



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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Comment Period Begins: December 6, 2022

Comment Period Ends: January 6, 2022

File Number: NAE-2005-01143

In Reply Refer To: Lorin Kinney

Phone: (843) 637-9217

E-mail: lorin.r.kinney@usace.army.mil

SUBJECT: This notice announces a request to modify the Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program In-Lieu Fee ("ILF") Program Instrument for the addition of 13 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>

Thirteen 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), 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 Maine ILF Program accrued funds from the Corps and The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) permitted impacts in 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 with associated upland buffers in the State of Maine.

PURPOSE: The 13 proposed projects would provide compensatory wetland and stream mitigation for permitted impacts to the following Service Areas: Central and Eastern Lowlands, Central and Western Mountains, Downeast Maine, Central Interior and Midcoast, 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 the 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: 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.ops.usace.army.mil/ords/f?p=107:378:15350591353977::::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 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. 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 these projects may affect properties in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. Additional review and consultation to fulfil 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 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.

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.

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FILE NO. NAE-2005-01142

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; American Indian Tribes; and other interested parties 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. Lorin Kinney at (843) 637-9217, (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.

Taylor Bell

Taylor Bell
Mitigation Program Manager
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: _____

Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program

2022 Proposals

MNRCP Region	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Town	Total Cost	Funds Requested	Total Acres	Compensation Type
Central & Eastern Lowlands	Alder Stream Crosby Rd	Northeast Wilderness Trust	Atkinson	\$21,766	\$21,766	7.3, 2,280 lf	Restoration, Enhancement
Central & Eastern Lowlands	Alder Stream Levenseller Rd	Northeast Wilderness Trust, et al.	Atkinson	\$115,266	\$115,266	24, ~2 mi	Restoration, Enhancement
Central & Western Mountains	Buck's Ledge 2	Woodstock Conservation Commission	Woodstock	\$146,500	\$126,500	63	Preservation
Central & Western Mountains	Little Concord Pond Addition	Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands	Woodstock	\$267,476	\$185,000	176.46	Preservation
Central & Western Mountains	Wesserunsett Inlet	Somerset Woods Trustees	Madison	\$99,000	\$80,000	52.3	Preservation
Central Interior & Midcoast	Meadow Brook Connector	Coastal Mountains Land Trust	Swanville	\$59,976	\$59,976	44	Preservation
Downeast Maine	Narraguagus Marsh Restoration	Downeast Salmon Federation	Columbia Falls	\$44,240	\$39,240	5	Enhancement
Southern Maine	Biddeford Pool	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Biddeford	\$233,415	\$219,565	53	Enhancement
Southern Maine	Fuller Farm Expansion	Scarborough Land Trust	Scarborough	\$239,591	\$118,000	7.8	Preservation
Southern Maine	Johnson Brook - Sisk Preserve	Kittery Land Trust, Inc.	Kittery and York	\$190,500	\$143,000	56	Preservation, Restoration, Enhancement
Southern Maine	Kezar Corridor Rolfe	Greater Lovell Land Trust	Lovell	\$59,800	\$30,000	30	Preservation
Southern Maine	Moose Pond Wetlands	Three Rivers Land Trust	Acton	\$201,000	\$191,000	44.8	Preservation
Southern Maine	Ogunquit Headwater Wetlands (3)	Great Works Regional Land Trust	South Berwick and York	\$330,000	\$310,000	51.5	Preservation

