

**BRADBURY MOUNTAIN STATE PARK
& PINELAND PUBLIC LANDS**

MANAGEMENT PLAN *EXECUTIVE SUMMARY*



**Maine Department of Conservation
Bureau of Parks and Lands**

January 2011

III. Executive Summary of the Plan

Vision for Management of Bradbury Mountain State Park and the Pineland Public Lands

Bradbury Mountain State Park and the Pineland Public Lands will continue to serve environmental, recreational, and community functions that enhance the quality of life for local residents and area visitors alike. Management activities will be guided by the broad goal of helping retain and celebrate the natural and cultural character of the plan area.



View of Hiking at Bradbury Mountain State Park's Summit

Overall, the properties will provide public access to a predominantly natural appearing environment where evidence of human activity harmonizes with the natural environment. On the Public Lands parcels, including the Pineland Public Lands and the Bradbury-Pineland corridor fee-owned properties, that natural environment will be managed to produce sustainable timber in a sensitive and complimentary manner to trail-based and consumptive (i.e., hunting, fishing) recreation activities as well as water-quality and wildlife management goals.

Bradbury Mountain State Park, traditionally the primary destination for most visitors will serve as the hub of visitor services, picnicking and general day use, trails access, camping, and events. Public information available at the Park will provide visitors with an understanding of the expanded scope of recreational opportunities made possible by the linkage of the Park to the Pineland Public Lands, including the Bradbury-Pineland Corridor. Developed recreation resources, including the playground, park headquarters, parking areas, developed restroom facilities, and areas of higher density trails will be based at the park. Developed park resources will respect the forested setting and will strive to mesh with the pastoral/forest character of the Town of Pownal. Signs and structures will impart a sense of appreciation for the resources shared and stewarded. Staff, signs, publications, or any other forms of communication will welcome users and advocate low-impact recreation practices. Site improvements, including but not limited

to potential campground enhancements, will be designed to meet evolving outdoor recreation demand and will be in line with park character.

Bradbury Mountain State Park will be a trail destination, with desirable, diverse, and sustainable trails. Trail enthusiasts will have access to well-managed trails during all seasons. Trails nearer the park's core, centered on Rt. 9, will have higher densities than other areas and will generally experience greater numbers of users. Trails on the adjacent "Corridor Lands" and the Pineland Public Lands 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 Bradbury Mountain State Park and the Pineland Public Lands provides opportunities for longer distance trail uses, including a new venue for trail running and mountain biking events unique to southern Maine. The corridor and Pineland Public Lands trails, including trailheads, will be well-designed for intended recreational uses and respect their environmental and cultural settings.

Continual efforts will be made to ensure that evolving trail demand and patterns of use are understood and addressed to the extent possible with existing resources. Furthermore, ongoing communication will keep open the possibility of forging landowner and user-groups partnerships to establish new conservation and trail linkages expanding connectivity in the region.

Non-trail recreation experiences will continue to be valued and managed on all properties. Hunting access will continue where not prohibited by statute or deed and will be deliberately considered during all planning and development activities. The scenic importance of undeveloped and culturally important vistas, experienced from local roads and from trails, will be managed to ensure quality of place and community heritage is not unduly compromised.



Above: hawk-watching atop Bradbury Mt.

Management activities will be shaped by the knowledge that Bureau properties play a vital role in regional habitat functioning and ecological services such as water quality protection. Bureau management decisions and activities will minimize environmental impacts while looking for opportunities to improve wildlife habitat and protect environmental quality. As with most all aspects of management, wildlife habitat and ecological management considerations will be explored with appropriate governmental and non-governmental partners.

Timber management will occur as part of multi-use management objectives for Public Lands. The Bureau will establish communications that help local residents as well as visitors understand the purpose and intent of harvests. Timber management will dovetail with recreation, scenic, and wildlife planning and will showcase best management practices for nurturing multiple forest values.

