

# SEBOEIS UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

## PUBLIC RESERVED LANDS SYSTEM

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Bureau of Public Lands



February 1990

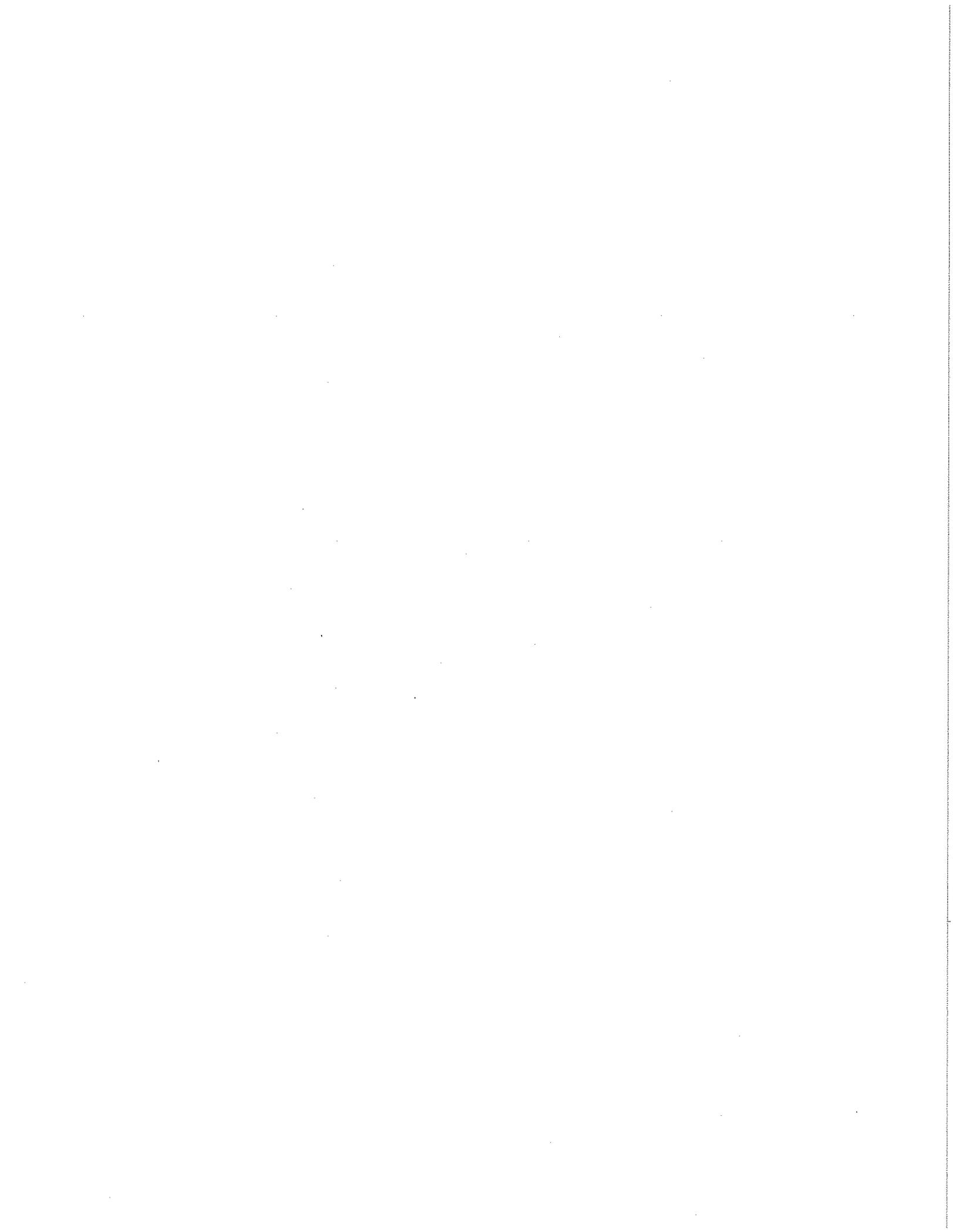
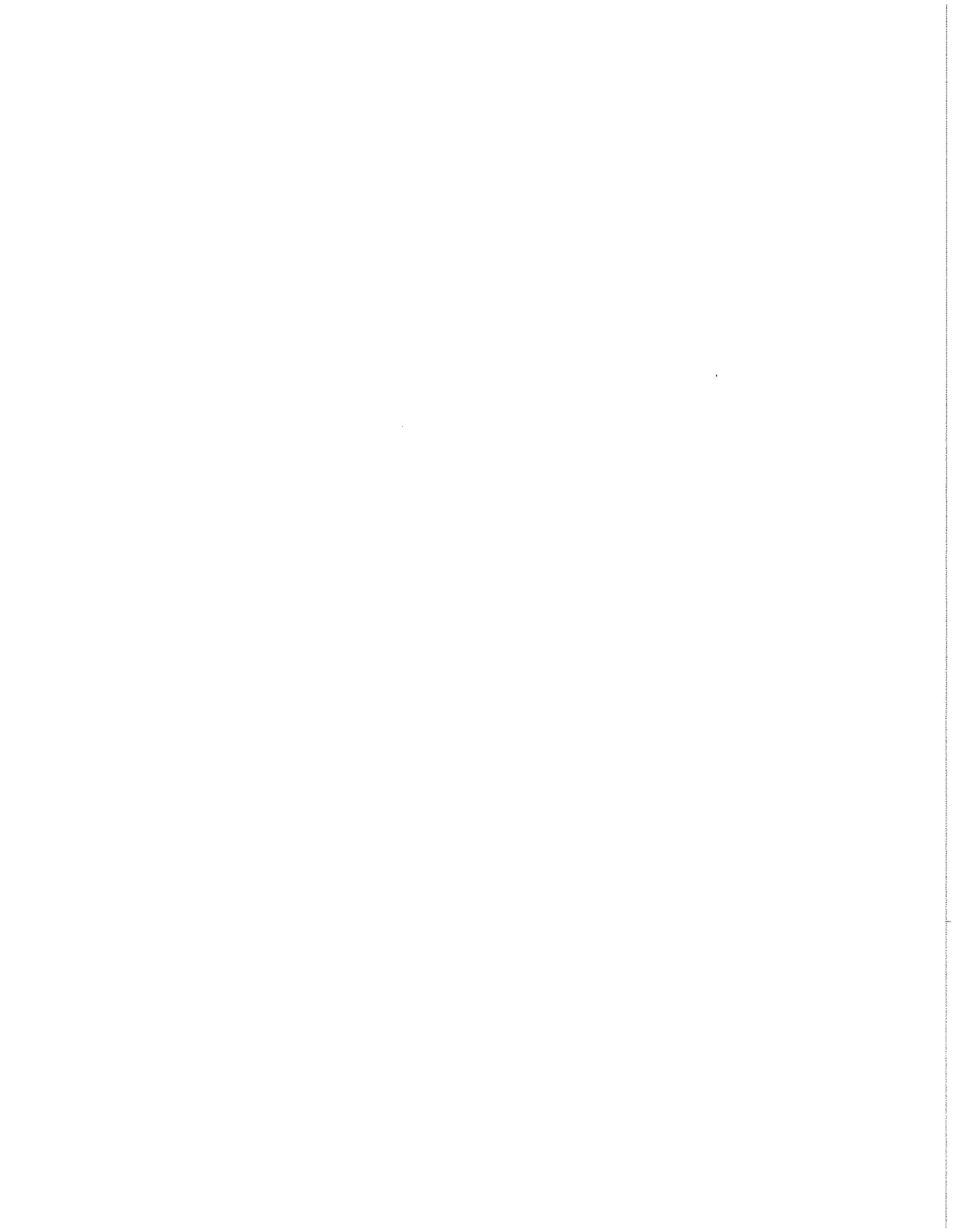


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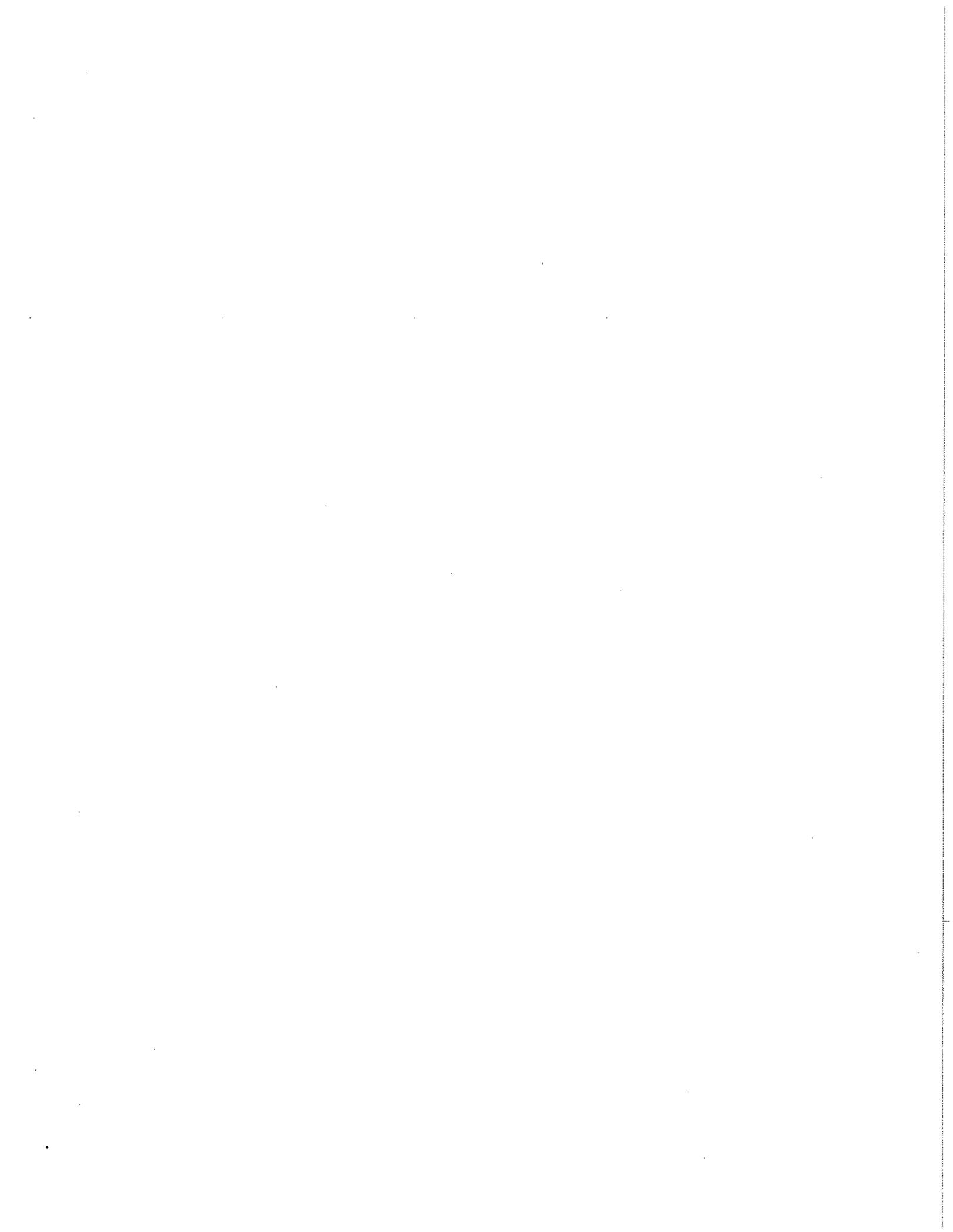
ADOPTION CITATION

In accordance with the provisions of 12 M.R.S.A., Chapter 202-B, §585 and consistent with the Bureau of Public Lands' Planning Policy and Integrated Resource Policy, this Management Plan is hereby adopted.

RECOMMENDED: Thomas A. Morris DATE: 2/2/90

APPROVED: C. Edwin Meadows, Jr. DATE: 2/5/90

ADOPTED DATE: 2/5/90 REVISION DATE: 2/5/2000



## INTRODUCTION

This document is the first ten-year Plan for management of the Public Lands in Lakeview Plantation, T4R9 NWP, and T3R9 NWP, the Seboeis Lake Unit. It has been designed to meet the requirements for multiple-use management plans set forth in Title 12 M.R.S.A., Chapter 202-B, §585, and is consistent with the Planning Policies adopted in June 1985 and Integrated Resource Policies adopted in December 1985 by the Bureau of Public Lands (the Bureau).

The purpose of this Plan is two fold. First and foremost, it is a commitment to the public, which owns these lands, that the lands will be managed well and in accordance with the law. As such, this Plan has been designed to be readily understood by all of the using public. In this Plan, the Bureau also commits to making significant changes only after providing opportunity for further public participation. Second, this Plan is a directive for the Bureau staff; it provides clear goals and direction for them to follow in fulfilling their responsibilities.

This is not a Plan of operations. It is written to permit professional managers to respond to current situations - to have a degree of flexibility as to how long-term goals should be accomplished. All detailed management decisions will undergo interdisciplinary review to ensure a well-balanced approach.

Because forest management objectives frequently require long periods of time to achieve, this Plan has been written broadly

enough to be appropriate for many decades. However, the Bureau's policies call for a complete review and update of this Plan every ten years to insure responsible management planning. Sections of the Plan will be updated as new information is processed.

