

PERHAM STREAM PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

(When finalized, this Plan will be incorporated into an updated Flagstaff Region Management Plan, which will replace the Flagstaff Plan adopted in 2007)

DRAFT



Perham Stream

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

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Table of Contents

I. Introduction	1
About this Document	1
The Perham Stream Lands	1
II. The Planning Process and Resource Allocation System.....	3
Statutory and Policy Guidance.....	3
Other Guiding Documents	3
Public Participation and the Planning Process.....	3
Summary of the Resource Allocation System	4
Ecological Reserves	5
The Character and Resources of the Abutting and Surrounding Lands.....	6
Summary of Planning Implications	8
IV. Resources and Management Issues.....	10
Character of the Land Base	10
Natural Resources	10
Geology and Soils:	10
Natural Communities	11
Exemplary Natural Communities and Rare Plant Species.....	11
Wildlife and Fisheries Resources.....	12
Access	14
Recreation and Visual Resources.....	16
Historic and Cultural Resources	17
Timber Resources	18
Harvest History and Current Condition	18
Management Issues, Concerns and Opportunities	19
Timber Management.....	19
Wildlife and Habitat Protection	20
Recreation Facility Development	21
Appalachian Trail Access and Protection	22
Administrative Issues.....	23
V. Vision for the Perham Stream Public Lands.....	24
VI. Proposed Resource Allocations	25
Special Protection Areas (Dominant Allocation)	25

Backcountry Recreation - Non-Mechanized Areas (Secondary Allocation).....	25
Wildlife Management Areas (Dominant Allocation)	25
Visual Consideration Areas (Secondary Allocation).....	26
Developed Recreation - Class I Areas (Dominant Allocation).....	26
Timber Management Areas (Dominant Allocation)	26
Perham Stream Unit Allocation Summary	27
VII. Management Recommendations.....	29
Recreation	29
Hiking and Camping Opportunities	29
Motorized Recreation.....	29
Wildlife	30
Public Access Roads	30
Timber Management	30
Signage and Administrative Issues	30
VIII. Monitoring and Evaluation	31

Appendices

- A. Public Consultation Process: Advisory Committee Members; Public Consultation Summary; Public Comments and Responses
- B. Guiding Statutes (MRSA Title 12)
- C. Perham Stream Conservation Easement
- D. Resource Allocation System, Allocation Criteria and Management Direction
- E. Sources

I. Introduction

About this Document

This document constitutes a Management Plan (the Plan) for the Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) Perham Stream Public Land. This is the inaugural management plan for the parcels, which were acquired by the Bureau in a series of transactions between January 2023 and May 2024. It will be incorporated into the updated Flagstaff Region Management Plan, which will replace the existing plan adopted in 2007.

The Plan includes background information about the planning process and the regional context of the Plan as most directly affects the new parcels; a broader and more detailed regional context discussion is provided in the regional plan. The core of the Plan is a description of the character and resources of the parcels, a Vision for the future of the parcels, and management allocations and recommendations, as is provided in the regional plan for each of the reserved land units in the region.

One objective of the regional plan was to provide a balanced spectrum of opportunities across the Region, and in keeping with the opportunities and resources available in the broader surrounding Western Mountains Region. In developing the management recommendations for the Perham/Orbeton parcels, the Bureau has been mindful of this broader perspective.

The Flagstaff Region Management Plan and – by extension – this plan is a commitment to the public that the public reserved lands in the Region will be managed in accordance with the Bureau’s mission and goals, and within prescribed mandates. Revisions to the Plan commitments will occur only after providing opportunities for public comment. The Management Plan will also serve as guidance to the Bureau staff. It will provide clear management objectives, while providing a degree of flexibility in achieving these objectives. It will not, however, be a plan of operations.

An important aspect of the management of public lands is monitoring commitments made in the plans and evaluating the outcomes of management activities relative to overall objectives. This management plan describes monitoring and evaluation procedures for recreational use, wildlife management, management of the proposed Ecological Reserve, and timber management.

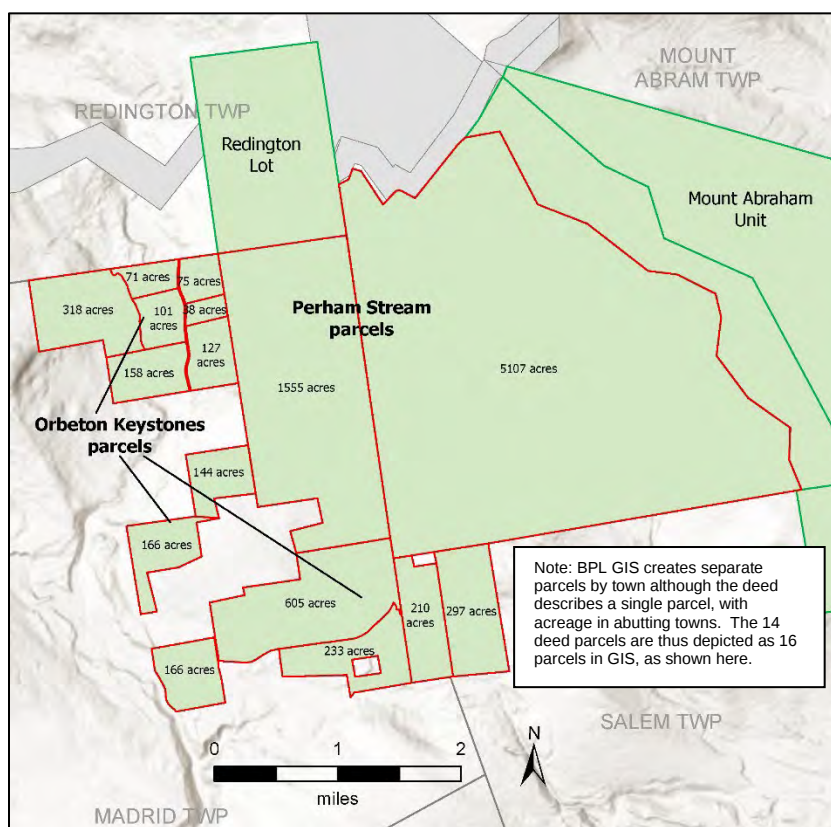
Under current policy, the Bureau’s management plans cover a period of 15 years after the date of adoption. With a target date of fall 2026 for completion of the updated Flagstaff Plan, a review of current issues and progress in implementing this Plan’s recommendations will be scheduled in 2031, as part of the first mandated 5-year review and update of the regional plan.

The Perham Stream Lands

The Perham Stream Public Land parcels total approximately 9,395 acres. In March of 2023, the ~6,690-acre Perham Stream parcel in Mt. Abram Twp and Madrid Twp was purchased from Bayroot, LLC. On the same date, Bayroot granted a conservation easement on the property to The Trust for Public Land (TPL). The easement was transferred to the Department of the Navy to implement a 2014 TPL/Dept. of the Navy Encroachment Protection Agreement, the purpose of which is to prevent uses that would be incompatible with the mission of the Navy’s nearby

Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) Base. Funding for the acquisition was provided by the USFS Forest Legacy Program and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The easement was funded by the Department of Defense Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program.

In a separate series of acquisitions, a group of 14 parcels in Madrid, Mt. Abram and Salem Townships – termed the Orbeton Keystones and totaling ~2,705 acres – were acquired between January 2023 and May 2024 from several individual sellers. Several of the parcels abut the Perham Stream parcel. There are several deeded ROWs on access roads; owners of inholding parcels also hold ROWs on access roads. Funding was provided by the Land for Maine's Future (LMF) Program. TNC and Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust (MATLT) also made substantial contributions.



Perham Stream & Orbeton Keystone parcels
(acreage figures are based on GIS data)

In addition to abutting the BPL's 6,200-acre Mount Abraham Public Land to the east (acquired 2001-04), the Perham Stream Public Land abuts the 5,000-acre Orbeton working forest conservation easement to the west, granted to BPL in 2014 on Linkletter Timberlands, LLC property. The Navy's 12,500-acre SERE Base, the 1,000-acre Redington public lot, and National Park Service Appalachian Trail corridor lands lie to the north in Redington and Mount Abram Twps. and commercial forest land lies to the south in Salem Twp. The Keystone parcels surround and are abutted on the south by several rural residential and forested parcels in Madrid Twp.

II. The Planning Process and Resource Allocation System

Statutory and Policy Guidance

Multiple use management plans are statutorily required for Public Reserved Lands pursuant to Title 12 MRSA § 1847 (2) (see Appendix B) and must be prepared in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the *Integrated Resource Policy* (IRP) revised and adopted by the Bureau in December 2000. Title 12 MRSA § 1805 authorizes the Bureau to create a system of ecological reserves on Bureau lands and sets the purposes and management parameters for designated reserves. These laws and policies direct the Bureau to identify and protect important natural, ecological, and historic attributes; enhance important fisheries and wildlife habitat; provide opportunities for a variety of quality outdoor recreation experiences; and provide a sustained yield of forest products by utilizing forest management techniques and silvicultural practices that enhance the forest environment.

Other Guiding Documents

The *Perham Stream Conservation Easement* (provided in Appendix C) designates two areas on the protected property: the Managed Forest Area (~25% of the acreage) and the Ecological Reserve (~75% of the acreage), which are depicted in Exhibit B of the easement. Commercial forest management, small structures, creation and maintenance of pedestrian and motorized trails, and excavation and use of gravel, sand and rock – among other specified uses and activities – are allowed within the Managed Forest Area.

The easement prohibits timber harvesting within the Ecological Reserve. Existing snowmobile routes and a pedestrian trail, as depicted in Exhibit B, are among existing roads and trails that may, consistent with Best Management Practices, continue to be maintained and improved within the Ecological Reserve. The terms of the easement permit new motorized roads and trails to be created and maintained if certain criteria are met (which correspond with BPL's criteria for such trails in Ecological Reserves, as expressed in the IRP).

Public Participation and the Planning Process

Overall, the development of management plans includes a series of steps, each involving interdisciplinary review, as well as extensive efforts to solicit and consider public comment, in order to achieve a plan that integrates the various perspectives and needs while protecting and conserving the resources of the public reserved lands. In total [TBD] public meetings were held in the development of this Final Plan, as described below.

