

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Bureau of Parks and Lands

**Upper Kennebec Region Management Plan
Public Meeting to Review Final Draft Plan**

February 7, 2019 6:00 PM
Quimby Middle School Gym, Bingham

MEETING NOTES

The Public Meeting was attended by approximately 10 people (see attached sign-in sheet).

Additionally, the following BPL staff members were present: Doug Reed, Deputy Director; Tim Post, Acting Western Region Lands Manager; Jim Vogel, Plan Coordinator; Rex Turner, Recreation Planner; Jeff Bartley, Western Region Forester; Matt Faust, Western Region Forestry Technician.

Welcome/Introduction

Jim Vogel welcomed the attendees, and asked Bureau staff to introduce themselves. A meeting agenda was provided (attached).

Presentation

The meeting was structured around a PowerPoint presentation given by Jim Vogel, which began with background information on the public planning process, the purpose and scope of the Bureau's regional management plans and on the Upper Kennebec Region as defined for the Plan. The presentation then provided an overview of the Vision (for the larger management units), Dominant Resource Allocations, and Management Recommendations for each of the Bureau's Public Reserved Lands addressed by the Plan. Questions were answered at various points during the presentation as they arose, and after each major reserved land unit and other Bureau lands were presented, an opportunity was provided for taking comments and questions, as reflected in the following record.

Public Comments/Questions (paraphrased from notes)

HOLEB UNIT

The Holeb Unit presentation began with reviewing the **vision** and proposed **resource allocations** for the Unit, including Special Protection, Backcountry Recreation, Wildlife, Developed Recreation, Remote Recreation, and Timber Management uses. Resource Allocations were described with the aid of large prints of the Resource Allocations maps (Holeb East and West).

Review of the **proposed recommendations** focused on the Plan's continued focus on the Moose River bow trip and related recreation facilities, with a continued effort to rehabilitate

those facilities with the assistance of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail organization; steps to clarify public use needs and rights and maintenance responsibilities for Attean Pond Road and the Attean Landing; and continuation of the long-term timber management program on the Unit.

There were no comments or questions on the vision, allocations or recommendations.

COLD STREAM FOREST UNIT

The **vision** for the Cold Stream Forest Unit and the proposed **dominant resource allocations** (Wildlife, Developed and Remote Recreation, and Timber Management) for the Unit were reviewed, the latter with the aid of large prints of the Resource Allocations maps (Cold Stream North and South). Regarding the vision, stress was placed on the priority of brook trout habitat protection, as guided by the Fisheries Habitat Management Agreement. Also highlighted was the intent to continue the historic camping and primarily walk-in angling opportunities on the Unit.

As with the Holeb Unit, the Plan Coordinator reviewed the **proposed recommendations** for the Cold Stream Forest Unit. In particular, the review covered recreation recommendations related to formalizing most of the existing angler access trails to the ponds, a phased effort to reduce the number of stored boats at the ponds and lessen the aesthetic impacts in those areas, and continued upgrading of the existing campsites. The Wildlife recommendations were described as focused on implementation of the Habitat Management Agreements, in cooperation with MDIF&W. Public access recommendations were described as focused on continued road, culvert and bridge work, and setting of priorities for access routes to be maintained.

Questions/Comments: A question was asked whether informal campsites (one site on the south part of the Unit near Tomhegan Stream was mentioned as an example) would be allocated to Developed Recreation (like existing sites shown on the Unit base map) and provided with a privy; Jim responded that the Bureau of aware of several such sites and would consider formalizing some of them based on the location and apparent use levels.

It was asked whether more detailed or greater resolution maps than the Dominant Resource Allocation maps would be provided in the Plan; Jim responded that no additional maps would be added to the Plan [the Plan maps are consistent with those developed for all the BPL regional plans and meet the needs of the plan document; more detailed maps are developed, however, for forest management prescriptions are prepared].

An attendee asked why the Fisheries HMA did not include no-cut zones in riparian areas; Jim explained that he could not speak to the contents of the HMA, in that it is was developed and agreed upon by the Director of BPL and MDIF&W, separate from the Plan effort, and the Plan must incorporate the requirements of the HMA as adopted in November 2016. Additional questions included whether the HMA was developed in a public process (the response was, No) and when it could be open for revision. A former BPL forester present pointed out that the HMA is a five-year agreement and includes annual review between the parties, and at the end

of the initial five-year period. Jim suggested that those with concerns about the HMA should contact the Bureau Director and MDIF&W.

