

Management Recommendations (Plan pages 52-53, 55, 63-68, 70)

Natural Resource Management Issues/Opportunities	Actions taken/Comments: [2016 entries: standard font; 2021 entries: <i>bold italic</i> font]
<p><u><i>Deer Wintering Areas and Trails</i></u></p> <p>Bureau staff will develop and post seasonal trailhead messaging informing trail users on best practices to minimize recreation impacts on deer. Trail closures may be warranted during severe winter conditions.</p>	<p>Plans are underway to post this signage, as part of the signage plan finalization expected to occur this winter with the involvement of staff in BPLs Lands and Parks divisions.</p> <p>BPL and Parks continue to improve signage at all trailheads to inform the users of potential impacts to Deer by hikers and their pets.</p>
<p><u><i>Deer Wintering Area Management</i></u></p> <p>The Bureau Wildlife Specialist will guide any harvesting within Deer Wintering Areas. Harvesting will be performed specifically to aid the area’s capacity to serve as winter deer cover.</p>	<p>The Bureau Wildlife Specialist along with Regional Biologists are consulted during the development of harvest prescriptions for any harvesting activity within a deer wintering area.</p>
<p><u><i>Invasive Species</i></u></p> <p>Monitor the Royal River floodplain site and consider options for supporting the wild leek population (i.e., evaluate options for invasive species control on site). Explore the potential for volunteers to assist with invasive species control efforts at either site or any other sites to be found. Consider including a control/eradication effort as part of an educational/interpretive opportunity focused on the issue of invasive species.</p>	<p>See comments on post-harvest monitoring under Monitoring and Evaluation–Timber Management (p. 11).</p> <p><i>The MNAP Invasives Specialist concluded that this location is beyond redemption due to access, and level of infestation including on abutters that will easily spread through the floodplain.</i></p>
<p><u><i>Tryon Fields</i></u></p> <p>The field maintenance regime, including scheduled bushhogging, will be established with the guidance of the Bureau wildlife specialist. Areas of open field as well as areas of juniper growth will be maintained. Apple and pin cherry trees will be allowed to establish themselves, though the</p>	<p>Parks has worked with Maine Forest Service (MFS) to conduct several controlled burns of the fields. This management approach has proved effective, and is intended to be continued in the future.</p>

<p>overall management goal is to keep forest trees from overtaking the field complex.</p> <p>The Bureau should explore the feasibility of controlled burning as a means to maintain the fields. This concept, brought forth through the Advisory Committee, requires more study. The Bureau should explore a partnership with the local land trust to assist in the maintenance of the fields.</p>	<p><i>In 2020, BPL made selective use of herbicides on hardwoods and invasive plants for control of both. Mowing was moved to a fall schedule to accommodate ground nesting birds.</i></p> <p><i>Controlled burning is becoming more difficult to do as restrictions increase and MFS staff is less available.</i></p>
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Historic/Cultural Issues or Opportunities	Actions taken/Comments: [2016 entries: standard font; 2021 entries: <i>bold italic</i> font]
<p><u>Mayall Mills</u> Continue to provide online interpretive materials about Mayall Mills, but also consider looking for opportunities to engage visitors or potential visitors to Bradbury Mountain and Pineland in order to raise awareness of this locally available historic site.</p>	<p>Online content about this history site is available on the Bureau’s Mayall Mills webpage; no other action taken.</p> <p><i>Pineland Farms has adopted the maintenance of this site. The Bureau intends to develop a formal MOU for guidance.</i></p>
<p><u>Lawrence Road Trailhead</u> Work with the local land trust in the location and design work to establish a parking area supporting 5-8 vehicles. Focus on creating a parking area that minimizes the visual impact from both the fields above the site and the view of those fields from the road. Balance safety and maintenance needs with aesthetic considerations.</p>	<p>An 8 car parking lot has been developed on the Lawrence Road.</p>
<p><u>Historic Quarry Site</u> Develop a designated trail spur to the quarry site, with due deference to safety. Consider targeted tree harvesting with the objectives of improving vistas from the summit area as well as opening up the immediate site to allow visitors to better understand and appreciate the historic elements of the site. Consider developing onsite interpretive signage and/or print/web materials telling the story of the site.</p>	<p>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>

