

Bigelow Preserve Management Plan

Bureau of Parks and Lands



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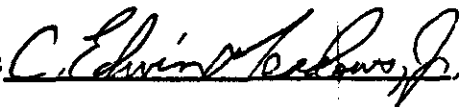


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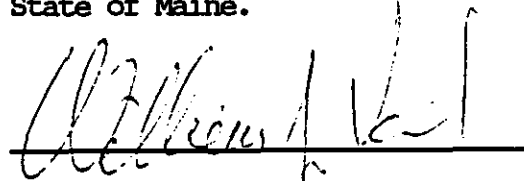
FOREWORD AND PLAN ADOPTION

We wish to acknowledge the helpful participation of many Maine citizens in the development of this Plan for the management of the Bigelow Preserve. Through the assistance of the Bigelow Preserve Advisory Committee (listed in Appendix D) and through the comments received in response to the draft plan, many constructive suggestions have been incorporated into this final Plan. We thank those people for their interest and we appreciate the importance of their contributions. We believe this Plan will protect and preserve the character and features that make the Bigelow Preserve such a special place and important resource for all the people of the State of Maine.

APPROVED:



C. Edwin Meadows, Jr.
Commissioner
Department of Conservation



William J. Vail
Commissioner
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DATE:

August 17, 1989

DATE:

August 22, 1989

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
INTRODUCTION	2
OVERVIEW	3
MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE	6
MANAGEMENT PHILOSOPHY.	8
RESOURCE ALLOCATION.	9
SPECIAL PROTECTION	11
RECREATION	15
WILDLIFE	25
VISUAL RESOURCES	34
TIMBER	38
ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS	46

MAPS AND FIGURES:

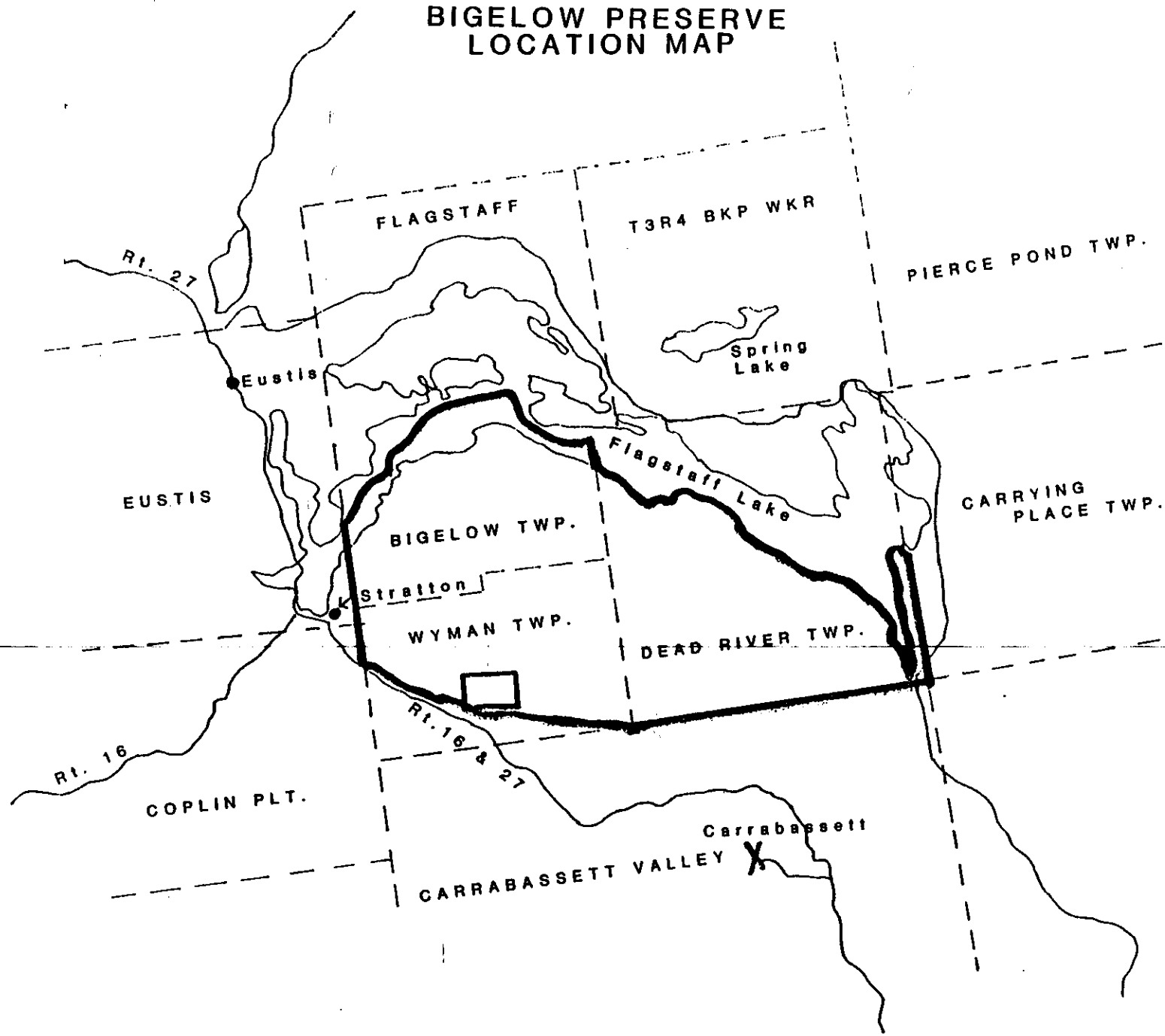
Location-Map #1	1
Special Protection-Map #2	14
Recreation Areas-Map #3	24
Wildlife Areas-Map #4	33
Visual Areas-Map #5	37
Forest Types-Table #1	39
Tree Species-Table #2	44
Timber Management-Map #6.	45
Transportation and Access-Map #7.	47
Roads-Date of Enactment-Map #8.	48

APPENDICES

A. Bigelow-Plant and Animal Species.	57
B. Definitions	62
C. References.	66
C. Advisory Committee Members.	67

BIGELOW PRESERVE LOCATION MAP

MAP #1



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INTRODUCTION

This document is the multiple-use management plan for the public ownership in the 35,027 acre Bigelow Preserve. It is consistent with the Act passed by public referendum in 1976 establishing the Bigelow Preserve. It is also designed to meet the requirements for multiple-use management plans set forth in 12 M.R.S.A. §585, and is consistent with the Integrated Resource Policies adopted December 1985 by the Bureau of Public Lands.

This plan replaces any previous plans either adopted or drafted concerning the Bigelow Preserve. Specifically, the Bigelow Preserve Policy Issues/Guidelines adopted in 1981 and the Bigelow Preserve Forest Management Plan adopted in 1982 are replaced by this document. However, most of the elements contained in those documents are incorporated into this plan.

The purpose of this ten year plan is twofold. First and foremost, it is a commitment to the people of Maine that the land they own will be managed well and in accordance with the law. In this plan the Bureau also pledges that significant changes will be made only after providing opportunity for further public participation. It is important to note that this plan is more comprehensive and the guidelines for this parcel more stringent than any other tract managed by the Bureau of Public Lands. This is due to the special nature of the Preserve and to the Act that established the Preserve.

Second, this plan provides clear goals and direction for the Bureau of Public Lands to follow in fulfilling its responsibilities. This plan does not specifically identify every management activity that will take place in the Preserve over the next 10 years. Instead, it provides direction to the Preserve managers while allowing flexibility as to how the goals will be accomplished. For example, the plan indicates the general location of where

campsites will be built. However, the details of the exact location, size, design, and when the campsites will be built will be made after on-site evaluation and inter-disciplinary review.

The document also addresses the internal management structure of the Preserve. In the past, there has been a very complicated series of layers involving the Bureau of Public Lands, the Bureau of Parks and Recreation, the Bureau of Forestry, and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. This often lead to confusion among the different agencies. The section on Management Structure on page 6 outlines how many of these layers will be removed in order to make management more efficient for the agencies involved and to facilitate specific actions on the parcel.

OVERVIEW

The Bigelow Preserve Unit, comprised of 35,027 acres, is located in Bigelow, Wyman, and Dead River Townships in Franklin and Somerset Counties. Part of the Greater Carrabassett Valley area, this region of the State is rapidly developing into a major 4 season recreation area. The Preserve is an area of extraordinary scenic beauty, offering rugged mountains, backcountry forests, and several small ponds. The Bigelow Mountain range contains 17 miles of Appalachian Trail (AT) which runs through the center of the Unit. In addition, there are many miles of feeder trails to the AT located on the Unit. The Bigelow Range with its seven peaks, two high-altitude ponds, and unusual alpine vegetation is one of the most unique mountain areas in the Northeast.

Most of the Preserve is covered by a healthy and productive forest, which at lower elevations (under 2,200 feet), grows excellent quality timber at average and above average rates for Western Maine. Because of the topography

of the Preserve, distinct zones of vegetation exist with increasing altitude. The forest at lower elevations consist primarily of beech, birch, and maple. From 2000-2700 feet the forest gradually changes to one dominated by spruce, fir, and white birch. Above 2700 feet the trees decrease in size until they become low and shrub-like. Still further above this near the tallest peaks are the treeless summits occupied by alpine grasses and forbs.

Past harvesting activities throughout much of the Preserve have created a relatively diverse environment. However, the forest is dominated by hardwood species. More than 300 plant and tree species, 100 species of birds and 26 species of mammals have been found in the Preserve.

Hiking is an important public use in the Preserve, both by day users and long distance backpackers. Principal attractions in the Preserve include the high mountain areas traversed by the AT and the visual attractiveness of the land as viewed from the ridgeline as well as from lower elevations. Most of the campsites are located along or associated with hiking trails. In addition to hiking and camping, popular recreation activities include hunting and fishing, with increasing use by snowmobilers and cross-country skiers.

Land use activities in the Preserve are governed by the standards of the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC). All sections of this plan are consistent with those standards and in many cases, self-imposed limitations far exceed the requirements of LURC.

Any discussion regarding the Bigelow Preserve must include the Act that established the Preserve. The overriding issue in the Preserve is how to manage for many uses while protecting the character of the area and adhering to the spirit of the Bigelow Act. The following is the entire text of the Act that created the Bigelow Preserve by popular referendum in June, 1976:

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" AN ACT to Establish a Public Preserve in the Bigelow Mountain Area."

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. Bigelow Preserve. The Department of Conservation, including the several bureaus and agencies therein, and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game are hereby authorized and directed to acquire approximately 40,000 acres of land on and around Bigelow Mountain in Franklin and Somerset Counties for a public preserve to be known as the Bigelow Preserve. The Preserve shall include generally all land in Wyman and North One Half township north of Stratton Brook and Stratton Brook Pond, and all land in Dead River township south and east of Flagstaff Lake. All public lots within or contiguous to this area shall be included within the Bigelow Preserve.

Sec. 2. Administration and Acquisition. The Preserve shall be administered by the Departments of Conservation and Inland Fisheries and Game. These Departments shall seek and use funds for the acquisition of the land necessary for the Bigelow Preserve from state bond issues and appropriations, federal funds, and other sources now or hereafter available to them. Acquisition shall be coordinated by the Department of Conservation. Sufficient property rights and interests shall be acquired to accomplish the purposes of this Act.