Resource Assessments: The first phase of the planning process includes gathering of data on the resources and opportunities available on the Perham Stream and Orbeton lands. A summary of this information was obtained from the Forest Legacy Program grant documentation for the Perham Stream tract, which was supplemented with additional research. BPL resource professionals provided information on wildlife, recreation, and timber resources. Mapping and GIS-related information was also obtained as part of this phase. Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) provided reports based on field visits to the parcels and other data collection.

Staff also participated in reconnaissance field trips to the properties, both before and after the acquisition, to view first-hand and characterize the land-based resources and scenic and recreational features. In July 2023, High Peaks Alliance, a local land conservation non-profit

that supported BPL in the land acquisition process, hosted BPL staff for a group hike up Mt. Abraham from the Perham Stream parcel, via the existing informal trail. In February 2024, staff and a number of stakeholders toured the Perham Stream and Orbeton parcels by snowmobile. Other staff visits in 2024-25 allowed for closer inspection of certain roads and other sites.

Advisory Committee: Members of the Flagstaff Region Advisory Committee (reconvened in July 2024, with several new members, for the Flagstaff Region Management Plan update) were informed of the start of the Plan update process and invited to a committee meeting. The August 8, 2024 meeting agenda included an introduction to this plan's development and the resources present on these lands, and a summary of key issues to be addressed. In September 2024, several Advisory Committee members and others participated in a vehicle-based tour. The group evaluated the access roads into the parcels, inspected portions of the existing management road network and some of the bridges, and visited potential trailheads and the existing informal campsites near Orbeton Stream.

Issue Identification: The pre-acquisition work generated a firm foundation for the Bureau's own planning process. As noted above, the initial discussion of management issues occurred at the August 2024 committee meeting. The September 2024 committee tour of the lands, noted above, provided additional opportunity to discuss issues. In particular, the group discussed vehicle access concerns and existing and potential trails and campsites.

Advisory Committee Meeting on the Draft of the Plan: In the fall and winter of 2024-25, the Bureau compiled the resources and management issues identified as described above, and draft proposed vision, proposed resource allocations and management recommendations into a Draft Plan. An Advisory Committee meeting to review the Draft Plan was held [TBD], 2026. Comments on the Draft Plan from the Advisory Committee and the public are included in Appendix A and were reflected in a Final Draft Plan.

Public Meeting on the Final Draft Plan: The Final Draft Plan was presented and discussed at a public meeting on [TBD], 2026.

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

5-Year Plan Review and Updates: The Bureau's management plans are adopted for a 15-year period. The Bureau is required to report to the Flagstaff Region Advisory Committee at five-year intervals on accomplishments and changing conditions that may warrant amendments to the plan. If the updated Flagstaff Region Management Plan, which will incorporate this plan, is completed in 2026, the first mandated 5-Year Review of the regional plan will be scheduled in 2031.

Summary of the Resource Allocation System

The Bureau's Resource Allocation System is a land management-planning tool first developed in the 1980's and formalized in the IRP, adopted in December 2000. The Resource Allocation

System, which assigns appropriate management based on resource characteristics and values, is based on a *hierarchy* of natural and cultural resource attributes found on the land base. The hierarchy ranks resources along a scale from those that are scarce and/or most sensitive to management activities and where dispersed recreation facilities or activities are most appropriate, to those that are less sensitive and where more intensive recreation facilities or activities may be appropriate. The resource attributes are aggregated into seven categories or “allocations”.

The hierarchy of the allocation system defines the type of management that will be applied depending on the particular resource attributes present, with *dominant* and *secondary* use or management designations as appropriate to achieve an integrated, multi-use management. Allocations, from most sensitive to least, include:

- o **Special Protection Areas** (including Ecological Reserves and Significant Natural Areas)
- o **Backcountry Recreation Areas** (Motorized and Non-mechanized)
- o **Wildlife Areas** (essential wildlife habitat, significant habitats, and specialized habitat areas and features including rare natural communities)
- o **Remote Recreation Areas**
- o **Visual Protection Areas**
- o **Developed Recreation Areas**
- o **Timber Management Areas**

The Flagstaff Region Plan, pages 120-137, includes a more detailed description of the Resource Allocation System categories and the management direction defined for each category.

Ecological Reserves

The first ecological reserves on BPL lands were designated in 2001. There are now 18 designated reserves, encompassing just over 100,000 acres. In accordance with the legislative intent (Title 12 MRSA § 1801), ecological reserves were established as 1) benchmarks against which biological and environmental change could be measured; 2) habitats adequate to maintain viable populations of species whose habitat needs are unlikely to be met on other lands; and 3) sites for scientific research, long-term environmental monitoring, and education. In addition, public access, hunting, and fishing are among the allowed uses on ecological reserves. The ecological reserves include many of Maine’s best examples of alpine meadows, lakes and streams, wetlands and old-growth forests. Because of their sensitivity and the management emphasis on natural processes, no timber management is allowed and wildlife management is non-extractive.

Beginning in 2002, the Department of Conservation worked with a multi-disciplinary committee to draft an *Ecological Reserve Monitoring Plan* to guide periodic data collection at the landscape, stand, and species levels. The monitoring program is tied closely to other statewide and nationwide forest monitoring programs that use U.S. Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) methods. To date, 540 permanent monitoring plots have been established on 18 Ecological Reserves, with ongoing monitoring work increasing the number of plots each year. The long-term monitoring program and the value of ecological reserves to this program have been recognized as models for public lands throughout the Northeast.

III. Planning Context

The Flagstaff Region Management Plan contains a detailed discussion of the character and resources, recreation opportunities, private-public initiatives related to recreation, and conservation initiatives in the surrounding region. That information was supplemented in the 2015 Crocker Mountain Unit plan with a summary of changes and initiatives related to recreation and land conservation in the region since 2007, particularly those associated with abutting lands and Bureau-managed public reserved lands closest to the Crocker Mountain Unit.

The Character and Resources of the Abutting and Surrounding Lands

The Perham Stream Public Land occupies a significant and exceptional portion of the High Peaks region, situated in the midst of a varied and complex assemblage of conservation lands, long-distance trails and other recreation amenities, and historic small towns that are increasingly recreation and tourism-oriented. Abutting or in close proximity are extensive public lands managed by federal, state, and local agencies and commercial forest lands that are also used for recreation. In combination, all of these provide a unique diversity of recreation opportunities. This Plan will help define the role of the lands in this regional mosaic. Map 1 on the following page depicts public lands and other conservation lands in the vicinity.

Surrounding Public Lands and Facilities

Two public land units abut the Perham Stream parcel: the Mount Abraham Unit to the east and the Redington Lot to the north. Most of the 6,200-acre Mount Abraham Unit has been designated an Ecological Reserve, which encompasses the treeless alpine ecosystem at the top of the 4,050-foot mountain and much of the northern and eastern slopes. An A.T. side trail ascends the mountain from the west where it joins with the Fire Warden's trail, which drops down the eastern slope to a trailhead. The 1,000-acre Redington Lot is accessible primarily via logging roads on the Perham parcel, which have been closed to vehicles. The A.T. crosses the lot within a 1,000-foot-wide Bureau-allocated buffer zone; the remainder of the lot is allocated to timber management.

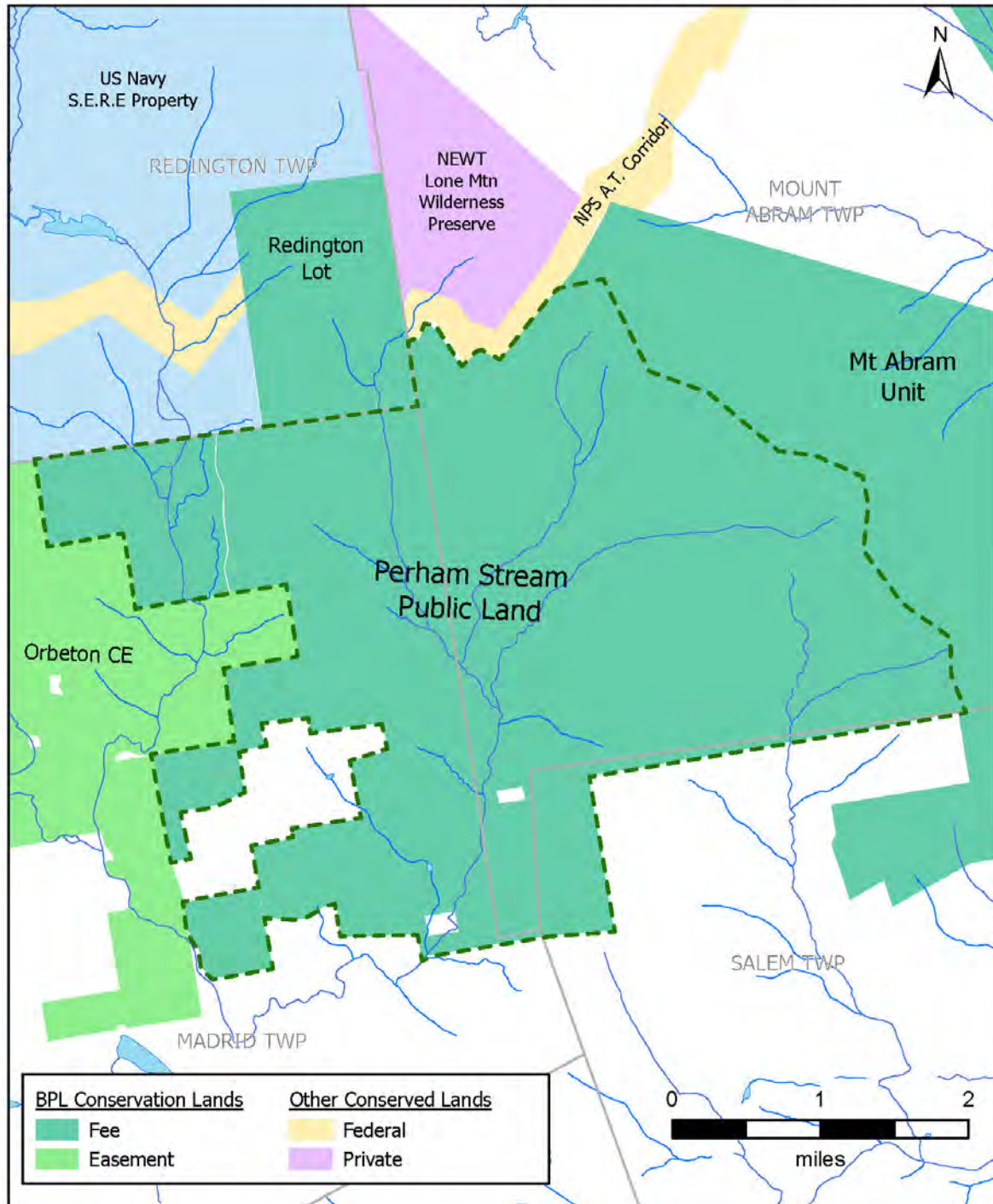
Other Conservation Lands

The abutting lands include a several-mile-long segment of the National Park Service-owned A.T. corridor. The corridor provides a ~1,000-1,200 ft. wide buffer for the trail between the BPL Redington Lot and Spaulding Mountain, where there is a lean-to. This is a remote segment, with the nearest accessible road crossings several trail miles away – at Route 4 to the south and Caribou Valley Road to the north – but is well traveled by section hikers and through hikers.