Recreation Issues or Opportunities	Actions taken/Comments: [2016 entries: standard font; 2021 entries: bold italic font]
<p><u>Trail Density</u></p>	
<p>Establish a single trail in the Corridor Lands as the dominant trail feature meeting the needs of multiple non-motorized uses. Design the trail to accommodate mountain biking, equestrian use, hiking, snowshoeing, ungroomed cross-country skiing, and trail running. Consider how the trail can provide a recreational link with other trail opportunities while minimizing impact on other resource values including wildlife and dispersed recreational experiences such as hunting and nature observation.</p>	<p>The Corridor Trail is completed including two major bridge projects.</p> <p><i>Proposed new trails between Sweetser Road and Elmwood Road, primarily on RRCT parcels but linking to the BPL Corridor Trail, were discussed during the 2016 Five-Year Review. The north segment off Sweetser Road has been developed. See note at bottom of this table for more details.</i></p>
<p>Develop two short destination trail spurs/loops connecting to the main corridor trail: (1) a spur trail to the historic quarry site on Tryon Mountain, and (2) a spur/loop trail west of the Lawrence Road to a view point overlooking the Tryon Fields and continuing on to link back to the main corridor trail before it crosses Chandler Brook.</p>	<p>Historic Quarry spur trail is complete. Tryon Field Overlook Trail is not complete.</p>
<p><u>Trail Construction, Access, and Private Lands</u></p>	
<p>Continue to work with volunteer groups for the benefit of recreation and natural resources at Bradbury Mountain State Park. Establish a communications protocol to identify and quickly address trail use issues, including unauthorized trail building. Develop positive messages and preventive approaches to minimize problems, including clear messages at trailheads and trail junctions about designated uses and trail etiquette.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p><i>There are occasional ongoing issues with rogue trails, but to a lesser degree than in the past. The Bureau continues to monitor the situation.</i></p>

<p><u><i>Snowmobile Access to Bradbury Mountain</i></u></p> <p>Consider options to improve snowmobile access to the summit. Any new route should minimize clearing/construction and should avoid as much as possible vegetative impacts in the summit area (such as impacts to juniper bushes).</p>	<p>The Northern Loop trail is currently used for improved snowmobile access to the summit.</p>
<p><u><i>Possibility of an ATV Trail Connection through the Pineland Public Lands</i></u></p> <p>Continue to work with the ATV community and private landowners, through the Bureau's Off-Road Vehicle Division, to improve connectivity of the trail network in the plan vicinity, including better linking the power corridor trail segment into the wider system. Work to find other alternatives to having an ATV trail located across the Pineland Public Lands as the preferred option. Consider using the Pineland Public Lands only if other options are exhausted. In considering a route through the Public Lands, create a public process to give other interested parties, especially neighboring landowners, an opportunity to learn about any proposal and to provide their comments and concerns.</p>	<p>A trail for motorized use has been constructed the length of the power corridor between Sweetser Road, just north of the Bradbury-Pineland corridor and the Pineland Public Lands. However, the trail is currently not being maintained for ATVs due to a lack of ATV connections along the power corridor extending further to the south. Only snowmobilers are actively using it. There are no plans at this time to extend ATV trails into the Pineland Public Lands.</p>
<p><u><i>Bradbury-Pineland Trail Connector (Powerline Corridor Trail to Existing Trails at the Pineland Public Lands)</i></u></p> <p>Monitor trail use in the Corridor Lands, the CMP power corridor, and the Pineland Public Lands via informal and/or formal methods, including ongoing input from trail users.</p>	<p>There is limited data available. Data set includes January through mid-March 2014 (Corridor near Chandler Brook & Pineland North Loop). <u>Note:</u> 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.</p> <p><i>No change in status since first plan review.</i></p>
<p>As resources allow, and as interest and demand is demonstrated, build off the existing work performed by the Off-</p>	<p>The trail link is completed, though promotion/mapping/community awareness is lacking to-date. At this point,</p>

