

Amherst Mountains Community Forest



Public Scoping Meeting
 March 17, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.
 Bangor Motor Inn & Conference Center

Character of the Landbase

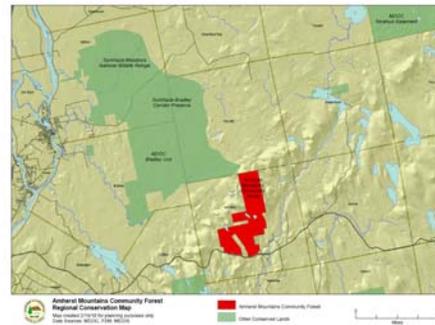
- 4,974 acres
- Six ponds
- Local and regional recreation destination
- Significant fish and wildlife habitat
- Unique natural communities
- Source of forest products



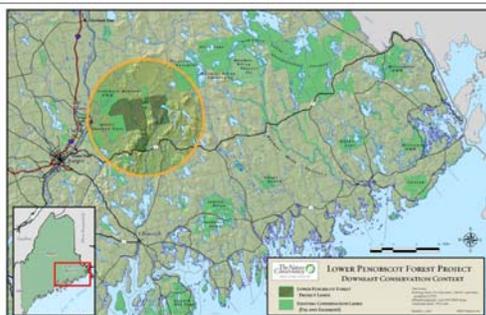
Acquisition History

- Acquired by the DOC in June 2009
- Partnership with Forest Society of Maine and the Town of Amherst
- Funded by USFS Forest Legacy Program, Land for Maine's Future and others.
- Approved by the Town of Amherst.
- Special timber management arrangements with Town of Amherst.

Regional Conservation Context



Regional Conservation Context – *Lower Penobscot Forest*



Planning Context – Concept Plan

- access for hiking, hunting, fishing, camping, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, ATV trails, and other traditional recreational activities will continue;
- the lands will stay undeveloped, maintaining one of the increasingly scarce large tracts of undeveloped forestland in the region, helping maintain Amherst's rural character;
- an ecologically significant, intact 2,000-acre watershed surrounding three remote ponds with outstanding values will be protected as an ecological reserve;
- forest management will be practiced in a sustainable manner for the production of quality timber and forest products on about 3,000 acres of managed forest;
- important fish and wildlife habitats and rare natural communities will be protected;
- a community forest partnership will result between the town of Amherst, the state Bureau of Parks and Land, and the Forest Society of Maine; and
- the town will be part of management decisions for the property and will receive revenues from timber production.

Planning Context – Concept Plan



Planning Context - What's in a Plan?

- 15 years timeframe
- Appended to 2009 regional plan - BPL fee lands in Eastern Interior Planning Region
- Management recommendations and resource allocations

Planning Context – Bureau Resource Allocations

- Special Protection
- Backcountry Recreation
- Wildlife
- Remote Recreation
- Visual Consideration
- Developed Recreation
- Timber Management

Planning Context – The Process

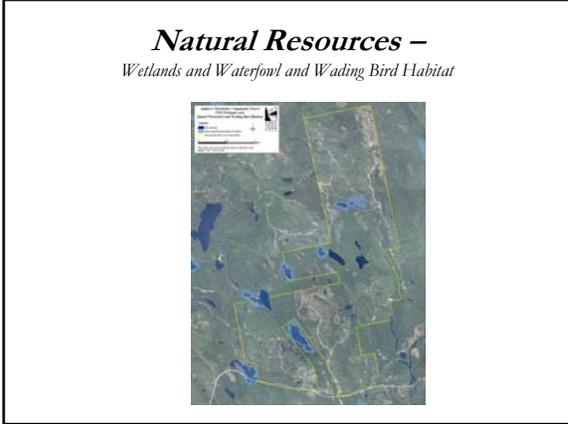
- Staff site visits, research and meetings
- Advisory Committee formation and pre-draft meeting
- **Public Scoping Meeting**
- First draft available (early April)
- Public comments on first draft due (late April)
- Public meeting to comment on final draft (early June)
- Plan adoption (late June)

Natural Resources – Hydrology and Water Quality

- The entire property lies within the Union River watershed. All the streams drain southerly and eventually converge with the West Branch Union River.