Sec. 3. Purpose. The purpose of this Act is to set aside land to be retained in its natural state for the use and enjoyment of the public. The Preserve shall be managed for outdoor recreation such as hiking, fishing, and hunting, and for timber harvesting. Timber harvesting within the Preserve shall be carried out in a manner approved by the Bureau of Forestry and consistent with the area's scenic beauty and

natural features. All motor vehicles, not including vehicles engaged in timber harvesting, shall be restricted to roads designed for their use, except that snowmobiles shall also be allowed on designated trails. Designated roads shall be limited to those easily accessible to automobiles as of the effective date of this Act. No buildings, ski lifts, power transmission facilities or other structures shall be built in the Preserve except for open trail shelters, essential service facilities, temporary structures used in timber harvesting, small signs, and other small structures that are in keeping with the undeveloped character of the Preserve."

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Definitions of "natural state", "essential service facilities", and "other small structures in keeping with the undeveloped character of the Preserve" can be found in Appendix B.

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Experience has shown that the original management system for the Preserve established in 1981 is too complex and an impediment to effective management. The old system involved two Departments and five different Bureaus of State Government, each having responsibility for a different aspect of the Preserve Management. In addition, there was a Standing Advisory Committee established to advise the governmental agencies. All this has led to confusion over responsibility, problem solving and leadership.

To rectify this situation, the Bureau of Public Lands will have overall management responsibility for the Preserve. The Bureau is the State's multiple-use management agency with a professional staff of recreation, wildlife, transportation, and forestry specialists. The Bureau of Public Lands will coordinate all activities with the other appropriate State agencies and interest groups.

The Bigelow Act directs the Department of Conservation and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to manage the Preserve. The Bureau of Public Lands, along with the Bureau of Parks and Recreation, the Bureau of Forestry and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, will continue to be involved in the management of the Preserve. For example, the Bureau of Parks and Recreation will be involved in the development of all recreational facilities, although Public Lands will have the final responsibility for decisions and implementation of recreation management in the Preserve as well as for all other aspects of management.

The Bureau of Public Lands, in cooperation with other State agencies, will develop a summary of all major activities that take place each year in the Preserve. In addition an outline of activities planned for the following year will be sent to applicable State agencies and interest groups, including those represented on the Advisory Committee that assisted in the development of this plan. Because activities within the Preserve could have an impact on private lands nearby, the summary will be sent to abutting landowners. Copies of the summary will be available for anyone requesting one, with an opportunity to comment on past or planned activities.

Unless stated otherwise in this plan or in the Bigelow Act, the policy directing management of the Public Reserved Lands of Maine shall be applied to the Bigelow Preserve. That policy is contained in the document titled Integrated Resource Policy, which is available from the Bureau of Public Lands.

MANAGEMENT PHILOSOPHY

The Bigelow Preserve will be managed for a multiple of uses including wildlife, visual quality, recreational use and timber production. However, the overriding management consideration in the Preserve will be to maintain the overall natural character and public uses of the Preserve as they existed in 1976 when the Bigelow Act was passed.

The Bigelow Preserve represents one of many publicly-owned parcels of land in the State. Each unit from Baxter State Park, to Acadia National Park, to Sebago Lake State Park, to Wolf Neck Woods State Park is managed to provide a different type of experience for the visitor. No one parcel of public ownership provides all the recreational needs of Maines' citizens. These lands taken collectively, managed by a number of different public agencies, represent a vast array of public use and enjoyment opportunities.

The type of environment existing in the Preserve is rare in the northeast as well as in the eastern part of this country. The combination of alpine and subalpine vegetation, high mountain ponds, undeveloped landscape and interesting geological features resulted in the Bigelow Range being designated as a National Natural Landmark in 1976. Similar environments elsewhere in the country have often either been significantly altered or are in danger of being altered.

The Bigelow Preserve will not and can not provide all recreational needs or wants to all people. To do so would destroy the character that is so special. The very purpose of establishing the Preserve was to provide a semi-remote environment and to protect some important and fragile habitats from being destroyed. What the Preserve does provide is one very important type of experience in the overall picture of public ownership. This diverse ownership, taken as a whole, does provide "something for everyone".

It is important to remember that the character and recreational experiences in the Preserve can be maintained only if the Preserve is managed essentially as it is today.

RESOURCE ALLOCATION

The Bureau's multiple-use management system is based on the allocation of specific areas for identified uses. To accomplish this the Bureau has established six use zones, or areas of influence listed below. Because of the nature of multiple-use management, these areas may overlap, creating zones where management is designed to accommodate a blend of uses. In such areas, the objectives for each type of use will be defined. In order to avoid conflicts, a dominant use will be identified; this dominant use will take priority over all other uses, which become subordinate uses. Where a use is determined to be subordinate, it will be managed to the greatest extent possible without negatively influencing the dominant use.

The dominant use will be determined according to the level of sensitivity. Where two or more uses are equally appropriate, the use which requires the more careful management will take priority. In these areas of "overlapping" uses, however, particular attention will be paid to properly integrating the management goals. This will require the combined efforts of staff resource specialists, regional personnel, and the advice of outside experts. The following list indicates the priority sequence for establishing dominant use:

- (1) Special Protection. Habitat for rare plants, alpine and subalpine areas, some areas of old growth forests, endangered animal species habitat, Appalachian Trail corridor.

- (2) Visual Zones. Areas visible within the Preserve from recreational-use locations and public access roads (e.g., corridors along public access roads and areas visible from the AT).
- (3) Backcountry. Low intensity-use recreation areas with exceptional natural characteristics. Timber harvesting and related management activities are constrained and use of motorized vehicles by the public is prohibited.
- (4) General Recreation. Vehicle accessible campsites, picnic areas, and areas of more intensive public use.
- (5) Wildlife Management. Wetlands, riparian zones, special habitats.
- (6) Timber. Where no other zone has been applied, as long as it is suitable for timber production under the Bureau's general management standards.

The maps in the following section describe the areas according to wildlife, recreation, and timber zones. No single map exists to show the dominant use. Dominant uses are established and must be understood according to the above priority list.

SPECIAL PROTECTION

- (1) Description of the Resource. Map #2 at the end of this section shows the boundaries of the Special Protection Zones. Special Protection designation is designed to draw attention to unique and/or fragile areas which have a great potential to be damaged by man's activities.

The largest area of special protection is comprised of the alpine and subalpine vegetation and includes all the major mountain peaks along with Horns Pond and Cranberry Pond. The lower limit of this zone is roughly at 2,000-2,400 feet, but in places does reach as low as 1,600 feet.

The high mountain areas comprising this Special Protection Zone represents habitat that is rare in the northeast. The combination of alpine and subalpine vegetation, two high mountain ponds, the Appalachian Trail and interesting geology make this area worthy of extra management care and consideration.

There are eight rare plant species that have been found within the Special Protection Zone; these are:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Alpine Clubmoss | 5. Boreal Bentgrass |
| 2. Bigelow Sedge | 6. Alpine Sweetgrass |
| 3. Highland Rush | 7. Alpine Goldenrod |
| 4. Mountain Sandwort | 8. Boott's Rattlesnake Root |

In addition, the alpine vegetation areas are Maine registered Critical Areas and the Bigelow Mountain Range is designated as a National Natural Landmark. The Stratton Brook Esker which runs north of the Stratton Brook Road is a Maine registered Critical Area. Also, a rare mammal, the yellow-nosed vole inhabits the upper elevations of Bigelow Mountain.

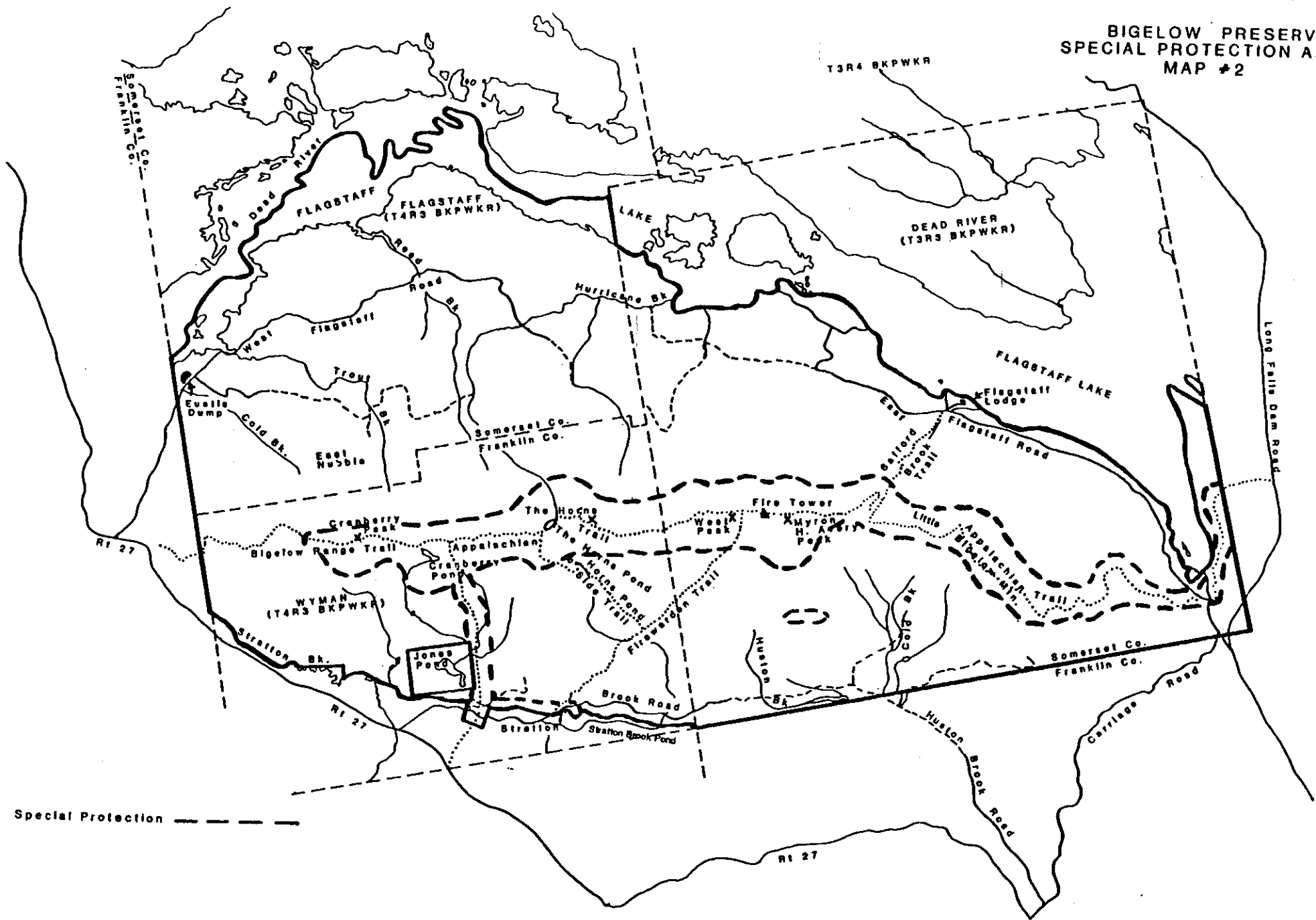
The 1,000 foot corridor of the Appalachian Trail (500 feet each side of the trail) is within a Special Protection Zone in order to be consistent with federal guidelines for the Trail, even where it crosses lowland areas. In addition, Indian arrowheads have been found on the ledges on the south side of Little Bigelow Mountain. While the exact site or importance of the find has not been determined, an area around the approximate site will be zoned Special Protection at least until the area can be thoroughly examined.

