

**Management Recommendations** (Plan pages 90-97)

Seboomook and Canada Falls Parcels	Actions taken/Comments:
<b>Special Protection Areas</b>	
<p><b>RTE and special concern species habitat protection</b></p> <p><b>Wood turtle:</b> within 330-foot riparian zone along the entire length of the North Branch and the West Branch, manage timber harvests according to MDIFW “Threatened and Endangered Species in Forests of Maine: A Guide to Assist with Forestry Activities,” including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• no harvests in the 25 ft of riparian zone nearest the waterway;</li> <li>• remainder of riparian zone managed with single tree or small group selection cuts that maintain 60-70% cover;</li> <li>• road and log landing construction within the riparian zone avoided or minimized.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No timber harvests this period.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Broad-tailed shadowdragon</b> and <b>extra-striped snaketail</b> (along the West Branch below Seboomook Dam); and <b>creepers</b>, (small mussel in Carry Brook):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• avoid broad-spectrum insecticides within a ¼ mile buffer of the stream for 0.6 mi. (1 km) upstream and 0.6 mi. (1 km) downstream from the occurrence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No activity this period.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bald eagle nesting sites</b> (Essential Habitat law) Within 1320 feet of nest, manage activities in consultation with MDIFW’s regional biologist.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> </ul>
<b>Rare plants &amp; exemplary natural communities</b>	
<p><b>Invasive species:</b> educate boaters at boat launches about spreading invasive aquatic plants into these lakes and rivers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Maine Woods brochure briefly advises visitors about invasive aquatic plants. See Endnote about invasive species education.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Grasses &amp; sedges:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• avoid herbicides that target grasses and sedges; and</li> <li>• avoid excavation in areas with Orono sedge (<i>Carex oronensis</i>), e.g., near intersection of 20-Mile Rd and South Seboomook Rd.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No activity this period.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Northern Fir-moss</b> (<i>Huperzia selago</i>) near outlet of Socatean Pond #1: avoid hiking or horse riding trails in vicinity of occurrence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No activity this period.</li> </ul>
<b>Wildlife Management</b>	
<p><b>Deer Yards:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review current deer yard designations and expand these areas where appropriate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deer yard designations are currently being reviewed by DIFW to develop a proposal for expanded areas.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designate areas that are re-allocated from Remote Recreation to Wildlife Dominant for Remote Recreation as a secondary use (applies to the 950 acres of Remote Rec surrounding the western bay of Seboomook Lake that are adjacent to deer yards).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expanded areas are expected to be finalized within the next two years, at which time they will be re-allocated from Remote Recreation to Wildlife Dominant with Remote Recreation as a secondary use.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Canada lynx and deer:</b> Manage some areas for blocks of young softwoods to serve the complementary needs of both animals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DPPL has signed an agreement with IF&amp;W to manage approximately 11,000 acres on the eastern side of the Unit as a hare/lynx habitat management area. The area will be managed to complement existing deer wintering areas.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bear baiting:</b> Continue existing bait sites pending:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>review for consistency with Bureau policy and</li> <li>development of a woods road use management plan identifying vehicle access roads.</li> <li>Limit number of sites to not more than the current 11.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action taken this period.</li> <li>See notes on woods road management plan.</li> <li>Number of sites remains the same</li> </ul>
<p><b>Other species:</b> examine potential for habitat management on other areas of the parcel, e.g., for grouse and woodcock. See also discussion under Timber Dominant areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will be examined during prescription review.</li> <li>Established a grouse management area in the Carry Brook drainage. See note below under Timber Management.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Oak and beech stands:</b> retain for mast production.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Loons:</b> observe special protections defined by deed for loon nest sites, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No new non-forestry improvements (other than replacements for those existing at the time of acquisition by the State) within 1,000 ft of a nest site.</li> <li>No forest management activities within 250 ft of a nest site during nesting season (from May 1 to July 31<sup>st</sup>).</li> <li>All forest management within 250 ft of a nest site shall be conducted so as to protect the integrity of the nest site.</li> <li>Continue to monitor loon populations and nesting on Seboomook and Canada Falls Lakes after the conclusion of the USFWS-sponsored studies.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other Species of Concern:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor/evaluate areas where added protections are required to reduce impacts to wildlife habitat. (See management recommendations for protected species under Special Protection Areas.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No forest management has occurred within the protected zones.</li> <li>BPL is working with the Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI), to continue a loon monitoring program for Seboomook, Canada Falls and Baker Lakes. BRI monitored these populations for the US Fish &amp; Wildlife Service.</li> <li>Existing wildlife management guidelines and the IRP continue to be adequate.</li> </ul>

