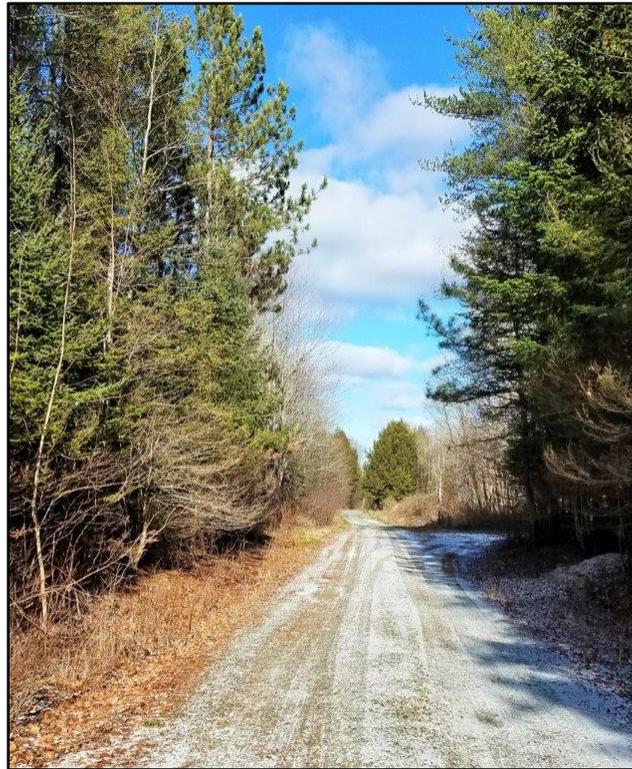


**Management Plan
East Grand/Orient Project Additions to
Eastern Interior Region**

Orient Unit

East Grand Lake-Orient Conservation Easement

(to be appended to the Eastern Interior Region Management Plan adopted in 2009)



North Lake Road on the Orient Unit

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



November 2020

[reverse of cover]

Cover photo by Elbridge Cleaves, used with permission.

ADOPTION CITATION

In accordance with the provisions of 12 M.R.S.A. § 1847(2) and consistent with the Bureau of Parks and Lands Planning Policy and Integrated Resource Policy for Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, State Parks, and State Historic Sites (revised December 18, 2000 and amended March 7, 2007), this Management Plan for the **Orient Unit** is hereby adopted. Upon adoption, this plan will become an amendment to the Eastern Interior Region Management Plan (adopted July 1, 2009).

RECOMMENDED:  DATE: August 6, 2021

Andrew Cutko
Director
Bureau of Parks and Lands

APPROVED:  DATE: August 6, 2021

Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner
Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry

ADOPTED DATE: 8/6/21 REVISION DATE: 8/6/36

Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Acquisition History	4
Planning Process and Public Participation	4
Conservation Lands Context	5
Fee Property Description and Resources	5
Conservation Easement Property Description, Resources and Management	12
Fee Property Management Direction and Resource Allocations	13
Resource Allocations Summary	14

Appendices

- A. Advisory Committee Members; Public Consultation Process; Public Comments and Bureau Responses
- B. References

Introduction

This management plan will provide management direction for the next five years for the fee lands that the Bureau acquired in the Town of Orient in 2016. The plan describes the regional context in which the lands are situated and summarizes the natural, recreational, and scenic resources present on the lands. The plan applies the resource allocations outlined in the Bureau's Integrated Resource Policy (IRP) and provides a set of management recommendations. The resources and management of the nearby easement parcel are also described. Upon adoption, this document will be appended to the Eastern Interior Region Management Plan adopted in 2009.

Under current policy, the Bureau's management plans cover a period of 15 years after the date of adoption; however, the horizon for this plan is nine years to align it with the Eastern Interior Region Management Plan, which will be subject to a comprehensive review in 2024. A review of current issues and progress on implementing this Plan's recommendations will be undertaken at that time.

The reader is directed to the regional plan for information on statutory and policy guidance for Public Reserved Lands management plans and for a summary of the Resource Allocation System.

Acquisition History

In March 2016, the Bureau acquired nearly 6,000 acres of fee property on the Monument Brook headwaters of the Saint Croix River, and a conservation easement on nearly 1,500 acres of nearby working forest land. Referred to as the East Grand/Orient Project, the acquisition was facilitated by The Conservation Fund, which had acquired the lands in 2011 from Wagner Forest Management for conservation purposes. It was funded in part by the Land for Maine's Future (LMF) Program (through an administrative assignment of funds by the LMF Board), and the federal Forest Legacy Program.

Planning Process and Public Participation

The first phase of the planning process includes a study of the resources and opportunities available on the Orient unit lands. Bureau staff undertook a review the natural and geological, historic and cultural, fisheries and wildlife, recreation, and timber and renewable resources. Much of this information was obtained from a preliminary ecological assessment conducted in 2011 and a timber cruise conducted in 2013 (updated in 2014), prior to the acquisition. Resource professionals from within the Bureau and the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (IF&W) provided information on wildlife, recreation, and timber resources. Mapping and GIS-related information was also obtained as part of this phase.

Staff also participated in reconnaissance field trips to the Orient Unit, both before and after the acquisition, to view first-hand and characterize the land-based resources. In October 2019, a group of staff visited the fee parcel; the group evaluated the access roads and walked into the lake and stream shorelines on the east boundary of the Unit to explore potential foot access to the water.

Members of the Eastern Interior Region Advisory Committee were reconvened in 2019, with several new members, for the 5-Year Review of the regional plan. The committee was informed via a memo emailed September 5, 2019 of the start of the Plan process and notified that a Draft Plan would be sent to committee members for review and comment.

