

Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands - Upper Kennebec Region Plan

Issues, Concerns, Needs, Opportunities

BLUE FONT: Comments from 11/17/16 Advisory Committee Meeting, and updated MNAP information on rare and exemplary plants and communities

HOLEB (includes Number 5 Bog Ecological Reserve)

Summary of Resources

- Fee ownership and acquisition history: Unit can be divided into 3 main sections:
 - **Western (Holeb Pond) section**, ~17,076 acres, surrounding Holeb Pond, East half and SW quarter of Holeb Twp., additional acres on adjacent west part of Attean Twp. Most was acquired in the 1970s and 80s.
 - **Eastern (Attean Pond) section**, ~1,940 acres, land surrounding Attean Pond and adjacent part of NW Bradstreet Twp. Most are Original Public Lots; North and South shore land acquired in 1994. 2 shoreline outlots acquired in 2006.
 - **No. 5 Bog section**, ~4,700 acres, designated ecoreserve encompassing south part of bog, surrounding uplands and adjacent parts of Moose River, and upstream river segments in Attean Twp. and T5 R7. Most acquired in 2009; 1 acre inholding on river acquired in 2012.
- Access and Roads: Two public use roads provide access to the two major ponds:
 - Holeb Pond Road (AKA Turner Beach Road) connects to Holeb Road and terminates at Holeb Landing; Attean Landing Road terminates at Attean Landing. Both roads are reached from US 201 via private roads, and in the case of Attean Landing, a town-maintained road.
 - A private road, Spencer Rips Road, provides access to the Moose River and south margin of No. 5 Bog ecoreserve, connecting via Spencer Rd to US 201. Spencer Rd continues west, and connects to other private roads that approach the boundary of the Unit.
 - A number of management roads cross the western section of the unit, north and south of Holeb Pond; a few management roads are present on the east side of Attean Pond, but are not accessible to the general public due to gated private roads to the east.
- Recreation and amenities: The focus of recreation on the Unit is the well-known Bow Trip on the Moose River (and across Attean and Holeb Ponds), one of the most popular multiple-day canoe trips in Maine.
 - Boat access via unpaved launch ramps is available at Holeb and Attean Landings
 - BPL provides about a dozen shoreline boat-access campsites on Holeb and Attean Ponds, and about 15 campsites along the Moose River
 - A 1-mile portage trail is maintained by BPL on an easement between Attean and Holeb Ponds
 - An informal hiking trail provides a route to Sally Mountain, mainly across private land (Carrier timberlands under FSM easement) from the north shore of Attean Pond. Other trails also exist on the Carrier lands.
- Ponds: Both Holeb and Attean Ponds are noted for their cold water fisheries, as well as their scenic character and relatively undeveloped shorelines. Attean is designated a “wild” Heritage Brook Trout water. The Western section contains several smaller ponds, the largest from 20 to about 40 acres in size; Barrett Pond (34 acres) is a “wild” brook trout water, while Long Bog and Cedar Pond are “native” (never stocked) brook trout waters; Loon Pond (37 acres) has also been classified as “significant” for fishery resources (Wildlands Lake Assessment). Access to all of the smaller ponds is walk-in only.

- Leases: There are 10 camplot leases in Holeb Twp. and 2 in Attean Twp. (each one half acre).
- Hunting and trapping: Both occur on the unit. There are 5 bear bait sites on the Western Section and 1 on Bradstreet Twp. parcel SE of Attean Pond.
- Special Resources:
 - No. 5 Bog is a designated National Natural Landmark and was designated by BPL as an ecological reserve to protect 5 exemplary natural communities, within the bog and an adjacent Jack Pine stand (largest such inland stand in the state).
 - Several small Red Pine Woodlands (an uncommon natural community type) have been identified on knolls within the Holeb Pond Section.
 - Along the Moose River and above Holeb falls, several important wetland communities were identified. These include Hardwood River Terrace Forest, an uncommon wetland type, and an exemplary Spruce-Larch Wooded Bog.
 - Two rare plants associated with cedar swamps were found within the unit: swamp honeysuckle (*Lonicera oblongifolia*) and sparse-flowered sedge (*Carex tenuiflora*).
 - The Moose River is classified as a “Class A” river, with regional natural and recreational resource significance.
- Timber Resources: Timber harvest operations occur most years on the Unit, although has been sporadic past few years; harvests averaged about 7,400 cords/year for the past 10 year period, nearly three-fourths of the volume harvested in the region in that period.

