

Management Recommendations

Nahmakanta Unit (Plan pages 85-97)	Actions taken/Comments:
<i>Ecological Reserve Recommendations</i>	
<p><u>Motorized Vehicle Uses to be Modified</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discontinue summer motorized use of the Bean Brook spur road and other former forest management roads and skid trails connecting to Murphy Pond Road. Use of Bean Brook Road as a primitive ungroomed snowmobile trail can continue. Bear baiting sites accessed via these side roads will be relocated outside of the Ecological Reserve, while sites accessed from Murphy Pond Road will remain. 	<p>These steps have been taken and the bear bait sites replaced with others outside the Ecoreserve.</p>
<p><u>Proposed Mountain Bike Trail</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In concept, non-winter mountain bike use of the snowmobile trail within the Ecological Reserve does not conflict with BPL policy or Ecological Reserve legislation and is permissible. However, portions of the snowmobile trail near the Unit boundary that have recently been graded to facilitate grooming require restoration work to prevent soil erosion, and are not suitable for bicycle use at present. To allow bicycle use several wet areas of the trail in that vicinity would require hardening a portion of the width of the trail, such that snowmobile use would not be impeded. 	<p>No formal proposal has been made to build a mountain bike trail near the Unit boundary as of this time.</p>
<p><u>Invasive and Exotic Plant and Animal Species</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue efforts to prevent the introduction of invasive and exotic species, including visitor education and enforcement of regulations directed at this issue. Priority education topics include the ecological threat posed by introduction of exotic plants and fish to water bodies and introduction of exotic plants/seeds by ATVs or horses, and measures visitors can take to minimize these threats. The lease for the Chewonki camp will specify protocols and standards for the management of their composting facility and mulching for erosion control on trails they are responsible for maintaining to minimize the risk of introducing invasive or exotic plants. 	<p>The Bureau conducts an active program to control invasives and exotics on Public Lands. Staff have been trained to recognize invasives, and control activities take place annually. As expected, this is a growing problem that will require perennial effort.</p> <p>Chewonki has provided a list of meal items to help identify what types of seeds might be in their compost.</p>
<i>Fisheries Recommendations</i>	
<p><u>Native Fisheries Surveys</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperate with the MDIFW, Maine Audubon and Trout Unlimited 	<p>BPL relies on the previously mentioned agencies to conduct their surveys.</p>

<p>in conducting further pond and stream surveys.</p>	
<p><u>Fish Passages</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and correct any road crossings of trout streams that prevent fish passage. 	<p>Hung culverts and other conditions that impede aquatic passage are corrected when replaced. Open-bottomed structures are the rule.</p>
<p><u>Remote Pond Fishing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify ponds and brooks where vehicle access should be blocked and access provided only as walk-in based on fishery sustainability and recreational experience. 	<p>BPL staff makes informal recommendations regarding observed fishing pressure and passage to the Fisheries Biologist. A bootleg improvement to Prentiss Pond west access has been blocked with boulders (2018).</p>
<p><i>Wildlife Management Recommendations</i></p>	
<p><u>Deer Wintering Areas</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2012, a cooperative agreement with the MDIFW was approved for the Black Pond DWA with the goal of expanding and rehabilitating habitat through softwood regeneration and browse production to conform to (P-FW) Fish and Wildlife Protection Subdistrict requirements. Approval of the Gulliver Brook expanded DWA habitat management agreement is expected in 2014. 	<p>BPL has harvested in the Black Pond DWA in cooperation with the local biologists. An area over 10 times the original area was identified and treated as DWA. No deer were observed in this area during winter logging.</p> <p>Gulliver Brook DWA was harvested in 2015 in coordination with wildlife biologists.</p>
<p><u>Grouse Habitat</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage early successional (birch – aspen) forest to maintain, or increase where possible, mixed-age stands as primary grouse habitat. 	<p>Continues as originally recommended.</p>
<p><i>Recreation Recommendations</i></p>	
<p><u>Hiking Trails to Brook Trout Fisheries</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bureau will explore trail access fishing opportunities to certain destinations in the Debsconeag Backcountry and other areas of the unit with remote ponds. Possible destinations include Gould Pond and Third Musquash Pond. The Bureau will inspect and evaluate existing trails for identifying which should be maintained or closed, and will seek support from the MDIFW to determine if the fisheries can sustain this activity. The Bureau will work to establish a formal partnership arrangement with the commercial interests on the unit to ensure all trails are properly located, authorized, and maintained as public trails. Information on the angler trails that are to be maintained for remote pond fishing would be made available in a revised brochure and/or on the Bureau’s website. 	<p>The Great Circle hiking trail has been 95% finished with a formal opening expected in July of 2019. This will facilitate access for anglers to Third Musquash Pond.</p> <p>The Bureau has cooperated with Nahmakanta Lake Camps to allow foot access for the public to remote ponds. The angler trails maintained by NLC are depicted on their website.</p>
<p><u>Unauthorized Hiking Trails to Black Brook Deadwater and Debsconeag Cliffs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bureau will inspect the Black Brook Deadwater trail and 	<p>Black Brook Deadwater trail has been accepted as built by Nahmakanta Lake Camps. Harvesting left a buffer along the trail and a log yard turn-around serves as parking on the new</p>

