



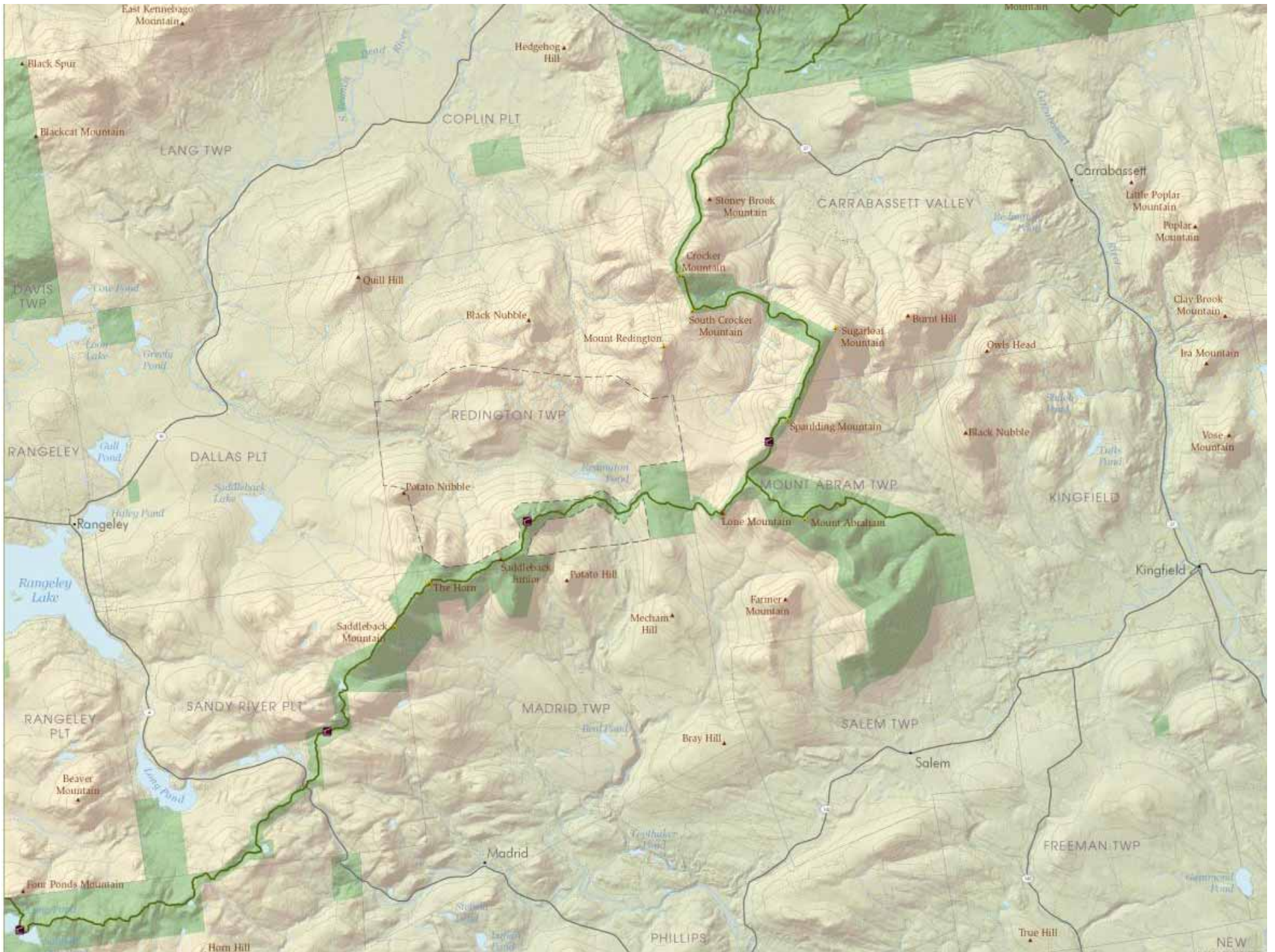
Northern Franklin County: Landscape Values & Special Places

Stephen Engle

*Director, Center for Community GIS
Woods & Water Steering Committee Meeting
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Resource study

- Aims to inform regional planning efforts that support sustainable, multiple uses of High Peaks region
- Immediate goal is to engage different user groups in order to identify and map special places and locally valued areas