Issues/Needs/Opportunities

- Recreation:
 - **Bow Trip campsites**: The Bureau has recognized a need for more consistent maintenance of the campsites on Holeb and Attean Ponds and Moose River. BPL has recently contracted with NFCT to assist BPL with this task, with the expectation that frequency of maintenance will increase from past years. 2016 is the first season of this contract. Under this contract, NFCT has recently repaired and replaced tables and privies at Bow Trip sites, using materials provided by BPL.
 - **Bow Trip campers at landing**: There may be an issue with Bow Trip paddlers who arrive late in the day to begin their trip and either camp at Sally Beach campsite (½ mile paddle from landing) or (illegally) at the boat launch or town park on Wood Pond in Jackman. Reportedly, some also attempt to camp at Attean Landing, but are kept from doing so by the Attean Lodge employee there. Need to discuss whether BPL should continue to not allow camping at the landing. There may be a need to explore providing a group campsite somewhere near the Attean Landing.
 - **AC meeting comments**:
 - FSM has heard concerns about difficult for motorized boat launching at Attean landing due to the Lodge’s dock occupying the only area with sufficient water depth
 - Portage trail bog bridging is too narrow for boaters using canoe dollies to transport their boats.
 - Would like to see old wood from old bog bridging along portage trail removed; believe that was the intent when the work was done a few years ago but has not happened.
 - Though some have the perception that use on the Bow Trip route is down, NFCT has observed more large groups.
- Access/Roads:
 - **Attean Landing Road issues**: Providing for public use of the private Attean Landing Road has been an issue the Bureau has contended with for a number of years. In the spring, the road is sometimes gated at the end of the public way (0.6 miles from the Attean Twp. line and 0.9 miles from Attean Landing) when the public would like to gain access to the pond.

COLD STREAM FOREST

Summary of Resources

- Fee Ownership and Acquisition: The Unit was acquired in March 2016, with the primary goal of protecting wild native brook trout habitat. The acquisition was accomplished with both Forest Legacy Program and Land for Maine's Future funds. The 8,150 acres is divided into north and south halves by Capital Road. About half the acreage surrounds a group of 8 ponds at the north end of the unit. A roughly 1/4 mile wide corridor extends south for 14 miles on either side of Cold Stream. A mile and a half stretch of Cold Stream upstream of Capital Road flows through a 200-300 ft. deep gorge. Additional forested acreage is near Capital Road, adjacent to the Johnson Mountain and West Forks Plt. NE lots and at the south end of the Unit. A 100-foot wide CMP-owned powerline ROW separates the parcel south of Capital Road from the remainder of the parcels further south.
- Access and Roads: The Unit is accessible to vehicles from US 201 and Capital Road via several roads on which ROWs were granted by Plum Creek (now Weyerhaeuser) as part of the acquisition. Parts of this road network cross the state-owned parcels, with ROWs retained by Plum Creek across the state lands. 18 of these roads and road segments are included in a Reciprocal Easement Agreement. BPL has the right to maintain these roads for public access. The roads are generally in good condition, and most are drivable by non-4WD vehicles.
- Recreation and Amenities:
 - Campsites: Under the previous ownership, a 15-site primitive campground with fire rings, picnic tables, and 3 privies was established along Cold Stream east of Lone Jack Pond. There is a small floating dock on the stream. Four additional roadside shoreline campsites were established next to Durgin Pond, and several others in scattered locations near to roads.
 - Trails: A 0.4 mile walk-in trail has been established into Lang Pond, and a similar 0.5 mile trail into Big Berry Pond. Anglers also can walk on a 0.17 mile trail into Cold Stream Pond (on the MRCE) from a dead-end management road that connects to Old Cold Stream Rd to the south. There are likely additional trails into Snake and/or Fernald Pond, and perhaps angler trails into Cold Stream downstream of the headwaters area. A 1-mile trail, mainly following an old road, extends to Cold Stream Falls, a scenic highlight of the Unit, from the south.
 - ITS 87 snowmobile trail: This important regional snowmobile route, connecting to Rockwood to the north and The Forks to the south, runs through the Unit from north to south and other connecting trails extend east and west from the Unit. The area around The Forks is a choke point for trails.
 - ATV trails: A designated ATV route crosses the south part of the Unit, connecting to The Forks Area. There are no other designated routes on the Unit.
- Ponds: Nine named ponds lie in the northern part of the unit. All but one are **Heritage Brook Trout ponds** designated by IF&W as "native" or "wild" ("A" or "B" ponds, respectively). Several are considered to have "significant" fishery value (ME Wildland Lakes Assessment). Several are on or close to the roads. Most others can be reached on foot following existing foot paths. Four are zoned as "remote ponds" by LUPC, with 1/2 mile P-RR protection subdistrict within which new roads and other development are restricted.
 - Wildland Lake Assessment data
 - **Lang Pond**: 30 ac., Fisheries = "Significant", Resource Class = 2 (regional sig.)
 - **L. Lang Pond**: 13 ac., Fisheries = "Significant", Resource Class = 2 (regional sig.)
 - **Durgin Pond**: 15 ac., Fisheries = "Significant", Resource Class = 2 (regional sig.)
 - **Big Berry Pd.:** 35 ac., Botanic = "Significant", Resource Class = 2 (regional sig.)