Jeff Reardon (Trout Unlimited) complimented the Bureau on the thorough response to comments submitted on the Draft Plan (comments and responses are provided in the Plan appendix). He also expressed a remaining concern about the segment of road between the snowmobile bridge over Cold Stream and the Lone Jack Road junction, where drainage work has recently made the road passable. Jeff stated that he believes it would be most protective of fish habitat to close that segment of road, at least during the non-winter months when it is not being used as a snowmobile trail. Jim stated that the future of that segment of road would be addressed in the roads plan for the Unit called for in the Plan recommendations.

SANDY BAY and SMALLER LOTS NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE FORKS

A more abbreviated presentation of **dominant resource allocations** and **proposed recommendations** for Sandy Bay Unit and the smaller lots was provided next. The only comment related to the 100-foot Special Protection and 400-foot Remote Recreation buffers applied to the AT corridor on the Caratunk and Bald Mountain lots, and whether this was due to the federal ownership and management of the trail. It was explained that there was no direct connection to federal management/ownership of the AT, but that this protection was something agreed to by the State in agreements with the AT community and applied across our land base where the AT crosses the public lands.

CLOSING COMMENTS

The Plan Coordinator mentioned that comments on the Final Draft Plan would continue to be accepted through February 28 (three weeks), and that the email and U.S. mail address for comments was provided on bottom of the meeting agenda. The next steps toward completion of the plan were described, including consideration of comments received and any resulting revisions to the Plan, followed by review of the Final Plan by the BPL Director, and the eventual recommendation by the Director to the DACF Commissioner for plan approval and adoption.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:05 pm.

*Respectfully Submitted by
Jim Vogel*

Attachment 1: Meeting Agenda

Attachment 2: Sign-In Sheet

Attachment 3: Meeting Presentation



Upper Kennebec Region Management Plan
Public Meeting
February 7, 2019
6:00 to 8:00 pm
Quimby Middle School Gymnasium, Bingham ME

Agenda

- 6:00 Welcome and Introductions, **Meeting's** Purpose
- 6:05 Holeb Public Lands – Review of character of Unit, Vision, proposed Resource Allocations and Management Recommendations [25 min.]
- 6:30 Cold Stream Forest Public Lands – Review of character of Unit, Vision, proposed Resource Allocations and Management Recommendations [45 min.]
- 7:15 Break [10 min.]
- 7:25 Sandy Bay and Small Lots North of West Forks – Review of character of Units/Lots, Vision, proposed Resource Allocations and Management Recommendations [15 min.]
- 7:40 Small Lots in West Forks and South of West Forks – Review of character of Lots, proposed Resource Allocations and Management Recommendations [15 min.]
- 7:55 Next Steps

Adjourn

You may send written comments to be considered in preparing the Final Plan by February 28 to:

Jim Vogel
Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands
22 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
OR
Jim.Vogel@maine.gov

The webpage for the Upper Kennebec Region Plan can be found at:
http://www.maine.gov/dacf/upper_kennebec.
This page will be updated with the Final Plan when the Plan has been adopted.

Upper Kennebec Region Management Plan
 Public Meeting to present Final Draft Plan
February 7, 2019 ~ 6:00 PM
 Quimby Middle School Gym, Bingham ME

PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY

Name and Organization (if any)	Mailing Address	Email Address
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Meg Robbins, Morning Sentinel	99 War Rd Milton, ME 04462	
David Allen	705 Webster Pond Rd Vassalboro	dallen200@caselabor.com
Philip Allen	704 Webster Pond Rd Vassalboro	Pallen21@earthlink.net
Darius R. Hall, i.e.	34 Priscilla Terrace, Waterville 04501	dhal@i.e.greatframer.com

Upper Kennebec Region Management Plan

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Bureau of Parks and Lands

Public Meeting
February 7, 2019



FINAL DRAFT PLAN REVIEW



Public Planning Process

- **Step 1: Scoping (6 mo.)**
 - Gather and share information on the resources present on the lands
 - Seek input from the public regarding their interests and ideas for uses and management of the property and issues of concern
- **Step 2: Draft Management Plan (9 mo.)**
 - Draft 15 Year plan for the lands that protects the exceptional natural and biological resources and balances the variety of land uses and recreation interests on the parcels
 - Present Draft Plan to the Advisory Committee for review and comment
 - Revise Draft Plan as needed
- **Step 3: Final Draft Management Plan (1-2 mo.)**
 - Present Final Draft Management Plan to public for comment and discussion
 - Respond to comments and prepare Final Plan
- **Step 4: Final Management Plan (1 mo.)**
 - Present Final Plan to BPL Director for his recommendation
 - Present Final Plan to DACF Commissioner for approval
 - Plan is adopted with signature of Commissioner

