

**Management Recommendations** (Plan pages 161-170)

<b>General: Applies to All Lands</b>	<b>Actions taken/Comments:</b> [2012 entries: standard font, 2017 entries: <i>italic font</i> ; 2024 entries: <b>bold font</b> ]
<p><b>Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems &amp; Habitat Management</b></p> <p>1. Keep recreationists on trails, especially in alpine areas, through scree walls, education, etc.</p>	<p>Horns Pond Caretaker educates hikers on the Appalachian Trail (AT).</p> <p><i>Caretaker program continues, under the purview of Maine Appalachian Trail Club.</i></p>
<p>2. Protect natural communities and rare plant populations from impacts related to land management by consulting with MNAP prior to harvesting in areas containing rare plants or plant communities, exemplary natural communities, or areas identified as potential ecological reserves in the 1998 Janet McMahon report, “An Ecological Reserves System Inventory.”</p> <p>3. Consult with the MNAP prior to establishing new trails or cutting vegetation for view opportunities in an ecological reserve.</p>	<p>Routinely consult with MNAP prior to harvesting in these areas.</p> <p><i>Continuing.</i></p> <p>Routinely consult with MNAP when establishing new trails or cutting vegetation to maintain views in ecological reserve.</p> <p><i>Continuing.</i></p>
<p><b>Rare, Threatened &amp; Endangered Species; Species of Special Concern</b></p> <p>4. Manage areas around rare animal sites according to MDIFW or USFWS guidelines, as appropriate.</p>	<p>Continuing objective for management.</p> <p><i>No change.</i></p>
<p><b>Wildlife Management</b></p> <p>5. Manage public reserved lands to increase the quality and quantity of softwood dominated stands amongst the predominance of hardwoods to increase forest diversity and benefit many wildlife species.</p>	<p>Ongoing objective.</p> <p><i>No change.</i></p>
<p>6. Follow Bureau-adopted “beech management guidelines” to assure the continuance of beech as a viable component of hardwood stands. Maintaining beech in the face of severe disease problems is a regional goal. Beechnuts are an important food for more than 40 wildlife species, and important to bear reproduction.</p>	<p>Severe mortality has limited BPL’s ability to manage beech.</p> <p><i>No change.</i></p>
<p>7. Provide significant amounts of multi-aged forests (this general goal will enhance wildlife habitat over time).</p>	<p>Ongoing objective.</p> <p><i>No change.</i></p>
<p>8. In cooperation with Florida Power and Light, MDIFW, and MDOT, as appropriate, pursue ways to educate the public about threats to the fishery from illegal stocking of non-native fish, which diminish native populations, and threats to the health of the region’s lakes and ponds from the introduction of invasive aquatic weeds.</p>	<p>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. However, IF&amp;W and NFCT have posted signs with BPL permission. The BPL</p>

	<p>website will soon include links to invasives information provided by Environmental Protection, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Maine Forest Service for each area searchable under “Find Parks &amp; Lands.”</p> <p><i>Pending for select BPL lands websites; fisheries and aquatic weed invasives information is provided on many of the BPL lands brochures.</i></p>
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<p><b>Bigelow Preserve</b></p>	<p><b>Actions taken/Comments:</b> [2012 entries: standard font, 2017 entries: <i>italic font</i>, 2024 entries: <b>bold font</b>.]</p>
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<p><b>Flagstaff-Lake Focused Recreation:</b> In cooperation with Florida Power and Light and constituent groups develop a coordinated plan for Flagstaff Lake related recreational facilities. Areas to address include:</p> <p><u>Water Access Camping:</u> When the need can be documented and resources are available, consider additional remote water access sites at:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the Savage Farm Site across from Myers Lodge</li> <li>2. the Reed Brook area</li> <li>3. additional areas identified in the Bureau’s Multiple Use Coordination Reports (developed as part of the forest management prescription process)</li> </ol>	<p>The FERC Flagstaff Project license requires Brookfield (formerly Florida Power and Light/Next Era Energy) to develop a Comprehensive Recreation and Land Management Plan, in consultation with DPPL and other state and federal agencies by July 31, 2013. Bureau staff met with Brookfield and their consultant in January and June 2013. Key issues discussed included recreation facility enhancements, potential new recreation sites, and sharing of costs for recreation site development and management. The Bureau has provided comment on the Draft Plan and will be seeking further input from user groups during the Plan update process.</p> <p><i>Brookfield completed recreation facility enhancements at Flagstaff shoreline campsites and at Big Eddy in 2015.</i></p>
<p><u>Walk-to or Drive-to Camping and Recreation:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Redesign Trout Brook Sites – limit vehicle access to the lake on the north side of the brook and define 4 individual party walk-to sites; continue to provide drive-to group site on the south side of the brook.</li> <li>5. Work with Florida Power and Light to remove the shack near old boom dam and limit vehicle access creating a walk-to/water access site or sites.</li> </ol>	<p>South side drive-to site was improved.</p> <p><i>Facility enhancements completed by Brookfield included these sites.</i></p> <p>Shack was removed. Further work to limit vehicle access will be addressed in the Comprehensive Recreation and Land Management Plan being developed by Brookfield (formerly Florida Power and Light/Next Era Energy) in consultation with the Bureau.</p> <p><i>Site was improved in 2015 by Brookfield with one campsite and privy and the road has been blocked.</i></p> <p><b>4WD vehicles continue to drive into this site. A more aggressive approach to this old spur road will be necessary to stop vehicles accessing this site.</b></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Limit further development at the Round Barn site to not more than two additional sites on the east side of the cove; and a designated disabled</li> </ol>	<p>Limited activity. Improved accessibility of privy near parking area.</p>

<p>access site near to the parking area. Improve the privy nearest the parking area to be compliant with the American with Disabilities Act.</p>	<p><i>Facility enhancements completed by Brookfield included this site; a new outhouse and 2 new vault toilets were constructed.</i></p>
<p>7. Continue to allow trailered boat access to Flagstaff Lake at Round Barn during the fall waterfowl hunting season only.</p>	<p>Trailered boat access to Flagstaff Lake at Round Barn is allowed during the fall waterfowl hunting season only.</p> <p><i>No change.</i></p>
<p><b>Land-Based Recreation</b>  <u>Additions to the Bigelow Preserve:</u>                  1. Consistent with Bureau Policy on additions to the Preserve, add the following to the Bigelow Preserve: the Range Trailhead (Coplin Plt); and the Wyman Lot East (north and east of powerline and Route 27; excepting a small area near the powerline needed for a proposed ATV trail following the powerline to bypass of the transformer station); and excepting a buffer along the CMP powerline of 500 feet; and a small buffer north of the Boralex powerline as shown on the allocation maps.</p>	<p>Done. Requires GIS update.</p> <p><i>GIS update has been completed.</i></p>
<p>2. Close to motorized public use two small spur roads that branch southerly off the Stratton Brook Road on parcels added to the Preserve.</p>	<p>Spur roads have grown over and are not vehicle-passable.</p> <p><i>No change.</i></p> <p><b>These two old Huber spur roads were rebuilt at the end of 2023. The harvest in this compartment is ongoing. It is planned to close out and block these spur roads at the conclusion of harvesting.</b></p>
<p><u>Hiking, Biking and Camping Opportunities:</u>                  3. In consultation with the MATC and ATC, evaluate and document the need for additional hiking trails to relieve heavily used areas or provide new opportunities for which there is a documented demand. Implement, if the need can be demonstrated, and the resources are available, one or both of the following:</p>	<p>No activity this period on Avery Peak Bypass or North Col trails. Continues to be an objective, as resources and staff time allow.</p> <p><i>No new trails have been developed.</i></p>
<p>a. <u>Avery Peak Bypass Trial:</u> This could provide additional loop possibilities and a thru trail option that does not require the very difficult and intimidating summit of Avery Peak. It could also provide a safe alternate route during times of inclement weather for planned hikes that start on one side of the ridge and go to the other. Currently parties must make the choice to go over the peaks in dangerous conditions or turn back. The safest choice is often difficult one to make. There appears to be a demand with many aging hikers for such an alternative. The entire route area has been scouted.</p>	

<p>b. <u>North Col Trail</u>: This could provide a loop from the Round Barn Campsite decreasing pressure on the heavily used Safford Brook Trail. Upper portions of the closed Parson’s trail could be utilized with lower sections rerouted to bring hikers to the East Flagstaff Road Extension. Further evaluation of the possible location of this trail is needed, if the need can be justified.</p>	
<p>4. Work with MATC to develop walk-to campsites on the east shore of Flagstaff Lake on Bureau lands, to meet existing demand associated with the A.T.</p>	<p>Constructed one campsite and monitor use for additional need. <i>No change.</i></p>
<p>5. Explore developing a summer hiking trail through the eastern shore area of the Bigelow Preserve, connecting with the Western Mountains Foundation (WMF) Trail, in consultation with MATC and the ATC.</p>	<p>Done. The AT was relocated closer to the lake and the former AT route now connects to the WMF trail. <i>No change.</i></p>
<p>6. Install a foot bridge over the outlet of Stratton Brook Pond on the Fire Wardens Trail.</p>	<p>Design is in progress. Construction is anticipated to occur in 2014. <i>Bridge was completed in 2015.</i></p>
<p>7. Reconfigure the parking area and campsite in the gravel pit that serves the Little Bigelow Trailhead.</p>	<p>The Little Bigelow parking area and campsite were reconfigured, and the parking area is maintained year-round. Installation of an ADA-compliant privy occurred in 2012.</p>
<p>a. Maintain as a year-round parking area for AT hikers, boaters, and cross-country skiers. Provide a pit privy that is ADA compliant to serve the parking area and other allowed uses.</p>	<p><i>No change.</i></p>
<p>b. Investigate the feasibility of providing a path to the lake from this parking area for hand-carry boat access (including an option of a connector trail to the Bog Brook Road).</p>	<p>This path exists and is lightly used. <i>No change.</i></p>
<p>c. Develop/designate one or more camping areas (depending on demand) limited to tent camping to serve parties that arrive late in the day to start a hike or boat trip the following day. Limit use of the site(s) to one or two nights only, as deemed appropriate based on use.</p>	<p>Work on these campsites is complete. <i>No change.</i></p>
<p>d. Allow use of a portion of the parking area for special events associated with the Trail, subject to approval of a Special Use Permit.</p>	<p>Special events are allowed by permit. <i>No change.</i></p>
<p>8. Remove the Fire Tower from Avery Peak after consultation with the Maine Forest Service. The tower is in very poor shape and an attractive nuisance. Damaged walls provide access and fires have burned through the floor. Structure would be dismantled and burned on site. Stone foundation would be left providing defined durable surface for trail users.</p>	<p>Done. <i>No change.</i></p>
<p>9. Retain Fire Warden’s cabin and maintain structure for continued seasonal use by the MATC.</p>	<p>MATC uses and maintains this structure. <i>No change.</i></p>