- **L. Berry Pond:** 12 ac., no “outstanding” or “significant” resources identified
- **Lone Jack Pond:** 15 ac., no “outstanding” or “significant” resources identified
- *(Adjacent Cold Stream Pond is rated “outstanding” for fisheries and “significant” for scenic value, Resource Class 1B = statewide significance)*
- MDIF&W has established **special fishing regulations** for all 8 of the Heritage Brook Trout ponds: All are “fly fishing only” and most have a 2 fish limit. Additional special regs. apply to some of the ponds. All are closed to ice fishing.
- **Cold Stream:** Special regulations also apply to Cold Stream south of Capital Road bridge: artificial lures only and catch-and-release from Aug 16 to end of season on Sept 30. The lower part of Cold Stream has been documented to provide critical thermal refuge and spawning habitat for the Upper Kennebec and Dead River. (Note: the lowermost 1,600 feet of Cold Stream is not within the Cold Stream Unit nor SOM/BPL property.)
- Other Special Resources: Two “rare and exemplary natural communities” have been mapped by MNAP on the Unit, both along the lower few miles of Cold Stream – a Cobble Rivershore community, and Spruce-Fir Northern Hardwoods Ecosystem [along the steep sides of the ravine.](#)
- Wildlife:
 - As required for LMF-funded acquisitions, BPL and MDIF&W are developing Habitat Management Agreements (HMAs) that will help guide timber management and other activities, particularly in the riparian areas of Cold Stream, its tributaries and the ponds, and in deer wintering areas. The HMA for Fisheries Habitat will cover the entire Unit.
 - No LUPC-zoned deer wintering areas exists; however, most of the south part of the unit is identified as a “biological deer yard” (per the LMP proposal), which is the focus of the HMA for the deer wintering area. Part of this 3,000+ acre area was a “Cooperative Deer Wintering Area”, one of 16 such DWAs managed by Plum Creek in cooperation with MDIF&W.
- Timber Resources: TC has estimated, based on aerial imagery, that most of the area has been harvested by the previous owner in the past 30 years, with the exception of buffer areas around the ponds and along Cold Stream, including significant harvesting during the past decade. Those recent harvests include one 30-40 acre clearcut, and a number of heavy partial cuts. A majority of the forest (particularly the softwoods) is young (seedling/sapling).
- AC Meeting Comments:
 - Jeff Reardon of Trout Unlimited commented that Snake Pond may now be fishless, although it once had brook trout.
 - Some AC member has questions about the current value of the deer wintering area within the Unit. Doug Denico and other described the DWA as having little value to deer now; it is more of a long-term project, with management that will be prescribed by the HMA intended to ensure a matrix of shelter and browse habitat will be produced over time.
 - BPL Forester Marc Albert has inspected the condition of various timber stands across the Unit in recent weeks. An observation is that there is wood to be harvested in some areas this plan cycle, particularly away from the roads. It was also observed that substantial precommercial thinning has been done.

Issues/needs/opportunities

1. Recreation

- Appropriateness and condition of existing facilities:
 - Need to determine whether the existing campsites are appropriately located, particularly those close to pond and stream shorelines. Although LUPC rules may permit these existing

sites to be “grandfathered,” it may be appropriate to move some sites close to shorelines to maximize water quality protection.