<p>determine if the trail’s route is acceptable, and if so, how to manage the proposed timber harvesting in the area considering the trail. If authorized, the Bureau will develop trailhead amenities and will provide information on this trail in a revised brochure and/or website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau will evaluate means to improve the safety of the roped sections of the Debsconeag Cliffs trail including short re-routes or, if it is not feasible to adequately improve safety, discontinue the use of the ropes and build stone steps at the steepest sections as a safer alternative for hikers. The trail should not follow the top of the ledge to avoid disturbance of peregrine falcons. Instead, an overlook point could extend from the main trail set back from the cliff edge, in a safe location. The Bureau will also consider options for a more extensive reroute of the trail that with a reduced gradient could avoid the need for ropes or extensive stone steps, while ensuring safe and sustainable public access to the cliffs. A rerouted trail could potentially link to other Debsconeag Backcountry trails. • As recommended above in relation to hiking trails to brook trout fisheries, the Bureau will work to establish a formal partnership arrangement with the commercial interests on the Unit to ensure all trails are properly located, authorized, and maintained as public trails. 	<p>management road north of Black Pond.</p>
<p><u>Loop Trails for Hiking and Backpacking</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau should explore, with the abutting neighbor to the north, The Nature Conservancy, working on a <i>Rainbow Loop Trail</i> that would travel north from Debsconeag Backcountry Trail via the Appalachian Trail to Rainbow Lake, then travel south on a new trail segment to meet the Debsconeag Backcountry Trail near Stink Pond. • The Bureau should continue to develop, within the Unit, the <i>Great Circle Trail</i>, ultimately connecting the existing loop trails at Turtle Ridge to the Debsconeag Backcountry trails. Completing the loop requires resuming trail construction at the new Female Brook bridge, proceeding south to Wadleigh Mtn., and connecting Wadleigh Mtn. to Penobscot Pond Road. A short connector trail from the Debsconeag Backcountry east trailhead to the A.T. at Nahmakanta Stream would also be required. 	<p>No action has been taken on the Rainbow Loop Trail concept, which would primary be on TNC property. The Bureau will collaborate with TNC regarding links to the Debsconeag Backcountry Trail at the appropriate time.</p> <p>Great Circle Trail is 95% finished - completion due in July, 2019. The connector trail is not yet built; it will require permission from NPS unless it starts outside the AT corridor.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These new trail segments would be A.T. side trails; therefore, the Bureau would also coordinate with NPS, ATC and MATC on development of the <i>Rainbow Loop Trail</i> concept and <i>Great Circle Trail</i> connector. 	
<p><u>Backpacking Campsites</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider development of 3 to 5 new backpacking campsites within the Unit, with priority given to sites on the Debsconeag Backcountry and Turtle Ridge loops. Consideration will also be given to sites that could be developed in conjunction with new Great Circle Trail segments. • Work with abutting neighbors, AMC, TNC and NPS, in exploring a coordinated proposal for backcountry trail connections and campsites along the Debsconeag Backcountry trail, the Great Circle trail, and trail systems outside of the Unit. Develop as resources allow and as demand is evidenced. 	<p>Completed as part of the Great Circle Trail, with new campsites at Third Musquash Pond (2018) and Sing Sing and Sixth Debsconeag Pond (2019).</p>
<p><u>New and/or Improved Hike-to and Water Access Campsites</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-examine water-access and accessible hike-to campsite development recommendations in the 1995 Plan and develop a priorities list and schedule for development or improvements of campsites, while providing public needs, environmental protection and aesthetics. Where possible, all accessible sites should be pre-authorized by the Maine Forest Service for campfires. • Consider campsite developments at the following locations: a hike-to campsite either at Sing Sing or Rabbit Ponds; a hike-to/water access campsite at Long Pond or Henderson Pond; a hike to and ATV and snowmobile-accessible group campsite at the former, now demolished Wadleigh Pond Sporting Camps site; a hike-to/water access campsite at the east shore of Pollywog Pond which would replace an existing campsite at Pollywog Stream Outlet. (Some of these sites may potentially serve a dual purpose as backpacking campsites, addressed in the preceding recommendations.) 	<p>Completed as part of the Great Circle Trail; Wadleigh Pond Group Campsite (2 lean-tos and 1 tent platform) completed in 2016, except for boulder barrier to keep ATV's 250 feet from pond.</p>
<p><u>Trailhead Improvement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the parking and turn-around area at the Wadleigh Pond Outlet Trailhead to serve the new ATV/snowmobile trail along the Black Pond Road, the hiking trail to the proposed group campsite at Wadleigh Pond (discussed above), the proposed Wadleigh Mountain trail, and the new section of the Great Circle Trail on the 	<p>No activity</p>