Key Informant Interviews

- 15 interviews involving sketch mapping exercise
- Stakeholder Groups
 - Town Gov't
 - Tourism Businesses
 - Guides
 - Trail Clubs (ATV, Snowmobile, non-motorized)
 - Environmental Groups
 - Real Estate

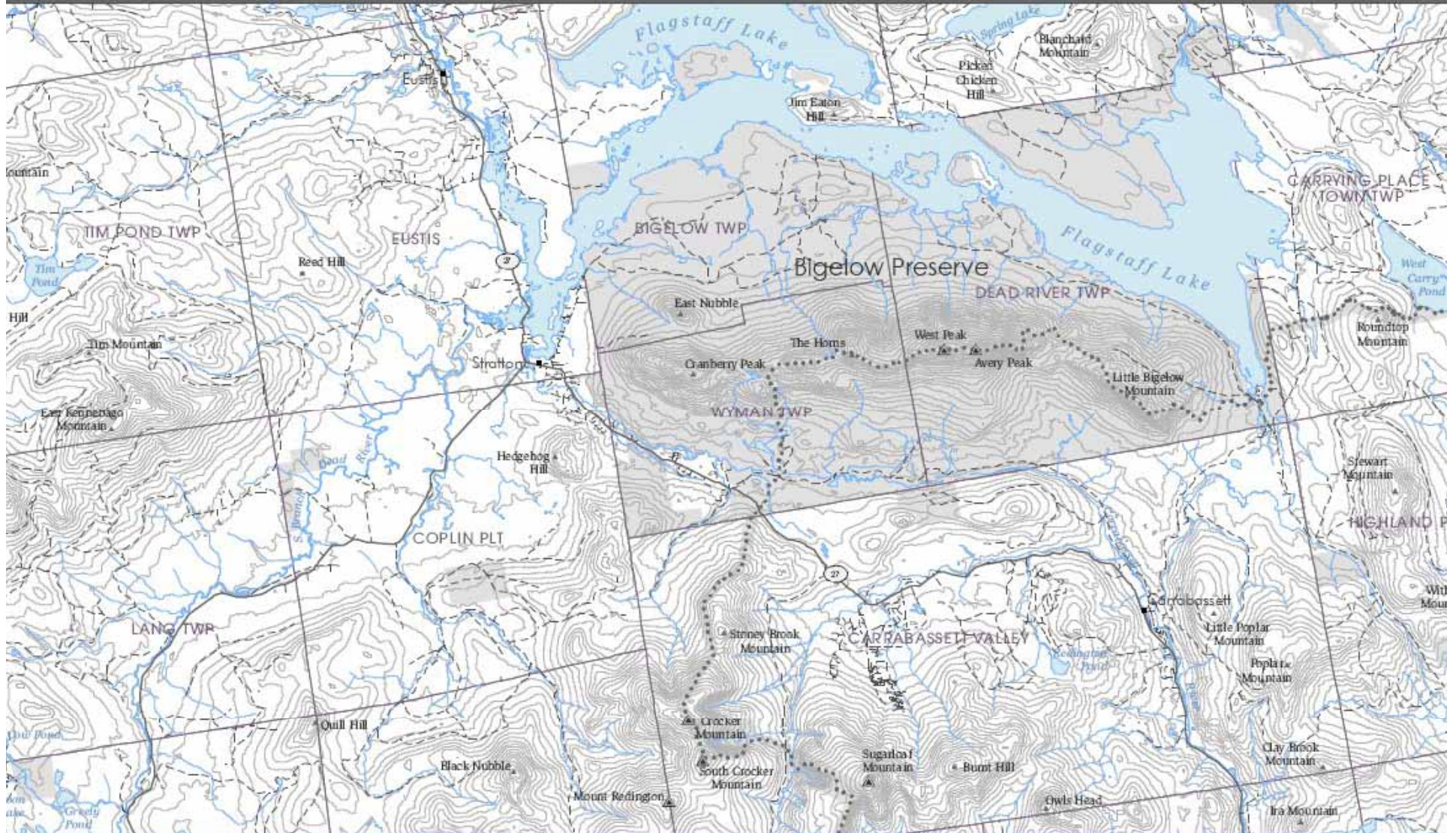
Opportunities

- How can the visualization of landscape values inform regional planning, thinking and action?
 - Recreational infrastructure enhancements
 - Tourism promotion
 - Conservation
 - Understanding nature and location of user conflict
 - Targeting critical access issues