- Existing tables and fire rings are in varying condition and should be inspected. May need to repair or replace some items.
- Small floating dock on Cold Stream at Lone Jack Campground should be inspected. May need to be replaced with something more stable and better constructed.
- Need to define appropriate access to LUPC-zoned remote ponds that do not have road access (e.g., Lang, Little Lang, Fernald, Snake); Big Berry is not a remote pond but does not have road access. As noted above, Lang and Big Berry both have existing access trails (shown on draft maps based on GPS data). Remote access is an important factor in providing continued protection of ponds and remote fishing experiences.
- Cold Stream Falls is in the gorge portion of the Cold Stream corridor. This feature provides a scenic highlight in the Unit, with easy access from US 201 and a modest 1 mile out and back hike on the existing trail. Consideration should be given to highlighting this feature and potential trail/parking improvements.
- There are about 6-7 bear bait sites on the unit, inherited from Weyerhaeuser, with several more on their lands east and west of the Unit. Need to evaluate the appropriate number of the sites on the unit and their locations (e.g., proximity to existing trails).

2. *Access/Roads*

- Hawk Road, leading to the Unit from the north and one of the roads covered by the Reciprocal Easement Agreement, is badly washed out in several places due to a storm event this summer. Need to evaluate need and cost of repair.
- Bridges and culverts need to be inspected and evaluated for condition, fish passage, and ability to pass high flows, which may be more frequent as Maine’s climate changes.
- Lone Jack Road on the esker south of the intersection with Old Cold Stream Road is rough due to its cobble-embedded surface. This stretch of road provides access to Lone Jack campground and could be improved with addition of new surface material.
- **AC Meeting Comment:** Hawk Road has now been repaired.

3. *Wildlife/Special Resources*

- The Habitat Management Agreements for Fisheries and Deer Wintering Areas between BPL and IF&W will be incorporated by reference into the Plan, and summarized in the Wildlife and Fisheries section. The Dominant Resource allocations will need to align with the HMAs. Much of the focus of the Fisheries HMA will be on riparian zones surround the ponds and along streams.
- Per the IRP, the ponds, Cold Stream and potentially some smaller streams will have a 330 foot Wildlife dominant resource allocation, which prioritizes habitat management in these riparian buffers; timber management and recreation are secondary uses. All streams will have a minimum 75 foot Wildlife dominant buffer zone.
- All deer wintering areas have a Wildlife dominant resource allocation, per the IRP.
- Interest has been expressed by Trout Unlimited and others in potential stream habitat restoration work, including “chop and drop” projects to add large woody debris to streams. MDIF&W would authorize any such work. The Plan needs to define how such projects would be accommodated and coordinated.

4. Administrative Issues

- **Campsite caretaker:** An informal “caretaker” system that has been in place for a number of years prior to the state’s ownership will continue. Overall, the condition of the facilities is good and the area appears well maintained.
 - Need to determine if this caretaker system will continue and in what form (e.g., potential campsite host assigned to area, as at Spencer Bay on Moosehead).
 - **AC Meeting Comment:** Regional Manager Pete Smith described the camp host program, under which the host is allowed to camp the entire season at the assigned site, free of charge, and is provided a small stipend, and some insurance.
- **Stored boats:** About 80 canoes are presently stored at Lang Pond, and about 65 at two locations on Big Berry Pond, at the end of the access trails. Several are scattered at other ponds near the roads. A considerable area is occupied by the stored boats at each pond and there is a substantial negative visual impact at these wild and remote sites. Nearly all of the boats are locked to trees. Some are on racks built from scrap metal or standing trees or other native materials. Most boats appear usable, though some are clearly not (hulls with holes, rotten gunnels, etc.). Most of the boats are not marked with the owner’s name, and are not kept at least 25 feet from the shoreline, as required by BPL policy (IRP Section D-18). Long time users indicate that no more than a few boats are in use at any one time, even at peak use times.
 - Need to ask boat owners to mark usable boats per BPL policy and remove unusable boats. Unmarked boats would be removed after sufficient outreach and time allowed for boat owners to respond.
 - The IRP specifies that BPL may allow, allow with conditions, or prohibit boat storage at “backcountry” ponds (no existing road access within ½ mile). A number of management options have been put forth during scoping and require further discussion, with the understanding that many boat owners may oppose changes from the status quo:
 - Provide boat racks to substantially reduce the area occupied by stored boats and improve aesthetics
 - Implement a permit system whereby boat owners register boats that will be stored at a certain pond, with a maximum number to be stored at each pond determined by BPL based on use levels/need, biological/fisheries concerns, and aesthetics.
 - Replace private boat storage with a system where BPL provides a limited number of canoes, on racks at the landing sites (an option provided for in the IRP).
- **AC Meeting comments:** A variety of opinions were expressed about the boat storage issue and potential solutions described above. Tim Obrey of MDIF&W felt the amount of boats stored is not a problem, and allowing the boats to be stored on site is important in providing anglers access to the ponds. Others commented in support of removing unusable and unused boats, after sufficient outreach to owners and time allowed for response, with the hope that such a step would begin to substantially reduce the number of boats present, and also with the expectation that some people whose stored boats were removed would be upset. Others supported the idea of reducing the area occupied by boat with BPL designed racks. Doug Denico felt that no more than 6 boats were necessary to be stored at these ponds. The opinion was also expressed that it was unnecessary to store boats at ponds that are accessible by vehicle.
- **Signage:** A signage plan is needed. No BPL signage has been installed. Some private signage is present in the ponds area (e.g., bridge memorial sign and Lone Jack Campground sign). Plan would address locations for standard BPL signage, such as yardarm signs at primary