<p>east side of Pollywog Pond.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enlarge the existing parking area at the trailhead at Pollywog Pond, east of the outlet of Pollywog Stream, for those using the water access campsites on Pollywog Pond or hiking the new section of the Great Circle Trail to Crescent Pond, a small and popular waterbody which is located in the A.T. Corridor, or Wadleigh Pond. • Develop a parking area along Penobscot Pond Road at the Great Circle Trail crossing to serve the new and proposed trail sections. • Modify the Turtle Ridge trailhead (west end) to clearly indicate where the trail starts. 	
<p><u>Chesuncook Lake “bootleg” Snowmobile Trail</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorize the use of the trail as a primitive snowmobile trail but prohibit widening or grooming. The Bureau is considering converting the trail to a management road to connect to a management road on abutting private forest lands managed by Prentiss and Carlisle. • The Bureau will work with NLC and other users of this trail to develop warning signs and other means of addressing conflicts and safety concerns arising from use of this trail by both high speed and slower snowmobiles and by dog sleds. 	<p>Maintain trail status for now, with no connection to other trail systems. Signs are being ordered to address safety and travel information.</p> <p>No activity.</p>
<p><u>Wadleigh Stream Crossing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend the existing bridge over Wadleigh Stream at the outlet to allow snowmobiles, ATVs and hikers to safely access the bridge during periods of high water, while preserving an adequate cross-sectional area for flood stage flows. 	<p>Completed.</p>
<p><u>Bypass Snowmobile Trail</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities that may be available for completing construction of the Penobscot Pond Road bypass snowmobile trail especially when logging operations equipment will be in the locale that could assist in cutting the remainder of the trail. 	<p>No activity, but still a goal.</p>
<p><u>ATV Unloading/Loading and Parking Zone near Henderson Checkpoint</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities for amenities to accommodate ATVs that are trailered in and out of the Unit at the southeastern corner. As ATV's are not allowed on the first mile of the Jo Mary Road on the unit, the most appropriate site may be the gravel pit parking area near the Turtle Ridge trailhead. 	<p>No activity.</p>

<p><u>Rock Climbing Activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with the MDIFW and the Maine Natural Areas Program to determine whether rock climbing at Debsconeag Cliffs is having a detrimental impact on potential nesting activity for the peregrine falcon, or any other sensitive natural resources. Consider restrictions on rock climbing activities such as closing off the area during nesting season. Take similar measures to ensure protection of sensitive wildlife or natural resources, if necessary, at Turtle Ridge. 	<p>No activity</p>
<p><u>Boating Facilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign the existing launch facility at Fourth Debsconeag Lake to create safer landings for boaters. Consult with the Bureau's boating facilities program on design suggestions for a more gradual landing to the lake. Redesign and relocate parking facilities to reduce congestion and portions of the access road to create better traffic circulation. • Expand the parking areas at the existing hand-carry launch facility at Wadleigh Pond (North) to accommodate parking for up to three vehicles. • The National Park Service owns the land surrounding Nahmakanta Lake and the BPL manages it in accordance with an MOU with the NPS. In response to BPL's recent request for consideration of a trailered boat access across NPS lands, NPS has re-iterated its policy, as established in the MOU, that facilitates non-trailered (hand carry) boat launching only within Appalachian Trail Corridor at the south end of Nahmakanta Lake. The Bureau accepts the NPS decision on this issue. A trailered boat launch would entail a new motorized crossing of the A.T. and NPS policy is to limit additional motorized crossings. • The Bureau will reestablish and mark the cutoff trail between the boat access parking area and the lakeshore that shortens boater's walk to and from the parking area. 	<p>Started, scheduled for completion 2019. A new parking area was built for Chewonki in 2017, so they don't have to park at the boat launch. Their dock was moved away from the boat launch "ramp" to avoid conflict/liability with public use.</p> <p>LUPC permit has been approved for expanded Wadleigh Pond parking. Spot cleared of trees, graveling due in 2019.</p> <p>No action required.</p> <p>No action taken.</p>
<p><i>Administrative Management Recommendations</i></p>	
<p><u>Abandoned Wadleigh Mountain Fire Tower</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau will address the public safety hazard by developing a plan and schedule to either remove the tower or restore it for observing the landscape. The Bureau will evaluate and respond to the Friends of Wadleigh group's proposal for restoration of the 	<p>Tower removed in 2018.</p>

