PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps of Engineers ®
New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

Comment Period Begins: September 29, 2020
Comment Period Ends: October 29, 2020
File Number: NAE-2005-01142
In Reply Refer To: Lindsey Lefebvre
Phone: (978) 318-86295
E-mail: Lindsey.E.Lefebvre@usace.army.mil

SUBJECT: This notice announces a request to modify the New Hampshire Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund In-Lieu Fee ("ILF") Program Instrument for the addition of 18 individual projects.

ILF PROGRAM SPONSOR: New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, New Hampshire 03302

BACKGROUND: The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services is the sponsor of the New Hampshire ILF Program which serves as an alternative form of compensatory mitigation for aquatic resource impacts. The New Hampshire ILF program is authorized by the New England District, Army Corps of Engineers (the "Corps"). A copy of the signed ILF agreement entitled "New Hampshire Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund Final In-Lieu Fee Program Instrument" dated "May 2012", includes details about the ILF Program goals and objectives in general and can be found at the following link: https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Portals/74/docs/regulatory/Mitigation/NHinstrument051812.pdf

Eighteen projects have been submitted as proposed additions to the ILF Instrument pursuant to 33 CFR 332, Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources (Federal Register: April 10, 2008, effective June 9, 2008). Pursuant to 33 CFR 332.8 (d), where the District Engineer will provide public notice of the proposed addition of ILF program mitigation sites. As such, we are issuing a public notice to solicit comments for the instrument modification due to the proposed addition of ILF mitigation sites.

The New Hampshire ILF Program accrued funds from Army Corps of Engineers Department of the Army and New Hampshire Department of Environmental Service permitted impacts in the State of New Hampshire. The funds were made available through a competitive grant process for the preservation, restoration and enhancement of wetland and watercourse resources with associated upland buffers in the State of New Hampshire.

PURPOSE: The 18 proposed projects would provide compensatory wetland and stream mitigation for permitted impacts to the following Service Areas: Androscoggin River, Saco River, Pemigewasset-Winnipesaukee River, Salmon Falls-Piscataqua River, Merrimack River, Lower Connecticut, Contoocook River, and Middle Connecticut River.

GENERAL INFORMATION: An ILF program involves the restoration, establishment, re-establishment, enhancement, rehabilitation and/or preservation of aquatic resources through funds paid to a governmental or non-profit natural resources management entity to satisfy compensatory mitigation requirements for Department of the Army permits. Similar to a mitigation bank, an ILF program sells compensatory mitigation credits to permittees whose obligation to provide compensatory mitigation is then transferred to the ILF program sponsor. The operation and use of an ILF program are governed by an ILF program instrument. A group of federal and state regulatory and resource agency representatives known as the Interagency Review Team (IRT) oversee the establishment and management of the program. The IRT is chaired by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The primary role of the IRT is to facilitate the establishment of the ILF program through the development of an ILF Instrument. The IRT also reviews ILF mitigation proposals and provides comments to the Corps. The approval of the use of the ILF program for specific projects is the decision of the Corps pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and/or Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). The Corps provides no guarantee that any particular individual or general permit proposing to use the ILF program for compensation mitigation would be authorized.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Each project has a map showing the location of the project with a summary. Additionally, information consistent with a prospectus is located here: https://ribits.usace.army.mil/ords/f?p=107:278:::NO:RP,278:P278_BANK_ID:3134

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-267), requires all federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). Essential Fish Habitat describes waters and substrate necessary for fish for spawning, breeding, feeding or growth to maturity.

The District Engineer has made a preliminary determination that the site-specific adverse effect will not be substantial if there is any impact at all. Further consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding EFH recommendations is being conducted and will be concluded prior to the final decision.

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT: Based on the initial review, the District Engineer has determined that none of the 18 projects may affect properties in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. Additional review and consultation to fulfill requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, will be ongoing as part of the proposal review process and the permit review process for those requiring Corps authorization.

ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSULTATION: The Corps has reviewed the list of species protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, that might occur at the project sites. It is our preliminary determination that the proposed projects, situated or will be operated/used in such a manner that it is not likely to adversely affect any federally listed endangered or threatened species or their designated critical habitat. We are coordinating with the National Marine Fisheries Service and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on listed species under their jurisdiction and the ESA consultation will be concluded prior to the final decisions.

EVALUATION: After the end of the comment period, the district engineer will review all comments received and make an initial determination as to the potential of the proposed project to provide compensatory mitigation for activities authorized by DA permits. That determination will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the

proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. Factors relevant to the proposal will be considered including conservation, economics, esthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historical properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food, and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; American Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the proposed activity. All comments received will be considered by the Corps during the formulation of the initial determination of potential for the proposed activity.

COMMENTS: In order to properly evaluate the proposals, we are seeking public comment. Anyone wishing to comment is encouraged to do so. Comments should be submitted in writing by the above date. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Lindsey Lefebvre at (978) 318-8677, (800) 343-4789 or (800) 362-4367, if calling from within Massachusetts.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for a public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing. The Corps holds public hearings for the purpose of obtaining public comments when that is the best means for understanding a wide variety of concerns from a diverse segment of the public.

The initial determinations made herein will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice. All comments will be considered a matter of public record. Copies of letters of objection will be forwarded to the applicant who will normally be requested to contact objectors directly in an effort to reach an understanding.

THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.

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Date: 2020.09.28 08:19:02 -04'00'

Robert J. DeSista
Deputy Chief, Regulatory Division

If you would prefer not to continue receiving Public Notices by email, please contact Ms. Tina Chaisson at (978) 318-8058 or e-mail her at bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil. You may also check here ( ) and return this portion of the Public Notice to: Bettina Chaisson, Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____

ANDROSCOGGIN RIVER SERVICE AREA
(Available funding $761,668)

Project Name/*Applicant*	**Town**	**Funds Requested**
Shelburne Riverland Acquisition/*Mahoosuc Land Trust, Inc.*	**Shelburne**	**$761,668**

Shelburne Riverland Acquisition, Shelburne, NH

The Mahoosuc Land Trust Inc. proposes to use the $761,688 ARM Funds to partially fund the acquisition of fee ownership in a single transaction of 853 acres owned by Bayroot LLC in the Town of Shelburne. The project, an array of mainland and islands, offers a unique opportunity to protect a significant amount of Androscoggin River shoreline and wetlands, guaranteeing wildlife habitat protection and enhancing connectivity between significant conserved lands along this popular scenic section of the river. The NH Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) indicates that the parcels include 572 acres of ranked habitat, or 67% of the property. The Nature Conservancy's Resiliency data identifies the parcels as having importance for resiliency in support of diversity as they rank as slightly above average, and are located between two significantly above average blocks in the National Forest and the Mahoosuc Range. The Shelburne Riverlands feature a series of outstanding wetlands intimately related to the Androscoggin River. Floodplain forests predominate, including types of conservation importance. Also featured are oxbow channels, scrub-shrub, emergent marsh, and a variety of river channel types. These wetlands serve important functions in terms of wildlife habitat, floodwater storage, sediment trapping, as well as recreation and education.

SACO RIVER SERVICE AREA
(Available funding $71,631)

Project Name/*Applicant*	**Town**	**Funds Requested**
Dundee Community Forest, *The Trust for Public Land*	**Jackson**	**$71,631**

Dundee Community Forest, Jackson, NH

The Trust for Public Land seeks $71,631 for the creation of the Dundee Community Forest in the towns of Bartlett and Jackson. This project aims to protect 15 parcels totaling 1,196 acres owned by the Dundee Management Corporation, a family corporation going through a generational change after 60 years of stable ownership. Within this broader project area, ARM funds will be focused on the 309 acre "Tin Mountain Tracts" in Jackson, which consist of the "Mudgett," "Ham," and "Dame" lots. (The naming convention refers to the seller of the land to the Dundee Management Corporation.) These tracts contain several tributaries to the East Branch of the Saco River and associated wetlands. These streams are in exemplary condition and are noted in the WAP as containing a mix of Tier 2 and Tier 3 habitat. The protection strategy includes the creation of a new "Riparian Buffer Special Management Area" that will incorporate the ARM requirements for riparian and wetland buffering into the conservation easement. This area will be off limits to commercial timber harvest, intensive trail development or other activities that would compromise the wetland protection goals. However, limited crossings of the streams for non-motorized trails and temporary forest management roads would be allowed provided they adhere to best management practices. The Tin Mountain Tracts consist of 10,344 feet (1.96 miles)

of perennial streams, 8,600 feet of intermittent streams, and 6.67 acres of hydrologically connected riparian wetlands on the subject property; 5.36-acre seepage forest; and NW Basin Swamp.

PEMIGEWASSET-WINNIPESAUKEE RIVER SERVICE AREA
(Available funding $225,563)

Project Name/*Applicant*	**Town**	**Funds Requested**
West Branch Brook Forest 3-1-1/*Campton Conservation Commission*	**Campton**	**$37,500**
West Branch Brook Forest 9-1-1/*Campton Conservation Commission*	**Campton**	**$62,500**
Beebe River Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project/*NH Fish & Game Department*	**Campton**	**$150,000**
Total funds requested in 2020		**$250,000**

West Branch Brook Forest 3-1-1, Campton, NH

The Campton Conservation Commission (CCC) would like to use $37,500 of ARM Funds to expand their initiative to protect lands along the West Branch Brook by adding the 58-acre Lot 3-1--1 to its current protection effort that has thus far centered on the adjacent Lot 9-1-1. Lot 3-1-1, which is currently owned by Green Acre Woodlands, would add another 1,290 feet of frontage on West Branch Brook, nine more vernal pools and more than seven additional acres of wetlands. Most importantly, the addition of the Green Acre Woodlands (GAW) property would provide a seamless riparian wildlife corridor between Lot 9-1-1 and the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF). Among other features, the following ecological attributes have been recorded on the property: 1290 feet of undisturbed shoreline along the 3rd order West Branch Brook; > 1900 feet of intermittent stream among 3 units;A broad, moderately well to poorly drained bench abo ve the West Branch; and 13 possible vernal pools (although 4 lie outside of the proposed BLA); Riparian wildlife habitat with observed evidence of mink, river otter, red fox, coyote, raccoon, porcupin e, deer, moose, gray squirrel, red squirrel, chipmunk, and beaver; and a pristine red spruce basin swamp in the central part of the parcel.

West Branch Brook Forest 9-1-1, Campton, NH

The Campton Conservation Commission (CCC) is seeking $62,500 of financial assistance to purchase a remarkable pair of properties on West Branch Brook, a pristine third order stream that feeds into the Pemigewasset River less than a mile downstream. The second parcel is a 144-acre Miller property, Lot 9-1-1. This undeveloped property was the site of the Spokesfield homestead during the late 19th century and most of the 20tcenturies, which included a house and barn, several outbuildings, a blacksmith shop, and a sugar house. All that is left is the cellar hole foundation and various bits of rusting farm equipment. The lot is otherwise forested and drains entirely into the West Branch. Glacial till uplands contain ample impervious substrates to support a wide variety of wetlands upslope of the stream, which includes at least 30 vernal pools, half of which have been confirmed. Among other features, the following ecological attributes have been recorded on the property: >7000 feet of undisturbed shoreline along West Branch Brook; > 2500 feet of intermittent stream among 8 units; several steep drainages and seeps above the West Branch; 15 confirmed and 15 possible vernal pools; riparian wildlife habitat with observed evidence of fisher, ermine, mink, river otter, bobcat, red fox, coyote, raccoon, porcupine, deer, moose, gray squirrel, red squirrel, chipmunk, and beaver; and pristine conifer basin swamps.

Beebe River Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project, Campton, NH

The Beebe River Habitat Restoration Project seeks to utilize $150,000 to improve habitat connectivity and complexity while reducing flood risks within the Beebe River Watershed. This cost effective approach builds upon recent landscape level restoration and land conservation, while working towards a goal of removing all unnatural barriers to aquatic organism passage (AOP) within the cold water portion of the watershed. The ability to consider this goal at the watershed level is very unique to New Hampshire. If this project is implemented, it is suspected that only two culverts which impede aquatic organism passage (AOP) will remain throughout the cold water portion of the Beebe River Watershed. We anticipate targeting the removal of these two culverts in the future. We are proposing to address aquatic habitat fragmentation at two undersized stream crossing structures in the town of Campton. Both of these structures currently exhibit the impacts associated with undersized stream crossing structures. These constriction points disrupt the natural conveyance of sediment, have an increased risk of failure and amplify erosion and aggradation rates. Wild brook trout and other aquatic species are prevented from accessing critical habitats for spawning, foraging and summer thermal refuge. Isolated populations upstream of these structures risk implications to genetic health from a lack of outside introgression. This effort will mitigate these impacts by replacing a double culvert structure with a bridge and decommissioning another culvert in a second location. This proposal also includes identifying a suitable stream reach and property to enhance aquatic habitat and improve water quality through instream wood additions.

Ryan Brook: The preliminary modeled bridge opening to pass the necessary storm flow, with at least 1 foot of freeboard, is a 5' by 24' foot span bridge. This crossing replacement will exceed the current NH Stream Crossing Guidelines and restore the existing stream channel widths to 1.2 bankfull width or approximately 22 feet. The restoration of hydraulic connectivity will return access to approximately 5,000 stream feet within Tier 1 Habitat of the headwater portion of Ryan Brook.