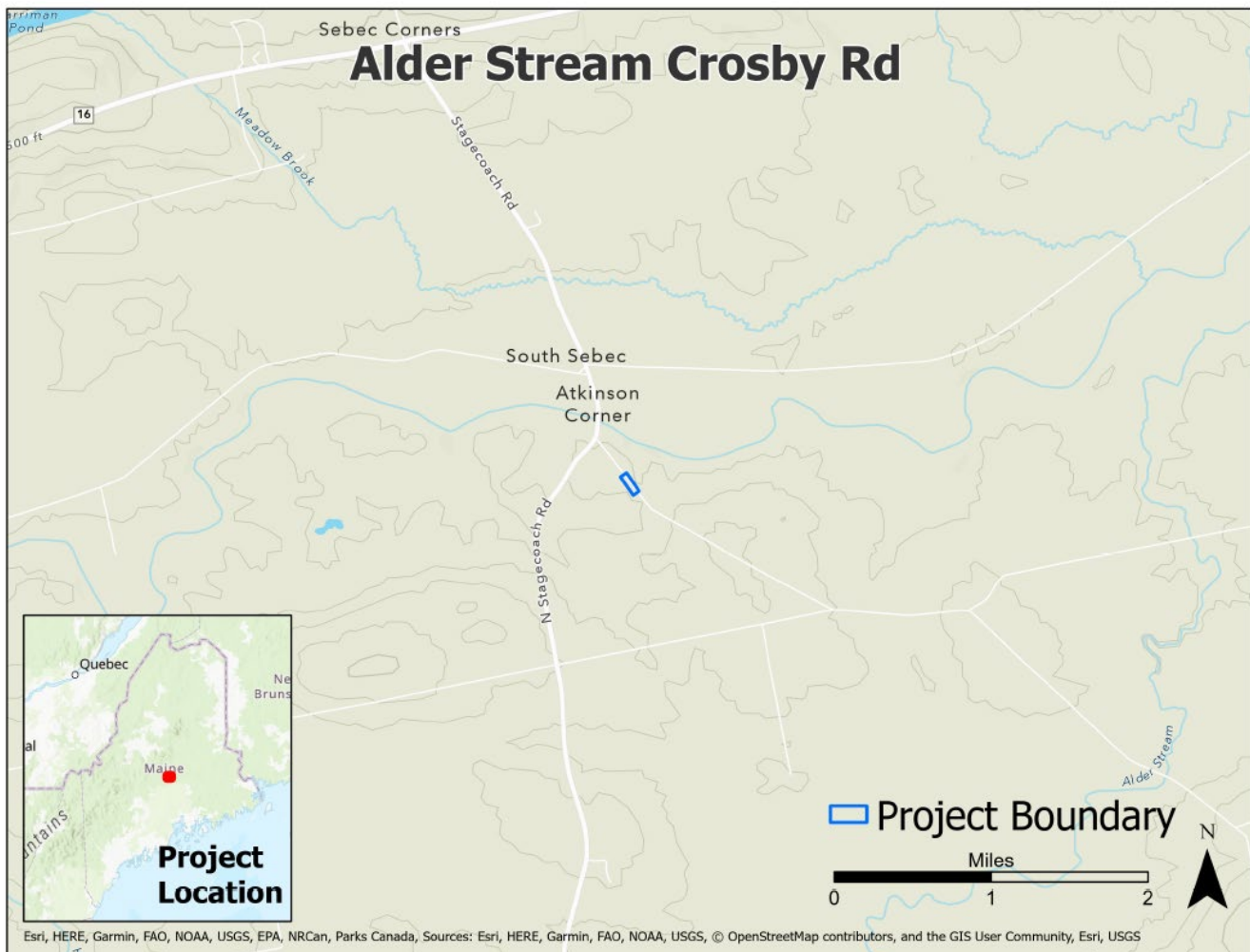
Central & Eastern Lowlands Region

Project: Alder Stream Crosby Rd

Applicant: Northeast Wilderness Trust (NEWT)

Location: Atkinson, Piscataquis County

Northeast Wilderness Trust (NEWT) seeks funding for the restoration of a stream crossing located on Crosby Road within their Alder Stream Wilderness Preserve (conserved in fee by NEWT). The roadbed at this crossing consists of sand and gravel fill and a culvert, which is now clogged and buried. The crossing spans approximately 600 feet across wetlands. Due to the poor condition of the crossing, it is subject to regular flooding and water flow is entirely restricted. The proposed project will remove the fill and culvert to restore hydrological connectivity between the upstream and downstream wetlands. The project is consistent with the overall conservation and stewardship goals for the Preserve and will result in the enhancement of ~7.3 acres of degraded freshwater emergent wetland habitats, promotion of hydrological connectivity on 2,280 feet of stream, and reduction of soil erosion and sedimentation. This will lead to improved water quality in the affected wetlands, downstream in an unnamed tributary of the Piscataquis River, and in the Piscataquis River. The site is in the Alder Stream Focus Area of Statewide Ecological Significance and is within a large Undeveloped Habitat Block. Further, the site sits in a matrix of over 25,000 acres of conserved lands that includes the 7,292-acre Preserve as well as several different public and private conservation holdings and easements. Wood turtles, a Species of Special Concern in Maine, are known from the area.

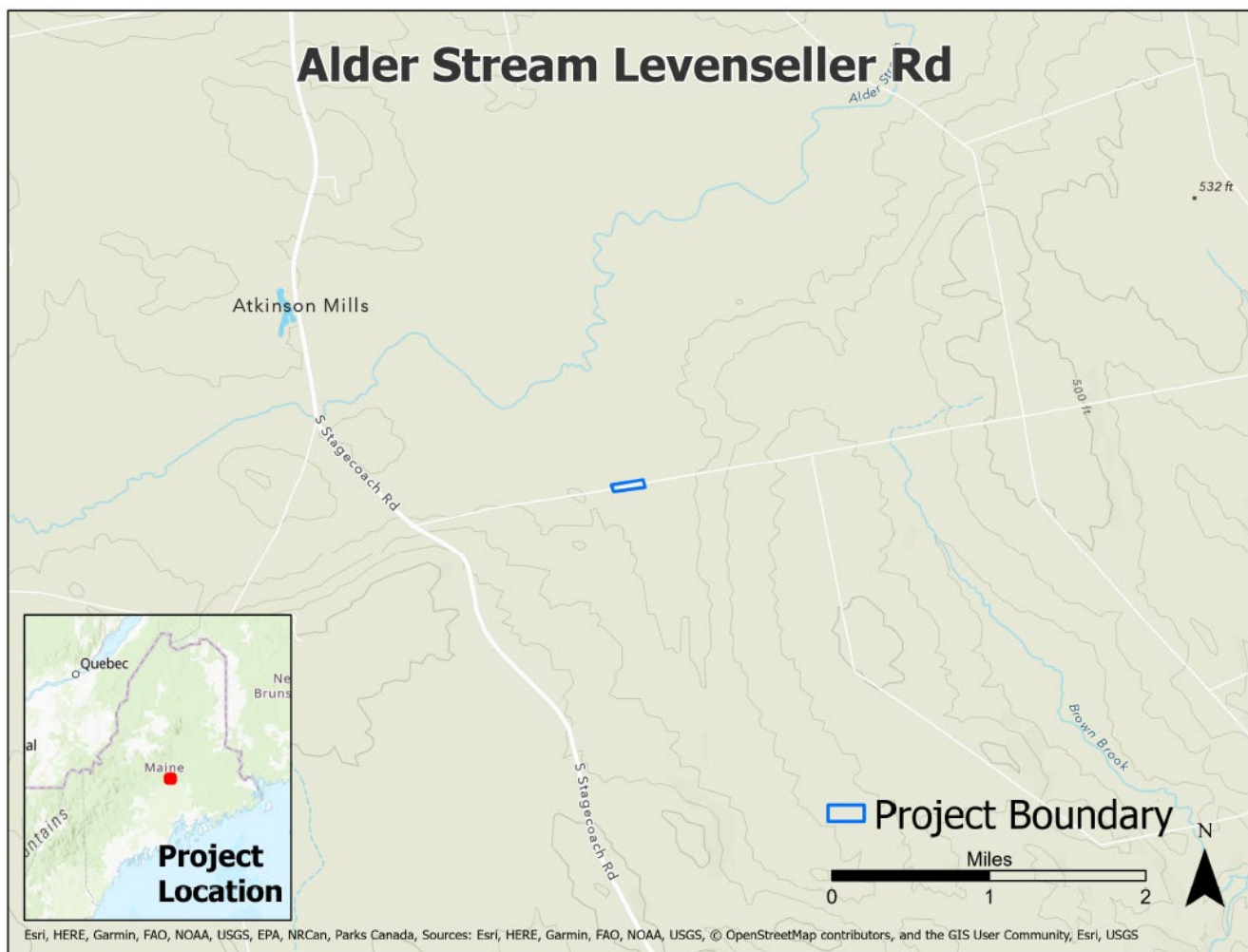


Project: Alder Stream Levenseller Rd

Applicant: Northeast Wilderness Trust (NEWT), et al.