The Draft Plan was sent to the Advisory Committee for review via email on October 10, 2019, with comments requested to be provided by November 1, 2019. The document was also posted on the Eastern Interior Plan webpage. Written comments were received from four committee members. The Final Draft Plan was sent to the Advisory Committee via email and posted on the plan webpage on January 9, 2020. Comments on the Draft Plan from the Advisory Committee are included in the Appendices of this report and are reflected in the Final Draft Plan.

The Final Draft Plan was presented and discussed via a public meeting (held via TEAMS video conference rather than in-person due to constraints on public gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic) on September 17, 2020.

Comments received on the Final Draft Plan were considered in preparing the Final Management Plan. Upon recommendation from the Bureau of Parks and Lands, the Plan was then reviewed and approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

Conservation Lands Context

The southern Aroostook County area in which the East Grand/Orient Project lands lie hosts relatively few sizable conservation lands. However, the State acquisitions were followed in early 2018 by the purchase of 3,053 acres on Monument Brook in Amity by the Woodie Wheaton Land Trust (WWLT, a partner in the East Grand/Orient Project, based in nearby Forest City). Those lands include a parcel abutting the State's fee parcel along most of its northern boundary, and a similar size parcel further upstream. The parcels include commercial forestland and extensive wetlands and will remain open for traditional uses such as hunting and fishing (WWLT, 2018).

The 6,240-acre Lt. Gordon Manuel Wildlife Management Area (WMA), owned and managed by IF&W, lies about 9 miles to the north of the Orient fee parcel. The WMA offers a somewhat similar mix of upland forests and varied wetlands. The Bureau manages two public lots totaling about 300 acres in Cary Plt., a few miles east of the WMA. Two additional BPL lots totaling about 1,500 acres are located in Reed Plt., about 16 miles southwest of the Orient parcel. These lots are primarily managed for timber and dispersed recreation.

Fee Property Description and Resources

Note: Much of the information below on the physical characteristics and the biological resources of the property is drawn from a preliminary ecological assessment conducted prior to the acquisition (McMahon, 2012). The full report is available from Woodie Wheaton Land Trust.

Location and General Character. The 5,992-acre fee parcel, also known as the Monument Brook tract, lies at the northern end of East Grand Lake, about 20 miles south of Houlton. East Grand Lake is a 16,000-acre impoundment renowned for quality fishing and hosting several public boating facilities as well as numerous private homes and camps, commercial lodges and

resorts. The parcel is bordered on the east by North Lake and The Thoroughfare (the narrows which joins North Lake to East Grand Lake) as well as by Monument Brook, which flows into North Lake, all of which are on the international boundary between Maine and New Brunswick.¹

The Orient parcel is characterized by low relief, gentle hills and relatively wet soils. The lowest elevation is about 435 feet (the maximum elevation of East Grand Lake/North Lake) along the impoundment shorelines, while the highest elevation is 613 feet on a low ridge near the south boundary of the tract. Upland soils are relatively fertile (with some calcium enrichment) and moderately deep.

A 170-ft.-wide cleared powerline corridor runs east/west across the center of the tract, within an easement held by Emera Maine, granted by a previous owner. Much of the northern half of the tract (generally north of the powerline) and the west side is low ground, with extensive open wetlands and wooded swamp. The southern half of the tract is characterized by low wooded hills rising above Monument Brook and on either side of Dead Brook, which flows out of the southern half of the parcel into The Thoroughfare. Greenleaf Brook, a tributary of Monument Brook, flows northeasterly out of the wetlands on the northern half of the property. The western portion of the property is drained by Skagrock Brook, a headwater tributary of the Mattawamkeag, which flows into the Penobscot River.

In low-lying areas, low stream gradients and young trees have created ideal habitat for beaver. Beaver are active on all the perennial streams on the property and have created a diversity of wetlands types as water levels fluctuate over the years due to their activity.

Access and Recreation. State Route 1, which runs along the tract's west side, and Boundary Road, connecting Route 1 to the international border crossing and abutting the tract on the south in two short sections, are the primary means of access. North Lake Road, part of which is an improved gravel road, travels through the southeast corner of the parcel from Boundary Road, with two branches leading to several shoreline outlots. MDOT operates a small rest area along Route 1, partially on the tract.

Emera Maine has received permission from the Bureau to access the powerline via North Lake Road and Monument Brook Road (a management road extending northward from North Lake Road across the eastern part of the lot), Picnic Area Road (a management road extending from Route 1 across the northwest quadrant of the tract), and another unnamed management road approaching the powerline from the south. Emera has performed major maintenance on these roads in the past three years, improving access to the lot for management.

The tract has traditionally been used by hunters and others for dispersed recreation activities. The Bureau has established seven bear bait sites along North Lake and Monument Brook Roads. A designated ATV route follows those roads up the east side of the parcel. There are no

¹ The Forest City Project is operated as a hydropower storage development under a license issued to Woodland Pulp, LLC by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in 2015. The dam at Forest City controls the water surface elevation of East Grand Lake and North Lake. A portion of the shoreline on the Orient fee parcel along Monument Brook, North Lake and The Thoroughfare coincides with the FERC Project boundary.

recreation facilities present. However, pedestrian access is available to much of the parcel via the network of improved and unimproved management roads. Map 1 depicts access and recreation facilities for the East Grand/Orient lands and vicinity.

Small boats can be motored or paddled up slow-moving Monument Brook and Greenleaf Brook from North Lake. The brooks and the extensive areas of sedge meadow and marsh associated with them are an attractive area for bird watching and bird hunting. WWLT has led public tours up these waterways in recent years, highlighting their value as a recreational as well as ecological asset.

