

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry  
Bureau of Parks and Lands  
**St. John Uplands Region Management Plan**  
**Advisory Committee Meeting**  
November 29, 2017 5:30 – 7:30 PM  
BPL Northern Region Office, Ashland ME

**MEETING MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT** [\*: non-Advisory Committee members)

Mike McLellan, North Maine Woods	Bill Greaves, Maine Forest Service
Matt LaRoche, Allagash Wilderness Waterway	Eben Sypitkowski, Baxter State Park
John L. Martin, Maine House of Rep.	Frank Frost, Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
Josh Philbrook, Irving Woodlands	* Melford Pelletier, AWW Advisory Council
Wade Kelly, T. Kelly Camps	* David Basley, AWW Advisory Council
Troy Jackson, Maine Senate	

**BPL STAFF PRESENT**

Vern Labbe, Northern Region Manager	Rex Turner, Recreation Planner
David Pierce, Forester	Nate Webb, IF&W Wildlife Biologist assigned to BPL
Jacob Guimond, Forester	Jim Vogel, Management Plan Coordinator

**Welcome/Introductions**

Jim Vogel welcomed the attendees, and asked all present to introduce themselves. A meeting packet was provided with the agenda (Attachment A), scoping notes (also distributed in advance via email), and base maps of each management unit to be addressed in the Plan. This was followed by a statement of the meeting's purpose: 1) to discuss issues and opportunities that have come to light during the scoping phase of the Plan process and 2) to discuss potential management actions in response to issues and opportunities. Attendees were reminded of the opportunity to provide additional thoughts or comments over the next three weeks, and that contact info is provided on the bottom of the meeting agenda. PowerPoint slides of maps and site photos were projected to assist in the discussion (Attachment B).

**Discussion**

The discussion was guided by the scoping notes, with the focus on the management issues described there, beginning with the Gero Island and Chesuncook Unit and proceeding north through the Plan area. Site maps focused on the Webster Lake portion of the Telos Unit and the ecological reserve portion of the Chamberlain Lake Unit were distributed during the meeting (also distributed in advance via email). Comments made during the meeting on each item are summarized in **BLUE FONT** in the attached version of the notes (Attachment C).

### **Next Steps and Concluding Comments**

Attendees were advised that the Advisory Committee will be convened again once a Draft Plan has been completed by the Bureau, and that the Draft Plan will be distributed to the committee in advance of the meeting. Members were reminded that updates, meeting notices and documents will be posted on the plan website (the URL for which has changed due to a revision of the region name from St John-Allagash to St John Uplands to avoid confusion with the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Plan).

The meeting was concluded with a thank you to all who attended, and was adjourned at approximately 7:20 pm.

*Respectfully Submitted by  
Jim Vogel*

### **Written Comments submitted during 3-week comment period (ending 12/22/17)**

There were no written comments submitted between November 30 and December 22. However, on December 27 comments were submitted by Cathy Johnson of the Natural Resources Council of Maine in response to the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Advisory Council's proposal to change the gate location at Indian Pond Stream, on the Chamberlain Lake Unit. Because this issue has also been discussed in this Plan process (see page 9 of the meeting comments, Attachment C), Cathy's comments and the correspondence that prompted them are included here; see Attachment D. The comments will also be posted on the Plan webpage.

Attachment A: Meeting Agenda

Attachment B: PowerPoint Slides

Attachment C: Comments on Issues and Opportunities

Attachment D: Written Comments – Cathy Johnson, NRCM

## ATTACHMENT A



St. John Uplands Region Management Plan  
Advisory Committee Meeting  
November 29, 2017  
5:30 to 7:30 pm  
BPL Northern Region Office, Ashland

### Agenda

- 5:30 Welcome and Introductions, Purpose of Meeting
- 5:35 Gero Island and Chesuncook Public Lands – Review of Issues, Needs and Opportunities; Discussion of potential management recommendations [15 min.]
- 5:50 Telos Public Lands – Review of Issues, Needs and Opportunities; Discussion of potential management recommendations [30 min.]
- 6:20 Chamberlain Public Lands – Review of Issues, Needs and Opportunities; Discussion of potential management recommendations [20 min.]
- 6:40 Break
- 6:50 Round Pond Public Lands – Review of Issues, Needs and Opportunities; Discussion of potential management recommendations [20 min.]
- 7:10 Small Lots South of and Near Allagash – Review of Issues, Needs and Opportunities; Discussion of potential Management Recommendations [20 min.]
- 7:25 Next Steps

### Adjourn

You may send written comments to be considered in preparing the first Draft Plan by Dec. 22 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 St. John Uplands Region Plan can be found at:

[http://www.maine.gov/dacf/stjohn\\_uplands](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/stjohn_uplands).

This page will be updated with draft plans and announcements about upcoming meetings and written comment periods.

