

CONCEPTUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN #1

GORGE OVERLOOK

LOCATION: Skowhegan (Town Map 27 Lots 75 & 79-1), between the Kennebec River and Mt. Pleasant Ave. Parcel #1 on SWT map.

SIZE: 5.6 acres.

LAND COVER: Wooded.

FEATURES /PUBLIC VALUES:

1. Key frontage of about 800 feet for public use on Kennebec River.
2. Critical component of Run of River project.
3. Will provide public access to river for recreational purposes.
4. Will prevent shoreline development.
5. Scenic resource.
6. Mostly within Skowhegan Shoreland Zoning Limited Residential District.
7. IF&W Beginning with Habitat Maps identify parcel as containing a Riparian Buffer.
8. Conservation of shoreline and facilitation of recreational use of the property and river are purposes under Land For Maine's Future Fund Project Agreement.

FOCUS SPECIES: None at present.

CONCERNS:

One MDOT bridge/bypass alignment corridor alternative (E1B) was located just upstream.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Manage in accordance with use conditions associated with Land For Maine's Future Fund Project Agreement (Registry Book 3924/Page 298).
2. Manage in collaboration with the proposed Run of River Project.
3. Manage to preserve scenic values as viewed both from the river and roads.
4. Establish relationship with Town of Skowhegan via lease to facilitate public recreational uses, including direct pedestrian access to the river, walking paths along the river, bank fishing, viewing of boating activities in the Gorge, and emergency access from the river by whitewater boaters.
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 comment regarding their management.
7. Do not allow significant disturbance of the ground without prior review and approval by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission or other accepted archeological (prehistoric/historic) authority.
8. Oppose any MDOT project alignment that would impact this or the other associated SWT Kennebec River parcels directly or indirectly.
9. Determine if management for Focus Species is appropriate.