

Tax Map 2, Lot 3: 70 +/- acres

(Summary of Forester's Report to Casco Open Space Commission)

Forested: 59 acres. **Wetlands:** 11 acres.

Location: Southwest of Route 302 next to Lakewood Road.

Access: The only legal access is a right-of-way from Lakewood Road located between two camps. There is approx. 500' of frontage on Route 302, but there is a steep embankment and a guard rail along the road. The lot can be accessed from Ring Landing Road, though there is no known legal right-of-way there.

Description of property: Fairly rolling terrain with well-drained high areas and poorly drained low areas with wetlands, vernal pools, and streams. There is a good trail system, with broad trails.

Condition of Boundaries: Fairly well marked with red blazes. Should be re-blazed and painted in next 10 years.

Timber Management: The lot is adequately stocked and has not been harvested in 25-30 years. Uneven aged, stand-specific management is suggested, designed to increase growth. Present are Hemlock, Beech, Red Maple, Red Oak, White Birch, White Pine, Spruce and Aspen, in good to fair condition. Time frame: 2012-22: selective thinning to increase growth: 2020-2029: growth period harvest not recommended. Harvesting is planned with consideration for maintenance of aesthetic values.

Wildlife Habitat: Some sign of moose scat and tree scarring. With harvesting, different age classes of trees can help provide a variety of habitat features, including cavity trees, snags, woody debris, browse, etc. By harvesting wood selectively with forethought for habitats, the current high level of species diversity can be maintained.

Water Quality, Wetlands, and Riparian Areas: Mostly forested wetlands, a few vernal pools and two small brooks that flow in and out of wetland. Wetlands and water riparian (bordering) zones are crucial in the forest ecosystem. One of the trails crosses one of the brooks, and should have a bridge for any future recreational activities on the trail. All shoreland and local wetland protection laws apply.

Recreational Resources: Property is not posted and offers recreational activities such as hunting, hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and nature walks, to name a few.

Future Projects: With suitable access, or in cooperation with an abutting landowner, the existing trail system could be improved for the recreations described above. This would require a parking area, with a kiosk and trail map, a bridge over the brook. A selective timber harvest should be considered before improving the trails.

Forest Protection: Good, but not legal, access; in case of fire, most areas are accessible.

Threatened and Endangered Species and Unique Natural Communities: To best preserve biodiversity, rare plant and wildlife species as well as other natural communities need to be identified and protected. No threatened or endangered species were observed, though stands should be looked at during different seasons. Maine Natural Areas Program did report “Sebago Lake and its tributary streams support population of wild brook trout. Brook trout prefer cool, well oxygenated waters that benefit from intact riparian corridors.”

Insects and disease: No signs of serious insect or disease except Beech Bark disease. Should be monitored, especially in spring for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

Summary of Forester's Report to Casco Open Space Commission
Tax Map 3, Lot 36: 46 acres & Tax Map 1A, Lot 2, 5.5 acres

Forested: 44 acres.

Location: South of State Park Road; 1,100' road frontage Lot 36; 300'-400' Lot 2.

Access: Best access is off the larger lot for any timber management activities..

Description of property: Fairly flat terrain, with some well-drained ground as well as some poorly drained low areas with wetlands and vernal pools.

Boundaries: In fair shape, but could use some work. South line abuts the State Park which has an old blazed line with orange paint; the eastern boundary line is non-existent but goes through a large wetland. The north line of the larger lot is flagged by State Park. Smaller lot has some blazes on the western line and an iron pin on the south, otherwise is void of boundary line evidence.

Forest type: This 42.5-acre woodlot is comprised of only one forest type: mixed wood (a combination of hardwood and softwood with neither being more predominant).

Timber management: The stand has not been harvested in many years, if ever. Currently it is comprised of pole, small and large sawtimber white pine, red oak and red maple as well as hemlock, white oak, spruce, balsam fir and white birch. The stand is likely 75-100 years old; some pines and oaks may exceed 100 years. Recommended silviculture: 2012-22: selective thinning to increase growth, 2020-2029: growth period. Harvesting is planned with consideration for maintenance of aesthetic values.

Wildlife Habitat: Signs of deer, moose and turkey observed during field work on the lot. The property contains all the necessary requirements for wildlife habitat: food, cover and water. With harvesting, different age classes of trees can help provide a variety of habitat features, including cavity trees, snags, woody debris, browse, etc. By harvesting with forethought for habitats, a high level of species diversity can be maintained.

Soils: "Limitations are moderate to very severe on this soil for community and recreational uses because of seasonal wetness and seasonal high water table." (Soil Survey, Cumberland County, Maine, August, 1974).

Recreational Resources: This property is not posted and offers a variety of recreational activities such as hunting, hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and nature observation, to name a few.

Future Projects: The existing trail system could be improved for recreation. This would require a parking area and kiosk. Trail would need some well drained fill due to the high water table and rutting by trucks in some areas during wet ground conditions. A bridge should be built to avoid another badly rutted section that goes through a 90'+/- stretch of

wetland. Selective harvest should be done **before improving the trails.**

Forest Protection: Most areas are accessible. Some fill, such as gravel or rock could improve and build up the trail system.

Threatened and Endangered Species and Unique Natural Communities: None documented at this site, but Maine Natural Areas Program did report that “Sebago Lake and its tributary streams support population of wild brook trout.”

Insects and disease: No signs of serious insect or disease except Beech Bark disease. Should be monitored, especially in spring for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

COSC Objectives for Map 2, Lot 3 and Maps 3, Lot 36 & 1A, Lot 2.

COSC has accepted the Forest Stewardship Plans as the forester's guidance, although further discussion is needed for implementation of specific steps.

1. It is agreed that a forested open space with public access is a goal; timber harvesting would be under a management plan for sustainability.

2. Objectives for the properties:

- a. Protection of the open space for habitat and wildlife values.
- b. Protection of the watershed and water quality
- c. A healthy community forest; any timber harvesting would be under a management plan for sustainability.
- d. Safe public access and use of trails for year-round low impact recreation such as walking, skiing, hunting and some motorized use where appropriate.
- e. Education about the natural values and ecosystems of the property.

3. Discussion items:

- a. How to provide adequate public access to the 70-acre lot behind Lakewood Road. This is a quiet neighborhood of private houses not well-suited for public access. Ring Landing Road might be the best way onto the parcel, but it is a private road.
- b. Would it be desirable to have an old-growth area, which is not harvested and left to develop on its own, like Ordway forest in Norway. Ask forester if that could be maintained successfully.
- c. Accurate surveys needed.
- d. What entity would do the recommended trail maintenance and insect monitoring for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and other invasives?

Note: Town-owned lands are a tiny portion of the 14,000+ wooded acres in Casco, but the Town's care for the forested land it owns should set an example for land owners who want to plan for and protect forest health.