MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY
Bureau of Parks and Lands

DRAFT

INTEGRATED

RESOURCE

POLICY

For Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, State Parks, and State Historic Sites

November, 2026

ADOPTION CITATION

In accordance with the provisions of 12 M.R.S.A. § 1833 (2) and § 1847 (2), this *Integrated Resource Policy,* governing management of the Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, State Parks, and State Historic Sites of Maine and replacing the *Integrated Resource Policy* adopted in December 2000 and amended in March 2007, is hereby adopted.

RECOMMENDED: _____ DATE: _____

Andrew Cutko
Director
Bureau of Parks and Lands

APPROVED: _____DATE: _____

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner
Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry

ADOPTED DATE: _____ REVISION DATE: _____

I. BACKGROUND *1*

II. LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION *4*

III. SCOPE *6*

IV. TERM AND AMENDMENT PROCEDURES *8*

V. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT MISSION AND GOALS *9*

VI. THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM *11*
A. THE PLANNING PROCESS *11*
B. RESOURCE ALLOCATION SYSTEM
1. Special Protection Areas *17*
2. Backcountry Recreation Areas *19*
3. Wildlife Areas *20*
4. Remote Recreation Areas *21*
5. Visual Consideration Areas *22*
6. Developed Recreation Areas *23*
7. Timber Management Areas *24*
8. Other Areas *25*
C. MATRIX OF ALLOWED USES *27*

VII. RESOURCE GROUPS *28*
A. NATURAL AND GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES
1. Ecological Reserves *30*
2. Protection of Native Species *31*
3. Soils *33*
4. Extraction of Nonrenewable Resources *34*
5. Aquifers *35*
6. Waste Disposal Facilities *35*
7. Pesticides *36*
B. HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES
1. Historic and Cultural Resources of the Bureau of Parks and Lands *38*
2. Resource Identification and Evaluation *38*
3. Research *39*
4. Treatment of Historic and Cultural Resources *39*
5. Education and Interpretation *45*

C. FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES
1. Establish and Maintain Biodiversity 47
2. Restoration of Native Plants, Animals, and Natural Communities 47
3. Fisheries and Wildlife Habitats 48
4. Aquatic Habitat Management 50
5. Endangered or Threatened Plants and Animals 50
6. Habitat Management Agreements 51
7. Seeding/Planting 51
8. Prescribed Burning 52
9. Nuisance Plants and Animals 53
10. Feeding of Wildlife 53
D. RECREATION AND FACILITIES RESOURCES
1. General 55
2. System-Wide Analysis 55
3. Bureau's Discretion 56
4. Recreation Experiences 56
5. Management of Visitor Loads and Impacts 57
6. Conflict Resolution 57
7. Visual Management 58
8. Pets 59
9. Recreation/Hobby Collection of Natural, Historic, and Cultural Resources 59
10. Campsite Facilities and Lodging 60
11. Parking for Primitive Campsites and Other Facilities 61
12. Campsite Length of Stay 61
13. Campsite Fires and Stoves 61
14. Swimming 62
15. Watercraft Launch Sites 62
16. Surface Use of Water Bodies 63
17. Backcountry Pond Watercraft Storage 63
18. Unattended Personal Property 64
19. Hunting and Trapping 64
20. Fishing 66
21. Technical Climbing 66
22. Trail Establishment 68
23. Biking 69
24. Horseback Riding 70

25. Snowmobile Trails 70
26. All-Terrain Vehicle Trails 71
27. Shared Use and Multi-Use Trail Opportunities 71
28. Trail Connections 72
29. Electronic Surveillance Equipment and Drones 72
30. Evaluating Management Policies for New and Emerging Recreation Activities 73
E. TIMBER AND RENEWABLE RESOURCES
1. General 75
2. Determination of Sustainable Harvest Level 76
3. Timber Management Program 77
4. Integration Requirements 83
5. Hiking Trails 84
6. Silvicultural Investment Strategies 84
7. Regeneration 85
8. Climate Change and Forest Management 86
9. Forest Protection 86
10. Economic Analysis and Marketing 87
11. Work Program 87
12. Monitoring 88

VIII. ADMINISTRATION 90
A. SPECIAL USES 90
B. ACCESS BY PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES 91
C. TRANSPORTATION 92
D. INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION 93
E. MEMORIALS 94
F. CAMPLOT LEASES 95

IX. GLOSSARY 96

X. APPENDICES 104
APPENDIX 1 - Public Comments and Responses [TBD] 105
APPENDIX 2 - Maine Advisory/Do Not Sell Invasive Plant Lists 107
APPENDIX 3 - Map of Bureau of Parks and Lands Properties 111
APPENDIX 4 - References 113

http://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/get_involved/planning_and_acquisition/management_plans/index.html

I. BACKGROUND

The *Integrated Resource Policy* (IRP) provides direction to the Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL or the Bureau) in the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (MDACF), regarding the management of the various resources on Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands (including the Bureau's managed Coastal Islands), State Parks, and State Historic Sites. This document constitutes the second revision of the original ten-year *Integrated Resource Policy* adopted by the former Bureau of Public Lands in December 1985 and revised in 2000 by the Bureau of Parks and Lands. (The Resource Management Plans policy was also amended in 2007 to extend the term of management plans from 10 years to 15 years). Its purpose is to provide a framework for the management of the lands under the Bureau's jurisdiction so that the natural, geological, historic, cultural, fisheries, wildlife, recreation, timber, and renewable resource values are considered in such a way as to provide for an integrated management approach that provides myriad benefits and demonstrates the appropriate balance wherever numerous resource attributes exist. This edition of the *Integrated Resource Policy* represents the Bureau's generations-long commitment to these lands and the protection of their resources.

The Bureau is responsible for the operation and maintenance of an extensive and diverse system of land and water recreation resources statewide. These landscapes play an important role in the lives of Maine residents and visitors as they provide a source of enjoyment, recreation, and employment. Maine's quality of life, its traditional "outdoor" values, and its economy are strongly shaped by the diversity and abundance of its natural resources. Because of this, Maine has long recognized the need to provide the public with myriad recreational opportunities while protecting valuable open space lands and special habitats. BPL is a leader in land conservation and stewardship, ensuring sustainable forest management, protecting critical wildlife habitat, and providing unparalleled access to the outdoors.

Today, we better understand the Bureau's land base, thanks to growing staff knowledge and expertise, long-term ecological monitoring, and advances in technology. Similarly, a growing awareness of who is impacted by our work and an emphasis on engaging underserved and historically excluded communities better inform our planning and management. As our population grows and diversifies, and demands on resources intensify, our approach to land management must continue to evolve. Looking ahead, the Bureau will continue to prioritize learning, innovation, and engagement, and develop partnerships that build our capacity for stewardship and expand meaningful public access to all.

This revision of the IRP reflects the Bureau's commitment to adapt and evolve. The goals of this revision were to:

- identify outdated information and inconsistencies;
- modernize the document to reflect current issues and operational realities;
- reflect new overarching priorities such as climate change and diversity, equity, inclusion and access;
- develop guidance on a growing set of management issues, including new and emerging recreational uses; and

- ensure that the IRP's management framework provides useful support to all of the lands covered under its scope.

The result is an updated *Integrated Resource Policy* (IRP) that will guide BPL's land management and ensure the legacy of its lands continues long into the future.

PROCESS

During an approximately two-year internal revision process, Bureau staff across the state had multiple opportunities to participate, beginning with reviewing the existing document and submitting comments and suggested revisions. Annual staff training was used to hold structured discussions on several key IRP topics. A core team participated in a series of work sessions to collaborate on the most challenging and complex topics and to review draft revisions. Staff across the state were given the opportunity to review and comment on the draft revised IRP.

The updated draft was provided to several other relevant state agencies for review and comment. With the incorporation of agency comments, the final draft of the revised IRP was completed, and the public review and comment phase was initiated; a summary of comments and Bureau responses is provided in Appendix 1. The final draft was revised in response to public comment, and the final revised IRP was adopted by the Commissioner of MDACF in [Date TBD], 20xx.

EMERGING CONSIDERATIONS

Parks and Public Lands in a Changing Climate

The future of conservation, recreation, and forestry in Maine is closely tied to climate change. How will our woods and waters change, and what will the impacts be on people, wildlife, and our forest economy? The Bureau is keenly aware of the challenges imposed by a changing climate. These include an increasing intensity of severe storms and extreme stream flows, and a reduced and more variable winter season for recreation and timber management. Shorter and milder winters are extending the high-use recreation season at some Parks and Public Lands. Longer growing seasons with greater extremes of drought, rainfall, and heat favor some invasive species, pests, and pathogens. Climate change is and will continue to be one of the most critical factors affecting Maine's Parks, Historic Sites, and Public Lands.

<u>Commitment</u>

As the climate urgency grows, so too does the Bureau's need to be responsive to these challenges. In accord with the *Maine Won't Wait* comprehensive climate action plan, the Bureau is committed to addressing the impacts of climate change on the lands and natural resources it manages. Careful management of BPL's lands can increase carbon sequestration, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, build resilience to changing environmental conditions, and help human communities, landscapes, plants, and wildlife adapt to an ever-changing climate. This revised IRP is designed to be responsive to the challenges we face through climate change and to help the Bureau plan and adapt accordingly.

<u>Climate Action Areas</u>:

1. The Bureau will seek to ***reduce its emissions*** from its management of Parks and Public Lands.

2. The Bureau will practice forestry and conduct harvest operations in ways that promote ***carbon sequestration and carbon storage*** while seeking markets that utilize forest products with the most beneficial climate outcomes.
3. The Bureau will consider climate resilience, carbon storage, and carbon sequestration in our ***land acquisition*** priorities.
4. The Bureau will seek resources to upgrade the Bureau's road network and water crossings to ***a more climate-resilient condition***.
5. The Bureau will consider integrating climate adaptation and resilience strategies when developing ***wildlife habitat management plans.***
6. The Bureau will consider sea level rise, marsh migration, and inland flooding events as we consider ***infrastructure improvements*** within State Parks and Public Lands.
7. The Bureau will consider and respond to ***community needs and recreation constraints*** and opportunities in the context of a changing climate.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access

Background: *Maine's outdoors is for all.* The natural and cultural wonder of Maine's expansive woods and waters make the state unlike any other. For thousands of years, Indigenous people have carefully stewarded and directly relied on the sustenance and inspiration these lands provide. In the past several hundred years, others migrating into Maine relied on the woods and waters to make a living and reap the physical, psychological, and spiritual rewards of enjoying Maine's outdoors.

For decades, Maine's conservation community has collaborated to conserve and share special public places. *Maine Won't Wait*, the state's Climate Action Plan, was initially launched in 2020, and built on that history by establishing a bold vision of conserving 30% of Maine's landscape by 2030. And yet, not everyone has felt welcome in Maine's outdoors, and the development of outdoor destinations and resources has not always been equitable across Maine. Providing and encouraging access to the outdoors regardless of disability status, financial resources, race, gender, or sexual orientation has not been a consistent priority. But Maine's outdoors is for all, and everyone should feel empowered and supported to develop a lifelong relationship with our State Parks, Historic Sites, and Public Lands.

Commitment: *As a steward of Parks and Public Lands, trails, and water access sites, and as a grant-making entity and ambassador to Maine's outdoors, BPL is committed to identifying and reducing physical, economic, and cultural barriers to outdoor recreation and expanding opportunities for all people to access and enjoy Maine's outdoors.*

II. LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION

The IRP is designed to be a planning and decision-making tool for the Bureau. These policies are consistent with the statutory requirements already in place and guide the resource management of the lands under the Bureau's care. The Legislature has directed that:

- **State Parks** administered by BPL be managed *"primarily for public recreation or conservation purposes."* (12 MRSA, §1801.7)

- **State Historic Sites** administered by BPL be designated and provided "*for public use wholly or primarily because of its historical, archaeological, or scientific interest or value*." (12 MRSA, §1801.5)

- **Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands** administered by BPL be managed *"in a manner consistent with the principles of multiple use and shall produce a sustained yield of products and services in accordance with both prudent and fair business practices and the principles of sound planning."* (12 MRSA, § 1833.1, 1847.1) Additionally, Public Reserved Lands are to be managed *"to demonstrate exemplary land management practices, including silvicultural, wildlife, and recreation management practices, as a demonstration of state policies governing management of forested and related types of lands."* (12 MRSA, §1847.1)

- The Director prepare **Management Plans** for Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands in order to demonstrate *"appropriate management practices that will enhance timber, wildlife, recreation, economic, and other values of lands."* All management of these lands *"to the extent practicable, must be in accordance with this management plan when prepared."* (12 MRSA, § 1833.2, 1847.2)

In addition, and in accordance with Maine statute (12 MRSA, § 1801 - §1859), the Bureau may acquire new lands, transfer or lease lands and, in rare circumstances, sell or convey land.

The Bureau makes management decisions based on statute, deed, the IRP, and specific unit management plans. Where specific management requirements exist in 12 MRSA, §1801 - §1859 [https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/12/title12ch220sec0.html], the statute will take precedence, and the IRP and specific unit management plans will be consistent with the relevant statute.

Rulemaking. The Bureau may be directed by statute to develop rules for a specific purpose and may otherwise engage in rulemaking in order to govern certain public uses and achieve other vital management purposes. Rules are formulated within a formal public process as directed by the Maine Administrative Procedure Act (5 MRSA, §8001 - §11008). Adopted rules may be enforced by the Bureau and law enforcement officers (12 MRSA, §1806.1).

Appeals. The public has the opportunity to appeal Bureau decisions. The management planning process has an extensive public input component and strives to address concerns and potential

appeals to decisions before they are made. However, remaining concerns may be addressed via the following steps:

1. Contact the Park or Regional Manager for site-specific management concerns.
2. For appeals of management plan decisions, contact the Senior Planner to arrange a meeting.
3. If an appeal cannot be resolved with management staff or the Senior Planner, individuals should submit an appeal in writing to the Bureau Director. The Director, who may consult other Bureau staff and the MDACF Commissioner, will review the appeal and make a final decision within 30 days.

III. SCOPE

The policies contained in this document apply to all State Parks, State Historic Sites, and Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands. Although statutory requirements regarding development of resource management plans are specific to Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, the intention is to develop these plans for State Parks and Historic Sites as well.

The Lands division of BPL is responsible for the stewardship of more than 640,000 acres of Public Reserved Land, over 3,600 acres of Nonreserved Land, and more than 1,300 Coastal Islands.[1] More than 90% of this land exists as consolidated management units and are distinguished from original Public Lots by their size and suitability for multiple use. Many of these units are the result of land trades with surrounding private landowners. They range in size from 522 acres at Dodge Point to 44,000 acres at Nahmakanta. The other 10% of the Public Reserved and Nonreserved parcels remain as "scattered public lots." Resource management plans have been prepared on a regional basis, addressing both the consolidated units and scattered public lots, with 13 such plans developed since the adoption of the revised IRP in 2000.

The Parks division of BPL owns or leases more than 86,000 acres of State Park Lands and Historic Sites. There are 34 managed State Parks, including the Allagash Wilderness Waterway and the Penobscot River Corridor, and 21 State Historic Sites (including sites that are managed by other agencies or organizations), which together comprise two-thirds of the total acreage. The remaining properties are undeveloped parcels or parcels where overall management has been transferred to the Lands division, other programs within the Bureau, or other organizations. A number of State Park and Historic Site properties have been purchased and/or developed with grant funds that require certain use and development restrictions, which take precedence where conflicts with these policies exist. *Because of the unique statutory direction of Holbrook Island Sanctuary, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, and the Penobscot River Corridor, management of these lands is guided by separate resource management plans that are not directly tied to this IRP.* State Parks that abut or are near Public Lands have been included in Management Plans such as Pineland Public Land and Bradbury Mountain State Park, and Tumbledown Public Land and Mt. Blue State Park. A consultant prepared a management plan for Androscoggin Riverlands State Park when it was designated a State Park. Low staffing levels have impeded the development of specific management plans for other State Parks and Historic Sites.

This document is not intended to address resource issues pertaining to boat launch sites managed under the Bureau's Boating Facilities Division (other than those that lie within State Parks or Historic Sites), the 2,300,000 acres of Submerged Lands within the Bureau's jurisdiction, or the over 364,000 acres of conservation easements held by the Bureau. In 1995, the former Maine Department of Conservation and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) adopted a strategic plan (*Strategic Plan for Providing Public Access to Maine Waters for Boating and Fishing*) for the management of boating resources. It is recognized, however, that these policies may be useful in future planning efforts in addressing the various resource management needs of boat launch sites and conservation easements. Lastly, this document is not

[1] The figures cited in this section were accurate as of 2026. Consult the Bureau's Property Records Management System for the most current figures.

intended as an operations and maintenance guide. Development of a plan of operations is a separate undertaking from the policies presented here.

IV. TERM AND AMENDMENT PROCEDURES

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

It is important to note that this policy attempts to project, in a single document, procedures for managing lands administered by BPL over time and changing circumstances. It may be necessary, therefore, to modify certain provisions prior to periods of scheduled review. To facilitate this process, the Bureau will provide notice in advance of any significant changes and give interested parties an opportunity to comment.

These policies will be amended as necessary to comply with existing state laws.

V. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT MISSION AND GOALS

Mission

The Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands protects and manages the natural and cultural resources under its care in order to offer a wide range of recreational and educational opportunities and provide environmental and economic benefits for present and future generations.

Management Goals

To achieve its mission, the Bureau will manage its land holdings in accordance with legislative directives and to:

- protect the public investment in the Bureau's natural and cultural resources, facilities, and infrastructure;
- offer opportunities for multiple uses when compatible with the protection and sound stewardship of the resource;
- ensure the resilience and sustainability of wildlife, water, and timber resources and serve as a model for exemplary stewardship;
- acquire and develop new resources that complement and enhance current holdings and that are not currently represented in the Bureau's land portfolio;
- offer outdoor recreational opportunities for all people that welcome a range of experiences and abilities and ensure sustainable use;
- ensure a high level of safety to minimize risks to people who work at or use lands and facilities managed by the Bureau;
- ensure that the Bureau has sufficient staffing levels and competency to provide exemplary stewardship of the resources it manages and to meet the growing responsibilities and challenges of land management;
- earn and maintain the trust, confidence, and respect of our stakeholders, partners, and fellow citizens;
- provide benefits to communities statewide and support the state's significant natural-resource-based and outdoor recreation economies;
- increase the understanding of and appreciation for the state's natural and cultural heritage;
- showcase the relevance of the Bureau's land management and increase public support for the Bureau's mission;

- provide research and demonstration opportunities for a variety of natural resource management objectives;
- embrace and adapt to new and emerging demographics, technologies, resource management techniques, and recreational uses;
- maintain, enhance, or restore an ecologically functional landscape with healthy forests, riparian areas, wetlands, and other natural communities and aquatic habitats; and
- provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, trapping, and foraging consistent with resource management goals and within ecological limits.

VI. THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The system of resource management for lands administered by BPL is comprised of three basic elements: (1) the development of resource management plans for each Public Reserved and Nonreserved Land unit; (2) the implementation of actions and recommendations set forth within such plans; and (3) the monitoring and evaluation of both the ongoing and completed work. Each step is important in ensuring that the programs developed to achieve resource management objectives are consistent with the character of the landbase and its intended use.

There is no statutory requirement for the Director to prepare management plans for State Parks and Historic Sites. The statutory guidance outlined in Section II indicates that State Parks are to be managed primarily for recreation, while Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands are to be managed under the principle of multiple use. In addition, timber harvesting may occur on park lands only for limited purposes and additional restrictions apply. Therefore, the need for multiple-use planning is less prominent for State Parks, and the Resource Allocation System described in this section – a tool for multiple-use management – is not relevant to the parks. For these reasons, the Bureau will develop management plans for individual parks on a selective basis, when the need to manage public use is most evident and staff and other resources are available.

A. THE PLANNING PROCESS

Resource Management Plans

On the basis of the Resource Allocation System (see Section VI.B.), it is the Bureau's objective to develop a 15-year management plan for each Public Reserved and Nonreserved Land Unit. Development of management plans is directed by Augusta planning staff, with the assistance of a Management Plan Advisory Committee and in collaboration with the Regional Managers and their staff. Management Plans are developed on a regional basis, with each designated plan region containing several large and smaller management units. At five-year intervals, the Bureau will report to the Management Plan Advisory Committee (see description below) on accomplishments and changing conditions that may warrant amendments to the plan. Existing plans will be revised following the initial 15-year period, and an updated plan will be drafted according to the policies in place at that time. The plan revision will be guided by a more intensive plan review than typically conducted at the five-year intervals, with the participation of the Advisory Committee. The revised plan may incorporate new or revised management recommendations and may include modifications to resource allocations, based on new public input and the best available resource data.

Each management plan will describe the character of the properties under consideration and identify the various resource activities appropriate to these areas. For each major management unit (over ~2,000 acres), a vision will be formulated that states the overarching goals for ecological protection, recreation experiences, wildlife, and timber management. Each property will be evaluated for its "dominant" and "secondary" uses related to natural, geological, historic, cultural, fisheries and wildlife, recreational, visual, timber, and renewable resource values. This process takes into account the broad character of the landbase, while identifying the diversity of

resources and appropriate management activities. Bureau staff initiate this process during a scoping phase, which leads to the development of a draft plan based on available information.

Dominant use is a resource management principle that acknowledges different resources will have management priority in certain portions of the landbase. The allocation process applies the principle to Public Lands by subdividing the landbase into geographic units on the basis of its dominant resource features. This subdivision establishes management zones, which are a core element of planning for public lands as practiced by many federal and state natural resource agencies. Dominant uses are mapped using a Geographic Information System (GIS), and the resultant maps and acreage figures are provided in the management plans.

Secondary use is a principle of resource management that accompanies the dominant use and identifies the presence of any additional resource values. Once identified, a variety of standards are applied to the management of secondary uses that, in turn, may enhance the management of dominant uses or, at a minimum, ensure the compatibility of the secondary uses. For example, timber harvesting is often considered an appropriate secondary use within wildlife dominant areas and may be permitted as a means to effectively manage certain wildlife habitats. Similarly, backcountry recreation is often considered an appropriate secondary use within special protection dominant areas, with commensurate management to protect the resource values that are the basis of the dominant use allocation.

The same Resource Allocation System categories are applied for secondary uses as applied for dominant uses and are applied to specific designated dominant use areas, or portions of those areas. They highlight, in particular, recreation, timber, and visual resource values and management concerns in areas where the dominant use is based on another resource value higher in the allocation hierarchy. More than one secondary use may be designated for an area: for example, to highlight both timber management and recreation values. Unlike dominant uses, secondary uses may not be designated for all areas.

Finally, management recommendations are developed for each management unit, which may address ecological protection, wildlife/habitats, recreation, timber management, public access, and administrative issues or needs.

<u>Steps in the Management Planning Process</u>
Below is a summary of the steps involved in the management planning process:

- *Scoping*. Planning staff, regional field staff, and staff specialists visit the properties after review of the timber compartment data and Natural Resource Inventory Reports, where applicable, and prepare a scoping document addressing each of the resources described in the Resource Allocation System. Staff identify specific management issues relating to the properties, which then become part of the scoping document.
    - *Natural Resource Inventory*. The landbase is examined and an inventory of the properties' plants and plant communities, important wildlife and wildlife habitats, and other natural resources is developed. Under a Memorandum of Understanding, the MDIFW Wildlife Diversity Section – Ecology Group (MDIFW Ecology, formerly the

Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP)) conducts these inventories and provides reports on lands managed by the Bureau.
    - *Advisory Committee*. An Advisory Committee is selected to assist in the development of each management plan. The committee is made up of individuals from both the public and private sectors who provide expertise in the various resource areas and who represent a range of conservation, recreation, and other interests. Each committee typically includes local, regional, and statewide organizations or representatives. The scoping document is presented and discussed, field trips may be conducted, and actions/recommendations are identified in preparation for the draft document.
- *Draft Plan*. Based upon the work of Bureau staff and the Advisory Committee, a draft plan is prepared and distributed for review by Bureau staff, Advisory Committee members, and others on a list maintained by the Bureau. An Advisory Committee meeting is held to review the draft plan.
- *Final Draft Plan*. The draft plan is revised as needed based on review and comments from Bureau staff, Advisory Committee members, and other stakeholders.
    - *Public Meeting*. A Public Meeting is held in the vicinity of the properties under consideration, for the purpose of allowing for public comment regarding the findings and recommendations of the final draft plan.
- *Final Plan*. Comments from the public meeting are incorporated into the final draft plan as appropriate, and a Final Plan is submitted, with the recommendation of the Director, to the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry for adoption.

<u>Management Plan Implementation and Monitoring</u>
Implementation of adopted management plans and monitoring the progress of implementation is primarily the responsibility of the Regional Manager and the foresters and recreation specialists on their staff, with the assistance of statewide staff as needed.

Design and Development Planning. Project proposals for infrastructure improvements within State Parks, State Historic Sites, and Public Lands properties undergo a planning process coordinated by staff specialists. Issues pertaining to utility, safety, durability, accessibility, and aesthetics are reviewed by Bureau staff in the development of new or improvement of existing facilities.

Operational Plans and Prescriptions. Management units within Public Lands are subdivided into compartments for the purpose of developing prescriptions to implement silvicultural activities called for in the management plans. These compartments are examined on a rotating basis, designed to progress over the entire landbase on a 15-year cycle. Information is gathered on forest condition, including forest cover, wildlife habitat and use, water resources, soil types, and topography, and subjects such as existing and potential recreational uses. From this information, the examiner develops a prescription detailing the field data and recommends timber management activities to be implemented over the next 15 years. Compartments with few important non-timber issues may be reviewed by regional staff. Those with significant wildlife, rare plant, natural community, or recreation issues will undergo an inter-regional review that will include staff specialists. Prescriptions that include important or precedent-setting decisions for timber or other values will receive a full Bureau interdisciplinary peer review.