The Bureau wishes to acknowledge the helpful participation of many Maine citizens and others in the development of this Plan. Through the assistance of the Public Advisory Group (listed in Appendix 2), and through the many comments received in response to the draft Plan, the Bureau has heard and incorporated many constructive suggestions from Maine people. We thank those persons for their assistance, and we appreciate the importance of their contributions. Continued public support will be needed to meet many of the goals and objectives outlined in the Plan.

Thomas A. Morrison, Director  
Bureau of Public Lands  
February 1990

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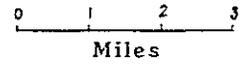
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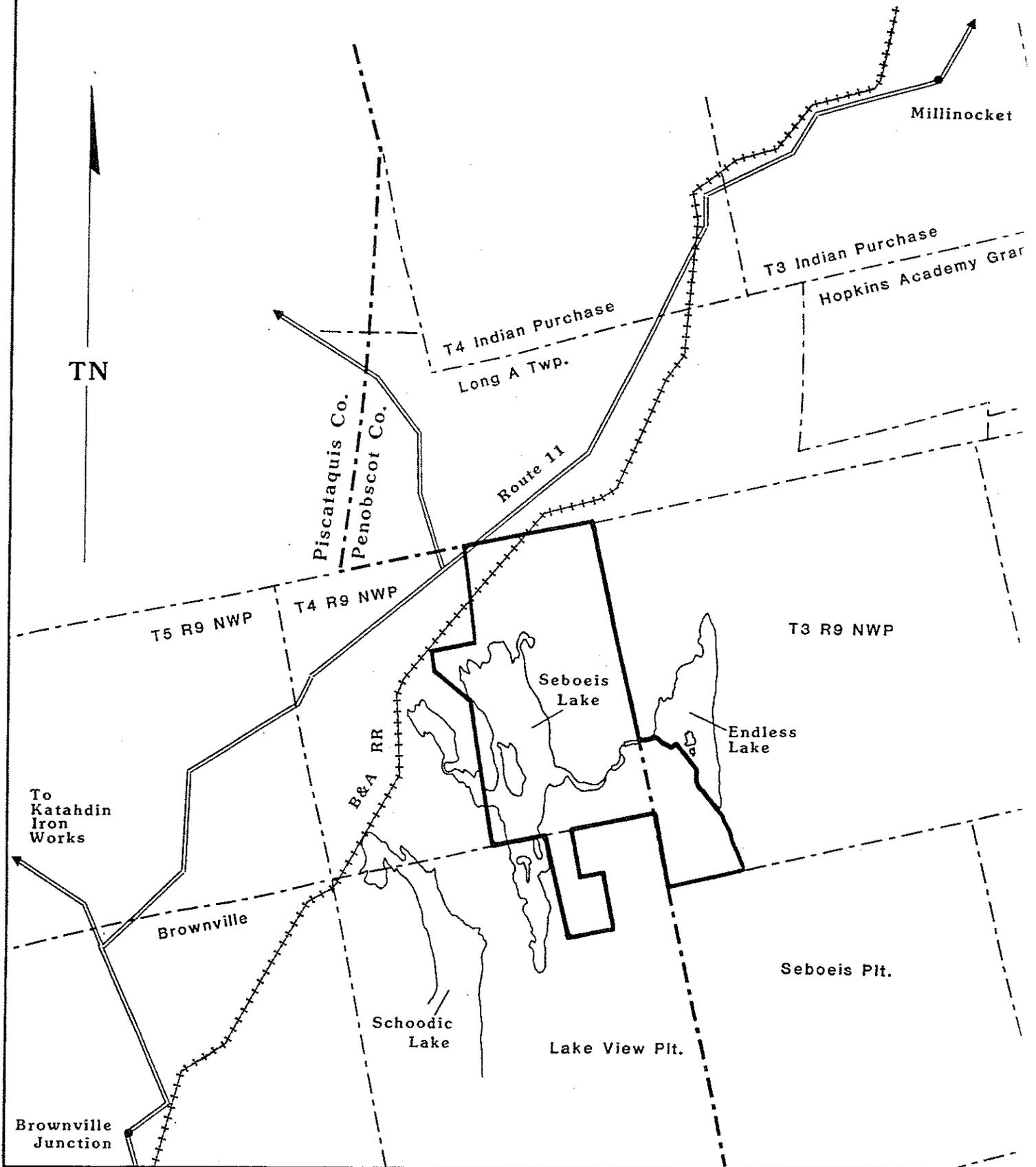
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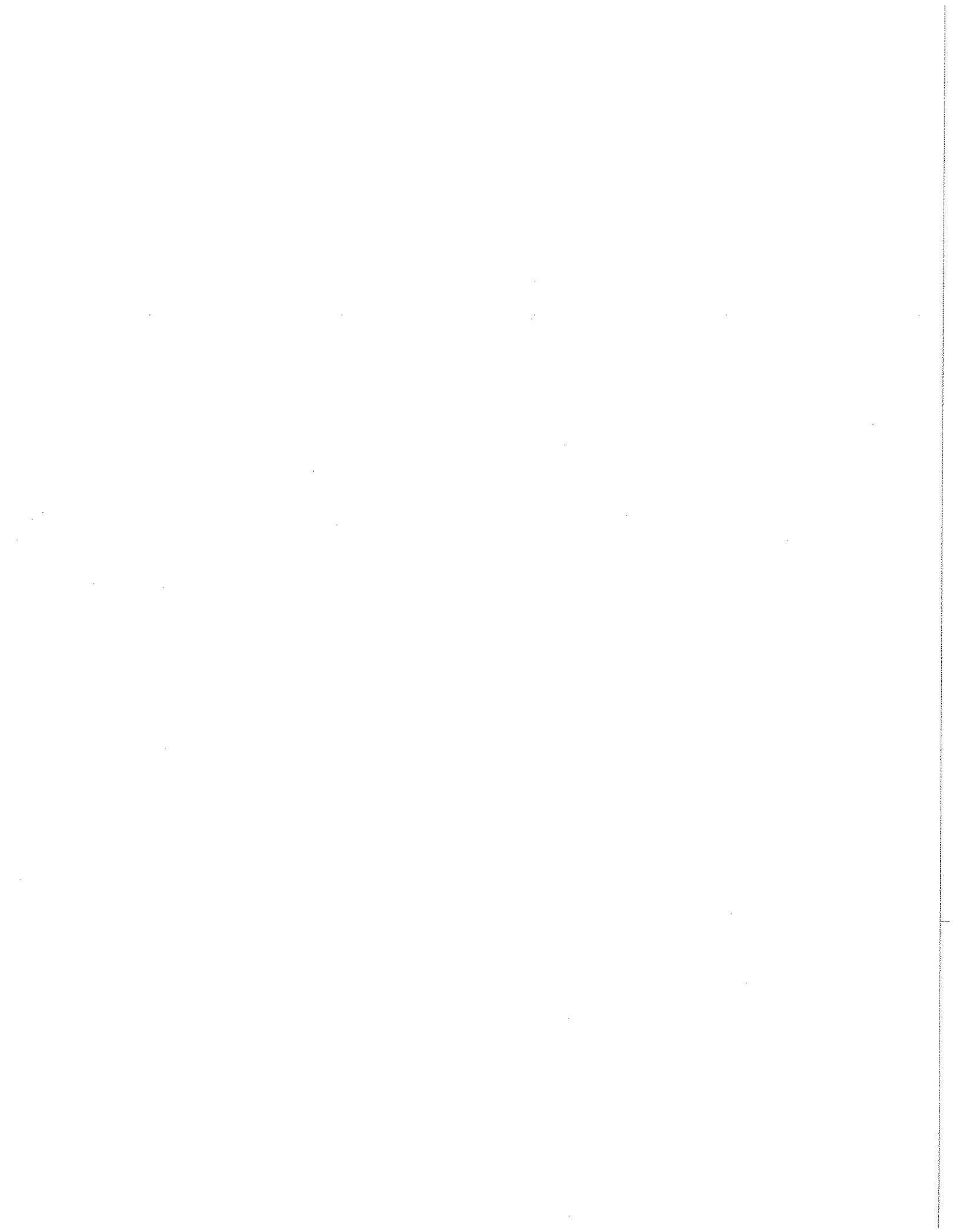


