

**REPORT OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND FISHERIES &
WILDLIFE**

L.D. 1569 Sec. 7

**AN ACT TO RESTORE THE WHITE-TAILED DEER POPULATION AND
IMPROVE MAINE'S WILDLIFE ECONOMY AND HERITAGE; PREDATOR
CONTROL AND DEER PROTECTION ON PUBLIC LANDS**

SPONSORED BY: PRESIDENT RAYE OF WASHINGTON

**COSPONSORED BY: REPRESENTATIVE CRAFTS OF LISBON
REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS OF SANGERVILLE
REPRESENTATIVE ESPLING OF NEW GLOUCESTER
SENATOR MARTIN OF KENNEBEC
REPRESENTATIVE SHAW OF STANDISH
SENATOR TRAHAN OF LINCOLN**

JANUARY 9, 2012

Habitat Management

The Bureau of Parks and Lands is responsible for the management and administration of Maine's Public Reserved Lands, Non-Reserved Lands, Submerged Lands, Coastal Islands and all state parks and historic sites. The Bureau is statutorily mandated to manage the approximately 600,000 acres of public lands in a manner consistent with the principles of multiple land use to produce a sustained yield of products and services in accordance with both prudent and fair business practices and the principles of sound planning (12 M.R.S.A., Ch.202, 1845).

The Maine Department of Conservation (DOC), Bureau of Parks and Lands (BP&L) and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) entered into a Long-Term Habitat Management Agreement in 2002 for management of winter habitat for white-tailed deer, and for other species requiring mature coniferous forest on BP&L managed parcels. As agreements for specific areas are developed and approved, they are designated as Habitat Management Areas (HMAs) with descriptions and maps.

This agreement provides an increased land base for habitat management as well as increased flexibility for management, which will provide higher and more stable levels of mature forest habitat over time.

The Bureau of Parks and Lands, manages 12,412 acres of LURC zoned DWA's and 16,800 acres of unzoned cooperative DWA's throughout the state. BP&L foresters work

closely with IFW regional biologists to develop harvest plans that insure that the DWA's are sustainable over time.

The MDIFW is responsible for managing about 100,000 acres of public land in Maine. Management area plans are developed for each of these areas. Approximately 8,700 acres that have historic or current deer use in winter are managed to provide optimum winter shelter for deer. Any timber harvesting is designed to maintain and increase deer winter shelter.

Predator Control

The Department currently has limited funds for predator control and therefore deferred to recommendations from the Deer Predation Advisory Group. Through this process priority DWAs were identified throughout the state of which four occur on state land. For more information on this effort refer to the report on LD 1569, Sec. 10.