The Crossing at Eastern Corner Road: The plan is to install two pre-cast bridge abutments to allow for future logging (or snowmobile) activities, when needed. These abutments will be installed on both sides of the stream channel, outside of wetlands jurisdiction. The restoration would rebuild the stream channel and banks following the USFS' Stream Simulation Protocol. This effort connects Tier 1 Habitat in the lower and upper portions of the unnamed stream. Surveys on this stream indicate brook trout occupy 1,640 feet of stream above the perched culvert on Eastern Corner Rd. There are no barriers below Eastern Corner Rd as this stream flows approximately 1,300 feet downstream before entering the Beebe River.

SALMON FALLS-PISCATAQUA RIVER SERVICE AREA
(Available funding $900,548)

Project Name/Applicant	**Town**	**Funds Requested**
Leighton Forest/*Southeast Land Trust of NH*	**Barrington & Strafford**	**$300,000**
Teneriffe Mountain/*Moose Mountain Regional Greenways*	**Milton**	**$275,000**
Adams Homestead/*Town of Newington*	**Newington**	**$120,000**
Clay Brook Forest/*Society for the Protection of NH Forests*	**Hampton Falls**	**$40,000**

Barnes Conservation Easement/*Bear-Paw Regional Greenways*	**Strafford**	**$74,000**
Total funds requested in 2020		**$809,000**

Leighton Forest, Barrington and Strafford, NH

This project proposes to use $300,000 of ARM Funds to permanently conserve 407.5 acres of the Leighton Forest located in the Nippo Brook/Isinglass River watershed through ownership by the Southeast Land trust and a conservation easement held by the Towns of Barrington and Strafford. High quality habitat covers 98% of the property, including 355 acres of uplands and 51.8 acres comprised of 21 individual wetlands. This parcel has documented occurrences of Blanding's turtle on the property and has 13 confirmed vernal pools. Conserving Leighton Forest will permanently protect 407.5 acres of high ranking habitat: 146.1 acres of Tier 1 habitat as assessed by NHFG 2020 Wildlife Action Plan, 187.7 acres of Tier 2, and 66.7 acres of Tier 3. More specifically, this plan will protect the following ecological attributes that have been recorded on the property: 355.7 acres of upland habitat; 51.8 acres of wetland habitat; 9,873 linear feet of streams; 13 vernal pools; habitat for documented state species of concern - Banded Sunfish and Swamp Darter; and habitat for documented state endangered Blanding's Turtle. The Leighton Forest Property is located 2,180 feet from Strafford's 286-acre Isinglass River Conservation Reserve and 3,900 feet from the SELT/NHFG Stonehouse Pond/Forest that encompasses 1,758 acres. These conservation areas are in close proximity and are separated only by 2 landownerships. The majority of the property lies within a 2,350-acre unfragmented Forest Block, of which 17% would be conserved by the permanent protection of Leighton Forest. The property is also located in an area of core focus for the Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire's Coastal Watersheds.

Teneriffe Mountain, Milton, NH

The Teneriffe Mountain Project involves a partnership between the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire (SELT) and Moose Mountain Regional Greenways (MMRG). If successful, MMRG will utilize $275,000 to acquire the fee ownership and, if a conservation easement is required, it will be held by SELT. The parcel encompasses approximately 242 acres and is owned by Cheney Property Management Corporation. Mr. Cheney has been planning to develop the property for some time, and has recently invested in extensive deed research and surveying. The parcel is made up of three abutting parcels and are Map 26 Lot 8, 143.02 acres; Map 31 Lot 9 93.89 acres; Map 31 Lot 10, 5.15 acres. The Teneriffe Mountain property lies within the Hart Brook/Mount Teneriffe unfragmented block, described in the 2006 Land Conservation Plan for NH's Coastal Watersheds (Coastal Conservation Plan) and more recently in the MMRG's Conservation Action Plan. The WAP maps show the property as Supporting Landscape. The Coastal Conservation Plan indicates that approximately 25% of the property is mapped as Core Focus Area, and the remainder Supporting Landscape. The MMRG Conservation Action Plan indicates that approximately 30% of the parcel is Tier 1 - Highest Priority and an additional 20% as Tier 2 - High Priority. The property is situated in the highest portion of the Lyman/Great Brook subwatershed and is the primary contributing landscape to the stream's origin. Lyman Brook joins Great Brook just north of Route 75 eventually flowing into the Salmon Falls River. The total stream corridor length is approximately 5 miles, with 0.67 miles (3,500') flowing through the property. This project will include a stream restoration component that will involve the installation two small wood plank bridges. One will replace an undersized culvert on Lyman Brook on the driveway that enters from Sam Plummer Road. The second will be installed on the brook crossing along the main woods road, close to the westerly boundary line of Lot 31-10.

Adams Homestead, Newington, NH

The Town of Newington is seeking $120,000 to conserve this historic farm which is mostly open fields that are farmed. The owners will work with the Southeast Land Trust to conserve the property. The landowner would like to continue the agricultural practices on the property growing both hay and corn and possibly adding livestock. 16.8 acres of the 20-acre parcel would be placed into conservation easement. There is a portion of a small freshwater marsh associated with an impounded stream located along the northern wetland boundary. Approximately 0.6 acres of shallow marsh and scrub shrub wetland are found along the northern boundary. This wetland provides wildlife habitat, groundwater, sediment trapping, nutrient attenuation, and shoreline anchoring and is drained by an intermittent stream under Colman Drive off site and downstream. There are two small isolated wetlands within the one-half acre woodland in the northeast portion of the parcel. These two wetlands are each 0.01 acres in size and provide ecological integrity, sediment trapping, and nutrient attenuation to a very small degree.

Clay Brook Forest, Hampton Falls, NH

The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (aka SPNHF) proposes to purchase a conservation easement using $40,000 of ARM Funds on a thirty- acre parcel on Clay Brook in Hampton Falls. This parcel is strategically located on both Clay Brook and the Taylor River across from the 163-acre Hurd Farm RCCD easement. It includes over 1,000 ft of riparian buffer on Clay Brook and over 500 feet of riparian buffer on the Taylor River. It lies in a highly developable part of the watershed and is bordered to the south by a half dozen homes. In spite of a long history of use during the agricultural hey -day of the 19th century, the riparian forest remains intact. A mix of pines and hardwoods create a gradual transition from upland to wetland, which includes one small vernal pool. The +/- 30-acre Clay Brook property lies in the 4th order Taylor River Watershed less than a quarter mile from tidal waters; less than two miles from Hampton Bay. It is bounded on the north by the second order Clay Brook, which joins the Taylor River just upstream of the property. There are two frontages on town roads, one of which includes a cul-de-sac (Toppan Lane) that has room for parking by several cars. A ± one-mile long trail system traverses the property that allows passage to the Taylor River at its junction with Clay Brook.

Barnes Conservation Easement, Strafford, NH

Bear-Paw Regional Greenways is working with a private landowner in Strafford, to conserve a 67+/- acre property. A total of $74,000 of funds are sought to protect this property that contains about 19.25 acres of wetland; the rest is upland forest habitat. The Barnes property lies within one of the largest unfragmented forest blocks in the Bear-Paw region. The importance of this forest block is recognized by many regional plans, including the Land Conservation Plan for NH's Coastal Watersheds, the Nature Conservancy's Resilient Land project (above average terrestrial resilience, identified climate corridor), and Bear-Paw's regional conservation plan. The primary wetland on the property, described as a peatland/fen system drains directly into Bow Lake which is the headwaters of the Isinglass River, a state-designated waterway. According to the NH Aquatic Restoration Mapper, several species of greatest conservation need –American Eel, Alewife, and Banded Sunfish – have been recorded in Bow Lake and the culvert that would drain water from the Barnes wetland is classified as appropriate for allowing full passage. This property is Tier 1 wildlife habitat as identified by the 2015 WAP and is entirely within a core area for NH's Coastal Watershed protection. It is also bounded on one side by 1,862 acres of permanently conserved land and on the other by long-term managed forest land. Blanding's (state endangered) and Spotted Turtle (state threatened) populations, have both been documented within a mile of the property and the property is part of a conservation area identified in the Blanding's Turtle Regional Conservation Plan. Additionally, the Ringed Boghaunter (state endangered) has been

documented both to the west and east at other beaver pond complexes. Small Whorled Pogonia (federally threatened) has been documented on adjacent properties. All of the wetland functions and values found in the conservation easement area (wildlife habitat, groundwater recharge/discharge, sediment/toxin retention, flood storage, and stormwater retention) will be conserved through this project.

MERRIMACK RIVER SERVICE AREA
(Available funding $511,378)

Project Name/Applicant	**Town**	**Funds Requested**
Burnes CE/*Piscataquog Land Conservancy*	**Goffstown**	**$73,000**
Stillhouse Forest Addition/*Society for the Protection of NH Forests*	**Northfield**	**$125,000**
Steel Addition to Binney Hill Wilderness Preserve/*Northeast Wilderness Trust*	**New Ipswich**	**$30,000**
Harmony Lane/Rocky Pond Outlet Culvert Replacement Projec/*Merrimack County Conservation District*	**Canterbury**	**$260,020**
Total funds requested in 2020		**$488,020**

Burnes CE, Goffstown, NH

The Burnes Project requests $73,000 to purchase a permanent conservation easement on approximately 37 acres, all of which drains to, and buffers, the Gorham Brook Tributary Prime Wetland to the west and the 1st -order tributary itself to the south. The property is owned by Kenneth and Gail Burnes. Approximately 1,700 feet of the southern boundary is within 300 ft. of the tributary, with the remainder within the wetlands. The property contains 0.5 acres of the Prime Wetland and two possible vernal pools, along with 1,625 ft of intermittent stream. Habitat types include Appalachian-oak-pine, Hemlock-hardwood-pine, grassland and wet meadow, with 0.5 acres of Tier 1 WAP habitat (the Prime Wetland), 35 acres (95%) as Tier 2, with the remaining 1+ acre as Supporting Landscape. The easement will permanently protect the property from residential or commercial subdivision or development; commercial timbering will be permitted, under an appropriate Forest Management Plan, along with restrictions and setbacks from streams, wetlands, and vernal pools – of which there are two possible ones. Motorized recreational vehicles will be prohibited, with no public trail development. The Natural Heritage Bureau has documented Blanding's Turtle (NH-E/S1/G4) and Eastern Hognose Snake (NH-E/S1/G5) within one mile of the property. This project is in an area of particular effort for conservation in Goffstown, and is an addition to 213 acres of existing contiguous conservation land in the area, from the abutting PLC Fullerton-Mahoney CE to the ARM funded SPNHF Shost CE. Only 675 feet from Shost is PLC's 143-acre Porritt CE. Additionally, ARM assistance on Burnes will help with the Town with their funding a PLC CE on a tract that completes the wetland/vernal pool protection with the gap in the Shost easement.

Stillhouse Forest Addition, Northfield, NH

In 2019, the Forest Society conserved the 215-acre Stillhouse Forest along the banks of the Merrimack River in Canterbury and Northfield, NH. The Forest Society now has the opportunity to utilize $125,000 of ARM Funds to buy a 76-acre abutting tract of land which is nearly encircled by the existing Stillhouse Forest. If conserved, this will represent the 12th conservation project that the Forest Society has

completed in recent years along the river north of Concord. This 76-acre parcel contains 1,200 feet of undeveloped frontage along the Merrimack River, over two miles of intermittent streams, and eight acres of wetlands that are integral to the aquatic resources found on the existing Stillhouse Forest. The contribution of water, nutrient, and biological resources from this parcel is essential to the vitality and diversity of the Stillhouse Forest wetlands. While the land was heavily harvested in 2018, a +/- 100-foot forested riparian buffer was left intact along the Merrimack River and little to no erosion has occurred in the steep drainages that lead down to the river and oxbow wetlands. The parcel contains at least two confirmed vernal pools and one other possible vernal pool. Stillhouse Forest and a large portion of this new 76 acres is within the Source Water Protection Area and within the Wellhead Protection Area of the Penacook Boscawen Water Precinct's 3 drinking water wells located directly across the river. The wells are classified as a Major Community Water System serving a population of 3,800, with 1,180 service connections. The property includes high quality wildlife habitat including 13% of the land being Tier 1, 15% being Tier 2, and nearly 55% Tier 3 according to the State's 2020 WAP. The confirmed vernal pools contained egg mases from both spotted salamanders and wood frogs. Wood turtles have been seen on the existing Stillhouse Forest and a vacated shell of a wood turtle was found on this new parcel. A second rare species, the state endangered plant, narrow-leaved pinweed (Lechea tenuifolia), was found in the dry upland portion of the property. The Forest Society will acquire the land as a permanently protected property open to the general public for passive recreation. The property already has an interconnected system of roads/trails that lead onto the existing Stillhouse Forest trail system. These roads/trails are used regularly by local residents for hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, and access to the river. The Forest Society will be responsible for the management and stewardship of the land.