**Recreation**

<p><b>General:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend Penobscot River Corridor (PRC) to include water-based campsites on Canada Falls, the South Branch, the North Branch, and Seboomook Lake.</li> <li>Coordinate management of the PRC and the Seboomook Public Reserved Lands.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed by Financial Order and agreements with Great Lakes Hydro America and Merriweather in 2008; Merriweather License updated in 2013.</li> <li>Ongoing between Northern Region Parks and Western Region Lands divisions.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and provide to public a combined PRC/Seboomook Unit brochure and information packet.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A combined PRC/Seboomook map with campsites and boat access sites was prepared in 2008 and is available online:</li> </ul>

	<p><a href="http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/">http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/</a>. An updated brochure showing new facilities is under review and expected to be available for the 2014 season.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install information kiosks at all trailheads and parking areas displaying maps showing the recreation areas defined by the allocations, and posting Bureau policies for recreational uses. Provide brochures at these locations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information kiosks or bulletin boards are provided at key points of access to the PRC and include Bureau rules for recreational use. Where suitable signboard space and weather protection exist or are developed, the updated brochure will be posted. Individual copies of the brochure and maps will be available online or by mail upon request.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore options for a Parks &amp; Lands Ranger/Information station.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action taken this period.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a visual consideration analysis to determine Class I and Class II areas on the parcels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expect to complete this in the next 2-5 years.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate the natural spring near the Seboomook Ledges campsite; if potable, manage to prevent contamination of the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action taken this period.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Remote Recreation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain a “remote recreation” zone adjacent to Seboomook Lake, Canada Falls Lake, and the North Branch, the South Branch, and the West Branch, subject, in some areas, to wildlife management concerns (see Management Allocations – Wildlife Dominant with Remote Recreation Secondary).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accomplished by plan adoption. In areas that may be re-allocated Wildlife Dominant as a result of deer yard review, Remote Recreation will become the secondary allocation.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designate these “remote” areas for water access or hike-to camping, and non-motorized winter camping, skiing, and snowshoeing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accomplished by plan adoption.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with the local snowmobile clubs to locate groomed snowmobile trails away from designated remote areas, and to stop grooming the Canada Falls Road.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No actions taken this period. Preliminary discussions have begun.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilize the new whitewater boating take-out parking area near the South Branch bridge as a trailhead for nature trails, cross country ski or snowshoe trails along the South Branch, and provide signage and information at this site for remote winter recreation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action taken this period.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect the remote waters character on Seboomook Lake by pursuing a ban on personal watercraft and limits on boat motor size.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action taken this period.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect the remote waters character on Canada Falls Lake by pursuing a ban on personal watercraft and limits on boat motor size, if other major landowners are in agreement (Passamaquoddy Tribe and Cassidy Timberlands).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action taken this period.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allocate any easements obtained from Great Lakes Hydro America LLC on the islands in Seboomook Lake as Wildlife Dominant with Remote Recreation as a secondary use.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Easement were secured on Seboomook Lake islands in 2009. Wildlife Dominant with Remote Recreation as a secondary use was effectively accomplished by plan adoption.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate the condition and adequacy of the existing water access campsites on Canada Falls Lake; upgrade as needed to meet Bureau standards.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sites are inspected annually. No major action taken this period</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop additional water access campsites on the North Branch, West Branch and Seboomook Lake. Any new facilities must not be closer than</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action taken this period.</li> </ul>