Location: Atkinson, Piscataquis County

The proposed project will improve an existing stream/wetland crossing on Levenseller Stream along the Levenseller Road within the Alder Stream Wilderness Preserve (conserved in fee by NEWT). The project will result in improved functions and values for 24 acres of wetland and 2 miles of stream. The stream and wetlands are mapped as a large, exemplary Unpatterned Fen Ecosystem by the Maine Natural Areas Program. The road includes a partially collapsed bridge and a 600-foot-long wetland crossing which is often flooded. A significant portion of the stream's baseflow flows across the roadbed because of the partially collapsed bridge and the road fill. The road fill also acts as a dam, causing ponding upstream and the seasonal dewatering of a significant portion of the fen downstream. The proposed project will replace the failed bridge with a new bridge, using concrete waste blocks as abutments, steel beams to span the opening (~22') and wooden decking over the steel beams. The wetland crossing will be reconstructed as "rock sandwich" permeable roadbed with two large (~100 long each) spillways. The spillways will be trapezoidal with flat bottoms and lined with crushed rocks to prevent erosion. The intent is to restore as much as is practical of the original hydraulic condition of the Unpatterned Fen. The filling of the roadbed and subsequent erosion has led to the development of berms of fill (higher than the existing roadbed) upslope and downslope; as much of this material will be removed as is practical. The site is in the Alder Stream Focus Area of Statewide Ecological Significance and is within a large Undeveloped Habitat Block. Further, the site sits in a matrix of over 25,000 acres of conserved lands. Wood turtle, a Species of Special Concern in Maine, are known from the area, and Levenseller Stream is mapped Wild Brook Trout Habitat.



