

IV. Resources and Management Issues for Lands in the St. John Uplands Region

General Management Focus

The Bureau’s overall management focus for the St. John Uplands Region is built upon the following management principles and objectives:

- 1) practice sound multiple use planning;
- 2) utilize exemplary, state of the art resource management practices that protect resources from over-use, avoid conflicting use, control exotic species, and continually add value to the resource base and visitor’s “back woods” experiences;
- 3) offer new recreation and educational opportunities where appropriate and compatible with the emphasis on more remote, dispersed, less developed activities, with or without vehicle access;
- 4) honor traditional uses wherever appropriate, and avoid restrictions on free and reasonable public access;
- 5) remain adaptable to changing environmental and cultural conditions through far-sighted planning, and cooperation and connectivity with adjoining landowners, and
- 6) conduct timber harvesting where appropriate in a manner that maintains or improves forest health and diversity, protects special natural features and visitor safety, enhances wildlife habitat, preserves the visual integrity of the landscape and produces a sustainable stream of high quality (over the long term) timber products; all within the Bureau’s legislative and regulatory mandates and budgetary and staffing constraints.

Over 97 percent of the Public Reserved Lands addressed by this Plan are forested. Of those forested lands, about 86 percent are regulated acres — those areas which the Bureau manages to yield a sustained flow of forest products and to improve the quality of the forest resource. The table below summarizes the forested and regulated acres for the larger management Units and smaller lots in the St. John Uplands Region.

Summary of Forested and Regulated Acres in the St. John Uplands Region							
Management Unit(s)	Total Acres	Forest Acres	Regulated Acres				Unreg. Acres
			Total	HW	MW	SW	
Telos	22,761	21,922	21,432	1,205	11,002	9,225	490
Round Pond	20,803	20,442	20,013	3,132	7,496	9,385	409
Chamberlain	10,291	10,040	5,702	368	2,637	2,697	4,338 ¹
Gero Island/Chesuncook	3,916	3,848	641	171	271	199	3,207 ²
T14 R11 & T15 R11 Lots	997	963	938	381	332	215	25
Allagash Public Lots (4)	3,736	3,650	3,519	761	1,950	808	131
Falls Pond Public Lot	1,000	960	853	85	283	485	107
Totals	63,504	61,825	53,098	7,510	19,625	25,963	8,707
Percent		97.4	85.9	14.1*	37.0*	48.9*	14.1
1. Includes all of three of the Chamberlain Unit tracts: Chamberlain Lake (Bear Mountain) Ecological Reserve (2,890 acres) and the two peninsulas on Big Eagle Lake. 2. Nearly all of these acres are within the Gero Island Ecological Reserve. * percent of regulated acres. Key: HW = hardwood, MW = mixedwood, SW = softwood							

Timber harvests on the Public Reserved Lands in the region will supply forest products to local mills and be a source of employment for loggers, truckers, road construction, and others in related businesses. Timber harvests will also be an important source of timber revenue to support the Bureau's management program. The Bureau manages timber resources where allocated to provide a diverse forested environment and generate high quality-high value products to support Bureau operations and the local economy. Exemplary management that contributes to public values, including recreation and wildlife habitat, is the standard.

Additional details on forest stocking and sustainable harvest levels in the overall Plan area are provided in Appendix F. Detailed mapping of rare, threatened or endangered wildlife and rare or exemplary plants and natural communities on the Units covered by this Plan and the surrounding region is available from the Beginning with Habitat program (an online map viewer is available at <http://www.beginningwithhabitat.org/>).

Telos Unit

The following provides background information on the Telos property, including the general character of the land base; geologic and ecological resources and natural communities; wildlife resources; historic and cultural resources; recreation and visual resources; and timber resources. This is followed by a summary of the key management issues and opportunities that the Plan will seek to address through the Vision, resource allocations and management recommendations for the unit, which conclude the section.

Character of the Land Base

The Telos Unit is comprised of the entirety of T6 R11 and adjacent portions of T7 R11 and T6 R12 Townships in Piscataquis County, west of Baxter State Park's northern end (see Map Figure 4, page 23). The Unit is approximately 22,800 acres in size. The Unit surrounds Round Pond and Telos Lake and the south end of Chamberlain Lake; all of the shoreline lands associated with those waterbodies are part of the AWW.

The terrain of the Unit is mostly gently sloping to flat, with some moderate slopes on the southern part, especially Telos Mountain, which rises about 300 feet above the surrounding terrain. The only sizeable pond is 198-acre Coffeelos Pond; about one-third of 530-acre Webster Lake is also within the Unit. Although the land is predominantly forested, there is a sizeable wetland between Telos Road and Coffeelos Pond and small to medium sized wetlands scattered elsewhere. Most of the area has been harvested in the past 40+ years of state ownership, including significant harvesting during the past decade. Adjacent landowners are Hull Timberlands to the north, Prentiss and Carlisle to the west, Katahdin Timberlands to the south, and Baxter State Park to the east.

Natural Resources

Natural Communities

The Telos Unit supports forest of all age classes characteristic of the region with softwoods occupying lower slopes and flats, particularly on wetter sites, and mixedwoods found on most other sites. Hardwoods stands are generally small and scattered and account for only 6% of the forest.

One notable wetland habitat has been documented in the Unit, as described below. However, the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) includes over 1,800 acres of wetlands distributed across most parts of the Unit. A few small streams flow into Chamberlain Lake, Round Pond, and Telos Lake, and another flows from Coffeelos Pond to Webster Lake. The upstream end of South Branch Brayley Brook flows eastward into Baxter State Park.

Uncommon and Exemplary Natural Communities and Rare Plant Species

Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) completed ecological surveys on the Telos Unit in support of this Plan, which re-examined two “rare and exemplary” natural communities, a *Patterned Fen Ecosystem* and *Low Sedge Fen*, both associated with Chamberlain Fen. This wetland, located about one half mile south of Telos Road, was also identified in the 1990 Plan. Chamberlain Fen is a 54-acre mostly open peatland. The site supports an open low sedge-shrub core (~18 acres) surrounded by a relatively wide band of wooded fen dominated by larch and northern white cedar. The site displays the characteristic patterned fen structure of a series of low linear ridges and depressions or open pools that form in relation to ground water flow. Two rare plant species have been documented at the site: Moor rush (*Juncus stygius*) and sparse-flowered sedge (*Carex tenuiflora*), both species of special concern in Maine.

Other uncommon communities are present that did not meet the specifications to be mapped as exemplary. These include cedar swamps at the upstream end of Murphy Brook (on the boundary with Baxter State Park) and northeast of Coffeelos Pond, both with canopy trees 100-160 years old. There is also a 150-acre peatland with both open and forested wetland components following a drainage between Imlos and Coffeelos Ponds. (A full Natural Resource Inventory Report addressing the BPL lands in the St. John Uplands Region, excerpted here, is available from MNAP.)

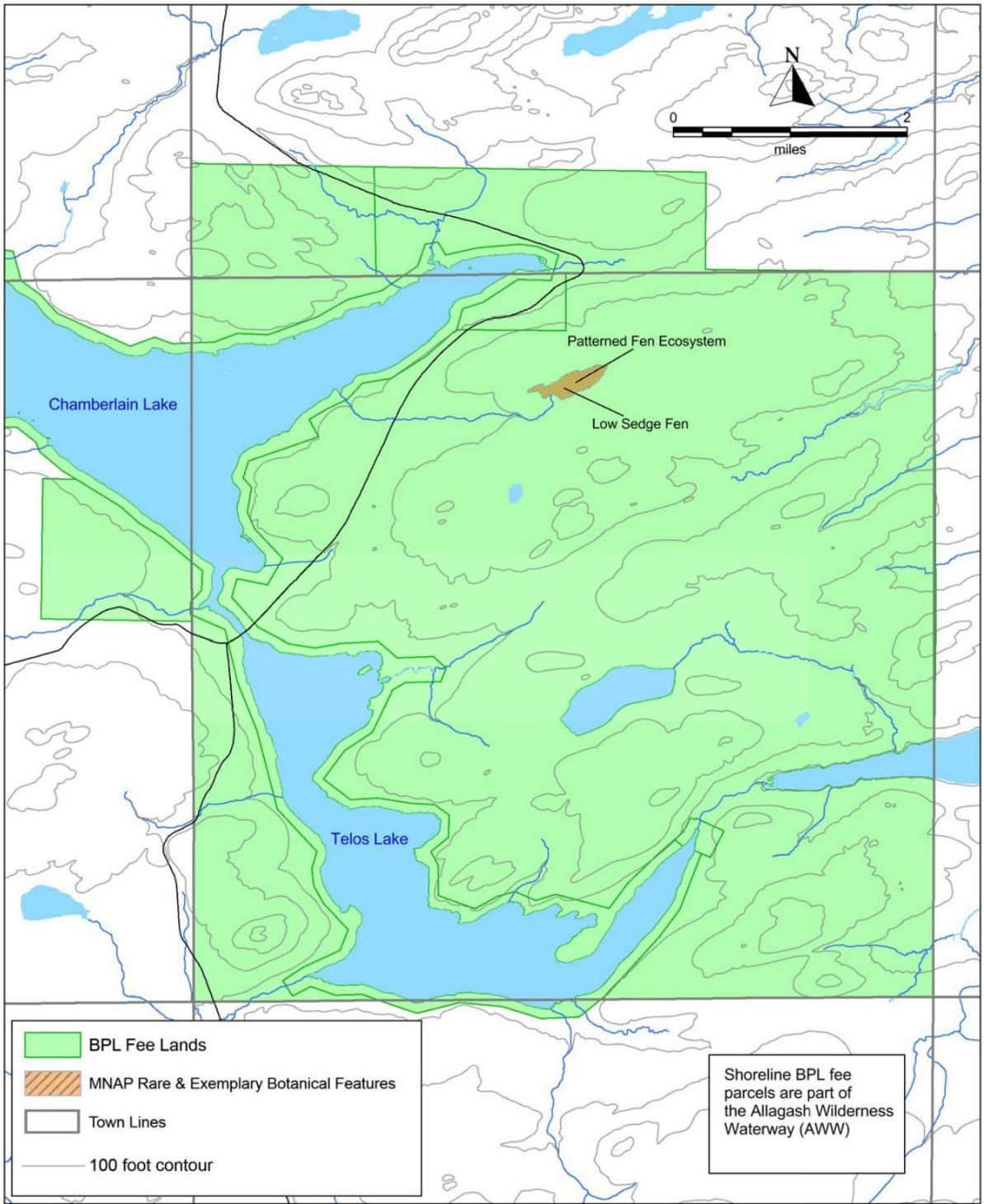
Map Figure 2 depicts exemplary natural communities at Telos identified by MNAP. (Fact sheets on Maine’s natural community types are available at <http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/commsheets.htm>.)

Wildlife and Fisheries Resources

The diverse forests of the Telos Unit host common wildlife such as porcupine, snowshoe hare, moose, white-tailed deer, black bear, ruffed grouse, and red squirrel. The small streams and wetlands provide habitat for waterfowl, aquatic furbearers (beaver, otter and mink), and amphibians. The lower-elevation softwood forest (mainly spruce and pine) may be utilized by a number of coniferous forest specialist bird species such as black-throated green warbler. The mixedwood forest found on all but the wettest sites and the limited hardwood forests, generally on somewhat higher ground, are home to a wide variety of passerine bird species (e.g., black-capped chickadee, black-throated blue warbler, white-throated sparrow, cedar waxwing).

The St. John Uplands region is in the heart of the primary range in Maine of the Canada lynx, a federally threatened and a state species of special concern; nearly the entire Plan area is within the Critical Habitat designated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in 2014. Lynx are known to be present at Telos and have been observed on adjacent and nearby townships (MDIF&W, 2012). The dense regenerating spruce-fir stands that are the ideal habitat for snowshoe hare, the principal food source for lynx, are common on the unit. Northern long-eared bat, federally listed

Telos Unit MNAP "Rare and Exemplary" Features



MAP FIGURE 2.

