

STATE OF MAINE

Bureau of Public Lands

PRESCRIPTION REVIEW AND MULTIPLE USE COORDINATION REPORT

Public Lot: Seboomook

Compartment: W679_

District: ZW6/Seboomook

Schedule for entry FY: 2015

Region: West

Prepared by: Mandy Farrar

Date: August 4, 2015

Recommending approval:

Pete Dyer
Regional Manager

Date: August 17, 2015

This prescription does meet BPL Timber Management Procedures.

Authorization to ship to Quebec needed (no).

Reviewed, concerns have been resolved, and recommending approval:

<u>Signature (I.D. Team)</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>Mandy Farrar</u>		<u>8-17-15</u>

DIRECTOR'S DETERMINATION

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Director

Amendment prepared by _____ Date: _____
Amendment or prescription approved by _____ Date: _____
Director

Seboomook Unit Compartment W679_ Prescription

Plymouth Twp. T1R4 NBKP

2,535 Total Acres

2435 Forested Acres

1960 Regulated Forest Acres

475 Unregulated Forest Acres

83 Acres Wetland

17 Acres Road

Overview

The Seboomook Unit was acquired in December of 2003 from Merriweather Limited Liability Company (LLC). The area was extensively harvested by the previous owner, Great Northern Paper Company / Bowater, in response to the 1970s to 1980s spruce budworm outbreak. Most harvests were clearcuts that removed all merchantable timber. The natural regeneration resulting from the clearcutting was sprayed with herbicide to reduce the proportion of hardwood in the new forest and was never thinned to promote growth as is sometimes done.

Compartment W679_ is in Plymouth Township, and is in the center of the Seboomook unit, sitting south of Seboomook Lake, north of the Seboomook Road, and is comprised of 2,535 acres. The majority of this area is designated remote recreation.

This partial prescription covers the eastern half of the compartment (Stand numbers 6,13,14,15,28), which is primarily summer ground and can be accessed by existing summer roads with minimal upgrading. The plan is to do a complete prescription for this compartment, but our access to the winter harvest is the Seboomook Road, which is a major snowmobile trail. In accordance with the management plan, we are to give Pittston Farms, the Snowmobile Association, and local snowmobile clubs a year notice before relocating the snowmobile trail. I talked with Guy Mills from Pittston Farms on July 23, 2015 regarding this and hope to come up with a plan for winter 2016/2017 to create an option for an alternate trail in this area.

This compartment is very diverse. The majority of the stands are the result of heavy partial harvests within the last 20-25 years. Some may even be the result of budworm harvests. There are a few stands that appear a little older and higher quality, but in general the stands are in poor shape. These heavy partial harvests have left stands that are in need of improvement harvests, removing the high-risk species such as poplar, white birch, red maple, and fir, and favoring the more vigorous sugar maple, yellow birch, and red spruce. Many of the old harvests that were once softwood stands have regenerated to hardwood or mixed wood.

Insect/Disease/Quality

The quality of timber, overall, is mediocre. The last harvest saw many large diameter trees removed and smaller, likely poorer quality stems were left. There are some well-formed trees, but there are many poorer quality stems that can be removed to make growing space for

better stems. There were no obvious insect or disease problems seen during the cruise, except for the ubiquitous beech bark disease on the limited number of beech found here.

Wildlife/ETSC Wildlife Biologist visit 6/24/15-6/25/15 & 7/23/15

This compartment occupies a range of habitats for a variety of mammals and birds. Bear, deer, moose, turkey, ruffed grouse, spruce grouse, otter, and fisher have all been observed on the compartment. Many stands have a well-developed understory for small birds and mammals. The brooks and wetlands also provide habitat for a wide variety of invertebrates and reptiles.

There is a bald eagle nest located across the lake from this compartment. Although there are no other nests listed in our database, all super dominant pines within the 330 foot riparian zone will be retained from roosting, perching, and potential nest sites.