HIGH PEAKS REGION

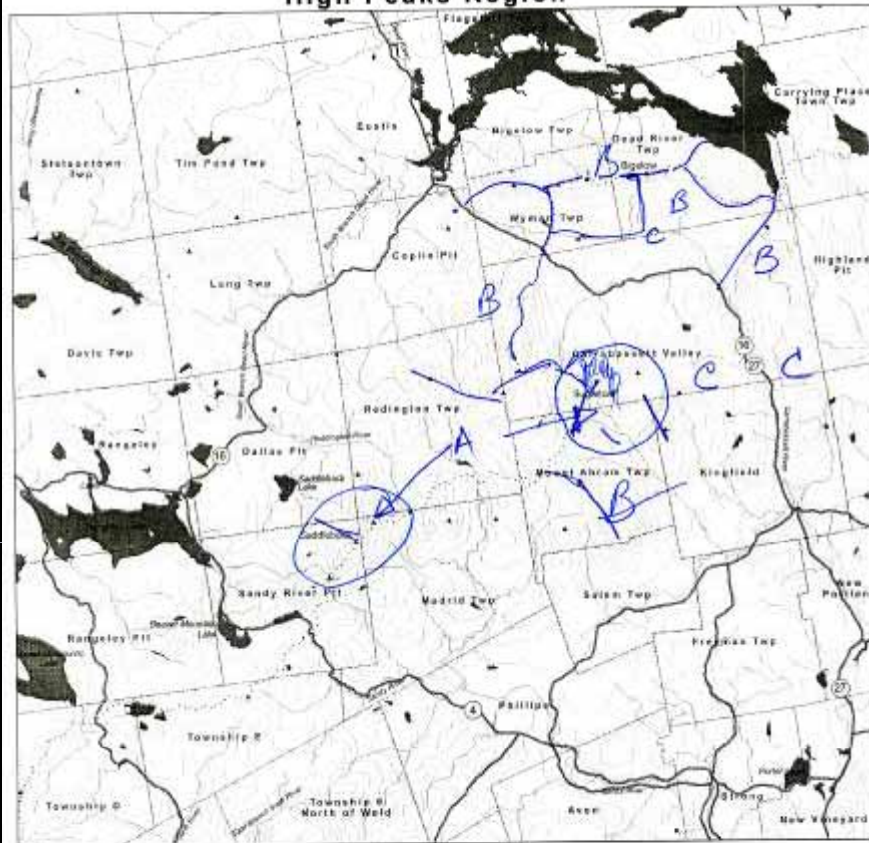
Interview ID: _____ Date: _____
Zip Code: _____

9/10



001-011

High Peaks Region



University of Maine Farmington geography students seek your assistance with a community values mapping project focused on the Rangley Lakes-High Peaks region. Please label areas on the map that you feel are important. (They may be important for their history, economic, scenic, recreational, or any other personal value/reasons.)