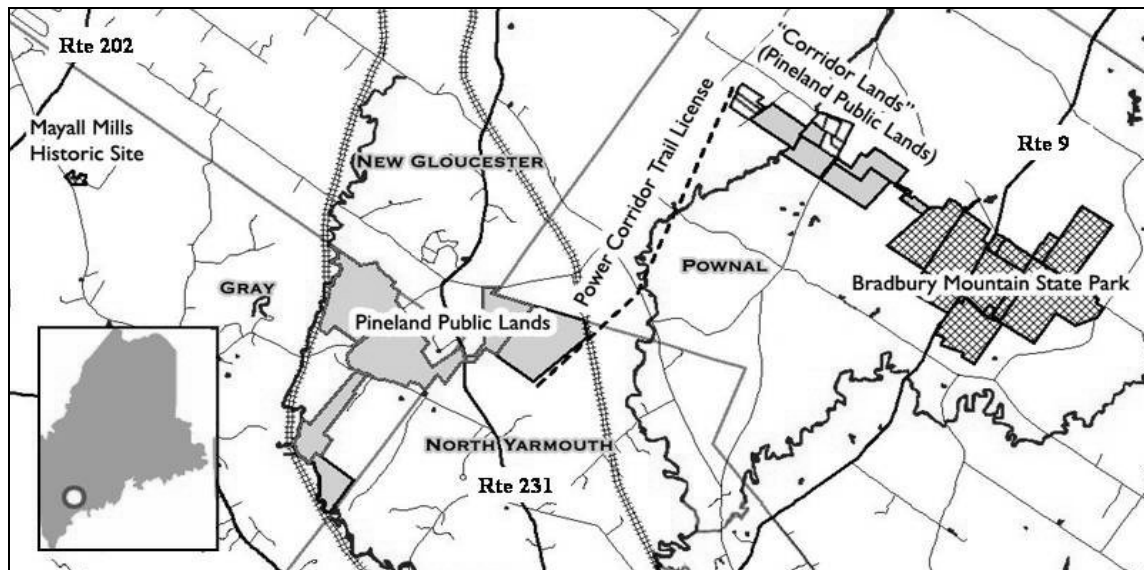
The overarching vision of this plan is that Bradbury Mountain State Park and the Pineland Public Lands will be a cherished local and regional asset where people can reap the rewards of conserved, well-managed outdoor areas providing a range of experiences. These properties will continue to be a close-to-home outdoor recreation resource for residents of southern Maine as well as a destination for visitors from further away regions, states, and even nations.



Left: Bureau managed Royal River Shoreline in Gray

Figure 1: A General Overview of the Plan Area.

Note that the crosshatched fill represents Parks designation, that the solid gray fill represents Lands designation, and that the Power Corridor is a trail license and the land ownership in that case belongs to Central Maine Power Company.



Overview of Resource Allocations

Resource Allocations are categories used to define the dominant resource value for a defined (mapped) area. The Bureau uses a hierarchy of specific allocations to manage lands designated as Public Lands under a multiple-use mandate. The dominant allocations listed below cover only the Public Lands portions of the plan; Bradbury Mountain State Park is listed separately.

Table 2: Dominant Allocations (in Acres)

	Pineland Public Lands acres in allocation type	% of Pineland Public Lands acres in each allocation type	Bradbury Mountain State Park (Total Acres)
Special Protection – Natural Area	15.81	1.7%	730
Special Protection – Historical/Cultural Area	6.13	0.7%	
Wildlife Management	205.38	23.3%	
Remote Recreation	10.45	1.2%	
Visual Consideration – Class I	116.33	13.2%	
Developed Recreation - Class I	10	1.1%	
Timber Management	517.16	58.6%	
Total	881.26		

-Please note: Dominant acreages are representations based on GIS metrics and do not sum to total plan area acres due to measuring error and limits of GIS precision.

-The following allocations from the IRP were not applied to the Pineland Public Lands: Special Protection—Ecological Reserve, Backcountry Non-mechanized, Backcountry Motorized, Developed Recreation Class II.

Figures 2 & 3 (on the following page) map dominant resource allocations on the Corridor Lands and at Pineland Public Lands. It should be kept in mind that resource allocations are not used for easements nor are they applied to any acreage designated as “Parks”.

