed at boat-in campsites.
Nahmakanta	Rehabilitation of a drive-to campsite was completed.
Scraggly Lake	Extensive work was completed at this unit, including reconstruction of a picnic table shelter at a group campsite, installation of new tent pads at five other campsites, construction of an ADA-compliant tent site, and retrofitting of a vault toilet to meet ADA standards.
Scopan	Five new privies were installed at campsites on the Unit.

TRAILS

Deboullie	A Maine Conservation Corps crew rehabilitated and upgraded 1.5 miles of hiking trail and cleared blowdowns on 33 miles of trail using funding from the Recreational Trails Program.
Little Moose	Work was completed on the 1.5-mile Mountain Link Trail, connecting the Big Moose Mountain Trail and the trail network on Little Moose Mountain, and a foot bridge on the Big Moose Mountain Trail was replaced.

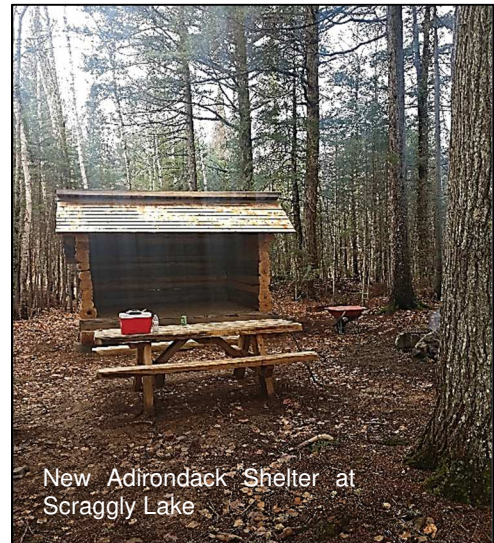
Nahmakanta	FY 20 marked the completion of the Great Circle Trail, which enhances Nahmakanta as a backcountry hiking destination. Begun in 2009, this project connects over 30 miles of trail in the Unit. Due to COVID-19, a celebration event and opening of the project that had been planned for the summer of 2020 was postponed. Signage for the trail will be installed in 2021.
Scraggly Lake	Construction of a parking area/trailhead at Green Pond was completed.
Dodge Point	A new parking lot was built, and a 0.6-mile section of the 9.8-mile River Link Trail (mostly located off-Unit) was rerouted to minimize conflict with timber management and to link the existing trail system to a new trailhead.
Trail Inventory	In FY 20, Public Lands in the Western Region were part of an MCC trail assessment which systematically evaluated trails by looking at a wide range of features, including trash, tread, erosion, structures, signage, water crossings, and visitor experience. The data collected can be used by BPL to prioritize maintenance and rehabilitation projects and for creating standardized graphics for trail maps that will help visitors to quickly assess the level of difficulty before heading out on a trail.
Winter Trail Maintenance	The Bureau maintained plowed parking areas at popular winter trail destinations, including the East Outlet of Moosehead Lake, Range Trail on the Bigelow Preserve, Dodge Point Unit in Newcastle, two trailheads on Kennebec Highlands, Donnell Pond, and the Big Moose Mountain trailhead on the Little Moose Unit near Greenville.

Signage & Access Improvements

Flagstaff Lake	The Northern Forest Canoe Trail organization (NFCT), working with community volunteers, completed the installation of two sets of timber steps on the eroding shoreline at Hurricane Island, a popular campsite for boaters on Flagstaff Lake.
Cold Stream Forest	A detailed inventory of several hundred privately owned canoes stored at ponds on the Unit was begun. This is an initial step in a multi-year effort to bring boat storage at several backcountry ponds into conformity with Bureau policy and to improve the aesthetics of the storage areas. Boat users have expressed support and appreciation.
Nahmakanta	Work completed included enlargement of parking areas at the Wadleigh Outlet trailhead and the Wadleigh Pond hand-carry boat launch.
Dodge Point	Continued trail maintenance and repair of a dock on the Damariscotta River, with a rebuilt staircase and walkway, occurred at this small but heavily visited unit, with the assistance of Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust.
Fire Tower Lookouts	Construction of new cabs for the Round Pond, Deboullie, and Allagash Mountain fire towers was completed. In FY 21, the cabs were airlifted into place with funding from the Recreational Trails Program (Federal Grant).
Signage	New yard-arm signs were installed at Donnell Pond and Amherst Mountain. New signs are part of a larger effort to upgrade materials, standardize messaging, and provide space for safety alerts related to timber harvesting and other management.

Recreation Staffing

- One year-round and five seasonal rangers were involved in recreation management activities in FY 20. Seasonal rangers are responsible for recreation facilities maintenance and construction and for informing visitors about recreational opportunities and Bureau rules.
- The Volunteer Campground Host Program continued at Cowan's Cove and Spencer Bay (Moosehead Lake), and Cold Stream Forest. These campgrounds are free to the public, and the stay is limited to 14 days in a 45-day period. Volunteer hosts oversee these campgrounds in return for extended stays.
- A volunteer position was created at Kennebec Highlands to assist with trail management.
- The Western Lands Region, in cooperation with Mt. Blue State Park, utilized the AmeriCorps Environmental Steward program to provide staffed assistance with recreational monitoring and management at Tumbledown Public Land, among the busiest trailheads in Maine.



Special Use Permits

- The Eastern Region issued six permits for tree stands and game cameras, a tick study, a groundwater study, and two trail running races.
- In the Western Region, a total of 19 individual permits were issued for fir tipping and other gathering activities, mineral collecting, snowmobile and ATV use (handicapped access off the designated trail network), and trapping.

State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

In FY 20, the Bureau finalized its five-year update of the [State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan \(SCORP\)](#), an overarching guidance document required to receive funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Maine's SCORP, produced with a stakeholder advisory team and informed by a survey with thousands of responses, as well other recreation data sources, serves as a guiding vision for outdoor recreation planning and investment in Maine. Maine Public Lands are one component of addressing the strategic priorities laid forth in the plan.

VII. FEES

Fees are not generally charged for access to Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands. However, in some circumstances, fees are charged because these lands are within or accessed through private recreation management systems (North Maine Woods and KI-Jo Mary), or because the Bureau has contracted the management with nearby recreation providers having similar management objectives (South Arm Campground and Baxter State Park).

Fees charged in Fiscal Year 2020 on Public Reserved Lands are as follows:

North Maine Woods Recreation Management (NMW)

This privately-operated system involves 3 million acres of lands where public recreation is allowed subject to fees collected at a series of checkpoints. Approximately 95,500 acres of Public Reserved Lands (Baker Lake, Deboullie, Round Pond, Chamberlain, Telos, Gero Island, and portions of Seboomook) are within the NMW system. To access these lands, the public passes through NMW checkpoints, where fees are paid for day use and camping. (NMW camping fees apply, except for campsites on the Allagash Wilderness Waterway and the Penobscot River Corridor, where State Park fees apply.) NMW fees are:

- **Day-use:** \$11/person for residents \$16/person for non-residents
- **Camping:** \$12/person/night for residents \$15/person/night for non-residents

Fees were not increased in 2020. Fees are retained by NMW for facility maintenance and development, except that the camping fees are returned to the Bureau when the Bureau assumes maintenance responsibilities, such as at Deboullie.

KI-Jo Mary Recreation Management System

This privately-operated gated system involves 175,000 acres of primarily private lands (the KI-Jo Mary Forest) where public recreation is allowed subject to fees. About 2,200 acres of Public Reserved Land in Bowdoin College Grant East lies within this system. Access to and from the Nahamakanta Unit is free from the west, but day-use fees apply for entrance or exit from the south via the KI-Jo Mary system.

- **Day-use Fees:** \$11/person for residents \$16/person for non-residents
- **Camping Fees** \$14/person/night for residents and non-residents

South Arm Campground

The Bureau leases boat-access campsites on Upper Richardson Lake to South Arm Campground, a privately-owned facility on adjoining private land. The campground retains a portion of fees to cover its costs for maintenance of the 12 campsites and the Mill Brook public boat launch facility at the north end of the lake.

- **Camping Fees:** \$15 per night per site

Baxter State Park

Management of campsites at the west end of Webster Lake on the Telos Public Land unit has been assigned to the Baxter State Park Authority (BSPA), and the sites are subject to BSPA rules and policies.

Bear Bait Permit Program

By state rule (04-059-Chapter 54), a permit from the Bureau is required before placing bait for bear on Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands that are not managed jointly with another entity. Since 2006, the annual permit fee has been:

- **Bait Site Fees:** \$30/site for personal use and \$65/site for commercial use

In FY 20, the Bureau issued 443 bear bait permits, 194 for personal sites and 249 for commercial sites, with permit revenues totaling \$22,005.

VIII. PUBLIC INFORMATION

Bureau Website

The Bureau uses its website (www.ParksAndLands.com) to provide maps and facility information for most of its Public Lands, Parks, and Historic Sites. As resources allow, enhancements are made to increase its usefulness to visitors and to the broader conservation and environmental education communities.

NEW IN FISCAL YEAR 2020

- COVID-19 Messaging – New webpages for COVID-19 messaging were developed, and updates were made continually in response to changing COVID requirements.

COVID-19 Updates (www.maine.gov/dacf/covid19/parks/)

FAQs (www.maine.gov/dacf/covid19/parks/faq.shtml)

- Alerts & Conditions – Live field updates distributed by text, email and web were developed for all Public Lands Regions. Each region already has approximately 250 subscribers.

