



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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Comment Period Begins: November 5, 2019
Comment Period Ends: December 5, 2019
File Number: NAE-2005-01143
In Reply Refer To: Taylor Bell
Phone: (978) 318-8952
E-mail: taylor.m.bell@usace.army.mil

SUBJECT: This notice announces a request to modify the Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program (MNRCP) In-Lieu Fee (ILF) Program Instrument for the addition of 21 individual projects.

ILF PROGRAM SPONSOR: Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

BACKGROUND: The Maine ILF program is authorized by the New England District, Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). A copy of the signed ILF agreement entitled “*State of Maine – In Lieu Fee Program INSTRUMENT*” dated August 17, 2011, 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/ME/NRCP/ILFP_ME.pdf

There were 21 projects 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), the District Engineer will provide public notice of the proposed addition of ILF program mitigation sites.

The MNRCP ILF Program has accrued funds from Corps and The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) permitted impacts throughout the State of Maine. The funds were made available through a competitive grant process for the preservation, restoration and enhancement of wetland and watercourse resources, and associated upland buffers in the State of Maine. The District Engineer has received 21 proposed projects from various applicants who have applied in 2019 for funding under the ILF Program.

PURPOSE: There are 21 proposed projects that would provide compensatory mitigation for permitted impacts to the following service areas: Aroostook Hills & Lowlands, Central & Western Mountains, Central Interior & Midcoast, Downeast Maine, and Southern Maine.

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 Corps and MDEP. 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: Attached are the proposed project descriptions and maps for the 21 projects. Full applications are available at the following link:

https://ribits.usace.army.mil/ribits_apex/f?p=107:378:12412571452019::NO::P378_PROGRAM_ID:261

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 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. Further consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding EFH conservation recommendations is being conducted and will be concluded prior to the final decision.

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT: Based on his initial review, the District Engineer has determined that none of the 21 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 New England District, Army Corps of Engineers, 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, are 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.

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

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fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

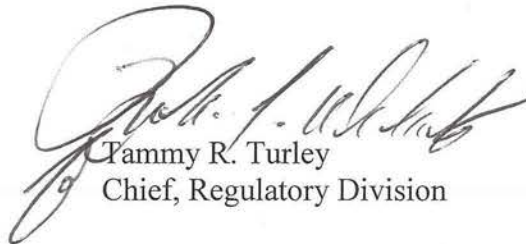
The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; American Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the proposed activity. All comments received will be considered by the Corps during the formulation of the initial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

COMMENTS: In order to properly evaluate the 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 Mr. Taylor Bell at (978) 318-8952, (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.



Tammy R. Turley
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: _____

2019 MNRCP Proposal List

MNRCP Region	Project Name	Sponsor	Town	Total Acres	Total Cost	Funds Requested	Compensation Type	Compensation Method
Aroostook Hills & Lowlands	Frenchville Acadian Forest Habitat Conservation	Upper St. John River Organization	Frenchville	216	\$237,000.00	\$206,000.00	Preservation	Fee acquisition
Aroostook Hills & Lowlands	Grand Isle Acadian Forest Habitat Conservation	Upper St. John River Organization	Grand Isle	120	\$111,000.00	\$96,500.00	Preservation	Fee acquisition
Central & Western Mountains	Shiloh Pond	The Trust for Public Land	Kingfield	217	\$492,000.00	\$336,000.00	Preservation	Fee acquisition
Central & Western Mountains	Walton's Mill Dam Removal	Atlantic Salmon Federation, Maine Council	Farmington	35	\$2,049,440.00	\$395,000.00	Restoration, Enhancement	Dam Removal
Central Interior & Midcoast	Caribou Bog Central	Orono Land Trust	Old Town	881.8	\$347,500.00	\$330,000.00	Preservation	Fee acquisition
Central Interior & Midcoast	Fogg Island Preserve Expansion Karabin	7 Lakes Alliance	Mount Vernon	110	\$364,000.00	\$59,000.00	Preservation	Fee acquisition
Central Interior & Midcoast	Fogg Island Preserve Expansion Osada	7 Lakes Alliance	Mount Vernon	105	\$105,200.00	\$76,750.00	Preservation	Fee acquisition
Central Interior & Midcoast	Walden-Parke Preserve Addition	Bangor Land Trust	Bangor	103	\$490,000.00	\$482,500.00	Preservation	Fee acquisition
Downeast Maine	Brook Trout Habitat Restoration at Spring River	The Nature Conservancy	T9 SD BPP	60	\$142,007.00	\$60,927.00	Restoration, Enhancement	Culvert replacement, fish passage
Downeast Maine	Frenchman Bay Forest	Frenchman Bay Conservancy	Hancock	1430	\$631,222.00	\$201,345.00	Preservation	Fee acquisition
Southern Maine	Crooked River, Scribner	Western Foothills Land Trust	Otisfield	46	\$59,700.00	\$42,380.00	Preservation	Fee acquisition
Southern Maine	Deering-Northwest River	Loon Echo Land Trust	Sebago	32	\$76,360.00	\$30,000.00	Preservation	Fee acquisition
Southern Maine	Eliot-Wildlife/Reptile Passage Structure-Route 236 WIN 18754.00	Maine Dept of Transportation	Eliot		\$455,500.00	\$120,000.00	Restoration, Enhancement	Other
Southern Maine	Hansen Pond Restoration Sites	Three Rivers Land Trust	Acton		\$37,150.00	\$37,150.00	Restoration, Enhancement	Other
Southern Maine	Kennebunk Plains-Fenderson Connector	Town of Wells	Wells	74.5	\$231,450.00	\$120,000.00	Preservation	Fee acquisition

MNRCP Region	Project Name	Sponsor	Town	Total Acres	Total Cost	Funds Requested	Compensation Type	Compensation Method
Southern Maine	Knight Land	York Land Trust, Inc.	York	80	\$397,500.00	\$327,500.00	Preservation, Enhancement	Fee acquisition with restoration or enhancement
Southern Maine	Lower Gloucester Village & Intervale Project: MNRCP Subparcel	Royal River Conservation Trust	New Gloucester	142	\$282,500.00	\$222,500.00	Preservation, Enhancement	Fee acquisition with restoration or enhancement
Southern Maine	Meadow Woods Preserve Restoration	Kennebunkport Conservation Trust	Kennebunkport	2	\$258,641.00	\$258,641.00	Restoration, Enhancement	Fill removal, restoration
Southern Maine	Norton Brook to Mill Creek Conservation Corridor, Phase I (2)	Falmouth Land Trust	Falmouth	52	\$830,000.08	\$425,000.00	Preservation	Fee acquisition
Southern Maine	Old Boston Farm	Great Works Regional Land Trust	Ogunquit	161	\$1,091,500.00	\$860,000.00	Preservation	Fee acquisition
Southern Maine	Pump Box Brook I - Coley Trafton	Three Rivers Land Trust	Shapleigh	78	\$151,700.00	\$151,700.00	Preservation	Fee acquisition

Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program
2019 Proposals

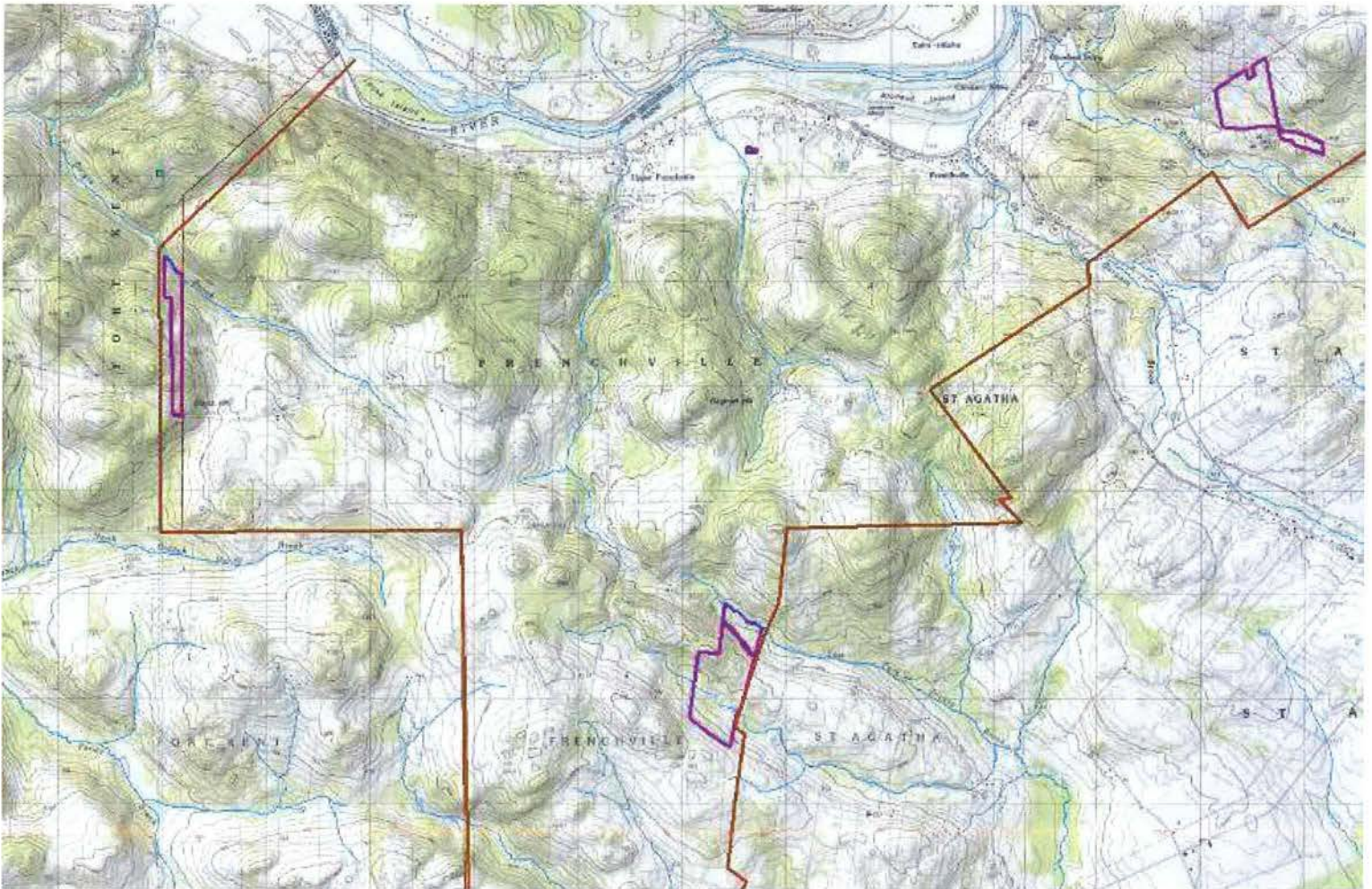
Aroostook Hills and Lowlands Region

Project: Frenchville Acadian Forest Habitat Conservation

Location: Frenchville, Maine

Sponsor: Upper St. John River Organization

The Upper St. John River Organization (USJRO) proposes to protect wetlands and associated upland habitats on four community owned parcels in Frenchville. USJRO will be the conservation easement holder and will monitor and maintain the property following their Standards for Wildlife Habitat and Biodiversity Assessments and Management. The proposed project would protect approximately 216 total acres split amongst the four parcels. The parcels include a total of approximately 31 acres of wetlands and 185 acres of upland buffer. The Town of Frenchville is supportive of the conservation efforts.