**\*\*REMAINDER OF ATTACHMENT B IS PROVIDED SEPARATELY\*\***



## **Purpose of this Meeting**

- Discuss issues and opportunities that have come to light during scoping phase
- Discuss potential management actions in response to issues and opportunities
- Follow-up thoughts and comments are welcome!
  - via letter/email/phone
  - We will meet again once a Draft Plan has been written

**Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands – St John Uplands Region Plan**  
**Summary of Resources & Issues/Concerns/Needs/Opportunities**

**BLUE FONT: Comments from 11/29/17 Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Gero Island and Chesuncook**

Summary of Resources

- Fee ownership and acquisition history:
  - **Gero Island:** ~3,180 acres, designated as an ecoreserve in 2001. The east part of the island was an original public lot (partially flowed by the lake). Several parcels were acquired from GNP in 1975 and remainder from Dyer Resources in 1984. Partial interests (C/U) on much of the island at the time of the 1980 plan. State has since gained full fee ownership.
  - **Chesuncook:** ~736 acres, land in and surrounding Chesuncook Village and along about 2 miles of the NW shore of the lake, extending about ½ mile inland. The lands were acquired from GNP in 1975, at the same time as the west part of Gero Island. The Chesuncook Lake House lot, the adjacent former ag lease lot, and a few other former camp lease lots (total < 10 ac.) have been sold.
- Access and Roads:
  - **Primary Access:** Access to Chesuncook Village is via the Golden Road, connecting to Pine Stream Road running west of the Unit (all private haul roads; abutter leaves gates open). The improved road coming into Chesuncook Village from the west was constructed about 10 years ago; prior to that, the primary access to the village was a 4WD road coming from the south and following the lakeshore.
  - **On-Unit Roads:** The primary management road (winter road) at Chesuncook runs about 70% of the length of the lot, accessed from near the center of the west boundary of the lot. Main Street and Lake Street within the village are county roads; other improved roads in the village are BPL property, as is the unimproved Olive Street on the lakeshore. BPL and Piscataquis County upgraded Lake, Maine and High Streets
- Recreation and amenities:
  - **Campsites:** 4 campsites on Gero Island, managed as part of the Penobscot River Corridor along with much of the Chesuncook Lake shoreline on which an easement was acquired in 2006. Maintained by PRC staff.
  - **Boat Access:**
    - **Off-Unit:** Trailered boat access to Chesuncook at the northern end (Umbazooksus Stream), 2.25 miles north of Gero Island, and southern end (Brookfield facility off the Golden Road, near Ripogenus dam).
    - **Chesuncook Village:** Graveyard Point gravel launch developed by GNN prior to state ownership; now maintained by BPL/PRC, with a seasonal floating dock. The public also has access to the cove south of the point, site of the former public landing (the dock in the cove is a private facility; see below).
  - **Private facilities:** In addition to the several camps on private lots in the village, nearly all occupied seasonally, the Chesuncook Lake House provides year-round lodging, and a floating boat dock in the cove near the lodge. The cove is also an FAA-designated seaplane base. Although there are no formal trails, most of Lake Street is non-motorized in the winter and used for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

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- **ORV trails:**
  - Snowmobile trails: A designated snowmobile trail follows the road into the village from the west. This route is used by ice fishermen and others to access Chesuncook Lake. Trail grooming equipment is based at Chesuncook Lake House.
  - ATV trails: There are no designated ATV routes on the Unit. (ATVs are not permitted within the North Maine Woods managed area.)
- Historic/Cultural Resources:
  - **Chesuncook Village Historic District:** The Village and surrounding area (some of which is state-owned) was placed on the Register of Historic Places in 1973. The Historic District includes the entire village area and Graveyard Point. BPL maintains historic bunkhouse at the point.
  - **LUPC UA zoning:** The village area, and much of the public land west of the village, is zoned by LUPC as an Unusual Area (UA) Protection Subdistrict in accordance with the historic resources present.
- Leases:
  - Church and parsonage lot in Chesuncook Village (Union Evangelical Church owns the structures; parsonage was conveyed by GNN in 1983, the church/community building was gifted by the state in 2014.)
  - Half-acre camplot lease adjacent to southernmost lot in village.
  - Expired small ag lease (garden plot) in the village, between the church and Graveyard Point; BPL mows the lease lot periodically.
  - Chesuncook Village Association formerly had a lease for boat access near the north Village, with access off High Street.
- Hunting and trapping:
  - Both occur on the unit. No bear bait sites.
- Special Resources:
  - MNAP has mapped an exemplary **Low Elevation Spruce-Fir Forest** near the center of Gero Island. 1980 Plan also describes scattered individual and small stands of old growth white pine.
  - No exemplary natural communities identified on the Chesuncook parcels.
- Lakes and Ponds:
  - **Chesuncook Lake:** 23,000 acres, designated a “Class 1A” lake, with statewide significance. Fisheries, wildlife, botanical, cultural and physical resources are all rated as “outstanding.” Special fishing regs include: daily bag limit on landlocked salmon of 3 fish, only 1 may exceed 18 inches; others regarding smelt; open to ice fishing Jan 1-Mar 31.
- Timber Resources:
  - Timber harvest operations occur on most of the Chesuncook acreage outside the village area.
  - Most recent harvest was in 2011. Total = 6,952 cords.

