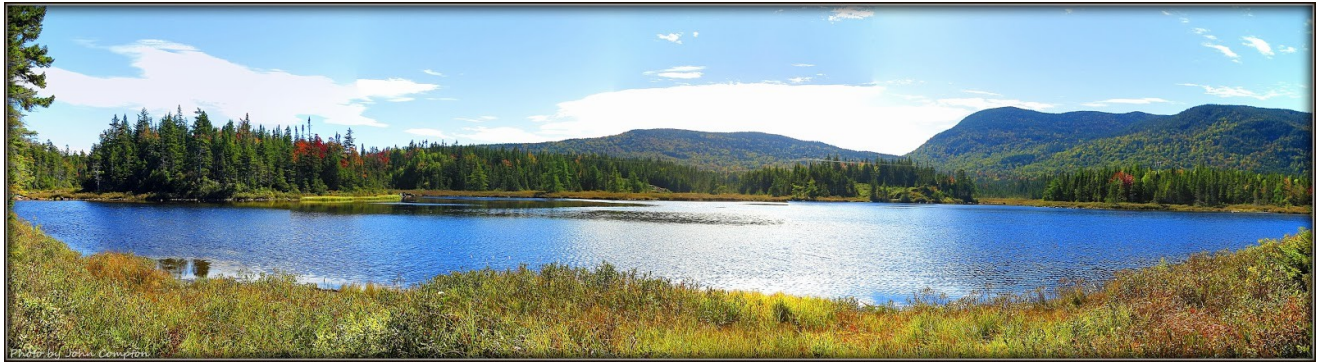


## Bog Pond Scenic Area



The proposed Bog Pond Scenic Area (BPSA) would be comprised of White Mountain National Forest bounded by Interstate 93, NH Route 112 from North Woodstock to the Appalachian Trail crossing (excluding Lost River), the Appalachian Trail to South Kinsman and from South Kinsman down the height of land to Mud Pond. BPSA would encompass roughly 11,700 acres.

The Bog Pond area is both scenic and historic. At 2,317 feet in elevation the 43 acre Bog Pond is one of the few high-altitude bogs in the western White Mountain National Forest. Because the only trail leading to Bog Pond is a snowmobile trail, it is little known and rarely seen in the summer. There are no other hiking trails in this hilly terrain except the Gordon Pond Trail, which connects to the AT. The Appalachian Trail formerly ran down to Gordon Pond then slabbed up around Mt. Wolf to the ridgeline farther north. It now runs along the Kinsman Ridge without descending to the pond, running over Mt. Wolf and along the ridge. Though it no longer exists as such, a trail from North Woodstock to Easton, through this area, was one of the earliest trails in the White Mountains, dating to the 1700s.

In a letter to F.H. Rollins, then president of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, Lyman Jackson of Woodstock wrote:

“The Kinsman Notch is up southwest of the Flume House, near what is called the Kinsman Mountain. About one hundred or more years ago, this trail, or bridle-path was cut through this notch by one Kinsman, who discovered this passage through the mountains.

The trail started in just over the line in Lincoln, above North Woodstock, at the old John Tuttle place, which was a country inn and post office for the past eighty years or more. The path led up about northwest by what was called the Bog Eddy Brook and crossed the Bog Eddy, so called, and then turned westward to the left a little and went through Kinsman Notch. This was the only known passage through this range of mountains to Vermont at that time.

One McNorton was the first to make a little clearing on the old Kinsman Notch trail about a quarter of a mile beyond the old Tuttle place, and built a shanty there. The old place could have been found and marked easily before Johnson slashed the timber there as he has. I think it could be found now.” (1911)

Even before Johnson's logging, a fire had burned over much of the area, but early hikers found the area worthy of exploration. Georgianna Falls, discovered and named in 1858, had a path cut to it by

1859. It is mentioned in Sweetser's White Mountains 1876 edition and included with The Flume, the Pool and The Basin as a scenic destination in Franconia Notch.

Frank O. Carpenter, in his Guide Book to the Franconia Notch and the Pemigewasset (1898) mentions Georgianna Falls as well as Bog Pond; “a picturesque sheet of water high up under the west side of Mount Pemigewasset”, Bog or Harvard Brook; “a picturesque brook worth following”, Bell's Cascade, Balance Rock, Gordon Falls and Gordon Pond; “no path...only visited by fishermen.” Postcards of Bell's Cascade, Balance Rock and Georgianna Falls were widely sold in the early 1900s.

The Gordon Pond railroad operated between 1902 and 1909, and most of the Bog Pond and Gordon Pond areas were logged. An article "Fire in the White Mountains," by Christine Goodale, in the Winter/Spring 2004 *Appalachia*, lists a "Lost River/Bog Pond" fire in 1903 covering 982 acres. The Gordon Pond Trail was established in 1917. Parts of the Gordon Pond trail and snowmobile trail to Bog Pond run on the bed of the former railroad. Carl Pomeroy Harrington noted the damage left by this operation in his book Walks and Climbs in the White Mountains (1926) in which he devoted 11 pages to his hike up Harvard Brook to Bog Pond.

“The long reach of the great Kinsman ridges to the north and west, scarred and chaotic since the completion of the late lumbering operations, the deeply wooded summit of Wolf Mountain to the southwest, and the fire-swept wilderness stretching away south of the pond, offer no indication of life...But these first impressions belie the really interesting features and actual charms of Bog Pond and the adjacent plain in the cup of the mountains. In their season the bushes are crimson with the delicately traced mountain laurel, or again covered with luscious blueberries The very moss presents wonderful color schemes out of which grow whole gardens of pitcher plants with gorgeously veined transparent beauty, carefully guarding their their treasure of laboriously gathered pure liquid. Wild roses bloom on the most impossible tufts of grass in the swamp. High above the great sweltering world of common men, your eye ranges on a level with the high sides of the Franconia Range and gains from this vantage a new understanding of its structure.” (pgs, 94-95)

Bog Pond still contains these glories, rarely seen.

