

Smaller Public Lots

The remainder of this Plan addresses the 11 smaller lots and clusters of smaller lots in the Upper Kennebec Region, from north to south. Abutting lots on adjacent townships, and lots in proximity to each other within the same township, are addressed together due to their similar character and because timber management among these pairs or groups of three lots is often coordinated to enhance management efficiency.

Together, these lots comprise about 20 percent of public lands in the region. They are managed primarily as timber lots, with the exception of the Upper Enchanted Township Lot, where access and elevation are limiting factors. Sections of the AT cross two of the lots; with few exceptions, there are no other recreation facilities on these properties. All are visited to some degree by deer, moose and/or bear hunters, depending on the quality of habitat; several have designated bear bait sites. Map Figures 11 through 20 depict these lots and the surrounding areas.

Dennistown Plantation Lot

The Dennistown Plantation Lot is a 1,000-acre original public lot, about 1.5 miles in length and 1 mile wide. The lot lies astride Rt. 201 about five miles north of Jackman, with nearly all the acres on the west side of the highway. Access to the lot is primarily via a management road off Rt. 201 that enters the west side of the lot about a quarter mile from the south boundary. Sections of the old Rt. 201/Canada Road cross into and run parallel to the narrow east side of the lot. MEDOT was granted a 50-foot wide easement for the highway when it was relocated in the 1950s. A church camp on Heald Pond, a few miles to the east, had a road easement and lease for a buried telephone line across the eastern side of the lot, which have now expired

The lot is characterized by gentle slopes and young to mid-aged northern hardwood and mixed spruce-northern hardwood forests. There are scattered small wetlands present along the East Branch of Sandy Stream, which runs the length of the parcel and drains into the Moose River. An intact ~25-acre Cedar-Spruce Seepage Forest occurs along the stream at its confluence with two smaller tributaries. No special status or unique wildlife or botanical resources are known to be present.

Hunters visit the lot in pursuit of deer, moose or bear. There is one bear bait site on the lot. Snowmobile and ATV routes pass nearby east and west of the lot but do not cross it. Similar to the Sandy Bay Unit, the lot comprises the visual backdrop on both side of the highway for travelers on the section of the scenic byway that crosses the lot. However, views into the interior of the unit are well screened by growth along the roadside buffers.

Timber Resources and Harvest History. There are 876 regulated timber acres on the lot, of which 57% are hardwood, 31% mixedwood and 12% softwood types. Of the remainder, 76 acres are unregulated forest, some due to site quality but most because of Rt. 201 running through the lot, complicating timber management, and 64 acres is non-forest (open wetlands and roads).

This lot had significant harvests in the 1940s and 1950s, though volumes are not available, and another operation in 1979-83 covered over 500 acres with perhaps 4,500 cords harvested,

species/product mix unknown. This entry circa 1980 caused butt damage to a significant number of trees in the hardwood stands, such that the subsequent compartment exam noted considerable degrade and dieback on the damaged trees. Harvesting in 2003-04 yielded 6,600 cords, 61% in hardwood pulpwood as the lower quality trees were targeted. Much of the harvesting was in small patches centered on these lower-quality trees, with one goal being the establishment of desirable regeneration. Current stocking is about 18 cords per acre, 32% of volume being sugar maple, 18% each yellow birch and spruces, 8% red maple, 6% each fir and cedar, 5% beech, with paper birch, hemlock, and aspen also found.

Moose River North and South Lots

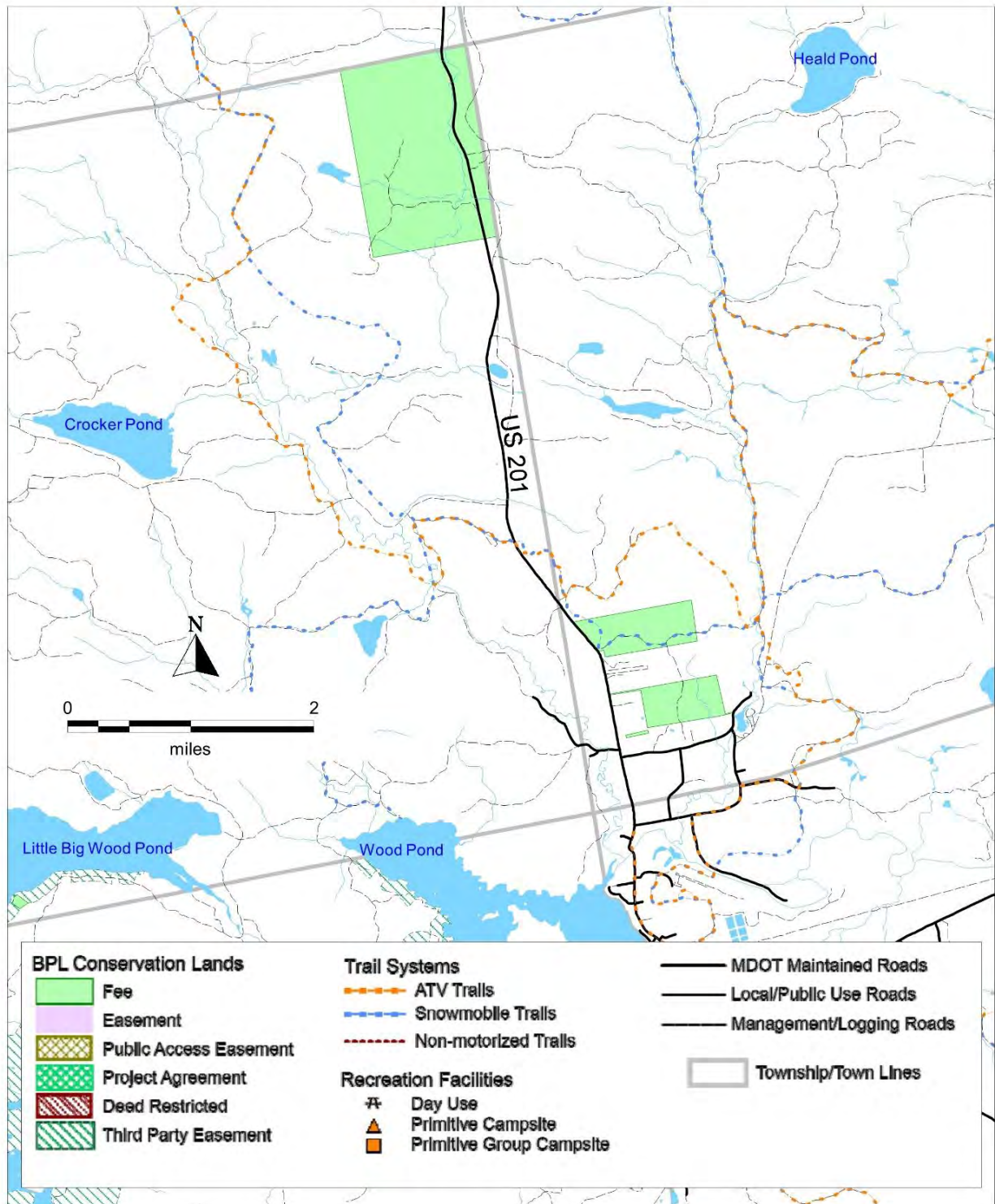
These two public lots on the east side of Rt. 201 are separated by about one-third a mile and total 320 acres. The parcels were acquired from Irving Pulp and Paper in 1990 as part of a land trade. The north lot has about 1,600 feet of frontage on the highway; a management road extends into the lot from the highway. The south lot has been accessed for past harvests (prior to state ownership) from the north lot, with permission granted to cross between the two lots on a management road (now grown in). Potentially, the south lot may also be accessed in the future via narrow strips of public land that connect the core of the lot to Rt. 201 on the west and Pleasant Street on the east. The Sky Lodge resort (recently donated to Unity College) is situated between the two lots, and a municipal golf course is adjacent to the south lot along Route 201.

Topography is level to gently sloping on both lots. There are no wetlands on either lot and no special status or unique wildlife or botanical resources are known to be present.

A primary snowmobile trail, ITS 89, passes to the east of the lot, with a connecting trail crossing the north lot on the management road and continuing west of Rt. 201. An ATV route passes around the lots to the east and north.

Timber Resources and Harvest History. The two lots have 285 acres of regulated forest. Neither lot has had harvesting under Bureau management in the past thirty-plus years, though each had heavy cutting relatively recently before the state took ownership. The south lot has had some past encroachment by abutters. No tract-specific inventory data is available, but the forest looks to be mostly mixedwood, spruce and fir plus a Northern Hardwood mix with considerable red maple included, and cedar on the wetter areas. Air photos suggest that stocking is somewhat less than the Bureau-wide average of 23 cords per acre.

Dennistown and Moose River Units - Infrastructure and Recreation Facilities



MAP FIGURE 11.

Bradstreet Township South Lot

This is a 180-acre original public lot, about two-thirds a mile by half mile in dimension. The lot lies about nine miles west of Rt. 201 along Spencer Road (a privately maintained haul route), which crosses the lot from east to west.

Topography is nearly level on the lot. Significant portions of this lot burned at least once in the last 150 years, and vegetation has grown in response to these fire events. Although fairly typical mid-successional low-elevation Spruce-Fir Forest covers most of the lot, several other natural communities are present. MNAP has mapped an exemplary Black Spruce Barrens on much of the lot north of Spencer Road, and also noted forest patches mapped as Spruce-Heath Barrens, characterized by black spruce and scattered jack pine. Small pockets of Jack Pine Forest occur in a few locations within the lot, where jack pine is dominant, with lesser amounts of black spruce. There are also patches of Red Pine-White Pine Forest dominated by red pine with scattered small red spruce.

Black Spruce Bog surrounds the perimeter of Moore Pond and is dominated by black spruce, with some larch and northern white cedar. There is a small amount of other wetland present, primarily associated with the smaller pond and a bog lying south of the lot. MNAP observed a black-backed woodpecker (*Picoides articus*) feeding within the Black Spruce Bog; this bird is identified as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need by MDIF&W. There are no other special status or unique wildlife known to be present.

Much of the north portion of the lot is occupied by 47-acre Moore Pond, which is rated “significant” for fishery resources in the Wildland Lakes Assessment, and a smaller pond downstream. Special fishing regulations apply on Moore Pond (artificial lures only, and catch and release). A few boats are stored on the south shoreline at the end of an old jeep road. There is one bear bait site.

Timber Resources and Harvest History. Although there is limited access to the third of the lot that lies north of the ponds, complicating management, it has been managed primarily as a timber lot. The lot probably holds 80% of the jack pine found on Bureau-managed land, and is surrounded by forest with a significant jack pine component. Soils are either well- to excessively drained or very wet, with most acres also rich in boulders. These sites will grow softwoods reasonably well, with the occasional deeper soil being a fine pine site. Regulated acres are all softwood types, and hardwood species make up no more than 2-3% of all volume, if that. Current stocking is about 25 cords per acre, about one-third spruces (red and black), 20% each red and white pines, 15% jack pine, and 8% fir, with a few red maple, paper birch, and aspen scattered about.

The abutting landowner harvested this lot about 1960 under timber and grass rights, and the Bureau harvested on about 40 acres in 1996-97. Some fir pre-salvage and spruce thinning was done north of the road, but the main harvests were a shelterwood cut in a red pine/white pine stand and a heavy shelterwood/seed tree cut in the stand with the most jack pine. This latter had only modest success in regenerating the jack pine (particularly as compared with the abutter’s clearcuts). However, red pine, white pine, and spruce regenerated well, with considerable fir included in the more fertile red pine/white pine stand.

Bradstreet Township South Lot Roads and Recreation Facilities



MAP FIGURE 12.

Upper Enchanted Twp. (Coburn Mountain) Lot

This 320-acre original public lot, draped across much of 3,700-foot Coburn Mountain (the highest in the region), is located about three miles west of US 201. The parcel is commonly referred to as the Coburn Mountain Lot. Enchanted Mountain Road extends from Rt. 201 to the eastern foot of the mountain, within about two-thirds mile of the lot; the Bureau has a right-of-way easement on the road from Somerset County, with responsibility for maintenance and repair. The east side of the mountain, adjacent to the public lot, is the former site of the Enchanted Mountain ski resort, which operated from 1966 to 1974.

The peak is the former site of a fire lookout tower. A radio communications facility with a metal building and solar panels is at the top of the mountain at the former fire tower site. This site is leased by the Bureau to the Maine Office of Information Technology (OIT) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection in the Department of Homeland Security, and is managed by OIT through an Interagency Agreement. A second smaller communication facility on a site leased to Carrier, Inc. is at the top of the old ski lift area, near the east boundary of the parcel. A new 25-year lease was executed in 2013.

Notable Ecological Resources. Coburn Mountain includes a series of convoluted, high elevation mountain ridges. The highest point is located on a well-defined, straight, steep-sided short ridge. Much of this well-defined summit ridge supports a Fir–Heart-leaved Birch Subalpine Forest. Subalpine forest also occurs on the high bench to the southeast of the summit ridge. Within this subalpine fir forest occurrence, balsam fir is the dominant canopy tree, with heart-leaved birch as an occasional associate. On the ridge crest trees are very stunted, and in some areas are barely 10 feet tall. In more sheltered locations and down on the bench, trees range from 20 to 35 feet tall.

Wildlife and Rare Animal Species. The subalpine fir forest at Coburn Mountain provides habitat for several wildlife species of Special Concern including Bicknell’s Thrush and Rock Vole. Bicknell’s thrush requires high elevation, stunted fir forest for nesting habitat; construction and vegetation removal is restricted during the nesting period (until August 1).