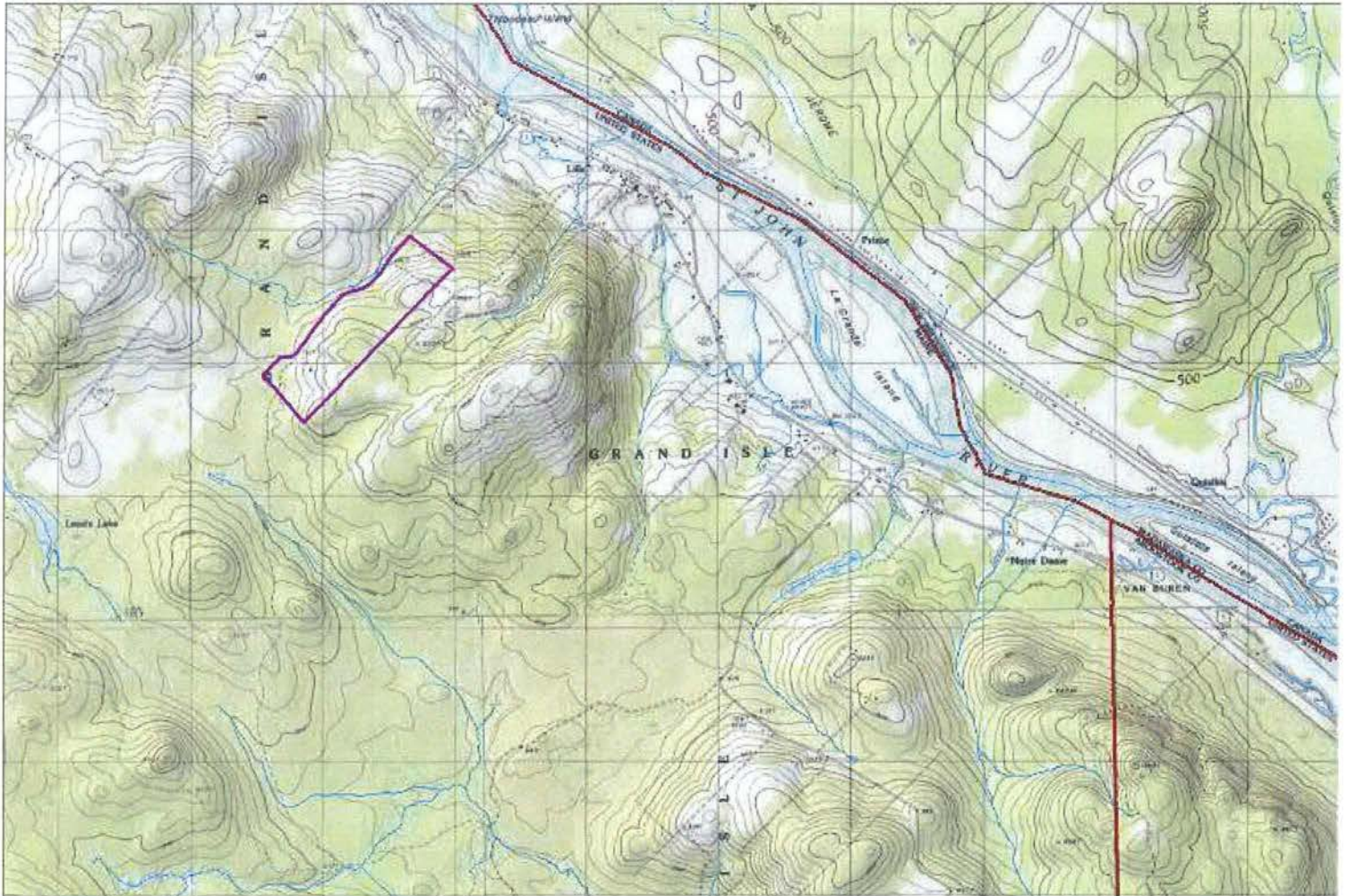


Project: Grand Isle Acadian Forest Habitat Conservation

Location: Grand Isle, Maine

Sponsor: Upper St. John River Organization

The Upper St. John River Organization (USJRO) proposes to protect wetlands and associated upland habitats on a community owned parcel in Grand Isle. USJRO will be the conservation easement holder and will monitor and maintain the property following their Standards for Wildlife Habitat and Biodiversity Assessments and Management. The proposed project would protect approximately 88 total acres. The parcel contains approximately 6.7 acres of wetlands and 80 acres of upland buffer. The Town of Grand Isle is supportive of the conservation efforts.



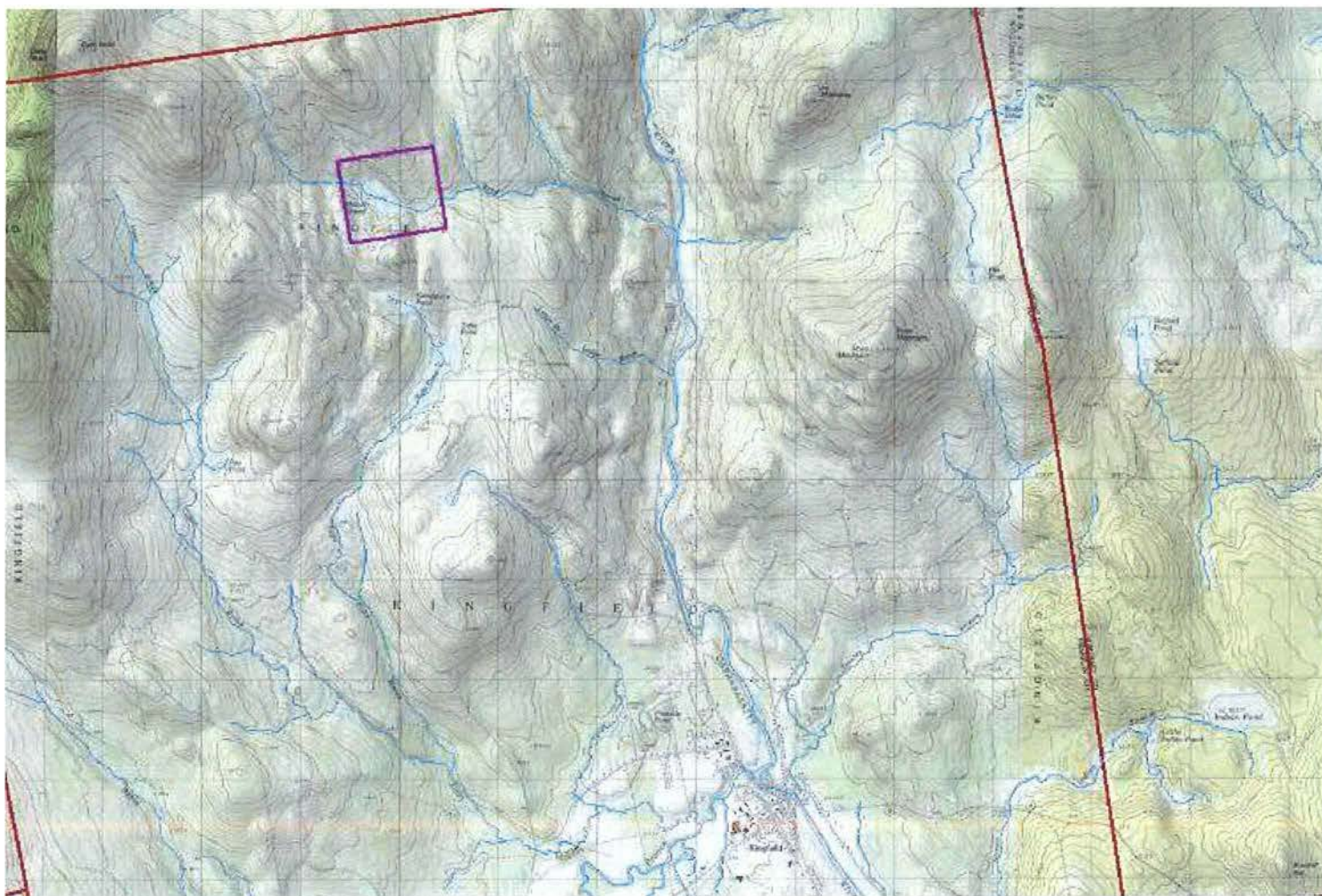
Central & Western Mountains Region

Project: Shiloh Pond

Location: Kingfield, Maine

Sponsors: Trust for Public Land and Town of Kingfield

Conservation of the 215-acre Shiloh Pond Property, located just two miles from the center of Kingfield, will protect a pristine mountain pond and significant aquatic resources. The property contains the 19-acre Shiloh Pond, nearly 30 acres of wetlands, 68.2 acres of mapped Inland Wading bird and Waterfowl Habitat, and significant old-growth type forests on the edge of the pond. In partnership with local residents and The Town of Kingfield, The Trust for Public Land will facilitate the acquisition of the 215-acre property. The Town of Kingfield will acquire the property directly from the current landowners and will own and manage it in perpetuity as community open space. If awarded funding, The Town of Kingfield will be the recipient of the Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program (MNRCP) funds.

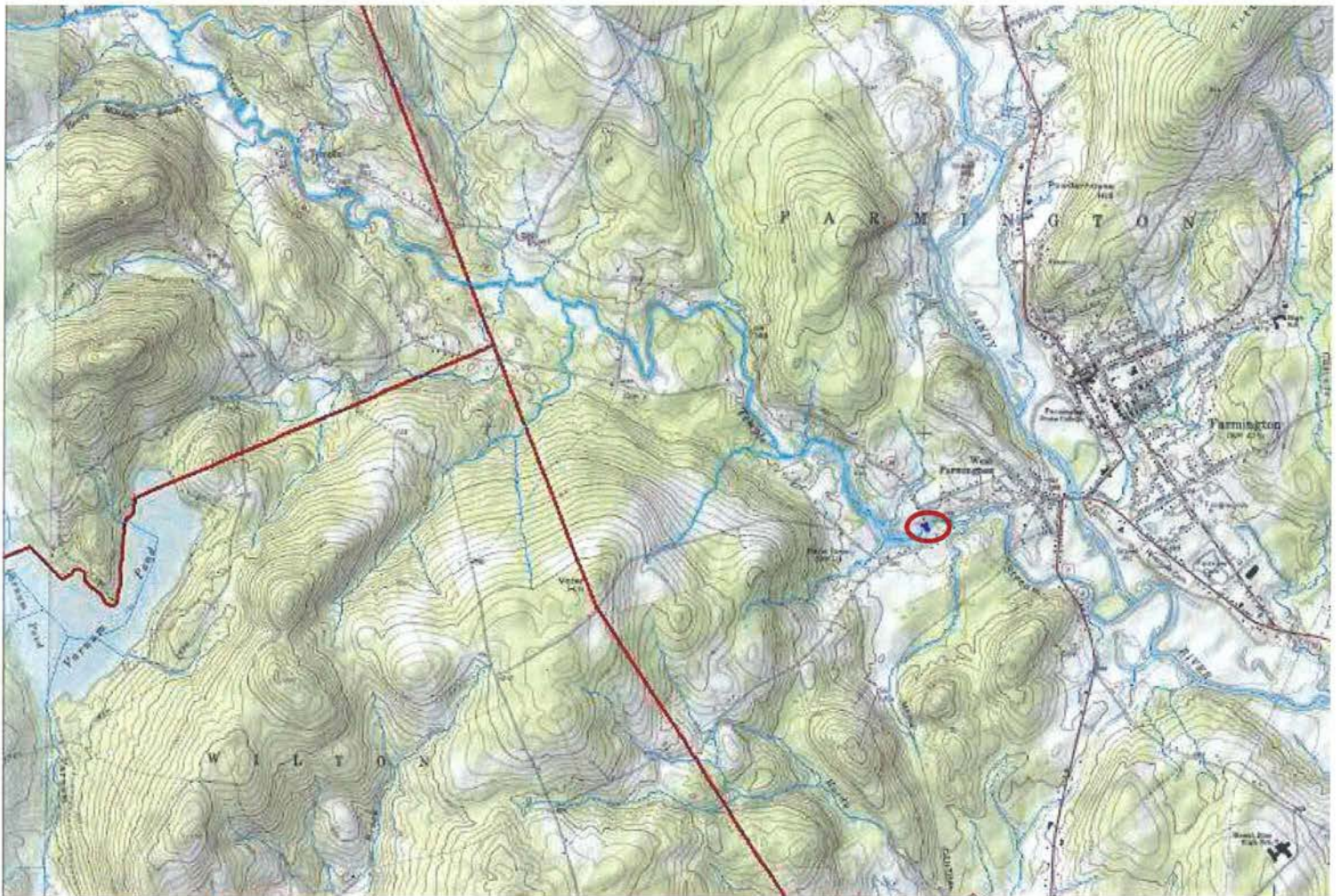


Project: Walton's Mill Dam Removal

Location: Farmington, Maine

Sponsor: Atlantic Salmon Federation

The goal of the project is to restore access to 46 miles of high-quality stream habitat for endangered Atlantic salmon, brook trout, American eel, and other species in Temple Stream, a tributary of the Sandy River in the Kennebec River watershed, by removing the Walton's Mill Dam in Farmington. The project will re-establish aquatic organism connectivity between Temple Stream and the Sandy River and will also restore natural ecological function and processes to Temple Stream, including sediment transport and movement of large wood, benefitting a variety of native fish and wildlife. The project will result in the enhancement of upstream wetlands through conversion of open water wetland habitat to vegetated emergent, scrub-shrub, and forested wetlands.