<p>10. Continue to cooperate with MATC’s Caretaker and Ridgerunner Education (CARE) program at Horns Pond, The Col volunteer program and other MATC partnerships.</p>	<p>Cooperation with MATC is ongoing. <i>No change.</i></p>
<p>11. Designate mountain biking routes as follows: along the existing public use roads; along the Stratton Brook and Huston Brook Roads (the latter also known as the “Sixties haul road”); and the woods road from the Range trailhead to the Stratton Brook Road.</p>	<p>These roads are designated for bicycling. Improvements to Huston Brook Road trail (AKA “Esker Trail”) were completed by the Carrabassett Region Chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA).</p> <p><b>The Huston Brook Road/Esker Trail remains a designated mountain bike route; however, the Huston Brook Road in Carrabassett Valley is now closed to public access, which affects access to this trail. In addition, ongoing timber harvesting along Huston Brook Road within the Bigelow Preserve has precluded bike use of much of the trail. Additional details on future plans are provided below.</b></p>
<p><b><u>PLAN AMENDMENTS</u></b>  <i>The 1<sup>st</sup> 5-year plan review (finalized June 2014) resulted in three amendments related to mountain bike and multi-use trails within the Bigelow Preserve.</i></p> <p><i>Amendment B allowed a non-motorized multi-use trail to be co-located on the management road and designated snowmobile trail between the Range trailhead and Stratton Brook Pond Road (part of a longer regional trail initially proposed by the Western Mountains Foundation, then pursued by Longfellow Mountains Heritage Trails, Inc.)</i></p> <p><i>Amendment C added two management road segments along the southern edge of the preserve to the designated mountain bike routes; use of these roads for timber management purposes will continue.</i></p> <p><i>Amendment D allows for rerouting of the bike route on the Sixties haul (AKA, Esker Trail) road onto a new parallel single-track trail, due to planned timber hauling along that road.</i></p>	<p><b>Amendment B: Longfellow Mountains Heritage Trails, Inc. completed work on the trail in 2015 and provided a progress report in 2017 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> plan review. The trail is open to mountain bikes.</b></p> <p><b>Amendment C: These segments are shown as bike and hike (and ski) trails on the current Bigelow Preserve map and guide distributed to the public, as well as the segment above.</b></p> <p><b>Amendment D: BPL harvesting in Dead River and Wyman Twps using the Huston Brook Road is ongoing. No bike trail reroute off the road was done. Harvesting will be completed in the next year or so, and the road will be restored to trail use.</b></p>
<p><u>Winter Recreation:</u>          12. Develop routes for two backcountry skiing areas. Explore possible trails connecting to Jones Pond area with the National Park Service, MATC and ATC.</p>	<p>No activity this period. BPL will continue to explore the concept of additional backcountry skiing areas as interest is indicated. <i>No change.</i></p>

<p>13. Designate the existing high elevation snowmobile route crossing through north leg of The Horns ecological reserve as the primary snowmobile route on the north side of Bigelow; and designate the existing lower elevation route as an alternate trail to be improved and used when the Bureau is actively harvesting in the higher elevation areas.</p>	<p>Done. Requires GIS update.  <i>GIS update completed.</i></p>
<p>14. Design snowmobile trails to be not more than 12 feet wide, maintaining natural contours to discourage high speed travel and ensure safety to about a 25 mph speed. Major stream crossings will have bridges built to protect not only the riders from the steep slopes and rocky bottoms but to allow the streams to flow unimpeded during the spring runoff.</p>	<p>No new trails were constructed. Any major improvements to existing trails would have to meet this standard.  <i>No change.</i>  <b>Alternate trails to take snowmobile traffic off the East and West Flagstaff roads were constructed several years ago. These trails have gone unused for many years as the clubs prefer to use the public use roads here.</b></p>
<p>15. Winter Parking</p>	<p>Done.</p>
<p>a. Continue to plow area at Range Trail</p> <p>b. Explore options to provide a winter parking area serving the south side of the Preserve for access to cross-country ski trails and winter hiking; and on the north side at Gravel pit parking area near Bigelow Trailhead.</p>	<p>Now considering options in these areas.  <i>The road is plowed approaching the Range trailhead. There is plowed access to the gravel pit while winter harvesting is occurring. The Carriage Road is also open in the winter.</i></p>
<p>Continue to cooperate with both local snowmobile clubs to provide groomed sled trails. Additional seasonal barricades are required to control inappropriate summer use.</p>	<p>Have repaired one gate and installed an additional gate to control summer use.  <i>No change.</i></p>
<p><u>Use of the Bigelow Lodge:</u> 16. Develop operational procedures and guidelines for use of the Bigelow Lodge during summer and winter.</p>	<p>Appendix D of the Plan contains the Bigelow Lodge Operational Guidelines. During 2014, the guidelines will be reviewed and revised, and additional operational procedures appended, if determined necessary for efficient operation of the facility.  <i>No change. Lodge continues to be used for lodging Americorps workers in the summer, for MATC training sessions, and as a winter warm-up location for snowmobilers and skiers.</i>  <b>An updated Appendix covering lodge operations and its use by volunteers and groups will be included in the updated Flagstaff Region Management Plan. Note - The lodge needs repairs; the roof and septic system are two major items in need of repairs/improvements.</b></p>

<p>17. Manage the Bigelow Lodge to minimize its impacts on other users in the Preserve.</p>	<p>Ongoing. <i>No change.</i></p>
<p><b>Timber Resources</b>                  The Bigelow Act allows timber harvesting “consistent with the area’s scenic beauty and natural features.”</p> <p><u>Management Objectives by Stand Type (regulated acres only):</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Softwood types (~3,050 acres, or 13% of the regulated acres): Areas currently in softwoods should usually be managed to stay in the type.</li> <li>2. Mixedwood types (~8,756 acres, or 39% of the regulated acres): Management should favor spruce in most areas, pine where it occurs, and northern hardwoods (yellow birch, beech, sugar maple) on the more fertile soils.</li> <li>3. Hardwood types (~10,920 acres, 48% of the regulated acres): (a) Intolerant hardwoods, labeled as aspen or fire type – Management in this type should concentrate on recovering much of the value of the mature aspen and birch in a way that protects the Bigelow view sheds, and that retains most of the desirable softwood regeneration (fir and spruce). (b) Northern hardwoods - Most acres would qualify as late successional forest; careful selection harvests should be used to maintain successional quality, while growing and selling high value timber.</li> </ol> <p><u>Resource Allocations</u>                  The resource allocations designated in the Plan provide further management direction regarding timber management. No areas within the Bigelow Preserve are given a Timber Management dominant allocation. However, forest management including timber harvest is allowed as a secondary use (multi-aged management only) in areas designated Bigelow Backcountry Non-mechanized, Bigelow Backcountry, Wildlife Management, and Remote Recreation areas. Visual Class I areas have been designated as a dominant allocation in a small area of the Preserve, and as a secondary allocation in areas adjacent to shorelines, public use roads and trails. All areas not designated as Visual Class I are allocated to Visual Class II. In Visual Class I areas, harvesting is permitted under stringent limitations directed at retaining the appearance of an essentially undisturbed forest, while Visual Class II areas are managed to avoid any obvious alterations to the landscape.</p>	<p>The Bureau’s forests are managed by sustainable harvest units (SHUs), which in the case of the Flagstaff Plan area includes all the lots in the plan in one unit, ZW2.</p> <p><i>The period covered in the summary below totals 4 years, FY 2013 through FY 2017.</i></p> <p><i>Total harvest volume in the entire SHU was 49,000 cords; average volume was 12,250 cords per year. That’s 92% of the Sustainable Harvest Level target of 13,250 cords, and 83% of net growth (14,694). 32,450 cords (66% of the volume) came from Bigelow and the adjacent Carrabassett Valley parcel (700 cords). The Bigelow (plus CV) volume was 20% softwoods, 80% hardwoods. (In comparison, 2011 volume at Bigelow was 42% SW, 58% HW; increasing SW was an objective.) 90% of softwoods were spruce-fir, the rest pine and hemlock. Only 7% of hardwood volume was sawlogs/veneer; 60% of logs/veneer was sugar maple. Mixed hardwood pulp was the greatest single item at 33% of the Bigelow total, with aspen pulpwood next at 31% as harvests covered large areas where stands originated from fires related to land clearing for Flagstaff Lake in the 1940s. The total volume of 32,450 cords came from 3,060 treated acres.</i></p> <p><i>The other 34% of Plan area volume came from Dead River Peninsula, where significant harvests resumed in FY2016 after 20 years with only very small volumes cut. Softwood and hardwood volumes here were about equal, again favoring a softwood increase as the 2011 inventory showed the tract to be 73% SW and 27% HW. Spruce and fir made up 36% of DRP volume, mixed hardwood pulpwood and biomass were each 21%, aspen pulpwood 13% (also from “Flagstaff fire” acres), and 7% was white pine, which in 2011 made up 13.5% of tract cords. Quality hardwoods are not common on this softwoods-dominated area, and less than one percent of the volume here was logs/veneer. The total 16,500 cords came from 1,405 treated acres.</i></p> <p><i>None of the smaller original public lots in the Plan area saw harvests during the four fiscal year period.</i></p>