<p>1,000 feet from any known loon nest, and must be approved by the USFWS if within 2,000 feet of a loon nest. Relocate campsites if conflicts arise with loon nest sites.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate suitability and need for additional water access campsites on Canada Falls, and Moosehead lakes, subject to loon protection restrictions. Construct new sites as resources allow.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action taken this period.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate suitability and need for remote hike-to campsites within the Remote recreation allocation on Seboomook Lake, subject to loon protection restrictions. Implement as resources allow. Construct new sites as resources allow.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action taken this period.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Water Access:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Brookfield Power Co to maintain boat access facilities appropriate for a remote waters experience on Seboomook and Canada Falls Lakes, and the West Branch.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GLHA maintains the boat access facilities: 3 trailerable boat ramps (one on Canada Falls Lake and 2 on Seboomook Lake); DPPL manages the canoe portages around both Canada Falls and Seboomook dams; and the Roll Dam put-in/boat launch.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Re-establish the historic Carry Brook canoe portage, including a campsite, if a suitable site can be located. Consult with Northern Forest Canoe Trail organization and local snowmobile club, which has a trail through this area, in developing this portage and campsite.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action this period.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate possible locations for a motorized boat launch facility on the western shore of Moosehead Lake via Carry Brook or through a public-private partnership at Seboomook Campground; implement as resources allow.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2009, BPL acquired the 147-acre Carry Brook parcel (Seboomook Campground) in Northwest Cove, which includes a gravel trailerable boat launch east of the campground, using funds from LMF and Florida Power and Light available through a FERC license requirement for the Moosehead Project.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore creating new carry-in boat access to the North Branch below the ledges at the bridge crossing near Leadbetter Falls. Pursue agreements with Wagner/Merriweather to create portage trail around the ledges in the North Branch at the bridge site. Implement as resources allow.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action taken this period.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate with GLHA in developing appropriate put-in and take-out facilities for whitewater boaters on the South Branch and West Branch, including: signage; an alternate put-in with parking downstream from the Canada Falls dam put-in site; and a take-out with parking in the vicinity of the South Branch bridge near the Forest Ranger station.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GLHA provided a grant to BPL to establish the new South Branch put-in and take-out as described, as well as improvements at Logan Brook on the West Branch below Seboomook dam.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor boating and rafting use on the South Branch and West Branch. If conflicts arise, pursue alternatives to regulate uses through MDIFW's whitewater boating regulation authority; and the Department's authority to regulate rafting access points on its lands.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See endnote about monitoring public use.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Drive-to Campsites:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate condition and adequacy of existing campsite facilities; upgrade as needed to meet Bureau standards.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drive-to sites on Seboomook Lake, the West Branch, the South Branch, and Canada Falls Lake were evaluated and upgraded as needed when BPL designated them as part of the</li> </ul>

	<p>Penobscot River Corridor. In 2009 BPL had an MCC intern living on the site and helping to upgrade and manage them under the supervision of PRC Parks staff.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with GLHA to upgrade and reconfigure campsite at Seboomook dam to accommodate more campsites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This site was improved along with improvements to the carry trail. Site limitations did not allow expansion of the site.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate suitability and need for additional drive-to campsites in general vicinity of existing drive-to campsites. Construct new sites as resources allow.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No action taken this period.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reconfigure group campsite at Roll Dam to provide a day use/lunch spot for whitewater boaters that will not conflict with the campsite use.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relocated and improved campsites to minimize conflicts between boaters and campers in 2008 and 2009.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate need for and feasibility of one or more designated group camping areas. Construct as resources allow.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No action taken this period.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate whether the existing campsite in the Nulhedus gravel pit should be upgraded or relocated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No action taken this period.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursue cooperative agreement with GLHA regarding the maintenance and management of existing drive-to campsites located on the Seboomook dam parcel; and designation of these sites as part of the PRC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A renewable lease agreement with GLHA (2008) is in place for BPL to manage drive-to campsites at Seboomook and Canada Falls dams.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursue a cooperative agreement with Merriweather LLC regarding the maintenance of the existing drive-to campsites on Canada Falls Lake and the South Branch. Acquire these sites if possible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A license agreement with Merriweather (2009) was put in place for BPL to manage drive-to campsites at Canada Falls dam; this has been renewed in 2013 and made automatically renewable.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recreational Trails:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate feasibility and cost of a nature trail along the West Branch, and pursue as resources allow.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A preliminary trail location was scoped out in 2008; no further action has been taken to construct it.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with GLHA through its FERC license to ensure that the canoe portage/angler access trail on the north side of the West Branch is in keeping with the remote character of the Unit and meets the needs of the recreating public.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GLHA and BPL collaborated in the design and installation of upgrades to the West Branch portage trail in 2007 and the portage trail below Canada Falls dam in 2008. GLHA provided funds to BPL to oversee and carry out the work using the Maine Conservation Corps.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate feasibility and cost of developing a trail along the South Branch to serve as a hiking/nature trail, and to allow paddlers on the South Branch to easily circumvent difficult sections of the river. Pursue as resources allow.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No action taken this period</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locate possible sites for trailheads and parking areas needed to serve any nature trails developed along the West Branch and South Branch. Pursue as resources allow.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No action taken this period</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore an ATV trail route (in common with the snowmobile trail, if possible) and consider establishing one or more dedicated camping areas for ATV users outside of designated Remote Recreation areas, when a regional ATV trail system extends to the Seboomook Unit, to provide a multi-day extended ATV touring opportunity. Develop as resources allow.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An ATV trail was built in 2009 that connects Pittston Farm with adjacent trails to the Jackman/Rockwood area, making Pittston Farm available as a service hub for fuel, lodging and food. There is as yet no regional connection to trails in the Kokadjo area.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In coordination with the Off-Road Vehicle Program and snowmobile clubs, and as resources allow, discontinue use of the Seboomook and Roll Dam</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No action taken during this period. An off-road replacement will be explored and implemented over the next 2 years as</li> </ul>

