Beginning with HABITAT

Focus Areas of Statewide Ecological Significance

Baxter Region

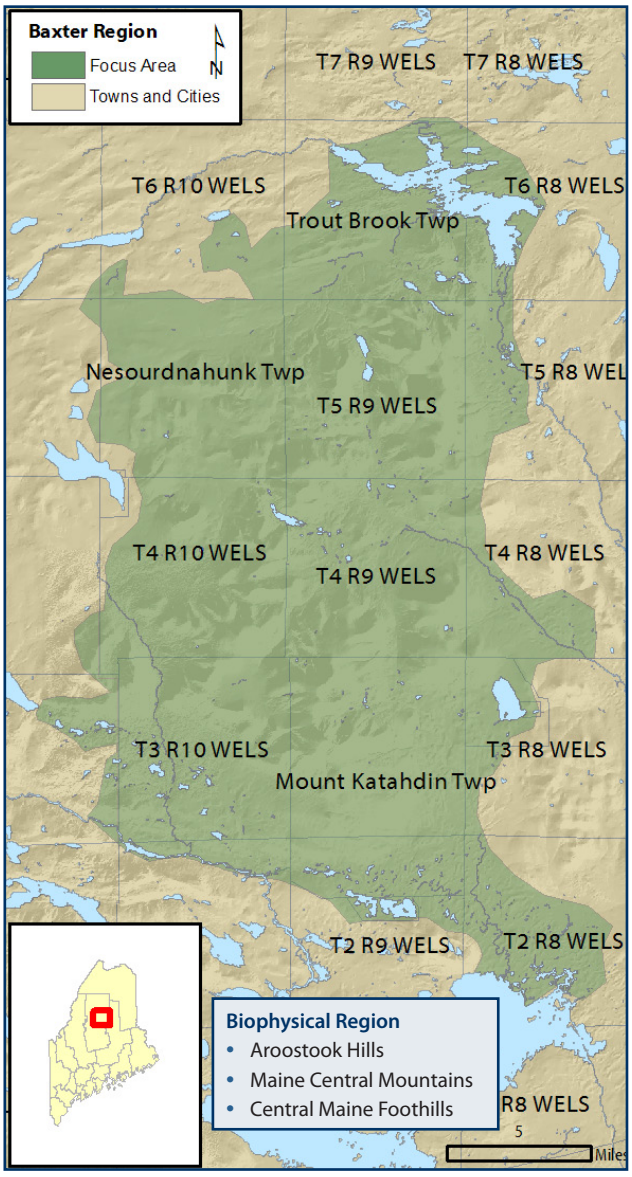
WHY IS THIS AREA SIGNIFICANT?

The sheer variety of scenery, ranging from stunning mountain landscapes to quiet wind dappled ponds, is sufficiently impressive for most people who travel to the Baxter Region, but the beautiful landscape is only one of many reasons this region is significant. To start with the region is probably the largest contiguous block of undeveloped, minimally managed land in New England. This extensive unfragmented landscape covers over 350 square miles and includes dozens of mountains, including Maine's highest peak, numerous pristine lakes and ponds, and 100's of miles of streams. The region currently supports nearly 35,000 acres of rare and exemplary natural communities and ecosystems including the largest alpine and subalpine systems in Maine. The unique habitats found here support populations of 50 rare plant species, 19 of which are found no where else in state. They also support a wide spectrum of rare animal species, representing many major species groups, including mammals, birds, reptiles, freshwater mussels, and insects. Common animal species of northern forests such as moose, bear, beaver, and porcupine also thrive here.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONSERVATION

» Work with landowners to encourage sustainable forest management practices on remaining privately owned forest lands in and around the focus area
» Maintain intact forested buffers along the lake, river, and wetlands to protect water quality and provide valuable riparian habitat for wildlife.
» Protect sensitive natural features through careful management planning on state-owned lands.
» Educate hikers and trail riders on proper trail use to minimize off-trail impacts.

For more conservation opportunities, visit the Beginning with Habitat Online Toolbox: www.beginningwithhabitat.org/toolbox/about_toolbox.html.



