

**CONSERVATION PLAN
For
TOWN OF POLAND
MAP 10- LOT 54**

ACRES: There are 16 acres in this parcel, based on the Poland Tax Map.

LOCATION: This property is located between Route 26 and Lower Range Pond and is bounded on the north by Aggregate Road.

HISTORY: This lot is a portion of the land which the Town of Poland purchased from Marcal paper Company on August 30, 1974. A small lot in the northwest corner was conveyed to Regional School Unit 16 on March 16, 2010.

ROAD FRONTAGE: There are approximately 128 feet of frontage on Aggregate Road and 3000 feet on Route 26.

ZONING: The entire property is within the Shoreland Zone where uses are delineated in the Comprehensive Land use Code of Poland. Also, a large portion is in the Resource Protection District as delineated by the State of Maine. This District includes all of the land within 100 – 150 feet of Lower Range Pond. (See zoning map of Poland)

TERRAIN: The land rises very steeply from the high water mark of Lower Range Pond to a high elevation of approximately 60 feet on the berm which runs the length of the lot.

GEOLOGY: This property is a part of the esker which runs southerly along the side of Lower Range Pond. Sand and gravel has been excavated from the area next to Aggregate Road. Soils have been mapped by the Soil Conservation Service, USDA, as Hinckley HKd, which is entirely sand and gravel.

ACCESS: Due to the steep slopes adjacent to Route 26 and the fact that Route 26 is a controlled access highway, the only access from Route 26 is the existing road entrance approximately 300 feet southerly from the RSU property. There is also the possibility of access from Aggregate Road.

FOREST CONDITIONS: Except for about three acres of semi-open land in the northwest corner, the land is entirely forested with white pine and red oak of

pulpwood and sawlog-size, with a few scattered red pines red maples and white birch. The land southerly of the open area was last logged at least fifty years ago as evidenced by an old tractor road running southerly along the height of the berm. The southerly portion was probably not been logged due to the steep slope unless it was done in winter when the timber was yarded out on the ice.

Due to the lack of access and the extreme slope, plus the legal restrictions of the Resource Protection District, this property should not be considered as commercial forest land.

However, there is a very uncommon and unique stand of sapling-size pitch pine which seeded in naturally on the sandy soil following the reconstruction of Route 26. The trees are approximately 15 feet tall and 3-6 inches in diameter. Pitch pines are native to Poland but are found largely on sandy soils following a fire or soil disturbance. This small stand is visible from Route 26 and should be protected and studied.

WILDLIFE: The long and undeveloped frontage on Lower Range pond provides excellent habitat for many species of aquatic birds and animals. The following list of fish, bird and animal species which have been observed at Lower Range Pond.

Fish: Brown Trout, Rainbow Smelt, Smallmouth bass, Largemouth bass, White perch, yellow perch, Pickerel, Hornpout, Sunfish, Eel, Alewife, White sucker.

Mammals: Gray fox, Red fox, Beaver, River otter, Raccoon, Deer mouse, Red squirrel.

Birds: Canada goose, Mallard, Wood Duck, Bald Eagle, Loon, Great Blue heron, Kingfisher, Sand hill crane, Downy woodpecker, Hairy woodpecker, Sapsucker, and many species of migratory songbirds.

These species lists are the result of observations of species present at Lower Range Pond. These observations were made by professionals at the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife as well as citizen scientists. The forest habitat on Map 10- Lot 94 is consistent with the habitat structure encompassing Lower Range Pond, so mammal and bird species should reflect this. Due to water depth at this portion of the pond not all fish species will be present abutting this lot.

RECREATION: Due to the limited access and adverse slope there are very few opportunities for hiking trails. Several years ago the local Boy Scouts had a foot path down to a point in the pond and had a picnic table. The approach to this trail was blocked by the reconstruction of Route 26 but a new entrance could be constructed if permitted by zoning restrictions.

The other opportunity for access to the shoreline is by canoe and kayak which could be launched from the access at Waterhouse Park by the dam and by boats launched from Range Pond State Park. Despite being only a stone throw from busy Route 26 and Plains Road this narrow band of water frontage is a valuable natural resource which is worthy of protection.