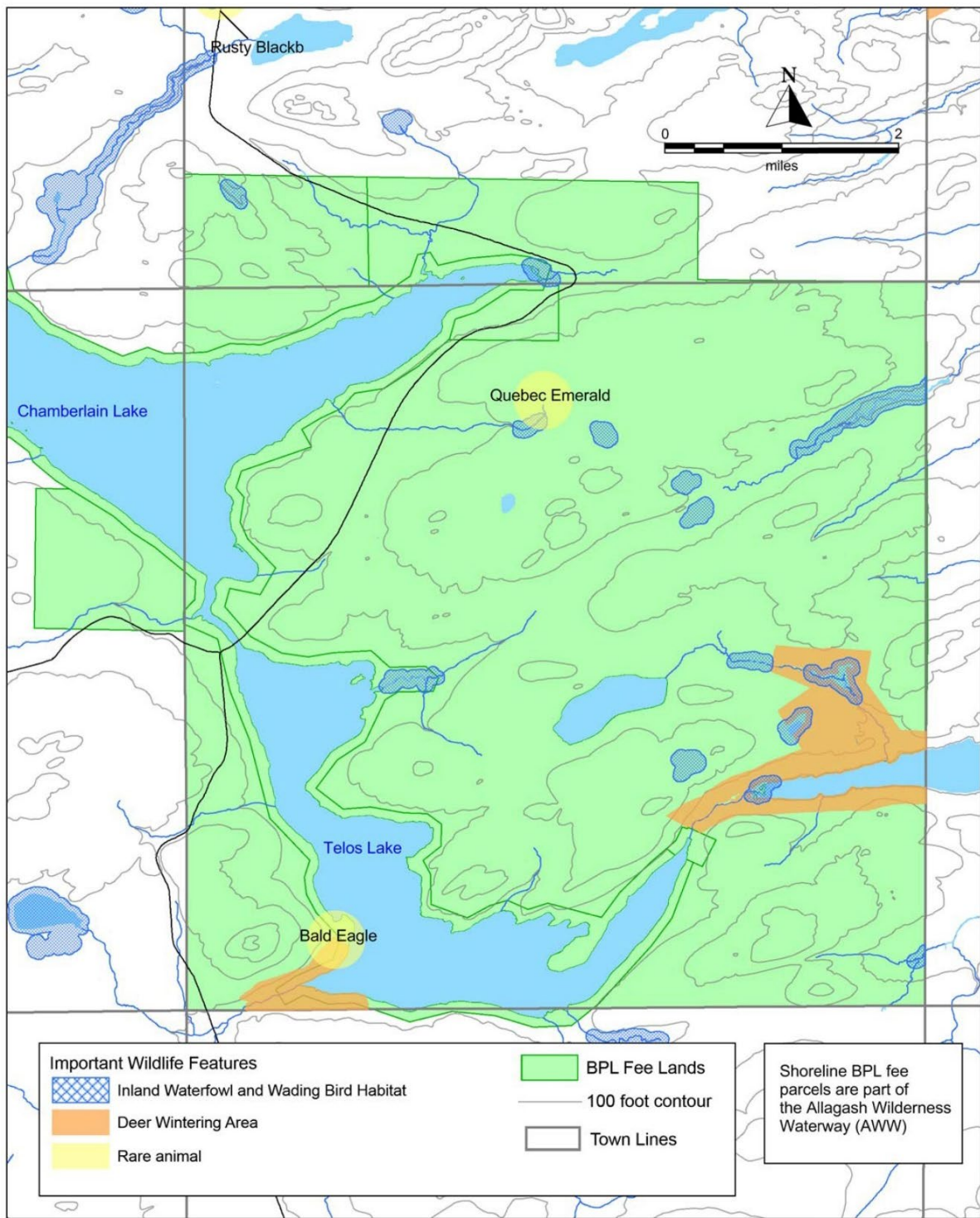
as threatened, may also be present, based on Maine Wildlife Action Plan habitat maps for the species.

Several other species of rare or protected wildlife have been recorded. Bald eagle (delisted under the Endangered Species Act, but still federally protected under several statutes) nest near the shore of Telos Lake. The Quebec Emerald, a rare dragonfly designated a state species of special concern, whose primary habitat is bogs and fens, occurs at Chamberlain Fen. Other wetlands on the Unit totaling nearly 500 acres are considered important inland waterfowl and wading bird habitat.

There are two zoned deer wintering areas located on the Unit; one surrounding Webster Lake and one on the west side of Telos Lake. The deer yards are mature to over mature, with some sections in decline while others are approaching primary cover condition. Deer use appears to be declining but deer are still present. Map Figure 3 depicts the Important Wildlife Features of the Telos Unit.

Both Coffeelos Pond and Webster Lake are noted for their cold-water fisheries as well as their scenic character and relatively undeveloped shorelines. LURC (replaced by LUPC in 2012), in the 1987 Wildland Lake Assessment, gave Coffeelos Pond an “outstanding” fisheries rating and Webster Lake was rated “significant.” In addition, both water bodies were classified as having “statewide significance” in recognition of the fishery and other natural values present. Coffeelos is designated a Heritage Brook Trout Pond by MDIF&W, with special fishing regulations.

Telos Unit Important Wildlife Features



MAP FIGURE 3.

Historic and Cultural Resources

No archeological sites are known on the Telos Unit. Historic resources at Telos Dam are within the AWW.

Access

Vehicle access into the Telos Unit is primarily via the Telos Road, which connects to the Golden Road to the south and Pinkham Road to the north (both of which are primary routes into the southern part of the region). The principal route into the interior of the Unit is the Coffeelos Road, which extends south from Telos Road with several branches extending across the Unit, north and south of Coffeelos Pond (see Map Figure 4). This system is generally maintained by the Bureau to public use road standards and is suitable for use by standard vehicles. Useless Road branches off Telos Road south of the Unit and provides access into the southeast corner of the Unit (as well as connecting to Baxter State Park). Additional management roads connected to this system and to Telos Road are also open to public use but may not be maintained to public use road standards.

When the T6 R11 parcel was acquired in 1975, Great Northern retained an 80-foot wide right-of-way on the Telos Road, with an easement granted to the State for management and public access purposes. Similarly, in 1978 Diamond International retained an 80-foot right-of-way on the Telos Road and three connecting roads within T7 R11, with an easement to the State. The Bureau has assumed maintenance responsibility for the seven miles of Telos Road on the Unit north of Chamberlain Bridge (now owned by Katahdin Forest Management, LLC (KFM)) as well as three additional miles north of the Unit. In February 2018, the Bureau purchased the Chamberlain Bridge (across the thoroughfare between Chamberlain Lake and Round Pond) from KFM.

Recreation Resources

Hunting and fishing are the top recreational attractions to the Telos Unit. Visitors have access to five drive-to campsites near the south and north shorelines of Coffeelos Pond. There is one boat-access campsite on the north shore of Webster Lake, and a second site on the west end of the lake at the Webster cut inlet is being re-established. All are primitive campsites with picnic tables, fire rings, and privies. NMW maintains the Coffeelos campsites under an agreement with the Bureau; Baxter State Park maintains the Webster Lake sites.

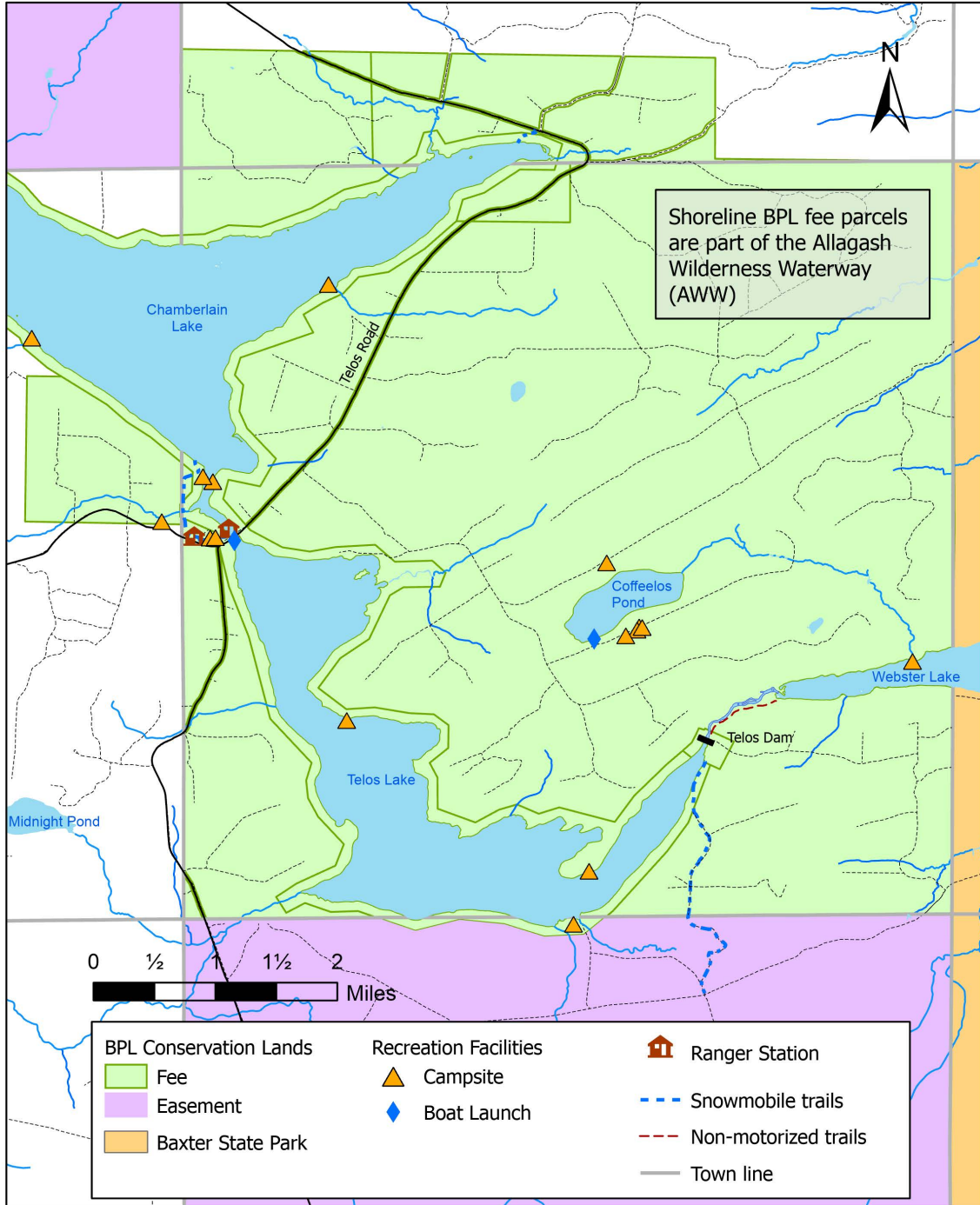


Campsite along South Coffeelos Road.



View across Webster Lake from inlet campsite

Telos Unit Access & Recreation Facilities



MAP FIGURE 4.

Short footpaths link the Coffeelos Pond campsites to the pond shoreline. A number of canoes and other small craft are stored on both the north and south shorelines at the end of the trails. There is also a carry-in trail with limited roadside parking at the west end of Coffeelos Pond. The inlet campsite at the west end of Webster Lake is accessible via a portage trail that follows the old road between Telos Dam (in the AWW) and Webster. The campsites and trails are depicted on Map Figure 4.

With the lack of road access and drive-to campsites setting it apart from most other sizeable lakes and ponds in the region, Webster Lake has been managed for a remote carry-in boating and angling experience. This is compatible with the wilderness experience that Baxter State Park, within which most of the lake lies, is managed to provide.