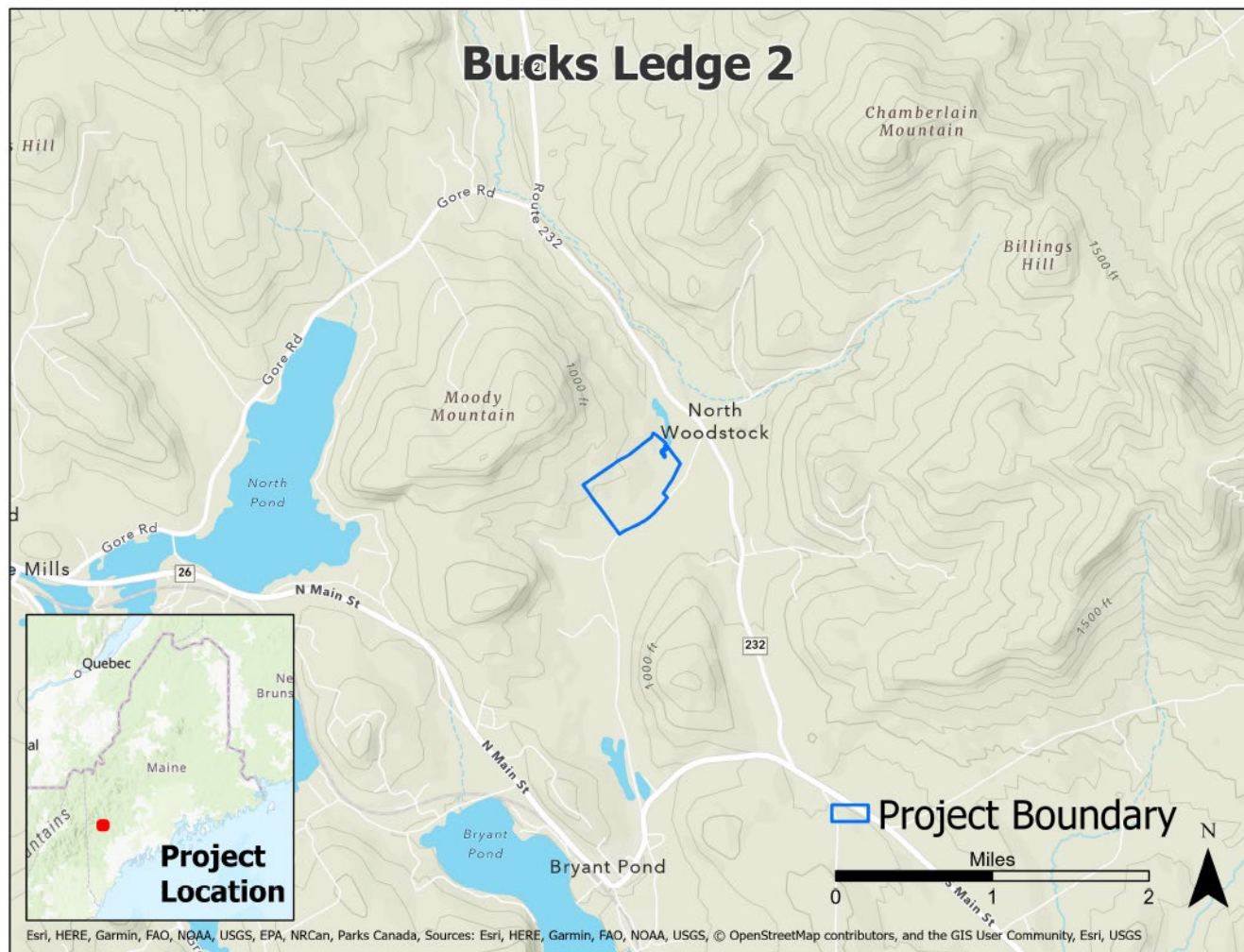
Central & Western Mountains Region

Project: Buck's Ledge 2

Applicant: Woodstock Conservation Commission

Location: Woodstock, Oxford County

The Woodstock Conservation Commission (WCC) will protect through fee acquisition an ~67-acre parcel (Buck's Ledge 2) that connects directly to the larger, 645-acre Buck's Ledge Community Forest (BLCF) already conserved to the north and west. The property was owned by a landowner who recently passed away; it's extremely likely that the heirs will soon sell the property unless conservation can be negotiated. A major threat to this property is excessive logging, though the property also has very high development potential; a nearby property has recently been developed with a large home and dock extending through a wetland to access North Pond. The project will protect 13.5 acres of scrub-shrub and forested wetlands, 2,990 feet along Meadow Brook (which is mapped as Wild Brook Trout Habitat), and buffering uplands. The wetlands around the Brook are mapped as moderate value Inland Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat (~24 acres). A State-threatened plant, spotted wintergreen, is documented on the site. The parcel is part of a 1,354-acre Undeveloped Habitat Block and will connect the upland forest to the low brook wetlands, from Moody Mountain (within the BLCF) to Meadow Brook. The Meadow Brook valley also contains a sand and gravel aquifer mapped by the Maine Geological Survey. The WCC will manage the property as an addition to the adjacent BLCF, and there will be no timber harvest on the Buck's Ledge 2 property.

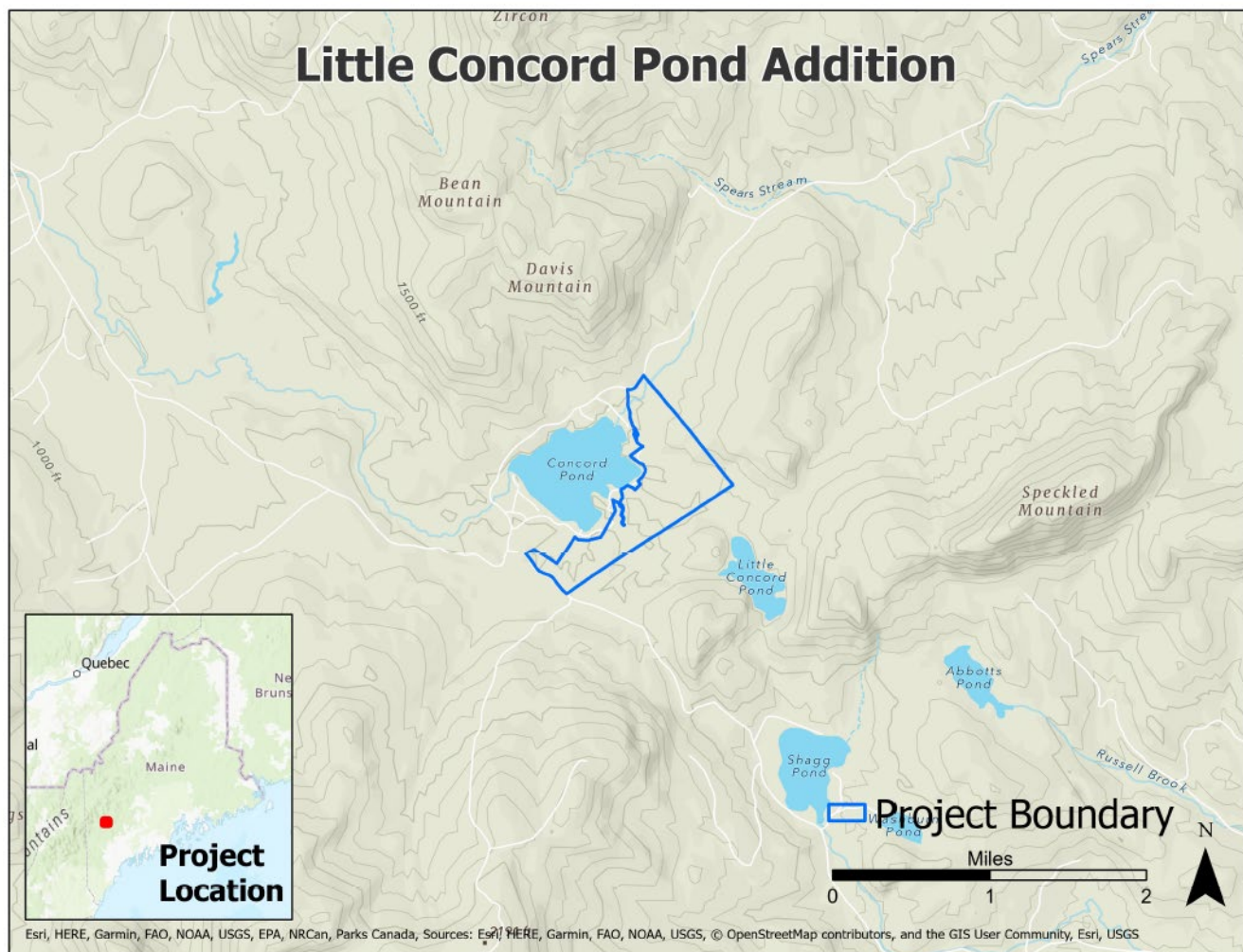


Project: Little Concord Pond Addition

Applicant: Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands

Location: Woodstock, Oxford County

The Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) proposes to protect by fee acquisition an ~176-acre property that abuts Little Concord Pond State Park and Mahoosuc Land Trust's Bear Paw conservation easement. Protection of this property will preserve significant wetlands, a Significant Vernal Pool, riparian habitat, and undeveloped upland forest. The property has ~38 acres of freshwater forested, scrub-shrub, and emergent wetlands, 4,981' of perennial and intermittent streams, 1 known Significant Vernal Pool and 1 potential vernal pool (with their Critical Terrestrial Habitat), a small amount of frontage on Concord Pond, and buffering uplands. The site is part of a large Undeveloped Habitat Block and includes most of four tributaries to Concord Pond, each of which is mapped as containing Wild Brook Trout Habitat. Additional parcelization and residential development is likely without conservation, especially since the access road is already maintained to accommodate residential vehicles. Significant development is already in place on Concord Pond. The access road from the north provides access to existing camp lots and would easily facilitate development of the property's uplands – which could be cleared to have a scenic view of the pond. Acquisition of the property by BPL will prevent the degradation of its wetlands and waters from subdivision, development, and intensive harvesting. The property will be managed for wildlife habitat, water quality protection, low-impact recreation, and sustainable timber harvest/forest management. Approximately 85 acres will be subject to timber harvest following all MNRCP Riparian Habitat Management guidelines.