	<p><i>For the full Plan area, mixed HW pulpwood was 28% of total harvest volume, aspen pulpwood 26%, spruce-fir products (80% were sawlogs) 24%, biomass 4%, hardwood logs/veneer 4% and pine 2%.</i></p> <p><b>The period covered in the summary below totals 6+ years, FY 2018 through FY 2024 (to-date).</b></p> <p><b>Total harvest volume in the entire SHU was 54,255 cords; average volume was 7,750 cords per year. That’s 58% of the Sustainable Harvest Level target of 13,300 cords.</b></p> <p><b>A total of 33,172 cords came from the Dead River Peninsula and Spring Lake lot, 61% of Plan area volume. Softwood made up 42% of the volume and hardwood made up 58% of volume. The harvest came from 2,700 treated acres.</b></p> <p><b>A total of 21,083 cords came from the Bigelow Preserve, 39% of the Plan area volume. The Bigelow volume was 23% softwoods, 77% hardwoods. The harvest came from 2,250 treated acres.</b></p> <p><b>None of the smaller original public lots in the Plan area saw harvests during the 6+ year period.</b></p> <p><b>For the full Plan area, mixed hardwood pulpwood was 45% of total harvest volume, spruce-fir products were 32% (80% were sawlogs), biomass was 13%, hardwood logs/veneer was 6%, and pine was 2%.</b></p> <p><b>Additional details can be obtained from the Western Region office upon request.</b></p>
<p><u>Management Objectives for Old Growth Forests:</u></p> <p>4. The Bureau has not identified any Old Growth stands on the Bigelow Preserve although trees aged at least 150 years are present. The Bureau has a policy for managing individual or groups of very old trees (less than the 5 acres needed to qualify for special protection) – called old growth component. Management will follow the current policy for old growth component, which is to retain this feature (where feasible) at similar proportions in the residual stand as it occurred pre-harvest, including species diversity.</p>	<p>In 2013 an old growth stand was identified on the north slope in Dead River Twp. The core of the stand is a mixedwood stand with pure hardwood acres added along the south edge and some pure softwood acres added on the northeast making a stand totaling 68 acres with a high degree of variability.</p> <p><i>No change.</i></p>



<p><b>Management Objectives for Late Successional (LS) Forests:</b></p> <p>5. The Bigelow Preserve is estimated to have from 30 to 35% in late successional forests, and current policy and prescriptions will result in a continued increase in the proportion of Bureau forest land being LS. For the Bigelow Preserve the following guidance will ensure that the trend toward increasing amounts of LS forests continues: Identify existing and "soon"-potential LS stands through the prescription process; Retain sufficient large, old trees, and younger stems of long-lived species; Avoid removal of disproportionate amounts of LS-character trees; Avoid major reduction of crown closure, while managing within the bounds of good silviculture. Note that some areas of the Preserve are in need of silvicultural treatments that might require variance from this guidance – for example, in old burn areas, restoring the forest to a healthy, multi-aged structure.</p>	<p>Continued management during this plan period according to the guidance provided by the Plan. Development of refined techniques for foresters to more accurately identify LS stands is ongoing.</p> <p><i>No change.</i></p>
<p><b>Historic Resources</b></p> <p>1. Any activities that would result in ground disturbance in historic and archaeologically sensitive areas must be reviewed by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC). Sensitive areas include areas close to the original Dead River channel – Round Barn and Ferry Farm where there could be artifacts from the Arnold Expedition; and areas determined to have potential for prehistoric artifacts – all shoreline areas.</p>	<p>Follow as required.</p> <p><i>No change.</i></p>
<p><b>Administrative Issues</b></p> <p>1. Execute a lease for the Wing Camp.</p>	<p>In past years, the Bureau has not received the cooperation of the camp owner to execute a lease. A number of years have passed since contact was made. No later than December 30, 2015, the Bureau will bring the lack of a lease for the camp to resolution. A recent inspection of the camp indicated that the shed attached to the rear of the camp is collapsing and needs to be removed. This condition will be included in a lease agreement that will be offered to the camp owner. If the offer of a lease is not accepted, the Bureau will act to remove the camp.</p> <p><i>The Bureau has corresponded with the Wing family and met with them on-site. The site was surveyed to determine the Brookfield/ BPL boundary along the lakeshore and the dimensions of the lease area to be offered. A lease has been sent to the camp owner and is awaiting their signature (the former owner has passed away and probate issues are pending). The shed attached to the rear of the camp has been removed.</i></p>

	<b>A lease was executed with the Wing family in 2018 and renewed in 2023. The lease area encompasses ~1/2 acre.</b>
2. Gravel extracted from pits within the Preserve may only be used for purposes within the Preserve. All depleted pits will be rehabilitated.	Gravel restriction observed. <i>No change.</i>
3. Seek to acquire in-holdings within the Preserve boundaries, or lands adjacent to the Preserve that have valued public resources, if these lands are placed on the market and can be acquired at fair market value, and funds are available for the acquisition.	The Bureau is in communication with landowners who are interested in selling land or interests in land adjacent to the Preserve; those communications are ongoing. <i>No change.</i>

<b>Flagstaff Lake/Surrounding Properties</b>	<b>Actions taken/Comments:</b> [2012 entries: standard font, 2017 entries: <i>italic font</i> , 2024 entries: <b>bold font</b> ]
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<p><b>Coordinated Recreation Planning for Flagstaff Lake:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In cooperation with Florida Power and Light and constituent groups develop a coordinated plan for recreational facilities on Flagstaff Lake. In general, evaluate the demand and needs for additional water access camping sites on Flagstaff Lake in cooperation with user groups such as the Northern Forest Canoe Trail organization, Outward Bound and Chewonki, and local guides. Implement when the need is documented and resources allow.</li> <li>2. Develop a formal agreement with Florida Power and Light regarding the management of lands and recreation resources within the 1146-foot and 1150-foot elevation contours of shoreline adjacent to Bureau ownership.</li> <li>3. Discuss/pursue erosion control along the shoreline of Flagstaff Lake with Florida Power and Light.</li> </ol>	<p>The FERC Flagstaff Project license requires Brookfield Renewable (formerly Next Era Energy/Florida Power and Light) to develop a Comprehensive Recreation and Land Management Plan (CRLMP), in consultation with DPPL and other state and federal agencies by July 31, 2013. Bureau staff met with Brookfield and their consultant in January and June 2013. Discussion at these meetings addressed a coordinated management approach and an accurate inventory of recreation sites and ownership. There was only general discussion of potential new water access camping sites. The Draft Plan addresses coordinated recreation site development and management and a potential future formal agreement, and shoreline erosion control. The Bureau has provided comments on the Draft Plan and will be seeking further input from user groups during the Plan update process.</p> <p><i>Brookfield submitted a Final CRLMP to FERC in July 2013. The Final plan includes an updated and revised inventory of recreation sites and ownership. In March 2017, BPL sent Brookfield a Proposal for Recreation Management Agreement for the Flagstaff Lake Project; finalization of the agreement is pending.</i></p> <p><b>In July 2019 BPL executed the Flagstaff Lake Recreation Maintenance Agreement with Brookfield. The cooperative agreement provides for annual 50/50 cost sharing for maintenance of the Flagstaff Lake recreation facilities Brookfield is required to provide to the public under their FERC License, with the funding supporting a BPL seasonal ranger or intern. The most recent payment was \$21,327. The agreement</b></p>
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	<b>will be in effect for the term of the License, which expires in 2036.</b>
<p><b>Flagstaff Lake Focused Recreation:</b>  <u>Water Access Camping:</u>  <u>Islands:</u>                      1. Evaluate the need and feasibility of adding water access sites on Flagstaff Island.</p>	<p>See #1 under Coordinated Recreation Planning.</p>
<p><u>Dead River Peninsula:</u>                      2. Designate the North Flagstaff Road (Picked Chicken Hill Road) as a public use road.                      3. If the demand can be documented, and as resources allow, provide additional remote water access camping sites. The shoreline of the Dead River Peninsula has been identified as the preferable location for through-trippers on the Northern Forest Canoe Trail due to prevailing winds and aspect.</p>	<p>Done.                      See #1 under Coordinated Recreation Planning.  <i>No change; no additional recreation sites are planned at this time.</i></p>
<p><u>Walk-to or Drive-to Camping &amp; Recreation Opportunities on Flagstaff Lake:</u>  <u>Myers Lodge:</u>                      1. Designate the access road as a public use road.</p>	<p>Road is maintained for public use. Requires GIS update.  <i>GIS has been updated.</i></p>
<p>2. Limit vehicle access to the lake. Remove the culvert through the drainage area and replace with a foot-bridge wide enough for carry-in boat access.</p>	<p>The Bureau has discussed these improvements with Brookfield and they are addressed in the Comprehensive Recreation and Land Management Plan that the Bureau has reviewed and that Brookfield is to submit to FERC by July 31, 2013.  <i>These improvements are included in the Final CRLMP mentioned above. The improvements were completed by Brookfield in 2015.</i></p>
<p>3. Develop drive-to campsites on high ground near the footbridge. Designate one handicapped accessible site.</p>	
<p>4. Provide one or more vault toilets, including one that is ADA compliant.</p>	
<p>5. Manage the beach area for carry-in boat access and day use, except in areas designated for walk-to campsites; manage a portion of the beach for day use.</p>	
<p><u>Northern Shoreline – Flagstaff Township:</u>                      6. Explore the potential for ATV access to the northern shoreline of Flagstaff Lake (the area that was the original Flagstaff Pond) for a remote ATV camping opportunity (requires agreements with adjacent landowners). As with other remote sites, provide a parking area with footpaths to campsites and the lake. Design at least one site to be handicapped accessible. (Note: these sites would also be accessible by water).</p>	<p>This concept has not been explored due to other priorities and the local ATV club being focused on other trail management issues.  <i>No change.</i></p>
<p><u>Dead River Peninsula:</u>                      7. Redesign site on west end of Dead River Peninsula lot to be walk-in or water access; block the spur road to this site and provide a parking area</p>	<p>Done.</p>

