

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
 DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
 22 STATE HOUSE STATION  
 AUGUSTA, MAINE  
 04333-0022

ANGUS S. KING, JR.  
 GOVERNOR

RONALD B. LOVAGLIO  
 COMMISSIONER

MEMORANDUM

October 24, 2000

**To:** Commission Members  
**From:** Andrew Fisk ~~X~~  
**Subject:** Proposal to prohibit personal watercraft (PWCs) on Spring Lake, Spring Lake Township, Somerset County

Attached please find a proposal submitted to us by the Spring Lake Campowners Association to prohibit the operation of personal watercraft (PWCs) on Spring Lake.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Endorse the proposal as submitted, and forward to the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife for consideration under the authority and direction of Public Law 2000, Chapter 701.

**Process for Spring Lake PWC Prohibition**

This proposal was initiated by the Spring Lake Campowners Association, who voted unanimously at their May 28, 2000 meeting to submit a petition to LURC on the prohibition. The petition, signed by 25 members of the Association, was received by LURC on June 9, 2000.

Spring Lake is entirely within an unorganized township, so staff distributed notice of this proposal to the 108 property owners within the township.

**The Proposal: Prohibit the operation of PWCs on Spring Lake**

• **Responses**

Petition	<i>26 in support</i>
Spring Lake Township, Somerset County September, 2000, mailing (108 property owners)	<i>11 support (4 repeats from petition) 0 oppose</i>
	<u><i>33 total in support (30 % of owners)</i></u>



- **Enforcement**

The Spring Lake Campowners Association owns and maintains the only boat launch on this body of water and has agreed to post signage with a contact name/number on the sign. The owner of a cottage that is immediately adjacent to the boat launch has agreed to serve as the contact.

The boat ramp is open to the public, with the only restriction being against overnight use of the parking lot.

- **Criteria**

I have summarized the material submitted by the Association, as well general information that we maintain in our files, that speaks to the following criteria:

*"Use to which waters are put"*

- Spring Lake is used principally by recreational boaters for fishing. Most boats operate at trolling speed. Canoe and kayak use is common. There is no regular PWC use on this lake.
- There is a boat launch facility that is maintained by the Association.
- The lake is a Management Class 7 lake that is listed as accessible and developed. The lake has a "significant" rating for cultural resources because of the presence of prehistoric archaeological sites.
- There are approximately 30 shorefront camps at the west end of the lake, concentrated in a half-mile area around the boat launch. There are two other camps on leased land on the rest of the lake.

*"Depth of water"*

- Spring Lake is 762 acres in size.
- The average depth of the lake is 31 feet, with a maximum of 78 feet.

*"Amount of water-borne traffic"*

- On an average day, Spring Lake has 5-6 small, open boats trolling, and an average of 6-7 canoes or kayaks. Weekends and holidays see more boat traffic. There is very infrequent water skiing, or larger boats operating at faster speeds.

*"Wildlife and environmental values"*

- Spring Lake is classified as a Resource Class 2 lake, with "significant" ratings for both fisheries and wildlife. Resource Class 2 lakes are determined to be of regional significance.
- The "significant" wildlife rating was based on a "moderate" species abundance, where there was winter deer use at the outlet and a historic bald eagle nest.

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Memo: PWC's on Spring Lake

- The "significant" fisheries rating was based on a "high" diversity of species, with "moderate" abundance. There is a self-sustaining togue population in the lake.
- The Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife stocks the lake with brook trout and salmon.

*"Noise"*

- There is no existing problem reported with noise. While the lake is used regularly by motor boats, there is little or no noticeable noise given their speed and size.
- The Association reports they wish to prevent the "noise pollution" that is associated with PWCs.

*"Traditional uses"*

- The principal use of the lake is fishing and boating.
- There are no commercial sporting camps on this body of water.