The entire compartment is part of the Canada Lynx Habitat Management Area (HMA). Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW) worked with the US Fisheries and Wildlife (USFW) to propose an Incidental Take Plan (ITP) to cover the incidental take of lynx that may occur in trap sets that are lawfully made by trappers. There is a meeting on 7/31/15 to discuss future steps in this process.

IFW's mitigation plan relies on maintaining and enhancing high quality hare habitat (HQHH) that would otherwise be declining over the permit period because of lack of or incompatible forest management activities. To accomplish this, MEIFW worked with the Bureau of Parks and Land (BPL) to identify an area of state ownership where habitat improvements could support lynx over the permit period. The Seboomook Unit was chosen due to its current condition and forest types (i.e., conifer forest) and its proximity to other areas that provide habitat to support lynx.

The proposed site for mitigation (22,046 acres) is located within the BPL managed 40,000 acre Seboomook Unit just north of Moosehead Lake in north-central Somerset County near the eastern boundary of Seboomook Township (TWP) and Little W TWP. The HMA proposed for this Plan is owned by the State of Maine and is permanently protected from development by legislative statute and forest management is mandated that benefits, among other things, Maine's wildlife.

The proposed HMA is accessed by gravel logging roads that receive low use and minimal maintenance unless there is an active timber harvest. The roads are suitable for low speed travel and are used primarily by hunters, trappers, camp owners, and snowmobilers. Although BPL may maintain interior roads in the HMA to facilitate forest management, BPL will not construct new high speed/high traffic volume roads or increase dirt or gravel roads that traverse lynx habitat on the HMA during the 15-year permit period.

The details of this are outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding between Maine's IFW and Maine's Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) for Canada Lynx Management. The Memorandum and ITP can be found on the shared Landbase drive under SHU6\lynx hma.

On June 24 and 25th, and again on July 23rd, Joe Wiley, Tom Charles, and I spent time identifying current and potential future HQHH in this and other compartments. Areas that are current HQHH will be maintained as such. Where possible, harvests in this compartment will maintain or improve HQHH and Lynx habitat. At this time, stand conversion to create HQHH is not an option. Stands within the HQHH that do not naturally create the desired habitat for snowshoe hare (such as hardwood stands) will not be converted at this time.

In the south east corner of the compartment there have been documented nest sites of a species of special concern, the Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*). The Rusty Blackbird is a medium-sized songbird (approximately 9" long and about 2 oz.) with males generally larger than females. They are often associated with Black Spruce Bogs and Spruce-Fir Wet Flats. Their nesting season is May-July, harvests in the documented areas and buffers will be appropriately timed around this season.

No other endangered, threatened species or species of special concern are known to be present in the compartment.

Plants and Communities No ecologist visit.

There are no known rare plants or natural communities identified by the Maine Natural Areas Program in this compartment. Andy Cutco was contacted and verified this on 7/14/15.

Land Use/Water:

This compartment's northern border is the south shore of Seboomook Lake which has a 330' Riparian zone. The lake is used by fisherman, boaters, and other recreationalists. There are some camps along the shore of the lake on the north western portion of the compartment, which utilize a camp road known as the "Georgia Road" for access. There are 3 camp leases on this road, all of which were once part of the logging operations on the lake. One was the old boomhouse. This road is not part of the summer harvest plan, but there will be visual buffers put on the camps before harvest takes place.

The southern boundary of this compartment is the Seboomook Road, a public use road that has a Class I visual buffer.

Recreation/Visual

The approximately 1,950 acres in the north end of the compartment bordering Seboomook Lake are designated Remote Recreation (RR) in the forest management plan. The Seboomook Road is a Public Use Road which designates it as a Visual Class I. The north end of the compartment is visual Class II. Care will be taken to avoid obvious opening and long stretches of visible road and skid trail. On the portion of the unit that will be harvested in the winter, the Seboomook Road is a major snowmobile trail. An agreement with the snowmobile club will have to be made to determine how to share the use of this road in the winter months. Re-opening the Cut-Off road for winter trucking is an option to reduce the amount of road that will be shared. It needs to be determined how creating a new trail system will impact the areas of the unit where our ITP plan with the US Fish and Wildlife Service is applicable. As part of the agreement, it is stated that no new roads will be created within this area. This needs to be investigated as part of our snowmobile trail plan takes shape.