No old-growth forest stands have been identified within the boundaries of the Preserve. (An old-growth stand is defined here as an area of at least 5 acres in size with at least 1/3 of the trees 150 years old with little sign of disturbance caused by man.) A report prepared for the Bureau of Public Lands by the Chewonki Foundation in 1987 did not locate any old-growth stands in the Preserve, but did identify a larger alpine and subalpine area than previously known. It is likely that upon further field examination by Bureau staff, old-growth stands will be found. In addition, some areas that have been cut in the past will not be harvested now that

they are in public ownership, because of slope, location, impact on recreation and other concerns. Such areas will eventually develop into old-growth areas. All such areas will be considered for inclusion in the Special Protection designation.

- (2) Special Protection as a Secondary Use. The Special Protection Zone is always dominant over any other overlapping zone.
- (3) Recommendations. The following list represents proposed activities within the Special Protection Zone.
 - a. Evaluate any proposed activity within the Special Protection Zone to assure that there will be no significant adverse impact on the protected resources.
 - b. Develop, with the assistance of the trail groups and other interested parties, information signs to encourage proper use and protection of the resources in the Special Protection Zone.
 - c. Monitor the rare plant and animal populations through periodic field examinations to ensure they remain a viable component of the Preserve.
 - d. Leases for radio towers, microwave antennas, and other such communication equipment are not compatible with management of the Preserve, and will only be allowed for emergency purposes and for a limited period of time.

BIGELOW PRESERVE
SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS
MAP #2



RECREATION

The Preserve offers a wide variety of recreational activities, such as hiking, camping, snowmobiling, hunting, fishing, boating, and cross-country skiing. In keeping with the terms of the Bigelow Act and with the intent behind the creation of the Preserve, recreational management will be designed to favor non-motorized, low intensity uses. This type of management fits into the Bureau's Backcountry Zone designation described earlier under the Resource Allocation section and explained further below. A Backcountry designation does not affect hunting and fishing regulations. These are determined by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Timber harvesting is permitted. However, harvesting must be compatible with the character of the Backcountry designation.

There will be, on other areas within the Preserve, recreational facilities which provide for vehicle access and allow for more intensive use than in the Backcountry zone. These areas are included in the General Recreation Zone described following the Backcountry section.

A. Backcountry

- (1) Description of the Resource. Much of the Preserve is included in this zone. The zone includes all the major hiking trails, all the mountain areas, most of the fishing opportunities, and many of the camping areas. The following paragraphs outline the major existing recreational uses and areas in the Backcountry Zone.

Hiking Trails. The first hiking trail in the Preserve was cut from Stratton Village to Cranberry Pond in the 1850's. Through the early

1900's, additional trails were cut to the summit of Bigelow Mountain, principally to provide access for fire detection. In the 1930's the AT was extended across the Bigelow Range. Hiking activity in the Preserve showed significant growth in the 1960's and 1970's partly in response to publicity about plans at the time to develop Bigelow Mountain into a ski resort. Hiking activity seems to have peaked in 1977 or 1978. Today, use of the major trails in the Preserve is estimated to be 3,000-4,000 individual hikers per year. Most of the use is centered on the AT and the Range and Firewardens' Trails. There are over 30 miles of hiking trails in the Preserve. In addition to the Appalachian Trail which follows along the trunk line of the Bigelow Range, there are four major side trails:

- o Safford Brook Trail;
- o Firewardens' Trail;
- o Horns' Pond Trail; and
- o Range Trail

These trails provide a variety of day loops and overnight trips. They are maintained by volunteers coordinated through the Maine Appalachian Trail Club (MATC) at no cost to public funds. Most of the trails are in good condition. However, given the topography and remote nature of the Preserve and limited resources, some sections of trails are difficult to adequately maintain.

Campsites. Camping in the Preserve has been a secondary activity to hiking, fishing, and hunting. There are relatively few campsites not associated directly with the hiking trails. In the area zoned as Backcountry there are 6 campsites and two lean-to's at the high

mountain area around Horns Pond, 1 lean-to and 3 campsites at Bigelow Col between West Peak and Avery Peak, two tent platforms at the Safford Notch campsite between Avery Peak and Little Bigelow Mountain and 1 lean-to on Little Bigelow Mountain 1.3 miles west of the Flagstaff Road. In the past, the MATC has sponsored a caretaker to maintain the campsites along the ridgeline of the Bigelow Range.

The campsites listed above receive a substantial amount of use. Many of these sites need rehabilitation and/or additional work such as proper sanitation facilities. A solar powered outhouse has been established near Horns Pond, which has helped alleviate most problems there. In order to reduce the impact of camping, tent platforms have been installed at both the Horns Pond and Bigelow Col.

There are a number of other areas in the Backcountry Zone where camping occurs. These included unauthorized, off-trail sites used by hikers who find existing sites full or do not reach such sites before the end of the day, and sites along Flagstaff Lake and Houston Brook Pond.

Snowmobile Trails. Under the terms of the Bigelow Act, snowmobiles are the only motorized recreational vehicles allowed to travel off existing roads. Currently, the local snowmobile club maintains a trail from the Long Falls Dam Road along the East Flagstaff Road then through the woods on a narrow trail for approximately 1 1/2 miles to the end of the West Flagstaff Road. From there, the Trail continues west to the Stratton town line and off the Preserve. Winter

maintenance of this trail is sponsored by the Town of Eustis through a matching grant program with the Bureau of Parks and Recreation. This section of trail provides a link between areas south of the Preserve such as Lexington and New Portland with the Interconnecting Trail System (ITS) which runs through Eustis. Snowmobilers also make use of many of the numerous old logging roads, particularly in the northwest section of the Preserve and randomly developed trails for access to Flagstaff Lake. These trails are in areas zoned Backcountry and General Recreation. Flagstaff Lodge, located just off the East Flagstaff Road is open during the weekends in the winter and staffed by an employee of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation. The Lodge is used by snowmobilers and cross-country skiers as a warm-up stop including the opportunity for a cup of coffee or hot chocolate.

Cross-Country Skiing. There are no designated cross-country ski trails in the Backcountry Zone or elsewhere in the Preserve. However, all unplowed roads are open to skiing. In addition, there has been interest expressed in developing groomed cross-country ski trails away from existing snowmobile trails. The Ski Touring Center in Carrabassett Valley has shown an interest in developing trails in the Preserve to link with their system of cross-country ski trails.

(2) Backcountry Zone as Secondary Use. Where the Backcountry Zone overlaps with the Special Protection Zone (most of the overlap is in the alpine and subalpine areas), the Special Protection Zone is dominant and Backcountry management activities must be compatible

with that zone. In addition any activity in the Backcountry zones must satisfy the restrictions that apply under the Visual Management section.

B. General Recreation

- (1) Description of the Resource. The areas zoned as General Recreation, (those recreation facilities and areas with vehicle access) are limited because of topography and the intent behind the creation of the Preserve. There will be no intensively developed recreation facilities such as showers, water and power hook-ups, and ball fields. Trailheads of the AT, Firewarden's Trail, and the Range Trail, the campsites at Stratton Brook Pond and at the Round Barn Site on Flagstaff Lake are included in the General Recreation Zone. There are 3 undefined campsites at Stratton Brook Pond and a number of sites in the opening adjacent to the Round Barn site along the shore of Flagstaff Lake. All of these campsites receive heavy use during at least part of the recreation season (May-September), though there are no toilets or firerings at any of the sites.
- (2) General Recreation as a Secondary Use. Where the General Recreation Zone overlaps with Visual Management Zones, the visual zones will always be dominant, and any General Recreation management activities must be compatible with these zones.
- (3) Recommendations (Both Backcountry and General Recreation Zones).
 - a. Provide trailhead parking for the Range Trail, AT, and Firewardens Trail.
 - b. Relocate the first section of Range Trail (west end) onto publicly-owned land (Stratton Water District) to avoid any future conflicts with private owners.

- c. Begin Firewardens Trail at Stratton Brook Pond outlet cutting a trail parallel to the existing Stratton Brook Road in order to eliminate potential conflicts between logging traffic and hiking.
- d. Resolve potential conflicts between hiking and timber management along the Firewarden Trail just north of the Stratton Brook Road and along the AT near the East Flagstaff Road. Both trails follow old roads which appear to be the only feasible access into certain parts of the Preserve for timber management. Minor trail relocations appear to be the best solution. All hiking trails should have permanent locations.
- e. As per agreement developed by Public Lands and Parks and Recreation in 1982, continue a no cut zone 100' on each side of the AT. From 100'-500' from the AT, use only unevenaged harvesting methods approved by Parks and Recreation. Use the same standards on the Firewarden's Trail, Range Trail, and Safford Brook Trail.
- f. Rehabilitate the lean-to site at the Horns Pond or move it and the trail further south away from the Pond.
- g. Provide for overflow camping in designated locations and with proper facilities downslope from the Horns Pond and Bigelow Col sites.
- h. Do not allow overnight camping at Cranberry Pond or Houston Brook Pond. Currently, there are no designated

sites on either pond and developing sites would create a problem for management and maintenance. In addition, since one of the two high mountain ponds already has camping (Horns Pond), the other pond (Cranberry Pond) should be left undeveloped. Both Cranberry and Houston Brook Ponds are available for day use.

- i. Make all designated campsites fire safe and provide for appropriate human waste disposal.
- j. Examine the need for more water access sites on Flagstaff Lake.
- k. Continue the previous pattern of established use of the Round Barn Site on Flagstaff Lake as a vehicle access camping area. It appears from comments received that most if not all sites at Round Barn should be drive to—requiring a short walk from the vehicle to reach the campsites as opposed to sites that can be directly driven to. However, over the next two years the type of campsites (drive-in, drive-to—100-200 feet from vehicle), and how many sites should be upgraded will be determined. Developing a specific recommendation will be a major task for the Preserve Manager. No more than 15 individual campsites, whether drive in or drive to, along with one group site, a day use area, parking and appropriate sanitary facilities will be constructed. This is not to say that all 15 sites would be built soon, if at all. It simply means that no more than 15 individual campsites will be constructed at Round Barn.

The Round Barn site will be the one area in the Preserve where drive-to or drive-in sites are provided. Information showing the location of other campsites on Public Lands nearby but outside the Preserve as well as private campgrounds nearby will be provided onsite to guide users to those areas when the Round Barn sites are occupied. The future of the Round Barn sites depends upon the Bureau's ability to maintain and direct appropriate use and the public's willingness to use the area under the guidelines established.

