

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Bureau of Parks and Lands
Moosehead Region Management Plan
Advisory Committee Meeting
March 17, 2016 5:30 – 8:00 PM
Greenville Town Office – Meeting Room

MEETING NOTES

The Advisory Committee Meeting was attended by four AC members and four interested members of the general public:

AC Members

Erica Kaufmann, Forest Society of Maine
Allen Phillips, area seasonal resident
Tim Obrey, ME Dept. of Inland Fish & Wildlife
Rep. Paul Stearns, District 119

General Public

Ralph Johnson, local resident
Ron Dobre, Maine Appalachian Trail Club
Janet Chasse, local resident
Karen Ellwood, local resident

Additionally, the following BPL staff members were present: Peter Smith, Western Region Lands Manager; Jim Vogel, Plan Coordinator; Rex Turner, Recreation Planner; Marc Albert, Forester assigned to the Moosehead Region; Doug Denico, Director of the Maine Forest Service also attended (Mr. Denico has been administratively assigned oversight over the Bureau's Public Lands).

Welcome/Introduction and Purpose

Jim Vogel welcomed the attendees and Bureau staff introduced themselves, followed by AC members and the general public. A meeting agenda was provided (attachment 1). The meeting was focused on a PowerPoint slide presentation by Jim of the Vision, Resource Allocations and Management Recommendations for each management unit as contained in the Draft Plan (attachment 2). The Draft Plan had been distributed several weeks prior to the meeting. Additional copies of Resource Allocation maps were available at the meeting and large scale maps of the two largest Units were posted on the wall. Jim stated the purpose of the meeting to be a review of the core of the Draft Plan, as contained in the presentation, and the opportunity for AC members and the general public to comment on the Draft Plan.

Draft Plan Review

- The first few minutes of the presentation reviewed the Plan development process and indicated what stage had been reached in the process and what additional steps would occur over the following two months to finalize the Plan.
- The next 40 minutes of the meeting were directed at the Little Moose Public Lands, the largest unit with the greatest diversity of uses in the region. Comments were generally

supportive of the Vision, Resource Allocations and Management Recommendations in the Draft Plan, but also included the following (summarized or paraphrased here):

- There was a question from the audience about Eagle Rock Trail ownership. BPL staff explained that most of the 3.75 mile trail is on a trails easement on Weyerhaeuser fee land with roughly 1000' and the trailhead on BPL land.
 - An audience member asked if a multiple use (non-motorized) loop was in the plan for Little Moose, to include mountain bike use. Staff replied that the plan allows for exploring that potential on the south part of the Unit but does not commit to it. It was noted that mountain bikes were allowed on the public use roads on the Unit.
 - An audience member encouraged the Bureau to address undesignated camping on the eastern shoreline of Big Moose Pond. The need for outhouses was mentioned. Jim pointed out that the Plan calls for development of designated campsites at that location, with some type of sanitation (type to be determined).
 - There was a question about working with adjacent landowners to address snowmobile connectivity to the west of the Little Moose Public Lands. Staff explained that discussions are ongoing, and an option for a new connecting trail over Little Moose Mountain was included in the Plan to address this issue.
 - It was asked if the landfill site could possibly become a dog park. BPL staff noted that the DEP regulations on maintenance of the landfill cap may preclude some uses.
 - It was noted that the plan needed to better explain the rationale for the P-UA zoning change petition with LUPC (mentioned on 2 widely separated pages).
 - A comment was made stating that Little Moose is very valuable as recreation asset for local families and their visitors.
 - Doug Denico inquired if we are approaching capacity (in terms of recreational development) and if there is a risk of reducing character. Responses indicated the plan is striking a good balance.
- The next 40 minutes of the meeting were directed at the Days Academy Unit, followed by Sugar Island, and the East Shore Public Lands. Comments were once again generally supportive of the Vision, Resource Allocations and Management Recommendations in the Draft Plan, but also included the following (summarized or paraphrased here):
 - Better signage to guide the public to the unit was noted as needed. BPL staff noted problems with posted signs being removed by vandals.
 - There was a question on road maintenance in the unit – including the condition of vehicle access to Kelly Wharf. It was noted that it is possible to drive to that site.
 - There was a question about use at Little Kineo. Staff replied that anecdotal data indicate the trail as having surprisingly regular use, including lots of nonresident vehicles.
 - There was a question about access to the Kineo peninsula from the east (by land). It was stated that the access is for adjacent landowners only; there is no public access right to use the causeway.
 - A participant asked why we are not harvesting at Sugar Island in the winter. Staff answered that insurance, snowmobiling safety/impact, and ice safety are the reasons keeping harvesting to the non-winter months.

