



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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Comment Period Begins: October 25, 2016
Comment Period Ends: November 24, 2016
File Number: NAE-2005-1143
In Reply Refer To: Ruth M. Ladd
Phone: (978) 318-8818
E-mail: ruth.m.ladd@usace.army.mil

30 DAY NOTICE

The District Engineer is soliciting comments on the 14 projects which have applied for 2016 funding through Maine's In Lieu Fee ("ILF") program, the Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program ("MNRCP"). The sponsor for the program is the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. The program serves as an alternative form of compensation for impacts to aquatic resources authorized by the New England District Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and/or the State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection. These projects were submitted in response to a Request for Proposals ("RFP") issued in July 2016.

The RFP includes the criteria used to evaluate projects, the information required for a proposal, and other related information. The RFP and additional information can be found at the MNRCP website: <http://mnrpc.org/>

Any of the projects which involve restoration, enhancement, and/or creation and will require Corps, state, or local permits will be applying individually, not through this public notice.

Attached are the following:

- Summary sheet of projects and the bioregion in which they are located;
- Funds available and the aquatic resource types which have been authorized to be impacted; and
- Project descriptions and locus maps for the projects.

The decision whether to approve funding for projects will be based on an evaluation of each proposed activity and how and where it will compensate for aquatic resources lost through authorizations issued under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. The decision will reflect the national concern for no net loss of aquatic resources. The benefit which may reasonably accrue from each proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments and/or its appropriateness considering the ecological needs of the bioregion in which it is located.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to determine the most appropriate projects to receive funding from the MNRCP. Any comments received will be considered by the Interagency Review Committee, including the Corps of Engineers, and will be considered in the evaluation of the projects and the determination of which will receive funding. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

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").

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

SECTION 106 COORDINATION

Based on his initial review, the District Engineer has determined that the proposed 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.

ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSULTATION

The New England District, Army Corps of Engineers, has reviewed the list of species protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, which might occur at the project sites. It is our preliminary determination that the proposed activity for which funding is being sought is designed, 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. By this Public Notice, we are requesting that the appropriate federal Agency concur with our determination.

CENAE-R
FILE NO. NAE-2005-1143

The State of Maine has an approved **Coastal Zone Management Program**. Although Coastal Zone Management consistency will be required for some of the individual proposals, by this public notice we are requesting the state provide any applicable comments at this time.

In order to properly evaluate the proposal, 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 Ruth M. Ladd at (978) 318-8818, (800) 343-4789 or (800) 362-4367, if calling from within Massachusetts, or at the email address noted above.

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.

THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.

Jennifer L. McCarthy
Chief, Regulatory Division

If you would prefer not to continue receiving Public Notices, 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: _____

MNRCP Service Area (Region)	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Town	Acres/ Linear Ft	Compensation Type	MNRCP Funds Requested
Central & Western Mountains	Hunter Cove-Lewin	Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust	Rangeley	69	Preservation	\$160,000.00
Central Interior & Midcoast	Junction Project	Kennebec Estuary Land Trust	Westport Island	44.4	Preservation	\$110,000.00
Central Interior & Midcoast	Meadow Brook Wetlands Protection	Maine Coast Heritage Trust	Saint George	22.15	Preservation	\$146,500.00
Central Interior & Midcoast	Muddy & Cathance River Conservation Corridor-Tardiff	Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust	Topsham	100	Preservation	\$225,000.00
Central Interior & Midcoast	Outlet Stream Restoration: Lombard Dam Removal	Maine Rivers	Vassalboro	5 acres/ 1,200 lf	Restoration/ rehabilitation	\$200,000.00
Central Interior & Midcoast	Serpentine Wetlands Project	Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance, Inc.	Smithfield	98	Restoration, rehabilitation, and preservation	\$162,000.00
Central Interior & Midcoast	Sherman Marsh Headwaters-Louderback	Damariscotta River Association	Edgecomb	160	Preservation	\$178,000.00
Central Interior & Midcoast	Surry Forest Wetlands	Blue Hill Heritage Trust	Surry	2106	Restoration, rehabilitation, and preservation	\$550,000.00
Downeast Maine	Beaverdam Stream Fish Access Restoration	Downeast Salmon Federation	Wesley	7.3 acres/ >7 miles	Restoration/ rehabilitation	\$80,000.00
Downeast Maine	Old Pond - Dembska	Maine Coast Heritage Trust	Hancock	43	Rehabilitation and preservation	\$110,000.00
Southern Maine	Hansen Pond	Three Rivers Land Trust	Acton	175	Rehabilitation and preservation	\$416,510.00
Southern Maine	Mt. Agamenticus Road Wetlands Habitat Connection	Great Works Regional Land Trust	South Berwick	44	Rehabilitation and preservation	\$340,000.00
Southern Maine	Ogunquit Headwater Wetlands	Great Works Regional Land Trust	South Berwick	52	Preservation	\$134,150.00
Southern Maine	Suckfish Brook II - McDermott Way	Town of Falmouth	Falmouth	46	Restoration, rehabilitation, and preservation	\$260,260.00

***Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program
Funds Available***

The table below lists the funds available for each MNRCP biophysical region as of September 22, 2016. Available funds may differ at the time of the awards. Also shown are the natural resources that have been prioritized for restoration, enhancement, preservation, and/or creation within each region.

<u>MNRCP Region</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Priority Resource Type</u>
Aroostook Hills & Lowlands	\$154,801	Freshwater wetland Forested; Freshwater wetland Scrub-Shrub; Freshwater wetland Unconsolidated Bottom
Central & Eastern Lowlands	\$406,461	Freshwater wetland Emergent; Vernal pool critical terrestrial habitat
Central & Western Mountains	\$729,737	Freshwater wetland Emergent; Freshwater wetland Forested; Inland waterfowl & wading bird habitat; River/Stream; Vernal pool critical terrestrial habitat
Central Interior & Midcoast	\$901,998	Coastal wetland Estuarine subtidal; Coastal wetland Marine intertidal; Coastal wetland Marine subtidal; Freshwater wetland Emergent; River/Stream; River/Stream Tidal; Vernal pool; Vernal pool critical terrestrial habitat
Downeast Maine	\$377,220	Coastal wetland Estuarine intertidal; Coastal wetland Marine intertidal; Coastal wetland Marine subtidal; Vernal pool critical terrestrial habitat
Northwest Maine	\$0	
Southern Maine	\$1,824,642	Coastal wetland Estuarine intertidal; Freshwater wetland Emergent; Freshwater wetland Scrub-Shrub; Freshwater wetland Unconsolidated Bottom; River/Stream
<i>Total Amount Available:</i>	\$4,394,859	