# Map #1

## Seboeis Management Unit

### Location Map

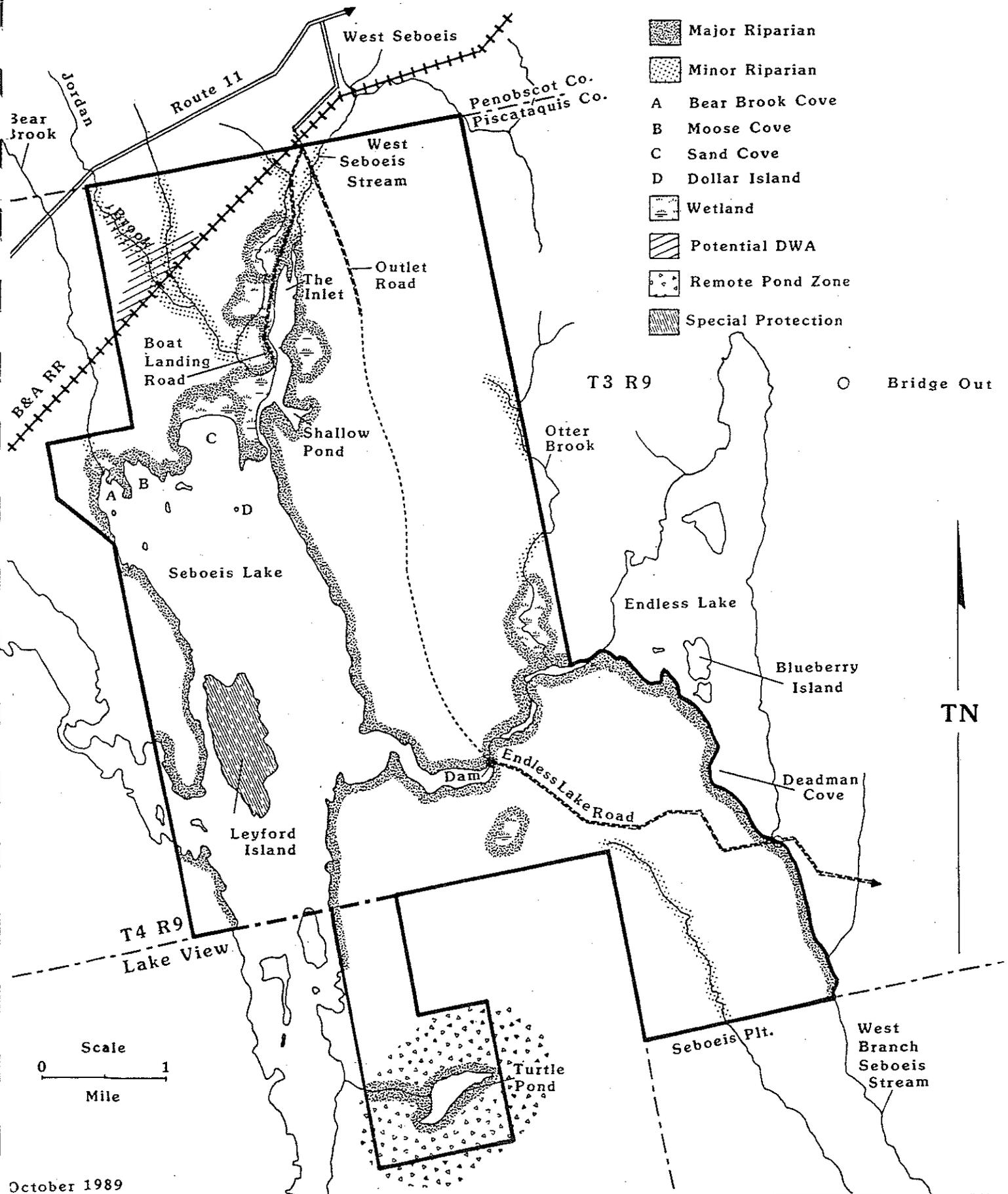


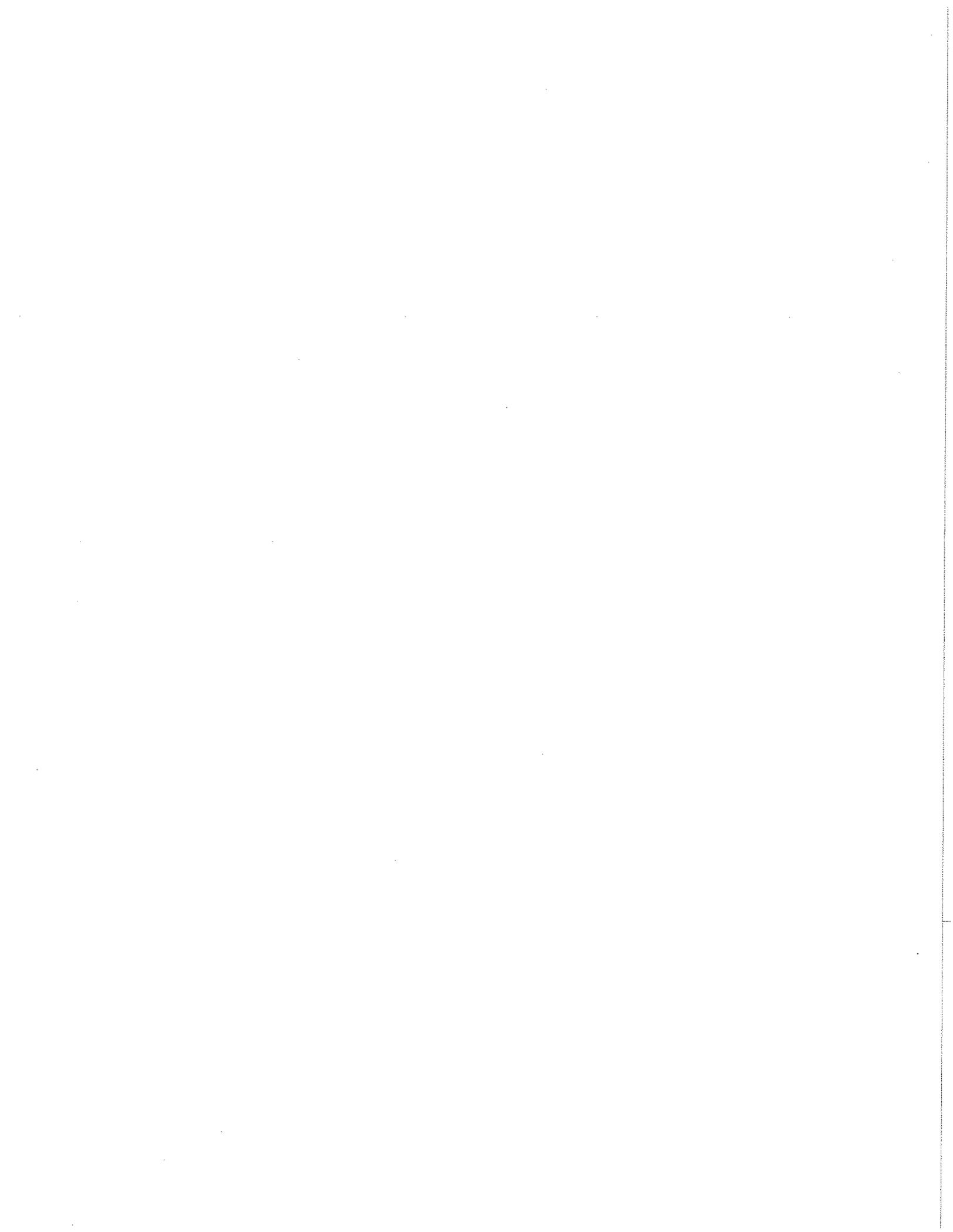


Public Reserved Lands  
Seboeis Management Unit

Map # 2

Special Protection and Wildlife Areas





## SECTION I - CHARACTER OF THE LANDBASE

Located in Piscataquis County, the Seboeis Lake Management Unit is a semi-remote area containing land in T4R9 NWP, T3R9 NWP, and Lakeview Plantation. The Unit includes 12,901 acres of the 450,000 Public Reserved Lands presently managed by the Bureau of Public Lands. The land within this Unit consists of the original public lot in Lakeview, plus lands in both T4R9 NWP and T3R9 NWP which were acquired through land trades with Boise-Cascade, St. Regis (now Champion International), and the Dyer Interests.

The major recreational use of the area centers around the Unit's water resource. Both Seboeis Lake and Endless Lake offer a variety of good cold and warm water fishing, while Turtle Pond offers good trout fishing. Other recreational uses include boating, hunting, ice fishing, and camping at one of several boat-access campsites.

The rocky, irregular nineteen miles of shoreline around Seboeis Lake and its numerous scattered islands - including 237 acre Leyford Island - offer habitat for many species of waterfowl. In addition, a wide variety of Maine's other wildlife species make their homes within the Unit. However, a lack of contiguous softwood cover tends to limit the populations of some species by not providing them with adequate protective shelter.

Harvesting records on the Unit date back to the early 1900's. Over the next several decades cutting included removing cedar, spruce, white birch, and white pine. Early harvesting practices contributed to the present "mixedwood" forest composed of a mix of hardwoods and softwoods. Though consisting mostly of

only two age classes, the forest contains many different species of trees. Regeneration of all species throughout the Unit is good due to the moist, fertile soils.

Topography within the Unit is gently sloping. Both the shores of Seboeis Lake and the lake bottom are extremely rocky and strewn with boulders. These boulders are often hidden when the water level of Seboeis Lake rises due to the dam, operated by Bangor Hydro Electric Company, located at the outlet stream. The water level of the Lake often fluctuates by several feet because of the dam operation. However, this does not adversely effect land management planning.

## SECTION II - KEY MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

This plan addresses the entire multiple use management program for the Seboeis Unit. There are six primary areas of concern which have been identified as needing particular consideration. These will be addressed in this plan. In addition, there are other areas of interest.

### 1. Special Protection

a. The Bureau will afford special protection (e.g no timber harvesting) to Leyford Island, a 237-acre island located in Seboeis Lake. This is the largest island within the Bureau's eastern land holdings and will provide an excellent opportunity for old-growth timber stands in the future. In addition, the area will provide an opportunity for remote, water access recreation such as camping and hiking.

### 2. Wildlife

a. Deer wintering areas (DWA) are important habitat types -- both for the Unit and for the region. One potential DWA has been located on the northwest corner of the Unit, and another has been reported just south of the Bureau's holdings in the vicinity of Roaring Brook. A field survey has determined that the potential DWA on the Unit may eventually provide suitable deer winter shelter. The Bureau will manage the area for deer winter habitat, and work with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIF&W) in the development of winter cover in this area.

b. Fisheries. The fisheries found on the Seboeis Unit are important, high-quality natural resources. Two large lakes, Endless and Seboeis, offer a wide variety of cold and warm water species, while the smaller, remote Turtle Pond is fragile and offers an ever-diminishing backcountry fishing experience. The Bureau will follow DIF&W management recommendations to help ensure the productivity of this fishery resource.

### 3. Recreation

a. The Bureau will improve existing campsites on Seboeis and Endless Lakes, and establish two new water accessible campsites on the east side of the Inlet to Seboeis Lake.

b. The Boat Landing Road on the west side of the Inlet to Seboeis Lake offers a boat launch and vehicle parking area. The Bureau has recently upgraded both the deteriorated road and the boat launch area to help reduce access and parking problems.

c. The access road and the boat launch area on the southern tip of Endless Lake will be upgraded to facilitate launching small sporting craft in accordance with Bureau policy.

#### 4. Visual Consideration

The scenic quality of the Seboeis Unit is important because of the large amount of relatively undeveloped shore frontage. Particular attention will be paid to visual affects of management activities along both shores of the Inlet as this is the major water access point to Seboeis Lake.

#### 5. Timber

a. Through its management activities, the Bureau will work to increase the amount of contiguous softwood cover on the Unit. This will create areas better suited for wildlife habitat.

b. Both red spruce and white pine growth will be encouraged over white spruce and balsam fir. Combining this with an attempt to increase both height and age-class diversity within all species will reduce the forests' susceptibility to insect and disease outbreaks.

c. Because the hardwood timber resource on the Unit is mostly of low quality, the Bureau will work to increase the sugar maple, yellow birch, and white ash components, so higher quality timber is produced.

#### 6. Road System

a. Roads leading to the Unit are privately-owned. The Bureau will work with the three private landowners involved to help ensure continued public and management access.

b. Management road access within the Unit is limited in extent and condition. The Bureau will assess management road access needs within the framework of this Management Plan, and develop a system which considers all management needs and constraints.

c. Reconstruction of the Outlet Road will be assessed within the ten-year management period. Road repairs will be made as determined necessary.

### SECTION III - RESOURCE ALLOCATION

The Bureau's multiple-use management system is based on allocating areas for specific uses. Because of the nature of multiple-use management, these areas may overlap, creating areas where management is designed to accommodate a variety of uses. In such areas, the objective for each type of use will be defined. In order to reduce conflicts, a dominant use will be identified; this dominant use will take priority over all other uses, which become subordinate uses. Where one use is planned to be secondary, the resource will be managed to the greatest extent possible without interfering with the dominant use.

The dominant use will normally be determined according to the level of sensitivity. In other words, the use which requires more protection or careful management will typically dominate. The following list indicates the priority sequence for establishing dominant use.

1. Special Protection. Habitat for rare plants, some areas of old growth forests, and rare and endangered animal species habitat.
2. Backcountry. Large areas containing outstanding natural resource characteristics, managed for remote recreation and characterized by no public vehicular access -- with the exception of snowmobiles.

3. Wildlife Management. Wetlands, riparian zones, deeryards, special habitats.
4. Remote Recreation. Areas managed for low intensity recreation, containing significant natural resource values, and characterized by no public vehicular access (excepting snowmobiles).
5. General Recreation. Campsites, boatlaunches, trails and areas of more intensive public use where vehicle access is normally allowed.
6. Visual Zones. Areas where recreation will not occur directly as in backcountry and general recreation zones, but where management activities could adversely affect visual enjoyment of an area (i.e. corridors along access roads and hiking trails; slopes in view of campsites)
7. Timber. Where no other zone has been applied, as long as it is suitable for timber production under the Bureau's general management standards.

The maps in the following section describe the areas according to wildlife and special protection, recreation and visual concern, timber and transportation. No single map of dominant use areas is provided, as the many -- often overlapping areas appear confusing. Dominant use areas are established, however, and integration requirements must be understood according to the above priority list.

#### SECTION IV - RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

In this section management for each type of use will be described, and maps will show the areas defined for such uses. It is important for the reader to keep in mind that a particular area may be used for more than one purpose. In such cases, the dominant use will be determined by priority as explained in Section III.

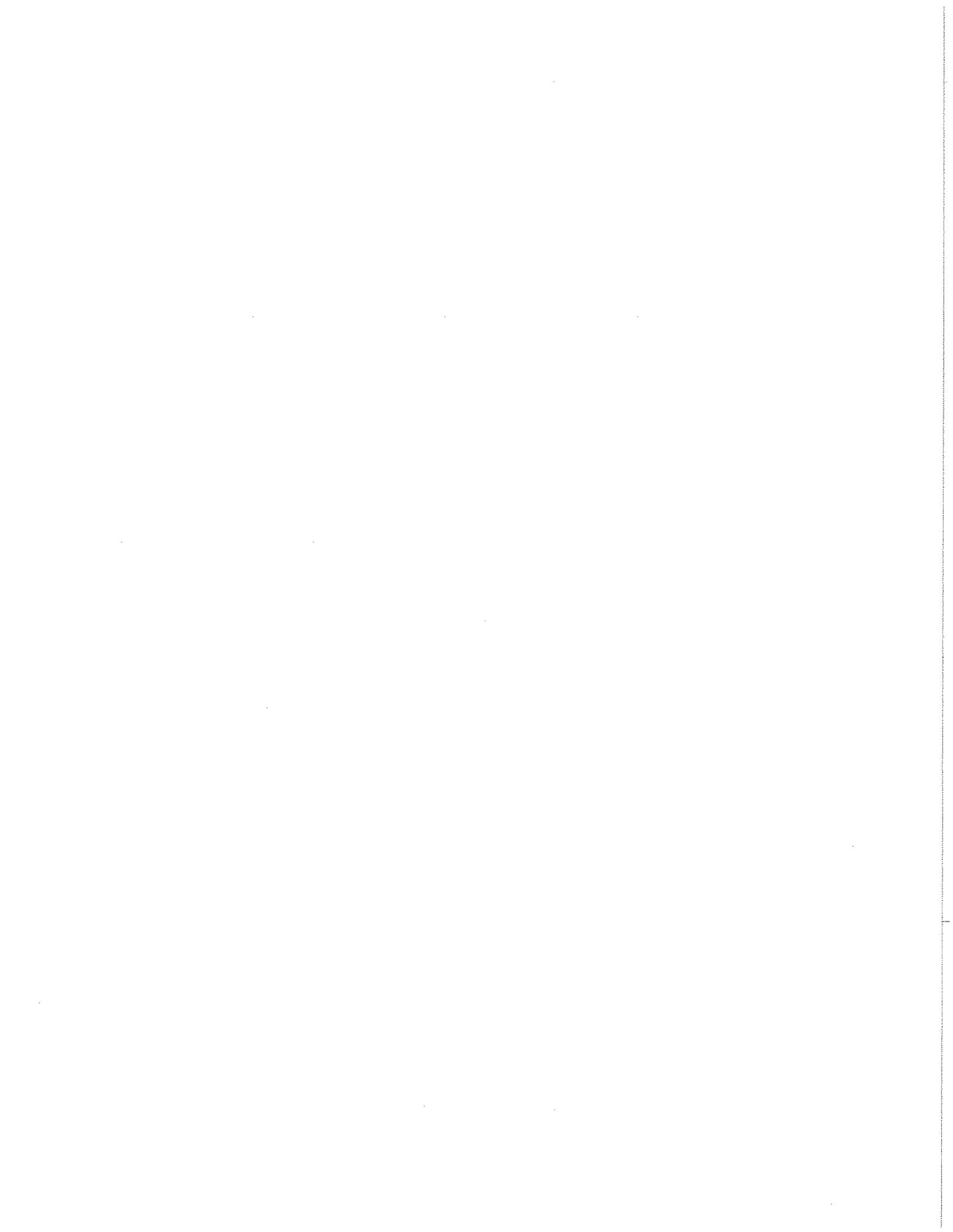
The areas delineated on the maps are subject to only minor adjustment by Bureau personnel without formal changes in this Plan. For each section, appropriate management actions will be described for each use as if it were the dominant use. Where the use is a subordinate one (for example, general recreation or timber management within a wildlife management area), management will be modified to accommodate the requirements of the dominant use. Within this plan, management actions will be described in the following sequence: Special Protection, Wildlife, Recreation, Visual consideration, Timber, Transportation and Special Uses.