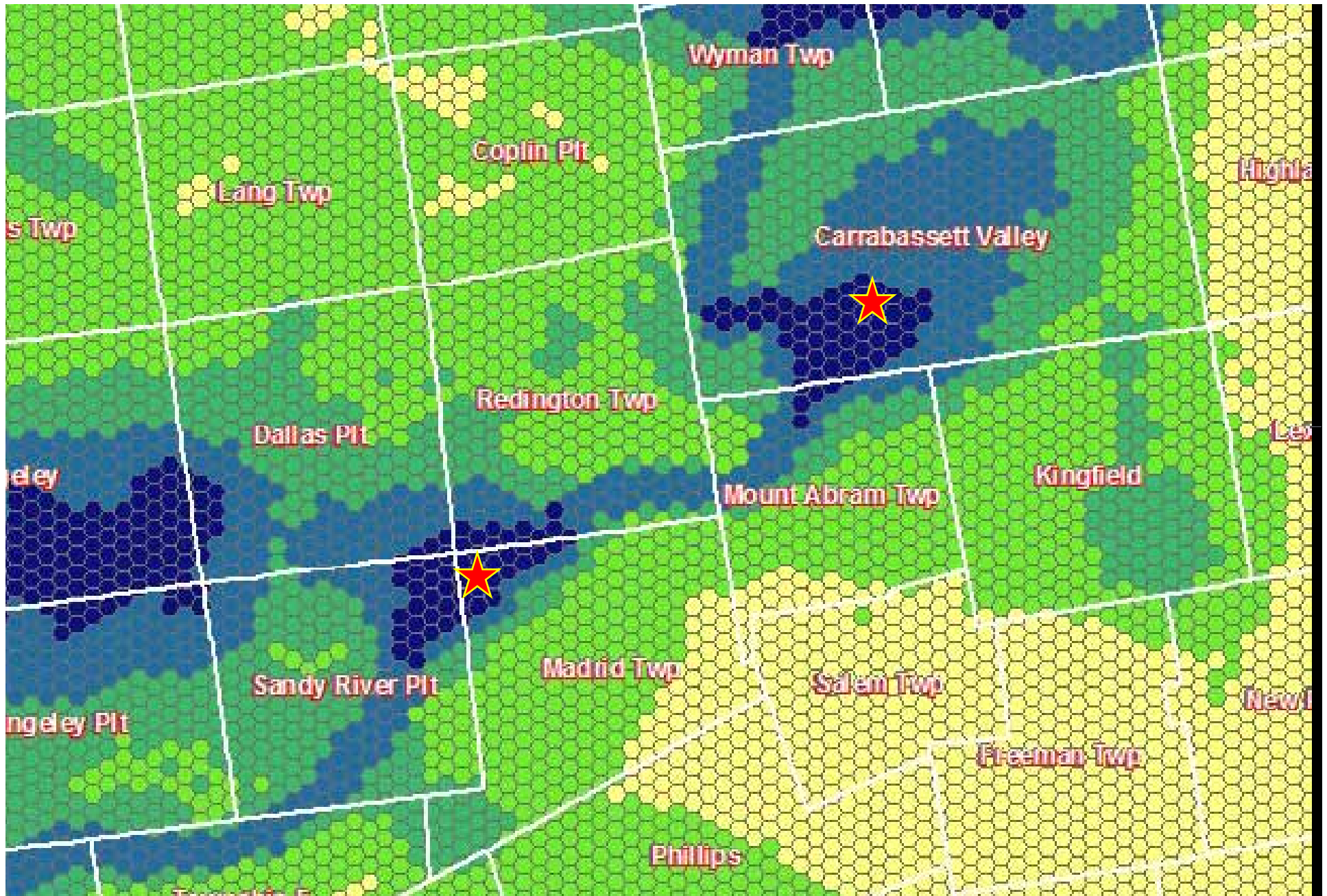


- A. SKI these mountains
Hike them as well
- B. Hike and Backcountry Ski + Camp
these areas. love these beautiful views.
- C. Mountainbike the areas. The Bigelow's Loop is
especially a "Gem"

