

Scraggly Lake Unit

Vision for the Scraggly Lake Unit

The Scraggly Lake Unit is located in a remote portion of Maine's North Woods, almost adjacent to Baxter State Park, and surrounded by other land in forest management use. This approximately 9,000 acre unit is distant from population centers, yet accessible from a public use gravel road leading into the Unit. Recreational opportunities are abundant, with boating, fishing, camping and hiking popular uses of the Unit. The Unit contains extensive deer wintering areas and important wetland complexes along tributaries and brooks. A remote pond provides a walk-to, quiet fishing experience, and there is a small old growth hemlock forest on the Unit. A local snowmobile trail traverses the public use road when conditions allow. Timber harvesting is performed in much of the Unit to enhance deer wintering areas, provide revenue, and improve the condition of the forest.

Management goals on the Scraggly Lake Unit are in large part defined by the location, natural features, and character of the Unit. Key wetlands, deer wintering areas and old growth forest require special protection and management. Proximity to Baxter State Park and distance from population centers serve to define the Unit as a remote and quiet, yet accessible recreational setting. Management goals provide for the continuation of motorized access into and within the Unit along the public use road, yet promote the continuation of the quiet and remote recreational experience provided within the Unit. Timber management will promote high value and long lived species, and seek to enhance wildlife habitat and visual integrity in appropriate areas. *The vision for the Scraggly Lake Unit, therefore, is to provide a quiet and remote recreational setting supporting a variety of recreational activities, especially quality boating, fishing, hunting, camping, and hiking, to protect exemplary ecological features and wildlife habitat, and to perform timber management that enhances wildlife habitat and visual integrity and produces high quality timber products.*

Character of the Landbase

The Scraggly Lake Unit is located in the southern half of T7 R8, a township just northeast of the northeast corner of Baxter State Park. It is in a remote part of Maine, with the nearest town of Patten (pop. 1,100) located approximately 30 miles to the southeast. The Unit's central feature is Scraggly Lake, an 836 acre lake that provides for the Unit's most popular recreational activities of camping, boating and coldwater fishing. The Unit has many brooks that run through it, and wetlands that support wading birds and waterfowl are abundant. There are extensive active deer wintering areas in the Unit.

Acquisition History

The Scraggly Lake Unit began as a 750 acre area that was set aside as a public lot when Maine was first being divided into townships. In 1976, 500 of these acres were traded to J.M Huber for a right-of-way relocation. The following year, 10,054 acres were acquired as part of a major land trade with International Paper Company. Another 1,212 acres

were traded to J.M Huber in 1989 leaving the acreage that makes up the Unit today. The Scraggly Lake Unit now consists of 9,092 acres in T7 R8.

Natural Resources

Geology and Soils

The southern half of the Unit is composed of the marine sedimentary rocks of sandstone and slate (of the Devonian Seboomook Formation originating 360-408 million years ago). It is also composed of sediments that were shed from the steep hillsides of young mountains to the southeast. Adjacent to the oceanic derived terrain of the southern part of the Unit is a strip of volcanic derived terrain that stretches across the northwest corner and makes up nearly 35 percent of the bedrock in the Unit. Both terrain types are similar in that they were formed by major plate collisions that eventually formed major mountains in Maine. On the surface, the Scraggly Lake Unit is covered in a glacial till layer of unsorted sand, silt, clay, and stones. These deposits are common in northern Maine and were left behind by the multiple expansions and retractions of glaciers over the last 2.5 million years.

Hydrology and Wetlands

The Scraggly Lake Unit includes parts of two major watersheds. Most of the Unit, including the waters of Scraggly Brook, Scraggly Lake, Ireland Pond, and the West Branch of Sawtelle Brook, flow south to the Penobscot River. A small part of the Unit, the Beaver Brook drainage, however, flows north to the Aroostook River.

Scraggly Lake encompasses 836 acres, has a maximum depth of 70 feet, and is considered mesotrophic. Ireland Pond is 43 acres, with a maximum depth of 35 feet. Because of its depth, as well as its cold, low nutrient waters, Ireland Pond is considered oligotrophic and has limited aquatic plant growth. Scraggly Lake and Ireland Pond are both considered priority waterbodies based on aquatic biodiversity modeling coordinated by The Nature Conservancy.