Public Alerts:

www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/trail_activities/publiclands_trail_conditions.shtml

To Subscribe: Text the Keyword to 468311

Region 3-Regions Map	Keyword
Eastern Public Lands	DACF E-LANDS
Northern Public Lands	DACF N-LANDS
Western Public Lands (<i>includes southern sites</i>)	DACF W-LANDS

- Off Season and Winter Camping – A new webpage was created to provide information about shoulder seasons and opportunities at State Parks.
www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/camping/off-season-camping.shtml
- Timber Harvest Information – A QR code was developed for testing at Dodge Point Public Land, and if successful, may be implemented system-wide. When scanned by a smartphone, the QR code takes viewers to: www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/about/timber-harvest.shtml.
- Submerged Lands – A webpage was added with information on major projects under review related to submerged lands:
www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/about/sublands_major_projects.shtml

Guide & Map Brochures

The Bureau continues to develop this series of in-depth brochures, available online and in printed form: (www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/publications_maps/index.shtml). More emphasis has been placed on making the guide and map series available online. FY 20 activities included:

- Updates for Dodge Point, Donnell Pond, Scopan, Scraggly Lake and Nahmakanta
- Work on new guides for release in 2021: Duck Lake, Kennebec Highlands, Little Moose, Pineland, Salmon Brook Lake Bog

Bureau Newsletter

An e-newsletter that features Bureau news and events is sent out monthly to over 21,600 e-mail and text alert subscribers, an increased distribution of 6,600 subscribers from last year. Articles on Public Lands featured topics such as management planning, trail projects, the Public Lands video, and COVID updates. Sign-up is available through text to subscribe (text DACF BPL NEWS to 468311) or at: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MEDACF/subscriber/new>.

Interpretation

FY 20 projects included:

- Installation of a Rock Glacier interpretive panel for Deboullie Public Lands in partnership with the University of Maine, Presque Isle (UMPI). French and English translation.
- *Nature Note* – a new weekly e-note about the natural world was started in April 2020 and currently has 1,557 subscribers. **Text DACF NATURE to 468311** to subscribe or view at:



www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/discover_history_explore_nature/nature_exploration/nature_note.shtml.

IX. PARTNERSHIPS

Acquisition and management of Public Lands is not accomplished by BPL alone. It is achieved through collaboration with members of the public as well as a variety of stakeholders, conservation partners, and industries. The Bureau's partnerships take many forms – from formal agreements with local entities to manage recreational uses, to partnering with State agencies on resource management, planning, and events and outings that help connect new users to Public Lands. Several noteworthy partnerships from FY'20 include:

Maine Island Trail Association (MITA)

In FY 20, MITA and the Bureau continued 31 years of partnership of management of the Maine Island Trail, which now extends 375 miles and consists of over 200 islands and mainland sites for day visits or camping. Funds from submerged lands leases support ongoing stewardship of the trail (\$75,000 in FY 20). MITA monitors public use, marshals volunteers, and deploys staff to clean and maintain these wilderness sites along the Maine coast. Two caretakers are staffed at BPL sites on Jewel and Little Chebeague Islands in busy Casco Bay.

Maine Trail Finder	Information about non-motorized trails on Public Lands may be found at www.mainetrailfinder.com , operated by the nonprofit Center for Community GIS in Farmington. The Bureau has worked with the Center to develop descriptions and interactive maps for 40 trails located on Maine Public Lands.
State Agency Partnerships	• MNAP oversees long-term monitoring of BPL Ecological Reserves and provides technical review of potential acquisitions and management plans. • IF&W provides a BPL staff biologist and helps coordinate activities related to lynx habitat management, Deer Wintering Areas, invasive species, and development of statewide acquisition priorities. • Maine Office of Outdoor Recreation, Maine Office of Tourism and the Maine Tourism Association helps to identify outreach opportunities and in getting information about the Public Lands out to the public. • Maine Forest Service and the State Entomology lab assist in getting the word out about invasive insects and remind visitors to “Burn it Where You Buy It” through notifications on the website, materials sent to campers, and posted at campsites.
Girl Scouts of Maine	BPL works statewide with Girl Scouts to provide information about the outdoor opportunities available on Public Lands, and partner on “Girl Scouts Love State Parks” Weekend, a state park adventure for troops in Maine.
Land Trusts	The 7 Lakes Alliance provides assistance to the Bureau in managing trails and trailheads at the Kennebec Highlands and in pursuing additional land acquisition opportunities. Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust assists with maintenance of trails and facilities and helps the Bureau in refining messaging, kiosks, and other signs.
Maine Conservation Corps (MCC)	MCC provides trail crews to construct or rehabilitate recreational trails using federal AmeriCorps funds and fees charged for MCC services. MCC trail crews are commonly used to improve trails on Bureau lands.
Moosehead Trails	Moosehead Trails, a volunteer trail stewardship group focused on non-motorized trails in the greater Moosehead Lake Region, organized volunteer workdays to help maintain hiking trails at Little Moose Public Land and at the Little Kineo Mt. Trail in Days Academy Public Land.
Research Requests	Special activity permits for several research projects on Public Lands were issued for collection of seed for plant conservation, deployment of stationary acoustic detectors for bat species of conservation concern, and for studying movements and survival of deer.

X. TIMBER RESOURCES

The Bureau manages the natural resources on the lands under its care through a carefully planned multiple-use program that balances timber management with all other resource values. Timber revenues support the Bureau’s Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands management expenses, including costs related to recreation facilities and wildlife management. Other public benefits include contributing to the local economy through employment opportunities for contractors and supply of raw materials to area mills. Provision of low-cost firewood through the Bureau’s firewood harvest permit program is a secondary

benefit. Demonstrating exemplary multi-aged management focused primarily on mature quality timber is the focal point of all Bureau forestry activities.

In FY 20, a total of 102,800 cord equivalents was harvested from 8,250 acres. After deducting the portion of biomass that came from tops and limbs (thus not included in the annual allowable cut calculation), the harvest was 101,700 cords, significantly below the 2020 calculated annual allowable cut of 159,000 cords, keeping the ten-year BPL harvest at about 10 percent below the total allowable cut for 2011 through 2020. This represents a 19% decrease from FY 19. (The annual allowable cut is the maximum volume that can be sustainably harvested.)

Markets for spruce and fir sawlogs had already settled back from the highs of FY19, and then the pandemic shut down most late winter harvesting. As in FY 19, demand for softwood pulpwood and for all hemlock products remained weak to sometimes non-existent. The 2019-2020 winter months brought no major thaws, but a late and cold/snowy spring delayed the start of warm season harvests. The explosion of the Jay mill digester had a major impact on Bureau markets, as it curtailed timber consumption, while at the same time flooding the market with wood the mill had piled down but could no longer use. Nonetheless, the Bureau and its highly valued 26 logging and road contractors statewide supplied wood to over 40 mills statewide in FY 20. A total of 39 distinct logging operations occurred in FY 20. These operations are a combination of newly established sales and sales carried over from previous years. Prescriptions (future harvest plans) were completed on over 17,000 acres during FY 20.

The **FY 20 Harvest Table** provides a breakdown of harvest in each region and Sustainable Harvest Unit (SHU) within regions. In each of the three Public Land regions, growth significantly exceeded harvest. In terms of individual SHUs, harvest exceeded growth in FY 20 in only one SHUs (N4), by about 7%. (Note that Sustainable Harvest Level, as shown in the table below, is set conservatively at approximately 85% of growth.) Severely constrained timber markets greatly limited marketing options in FY 20. The N4 harvest volumes were justified by the forest condition, the decision to keep Bureau contractors working, and the need to offset lost income from reduced harvests in SHU's without viable markets in FY 20.

Sustainable Harvest Unit	Sustainable Harvest Level (annual)	FY 20 cords
E1	10,350	1,968
E2	11,400	5,925
E3	15,700	12,697
E4	9,200	6,407
EAST	46,650	26,997
N1	16,100	10,694
N2	11,500	11,860
N3	9,700	5,402
N4	10,600	12,800
NORTH	47,900	40,756
W1	17,000	10,694
W2	13,250	5,534
W3	7,800	4,213
W4	9,400	7,847
W5	2,500	1,785

W6	14,500	9,609
WEST	64,450	33,922
ALL BPL	159,000	101,675

FY 20 Harvest Table- All units in cords

Timber harvest volume for the current FY 21 was at 44,700 cords through January 15, nearly 30% lower than this time last year. Warm weather has delayed start-up for many frozen-ground operations. Prescriptions completed to date cover about 7,000 acres, with much of that work often done during the spring mud season while harvest operations are inactive. All indications for FY 21 are that harvesting volume will be even lower compared to FY 20, due mainly to restrictive market conditions.

TIMBER INVENTORY

An important facet of the timber management program is inventory and monitoring of the forest resource. The inventories are conducted on the 'regulated' acres portion of the land base under the Bureau's management, which is the portion on which net growth and annual allowable cut are calculated. Though forest inventories are only a sampling of the trees, the total volume estimates are quite reliable; if twenty similar inventories were conducted, nineteen should result in a volume within five percent of what is reported here.

Benchmark field data acquired in 1999 provided detailed timber, site, and natural resource measurements. This inventory was fully updated in 2011 and again in 2016, and it continues to be important for both forest management planning and third-party forest certification. Growth recorded using inventories in 1999, 2011, and 2016 showed a forest inventory increase from 20.9 cords per acre in 1999 to 23.5 cords per acre in 2016. Observed growth rates and the forest model completed early in 2020 indicated an inventory increase of between 0.5 and 0.6 cords per acre, bringing the BPL timber-management lands up to 24 cords per acre at present.

