

BLOOD (DUCK) POND
T2 R13 WELS, Piscataquis Co.
U.S.G.S. Ragged Lake, Me.

Fishes

Brook trout (squaretail)

Minnows
Dace

Physical Characteristics

Area — 40 acres

Temperatures

Maximum depth — 3 feet

Surface — 75°F.
3 feet — 74°F.

Principal Fishery: Brook trout

Blood Pond is located in a large spruce bog a short distance to the north of Big Spencer Mountain. Black spruce, red spruce, and cedars predominate in the surrounding forest. Big Spencer seems to tower over the Pond and affords a majestic scene to Blood Pond Visitors.

The pond is quite shallow throughout all of its area. Its bottom consists of a deep, flocculent organic muck. Emergent and submergent vegetation, including burr reed and several species of Potamogetons, are common throughout the pond.

The immediate shoreline contains many plant species characteristic to the bog environment. Opportunities to fish from the shore are limited by this vegetation and by the very shallow water near the shore.

Even though the water in Blood Pond is susceptible to warming throughout from solar radiation, it does support a fine population of wild brook trout. Several springs around the pond provide areas of cool water that sustain the trout through the summer months. At the time of survey, these springs were observed as depressions in the muck created by the upwelling of much cooler water.

Only one other species of fish, one of the dace, inhabit Blood Pond along with the trout. These provide little competition and a forage source for the trout that attain fish-eating size.

The outlet is located in a narrow, rocky cove at the northwest corner of the pond. An old beaver dam there has deteriorated and

holds no head of water. Water flows beneath the dam, disappearing under large rocks for some distance, then reappears to form a small woodland brook that flows into Lobster Lake. This outlet appears to be of little use as spawning and nursery area for the trout population in Blood Pond.

There is no well-defined inlet. Water enters the southern end as a series of small springs that emerge from the surrounding spruce bog. Because of the deep muck in this area these springs are of little use for spawning brook trout. Natural reproduction must be limited to gravel areas around springs along the eastern shore.

Blood Pond has long been noted for its brook trout fishery. A fly-fishing-only regulation has been in effect there for many years. Even when access was limited to a walk of one-half mile it received moderate fishing pressure. Now a new logging road has permitted access by conventional vehicle to within a couple hundred feet of the pond. This has increased angler use. In 1975 regulations prohibiting the use of outboard motors, and limiting the daily catch to five trout were established.

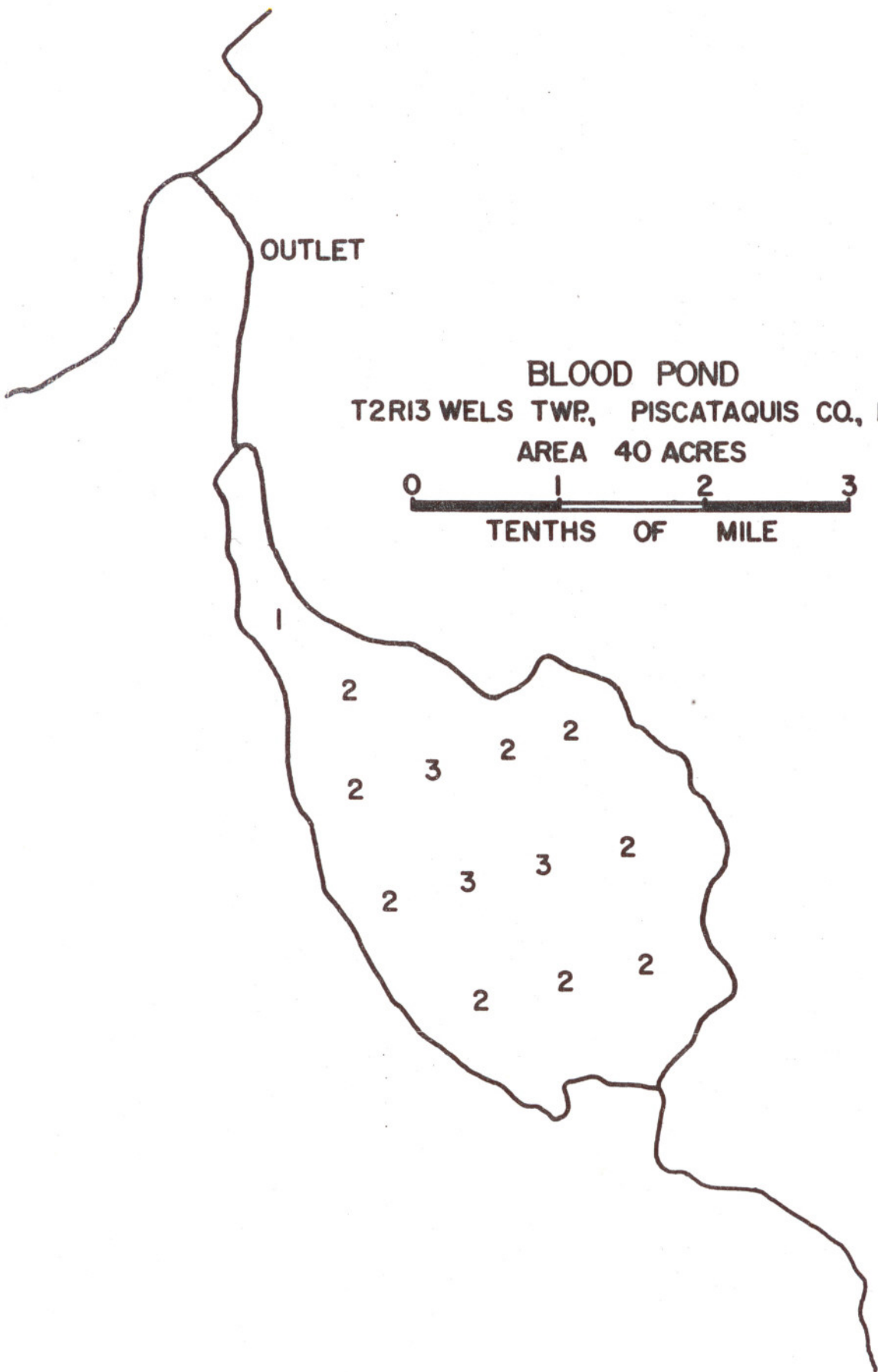
Blood Pond is a beautiful body of water that should be protected from over-use. As many as two dozen boats have been reported left chained to trees on the shore. Campsites along the eastern shore are frequently used. Litter and trash piles associated with these campsites has become a problem. If the access road to the pond were eliminated, Blood Pond would be an ideal candidate for inclusion in the Land Use Regulation Commission's remote pond system.

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OUTLET

BLOOD POND
T2R13 WELS TWP, PISCATAQUIS CO., ME.
AREA 40 ACRES