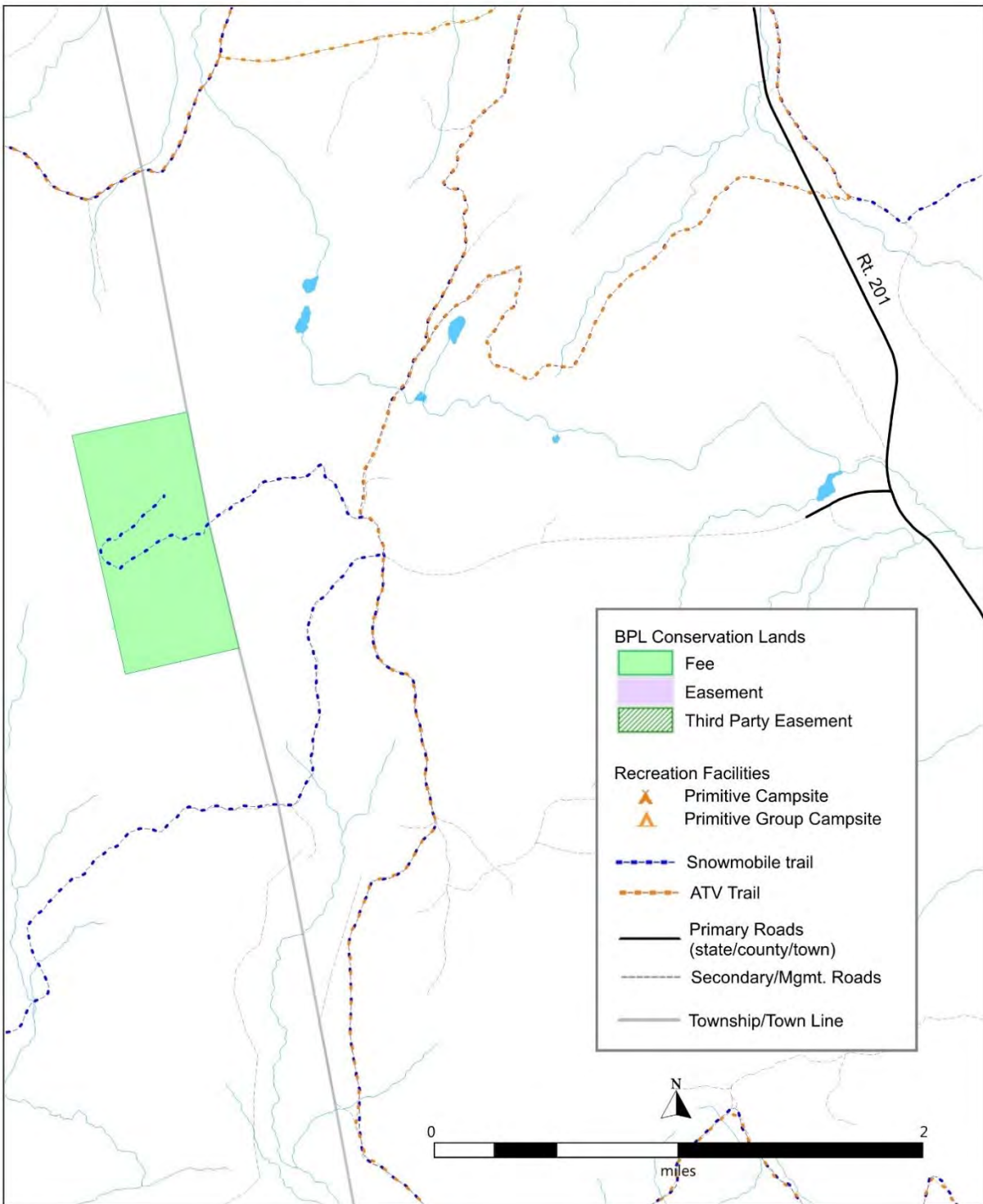
Recreation Resources. Foot access to the peak is via an old road and snowmobile route, with a small parking area at the base of the former ski area. A steep quarter-mile informal foot trail also leads to the peak, branching off the road soon after it enters the public lot. An observation platform on a 20-foot steel tower where the fire tower once stood provides excellent 360-degree views of the entire region. Plans are underway to reconfigure the communications facilities and relocate the tower. Development of an interpretive panel for the viewing tower is in progress.

The snowmobile trail follows the old road onto the lot and then winds up to the tower site. It is the highest groomed trail in the state and an important destination for local riders and visitors. It is connected to ITS 86 and 89 and the regional trail network.

The Old Canada Road Byway committee is interested in development of an improved hiking trail to the tower site. The existing informal foot trail to the summit is poorly sited and too steep to be sustainable.

Timber Resources. All of the lot is over 2,700 feet in elevation; therefore, LUPC P-MA (Mountain Area Protection) Subdistrict regulations apply. By policy, all land in P-MA (and other zoning for which Forestry Operations Permits are required) is unregulated, though the Bureau has obtained the necessary permits for harvesting in P-MA areas elsewhere. Some 120 acres or so on the south portion of the lot has slopes mainly in the 10-20 percent range and appears fully operable. This area holds softwood and mixedwood acres heavily stocked with fir, spruce, paper birch and red maple. However, the land immediately south of the lot has considerable 20-30 percent slopes, or steeper, so the public lot timber may not be economically operable due to the cost of accessing the lot.

Upper Enchanted Twp. (Coburn Mountain) Lot Roads and Recreation Facilities



MAP FIGURE 13.

Johnson Mountain and West Forks Northeast Lots

These adjacent original reservation lots are located on either side of the town line, covering 514 and 730 acres, respectively. The lots abut the newly acquired Cold Stream Forest parcels on the west side and are likewise accessible from Capital Road and Wilson Hill Road. The primary management road extends from Wilson Hill Road across the west side of both lots.

The two ponds almost wholly within the lots, 21-acre Wilson Hill Pond (West Forks NE Lot) and 13-acre Little Wilson Hill Pond (Johnson Mtn. Lot) are brook trout fisheries and State Heritage Fish waters. The ponds are tributary to Cold Stream, with their outlets streams flowing into Tomhegan Stream south of the lots. Tomhegan Stream flows across both lots upstream of those junctures, and into Cold Stream within the Cold Stream Forest Unit. Tomhegan Stream also supports a brook trout fishery and telemetry studies indicate that some Kennebec River brook trout ascend Cold Stream and continue into Tomhegan Stream for thermal refuge and spawning.

A few boats (five were observe on a site visit) are stored at Little Wilson Pond where an informal access trail comes to the south shore. There are four bear bait sites on the lot.

The terrain is quite varied, with low hills, bogs, streams, and the two ponds, and a varied mix of timber types. There is a small amount of wetland on the lot, primarily associated with the ponds. There are no special status or unique wildlife known to be present.

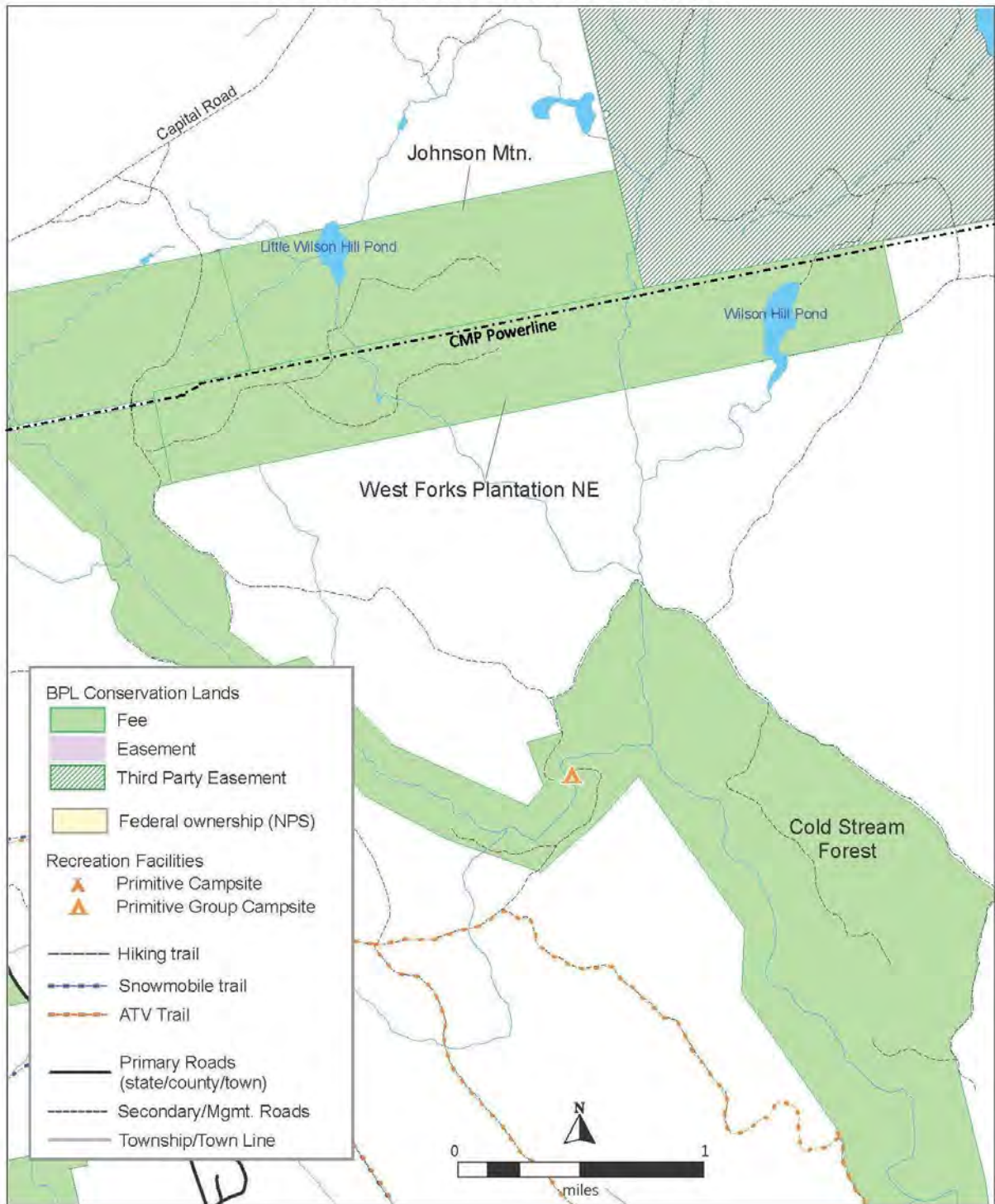
A 100-foot wide CMP transmission line right-of-way (established in 1963) follows the town line across the West Forks Plt. Lot. A new 300-foot wide by mile-long transmission line lease crossing both lots from north to south was executed with CMP in December 2014; the line has not yet been built.

Timber Resources and Harvest History. Of the 1,241 acres on the two lots, 1,156 acres are regulated forest, the remainder being mostly open bog or roads, plus 36 acres in the utility corridor across the West Forks lot. The regulated forest is 24% softwood types, 40% mixedwood, and 36% hardwood, with an average stocking of about 26 cords per acre.

Inventory volume is 47% spruce, 17% sugar maple, with beech, fir, and red maple sharing another 20% about equally. White pine makes up 3% of the total, usually as scattered large individuals or as a significant minority component of spruce-rich softwood stands. Quality of spruce and pine is excellent, sugar maple and yellow birch fair to good, and most other species variable in quality, though healthy full-crowned beech are scarce. Abutters' clearcuts caused some windthrow on the lots in past years, but this has since stabilized.

The Bureau has conducted two timber harvests on these combined tracts. The first, in 1986-87, produced 9,900 cords, with removal of fir and low quality hardwoods the main objective, along with improvement harvests. The second entry came twenty years after the first, in 2006-07, with about 4,200 cords harvested as about half the forest was not in need of treatment at that time.

Johnson Mountain Twp. and West Forks Plt. Northeast Lots Roads and Recreation Facilities



MAP FIGURE 14.

West Forks Plantation Northwest, Central and Southwest Lots

These three original reservation lots are located on or near to Rt. 201, within 0.5-1.0 mile of each other. Each is about 150 acres. The Central lot is accessed directly from Rt. 201, and surrounds a residential lot on the highway. A small portion of that lot is east of Rt. 201, between the current highway and its former route. The other two lots are accessible from logging roads connected to Rt. 201.

The terrain is generally level to gently sloping on all three lots. Salmon Stream and a branch, both tributaries to the East Branch of the Dead River and designated by MDIF&W as wild brook trout streams, flow through the Central and Southwest lots. There are small, open, beaver-influenced wetlands along these streams. Both lots have pockets of cedar swamp/seepage forest, with some old cedar and black spruce trees. There are no special status or unique wildlife known to be present. There are five bear bait sites on the lots.

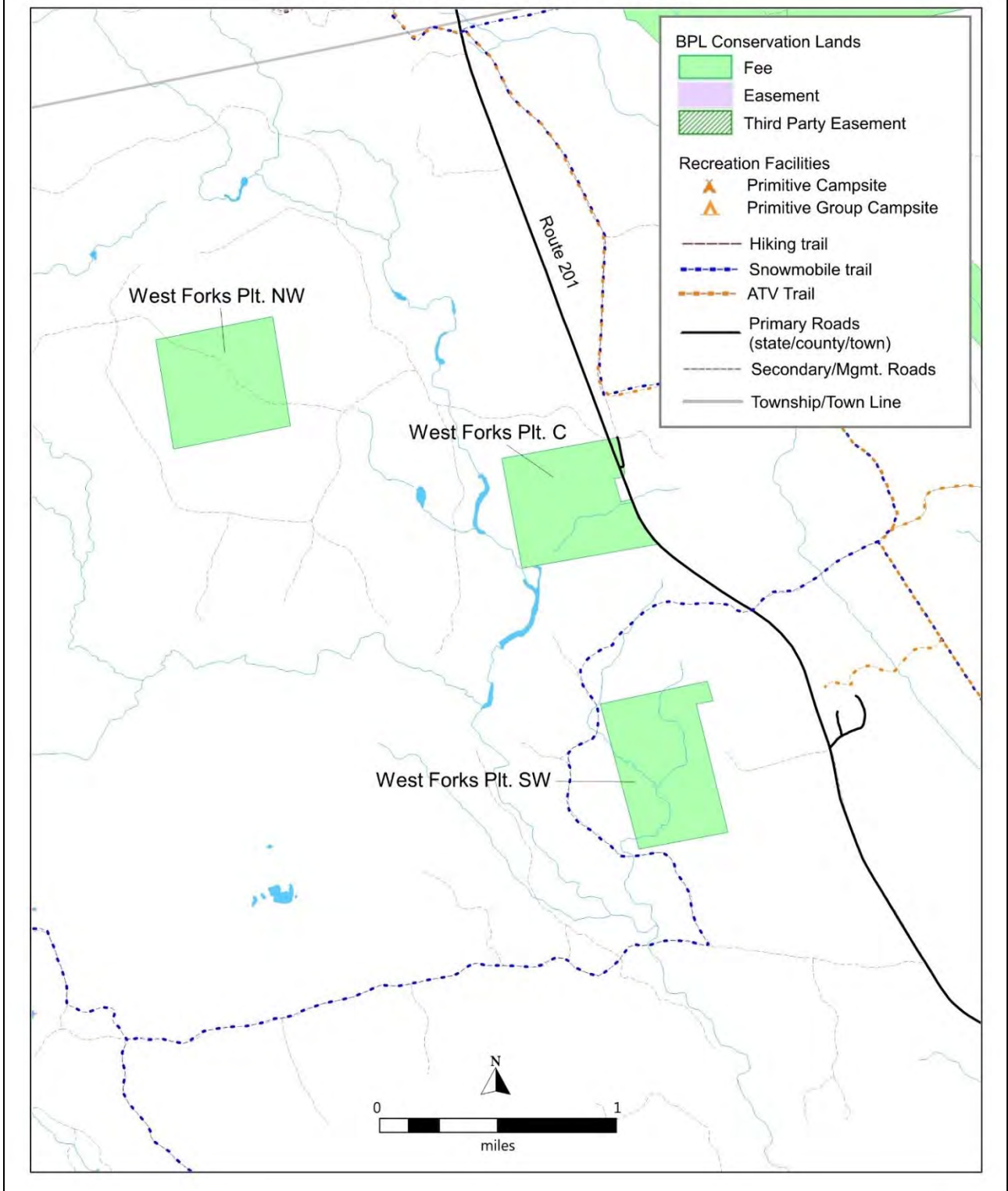
Timber Resources and Harvest History. Of the 473 total acres among the three lots, 446 acres are regulated forest. The lots are relatively similar in timber types. Current stocking is similar to the Bureau-wide average of 23 cords per acre. Spruce and red maple each make up 22% of total volume, fir is next with 17% and is especially prevalent on the center lot, then sugar maple at 10%, yellow birch 8%, cedar with 7%, and paper birch, beech, and aspen with 4% each. Quality is reasonably good for most species except poor to sometimes fair for cedar and beech. Site quality is good on most acres, and these lots have the capability to grow high quality timber of all species.