Rare and Exemplary Natural Communities

Alpine Cliff
Alpine Ecosystem
Alpine Snowbank
Black Spruce Bog
Blueberry Barren
Heath Alpine Ridge
Jack Pine Woodland
Northern Hardwoods Forest
Red and White Pine Forest
Silver Maple Floodplain Forest
Spruce Fir Krummholz
Spruce-Northern Hardwoods Forest
Subalpine Fir Forest
Upper Floodplain Hardwood Forest

Rare Animals

Rock Vole
Canada Lynx
Bicknell's Thrush

Rare Plants

Alaska Clubmoss
Alpine Bearberry
Artic Red Fescue
Bearberry Willow
Fragrant Cliff Wood-fern

Significant Wildlife Habitats

Inland Wading Bird and Waterfowl Habitat
Deer Wintering Area

(See pgs. 7-10 species lists)

Photo credits, top to bottom: Ron Logan, Maine Natural Areas Program, Maine Natural Areas Program, Amy Meehan, Steven Faccio

Mount Katahdin, Maine Natural Areas Program

FOCUS AREA OVERVIEW

The Baxter Region Focus Area encompasses approximately 358 square miles making it far and away the largest focus area in Maine. The region is sufficiently rich in history, scenery, and biology such that whole books have been written about it. Baxter State Park makes up about 80 percent of the focus area. The park is a large wilderness area permanently preserved as a state park. It was established by donations of 28 separate parcels of land from former Maine Governor, Percival Baxter. The land was donated to the state over the course of three decades, and totaled over 200,000 acres at the time of the last donation in 1962. Baxter State Park is not part of the Maine State Park system. To help protect the wild character of the park from possible unforeseen pressures of the future, governance of the park was and still is delegated to the Baxter State Park Authority, consisting of the Maine Attorney General, the Maine Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Director of the Maine Forest Service.

Mountains

The park is widely known for having the highest mountain in Maine, Mount Katahdin. The mountain, at 5,270 feet, is over 1,000 feet higher than any other mountain in the state (Sugarloaf Mountain is second highest at 4,237 feet). Mount Katahdin is actually a group of mountains or peaks (principally Baxter Peak, Hamlin Peak, and the Howe Peaks) connected by high elevation ridges, and interspersed with glacially derived cirques and tarns. Other mountains, including the Owl, Barren Mountain, Mt. OJI, the South and North Brothers, and Port and Mullen Mountains, are also part of the greater Mt Katahdin formation, and collectively all support Maine's largest contiguous area of subalpine fir forest. These mountains also provide significantly large areas of numerous alpine habitats, including ridge top heaths, wind swept krummholtz, cliffs, ledges, talus slopes, and seepages. Most rare plants found in the focus area are associated with these alpine areas. A number of these species including the arctic willow, Lapland rosebay, tundra dwarf birch, moss-bell heather, alpine bearberry, and fourteen more occur nowhere else in Maine.

Public Access Opportunities

- Baxter State park
- Katahdin Lake
- Penobscot River Corridor

The park also includes nearly two dozen other mountains. Many of them also support unique habitats including areas above treeline, cliffs, talus slopes, and unique geology, and many have yet to be surveyed for significant natural features. Some examples include Traveler, Billfish, Trout Brook, Horse, and North and South Turner Mountains. Most of these mountains, along with nearly all the mountains of the Katahdin Formation, have trails and are open for public access. For more information on hiking and other opportunities within Baxter State Park visit the park's website at http://www.baxterstateparkauthority.com/.

Lakes, Ponds, and Wetlands

The Baxter State Park region includes about 25,000 acres of lakes, ponds, and wetlands. The largest lake at 4,165 acres is Grand Lake Matagamon, and the next largest at 650 acres is Katahdin Lake. Both of these lakes are surrounded by unfragmented forest and have little detectable human disturbance. There are only a handful of other lakes and ponds larger than 100 acres, but there are many dozens of lakes and ponds under 100 acres, most of which are remote, pristine, and accessible only by trail if at all. Unique glacially derived ponds called tarns occur in several of the cirques below the higher peaks of Mount Katahdin.