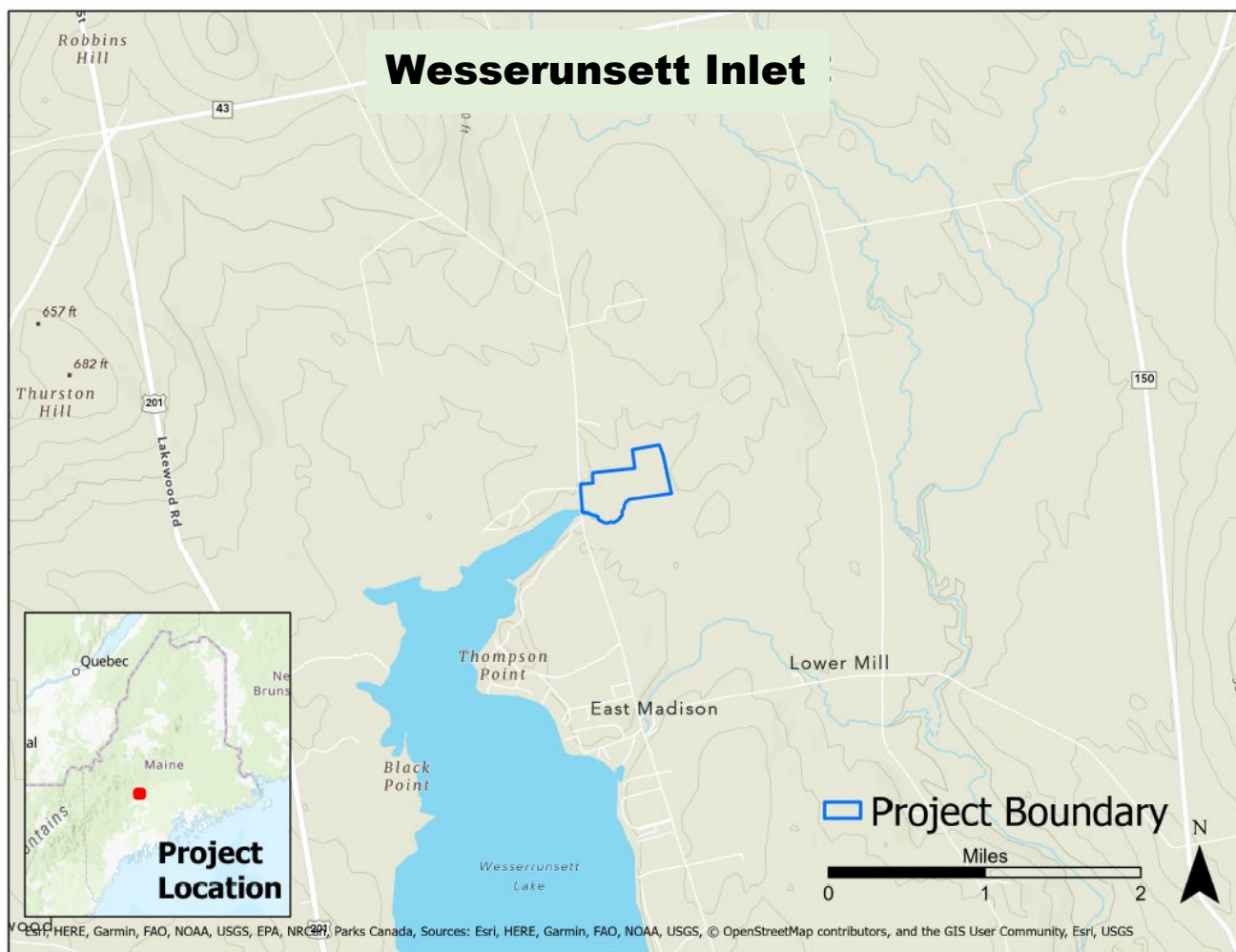


Project: Wesserunsett Inlet

Applicant: Somerset Woods Trustees

Location: Madison, Somerset County

Somerset Woods Trustees (SWT) will purchase in fee for permanent conservation ownership the 52-acre Wesserunsett Inlet parcel to preserve its diversity of wetlands and upland buffer. The property has ~38 acres of freshwater forested, scrub-shrub, emergent, and lacustrine wetlands, 1,560' of frontage on Wesserunsett Stream and other perennial streams that ultimately flow into Wesserunsett Lake, and buffering uplands. The streams are mapped as Wild Brook Trout Habitat. The parcel is part of a 1,900-acre Undeveloped Habitat Block. The site was at risk of being sold for residential development with significant harm to its sensitive wetlands, prior to being bought by a temporary conservation-friendly owner who has agreed to hold the land until SWT can raise the funds to acquire it. The upland acreage and road frontage could support a minimum of two residential lots, with the potential for an additional lot if a developer successfully requested a change in zoning. The Town has a history of granting such requests, including on a parcel directly across the road. In addition to residential development, the property's wetlands are at risk from timber harvests in the upland and/or forested wetlands. Most of the acreage was enrolled in the Tree Growth Program by the prior owner, indicating a high probability of a harvest that would negatively impact the site's natural resource values. The parcel is the first of several planned acquisitions to preserve the wetland complex and establish connectivity of conserved lands in a partnership with Lake Wesserunsett Association.