The northwest lot had abutter clearcuts made on all four sides during the late 1980s, and a subsequent windstorm flattened about 35 acres, with 900 cords (90% hardwoods) being salvaged in 1992. A small (280 cords) harvest was done on the Central lot that same year. The blowdown salvage area has been destructively browsed by moose, such that 15-year old regeneration was only four feet tall in 2006. Browse has been heavy throughout this lot.

All three lots had harvesting in 2006, though of the 2,600 cords total, only 300 came from the southwest lot, which had received a heavy budworm-salvage oriented harvest during the early 1980s. In total, harvests on these lots since 1985 have totaled 3,800 cords, 72% hardwoods with nearly all of that hardwood being pulpwood as improvement of the residual stand quality was a major objective.

The private parcel to the east of the West Forks SW lot, on US 201, has been sold, which will have an impact on the Bureau's access to the lot for timber harvesting.

West Forks Plantation Northwest, Central & Southwest Lots Roads and Recreation Facilities



MAP FIGURE 15.

Moxie Gore and The Forks Plantation North Lots

The 450-acre Moxie Gore Lot and the 724-acre The Forks Plt. North Lot (abutting the Moxie Gore Lot on the south) are original public reservations just outside the busy commercial recreational center of The Forks. Access to the lots is from Lake Moxie Road, a paved town road which crosses both parcels. The only management roads, on The Forks Lot, were blocked after the last harvest, thus there is no public vehicular access to the interior of the lots.

The Moxie Falls state park property, site of the tallest waterfall in the state, is adjacent to the Moxie Gore Lot on the north. The Parks-managed parking area and the first one-third mile of the hiking trail to the falls is on the Moxie Gore Lot. A snowmobile and ATV trail crosses The Forks lot on a management road, linking the primary route to the south of the lot to Lake Moxie Road. There are no other recreation facilities. There are two bear bait sites on the lots. The lots comprise the visual backdrop for travelers on the Lake Moxie Road.

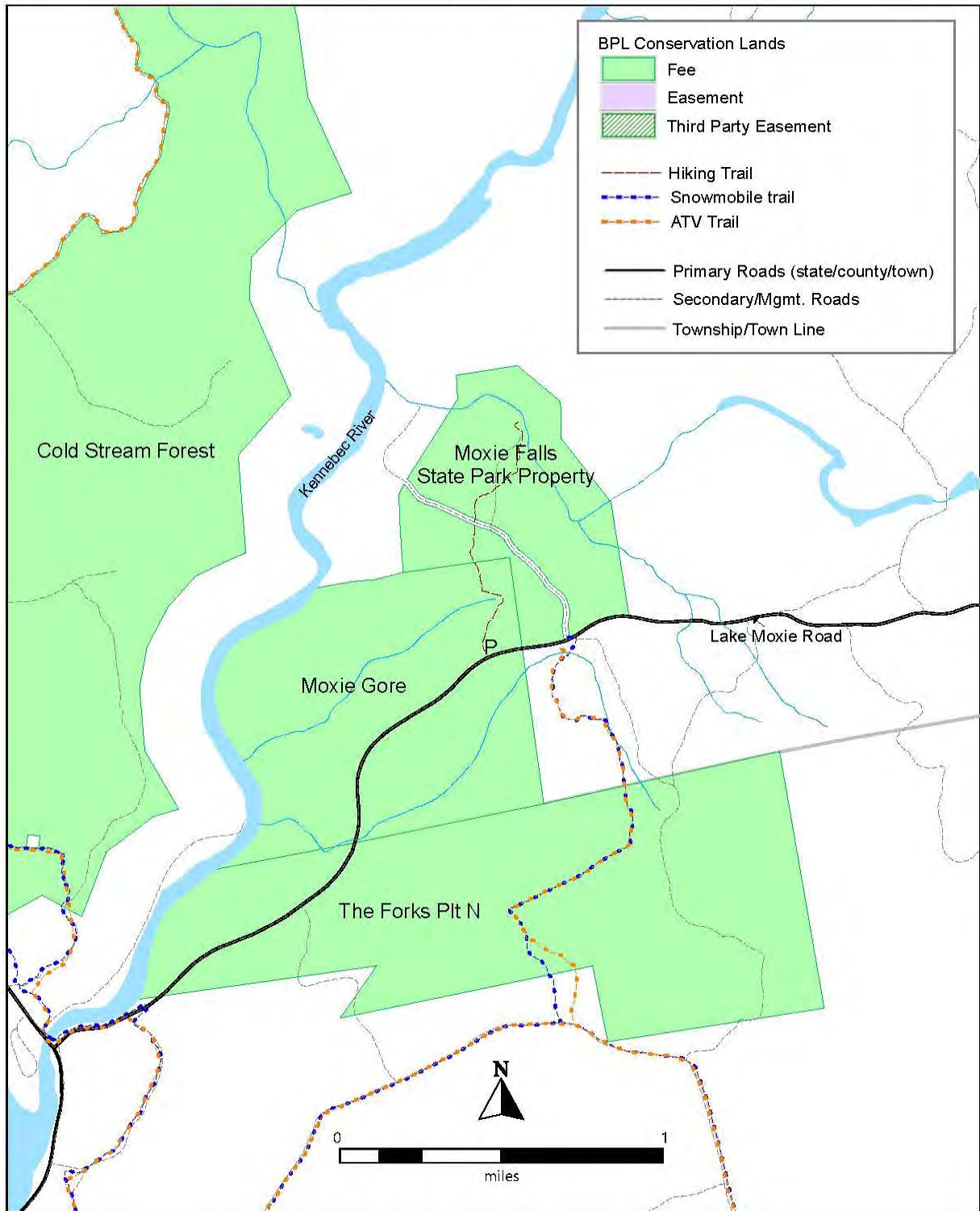
MNAP has identified two rare plants on the Moxie Gore parcel: showy lady slipper (*Cypripedium reginae*), a terrestrial orchid associated with Northern White Cedar swamps, and purple virgin's bower (*Clematis occidentalis*) a vine that occupies rocky slopes along the river. Both of these plants occur in areas where no timber harvesting occurs.

Timber Resources and Harvest History. About 100 feet of Bureau land on each side of Lake Moxie Road on both lots is unregulated due to visual concern, as is about 25 acres on the west edge of The Forks North Lot, where the land drops sharply toward the Kennebec. Timber management of the Moxie Gore Lot is complicated by presence of the Moxie Falls trail. Also, the northerly aspect of land north of the Lake Moxie Road means all harvests there must pull uphill. On the Moxie Gore lot, the Bureau does not own the timber rights on a 1000 ft.-wide strip along the river.

Bureau harvests took place on the Moxie Gore Lot in 1996, and in 2006 in conjunction with harvesting on the abutting lot. This latter entry was not completed in 2006, and was finished in 2009. Those harvests totaled 1,154 cords, 85% in low value products. The lot has mainly well drained and fertile soils capable of growing quality timber. Two-thirds of the forest is hardwood type and one third mixedwood. Current stocking is about 27 cords per acre, with red and sugar maple splitting half the volume almost evenly, fir with 21%, spruce 11%, beech 8% and yellow birch 6%. Except for the fir, which is mostly mature, and the heavily diseased beech, quality is generally good.

Other than the steep ground along the Kennebec, the North Lot is characterized by readily operable terrain. The lot has been harvested twice in the past 30+ years. The earlier entry was 1989-91, with a total volume of 7,225 cords. In 2006 another 2,459 cords were cut. These harvests targeted mature softwoods and low quality hardwoods, and had to account for significant winter use by deer despite the lack of good winter cover. Feeding of deer at nearby locations has resulted in maintaining the winter use here, with some negative effects on hardwood regeneration. The second harvest was mainly in the western half of the lot, and was in part intended to favor softwoods for future cover value. The north lot currently holds about 22 cords per acre. Species mix is spruce 26%, sugar maple 18%, red maple and yellow birch each 14%, fir 9%, beech 5%, and pine/paper birch 3% each.

Moxie Gore & The Forks Plantation North Lot Roads and Recreation Facilities



MAP FIGURE 16.

The Forks Plantation South and Caratunk North Lots

The 344-acre The Forks Plt. South Lot and the 510-acre Caratunk North Lot (abutting the Forks Plt. South Lot on the south) are original public reservations just outside the small community of Caratunk. Access to the Caratunk Lot is from Pleasant Pond Road, a paved town road which runs along the south margin of the lot. The only management road, extending from Pleasant Pond Road across both lots, was blocked after the last harvest, thus there is no public vehicular access to the interior of the lots.

The rolling terrain on the lots slope steeply down to Holly Brook on the north and also down to Pleasant Pond Stream on the south, tributaries to the Kennebec River. An 8-acre beaver meadow lies in the northeast part of the Caratunk parcel. A portion of the steep slope above Holly Brook supports a Lowland Spruce-Fir Forest with old spruce and hemlock trees up to 20" in diameter. There are also small patches (<1 acre) of Northern White Cedar Seepage Forest on this steep slope, with trees up to 24" in diameter, and scattered black ash.

About one mile of the Appalachian Trail crosses The Forks Plt. South Lot. A parking area and trailhead is about 1.5 miles to the west on Rt. 201, on federal property. There are no other recreation facilities on the lots. There is a bear bait site on the Caratunk North Lot. The Caratunk North lot comprises the visual backdrop for travelers on the Pleasant Pond Road.

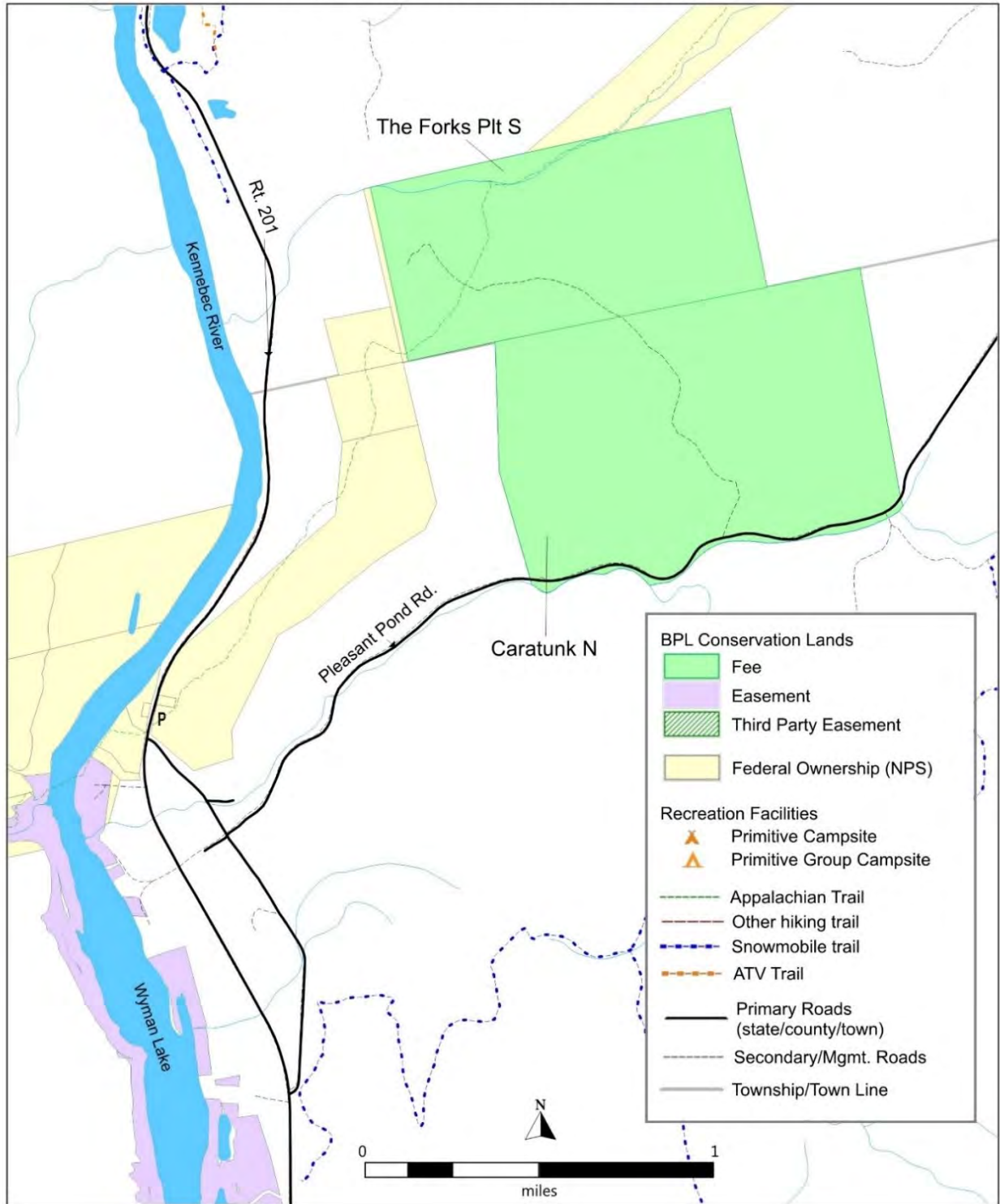
Timber Resources and Harvest History. Nearly all the 860 acres on these parcels is regulated forest. The two-lot regulated forest is 62% hardwood types, 30% mixedwood, and only 8% softwood.

The Forks South lot has been harvested once in the past 30+ years, in 1997-99; this was mainly an improvement harvest in mixedwood and hardwood types. The lot currently holds over 30 cords per acre. Species mix is red maple 23%, sugar maple 16%, spruce 15%, hemlock 13%, beech 12%, aspen 6%, fir 4%, and yellow birch 3%. Access to the northwest half of the lot across the AT is via a preexisting winter road, which was used for past harvests and will used again.

The Caratunk North lot is about half hardwoods, half softwoods, and probably holds soils of lesser average fertility that on the other two lots in the town, where site quality is generally high. There have been two separate entries for the lot. The initial entries occurred 1987-90 and yielded 1,231 cords, about 60% softwoods. Subsequent entries to the lot in 2010-11 produced 3,473 cords, with 65% hardwoods as improved markets allowed for harvest of more low value products. Overall quality of most species is good.

During the most recent harvest, the entry road off Pleasant Pond Road was relocated farther from a nearby stream and its slope cut down a bit. The lot currently holds about 18 cords per acre, with spruce, fir, and red maple representing 20% each. White pine, sugar maple, and aspen are each 7-8%, with the remainder mainly birches and beech.

The Forks Plt. South & Caratunk North Lots Roads and Recreation Facilities



MAP FIGURE 17.

Bald Mountain (Moxie Bald) Lot

The 1,650-acre Bald Mountain Lot is at the eastern edge of the Plan area, about 15 miles east of Caratunk and Rt. 201, with considerable shore frontage on Bald Mountain Pond. The core of the lot is an original public reservation; the unit nearly doubled in size in 1991 with the acquisition from S.D. Warren of 780 adjoining acres, including the nearly mile-long peninsula extending into the pond. As one of the few lots in the region not on or near the Rt. 201 corridor, access to the lot is from the north and east, via private haul roads connecting to Route 6/15. The primary management road enters the lot from the north and branches across the unit. Access was blocked after the last harvest, thus there is no public vehicular access to the interior of the lot.

About two miles of the Appalachian Trail crosses the lot; another mile of the trail is in close proximity to the public lot. A lean-to along the trail is on the shore of Bald Mountain Pond, on National Park Service property. There are no other recreation facilities on the lot. Except for the trail, most recreational use is dispersed hunting. There are two bear bait sites on the lot.