MNRCP 2016 Projects

PROJECT: Hunter Cove-Lewin

TOWN: Rangeley

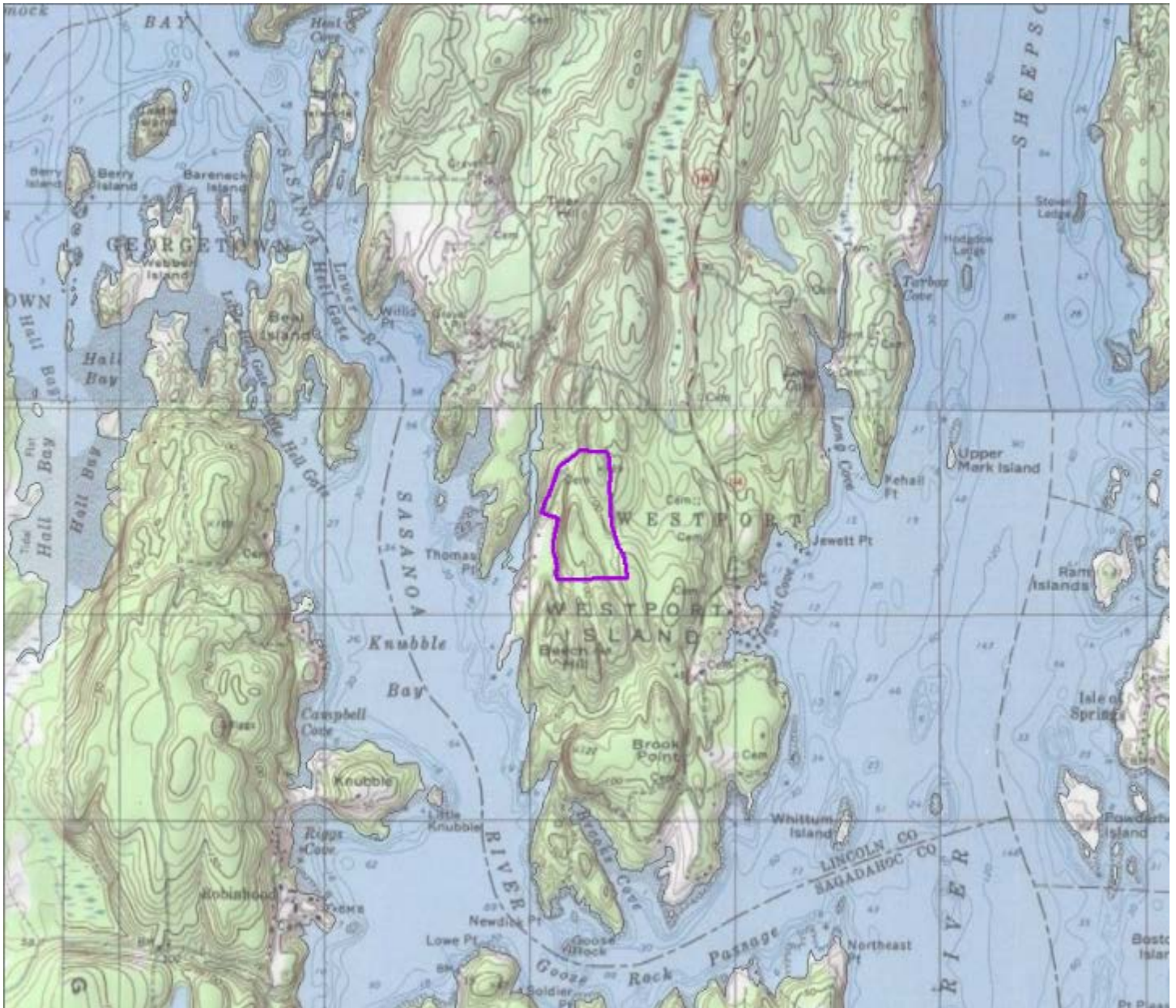
SERVICE AREA: Central & Western Mountains

This project involves the fee purchase and preservation of a ± 70 -acre parcel in Rangeley, Maine with 1,200 feet of shore frontage on the Hunter Cove portion of Rangeley Lake. Abutting this parcel are two conservation properties held in fee by the Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust: the 100-acre Hunter Cove Wildlife Sanctuary parcel located to the north with -2,800 feet of shore frontage on Hunter Cove and the 172-acre Hunter Cove Uplands parcel located to the west -3,800 of shore frontage on Hunter Cove. The combined conservation of these three parcels would result in a total of 342 acres of functionally contiguous land with 7,800 feet of shore frontage. Emergent, forested, and scrub shrub wetland types; lake shore wetland areas; and adjacent uplands would be conserved via this project.



PROJECT: Junction Project
TOWN: Westport Island
SERVICE AREA: Central Interior & Midcoast

The project involves the fee purchase of approximately 44.4 acres of land on Westport Island by the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust. The parcel is adjacent to a 35-acre property that is permanently protected by a conservation easement held by the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust (KELT) to the south. KELT began protecting land in this area with the Bonyun Preserve in 2002 to prevent development from degrading the wildlife habitat, scenic values, and water quality. The parcel is within the Kennebec Estuary Focus Area of Statewide Significance. The project protects forested freshwater wetlands (including a pitch pine bog and red maple sensitive fern swamp), scrub-shrub freshwater wetlands, and forested uplands that contain areas of pitch pine woodland.



PROJECT: Meadow Brook Wetlands Protection
TOWN: Saint George
SERVICE AREA: Central Interior & Midcoast

This project involves the fee acquisition of approximately 23 acres of land in Saint George by the Maine Coast Heritage Trust and is part of local efforts to conserve the Meadow Brook watershed in Saint George. Efforts to date have extended from the headwaters near Tenants Harbor to the outlet at Otis Cove. Acquisition of this project will result in a cross-peninsula linkage of properties in the largest unfragmented habitat block in Saint George. Meadow Brook is included as part of the Lower Saint George River Focus Area of Statewide Ecological Significance. The Town of Saint George and the Tenants Harbor Water District value the wetlands as a source of drinking water for the town, and the brook corridor's ecological and recreational values. This project will include estuarine, palustrine, and riverine wetland types as well as buffering upland forest. Specific resources to be permanently protected include mixed graminoid-forb saltmarsh, brackish tidal marsh, forested wetlands, and freshwater streams. This project directly addresses several of the MNRCP Priority Resource Types identified for the Central Interior and Mid-Coast Biophysical Region.

