

Cutler
Cutler, Whiting

Vital Statistics

Size: 5,216 acres

Regulated: 1,623 acres

Non-Regulated: 3,593 acres

Upland: 4,136 acres

Forested Wetland (NWI): 257 acres

Non-Forested Wetland: 815 acres

Open Water: 18 acres

Roads: improved-3 miles
unimproved-1 mile
trails-1 mile
total-5 miles

Biophysical Region: Eastern
Coastal

BPL Region: East



Rare Species and Exemplary Natural Community Table for Cutler Preserve

Common Name	Latin Name	S-RANK	G-RANK	State Status
<i>Exemplary Natural Communities</i>				
Coastal Plateau Bog Ecosystem		S3	GNR	N/A
Maritime Huckleberry Bog		S3	GNR	N/A
Maritime Spruce - Fir Forest		S4	GNR	N/A
Open Cedar Fen		S4	GNR	N/A
Open Headland		S4	GNR	N/A
Tall Grass meadow		S3	GNR	N/A
<i>Rare Plants</i>				
Northern Comandra	<i>Geocaulon lividum</i>	S3	G5	SC
<i>Rare Animals</i>				
None found				

Description

This Reserve consists of two units: a 3,489 acre inland unit and a 1,727 coastal unit. Together these units encompass several natural communities characteristic of DownEast Maine, including coastal plateau bogs, open headlands, and bluejoint meadows.

The Reserve encompasses several peatlands and one of the largest known “bluejoint meadow” natural communities in Maine. These open habitats are embedded within forested stands of varying degrees of past disturbance, ranging from early successional aspen groves to a spruce stand over 100 years old.

At over 1,000 acres, the bluejoint meadow along East Stream is a mosaic of upland and wetland types with a history of fire. Research by Dieffenbacher-Krall (1996) suggests that these meadows were initially created by fire in the mid 19th century. The meadows have burned repeatedly in the 20th century and have been targeted for prescribed burns in past management plans by the state. The large meadow in the southern unit was most recently burned in April 2004. Krall's study also suggests, however, that fire may not be necessary to keep the meadows open. Blue-joint grass may inhibit tree regeneration by forming dense mats and preventing seed germination.

One of the largest bogs in the Reserve is the ~120 acre huckleberry – crowberry bog along Bagley Stream. Black crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*) and baked apple-berry (*Rubus chamaemorus*), both characteristic of this maritime bog type, occur frequently here. Some of the other peatlands in the Reserve lack these characteristic maritime species

In general, forested stands in this Reserve are comparatively young and low in volume, reflecting combinations of past spruce-budworm, fire, heavy harvesting, and weather damage. Bureau of Public Land stand type maps, for example, indicate no sawtimber stands within the Reserve. A few mature stands remain, such as a 100+ year old spruce stand near Cocoa Mountain, just outside of the Reserve.

A hiking trail traverses the coastal unit, and there are a handful of maintained campsites on the coast.

Resources

Dieffenbacher-Krall, A. 1996. Paleo- and Historical-Ecology of the Cutler Grasslands, Cutler, Maine (USA): Implications for Future Management. *Natural Areas Journal*. Volume 16, Issue 1.

Famous, N.C. and M. Spencer. 1992. An evaluation of the Maine Public Lands Cutler Management Unit using landscape analysis and field verification. Bureau of Public Lands, Augusta, Maine. 35 pp. (+ appendices).