Status of Current Inventory and Annual Allowable Cut (AAC)

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

The table below shows the changes in AAC for FY 11 through FY 20. When both the inventory increase and the harvest volumes during the previous twelve years are considered, the net growth rate on the Bureau's Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands is 18% higher than that for Maine's forests as a whole. As a result, the yield curves from which the AAC was calculated have been reworked using the new and greater stocking levels. This resulted in the AAC being increased for FY 13 and beyond by about 20%, from 115,000 to 141,500 cords (as previously reported for FY 12). The inclusion of 27,565 acres of operable land in recent acquisitions warranted a recalculated AAC of 149,000 cords/year in FY 16.

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

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

Fiscal Year	AAC Cords	Rationale, Support for Changes*
2011	114,860	Model 2006
2012	114,860	Model 2006
2013	141,500	Model 2012, 15% discount
2014	141,500	Model 2012, 15% discount
2015	141,500	Model 2012, 15% discount
2016	149,000	Included 27,565 “new” acres
2017	157,500	2016 inventory warrants 10% discount
2018	159,000	Small addition to acreage
2019	159,000	No change from 2018
2020	159,000	No change from 2018
<i>2016-20</i>	<i>158,600</i>	<i>Avg. Actual harvest: 121,200 cords</i>
* “Discount” is net growth impractical to harvest, due to access costs or low volumes per acre.		

Regarding the risk of potential losses from a spruce budworm outbreak, that defoliator insect has historically become epidemic throughout northern New England and eastern Canada every 30 to 40 years. Populations are building to our north, and it seems likely that this major threat to the state’s fir and spruce resource will arrive sometime in the near future. The Bureau’s land base, with a positive ratio of spruce to fir, positions us well to adapt to the next outbreak. (Fir is actually the more vulnerable species to spruce budworm.)

If harvest levels are increased, they will be guided by more up-to-date timber typing and a spatially explicit forest model. These tools will allow the Bureau to identify the most appropriate places to consider achieving silvicultural goals. In recent years, a new timber-typing data layer was created, updating information that was last produced in the mid-1990s. As a complement to tree inventory data, these new typing maps are an important resource for Bureau field staff when examining and prescribing management activities in the forest.

PRESCRIPTIONS

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

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

Compartments are examined on a 15-year cycle to identify timber and wildlife resources and recreational opportunities. Based on the field examination and the information collected, harvest prescriptions are developed to ensure adequate protection of special resources and a

sustained yield of forest goods and services, which include timber, wildlife, and appropriate recreational uses.

Prescriptions in FY 20

Bureau staff examined and prescribed 15 compartments totaling 17,000 acres for a wide range of resource management activities. This work includes collaboration with DFW at the Seboomook Unit as part of the Memorandum of Understanding with DFW concerning Canada lynx, as well work in the Scraggly Lake Unit where winter deer habitat is a high priority.

TIMBER SALES

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



Prior to 2012, most timber was sold as “stumpage.” Under this system, the contractor agrees to pay the Bureau a bid price per unit to purchase each type of forest product harvested. Occasionally, timber was sold using contracts for logging services (CLS). Under this system, the Bureau pays the contractor to harvest timber and deliver it to specified mills; these mills then pay the Bureau directly for these products. The Bureau has increasingly used the CLS option over the past several fiscal years (see discussion below), as the Bureau retains greater control over marketing the wood; CLS tends to offer a better financial return to the Bureau. Once the timber contracts are awarded, Bureau foresters and forest technicians work closely with contractors to ensure contract compliance and that timber management objectives are met.

Bureau staff closely supervise each harvest by providing loggers with strict harvesting criteria. These criteria specify which trees are to be harvested. In some cases, the Bureau will mark individual trees for removal, such as when there are high-value stands or other high value resources such as riparian areas or deer wintering areas. Also, when working with a new contractor, the Bureau may do sample marking for each area. The development of accurate electronic location tracking devices mounted in harvest machinery has often allowed Bureau field staff to precisely target areas to be treated. All harvest operations are inspected by Bureau staff on a weekly basis and more often when individual situations warrant.

Contract Logging Services (CLS)

Since FY 15, the Bureau’s Northern Region has implemented CLS on all harvests except individual firewood permits. By FY 20, the East and West Regions had moved almost entirely to CLS sales, which provided more than 97% of the total FY 20 volume. Objectives for CLS are three-fold: 1) to improve stability in achieving harvest goals, 2) to enhance Bureau timber revenues, and 3) to have logging roads built under contract rather than being part of the stumpage permit, thus better ensuring that roads are of high quality. Where CLS has been

utilized, the feedback from the mills and contractors has been largely positive. The many mills prefer the predictability of working directly with the landowner versus multiple contractors. In Northern Maine, most logging contractors are used to working under CLS contracts, not stumpage contracts, while stumpage contracts remain an important tool for the Bureau to use when needed. CLS projects do require increased up-front costs, especially for road building (while increasing the quality of construction), which in turn requires a higher level of cash reserves to be maintained in order to be successful with this initiative.

Firewood Permit Program

Individual firewood permits totaling about 100 cords were issued by the Bureau in FY 20, continuing the trend of decreasing demand. Firewood harvests by logging contractors also were lower than the year before, with 456 cords of firewood supplied by these contractors from lands managed by the Bureau.

Sugar Bush Licenses

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

FY 20 Harvest and Market Analysis

Timber harvested in FY 20 on Bureau lands from inventory totaled 101,700 cords (102,800 cords including biomass). This figure is 36% below the 2016 Bureau-established Annual Allowable Cut of 159,000 cords. Significantly weaker markets for certain products had a major effect on harvests, as did the pandemic late in the fiscal year, even though winter conditions were about average, resulting in harvest volumes well below the AAC.

For FY 20, the average price paid to the Bureau per cord fell by 21% compared to that in FY 19. Rates in the East and West Regions were lower by about 2%, while those in the North fell by 41%. In early 2018, field staff conducting compartment exams at Round Pond discovered widespread damage and some mortality caused by spruce beetle. In response, the Bureau conducted salvage harvests of over 13,000 cords in the damaged area. The 80-100 year old spruce was mature, but the Bureau would have preferred delaying harvest of these trees for another 20-40 years. Unfortunately, the spruce beetle made that unwise, both economically and for future deer use. This high-quality spruce brought exceptional prices at the mill, though the salvage also meant delayed harvests elsewhere in the North so that total harvests were within the target range. Elsewhere, the more valuable (on average) softwood products had about the same share of overall volume as the year before. Mill-delivered prices decreased significantly for spruce and fir sawlogs and studwood, while other species and products showed only minor changes. The softwood portion of harvest volume rose to 57%, an increase of 3% compared to FY 19, but equal to the 57% softwood share of Bureau forest inventory. The current yield curves show softwoods producing 64% of net growth and hardwoods just 36% of that growth. Since only 8% of the hardwood harvest volume came from sawlogs and veneer, while the inventory showed that 18% of hardwood volume was in those products, these harvests are also increasing overall resource quality and value by targeting the poorer quality and over-mature stems.

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

HARVEST OPERATION CHALLENGES

COVID-19

The pandemic has affected harvests mainly through its huge impact on the economy. Reductions in office printing paper consumption is reducing demand for pulp grade timber, while softwood demand for dimensional lumber has been driven up by a spike in housing construction and home improvement projects. This effect is having a greater impact to date in FY 21 than FY 20.

Logger Work Force

In the recent past, the Bureau's Northern Region had difficulties in securing contracts for harvests, especially winter harvests. The winter is often the preferred time to harvest wood and is often when land managers conduct most of their harvesting, such that logging contractors have more than enough work. Since 2011, the Bureau has significantly increased the proportion of CLS contracts for timber harvest operations to create more stability for both the Bureau and contractors. To further increase this stability, the Bureau has invested in upgrading/constructing many miles of logging road to summer road standards, such that more harvests are spread out over the summer and fall seasons than winter. Contractors find this very attractive, as they can more easily continue operations throughout the year. This program requires the Bureau to build roads ahead of time to minimize costs, maximize market opportunities, and increase the flexibility to move harvests to firmer ground when the weather turns messy. Implementation of CLS has enabled the Bureau to better match scheduling with markets and with the availability of harvest equipment.

Insects and Disease

To address the threat of a spruce budworm outbreak, the Bureau has for decades targeted the more budworm-susceptible balsam fir when harvesting, resulting in a spruce-to-fir ratio much higher than for the state as a whole. The Bureau-managed forest holds nearly 3 cords of spruce for each cord of fir, while the overall Maine forest has 1.6 cords of spruce per cord of fir. Going forward, this fir management practice will be continued, both by taking a higher proportion of the otherwise healthy younger fir that might have been retained in the absence of budworm, and in some alteration of harvest locations to focus on areas with higher fir components.

Changing Climate

The Bureau is keenly aware of challenges imposed by a changing climate. These include a reduced winter harvest season, increasing intensity of storms and stream flows, and gradual increases in invasive species. Bureau staff are participating in statewide and regional discussions and conferences regarding the incorporation of climate-adapted forestry practices. In addition, the Bureau has begun to document and explore the role of Public Lands, and in particular, Ecological Reserves, in carbon sequestration. A draft report recently released by the University of Maine indicates that the Bureau's Ecological Reserves store 30% more carbon, on average, than a typical acre of Maine forest. In addition, Ecological Reserves sequester approximately 35,000 metric tons of carbon each year, the equivalent of the emissions of about 7,500 cars. In FY 20, the Bureau was a participant in the Natural and Working Lands working group of the Maine Climate Council.

EXEMPLARY MANAGEMENT MANDATE

By Maine Statute (12 MRSA § 1847), the Bureau must manage Public Reserved Lands “to demonstrate exemplary land management practices, including silvicultural, wildlife and recreation management practices.” To meet this mandate, the Bureau’s forest management is guided by dual third-party certification – the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and the Forest Stewardship Council program – as well as a Silvicultural Advisory Committee, participation in the Outcome Based Forestry initiative, and the Cooperative Forest Research Unit (CFRU).