- l. Develop plans for a few (3-6) walk-in campsites at Jones Pond and a connecting trail to the AT.
- m. Work more closely with the Trail Clubs and volunteers to assure proper maintenance of all trails. Review and approve all work performed by the clubs except routine maintenance. Support the idea of a caretaker for the Horns Pond/Bigelow Col sites.
- n. Discontinue and "put to bed" the Parson's Trail located on the north side of the Bigelow Range. The trail is steep and difficult to properly maintain.
- o. Develop, consistent with the Preserve Act, interpretive signs which will help users better understand the natural processes going on in the Preserve, as well as directional signs.
- p. Provide for a snowmobile trail or alternative trails on the north side of the Bigelow Range between the Long Falls Dam Road and the west line of the Preserve that

will be available every season. Work with snowmobile groups to examine the feasibility and desirability of a loop trail around the entire Preserve. In theory, the idea of a loop trail around the Preserve is acceptable. However, given the topography, the fact that the trail would most likely need to cross private land, and the cost of establishing the trail away from other potential conflicting uses, construction of the loop trail may not take place for many years. The local snowmobile club will be counted on to provide a considerable amount of assistance and expertise in developing any new trails.

- q. Develop cross-country ski trails around Jones Pond which will be off-limits to snowmobiling in order to provide for those wishing to ski separate from snowmobiles. Develop other ski trails particularly on the south side of the Range, if the need can be demonstrated, to serve as combination snowmobile and cross-country ski trails.
- r. Any recreation facility constructed (campsite, privy, parking area, etc.), should be as primitive in nature as possible to provide for protection of the resource but still be of high quality and allow for safe public enjoyment.

is no indication of an active nest in the Preserve now, though in recent years a pair of birds did establish a nest on one of the privately owned islands in Flagstaff Lake.

While Flagstaff Lake is not in the Preserve, it does form the northern boundary and certainly affects Public use and enjoyment of the Preserve. Flagstaff is a large, shallow, man-made impoundment of 20,300 acres in the area that was formed by the damming of the Dead River in 1950. Central Maine Power Company owns the Long Falls Dam and controls the water levels on the lake to the 1,150 foot contour. The lake is used as a storage reservoir for hydroelectric facilities further down the Kennebec River drainage. Water levels fluctuate considerably and are usually lowest during the late summer and fall months.

Flagstaff Lake provides poor habitat for coldwater fish such as trout and salmon, but does contain significant numbers of warm water species such as pickerel and yellow perch. The lake only receives light fishing pressure as the fluctuating water levels and the presence of other excellent coldwater fishing opportunities nearby discourage use of the lake. However, Flagstaff Lake does appear to be important, or have the potential to be important to wildlife, particularly waterfowl.

The shores of all ponds, lakes and major streams in the Unit are designated as Riparian Zones. A riparian zone is comprised of a 330-foot corridor, the primary purpose of which is to provide

wildlife habitat. Research has shown that the areas adjacent to water are particularly important to wildlife as travel corridors, as well as home range habitat. Timber harvesting is allowed in the riparian zone; in fact harvesting is important to maintaining the quality of the habitat by providing for a healthy, diverse environment. Timber management will be conducted on an uneven aged basis to enhance and maintain the riparian zone.

There are a number of ponds within the Preserve including:

- o Horns Pond
- o Cranberry Pond
- o Stratton Brook Pond, (partly on private land), and
- o Jones Pond (The land around this pond is currently owned by the National Park Service.)

Both Horns Pond and Cranberry Pond are located at the upper elevations of the Bigelow Range. In 1984, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife stocked Horns Pond with fingerling brook trout. Initial results have led the Department to continue stocking in each subsequent year in hopes of establishing a healthy trout population. The result has been the creation of an unexpected fishing opportunity near the summit of Bigelow Mountain. Cranberry Pond contains no fish and there currently are no plans to stock any there.

Stratton Brook Pond forms part of the southern boundary of the Preserve. The pond is shallow and contains mostly warm water fish. It probably receives little fishing pressure. The pond does, however, represent an important wetland community for a variety of birds and animals such as waterfowl and furbearers.

Jones Pond, located just west of the Appalachian Trail in Wyman Township, was acquired by the National Park Service from private owners a few years ago. The pond at one time contained a good population of brook trout, but the log driving dam at the outlet washed out a few years ago lowering the water levels and making conditions unsuitable for trout. The Park Service and the Bureau of Public Lands have entered into discussions to exchange the Jones Pond parcel to the State for sections of the AT corridor outside the Preserve.

The Bigelow Preserve and surrounding private lands were identified as one of the two final sites for release of the caribou now being held in Orono. However, late in 1988, the Baxter State Park site was chosen for release of the animals. No further action regarding Caribou in the Preserve is expected in the current 10 year planning period.

- (2) Wildlife as a Secondary Use. The Wildlife Zone is secondary to the Special Protection, Visual and the Recreation Zones.
- (3) Recommendations.
 - a. General. The Bureau as part of the Integrated Resource

Policy developed guidelines for wildlife management on Public Lands. The Guidelines include establishing riparian zones, retention of den trees or cavity trees, managing for diversity of wildlife habitat, seeding of disturbed areas where possible with a grass mixture beneficial to wildlife, and requiring the Bureau's wildlife biologist to comment on and approve all harvest operations. These guidelines are all applicable to the Preserve and wildlife management there will be guided by the existing wildlife policies for other Public Lands.

- b. Impoundments. The Stratton Brook Pond and an old impoundment site along Hurricane Brook in Bigelow Twp. both represent important or potentially important wetland habitats which will be examined for the desirability of installing a water control device to improve the wetland component of the flowage. This type of impoundment, given the shallow, weedy nature of the flowages, would benefit wildlife species such as waterfowl and furbearers, but not create water deep enough to enhance the coldwater fisheries. Both Jones Pond and Houston Brook Pond will be examined to see if a small dam, raising the water levels 2-4 feet would benefit the coldwater fisheries. If any of these four potential impoundments prove to be worthwhile, they will be constructed. (Construction of the Stratton Brook flowage would require permission from the

adjoining landowners.) All water control devices will be small (similar in size to those in place at the time of the Bigelow Act) and designed to blend in with the character of the Preserve. All the proposed impoundment sites had such water control devices in place at the time of the Bigelow Act.

- c. Rare Species Management. The habitat of the yellow-nosed vole is all within the Special Protection Zone, which provides it the necessary protection. The historic eagle nesting site along Flagstaff Lake will be examined and managed to encourage its use by eagles. This means retaining large white pines along the shoreline suitable for use as nest sites. If any area is found to be used by rare or endangered species, appropriate management steps will be taken to maintain or enhance the habitat being used.
- d. Fish Stocking. The stocking program conducted by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife at Horn's Pond provides an additional recreational opportunity and should continue. However, because the high mountain area around the Pond is fragile, the effect of increased human traffic around the shoreline will be monitored. In the event that the fishing pressure results in serious effects to the environment, a request will be made for DIF&W to discontinue the stocking. If the Jones Pond impoundment is built it may be necessary to stock trout there, at least for a few years, in order to establish a healthy population.

Fish stocking and its cost will be coordinated with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

- e. Flagstaff Lake. Flagstaff Lake is not in the Preserve, but does greatly influence management of the Preserve. The fluctuating water levels limit the lakes desirability for water-oriented recreational use and for wildlife habitat. However, it may be possible, through plantings, to establish vegetation along the shore of the lake to benefit waterfowl. The Bureau will work with CMP and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to assess what can be done.
- f. Habitat Diversity. Efforts to increase the amount of softwood (and subsequently decrease the amount of hardwood) will have a beneficial impact on wildlife, particularly where hardwoods now occupy several hundred contiguous acres by providing for a more diverse environment. It will not be possible or desirable to decrease the hardwood on a large scale, but it can be accomplished in selected areas.
- g. Wetlands. Wetlands add a degree of habitat diversity and provide part of the lifecycle requirements for many species of wildlife. Wetlands also serve a number of other important ecological purposes, including storage of ground water and stabilization of surface water. There are several hundred acres of wetlands within the Preserve, some of which are associated with the impoundment areas discussed in b. of this section. Of

particular additional note are the wetlands along Trout Brook, Reed Brook, Hurricane Brook, and smaller areas on the south side of the mountain range in Dead River Township near Cold Brook. All wetland areas are surrounded by a 330 foot riparian zone (defined on page 26). In that zone, forest management will be designed to maintain the quality of the wetland and enhance its' wildlife benefits.

- h. Openings. Open areas, particularly when they are well dispersed through the landscape, can be important wildlife habitat. The wood yards associated with timber harvesting will provide many such openings. Such areas are particularly valuable when seeded with a mixture of grasses beneficial to wildlife. In addition, the existing opening adjacent to the Stratton landfill site will be kept as open field.

[illegible]

X

VISUAL RESOURCES

- (1) Description of the Resource. The scenic quality of the Bigelow Preserve is an extremely valuable asset for the purpose of public use and enjoyment. In fact, one of the primary reasons for the establishment of the Preserve was to maintain the visual quality of the Bigelow Range. Public enjoyment of the Preserve is dependent upon the assurance that views from the lower elevations looking up at the ridgeline, as well as views from the higher elevations looking out over the Preserve, are pleasing. In order to maintain the natural appearance of the landscape, some constraints or modifications to timber harvesting, road construction, and other similar management activities are followed.

The following descriptions are intended as broad goals rather than specific requirements. Time and experience will help determine specifically how these goals can best be met.

a. Visual Class I

This is the most sensitive zone, represented principally by mountain--and ridge tops, the central corridor of the AT and feeder trails (100 feet each side of the trails), and the alpine vegetation, subalpine vegetation, and the area directly adjacent to campsites. The goal is to create little or no disturbance. Timber harvesting in Class I areas is permitted under very strict limitations, striving to retain the

appearance of an essentially unbroken forest canopy for the casual observer. However, because of other constraints such as slope, topography, and the presence of rare plant species and the proximity to major recreation areas in the Preserve, trees in the Class I Visual Zone will not be harvested.

b. Visual Class II

This is the second most sensitive zone and is represented by mid-elevation areas, the outer core of the AT (100-500 feet from the trail), the land along public use roads, the shoreline of Flagstaff Lake, land adjacent to AT feeder trails, and other areas easily viewed from public use areas, but less visible than the more sensitive Class I areas. The management goal is to make the results of timber harvesting, road construction, skid trail location and other such activities not readily noticeable to the casual viewer rather than invisible.

c. Visual Class III

Essentially, all the land not covered by the previous two zones is included in this zone. These areas are characterized by their remoteness from the major public use and/or viewing areas. The goal is to make the results of management activities not readily apparent in a obvious manner to the casual viewer. There are no restrictions on activities as long as such actions are compatible with the goal of the Visual Class III Zone.

