

Minutes

Aroostook Hills Region Management Plan
Public Meeting on Final Draft
Ashland, July 9, 2009

Attendance: David Basley, Charlie Beck, Dan Bridgham, Aaron Buzza, Clayton Craig, Lewis Craig, Rocky Hill, Arlen Lovewell, Al Murphy, Ken White

BPL staff: Jim Caron, Tom Charles, Will Harris, Amy Hudnor, Don Kidder, Vern Labbe, Randy LeGasse, George Powell, Joe Powers, Scott Ramsey, Scott Thompson, Joe Wiley

Comments on Squapan Unit

An IF&W representative commented that areas around Bogan and Hudson Brooks had a lot of historical deer use, with a diminished population currently. He would like to work with Bureau foresters to increase the deer population in this area.

One participant would like the Bureau to make policies on hunting more clear in the plan and on the ground. In particular, areas off limits to hunting should be listed in the plan and this information should be posted on kiosks in the Unit, and perhaps through public announcements.

A representative from Squapan Outing Club/Walker Siding Camp Owners does not favor a public boat ramp on the Unit across from their private ramp. Concerns include: underage parties, lack of policing and a general increase of use at the Unit. He is concerned that increased use of the Unit would bring more of the public onto the Walker Siding site leading to more trash, noise and other problems. He would rather see a ramp further south on the lake, if at all.

Others spoke in favor of a ramp on the northeast end of the lake. One reason was that the north end of the lake already sees a certain amount of use, and the cove area further south is more remote and should stay that way. Others stated that a few bad apples are no reason not to provide the public access to the lake, and that there is almost always opposition from adjacent landowners to a public boat access facility.

One participant approves of the Bureau's goal of acquiring better legal access into the Unit for the public.

Comments on Scraggly Lake Unit

There is support for keeping the Unit's roads open for un-groomed snowmobiling when the grooming is halted due to heavy deer use.

Comments on Small Lots

An IF&W representative would like to work closely with the Bureau to increase deer habitat in the following lots: Nashville North, Sheridan, Oxbow, T13 R5. It is particularly important to increase the hemlock component on Nashville North and Oxbow.

On Nashville North Lot, a Seven Islands representative stated that the Pinkham Mill Access Road is a private road open to public use, not a public road.