<p>for walk-in users.</p>	<p><i>Improvements were completed by Brookfield at this site in 2015.</i></p>
<p><b><u>Boat Access:</u></b> Pursue parking improvements to the Flagstaff Lake boat access facility on the Spring Lake parcel with Florida Power and Light (responsible for this facility under their Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license).</p>	<p>The Bureau has discussed these improvements with Brookfield (formerly Florida Power and Light/Next Era Energy) and they are addressed in the Comprehensive Recreation and Land Management Plan that the Bureau has reviewed and that Brookfield submitted to FERC on July 31, 2013. Brookfield will redevelop the site “for general and ADA uses and functional improvements.” Only carry-in boat access will be provided.</p> <p><i>Brookfield improved the carry-in launch on the Spring Lake parcel as described in the CRLMP.</i></p>
<p><b><u>PLAN AMENDMENT</u></b> <i>The 1<sup>st</sup> 5-year plan review (finalized June 2014) resulted in Amendment F, which states that BPL will work with Brookfield White Pine Hydro, the hydro project operator, to identify a site and develop a boat launching facility on the east side of the lake suitable for small boats.</i></p>	<p><i>Improvements were completed by Brookfield at the Long Falls Dam boat launch in 2015, including a gravel parking area, and it was opened to public use (formerly the site was not accessible to the public).</i></p>
<p><b>Dead River Focused Recreation:</b> 1. Improve the Big Eddy Campsite sanitation facilities.</p>	<p>Vault toilets were installed in 2012.</p> <p><i>Substantial Improvements were completed by Brookfield at this site in 2015, as detailed in the CRLMP.</i></p>
<p><b>Land Based Recreation</b> 1. <b><u>Wyman Lot (south) and Carrabassett Valley lots:</u></b> Work with the Flagstaff Area ATV Club to develop a route connecting trails in Coplin Plantation to Kingfield via the Wyman lot south of Route 27, crossing the AT along Route 27, connecting to the CMP powerline on the east side of Route 27 (involving a bypass around the transformer station using an existing road and a small portion of the Wyman lot north and east of Route 27), and then connecting to the existing snowmobile trail heading south of the Preserve.</p>	<p>Done. The Carrabassett Valley ATV club has received grant funding for trail improvements in the vicinity of the CMP powerline corridor.</p> <p><i>No change.</i></p>
<p><b><u>PLAN AMENDMENTS</u></b> <i>The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> five-year plan reviews resulted in three plan amendments related to non-motorized trail development on the Carrabassett Valley Lot.</i></p> <p><i>The 1<sup>st</sup> five-year plan review (finalized June 2014) resulted in Plan Amendment E, which allowed the development of a hiking/snowshoeing connector trail on the CV Lot and Bigelow Preserve to link the Maine Huts and Trails Stratton Brook Hut to the 60s Road/Esler Trail (later named</i></p>	<p><b>Amendment E: Maine Huts and Trails constructed the 1.5-mile Approach Trail, with a pedestrian bridge over Stratton Brook, and installed trail signage. The trail was completed in 2016 and added to the updated Bigelow Preserve and Flagstaff Lake</b></p>

<p><i>the Approach Trail).</i></p> <p><i>The 2<sup>nd</sup> five-year plan review (finalized March 2018) resulted in Amendment A, which allowed mountain bike use of the Approach Trail, and Amendment B, which allowed the development of a new mountain bike trail, connecting the Approach Trail to trails on the abutting Sanitary District land (later named the Bear Trail).</i></p>	<p><b>Guide and Map brochure (available on the BPL webpage).</b></p> <p><b>Amendments A and B: The Approach Trail has been opened to bike use, and the new ~1/2-mile Bear Trail was constructed in 2018. The Bear Trail will be added to the Guide and Map brochure and the Approach Trail will be shown as a bike trail at the next update of the Guide and Map.</b></p>
<p>2. <u>Wyman Lot (south)</u>: Construct an interpretive trail through the Old Growth Stand, as resources allow.</p>	<p>Secured funding for trail construction.</p> <p><i>Ongoing consideration; no trail construction planned at this time.</i></p> <p><b>Work by CR-NEMBA is largely complete on a new parking area/trailhead along Rt. 27 and the first phase of mountain bike trails, which are largely on the Wyman Lot but extend into the Stoney Brook area of the Crocker Mtn. Unit, within the zone designated for mountain bike trail development in the Crocker Mountain Management Plan. Additional details are provided below in the Crocker Mtn. Unit table.</b></p>
<p>3. <u>Spring Lake and Dead River Peninsula Lots</u>: Designate the road on the Spring Lake Lot beginning at the bridge over the Dead River, and continuing across the top of the Dead River Peninsula as a public use road.</p> <p>Allow public use of the management road that branches south from this road on the Dead River Peninsula (this will be maintained only to the standard of a woods management road, and may be used by ATV's and for pedestrian uses).</p>	<p>Done. <i>No change.</i></p> <p>Done. <i>No change.</i></p>
<p><b>Historic Resources:</b> Any activities that would result in ground disturbance in historic and archaeologically sensitive areas must be reviewed by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC). Sensitive areas include areas close to the original Dead River channel – where there could be artifacts from the Arnold Expedition; and areas determined to have potential for prehistoric artifacts – the entire shoreline of Flagstaff Lake.</p>	<p>Follow as required. <i>No change.</i></p>
<p><b>Administrative Issues:</b> 1. Survey the boundary line on the Northern Flagstaff Lake shoreline parcels acquired from Plum Creek.</p>	<p>No activity this period. <i>No activity.</i></p>

**Mount Abraham**

**Actions taken/Comments:** [2012 entries: standard font, 2017 entries: *italic font*; 2024 entries: **bold font**]

<b>Wildlife/Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems and Habitats</b>	
1. Work with local snowmobile and ATV clubs to increase awareness of the impacts of these trails on the fragile alpine areas.	Problems are more associated with independent riders than with club members.
2. Block and post trails and roads on Bureau lands that are used to gain unauthorized motorized vehicle access into ecological reserve. Work with adjacent landowners to block and post trails that enter the Ecological Reserve from the western side.	<p>Have blocked and posted routes on Bureau lands and worked with adjacent landowners to do the same. Most difficult use to control is winter snowmobile use.</p> <p><i>The Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust, easement holder for the reserve area, has posted two signs at key locations indicating that motorized vehicles are prohibited in the area. A third sign will be posted in the spring of 2018.</i></p> <p><b>The Bureau will address unauthorized trails that may be used to access the ecoreserve from the west as part of planning for the new Perham Stream acquisition.</b></p>
3. Develop an agreement with MDIFW wardens to provide an enforcement presence if necessary, to ensure that ATV's and snowmobiles are not violating posted areas.	<p>Will schedule additional enforcement patrols with the Maine Warden Service.</p> <p><b>A new law enacted in 2023 prohibits off-trail operation of a snowmobile in an area that is posted as being closed to off-trail riding and establishes penalties for violations. The Bureau is working with clubs to post "closed area" signage in appropriate locations and is working with the Warden Service to enforce restricted areas.</b></p>
4. Remove the "cave" and metal structures, including the old fire tower, from the peak.	<p>No activity this period. Reevaluate in 2014. Bridges out on the access road into the property have been a primary factor preventing this work from being completed.</p> <p><i>Two bridges have recently been replaced, in cooperation with the abutting landowner. The Bureau will evaluate options for removing the structures in the next 5-year plan period.</i></p> <p><b>The remains of the old fire tower and roof of the old cab (sitting on rocks to form a low makeshift shelter) remain. One of the two bridges over Rapid Stream was washed out again in Dec. 2023, and Rapid Stream Road has also been prone to washouts,</b></p>