A. Special Protection (See Map #2)

1. Description of the Resource

Bureau policy defines special protection resources as particularly unusual and important areas in need of protection from disturbance. These areas include habitat for rare plants or animals, certain areas of old-growth forest, rare geologic formations, and important historic sites.

At this time only one area has been recommended for special protection on the Unit: Leyford Island, a 237-acre island in Seboeis Lake. The Island is unique in being the largest island in the Bureau's eastern land holdings. It offers an excellent



opportunity to provide the Unit with old-growth timber stands in the future and will be afforded special protection status for this purpose. Further examination of the Island may reveal rare plants or other natural features in need of special protection.

Loons are commonly seen on the Seboeis Unit. Although these species are not endangered or even rare, the Bureau works with other agencies and groups in affording special protection status to them. Loons are particularly sensitive to disturbance during nesting season, although no nesting sites have as yet been located on the Unit. Bald eagle sightings have also been reported, and a nest has recently been constructed near Bear Brook Cove. If the nest becomes active, the nest area will be added to the special protection category.

## 2. Dominant Use

Special protection areas contain some of the more fragile and/or unusual features of the Public Lands resource base. Management of these areas will be protective in nature, keeping them available for preservation, scientific study, public enjoyment, and similar purposes.

Leyford Island includes one camp lease at the south end of the Island. Management of the remainder of the Island will include maintaining the scenic character found here and minimizing any disturbance caused by users. Periodic monitoring will identify particular management needs. The Bureau will work with the Critical Areas Program and others to further evaluate features in need of protection within the area.

The Bureau will work closely with the DIF&W to identify any loon, bald eagle, or other important bird species nesting of the Unit. If the eagle nest becomes active or another active nest is located, the Bureau will follow the guidelines prepared by the DIF&W's endangered and non-game species program.

### 3. Secondary Use

Leyford Island will be managed for wildlife and water-access recreation in the form of rustic campsites. No other active management of the area will be allowed. Secondary uses of any special protection areas identified in the future will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

No other Special Protection areas have been identified on the Unit as of this date. The Bureau will continue to work with the Nature Conservancy, Critical Areas Program, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, and others to further assess special protection needs. This plan will be amended to incorporate any such areas into the management decision-making process.

### B. Wildlife (See Map #2)

#### 1. Description of the Resource.

Wildlife habitat conditions on the Unit have been evaluated as being of fair to good quality. The most important limiting factor is the lack of extensive mature softwood forest types. The presence of several streams, wetlands, miles of shoreland, and good vegetative diversity are all conducive to providing for the needs of many species of wildlife.

a. Forest. Upland wildlife habitat on the Unit is quite diverse, despite a general lack of contiguous softwood which

provides protective habitat cover. The forest generally contains lower amounts of softwood than hardwood, and limited diversity of tree ages and heights. Beech is the only important mast (nut)-producing tree species found on the Unit, and is important as a wildlife food source. Upland wildlife species present include moose, deer, snowshoe hare, ruffed grouse, coyote, fox, beaver, and otter. Ospreys and eagles have been sighted on both Seboeis and Endless Lakes and an eagle nest has been located, but no active use of the nest has been documented.

There is one potential deer wintering area (DWA) in the northwest corner of the Unit, 116 acres in size, surrounding Jordan Brook. A second potential DWA has been reported south of the Bureau's holdings along Roaring Brook in T3 R9.

b. Wetlands. Eight wetlands are located on the Unit, most having significant value to wildlife. Six of the wetlands border The Inlet and the north end of Seboeis Lake. Another wetland borders Otter Brook, just above Dudley Rips, and the final wetland is located in the southeastern corner of T4 R9.

The wetlands add a degree of habitat diversity and provide part of the lifecycle requirements for many species of wildlife, including water, food, and cover. Wetlands also serve a number of other important ecological purposes, including nutrient absorption, storage of ground water, stabilizing surface water, and curbing erosion.

Wetlands on Public Lands are evaluated for their importance to wildlife, and especially for waterfowl. In important wetlands where habitat conditions can be enhanced, the Bureau may conduct

improvement projects. When sensitive areas are located, such as loon nest sites, habitat protection measures will be taken.

c. Riparian Areas. In wildlife management, lands adjacent to watercourses, waterbodies, or wetlands are called "riparian" areas. Riparian areas typically provide good edge, food, travel lanes, and other wildlife benefits. The Bureau designates 330 foot wide margins around waterbodies and wetlands, and along each side of major watercourses as riparian areas. Minor watercourses receive seventy-five foot wide riparian areas along each side. These areas are managed for wildlife as the dominant use.

Most of the nineteen mile shoreline of Seboeis Lake will be allocated for riparian area as the dominant use. This area offers habitat to numerous species of waterfowl including mergansers, loons, and wood ducks. Thirteen waterfowl (duck) boxes are maintained on the Unit by the Bureau, providing nest sites where adequate natural conditions for this purpose do not exist. Use of the boxes has been good, with 70% being nested in by various bird species -- mostly waterfowl.

Other major riparian areas are located around Turtle Pond, the wetlands, along Endless Lake, West Seboeis Stream, Jordan Brook, and the stream between Turtle and Seboeis Lakes. Minor riparian areas are in place along several streams and brooks on the Unit.

d. Fisheries. The following list gives the Land Use Regulation Commission's (LURC) resource assessments of the great ponds (larger than ten acres) found on the Unit (see Appendix 3, #7).

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	<u>FISHERIES</u>	<u>RESOURCE CLASS</u>
Seboeis	4,021	Significant	Statewide Significance (1A)
Endless	1,499	Significant	Regional Significance (2)
Turtle	81	Outstanding	Statewide Significance (1B)

Both Seboeis and Endless Lakes are used for open water fishing, and Seboeis Lake is very popular for ice-fishing. Both lakes offer land-locked salmon, trout (squaretail), and a wide variety of warm water species such as bass, perch, and pickerel. Salmon size fluctuates depending on the abundance of smelt for food. The smelt populations are extremely susceptible to a parasite found in the common terns and herring gulls found on the Lake. When ingested, the parasites cause mortality in the smelt, thereby reducing the food available to the salmon. It should be noted that although the parasite is harmful to smelt, it is not dangerous to humans.

A Bangor Hydro-Electric Company dam is located at the outlet of Seboeis Lake. The dam prevents immigration of fishes produced in the lower portions of the Seboeis River drainage. Fluctuations of the water level resulting from dam operation reduce the production of shore-spawning fish.

Turtle Pond, located in the southern portion of the Unit in Lakeview Plantation, is stocked annually with brook trout and provides quality open water fishing in a remote setting. DIF&W has closed the Pond to ice fishing. The area is zoned as a remote pond (P-RR) by the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) and by definition supports a coldwater fishery and has no recreational-

use road access. A barrier dam constructed by DIF&W in the mid-1970's at outlet of the Pond keeps the warm water fish species from Sebocis Lake from entering the Pond.

2. Dominant Use (See Appendix 3, #4)

The Sebocis Unit has the potential to provide very important habitat for many species of wildlife in this region of Maine. Development of extensive stands of softwood in well-distributed age groupings (classes) will not only provide wintering habitat for deer, but will be beneficial to most indigenous wildlife species. Wildlife management efforts by the Bureau are all coordinated with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIF&W) -- the lead State agency for management of these resources. The Bureau and DIF&W have developed the document, "Wildlife Guidelines", for coordinating wildlife management with other management activities on Maine's Public Lands. The following text discusses management goals and objectives for the various wildlife-dominant use areas on the Unit.

a. Forest. The Bureau's forest management goal for wildlife is to promote wildlife species richness by maintaining vegetative diversity, within the limits of a particular area's ability to grow plants (site capability). One objective is to demonstrate that wildlife habitat management can be integrated over a large land area while conducting silviculturally sound commercial forest practices.

Softwood growth will be favored on those sites best suited for this type of forest growth (primary softwood sites). Healthy beech trees will be favored when harvesting decisions are being

made. This will maintain a supply of mast for wildlife, and promote disease-resistant beech trees.

b. Deer Wintering Areas. The long-term goal for management of the potential DWA on the Unit is to maintain at least 50% of the forest in high-quality softwood cover at any one time, while regenerating the remainder to softwood for future cover. This goal will be worked towards during the ten-year planning period. DWA management will be designed to create a distribution of tree age classes, develop beneficial edge effects, and otherwise provide long-term, quality deer wintering habitat.

The potential DWA will be periodically evaluated to assess its conditions and make management recommendations -- such as the potential need for precommercial improvement practices. An important objective is to improve the DWA shelter value through silvicultural treatment. All management decisions affecting a DWA included on the Unit will be coordinated by the staff wildlife biologist with the DIF&W regional biologist and abutting landowner. The potential DWA will be treated as a DWA until its value is fully assessed.

c. Riparian Areas. The three major goals of riparian area management are:

1. Maintain vegetative diversity, both in terms of height and species types.
2. Maintain continuity of travel cover for wildlife throughout the watershed and adjoining ecosystems.
3. Protect adjacent aquatic environments from degradation.

Timber management will occur in most riparian areas, using selection system methods, primarily designed to enhance diversity and cover conditions for wildlife. At the same time, sound visual consideration and soil conservation practices will be followed. Large trees with potential for use by birds of prey will be retained.

The Bureau maintains thirteen waterfowl boxes around Seboeis Lake and the Inlet. The management objective is to provide suitable nesting sites where they are not naturally available. It is expected that riparian area management will eventually provide these sites naturally -- particularly by the retention of large, old trees. Waterfowl box use will be monitored annually to determine use levels and the need for additional boxes.

Loons are shore-nesters, and return to the same nest year after year. If any loon nest sites are located, they will be mapped. Public information and habitat protection will be the primary management tools for this species.

d. Wetlands. Wetlands on the Unit will be maintained for their ecological values mentioned previously, and made available for research and study purposes. Management objectives include:

1. Maintain water levels as needed for waterfowl and furbearers.
2. Maintain habitat balance for brood cover, nest cover, and open water.
3. Maintain standing dead trees and modify timber harvesting to favor those tree species of value to wetland wildlife.

4. Maintain all den trees.
5. Avoid wetlands during road layout.
6. Maintain the waterfowl nestbox program.

The Unit does not appear to have any immediate need for wetland habitat improvement projects, although opportunities will be investigated during the ten-year planning period.

e. Fisheries. All the open water on the Unit is allocated for wildlife, with those waters where fishing is allowed managed primarily for a high-quality, native fishery. The DIF&W has primary responsibility for fishing and boating regulations in Maine's inland waters. Management of the fisheries will require coordination between the Bureau and DIF&W. Continued monitoring of the fisheries resource by DIF&W will help ensure that it remains productive.

Turtle Pond in Lakeview has been designated as a remote pond by LURC. In order to protect the fishery, and in keeping with the legal restriction of the P-RR (recreation protection) designation, the Bureau will restrict all public vehicular access, with the exception of snowmobiles, to within one-half mile of the Pond.

3. Secondary Use. Recreation and timber management are important secondary uses in most wildlife areas. Among the benefits of sound wildlife management are a diversity of wildlife species, balanced population levels, and healthy animals. Timber harvesting is one of the key management tools for forest habitat development and maintenance. Harvesting in these areas will be incorporated within the Bureau's timber program, and will be designed for particular wildlife benefits.

Recreational use of wildlife dominant areas will typically be hunting, trapping, fishing, and sight-seeing. Normal DIF&W regulations will apply for all wildlife areas on the Unit.

**B1. Wildlife Management of all Other Areas**

Other wildlife management efforts within the 10-year planning period will be directed towards improving existing habitat conditions as described in the Bureau's Integrated Resource Policy and Wildlife Guidelines. Assessments of the wildlife resource continue to be made during the course of normal Bureau compartment examinations. Future management activities will include planting herbaceous seed for wildlife and sowing wild rice in shallow water areas as waterfowl food.

Both hunting and trapping are permitted on the Public Lands. However, DIF&W has closed the area surrounding the outlet of Turtle Pond to beaver trapping because the dams created by beaver help keep the warm water fish species of Seboeis Lake from entering Turtle Pond and thus help maintain a high quality fishing area.