<p>Roads as the primary snowmobile trail; evaluate the suitability of the off-road (now alternate) snowmobile trail that parallels the existing trail to serve as the permanent snowmobile trail; improve or relocate as needed to address safety or environmental issues, and conflicts with designated Remote Recreation areas. Designate the Seboomook and Roll Dam Roads as back-up snowmobile trails for low snowfall seasons, provided this does not conflict with Bureau timber management activities.</p>	<p>BPL prepares to enter the Unit for timber harvest.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate need or desirability for improvements to the snowmobile trail to better serve snowmobilers. Pursue in coordination with Off-Road Vehicle Program and snowmobile clubs, as resources allow.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See above.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with Pittston Farm to develop and maintain trails suitable for horseback riding that may also be used for other purposes such as back-country skiing and snowshoeing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 2-3 mile route over existing woods roads was developed near Pittston Farm for horseback riding.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In consultation with the Management Plan Advisory Committee, within two years of adoption of this Plan,             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify which management or woods roads should be made available as multi-use trails (including, if appropriate, those suitable for motorized vehicular or mechanized uses such as bicycles), and which should be designated for pedestrian uses, with the overall goal of establishing a core of roads available for public vehicular access with significant areas set aside for back woods pedestrian uses (as secondary uses subject to timber operations) including hiking, snowshoeing, back-country skiing, hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, etc.;</li> <li>review and evaluate any proposals from Pittston Farm proprietors for improvement and use of existing woods roads and trails for horseback riding as an extension of trails on the Pittston Farm property; and</li> <li>consider options for a potential ATV trail that would connect to a regional ATV touring trail.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expect to accomplish this in the next 2-5 years as part of timber harvest planning.</li> <li>Done. See note above.</li> <li>Options were considered and an ATV route to Pittston Farm established in 2009. There is as yet no regional connection to trails in the Kokadjo area.</li> </ul>

**Timber Management**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate the condition of the forest over the next 2-5 years, and manage the timber in accordance with standards for Sustainable Forestry Initiative and Forest Stewardship Council third party certification; and subject to limitations imposed by the Wildlife Riparian, Remote Recreation, and Visual Class I and Visual Class II allocations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expect to accomplish this in the next 2-5 years.</li> <li>The 2011 inventory showed a significant increase in timber volume since the 2001 Wagner inventory, and this increase will continue as 1970s-80s clearcuts attain merchantable size. A significant portion of these young stands, on Litte W and adjacent portions of Seboomook Twp., have been proposed as hare/lynx management areas for DIFW's Incidental Take Permit (ITP). Under the ITP, no thinning would be done on the subject acres as long as they were providing prime hare habitat.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine which forest areas among those that are available for timber management are most in need of timely timber harvest or other treatment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expect to accomplish this in the next 2-5 years.</li> <li>Initial harvests were done on the Carry Brook aspen areas,</li> </ul>

