Management Recommendations (Summarized on Plan pages 133-138)

Duck Lake Unit

Special Protection Management Recommendations	
• Field staff will continue to identify and protect areas of ecological significance outside the Ecological Reserve. One such area is the seven acre mature sugar maple stand designated for protection by the Bureau in 1993.	Ongoing
 Primitive, non-groomed snowmobiling will be allowed on the existing Gassabias Portage Trail. 	Continuing, although no evidence of much use
• Snowmobiling on the "Horseback Trail" in the Ecological Reserve will be discontinued. Signage explaining the non-motorized policy will be placed in appropriate places as determined by Bureau staff.	No evidence of use of this trail by sleds. Signs have not been placed yet.
Wildlife Management Recommendations	
• Loon counts on Third and Fourth Machias Lakes will be prioritized, per deeded requirements that were made part of the Machias Phase II acquisition.	Third Machias Lake was surveyed in 2011. Fourth Machias Lake is scheduled to be surveyed in 2015.
• Maintain a component of early-successional softwood forest within the Unit to enhance habitat for Canada lynx and other species.	Topic to be addressed in the forest management prescription for the area northeast of Lower Unknown Lake; prescription is tentatively scheduled for Summer 2015.
• Look for/expand opportunities to enhance mature softwood habitats for softwood dependent species, especially deer. When feasible, coordinate with surrounding landowners in the provision of deer habitat on a regional basis. Continue the Bureau semi- permanent seeding program to compliment adjacent landowner's wildlife food plots.	Addressed in prescription development for all compartments, where appropriate.
• The management goal for the 5,985-acre area between Gassabias Lake and Upper Unknown Lake portion allocated for wildlife is to increase the softwood stocking to maintain and expand use as deer wintering habitat, and to maintain a significant wildlife travel corridor between Fourth Machias Lake and the ownership boundary north of Upper Unknown Lake. Existing roads will be used in accomplishing wildlife management goals whenever possible.	Topic to be addressed in the forest management prescription for the area (Compartment #13), northeast of Lower Unknown Lake, tentatively scheduled for Summer 2015. Active communications with Downeast Lakes Land Trust (DLLT) and the Passamaquoddy tribe (abutters) on harvesting within that area to coordinate and enhance wildlife management objectives.
Continue implementation of the grouse habitat where sites conditions are favorable.	Considered in all forest harvest prescriptions.

An IF&W survey of the pond determined that it was not suitable for brook trout stocking.
Continuing/ongoing efforts; 12 new duck boxes were constructed in 2013.
No evidence of use. Signs have not been placed at this time. Evaluate during winter 2015.
Consideration of alternative trails is continuing. No scheduled winter harvests at this time to conflict.
Continuing/ongoing
Accessible picnic tables have been set at some of the suitable campsites.
No active consideration at this time. The site has been known to be a possible alternative since the property was obtained. No complaints received at Bangor office of current site since plan was adopted.
Continuing/ongoing. Areas have been subject to focused Maine Warden Service patrols during heavy use periods for last 5 years.
Continuing/ongoing
The trailhead parking area is in the queue for the FY 2016 budget. The trailhead will provide access to non-motorized