Implementation of Actions and Recommendations. The Bureau periodically reviews commitments established in each management plan in combination with new mandates and any unforeseen needs and opportunities. Priorities are established, and decisions are made, to address specific projects for the coming year, based on available funds and staffing resources.

Monitoring and Evaluation. Management Plan commitments are monitored in order to gauge progress for each area and to plan upcoming activities. The five-year management plan reviews conducted with the Advisory Committee provide opportunities to review progress on implementing the plan recommendations, including proposed recreation improvements, wildlife habitat enhancement, and timber management. Depending on available staffing and other resources, select monitoring data may be collected on recreation use levels (e.g., with trail counters, trailhead vehicle counts), and wildlife use of specialized habitats (e.g., surveys of deer use of deer wintering areas, nesting surveys of peregrine falcons). If any rare plants are recorded or encountered in areas of management concern, MDIFW Ecology will be consulted on potential monitoring of those populations. Post-harvest data is used to evaluate progress in meeting silvicultural objectives.

Management Plans for New Acquisitions

If substantial new Public Lands are acquired, either as a new management unit or as an addition to an existing unit, the Bureau will work with the Advisory Committee to develop a plan for the new lands, following the steps outlined above. If a scheduled regional plan review is set to begin soon, the plan will be developed as part of the review process. Federal and state land acquisition grants impose management plan requirements on grant recipients; a management plan is generally required to be completed within a certain period after the acquisition. Therefore, if grant funds were used for the acquisition, the Bureau will initiate development of the plan according to the grant-specified timeline if the start of the scheduled plan review is not within that period. A draft plan will be presented to the general public for review and comment. When adopted, the plan for the new Public Lands will be appended to the regional management plan.

Response to Major Post-Planning Public Requests or Bureau Initiatives

The Bureau is occasionally approached by organizations or interests that desire to develop a new or expanded recreation use or facility on the Public Lands, after the management plan has been adopted and outside the regular schedule of plan reviews. Examples include the development of mountain bike or motorized trails. If the Bureau judges the request to be in general alignment with the vision for the management unit as expressed in the management plan, further discussion with the proponent will be pursued. The proponent will be required to submit a proposal for the desired development (see Sections VII. D. 22 and 23 for details).

The Bureau will evaluate the proposal regarding its compatibility with the natural resources present and with other uses occurring on the management unit to determine whether to proceed. If the request involves a new or major expansion of an activity on the unit, approval will require a plan amendment. Development of a plan amendment will involve engagement with the Advisory Committee to review the proposal submitted by the proponent. Broader public engagement and opportunity for comment will occur once a plan amendment has been drafted.

Proposals for recreation development or other plan modifications may also arise from within the Bureau or may be elicited by engagement with other state agencies. In such cases, the general procedures outlined above to evaluate the proposal and develop a plan amendment, if required, will also be followed. A written proposal may not be required in all cases.

Ideally, these requests will be addressed during a scheduled plan review to make the best use of staff resources and planning efficiencies. However, if the Bureau determines it is in the public interest to address such a request more expeditiously, the engagement with the Advisory Committee will be scheduled as soon as the Bureau has reviewed the proposal and as staff capacity allows. A public request that does not involve a new or substantially expanded use of the public land in question, and that does not appear to pose a conflict with other resource uses (including timber management, wildlife management, or other recreation activities), may be addressed by staff, with advance notice sent to the Advisory Committee.

Ecological Reserve Designation, Modifications, and Additions

During the development of management plans or plan updates, the Bureau may consider proposals to designate new ecological reserves or to modify the boundaries or add to existing ecological reserves, based on the presence of rare or sensitive natural communities, as identified by MDIFW Ecology, or the need to expand buffer areas. Such proposals will be discussed with the Ecological Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee, including any available data to support the proposal in line with established science-based criteria.

B. RESOURCE ALLOCATION SYSTEM

INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
RESOURCE ALLOCATION SYSTEM

Multiple Use
Dominant Allocations - Secondary Allocations

The Resource Allocation System describes a hierarchy of natural, historic, and cultural resource attributes. They are ranked from those that are scarce and/or most sensitive to management activities, where dispersed recreation facilities or activities are often more appropriate than intensively developed facilities or activities, to those that benefit from management activities or where more intensive recreation facilities or activities are appropriate. The resource category that requires the most care of natural, historic, and cultural attributes will dominate over those categories where more active management of the resource occurs or is appropriate. The following is an explanation of the Resource Allocation System categories and the ranking of resource attributes.

1. SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS
includes natural areas, historic/cultural areas, and Ecological Reserves

2. BACKCOUNTRY RECREATION AREAS
includes a subcategory of mechanized recreation areas

3. WILDLIFE AREAS
includes Essential Habitat, Significant Wildlife Habitat, other habitat for Endangered and Threatened Species, mapped habitat of species of special concern, and specialized habitat areas and features

4. REMOTE RECREATION AREAS
includes trail corridors, shorelines, and remote ponds

5. VISUAL CONSIDERATION AREAS
includes Visual Class I and Visual Class II Areas

6. DEVELOPED RECREATION AREAS
includes Developed Class I and Developed Class II Areas

7. TIMBER MANAGEMENT AREAS
includes most areas not allocated to the above categories

8. OTHER AREAS
includes areas managed/leased by other entities

1. SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS

Special Protection Areas are designated areas allocated for the protection of values associated with unusual, important, representative, and native vegetation or wildlife habitat; geological formations; or historic/cultural areas. They include the following:

1. *Natural areas,* or areas left in an undisturbed state as determined by deed, statute, or management plan; and areas containing rare and endangered species of wildlife and/or plants and their habitat, geological formations, or other notable natural features;[2]
2. *Ecological Reserves*, which are defined below, and
3. *Historic/cultural areas* (above or below ground) containing valuable or important prehistoric, historic, and cultural features.

The boundaries of sensitive natural communities and valuable or important historic/cultural areas will be delineated on the ground based on locations shown on natural resource or other special inventory maps or spatial data contained in electronic data sources. This will be done prior to conducting any management activities that could adversely impact these areas. MDIFW Ecology conducts inventories of sensitive natural communities on the Public Lands and provides reports and spatial data to the Bureau. MDIFW Ecology ranks the sensitive natural communities by their state rarity (S1 – S5, see glossary). All areas ranked S1 or S2 will be allocated to Special Protection. Outstanding examples of communities ranked S3 to S5 will also be allocated to Special Protection.

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will be consulted, as appropriate, regarding important historic/cultural areas. A Special Protection - historic/cultural allocation will be applied to a 100-foot buffer on each side of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (A.T.).

Because of their sensitivity, Special Protection Areas can seldom accommodate active manipulation or intensive use of the resource, except for repairs and renovations that are needed at historic areas from time to time. Commercial timber harvesting will not be allowed in Special Protection Areas. Wildlife management within these areas will not be accomplished by timber harvesting. Under special circumstances, management or public use roads will be allowed in Special Protection Areas if the impact on protected resources is minimal.

Ecological Reserves are areas established by statute (12 MRSA, § 1801) to mean *"an area owned or leased by the State and under the jurisdiction of the Bureau, designated by the Director, for the purpose of maintaining one or more natural community types or native ecosystem types in a natural condition and range of variation and contributing to the protection of Maine's biological diversity, and managed: A) as a benchmark against which biological and*

[2] The current list of Endangered and Threatened Fish and Wildlife species protected under Maine's Endangered Species Act is available on the MDIFW website at: https://www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/Endangered_Threatened_Species_web_Todd_Maccabe_updated10192023.pdf. The current list of rare plants (Endangered and Threatened as defined under Title 12, § 544, as well as Special Concern) is available on the MNAP website at: https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/rare_plants/plantlist.htm.

environmental change can be measured; B) to protect sufficient habitat for those species whose habitat needs are unlikely to be met on lands managed for other purposes; or C) as a site for ongoing scientific research, long-term environmental monitoring, and education." Most Ecological Reserves encompass more than 1,000 contiguous acres. Proposals for additions or modifications to the Ecological Reserves system will be reviewed with the Ecological Reserve Scientific Advisory Committee.

A Backcountry Recreation secondary allocation is frequently applied within Special Protection Areas to highlight opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. These areas may host trails and primitive campsites to allow dispersed non-motorized recreation. Pack and riding animals are not allowed in areas set aside for their plant or wildlife habitat values, because of the dangers of introducing nonnative plant species to these areas and feeding on plants that are protected. Pack and riding animal trails may be allowed in Special Protection Areas designated for other reasons, such as historic/cultural areas, where such trails are well designed and constructed in safe locations.

Existing snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle trails and roads are allowed by statute to continue in Ecological Reserves where they are well designed and constructed, are situated in safe locations, have minimal adverse impact on the values for which the reserve was created, and cannot be reasonably relocated outside of the reserve. Designated new snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle trails, and roads, are allowed in Ecological Reserves only if all three of the following criteria are met: (1) no safe, cost-effective alternatives exist; (2) the impact on protected natural resource values is minimal; and (3) the trail or road will provide a crucial link in a significant trail or road system.

Existing or new trails for motorized activities will not be allowed in Special Protection Areas identified as “natural” or “historic/cultural.” However, State Historic Sites may be allocated only in part as Special Protection for historic/cultural values. The Bureau manages some State Historic Sites that include land with values unrelated to the Historic Sites' prime historic/cultural values. If these adjacent areas are allocated for other purposes, existing or new trails for motorized activities may be allowed if appropriate for that allocation.

Where allowed, all trails for non-motorized activities must be well designed and constructed, be situated in safe locations, and have minimal adverse impact on the values for which the area is being protected. Standards for trail design and construction are guided by outdoor industry best practices for pedestrian and bicycle trails.

Carry-in boat access sites are allowed on water bodies where boating activity does not negatively impact the purposes for which the Special Protection Area was established. Hunting, fishing, and trapping are allowed where they do not conflict with the management of historic or cultural areas or the safety of other users. Trail facilities and primitive campsites will be rustic in design and accessible only by foot from trailheads located adjacent to public use roads or by water.

Wildfires occurring on or spreading to Bureau lands will be controlled. Prescribed burns to improve or enhance wildlife habitat may be allowed in natural areas or Ecological Reserves

where identified in a management plan as necessary to maintain or enhance that habitat; they will not be allowed in historic/cultural areas.

Insects, disease, and invasive species may be controlled on Bureau land categorized as Special Protection in direct response to: (1) specific threats to the functioning of native ecosystems or managed wildlife habitats; (2) specific threats to human health or safety; or (3) conditions that would likely result in significant damage to adjacent lands if no control were exercised. In such instances, the Bureau will use agents and application procedures with the greatest target specificity and least environmental impact.

Research, interpretive trails, habitat management for endangered or threatened species, restoration, renovations, and repairs will be allowed in natural and historic/cultural areas unless otherwise limited by the management guidelines of other programs, (e.g., the National Landmark, National Wild and Scenic River, National Register of Historic Places, and National Historic Landmark programs). The sections of the A.T. crossing Public Lands will be allocated to Special Protection as a "historic/cultural" area (100-foot-wide trail corridor).

2. BACKCOUNTRY RECREATION AREAS

Backcountry Recreation Areas are areas allocated for dominant recreation use for the values associated with a special combination of features, including superior scenic quality, remoteness, wild and pristine character, and capacity to impart a sense of solitude. Most encompass more than 1,000 contiguous acres. Backcountry Recreation Areas are typically roadless areas with outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of dispersed recreation where trails for non-mechanized travel are provided and no timber harvesting occurs. A *Mechanized* subcategory is applied to multi-use backcountry areas with significant opportunities for dispersed recreation where trails for mechanized activities, timber harvesting on a multi-aged basis, and management roads are allowed if permitted by deed or statute. Both types of Backcountry Recreation Areas may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, biological, or historical value, and provide opportunities for:

- trails and primitive single or group campsites for dispersed recreation;
- hunting, fishing, and trapping, where they do not adversely impact the safety of other users; and
- carry-in boat access sites.

Trail facilities and primitive campsites in Backcountry Recreation Areas will be rustic in design and accessible from trailheads located outside of the area, adjacent to management roads, or by water. All trails must be well designed and constructed, situated in safe locations, and have minimal adverse impact on the values for which the area was created.

Management roads and service roads will be allowed only in those Backcountry Areas where harvesting is allowed. Timber Management is a compatible secondary allocation in designated Backcountry Mechanized Areas where allowed by deed or statute, with such management designed to enhance vegetative diversity and to provide an environment characterized by a rich

variety of plant and animal species. Where timber management is not allowed, wildlife management within these areas will not be accomplished by timber harvesting. Salvage harvests are allowed in Mechanized Areas but not allowed in other Backcountry Areas.

Wildfires occurring on or spreading to Bureau lands will be controlled. Prescribed burns identified during the management plan process will be permitted in Backcountry Areas for wildlife habitat management and in Mechanized Areas to enhance forest management or wildlife habitat where the activity does not conflict with dominant recreation uses.

Insects and disease may be controlled on Bureau land categorized as Backcountry Recreation in direct response to: (1) specific threats to the functioning of native ecosystems or managed wildlife habitats; (2) specific threats to human health or safety; (3) conditions that would likely result in an economically substantial level of timber loss (Mechanized Areas only); or (4) conditions that would likely result in significant damage to adjacent lands if no control were exercised. In such instances, the Bureau will use those agents and application procedures with the greatest target specificity and least environmental impact.

3. WILDLIFE AREAS

Wildlife Areas are areas allocated to protect values associated with Essential Habitat, Significant Wildlife Habitat, other habitat of state and federal endangered and threatened species, habitat of species of special concern, and specialized wildlife habitat areas. New knowledge or requirements may result in adjustments to these categories.

Essential Habitats are regulated by law under the Maine Endangered Species Act and currently or historically provide physical or biological features essential to the conservation of an endangered or threatened species, and which may require special management considerations. Essential Habitats consist of roseate tern nesting areas, and piping plover and least tern nesting, feeding, and brood-rearing areas.

Significant Wildlife Habitats, defined by Maine's Natural Resource Protection Act, include habitat for state-listed endangered and threatened species; deer wintering areas; seabird nesting islands; significant vernal pools; waterfowl and wading bird habitats; shorebird nesting, feeding, and staging areas; and Atlantic salmon habitat.[3]

Other Habitats for Endangered and Threatened Species are those which are not otherwise mapped as Essential Habitats or Significant Wildlife Habitats as defined in statute but are listed on the federal or state Endangered Species Act for species known to occur in Maine.

Habitat for Species of Special Concern, which do not meet the criteria as Endangered or Threatened but are particularly vulnerable and have been added to a list of species of special concern by the Commissioner of MDIFW through rulemaking.

[3] The current list of Endangered and Threatened Fish and Wildlife species protected under Maine's Endangered Species Act is available on the MDIFW website. URL: https://www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/Endangered_Threatened_Species_web_Todd_Maccabe_updated10192023.pdf

Changes in habitat information for state or federally listed endangered and threatened species, state species of special concern, and other categories mentioned above will be incorporated into management plans during scheduled plan updates.

Specialized Wildlife Habitat represents features not included in other categories, such as rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, non-forested wetlands, and the riparian areas surrounding each of these features; orchards; old fields/grasslands; certain alpine areas and folist sites (see glossary); and may include some or all of a geographic area managed under a Habitat Management Agreement with MDIFW.

Remote Recreation and Timber Management are appropriate secondary allocations in most Wildlife areas, where allowed by deed or statute. Habitat management will be practiced for wildlife, including commercial and noncommercial harvesting of trees designed to maximize vegetative diversity, to provide an environment characterized by a rich variety of plant and animal species, and to provide habitat conditions to enhance population levels where desirable. Timber management in these areas will be conducted to enhance wildlife habitat. Recreational use of Wildlife areas typically includes hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, trapping, and sightseeing. Motorized trails for snowmobiling and ATV riding are allowed to cross Wildlife areas where such trails do not conflict with the primary wildlife use of the area, and where no other safe, cost-effective alternative (such as routing a trail around the wildlife area) exists.

Wildfires occurring on or spreading to Bureau lands will be controlled. Prescribed burns to improve or enhance wildlife habitat may be allowed in Wildlife Areas where identified in a management plan as necessary to maintain or enhance that habitat. Insects and disease may be controlled on Bureau land categorized as Wildlife Areas in direct response to (1) specific threats to the functioning of native ecosystems or managed wildlife habitats, (2) specific threats to human health or safety, (3) conditions that would likely result in an economically substantial level of resource loss, or (4) conditions that would likely result in significant damage to adjacent lands if no control were exercised**.** In such instances, the Bureau will use those agents and application procedures with the greatest target specificity and least environmental impact.

4. REMOTE RECREATION AREAS

Remote Recreation Areas are allocated to protect natural/scenic values as well as recreation values. They differ from Backcountry Recreation Areas in that: (1) they are generally smaller; (2) are generally less isolated, (3) may typically have roads within them or nearby; (4) they usually are relatively long corridors rather than broad, expansive areas; and (5) both single-aged and multi-aged management of timber is allowed where permitted by deed or statute. These areas often have significant opportunities for low-intensity, dispersed, non-motorized recreation and may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, wildlife, or historical value.

Examples of Remote Recreation Areas include, but are not limited to, trail corridors; shorelines and remote pond buffer zones (beyond riparian zones allocated to Wildlife); and large islands

(again, beyond shoreline zones allocated to Wildlife). Recreational opportunities offered within these areas include:

- developed foot trails and primitive campsites to allow for dispersed recreation activity;
- continuation of existing snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle activity on well-designed and constructed trails in safe locations, where the activity has minimal adverse impact on protected natural resources or remote recreation values, and where the trails cannot be reasonably relocated outside of the area;
- hunting, fishing, and trapping, where they do not conflict with the safety of other recreation users;
- carry-in boat access sites on appropriate water bodies; and
- access over management roads that are designed primarily for timber management while being maintained for timber management.

Designated new snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle trails are allowed only if all three of the following criteria are met: (1) no safe, cost-effective alternative exists; (2) the impact on protected natural resource values or remote recreation values is minimal; and (3) the designated trail will provide a crucial link in a significant trail system. Trail facilities and remote campsites will be rustic in design and accessible by foot from trailheads, from management and/or public roads, or by water. Timber Management and Visual Consideration are applicable secondary allocations, to highlight that harvesting activities compatible with the protection of natural resources and recreation values are allowed.

Wildfires occurring on or spreading to Bureau lands will be controlled in Remote Recreation Areas. Prescribed burns to benefit the regeneration of indigenous vegetation or enhance wildlife habitat may be allowed in Remote Recreation Areas if the activity does not negatively impact a dominant recreation use or opportunity. Insects and disease may be controlled on Bureau land categorized as Remote Recreation Areas in direct response to: (1) specific threats to the functioning of native ecosystems or managed wildlife habitats; (2) specific threats to human health or safety; (3) conditions that would likely result in significant damage to adjacent lands if no control were exercised; or (4) conditions that would likely result in significant damage to Bureau lands if no control were exercised. In such instances, the Bureau will use those agents and application procedures with the greatest target specificity and least environmental impact.

5. VISUAL CONSIDERATION AREAS

Many Bureau-managed properties have natural settings in which visual attributes enhance the enjoyment of recreational users. Timber harvests sometimes create large openings, stumps, and slash; gravel pits; and new road construction viewed from roads or trails may impact the visual enjoyment of the area. To protect the land's aesthetic character, the Bureau uses a two-tier classification system to guide management planning, based on the sensitivity of the visual resource to be protected. These areas are classified as either Visual Class I or Visual Class II, and are applied throughout the system to all shorelines, non-motorized trails, public-use roads, and management roads open to public vehicular traffic.

In most cases, Visual Consideration is applied as a secondary allocation. These serve to highlight the visual resource concern, while not designating the primary (i.e., dominant) use of the land, which may be protection of special natural or historic/cultural resources; developed, remote, or backcountry recreation; wildlife management; or timber management.

Visual Class I Areas are those areas where foreground views of natural features may directly affect the enjoyment of the viewer. These areas receive the highest priority regarding mitigation of the visual effects of management activities. Timber harvesting in Visual Class I areas is permitted under limitations directed at maintaining the aesthetic values of the forest. Openings will be contoured to the lay of the land and limited to a size that will maintain a forested appearance. Within trail corridors or along public-use roads, it may be necessary to minimize views of harvesting activity. Branches, tops, and other slash will not be left on any recreation trails. Individual trees or small groups of trees may be removed in some locations, particularly along trails and roads, to provide scenic vistas or for educational purposes.

Visual Class II Areas typically are those that include forest canopies viewed from ridge lines, background hillsides viewed from water or public-use roads, or interior views beyond the Visual Class I area likely to be seen from a trail or road. Where relatively specific areas are of concern (as compared to broad swaths of a Unit), these areas may be defined and mapped using GIS or other spatial analysis tools. Class II areas are less sensitive to change from the visual standpoint of the observer, but will nonetheless be managed to minimize any obvious alterations to the landscape. Openings will be sized and oriented so they do not draw undue attention.

In Visual Consideration Areas designated as a secondary allocation where other more restrictive provisions associated with the dominant allocation do not apply, recreation, public-use roads, and timber harvesting are permissible conditional uses.

Wildfires occurring on or spreading to Bureau lands will be controlled in Visual Consideration Areas. Prescribed burns to improve or enhance the regeneration of indigenous vegetation or enhance wildlife habitat may be allowed in Visual Consideration Areas if the activity does not negatively impact dominant recreation uses or opportunities.

Insects and disease may be controlled on Bureau land categorized as Visual Consideration Areas in direct response to: (1) specific threats to the functioning of native ecosystems or managed wildlife habitats; (2) specific threats to human health or safety; (3) conditions that would likely result in an economically substantial level of timber loss; or (4) conditions that would likely result in significant damage to adjacent lands if no control were exercised. In such instances, the Bureau will use those agents and application procedures with the greatest target specificity and least environmental impact.

6. DEVELOPED RECREATION AREAS

Developed Recreation Areas are classified as either Development Class I (low to medium-density development and use) or Development Class II (medium to high-density development and use). Both allow for public motor vehicle access, management roads, and service roads.

Visual Consideration Areas are often allocated around developed recreation areas as buffers. Trail activities, including snowmobiling and all-terrain vehicle use, are allowed in Developed Recreation Areas in locations that are safe and where the activity does not adversely impact other existing recreation activities or resources.

Development Class I Areas typically include more intensely developed recreation facilities than found in Backcountry and Remote Recreation Areas, such as drive-to primitive campsites with a minimum of supporting facilities; gravel boat launch areas; shared-use roads and/or trails designated for motorized activities; and trailhead parking areas. These areas usually do not have full-time management staff. Where allowed by deed or statute, multi-age timber management that is sensitive to visual, wildlife, and user safety is a conditional secondary use; Timber Management is not typically applied as a secondary allocation due to the limited area involved.

Development Class II Areas are the most intensely developed recreation facilities managed by the Bureau, with staffing levels at their peak in the summer season. Some of these recreation facilities have no on-site staff in the winter season. They typically include State Historic Sites and State Park campgrounds with modern sanitary facilities, showers, and running water; saltwater and freshwater beaches with improved parking areas, picnic tables, and foot trails; family and group picnic areas; and hard-surface boat launch ramps with improved parking areas for motor vehicles and boat trailers. Commercial timber management is not an allowed use in Development Class II Areas.

Wildlife management may be a conditional secondary use within all Developed Recreation Areas. Examples include the management of apple trees and mast-producing trees for wildlife. To the extent that any such management does take place, it will be sensitive to visual, wildlife, and user safety considerations. For example, wherever possible around parking areas, an herbaceous seed mix will be used to stabilize the soil surface and lessen the visual impact of human disturbance.

Fire, insects, and disease will be controlled for health and safety reasons within all Developed Recreation Areas. Salvage and emergency harvests may occur where such harvests are allowed by deed or statute and do not significantly impact natural, historic, or cultural resources and features, or conflict with traditional recreational uses of the area.

7. TIMBER MANAGEMENT AREAS

These Areas will be managed primarily for timber, as long as they are suitable for timber production under the Bureau's timber management guidelines, and commercial harvesting is allowed by deed or statute. Because of statutory restrictions, Timber Management is not a dominant use on Park lands. Where other uses are dominant, Timber Management may be secondary and conducted in a way that does not conflict with the dominant use. Fire, insects, and disease will be controlled within Timber Management Areas.

Compatible uses in Timber Management Areas include wildlife management and dispersed recreation. Recreation uses may include motorized, pedestrian, and bike trails. However, if

trails are developed, trail routing and design need to consider the dominant timber management use, and trail access and use also need to take Timber Management activity into account. Trail crossings and associated damage during harvesting may be unavoidable, but will be minimized as much as practical to prioritize public safety while also maintaining efficient timber access requirements.

Public use, management, and service roads are allowed. The Bureau seeks to maintain timber types that best utilize each site. Timber harvesting designed to enhance vegetative diversity, to provide an environment characterized by a rich variety of plant and animal species, and to provide habitat conditions that will enhance population levels will be practiced. This management approach, combined with wildlife management, creates diversity in the forest, which benefits the forest ecosystem, improves wildlife habitats, and provides natural barriers against the spread of invasive plants, insects, and disease, resulting in healthier, more vigorous forest growth.

12 MRSA, § 1826 directs the Bureau to preserve the natural, recreational, and scenic qualities of forested areas within State Parks and Historic Sites, specifies the limited purposes for which timber harvesting may occur on park lands, and applies additional restrictions to any harvesting. Examples of allowed purposes include: when the wood is to be used at State Parks; when necessary to improve wildlife habitat or reduce the risk of fire or other hazards; to improve the recreational and aesthetic quality of the park lands; or to demonstrate exemplary multiple-use forest management techniques within a demonstration forest area.