An exemplary “Rock Outcrop Ecosystem” has been mapped by MNAP on east slopes of Moxie Bald Mountain that comprise the western part of the lot, extending onto the adjoining NPS lands.

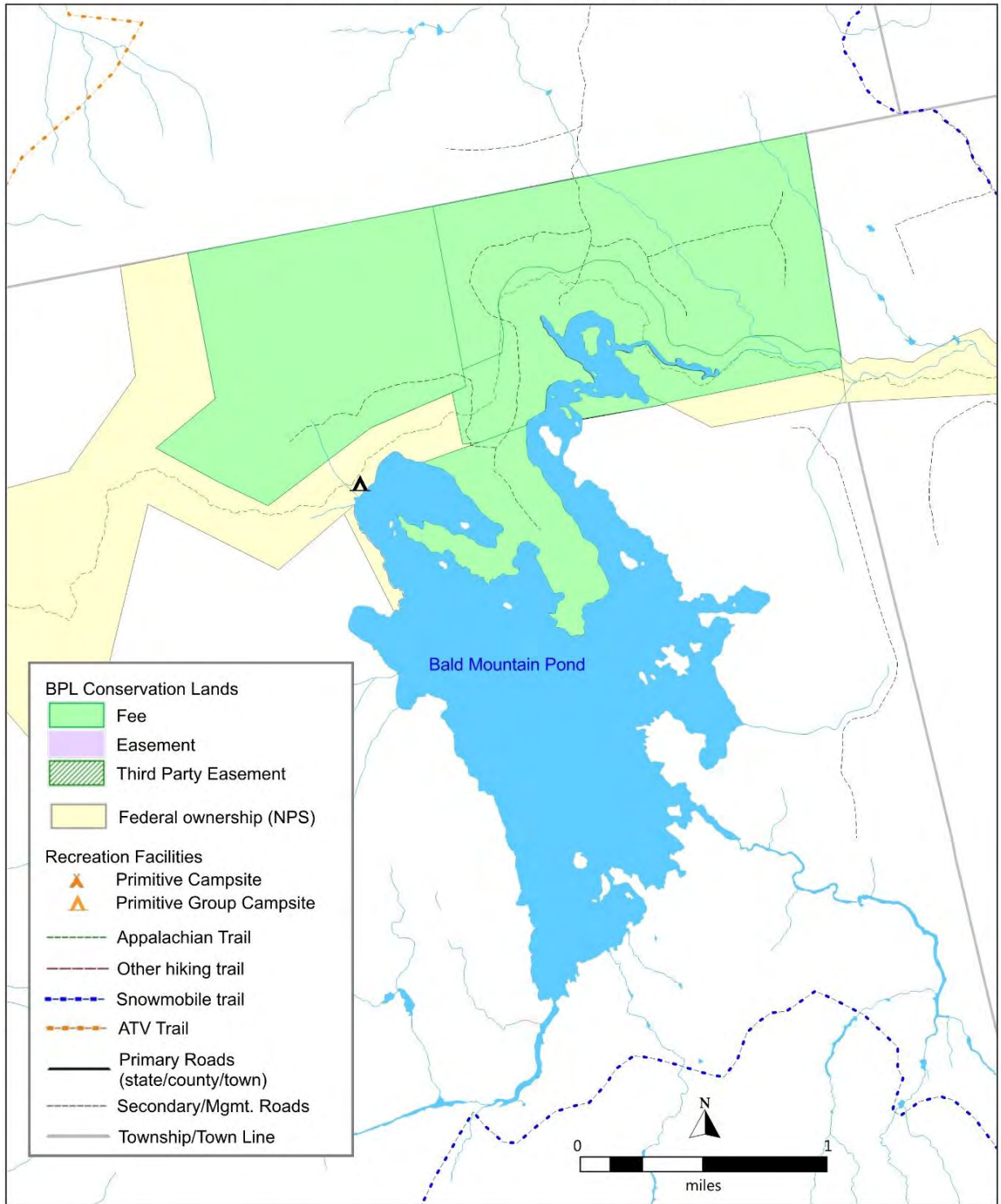
Bald Mountain Pond (1,152 acres) is considered a waterbody of statewide significance, with “outstanding” resource ratings for fisheries, wildlife, scenic value and shore character. The primary fisheries are brook trout and arctic charr (a State species of special concern). A gravel launch ramp is located at the south end of the pond, off the public lot.

Timber Resources and Harvest History. The Bald Mountain Lot contains 1,477 forested acres and 1,343 acres of regulated forest. Two thirds of the nonforest acres lie on the ledge open east slopes of Moxie Bald Mountain, most of the rest being bogs and summer roads on the original public lot. This lot mixes a good quality and high value timber resource with diverse wildlife habitat.

The lot has some challenging terrain within the forested acres on the east and south slopes of Moxie Bald, and on the peninsula. About 300 forested acres lie south of the AT, thus can only be accessed by the existing approved trail crossings; the terrain makes another crossing necessary to access the western 335 acres of regulated forest. Future timber harvests will use the three established crossings of the AT.

The more recently acquired acres had apparently not been harvested in thirty years or more, though the stands are not especially old. The Bureau conducted a major harvest on the original public lot during the early 1980s, covering most forest acres north of the AT, and though record of the harvest volume is not available, a reasonable guess is 6,000-8,000 cords. Much of this was spruce and fir damaged by budworm. The private landowner then holding timber and grass rights did some heavy harvesting in the early 1970s, such that 70-80 acres were considered for possible precommercial thinning in 1985, though none was conducted. In 2004-05, the Bureau conducted a harvest on both the original and recently acquired lots, covering about two thirds of the regulated acres and producing 8,100 cords, about 57% spruce and fir.

Bald Mountain Lot Roads and Recreation Facilities



MAP FIGURE 18.

At present the estimated stocking is 24-26 cords per acre, with spruce by far the most abundant, 47% of volume. Next is red maple with 11%, beech and sugar maple with 7% each, fir and yellow birch 6% each, white pine and paper birch 5% each. Most forested acres are reasonably fertile; some sugar maples harvested in 2004 (in an alternate patchcut scheme designed to retain the healthiest beech) had reached 20" at the stump in 75 years. This tract also has a significant amount of red oak on the south-facing lower slopes of the mountain, and even some black cherry. Those species plus beech, and the extensive lowbush blueberries interspersed with open ledge on the mountainside, make for abundant and diverse hard/soft mast for wildlife. For the most part, spruce, pine, and the maples and birches are of good to excellent quality, with other species more variable.

Caratunk South and East Lots

The 558-acre Caratunk South Lot and the 544-acre Caratunk East Lot are original public reservations about five miles apart, one on the south and the other on the east town line. Access to the South Lot is via a gravel road off Rt. 201, about 0.4 miles to the south. The East Lot is more remote, accessed via several miles of abutters roads connecting to Route 16 to the south. The management roads on the lots were blocked after the last harvest, thus there is no public vehicular access to the interior of the lots. There are three bear bait sites on the lots.

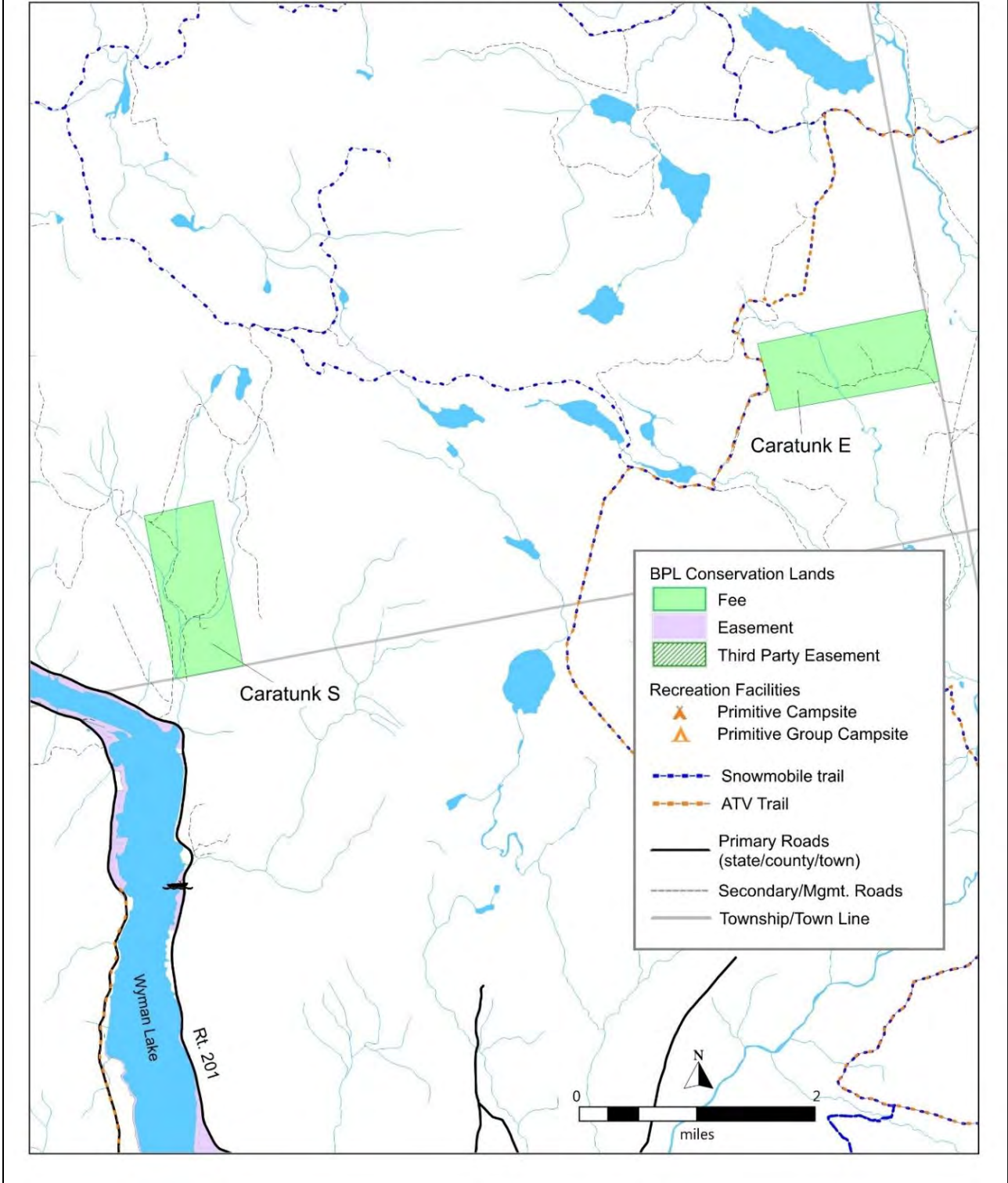
The East Lot is crossed by slow-moving Little Heald Brook; a series of small beaver meadows occur along the brook. Carney Brook, designated by MDIF&W as a wild brook trout stream, runs the length of the South Lot, with a branch across the southerly portion of the parcel. Stands on the steep ravine sloping down to Carney Brook support old hemlock and show little evidence of past harvest; many trees approach 24" in diameter. An ecologically interesting feature is a small "high gradient floodplain forest" along Carney Brook, supporting sugar maple, white ash, black cherry, and rich woods herbaceous species.

Timber Resources and Harvest History. About 950 of the 1,100 acres on these parcels is regulated forest. The terrain is mainly rolling, but the east lot has the gentlest terrain of the two. Site quality is generally high on these lots. Harvests have totaled just over 16,156 cords since 1985, with one entry for the South lot and two entries for the East lot.

The initial entries to the East Lot occurred 1987-89 and yielded 6,833 cords, about 60% softwoods. Subsequent entries to the lot in 2013 produced 5,123 cords, with 65% hardwoods as improved markets allowed for harvest of more low value products. The forest is about half hardwood type, one-quarter each mixedwood and softwood, with tract volume about 26 cords per acre. Sugar maple is the top species with 27% of volume, spruce and red maple about 20% each, yellow birch and beech at 10% each, then fir, ash, and cedar with most of the rest.

The South lot was operated in 1991-92, with 4,200 cords harvested, 63% hardwoods from this mostly hardwood-types parcel. The harvest was selection/improvement in hardwoods and much of the mixedwood types, but included heavy removals of mature (and very tall) fir on the old field sites north of a long-abandoned farm near the east boundary of the lot. Overall quality of most species is good, with the common issues with diseased beech, low quality cedar, and relatively low quality of hardwoods growing on wetter sites.

Caratunk South and East Lots Roads and Recreation Facilities



MAP FIGURE 19.

As the South lot hasn't been treated in over twenty years, it has the highest volume, over 30 cords per acre. This volume is 73% hardwoods, not surprising as 75% of regulated acres are hardwood types and the rest mixedwood. Current species mix is 23% beech, 20% sugar maple, 13% for both spruce and red maple, 8% each for fir and paper birch, and 4-6% for hemlock, yellow birch, and aspen. Harvesting here is complicated by the ravines, and by Carney Brook, a substantial watercourse that enters Wyman Lake only a few hundred yards south of the lot. There is a two-acre field south of the where the farmhouse had been located, with some apple trees on/near its edges, and occasional maintenance has been done here to retain this ecotype, not abundant on the public lands.

Highland Plantation East and Pleasant Ridge Lots

These two original public lots, 210 acres and 173 acres, respectively, are about 2 miles apart. These are the only Plan tracts west of the Kennebec/Dead River system. Both are accessed through Pleasant Ridge Township.

Highland East is one of five public lots on Highland Plantation, the other four all accessed from the Long Falls Dam Road and covered in the Flagstaff Plan. This lot abuts the Pleasant Ridge town line and includes a low knoll in its center but no restrictive slopes.

Pleasant Ridge is a heavily forested tract with management complicated by the significant watercourse that runs down the middle of the lot along its long axis. The northeasterly 15 acres was unregulated in the 1990 prescription because it slopes steeply toward the brook.

The management roads on the lots were blocked after the last harvest, thus there is no public vehicular access to the interior of the lots.

Timber Resources and Harvest History.

Highland Plantation East Lot. This lot is all regulated forest, except for the four acres under the powerline which runs diagonally through its southwest corner. Just over half of the lot is in hardwood types, one-third in mixedwood, and 15% in the softwood stand on the lot's northeast corner. Forty percent of the lot is sapling hardwoods, the result of clearcuts made during the period 1985-89.

These clearcuts included an experimental pre-harvest hack-and-squirt herbicide project designed to limit sprouting of beech. Apparently, only the 12-acre clearcut on the southeast corner was left untreated as control. The regeneration there is heavy to beech and sprout-clump red maple, while on the other three clearcuts the saplings are mainly sugar maple and yellow birch, plus red spruce on the southernmost of the three. The extended harvest period was due to the variable market for biomass, and that harvest also conducted selection harvests on the one mature hardwood stand and the softwood stand. This latter suffered considerable post-harvest windthrow, probably exacerbated by the limbs-on summer yarding. Total volume for 1985-89 was over 4,700 cords, nearly 80% hardwood biomass and pulpwood.