- entrance points and a kiosk or kiosks with Unit map, regulations, LMF signage, etc. May consider “BPL property” signage along roads that follow the boundary of the Unit.
- **Shooting Shack:** There is an elevated plastic shooting shack in a clear cut area off Tower Road in the south part of the Unit (in West Forks). Name and phone number are on it; Joe W. asked around and did some research and believes this person was from Pittsfield MA, but may now be deceased. No permanent structures are allowed on BPL property and steps need to be taken to remove it.

SANDY BAY

Summary of Resources

- 2,721 acres on the east side of US 201, abutting the Canadian border at the NW corner
- Acquired in trade in 1985 (traded out 960 acre Original Reservation in Sandy Bay Twp.)
- Mostly forested, with about 2,000 acres operable for timber harvesting (not including maple sugaring lease areas); a network of management roads has been established to access the timber.
- Nearly 10,000 cords were harvested in the 2011-2014 period. Harvests are complete until the next cycle.
- One objective of the harvest was to improve the potential for maple sugar production. In the past 5-6 years, BPL has initiated two sugarbush leases on about 400 acres of the Unit, with facilities to produce finished maple syrup; when fully utilized, the operations will include ~34,000 taps.
- A large wetland occupies several hundred acres on the south part of the lot (former flowed area from naturally breached Kelly Dam). [MNAP has mapped this large wetland as an exemplary Grassy Shrub Marsh.](#)
- MNAP surveys have not identified any exemplary communities or habitats.
- No recreation facilities are present.
- There are 4 bear bait sites on the unit.
- An approved ATV route follows the former route of US 201 for about 2 miles on the unit, paralleling the current highway.
- ITS 89 snowmobile trail crosses the SW corner of lot, then parallels US 201 to the west of the highway up to the Canadian border.

Issues/needs/opportunities

- None identified

Smaller Lots North of Jackman

- **Dennistown:**
 - 1,025 acre Original Reservation at NE corner of township, mainly on west side of US 201 (highway runs down east side of lot, 500-1000 feet west of lot boundary; management roads on west side of lot accessed off US 201)
 - Primarily a timber lot; no recreation facilities; 1 bear bait site
 - Christian Camps, with a facility a few miles to the east of US 201 on Heald Pond, had a ROW across the first 750 feet of Heald Pond Road (now expired). The same organization has a lease for a buried telephone cable in the same vicinity.
- **Moose River North & South:**
 - Two nearby lots on east side of US 201, separated by about ¼ mile, acquired in trade in 1988, total of 282 acres.
 - Primarily timber lots with no public roads; no recreation facilities
 - A snowmobile trail crosses the north lot, connecting to ITS 89 which passes just east of the lots, as does a designated ATV route. Other local connecting snowmobile and ATV trails may use the parcels.

