

## MEMORANDUM Email String

Date: February 10, 2020

To: Greater East Grand Region Economic Planning Team

By: Elbridge

Re: Email String – MDIF&W – **Impact of Campground and Additional Public Access on Area Fisheries & Enforcement** (Kevin Dunham – MDIF&W Region F Fisheries Biologist – Tyler Leach – Game Warden)

### **QUESTION**

**From:** Elbridge <[egcleaves@pioneerwireless.net](mailto:egcleaves@pioneerwireless.net)>

**Sent:** Friday, February 07, 2020 10:38 AM

**To:** Dunham, Kevin <[Kevin.Dunham@maine.gov](mailto:Kevin.Dunham@maine.gov)>

**Cc:** 'Sarah Strickland' <[sbs04671@gmail.com](mailto:sbs04671@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Greater East Grand Region Economic Planning Recommendations

Hi Kevin: We are plodding along the planning path of listening to area citizens about the local assets they believe may be used to help bring economic benefits to the Region. Some of the things which may find their way into the recommendations section of the plan are a feasibility for a campground in Brookton (if ever comes to pass would most likely be situated somewhere along the Baskahegan Lake Road), boat access to East Grand Lake at the Arm (IF&W East Grand Access Parcel) and a feasibility study for an off-road recreational trail connecting Brookton to the “rest of world” in Danforth.

These things take on additional weight since 1/3 of our planning funding comes from the Washington County UT TIF, and therefore any recommendations we make for the Brookton area potentially has a ready pool of funding available.

The concerns we have are mainly about the impact (real or perceived) of additional fishing pressure on Baskahegan Lake and the Arm of East Grand, especially during the Bass spawn as the result of our recommendations. To be specific our concern is driven by the need to recognize the pushback we will receive from existing guides and sporting camps which highly utilize both of these lakes in the sport fishing industry. (Assume most of the fishing pressure from our potential recommendations, as above, will be from the public and thus not part of the local sporting camp economy)

We are wondering what you and the warden service might offer for thoughts/recommendations in our forthcoming plan to alleviate impacts on fisheries and for enforcement?

We'd be happy to drop down to Enfield for meeting or vice versa. Looking forward to hearing from you. Thanks much, Elbridge Member- GEGR Economic Planning Team

### **ANSWER (Page 2)**

**From:** "Dunham, Kevin" <[Kevin.Dunham@maine.gov](mailto:Kevin.Dunham@maine.gov)>

**Date:** 2/10/20 11:57 AM (GMT-05:00)

**To:** Elbridge <[egcleaves@pioneerwireless.net](mailto:egcleaves@pioneerwireless.net)>

Cc: 'Sarah Strickland' <[sbs04671@gmail.com](mailto:sbs04671@gmail.com)>, "Leach, Tyler" <[Tyler.Leach@maine.gov](mailto:Tyler.Leach@maine.gov)>  
Subject: RE: Greater East Grand Region Economic Planning Recommendations

Hi Elbridge,

Glad to hear the process is still moving forward, these types of undertakings can try ones patience. Thinking through the long-term wants and needs of the many communities (and user groups) can be a challenge as well.

I think the projects you describe are worth evaluating and looking into as to their feasibility. Though a campground in Brookton would most certainly place a level of increased fishing activity on Baskahegan Lake, I don't envision any detrimental pressure on the resources. Since there are numerous lakes and ponds in close proximity I suspect the fishing pressure would be somewhat spread throughout the region and I also believe there would be a good number of campground patrons that would hire a local guide.

Any increased regional activity, whether fishing, hunting, 4-wheeling, snowmobiling, or cross-country skiing will certainly benefit local businesses; sporting lodges and guides included. Regional Planning may create an opportunity for guides and lodges to expand their services (i.e. wildlife watching, foliage tours, etc.) or extend their seasons. I also don't think an additional boat launch at East Grand Lake at "the arm" would put undue pressure on the fishery resources. Area guides may benefit the most from such a project since it would provide a safe, convenient place to put in.

Generally, when a new launch is developed on a water that already has a launch we don't see much increase in activity on the water but a shift in launch location use, ironically often by lakeside residents. The "access pressure" gets distributed and retailers closer to the "new" access point are likely to see increased business. Conversely, retailers near the existing launch may see a drop in business.

I'm of the mind results of your economic planning efforts will benefit residents, businesses, guides, and lodges in the region and will not place unreasonable pressure on the fisheries resources in the area. I'm cc-ing Warden Tyler Leach who may be able to provide a law enforcement perspective.

Kevin

**Kevin Dunham**  
**Fisheries Biologist**  
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**From:** Leach, Tyler [mailto:Tyler.Leach@maine.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2020 7:14 AM  
**To:** Elbridge Cleaves <egcleaves@pwless.net>; Dunham, Kevin <Kevin.Dunham@maine.gov>; Elbridge <egcleaves@pioneerwireless.net>  
**Cc:** 'Sarah Strickland' <sbs04671@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Greater East Grand Region Economic Planning Recommendations

Hello Elbridge,

Thank you for your e-mail and your efforts to grow the local community. Having worked in the area for just over a year now, I have seen a lot of opportunity for growth and potential in the area. The East Grand region is one of Maine's best kept secrets. I see a lot of local's trying to keep it a secret and I'm sure you have already dealt with this in some regards.

As far as enforcement goes, the projects you have listed would add pressure to the area but nothing that is out of our control. The area and resource is, in my opinion, under-utilized. Being from southern Maine, I have a different perspective. I can and will shift my enforcement efforts where they are needed. If some of these projects draw attention to areas that were once under used or not used at all, I will shift with them. I also believe that some of these projects will benefit my enforcement efforts. The ATV trail in Brookton you reference is a great example. I am focusing a lot of efforts on ATV enforcement because of illegal land use. An established trail would be a great compromise and I believe there would be a reduction in illegal ATV activity which would allow me to focus efforts in other areas where they are needed.

Our agency as a whole is seeing a decrease in hunting and fishing activity. It is no secret that outdoor activities are on the decrease. When you look at the population of people that are outdoors recreating the numbers of young people are dropping. I agree with Kevin, more people coming to the area is only going to help local guides. I know the guides are seeing the same thing we are. We need more people with families attracted to the area. The next generation needs to fall in love with East Grand and the surrounding lakes. This will bring them back year after year to hunt, fish and recreate.

The beauty and tranquility of the area stems, a lot, from the lack of people using it. That being said, I believe there can be a balance where the public can access and utilize the area and the qualities that we all love can be maintained and I am happy to help with those efforts. Please let me know how I can be of assistance.

Warden Tyler Leach