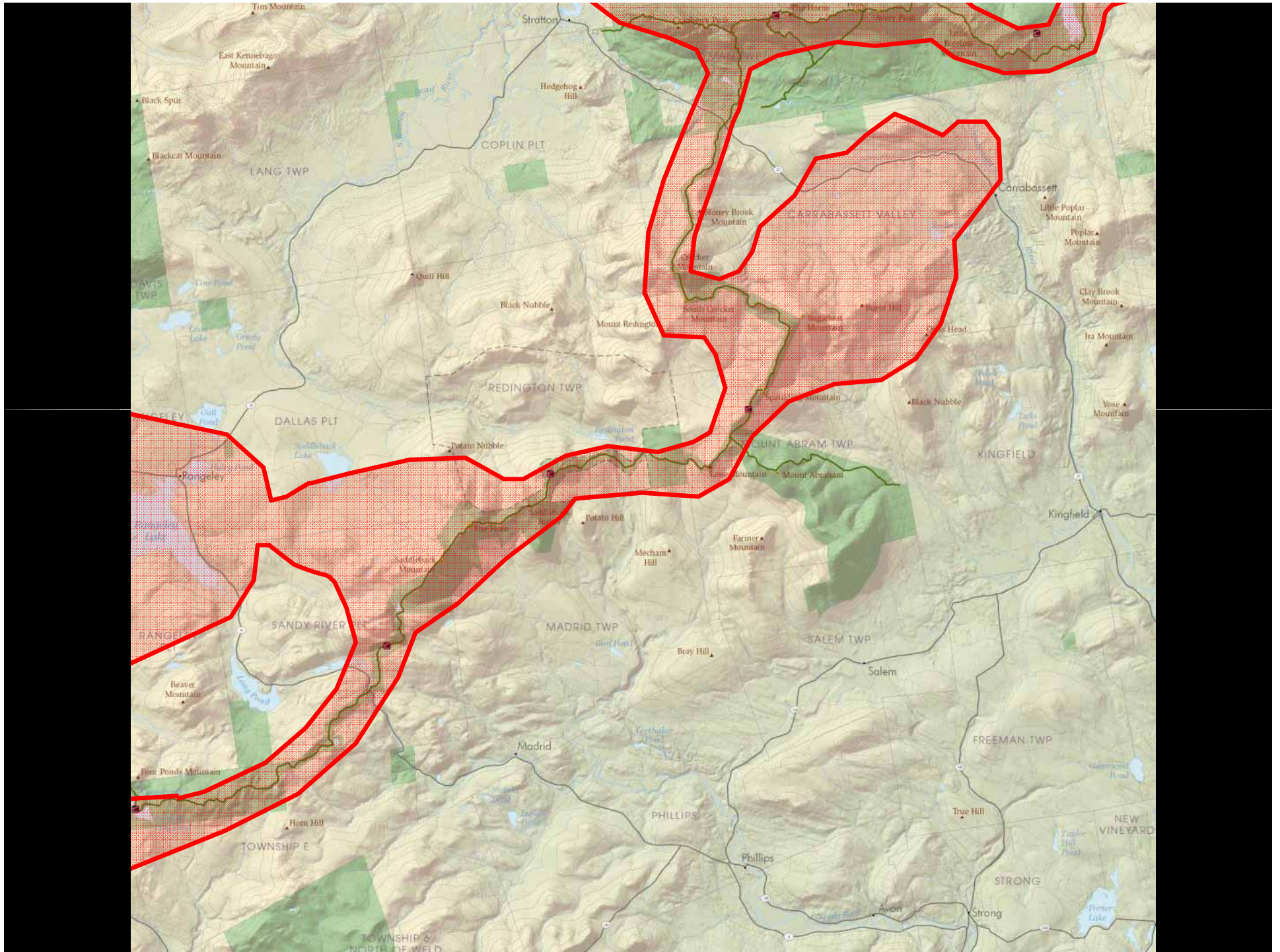
I am especially against the proposed wind farm on
Roddington ridge. It would ruin this fine section
of earth. Although I am for wind power. should be
further North+West

Male Female Year of Birth Zip Code of Primary Residence If this region is not your primary residence, site the field... Vacation Seasonal Occupation

your personal
reactions/uses



“Visitor” Perspectives (UMF study, Winter 2007)





Values – Region Wide

- Numerous recreational assets, especially trails

- Appalachian Trail, other hiking
- ATV and snowmobile trails
- Ski (downhill, cross-country)
- Northern Forest Canoe Trail
- Mountain biking
- Driving (scenic byways)

- Scenery/Vistas (“western feel”)