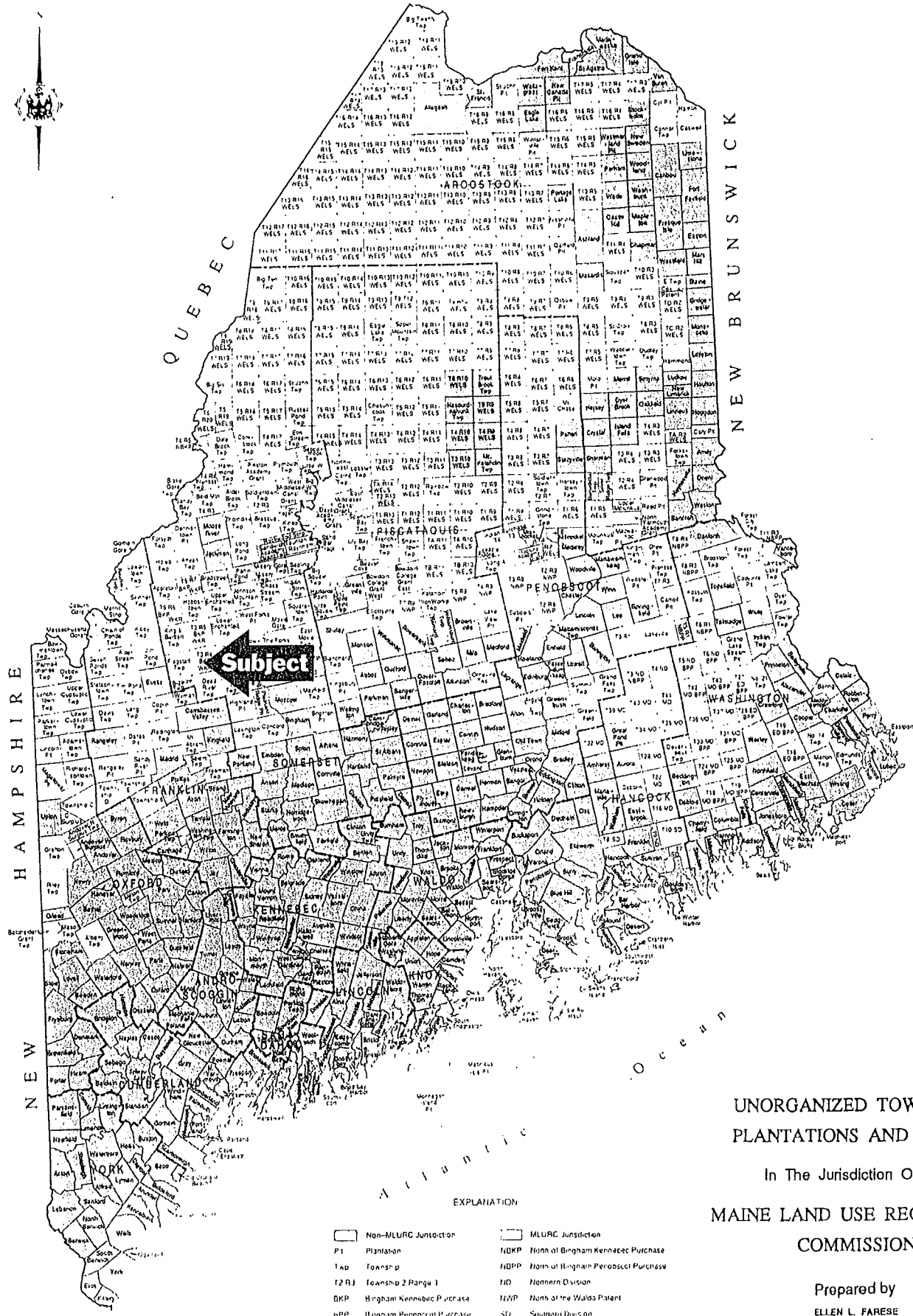
*"Safety of persons & property"*

- No incidents were reported by the Association.
- The Association expressed concern that the use of PWCs could create a hazardous situation for the 2 float planes that regularly land on the lake.

AF/th

Enclosures

xc: File



UNORGANIZED TOWNSHIPS  
PLANTATIONS AND TOWNS

In The Jurisdiction Of The  
MAINE LAND USE REGULATION  
COMMISSION

EXPLANATION

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| □ Non-MLURC Jurisdiction       | □ MLURC Jurisdiction                    |
| P1 Plantation                  | HBPP Home of Bingham Kennebec Purchase  |
| Tap Township                   | HBPP Home of Bingham Penobscot Purchase |
| T2 R1 Township 2 Range 1       | ND Hamden Division                      |
| BKP Bingham Kennebec Purchase  | NDP North of the Wales Patent           |
| hPP Bingham Penobscot Purchase | SD Southern Division                    |
| ED Eastern Division            | WELS West of the East Line of the State |
| MD Middle Division             | WPH West of the Kennebec River          |

Revised 11/93

Prepared by  
ELLEN L. FARESE  
April 1992

# DETAIL LOCUS MAP

## Spring Lake, Spring Lake Township (T3 R4 BKP WKR), Somerset County