8. OTHER AREAS

These are areas where other entities' interests and uses constitute the primary use of the land. These uses are typically allowed under the terms of a lease, legislation, license, right-of-way, or special agreement. Examples include but are not limited to:

- State highways or state-aid roads, county roads
- Powerline corridors
- Commercial blueberry fields

Management of these areas is conducted by the leasee/licensee or right-of-way holder, including, for example, maintenance of road shoulders along state highways and powerline rights-of-way that cross the Bureau's fee land. The Bureau may specify certain requirements for those maintenance activities. Leases for commercial blueberry fields specify a number of lessee management responsibilities and operational requirements. While Bureau public-use and management roads may cross these parcels, they are generally not open to timber management, wildlife management, or recreation uses (an exception is ORV trails, and in a few instances, short connector segments of non-motorized trails in powerline corridors).

Relationship between Dominant and Secondary Allocations

As described above, certain secondary allocations are most suitable to each dominant allocation. The following secondary allocations, listed in relation to the associated dominant allocation, are commonly applied and offered as examples:

Dominant Allocation	Secondary Allocations
Special Protection	Backcountry Recreation Remote Recreation
Backcountry Recreation	Visual Consideration (Class I or II) * Timber Management *
Wildlife Management	Remote Recreation Timber Management Visual Consideration (Class I or II)
Remote Recreation	Timber Management Visual Consideration (Class I or II)
Developed Recreation	Timber Management Visual Consideration (Class I or II)
Timber Management	Visual Consideration (Class I or II)

** Note: applies only to the Mechanized subcategory of Backcountry Recreation, where multi-age timber management is allowed.*

Matrix of Allowed and Secondary Uses

The matrix on the next page describes the allowed uses, conditional uses, and uses not allowed for each resource category within the Resource Allocation System. The categories are arranged, as above, in order from those areas that are the most sensitive to management activities to those that are the least sensitive. The uses addressed in the matrix are a representative list of the activities that typically occur on lands managed by the Bureau.

The matrix is both a guide and a planning tool. It is used by resource managers to illustrate the range of activities that may or may not occur within each resource category. An allowed use does not imply that the activity will take place in all areas where the resource category applies, but only in designated areas within that category, as determined through the management planning process. There may also be special circumstances where an activity is permitted to occur that is generally not allowed. For example, a use that predated the application of the Resource Allocation System and has caused minimal adverse impact upon the higher resource values being protected may be permitted to continue.

RESOURCE ALLOCATION SYSTEM - MATRIX OF ALLOWED USES, CONDITIONAL USES, AND USES NOT ALLOWED

Resource Allocation Category	Public Use Roads	Management/Service Roads	Multi-Age Forest Mgmt.	Single-Age Forest Mgmt.	Demonstration Forests	Wildlife Management	Snowmobile Trails	All -Terrain Vehicle Trails	Mountain Biking Trails	Recreation Biking Trails	Backpacking Trails	Day Walking Trails	Interpretive Facilities	Cross Country Ski Trails	Ride/Pack Stock Trails	Primitive Campsites	Developed Campsites-no hookups	Developed Campsites -hookups	Group Camping Area	Carry-In Boat Access	Unimproved Boat Access	Improved Boat Access	Hunting and Trapping	Fishing	Swim Beaches – Developed	Picnic Areas	Group Picnic Areas/Shelters	Primitive Picnic Areas	Non-Manipulative Scientific Research	Non-Renewable Resource Extraction	Non-Commercial Foraging
SPECIAL PROTECTION																															
▪ Natural Areas																															
▪ Historic/Cultural																															
▪ Ecological Reserves	X						X																								
BACKCOUNTRY REC.																															
▪ Mechanized																															
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT (1)						--																									
REMOTE RECREATION							X	X																							
VISUAL CONSIDERATION																															
DEVELOPED RECREATION																															
▪ Class I																															
▪ Class II																															
TIMBER MANAGEMENT (2)																															

= **Allowed:** Use or activity is generally permitted in these areas. This does not imply that facilities for listed activities will be provided in all areas within this classification.

= **Conditional:** Use or activity allowed where they do not conflict with the dominant resource category values.

= **Not Allowed:** Use or activity generally not allowed except in some situations where the use or activity pre-dated application of the Resource Allocation System.

X = Existing roads and new trails allowed where (1) no safe, cost-effective alternative exists, (2) the impact on the protected natural resource values or remote recreation values is minimal, and (3) the designated trail will provide a crucial link in a significant trail system.

(1) Pets not allowed in some Wildlife Management areas

(2) Timber Management allowed only where permitted by deed or statute.

NOTE: "Other" allocation category not included; these lands managed by others under lease or other agreement may be crossed by Bureau-maintained roads but generally are not open to Bureau timber management, wildlife management, or the recreation uses and facilities listed here.

VII. RESOURCE GROUPS

A. NATURAL AND GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Policies for Management of
Natural and Geological Resources

1. **Ecological Reserves**
2. **Protection of Native Species**
3. **Soils**
4. **Extraction of Nonrenewable Resources**
5. **Aquifers**
6. **Waste Disposal Facilities**
7. **Pesticides**

1. Ecological Reserves

Background

In the 1990s, the Bureau participated in the "Maine Forest Biodiversity Project," which produced a report in 1998 that proposed a potential design for a system of Ecological Reserves on conservation lands. Subsequently, Bureau staff developed an alternative design for the Ecological Reserve system on Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands using data from the above-mentioned report. Ultimately, the 119th legislature enacted the Bureau's proposed Ecological Reserve system, defining Ecological Reserves and stating their purpose under Title 12, § 1801 as follows:

> "*areas owned or leased by the State and under the jurisdiction of the Bureau, designated by the Director for the purpose of maintaining one or more natural community types or native ecosystem types that are representative of an area in a natural condition and range of variation and contributing to the protection of Maine's biological diversity, and managed A) as a benchmark against which biological and environmental change can be measured; B) to protect sufficient habitat for those species whose habitat needs are unlikely to be met on lands managed for other purposes; or C) as a site for scientific research, long-term environmental monitoring, and education."*

Further, under Title 12, § 1805, the Bureau Director was authorized to designate Ecological Reserves from among the areas identified in the 1998 report; additional reserves could be designated in conjunction with the adoption of a management plan. The statute set a limit on the total acreage within Ecological Reserves of 100,000 acres, and on the percentage of the Bureau's operable timberlands permitted to be designated as Ecological Reserve of 6 percent. Through 2021, the Bureau had designated 29 Ecological Reserves with a total area of over 95,000 acres.

In March 2022, the 130th legislature revised Title 12, § 1805, removing the inventory of potential reserves published in the 1998 report as the primary guide for Ecological Reserve designation and increasing the limits on total Ecological Reserve acreage to 115,000 acres and the percentage of operable timberlands within reserves to 8 percent.

Policy

Ecological Reserves shall be included in the Resource Allocation System as a possible designation for lands managed by the Bureau. The reserve concept created by the legislature does not stipulate permanence. However, the values derived from Ecological Reserves generally increase over time, with permanent designations providing the greatest benefit in most cases. The Bureau will implement a system-wide approach to determining areas to be designated as Ecological Reserves. Reserves alone are not expected to satisfy all biodiversity conservation objectives. They are designed to work in concert with other kinds of special protection areas and surrounding managed forests to help maintain the state's biodiversity.

In accordance with 12 MRSA, § 1805, the total acres designated will not exceed the total Ecological Reserve acreage, percentage of operable timberlands, and other established limits.

Ecological Reserves should be managed to allow natural ecological processes (disturbance, succession, hydrological and nutrient cycling, etc.) to proceed with minimal interference or manipulation from human activity. Exceptions may be made where active management (e.g., prescribed fire) is necessary to replicate natural processes that maintain specific natural communities or rare species populations, or where uncontrolled disturbance or lack of management poses a significant risk to public safety or forest resources outside of the Reserve area (e.g., wildfires).

Allowed uses within an Ecological Reserve must be compatible with the purpose of the Ecological Reserve and may not cause a significant impact on natural community composition or ecosystem processes. They include:

- non-manipulative scientific research
- public education
- non-motorized recreation activities such as hiking, cross-country skiing, and primitive camping
- gathering of materials for cultural and traditional use by a member of a federally recognized Wabanaki Indian nation, tribe, or band
- hunting, fishing, and trapping

The removal of trees and construction of facilities associated with these uses are allowed. For example, hiking trails and primitive campsites may be developed, with small trailhead parking areas as appropriate. Activities that are generally incompatible with Ecological Reserve status include timber harvesting, salvage harvesting, commercial mining, and sand and gravel excavation.

Existing and new designated snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle trails and roads may be allowed to continue in Ecological Reserves under certain conditions and criteria (see Special Protection allocation policy, page 19). However, every effort should be made to relocate roads, motorized use trails, and other incompatible activities outside of the Reserve, and to close and revegetate these areas.

The use of pesticides, including herbicides, is allowed only in response to: (1) specific threats to the functioning of native ecosystems or managed wildlife habitats; (2) specific threats to human health or safety; or (3) conditions that would likely result in significant damage to adjacent lands if no control were exercised and mechanical or other non-chemical means of addressing threats is infeasible.

2. Protection of Native Species

Background

Nonnative plant and animal species may occur in a given place as a result of direct or indirect, deliberate, or accidental actions by humans (not including deliberate reintroductions) or wildlife. A little over one-third of Maine's plant species are not native to the state. While many of these nonnative species do not pose a significant ecological threat to native species, invasive species like Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), purple

loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), milfoil (*Myriophyllum spp.*), and others may invade natural habitats, displace native vegetation, alter its structure, and diminish its ecological function. Any species not already present in an ecosystem within its historic range, or that did not naturally expand from its historic range, is considered nonnative.

Policy

The Bureau will protect, preserve, and enhance native species on lands under its management. Priority will be given to restoring both habitats and populations of native species.
Nonnative plants and animals will not be introduced into Parks or Public Lands except in rare cases where they are the nearest living relatives of extirpated native species, where they are more adaptive varieties of native species that cannot survive current environmental conditions, where they may be used to control established invasive nonnative species, or when directed by law or expressed legislative intent. Nonnative plants not included on the *Advisory List of Invasive Plants* or the *Do Not Sell Invasive Plant List* (see Appendix 2) may be used in certain developed areas of State Park or Historic Sites, where such use is limited to ornamental, interpretive, or educational displays. This policy is not intended to limit the development and maintenance of lawn areas or seeding of open habitat types for stabilization purposes.

MDIFW Ecology will be consulted for advice on appropriate native species for Bureau projects. Landscapes and plants will be managed to achieve approved management objectives, including commercial timber harvesting, determined during the management planning process. Plantings will consist of species that are native to that particular area.

The Bureau will seek to perpetuate native plant species as part of both managed and natural landscapes. Landscapes and plants may be manipulated to maintain or enhance habitat for threatened or endangered species, but manipulation of existing plants will be carried out in a manner designed to restore or enhance the functioning of the natural community of which the endangered species is a part.

Most species in the Bureau's seed mixes used for erosion control are considered to be "nonnative" species by plant ecologists. These grass and legume species have been used because, unlike most native species, they are readily available commercially at reasonable cost, are very effective in controlling erosion, and are heavily utilized by wildlife.

As suppliers develop, the Bureau will seek commercial sources of seed of native grasses and legumes that provide equivalent benefits for erosion control and wildlife forage, and will work with MDIFW Ecology to determine the best mix. Seeding will be used to stabilize exposed soil, reduce erosion and sedimentation, maintain open grassy-dominant habitats, and as a wildlife food source. The Bureau's goal will be to establish native vegetative cover on disturbed areas as soon as possible after the management activity is completed. Priority areas for seeding will be roadways, ditches, and log yards that pose the greatest erosion potential; low-risk areas may be left to revegetate naturally. The Bureau will refine management techniques to minimize soil disturbance in its management activities. The Bureau will use native seed mixes in sensitive natural communities that might be impacted by introducing nonnative species.
Nonnative species of plants and animals may be introduced to carry out Bureau programs consistent with management objectives only after an independent assessment of the potential

ecological impacts of the proposed introduction has been conducted, and after consultation and concurrence with other appropriate natural resource agencies have occurred. The Bureau should also seek scientific advice from appropriate federal, state, local, and non-governmental sources to determine the probability that the nonnative species will become a pest or if such introductions are likely to spread and disrupt desirable adjacent natural plant and animal communities and associations.

Management of populations of established nonnative plant and animal species, ranging from refinement of management techniques up to and including eradication, will be undertaken wherever such species threaten natural resources or public health and when control is prudent and feasible. The benefit of removal or control must be weighed against the ecological impact that may occur as a result of the removal method, such as the use of pesticides, and decisions based on the least long-term ecological impact. Examples of threatening situations include public health hazards as determined by the Centers for Disease Control, hazards to public safety, and alterations to native ecosystems.

3. Soils

Background

Stable soil conditions are critical to environmental quality and the maintenance of vigorous and productive forests and other natural communities. To address silvicultural, road building, and facilities construction issues, appropriate soils information should be acquired or developed for Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, State Parks, and State Historic Sites. This information will be used in planning to ensure that timber harvesting and development take place on appropriate soils, inappropriate soils are avoided, the natural fertility of soils is maintained, and soil erosion is minimized. Information on Best Management Practices (BMP's) is available in such documents as “Maine Erosion & Sediment Control Handbook for Construction” and the Forestry BMP Field Handbooks titled “Best Management Practices for Forestry: Protecting Maine’s Water Quality” and “Best Management Practices for Forestry: Adapting to Extreme Weather in Maine.”

Policy

a. For all Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, State Parks, and State Historic Sites, existing soils information should be identified and collected as valuable information for future management activities. Where applicable, the Bureau will use available soil data during planning activities to inform land management activities.

b. When alterations to the landscape result from such activities as timber harvesting, road and trail construction, stream crossings, property/facilities development, and other management activities, BMP's will be employed to guard against erosion and compaction of soils.

4. Extraction of Nonrenewable Resources

Background

Sand, gravel, stone, peat, clay, and topsoil are valuable natural resources statewide that contribute significantly to our quality of life. Furthermore, these resources are required for various management or development activities on Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, State Parks, and State Historic Sites. The nature and distribution of these resources are controlled by geological factors that do not exist uniformly on the landscape. In many cases, Bureau properties contain deposits of these resources within their boundaries.

Policy

Nonrenewable resources will be available for Bureau or commercial use when such use does not conflict with other resource values.

a. *Bureau Use*. Nonrenewable resource deposits on Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, State Parks, and State Historic Sites will generally be available for on-site uses such as road development and maintenance, and facilities construction. New deposits shall be developed only when existing or historic sources are insufficient for the internal need. The Bureau may consult with the State Geologist if potentially significant geological resources are evident before developing new sources to determine the significance of the potential new source as a natural feature and to determine the distribution of alternative sources. The Bureau will adhere to state and local ordinances regarding the development of such sources.

b. *Commercial Use*. Consistent with 12 MRSA, §1848, nonrenewable resources will be available for commercial purposes outside Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands. Sales of over 50 cubic yards require written permission of the Bureau Director, in consultation with the MDACF Commissioner and in accordance with the following: no reasonable alternative exists, there is no significant adverse impact on visual or natural resources, clear public benefit is demonstrated, and the Bureau receives fair market value for the resource. Sales of 50 of fewer cubic yards from existing sources in a calendar year do not require Director's permission but must otherwise comply with the restrictions stated above. No new sources will be developed **s**pecifically for commercial use. Sale of peat is prohibited.

c. *Performance standards*. All nonrenewable resource exploration and extraction activities on Bureau lands will follow all applicable local and state requirements, including setbacks, screening, and rehabilitation.

d. *Visual Resources*. The development of nonrenewable resources along public use roads will be coordinated with the Staff Recreation Specialist to minimize impacts along all visually sensitive areas.

e. *Application.* This policy applies to mechanical (motorized) extraction and does not apply to manual extraction.

5. Aquifers

Background

Sand and gravel aquifers are valuable sources of one of Maine's most renewable resources -- groundwater. Groundwater is the domestic water source for more than half of Maine's citizens. Gravel aquifers are often sources for community water supplies.

Policy

The Bureau may work with the Maine Geological Survey to identify sand and gravel aquifers on Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, State Parks, and State Historic Sites in locations where existing or potential community water supplies are present. When aquifers have been identified for public use, efforts shall be made to protect the quality and quantity of this resource.

a. *Protection*. Activities that have the potential to compromise groundwater quality and quantity are incompatible with sand and gravel aquifers. Efforts will be made to identify potential threats to groundwater and eliminate them where possible. No surface facilities will be permitted in Special Protection Areas. Wellhead protection measures will be in place for all extraction sites.

b. *Extraction*. Gravel aquifer groundwater may be extracted to meet the needs of Bureau management activities on Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, State Parks, and State Historic sites. Extraction for private, commercial, noncommercial, and public water supply purposes may be made with written permission of the Bureau Director, subject to consultation with the MDACF Commissioner and the following conditions: there is no significant adverse impact on natural resources (including impacts to surface water resources); clear public benefit is demonstrated; the Bureau receives fair market value for the resource; and, in the case of commercial and public applications, there is an opportunity for public review and comment. Extraction shall not exceed average annual recharge for the aquifer. The Bureau may consult with Maine Geological Survey or other experts to ensure extraction does not exceed recharge.

C. *Identification.* Where extraction is proposed, the Bureau will request that the Maine Geological Survey identify significant sand and gravel aquifers (those capable of yielding 10 gallons per minute of water to a properly constructed well).

6. Waste Disposal Facilities

Policy

a. The Bureau will allow waste disposal facilities on its properties only where they are integral to the use or management of those properties.

b. Waste materials generated from outside the property will not be permitted on Bureau-managed lands.

c. Waste disposal systems currently in use by lessees will be allowed to continue. The Bureau, however, reserves the right to control expansion, alteration, or change of use of these systems.

7. Pesticides

Background

Typical applications of pesticides consist of roadside vegetation control, invasive plant and pest management, control of pests for public safety, and silvicultural treatments. Use of pesticides rather than mowing for roadside vegetation control often accomplishes the purpose at a lower cost and with reduced natural resource impacts. State law requires a commercial license for the "use of any pesticide in connection with duties as an official or employee of federal, state or local government, including municipal agencies, schools, and universities; and use of any pesticide on nonagricultural sites open to public use."

Policy

In keeping with 22 MRSA, § 1471- X (state law; public and private initiatives to minimize reliance on pesticides), which states that the state will "work to find ways to use the minimum amount of pesticides needed to effectively control targeted species in all areas of application." The Bureau will employ best practices to minimize associated risks to human health and the environment when using chemical pesticides. The Bureau will employ a Chemical Use Memorandum to reduce the overall volume and number of chemical pesticides in use, as well as ensure efficient and prudent use of the least hazardous effective chemicals.

Employees applying pesticides in any of the areas mentioned above are required to obtain licensing in the appropriate category. State law also requires the Bureau to maintain one certified Commercial-Master applicator to provide the required supervision of licensees within the Bureau.

The alternative to BPL licensed staff or other state agency staff with a Commercial-Master license is to contract with private for-hire firms, which may incur a greater expense to the Bureau and provide less flexibility and responsiveness in dealing with troublesome pest situations.

B. HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Policies for Management of
Historic and Cultural Resources

1. **Historic and Cultural Resources of the Bureau of Parks and Lands**

2. **Resource Identification and Evaluation**

3. **Research**

4. **Treatment of Historic and Cultural Resources**

   a. Archaeological Resources

   b. Historic and Cultural Landscapes

   c. Structures

   d. Museum Objects

   e. Ethnographic Resources

   f. Burial Sites and Cemeteries

   g. Submerged Historic and Cultural Resources

5. **Education and Interpretation**

1. Historic and Cultural Resources of the Bureau of Parks and Lands

Background

The properties owned by BPL contain numerous historical and cultural resources that possess national or state significance in history, architecture, archaeology, and culture. These resources may be objects, structures, sites, districts, and landscapes that possess integrity of location, design, setting, material, workmanship, feeling, and association, and may have one or more of the following characteristics:

A) association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
B) association with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
C) reflection of a type, period, or method of construction, representation of the work of a master, possession of artistic values; or
D) possession or likely possession of information important in prehistory or history; and
E) are more than 50 years old.

Eighteen Bureau properties have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places – five of which have been designated National Historic Landmarks – all deemed worthy of preservation for their historical significance.

2. Resource Identification and Evaluation

Policy

Identification. The Bureau will identify and assess historical and cultural resources on Bureau lands.

The Bureau, in consultation with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, and at times the Maine State Museum and/or Native American communities, will catalog information and related maps that identify likely or known historical and cultural resources on the Bureau's land base. When available, copies of the cataloged information and related maps will be distributed to managers who, along with BPL staff, will consult this information during planning for improvements so that improvement projects have minimal adverse impacts on historical and cultural resources.

Evaluation. If improvement projects appear likely to have an impact on cultural and historical resources, managers will contact the BPL Director or his or her designee, who, as appropriate, will coordinate further assessment, evaluation, or mitigation with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Maine State Museum, Native American and other communities, interest groups, or entities specified by law or regulation.

The Bureau, when possible, will provide for professionally conducted interdisciplinary historical and cultural resource inventories during the preparation of management plans, and persons with historical/cultural resource expertise will be included on management plan Advisory Committees.

The Bureau, when possible, will provide for professionally conducted, interdisciplinary inventories of historical and cultural resources on undeveloped Bureau lands to identify, protect, and monitor resources that will not be addressed by management plans in the near future. Priorities for this work will be based on the expected presence and value of historical and cultural resources and the threat of loss or damage to the resources. As much as possible, the Bureau will use the content and results of inventories as opportunities for public education.

3. Research

Policy

Procedures. The Bureau of Parks and Lands will conduct a coordinated program of basic and applied research to support planning for and management of cultural resources. Adequate research to support planning will precede any final decisions about the preservation or treatment of cultural resources or about development or operational activities that might affect cultural resources. Research needs will be identified in approved management plans.

BPL will promote cooperative relationships with recognized qualified individuals, governmental agencies, and educational and scientific institutions. Prior to the start of any research concerning cultural or historic resources, whether conducted by Bureau personnel, contractors, or independent researchers, the work to be performed will be done in consultation with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and, at times, the Maine State Museum and/or Native American communities. All cooperative and independent research must conform to Bureau guidelines.

Bureau facilities and assistance will be made available to qualified scholars conducting research as long as operations will not be impeded or resources impaired. A Special Activity Permit to authorize and oversee the research will be issued when judged to be appropriate by the Regional Manager and staff specialist. When research requires ground disturbance on properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the researcher must secure a permit according to 27 MRSA, § 371 - 375.

Confidentiality. Pursuant to 27 MRSA, § 377, certain research data may be withheld from public disclosure to protect sensitive archaeological, historic, or ethnographic resources. Requests for the release of this information will be handled by the Bureau Director or his or her designee. BPL will maintain a centralized historic and cultural resource management bibliography of all research reports and planning documents addressing cultural resources on its lands.

4. Treatment of Historic and Cultural Resources

Policy

General Methods. The Bureau will protect, monitor, and treat historical and cultural resources under its care. In carrying out these responsibilities, the Bureau will adopt one of the following procedures:

- preservation as is;

- restoration to earlier appearances by the removal of later accretions and replacement of missing elements;
- reconstruction or reproduction to replicate absent original resources; or
- rehabilitation to alter or make additions to meet continuing or new uses while retaining historic character.

The fundamental question of which treatments will best provide for the protection or public enjoyment of particular historic and cultural resources will be decided through a formal planning process or, as appropriate, in consultation with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, the Maine State Museum, Native American communities, or a standing committee of technical experts established to advise the Bureau. To the extent practicable, the Bureau will apply *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (2017), published by the National Park Service.

No treatment project will be undertaken unless supported by an approved proposal, plan, or report appropriate to the proposed action. The significance of the resource, its condition, its interpretive value, its research potential, and the availability of data will all be documented and weighed in determining the appropriate treatment. The appearance and condition of the resource before treatment and changes made during treatment will be appropriately documented. Pending planning decisions, all cultural resources will be protected and preserved in their existing conditions.

Removal of Historic and Cultural Resources. Achievement of other management purposes may sometimes conflict with and outweigh the value of cultural resource preservation. Removal of deteriorated and/or unsafe structures may be necessary to protect public safety. Proposed demolition and removal of structures will take into consideration the significance of the structure, cost/benefit of removal as compared to any feasible treatment options, and the availability of resources to implement those treatments. The planning and/or consultation processes will be the vehicle for weighing conflicting objectives and determining whether a cultural resource should not be preserved. Following such a decision, the resource will be documented, and significant resource data and materials will be retrieved. The resource may then be permitted to deteriorate naturally or be removed, according to administrative or public safety needs. This policy does not apply to museum objects (see policy d) or burial sites and cemeteries (see policy f).

Policies applicable to specific types of historical and cultural resources follow.

a. Treatment of Historic and Cultural Resources - Archaeological Resources

Archaeological sites will be either physically protected from damage or subjected to a program of monitoring and/or professional archaeological data recovery (mitigation).

Excavations. Generally, archaeological resources will be left undisturbed. If the removal of artifacts or below-ground disturbance is justified by protection, research, interpretive, or development requirements, Maine law (27 MRSA § 371-378) concerning ground disturbance on National Register state-owned lands will be followed. Or, if a Bureau property is not on the

National Register, the ground disturbance must be conducted with the permission granted via a Special Activity Permit in consultation with and approval by the Bureau Director or his or her designee.

If practicable, archaeological resources will be preserved in a stable condition to prevent degradation and loss of research values or in-situ exhibit potential. Many historic and cultural sites in State Parks are located near streams and rivers or coastal areas that may flood and erode more frequently with climate change. These sites may be at risk of flood damage, being lost to coastal and river erosion, or submerged by sea level rise. Climate-change induced sea level rise and other damage may require archeological data recovery using best professional practices. Structures of archaeological significance and recovered archaeological objects are also subject to the treatment policies for structures and museum objects.