As described above, north of the Orbeton parcels in Redington Twp., the Department of the Navy owns and operates the 12,500-acre SERE training facility. The remote environment at SERE is considered essential to the Navy's effective execution of its training mission. The property provides landscape-scale open space and habitat but is closed to the public.

High Peaks Alliance owns the 80-acre Perham Stream Birding Trail property located less than a mile south of the unit. There are over two miles of walking trails with interconnecting loops that

Perham Stream Public Land and Surrounding Conservation Lands



MAP 1.

meander along Perham Stream. High Peaks Alliance also manages the Fly Rod Crosby Trail, a 45-mile regional trail, a portion of which runs along Orbeton Stream and crosses the Orbeton Conservation Easement lands.

Public and Private Recreation Initiatives

A number of initiatives to expand the four-season recreation opportunities in the High Peaks region have been ongoing for more than 10 years, and several significant projects have been accomplished since the adoption of the Flagstaff Region plan. Coordinated efforts have resulted in a number of recreation facilities developed by different entities that are interconnected; this allows recreationists to take advantage of the region's combined network of trails and associated amenities, with many starting points, routes, destinations and levels of challenge from which to choose.

In addition to the trails mentioned above and taking a broader regional perspective, both motorized and non-motorized trail systems have been expanded and enhanced in recent years. The State's acquisition of the West Saddleback Connector in 2010 provided a motorized trail corridor across the A.T. that allowed completion of a regional loop trail important for both ATV and snowmobile trail systems.

The regional snowmobile system has been well established for some time, and substantial sections of the Interconnected Trail System (ITS) encircle the region. Local snowmobile clubs maintain these and many additional miles of trails. A section of the local snowmobile trail network crosses the unit and the adjacent Orbeton Conservation Easement lands as ITS 84 and 84/89. This section of trail is part of the Black Fly Loop (portions of which are no longer maintained due to landowner restrictions), a >200-mile interconnected backcountry snowmobile trail system that encircles the High Peaks region and connects Carrabassett Valley, Stratton, Kingfield, Phillips, Strong and Rangeley.

Summary of Planning Implications

The following points are drawn largely from the regional plan, but have been updated and revised or restated to more specifically relate to the Perham Stream Public Land:

1. The Perham Stream Public Land lies in Maine's most mountainous area, in an area highly valued for its natural resources. The culture and economy of the area are historically linked to the forest resources and outdoor recreation.
2. The recreation opportunities on the Perham Stream lands are part of a much larger landscape-level system connecting expansive mountain ranges and historic travel routes – including the nationally significant Appalachian Trail; an interstate system of snowmobile trails, and a growing regional network of ATV trails.
3. New public and private initiatives to further develop the recreation-based economy, and to conserve the special natural areas in the Region are strong, and sometimes competing.
4. The overriding attraction of the area for recreationists is its undeveloped backcountry character and exceptional natural beauty. Careful stewardship is needed to protect these values while making the public lands available to enjoy.

5. There are many opportunities for development of public-private partnerships to further both conservation and development and stewardship of recreational opportunities on the Bureau-managed public reserved lands – including partnerships or cooperative agreements with the Maine Appalachian Trail Club (MATC); MATLT; High Peaks Alliance; local snowmobile and ATV clubs; and others. These collaborative relationships are essential to good stewardship of the public lands.

IV. Resources and Management Issues

The first half of this section provides background information on the Perham and Orbeton properties, including the general character of the land base; geologic and ecological resources and natural communities; wildlife resources; historic and cultural resources; recreation and visual resources; and timber resources. The second half summarizes the key management issues and opportunities that the Plan will seek to address through the vision, resource allocations and management recommendations for the unit.

Character of the Land Base

The Perham Stream Public Land is mainly located in Mt. Abram and Madrid Townships, with a small portion in Salem Twp., in Franklin County (see Map 1). The property contains the lower west slopes of Mt. Abraham as well as nearby Farmer Mountain. The highest elevation is about 3,200 feet, at the summit of Farmer Mountain and at points along the east boundary on Mt. Abraham. Other lesser hills punctuate the landscape, including Potato Hill west of Orbeton Stream and Meachum Hill between Perham Stream and Orbeton Stream. The lowest elevation is about 1,150 feet at the southwest corner of the unit, along Orbeton Stream.

The parcels are nearly entirely forested, with no significant water bodies. The Perham Stream parcel has been managed as commercial timberland for many years, with a majority of the acres subject to moderate to heavy harvests in the past few decades. The steeper slopes and higher elevations of Farmer Mountain and Mt. Abraham have experienced little to no timber harvesting in the last 50 years or more.

With good access provided by the several existing roads, a wide range of dispersed activities have historically occurred on the lands including hunting, fishing, snowmobile and ATV riding, sightseeing and wildlife watching.

Natural Resources

The information in this section is largely drawn from two reports produced by MNAP: Perham Stream Rapid Ecological Assessment (2014) and Orbeton Keystones Summary Report (2025). The full reports are available from the Bureau.

Geology and Soils:

The Perham Stream property is underlain by five types of bedrock. The most common type is Devonian granodiorite, an intrusive igneous formation similar to granite that formed roughly 350-420 million years ago. The second most common bedrock type, the Perry Mountain Formation, occurs on both sides of the Devonian granodiorite band. This sedimentary formation is comprised primarily of sandstone, shale, and quartzite. Also of significance is a narrow east-west band of bedrock that occurs just south of Farmer Mountain. This formation, the Devonian Mt. Blue Formation, is moderately calcareous and is thus somewhat different from the predominantly acidic/granitic bedrock of the region. The Carrabassett and Smalls Falls Formations, both sedimentary and of Silurian age, also underlie relatively small portions of the properties.

Till, or unstratified gravel, stone, and sediment deposited by glacial activity, constitutes the majority of the surficial geology of the Perham Stream parcel. The exception is the higher slopes

of Lone Mountain and Mt. Abraham, where sedimentary bedrock is either exposed or occurs directly beneath shallow soils. There are two major soil types on the property; both are loamy, rocky, and generally best suited for forestry rather than agriculture.

Natural Communities:

Mapped broadly, the Perham Stream parcel is primarily occupied with montane spruce-fir-hardwood forest on the eastern ~60% and northern hardwood forest on the western ~40%. Softwood stands are most prominent on the upper slopes and crest of Farmer Mountain and the west slopes of Mt. Abraham, as well as narrow strips along Perham Stream and its tributaries. Small rocky heath outcrop and calcareous rocky outcrop communities are found on the higher elevations of Farmer Mountain and elsewhere.

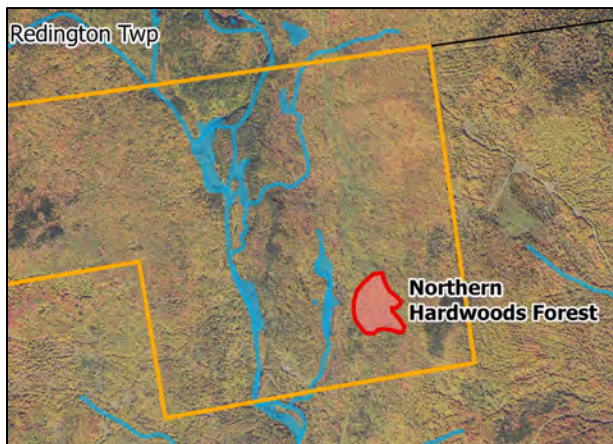
The Keystone parcels are primarily occupied by northern hardwood forest stands of varying age and structure reflecting the history of timber harvests over many years, with the most recent harvests having occurred within 20 years. Softwoods are found on Potato Hill as well as along Orbeton Stream and its tributaries.

Freshwater marsh, wet-meadow shrub swamp and acidic swamp are scattered across the landscape in limited areas. Wetlands also include a 2-acre black spruce bog just west of Barnjum Road and near Perham Stream. The National Wetlands Inventory records about 100 acres of wetlands on the parcels in total, most of which are classified as forested or shrub/scrub wetlands (see Map 2, page 14).

Exemplary Natural Communities and Rare Plant Species:

Nearly 100 acres of high-quality Fir-Heart-leaved Birch Subalpine Forest, an uncommon (S3) natural community type in Maine, is present on the shoulder of Mt. Abraham and the summit of Farmer Mountain.

MNAP has mapped a small (14-acre) exemplary old forest area dominated by yellow birch, sugar maple, and diseased American beech with exceptional late successional structural characteristics on one of the parcels, upslope of Orbeton Stream (see figure below). On the western side of the stream, stands of northern white-cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*) and red spruce with very large and tall individuals have also been observed.



No rare plant species have been documented on the parcels. However, open ledge habitat on the steep west-facing slopes of Farmer Mountain may have the potential to support rare plant species, depending upon bedrock composition and soil pH.

Wildlife and Fisheries Resources:

Most of these lands lie within the Mount Abraham-Saddleback-Crocker Mountain Focus Area of the Maine Wildlife Action Plan, one of 140 such areas of statewide ecological significance identified by state biologists. These areas support rare plants, animals, and natural communities, high-quality common natural communities, significant wildlife habitats, and their intersections with large blocks of undeveloped habitat.