According to the National Wetlands Inventory, there are 1,415 acres of wetlands in the Scraggly Lake Unit. These include 1,052 acres of forested wetlands and 363 acres of open wetlands. At Scraggly Lake, beaver have historically influenced the development of wetlands, mostly marshes, along many of the streams, especially in the wetland complex to the southwest of the lake.

Ecological Processes

The naturally occurring spruce budworm has had a major impact on lowland spruce – fir forests. Budworm activity in the early 1980s led to wide spread harvesting of lands in the Scraggly Lake area.

Peatlands, such as the small, stream-side bogs along the Scraggly Lake southwest inlet stream and the forested bog along the West Branch of Sawtelle Brook, are formed in wetlands where plant growth exceeds decomposition. The decay of plant material is impeded by a lack of oxygen due to saturated conditions and little to no input of aerated

water. Sphagnum moss is a primary component in more acidic peatlands such as those at Scraggly Lake. Some of the plants capable of surviving in the stressful environment of peatlands have specialized means of surviving the lack of oxygen, low nutrient levels, and acidified water, such as leathery leaves that slow water evaporation from the plant and shallow roots that allow the plant to get oxygen near the surface of the water table.

Rare Plant and Animal Species

Livid Sedge - *Carex livida*

Swamp-fly honeysuckle - *Lonicera oblongifolia*

Water stargrass - *Zosterella dubia* - located in the northwest corner of Scraggly Lake.

No rare animal populations are known to occur on the Unit.

Natural Communities

West Branch Sawtelle Brook - The site is a moderately sized wetland mosaic associated with the confluence of Sawtelle Brook, the West Branch of Sawtelle Brook, and a small unnamed tributary with a small pond. Broad wetlands extend along and in some places between both larger streams. Cover types in the wetlands include large areas of spruce - larch wooded bog along with smaller areas of dwarf shrub bog, northern white cedar swamp, shrub fen, and mixed graminoid - shrub fen.

The Spruce - Larch Wooded Bog is considered exemplary and is dominated by stunted black spruce with a thick shrub layer dominated by *Rhodora* and carpeted with *Sphagnum* mosses. In some areas of the wooded bog, larch and northern white cedar are co-dominant with black spruce. Larch is more dominant in a broad zone bordering the stream.



Spruce - Larch Wooded Bog - West Branch Sawtelle Brook



Swamp-fly honeysuckle (*Lonicera oblongifolia*)



Livid Sedge (*Carex livida*)

Embedded in the Spruce - Larch Wooded Bog is a small sheep laurel - dwarf shrub bog with a sparse cover of stunted black spruce and scattered larch. Shrub and herb species in the open canopy bog are typical for this type and include leatherleaf, sheep laurel, Labrador tea, bog rosemary, bog laurel, wild raisin, alder, coast sedge, three-leaved solomon's seal, bog cranberry, low rough aster, and gold thread.

An unnamed tributary to the West Branch of Sawtelle Brook includes a small silt/muck bottom pond. The northeast margin of the pond supports a small area of shrub - sedge fen. The rare livid sedge (*Carex livida*), an indicator of enriched fens, is found in this area as are a few stems of shrubby cinquefoil (*Pentaphylloides floribunda*). The low growing, open fen is limited to the area closest to the small pond (image - right). Away from the pond, the shrubs and saplings are more dominant and the habitat gradually transitions into the spruce - larch wooded bog.



Small shrub-sedge fen-West Branch Sawtelle Brook

Just upstream of the little pond, on an unnamed tributary, is a small area of northern white cedar swamp. A small population of the rare swamp-fly honeysuckle is found here on both sides of the stream.

Scraggly Lake - Southwest Inlet Stream The site includes an exemplary Leatherleaf Boggy Fen that occurs along the broad inlet stream into the southwest side of Scraggly Lake. The majority of the bog is a relatively open canopy, low shrub dominated community. Trees are sparse on the fen and include stunted northern white cedar and

larch. Larch, cedar, and black spruce make up the relatively open tall shrub layer. Low growing shrubs are common and include leatherleaf (dominant), sheep laurel, bog rosemary, and Labrador tea. Lower growing, mostly non-woody plants, including three-leaved solomon's seal, bog cranberry, few-seeded sedge, and three seeded sedge, are also common in this layer. Soils are composed of deep peat and the site is flat but composed of rolling hummocks interspersed with broad low areas as well as small hollows.