### Issues/Needs/Opportunities

#### 1. Access/Roads:

- Need to develop a maintenance plan for the roads and streets within the Unit, in collaboration with Piscataquis County.
  - Vern Labbe reported that Chesuncook Village residents/campowners have expressed varied opinions/preferences as to whether the road into the village should be open to vehicular

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traffic. Having a gate on the road could have implications for future investments in maintenance of the road.

### 2. *Timber Management*

- To protect visual resources, Visual Class I is applied near the Chesuncook shoreline and Chesuncook Village.
  - There have been no complaints from Village residents about harvesting on the vicinity of the village; some residents have asked that hazard trees be removed from their lots while harvesting equipment was available on the unit.
  - Gero Island has not been harvested since it came into state ownership, other than a small harvest in the winter of 1980-81 (and the wood stayed on the island), and not for about 100 years in total on most acres; however, with the passage of time, many of the old trees have died and fallen, leaving considerable large woody debris.

### 3. *Administrative Issues:*

- **Chesuncook Village boat access:** BPL has historically had an agreement with the operators of the Chesuncook Lake House regarding use of the state-owned shoreline in the cove, where CLH installs a seasonal floating dock and stores a few boats. The Bureau's primary concern has been that the general public be able to use the site for boat launching; use of the primary launch site at Graveyard Point is at times made difficult by strong winds. BPL needs to develop a lease for the dock in the cove.

## TELOS UNIT

### Summary of Resources

- Fee Ownership and Acquisition:
  - **3 Original Public Lots** in T7 R11, T6 R11, and T6 R12, portions of which are flowed by Chamberlain Lake.
  - **T6 R11:** 19,029 acres, most of the Township outside the public lot and comprising the majority of the Unit was acquired from Great Northern in 1975.
  - **T7 R11:** 1,440 acre parcel was acquired from Diamond International in 1978.
  - **AWW transfers:** The portions of the public lots and acquired parcels within the AWW restricted zone were transferred to AWW management in the 1980s.
  
- Access and Roads:
  - **Primary Access:** From the south via the Golden Road and Telos Road, and similarly from the north, via Pinkham Road and other major private haul roads connecting to Telos Road. Vehicles must pass through North Maine Woods checkpoints (Telos, 6 Mile), where per person fees are charged.
  - **Road Easements:** Acquisitions from GNN and Diamond Int. excepted the Telos Road (80-foot corridor) and some other shorter segments of road branching off Telos Road in T7 R11. Deeds include easements to State for use of these roads.
  - **Roads on Unit:**
    - Telos Road is owned by Katahdin Forest Management; BPL has assumed maintenance responsibilities for the 7 miles north of Chamberlain bridge.

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- Most of the Unit is accessible to vehicles via the extensive network of management roads. Some portions of the road system are closed/gated.
- Coffeelos Road and North/South Coffeelos Roads, extending from Telos Road to the north and south sides of Coffeelos Pond, have been designated as public use roads, with a higher standard of maintenance than management roads.
- North Coffeelos Road and Useless Road provide routes into the Scientific Forest Management Area of Baxter State Park.
- Ponds:
  - **Coffeelos Pond:** 198 acres, the only substantial body of water entirely in the Unit.
    - Rated “outstanding” for fishery resources and is in Resource Class 1B (statewide significance), per the ME Wildland Lakes Assessment.
    - Designated a Heritage Brook Trout Pond by MDIF&W, with special fishing regulations (artificial lures only, 1 fish limit on trout, min. length 14 in., closed to ice fishing).
  - **Webster Lake:** 530 acres, about 1/3 of which lies within the Telos Unit while the remainder lies within Baxter State Park.
    - Rated “significant” for fishery resources and “outstanding” for wildlife resources, and is in Resource Class 1B (statewide significance), per the ME Wildland Lakes Assessment.
    - Special fishing regulations: Open to ice fishing Jan 1-Mar 31; 2 fish limit on trout, min. length 10 in, only 1 may exceed 12 in; 1 fish limit on togue.
  - **Other small ponds:** Little Coffeelos Pond (6 acres) and Imlos Pond (10 acres); no identified significant or outstanding natural values, per Wildland Lake Assessment.
- Other Special Resources:
  - Two “**rare and exemplary**” **natural communities** have been mapped by MNAP on the Unit, a patterned fen ecosystem and low sedge fen, both associated with Chamberlain fen, located about 1/2 mile south of Telos Rd.
- Wildlife:
  - **DWAs:** LUPC-zoned deer wintering areas surround Webster Stream and Webster Pond and adjacent areas north of the pond, and also the west end of Telos Lake.
  - **Rare fauna:** The Quebec Emerald, a rare dragonfly, has been recorded at the fen. A bald eagle nest site has been recorded on the west shore of Telos Lake (in the AWW).
  - **Wetlands:** Several other small wetlands identified as Inland Waterfowl and Wading Bird habitat have been mapped on the unit.
- Recreation and Amenities
  - Campsites:
    - **Coffeelos Pond;** 3 roadside campsites along South Coffeelos Road and 2 roadside campsites along North Coffeelos Road. The campsites are maintained by NMW. The sites are ~500-700 feet from the pond, with informal trail access to the shore.
    - **Webster Lake:** One boat access camp site on the north shore, maintained by Baxter SP. An additional camp site at the west end of the lake, at the end of the portage trail from Telos dam, has not been maintained in recent years but BPL intends to re-establish the site. (There is another campsite at the outlet/east end of the lake, in Baxter SP)
  - Boat Access: **Carry-in launch site** at SW shore of Coffeelos Pond, about 200 feet from the access road, with a few roadside parking spaces and informal access trail. Several rowboats and canoes are stored here as well as on the shoreline near the campsite access trails.