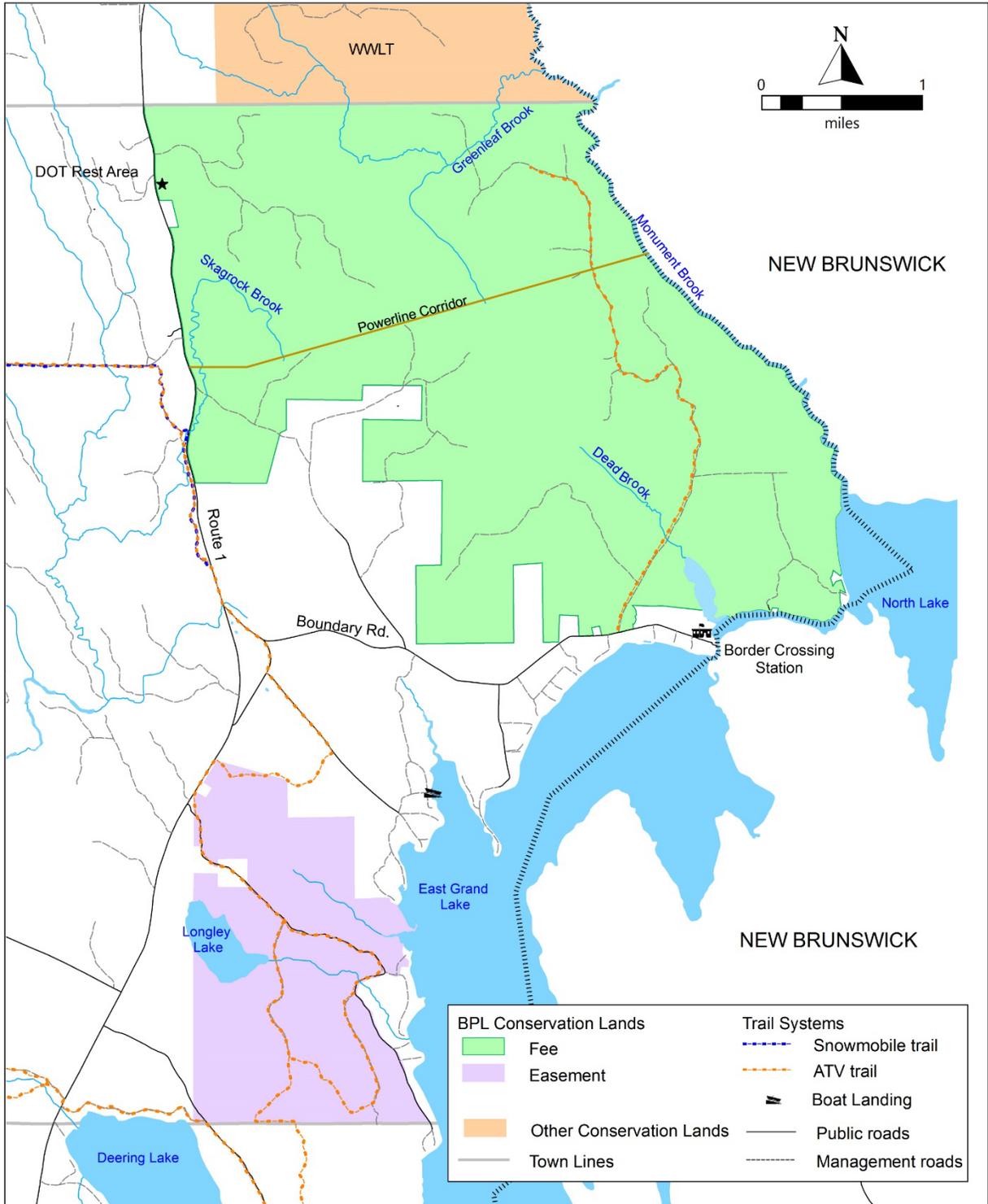
There are numerous public and private boat access points on North Lake and East Grand Lake, outside the public lands. However, the nearest public facility on the US side, a gravel ramp owned by the Town of Orient, is more than two miles south of The Thoroughfare by water. WWLT and IF&W have both expressed a need for improved boat access on the Unit, particularly carry-in access to Monument Brook.

Notable Botanical Features. The wetlands in the interior of the parcel include a variety of open and semi-open wetlands and wooded swamps. In particular, the ~1,000-acre wetland complex surrounding Greenleaf Brook contains good examples of several different types of fen, swamp, meadow and marsh. The area is unusual because of the large amount of northern white cedar present. Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) has mapped a 64-acre exemplary open cedar fen within the Greenleaf Brook complex (see Map 2), portions of which appear to be in an old growth condition (200+ years). A number of rare species are associated with open cedar fens and northern white cedar swamps. The full condition and extent of the exemplary fen community has not been assessed.

Additional wetlands are along Monument Brook and lower Dead Brook, comprised of several hundred acres of sedge meadow and emergent marsh. (The lower portions of these wetlands are influenced by water surface elevation changes in East Grand Lake and North Lake that result from hydropower water storage operations.)

