

## **Flagstaff Region Plan – Part D**

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## **V. Vision and Management Policies for the Flagstaff Region**

### **General Principles**

The Flagstaff Region Management Plan is a commitment that the Public Reserved Lands within the Region will be managed in accordance with prescribed mandates including the Act for the Bigelow Preserve, the Bureau's mission and goals, the policies as set forth in the Bureau's Integrated Resources Policy (IRP) management guidance document, and the Vision set forth in this Plan.

### **Multiple Use Management Policies**

1. Management of the Flagstaff Region Public Reserved Lands will be based on the principle of multiple use to produce a sustained yield of products and services, and sound planning (Title 12, Section 1847); where "multiple use" means (Title 12, Section 1845):
  - a. The management of all of the various renewable surface resources of the public reserved lands including outdoor recreation, timber, watershed, fish and wildlife and other public purposes.
  - b. The harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without impairing the productivity of the land and with consideration being given to the relative values of the various resources and not necessarily to the combination of uses that will give the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output.
  - c. That some land will not be used for all of the resources.
  - d. Making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources over areas large and diverse enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions.
2. Public Reserved Lands in the Region will provide a demonstration of exemplary land management practices, including silvicultural, wildlife, and recreation management practices (Title 12, Section 1847).

### **Recreational Uses – Statutory Guidance**

3. Public Reserved Lands in the Region will provide a wide range of outdoor recreational and educational opportunities (IRP); including provision of remote, undeveloped areas (Title 12, Section 1847).
4. There shall be full and free public access to the Public Reserved Lands together with the right to reasonable use of those lands, except reasonable fees may be charged to defray the cost of constructing and maintaining recreation facilities. Restrictions on free and reasonable public access may be imposed where appropriate to ensure the optimum value of the lands as a public trust. (Title 12 Section 1846).

## **Ecological Reserves – Statutory Guidance**

5. "Ecological reserves" within the Region are designated for the purpose of maintaining one or more natural community types or native ecosystem types in a natural condition and range of variation and contributing to the protection of Maine's biological diversity and managed (Title 12 Section 1801, subsection 4):
  - As a *benchmark* against which biological and environmental change may be measured;
  - To protect sufficient *habitat* for those species whose habitat needs are unlikely to be met on lands managed for other purposes; or
  - As a site for ongoing *scientific research*, long-term environmental monitoring and education.
6. Ecological Reserves are managed as directed by statute (Title 12 Section 1805) or deed and in accordance with sound science. Allowed uses are managed to be compatible with the purposes of the reserve, and include hiking, cross-country skiing, primitive camping, hunting, fishing, and trapping, and other uses determined to have minimal impact on ecological reserve values and purposes. Snowmobiling and ATV touring, to the extent allowed by deed or statute, occur on existing trails that are well designed and built, are safe, and have minimal adverse impact on the ecological values of the reserve, and cannot be reasonably located outside of the ecological reserve. No timber harvesting or salvage harvesting occurs within the ecological reserves.

## **Vision for the Flagstaff Region Public Reserved Lands**

7. The Flagstaff Region Public Reserved Lands conserve and protect some of the State's most significant recreational, ecological, and economic resources. Through exemplary management, these lands are anchors in the sparsely populated Western Mountain Region for outdoor recreation, eco-tourism, and sustainable forestry yielding high value timber products.
8. The Bureau lands are signature landscapes that draw visitors to the Region in search of a remote recreation experience, to boat and fish on tranquil waters, enjoy extended river canoe trips amidst highly scenic mountains, hike on one of the most rugged stretches of the Appalachian Trail, camp on sandy beaches on Flagstaff Lake or the Chain of Ponds, snowmobile through a backcountry preserve, enjoy mountain biking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing on backcountry trails, and hunt on lands that are rich in wildlife, and that invite a walk in the woods as its own reward. A regional network of ATV trails is enriched by opportunities for touring and camping in remote settings on designated Public Reserved Lands.
9. The unique high elevation ecological reserves provide protection for rare alpine and sub-alpine plant communities, and advance understanding of the value of special protected resources. Ecologists are actively engaged in scientific study of how these natural ecological communities adapt or respond to changes in the environment. Bureau management of adjacent lands provides unusual opportunities for comparing the responses of natural communities to well-managed communities with nearly identical biologic and geo-physical influences.

## **Vision and Management Policies for the Bigelow Preserve**

**Background:** The Bigelow Preserve is the most prominent component of the Flagstaff Regional Plan due to its historic, current, and future significance to the region and to the state. Its management has been directed by previous Plans and policies, beginning with the mandates contained in the 1976 Bigelow Act.

The Vision for management of the Bigelow Preserve was first expressed in “An Act to Establish a Public Preserve in the Bigelow Mountain Area” enacted in June of 1976. The purpose clause of the Act sets forth specific guidance for future management of the Preserve. Prior to development of the first Management Plan, the Department of Conservation issued guidance on interpreting the Act for management purposes, and issued policies related to interpretation of “natural state ” and its importance relative to recreation, forestry, and wildlife management, and the type of campsites to be provided. In 1989, the first comprehensive Management Plan for the Bigelow Preserve spoke at length about the “Management Philosophy” for the Preserve.

The following Vision for the Bigelow Preserve honors and builds upon these statutory mandates and the management visions expressed in prior management documents.

### **General Management Philosophy**

1. The Bigelow Preserve will be managed for multiple uses including wildlife, visual quality, recreation, and timber production. However, the overriding management consideration in the Preserve will be to maintain its overall natural character and dispersed public use, consistent with the types of uses that existed in 1976 when the Bigelow Act was passed. These included hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, and snowmobiling.

### **Management for Natural Character and Visual Resources**

2. The Bigelow Preserve will continue to be noted as an exceptionally scenic landscape as a result of careful management of recreation uses, attention to maintaining high quality visual landscapes, and forest management that enhances the quality, diversity and age structure of the forest, with an objective of producing a mix of trees in all stages of succession, including, large healthy late successional trees.
3. The Bigelow Range continues to be an area of national distinction due to the unusual high elevation natural communities that qualified it for designation as a National Natural Landmark in 1976. These and other notable ecological communities on the Preserve, designated for Special Protection, continue to provide high quality examples of undisturbed significant natural communities.
4. As stated in the 1989 Management Plan for the Bigelow Preserve, one of the primary reasons for the establishment of the Preserve was to maintain the visual quality of the Bigelow Range. The Bureau will continue to manage the Preserve to assure that views from the lower elevations looking up at the ridgeline, as well as views from the higher elevations looking out over the Preserve, appear as a natural forest.

## Recreation Facilities Management Policies

5. Recreation in the Preserve will be provided with little permanent physical alteration of the environment and will be managed to avoid the concentration of users in a manner detracting from the essential character of the natural surrounding. The Bureau will manage the Preserve for a spectrum of recreational experiences, from “backcountry non-mechanized” opportunities for hunting, hiking, camping, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing, to “remote recreation” opportunities including water access camping, to opportunities for drive-to camping, bank fishing, mountain biking, wildlife watching and scenic touring along designated roads and designated snowmobile trails.
6. The recreation, scenic and wildlife values of the Preserve will be maintained with a minimum of trails and improvements, such as parking areas. Camping sites will generally range from well dispersed camping areas with one or two individual campsites, to sites designed to accommodate ten to twelve people. However, a few sites may be designed to accommodate groups of up to 30 people. At Round Barn and the south side of Trout Brook, campsites continue as walk-to from visually buffered parking areas, designed as tent sites for small parties. Individual campsites will be screened from each other, with a buffer of trees and shrubs is maintained between the sites and the lake.
7. The Appalachian National Scenic Trail and associated side trails within the Preserve will continue to be managed to provide a high quality, low-impact hiking and camping opportunity, managed cooperatively with the Maine Appalachian Trail Club (MATC), consistent with MATC standards for the Trail. Alternate trail routes will be developed only when there is a demonstrated need to relieve the intensive pressure on particularly sensitive portions of the trail, or provide new opportunities. A public education effort cooperatively implemented by the Bureau and the MATC will continue to focus on effectively raising awareness and compliance by hikers with hiking and camping leave-no-trace principles.
8. The snowmobile trail through the Preserve will continue to be designed and managed to provide a unique backcountry experience for snowmobilers. The trail will be kept to a minimum width and will be designed primarily for scenic quality, attracting riders not as a through trail, but as a trail that is a worthy destination in itself. The Bigelow Lodge will continue to provide an opportunity for snowmobilers, snowshoers, and cross-country skiers to stop and enjoy warmth and a hot beverage. The Bureau will continue to manage the primary and alternate sections of the trail that cross the northern arm of The Horns Ecological Reserve as low-impact, high quality scenic trails compatible with the Reserve.
9. The few roads on the Preserve available for public use will continue to be narrow and gravel-surfaced, consistent with a remote backcountry character; there will be no through connection, either as a public use road, or a management road, between the East and West Flagstaff Roads.
10. Woods management roads may be used as informal non-motorized recreational trails when not being used for active timber harvesting, to provide opportunities for snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, hunting and wildlife watching. Certain of these roads may also be designated for mountain biking.

## **Management of Recreational Use of the Preserve**

11. The Bureau is mindful of the need to carefully manage public use of the Preserve in order to protect its fragile resources from degradation due to overuse. The Bureau will monitor use to ensure that use levels are consistent with protection of the natural and remote recreational values of the Preserve. The Bureau will not seek to “market” the Preserve to increase its use; however, the Preserve was created as a “Public Preserve” and the Bureau will provide, as it does for all Public Reserved Lands, basic information about the Preserve, including essential information such as the location of campsites, trails and other facilities, and describing features, natural history, and use regulations, using, for example, brochures and online information accessed through the Bureau’s website.
12. The Bureau has spent the first 30 years of the existence of the Preserve acquiring the Preserve lands, and improving the existing facilities to address or prevent environmental issues. This Plan contains recommendations that look to the future in terms of addressing existing or potential needs for limited new facilities. The Bureau believes the new trails and facilities proposed in this Plan, which will only be pursued as the need or demand for them is clearly documented, approach the limits of what would be the maximum appropriate level of “developed” facilities in keeping with the backcountry dispersed recreation experience of the Preserve.

## **Forest Management Policies**

12. Sustainable, third-party certified forestry will continue to be practiced on the Preserve. The Bureau will continue to seek dual certification, as resources allow, from both the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI).
13. Forestry objectives will focus on maintaining a high level of structural, age and species diversity; a healthy, productive and resilient forest; and the appearance of a natural forest where, from the standpoint of the observer, there is no obvious alteration to the landscape (Visual Consideration Class II). In areas of high visibility, adjacent to trails and campsites, public use roads, and the lake shoreline, the standard will be to maintain the appearance of an essentially undisturbed forest (Visual Consideration Class I).
14. It shall be the policy with the Bigelow Preserve to aggressively fight, by whatever means deemed necessary by the Director of the Bureau of Forestry, any fire whether human-caused or of natural origins.

## **Wildlife Management Policies**

15. Consistent with past policy, as articulated in the 1981 Bigelow Preserve Policy Issues/Guidelines document signed by then Commissioner of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, it will be the policy of the Bigelow Preserve to manage wildlife for species richness. As the Preserve is primarily forested, woodland wildlife will predominate. Wildlife species diversity will be achieved through encouraging the maximum number of endemic species in the Preserve. A distribution of forest types, age classes, and spatial relationships will be encouraged. This will provide a maximum diversity of habitat and will result in a maximum diversity of wildlife species. Notwithstanding this general policy, the needs of less common or rare species requiring more restricted or complicated habitat conditions will be integrated into the management scheme. Wildlife management objectives will not be biased towards game species.

## **Past Policies and Guidance for Management of the Bigelow Preserve Incorporated in this Plan**

**The Bigelow Act (1976): Sec. 3. Purpose.** The purpose of this Act is to set aside land to be retained in its natural state for the use and enjoyment of the public. The Preserve shall be managed for outdoor recreation such as hiking, fishing, and hunting, and for timber harvesting. Timber harvesting within the Preserve shall be carried out in a manner approved by the Bureau of Forestry and consistent with the area's scenic beauty and natural features. All motor vehicles, not including vehicles engaged in timber harvesting, shall be restricted to roads designated for their use, except that snowmobiles shall also be allowed on designated trails. Designated roads shall be limited to those easily accessible to automobiles as of the effective date of this Act. No buildings, ski lifts, power transmission facilities or other structures shall be built in the preserve except for open trail shelters, essential service facilities, temporary structures used in timber harvesting, small signs, and other small structures that are in keeping with the undeveloped character of the Preserve (See Appendix B for the full Act).

**Bigelow Preserve, Policy Issues/Guidelines (Bureau of Parks and Recreation, 1981):** During the acquisition phase, as lands came into state ownership, the Departments of Conservation and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife issued guidance on interpreting the Act for management purposes.

Policy 1A: natural state – maintenance of the general natural character of the environment of the Preserve by managing the resources to accommodate low intensity dispersed recreation activities, the basic facilities necessary to provide access to these opportunities (e.g. trailhead parking, boat access to Flagstaff Lake, walk-in, or water access campsites, picnic sites), forest management and wildlife management facilities. Recreation in the Preserve should require little permanent physical alteration of the environment and should not encourage the concentration of users in a manner detracting from the essential character of the natural surrounding. . . Wildlife and timber management should also require little permanent physical alteration of the environment.

Policy 4A: the relative importance of recreation, forest and wildlife management within the Preserve. Management of recreation, the forest for wood products, and wildlife habitat shall be secondary to maintaining the overall natural character of the Preserve.

Policy 19A: The Bigelow Preserve will be considered a backcountry recreation area rather than a wilderness area. According to researchers for the U.S. Forest Service, "backcountry" refers to any area where the management objectives stress dispersed, off-road recreation activities such as hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, trail bike riding, canoeing, hunting, fishing and camping. They consider backcountry to be a recreation area, in contrast to wilderness, which they define as primarily a large natural ecosystem, to be experienced as it is. By definition, recreation opportunities could be enhanced or even created in backcountry, but not in wilderness.

### **Bigelow Preserve Management Plan (Bureau of Parks and Lands, August 1989):**

MANAGEMENT PHILOSOPHY: The Bigelow Preserve represents one of many publicly owned parcels of land in the State. Each unit from Baxter State Park, to Acadia National Park, to Sebago Lake State Park, to Wolf Neck Woods State Park is managed to provide a different type of experience for the visitor. No one parcel of public ownership provides all the recreational needs of Maine's citizens. These lands taken collectively, managed by a number of different public agencies, represent a vast array of public use and enjoyment opportunities. The type of environment existing in the Preserve is rare to the northeast as well as in the eastern part of this country. The combination of alpine and subalpine vegetation, high mountain ponds, undeveloped landscape and interesting geological features resulted in the Bigelow Range being designated as a National Natural Landmark in 1976. Similar environments elsewhere in the country have often been significantly altered or are in danger of being altered. The Bigelow Preserve will not and cannot provide all recreational needs or wants of the people. To do so would destroy the character that is so special. The very purpose of establishing the Preserve was to provide a semi-remote environment and to protect some important and fragile habitats from being destroyed. What the Preserve does provide is one very important type of experience in the overall picture of public ownership. This diverse ownership, taken as a whole, does provide "something for everyone."

## VI. Proposed Allocations – General Management Direction

### *Proposed Resource Allocations - Regional Overview by Allocation*

The Resource Allocation System is a land management-planning tool first developed in the 1980's, and formalized in a document entitled *Integrated Resource Policy (IRP)*. The IRP was further refined through a public process that produced the current version, adopted December 18, 2000. The Resource Allocation System, which is used to designate appropriate management based on resource characteristics and values, is based on a *hierarchy* of natural and cultural resource attributes found on the land base. The hierarchy ranks resources along a scale from those that are scarce and/or most sensitive to management activities, to those that are less so. The resource attributes are aggregated into seven categories or “allocations,” including (from most sensitive to least) special protection, backcountry recreation, wildlife management, remote recreation, visual consideration, developed recreation, and timber management.

This hierarchy defines the type of management that will be applied where these resource attributes are found, with *dominant* and *secondary* use or management designations as appropriate to achieve an integrated, multi-use management.

The following is a description of the Resource Allocation System categories applied in this Plan, the management direction defined for each category in the Bureau's Integrated Resource Policy planning document, and the application of these allocations within the Flagstaff Region properties.

