



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY
BUREAU OF PARKS AND LANDS
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JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

AMANDA E. BEAL
COMMISSIONER

Date: December 2, 2021

To: Bradbury Mountain State Park & Pineland Public Lands Management Plan Advisory Committee

From: Maine Bureau of Parks and Public Lands

Re: 2nd Five-Year Review of the Management Plan

In May of this year, the Bureau distributed to each of you by email a memo and Review Table initiating the second Five-Year Review of the 2011 Bradbury Mountain State Park & Pineland Public Lands Management Plan, covering the period of 2016 through 2020. As required by the Integrated Resource Policy (IRP), the table reported on progress and accomplishments in implementing the Plan's management recommendations. The Bureau found no new issues or circumstances that were not addressed in the plan that warranted Committee input or action. However, the table reported on the status of Royal River Conservation Trust's (RRCT) new non-motorized trails, partly on BPL property, that were discussed and approved during the first Five-Year Review. The trails run between Elmwood Road and Sweetser Road in Pownal and cross the BPL Bradbury-Pineland corridor lands in the vicinity of Chandler Brook.

Committee members were asked to review the table and respond with any comments or questions in the succeeding three weeks, and were also invited to identify any new issues or circumstances they felt warranted committee input or action. The memo also advised the committee that a meeting would be scheduled in the near future to review progress in implementing the plan recommendations and to discuss any new issues committee members may identify.

One committee member submitted written comments. The Bureau's responses to the comments are attached to this memo. The meeting was held July 14, 2021, via Microsoft Teams videoconference. Four Advisory Committee members and four member of the public participated in the meeting, in addition to BPL staff.

Discussion of plan accomplishments focused on:

- work completed over the past five years on the Pineland trail system,
- the current status and intentions for future management of trails, including trail marking and signage, and publication of the trail system, and
- the contributions of the Bradbury Mtn. State Park Recreation Ranger assigned to assist with management of the trails.

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Discussion also touched on the continued partnership with RRCT regarding trail maintenance and related issues, unauthorized mountain bike trails/riding (also discussed during the first review), and the issue of hunting access in relation to trail development. Discussion of new issues focused on RRCTs update on the “Elmwood Trails” (mentioned above), requests for new trails that were brought forth during the review, and potential new conservation lands in the plan area.

The second attachment to this memo provides the notes from the AC meeting as well as the meeting agenda and a draft map of Pineland Public Land areas closed to hunting used to facilitate discussion during the meeting.

An additional product of this plan review is an updated and more comprehensive vision for the Pineland Public Land trails and the trail on the CMP powerline corridor that links the Corridor Trail in Pownal to the Pineland Public Land trails. The Vision document (see attachment 3) reflects the trail development that has occurred over the ten years since the plan was adopted, as well as the Bureau’s experience with management of the trails and observations of trail use and the input of the Advisory Committee and other members of the public during that period.

With this memo, the five-year review process is completed.

Thank you for your continued participation in the Bradbury-Pineland Advisory Committee.

Attachments:

- 1) Bureau responses to comments on Five-Year Review Table
- 2) July 14, 2021 AC Meeting Notes, with Agenda and Draft Map of Pineland No-hunting areas
- 3) Vision for Management of Pineland Public Land Trails

**Summary of Advisory Committee Comments and BPL Responses
on the Bradbury Mtn. State Park-Pineland Public Land Management Plan
5-Year Review for 2021**

Comment Period May 14, 2021 – June 4, 2021

Comment	Response
From: Alan Stearns, Royal River Conservation Trust	
<u>General comments</u> (not submitted in relation to a specific plan management recommendation or BPL reporting in the review table)	
<p><i>RRCT Observation A: BPL's 2021 entries understate the amount of work on the corridor in the past five years, thanks to various Maine Conservation Corps Crews, funding commitments, and the occasional "Corridor Ranger" funded by various sources. The existence of the "Corridor Ranger" should be outlined to the management review committee, for discussion or memorialization and recognition. Each project on the corridor has been noticed and welcomed. Thank you.</i></p> <p><i>RRCT Observation B: BPL's 2021 entries understate the dramatic surge in recreation at Bradbury and along the corridor due to the 2020-2021 pandemic. This surge gave credence to long-standing recognition that Maine's conservation investments need to be "closer to the people." The surge also catalyzed dramatic new funding or funding proposals to accommodate recreation and open space capital and expansion. This management planning process is well-situated to frame the BPL's vision to improve and enhance sustainable recreational access in southern Maine.</i></p> <p><i>RRCT Observation C: With sustained gradual improvements to the corridor, its usage also is increasing. With population growth, there is every reason to expect sustained increase in use of the corridor. There is room for more discussion on strategic coordination for best-possible most-sustainable corridor management. RRCT offers to be at the table for such discussions.</i></p> <p><i>RRCT Observation D: BPL's 2021 entries don't address the BPL parcel at Mayall & Route 100 (Collyer Brook frontage) omitted by mistake in previous plans and plan review. The parcel creates meaningful open space for the Town of Gray, and meaningful quality fishing access. RRCT, Pineland Farms, or the Town of Gray might all offer to play a role to manage this parcel for more public benefit. BPL might choose to assert its role.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corridor trail projects, including those conducted with RRCT volunteer's assistance, and the BMSP Recreation Ranger assigned to the corridor were discussed in more detail during the July 14 Advisory Committee meeting. The meeting notes are included in the Final Report on the plan review. • BPL appreciates the reporting of a significant increase in use in the plan area; similar observations were made by BPL staff during 2020 and early 2021 at numerous locations across the public lands. The Final Report on this plan review includes a trails vision document for the Pineland Public Land and CMP corridor, to update and supplement the 2011 management plan. One aspect of that vision is a recognition of the vital role of the public lands at Pineland and BMSP in providing outdoor recreation and open space values in proximity to a large population. • BPL appreciates the offer of continued partnership in management of the corridor trails. As outlined in the updated trails vision, BPL intends to continue gradual improvements of the corridor trails, with the assistance of RRCT and other stakeholders. • Future management of the Collyer Brook parcel was discussed during the July 14 Advisory Committee meeting, as recorded in the meeting notes. BPL intent is to continue to manage the parcel for dispersed use, with no formal facilities planned. BPL has reached out to the Town of Gray Open Space Committee regarding the town's Open Space Plan and desires for this parcel.