<p>This includes areas where significant delay would cause loss of timber value, loss of opportunity for improving stand quality, or loss of wildlife habitat enhancement opportunity. One area identified in this category is the mature/over-mature aspen in the Carry Brook drainage. Opportunities to recover timber value and to establish ruffed grouse management areas will decline rapidly as these stands pass beyond maturity.</p>	<p>mainly patchcuts to foster aspen regeneration and establish ruffed grouse management areas in the stand. A nearby area of hardwoods and mixedwoods with late successional character had a selection harvest done in 2010. The total harvest volume for 2007-2011 was 9,200 cords, still below the sustainable harvest level. As a result of the 2011 inventory data, this SHL will increase significantly.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within 2 years of Plan adoption:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) evaluate the condition of the existing woods road network and any environmental issues that need to be addressed.</li> <li>(2) determine, in consultation with the Maine Forest Service, which roads are needed for fire control.</li> <li>(3) identify management roads that will be needed in the near term for timber management; in the future for timber management; and roads that should be closed as management roads.</li> <li>(4) evaluate whether the Cut-off Road should be restored (as funds allow) to serve as a public vehicular access road or as a woods management road with specified uses allowed when it is not being actively used for timber management.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expect to accomplish this in the next 2-5 years. Extensive road improvements have already been made, both to make access easier and to correct environmental problems.</li> <li>• Expect to accomplish this in the next 2-5 years.</li> <li>• Expect to accomplish this in the next 2-5 years.</li> <li>• Any work on the Cut-off Road will await timber harvesting in that area, and public access decisions can be made during planning for those harvests.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Administrative Concerns</u></b>  <u>Public (Vehicular) Use Roads</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve and maintain public use roads to Bureau standards.</li> <li>• Pursue a cooperative agreement with Merriweather LLC regarding the maintenance of the vehicular access road to Canada Falls Dam and the 20-Mile or Rockwood Road.</li> <li>• Pursue a cooperative agreement with Plum Creek regarding the use and maintenance of the 20-Mile or Rockwood Road through Soldiertown Township.</li> </ul> <p><u>Public Access Fees and Use Limitations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine alternatives to the present arrangement with North Maine Woods that will enable the Bureau to manage these parcels in accordance with its mission and statutory mandates for its reserved lands. Throughout this process, continue discussions with North Maine Woods.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considerable investment has improved the condition of the public use roads in the Unit since Plan adoption.</li> <li>• As part of the Plum Creek Moosehead Region Concept Plan, effective in 2012, Plum Creek agreed to grant a public vehicular access easement across this road at a future point in time triggered by a threshold of sales of property associated with the Concept Plan. In the meantime, public use continues to be allowed.</li> <li>• In 2010 negotiations with NMW resulted in moving the 20-Mile checkpoint to the south side of the South Branch, in the former Maine Forest Service lease site. The portion of the Unit along the South Branch, North Branch and Canada Falls Lake continues to be part of the NMW system. Electronic gates were placed along two exit points at the eastern end of the Seboomook parcel. PRC camping fees are charged on the Seboomook Unit. PRC camping fees are charged at Canada Falls campsites as well as NMW day use fees. North Branch campsites are fully NMW managed and NMW camping and day use fees apply to these sites.</li> </ul>

<b>St. John Ponds</b>	<b>Actions taken/Comments:</b>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage as an Ecological Reserve.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designate this area for dispersed remote recreation with no developed trails or facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accomplished by plan adoption.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow existing roads that are not needed for fire control to revert to forest; address any environmental issues associated with these roads.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires evaluation of need for fire control and environmental issues. Internal roads are not being maintained.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate the feasibility of moving the gate on the Gulliver Brook Road and providing a parking area on or closer to the parcel boundary. Implement as resources allow.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No action taken this period. Road remains gated at the Golden Road.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate the need and feasibility of establishing one or more parking areas serving potential walk-in access routes to the parcel.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No action taken this period.</li> </ul>

<b>Baker Lake</b>	<b>Actions taken/Comments:</b>
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***Special Protection Areas***