visitors to the Gassabias-Fourth Machias Lake Portage Trail old growth area.	visitors to the Portage Trail. A directional sign to guide visitors driving to the Ecological Reserve has been made but not installed.
• Explore the feasibility of managing the Ecological Reserve as a non-mechanized backcountry area and developing a hiking trail along the "Horseback Trail" at Fifth Lake Stream in conjunction with the trailhead to the Gassabias Portage Trail mentioned above.	No action
Timber Management Recommendations	
 Manage most of the well-stocked softwood acres to retain high spruce, hemlock, and pine components and a late-successional character, while producing high quality timber products and respecting viewsheds. 	Continuing/ongoing
• Work to improve quality in the abundant acres of burn origin stands where quality is currently modest but the site allows for good growth.	Continuing/ongoing
• Encourage growth of pines, especially white pine, in both pine type stands and as significant components of softwood and mixedwood stands.	Continuing/ongoing
 Target mistletoe-infected spruce to the extent feasible given the above items. 	Continuing/ongoing
Transportation and Administrative Management Recommendations	
 The location of the evacuation sites will be put on Bureau maps and brochures. 	No action; they are signed on the ground, however.
 Continued communication between the Bureau and local snowmobile and ATV clubs is necessary to minimize conflicts on road use and for safety purposes. 	Continuing/ongoing
• The Bureau will continue to communicate with its neighbor south of Gassabias Stream regarding the possible reinstallation of vehicular access from the south.	Contact with the new owner's representative was made with a request for vehicle access. Request was denied.
• The Bureau will decide which, if either, of the two Bureau camps on the Unit will be saved, and if so, how they will be maintained in an acceptable condition.	Efforts have been made to give away the camp on the 32-00-0 road (commonly known as the PD camp), to be moved from the site, but unsuccessfully. Gassabias camp would be the one kept, if either is. Considerations are continuing.
• Minimize road improvements and additions in the relatively un- roaded portion of the Unit to those deemed necessary to accomplish wildlife management goals. Use existing roads to	Continuing/ongoing

accomplish management whenever possible.	
 Place a barrier on the 42-08-0 Road where it crosses the ecological reserve boundary on the east side of Fifth Lake Stream to restrict motorized use. 	Done
• To enhance appearance and improve safety, no new log landings will be constructed on public access roads on the Nicatous portion of the Phase II Machias project.	None have been constructed

Bradley Unit

Special Protection Management Recommendations	
 The Bureau will apply the standard 330 foot major riparian zone buffer around these special protection areas (at the suggestion of MNAP). 	Standard operating procedure.
Wildlife Management Recommendations	
 Manage the timber in a way to retain all red oak as a hard mast food source. 	Ongoing
 There will be very light cutting in cedar dominant areas. 	Ongoing
 Retain shelter values of softwood stands that may support wintering deer. 	Ongoing
 Apply IF&W management guidelines for areas containing Northern Leopard Frogs. 	Ongoing
Recreation and Visual Management Recommendations	
 Coordinate activities and development at the [Kittridge Lot] boat launch with IF&W and the Town of Bradley. 	Ongoing communications with both partners regarding seasonal installation of the fish ladder and needed improvements at the boat landing area and the access road.
 Coordinate with local ATV and snowmobile clubs to provide interconnecting trails in appropriate places as needed. 	Ongoing
Timber Management Recommendations	
 Continue to manage for pine where feasible. Pre-commercial treatment may be necessary to keep some regeneration from being dominated by fir and hardwoods. 	Ongoing with early commercial thinnings being done to evaluate feasibility.
Regenerate/salvage high risk black spruce stands in upland areas	Ongoing efforts
 Reduce fir component in young stands as they become operable. 	Ongoing
 Work with abutting landowners (current and future) toward securing access for timber management. 	Legal ROW established through land purchase on Kingsbury Road. Negotiations ongoing for Parant Road access.

Transportation and Administrative Management Recommendations	
• Continue to work with the abutting landowners towards obtaining access rights for administrative, camplot lease, and general public use purposes.	See above comments.
• Work with Webber Heirs to resolve title issues on land and camplot lease north of Great Works Stream.	No action
 As Bangor Hydro works toward purchase of their powerline corridor, look to secure the right to cross with new roads in any place legally permitted. 	No action, as Emera Maine (formerly Bangor Hydro) has not initiated purchase efforts.