RRCT Observation E: BPL's 2021 entries understate the need for sustained work on road safety. RRCT has worked on a limited basis with Maine BPL and Maine DOT and municipalities to review or enhance road safety at multiple trail-road crossings, especially Route 9. Together we've improved line of sight (removal of trees/branches) at Route 231 as well. RRCT offers to continue to assist with continued review of line of sight, trail crossing signage, and other tools on trail crossings especially at Depot Road and Lawrence Road and more work at Route 231.

RRCT Observation F: BPL's approach to authorization of transmission lines and transmission line expansions has provoked sharp discussions statewide. BPL's existing plan and 2021 do not address local concern that would erupt upon a Bureau proposal for unilateral discretionary authorization of transmission lines or expansions. Kicking the can toward state-wide or bureau-wide non-specific approaches does not suffice. The Bureau should expressly state in this management plan that transmission line expansions impacting Bradbury or Pineland would not be at the sole discretion of the Bureau, and would be considered as if a reduction or substantial alteration of the conservation and recreation values of Bradbury or Pineland.

RRCT Observation G: The Maine Attorney General authored surprising hypothetical analysis that Land for Maine's Future (LMF) statutes do not protect parcels such as Bradbury or Pineland parcels acquired with LMF funds. Most shocking, the Maine Attorney General did not consider the charitable match associated with hypothetical LMF transactions. The Bureau and LMF have generally avoided response, or have again implied kicking the can toward future undefined actions. The Bureau should expressly state in this management plan that the Bureau will apply LMF statutory standards and process to any proposed change of use of LMF-funded Bradbury or Pineland parcels. RRCT charitable contribution toward those parcels demands that the Bureau not dismiss the policy implications of the Maine Attorney General's unfortunate memorandum.

- The Bureau continues to pursue improvements to road safety, in particular at Route 231, and appreciates the offer of continued assistance at road-trail crossings at the other locations mentioned.
- The Bureau appreciates the concern that surrounds potential transmission line corridors on the public lands. The Bureau has issued leases for such corridors to cross the public lands in a few remote locations. We recognize that any such potential lease would be of heightened local concern in a relatively developed and high-use setting such as exists in this plan area. However, there are no proposals and the Bureau is not aware of any plans for transmission new lines in the plan area. It is also notable that the existing BPL lease for a CMP transmission line to cross two public lots in the Upper Kennebec Plan area is the subject of a lawsuit, the resolution of which may have ramifications for how the Bureau issues possible future leases for such facilities. Given these facts, we do not believe it is appropriate to preemptively address the issue in the management plan.
- As part of the Bureau's standard process for evaluating any proposed land-use changes in Public Lands, the Bureau considers all applicable rules and statutes, including Bureau statutes, the Designated Lands Act (MRSA Title 12, 598-A), and LMF statutes.

Comments on specific management recommendations and BPL reporting on actions taken
Note: BPL reporting on each topic from the 1st plan review is in normal font, and from the 2nd plan review is in bold font.

<p><u>Lawrence Road Trailhead</u> BPL: An 8 car parking lot has been developed on the Lawrence Road.</p> <p><i>RRCT H: Spillover parking happens, legally, onto Lawrence Road. Unrelated to Lawrence Road, RRCT will be bringing to the Select Board an ordinance (with Maine DOT) to limit shoulder parking on Elmwood Road. BPL and the Select Board should consider extending the proposed ordinance to prohibit spillover parking on one side of Lawrence Road.</i></p> <p><i>See also RRCT E, above, "road safety."</i></p> <p><i>RRCT I: The management plan review process would benefit from a debrief and discussion on Lawrence Road parking design, capacity, pandemic surge, and aesthetics/scenery.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau has worked with town selectmen and have put up "no parking" signs on the Tryon Mtn. side of Lawrence Road. Spill over parking is allowed along the parking area side of the road. • Even before the pandemic, the Bureau observed that most nice days and weekends there is an overspill of cars onto Lawrence road. Extending the parking area would help to keep the overspill of cars to a minimum. The Bureau has given some consideration to expanding the parking area from 8 vehicle to 15 vehicle capacity, by extending parking onto a portion of the lawn area. (The bench and the monument with the Tryon family plaque would not be disturbed.) The project could be accomplished with some excavator work and a couple loads of gravel to level the ground. The additional parking for 7 cars would have minimum impact on the aesthetic value of the property. The Bureau welcomes further discussion of this project with RRCT, abutters and other stakeholders.
<p><u>Historic Quarry Site</u> BPL: The spur trail to the quarry site is complete. No action has been taken on vista improvement or interpretive signage and/or print/web material.</p> <p><i>RRCT J: At the invitation of Maine BPL, and working closely with an identified liaison with Maine BPL, RRCT offers to lead efforts on interpretive signage, fundraising, and print/web material. RRCT's strategic plan calls for one "highly interpretive trail" in each of RRCT's seven communities. This site could emerge as the defined priority for Pownal.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau will collaborate with RRCT on development and installation of interpretive signage at the quarry site, and potentially on printed material. The historic information will also be added to the existing Pineland Public Land website.
<p><u>Trail Density</u> BPL: Historic Quarry spur trail is complete. Tryon Field Overlook Trail is not complete.</p>	