The Kellogg Brook campsite, off Longley Stream Road just west of Chamberlain Bridge, currently provides vehicle-accessible sites with picnic tables, fire-rings and a vault privy. The campsites are primarily used by winter AWW visitors and fall hunters. Eight or more towable RVs and trailer-mounted cabins have been commonly stored there, with the permission of NMW, who maintains the site. However, occupancy of more than two weeks is no longer permitted, in accord with BPL policy. The informal campsites do not meet BPL designated campsite standards. Also, under LUPC regulations it is considered a campground rather than a campsite due to the number of RVs and trailers using the site.

The Chamberlain Bridge parking area is on the Unit adjacent to the AWW Chamberlain ranger station. Management of the area was transferred to the AWW in 1981. Two campsites with picnic tables and fire-rings are tucked into the woods at the north end of the lot, with two privies and a sheltered potable water spigot nearby. During the summer, the site is used for parking by anglers and guests of Nugent's sporting camp on the east shore of Chamberlain Lake (in the AWW), who access the water from the nearby Chamberlain Bridge boat ramp. The parking area is also used for winter camping associated with ice fishing activity, with permits issued by AWW and a monthly fee charged. Map Figure 5 depicts the recreation facilities in the Chamberlain Bridge vicinity.

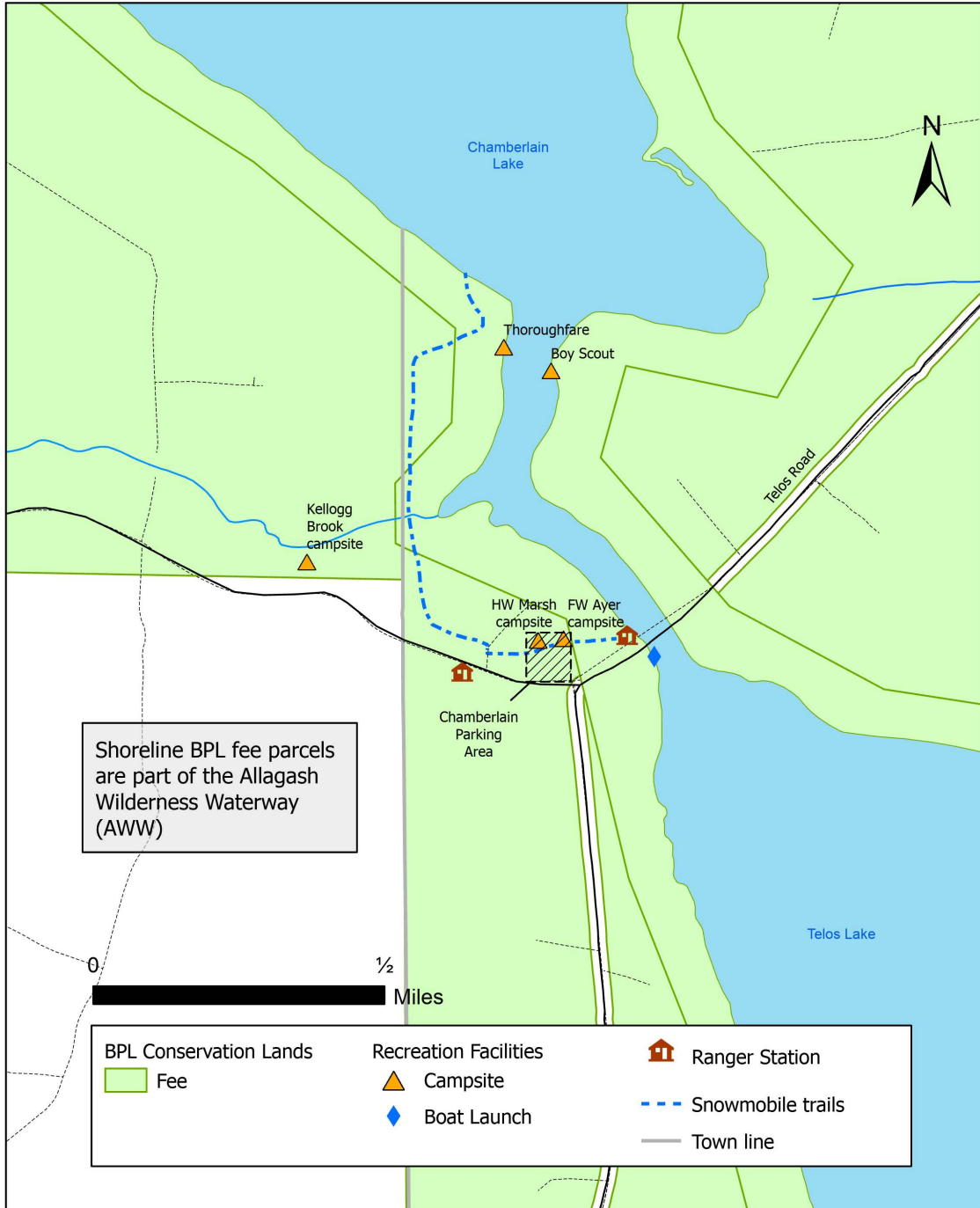


RVs and trailers at Kellogg Brook.



Chamberlain Bridge parking area.

Telos Unit Access & Recreation Facilities - Chamberlain Bridge area



MAP FIGURE 5.

As described above, Coffeelos Pond supports a native brook trout fishery, and lake trout are present in Webster Lake as well. Special fishing regulations apply at both Coffeelos Pond and Webster Lake; notably, only Webster Lake is open to ice fishing.

The good vehicular access to the Telos Unit makes the area amenable to multiple forms of dispersed recreation such as hunting, sightseeing and wildlife viewing. Pedestrian access provided by logging roads and favorable habitat conditions resulting from timber harvesting practices have made the property popular for hunting game birds, deer, bear and moose. There are six designated bear baiting sites on the unit, all within T6 R11, which are managed by NMW.

Short segments of snowmobile trail provide access to and between Chamberlain Lake, Round Pond and Telos Lake, within the AWW. There are no designated ATV trails on the Telos Unit, as ATVs are not permitted within the NMW-managed area.

The primary visual resources on the Unit are the shorelands surrounding Coffeelos Pond and Webster Lake. The primarily undisturbed forest on those lands is a prominent part of the scenic landscape for boaters and anglers. In addition, all lands that are visible from the AWW watercourse (here, Chamberlain Lake, Round Pond and Telos Lake), and in particular higher ground such as Telos Mountain, are important visual resources.

Timber Resources

The regulated acres on the Telos Unit total about 21,500 acres, about 93 percent of the total area. Only 490 acres are unregulated, mainly due to low site quality. Soils range from well drained to very poorly drained, and are generally of average fertility, though able to grow good quality softwoods on almost all acres and good quality hardwoods on most.

Harvest History

Following State acquisition as part of a large 1970s land trade, the previous owner was entitled to a considerable settlement to balance stumpage values, and chose to fulfill this obligation at Telos, harvesting almost 100,000 cords, nearly all spruce and fir, from 1978 through 1982. That high-softwood trend continued with BPL-managed harvests into the 1990s due to poor hardwood markets. Since 2000, the hardwood proportion of the Unit harvest has been very close to its 33% of inventory, and greater than its share of net growth. Though this softwood-heavy harvest was a major reduction of valuable stocking, it was also a time of heavy budworm feeding.

Harvests by the Bureau began soon after the settlement harvests, and except for very little activity 2007-2011, has continued through the present. Total harvest volume 1985-2016 is 149,300 cords. This is 58% of the target for sustainable harvest level and 50% of estimated net growth. About two-thirds of this volume was softwood sawlogs, mainly spruce and fir but with significant cedar logs and shingle stock in recent years. Ten percent was softwood pulp, essentially all spruce-fir and 90% prior to 2000. Hardwood logs make up 3% of total volume and hardwood pulpwood 22%.

Stand Type Characteristics (regulated acres only) and Current Stocking

Softwood types cover 9,225 acres, 43% of regulated forest, significantly less than was the proportion prior to the settlement harvests, which were nearly all softwoods. Softwood stands are found on lower slopes and flats, with some on moderately well drained soils but most on somewhat poorly to poorly drained sites. Except for the poorly drained areas, soils are sufficiently fertile to produce good growth on softwoods, fair on hardwoods. Quality is generally good in softwoods except for much of the cedar, and some of the large superstory pines are quite defective, though younger pines tend toward excellent quality. Current stocking is 24 cords per acre. The species composition in softwood types is 46% spruces, 28% cedar, 7% fir, 6% pine, and 5% yellow birch, with the remaining 8% divided among seven species.

Mixedwood types are found on slightly more than 11,000 acres, 51% of the regulated area. Mixedwood stands are found on all sites but the wettest and quality is fair to good. A significant part of the mixedwood land was softwood prior to the settlement harvest. Stocking is 22 cords per acre, and the species mix is 25% spruce, 15% yellow birch, 13% each sugar maple and fir, and 12% red maple.

Hardwood types cover just 1,200 acres, 6% of tract forest. Hardwood stands are most often found on the low summits and their upper slopes. Stocking is similar to that in mixedwoods, about 22 cords per acre. The species mix is somewhat of an estimate, as the small and scattered hardwood stands generally do not have sufficient inventory points measured to obtain robust statistics. Sugar maple is the leading species at about 30% of the total. Spruce, yellow birch, and red maple together make up about 50%, in roughly equal shares, and fir is another 10%. The drier sites on the south half of the unit have scattered red oak, usually of good quality. Overall quality is fair on overstory hardwoods, as for decades only sawlogs and veneer could be economically harvested. Hardwood saplings and poles, plus softwoods in general, are of good quality.

Management Issues, Concerns and Opportunities

The Bureau will manage the Telos Unit for multiple uses including outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat, scenic and natural area protection, water quality protection, and production of forest products. The following discussion summarizes the key management issues and opportunities associated with each of these uses on the Telos lands.

Timber Management

The majority of the Telos lands will continue to be managed as a multiple use working forest. The approximately 21,500 acres of regulated forest may be allocated to timber management as a dominant or important secondary use. Timber management may be designated as a dominant land use but may also occur as a secondary activity on lands with other dominant resource allocations, such as Remote Recreation or Wildlife Management areas. For example, Wildlife will be the dominant use in riparian buffers and on wetlands and beaver flowages. Access is good throughout the Unit, with development of the forest management road system essentially complete.

Where timber is the dominant use or is included among secondary uses, management will favor high value (both for timber and wildlife) species such as spruce, pine, sugar maple, and yellow

birch while taking advantage of the fast growing and abundant but shorter-lived fir. The objectives will include growing high value timber products, chiefly sawlogs and veneer, while maintaining visual integrity and enhancing the diversity of wildlife habitat and stability of the forest.

Management will work toward restoring many of the mixedwood acres to softwood type through preferential harvesting of hardwoods where the younger softwoods are sufficient to take over the site. This will be a priority where those stands have a significant spruce and/or pine component. Much of the softwood acreage and some of mixedwood lie within the area of a draft 6,000-acre Habitat Management Area (HMA) for deer winter cover. Management there has an objective to bring conforming winter cover up to 50% on sites suitable for conforming cover and maintain that proportion. Overall management should favor spruce and pine in these types, except where drainage is poor, and should work to increase total acreage in softwoods. (Note: The minor pine component does not contribute to deer cover but can provide timber value with little impact on the development of cover provided by the shorter shade-tolerant softwood species.) Much of both softwood and mixedwood types have abundant mixedwood regeneration, and timber stand improvement work, such as recent precommercial thinning, can move the next generation toward a higher softwood proportion.

Given the small area in hardwoods, management should retain the type unless it's found on wetter sites where it will not grow well. Nurturing the acres where good quality younger hardwoods are growing should be a priority.

In summary, specific timber management issues and objectives include:

- Given that many acres will have timber as the dominant or an important secondary use, management will work toward maintaining good growth on quality trees, especially spruce and pine, while ensuring both vertical and horizontal diversity.
- In the HMA, the main objectives will be to develop and maintain conforming cover across 50% of the agreement area (excluding sites that are not suitable to produce conforming cover).
- Manage the mixedwood stands to encourage reversion to softwoods on softwood sites where past harvesting had changed the type.
- Areas along public use roads and near or visible from the AWW will be managed to retain visual integrity. Harvesting within the one-mile outer zone of the AWW (See Appendix D for map) will be timed, whenever possible, to avoid the busiest canoeing season (defined for the purposes of this Plan as May 15-September 15).