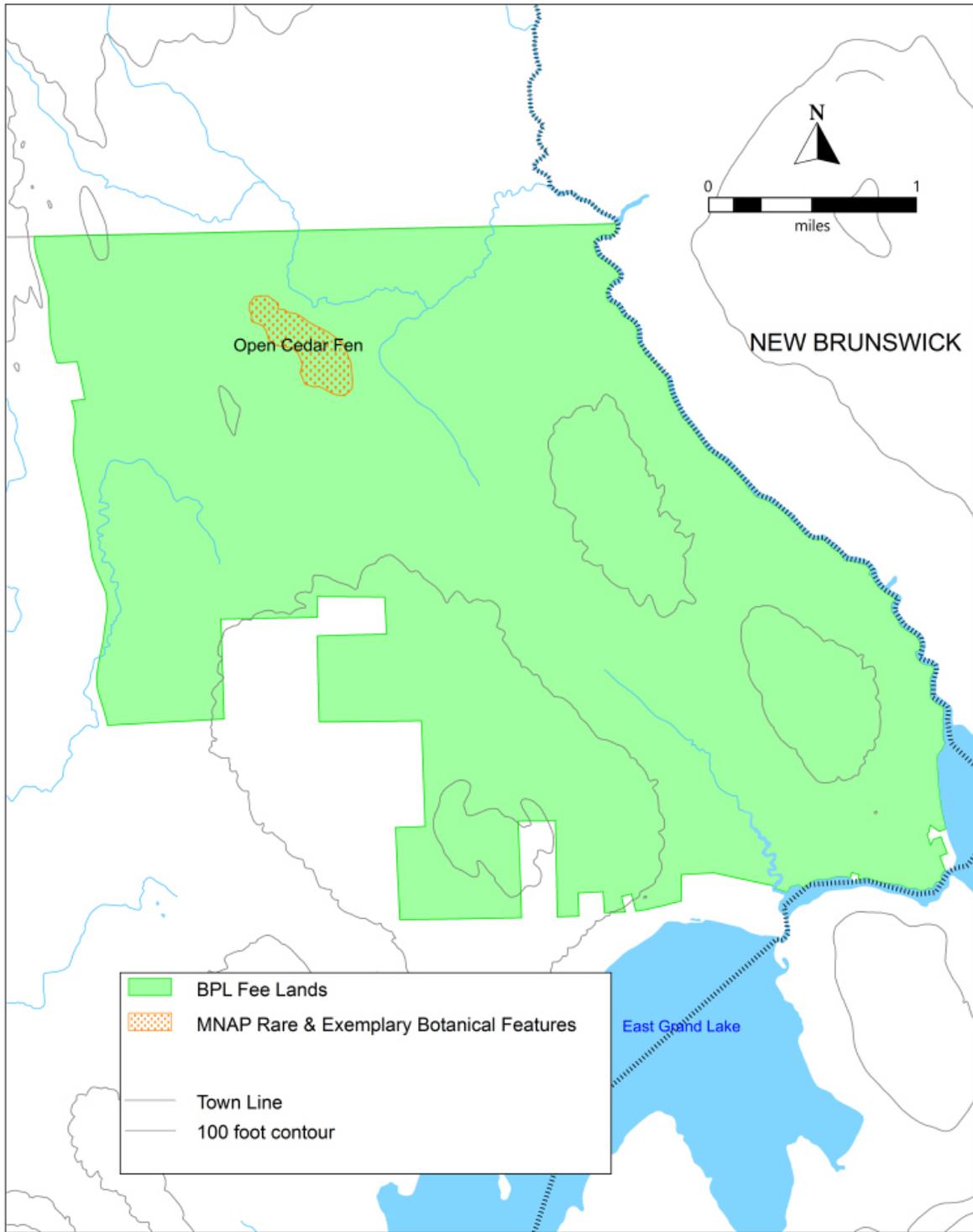
The preliminary ecological assessment identified two areas of enriched northern hardwood forest, a rare community type in Maine (ranked S3), the largest located in the south half of the parcel. One ~20 acre stand was identified as particularly noteworthy for its condition, including canopy trees that appear to be about 100 years old. However, additional surveys are needed to better determine the extent and condition of these communities.

East Grand/Orient Fee and Easement Lands and Vicinity Access and Recreation Facilities



Map 1.

Orient Unit MNAP "Rare and Exemplary" Features



Map 2.



Monument Brook and wetland margin.



North Lake shoreline (Oct 2019).

Wildlife and Fisheries. The Orient tract contains habitat for black bear, bobcat, moose, pine marten, and white-tailed deer, as well as brook trout, landlocked salmon, other fish, and many species of interior dwelling birds, waterfowl, reptiles and amphibians.

At least four species listed as Special Concern in Maine were observed in the Greenleaf Brook wetland area: Olive-sided flycatcher, rusty blackbird, Canada warbler, and northern leopard frog. Bald eagles regularly forage in the area. A number of other breeding bird species of Special Concern are known to be present in the wider East Grand/Orient Project area (Evers, 2011).