Over 2,000 acres of potential habitat for Bicknell's Thrush (*Carthus bicknelli*) are mapped on the west slope of Mt. Abraham and Farmer Mountain. (Most potential habitat in the state has not been surveyed, but mountain areas above 2,700 ft. are commonly mapped as important habitat for the species.)

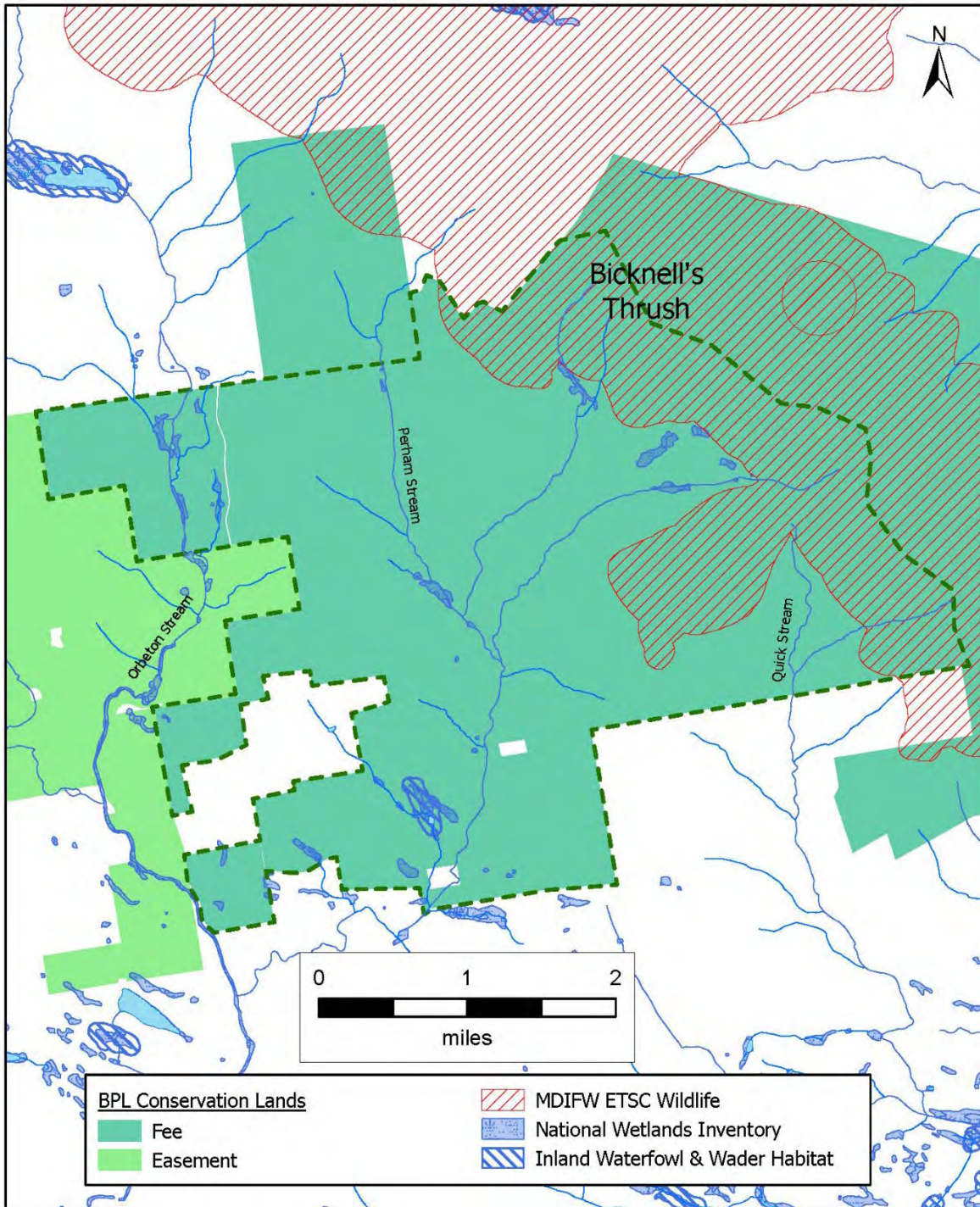
Perham Stream arises on the Redington Lot and private lands north of the A.T. corridor and flows south across the unit before turning west and eventually joining with Orbeton Stream just south of the unit. Tributary branches extend across the Perham Stream parcel. Orbeton Stream originates on the Navy SERE property and flows south through the adjacent part of the unit and the Orbeton CE lands. Quick Stream, a tributary of the Carrabassett River, drains the southeast part of the Perham Stream parcel, east and south of the Farmer Mountain summit.

NOAA has designated the Sandy River watershed, which includes Perham and Orbeton Streams and covers 80% of the unit, as critical habitat for the federally endangered Atlantic Salmon and has surveyed both spawning and rearing habitat on the streams. Three miles of streams on the Perham Stream tract are part of salmon restoration work by Maine Dept. of Marine Resources. Salmon have returned to these streams to spawn the last 14 years (source: Forest Legacy Program data). All of Orbeton Stream and lower Perham Stream (~9 miles in total) are also mapped as critical brook trout habitat (sources: Maine Stream Habitat Viewer; Beginning with Habitat Map Viewer).

In addition to eastern brook trout, Perham Stream supports caddisflies, stoneflies, and multiple species of mayflies (MDIFW, personal communication). Some of the cold, intact headwater streams within the properties may also provide habitat for Roaring Brook Mayfly (*Epeorus frisoni*), a globally rare ('G2') insect species endemic to the Northeast U.S. that is listed as endangered in Maine and is known from high-elevation streams in the region.

Detailed mapping of rare, threatened or endangered wildlife and rare or exemplary plants and natural communities on these lands is available from the Beginning with Habitat program map viewer (<https://webapps2.cgis-solutions.com/beginningwithhabitat/mapviewer/>).

Perham Stream Public Land Wildlife Features



MAP 2.

Access

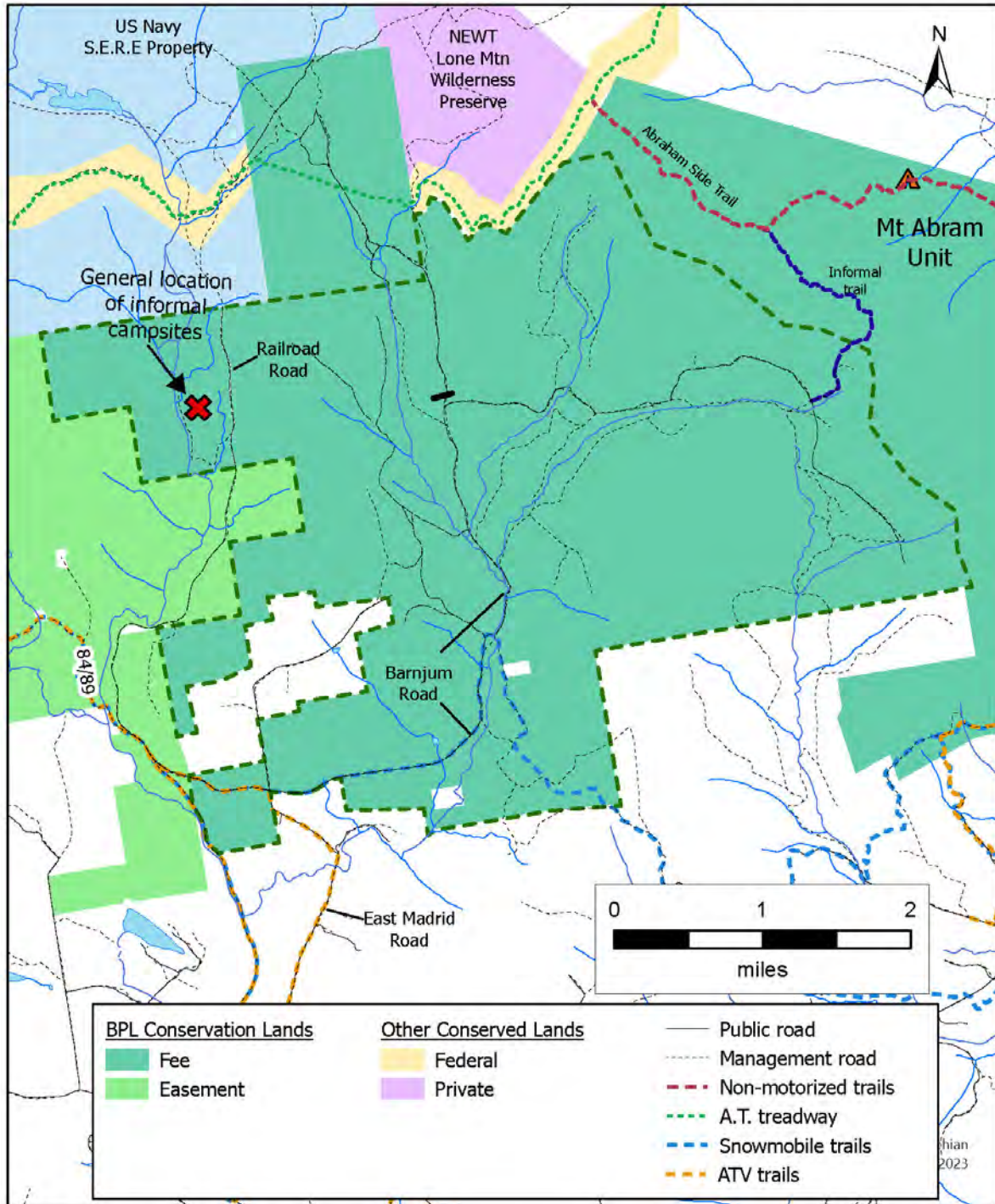
The Perham Stream Unit is relatively easily accessible to a large part of the state's population, being within a few hours' drive of the larger cities and towns in southern and central Maine. It is about a 30-mile drive from Farmington (45 min), with the smaller communities of Strong and Phillips nearby. It is about 65 miles (1.5 hrs.) from Augusta, 75 miles (1.75 hrs.) from Lewiston/Auburn, and 115 miles (2.5 hrs.) from Portland. Primary access is from State Route 141 in Phillips, via about 6 miles on East Madrid Road, a well-maintained gravel road, to the south entrance to the unit at Perham Junction, where East Madrid Road meets Barnjum Road.