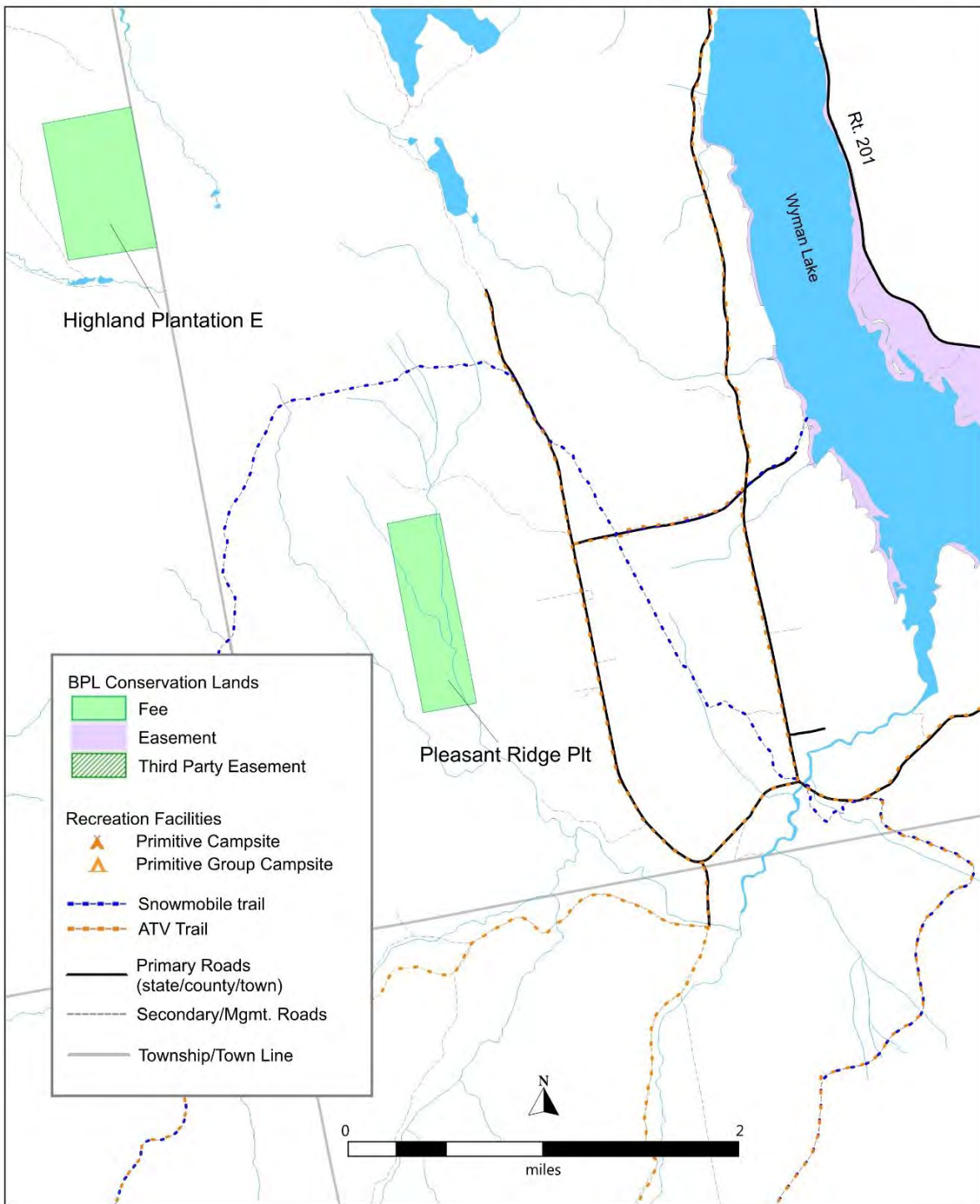
A second entry was made in 1997, to salvage windthrow from the softwood stand and make a selection harvest in the 80 acres of mixedwood on the lot's southwest portion, a stand not treated during the 1980s. This harvest produced 1,100 cords, about 70% softwoods.

Current tract volume is about 18 cords per acre, but without the sapling hardwood acres which have yet to reach merchantable size, the average is just over 30 cords per acre. Spruce and sugar maple are both almost 20% of volume, hemlock and beech at 15%, paper birch and yellow birch 8-10% each, plus cedar and red maple.

Pleasant Ridge Lot. The major issue at the time of the Pleasant Ridge 1990 prescription was the large amount of mature/high risk fir, and probably about half the 2,000 cords cut in 1991-92 was fir. That harvest removed about twelve cords per acre but left perhaps 22 cords per acre residual. Good stocking of the more vigorous trees plus fertile soils over the 23 years since the prescription has allowed the stocking to regain about the same volume as was harvested.

Current species mix shows spruce and hemlock splitting just over half the volume, red maple and fir at 10-12% each, and sugar maple, yellow birch, and beech sharing another 20%. Quality is good on most species, including perhaps the nicest hemlock in the Plan area. However, a significant beaver flowage has created a five-acre opening along the brook in the south part, so the regulated acres are now closer to 165. A second entry was done on frozen ground early in 2015. This harvest yielded 1,150 cords, about 30% in spruce-fir products and almost all the rest in low value hardwood products

Highland Plantation East and Pleasant Ridge Plt. Lots Roads and Recreation Facilities



MAP FIGURE 20.

Resource Allocations for the Smaller Lots

The following “allocations” define general management objectives and direction for specific areas within each public lot. The Dominant Resource Allocation maps (Map Figures 21-31) on pages 99-109 depict these allocations; secondary allocations are not shown on the maps. See Appendix C for a description of the designation criteria and management direction for the various allocation categories.

Dennistown Plantation Lot

Timber Management is the dominant allocation for most of the Dennistown Lot, excepting the riparian buffers associated with the streams and small wetlands, which are allocated to *Wildlife Management*, and the Rt. 201 corridor and Heald Pond Road, which are allocated to *Developed Recreation Class 1*. Remote Recreation is a secondary use on the entire lot outside the highway corridor; Wildlife Management is a secondary use on the timber management acres. *Visual Consideration Class 1* will apply as a secondary allocation in areas along Rt. 201; *Visual Consideration Class 2* will apply as a secondary allocation on the high ground at the northwest corner of the lot.

Moose River North and South Lots

Timber Management is the dominant allocation for most of the Moose River Lots, excepting the riparian buffer associated with the stream crossing the South Lot, which is allocated to *Wildlife Management*, and the management road/snowmobile trail on the North Lot, which is allocated to *Developed Recreation Class 1*. Remote Recreation is a secondary use on the entire lot; Wildlife Management is a secondary use on the timber management acres. *Visual Consideration Class 1* will apply as a secondary allocation on the North Lot along Rt. 201; *Visual Consideration Class 2* will apply as a secondary allocation on the west margin of the South Lot, along the golf course.

Bradstreet Township South Lot

Timber Management is the dominant allocation for most of the Bradstreet Twp. South Lot, excepting the riparian buffers associated with the ponds, which are allocated to *Wildlife Management* and the Spencer Road, which is allocated to *Developed Recreation Class 1*. Remote Recreation is a secondary use on the entire lot; Wildlife Management is a secondary use on the timber management acres. *Visual Consideration Class 1* will apply as a secondary allocation along the old road/path to the pond; *Visual Consideration Class 2* will apply as a secondary allocation on a small area north of Moore Pond.

Upper Enchanted Township Lot

Most of the Upper Enchanted/Coburn Mountain Lot is allocated to *Backcountry Motorized Recreation*. A *Special Protection – Natural Area* allocation is applied on the primary ridgeline across the lot as well as a portion of the south shoulder of the mountain, both exemplary natural communities delineated by MNAP. The old road/snowmobile trail and the open area at the peak of the mountain are allocated to *Developed Recreation Class 1*. Wildlife Management is a secondary use on the backcountry acres. *Visual Consideration Class 2* will apply as a secondary allocation on the area allocated to Backcountry Motorized Recreation.

Johnson Mountain and West Forks Plantation Northeast Lots

Timber Management is the dominant allocation for most of the Johnson Mountain and West Forks Northeast Lots, excepting the riparian buffer associated with the streams and ponds on the lots, which are allocated to *Wildlife Management*, and the management roads providing vehicle access into the lots, which are allocated to *Developed Recreation Class 1*. Remote Recreation is a secondary use on the entire lots; Wildlife Management is a secondary use on the timber management acres.

West Forks Plantation Northwest, Central and Southwest Lots

Timber Management is the dominant allocation for most of the three West Forks Lots, excepting the riparian buffers associated with the streams on the Central and Southwest lots, which are allocated to *Wildlife Management*, and the Rt. 201 corridor within the Central lot, which is allocated to *Developed Recreation Class 1*. Remote Recreation is a secondary use on the entire lots outside the highway corridor; Wildlife Management is a secondary use on the timber management acres. *Visual Consideration Class 1* will apply as a secondary allocation on the Central lot along Rt. 201.

Moxie Gore and The Forks Plantation North Lots

Timber Management is the dominant allocation for most of the Moxie Gore and The Forks North Lots. The 300 foot riparian buffers associated with the Kennebec River and the 75 foot buffers along the streams crossing the Moxie Gore Lot are allocated to *Wildlife Management*, as is additional steep ground alongside the Kennebec River buffer zone. A 250-foot *Remote Recreation* buffer is designated on each side of the Moxie Falls Trail. The parking area and trailhead is allocated to *Developed Recreation Class 1* as is the Lake Moxie Road corridor. Remote Recreation is a secondary use on the entire lot outside the trail corridor and parking area; Wildlife Management is a secondary use on the timber management acres. *Visual Consideration Class 1* will apply as a secondary allocation along Lake Moxie Road.

The Forks Plantation South and Caratunk North Lots

Timber Management is the dominant allocation for most of The Forks Plt. and Caratunk North Lots. A 100-foot no-cut *Special Protection* buffer is designated on each side of the AT, along with a 400-foot *Remote Recreation* buffer outside that core area. The riparian buffers associated with the stream crossing The Forks Lot, outside the trail buffer, and the stream at the south margin of the Caratunk Lot are allocated to *Wildlife Management*. The Pleasant Pond Road corridor is allocated to *Developed Recreation Class 1*. Remote Recreation and Wildlife Management are secondary uses on the timber management acres. *Visual Consideration Class 1* will apply as a secondary allocation along Pleasant Pond Road.

Bald Mountain/Moxie Bald Lot

Timber Management is the dominant allocation for most of the Bald Mountain Lot. A 100-foot no-cut *Special Protection* buffer is designated on each side of the AT, along with a 400-foot *Remote Recreation* buffer outside that core area. The exemplary natural community on the high ground of Moxie Bald Mountain is allocated to *Special Protection*. The riparian buffers associated with the Bald Mountain Pond shoreline and the streams crossing the east side of the lot, outside the trail buffer, are allocated to *Wildlife Management*. Remote Recreation and Wildlife Management are secondary uses on the timber management acres. *Visual*

Consideration Class 2 will apply as a secondary allocation on the high ground at the northwest corner of the lot, outside the Special Protection area.

Caratunk South and East Lots

Timber Management is the dominant allocation for most of the Caratunk South and East Lots. The riparian buffers associated with the streams crossing the lots are allocated to Wildlife Management. Remote Recreation is a secondary use on the entire lots; Wildlife Management is a secondary use on the timber management acres.

Highland Plantation East and Pleasant Ridge Lots

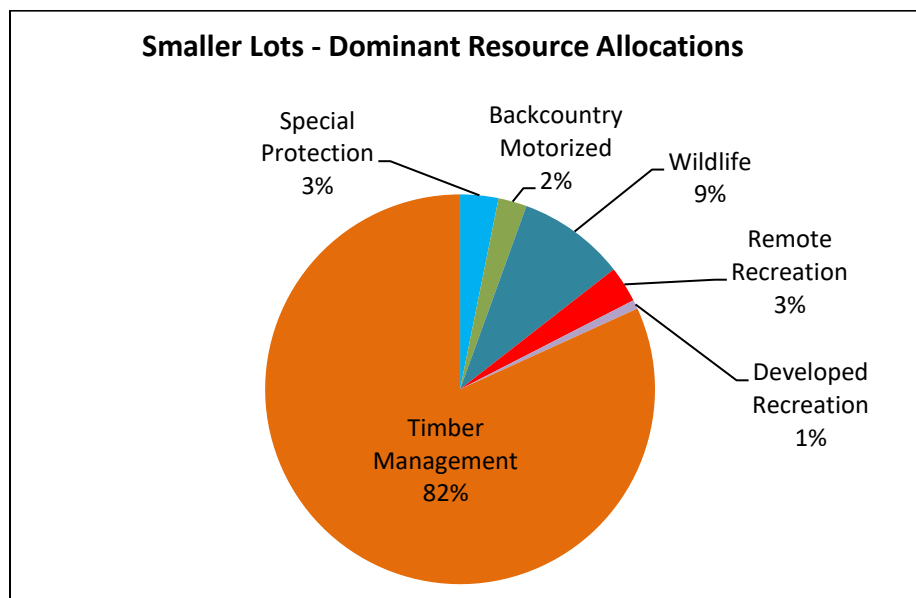
Timber Management is the dominant allocation for all of the Highland Plantation Lot and most of the Pleasant Ridge Lot, excepting the riparian buffers associated with the streams crossing the lot, which are allocated to Wildlife Management. Remote Recreation is a secondary use on the entire lots; Wildlife Management is a secondary use on the timber management acres.

Summary of Resource Allocations on the Smaller Public Lots

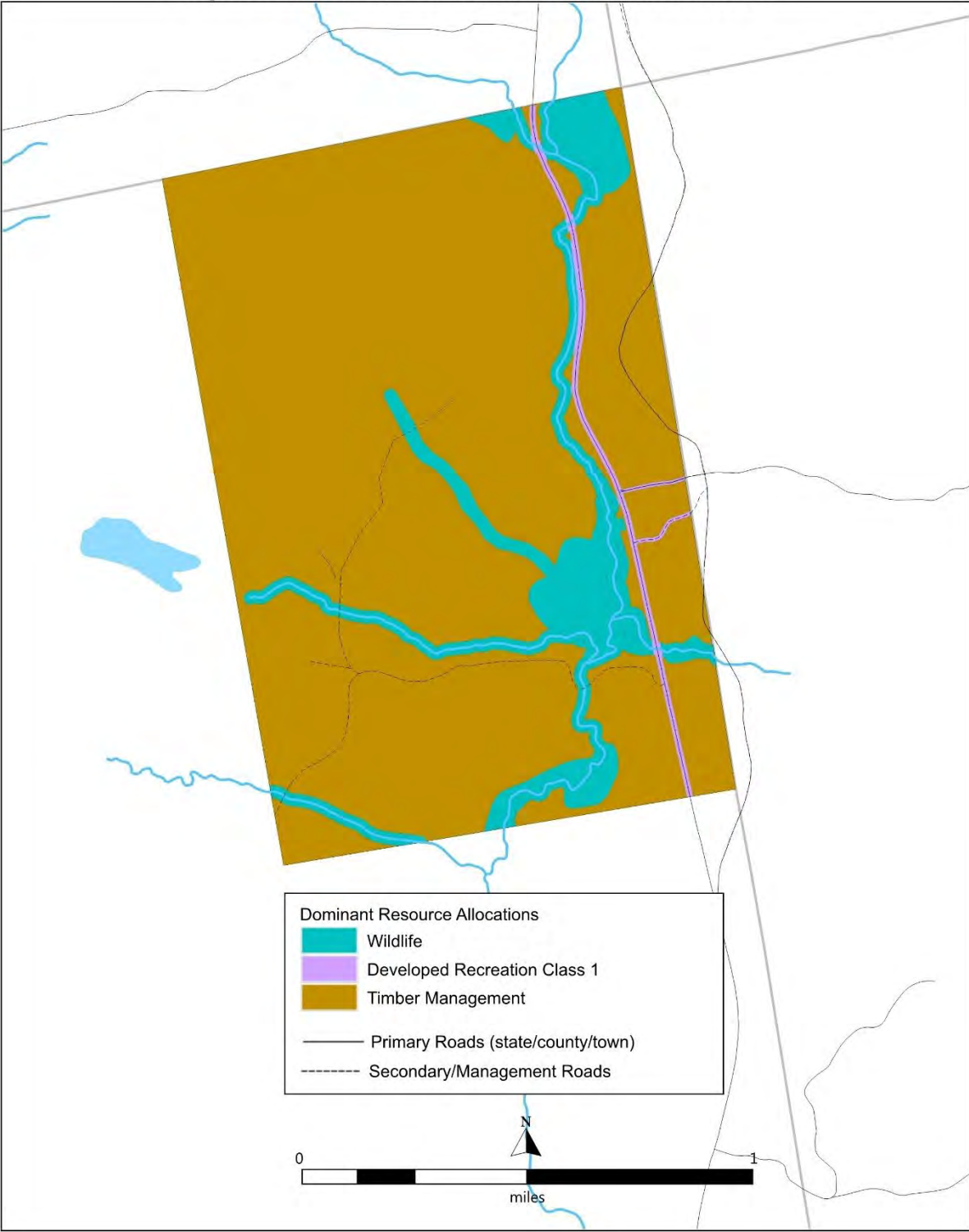
Allocation	Number of Acres			%
	Dominant	Secondary	Total	
Special Protection	275	Not applicable	275	3.2
Backcountry Motorized	205	0	205	2.4
Wildlife Management	770	Not applicable	0	8.9
Remote Recreation	260	0	260	3.0
Visual Consideration – Class I	0	105*	815	9.4
Visual Consideration – Class II	0	560*	560	6.4
Developed Recreation – Class I	70	Not applicable	70	<1.0
Timber Management	7,100	1,030	8,130	93.7

* Preliminary estimate, to be refined in the field as part of forest prescription process.