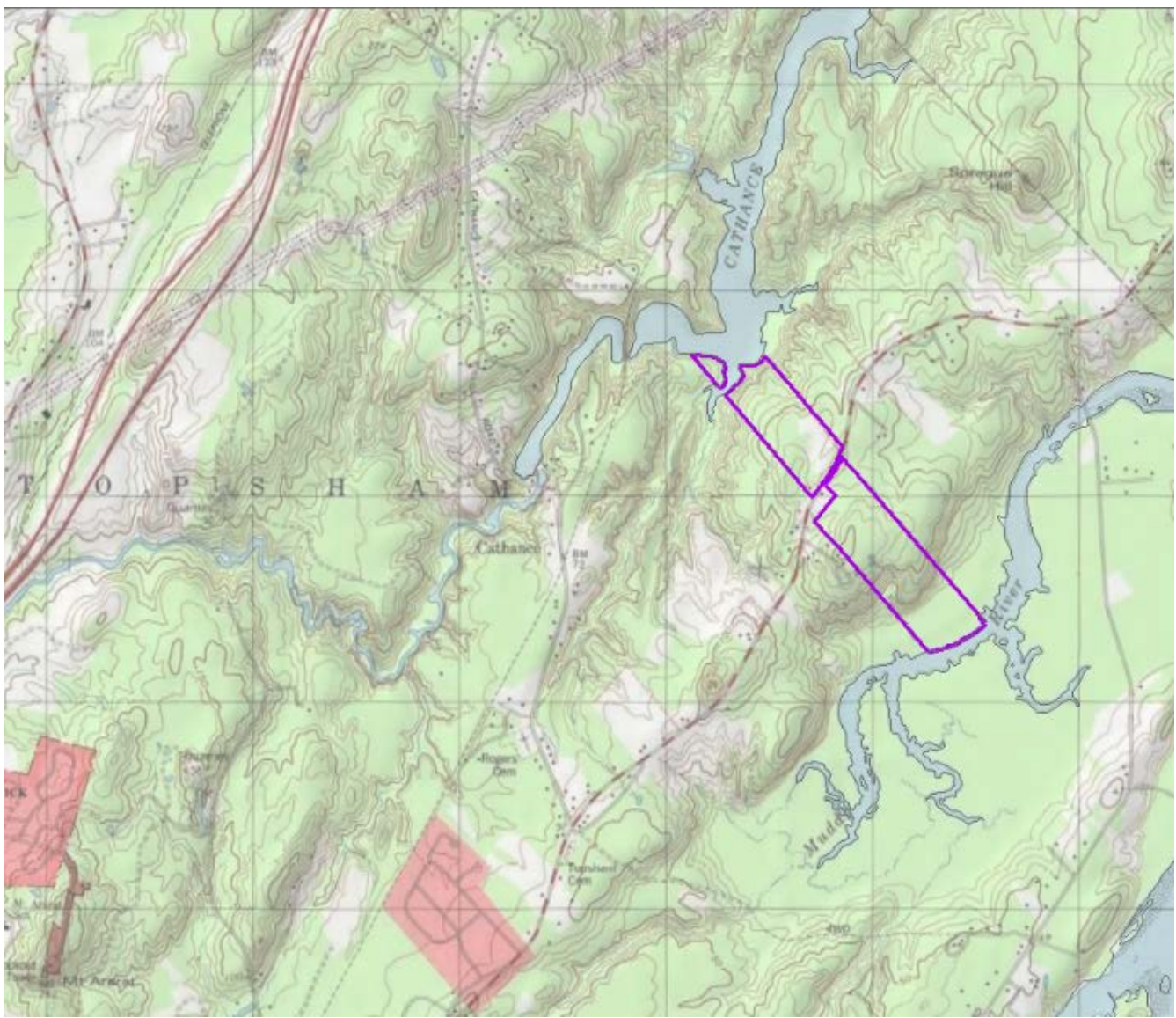


PROJECT: Muddy & Cathance River Conservation Corridor-Tardiff

TOWN: Topsham

SERVICE AREA: Central Interior & Midcoast

This project involves the fee acquisition of approximately 112 acres of land in Topsham by the Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust (BTLT). The northern parcel has frontage on the Cathance River, and the southern parcel has frontage along the Muddy River. The project area is located within the Kennebec Estuary State Wildlife Action Plan Focus Area and contains portions of two large (>1200 acre) undeveloped blocks. Wetland and aquatic features on the property include NWI-mapped forested, scrub-shrub, and emergent wetlands, as well as small amounts of riverine tidal wetland and ephemeral and tidal streams. Several potential vernal pools were also noted. Freshwater Tidal Marsh communities and several rare plants associated with freshwater tidal marshes, occur along both the Cathance and Muddy River frontages. The parcels abut previously conserved lands and are part of a larger effort to conserve a conservation corridor along the Muddy and Cathance Rivers. To date, more than 1,500 acres have been conserved along these rivers in Topsham by several conservation partners. Portions of the property have recently harvested aggressively for timber and opportunities exist to enhance the functions of the vernal pools on this property.

