

PLUM CREEK PLAN

Loons Put At Greater Risk

The following summarizes multiple pages of technical testimony submitted in summer 2007 to Maine's Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) by BioDiversity Research Institute Executive Director David Evers. His long-term study of the effects of stressors on loon demographics and behavior includes parts of the Plum Creek development zone. Full testimony, sources: <ftp://ftp.state.me.us/outgoing/PlumCreek>.

There are many reasons the Plum Creek proposal will have an undue adverse impact on loons in the Moosehead Lake region.

Moosehead loon populations have unusually low reproductive success

Human-induced stress already is a cause of low reproduction among the region's loons. Any significant increase in development will further diminish the sustainability of the loon population in the proposed project area.

Less success breeding and raising chicks

Loon breeding will be negatively affected by the rising number of motorboats and non-motorboats, and by shoreline development.

More loons will die

Even though Maine has banned the sale of lead sinkers that weigh a half ounce or less, the use of lead remains a threat. Increased fishing means more adult loons will die from ingesting and being poisoned by lead.

Plum Creek data is 'woefully insufficient'

Plum Creek has not demonstrated a commitment to determining where loon pairs nest and brood chicks, and has used survey reports that "are woefully insufficient for making scientifically based decisions" on how proposed development will affect loons. Dr. Evers states that the Plum Creek's conclusions "have virtually no supporting evidence, from the field or from the literature."