<p><i>RRCT K: We recall no momentum toward (and some opposition toward) a Tryon Field loop, deciding instead upon the now-complete RRCT connector on BPL land.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the development of the RRCT trail connectors, as part of the RRCT Elmwood Trails approved in the first plan review, the Bureau does not propose any further trail development in the Tryon Fields area.
<p><u>Trail Construction, Access, and Private Lands</u> BPL: The Bureau intends to continue and grow this relationship and approach at Pineland Public Lands. The Bureau has recently had to deal with serious issues of rogue trail building at Pineland. Rogue trails have included large berms and jumps as well as clearing brush and disturbing soil for illegal trails. Enforcement and clean-up efforts in progress. Rogue trail building at Bradbury is also an ongoing issue. There are occasional ongoing issues with rogue trails, but to a lesser degree than in the past. The Bureau continues to monitor the situation.</p> <p><i>RRCT L: Unattended rogue trails near Tryon Mountain have been an issue from day #1, undermining confidence in management planning and frustrating efforts to engage private landowners and communities in additional conservation actions. Those trails today exist on the ground, are promoted by All Trails, with usage evidence on Strava heat maps. RRCT offers to help implement clear BPL decisions on the future existence (or not) of these trails. At least one of the trails is a preferred sometimes necessary alternative to a muddy primary trail.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau is taking action to discourage use of any existing unauthorized trails near Tryon Mountain, has recently improved trail marking, and will address the drainage problem on the authorized trail that may be contributing to the problem.
<p><u>Bradbury-Pineland Trail Connector (Powerline Corridor Trail to Existing Trails at the Pineland Public Lands)</u> <u>Monitoring trail use:</u> BPL: There is limited data available. Data set includes January through mid-March 2014 (Corridor near Chandler Brook & Pineland North Loop). Note: The Bureau has not actively promoted the new trail segments. The new segments are not on Maine Trail Finder and have not been on Bureau maps/guides. This will be changing soon. No change in status since first plan review.</p> <p><i>RRCT M: RRCT has been the primary provider of public information. We urge BPL to make a time-specific commitment to providing public information on this trail network.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicizing of the complete trail network has been delayed by the need to resolve CMP licensing for non-motorized uses of the powerline corridor and the need for an updated trails vision for the Pineland Public Land and the CMP corridor trail. With the resolution of those needs, in part through this

<p><u>Development of non-motorized trail on North Yarmouth Pineland parcels and across Rt. 231 to connect to existing South Loop:</u> BPL: The trail link is completed, though promotion/ mapping/community awareness is lacking to-date. At this point, there is not a managed, quality non-motorized experience along the powerline. Inquiry has been made as to whether the Bureau's trail license along the CMP power corridor includes non-motorized uses such as bicycles, walkers/runners, and horses. Initial outreach with ME DOT concerning the crossing point influenced trail location. Discussions on signage needs explored but requires follow up with ME DOT.</p> <p><i>This is work in progress. MDOT approval has been obtained for a RR crossing (contingent on signage requested by MDOT) required to connect the link trail to the powerline corridor. We are actively working with the ORV Division and CMP to obtain appropriate licensing as a prerequisite to managing and promoting nonmotorized use of the powerline corridor.</i></p> <p><i>RRCT N: Needs discussion.</i></p> <p><u>Potential parking/trailhead off Town Farm Road for non-motorized access to South Loop and CMP corridor trails:</u> BPL: No action taken, though occasional informal use observed. There is no current planning to develop this site as a trailhead.</p> <p><i>RRCT O: RRCT urges consideration of designation of this existing trailhead and parking area as a designated trailhead, as an alternative to Route 231. RRCT offers to assist with minor on-site signage. This would also facilitate off-trail exploration of adjacent riverfront parcel.</i></p>	<p>plan review process, the Bureau is now ready to more fully publicize the trail network, on both the Bureau Map and Guide and online at Maine Trail Finder.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See previous response. Also, BPL will install the MDOT requested signage at the RR crossing on the Link Trail extension within the powerline corridor. • The Bureau believes the existing informal parking area off Town Farm Road meets present and likely future needs for access to the trail system.
<p><u>Hunting Access/Public Information on Areas Open or Closed to Hunting, etc.:</u> BPL: This policy has been applied, though improvements in communication and signage are possible. BPL will continue to communicate through social media and signage the areas where hunting is allowed, with particular focus on differentiating the two trail categories and the associated rules.</p> <p><i>RRCT O: Unmarked (or inadequately signed) trails are a significant complaint at South Loop, and at Tryon Mountain. Lost hikers are a threat to hunting safety. New waymarking sign posts have</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau has made recent improvements to trail marking. We are also coordinating with IF&W to clarify public information and signage on hunting regulations related to