- There was a question asking if the Indian burial site is on state land. It was noted that the answer is yes, barely (as described in the Plan).
- After a break, the meeting proceeded to review of the portion of the Draft Plan addressing Kineo and Farm Island State Park lands, and the smaller public lots east and west of Moosehead Lake. Comments and questions included (summarized or paraphrased here):
 - A participant noted that the trails at Mount Kineo need attention. This concern is noted in the Plan and addressed in the recommendations.
 - Visual impacts from proposed wind power projects in the region were noted by a participant in relation to Mount Kineo, and it was asked whether the Bureau would be involved in assessing visual impacts on public lands. It was explained that DEP is the lead agency in permitting such projects, but that the Bureau expects to be consulted regarding visual impacts on visitors to Kineo and other public lands.
 - A participant referenced what they believed to be a POW camp on Farm Island. (The available historical record does not mention such a camp, but does mention a sporting camp, as described in the Plan.)
 - A participant asked if remaining lots at Frenchtown were saleable. BPL staff noted that at least one lot formerly had a camp and could be saleable, while others were probably not developable, and so may have sale value only as buffer from other camps.
 - A participant asked if the Bureau has a ROW to the Shawtown Lot. Staff replied that we do not, but have not had issues with access for timber harvests.
 - Tim Obrey from MDIFW encouraged the Bureau to keep the lots within AMC's properties, given that future public access and rights on surrounding lands may change in the long term.
- Other general comments:
 - There was a question about why the to-be-donated 50-acre recreation sites were not discussed in the plan. Staff replied that management plans typically deal with already acquired resources but that the question of mentioning the sites more would be examined.
 - A participant asked if the Bureau receives the money from logging on its lands. The answer was yes.

Next Steps and Concluding Comments

- Jim Vogel described the next step in the Plan's development, to be completed over the next month, in which the Bureau will revise the Draft Plan based on comments received and in advance of a Public Meeting at which the Final Draft Plan will be presented.
- AC members were also reminded of the opportunity to provide additional thoughts or comments over the next two weeks on any part of the Plan, and that an email and mailing address to submit comments are provided on the bottom of the meeting agenda. The meeting was concluded at 7:45 with a thank you to all who attended.

Additional Pre and Post-Meeting Comments

- AC member Luke Muzzy of Plum Creek Company had called Jim Vogel prior to the meeting to ask some questions and provide some comments on the Draft Plan. In addition, AC

member Allen Phillips passed along written comments from his daughter Marcia Phillips, a long-time visitor to the Public Lands in the region. All of the comments were fairly minor in nature and will be addressed in the Final Draft Plan.

- During the two-week period following the meeting and concluding on April 1, 2016, 1 person submitted additional written comments. These comments were also fairly minor in nature and will also be addressed in the Final Draft Plan.