tower.	
<p><u>Signage</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau will conduct an inventory of existing signage on the Unit and will develop a comprehensive sign plan, which will include a work plan and schedule for erecting and maintaining signs, and minimizing damage or loss of signs, keeping in mind the remote feeling of the landscape, which could be diminished by too much signage. Signage priorities include road name, trail intersection, A.T. corridor, and ecological reserve boundary signs. • The Bureau will work with various user groups and interests in developing its signage plan, including local snowmobile/ATV clubs, sporting camps operators, tourism organizations, MATC and the National Park Service. As time and resources allow, the Bureau will also explore establishing an interactive map using Geographic Information System capacity. 	<p>In progress Bureau wide.</p> <p>Hiking trail sign plan for Great Circle Trail has been developed in coordination with NPS and MATC within the AT corridor (2018-19). Routed wood signs are in production. Signage associated with parking improvements in the AT corridor near Crescent Pond coordinated with NPS, MATC and MDOT.</p>
<p><u>Boat Storage</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau will develop a plan for allowing boat storage on certain backcountry ponds in the Unit. The Plan should be clear, convenient for users, and enforceable. Once a plan is in place, actions will be taken to inform boat owners of the plan and boat storage policy and how the Bureau plans to implement it. The Bureau is aware that the number of boats stored may need to be reduced at certain sites that may be overused given the size of the waterbody. 	<p>To encourage identification of the owner on stored boats, as required by the IRP, boat owner name stickers were acquired from North Maine Woods and some stickers were mailed out to boat owners who responded to a 2012 survey.</p>
<p><u>2008 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between National Park Service and the Bureau</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau will continue its recreation management responsibilities of these facilities described in the 2008 MOU (including compliance with signage requirements) and work with the NPS and MATC in updating the MOU by 2018. 	<p>Continuing</p>
<p><u>Maine Appalachian Trail Club (MATC) Plan for the Appalachian Trail Corridor</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue management responsibilities for these crossings, boating and camping facilities. Consult with the NPS and MATC on any necessary improvements to these facilities with the goal of ensuring facility improvement and development does not interfere with A.T. hikers' experience. Address the need for expansion of parking at the A.T. crossing of Wadleigh Pond Road, to serve day 	<p>Continuing. Parking improvements on Wadleigh Pond Road at AT crossing completed in 2017.</p>

<p>hikers on the A.T. and eliminate parking in the roadway.</p>	
<p><u>Helivac Sites</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bureau should identify two to three potential helivac sites that are consistent with resource allocations and as determined based on site considerations such as accessibility. 	<p>No activity</p>
<p><u>Chewonki Camp Parking</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bureau will work with the Chewonki Foundation to develop parking for camp staff and guests just beyond and north of the existing parking at the end of the road, with an 8 vehicle capacity. The Bureau will also consider developing a parking area south of Fourth Debsconeag Road at the site of an old log yard, to serve as overflow for Chewonki and for the general public using the Fourth Debsconeag boat access and the Debsconeag Backcountry trailhead. 	<p>Eight-vehicle capacity parking area was completed in 2017. Site at old log yard cleared in 2018 by Chewonki staff. Graveling due in 2019.</p>
<p><i>Timber Management Recommendations</i></p>	
<p><u>Deer Wintering Areas</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue management initiatives to maintain and develop softwoods for winter cover, and where the sites are suitable, increase the size of the habitat as is being done currently at the Black Pond DWA. 	<p>Continuing</p>
<p><u>Future Management Guidelines</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bureau will continue to manage the forest land with the objective of maintaining large areas of late successional forest. <i>Certain fire skips have been set aside during the current harvest cycle to further this objective.</i> Where timber management is the dominant use or is included among secondary uses, its management should favor high value and longer-lived species of spruce, sugar maple, yellow birch, pine and hemlock for timber quality and wildlife habitat, and retain oak. The objectives will include growing high value timber products, chiefly saw logs and veneer, while maintaining visual integrity and enhancing the diversity of wildlife habitat. Softwoods will typically be managed with spruce being a key species, pine being favored, and fir being valued but short-lived. Mixedwood stands created by past softwood harvests and the fire-origin mixedwood stands should be managed to encourage softwood types to regenerate. Natural spruce-hardwoods and the more fertile harvest-created mixedwood generally should be 	<p>Continuing</p> <p>Continuing.</p>