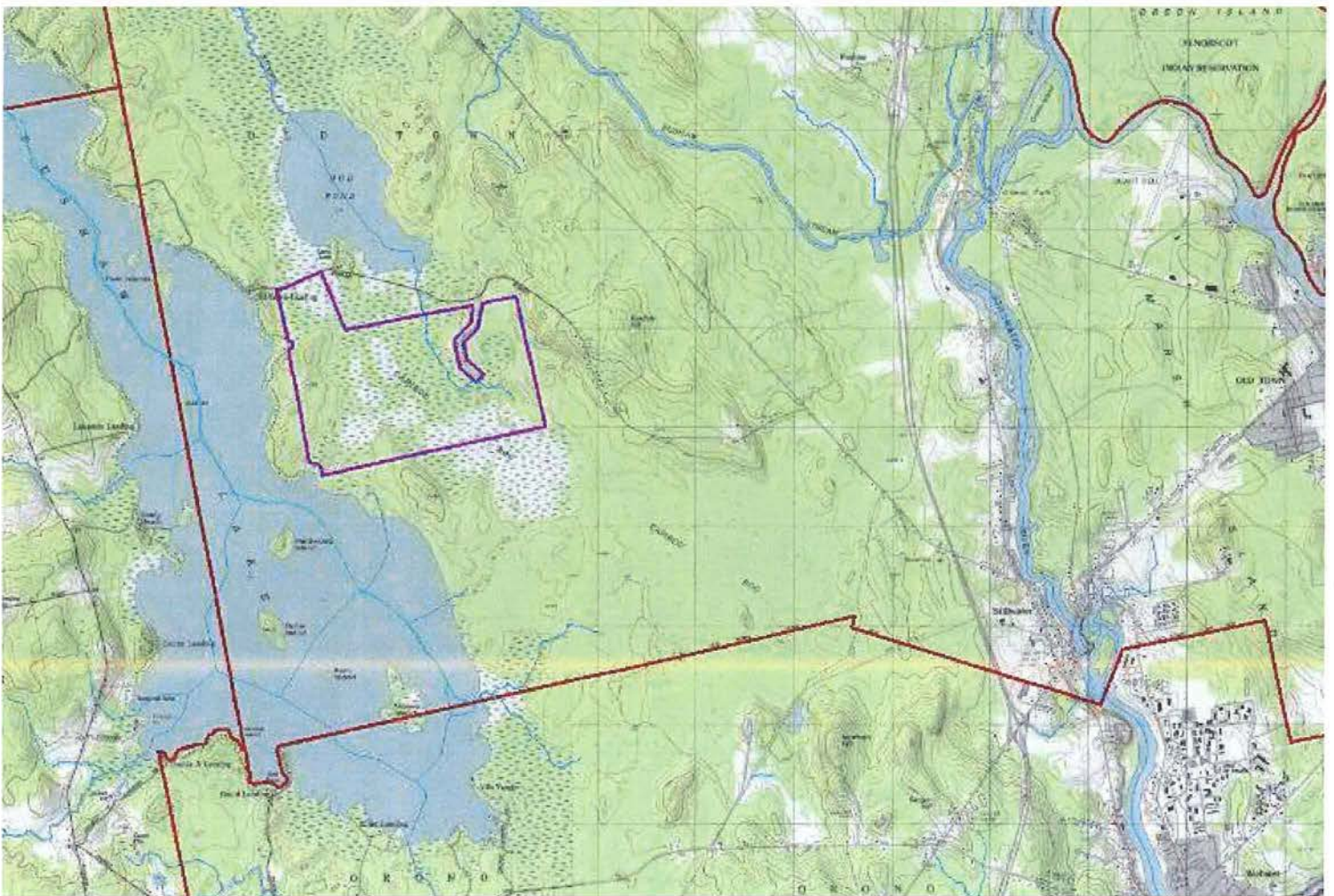
Central Interior & Midcoast Region

Project: Caribou Bog Central

Location: Old Town, Maine

Sponsor: Orono Land Trust

Caribou Bog Central is an 882-acre parcel located centrally in the north-south oriented Caribou Bog Wetland Complex (CBWC), which extends about 10 miles from Bangor to Alton and covers almost 6,000 acres. The Project Parcel is 83.5% wetlands (736 acres), so constitutes about 12% of the CBWC. The CBWC was ranked the third most important peatland to protect in the State of Maine by Davis and Anderson (1999) in terms of its rarity, its exemplariness, and its diversity; and it is the only one of the top three peatlands not fully protected. The Corridor Project (a joint venture of Orono and Bangor Land Trusts) has been working since 2001 to conserve land in an 18,000-acre focus area that includes all of the CBWC. So far the Land Trusts have protected about 6,000 acres, of which 5,000 acres are either within the CBWC itself (3,000 acres) or its adjacent upland buffer (2,000 acres). The Project Parcel is the only remaining major parcel of the CBWC not yet conserved, and its acquisition and conservation would nearly complete conservation of the entire CBWC. The parcel contains two vernal pools on an 86-acre upland portion of the Project Parcel, as well as a major spotted salamander breeding and summering habitat immediately adjacent to this upland in the lagg area of the CBWC and an adjacent older-growth coniferous forest wetland. This 86-acre upland lies just east of an intensely developed section along Pushaw Lake, and could be developed for additional housing if it is not conserved.

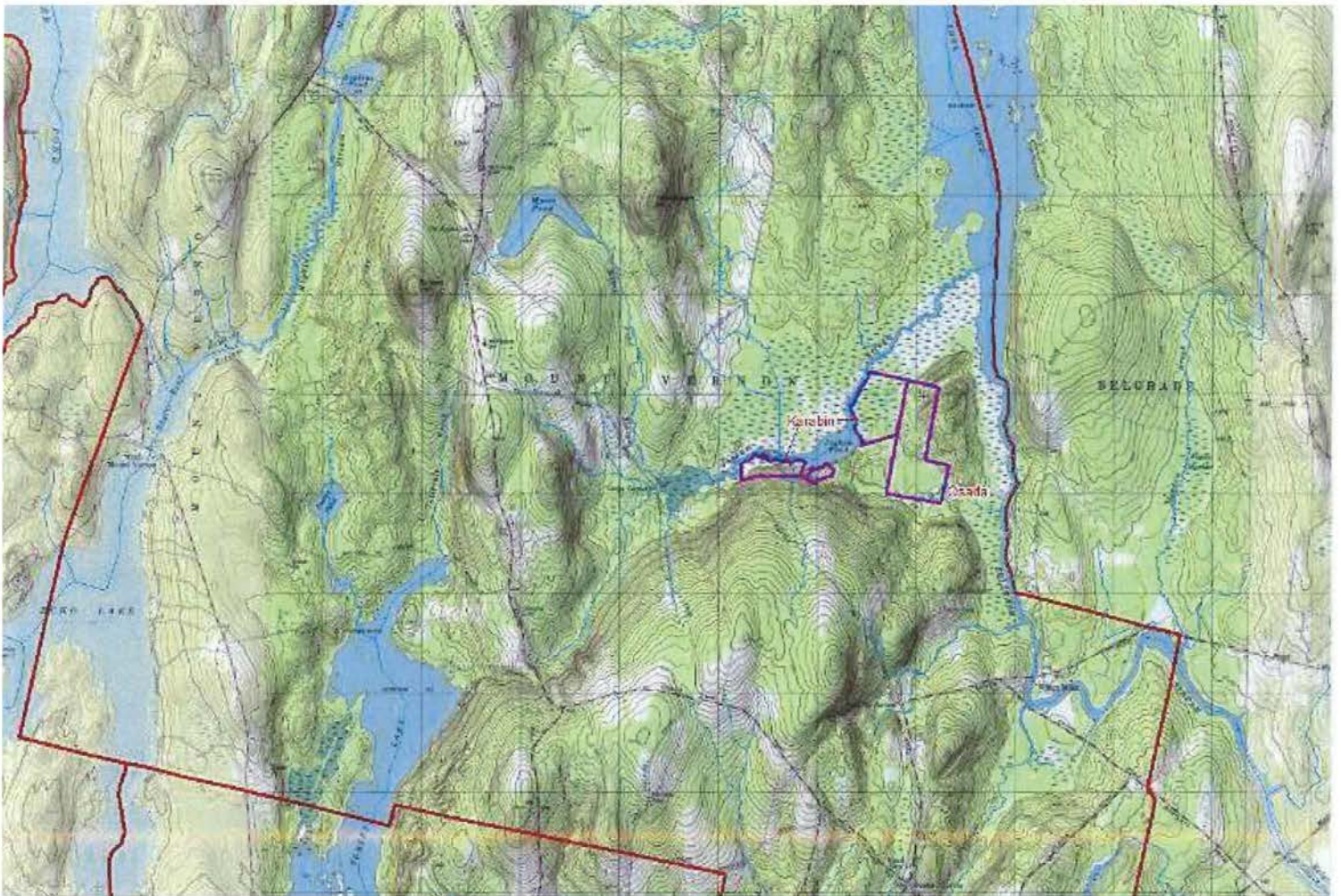


Project: Fogg Island Preserve Expansion Karabin

Location: Mount Vernon, Maine

Sponsor: 7 Lakes Alliance

7 Lakes Alliance proposes to protect and preserve 110 acres of land adjacent to the 469-acre Fogg Island Preserve. The Karabin project would preserve 110 acres (two parcels, 75 and 35 acres) of freshwater wetlands (80 acres) and adjacent uplands (30 acres) through fee simple ownership. The property includes 6,156 feet of undisturbed shoreline; 5,456 feet of along Ingham Stream and 700 feet of shoreline along Ingham Pond. 7 Lakes is a land trust whose mission is to protect and conserve land in perpetuity. This property is at great risk for development being in the Belgrade Lakes watershed. This area is a very popular destination and is experiencing intense residential development pressure. 7 Lakes Alliance is currently in the review process for accreditation through Land Trust Accreditation Commission (LTA). The property is a key component in protecting and preserving 215 acres of land adjacent to the 469-acre Fogg Island Preserve. This is part of an ambitious plan to create a 684-acre connective corridor. The land is in two ownerships - as a result, we are submitting two proposals to MNRCP, Karabin (110 acres) and Osada (105 acres).