Machias River Unit

Special Protection Management Recommendations	
 Archeological sites will be left undisturbed according to guidance given in the IRP. 	Standard operating procedure (SOP).
Wildlife Management Recommendations	
• All wildlife management will be in cooperation with the BSRFH [formerly Bureau, now Division of Sea-Run Fisheries and Habitat] in order to address Atlantic salmon habitat needs.	SOP. A forest management prescription for one of the Machias River compartments was developed with DSRFH input and review in 2014.
 Monitoring and protection of loons is a priority. 	Ongoing. As noted above, Third Machias Lake was surveyed in 2011. Ponds on the unit were surveyed prior to state's acquisition in 2003.
 Management near known locations of bald eagle nests, the rare brook floater, pygmy snaketail dragonfly, and the wood turtle will be planned in consultation with IF&W species management guidelines. 	Known sites are included in maps for the prescription in this area, one of which was completed in December, 2014.
Protect some areas for winter deer use, in cooperation with other landowners when feasible.	Consideration given in the forest management prescription for this area.
Recreation and Visual Management Recommendations	
• Manage the recreation along the river and lakes consistent with the general remote character and quality of the river itself.	Ongoing
Work closely with Project SHARE and BSRFH in planning and implementing any facility improvements in the Unit.	Ongoing
 Improvements to boat launching sites will be further evaluated, particularly sites on Third Machias Lake, Salmon Pond, and the "wonderland" campsite. 	Salmon Pond boat launch evaluated for suitability as a handicapped accessible site with fishing dock and determined unacceptable. Second Lake hand carry in need of evaluation

	and modification, scheduled in FY 2016 work year.
• Work with area guides and other recreational interests towards a coordinated effort in providing information, general management needs, and facility improvements along the water course.	Ongoing
• Consider developing a non-motorized trail along the east side of the river, if there is sufficient interest and support for trail development, maintenance and stewardship.	No interest has come forth yet, but 1 mile of road on BPL property was improved for recreational access and use.
 Work with area ATV interests and surrounding landowner toward establishing a trail connection from the river lands to the nearby regional ATV system. 	American Forest Management, Inc. has allowed a short section of the 52-00-0 road from the Log Landing Campsite to the 50-00-0 road be an ATV access road. This has allowed that campsite and the West Branch Campsite to have direct ATV access to the statewide ATV trail system.
• Consider any future proposals from the snowmobile community to re-locate snowmobile trails into the Unit. In evaluating potential trails, consider the resource allocations on the Unit, the IRP, and other management objectives on the Unit.	Open for discussions, but no interest expressed to date.
Timber Management Recommendations	
• Manage the pine plantations with the goals of restoring the stands to a more natural condition and enhancing wildlife habitat.	Forest management prescription just completed with a multi- year harvesting operation to implement this recommendation on a portion of the plantations.
 Work with MNAP and BSRFH before implementing any timber management. 	Continuing/ongoing
In general, manage for late-successional species.	Continuing/ongoing
Transportation and Administrative Recommendations	
Continue to work with Project SHARE on improvements to stream crossings.	Crossing work with Project SHARE (Salmon Habiat and River Enhancement] was completed and the focus area was switched from the Machias to the Narraguagus watershed.
• Evaluate all roads in the Unit comparing their benefits to Bureau management with their potential threat to salmon habitat. Discontinue or relocate unnecessary or particularly poorly designed roads.	Done in forest management prescription for a portion of the unit with input from DSRFH staff. Remaining portions of the Unit will be addressed as prescriptions for those areas are developed.
 Continue to discuss the possibility of seasonal closure of 52-00-0 Road and other issues involving interactions between private and public roads with AFM. If seasonal closure of 52-00-0 Road is implemented, monitor the road to re-open as soon as feasible and encourage guides and the public to call the Bureau's Old Town office to find out the status of the gates. 	Thus far, the gate has been closed at Route 9 for spring mud season, but it has never been locked.
Upgrade 43-00-0 Road to handle increased traffic due to	רטווכ

surrounding landowner's road closures.	
Maintain the Third Machias bridge for its current use for public	Ongoing
access and timber transport.	

Recommendations for Smaller Lots

Cary Plantation Lots

Actions taken/Comments:

Actions taken/Comments:

Communicate with the Federal Border Patrol on management	No action required; no activity on these lots.
plans for these lots.	
Pursue acquiring legal access to the Lot.	No action

Codyville Plantation Lots

•	West Lot.	BPL is awaiting evidence from claimant of possession for several years. A timber harvest was conducted in the area of the claim in 2013.
•	Pursue acquiring legal vehicular access to the Northeast Lot.	No action