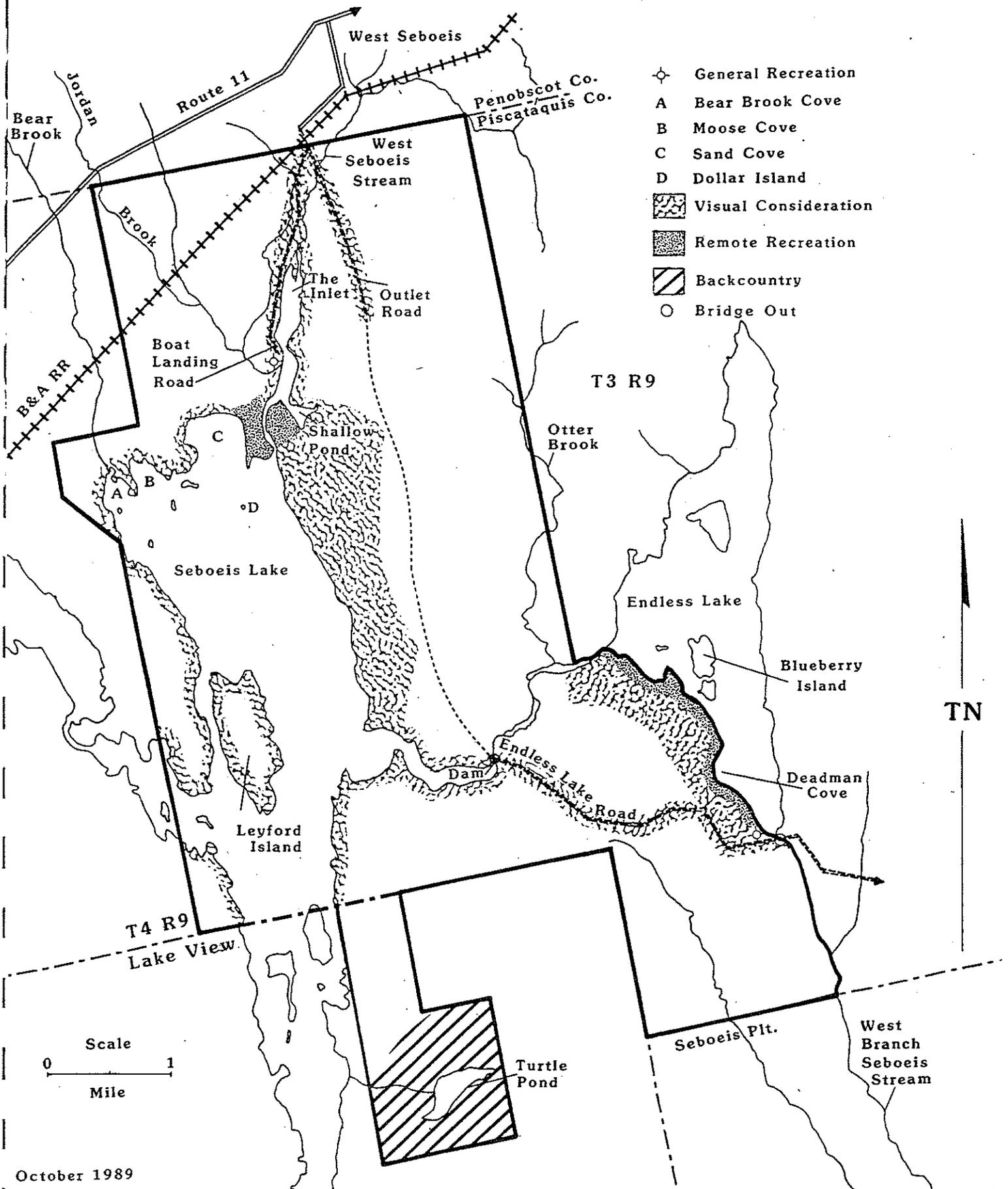
Large, old trees -- particularly white pine within riparian areas -- will be retained, pending recommendations by the staff wildlife biologist. Part of the value of these trees is that they are preferred by eagles, ospreys, and other avian species for nesting and perching.

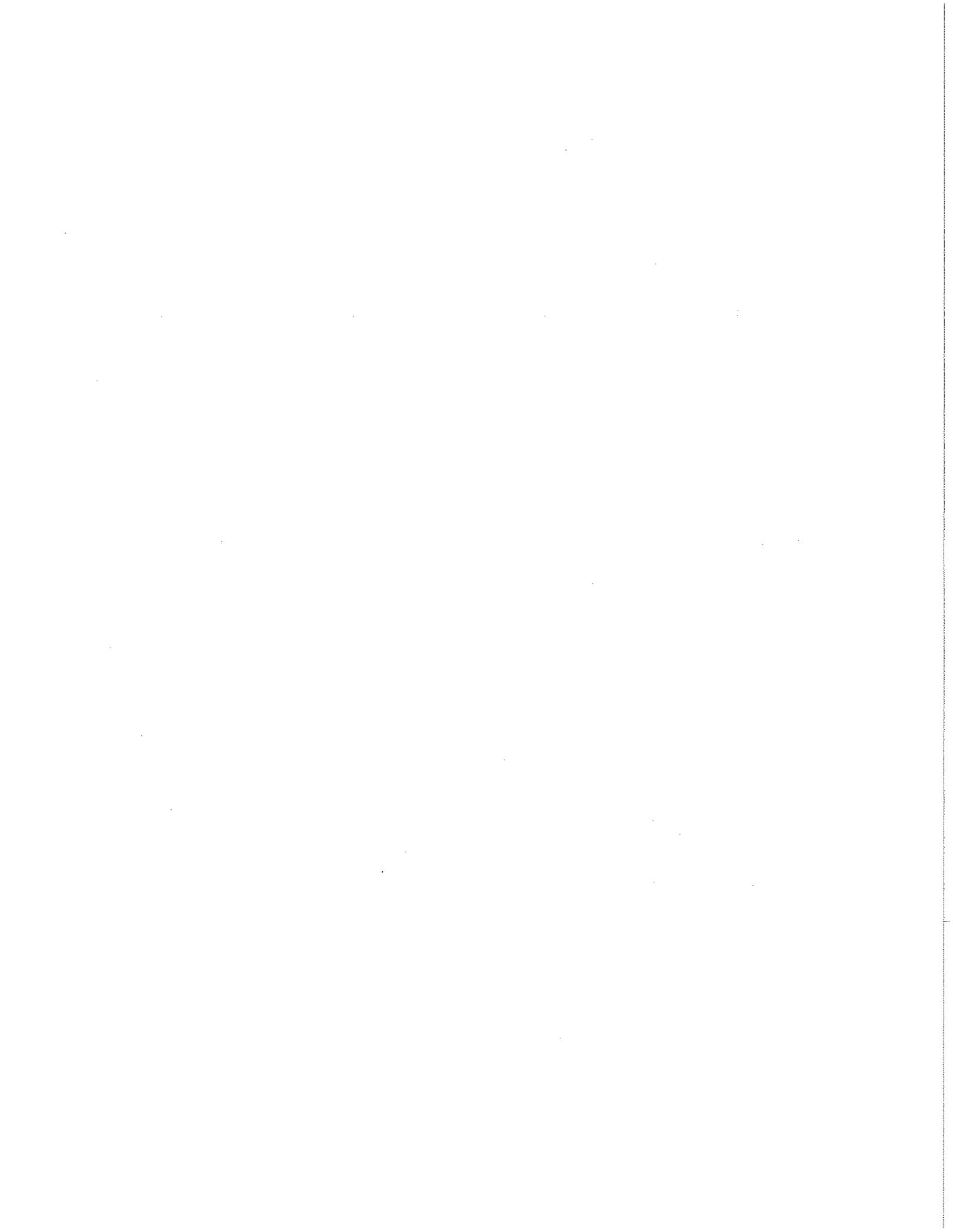
**C. Recreation (See Maps #3 and #4)**

Recreation management on the Public Reserved Lands falls into three broad categories: 1) backcountry 2) remote recreation, and 3) general recreation (see Section III, Resource Allocation).

**Public Reserved Lands  
Seboeis Management Unit**

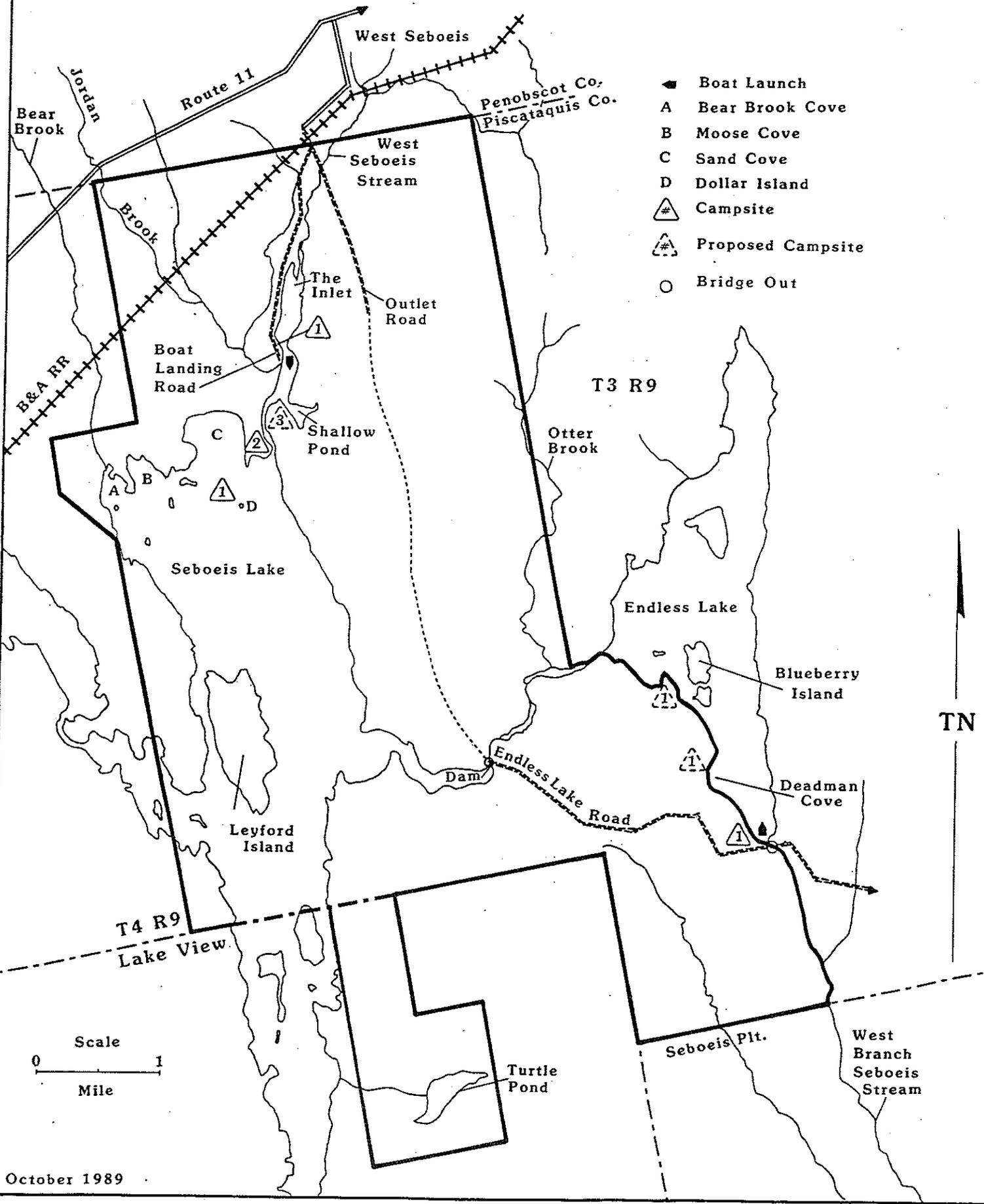
**Map # 3  
Recreational Use and  
Visual Consideration Area**

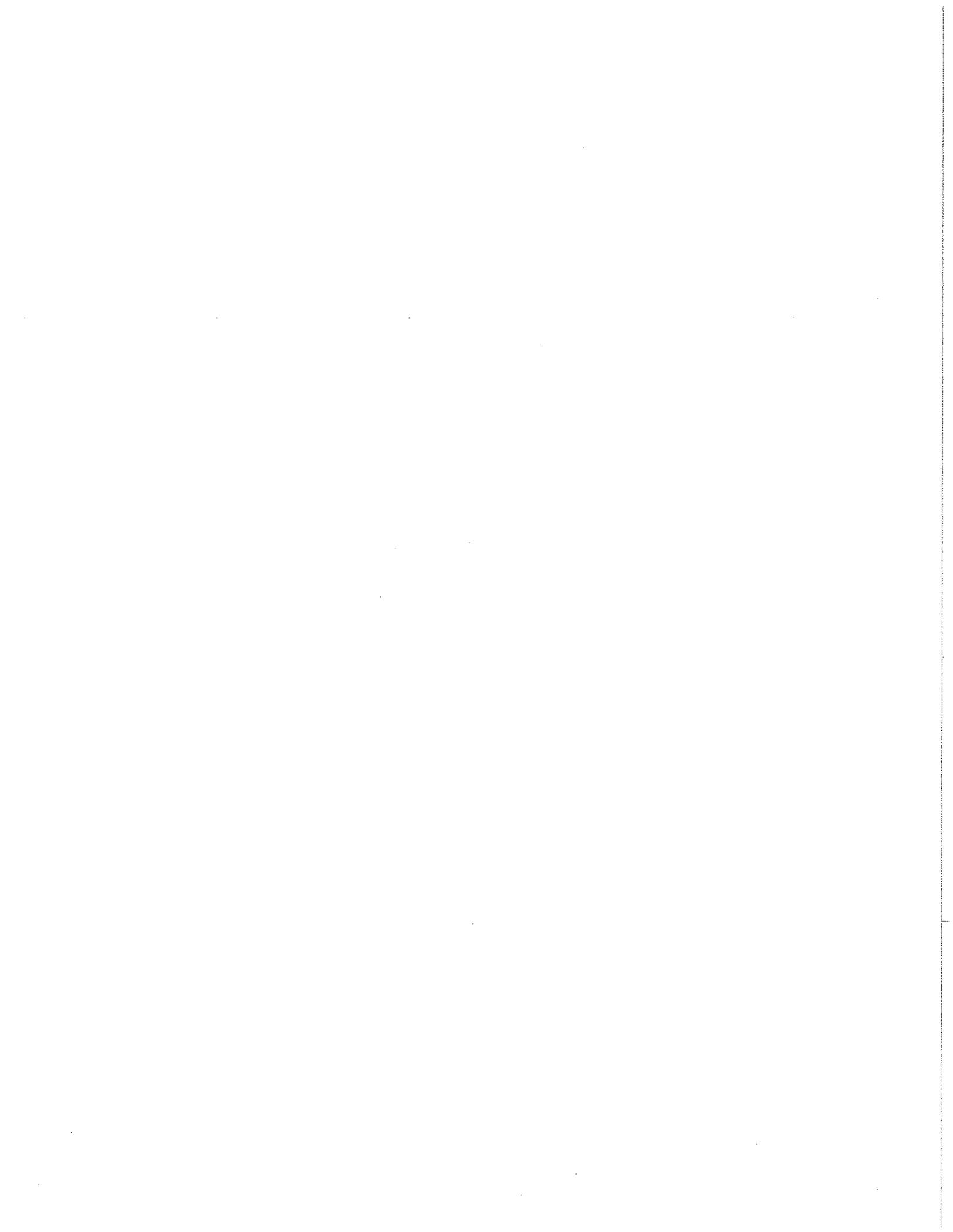




**Public Reserved Lands  
Seboeis Management Unit**

**Map #4  
Recreational Facilities**





## C1. Backcountry

### 1. Description of the Resource.

Backcountry areas are defined in Bureau policy as being relatively large in size and extraordinary in terms of scenic quality, remoteness, and natural characteristics. These areas are managed for backcountry recreation as the dominant use, characterized by no public vehicular access and low density, dispersed recreational use which retains the natural character of the area. One backcountry area has been designated on the Seboeis Unit.