Figure 2: Dominant Resource Allocations for the Corridor Lands in Pownal

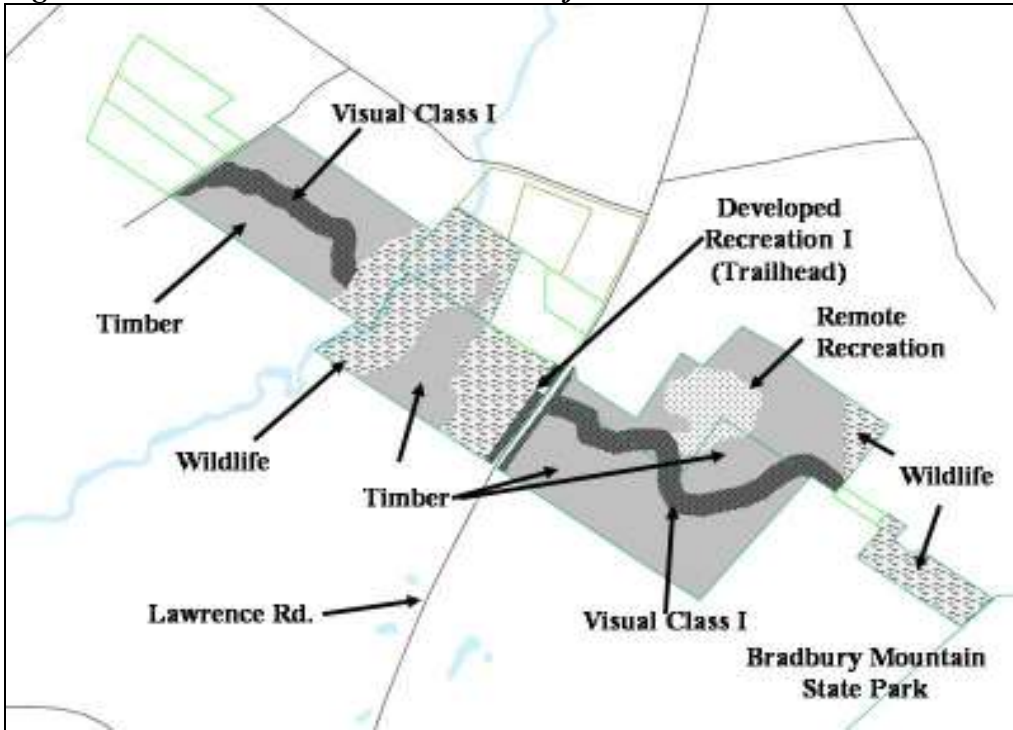
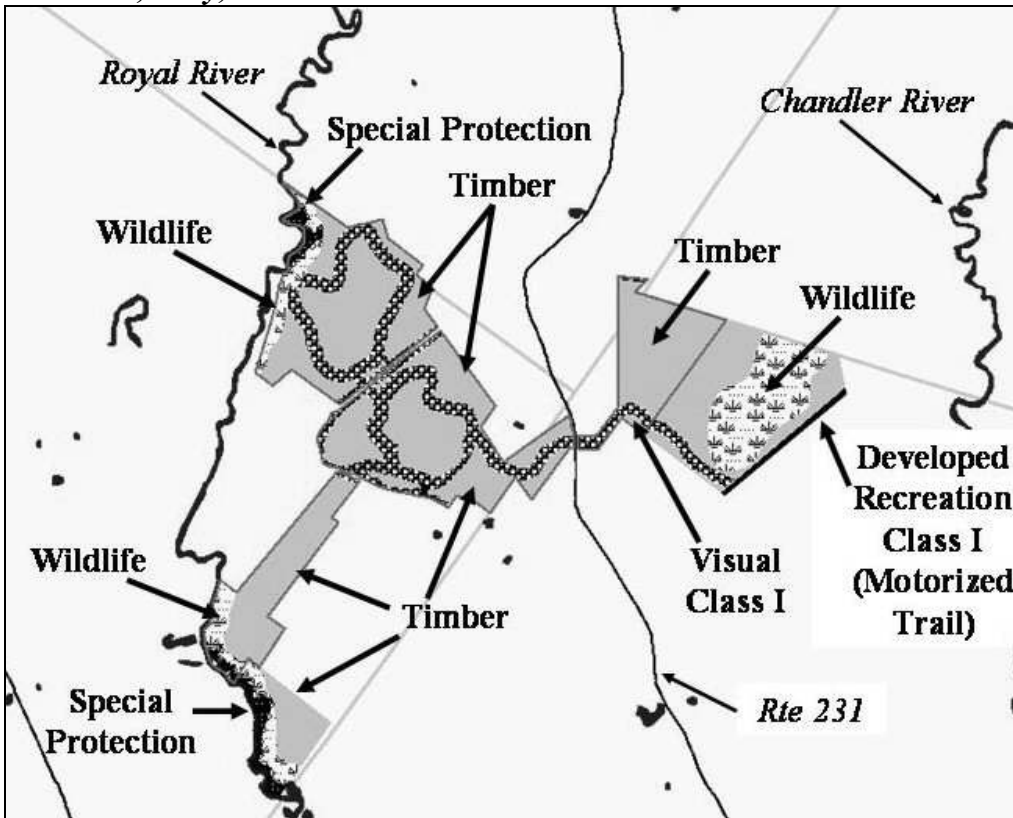