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- **Trails:** 2/3-mile **portage trail** from Telos Dam to Webster Lake, following an old road along Webster Stream. The trail was recently improved. No other trails on the Unit
- **Snowmobile trails:** A designated snowmobile trail enters the Unit from the south, and follows a management road to Telos Dam, within the AWW. This route is used by ice fishermen and others to access Telos Lake. There is also a short route bypassing the thoroughfare on the west side of Chamberlain Bridge (partly within the AWW), and a short segment linking Snake Pond Road and Chamberlain Lake (mainly within the AWW). There are no other designated routes on the Unit.
- **ATV trails:** There are no designated ATV routes on the Unit. (ATVs are not permitted within the North Maine Woods managed area.)
- **Hunting and trapping:**
  - Both occur on the unit. There are 6 bear bait sites within T6 R11 managed by NMW.
- **Timber Resources:**
  - Most of the area has been harvested in the past 40+ years of state ownership, with winter harvests occurring 26 of the last 30 years. Harvests over the past decade have totaled 50,287 cords (second only to Round Pond within that time span). The most recent harvest occurred last winter.

### Issues/needs/opportunities

#### 1. Recreation

- Some anglers and IF&W have expressed desire for **trailed boat access to Webster Lake**. There is currently no road access to the lake, and it has been managed for a remote carry-in boating and angling experience.
  - Making the lake drive-in would change the character of the Lake; it is likely some anglers would favor drive-in access while others prefer the limited access remain to preserve the remote experience, particularly since lakes of this size and with its varied fishing opportunities without motorized boats are not numerous.
  - IF&W has noted a decline in access to the lake (there was road access years ago), and have heard requests over the years for improved access.
  - May be potential for road access with parking closer to the lake but remaining outside the zoned deer yard, with a trail to drag in small aluminum boats
  - Some motor HP restriction would perhaps be necessary if boat access were improved.
- Interest has been expressed in establishing **additional small group campsites on Webster Lake**
  - Baxter State Park has cleaned up the inlet campsite and brought parts of a privy from another site there; plans are in the works for a new privy to allow that site to be reopened.
  - Use of the campsites on the lake is believed to be low (~4-5 nights a season), mainly coming from organized groups that come through each year, such as Kiev/Wavus camps.
- Suggestion has been made to **create a hiking trail along the south shore of Webster Lake** by clearing the historic road. The trail, with the Webster Stream portage trail, would connect AWW at Telos Dam to Baxter SP. May be potential to connect to Woods and Water National Monument if similar road clearing and trail connections occurred within Baxter SP.
  - Trail would not have value on BPL alone; makes sense only if tied into trail system at Baxter SP
  - Trail network does exist to cross Baxter SP as suggested, via the Freezeout Trail, but the park has mainly been minimizing (rather than adding) trail connections to abutting lands