Barnjum Road (most of which follows a former railroad grade) and several additional miles of primary and spur roads constructed for timber management cross the Perham Stream parcel (see Map 3, page 15). The primary haul road wraps around the north, east and south sides of Farmer Mountain. Barnjum Road and the primary road to the 7-mile point are designated roads in the Perham Stream conservation easement, as depicted on Exhibit B, on which motor vehicle use is allowed and which may be maintained and improved within the Ecological Reserve. These roads provide access to an informal trail up Mt. Abram (discussed in more detail below) and access for search and rescue teams when needed. Barnjum Road is blocked at the point where the main haul road turns east, preventing vehicles from continuing north toward the Redington Lot and A.T. corridor. Portions of Barnjum Road are rough – 4WD/adequate clearance is recommended.

The Bureau holds rights-of-way on the first ~1/2 mile of Barnjum Road for logging and forestry purposes, as well as for more general passage by pedestrians or vehicles, beginning at East Madrid Road (State ownership is on the north side and extends to the centerline of the road). The remaining portion of Barnjum Road within Madrid Twp is subject to a Scenic Easement Area extending 200 feet on either side of the centerline, which restricts removal and trimming of trees.

Travelling west from East Madrid Road, Potato Hill Road leads to Railroad Road (also on a former railroad grade), which runs generally north/south through the Orbeton CE lands and, north of the easement property, between the Orbeton Keystone parcels. The road is owned by the North Franklin Snowmobile Club, within a 66-foot-wide corridor. Conveyance of the Keystone parcels included a right-of-way on Railroad Road for logging and forestry purposes. It is narrow with roadside growth intruding in places. It is passable only by ATV or snowmobile for the last ~mile south of the Redington/Madrid town line. At that point, a rough spur road leads downslope to Orbeton Stream, then turns north and parallels the stream for about half a mile. Sections of the road near the stream are deeply eroded and washed out. That road also eventually narrows to an ATV track as it proceeds toward the town line. ATV use is evident.

Perham Stream Public Land Access and Recreation Features



MAP 3.

Recreation and Visual Resources

The Perham Stream lands have historically been open to multiple forms of recreation such as hunting, fishing, snowmobiling and ATV riding. Access provided by logging roads and favorable habitat conditions resulting from timber harvesting practices have made the property popular for hunting game birds, deer, bear and moose. According to Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) harvest records, small numbers of moose and bear and greater numbers of deer have been harvested in Mt. Abram and Madrid Twps. in recent years. The Perham Stream parcel is reportedly locally renowned for quality bull moose. Several bear bait sites existed under the previous ownership.

Some of the Keystone parcels were posted. However, with access available via Barnjum Road, Potato Hill Road and Railroad Road, dispersed recreation has been allowed informally, as addressed in more detail below.

The only non-motorized trail on the property is an apparently well-used ~2-mile informal trail extending up the west side of Mt. Abram (see Map 3). The lower half-mile of the trail is on the Perham Stream parcel and the remainder is on the Mt. Abram Unit. This trail is identified in the Perham Stream CE, Exhibit B, as an existing trail that may be maintained or improved. High Peaks Alliance has assessed the condition of the trail and the work needed to bring the trail up to an appropriate standard.

Although there are no designated campsites, two well-used informal campsites with stone fire rings are present near Orbeton Stream, about three-fourths and one mile downstream of the Navy property. (Note: open fires are not permitted on BPL lands outside of approved campsites.) The larger campsite is adjacent to a spring, where an outlet pipe has been installed. The sites appear to be accessed by 4WD vehicles and ATVs via the existing rough road.



BPL staff and stakeholders on informal Mt. Abraham trail (HPA-hosted hike, July 2023).



Larger of two informal campsites near Orbeton Stream, with stone fire ring.

Just over four miles of ITS 84, a major east/west snowmobile route, crosses the unit on Barnjum Road and Potato Hill Road. It continues into the Orbeton CE lands to the west, where it joins ITS 89 (a major north/south route). The portion of the route on the Perham Stream lands is included in the Perham Stream CE, Exhibit B, among existing roads and trails that may,

consistent with Best Management Practices, continue to be maintained and improved within the ecological reserve.

There are no designated ATV trails on the parcels. However, an ATV route is co-located with a portion of the ITS 89 snowmobile trail along Orbeton Stream, abutting the southwest corner of the unit, and continuing as a co-located trail (with ITS 84/89) across the Orbeton CE lands and proceeding toward the Rangeley area. Map 3 depicts snowmobile and ATV trails on and near the unit.

Situated at the heart of the High Peaks region, the lands are a part of one of the most dramatic and scenic landscapes in the state. The lands provide much of the visual backdrop to the two-mile section of the A.T. that crosses north of the Perham Stream lands, beyond the National Park Service (NPS)-owned trail corridor. Perhaps the most notable scenic feature is the Orbeton Stream cascades, a series of waterfalls just south of the Navy property, accessible via the rough road that parallels the stream and a short walk.

Historic and Cultural Resources

These lands are part of the traditional territory and are of ongoing cultural significance to the Wabanaki People. The Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) indicates there are no recorded archeological sites on the parcels and, given the topography and surficial geology, a low probability of habitation sites or prehistoric quarry (stone tool) sites (MHPC, personal communication).

The Barnjum area was the terminus of a branch of the Sandy River and Rangeley Lakes Railroad, a narrow-gauge line that began in the late 1800s as several shorter lines that were later consolidated and which was dismantled in the 1930s. Another branch crossed the Orbeton CE and the Keystone parcels, continuing north into Redington Twp and beyond, enabling logging of the Orbeton Stream headwaters. The railroad reached various Franklin County communities, including Carrabassett Valley, Rangeley, and Farmington, where it linked to the Maine Central Railroad. As indicated above, the old rail beds are now occupied by Barnjum Road, Potato Hill Road, and Railroad Road.



General map of historic branches of the Sandy River and Rangeley Lakes Railroad
Source: <https://alchetron.com/Sandy-River-and-Rangeley-Lakes-Railroad>

These lands supplied Maine's forest products industry for over 100 years; a mill formerly stood in Madrid Twp. and at Redington Pond at the headwaters of Orbeton Stream, where a dam was built. For the past several decades, the Perham Stream parcel was in the ownership of various paper companies. MHPC indicates that relatively level locations near Perham Stream, near the Barnjum settlement, should be checked for historic archeological sites (e.g., logging camps) prior to any access improvements.

Timber Resources

The following summary descriptions are limited to the potential timber management acres on the parcels. Areas suitable for timber management include most of the roughly 1,615 acres of the Perham Stream parcel that will not be designated as ecoreserve, and the majority of the Orbeton Keystones parcels, which total approximately 2,700 acres. In total, perhaps >45% of the area may be suitable to be classified as regulated acres. (Regulated acres are actively managed for timber production, as a primary or secondary use; these may not include all operable acres, due to the presence of sensitive or rare/high value natural communities, trails and other recreation amenities, and other factors.)

Field visits by forestry staff thus far provide a general overview of the timber resource; more thorough examination will occur in the future.

The predominant forest types across this acreage are Spruce-Fir and Northern Hardwood forest or mixtures thereof. Balsam fir and red spruce are the most common softwood tree species, and the hardwood component consists of sugar maple, red maple, beech, yellow and white birch, and white ash. Northern white-cedar, black spruce, and brown ash are found in riparian areas and on the wettest soils. Hardwood or mixedwood cover makes up the greatest portion of this area, but significant areas of softwood are also present, especially on the highest, shallowest soils and on lower, wet, poorly drained soils.

Harvest History and Current Condition

Perham Stream Parcel

The portion of the Perham Stream parcel which falls outside of the ecoreserve designation has the most recent history of large-scale heavy harvesting. Most of this area saw harvesting activity between 2006 and 2016, which included significant areas of clearcuts or overstory removal. A majority of the area is currently in hardwood cover, but historical imagery shows that some sites, especially in the southern 1/3rd of the parcel, had more softwood cover prior to the most recent harvesting. This indicates that past management may have shifted the cover type away from a spruce-fir species composition.

Metrics are not yet available, but field visits and imagery indicate that most of this area has relatively low current volumes, with many stands in the large sapling to pole timber size class. The highest volumes and largest trees are found in riparian buffers avoided in recent harvests. This may delay opportunities for extensive management by commercial timber harvest for 10-20 years. However, further examination may reveal nearer-term opportunities in localized areas to harvest timber while contributing to Bureau management goals.

Orbeton Keystones Parcels

The Orbeton Keystones parcels were under varied ownership prior to BPL acquisition, and as a result have a more varied management history and current condition. LiDAR data representing total aboveground biomass shows more variation and higher average volumes here than on the Perham Stream parcel. The most recent harvesting in some of these parcels appears to have occurred between 2016 and 2018; in many other areas harvesting occurred in the 1990's and early 2000's. As with the Perham stream parcel, past harvesting included a mix of partial removals and areas of near-complete removal of overstory.

Observed current conditions include stands of low volume and size class which may require several decades to be suitable for commercial management activity, as well as stands which have matured into the sawtimber size class and provide more immediate management opportunity. As described above, MNAP identified a 14-acre area of northern hardwood forest with exceptional late successional structural characteristics in the northernmost Orbeton Keystones area, which will receive a Special Protection allocation (no harvesting allowed). The southwestern-most of these parcels contains a stand with an overstory of mature white pine which is not exceptional in its size or quality but is notable in the context of the surrounding northern hardwood and spruce-fir dominated landscape. There may be an opportunity for management to establish pine regeneration from this seed source.

Management Issues, Concerns and Opportunities

The Bureau of Parks and Lands will manage the Perham Stream Public Land for multiple uses including outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat, scenic and natural area protection, water quality protection, and production of forest products. The following discussion summarizes the key management issues and opportunities associated with each of these uses.