	<b>affecting access.</b>
<p><b>Recreation</b></p> <p>1. Re-establish the hiking trailhead at the original lower elevation site and reroute the trail on Bureau lands to connect with the Warden’s trail.</p>	<p>Done.</p> <p><i>Road to trailhead and parking have been improved.</i></p>
<p>2. Remove the old Fire Wardens cabin and locate/construct a group tent site.</p>	<p>Cabin has been removed, and a new campsite has been constructed.</p>
<p>3. Block the logging roads that extend into the Ecological Reserve and put them to bed.</p>	<p>No activity this period. Bridges out on access roads have prevented vehicles from using the logging roads and have made it unnecessary to block the roads.</p> <p><i>Although the bridges have been replaced, the logging roads are rough and have now grown in, discouraging motorized use.</i></p>
<p>4. Evaluate alternatives to the road across the southern arm of the ecological reserve presently used as part of the snowmobile and ATV trail system in the area. Relocate these trails to other roads, if reasonable, and discontinue the road on the ecological reserve.</p>	<p>No activity this period. Reevaluate in 2014-15.</p> <p><i>Evaluation by the ORV Division indicated that steep terrain provides no reasonable option for relocating this segment of trail (which predates the 2007 ecological reserve designation).</i></p>
<p>5. Continue to allow ATVs and snowmobiles to use the existing gravel management road on the easterly edge of the non-ecoreserve portion of the property, provided there are no environmental issues.</p>	<p>Uses continue to be allowed.</p>
<p><b>Timber Resources</b></p> <p>1. Evaluate forest management opportunities on the non-ecoreserve portion of the property.</p>	<p>No activity this period, and no management activity is expected on the property within the next five years as it was harvested just prior to Bureau acquisition in 2001.</p> <p><i>No activity expected this five-year period.</i></p>
<p><b>Administrative Issues</b></p> <p>1. Determine and mark the boundary of the ecological reserve where roads appear to cross the ecological reserve (southern and eastern boundary); and where woods roads appear useable by ATV’s to illegally access the summit area (portions of the western line).</p>	<p>Some woods roads accessible by ATV and snowmobile have been blocked. Boundary has not been marked, to date, on these roads.</p> <p><i>No change.</i></p>
<p>2. Assess any environmental issues with roads located on the Bureau lands. Put to bed any roads not needed for forest management purposes and not part of an approved snowmobile or ATV trail network.</p>	<p>No activity this period. Most roads have been blocked or closed out by abutting landowners, and have minimized use of the forest management roads on the Unit. The Bureau has not done an environmental assessment of the roads, to date; this is done as part of forest management activities, which have not yet occurred on the unit.</p> <p><i>No change, as no harvests have occurred.</i></p>
<p>3. Develop a proposal to the MATC for extending the Appalachian side trail</p>	<p>MATC has adopted the trail as an official side trail of the</p>

(blue-blaze trail) from the summit to the Bureau trailhead on the east side of the mountain.	Appalachian Trail. <b>The side trail is not shown on official NPS trail data. BPL will confirm the designation and request a data update through MATC.</b>
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<b>Chain of Ponds</b>	<b>Actions taken/Comments:</b> [2012 entries: standard font, 2017 entries: <i>italic font</i> ; 2024 entries: <b>bold font</b> ]
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<b>Recreation Resources</b>	No activity this period.
1. Redesign Burnt Dam Campsites. 2. Through the Boating Facilities Division, work with MDOT to provide improved public boat access to this string of ponds. Improve the boat ramp in the Natanis Campground to a concrete-plank ramp and provide additional parking. Block the informal access site onto Natanis Pond, just south of the entrance to the Natanis Campground to discourage its use (unsafe location).	Boat ramp and parking improvements at campground were completed.  The informal site, created by MDOT on MDOT land, has not been blocked.
3. Provide an ADA compliant privy at the new boat launch facility on Natanis Pond; upgrade the privy at the Upper Farm site to be ADA compliant as resources allow.	Currently working with campground operator to provide accessible toilet at improved boat launch.  <i>Campground lessee provides toilet at the boat launch.</i>
4. Work with the Boating Facilities Division and MDOT, using MDOT Water Access Bond money to develop an improved trailerable boat access onto Lower Pond, to replace a steep, gravel ramp at the same location.	The site has been determined unsuitable for an improved trailerable launch because of steep slopes, insufficient land and deep water at the shore.
5. Provide signage to identify hand carry boat access to the two middle ponds within the chain, Long Pond and Bag Pond.	No activity this period. Two hand-carry sites providing access to Long Pond and Bag Pond are located on the Bureau's Google Earth web mapping application: <a href="http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/programs/boating/googlemaps.html">http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/programs/boating/googlemaps.html</a> . Signage has not been provided at these sites to date.
<b>PLAN AMENDMENT</b> <i>The 1<sup>st</sup> five-year plan review (finalized June 2014) resulted in Amendment A, which allowed construction of segments of a multiuse trail and bridges on the west side of the Chain of Ponds unit, part of a longer regional trail proposed by Western Mountains Corporation [now a project of Longfellow Mountains Heritage Trails, Inc.]. The trail route largely follows old management roads, primarily on private property but crossing onto BPL land on the west side and at the north end of the COP unit. About 1.5 miles of the trail is on BPL land.</i>	<b>Amendment A: In June 2015, BPL issued a Trail Use Permit to Longfellow Mountains Heritage Trails, Inc. (LMHT) to develop and maintain the trail and to construct a bridge across the inlet to Bag Pond, for which LMHT received a permit from LUPC in 2017. In 2017, LMHT provided a progress report during the 2<sup>nd</sup> plan review. In 2018, the bridge was constructed to allow motor vehicle use but is gated to prevent unauthorized use. This spring, the Bureau inspected completed portions of the trail on and near BPL property and has contacted LMHT regarding plans for completion of the trail at the Chain of Ponds area, and renewal of the Trail Use Permit.</b>



<p><b>Historic Resources</b></p> <p>1. Any activities that would result in ground disturbance in historic and archaeologically sensitive areas must be reviewed by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC). Sensitive areas include areas in proximity to Natanis Point, Round Pond and Horseshoe Stream.</p>	<p>Follow as required.</p> <p><i>No change.</i></p>
<p>2. Pursue interpretive efforts related to the Arnold Trail in cooperation with MDOT (related to interpretive panels to be erected at the new scenic overlook on Route 27, as part of the Scenic Byways program), and the Arnold Trail Historical Society, which maintains a trail around and above Round Pond.</p>	<p>MDOT panels describing the Arnold Expedition were installed on Route 27 turnout near Cathedral Pines in Eustis.</p> <p>Work with the Arnold Expedition Historical Society is expected in the future.</p>
<p><b>Wildlife/Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems and Habitats</b></p> <p>1. Periodically manage the old fields and apple trees to maintain their habitat attributes.</p>	<p>Periodic mowing and pruning occurs.</p>
<p>2. Monitor and evaluate the potential of the Horseshoe Stream area for designation as a managed deer wintering area.</p>	<p>No activity this period.</p>
<p>3. Post information at the trailered boat access on Natanis Pond related to procedures for avoiding introduction of invasive aquatic vegetation and fish.</p>	<p>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 Environmental Protection, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Maine Forest Service for each area searchable under “Find Parks &amp; Lands.”</p> <p><i>IF&amp;W has posted signs addressing invasive fish and plants at the Natanis Pond boat launch.</i></p>
<p><b>Administrative Issues</b></p> <p>1. Work with the Natanis Campground leaseholders to ensure continued reasonable public access to public resources including availability of short-term camping sites; access to the planned public boat access at the north end of Natanis Pond; access to ATV trails; and access to the Arnold Trail walk.</p>	<p>Lease agreement with campground lessee addresses these objectives.</p> <p><i>No change. In 2015, the campground received permission to rebuild the bathhouse.</i></p>
<p>2. Work with the commercial campground lessee to ensure the campground is in character with the scenic and primitive nature of the surroundings, and has as little impact on the lake and associated wetlands as possible.</p>	<p><b>A new 15-year lease for the campground was executed in Jan. 2018. In 2019, the campground operators received permission to construct a permanent camp structure for their use (replacing a camper) and to install a well.</b></p>

Other Public Lots/Easement	Actions taken/Comments: [2012 entries: standard font, 2017 entries: <i>italic font</i> , 2024 entries: <b>bold font</b> ]
<p><b>Coplin Plantation West Lot (Deeryard Lot)</b>                      1. Continue to manage for wildlife; monitor and evaluate use and ongoing studies related to the Deer Wintering area on this lot.</p>	<p>Due to natural occurrences in past decades, the cover on this lot had fallen apart and portions are no longer suitable habitat, although it still zoned for wildlife protection by LURC. However, cover is improving. <i>No change.</i></p>
<p>2. Define the Visual Class I area along the Dead River prior to any timber harvest in this area.</p>	<p>Visual Class I area will be defined as part of forest management prescriptions. The most recent prescription was prepared in April 2006. <i>No change.</i></p>
<p><b>Coplin Plantation Center Lot</b>                      1. Continue to manage for late successional forest for high quality timber where appropriate, and a diverse wildlife habitat.</p>	<p>Ongoing. The most recent prescription was prepared in August 2005. <i>No change.</i></p>
<p><b>Freeman Township Lot</b>                      1. Continue to manage for high quality timber and diverse wildlife habitat.</p>	<p>Ongoing. The most recent prescription was prepared in October 2006. <i>No change.</i></p>
<p><b>Highland Plantation West Lot:</b>                      1. Continue to manage for late successional forest for high quality timber where appropriate and wildlife values.</p>	<p>Ongoing. The most recent prescription was prepared in 2010. <i>No change.</i></p>
<p>2. Define the Visual Class I area along the Long Falls Dam Road prior to any timber harvest in this area.</p>	<p>Done. GIS update required. <i>No change.</i></p>
<p><b>Highland Plantation Double Lot:</b>                      1. Continue to manage for late successional forest, for high quality timber where appropriate and diverse wildlife habitat.</p>	<p>Ongoing management as per Plan. The most recent prescription was prepared in 1987. <i>No change.</i></p> <p><b>Access to this lot can only be had with the agreement of one or more abutting landowners. No agreement was reached during the initial prescription evaluation in 2019. BPL will consider unregulating the lot (i.e., removing from lands under active timber management).</b></p>
<p><b>Highland Plantation Southeast Lot:</b>                      1. Manage the portion of the lot west of Sandy Stream for wildlife.                      2. Establish a Visual Class I area around the small ledge/waterfall on the north line of the parcel prior to any timber harvest in this area.                      3. Provide signs along the gravel road visible to the public showing points of entry onto and exit from this lot. Provide a small parking area along the road if feasible.</p>	<p>Ongoing.                      Visual Class I area will be defined prior to any forest management work within the identified area, which is within the 10 acre portion of the lot west of Sandy Stream, with Dominant Wildlife and Secondary Timber Management allocations. (The remaining 111 acres of the lot is allocated to Special Protection.)                      Parking needs to be reevaluated in 2014.</p> <p><i>No activity this period.</i></p>

