
This project covers three of Maine’s Northern Barrier Beaches. Popham Beach and Reid Beach are owned by the state and used for recreation, whereas the privately owned Small Pt. Beach remains in an undeveloped, natural condition due to private ownership. In order to compare the three beaches, this study reported three areas of botanical investigation: plant community research (which plants are present, how they are organized, sensitivity to human impact, and production), oceanic processes research (climatic and sea level trends, dune dynamics, sand transport, and observation of beach processes), and suggestions for long-term management. Data are used to devise ten management suggestions that deal with human impact on the beaches. These suggestions deal with fences, picnic areas, planting and fertilizing, boardwalks, foredunes, park accessibility, beach erosion, beach nourishment, park enlargement, education, and other problems.