Turtle Pond is an 81-acre pond located in the southern portion of Lakeview Plantation. The Pond is stocked annually by DIF&W and is designated by LURC as "Protection-Remote Recreation (P-RR)." This zone surrounds a remote pond by a distance of one-half mile. The remoteness of this Pond provides an excellent opportunity for a remote hiking/fishing experience. As a means of protecting a valuable resource, the Bureau will designate 600 acres surrounding the Pond as backcountry, contiguous with the P-RR zone. There are no recreational facilities located in this area at the present time.

### 2. Dominant Use.

The dominant use in a backcountry area is recreation which requires minimal development, suited to activities for which remoteness, a natural environment, and self-reliance are the highest values. Public use management within a backcountry area will emphasize non-motorized, dispersed recreation activities such as remote hiking, fishing, and camping.

During this ten-year planning period, the Bureau will look at the possibility of developing a hiking trail into Turtle Pond, and establishing a vehicle parking area outside the backcountry area. This will require discussions with Prentiss and Carlisle -- abutters to the area, and be consistent with LURC remote pond requirements. The Bureau will evaluate the possibility of developing backcountry campsites on Turtle Pond where no fire permit is necessary. Camping on Public Reserved Lands is not limited to designated campsites, but use of fire at other sites must be restricted to self-contained stoves. Any backcountry sites developed will be furnished with a firering, rustic cedar picnic table, and backcountry toilet.

Snowmobiling is a popular recreational use of the Unit that is allowed in backcountry areas. There is no formal management of trails on the Unit. Any proposals for formal management of snowmobiling within the backcountry area from a local organized club will be considered by the Bureau.

3. Secondary Use. Wildlife and timber management are both secondary uses in the backcountry area. First consideration during any management activity will be given to maintenance of backcountry characteristics, with wildlife habitat needs considered next, visual considerations thirdly, and finally, timber production and silvicultural needs. Any proposed timber harvests will undergo interdisciplinary review. Timber management will be conducted on an unevenaged basis, designed to maintain the natural characteristics of the backcountry and enhance wildlife habitat conditions.

## C2. Remote Recreation

### 1. Description of Resource

Remote recreation areas may be somewhat smaller in size than backcountry areas, and contain significant natural resource values. These areas do not contain public use roads and offer excellent low density, dispersed-use recreational opportunities. Integrating secondary uses in a remote recreation area is less restrictive than doing so in a backcountry.

Four remote recreation areas have been designated on the Seboeis Unit: two peninsulas and Dollar Island at the north end of Seboeis Lake, and most of the State-owned shoreland on Endless Lake for a width of 330 feet.

The Sand Cove peninsula has two informal campsites with limited facilities, offering a semi-remote, water-accessible camping experience. A fire permit from the Maine Forest Service is required for campfire use at these sites (permit sites). During clear weather, both Mt. Katahdin and Schoodic Mountain are visible from these campsites. The Shallow Pond peninsula is a knoll which supports mixedwood forest growth. The shoreline is generally steep and rocky or swampy, although three or four locations are available near the northern end which could provide water-accessible campsites. A private leasehold camp is located on this peninsula.

Dollar Island is a small, rocky island on Seboeis Lake. One informal campsite with no facilities is located on the Island. A fire permit is required. Vistas from the Island include Mt. Katahdin and Schoodic Mountain to the west, Leyford Island to the

south, and most of the surrounding nineteen miles of Sebocis Lake shoreline.

The Endless Lake shoreline slopes towards the water, and supports mixedwood forest growth. Two informal water-accessible campsites are located on the shore which provide scenic vistas of the Lake and its eastern shoreland. A boatlaunch/campsite area is located at the southern end of the Lake -- allocated for general recreation which allows vehicular use.

2. Dominant Use. The dominant use in a remote recreation area is rustic recreation in a relatively natural setting. Motorized recreational vehicles are not allowed within a remote recreation area, although vehicular influence may be greater here than within a more remote backcountry area. For example, the boatlaunch/vehicle-accessible campsite on the south end of Endless Lake will certainly influence the remote recreation experience found on the Lake.

The two informal campsites on Sand Cove peninsula and the two informal campsites on Endless Lake will be managed as water-accessible sites. The Bureau plans to upgrade these campsites to remote recreation standards. No upgrading of the Dollar Island campsite is planned. No campsites are presently located on the Shallow Pond peninsula. Within the ten year planning period, the Bureau will develop two or three water-accessible campsites on the northerly end of this peninsula, as soil conditions allow.

All of the campsites presently require a permit from the Maine Forest Service for use of an open campfire (permit sites). The Bureau will evaluate the possibility of changing all campsites

within the remote recreation area to authorized sites, where no fire permit is necessary. Formal (planned and maintained) sites will be furnished with a firering, rustic cedar picnic table, and backcountry toilet.

3. Secondary Use. As in backcountry, timber and wildlife management are both secondary uses in a remote recreation area. While secondary uses will be modified to retain remote recreation values, the modifications will not be as restrictive as in a backcountry. This integration of uses will allow for more precise management of the secondary uses, while maintaining relatively natural conditions for a high-quality semi-remote recreational experience.

## C2. General Recreation

### 1. Description of Resource.

General recreation areas are defined in Bureau policy as having somewhat more developed facilities than backcountry or remote recreation areas, allowing for more intensive use -- such as vehicle-accessible campsites, picnic areas, and boatlaunches. Historically, recreational use on the Seboeis Unit has centered around hunting and fishing -- open water and ice fishing -- with some boating, camping, and swimming activity also taking place.

Two general recreation areas have been allocated on the Unit. One area is located at the southern end of Endless Lake. Vehicle access to this area is over a short road in poor condition, coming off the Endless Lake Road. The area has a rough boatlaunch site and a single-party, permit campsite.

The other general recreation area is located just north of where Jordan Brook enters The Inlet on the north end of Seboeis Lake. The area is accessed by vehicle on the Boat Landing Road -- the most travelled public-use road on the Unit. The area has a boatlaunch site, parking area, and a single-party, permit campsite. The campsite is presently equipped only with a firering. Parking problems at the landing arise during the open-water fishing season when use is heavy. A number of boats seasonally moored near the landing can sometimes obstruct public access.

2. Dominant Use. The Bureau upgraded the boatlaunches and access roads on Seboeis Lake and Endless Lake during the Fall of 1989. Campsites on the Lakes will be upgraded -- all equipped with a firering, picnic table, and privy within the next few years.

In an effort to reduce the congestion and reduce the parking problems at the boatlaunch site on Seboeis Lake, the owners of boats seasonally moored in that area will be asked to relocate their mooring sites slightly to the north so that the public can better use the area. The Bureau would grant permission to campowners on the Unit to construct and manage a single, seasonal dock at that location.

3. Secondary Use. Both wildlife management and timber harvesting can usually be compatible secondary uses within a general recreation area. The primary goals of timber harvesting in these areas will be to maintain the natural characteristics of the area, improve wildlife habitat, maintain any identified visual

areas, assure public safety, and enhance recreational opportunities. Timber harvesting near general recreation areas will be modified to limit disturbance and coordinate the timing and layout of harvests to have the least impact on recreational users.

D. VISUAL CONSIDERATION (See Map #3)

1. Description of the Resource

Scenic quality of the Unit is important for the purposes of public use and enjoyment. Visual areas are considered to be those areas where management activities will be planned so the scenic quality is maintained.

Within the Seboeis Unit, visual areas are compromised of areas as seen from the public use roads, waterbodies, and recreation areas. It is noted that the areas around the Lakes are also allocated for wildlife (wetlands and riparian), for remote recreation along Endless lake and the three areas on Seboeis Lake, backcountry around Turtle Pond, and for resource protection on Leyford Island. These overlapping use areas combine to ensure that the natural, scenic character of the Unit will be maintained.

1. Dominant Use. The dominant use in these areas will be maintaining the natural beauty, diversity, and contrast of the area for public enjoyment. For the most part these values are protected by existing allocations (special protection, backcountry, remote recreation, and wildlife) which specify the types of activities permitted in certain areas (e.g., no timber harvesting in special protection areas). In other areas where visual quality is important for public enjoyment, the staff

recreation specialist may target certain areas for treatment that will enhance the natural beauty. The specialist will integrate visual considerations where timber harvesting, road development, or related activities fall within visual areas.

3. Secondary Use. In those visual consideration areas where other, more restrictive provisions do not apply, all standard uses are permissible. These include recreation, road construction, and timber harvesting under appropriate constraint. Development of recreational facilities in a visual area will result in a change of designation to a recreation use area. As already mentioned, roads and timber harvesting will be as unobtrusive as possible, while still enhancing forest growth, regeneration, and wildlife habitat.

#### E. TIMBER (See Map #5)

##### 1. Description of the Resource

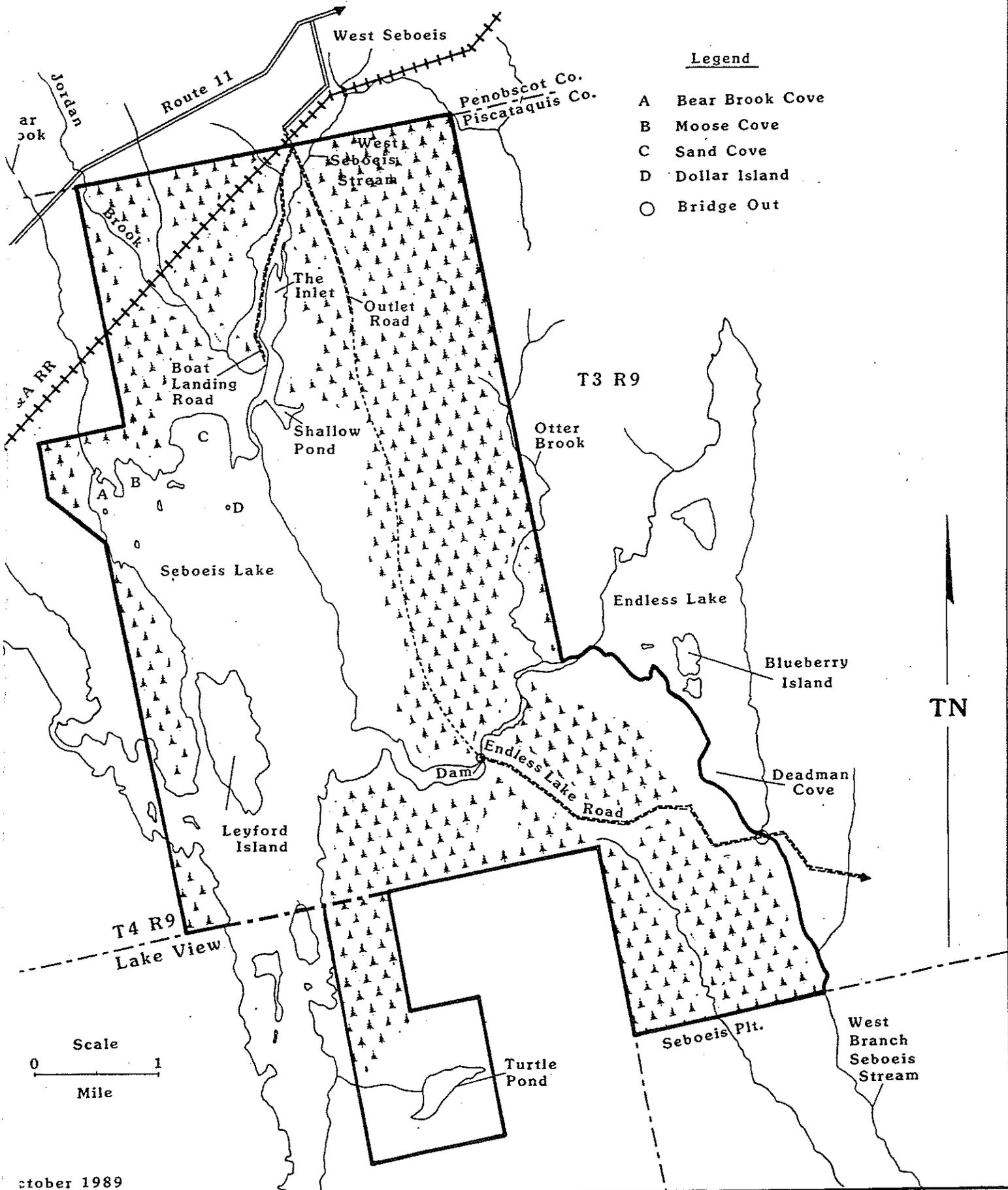
The forest on the Seboeis Unit can be broadly described as 50% hardwood, 40% mixedwood, and 10% softwood. The stands generally are a result of past moderate to heavy harvests in the 1950's and the budworm outbreak of the 1970's. A wide variety of tree species exist on the Unit. Tree heights are fairly uniform, resulting in a few large stands. However, the species types in any given area change quickly as one moves from area to area, so the large stands are actually made up of many smaller stands. This situation makes implementing timber management recommendations extremely challenging.