Significant archaeological data that would be lost as a result of resource treatment projects, development, uncontrollable degradation or destruction from natural or human causes, or other activities will be recovered in accordance with professional standards and by archaeologists approved by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

As provided by Maine law (27 MRSA, § 372), beginning in 1969, all archaeological objects, materials, and specimens found on, in, or beneath state-controlled lands belong to the Maine State Museum.

Use of Metal Detectors by the Public. Due to the potential presence of archaeological resources throughout Bureau-owned lands, public use of metal detectors will be prohibited except, by permit, on certain designated Public Lands and **S**tate Park sand beaches, or for the recovery of personal items that have been lost, or when necessary, in an approved archaeological survey. Permittees will be required to relinquish all objects recovered during metal detection activities to the park manager or staff person who issued the permit. The park manager or staff person will retain all objects that are more than 50 years old, or otherwise exhibit possible cultural or historic significance, and contact the Bureau director or his or her designee, who will notify the Maine State Museum and transfer the objects to the museum.

b. Treatment of Historic and Cultural Resources - Historic and Cultural Landscapes

Definition. Historic and cultural landscapes are geographic areas, including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife and domestic animals therein, associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural and aesthetic values. Historic and cultural landscapes could include formally designed park spaces, as well as more utilitarian landscape features such as long-established trails, portages, and tote roads.

Treatment. The management of cultural landscapes will recognize and protect significant historic, archaeological, ethnographic, and design values. Treatment decisions regarding a historic and cultural landscape (preservation in its present condition; rehabilitation for contemporary use; restoration to an earlier appearance; or reconstruction of a largely altered landscape) will take into account both the natural and built features of the landscape and the dynamics inherent in natural processes and continued human and animal occupation. To the

extent practicable, the Bureau will apply *The Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* (1996), published by the National Park Service.

Every effort will be made to ensure that routine Park, Historic Site, or Public Lands unit operations do not intrude unnecessarily on a cultural landscape by introducing visible, audible, or atmospheric elements out of character with the historic environment. Trash disposal, storage of materials, parking of vehicles, and other operational activities will be conducted out of public view to the maximum extent feasible.

Historic and cultural landscapes, like other cultural resources, will not be "beautified" to suit modern aesthetic tastes through decorative plantings or other modifications not reflecting historic conditions.

c. Treatment of Historic and Cultural Resources - Structures

Definition. Structures include buildings, archaeological evidence of buildings, earthworks, sculpture, or other examples of the built environment, such as fences, fire towers, remains of transportation features, etc.

Treatment. Treatment options and considerations for structures will be done in consultation with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and will include: preservation, in which a structure is preserved in its present condition; rehabilitation, in which a structure is rehabilitated for contemporary functional use; restoration, in which a structure is restored to an earlier appearance; and reconstruction, in which a vanished structure is reconstructed.

Additions to Historic Structures. Regarding new construction, every reasonable consideration will be given to using historic structures for Bureau purposes compatible with their preservation and public appreciation. Additions may be made to historic structures when essential to their continued use. Structural additions will harmonize with but be readily distinguishable from the older work and will not significantly intrude on the historic scene; other additions, such as lightning protection, security equipment, heating, and air conditioning, will meet the requirements for rehabilitation. Ground-disturbing activities will be preceded by an assessment of archaeological sensitivity (archaeological Phase 0 or Phase 1 survey).

New Structures. New structures, landscape features, and utilities will be constructed in historic/cultural areas only if (1) existing structures and improvements do not meet essential management needs, and (2) new construction is designed and sited to preserve the integrity and character of the area. Unless associated with an approved restoration or reconstruction, new construction will harmonize with historic features in scale, texture, and continuity but will not imitate them. Ground-disturbing activities will be preceded by an assessment of archaeological sensitivity (archaeological Phase 0 or Phase 1 survey).

Use of Historic Structures. Because unused structures are susceptible to neglect and vandalism, accelerating their deterioration, compatible uses for historic structures will be found where appropriate.

All uses of historic structures are subject to preservation and public safety requirements. No administrative or public use will be permitted that would threaten the stability or character of a structure, the museum objects within it, or the safety of its users, or that would entail alterations significantly compromising its integrity.

Damaged or Destroyed Structures. Prehistoric and historic structures damaged or destroyed by fire, storm, earthquake, war, or other accident may be preserved as ruins or may be rehabilitated, restored, or reconstructed in accordance with these policies.

Ruins. The stabilization of ruins will be preceded by studies to recover any data that would be affected by stabilization work. Ruins and related features on unexcavated archaeological sites will be stabilized only to the extent necessary to preserve research values or to arrest structural deterioration. Archeological ruins to be exhibited will not be excavated until adequate provisions are made for data recovery and stabilization. Structures will not be deliberately reduced to ruins, nor will missing structures be reconstructed to simulate ruins.

Earthworks. Appropriate vegetation will be maintained when necessary to prevent erosion of prehistoric and historic earthworks, even when the historic condition might have been bare earth. Because earthwork restorations and reconstructions can obscure or destroy surviving remains and are often difficult to maintain, other means of representing and interpreting the original earthworks will receive first consideration.

Outdoor Sculpture. Outdoor statues, monuments, memorials, and plaques will be managed with the same consideration as other historic structures. Because their surface textures and finishes are important to their character and integrity, special care will be exercised in protecting, maintaining, and treating them.

d. Treatment of Historic and Cultural Resources - Museum Objects

Treatment. Within the scope of current laws, BPL will collect, protect, preserve, and use objects, documents, and specimens in the disciplines of archaeology, ethnography, history, biology, geology, and paleontology to aid understanding among visitors and to preserve information about specific parks, historic sites, or public lands units.

Acquisitions and Loans. Objects and related documentation essential to achieving the purposes and objectives of Bureau properties will be acquired and maintained in consultation with the Bureau Director or their designee and the Maine State Museum. Archeological objects found on Bureau lands after 1969 and technically under the stewardship of the Maine State Museum (27 MRSA, § 372) will be secured on loan from the Maine State Museum for public education purposes, provided the Bureau can ensure safe storage or exhibition conditions.

Museum objects, whether lent or donated, will be acquired and disposed of in conformance with legal authorizations and established Bureau procedures. BPL will acquire only collections having legal and ethical pedigrees, and each park, historic site, or lands unit will maintain complete and current accession records to establish the basis for legal custody of the objects in its possession.

BPL may cooperate with qualified institutions in the management of museum objects and, under existing legal authorities, may lend objects to and exchange objects with such institutions for approved purposes.

e. Treatment of Historic and Cultural Resources - Ethnographic Resources

Definition. Certain contemporary Native American and other communities are permitted by law, regulation, or policy to pursue customary religious, subsistence, and other cultural uses of Bureau resources with which they are traditionally associated. Such continuing use is often essential to the survival of family, community, or regional cultural systems, including patterns of belief and economic and religious life.

Treatment. Gathering of materials for cultural and traditional use by a member of a federally recognized Wabanaki Tribal nation or band in this State is allowed. Recognizing that its resource protection mandate affects this human use and cultural context of its resources, BPL will plan and implement programs (such as the co-stewardship of stands of brown ash trees, a traditional Native American basket-making material) in ways that safeguard species that support cultural lifeways in the present, including but not limited to, harvesting of species and restoration activities, while reflecting informed concern for the contemporary peoples and cultures traditionally associated with them.

The Bureau will endeavor to simplify administration and respect tribal customs by engaging tribal resource managers to establish straightforward, effective parameters that foster communication and protection of natural resources while minimizing barriers to collecting and foraging. Memorandums of Understanding may be established between the Bureau and each Wabanaki Tribal nation or band that enable them to communicate and administer appropriate opportunities and protections of the program for their members.

To ensure that Bureau plans and actions reflect contemporary knowledge about the cultural context of sites, structures, certain natural areas, and other ethnographic resources, BPL will conduct appropriate cultural anthropological research, as relevant, in cooperation with Native American tribes, communities, or groups. The Bureau may ask community members to share what is important to their communities to ensure the research is relevant to their perspectives, priorities, and ways of knowing and living. The Bureau may seek information on current gathering activities on Public Lands and collaborate with Wabanaki Nations, NGOs, and citizens to identify ways to improve the planning, resource management decisions, and activities that reflect Wabanaki views, rights, and access needs.

Research findings will be used to support planning, resource management decisions, and activities; to develop interpretive programs accurately reflecting Native American and other cultures (these programs, when developed, will be developed with close involvement of the Native American tribe, community, or group to ensure appropriate sensitivity to their culture and accurate interpretation of their history); and to facilitate consultation with and meet management responsibilities to affected communities.

f. Treatment of Historic and Cultural Resources - Burial Sites and Cemeteries

Treatment. Historic and prehistoric burial areas, whether or not formally plotted and enclosed as cemeteries, will be identified and protected. Both historic and prehistoric graves are protected by a Maine law passed in 1991 (13 MRSA, § 1371-A) stipulating that no construction or excavation is allowed within 25 feet of a known burial site or graveyard. Under this law, construction that encounters an "undocumented" grave must cease, and the director of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission must be notified.

The federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act provides strict guidelines for the treatment of Native American graves and artifacts related to them. The Maine State Museum is the contact agency in Maine for administration of this law, and the Bureau will follow relevant procedures, as prescribed by law and administered by the museum, accordingly.

g. Treatment of Historic and Cultural Resources - Submerged Cultural Resources

Submerged historic and cultural resources are governed through existing law by the Maine State Museum, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, and BPL's Submerged Lands Program. As a result, submerged historic resources will not be addressed in the *Integrated Resource Policy*. Areas that are not considered "submerged" as defined by 12 MRSA, § 1865(2) will include flowed portions of lakes and ponds, nontidal river and stream beds (unless they serve as international boundary waters), ponds under 10 acres in size, and intertidal zones.

5. Education and Interpretation

The Bureau recognizes its special responsibility as the steward of many sites of cultural and spiritual significance to Native Americans. Therefore, BPL will engage in open, respectful, ongoing consultation with appropriate Native American tribes, communities, or groups to ensure proper interpretation of cultural resources associated with their heritage, traditions, culture, and history. Additionally, the Bureau will seek to engage the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) community and the histories of women and children in the telling of the untold or erased histories related to BPL-stewarded lands and historic sites. The goal is to ensure an accurate and inclusive history.

Policy

To facilitate management, the Bureau will interpret historical and cultural resources on its lands and, to the maximum extent possible, provide educational and interpretive materials and experiences to visitors and community members. The Bureau will use a variety of means, including informational brochures, projects, signs, online content, and personal contact by staff, to convey educational and interpretive information and thereby foster public appreciation for the careful management of historic and cultural resources. [See Section VIII. Administration, D. Interpretation and Education, for additional discussion of this policy.]

C. FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Policies for Management of
Fisheries and Wildlife Resources

1. **Establish and Maintain Biodiversity**
2. **Restoration of Native Plants, Animals, and Natural Communities**
3. **Fisheries and Wildlife Habitats**
4. **Aquatic Habitat Management**
5. **Endangered or Threatened Plants and Animals**
6. **Habitat Management Agreements**
7. **Seeding/Planting**
8. **Prescribed Burning**
9. **Nuisance Plants and Animals**
10. **Feeding of Wildlife**

1. Establish and Maintain Biodiversity

Policy
The Bureau will strive to maintain a landscape characterized by a rich variety of native species and the functioning ecosystems upon which they depend.

2. Restoration of Native Plants, Animals, and Natural Communities

Background
The Bureau has been an active participant in the state's peregrine falcon reintroduction program. Peregrine falcons now nest at approximately 8 of 18 potential nesting sites on Bureau land. The Bureau also works closely with MDIFW and partners on habitat restoration projects for New England cottontail, piping plover, and least terns; pond reclamation for native fish; and road-stream crossing restoration projects, and has planted American chestnuts on many Bureau parcels. The Bureau has established silvicultural prescriptions to mimic natural disturbance in areas where past practices had altered those stand and landscape characteristics.

Policy
The Bureau will work with MDIFW Ecology to develop a cooperative approach to implementing state-approved restoration programs for native species. Such efforts will be carried out in consultation with affected agencies and adjacent landowners, and will be coordinated with established programs for that purpose.

The following criteria should serve as a guide for restoration projects:

A) Adequate habitat to support the species either exists or can reasonably be restored on Public Lands, where our management can be complementary to important habitat occurring on adjacent private lands and waters, and once a viable population level is achieved, it can be maintained naturally.

B) The species does not, based on an approved management plan, pose a serious threat to the safety of visitors, other native species, natural resources, or persons or property either within or outside Bureau lands.

C) The species or subspecies used in restoration most nearly approximates the extirpated species, subspecies, or race, with consideration of genetic integrity and source population suitability to ensure long-term viability, or most nearly approximates the ecological function of the extirpated species.

D) The species disappeared, or was substantially diminished in its state-wide population, as a direct or indirect result of human-induced change to the species population or to its habitat.

3. Fisheries and Wildlife Habitats

Background

Many changes in laws and regulations have occurred since the 1985 IRP was adopted. Most significant are updates to the Endangered Species statute and the Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA), which consolidated many existing laws and adopted protection for certain habitats. The Bureau's management has evolved over this period as well, becoming more sensitive to all natural resources and values.

Habitat designations have been restructured to reflect the changes in law and additional designations. All of these habitats are protected and managed according to the applicable laws. Wildlife allocation areas (see Section VI. B.) will be protected and managed as described in the Bureau's *Wildlife Guidelines,* a document offering guidance for a variety of species and habitat types, with a focus on regulated species and habitats. Guidance from the *Wildlife Guidelines* will be considered when habitats and features are present but not allocated to Wildlife.

Policy

The Bureau's habitat management goal for both fish and wildlife is to provide a diversity of natural habitats on appropriate sites at both coarse and fine scales. The following list provides examples of habitat types to be managed (this is a representative list, subject to additions and deletions, as new information is acquired, or relevant laws and regulations are amended):

Essential Habitats (as defined by MDIFW) are regulated in statute and consist of:

- Roseate tern nesting areas
- Piping plover nesting, feeding, and brood-rearing areas
- Least tern nesting, feeding, and brood-rearing areas

Significant Wildlife Habitats (as defined by the NRPA) are regulated in statute and consist of:

- Habitat for state-listed endangered or threatened species
- Inland waterfowl and wading bird habitats
- Shorebird nesting, feeding, and staging areas
- Deer wintering areas
- Seabird nesting islands
- Critical spawning and nursery areas for Atlantic salmon
- Tidal waterfowl and wading bird habitats
- Significant vernal pools

Habitat for Federal Endangered and Threatened Species, and State Species of Special Concern includes those habitats for listed species not already covered by Essential Habitats or Significant Wildlife Habitats, such as habitats for other federally-listed wildlife and plants, and species of special concern. Refer to the current lists of these species maintained by MDIFW.

Fragile ecosystems and habitats

- Natural communities ranked S1 and S2 by MDIFW Ecology[4]
- Alpine areas
- Sensitive Soils
- Grasslands
- Sedge meadows

Specialized habitat areas and features

- Exemplary natural communities and ecosystems (other than S1 and S2)
- Riparian areas
- Aquatic areas and submerged habitats
- Wetlands of all types
- High-value wildlife trees
    - Mast-producing hardwood stands (oak and beech)
    - Snags (dead trees)
    - Den trees (live trees with cavities)
    - Large woody debris (on the ground)
    - Apple trees and other soft-mast trees and shrubs
    - Raptor nest trees
- Seeps
- Early successional systems
- Forest openings
- Caves, talus, cliffs

Management of and activities within Essential Habitats, Significant Wildlife Habitats, Habitat for Endangered, Threatened, and State Species of Special Concern, fragile ecosystems and habitats, and specialized habitat areas and features will be conducted according to guidance provided in the *Wildlife Guidelines*. Most of these will be allocated to Wildlife as the dominant use; exceptions include individual features (such as snags and den trees, and large woody debris) that are scattered on the landscape or are too small to be mapped at the typical scale of the allocations. When these habitats are mapped by MDIFW after allocations are designated, the *Wildlife Guidelines* should be followed as if the area were allocated. In cases where the *Wildlife Guidelines* cannot be followed, consultation with the MDIFW Wildlife Specialist assigned to the Bureau and/or Ecologist from MDIFW Ecology is required.

[4]S1- **Critically Imperiled in Maine** – At very high risk of extirpation in the jurisdiction due to very restricted range, very few populations or occurrences, very steep declines, severe threats, or other factors.
S2 - **Imperiled in Maine** – At high risk of extirpation in the jurisdiction due to restricted range, few populations or occurrences, steep declines, severe threats, or other factors.

4. Aquatic Habitat Management

Background
The Bureau recognizes the importance of connectivity and quality of aquatic habitats and connectivity between aquatic habitats and adjacent uplands. The Bureau has partnered with MDIFW, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Maine Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) on habitat enhancement projects and should continue to work with those partners to develop and implement cooperative aquatic habitat management projects.

Policy
BPL will seek to preserve, restore, or enhance natural aquatic habitats, which encompass the entire range of aquatic organisms and promote the natural abundance and distribution of native aquatic species, together with their associated terrestrial habitats and species. The Bureau encourages the management of healthy aquatic systems on a landscape scale. The Bureau will cooperate and encourage dialogue with MDIFW and MDMR's Bureau of Sea-Run Fisheries to provide assistance in the management of aquatic resources within the Bureau's holdings, but not under its jurisdiction. The Bureau will also cooperate with MDIFW to reestablish or supplement native species in their historic ranges. As it is able, the Bureau will improve stream crossings and aquatic habitat connectivity using authoritative guidelines (such as Stream Smart or similar methodologies), prioritizing crossings based on consultation with authoritative datasets (such as Wild Brook Trout Priority Conservation Areas or similar datasets) and partners where necessary. The Bureau will consider the construction and maintenance of fish passage barriers where appropriate to prevent colonization of invasive species and impacts on native fish populations.

In recognition of MDIFW's management authority for fisheries programs in Great Ponds, the Bureau will give preference to native species over exotics wherever natives have occurred historically in waters adjacent to or encompassed by lands managed by the Bureau of Parks and Lands, and in water bodies not naturally barren of fish.

5. Endangered or Threatened Plants and Animals

Background
The Bureau has a history of cooperating with MDIFW and (formerly) MNAP, when it resided within MDACF, in the management of federal and state endangered and threatened species that occur on lands it manages. This policy formalizes this relationship and provides guidance on its implementation.

Policy
USFWS and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) are the lead agencies in matters pertaining to federally listed threatened and endangered species, and MDIFW for state-listed species. The Bureau will cooperate with those agencies in activities such as the delineation of critical habitat and recovery plans on Bureau lands.

In cooperation with MDIFW and the USFWS/NMFS and consistent with the purposes of the Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531 et. seq.) and the Maine Endangered Species Act, the

Bureau will identify and promote the conservation of all state and federally listed, endangered, threatened, or candidate species of plants and animals and their habitats within the boundaries of lands managed by the Bureau. As necessary, the Bureau will control visitor access to and use of habitats, and it may close such areas to entry for other than official purposes. Active management programs will be conducted as necessary to perpetuate the natural distribution and abundance of threatened or endangered species and the ecosystems on which they depend. Protection and management of endangered and threatened species and their habitats will be integrated into all levels of management planning activities, and new information on these species will be incorporated as it becomes available. The Bureau will protect location information for species that are sensitive to collection or disturbance (e.g., wood, spotted, and Blanding's turtle; northern goshawk, certain plants).

Examples of plant and animal species and natural communities considered to be rare (as determined by the MDIFW) or unique to the Bureau's holdings will be identified, and their habitats within that property will be mapped and protected.

6. Habitat Management Agreements

Background

The Bureau is occasionally approached by MDIFW with a request to manage fisheries or wildlife resources at a higher level or standard than is already adopted in Bureau policy. The purpose may be to protect high-value resources as a voluntary measure, or it could be a requirement of the acquisition of a property or funds used to manage the property. In these cases, the Bureau may enter into long-term agreements with the MDIFW, called a Habitat Management Agreement (HMA), to manage fisheries or wildlife resources.

Policy

The Bureau will continue to engage with MDIFW on the management of fisheries and wildlife habitat. Where the need occurs to manage these resources above and beyond the existing standard across a defined geographic area and on a timeline meaningful for effective management, the Bureau may work with MDIFW to establish HMAs to guide management within those areas. HMAs will, at a minimum, contain goals, objectives, and guidelines for management that are agreed to by the Bureau and MDIFW. HMAs may specify a review schedule (e.g., every five years). HMAs may also be revisited as new data or habitat assessment information is available, or as management needs emerge.

7. Seeding/ Planting

Background

The Bureau seeds disturbed soil areas where timber harvesting, road building, or other such activities have occurred. Most species used in the Bureau's seed mixes are considered to be nonnative species by plant ecologists. These grass and legume species have been used because they are readily available commercially at reasonable cost, are very effective in controlling erosion, and are heavily utilized by wildlife.

Policy
Herbaceous seeding will continue as an integral part of the Bureau's land management program, in particular, its use in disturbed areas. The general strategy for all areas is to encourage the use of native species wherever possible. Invasive species on the *Advisory List of Invasive Plants* will not be utilized when nonnative species are introduced.

a. *Herbaceous Seeding*. A program of herbaceous seeding will be used when needed to mitigate potential effects of soil disturbance on water quality, and for appropriate native wildlife and plant habitat enhancement. The Bureau will encourage the development of commercial sources of seed of native grasses and legumes, which provide equivalent benefits for erosion control and wildlife forage as the species it currently utilizes. Seeding will be used to stabilize exposed soil, reduce erosion and sedimentation, and as a wildlife food source. Priority areas for seeding will be roadways, ditches, and log yards that pose the greatest erosion potential. The Bureau will apply native seed mixes in sensitive natural communities that might be impacted by introducing nonnative species.

b. *Planting*. The Bureau will seek to perpetuate native plant species as part of both managed and natural landscapes. MDIFW Ecology will be consulted for advice on appropriate native species for Bureau projects. Landscapes and plants will be managed to achieve approved management objectives, including commercial timber harvesting, determined during the management planning process. Nonnative plants not included on the *Advisory List of Invasive Plants* or the *Do Not Sell Invasive Plant List* (see Appendix 2) may be utilized in certain developed areas of State Park or Historic Sites, where their use is limited to ornamental, interpretive, or educational displays. This policy is not intended to limit the development and maintenance of lawn areas or seeding of open habitat types for stabilization purposes.

The Bureau will encourage the use of species that are native to the area and site. Landscapes and plants may be manipulated to maintain or enhance habitat for threatened or endangered species, but manipulation of existing plants will be carried out in a manner designed to restore or enhance the functioning of the natural community of which the endangered species is a part.

8. Prescribed Burning

Background
Several habitats that occur on the Bureau's landbase require prescribed burning for maintenance to prevent natural succession to other habitats and control invasives. This includes grasslands, old fields, blueberry barrens, and some forest types.

Policy
The Bureau may use prescribed burning to manage appropriate habitats where wildfire is part of the natural disturbance regime, to accomplish specific habitat management goals, to benefit native species, and to reduce potential wildfire hazards in accordance with a written wildfire control plan approved by the Forest Protection Division of MDACF's Maine Forest Service.

9. Nuisance Plants and Animals

Background
Certain species of plants and individual animals can cause management or public health problems in certain situations due to their habits or characteristics. Some examples are poison ivy, deer tick, browntail moth, beaver, and predators. Poison ivy is a typical nuisance plant that can have serious health consequences for visitors exposed to the plant. Deer ticks are hosts to the organism which causes Lyme disease, along with other debilitating human and pet health risk. Browntail moth hairs can cause severe allergic reactions in sensitive individuals. Beaver dams may cause the flooding of roads, crops, timber, or other developed facilities. Predators may cause unacceptable losses to endangered and threatened species relative to recovery plans. The Bureau needs considerable management flexibility in order to deal appropriately with these nuisance issues.

Policy
As needed, the Bureau will consult with agencies with the expertise and legal authority to manage these issues and will select and employ appropriate strategies to minimize the risk to human health or the natural environment. Control strategies will utilize the least intrusive and most effective means to mitigate impacts. These strategies will be reviewed and reauthorized periodically so that issues related to visitor and employee safety, maintenance and protection of facilities, natural features, and threatened and endangered species may be adequately addressed. The Bureau will also monitor the effectiveness of any control measures implemented.

10. Feeding of Wildlife

Background
State Park rules currently prohibit the feeding of wildlife.

Policy
The Bureau does not allow the public to feed wildlife on the lands it manages because of public safety concerns, the propensity for behavioral changes in the species being fed (loss of wildness), and the potential for dependence on an artificial food supply. Activities that result from legal hunting, fishing, and trapping in accordance with established rules are exempt from this policy.

D. RECREATION AND FACILITIES RESOURCES

Policies for Management of Recreation and Facilities Resources

1. **Recreation and Facilities Resources of the Bureau of Parks and Lands**
2. **System-Wide Analysis**
3. **Bureau's Discretion**
4. **Recreation Experiences**
5. **Management of Visitor Loads and Impacts**
6. **Conflict Resolution**
7. **Visual Management**
8. **Pets, Service Animals, and Hunting Dogs**
9. **Recreation/Hobby Collection of Natural, Historic, and Cultural Resources**
10. **Campsite Facilities and Lodging**
11. **Parking for Primitive Campsites and Other Facilities**
12. **Campsite Length of Stay**
13. **Campsite Fires and Stoves**
14. **Swimming**
15. **Watercraft Launch Sites**
16. **Surface Use of Water Bodies**
17. **Backcountry Pond Watercraft Storage**
18. **Unattended Personal Property**
19. **Hunting and Trapping**
20. **Fishing**
21. **Technical Climbing**
22. **Trail Establishment**
23. **Biking**
24. **Horseback Riding**
25. **Snowmobile Trails**
26. **All-Terrain Vehicle Trails**
27. **Shared Use and Multi-Use Trail Opportunities**
28. **Trail Connections**
29. **Electronic Surveillance Equipment and Drones**
30. **Evaluating Management Policies for New and Emerging Recreation Activities**

1. Recreation and Facilities Resources of the Bureau of Parks and Lands

Background

BPL offers recreational opportunities at 31 developed State Parks, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, the West Branch Penobscot River Corridor, 11 State Historic Sites, 42 major Public Reserved Land units and about 100 smaller units and public lots, over 350 boat access or carry-in sites, and numerous coastal islands (including over 50 islands making up a portion of the Maine Island Trail). Facilities include developed campgrounds at 12 State Parks; primitive camping in the Allagash, the West Branch Penobscot, 23 Public Land units, and on coastal islands; staffed swimming beaches at 19 State Parks; both developed and carry-in watercraft access sites; picnicking; more than 225 miles of trails for backpacking, day hiking, and nature interpretation, and additional trails for horseback riding, mountain bicycling, all-terrain vehicle riding, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing. Opportunities for fishing, hunting, and trapping are also available.