There are many types of wetlands ranging from floodplains to marshes to forested swamps. Significant wetlands documented within the region include a rare patterned fen, several hardwood river terrace forests, and the state's largest, most intact example of a spruce-larch wooded bog. Other common types of wetlands are abundant, particularly in the north most and south most parts of the region. The large number of open wetlands and ponds create excellent opportunities for viewing some of the regions many moose.

Large Forest Blocks

This focus area occurs within one of the largest unfragmented forested blocks remaining in the state. The ecological significance of the unfragmented habitat becomes more apparent when it is compared to similar size forested areas of Maine's north woods. These other large forested areas are heavily roaded for timber management purposes and are largely made up of cut over and regenerating forest lands. Large, contiguous tracts of unmanaged forest, like those found in the Baxter region, are important for a suite of specialized wildlife species. As forests in this region and throughout the state continue to undergo fragmentation, this focus area is likely to become even more important as habitat for species like Bicknell's thrush, a songbird that requires large, unfragmented areas of subalpine forest for nesting. Bicknell's thrush is a species of Special Concern in Maine.

Ecological Services of the Focus Area

- Provides high quality habitat for waterfowl, wading birds, deer, moose, and other wildlife.
- Supports regional biodiversity by providing habitat for rare plants, animals, and natural communities.
- Alpine areas are an important component of regional and statewide biodiversity.
- Contributes to water quality and ecological integrity of numerous lakes, streams, and rivers.

Economic Contributions of the Focus Area

- Provides scenic vistas that contribute to Maine's natural character.
- Mount Katahdin is considered a premier hiking destination and attracts hikers and campers from Maine, other New England states, Canada, and elsewhere.
- Attracts tourism for wildlife viewing, leaf-peeping, paddling, hunting, angling, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling.
- Supports valuable brook trout and other cold water fisheries.

RARE AND EXEMPLARY NATURAL COMMUNITIES

The **heath alpine ridge** is a varied community of dwarf evergreen shrubs and herbs found on some of the highest elevation exposed summits and ridgelines in the state. It is a very rare community in Maine because there are only a few mountains high and exposed enough to support it. The community occurs on exposed, windswept ridges that are near or above tree-line. Like other alpine community types, the heath alpine ridge can be sparsely vegetated, with up to 65% bare ground. Shrubs often found in this community include alpine bilberry, diapensia, and mountain cranberry. Typical herbs include the rare Bigelow's sedge and highland rush.

Alpine snowbank occurs on protected sites of high elevation mountain slopes above tree-line, such as upper cirque walls, where snow lingers later into the growing season than it does in the rest of the alpine zone. The community is characterized by mats of dwarfed alpine shrubs that are mixed with low growing herbs. Alpine bilberry and/or dwarf bilberry are dominant, but moss-plant and mountain-heath can form extensive patches among the bilberry. The relatively protected habitat amid otherwise exposed alpine vegetation allows some lower elevation species to exist, including Canada mayflower, bunchberry, mountain wood fern, bluebead lily, large-leaved goldenrod, and common hairgrass. Mosses may be locally abundant, and include hair-cap mosses and red-stemmed moss.

Subalpine fir forest occurs below tree-line and generally above 2700 feet. This community is a patchy mixture of some-

South Branch Pond, Ron Logan

what stunted trees, dominated by balsam fir and heart-leaved birch. Where wind, fire, or landslides have created openings, the canopy may be dominated by heart-leaved birch and mountain ash, with a dense shrub layer of mountain ash, hobblebush, and regenerating fir. Common herbs include wood ferns, bluebead lily, northern wood-sorrel, and big-leaved aster. Disturbances, including landslides, can be important in shaping this community. Fir waves, an unusual landscape pattern of linear bands of fir dieback and regeneration, are often a feature of this community.