#### Overview of Allocations for the Flagstaff Region

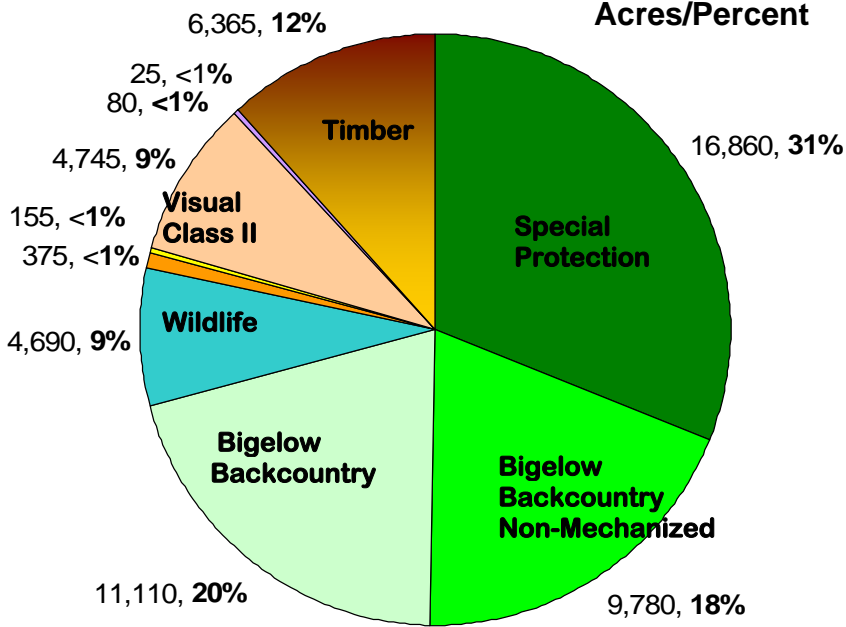
RESOURCE ALLOCATION	DOMINANT ALLOCATIONS (acres)	SECONDARY ALLOCATIONS (acres)
<b>Special Protection</b>	<b>16,860</b>	Not applicable
Ecological Reserves	15,830	Not applicable
Significant Natural Areas	755	Not applicable
Cultural/Historic Areas (AT and Arnold Trail)	275	Not applicable
<b>Backcountry Non-mechanized</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15,090</b>
“Bigelow Backcountry Non-mechanized”	<b>9,780</b>	<b>225</b>
“Bigelow Backcountry” Recreation	<b>11,110</b>	<b>1,075</b>
Wildlife/Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems	<b>4,690</b>	<b>4,750<sup>1</sup></b>
Remote Recreation	<b>375</b>	<b>2,435<sup>1</sup></b>
Visual Consideration Areas – Class I	<b>155</b>	Not available
Visual Consideration Areas – Class II	<b>4,745</b>	Not available
Developed Recreation – Class I	<b>80</b>	Not available
Developed Recreation Class II	<b>25</b>	Not available
Timber Management	<b>6,365</b>	Not available
<b>TOTAL ACRES</b>	<b>54,185<sup>2</sup></b>	

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary estimate. <sup>2</sup> Acreages are representations based on GIS metrics rounded to the nearest 5 acres, and do not sum to total Plan acres due to measuring error and limits of GIS precision (estimates are 3-4% high).



## Overview of Allocation for the Flagstaff Region

Acres/Percent



- Special Protection
- Bigelow Backcountry Non-mechanized
- Bigelow Backcountry Recreation
- Wildlife/Fragile Ecosystems
- Remote Recreation
- Visual Consideration Areas - Class I
- Visual Consideration Areas - Class II
- Developed Recreation - Class I
- Developed Recreation - Class II
- Timber Management

## SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS

### *Designation Criteria*

- 1. Natural Areas**, or areas left in an undisturbed state as determined by deed, statute, or management plan; and areas containing rare and endangered species of wildlife and/or plants and their habitat, geological formations, or other notable natural features;
- 2. Ecological Reserves**, established by Title 12, Section 1801: "*an area owned or leased by the State and under the jurisdiction of the Bureau, designated by the Director, for the purpose of maintaining one or more natural community types or native ecosystem types in a natural condition and range of variation and contributing to the protection of Maine's biological diversity, and managed: A) as a benchmark against which biological and environmental change can be measured, B) to protect sufficient habitat for those species whose habitat needs are unlikely to be met on lands managed for other purposes; or C) as a site for ongoing scientific research, long-term environmental monitoring, and education.*" Most ecological reserves will encompass more than 1,000 contiguous acres.
- 3. Historic/Cultural Areas** (above or below ground) containing valuable or important prehistoric, historic, and cultural features.

### *Management Direction*

In general, uses allowed in Special Protection areas are carefully managed and limited to protect the significant resources and values that qualify for this allocation. Because of their sensitivity, these areas can seldom accommodate active manipulation or intensive use of the resource. Secondary recreation use is allowed with emphasis on non-motorized dispersed recreation. For the two Ecological Reserves that are part of this property, Backcountry Non-Mechanized Recreation is designated as a secondary allocation for most of the area. Other direction provided in the IRP includes:

Vegetative Management on Ecological Reserves, including salvage harvesting is considered incompatible except in response to a threat that may spread to surrounding lands if not addressed (severe disease or insect infestation). Commercial timber harvesting is not allowed on either Ecological Reserves or Special Protection natural areas.

Wildlife management within these areas must not manipulate vegetation or waters to create or enhance wildlife habitat.

Management or public use roads are allowed under special circumstances, if the impact on the protected resources is minimal.

Trails for non-motorized activities must be well designed and constructed, be situated in safe locations, and have minimal adverse impact on the values for which the area is being protected. *Trail facilities and primitive campsites* must be rustic in design and accessible only by foot from trailheads located adjacent to public use roads, or by water.

Carry-in boat access sites are allowed on water bodies where boating activity does not negatively impact the purposes for which the Special Protection Area was established.

Hunting, fishing, and trapping are allowed where they do not conflict with the management of historic or cultural areas or the safety of other users.

Research, interpretive trails, habitat management for endangered or threatened species, are allowed in Special Protection natural areas unless limited by other management guidelines.

### *Special Protection Areas Designated for the Flagstaff Region*

For the Flagstaff Region, Special Protection areas defined include:

- areas officially designated as Ecological Reserves (10,560 acres in The Horns and 5,285 acres on Mount Abraham),
- natural areas to be set aside for no active timber management (Flagstaff Island – 530 acres; East Nubble on Bigelow Mountain – 60 acres; Huston Brook Pond buffer – roughly 30 acres; an old growth stand on the Wyman Lot south of Route 27 – 25 acres, and a portion of Highland Plantation Southeast Lot – roughly 110 acres).
- the 100-foot no-cut buffer on either side of the Appalachian Trail and its associated side-trails (on the Bigelow Preserve this includes the Warden’s Trail, Horns Pond Trail, the Range Trail, the Safford Brook Trail, and any trails to be constructed during the Plan period; it also includes all hiking trails on Mount Abraham and the AT on the Redington Twp Lot) (total of 250 acres).
- an area along the historic Arnold Expedition Trail (a 100-foot buffer on either side of the hiking trail established in proximity to the historic route, within in the Chain of Ponds parcel (30 acres).

In total, this allocation includes approximately **16,875 acres** over all the parcels included in the Region.



## BACKCOUNTRY RECREATION

### *Designation Criteria*

1. **Superior scenic quality**
2. **Remoteness**
3. **Wild and pristine character, and**
4. **Capacity to impart a sense of solitude.**
5. **Most will encompass more than 1,000 contiguous acres.**

There are 2 Backcountry Recreation Area designations in the IRP: Non-Mechanized, and Motorized. Only the Non-Mechanized designation is applied in this Region. The Bigelow Backcountry designation created for this Plan has many of the elements of the standard motorized backcountry designation; while the Bigelow Backcountry Non-Mechanized is similar to the Backcountry Non-Mechanized except that multi-age timber harvesting is allowed.

#### Non-mechanized Backcountry Recreation Areas include:

- no roads
- outstanding opportunities for solitude;
- outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of dispersed recreation;
- trails for non-mechanized travel; and
- no timber harvesting.

#### Motorized Backcountry Recreation Areas include:

- multi-use areas;
- significant opportunities for dispersed recreation;
- trails for motorized and mechanized activities;
- timber harvesting on a multi-aged basis; and
- management roads.

Both types may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, biological, or historical value.

### *Management Direction*

Vegetative Management: Not allowed in non-mechanized backcountry; allowed in motorized backcountry as a secondary use designed to enhance plant and animal diversity (multi-aged management only). Salvage harvests are allowed in Motorized Areas but not allowed in Non-mechanized Areas

Wildlife Management: Within non-mechanized backcountry areas must not manipulate vegetation or waters to create or enhance wildlife habitat. No restrictions in motorized backcountry.

Management or public use roads: Only within motorized backcountry and Bigelow Backcountry.

Recreational Facilities: Trail facilities, carry-in boat access, and primitive single or group campsites for dispersed recreation are allowed; all trails must be well designed and constructed, situated in safe locations, and have minimal adverse impact on the values for which the area was created; campsites must be primitive, rustic in design and accessible from trailheads and parking areas located outside of the area or by water.

Hunting, fishing, and trapping are allowed where they do not adversely impact the safety of other users.

## ***Backcountry Non-mechanized Areas Designated for the Flagstaff Region***

This allocation is proposed as a secondary allocation for:

- The Horns Ecological Reserve excepting the area on the north arm including and north of the snowmobile trail; and on the south arm, the area including and south of the “Sixty’s Haul Road.” (9,780 acres)
- The Mount Abraham Ecological Reserve, excepting the existing ATV trail that follows an existing road and the area south of it on the southern boundary of the Reserve (unless the trail can be reasonably relocated) (5,220 acres).
- Flagstaff Island, except for the shoreland area which is allocated as Remote Recreation (355 acres)

In total, this allocation includes approximately 15,090 acres as a secondary allocation.





## **BIGELOW-SPECIFIC BACKCOUNTRY ALLOCATIONS**

Because of the provisions of the Bigelow Act that define the purposes of the Bigelow Preserve and the uses allowed, the Bureau is defining two Backcountry allocations that are specific to this Preserve: Bigelow Backcountry Non-Mechanized, and Bigelow Backcountry.

Rationale: The Bigelow Act allows, but significantly limits, motorized uses: snowmobiles are allowed on designated trails; and motor vehicles are limited to roads “easily accessible to automobiles as of the effective date of (the) Act.” Further, timber harvesting is allowed “consistent with the area’s scenic beauty and natural features.”

The 1989 Bigelow Preserve Management Plan designates the majority of the Preserve as “Backcountry.” The definition for Backcountry at the time of the 1989 Plan was “Low intensity use recreation areas with exceptional natural characteristics. Timber harvesting and related management activities are constrained and use of motor vehicles by the public is prohibited.” Although the Act permitted some limited motorized uses, this allocation was nevertheless the best fit for the intent of the Act, and was applied subject to the special provisions of the Act.

Today, the Bureau faces a similar dilemma – the allocation system was revised in 2000 to include two subcategories under the “Backcountry” allocation: (1) “Motorized,” which allows timber harvest and which allows all types of motorized and mechanized uses provided appropriate trails can be constructed that are well designed, safe and (2) “Non-mechanized” which excludes not only motorized uses but also mechanized uses such as bicycling; and which does not allow timber harvesting. Neither of these subcategories is consistent with the vision for the Preserve contemplated by the Act. The generic description of Backcountry areas, however, does: “areas allocated for dominant recreation use for the values associated with a special combination of features including superior scenic quality, remoteness, wild and pristine character, and the capacity to impart a sense of solitude.”

Two Backcountry allocations are being employed in this Plan specific to the Bigelow Preserve – one which does not allow motorized or mechanized uses, and one which does, subject to the additional restrictions of the Bigelow Act. These are named “Bigelow Backcountry Non-mechanized” and “Bigelow Backcountry.”

## BIGELOW BACKCOUNTRY NON-MECHANIZED

### *Designation Criteria*

1. Superior scenic quality
2. Remoteness
3. Wild and pristine character, and
4. Capacity to impart a sense of solitude.
5. Will encompass more than 1,000 contiguous acres.

### *Management Direction*

Vegetative/Timber Management: Forest management including timber harvest is allowed as a secondary use (multi-aged management only). Salvage harvests are allowed.

Wildlife Management: May not employ even aged management or clearcuts greater than five acres.

Management or public use roads: Management roads for timber management only. No new forest management roads are allowed within 500 feet of the Appalachian Trail or any of its side trails. Public use roads limited to those that were easily accessible to automobiles at the time of the Bigelow Act.

Recreational Facilities: Trail facilities, carry-in boat access, and primitive single or group campsites for dispersed recreation are allowed. All trails must be well designed and constructed, situated in safe locations, and have minimal adverse impact on the values for which the area was created; campsites must be primitive, rustic in design and accessible from trailheads/ parking areas located outside of the area..

Hunting, fishing, and trapping: Allowed where they do not adversely impact the safety of others.

Motorized/Mechanized Uses: Not allowed.

*Note of Explanation:* “Bigelow Backcountry Non-mechanized ” is defined from

- a. the Bigelow Act: which
  - Specifies continuation of timber management and harvesting consistent with the area’s scenic beauty and natural features as one of the purposes of the Preserve;
  - limits structures to be built on the Preserve allowing only trail shelters, essential service facilities, temporary structures used in timber harvesting, small signs, and other small structures that are in keeping with the undeveloped character of the Preserve),
- b. the Bureau’s IRP guidance for Backcountry Motorized Recreation, as it relates to wildlife management and restriction of timber harvests to multi-aged management, allowance of salvage harvests, prescribed burns and insect and disease control, and allowance of timber management “to provide an environment characterized by a rich variety of plant and animal species;” and
- c. the Bureau’s management decision to expand a non-motorized/non-mechanized area within the Preserve beyond the area of the Ecological Reserve while providing for continued timber management.

***Bigelow Backcountry Non-mechanized Areas Designated in this Plan:*** This allocation is proposed generally for the area between the designated motorized and mechanized trails that circumnavigate the Preserve (including reserved alternate locations for the snowmobile trail), and the boundary of The Horns Ecological Reserve. It also includes the eastern shore of Flagstaff Lake within the Bigelow Preserve. It includes approximately 9,780 acres as a dominant allocation.

## **BIGELOW BACKCOUNTRY**

### ***Designation Criteria***

- 1. Superior scenic quality**
- 2. Remoteness**
- 3. Wild and pristine character, and**
- 4. Capacity to impart a sense of solitude.**
- 5. Most will encompass more than 1,000 contiguous acres.**

This allocation is essentially the same as the Bigelow Backcountry Non-mechanized allocation, except that, as provided in the Bigelow Act, snowmobiles are allowed on designated trails, and passenger vehicles are allowed on designated roads. By Bureau discretion and interpretation of the Bigelow Act, mountain bikes will be allowed on designated roads and trails under this allocation. Consistent with past policy, ATV's will not be allowed within the Preserve.

ATV's or other off-road vehicles are not allowed on the Preserve by Bureau policy. ATV's are not consistent with the quiet backcountry non-winter recreation opportunities provided by the Preserve. While passenger vehicles are allowed on designated roads, these roads are dead-end roads, and do not provide the opportunity for through-passage in the Preserve.

This allocation will permit *mountain biking* on designated management roads and trails, under the discretion granted the Bureau in determining appropriate uses for the Preserve. The Bureau will manage mountain biking to avoid conflicts with these other uses, by keeping the number of trails limited and located outside of a core non-mechanized area. This Plan proposes to allow mountain bikes on roads designated for automobiles - the East and West Flagstaff Roads; on the "Sixties Haul Road" (extension of the Huston Brook Road); on the Stratton Brook Road (linking the Sixty's Haul Road to Route 27), and on the woods management road linking the Stratton Brook Road to Stratton, that travels through the lower elevations on the southwest slope of the Bigelow Range.



### *Bigelow Backcountry Areas Designated in this Plan*

This allocation is proposed for portions of the Bigelow Preserve between the above described Bigelow Backcountry Non-Mechanized areas and the boundary of the Preserve (including proposed add-ons), with the exception of an area between the West Flagstaff Road and Hurricane Brook, and the lake, which is allocated as Visual Class II. This allocation includes **11,110 acres as a dominant allocation**, and 1,075 acres as a secondary allocation within the Ecological Reserve in two areas: the area of the north arm including and north of the primary snowmobile trail; and the area on the south arm including and south of the 60's Haul road (extension of the Stratton Brook Road).



## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT/ RARE OR EXEMPLARY ECOSYSTEM AREAS

### *Designation Criteria*

- 1. Essential habitats** are those regulated by law and currently consist of bald eagle, piping plover, and least tern nest sites (usually be categorized as Special Protection as well as Wildlife Dominant Areas).
- 2. Significant habitats**, defined by Maine's Natural Resource Protection Act, include habitat for endangered and threatened species; deer wintering areas; seabird nesting islands; vernal pools; waterfowl and wading bird habitats; shorebird nesting, feeding, and staging areas; and Atlantic salmon habitat.
- 3. Specialized habitat areas and features** include rare or exemplary natural communities; riparian areas; aquatic areas; wetlands; wildlife trees such as mast producing hardwood stands (oak and beech), snags and dead trees, den trees (live trees with cavities), large woody debris on the ground, apple trees, and raptor nest trees; seeps; old fields/grasslands; alpine areas; folist sites (a thick organic layer on sloping ground); and forest openings.

### *Management Direction*

Recreation and timber management are secondary uses in most Wildlife Management Areas. Recreational use of Wildlife Management Areas typically includes hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, trapping, and sightseeing. Motorized trails for snowmobiling and ATV riding (unless otherwise prohibited) are allowed to cross these areas if they do not conflict with the primary wildlife use of the area and there is no other safe, cost-effective alternative (such as routing a trail around the wildlife area). Direction provided in the IRP includes:

*Habitat management for wildlife*, including commercial and noncommercial harvesting of trees, will be designed to maximize plant and animal diversity and to provide habitat conditions to enhance population levels where desirable.

