

Duck Lake
T41 MD BPP, T42 MD BPP

Vital Statistics

Size: 6,816 acres

Regulated: 2,433 acres

Non-Regulated: 4,383 acres

Upland: 4,660 acres

Forested Wetland (NWI): 1,020 acres

Non-Forested Wetland: 1,136 acres

Open Water: 30 acres (not including
~1,000 acre Fifth Machias Lake)

Roads: ½ mile

Biophysical Region: Eastern Coastal

BPL Region: East



Rare Species and Exemplary Natural Community Table for Duck Lake Unit

Common Name	Latin Name	S-RANK	G-RANK	State Status
<i>Exemplary Natural Communities</i>				
Black Spruce Bog		S4	G3G5	N/A
Blueberry Barren		S2	GNR	N/A
Hemlock Forest		S4	G4G5	N/A
Red and White Pine Forest		S3	G3G4	N/A
Tall Sedge Fen		S4	G4G5	N/A
Unpatterned Fen Ecosystem		S4	GNR	N/A
White Pine Forest		S4	G5	N/A
<i>Rare Plants</i>				
None found				
<i>Rare Animals</i>				
None found				

Description

The Duck Lake ecological reserve lies on the southeast corner of the Duck Lake Unit, with frontage on both Gassabias Lake and Fourth Machias Lake and encompassing Fifth Machias Lake. It contains a mosaic of low-elevation forests with varying history of natural and human disturbance. About half of the Duck Lake Unit burned in a series of fires in the late 1930s, mid 1940s, and 1960. The vegetation of the ecological reserve reflects that burn history; over 500 acres are typed as burn-origin or aspen-dominated, and another 900+ acres are in white pine or red pine, according to BPL stand type maps. One such red pine-white pine stand, east of Gassabias Lake, supports trees 150 to 200 years old. Another similar stand east of Fifth Lake Stream supports trees 55 to 60 years old with fire scars.

The reserve also contains over 1,200 acres of wetlands, including forested peatlands with spruce, larch, and cedar, and open peatlands dominated by graminoid vegetation. One forested wetland east of Gassabias Lake shows no signs of past harvesting and has abundant dead wood on the forest floor.

One un-maintained snowmobile trail runs through a black spruce bog east of Gassabias Lake, and another traverses the top of an esker east of Fifth Lake Stream.

Resources

Duck Lake Management Unit—Management Plan. 1989. Bureau of Public Lands, Department of Conservation, Augusta, Maine. 41 pp.