<p><b>King and Bartlett Township Lot:</b>                  1. Continue to manage for late successional forest for high quality timber where appropriate and wildlife values.</p>	<p>Ongoing management as per the Plan. The most recent prescription was prepared in September 2006. <i>No change.</i></p> <p><b>A prescription was written in 2023.</b></p>
<p><b>Redington Township Lot:</b>                  1. Continue to manage for late successional forest for high quality timber where appropriate, and wildlife habitat, subject to a variable width Visual Class I area and the 100-foot no-cut area along either side of the Appalachian Trail.                  2. Avoid placement of new forest management roads within the remote recreation zone along the AT.</p>	<p>Ongoing management as per the Plan. The most recent prescription was prepared in 1997, and it is anticipated that a new prescription will be developed soon.</p> <p><i>No Change. No roads have been developed during this period as no harvesting occurred.</i></p>
<p><b>Pierce Pond Easement:</b>                  1. Establish and implement an annual monitoring program in cooperation with the US Forest Service (holder of the Plum Creek and Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust conservation easements), and the Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust (third party enforcer to the conservation easement held by the Bureau on the Charles and Gertrude Valentine property).</p>	<p>Established and ongoing. <i>No change.</i></p>

<p><b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b> (Plan pages 171-173)</p>	<p><b>Actions taken/Comments:</b> [2012 entries: standard font, 2017 entries: <i>italic font</i>; 2024 entries, <b>bold font</b>]</p>
<p><b>Implementation of Plan Recommendations</b>                  Within 2 years of plan adoption, develop a process for implementing, accomplishing, and tracking the management recommendations in the Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include a framework of recommendations with priority levels assigned and targeted timeframes established by priority level. This framework will be utilized to determine work priorities and budgets on an annual basis.</li> <li>• Document annually progress in implementing the recommendations, plans for the coming year, and adjustments to the target timeframes as needed.</li> </ul>	<p>The Bureau implements plan recommendations through the process of calendar year planning, during which it schedules and budgets for projects for the coming year. Priorities are established within each Public Lands administrative region based on urgency of need (e.g., public safety, environmental impact); availability of resources (e.g., funds, staff, equipment, contractors); and opportunities available at the time (e.g., project consolidation, favorable weather). Yearly accomplishments are reported by administrative region in an annual report to the Legislature, which is posted on the Bureau’s website.</p> <p><i>No change.</i></p>
<p><b>Recreation – Public Use</b>                  Public use data for the Flagstaff Region, except for use on the Appalachian Trail and some scattered monitoring of snowmobile use on the Bigelow Preserve, does not exist. Fees are not charged for the use of these lands, so this avenue for collecting data does not exist for the Flagstaff properties.</p>	<p>No activity this period. The Bureau will explore collaboration with Brookfield on recreation use data collection for their FERC-required Form 80 Report (due every six years, with the next report due in 2015).</p>

<p>The Bureau will consider how additional use data could be gathered, perhaps by periodic user surveys.</p>	<p><i>No change.</i></p> <p><b>In 2018, FERC removed the requirement for hydropower project operators to submit Form 80. Brookfield White Pine Hydro now submits written recreation monitoring reports to FERC on a less frequent schedule. BPL is provided the opportunity to review and comment on the draft report.</b></p>
<p><b><u>PLAN AMENDMENT</u></b>  <i>The 2<sup>nd</sup> plan review (finalized March 2018) resulted in Amendment C, which states that the Bureau will collect baseline data on bike and other use on the Esker Trail, to help gauge the effect of the trail changes permitted under Amendments A and B on the Esker Trail (within the Bigelow Preserve).</i></p>	<p><b>Amendment C: In-person observations were conducted for several hours along the Esker Trail by Augusta staff, focused on the junction with the Approach Trail. Staffing constraints have limited additional data collection, but the Bureau has seen no indications of trail overuse or conflicts. Bureau harvesting along the Esker Trail/Huston Brk road for the past several years has limited or, at times, precluded bike use.</b></p> <p><b>Based on informal staff observations of mountain bike use on the Huston Brook Road, use appeared to be limited to mostly weekends (observed during summer harvest operations: 2020-2023).</b></p>
<p><b>Recreation – Use Impacts</b>          In addition to gathering data on use, the Bureau will monitor use to determine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• whether improvements to existing facilities or additional facilities might be needed and compatible with the vision for the Unit;</li> <li>• whether 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);</li> <li>• whether use is adversely affecting sensitive natural resources or the ecology of the area;</li> <li>• whether measures are needed to address unforeseen safety issues;</li> <li>• whether changing recreational uses and demands present the need or opportunity for adjustments to existing facilities and management; and</li> <li>• whether any changes are needed in the management of recreation in relation to other management objectives, including protection or enhancement of wildlife habitat and forest management.</li> </ul>	<p>As a practical matter, most monitoring of public use 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 BPL regional and central offices. The Bureau is experimenting with a number of monitoring tools to supplement these observations and reports, including trail counters and visitor surveys.</p> <p><i>No change.</i></p>
<p><b>Wildlife</b>          (1) <b>Deer Wintering Areas:</b> Of particular interest are the deer wintering areas on the Spring Lake, Chain of Ponds, and Coplin West lots, since</p>	<p>The Bureau routinely coordinates with DIFW on DWA surveys, and Spring Lake and Coplin Plantation lots have had winter surveys. No</p>

<p>there is a need for this habitat in the region. As staff and budgets allow, the Bureau will coordinate with MDIFW on aerial and ground surveys of these deer wintering areas to determine the distribution and use related to habitat quality and quantity. These surveys will be conducted during winter under snow conditions that restrict deer mobility.</p>	<p>additional surveys were done during this 5-year period.</p> <p><i>No surveys were done this 5-year period.</i></p> <p><b>Aerial surveys were conducted by DIFW in Coplin Twp and Highland Pt in 2019. Ground surveys were conducted at Chain of Ponds and the Coplin Pt West lot in 2023.</b></p>
<p>(2) <b>Ruffed grouse:</b> The Bureau also conducts periodic “drumming counts” for monitoring ruffed grouse populations in areas managed specifically for this species – on the Dead River Peninsula in this Region.</p>	<p>The grouse patch management area at Dead River will be surveyed in the 2014 field season.</p> <p><i>No surveys were done during this 5-year period due to other priorities but may be surveyed over the next period.</i></p> <p><b>No surveys were conducted by Western Region staff in this period.</b></p>
<p>(3) <b>Bicknell’s thrush:</b> In cooperation with the Vermont Institute of Natural Resources (VINS), the Bureau participates in monitoring high elevation birds, including Bicknell’s thrush, on Mount Abraham. VINS also monitors these birds on Bigelow Mountain, through another partner.</p>	<p>The Vermont Center for Ecostudies, VCE (now separate from Vermont Institute of Natural Science, VINS) now monitors these areas.</p>
<p><b>Game Species:</b> The Bureau cooperates with MDIFW monitoring of game species on the unit, including deer, moose, grouse, and black bear.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DIFW tracks deer, moose and bear harvests through harvest registrations, which are compiled and reported annually from registration stations across the state.</li> <li>• DIFW does not survey ruffed grouse populations. BP&amp;L runs drumming surveys where they have conducted grouse patch management, principally at Dead River and Seboomook. These two routes will be surveyed in the 2014 field season.</li> </ul> <p><b>No surveys were conducted by Western Region staff in this period.</b></p>
<p><b>Significant Wildlife Habitat:</b> 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.</p>	<p>Ongoing. Process continues as described.</p>
<p><b>Ecological Reserves*</b> The MNAP conducted natural resource inventories on the Horns and Mount Abraham ERs in 2005. Baseline data for long term monitoring using permanent plots were collected at the Horns in 2002 and at Mount Abraham in 2004. The areas will be re-inventoried periodically according to schedules developed by the Bureau and MNAP.</p>	<p>MNAP’s re-inventory of The Horns ER is scheduled for 2013.</p> <p><i>MNAP revisited and collected data on 46 permanent forest monitoring plots in the Bigelow (~Horns) Ecological Reserve in 2013 and 35 plots within the Mt. Abraham Ecological Reserve in 2014.</i></p>