Steel Addition to Binney Hill Wilderness Preserve, New Ipswich

Northeast Wilderness Trust is proposing to purchase the 15-acre 'Steel-Addition' to the Binney Hill Wilderness Preserve in fee with the grant of $30,000 of ARM Funds. A 1.25-acre wetland on the property forms the headwaters of a perennial stream, which ultimately feeds into Pratt Pond Brook. Conservation of the Steel-Addition, more than anything, is an investment in furthering the conservation success Northeast Wilderness Trust has already accomplished in New Ipswich and Rindge, where 588-acres of wilderness are owned and hold forever-wild easements on an additional 1,000+acres. The Steel Addition is mapped as 100% 'Supporting Landscape' by the WAP and acts as a critical buffer to the core of Binney Hill Wilderness Preserve, which hosts large blocks of 'Highest Ranked Habitat in New Hampshire' and 'Highest Ranked Habitat in the Biological Region. Approximately 80% of the property is mapped as 'resilient area with confirmed diversity' by The Nature Conservancy's 'Resilient and Connected Lands' dataset. The property scores 'Average' for its Resilience, 'Average' for its Landscape Diversity, and 'Slightly Above Average' for its Local Connectedness, according to the TNC Resilient Land Mapping Tool. 12.7 acres out of the 15 total acres are within a 'Climate Corridor with Confirmed Diversity' meaning it contains known locations of rare species or unique communities based on ground inventory. Northeast Wilderness Trust will manage the proposed Steel Addition consistent with the surrounding Binney Hill Wilderness Preserve, as forever-wild, meaning perpetual protection of the land in its wild state.

Harmony Lane/Rocky Pond Outlet Culvert Replacement Project, Canterbury

The Merrimack County Conservation District requests $260,020 of ARM Funds for a culvert replacement project. Harmony Lane South is a private right-of-way access off Route 106 in Loudon to 19 properties in Canterbury on the west side of Rocky Pond, an 83-acre water body at the headwaters of the Soucook River in the Gues Meadow Brook Watershed. The road passes over four, 30-inch culverts at the outlet of the pond (2,872-acre watershed). The culverts were installed in 1978 or 1979 and are reaching the end of their useful life. The residents are seeing some collapse and stones beginning to fall through. Cleaning

of debris, stones, sticks, and branches is becoming a more frequent necessity and high water-levels in the pond are more noticeable to residents. Over topping at the crossing has occurred in recent years with reports of bass crossing in front of cars during one such event. The landowners that access property via Harmony Lane South recognize that replacement of the existing system is a necessity, but also an opportunity to improve the crossing in order to meet the NHDES Stream Crossing Guidelines. By replacing the existing, degraded culvert with a rigid frame bridge with a 30-foot span, this project will improve water quality by reducing sediment loss, improve aquatic connectivity for organism passage, increase hydraulic capacity of the crossing, stabilize the pond level, and reduce maintenance requirements of the crossing. The area of the crossing is mapped in the WAP as "highest ranked habitat." The stream is particularly important habitat for the state threatened bridle shiner and American eel, a species of concern. It is a potential restock site for river herring according to Fisheries Biologist Matt Carpenter of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. NH Fish and Game Department has listed both Rocky Pond and the area of the crossing as a stock location and migratory path for the river herring.

LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER SERVICE AREA
(Available funding $374,781)

Project Name/Applicant	Town	Funds Requested
Houghton Brook Connectivity Restoration Project/*Town of Walpole*	**Walpole**	**$250,000**

Houghton Brook Connectivity Restoration Project, Walpole

The Town of Walpole requests $250,000 for work at the Houghton Brook culvert. Houghton Brook is a tributary to the Connecticut River and has a 3.2 square mile drainage area at the Wentworth Road crossing. A 2017 NHDES assessment reported the structure in fair condition with partial geomorphic compatibility and no aquatic passage. This culvert is perched about 4 feet and there is significant erosion downstream. The existing pipe arch is 13 feet wide and 58 feet long with a slope of 1%. A preliminary hydrologic model developed for this site indicates the existing pipe cannot convey the 100-year flood, and that the road would overtop. The compatible replacement structure would be 25 feet wide and 45 feet long with a slope of 3.5%. The Town of Walpole wishes to reconstruct this crossing to meet current engineering and aquatic resource standards. A proposed 24-foot clear span structure will provide adequate passage for aquatic and riparian organisms, sediment, and 100-year storm flows and resiliency and environmental benefit. Replacement of the deteriorated structure and stabilization of the northwestern stream bank below the crossing will provide adequate hydraulic capacity and restore functions and values including fish and wildlife habitat connectivity. Connectivity is precluded by the current perched outlet and would not be addressed by the repair alternative. By providing connectivity the project would benefit species of special concern including eastern brook trout. Houghton Brook is within the Highest Ranked Habitat on the NHFG WAP. The project is in a Tier 1 area, and connects the CT river to upstream Tier 1 and Tier 2 areas. One tributary that is also Tier 1 is a coldwater stream with two warm/cool ponds at the ends of tributaries to the north per 2020 WAP. As a potential drinking water supply, Houghton Brook is listed as "Full Support" in the 2018 Surface Water Quality Assessment. This project is located in an area designated as an aquifer and the surface water and groundwater of this system are viable drinking water supplies.

CONTOOCOOK RIVER SERVICE AREA
(Available funding $367,805)

Project Name/Applicant	Town	Funds Requested
Warner River Headwaters/*Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust*	**Newbury**	**$175,000**
Ballard Brook Connectivity Restoration Project/*Town of Warner*	**Warner**	**$135,000**
Total funds requested in 2020		**$310,000**

Warner River Headwaters, Newbury, NH

Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust proposes to utilize $175,000 to purchase in fee an approximately 86-acre parcel of forested land on Mountain Road in Newbury that is currently owned by the Avery Family Trust. The property is part of a large area of conserved land that includes Mount Sunapee and Pillsbury State Parks. The primary aquatic resource being protected is the extensive frontage along a perennial brook that comprises the property's eastern boundary. This brook is part of the headwaters of the Warner River, and has a substantial wild Eastern brook trout population according to New Hampshire Fish and Game (NHF&G). A 2009 evaluation by the US Forest Service ranked the Contoocook River Watershed, where this property is located, to be the second highest in the national risk for alterations to water quality due to loss of private forests from housing development. As this property currently contains a thriving wild brook trout population and is within this area of increased risk for development, we believe that it is a high priority for conservation and allocation of limited funding. The property in question can potentially be subdivided into several house lots, so conserving the land is critical to the protection of the water quality of this brook. The property consists of northern hardwood/coniferous forest in the higher elevations to the west and hemlock-hardwood-pine forest to the east. In the 2015 NH WAP, it is listed as the highest ranked habitat in the biological region and for supporting landscapes. The relatively flat area to the west of Mountain Road also has high potential for vernal pools, although this needs to be confirmed in Spring 2021.

Ballard Brook Connectivity Restoration Project, Warner

The Ballard Brook Connectivity Restoration Project seeks $135,000 of ARM Funds to improve habitat connectivity and condition while reducing flood risks within the Ballard Brook Watershed through a multiple phased and cost effective approach. The initial phase of this project addresses the most problematic culvert while expediting future phases by developing final design plans for the two remaining town maintained culverts on Ballard Brook. The targeted culvert in this introductory phase of the project targets the removal of an approximately 6 x 4-foot pipe arch culvert. This structure does not support AOP and is only partially compatible with the natural geomorphic processes of the stream. The project proposes an alternative design which improves AOP at various flow levels, accommodates 100-year storm events and reduces stream velocities at the crossing structure. By installing a 10 x 6-foot box culvert embedded with about 2 feet of stream simulation material, flow capacity will be increased by 73% (145 to 262 cfs) and structure width will be increased by 67%. The proposed design will provide for sediment transport, by not influencing stream velocities at the crossing. For the 100-year storm, crossing velocities are estimated to decrease by 36% from 14 ft/sec to 8.9 ft/sec. This is predicted to eliminate scouring at the outlet. This proposal is considered a reasonable, cost effective and appropriate alternative replacement for the existing pipe arch structure. The complete riparian area along Ballard Brook and an extensive portion of the uplands have been identified as Tier 1 Highest Ranked Habitat in

NH. A large portion of the drainage is noted as Highest Ranked Habitat in the Biological Region. Ballard Brook supports populations of brook trout and burbot (both species of greatest conservation need). More cosmopolitan fish species documented in Ballard Brook include: blacknose dace, brown bullhead, chain pickerel, common sunfish, fallfish and white sucker. Anecdotal evidence suggests that wood turtle colonies (a species of greatest conservation need) occupying lower portions of the Warner River periodically utilize Ballard Brook.

MIDDLE CONNECTICUT RIVER SERVICE AREA
(Available funding $111,685)

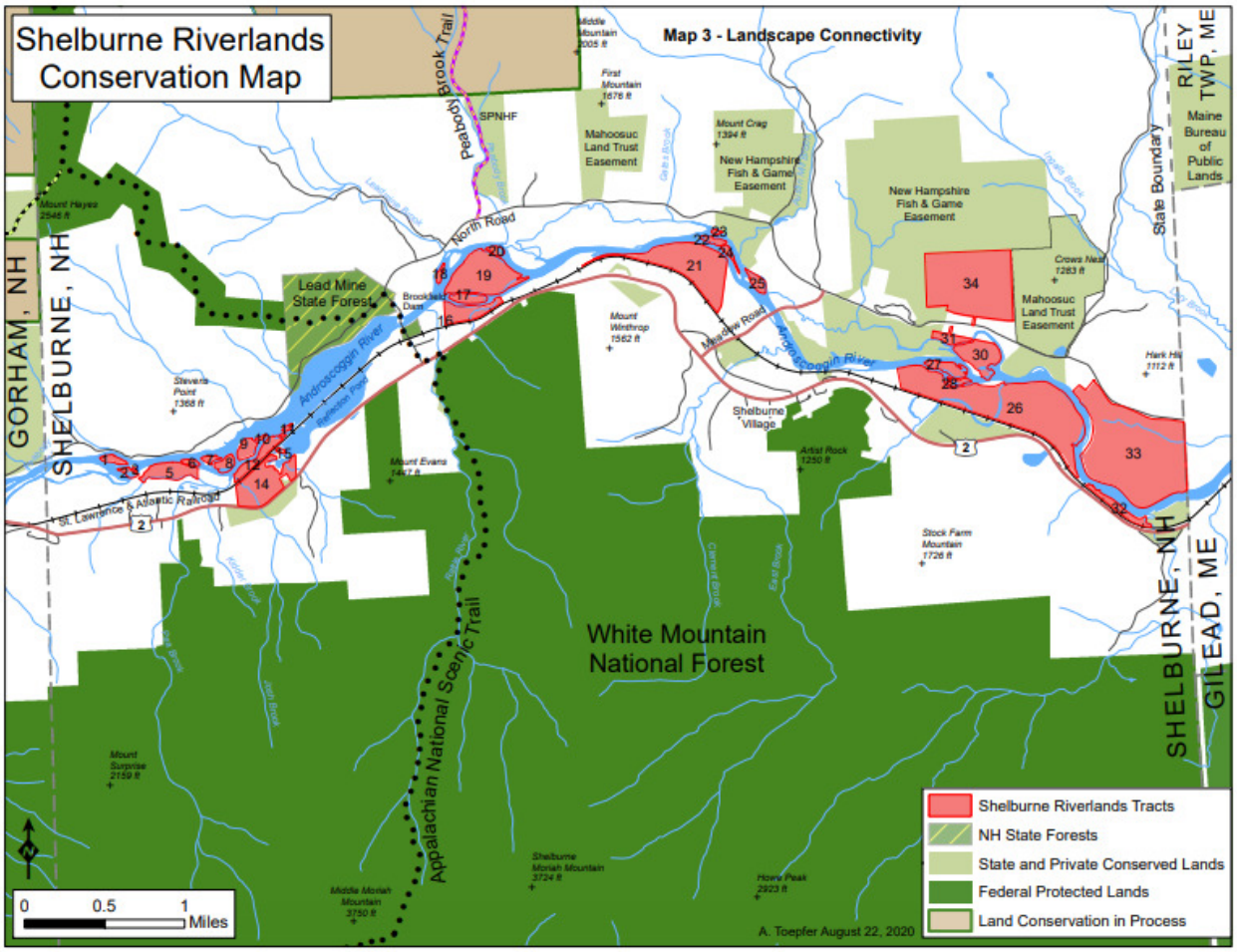
Project Name/Applicant	Town	Funds Requested
Childs Brook Stream Crossing Restoration Project/*Trout Unlimited National (TU)*	**Bath**	**$111,500**

Childs Brook Stream Crossing Restoration Project, Bath, NH

The Trout Unlimited seeks $111,500 for the Childs Brook Stream Habitat Restoration Project. The proposal plans to replace a severely degraded and undersized, perched culvert on West Bath Road in Bath. This existing 6-foot by 8-foot metal pipe culvert is completely rusted through on the bottom and continues to exacerbate erosion to both the streambed as well as the up- and downstream banks. This structure has surpassed its expected lifespan and is now vulnerable to failure during most severe weather events. This condition not only poses a physical danger to the surrounding community but could negatively impact a significant portion of Childs Brook's aquatic ecosystem if a catastrophic failure occurred during the next storm event. Currently, this structure restricts all aquatic organism passage excluding adult salmonids, but even that is limited given the increased degradation of the pipe since its assessment. The existing culvert outlet is perched roughly 6 to 8-inches above the water surface at the outlet. The scour hole developed at the outlet is roughly 6-feet deep and approximately 50-feet wide; three times wider than the estimated bankfull width (BFW) of 14-feet. The proposed engineered crossing replacement, a three-sided box bridge, exceeds the current NH Stream Crossing Guidelines and will restore the existing stream channel widths to 1.2 BFW or approximately 17-feet. The targeted crossing will enable full access upstream to critical spawning habitat, forage and coldwater refugia for wild brook trout and other aquatic organisms. This access will result in overall increases in fish population productivity and genetic integrity. This effort will also restore bank stability, increase flood resiliency, and the overall health and ecology of Childs Brook within the project area. The NHWAP has identified its riparian area and a large portion of the uplands along the brook as Tier 1-Highest Ranked Habitat. Childs Brook contains a total of 4.20-linear miles of habitat upstream of the Phase 1 crossing. This proposal will reconnect 3.15-linear miles of that highest ranked habitat upstream in the mainstem of Childs Brook (1.65-linear miles to the next upstream barrier #59-reduced, as well as 1.5-linear miles of upstream tributary habitat) to the 1.66-linear miles downstream before flowing directly into the Ammonoosuc River, a NH DES Designated River.