When complete, all harvest road will be put to bed (with the exception of the Georgia Road, which accesses a group of camps), prohibiting vehicular access and restoring the remote character of the compartment.

Soils/Geology:

The bulk of the compartment is productive for tree growth and is appropriate for operating machinery. Care must be taken in roadbuilding to stabilize the road surface and ditch walls. The compartment is covered by a USDA Custom Soils Resource Report dated 7/27/15. The majority of the area is gently sloping, (0-8%%) and categorized as rocky. The Telos-Monarda-Monson association covers 27%% of the area, Monarda-Telos association covers another 24%, and Monarda-Burnham association another 15%. The remaining is small percentages of 8 other types.

Engineering/Surveying:

Many of the roads needed to treat this compartment already exist and need some basic upgrading for operations. There will be approximately 2.25 miles of road upgrade to be done for the summer harvest. These roads are actually part of a much older road system that has grown up to aspen. Old ditches and drainage are still present but must be relocated or replaced.

LAND CLASSIFICATION & PRESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Total Acres:1223 Non-forest acres: 36

Use: Ledge (20); Wetland (14); Open-canopy Road (2)

Forest acres: 1094

Stand # & Type	Total Acres	Non-Commer.	Unreg.	Regulated Acres		High Quality Hare Habitat (HQHH)			Acres Treated	Management Type		Harvest Volume (Cord Equivalents)				
				Special	General	Current	Future	Never		Multi-age	Single-age	SW	HW	Total	Cd/acre	
6-M2B	62		2	p-gp	10	50	0	0	62	12	12		10	86	96	8
13-M2B	122		5	None	0	122	0	20	92	92	92		552	368	920	10
14-M2C	580		91	p-wl3 Hab	1 57	522	50	10	462	347	347		139	1249	1388	4
15-M2B	239		10	p-wl3 p-gp	1 45	193	0	0	239	100	100		160	640	800 0	8
28-M2B	220		15	p-sl1 p-wl1 p-wl2	10 2 1	207	0	0	220	40	40		48	192	240	6
Totals	1223		123		127	1094	50	20	1075	591	591		908	2536	3444	

Descriptions of unregulated and special acres -- key

R - Riparian Zone

V - Visual management area

P-??- Any LURC protection zones (as designated in LURC regulations)

Hab - Featured wildlife habitat not zoned by LURC

IWWH - Inland wading bird and waterfowl habitat

St, Op - Steep (40%+), or other operational problems due to topography

AT - Appalachian Trail core protection zone

* - Other (Include explanation)

SP-Fir - special protection subalpine fir

SP-AT - special protection Appalachian Trail

NorthHws - "exemplary" beech-birch-maple forest

BCNM-AT - 100-400 foot Appalachian Trail outer buffer

BCNM - backcountry non-mechanized 2700 feet asl

HQHH - High Quality Hare Habitat Acres

OPERATIONS:

Season: Summer **Startup date:** ASAP

Length of operation: 1 Summer

Harvesting equipment to be used: A cut to length with a buncher/forwarder is preferred.

HW pulp=2300cds; HWLogs=150MBF; HWVen=5MBF; SWPulp=600; SWlogs=80MBF

STAND PRESCRIPTION AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Stands # 6-M2B, 15-M2B	Total Acres: 62/239	Species	RS	5%
	Treated Ac: 12/35		BF,PO	10%
			YB,SM,RM	25%

Size: Poletimber/Sawtimber	Age: 100/70	BA: 100/90	Total/5"+
Regeneration: Adequate	Species:BF,RS,StM,YB	Height: 1-5 ft.;	6-10 ft.