Most State Park day use areas consist of a swimming beach (with or without lifeguards), picnic tables, and a playground; some have a watercraft access site and day hiking trails. State Park campgrounds usually include a swimming beach, watercraft access site, and day hiking trails. State Historic Sites usually have picnic tables and walking or interpretive trails; some have regularly scheduled interpretive programs. Public Reserved Lands, which are much larger in size, usually include opportunities for primitive camping, watercraft access, day hiking, backpacking, snowmobiling, all-terrain vehicle riding, fishing, hunting, and trapping. Bureau-managed boat access sites usually include one or two hard-surface launch ramps and an improved parking area for large motor vehicles and rigs. Bureau-managed coastal islands often include opportunities for primitive camping. Some State Parks and Public Lands provide designated mountain biking trails, typically through collaboration with local bike groups.

Winter access via plowed parking occurs at some State Parks and select Public Lands. Groomed cross-country ski trails are maintained at select State Parks, while groomed winter, “fat-tire” mountain biking trails are maintained at a limited number of State Parks and Public Lands. Plowed parking, in some cases, facilitates access to lakes and ponds for ice-fishing, snowmobiling, and other activities.

The policies in this section apply to State Parks and Historic Sites, Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, coastal islands, and boat access/carry-in sites that exist within these areas. The policies do not apply to boat access/carry-in sites that are developed and maintained by the Bureau’s boating program.

2. System-Wide Analysis

Background

This policy reflects the Bureau’s mission and goals, and 12 MRSA, § 1817 of the Bureau’s statute, which requires a report from “time to time" regarding the state's actual and potential outdoor recreation resources and facilities, the needs of resident and nonresident visitors, the kinds of facilities and resources best suited to meet recreation needs, the extent to which such

needs are being met, the location and probable costs of new State Parks, and the public purposes to which parks could be put.

Policy
The Bureau will study and report to each Governor on the supply of land and recreation facilities, outdoor recreation demands, outdoor recreation trends, deficiencies that can be met on Bureau-managed lands, and proposals to meet those deficiencies, including designation of land for certain purposes, provision of additional facilities, and acquisition of land. The Maine State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, submitted periodically to the National Park Service as required to be eligible for the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund program, serves as the report fulfilling this policy.

3. Bureau's Discretion

Policy
The Bureau retains the discretion to close selected trails, camping areas, campsites, or other areas or facilities for environmental, health, emergency, or safety reasons, or where activities are not compatible with uses allowed by the Resource Allocation System category in which they are located. This includes instances in which trails are collaboratively developed with trail groups. The Bureau's discretion will be included in Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and/or Special Use Permits developed with such groups.

4. Recreation Experiences

Policy
The Bureau will provide a variety of outdoor recreation experiences on the land it manages. Experiences will range from those characterized by higher levels of staff presence and visitor amenities to remote experiences where self-reliance, solitude, challenge, and higher degrees of risk are present. Experiences will appeal to a range of interests, physical abilities, and desired leisure benefits. Settings and policies will support a range of social experiences, including but not limited to individuals, families, and organized groups.

The settings and facilities underpinning a range of experiences include both primitive and modern/concentrated facilities. Examples of dispersed primitive facilities and opportunities include, but are not limited to, primitive campsites accessible by trail, water, or vehicle; hunting, fishing, and trapping areas; carry-in boat access sites; swim beaches on some Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands and on some coastal islands; and roads or trails for backpacking, day hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, all-terrain vehicle riding, mountain biking, horseback riding, and nature observation.

Examples of modern and concentrated facilities may include, but are not limited to, developed campgrounds, picnic areas, developed swimming areas, interpretive centers and trails, vehicle-accessible boat access ramps, day hiking areas, playgrounds, multipurpose open field areas, and parking facilities adjoining these areas.

5. Management of Visitor Loads and Impacts

Background

The Bureau recognizes that Parks and Public Lands have a certain level of recreation activity beyond which environmental degradation may occur, facilities may become saturated, and/or visitor enjoyment may be diminished. Some Parks and Public Lands commonly experience high visitor numbers at certain times, resulting in increased demands on facilities. However, management of these intensive use levels needs to consider more than strictly numbers of visitors; planners and managers need to determine not "How much use is too much?", but rather, how much impact is acceptable. As any human use of the natural environment inevitably results in some change to that environment, and likewise increased recreation activity and changes in types of use may change the user experience, the focus must be to identify how much change is acceptable for a given setting, in keeping with the desired environmental conditions and user experience. This policy acknowledges that there will be instances where it will be desirable for the Bureau to identify social and/or physical limits and/or limits of acceptable change, and to control the amount of use in order to stay within those capacities or take actions to increase capacity.

Policy

The Bureau will determine the recreation opportunities and activities appropriate for parcels of land it manages during the management plan process or as needed. Social and/or physical limits will be considered where appropriate based upon several variables, including but not limited to: management plan vision, goals and objectives; primary purposes/values for which the parcel was acquired; public demand for the recreational experience offered; natural features; plant and animal species and habitat; historic/cultural values; statutory requirements; and deed restrictions. Triggers for pursuing limits on use or development for a particular park or public land may include observations or data showing unacceptable impacts on natural resources or visitor experiences.

Various alternatives will be used to address unacceptable social or resource impacts associated with high use levels. These may include use limits, as well as targeted actions to protect vulnerable resources (for example, by redirecting use), or actions to harden sites to increase resiliency and reduce resource impacts. Desired/allowable use levels may be increased or decreased subsequently as conditions and studies warrant.

6. Conflict Resolution

Background

The Bureau regularly manages conflicts between different public uses with regard to social and environmental impacts. These issues may encompass all outdoor recreation activities, including but not limited to trail use.

Policy
The resolution of potential or existing user conflicts will be addressed by the following principles. These principles may be applied during the process of preparing Resource Management Plans as well as to resolve issues as they occur in the field.

a. *Mitigate conflicts where possible*. Do not treat conflicts as an inherent incompatibility among different activities. Provide staff training in conflict resolution.

b. *Provide adequate opportunities*. Offer adequate facilities and opportunities for a variety of recreation experiences. This will help reduce congestion and allow users to choose the conditions that are best suited to the experiences they desire.

c. *Minimize the number of contacts in problem areas*. Each contact among users has the potential to result in conflict. As a general rule, reduce the number of user contacts whenever possible. Disperse use and provide separate trails or facilities where necessary after careful consideration of the additional environmental impact and lost opportunities for positive interactions this may cause.

d. Published research suggests the following approaches to managing potentially conflicting uses:

- Identify the present and future users of each facility or opportunity and involve them in the process of avoiding and resolving conflicts as early as possible.
- Understand user needs, including the motivations, desired experiences, norms, setting preferences, and other needs of the present and future users.
- Help users to identify the specific tangible causes of any conflicts they are experiencing, and to move beyond emotions and stereotypes as quickly as possible.
- Work with all parties involved to reach mutually agreeable solutions to specific issues.
- Minimize the possibility that any particular user contact will result in conflict by actively and aggressively promoting responsible behavior and user etiquette.
- Encourage positive interaction among different users.
- Use the most light-handed or least restrictive approaches that will achieve area objectives.
- Consider state, regional, and local interests.
- Monitor the ongoing effectiveness of the decisions made and programs implemented.

7. Visual Management

Policy
Vistas and views will be enhanced on Bureau land where the improvements do not adversely impact natural, historic, or cultural resources or features; where such improvements complement the recreation activities of Bureau land users; and where such improvements have a demonstrated public benefit. Vistas and views will not be enhanced for the benefit of landowners adjacent to Bureau lands unless such enhancements also benefit the users of such lands.

8. Pets, Service Animals, and Hunting Dogs

Policy

a. *Pets*. Pets may be allowed at certain State Parks, State Historic Sites, Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, or coastal islands based upon the impact of the presence of pets on (1) visitors; (2) the natural, historic, or cultural resources; and (3) the native wildlife species and their habitat. The Bureau uses a variety of methods to accommodate pet owners and their pets.

b. *Service Animals*. Service animals are allowed at all Bureau properties, consistent with existing state law.

c. *Hunting Dogs*. Hunting dogs are allowed on Bureau lands while actively hunting during an open season where hunting is permitted. Hunting dogs are also allowed on Bureau lands for training purposes as defined in 12 MRSA, § 12051, and during organized field trials with Bureau permission in accordance with the above-referenced statute.

9. Recreation/Hobby Collection of Natural, Historic, and Cultural Resources

Policy

a. Natural and physical resources and artifacts on Bureau lands and in State-owned waters are the property of the State and cannot be altered or removed without the permission of the Bureau. Proposals to study, alter, or remove resources and artifacts must be compatible with other uses of the land and the Resource Allocation System designations. Exceptions include the hunting and trapping of wildlife, the catching of fish, and the collection of shed antlers according to the rules of MDIFW, and the recreational collection of minerals or metals at Bureau-approved sites. Firewood may be removed by permit from Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, but cannot be removed from State Park and State Historic Site lands.

(Note: Gathering and foraging by Tribal communities is addressed in Policy B.4.e. Ethnographic Resources)

b. Recreation or hobby mineral or metal collecting and historic/cultural artifact collection may be done only at locations designated by the Bureau, in cooperation with the Maine Geological Survey or the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, where the activity will not result in significant adverse impact to natural or historic/cultural resources. Collection sites are not allowed in Special Protection Areas. The Bureau may specify conditions or restrictions on methods, tools, and remediation of the designated location. Only manual panning for gold will be allowed. The use of metal detectors is a method of collecting currently controlled by rule in State Parks and Historic Sites.

10. Campsite Facilities and Lodging

Background

The Bureau has provided a range of camping facilities for decades. Rooted in Maine's tradition of primitive camping, the Bureau has long maintained remote, primitive campsites with only minimal amenities, perhaps including a fire ring, picnic table, and pit or other non-flush toilet. Additionally, Maine State Parks have provided developed campgrounds with more modern amenities such as flush toilets, showers and sinks, dump stations, and firewood and ice sales, with water and electric hookups becoming more prevalent.

Policy

The Bureau will construct and maintain overnight campsites and supporting facilities offering a range of camping experiences for a variety of camping groups. The types of campsites and supporting facilities provided by the Bureau will fall into broad categories such as: Primitive Campsites, Developed Campsites, Group Use Sites, Campgrounds, and Overnight Rental Lodging.

a. "Primitive Campsites" are those that are rustic in nature, have one outhouse, and may include minimal amenities such as a fire ring, tent pad, a picnic table, and sometimes an Adirondack-type shelter. Management of these sites seeks to emphasize a sense of wildness and primitive character. More specifically, primitive campsites:

- are designed to be accessible by water, foot, or vehicle (they are not designed for RVs, etc.);
- are comprised of not more than five individual camping cells designed for separate camping parties, with each camping cell designed for a total of not more than 12 overnight campers; and
- generally, do not include grading or surfacing.

b. "Developed Campsites" are similar to primitive campsites, though they are characterized by more amenities and a relatively more manicured and developed setting. They include the following characteristics distinguishing them from primitive sites:

- may include grading and, at times, more extensive clearing;
- may include extensive surfacing (e.g., gravel);
- may purposefully meet standards associated with accessibility for persons with disabilities;
- may be designed to accommodate RVs, camper vans, and other self-contained camping units; and
- may provide water and electricity.

c. "Group Use Sites" include any areas designed for temporary occupancy by large camping groups primarily in tents or lean-tos. Under this definition, camping sites shall be designed to accommodate larger-sized camping parties, including but not limited to larger family groups and organized groups (e.g., youth camps, church groups, Scouts). Group use sites may range from primitive to developed.

d. "Campgrounds" include any areas designed for concentrated, transient occupancy by camping in tents, camp trailers, travel trailers, motor homes, or similar facilities designed for temporary shelter. In contrast to campsites, campgrounds concentrate five or more campsites into an organized, managed camping experience. Developed campgrounds may provide toilet buildings, drinking water, picnic tables, fireplaces, showers, boat access to water, walking trails, and swimming areas.

e. "Overnight Lodging" includes cabins, yurts, semi-permanent canvas wall tents, etc. that may be rented by the public. Amenities may range from minimal to complete with electricity, plumbing, heat, and lights.

11. Parking For Primitive Campsites and Other Facilities

Policy
In those areas where public access roads are not permitted, the Bureau will seek to provide safe parking accommodations at appropriate locations outside those areas for foot or water access to primitive campsites or other facilities based on the physical capacity of the campsite or facility.

12. Campsite Length of Stay

Background
Campsite length of stay rules are intended to manage crowding at popular campsites and prevent abuse of campsites, natural resources, or recreational experiences by users.

Policy
The maximum length of stay at Public Lands campsites is limited by rule to no more than 14 days in a 45 day period. State Parks rules prohibit camping beyond 14 days between the last Saturday of June and the third Saturday of August. The Bureau retains the authority to implement more restrictive limits than the maximum stay limits imposed by the general camping rules, especially where the amount of public use causes concern regarding equal opportunities for all users or where there are environmental concerns.

13. Campsite Fires and Stoves

Policy
a. Most wildfires are caused by humans, and fire safety and wildlife prevention is of the utmost importance. Open fires are allowed: (1) in grills or fireplaces provided by the Bureau; (2) at campsites duly authorized and designated for open fire; (3) where a permit has been obtained from the Maine Forest Service, a local town office, or a town fire warden; (4) on the ice below the high water mark in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway; (5) on snow-covered ground on Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands; and (6) below the mean high tide on coastal islands open for recreation. Open fires must be no larger than 3 feet wide and 3 feet high. On Public Lands, charcoal or wood fires built in appropriate containers off the ground and not leaving a

disposable residue or ash on the ground are also permitted under the same locations and conditions as open fires. Charcoal fires on Maine State Park properties are allowed only in designated grills or fireplaces provided by the Bureau. No fires shall be left unattended, and fires must be completely extinguished before leaving the site.

b. Camp stoves fueled with gas or liquid fuels are allowed in any safe location on Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, in designated locations in State Parks, or in any location identified in management plans. Exceptions may be granted through the Special Activity permit process.

c. On lots leased from the Bureau: charcoal or wood fires built in appropriate containers off the ground, attended, and not leaving a disposable residue or ash on the ground are permitted. Open fires in accordance with state rules are also permitted. Open fires must be no larger than 3 feet wide and 3 feet high.

d. Portable "outfitter" wood stoves contained within canvas wall tents or other tents capable of housing a safe, vented wood stove are allowed at Bureau campsites unless otherwise restricted.

14. Swimming

Policy
Swimming is recognized as an appropriate recreational activity at some Bureau lands. The Bureau will continue to provide for this activity at appropriate areas and will work to protect important swimming resources from degradation. Visitors who swim at State Parks and Public Lands, whether attended by a lifeguard or not, are assuming the risks of doing so.

a. The Bureau will continue to develop and designate swimming areas at appropriate facilities. Activities that conflict with safe swimming (including boating and boat launching, fishing, and the presence of pets) may be restricted or prohibited at these designated swimming areas through rules, signs, and markings in accordance with established law. Visitors are expected to follow any additional safety guidance provided, such as shark safety protocols at coastal State Parks.

b. The Bureau may restrict swimming (by rule or posting) at specified locations within facilities, if that activity (1) presents a significant public safety or health hazard to swimmers or other visitors (currents, traffic at bridges, water quality issues, etc.); (2) significantly interferes with or prohibits other important recreational uses of the facility; or (3) creates a significant negative impact on natural plant and animal habitats, or on other important natural, cultural, or historic resources.

15. Watercraft Launch Sites

Policy
A diversity of watercraft access launch sites will be provided by the Bureau, ranging from hand-carry launch sites for canoes and small craft, to those with gravel or dirt ramps favoring small to

moderate size sporting craft, to improved launch sites with hard surface ramps and parking areas for larger craft. The following will be considered in determining the type and design of watercraft access launch sites: public demand, acres of water served by the site, existing water quality, land destination, type of fishing opportunities available, and compatibility with other uses allowed by the Resource Allocation System categories and with the primary uses of the area.

16. Surface Use of Water Bodies

Background
MDIFW has the authority to regulate the types and uses of watercraft on Great Ponds. On Bureau properties containing significant frontage on waterbodies, the Bureau may desire certain watercraft prohibitions falling under MDIFW's authority.

Policy
During the management plan process, the Bureau will identify water bodies where personal watercraft, racing boats, hovercraft, air boats, party boats, and other similar watercraft are inappropriate and request that the appropriate agency (MDIFW or MDACF's Land Use Planning Commission) prohibit these activities.

17. Backcountry Pond Watercraft Storage

Background
This policy describes the criteria by which watercraft may be stored near backcountry ponds on Bureau-managed land. Backcountry ponds, as defined by the Bureau: (1) have no existing road access by two-wheel drive motor vehicles during summer months within ½ mile of the normal high water mark of the body of water; (2) have no more than one noncommercial remote camp and its accessory structures within ½ mile of the normal high water mark of the body of water; (3) often support cold water game fisheries; and (4) may offer outstanding foot trail, remote camping, and scenic vista opportunities. Backcountry ponds are usually designated during the management plan process but may be designated prior to that process for special reasons.

Policy
a. The Bureau will strive to honor the traditional Maine practice which allows for storage of private watercraft adjacent to and on Bureau-designated backcountry ponds, subject to the following conditions: (1) watercraft stored on backcountry ponds will be located at least 25 feet from the shoreline or from trails that are near the shoreline, and (2) the watercraft owner will be identified on the watercraft. Canoe racks that are unobtrusive and safe may be allowed; questions and clarification of this policy for specific sites should be directed to the Regional Manager. Watercraft that do not meet the above conditions, or that are decrepit, may be removed by the Bureau as abandoned property.

b. The Bureau may prohibit the storage of private watercraft on "backcountry ponds," especially those with unique or special characteristics, those where storage of watercraft has not

been traditional, or those where the storage of watercraft interferes with other appropriate uses of a pond. In those instances where private watercraft are prohibited, the Bureau may provide a limited number of watercraft for users. Decisions to allow, subject to the conditions above, allow with additional special conditions, or prohibit the storage of private watercraft on Bureau-managed land adjacent to backcountry ponds will generally be made during the preparation of resource management plans. However, there may be instances where actions must be taken prior to the development of a resource management plan.

c. Special conditions for storage of boats on backcountry ponds may include setting a limit on the number of boats stored on a particular pond. Such a limit may be set when the number of boats stored or that the public desires to store is high relative to the size of the pond, and/or when the shoreline area occupied by stored boats is judged to be excessive and detrimental to the backcountry setting and aesthetics.

d. Storage of watercraft on other water bodies will be considered on a case-by-case basis and/or when resource management plans are prepared.

18. Unattended Personal Property

Policy

Any boat, tent, shelter, ice shack, or other personal property (e.g., structure or fixture) that is left unattended on any public land for more than three consecutive days without prior written authorization from the Bureau shall be deemed to have been abandoned, and the Bureau may take custody of such property and dispose of the same in accordance with the law. For purposes of this policy, personal property shall be deemed to be "unattended" unless it is actually in personal use.

19. Hunting and Trapping

Background

MDIFW has direct responsibility for laws governing activities related to hunting and trapping. BPL manages lands within its jurisdiction to provide safe recreational opportunities and to provide productive habitat for the species involved. Maine statute allows the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to establish rules for the protection and preservation of State Parks, State Historic Sites, Submerged Lands, Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, and for the protection and safety of the public. Rules are adopted in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) (5 MRSA, § 8001-11008). The Bureau will make additional efforts beyond those required in the APA process to contact interested organizations when rules that concern hunting or trapping are being proposed.

Policy

Hunting. BPL shall allow hunting on lands it manages when such activity is not specifically precluded by:

- statute, deed, local ordinance, or written management plan or policies; and
- conditions deemed by the Bureau to constitute an unsafe situation or a threat to property or resources.

Bureau managers will periodically review areas open and/or closed to hunting and provide recommendations for proposed changes. Consultation between the regional MDIFW biologist and the Bureau shall occur where wildlife resources are potentially jeopardized by hunting.

Safety Measure Guidelines. To continue to provide safe recreational opportunities to all visitors, and at the same time allow a variety of activities to occur simultaneously, the following steps will be taken as time and resources permit:
1. Land on and around trails that are closed to hunting will be posted to that effect at public use access points. Other areas where the discharge of any weapon is prohibited may be posted, such as picnic areas, camping areas or campsites, parking areas, buildings, shelters, or boat launch sites.

2. Public information, potentially including but not limited to maps, brochures, web listings, and other media, will strive to describe hunting rules so that restrictions are known, and other users are aware of hunting occurring on the property.

3. Work areas may be temporarily posted as closed to hunting in the interest of public safety.

Tree Stand Guidelines. The use of a portable or permanent ladder or observation stands for hunting is regulated through the Fish and Wildlife statutes (12 MRSA, § 10652.1.A). Use of portable tree stands, or ladders that are not permanently attached to a tree, will be allowed on lands managed by the Bureau in accordance with state law and Bureau rules.

On Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, portable tree stands or ladders are allowed while being "attended" by the person using them. MDIFW interprets "attended" to mean that the stand or ladder is being used on a daily basis. During days when the stand or ladder is not being used, it must be removed from the tree. Oral permission is required only in organized towns.

Written permission from the Bureau is required to place unattended tree stands or ladders in both organized towns and unorganized towns, for a period determined by the Bureau.

Portable tree stands, or ladders used in conjunction with a valid bear-bait site permit, are allowed to remain in place on Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands during the baiting season on bear but must be removed from the tree by the date specified in MDIFW's Hunting Laws and Rules.

On State Park lands in both organized and unorganized towns, written permission from the Regional Manager is required for attended or unattended portable tree stands or ladders. Unattended tree stands or ladders will be permitted for a period determined by the Bureau.

A written record of oral and written permissions will be kept by the Bureau.

***Baiting and Attractants*.** The Bureau has established conditions and fees for bear-baiting and the use of baits and attractants for other hunting and trapping purposes on Bureau lands. Baiting and the use of attractants will be allowed on Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands open to hunting and trapping according to the rules and regulations of MDIFW. Baiting and the use of attractants by the public will not be allowed on State Park and State Historic Site land.

***Trapping*.** The Bureau will allow trapping by the public on lands it manages when such activity:

- is not specifically precluded by statute, deed, local ordinance, or written management policies;
- does not create conditions deemed to constitute an unsafe situation or a threat to property or resources; or
- does not jeopardize other uses of the Resource Allocation System category in which the activity is located.

In organized towns, permission to trap must be requested from the Bureau and will be granted unless one or more of the above conditions exist. A record of trapping permissions will be kept at the Bureau's regional office. Consultation between the regional MDIFW biologist and BPL's Regional Manager will occur whenever wildlife resources are potentially jeopardized by trapping.

20. Fishing

Policy

Fishing in inland waters is regulated by MDIFW through the Fish and Wildlife statutes (12 MRSA, § 12451 - 12664). Fishing in marine and estuarine waters is regulated by the Department of Marine Resources (12 MRSA, § 6021). The Bureau will seek to provide a diverse range of fishing opportunities and experiences, from remote streams and shorelines to Great Ponds and coastal shorelines.

21. Technical Climbing

Policy

Technical rock and ice climbing, including the development of climbing routes, on Bureau-managed lands are traditional activities consistent with the mission of the Bureau. Climbing activities are allowed on Bureau-managed lands so long as they do not:

- impact significant or important natural, historic, or cultural resources or features;
- pose a direct hazard to other users (note: specific hazards have not been identified on Bureau-managed lands).

Consultation with the Bureau is required before climbing routes may be developed in new areas.

Climbing will not be allowed on any human-made structures not specifically designed for climbing.

The following specific restrictions are exceptions to the policy:

a. Commercial use. Climbing schools, guide services, and other fee-for-service climbing activities require a permit or license agreement from the Bureau.

b. *Area Closures or Restrictions*. Regional Managers may close an area or portion of an area to climbing or may restrict particular activities by posting a written notice in locations where it will be visible to climbers, such as parking areas or approach trails. The notice will state the basis for the closure or restriction, which must include one of the following.

1) Safety. Closures or restrictions may be appropriate because of hazards to other users. Such hazards might include the possibility of rock or ice falling from climbing areas onto roads or trails, or from trails onto climbing areas. As with all recreation activities on Bureau properties, climbers will proceed at their own risk.

2) Natural Resources. Closures or restrictions may be appropriate to protect endangered or threatened plants, animals, or habitats, such as nesting raptors or seabirds, or to protect unique or sensitive natural features, such as perched or balanced rocks.

3) Cultural Resources. Closures or restrictions may be needed to protect historical or cultural resources such as petroglyphs or historic structures.

4) Visual Impacts. Restrictions may be appropriate to reduce the visual impacts of climbing activities. Examples might include restricting the use of chalk in specific areas (or requiring the use of dark chalk) or requiring the use of natural colored webbing at rappel stations if the webbing is to remain in place.

