



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY

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WALTER E. WHITCOMB  
COMMISSIONER

Date: September 27, 2013

To: Downeast Region Plan Advisory Committee Members  
From: Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry,  
Division of Parks and Public Lands  
Re: Five-Year Review of the Downeast Region Management Plan: Comments and Responses

Enclosed are the Advisory Committee comments on the 2012 five-year review of the 2007 Downeast Region Management Plan and the responses to these comments by the Division of Parks and Public Lands.

The Plan guides the management of public lands at Donnell Pond, Rocky Lake, Curler Coast, Great Heath and several small lots. The Division is required to report to the Advisory Committee at five-year intervals on accomplishments and changing conditions that may warrant amendments to the plan. The Division identified no new issues or circumstances that were not addressed in the plan that warranted Committee discussion or action at this time.

The Division mailed its 2012 five-year report for the Downeast Region plan to the Advisory Committee members on July 2, 2013, requesting their comments on the report. The comments of individual Committee members and the Division's response to each are presented in the attached table.

The Division received written comments from four Advisory Committee members and takes particular note of the following:

- Corrections and Updates: As a result of Committee member and staff comments, the final Five-Year Review will include corrected trail descriptions for the Donnell Pond unit and indicate new boat launches at Spring River Lake (Donnell Pond unit) and Second Lake (Rocky Lake unit).
- Conditions Observed in the Field: One commenter reported a number of conditions observed in the field at Donnell Pond, which have been referred to the Regional manager for follow-up. These should be reported to the Regional Manager at the time of observation for immediate attention rather than waiting for the five-year review.
- Multiday Backpacking Trail: Commenters want to make progress on this trail on the Donnell Pond unit, including laying out the long-distance route and incorporating trailside campsites. The Division notes that this trail is a work-in-progress with many challenges. Progress has been made on day use trails, segments of which will become components of a multi-day route. Planning for the multi-day route should begin in the near future.
- Unauthorized Motorized Use: Two commenters noted ongoing unauthorized motorized use (particularly by ATVs) on the Donnell Pond unit, especially in the Tilden Pond and Schoodic Mountain areas. The Division notes the efforts made to date to curb this use and the reality that changing established patterns of motorized use will take some time to achieve.

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The Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) believes that the Division's efforts to curb unauthorized motorized use since plan adoption have been unsuccessful and warrant further discussion by the Advisory Committee to establish new approaches to combating this use.

While the Division appreciates NRCM's attention to the issue of unauthorized motorized use at Donnell Pond, the issue is already recognized in the management plan. The Advisory Committee provided considerable input on the issue at the time the plan was drafted, and it provided broad latitude to the Division to develop ways of combating this use. The Division has employed a number of approaches to date and will continue to employ multiple strategies to reduce unauthorized use. Because the unauthorized use continues to occur, these efforts will continue to be a management priority, with the expectation that the use will decline over time as a result.

Because the issue of unauthorized motorized use is not a new issue or circumstance and is already recognized in the plan, and because it is the role of the Division rather than the Advisory Committee to determine specific approaches to address the issue, the Division will not seek further comment from Advisory Committee. Thus, this five-year review process is completed.