

## CONCEPTUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN #15

### SUGAR BUSH

**LOCATION:** Skowhegan (Town Map 13 Lot 6), west side of Back Road. Parcel #15 on SWT map.

**SIZE:** 5.5 acres.

**LAND COVER:** Hardwoods.

**FEATURES/PUBLIC VALUES:**

1. Scenic resource.
2. Sugar maples.
3. Vernal pool may be present nearby.
4. Tree farm.

**FOCUS SPECIES:**

1. Wood frog, if present nearby, so that parcel provides habitat for juveniles and adults.

**CONCERNS:**

1. Wood frogs have been heard calling in the spring from this vicinity, and a possible vernal pool was identified on adjacent property in May 2008.
2. Sugar maples are tapped by the Steeves family (Strawberry Hill Farms LLC), which damages timber value of the maples.
3. There is no written agreement regarding the use of the maple trees or compensation to SWT for that use.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Woods should be managed as a scenic resource and as wood frog terrestrial habitat.
2. A vernal pool survey should be conducted on adjacent property with landowner permission.
3. Use of parcel for tapping sugar maples should be subject to a written agreement.
4. SWT should consider partnering with abutting landowner(s) regarding protection of vernal pool habitat.
5. 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.
6. Do not allow significant disturbance of the ground without prior review and approval by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission or other accepted archaeological (prehistoric/historic) authority.