Grand Lake Stream Lot

Actions taken/Comments:

none Harvested in 2012-2013

Great Pond Lots

Communicate with the Town regarding its future interest in the Lot.	Two personal trips were made to the Town Office and two letters were sent informing them of BPL's plan to conduct timber management on the lots. A public tour of recent Osborn town lot harvest was scheduled in 2014, with no one attending.
• Communicate with partners in the Lower Penobscot Forest Project regarding future planning for Project lands, and how these might interact with management of the Lot.	The Lower Penobscot Forest Project, a U.S. Forest Service project, failed due to appraisal issues and was closed out in 2014.
Pursue acquiring legal access to the Lot.	No action

Hardwood Island Lot

Actions taken/Comments:

Work with area sportsmen and recreational interests to address	No action
campsite maintenance needs on the island.	

Lakeville Lots

Wildlife Management Recommendations	
Areas of late-successional character will be maintained as such and deer cover will be enhanced where feasible. No timber harvesting will be performed along the Weymouth Brook floodplain.	Considered in prescriptions and implemented in most recent timber management activities (2009-2010).
Recreation Management Recommendations	
 Coordinate with the town of Lakeville in planning and management of trails and recreational facilities on the Keg Lake Lot, and send Lakeville town officials a copy of the 5-year reports issued to the Advisory Committee on the status of plan recommendations. 	BPL worked with Town officials to construct an off-road parking area for access to both Keg and Duck Lakes via the historic portage trail. BPL staff have attended several town meetings over the course of five years to discuss both recreational and timber management issues. Our forester conducted a Saturday tour of the recent harvest operation which was attended by over 20 people and written up in a local paper.
 Determine the suitability for a hand carry site on Keg Lake and a trailered boat launching facility on Duck Lake. 	The residents generally seem opposed to a hand carry site on Keg Lake, as per meetings with them. The offer was made in conjunction with the parking area. Duck Lake has limited site potential for a similar site on Public Lands. There has been some discussion of one or two boat access campsites on Keg Lake at meetings, but it didn't come up in the original plan.
 Work with the area ATV club to deter illegal use of the Upper Dobsis Lot, or to establish trails as appropriate. 	The Region has met with local ATV and sled groups to discuss trails concerns (along with ORV staff) on Public Lands.
Transportation and Administrative Recommendations	
 Pursue acquiring legal access to the Magoon Pond and Upper Dobsis Lots. 	No action

Macwahoc Lot

Actions taken/Comments:

•	Manage for deer winter cover in the Crossuntic Stream	Incorporated in prescriptions and management activities.
1	watershed.	

Mattawamkeag Lands

Actions taken/Comments:

Recreation Management Recommendations	
• Monitor the recreational use on these parcels and manage for their remote character.	Ongoing.
 Campsites will be built on Long Point and Big Island. 	Done
 Discuss with the landowner of the easement area possible locations for backcountry, non-motorized areas, as stipulated in the easement. 	Backcountry access is primarily water-based. Discussion with the landowner has not been scheduled, but would involve the Bureau's easement monitor as well as the Eastern Region. It would more broadly address recreational access and facilities to support non-intensive dispersed uses, as permitted by the easement.

Molunkus Lot	Actions taken/Comments:
No specific management recommendations. Management per	BPL has performed period grading of the road to the public
resource allocations.	boat launch; no harvests have occurred this plan period.

Reed Lot

Actions taken/Comments:

•	Consult with MNAP and/or IF&W if performing any harvesting near habitat of the rare or endangered species on the Northwest Lot.	No harvest activity this plan period.
٠	Pursue acquiring legal access to the lots.	No action

Webster Lot

No specific management recommendations. Management per	No management actions this plan period.
resource allocations.	