Public Reserved Lands of the Upper Kennebec Region

- 3 major Units and 11 smaller lots and groups of smaller lots in Somerset County
- >43,000 acres in total
- Major Units account for >80% of the public lands in the region

Name	Fee acres
Holeb Unit	23,612
Cold Stream Forest Unit	8,159
Sandy Bay Unit	2,712
Dennistown Lot & Moose River	1,282
Bradstreet Twp. South Lot	180
Coburn Mountain Lot	300
Johnson Mtn. & West Forks NE	1,245
West Forks NW, C, SW Lots	450
Moxie Gore & The Forks N Lots	854
Bald Mountain Lot	1,650
4 remaining lots/groups of lots	1,515

Presentation Outline

- We will focus on review of **Section IV – Resources and Management Issues** of the Draft Plan, specifically:
 - Vision (major units only)
 - Dominant Resource Use Allocations
 - Management Recommendations
- Will spend most of our time on 3 major Units
- Followed by less detailed review of smaller lots
- Feel free to ask questions or offer comments at any point in presentation
- Comments are also welcome on any of the first 3 sections of the Final Draft Plan though we won't review them here

Holeb Unit



View of Attean Pond from Attean Landing

Character of the Unit

- Adjacent to the town of Jackman and State Rt. 201
- Limited public use road system, primarily providing access to boat landings
- Attean and Holeb Ponds and 4 smaller ponds, including 3 Heritage Brook Trout ponds
- >20 primitive water-access campsites serving Moose River Bow Trip
- 1 mile portage trail between Attean and Holeb
- 4,000+ acre exemplary bog complex
- The primary source of timber in the Upper Kennebec region



Holeb Pond campsite at end of portage trail

General Vision for the Unit

- Accommodate a range of primitive camping, boating, fishing, and hunting experiences
- Maintain backcountry multi-day paddling opportunity on Bow Trip
- Protect ecological values associated with ponds and No. 5 Bog
- More than half of the unit managed primarily for timber, emphasizing high value forest products, while providing a variety of wildlife habitats and protecting other significant resources