Public Reserved Lands

Map #5

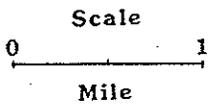
Seboeis Management Unit

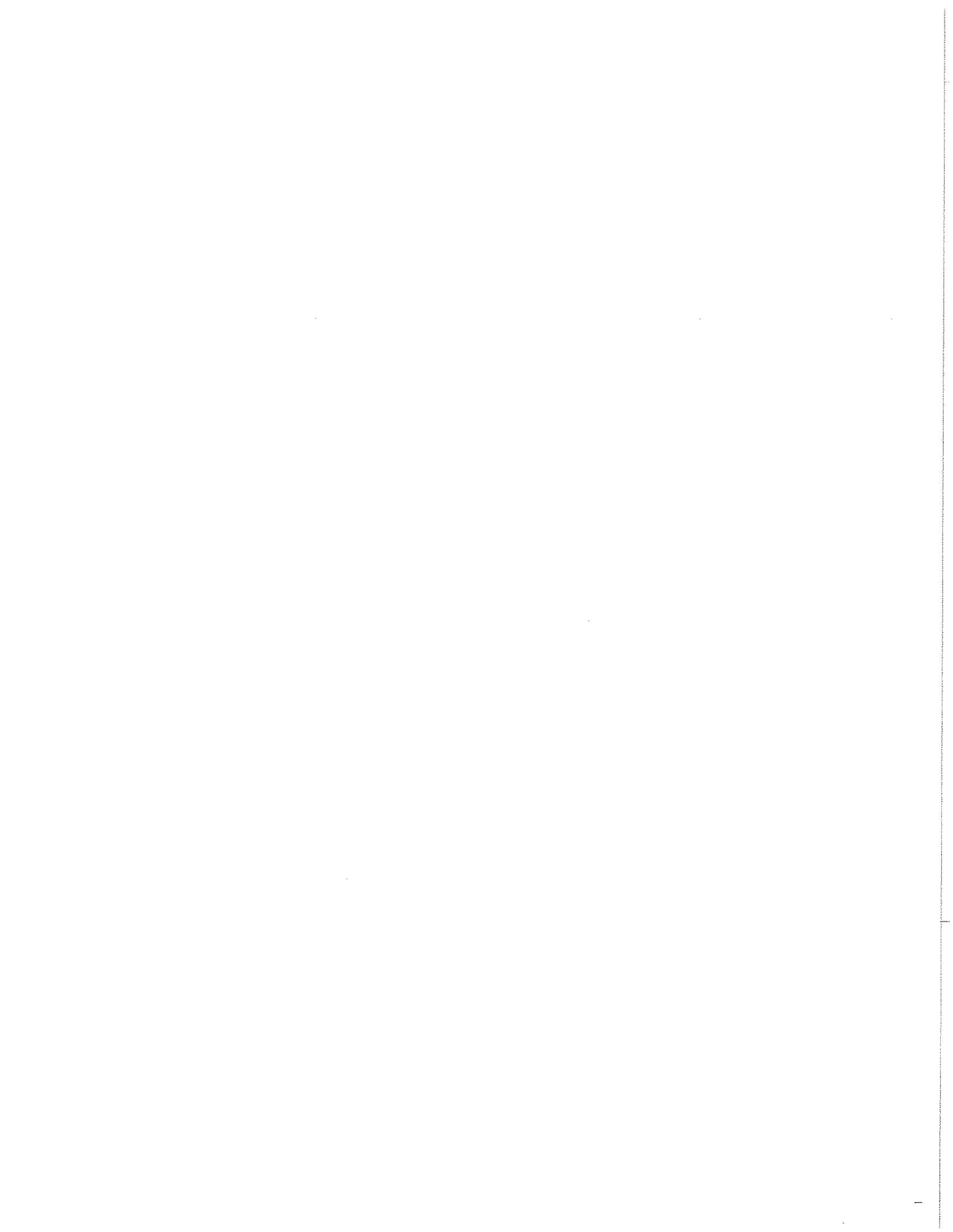
Primary Timber Management Areas



Legend

- A Bear Brook Cove
- B Moose Cove
- C Sand Cove
- D Dollar Island
- Bridge Out





Generally, young trees which will form future forest stands on the Unit are well established. The forest regeneration is of good quality and, in most cases, contains a greater percentage of softwood species than the current overstory. This would indicate that softwood had a greater presence on the Unit prior to the last series of cuts.

Site quality, or the ability of the land to grow trees is generally good throughout the Unit. The exception to this is part of the area north and west of the boatlanding on Seboeis Lake. Here, excessive wetness because of poorly drained soils and/or a high water table will tend to limit the productivity of the land. Much of the Unit has soils which would be more productive growing softwood species than the hardwood that currently occupies the area.

For management purposes, the forest is divided into the following forest types:

a. Hardwood Type. In the hardwood portion of the forest, beech is the most abundant species and comprises 34 percent of the hardwood resource. Red maple and yellow birch together comprise approximately 26 percent of the resource, while white birch, sugar maple, aspen, white ash, and brown ash make up the remainder. The majority of the hardwood stems are of fair to poor quality. However, on the sites capable of producing high quality hardwood timber, there are generally enough high quality stems to expect good stands to develop in the future.

b. Mixedwood Type. These stands tend to be highly variable in species composition and quality. Many of the mixedwood stands

were probably softwood stands prior to the previous harvests and, over time, softwood will be encouraged where appropriate through timber management practices. In the mixedwood stands, spruce is the most common species found, comprising approximately thirty percent of this type. Red maple was the next major component at eighteen percent, with yellow birch, balsam fir, and beech making up thirteen percent, eleven percent, and eleven percent, respectively. Cedar, white pine, and aspen comprise the majority of the remainder. The softwood timber in the mixedwood stands is generally high in quality with the hardwood trees being of fair to poor quality.

c. Softwood Type. The softwood type is usually found on wet sites or on dry eskers. On the wet sites, cedar is usually the most common species and is found growing with white, red, and black spruce. Red spruce and white and red pine are the predominant species found on the dry sites and are usually of good quality. Balsam fir is currently a minor component on both site types, but was more common prior to the budworm infestation of the 1970's. Based on the number of young fir trees on the Unit, it will also be a more common species in the future. Timber quality on the wetter sites ranges from good to very poor in direct relation to the increasing wetness of the soil.

Though forest regeneration throughout the Unit is good, there is very limited age class diversity (variation in tree ages) in the overstory. Therefore, timber management practices will work towards encouraging a variety of age classes between forest stands. This will tend to improve the quality of wildlife habitat

and, hopefully, to reduce the impact of future insect infestations, especially the spruce budworm.

Currently, beech is the most predominant species found on the entire Unit. Most of the beech trees are infected with beech bark disease (nectria complex). Although this disease may cause tree mortality, it more often severely reduces timber quality and market value, and causes lower beech nut production by reducing tree vigor.

The spruce budworm epidemic experienced in the 1970's has left the spruce in a weakened condition and has killed most of the balsam fir. The spruce is now recovering, but most of the fir is beyond salvage.

## 2. Dominant Use

Public Reserved Lands Units are subdivided into compartments, or sections using features such as roads and rivers for compartment boundaries. Each ten years, all compartments are examined to gather resource information. Most of the compartments on the Seboeis Unit have had initial examinations, the remainder will be completed within the ten-year planning period.

Regulated acres are those forested lands where timber harvesting will occur regularly, with timber removals nearly equal to growth rates. Ninety-one percent of the Seboeis Unit is designated as regulated forest. General timber management objectives for the Unit include:

- Increasing both height and age-class diversity within all species.
- Increasing the amount of contiguous softwood cover for wildlife habitat.

- Encouraging red spruce and white pine over white spruce and balsam fir to reduce susceptibility to insect outbreaks, specifically the spruce budworm.
- Improving the hardwood quality by increasing sugar maple, yellow birch, and white ash and reducing the lower quality beech component.

A joint research project between the Bureau, Maine Forest Service, and U.S. Forest Service is taking place on the Unit in an effort to produce disease-resistant beech. Two silvicultural techniques are being applied -- both of which are aimed at securing regeneration which resists the nectria complex infestation.

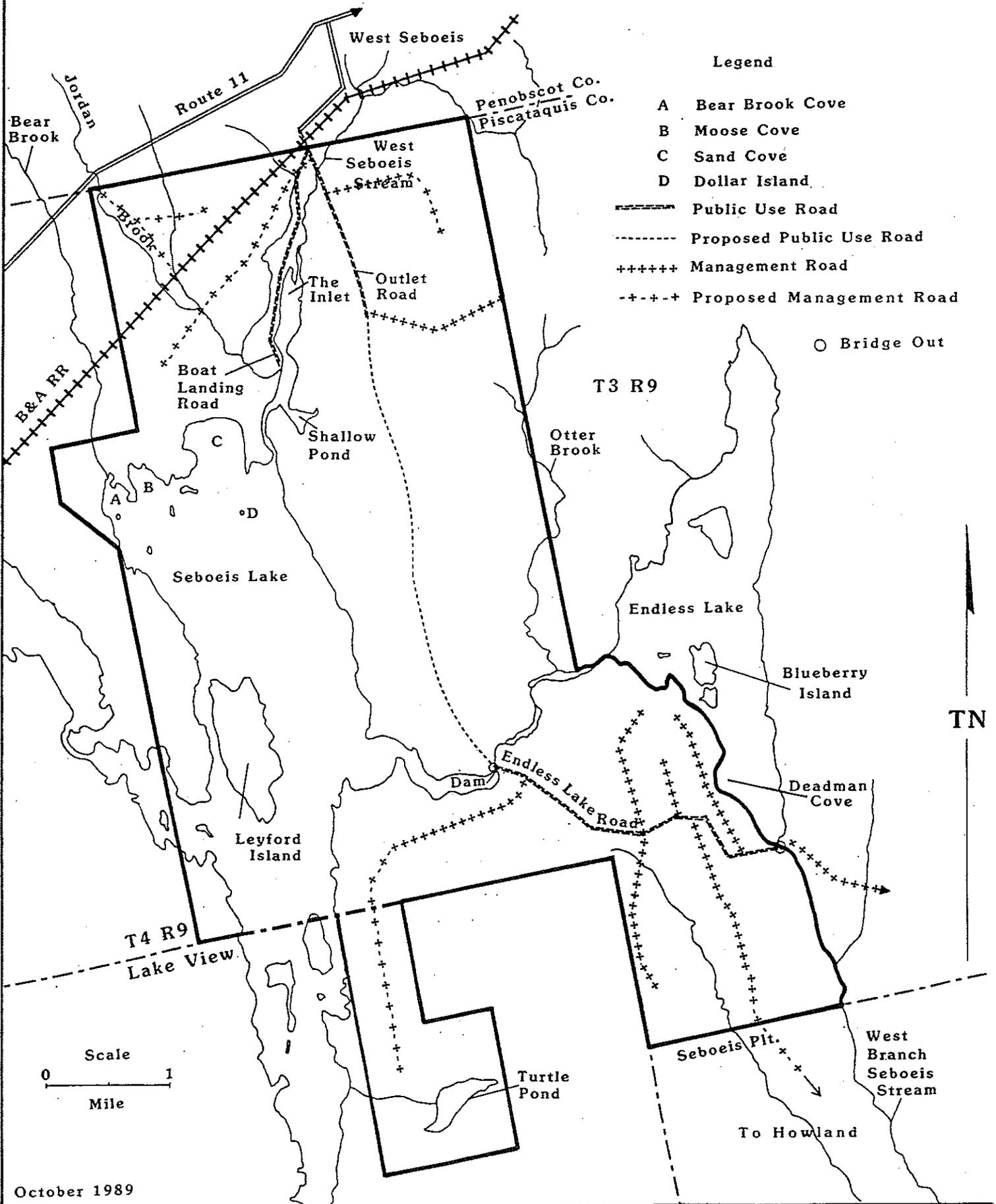
Within the ten-year planning period, Bureau staff will evaluate existing regeneration, monitor development of younger age classes, and plan for removal of low-quality hardwood overstory trees. Poor pulpwood markets in this area make the last objective challenging, although it is noted that the markets are now improving.

### 3. Secondary Use

Both wildlife and recreation are suitable secondary uses within timber management areas. Some of the large, older trees will be retained throughout the forest for wildlife use. Many healthy beech trees -- the only mast producing tree species on the Unit -- will also be retained. Softwood growth will be encouraged for deer habitat. All timber harvesting operations will be coordinated with the staff biologist and the recreation specialist to ensure proper consideration is given to these resources.