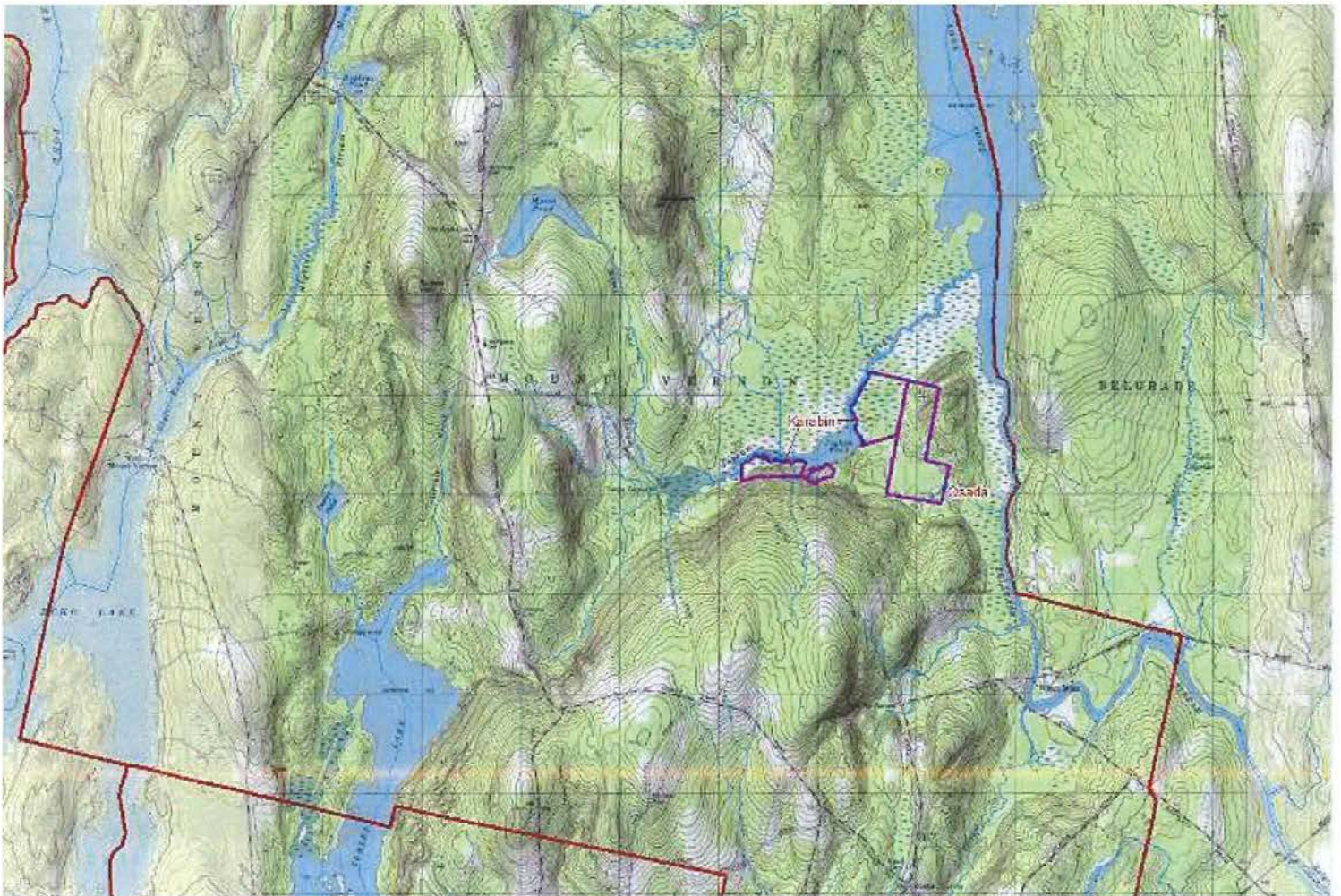


Project: Fogg Island Preserve Expansion Osada

Location: Mount Vernon, Maine

Sponsor: 7 Lakes Alliance

7 Lakes Alliance proposes to protect and preserve 105 acres of land adjacent to the 469-acre Fogg Island Preserve. This project aims to permanently protect the Osada property, 105 acres of sensitive wetland and upland forest resources in Mt Vernon, Kennebec County, Maine. The property consists of 50 acres forested, scrub and emergent wetlands and 55 acres of forested upland buffer. The property provides substantial wildlife habitat because of its mix of wetland and upland areas and adds to a substantial contiguous undeveloped habitat block. There is a glacial kettle hole sounded by a substantial peat bog. This property has been logged and can be legally harvested again. The owner is highly motivated to sell and much of the area around Osada has been logged and developed making this property much more valuable to protect. 7 Lakes is a land trust that has the capacity to permanently protect the property and is currently in the review process for accreditation through Land Trust Accreditation Commission (LTA). The property is a key component in protecting and preserving 215 acres of land adjacent to the 469-acre Fogg Island Preserve. This is part of an ambitious plan to create a 684-acre connective corridor. The land is in two ownerships - as a result, we are submitting two proposals to MNRCP, Karabin (110 acres) and Osada (105 acres).

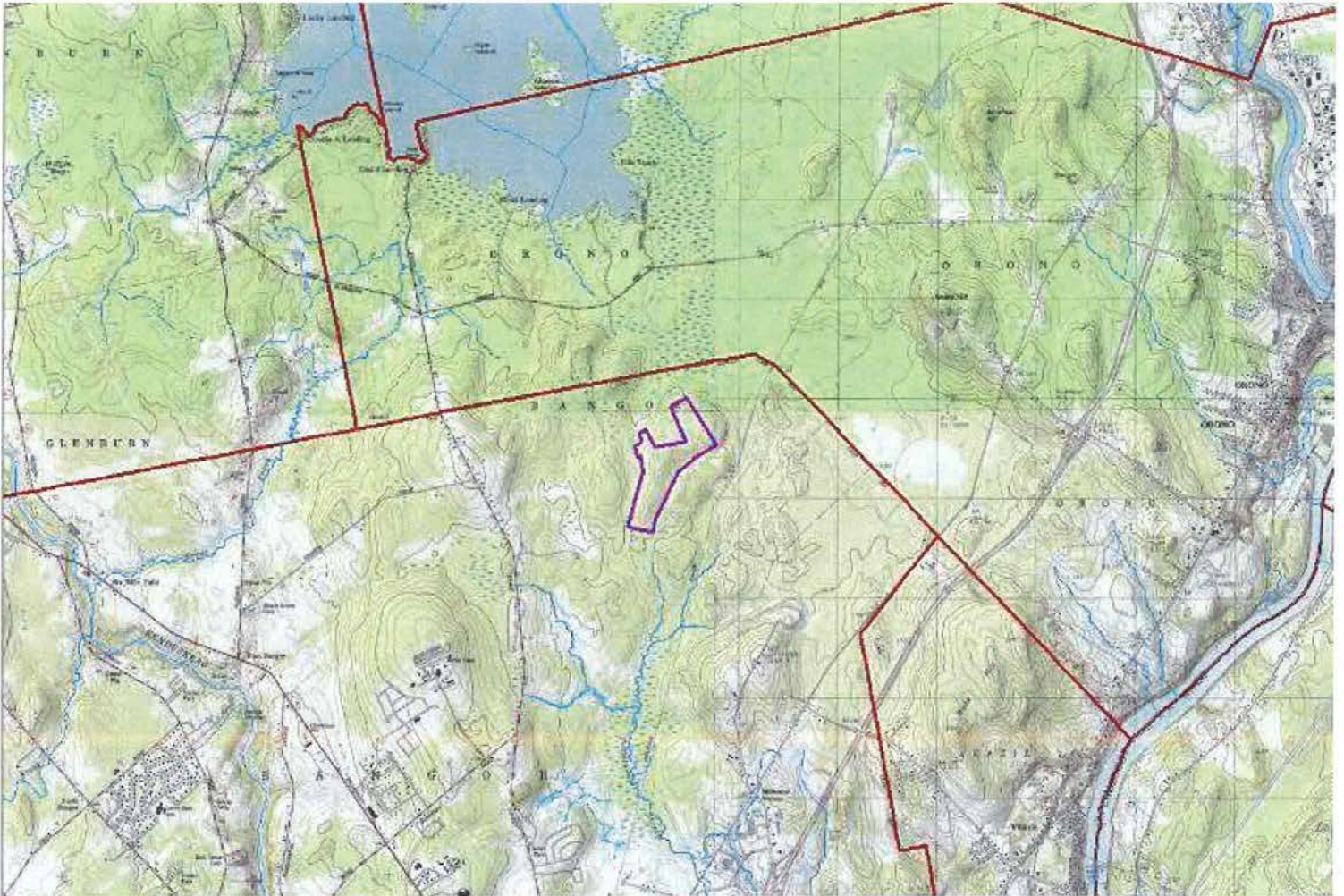


Project: Walden-Parke Preserve Addition

Location: Bangor, Maine

Sponsor: Bangor Land Trust

The Walden-Parke Preserve Addition (Project Parcel) is a 110-acre parcel mostly surrounded by land already owned by Bangor Land Trust (BLT) except for a housing development and land used for forestry to the northeast. An isolated vernal pool is in the northern part of the Project Parcel and an extensive vernal pool complex is in its eastern portion and in adjacent land owned by BLT. A beaver flowage is along its western boundary, mostly on land owned by BLT; a portion of this flowage has been recorded as a Wetland of Special Significance in an earlier wetland survey. The goal of this project is to acquire in fee this 110-acre parcel and conserve it in perpetuity for the benefit of wildlife and for its recreational trails. Wildlife benefits include amphibians using the vernal pools and birds and mammals using this land as a corridor between Penjajawoc Marsh to the south and the Caribou Bog Wetland Complex (CBWC) to the north. Both Penjajawoc Marsh and the CBWC are included in a Beginning with Habitat focus area report by the Maine Natural Area Program in 2001, with many special-concern species of birds, plants, and dragonflies. The Project Parcel lies in a relatively narrow isthmus of undeveloped land between Penjajawoc Marsh and the CBWC and helps to widen that isthmus and make it more welcoming for populations of wildlife to go between these two wetlands of statewide importance.



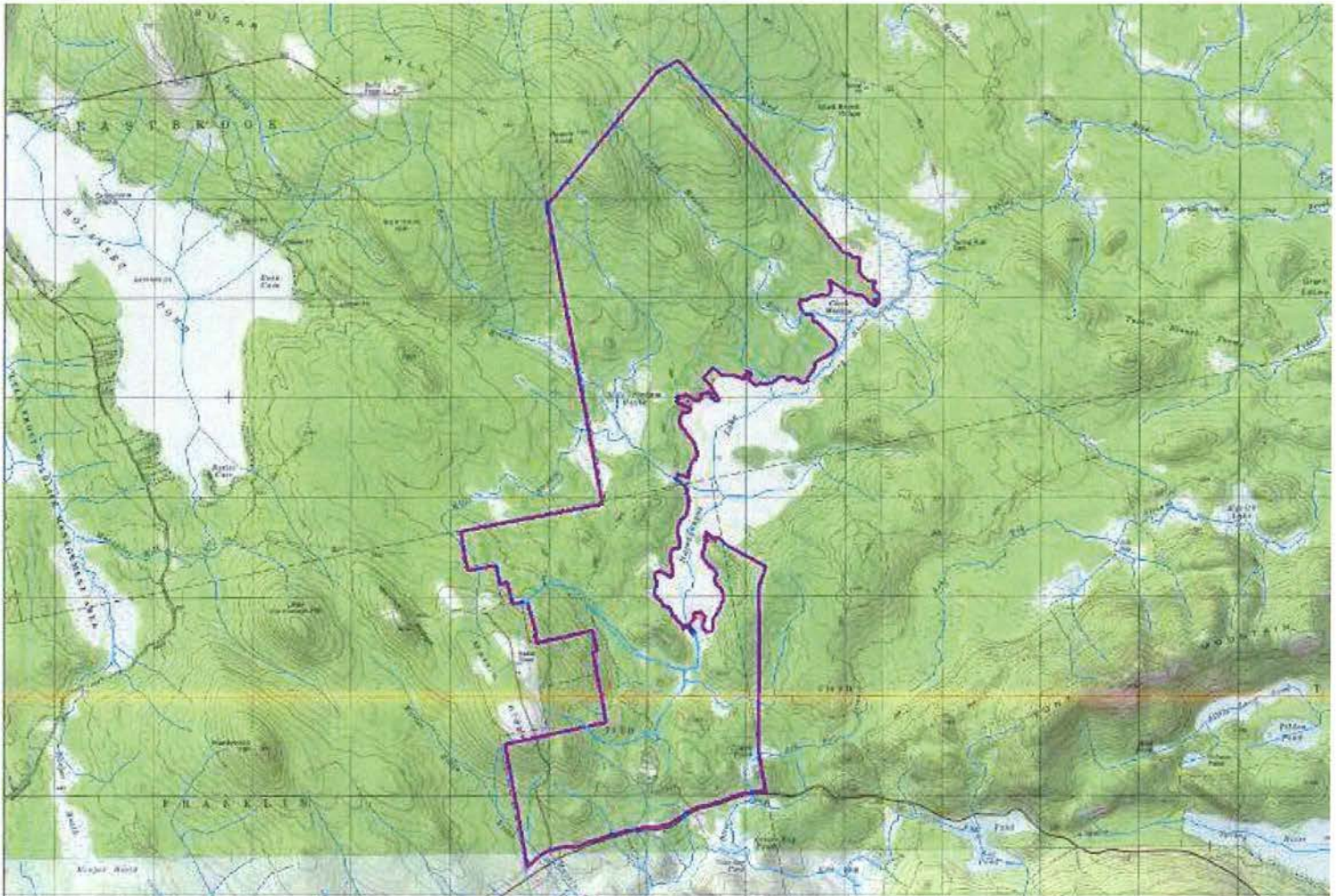
Downeast Maine Region

Project: Brook Trout Habitat Restoration at Spring River

Location: T9 and T16, Hancock County, Maine

Sponsor: The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has partnered with The Conservation Fund (TCF) to protect 13,800 acres in T9 and T16 that includes the western shore of Narraguagus Lake and shoreline along Spring River and the West Branch of the Narraguagus. This former timber land has a number of logging roads that are no longer needed for management purposes and are slated for retirement. These roads cross PSS in places and have stream crossings (bridges and culverts) that impact PFO. Road retirement is a priority management activity for TNC on former timber lands and we propose to utilize MNRCP funding on stream and wetland crossings in the Narraguagus Lake watershed. TNC proposes to retire 2.35 miles of gravel roads and remove the road surface placed on wetlands (primarily PSS) and pull stream bridges and culverts to restore bank full width on stream crossings. Restoration of PSS will diversify the habitat within the forest matrix by enlarging the functional areas of small patch wetlands. There are two undersized culverts on Narraguagus Road, a primary gravel access route, that over wash during storm events and during spring runoff. These culverts will be replaced with either a bridge or larger culvert to prevent sedimentation of the streams and allow for fish and wildlife passage. All of the tributary streams flow into stream segments identified as wild brook trout habitat.