Scraggly Lake Hemlock Forest

There is an exemplary Hemlock Forest on the mid and upper southwest facing slopes of a hill in the northwest corner of the Unit. Much of the site is dominated by mature hemlock with lesser amounts of red spruce and northern white cedar. Some areas are a mix of northern hardwoods with hemlock and red spruce and some areas are dominated by northern hardwoods. Many of the hemlock trees observed ranged from 20 to 35 inches diameter at breast height with larger trees over 300 years old. Larger sugar maples at the site are between 30 and 35 inches in diameter. The understory is relatively open, with the exception of widely scattered gaps where hemlock and fir regeneration are thick. Sugar maple seedlings and saplings are additional prominent understory components. The herb layer is very sparse, with scattered patches of wood fern, sedges, red raspberry, mayflower, and wild sarsaparilla. Large woody debris is common. Selective harvesting had occurred at the base of the slope and on other adjacent lands. The majority of the stand had little evidence of past management.

Fisheries and Wildlife

Fisheries

Scraggly Lake and Ireland Pond provide habitat for a number of fish species. The chart below shows fish species of the respective waterbodies as well as species that have been stocked since 1989 (PEARL database, 2007).

Waterbody	Lake Fish Species Inventory	Stocked Fish (since 1989)
Scraggly Lake	American eel, banded killifish, blacknose dace, blacknose shiner, brook trout, common shiner, creek chub, cusk, fallfish, lake trout, lake whitefish, landlocked salmon, rainbow smelt, redbreast sunfish, slimy sculpin, threespine stickleback, white sucker, yellow perch	Brook trout and landlocked salmon
Ireland Pond	Blacknose dace, brook trout, finescale dace	Brook trout

The lake has two distinct basins and supports a landlocked salmon fishery. The west basin is deficient in dissolved oxygen below 25 feet in late summer. Landlocked salmon are no longer stocked in Scraggly Lake as it was discovered from 2003 and 2008 IF&W studies that the wild population of salmon was doing quite well. In some years fish stockpile in the lake adversely affecting the size and quality of the fish. In response, IF&W liberalized the size limit to 12 inches and the bag limit to three fish a day.

Mussels in Scraggly Lake include common elliptio and eastern floater.

Wildlife

Scraggly Lake has 694 acres of wading bird and waterfowl habitat and 1,680 acres of deer wintering areas. Large portions of both of these significant wildlife habitats are concentrated off the southwest edge of Scraggly Lake along an unnamed tributary of the lake. Both habitat types are also found along the margins of Sawtelle Brook, the West Branch of Sawtelle Brook, and Beaver Brook. Ireland Pond and the western edges of Scraggly Lake have wading bird and waterfowl habitat.

Deer wintering areas are managed by the Bureau to retain the best softwood cover and establish new softwood stands.

Duck nesting boxes have been maintained since 1988 on Green Pond, Ireland Pond, Lost Pond, Mitchell Brook Inlet and an un-named pond. Common goldeneye and hooded merganser are the predominant species using the boxes.

Loons nest extensively on Scraggly Lake and have been monitored at times by Bureau staff. Loons are sensitive to disturbance from recreationists as their nests occur near the water and are vulnerable to wave action that can wash eggs away. Signage is placed at the boat launching facility cautioning boaters to avoid actions that may disturb or harm loons.

A staff bird survey in May 2009 identified the following species in the Unit: common loon, ruffed grouse, least flycatcher, yellow-rumped warbler, pileated woodpecker, downy woodpecker, winter wren, black-throated blue warbler, black-throated green warbler, blackburnian warbler, golden-crowned kinglet, osprey, common raven, dark-eyed junco, black-capped chickadee, American robin, red-breasted nuthatch, common merganser and Canada goose.

Natural Resource Management Issues

- The Unit contains three natural communities considered exemplary by the Maine Natural Areas Program. They must be managed with care when managed at all. Continued communication between MNAP and the Bureau can facilitate this management.
- Loon nests on Scraggly Lake should be protected from wave action and other disturbances from recreationists during nesting season. Education through signage and communication with boaters and guides who land float planes on the lake are potential methods of controlling loon nest disturbance.

Recreation and Visual Resources

The Scraggly Lake Unit offers excellent opportunities for recreation in a large, undeveloped, forested landscape, embedded in a matrix of other conservation and forest

industry owned lands. It is almost adjacent to Baxter State Park. It provides a valuable opportunity for quiet, remote recreation.