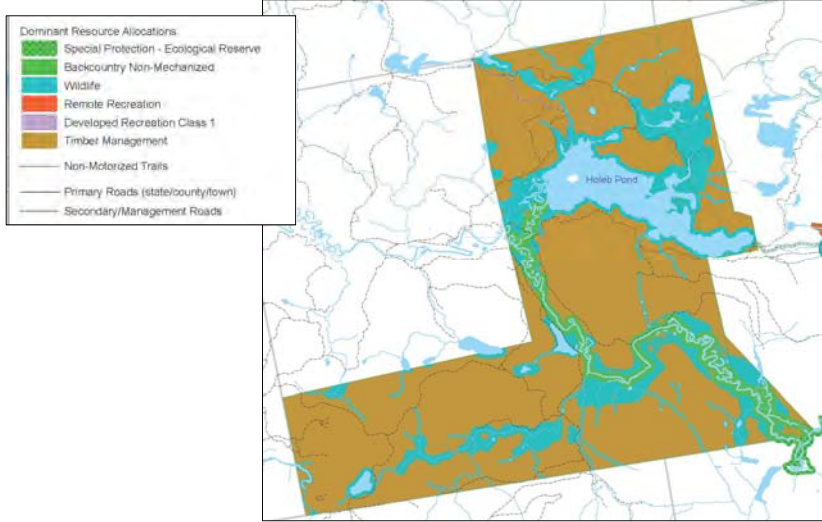


Start of Holeb portage trail

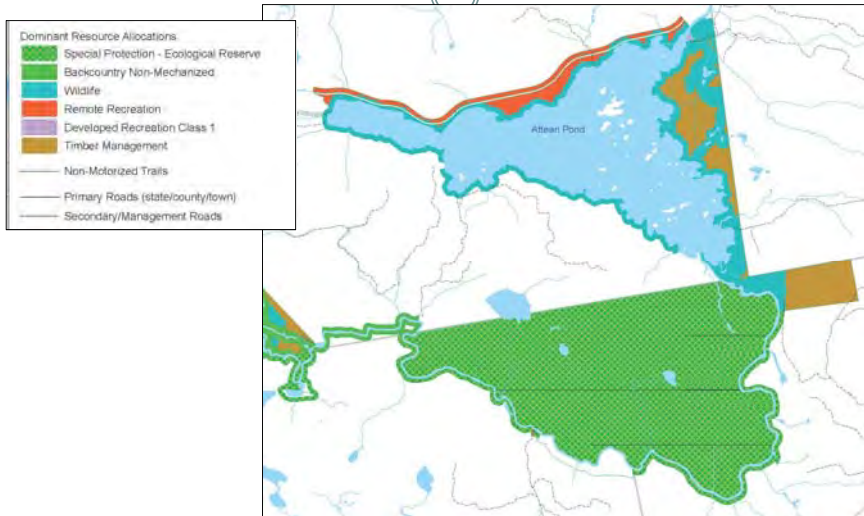
Resource Allocations

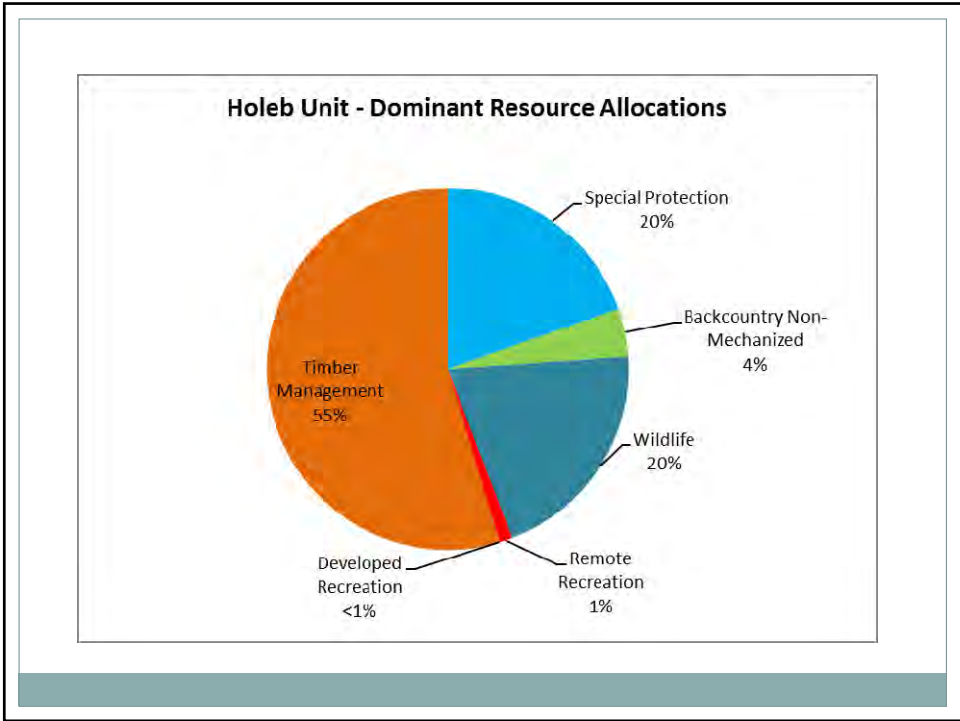
- **Summary of allocations :**
 - Special Protection allocation protects exemplary natural communities within the No. 5 Bog ecological reserve
 - Backcountry Non-Mechanized Recreation allocation has been applied to the Holeb Stream and Moose River corridor to protect the recreation experience associated with the waterway
 - Wildlife allocation protects riparian areas beyond Special Protection and Backcountry Non-Mechanized areas, and deer wintering areas
 - Developed Recreation and Remote Recreation allocations protect pond landing areas and Attean Pond shore lands outside of the riparian buffer area
 - Timber Management allocations continue the historical emphasis on timber production on most of the unit, with appropriate visual, recreation, and wildlife considerations.