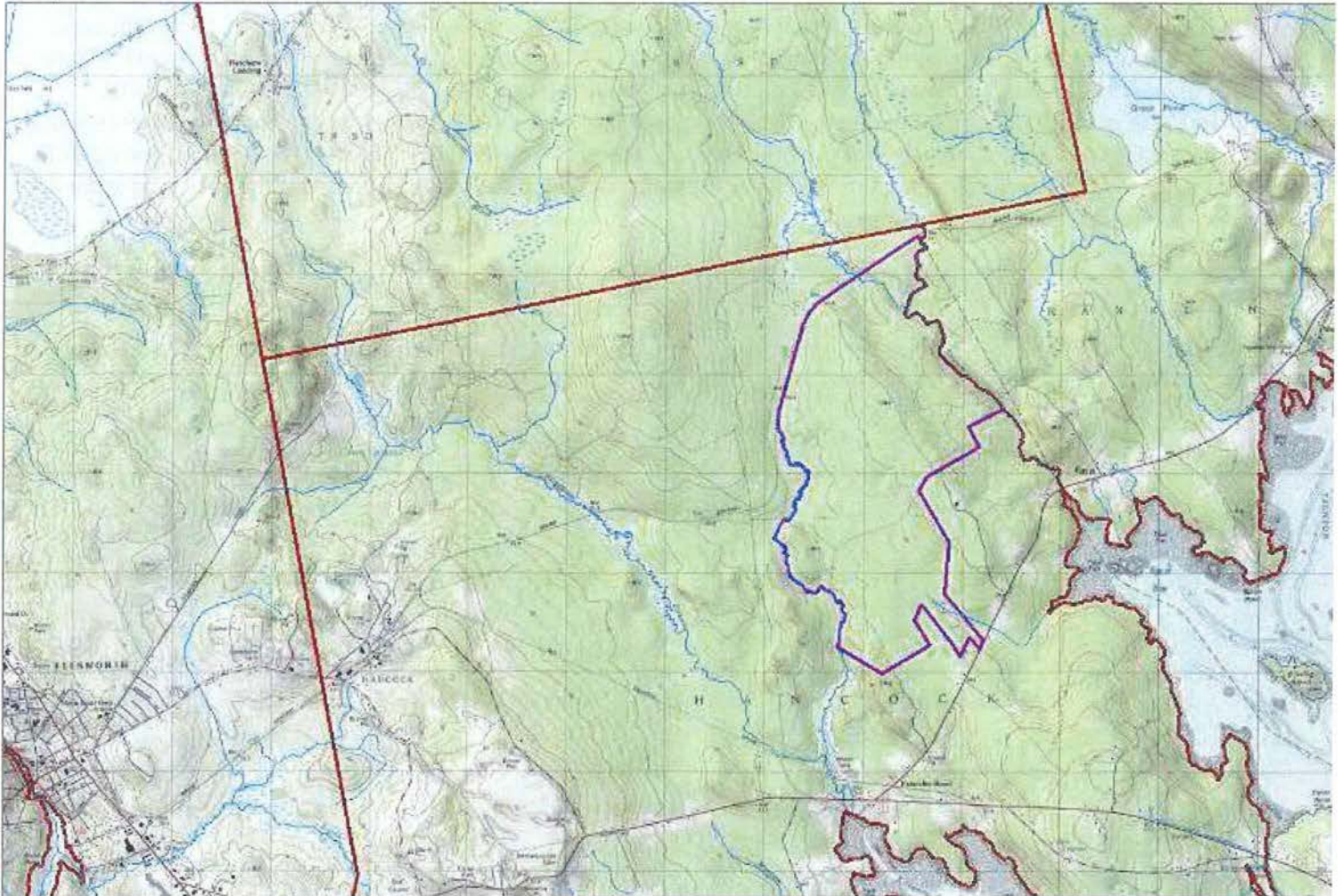


Project: Frenchman Bay Forest

Location: Hancock, Maine

Sponsor: Frenchman Bay Conservancy

Frenchman Bay Conservancy (FBC) will purchase 1,430 acres, including 148 wetland acres, adjacent to the Taunton Bay Beginning with Habitat Focus Area. The project is part of a nearly 25,000-acre undeveloped habitat block, likely the largest remaining undeveloped habitat block in Hancock County under 1 mile to the coast. The project will abut 3,100 acres to be conserved by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The project area includes mapped Inland Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat as well as mapped streams. FBC will raise additional funds for restoration to remove perched culverts and decommission dirt roads that are currently impeding wetland functions.



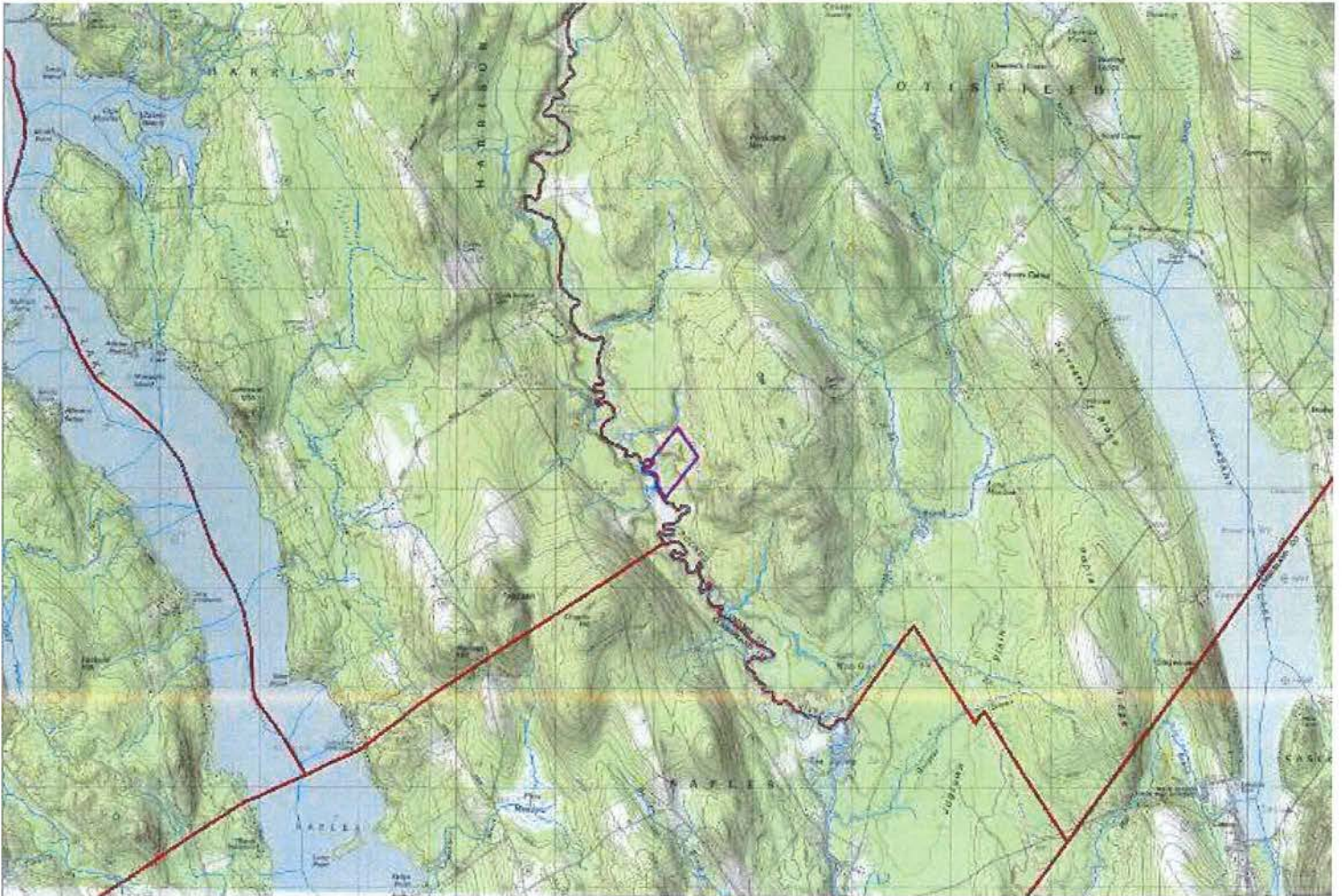
Southern Maine Region

Project: Crooked River, Scribner

Location: Otisfield, Maine

Sponsor: Western Foothills Land Trust

The Western Foothills Land Trust (WFLT) proposes to purchase in fee a 46-acre forested parcel in Otisfield called the Scribner parcel. This project is part of an ongoing effort to protect the Crooked River which provides 39% of the surface water into Sebago Lake, which in turn provides clean drinking water to over 200,000 Mainers in the greater Portland area. The effort to protect the Crooked River watershed has expanded to embrace protecting the whole Sebago Lake watershed via a collaboration called Sebago Clean Waters. Partners involved in Sebago Clean Waters include The Nature Conservancy, the Trust for Public Land, the Open Space Institute, The Highstead Foundation, Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, Loon Echo Land Trust, Western Foothills Land Trust, and the Portland Water District. While of modest acreage, the Scribner parcel is adjacent to 271-acres of working forestlands owned by WFLT on the Crooked River (Fogg, Oak Hill, and Watkins South parcels). Successful purchase of the Scribner parcel will provide protection for an additional 2,817 feet of Crooked River shoreline and 19.4 acres of wetlands and will, combined with the other parcels, protect 2 contiguous miles of river shoreline. Known by fly fishermen as a gem of southern Maine, the Crooked River supports native Brook Trout habitat and is the spawning ground for Sebago Lake's indigenous Landlocked Salmon.

