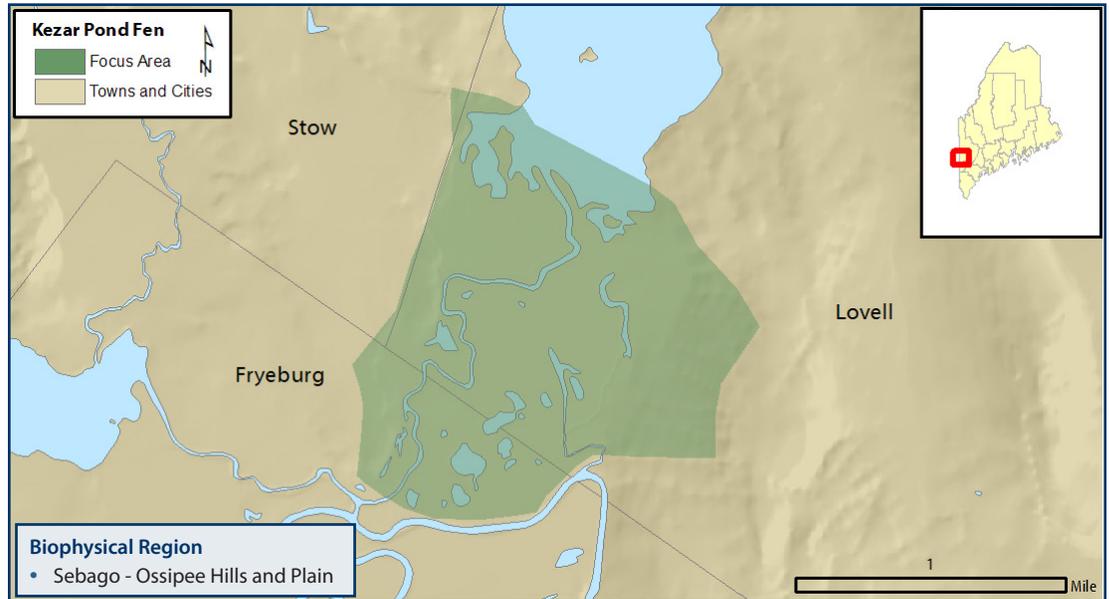


Kezar Pond Fen



WHY IS THIS AREA SIGNIFICANT?

Kezar Pond Fen is a large wetland system consisting of a mosaic of wetland types traversed by the winding, tree-lined outlet stream from Kezar Lake. The site includes excellent examples of a lakeshore ecosystem and a mixed tall sedge fen natural community, as well as a population of one globally rare plant and one rare animal species. The wide variety of wetlands also provides high value habitat for inland wading birds and waterfowl.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONSERVATION

- » Work with willing landowners to permanently protect undeveloped areas and significant features.
- » Encourage landowners to maintain enhanced forested riparian buffers to protect natural communities, rare species, and wetland integrity.
- » Maintain natural hydrologic regime by avoiding drainage or impoundment of the bog or adjacent water bodies.

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

Rare Animals

Least Bittern

Rare Plants

Longs Bulrush

Rare and Exemplary Natural Communities

Tall Sedge Fen
Lakeshore Ecosystem

Significant Wildlife Habitats

Inland Wading Bird and Waterfowl Habitat

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



Kezar Pond Outlet, Maine Natural Areas Program

FOCUS AREA OVERVIEW

Kezar Pond Fen is an 970 acre wetland system located at the south end of the lower bay of Kezar Lake. The site is a mosaic of wetland types that is traversed by the winding tree-lined outlet stream from Kezar Lake. The site includes excellent examples of a **lakeshore ecosystem** and a **mixed tall sedge fen** natural community.

The fen is characterized by several robust sedge species mixed together with scattered shrubs including sweetgale and willows. The substrate is shallow, well decomposed peat. Much of the site is probably inundated during annual high water events, a scenario which helps to perpetuate the fen community type by preventing the dense colonization of trees and shrubs. The fen includes numerous secondary pools and low lying, highly saturated patches that support other wetland herbs and provide habitat for suites of invertebrates.

Broad emergent wetlands associated with the Kezar Outlet Stream and the surrounding lakeshore ecosystem have been mapped as high value **Inland Wading Bird and Waterfowl Habitat** and provide feeding, nesting and brooding habitat to a variety of waterfowl and wading birds. The state Endangered **least bittern** (*Ixobrychus exilis*) is known to breed in portions of these wetlands. A member of the heron family, the very secre-

tive least bittern inhabits large marshes with dense vegetation. Least bittern populations are on decline due to loss of habitat.

The fen also supports a large, good quality population of the globally rare plant **Long's bulrush** (*Scirpus longii*). This plant only occurs in acidic fen situations in Maine, with the best populations occurring where there is periodic inundation from seasonal high waters. It rarely produces flowering and fruiting stems: flowering appears to be triggered by disturbances caused by fire, drought, or grazing. The plants maintain themselves by clonally spreading once they have colonized a site.

CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS

- » The integrity of wetlands are dependent on the maintenance of the hydrology and water quality of these systems. Intensive logging, clearing, soil disturbance, new roads, and development on buffering uplands can result in greater runoff, sedimentation, and other non-point sources of pollution. 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

- » Preserving natural communities and other sensitive features will be best achieved by conserving the integrity of the larger natural systems in which these features occur. Conserving the larger systems helps ensure both common and rare natural features will persist in this part of the state.
- » The wetland system will benefit from establishing and/or maintaining vegetative buffers around its perimeter wherever possible. A buffer of 250 feet or more will serve to limit impacts from adjacent development, help prevent erosion, provide habitat needed by numerous species that depend on the wetlands, limit colonization of invasive species, and prevent impacts from ORV use.
- » Invasive plants and aquatic organisms have become an increasing problem in Maine and a threat to the state's natural communities. Disturbances to soils and natural vegetation and introductions of non-native species to terrestrial and aquatic habitats can create opportunities for colonization. Landowners and local conservation groups should be made aware of the potential threat of invasive species, of methods to limit establishment, and/or of appropriate techniques for removal. For more information on invasive plants visit: <http://www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mnap/features/invasives.htm>.
- » 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

Ecological Services of the Focus Area

- Retains floodwaters
- Stores sediments and nutrients and protects water quality of downstream resources
- Provides habitat for wading birds and waterfowl
- Contributes to regional biodiversity by providing habitat for both rare and common species

Economic Contributions of the Focus Area

- Recharges groundwater
- Provides scenic views

adjust their ranges to future climate conditions.

- » This area includes Significant Wildlife Habitat for inland wading birds and waterfowl. Land managers should follow best management practices with respect to construction and forestry activities in and around wetlands, shoreland areas, and Significant Wildlife Habitat. Vegetation removal, soil disturbance and construction activities may require a permit under the Natural Resources Protection Act. Contact MDIFW for more information.



Kezar Pond Fen, 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	Least Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	E	S2B	G5
Plants	Longs Bulrush	<i>Scirpus longii</i>	T	S1	G2
Natural Communities	Tall Sedge Fen	Mixed Tall Sedge Fen		S4	GNR
	Lakeshore Ecosystem	Lakeshore Ecosystem		S5	GNR

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.