# Public Reserved Lands Seboeis Management Unit

# Map #6 Transportation

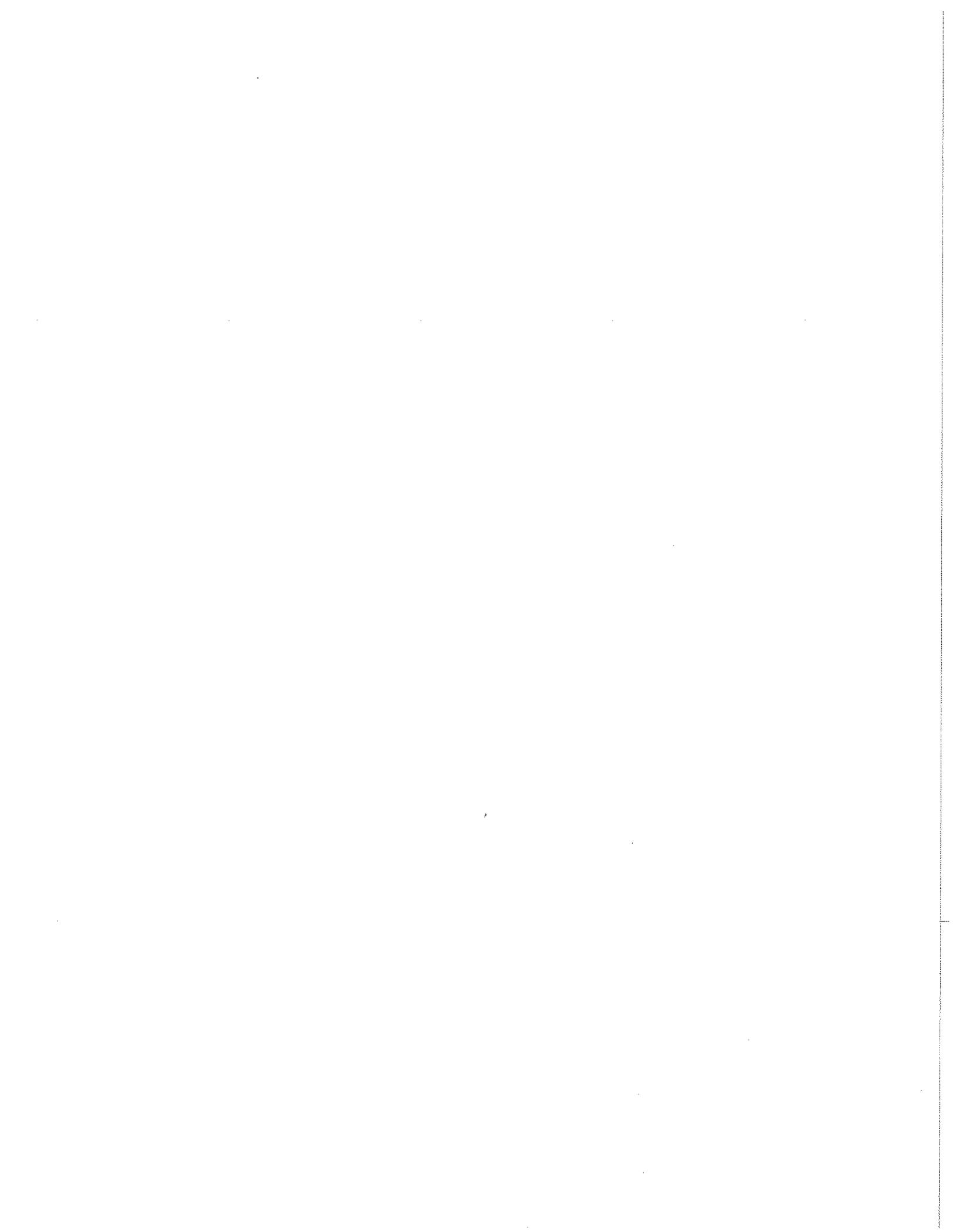


### Legend

- A Bear Brook Cove
- B Moose Cove
- C Sand Cove
- D Dollar Island
- Public Use Road
- Proposed Public Use Road
- ++++++ Management Road
- x-x-x-x Proposed Management Road
- Bridge Out

Scale  
0 ————— 1  
Mile

October 1989



## F. ROAD SYSTEM

### 1. Description of the Resource

The Bureau has two broad categories of roads: public use roads and management roads. Public use roads are developed and maintained to higher standards than management roads, and are bordered by visual consideration areas. Management roads are developed for administrative purposes, and not designed for public use. Management roads may be used by the public, unless posted, gated, or simply physically impassable. Most roads leading to Maine's Public Reserved Lands are over privately owned land, requiring the Bureau to coordinate road system management efforts with the private landowners.

Road access to the Seboeis Unit -- both from the north and south -- is over privately-owned land. The main vehicle access point is from Route 11 to the north, through West Seboeis Village, over Great Northern Paper Company land, and onto the northern part of the Unit on either the Boat Landing Road or the Outlet Road. Access from the south is from the Hardy Brook Road (a management road) over land managed by Prentiss and Carlisle Management Company, and on to the Endless Lake Road. Since there is no bridge over the outlet stream of Seboeis Lake, the Endless Lake Road can no longer be directly used to access to the southern portions of the Unit.

The road system within the Unit was developed by several different owners at different times depending on access needs. The Boat Landing Road, accessible from Route 11, runs along the west side of the Inlet of Seboeis Lake to the public boat launch site on the Lake. This Road was upgraded in 1989.

The Outlet Road, also accessible from Route 11 via the Seboeis Stream Bridge, runs along east side of Seboeis Lake down to the Outlet Dam. The Road is in good condition for approximately two miles, but deteriorates south of that into a rough, one-lane road with heavy brush growing along the edges.

## 2. Dominant Use

The road system presents some problems that the Bureau will need to address. Public vehicular access within backcountry areas is not allowed. There is evidence of some erosion having been caused by such vehicles in the backcountry area surrounding Turtle Pond. Public vehicular traffic to that area will be restricted, as discussed in "Recreation: Backcountry."

The Boat Landing Road has recently been reconstructed to provide better access to the boatlaunch and campsite areas. The Bureau also plans repairs for the Outlet Road. Repairs will include installing culverts for better drainage and clearing of brush to make the road more passable.

During the ten-year planning period, the Bureau will evaluate the need to build a bridge over the outlet stream to connect the Outlet Road with the Endless Lake Road. If a bridge is constructed, the Outlet Road would become a public access road serving as a main artery for both recreation and timber purposes within the Unit.

The Bureau will work to coordinate road use agreements with the abutting landowners since land management activities conducted by them may affect public access onto the Unit, and vice versa.

## SECTION V - ADMINISTRATIVE CONCERNS

This section addresses a number of concerns essentially administrative in nature, which may have an impact on resource programs.

### A. Campplot Leases

There are presently eighteen campplot leases located on the Unit, seventeen located on Seboeis Lake and one on Endless Lake. In accordance with Bureau policy established in 1975, no new camp plots will be allowed on any of the Public Reserved lands. Existing leases will be continued as long as terms of the lease agreement are met by the lessee. Improvements to existing camps require prior written approval from the Bureau.

### B. Boathouses

There are two boathouses on the west side of Seboeis Lake which are part of existing leases. These are located just north of the boatlaunch on the Boat Landing Road.

### C. Special Use Permits

Generally, ATV (all-terrain vehicle) use is prohibited on the Public Reserved Lands according to a Bureau policy that was established in 1985. However, one special use permit (provisional) for ATV use within the Unit has been issued for tending the Bangor Hydro Dam located at the Outlet Dam. If and when the Outlet Road is upgraded, the permit will be cancelled. The Bureau is in the process of updating its ATV policy to consider formal requests for ATV use from organized clubs and according to stringent requirements.

### D. Dump

There is one dump located on the Unit. Though active use has been discouraged through posting of the area, some use is still evident. The Bureau will work with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to close out the dump site. The closure will be conducted according to approved procedures which include removing large objects, burying the remaining trash, and seeding the bare soil.

E. Gravel

There are several gravel pits located within the Unit. The deposit on the Boat Landing Road is the only one that appears to have gravel suitable for road finish material. No other gravel deposits are found on the Unit. Gravel from the Unit will only be used for roads on the Public Reserved Lands. Care will be taken to minimize the visual affects of all gravel extraction.

## SECTION VI. SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACTIONS AND DECISIONS

### Special Protection

1. Leyford Island is allocated as a special protection area. (See pages 10 and 12).

### Wildlife

2. The Bureau will work towards developing large stands of softwood in well-distributed age classes. (See pages 13, 17, and 18).

3. Retain healthy beech trees for mast-production. (See pages 13 and 17).

4. Manage the potential DWA as a developing DWA. (See pages 14 and 18).

5. Manage Turtle Pond for a remote, high-quality fishing opportunity. (See pages 15, 16, and 20).

### Recreation

6. The Turtle Pond area is allocated as a backcountry area. (See pages 24 and 25).

7. Four remote recreation areas are established: Sand Cove peninsula, Shallow Pond peninsula, and Dollar Island on Seboeis Lake, and most of the State-owned shoreline on Endless Lake. (See pages 26 and 27).

8. Upgrade all of the existing campsites within remote recreation areas. (See pages 27 and 28).

9. Develop two or three water-accessible campsites on the Shallow Pond peninsula. (See page 27).

10. Upgrade all of the campsites, boatlaunches, and access roads in the general recreation areas. (See pages 28 and 29).

11. Ask that owners of boats moored seasonally near the Seboeis Lake boatlaunch, relocate their moorings slightly to the north. (See page 29).

12. If requested, grant permission to the campowners for construction of a seasonal dock. (See page 29).

### Timber

13. Increase overall height and age-class diversity. (See pages 31 and 357).

14. Increase the size of softwood stands on appropriate sites. (See pages 31, 34, and 35).

15. Favor red spruce and white pine over white spruce and balsam fir during timber management decisions. (See pages 34-36).

16. Improve hardwood quality, including the reduction of diseased beech trees. (See pages 33-36).

### Road System

17. Repair the Outlet Road. (See page 39).

18. Evaluate the need for constructing a bridge on the Outlet Road over the outlet stream of Seboeis Lake. (See pages 38 and 39).

### Administration

20. Close-out the dump site on the Unit. (See page 41).

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APPENDIX 2.GLOSSARY

1. Allowable Cut: The number of acres which can be harvested annually, for long-term, sustained yield timber production.
2. Backcountry: Remote areas with exceptional natural features and allocated for primitive recreation as the dominant use. These areas are typically large in size. Management is characterized by no public vehicular access, dispersed use, minimal recreational facilities, with harvesting (where permitted) by uneven-aged methods only, designed to retain the natural character of the area and minimize conflicts with recreation use.
3. Crown (or Canopy) Closure: Measure of the completeness of space reduction between the tops (foliage and branches) of adjacent trees.
4. Cutting Cycle: The interval between harvest operations in uneven-aged management.
5. Endangered Species: A Maine endangered species is a plant or animal species in immediate danger of extirpation from Maine due to critically low or declining numbers brought about by habitat loss or degradation, over-exploitation, pollution, disease, or other factors.
6. Edge: The place where plant communities meet or where successional stages or vegetative conditions within plant communities come together.

7. General Recreation: Areas typically accessible by vehicles and allocated for recreation as the dominant use. Management is characterized by moderate intensity use, including: picnic tables, firerings, pit privies, vehicle parking (on-site or relatively nearby), and a featured attraction(s) -- typically, a body of water. Harvesting will be directed towards aesthetic and safety considerations only.
8. Mast: Nuts and/or fruits which are utilized as food by wildlife. Apples are an example of soft mast, while beech nuts are a characteristic hard mast.
9. Old-Growth: For the purpose of this document, a stand of trees which is beyond the age of biological maturity.
10. Regeneration: Both the process of establishing new growth and the new growth itself -- occurring naturally through seeding or sprouting -- and artificially by planting seeds of seedlings.
11. Regulated Forest Acreage: That portion of the commercial forest landbase on which the annual allowable harvest is calculated.
12. Release Cutting: Any cutting operation designed to remove competing vegetation from or establish proper spacing intervals among desired trees.
13. Remote Recreation: Semi-remote areas containing significant natural resource features and allocated for primitive recreation as the dominant use. These areas vary in size. Management is characterized by no public vehicular access,

dispersed use, and rustic recreational facilities. Integrating secondary uses is less restrictive than doing so in a backcountry.

14. Rotation: The age at which stands of timber are harvested for particular economic or silvicultural objectives.
15. Selection: Related to uneven-aged management, the cutting of individual or small groups of trees; generally limited in area to patches of one acre or less.
16. Silviculture: That branch of forestry which deals with the application of forest management principles to achieve specific objectives with respect to the production of forest products and services.
17. Site Quality: That combination of environmental factors and species requirements which serve to measure how well a particular tree species will become established and grow on a given area of the forest.
18. Stand: A group of trees, the characteristics of which are sufficiently alike to allow uniform classification.
19. Stocking: The amount of trees in a given area as compared to the amount desired for the desired system of management.
20. Sustained Yield: The amount of timber that a forest can produce continuously within a given system of management.
21. Threatened Species: A plant or animal species not as critically jeopardized by extirpation as an endangered species, but will probably become endangered if current population levels experience further declines.

APPENDIX 3.REFERENCES

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