<p><i>helped. More waymarking signs would help. Revision of the Bureau's confusing "unmarked" regulatory regime would help.</i></p>	<p>"posted" trails and ensuring areas closed to hunting are appropriate posted.</p>
<p><u>Interagency Coordination:</u> <u>Designation of BMSP staff to oversee recreation management of the park and corridor lands, ORV Program to maintain the segment of multiple use trail along the power corridor, Public Lands staff to manage trails at Pineland Public Lands, etc.</u> Coordination as outlined has been followed. The Bureau continues to work on improved communication between all relevant staff regarding work accomplished and on what recreation opportunities are available to the public as trail development unfolds. The new map & guide should help with this goal.</p> <p>Bradbury Mountain State Park and Public Lands staff have cooperated on trail marking/signage. Discussion continues regarding potential additional signage, such as consistent education/information signage at road crossings (e.g., Leave No Trace signage).</p> <p><i>RRCT P: Needs discussion</i></p> <p><u>Bureau staff communication/coordination, annual planning/work review workshop:</u></p> <p>See above. Note: no formal "workshops" have taken place.</p> <p><i>RRCT Q: Needs discussion.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assignment of a Recreation Ranger at BMSP to oversee recreation management on the corridor trail and to assist with management of the Pineland Public Land trails will facilitate this coordination. • See preceding response.

**Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Bureau of Parks and Lands
Advisory Committee Meeting
Bradbury Mtn. State Park & Pineland Public Lands Management Plan
2nd Five-Year Plan Review**

**July 14, 2021, 5:30 to 7:30 pm
Virtual Meeting held via Microsoft Teams videoconference**

Meeting Notes

Advisory Committee Members participating:

Tim Giddinge	former Selectman, Town of Pownal
Derek Lovitch	Freeport Wild Bird Supply
Alan Stearns	Exec. Director, Royal River Conservation Trust
Bob Humphrey	RRCT Board Member, Pownal resident

Members of the Public participating:

Ed McAloney	Royal River Snowmobile Club
Andrew Hudacs	Mountain bike rider
2 call-in participants (not identified by name)	

BPL Staff participating:

Bill Patterson	Deputy Director
Liz Petruska	Director of Acquisitions and Planning
Tim Post	Western Region Manager
Rex Turner	Outdoor Recreation Planner
Jim Vogel	Sr. Planner, Management Plan Coordinator

Background

This meeting was convened to continue the plan review discussion, which began with the Five-Year Review table emailed to the committee on May 13, which listed plan recommendations and actions taken to implement each recommendation and address management issues (with entries from the first review, covering the period of 2011-2016, along with new information for the second review, covering the period of 2016-2021). The Bureau also advised the committee of the status of the trails proposed by Royal River Conservation Trust (RRCT) on the BPL corridor lands and abutting RRCT fee and easement lands in Pownal, which were a primary focus of discussion during the first Five-Year Review. The Bureau asked the committee members to review the table and respond with any comments or questions. Members were also invited to identify any new issues or circumstances they felt warranted committee input or action. One committee member responded with written comments. An additional purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for committee members to update the group on conservation and recreation developments in the region, and to discuss proposals for development of new non-motorized trails that had been brought forth during the course of the review. The committee and members of the public on the contact list for the plan were provided the meeting agenda (attached) in advance.

Discussion Notes

After Jim Vogel welcomed the participants and outlined the purpose of the meeting, and BPL staff members and committee members introduced themselves, discussion proceeded to the first main agenda topic: accomplishments and management issues update. Jim expressed the intent to focus on several recreation management topics, although questions and comments on other issues were welcome.

Accomplishments and Management Issues Update

- **Work on Pownal corridor trail and North Yarmouth/Gray Connector trail over the past 5 years, partnerships**
 - Rex Turner described the work that had been done on the Connector trail, including installation of bog-bridging, and dealing with substantial blow-downs after winter storms, noting some of the work was accomplished with the help of RRCT volunteers. He described work on the corridor trail, conducted with Parks staff, as more custodial in nature over the past five years. He also noted that more work was to be done to advertise the trails (additional discussion on this topic is recorded below).
- **Parks Recreation Ranger assigned to Corridor trail and Pineland trails (Kristen Fike)**
 - Jim reported that Kristen spends considerable time on the trail system, and has been working with Steve Richardson, BPL Forester/Engineer, on trail projects (trail clearing, marking). He further noted that her presence will provide a better sense of what is happening on the trails, including use levels.
 - Bill Patterson noted the valuable contributions Kristen is making and informed the group of the shared funding agreement the Parks and Lands divisions of the Bureau has for this 6-month seasonal position, which the Bureau intends to fund each year.
- **Use levels of trails**
 - Jim reiterated the reports that have been heard during the review of heavy use and spillover parking at Lawrence Road trailhead during past year, and asked the other participants if they had any specific observations of use from past year.
 - Alan Stearns and Tim Giddinge commented on their observations of use levels, and expressed the perception that use had dropped off recently as compared to what was observed during the height of the COVID pandemic.
- **Status and future management of the “Connector Trail” in N. Yarmouth and Gray**
 - Jim described the Bureau’s intent to continue to manage the connector as a more primitive trail than the north and south loops, open to hiking and biking, and noted that the Bureau has given some thought to renaming the trail.
 - Jim reported that Kristen recently worked on vegetation clearing on east end of trail, added 50 trail markers to the trail (green diamonds).
 - The connector will be included on the Map & Guide map for the area (in-progress) and on Maine Trail Finder, with appropriate descriptions of condition/experience.
 - Rex outlined plans for the near term to continue work on modest trail improvements, informed by 2020 MCC trail inventory data and recent inspection, which it is hoped will involve continued assistance from RRCT and other partners.