Attachment 1: Meeting Agenda

Attachment 2: PowerPoint Presentation (slides in handout form)



Moosehead Region Management Plan

Advisory Committee Meeting

March 17, 2016

5:30 to 8:00 pm

Greenville Town Hall

Agenda

- 5:30 Welcome and Introductions, Meeting's Objectives and Goals
- 5:35 Little Moose Public Lands – Review of character of Unit, Vision, proposed Resource Allocations and Management Recommendations [40 min.]
- 6:15 Days Academy Public Lands – Review of character of Unit, Vision, proposed Resource Allocations, and Management Recommendations [20 min.]
- 6:35 Sugar Island and East Shore Public Lands – Review of proposed Resource Allocations and Management Recommendations [20 min.]
- 6:55 Break [10 min.]
- 7:05 Farm Island and Kineo Undeveloped State Park Lands – Review of proposed Resource Allocations and Management Recommendations [20 min.]
- 7:25 Smaller Lots East and West of Moosehead Lake – Review of proposed Resource Allocations and Management Recommendations [30 min.]
- 7:55 Next Steps

Adjourn

You may send **written comments** on the Draft Plan by **April 1** to:

Jim Vogel

Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands

22 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

OR

Jim.Vogel@maine.gov

The webpage for the Moosehead Region Plan can be found at: http://www.maine.gov/dacf/moosehead_region. This page will be updated with the Final Plan and announcement about an upcoming Public Meeting and written comment period.

Moosehead Regional Management Plan

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Bureau of Parks and Lands

Moosehead Region Advisory Committee
Meeting
March 17, 2016



DRAFT PLAN REVIEW



Public Planning Process

- **Step 1: Scoping (6 mo.)**
 - Gather and share information on the resources present on the lands
 - Seek input from the public regarding their interests and ideas for uses and management of the property and issues of concern
- **Step 2: Draft Management Plan (9 mo.)**
 - BPL crafts a 15 Year plan for the lands that protects the exceptional natural and biological resources and balances the variety of land uses and recreation interests on the parcels
 - BPL presents Draft Plan to the Advisory Committee for review and comment
- **Step 3: Final Draft Management Plan (1 mo.)**
 - BPL presents Final Draft Management Plan to public for comment and discussion
 - BPL responds to comments and prepares Final Plan
- **Step 4: Final Management Plan (1 mo.)**
 - Presented to BPL Director for his recommendation
 - Presented to DACF Commissioner for his approval
 - Plan is adopted with signature of Commissioner

Public Reserved Lands of the Moosehead Region

- 4 major Units and 7 smaller lots in Piscataquis and Somerset Counties
- >31,000 acres in total
- Plan also addresses undeveloped State Park lands at Kineo and Farm Island (1,780 acres total)

Name	Fee acres
Little Moose Unit	13,951
Days Academy Unit	7,460
Sugar Island Unit	4,491
Moosehead East Shore Lands	1,660
Beaver Cove	782
Bowdoin College Grant East	935
Shawtown	248
Frenchtown	30
West Outlet	842
Rockwood Strip	297
Sandwich Academy Grant	491

Presentation Outline

- We will focus on review of Section IV – Resources and Management Issues of the Draft Plan, specifically:
 - Vision (major units only)
 - Dominant Resource Use Allocations
 - Management Recommendations
- Will spend most time on major Units on Moosehead Lake
- Less detailed review of smaller lots
- Feel free to ask questions or offer comments at any point in presentation
- Comments are also welcome on any of the first 3 sections of the Draft Plan though we won't review them here

Little Moose Unit



View of Moosehead Lake from Big Moose Mountain

Character of the Unit

- Adjacent to the town of Greenville and State Rt. 6/15
- Well developed public access road system
- 7 ponds ≥ 10 acres, including 4 Heritage Brook Trout ponds
- 500+ acre bog complex; exemplary forest ecosystems on parts of Big and Little Moose Mountain
- 6 primitive walk-in campsites
- 12+ miles of hiking trails, one extending off the unit onto Plum Creek lands
- 40+ miles of snowmobile and ATV trails (largely on shared routes) connected to regional networks
- Site of former landfill and borrow pit



Hikers at overlook on Little Moose Mountain trail

General Vision for the Unit

- Accommodate a range of hiking, backpacking, primitive camping, ORV, fishing, and hunting experiences, including walk-in camping and fishing at high-value ponds, and hand-carry boat access to the most accessible ponds
- Protect backcountry non-motorized recreation on Little Moose Mountain
- Explore opportunities for new types trails and/or a boardwalk, wildlife-oriented amenities on south part of unit
- Protect ecological values associated with high-elevation ponds and Wiggins Brook bog
- More than two-thirds of the unit managed primarily for timber, emphasizing high value forest products, while providing a variety of wildlife habitats and protecting other significant resources