*Endangered or threatened plants and animals* – The Bureau will cooperate with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and Maine Natural Areas Program in the delineation of critical habitat and development of protection or recovery plans by these agencies on Bureau lands.

*Timber management* as a secondary use in riparian buffers will employ the selection system, retaining all den trees and snags consistent with operational safety. In other wildlife-dominant areas it will be managed to enhance wildlife values.

### *Wildlife/Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems and Habitat Areas Designated for the Flagstaff Region*

Wildlife management areas on the Flagstaff Region public reserved lands include

- LURC designated deer yards;
- riparian shoreline areas along the lakes and major rivers (330-foot zone from edge of water), and along minor streams (75-foot zone from edge of water);
- two known bald eagle nest sites included within the riparian zone area;
- old fields/grasslands on the Chain of Ponds unit; and at the site of the reclaimed Stratton landfill;
- wading bird and waterfowl habitats as defined by MDIF&W;

- MNAP designated exemplary natural communities including the exemplary streamshore system involving Hurricane Brook, Reed Brook, and Trout Brook on the Bigelow Preserve; and the exemplary Beech-Birch-Maple forest on the north side of Little Bigelow Mountain; and
- Additional areas as may be defined through detailed field work related to forest management – these areas could include vernal pools and other wetlands, for example.

This allocation, as a dominant category, includes a total of approximately **4,140 acres** over all the parcels included in the Flagstaff Region (further detailed in the parcel by parcel discussion which follows). In addition, managing to enhance wildlife habitat is a significant component of the Bureau’s approach to timber management, and hence it is a significant secondary use within the Timber Management areas, and even the Bigelow Backcountry Areas where timber harvesting occurs. Overall, Wildlife Management allocations include:

	<u>Dominant</u>	<u>Secondary (rough estimate)</u>
Bigelow Preserve /Flagstaff Lake	3,185 acres	4,685
Mount Abraham	50 acres	not available
Chain of Ponds	915 acres	0
Other Public Lots	540 acres	20
	<hr/> 4,690 acres	<hr/> 4,705



## REMOTE RECREATION AREAS

### *Designation Criteria*

1. Allocated to protect natural/scenic values as well as recreation values. Often have significant opportunities for low-intensity, dispersed, non-motorized recreation.
2. Usually are relatively long corridors rather than broad, expansive areas.
3. May be a secondary allocation for Wildlife Dominant areas and Special Protection – Ecological Reserve areas.
4. Examples include trail corridors, shorelines, and remote ponds.

### *Management Direction*

Remote Recreation areas are allocated to protect natural/scenic values as well as recreation values. The primary objective of this category is to provide non-motorized recreational opportunities; therefore, motorized recreation trails are allowed only under specific limited conditions, described below. Direction provided in the IRP includes:

Vegetative/Timber Management: Timber management is allowed as a secondary use. New woods management roads are not allowed within 500 feet of the Appalachian Trail or its side trails.

Trail facilities and remote campsites will be rustic in design and accessible by foot from trailheads, management and/or public roads, or by water.

Existing snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle activity may be continued on well-designed and constructed trails in locations that are safe, where the activity has minimal adverse impact on protected natural resource or remote recreation values, and where the trails cannot be reasonably relocated outside of the area.

New snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle trails are allowed only if all three of the following criteria are met:

- (1) no safe, cost effective alternative exists;
- (2) the impact on protected natural resource values or remote recreation values is minimal (would not be allowed within 500 feet of the Appalachian Trail or its associated side trails except for trail crossings approved by the Appalachian Trail Conference, MATC and National Park Service); and
- (3) the designated trail will provide a crucial link in a significant trail system;

Access to Remote Recreation areas is primarily walk-in, or boat, but may include vehicle access over timber management roads while these roads are being maintained for timber management.

### *Remote Recreation Areas Designated for the Flagstaff Region*

Remote recreation areas on the Flagstaff Region public reserved lands are proposed to include:

- As a secondary allocation for the 330-foot wildlife riparian areas surrounding Flagstaff Lake;
- As a secondary allocation for the islands in Dead River Township (dominant Wildlife Management allocation);
- The camping area at Round Barn on the Bigelow Preserve;
- A 400-foot corridor on either side of the 100-foot Special Protection zone along the Appalachian Trail and associated side trails in any areas not within The Horns or



Mount Abraham Ecological Reserves, or within the Bigelow Backcountry Non-mechanized area.

- As a secondary allocation for the Special Protection area around Huston Brook Pond.
- As a secondary allocation for the Old Growth Special Protection area on the Wyman Lot.

Remote Recreation as a dominant use accounts for **375 acres**; and as a secondary use totals approximately 2,435 acres as detailed below.

	<u>Remote Recreation</u> Dominant Use	<u>Remote Recreation</u> Secondary Use
Bigelow Preserve	180	2,435
Lake Parcels		And Other Flagstaff
Mount Abraham	85	
Other Public Lots	<u>110</u>	
Total	375	



## VISUAL CONSIDERATION AREAS

Many Bureau-managed properties have natural settings in which visual attributes enhance the enjoyment of recreational users. Timber harvests which create large openings, stumps and slash, gravel pits, and new road construction, when viewed from roads or trails, may detract significantly from the visual enjoyment of the area. To protect the land's aesthetic character, the Bureau uses a two-tier classification system to guide management planning, based on the sensitivity of the visual resource to be protected.

Most Visual Consideration Areas are secondary allocations, as the dominant allocations assert the primary values to be maintained in the management of vegetation or timber for those allocations. For example, all lakeshores are allocated as wildlife dominant; visual consideration areas are also a standard allocation for lakeshores. While a visual consideration allocation along a hiking trail may result in tree removal to provide a vista, in a wildlife management riparian area, maintained as a vegetated travel corridor for wildlife, this may not be allowed.

### *Designation Criteria*

**Visual Class I.** Areas where the foreground views of natural features that may directly affect enjoyment of the viewer. Applied throughout the system to all shorelines, trails, public use roads, and management roads open to public vehicular traffic. Applied as a variable width buffer determined from line of sight (distance a person can see the forest floor when looking into the forest, which varies according to topography and type of forest).

**Visual Class II.** Include views of forest canopies from ridge lines, the forest interior as it fades from the foreground of the observer, background hillsides viewed from water or public use roads, or interior views beyond the Visual Class I area likely to be seen from a trail or road.

### ***Visual Class I Management Direction:***

Timber harvesting is permitted under stringent limitations directed at retaining the appearance of an essentially undisturbed forest.

Openings will be contoured to the lay of the land and limited to a size that will maintain a natural forested appearance.

Within trail corridors or along public use roads it may be necessary to cut trees at ground level or cover stumps.

Branches, tops, and other slash will be pulled well back from any trails.

Scenic vistas may be provided if consistent with the dominant allocation.

### ***Visual Class II Management Direction:***

Managed to avoid any obvious alterations to the landscape.

Openings will be of a size and orientation as to not draw undue attention.

### *Visual Consideration Areas Designated for the Flagstaff Region*

Visual Class I areas will be defined as a secondary allocation on the ground for areas adjacent to public use roads, lake and river shorelines, areas around Developed Recreation sites, and designated trails (including snowmobile trails). Approximately **155 acres** are estimated as a dominant allocation for the Plan area; these are areas that largely occur on the Bigelow Preserve and Flagstaff Lake and surrounding properties.

Visual Class II areas will be defined as areas beyond the immediate foreground, such as distant hills, viewed from public use roads or from the lakes (as seen from a boat, or from a shoreline viewing the opposite shoreline). For the Bigelow Preserve, all areas not designated as Visual Class I are allocated as Visual Class II. A large area north of the West Flagstaff road is allocated as dominant Visual Class II, as well as much of the Wyman lot south of Route 27, and the Carrabassett Valley lot (total in the range of 3,700 acres). In addition, much of the area not designated as ecological reserve on Mount Abraham is in Visual Class II (850 acres). Together, these areas cover approximately **4,550 acres**.



## DEVELOPED RECREATION AREAS

### *Designation Criteria*

*Developed Class I* areas are low to medium density developed recreation areas, while *Developed Class II* areas have medium to high density facilities and use such as campgrounds with modern sanitary facilities.

#### ***Class I Developed Recreation Areas***

1. Typically include more intensely developed recreation facilities than found in Remote Recreation Areas such as:
  - drive-to primitive campsites with minimal supporting facilities;
  - gravel boat launch areas and parking areas;
  - shared use roads and/or trails designated for motorized activities; and
  - trailhead parking areas.
2. Do not usually have full-time management staff.

#### ***Class II Developed Recreation Areas***

1. Are the most intensely developed recreation facilities managed by the Bureau and typically include:
  - campgrounds with modern sanitary facilities, showers, and running water;
  - beaches with improved parking areas, picnic tables, and foot trails;
  - family and group picnic areas;
  - shared use roads and/or trails designated for motorized activities; and
  - hard-surface boat launch ramps with improved parking areas for motor vehicles and boat trailers.
2. Usually have seasonal full-time staff.

### ***Management Direction***

Developed Recreation areas allow a broad range of recreational activities, with timber management and wildlife management allowed as secondary uses. Direction provided in the IRP includes:

*Timber management*, allowed as compatible **secondary use**, is conducted in a way that is sensitive to visual, wildlife and user safety considerations. Single-age forest management is not allowed in these areas. Salvage and emergency harvests may occur where these do not significantly impact natural, historic, or cultural resources and features, or conflict with traditional recreational uses of the area.

*Wildlife management* may be a compatible **secondary use**. To the extent that such management occurs, it will be sensitive to visual, and user safety considerations.

*Visual consideration areas* are often designated in a buffer area surrounding the Developed Recreation area.

*Hunting and trapping*: Not allowed.



## *Developed Recreation Areas Designated for the Flagstaff Region*

*Class I Developed Recreation Areas* allocated for the Flagstaff Plan Region include the drive-to campsites on the south side of Trout Brook (off the West Flagstaff Road); the Bigelow Lodge on the Bigelow Preserve; , the boat launch and picnic area on the Spring Lake lot under lease to Florida Power and Light; public use roads, ATV trails, snowmobile roads; and gravel boat access sites at Chain of Ponds that are not in the ownership and control of MDOT. This allocation, excluding roads and trails, totals roughly **80 acres** over all the public reserved parcels in the Flagstaff Region. These are further detailed in the parcel by parcel discussion which follows.

*Class II Developed Recreation Areas* allocated for the Flagstaff Plan Region include only the Natanis Point Campground which is a commercial campground operating under a lease on Natanis Pond in the Chain of Ponds parcel. This allocation includes **approximately 25 acres**.



## TIMBER MANAGEMENT AREAS

### *Designation Criteria*

1. Area meets Bureau guidelines as suitable for timber management, and is not prohibited by deed or statute.
2. Area is not dominated by another resource category. Where other uses are dominant, timber management may be a secondary use if conducted in a way that does not conflict with the dominant use.

### *Management Direction*

The Bureau's timber management practices are governed by a combination of statute and Bureau policy, including but not limited to policies spelled out in the IRP. These general policies include:

Overall Objectives: The Bureau's overall timber management objectives are to demonstrate exemplary management on a large ownership, sustaining a forest rich in late successional character and producing high value products (chiefly sawlogs and veneer) that contribute to the local economy and support management of Public Reserved lands, while maintaining or enhancing non-timber values (secondary uses), including wildlife habitat and recreation.

Forest Certification: Timber management practices (whether as a dominant or secondary use) meet the sustainable forestry certification requirements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, and the Forest Stewardship Council.

Roads: Public use, management, and service roads are allowed. However, the Bureau, in practice, seeks to minimize the number of roads to that needed for reasonable public vehicular access or timber harvesting.

Recreational Use: Most recreational uses are allowed but may be subject to temporary disruptions during management or harvesting operations. The Bureau has latitude within this allocation category to manage its timber lands with considerable deference to recreational opportunities. It may, through its decisions related to roads, provide varying recreational experiences. Opportunities for hiking, snowshoeing, back-country skiing, horseback riding, bicycling, vehicle touring and sightseeing, and ATV riding all are possible within a timber management area, but may or may not be supported or feasible, depending on decisions related to creation of new trails, or management of existing roads and their accessibility to the public.

In addition, the IRP provides the following specific direction for timber management:

Site Suitability. The Bureau will manage to achieve a composition of timber types that best utilize each site.

Diversity: For both silvicultural and ecological purposes, the Bureau will maintain or enhance conditions of diversity on both a stand and wide-area (landscape) basis. The Bureau will manage for the full range of successional stages as well as forest types and tree species. The objective will be to provide good growing conditions, retain or enhance structural complexity, maintain connectivity of wildlife habitats, and create a vigorous forest more resistant to damage from insects and disease.

Silvicultural Systems: A stand will be considered single-aged when its tree ages are all relatively close together or it has a single canopy layer. Stands containing two or more

age classes and multiple canopy layers will be considered multi-aged. The Bureau will manage both single- and multi-aged stands consistent with the objectives stated above for Diversity; and on most acres will maintain a component of tall trees at all times. Silvicultural strategy will favor the least disturbing method appropriate, and will usually work through multi-aged management.

*Location and Maintenance of Log Landings.* Log landings will be set back from all roads designated as public use roads. All yard locations and sizes will be approved by Bureau staff prior to construction, with the intention of keeping the area dedicated to log landings as small as feasible. At the conclusion of operations, all log landings where there has been major soil disturbance will be seeded to herbaceous growth to stabilize soil, provide wildlife benefits, and retain sites for future management needs.

### ***Timber Management Areas Designated for the Flagstaff Region***

For the Flagstaff Region properties, Timber Management as a dominant use is designated for portions of:

- the Dead River Peninsula,
- Spring Lake lot,
- Myers Lodge Parcel on Flagstaff Lake,
- the miscellaneous public lots except the Highland Plantation Southeast and Coplin Plantation West lots.

The total area in this allocation as a dominant use is approximately **6,050 acres**.



## ***Proposed Resource Allocations - by Property***

### **The Bigelow Preserve and Surrounding Properties**

The Flagstaff Lake/Bigelow Preserve lands include the Bigelow Preserve, Coplin Plt Range Trailhead, Wyman Lot East, Wyman Lot West, Carrabassett Valley Lot, Dead River Twp. Islands, Dead River Peninsula, Spring Lake Lot, Flagstaff Island, Flagstaff Plt.-Northern Shoreline, Flagstaff Plt - Myers Lodge Lot. As indicated below, the Bureau is proposing to add some of these properties to the Bigelow Preserve.

**Proposed Additions to the Bigelow Preserve:** The Bureau has defined contiguous lands that should be added to the Preserve to include, generally, undeveloped lands that are not separated by a road, lake, powerline, or other ownership. This would include undeveloped lands in Bigelow, Eustis, Coplin Plantation, Wyman and Dead River Township that lie north of Route 27 and the powerline that borders Wyman and Dead River Township; lands east of Flagstaff Lake in Dead River Township, and lands in Carrying Place Township between the Long Falls Dam Road and Flagstaff Lake.

As it does on all other acquired lands, the Bureau will evaluate vehicle-passable roads existing at the time of acquisition of these contiguous lands to determine whether such roads will be closed, maintained or made available for the public's use. Since these lands will be at the periphery of the Preserve, the Bureau will also evaluate whether there is a need for additional access points (parking and trailheads) and whether the added lands provide opportunities to meet any such access needs.

Consistent with this policy, the Bureau proposes to add the following parcels to the Preserve and to manage them consistent with the provisions of the Bigelow Act:

1. Coplin Plt –Range Trailhead: Trailhead to the Range Trail/Cranberry Mountain with pre-existing road.
2. Wyman Twp - Wyman Lot East parcel: contiguous to preserve, south of Stratton Brook, to Route 27 and a line 500 feet north of the Carrabassett Township Line and the Central Maine Power transmission corridor easement transecting the Bureau's Carrabassett Valley Lot; excepting an area east of the intersection of the corner of the CMP powerline and the Appalachian Trail corridors as shown below, (this excluded parcel is transected by a road that is a crucial link in the regional ATV system connecting the Stratton area with Carrabassett Valley and Kingfield); and a small triangular parcel north and west of the AT Corridor and west of Route 27.