Wildlife and Habitat Protection

The most significant wildlife habitats on the unit are within the wetlands and riparian areas. Protection for these areas is typically provided by a Wildlife dominant allocation, based on the "specialized habitat" criteria described in the IRP. On this unit, a portion of the wetland habitat is contained within the Chamberlain Fen, which will be allocated to Special Protection – Natural Area due to the regionally significant ecological resources found there. These allocations will provide protection for the Special Concern species mentioned above. MDIF&W protocols for protection of bald eagle nest sites will be followed whenever timber harvesting or other activities are planned for the vicinity of a nest.

In the remaining wetland and riparian areas, the Wildlife allocation is applied so as to demarcate a 330-foot buffer zone around the great ponds and on each side of the major streams, and a 75-foot buffer zone around wetlands, waterbodies less than 10 acres, and in minor riparian zones. (Minor riparian zones are generally designated around flowing water bodies upstream from the point where such water drains less than 50 square miles.) Any trail construction or other recreational development in these areas would need to be carefully planned to minimize potential impacts to these important habitats. Timber management is allowed in riparian zones to promote wildlife habitat. The silvicultural treatment used will vary from site to site, depending on resource conditions and wildlife habitat objectives.

The long-term management of the two DWAs on the Unit (as originally established in the 1990 Plan) is to maintain at least 50% of the DWA forest in high-quality softwood cover at any one time, while regenerating the remainder to softwood for future cover. An important objective is to improve the DWA shelter value through silvicultural treatment. Management decisions affecting the DWAs are coordinated with MDIF&W. The Bureau is discussing with MDIF&W the development of an HMA for the Unit, similar to the existing Round Pond HMA, to provide more detailed guidance for management of the DWAs.

Recreation Management

MDIF&W and some anglers have expressed a desire for trailered boat access to Webster Lake. However, the Bureau is concerned about preserving the remote carry-in boating and angling experience afforded by the present limited access. The Bureau is particularly conscious of the relative scarcity of lakes of Webster's size with varied fishing opportunities without the presence of motorized boats. Nevertheless, there may be potential for bringing road access closer to the lake, allowing for small motorized boats to be carried in. A restriction on motor horsepower may be necessary if such access were provided, as determined by MDIF&W.

At Kellogg Brook, consideration has been given to upgrading the informal campsites to BPL standards; however, a campground permit from LUPC is required to upgrade the site, a portion of which is in a wetland protection zone. The Bureau has also given consideration to replacing Kellogg Brook with a new multi-site camping area in a more suitable location within the unit. However, no suitable location was found that would not require considerable new road or a substantial amount of snow plowing. The Bureau now proposes to close the Kellogg Brook site and will work on a long-term alternative to Kellogg Brook for RV/trailer camping and storage.

Administrative Issues

Road Access and Maintenance

The Bureau is responsible for maintenance of the several miles of public use roads (including Telos Road and other roads covered by easements) and management roads that remain open to vehicles on the Unit. The Bureau will also conduct maintenance on the roads leading to the Unit, in consultation with NMW and private landowners, as required to maintain recreation access. BPL purchased the Chamberlain bridge in 2018 and has the authority to charge tolls for its use by trucks hauling timber, to fund its maintenance.

Boat Storage at Coffeelos Pond

The Bureau recognizes the traditional practice of storing boats at ponds, and that anglers and others who visit Coffeelos Pond often benefit from having a boat available. Section D18 of the IRP provides for the storage of private boats at backcountry ponds (ponds with no 2WD road access within half mile of the shore). The policy also allows for storage of boats on other water bodies (i.e., non-backcountry ponds, such as Coffeelos), to be considered on a case-by-case basis. Storage of boats on designated backcountry ponds is subject to the following conditions: 1) boats are to be stored at least 25 feet from the shoreline and 2) the watercraft owner is to be identified on the watercraft. Canoe racks that are unobstrusive and safe are allowed. Watercraft that are not stored according to the above conditions, or that are decrepit, may be removed by the Bureau. The current storage of boats at Coffeelos Pond does not conform to the policy (understood to apply to backcountry as well as non-backcountry ponds), in that most do not have the owner identified and some are stored closer than 25 feet to the shoreline. In addition, the decrepit boats stored at this site are not in keeping with the policy.

Vision for the Telos Unit

Situated adjacent to Baxter State Park and otherwise surrounded by extensive commercial forestland, some covered by the Katahdin Forest conservation easement, the Telos Unit combines extensive forestlands surrounding the mainly undeveloped lakes that form the beginning of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. The Unit is also a gateway into Baxter State Park, both by road and water.

In addition, the Unit contains a small ecologically important wetland, a nearly 200-acre Heritage Brook Trout pond, and a handful of semi-remote drive-to campsites.

The Telos lands will provide a flow of forest products with most of the property managed as a multiple-use working forest for quality timber, respecting wildlife habitat needs and visual quality as perceived from the AWW and from Coffeelos Pond, Webster Lake and the primary access roads.

Protections will be provided with appropriate allocations for sensitive natural resources, such as exemplary natural communities, wetlands and riparian habitats.

Coffeelos Pond and the portion of Webster Lake in the Unit will continue to be managed for a semi-remote recreation experience, with well-maintained access and portage trails and nearby drive-to (Coffeelos) and shoreline (Webster) boat-access campsites. Traditional dispersed recreation activities such as hunting, trapping, and fishing will continue on the Unit.

Resource Allocations for the Telos Unit

The following “allocations,” as shown on Map Figure 6 - Telos Dominant Use Allocations, define general management objectives and direction for specific areas within the Unit. (Secondary allocations are not shown on the map.) See Appendix C for a description of designation criteria and management direction for the various allocation categories.

Special Protection Areas (Dominant Allocation)

- An area totaling approximately 55 acres encompassing Chamberlain fen.

Wildlife Management Areas (Dominant Allocation)

- A total of about 3,355 acres as a dominant allocation in the following areas: (1) the major riparian zone (330 feet) surrounding Coffeelos Pond; (2) the minor riparian zone (75 feet) along perennial streams and associated with the numerous wetlands; (3) the portions of Inland Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat (IWWBH) areas outside the above riparian zones; (4) the designated deer wintering areas (DWAs) surrounding the west side of Webster Lake and on the west side of Telos Lake; and (5) a buffer around Chamberlain fen coinciding with mapped Quebec Emerald habitat.

Timber Management is a secondary use in the riparian buffer areas and DWAs, subject to wildlife, recreation, and visual resource concerns.

Remote Recreation Areas (Dominant and Secondary Allocation)

- Remote Recreation is applied as a dominant allocation to the portions of the Unit that are within 500 feet of the normal highwater mark of Chamberlain Lake, Round Pond and Telos Lake (based on the LUPC P-AL zone), adjacent to the AWW Restricted Zone. These are primarily narrow strips along the Unit boundary, most less than 100 feet wide, and total about 145 acres. Also, as a buffer around the Coffeelos Pond campsites.
- Remote Recreation is a secondary allocation in the riparian areas and DWAs with a Wildlife dominant allocation.

No public access roads and no new motorized trails will be allowed in the areas with a Remote Recreation dominant or secondary allocation.

Visual Consideration Areas (Secondary Allocation)

- Visual Class I areas (generally areas where foreground views of natural features that may directly affect the enjoyment of viewers) will be defined as a secondary allocation on the ground for areas adjacent to the primary access roads (Telos Road, North and South Coffeelos Roads, and some connected roads), the Remote Recreation dominant areas described above, and areas around the campsites that may not be adequately protected by the Wildlife buffers described above.
- Visual Class II areas will be defined as a secondary allocation in areas beyond the immediate foreground, such as background views of forest canopies from ridgelines and background hillsides viewed from public use roads or water bodies, or interior views beyond the Class I area likely to be seen from a road or water body; the slopes of Telos Mountain in the southwest part of the Unit and several other area east of Telos Lake are included in this allocation. The water bodies mentioned include Chamberlain Lake, Round Pond, and Telos Lake, within the AWW.

Developed Recreation - Class I Areas (Dominant Allocation)

- The Chamberlain parking and winter camping area and summer campsites (about 5 acres) and Coffeelos Pond south and north campsites (about 1.5 acres).

- All roads designated for public motor vehicle use (Telos Road, North and South Coffeelos Roads, and other connected roads), totaling about 53 miles in length, with a 50-foot wide corridor so designated.

Timber Management Areas (Dominant Allocation)

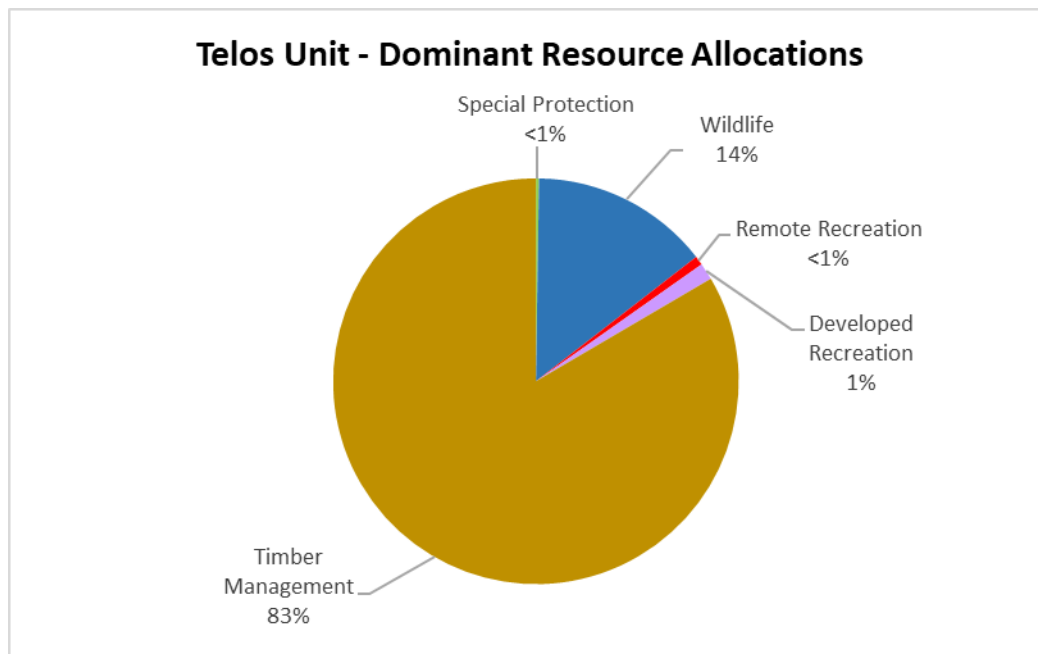
- All other areas not allocated above are designated Timber Management dominant (approximately 18,990 acres). Recreation will be recognized as an important secondary use within the timber dominant allocation.