Resource Allocations – Holeb West



Resource Allocations – Holeb East





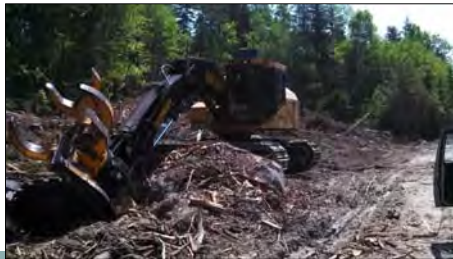
Management Recommendations

- **Recreation:**
 - Continued maintenance and rehab of Moose River Bow Trip campsites and portages
 - Explore options for a group campsite near Attean Landing
- **Public Access**
 - Clarify public use needs and rights and maintenance responsibilities for Attean Landing Road
 - As resources allow, maintain Holeb Landing Road to public use road standards
- **Wildlife**
 - Survey and evaluate the DWA at SE corner of Attean Pond
 - Manage softwood on adjacent Bradstreet Twp. acres to benefit wintering deer

Timber Management



- Continuation of long-term program to improve timber quality on the unit, with the overall objectives of growing high value timber products while maintaining visual integrity and enhancing the diversity of wildlife habitat.
- Much of the timber management is subject to Visual Class II considerations due to visibility from major ponds and Bow Trip



Administrative Issues



- **Signage and Visitor Information:**
 - Assess at Attean and Holeb Landings for possible improvements
 - Develop updated Map and Guide Brochure
- **Attean Landing Use:**
 - Develop a lease for Attean Lodge: ensure unfettered public use, define boat launching, docks and parking for commercial and public use
 - Address impermissible seasonal residency by Attean Lodge employee

Cold Stream Forest Unit



Small waterfall on Cold Stream, below snowmobile trail bridge

Character of the Unit

- 8,152 acres of forestland with several high value native brook trout ponds and 15 mile stream corridor
- Good access from Rt. 201 via extensive logging road network on abutting lands
- 15-site campground and several additional drive-to campsites
- Day hike trail to Cold Stream Falls and angler access trails to the ponds
- Snowmobile trails run the length of the Unit, ATV trail crosses southern end
- Exemplary natural communities and rare plants within Cold Stream corridor
- 3,000+ acre Biological Deer Wintering Area at south end of Unit



Lang Pond from south shore

General Vision for the Unit



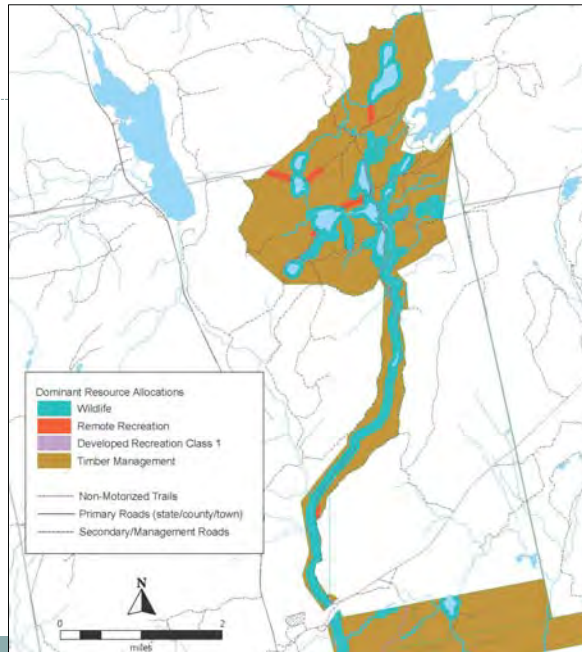
- *Brook trout habitat protection will be a management priority across the Unit, and will be given preference when potential conflicts arise with management for other values*
- Protect and enhance brook trout habitat in ponds and streams, as guided by Fisheries Habitat HMA
- Enhance deer wintering habitat in the BDWA as guided by Deer Wintering Area HMA
- Continue to provide historic camping and angling opportunities, with walk-in access maintained at remote ponds
- Preserve and enhance the scenic setting of remote ponds
- Maintain traditional on-site boat storage at remote ponds while reducing the number of boats stored and aesthetic impacts
- Continue important snowmobile and ATV routes across the Unit
- Develop signage and other visitor information
- Continue road and bridge improvements, as resources allow, to minimize run-off, siltation and other potential impacts on aquatic resources, and ensure adequate passage of high flows and fish passage
- Manage timber on ~40% of unit, respecting fisheries and wildlife habitat needs, and in accordance with the Fisheries Habitat HMA