View from Trout Pond campsite

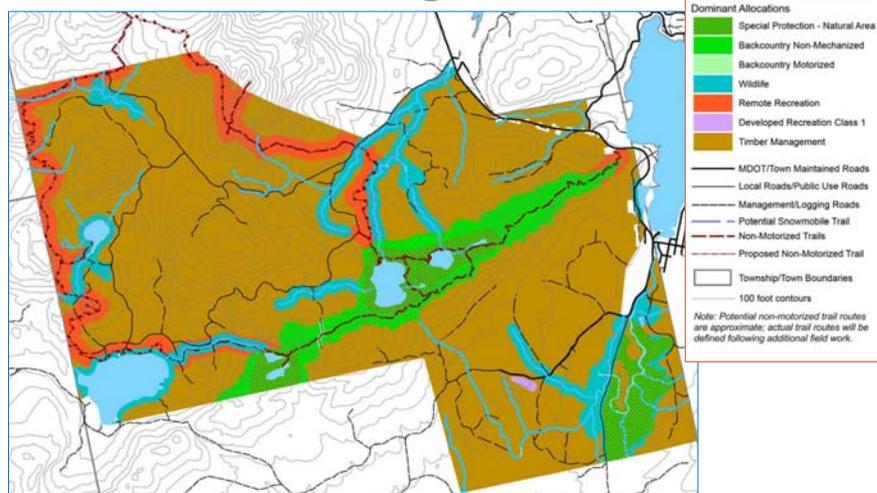
Resource Allocations

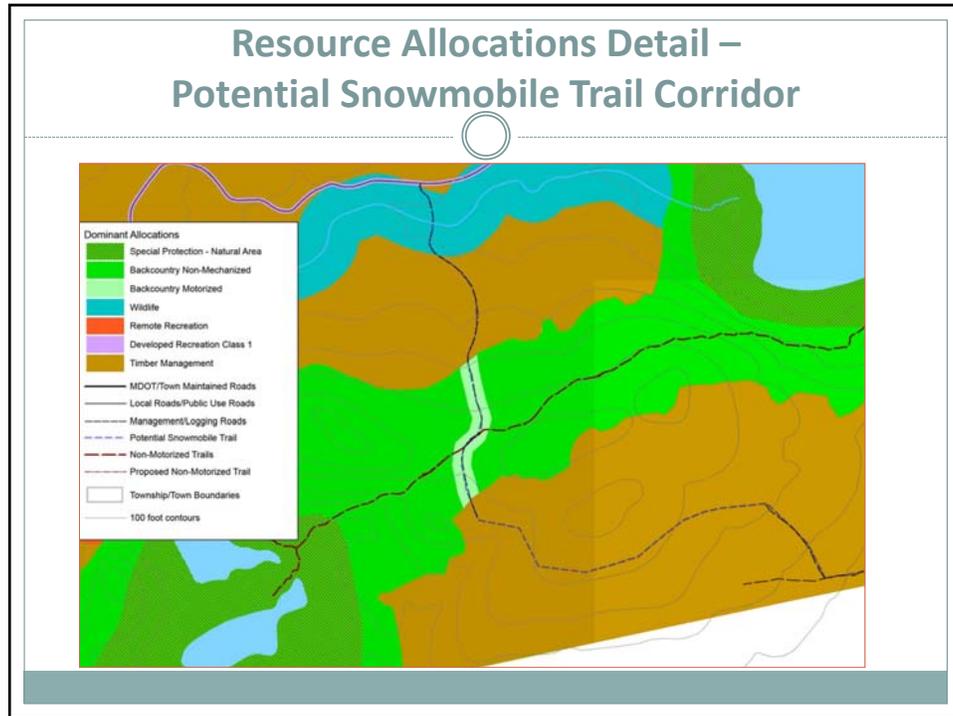
- **Dominant allocations are not directly comparable to 1988**
 - Current Plan is based on the Revised IRP (2000)
 - Allocation categories have changed
 - How some allocations are applied have evolved and been refined since 1988, especially Visual Consideration areas
 - New parcels were acquired in 1990 (1,430 acres)
- **In broad terms, there is continuity with the allocations applied in the 1988 Plan, with some key differences**
 - Backcountry Non-Motorized area vs. Backcountry with timber management as a secondary use
 - Expanded Remote Recreation trail corridors