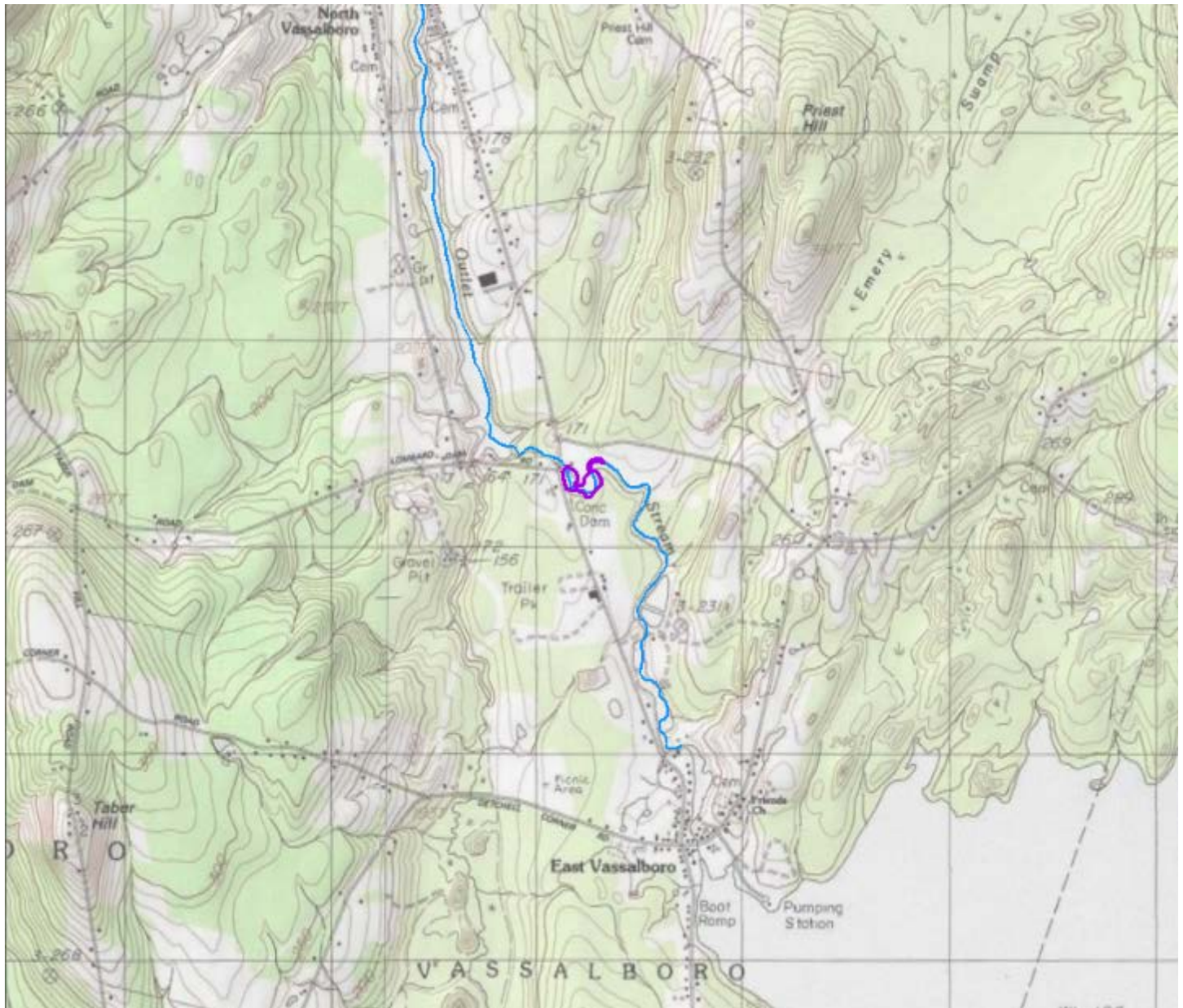


PROJECT: Outlet Stream Restoration: Lombard Dam Removal

TOWN: Vassalboro

SERVICE AREA: Central Interior & Midcoast

The Outlet Stream Restoration Project at Lombard Dam will remove a relic dam and restore a 6.9-acre impoundment to 0.96 miles of riverine habitat. The Lombard Dam is one of six dams to be addressed on Outlet Stream which connects China Lake's 3,900 acres to the Sebasticook River in the Kennebec River watershed. The project is a collaborative effort of Maine Rivers, Maine Department of Marine Resources, Sebasticook Regional Land Trust, China Region Lake Alliance and the China Lake Association. This project would protect emergent and forested wetland as well as open water wetlands. The goal of this project is to remove barriers and restore aquatic connectivity and riverine conditions of Outlet Stream whose ecological function has been severely degraded by the presence of six dams.



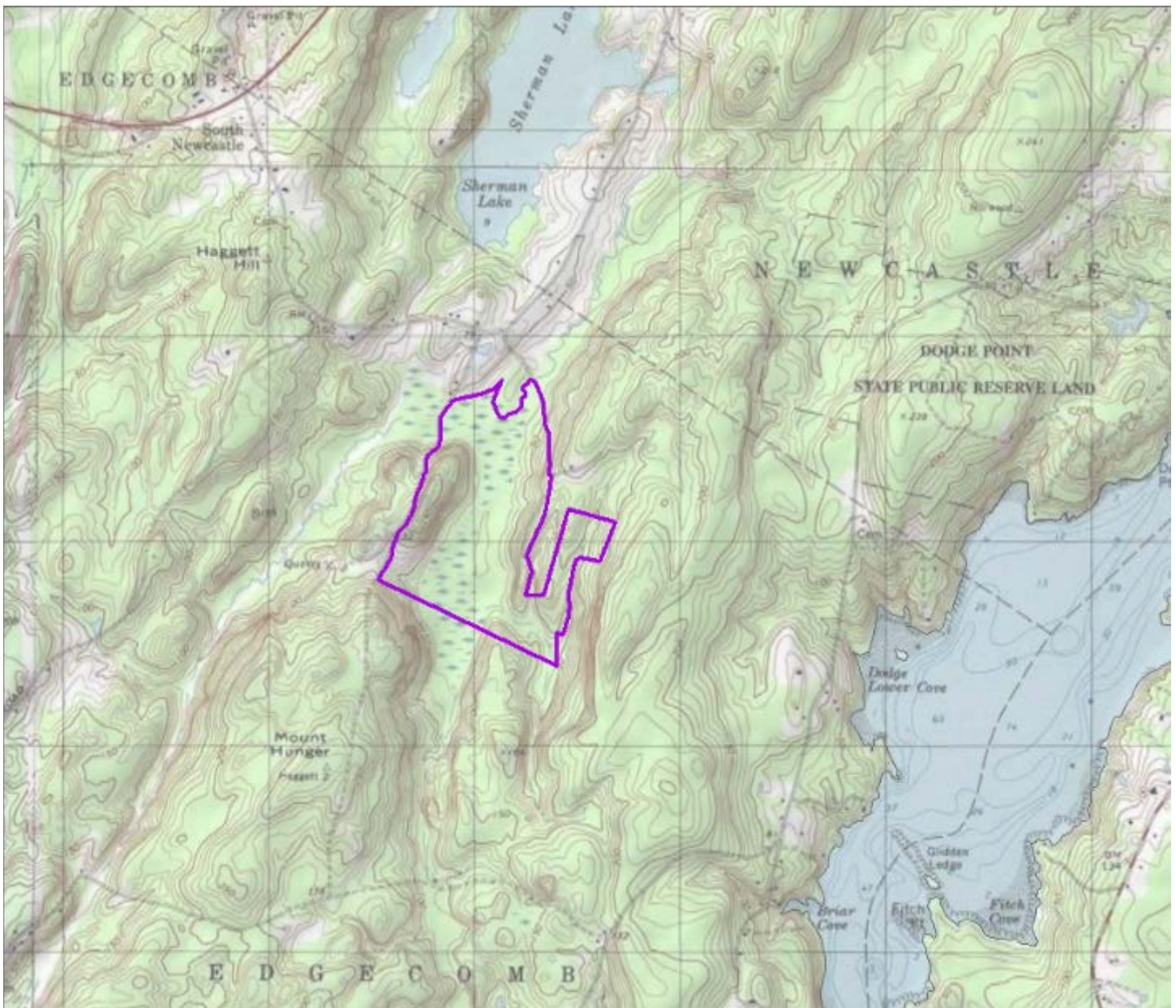
PROJECT: Serpentine Wetlands Project
TOWN: Smithfield
SERVICE AREA: Central Interior & Midcoast

The Serpentine Wetlands Project will restore and preserve approximately 98 acres of land adjacent to Route 8 and to the “Serpentine,” the stream that connects East Pond with North Pond in the Belgrade Lakes watershed in Smithfield, Maine. The Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance proposes acquiring a conservation easement to protect the property. Restoration activities will be conducted on ~16 acres and will include reforestation of forested wetlands and construction of emergent wetlands in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited. The property is used for dog training by the Sebasticook Chapter of the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association (Sebasticook NAVHDA). They maintain the fields to support their training programs. They have agreed to a reduction in field size to accomplish wetland restoration objectives.