Resource Allocations

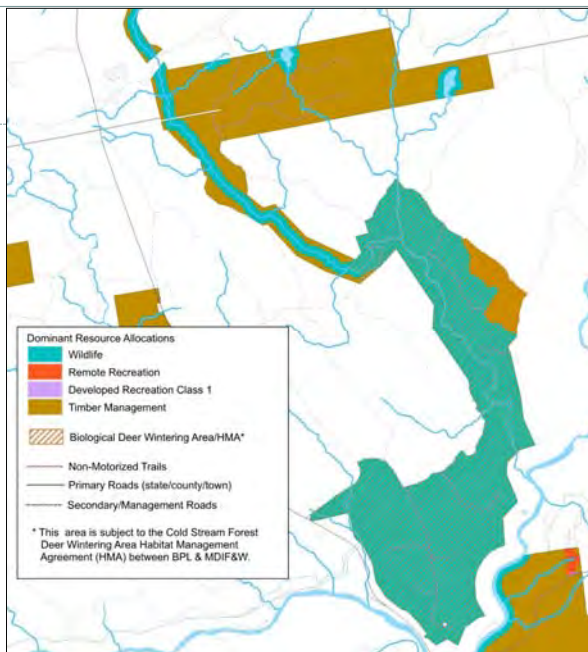


- Wildlife allocation along the Cold Stream corridor and around all ponds and other riparian areas; also within the area subject to the Deer Wintering Area HMA
- Remote Recreation buffer surrounding pond access trails and Cold Stream Falls trail outside riparian zones
- Developed Recreation allocation along public use roads and surrounding campsites and trailheads
- Timber Management allocation on remaining acres

Resource Allocations: North



Resource Allocations: South



Cold Stream Forest Unit - Dominant Resource Allocations



Management Recommendations

- *Focus is on protecting and enhancing trout ponds and streams, maintaining historic camping and angling opportunities provided by primitive campsites and short access trails, and improvement of deer wintering habitat in the HMA area*
- Recreation recommendations maintain status quo while bringing campsites and trails up to BPL standards, and evaluating bear bait sites
- Public Access recommendations continue road, culvert and bridge work already begun (in accord with the Fisheries Habitat HMA) and set priorities for access routes to be maintained

Management Recommendations (cont.)

- Wildlife recommendations focus on implementation of HMAs and coordination with IF&W
- Timber Management recommendations are for management for high quality forest products and improvement of forest quality (in accord with Fisheries Habitat HMA), while protecting visual quality around ponds and Cold Stream
- Administrative issues to be addressed include boat storage at ponds with phased approach, development of a signage plan, and development of a map and brochure

Sandy Bay Unit



View across former impoundment at south end of Unit

Character of the Unit

- 2,700 acres of mainly hardwood and mixed wood forestland on the Canadian border
- 300 acres of open wetland in former impoundment area
- Direct access from Rt. 201 via logging road network
- No recreation facilities other than short segments of ATV and snowmobile trail
- Two maple sugar license areas on the central ridge, totaling ~400 acres



A portion of maple sugar collection system installed on license area

General Vision for the Unit

- About 80% of the unit managed primarily for timber, emphasizing high value forest products, while providing a variety of wildlife habitats and protecting other significant resources
- Continue to manage about 400 acres within two maple sugar license areas; additional license areas may be considered
- Continue to provide ATV and snowmobile routes across western margin of Unit

Resource Allocations

- Wildlife allocation in the former impoundment area and in riparian areas
- Timber Management allocation on remaining acres



Dominant Allocations	
Green	Special Protection - Natural Area
Cyan	Wildlife
Orange	Remote Recreation
Purple	Developed Recreation Class 1
Brown	Timber Management

Management Recommendations

- Timber Management: continue management for high quality forest products and improvement of forest quality
 - Visual Class II considerations will apply for area visible from Rt. 201
 - Management within current and any proposed maple sugar license areas will be directing at maintaining or improving sap production
- Recreation: continue snowmobile and ATV trail segments as part of regional trail networks



ATV route on old Rt. 201, Sandy Bay Unit

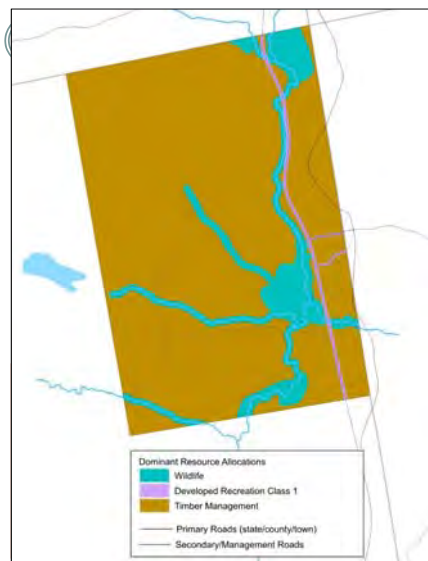
Smaller Lots North of West Forks



Management road and stream crossing on Dennistown Lot

Dennistown Lot

- **Allocations**
 - Wildlife allocation in wetlands and along streams
 - Developed Recreation along Rt. 201 and Heald Pond Road
 - Timber Management allocation on remaining area
- **Recommendations**
 - Timber management favoring better quality stems
 - Take into consideration visual quality along highway
 - Renew Heald Pond Road and telephone cable easements, as appropriate