Forest Certification

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

In FY 20 (October 2019), the Bureau had annual surveillance audits under both the FSC and SFI programs. The auditors working with our certification agency, Bureau Veritas, visited 20 sites in eight different townships in the Bureau’s West Region, including stops at the Yankee Woodlot demonstration forest in Skowhegan. Auditors inspected roadwork, campsites, bridge construction, and both completed and active timber harvests.

Auditors were especially complimentary toward the condition of recently harvested stands, several roads that were recently constructed or upgraded on challenging terrain, and recreation management – both facilities and aesthetics. The broad extent and investment in recreational infrastructure were especially noted by the auditors. However, they did find one area of concern: though the Bureau has fostered good relationships with Maine’s indigenous peoples, we have not been proactive in seeking information concerning sites on Bureau-managed lands that hold important cultural and historical significance to indigenous peoples. This generated a minor non-conformance from FSC. To address this issue, the Bureau has contacted the four tribes/bands in Maine and will continue to do so at least annually with the goal of obtaining tribal input as well as maintain information that will prevent Bureau management from accidentally damaging such sites. This process will also ask about the tribes’/bands’ desires concerning privacy related to sites of tribal importance.

In FY 21 (October 2020), the dual surveillance audits took place in the Bureau’s Northern Region, visiting 19 sites in 6 different townships from Hammond Plantation on the southeast to Round Pond on the northwest. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, opening and closing meetings were done virtually, and only one auditor (from Vermont) was able to work in the field. Roadwork, water crossings, and harvest quality were determined to be exemplary. However, some Bureau signs did not have the FSC and SFI license numbers as required, generating non-conformances. The signs have since been modified to conform to the standard.

Silvicultural Advisory Committee

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

Committee Tour: The FY 20 SAC field tour was held during August of 2019 in the western Region, for the first time, visiting lots in southern Maine: Dodge Point, Hebron, Skowhegan, and the DIFW-managed Swan Island. Themes addressed mainly recreation and invasive species and how each affected silviculture. At Dodge Point, the discussion focused on timber harvesting on a tract that receives very heavy recreational use. The aging red pine plantations through which the main hiking trail passes will be a challenge as significant overstory removal appears to be the desirable silviculture. At Swan Island, we viewed the effects of both invasive plants and deer herbivory and saw part of the major salvage harvest of trees blown down in the October 2017 gale. Hebron has received the most intensive work on invasive plant control, more a holding action than trying to eradicate all of the exotic plants, which is all but impossible. The Yankee Woodlot at Skowhegan has been developed as a demonstration forest beginning in 1984 and had recently received its second timber harvest since that time. We walked some of the trails and discussed both the harvest results and the need to actively control invasive plants now that the sunlight has been let into the forest. BPL owes special thanks to Nancy Olmstead, Invasive Plant Specialist at the Maine Natural Areas Program, and to Eric Hoar, DIFW lead forester, who was filling in for the vacationing manager at Swan Island, for their participation in the tour.

Cooperative Forest Research Unit (CFRU)

The Bureau participates in a research cooperative housed at the University of Maine – Orono, originally formed in 1975 in response to the spruce budworm outbreak at that time. Membership includes forest landowners (BPL and 26 private landowners representing 8.3 million managed forest land acres), representatives of two wood processors, and 6 corporate/individual members. Together, contributions amount to approximately \$500,000 per year to support research projects of interest to the members. With the threat of another spruce budworm outbreak, research is again focused on that issue. The Bureau's contribution is proportionate to its acres in managed timberland, approximately \$25,000/yr. In FY 20, due to staff turnover, no new research projects were considered, though ongoing ones continued, and no contributions were requested from contributors. Late in calendar year 2020, this situation resolved, and the January 2021 Advisory Committee will be considering a number of interesting and relevant research proposals.

DEMONSTRATION FORESTS

As a means to display the benefits of woodland ownership, the Bureau partnered with the Maine Forest Service to develop "Demonstration Forests" on two separate parcels owned and managed by BPL, beginning in 2016. Keeping forests as forests in southern Maine's rapidly changing environment is one of the most challenging efforts for those involved in land conservation today. Thousands of woodland owners throughout our state all have their own legitimate reasons for owning and managing their woodlands. The future of these continuous forest blocks cannot be secured by focusing on these landowners alone.

The Hebron public lot, also known as the Ernest Rand Memorial Forest, is on the site of the former Western Maine Sanatorium and has been in state ownership since 1915. Once the sanatorium was closed, through a series of conveyances, the lot came under the management of the Maine Forest Service in 1966 for the explicit purpose of becoming a State Forest Demonstration and Research area. Many experimental plots were established on the lot throughout the 1960s and '70s, but the concept of a Demonstration Forest on-site was never fully realized, and management of the parcel was transferred to Public Lands in 1976 along with all other State Forests. In 2016, BPL, in partnership with the Maine Forest Service, re-established this goal, upgrading access to the site, installing a kiosk for display materials, and

implementing continued efforts to control the many invasive plants impeding forest growth. Restoration of the 8-acre apple orchard was accomplished in 2017. Future work will include the development of interpretive materials for the range of silvicultural treatments used on the lot.

The Skowhegan Public Lands have a similar origin, having been part of the former Women's Correctional Center. The management of these parcels was assigned to BPL (which at that time was the Department of Conservation) in 1976. In 1982, the Department assumed a cooperative role with the Yankee Woodlot Demonstration Program – an informal effort of several organizations to provide public education in small woodlot management. The cooperative nature of management on this lot still exists, and in 2016 the Maine Forest Service assumed responsibility to oversee the management alongside BPL and the Somerset County Soil and Water Conservation District. A series of forestry workshops on-site concluded in May 2017 and were centered around a timber harvest occurring on the property. The workshops were designed to educate woodland owners (current and future) with their own management activities. In FY 20 this forest was visited by both the Silvicultural Advisory Committee and the annual forest certification surveillance audits. The first timber harvest following the establishment of the Yankee Woodlot took place in the early 1990s, and the second was conducted on frozen ground in 2017 and 2018, yielding a bit more than 1,000 cords each year. Revenue from this volume has allowed improvement of the infrastructure that's vital to the tract's function as a demonstration forest.

Funding for the development of these demonstration forests is obtained through several federal and state grants. Timber harvesting revenue on the Skowhegan lot supports the ongoing management of the Yankee Woodlot and is deposited to a special account held by the Somerset County Soil and Water Conservation District. Each of these funding sources is overseen by the Maine Forest Service.

BOUNDARY LINES

The Bureau has progressed on the maintenance of boundary lines, with about 86 miles maintained in FY 20. In total, maintenance of about 210 miles have been completed. This is an area that can use more attention as additional resources become available.

XI. TRANSPORTATION

The Bureau has continued to improve road access within its Public Lands, focusing primarily on recreational needs and implementation of its timber management program. There are currently about 270 miles of public access roads on Public Lands, with 4.2 miles of new road constructed in FY 20.

ROADS & ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

Timber Management Road Construction

To facilitate both summer and winter timber harvesting activities across the state, approximately 10.9 miles of timber management road were constructed, and approximately 22 miles were upgraded or reconstructed in FY 20. Additionally, a number of temporary wood and concrete bridges were installed. All three Bureau regions have purchased and are deploying folding steel temporary truck bridges.



Refurbished bridge at Nahmakanta Unit, BPL Eastern Region

Public/Shared Use Road Maintenance

Each year the Bureau contracts for maintenance services for grading and brushwork on public use roads and shared use roads, as well as certain management roads open to the public.¹ In FY 20, approximately 68 miles of these roads were maintained under contract in the northern Region, 92 miles in the Western Region, and 145 miles in the Eastern Region. Roadside vegetation control was conducted on 6 miles of roads in the Eastern Region, 22 miles in the Northern Region, and 17 miles in the Western Region.

New Roads – FY 20 (miles)

Type	North	West	East	Total
Public Access	3.0	0	1.2	4.2
Summer Management	7.0	0.5	2.2	9.7
Winter Management	1.2	0	0	1.2

Upgraded roads – FY 20 (miles)

Type	North	West	East	Total
Public Access	0	0	0	0
Summer Management	0	8.25	8.0	16.25
Winter Management	3.0	2.5	0	5.5

Roads Maintained – FY 20 (miles)

Type	North	West	East	Total
Public Access	68.0	91.5	144.5	304.0
Summer Management	58.0	10.8	0	68.8
Winter Management				

Fiscal Year FY 21 to date roads summary Table

New Roads – FY 21 to date (miles)

Type	North	West	East	Total
Public Access	0	0	0	0
Summer Management	7.8	0	1.2	9
Winter Management	0	0	0	0

Upgraded roads – FY 21 to date (miles)

Type	North	West	East	Total
Public Access	0	0	0	0
Summer Management	4.5	15	4.1	23.6
Winter Management	2.5	4.75	0	7.25

Roads Maintained – FY 21 (miles)

Type	North	West	East	Total
Public Access	68	105	99.5	272.5
Summer Management	70	0	0	70
Winter Management	0	0	0	0

BRIDGES

In FY 20, the Bureau's Eastern Region installed new bridges at the Nahmakanta and Cutler Coast Units and rehabilitated four bridges at the Nahmakanta Unit, one at the Millinocket Forest Unit, and one at Amherst Community Forest. The Western Region installed a new bridge at the Sandy Bay Unit and rehabilitated two bridges at the Little Moose Unit and one at the Seboomook Unit.