## Summary of Proposed Allocations (acres)

Allocation	Bigelow Preserve (Including proposed additions)		Surrounding Lands		Total	
	Dominant	Secondary	Dominant	Secondary	Dominant	Secondary
<b>Special Protection</b>	<b>10,825</b>	NA	<b>550</b>	NA	<b>11,375</b>	NA
Ecological Reserve	10,545	NA	0	NA	10,545	NA
AT Corridor	190	NA	0	NA	190	NA
Natural Areas	90	NA	550	NA	640	NA
<b>Backcountry Non-Mechanized Recreation</b>	<b>0</b>	9,515	<b>0</b>	355	<b>0</b>	9,870
<b>Bigelow Backcountry Non-Mech Rec</b>	<b>9,780</b>	225	NA	NA	<b>9,780</b>	225
<b>Bigelow Backcountry</b>	<b>11,110</b>	1,045	NA	NA	<b>11,110</b>	1,075
<b>Wildlife/Rare or Exemplary Habitats/Ecosystems</b>	<b>1,245</b>	Not available	<b>1,940</b>	Not available	<b>3,185</b>	4,685 <sup>1,2</sup>
<b>Remote Recreation</b>	<b>180</b>	Not available	0	Not available	<b>180</b>	2,435 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Visual Consideration Class I</b>	<b>130</b>	Not available	<b>25</b>	0	<b>155</b>	Not available
<b>Visual Consideration Class II</b>	<b>2,675</b>	Not available	<b>1,220<sup>1</sup></b>	Not available	<b>3,895</b>	Not available
<b>Developed Recreation Class I</b>	<b>15</b>	Not available	<b>50</b>	0	<b>65</b>	NA
<b>Timber Management</b>	<b>0</b>	0	<b>4,035</b>	Not available	<b>4,035</b>	Not available
<b>TOTAL<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>35,960</b>				<b>43,780</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary estimate.

<sup>2</sup> Not including areas managed for recreation, visual consideration, and timber where wildlife features are protected or enhanced during the detailed forest management prescription process.

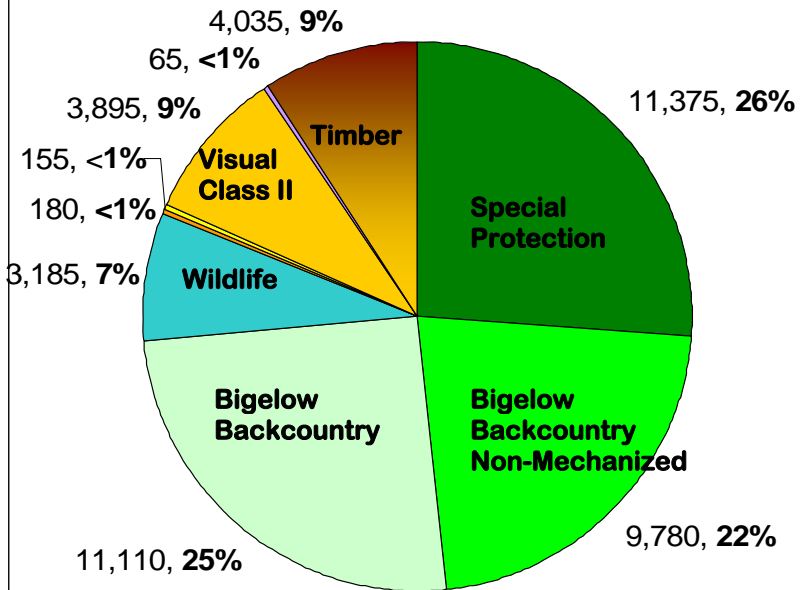
<sup>3</sup> Note: acreages are representations based on GIS metrics rounded to the nearest 5 acres, and do not sum to the acreages by parcel due to measuring error and limits of GIS precision (above acres are overall high by approximately 3-4%).

NA = Not applicable



# Bigelow Preserve & Surrounding Lands

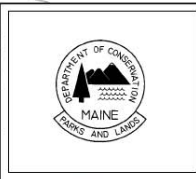
Acres/Percent



- Special Protection
- Bigelow Backcountry Non-mechanized Rec
- Bigelow Backcountry
- Wildlife/Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems
- Remote Recreation
- Visual Consideration Areas - Class I
- Visual Consideration Areas - Class II
- Developed Recreation - Class I
- Timber Management

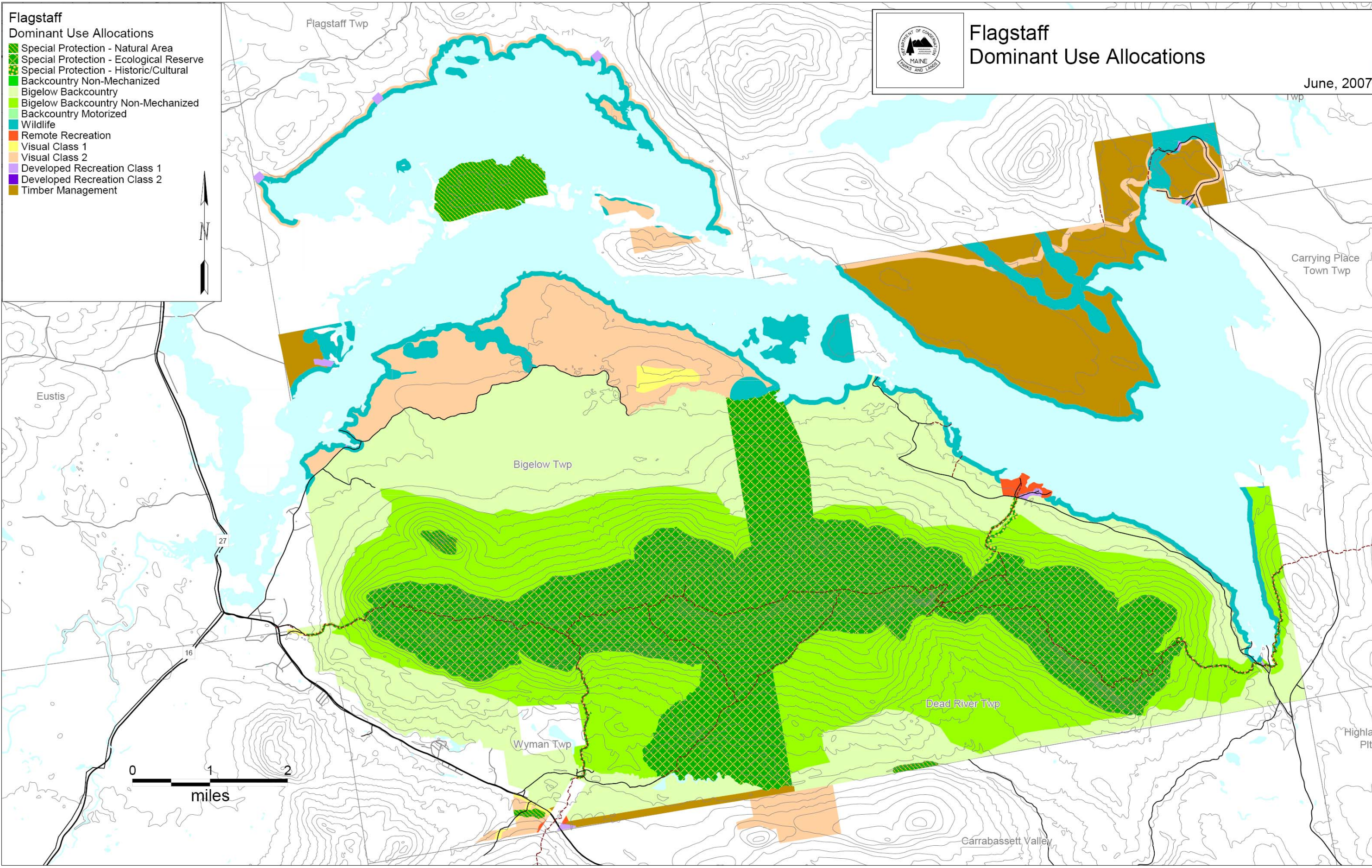


- Flagstaff**  
**Dominant Use Allocations**
- Special Protection - Natural Area
  - Special Protection - Ecological Reserve
  - Special Protection - Historic/Cultural
  - Backcountry Non-Mechanized
  - Bigelow Backcountry
  - Bigelow Backcountry Non-Mechanized
  - Backcountry Motorized
  - Wildlife
  - Remote Recreation
  - Visual Class 1
  - Visual Class 2
  - Developed Recreation Class 1
  - Developed Recreation Class 2
  - Timber Management



**Flagstaff**  
**Dominant Use Allocations**

June, 2007

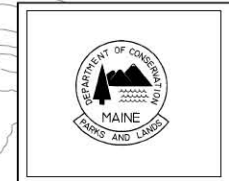
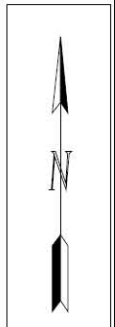






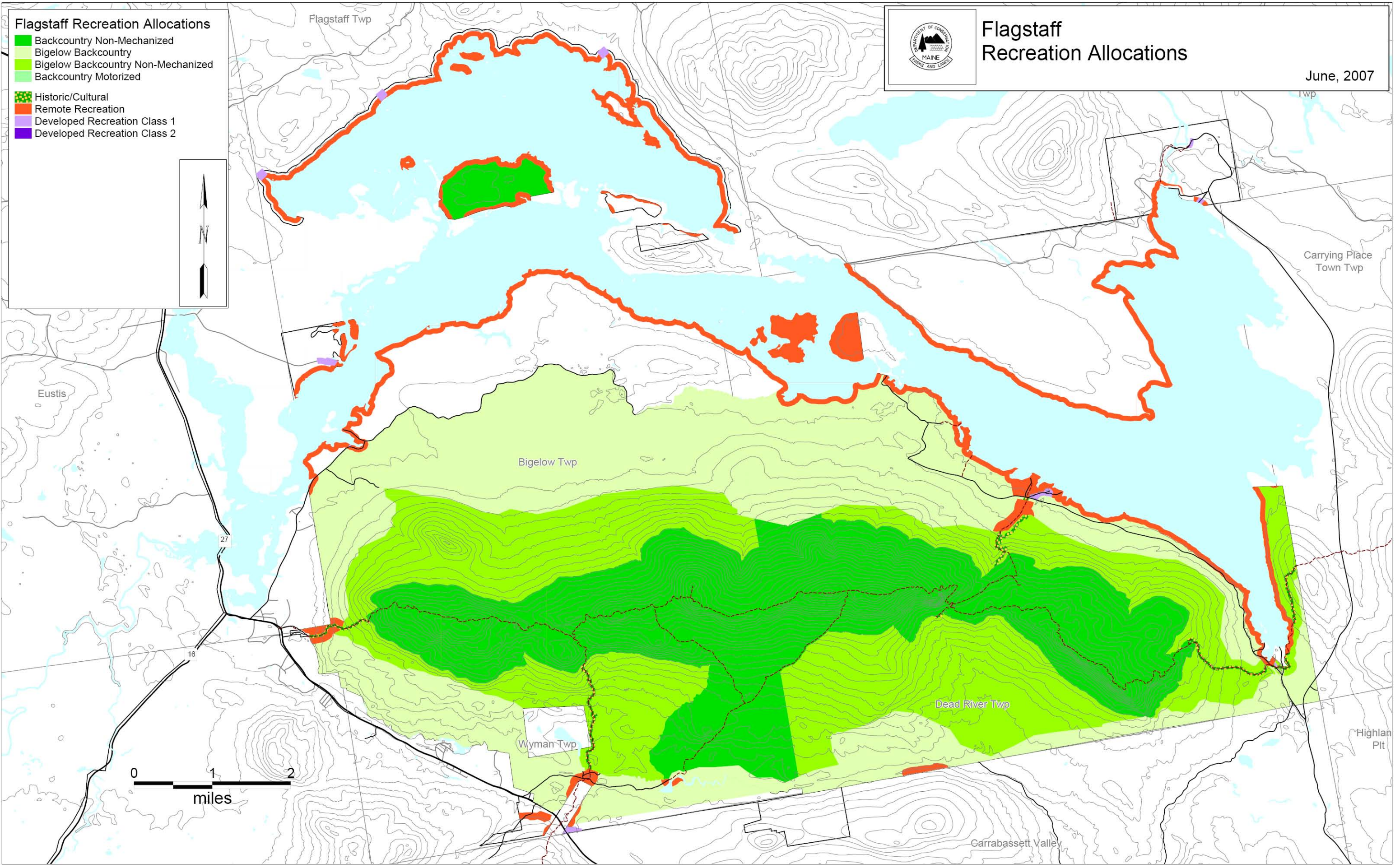


- Flagstaff Recreation Allocations**
- Backcountry Non-Mechanized
  - Bigelow Backcountry
  - Bigelow Backcountry Non-Mechanized
  - Backcountry Motorized
  - Historic/Cultural
  - Remote Recreation
  - Developed Recreation Class 1
  - Developed Recreation Class 2



# Flagstaff Recreation Allocations

June, 2007



0 1 2  
miles

Flagstaff Twp

Bigelow Twp

Dead River Twp

Wyman Twp

Carrabassett Valley

Carrying Place Town Twp

Highland Pit

Eustis

27

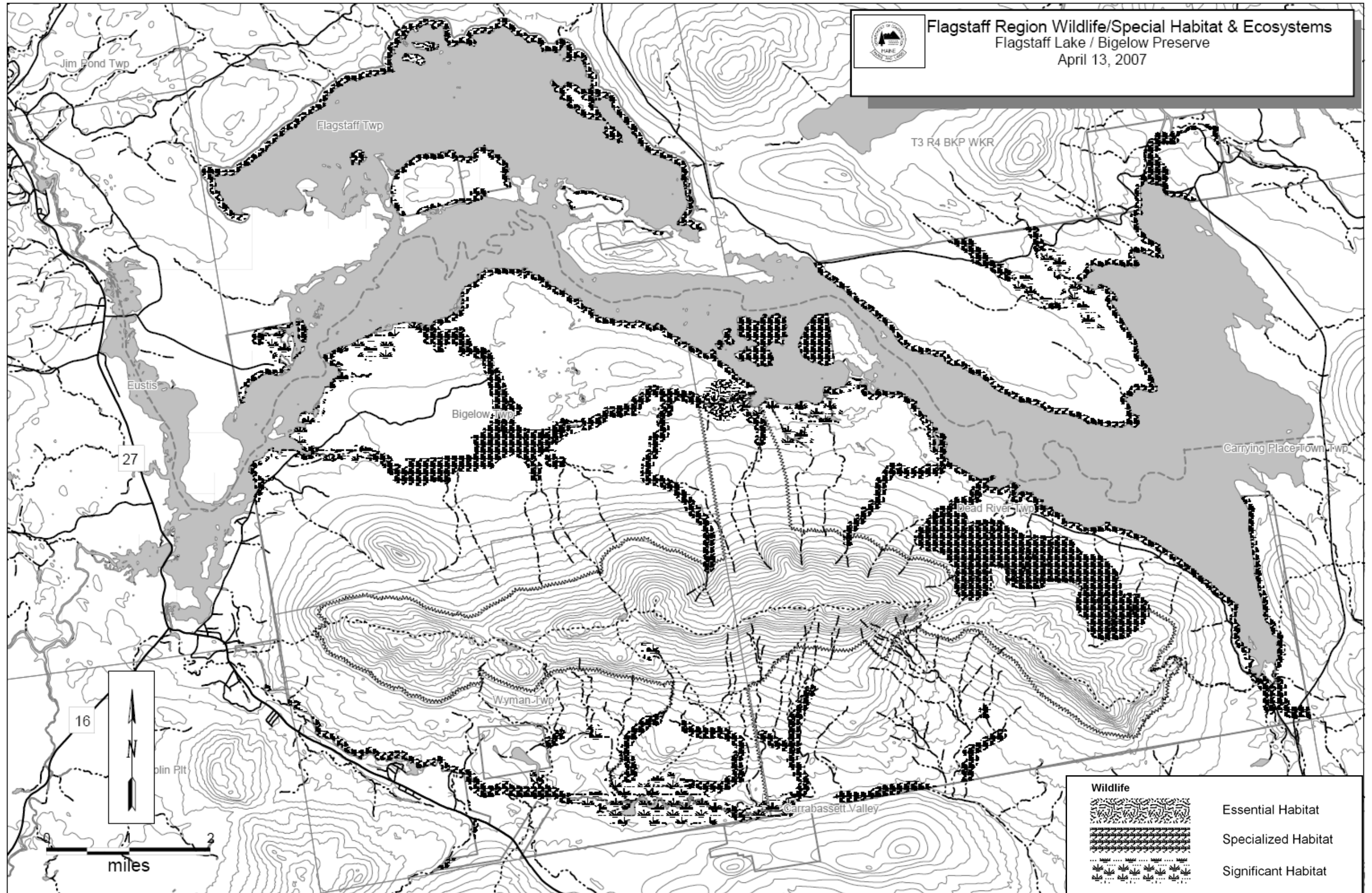
16







Flagstaff Region Wildlife/Special Habitat & Ecosystems  
Flagstaff Lake / Bigelow Preserve  
April 13, 2007



Wildlife	
	Essential Habitat
	Specialized Habitat
	Significant Habitat



***Proposed Special Protection Areas (Dominant Allocation):***

1. The Horns Ecological Reserve (Bigelow Preserve): Retain existing ecological reserve boundary (10,545 acres).
2. East Nubble Summit and northern talus slope (Bigelow Preserve)– summit contains an exemplary Spruce-Fir-Broom moss forest with a small Old Growth stand and is a prominent scenic resource; and an exemplary Spruce-Talus Woodland on the northern slope (60 acres).
3. Huston Brook Pond (Bigelow Preserve): An area around the highly scenic 5 ½ acre Huston Brook Pond, defined on the north, east and west by a 100 foot buffer from the pond and on the south, an area of steep slopes with mature white pine, by the ownership line. There is no motorized access, but it is a popular stop for folks utilizing a nearby management road for recreating and a favorite destination for fishing (30 acres).
4. Appalachian Trail Corridor (Bigelow Preserve): A 100-foot buffer along the Appalachian Trail Corridor sections that are not within the Ecological Reserve (no timber harvesting is allowed in the Ecological Reserve). This buffer extends around shelter sites and ancillary structures adjacent to the Trail. [ Note: This represents no change from the 1989 Bigelow Preserve Plan which defined a 100-foot no-cut buffer on either side of the trail.] There is also proposed a minimum additional 400-foot buffer from motorized or mechanized uses other than forestry operations applied either as an adjacent Bigelow Backcountry Non-Mechanized allocation or Remote Recreation allocation. In addition to the protections afforded by these allocations, no new woods management roads will be constructed within 500 feet of the AT.
5. Flagstaff Island (Bigelow Township): MNAP exemplary natural community on the central and eastern portion: an even-aged exemplary Spruce-Fir-Broom-moss Forest; the southern part of the island is of high recreational value and has a mature Northern Hardwood Forest transitioning to White Pine –Mixed Conifer Forest (530 acres).
6. Wyman Township old growth forest: south of Route 27 (~ 25 acres).
7. Other Significant Features: Sites identified during the acre-by-acre field examinations conducted in developing multiple use coordination reports and timber management prescriptions, including vernal pools; old growth stands (5 acres or more in size) and old growth components (less than 5 acres in size); and other notable features.