Resource Allocations

- Summary of allocations :
 - Special Protection and Wildlife allocations protect exemplary natural communities, riparian areas, and a deer yard
 - Backcountry Non-Motorized allocation has been applied to the majority of Little Moose Mountain to protected the recreation experience associated with the trail system and the ponds
 - Developed Recreation and Remote Recreation allocations protect recreation areas and existing/proposed trail corridors outside of the Backcountry area
 - Timber Management allocations continue the historical emphasis on timber production on most of the unit, with appropriate visual, recreation, and wildlife considerations.

Resource Allocations





Management Recommendations

- **Recreation:** Continue the focus on backcountry hiking and walk-in camping and fishing on the unit, with a limited number of additional or expanded facilities:
 - × Long-distance hiking loop by connecting existing trails
 - × New trailhead at east end of Little Moose Mountain trail
 - × Continued restoration of existing trails; cooperate to establish a local trail development and maintenance group
 - × New primitive campsite(s) near east shore of Big Indian Pond
 - × Potential backpacking campsites in conjunction with development of loop trail
 - × Snowmobile trail linkage over Little Moose ridge, if needed, to maintain regional network connections when roads are plowed for timber hauling
 - × Consider options for development of short, easy interpretive and/or wildlife-oriented trail in the vicinity of Wiggins Brook bog or at the former landfill
 - × Work with local trail advocates to explore options for a walking/running trail south of Little Moose ridge, using management roads for parts of the route

Recommendations (cont.)

- Several other management issues are addressed
 - Continued improvement of Mountain Road to complete public use road loop
 - Improvement of signage and visitor information on the Unit, in cooperation with community organizations
 - Assess Fire Warden cabin for removal or preservation/restoration
 - Require Special Use Permit for snowmobile access to Big Moose Pond
 - Petition LUPC for rezoning of the P-UA zone in the Moose Brook drainage

Timber Management

- Continuation of long-term program to improve timber quality on the unit, with the overall objectives of growing high value timber products while maintaining visual integrity and enhancing the diversity of wildlife habitat.



In Summary...



- The 2016 Plan expands the long-distance hiking opportunities on the Little Moose Unit and allows for potential development of some unique new trails and related facilities in proximity to Greenville...
- ...while protecting sensitive resources and backcountry recreation opportunities and continuing to grow valuable timber products that support Bureau operations and provide a diverse forested environment.



Irises on Wiggins Brook impoundment shore

Days Academy Unit



View toward Little Spencer from Little Kineo trail

Character of the Unit

- 7,460 acres of relatively remote and undeveloped forestland
- 30-45 minute drive on logging roads from Kokadjo
- Hiking trail up Little Kineo peak
- 2 drive-to/boat-access campsites
- Exemplary natural communities and rare plants on Little Kineo
- Most of road system is open to ATV use; snowmobile trail skirts southern boundary
- Old-field wildlife habitat maintained at Deer Head Farm



