

## CONCEPTUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN #23

### CANAAN BOG

**LOCATION:** Skowhegan (Town Map 14, Lots 57 & 58), about 0.5 mile east of the East River Rd. and about one mile south of the Oak Pond Rd. Parcel #23 on SWT map. Lots are separated by land owned by Acrewood LLC (Town Map 18 Lot 40). SWT lots are abutted on west by CMP powerline. They are accessible from the East River Rd. (about 0.5 mile) via an easement access and CMP has constructed a parking area for SWT along that road.

**SIZE:** 192 acres (32.39 + 159.47 = 191.86 acres).

**LAND COVER:** Mixed woods.

#### **FEATURES/PUBLIC VALUES:**

1. Property is compensatory preservation mitigation for CMP expansion project.
2. Small part of Canaan Bog complex (a kettlehole bog-pond ecosystem).
3. Significant vernal pool present (0.1 acre + 6.7 acre buffer zone) on south parcel (14-58) according to CMP.
4. The Property is to be managed in accordance with a Conservation Declaration whose purpose "... is to maintain ecosystem values, wetland functions and values, wildlife habitat, rare ecological communities and plant resources, riparian resources, aesthetic values, scenic and visual attributes, cultural resources, and other natural values of the Property, and prevent the use or development of the Property for any purpose or in any manner that would conflict with the maintenance of the Property in its natural condition."
5. According to the Conservation Declaration, the Property is to be "... maintained in its natural, scenic, and open condition and restricted from any development or use that would impair or interfere with the conservation purposes of this Declaration set forth above."
6. According to Beginning with Habitat maps, resources present include, at least in part, Riparian Buffer (around NWI wetlands), Deer Wintering Area (a High Value Plant & Animal Habitat), Undeveloped Habitat Block, Large Area of Interior Forest, and Valuable Habitat for USFWS Priority Trust Species (Forest & Forested Wetlands).
7. According to maps in the Skowhegan Town Office on Nov. 8, 2011, NWI forested and shrub wetlands are present on both lots.
8. According to maps in the Skowhegan Town Office on Nov. 8, 2011, part of a wetland zoned under Shoreland Zoning as Resource Protection and a 250' buffer area are present on Lot 14-58 and part of its buffer area is present on Lot 14-57.
9. Property has potential for limited passive recreation.
10. Property possibly has potential opportunities for environmental education, particularly for children.
11. Property possibly may meet at least one of MNAP/IF&W selection criteria for candidate land trust focus species.

**FOCUS SPECIES:**

1. None at present.

**CONCERNS:**

1. Full compliance with conditions of Conservation Declaration forever.
2. Possible presence of prehistoric resources.
3. Compliance with applicable Shoreland Zoning standards in conduct of any activities.
4. Unknown if unusual ecological community, rare plants and animals, or species of special concern are present.
5. No signs identifying SWT as owner.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Seek potential opportunities to add additional Canaan Bog properties.
2. Visit the site in spring annually to evaluate condition of vernal pool and to document activities.
3. Determine Focus Species on basis of vernal pool visit findings.
4. Contact MHPC regarding possible presence of prehistoric resources.
5. Contact MNAP to determine if they are interested in surveying Property for rare plants and animals, species of special concern, or unusual ecological communities.
6. If MNAP does conduct such a survey, develop further recommendations as necessary based on findings.
7. Allow non-motorized recreation by the public including hiking and bird watching as compatible with requirements of Conservation Declaration, findings regarding cultural resources, ecological communities, and any rare plants and animals or species of special concern present.
8. Allow justified non-destructive scientific and archaeological research.
9. Put up signs identifying SWT as owner.