- **Status and future management of the CMP corridor trail for non-motorized uses**
 - Jim described the Bureau’s intent to continue to maintain the CMP powerline corridor trail as a primitive trail for both motorized and non-motorized uses, providing opportunity for longer distance hiking/running/biking, with a link to the Connector trail in N. Yarmouth. Coordination will continue with the ORV program (mowing, bridges).
 - Rex provided the group an update on the CMP trail license status, which BPL expects to finalize soon, and which will provide permission to publicize bike/pedestrian use and allow the trail to be included on the Map & Guide.
 - Bill Patterson described an additional related issue to be resolved – whether there is a requirement to notify abutters or request their permission for the non-motorized uses – and informed the group that CMP has a template for non-motorized trails agreements that the Bureau expects to use for the powerline corridor in the plan area.
 - Derek Lovitch noted that the CMP corridor is good for birding but the public is hampered by wet conditions in the spring and tall grass in the summer; more mowing would be beneficial.
- **Unauthorized/rogue mountain bike trails** (vicinity of South Loop trail between loop and Rt 231; Tryon Mtn vicinity in Pownal)
 - Jim reported that some headway has been made with past actions to control/limit this activity in the South Loop trail vicinity, and that BPL is increasing marking of trails in problem areas to reduce inadvertent riding off authorized trails, including in Tryon Mountain area. The Bureau will continue to monitor the issue, with assistance of the Recreation Ranger.
 - Tim Giddinge commented that rogue trails are indeed a problem on the Pownal corridor lands, and along with dogs off leash – which may follow the rogue trails – are a problem for hunters wishing to use the area.
 - Bob Humphrey asked what efforts have been made to deal with the issue in the Tryon Mtn. area. Alan Stearns noted in response that there hasn’t been the same effort at Tryon Mtn. as at the South Loop area, and stated the belief that “a little bit of effort would go a long way.” Derek Lovitch reported “a lot of random wandering” on the corridor parcels/Tryon Mtn. area, and that the park map and Maine Trail Finder depict some trails in the park incorrectly, contributing to the problem of riders straying from authorized trails.
- **Hunting access in relation to trail system, signage needs**
 - Jim reported that the “No firearm discharge within 300 feet” rule will continue to apply to the North Loop and South Loop trails, and will not be applied to Connector Trail (Gray/N Yarmouth) or Corridor Trail (Pownal) – i.e., status quo.
 - Jim also reported that the Bureau will collaborate with IF&W on messaging and signage for areas open and closed to hunting, and is working on how trails where the firearm discharge rule does not apply will be marked so as to conform to the rules.
 - Bill noted that the Bureau has given a lot of thought to the need to maintain trailless areas to preserve areas for wildlife habitat and hunting.

- **Recreation Management Partnership with RRCT**
 - Jim reported that an agreement is in the works, similar to agreements developed or in the works with land trust partners at Dodge Point (in place successfully for several years) and Kennebec Highlands (in progress).
 - Bill further commented that those agreements will be a model for laying out roles, tasks, funding, etc. in the new agreement.
 - Rex noted a project in the works for the near term is installation of signage on bobolink habitat/nesting at Tryon fields, and the risk off-leash dogs pose to those nests.

The second main agenda topic was New Issues and Regional Update. The bullets below summarize the discussion on specific topics.

- **Status of RRCT trail development discussed during the 1st Five-Year Plan Review**
 - Alan Stearns reported that RRCT completed the approved trail links on the BPL corridor parcel soon after the project was approved at the conclusion of the first plan review, and that the “Elmwood Trails” are now complete. He further reported that work to develop a new parking area on Elmwood Road is in progress, with RRCT working with the town Planning Board, and that they are also working with the town to prohibit road shoulder parking in that area, due to safety concerns.
- **New trail requests**
 - Jim summarized the Bureau’s response to proposed new trails on the Pineland lands, which included a loop trail on the North Yarmouth/New Gloucester parcels building off the existing Connector trail, and a loop or out-and-back trail on the parcels between Town Farm Road and the Royal River: The Bureau does not favor expanding the trail system at this time, in order to maintain a balance as regards areas available for hunting (a draft map of Pineland areas closed to hunting by rule was shared on the screen, see attachment 2), in order to maintain opportunities for dispersed recreation -- without trails -- and to minimize potential adverse impacts on deer populations (noting the presence of mapped deer wintering areas on the parcels). Concerns with the additional burden additional trails place on limited BPL staffing and management resources was also noted.
- **Potential new conservation lands**
 - Alan commented on the need to disperse trail access from the Lawrence Road parking area, and that future RRCT acquisitions may help with this. In relation to federal (LWCF) and state (LMF) funding for acquisitions, Alan noted the need to focus on populated areas, to better serve underserved populations.
 - Bob Humphrey recommended that there should be a piggybacking of land for hunting with other recreation uses when evaluating land for acquisition in the area. Bob further noted that recent legislation funds LMF efforts, particularly those involving deer wintering areas, and that MDIFW will be hiring a full-time staff position to oversee this with DWAs as a priority. Accordingly, if parcels are identified with existing or historic DWAs that fit other needs as well there’s a better chance of acquisition.