*Secondary Allocations and Uses within the Special Protection Areas:* Recreation will be a secondary use in the above listed Special Protection Areas. Motorized uses are not allowed in the Special Protection Areas identified as “natural” or “historic/cultural” (except that motorized crossings of the AT are allowed if approved by the Appalachian Trail Conference and MATC). Motorized activities may be allowed in Ecological Reserves under very restricted conditions. Commercial timber harvesting is not allowed in any Special Protection Area.

This Plan designates Backcountry Non-mechanized Recreation as a secondary allocation for Flagstaff Island except for a 330-foot Remote Recreation secondary allocation along the shoreline (due to the potential influence of motorized watercraft on the uses on the shoreline). The Plan also designates a secondary Backcountry Non-Mechanized Recreation allocation within The Horns Ecological Reserve, except for the area north of the Bigelow Range extending from the snowmobile crossing to the northern boundary of the Ecological Reserve; and except for the area on the south side of the range from and including the “1960’s Road” road to the southerly boundary of the ecological reserve. Those areas excepted from the Backcountry Non-mechanized allocation on the Ecological Reserve are allocated to Bigelow Backcountry as a secondary allocation. In addition, there is also a variable width Visual Class I zone applied to the

Appalachian Trail and any side-trails with Special Protection allocations (for purposes of view management and management of allowed activities that could affect visual quality). Proposed secondary recreation allocations are shown on the attached Recreation Allocation map.

***Proposed Bigelow Backcountry Non-mechanized Recreation Areas (Dominant Allocation):***

This allocation is proposed generally for the area between the designated motorized and mechanized trails that circumnavigate the Preserve (including reserved alternate locations for the snowmobile trail), and the boundary of The Horns Ecological Reserve. It also includes a minimum 400-foot area adjacent to the 100-foot Special Protection zone adjacent to the Appalachian Trail in portions of the Preserve not within The Horns Ecological Reserve, and the eastern shore of Flagstaff Lake within the Bigelow Preserve.

*Secondary Allocations/Uses within the Bigelow Backcountry Non-mechanized Recreation Areas:*

Multi-age timber management is a secondary allocation subject to Visual Class I restrictions adjacent to any roads or trails; and subject to Visual Class II restrictions elsewhere. Wildlife Management is also a secondary allocation in this area. Wildlife and timber management activities conducted in areas designated by MNAP as exemplary communities require consultation with MNAP. Specific areas (both dominant and secondary allocations) are shown on the attached Wildlife/Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems and Habitats Map.

***Proposed Bigelow Backcountry Recreation Areas (Dominant Allocation):*** This allocation is proposed for much of the rest of the Bigelow Preserve, excepting an area north of the West Flagstaff Road and Hurricane Brook, and the Round Barn and Bigelow Lodge area.

This allocation includes a portion of the shoreline area between the East Flagstaff Road and the Bigelow Lodge, in which the snowmobile trail has been permanently located. No timber management will occur in this area.

*Secondary Allocations/Uses within the Bigelow Backcountry Recreation Areas:* Same as for Bigelow Backcountry Non-mechanized Recreation Areas.

***Proposed Remote Recreation Areas (Dominant Allocation):*** This allocation is applied to the outer 400-foot corridor of any section of the Appalachian Trail or connecting trails that are not buffered from motorized and mechanized recreation through another allocation, such as Ecological Reserve or Bigelow Backcountry Non-Mechanized.

***Proposed Wildlife/Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems and Habitat (Dominant Allocation):*** The attached Dominant Allocation map shows areas designated as dominant for this allocation, while the map showing only Wildlife/Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems and Habitat areas shows both dominant and secondary areas. In both cases, management of the lands will protect important wildlife and Rare or Exemplary ecosystems and habitats. However, in dominant areas the Bureau may have additional latitude to actively manage these areas to enhance the values, with less deference to recreation.

Wildlife management areas include major riparian zones (330 feet) along shorelines and major streams; minor riparian areas (75 feet) along minor streams (shown on the map with dashed lines); eagle nest sites (essential habitat), waterfowl and wading bird habitat, deer yards, and open fields (significant habitat); and exemplary natural communities identified by the Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) (boundaries subject to revision upon detailed field inspection),

including an exemplary Streamshore Ecosystem at the headwaters of Hurricane, Reed, and Trout Brooks (approximately 525 acres) and an exemplary Beech-Birch-Maple forest (1236 acres) on the north side of Little Bigelow Mountain. The attached map does not include exemplary communities that are completely within the ecological reserve (these areas are to remain unmanaged).

*Secondary Allocations/Uses within Wildlife and Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems and Habitats:* Recreation is allowed in this allocation as a secondary use, as is timber management, subject to modifications to enhance wildlife habitat or protect Rare or Exemplary ecosystems and habitats, and subject to any visual consideration restrictions. This includes the following secondary allocations: Remote Recreation and Visual Consideration Areas (Class I and II as appropriate) for the undeveloped shorelines of Flagstaff Lake and islands within Dead River Township allocated for Wildlife/Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems and Habitats as the dominant allocation; and Timber Management subject to wildlife, recreation and visual concerns (Note that there will be no commercial timber management in the shoreline riparian zone between the East Flagstaff Road and the Bigelow Lodge).

***Proposed Visual Consideration Areas:*** Visual Consideration areas for the Bigelow Preserve/Flagstaff Lake properties are both dominant and secondary allocations.

***Visual Class I (dominant allocation):***

1. The visually prominent hillside north of Hurricane Brook and east of the West Flagstaff Road (Bigelow Preserve).
2. The West Flagstaff Road (Bigelow Preserve).
3. Lands along the side of Route 27 within the Wyman Parcel, excluding an area to be reserved for a future parking lot and areas now or in the future designated by the Bureau for expansion of the existing transmission line corridor.
4. The public access road into the Myers Lodge parcel.
5. The public access roads on the Spring Lake lot and Dead River Peninsula parcel.

***Visual Class I (secondary allocation):***

1. The entire undeveloped shoreline of Flagstaff Lake including islands (within Bureau ownership) as viewed from Flagstaff Lake or the Dead River (secondary to Bigelow Backcountry, Special Protection, and Wildlife dominant allocations).
2. All hiking trails.
3. All public use roads (where not designated as dominant visual consideration).
4. A buffer around all trailheads, parking areas, or campsites.
5. A buffer around Bigelow Lodge.

***Visual Class II (dominant allocation):***

1. The portions of the Wyman Lot not included in the Bigelow Preserve (primarily on the south side of Route 27), except where Class I and subject to any expansion of the existing transmission line corridor approved by the Bureau.
2. The lands in Bigelow Township and Dead River Township that lie north of the West Flagstaff Road and Hurricane Brook.
3. The Carrabassett Valley lot south of the powerline.
4. Visible upland portions of the Flagstaff Lake islands in Bureau ownership.
5. The ATV trails on the Dead River Peninsula parcel (except where timber management is needed to address unusual circumstances such as blowdowns and restorative forestry).

*Visual Class II (secondary allocation)*

1. All areas of the Bigelow Preserve that are not Visual Class I.
2. Visible upland portions of the Flagstaff Township northern shorelands and islands in Bureau ownership from the edge of the Wildlife Riparian zone to the upland extent of lands visible from the water or islands.
3. All management roads that are open to public use on an ongoing basis, after harvesting is completed.

*Secondary Allocations/Uses within Dominant Visual Consideration Areas:* Dispersed recreation including approved uses on designated management roads and trails, and timber harvesting. The Wyman Lot south of Route 27 provides a critical link in a regional ATV trail system which would connect trails in the Rangeley and Stratton areas to Carrabassett and Kingfield via existing snowmobile trails and powerline trails. Both the Wyman lot and the Carrabassett Valley lots are needed for this connection. A previous map included in Section VI. Management Issues and Recommendations) shows the proposed ATV trail location as it related to state lands.

***Proposed Developed Recreation Areas (Dominant Allocation)***

***Developed Recreation (Class I)***

1. The drive-to southerly campsite at Trout Brook (Bigelow Preserve).
2. The Bigelow Lodge (Bigelow Preserve) -for non-commercial low-intensity education/ stewardship related uses and limited support (warming hut) for the snowmobile trail system.
3. Myers Lodge upland drive-to campsites.
4. The Big Eddy camping area on the Dead River.
5. Existing and proposed parking areas.
6. All roads or trails designated for public motor vehicle use, snowmobile use, or ATV use.
7. The Long Falls Dam boat access and picnic area (FPL lease).

*Secondary Uses within Developed Recreation Areas:* Timber management that is sensitive to visual, wildlife, and user safety is allowed as a secondary use in Developed Recreation Class I areas. Timber management is not allowed in Developed Recreation Class II areas.

***Proposed Timber Management Areas (Dominant Allocation):*** Most Bureau lands are managed to some extent for timber production. This management is a secondary objective in areas that are allocated as Wildlife Management, Remote Recreation, Visual Consideration Areas, and Developed Recreation Class I Areas, and, in the case of the Bigelow Preserve, as Bigelow Backcountry Non-Mechanized and Bigelow Backcountry Areas. For the Flagstaff/Bigelow Preserve lands, there are two areas proposed for management for timber as its dominant use:

1. Dead River Peninsula/Spring Lake lots except where designated for Wildlife, Visual Consideration or Developed Recreation I.
2. Myers Lodge parcel where not allocated for Wildlife Management, Developed Recreation, or Visual Class I.
3. A 500-foot corridor adjacent to the Carrabassett Valley Town line, within Wyman Township, and a small parcel at the junction of Route 27 and the northern boundary of the AT Corridor (see map).

*Secondary Uses on Timber Dominant lands:* Recreation and Wildlife Management.



## Mount Abraham Allocations

### Summary of Proposed Allocations (acres)

RESOURCE ALLOCATION	DOMINANT ALLOCATIONS (acres)	SECONDARY ALLOCATIONS (acres)
<b>Special Protection</b>	<b>5,315</b>	Not applicable
Ecological Reserves	5,285	Not applicable
Cultural/Historic Areas (AT)	30	Not applicable
<b>Backcountry Non-mechanized</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,220</b>
<b>Wildlife/Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems</b>	<b>50</b>	
<b>Remote Recreation</b>	<b>85</b>	
<b>Visual Consideration Areas – Class I</b>	<b>0</b>	Not available
<b>Visual Consideration Areas – Class II</b>	<b>850</b>	Not available
<b>Developed Recreation – Class I</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>	Not available
<b>Timber Management</b>	<b>0</b>	985
<b>TOTAL ACRES</b>	<b>6,300</b>	
<sup>1</sup> Preliminary estimate. <sup>2</sup> Acreages are representations based on GIS metrics rounded to the nearest 5 acres, and do not sum to total Plan acres due to measuring error and limits of GIS precision (estimates are 3-4% high).		

#### ***Proposed Special Protection Areas (Dominant Allocation):***

1. Mount Abraham Ecological Reserve: Designate pursuant to deed.
2. Appalachian Trail side trail: 100-foot no-cut buffer along either side of the hiking trail within areas outside of the ecological reserve.

*Secondary Uses within the Special Protection Areas:* Recreation is an allowed secondary use within the Ecological Reserve and hiking trail corridor. Taking into account the existing motorized trail within the southern portion of the Ecological Reserve, and the scale of the hiking trail corridor, secondary recreation allocations are proposed as follows:

Backcountry Non-mechanized Recreation for the Ecological Reserve. This allocation may exclude the area including and south of the existing ATV/snowmobile trail that crosses the southerly portion of the Ecological Reserve, if it is determined that the trail cannot be reasonably relocated, is safe, and has a minimal adverse impact on the values of the Ecological Reserve.

Remote Recreation: As a secondary allocation to the 100-foot special protection zone along that portion of the hiking trail that lies outside of the Ecological Reserve (shown on the allocation map in its current configuration; to be revised when the trail is relocated).

***Proposed Remote Recreation Area (Dominant Allocation):*** An outer corridor along the hiking trail extending from the special protection core area to a point 500 feet from the trail, on portions that lie outside of the Ecological Reserve (shown on the allocation map in its current configuration; to be revised when the trail is relocated).

*Secondary Uses within the Remote Recreation Areas:* Timber harvesting sensitive to visual and wildlife considerations. New forest management roads, and motorized/mechanized uses that are not forestry related are not allowed within the remote recreation trail corridor except at established crossings.

***Proposed Wildlife/Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems and Habitat Areas (Dominant Allocation):*** This allocation applies only to areas outside of the Ecological Reserve.

1. Major Riparian (330 feet) on either side of steep mountain second order streams. This includes Norton Brook. Where it overlaps a secondary Remote Recreation allocation adjacent to the Appalachian Trail, no new timber management roads may be constructed within 500 feet of the trail.

*Secondary Uses within the Wildlife/Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems and Habitat Areas:* Recreation is allowed within Wildlife Management areas provided it does not adversely affect the wildlife and Rare or Exemplary ecosystems and habitats in the area; motorized trails for snowmobiling and ATV riding are allowed to cross Wildlife dominant areas where there is no cost-effective alternative and the trails do not conflict with the wildlife values or adversely affect Rare or Exemplary ecosystems or habitats.

***Proposed Visual Consideration Areas:*** This allocation applies to areas outside of the Special Protection area. There are no dominant visual class I allocations on this parcel.

*Visual Class I (secondary allocation):*

1. A variable width buffer on either side of the hiking trail as it passes through the area outside of the Ecological Reserve (shown on the allocation map in its current configuration; to be revised when the trail is relocated).

***Visual Class II (dominant allocation):***

1. That portion of the parcel that is not allocated to Special Protection, Wildlife and Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems and Habitats, Remote Recreation, or Developed Recreation.













*Secondary Allocations/Uses in the Visual Class II Dominant area:* Timber Management will be a secondary allocation for this area. This area includes several hundred acres of softwood plantations, hundreds more acres of recent and heavy partial cuts and mostly low quality and understocked hardwood and over dense hardwood regeneration. Secondary uses for Visual Class II and Timber Management include both motorized/mechanized and non-motorized recreation, and wildlife management.