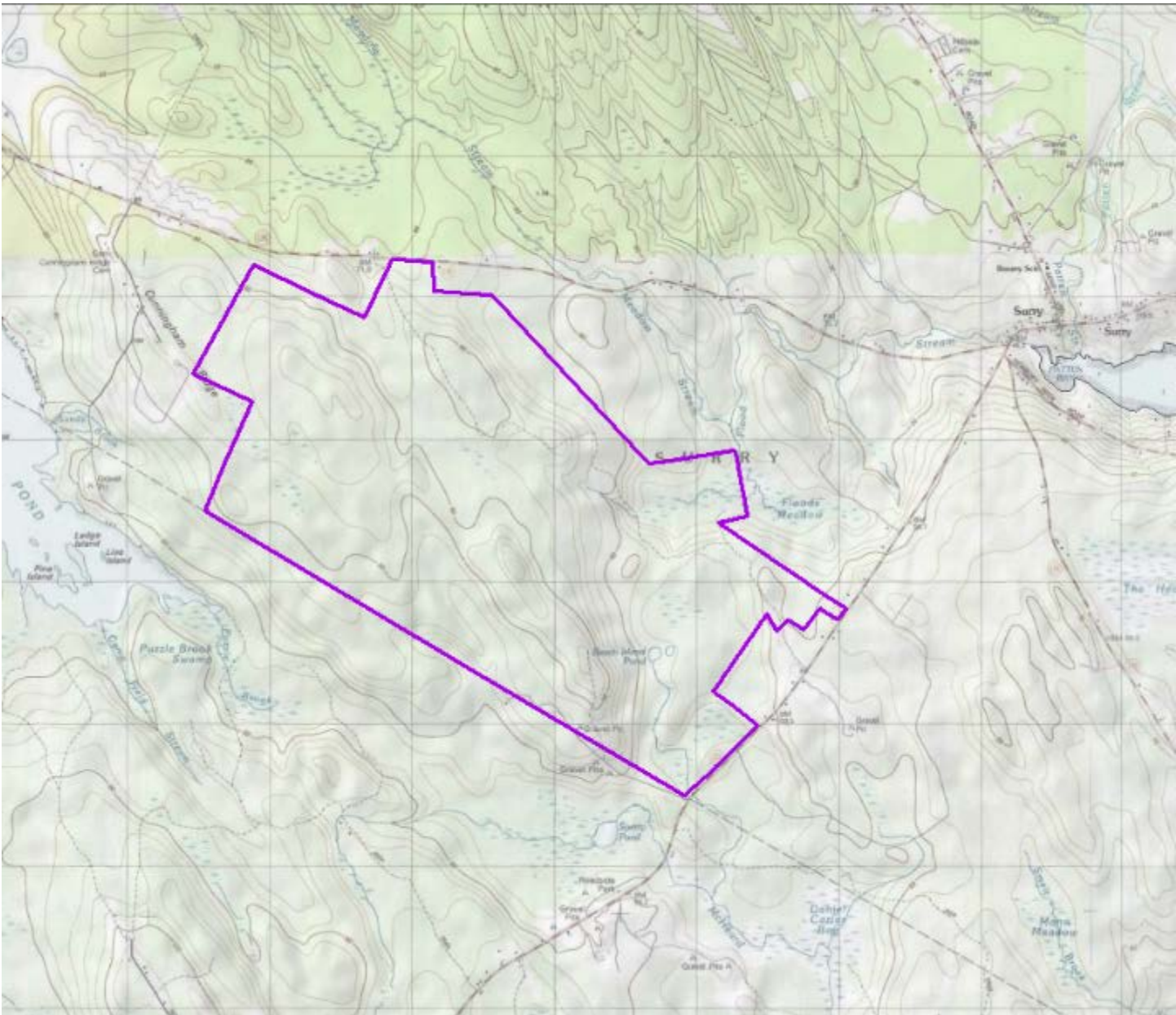
PROJECT: Sherman Marsh Headwaters-Louderback
TOWN: Edgecomb
SERVICE AREA: Central Interior & Midcoast

This project consists of a 178-acre fee purchase of a forested tract of land in Edgecomb that provides a central link in the 2001 River Link project initially funded by Land for Maine's Future to address habitat and recreation connectivity in the mid-coast. Damariscotta River Association holds an option to purchase the land. Protection of this property will connect the eastern portion of the River Link corridor that includes BPL's Dodge Point reserve and DRA's Davidson Preserve (protected with MNRCP 2013 funding) with the Town of Edgecomb's Schmid Preserve and western portions of the River Link network of conserved lands. Wetland features on the property make up some of the most significant headwater wetlands that drain to the Sherman Marsh Wildlife Management Area, the site of MDOT's ongoing wetland restoration and banking efforts. Priority wetland resources on the site include broad freshwater emergent wetlands, headwater streams and associated forested wetland seeps, and lower order streams that drain to Sherman Marsh. The project property directly abuts the Lower Sheepscot River Focus Areas of Statewide Ecological Significance.