Kelly Wharf campsite on Moosehead shoreline

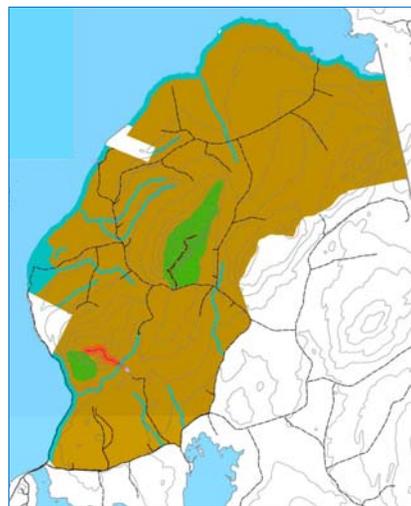
General Vision for the Unit

- Provide remote recreation opportunities (short hikes up modest peaks with Moosehead views, limited drive-to and water-access camping, hunting) with nearly 8 miles of Moosehead Lake shoreline
- Provide ATV and snowmobile riding, including important ITS connector trail
- Protect ecological values associated with Little Kineo and west side of Shaw Mtn.
- More than 85% of the unit managed primarily for timber, emphasizing high value forest products, while providing a variety of wildlife habitats and protecting other significant resources

Resource Allocations

- Special Protection allocation on Little Kineo peak and cliff, and on west side of Shaw Mountain to protect exemplary and rare plant communities
- Wildlife allocation along the Moosehead shoreline, in riparian areas, and at Deer Head Farm
- Remote Recreation buffer surrounding proposed Shaw Mountain trail
- Developed Recreation allocation surrounding trailheads and campsites
- Timber Management allocation on remaining acres

Resource Allocations



Management Recommendations

- Focus is on timber management and recreation opportunities provided by primitive campsites and short hiking trails
- Recreation recommendations maintain status quo while providing an additional day-hike opportunity:
 - New trail up Shaw Mountain
 - Increased trail maintenance as resources allow
 - Installed “shared use” road signage on roads open to ATVs
- Wildlife recommendations focused on perpetuation of old-field habitat
- Timber Management recommendations continue management for high quality forest products and improvement of forest quality



Little Kineo trailhead

In Summary...

- The 2016 Plan continues the general direction of management at Days Academy while expanding hiking options with a new trail, clarifying shared use road status, and continuing to grow valuable timber products that support Bureau operations and provide a diverse forested environment.



View toward Moosehead from Little Kineo peak

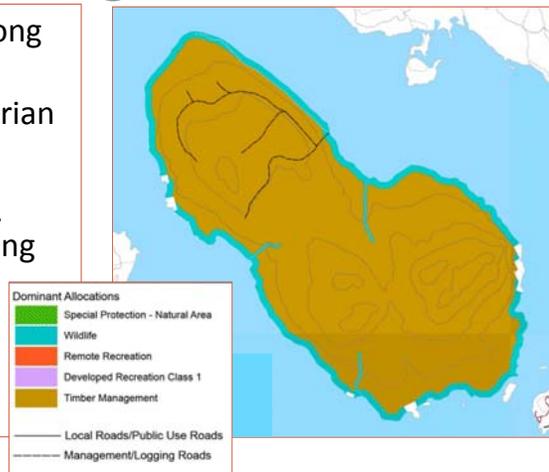
Sugar Island



Sugar Island boat-access campsite seen from the water

Resource Allocations

- Wildlife allocation along the Moosehead shoreline, and in riparian areas
- Timber Management allocation on remaining acres



Management Recommendations

- Focus is on timber management and recreation opportunities provided by boat-access campsites
- Recreation recommendations include option for additional campsites, map with GPS campsite locations
- Timber Management recommendations continue management for high quality forest products and improvement of forest quality; barge landing removed between harvest cycles



Log truck with timber from Sugar Island unloading from barge

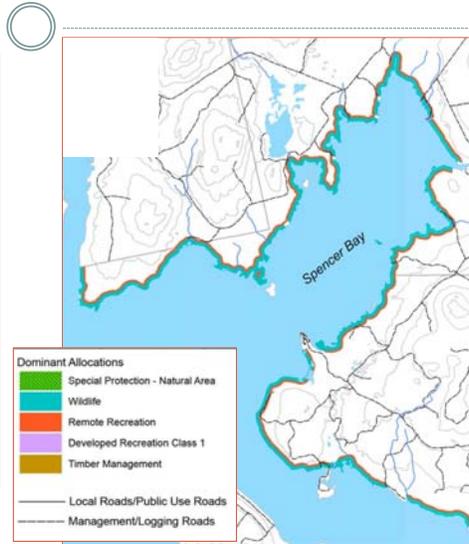
Moosehead Eastshore Lands



Drive-to Campsite at Jewett Cove on Spencer Bay

Resource Allocations

- Wildlife allocation to a distance of 330 feet from the Moosehead shoreline
- Remote Recreation allocation on remaining interior 220 feet of shoreline strip
- Developed Recreation at drive-to campgrounds