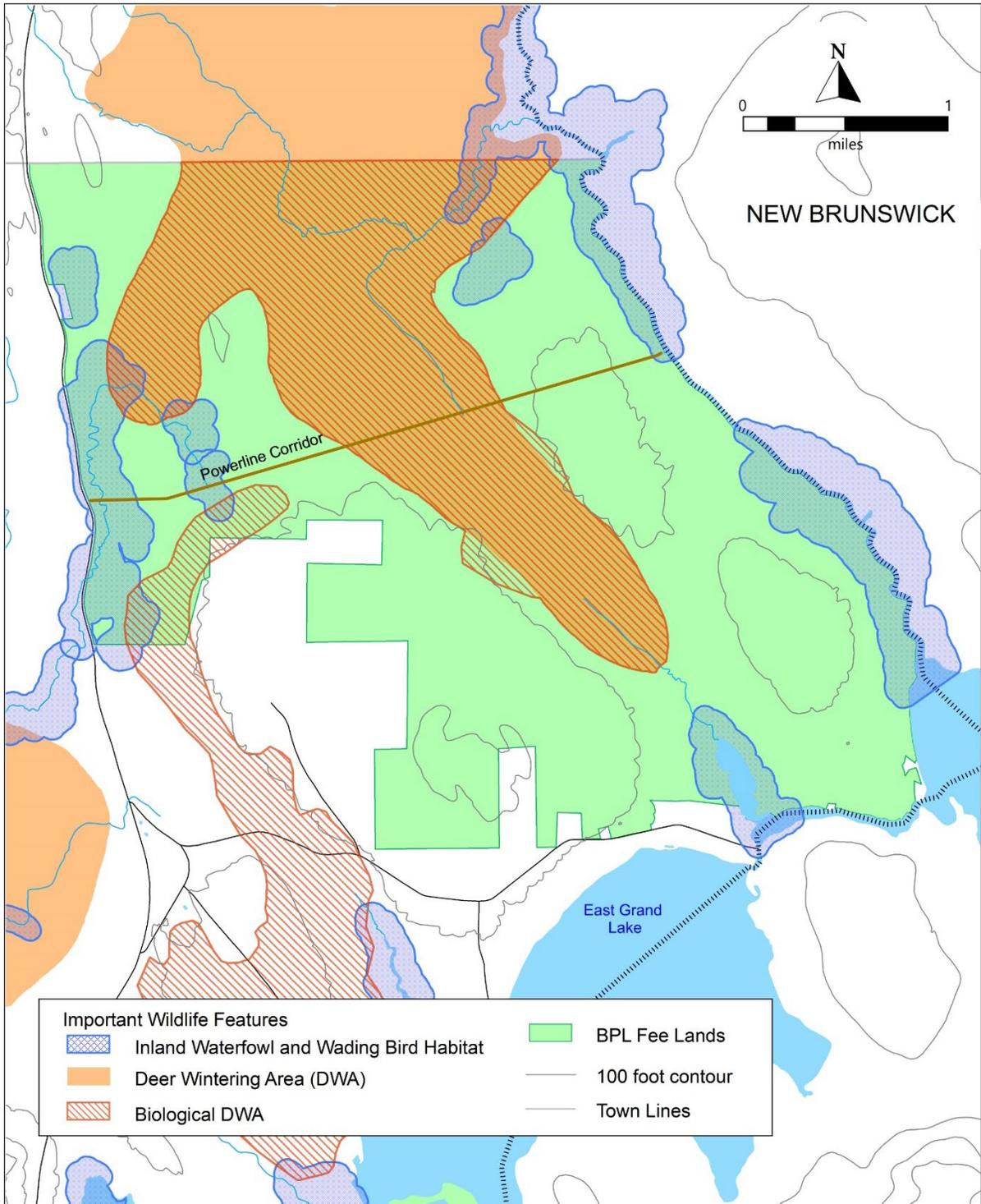
One of the primary objectives of the acquisition was protection of deer habitat; about 1,700 acres of a large IF&W-mapped deer wintering area (DWA) lies across the central portion of the tract, largely coinciding with the Greenleaf Brook wetland complex. Bureau observations suggest that deer usage of the DWA is currently low, although evidence of deer was reported to be abundant during summer and fall field work for the preliminary ecological assessment a few years earlier. Based on more recent field data than used for the original DWA, IF&W has also mapped a biological DWA (BDWA)² in that area and another area that primarily lies on private land but extends onto the tract east of Skagrock Brook. Map 3 depicts the DWA/BDWA areas.

IF&W has mapped several areas of Inland Waterfowl and Wading Birds Habitat (IWWBH) that lie entirely or partially on the tract, totaling about 800 acres (also shown on Map 3). These habitats along upper and lower Monument Brook in particular have been assigned a high value ranking, with similar but smaller habitats associated with Dead Brook and Skagrock Brook assigned a medium value ranking.

Vernal pools have not been mapped but the preliminary ecological assessment indicated they are abundant on the property, both in upland areas where seeps cross depressions and in low-lying areas. Wood frogs were plentiful in association with these features.

² BDWAs are defined using several criteria, not all of which need to be present. Core criteria include: previously mapped DWAs (or LUPC P-FW zones in unorganized territories), historical records, current and/or previous cooperative agreement DWAs, and current use data (aerial or ground surveys within the last 10 years). Additional criteria may also be used to enlarge the BDWA, such as adjacent softwood-dominated stands, travel corridors, hardwood browse areas, etc.

Orient Unit and Vicinity Important Wildlife Features



Map 3.



Open wetland (beaver flowage) along Skagrock Brook.

Timber Resources. The land has been managed as a working forest for more than a century. Timber harvesting has occurred on the tract, most recently under the management of Huber Resources, while in The Conservation Fund’s ownership. About 30% of the tract received harvesting in the five or so years prior to the acquisition. The most recent harvest was in the winter of 2014/15. A new winter harvest road was built to access that timber.

The existing forest stands are estimated to be about 50% softwood types, 30% mixedwood, and 20% hardwood. In addition to 716 non-forest acres, the tract has ~1,000 acres or more dominated by cedar (of low quality, typical of the region). A forest inventory conducted for the acquisition (but prior to the winter 2014-15 harvest) indicated an average stocking of 17.55 cords per acre, considerably lower than most BPL units in the region. The softwood/hardwood ratio is about two-thirds/one-third. Cedar was the most common species on the parcel (27%), followed by fir (14%), spruce (12%) and hemlock (11%). Hardwoods are primarily red maple, sugar maple, yellow birch, and white and/or brown ash (6-10% each). Total volume of timber is about two-thirds pulpwood and one-third sawtimber.



Second growth stand on the Unit.



Forest stand within the DWA.

(Photos courtesy of Elbridge Cleaves)

Conservation Easement Property Description, Resources and Management

The East Grand Lake/Orient easement covers 1,494 acres of working forest located about one mile south of the fee tract. The Conservation Fund, operating as New Forest Fund IV, LLC, is the landowner. The parcel includes limited frontage on East Grand Lake as well as most of the shoreline of undeveloped 82-acre Longley Lake. It abuts a number of home and camp lots on the shore of East Grand Lake.

The easement allows management of the property as a commercial working forest while protecting in perpetuity the property's significant recreational, wildlife, and ecological values for the public benefit. The easement provides for traditional dispersed recreational uses and non-motorized and motorized access across the protected parcel, including designated ATV and snowmobile trails. The State was granted enforcement rights on the easement, and BPL conducts annual monitoring visits (monitoring reports are available from the Bureau).

Fee Property Management Direction and Resource Allocations

The remainder of this document outlines the management direction for the fee parcel, in accordance with the conditions associated with the LMF and Forest Legacy funding, and applies the resource allocations outlined in the IRP.