Timber Management

Timber harvests on these lands, as across the BPL landbase, will supply forest products to local mills and be a source of employment for loggers, truckers, road construction, and others in related businesses. Timber harvests will also be an important source of timber revenue to support the Bureau's management program.

The Bureau manages timber resources where allocated to provide a diverse forested environment and generate high-quality, high-value products to support Bureau operations and the local economy. Exemplary management that contributes to public values, including recreation and wildlife habitat, is the standard.

The approximately 4,300 acres of potentially regulated forest – those lands which the Bureau could manage to yield a sustained flow of forest products and to improve the quality of the forest resource – may be allocated to timber management as a dominant or important secondary use. Timber management may be designated as a dominant land use but may also occur as a secondary activity on lands with other dominant resource allocations, such as Remote Recreation or Wildlife Management areas.

Access is good for most of the Managed Forest portion of the Perham Stream parcel, though some culverts need replacing, as well as bridges over Perham Stream on both the primary access road and spur roads. Access to the Keystones parcels is good in that all are crossed by or abut

existing roads. As discussed above, the acquisition included rights-of-way for logging and forestry purposes on Railroad Road; the Bureau also has a preexisting right-of-way on the portion of the road crossing the Orbeton conservation easement property.

While some areas of this unit may not be ready for timber harvesting activity for as long as several decades, they provide long-term opportunity to manage towards BPL goals of sustainable production of high-quality hardwood and softwood timber products while maintaining and enhancing wildlife habitat values.

Specific timber management issues and concerns include:

- In areas where timber harvesting might occur, as a primary use or compatible secondary use, it will be important to recognize recreational and aesthetic values, particularly in the vicinity of the inholdings and abutting private lands, and visual concerns as viewed from peaks/high ground.
- To protect visual resources, Visual Class II would need to be applied to areas visible from the high peaks and ridges. These areas are managed to avoid any obvious alterations to the landscape as seen from those viewpoints, with openings of a size and orientation so as to not draw undue attention.

Wildlife and Habitat Protection

As described above, Atlantic salmon and brook trout habitat are documented in the main stems and certain tributaries of both Orbeton Stream and Perham Stream. Also, Roaring Brook Mayfly has been found in the region and, based on habitat conditions and proximity to those known occurrences, there is good potential for it to be present in some of the perennial streams on these lands. To help reduce potential sedimentation and maintain cool water temperatures, protecting or reestablishing wooded buffers on those streams will be necessary.

This protection would be provided by a Special Protection allocation on the portions of the Perham lands designated as an Ecological Reserve. Outside that area, protection will be provided by a Wildlife dominant allocation, based on the “significant habitat” criteria described in the IRP. The allocation will be applied as a 330-foot buffer zone on each side of the main stems of the streams as well as tributaries with mapped salmon or trout habitat, rather than the 75-foot buffer zone typically applied in minor riparian zones. (Minor riparian zones are generally designated around flowing water bodies upstream from the point where such water drains less than 50 square miles.) In addition, MDIFW recommends the Bureau apply the Management Guidelines for Roaring Brook Mayfly to the streams on these parcels, which meet the habitat criteria. These include a 50-foot no-cut zone along the streams and 60-70% forest canopy retention from 50 to 250 feet along the streams. Accordingly, a 250-foot riparian buffer zone is applied to tributary streams where the 330-foot buffer is not already applied based on fisheries data.

The subalpine conifer forest habitat of the Bicknell’s thrush will require special protection. Protection of these habitats will occur through the Ecological Reserve designation and an overlapping Special Protection allocation. Any trail construction or other recreational development in these areas would need to be carefully planned to minimize potential impacts to these important habitats.

Recreation Facility Development

A primary objective of this plan is to provide direction for the management of recreation uses and for development of trails and, potentially, other recreation facilities over the next 15 years within the context of the other land uses and the Bureau's management policies.

Non-motorized Trails

Hiking Trails – The ~2 mile informal trail up the west side of Mt. Abraham is unmarked but appears to receive regular use. Stakeholders wish to formalize and improve the trail. The lower part (on the Perham Stream parcel) follows an old skid trail, before breaking out onto the scree slope of Mt. Abraham, and turning north to the Middle Peak and North Peak, where it links to the existing A.T. side trail and the Fire Warden's trail. As a means to reach the peaks on Mt. Abraham, it provides a shorter trail with considerably less elevation gain than the Fire Warden's trail, accessed from the east side of the mountain via Rapid Stream Road. Access to the existing trailhead via Rapid Stream Road is not currently available due to the washout of one of the bridges across Rapid Stream. The road itself, before reaching Rapid Stream, is prone to flooding and erosion problems where it runs near the stream.

High Peaks Alliance has proposed a loop trail that would use the existing informal trail, the Mt. Abraham A.T. side trail, and a short section of the A.T. before descending on a new trail (partly on existing skid trails/roads) down to the Perham roads, which would be followed back to the starting point. High Peak Alliance's trail assessment included this proposed trail. Another option discussed would create a similar but shorter loop that would descend from the side trail before reaching the A.T. Any new trails that directly connect to the A.T. need to be coordinated with the National Park Service, Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), and Maine Appalachian Trail Club (MATC) and designated as a "blue-blazed" A.T. side trail.

Cross-country Skiing and Snowshoeing Trails – On BPL lands, management roads and logging trails are often used as shared-use trails for both snowshoeing and ungroomed cross-country ski trails (there are two such trails on the Bigelow Preserve). On these lands, the several miles of unplowed logging roads also provide opportunities for both ungroomed cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

Motorized Trails

Snowmobile Trails – At present, the primary interest of snowmobile riders is to continue the ITS trail that runs east/west across these lands and the neighboring Orbeton CE lands. Continued use of the approximately four miles of ITS snowmobile trail that crosses these parcels is understood to be vital to the regional trail network. However, riders are also interested in riding on the primary roads into the Perham Stream property, north from the ITS trail. The Perham Stream CE permits designation of a route on those roads, within the Ecological Reserve, as far as the 7-mile point. The Perham Stream CE does not permit other motorized uses within the Ecological Reserve, including riding on other management roads or off-trail riding.

The local snowmobile club has also expressed a desire to reestablish a historic connection to Caribou Pond and areas further north, following existing haul roads and forest management roads alongside or through the Redington Lot. However, the proposed routes would need to pass through the NEWT Lone Mountain Wilderness Preserve (see Map 1), where restrictions

contained in the 2018 Deed of Trust as well as a conservation easement held by the Navy prohibit motorized vehicle use. Therefore, a route would need to be identified that avoids the NEWT Preserve. Also, NPS approval of a motorized recreation crossing of the A.T. (on the existing logging road) would be required.

ATV Trails – In addition to maintaining the current ATV trail that passes west of the Perham Stream unit and crosses the Orbeton CE lands, ATV riders have an interest in riding the primary roads at Perham Stream for touring and hunting access. Like snowmobile trails, the Perham Stream CE permits the designation of ATV routes on those roads within the Ecological Reserve as far as the 7-mile point. There is also interest in being able to ride into the Redington Lot via the existing roads. However, to ride into the northern half of the lot, NPS approval of a motorized recreation crossing of the A.T. would be required.

The Perham Stream CE permits development of new motorized trails within the Managed Forest area, and snowmobiles may ride unplowed management roads within that area, in accordance with Bureau policy.

Other Potential Recreational Facilities

New trailheads and parking areas may be incorporated into planning for the existing hiking trail and proposed loop trail described above, to provide a suitable base for hikes up Mt. Abraham.

It may be feasible to develop additional drive-in or walk-in campsites. In particular, interest has been expressed in drive-to or walk-in campsites in the vicinity of Meacham Hill on the Perham Stream parcel. These would provide a convenient camping opportunity outside the ecological reserve and accessible via the existing roads, and that would not be dependent on the completion of road improvements or maintenance in the interior of the lands.

Specific recreation facility development issues and concerns include:

- Providing regional trail connections to and across these lands for motorized trail systems, and motorized spur trails for access and touring,
- Protecting the resources of the A.T. and A.T. corridor lands and hiker experiences from potential adverse impact associated with new non-motorized trails,
- Providing a parking area and trailhead that provides access to proposed hiking trails on the unit, and
- Formalization or removal of existing campsites on the parcels near Orbeton Stream and potential addition of new campsites in the vicinity of Barnjum.

Appalachian Trail Access and Protection

The Bureau recognizes the importance of protecting the scenic qualities of the lands surrounding the A.T. and the quiet recreation experience desired by hikers. The Perham Stream lands adjacent to the A.T. corridor will be designated as an Ecological Reserve, with a Special Protection allocation, which will provide a substantial additional buffer to the trail beyond the existing federally-owned trail corridor.

As described above, ATV riders are interested in accessing the Redington Lot from Perham Stream lands and Barnjum Road via existing management roads. If such a connection is

approved, the Bureau will need to consider the potential for unauthorized motorized crossing of the A.T. on the Redington Lot by ATVs using the existing management road that crosses the lot from south to north. The option exists to pursue permission from NPS for an authorized motorized recreation crossing, which would open the north half of the lot to riders. However, in considering any such expanded ATV access, the Bureau must assess an increased potential for unauthorized riding into the Navy SERE base.

Administrative Issues

Road Maintenance

As discussed in relation to timber management, upgrading and maintenance of Perham Stream roads presents challenges due to the several bridges in need of repair. Costs to upgrade and repair the roads and bridges will be substantial, but much of the road system is within the Ecological Reserve; thus, those roads and bridges will not be maintained for access to timber. Also, there are no road connections and no recreation destinations other than the proposed Mt. Abraham trails that such work would benefit.

Any work to upgrade the roads and replace bridges is likely to be deferred until they are necessary for timber management. Management roads and associated bridges within the Managed Forest Area may be upgraded in the future to provide access to the Redington Lot for timber harvesting. Within the Managed Forest Area, the Bureau has begun work to reroute a portion of the Barnjum Road running closest to Perham Stream (within the Ecological Reserve), where multiple bridges need repair, in part utilizing existing spur roads. Other spur roads off Barnjum Road and the remainder of the primary Perham Stream Road that are not needed for recreation and hunting access should be “put to bed” until needed for future timber management.