- **Other regional conservation and recreation initiatives**
 - Alan commented on two initiatives: potential removal of dams on the Royal River in Yarmouth that would allow passage of anadromous fish, and potential development of a rail trail on the state-owned rail line that abuts the Pineland Public Land North Yarmouth parcel. Although both of these would have major ramifications for the Pineland Public Land, Alan reported that for various reasons neither is likely to happen in the next five years. Jim responded that these are initiatives that the Bureau will continue to track.
- **Other topics**
 - Alan commented that the Town of Gray is working on an Open Space Plan, and may be interested in fishing access to Collyer Brook from the BPL parcel along the brook (in the plan area but not addresses in the plan) upstream from the Mayall Mills site. Jim responded that he would follow up with the Gray Open Space Committee member (not in attendance) on the Advisory Committee about this.

Next Steps

Jim described the next steps, which will involve preparing meeting notes, as well as BPL responses to comments submitted on the Five-Year Review Table. A Final Report on the review will include those items as well as a document laying out the updated BPL vision for the trail network in the planning area, taking into account all that has occurred with trail development since the plan's adoption and the results of this plan review.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 pm.

Attachments:

1. Meeting agenda
2. Draft Map – Pineland Public Land areas closed to hunting

AC MEETING NOTES
ATTACHMENT 1



**Bradbury Mtn. State Park & Pineland Public Land Management Plan
2nd Five-Year Review
Advisory Committee Meeting**

*Virtual meeting held via Microsoft TEAMS
July 14, 2021 -- 5:30-7:30 PM*

AGENDA

5:30 PM

Welcome ~ *Introductions, and Meeting Objectives*

5:40 PM

Accomplishments and Management Issues Update ~ *Review and address any questions regarding accomplishments over past 5 years in implementing the Plan recommendations, as summarized in the Plan Review table. BPL status report and discussion of recreation and other management issues addressed in the plan and first plan review.*

6:40 PM

New Issues/Regional Update ~ *Update on RRCT trail development discussed during 1st plan review; new conservation lands of interest; new trail requests; regional conservation and recreation initiatives.*

7:25 PM

Next Steps

7:30 PM

Adjourn

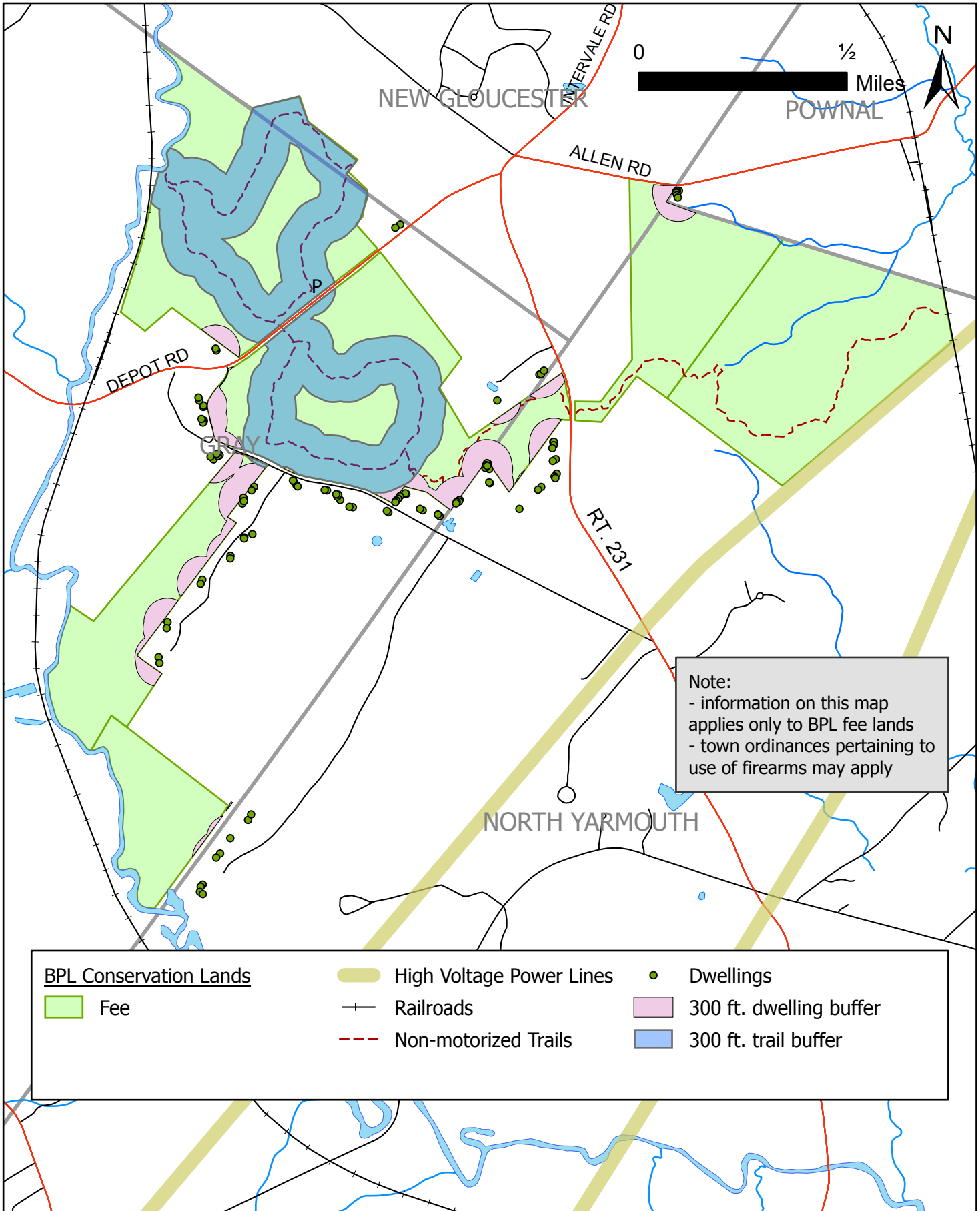
The Bradbury-Pineland Management Plan, Plan maps, and Five-Year Review documents can be found online at: http://www.maine.gov/dacf/bradbury_pineland.