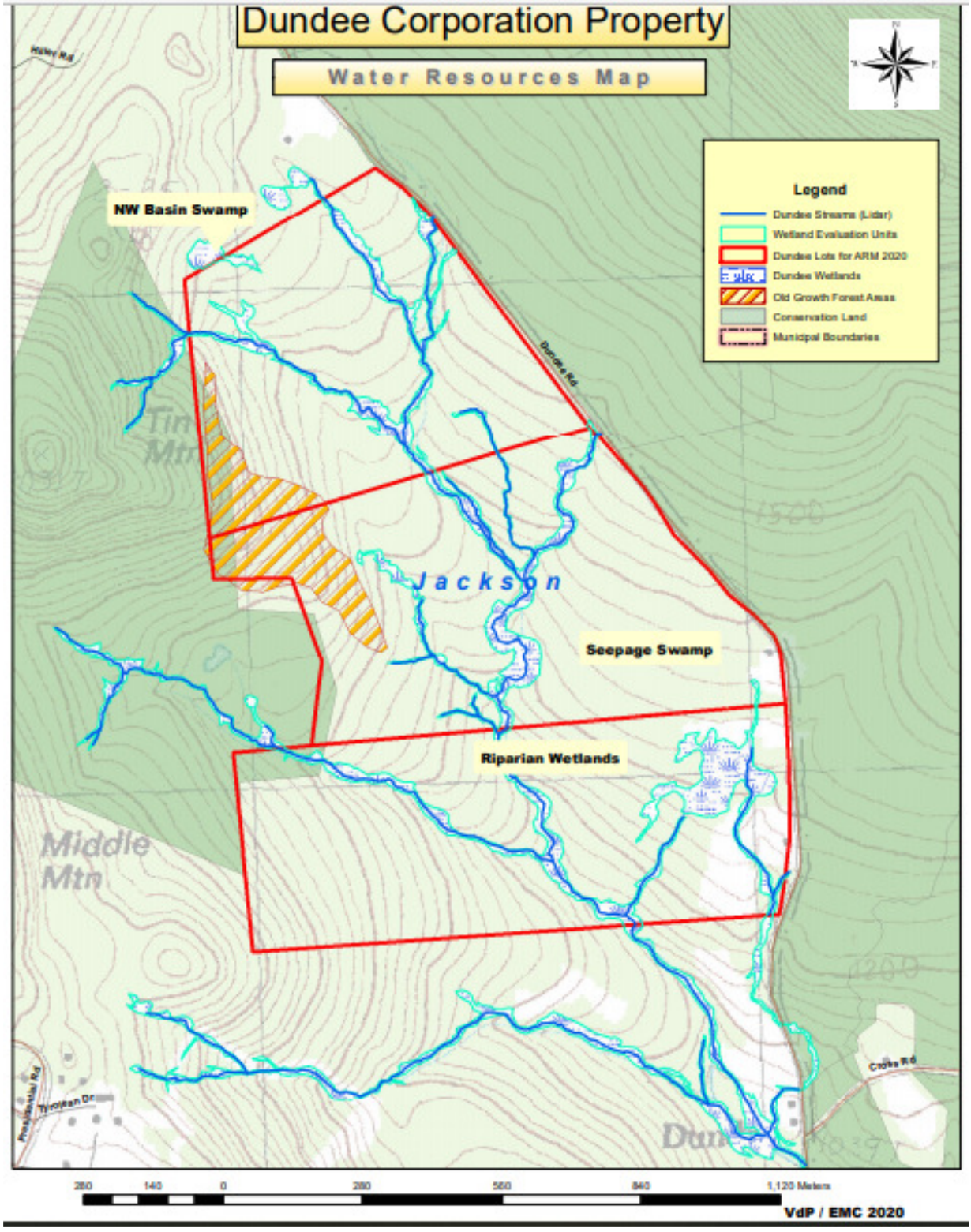
ANDROSCOGGIN SERVICE AREA

SHELBURNE RIVERLANDS ACQUISITION/MAHOOSUC LAND TRUST, INC.