The Orient parcel will be managed for timber production, ecological resources, wildlife and fisheries, and recreation. Recommendations for the management of these resources and the resource allocations that are proposed to be applied to specific areas follow. A map of the proposed Dominant Resource Allocations is provided on page 15.

Special Protection. A "Natural Area" Special Protection allocation will be applied to the ~70-acre MNAP-mapped exemplary open cedar fen on the north side of the tract. No timber harvesting will occur in this area. Additional acres within the open cedar fen, as well as within enriched northern hardwood communities noted in the preliminary ecological assessment, may be designated Special Protection pending additional surveys by MNAP.

Wildlife and Fisheries. The Bureau's examination of the DWA indicated little to no harvesting in recent decades, other than a few areas within and along the perimeter. BPL will develop a cooperative DWA agreement with IF&W to guide management within the mapped BDWA/DWA as well as the portion of the BDWA that lies within the tract. Under that agreement, BPL will collaborate with IF&W to plan any timber harvests within the DWA/BDWAs to enhance deer cover. The Bureau is open to collaboration with adjacent landowners on management of the BDWA/DWAs.

The portions of the mapped DWA and BDWA on the tract (about 1,785 acres) and the extensive IWWBH areas associated with wetlands and along the streams and Monument Brook (about 740 acres) will be protected by a Wildlife allocation. Additionally, riparian corridors along Monument Brook and other streams outside the wetlands will be protected with 330-foot and 75-foot riparian buffers, respectively, with a Wildlife allocation. Timber management is allowed in the wooded wetlands and riparian buffers with the primary objective of enhancing fish and wildlife habitat.

Recreation and Visual Resources. For the remainder of this Plan cycle for the Eastern Interior Region, the Bureau intends to continue the emphasis on dispersed recreation opportunities. Yard-arm signs identifying the tract as Public Reserved Land will be installed along the major roads abutting the tract. The Bureau will consider adding minor improvements, such as small parking areas at popular access points, and will evaluate road and carry-in boat access to North Lake and/or Monument Brook in the vicinity of North Lake Road and Monument Brook Road. These may include sanitary facilities. The Bureau is open to future collaboration with WWLT on potential development of carry-in boat access to Monument Brook.

The improved roads on the parcel will be allocated to Developed Recreation, as will the DOT rest area and any future parking areas. A variable Visual Class I buffer will be applied as a secondary allocation along the improved public access roads, and along the public road (Route 1 and Boundary Road) frontages to mitigate the effects of management activities on foreground views. The small existing roadside log-yards on the parcel will not be included and may be used during future harvests.

Timber Management. The remainder of the tract will be allocated to timber management (about 3,300 acres). Forest prescriptions will be prepared by Bureau foresters, based on a compartment examination that will be conducted in advance. Given the extensive recent harvests and the modest stocking reported above, no major harvests are anticipated during the five years covered by this plan, nor perhaps for five or more years after that. However, there is the potential for harvests designed for DWA enhancement (with IF&W approval) and in small areas (generally <100 acres) that have not been treated in recent decades and where Emera’s recent road improvements have provided access. BPL will consult with MNAP when planning any harvests adjacent to the cedar fen and within enriched northern hardwood communities.

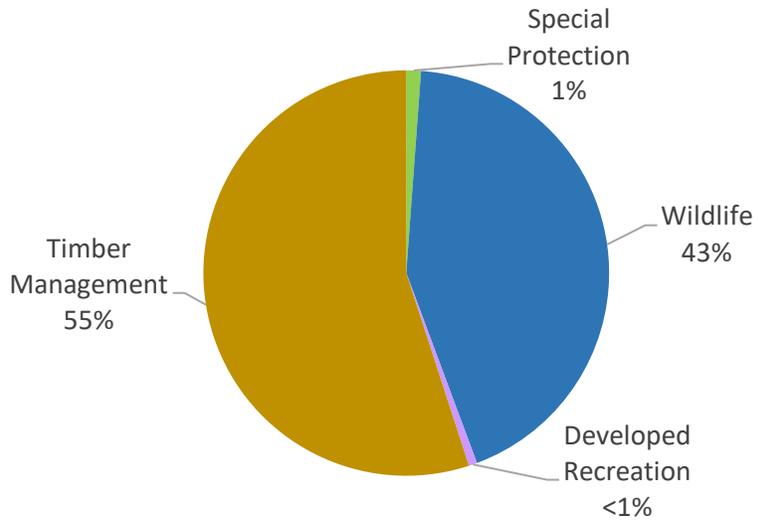
Visual resource considerations will apply to hilltops and slopes that may be visible from North Lake or East Grand Lake. As alluded to above, given the proximity of Route 1 as well as the DOT rest area, potential impacts on visual resource will also be taken into consideration along the west side of the tract, although this area is primarily wetlands.