- Mountains
- River valleys (Carrabassett, Sandy)
- Open meadows, old farms



Values – Region Wide

■ Wildlife habitat

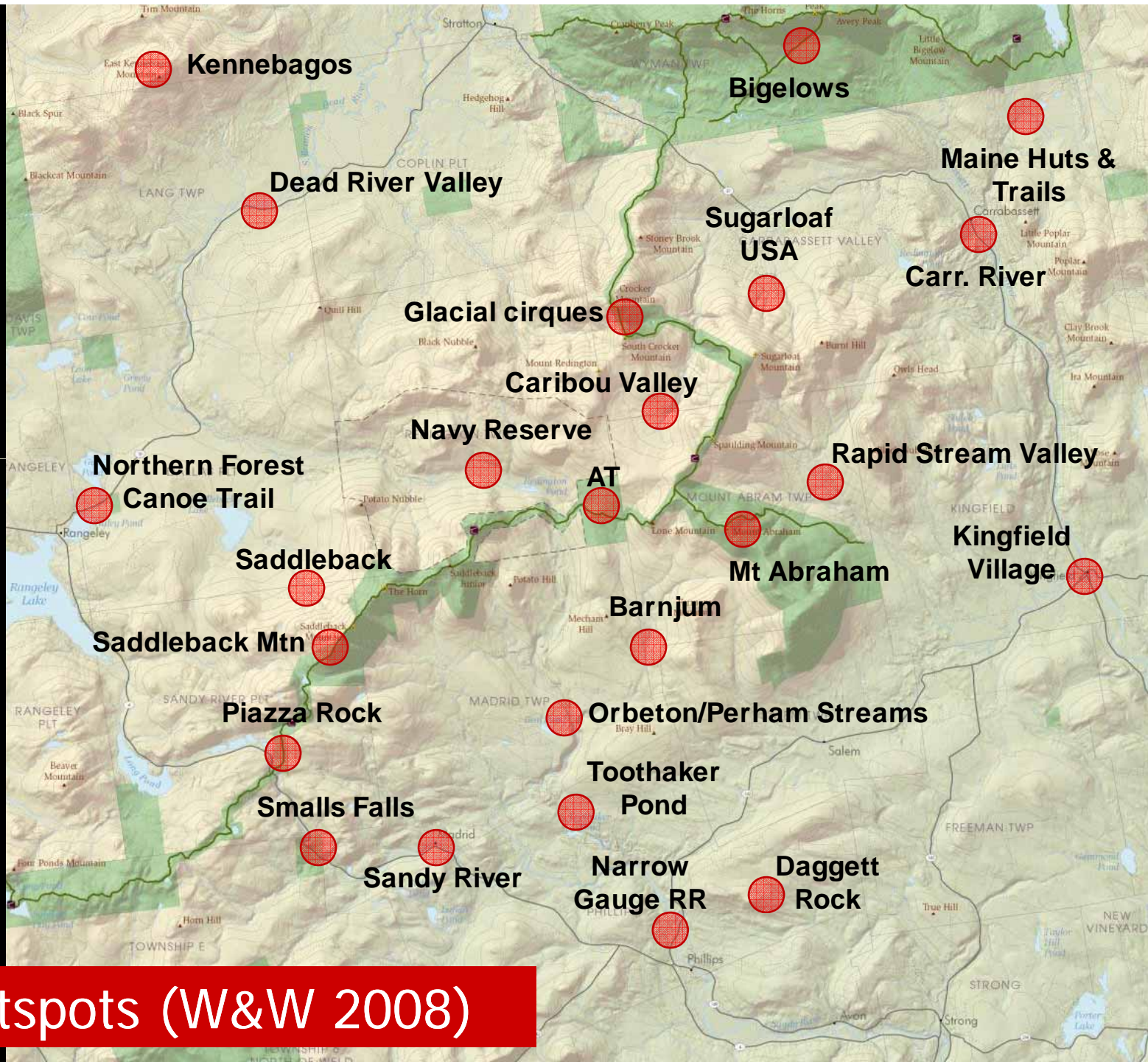
- Viewing/hunting/fishing
- Species of concern (Atlantic Salmon, Lynx)