Motorized Trails

ATV use

There are approximately eight miles of shared use roads in the Scraggly Lake Unit open to ATV use. Use is generally from campers traveling from one part of the Unit to another.

Snowmobile Use

There is a club snowmobile trail that has traversed the Unit (on the public use road) that connects with other club trails to the north and south. This was groomed by the Shin Pond/Matagamon snowmobile club, and offers a less-crowded alternative to the more heavily used ITS trails in the area. The trail grooming was suspended in 2008 and 2009 when the Maine Warden Service recommended this due to high deer use of the packed trail. Snow was particularly deep in these years, and the trail grooming was suspended for safety purposes, and to reduce stress on the deer. The public use road remained open for un-groomed snowmobiling.

Non-motorized Trails

The Owls Head Peninsula, on the eastern side of Scraggly Lake, contains a half mile hiking trail with views of Scraggly Lake and surrounding hills. This trail is accessed by water.

Boating Access

A primitive trailer boat launching facility, capable of handling small trailered boats, is available on Scraggly Lake on the south shore next to the campground. Visitors can also carry boats into Ireland Pond for a more remote experience. Boats must be carried in approximately 700 feet along an old spur road which has been discontinued for vehicular use.



View of Scraggly Lake from Owl's Head



Boat ramp at Scraggly Lake

Camping

The Scraggly Lake Unit offers many opportunities for remote primitive camping. A campground with 11 sites is available on the south shore of Scraggly Lake near the boat launching facility and includes three privies. A drive-to site is also available on Green Pond. Across the road from the Green Pond site, there is a Scraggly Lake campsite with a short walk in. Three sites accessed by water only are available on Scraggly Lake as well.

Hunting and Fishing

Fishing is a common recreational use of the Scraggly Lake Unit, with visitors enjoying Scraggly Lake's coldwater fishery (especially salmon and brook trout). Ireland Pond offers the experience of fishing for brook trout in a remote pond. There is some fishing on the smaller ponds and brooks as well. Hunting for bear, deer, and ruffed grouse are popular on the Unit. Hunting is currently allowed on the Unit everywhere except for within 300 feet of campsites, the boat ramp, and hiking trails (currently the Owl's Head trail is the only hiking trail on the Unit). Active logging operations are signed as temporarily closed to hunting. Hunters are encouraged to stop by the kiosk at the boat ramp, and to check with the Ashland Bureau office for the most recent information on hunting in the Unit.

Recreation and Visual Resource Management Issues

- Continued communication between the Maine Warden Service, the local snowmobile club and the Bureau will be necessary to determine when it is appropriate to groom the snowmobile trail on the Unit. Safety to sledders and minimizing disturbance to deer populations need to be considered each winter.

- There is some interest in building a non-motorized trail that begins at the Scraggly Lake campground at the southwestern part of the lake by the boat launching facility and connects to the Owl's Head Trail. This would allow campers to hike from the campground to the knob on Owl's Head Peninsula (an approximately two and a half mile hike one way). There is also interest in providing a non-motorized trail from the public use road (near the Green Pond campsite) to the mature hemlock forest. In addition, guides that land float planes would like a trail connecting Scraggly Lake with Ireland Pond.
- ADA accessibility upgrades are needed at the boat launching facility on Scraggly Lake. One of the campsites closest to the ramp could be made ADA accessible as well.

Timber Resources

Harvest History

Bureau harvests on the Scraggly Lake Unit began in 1981 in the southwest portion of the Unit. The Bureau has performed the majority of its harvests to date on this Unit in the mid 1980s. The majority of the mid 1980s harvests consisted of softwood removal, as the market for hardwood pulp was limited at the time. In addition, the spruce budworm outbreak influenced these harvests, with Mitchell Brook deer wintering area receiving patchcuts centered on groups of badly damaged fir, and mature eastern hemlock and spruce/fir harvested in other areas.

Harvests from 2000 onward have included more hardwoods as markets have improved over the last two decades. Low value hardwoods have been harvested as well as high risk softwoods, while releasing regeneration established by the 1980s harvests.

Current Conditions

The Scraggly Lake Unit regulated acres consists of over 50 percent softwood types, approximately 38 percent mixedwood, and approximately 5 percent hardwood. Softwood types contain high inventories, while mixedwood and hardwood hold lower stocking. Many of the stands that were cut heavily in the past by the Bureau and the previous landowner are now classified as mixedwood because the stand composition changed due to heavy softwood removals and/or mixedwood regeneration.