XII. PUBLIC ACCESS

Eighty four percent of Public Reserved Lands were accessible by motor vehicle to the public without fee or special arrangements in FY 20. The following is a report of the few circumstances where barriers affect primary motor vehicle access, as required in 12 MRSA §1853.

EXTERNAL GATES TO PUBLIC LANDS

North Maine Woods	7 checkpoints, staffed seasonally, control primary access from main points to 95,000 acres of Public Reserved Land including Deboullie, Round Pond, Chamberlain, Telos, and portions of Seboomook.
KI/Jo-Mary	- Controls access to public lots in Bowdoin College Grant East. - Henderson Brook – A gate has been funded and operated by the Bureau at the border between Nahmakanta and the KI/Jo-Mary system that controls access from Nahmakanta into the KI/Jo-Mary system.
Cary Plantation	A locked cable gate on private land restricts access to this 230-acre parcel.
Magalloway Plt.	A locked metal gate on private land restricts access to this 1,000-acre parcel.
Cupsuptic	A staffed gate leased by the Kennebago Camp Owners' Association on private lands limits access to the 62-acre public lot in Stetsontown Twp. On Kennebago Lake. A public access agreement with the Association allows up to three vehicles at any one time to access the lake via the public lot and to park at the Grants Camps lease site located on the lot.

Davis Township

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

**Seboeis
Plantation**

An external gate was installed on a private road by the camp owners' association after repeated vandalism of private camps, limiting vehicular access to the 1,136-acre Seboeis Plantation lot.

INTERNAL GATES

The Bureau maintains 29 internal gates for safety purposes, to protect sensitive areas, to limit vehicle traffic on service roads, or to control certain recreational uses. None of the barriers restrict foot traffic, and many are left open during the winter season to allow safe passage by snowmobiles. Some temporary gates are used for security during harvest operations. In FY 20, one new gate was installed at the Unknown Lakes entrance to Duck Lake as a measure to protect the road during the spring mud season. This gate will be opened each spring when conditions permit, well in advance of May 15, as it is also an important ATV connector trail.

LAND OPEN TO HUNTING

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

- On January 1, 2008, there were 587,184 acres of Public Reserved Lands, of which **586,505 acres** were available for hunting (excluded three small game preserves).
- In FY 20, **630,334 acres** (over 99% of Public Reserved Lands) were open for hunting.

XIII. LAND TRANSACTIONS

The Bureau continues to see increased interest by landowners and partner conservation groups in conservation easement and acquisitions that represent a range of values, including recreation, ecological values, and working forests. Multiple Forest Legacy projects have scored well at the national level and are awaiting final funding and approval from the US Forest Service.

FISCAL YEAR 2020 TRANSACTIONS**Acquisitions**

- **Kennebec River Gorge** (Somerset County) – This was a donation by Central Maine Power (CMP) to the State of 1,483 acres of land in a narrow strip on each side of the Kennebec River Gorge, between Harris Dam and The Forks. The donation was the result of a 2010 agreement between CMP and the Department of Environmental Protection in which CMP agreed to protect undeveloped lands as compensation for ecosystems and recreational resources that would be disturbed by a transmission line expansion and upgrade project. The Gorge property abuts the Cold Stream Forest Unit and both the Moxie Gore public lot and the Moxie Falls Scenic Area (a State Park property).

- **Topsham Lot** (Sagadahoc County) – This was a 0.24-acre addition donated to the Bureau.
- **Cathance Twp. Lot** (Washington County) – This was a 2.75-acre addition donated to provide management access for the Bureau to the existing public lot.

Pursuant to various sections of law, “if an acquisition is made that does not include guaranteed public vehicular access; the Bureau shall describe the acquisition (in this report) and the justification for that acquisition.”

- **Cathance Twp. Lot** (Washington County) – This 2.75-acre addition was donated to provide management access for the Bureau to the existing public lot but does not include guaranteed public vehicular access.

Dispositions

- **John Paul Jones Memorial Park** – The park was transferred to the Town of Kittery, which had been maintaining the parcel as a town park for many years.

XIV. SUBMERGED LANDS

These lands are managed under the Public Trust Doctrine to ensure protection of the public trust rights of fishing, waterfowl hunting, navigation, and recreation. The Submerged Lands Program plays an important role in maintaining a balance among competing uses of submerged lands and resolving conflicts between public trust rights and the demand for private and commercial uses of these lands.

Project and Permit Applications

- The Program received 201 applications for new Coastal Development Projects.
 - 87 were determined to be exempt from the leasing requirements under the program rules
 - 41 new lease and easement documents were prepared and completed
- Staff processed 12 applications for new leases and easements for structures that were found to be in non-compliance after a 2015 inventory.
- Staff completed 71 requests for conveyance renewals, amendments, and transfers.
- In FY 20 the Submerged Lands Program devoted significant time to reviewing an application for a land-based aquaculture project in Belfast.
- One new application to recover sunken logs from public submerged lands was approved in FY 20.

Water Quality Monitoring. In 2009, the legislature authorized funding from the submerged lands leasing program to support water quality monitoring efforts at the Department of Marine Resources shellfish program. Funding at \$80,000 per year has been extended through FY 20.

Tidal Energy Pilot Project. In 2012, the first tidal energy pilot project was installed on the seafloor at Cobscook Bay, with testing and environmental monitoring continuing through FY 20. Power generated by the facility connects to the grid by a submarine cable to the shore at Lubec. Eighty percent of the lease revenue is directed to the Renewable Ocean Energy Trust Fund and is utilized by the Department of Marine Resources for fisheries research and mitigation efforts

associated with offshore energy projects.

XV. SHORE AND HARBOR MANAGEMENT FUND

In 1991, the Legislature created the Shore and Harbor Management Fund in anticipation that annual revenues from the Submerged Lands Program would exceed operating costs. These funds could then be used to support shore and harbor management activities and improve public access. In FY 20, funds were provided to the Bureau and other state agencies for:

- floating dock replacements on Moosehead Lake at Lily Bay State Park;
- public boat ramp replacements at Lubec and Edmunds;
- Maine DIFW to reconstruct boat ramp facilities at Winthrop and Embden;
- Maine DOT for training for the Maine Pilotage Commission and Maine-NH Port Safety Forum; and
- Maine Island Trail Association in support of ongoing recreation management of State-owned coastal islands.

Fiscal Year 2020 is the fourth year of the Submerged Lands Program's Harbor Management and Access (HMA) grant program. Grants were awarded to six municipalities, including Hallowell, Kennebunkport, Marshfield, Sedgwick, Sullivan, and Woolwich. All of the projects funded construction activities at new and existing water access facilities located on Great Ponds and coastal waters.

XVI. COASTAL ISLAND PROGRAM

Maine's Coastal Island Registry was created in 1973 by the 106th Legislature as a means of clarifying title to 3,166 coastal islands by establishing and registering ownership. Most island owners have registered their islands. The Program continues to receive periodic requests to register an island or make changes in existing registrations (address or ownership changes). There are also many requests for ownership information from persons with a general interest in Maine islands.

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

XVII. ADMINISTRATION

LEASES/LICENSES

Camplot Leases

The Bureau administers a Camplot Leasing Program for 288 residential camplots, and 10 commercial sporting camps and campgrounds across the state. In FY 20, the Bureau was in the second year of a five-year term (2018-2022) for camplot leases as well as most commercial sporting camps and campgrounds. In 2019, the lease formula was revised to lower the residential

rate from 4.0% to 3.5% and commercial rate from 4.0% to 2.0% of tax-assessed value, beginning in 2020. The camplot program also administers seven tent site rental agreements.

Other Leases and Licenses

The Bureau administers 57 leases and licenses on Public Lands for a variety of purposes. These leases and licenses have terms that range from 5 to 25 years. Twenty-five include annual lease payment provisions, and the remainder involve no payment or payment of a one-time administrative fee to the Bureau. Leases and Licenses in place in FY 20 included:

18 Utility leases	4 Warden camp leases
9 Agricultural licenses	1 University camp lease
5 Telecommunication facility leases	3 Sugarbush licenses
1 Dam lease	13 Miscellaneous leases
1 Boat access license	

No-rent leases include State lands leased to communities; recreation associations such as the Capital Area Recreation Association (CARA) ball fields in Augusta; nonprofit environmental organizations such as the Viles Arboretum in Augusta; municipal utilities for waterlines and pumping stations; and the Maine Warden Service for staff housing in remote locations. All no-rent leases either allow public access or are providing a public service. In FY 20, the utility lease to Central Maine Power across Johnson Mountain and West Forks Plantation public lots was restated and amended.

XVIII. INCOME AND EXPENDITURES ACCOUNTING – FISCAL YEAR 2020

OVERVIEW

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

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

This account is restricted to uses related to the management of lands that have Public Reserved Lands status, which includes the original public lots, land acquired through trading Public Reserved Lands, and other lands designated as Public Reserved Lands. Sources of income to this account include revenue generated from the harvest of forest products, camplot leases and other special leases on the Reserved Lands, and interest on the account balance. In FY 20, the Lands Program conducted timber harvests that yielded 101,675 cords.

Income for FY 20 was \$13,034,596 with expenditures of \$14,326,810. Because the Program's largest source of revenue is timber, income fluctuates from year to year in response to the amount of wood harvested and economic conditions that affect timber markets. The cash balance accumulates when revenues exceed expenses. The cash balance as of June 30, 2020, was \$6,343,500.

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

Included in the income or expenditure figures above are the portion of monies received from camplot leases and timber sales that are shared with towns and plantations pursuant to 12 MRSA §1854. Based on the income received in calendar year 2019 (payable in 2020), the Lands Program revenue sharing amounts total \$255,908.68 paid to 16 towns and plantations.