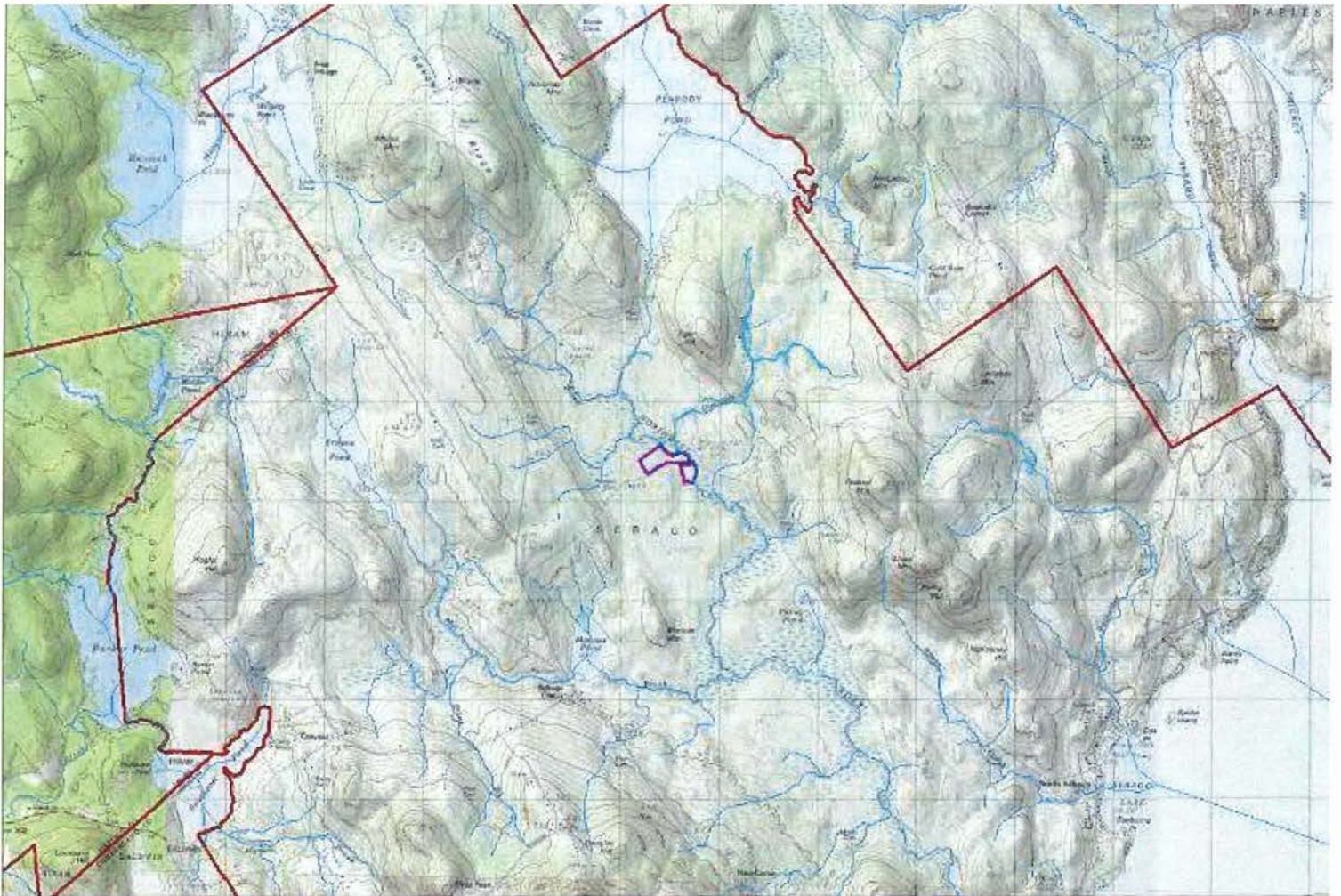


Project: Deering-Northwest River

Location: Sebago, Maine

Sponsor: Loon Echo Land Trust

Loon Echo Land Trust proposes to permanently protect wetland and upland forest habitat in a Beginning with Habitat Focus Area (Perley Pond Peatland). The project consists of fee acquisition of 2 parcels totaling approximately 22 acres along the Northwest River which includes a total of approximately 8.5 acres of freshwater wetlands. The parcels contain mapped Inland Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat, wild brook trout habitat, and is supported by the Town of Sebago and the Portland Water District.



Project: Eliot- Wildlife/Reptile Passage Structure-Route 236

Location: Eliot, Maine

Sponsor: Maine Department of Transportation

The project has been developed cooperatively with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) and with support of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The project is located on a high volume highway, Route 236, in Eliot between the Berwick area and Kittery and the Interstate. The highway bisects a large wetland block. The east side of the highway abuts a wetland parcel owned by the Goransson family farm that has an agriculture easement held by The Great Works Regional Land Trust. The parcel is known as Bondgarden South. Parts of the parcel are hayed, but the area in the abutting the crossing is not. The west side is owned by a private trust and is also a wet meadow open emergent Wetland of Special Significance. This Project is Part 2 of a two part effort. Part 1, an animal exclusion fence, was constructed along an adjacent 1800-foot-long section of Route 236 in August of 2019. The fence begins approximately 400 feet north of this projects culvert location and extends southerly about 1800 feet. The fence was installed to prevent turtles from entering onto the roadway. The fence will guide the turtles and other wildlife into the future crossing structure and let them cross from one side to the other separated from vehicles. Part 2, the proposed project, will replace an existing 36-inch culvert on Route 236 with an 8 foot wide by 6 foot high structure designed for use by Blanding's turtle, and spotted turtle, as well as other small wildlife. This structure will carry water but will have dry banks along the side to accommodate terrestrial use. There will be 4 feet of space above the substrate to create an open environment. The new crossing is an integral component of the effort to improve and enhance the wetlands use by many wildlife species and is needed so that the population is not separated by the fence from usable nearby habitat.



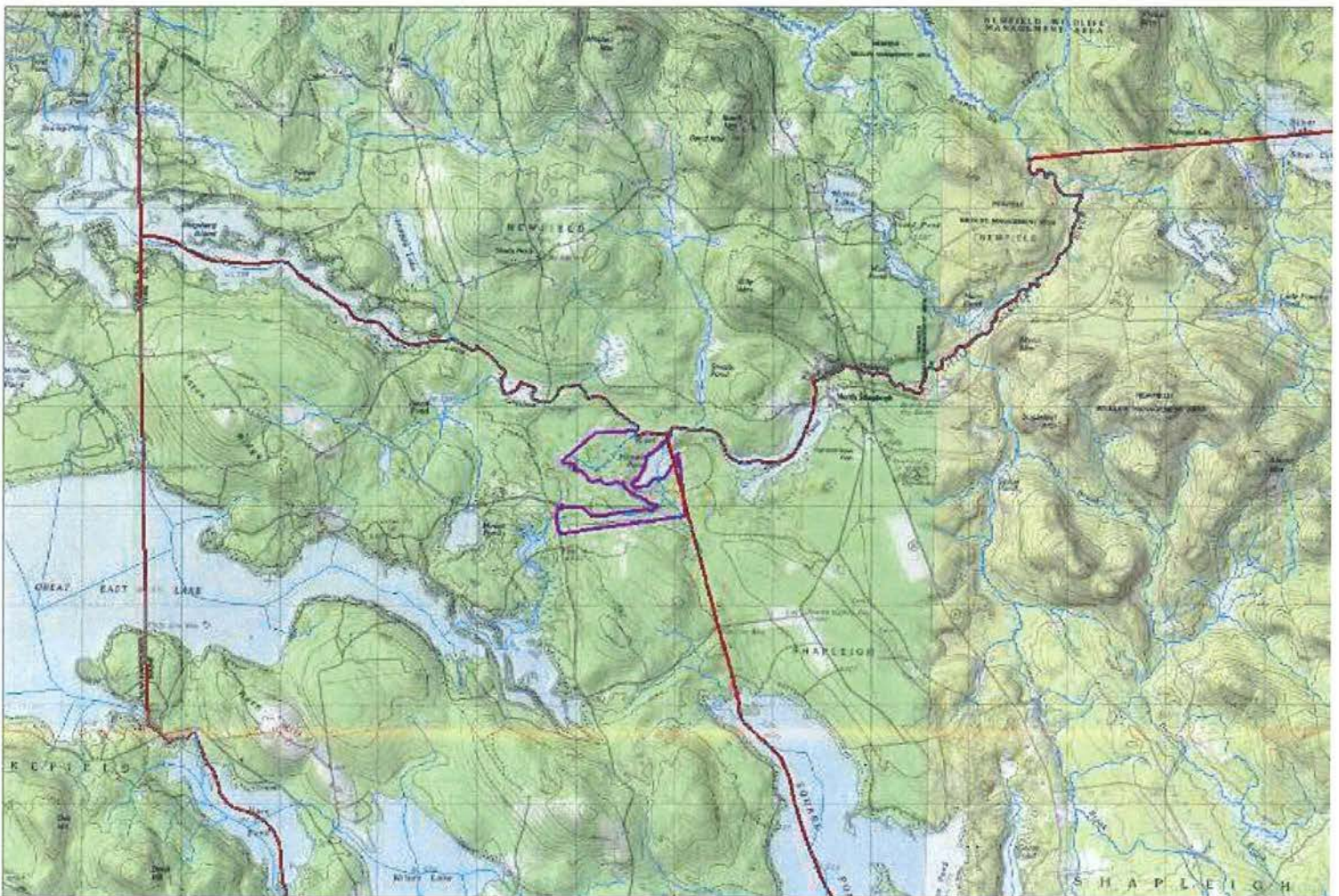
Project: Hansen Pond Restoration Sites

Location: Acton, ME

Sponsor: Three Rivers Land Trust

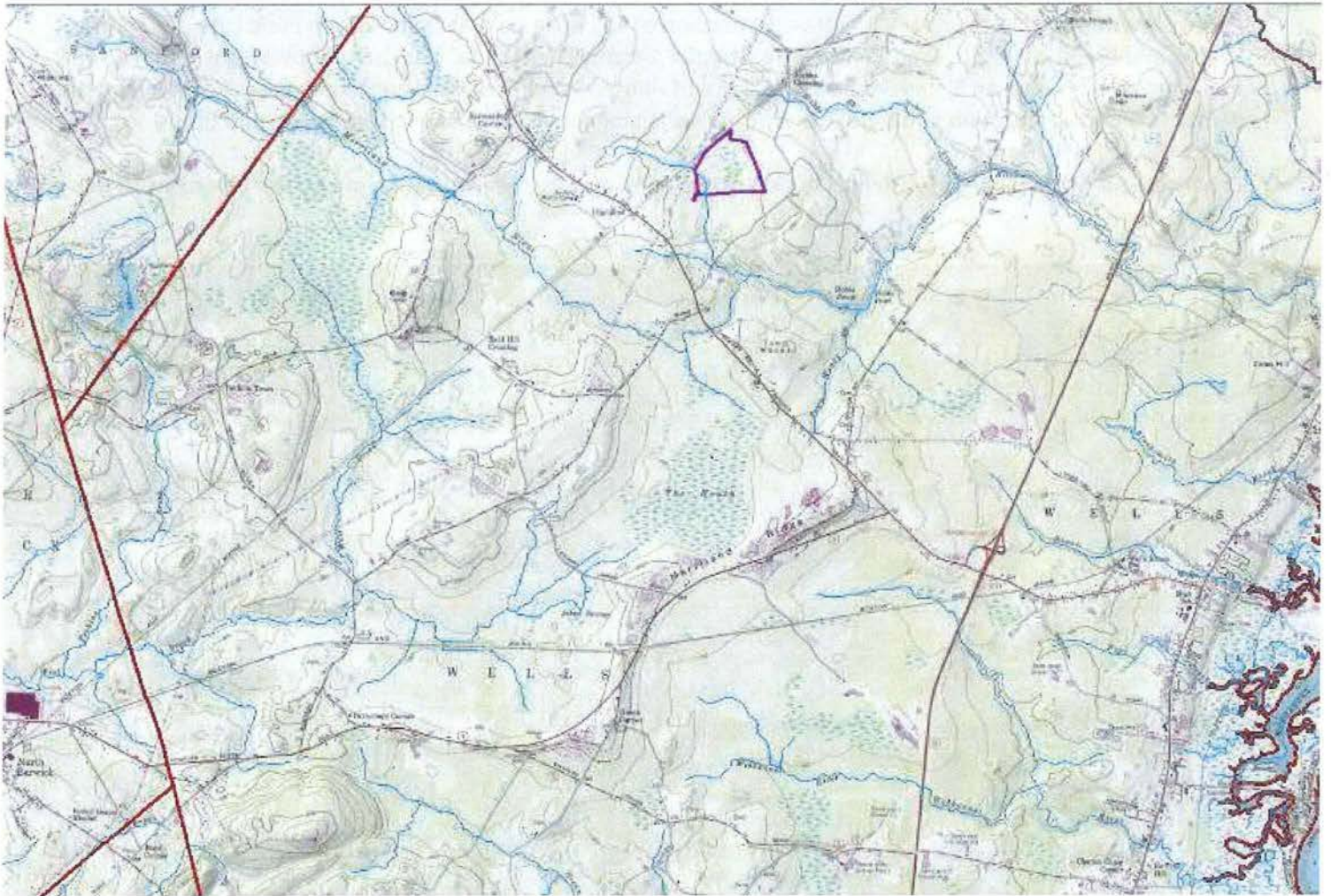
The Three Rivers Land Trust (Three Rivers) acquired the 274-acre Hansen Pond property with MNRCP funding in 2018, and has been pursuing two identified restoration projects on the property. Three Rivers proposes four other sites where restoration and enhancement activities could improve or safeguard the wetlands present:

- Restoration 1: Removal of a second culvert on the northern logging road to restore wetland flow.
- Restoration 2: Restoration of natural wetland flow through a logging road crossing, where the natural wetland area has been narrowed significantly by fill material.
- Enhancement (Rehabilitation) 1: Vegetative restoration of an impacted area near Hansen Pond (site of a former shelter and firepit). This site used to have a substantial A-frame shelter that was used for overnight camping. The impacted area is between 5' and 50' from the shore of Hansen Pond. Proposed enhancement will consist of native plantings and the relocation of natural woody debris and stone, to restore native vegetation, and thus discourage use of the site as recreation space.
- Enhancement (Rehabilitation) 2: Rehabilitation of impacted area by the installation of boulder blockades to prevent ATV access.