The WMNF map for 1914 shows a trail from Easton, over Old Kinsman Notch and ending at Bog Pond. By 1920 this trail continued along the south side of Bog Pond and followed Harvard Brook to Lincoln. Another trail headed south from Bog Pond to Gordon Pond, which is shown as having a woods road running to it. The first Eliza Brook shelter was built in 1924. By 1929 the trail from Easton continued on the height of land toward South Kinsman, crossing Eliza Brook and ending near Harrington Pond. In 1937 the AT was established At this time the AT dropped down to Gordon Pond then circled Wolf Mountain on the east, slabbing up to the ridgeline above Bog Pond. In 1948 PSNH ran their 115 kV power-line up the Reel Brook drainage, close to the Reel Brook Trail and down across Bog Pond, southwest then southeast, crossing the Gordon Pond trail in two places before crossing Route 112. This route was felt by the Forest Service to be less visible than PSNH's proposed route up the Coppermine drainage and down into Franconia Notch. The 4,055 acre Bog Pond tract was only acquired by the Forest Service in 1979.

Where the power-line crosses the AT, at the height-of-land of old Kinsman Notch, hikers come upon

a view of 2 ½ miles of poles and lines running straight down and across the pond 300' below. Beyond is an extensive view of the Pemigewasset Wilderness. The snowmobile trail to Bog Pond circles back along the power-line easement and part of the Gordon Pond Trail before entering private land.

The only remaining hiking trail in the Bog Pond area, aside from the AT above it, is the Gordon Pond Trail. Gordon Pond is a less well-known but still popular hike, described in 2009 by hiker and author Steve Smith:

“One of my favorite local backcountry haunts is the remote Gordon Pond area on the east side of Kinsman Ridge, south of Mt. Wolf, and the beautiful valley below it drained by the various branches of Gordon Pond Brook. The best-known attraction of this region is Gordon Pond itself, one of the most serene mountain ponds in the Whites, nestled on a high plateau at the base of Mt. Wolf.”

<http://mountainwandering.blogspot.com/2009/06/gordon-pond-trail-gordon-bog-61009-one.html>



*Gordon Pond*



*Bog Pond*

In 1974 the Bog Pond area was an alternative route for the upgrade of I-93 through Franconia Notch. In 1978 the 1948 power-line ROW was an alternative route for the Dickey-Lincoln power-line project. The Environmental Impact Statement for this project stated:

“Bog Pond area (Mile 23) in particular is important for its typical bog flora, (uncommon in this part of New Hampshire) and rare jack pine (*Pinus bankseiana*). The spruce-fir forest intersected around Bog Pond is more extensive than any spruce-fir tract crossed elsewhere in the...route...” “New Hampshire Fish and Game Department has identified it as a wetland with good/excellent potential for waterfowl, and a few broods of black ducks are raised each year. During some summers aquatic vegetation covers up to 60 percent of Bog Pond; the principal plants are bur-reed, pondweed, yellow pond lily, bulrush...”

In 1985 the existing power-line easement was the Eastern Alternative for the Hydro-Quebec Phase II line, and Hydro-Quebec paid for the replacement of the existing line with larger poles and conductor, which increased the carrying capacity of the line from 768 amps to 1362 amps and increased the pole heights by 5’.

From 2010-2015 the power-line easement was the proposed route for the Northern Pass (Eversource/Hydro-Quebec) 345kV HVDC power-line.

*“Scenic Areas are places of outstanding or unique beauty that require special management to preserve their qualities. This type area will be maintained as nearly as possible in an undisturbed condition.”* Secretary of Agriculture, Rules and Regulations, 1960.

Because of its obscurity and outstanding beauty, the Bog Pond area is in great need of special management to preserve its qualities.



*Bog Pond*



*Bog Eddy and Mt. Pemigewasset*

Heading Photo, panorama across Bog Pond: [http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-7115hP87qlA/VgxMPGZ6OEI/AAAAAAAAAVEk/wQEklzPdvhY/s1600/IMG\\_0187\\_stitch.jpg](http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-7115hP87qlA/VgxMPGZ6OEI/AAAAAAAAAVEk/wQEklzPdvhY/s1600/IMG_0187_stitch.jpg)

Gordon Pond, first photograph: <http://mountainwandering.blogspot.com/2009/06/gordon-pond-trail-gordon-bog-61009-one.html>

Bog Pond, second photograph: [http://4.bp.blogspot.com/CTZ05AcXl\\_8/VgxJ2X8QHvI/AAAAAAAAAVDk/8mq9g8iKuD8/s1600/IMG\\_0177.JPG](http://4.bp.blogspot.com/CTZ05AcXl_8/VgxJ2X8QHvI/AAAAAAAAAVDk/8mq9g8iKuD8/s1600/IMG_0177.JPG)

View of Mr. Wolf from across Bog Pond, third photograph: [http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-q524oisfLxc/VgxKRZi5WNI/AAAAAAAAAVD0/vKJFZkQNh0w/s1600/IMG\\_0183.JPG](http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-q524oisfLxc/VgxKRZi5WNI/AAAAAAAAAVD0/vKJFZkQNh0w/s1600/IMG_0183.JPG)

Bog Eddy, fourth photograph: [http://1.bp.blogspot.com/\\_jMddpAdzX0E/TYVVGR97jyI/AAAAAAAAIxQ/83-zB-tjJ-Q/s640/BogPond.JPG](http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_jMddpAdzX0E/TYVVGR97jyI/AAAAAAAAIxQ/83-zB-tjJ-Q/s640/BogPond.JPG)