Figure 3: Dominant Resource Allocations for the Pineland Public Lands in North Yarmouth, Gray, and New Gloucester.



Summary of Issues and Management Recommendations:

Bradbury Mountain State Park & Pineland Public Lands Plan Issues and Management Recommendations

Natural Resources Management Issue or Opportunity	Recommendation
<p><u>Deer Wintering Areas and Trails:</u> specific locations on Bureau properties contain identified winter cover for deer. In the case of the Deer Wintering Area in centered on Thoits Brook in Pownal, the newly developing trail linking Bradbury Mountain State Park with the multi-use trail on the Central Maine Power corridor and the Pineland Public Lands crosses a portion of this wintering area. This may be an issue when deep snow-cover is present, as trail uses such as snowshoeing and cross-country skiing could be stressful to wintering deer in the area.</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><u>Deer Wintering Area Management:</u> Deer Wintering Area management should strive to provide ongoing cover, and as such, should work towards having sufficient softwood regeneration to replace existing, more mature, cover.</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><u>Invasive Species:</u> Morrow’s honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera morrowi</i>), an invasive species, is occurring along the Royal River in the Pineland Public Lands and is impacting a population of wild leek (<i>Allium tricoccum</i>), a documented Maine rare plant species (State Rank S3). Additionally, invasive Japanese Barberry (<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>) is found on the Tryon Mountain tract. In both cases, eradication is challenging and likely to require ongoing efforts.</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>

Natural Resources Management Issue or Opportunity	Recommendation
<p><u>Tryon Fields</u>: the Tryon fields located adjacent to the Lawrence Rd. in Pownal serve aesthetic, recreational (trail & hunting), cultural/historic, and wildlife functions. Breeding bird habitat, including both field and shrub-scrub habitat, is of particular interest. Therefore, it is important that potential conflicts between these functions and values be addressed. The local land trust has expressed an interest in maintaining the historic/cultural and wildlife values of these fields.</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 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>

<u>Historic/Cultural Issue or Opportunity</u>	Recommendation
<p><u>Mayall Mills</u>: the Mayall Mills site in Gray is not well connected with either Bradbury Mountain State Park or the Pineland Public Lands in terms of public information and public awareness.</p>	<p>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><u>Lawrence Rd. Trailhead</u>: there is concern that, if not properly sited and designed, a parking area/trailhead along the Lawrence Rd. has the potential to detract from the scenic aspects of the Tryon Fields while also impacting one of the Tryon family homestead sites.</p>	<p>Work with the local land trust in the locating 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>