Project: Kennebunk Plains-Fenderson Connector
Location: Wells, Maine
Sponsor: Town of Wells Conservation Commission

The Town of Wells proposes to protect 77 acres of forested uplands and wetlands and remove a barrier to brook trout passage. The project is located near the Kennebunk Plains/Wells Barrens Beginning with Habitat Focus Area and adjacent to additional town-owned conservation land. The parcel contains approximately 50 acres of forested wetlands, a stream, and a potential vernal pool. The Town of Wells well own the property and has stewardship funds dedicated in the Town budget for land management.

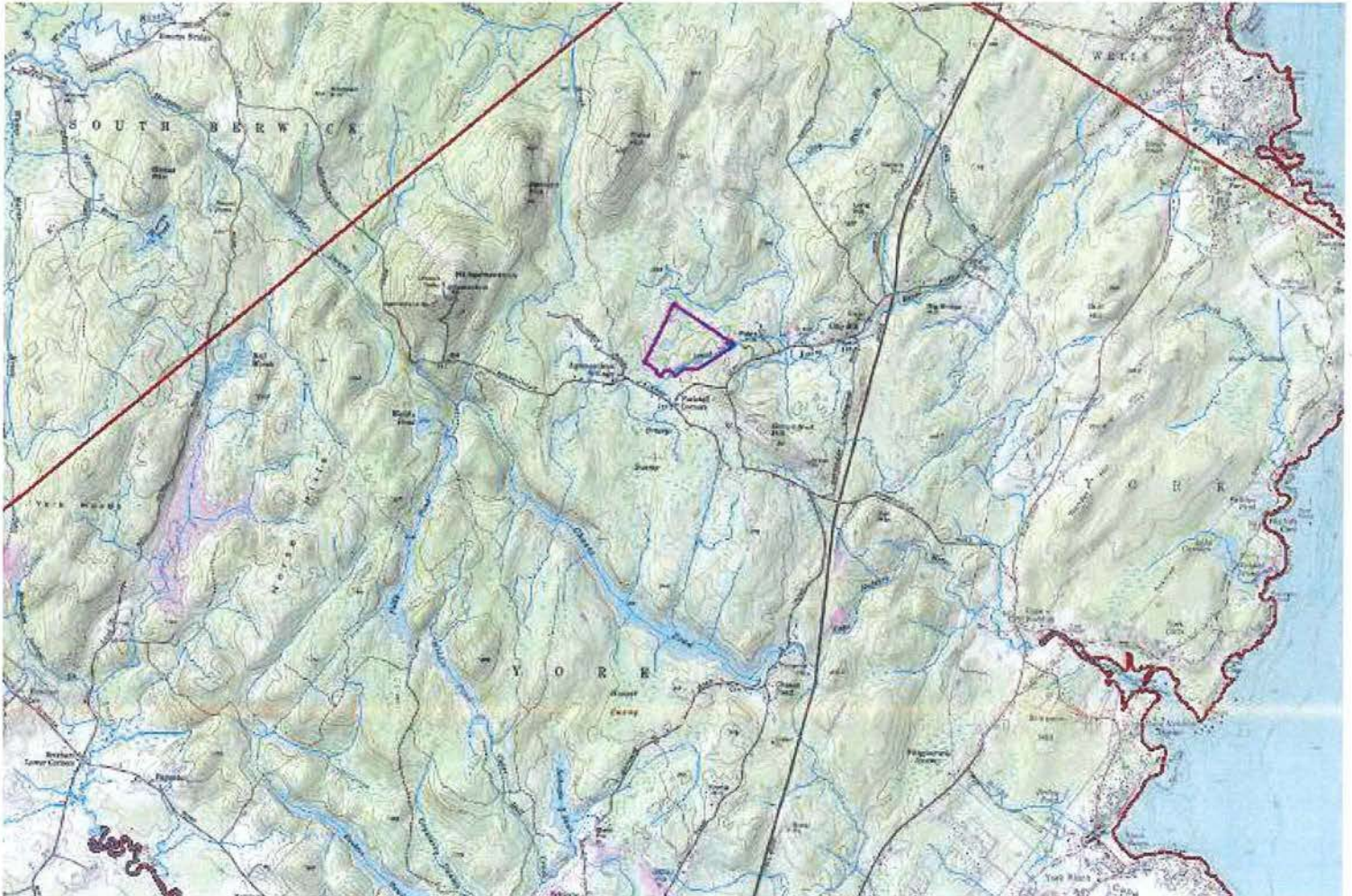


Project: Knight Land

Location: York, Maine

Sponsor: York Land Trust

The 86-acre Knight property consists of two land parcels (both owned by same owners) on each side of Josias Brook. The property will abut an approved subdivision to the southeast. To the west, it abuts conservation land owned by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIF&W) and York Land Trust and is proximal to thousands of acres of conservation land in the Mt. Agamenticus region. It is within a 5,541-acre unfragmented block of forest and the Mt. Agamenticus Beginning with Habitat Focus Area of Statewide Ecological Significance and near MDIF&W's Mt. Agamenticus Management Area. The property is mostly forested but contains 31 acres of high value forested wetlands including some shrub-scrub, a perennial stream (Josias Brook), several ephemeral drainages and potential vernal pools. The wetlands are ranked High Value for production export, wildlife habitat, uniqueness/heritage and endangered species habitat. The forest is part of a rare Central Hardwoods Oak Forest Ecosystem, which has only one location in the state. The property supports rare plants including Sweet Pepperbush *Clethra alifolia* (S2), and Chestnut Oak *Quercus Montana* (S1) and rare turtles. A Blanding's turtle was observed on the property by Derek Yorks, a wildlife biologist from MDIF&W in 2016. MDIF&W Fisheries Biologist, Brian Lewis documented 23 brook trout in Josias Brook in July 2019 just downstream from the property. A selective timber harvest took place within the last ten years. No clear signs of erosion or long-term impact detected, however some trees were removed from edge of some wetlands.

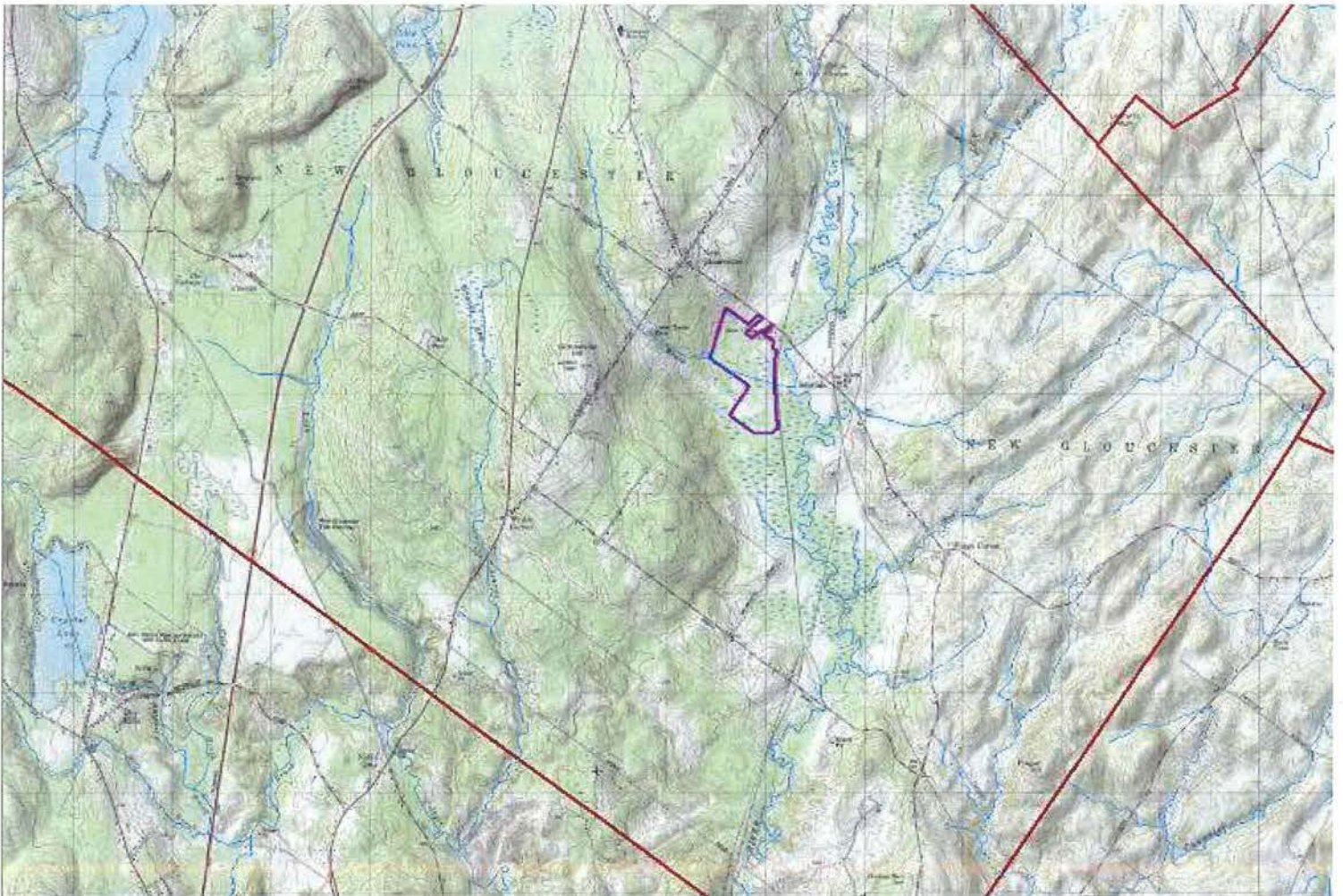


Project: Lower Gloucester Village & Intervale Project: MNRCP Subparcel

Location: New Gloucester, Maine

Sponsor: Royal River Conservation Trust

New Gloucester's Intervale – on the edge of Lower Gloucester Village –includes a 1,215-acre wetland complex providing some of the Royal River watershed's most valuable ecology, including moderate value Inland Wading Bird & Wildlife habitat along the banks of the Royal River surrounded by large unfragmented forested blocks and protected farmland. Hundreds of acres of the Intervale have already been conserved by various land trusts, Maine DIFW, Maine DEP, and others. The Royal River Conservation Trust (RRCT) proposes to acquire 180 acres from one landowner for RRCT fee simple conservation ownership, of which roughly 136 acres (100 acres of wetland and 36 acres of upland) are designated for MNRCP funding to be managed for habitat, as an expansion or RRCT's existing adjacent Intervale Preserve. The remaining 44 acres of the 180 acre parcel will be owned by RRCT and Gray New Gloucester Little League (GNGLL) to conserve other adjacent recreation and conservation values, with no MNRCP funding.