<p>kept in mixedwood, favoring spruce, pine, and the more valuable hardwood species. Hardwoods in the fire-origin, shade intolerant stands should be managed for aspen and birch while retaining selected large trees, almost always aspen or spruce, for stand structure. Areas where aspen sprout heavily following a harvest should be managed for regeneration, unless limited soil fertility makes reversion to softwoods more desirable. In Northern hardwood stands, the objective should be to continue improving the overall stem quality, generally through selection harvests and favoring sugar maple, yellow birch, spruce, ash, and any oak or pine.</p>	<p>Understory beech control with herbicide conducted in 2017 and 2018 to release sugar maple.</p>
<p><i>Transportation Recommendations</i></p>	
<p><u>Connection of Black Pond Road to Abutter to North and to Wadleigh Pond Road</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the abutter’s interest in a connection of their management road to the Black Pond Road changes, the Bureau will pursue an agreement with the abutter and, if approved, will construct that half-mile connection. The Bureau will also further explore linking the Black Pond Road to the Wadleigh Pond Road, in combination with the northern connection or as a stand-alone project. The new route created by the combined projects may be interest to abutters both north and south of the unit, who could share in its maintenance as well as its use. An assessment of potential impacts to recreation, safety, wildlife and visual resources would be necessary, with actions identified to mitigate or minimize any impacts identified. 	<p>Will not continue with this proposal.</p>
<p><u>Ratings and Information on Roads in the Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rate the use of roads for 2WD vehicles and provide this information to motorists. Ensure Plan maps and published maps distributed to the public are current, with all existing roads and road segments accurately located, named, and classified as to type of use. 	<p>Sign program being developed Bureau wide.</p>
<p><u>Smithtown Road</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau will continue working with the AMC on this important access issue 	<p>No activity this period. Not actively pursuing this proposal.</p>

Seboeis Lake Unit (Plan pages 123-125)**Actions taken/Comments:**

Wildlife Management Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Bald Eagle Nest</u> Monitor and manage activities near the bald eagle nest in consultation with the MDIFW. 	Continuing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Invasive Aquatic Species</u> Install additional MDIFW or DEP signage at existing and any new boat facilities informing boaters about invasive aquatic species threats and preventative measures to take before launching boats in the unit. 	No activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Deer Wintering Area</u> Timber management practices in the DWA and surrounding area will seek to enhance softwood cover for wintering deer with the long-term objective of rehabilitating and expanding the DWA. 	Continuing in cooperation with Inland Fisheries & Wildlife.
Recreation Management Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Non-motorized trails</u> Identify and establish a hiking trail(s) to the shore of Turtle Pond. Consider using an existing foot path at the Turtle Pond Outlet to serve as access to Turtle Pond from Seboeis Lake. 	No activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Boating Facilities (hand-carry)</u> Improve an existing facility, just acquired by the recent land transaction, on the east shore at the south end of Seboeis Lake. Access will be via a spur road off the south shared use road, following an old forest management road, and a small parking area (3-5 vehicles) will be developed. • Pursue acquiring a right-of-way along the Railroad Bed Road along the western side of the unit; if acquired, examine developing facilities at Northwest Pond and the south end of Seboeis Lake. 	<p>New road, parking and hand-carry facility completed in 2015.</p> <p>Right-of-way has not been acquired along the Railroad Bed Road.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Boating Facilities (trailed)</u> Redesign the Seboeis Inlet facility to increase vehicular parking availability and to reduce traffic congestion and conflict with use of campsites. • Consider language in renewed leases that describes designated areas for lessees to park their vehicles on a long-term basis. • Redesign or move the Endless Lake facility slightly to provide direct access into deeper water, increase vehicular parking opportunities, and minimize conflicts with the adjacent campsites. 	<p>Seboeis Inlet boat facility reconstruction, including ADA accessible launch, was completed in Oct. 2018.</p> <p>The Bureau had determined that no viable alternative boat launch site is available at Endless lake due to shallow water and rocks.</p>