5) Carrying Capacity. Closures or restrictions may be appropriate where the demand for climbing or other uses exceeds the capacity of facilities.

These considerations for area closures or restrictions will also be applied when considering requests for the development of climbing routes in new areas.

Fixed Climbing Protection and Anchors: Removable, traditional protection should be used when possible. Where established climbing routes already exist, placing, replacing, and removing fixed anchors, such as bolts, is allowed; this excludes climbing ropes. Leaving slings or cord for fixed anchors is allowed; natural colors are preferred. Ropes left at crags will be removed as abandoned gear according to the Unattended Personal Property Policy. Climbers are responsible for assessing the safety of fixed hardware and replacing it as needed. When placing or replacing fixed protection or anchors, climbers should use appropriate gear established by industry best practices and use existing bolt holes when possible.

Where climbing is allowed, the Bureau should not seek to advise climbers of routes, techniques, etc., but rather should identify climbing areas and policies.

22. Trail Establishment

Background

Trails - both motorized and nonmotorized - are popular, essential components of many Bureau properties and underpin important visitor experiences. Trail development plans, construction, and maintenance can be initiated by the Bureau and/or by trail groups, but the Bureau retains the authority to designate, approve, and manage trails.

Policy

a. A variety of land trail opportunities will be provided on Bureau-managed land, consistent with other uses allowed by Resource Allocation System categories, including trails for backpacking, day hiking, bicycling, nature and historic interpretation, horseback riding, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, all-terrain vehicle riding, snowshoeing, and canoe portage.

b. Water trail opportunities will be identified and provided at locations where suitable access, primitive campsites or campgrounds, portage trails, and takeout sites are available or can be provided.

c. Opportunities for a variety of trail activities at appropriate locations on Bureau-managed land will be available across the state. However, opportunities for all trail activities will not necessarily be provided on a single Bureau trail, parcel, or management unit.

d. A variety of trail experiences will be offered on Bureau-managed lands, ranging from those that are short and easy to those that are longer and may be more challenging. As resources permit, maps, signs, and brochures will describe trails by length; elevation change; terrain steepness; scenery; presence of bogs, streams, rivers, and lakes; presence of unusual plant communities, where appropriate; connections with other trails; and other similar characteristics.

e. Suitable trail maps or brochures indicating trail locations and providing descriptions will be provided for as many Bureau-managed parcels with developed trail systems as feasible.

f. Criteria to be considered by the Bureau when evaluating lands for trail use shall include:

- compatibility with the vision for the property as expressed in the management plan
- documented need and demand for use
- safety
- environmental and wildlife impacts, including but not limited to fragmenting wildlife habitat
- compatibility with other uses, including hunting
- local ordinances or deed restrictions
- sustainability, cost and capacity for trail maintenance

1. enforcement issues

g. Individuals and trail groups shall not build trails on Bureau property without written permission from the Bureau. Written permission will require a plan submitted to satisfactorily meet the trail establishment criteria listed above.

23. Biking

Background

Bicycling was first included in the 2000 IRP update, and the popularity and demand for bicycle trails have increased steadily, including the strong growth of regional mountain biking groups engaged in trail development and management across various landowners, including select Bureau properties. Bicycle trails may include gravel or paved roads, highly designed smooth single-track trails with berms and other built features, as well as rough trails with roots and rocks largely left in place. New bicycle trail proposals will be carefully considered in the context of user interests, natural features, timber management, overall compatibility, and other factors.

Not available for public purchase and use at the time of the 2000 IRP, electric bicycles are surging in use. The use of electric-powered bicycles (e-bikes) is governed by Maine State Statutes (29-A MRSA, § 101(22-B), 2063(14)), which classify e-bikes by motor wattage and top assisted speed, set maximum speeds, and define what types of bike paths may be used by each class of e-bike. The BPL policy described below is aligned with those statutes. So-called "fat-tire" bikes with wider tires are another technological change impacting mountain bike activity. These bikes enable travel over irregular surfaces such as rocky, root-strewn surfaces, as well as packed snow. Trails may be specifically groomed for winter-only fat-tire bicycle riding.

Policy

Bicycling shall be permitted on Bureau-managed land so long as it is found to be compatible with other resource values and uses as described in the Resource Allocation System.

Bicycle trails and routes shall be permitted on Bureau-managed land where it is compatible with other uses allowed by the Resource Allocation System. Bicycling will generally be allowed on shared-use roads within Public Land properties unless restricted by deed or other prohibition. Bicycles shall typically be allowed on gravel shared-use rail trails (abandoned rail lines).

Class 1 e-bikes, as defined by statute, are allowed wherever bikes are permitted. Class II e-bikes may be allowed on certain designated trails (e.g., rail trails). The Bureau has the right to manage or prohibit e-bikes on individual trails and pathways, including authorizing or prohibiting e-bikes by defined bike class.

Trails, unplowed roads, and temporary routes may be groomed by Bureau staff and/or approved partners to maintain winter "fat-tire" biking experiences. Partner organizations or individuals must receive Bureau approval prior to any grooming.

Public Lands: As a general guideline, Public Lands will avoid single-track trails in more remote properties or similar settings where emergency response times are challenging. The Bureau may allow bike trails on multi-use roads if compatible with other uses. Proposals for lower-density, longer singletrack trails (generated internally and/or from trail advocate groups) may be suitable in larger units closer to populations. In limited cases when linked to part of a community vision for bike trails, higher-density "destination" trail systems may be appropriate.

State Parks: Within State Parks, bikers may use park roads open to public vehicular traffic consistent with state law. Specific recreational biking trails and/or singletrack mountain bike trails may be designated and constructed for biking.

Trail Establishment. (see "criteria", Section VII .D. 22. f.)

24. Horseback Riding

Policy
Horseback riding shall be permitted on Bureau-managed land where the activity does not conflict with other uses allowed by the Resource Allocation System.

a. *Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands*. Horses shall be allowed on public access and management roads signed as open to such use, on designated trails, and in other areas as they are developed.

b. *State Parks and Historic Sites*. Area managers should strive to accommodate horseback riding whenever possible, keeping in mind the safety of other park users and the protection of the park resource. This may include seasonal allowance only, as for example on State Park beaches (generally permitted from October through March).

c. *Trail Establishment*. (see "criteria," Section VII.D.22.f.)

25. Snowmobile Trails

Policy
a. Snowmobiles are permitted on designated trails and on unplowed public use and forest management roads unless posted closed to snowmobiling by the Bureau.

b. Backcountry snowmobiling occurs when riders travel upon neither roads nor designated trails but rather ride across open terrain and/or passable forest settings specifically for adventure riding. Snowmobilers may not, without explicit permission, cut live vegetation or otherwise modify the landscape to create riding access.

c. Wherever possible, snowmobile and cross-country ski trails will be separated in distance so that the sound of snowmobiles is minimized for those using cross-country ski trails.

d. The Bureau does not designate snowmobile trails on frozen water bodies.

e. Trail Establishment. (see "criteria," Section VII.D.22.f.)

26. All-Terrain Vehicle Trails

Policy

a. *Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands.* Recreational use of All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) shall be allowed on gravel roads designated for such use by the Bureau. All gravel roads shall be so designated, except those located on Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands that are surrounded by privately-owned lands over which the transportation of ATVs is prohibited, those deemed unsuitable for ATV use by the Bureau due to environmental or safety concerns or incompatibility with other uses, and those located in areas allocated as Special Protection Natural or Historic/Cultural Areas and Backcountry Areas (excluding the Motorized subcategory). Gravel roads in areas allocated for Special Protection - Ecological Reserve and Remote Recreation shall be designated only when the road segment is open for use by all public vehicles or meets the three criteria listed below.

Off-road ATV use shall be allowed only on trails designated for such use by the Bureau. Designation of ATV trails shall be considered during the management planning process or upon request. Designated trails may be allowed in areas allocated for Special Protection Ecological Reserves or Remote Recreation Areas when all of the following criteria are met: (1) no feasible alternative exists, (2) no significant impact on protected resource values will occur, and (3) the designated trail will provide a crucial link in a significant trail system

b. *State Park Properties.* Roads and trails within State Parks and unstaffed State Park properties shall be closed to ATV use unless they are part of a trail system designated for such use by the Bureau. Proposals for ATV use on roads and trails will be considered by the Bureau upon request. Roads and trails within unstaffed State Park properties shall be reviewed by the Bureau and considered for ATV designation.

ATV use is allowed on abandoned rail lines owned by the Bureau.

ATV use at Special Protection - Natural Areas and Historic/Cultural Areas, and Backcountry Areas (not including areas in the Motorized subcategory), is prohibited.

c. *Trail Establishment*. (see "criteria," Section VII.D.22.f.)

27. Shared Use and Multi-Use Trail Opportunities

Background

Various trail uses may occur on the same trail at once or seasonally. Additionally, some trails may be co-located on Bureau roads. This section addresses Bureau policy on trails serving multiple user groups.

Definition

Shared-use is defined as two or more activities using the same trail at the same time. Multi-use is defined as two or more activities occurring on the same trail at different times of the year. Shared-use roads are Bureau roads accommodating multiple trail uses.

Policy
Since many gravel-surfaced roads will be open to passenger vehicles, ATVs, horses, and bicycles, a simple "Shared Use" sign will be displayed at appropriate locations. At trailheads or intersections, where only one specific use is allowed, the appropriate sign for that use will be posted. Defining where roads will be designated as shared-use is part of the management plan development process. The Bureau will work with trail organizations and others to provide a variety of shared-use and multi-use trail opportunities consistent with uses allowed by the Resource Allocation System categories, and compatible with protection of natural, cultural, and historic resources.

28. Trail Connections

Policy
The Bureau will work with landowners, organizations, clubs, and others to provide connections between both land and waterway trails on State Park and Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands and, where appropriate, on adjacent private and public land. Landowner approval will always be sought and received before planned connections are approved.

29. Electronic Surveillance Equipment and Drones

Background
Public safety, the privacy and experiences of other visitors, liability, and the protection of wildlife all contribute to concern over the uncontrolled use of drones and electronic surveillance equipment at Maine State Parks, Historic Sites, and Public Lands.

Policy
a. *Drones, Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)*. The launching of drones (UAS) for recreational use is prohibited at Bureau properties. This does not apply to appropriately trained Bureau staff conducting official State business. Other exemptions to this prohibition include:

- Maine law enforcement agencies, including Maine State Police, Maine Warden Service, Maine Marine Patrol, Maine Forest Service, Maine County Sheriff Departments, and Maine Municipal Police Departments, while providing oversight and guidance for search and rescue missions or training;
- State employees or their representatives in the official conduct of their duties, with prior written permission from the Bureau; and
- Special Activity Permits *may* be issued to individuals demonstrating appropriate licensing and a flight area(s) found by Bureau staff to minimize risks and potential conflicts with resource values.

b. *Cameras and Electronic Surveillance Equipment.* Individuals may not, without a Bureau-issued Special Activity Permit or written permission, place unattended cameras or electronic surveillance equipment that records images or data of any kind on Bureau property. Special Activity Permits will denote specific areas and time periods during which devices may be placed. Trails, campsites, boat launches, and other areas where the public typically congregates will be

avoided unless associated with law enforcement or other management activities.

Bureau staff and authorized law enforcement agencies may install electronic cameras and/or electronic surveillance equipment associated with the performance of their duties.

Camplot leaseholders may request a longer-term permit to monitor their privately leased lots.

Cameras and electronic surveillance equipment shall be labeled with a name and contact information. Unlabeled equipment will be considered unattended personal property subject to removal.

30. Evaluating Management Policies for New and Emerging Recreational Activities

Background

The types and characteristics of recreational activities the public seeks on Bureau properties evolve. It is not possible to anticipate the full range of outdoor recreation activities that will be sought on Bureau properties in the future. Therefore, an approach is needed to inform policy decisions regarding emerging activities and/or new technologies that significantly alter existing activities.

Policy

The appropriateness of new and emerging recreational activities occurring on Bureau properties will be assessed by evaluating the following;

Criteria:

- potential risks to activity participants and other visitors
- alignment with the Bureau's mission and management goals as defined in the IRP
- consideration of the dominant resource allocation's intent and objectives (if there is a specific location proposed for an activity)
- evaluation of the degree to which any proposed activity may constitute exclusive use of an area or resource
- evaluation of possible impacts on other recreation interests (visitor experiences)
- evaluation of potential impacts on wildlife and other natural or cultural resources
- the degree to which the proposed activity may financially impact the Bureau due to maintenance and/or oversight responsibilities, as well as by restricting revenue-generating activities, including but not limited to timber harvesting

Mechanisms Policy and Public Engagement

New and emerging recreational activities requiring policy decisions will be reviewed and considered by resource experts within the Bureau and, as warranted, additional outside resource expertise. Activities may arise and be included in the management planning process, such as scheduled plan reviews. Activities may also be reviewed and approved or disapproved via the request for a special activity permit.

E. TIMBER AND RENEWABLE RESOURCES

Policies for Management of
Timber and Renewable Resources

1. General

2. Determination of Sustainable Harvest Level

3. Timber Management Program
- **a. Site Suitability**
- **b. Requirements for Biodiversity**
- **c. Silvicultural Systems**
- **d. Biomass and Nutrient Protection**
- **e. Environmental Safeguards**
- **f. Location and Maintenance of Log Landings**
- **g. Operational Safeguards**

4. Integration Requirements

5. Hiking Trails

6. Silvicultural Investment Strategies

7. Regeneration

8. Climate Change and Forest Management

9. Forest Protection

10. Economic Analysis and Marketing

11. Work Program

12. Monitoring

1. General

Background
The forests managed by BPL are distributed throughout the entire state and reflect nearly all of Maine's physiographic conditions and forest cover types.

Public Reserved Lands Forest Management
The vast majority of acreage managed by the Lands Division consists of Public Reserved Lands. These lands are well-stocked with high-quality forest resources, a result of decades of careful stewardship following the spruce budworm salvage operations of the mid-1980s. In addition to carefully managed timberlands, the land base contains over 100,000 acres – approximately 16% of the land base in 2026 – designated as unmanaged Ecological Reserves that will continue to develop into Late Successional or Old Growth (LSOG) conditions over time.

Timber management on Public Reserved Lands must prioritize long-term forest health and economic value. Foresters will design management plans and prescriptions to achieve the following:

- **Quality Improvement:** Focus harvests on removing lower-quality and high-risk trees to allocate growing space to elite, vigorous trees.
- **Value Maximization:** Optimize the growth of large, high-value timber products over extended rotations.
- **Structural Diversity:** Retain and cultivate non-timber structural features (such as snags, cavity trees, and diverse canopy layers) that support native wildlife. Static, ongoing LSOG forest conditions are not a goal of Timber-dominant allocations in Public Reserved Lands management; however, many features of LSOG conditions will be found within the managed forest area and complement the surrounding landscape of Ecological Reserves and privately managed timberland.

The Bureau manages these public acres under a multi-use framework. Timber harvesting is executed not as a single-focus extraction, but as a tool to continuously improve the forest. This ensures the landscape concurrently provides high-value economic products and maintains the ecological, recreational, and scenic values treasured by the people of Maine.

Policy
Establish and Maintain Biodiversity. Management will strive toward establishing and maintaining forest conditions necessary to achieve overall landscape goals (see Requirements for Biodiversity below). This will be done on both a statewide and sustainable harvest unit basis, to sustain the health and vitality of the natural environment for Maine's many wildlife species and to ensure a sustained yield of commercial forest products.

State Park Forest Management
State Park properties are managed to provide public recreation and protect natural resources. By state statute, forested areas within State Parks must be managed to preserve their natural, recreational, and scenic qualities.

Many State Park parcels have experienced little to no timber harvesting since they were acquired. Because many of these areas were harvested multiple times during the 1900s, the forests are currently dominated by relatively young, even-aged trees with limited vertical complexity. Over time, as these forests naturally mature and undergo natural replacement processes, they will develop late-successional (old-growth) characteristics that provide critical habitat for specific wildlife species.

Policy
Licensed foresters may only prescribe timber harvesting in State Parks for the following purposes:

- **Wildlife Habitat:** Improving or restoring habitat for native species.
- **Forest Health & Safety:** Reducing risks from wildfire, severe insect infestations, or disease.
- **Aesthetics & Recreation:** Enhancing scenic views or maintaining recreational trails and facilities.
- **Education:** Establishing and maintaining designated demonstration forests.

2. Determination of Sustainable Harvest Level

Background
The Bureau manages commercial forest resources to ensure a steady, perpetual flow of high-value forest products while maintaining a diverse, healthy landscape. To achieve this, the Bureau establishes a Sustainable Harvest Level (SHL), the maximum volume of timber that can be responsibly harvested annually without depleting the forest resource. The Bureau determines these levels using three distinct data layers:

- **Timber Type Maps:** Mapping of forest composition across the entire land base.
- **Forest Inventory Data:** Field measurements tracking actual tree volumes, species distribution, and diameter classes.
- **Growth and Yield Models:** Computer simulations and yield tables updated with inventory data to project future forest growth statewide.

Policy
The application of the SHL is applied to the landbase according to the following criteria:

- **Sustainable Harvest Units (SHUs):** The statewide land base is divided into ten regional SHUs based on similar biophysical conditions and tree growth patterns. The SHL must be calculated and applied independently for each regional SHU to ensure localized sustainability.
- **Managed Forest Acres:** Only acres designated for active management are included in the base SHL calculation. This includes areas where timber is the primary use, or where timber harvesting is a regular, secondary tool used to achieve other goals.
- **Secondary Management Areas:** Areas with a specialized primary focus—such as Wildlife Dominant Areas — must remain in the calculation, but modified growth models can be used to reflect the restricted harvesting required by that dominant use.

- **Unmanaged Acres:** All acres explicitly designated as unmanaged (e.g., ecological reserves, steep slopes, operable buffers) must be entirely excluded from the SHL calculation.

Landscape-Level Implementation
The Bureau will utilize a combination of volume- and area-based planning to schedule harvests across the landscape. Operational field prescriptions must use local inventory data to target specific species, size classes, and stands where harvesting is silviculturally timely. This landscape-scale approach ensures that local operations actively contribute to shifting the forest toward a resilient mix of age classes, vigorous growth, and diverse habitats capable of supporting viable populations of all native species.

3. Timber Management Program

The Bureau's timber management program includes the following objectives and policies:

a. Site Suitability

A specific location's soil type, moisture levels, slope, and climate tend to determine the site suitability of certain tree species and harvesting methods best suited for that unique piece of land.

Policy

- The Bureau will manage the composition of forest stands according to optimum site requirements for individual tree species, considering both biological factors and commercial limitations.
- Where tree species and growing sites are currently mismatched, management practices will attempt to reestablish more suitable species to ensure long-term ecosystem health and productivity.

b. Requirements for Biodiversity

For both silvicultural and ecological purposes, the Bureau will maintain or enhance conditions of biodiversity on both a stand and landscape basis. The Bureau will manage for a diverse range of successional stages, as well as forest types and tree species, consistent with site capability. Rather than managing for static LSOG conditions within managed forest areas, Ecological Reserves will be relied on to provide a more comprehensive representation of true LSOG forests within Public Reserved Lands.

The objective will be to provide favorable growing conditions, retain or enhance structural complexity, maintain the connectivity of wildlife habitats, and create a vigorous forest that is more resistant to damage from insects and disease.

The program's requirements for biodiversity integrate the components described in the subsections below.

Landscape Approach

Managing a forest at the landscape scale means looking at the entire regional forest as one interconnected system, rather than focusing on individual stands or property lines. Looking

through this lens means making local harvesting decisions only after considering how they affect three big-picture goals across thousands of acres:

Policy

- The Bureau will develop plans to ensure that the management of biodiversity is implemented at the landscape level.
- Stand-level prescriptions will be designed to meet landscape-level biodiversity objectives in addition to other operational goals.
- Management plans will provide overarching recommendations for timber management objectives related to the frequency, area, and spatial and temporal distribution of successional stages across the landscape.
- Particular attention will be paid to maintaining an adequate area of mature forest with mid- and late-successional characteristics.
- These biodiversity objectives will encompass the entire landbase, including both managed and unmanaged acres, and take into consideration Ecological Reserves.

Stand Size and Distribution

Much of the forest cover on Bureau-managed land is comprised of forest stands ranging in size from 10 to over 100 acres, distributed across the landscape in a mosaic of varying tree ages, species, and structures based on local soil conditions and past harvesting history

Policy

- As a long-term goal, single-aged stands will rarely exceed 150 acres in size, except where nontimber objectives, such as early-successional habitat for specific wildlife, make a larger continuous forest type desirable.
- Stands under multi-aged management may be larger in size, as the desired age, size, and species biodiversity will occur throughout the stand.

Retention

Retention is defined here as the practice of maintaining the presence of forest structures and specific habitats. Bureau retention policies are arranged under two broad approaches: Retention of Rare and Exemplary Natural Communities and Retention within the Managed Stand of certain tree species and structural features

Retention of Rare and Exemplary Natural Communities

Natural communities are the primary scale for assessing the presence of significant habitats, with 104 different community types previously classified by MNAP. Each natural community type is assigned a rarity rank within Maine (state rank) and globally (global rank)

.

Definitions:

- Late Successional and Old Growth (LSOG) forest: These are mature forests that have developed many, but not necessarily all, of the structural, compositional, and functional characteristics associated with Old Growth forest.
- Rare Natural Communities are defined as habitats that occur infrequently (S1 or S2) in Maine due to restricted suitable environmental conditions, land use impacts, or a combination of factors.

- Exemplary Natural Communities are defined as outstanding examples of common (S3, S4, or S5) habitats, such as large, intact peatlands or old-growth stands. These include:
  - Exemplary non-forested natural communities include the most outstanding examples of high-quality wetland and open upland habitats.
  - Primary forest areas are forest areas that have no discernible human-caused disturbance. Depending on the current stage of the natural stand replacement sequence, a primary forest area may or may not fit the definition of old-growth.
  - Old-growth stands are forest stands where evidence of human-caused disturbance is absent or from low-intensity activities long ago that no longer affect the ecological characteristics and processes of the site, and natural disturbance processes dominate.
    - Old-growth stands must have a majority of the main crown canopy consisting of long-lived or late-successional species in multiple age classes that may contain trees 150 to 200 years old or older.
    - Old-growth stands may also exhibit late-successional lichen indicators, large snags, and large downed wood

Policy

- Natural community types ranked S1 or S2 (Rare Natural Communities), and outstanding examples of S3, S4, and S5 types (Exemplary Natural Communities) will be allocated to Special Protection dominant management, which excludes these areas from active timber management.
- These designated areas may include other special management practices to protect their unique ecological values.
- Bureau foresters will be provided with data related to the location of already identified areas and will consult with the MDIF Ecology and BPL specialists if potential additional areas are found during field examinations.
- Bureau foresters will monitor for the presence of potential rare and exemplary natural communities during stand assessments using existing records and the established working definitions.
- Foresters will consult with MDIFW Ecology and other BPL specialists regarding the designation and management implications in and around identified areas.

Legacy Tree Retention within the Managed Stand

Definitions:

- Residual legacy trees are left post-harvest for reasons primarily other than regeneration or timber growth.
- While these trees can have indirect silvicultural implications, they differ from residual stocking left for shade, seed production, wildlife habitat maintenance, riparian buffers, or increased growth rates that are generally harvested over subsequent entries or management cycles.
- These legacy trees are intended to carry through a representation of what the stand was pre-harvest, maintaining and enhancing the present and future structural complexity of both live and dead vegetation.
- These trees provide ecological continuity across management cycles, providing benefits such as denning, foraging, and hunting opportunities for wildlife.

- Legacy trees also function as refugia for insects and fungi, support carbon storage, aid forest restoration, improve soil health, and enhance landscape aesthetics.

Policy

- Retain a minimum density of 5 square feet of basal area per acre in live legacy trees following the hierarchy described in the table below. Retain the majority of snags, where operationally feasible. The legacy standard must be met within every 40 acres where suitable stems exist.

Legacy Tree	Priority	Description
Old Growth Components	1	Individual or small groups of generally old and/or very large trees that were likely present 150+ years ago that make up a minority component of the stand. An old-growth component tree may qualify as a den tree.
Wildlife Den Trees	2	Individual trees ≥ 20" diameter at breast height (DBH) of long-lived species. Trees with existing cavities should be prioritized for retention. A wildlife den tree may qualify as an old-growth component or a large late-successional tree.
Large Late-Successional Trees	3	Individual trees ≥16" DBH of long-lived species that have lived beyond their biological rotation age. A large late-successional tree may qualify as a wildlife den tree if it meets the size threshold. It will generally not qualify as an old-growth component due to the management history of the stand.
Relatively Rare Tree Species	4	Individual trees of species that are rare across the landscape, region, and/or unit.
Mast-Producing Trees	5	Fruit and nut-producing trees important to sustaining wildlife (e.g., oaks, healthy beech, apple, black cherry, chestnut, mountain ash).
Small Late-Successional Trees	6	Individual trees ≤16" DBH of long-lived species that have lived beyond their biological rotation age, and have the possibility to grow large and old.
Future Snags	7	Trees left post-treatment to die naturally; generally applied in stands without trees meeting priority 1-6 types described above.

c. Silvicultural Systems

The Bureau utilizes a diversity of silvicultural systems. The system used is designed to manage a given stand per the requirements set forth in this section. The systems employed by Bureau staff generally fall into one of the two major categories of silvicultural systems:

Definitions:

- Single-aged management employs silvicultural systems designed to regenerate and tend one age cohort through a rotation.
- Multi-aged management employs silvicultural systems designed to regenerate multiple cohorts and maintain two or more age classes. Generally, multi-aged management operates on successive cutting cycles rather than a rotation, maintaining a diversity of ages, structures, and species indefinitely.