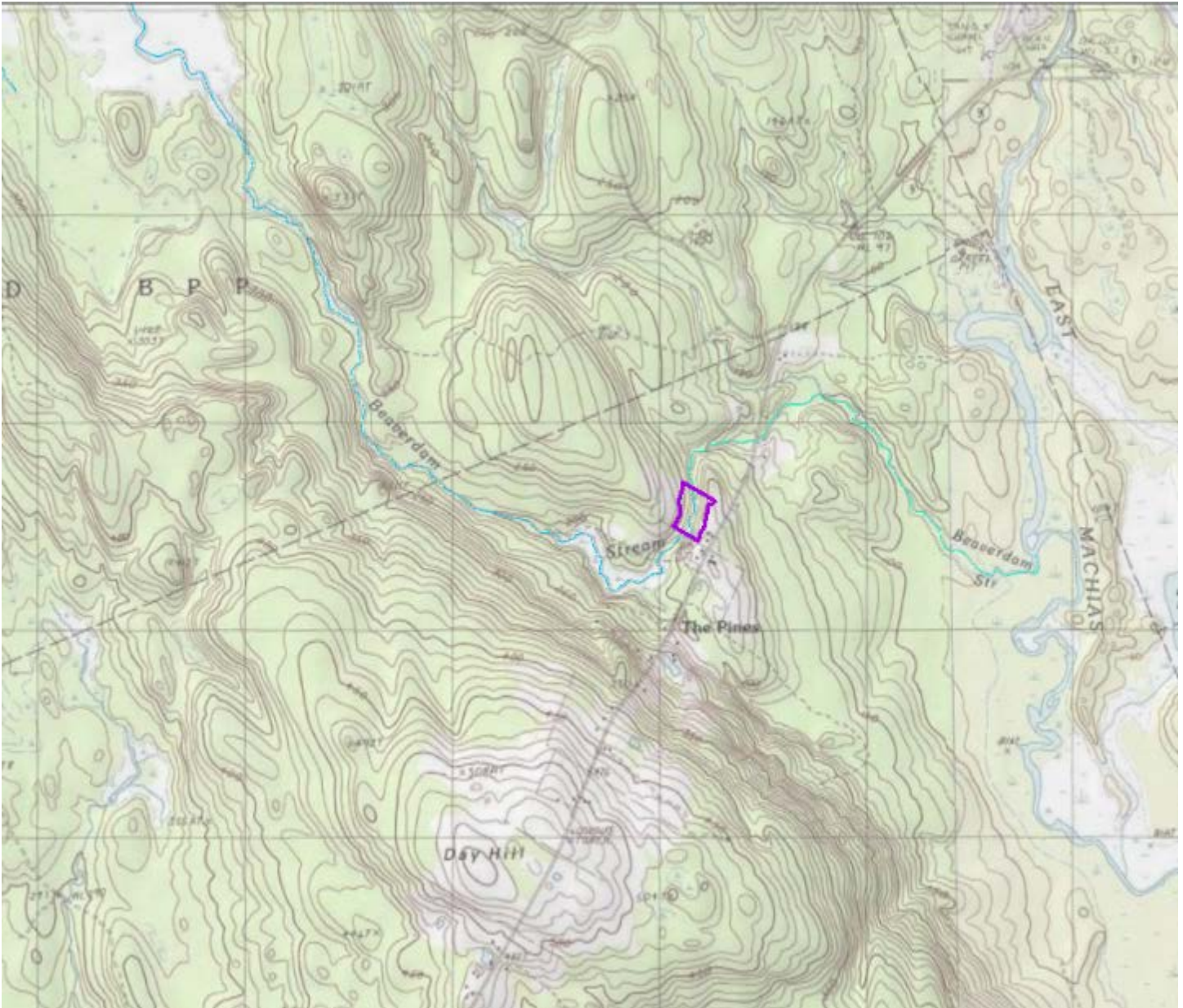
PROJECT: Surry Forest Wetlands
TOWN: Surry
SERVICE AREA: Central Interior & Midcoast

The Surry Forest Wetlands project will permanently conserve approximately 701 acres of important wetland habitat and over 1,400 acres of associated upland buffer on the largest undeveloped parcel of land in a steadily developing area of coastal Hancock County. Blue Hill Heritage Trust (BHHT) is a land trust with 31 years of experience that has conserved more than 150 parcels of land totaling over 7,200 acres. BHHT holds a contract to purchase the property for a discounted price. The Surry Forest Wetlands project will include habitat restoration at three poorly designed logging road crossings identified as restoration opportunities by Maine Natural Areas Program staff during a 2016 site visit. The land includes frontage on two major local roads with upland areas that are highly developable. This project will prevent the possibility of conversion to residential or commercial uses, including gravel mining, which are occurring on nearby lands. In addition, this land, if protected, has the potential to offer recreational and educational opportunities that are compatible with its conservation.



PROJECT: Beaverdam Stream Fish Access Restoration
TOWN: Wesley
SERVICE AREA: Downeast Maine

The project proposes to purchase a parcel with a stream crossing that is a barrier to fish and other aquatic organisms. The crossing will be removed, the stream and riparian area restored, and a wooded buffer along the stream will be placed in a conservation easement to ensure it will be maintained intact. Beaverdam Stream is a tributary of the East Machias River, entering the main-stem approximately 22 miles above tidewater. It has 31,100 square meters (311 habitat units) of Atlantic salmon habitat including spawning gravels, riffle and run areas, and cold water refugia. The stream is also rich in habitat critical to many diadromous species that co-evolved with salmon, including 354 acres of ponds and lakes feed into the stream that could produce 40,000 to 80,000 river herring.



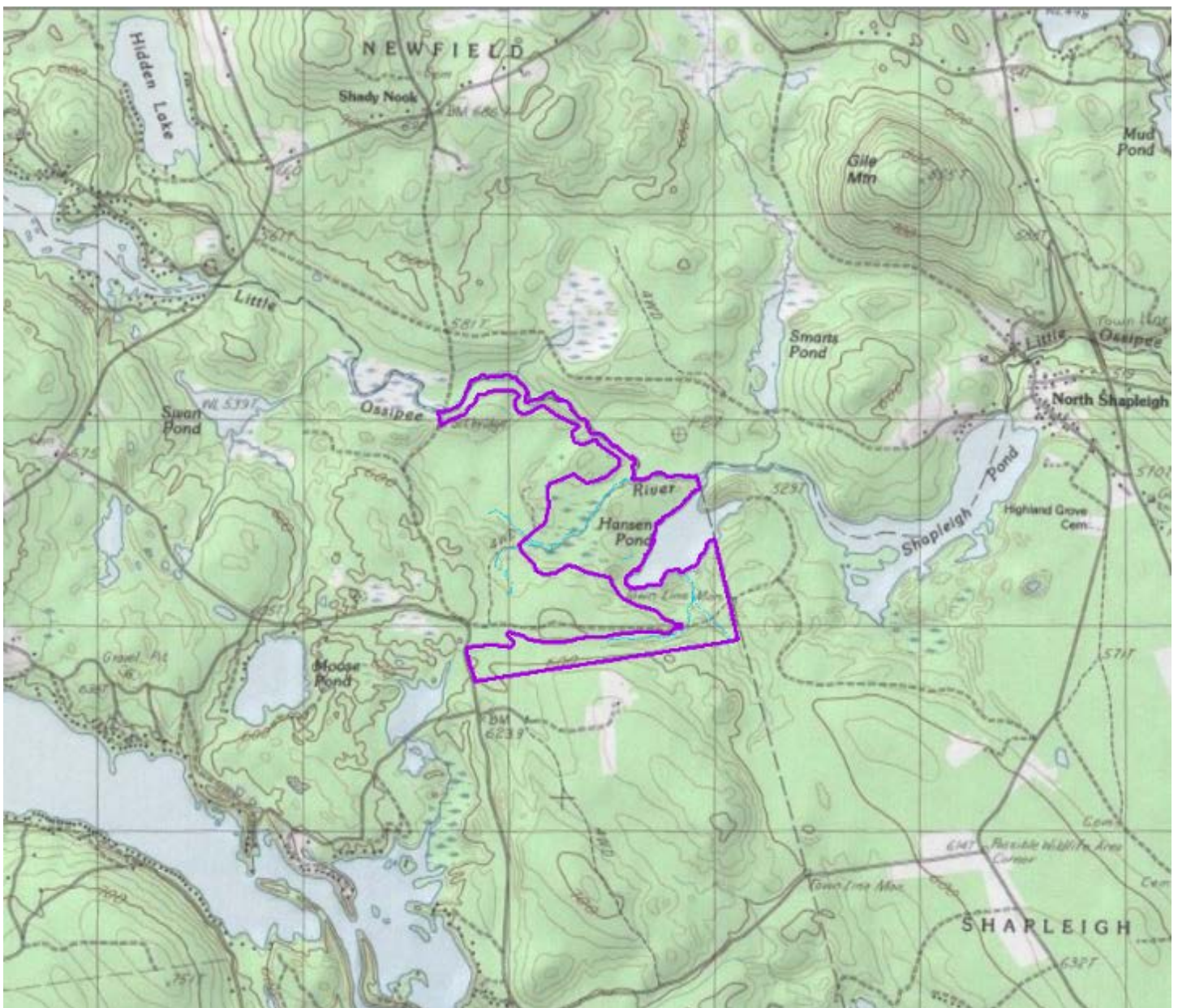
PROJECT: Old Pond - Dembska
TOWN: Hancock
SERVICE AREA: Downeast Maine