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- Old road on BPL runs through low ground at the base of the slope running down to the lake and so is wet, not a suitable track for a future trail.
  - **Boats stored at Coffeelos Pond and Webster Lake** are not in compliance with BPL policy as described in the IRP (directed at backcountry ponds but also applicable to more accessible ponds): stored >+ 25 feet from shoreline, owner identified on the craft, no decrepit boats.
    - Vern Labbe discussed the nature of the BPL-wide challenge with boat storage at remote ponds as occurs here, and complications associated with attempting to enforce the policy. It is difficult to identify who owns unmarked/unregistered boats; people are often unhappy when their belongings are removed; considerable staff effort is required both to gain control of storage at particular ponds, and to manage this use going forward.
    - Jim Vogel described larger scale problem with boat storage at the Cold Stream Forest in the Western Region, and suggested pending Plan recommendations and BPL actions at that site may help point the way for other locations, including Telos.
  - The Bureau would like to upgrade the campsites at **Kellogg Brook** (small RV trailers are currently stored there); need to obtain LUPC permit.
    - 1990 Telos Plan turned winter management of the site over to AWW
    - Due to its current use by numerous trailers the site is considered a campground rather than a campsite under LUPC regulations, which has implications for how the site would need to be developed to meet LUPC codes.
    - BPL identified an alternative site for trailer storage nearby, in another old pit, but it is within the AWW 1-mile zone and so is not favored by AWW management
    - BPL is working with NMW and LUPC on another alternative site, at Beaver Hill, for the long-term trailer storage/camping that occurs at Kellogg Brook; Considering development of this site for 20 trailer units, which would require 5 privies (one of required for every 4 units)
    - Once the alternative site is developed, Kellogg Brook would be restored to delineated summer campsites.
2. *Wildlife/Special Resources*
- BPL is discussing with IF&W development of a HMA for the unit; harvests in the mapped DWA and P-FW zones are conducted in concert with IF&W biologists.
    - Nate Webb, IF&W biologist assigned to BPL, briefly described the plans for development of an HMA for Telos, similar in form to the existing HMA at Round Pond
3. *Administrative Issues*
- BPL needs to develop a solution with NMW for trailer storage (currently stored at Kellogg Brook)
    - NMW described on-going efforts to manage the long-term use of campsites across the NMW system and the challenges associated with that use
    - NMW reported that they have been making an effort to contact trailer owners and asking them to move sites when they become aware of a site that has been occupied for too long a period; users of these sites typically have a season pass.

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## CHAMBERLAIN

### Summary of Resources

- Fee ownership and acquisition history:
  - 9,462 acres (based on GIS calculations) in eight non-contiguous parcels on Chamberlain, Eagle and Allagash Lakes
    - **Bear Mountain/Indian Pond parcel:** 4,687 acres (about half the total)
    - **Allagash Lake parcels:** 2,470 acres in two parcels E and SW of lake
    - **Eagle Lake peninsulas:** Three ~300-acre parcels
    - **East Eagle Lake parcel:** 1,055-acre original public lot
    - **Lost Pond parcel:** 364 acres on west side of Chamberlain Lake
  - Parcels include 3 original public lots; most of the remainder were acquired in a series of land trades between 1984 and 1988.
- Access and Roads:
  - **Primary Access:** Access to most of the parcels is across various private haul roads and secondary management roads owned by abutters. There is no road access to some parcels - particularly the three peninsula parcels on Eagle Lake. On the Allagash Mountain parcel, a gated road that provided access to the AWW ranger station has reverted to a trail.
  - **Roads on BPL parcels:**
    - No roads on the peninsula parcels, nor on the Bear Mountain portion of the Bear Mountain/Indian Pond parcel (designated an ecological reserve in 2001).
    - Road across the Indian Pond parcel (gated at Indian Stream entry) recently improved to allow planned repair work at Lock Dam; connects to management roads that reach much of the parcel.
    - There are management roads, but no public access roads, on the parcels on the east side of Allagash Lake; the Lost Pond parcel has winter roads only.
- Ponds:
  - **Otter Pond:** 109 acres, near Allagash Lake (only pond on the Unit entirely on the public lands). Shallow pond with no identified significant or outstanding natural values, per the Wildlands Lake Assessment.
  - **Indian Pond in T7 R12:** Nearly 3 miles of the west shoreline forms the eastern boundary of the Indian Pond parcel. Fishery is rated "significant" with brook trout, togue and lake whitefish present. Boat access is on opposite shore.
- Other Special Resources:
  - A substantial portion of the Chamberlain ecoreserve has been mapped by MNAP as "**rare and exemplary**" **natural communities**, primarily Spruce-Northern Hardwood Forest, with smaller areas of White Pine Forest and Forested Wetland.
  - First Ridge/Second Ridge peninsula on Eagle Lake is an exemplary Spruce-Fir-Northern Hardwood ecosystem.
- Historic/Cultural Resources:
  - **Eagle Lake Tramway:** Main feature of the Tramway Historic District, placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. The Historic District extends 500 feet to each side of the tramway. The locomotives located near the north end of the tramway (used on a later railroad) and the tramway machinery on the south end both lie within the AWW, but are linked by the tramway trail (described below). These historic resources have long been a special highlight for both AWW paddlers in the summer and snowmobile tourers in the winter. Walking in to the locomotives (via an informal trail beginning on the abutter's property) has become more publicized and popular in recent years. In 2012, AWW with the

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assistance of volunteer and donors, completed considerable rehabilitation work on the historic resources and installed interpretive panels near the tramway machinery. Additional work has occurred since 2012 (e.g., connecting pipe between boilers and engine at the tramway, replacing original parts that had been removed from locomotives).

