Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands

DRAFT REVISED INTEGRATED RESOURCE POLICY (IRP) -

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS TO 2000 IRP

October 2026

Red text = particularly substantial or notable revisions

SECTIONS I-V.

I. BACKGROUND (formerly Executive Summary)	Revised to bring up to date, explain purpose and process of current revision, and add discussion of several emerging considerations: changing climate and diversity, equity, inclusion.
II. LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION	Added statutes that allow Bureau to acquire, sell, transfer, or lease land and discussion of formal rule making process and appeals process.
III. SCOPE	Updated data on public lands, including acreage figures and context on management plans for State Parks and Historic Sites.
IV. TERM AND AMENDMENT PROCEDURES	none
V. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT MISSION AND GOALS	Revised and considerably expanded goals (from 9 to 15) to align with current Bureau direction and commitments, particularly as regards diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI) and access, and climate change.

SECTION VI. THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

A. THE PLANNING PROCESS	Revised to reflect regional 15-year planning model, with 5-year reviews, adopted in 2007; to clarify the concepts of dominant and secondary uses; to better align with current practice; and to address major requests that require plan amendments, and new acquisitions
B. RESOURCE ALLOCATION SYSTEM	Revised to clarify and facilitate the correct and consistent application of the RAS, and to better align with how application of the system has

	unfolded over the past 19+ years, including lessons learned. Also, revised Backcountry Recreation category, with a single "Mechanized" subcategory, and added a new "Other" category. Added examples of secondary allocations applied in each dominant allocation category.
C. MATRIX OF ALLOWED USES	Converted to color format to ease readability, added new categories of recreation facilities

SECTION VII. RESOURCE GROUPS

A. NATURAL AND GEOLOGIC RESOURCES

1. Ecological Reserves	Updated background to provide current status and align with revised statute setting limits on designation (2022). Clarified policy regarding purposes of reserves and allowed uses.
2. Protection of Native Species	Revised to add reference to current "do not sell" and "advisory" lists, clarify background discussion and certain aspects of policy related to herbaceous seeding, etc.
3. Soils	Clarifications and revisions to align with current practice
4. Extraction on Nonrenewable Resources	Clarifications and revisions to align with current practice
5. Aquifers	Clarifications and revisions to align with current practice
6. Waste Disposal Facilities	None
7. Pesticides	Clarifications and revisions to align with current practice; added language on best practices and integrated pest management.

B. HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

1. Historic and Cultural Resources	Updated background and definitions
2. Resource Identification and Evaluation	Revised to align with current practices and staffing and better incorporate consultation with Native American communities.
3. Research	Revised to align with current practices and staffing and better incorporate consultation with Native American communities.

4. Treatment of Historic and Cultural Resources (General Methods and Removal Historic & Cultural Resources)	Revised to align with current practices and staffing and better incorporate consultation with Native American communities.
a. Archeological Resources	Minor revisions; added Special Activity Permit requirement.
b. Historic and Cultural Landscapes	None
c. Structures	Minor revisions; added MHPC consultation; clarified option for removal of disintegrated structures
d. Museum Objects	Minor revisions
e. Ethnographic Resources	Revised to strengthen Native American consultation, clarified policy on gathering and foraging by Tribal members
f. Burial Sites and Cemeteries	None
g. Submerged Historic and Cultural Resources	None
5. Education and Interpretation	Added preamble to policy to express commitments to expand perspectives, in consultation with Native American and BIPOC communities and others.

C. FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

1. Establish and Maintain Biodiversity (formerly Diversity)	None
2. Restoration of Native Plants, Animals, and Natural Communities	Background updated to emphasize recent and current restoration efforts
3. Fisheries and Wildlife Habitats	Clarified and expanded habitat types; clarified how Wildlife Guidelines document will be utilized
4. Aquatic Habitat Management	Updates and clarifications
5. Endangered or Threatened Plants and Animals	Minor revisions
6. Habitat Management Agreements (NEW)	Policy directs engagement with MDIFW to develop HMAs where needed for efficient management
7. Seeding/Planting (formerly Herbaceous Seeding/Planting)	Updated to reference current sources for invasive plant lists
8. Prescribed Burning	Minor revisions
9. Nuisance Plants and Animals (formerly Invasive and Nuisance Plants and Animals)	Minor revisions (invasive plants covered under A. 7. Pesticides)
10. Feeding of Wildlife	none

D. RECREATION AND FACILITIES RESOURCES

1. General (formerly General Background)	Minor updates, in particular to address mountain bike trails and winter access
2. System Wide Analysis	Revised to incorporate State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) as means of fulfilling policy
3. Bureau's Discretion	Deleted background; revised to address collaboratively developed trails, MOUs
4. Recreation Experiences	Deleted background and revised discussion of range of experiences to be managed for.
Users Served	DELETED
5. Management of Visitor Loads and Impacts (formerly Carrying Capacity)	Rewritten to replace academic capacity concepts and terminology while retaining management focus on limits of acceptable change in environmental or social conditions and providing guidance for management response to unacceptable changes.
6. Conflict Resolution	Rewritten to replace academic concepts and terminology and to simplify language on potential approaches to managing conflicting uses.
7. Visual Management	Deleted background
8. Pets	Deleted background; removed rule-making requirement; replaced service "dogs" with "animals"
9. Recreation/Hobby Collection of Natural, Historic and Cultural Resources	Deleted background, replaced "designated" with "approved" sites
10. Campsite Facilities and Lodging (formerly Campsite Facilities)	Revised background to provide current context; clarified definitions; expanded range of facility types to include developed campsites.
11. Parking for Primitive Campsites and Other Facilities	Deleted background
12. Campsite Length of Stay	Updated policy to match practice.
13. Campsite Fires and Stoves (formerly Campsite Fires)	Clarified open fire and charcoal fire policy, incorporated new 3 x 3 ft max size statute; applied to all Public Lands; added wood stoves used in appropriately vented tents
14. Swimming	Deleted background
15. Watercraft Launch Sites	Deleted background
16. Surface Use of Water Bodies	Revised background