Written comments on the plan issues discussed can be sent to:

Jim Vogel
Bureau of Parks and Lands
22 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

-or- Jim.Vogel@maine.gov

Pineland Public Land Areas Closed to Hunting by Rule



VISION FOR PINELAND PUBLIC LAND TRAILS

The purpose of this document is to summarize the Bureau's current vision for non-motorized and motorized trails on the Pineland Public Land, including the "Corridor Lands" in Pownal, and on the portion of the CMP powerline corridor that connects the two areas. This updated vision takes into account trail development by the Bureau and others that has taken place on these lands since the *Bradbury Mountain State Park and Pineland Public Lands Management Plan* was adopted in 2011, as well as the Bureau's experience with management of the trails since that time, and the input of the management plan Advisory Committee and other members of the public during the two Five-year Plan Reviews (2016 and 2021). Updated trail maps for the east (Pownal) and west (Gray, North Yarmouth, New Gloucester) portions of Pineland Public Land are provided on pages 4 and 5.

This document supplements but does not replace the portion of the "Vision for Management of Bradbury Mountain State Park and the Pineland Public Lands" (pp. 40-41 of the Management Plan) relating to these trails. Specifically, the following statements remain relevant and continue to guide management:

- "will have lower trail densities and will typically serve local community recreationists as well as trail users looking to expand further from the park as part of longer trail experiences"
- "the extended trail opportunity achieved by connecting BMSP and the Pineland Public Lands provides opportunities for longer distance trail uses, including a new venue for trail running and mountain biking events"
- "trails, including trailheads, will be well-designed for intended recreational uses and respect their environmental and cultural settings"

Existing BPL Trails

- The **Corridor Trail** in Pownal -- connecting Bradbury Mtn. State Park to the CMP powerline corridor and linked to trails developed by Royal River Conservation Trust (RRCT) on the BPL parcels and abutting RRCT easement lands -- will continue to be managed as a "multiuse trail" open to pedestrian uses, bike riders, equestrians, and hunters. Signage posted at the Lawrence Road trailhead and at the junction with the State Park will clearly identify the trail area as open to hunting. Bureau signage meeting current standards will be posted at the trailhead kiosk, replacing RRCT-provided signage. To minimize spill-over parking along the road, the Bureau will consider expanding the existing parking area from 8 to 15 cars.
- The **North Loop Trail**, west of Depot Road in Gray and New Gloucester, will continue to be managed as a marked hiking trail; no discharge of firearms is permitted within 300 feet of

the trail. Only the short section parallel to Depot Road, providing a connection to the South Loop Trail, is open to bikes. Signage posted at the Depot Road trailhead will clearly identify the portions of the trail open and closed to bikes. Bureau signage meeting current standards will be posted at the trailhead kiosk, replacing RRCT-provided signage.

- The **South Loop Trail**, east of Depot Road in Gray, will continue to be managed as a marked hiking trail; no discharge of firearms is permitted within 300 feet of the trail. The trail is open to bikes and is managed for a beginner-level riding experience.
- The **Link Trail** connecting the South Loop Trail to the CMP corridor will continue to be managed as a “multiuse trail” open to pedestrian uses, bike riders, and hunters. Signage posted at the intersection with the South Loop trail will clearly identify the change in hunting rules from the South Loop. The trail is managed for relatively primitive conditions, with a natural trail surface that includes rocks, roots, etc.
- The **CMP powerline corridor trail** between the Corridor Trail in Pownal and the Pineland Public Land in North Yarmouth will be managed as follows:
 - Motorized uses: Continue management for ATV and snowmobile use under the standing statewide agreement with CMP; investment for ATV use will be minimal due to a reduced ATV trail network and changes in trail connectivity in the vicinity.
 - Non-motorized uses: Management will be under a trail-specific agreement with CMP. DOT-requested signage will be installed at the railroad crossing in North Yarmouth. As reflected in the 2011 Vision statement, the primary purpose is to provide a longer pedestrian and biking route in combination with the Pownal corridor and Pineland trails than available on those trails alone. As such, management for hiking/walking/trail running and primitive, challenging mountain biking and snowshoeing will continue. Given the limitations of the trail experience concomitant with a powerline corridor and other trail priorities, the Bureau intends to limit the investment of additional resources to upgrade the trail (e.g., new bog-bridging or bridges, improved bridge approaches) for these uses. Primitive trail conditions will be described on maps/brochures and other outlets. The connection to the BPL Link Trail will be via the existing route on an old road.
- **Trail Maintenance**: The Bureau, in partnership with local conservation organizations and volunteers when those resources are available, will strive to maintain the Corridor Trail and the North and South Loop Trails to Bureau standards. Other trails will be maintained to a lesser degree, with the objective of keeping the trails open for safe and sustainable use, but

with a more primitive trail condition. Mowing of the CMP corridor trail will be conducted seasonally, as resources permit, with the assistance of BMSP, RRCT and others.

