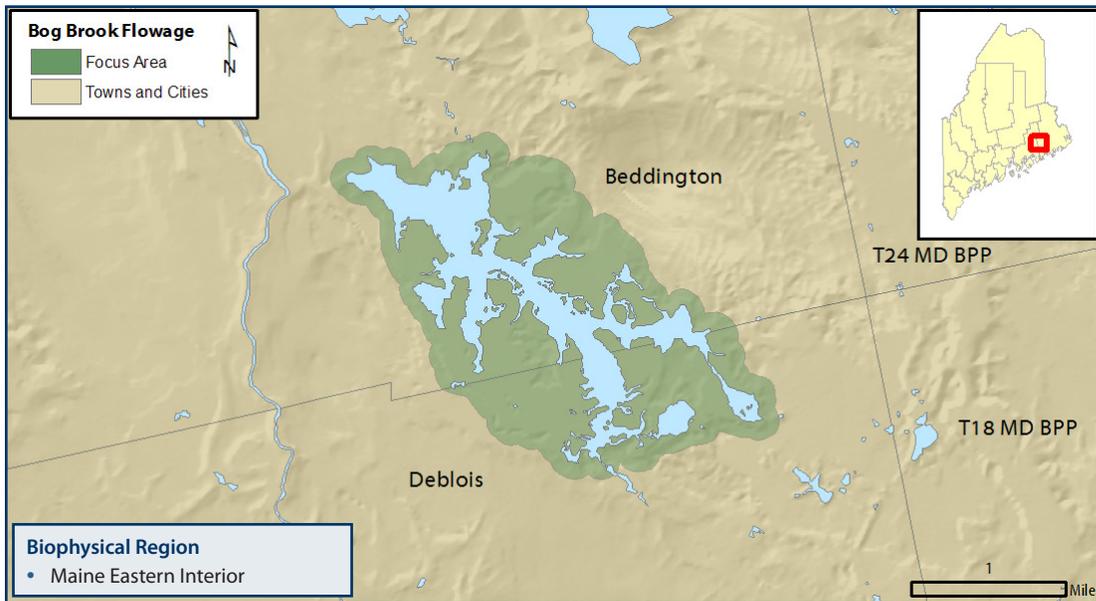


Bog Brook Flowage



WHY IS THIS AREA SIGNIFICANT?

Bog Brook is a 1,600 acre wetland complex with a variety of vegetation types. It is impounded at its western end, where it drains into the Narraguagus River. According to National Wetlands Inventory Maps, the largest wetland type is open water, followed by shrub-scrub and emergent types.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONSERVATION

- » Educate recreational users about the ecological and economic benefits provided by the Focus Area.
- » Maintain adequate riparian buffers.
- » Encourage best management practices for forestry, vegetation clearing, and soil disturbance activities near significant features.
- » Identify and restore undersized culverts that may block fish and invertebrate passage.
- » Monitor and remove invasive species.

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

Rare Animals

- Bald Eagle
- Upland Sandpiper
- Atlantic Salmon

Significant Wildlife Habitats

- Inland Wading Bird and Waterfowl Habitat
- Deer Wintering Area

Public Access Opportunities

- » Bog Brook Wildlife Management Area, MDIFW

Photo credits, top to bottom: Maine Natural Areas Program,, Rich Bard, Paul Cyr, Paul Cyr, Paul Cyr



Bog Brook Flowage, Rich Bard

FOCUS AREA OVERVIEW

Bog Brook flowage is a large wetland complex that drains into the Narraguagus River. Nearly the entire focus area is owned and managed as the Bog Brook Wildlife Management Area by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Bald eagles nest along the flowage. Breeding habitat for bald eagles includes large trees, primarily old white pines, in close proximity (less than one mile) to water where food is abundant and human disturbance is minimal. Bald eagles were nearly extirpated throughout their range because of widespread use of environmental contaminants. Bald eagles have now made a dramatic recovery in Maine and were removed from the state endangered species list in 2009. They remain listed as a species of Special Concern. The focus area also supports a great blue heron colony as well as several osprey nests in a “colonial” group.

Most of the large wetland complex is mapped as a high value **Inland Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat** and provides undisturbed nesting habitat and undisturbed, uncontaminated feeding areas essential for maintaining viable waterfowl and wading bird populations. **Deer Wintering Areas** have also been mapped in the southern part of this focus area along the

southeast shore of Merrit Pond and east of Flynn Pond. Deer congregate in wintering areas which provide reduced snow depths, ample food and protection from wind.

The focus area is adjacent to privately owned and intensively managed blueberry barrens to the west and south. These barrens are known habitat for the **upland sandpiper** which, although threatened in Maine, is relatively frequent in the blueberry barrens of Beddington and Deblois. Upland sandpipers require large open fields (greater than 150 acres). This species was more common when a higher percentage of the state was in farmland. As grasslands disappeared and converted to forests, upland sandpiper populations declined. They are now among the rarest of grassland birds in the Northeast. Most of Maine’s current population nests in downeast blueberry barrens. Maine has the largest upland sandpiper population in the region and plays an important role in the conservation of this species.

CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS

- » The outlet dam maintains a constant flowage height and downstream minimum flows for fisheries habitat. The dam is equipped with a fish ladder to provide upstream fish passage.
- » There are no records of invasive plant species at this time. However, disturbance to soils and natural vegetation in or adjacent to the bog can create opportunities for colonization by invasive plant species. Local groups with an interest in the bog should be made aware of the potential threat of invasive plants and keep an eye out for them before they become well established.
- » The ecological integrity of wetlands, including all the processes and life forms they support, is dependent on the maintenance of the current hydrology and water quality of these systems. 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. In addition, improperly sized and installed crossing structures such as culverts can block fish and invertebrate passage through stream channels often resulting in aquatic habitat fragmentation. Future management activity should avoid additional impacts to the site's hydrology.
- » With expected changes in climate over the next century, plant and wildlife species will shift their ranges. Maintaining landscape connections between undeveloped habitats will provide an important safety net for biodiversity as species adjust their ranges to future climate conditions.

Ecological Services of the Focus Area

- Provides valuable wading bird and waterfowl habitat.
- Retains floodwaters
- Provides deer wintering areas

Economic Contributions of the Focus Area

- Recharges groundwater
- Provides scenic views
- Contributes to recreational value of the area by protecting water quality, fisheries, and wildlife habitat.

RARE SPECIES AND EXEMPLARY NATURAL COMMUNITIES OF THE FOCUS AREA

	Common Name	Scientific Name	State Status*	State Rarity Rank	Global Rarity Rank
Animals	Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	SC	S4B,S4N	G5
	Upland Sandpiper	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	T	S3B	G5

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.