Natural Resources – Hydrology and Water Quality

- AMCF contains the entirety of:
 - Ducktail Pond (23.8 acres; 0.84 miles)
 - Indian Camp Pond 1 (0.5 acre; 0.12 mile)
 - Indian Camp Pond 2 (1.8 acres; 0.2 mile)
 - Partridge Pond (28 acres; 1 mile)
 - Pug Pond (1 acre; 0.15 mile)
 - Snowshoe Pond (4.7 acres; 0.45 mile)
 - Unknown (1.9 acres; 0.25 mile)
- AMCF contains portions of:
 - Halfmile Pond (16.6 acres within AMCF; 0.59 mile within AMCF)
- Total area of ponds within AMCF: 78.3 acres
- Total shoreline of ponds within AMCF: 3.6 miles



Natural Resources – Exemplary Natural Communities and Protected Areas

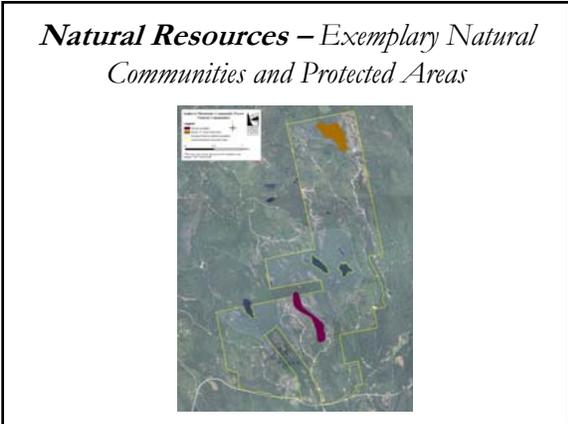


- The Maine Natural Areas Program has ranked the **red pine woodland** on Bald Mountain as S3 (rare in Maine) and “among the best examples in the State of the community type.”

Natural Resources – Exemplary Natural Communities and Protected Areas



- MNAP has also noted an exemplary **spruce-fir-broom-moss forest** on Bald Bluff Mountain “an outstanding representative of a forest type that has otherwise been heavily altered in the region by budworm damage and timber management.”



Fisheries and Wildlife Resources - Fisheries

The remote ponds of Amherst offer excellent fishing and support intact native fish fauna. Ducktail Pond, Halfmile Pond, Partridge Pond Snowshoe Pond are destinations for open water fishing. Halfmile Pond is the only pond currently open to ice fishing.

Half-mile supports a self-sustaining native trout population.

Ducktail and Partridge Ponds are stocked.

***Fisheries and Wildlife Resources -
Deer Habitat Management***



***Fisheries and Wildlife Resources –
Raptors and Other Birds***

- An analysis by the USFWS Gulf of Maine Coastal Program done in 2009 shows the Amherst Mountains Community Forest provides important habitat for 32 of the 91 USFWS priority trust species, and particularly high value habitat for 14 of those 32 species, including wood thrush, bay breasted warbler, peregrine falcon, Canada warbler, and northern goshawk.

***Fisheries and Wildlife Resources –
Raptors and Other Birds***

The bluff that overlooks Halfmile Pond has been known to be a peregrine falcon nesting site; it has also been a release site for these birds.



Recreation Resources

There are at least three distinct recreational destinations within the Amherst Mountains Community Forest

- 1) The Bald Bluff Mountain area
- 2) The Ponds area
- 3) The Halfmile Pond area.



***Recreation Resources –
Trails – Bald Bluff Mtn***



***Recreation Resources –
Trails – Ducktail and Partridge Pond Trails***



***Recreation Resources –
Trails – Halfmile Pond***



***Recreation Resources and
Transportation and Administrative Considerations***

In addition, a network of roads has provided access for dispersed recreation activities.



Timber and Renewable Resources

AMHERST MOUNTAINS COMMUNITY FOREST
TEN-YEAR
TIMBER MANAGEMENT PLAN
2009 to 2019



Submitted to the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands
by the Town of Andover
with assistance from the Forest Society of Maine
November, 2008

Send comments to:
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