<p>Road Vehicle Division along the power corridor by extending a non-motorized trail segment from the power corridor to the Pineland Lands. Locate the trail through the southwest corner of the North Yarmouth portion of the Pineland Lands, across Route 231 (including appropriate measures to address safety at this crossing given limited sight distances), and connect into the existing South Loop at the Pineland Lands.</p>	<p>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>Explore, as a first step in accommodating new uses on the Pineland Lands, redevelopment of the entire South Loop Trail for use by mountain bikers, skiers (ungroomed) and equestrian uses, taking into consideration soils and other potential site limitations. Redevelop as resources allow.</p>	<p>The South Loop was improved to enhance pedestrian and mountain biking. In particular, the South Loop is welcoming to less advanced bikers.</p> <p><i>There is the potential to improve this experience by better directing bike use from the Depot Road parking area to the South Loop. This could include trail segment improvements and/or signage directing use along the road to the South Loop.</i></p>
<p>Consider developing a parking /trailhead area off the Town Farm Road for non-motorized access to the South Loop and CMP corridor trails once this new system is in place.</p>	<p>No action taken, though occasional informal use observed. There is no current planning to develop this site as a trailhead.</p>
<p>Retain the North Loop Trail for existing uses - hiking, walking and snowshoeing. Do not redevelop for additional uses at this time.</p>	<p>Trail segments at the North Loop were upgraded for pedestrian activity only.</p>

<u><i>Mountain Biking Demand</i></u>	
Explore redeveloping the South Loop Trail at Pineland to accommodate mountain bikers and equestrians (see previous recommendation).	Done. See response to third item under Bradbury-Pineland Trail Connector, above. Note that the trail was not designed for equestrian use.
Explore the potential for new singletrack mountain bike trails on the Pineland Public Lands. Any new trails would be secondary to timber management. Since a harvest is scheduled to occur within two years of the adoption of this Plan, there may be potential to work with the mountain bike community to develop trails following the timber harvest. Re-entry for timber harvesting would not occur for 15 to 20 years, providing an extended period of undisturbed trail use.	No planning has occurred and no inquiries have been made to the Bureau. However, there have been instances of rogue, unapproved trail construction.
Work with trail user groups in the design and development of any new trails or in redevelopment of existing trails, following trail development standards outlined in the Integrated Resource Policy (IRP) and other industry-accepted standards. Design any singletrack trails to also provide positive experiences for trail runners, walkers, and perhaps snowshoers.	<p>New trail segment from the south loop to the power corridor was developed to balance design standards for hiking/biking/running with cost considerations. In this project, several areas of wet soil within the limited public ownership area impacted design elements. The new segment is not as beginner-biker friendly as the south loop, but is available and presents the opportunity to experience an attractive forest setting.</p> <p>Blowdowns and condition of bog bridging are among current challenges. BPL will work with the biking community to evaluate trail conditions, standards and usage.</p>
New singletrack trails would not be explored in the vicinity of the Northern Loop and would be primarily integrated in Timber Dominant allocations. A harvest is slated to occur within two years of the adoption of this plan and there may be potential to work with the mountain bike community to develop trails following the timber harvest. It is anticipated that re-entry for timber harvesting would not occur for approximately 15 years	See above.

<p>following the cutting. Any trail development in addition to the proposed connector trail between the South Loop and the Power Corridor Trail would not trigger visual timber harvesting standards nor would trail development.</p>	
<p><u>Hunting Access</u></p> <p>Inform the public through signage and postings when specific areas are open or closed to hunting and appropriate precautions including wearing blaze orange. Designate trail segments running through the corridor public lands as multi-use, not subject to the firearm rules designed for “marked hiking trail.” Apply this same approach to any trail segments developed to link the power corridor trail through the Pineland Lands to the existing South Loop Trail. However, continue current policy for the existing North and South Loop Trails in the Pineland Public Lands. These trails will have a 300’ zone on each side of the trail, including the trail itself, in which loaded firearms may not be carried or discharged.</p>	<p>This policy has been applied, though improvements in communication and signage are possible.</p> <p>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><u>Target Shooting at the Pinelands Unit</u></p> <p>The pit area will be closed to shooting as it is within 300’ of a marked hiking trail.</p>	<p>The pit area is closed to shooting. A sign posted by the access road to the pit mentions the 300’ no shooting/hunting rule. Also, a sign is posted on a new kiosk at the intersection of the south loop trail and the Bradbury Connector trail (close to the pit) which again mentions the 300’ no hunting/shooting rule within 300’ of the South Loop trail (and that hunting/shooting is allowed adjacent to the Connector Trail).</p>
<p>Post signage to educate trail users and hunters alike regarding hunting rules, seasons, and best practice. This includes expressing that the overall area is open to hunting, subject to trail rules and standard hunting laws.</p>	<p>See above.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> A new bulletin board was installed recently at the junction of the South Loop Trail and Corridor Link Trail.</p>

