

Maine Department of Conservation  
Bureau of Parks and Lands

DOWNEAST PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
September 14, 2004, 6:00 – 8:00 pm  
Cherryfield American Legion Hall

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Advisory Committee Members Present

Ashby Bladen, Friends of Tunk, Downeast Rivers  
Diano Circo, Natural Resources Council of Maine  
Bill Cherry, Forester, Machias River Watershed  
Rep. Bob Crosthwaite, Ellsworth  
Gary Dowling, Downeast Trail Riders  
Judy East, Washington County Council of Governments  
Gary Edwards, Down East Resource Conservation and Development  
Jim Fisher, Hancock County Planning Commission  
Rep. Albion Goodwin, Pembroke  
Sally Jacobs, Downeast Sunrise Trail Coalition  
David MacDonald, Maine Coast Heritage Trust  
Andrew Pierce, Pierce Family, Abutting Landowner  
Nancy Sferra, The Nature Conservancy  
Joey Smith, Donnell Pond Campowners Association  
Russell Smith, Acadia Area ATV'ers

Staff to the Committee

Rich Bard, IF&W, Fisheries Biologist  
Tom Charles, BP&L, Chief of Silviculture  
Jeff Curier, MFS, Fire Control Div.  
Jom Frohn, BP&L, Eastern Region Forester  
Vern Labbe, BP&L, Eastern Regional Manager  
Scott Ramsay, BP&L, Director, Off-road Vehicle Div.  
Steve Spencer, BP&L, Recreation Specialist  
Joe Wiley, BP&L, Wildlife Biologist  
John Titus, BP&L, Management Plan Coordinator

20 members of the public were also in attendance

Welcome and Introductions – John Titus

- Introduction of Committee and Staff
- Overview of planning process, accomplishments thus far, and objectives of the meeting
- Specialist Summaries: Unit (Labbe), Natural Resources (Wiley), Fisheries and Wildlife Resources (Wiley), Recreation Resources (Spencer), Timber Resources (Charles).

Discussion of Preliminary Planning Document *John Titus*

- Regional Context portion: distinguish between “Acadia” and “Downeast,” trying to encourage more use of the Downeast area

- Need to work with other “plans” being developed, e.g. 182 Byway Plan
- Need a “regional tourism” discussion
- Adjacent land use description information may be available from Wash.and Hancock Cty. offices.
- More detail on history of acquisitions
- More detail on the Calais Branch
- Would like to see trails for horseback riding addressed in the Plan. *There are limited opportunities now, but will look in to additional trails as part of the Plan process.*
- MDOT Calais Branch – any discussions with them about the use of this as a “rail trail”? *(Scott Ramsay) Our division met with them last week, and they are hopeful this will be include in the next biennium budget. Removing the rails will be expensive, but might be able to recover some cost by recycling the steel.*
- Disappointed that the Town of Sullivan was not invited on the Committee
- John – not looking to make the Regional section too comprehensive, as this is a working document for field managers as well as information to the general public
- A citizens group from is being formed in January to develop a new plan (Rep. Al Goodwin)

#### Resource Summaries Issues Staff Resource Managers

- What types of timber management can happen in riparian zones? *Timber stand improvement is the goal, where it can enhance habitat conditions. Methods are generally light-handed. The Plan will provide some detail on harvesting policies, but the Integrated Resource Policy is really the guiding document*
- Would like to see more acknowledgment of Land for Maine’s Future’s role in acquisitions
- Who will be responsible for developing and monitoring Plan recommendations? *It is the responsibility of BP&L to develop and monitor plan recommendations. The Committee will help provide guidance to that end.*
- Concerns regarding non-point source pollution should appear in the Plan. Road construction is a source that should be addressed.
- Heavy use of beaches is a problem; don’t have adequate facilities for that level of use (outhouses)
- Rocky Lake has potential for conflicts between recreational users and timber harvesting.
- Cutler Unit: reference to abutting landowner in “issues” section was incorrectly stated. *Will correct in the next draft.*
- There are some safety issues with the cliffs on the Cutler Coast – groups and individuals should be alerted to this danger at the trailhead - through signs or posters.
- Safety issues (hidden rocks) should be addressed on the lakes in the Unit. *There is a Navigational Aids division in BP&L that can be contacted regarding specific issues.*
- Invasive acuquatics issues should be addressed further in the Plan. *IF&W has established a program to deal with this, and will follow their recommendations.*

#### Next Steps – John Titus

- Indicated that Bureau staff would be proposing resource allocations and proposing management recommendations for inclusion of the first draft of the Plan, which will be taken up at the next Committee meeting.
- Invited everyone to submit comments throughout the Plan process
- Hoped to have the next meeting sometime in November
- Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.