Policy

- The Bureau will manage both single- and multi-aged stands consistent with the objectives found in the Requirements for Biodiversity section, favoring silvicultural strategies appropriate to stand and site conditions that align with landscape-level goals, which will usually be accomplished through multi-aged management.
- The Bureau may employ single-aged management in situations where species composition, site quality, forest health conditions, and wildlife habitat management objectives require such systems.
- Clearcutting, as defined by MFS rules under Chapter 20 "Forest Regeneration and Clearcutting Standards – Forest Practices Act (FPA)," will be reserved for special situations, such as salvage removals and the regeneration of certain intolerant hardwood species.
- Clearcuts will be no larger than 20 acres, unless a documented need exists for reasons consistent with those specified in the FPA for large clearcuts.
- Clearcuts will be laid out to minimize aesthetic impact, following natural features where possible, and to retain the connectivity of wildlife habitats.

d. Biomass and Nutrient Protection

Maintaining forest biomass and protecting soil nutrients is critical in Maine forestry to preserve long-term site productivity, support soil microbial ecosystems, and prevent the depletion of sensitive, glaciated soils that are naturally low in essential nutrients.

Policy

- The Bureau will avoid the whole-stand removal of all woody biomass on infertile sites except where site conversion to non-forest use is planned, such as for a road or trailhead parking area.
- Where trees are yarded with limbs attached, the Bureau may require that the limbs and tops be carried back into the stand, provided this can be accomplished without causing undue damage to the residual trees.

e. Environmental Safeguards

Implementing erosion control and water quality protection measures is essential in Maine forestry to shield cold-water fisheries, protect public watersheds, and prevent soil erosion from degrading sensitive aquatic habitats.

Policy

- All timber harvesting and road construction, including the layout of skid trails, will be conducted in conformance with all regulations and the appropriate water quality BMPs.
- Operations will be executed in a manner designed to maintain residual stand integrity and forest quality.
- During harvest closeout, waterbars or other erosion control mechanisms will be installed as needed on roads and trails.
- Herbaceous seeding will be applied as appropriate for soil stabilization, following the established herbaceous seeding protocol (See Section VII.C.7. for herbaceous seeding protocol).

f. Location and Maintenance of Log Landings

A log yard or landing is a designated cleared area within or adjacent to a harvest zone where logs are gathered, processed, and loaded onto trucks for transport. The layout and location of log yards must balance forest resource impacts, visitor safety, and landscape aesthetics along public use roads.

Cut-to-length harvesting operations, which process wood at the stump, can pack and load logs directly from road ditches and existing roadside spaces without requiring new yard construction. Whole-tree or tree-length harvesting operations bring entire lengths of trees, sometimes including limbs and tops, to the landing for processing. These harvesting systems often require a larger cleared footprint to accommodate heavy machinery like delimbers, chippers, and large log piles.

Whole-tree or tree-length harvesting operations may require dedicated off-road yards to maintain traffic safety and minimize visual impacts on sensitive public access corridors. However, some access roads have "tree-length" yards that exist from past operations which can be used instead of creating additional yard space to minimize the impact of new construction.

Policy

- All yard locations and sizes will be approved by Bureau staff prior to construction with the intention of keeping the area dedicated to log landings as small as feasible.
- Regional Manager approval is necessary to utilize existing or new yards along a public access road.
- At the conclusion of operations, all log landings where there has been major soil disturbance will be seeded to herbaceous growth or stabilized with slash to stabilize soil, provide wildlife benefits, and retain sites for future management needs.

g. Operational Safeguards

Operational safeguards ensure that logging operations align with Bureau directives and intent. They generally consist of legally binding rules written into logging contracts, pre-work meetings to brief cutting crews on sensitive features, and frequent field inspections by Bureau staff to make sure the work is done safely, responsibly, and as expected.

Policy

- Timber sale contracts will explicitly address all ecological and silvicultural areas of concern, and regional staff will strictly enforce compliance through regular operational and post-operational inspections.
- Prior to commencing any harvest, Bureau staff will brief the logging contractor, foreman, and cutting crews on specific silvicultural and operational objectives, mill product specifications, and appropriate logging equipment or timing constraints.
- Pre-harvest briefings will also cover protocols for the avoidance of residual stand damage and a comprehensive review of the Bureau crew inspection form.
- All harvest and post-harvest crew inspections will be formally documented using completed inspection forms or detailed written reports.

- These inspection records will evaluate the quality of operations compared to contract requirements, the overall safety of the logging site, and the successful attainment of management objectives as stated in the stand prescriptions.

4. Integration Requirements

Policy

The following summary outlines integration requirements and harvesting constraints across areas where timber management is either the dominant or secondary use. Timber management is permitted as a secondary use in all non-dominant areas, unless explicitly excluded by natural resource hierarchy categories or specific management decisions.

Dominant Allocation	Timber Management Constraints
Timber Management	Follow policy directives in Section VII.E. TIMBER AND RENEWABLE RESOURCES.
Special Protection	No commercial timber harvesting is allowed. Wildlife management will not be accomplished by timber harvesting. Under special circumstances, management or public use roads will be allowed in Special Protection Areas if the impact on the protected resources is minimal.
Wildlife	Timber management in these areas will be conducted to enhance wildlife habitat. Follow BPL Wildlife Guidelines. Timber harvesting will comply with all Federal and State regulations concerning listed threatened and endangered species, and species of special concern. Compartment exams/prescriptions and any subsequent timber sale planning will research the presence of these species and manage accordingly.
Mechanized Backcountry Recreation	Commercial timber harvesting is allowed. Follow policy directives in Section VII. E. TIMBER AND RENEWABLE RESOURCES. Salvage harvests are allowed. Management and service roads are allowed. Prescribed burning for timber and wildlife management is allowed. Tree pests and disease can be controlled.
Backcountry Recreation	No commercial timber harvesting is allowed. No salvage harvests are allowed. Management and service roads are not allowed. Prescription burns are allowed for wildlife management only if identified in the management plan. Tree pests and disease can be controlled.
Remote Recreation	Commercial timber management is allowed if harvesting is compatible with the protection of natural resources and recreation values.
Developed Recreation Class 1	More intensively managed recreation sites (such as drive-to campsites, boat launches, trailheads, etc.) Commercial timber harvesting, where allowed by deed or statute, is allowed on a multi-aged basis that is sensitive to visual, wildlife, and user safety is a conditional secondary use
Developed Recreation Class 2	Most intensively developed recreation facilities, often staffed during peak season. No commercial timber harvesting allowed.

Dominant Allocation	Timber Management Constraints
Visual Class 1	Commercial timber harvesting is allowed. These are areas where foreground views of natural features may directly affect the enjoyment of the viewer. Timber openings will be contoured to the natural topography and limited in size to maintain a forested appearance. Within trail corridors and along public-use roads, harvesting activities may be screened or minimized, and recreation trails will be kept clear of branches, tops, and logging slash. Additionally, individual trees or small groups of trees may be selectively removed along roads and trails to provide scenic vistas or educational opportunities in Class I areas.
Visual Class 2	Commercial timber harvesting is allowed. These may be forest canopies viewed from ridge lines, background hillside viewed from water or public use roads, or interior views beyond the Visual Class I area likely to be seen from a trail or road. Class II areas are less sensitive to change from the visual standpoint of the observer but will nonetheless be managed to minimize any obvious alterations to the landscape. Openings will be of a size and orientation so as not to draw undue attention.

5. Hiking Trails

Policy

To protect hiking trail experiences, trail corridors will receive enhanced visual management, akin to Visual Class I allocations. Within these visual corridors, timber harvesting is designed to maintain aesthetic values, rather than a fixed-width, no-cut buffer. Exceptions to this aesthetic focus include the removal of blowdowns and mitigating hazards, and crossing the trail for the purpose of skidding wood (i.e., the process of transporting cut wood to the landing). Trail crossings for harvesting operations will be minimized.

Specific protections apply to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT) and National Park Service-designated, blue-blazed AT side-trails on Bureau lands not already designated for Special Protection:

- **Inner Zone:** A 100-foot zone on each side of the trail is designated as a Special Protection – Historical/Cultural Area, where timber harvesting is prohibited.
- **Outer Buffer:** In most locations, an additional 400-foot Remote Recreation buffer extends from each side of the inner zone. Within this buffer, timber harvesting is permitted as a secondary use, subject to recreation and aesthetic constraints.

6. Silvicultural Investment Strategies

Throughout its management program, the Bureau may invest in cultural treatments that will improve the growth and quality of commercial timber and/or structural diversity and wildlife habitat.

Policy

Timber Stand Improvement:

- The Bureau will conduct Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) projects—including commercial and pre-commercial thinning, spacing, release cutting, pruning, and herbicide applications. These treatments are designed to ensure the survival and optimize the growth of high-value, high-quality tree species.

Species Rehabilitation:

- Where low-value, non-commercial species or species poorly suited to the site become established, the Bureau may rehabilitate the stand by replacing it with native species better adapted to the site conditions. This practice may be limited to above-average sites and cost-effective opportunities.

Herbicides:

- The Bureau will minimize the silvicultural use of herbicides, requiring the evaluation of mechanical methods before chemical options are considered. Herbicides may only be employed to resolve critical silvicultural problems when no other effective and economical alternative exists.
- Prior to any application, staff must consult with Bureau specialists in wildlife, silviculture, and forest ecology. The selected chemical agent must feature the least toxic composition (including both active and inert ingredients), the highest target efficacy, and the lowest risk of negative impacts on non-target vegetation, wildlife, water quality, and human health among all cost-effective options. Regional Manager approval is required for all silvicultural herbicide applications.

For policy regarding the application of pesticides to control invasive species and other general pesticide requirements, refer to Section VII A. Natural and Geological Resources, Section 7 Pesticides.

7. Regeneration

The Bureau relies primarily on natural regeneration silvicultural techniques to repopulate treated stands. While natural regeneration is highly reliable in Maine and the broader Northeast, the species, density, and vigor of seedlings established depend on harvesting techniques employed, seasonality, presence of other vegetation types, herbivory, and site conditions. Although uncommon, regeneration failure can occur if these variables are unfavorable.

Policy

The Bureau will assess final harvests within five growing seasons to determine the success rates of desirable seedling establishment. Where regeneration failure occurs, artificial regeneration will be implemented, consistent with site quality and cost-effectiveness.

For salvage operations where removing merchantable material risks a lack of natural regeneration, silvicultural prescriptions must include an artificial regeneration plan and cost-benefit analysis as part of the operational justification.

8. Climate Change and Forest Management

Operational & Resource Protection Policies

- **Operational Adaptability:** Rising annual temperatures are shortening the winter harvesting season (later freeze and earlier breakup). The Bureau will maintain diverse, flexible operational plans and employ BMPs to minimize site damage, protect soil carbon, and prevent soil erosion.
- **Weather and Moisture Management:** To counter more frequent severe precipitation and wind events, the Bureau will use multi-aged management to maintain canopy shade—limiting soil moisture deficits during droughts—and apply precise silvicultural treatments to minimize windthrow.
- **Watershed Protection:** To mitigate rising stream-water temperatures caused by warmer ambient air and shorter winters, the Bureau will manage riparian areas to maintain shaded, healthy, and functional watersheds.

Ecological & Silvicultural Policies

- **Biodiversity and Forest Health:** To counter shifting species dynamics, fragmented habitats, and changing regeneration patterns, the Bureau will maximize biodiversity within stands and across the landscape. Silvicultural practices will foster forest health and function, enabling species to survive (resistance), respond (resilience), or adapt (migration). Existing reserves will serve as ecological refugia and management benchmarks.
- **Invasive Species and Biotic Stressors:** Climate change favors tree pests, invasive plants, and higher deer browse pressure due to milder winters. The Bureau will proactively manage forest health to prevent canopy loss and stand degradation, which create conditions vulnerable to invasive plant expansion.

Carbon & Mitigation Policies

- **Carbon Sequestration:** To optimize carbon storage and global climate regulation, the Bureau will maintain appropriate growth rates, a diversity of stand-size classes, and sustainable stocking levels composed primarily of long-lived tree species. The Bureau will also prioritize forest product markets that yield the most beneficial climate outcomes.
- **Policy Goal:** Within the overarching framework to maintain and enhance biodiversity, forest management on Public Lands will actively seek to mitigate or minimize the negative effects of climate change through flexible, science-based practices.

9. Forest Protection

Policy

The Bureau will attempt to protect the forest resource against loss or damage due to insects, disease, and fire.

Insects and Disease. The Bureau will apply an integrated approach to insect and disease protection in the following order of priority, coordinating its efforts with government agencies holding specific technical expertise in forest health.

- **Silvicultural Control (First Priority):** Forest conditions and composition will be manipulated through silvicultural and management practices to maximize natural resistance and minimize the need for pesticide applications.

- **Biological Control (Second Priority):** When silvicultural controls are insufficient, the Bureau will utilize targeted biological preparations, including Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) and other natural predators or parasites.

- **Chemical Control (Last Resort):** As a final line of defense, the Bureau will apply target-specific chemicals. All chemical applications will utilize highly specific procedures in strict accordance with applicable laws, labels, and safety requirements. Technology continues to rapidly evolve with regards to use of drones and artificial intelligence (AI), which may increase the precision of chemical applications.

Fire. The Bureau will manage wildfire risks primarily through silvicultural practices, coordinating all prevention, pre-suppression, and suppression activities with MFS.

- **Fuel Reduction:** Salvage operations will remove dead and dying trees that pose a fire threat, while adhering to wildlife guidelines for retaining den trees and snags. Slash will be managed to reduce heavy fuel loads.
- **Defensible Space:** As funding, capacity, and forest conditions dictate, vegetation near structures will be managed to minimize localized fire hazards.

10. Economic Analysis and Marketing

Policy

The timber management program will utilize economic analysis to ensure all components are cost-effective, achieve program goals, and demonstrate the viability of multiple-use management within commercial forestry.

To improve the general quality of the forest resource, the Bureau will seek maximum utilization when marketing forest products, specifically capitalizing on markets for low-quality material. When out-of-state and domestic markets are equivalent or superior, the Bureau will continue to favor sales to Maine mills.

11. Work Program

Policy

The general program of work during the term of this policy will include the following:

Forest management planning. This will include:

- Establishing landscape and stand-level forest condition goals Bureau-wide and at the sustainable harvest unit level;

- Developing silvicultural and harvesting standards, for use in compartment exams (i.e., preliminary cruising and compartment assessments), prescription reviews, and harvest inspections; and
- Implementing and maintaining an overall program record-keeping system including boundary lines, title information, remote sensing, maps, GIS data, timber inventory and management activities, and the means for tracking the biological and financial impacts of management.

Inventory. The department shall conduct a detailed forest inventory of the State's Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands by March 15, 2021, and every 5 years thereafter (12 MRSA, § 1808).

Timber Management. The Bureau will conduct a comprehensive timber management program that includes calculating sustainable harvest levels, executing compartment examinations, and writing silvicultural prescriptions. When harvesting is prescribed, the Bureau will manage all phases of timber sale preparation, layout, administration, closeout, and accounting.
To ensure operational continuity and maintain high-quality management on the ground, the Bureau will retain the ability to establish and continue long-term timber harvest contracts.

Investment Guidelines. Develop investment guidelines for resource management activities and protection programs, and employ the guidelines to help prioritize activities.

Work Planning. Conduct project work planning on an annual basis and beyond to include projected budget levels and forest product market conditions.

Training and Education. Conduct and/or encourage training and education for Bureau staff and field personnel, ensuring that information from all staff specialists is fully disseminated.

12. Monitoring

Policy
Overall responsibility for the timber management program on Bureau lands will reside with the Regional Managers, acting under the authority of the Director. They will participate in all planning, review, and inspection activities and hold primary responsibilities for the conduct of annual compartment examinations and implementation of program activities. Staff specialists will provide such technical assistance as may be necessary and will participate in the review of ongoing and completed projects, planning and development efforts, and compliance with standards, policies, and applicable federal, state, and local ordinances. Included among the means for monitoring program performance will be:

Site Inspections. To maintain an active and supportive field staff/specialist relationship, operational and site inspections covering the full spectrum of management activities will be conducted jointly on a regular basis.

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

Silvicultural Advisory Committee. This group was assembled as part of the implementation of the 1985 IRP and includes members with expertise and long experience in timber management, wildlife, and environmental issues. The committee meets annually for a two-day field trip designed to look at recent and older silvicultural activities conducted by the Bureau, and at areas where current conditions make the best future course of management uncertain. Minutes of the field discussions are prepared and circulated to committee members and Bureau field staff, to be considered in refining management techniques.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION

A. SPECIAL USES AND COMMERCIAL LICENSING

Background

The Special Use and Commercial Licensing Policy recognizes the varied uses and demands upon Bureau-managed lands, and their related impacts upon the resources. Such activities include, but are not limited to, commercial and noncommercial use, and uses by governmental and quasi-governmental entities. This Policy provides guidelines related to such use of State-owned resources.

Policy

The Special Use and Commercial Licensing Policy allows the Bureau to issue Special Use Permits or Commercial License agreements to allow for a variety of uses, both exclusive and nonexclusive, to take place on Bureau-administered lands, provided they meet the following conditions:

- The activity is statutorily within the allowable uses and authority as outlined in 12 MRSA, § 1816, 1838, and 1852.
- It is sufficiently demonstrated that the activity will have minimal adverse impact upon any natural, geological, historical, cultural, fisheries and wildlife, recreational, or visual resources.
- The activity is approved in advance by lease, permit, or revocable license.
- Fair compensation is provided and/or a public benefit is demonstrated in the granting of exclusive rights and privileges.
- There is minimal disruption to regular or normally recurring patterns of public use, and the number of persons involved does not exceed the carrying capacity for that specific area.
- The activity is consistent with Bureau rules and otherwise conforms to all applicable municipal, county, state, and federal ordinances and regulations.
- The activity does not cause an undue administrative or operational burden upon the Bureau, including considerations pertaining to staffing, budget restraints, and maintenance.
- Permittees, Licensees, and Lessees agree to indemnify the State of Maine against any and all claims arising from its activities on the property.

The Bureau may consider a permit, license, or lease to be in default and take action to cancel that permit, license, or lease without notice if the permittee, licensee, or lessee fails to comply with the conditions of the permit, license, or lease or otherwise meet the conditions of default.

B. ACCESS BY PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Background

BPL is committed to ensuring that the types of recreational, educational, and cultural opportunities available at State Parks, State Historic Sites, and Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands are accessible to all people, including those with disabilities. In this commitment, the Bureau is guided by existing state and federal laws relating to access and nondiscrimination: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Architectural Barriers Act, and the Maine Human Rights Act.

In providing access for those with disabilities, the Bureau affirms existing requirements of law that facilities and programs be accessible to the maximum extent, provided that there is not an undue financial or administrative burden. The Bureau also affirms that access for those with disabilities applies to structures, other aspects of the system's physical plant, communications, programs, and that reasonable accommodations, on an individualized basis, will be made when such accommodations are requested.

Access to facilities owned and managed by the Bureau of Parks and Lands affects two groups of people: those who visit State Parks, State Historic Sites, and Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, and those employed at these facilities. For visitors, the Bureau's first priority will be to provide more accessible parking, restrooms, and paths of travel at existing State Parks, State Historic Sites, and Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands. New facilities will be constructed according to applicable access standards. As of the close of 2026, the Bureau has invested nearly $50 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for improvements at State Parks and Historic Sites, which have included access improvements.

In addition, the Bureau will make printed materials available in alternative formats, provide thorough information about specific accessible facilities, and develop a policy, procedures, and training for responding to requests for accommodations by people with disabilities, in conformity with any applicable federal or state standards. For employees, the Bureau will not discriminate on the basis of disability and will provide reasonable accommodations requested by qualified employees with disabilities.

Policy

Developed Day Use Areas. At day use areas, the Bureau will ensure that all individuals with disabilities have access to parking, restrooms, and paths of travel to important features and the area's significant resources. At a beach park, for example, access for those with disabilities will be provided to the beach as well as to picnic tables near the beach. Full accessibility of all day use areas may not be financially possible, but the Bureau will explore all available alternatives for providing access to as many features as possible. When programs, such as nature walks, are offered, every effort will be made to conduct as many of them as possible in accessible locations and to make reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities who attend these programs.

Developed Campgrounds. Developed campgrounds will follow the same guidelines as day use areas for accessible parking, restrooms, and paths of travel. Accessible campsites will be distributed throughout the campground area. Facilities and programs associated with developed

campgrounds, such as beach access, amphitheaters, boat ramps, and interpretive programs, will also be accessible to those with disabilities.

Historic Sites. State Historic Sites and other historic features will follow the same guidelines as presented for day use areas for accessible parking, restrooms, and paths of travel. In instances where access for those with disabilities can be achieved only by a physical alteration to a historic property that would threaten or destroy its historic significance, alternative methods of achieving accessibility that do not result in undue financial or administrative burden to the Bureau (e.g., audio/visual presentations) will be implemented.

Backcountry and Remote Recreation Areas; Primitive Day Use Areas and Campsites. As stewards for Backcountry and Remote Recreation Areas, such as the Allagash Wilderness Waterway and designated areas within Public Reserved and Nonreserved Land units, the Bureau is committed to the protection of resources and features for the enjoyment of future generations. Campsites and day use areas on these properties are generally primitive, typically with a less-developed character than at State Parks and often with more restricted vehicle access. All individuals, including those with disabilities, have the right to have access to similar opportunities. As accessible primitive campsites and day use areas are developed, information will be made available regarding those areas. The Bureau will attempt to make reasonable accommodations to facilitate the use of backcountry and remote areas by people with disabilities without altering the unique qualities of the area.

Undeveloped Areas. Most undeveloped State Park and Historic Site parcels are not staffed. The provision of access and facilities for persons with disabilities to these areas will not be a priority until they are developed.

Planning for Future Access Improvements. Development and updates of management plans will include review of the current status of access by persons with disabilities to existing facilities, and consideration of potential improvements to accessible parking, restrooms, and paths of travel and any associated day use areas and campsites.

C. ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

Background

The Bureau provides vehicular access to many of the lands it manages for public recreational use and to facilitate a wide range of management activities and needs. Planning for transportation and access includes consideration of public access and recreation requirements, commercial harvesting and reentry schedules, integrity and connectivity of wildlife habitat, and water quality protection. Transportation planning and development on Bureau lands shall serve the dual purpose of protecting and managing resources and providing for public vehicular access where it does not interfere with resource protection.

Policy

The Bureau will incorporate the following types of roads into its transportation system: (1) public use roads, (2) forest management roads, and (3) service roads.

Public Use Roads. These are roads specifically designed for public use and will be either gravel or, in the case of some State Parks, potentially paved. Travel routes will be designated in park or unit plans for general access for such things as sightseeing and wildlife observation, as well as for access to developed campgrounds and day-use areas, bodies of water with facilities for launching trailer-drawn boats and other watercraft, major trailheads, and parking areas servicing any facilities on Bureau lands. Most roads in State Parks are public use roads. Public use roads on Public Reserved Lands also serve as forest management roads.

Forest Management Roads. These roads are designed for timber management and/or administrative use that may also be used by the public as long as they remain in service. Forest management roads may not be available for general use in areas containing special resources, where there are issues of public safety, or in the interest of environmental protection.

Service Roads. These roads are designed to meet the operational and administrative needs on Bureau-managed lands and facilities, or in some cases, the operational needs of facilities within leased areas. These roads are generally not opened to the public, although there may be some intended access to certain service or office facilities.

Parking. The Bureau will accommodate off-road parking for hunting, fishing, hiking, or other activities where there is a demonstrated need, and where it would be in the interest of public safety to do so.

Road construction and maintenance, including the layout of skid trails, will be conducted in conformance with all regulations and the appropriate water quality BMPs. As an example, water bars or other erosion control mechanisms will be installed as needed on roads and trails, with herbaceous seeding as appropriate for soil stabilization.

The Bureau will consider temporary road closures, crossing structures, or other means to protect wildlife crossing high-traffic roads or where there are high rates of vehicle collisions with wildlife. The Bureau may discontinue access to certain roads for economic or other reasons it deems appropriate.

D. INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION

Background

The 1985 IRP contained an Information and Education policy "to increase public understanding of resource issues." Interpretation and education have also been an important State Park and State Historic Site program.

Interpretation is a unique form of mission-based communication that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and the meanings inherent in the resource. The educational experience an interpreter provides may include guided walks or talks, use of original objects and illustrative media, and other techniques that elevate the program or interpretive media beyond a mere showing or telling of facts.

The Bureau recognizes its special responsibility as the steward of many sites of cultural and spiritual significance to Native Americans. (See Section VII.B. Historical and Cultural Resources, 5. Education and Interpretation.) Therefore, BPL will engage in open, respectful, ongoing consultation with appropriate Native American tribes, communities, or groups to ensure proper interpretation of natural resources associated with their heritage, traditions, culture, and history. Additionally, the Bureau will seek to engage the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) community and the perspectives of women and children in the interpretation of natural resources.

The following policy applies to Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, as well as State Parks and Historic Sites:

Policy
To increase public understanding and appreciation of the natural resources in its care, the Bureau will strive to provide high-quality interpretive and educational services at appropriate locations. Based on research, planning, training, and evaluation, these services may include, but not be limited to, personal services, such as interpretive programs on Bureau-managed land and outreach programs in schools, and nonpersonal services, such as brochures, panels, and self-guiding trails.

E. MEMORIALS

The installation of any memorial (monument, memorial, tablet, memorial plaque, or other commemorative installation) on public reserved land or nonreserved land is prohibited except through written authorization by the Bureau. A written proposal for the placement of a memorial is required to be submitted to the Regional Manager. Written approval of the Director for the proposed memorial is required.

Authorization for the placement of a memorial will be consistent with applicable laws, regulations, and administrative policies. Approval will also be based on a determination that such an activity will not adversely impact:

- public health and safety;
- environmental or scenic values;
- natural or cultural resources;
- scientific research;
- implementation of management responsibilities;
- proper allocation and use of facilities; and
- avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities.