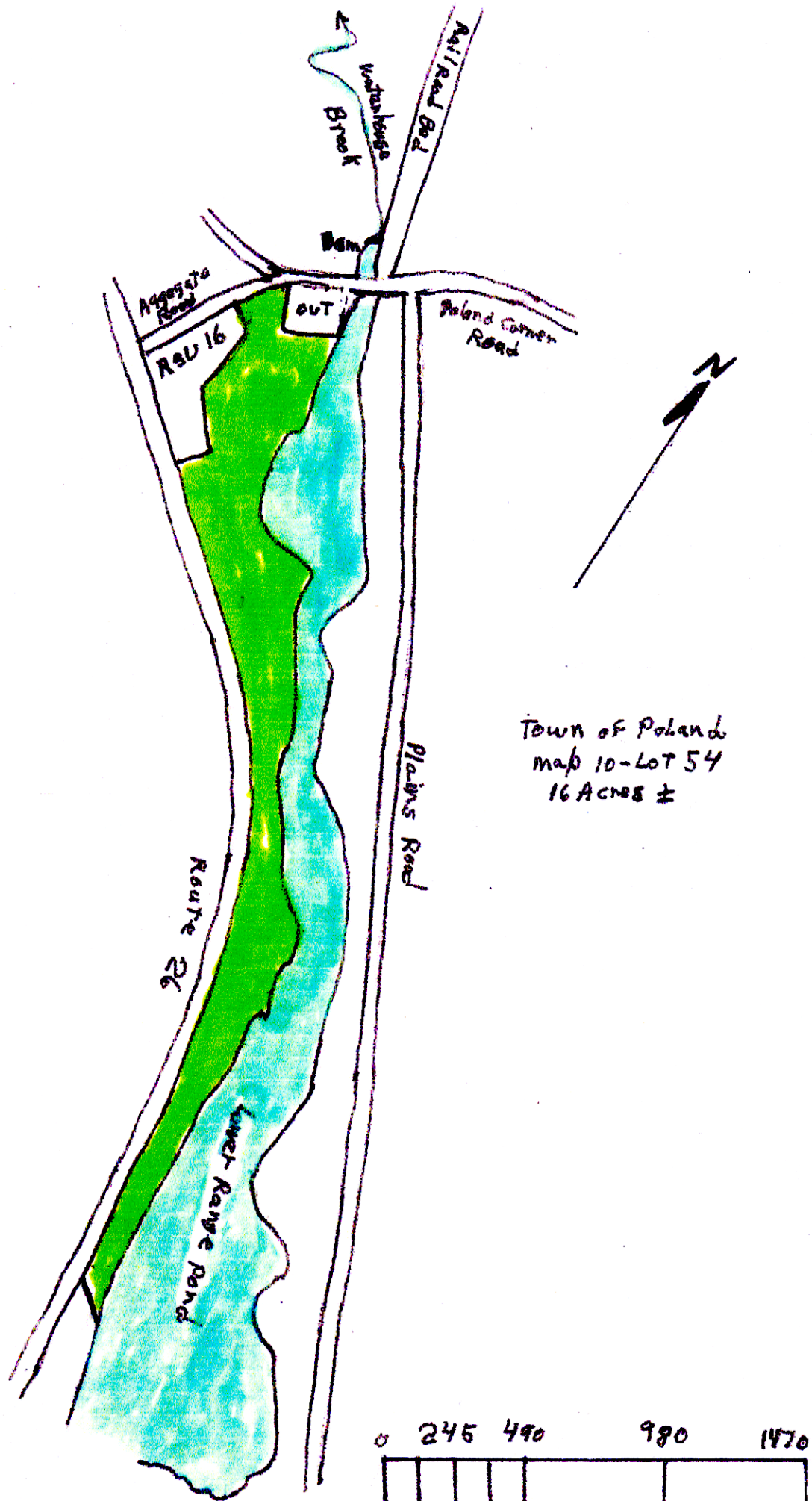
RECOMMENDATIONS: This small but unique parcel of land should be protected from all development which conflicts with the primary purpose of wildlife protection and low impact foot traffic.

The protection of the natural resources including, birds, animals, fish and trees should be the primary purpose with a very limited foot trail along the berm down to the point to observe nature and not disturb the ecosystem.

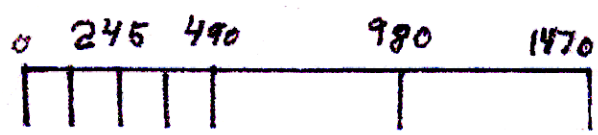
The uses of mechanized motor vehicles should not be permitted except for very limited parking off Route 26 at the existing road entrance and cleared area.

The grassy slope behind the RSU property and the berm could continue to be used for sliding if it is not expanded in area.

Prepared by Poland Conservation Commission and Poland Trail Committee.
Approved by Poland Conservation Commission, January 8, 2020
Approved by Poland Trail Committee, January 21, 2020



Town of Poland
map 10-LOT 54
16 ACRES ±





PITCH PINE STAND ON ROUTE 26