Monitoring and Evaluation (Plan pages 128-130)

Implementation of Plan Recommendations	
The Bureau will develop, within two years of Plan adoption, an action plan for implementing and monitoring the management recommendations in this Plan. This will include an assignment of priorities and timeframes for accomplishment that will be utilized to determine work priorities and budgets on an annual basis. The Bureau will document annually its progress in implementing the recommendations, plans for the coming year, and adjustments to the priorities and timeframes as needed.	Individual projects are planned and budgeted for during annual planning exercises. New initiatives, particularly larger projects, are planned in two year cycles. The detailed action plan for implementing and monitoring management has been replaced by the 5-year Plan review and BPL yearly planning process that prioritizes projects based on the Plan recommendations and resources available.
Recreation – Public Use	
 The Bureau will monitor public use to determine: if improvements to existing facilities or additional facilities are needed and compatible with general objectives if additional measures are needed to ensure that recreational users have a high quality experience (which could be affected by the numbers of users, and interactions among users with conflicting interests) if use is adversely affecting sensitive natural resources or the ecology of the area if measures are needed to address unforeseen safety issues if changing recreational uses and demands present the need or opportunity for adjustments to existing facilities and management if any changes are needed in the management of recreation in relation to other management of yildlife habitat and forest management. 	The Region utilizes Recreational Logs to determine the type and quantity of use at major units and recreational sites. The BPL recreational planner also provides some input and direction as well as the Unit foresters. When perceived safety issues arise, targeted patrols by either the Maine Warden Service or various County Sheriff's offices are commissioned. If there are environmental or rare/threatened/endangered species issues, the MNAP or LUPC or DEP are contacted.
Wildlife	
The Bureau, through its Wildlife Biologist and Technician, routinely conducts a variety of species monitoring activities statewide. The following are monitoring activities that are ongoing or anticipated for the Eastern Interior Region: (1) The Bureau will cooperate with the Bureau [now Division]	The region works closely with both the DSRFH and MDIFW on fish and wildlife issues. Significant wildlife habitat is noted and mapped when necessary in the prescription process, and also on the ground during harvesting operations. As noted above, loon surveys were conducted on Third Machias Lake (Phase II

 of Sea Run Fisheries and Habitat (DSRFH) and IF&W toward the preservation and enhancement of important fish species (2) The Bureau will conduct common loon counts as required by deed as part of the Machias River Phase II acquisition project (3) The Bureau will cooperate with IF&W in the monitoring of game species, including deer, moose, grouse, and black bear (4) The Bureau will identify and map significant wildlife habitat such as vernal pools and den trees in the process of developing its detailed forest management prescriptions. The boundaries of any sensitive natural communities will also be delineated on the ground at this time. Any significant natural areas or wildlife habitat will then be subject to appropriate protections. 	acquisition) in 2011. The wildlife biologist assigned by IF&W to the Bureau also assesses wildlife habitat and conducts some monitoring on BPL lands, and is consulted during the prescription process.
Timber Management	
The local work plans, called prescriptions, are prepared by professional foresters in accordance with Bureau policies specified in its <i>Integrated Resource Policy</i> , with input from other staff. These documents are then peer-reviewed prior to approval. Preparation and layout of all timber sales involve field staff looking at every acre to be treated. Trees to be harvested are often hand marked. Regional field staff provides regular on-site supervision of harvest activities, with senior staff visiting these sites on a less frequent basis. After the harvest is completed, roads, trails, and water crossings are discontinued as appropriate, although some management roads may remain open to vehicle travel. Changes in stand type resulting from the harvest are then recorded so that the Bureau's GIS system can be updated.	SOP - Ongoing
The Bureau is currently developing a post-harvest monitoring plan to assist forest managers in assessing harvest outcomes on all managed lands. The monitoring plan will also address water quality and Best Management Practices (BMP's) utilized during harvest activities.	Ongoing
Third party monitoring is done mainly through the forest certification programs of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). Each program conducts	Continuing/ongoing. Full audit was conducted in 2011 for both programs. The most recent annual surveillance audit was conducted in Fall 2014. The Eastern region was the

rigorous investigations of both planning and on-ground practices. An initial audit by both programs was completed in 2000, with certification awarded in 2002. A full re-audit of both programs was conducted in the fall of 2006 with certification granted in 2007. The Bureau is also subject to compliance audits during the 5-year certification period.	focus of this annual audit. No issues were noted on these lands.
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Issues for Advisory Committee Attention

New Issues or Circumstances Not Addressed in the Plan: None.

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Other Items of Special Concern or Interest: None
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