Proposals for the placement of memorials must address the specific points listed above.

In addition, the proposal should include documentation of a substantial professional or volunteer connection, or noteworthy historical association, of the person to be memorialized to the specific

site or public land where the memorial is to be placed.

Monuments that are small and unobtrusive (e.g., a memorial bench, plaque, or sign) are strongly preferred. All costs and labor associated with the creation and installation of the memorial will be the responsibility of the entity proposing the memorial.

F. CAMPLOT LEASES

The purpose of the BPL camplot lease program is to allow traditional residential and commercial camps to continue to be used for seasonal occupation in those areas where they already exist.

The objectives of this policy are:

- To allow established, exclusive camplot leases to continue to co-exist separately from public use areas on the Public Reserved Lands.
- To allow reasonable use and continued enjoyment of the camps and camplots by the Lessees and their guests.
- To maintain the camplots in a setting that is as natural and unobtrusive as possible within the constraints of the existing character of the area.
- To minimize the aesthetic and environmental impacts of existing camps.

Policy

No new camplot leases will be added unless they are acquired as the result of a land trade or acquisition, nor will any new camps be built on any camplots that do not already have a functional camp as of October 1, 1990.

All applicable laws and rules of LUPC, Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP), municipal governments, and other relevant jurisdictions shall apply. The Bureau reserves the right to implement standards that are more restrictive to protect the public lands and their resources. The Bureau may require lessees to conduct maintenance, repairs, or other actions necessary to bring their camplot into compliance with these policies and the terms of the lease. These requirements may include, but are not limited to, painting, planting trees or other vegetation, or removal of trash, debris, or unapproved structures.

The above text is an abridgement of the *"Policy on Seasonal Residential and Commercial Camplot Leases"* adopted by the Bureau February 1, 2023. The full policy is available from the Bureau's lease manager.

IX. GLOSSARY

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

ATV Trails: designated trail**s** of varying length with a variety of trail surfaces and grades, designed primarily for the use of all-terrain vehicles.

All-Terrain Vehicles: motor-driven, off-road recreational vehicles capable of cross-country travel on land, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain. For the purposes of this document, an all-terrain vehicle includes a multi-track, multi-wheel, or low-pressure tire vehicle; a motorcycle or related 2-wheel vehicle; and 3- or 4-wheel or belt-driven vehicles. It does not include an automobile or motor truck; a snowmobile; an airmobile; a construction or logging vehicle used in performance of its common functions; a farm vehicle used for farming purposes; or a vehicle used exclusively for emergency, military, law enforcement, or fire control purposes (12 MRSA, Chapter 715, § 7851.2). [REVISE WORDING to match new statute?]

Backcountry Ponds: ponds having no existing road access by two-wheel drive motor vehicles during summer months within ½ mile of the normal high-water mark of the body of water with no more than one noncommercial remote camp and its accessory structures within ½ mile of the normal high-water mark of the body of water, that support cold water game fisheries and may offer outstanding foot trail, remote camping, and scenic vista opportunities.

Backpack Hiking Trails: designated foot trails of moderate to long length designed primarily for overnight foot traffic, with primitive campsites provided for overnight camping.

Campgrounds: areas designed for transient occupancy by camping in tents, camp trailers, travel trailers, motor homes, or similar facilities or vehicles designed for temporary shelter. Developed campgrounds usually provide toilet buildings, drinking water, picnic tables, and fireplaces, and may provide disposal areas for RVs, showers, boat access to water, walking trails, and swimming opportunities.

Carry-In Boat Access: dirt or gravel launch site**s** accessible by foot over a short to moderate length trail, that generally accommodates the use of only small watercraft. Includes a trailhead with parking and a designated trail to the access site.

Clear-cut: a single-age harvesting method in which all trees or all merchantable trees are removed from a site in a single operation.

Commercial Forest Land: the portion of the landbase that is both available and capable of producing at least 20 cubic feet of wood or fiber per acre per year.

Commercial Harvest: any harvest from which forest products are sold. By contrast, in a pre-commercial harvest, no products are sold, and it is designed principally to improve stand quality and conditions.

Community: an assemblage of interacting plants and animals and their common environment, recurring across the landscape, in which the effects of recent human intervention are minimal ("Natural Landscapes of Maine: A Classification of Ecosystems and Natural Communities," Maine Natural Heritage Program, 2010).

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

Cross-Country Ski Trails: designated winter-use trails primarily available for the activity of cross-country skiing. Trails may be short to long for day or overnight use.

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

Day Walking Trails: designated foot trails of short to moderate length designed primarily for day use foot traffic.

Demonstration Forest: a forest in which management activities are designed to illustrate various facets of forest management; and/or to demonstrate exemplary multiple use techniques including but not limited to natural, scenic, wildlife, and educational values; and where information transfer through signs, brochures, and tours is provided.

Ecosystem Type: a group of communities and their environment, occurring together over a particular portion of the landscape, and held together by some common physical or biotic feature. ("Natural Landscapes of Maine: A Classification of Ecosystems and Natural Communities." Maine Natural Heritage Program, 2010).

Exotic (nonnative): a species that enters or is deliberately introduced into an ecosystem beyond its historic range, except through natural expansion, including organisms transferred from other countries into the state, unnaturally occurring hybrids, cultivars, genetically altered or engineered species or strains, or species or subspecies with nonnative genetic lineage.

Folist Site: areas where thick mats of organic matter overlay bedrock, commonly found at high elevations.

Forest Condition: the state of the forest, including the age, size, height, species, and spatial arrangement of plants, and the functioning as an ecosystem of the combined plant and animal life of the forest.

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

Group Camping Areas: vehicle- or foot-accessible area**s** designated for overnight camping by large groups. These may include one or more outhouses, several fire rings or fire grills, a minimum of one water source, and several picnic tables.

Group Picnic Area/Shelters: areas designed to accommodate large groups that are generally separated from other nearby recreation facilities. These areas will usually include a large indoor charcoal grill and a large field area for game play. Outhouses may be shared with other users of the parcel.

Horseback Ride/Pack Stock Trails: generally moderate to long-distance trails designated for use by horses, other ride, or pack stock.

Hybrid: the offspring of genetically dissimilar parents or stock, especially those produced by breeding organisms of different species, varieties, or races.

Improved Boat Access: vehicle-accessible hard-surfaced launch site**s** with gravel or hard-surface parking areas. May also contain one or more picnic tables, an outhouse, and floats or docks.

Interpretation: an educational activity which aims to reveal meanings and relationships through the use of original objects, by firsthand experience, and by illustrative media, rather than simply to communicate factual information.

Interpretive Trails: designated trails of short to moderate length designed to provide information regarding natural, historic, or cultural features, or wildlife. Information can be provided using a variety of methods, ranging from self-guided trails with numbered posts corresponding to a booklet to those in which staff provide regularly scheduled guided programs.

Invasive Species: nonnative species that invade native ecosystems and outcompete and displace native species due to aggressive growth, rapid reproduction, the absence of natural controls, and other factors. These species cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Examples are purple loosestrife and the zebra mussel.

Log Landings: areas, generally close to haul roads, where forest products may be hauled to and stored prior to being trucked to markets.

Management Roads: roads designed for timber management and/or administrative use that may be used by the public as long as they remain in service. Management roads may be closed in areas containing special resources, where there are issues of public safety or environmental protection.

Mature Tree: a tree that has reached the age at which its height growth has significantly slowed or ceased, though its diameter growth may still be substantial. When its annual growth no longer exceeds its internal decay and/or crown loss (net growth is negative), the tree is over-mature.

Non-mechanized: a mode of travel across the landbase that does not utilize internal combustion, electric, or mechanically powered conveyances, which in itself constitutes a recreational activity, or facilitates participation in a recreational activity.

Motorized: a mode of travel across the landbase which utilizes internal combustion or electric-powered conveyances, which in itself constitutes a recreational activity, or facilitates participation in a recreational activity. This includes or assumes the use of mechanized forms of travel, such as a bicycle, for the same purpose.

Mountain Bike Trails: designated trail**s** generally located on rough trail surfaces with moderate to steep grades, designed primarily for the use of mountain bicycles with all-terrain tires by individuals seeking a challenging experience.

Multi-aged Management: management that is designed to retain two or more age classes and canopy layers at all times. Its harvest methods imitate natural disturbance regimes which cause partial stand replacement (shelterwood with reserves) or small gap disturbances (selection).

Native: any species present in an ecosystem within its historic range or naturally expanded from its historic range.

Natural Resource Values: described in Maine's Natural Resource Protection Act to include coastal sand dunes, coastal wetlands, significant wildlife habitat, fragile mountain areas, freshwater wetlands, great ponds and rivers, streams, and brooks. For the purposes of this plan, they also include unique or unusual plant communities.

Non-timber Management: describes acres on which, due to administrative decision or site/terrain factors, either will not be cut or are otherwise unlikely to be cut. These acres will be excluded from sustainable harvest calculations.

Old Growth Stand: a stand in which the majority of the main crown canopy consists of long-lived or late successional species, usually 150 to 200 years old or older, often with characteristics such as large snags, large downed woody material, and multiple age classes, and in which evidence of human-caused disturbance is absent or old and faint.

Old Growth Tree: for the purposes of this document, a tree that is in the latter stages of maturity or is over-mature.

Pesticide: a chemical agent or substance employed to kill or suppress pests (such as insects, weeds, fungi, rodents, nematodes, or other organisms) or intended for use as a plant regulator, defoliant, or desiccant. (from LURC Regulations, Ch. 10)

Primary Forest: forest areas that have no discernible evidence of human-caused disturbance. Depending on where a particular primary forest is along its stand replacement sequence, it may or may not fit the definition of old-growth.

Primitive Campsites: campsites that are rustic in nature, have one outhouse, and may include tent pads, Adirondack-type shelters, and rustic picnic tables. Campsites may be accessed by vehicle, foot, or water.

Primitive Picnic Areas: trail or water access only areas that may contain one or more rustic picnic table, fire ring, or outhouse.

Public Road or Roadway: any roadway that is owned, leased, or otherwise operated by a government body or public entity. (from LURC Regulations, Ch. 10)

Public Use Roads: all-weather gravel or paved roads designed for two-way travel to facilitate both public and administrative access to recreation facilities. Includes parking facilities provided for the public. Management will include roadside aesthetic values normally associated with travel-influenced zones.

Recreation Biking Trails: designated trails of short to moderate length located on hard-packed or paved trail surfaces with slight to moderate grades, designed primarily for the use of groups or individuals seeking a more leisurely experience.

Recreation Values: the values associated with participation in outdoor recreation activities.

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

Regulated Forest Acreage: that portion of the commercial forest landbase on which the sustainable harvest will be calculated at or near maximum sustainable levels.

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

Riparian: an area of land or water that includes stream channels, lakes, floodplains, and wetlands, and their adjacent upland ecosystems.

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

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

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

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

Semi-Regulated Forest Acreage: describes acres on which, due to site, terrain, or nontimber values, will yield commercial forest products at rates significantly lower than the maximum sustainable yield if timber were the dominant use. These acres, which will have periodic but non-regular harvests, are to be distinguished from those on which commercial timber harvesting will be excluded.

Service Roads: summer or winter roads located to provide access to Bureau-owned lodging, maintenance structures, and utilities. Some service roads will be gated or plugged to prevent public access for safety, security, and other management objectives.

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

Single-aged Management: management that is designed to manage single-age, single canopy layer stands. Its harvest methods imitate natural disturbance regimes which result in full stand replacement. A simple two-step (seed cut/removal cut) shelterwood is an example of a single-aged system.

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

Snowmobile Trails: designated winter-use trails of varying length located on groomed trail surfaces with flat to moderate grades, designed primarily for the use of snowmobiles.

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

Sustainable Harvest: that level of timber harvesting, expressed as treated acres and/or volume removals, which can be conducted on a perpetual basis while providing for nonforest values as expressed in this document. Ideally, this harvest level would be “even-flow,” that is, the same quantity each year. In practice, the current condition of the different properties under Bureau timber management, and the ever-changing situation in markets, will dictate a somewhat cyclical harvest which will approach even-flow only over time periods of a decade or more.

Sustainable Harvest Unit: a grouping of Bureau parcels with a total area in the range of 10,000 to 50,000 acres, typically one or more consolidated units plus nearby smaller tracts, for which forest conditions are similar enough to make unified sustainable harvest calculations feasible.

S1 - S5 State Conservation Status Ranking System: MDIFW Wildlife Diversity Section – Ecology Group (formerly MNAP) applies the following plant species and habitat type ranking system based on factors such as range extent, the number of occurrences, intensity of threats, etc.

S1 - Critically Imperiled in Maine – At very high risk of extirpation in the jurisdiction due to very restricted range, very few populations or occurrences, very steep declines, severe threats, or other factors.
S2 - Imperiled in Maine – At high risk of extirpation in the jurisdiction due to restricted range, few populations or occurrences, steep declines, severe threats, or other factors.
S3 - Vulnerable in Maine – At moderate risk of extirpation in the jurisdiction due to a fairly restricted range, relatively few populations or occurrences, recent and widespread declines, threats, or other factors.
S4 - Apparently Secure in Maine – At a fairly low risk of extirpation in the jurisdiction due to an extensive range and/or many populations or occurrences, but with possible cause for some concern as a result of local recent declines, threats, or other factors.
S5 - Secure in Maine – At very low or no risk of extirpation in the jurisdiction due to a very extensive range, abundant populations or occurrences, with little to no concern from declines or threats.

Unimproved Boat Access: vehicle-accessible launch sites with dirt or gravel ramps to the water and parking areas, and where no other facilities are normally provided.

Unregulated Forest Acreage: describes acres on which, due to administrative decision or site/terrain factors will not be harvested or are very unlikely to be harvested. These acres will be excluded from sustainable harvest calculations.

Waste Disposal Facility: any system or facility intended for storing or disposing of liquid or solid wastes.

Wide-area (Landscape): in the context used in this document, this is the large-scale view of the land, beyond forest stand or compartment level, taking in entire consolidated units or more, and including similarities and contrasts with conditions on abutting lands.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 - Public Comments and Responses

[TBD – this appendix will summarize comments received during the public review process and the Bureau's responses to those comments]

I. BACKGROUND
- Comments:
- Responses:

II. LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION
- Comments:
- Responses:

III. SCOPE
- Comments:
- Responses:

IV. TERM AND AMENDMENT PROCEDURES
- Comments:
- Responses:

V. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT MISSION AND GOALS
- Comments:
- Responses:

VI. THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

A. THE PLANNING PROCESS
- Comments:
- Responses:

B. RESOURCE ALLOCATION SYSTEM
- Comments:
- Responses:

C. MATRIX OF ALLOWED USES
- Comments:
- Responses:

VII. RESOURCE GROUPS

A. NATURAL AND GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES
- Comments:
- Responses:

B. HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES
- Comments:
- Responses:

C. FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES
- Comments:

- Responses:

D. RECREATION AND FACILITIES RESOURCES
- Comments:
- Responses:

E. TIMBER AND RENEWABLE RESOURCES
- Comments:
- Responses:

VIII. ADMINISTRATION

A. SPECIAL USES
- Comments:
- Responses:

B. ACCESS BY PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
- Comments:
- Responses:

C. TRANSPORTATION
- Comments:
- Responses:

D. INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION
- Comments:
- Responses:

E. MEMORIALS
- Comments:
- Responses:

F. CAMPLOT LEASES
- Comments:
- Responses:

APPENDIX 2 - Maine Advisory List of Invasive Plants and Do Not Sell Invasive Plant List

Common Name	Scientific Name
Severely invasive plants	
Goutweed*	*Aegopodium podagraria*
Tree of heaven*	*Ailanthus altissima*
Chocolate vine; five-leaf akebia	*Akebia quinata*
Garlic mustard*	*Alliaria petiolata*
European alder	*Alnus glutinosa*
False indigo*	*Amorpha fruticosa*
Porcelainberry*	*Ampelopsis glandulosa*
Japanese barberry*	*Berberis thunbergii*
Flowering rush	*Butomus umbellatus*
Fanwort**	*Cabomba caroliniana*
Starwort	*Callitriche stagnalis*
Asiatic bittersweet*	*Celastrus orbiculatus*
Canada thistle	*Cirsium arvense*
Black swallowwort	*Cynanchum louiseae*
Pale swallowwort	*Cynanchum rossicum*
Chinese yam	*Dioscorea polystachya*
Brazilian waterweed**	*Egeria densa*
Winged euonymus*	*Euonymus alatus*
Japanese knotweed*	*Fallopia japonica*
Giant knotweed	*Fallopia sachalinensis*
Bohemian knotweed	*Fallopia x bohemica*
Glossy buckthorn*	*Frangula alnus*
Hydrilla**	*Hydrilla verticillata*
European frog's bit**	*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*
Ornamental jewelweed*	*Impatiens glandulifera*
Yellow iris*	*Iris pseudacorus*
Tall pepperwort	*Lepidium latifolium*
Japanese honeysuckle*	*Lonicera japonica*
Amur honeysuckle*	*Lonicera maackii*
Morrow's honeysuckle*	*Lonicera morrowii*
Tartarian honeysuckle*	*Lonicera tatarica*

Bella honeysuckle*	*Lonicera x bella*
Japanese stilt grass*	*Microstegium vimineum*
Parrot feather**	*Myriophyllum aquaticum*
Variable milfoil**	*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*
Eurasian milfoil**	*Myriophyllum spicatum*
Slender-leaved naiad**	*Najas minor*
American water lotus	*Nelumbo lutea*
Starry stonewort	*Nitellopsis obtusa*
Yellow floating heart**	*Nymphoides peltata*
Wavyleaf basketgrass	*Oplismenus hirtellus ssp. undulatifolius*
Reed canary grass	*Phalaris arundinacea*
Common reed	*Phragmites australis*
Water lettuce	*Pistia stratiotes*
White cottonwood*	*Populus alba*
Curly pondweed**	*Potamogeton crispus*
Common buckthorn	*Rhamnus cathartica*
Black locust*	*Robinia pseudoacacia*
Wineberry	*Rubus phoenicolasias*
Water soldier	*Stratiotes aloides*
Water chestnut**	*Trapa natans*
Inflated bladderwort	*Utricularia inflata*
Very invasive plants	
Amur maple*	*Acer ginnala*
Norway maple*	*Acer platanoides*
Hardy kiwi	*Actinidia arguta*
Common barberry*	*Berberis vulgaris*
Narrowleaf bittercress	*Cardamine impatiens*
Yam-leaved virgin's bower	*Clematis terniflora*
Autumn olive*	*Elaeagnus umbellata*
Hairy willow-herb	*Epilobium hirsutum*
Wintercreeper	*Euonymus fortunei*
Leafy spurge	*Euphorbia esula*
Lesser celandine	*Ficaria verna*
English water grass	*Glyceria maxima*
Giant hogweed	*Heracleum mantegazzianum*

Dame's rocket*	*Hesperis matronalis*
Japanese hops	*Humulus japonicus*
Border privet	*Ligustrum obtusifolium*
California privet	*Ligustrum ovalifolium*
Privet*	*Ligustrum vulgare*
Purple loosestrife*	*Lythrum salicaria*
Water forget-me-not	*Myosotis scorpioides*
Mile-a-minute vine*	*Persicaria perfoliata*
Amur cork tree*	*Phellodendron amurense*
Oriental photinia	*Photinia villosa*
Kudzu	*Pueraria lobata*
Callery ("Bradford") pear	*Pyrus calleryana*
Creeping buttercup	*Ranunculus repens*
Black jetbead	*Rhodotypos scandens*
Multiflora rose*	*Rosa multiflora*
Rugosa rose	*Rosa rugosa*
European blackberry	*Rubus fruticosus*
Linden arrowwood	*Viburnum dilatatum*
Invasive plants, habitat-specific threats	
Woodland angelica	*Angelica sylvestris*
Brown knapweed	*Centaurea jacea*
Spotted knapweed	*Centaurea stoebe*
February daphne; paradise plant	*Daphne mezereum*
Russian olive	*Elaeagnus angustifolia*
Chinese bindweed*	*Fallopia baldschuanica*
Fine-leaved sheep fescue	*Festuca filiformis*
Mudmat	*Glossostigma cleistanthum*
Bicolor lespedeza, two-colored bush-clover	*Lespedeza bicolor*
Chinese bush-clover	*Lespedeza cuneata*
Dalmatian toadflax	*Linaria dalmatica*
One-rowed watercress	*Nasturtium microphyllum*
Watercress	*Nasturtium officinale*
Oriental lady's thumb smartweed	*Persicaria longiseta*
Wood blue grass	*Poa nemoralis*
Gray willow	*Salix cinerea*

Japanese tree lilac	*Syringa reticulata*
Coltsfoot	*Tussilago farfara*
Siberian elm	*Ulmus pumila*
Siebold viburnum	*Viburnum sieboldii*
Potential to be invasive; monitor	
Sycamore maple	*Acer pseudoplatanus*
Common mugwort*	*Artemisia vulgaris*
Small carpgrass	*Arthraxon hispidus*
Bull thistle	*Cirsium vulgare*
Cypress spurge*	*Euphorbia cyparissias*
Yellow hornpoppy	*Glaucium flavum*
Western lupine	*Lupinus polyphyllus*
Creeping jenny	*Lysimachia nummularia*
Wild parsnip	*Pastinaca sativa*
Princess tree*	*Paulownia tomentosa*
Bittersweet or climbing nightshade	*Solanum dulcamara*
Common valerian	*Valeriana officinalis*

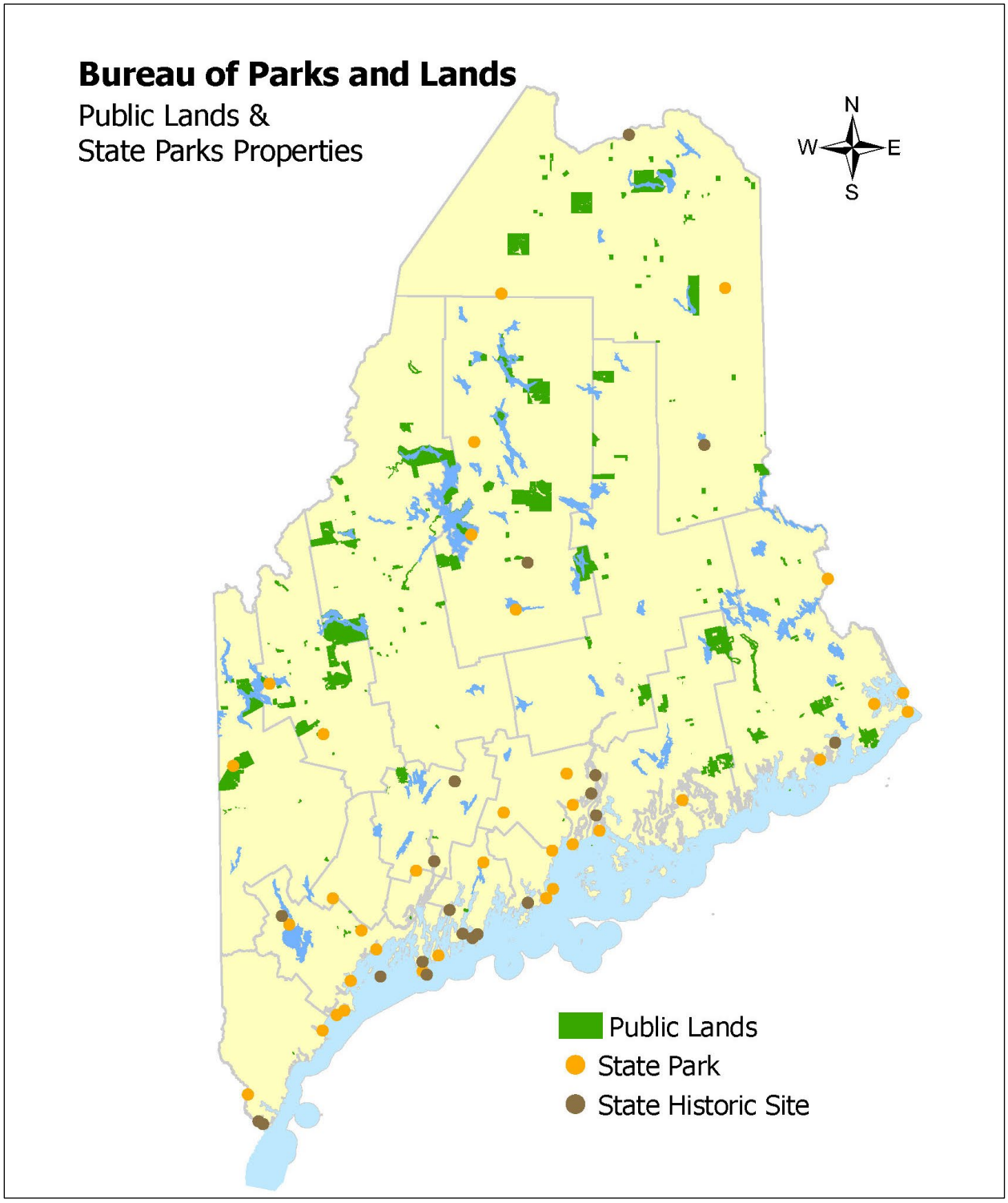
* Plant regulated by the Do Not Sell list, Horticulture Program, MDACF

** Aquatic plant regulated by Maine DEP

Consult the following website for the most recent list:

https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/invsheets.htm

APPENDIX 3 - Map of Bureau of Parks and Lands Properties



A webmap of Conservation Lands in Maine is available on the Bureau's website at: https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/publications_maps/conservation_lands_maine.html.

APPENDIX 4 - References

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"Best Management Practices for Forestry: Adapting to Extreme Weather in Maine."

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