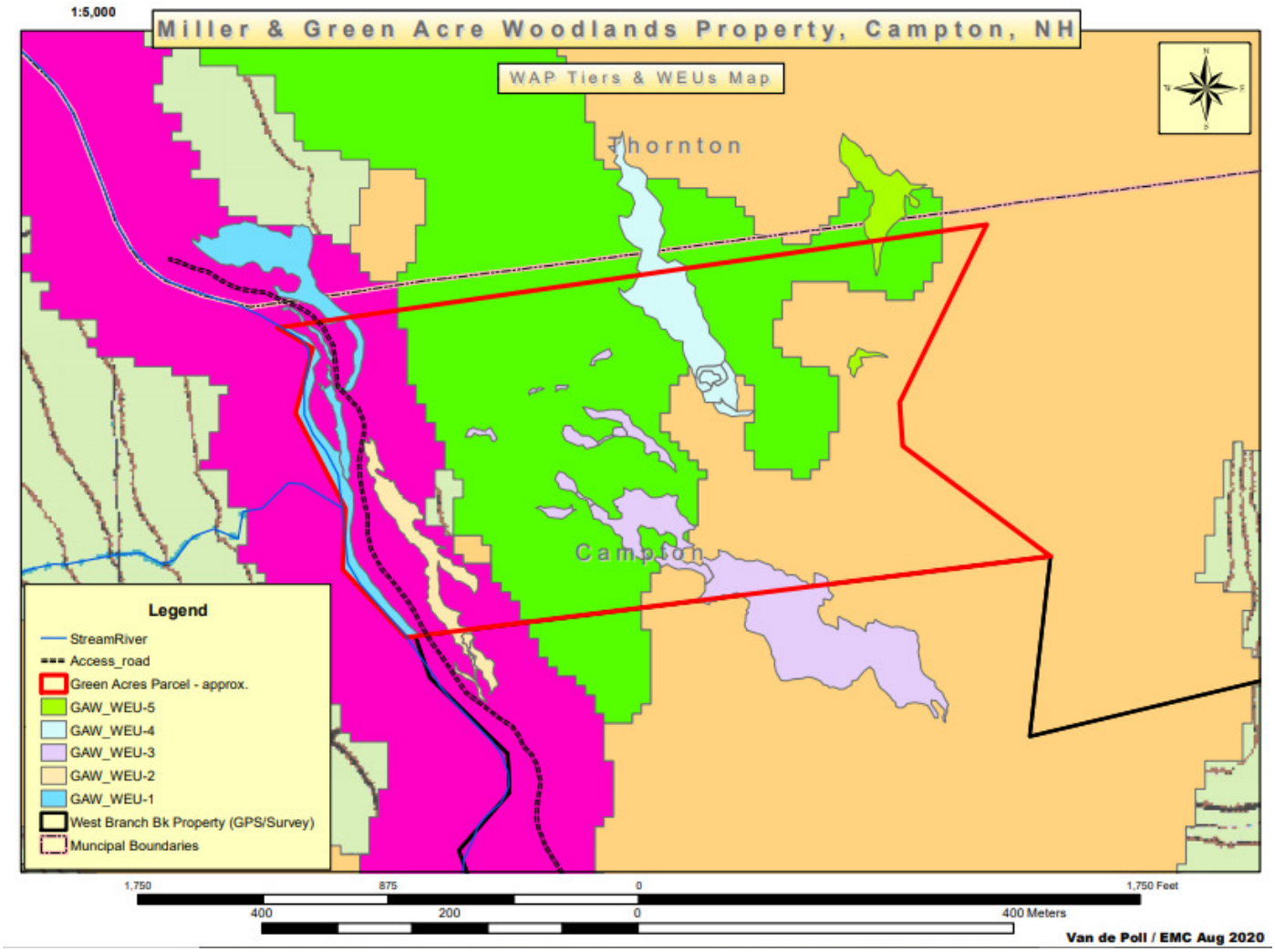
SACO SERVICE AREA

DUNDEE COMMUNITY FOREST/THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

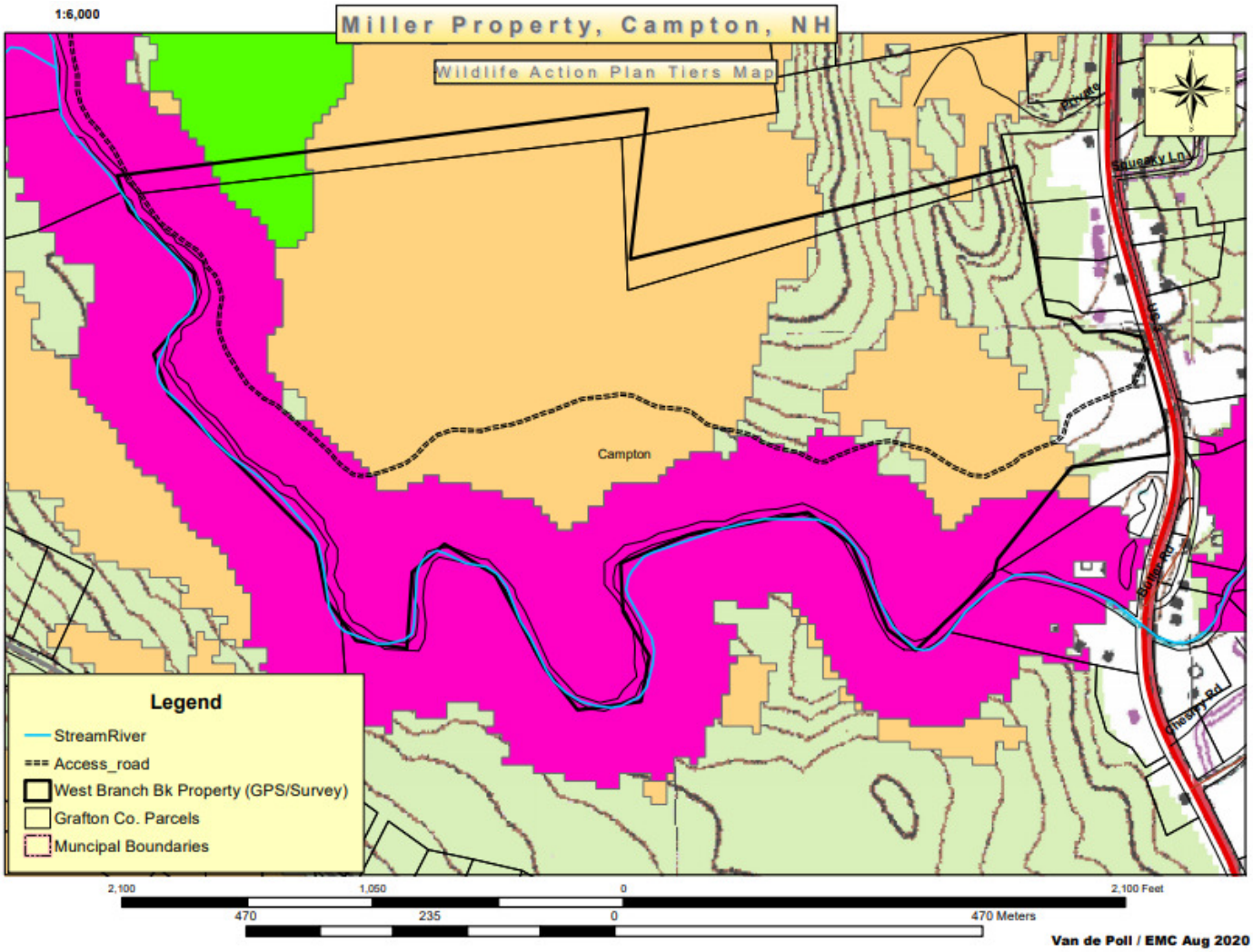


PEMIGEWASSET-WINNIPESAUKEE SERVICE AREA

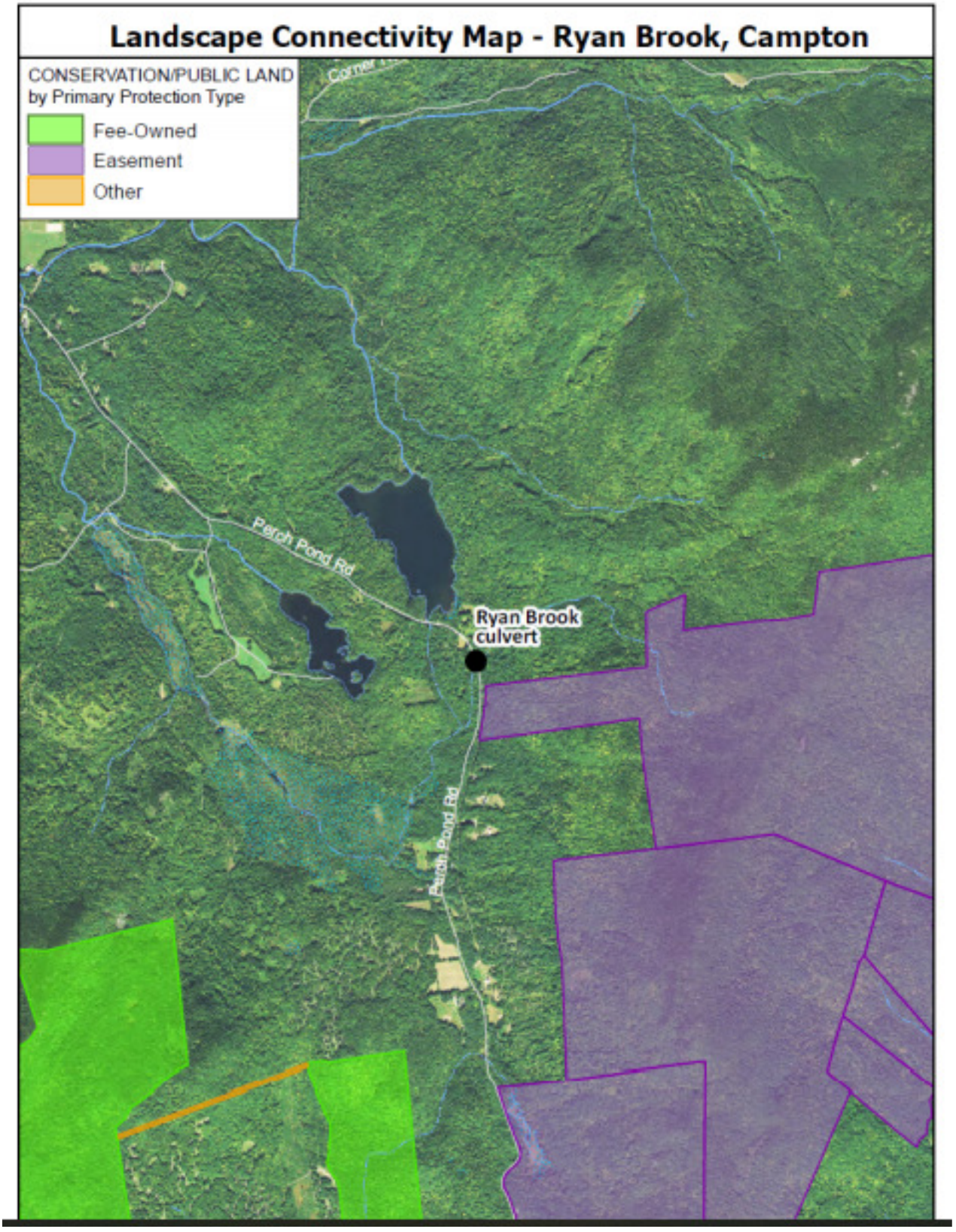
WEST BRANCH BROOK FOREST 3-1-1/CAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION



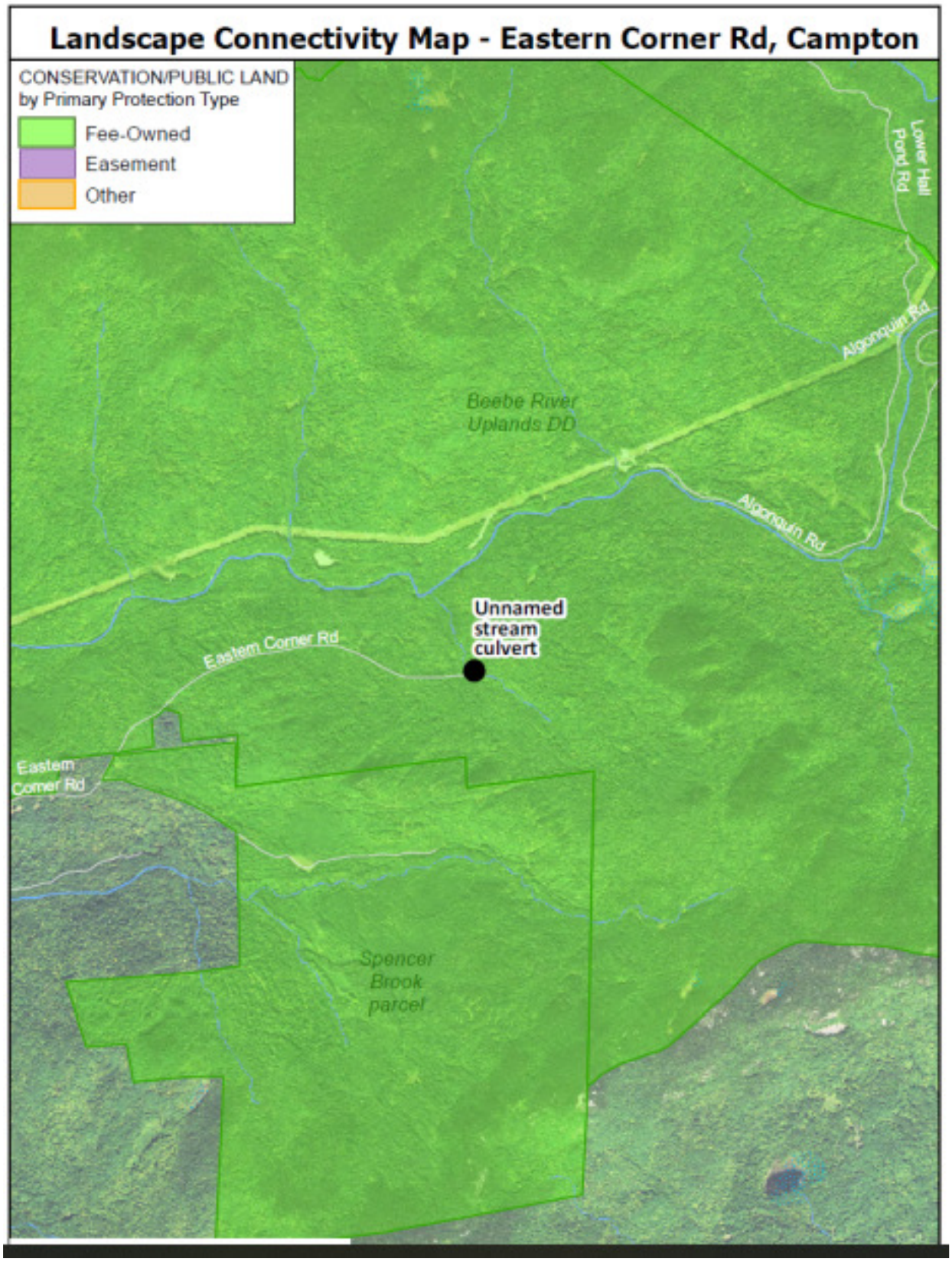
WEST BRANCH BROOK FOREST 3-1-1/CAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION



BEEBE RIVER HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT/NH FISH & GAME DEPARTMENT

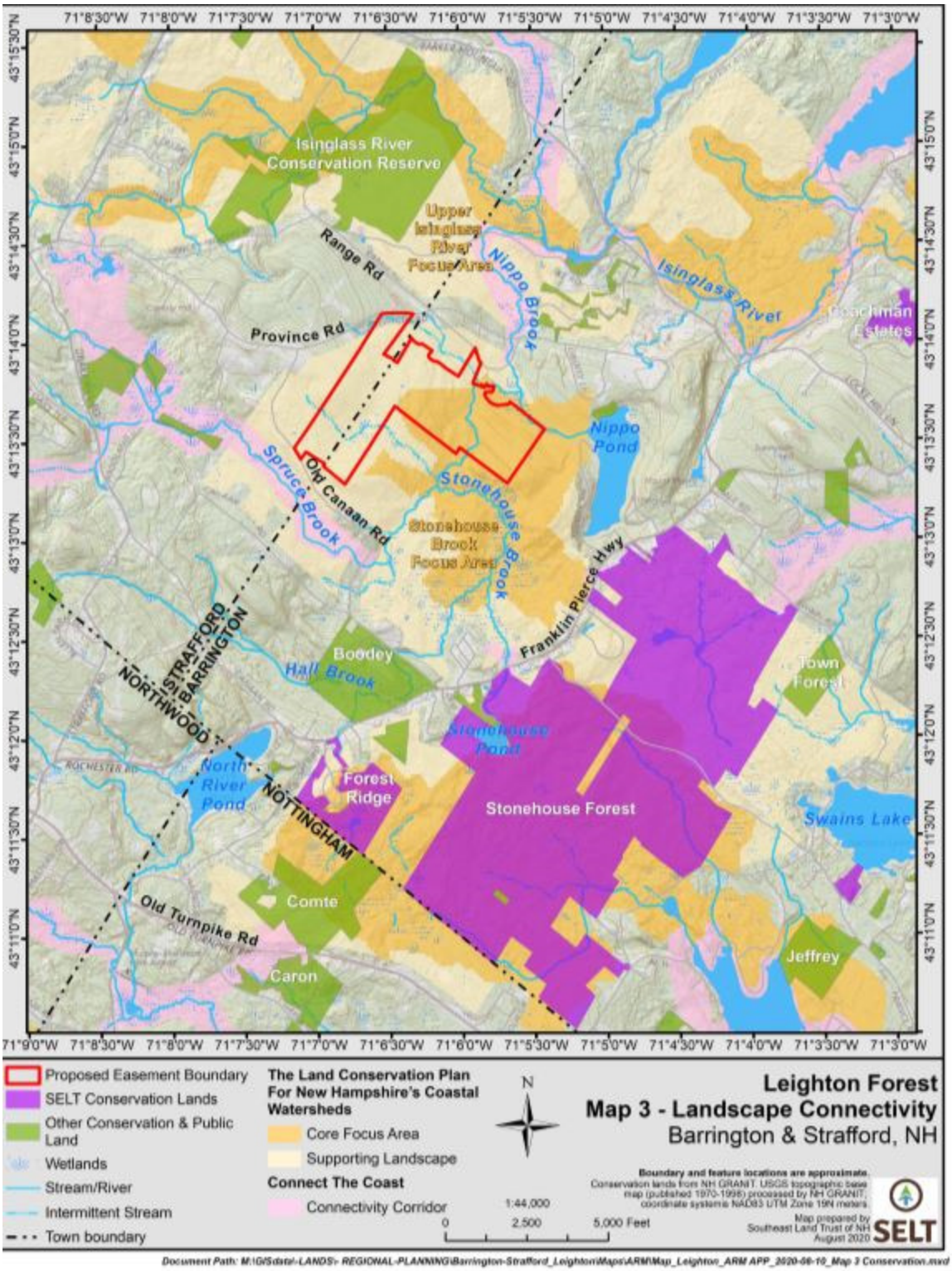


BEEBE RIVER HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT/NH FISH & GAME DEPARTMENT