	<p><b>MNAP revisited and collected data on 48 permanent forest monitoring plots in the Bigelow (~Horns) Ecological Reserve in 2022. The 35 permanent plots within the Mt. Abraham Ecological Reserve are scheduled to be revisited in 2024. Ten additional plots were added to the Mt. Abraham Ecological Reserve and were visited in 2016 and 2018.</b></p>
<p>*An inventory interval of 10 years has been recommended by the Ecological Reserve Scientific Advisory Committee.</p>	
<p><b>Timber Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prescriptions are prepared by professional foresters according to Bureau policies, with input from staff specialists, and peer-reviewed prior to approval.</li> <li>• Timber sales are prepared and laid out with field staff looking at most acres prior to harvest and with individual tree marking done on the majority of harvest acres.</li> <li>• Field staff are on-site to check on harvest practice and progress frequently; senior staff visit sites less frequently to obtain overall picture of what is taking place in the forest.</li> <li>• After harvest is completed, roads, trails, and water crossings are put to bed as appropriate, and any changes in stand type are recorded to update the Bureau’s GIS system can be updated.</li> </ul>	<p>Process continues as described.</p>
<p>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 (BMPs) utilized during harvest activities.</p>	<p>At present, monitoring objectives are addressed by the Bureau with the Harvest Evaluation Report, last revised Feb. 2013, by which harvests are scored on 20 criteria. These criteria include compliance with BMPs, laws and regulations and other criteria which serve to protect water quality. During this five year Plan period, the Bureau was in full compliance with Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standards.</p> <p>Post-harvest monitoring is more accurately described as a process; with 2011 inventory data, we are engaging in a modeling process to better manage our prescriptions, and better understand the impacts of harvests on management objectives.</p>
<p>Third party monitoring is done mainly through the forest certification programs of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). A full FSC audit was completed for all Bureau lands in 2006, including the Seboomook Unit.</p>	<p>In 2011, the Bureau had a full recertification audit under the FSC program and an annual surveillance audit under SFI. Auditors looked at harvest areas on four or five separate tracts in each of the three Lands administrative regions. A total of eight corrective action requests are now being addressed. Auditors were especially complimentary of the condition of recently harvested stands, the High Conservation Value Forests, and recreation management.</p> <p><i>In 2015, the Bureau had annual surveillance audits under both the</i></p>

	<p><i>FSC and SFI programs. The auditors visited 17 separate sites on nine different townships in the Bureau’s West Region. They particularly noted the thinning of immature stands and diversity of wildlife habitat.</i></p> <p><b>In 2021, BPL underwent a full recertification audit. This audit covered the East and West Regions, which included some field inspections in the Flagstaff management plan area. Of the 10 corrective action requests, one was from the Flagstaff region. All requests were addressed by BPL staff within the next year to FSC and SFI standards.</b></p>
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<b>Crocker Mountain Unit</b> (2015 plan appended to the 2007 Flagstaff Region Management Plan)	<b>Actions taken/Comments</b>
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<b>Wildlife/Rare of Exemplary Ecosystems and Habitats</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with MNAP and the Ecological Reserve Scientific Advisory Committee to finalize the boundaries and officially designate the Ecological Reserve.</li> </ul>	The final boundaries and official designation of the Ecological Reserve, covering 4,000 acres, are contained in the Management Plan.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consult with MDIF&amp;W on potential additional surveys of perennial streams on the Unit for suitable Roaring Brook mayfly habitat, and where suitable habitat is found, presence of Roaring Brook mayfly.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow management guidelines recommended by MDIF&amp;W (January 2012 Draft Guidelines) for forestry activities and other land use in or adjacent to Roaring Brook mayfly habitat.</li> </ul>	No timber management activity has occurred on the Unit.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with MDIF&amp;W on any potential motorized or non-motorized trail development in areas allocated to Special Protection and Wildlife Management to ensure protection of sensitive wildlife habitats.</li> </ul>	Approved mountain bike trail development in the Stoney Brook area is entirely within Timber Management allocated areas. MNAP was consulted regarding proposed bike trail routing within a small Special Protection area on the abutting Wyman Lot and the associated MNAP-mapped rare and exemplary community.
<b>Recreation</b>	
<u>Mountain Biking Opportunities</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with CR NEMBA on specific routes and design of single-track, stacked loop mountain bike trails, to be constructed by CR NEMBA, in the two areas described in the CR NEMBA concept plan: the southeast slope of Crocker Mountain and the Stoney Brook area. The trails will be intended primarily for intermediate and advanced riders. The maximum total distance of trails to be constructed will be 20 miles, developed in phases as resources, use levels, and needs dictate.</li> </ul>	A 3-phase mountain bike trail development plan was submitted to the Bureau by the Carrabassett Valley Trails Committee in Feb. 2020. Phase 1 of the proposed trail includes a new parking area along Rt 27 and 4.5 miles of easy/intermediate trail, largely on the Wyman parcel but extending a short distance into the Stoney Brook designated trail development zone. Subsequent phases would add 11 miles of intermediate and more challenging trail largely within the

<p>Timber management will be allowed in all areas; however, recreation will be an important secondary use in the areas designated for trail development. Trails will be laid out so as to maximize the area retained for timber harvesting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Once a mountain bike trail has been routed and designed, the trail would be allocated as a Developed Recreation Class I area. Timber management would continue in surrounding areas and crossing of the trail for harvesting purposes would be allowed. Timber management activities would be planned to minimize any direct or indirect impacts (for example, to drainage systems) on mountain bike trails.</li> <li>• In conjunction with any future trail construction in the Stoney Brook area, develop a trailhead in the vicinity of the trail network to allow drive-in access to the trails.</li> <li>• In conjunction with or following any mountain bike trail development achieved in the Stoney Brook area, work with CR NEMBA to plan a trail on the Wyman Lot, approximately one mile in length, to connect the existing mountain bike trail network north of Route 27 to the new trails on the unit.</li> </ul>	<p>Stoney Brook zone and with a small portion of the trails on abutting private forest land.</p> <p>Construction began on Phase 1 of the proposed trails and the parking area in 2022 and these are nearly complete. The trails and parking area are expected to be opened to the public this year. Bureau signage will be installed this summer.</p> <p>Construction has begun on additional trail loops, with completion of those loops anticipated to occur by the end of 2025. These will create several miles of directional loop trails at the middle and upper elevations offering intermediate and advanced users the opportunity for an extended trail experience.</p>
<p><u>Hiking, Backpacking and Camping Opportunities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In consultation with the MATC and ATC, explore the potential for hiking/backpacking trail(s) that would provide 2-3 day backpacking loops partially following the A.T. in the vicinity of Crocker Mountain. One such loop could be established with a new trail through the Rapid Stream valley linking Sugarloaf Peak and Mount Abraham.</li> <li>• Consider the establishment of primitive campsites along any new backpacking loop trails developed, to support 2-3 day trips and avoid straining the capacity of existing campsites within the A.T. corridor and at Mount Abraham.</li> <li>• Upon request, and in consultation with MATC and ATC, work with Maine Huts and Trails to develop a summer hiking trail east of the Carrabassett River to connect to a trail head and spur trail to the AT.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No new trails have been developed.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Motorized Recreation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to allow snowmobile use of the Caribou Valley Road within and across the Unit, providing the adjacent landowner north of the Unit in the Town of Carrabassett Valley allows access to the Unit, or an alternate trail connecting from Route 27 to the Caribou Valley Road on the Unit has been established. The trail may not extend to the boundary with Mount Abram Township unless there is permission from the adjacent landowner in Mount Abram Township to continue the trail across their lands.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Snowmobile use of the Caribou Valley Road has continued, both on the Unit and on the adjacent landowner's property, connecting to Route 27.</li> <li>• Snowmobile use has continued as described.</li> </ul>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to allow snowmobile use of the ITS and other existing snowmobile trails on gravel management roads in the Rapid Stream area, as shown on Map Figure 5, provided they are also allowed by permission of the landowners on adjacent lands.</li> <li>• Continue to allow ATVs to use the management roads in the Rapid Stream and Stoney Brook areas as part of the regional ATV-club maintained trail network, provided they are also allowed by permission of the landowners on adjacent lands.</li> <li>• Consider allowing ATV use of Caribou Valley Road within the Unit and designation of short destination ATV trails (to viewpoints) on connected management roads, provided ATV clubs obtain permission for ATV use of Caribou Valley Road to access the Unit. If needed, explore constructing connector trails within the Unit to access management roads without the need to cross over into Mount Abram Township and back into the Unit, in the event this is not allowed by the adjacent landowner. Any such destination trails may also be designated for snowmobile use.</li> <li>• In conjunction with consideration of expanded snowmobile or ATV access or new motorized trails, BPL will work with snowmobile and ATV clubs to identify and actively discourage unauthorized motorized use on the Unit and in unauthorized areas of adjacent public or private lands accessed via Unit management roads that continue beyond the Unit.</li> <li>• If motorized recreation access is lost on Caribou Valley Road across the Plum Creek lands and there are no other options for a permanent north-south motorized trail connection, work with motorized trail interests to route a motorized trail extending south from Rt. 27 in the corridor allocated to Backcountry Recreation – Motorized. The boundary between this corridor and the adjacent ecological reserve may be adjusted if necessitated by terrain or other resource conditions to the extent required for the intended trail to be feasible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ATV use has continued as described in the Rapid Stream area. The ATV trail on the Stoney Brook Road is signed as closed.</li> <li>• ATV use of the Caribou Valley Road has not been authorized.</li> <li>• No expansion of snowmobile or ATV access has occurred or been considered.</li> <li>• As noted above, motorized recreation access to Caribou Valley Road has continued since the plan’s adoption.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Winter Recreation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with MH&amp;T on the routing of a groomed cross-country ski trail on or along the Caribou Valley Road, generally west/upslope of the road. Trail routing should seek to minimize conflicts with snowmobile use along the road and would make use of the existing A.T. crossing.</li> <li>• Consider other winter recreation requests (e.g., groomed or ungroomed cross-country skiing, snow shoeing) that may be compatible with other lands uses and the Plan.</li> <li>• Explore options to provide a plowed winter parking area on the south side of Rt. 27 (on the Wyman lot) serving the Stoney Brook area (as well as the south side of the Bigelow Preserve) for access to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No ski-trail development has been requested.</li> <li>• No requests have been made.</li> <li>• A parking area on the south side of Rt. 27 is plowed each winter.</li> </ul>