Remarks/ Stand History/ Non-timber concerns: These two stands are very similar, stand 15 does appear to have a better site as the trees seem healthier in general. It appears that much of the wood that was harvested on the slopes facing the river was sent down to the lake during the log drives. Most of what is harvested in these stands will be challenging due to terrain and uphill skidding, but the southern end of these stands can be accessed with relative ease. These stands have a fairly high component of red maple, poplar, and fir that are high risk and are competing with the yellow birch and sugar maple, and spruce.

There are many rills and ephemeral flows that come out of the ground in these areas as it drops to the lake, so timing of harvest is very important. The 330 foot riparian zone has a few super story pine, which are potential bald eagle nesting sites, these trees should be left uncut. These stands are within the Visual Class II view shed of Seboomook Lake, trail layout must be carefully thought out.

Management Objective: Multiple age management for the production of red spruce, sugar maple and yellow birch sawlogs.

Prescription/Activity: Single tree and small group selection, targeting the at risk species (PO, RM, BF, PB), Remove no more than 30% of the total volume. The groups shall be no larger than 1/2 acre. Trail spacing 90’.

Residual Stand

Type: H2C	Species: YB	
Size: Sapling/Sawtimber	BA: 90/70	Total/5"+
Remarks: Stand will have remnant overstory trees and abundant regeneration		

Next Activity:

2035 Selection Harvest

STAND PRESCRIPTION AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Stand #13-M2B	Total Acres: 122	Species	YB,SM	25%
	Treated Ac: 92		RS, BF	15%
			RM	10%
			PO,PB	5%

Size: Poletimber/Sawtimber	Age: 90	BA: 155/145	Total/5"+
Regeneration: Adequate	Species: RM,SM,BE,RS, BF, YB		Height: 1-5'

Remarks/ Stand History/ Non-timber concerns: This stand lies east of the only major wetland in the compartment. The spruce is generally healthy and in good form, and makes up roughly 50% of the volume in this stand. The hardwoods are fair to good in quality. Most of the sawlog volume is in sugar maple and red spruce, with some red maple and yellow birch. The mature yellow birch and maples are consistently in fair to poor condition across the stand, probably due to highgrading in prior harvests. There is aspen in the 6"-10" class along the old roads. There is little to no wood in the larger (20"+) size classes.

Management Objective: Multi-aged management for the production of sugar and red maple, red spruce and yellow birch sawlogs.

Prescription/Activity: Single-tree and small group selection removing no more than 30% of the total volume. Harvest the fir 6"+, aspen 8"+, and hardwood pulp quality trees. In areas where there are few pulp quality trees, harvest WB 8"+, and the poorest quality spruce. Retain any smooth-barked beech. Trail spacing 90ft.

Residual Stand

Type: M2B	Species: RM,SM,RS,YB	
Size: Poletimber/Sawtimber	BA: 120\100	Total/5"+
Remarks:		

Next Activity:

2035	Selection harvest
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STAND PRESCRIPTION AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Stands # 14 – M2C	Total Acres: 580	Species	RM, PO, WB	20%
	Treated Ac: 347		YB, SM	15%
			RS	10%

Size: Poletimber/Small Sawtimber Age: 50 BA: 110/90 Total/5"+
Regeneration: Adequate Species: SM,YB,BE,StM,RS,BF,Hobble Height: 6-15 ft.

Remarks/ Stand History/ Non-timber concerns: This stand is also the result of multiple heavy hi-grade harvests. It has regenerated to a largely degraded stand of mixed species, ranging from stands of poplar, red maple, and fir to stands of red spruce, sugar maple, and yellow birch. The regeneration in this stand is also variable going from carpets of sugar maple and yellow birch regen to thickets of hobblebush and striped maple.