Subalpine fir forest provides nesting habitat for high elevation and coniferous forest specialist birds, such as the spruce grouse, dark-eyed junco, bay-breasted warbler, black-backed woodpecker, white-throated sparrow, and blackpoll warbler. Other high elevation wildlife species that have been found in this focus area include the uncommon Bicknell's thrush and the rock vole. This community is considered rare in Maine because it is limited to higher elevation mountains.

Black spruce bog is an open canopy peatland type that is characterized by black spruce and/or larch trees over typical bog vegetation of heath shrubs, graminoids, and peat mosses. It is the most common type of 'forested bog' in Maine. Canopy closure is usually 20-50% and occasionally ranges up to 85%. Black spruce is usually dominant, but in some cases larch (or rarely fir) may be more abundant. Red maple may be a component in somewhat more minerotrophic portions, and white pine may occur on hummocks. The shrub layer, including small trees, is usually well developed (>30% cover). Labrador tea and three-seeded sedge are characteristic species. The bryophyte layer (moss, liverworts, and lichens) has close to 100% cover and is dominated by peat mosses; sparse reindeer lichens may occur. The occurrence in the basin just west of the Tablelands at Mount Katahdin (known as "The Klondike") is the largest and most intact example of this type of swamp in the state. The site has received no human disturbances due to its sheer inaccessibility.

The **red and white pine forest** is a coniferous forest dominated by red pine. White pine, red spruce, and northern white cedar may also occur as important canopy tree species. The

understory is typically sparse, with scattered heath shrubs, bracken fern, and wintergreen. This community frequently occurs on sites with a history of fire. Natural forests dominated by red pine are rare in Maine, occurring primarily on well-drained outwash soils or dry ridge tops. As a result, these exemplary communities make an important contribution to local and regional biodiversity.

Spruce - fir - northern hardwoods forest is one of the three dominating forest types in the state. Most areas of the state that support this forest type are actively managed for timber resources. This forest type is widespread in Baxter State Park and thus far only one 12,000 plus acre occurrence in the Turner Mountain area has been mapped as exemplary for the type. Time and additional research will undoubtedly lead to more and larger areas being mapped for this type in the park in the future.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

The focus area supports populations of 50 rare plant species. Most of these species are associated with the large area of alpine habitat on Mount Katahdin. Nineteen of these rare alpine plants are found only on Mount Katahdin in Maine. Other rare plants in the focus area are associated with cliffs and talus slopes that have unique geology, and a few others are found in ponds and wetlands.

The Baxter Region also supports 10 rare animals. Among these are the **Bicknell's thrush** *(Catharus bicknelli)*, a rare and elusive songbird that breeds in isolated patches of montane habitat in New York, northern New England, and southeastern Canada. During the breeding season, the species prefers cool, damp subalpine forest habitat dominated by stunted balsam fir and red spruce thickets. It feeds primarily on insects gathered from the forest floor. It is the only thrush known to be polyandrous, with each female having multiple mates. Up to four males may breed with a female and help to raise the young from one nest. One of the rarest songbirds in North America, Bicknell's thrush appears to be declining in numbers across its range. The inherent patchiness of its breeding habitat, on widely separated mountain ranges and coastal areas, makes the species more vulnerable to local extinction. Its montane breeding habitat is threatened by recreational use, including ski resort development, wind power and telecommunications development, air pollution, and climate change. The species winters in the West Indies, primarily on the island of Hispaniola, where native forests have been decimated and remaining forested areas are under continued threat.

Also found in the Baxter Region Focus Area are spring salamanders. **Spring salamanders** *(Gyrinophilus porphyriticus)* live in cold, clean streams and springs in mountainous areas. Adults are large and pinkish-orange in color, with tails well-adapted for swimming. Because this species does not have lungs but instead absorbs oxygen through its skin, it is dependent on well-oxygenated waters. Headwater, first-order, and second-order streams with rocky bottoms and/or gravel bars are ideal habitat. The spring salamander is a species of Special Concern in Maine because of its specialized habitat needs and limited range. Healthy forest systems and especially intact forested buffers surrounding its stream habitat are crucial to maintaining the water quality and temperature this species needs. Most of the sites where this species is known to exist in Maine are in the Western Mountains region.