- **Eagle Lake and South Branch RR:** Historic rail line way that operated 1927-1933 also crosses the north end of ecoreserve in the vicinity of the tramway. Line begins near the locomotives (used on the line) and extends for about 1 2/3 miles to the AWW lands on Chamberlain Lake. New trail to locomotives follows the rail line for final ~1,000 feet.
- **Allagash Mountain fire tower:** BPL has been working on rehabilitation of the tower in recent years; it is an important destination for many visitors to the lake. Final phase of the work is intended to be completed in the next few years, depending on availability of resources.
  - Vern Labbe described 2008 work on the tower by volunteers, which included roof repair, 4 new guy lines and repair of one footing.
  - AWW staff have reported that the roof of the cab now leaks and needs attention.
- Wildlife:
  - **DWAs:** Northern half of the ecoreserve is a LUPC-zoned deer wintering area.
  - **Wetlands:** Several identified as Inland Waterfowl and Wading Bird habitat have been mapped on the ecoreserve, mainly associated with larger wetland areas within AWW restricted zone.
- Recreation and Amenities
  - Pedestrian Trails:
    - **Tramway portage trail:** 3,000 foot trail crosses the ecoreserve between Chamberlain Lake and Eagle Lake, parallel to the tramway, and is used by paddlers as well as walk-in visitors.
    - **Indian Stream access trail:** Recently improved ~1,000 foot trail to Eagle Lake with nearby parking on Lock Dam Road, beginning on Unit but primarily within AWW.
    - **Allagash Mountain fire tower trail:** this 1 mile trail provides access to the tower from Allagash Lake.
    - **Lookout trail:** A short trail extends from the shore of Eagle Lake to the ridgeline on the First Ridge/Second Ridge peninsula.
    - **Trail to Locomotives:** Historically, the public has used informal trails from a road on Seven Islands' property to walk to the locomotives. AWW and Lands have been discussing formalizing the trail for the past few years. The ~ 1.15 mile trail has recently been constructed, beginning at the end of the existing road, the last half mile of which Seven Islands improved this summer. The road improvement allowed a 4-5 car parking area to be constructed closer to the public lands and the locomotives than the former informal trailhead. BPL intends to install a kiosk and privy at the new trailhead.
  - Snowmobile trails: The tramway portage trail is also a designated snowmobile trail, allowing riders to cross between Chamberlain and Eagle Lakes. Riders may also access Chamberlain Lake on a route following the road to Lock Dam; a trail segment also follows the stream from Lock Dam to Eagle Lake, providing access to the south end of Eagle Lake from Chamberlain.
- Timber Resources:
  - Harvests have occurred on the Indian Pond, T8 R12, Otter Pond, and Lost Pond parcels over the past decade. Harvests over that period totaled 47,828 cords. About 60% of the volume came from Indian Pond (28,595 cords), with the most recent harvest in 2013.

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### Issues/needs/opportunities

- Recreation:
  - AWW has requested that gate at Indian Stream be moved a short distance up the road, to allow paddlers to get closer to the Indian Stream access trail.
    - BPL outlined management concerns with this proposal, noting that parking would also need to be built at the trail junction, otherwise visitors will park in the road. With such a parking area present, the additional concern arises that people will camp there. The perception was expressed that visitors don't know the trail is there. A suggestion was made that improved signage to guide visitors from the existing parking area to the new trail may be a better solution.

### **ROUND POND**

#### Summary of Resources

- Fee ownership and acquisition history:
  - 20,803 acres (based on GIS calculations) comprising all of T13 R12 outside of the AWW restricted zone.
  - Acquired in 1975 land trade with Great Northern.
- Access and Roads:
  - **Primary Access:** Access to the parcel is across various private haul roads owned by abutters. The Blanchett-Maibec Road crosses the SW quarter of the Unit. All routes require passing through a NMW checkpoint, with fees charged.
  - **Roads on Unit:** Numerous management roads reach much of the parcel. As part of HMA agreement with IF&W, there are new and improved on both the west and east sides of the Unit. Some management roads are gated.
- Special Resources:
  - No **"rare and exemplary" natural communities** have been mapped by MNAP on the unit. However, a rare plant has been located near the southeast corner of the Unit.
  - There are also 3 patches of hardwood old growth on three knolls in the NW corner of the Unit, set aside as "Special Protection" areas in the 1992 Plan. Much of these trees are no longer standing.
- Historic/Cultural Resources:
  - **Round Mountain fire tower:** The Bureau has installed a "crow's nest" platform on the historic tower, accessed by a ladder, which provides nice 360 degree views of the region. It is an important destination for many AWW paddlers.
- Wildlife:
  - **DWAs:** A significant portion of the west half of the Unit, mainly associated with the main stream drainages, is within LUPC-zoned deer wintering areas. In addition, in 2006 BPL and MDIF&W jointly established a 10,000-acre Habitat Management Area on the Unit; 90% of the HMA is softwood, softwood-dominated mixedwood, and cedar stands, managed for sustained winter shelter. The HMA Plan will be revised soon, in part in response to ongoing spruce beetle infestation on the Unit.
  - **Wetlands:** Several small wetlands identified as Inland Waterfowl and Wading Bird habitat have been mapped on the Unit (most of the larger wetland areas in the township are within the AWW restricted zone).
  - A **bald eagle nest site** has been identified near Round Pond.