Note: Acreages are representations based on GIS metrics rounded to the nearest 5 acres, and do not sum to the total Unit acreage due to measuring error and limits of GIS precision.

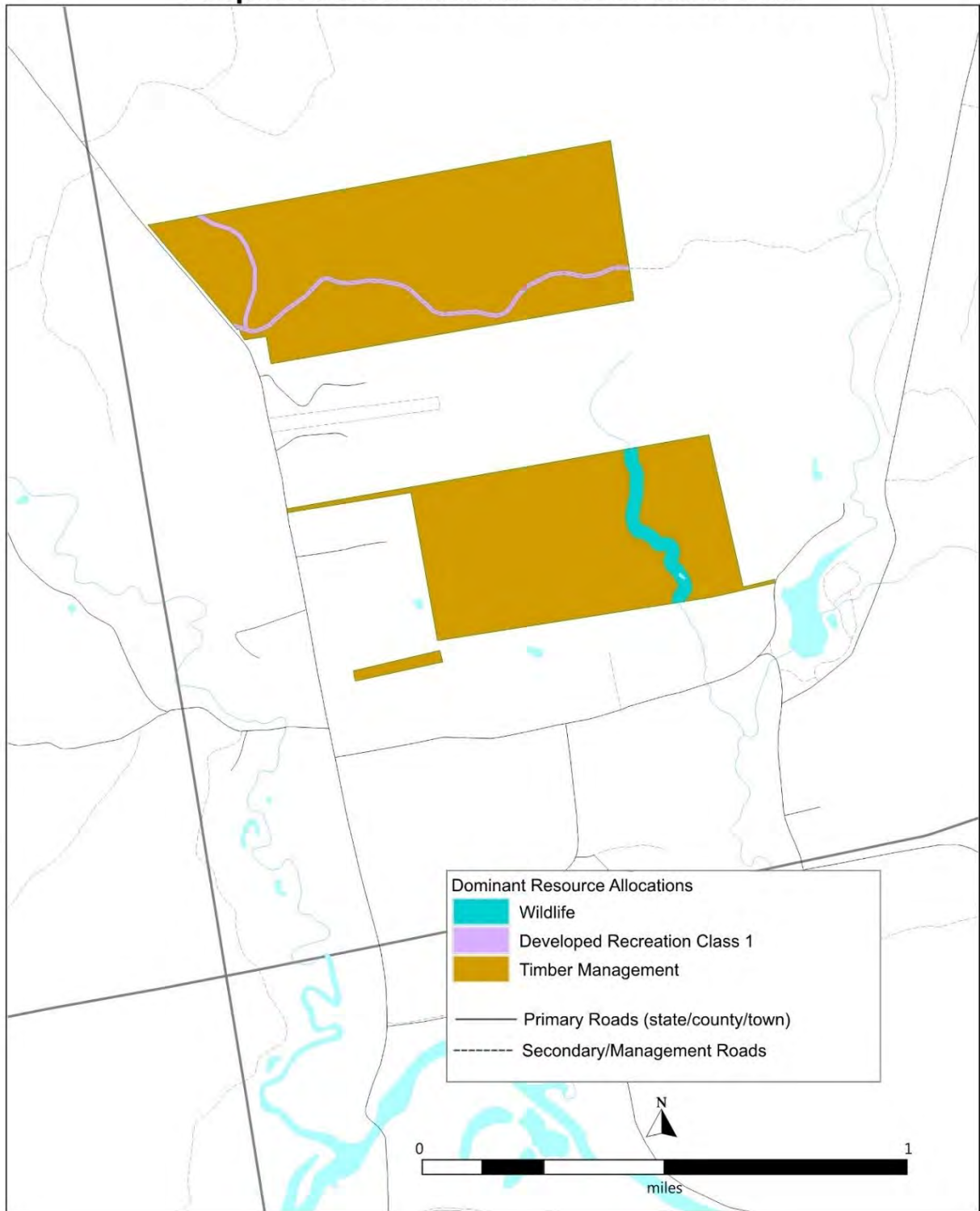


Dennistown Plantation Lot Proposed Dominant Resource Allocations



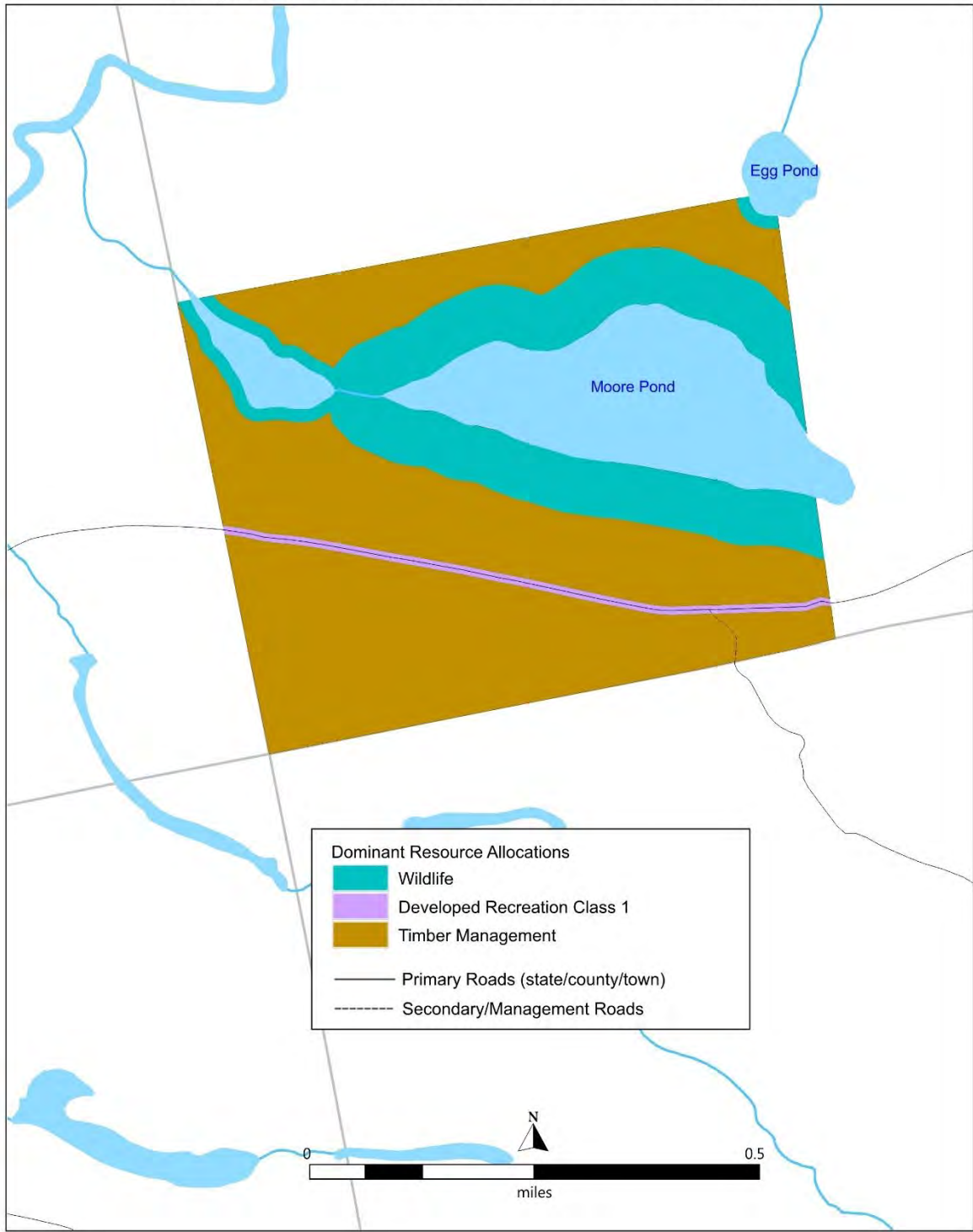
MAP FIGURE 21.

Moose River North and South Lots Proposed Dominant Resource Allocations



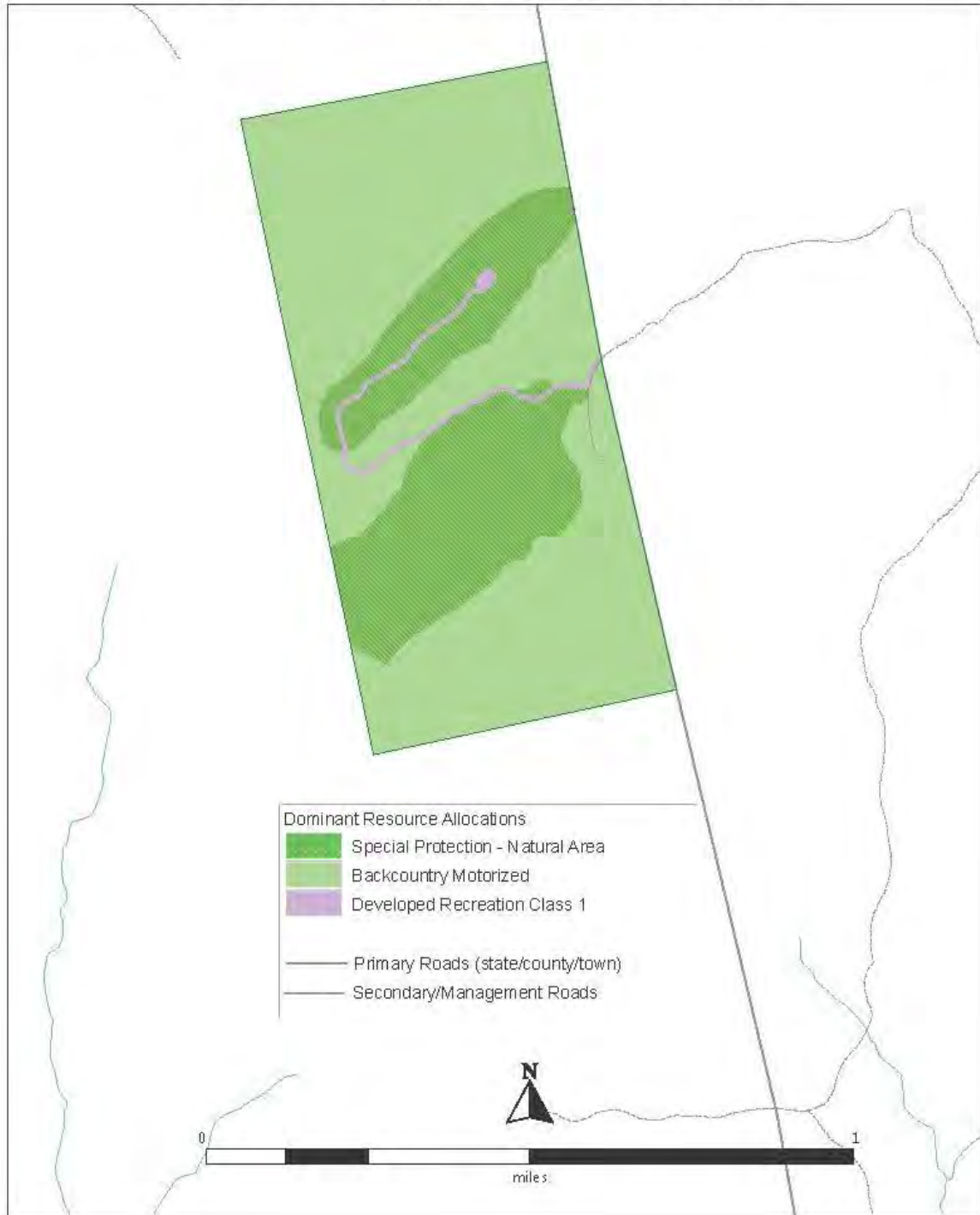
MAP FIGURE 22.