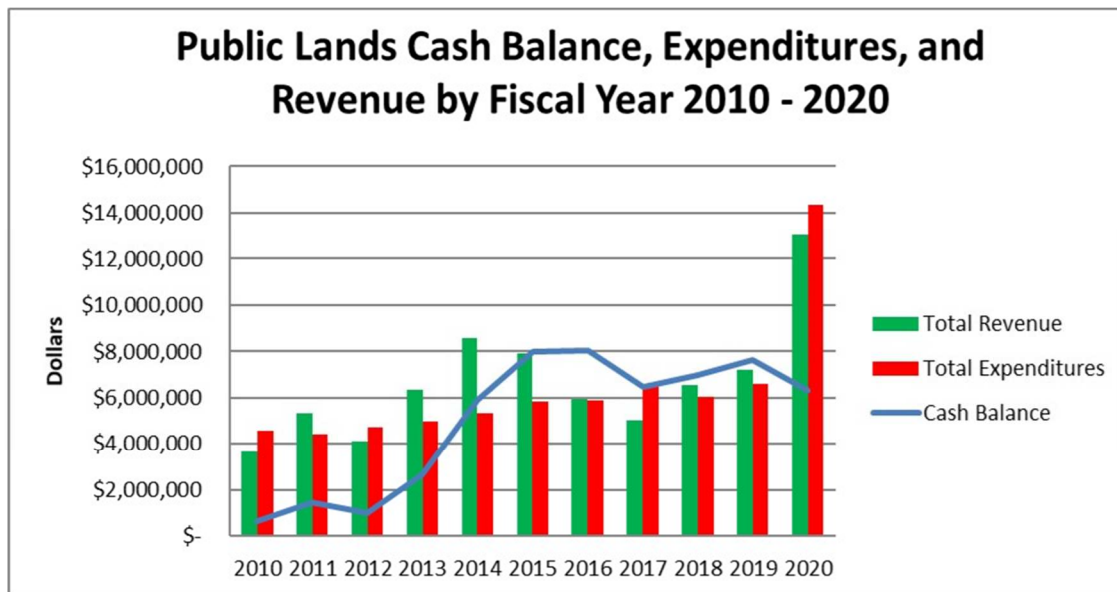
Public Reserved Lands Management Account (014.01A.Z239.22)

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	\$128,212	Personal	\$3,309,071
Rent of Lands*	\$1,130,978	All Other	\$9,399,671
Grants from State Agencies	\$62,916	Capital	\$1,090,163
Camp lot Leases*	\$411,615		
Misc. Rents & Leases	\$11,771		
Registration Fees	\$32,847		
Sale of Stumpage *	\$12,116,963		
Sale of Forest Products *	\$240		
Reg Transfer Unallocated	\$2,741		
Recovered Cost	\$32,152		
Legis Transfer of Revenue	(\$76,672)		
DICAP**	(\$772,985)	STACAP	\$527,905
Trust & Private Contributions	\$8,173		
Late Fees & Misc. income	\$23,094		
Svc. Fees Charged by Other Depts.	(\$74,663)		
Adj. To Balance Forward	(\$2,786)		
Total Income	\$13,034,596	Total Expenses	\$14,326,810

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

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

The chart below shows the total revenue, the total expenditures, and the cash balance for the Public Reserved Lands Management Account for the period 2010 – 2020



* Beginning in FY 20 accounting practices were revised to show Contract Logging Services (CLS) as expenses, rather than as a reduction to revenue. This change in accounting results in both increased revenue and increased expenses for the Bureau, but the fundamental cost/income relationship is unchanged.

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

This account is used for the management of lands not in the Public Reserved Lands System. These Nonreserved Public Lands include institutional lands (those lands considered surplus by other State agencies) assigned to the Bureau's Lands Program for natural resource management and coastal islands. Income is primarily derived from agricultural leases, though the sale of timber contributes occasionally when timber harvests are completed on Nonreserved Lands. Income for FY 20 was \$1,609 with expenditures of \$10,416. The ending cash balance was \$2,591. The Public Lands program plans its expenditures for each fiscal year based on a level of income it projects to receive from its various revenue sources. If projected income is not sufficient, then the Program determines whether the balance in its contingency fund is sufficient to carry it through until additional revenues are received. If both revenue projections and contingency funds are insufficient, then the Program postpones planned expenditures until revenue returns to an adequate level.

Income		Expenses	
Rent of Lands	\$1,609	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$10,000
		Capital	\$0
		STACAP	\$416
Total Income	\$1,609		\$10,416

Land Acquisition Fund (014.01A.Z239.24)

Funds from this account are restricted by statute and the constitution to the acquisition of conservation lands and acquisition-related costs. These funds cannot be used for operation or maintenance of existing land, and therefore, expenditures do not take place on a regular basis. Income that accrues as a result of sales, trades, or interest is carried forward until needed for future acquisitions. Income for FY 20 was \$42,319 against expenditures of \$33,311. Balance at the end of the fiscal year was \$865,535.

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

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	\$15,611	All Other	\$31,982
Sale of Land	\$25,000	Capital	
Misc. Income	\$5,500		
DICAP**	(\$3,792)	STACAP	\$1,329
Total Income	\$42,319	Total Expenses	\$33,311

Z23924 – Public Reserved Lands Acquisition Account Balances*		
Account	County	Balance at FYE 20
2400	Acquisition	\$71,815.27
2401	Androscoggin County	-\$189.77
2402	Aroostook County	-\$5,572.78
2403	Cumberland County	\$14,110.73
2409	Oxford County	\$665,433.51
2410	Penobscot County	\$2,434.97
2411	Piscataquis County	-\$96,590.51
2413	Somerset County	-\$7,794.58
2418	Wilderness Society Grant	\$3,140.03
2419	Kendall Grant	\$2,698.19
Z239	Land Management & Planning	\$216,050.34
		\$865,535.40

*Accounts will be balanced through account reconciliation in FY 21.

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

This account was established to receive revenue from the sale of Public Nonreserved Lands. Expenses for FY 20 were \$4,486 with (\$646) in revenue resulting from DICAP charges. The balance at the end of the fiscal year was \$288,130. Funds from this account are restricted by constitutional amendment (Article IX, Section 23) to the acquisition of lands having significant conservation and recreation value in the same county in which the sale of lands generating the funds took place.

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on	\$0	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$4,307
DICAP**	(\$227)	STACAP	\$179
Total Income	(\$227)	Total Expenses	\$4,486

Z23937 – Public Non-Reserved Acquisition Account Balances*		
Account	County	Balance at FYE 2020
3703	Cumberland County	\$230,255.32
3753	Kennebec County	\$64,805.09
3754	Lincoln County	-\$203.44
3756	Sagadahoc County	-\$6,727.42
		\$288,129.55

*Accounts will be balanced through account reconciliation in FY 21.

Forest Legacy Fund (013.01A.Z239.35)

This account was established to receive grant revenue from the federal USDA Forest Service Forest Legacy Program for the purchase of unique valuable land and interests in land. Land acquisition projects are reviewed and approved at the national level. We also receive annual administrative grants that support the program administration and pre-acquisition costs for the Forest Legacy land purchases. Land for Maine's Future funds are typically used as match for these Forest Legacy grants to purchase land and interests in land. Total expenses in FY 20 were \$12,987. Total Forest Legacy revenues in fiscal year 2020 were \$17,094. At the end of FY 20 the account had a balance of \$0.01.

Income		Expenses	
		Personal Services	\$0
Federal Grants	\$19,558	All Other (not including	\$12,469
	\$0	Capital	\$0
DICAP**	(\$2,464)	STACAP	\$518
Total Income	\$17,094	Total Expenses	\$12,987

XIX. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

OVERVIEW

Pursuant to Title 12 M.R.S.A., Sections 1839 and 1853, the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry must review allocations for BPL dedicated funds and revenue accounts pertaining to Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands for the upcoming fiscal year, and submit a written report to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. The Bureau is submitting information regarding Bureau income, expenditures, and management of the following five dedicated accounts:

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

The FY 22 account summaries of Bureau initiatives are generated from the State of Maine Budget & Financial Management System (BFMS). These accounts derive revenue from the sale of forest products, from lease fees, from interest on cash balances, and from the sale of land. Programs funded by these accounts receive no support from the State's General Fund. The dedicated revenues in these accounts, supplemented by grants and other outside sources of revenue, must cover all operating expenses. The Bureau plans its expenditures for each fiscal year in part based on a level of income it projects to receive from its various revenue sources. If projected income is not sufficient, then the Bureau determines whether the balance in its contingency fund is sufficient to carry it through until additional revenues are received. If both revenue projections and contingency funds are insufficient, then the Bureau postpones planned expenditures until revenue returns to an adequate level. The Bureau has established internal financial management procedures to accomplish this process and reviews budgetary matters on a monthly and quarterly basis.

The Bureau continues to manage the State-owned Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands (the "Public Lands Program") to produce timber on a sustained yield basis and within established levels for allowable harvest to generate revenue to support resource protection, wildlife, and recreation programs. The addition of new lands and management responsibilities places increasing demand on the Bureau. Revenue in the Public Reserved Lands Management Fund is used to meet these additional responsibilities. Presented below are the FY 22 budget allocations proposed for each of the five dedicated accounts within the Bureau's Public Lands Program. These allocations represent the limits within which the Bureau must operate.