<u>Access and Fees</u>	
Use signage and “iron rangers” to collect fees at entrance points to Bradbury Mountain State Park. Promote season passes as an efficient way for repeat visitors to pay for park entry. For use of Public Lands parcels, consider promoting voluntary donations at trailheads and parking areas.	Fees are collected at Bradbury Mountain State Park - Hallowell Road entrance. The Bureau has concluded that collecting “voluntary donations” for use of the public lands parcels would not be justified by the amount of investment and staff effort required.
<u>Park Amenities</u>	
Manage the Park and make facility improvements consistent with the spirit of the vision stated in this plan. Continue to provide new facilities and enhanced amenities. Being sensitive to keeping these improvements in harmony with the forested/rural character that makes the Park a desirable destination. Consider developing a Master Plan for improvements in consultation with a Landscape Architect.	<p>Modest improvements have been made to kiosks and the entrance booth. There is an RTP grant application being reviewed for extensive trail improvements in 2017.</p> <p><i>Extensive trail work has been done throughout the park over the past five years, by MCC field teams and Environmental Stewards, funded in part by RTP grants. Examples of projects include trail hardening and resurfacing, rock steps and bridge installation.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, ADA and other improvements have been made to the day use area, and two “glamping” sites and a group campsite with lean-to have been added at the campground.</i></p>

Timber Management Issues or Opportunities	Actions taken/Comments: [2016 entries: standard font; 2021 entries: bold italic font]
<u>Winter Deer Cover</u>	
Because pines are not particularly useful as winter deer cover, only a small proportion of softwood acres have good cover value. BPL will emphasize and encourage, as possible, fir and hemlock cover, including when below a pine superstory.	This goal is addressed in harvest prescriptions prepared by Bureau foresters. <u>Note:</u> An FSC/SFI surveillance audit at the Pineland Public Lands in 2015 addressed winter deer cover.
<u>Black Gum and American Hornbeam</u>	
Small populations of black gum and American hornbeam, neither species very common in Maine, are found on these lands. The special protection areas along the Royal River will	As recommended, this is addressed in the development of harvest prescriptions by Bureau foresters.

<p>encompass these species. However, there are known black gum specimens outside of those areas. Foresters developing harvesting prescriptions should be aware that black gum may be present and should not be marked for cutting.</p>	
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<p>Transportation Management Issues or Opportunities</p>	<p>Actions taken/Comments: [2016 entries: standard font; 2021 entries: <i>bold italic</i> font]</p>
<p><u>Interagency Coordination</u></p>	
<p>Designate Bradbury Mountain State Park staff to oversee recreation management of the park and the corridor lands (as far as the power corridor). Designate the Off-Road Vehicle Program to maintain the segment of multiple-use trail along the power corridor and work with Central Maine Power to maintain the license agreement. Designate the Public Lands staff to manage trails at the Pineland Public Lands. To achieve coordination and efficiencies, designate Park staff to provide public information for all areas as well as be a partner in recreation projects to the extent possible (such as managing volunteers, performing routine trail maintenance, posting trailhead information, etc.).</p>	<p>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>Encourage all Bureau staff to communicate and collaborate to provide a coordinated recreation experience between the various managed parcels. At least annually, a planning/work review workshop should be held to estimate projected trail corridor work, discuss recreation trends/observations/data, and to update management activities of note.</p>	<p>See above. <u>Note</u>: no formal “workshops” have taken place.</p>

<p>Monitoring and Evaluation (Plan pages 74-75)</p>	<p>Actions taken/Comments: [2016 entries: standard font; 2021 entries: <i>bold italic</i> font]</p>
<p>Implementation of Plan Recommendations</p>	
<p>The Bureau will develop an action plan for implementing and monitoring the management recommendations in this Plan. This</p>	<p>The Bureau has accomplished a substantial amount of work in the 5+ years since the Plan was adopted, as</p>