This project is an opportunity to build on more than 40 years of conservation efforts in the Old Pond portion of the upper Skillings River in Hancock, Maine. Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) seeks to purchase a 43-acre property within the Taunton Bay Focus Area of Statewide Ecological Significance and at the heart of its Old Pond Whole Place Focus Area. Success will result in the fee protection of approximately 23 acres of estuarine and palustrine wetland types as well as buffering upland forest. This project directly preserves and restores several of the MNRCP Priority Resource Types identified for the Downeast Biophysical Region, including coastal wetland estuarine and coastal wetland marine intertidal habitats.



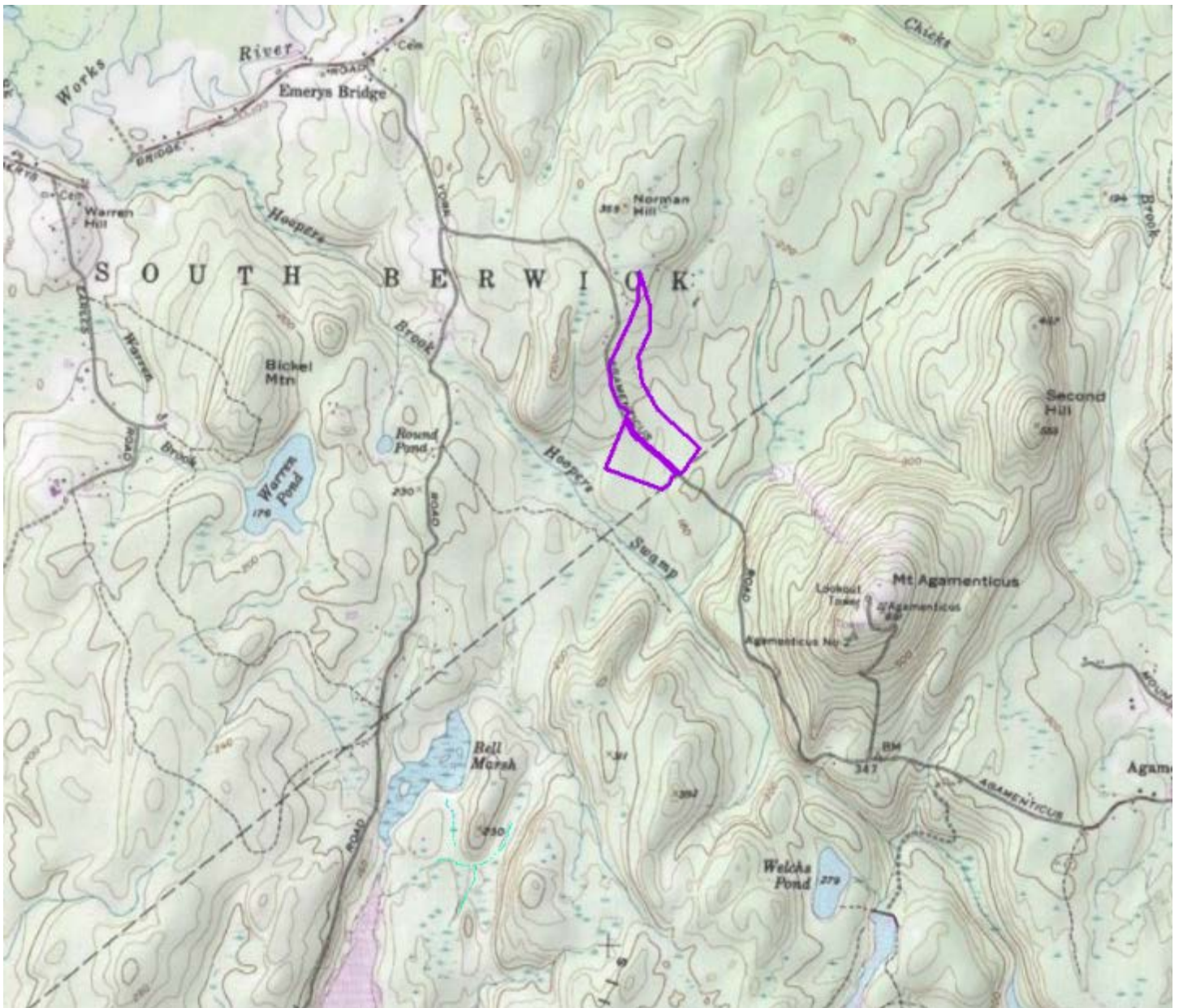
PROJECT: Hansen Pond
TOWN: Acton
SERVICE AREA: Southern Maine

This project involves the acquisition of a conservation easement on approximately 175-acres of land in Acton that includes wetlands of various types and approximately 1.05 miles of undeveloped shoreline on the Little Ossipee River, almost all the shorefront of remote and undeveloped 30-acre Hansen Pond, and extensive timberlands. The property lies entirely within the Shapleigh Pond Conservation Focus Area, a Beginning with Habitat conservation priority containing a 3,900-acre un-fragmented habitat block. The property also lies proximate to the 3,950-acre Vernon S. Walker Wildlife Management Area and the 525-acre Shapleigh Town Forest. The property contains valuable deposits of sand and gravel in environmentally sensitive areas. The landowner David Pepin, owner of R Pepin & Sons, is willing to confine mining operations to the most environmentally suitable areas, sell the environmentally sensitive land to conservation interests and donate gravel on the land sold. This project also involves restoring one substandard stream crossing. The property would continue to be managed for outdoor recreation, including canoeing, kayaking, hunting, angling, trapping, snowmobiling and hiking.