Historic/Cultural Issue or Opportunity	Recommendation
<p><u>Historic Quarry Site</u>: the summit of Tryon Mountain is the site of a former feldspar quarry and retains evidence of that past land use.</p>	<p>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 Explore developing onsite interpretive signage and/or print/web materials telling the story of the site.</p>

Recreation Issue or Opportunity	Recommendation
<p><u>Trail Density</u>: Concern has been expressed through the management plan process that there is potential for a proliferation of trails west of the Park boundary that could negatively impact the wildlife habitat, opportunity for relative solitude, and overall recreational experience of those seeking a quiet walk in the woods. There is apprehension that these areas might have trails established to a similar degree as the trail system on the eastern (campground) side of the park, which has a relatively high density of trails, especially mountain bike trails.</p> <p>At the same time, there is interest on the part of other individuals/groups to diversify loop trail options in these same parcels to meet the growing demand for trail experiences at Bradbury Mountain State Park. Thus, there are divergent opinions on what number of trail segments is appropriate in the linkage corridor parcels</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>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>



(Left) Mountain Biking at Bradbury Mountain State Park)

Recreation Issue or Opportunity	Recommendation
<p><u>Trail Construction, Access, and Private Lands:</u> Bradbury Mountain State Park has benefited from the labor and generosity of volunteers. Trail improvements and expansions have grown the number of trail users looking to Bradbury Mountain State Park for rewarding trail experiences.</p> <p>In some cases, though, unapproved trail construction and use has proven to be a friction point with abutting private landowners.</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><u>Snowmobile Access to Bradbury Mountain:</u> Public input identified an interest in providing an easier snowmobile route to the summit of Bradbury Mountain. The current approach along the Switchback Trail was described as being too challenging for many riders. At the same time, concern was expressed regarding the ecological impact of snowmobiles on juniper at the summit. Additionally, comments suggested snowmobile use was potentially a deterrent or detraction for snowshoers and skiers.</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><u>Possibility of an ATV Trail Connection through the Pineland Public Lands:</u> Late in the planning process, the Gray - New Gloucester ATV Club brought forth a request to have the plan retain the option for an ATV trail to cross the Pineland Public Lands in order to connect to the multi-use power corridor trail, whose license allows for ATV use. A formal route proposal has not been provided, and several comments from landowners adjacent to Pineland have shared strong concern over this proposal.</p> <p>At the same time, the plan is a long term plan and the ATV community has concern that a potential link in a developing trail network could be lost.</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>

Recreation Issue or Opportunity	Recommendations
<p data-bbox="235 249 797 348"><u>Bradbury-Pineland Trail Connector (Powerline Corridor Trail to Existing Trails at the Pineland Public Lands):</u></p> <p data-bbox="235 357 797 716">Part of the impetus and emphasis in acquiring the lands connecting Bradbury Mountain State Park with the Pineland Public Lands was to provide a trail link between these two conservation properties. The trail license agreement along the power corridor finalized the connection, though as of 2010, no trail exists on the ground between the power corridor and the Pineland Public Lands' existing trails.</p> <p data-bbox="235 753 797 1115">Before completing the multi-use trail link from Bradbury Mountain State Park to the Pineland Public Lands, there needs to be a better understanding of the level of demand and types of use patterns that may emerge once the entire system is fully linked via a constructed trail. It is unknown to what degree hikers, bikers, skiers, and equestrians will use the power corridor trail to link the Park and Pineland.</p> <p data-bbox="235 1157 797 1409">Further, both the existing South Loop and North Loop trails at Pineland need extensive repairs before additional use is introduced. If, in addition, new uses are to be accommodated at Pineland, any trail repair work should be preceded by a thoughtful redesign of the current trails.</p>	<p data-bbox="824 249 1382 422">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 data-bbox="824 464 1382 936">As resources allow, and as interest and demand is demonstrated, build off the existing work performed by the Off-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 data-bbox="824 978 1382 1262">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 data-bbox="824 1304 1382 1482">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 data-bbox="824 1524 1382 1656">Retain the North Loop Trail for existing uses - hiking, walking and snowshoeing. Do not redevelop for additional uses at this time.</p>