Bear Baiting Sites

The previous owner leased bear bait sites in the Perham Stream area. The Bureau issues permits for designated bear bait sites across the land base, and demand for the available sites is high. The Bureau will need to assess where this use could occur compatibly with other uses. The good road access and network of woods roads on these lands provides a good opportunity for establishing new bait sites. It is the Bureau’s practice to avoid designating bait sites within ecological reserves.

Boundary Markings

Many of the boundary lines of the unit were blazed (or reblazed) during the acquisition period. NPS and MATC have taken responsibility for blazing the common boundaries of the A.T. corridor and the Bureau’s lands.

Potential Management Partners

Potential collaboration and coordination between BPL and other entities in management of the area is of particular interest given the lack of regular on-site BPL staff presence in the area. In particular, monitoring of use and conditions at trailheads and campsites, monitoring of motorized use, and maintenance of campsites are tasks that could be targeted for partners to assist BPL with.

V. Vision for the Perham Stream Public Land

The Perham Stream Public Land is a recreationally and ecologically significant forestland prominently situated in the midst of the scenic High Peaks region, with existing and potential links to both non-motorized and motorized trails.

These lands will provide a flow of forest products with a portion of the property managed as a multiple-use working forest for quality timber, respecting wildlife habitat needs and accommodating recreational trails. An Ecological Reserve will be established on approximately 4,500 acres encompassing nearly all the Perham Stream lands in Mt. Abram Twp.

The Ecological Reserve will provide permanent protection for exemplary natural communities and (potentially) an endangered animal (Roaring Brook Mayfly) as an expansion of the existing Mt. Abraham reserve, with no timber harvesting on those acres and motorized recreation only on roads identified in the Conservation Easement. The Ecological Reserve will be open to hunting, hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and other non-motorized recreation compatible with the protection of Ecological Reserve values. Designated trails will support these uses, as needed, while avoiding impacts to the functions and values of the Ecological Reserve.

Outside the Ecological Reserve, additional protections will be provided with appropriate allocations for sensitive natural resources, such as habitat for the endangered Atlantic salmon, brook trout and the endangered Roaring Brook Mayfly.

The two-mile segment of the Appalachian Trail abutting the Perham Stream lands is a primary recreational resource and attraction to the area. Management of these lands will ensure that the remote, wild and scenic A.T. experience is protected. A hiking trail that links to the A.T. may be developed, with the cooperation and approval of the A.T. community.

The Bureau will work to plan, build and maintain recreation amenities as needs dictate and resources allow, particularly formalized or new trail(s) for hiking, and potential new campsites.

Traditional recreation activities such as hunting, trapping, and fishing will continue on the lands. Snowmobile use of the ITS trail will continue and use of Perham Stream roads designated in the Conservation Easement will be allowed (in part, within the Ecological Reserve), as will ATV use on the roads that provide important access for hunting. Additional sections of snowmobile and ATV trail will be considered to allow connections to the abutting Redington Lot and, potentially, more distant points, if permission for a motorized recreation crossing of the A.T. and to cross abutting lands is obtained.

VI. Proposed Resource Allocations

The Resource Allocation System is a land management-planning tool first developed in the 1980's and formalized in the Integrated Resource Policy (IRP). The current version of the IRP was adopted December 18, 2000, following a public review and refinement process. The Resource Allocation System, which is used to designate appropriate management based on resource characteristics and values, is based on a *hierarchy* of natural and cultural resource attributes found on the land base. The hierarchy ranks resources along a scale from those that are scarce and/or most sensitive to management activities, to those that are less so. The resource attributes are aggregated into seven categories or "allocations," including (from most sensitive to least) special protection, backcountry recreation, wildlife management, remote recreation, visual consideration, developed recreation, and timber management.

This hierarchy defines the type of management that will be applied where these resource attributes are found, with *dominant* and *secondary* uses or management designations as appropriate to achieve an integrated, multi-use management.

The following "allocations," as shown on the Dominant Use Allocations map (Map 4) on page 28, define general management objectives and direction for specific areas within the Unit. (Secondary allocations are not shown on the map.) See Appendix D for a description of designation criteria and management direction for the various allocation categories.

Special Protection Areas (Dominant Allocation)

- An area of approximately 4,975 acres to be officially designated as an Ecological Reserve, consisting of higher elevation ground on the west slopes of Mt. Abraham and on Farmer Mountain and additional ground west to Barnjum Road, as depicted in Exhibit B of the Conservation Easement. Recreation will be a secondary use in this area. Commercial timber harvesting is not allowed.
- The ~15-acre area identified by MNAP encompassing the old-growth stand upslope of Orbeton Stream.

Backcountry Recreation - Non-Mechanized Areas (Secondary Allocation)

- A secondary allocation applied to the Ecological Reserve. Application of this allocation in the Bureau's ecological reserves indicates the primary type of recreation managed for, but does not disallow motorized recreation on the roads identified in the Perham Conservation Easement, Exhibit B.

Wildlife Management Areas (Dominant Allocation)

- A total of about 680 acres as a dominant allocation in the following areas: (1) the major riparian zone (330 feet) along each side of Perham Stream and Orbeton Stream and certain tributaries, outside of the Ecological Reserve, based on fisheries habitat; (2) a 250 foot riparian zone along each side of the remaining tributaries; and (3) the portions of wetlands associated with Perham Stream, Orbeton Stream and their tributaries beyond the above riparian zones and other scattered small wetlands outside the Ecological Reserve, with a 75-foot buffer around each. Remote Recreation is a secondary allocation in these riparian areas.

Visual Consideration Areas (Secondary Allocation)

- Visual Class I areas (generally areas where foreground views of natural features that may directly affect the enjoyment of viewers) will be defined as a secondary allocation on the ground for areas adjacent to the primary access roads (Barnjum, Potato Hill, and Railroad Roads) and areas around any future developed recreation sites and designated non-motorized trails.
- Visual Class II areas will be defined as a secondary allocation in areas beyond the immediate foreground, such as background views of forest canopies from ridgelines and background hillsides viewed from public use roads, or interior views beyond the Class I area likely to be seen from a road or trail; due to the presence of the A.T on the ridgelines crossing near to the Perham Stream parcel and the Mt. Abraham trails, all areas not designated Visual Class I are allocated to Visual Class II.

Developed Recreation - Class I Areas (Dominant Allocation)

- All roads or trails designated for public motor vehicle use, snowmobile use, or ATV use outside the ecological reserve.
- Areas that may be set aside for development of parking areas and trailheads to serve non-motorized trails and, potentially, drive-to camping areas; in most cases these are small areas of less than one acre and no more than a few acres.

Timber Management Areas (Dominant Allocation)

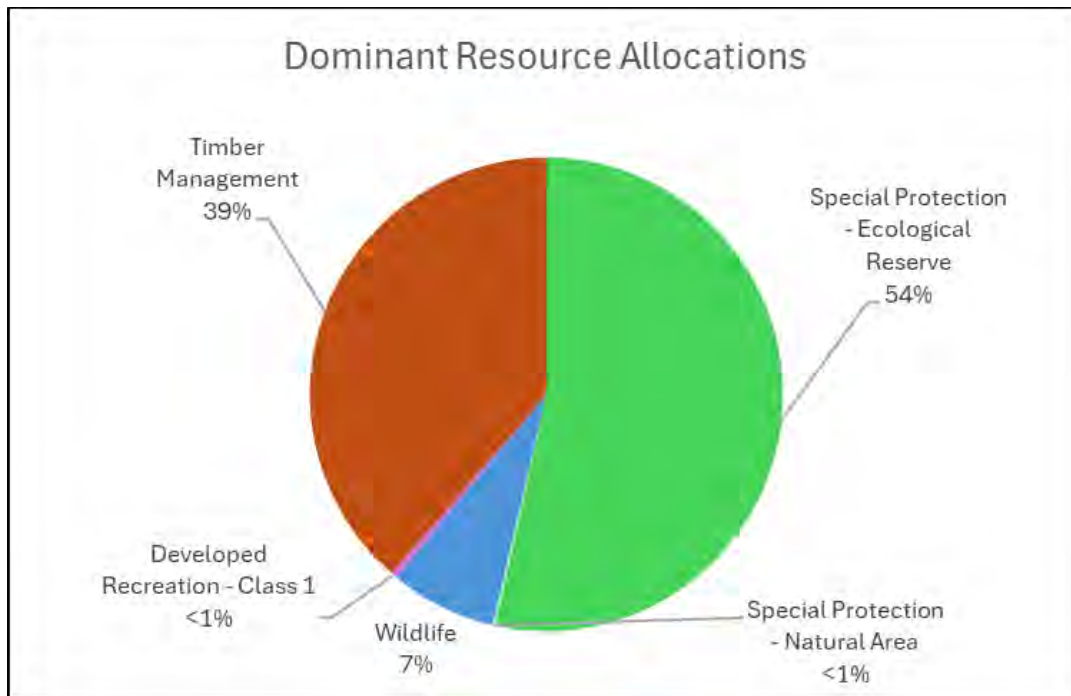
- All other areas not allocated above are designated Timber Management dominant (approximately 3,590 acres); includes the Managed Forest portion of Perham Stream, and the portion of the Keystones parcels outside the stream and wetland buffers and Special Protection area.
- Recreation will be recognized as an important secondary use within the timber dominant allocation.