The Baxter Region Focus Area includes over 7,000 acres of **Inland Wading Bird and Waterfowl Habitat**. These areas provide undisturbed nesting habitat and undisturbed, uncontaminated feeding areas and are essential for maintaining viable waterfowl and wading bird populations. Ninety-five acres of **Deer Wintering Area**, areas which provide reduced snow depths, ample food and protection from wind for deer

View from Hamlin Ridge, Craig Snapp

Billfish Pond, Craig Snapp

in winter, are present here. High value habitat for **wild brook trout**, an important recreational fish, can be found here as well. Maine has some of the best remaining habitat for Eastern brook trout anywhere.

CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS

» With expected changes in climate over the next century, alpine areas may become important as refuges for native species and communities currently found at lower elevations.

» Recreational use of this focus area should be managed to prevent potential negative impacts on important resources and recreational values. Education of users can help to limit any damage from recreational activities, especially in sensitive areas such as lake and pond shores, ridge lines, and summits. Both motorized and non-motorized users should be encouraged to minimize off-trail use and practice minimum impact camping. Proper trail construction and monitoring is also important. ATV use should be excluded from the summits and upper slopes of the mountains, as well as from wetlands.

» Preserving the natural communities and other sensitive features within the focus area will be best achieved by working to conserve the integrity of the larger natural systems in which these features occur. This can be achieved through management planning on state-owned lands and encouraging sustainable forest management on remaining actively managed private lands. Where late successional and old growth stands remain, these should be conserved when possible. Additional areas should also be set aside from timber harvests to allow for the development of some unmanaged forests.

» The integrity of wetlands and the processes and life forms they support are dependent on the water quality and hydrology of the site. Intensive timber harvesting, vegetation clearing, soil disturbance, new roads, and development on buffering uplands can result in greater runoff, sedimentation, and other non-point sources of pollution. These effects could have devastating impacts on populations of rare freshwater mussels and Tomah mayflies.

» Forested areas surrounding the lakes, ponds, streams, and wetlands are vital to the ecological health of the water bodies and wetlands within the focus area. These buffers also provide valuable riparian habitat for many wildlife species. In particular, intact forested buffers around spring salamander streams protect the water quality and temperature of the streams and are used by the salamanders for foraging and dispersal. A 250 foot buffer from development and road-building and a 150 foot riparian management zone for forestry activities is recommended within ¼ mile upstream or downstream from documented spring salamander habitat. When planning forestry activities within this riparian zone, foresters are encouraged to consult with an MDIFW biologist.

Black Spruce Cones, Maine Natural Areas Program

RARE SPECIES AND EXEMPLARY NATURAL COMMUNITIES OF THE FOCUS AREA

	Common Name	Scientific Name	State Status*	State Rarity Rank	Global Rarity Rank
Animals	American Pipit	*Anthus rubescens*	E	S1B, S3N	G5
	Bald Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	SC	S4B, S4N	G5
	Bicknell's Thrush	*Catharus bicknellii*	SC	S3B	G4
	Canada Lynx	*Lynx canadensis*	SC	S2	G5
	Katahdin Arctic	*Oeneis polixenes katahdin*	E	S1	G5T1
	Northern Bog Lemming	*Synaptomys borealis sphagnicola*	T	S1	G4T3Q
	Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus*	E	S1S2N, S2B	G4
	Pygmy Snaketail	*Ophiogomphus howei*	SC	S2S3	G3
	Roaring Brook Mayfly	*Epeorus frisoni*	E	S1	G1
	Rock Vole	*Microtus chrotorrhinus*	other	S3	G4
	Spotted Turtle	*Clemmys guttata*	T	S3	G5
	Spring Salamander	*Gyrinophilus porphyriticus*	SC	S3	G5
	Wood Turtle	*Clemmys insculpta*	SC	S4	G4
	Yellow Lampmussel	*Lampsilis cariosa*	T	S2S3	G3G4
Plants	Alaskan Clubmoss	*Diphasiastrum sitchense*	T	S1	G5
	Alpine Azalea	*Loiseleuria procumbens*	T	S1	G5
	Alpine Bearberry	*Arctostaphylos alpina*	T	S1	G5
	Alpine Bistort	*Persicaria vivipara*	E	S1	G5
	Alpine Bitter-cress	*Cardamine bellidifolia*	E	S1	G5
	Alpine Blueberry	*Vaccinium boreale*	SC	S2	G4
	Alpine Marsh Violet	*Viola palustris*	E	S1	G5
	Alpine Speedwell	*Veronica wormskjoldii*	E	S1	G4G5
	Alpine Sweet-grass	*Hierochloe alpina*	T	S1	G5
	Appalachian Fir-clubmoss	*Huperzia appalachiana*	SC	S2	G4G5
	Arctic Red Fescue	*Festuca prolifera*	E	S1	GU
	Arctic Willow	*Salix arctophila*	E	S1	G5
	Auricled Twayblade	*Listera auriculata*	T	S2	G3G4
	Bearberry Willow	*Salix uva-ursi*	T	S1	G5