<p><u>Campsites (drive-to)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assure ATV access to the Seboeis Outlet campsite. • Explore options for ATV camping off the Railroad Bed Road in the event a ROW can be acquired extending existing public access rights. • Retrofit existing campsites in the Unit, where it is appropriate, to be more “handicap accessible.” Concentrate efforts at existing sites at The Pit on Seboeis Lake and any new sites. 	<p>Continuing</p>
<p><u>Campsites (hike-to / water access)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine potential sites at Northwest Pond, including three sites at the southern tip of “The Tongue” that were considered by the Advisory Committee. Recommend keeping the east shore of Northwest Pond void of campsite development to minimize human activity in wading/breeding bird habitat. • Examine potential sites at the south end of Seboeis Lake. • Inventory existing informal campsites along the shore of Endless Lake and identify the need for campsite improvements and/or suitable sites for additional boat-in campsites. Add water access campsites along the shore of Endless Lake, if suitable sites exist. • Monitor any nesting loons that are found near potential new water-access campsites one year before site development, and monitor near any campsites that are developed to assess the extent of impacts of human and other disturbances to these birds. 	<p>No activity</p> <p>Water access, hand carry campsites (2) at south end of the lake are scheduled to be developed in 2019. The sites have been identified.</p> <p>Endless Lake boat-in campsite not feasible now due to poor access point.</p>
<p><i>Timber Management Recommendations</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau will continue to manage timber to produce high value timber products through the application of appropriate silvicultural methods. • Improve the future quality of hardwoods on acres where an abundance of low quality beech exists. • Improve the future quality of mixedwood type. 	<p>Continuing</p>
<p><i>Transportation Management Recommendations</i></p>	
<p><u>Public Access to West Side of Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to secure public vehicular access on the remainder of the abandoned rail bed running along the western boundary of the Unit where no deeded public access yet exists. 	<p>Done</p>
<p><i>Invasive Plants Recommendation</i></p>	
<p><u>Common Reed</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control the small population of common reed (<i>Phragmites</i>) 	<p>Bureau-wide eradication program annually.</p>

<i>australis</i>) located at the Unit's Northwest Pond quadrant before it enters larger open wetlands nearby.	
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Recommendations for Smaller Lots

East Turner Mountain Lot (Plan page 146)

Actions taken/Comments:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor resource conditions and recreation remotely, using GIS data and secondary sources (e.g., Twin Ponds Trail use data from Baxter State Park), supplemented with occasional field visits. Pursue acquisition of vehicular access rights if the opportunity arises. 	Road access (4 WD only) done
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Wassataquoik Lot (Plan page 148)

Actions taken/Comments:

<p><u>Dispersed Recreation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau should consider working with the IAT on utilizing these sites, in association with the IAT's alternate route along the stream. 	In progress. The remainder of the lot is formally being added to the ecoreserve with this Plan review (see details below this table).
<p><u>Timber Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue deeded access to the parcel should the opportunity arise. 	With remainder of lot being designated as ecoreserve, timber management will not continue, and deeded access is no longer needed.

Millinocket Forest Lot (Plan page 150)

Actions taken/Comments:

<p><u>Motorized Recreation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider development of ATV trails on the lot, should road access or trail development on abutting lands provide such an opportunity. 	Continuing
<p><u>Timber Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As resources permit, monitor the growth and species mix of the younger stands on the lot. Surveys will seek to confirm preliminary plans for future management that favor softwoods east of Sandy Stream, and that aim for a mixedwood forest with a considerable hardwood component west of Sandy Stream. • As resources permit, perform more complete assessment of stand 	Continuing

<p>conditions in the Red Pine-White Pine Forest to determine whether to favor red pine with shelterwood harvests or to allow natural regeneration to proceed and thereby favor regeneration of spruce and fir and the white pine component.</p>	
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Seboeis Plantation Lot (Plan page 153)	Actions taken/Comments:
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<p><u>Timber Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for opportunities for deeded access to the lot. • Where softwood stocking is high and trees vigorous, harvesting should retain areas of high canopy closure wherever feasible, to maximize deer cover. 	<p>No activity</p>
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T3 R9 NWP/Grey Ledge Deadwater Lot (Plan page 154)	Actions taken/Comments:
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<p><u>Timber Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue timber management in line with general objectives and consistent with the IRP. 	<p>No activity</p>
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Bradford/LaGrange Lot (Plan page 157)	Actions taken/Comments:
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<p><u>Riparian Habitat</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau will follow Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife’s guidelines for riparian management around wood turtle streams in the Parcel. These guidelines include: maintaining a 330-foot wide forested riparian management zone for 2.5 miles upstream and 2.5 miles downstream of any documented occurrences; maintaining an “un-harvested buffer” within 25 feet of the waterway; managing the remainder of the riparian management zone using single-tree or small group-selection cuts to maintain 60-70 percent canopy cover; and, avoiding and minimizing road construction and log landings in the riparian management zone. • The Bureau will conduct sound riparian management, as outlined for the wood turtle above, in locations where the creeper, a rare species of freshwater mussel, occurs. 	<p>Continuing</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timber Management The focus of timber management will be management of conforming softwood to deer wintering areas. 	No Activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive Plant Management The Bureau will remove the stems of the Japanese barberry if found in the southwest portion of the parcel. 	Bureau-wide program ongoing.