Perham Stream Unit Allocation Summary

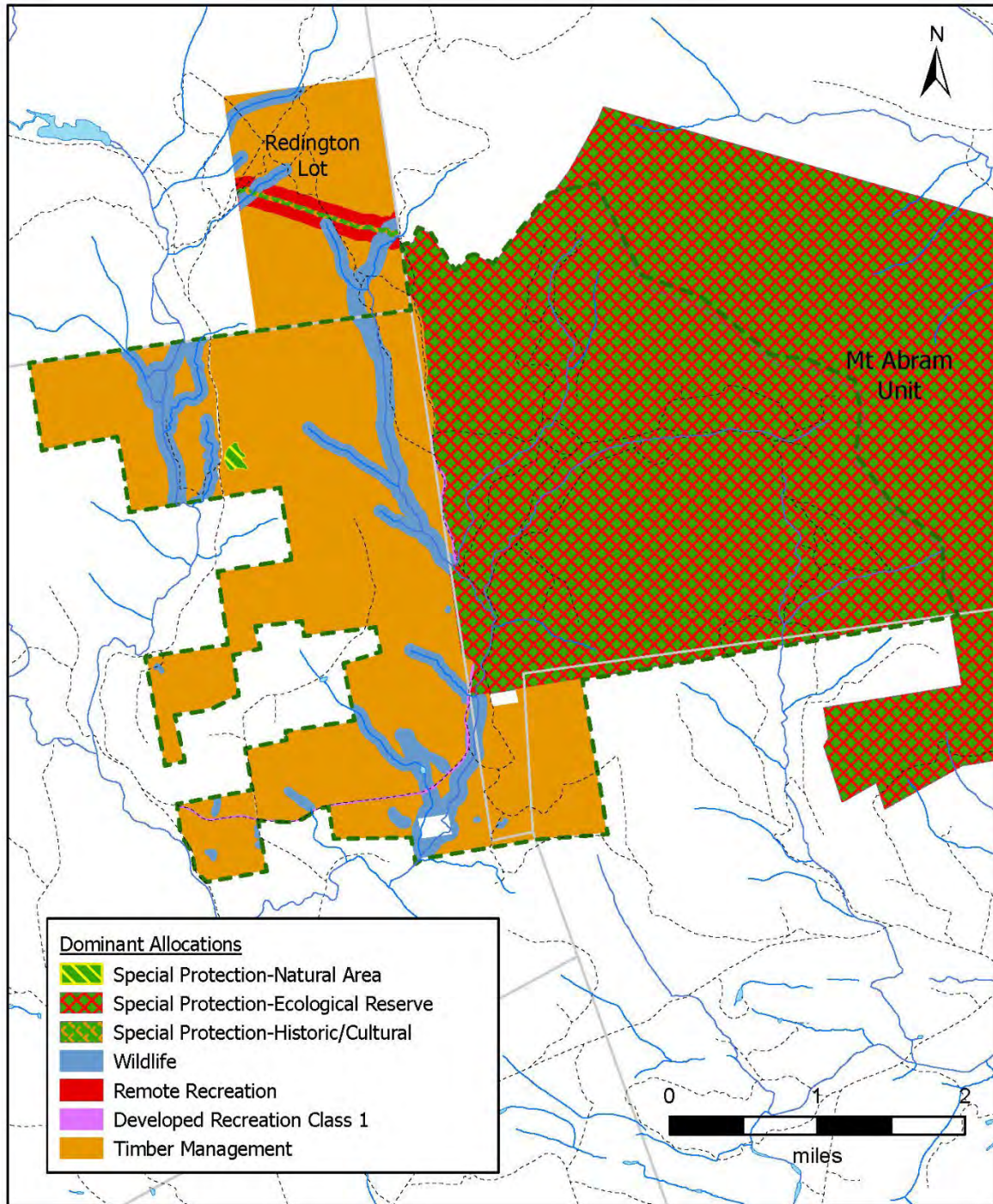
Allocation	Number of Acres			%
	Dominant	Secondary	Total	
Special Protection – Ecol. Reserve	4,975	Not applicable	4,975	53.5
Special Protection – Natural Area	15	0	15	0.2
Backcountry Non-mechanized	0	4,975	4,975	53.5
Wildlife Management	680	Not applicable	680	7.3
Remote Recreation	0	4,270	4,270	46.0
Visual Consideration – Class I	0	buffers along roads		
Visual Consideration – Class II	0	majority of remaining acres		
Developed Recreation – Class I	40	Not applicable	40	0.4
Timber Management	3,590	~535*	4,125	44.4

Note: Acreages are representations based on GIS metrics rounded to the nearest 5 acres. They do not sum to the acreages by parcel due to measuring error and the limits of GIS precision (the above acres are overall high by approximately ~1%).

* A 50-foot no-cut buffer will be maintained along both sides of streams as recommended by MDIFW in the Management Guidelines for Roaring Brook Mayfly. Timber management will be a secondary use in the remaining riparian buffer areas, with the appropriate application of canopy retention guidelines.



Perham Stream Public Land Dominant Allocations



MAP 4.

VII. Management Recommendations

Recreation

Hiking and Camping Opportunities

- Work with High Peaks Alliance to formalize and improve the existing informal trail up the west side of Mt. Abraham, as resources allow, using the High Peaks Alliance trail assessment as guidance. Post the trail as foot traffic only to prevent snowmobile access.
- In consultation with the MATC and ATC, explore the potential for a loop hiking trail that would partially follow the A.T. in the vicinity of Spaulding Mountain, using the existing informal trail up the west side of Mt. Abraham and a new section of trail connecting the A.T. to the Perham Stream road system.
- Develop a 6-8 vehicle parking area and trailhead at the beginning of the existing informal trail, near the 7-mile point of the existing access road, with an appropriate buffer to protect the Perham Stream tributary in that vicinity.
- Evaluate the informal campsites near Orbeton Stream and decide whether to close or formalize the sites, considering resource degradation and access concerns.
- Consider the establishment of primitive drive-to or walk-in campsites that would provide a convenient camping opportunity outside the ecological reserve and accessible via the existing roads.

Motorized Recreation

- Continue to allow snowmobile use of Barnjum Road, Potato Hill Road and connecting roads within and across the Perham and Orbeton lands, as an ITS trail (ITS 84). This will also be designated as an ATV trail to connect trails in the Mt. Abram and East Madrid areas.
- Allow snowmobile use of Barnjum Road and the primary gravel management road in the Perham Stream area, as far as mile marker 7 (the end of the “designated road” as depicted in the Perham Stream Conservation Easement), to provide a scenic out-and-back touring opportunity connected to the ITS trail. Post other roads within the Ecological Reserve as closed to snowmobiles.
- Where possible, allow snowmobile use of management roads outside the Ecological Reserve to support hunting, shed hunting, etc.
- Consider designating a snowmobile route into and across the Redington Lot using existing management roads, provided 1) snowmobile clubs obtain permission for a motorized recreation crossing of the A.T. and 2) a route is approved by the Navy and other abutting landowners to circumvent the Lone Mountain Wilderness Preserve and connect to the Caribou Pond area and Caribou Pond Road.
- Allow ATV use as far as mile marker 7 within the Perham Stream area. Post this section of road as “shared use.”
- Consider designating a short destination ATV trail to and into the Redington Lot on Barnjum Road and/or connected management roads; provided permission is obtained for a motorized recreation crossing of the A.T. on the Redington Lot, the designated trail may extend into the north half of the lot. Any such destination trails may also be designated for snowmobile use.

- In conjunction with consideration of expanded snowmobile or ATV access or new motorized trails, BPL will work with snowmobile and ATV clubs to identify and actively discourage unauthorized motorized use on the Mt. Abraham Unit and in unauthorized areas of adjacent public or private lands accessed via BPL management roads that continue beyond the Unit.

Wildlife

- Coordinate with MDIFW on any potential motorized or non-motorized trail development in areas allocated to Special Protection and Wildlife Management to ensure the protection of sensitive wildlife habitats.

Public Access Roads

- Prioritize improvements of portions of public access roads and associated bridge repairs on the lands, as resources allow, with priority placed on segments of road needed for access to the Mt. Abraham trail.
- Acquire and evaluate stream crossing data to better understand where to prioritize upgrades as road work is being planned.
- Where possible, install Stream Smart crossings when new or replacement crossings are needed for streams with a major riparian buffer
- Unless and until motorized use into the Redington Lot is allowed, continue to block access to vehicles on Barnjum Road at the point the primary access road turns east.
- Identify spur roads and other management roads to be “put to bed” and take action to implement these closures as resources allow.

Timber Management

- The Bureau will manage areas allocated to Timber Management as a multiple use working forest. Timber resources where allocated will provide a diverse forested environment and generate high-quality, high-value products to support Bureau operations and Maine’s timber-based economy. The Bureau will primarily practice multi-aged management with a long-term focus on mature quality timber.
- Because of the high elevation lands on this unit and its visibility from the A.T. and Mount Abraham, any timber management is subject to Visual Class II considerations.
- Timber management activity during the planning period will include monitoring young stands as they grow into merchantable sizes and identifying any stands which may benefit from nearer-term silvicultural treatment. Monitoring will include assessment of any spruce budworm impact and evaluation of appropriate management response. For the duration of this plan, objectives are to allow stocking to increase in areas subject to recent heavy harvesting while managing adequately stocked areas to improve timber quality and forest health.

Signage and Administrative Issues

- Work with partners in the acquisition to design and install a kiosk, possibly in the vicinity of the East Madrid Road/Barnjum Road junction, with area maps and information highlighting the partnership that achieved the acquisition of the lands, the presence of the Ecological Reserve, and the unique natural resources present on the unit.

- Install yardarm signs at appropriate locations identifying the Perham Stream Public Land unit, and directional signs at appropriate locations directing travelers to the main access roads into these lands.
- Continue to maintain existing gravel pits as needed for road maintenance. Identify, close and restore any unneeded gravel pits.
- Assess where within the unit that bear bait sites could be located, outside the Ecological Reserve, considering factors such as accessibility to roads and ATV trails and compatibility with other uses.

VIII. Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation are needed to track progress in achieving the management vision, goals and objectives for the Flagstaff Region public reserved lands, and effectiveness of particular approaches to resource management. As described in Section VIII of the Flagstaff Region Plan, monitoring and evaluation will be conducted on wildlife, ecological, timber, and recreational management efforts in the region and will now be extended to include the Perham Stream Public Land.

In April 2024, the Perham Stream Management Fund in the amount of \$155,455 was established through a donation by TPL. The Bureau may use the Fund for the management and improvement of the Perham Stream parcel and monitoring and compliance with the terms of the conservation easement. Under a contract with the Department of the Navy, the Bureau is conducting periodic monitoring of the Perham Stream conservation easement and submitting reports to the Navy's Natural Resource Manager.

Regarding implementation of Plan recommendations, individual projects are planned and budgeted for during annual planning exercises. New initiatives, particularly larger projects, are planned in two-year cycles. The Bureau will report progress in accomplishing management objectives and recommendations every 5 years through the 5-Year Management Plan Review process (see Section II. The Planning Process), noting any new management issues and recommending changes to the Plan as appropriate.