



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY
BUREAU OF PARKS AND LANDS
22 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

AMANDA E. BEAL
COMMISSIONER

Date: September 14, 2026

To: St. John Uplands Management Plan Advisory Committee Members
From: Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands
Re: 1st Five-Year Review of the St. John Uplands Region Management Plan

Enclosed for your review is the first Five-Year Review of the 2021 St. John Uplands Region Management Plan covering the period from August 2021 through August 2026.

You will recall that the plan guides the management activities of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands on over 62,000 acres of Public Reserved Lands, which includes the Gero Island Unit on Chesuncook Lake; the Telos and Chamberlain Lake Units on Chamberlain, Eagle, and Allagash Lakes; the Round Pond Unit on the Allagash River; and six smaller lots mainly located near the Town of Allagash. Most of these public lands are adjacent to the Allagash Wilderness Waterway (AWW); however, the St. John Uplands Plan does not directly address the AWW. While the plan was adopted for a 15-year period, the Bureau is required to report to the Advisory Committee at five-year intervals on accomplishments and changing conditions that may warrant amendments to the plan. (The plan can be viewed at http://www.maine.gov/dacf/stjohn_uplands.)

The enclosed Five-Year Review document, prepared in a table format:

- lists plan recommendations (left column) and actions taken (right column) to implement each recommendation; and
- identifies from the Bureau's perspective any new issues or circumstances that were not addressed in the plan that may warrant Committee discussion or action (following the table).

The Bureau has not identified any new issues that were not addressed in the 2021 Plan.

Highlights of **actions taken** in the past five years include:

- Telos Unit, Coffeelos Pond: Old boats removed, signage in place and all boats currently being stored are in compliance, and yearly monitoring is ongoing.
- Round Pond Unit: Fire-spotting map table and map has been installed in the rehabbed fire tower.
- Chesuncook Unit, Chesuncook Village: The Graveyard Point bunkhouse was removed and the site seeded.

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We also remind the Advisory Committee of the memo we sent you on February 2 of this year to report the Bureau's decision to designate the entire 690-acre Allagash Mountain subunit of Chamberlain Public Lands as ecological reserve, with a Special Protection – Ecological Reserve allocation. This decision was made after a public review process which concluded with a public meeting held via videoconference on December 10, 2025. This change in designation and allocations will be made to the St. John Uplands Plan as part of this 5-year plan review and update, with the enclosed plan amendment.

The Bureau asks the Advisory Committee members to review the enclosed Five-Year Review table and respond with any comments or questions in the next month. Members are also invited to identify any new issues or circumstances they feel warrant Committee input or action.

If any of the Advisory Committee members identify new issues or circumstances that, in their opinion, may require an amendment to the plan, or that should be discussed with the Committee prior to the Bureau taking action without amending the plan, then the Bureau will seek Committee comment through correspondence or a meeting. Depending on Committee input, a decision will be made to formally amend the plan or to take action without amending the plan.

We look forward to receiving your response to the Five-Year Review table and any input regarding any additional new issues or circumstances that may warrant Committee input or action. Please direct your comments or questions **by October 14, 2026** to Jim Vogel via email (Jim.Vogel@maine.gov) or post (Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands, #22 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0022).

Enclosures:

- 1) St. John Uplands 2026 1st Five-Year Review Table
- 2) Plan Amendment – Allagash Mountain addition to Chamberlain Ecological Reserve