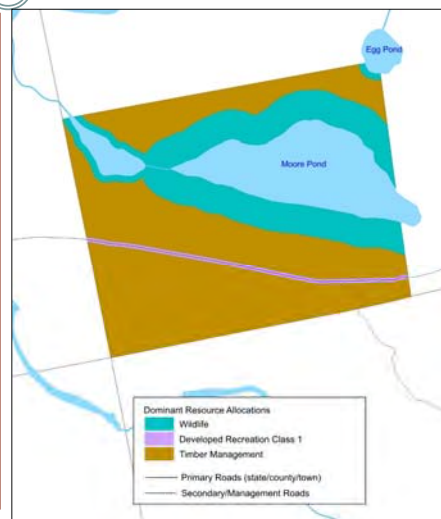
Moose River Lots

- **Allocations**
 - Wildlife allocation along stream buffer
 - Developed Recreation along Mgmt. road/snowmobile trail
 - Timber Management allocation on remaining area
- **Recommendations**
 - Timber management should target low quality trees, reduce red maple, favor spruce, yellow birch and sugar maple; will take into consideration visual quality along highway
 - Need to establish/renew access to South lot for harvesting (never harvested by BPL)
 - Snowmobile route will continue
 - Need to determine to what extent municipal golf course may be encroaching on South Lot



Bradstreet Twp. South Lot

- **Allocations:**
 - Wildlife along pond shoreline zones
 - Developed Recreation along Spencer Road
 - Timber Management on remainder
- **Recommendations:**
 - Harvesting should focus on increasing the pine component where feasible and encouraging growth on spruce
 - Need to update silvicultural recommendations for jack pine



Upper Enchanted/Coburn Mtn. Lot

- **Allocations:**

- Special Protection – exemplary natural communities on primary ridgeline and south shoulder of mountain
- Backcountry Motorized Recreation – most of the remainder of the lot
- Developed Recreation – snowmobile route up to summit and leased lot at summit

- **Recommendations:**

- Evaluate and possibly reroute informal foot trail to summit
- Snowmobile trail will continue
- Evaluate whether operable area on south portion of lot could be economically harvested



Johnson Mtn. & West Forks N Lots

- **Allocations:**

- Wildlife – pond and stream riparian buffers
- Dev. Recreation – along management roads open to public
- Timber Management – remainder of lots

- **Recommendations:**

- Focus will remain management of timber to improve overall quality
- Public access roads will not be increased, to maintain walk-in brook trout fishing at ponds



Smaller Lots in West Forks and South



AT on The Forks Plt. South Lot

West Forks NW, C, SW Lots

- **Allocations:**
 - Most acres allocated to Timber Management
 - Remainder to Wildlife (riparian), except Dev. Recreation along Rt. 201 (Central Lot)
- **Recommendations:**
 - Timber management focused on increasing quality of timber, targeting mature fir, aspen and birch
 - Work to secure access to SW lot from Rt. 201 with new owner of abutting parcel