Softwood Types

These cover almost 4,900 acres (over 50 percent of the regulated acres of the Unit). Softwood types occur on all soil drainage classes, but are least common on well drained sites. Stocking is generally good, consisting of about 26 cords per acre. Volume consists of the following: 42 percent spruce (mostly red), 25 percent cedar, and 26 percent a combination of balsam fir, yellow birch, white pine, red maple, and eastern hemlock. Most of the softwoods are of good quality, except the cedar (which is often old and defective) and the very large hemlock (which has ring-shake).

Mixedwood Types

These cover about 3,300 acres (38 percent of the regulated acres on the Unit). Mixedwood volume consists of the following: 25 percent spruce, 15 percent beech, 13 percent sugar maple, 13 percent eastern hemlock, 10 percent red maple, 8 percent yellow birch, and 6 percent fir. Mixedwood types on the Unit consist of two different stand conditions. The first and more common mixedwood stand condition was created from heavy harvests in the 1970s and 1980s. These stands were converted to modestly stocked mixedwood as a result of the softwood removal of those previous harvests. The second and less common mixedwood stand condition holds higher volumes and exists on sites good enough to support a significant hardwood component. Yellow birch and sugar maple of good quality and size occur on these stands, as well as large spruce and hemlock.

Hardwood Types

These cover about 400 acres (5 percent of the regulated acres on the Unit). The Unit contains limited acreage of well drained, fertile soils conducive to growing hardwoods. Beech-birch-maple forest predominates hardwood stands and is fairly well stocked on most sites. Hardwood composition consists of the following: 26 percent American beech, 24 percent sugar maple, 22 percent spruce, 8 percent yellow birch, and about 4 percent a combination of hemlock, cedar, red maple and striped maple. Some hardwood areas were gleaned for the best sawlogs and veneer prior to state ownership, with a lowering of stand quality resulting. Other stands contain a variety of size classes and high quality maple, birch and spruce. Beech tends to be of poor form and vigor.

Transportation and Administrative Considerations

The Scraggly Lake Road enters the Unit from the southeast corner and travels west along the lake and then north to Ireland Pond. This is the only public use road in the Unit, the remainder being management roads (including an upgraded management road on the east side of Scraggly Lake). Management roads are open to public use when posted as “shared use”. The public use road—called the Scraggly Lake Road—is open to vehicles, ATVs, snowmobiles, bicycles, horses, and pedestrians.

Ireland Pond

Ireland Pond was zoned as a remote pond by the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) in 1979. LURC regulations for remote ponds include the provision that there is no access to motorized vehicles from within a half mile of the pond. At the time of the zoning, the Scraggly Lake Road and the management road that extends beyond it were already closer than a half mile from Ireland Pond. In a 1987 LURC ruling, it was determined that the road pre-existed the remote pond designation, and the Bureau could use its discretion in determining how far vehicles could travel on this road. Currently, the Bureau has a boulder barricade located at the head of a spur trail that branches off from the road and leads to Ireland Pond. This trail is approximately 700 feet, and



Fishing in Ireland Pond

this is the distance which people must walk in to access Ireland Pond. This barricade effectively creates a remote feeling and reduces erosion problems at the pond.

Transportation and Administrative Issues

- There is a problem with boats being stored at Ireland Pond without Bureau authorization or any identification of the owners. Sometimes these boats are abandoned. A system is needed to track these boats and be able to identify the owners in case of problems.

Scraggly Lake Unit Allocations

Special Protection Dominant

An area surrounding Ireland Pond, and the islands in the pond are special protection areas (natural areas). These areas were allocated in the 1988 Scraggly Lake Unit Management Plan as special protection due to the occurrence of many mature trees, its scenic quality, and Ireland Pond's zoning as a remote pond by the Land Use Regulation Commission.

The Hemlock Forest on the west side of the Unit will be a special protection area (natural area). This area is designated due to the presence of mature hemlock trees and the absence of evidence of a past timber management. The forest is considered exemplary by the Maine Natural Areas Program.

