Moosehead Lake. The peak of the lumbering activity occurred along the Penobscot River during the 19th century, following the river's East and West Branches deep into the wildlands. Throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, timber was transported by oxen, horses, and water. Elaborate systems of dams, lakes, canals, rivers and booms were devised to control and facilitate log movement. Lumber camps were built to house loggers. Farms were carved out of the wilderness to supply forage, bedding, produce, meat and shelter.

The opening of the Maine Woods to logging also opened the interior of Maine to other human activities during the 19th century. In addition to settlers, people came from the industrializing cities of the East Coast to vacation, exploring the forests, waterways, mountains and islands. Some stayed in expensive resorts like Kineo, Harfords Point and Seboomook; others chose simpler sporting camps offering guide services to the choicest hunting and fishing spots; still others came with their own canoes, tents and guidebooks to explore on their own. In any case, areas of the jurisdiction were on the map as a vacation and recreation destination.

The jurisdiction never became heavily populated, and by 1890, the population of the area had already peaked. Although new communities were settled, particularly in the northern part of the jurisdiction, the area as a whole was depopulating by the turn of the century. That trend continued until 1970, when the population began to grow slowly.

The most well known historical resources in the jurisdiction relate to the early days of the timber industry and consist of canals, dams, railways, sluiceways, logging settlements and farms. Other resources include architecturally significant structures and districts, historical commercial sites, such as sporting camps, historical industrial sites, and military fortifications and artifacts.

One example of an historic archaeological period habitation and workshop site is a farm settlement established in northwestern Maine in the 1830s. It features a large farm which produced quantities of hay and grain to support logging operations in the area until about 1930. The site consists of two dwellings and several barns and outbuildings along with several other former farms and a depot along a river. This site is important by virtue of its early date for the region and its symbiotic relationship with the logging industry.

5.4.C Cultural Resources

The jurisdiction possesses a variety of historical resources, all of which contribute to the cultural heritage of the state. Though many of these resources are embedded in the past, their legacy continues to influence and shape the jurisdiction’s current sense of culture and heritage. Continued forest management activities and the maintenance of a working landscape remain part of the heritage and culture of the jurisdiction. Similarly, Native American tribes, to include the Aroostook band of Micmacs, Houlton band of Maliseets, Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indian Township, Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point, and the Penobscot Nation continue to contribute to the cultural resources of the jurisdiction as well as the state.

There are many state as well as regional efforts to promote cultural resources as part of ecotourism. Efforts range from creating specific centers to creating narrative guides to important historical travel routes and specifically include: The Natural Resources Education Center in Greenville, The Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance, The Western Maine Cultural Alliance, The Abbe Museum, and the Thoreau-Wabanaki Trail initiative.

5.4.D LURC Regulatory Approach

The Commission employs the Unusual Area Protection Subdistrict (P-UA) to protect important historic, scenic, scientific, recreational, aesthetic or water resources which have special land management requirements which cannot be met by another zone. This zone can be applied to historical, archaeological and other cultural sites and resources. The Commission protects a number of historical sites and trails through P-UA designation. These include the Arnold Trail, Pittston Farm, Katahdin Iron Works, and the Monhegan Island Lighthouse area. Other protection subdistricts encompass additional resources such as Telos Canal which is in a Recreation Protection (P-RR) Subdistrict.

Due to the vastness of the jurisdiction, not all of the important historical resources in the jurisdiction have been identified and zoned. Consequently, the Land Use Regulation Commission and the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) worked together to incorporate an assessment of the cultural significance of lakes into LURC's lake database. This assessment is based upon an evaluation of features listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Maine's Archaeological Survey, Statewide Historic Archaeological Inventory and in the publication, Above the Gravel Bar: Indian Canoe Routes in Maine.

The Maine Historic Preservation Commission has data of known archaeological and culturally significant sites for the jurisdiction as well as areas identified as archaeologically sensitive where significant sites may be found in the future. Access to this data, provides Commission staff (for various reasons, this data is not available to the public) with a valuable tool for assessing the potential archaeological and cultural impacts associated with development proposals. When Commission staff reviews an application for a permit which the lakes database or MHPC data indicates is near a potentially significant archaeological or historical area or feature, the Maine Historic Preservation Commission receives a copy of the permit application and site plan for review and comment. In some cases, the MHPC recommends that an archaeologically survey be conducted by the applicant as part of the staff review of the application.

5.4.E Cultural, Archaeological and Historical Resource Issues

### *Erosion, Development, and Vandalism*

Significant archaeological sites and historical resources are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Legally, significant archaeological sites are those worthy of protection or excavation with public funds. Criteria for eligibility consider content and condition of the site with specifics varying dependent on the age of the site. The oldest sites (Paleoindian) are eligible even if they have been heavily disturbed. The youngest sites (Ceramic period age sites, historic sites) must be minimally disturbed and must yield archaeological data such as fire hearths or separable layers of occupation, in addition to stone tools and other objects.

Erosion, development, and vandalism can all destroy the significance of archaeological sites. The primary protection afforded these sites comes from identification so that they can be protected from threats or excavated by professionals.

At this time, erosion poses the greatest threat to archaeological sites. Unfortunately, artificially raised water levels on many interior lakes, as well as natural land subsidence along the coast, have resulted in water covering or eroding many sites from the Archaic period to the present. The greatest source of material that survives erosion fairly intact tends to be those sites sealed in the stratified sediments of floodplains along the rivers.

Development runs a close second to erosion as a threat to archaeological resources. Since most of the sites are shallowly buried and over 95% of the habitation and workshop sites occur along shorelines, any activity in shoreland areas that disturbs the top two feet of earth has the potential to severely damage a site.

Finally, vandalism, caused by nonsystematic digging for artifacts, can destroy both site and artifacts. Vandalism usually takes the form of unauthorized excavations by artifact collectors who loot sites once locations are publicized. This has resulted in the legal restriction of public access to information concerning the location of known or potential archaeological resources.

### *Information Needs*

As with archaeological resources, a complete inventory of historical resources in the jurisdiction has not been made. Limited state and federal funds hinder efforts to identify the resources. That lack of information combined with the variety and low density of known sites, structures and trails scattered across the jurisdiction's millions of acres, often in remote locations, make it difficult to develop effective preservation strategies. Other problems involving known historical resources include inappropriate alterations that compromise architectural design and values, abandonment and deterioration of structures, and adjacent development which is incompatible with the historic context of a particular resource.

As discussed earlier, an assessment of the overall cultural significance of lakes is incorporated in LURC's lake database. However, of over 1,500 lakes contained in the database, only 10 to 15 percent were surveyed to determine their archaeological potential. Consequently, the primary source of cultural resource information for the agency’s review of development proposals is not complete. Since the majority of sites are located within 300 to 400 yards of the shorelines of canoe-navigable waterbodies, protection efforts may be enhanced by considering whether criteria can be developed for determining when to request MHPC review of permit application on lakes that have not yet been assessed.

Both LURC and MHPC could strengthen their efforts to protect these cultural resources by further cooperation. The following needs warrant consideration (1) a strengthened process for assuring that all applications with potential impacts on significant archaeological or historical resources are being adequately reviewed; (2) criteria for identifying potential archaeological sites not located near shorelines; (3) an estimate of the costs of professional reconnaissance and survey activities, prior to requiring such an evaluation through LURC procedures; (4) an approach to dealing with architectural design issues for both clustered and isolated historical structures and/or sites which occur within the jurisdiction; and (5) joint efforts to obtain funding to further investigate the extensive areas of the jurisdiction not yet surveyed.