

# A Maine Public Lands perspective on deer yard management

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The Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands , Lands Division manages 575,000 acres of forestland, mostly in LURC jurisdiction

The 1973 statute that created BPL contained a Legislative mandate for multiple use management of the public lands

- BP&L has a long-standing commitment to habitat management
- Since 1983 IFW has assigned a wildlife biologist to the BP&L staff under an MOA with DOC
- BP&L adopted it's Integrated Resource Policy in 1985
- Adoption of Wildlife Guidelines followed in 1988



- Impetus for MOA was spruce budworm impact on deer wintering areas
- IFW staff position helped develop close working relationship between IFW regional biologists and BP&L foresters to implement harvests that insure long-term sustainability of mature softwood habitat



- BP&L and IFW signed a Habitat Management agreement in 2002
- The agreement sets the sideboards for developing HMA plans for specific areas



- BP&L policy considers the most sensitive resources first, timber last
- BP&L forests have a higher proportion of late successional forest than those on the state as a whole
- 80,000 acres of ecological reserves
- 12,500 acres of LURC P-FW
- 17,000 acres of cooperative deer management areas with IFW
- Approximately 7.5% of regulated landbase managed for wintering deer



- Deer wintering area management on Public Lands does not significantly alter forest management prescriptions since long rotations, higher than average stocking levels and larger diameter trees are the norm on Public Lands