Telos Unit Allocation Summary

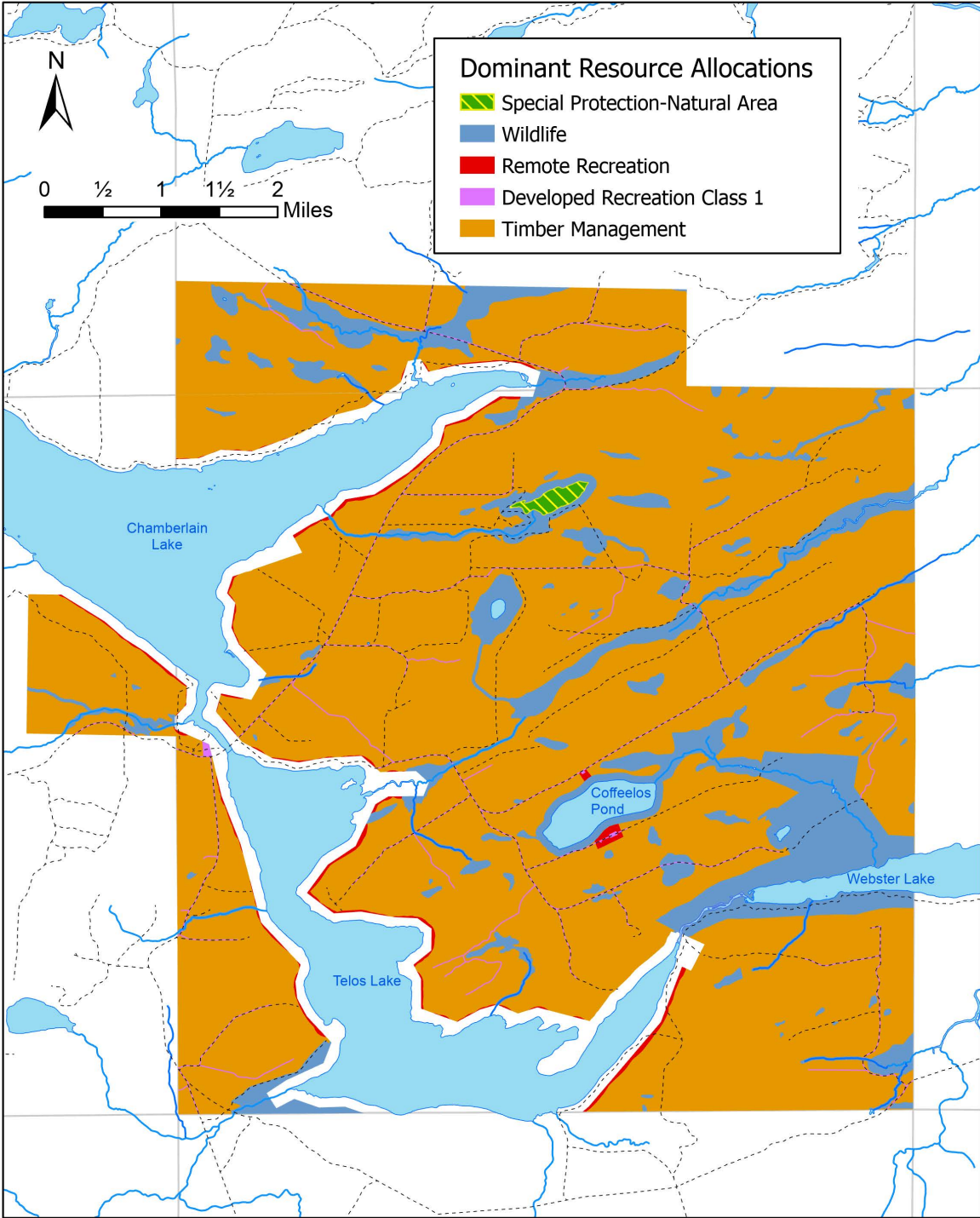
Allocation	Number of Acres			%
	Dominant	Secondary	Total	
Special Protection	55	Not applicable	55	<1.0
Backcountry Non-mechanized	0	0	0	0.0
Backcountry Motorized	0	Not applicable	0	0.0
Wildlife Management	3,250	Not applicable	3,250	14.3
Remote Recreation	165	3,250	3,415	15.0
Visual Consideration – Class I	0	555*	555	2.4
Visual Consideration – Class II	0	360*	360	1.6
Developed Recreation – Class I	305	Not applicable	305	1.3
Timber Management	19,015	~3,000	22,015	96.6

Note: Acreages are representations based on GIS metrics rounded to the nearest 5 acres, and do not sum to the total Unit acreage due to measuring error and limits of GIS precision.

*Preliminary estimate, to be refined in the field as part of the forest prescription process.



Telos Unit Dominant Resource Allocations



MAP FIGURE 6.

Management Recommendations for the Telos Unit

Recreation

Campsites and RV/trailer Storage

- Continue maintenance of campsites with the assistance of North Maine Woods.
- Continue rehabilitation of the campsite at Webster Lake inlet, in cooperation with Baxter State Park.
- Close Kellogg Brook site and work with AWW on a plan for developing 10-12 designated RV/trailer storage sites elsewhere on the Unit or in the vicinity.

Webster Lake Boat Access

- Consider development of drive-in access near the south shoreline of Webster Lake, accomplished by upgrading of a winter road, with a carry-in trail to the shoreline. If this access is developed, coordinate with MDIF&W and Baxter State Park regarding a possible horsepower limit on motors.

Wildlife/Rare of Exemplary Ecosystems and Habitats

- Survey the DWAs to determine their current condition and evaluate whether any actions to improve the habitat are warranted.
- Work with IF&W on development of a draft HMA, following acquisition of LIDAR data and application of updated forest growth model for the Unit, if the data, modeling results and field observations indicate that management for deer wintering habitat is viable and worthwhile.

Timber Management

- The Bureau will manage areas allocated to Timber Management as a multiple use working forest. Timber resources where allocated will provide a diverse forested environment and generate high quality-high value products to support Bureau operations and Maine's timber-based economy. The Bureau will practice multi-aged management with a long-term focus primarily on mature quality timber.
- Harvesting within areas allocated to Remote Recreation adjacent to the AWW Restricted Zone will be light and will seek to mimic harvests in Visual Class I areas, aimed at retaining the appearance of an essentially undisturbed forest.
- The portion of the Unit visible from the AWW waterbodies will be subject to Visual Class II considerations. The AWW will be notified when harvests are planned within the one-mile zone.
- The Bureau will consult with MNAP when planning harvests in the vicinity of the Chamberlain fen.

Administrative Issues

Signage and Visitor Information

- Assess signage and visitor information provided at Chamberlain parking/camping area for possible improvements.

Boat Storage at Ponds

- Take steps to bring boat storage at Coffeelos Pond into compliance with BPL policy as stated in the IRP; the focus will be on removal of unusable and abandoned boats and ensuring all remaining boats are properly marked with owner identification. BPL will

make a rigorous effort to contact boat owners before usable boats are removed. Removed boats will be stored by BPL off-site for a period of time, and owners will be given the opportunity to retrieve them if desired.

Round Pond Unit

This section provides background information on the Round Pond property, including the general character of the land base; ecological resources and natural communities; wildlife resources; history and culture; recreation and visual resources; and timber resources. This is followed by a summary of the key management issues and opportunities that the Plan will seek to address through the Vision, resource allocations and management recommendations for the unit.

Character of the Land Base and Acquisition History

The Round Pond Unit is comprised of all of T13 R12 outside the AWW Restricted Zone. Most of the 20,803 acres were acquired in a 1984 land trade with Great Northern Company, as a 143/144 common and undivided (C/U) ownership. Irving Paper retains the remaining C/U ownership. An 881-acre original public lot was at the northwest corner of the township. The AWW parcels along the Allagash River, which bisects the Unit, were acquired from Great Northern in 1968.

The Unit's topography is characterized by wide valleys and rolling hills reaching elevations between 1,200 and 1,500 feet. Round Pond Mountain is the highest elevation on the Unit. The Unit has produced more high-quality spruce and fir saw timber than any other Bureau-managed unit due to a combination of management history, forest types, and site quality.

Natural Resources

Natural Communities, Hydrology and Wetlands

Of the approximately 20,800 acres in the Round Pond Unit, 98% is forested. Although softwood stands predominate, hardwood and mixedwood stands are also present. The Unit contains several miles of mapped perennial streams, all of which drain into the Allagash: on the west -- Schedule, Chase, and Croque Brooks; on the south -- Henderson Brook; and on the east -- Musquacook Stream. Wetlands on the unit are generally small, with about 340 acres of the property mapped as wetland according to the National Wetlands Inventory. Much of the wetlands occur along Schedule Brook and in the northeast quadrant in the vicinity of the Musquacook Deadwater, with other smaller examples scattered elsewhere on the Unit.

Exemplary Natural Communities and Rare Plant Species

Under the 1992 plan, several areas were designated special protection areas because of significant botanical features. These include a small peatland/cedar swamp on the southeastern portion of the unit where an occurrence of the rare showy lady slipper (*Cypripedium reginae*) was identified. This area was revisited twice by knowledgeable botanists and the showy lady slipper was not relocated. It is unknown what has caused the extirpation of the showy lady slipper at this site. However, a population of the rare plant false toadflax (*Geocaulon lividum*) was identified at this site during the most recent revisit in 2016.

The second area designated for special protection included several upland hardwood knolls in the northwest corner of the unit. In these areas, MNAP ecologists identified a high value late successional *Beech - Birch - Maple Forest* in 1992. The site will need to be revisited to determine if it still meets Maine Natural Areas Program criteria as a significant feature. In the meantime, it remains a mapped exemplary community.

An exemplary *Cedar - Spruce Seepage Forest* occurs along Schedule Brook. This area is mapped by MNAP because of a combination of its old-growth cedar component and its size. Only selective harvesting has occurred, and primarily around the margins of the occurrence. Canopy trees > 200 years old are common, and average tree age is likely over 100 years. Cedar is dominant, but red spruce is also common. Very large larch are widely scattered, with some over 200 years old. The understory is not especially rich but does contain abundant cedar regeneration. Numerous patches of the uncommon yellow lady-slipper orchid are scattered throughout the occurrence.

These features are shown on Map Figure 7.

Wildlife and Fisheries Resources

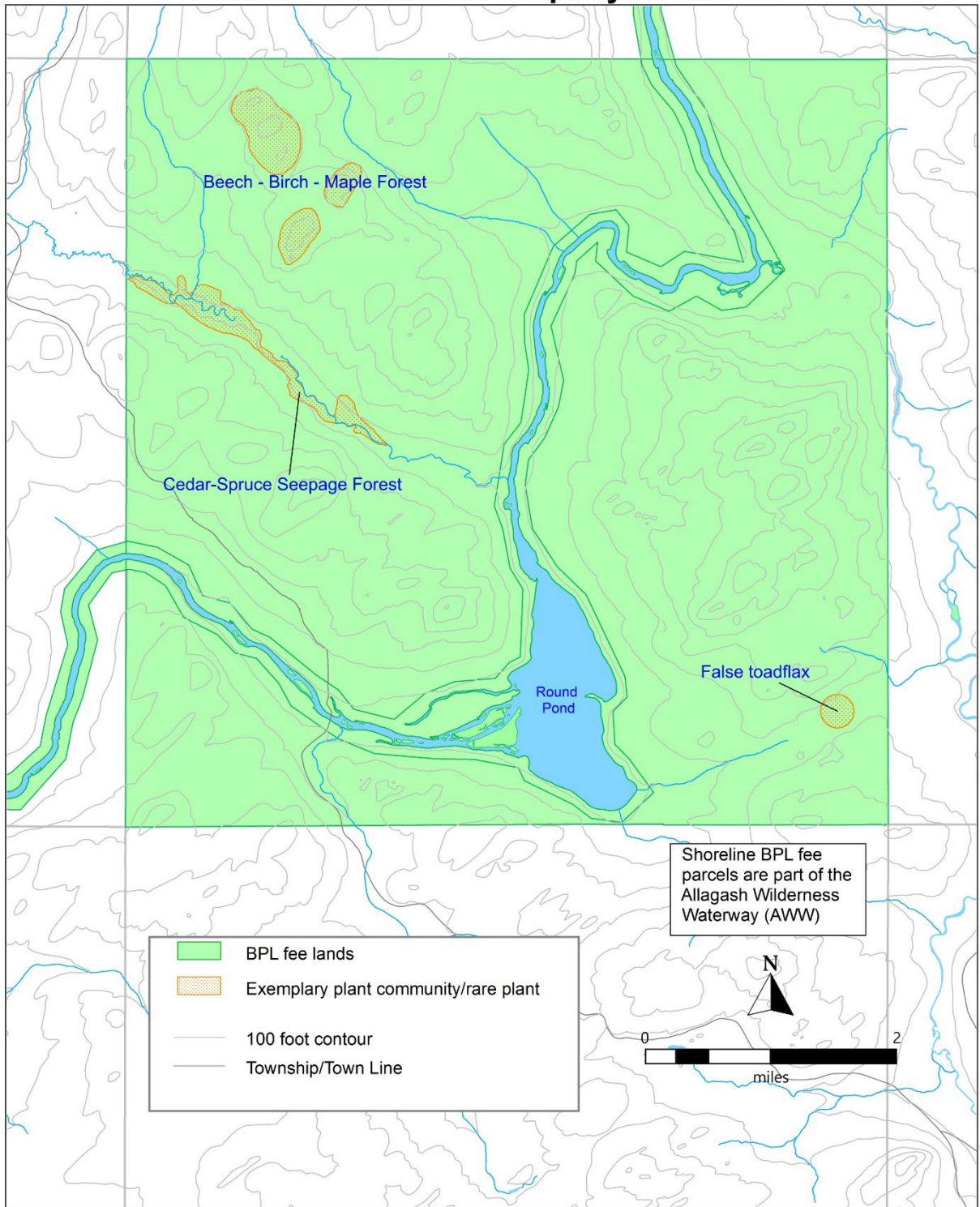
Round Pond provides habitat for a number of wide-ranging game species of Maine's North Woods, including black bear, white-tailed deer, and moose. The Unit has historically been an important area for deer in northwestern Maine, but deer numbers have declined substantially since the 1990s. Possible causes include predation and successive severe winters in 2007 and 2008. An aggressive feeding program in the town of Allagash may have also altered deer distribution,

MDIF&W has mapped 132 acres of inland wading bird and waterfowl habitat in the township. However, a majority of this habitat is along the Allagash River, in the AWW.