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- Recreation and Amenities
  - **Round Mountain fire tower trail:** ~2 mile trail provides access to the tower from the east shore of Round Pond. AWW staff maintain the trail and report that many paddlers make the hike.
- Hunting and trapping:
  - Both occur on the unit. There are 8 bear bait sites within T13 R12 managed by NMW.
- Timber Resources:
  - Most of the area has been harvested in the past 40+ years of state ownership, including significant harvesting during the past decade. Harvests over the past decade have totaled 83,025 cords, the highest of any Unit in the plan area. Harvesting has occurred 26 of the past 31 winters, the most recent occurring last winter.

### Issues/needs/opportunities

- **Round Mountain Fire Tower:** BPL intends to rehabilitate the tower, potentially with a replacement of the cab and installation of fire-spotting equipment and interpretive information. Access for equipment and clearing of trees at the base have been completed. Essential repairs focused on the structure's foundations and support cables are intended to be completed in the next few years, depending on availability of resources.
  - Vern Labbe described recent work by BPL on the tower and future needs. Access has been cleared for equipment to reach the tower from a recently built management road, and trees that had grown beneath the structure were cleared. Four new guidewires were installed this fall, attached to new 5-foot concrete anchors; these now meet engineer's specifications. The priority item for 2018 work is the bases of the tower, all four of which will need to be replaced. Future work will include replacing the crow's nest and, if possible, replacing the ladder with stairs.

### Smaller Lots near Town of Allagash

- **Two Lots between Round Pond and Allagash:**
  - **T14 R11:** 500-acre original public lot at North boundary of township
  - **T15 R11:** 490-acre original public lot at South boundary of township
    - primarily timber lots, both are accessed by private haul roads and crossed by management roads
    - No recreation facilities, no bear bait sites
- **Four Allagash Lots:**
  - **Allagash SW:** 1,011-acre original public lot, located between St John and Allagash Rivers
    - accessed from Route 161 and nearby town of Allagash via NWM Allagash checkpoint
    - about 1/3, surrounding Campbell Brook, is a mapped deer wintering area (a portion of large DWA associated with the 3 rivers and nearby areas)
    - primarily a timber lot; local firewood permits have been issued
    - no formal recreation facilities; lot is crossed by Can-AM 250 sled dog trail (primarily on management roads and skid trail) ; used by deer hunters
  - **Allagash NW:** 982-acre original public lot, about 3 miles north of the end of Route 161
    - west boundary on the Little Black River
    - accessed from Route 161 via NMW Little Black checkpoint
    - entire lot is within the DWA described above
    - primarily a timber lot; local firewood permits have been issued

## ATTACHMENT C

- no recreation facilities, used by deer hunters
- **Allagash NE:** 750-acre original public lot, long and narrow (3 miles x 0.4 mile)
  - accessed from Route 161 and nearby town of Allagash via NWM Little Black checkpoint
  - south boundary on St John River
  - upper and lower ends are within DWA described above
  - primarily a timber lot; local firewood permits have been issued
  - ATV trail crossed the middle of the lot; snowmobile trail crosses lot on road
- **Allagash SE:** 993-acre original public lot, located along St John River
  - Straddles Route 161, two miles east of town center
  - North boundary is on St John River
  - Two house lots along Rt 161 sold by State in 1991, after flood
  - MNAP has identified rare plants on the river shore margin of the lot
  - About 1/3 the lot, primarily associated with river and tributary brooks, is within DWA
  - primarily a timber lot; no recreation facilities, used by deer hunters

### Issues/Needs/Opportunities

- Town of Allagash has approached BPL about leasing the lots for timber management, with harvest proceeds divided equally with BPL; Draft lease was prepared but lease agreement has not been finalized.
  - Vern Labbe outlined the current status of this issue. The primary cause for the lease agreement not being finalized is that town needs to identify a licensed forester who would oversee the timber management on the lots.
- **T18 R10 Lot:**
  - 988 acres, accessed from Route 161 and town of Allagash via NMW Little Black checkpoint
  - Surrounds nearly all of 224-acre Falls Brook Lake; a brook trout fishery is present, fluctuating depending on depth of pond, which increases when beaver activity impedes flow at outlet
  - About 1/3 of lot, at north end of pond, is within a mapped DWA
  - Most of pond shoreline, and boggy area at north end of pond, is mapped as IWWB habitat
  - Two campsites on south shore, managed by NMW; gravel launch site adjacent to campsites
  - Snowmobile trail crossing the lot, following the road

### Issues/Needs/Opportunities

- IF&W request for a fisheries project at outlet on Falls Brook, with structure in the brook
  - Frank Frost, IF&W fisheries biologist, provided more details on potential means to accomplish this project and potential benefits to the native brook trout fishery in Falls Brook Lake with added water depth.