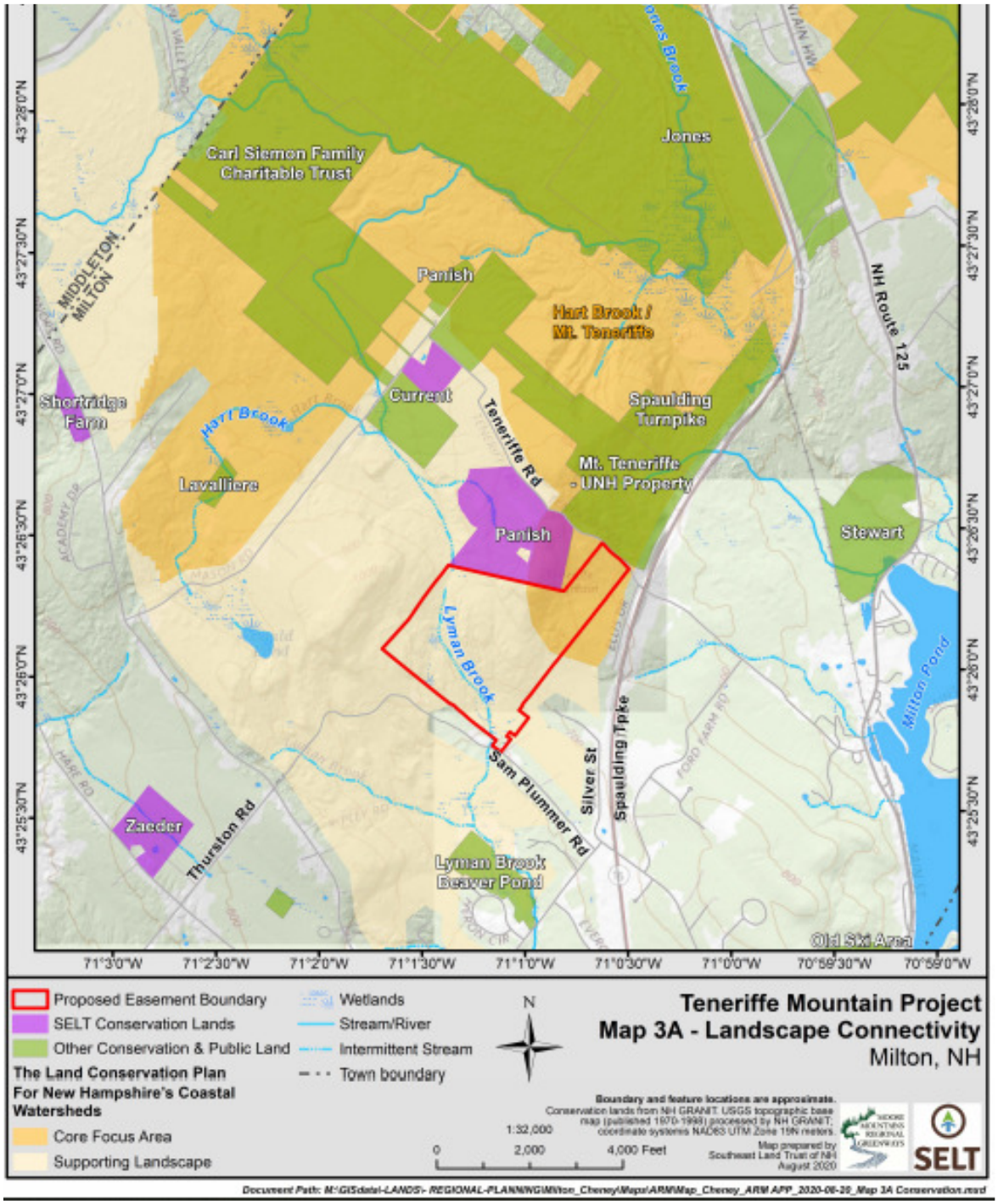


SALMON FALLS – PISCATAQUA SERVICE AREA

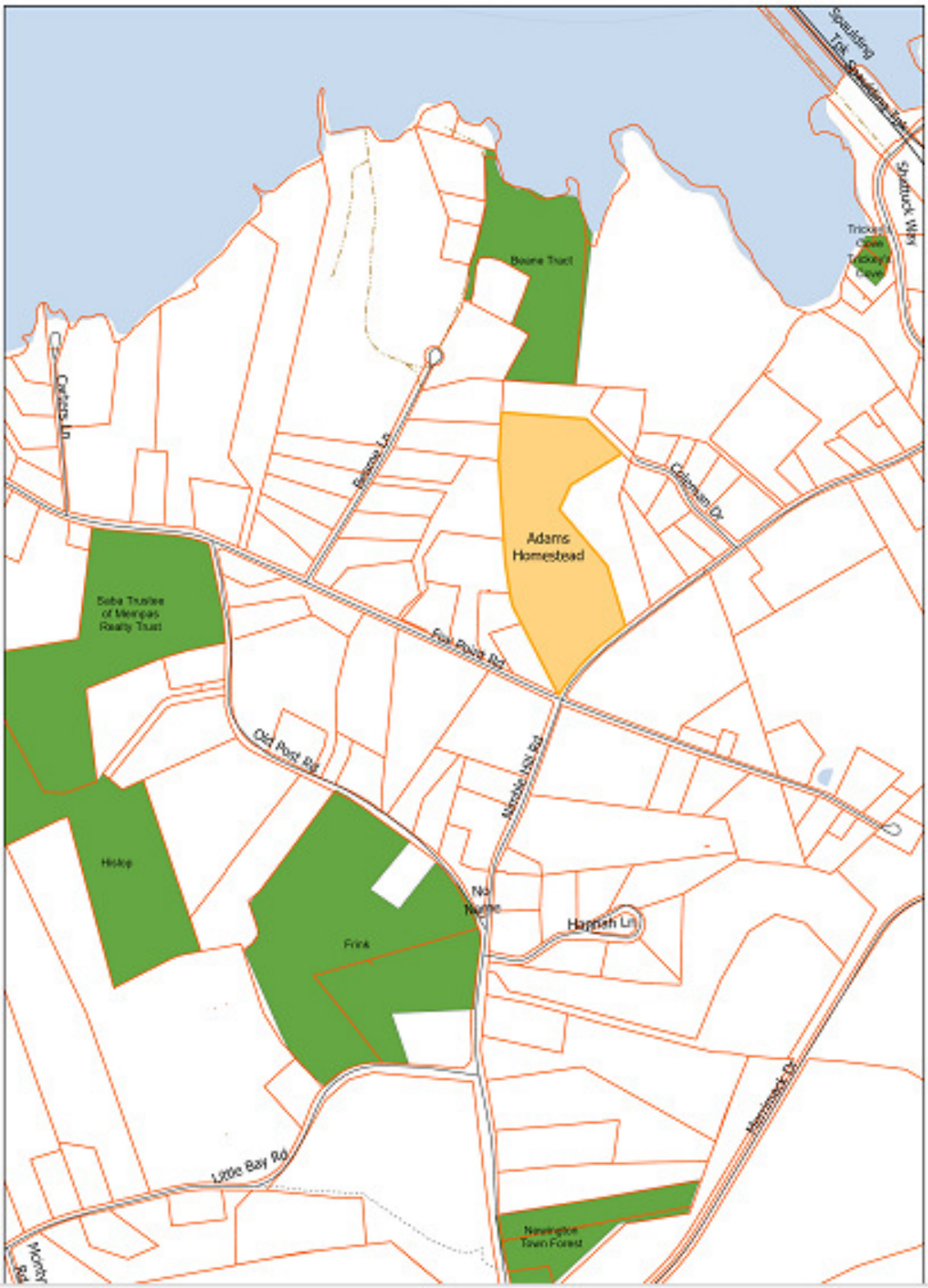
LEIGHTON FOREST/SOUTHEAST LAND TRUST OF NH



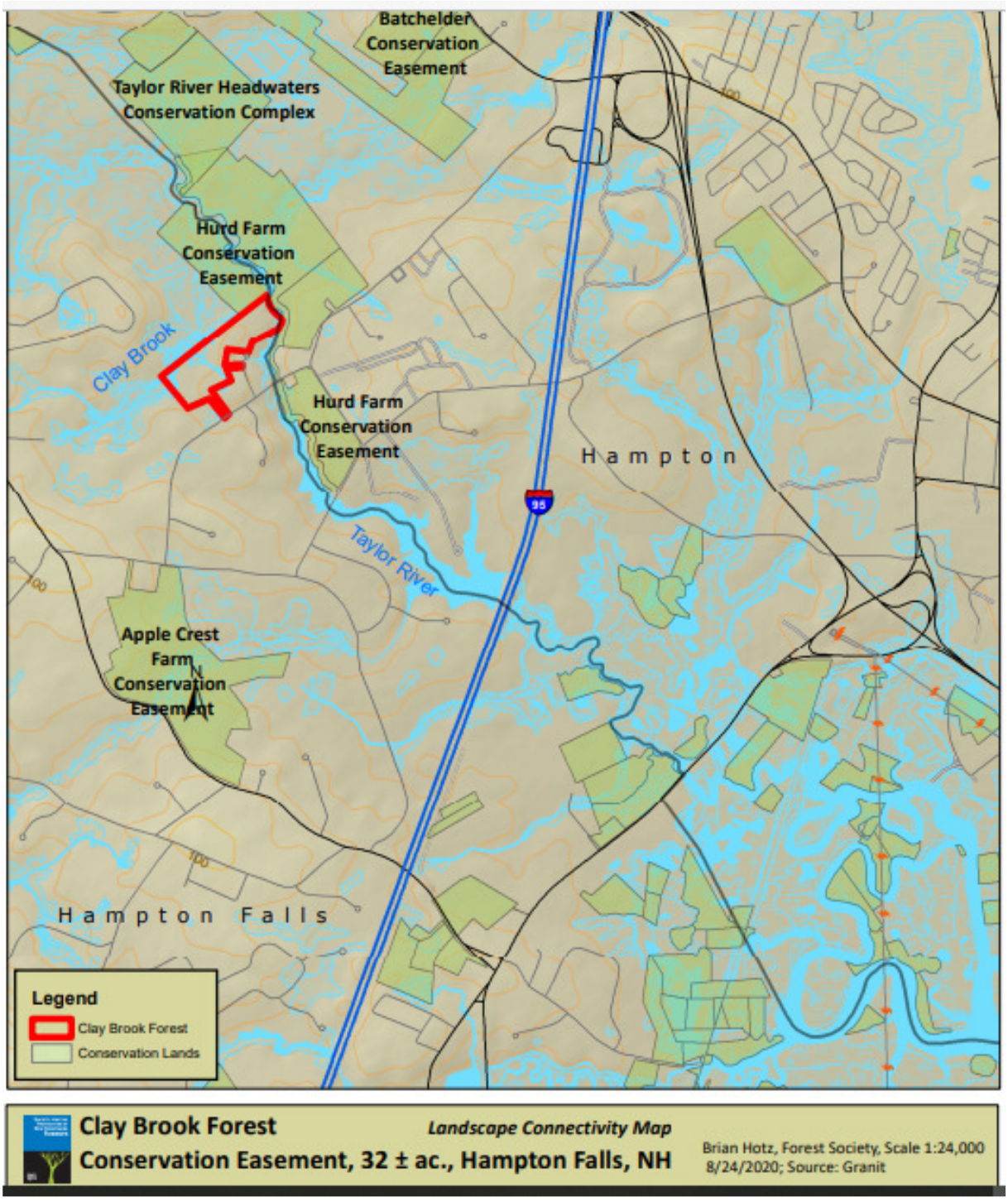
TENERIFFE MOUNTAIN/MOOSE MOUNTAIN REGIONAL GREENWAYS



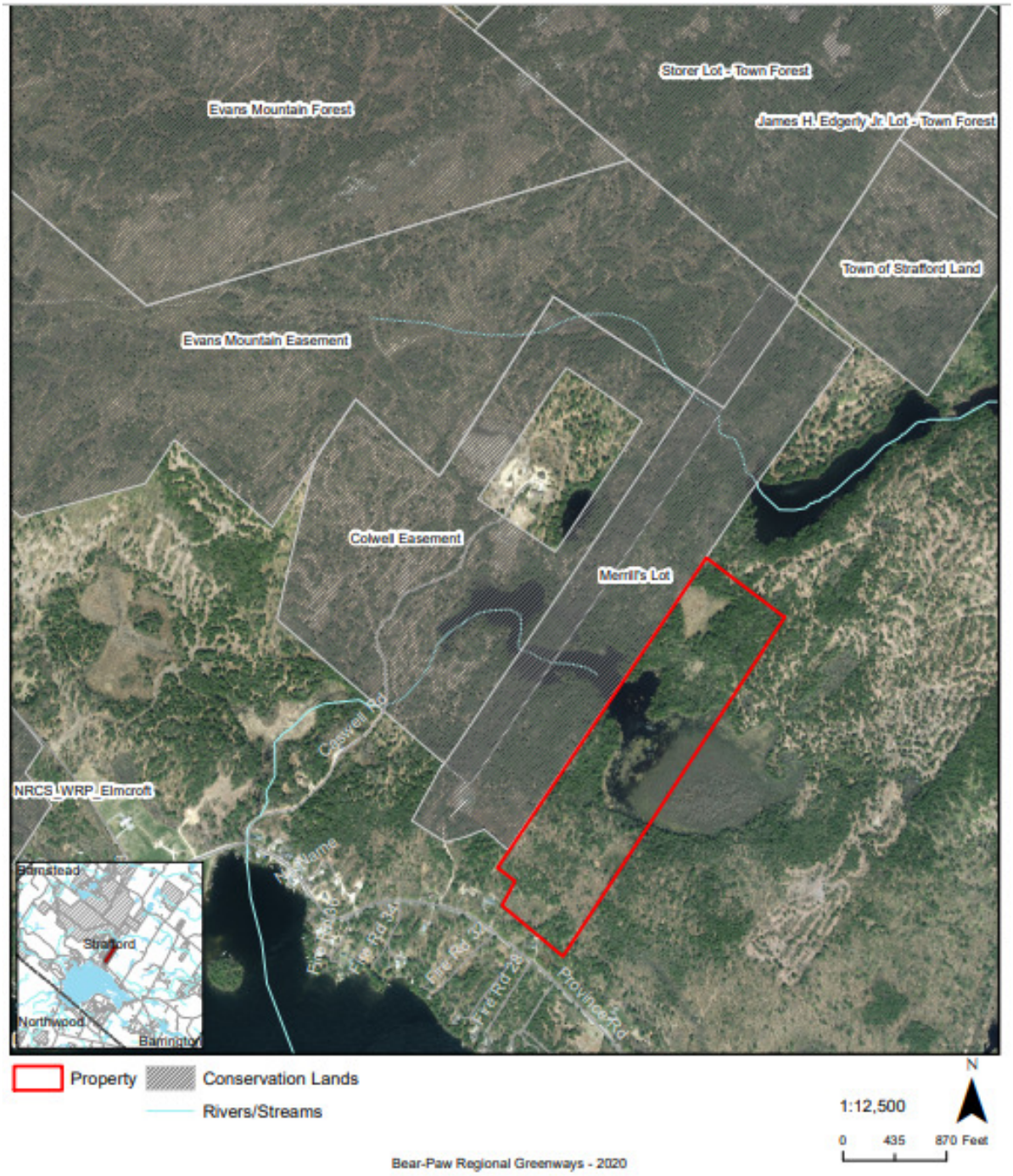
ADAMS HOMESTEAD/TOWN OF NEWINGTON



CLAY BROOK FOREST/SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF NH FORESTS