Bradstreet Twp. South Lot Proposed Dominant Resource Allocations



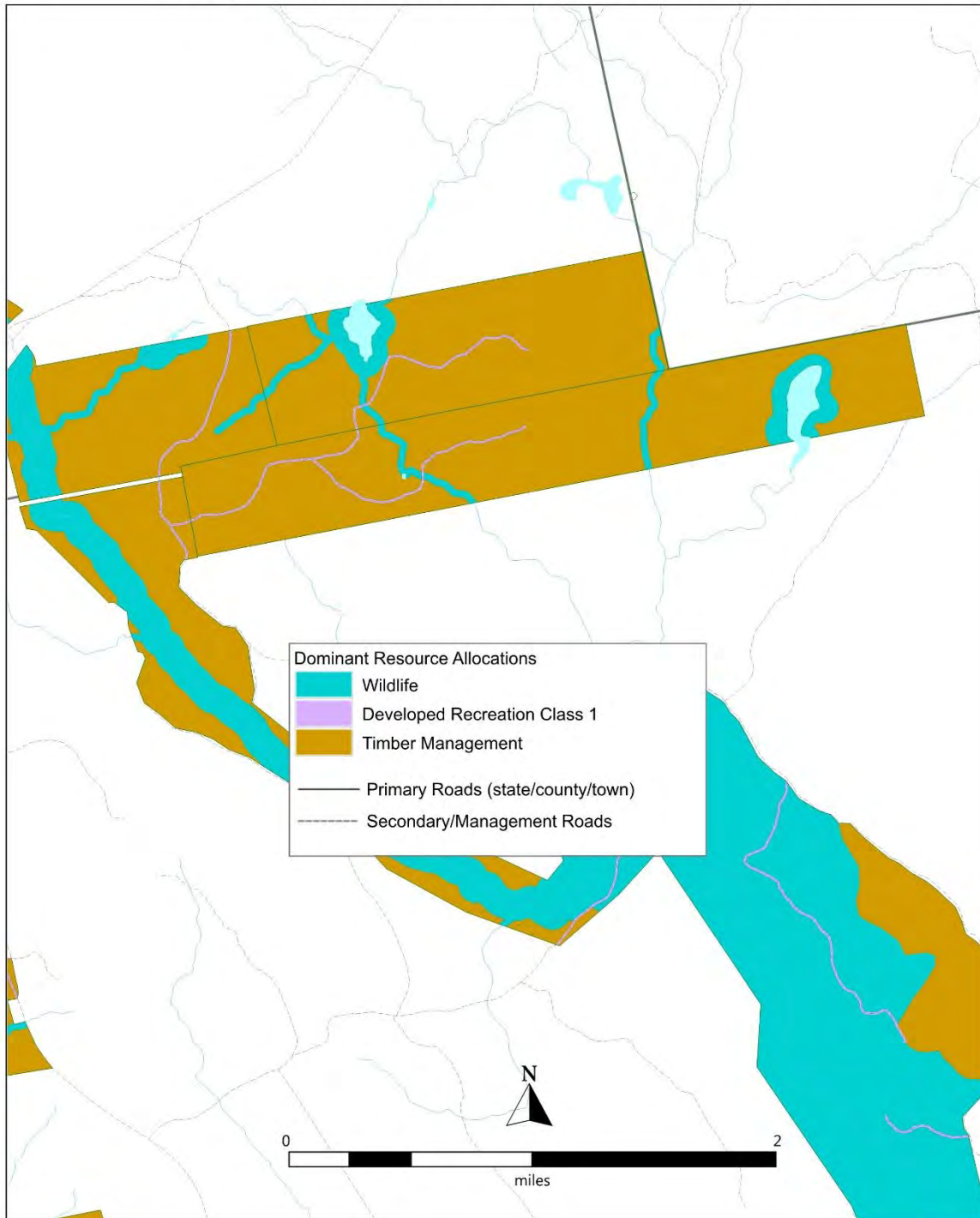
MAP FIGURE 23.

**Upper Enchanted Twp. /Coburn Mtn. Lot
Proposed Dominant Resource Allocations**



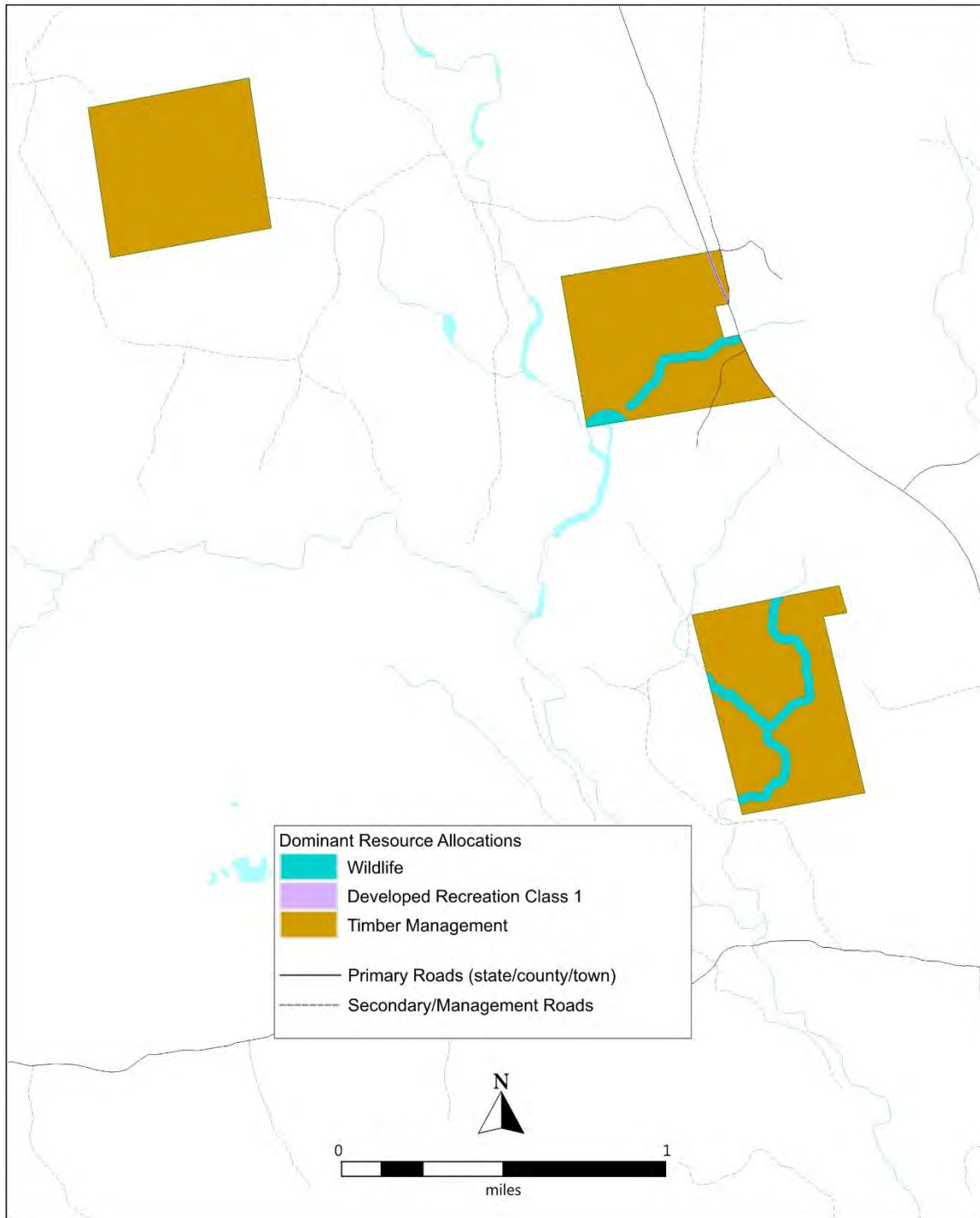
MAP FIGURE 24.

Johnson Mtn. & West Forks Plt. Northeast Lots Proposed Dominant Resource Allocations



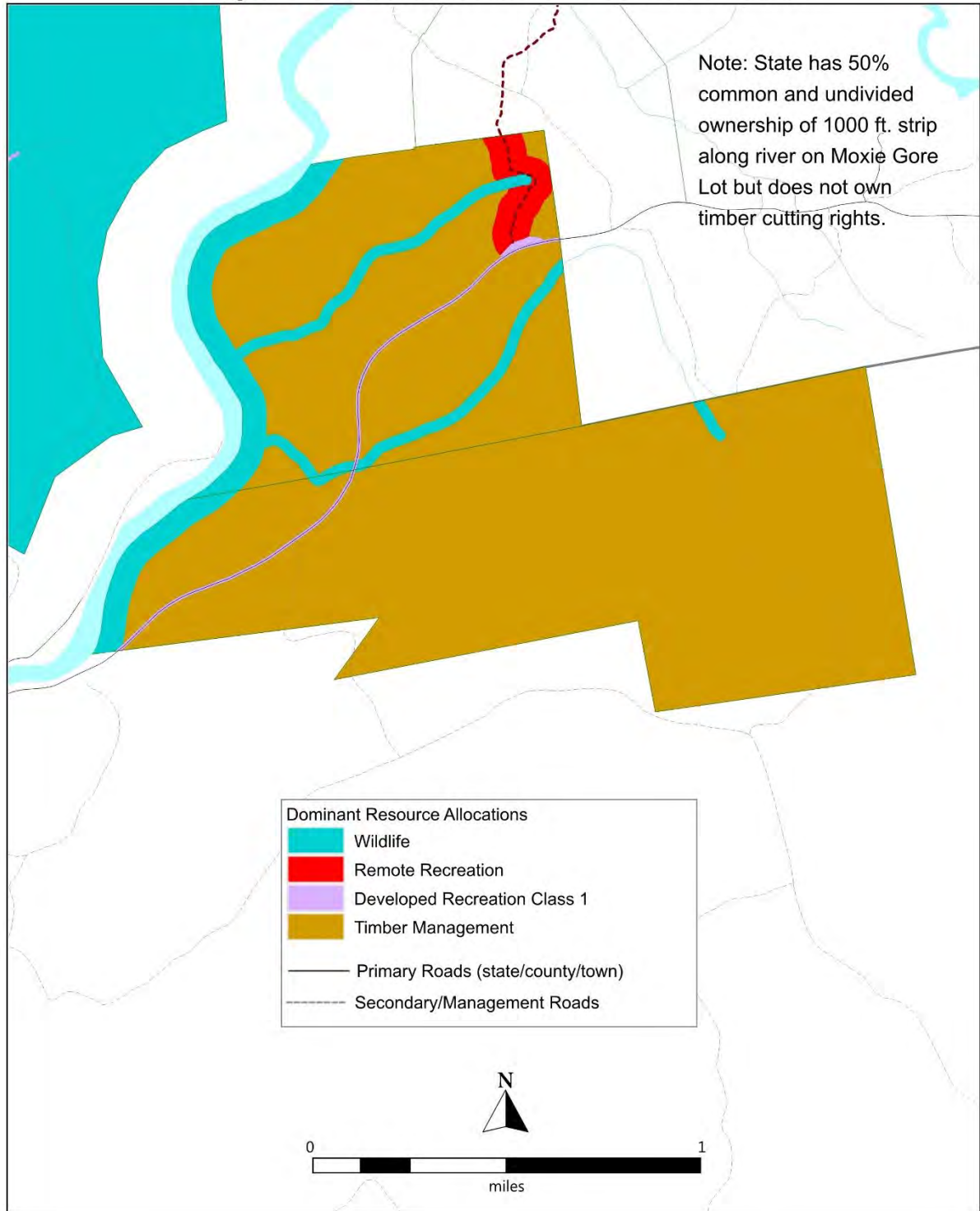
MAP FIGURE 25.

West Forks Plt. Northwest, Central & Southwest Lots Proposed Dominant Resource Allocations



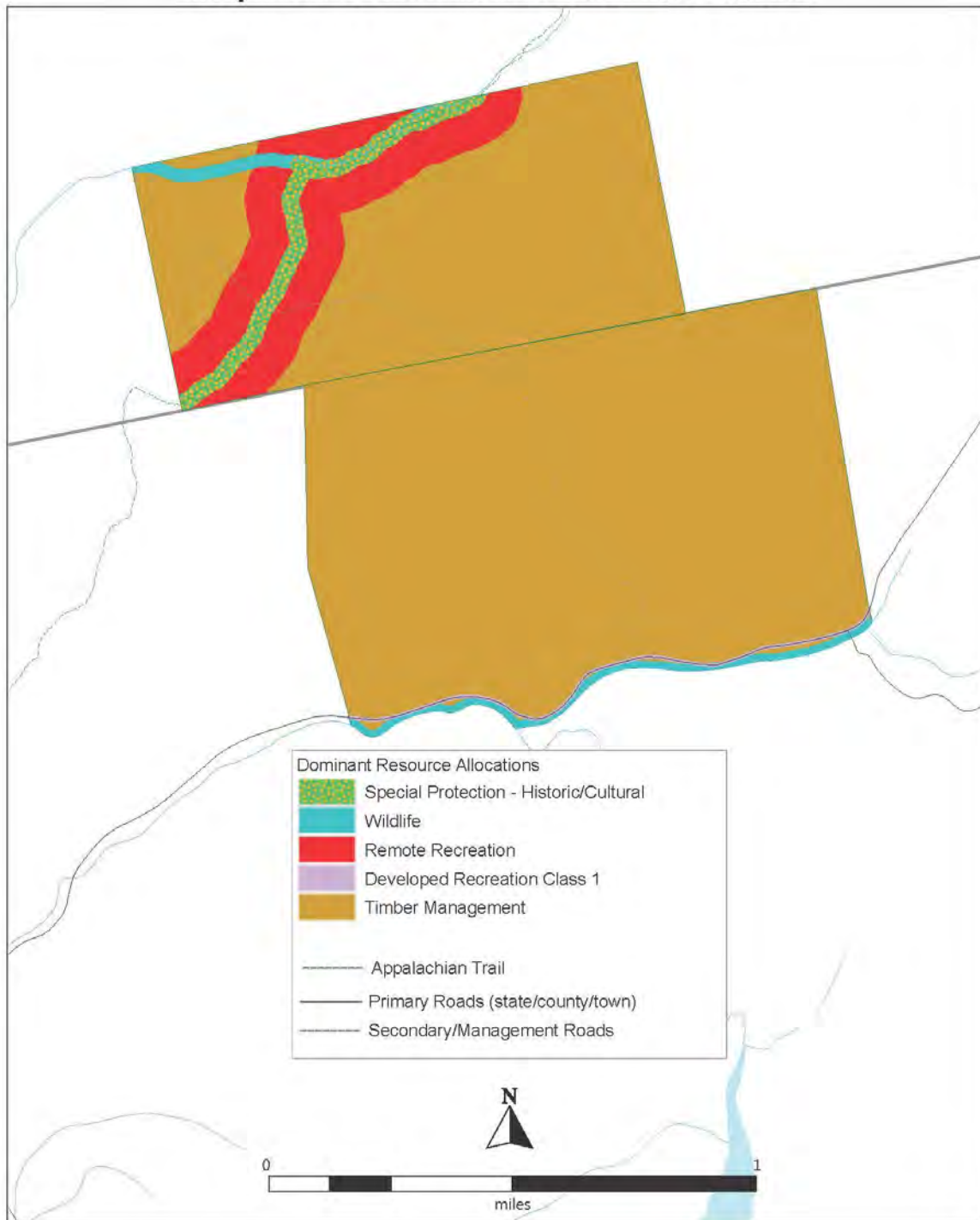
MAP FIGURE 26.