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow recommended guidelines for protection of wood turtle habitat at the south end of Baker Lake as listed above under the Seboomook parcel.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No activity this period.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with North Maine Woods to educate the motorized boating public about the threat of spreading invasive aquatic plants into the area lakes, including Baker Lake, which, because of its Muskie fishery, is attracting more motor boat fishing use.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current North Maine Woods brochure briefly advises visitors about invasive aquatic plants. . See Endnote about invasive species education.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid siting any new campsites in proximity to the shoreland wetland complexes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No activity this period.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission to protect sensitive archaeological sites on the parcel.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed.</li> </ul>

***Wildlife Management***

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursue a ban on personal watercraft for Baker Lake to protect loons.</li> <li>• Observe special protections defined by deed for loon nest sites, including:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– No new non-forestry improvements (other than replacements of non-forestry improvements existing at the time of acquisition of the property by the State) within 1,000 feet of a loon nest site.</li> <li>– No forest management activities within 250 feet of a loon nest site during the loon nesting season (from May 1 to July 31<sup>st</sup>).</li> <li>– All forest management within 250 feet of a loon nest site shall be conducted in a manner that protects the integrity of the loon nest site.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No activity this period.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to monitor loon populations and nesting on Baker Lake after the conclusion of the USFWS sponsored studies, as resources allow.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BPL is working with the Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI), to continue a loon monitoring program for Seboomook, Canada Falls and Baker Lakes. BRI monitored these populations for the US Fish &amp; Wildlife Service.</li> </ul>

**Recreation**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the possibility of a group campsite that could be water access or remote walk-in access from an established road and trailhead, subject to loon protection restrictions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site was inspected, but no actions taken this period.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stabilize erosion issues at the existing camping area on the west shore near the outlet; relocate this campsite if needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage the southern campsite as a water access campsite.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine the extent of the Visual Class I and Visual Class II areas surrounding the lake and river.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expect to accomplish this in the next 2-5 years.</li> </ul>

**Timber Management**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate the condition of the forest over the next two to five years, and manage the timber in accordance with standards for Sustainable Forestry Initiative and Forest Stewardship Council third party certification; and subject to limitations imposed by the Wildlife Riparian, Remote Recreation, and Visual Class I and Visual Class II allocations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expect to accomplish this in the next 2-5 years.</li> <li>The inventory data received at the time of State acquisition shows stocking levels to be very low, thus there are unlikely to be any pressing timber management issues, and harvesting is quite unlikely during 2012-2017.</li> </ul>
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**Administrative Issues**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a lease agreement with IF&amp;W for the warden’s cabin near the outlet.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lease agreement is in place.</li> </ul>
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**Big Spencer Mountain**

**Actions taken/Comments:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage as an Ecological Reserve and for remote recreation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within two years of Plan adoption, discontinue the existing snowmobile trail.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The trail has been discontinued.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue an aggressive effort to establish an alternate high vista destination snowmobile trail in the same general vicinity as Big Spencer Mountain as a replacement to the existing primitive snowmobile trail that follows the old jeep trail to the abandoned warden’s cabin. This replacement trail is a high priority for the Bureau; the goal is have an alternate trail in place within two years, or soon as practicable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An alternate destination with scenic views and a camping shelter was established on Farrar Mountain on the Nahmakanta Public Reserved Lands Unit, northeast of Kokadjo.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stabilize the existing erosion and drainage problems on the jeep trail to the warden’s cabin. Rehabilitate and improve the trail for hiking and other pedestrian uses, if suitable; otherwise discontinue use of the trail and design an alternate hiking trail to the cabin site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The trail to the Warden’s cabin site has been stabilized.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within two years of Plan adoption, remove the warden’s cabin and associated structures; maintain the area as a scenic vista serving the hiking trail. Provide the Forest Society of Maine the option to relocate the cabin to a site off the ecological reserve, within that two year period.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Warden’s cabin has been removed.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a parking area off the Spencer Mountain Road to serve the trailhead for the hiking trail.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop an interpretive panel commemorating the long service of the fire warden’s post on Big Spencer, and place it at the trailhead or at the scenic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action taken this period.</li> </ul>

vista to be retained at the cabin site.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discontinue the existing woods management roads on the northwestern and southeastern sides of the parcel.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action taken this period.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate whether the existing section of the local snowmobile trail that crosses the southeastern area of the parcel can be reasonably relocated outside of the reserve.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The trail was relocated outside of the reserve.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue the removal of unauthorized structures on the southern edge of the parcel.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed.</li> </ul>