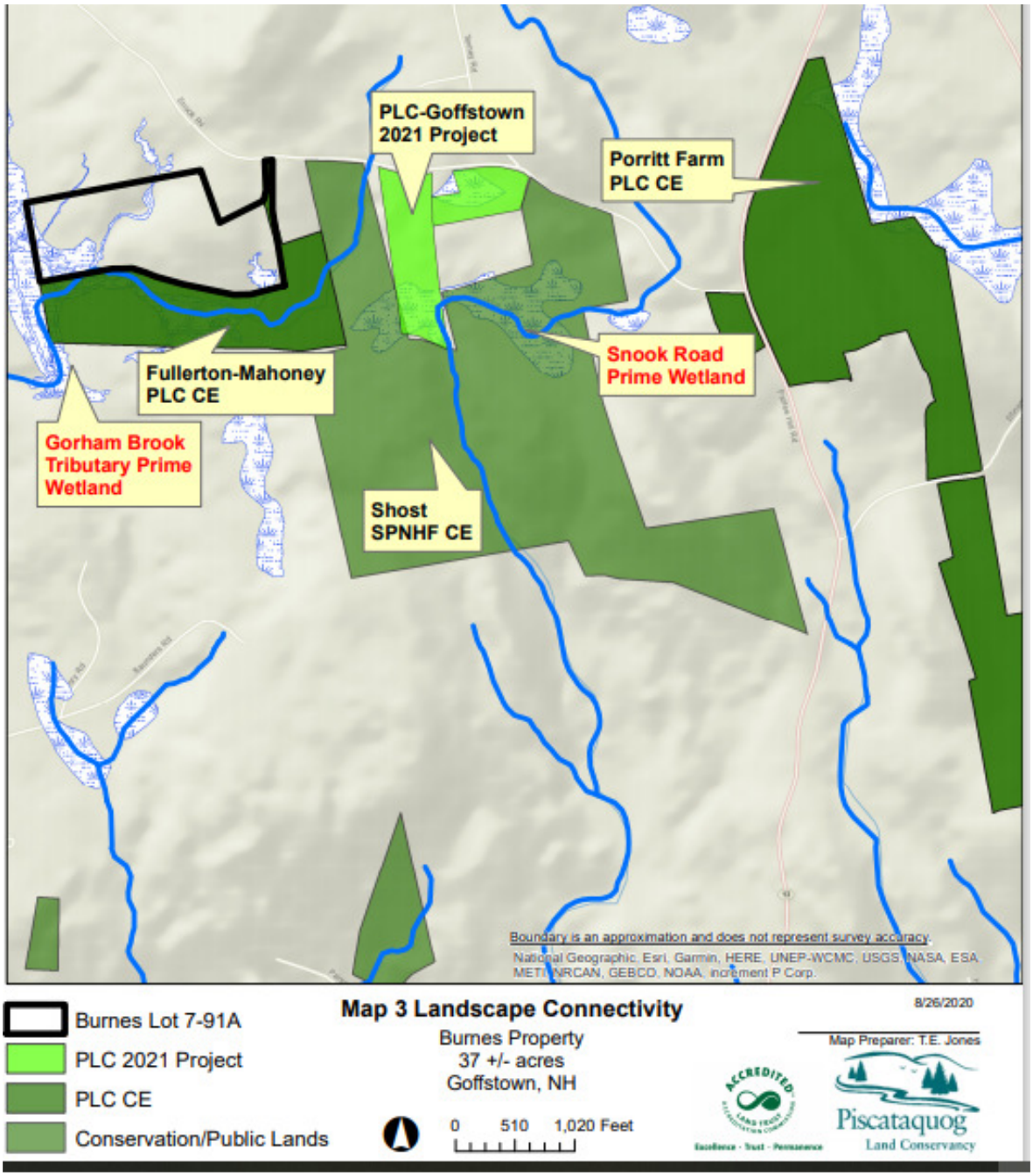


BARNES CONSERVATION EASEMENT/BEAR-PAW REGIONAL GREENWAYS

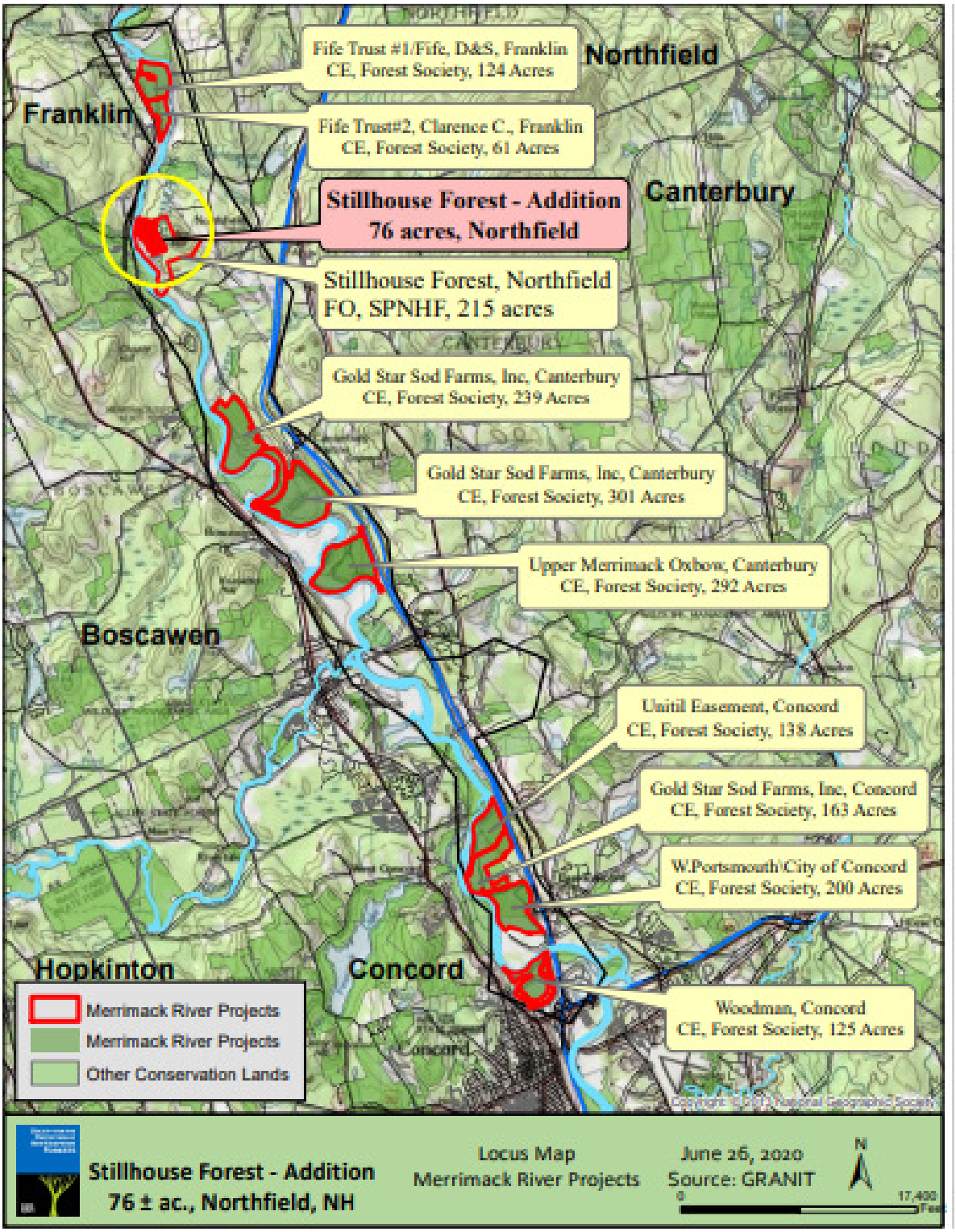


MERRIMACK SERVICE AREA

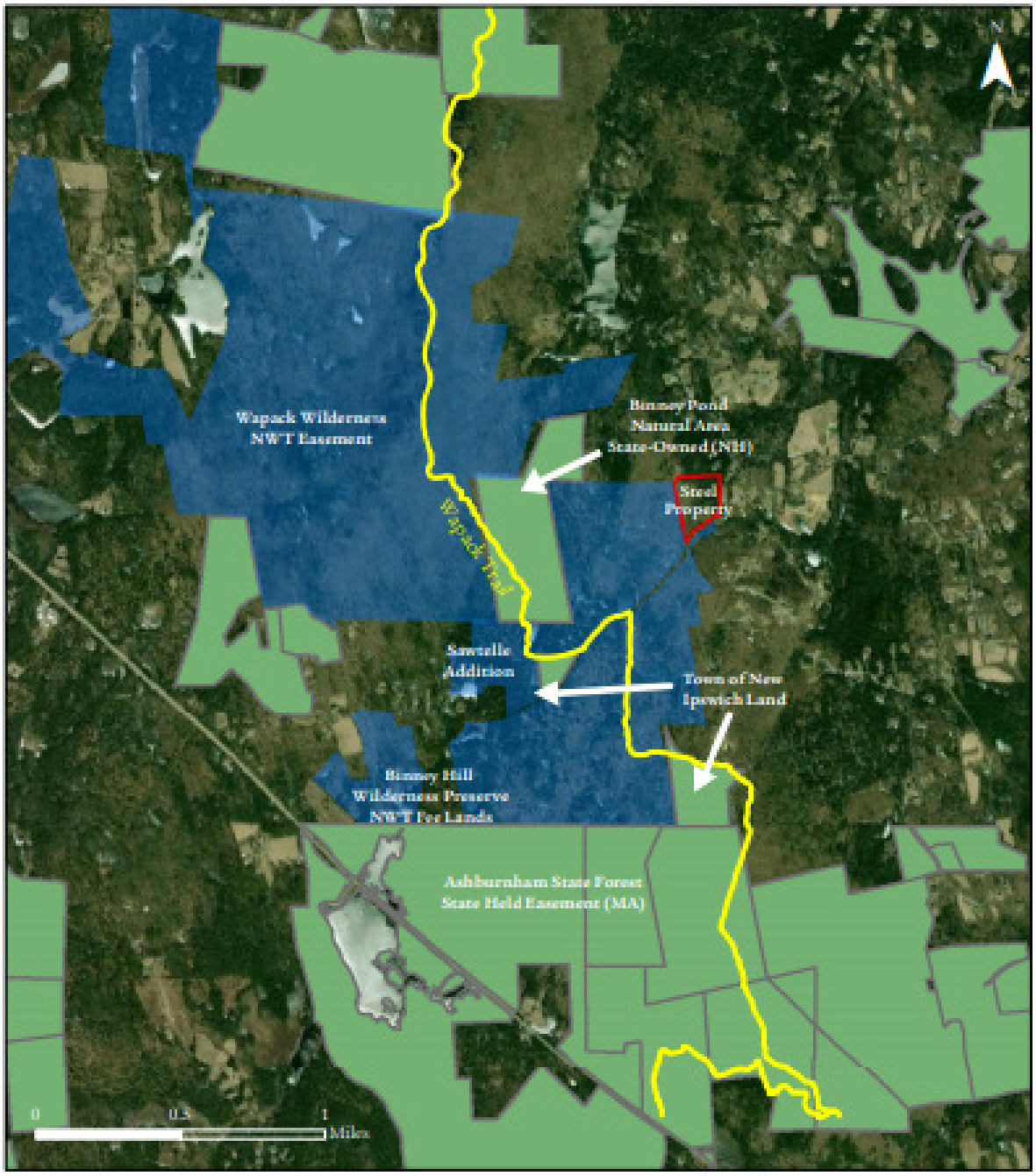
BURNES CONSERVATION EASEMENT/PISCATAQUOG LAND CONSERVANCY



STILLHOUSE FOREST ADDITION/SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF NH FORESTS



