

1 November 2009

I am Pete Johnson and I represent House District 27. I am here to appeal the Legislative Council's decision on my bill request LR 2190, "An Act to Prohibit the Use of Jet Skis on Wilson Pond," which failed to be accepted by a vote of 10-0 on October 15, 2009.

Wilson Pond is a small, ecologically sensitive, water body half in the town of Greenville and half in the Unorganized Territory. It is home to a significant population of loons and bald eagles. It has a large section of shore frontage that is already protected by conservation easement. Additionally, under the LURC approved Plum Creek Concept Plan for this water body a significant amount of shore frontage will be added to conservation easement. It is important to protect this habitat from further development.

Attachment 1 is a photo of Lower Wilson Pond and pictures of two of its residents. The first is one of the eagles that nests on the thoroughfare between upper and lower Wilson Pond catching a fish and the second is one of the many Common Loons that call Wilson Pond their summer home. Both of these species are impacted by intrusive activity such as that caused by personal Jet Ski watercraft. These craft are noisy, travel at high speed and can traverse areas close to the shore that can interfere with the nesting and raising of the young Common Loons and cause Eagles to leave the area to search for their food.

Attachment 2 is a map that shows the conservation measures that have been taken to maintain the natural environment that protects the habitat of the eagles and loons as well as a host of other species. I would like to highlight three of the significant conservation measures that have been instituted on Wilson Pond.

- First, of particular note is the 2.4 miles of shore frontage protected by a 500 foot conservative easement purchased by the nonprofit group "Friends of Wilson Pond" that stretches from the middle of Rum Cove to the thoroughfare.
- Second, connected to this easement to the south is the Rum Ridge Subdivision that was developed in the mid 1970's by Scott Paper Company as a natural environment. Rum Ridge has 1.5 miles of shore frontage that is jointly owned and is protected by a 25 foot right of way as a nature trail for all of the 95 lots to

enjoy. A common beach and boat launch precludes individual lot owners from having individual docks or beach areas. Many covenants govern the type of construction allowed in the Rum Ridge Subdivision and preclude the removal of trees larger than 4 inches in diameter and restrict construction of building material so that any construction is unobtrusive. The Rum Ridge covenants insure the subdivision is maintained in as near a natural state as possible.

- Third, and perhaps most significant, the LURC approved Plum Creek Concept Plan identifies over 5 miles of shore frontage on Upper Wilson Pond as part of the Balance Conservation Easement required by the plan.

Much has been done to protect the natural environment of Wilson Pond permanently. With prudent use by residents, boaters, hunters and fishermen this water body will be maintained forever as one of the treasures of northern Maine. I urge the Council to allow the hearing of LR 2190 in the 2nd session of the 124th Maine Legislature.

Sincerely,

Peter B. Johnson