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PATRICK K. MCGOWAN
COMMISSIONER

Date: March 20, 2007
Memo to: Interested Parties – Downeast Region Management Plan
From: John Titus, Plan Coordinator
RE: **Adoption of the Downeast Region Management Plan**

On March 14, 2007, the Downeast Region Management Plan was formally adopted by Patrick McGowan, Commissioner of the Department of Conservation upon recommendation by Bureau of Parks and Lands Director Will Harris. A copy of the Plan is available for review and can be downloaded from the Bureau's website at:

<http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/programs/planning/downeast/index.html>.

Numerous clarifications and information updates were made to the Final Draft as a result of input received at the Public Meeting in Cherryfield on December 12th, 2006 and the written comment period that followed.

An important change from the Final Draft was made to a 550-acre area east of Donnell Pond. The Bureau had originally recommended this area be managed for timber with a goal towards forest restoration. The adopted Plan now recommends this area be set aside for examination as a potential Ecological Reserve. As a result, timber management activities will be deferred until a final decision on its status is made. In the Final Draft the Bureau had recommended no motorized uses of this area for the 15-year Plan period, which remains the same in the adopted Plan. Upon completion of management plans that includes the original Ecological Reserves the Bureau will work with the Maine Natural Areas Program to determine where the statewide community type and geographic gaps exist, and whether the list of potential Reserve areas can fill those gaps without exceeding statutory cap limits. As part of this process, the Bureau will notify the respective Advisory Committees for its input.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the Downeast Region Management Plan. The Bureau of Parks and Lands thanks you again for your many contributions throughout the Plan process. To request a copy, contact John Titus at 207-287-4916, or by email at john.titus@maine.gov; or by regular mail at Maine Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands, 22 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0022.

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