Plants

Common Name	Scientific Name	State Status*	State Rarity Rank	Global Rarity Rank
Bigelow's Sedge	*Carex bigelowii*	SC	S2	G5
Black Sedge	*Carex atratiformis*	SC	S2S3	G5
Boott's Rattlesnake Root	*Prenanthes boottii*	E	S1	G2
Boreal Bentgrass	*Agrostis mertensii*	T	S2	G5
Bulrush Sedge	*Carex scirpoidea*	SC	S2	G5
Cutler's Goldenrod	*Solidago multiradiata var. arctica*	T	S1	G5T4
Dwarf White Birch	*Betula x minor*	E	S1	G4Q
Fragrant Cliff Wood-fern	*Dryopteris fragrans*	SC	S3	G5
Hairy Arnica	*Arnica lanceolata*	T	S2	G3
Hornemann's Willow-herb	*Epilobium hornemannii*	E	S1	G5
Lance-leaved Draba	*Draba cana*	E	S1	G5
Lapland Diapensia	*Diapensia lapponica*	SC	S2	G5
Lapland Rosebay	*Rhododendron lapponicum*	T	S1	G5
Lesser Wintergreen	*Pyrola minor*	SC	S2	G5
Male Fern	*Dryopteris filix-mas*	E	S1	G5
Moss Bell-heather	*Harrimanella hypnoides*	T	S1	G5
Mountain Hairgrass	*Vahlodea atropurpurea*	E	S1	G5
Mountain Heath	*Phyllodoce caerulea*	T	S1	G5
Mountain Sandwort	*Minuartia groenlandica*	SC	S3	G5
Mountain Timothy	*Phleum alpinum*	T	S2	G5
Neglected Reed-grass	*Calamagrostis stricta ssp. stricta*	T	S2	G5T5
New England Northern Reed Grass	*Calamagrostis stricta ssp. inexpansa*	E	S1	G5T5
Northern Comandra	*Geocaulon lividum*	SC	S3	G5
Northern Meadow-sweet	*Spiraea septentrionalis*	SC	S1	G2G3Q
Northern Painted Cup	*Castilleja septentrionalis*	SC	S3	G5
Northern Wood-rush	*Luzula confusa*	E	S1	G5
Orono Sedge	*Carex oronensis*	T	S3	G3
Prototype Quillwort	*Isoetes prototypus*	T	S1	G2G3
Purple Clematis	*Clematis occidentalis var. occidentalis*	SC	S3	G5T5