Remote Recreation Dominant

The section of Owl's Head Peninsula beyond the 330 foot lake buffer (which will be wildlife dominant) will be remote recreation dominant. Remote recreation will be a secondary allocation in the wildlife dominant buffer around Scraggly Lake (with the exception of areas near loon nests). Remote recreation will also be a secondary allocation in the two special protection areas around Ireland Pond and the Hemlock Forest.

Developed Recreation Dominant

The area surrounding the boat launching facility and campground on the south shore of Scraggly Lake, and an area westward along the shore up to the last drive-to campsite will be developed recreation class I. A small area around the Green Pond campsite will be developed recreation class I. The public use road is also developed recreation class I.

Wildlife Dominant

Currently mapped deer wintering areas, wading bird and waterfowl habitat, the riparian buffers (330 feet around lakes, streams, 75 feet along some secondary streams) and the exemplary Spruce Larch Wooded Bog will be wildlife dominant. Areas around loon nests will be managed with care as wildlife areas.

Visual Consideration Areas

Approximately a 100 foot buffer along Scraggly Lake Road from southeast unit boundary to Green Pond will be visual class I. One hundred foot buffers along Scraggly Lake, Green Pond, Ireland Pond will be visual class I as a secondary allocation to wildlife dominant. View from Owl's Head Knob will be visual class II.

Timber Management Areas

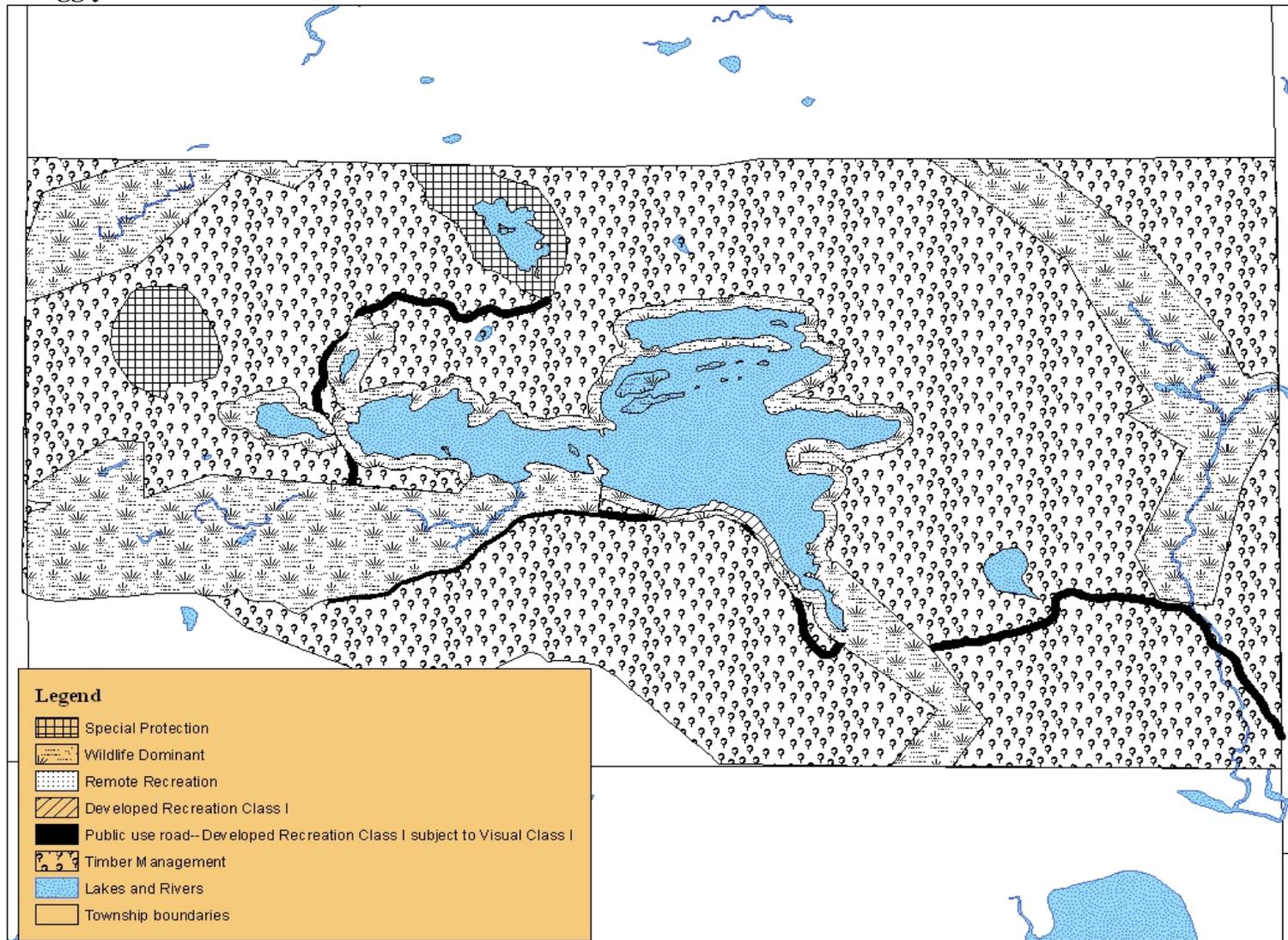
All other areas will be timber dominant. Timber will be a secondary allocation in wildlife dominant areas, developed recreation areas and visual consideration areas.