As noted above, the Plan area (and this township) is within the designated Critical Habitat for the Canada lynx, and lynx are known to be present. MDIF&W has detected the presence of lynx on several of the adjacent townships during winter snow track surveys. No other endangered or threatened wildlife are known to be present or been recorded on the Unit. Bald eagles often nest near the shore of Round Pond, within the AWW.

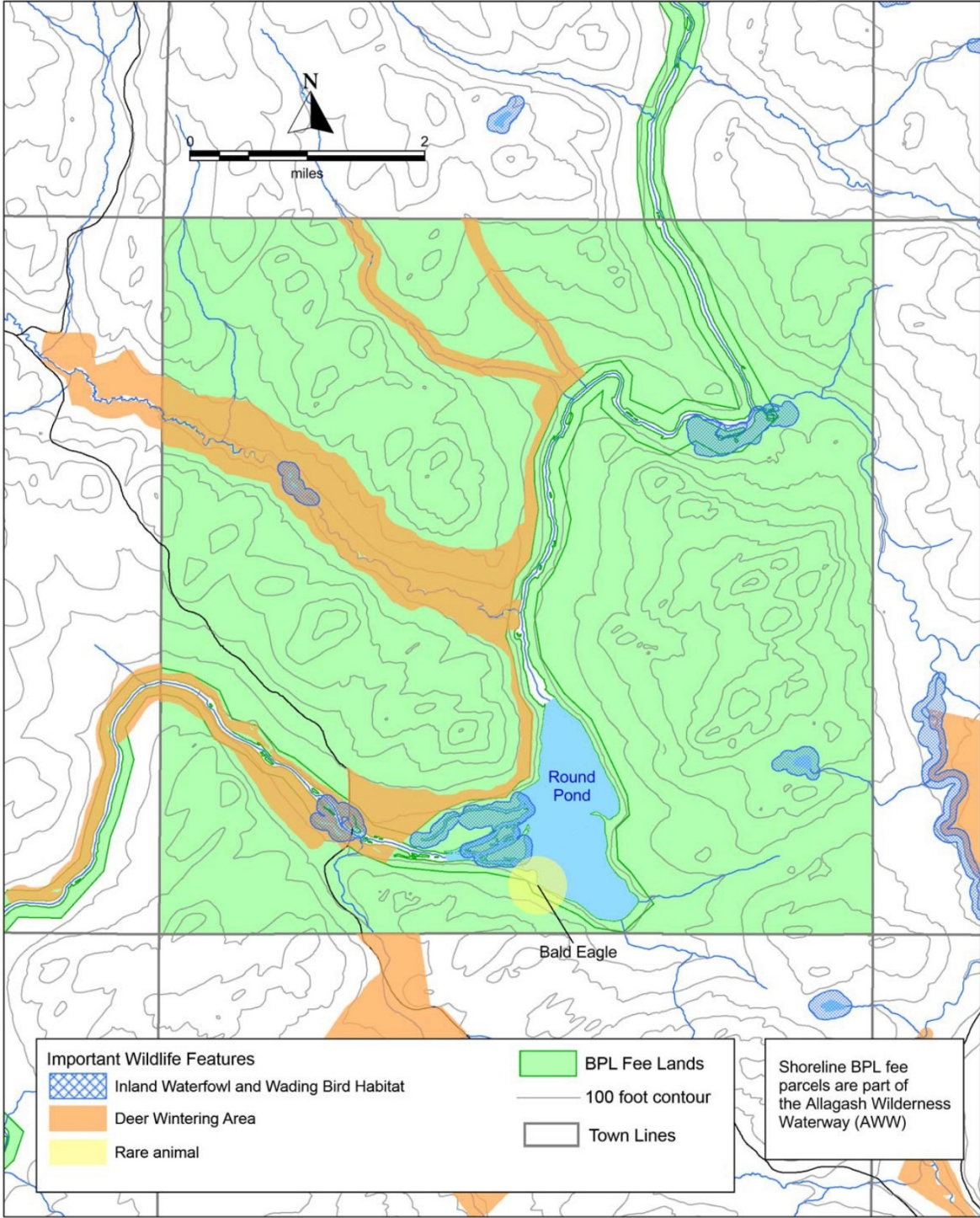
Wild brook trout are present in the Allagash River and are also present in some of the tributary streams that flow to the river from the Unit, based on MDIF&W mapping of brook trout habitat. These streams are essential to maintaining the integrity of the wild brook trout population in the Allagash River drainage by providing spawning and nursery habitat and coldwater refuge when main stem river temperatures are warm. All of the tributaries are also important sources of cold water to the river during the warm summer months.

Round Pond Unit MNAP "Rare and Exemplary" Features



MAP FIGURE 7.

Round Pond Unit Important Wildlife Features



MAP FIGURE 8.

Habitat Management Agreement

BPL and MDIF&W have developed a Habitat Management Agreement (HMA) for a 10,000-acre area within the Unit and adjacent AWW lands to be managed primarily for wintering deer based on current and historic deer use and softwood forest types (see Appendix B). A portion of this area is LURC-mapped deer wintering areas, as shown on Map Figure 8. The HMA was adopted in December 2006, and is reviewed annually, with renewal of the agreement every 15 years into perpetuity.

History and Culture

The Round Pond Mountain Fire Tower is a decommissioned Maine Forest Service fire lookout that was installed in 1946. The cab was replaced by a viewing platform that was installed 20+ years ago and remained until summer 2020, when a new cab was installed. There are no known archeological resources on the Unit.

Access and Recreation Resources

The primary access into the Unit is the Blanchette-Maibec Road, which bisects the southwest quadrant of the Unit, and crosses the Allagash River at Henderson bridge. The road, on and off the Unit, is maintained by Daaquam Lumber, who collects tolls from trucks hauling timber. Access to a majority of the Unit is via the network of management roads, a portion of which remain open to vehicles. The focus of road building has been on the east side of the Allagash, and several miles of new management roads were constructed in 2013 in the southeast quadrant of the Unit, and additional road construction east of the river is planned. Substantial road upgrades have occurred on the west side of the Allagash, primarily along both sides of Schedule Brook.

The road system on the east side of the Unit is gated. There has traditionally been no vehicle access to that side of the township, and the Bureau, in consultation with MDIF&W, has chosen to maintain non-motorized access for users seeking that type of experience.

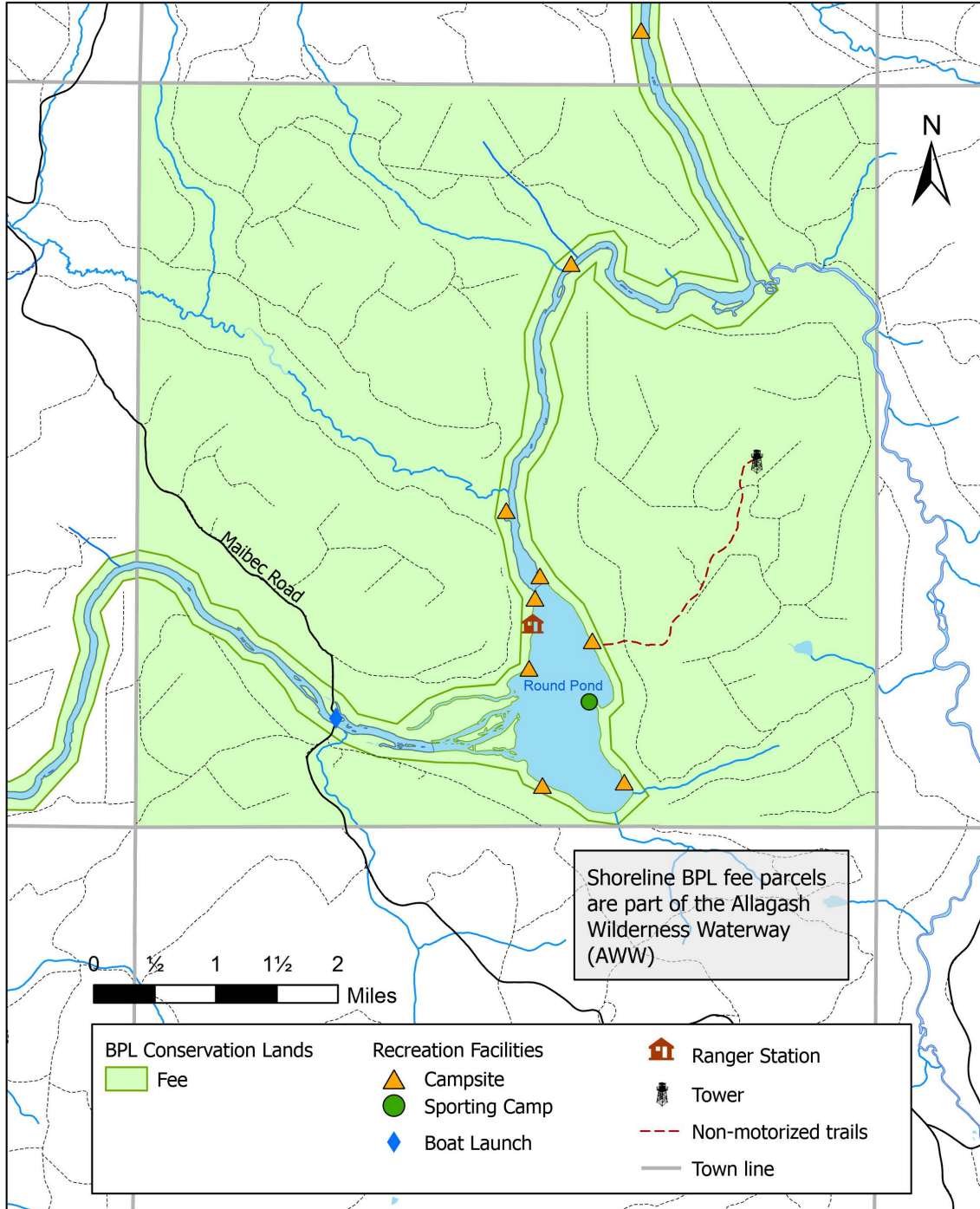
The existing recreational facilities on the Unit are the fire tower, and the two-mile hiking trail from the shore of Round Pond within the AWW to the tower. AWW staff maintain the trail and report that many paddlers make the hike. It is a valued break from the paddling routine; some paddlers linger a day or two at the campsite where the trail begins, to visit the tower, explore the area, or rest. The tower provides a 360-degree view of the surrounding lands that is otherwise unavailable on the Unit.