- (2) Visual as a Secondary Use. It is very important to note that designation of the visual zones is designed to be a caution to managers, acknowledging the need for special care when conducting

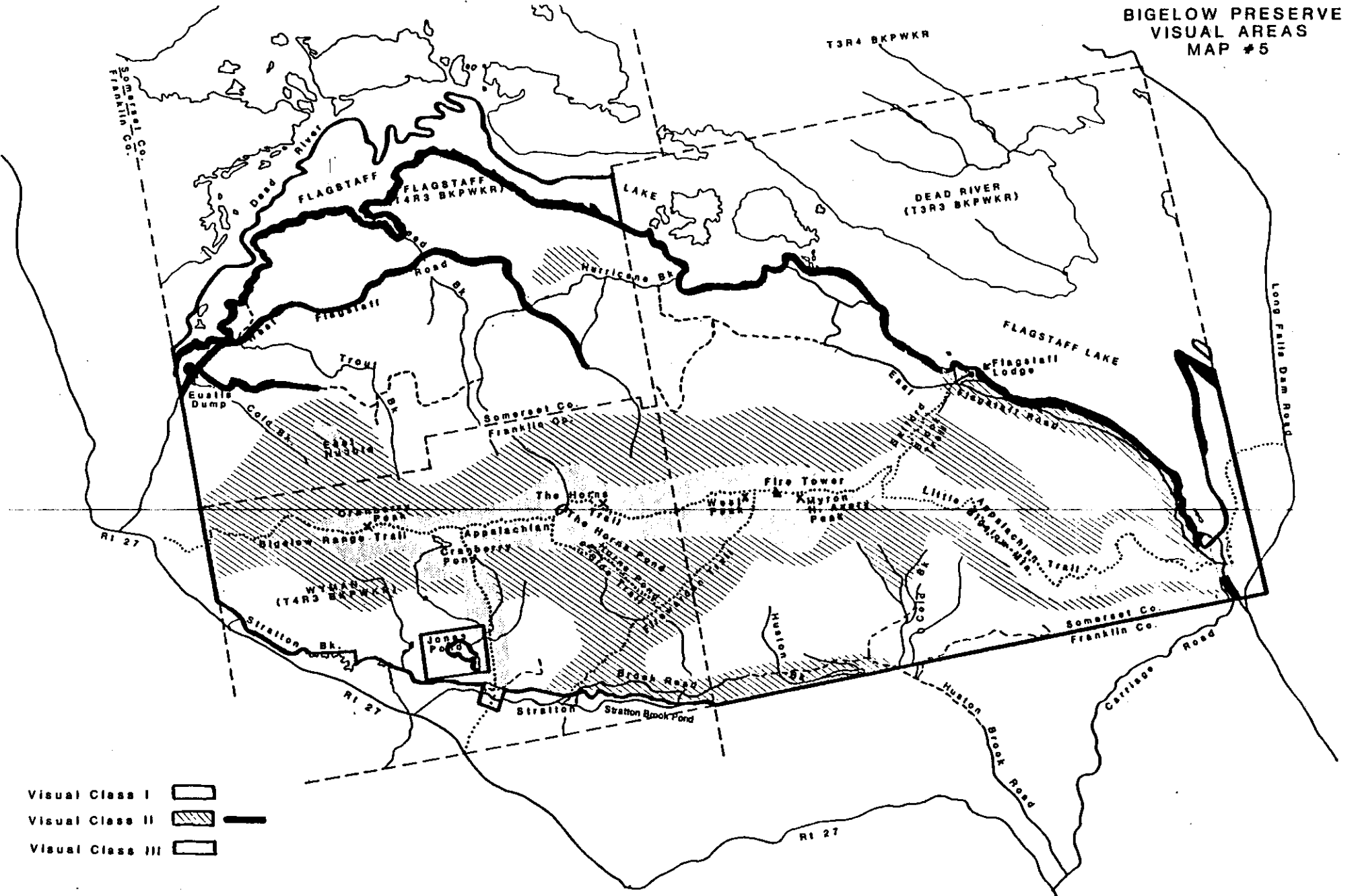
any management activity. It is also important to note that in Class II and III zones, management activities will not be invisible. They will be designed to protect the visual quality of the area while allowing management to take place.

Where the Visual Zone overlaps with Special Protection, the Visual Zone will be subordinate. It should be noted that the Visual Zone is almost always compatible with the Special Protection, Recreation, and Wildlife Zones.

(3) Recommendations

The exact boundaries of the 3 visual zones are often difficult to determine on a map or in the field. There is the need for flexibility over the next few years to more precisely define the boundaries of each zone. This will require field checking the map as it is drawn in this plan from many different locations to determine the accuracy of each zone delineation. These visual zones will be adjusted as necessary based on new information collected over the years.

BIGELOW PRESERVE VISUAL AREAS MAP #5



TIMBER

- (1) Description of the Resource. Timber harvesting is an integral part of the overall management of the Preserve. The Bigelow Act, which created the Preserve, specifically directed that the Preserve be managed for hunting, fishing, recreation and timber harvesting.

Approximately 96 percent of the Preserves' 35,027 acres is forested land. The remaining 4 percent, or roughly 1,400 acres, is open land well-distributed throughout the Preserve and includes roads, bogs, flowages, fields, log landings, small ponds (less than 10 acres) and alpine areas.

Most of the forested land has pole-sized to mature-sized growth with fair to excellent stocking. Overall, broad forest type distribution is 36 percent hardwood land, 34 percent mixedwood land and 30 percent softwood land. This is a bit misleading though because of the number of softwood acres in the high mountain areas. A better way of expressing these numbers is to break the land down into two categories:

Regulated acres - Land where there are no physical restrictions or other factors that would prevent harvest at regular intervals.

Unregulated acres - Land which due to topography, tree growing conditions, or access either will not be cut or will only be cut occasionally.

Using this approach the forest types are categorized as shown in the following table:

TABLE #1 BIGELOW PRESERVE FOREST TYPES (Expressed in Acres and Percent)

<u>Forest Type</u>	<u>Regulated Acres</u>	<u>Unregulated Acres</u>	<u>All Acres</u>
Hardwood	10,585 (44%)	1,535 (16%)	12,120 (36%)
Mixedwood	9,155 (39%)	2,200 (22%)	11,355 (34%)
Softwood	4,035 (17%)	6,020 (62%)	10,055 (30%)
TOTAL	23,775 (100%)	9,755 100%)	33,530 (100%)

(NOTE: Total acreage in Preserve is 35,027 — 33,530 acres are forested.)

In the hardwood types, the dominant tree species are sugar maple and beech. In some of the areas that were burned in 1949 as fires escaped from the land being cleared in conjunction with construction of the Long Falls Dam, nearly pure stands of aspen are found. Beech and red maple, sometimes with aspen, are more numerous in those stands on which harvesting has occurred in the last 30 years (approximately 1/3 of the hardwood areas). Approximately one-half of the hardwood stands are dominated by trees taller than 60 feet; large, impressive individual trees are relatively common. The Preserve contains several thousand acres of excellent hardwood growing sites.

The mixedwood stands, are quite variable, ranging from stands that have been high graded to those with high volume and quality. There are many different tree species in these stands, but over the entire tract red spruce and red maple are the most common in the mixedwood stands. Significant quantities of sugar maple, balsam fir, hemlock, and aspen also can be found in the mixedwood stands. The average quality of the trees in the mixedwood

stands is somewhat lower than in the hardwood areas, but higher than in the softwood stands.

The softwood stands located on operable terrain have often either been harvested several times in the past or are growing on wet, cedar-dominated sites. Overall, spruce and cedar together comprise 60 percent of the volume in the softwood stands. Balsam fir, hemlock, and red maple make up much of the remaining volume. As this type has been subject to high-grading and spruce budworm feeding in the past, it has only fair quality, though some excellent softwood growing sites exist.

Table #2 on Page 44 shows a breakdown of tree species on the regulated acres in the Preserve.

The Bigelow Preserve contains significant volumes of wood. It also has, due to other overriding values such as recreation and visual concerns, the most complex set of constraints on timber management of any land managed by the Bureau of Public Lands. However, the most common types of stands (well-stocked mixed wood and hardwood), lend themselves in most cases to the light entries least likely to be visually obstrusive. The dominant species in these areas--sugar maple, spruce, beech, hemlock, yellow birch, and fir can be regenerated in fairly small openings. The Bureau of Public Lands estimates that 90 percent of the regulated forestland will be managed on an uneven-aged basis with entries into those areas approximately every 20 years. In the areas of white birch and aspen, where uneven-aged management is difficult due to the needs of these species for direct light, larger openings may be necessary. However, such areas are generally located far away from the ridgeline, trails, and other public use and viewing areas.

By conducting rather small scale operations each year in the Preserve, the Bureau will be able to maintain quality forest management and wildlife habitat by providing for a diverse environment and ensuring proper supervision over harvesting operations. In addition, regular flow of wood products from the Preserve will help supply area mills with a steady supply of raw material.

Much of the income received from the sale of timber in the Preserve will be reinvested in the land to provide staff for administering public recreational use and forest management, and to cover the costs of developing and maintaining appropriate facilities such as campsites, hiking trails, public use roads, and wetland impoundments as outlined in this plan.

- (2) Timber as a Secondary Use. The Timber Management Zone is secondary to all other zones, thus any harvesting must be compatible with any other overlapping zones. In some zones, particularly the wildlife zone, forest management is a key element to maintaining and improving the quality of the zone.

(3) Recommendations

- a. General. After extensive review, the Bureau of Public Lands adopted timber management standards in 1985. Applied everywhere else on Public Lands, these standards are also appropriate for the Preserve and will govern timber management there. The one major exception is that the maximum clearcut size on the Preserve will be 10 acres instead of the standard maximum elsewhere of 20 acres. All harvesting activities must be compatible with visual management as described earlier.

The Bureau has recently developed a very detailed field guide entitled Wildlife Guidelines which outlines the specific

actions, including forest management, needed to accomplish a particular wildlife management practice. For example, the Guidelines outline the correct procedure for seeding log landings and abandoned roads as well as describing the habitat requirements of important wildlife species, and techniques for managing them.

