
The purpose of this paper is to present a land-use history of the Bates-Morse Mountain Research Area. The history of the use of an area is a product of the interaction between the land and the people who use the resources on it. The natural resources provided by the land shape and limit the possible uses available to the people. The varied environments of the Morse Mountain area, including marsh, sea, and rocky Uplands, afford unique, diverse resources to the human residents. The people transform these resources according to their needs and their conceptions of how land should be used. The Morse Mountain Area traces its history to the earliest of European occupation. The length of this history encompasses many generations of persons with different ideas about how the land should be used.

Because the history of the Area is dependent on both the physical features of the land and also the actions of the resident humans, this study takes a unique approach to historical research. The study attempts to balance the traditional history of people’s actions with an account of the changes in the land that results from human use. The paper is organized chronologically and will be divided into chapters based on the different concepts of use that characterize particular periods of time. Within each chapter, however, the physical changes that were made on the land will be recorded.

This land use history helps us to understand how past generations conceived of and used the land. Knowledge of the past will help our generation to realize the many different ways the piece of land at the Bates Morse Mountain Research area can be used in the future. I have tried to include as many details as possible so that researchers who follow me will have clues to investigate in their own search to understand the Area.