Issues/Needs/Opportunities

- Need to re-establish Heald Pond Road ROW on Dennistown lot, ensure ROW conditions are met
- Moose River Golf Course may be partly on the south lot; specifically, on a 3 acre rectangular parcel, along the south side of course, joined with the main BPL parcel at the NE corner. Need to research further. May be a long-standing use that predates state ownership (1988), due to survey errors and/or poorly understood lot lines. Commercial use of the public land would require a lease.

Smaller Lots South of Jackman – West of US 201

- **Bradstreet Twp. South Lot:**
 - 210 acre Original Reservation lot, about 9 miles west of US 201, accessed via Spencer Road, which crossed the lot from east to west.
 - Much of the north portion of the lot is occupied by 47 acre Moore Pond, which is rated “significant” for fishery resources (Wildland Lakes Assessment), and a smaller pond downstream. Special fishing regs apply on Moore Pond: artificial lures only, catch and release. A few boats are stored on the shoreline at the end of an old jeep road.
 - Primarily a timber lot, although there is limited access north of the ponds. Unique among BPL lots for amount of Jack Pine present.
 - 1 bear bait site
 - MNAP has mapped an exemplary Black Spruce Barren on much of the lot; MNAP will remap as Jack Pine Forest.
- **Coburn Mountain Lot:**
 - 320 acre Original Reservation lot, about 3 miles west of US 201, draped across 3700 ft. mountain (highest in region). All of the lot is over 2,700 feet; LUPC P-MA (Mountain Area Protection) Subdistrict regulations apply.
 - Primarily a timber lot. BPL has ROW easement from Somerset County on Enchanted Mtn. Road, with responsibility for maintenance and repair.
 - A radio communications facility with a metal building and solar panels is at the top of the mountain at the former fire tower site (site is leased by BPL to OIT and CBP, site is managed by OIT through an Interagency Agreement).
 - An observation platform on a 20 foot steel tower where the fire tower once stood provides excellent 360 degree views of the entire region. Plans are underway to reconfigure the communications facilities and relocate the tower.
 - A snowmobile trail, mainly following an old road, leads to the tower site; it is the highest groomed trail in the state and an important destination for local riders and visitors. It is connected to ITS 87 and 89 and the regional trail network.
 - Development of an interpretive panel for the viewing tower is in progress
 - A second smaller communication facility on a site leased to Carrier, Inc. is at the top of the old ski lift area, near the east boundary of the parcel. New 25 year lease in 2013.
 - [Areas of Subalpine Fir Forest \(a rare natural community type\) have been mapped on the summit of Coburn Mountain and the ridge to its south.](#)
 - Entire mountain is habitat for Bicknell’s Thrush; construction and veg. removal is restricted during nesting period (until Aug 1).
 - **AC Meeting Comment:** [It was inquired whether the improvements/reconfiguration planned for the summit area included rebuilding the road. Jim responded that he did not think so, but would look into it further.](#)

- **West Forks Plt. NW, Central, SW Lots:**
 - Original Reservation lots, each about 150 acres and about 0.5 to 1 mile apart, Central lot is on US 201, surrounding a residential lot on the highway.
 - Primarily timber lots. 5 bear bait sites.
- **Highland Plt. East Lot:**
 - Original Reservation lot about 3 miles west of Wyman Lake; 210 acres
 - Primarily a timber lot
- **Pleasant Ridge Plt. Lot:**
 - Original Reservation lot about 2 miles west of Wyman Lake; 170 acres
 - Primarily a timber lot

Issues/Needs/Opportunities

- Coburn Mountain:
 - Old Canada Road Byway committee is interested in development of an improved hiking trail to the tower site (a 1/4 mile poorly sited and steep informal trail exists now, branching off the snowmobile trail near the eastern boundary of the lot).
 - May be interest in an ATV trail following same or similar route as snowmobile trail.
 - Boundary lines need to be redone (per Marc)
- West Forks Lots:
 - Marc reports that the parcel to the east of the West Forks SW lot, on US 201, has been sold, which will have an impact on the Bureau's access to the lot for timber harvesting.
 - The LURC D-RS Residential Development zone in the center of the West Forks Central lot is incorrectly located. There is no development on the lot; the D-RS zone may have been intended for camps on the adjacent private lot to the south. BPL is working with LUPC to review the zone and may submit a petition to relocate it.

