

CONCEPTUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN #10

KENNEBEC RIVER /EATON RIDGE

LOCATION: Skowhegan (Town Map 14 Lots 36-1, 37, 38 & 39), along the Kennebec River, East River Rd., & Eaton Mountain Rd. Parcel #10 on SWT map.

SIZE: 79 total acres (25, 15, 37 & 1.8 acre Lots).

LAND COVER: Wooded.

FEATURES /PUBLIC VALUES:

1. Important property with about 3000 feet of Kennebec River frontage.
2. Part of the holding was donated to SWT by Louise H. Coburn in 1927.
3. Consists of four parcels in an area that will likely undergo additional residential development and habitat fragmentation.
4. Somerset Bowhunter Association facility present on Lot 38 next to Eaton Mountain Rd.; had been there 15-16 years under verbal agreement with SWT prior to present 15-year lease (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2024); Association has done an excellent job in developing trail system and with its archery facilities.
5. Intermittent streams and glacial deposits with steep ravines present.
6. Has both upland and riparian wildlife habitat.
7. Fishing.
8. Hunting.
9. Trails.
10. Scenic resource, both riverside and roadside.
11. Most of riverside lot (36-1) within Skowhegan Shoreland Zoning Resource Protection & Stream Protection Districts; some of 37 and 38 within Stream Protection District.
12. IF&W Beginning with Habitat Maps indicate parcels contain Riparian Buffer, Undeveloped Habitat Blocks, Wetlands, and top 25% Valuable Habitat for USFWS Priority Trust Species.
13. An IF&W mapped Deer Wintering Area (DWA #060046) is across the Eaton Mountain Road from the upper parcels.
14. CMP operates and maintains a transmission line on the Eaton Mountain Road portion.

FOCUS SPECIES:

1. None at present.

CONCERNS:

1. No resource inventory has been conducted.
2. Some trash and litter on the East River Road lots.
3. Uncontrolled access by vehicles on Lot 37.
4. No Focus Species have been identified.
5. No signing present that identifies SWT as owner.

6. No publicity regarding SWT being the owner in public notices about archery events and activities to be held there.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Explore working with the MATC to develop a trail system that would tie into the one created by the Somerset Bowhunter Association.
2. Assure compliance with conditions of lease that Somerset Bowhunter Association will put up and maintain a sign indicating that SWT is the owner of the property and will note the same in any public notices regarding events and activities to be held there.
3. Consider developing a small primitive boat access site on riverside lot (36-1) that would be part of the trail system if funding or volunteers can be obtained to maintain it.
4. Preserve scenic values as viewed both from the river and the roads.
5. Develop timber-harvesting plan for all parcels and coordinate it with the Somerset Bowhunters Club regarding Lot 38.
6. Control vehicular access on Lot 37 to confine vehicles to area adjacent to East River Rd. and to prevent travel by vehicle to the lower parts of the lot and to the riverside lot (36-1).
7. Put up signs identifying SWT as owner and listing public uses allowed.
8. Advise State natural and cultural resource agencies such as MNAP, IF&W, and MHPC, of the location of this and other SWT properties and invite them to review and provide comments and recommendations regarding them.
9. Do not allow significant ground disturbance without prior review and approval by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission or other accepted archaeological (prehistoric/historic) authority.
10. Evaluate and determine Focus Species.