

19. RECREATIONAL RESOURCES.

The area in the immediate vicinity of the proposed rezoning has limited high value recreational resources (cold water fisheries, scenic views, primitive and remote locations) and is privately owned. Public recreation use of the area is primarily with motorized vehicles, accessing existing gravel logging roads including ATVs and snow mobiles. Wolfden would affirmatively impose restrictions on certain roads that lead to the mine site, if needed for public safety. The roads providing access to the site are already well developed and used extensively by logging operations. Recreational resources within 3 miles of the area proposed for rezoning are depicted and further described in Appendix A Attachment L.

Nearby designated recreational resources, including Lane Brook Pond, Green Mountain Pond as well as fish and wildlife protection subdistricts along portions of the headwaters to Upper Shin Pond, would not be affected directly by the project or indirectly through increased traffic. The tributaries to Upper Shin Pond are valued as stream spawning and nursery areas for brook trout and the thoroughfare to Lower Shin Pond for salmon. These areas are not within the watershed drainage of the proposed site. Upper and Lower Shin Pond are accessed by Route 159 which is not connected to any existing private or public roads used to access the site. The proposed site would not increase traffic to these areas. These recreational resources are used by anglers in spring and summer months and by hikers and motorized recreational vehicles year-round. These recreational resources would also not be affected by the project; and the project, based on current information, would not be visible from those areas.

One of the parcels of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument is located approximately 6.3 miles to the southwest just south of Lower Shin Pond and extends over to the Seboeis River approximately 9 miles from the site. This area is accessed by several unimproved roads off Route 159 that include scenic overlooks, picnic areas and an unimproved boat launch on the river. The proposed site would not increase use of these recreational resources. Neither would the site be visible from scenic viewpoints within the Monument.

The East Branch of the Penobscot River is located fifteen miles southwest of the site and is the eastern boundary of the largest parcel of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. Within the monument there are numerous recreational opportunities including hiking, fishing, camping, boating and biking; hunting and snowmobiling are permitted east of the East Branch of the Penobscot River. Mountain elevations in the Monument range from approximately 1,900 to 1,400 feet. The upland ridgeline where development is proposed at the site is approximately 1,200 feet in elevation and is surrounded by higher elevations to the northwest (Green Mountain - 1,600 feet and Lane Brook Hills - 1,500 feet) and to the south (Picket Mountain - 1,700 feet), and to the southwest (Mount Chase - 2,400 feet). Due to the surrounding elevations the site would not be readily visible from Upper or Lower Shin Pond, and vantage points from within the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. The site would be within the line of sight from the summit of Sugarloaf Mountain, but at an extreme distance of

7.3 miles. Sugarloaf Mountain is located approximate 2 miles northwest of Lower Shin Pond and is not the same as the ski area located in Carrabassett Valley. The proposed mine site would not have visual or other adverse impacts on the scenic values of these recreational resources.

Development of the site would not increase traffic to these areas since they are accessed by roads not connected to the site.