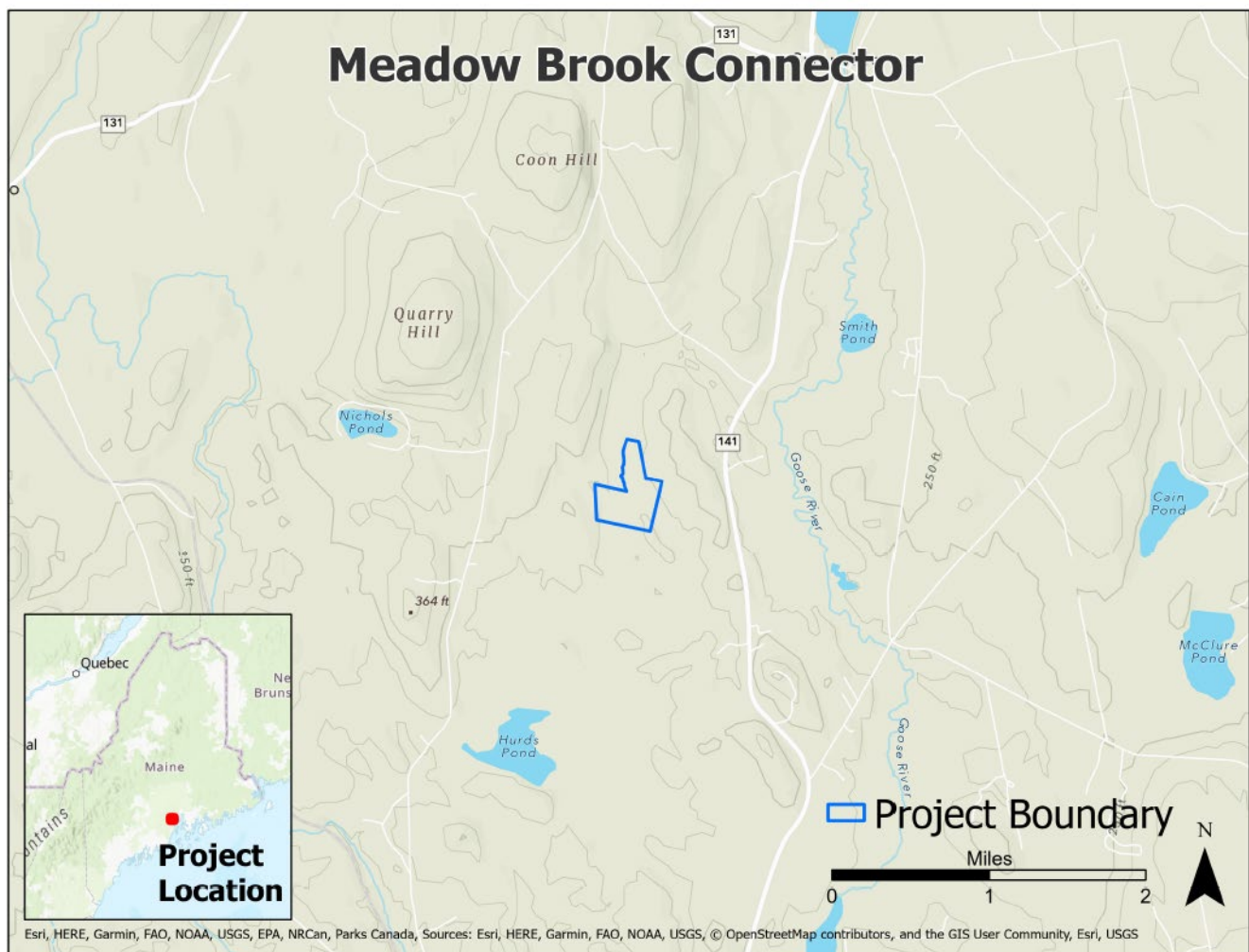
Central Interior & Midcoast Region

Project: Meadow Brook Connector

Applicant: Coastal Mountains Land Trust

Location: Swanville, Waldo County

Coastal Mountains Land Trust (CMLT) will permanently conserve 44 acres through fee acquisition of a portion of a property that lies directly between two previously conserved parcels along Meadow Brook, at the northern end of Coastal Mountains Land Trust's Hurds Pond Focus Area. The project is part of a broad effort in partnership with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) to expand conservation around Hurds Pond, connecting to MDIFW's existing 334-acre Hurds Pond Wildlife Management Area to the south. To date, 784 acres have been conserved in this area, and Coastal Mountains Land Trust and MDIFW continue to reach out to other landowners to conserve additional acreage. The project area is part of a large Undeveloped Habitat Block and includes approximately: 17 acres of freshwater emergent and forested wetlands, 33 acres of Inland Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat, 3,504 feet of frontage along Meadow Brook and Sucker Brook, and 27 acres of buffering uplands. The Brooks are mapped as Wild Brook Trout Habitat. The current landowners recently inherited the property from their father, and are exploring all options for the property, including development and timber harvest. There is some timber value on the property, but CMLT will offer an equivalent value for the land to compensate for the loss in potential revenue from timber sales. An adjacent property has been developed into a tiny house village, so there is development pressure in addition to the forestry opportunities on the property.



Downeast Maine Region

Project: Narraguagus Marsh Restoration

Applicant: Downeast Salmon Federation

Location: Columbia Falls, Washington County

The Narraguagus Marsh Restoration project will encompass ~5 acres of *Spartina* saltmarsh along the Narraguagus River. The project will be located on Downeast Salmon Federation (DSF) land under permanent conservation protection. A legacy embankment system from historic agricultural practices runs north-south along the Narraguagus River, extending beyond the parcel boundary. Six shallow, narrow excavated channels (roughly 285 feet long and spaced 50 feet apart) cross the marsh in an east-west direction, intersecting a deep (2-4 foot) excavated channel alongside the embankment. This eventually empties into the tidal channel beyond the parcel boundary. Two additional shallow excavated channels on the southern edge of the property connect to a ditched drainage system beyond the parcel boundary. The legacy embankment and ditching system is disrupting the natural hydrological regime. Ponding is occurring on the marsh surface at an adjacent parcel, which may be headed toward a “mega-pool” trajectory. DSF proposes working with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s Salt Marsh Adaptation & Resiliency Team (SMARTeam), a private contractor, and the Downeast Restoration Field Team to develop and implement restoration design that will (1) repair and revegetate the shallow excavated channels, and (2) restore the natural marsh hydrology, which will increase the preserved parcel’s resiliency to subsidence. The site is part of a mapped rare plant community (Salt-hay Saltmarsh), is part of the Pleasant River Focus Area of Statewide Ecological Significance, and includes ~4 acres of Tidal Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat. The Narraguagus River is mapped Wild Brook Trout Habitat.