Stand density is also variable in this stand. There is more softwood near the wetter areas of this stand. There is an unmapped wetland that runs through the middle of this stand that is surrounded by dense softwood which would fit into current HQHH. There are some opportunities to create HQHH through small openings adjacent to advanced softwood regeneration, but these will be areas are fairly small and non-contiguous. Regardless in any area that HQHH can be created, the treatment will encourage this. In the southeast corner of the stand there have been known nesting Rusty Blackbird in the past, their nesting season is May-July so appropriate timing of harvest in this area of the stand is critical.

Management Objective: Improvement harvest, or timber stand improvement. Remove the low-quality stems in the stand to help pave the way for multi-aged management in the future. The goal is to produce sugar maple, yellow birch and other hardwood sawlogs, while retaining red spruce as a component of the stands.

Prescription/Activity: Single tree and small group selection, removing no more than 30% of the total volume. Focus removal on the hardwood pulp, poplar, and fir. Retain all smooth-barked beech. Where possible, create openings adjacent to advanced regenerating softwood to create HQHH. Trail shall be spaced 90' apart.

Residual Stand

Type: M2A	Species: SM,YB,RM,BE,RS,WA,BA,HE
Size: Sapling and poles	BA: 100/70 Total/5"+
Remarks:	

Next Activity:

2035 Single-tree/small group selection

STAND PRESCRIPTION AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Stand # 28-M2B	Total Acres: 220	Species SM	35%
	Treated Ac: 40	YB, RM	15
		PB, RS	10
		BF	5
		StM, AS, BE	<5%

Size: Poletimber/Small Sawtimber Age: 70 BA: 140/120 Total/5"+
Regeneration: Adequate Species: SM, YB, RM, BE, PB, RS Height: 11-15'

Remarks/ Stand History/ Non-timber concerns: Stand number 28 is made up of many, many micro stands, and is therefore very inconsistent and difficult to describe or prescribe. Upon entering the stand, you pass by 2-3 acres of mature, high risk mixedwood, and soon you walk by 2-3 acres of abundant 2"-3" trees, and then enter into a 2-3 acre stand of mature softwood with fir and spruce both falling out of the stand.

In general, it is a degraded stand that has obvious signs of heavy past harvest. It has some terrain challenges, but is also the best chance at fall ground. There is very few large diameter (20"+) trees in this stand. It borders the Seboomook Road, a public use road with a Visual Class I buffer.

The harvest area being considered for summer is east of the LUPC PSL-2, PWL-1, & P-WL2 that split up the stand.

Management Objective: A combination of improvement harvest, liberation harvest, and thinning through single tree and group selection, avoiding the acres of pole and sapling sized hardwood scattered throughout the stand. Harvest should focus on the trees which are diseased, poor in form, retaining any trees that are healthy and well formed. The goal is to capture the mortality and improve the composition and quality of the stand by removing the less desirable species.

Prescription/Activity: Single-tree and small group selection focused on cutting wood in the 8-10 inch and 12-18 inch sizes. Poorest quality stems should be chosen first. Fir and paper birch are mature and should be removed where feasible. Trail spacing 90ft, although terrain will dictate trail location.