Management Recommendations

- Focus is on recreation opportunities provided by primitive campgrounds and campsites and maintenance of visual buffer between the lake and surrounding working forest
- Recreation recommendations
 - Maintain status quo with vehicle and boat-based maintenance, camp host
 - Option for expansion of sites if justified by demand



Spencer Bay Campground

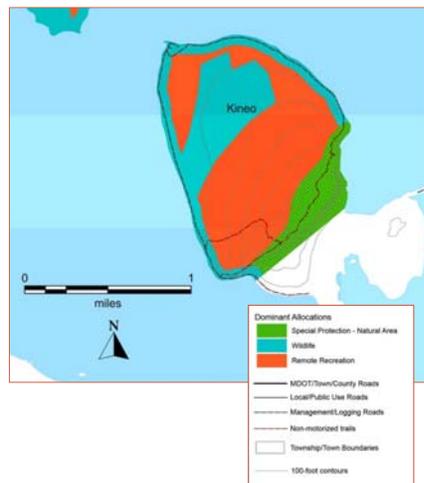
Kineo and Farm Island



Kineo Cliffs in the winter, as viewed from Kineo peninsula

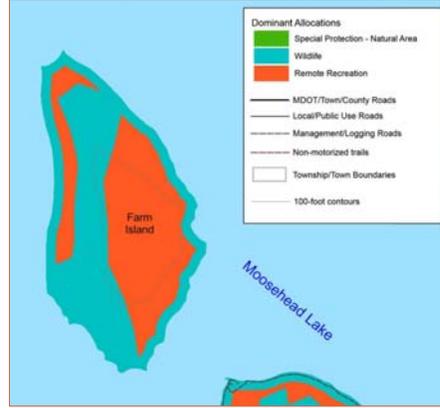
Kineo

- **Allocations:**
 - Special Protection - Kineo peak and cliffs
 - Wildlife - deer yard and riparian zone
 - Remote Recreation - remainder
- **Recommendations:**
 - Focus will remain hiking trails and day use/camp site at Hardscrabble Point
 - Interpretation Plan to explore potential for enhancements to on-site information/learning
 - Continue agreement for public use of boat landing



Farm Island

- **Allocations:**
 - Wildlife - Deer yard and shoreline riparian zone
 - Remote Recreation - remainder
- **Recommendations:**
 - Focus will remain shoreline boat-access camping



Smaller Lots – East of Moosehead



Boat launch at South Inlet Campground – Frenchtown Lot

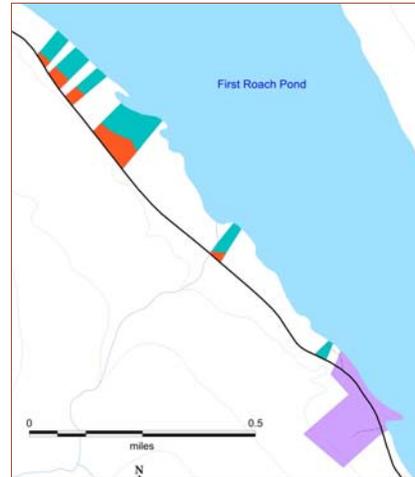
Frenchtown Lot

- **Allocations:**

- Dev. Recreation - parcel leased to commercial camp
- Wildlife – riparian zone
- Remote Recreation - remainder

- **Recommendations:**

- Focus will remain continuation of campground lease
- Potential for new trailhead to serve a future trail to No. 4 Mountain