<p>will include an assignment of priorities and will, along with other Bureau responsibilities across the state, help shape budgets on an annual basis. The Bureau will track its progress in implementing the recommendations and make adjustments to the priorities as needed.</p>	<p>guided by the Plan recommendations, though not with a formal process. This 5-year review provides an opportunity to evaluate progress on implementing the recommendations, and discuss with the AC priorities for remaining work to be accomplished in the next phase of Plan implementation.</p>
<p>Recreation – Public Use</p>	
<p>Data on recreational use is helpful in allocating staff and monetary resources for management of the properties and in determining the public’s response to the opportunities being provided.</p>	<p>Trail data collection has been limited here, though BMSP has detailed visitation data. Given limited resources, it is unclear if this plan area is a priority for significant data collection projects beyond park attendance figures.</p>
<p>Recreation – Use Impacts</p>	
<p>In addition to gathering data on use, the Bureau will monitor public use to determine:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. whether improvements to existing facilities or additional facilities might be needed and compatible with general objectives; 2. whether additional measures are needed to ensure that recreational users have a high quality experience; 3. whether use is adversely affecting sensitive natural resources or the ecology of the area; 4. whether measures are needed to address unforeseen safety issues; 5. whether changing recreational uses and demands present the need or opportunity for adjustments to existing facilities and management; and 6. 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. 	<p>Park staff continually observes and discusses trends with park users. Additionally, the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) details large-level trends and issues affecting recreation in Maine; this input can be used to inform park planning and needs.</p> <p>Public use observed in 2016 was 50% mountain bikes and 50% hikers/runners/ foot travel. Most were regular users of area.</p>

<p>Wildlife</p>	
<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 plan area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The Bureau will direct efforts to manage the Tryon Fields for wildlife values. (2) The Bureau will monitor and manage the habitat within mapped Deer Wintering Areas; (3) The Bureau will work to address the presence of invasive plant species, notably along the Royal River in the areas where wild leek are found. 	<p>As noted above (page 1), Parks has worked with Maine Forest Service (MFS) to conduct several controlled burns of the Tryon Fields.</p> <p>Management of DWAs is ongoing as part of the harvest prescription process. Monitoring of DWAs is ongoing.</p> <p>MNAP has conducting monitoring at the Bureau’s request following herbicide spraying to control invasive species.</p> <p><i>Per note above: MNAP recon has shown that control of invasives around wild leek population is not feasible.</i></p>
<p>Timber Management</p>	
<p>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 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 generally hand marked on a majority of these acres. Regional field staff provide 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>Ongoing, as described here.</p> <p><i>Invasive species assessment should be done prior to any harvest so that harvesting does not encourage spreading of any documented invasive species.</i></p>
<p>The Bureau is currently developing a post-harvest monitoring plan to assist forest managers in assessing harvest outcomes on</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>

<p>all managed lands. The monitoring plan will also address water quality and Best Management Practices (BMPs) utilized during harvest activities.</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 2001, 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>An FSC/SFI surveillance audit was conducted at the Pineland Public Lands in 2015. No concerns were noted by the auditors.</p>

Issues for Advisory Committee Attention

New Issues or Circumstances Not Addressed in the Plan:

None have been identified by the Bureau at this time.

Other Items of Special Concern or Interest:

Update on Non-motorized Trail Proposal Discussed During the 1st Five-Year Review

The 2016 Five-Year Review included discussion of a RRCT proposal for a new non-motorized trail running between Elmwood Road and Sweetser Road, a portion of which would cross the BPL corridor lands in the vicinity of Chandler Brook. About 0.4 miles of the trail would cross the BPL parcels, potentially co-located in part with the existing BPL Corridor Trail. The Advisory Committee and others expressed support for the proposal. Given that support and the compatibility of the proposal with the management plan recommendations, the Bureau determined that it would support development of the trail.

RRCT has since completed the northern section of trail, from Sweetser Road to the BPL Corridor Trail, and installed a small kiosk off Sweetser Road. A connecting trail from the BPL Corridor Trail across BPL property to the existing trail on the RRCT conservation easement parcel to the south has also been developed, reaching Elmwood Road where a small kiosk is located with shoulder parking. Small informational kiosks are installed at BPL boundaries where the trail enters or exits BPL property. In 2021 RRCT plans final planning board approval and construction of an off-road parking area off Elmwood Road, on a parcel acquired by RRCT in 2020. RRCT now calls this trail network "Elmwood Trails."

New Conservation Lands in the Plan Area

The Bureau is aware that towns and land trusts have acquired several additional conservation parcels in the plan area since the first plan review, some of which abut or are near to the BPL lands.