ATTACHMENT D



## Vogel, Jim

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**From:** Cathy Johnson <cjohnson@nrcm.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 27, 2017 11:59 AM  
**To:** Vogel, Jim; Desjardin, Tom; LaRoche, Matt; Hunt, Ron; Brent Hardy  
**Cc:** Labbe, Vern; Pierce, David  
**Subject:** RE: Indian Stream Proposal

Tom – Thank you for sharing this proposal with me.

I do not support this proposal nor your interpretation of whether it would be allowed under current law and rules. Certainly it is inconsistent with policy and precedent of the AWW and would have an adverse impact on the wilderness character of the Waterway.

Among the concerns I see at this time:

1. Providing motorized access to the watercourse at the proposed location would be inconsistent with the statute which only allows access by motor vehicle to short trails that existed at the time the law was passed (2005). The trail which existed in 2005 (and today) starts at the current gate over the stream.
2. AWW rules define access by vehicle as including stopping or standing a vehicle for the purpose of loading or unloading people or gear. Therefore, the proposal constitutes a new access point.
3. AWW rules only allow parking at Indian Stream in the designated parking area.
4. The proposed gate and parking area would be within the quarter mile zone.
5. Allowing vehicle access beyond the current gate (and associated parking, and camping) and closer to the watercourse would degrade the wilderness experience of the Waterway and the designated “wild” status of this wild and scenic river.

I strongly encourage BPL to abandon this proposal. I agree that a sign in the parking area advising users of the location of the trail is a better solution to this issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Jim – Please include my comments in the record for the BPL planning process.

Cathy

**Catherine B. Johnson, Esq.**  
Senior Staff Attorney & Forests and Wildlife Project Director  
(207) 430-0109 office (207) 462-2164 cell

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**From:** Vogel, Jim [mailto:Jim.Vogel@maine.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 20, 2017 10:23 AM  
**To:** Desjardin, Tom; LaRoche, Matt; Hunt, Ron; Brent Hardy; Cathy Johnson  
**Cc:** Labbe, Vern; Pierce, David  
**Subject:** RE: Indian Stream Proposal

Tom:

Thanks for the additional details on the proposal; I believe what you describe aligns with what we have discussed so far. Note that this proposal is already part of the Plan process, as it arose in the Scoping phase and was discussed at the

Nov 29 Advisory Committee meeting. The excerpt below is from the Draft meeting notes; the black text is from the Scoping notes, while the blue text summarizes the comments made at the AC meeting.

(The meeting notes will be finalized and distributed/posted after the 3 week comment period ends this week.)

I'm sure we will have additional discussion on this proposal going forward, as we weigh potential benefits/costs/impacts.

**Chamberlain Unit - Issues/needs/opportunities**

• **Recreation:**

- AWW has requested that gate at Indian Stream be moved a short distance up the road, to allow paddlers to get closer to the Indian Stream access trail.  
BPL outlined management concerns with this proposal, noting that parking would also need to be built at the trail junction, otherwise visitors will park in the road. With such a parking area present, the additional concern arises that people will camp there. The perception was expressed that visitors don't know the trail is there. A suggestion was made that improved signage to guide visitors from the existing parking area to the new trail may be a better solution.

*Jim Vogel*

Senior Planner, Bureau of Parks and Lands  
Direct Telephone: Office 207.287.2163

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**From:** Desjardin, Tom

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 20, 2017 8:57 AM

**To:** LaRoche, Matt <Matt.LaRoche@maine.gov>; Vogel, Jim <Jim.Vogel@maine.gov>; Hunt, Ron <Ron.Hunt@maine.gov>; Brent Hardy <hardyt7r11@gmail.com>; cjohnson@nrcm.org

**Subject:** Indian Stream Proposal

All –

At the last meeting of the Allagash Advisory Council, members proposed a change in the gate location at Indian Pond Stream (Eagle Lake) that would make carrying canoes and gear easier for users of Eagle Lake. Since we are currently in the midst of the process to review and update the management plan for the region that includes the land unit where this gate and parking currently lie, I told the council we would “plug this in” to the management planning process, allowing public input and staff study.

Attached is a memo to Jim Vogel who is handling the management plan review and update. It includes a plan for the site showing the proposed change in gate location.

Before I send this to Jim formally, I would like to have your input and advice on what changes should be made to the memo or map. I want to be sure that the proposal is clear and that we all understand what is being proposed.

Happy Holidays!

**Tom Desjardin**

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