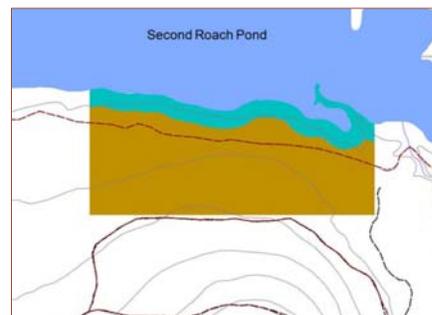
Shawtown Lot

- **Allocations:**

- About 82% allocated to Timber Management,
- Remainder to Wildlife (riparian)

- **Recommendations:**

- Timber management focused on increasing quality of timber
- BPL will consult with AMC regarding timber harvesting near trail



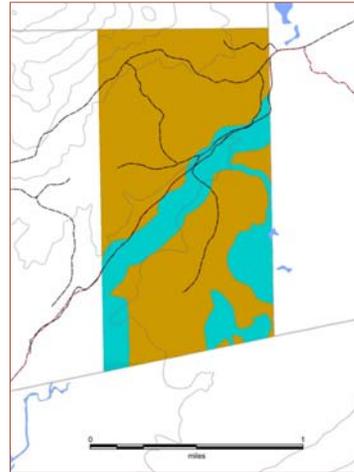
Beaver Cove Lot

- **Allocations:**

- About 75% allocated to Timber Management
- Remainder to Wildlife (deer yard, wetlands, riparian)

- **Recommendations:**

- Timber management focused on increasing quality of timber and development of high value deer wintering areas
- BPL will consult with AMC regarding timber harvesting near trails



Bowdoin College Grant Lot

- **Allocations:**

- About 94% allocated to Timber Management
- Remainder to Wildlife (riparian)

- **Recommendations:**

- Timber management focused on increasing quality of timber, priority for harvest in near term
- BPL will consult with AMC regarding timber harvesting near trails



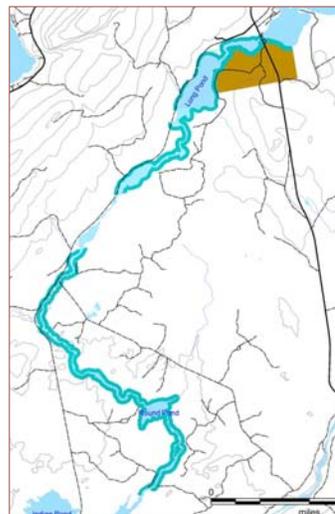
Smaller Lots – West of Moosehead



Hand-launch boat access to West Outlet below Rt. 6/15 bridge

West Outlet Lot

- **Allocations:**
 - Original public lot straddling Rt. 6/15 is primarily allocated to Timber Management
 - Remainder is riparian zones allocated to Wildlife
- **Recommendations:**
 - Focus on recreation and wildlife values of shorelines
 - ORV trails continue
 - Potential for new pedestrian trail to Moosehead shoreline
 - Timber Management with special sensitivity to visual resources



Rockwood Strip Lots

- **Allocations:**

- More than 90% of the lots are allocated to Timber Management
- Remaining acres along minor streams and Moose River allocated to Wildlife

- **Recommendations:**

- Timber management will seek to maintain or improve deer cover
- Informal pedestrian access to Moose River will continue



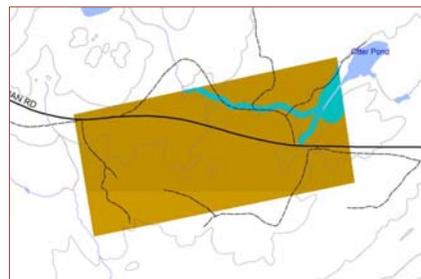
Sandwich Academy Grant Lot

- **Allocations:**

- More than 90% of the lot is allocated to Timber Management
- Remaining riparian and wetland areas allocated to Wildlife

- **Recommendations:**

- Timber Management continues with special sensitivity to visual resources along highway



Comments



- In addition to comments provided here, all are welcome to comment during the next two weeks, via a phone call or in writing (email or regular mail)

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207-287-2163

Thank You!