

## Great Heath

T18 MD BPP

### Vital Statistics

**Size: 5,681 acres**

Regulated: 0 acres

Non-Regulated: 5,681 acres

Upland: 1,156 acres

Forested Wetland (NWI): 1,075 acres

Non-Forested Wetland: 3,439 acres

Open Water: 20 acres

Roads: trails-4 miles

Biophysical Region: Eastern Interior

BPL Region: East



### *Rare Species and Exemplary Natural Community Table for Great Heath*

Common Name	Latin Name	S-RANK	G-RANK	State Status
<i>Exemplary Natural Communities</i>				
Domed Bog		S3	GNR	N/A
Dwarf Shrub Bog		S4	G5	N/A
Maritime Huckleberry Bog		S3	G3G5	N/A
Tall Grass Meadow		S3	G4G5	N/A
<i>Rare Plants</i>				
Bog Bedstraw	<i>Galium labradoricum</i>	S2	G5	SC
Canada Mountain-ricegrass	<i>Oryzopsis canadensis</i>	S2	G5	SC
Jacobs ladder	<i>Polemonium vanbruntiae</i>	S1	G3G4	E
<i>Rare Animals</i>				
None found				

### Description

At over 7,000 acres, the Great Heath is the largest peatland in the Downeast region, and it is one of the largest multiple-unit peatlands in all of Maine. It extends on both sides of the Pleasant River as it meanders through the confluence of the Taylor and Ingersoll branches in Columbia and T18 MD BPP. The Great Heath has been studied by several researchers, most notably Davis and Anderson in 1982.

Huge and diverse, this multiple-unit peatland is noteworthy for its variety of peatland types. It encompasses an unpatterned stream drainage fen, an unpatterned open basin fen, and a level bog. Morphologically, the peatland is composed of seven coalesced areas, each consisting of two or more raised units. Some of these raised units are visibly domed and exhibit concentric patterns. There are also scattered secondary pools.

The large raised portion is intermediate between coastal plateau bogs and inland raised bogs. Plants characteristic of coastal peatlands include lichen lawns, deer-hair sedge (*Trichophorum cespitosum*) communities, abundant black crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*) and dwarf huckleberry (*Gaylussacia dumosa* var. *bigeloviana*), as well as scattered dragon's mouth (*Arethusa bulbosa*) and baked appleberry (*Rubus chamaemorus*).

The geologic features surrounding the peatland complex are also outstanding. The west side of the peatland is bordered by an esker. The Pineo Ridge, a terminal moraine of a late-glacial origin, borders the south side of the peatland and grades into a glaciomarine delta. These glacial features likely played a role in the peatland's formation.

### **Resources**

Calijouw, C. 1982. The Great Heath: A Natural Areas Description, Bureau of Public Lands, Augusta, Maine. 43 pp.