Resource Allocation Summary

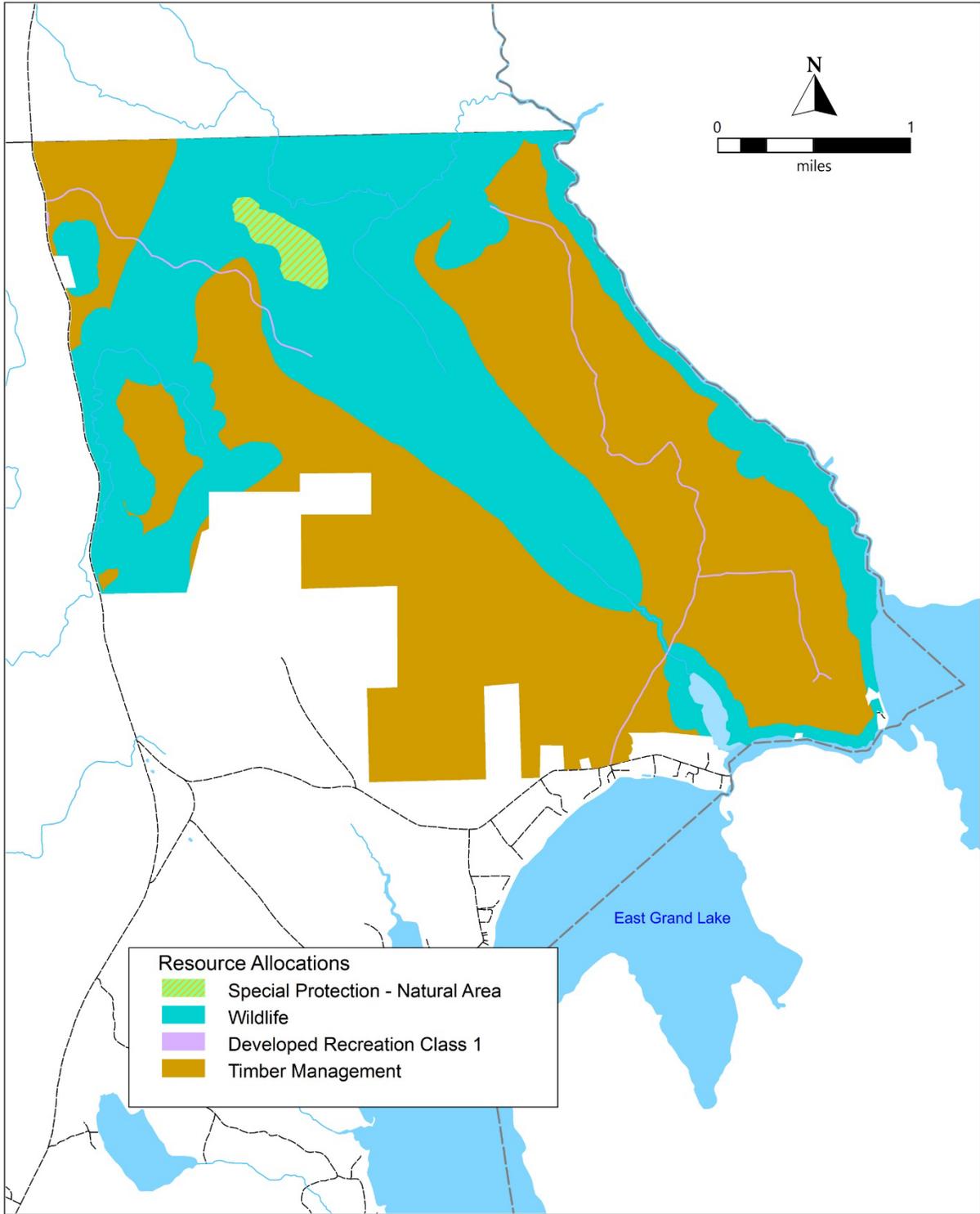
Allocation	Acres*	Percent
Special Protection	70	1%
Wildlife	2,590	43%
Developed Recreation	40	<1%
Timber Management	3,300	55%

* Nearest 5 acres, subject to measuring error and limits of GIS precision.

Dominant Resource Allocations



Orient Unit Dominant Resource Allocations



Map 4.

APPENDIX A

Advisory Committee Members; Public Consultation Process; Public Comments and Bureau Responses

Eastern Interior Region Advisory Committee:

Name	Organization
Ernie Atkinson	Department of Marine Resources
Robin Avery	Hall Hill Guide Service
George Bakajza	Easement Monitor - Fifth Machias Lake Ecoreserve
Mark Caron	Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, Region F
Scott Cates	unaffiliated
Bill Cherry	Machias & E Machias River Watershed Councils
Elbridge Cleaves	Unaffiliated, formerly Woodie Wheaton Land Trust
Jeff Currier	Maine Forest Service
Melissa Doane	Town of Bradley
Kristen Hoffman	Forest Society of Maine
Rep. Kathy Javner	House District #141
Cathy Johnson	Natural Resources Council of Maine
Eileen Lafland	Maine Snowmobile Association
Rep. Lawrence Lockman	House District #137
Warren Miller	unaffiliated
David Montague	Downeast Lakes Land Trust
Senator Marianne Moore	Senate District #6
Gordon Mott	Sysladobsis Landowners
Robert Murphy	American Forest Management
Earl Oak	Airline ATV Riders
Bill Patterson	The Nature Conservancy
Jerry Poulin	Wagner Forest Management, Ltd.
Steve & Patty Schuster	Nicatous Lodge & Cabins
Christopher Sockalexis	Penobscot Indian Nation, Cultural and Historic Preservation Dept.
Pat Strauch	Maine Forest Products Council
Dave Tobey	Grand Lake Stream Guides Association
Carl Tugend	Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, Region C
Christopher Wilson	Sweet Water Trust

Public Consultation Summary:

Plan Phase/Date	Action/Meeting Focus	Attendance/Responses
Preliminary Planning/Scoping		
June-Aug. 2019	Data gathering and work on initial internal drafts of Plan	
Oct. 1, 2019	Field visits to Orient Unit to view and discuss access and road systems, potential recreation facilities, forest conditions, etc.	Various Eastern Region and Augusta BPL staff
Draft Plan		
Oct. 10, 2019	Draft Plan made available online and sent via email to AC members with request for comments.	
Nov. 1, 2019	End of comment period.	4 comments received by email
Final Draft Plan		
Jan. 9, 2020	Final Draft Plan made available online and emailed to AC members.	
Aug. 28, 2020	Virtual Public Meeting via Microsoft Teams videoconference scheduled for September 17 with comment period ending October 9, 2020. Revised Final Draft sent via email to AC members, with notice of virtual public meeting.	
Sept. 4-6, 2020	Notice of Public Meeting posted in papers.	
Sept. 17, 2020	Virtual Public Meeting held, 6:00 pm: presented Final Draft Plan	1 AC member attended, plus BPL staff. (see note below table)
Oct. 9, 2020	End of Comment Period.	No comments received.