■ Natural and cultural heritage

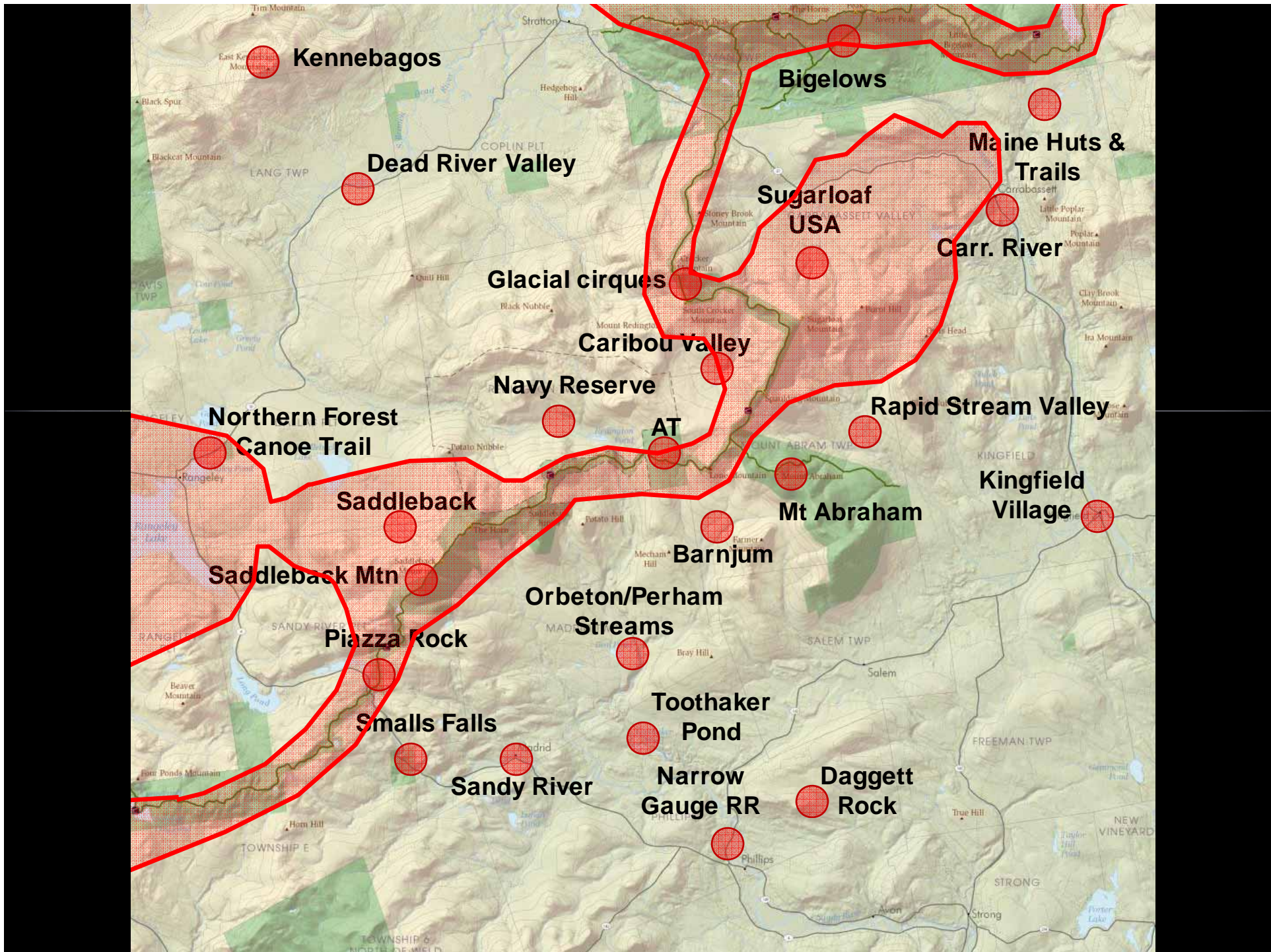
- Glacial cirques, erratics, eskers
- Logging history, ghost towns, narrow gauge lines, farmsteads, family cemeteries
- *“The area is not special because the Appalachian Trail goes through it. Because the area is special, the AT goes through it.”*

