

# Kezar Pond Fen Area

Fryeburg & Lovell, Maine

## ***Description:***

Kezar Pond Fen is a 400 acre wetland system located at the south end of the lower bay of Kezar Lake. The site is a mosaic of wetland types that is traversed by the winding tree and shrub-lined outlet stream from Kezar Lake. The site includes an excellent quality example of a mixed tall sedge fen natural community. The fen is characterized by several robust sedge species mixed together with scattered shrubs including sweetgale (*Myrica gale*) and willows (*Salix* spp.). The substrate is shallow, well decomposed peat. Much of the site is probably inundated during annual high water events, a scenario which helps to perpetuate the fen community type by preventing the dense colonization of trees and shrubs. The fen includes numerous secondary pools and low lying, highly saturated patches that support other wetland herbs and provide habitat for suites of invertebrates.



Kezar Pond Fen (Infrared Aerial Photo 1991)

The fen supports a large, good quality population of the globally rare plant Long's bulrush (*Scirpus longii*). This plant only occurs in acidic fen situations in Maine, with the best populations occurring where there is periodic inundation from seasonal high waters. It rarely produces flowering and fruiting stems: flowering appears to be triggered by disturbances caused by fire, drought, or grazing. The plants maintain themselves by clonally spreading once they have colonized a site.

***Rare Species/Natural Community Table for Kezar Pond Fen:***

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	S-Rank	G-Rank
Rare and Exemplary Natural Communities				
Tall Sedge Fen	Mixed Tall Sedge Fen	n/a	S4	--
Rare Plants				
Longs bulrush	<i>Scirpus longii</i>	T	S1	G2
Rare Animals				
Least Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	SC	S2B	G5
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	S4B	G4

***Other Resources Mapped by MDIFW:***

Wading Bird / Waterfowl Habitat

***Conservation considerations:***

Wetlands and Aquatic Systems: The integrity of wetlands are dependent on the maintenance of the hydrology and water quality of these systems. Intensive logging, clearing, soil disturbance, new roads, and development on buffering uplands can result in greater runoff, sedimentation, and other non-point sources of pollution.

Preserving Natural Communities: Preserving natural communities and other sensitive features will be best achieved by conserving the integrity of the larger natural systems in which these features occur. Conserving the larger systems helps ensure both common and rare natural features will persist in this part of the state.

Upland Buffers: The wetland system will benefit from establishing and/or maintaining vegetative buffers around its perimeter wherever possible. A buffer of 250 feet or more will serve to limit impacts from adjacent development, help prevent erosion, provide habitat needed by numerous species that depend on the wetlands, limit colonization of invasive species, and prevent impacts from ORV use.

***Protection Status:***

There is no conservation ownership known for this area.

### STATE RARITY RANKS

- S1** Critically imperiled in Maine because of extreme rarity (five or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals or acres) or because some aspect of its biology makes it especially vulnerable to extirpation from the State of Maine.
- S2** Imperiled in Maine because of rarity (6-20 occurrences or few remaining individuals or acres) or because of other factors making it vulnerable to further decline.
- S3** Rare in Maine (on the order of 20-100 occurrences).
- S4** Apparently secure in Maine.
- S5** Demonstrably secure in Maine.

**Note:** **State Ranks** are determined by the Maine Natural Areas Program.

### GLOBAL RARITY RANKS

- G1** Critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity (five or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals or acres) or because some aspect of its biology makes it especially vulnerable to extirpation from the State of Maine.
- G2** Globally imperiled because of rarity (6-20 occurrences or few remaining individuals or acres) or because of other factors making it vulnerable to further decline.
- G3** Globally rare (on the order of 20-100 occurrences).
- G4** Apparently secure globally.
- G5** Demonstrably secure globally.

**Note:** **Global Ranks** are determined by The Nature Conservancy.

### STATE LEGAL STATUS FOR PLANTS

**Note:** State legal status is according to 5 M.R.S.A. § 13076-13079, which mandates the Department of Conservation to produce and biennially update the official list of Maine's endangered and threatened plants. The list is derived by a technical advisory committee of botanists who use data in the Natural Areas Program's database to recommend status changes to the Department of Conservation.

- E** ENDANGERED; Rare and in danger of being lost from the state in the foreseeable future, or federally listed as Endangered.
- T** THREATENED; Rare and, with further decline, could become endangered; or federally listed as Threatened.
- SC** SPECIAL CONCERN; Rare in Maine, based on available information, but not sufficiently rare to be considered Threatened or Endangered.

Visit our web site for more information on rare, threatened and endangered species!  
<http://www.state.me.us/doc/nrimc/mnap/factsheets/mnapfact.htm>