Note: Several individuals requested the information required to participate in the virtual public meeting; however, none joined the meeting. The Bureau contacted those individuals after the meeting and learned that some had technical difficulties.

Comments received on the Draft Plan

Comment source	Date	Form received
Elbridge Cleaves, unaffiliated (formerly WWLT)	Oct. 11, 2019	email
Kevin Dunham, MDIF&W	Oct. 23, 2019	email
Don Cameron, Maine Natural Areas Program	Oct. 25, 2019	email
Mark Caron, MDIF&W	Oct. 29, 2019	email

**Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Bureau of Parks of Lands
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT
WITH BUREAU RESPONSE**

Summary of Written Comments on the Draft Orient Unit Management Plan (October 10, 2019) (Comment Period: October 11, 2019 – November 1, 2019) Some comments have been excerpted, and introductory or background statements deleted.	
Comment	Response
From: Elbridge Cleaves, past President, Woodie Wheaton Land Trust (WWLT)	
<p><u>Corrections:</u> Page 5 under Timber Resources – I believe the manager would have been Huber Resources not Wagner. Page 5 bottom: To my knowledge no more lease lots – all sold and fee owned.</p> <p><u>Recreation – Potential Carry-in Boat Access:</u> Hand carry canoe/kayak access to Monument is highly needed. Much interest in birding, eco and recreational paddling. Suggest site south of powerline accessed over extension of old North Road near Monument. Have explored a couple of potential sites in the past. [Subsequently provided BPL with GPS data on a potential site and access route]</p> <p><u>DWA habitat and Management</u> Observe 100's of deer in spring in and around open fields near Monument Brook parcel. Adjacent/nearby old apple orchards are significant draw in late fall and open winters.</p> <p><u>Other Wildlife Habitat</u> Traditional upland covers on and nearby the parcel, especially in and around the old Packard Farm. Years ago, prior to TCF acquisition, had RGS in tow for a hunt in Orient. Thought was to develop some grouse habitat in the upland portions. Nothing came of it.</p> <p><u>Additional Ecological Data on Parcel and Additional Abutting Conservation Lands</u> I assume you may have WWLT pre TCF acquisition Janet McMahon and David Evers ecological and bird assessments of the Monument Brook parcel in your files but if not, I can get them to you.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text has been corrected. • Comments noted. The Plan will not identify specific potential boat access sites, but the provided data will be used in the assessment called for in the Plan recommendations. • Comments noted. These observations will be discussed during development of the DWA agreement with IF&W called for in the Plan recommendations. • Comments noted. • Information from the McMahon preliminary ecological assessment (2012) and Evers bird assessment (2011) have been incorporated into the Plan.

<p>Also, WWLT has acquired 3,000 acres in Amity, much of which lies adjacent to this State piece. They are exploring an additional acquisition. Can supply maps if you do not have them from WWLT. <i>[Subsequently provided BPL with McMahan and Evers reports and survey of Amity parcels.]</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information about the Amity parcels acquired by WWLT in 2018 has been incorporated into the Plan text and the parcels have been added to the Orient base map.
<p>From: Don Cameron, Ecologist, Maine Natural Areas Program</p>	
<p><u><i>Known and Potential Rare/Exemplary Habitat</i></u> Regarding the Northern white cedar woodland fen, Kristen Puryear did a survey there in 2006 (site name - Daggett Brook-south). Her remarks were “full condition and extent not assessed”. Looking at the aerial imagery, I would say it’s safe to say the community is not currently fully mapped. Kristen also looked at a potential area of enriched hardwood forest at that time near but not in the larger polygon Janet McMahan mapped. Given the description from Janet’s 2012 report I would recommend waiting for MNAP to survey this potential rare community site before making any management plans for it. The screen clips below show the area we would want to survey. Note that no survey was done to the smaller area of enriched hardwoods listed by Janet, and there have been no other surveys to these properties by MNAP. <i>[Message included embedded maps of potential enriched hardwood forest rare/exemplary community on the south part of the Unit mentioned in the comments.]</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan text has been revised to note that current mapping of the exemplary woodland fen is not based on a complete survey. Note has also been made that the enriched hardwood forest areas described in the McMahan report, the potential location of which was shown on the MNAP maps, has not been surveyed. The Plan text describing the Special Protection dominant resource allocation has been revised to note that additional portions of the woodland fen and areas of enriched hardwood forest may be designated Special Protection following additional MNAP surveys on the Unit.
<p>From: Mark Caron, MDIF&W Regional Wildlife Biologist</p>	
<p><u><i>DWA Management</i></u> Develop a Cooperative DWA Agreement with IFW to include DWA 100231 and IFW mapped biological DWA which is located partially within the BPL ownership parcel and the Easement parcel to the south. Maps can be provided for the updated Plan. <i>[Subsequently provided BPL with a map of the biological DWA.]</i></p> <p><u><i>Potential Rare/Exemplary Habitat</i></u> Huber identified an ‘Enriched Hardwood Site’ in the southern portion of the ownership during the summer 2012 harvest operations. They indicated “no entry planned”. Not sure what this site is for unique habitat but the site should be investigated further by BPL to see if it warrants and special protection or management considerations. See enclosed map.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a cooperative DWA Agreement has been added to the Plan recommendations. The enriched hardwood site depicted on the provided map is similar in location and extent to that on the map provided by MNAP. As noted above, the Plan text describing the Special Protection dominant resource allocation has been revised to note that areas of enriched hardwood forest may be designated Special Protection following additional MNAP surveys on the Unit.

From: Kevin Dunham, MDIF&W Regional Fisheries Biologist

I would like to add my support for improved access at Monument Brook. My office has received inquiries in the past from folks looking for access points to Monument Brook, so I know there is a need for increased water access and believe any improvement/enhancement would be well received.

- Comment noted.

APPENDIX B

References

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