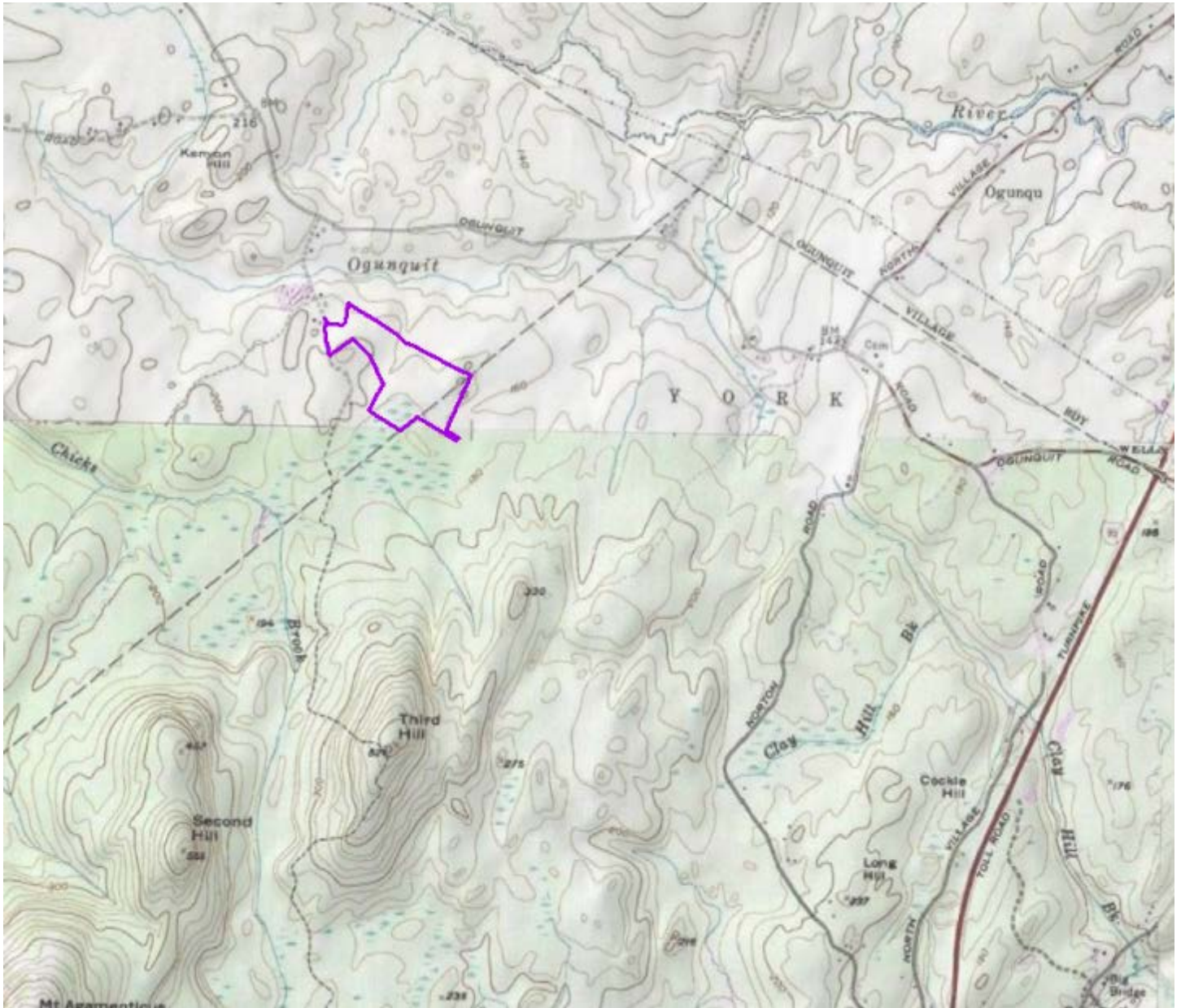
PROJECT: Mt. Agamenticus Road Wetlands Habitat Connection
TOWN: South Berwick
SERVICE AREA: Southern Maine

The Mt. Agamenticus Road Wetlands Habitat Connector Project represents a critical link for habitat and expanded connection between State and local land trust conservation areas. The project will protect approximately 45 acres of land in the Mt. Agamenticus region through fee acquisition by Great Works Regional Land Trust. The property is adjacent to State of Maine Wildlife Management Area lands and is used by rare reptile and amphibian species crossing from one vernal pool to another. The project includes forested wetland and vernal pool critical terrestrial habitat. The project will also restore full function to a wetland buried by slash and chips during a harvesting operation five years ago. The area currently has no vegetation growing on it. Mt. Agamenticus is a Beginning with Habitat Focus Areas of Statewide Ecological Significance.



PROJECT: Ogunquit Headwater Wetlands
TOWN: South Berwick
SERVICE AREA: Southern Maine

This project will permanently protect 52 acres of wetlands, a vernal pool and surrounding uplands imminently threatened by development in the headwaters of the Ogunquit River via fee acquisition by the Great Works Regional Land Trust. The property is within the Mt Agamenticus Beginning with Habitat Focus Area and provides a connecting link between 12 contiguous preserved parcels (362 acres) with conservation lands surrounding Mt Agamenticus (>7000 acres) establishing a permanently protected corridor between unfragmented habitat blocks of 1356 and 5441 acres (BwH). The project will protect forested wetlands and vernal pool critical terrestrial habitat.



PROJECT: Suckfish Brook II - McDermott Way
TOWN: Falmouth
SERVICE AREA: Southern Maine

The project will protect via fee acquisition and restore approximately 26 acres of land in Falmouth by the Town of Falmouth. The Town will also convey a conservation easement on the parcel to the Falmouth Land Trust. The project also involves restoration of emergent and shrub wetland by removing approximately 320 linear feet of a 12-foot wide gravel road that bisects the lower third of the freshwater wetland. The wetland fill will be removed and the existing hydric soils onsite will be restored (tilled as needed) and replanted with woody and herbaceous wetland plants. The project will also enhance a portion of the Suckfish Brook riparian corridor by planting native trees and shrubs along its lower reaches before it empties into Highland Lake. Further, the project will enhance upland buffers in the area by removing existing populations of invasive plants that are growing on the property. Finally, the project will preserve approximately 700 feet of undeveloped Highland Lake shoreline (including a population of state threatened spotted pondweed), over 2,200 feet of shoreline along Suckfish Brook and both forested and emergent wetland and forested upland buffer adjacent to the enhanced and restored wetlands and the regionally important Highland Lake.