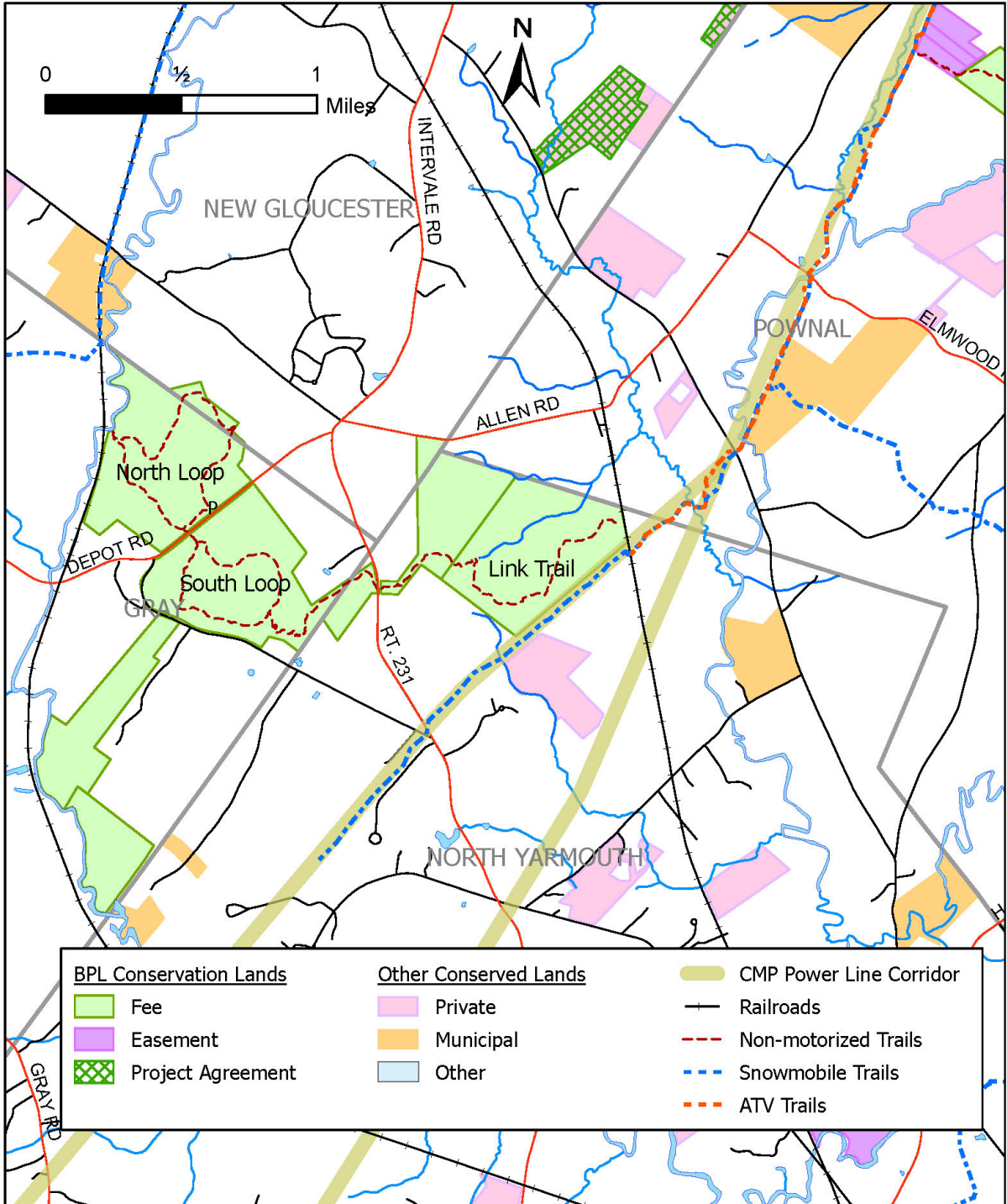
Existing Trails Managed by Others

- **“Elmwood Trails” managed by RRCT:** These trails located in Pownal between Elmwood and Sweetser Road, primarily on RRCT easement and fee parcels but also on BPL property to connect to the Corridor Trail, will continue to be maintained and managed by RRCT. The trails will be shown on BPL maps and brochures, and other media, and identified as under RRCT management.

Potential Expansion of Trail System

- **Proposed Bike trails:** New bike trails have been proposed for the Pineland Public Lands south of Allen Road in New Gloucester and North Yarmouth, to connect with and possibly be co-located in part with the existing BPL Link Trail, and also for the narrow parcel in Gray between Town Farm Road and the Royal River.
- **Current BPL Vision as regards trail system expansion:** The Bureau does not desire to expand bike (or pedestrian) trails in these portions of the unit at this time. The Bureau’s preference is to preserve on these lands one of the few hunting opportunities in the plan area, as well as to preserve dispersed recreation opportunities in a trailless forest setting (also uncommon in the plan area). In addition, the Bureau desires to minimize additional constraints that new trails would pose on timber harvesting on an already small and constrained landbase, and to provide relatively undisturbed habitat for wildlife such as ground and shrub nesting birds.

Bradbury Mtn. State Park/Pineland Public Land - WEST Motorized and Non-Motorized Trails



Bradbury Mtn. State Park/Pineland Public Land - EAST Motorized and Non-Motorized Trails