Over the past several years, the Bureau has been taking steps to rehabilitate the tower. An access trail to bring in equipment from a nearby management road was developed, after which trees and other vegetation beneath the tower were cleared and the cement footings and steel cable stays were replaced. In summer of 2020, a newly built watchman's cab was installed on the tower.

Map Figure 9 depicts the road system used to access the Unit as well as the roads and recreation resources on the Unit and adjacent section of the AWW.

The Round Pond property is also used for dispersed activities, particularly hunting, facilitated by the good vehicle and pedestrian access afforded by the road system reaching into all parts of the

Round Pond Unit Access & Recreation Facilities



MAP FIGURE 9.

Unit. There are eight bear bait sites on the Unit managed by NMW; NMW leases additional bait sites on the commercial forestland surrounding the Unit.

Not including AWW paddlers hiking to the fire tower, Bureau staff estimate that over 90% of recreation use is associated with fall hunting. There are no snowmobile or ATV routes on the Unit.



Round Pond Mtn. fire tower (2017).



View toward Round Pond from tower.

Timber Resources

Of the approximately 20,800 acres in the Round Pond Unit, 98% is forested and 98% of the forest is regulated (20,031 acres). Unregulated acres are either small areas of steep land, or noncommercial forest on very infertile sites. Topography is rounded hills separated by gentle brook corridors, with relatively fertile soils on most acres, capable of excellent softwood growth and some sufficiently fertile to produce quality hardwoods. The southeasterly 4,000 acres of the unit are mainly hardwood and mixedwood types, in contrast to the remainder which hold only a small proportion of hardwood types. Much of this southeast area hardwood types appear to be of fire origin, being rich in intolerant hardwoods, chiefly aspen, with much mature/overmature aspen and paper birch having been harvested under Bureau management.

Harvest History and Stocking

Harvesting under State ownership began late in 1988 and has continued through all but two years (2003 and 2010) since then. Harvest volume since 1988 totals 191,300 cords, about three-fourths of which was softwood logs (mainly spruce-fir), and one-fourth hardwood pulpwood, and much smaller amounts of hardwood logs/veneer and softwood pulpwood. Operations east of both the river and Round Pond itself have produced about one-third of total harvest volume, with over half of that being hardwoods. In the forest to the west, heavily softwood dominated, harvest

volume is only 12% hardwoods. A wind event in December of 2000 caused widespread wind throw, principally on lands west of the river and north of the Blanchette Road. Thanks to good access, salvage harvests in 2001 and 2002 were able to cover about 3,200 acres and retrieve nearly 13,000 cords, including about 2,000 cords of hardwoods which had blown over despite having no foliage at the time.

In 2012, as part of the Bureau's Outcome Based Forestry projects, four clearcuts totaling 90 acres were made on the northwest part of the unit. These were actually seed tree harvests, with five or more large sugar maple and/or yellow birch retained within the harvest areas, the objective being the establishment of diverse regeneration instead of the beech dominated understory created through lighter harvests. Plots measured in September 2017 showed that beech is a significant part of the seedlings but that yellow birch and sugar maple are important components as well.

In 2018 a major outbreak of spruce beetle was discovered on the Unit, the worst damage occurring mainly west of the Allagash River and north of the Blanchette Road. In the past, this insect generally has targeted white spruce but in the current outbreak has caused extensive damage to red spruce as well. Trees typically die within 1-2 years of being infested. As a result of this discovery, harvests planned for outside of this Plan area were shifted to Round Pond. Operations there during winter 2018-19 frozen ground conditions salvaged approximately 14,000 cords of damaged/dying spruce. These stands were scheduled for entry in the near future but absent the spruce beetle would've had a partial overstory removal rather than the heavier harvest mandated by the imminent death of these trees. Fortunately, the area has abundant regeneration of desirable species which will respond quickly to having the overstory taken off.

Stand Type Characteristics (regulated acres only)

Softwood types cover nearly 9,400 acres, 47% of regulated forest. Quality is generally very good on spruce, dependent on age for fir, and fair to good for cedar. Current stocking is 28 cords per acre. The species composition in softwood types is 42% spruces, 28% cedar, 17% fir, 4% paper birch, and 3% aspens/poplar, with the remaining 6% divided among seven species.

Most of the softwood acreage and much of softwood-dominant mixedwood lie within the area of the 10,000-acre habitat management agreement area (HMA) for deer winter cover. Management there has an objective to maintain conforming winter cover on 50% of the area suitable for primary cover, and maintain that proportion.

Mixedwood types are found on 7,500 acres, 37% of the regulated area. They are found on all sites but the wettest and quality is also good, though the hardwood component varies with drainage, and with the degree of market-driven high-grading in the mid twentieth century. Stocking is 23 cords per acre, and the species mix is 34% spruce, 19% fir, 12% red maple, 10% yellow birch, 8% aspen/poplar, and 5% each sugar maple and paper birch.

Hardwood types cover 3,100 acres, 16% of tract forest. They are most often found on the low summits and their upper slopes. Stocking is slightly lower than that in mixedwoods, about 21 cords per acre. The species mix is 33% sugar maple, 19% spruce, 18% yellow birch, 9% each fir and red maple, 6% beech and 4% paper birch. Overall quality is fair to occasionally poor on

older overstory hardwoods, as for decades only sawlogs and veneer could be economically harvested. Hardwood saplings and poles, some of the tall mid-aged hardwoods, plus softwoods in general, are of good quality.

Management Issues, Concerns and Opportunities

The Bureau of Parks and Lands will manage the Round Pond Unit for multiple uses including outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat, scenic and natural area protection, water quality protection, and production of forest products. The following discussion summarizes the key management issues and opportunities associated with each of these uses on the Round Pond lands.

Timber Management

Much of the Round Pond lands will continue to be managed as a multiple use working forest. The approximately 20,000 acres of regulated forest in the Round Pond Unit may be allocated to timber management as a dominant or important secondary use. Timber management may be designated as a dominant land use but may also occur as a secondary activity on lands with other dominant resource allocations, such as Remote Recreation or Wildlife Management areas. For example, Wildlife will be the dominant use in riparian buffers and on wetlands and beaver flowages. The Wildlife dominant allocation will also be applied to the 10,000 acres of the HMA, DWA, encompassing significant acreage on both sides of the river; all harvesting activity will be conducted within the protocols and guidelines of the deer wintering area HMA.

Given that many acres will have timber as the dominant or important secondary use, management should work toward maintaining good growth on quality trees, especially spruce and quality hardwoods, while ensuring both vertical and horizontal diversity. Regarding access for forest management: There is still significant road building to be done on the east side of the river (5+ miles of new summer roads), as well as 3+ miles of summer road on the west side.

HMA area -- About 2,000 acres of the HMA is zoned DWA, and the remainder holds softwood and mixedwood stands offering both cover and food on different portions of the agreement area. Bureau management in the HMA will continue to work to maintain 50% of the suitable area in good winter cover, while ensuring that younger stands will supply those areas as mature stands no longer qualify due to harvesting or decadence. (During the earlier Bureau-managed harvests, late 1980s through mid-1990s, winter operations attracted hundreds of deer. As their population in northern Maine decreased, more recent harvests have been visited by relatively few.)

Softwood stands -- Overall management should favor spruce, cedar, and any pine in these types, accepting the ubiquitous fir as a shorter-lived component that can provide cover and be harvested as part of a shelterwood or selection system. Much of both softwood and mixedwood types have abundant softwood/mixedwood regeneration, and timber stand improvement and/or early commercial thinning can move the next generation toward a higher spruce proportion.

Mixedwood stands -- Management should work toward moving many of these acres to softwood type through preferential harvesting of hardwoods where the younger softwoods are sufficient to take over the site. This should be higher in priority within the HMA area and where those softwoods have a strong spruce and/or pine component.

Hardwood stands -- Beech bark disease is common on this species, and any full-crowned beech should be retained in most cases. Given the relatively small area in hardwoods, management should retain the type unless it's found on wetter sites where it will not grow well. Nurturing the acres where good quality younger hardwoods are growing should be a priority.

Visual concerns -- Visual management is particularly important near the AWW, in accord with the wilderness character that is essential to maintain within the waterway. Over 4,000 acres is within the area identified as visible from the AWW¹. Harvesting within those areas must be managed to retain a relatively intact appearance from the water. Harvesting within the one-mile outer zone of the AWW should be timed to avoid the busiest canoeing season (defined for the purposes of this Plan as May15-September 15). See Appendix D for a map of the AWW-visible areas as well as the one-mile zone within the Round Pond Unit.

Wildlife and Habitat Protection/Special Resources

The HMA provides the road map for management of the deer wintering area, in close cooperation with MDIF&W. The HMA is incorporated by reference into this Plan and will be the overriding guiding document for wildlife management for the habitat management area throughout the life of the Plan. See Appendix C for a summary of the designation criteria for Wildlife dominant areas.

The only botanical resources on the Unit of a significance that would justify Special Protection allocations are the late-successional Northern Hardwoods knolls north of Schedule Brook (as noted above, to be revisited by MNAP) and the Cedar – Spruce Seepage Forest with old-growth component along Schedule Brook. The stands along Schedule Brook will be managed to preserve the unique character of the stands. Harvests will strive to maintain conforming cover for deer.

Portions of the Cedar – Spruce Seepage Forest were coincidentally scheduled for harvest in the same year the site was surveyed by MNAP and identified as supporting this feature. The survey data did not reach BPL staff in time to be taken into consideration in the prescription. BPL and MNAP are working on a more timely process for data sharing to avoid this in the future. If any additional harvest is planned for the Cedar – Spruce Seepage Forest, MNAP will be consulted.

The small peatland/cedar swamp in the southeast corner of the Unit will continue to be unregulated and monitored for rare and endangered plants.

Recreation Resources

The Bureau completed the fire tower restoration in 2020. With the covered cab replaced, an opportunity exists to provide additional interpretive content in the cab; one suggestion made to the Bureau is to mount a copy of the circular fire-spotting map once used by the wardens who manned the tower.

¹ Visible area is defined in AWW regulations as “those land areas that can be seen at any point on the watercourse from Churchill Dam north, without the aid of any magnifying devices” (AWW Management Plan, p. 178).

Administrative Issues

Access and Road Maintenance

The Bureau is responsible for maintenance of the several miles of public use roads and management roads that remain open to vehicles on the Unit. The Bureau may also conduct maintenance on the roads leading to the Unit, in consultation with private landowners, as required to maintain recreation access.

The Northern Region has received frequent requests over the years for expanded vehicle access on the east side of the Unit. Given this desire, and the Bureau's substantial recent investment in roads in that area and the ongoing investments in rehabilitation of the fire tower, the Bureau proposes to move the existing gate near the southeast corner of the Unit to a location near the fire tower. This would provide expanded vehicle access south of the gate while continuing walk-in access north of the gate and north of Musquacook Stream. It would also provide vehicle access close to the fire tower, which is not available at any other fire tower in the Northern Region.

It remains a major concern for the Bureau for all management efforts at Round Pond that its activities do not result in conflicts with AWW management objectives. As regards roads, the Bureau has closed and barricaded management roads where they approach the AWW (1/4 mile from the highwater mark), and particularly roads that come near campsites.

Vision for the Round Pond Unit

The Round Pond lands are a large block of forestland surrounding the Allagash River, with significant ecological, wildlife, timber and recreational values. These lands will provide a flow of forest products with much of the property managed as a multiple-use working forest for quality timber, respecting wildlife habitat needs and accommodating the existing trail to the fire tower.

Protections will be provided with appropriate allocations for sensitive natural resources, such as exemplary natural communities, wetlands and riparian habitats. The zoned deer wintering area and considerable additional acres will be further protected and enhanced for deer habitat, as guided by the Habitat Management Agreement (HMA) signed by BPL and MDIF&W.