1. Public Reserved Lands Management Fund Account # 014.01A.Z23

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	\$132,000	Personal Services	\$3,837,500
Grants from State Agencies	\$232,770	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$2,536,056
Rent of Lands*	\$1,100,000	Capital	\$0
Camp lot Leases*	\$404,498		
Recreational Use of Lands	\$14,000		
Misc. Rents & Leases	\$12,000		
Registration Fees	\$25,000		
Sale of Stumpage*	\$5,199,946		
Legislative Transfer of Revenue	\$350,000		
Misc. Income	\$2,400		
Contrib. from Private Sources	\$40,000		
Recovered Cost	\$121,000		
Reg Transfer Unallocated	(\$119,689)		
DICAP**	(\$927,482)	STACAP	\$212,887
Total Income	\$6,586,443	Total Expenses	\$6,586,443

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

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

The Public Lands Program, as of June 30, 2020, had an account balance of \$6,343,500 in the Public Reserved Lands Management Fund, which serves as its operating fund and as a contingency fund for down years such as FY 20 and as expected again in FY 22. Because most of the Program's timber harvesting takes place during the winter, there is a significant seasonal fluctuation in income. The fund enables the Program to operate during the first half of the fiscal year when income is low and expenses are relatively constant. It also serves as a buffer to cover operating costs when expenses exceed revenues.

Increases in annual allowable cut (AAC) and transition from stumpage sales to contract logging services, combined with strong timber markets during several years over the last decade, has built a solid operating fund that also acts as a contingency for periods of down timber markets, such as are expected to continue into FY 22. This fund provides the cash balance to support CLS, personnel services, vehicle operations, information technology, management costs for non-revenue generating activities such as road maintenance, forest inventory, and monitoring systems, as well as commitments to develop or expand recreational facilities. Conservation easement monitoring costs are provided via dedicated endowment funds tied to specific easements.

The Public Lands Program anticipates harvesting 120,000 cords of wood which will generate around \$4 million in net revenue in FY 22. However, significant timber market contraction in the last year suggests it will be very difficult to meet this goal, so we will plan expenditures with caution.

- **Requested New Initiative**

This initiative provides funding for construction materials, improvements to bridges and roads through CLS, and other improvements to recreational trails and sites used by the public.

Dedicated Revenue	Income	Requested for FY 22	Expenses
Sale of Stumpage	\$12,574,472	All Other	
DICAP	(\$1,574,472)	STACAP	\$503,520
TOTAL	\$11,000,000	TOTAL	\$11,000,000

- **Requested New Initiative**

This initiative provides funding for capital construction materials, capital improvements to bridges and roads, and other improvements to recreational trails and sites used by the public.

Dedicated Revenue	Income	Requested for FY 22	Expenses
		All Other	\$383,520
Sale of Stumpage	\$3,457,528	Capital Expenditures	\$3,000,000
DICAP	(\$57,528)	STACAP	\$16,480
TOTAL	\$3,400,000	TOTAL	\$3,400,000

- **Requested New Initiative**

This initiative provides funding for unrealized attrition and associated All Other costs.

Dedicated Revenue	Income	Requested for FY 22	Expenses
Service Charges for Current Services	\$61,885	Personal Services	\$51,658
DICAP	(\$7,749)	STACAP	\$2,478
TOTAL	\$54,136	TOTAL	\$54,136

- **Requested New Initiative**

This initiative transfers and reallocates the cost of multiple positions from the Parks – General Operations program, General Fund, Federal Expenditures Fund and Other Special Revenue Funds, and the Land Management and Planning Program, Other Special Revenue Funds to the Parks – General Operations program, General Fund, Federal Expenditures Fund and Other Special Revenue Funds, the Land Management and Planning Program, Other Special Revenue Funds and the Off-Road Recreational Vehicle Program, Other Special Revenue Funds to align work effort with the appropriate funding.

Dedicated Revenue	Income	Requested for FY 22	Expenses
Service Charges for Current Services	\$71,430	Personal Services	\$59,625
DICAP	(\$8,944)	STACAP	\$2,861
TOTAL	\$62,486	TOTAL	\$62,486

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

The account has a balance of \$2,591 at the end of FY 20, which is used as a contingency fund to cover expenses that occur between the relatively small and infrequent timber harvests on these lands.

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments		All Other (not including	\$32,761
Rent of Lands	\$2,500	Capital	
Recreational Fees	\$700		
Sale of Stumpage	\$33,580	STACAP	\$761
DICAP**	(\$2,952)		
Total Income	\$33,828	Total Expenses	\$33,522

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

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

By statute, the money in this account is used only for purposes related to the acquisition of interest in land. Lands purchased with the funds from this account have Public Reserved Land status. These funds are necessary to acquire rights-of-ways, in-holdings, conservation easements, and additions to the existing land base. As in most years, it is difficult to predict the timing, income, and expenditures involved in potential land transactions. This budget allows the Bureau, if the opportunity arises, to acquire land or other interests within the available allocation. The "All Other" expenses are used to cover the cost of legal assistance for title searches, drafting deeds, appraisals, and related items. At the end of FY 20, this account had a balance of \$865,535. Funds generated from sales of properties may only be used for land acquisitions in the same county as required by the constitution. This limits the Bureau's ability to use this fund to pursue acquisition projects in counties without funds.

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	\$16,000	All Other (not including	\$201,672
Misc. Income	\$5,500		
Sale of Land	\$218,500	Capital	
DICAP**	(\$30,251)	STACAP	\$7,803
Total Income	\$209,749	Total Expenses	\$209,475

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

The money in this account is used only for purposes related to the acquisition of interest in Nonreserved land. Lands purchased with the funds from this account have Public Nonreserved Land status. These funds are necessary to acquire rights-of-ways, in-holdings, conservation easements, and additions to the existing land base. As in most years, it is difficult to predict the timing, income, and expenditures involved in potential land transactions. This budget allows the Bureau, if the opportunity arises, to acquire land or other interests within the available allocation. All Other expenses are used to cover the cost of legal assistance for title searches, drafting deeds, appraisals, and related items. At the end of FY 20, this account had a balance of \$288,130.

Income		Expenses	
Sale of Land	\$72,000	All Other (not including	\$60,542
DICAP**	(\$9,082)	STACAP	\$2,342
Total Income	\$62,918	Total Expenses	\$62,884

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

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

This account is used for USDA Forest Service Forest Legacy Program grant expenses related to the acquisition of nationally approved Forest Legacy land parcels and any associated pre-acquisition costs. The figures above represent the All Other pre-acquisition budget. For land acquisitions, financial orders are sent to the Governor for signature and to establish the capital needed for the land purchase. Land for Maine’s Future funds are typically used as match for these Forest Legacy grants to purchase land. At the end of FY 20, the account had a balance of \$0.01.

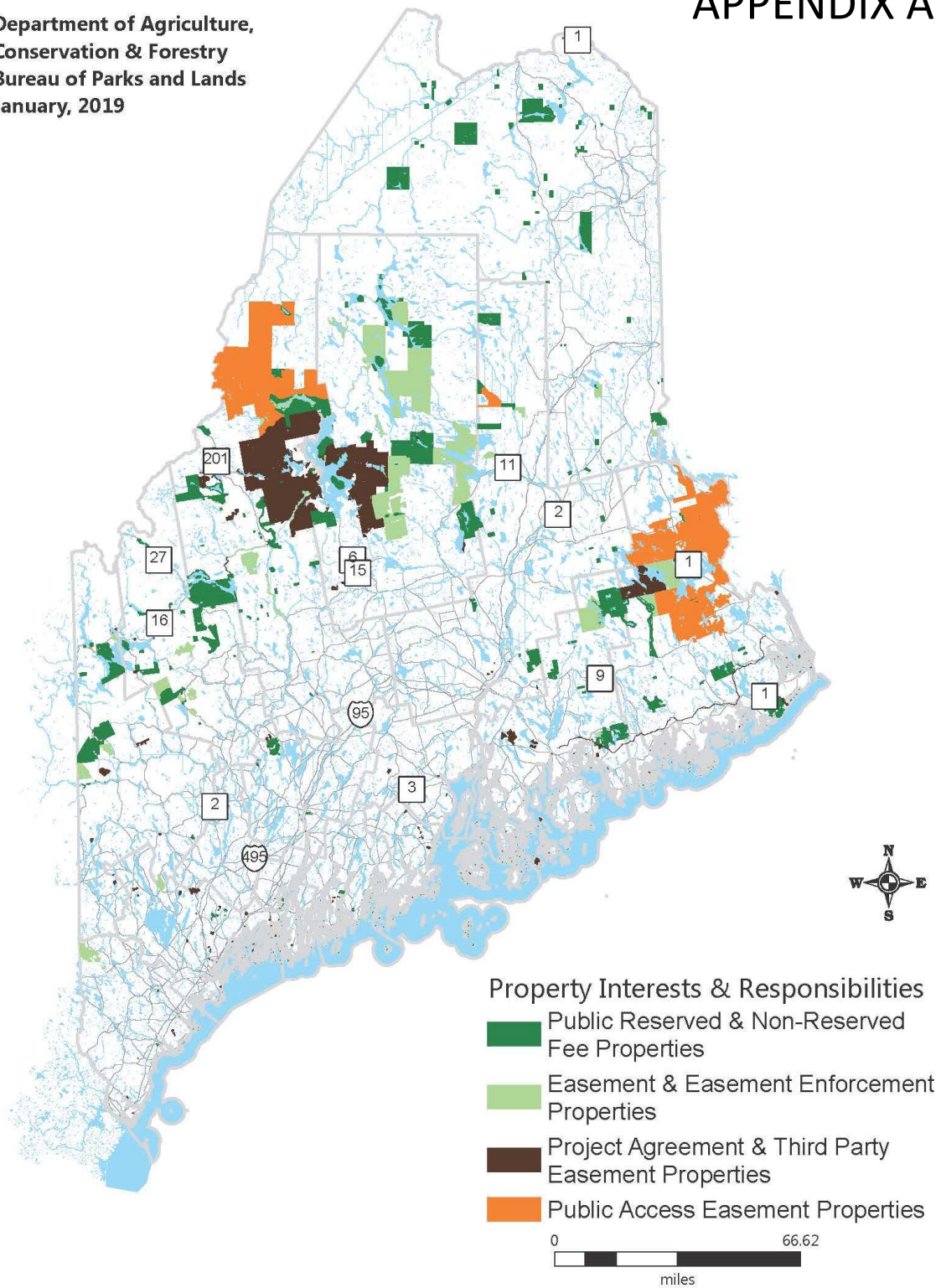
Forest Legacy Fund # 013.01A.Z239.35

Income		Expenses	
		Personal Services	
Federal Grants	\$43,000	All Other (not including STACAP)	36,158
		Capital	0
DICAP**	(\$5,425)	STACAP	1,399
Total Income	\$37,575	Total Expenses	\$37,557