Monitoring and Evaluation (Plan pages 159-161)

Actions taken/Comments:

Implementation of Plan Recommendations	
<p>The Bureau will develop, within two years of Plan adoption, an action plan for implementing and monitoring the management recommendations in this Plan. This will include an assignment of priorities and timeframes for accomplishment that will be utilized to determine work priorities and budgets on an annual basis. The Bureau will document annually its progress in implementing the recommendations, plans for the coming year, and adjustments to the priorities and timeframes as needed.</p>	<p>Continuing. Individual projects are planned and budgeted for during annual planning exercises. New initiatives, particularly larger projects, are planned in two-year cycles. The detailed action plan for implementing and monitoring management has been replaced by the 5-year Plan review and BPL yearly planning process that prioritizes projects based on the Plan recommendations and resources available.</p>
Ecological Reserves	
<p>There are two Ecological Reserves in the Central Penobscot Region, one in the Nahmakanta Unit and one in the Wassataquoik Parcel. The MNAP staff conducted natural resource inventories on the Nahmakanta Unit in 2010 and 2011 as part of the reserved lands management planning process. Additionally, MNAP’s natural resource inventory report dated 2012 incorporates information in the 1995 Plan and Ecological Reserve Inventory surveys from 1992 and 1995. MNAP is also monitoring these lands as part of its long-term monitoring of Ecological Reserves to detect ecological change within Ecological Reserves and to compare Ecological Reserves to areas under different management regimes. Baseline data was collected on Nahmakanta in 2005 and on Wassataquoik in 2007 using a methodology described in the Ecological Reserves Monitoring Plan (2003). Nahmakanta will be revisited in 2015, and Wassataquoik will be revisited in 2017.</p>	<p>Continuing. In conjunction with remainder of Wassataquoik lot being added to ecoreserve system, MNAP will establish additional monitoring plots when the lot is revisited in the next cycle.</p>

Recreation	Continuing
<p>The Bureau will monitor public use to determine:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) if improvements to existing facilities or additional facilities are needed and compatible with general objectives (2) if additional measures are needed to ensure that recreational users have a high-quality experience (which could be affected by the numbers of users, and interactions among users with conflicting interests) (3) if use is adversely affecting sensitive natural resources or the ecology of the area (4) if measures are needed to address unforeseen safety issues (5) if changing recreational uses and demands present the need or opportunity for adjustments to existing facilities and management (6) if 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. 	<p>The Region utilizes Recreational Logs to determine the type and quantity of use at major units and recreational sites. The BPL recreational planner also provides some input and direction as well as the Unit foresters. When perceived safety issues arise, targeted patrols by either the Maine Warden Service or various County Sheriff's offices are commissioned. If there are environmental or rare/threatened/endangered species issues, the MNAP or LUPC or DEP are contacted.</p>
Wildlife	
<p>The Bureau, through its Wildlife Biologist and Technician, routinely conducts a variety of species monitoring activities statewide. The following are monitoring activities that are ongoing or anticipated for the Central Penobscot Region:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The Bureau will cooperate with IF&W in the monitoring of game species, including deer, moose, grouse, and black bear (2) 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 now. Any significant natural areas or wildlife habitat will then be subject to appropriate protections. 	<p>The region works closely with both the MDMR (Div. of Sea Run Fisheries and Habitat) and MDIFW on fish and wildlife issues. Significant wildlife habitat is noted and mapped when necessary in the prescription process, and on the ground during harvesting operations. The wildlife biologist assigned by IF&W to the Bureau also assesses wildlife habitat and conducts some monitoring on BPL lands, and is consulted during the prescription process.</p>
Timber Management	
<p>The local work plans, called prescriptions, are prepared by professional foresters in accordance with Bureau policies specified in its <i>Integrated Resource Policy</i>, with input from other staff. These</p>	<p>SOP - Ongoing</p>

<p>documents are then peer-reviewed prior to approval. Preparation and layout of all timber sales involve field staff looking at every acre to be treated. Trees to be harvested are often hand marked. Regional field staff provides regular on-site supervision of harvest activities, with senior staff visiting these sites on a less frequent basis. After the harvest is completed, roads, trails, and water crossings are discontinued as appropriate, although some management roads may remain open to vehicle travel. Changes in stand type resulting from the harvest are then recorded so that the Bureau's GIS system can be updated.</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 (BMP's) utilized during harvest activities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</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). Each program conducts rigorous investigations of both planning and on-ground practices. An initial audit by both programs was completed in 2000, with certification awarded in 2002. A full re-audit of both programs was conducted in the fall of 2006 with certification granted in 2007. The Bureau is also subject to compliance audits during the 5-year certification period.</p>	<p>Continuing/ongoing. The Eastern region was the focus of the Fall 2014 annual audit. No issues were noted on these lands. A full audit was conducted in Dec 2016 for both programs, with visits to all three regions. The most recent annual surveillance audit was conducted in Fall 2018, which again focused on the Eastern Region.</p>

Issues for Advisory Committee Attention

New Issues or Circumstances Not Addressed in the Plan:

Addition of New Gulf Hagas Acquisition to Central Penobscot Region

In December 2016, the Bureau acquired over 1,200 acres of fee property and a conservation easement on over 7,000 acres of adjoining working forest land in Bowdoin College Grant East TWP, referred to as the Gulf Hagas acquisition. The acquisition was facilitated by the Forest Society of Maine and was funded in part by the Land for Maine's Future (LMF) program and the federal Forest Legacy program.