<p>snowshoeing, cross-country ski trails and winter hiking. [Note: The 2007 Flagstaff Region Plan does not contain a specific management recommendation to develop this parking area, but on p. 149 describes an area along Rt. 27 “to be reserved for a future parking lot” and excluded from the surrounding Visual Class I allocation.]</p>	
<p><b>Other Recreation Enhancements and Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support initiatives, evaluated on a case-by-case basis, to provide connectivity to regional trail networks using the Crocker Mountain Unit lands if otherwise consistent with the Plan.</li> <li>• Work with partners in the acquisition to design and install a kiosk at the Caribou Valley Road gate and parking area with area maps and information highlighting the partnership that achieved the acquisition of the Unit, the presence of the Ecological Reserve, and the unique natural resources present on the Unit and adjacent NPS lands and BPL plans for future trail development.</li> <li>• In conjunction with improvements to the bridges that currently limit vehicular access to the Unit via Caribou Valley Road, develop a trailhead and parking area on Bureau lands north of the AT corridor.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No such initiatives have arisen since the plan’s adoption.</li> <li>• The Bureau will be working this summer to install entrance signs and kiosks; a kiosk will be considered for the new parking area on the Wyman parcel.</li> <li>• No work has been done on the Caribou Valley Road bridges . Thus, the existing parking area at the end of the open portion of the road continues as the primary trailhead.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Public Access Roads</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to coordinate with Plum Creek in planning maintenance of Caribou Valley Road between Rt. 27 and the Unit boundary.</li> <li>• Continue to block access to vehicles on Caribou Valley Road during the non-winter season at the Unit boundary and to provide trailhead parking at the gate.</li> <li>• Prioritize improvements of eroded portions of public access roads on the Unit, as resources allow, with priority placed on segments of road needed for access to new trails and other recreational amenities.</li> <li>• Identify spur roads and other management roads to be “put to bed” and take action to implement these closures as resources allow.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Bureau will assess road condition when it becomes driveable this spring/summer and coordinate with Weyerhaeuser as needed for any maintenance needs.</li> <li>• No road improvement work has occurred.</li> <li>• Portions of the Plum Creek/Stoney Brook Road have had existing issues exacerbated by recent storms. Portions of this road should be closed out to public access if funds are available.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Timber Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Bureau will manage areas allocated to Timber Management as a multiple use working forest. Timber resources where allocated will provide a diverse forested environment and generate high quality-high value products to support Bureau operations and Maine’s timber-based economy. The Bureau will practice multi-aged management with a long-term focus primarily on mature quality timber.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No timber management has occurred on the unit since the adoption of the management plan.</li> <li>• Timber harvesting opportunities in compartment W230 were limited prior to CR-NEMBA’s trail construction. The entirety of this compartment should now be unregulated. Additional areas of the Crocker Mt Unit may need to be unregulated as trail work progresses and future timber management in these areas</li> </ul>

	<p>becomes impractical or unfeasible. The Bureau will continue to assess the interaction of bike trail development and timber management in these areas, and the need to take into account potential loss of access to timber.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Because of the high elevation lands on this unit and its visibility from the Rt. 27 Scenic Byway, the AT, and surrounding public use areas (the Bigelow Preserve, Sugarloaf ski resort, Mount Abraham) any timber management is subject to Visual Class II considerations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See above</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most timber management activity during the planning period will be monitoring as the young stands grow into merchantable sizes, and watching the progress of any budworm outbreak. Should defoliation begin due to budworm, the Bureau will monitor its severity and respond as appropriate. For the duration of this plan, objectives are to allow stocking to increase and to improve overall quality through careful harvesting of lower quality stems and mature fir.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See above</li> </ul>
<p><b>Administrative Issues</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install yardarm signs at appropriate locations identifying the Unit, and directional signs at appropriate locations directing travelers to the main access roads into the Unit (Caribou Valley, Stoney Brook and Rapid Stream Road). Coordinate with the Highway 27/High Peaks Scenic Byway signage location and design within the byway in Carrabassett Valley.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New signage, including yardarm signs, will be installed by a contractor working in the area in 2024.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to maintain existing gravel pits as needed for road maintenance in the Stoney Brook and Rapid Stream areas. Identify, close and restore any unneeded gravel pits.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No road work has occurred but gravel pits remain available.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess where within the Crocker Mountain Unit bear bait sites could be located, considering factors such as accessibility to roads and ATV trails and compatibility with other uses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some existing bait sites have been closed to facilitate ongoing development of mountain bike trails. CR-NEMBA has tentative plans to develop more trails in proximity to other bait sites. It is unclear if these remaining sites should be closed to prioritize bike trails over bear hunting.</li> </ul>

## Issues for Advisory Committee Attention

### New Issues or Circumstances Not Addressed in the Plan:

#### BPL Acquisition of Perham Stream and Orbeton Keystone Parcels:

In April 2023, the Perham Stream acquisition project resulted in BPL acquiring a 6,579-acre parcel in Mount Abram and Madrid Townships, abutting the Mt. Abram Unit and the Redington Lot. Funding was provided by the federal Forest Legacy program, the US Dept. of Defense Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program, and the Nature Conservancy (TNC). The Trust for Public Land (TPL) acquired a conservation easement on the property, which was assigned to the Department of the Navy and serves to implement an Encroachment Protection Agreement covering these lands between the Department of the Navy and TPL. The Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust (MATLT) and TNC were essential partners with the Bureau in this acquisition.

As a condition of the acquisition, 4,965 acres of the acquired parcel will be designated as an Ecological Reserve, an addition to the 5,186-acre Mt. Abram Ecological Reserve established in 2007. The parcel protects important wildlife habitats and water quality and provides an opportunity to formalize an existing informal hiking trail up the west side of Mount Abram, connecting to the existing AT blue-blazed side trail. The lands abut the AT corridor to the north and are visible from points along the trail and also form the western viewshed from Mount Abraham. The parcels are largely forested and have been under commercial timber management for many years. The lands host several miles of Perham Stream and other smaller tributaries, which include high-value brook trout habitat.

Between January 2023 and April 2024, the Orbeton Keystones acquisition project, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, resulted in the Bureau acquiring an additional 2,706 acres comprised of several parcels in Mount Abram, Madrid, and Salem Townships. Much of these lands are situated between the Perham Stream lands and the 5,744-acre Orbeton conservation easement lands to the west. Funding was provided by the Land for Maine's Future (LMF) program and TNC. These parcels provide additional buffering of the Perham Stream lands and also host numerous small streams. Important ITS and other approved snowmobile trails cross the Perham and Orbeton Keystone parcels.

This Plan review and update will include the integration of the new parcels into the Flagstaff Region management plan. A partial list of management issues to be addressed include:

- Roads/access and potential new parking/trailheads
- Potential new non-motorized trails and connections to existing trails
- Recognition of existing motorized trails, and identification of roads/trails to be open and closed to use
- Potential bear bait sites
- Timber management

- Resource Allocations
  - Special Protection areas (including the Ecological Reserve expansion)
  - Wildlife areas (riparian buffers and other wildlife habitat protections)
  - Backcountry and/or Remote Recreation areas
  - Developed Recreation areas (parking areas, other rec. facilities)
  - Timber Management areas

#### Proposed Addition to the Bigelow Ecological Reserve

Recent revisions to the statutory limits on total acreage and operable timberland that may be designated as Ecological Reserve has provided the Bureau with the opportunity to provide the highest level of protection to additional ecologically important areas. In response, the Bureau, in collaboration with the Maine Natural Areas Program, identified several areas for new Ecological Reserve designation. All these areas have been reviewed by the Ecological Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee. The proposal for the Bigelow (AKA “The Horns”) Ecological Reserve adds approximately 1,440 acres to the existing 10,540-acre reserve designated in 2001. During the plan review, the Bureau will provide information on the location and specific ecological characteristics of the proposed addition and other details and will provide an opportunity for comment.

#### Potential Snowmobile Trail on the Crocker Mountain Unit and the Wyman Lot

The local snowmobile club is interested in establishing a new trail that would connect to the existing ITS trail and other approved routes on the north side of Rt. 27 and to the west of the Crocker Mountain Unit in Coplin Pt. A primary motivation for establishing this route is the loss of trails in recent years on other lands in the Carrabassett Valley vicinity. The trail would utilize management roads in the Stoney Brook area of the Crocker Mountain Unit, and potentially a small section of closed ATV trail on the Wyman Lot. The proposed route would also use existing gravel roads on the abutting private timber lands in Coplin Pt, for which the club has obtained the necessary permissions. This proposal will be brought forward for discussion and comment as part of the Plan update process.

#### **Other Items of Special Concern or Interest:**

##### Projects to Address Barriers to Fish Passage within the Bigelow Preserve/Flagstaff Unit

During road construction in Dead River Twp, open-bottom crossing structures were put in place over most LUPC-identified P-SL (Shoreland Protection subdistrict) streams. In addition, larger bridges were installed to replace the existing structures at Black Brook in Spring Lake (2020) and over Cold Brook in the Bigelow Preserve (2022).