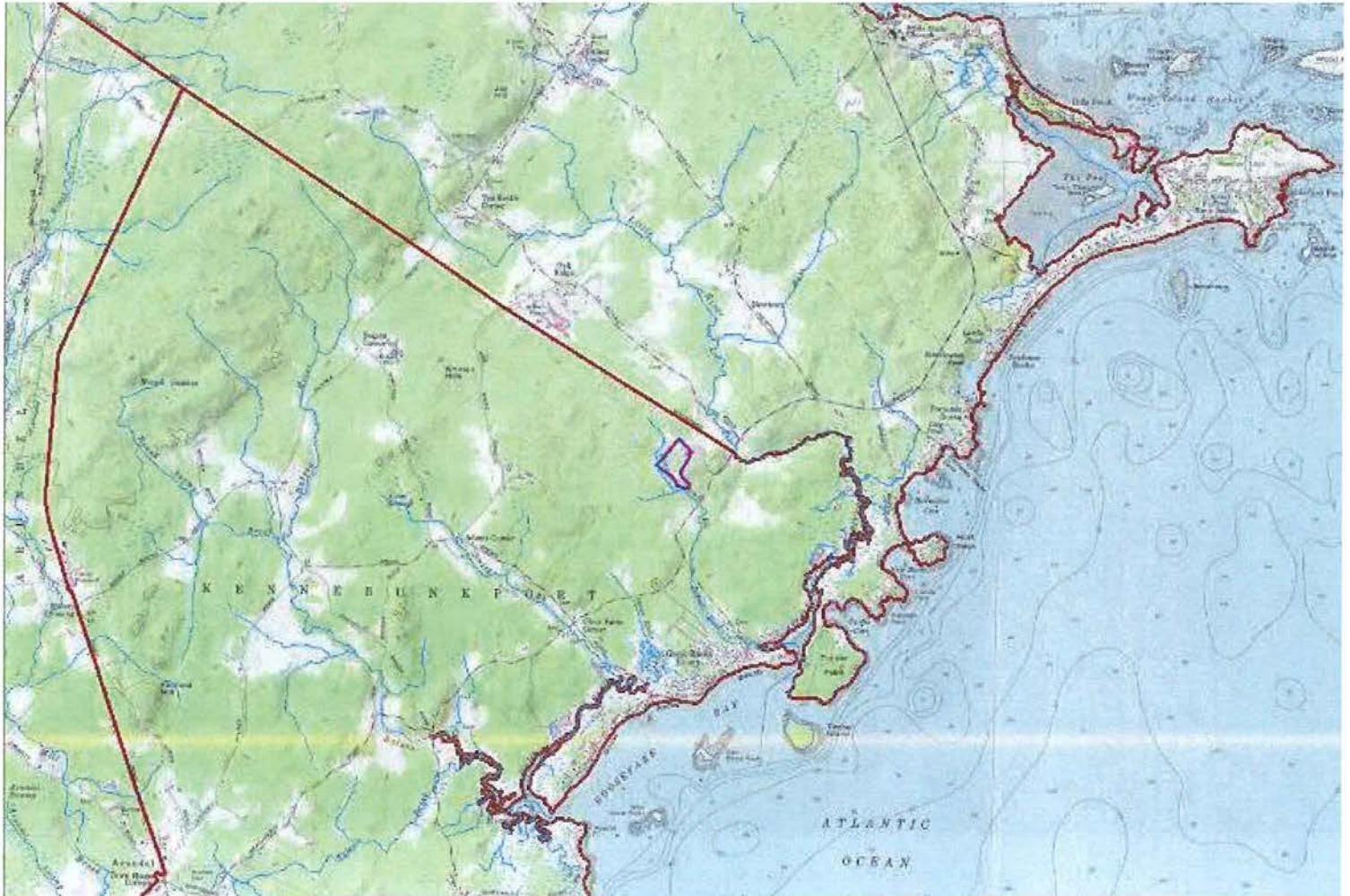


Project: Meadow Woods Preserve Restoration

Location: Kennebunkport, Maine

Sponsor: Kennebunkport Conservation Trust

In October 2018, the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust (Trust) bought a 48.5-acre parcel of land (the “Bryant Property”) for \$799,000. Located along the Kennebunkport and Biddeford town border, this property will soon be known as the Meadow Woods Preserve. The parcel falls within a 16,000-acre Kennebunkport-Biddeford Vernal Pool complex, designated by the state as a Focus Area of statewide ecological importance. On the Meadow Woods Preserve, the Trust has measured over three acres of wetland habitat threatened by various human impacts including, but not limited to, the creation of a gravel pit, dairy farming, and off-road equipment tearing through wetland habitats. The Trust proposes restoration techniques to improve local ecosystem functions, create a vital supporting habitat for vernal pools within 750 feet, remove culverts, improve natural water movement, and connect the wetlands to over 300 continuous acres of conservation land. The Trust plans to work with local environmental consultants to excavate and till an 8-inch depth of land, then plant a mix of wetland perennials and wildflowers to create an upper and lower wet meadow. The plants we choose would be based on other thriving native plants found in adjacent wetlands. Pond creation will involve excavation, lining, and filling the pond, with potential for future stocking. The plan also includes the removal of unnatural metal drainage pipes and other construction debris from the surrounding existing wetland habitats to let the wetlands reclaim the land.

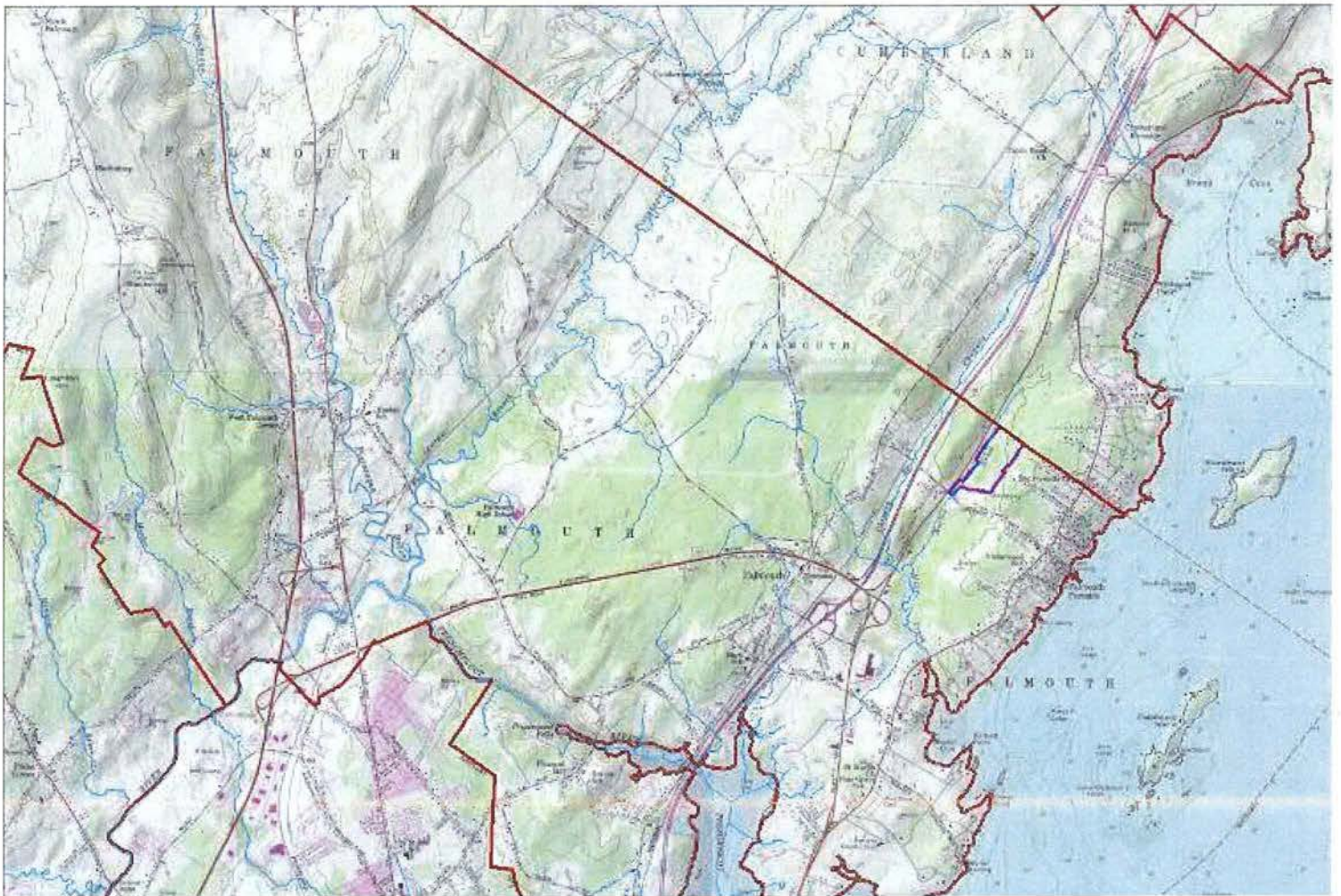


Project: Norton Brook to Mill Creek Conservation Corridor, Phase I

Location: Falmouth, Maine

Sponsor: Falmouth Land Trust

The Falmouth Land Trust seeks to protect this 52-acre property through a fee acquisition using MNRCP funds to leverage other funding. The 52-acre Hinks property has been on the market for several years and is currently listed at \$1.9 million as a development site for a business park or commercial use. The property is one of a handful of 50+ acre undeveloped blocks of land remaining in Falmouth and is located in the town's "Growth Area" where future development will intensify as the Rt. 1 corridor builds out. Properties of this size have been identified as a priority in the recently drafted Greening of Falmouth 2.0 plan which is the town's new open space plan. NWI maps indicate the site is approximately 98% wetland, however field surveys indicate that there is less wetland on the site. In addition, the property contains a riparian corridor on Norton Brook. Norton Brook is a tributary to Mill Creek which enters Casco Bay at Mussel Cove. The upland forest is part of a larger contiguous block of forest that has habitat for mammals including New England Cottontail (threatened species) as mapped on Rare and Threatened species map. A plant survey indicated the presence of variable sedge, identified by the Maine Natural Areas Program.



Project: Old Boston Farm

Location: Ogunquit, Maine

Sponsor: Great Works Regional Land Trust

Great Works Regional Land Trust (GWRLT) proposes fee simple purchase of 157 acres of natural lands with 2,050 feet of frontage on the Ogunquit River, forested and scrub shrub wetlands, and ponds, to be managed as a preserve by GWRLT. The 'Old Boston Farm' (now a woodland, not a farm) will be added to the suite of conservation lands owned and managed by GWRLT. The project contains approximately 35 acres of wetlands, rare plants, habitat for rare species, and 6 potential vernal pools. The project is located within the Mt. Agamenticus Beginning with Habitat Focus Area. This project lies about 6 miles from a project with major wetland impacts, the new Maine Turnpike Toll Plaza in York. The parcel is under high threat of development.



Project: Pump Box Brook I - Coley Trafton

Location: Shapleigh, Maine

Sponsor: Three Rivers Land Trust

Three Rivers Land Trust proposes to use MNRCP funds to protect the Coley Trafton property, a 78-acre forested property along a discontinued part of the Coley Trafton Rd. It protects 1,270' of Pump Box Brook, and 660' of one of the Brook's tributaries. There is a great blue heron rookery located within an emergent freshwater marsh, and wetlands along the edges of the Brook. The property is within the Mousam River Watershed, and Pump Box Brook feeds to that water body. The Coley Trafton property is in part a former farm, with evidence of field management in the uplands, and one old road. The forests adjacent to the brook are seasonally wet in areas and seem to have potential as vernal pool habitat. One potential vernal pool was identified this fall. Spotted salamander egg masses were noted in a slow-water area of the brook's wetlands during a visit on 4/27/19. Beaver activity and well-formed rookery nests were also observed at that visit. Although the property was cut heavily about 30 years ago by the previous owner (described by the current owner as a clearcut), there are no known opportunities for restoration. There are two main resource priorities in this acquisition: protection of the extensive wetland area mapped and functioning as Inland Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat, and protection of the Pump Box Brook watershed, which serves as critical water quality buffer for Mousam Lake.