Scraggly Lake Unit Allocations (acres)

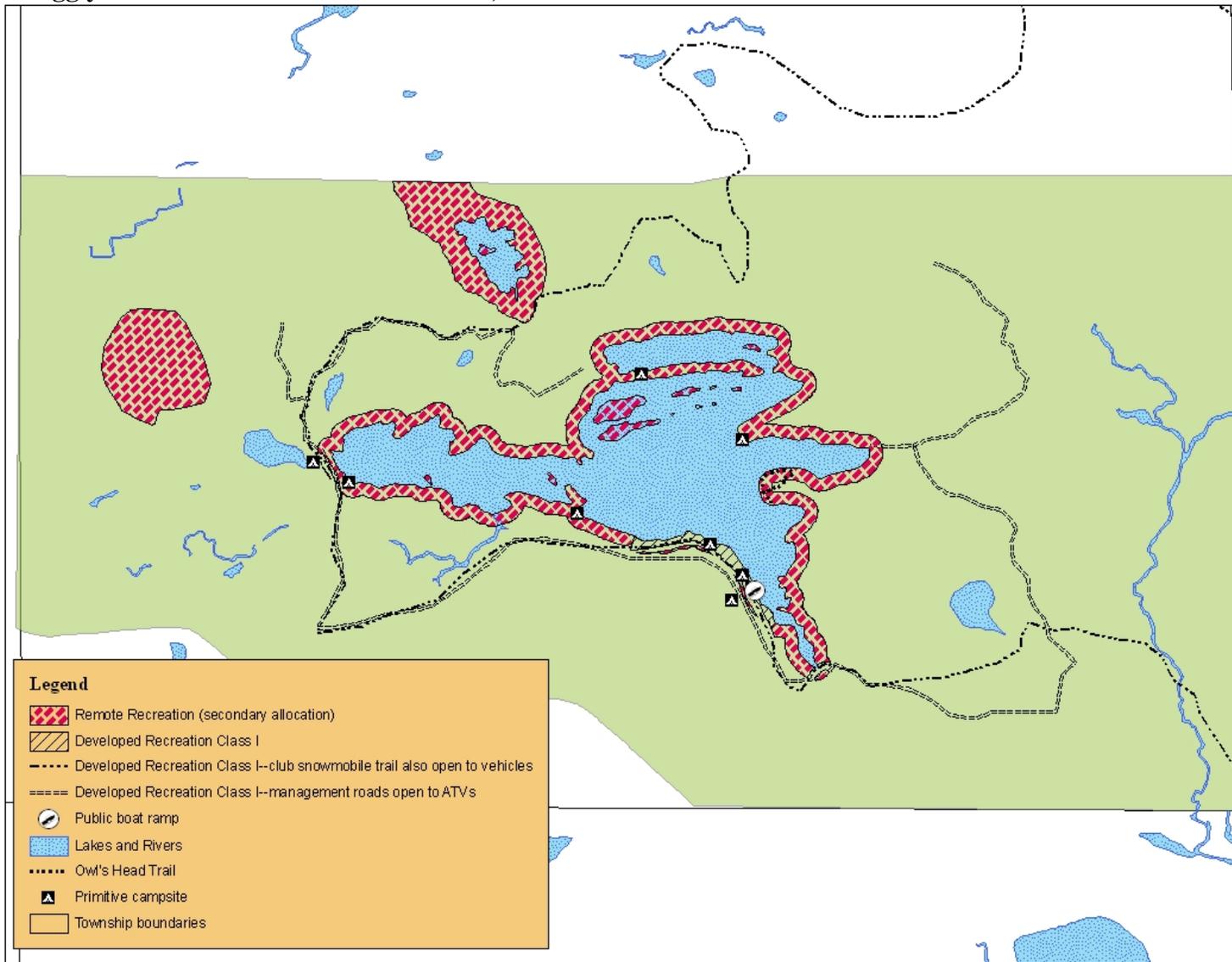
	Dominant Acres	Secondary Acres
Special Protection—Natural Area	292	
Wildlife	2,584	
Remote Recreation	7.6	702
Visual Class I	128	
Developed Recreation Class I	23 plus roads/trails	
Timber Management	6,941	