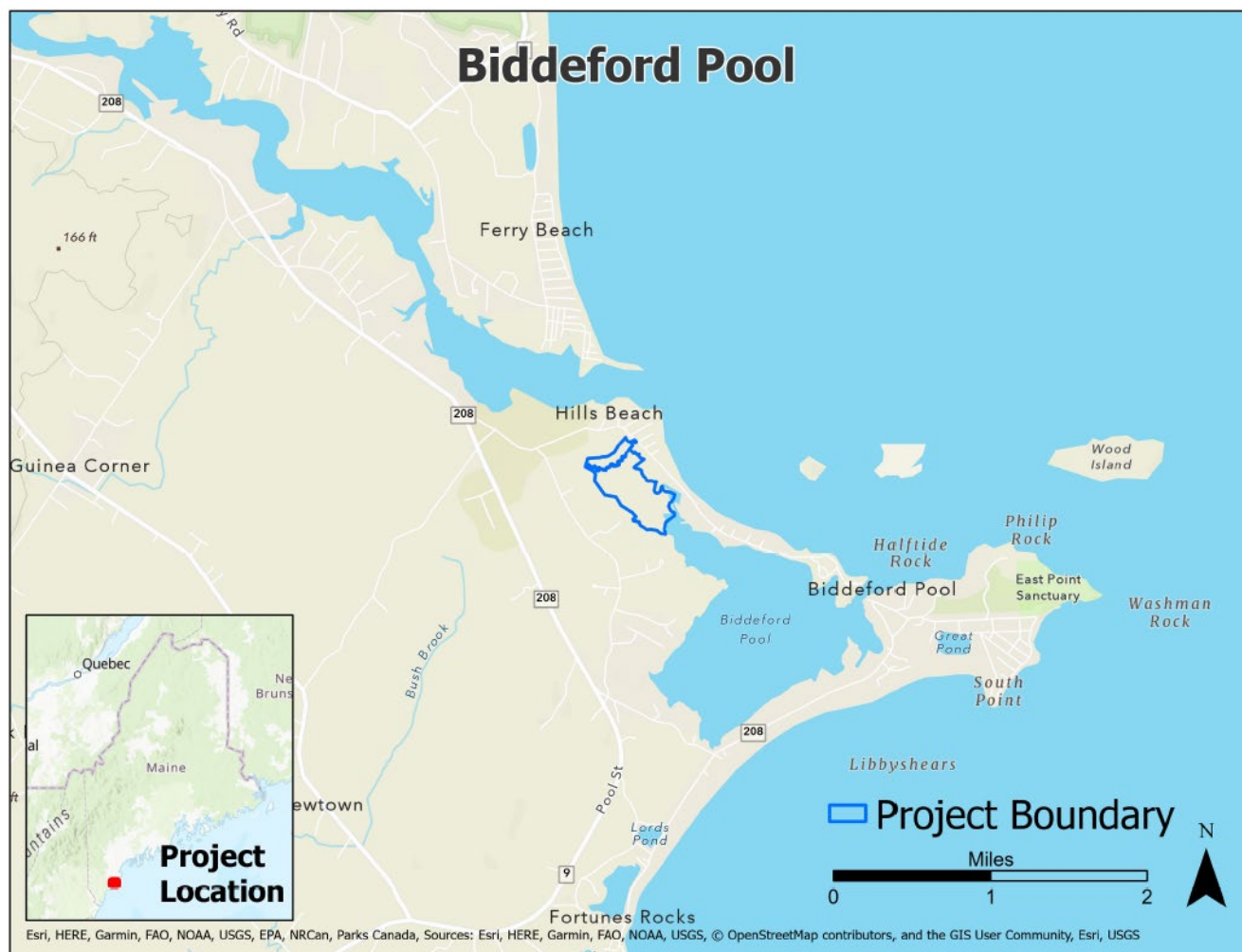
Southern Maine Region

Project: Biddeford Pool

Applicant: US Fish and Wildlife Service

Location: Biddeford, York County

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will enhance ~52 acres of coastal estuarine intertidal wetland (Salt-hay Saltmarsh, a rare natural community) in this project at Biddeford Pool. Forty-five acres of the project site are part of the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge, while the remaining 8 acres are owned by the University of New England (UNE) with an easement held by USFWS. It contains ~51 acres of Tidal Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat and ~52 acres of Shorebird Feeding Habitat. There are numerous rare species known from the site: Dwarf Glasswort (State Threatened); Saltmarsh False-foxglove (State Species of Special Concern); Saltmarsh Sparrow (State Species of Special Concern); and Blanding's Turtle (State Threatened). The site is heavily ditched and is experiencing substantial subsidence as evidenced by the large mega-pools seen in multiple locations. The site will be enhanced through the SMARTeams 4-Tiered method of marsh assessment, surface hydrology correction, wildlife habitat improvement and long-term management. Tidesheds will be identified, and the team will re-establish single channel hydrology, re-establish vigorous plant growth (thus building elevation) and create microtopography "islands" suitable to use by nesting Saltmarsh Sparrows. The goal of this enhancement is to create more habitat for salt marsh species, increase marsh resiliency to sea level rise, and make the marsh self-sustaining so it can continue to provide habitat and ecosystem services into the future.