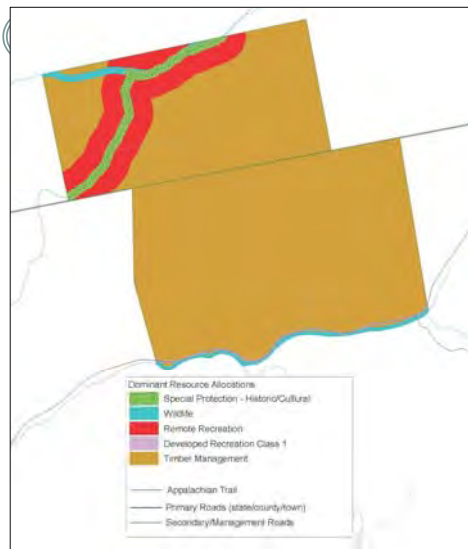
Moxie Gore and The Forks N Lots

- **Allocations:**
 - Most of the lots are allocated to Timber Management
 - Remainder to Wildlife (stream corridors), Remote Recreation (250 ft. trail buffer) and Dev. Recreation (Moxie Lake Road corridor)
- **Recommendations:**
 - Timber management focused on increasing overall quality of more valuable species, while favoring softwoods
 - Lands will continue to coordinate with Parks on Moxie Falls trail
 - Snowmobile and ATV route on The Forks North Lot will continue
 - MNAP will be consulted on any activity with potential to impact rare plants noted on Moxie Gore lot



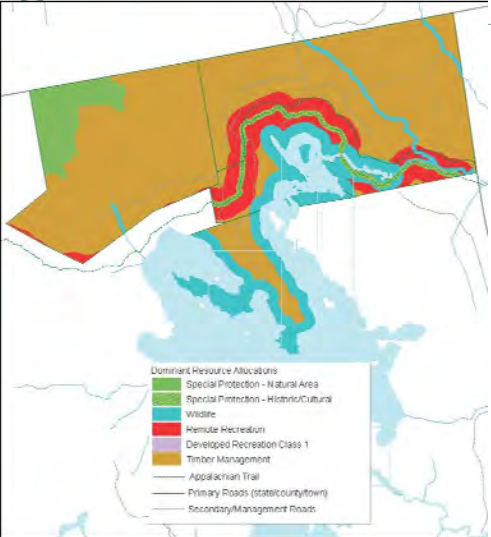
The Forks S & Caratunk N Lots

- **Allocations:**
 - Majority of lots are allocated to Timber Management
 - Along AT: 100 ft. no-harvest Special Protection buffer + 400 ft. Remote Recreation buffer
 - Remainder to Wildlife (stream buffers) and Dev. Recreation (Pleasant Pond Road corridor)
- **Recommendations:**
 - Timber management focused on increasing quality of more valuable species, while favoring softwoods
 - Harvesting will likely occur at the same time on the two lots



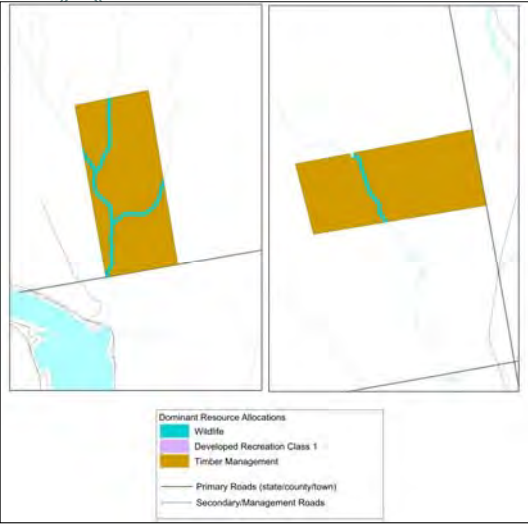
Bald Mountain Lot

- **Allocations:**
 - Majority of lot is allocated to Timber Management
 - Special Protection allocation for exemplary natural community on Moxie Bald Mtn.
 - Along AT: 100 ft. no-harvest Special Protection buffer + 400 ft. Remote Recreation buffer
 - Wildlife allocation along stream and pond buffers
- **Recommendations:**
 - Timber management will favor vigorous well formed trees of all species
 - Visual consideration will apply in areas seen from the pond



Caratunk East and South Lots

- **Allocations:**
 - Majority of lots are allocated to Timber Management
 - Wildlife allocation for stream buffers
- **Recommendations:**
 - Timber management focused on increasing quality of more valuable species, while favoring softwoods
 - Attempt periodic mowing of old farm field on South Lot, if access challenges permit



Highland Pt. E & Pleasant Ridge Lots

- **Allocations:**

- Majority of the lots are allocated to Timber Management
- Wildlife allocation for stream buffers on Pleasant Ridge Lot

- **Recommendations:**

- Timber management will continue to favor well-formed and long-lived species
- Mature stands should be harvested in next few years



Next Steps and Comments

- BPL will revise the Final Draft Plan, as needed, in response to comments over the next month or so
- Final Plan anticipated by late spring (will be posted on Plan webpage)
- **In addition to comments provided here, all are welcome to comment during the next three weeks, via a phone call or in writing (email or regular mail)**

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Thank You!