Moxie Gore & The Forks Plt. North Lots Proposed Dominant Resource Allocations



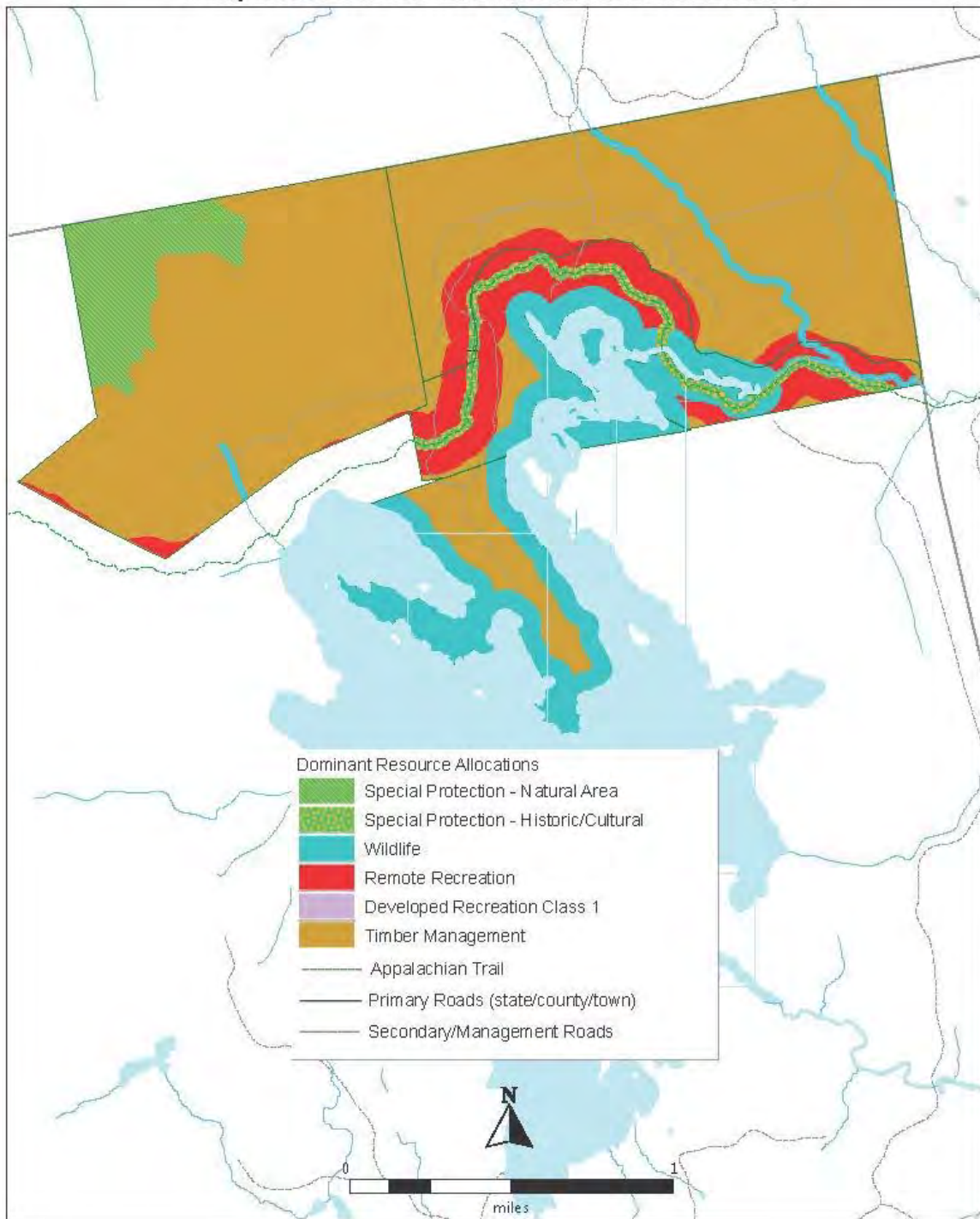
MAP FIGURE 27.

The Forks Plt. South & Caratunk North Lots Proposed Dominant Resource Allocations



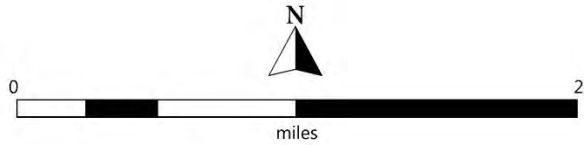
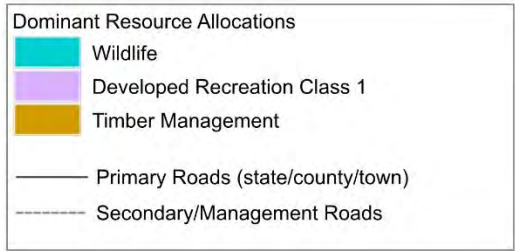
MAP FIGURE 28.

Bald Mountain Lot Proposed Dominant Resource Allocations



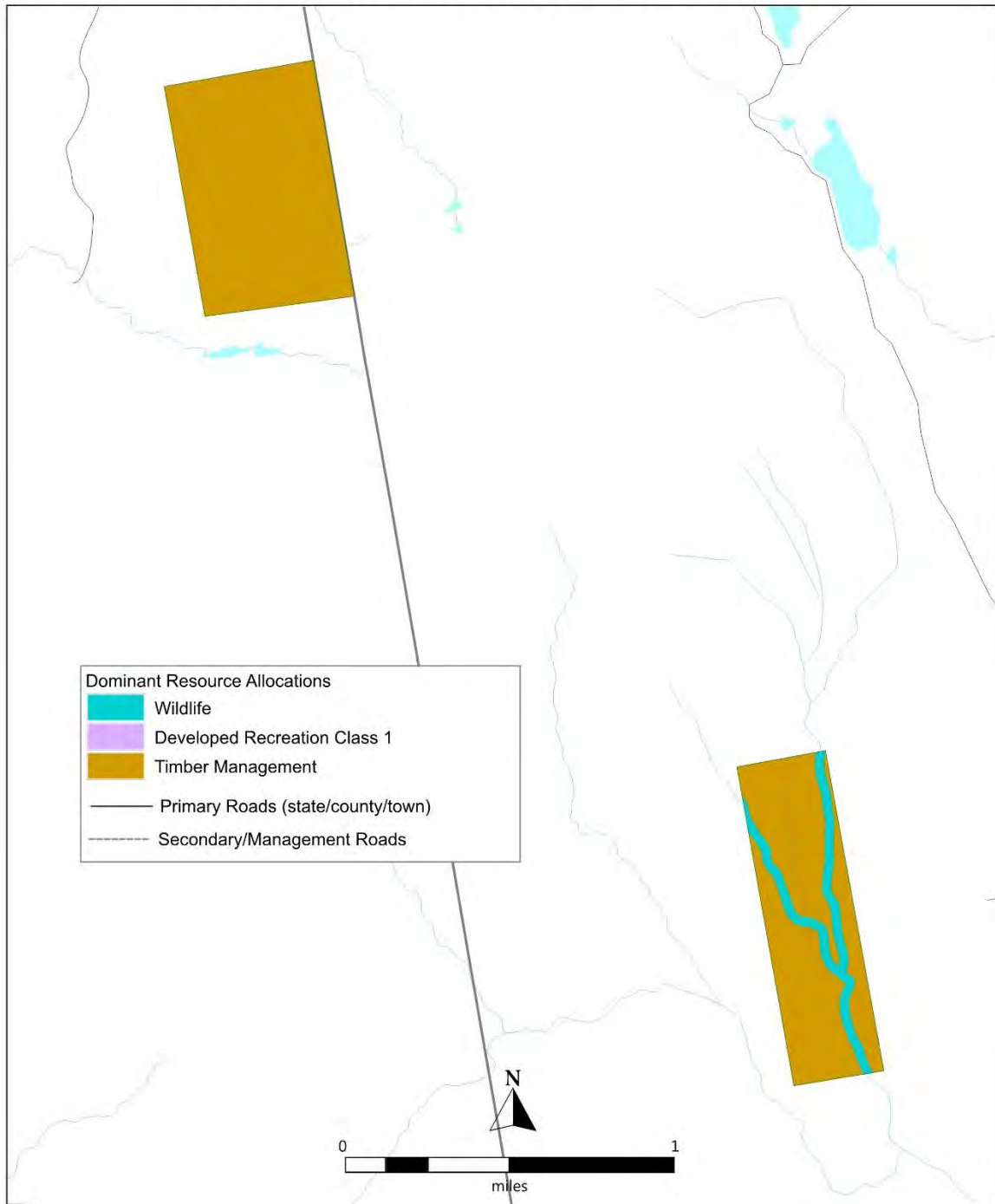
MAP FIGURE 29.

Caratunk South and East Lots Proposed Dominant Resource Allocations



MAP FIGURE 30.

Highland Plt. East & Pleasant Ridge Lots Proposed Dominant Resource Allocations



MAP FIGURE 31.

Management Recommendations for the Smaller Lots

The Bureau will manage the smaller lots – apart from the Upper Enchanted/Coburn Mountain Lot – primarily for production of forest products while also providing primarily informal and dispersed outdoor recreation opportunities, wildlife habitat, and natural area protection. The Upper Enchanted/Coburn Mountain Lot, due to the constraints on timber management imposed by elevation and lack of access, will be managed primarily for wildlife habitat and the motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities associated with the old road/snowmobile route to the summit and the viewing platform at the summit.

Dennistown Plantation Lot

- Timber management should continue to favor the better-quality stems, especially of spruce, sugar maple, and yellow birch.
- There is some area of visual concern along the highway, though the views into the interior are limited. This concern will be taken into account in planning harvests near the roadway.
- The Heald Pond Road and telephone cable easements should be revisited and renewed, as appropriate, with the current operator of the camps on Heald Pond.

Moose River North and South Lots

- Timber management here will need to establish/renew access while taking consideration of many years of use of the snowmobile route. Harvesting should target low quality trees of all species, looking to reduce the proportion of red maple while favoring spruce and yellow birch, and sugar maple on the better drainage areas.
- The snowmobile trail crossing the North Lot will continue as an important link in the regional trail network, connecting Jackman with the Moosehead and Seboomook Lake area and with Quebec.
- The Bureau will determine to what extent the golf course may be encroaching on the South Lot and, if the suspected encroachment is confirmed, will work with the town of Moose River to resolve the issue.

Bradstreet Township South Lot

- Future timber management should focus on increasing the pine component where feasible and encouraging good growth on spruce. The next prescription will need to include updated recommendations for jack pine. MNAP will be consulted regarding management of the jack pine resource on the lot.

Upper Enchanted Township Lot

- The informal foot trail to the summit should be evaluated for rerouting or improvement to Bureau standards, to the extent practical.
- The snowmobile trail to the summit will continue as an important destination tied to the regional trail network.
- To determine the potential for timber management on the lot, the Bureau should evaluate whether the portion with apparently operable terrain is too expensive to reach, due to steeper slopes lower on the mountain, or whether it could be economically harvested.

Johnson Mountain and West Forks Plantation Northeast Lots

- Management on this fine timber tract should continue to improve overall quality, maintaining the high spruce and sugar maple components and favoring pine where it occurs.
- Public access to the management road system will not be increased to maintain the existing walk-in native brook trout fishing opportunity at the ponds.

West Forks Plantation Northwest, Central and Southwest Lots

- Much of the fir on these lots is mature and should be targeted during the next harvest entries, and the aspen and paper birch are also mature.
- The Bureau should work to secure future access to the West Forks SW Lot from Rt. 201 with the new owner of the parcel to the east of the lot.

Moxie Gore and The Forks Plantation North Lots

- Timber management on these lots should continue to increase overall quality of the more valuable species, while favoring softwoods.
- Lands will continue to coordinate with Parks on the management of the Moxie Falls trailhead and trail.
- The snowmobile and ATV trail crossing the North Lot will continue as an important link to the regional trail networks, connecting The Forks with areas to the north, south, and east.
- Although it is expected that the rare plants identified by MNAP on the north lot will be protected by their cliff and cedar swamp locations, where harvesting does not occur, MNAP will be consulted on any management activity with the potential to impact these resources.

The Forks Plantation South and Caratunk North Lots

- Timber management on these lots should continue to increase overall quality of the more valuable species, while favoring softwoods.
- The small acreage means that most harvests would best be done in at the same time on the two lots.
- A 100-foot no-harvest buffer will be applied to each side of the AT, along with a 400-foot remote recreation buffer beyond that where timber harvesting is conducted to maintain an undisturbed appearance.

Bald Mountain Lot

- Timber management on this lot should continue to favor vigorous well-formed trees of all species present while respecting the visual concerns and the AT.

Caratunk South and East Lots

- Timber management on these lots should continue to increase overall quality of the more valuable species, while favoring softwoods.
- Mowing or other methods will continue to be attempted on the old field to maintain this valuable habitat, if access challenges permit.

Highland Plantation East and Pleasant Ridge Lots

- Timber management on the Highland Plantation Lot here should continue to favor well-formed and long-lived species. The sapling hardwood acres won't be ready for thinning until well beyond the planning period, while the mature mixedwood and hardwood stands should be re-entered on or before 2020.
- The Pleasant Ridge parcel is mostly surrounded by land heavily cut within the past ten to thirty years; although it is too small to serve as a stand-alone deer wintering area, its good softwood cover should be maintained for landscape/habitat diversity.

V. Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation are needed to track progress in achieving the management visions, goals and objectives for the Units, and effectiveness of particular approaches to resource management. Monitoring and evaluation will be conducted on wildlife, ecological, timber, and recreational management efforts in the Upper Kennebec Region.

Implementation of Plan Recommendations

The Bureau's Western Region is responsible for implementing, accomplishing, and tracking the management recommendations put forth in the Plan. This generally includes determination of work priorities and budgets on an annual basis. The Bureau will document, on an annual basis, its progress in implementing the recommendations, its plans for the coming year, and adjustments to the timing of specific actions or projects as needed.

Recreation

Data on recreational use is helpful in allocating staff and monetary resources for management of the Public Reserved Lands, and generally determining the public's response to the opportunities being provided. It also provides a measure of the effectiveness of any efforts to publicize these opportunities. Use data for the Upper Kennebec Region, except for use of the Appalachian Trail and some past monitoring of paddlers on the Moose River Bow Trip, does not exist. Fees are not charged for the use of these lands, so this avenue for use data, available to the Bureau's Parks system, does not exist for the Upper Kennebec properties. The Bureau will consider how additional use data could be gathered, perhaps by periodic user surveys or counts.

In addition to gathering data on use as opportunities arise, the Bureau will generally monitor use to determine:

- (1) whether improvements to existing facilities or additional facilities might be needed and compatible with general objectives;
- (2) whether additional measures are needed to ensure that recreational users have a high quality experience (which could be affected by the numbers of users, and interactions among users with conflicting interests);
- (3) whether use is adversely affecting sensitive natural resources or the ecology of the area;
- (4) whether measures are needed to address unforeseen safety issues;
- (5) whether changing recreational uses and demands present the need or opportunity for adjustments to existing facilities and management; and

- (6) whether any changes are needed in the management of recreation in relation to other management objectives, including protection or enhancement of wildlife habitat and forest management.

Wildlife

The Bureau, through its Wildlife Biologist and Technician, routinely conduct a variety of species monitoring activities statewide. The following are monitoring activities that are ongoing or anticipated for the Upper Kennebec Region:

- (1) The Bureau will cooperate with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in the monitoring of game species, including deer, moose, and black bear;
- (2) The Bureau will identify and map significant wildlife habitat such as vernal pools and den trees in the process of developing its detailed forest management prescriptions. The boundaries of any sensitive natural communities will also be delineated on the ground at this time. Any significant natural areas or wildlife habitat will then be subject to appropriate protections.

Timber Management

Local work plans, called prescriptions, are prepared by professional foresters in accordance with Bureau policies specified in its *Integrated Resource Policy*, with input from other staff. These documents are then peer-reviewed prior to approval. Preparation and layout of all timber sales involve field staff looking at every acre to be treated. Trees to be harvested are generally hand marked on a majority of these acres. Regional field staff provides regular on-site supervision of harvest activities, with senior staff visiting these sites on a less frequent basis. After the harvest is completed, roads, trails, and water crossings are discontinued as appropriate, although some management roads may remain open to vehicle travel. Forest managers assess harvest outcomes on all managed lands, including water quality protection and Best Management Practices (BMP's) utilized during harvest activities. Changes in stand type resulting from the harvest are then recorded so that the Bureau's GIS system can be updated.

Third party monitoring is done mainly through the forest certification programs of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). Each program conducts rigorous investigations of both our planning and on-ground practices. The Bureau's forest management program successfully underwent full recertification audits in December of 2011 and December of 2016, and will host annual surveillance audits until the next full audit in 2021.