**New issues that need to be addressed**

Addition to the Seboomook Parcel  
 At the time the Seboomook Plan was adopted, the Seboomook Campground parcel was owned by Merriweather, LLC and leased to a private operator. Subsequently, the campground was leased to BPL and sublet to the same operator. In 2009, BPL acquired the parcel, which will be added to the Seboomook parcel and continue to be leased to the same operator. No action required.

Proposed Shared Use designation of additional roads to allow ATV's to use more of the assets of the Unit  
 The local ATV club has requested additional access into the Seboomook Unit. Presently access is via a constructed ATV trail to Pittston Farm, which was extended in 2009 to allow ATVs to reach this service destination as part of the touring opportunity on the west side of Moosehead Lake. The current request is to extend ATV rights across existing roads in the Unit to allow ATVers to have access to additional opportunities on the Unit, including camping at the drive-to campsites and an additional opportunity for lodging at Seboomook Campground, on Moosehead Lake. The Division staff have reviewed this request and are recommending the following: Designate the South Seboomook Road and Seboomook Dam Road to but not across the dam for Shared Use. Allow ATV camping at Seven-Mile Hill, Kings High Landing and Seboomook Ledges campsites. Staff have considered the benefits of allowing this additional use, and potential use conflicts, and have determined that because of the use of the campsites at Seboomook Dam and along the West Branch for whitewater boating and fishing, and in respect for adjoining landowner concerns, the ATV access would not extend to these areas. The Division is exploring options for increasing the level of onsite presence and maintenance in order to accommodate the expected additional use. Appropriate signage and working with the local ATV Club will address keeping ATVs on the designated roads. The Division believes the proposed designation of the roads as shared use, as described here, is consistent with the Plan's vision supporting an extended ATV touring and camping opportunity in this region.

Proposed hiking trail extension on Big Spencer Mountain  
 The Division is looking into a relocation of the portion of the hiking trail from the former warden's cabin site to the summit, following a burn that occurred at the summit in 2012. The relocated trail would skirt the existing cell tower inholding and extend the trail to a viewpoint further down the ridgeline. The Division believes this proposal is consistent with the Plan which calls for management of Big Spencer Mountain as an ecological reserve with remote recreation as a secondary allocation.

**Endnotes**

**Monitoring Public and Recreational Use**

A number plan recommendations call for monitoring public and recreational use and gauging the need or demand for particular recreation opportunities or facilities.

Public use data for the PRC will be collected from the following sources, as staff time permit:

<b>Source</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Captures</b>	<b>Type</b>
North Maine Woods	20-Mile Checkpoint	Visitors to So Branch, Canada Falls Lake & No Branch	NMW day use & PRC camping
North Maine Woods	Caribou Checkpoint	Visitors to the unit from the East (Golden Road)	NMW day use & PRC camping
BPL	PRC Campsites	Visitors camping	PRC camping

As a practical matter, most monitoring of site conditions occurs as observations made by seasonal recreation staff in the course of their routine duties; or as a result of conditions reported or requests made by visitors and others to field staff or to the Parks or Lands regional offices. The Bureau is experimenting with a number of monitoring tools to supplement these observations and reports, including visitor surveys. In 2009, the Bureau developed a survey to identify visitor characteristics, activities pursued on the PRC, satisfaction with the PRC experience and recommendations for improvements. The survey will be administered to river corridor visitors when staff, intern or volunteer time can be devoted to the effort. An AmeriCorps Environmental Educator was posted on the Seboomook Unit from mid-May through mid-October in 2009 and logged use at the campsites, and administered surveys.

**Invasive Species Education**

The number of invasive species of concern in Maine has grown substantially to include a variety land and water plants and animals. Information is plentiful but has yet to be consolidated into a single format suitable for posting on BPL signboards/kiosks. The BPL website will soon include links to invasives information provided by the Departments of Environmental Protection and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and by the Maine Forest Service for each area searchable under “Find Parks & Lands.”