STEEL ADDITION TO BINNEY HILL WILDERNESS PRESERVE/NORTHEAST LAND TRUST



NORTHEAST WILDERNESS TRUST

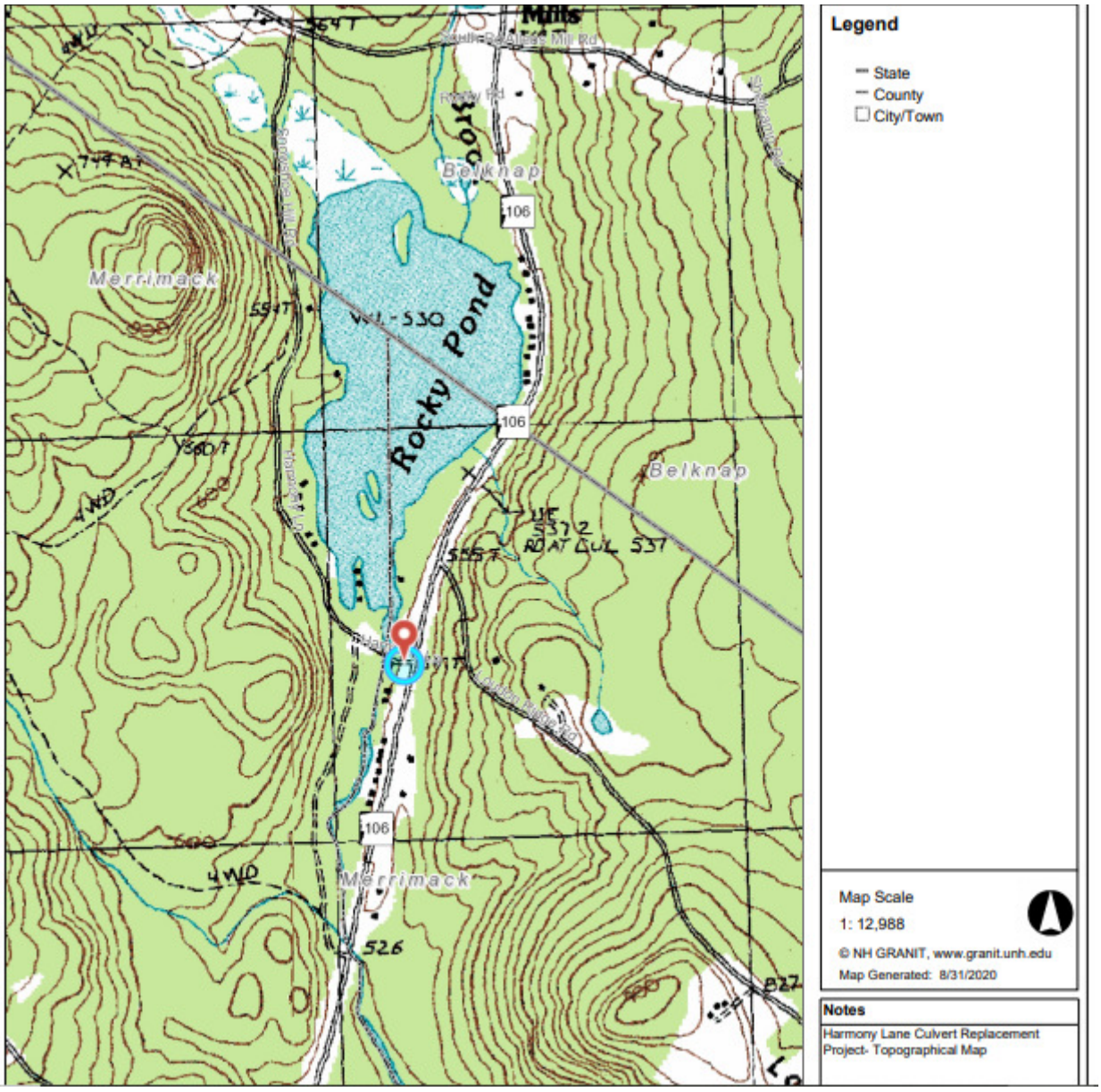
Map 3: Landscape Connectivity Map
Steel Property (~15 Acres), New Ipswich, NH

Map created 8/26/20
This map should not be used for legal purposes.
It is intended for general reference only.

- Steel Property
- NWT Conserved Lands
- Town Of New Ipswich Land
- Other Conserved Lands
- Roads

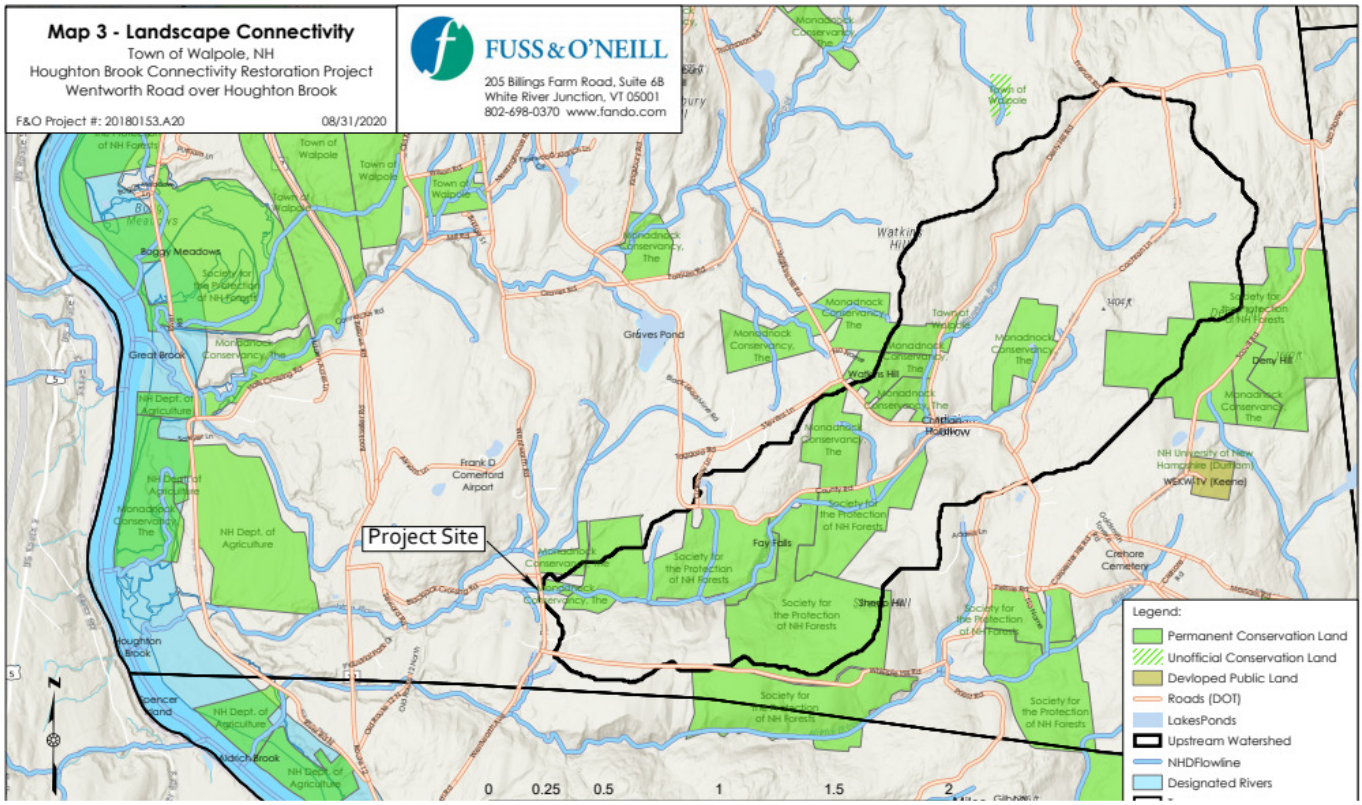
HARMONY LANE/ROCKY POND OUTLET CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT/

MERRIMACK COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT



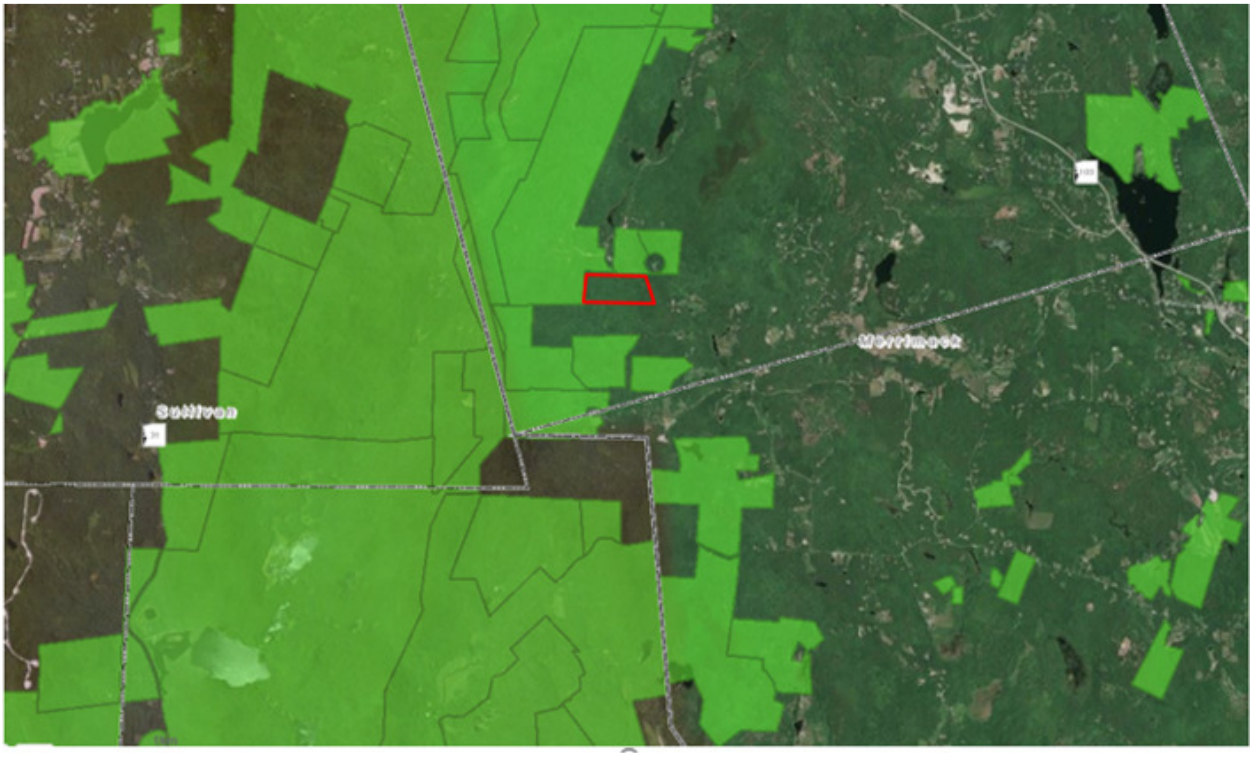
LOWER CONNECTICUT SERVICE AREA

HOUGHTON BROOK CONNECTIVITY RESTORATION PROJECT/TOWN OF WALPOLE

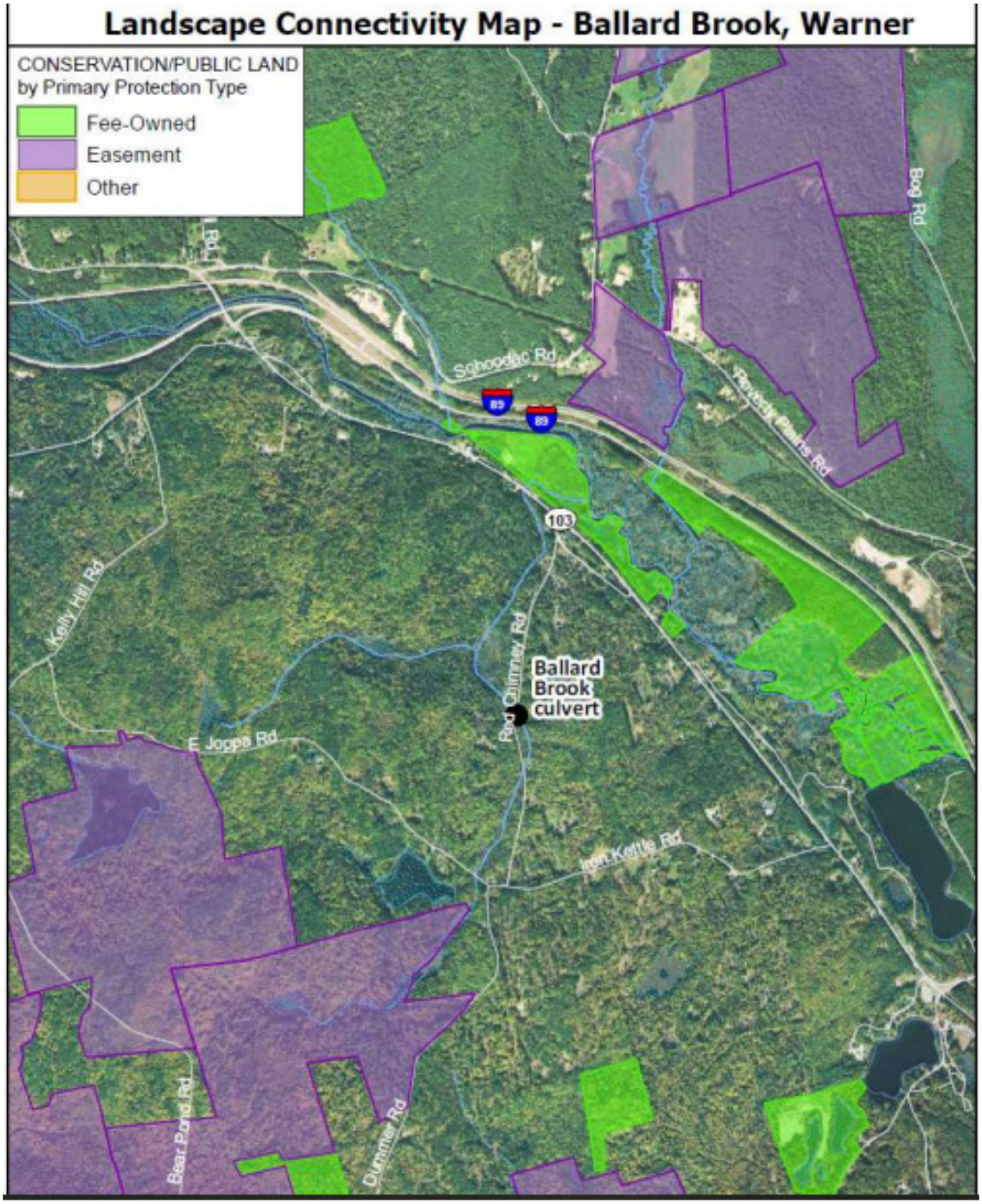


CONTOOCOOK SERVICE AREA

WARNER RIVER HEADWATERS/AUSBON SARGENT LAND PRESERVATION TRUST



BALLARD BROOK CONNECTIVITY RESTORATION PROJECT/TOWN OF WARNER



MIDDLE CONNECTICUT SERVICE AREA

CHILD'S BROOK STREAM CROSSING RESTORATION PROJECT/TROUT UNLIMITED NATIONAL