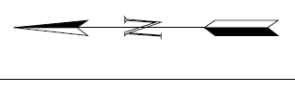
***Proposed Developed Recreation Class I (Dominant Allocation):***

1. Trailhead Parking area to serve the relocated trail.

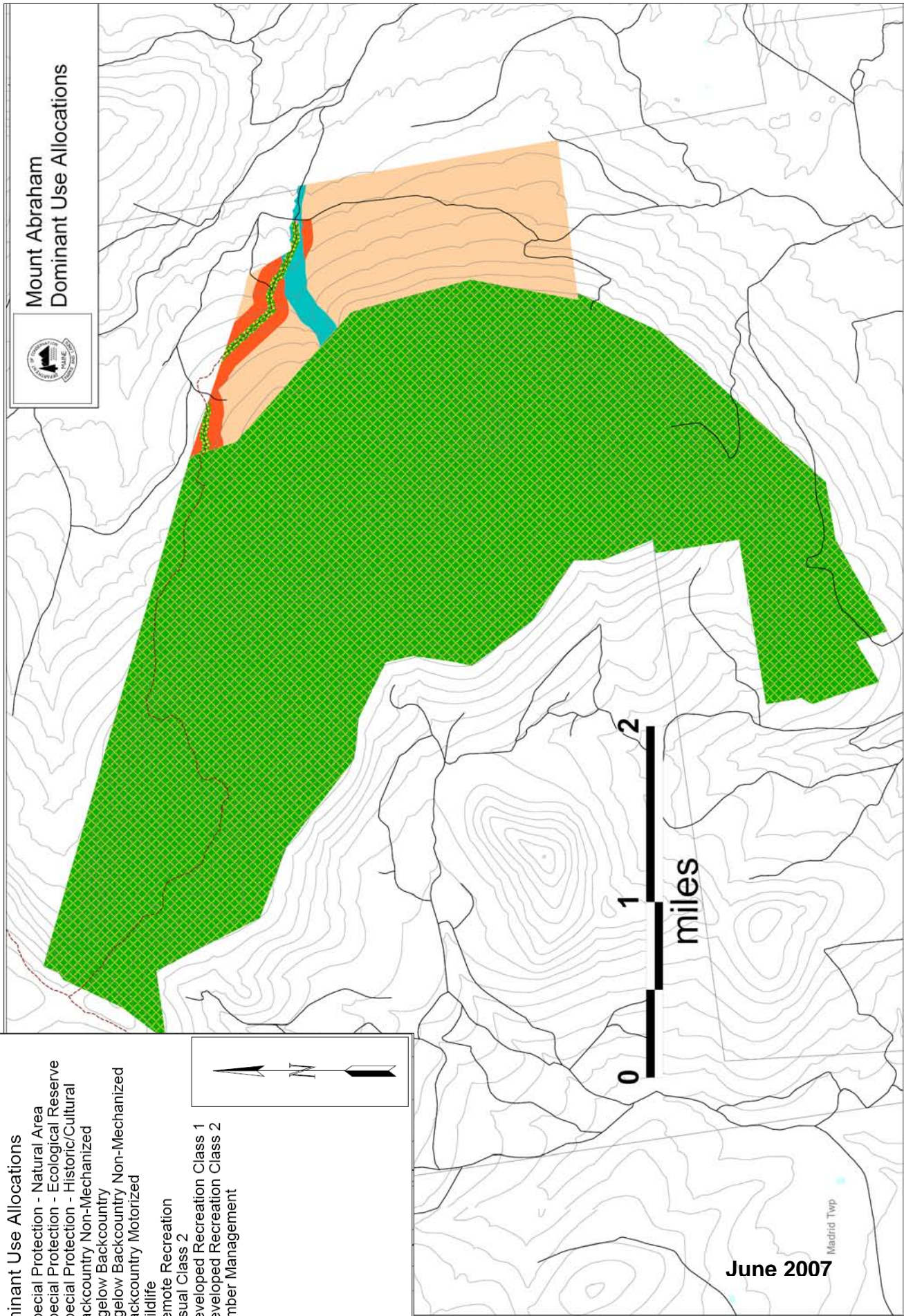
# Mount Abraham

## Dominant Use Allocations

-  Special Protection - Natural Area
-  Special Protection - Ecological Reserve
-  Special Protection - Historic/Cultural
-  Backcountry Non-Mechanized
-  Bigelow Backcountry Non-Mechanized
-  Backcountry Motorized
-  Wildlife
-  Remote Recreation
-  Visual Class 2
-  Developed Recreation Class 1
-  Developed Recreation Class 2
-  Timber Management

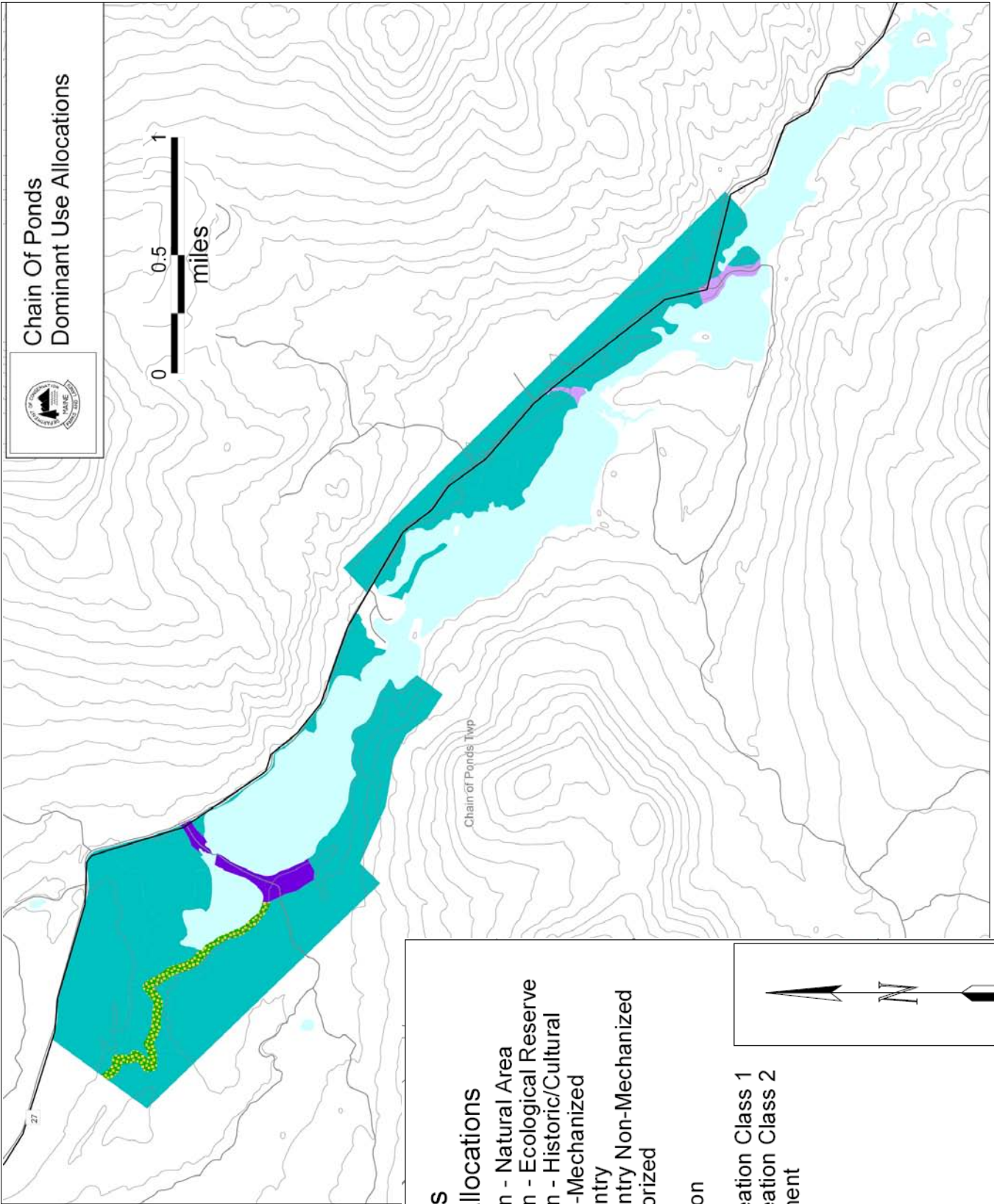


# Mount Abraham Dominant Use Allocations



June 2007
















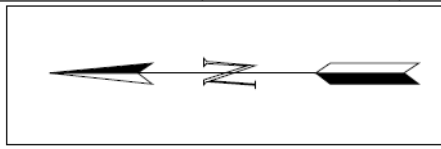


**Chain Of Ponds  
Dominant Use Allocations**



**Chain Of Ponds  
Dominant Use Allocations**

-  Special Protection - Natural Area
-  Special Protection - Ecological Reserve
-  Special Protection - Historic/Cultural
-  Backcountry Non-Mechanized
-  Bigelow Backcountry
-  Bigelow Backcountry Non-Mechanized
-  Backcountry Motorized
-  Wildlife
-  Remote Recreation
-  Visual Class 2
-  Developed Recreation Class 1
-  Developed Recreation Class 2
-  Timber Management



## Chain of Ponds Allocations

### Summary of Proposed Allocations (acres) Chain of Ponds

<b>RESOURCE ALLOCATION</b>	<b>DOMINANT ALLOCATIONS (acres)</b>	<b>SECONDARY ALLOCATIONS (acres)</b>
<b>Special Protection</b>	<b>30</b>	Not applicable
Cultural/Historic Areas (Arnold Trail)	30	Not applicable
<b>Wildlife/Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Visual Consideration Areas – Class I</b>	<b>0</b>	380
<b>Visual Consideration Areas – Class II</b>	<b>0</b>	130
<b>Developed Recreation – Class I <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>10</b>	
<b>Developed Recreation – Class II <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>25</b>	
<b>Timber Management</b>	<b>0</b>	370
<b>TOTAL ACRES</b>	<b>980 <sup>3</sup></b>	<b>910</b>
<sup>1</sup> Includes existing drive-to primitive campsites and boat access areas <sup>2</sup> Includes Natanis campground, boat launch and parking area near campground, ATV trail. Acreages are representations based on GIS metrics rounded to the nearest 10 acres, and do not sum to total Plan acres due to measuring error and limits of GIS precision.		



***Proposed Wildlife/Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems and Habitat (Dominant Allocation):*** This property has a prevalence of riparian areas and wetlands; in addition, there is a field maintained for wildlife habitat near the Upper Farm Campsite. The remaining areas are small in size, steep, and most suited as extended riparian zones. This allocation applies to the entire ownership excepting Bureau campsites, camplot leases, the Natanis Campground lease, boat launching facilities and associated parking areas.

***Secondary Uses within the Wildlife/ Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems and Habitat Allocation:*** Dispersed recreation, including camping, boating and fishing, will be secondary uses in this allocation. Secondary Visual Consideration allocations are described below. Timber management will be a very limited secondary use, subject to wildlife, recreation, and visual concerns. Proposed Visual Consideration Areas as a Secondary Allocation:

***Visual Class I:*** Appropriate areas: foreground views as seen from roads, trails, and waterbodies, including

1. Buffer along the entire shoreline (within Bureau ownership) of the ponds.
2. Buffer around parking areas and campsites on Long and Lower Ponds.

***Visual Class II:*** Appropriate areas: background hillside views as seen from any of the ponds or their shorelines, and distant views from Route 27

1. Entire hillside on west side of Natanis Pond.
2. Hillside east of Route 27 at base of Sisk Mountain (as viewed from Bag Pond and Lower Pond).

***Proposed Developed Recreation Class I Areas (Dominant Allocation):***

1. All campsites and carry-in boat access sites. This includes the Upper Farm campsite and carry-in boat access on Long Pond, and the Burnt Dam carry-in boat access and campsite area on the peninsula at the top of Lower Pond and proposed additional campsites.

***Proposed Developed Recreation Class II Areas (Dominant Allocation):***

1. Hard-surfaced boat access areas and improved parking areas (proposed at Natanis Pond near/on campground lease); the Natanis Pond Campground lease area; and the ATV trails that extend from the campground beyond the lease area.

## *Proposed Allocations for Other Public Lots*

### Summary of Proposed Allocations (acres) Other Public Lots

RESOURCE ALLOCATION	DOMINANT ALLOCATIONS (acres)	SECONDARY ALLOCATIONS (acres)
<b>Special Protection</b>	<b>145</b>	Not applicable
Significant Natural Areas	115	Not applicable
Cultural/Historic Areas (AT)	30	Not applicable
<b>Wildlife/Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Remote Recreation</b>	<b>110</b>	
<b>Visual Consideration Areas – Class I</b>		190
<b>Timber Management</b>	<b>2,330</b>	645
<b>TOTAL ACRES</b>	<b>3,125<sup>1</sup></b>	
<sup>1</sup> Acreages are representations based on GIS metrics rounded to the nearest 10 acres, and do not sum to total Plan acres due to measuring error and limits of GIS precision.		

**Coplin Plantation Central Lot:** Timber Management as Dominant Allocation. This lot was recently harvested; no special features were found in the timber harvest prescription process, and access to the lot is limited. Recreation and Wildlife Management as secondary uses.

**Coplin Plantation West Lot:** Dominant Wildlife/Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems and Habitat due to predominance of wetlands and deer management areas; Secondary Visual Consideration Class I along the Dead River at two points of contact; this River is part of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail; and the put-in for the South Branch Dead River canoe trip begins at the Kennebago Road crossing between these two points. Timber Management as a secondary allocation.

**Freeman Township Lot:** Dominant Wildlife/Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems and Habitat for the riparian area (330 feet) surrounding the open wetland and along the first order stream (75 feet) in the southwest corner; and otherwise Timber Management as the dominant allocation due to limited access, size, and absence of unusual natural features or special recreational values.

**Highland Plantation West Lot:** Dominant Wildlife/Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems and Habitat for the riparian area (330 feet ) surrounding the seven acres of non-forested wetland and 75 feet along both sides of the first order stream that cuts through the lot; Visual Class I (of variable width) for the areas abutting the Long Falls Dam Road; Timber Management on all acres (dominant except in the Visual consideration and Wildlife Management areas where it is a secondary use). This is mostly high quality late successional forest with no unusual natural features or special recreational values.

**Highland Plantation Double Lot:** Dominant Wildlife/Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems and Habitat for a 75-foot riparian corridor along both sides of two first order streams that traverse these lots; Timber Management as a dominant use except in the Wildlife Management areas where it will be secondary. These are good quality northern hardwood stands with no unusual natural features or special recreational values.

**Highland Plantation Southeast Lot:** Special Protection as a dominant allocation for areas to the east of Sandy Stream due to a late successional forest and wildlife habitat of particular value in the context of an industrial forest. This lot also includes a steep gradient second order stream, and ravines and seeps in the lower slopes. Dominant Wildlife/Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems and Habitat for the area west of Sandy Stream, which is crossed by a woods road with a secondary Visual Class I around the small waterfall/ledge/pool area on the north line of the parcel that receives considerable recreation use. Secondary Timber Management in areas not allocated for Special Protection, subject to wildlife and visual concerns.

**King and Bartlett Township Lot:** Timber Management as the dominant allocation. A small narrow lot with principal value for timber and no public access (access is limited to the private clientele of the King and Bartlett Fish and Game Club, which is currently operated as a traditional Maine sporting camp).

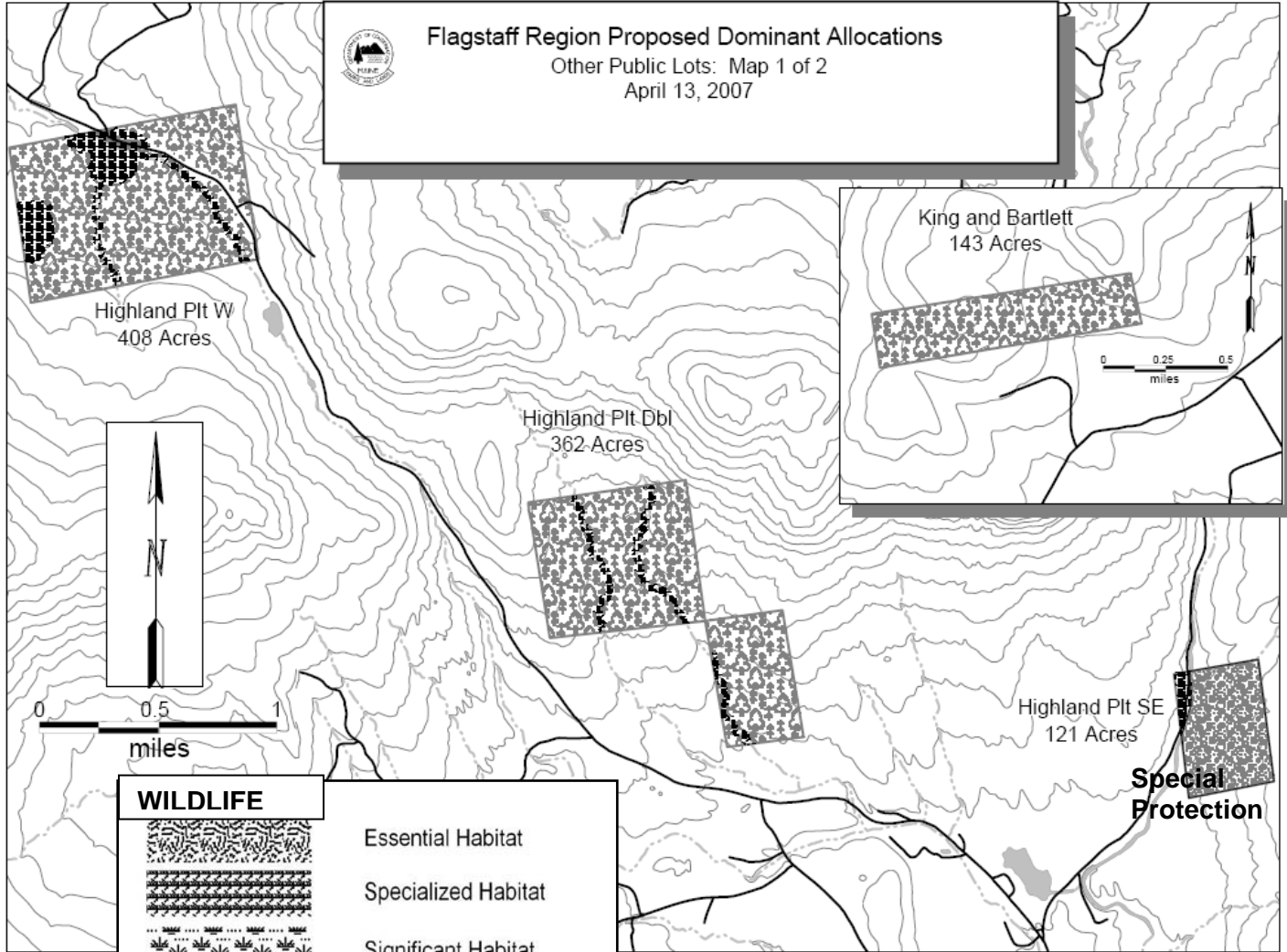
**Redington Township Lot:** This lot is difficult for the public to access except on foot via the Appalachian Trail; and its primary value is for timber. Dominant Special Protection no-cut area along a 100-foot corridor on either side of the Appalachian Trail; Dominant Remote Recreation from 100 to 500 feet outside of the no-cut area; Visual Class I of variable width on both sides of the Appalachian Trail; Timber Management as dominant for all areas not within the Special Protection, Remote Recreation, or Visual Consideration areas; secondary Timber Management within the Remote Recreation and Visual Consideration areas. Note that new timber management roads or motorized recreation trails are not allowed within 500 feet of the Appalachian Trail.