Traditional dispersed recreation activities such as hunting and trapping will continue on the unit. A foot path will be maintained by AWW to the Round Pond fire tower from the AWW campsite on Round Pond and work will continue as resources allow to fully rehabilitate the tower and enhancing its recreational and educational/historical value.

The Bureau will take steps to supplement signage on the Unit and provide other visitor information disseminated through maps and brochures. Road and bridge improvements will be conducted as needed and as resources allow. Public access to the existing road system will be expanded in the southeast quadrant of the Unit, generally south of the fire tower.

Resource Allocations for the Round Pond Unit

The following “allocations,” as shown on Map Figure 10 – Round Pond Dominant Use Allocations, define general management objectives and direction for specific areas within the Unit. (Secondary allocations are not shown on the map.) See Appendix C for a description of designation criteria and management direction for the various allocation categories.

Special Protection Areas (Dominant Allocation)

- Three areas totaling approximately 80 acres encompassing three hardwood knolls previously identified as high-value late succession forest; this allocation may be revised pending resurvey of the knolls by MNAP.

Wildlife Management Areas (Dominant Allocation)

- A total of about 10,000 acres as a dominant allocation within the biological deer wintering area that occupies most of the south end of the Unit. This includes all of the area covered by the Deer Wintering Area HMA. Remote Recreation is a secondary allocation in this area.
- A total of about 575 additional acres as a dominant allocation within the minor riparian zones (75 feet) along the perennial streams in the Unit, as well as mapped inland waterfowl and wading bird habitat, that are outside the HMA area. Remote Recreation is a secondary allocation in these riparian areas.

A secondary Timber Management allocation is also designated for the riparian buffer areas, subject to wildlife, recreation, and visual resource concerns, and the guidelines contained in the HMA.

Remote Recreation Areas (Dominant and Secondary Allocation)

- A Remote Recreation buffer is applied to areas within 500 feet of the existing Round Pond fire tower trail, outside the areas with a Wildlife dominant allocation, totaling about 170 acres.
- Remote Recreation is a secondary allocation in the riparian areas and the deer wintering area with a Wildlife dominant allocation, as described above.

A secondary Timber Management allocation is also designated for the trail buffer areas, subject to wildlife, recreation, and visual resource concerns.

Visual Consideration Areas (Secondary Allocation)

- Visual Class I areas (generally areas where foreground views of natural features that may directly affect the enjoyment of viewers) will be defined as a secondary allocation on the ground for areas adjacent to the primary access roads, and areas around the fire-tower trail.
- Visual Class II areas will be defined as a secondary allocation in areas beyond the immediate foreground, such as background views of forest canopies from ridgelines and background hillsides viewed from public use roads, or interior views beyond the Class I area likely to be seen from a road, trail or water body; in the Round Pond Unit, this includes previously identified and mapped AWW Visible Areas and several abutting areas.

Developed Recreation - Class I Areas (Dominant Allocation)

- All roads designated for public motor vehicle use.

Timber Management Areas (Dominant Allocation)

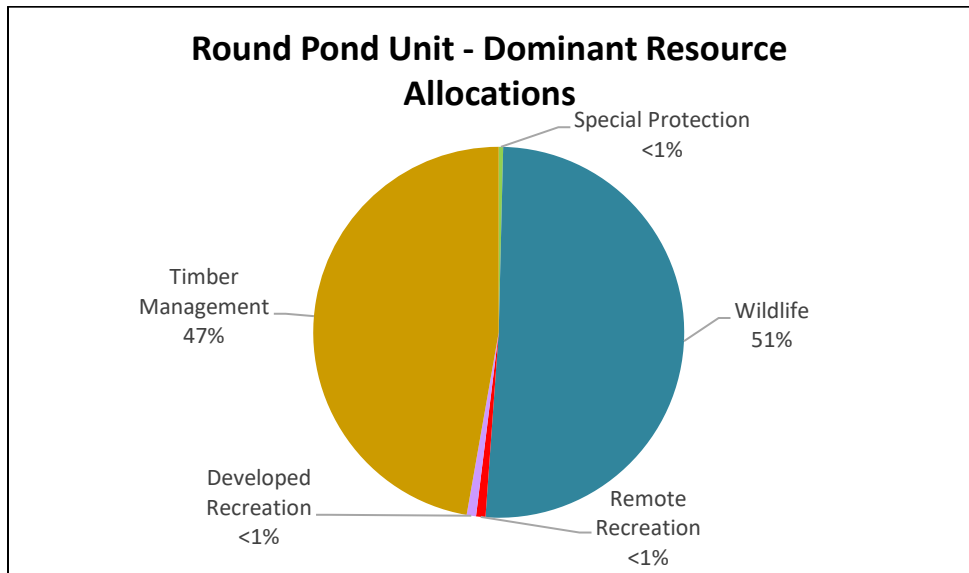
- All other areas not allocated above are designated Timber Management dominant (approximately 9,840 acres); includes a majority of the upland portions of the Unit, excepting the area allocated to Remote Recreation. Recreation will be recognized as an important secondary use within the timber dominant allocation.

Round Pond Unit Allocation Summary

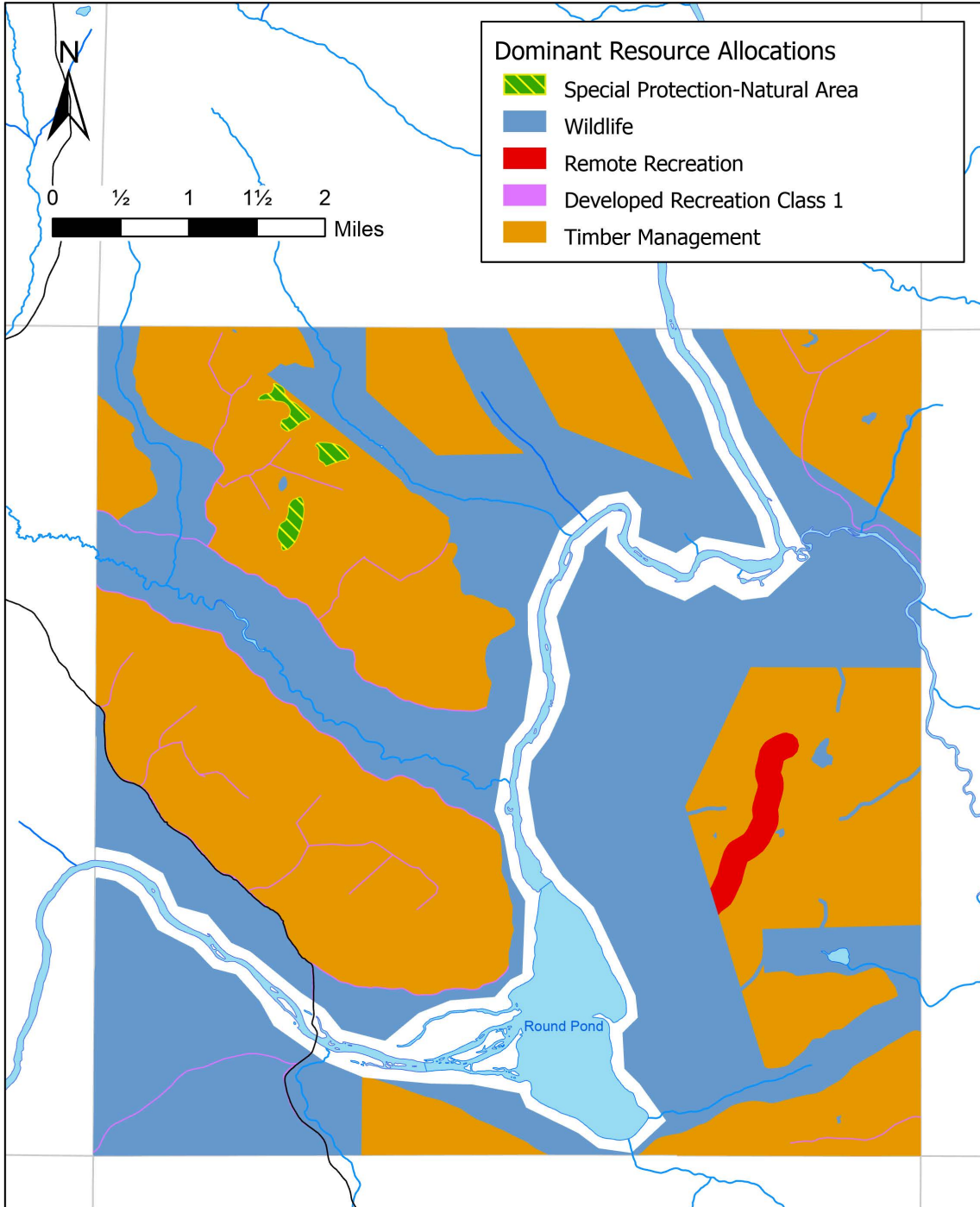
Allocation	Number of Acres			%
	Dominant	Secondary	Total	
Special Protection	80	Not applicable	80	<1.0
Wildlife Management	10,575	Not applicable	10,575	50.8
Remote Recreation	170	10,575	10,745	51.6
Visual Consideration – Class I	0	240*	240	1.2
Visual Consideration – Class II	0	4,950*	4,950	23.8
Developed Recreation – Class I	170	Not applicable	170	<1.0
Timber Management	9,840	10,745	20,585	98.8

Note: Acreages are representations based on GIS metrics rounded to the nearest 5 acres, and do not sum to the total Unit acreage due to measuring error and limits of GIS precision.

* Preliminary estimate, to be refined in the field as part of forest prescription process.



Round Pond Unit Dominant Resource Allocations



MAP FIGURE 10.

Management Recommendations for the Round Pond Unit

Recreation and Access

- Develop interpretive information and displays, in cooperation with AWW staff, to be installed at the rehabilitated fire tower (and potentially in the new cab) related to fire lookout function of the original tower.
- Move the existing gate near the southeast entrance to the Unit to just south of the location where the trail to the fire tower crosses the management road, about ¼ mile from the tower.
- Continue coordination with AWW staff for the maintenance of the fire tower trail.

Wildlife/Rare or Exemplary Ecosystems and Habitats

- Continue implementation of the Deer Wintering Area HMA, in cooperation with MDIF&W.

Timber Management

- The Bureau will manage areas allocated to Timber Management as a multiple use working forest. Timber resources where allocated will provide a diverse forested environment and generate high quality-high value products to support Bureau operations and Maine's timber-based economy. The Bureau will practice multi-aged management on most acres (aspen excluded) with a long-term focus primarily on mature quality timber.
- Because of the presence of the AWW across the middle of the Unit, certain areas nearest the AWW (mapped Visual Concern Areas) will be subject to Visual Class I considerations.

Chamberlain Unit

This section provides background information on the Chamberlain Unit, including the general character of the land base; ecological resources and natural communities; wildlife resources; history and culture; recreation and visual resources; and timber resources. This is followed by a summary of the key management issues and opportunities that the Plan will seek to address through the Vision, resource allocations and management recommendations for the unit.

Character of the Land Base and Acquisition History

The Chamberlain Unit is a grouping of eight non-contiguous tracts covering just under 9,500 acres. A majority of the acres were acquired in 1984 as part of larger land trades with Great Northern Nekoosa and the Pingree Heirs. Most of the remaining acres were acquired in 1987 in a land trade with The Nature Conservancy. The current tracts also include three original public lots that were retained; others in the region were traded away.

The largest of these subunits (composed of two tracts) is the 2,885-acre Chamberlain Lake (aka Bear Mountain) Ecological Reserve, most of which occupies the Bear Mountain peninsula, north of Lock Dam and between Chamberlain and Big Eagle Lakes; the remainder occupies the ~500 acre Woodman Brook peninsula at the south end of Big Eagle Lake. The Indian Pond tract is contiguous to the main part of the ecological reserve, to the southeast, and contains 2,075 acres. Two small peninsular tracts are on the west side of Big Eagle Lake: the "Boot" tract (329 acres)