

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

Aroostook Hills Region Management Plan 5 Year Review – Draft Plan Amendment

The Bureau proposes the following amendment to the 2009 Aroostook Hills Region Management Plan in response to a new issue that has been identified during the 5 Year Review process.

Proposed Maple Sugaring Lease at the Scopan Unit

Amendment proposed to modify Scopan Unit Recommendation #1 (page 65 of Plan), under “Natural Resource Management Issues:”

Allow a lease of up to 300 acres on Scopan Ridge for a maple sugaring operation, with the following requirements:

- 1) BPL will designate the lease area with the objective of minimizing impacts to the larger MNAP-defined Spruce – Fir – Northern Hardwoods Ecosystem.
- 2) the lease will be designed to minimize impacts to natural community values to the extent that is reasonably possible, while accommodating the operational requirements of a maple sugaring operation.

Within the area to be designated for the lease, the Plan’s restriction on timber management within the potential ecological reserve area is eliminated to allow removal of trees as required for the maple sugaring operation. The lease area is removed from designation as potential ecological reserve, while approximately 1,484 acres on Scopan Ridge retain the designation as potential ecological reserve.