# Flagstaff Region Proposed Dominant Allocations

Other Public Lots: Map 1 of 2

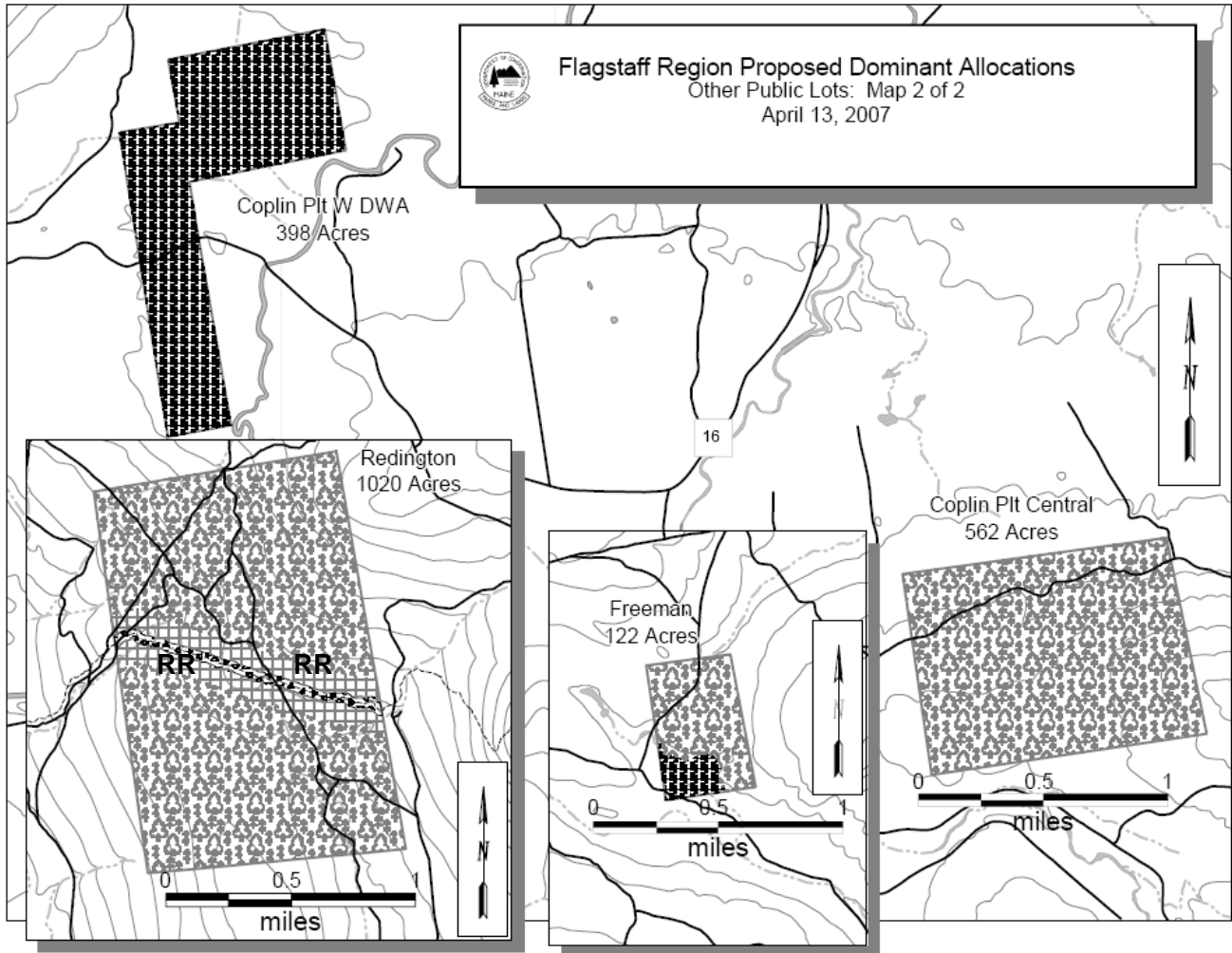
April 13, 2007



WILDLIFE	
	Essential Habitat
	Specialized Habitat
	Significant Habitat
TIMBER MANAGEMENT	
	Regulated



**Flagstaff Region Proposed Dominant Allocations**  
 Other Public Lots: Map 2 of 2  
 April 13, 2007



**Appalachian Trail with 100-ft no cut buffer (SP) and additional 400- ft Remote Recreation (RR) buffer on each side.**

<b>WILDLIFE</b>	
	Essential Habitat
	Specialized Habitat
	Significant Habitat
<b>TIMBER MANAGEMENT</b>	
	Regulated



## **VII. Management Recommendations**

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The recommendations presented below are intended to provide both general and specific guidance to the managers of these lands. These recommendations are organized around the various uses for which these lands are managed, and are not presented in any order of priority. Implementation of these recommendations will proceed as resources allow, in accordance with an overall operations plan that will be developed for the Region subsequent to the adoption of this Plan, as outlined in Section VIII. Monitoring and Evaluation.

### ***Management Recommendations- General: Applies to all Lands***

#### **Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems and Habitat Management**

1. Keep recreationists on trails, especially in alpine areas, through scree walls, education, etc.
2. Protect natural communities and rare plant populations from impacts related to land management by consulting with the Maine Natural Areas Program prior to harvesting in areas containing rare plants or plant communities, exemplary natural communities, or areas identified in the 1998 report by Janet McMahon, “An Ecological Reserves System Inventory” which identified areas that could potentially be designated as ecological reserves.
3. Consult with the Maine Natural Areas Program prior to establishing new trails or cutting vegetation for view opportunities in an ecological reserve.

#### **Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species; Species of Special Concern**

4. Manage areas around rare animal sites according to MDIFW or USFW guidelines, as appropriate.

#### **Wildlife Management**

5. Manage public reserved lands in the region to increase the quality and quantity of softwood dominated stands amongst the predominance of hardwoods. A better diversity of forest types will benefit many wildlife species.
6. Follow the Bureau-adopted “beech management guidelines” to assist field staff in assuring the continued existence of beech as a viable component of hardwood stands where they exist within the Plan area. Maintaining beech in the face of severe disease problems is a regional goal. Beechnuts are an important food for more than 40 wildlife species, and important to bear reproduction.
7. Provide significant amounts of multi-aged forests (this general goal will enhance wildlife habitat over time).
8. In cooperation with Florida Power and Light, MDIFW, and MDOT, as appropriate, pursue ways to educate the public about threats to the fishery from illegal stocking of non-native fish, which diminish native populations, and threats to the health of the region’s lakes and ponds from the introduction of invasive aquatic weeds.

## ***Management Recommendations for the Bigelow Preserve***

**Flagstaff-Lake Focused Recreation:** In cooperation with Florida Power and Light and constituent groups develop a coordinated plan for Flagstaff Lake related recreational facilities. Areas to address include:

Water Access Camping: When the need can be documented and resources are available, consider additional remote water access sites at:

1. the Savage Farm Site across from Myers Lodge
2. the Reed Brook area
3. additional areas identified in the Bureau's Multiple Use Coordination Reports (developed as part of the forest management prescription process)

Walk-to or Drive-to Camping and Recreation:

4. Redesign Trout Brook Sites – limit vehicle access to the lake on the north side of the brook and define 4 individual party walk-to sites; continue to provide drive-to group site on the south side of the brook.
5. Work with Florida Power and Light to remove the shack near old boom dam and limit vehicle access creating a walk-to/water access site or sites.
6. Limit further development at the Round Barn site to not more than two additional sites on the east side of the cove; and a designated disabled access site near to the parking area. Improve the privy nearest the parking area to be compliant with the American with Disabilities Act.
7. Continue to allow trailered boat access to Flagstaff Lake at Round Barn during the fall waterfowl hunting season only.

### **Land-Based Recreation**

Additions to the Bigelow Preserve:

1. Consistent with Bureau Policy on additions to the Preserve, add the following to the Bigelow Preserve: the Range Trailhead (Coplin Plt); and the Wyman Lot East (north and east of powerline and Route 27; excepting a small area near the powerline needed for a proposed ATV trail following the powerline to bypass of the transformer station); and excepting a buffer along the CMP powerline of 500 feet; and a small buffer north of the Boralex powerline as shown on the allocation maps.
2. Close to motorized public use two small spur roads that branch southerly off the Stratton Brook Road on parcels added to the Preserve.

Hiking, Biking and Camping Opportunities:

3. In consultation with the MATC and ATC, evaluate and document the need for additional hiking trails to relieve heavily used areas or provide new opportunities for which there is a documented demand. Implement, if the need can be demonstrated, and the resources are available, one or both of the following:
  - a. Avery Peak Bypass Trail: This could provide additional loop possibilities and a thru trail option that does not require the very difficult and intimidating summit of Avery Peak. It could also provide a safe alternate route during times of inclement weather for planned hikes that start on one side of the ridge and go to the other. Currently parties must make the choice to go over the peaks in dangerous conditions or turn back. The safest choice is often difficult one to

make. There appears to be a demand with many aging hikers for such an alternative. The entire route area has been scouted.

- b. North Col Trail: This could provide a loop from the Round Barn Campsite decreasing pressure on the heavily used Safford Brook Trail. Upper portions of the closed Parson's trail could be utilized with lower sections rerouted to bring hikers to the East Flagstaff Road Extension. Further evaluation of the possible location of this trail is needed, if the need can be justified.
4. Work with MATC to develop walk-to campsites on the east shore of Flagstaff Lake on Bureau lands, to meet existing demand associated with the A.T.
5. Explore developing a summer hiking trail through the eastern shore area of the Bigelow Preserve, connecting with the Western Mountains Foundation (WMF) Trail, in consultation with MATC and the ATC.
6. Install a foot bridge over the outlet of Stratton Brook Pond on the Fire Wardens Trail.
7. Reconfigure the parking area and campsite in the gravel pit that serves the Little Bigelow Trailhead.
  - a. Maintain as a year-round parking area for AT hikers, boaters, and cross-country skiers. Provide a pit privy that is ADA compliant to serve the parking area and other allowed uses.
  - b. Investigate the feasibility of providing a path to the lake from this parking area for hand-carry boat access (including an option of a connector trail to the Bog Brook Road).
  - c. Develop/designate one or more camping areas (depending on demand) limited to tent camping to serve parties that arrive late in the day to start a hike or boat trip the following day. Limit use of the site(s) to one or two nights only, as deemed appropriate based on use.
  - d. Allow use of a portion of the parking area for special events associated with the Trail, subject to approval of a Special Use Permit.
8. Remove the Fire Tower from Avery Peak after consultation with the Maine Forest Service. The tower is in very poor shape and an attractive nuisance. Damaged walls provide access and fires have burned through the floor. Structure would be dismantled and burned on site. Stone foundation would be left providing defined durable surface for trail users.
9. Retain Fire Warden's cabin and maintain structure for continued seasonal use by the MATC.
10. Continue to cooperate with MATC's Caretaker and Ridgerunner Education (CARE) program at Horns Pond, The Col volunteer program and other MATC partnerships.
11. Designate mountain biking routes as follows: along the existing public use roads; along the Stratton Brook and Huston Brook Roads (the latter also known as the "Sixties haul road"); and the woods road from the Range trailhead to the Stratton Brook Road.

#### Winter Recreation:

12. Develop routes for two backcountry skiing areas. Explore possible trails connecting to Jones Pond area with the National Park Service, MATC and ATC.
13. Designate the existing high elevation snowmobile route crossing through north leg of The Horns ecological reserve as the primary snowmobile route on the north side of Bigelow; and designate the existing lower elevation route as an alternate trail to be improved and used when the Bureau is actively harvesting in the higher elevation areas.
14. Design snowmobile trails to be not more than 12 feet wide, maintaining natural contours to discourage high speed travel and ensure safety to about a 25 mph speed. Major stream

crossings will have bridges built to protect not only the riders from the steep slopes and rocky bottoms but to allow the streams to flow unimpeded during the spring runoff.

15. Winter Parking

- a. Continue to plow area at Range Trail
  - b. Explore options to provide a winter parking area serving the south side of the Preserve for access to cross-country ski trails and winter hiking; and on the north side at Gravel pit parking area near Bigelow Trailhead.
16. Continue to cooperate with both local snowmobile clubs to provide groomed sled trails. Additional seasonal barricades are required to control inappropriate summer use.

Use of the Bigelow Lodge:

17. Develop operational procedures and guidelines for use of the Bigelow Lodge for summer and winter use.
18. Manage the Bigelow Lodge to minimize its impacts on other users in the Preserve.

**Historic Resources**

1. Any activities that would result in ground disturbance in historic and archaeologically sensitive areas must be reviewed by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC). Sensitive areas include areas close to the original Dead River channel – Round Barn and Ferry Farm where there could be artifacts from the Arnold Expedition; and areas determined to have potential for prehistoric artifacts – all shoreline areas.

**Administrative Issues**

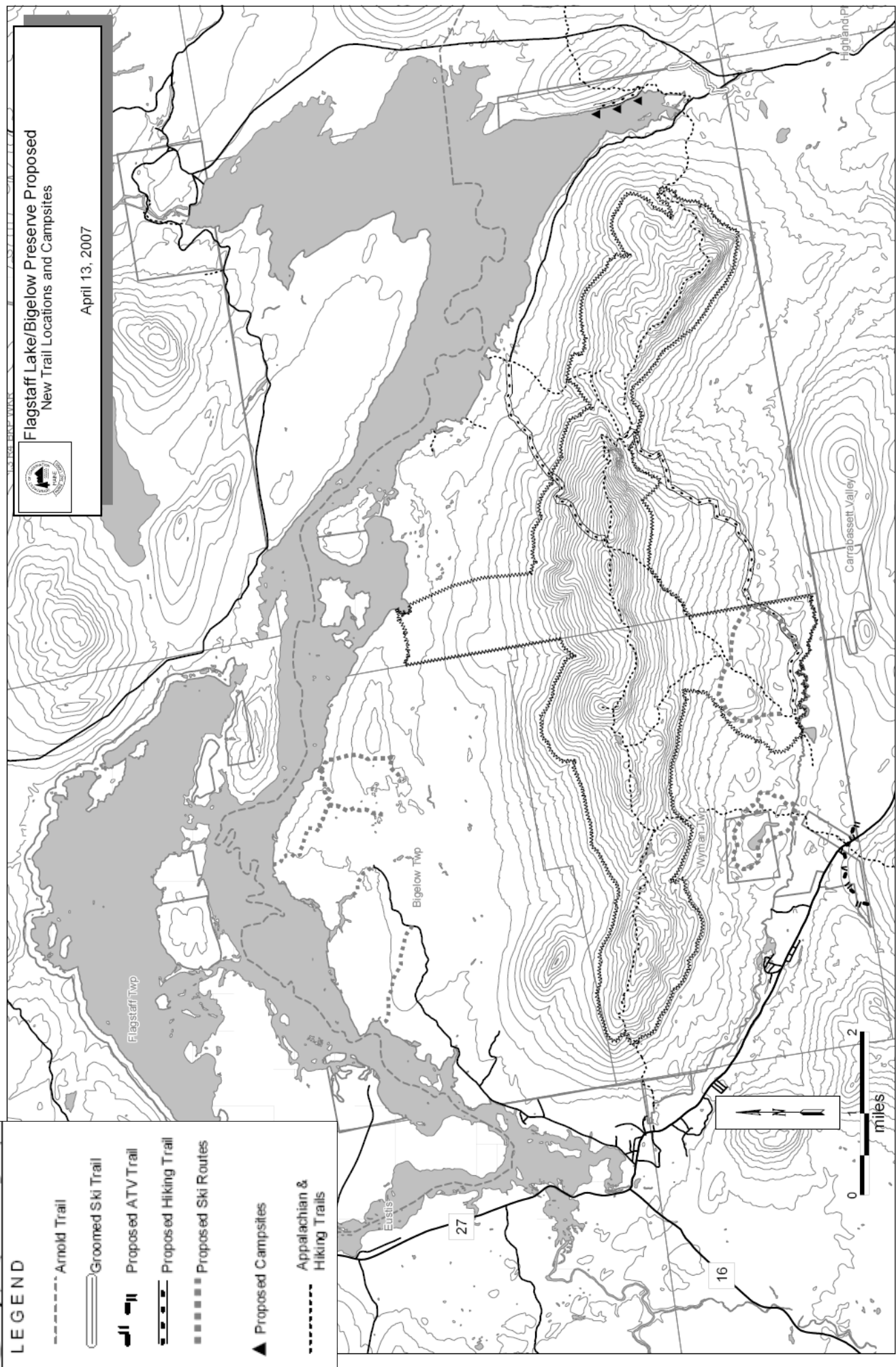
1. Execute a lease for the Wing Camp.
2. Gravel extracted from pits within the Preserve may only be used for purposes within the Preserve. All depleted pits will be rehabilitated.
3. Seek to acquire in-holdings within the Preserve boundaries, or lands adjacent to the Preserve that have valued public resources, if these lands are placed on the market and can be acquired at fair market value, and funds are available for the acquisition.