Recreation Issue or Opportunity	Recommendations
<p><u>Mountain Biking Demand:</u> The planning process has shown great public interest in and passion for mountain biking in the plan area. The vast bulk of that interest has been focused on the Corridor Lands in Pownal. Once a link trail is established from the Power Corridor Trail to the South Loop Trail, bikers will have a continuous route between the Park and the Pineland Lands. However, the Pineland Lands do not presently garner a high level of interest among mountain bikers, especially compared to the Park. Given the proximity of the Pineland Farms private mountain biking trails to the trails on the Public Lands, it is possible that interest could grow for an expanded mountain biking opportunity in this area.</p>	<p>Explore redeveloping the South Loop Trail at Pineland to accommodate mountain bikers and equestrians (see previous recommendation).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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> <p>Explore the potential for a singletrack mountain bike trails on the Pineland Public Lands. 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 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>

Recreation Issue or Opportunity	Recommendations
<p><u>Hunting Access:</u> A strong sentiment was expressed at public meetings regarding the need to maintain traditional hunting access. Part of this issue revolves around the regional context of southern Maine, where higher development pressures and land postings have combined to reduce hunting opportunities.</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><u>Target Shooting at the Pinelands Unit:</u> Target shooting in the pit located in the southern half of the Pinelands Public Lands has become an issue of concern. Safety and litter issues, including shooting from the trail and leaving debris on site, were raised as problems. Additionally, the plan calls for creating a new trailhead in the vicinity of the gravel pit. Thus, trail use here may well increase. Conversely, there has been some negative reaction to new signage closing the pit to shooting, in that it is used for target shooting leading up to hunting season.</p>	<p>Close the pit area will be closed to shooting as it is within 300’ of a marked hiking 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><u>Access & Fees:</u> There is some evidence of some users accessing the Park trails, which do require a pass or fee, from points outside the park.</p> <p>Visitors are not generally charged fees to use Public Lands, although the Bureau may charge fees to cover costs of maintaining facilities such as parking areas, trailheads and trails.</p>	<p>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.</p>

Recreation Issue or Opportunity	Recommendation
<p><u>Park Amenities:</u> As resources become available, there may be opportunities to improve park amenities. There is interest in further enhancing the Park to provide visitors with amenities that are or may become in demand. Potential examples include showers in the day use area for trail users, trail improvements, electric and water hook-ups for campers, an expanded campground, a dump station in the campground, and other possible developments to better serve a public that is increasingly looking for and appreciating these types of features. Given Bradbury Mountain State Park's status as a popular outdoor recreation destination well-suited to those looking for front-country, managed trail experiences, amenity improvements may not detract from visitor experiences as they might in settings where visitors seek more primitive experiences. Additionally, there are less visible potential improvements needed to support operations.</p>	<p>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>

Timber Management Issue or Opportunity (Pineland Public Lands)	Recommendation
<p>Because pines are not particularly useful as winter deer cover, only a small proportion of softwood acres have good cover value.</p>	<p>Emphasize and encourage, as possible, fir and hemlock cover, including when below a pine superstory.</p>
<p>Small populations of black gum and American hornbeam, neither species very common in Maine, are found on these lands.</p>	<p>The special protection areas along the Royal River will encompass these species. However, there are known black gum specimen outside of those areas. Foresters developing harvesting prescriptions should be aware of that black gum may be present and should not be marked for cutting.</p>

Transportation and Administrative Issue or Opportunity	Recommendation
<p><u>Interagency Coordination</u>: The resources described in this plan involve management activities and responsibilities associated with three divisions of the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands. Bradbury Mountain State Park falls under Southern Region Parks, the corridor lands and the Pineland Public Lands are the responsibility of the Western Region Public Lands, and the Off-Road Vehicle division oversees and manages the power corridor trail and trail license. However, there are opportunities for improving efficiency as well as visitor experiences made possible by improved intra-agency coordination.</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>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>



A rocky outcropping in the Corridor Lands.