Smaller Lots South of Jackman – East of US 201

- **Johnson Mountain/West Forks Plt. NE Lots:**
 - Adjacent Original Reservation lots on either side of the town line, accessible from Capital Road and Wilson Hill Road; 514 and 730 acres
 - Abut the Cold Stream Forest parcels on the west side; potential to combine with Cold Stream Unit.
 - Primarily timber lots
 - A 100 foot CMP powerline ROW (est. 1963) follows the town line across the West Forks Plt. Lot. A new 300 foot x 1 mile powerline lease crossing both lots from north to south was executed with CMP in Dec 2014 (line has not yet been built).
 - Wilson Hill Pond (West Forks Lot) and Little Wilson Hill Pond (Johnson Mtn. Lot) are brook trout fisheries on tributaries to Tomhegan Stream, which flows into Cold Stream. Both have special angling rules. [Tomhegan Stream and other Cold Stream tributaries have been identified by MDIF&W as valuable brook trout habitat. \(The lower 2/3 mile of Tomhegan Stream flows through the Cold Stream Unit.\)](#) A few boats are stored at Little Wilson where an access trail comes to the south shore.
 - 4 bear bait sites on the lots

- **Moxie Gore/The Forks Plt. North Lots:**
 - Adjacent Original Reservation lots on either side of the town line, near US 201 and crossed by Moxie Pond Road; 450 and 718 acres
 - Adjacent to Moxie Falls State Park property (popular easy hike to tallest waterfall in Maine); parking and trailhead for falls trail is on the Moxie Gore lot
 - The Forks Plt lot has closed out timber haul roads, with barriers at Moxie Pond Road
 - Primarily timber lots
 - 2 bear bait sites
 - Two rare plants were found at the Moxie Gore parcel: showy lady slipper (*Cypripedium reginae*), a species associated with Northern White Cedar swamps, and purple virgin's bower (*Clematis occidentalis*) a vine that occupies rocky slopes along the river.
- **The Forks Plt. South/Caratunk North Lots:**
 - Adjacent Original Reservation lots on either side of the town line, near US 201 and crossed by Moxie Pond Road; 350 and 510 acres
 - The Forks Plt S parcel is crossed by the AT; Pleasant Pond Road is along the south margin of the Caratunk Lot, with a closed out and blocked haul road coming off that road
 - Primarily timber lots.
 - Access to the northwest half of The Forks parcel for harvesting is via preexisting road that was used for past harvests and will be used again.
- **Bald Mountain Lot:**
 - Four adjacent parcels (2 are Original Reservation lots; 2 were acquired in 1990) totaling about 1,650 acres, about 15 miles east of Caratunk and US 201
 - Crossed by the AT
 - Includes a mile-long peninsula extending into Bald Mountain Pond, considered a lake of statewide significance, with "outstanding" resource ratings for fisheries, wildlife, scenic value and shore character. Lake contains arctic char and brook trout. Boat access is at south end, off BPL property.
 - Timber harvesting on the parcels uses three established crossings of the AT.
 - 2 bear bait sites
 - An exemplary 'Rock Outcrop Ecosystem' has been mapped by MNAP on the western part of the Unit, extending onto National Park Service lands.
- **Caratunk South and East Lots:**
 - Original Reservation lots, each about 550 acres, South lot is just east of Wyman Lake and US 201, East lot is about 7 miles east of US 201
 - Primarily timber lots.
 - Along with North lot, 4 bear bait sites

Issues/Needs/Opportunities

- Caratunk South Lot: ROW was lost due to camp being built in the middle of the existing road; need to get access issue resolved.

AC Meeting Comments:

Claire Polfus of Appalachian Trail Conservancy expressed concern about possible conflict between AT users and hunters using bear bait sites on BPL parcels crossed by the AT and suggested signage should be installed at trailheads or on the BPL parcels to give hikers a warning about this use.

BPL Forester Marc Albert responded that BPL carefully locates its bear bait sites so that none are within 300 feet of any trail, and that bear bait sites on private lands nearby may not be as carefully or precisely located. Others commented that the suggested signage would not be advisable or perhaps useful because much of the AT across the state is in close proximity to private lands where bear bait sites exist and other forms of hunting commonly occur. It was suggested the focus should be on informing all AT hikers that hunting activity is likely to be occurring nearby during the fall hunting seasons.