

LD 1016 Testimony

03/19/2019

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Senator Dill, Representative Hickman, members of the AC&F committee, my name is Bill Greaves and I am the Northern Region, Regional Forest Ranger, for the Maine Forest Service. I would like to testify in support of LD 1016. I am here to represent my opinion and not necessarily that of the department.

This LD represents one step in a facility consolidation project which began many years ago. This project is designed to reduce our facility footprint and provide a more effective service to our customers while creating a long-term savings to the tax payers.

The basis of this plan was to sell the Daaquam facility and the St. Agatha facility to generate some funding for the construction of a new district office. Obviously, the amount of money received from the sale of these two facilities will not completely pay for the new district office. Today we have completed the sale of both locations and are asking for additional support to construct a new district headquarters in Fort Kent. Should this be approved and funded, the next steps include the purchase of 10 acres adjacent to the Fort Kent airport and to hire an architect to complete construction grade blue prints. At that point, we can administer an RFP (request for proposal) and begin construction. After construction is complete, we can move the current district headquarters from Portage Lake to Fort Kent.

Benefits of this proposal include;

- Reducing the number of facilities.
- Reducing the "all other account" operating costs.
- Reducing on going building repairs & maintenance costs.
- Provide storage for fire equipment which is currently outdoors or stored in ammo bunkers at the former Loring Airforce Base.
- Increasing the efficiency of providing mandated services.
- Operational advantages such as; equipment repair services, training fire crews from UMFK or fire departments, and the best possible road access.
- "Door step" use of the Fort Kent airport.
- Closer contact with cooperators such as UMFK, fire departments, large landowner and harvesting contractor offices.
- A more desirable living zone which provides services to our employees such as hospitals, schools, shopping centers, employment opportunities for spouses, and the University.
- Better collaboration with the Fort Kent Planning Board and surrounding communities.

To date we have done our due diligence by researching all possible options and locations. We have even explored locating on the University campus or buying a "spec" building. We have followed the state guidelines for sale of facilities, but now it is time to move forward.

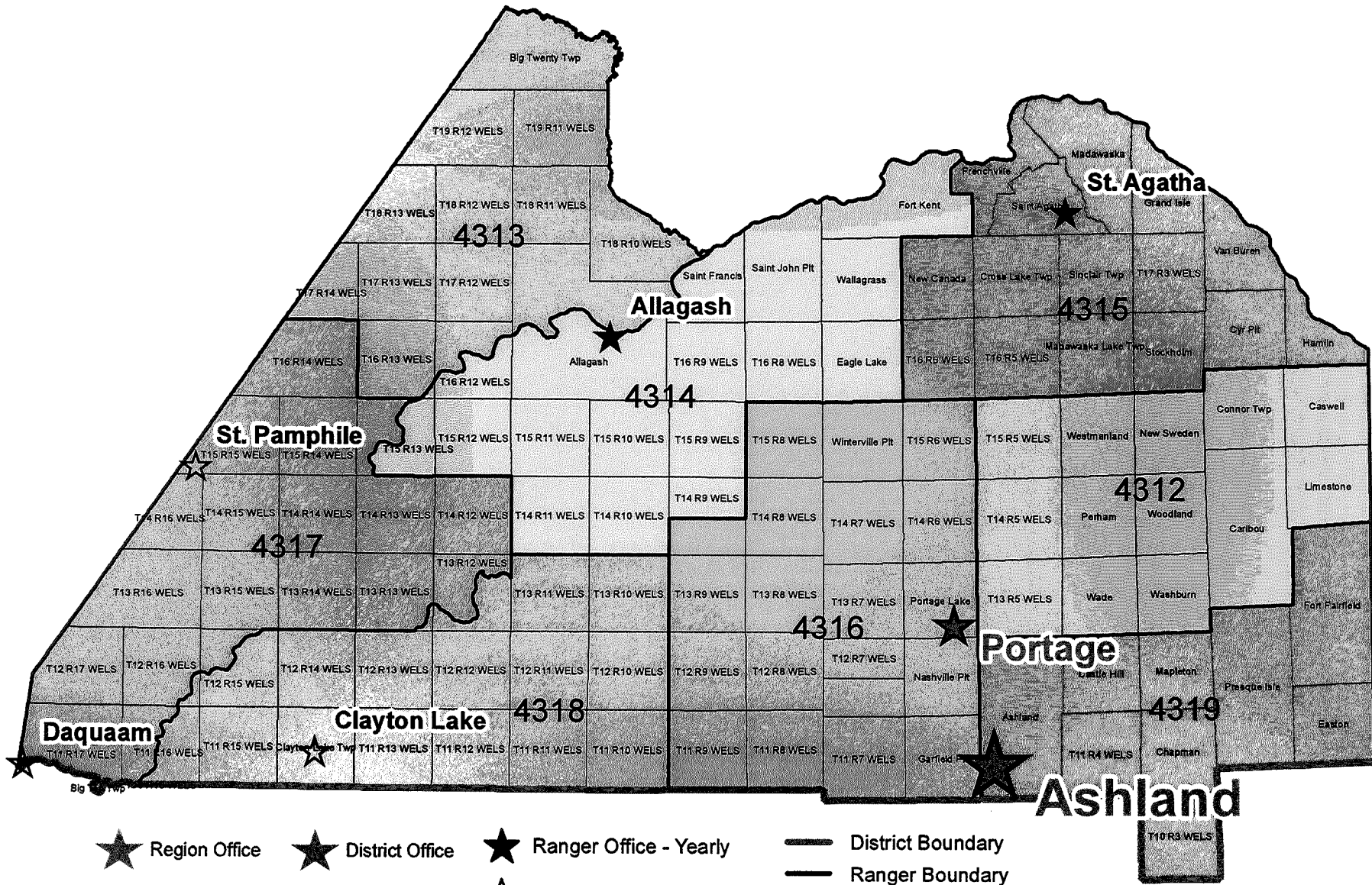
I have more detailed information regarding purchase & sale agreements, appraisals, surveys, and design plans for the new facility and look forward to sharing them with you for the work session.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. J. Greaves", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

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Allagash District



- ★ Region Office
- ★ District Office
- ★ Ranger Office - Yearly
- ☆ Ranger Office - Seasonal
- District Boundary
- - - Ranger Boundary



March 15, 2019

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Department of Agriculture,
Conservation and Forestry
Maine Forest Service
Forest Protection Division