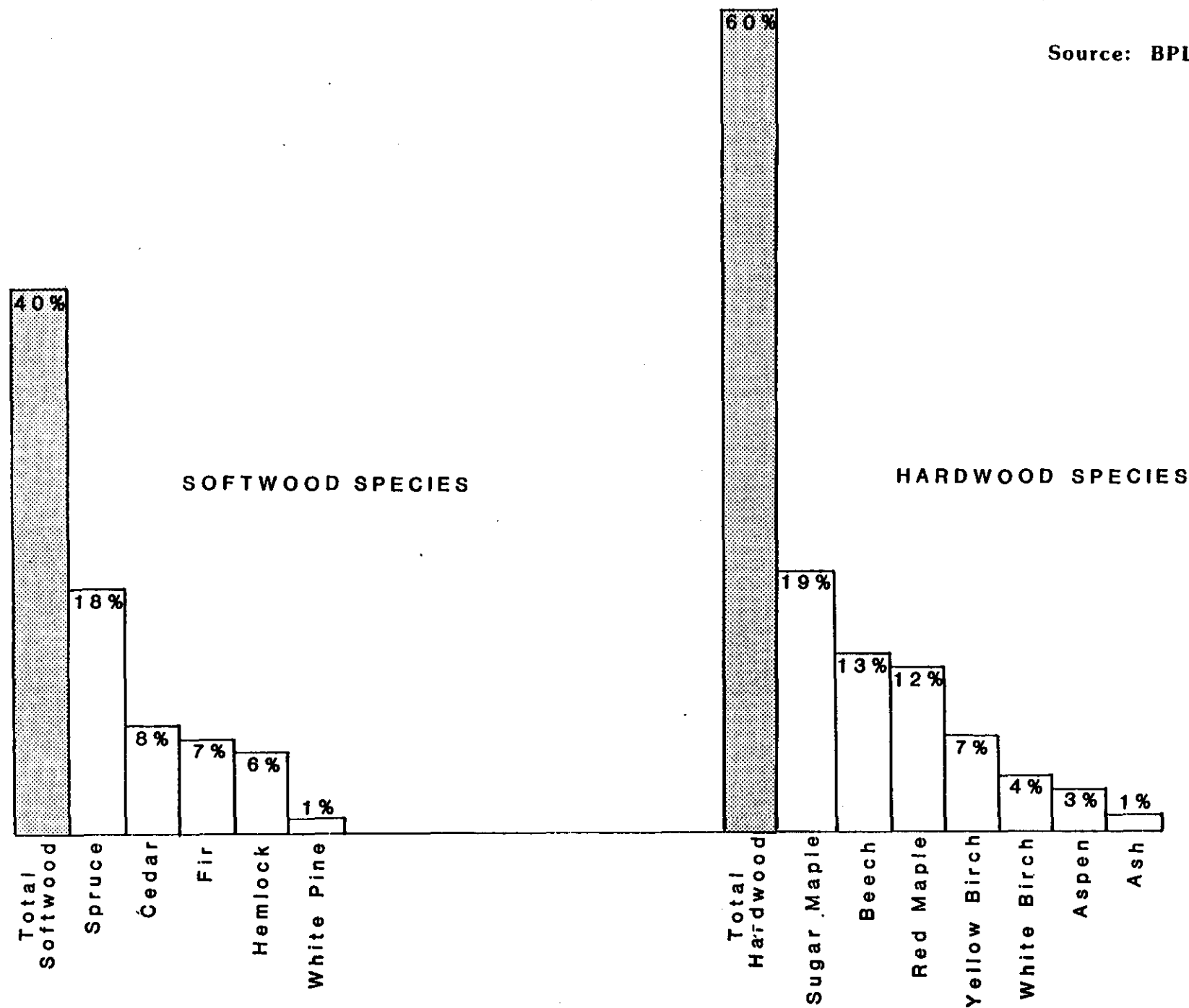
- b. Old Growth. As mentioned in the Special Protection Zone section, no old-growth stands have been identified but some probably do exist. When potential candidates are located they will be evaluated to determine if they require protection. In addition, as shown on map #6 there are significant areas that are being set aside never to be cut (approximately 1/3 of the land in the Preserve). Many of these are not old growth stands now, but will become so in the future. The University of Maine is proposing a system of "Ecological Preserves" (essentially undisturbed areas) around the State in many different types of habitat. The Bureau will cooperate with the University to determine if any of the no cut areas in the Preserve fit into that project.
- c. Lack of Softwood. An overall forest management goal in the Preserve is to increase the amount of softwood at lower elevations in order to create greater diversity for wildlife and increase financial return. There are a number of areas currently occupied by hardwood or mixed wood stands as the result of past harvesting practices that are better suited for softwood production. Timber management efforts on these areas will be conducted to increase the softwood component where practical.

- d. Quality vs. Fiber. The goal on the Preserve as on the other parcels of Public Land, will be to favor growing large, high quality trees for sawtimber and other high value products over growing smaller, low quality trees for fiber. This is possible on most of the operable land in the Preserve. There are a few operable areas, mainly poor sites (wet, rocky, steep, etc.) or stands containing low value species where the production of fiber may be emphasized as an interim step toward achieving a significant improvement to the stands. With proper management, these areas may eventually produce large, valuable wood products. Examples here include wet areas dominated by cedar or old burn sites containing nearly pure stands of low quality aspen on soils more suitable for softwoods.

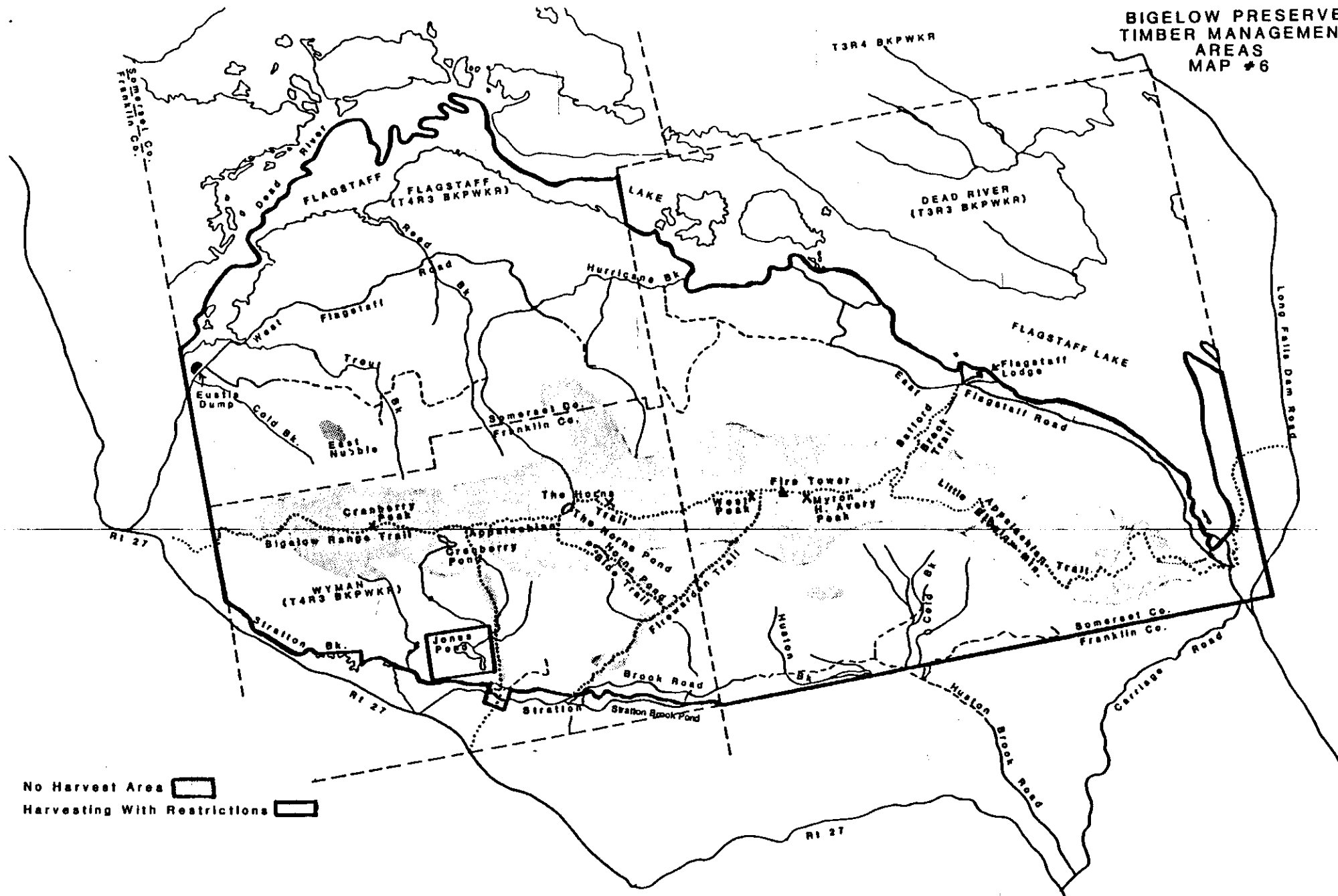
TREE SPECIES ON THE REGULATED ACRES ON THE BIGELOW PRESERVE
EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL VOLUME

TABLE #2

Source: BPL Inventory 1987



**BIGELOW PRESERVE
TIMBER MANAGEMENT
AREAS
MAP #6**



ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

This section addresses issues that are essentially administrative in nature, yet which are important to the overall management of the Preserve.

A. VEHICLE ACCESS (Refer to Map #7 and #8)

The transportation system will have a major impact on the management of the Preserve. In addition, road construction and maintenance is often one of the most substantial management costs.

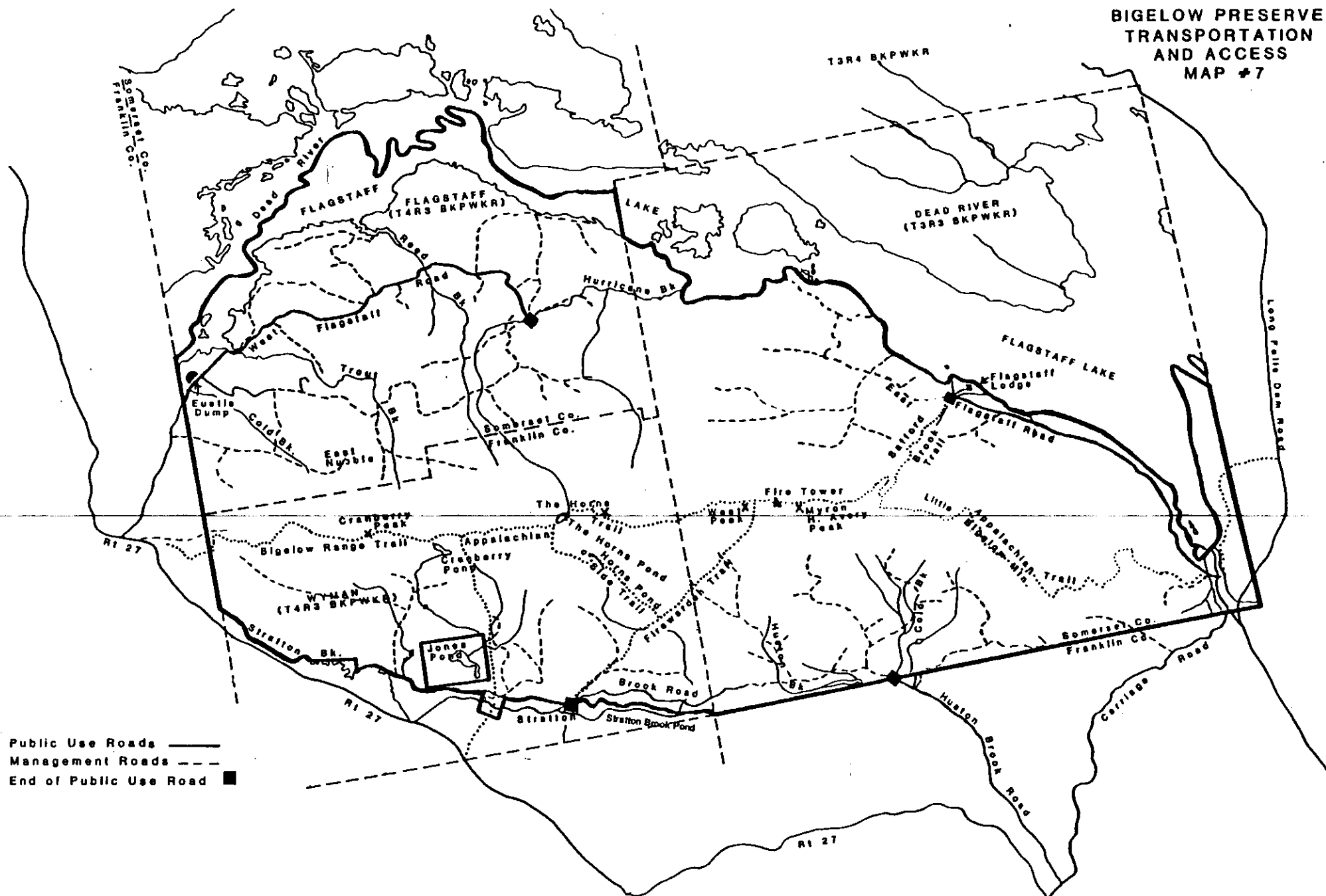
1. Public Vehicle Access to and Within the Preserve