	Common Name	Scientific Name	State Status*	State Rarity Rank	Global Rarity Rank
Plants	Russett Sedge	*Carex saxatilis*	E	S1	G5
	Smooth Woodsia	*Woodsia glabella*	T	S1	G5
	Spiked Wood-rush	*Luzula spicata*	T	S1	G5
	Star Saxifrage	*Saxifraga foliolosa*	E	S1	G4
	Tea-leaved Willow	*Salix planifolia*	T	S1	G5
	Tundra Dwarf Birch	*Betula glandulosa*	E	S1	G5
	Wavy Bluegrass	*Poa fernaldiana*	E	S1	G3
Natural Communities	Alpine Cliff	*Alpine cliff*		S1	GNR
	Alpine Ecosystem	*Alpine ecosystem*		S2	GNR
	Alpine Snowbank	*Bilberry - mountain-heath alpine snowbank*		S1	G2G3
	Birch - Oak Rocky Woodland	*Birch - oak talus woodland*		S3	G3G5
	Black Spruce Bog	*Spruce - larch wooded bog*		S4	G3G5
	Blueberry Barren	*Blueberry - lichen barren*		S2	GNR
	Heath Alpine Ridge	*Dwarf heath - graminoid alpine ridge*		S2	GNR
	Jack Pine Woodland	*Jack pine woodland*		S3	G3G5
	Lower-elevation Spruce - Fir Forest	*Spruce - fir - broom-moss forest*		S5	GNR
	Mid-elevation Bald	*Crowberry - bilberry summit bald*		S3	G2G3
	Montane Spruce - Fir Forest	*Spruce - fir - wood-sorrel - feather-moss forest*		S5	G3G5
	Northern Hardwoods Forest	*Beech - birch - maple forest*		S5	G3G5
	Patterned Fen Ecosystem	*Patterned fen ecosystem*		S3	GNR
	Red and White Pine Forest	*Red pine - white pine forest*		S3	G3G4
	Rock Outcrop Ecosystem	*Rock outcrop ecosystem*		S4	GNR
	Sandy Lake-bottom	*Pipewort - water lobelia aquatic bed*		S5	GNR
	Silver Maple Floodplain Forest	*Silver maple floodplain forest*		S3	GNR
	Spruce - Fir - Northern Hardwoods Ecosystem	*Spruce - fir - northern hardwoods ecosystem*		S5	GNR
	Spruce - Fir Krummholz	*Spruce - fir - birch krummholz*		S3	GNR
	Spruce - Northern Hardwoods Forest	*Spruce - northern hardwoods forest*		S5	GNR
	Spruce Rocky Woodland	*Spruce talus woodland*		S4	G3G5
	Subalpine Fir Forest	*Fir - heart-leaved birch subalpine forest*		S3	GNR

Natural Communities

Common Name	Scientific Name	State Status*	State Rarity Rank	Global Rarity Rank
Subalpine Meadow	*Mountain alder - bush-honeysuckle subalpine meadow*		S1	GNR
Upper Floodplain Hardwood Forest	*Hardwood river terrace forest*		S3	GNR
White Pine Forest	*White pine - mixed conifer forest*		S5	G5
Windswept Alpine Ridge	*Diapensia alpine ridge*		S1	G2G3

State Status*

- E — Endangered: Rare and in danger of being lost from the state in the foreseeable future, or federally listed as Endangered.
- T — Threatened: Rare and, with further decline, could become endangered; or federally listed as Threatened.
- SC — Special Concern: Rare in Maine, based on available information, but not sufficiently rare to be Threatened or Endangered.

**State status rankings are not assigned to natural communities.*

State Rarity Rank

- S1 — Critically imperiled in Maine because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals or acres).
- S2 — Imperiled in Maine because of rarity (6–20 occurrences or few remaining individuals or acres) or because of other factors making it vulnerable to further decline.
- S3 — Rare in Maine (on the order of 20–100 occurrences).
- S4 — Apparently secure in Maine.
- S5 — Demonstrably secure in Maine.

Global Rarity Rank

- G1 — Critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals or acres) or because some aspect of its biology makes it especially vulnerable to extirpation.
- G2 — Globally imperiled because of rarity (6–20 occurrences or few remaining individuals or acres) or because of other factors making it vulnerable to further decline.
- G3 — Globally rare (on the order of 20–100 occurrences).
- G4 — Apparently secure globally.
- G5 — Demonstrably secure globally.