17. Backcountry Pond Watercraft Storage	Updated and clarified language; added option of setting numerical limits.
18. Unattended Personal Property	Deleted background
19. Hunting and Trapping	Updated background, revised guidelines for clarity and to align with statute
20. Fishing	Deleted background
21. Technical Climbing	Clarification of language related to commercial use, organized groups; removed permit requirement for fixed anchors; removed Manager/Staff responsibilities.
22. Trail Establishment	Clarification of criteria and add policy to address trails proposed/built by others
23. Biking (formerly Bicycling)	Updated background to address range of trail types; updated policy to address wider range of bike users – fat bikes, e-bikes.
24. Horseback Riding	Deleted background; removed requirement to develop specific guidelines in management plans
25. Snowmobile Trails	Clarified policy on use on unplowed roads; added backcountry policy; deleted trails on frozen water bodies.
26. All-Terrain Vehicle Trails	Updated to incorporate recent changes in state law and to align with revisions to Backcountry allocation policy
27. Shared Use and Multi-Use Trail Opportunities	Clarification of language
Harvesting Near Trails	DELETED
28. Trail Connections	Deleted background
29. Electronic Surveillance Equipment and Drones **(NEW)**	Provides policy prohibiting recreational use of drones, and describing allowed non-recreational uses, with provision for Special Activity Permits; provides policy under which cameras and electronic surveillance equipment may be installed.
30. Evaluating Management Policies for New and Emerging Recreation Activities **(NEW)**	Policy provides criteria by which the appropriateness of these activities will be evaluated and the context for reviews.

E. TIMBER AND RENEWABLE RESOURCES

1. General	Clarifications, replaced “diversity” with “biodiversity”; added policy directives to Establish and Maintain Biodiversity for Public

	Reserved Lands and to state the limited allowable purposes for timber harvests on State Park lands.
2. Determination of Sustainable Harvest Level (formerly Forest Regulation)	Deleted background; clarification of policy language, with a directive addressing criteria for applying the Sustainable Harvest Level to the landbase, and an explanation of landscape-level implementation.
3. Timber Management Program	Deleted background
a. Site Suitability	Clarified with new policy directives
b. Requirements for Biodiversity	
Landscape Approach	Replaced "wide area" with "landscape" approach; added several policy directives
Stand Size & Distribution	Added policy directives for single-aged and multi-aged stands and management
Retention	Added "Retention" component, with "Retention of Rare and Exemplary Natural Communities" and "Legacy Tree Retention within the Managed Stand" subcomponents, with summaries, definitions, and policies.
Silvicultural Systems	Revised to focus on diversity of silvicultural systems, with policy directives addressing single- and multi-age management
Biomass and Nutrient Protection **(NEW)**	Added policy to avoid removal of all woody biomass on infertile sites, and handling of limbs and tops
Environmental Safeguards	Added policy directives directed at erosion control and water quality protection
Operational Safeguards (formerly Organizational Safeguards)	Added policy directives to ensure that logging operations align with Bureau directives and intent.
Location and Maintenance of Log Landings	Added revised log landings policy (formerly policy D) with new policy directives
4. Integration Requirements	Added reference to Visual Concerns and Considerations, with reference to Resource Allocation System
5. Hiking Trails **(NEW)**	Added policy addressing harvesting in the vicinity of hiking trails and the AT
6. Silvicultural Investment Strategies	Minor clarifications; added new policy on the use of herbicide
7. Regeneration	Minor clarifications
8. Climate Change and Forest Management **(NEW)**	Added policy discussing challenges, risks and opportunities associated with climate change

9. Forest Protection	Deleted background
10. Economic Analysis and Marketing (formerly Economic Analysis)	Deleted background
11. Work Program	Update inventory information, other clarifications
12. Monitoring (formerly Monitoring and Control)	Minor clarifications

SECTION VIII. ADMINISTRATION

A. SPECIAL USES AND COMMERCIAL LICENSING (formerly Special Uses)	Expanded policy to address commercial permits or license agreements
B. ACCESS BY PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES	Minor clarifications, incorporated financial and administrative considerations
C. ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION (formerly Transportation)	Minor clarifications, strengthened BMP language
D. INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION	Policy revised to strengthen the definition of Interpretation, add discussion of benefits for the public and the Bureau, and expand the voices to be included. Expanded policy to address inclusion of diverse perspectives, include Native American consultation when their heritage, traditions, culture and history are involved.
E. MEMORIALS (NEW)	Policy states how the Bureau will address requests to place memorials on Public Lands
F. CAMPLOT LEASES (NEW)	Policy states direction on new and existing seasonal residential and commercial camps, as expressed in full detail in the *"Policy on Seasonal Residential and Commercial Camplot Leases"* adopted by the Bureau February 1, 2023.