Under terms of the Bigelow Preserve Act, only those roads passable at the time of the Act--by two-wheeled drive vehicles--can be open for public vehicle traffic. Public access to the Preserve is currently available from four different locations:

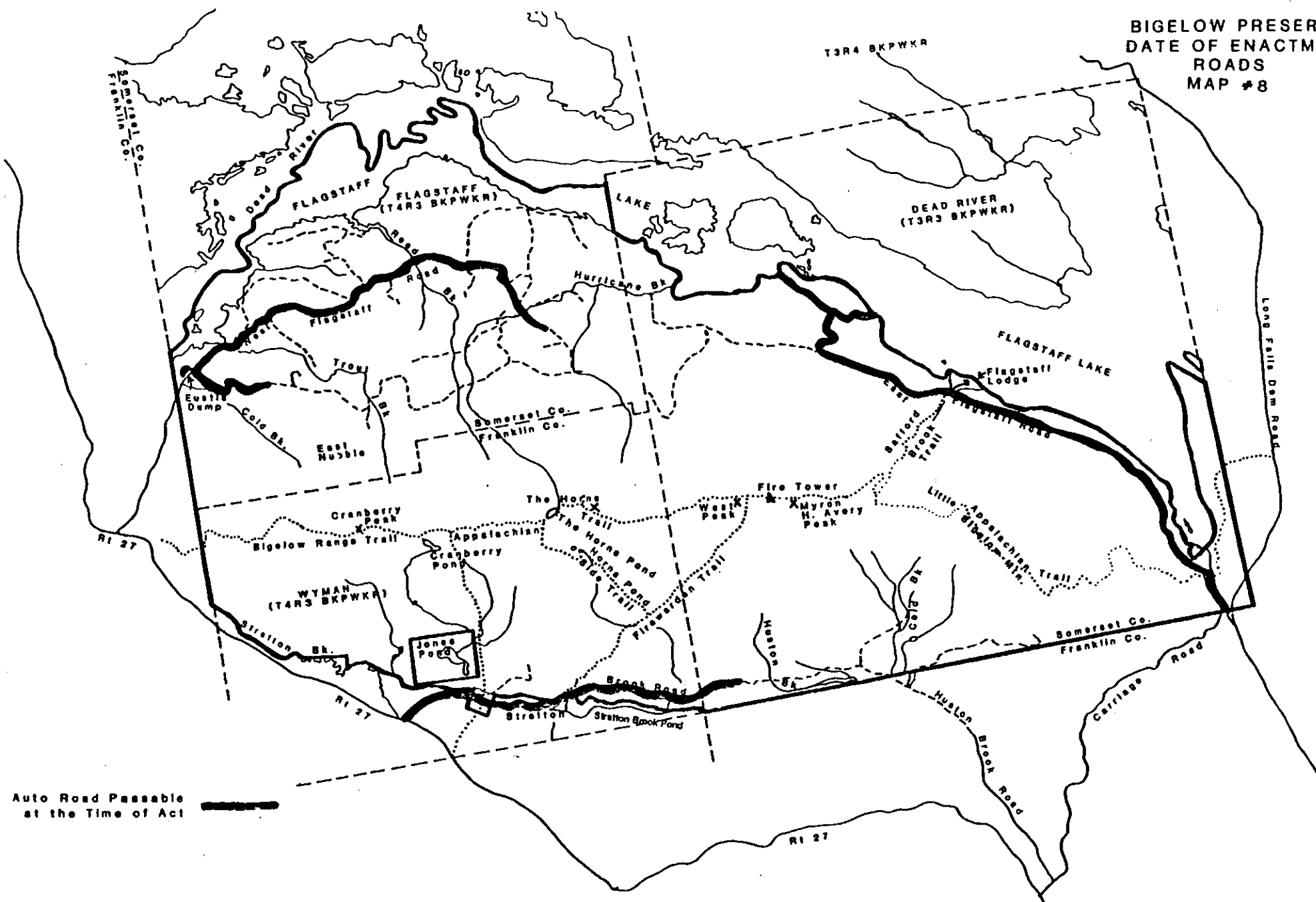
- o East from Stratton Village into Bigelow Twp. on the West Flagstaff Road.
- o East from Route 27 in Wyman Twp. on the Stratton Brook Road.
- o North from Route 27 into Dead River Twp. on the Houston Brook Road (across private lands).
- o West from the Long Falls Dam Road into Dead River Twp. on the East Flagstaff Road. The first section (approximately 1 mile) is maintained by the County.

All four of these existing potential public use roads dead end in the Preserve. The two principal other existing roads in the Preserve that were passable at the time of the Bigelow Act and thus

**BIGELOW PRESERVE
TRANSPORTATION
AND ACCESS
MAP #7**



BIGELOW PRESERVE
DATE OF ENACTMENT
ROADS
MAP #8



potentially available for public vehicle travel are a road off the West Flagstaff Road near Cold Brook that runs north of the East Nubble and a road off the East Flagstaff Road toward "Guernsey's Island."

2. Management Access

All other roads are management roads and not open to the public, by law under terms of the Bigelow Act, but are only for access for management and emergency purposes. Map #7 shows the existing management roads and the approximate locations of management roads that may be built in the future. Map #8 shows those roads passable by automobile at the time of the Bigelow Act.

3. Recommendations

- a. No wood yards will be allowed on public use roads. In addition, any management road frequently used by the public for snowmobiling, hiking, cross-country skiing, and hunting will also be managed for visual considerations.
- b. Any new road construction will be kept to the minimum necessary to manage the Preserve, including the management of timber. The roads constructed will be kept as narrow as possible and built to conform to the terrain. In addition, roads will be designed to limit the length of sections running at right angles to the ridgeline and other public viewing areas. When no longer needed, any new road or reconstructed management road will be water-barred, seeded or otherwise stabilized.
- c. There will be no management road on the north side of the Preserve which connects the East and West Flagstaff Roads.

- d. The public use roads may be temporarily gated or otherwise blocked during times of the year when vehicle traffic is likely to cause serious damage to the roads (principally during spring break-up), create erosion or during times of high fire danger.
- e. The public use roads will end at the following locations:
 - o West Flagstaff Road at Hurricane Brook
 - o Stratton Brook Road at or near the outlet of Stratton Brook Pond.
 - o Houston Brook Road at Cold Brook.
 - o East Flagstaff Road at the road leading to the Round Barn campsites (vehicle access is allowed to the sites). The road beyond the turn to the Round Barn will not be maintained for public vehicle traffic. However, as long as environmental damage and inappropriate use such as unauthorized camping does not occur, the road will remain open.
- f. The public use roads will be maintained to a standard which allows careful travel by pick-up trucks and most automobiles.
- g. The Houston Brook Road, since it serves little public use purpose will not be maintained. (The road is on private land.)
- h. ATV's are not consistent with the Bigelow Act, and therefore ATV use will not be permitted in the Preserve.

B. STRATTON DUMP

The Town of Stratton maintains a landfill site on the western edge of the Preserve in Bigelow Township along the West Flagstaff Road. The dump has been

in existence since the 1960's. The Town has a lease for the landfill with the Bureau of Public Lands which expired in January 1989. The Town is making other arrangements for waste disposal, but those plans are not complete. The Bureau has granted an extension of the dump lease through 1989. It is expected that the existing dump site will be closed and rehabilitated by the Town to specifications required by the Department of Environmental Protection.

C. PRESERVE MANAGER

There is a need for State personnel to have a greater on-site presence at the Preserve, particularly during May-September in order to better manage recreational use in the Preserve.

Recommendations: Hire a Preserve Manager. A job description will be developed jointly by the Bureau of Public Lands and the Bureau of Parks and Recreation. The Preserve Manager needs to have training in multiple-use land management including recreation and forestry. This position will be within the Bureau of Public Lands and be responsible for all day-to-day operations in the Preserve, including recreation management, visitor contact, and development and supervision of timber harvesting activities. In addition, this position will be available to work on other land in the area managed by the Bureau of Public Lands. The goal is to have this position filled during the summer of 1989. The Preserve Manager position will report to the Bureau's Western Region Manager. The Regional Manager will have overall responsibility for activities in the Preserve and will be the first step in dealing with issues of policy in the Preserve.

D. FLAGSTAFF LODGE

The Lodge was built by the Flagstaff Lodge Company in 1973 for private, non-commercial use. The building is approximately 48 x 60 feet with two

stories and a full basement. It has a kitchen, dining room, four bathrooms, two lounge areas and eight bedrooms. In 1978, the State acquired the Lodge along with 371 acres surrounding it. Since that time, the building has been used primarily to house work crews in the summer and serves as a warming hut for snowmobilers and cross-country skiers in the winter.

Recommendations: The Lodge may serve in the future as a headquarters, an equipment storage area or, perhaps a Preserve visitor's center. The potential usefulness of the building for any of these purposes cannot be determined at this time. Over the next two years the Preserve Manager will help develop recommendations to the agencies involved with the management of the Preserve as to what new facilities are needed and how existing facilities, primarily the Lodge, fit the overall Preserve management. Until a determination is made on how the Lodge fits into the overall management scheme of the Preserve, it will be used and maintained as in the past, for educational, scientific, administrative or other non-profit public service uses. Other appropriate non-commercial uses which could help defray the costs of maintenance will be explored.

E. FIRE TOWER AND CABIN AT BIGELOW COL

The Fire Tower, built in 1961, is no longer manned or actively used for fire detection. The firewarden's cabin associated with the Tower is used by the Trail Groups to house caretakers at the Bigelow Col campsites.

Recommendations: The mountainous terrain of Western Maine sometimes makes it necessary to place communication equipment on prominent mountain tops in times of forest fires or other emergencies. The need for that capability is very real in the Bigelow area. The existing Tower could be used to house and secure expensive, portable radio equipment on a temporary basis. Thus, the Tower should remain and also be maintained so that it is not a visual detraction.

The cabins serve the worthwhile function of providing living quarters for campsite caretakers and should be used and maintained for that purpose.

F. PUBLICITY

The purpose of this plan is to provide for public use and enjoyment of the Bigelow Preserve, while assuring that the natural character of the parcel is preserved. Given the uniqueness of the Bigelow Preserve and the fragile nature of some of its most important resources, the parcel could become the subject of overuse. The design of facilities such as campsites, location of trails, size of parking areas, can help prevent overuse and direct use to the most appropriate locations. Further, as is the case with other parcels of Public Lands, the State will not seek publicity for the Bigelow Preserve beyond providing essential information materials and maps showing the location of campsites, snowmobile trails, hiking trails, and public use roads and describing features, natural history, use regulations.