***Dominant acreages are representations based on GIS metrics and do not sum to total unit acres due to measuring error and limits of GIS precision.*

Scraggly Lake Unit Dominant Resource Allocations



Scraggly Lake Unit Recreation Allocations, Facilities and Infrastructure



Scraggly Lake Unit Issues and Management Recommendations

Issue	Recommendations
<i>Natural Resource Management Issues</i>	
1. Management of exemplary communities.	1. Manage exemplary communities in consultation with MNAP. The Hemlock Forest is allocated as a special protection area, and will not be subject to timber harvesting. The Leatherleaf Boggy Fen and Spruce Larch Wooded Bog are within wildlife dominant areas where harvesting will be minimal.
2. Protection for loons during nesting.	2. Monitor loon nests and place signage at boat launching facility to warn boaters about using caution during nesting season. Continue to work with guides that land float planes on Scraggly Lake and encourage them to continue to avoid landing on the lake near nests during nesting and fledging stages.
<i>Recreation Management Issues</i>	
3. Snowmobile trail grooming and deer use of the trail.	3. Continue to communicate with the local snowmobile club, the Maine Warden Service, and IF&W regarding any future grooming of the club trail through the Unit. Consider sledder safety and the trail's impact on wintering deer when making the decision to groom the trail from year to year.
4. ATV use of the Unit.	4. Maintain public use road open to ATV use, but do not connect it with a larger ATV trail system, in respect to the surrounding landowner's policy, and to maintain a quiet and remote recreational experience on the Unit.
5. Interest in more non-motorized trails on the Unit.	5. Assess the interest and feasibility of building three new trails on the Unit—one connecting the campground to the Owl's Head Peninsula, one from the Green Pond campsite to the Hemlock Forest, and one from Scraggly Lake to Ireland Pond. Seek funding for these trails if they are found to be feasible and have sufficient interest from the public.
6. The need for ADA accessible boating and camping.	6. When funding is obtained, make ADA improvements to the Scraggly Lake boating facility

	and a campsite near the facility.
<u>Timber Management Recommendations</u>	
7. Future Timber Management	<p>7. Grow high value timber products (chiefly sawlogs and veneer) while maintaining visual integrity and enhancing a diversity of wildlife habitat. More specifically</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favor high value and longer lived species such as white pine, spruce, hemlock, sugar maple, and yellow birch. • Maintain softwood stands in that type, with spruce the preferred species. Favor white pine where it grows and maintain hemlock on some sites, and retain fir as an important component of regeneration. Encourage a late successional character and continue to provide valuable deer wintering areas. • Maintain mixedwood type on current mixedwoods stands that are well stocked. Work toward a late successional character, and favor high quality spruce, maple, birch and hemlock. On less well stocked mixedwood sites, retain overstory if windfirm, and favor younger spruce, pine and hemlock (possibly returning some sites back to softwood). • Encourage high quality and diverse hardwood stands to remain in that condition. Rehabilitate low quality hardwood stands by reducing diseased beech with poor crowns and favoring higher quality sugar maple, yellow birch and spruce. • Retain beech for wildlife when crowns are good (even if bark is diseased) and when bark is smooth. • Designate some areas as High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF), a designation recognized by the certification programs the Bureau is enrolled in. Manage these areas to maintain key characteristics such as large, old trees.
<u>Transportation and Administrative Issues</u>	
8. Ireland Pond motorized barricade.	8. Continue to block motorized access to the pond 700 feet from the pond at the location where a spur

	trail leaves the public use road. (This is the location of the current barricade).
9. Boat storage at Ireland Pond.	9. Implement special use permits for boats stored on the property.