WELCOME TO

THE BATES-MORSE MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION AREA AND SEAWALL BEACH

THE BATES-MORSE MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION AREA comprises some 600 acres, extending from the Sprague to the Morse River and to the upland edge of Seawall Beach. It is private property owned by the Bates-Morse Mountain Conservation Corporation, a non-profit corporation with members from the St. John Family (which originally conserved the area), Bates College, and the general public. The Nature Conservancy holds a conservation easement on the property. Bates College manages the area for research and educational purposes.

SEAWALL BEACH and a portion of the Sprague River back dune area are the property of the Small Point Association, whose mission is to preserve the wild, unspoiled character of the beach, its ecology, and its endangered species habitat.

HOW THE AREA IS BEING USED

Conservation And Preservation: Bates College and the Small Point Association are cooperating with The Nature Conservancy and the Maine Audubon Society to preserve the plants, birds, animals, and natural communities within the area. These include the nesting sites of the piping plover and the least tern (endangered species of birds which nest on the bare sand), as well as migrating shorebirds, numerous rare and fragile plants, mosses, and lichens.

Education and Research: Bates College is conducting environmental research throughout the area in cooperation with other institutions and agencies.

THE PRIVILEGE OF LIMITED PUBLIC ACCESS IS GRANTED SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS. THIS IS NOT A RECREATIONAL AREA, AND THERE ARE NO PUBLIC FACILITIES, TOILETS, PICNIC TABLES, OR LIFEGUARDS. (Nearby public beaches provide these amenities: Head Beach at Small Point [2 miles south on Route 216], Popham Beach State Park, and Reid State Park.)

IF YOU VISIT, PLEASE ACCEPT THESE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **ENTER ON FOOT ONLY.** The only vehicles allowed are those of researchers, residents, staff, or services.
- **ACCESS** is during daylight hours only. When parking lot is full, access is suspended.
- **DOGS (AND OTHER PETS) ARE NOT ALLOWED IN ANY SEASON!**
- **FIRES AND CAMPING ARE NOT ALLOWED.**
- **PROTECT THE PIPING PLOVERS AND LEAST TERNS**, which nest and raise young on the beach sand. If nesting birds are disturbed, they may abandon their eggs or chicks. Please stay on the road or hard beach surface, away from marked nesting areas, and away from any birds showing protective behavior. Do not disturb migrating birds, which use this area for staging and feeding.
- **PLEASE DO NOT GO PAST THE RED POLE ON THE BEACH.** The pole is at the dune edge, about a half-mile west (to the right) of the beach entrance.
- **PROTECT YEARS OF FRAGILE GROWTH:** do not climb on the rocks and ledges, or go into the back beach or dunes.
- **RESPECT ONGOING RESEARCH.** Please don't disturb markers, plants, or animals.
- **DO NOT BRING:** Beach umbrellas, cabanas, balls, frisbees, kites, radios/audio devices.
- **BICYCLING NOT PERMITTED.**

PLEASE CARRY OUT EVERYTHING YOU CARRY IN!

For information, contact Laura Sewall, Director, Bates-Morse Mountain Conservation Area, c/o the Harward Center for Community Partnerships, 161-163 Wood St., Lewiston ME 04240 (lsewall@bates.edu or 207-786-6078); or The Nature Conservancy, Maine Chapter, 14 Main St., Brunswick, ME 04011 (207-729-5181). For information on Seawall Beach, contact the Small Point Association, P.O. Box 7205, Portland ME 04112 (207-791-7162).

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