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

Department of Agriculture,
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Bureau of Parks and Lands
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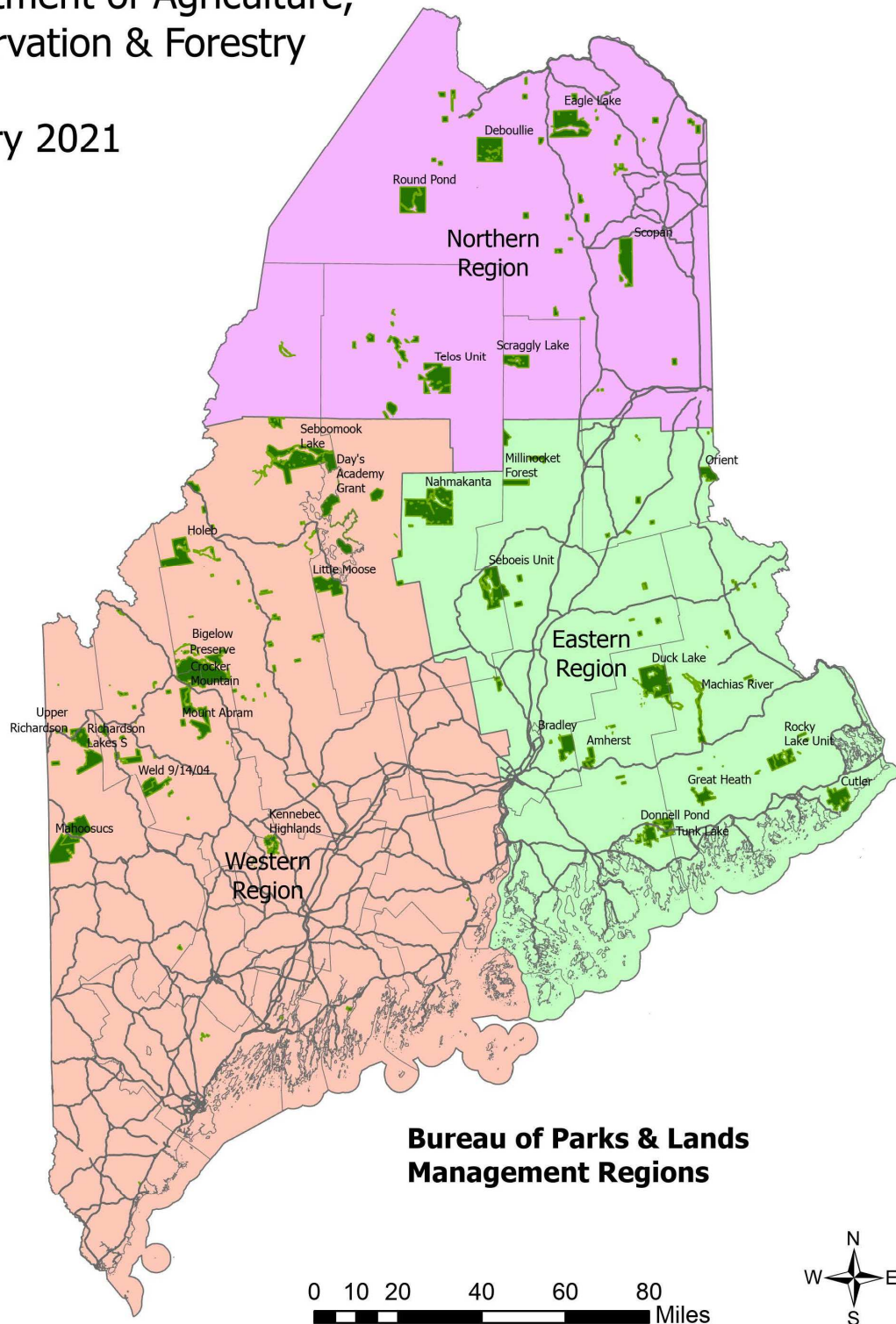
APPENDIX A



Department of Agriculture,
Conservation & Forestry

APPENDIX B

January 2021



APPENDIX C

MANAGEMENT PLAN STATUS (MAJOR UNITS)

	Management Unit	Status	Plan Region
Northern Region			
1	Chamberlain	In progress	St. John Uplands
2	Deboullie	Adopted June 2007	Northern Aroostook
3	Eagle Lake	Adopted June 2007	Northern Aroostook
4	Gero Is./Chesuncook	New plan in progress	St. John Uplands
5	Round Pond	New plan in progress	St. John Uplands
6	Salmon Brook Lake Bog	Adopted June 2007	Northern Aroostook
7	Scraggly Lake	Adopted August 2009	Aroostook Hills
8	Scopan	Adopted August 2009	Aroostook Hills
9	Telos	New plan in progress	St. John Uplands
Eastern Region			
10	Amherst Forest	Adopted Dec. 2010	Eastern Interior
11	Bradley	Adopted July 2009	Eastern Interior
12	Cutler Coast	Adopted March 2007	Downeast
13	Donnell Pond	Adopted March 2007	Downeast
14	Duck Lake	Adopted July 2009	Eastern Interior
15	Orient	In progress (new acquisition)	Eastern Interior
16	East Turner Mtn	Adopted May 2014	Central Penobscot
17	Great Heath	Adopted March 2007	Downeast
18	Machias River	Adopted July 2009	Downeast
19	Millinocket Forest	Adopted May 2014	Central Penobscot
20	Nahmakanta	Adopted May 2014	Central Penobscot
21	Rocky Lake	Adopted March 2007	Downeast
22	Seboeis	Adopted May 2014	Central Penobscot
23	Wassataquoik	Adopted May 2014	Central Penobscot
Western Region			
24	Bald Mountain	Adopted Jan. 2011	Western Mountains
25	Bigelow Preserve	Adopted June 2007	Flagstaff
26	Chain of Ponds	Adopted June 2007	Flagstaff
27	Cold Stream Forest	Adopted June 2019	Upper Kennebec
28	Crocker Mountain	Adopted April 2015	Flagstaff
29	Days Academy	Adopted Feb. 2017	Moosehead
30	Dead River/Spring Lake	Adopted June 2007	Flagstaff
31	Dodge Point	Adopted Nov. 1991	NA
32	Four Ponds	Adopted Jan. 2011	Western Mountains
33	Holeb	Adopted June 2019	Upper Kennebec
34	Kennebec Highlands	Adopted Oct. 2011	Kennebec Highlands
35	Little Moos	Adopted Feb. 2017	Moosehead
36	Mahoosuc	Adopted June 2007	Western Mountains
37	Mount Abraham	Adopted Jan. 2011	Flagstaff
38	Pineland	Adopted Jan. 2011	Bradbury SP/Pineland Public Lands
39	Richardson	Adopted Jan. 2011	Western Mountains
40	Seboomook	Adopted March 2007	Seboomook
41	Sugar Island	Adopted Feb. 2017	Moosehead
42	Tumbledown	In progress	Tumbledown/Mt. Blue

APPENDIX D

Designation History of Ecological Reserves

Original Ecological Reserves Designated in 2001 and Modifications Adopted in 2007, '11, '18		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Original 2001 Acres*</i>	<i>Changes adopted in 2007, '11, '18</i>
1. Bigelow ER	10,540	
2. Chamberlain ER	2,890	
3. Cutler Coast ER	5,216	+5
4. Deboullie ER	7,253	-1,203*
5. Donnell/Tunk ER	5,950	+60*
6. Duck Lake ER	3,870	
7. Gero Island ER	3,175	
8. Great Heath ER	5,681	+739*
9. Mahoosucs ER	9,974	
10. Nahmakanta ER	11,082	
11. Rocky Lake ER	1,516	
12. Salmon Brook Lake ER	1,053	-50*
13. Wassataquoik ER	775	+1,325
Original Total Acres	68,975	
Adjusted Total Acres	69,851	
* These figures have been revised to delete areas of open water (e.g., ponds), which are not included in BPL fee ownership, and to reflect various boundary and other corrections.		

Ecological Reserves Designated as a Result of Acquisition Conditions	
<i>Name</i>	<i>Acres</i>
1. Big Spencer ER (2007)	4,242
2. Mount Abraham ER (2007)	5,186
3. St. John Ponds ER (2007)	3,917
4. Fourth & Fifth Machias Lakes ER (2009)*	2,780
5. Number 5 Bog ER (2009)	4,809
6. Crocker Mountain ER (2013)	4,000
Total Acres	24,934

* Added to Duck Lake Ecological Reserve