**LEGEND**

- Arnold Trail
- ▭ Groomed Ski Trail
- ▬ Proposed ATV Trail
- ▬ Proposed Hiking Trail
- ▬ Proposed Ski Routes
- ▲ Proposed Campsites
- Appalachian & Hiking Trails

**Flagstaff Lake/Bigelow Preserve Proposed  
New Trail Locations and Campsites**

April 13, 2007





## ***Management Recommendations –Flagstaff Lake/Surrounding Properties***

### **Coordinated Recreation Planning for Flagstaff Lake:**

1. In cooperation with Florida Power and Light and constituent groups develop a coordinated plan for recreational facilities on Flagstaff Lake. In general, evaluate the demand and needs for additional water access camping sites on Flagstaff Lake in cooperation with user groups such as the Northern Forest Canoe Trail organization, Outward Bound and Chewonki, and local guides. Implement when the need is documented and resources allow.
2. Develop a formal agreement with Florida Power and Light regarding the management of lands and recreation resources within the 1146-foot and 1150-foot elevation contours of shoreline adjacent to Bureau ownership.
3. Discuss/pursue erosion control along the shoreline of Flagstaff Lake with Florida Power and Light.

### **Flagstaff Lake Focused Recreation:**

#### Water Access Camping:

##### Islands:

1. Evaluate the need and feasibility of adding water access sites on Flagstaff Island.

##### Dead River Peninsula:

2. Designate the North Flagstaff Road (Picked Chicken Hill Road) as a public use road.
3. If the demand can be documented, and as resources allow, provide additional remote water access camping sites. The shoreline of the Dead River Peninsula has been identified as the preferable location for through-trippers on the Northern Forest Canoe Trail due to prevailing winds and aspect.

#### Walk-to or Drive-to Camping and Recreation Opportunities on Flagstaff Lake:

##### Myers Lodge:

1. Designate the access road as a public use road.
2. Limit vehicle access to the lake. Remove the culvert through the drainage area and replace with a foot-bridge wide enough for carry-in boat access.
3. Develop drive-to campsites on high ground near the footbridge. Designate one handicapped accessible site.
4. Provide one or more vault toilets, including one that is ADA compliant .
5. Manage the beach area for carry-in boat access and day use, except in areas designated for walk-to campsites; manage a portion of the beach for day use.

##### Northern Shoreline – Flagstaff Township:

6. Explore the potential for ATV access to the northern shoreline of Flagstaff Lake (the area that was the original Flagstaff Pond) for a remote ATV camping opportunity (requires agreements with adjacent landowners). As with other remote sites, provide a parking area with footpaths to campsites and the lake. Design at least one site to be handicapped accessible. (Note, these sites would also be accessible by water).

##### Dead River Peninsula:

7. Redesign site on west end of Dead River Peninsula lot to be walk-in or water access; block the spur road to this site and provide a parking area for walk-in users.

**Boat Access:** Pursue parking improvements to the Flagstaff Lake boat access facility on the Spring Lake parcel with Florida Power and Light (responsible for this facility under their Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license).

**Dead River Focused Recreation:**

1. Improve the Big Eddy Campsite sanitation facilities.

**Land Based Recreation**

1. Wyman Lot (south) and Carrabassett Valley lots: Work with the Flagstaff Area ATV Club to develop a route connecting trails in Coplin Plantation to Kingfield via the Wyman lot south of Route 27, crossing the AT along Route 27, connecting to the CMP powerline on the east side of Route 27 (involving a bypass around the transformer station using an existing road and a small portion of the Wyman lot north and east of Route 27), and then connecting to the existing snowmobile trail heading south of the Preserve (see attached diagram).
2. Wyman Lot (south): Construct an interpretive trail through the Old Growth Stand, as resources allow.
3. Spring Lake and Dead River Peninsula Lots: Designate the road on the Spring Lake Lot beginning at the bridge over the Dead River, and continuing across the top of the Dead River Peninsula as a public use road. Allow public use of the management road that branches south from this road on the Dead River Peninsula (this will be maintained only to the standard of a woods management road, and may be used by ATV's and for pedestrian uses).

**Historic Resources:** Any activities that would result in ground disturbance in historic and archaeologically sensitive areas must be reviewed by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC). Sensitive areas include areas close to the original Dead River channel – where there could be artifacts from the Arnold Expedition; and areas determined to have potential for prehistoric artifacts – the entire shoreline of Flagstaff Lake.

**Administrative Issues:**

1. Survey the boundary line on the Northern Flagstaff Lake shoreline parcels acquired from Plum Creek.

## ***Mount Abraham – Management Recommendations***

### **Wildlife/Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems and Habitats**

1. Work with local snowmobile and ATV clubs to increase awareness of the impacts of these trails on the fragile alpine areas.
2. Block and post trails and roads on Bureau lands that are used to gain unauthorized motorized vehicle access into ecological reserve. Work with adjacent landowners to block and post trails that enter the Ecological Reserve from the western side.
3. Develop an agreement with MDIFW wardens to provide an enforcement presence if necessary, to ensure that ATV's and snowmobiles are not violating posted areas.
4. Remove the "cave" and metal structures, including the old fire tower, from the peak.

### **Recreation**

1. Re-establish the hiking trailhead at the original lower elevation site and reroute the trail on Bureau lands to connect with the Warden's trail.
2. Remove the old Fire Wardens cabin and locate/construct a group tent site.
3. Block the logging roads that extend into the Ecological Reserve and put them to bed.
4. Evaluate alternatives to the road across the southern arm of the ecological reserve presently used as part of the snowmobile and ATV trail system in the area. Relocate these trails to other roads if reasonable, and discontinue the road on the ecological reserve.
5. Continue to allow ATVs and snowmobiles to use the existing gravel management road on the easterly edge of the non-ecoreserve portion of the property, provided there are no environmental issues.

### **Timber Resources**

1. Evaluate forest management opportunities on the non-ecoreserve portion of the property.

### **Administrative Issues**

1. Determine and mark the boundary of the ecological reserve where roads appear to cross the ecological reserve (southern and eastern boundary); and where woods roads appear useable by ATV's to illegally access the summit area (portions of the western line).
2. Assess any environmental issues with roads located on the Bureau lands. Put to bed any roads not needed for forest management purposes and not part of an approved snowmobile or ATV trail network.
3. Develop a proposal to the MATC for extending the Appalachian side trail (blue-blaze trail) from the summit to the Bureau trailhead on the east side of the mountain.

## ***Chain of Ponds – Management Recommendations***

### **Recreation Resources**

1. Redesign Burnt Dam Campsites.
2. Through the Boating Facilities Division, work with MDOT to provide improved public boat access to this string of ponds. Improve the boat ramp in the Natanis Campground to a concrete-plank ramp and provide additional parking. Block the informal access site onto Natanis Pond, just south of the entrance to the Natanis Campground to discourage its use (unsafe location).
3. Provide an ADA compliant privy at the new boat launch facility on Natanis Pond; upgrade the privy at the Upper Farm site to be ADA compliant as resources allow.
4. Work with the Boating Facilities Division and MDOT, using MDOT Water Access Bond money to develop an improved trailerable boat access onto Lower Pond, to replace a steep, gravel ramp at the same location.
5. Provide signage to identify hand carry boat access to the two middle ponds within the chain, Long Pond and Bag Pond.

### **Historic Resources**

1. Any activities that would result in ground disturbance in historic and archaeologically sensitive areas must be reviewed by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC). Sensitive areas include areas in proximity to Natanis Point, Round Pond and Horseshoe Stream.
2. Pursue interpretive efforts related to the Arnold Trail in cooperation with MDOT (related to interpretive panels to be erected at the new scenic overlook on Route 27, as part of the Scenic Byways program), and the Arnold Trail Historical Society, which maintains a trail around and above Round Pond.

### **Wildlife/Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems and Habitats**

1. Periodically manage the old fields and apple trees to maintain their habitat attributes.
2. Monitor and evaluate the potential of the Horseshoe Stream area for designation as a managed deer wintering area.
3. Post information at the trailered boat access on Natanis Pond related to procedures for avoiding introduction of invasive aquatic vegetation and fish.

### **Administrative Issues**

1. Work with the Natanis Campground leaseholders to ensure continued reasonable public access to public resources including availability of short-term camping sites; access to the planned public boat access at the north end of Natanis Pond; access to ATV trails; and access to the Arnold Trail walk.
2. Work with the commercial campground lessee to ensure the campground is in character with the scenic and primitive nature of the surroundings, and has as little impact on the lake and associated wetlands as possible.

## ***Other Public Lots – Management Recommendations***

### **Coplin Plantation West Lot (Deeryard Lot)**

1. Continue to manage for wildlife; monitor and evaluate use and ongoing studies related to the Deer Wintering area on this lot.
2. Define the Visual Class I area along the Dead River prior to any timber harvest in this area.

### **Coplin Plantation Center Lot**

1. Continue to manage for late successional forest for high quality timber where appropriate, and a diverse wildlife habitat.

### **Freeman Township Lot**

1. Continue to manage for high quality timber and diverse wildlife habitat.

### **Highland Plantation West Lot:**

1. Continue to manage for late successional forest for high quality timber where appropriate and wildlife values.
2. Define the Visual Class I area along the Long Falls Dam Road prior to any timber harvest in this area.

### **Highland Plantation Double Lot:**

1. Continue to manage for late successional forest for high quality timber where appropriate and diverse wildlife habitat.

### **Highland Plantation Southeast Lot:**

1. Manage the portion of the lot west of Sandy Stream for wildlife.
2. Establish a Visual Class I area around the small ledge/waterfall on the north line of the parcel prior to any timber harvest in this area.
3. Provide signs along the gravel road visible to the public showing points of entry onto and exit from this lot. Provide a small parking area along the road if feasible.

### **King and Bartlett Township Lot:**

1. Continue to manage for late successional forest for high quality timber where appropriate and wildlife values.

### **Redington Township Lot:**

1. Continue to manage for late successional forest for high quality timber where appropriate, and wildlife habitat, subject to a variable width Visual Class I area and the 100-foot no-cut area along either side of the Appalachian Trail.
2. Avoid placement of new forest management roads within the remote recreation zone along the AT.

## ***Pierce Pond Easement – Management Recommendations***

1. Establish and implement an annual monitoring program in cooperation with the US Forest Service (holder of the Plum Creek and Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust conservation easements), and the Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust (third party enforcer to the conservation easement held by the Bureau on the Charles and Gertrude Valentine property).



## **VIII. Monitoring and Evaluation**

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Monitoring and evaluation are needed to track progress in achieving the management vision, goals and objectives for the Flagstaff Region public reserved lands, and effectiveness of particular approaches to resource management. Monitoring and evaluation will be conducted on wildlife, ecological, timber, and recreational management efforts in the Flagstaff Region.

### ***Implementation of Plan Recommendations***

The Bureau will develop, within 2 years of plan adoption, a process for implementing, accomplishing, and tracking the management recommendations put forth in the Plan. This will include a framework of recommendations with priority levels assigned and targeted timeframes established by priority level. This framework will be utilized to determine work priorities and budgets on an annual basis. The Bureau will document, on an annual basis, its progress in implementing the recommendations, its plans for the coming year, and adjustments to the target timeframes as needed.

### ***Recreation***

Data on recreational use is helpful in allocating staff and monetary resources for management of the Bureau's public reserved lands, and generally determining the public's response to the opportunities being provided. It also provides a measure of the effectiveness of any efforts to publicize these opportunities. Use data for the Flagstaff Region, except for use on the Appalachian Trail and some scattered monitoring of snowmobile use on the Bigelow Preserve, does not exist. Fees are not charged for the use of these lands, so this avenue for use data, available to the Bureau's Parks system, does not exist for the Flagstaff properties. The Bureau will consider how additional use data could be gathered, perhaps by periodic user surveys.

In addition to gathering data on use as opportunities arise, the Bureau will generally monitor use to determine:

- (1) whether improvements to existing facilities or additional facilities might be needed and compatible with the vision for the Flagstaff Region;
- (2) whether additional measures are needed to ensure that recreational users have a high quality experience (which could be affected by the numbers of users, and interactions among users with conflicting interests);
- (3) whether use is adversely affecting sensitive natural resources or the ecology of the area;
- (4) whether measures are needed to address unforeseen safety issues;
- (5) whether changing recreational uses and demands present the need or opportunity for adjustments to existing facilities and management; and
- (6) whether any changes are needed in the management of recreation in relation to other management objectives, including protection or enhancement of wildlife habitat and forest management.

## ***Wildlife***

The Bureau, through its Wildlife Biologist and Technician, routinely conduct a variety of species monitoring activities statewide. The following are monitoring activities that are ongoing or anticipated for the Flagstaff Region.

- (1) The Bureau cooperates with MDIF&W monitoring of game species, including, for this Region, deer, moose, grouse, and black bear. Of particular interest are the deer wintering areas on the Spring Lake, Chain of Ponds, and Coplin West lots, since there is a need for this habitat in the region. As staff and budgets allow, the Bureau will coordinate with MDIF&W on aerial and ground surveys of these deer wintering areas to determine the distribution and use related to habitat quality and quantity. These surveys will be conducted during winter under snow conditions that restrict deer mobility.
- (2) The Bureau also conducts periodic “drum counts” for monitoring ruffed grouse populations in areas managed specifically for this species – on the Dead River Peninsula in this Region.
- (3) In cooperation with the Vermont Institute of Natural Resources (VINS), the Bureau participates in monitoring high elevation birds, including Bicknell’s thrush, on Mount Abraham. VINS also monitors these birds on Bigelow Mountain, through another partner.
- (4) The Bureau will identify and map significant wildlife habitat such as vernal pools and inland waterfowl and wading bird areas in the process of developing its detailed forest management prescriptions. The boundaries of any sensitive natural communities will also be delineated on the ground at this time. Any significant natural areas or wildlife habitat will then be subject to appropriate protections as defined in the Bureau’s Wildlife Guidelines.

## ***Ecological Reserves***

There are currently sixteen Ecological Reserves on BP&L lands throughout the state. Ecological Reserves are established “*for the purpose of maintaining one or more natural community types or native ecosystem types in a natural condition . . . and managed: A) as a benchmark against which biological and environmental change can be measure, B) to protect sufficient habitat for those species whose habitat needs are unlikely to be met on lands managed for other purposes; or, C) as a site for ongoing scientific research, long-term environmental monitoring, and education.*” (Title 12, Section 1801). The Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) is conducting long-term ecological monitoring within these Reserves.

There are two Ecological Reserves in this Region: The Horns Ecological Reserve, and the Mount Abraham Ecological Reserve. The MNAP conducted natural resource inventories on these lands in 2005 as part of the reserved lands management planning process. MNAP is also monitoring these lands as part of its long term monitoring of Ecological Reserves to monitor ecological change within Ecological Reserves and to compare Ecological Reserves to areas under different management regimes. Baseline data were collected using permanent plots at the Horns in 2002 and at Mount Abraham in 2004. These areas will be re-inventoried periodically, according to schedules developed by the Bureau and MNAP.

## *Timber Management*

Since timber harvesting is both the source of the majority of Lands Division revenue and potentially the most widespread source of ecological disturbance on the landbase, its monitoring is important and is done throughout the Bureau's process. The local work plans, called prescriptions, are prepared by professional foresters according to Bureau policies, with input from staff specialists, then are peer-reviewed prior to approval. Preparation and layout of all timber sales include having field staff look at essentially every acre to be treated before it is to be harvested, with individual tree marking done on the majority of harvest acres. Regional field staff are on site checking on harvest practice and progress frequently, and senior staff visit these sites on a less frequent basis to obtain the overall picture of what is taking place in the forest. After the harvest is completed, roads, trails, and water crossings are put to bed as appropriate, and any changes in stand type are recorded so that the Bureau's GIS system can be updated.

The Bureau is currently developing a post-harvest monitoring plan to assist forest managers in assessing harvest outcomes on all managed lands. The monitoring plan will also address water quality, and Best Management Practices (BMP's) utilized during harvest activities.

Third party monitoring is done mainly through the forest certification programs of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). Each program conducts rigorous investigations of both our planning and on-ground practices. Compliance field audits are conducted annually, with comprehensive reviews, including reviews of management plans, conducted every five years. A comprehensive audit was completed for Bureau lands in 2006 by FSC. The Bureau's management practices scored exceedingly well in this audit.