G. GRAVEL

Sand and gravel will be needed from time-to-time for road maintenance, construction, and other functions both within and near the Preserve. Existing pits will continue to be used. Gravel from these pits will be used only within the Preserve, except where rehabilitation of existing pits is enhanced by the sale of gravel at fair market value for use outside the Preserve. New pits will be for use only within the Preserve. All depleted pits will be rehabilitated.

H. OUTHOLDINGS AND LEASES

Within the existing boundaries of the Bigelow Preserve, there are a few privately held parcels of land. At Bog Brook near the southeast end of

Flagstaff Lake there are a number of small privately owned lots containing seasonal camps along with a small boat launch. There is a small outholding along Flagstaff Lake northwest of the Bog Brook out-parcel which is accessed from the East Flagstaff Road. There is also a small camp on a five acre lot along the north side of Stratton Brook in Wyman Twp.

Central Maine Power Company owns the shoreline of Flagstaff Lake to the 1,150 foot contour line. Between that line and Flagstaff Lake, CMP does lease a few lots which contain seasonal camps.

Recommendations: The existing outholdings and leases within the Preserve boundaries are on private lands and have been in existence for many years, with most dating back to the 1940's. As currently used, they do not affect the public's use of or the character of the Preserve in any significant manner. Thus, there is no overriding need to acquire any of those existing parcels or leases. There is always the potential that a significant conflict between the private owners and the Preserve management could arise. If it does, the Bureau will consider ways of resolving such conflicts, including acquisition of the outstanding interests. In addition, the Bureau of Public Lands will discuss with CMP their leasing policy with the objective of limiting further leasing of land by CMP within the Preserve boundaries.

There may be lands adjacent to the Preserve that, if acquired, would enhance the overall management of the Preserve. The Bureau of Public Lands will pursue such opportunities if these lands are placed on the market and money is available.

I. FIRE PLAN

It shall be the policy with the Bigelow Preserve to aggressively fight, by whatever means deemed necessary by the Director of the Bureau of Forestry, any fire whether caused by man or nature that occurs in the Preserve.

The Bureau of Forestry will develop a fire plan for the Bigelow Preserve to deal with all aspects of fire prevention and containment. The fire plan shall be updated as needed each year by the Bureau of Forestry and distributed to other State agencies and appropriate user groups.

J. SEARCH AND RESCUE

The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has primary responsibility for search and rescue activities in the State. The Preserve Manager, in conjunction with DIF&W, Parks and Recreation, local citizens and other appropriate groups, will develop a plan to deal with all aspects of search and rescue activities. This plan will be updated as needed.

K. REVENUES

In the past, 25% of income received from timber harvesting within the Preserve was made available to the Bureau of Parks and Recreation for recreation management in the Preserve. The remaining money was turned over to the Bureau of Public Lands to cover management costs in the Preserve and to be invested in facilities outside the Preserve.

Recommendations: All revenues received from the Preserve will be held by the Bureau of Public Lands. From this money, the Bureau will hire and equip a Preserve Manager. In addition, the Bureau will pay the cost of developing and maintaining recreation facilities and wildlife enhancement projects. As with all other parcels managed by the Bureau of Public Lands, revenue generated in the Preserve will not be dedicated solely for use within the Preserve. If money received is above the cost of providing for the Preserve Manager and basic facilities development and maintenance, it will be used where it will benefit the natural resources and public enjoyment of the Public Reserved Lands. Conversely, money generated on other Public Lands can be used to fund major projects within the Preserve.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

BIGELOW PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES

[illegible]

Mammals observed or likely to occur in the Bigelow Preserve:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Actually Observed (1980 Survey)</u>
Masked Shrew	
Water Shrew	
Smoky Shrew	
Long-tailed Shrew	
Thompsons's Pigmy Shrew	
Short-tailed Shrew	X
Star-nosed Mole	
Little Brown Myotis	X
Keen's Myotis	
Silver-haired Bat	
Big Brown Bat	
Red Bat	
Hoary Bat	
Snowshoe Hare	X
Eastern Chipmunk	X
Woodchuck	X
Gray Squirrel	X
Red Squirrel	X
Northern Flying Squirrel	
Beaver	X

#

Species

Actually Observed (1980 Survey)

#

Dear Mouse X

Gapper's Red-Backed Vole

Meadow Vole	X
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Rock Vole X

Muskrat	X
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Southern Bog Lemming

Northern Bog Lemming

Norway Rat

House Mouse

Meadow Jumping Mouse	X
----------------------	---

Woodland Jumping Mouse X

Porcupine	X
-----------	---

Coyote X

Red Fox X

Black Bear X

Raccoon X

Marten X

Fisher X

Ermine

Long-tailed Weasel

Mink X

Striped Skunk X

River Otter

#####

Species

Actually Observed (1980 Survey)

#####

Lynx

Bobcat

X

White-tailed Deer

x

Moose

x

Birds observed in the Bigelow Preserve (1980 survey).

Common Loon

Black Duck

Red-Tailed Hawk

Cooper's Hawk

Ruffed Grouse

Spruce Grouse

Spotted Sandpiper

American Woodcock

Common Snipe

Common Flicker

Pileated Woodpecker

Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker

Hairy Woodpecker

Downy Woodpecker

Alder Flycatcher

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Tree Swallow

Bank Swallow

Gray Jay

Blue Jay

Common Raven

Common Crow

Black-capped Chickadee

Boreal Chickadee

White-breasted Nuthatch

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Winter Wren

Wood Thrush

Hermit Thrush

Swainson's Thrush

Gray Cheeked Thrush

Veery

Golden-crowned Kinglet	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Solitary Vireo	Red-eyed Vireo
Tennessee Warbler	Nashville Warbler
Yellow Warbler	Magnolia Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Black-throated Green Warbler
Myrtle Warbler	Bay-breasted Warbler
Blackpool Warbler	Yellowthroat
Ovenbird	Canada Warbler
American Redstart	Red-winged Blackbird
Scarlet Tanager	Pine Grosbeak
Evening Grosbeak	Purple Finch
Pine Siskin	Slate-colored Junco
Clipping Sparrow	White-throated Sparrow
Eastern Song Sparrow	

Noteworthy Plant and Tree Species Found in Bigelow Preserve (1980 Survey).

Balsam Fir, mountain variety	Boreal Bentgrass
Crinkled Hairgrass	Alpine Sweetgrass
Bigelow's Sedge	Highland Rush
Bristly Clubmoss	Heart-leaved Paper Birch
Mountain Sandwort	Three-Toothed Cinquefoil
Black Crowberry	Labrador Tea
Low Sweet Blueberry	Dwarf Bilberry
Alpine Bilberry	Mountain Cranberry
Alpine Goldenrod	Boott's Rattlesnake Root

Iceland Lichen

Reindeer Lichen

Hair-cap Moss

Fir Clubmoss

Source: A Natural Resource Inventory and Critical Areas Study of the Bigelow Preserve. State Planning Office, 1981.

APPENDIX B

DEFINITIONS

1. Definition of the phrase "natural state."

Natural State - maintenance of the general natural character of the environment of the Preserve by managing the resources to accommodate low intensity dispersed recreation activities, the basic facilities necessary to provide access to these opportunities, (e.g., trailhead parking; boat access to Flagstaff Lake; walk-in, or water access campsites; picnic sites), forest management and wildlife management facilities.

Discussion

"The purpose of this Act is to set aside land to be retained in its natural state for the use and enjoyment of the public", (Section 3. Purpose).

(1) implies lack of artificiality, (2) pertaining to, in accordance with, or determined by, nature, (3) being or found in its native state, and (4) not artificial, synthetic, processed, acquired by external means, etc.

Related definitions used by other agencies include:

Natural Area

...areas of unique natural condition with little developed facilities....(Idaho - 1973 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan).

an area ...often including a prime natural attraction, maintained primarily to preserve it in an undeveloped condition (Vermont, 1973).

an ecosystem protected from human influence (federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation 1975).

Natural Environment - Usually included varied interesting land forms such as flora and fauna in an attractive natural setting. Minimal development usually limited to hiking trails, picnicing and primitive camping. (Maryland, 1974 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan).

Nature Reserve - A large tract of land retained in its natural state to preserve its scenic features. (Glossary of terms, 1970 [prepared by Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire]).

The Bigelow Act petition drive and subsequent passage by referendum expressed a desire to keep and protect the mountain range from proposed development of a destination, downhill skiing resort which would have significantly altered the natural setting of the area.

Recreation in the Preserve should require little permanent physical alteration of the environment and should not encourage the concentration of users in a manner detracting from the essential character of the natural surroundings. Appropriate, dispersed activities could include, but are not limited to: trail hiking, picnicing, snowmobiling, fishing, hunting, cross-country skiing, and primitive camping. Wildlife and timber management should also require little permanent physical alteration of the environment.

2. Definition of the phrase "essential service facilities."

Essential service facilities - Basic facilities needed to service a resource area and to control and enhance public use. Location and design

of the facility should be consistent with the objective of protecting the overall natural character of the Preserve.

Discussion

"No buildings, ski lifts...should be built in the Preserve except for open trail shelters, essential service facilities...that are in keeping with the undeveloped character of the Preserve" (Section 3. Purpose) .

Facilities typically provided in State Parks and on Public Lands to facilitate maintenance and to control and serve the public include caretaker quarters for recreation, forestry, or wildlife management; service or storage buildings; a service road system; power lines; sanitary stations or privies; changing areas; gates and entry contact stations; water taps; parking lots; a road system; directional signs; and waste disposal areas. These "essential service facilities" are not necessarily present or desirable everywhere. Temporary structures for timber harvesting are permitted according to the Act. A crew camp for just timber harvesting is a temporary structure.

3. Definition of the phrase "other small structures in keeping with the undeveloped character of the Preserve."

"Other small structures in keeping with the undeveloped character of the Preserve" - relatively small structures or devices, such as trail signs, registration boxes, trail bridges, tent platforms, fireplaces, low head dams to enhance wildlife habitat, picnic tables, etc., that are necessary for user safety or management of the Preserve.

Discussion

"No buildings, ski lifts...shall be built in the Preserve except for open trail shelters...small signs, and other small structures that are in

keeping with the undeveloped character of the Preserve." (Section 3. Purpose)

The position of this phrase within the text of the Bigelow Preserve Act suggests that the key words are "other small structures," rather than "in keeping with", which implies that items such as registration boxes, fire tool boxes, trail bridges, and trail signs are meant. Such structures should be simple in design and appearance. Similarly, structures discussed under "essential service facilities" should also be simple, unobtrusive, and complement ("in keeping with") the undeveloped character of the Preserve.

Source: Bigelow Preserve, Policy Issues/Guidelines. Bureau of Parks and Recreation, Department of Conservation, November 1981.

APPENDIX C

REFERENCES

A Natural Resource Inventory and Critical Areas Study of the Bigelow Preserve.

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APPENDIX D

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