Residual Stand

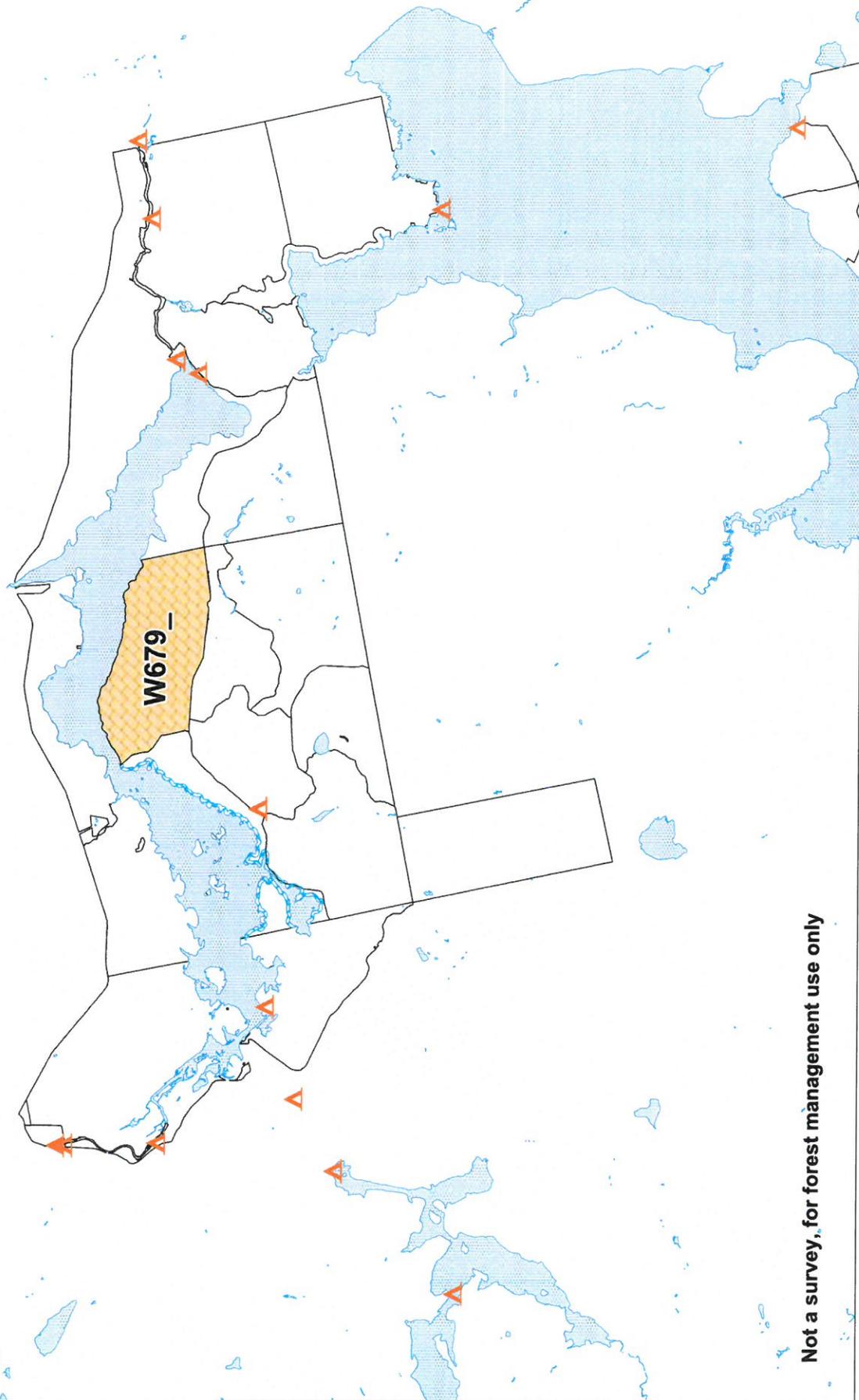
Type: H2B	Species: SM, YB, RM, RS
Size: Poletimber/Sawtimber	BA: 100/80 Total/5"+
Remarks:	

Next Activity:

2035 Single-tree small group selection

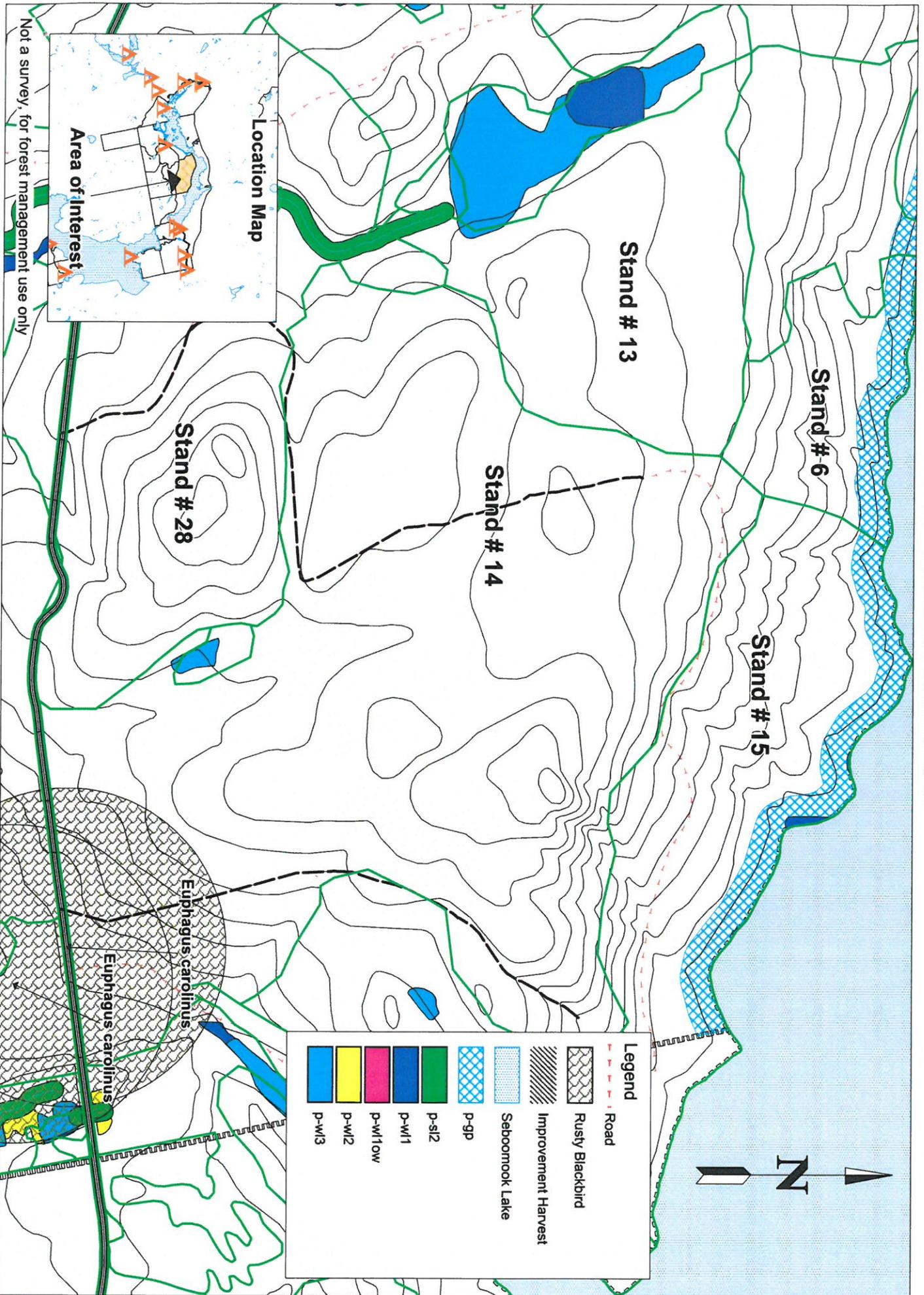


Location Map of W679_



Not a survey, for forest management use only

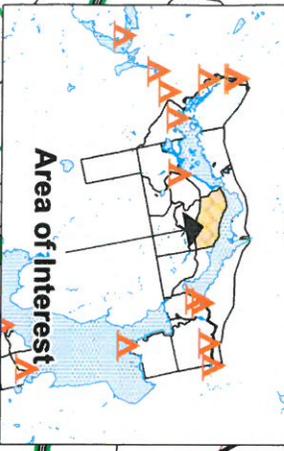
W679 - Summer Harvest 2015



Legend

- Road
- Rusty Blackbird
- Improvement Harvest
- Seboomook Lake
- p-gp
- p-s12
- p-w1
- p-w10w
- p-w12
- p-w13

Location Map



Not a survey, for forest management use only