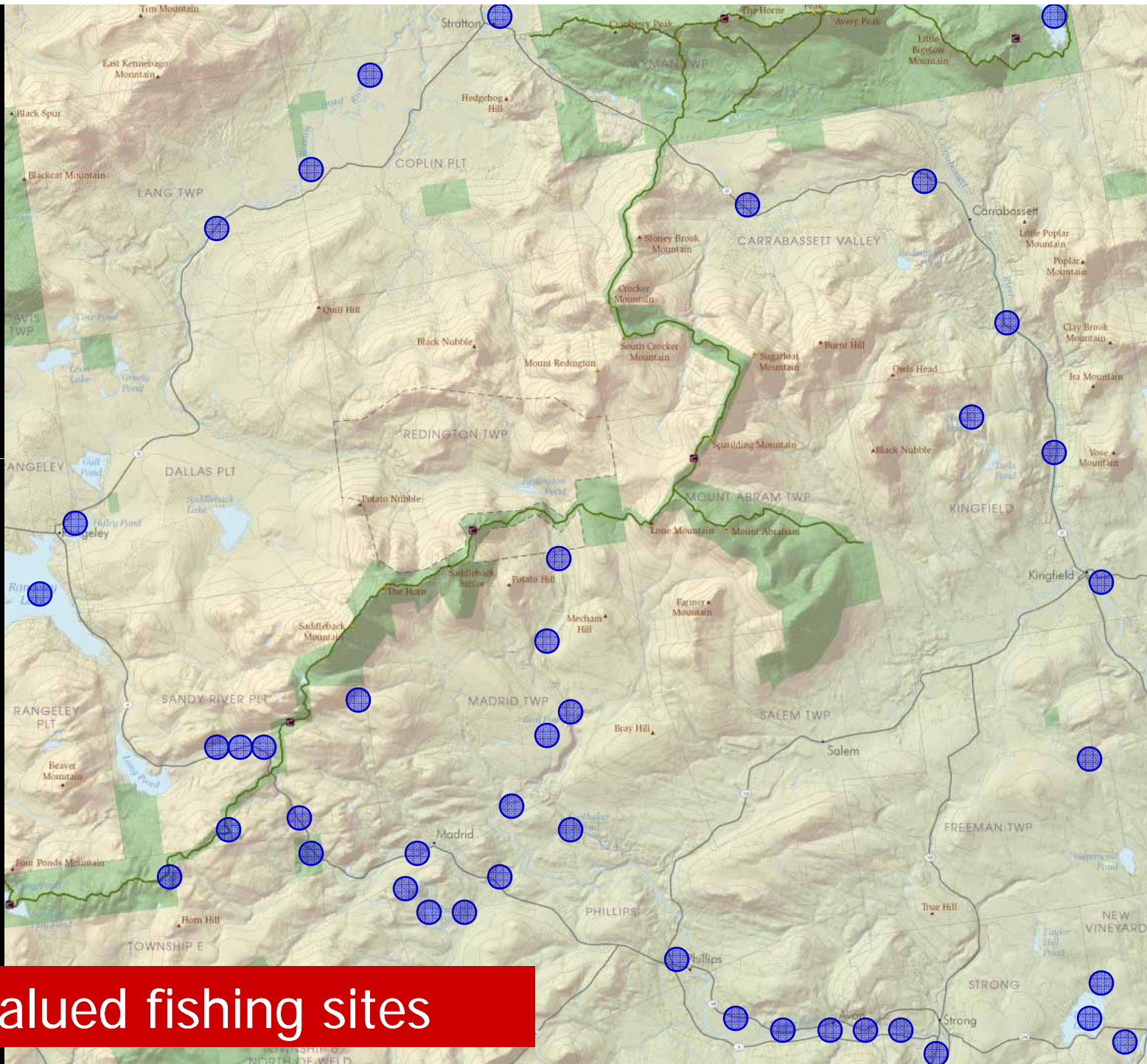
Values – Region Wide

- Tradition of multi-use
 - Combination and concentration of activities makes the entire area special
 - “Everybody’s playground whether filthy rich or dirt poor”
 - Open and free access to private land not is critical component to recreational use of area
 - Sense that there is room for everyone



Hotspots (W&W 2008)





Valued fishing sites



Assessing co-occurrence of values in a given location



Future vision – e.g., trails

Reactions/Implications

■ Majority of valued areas are on private lands

- What do land-owners think about open access?
- To what extent can a world class tourism economy be built on this base?
- To what extent do local users from surrounding communities want these areas to be discovered, promoted?
- Which sites are most critical to focus on?

Reactions/Implications

- **Some near-term enhancements could help make some locations more viable for tourism economy and enhance local use**
 - Signage, road improvements, promotions and marketing
 - E.g., Daggett Rock, Mt Abraham hike, Sandy River

Reactions/Implications

- **There is broad-based interest in trails throughout region**
 - How can/should all existing and planned trails connect, intersect?
 - What organizational structure is necessary to help develop and implement a regional multi-use trails system?
 - Where are the flash points (access concerns, use conflicts) that need to be resolved to strengthen overall system?

Reactions/Implications

■ Phillips/Madrid/Mt Abram TWP...a good short-term focus area?

- High combination and concentration of special places, valued areas/sites
- Large private land-holdings
- Under-promoted, unknown to visitors
- Strong local use with area communities
- Area is passed over by visitors going to CV/Sugarloaf and Rangeley regions
- Increasing second home sales (access pressures?)
- Strong social capital, emerging group work, heightened local concern for resources



Thank you!

Stephen Engle
Director, Center for Community GIS
sengle@community-gis.org
778-0900