The 1,264-acre fee parcel, bisected by the West Branch Pleasant River and known as the River Tract, lies just downstream from where the river exits the Gulf Hagas canyon. There are several existing designated walk-in campsites on the parcel as well as two parking area by which visitors may access the campsites, the Appalachian Trail and other hiking trails on the adjacent federal Gulf Hagas conservation lands.

These lands will be managed for multiple uses as part of the Central Penobscot Region. Therefore, as a component of this Five-Year Plan Review and Update, the Bureau will prepare a management plan for the Gulf Hagas fee parcel, outlining the management direction for the next 10 years and applying the resource allocations outlined in the Bureau's Integrated Resource Policy (IRP). The plan will incorporate by reference the Habitat Management Agreement for the parcel signed by DACF and IFI&W in June 2017, as required pursuant to the LMF funding. The Gulf Hagas plan will be sent to the Advisory Committee for review and comment during this Five-Year Plan Review and Update. When adopted, it will be appended to the Central Penobscot Region Management Plan.

The conservation easement (referred to as the Gulf Hagas-Whitecap easement) covers 7,138 acres of working forest abutting the fee parcel. The state was granted enforcement rights on the easement, and BPL conducts annual monitoring visits. The landowner and IF&W signed a Habitat Management Agreement for the easement lands in January 2017.

Note: Currently, these lands fall within the Moosehead Region Plan area, managed by the BPL Western Region; the Plan and BPL region boundaries will be modified to place these lands in the Central Penobscot Plan area and BPL Eastern Region.

Other Items of Special Concern or Interest:

Ecological Reserve Expansion at Wassataquoik Lot

The 2,162-acre Wassataquoik tract was acquired by the State in 1984 as part of a larger land trade. The July 1998 report of the Maine Forest Biodiversity Project, "An Ecological Reserves System Inventory: Potential Ecological Reserves on Maine's Existing Public and Private Conservation Lands" (hereafter "MFPB 1998") identified the entire tract as a potential ecological reserve. In 2000, after being given authority by the Legislature (Chapter 592, S. P. – L.D. 477) to designate ecological reserves, the Bureau chose to designate 775 acres of the highest ecological uniqueness as ecological reserve, while excluding the rest of tract.

Reconnaissance by BPL foresters and public input have determined that the entire Wassataquoik tract has high ecological value and potential for dispersed recreation consistent with uses within ecological reserves. Also, as noted in the Management Plan, access to the lot for timber management is challenging due to missing and decrepit bridges and abutter policies. Therefore, with a Memorandum dated December 14, 2018, the Bureau Director proposed to increase the ecological reserve on the tract to encompass the entire 2,162 acres in State ownership. This action would add 1,387 acres to the BPL ecological reserve system. The added lands include 1,232 acres of operable timberlands.

As part of this Plan review, the Bureau will formally designate the remainder of the Wassataquoik Lot as Ecological Reserve and will revise the Resource Allocations shown on page 147 of the Central Penobscot Region Plan, as shown in the table below.

Allocation	Current Acres	Revised Acres	Change in Acres
Special Protection	740	2,100	+1,360
Wildlife	130	0	-130
Timber Management	1,230	0	-1,230
Note: acreages are representations based on GIS metrics rounded to the nearest 5 acres, and do not sum to the acreages by parcel due to measuring error and limits of GIS precision.			

It will remain possible to walk in to the lot from the south on Sandbank Stream road, from the former site of a bridge over the stream which has been removed by the landowner (a stream crossing is required). Informal parking is available at the site, which is about 1.5 miles from the lot. It is also possible to boat in to the lot from the Lunksoos Camps boat access, located directly across the East Branch Penobscot River from the NE corner of the lot. The boat access is within the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, designated in 2016 and managed by the National Park Service (NPS). An old logging road (the Old Telos Tote Road) that leads into the lot is about a half mile from the riverbank just to the north of the lot. The four campsites along Wassataquoik Stream will continue to be maintained by the Bureau.

The National Monument abuts the lot on the north and west, and along part of the south boundary. The Bureau is following the ongoing planning work for the monument being conducted by the NPS and will provide input as the opportunity arises.