



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY
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AMANDA E. BEAL
COMMISSIONER

TO: St. John Uplands Region Management Plan Advisory Committee
FROM: Jim Vogel, BPL Senior Planner
DATE: February 2, 2026

Re: Decision on Ecological Reserve Addition at the Allagash Mountain Subunit of Chamberlain Public Land

You may recall that we sent you a memo in April 2024 to present a proposal to expand the Ecological Reserve at Chamberlain Public Reserved Lands and to request your review and comment. This proposal would add the 690 acres of the Allagash Mountain subunit to the existing 3,502-acre Ecological Reserve.

This is one among several expansions of existing ecological reserves and new ecological reserves under consideration, all of which have been reviewed by the Ecological Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee. As described in the proposal, there are no impacts to existing public access or uses and only a small impact in loss of access to timber, in terms of acreage and in the regional context.

We received two responses from Advisory Committee members in response to the memo, both of which expressed support for the proposed ecological reserve expansion.

We delayed completing the process to finalize the proposed ecological reserve changes (as a group rather than individually) for ~18 months due to relevant common/undivided ownership issues at one of the locations. However, we elected to move forward with a public meeting, held via videoconference on December 10, 2025, at which both this and another proposed ecological reserve expansion at Salmon Brook Lake Bog were presented. Fifteen members of the public attended the public meeting. No comments were made on the Allagash Mountain proposal.

With the Advisory Committee and broader public input now complete, it is the Bureau's decision to hereby formally conclude the review of this proposal. From this date, the entire Allagash Mountain subunit is designated as ecological reserve, with a Special Protection – Ecological Reserve allocation. These changes will be made to the St. John Uplands Management Plan as part of the first 5-year plan review update (tentatively scheduled to begin in fall of this year).

Thank you for your committee participation.

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