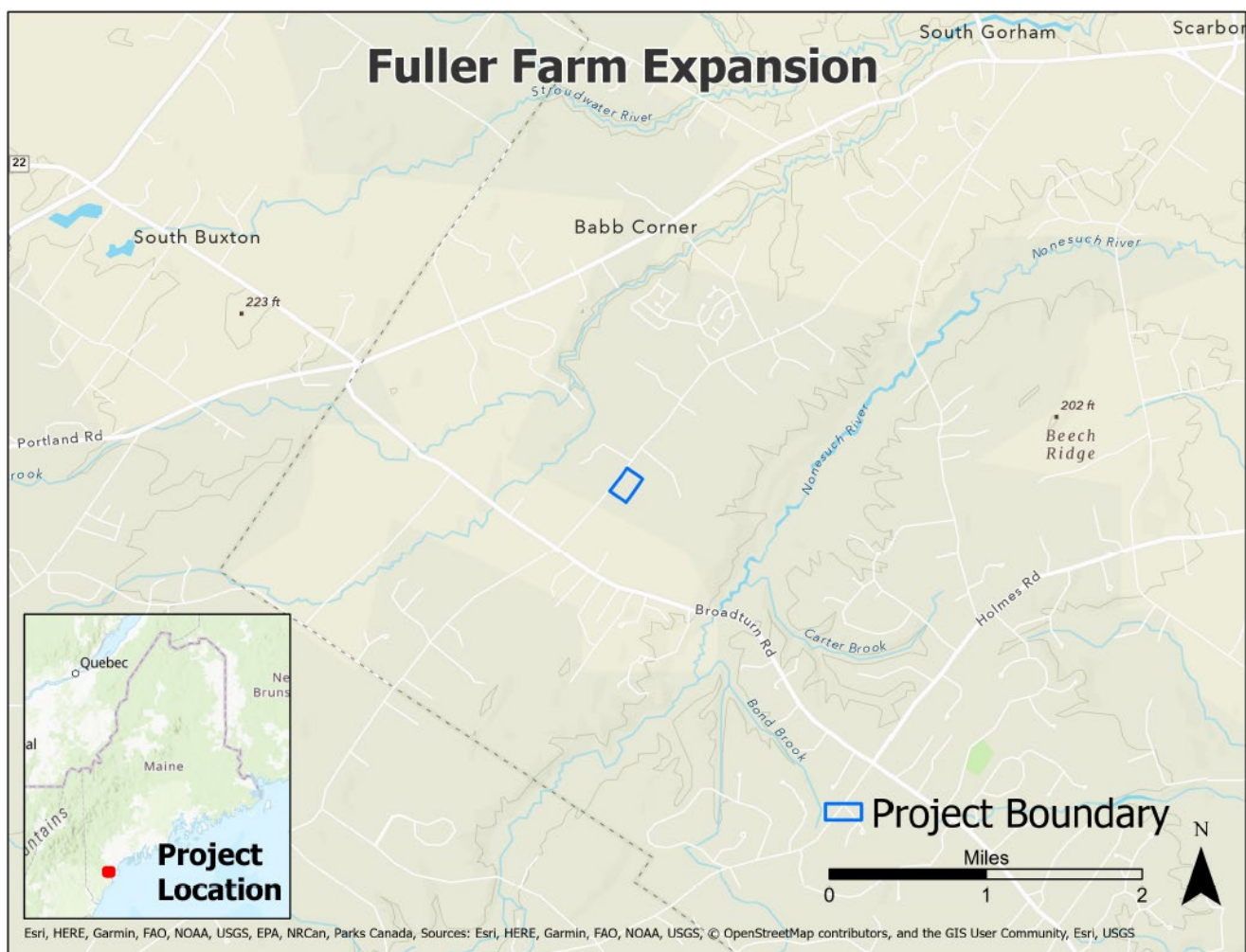


Project: Fuller Farm Expansion

Applicant: Scarborough Land Trust

Location: Scarborough, Cumberland County

Scarborough Land Trust (SLT) will acquire 7.8 acres of undeveloped land located adjacent to the 220-acre Fuller Farm Preserve (FFP). The property consists of 2.8 acres of freshwater forested wetlands, 1-4 potential vernal pools, and two small intermittent streams, each one approximately 500 feet in length. The remaining approximately 5.0 acres consist of upland forests that provide vernal pool critical terrestrial habitat, food sources, and hibernating locations for the juvenile and adult amphibians that breed in the vernal pools. The property will expand and enhance a wildlife corridor as part of an Undeveloped Block Connector. The site is also part of a New England Cottontail North/South Habitat Connector Focal Area (State Endangered Species). The property is zoned residential and includes 700 feet of road frontage that would allow for a subdivision of the property into three separate parcels. Most properties along Burnham Rd have been developed for residential purposes. Due to rapid development pressures within Southern Maine, the property will be subdivided and developed if not conserved through this purchase, causing the destruction or decline of the conservation values that are present on the site. SLT plans to purchase and provide for the long-term stewardship of the property to maintain its conservation values.



Project: Johnson Brook - Sisk Preserve

Applicant: Kittery Land Trust, Inc.

Location: Kittery and York, York County

The Kittery Land Trust (KLT) will protect through fee acquisition 56 acres of undeveloped forested uplands, streams, and wetlands, and will perform two restoration/enhancement projects at the site. The project is in the watershed of Johnson Brook and will protect important aquatic resources including: two potential vernal pools and their critical terrestrial habitat, ~20 acres of Inland Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat, 2,830 linear feet of Wild Brook Trout Habitat along Johnson Brook and its tributaries, and 27 acres of freshwater forested, scrub-shrub, and emergent wetlands. Two failed culverts will be removed to restore and/or enhance forested wetlands and stream hydrology, protect wetland soils and stream banks, reduce sedimentation into streams, and improve habitat connectivity for aquatic organisms including brook trout. The site is adjacent to existing conservation land on two sides and is within a large Undeveloped Habitat Block. The property has high development potential due to the rapidly escalating housing market in the York and Kittery areas. Since the pandemic, the area has become a hot spot for people wanting to live in a beautiful, natural setting, work remotely, yet still have easy access to urban life. Kittery's cluster zoning provides flexible lot sizing that has allowed for subdivision development on similar properties with a mix of wetlands and uplands. Prior to connecting with KLT, the owner had discussed residential development on the site including approaching an abutter about access to allow for such development and walking the land with local developers.

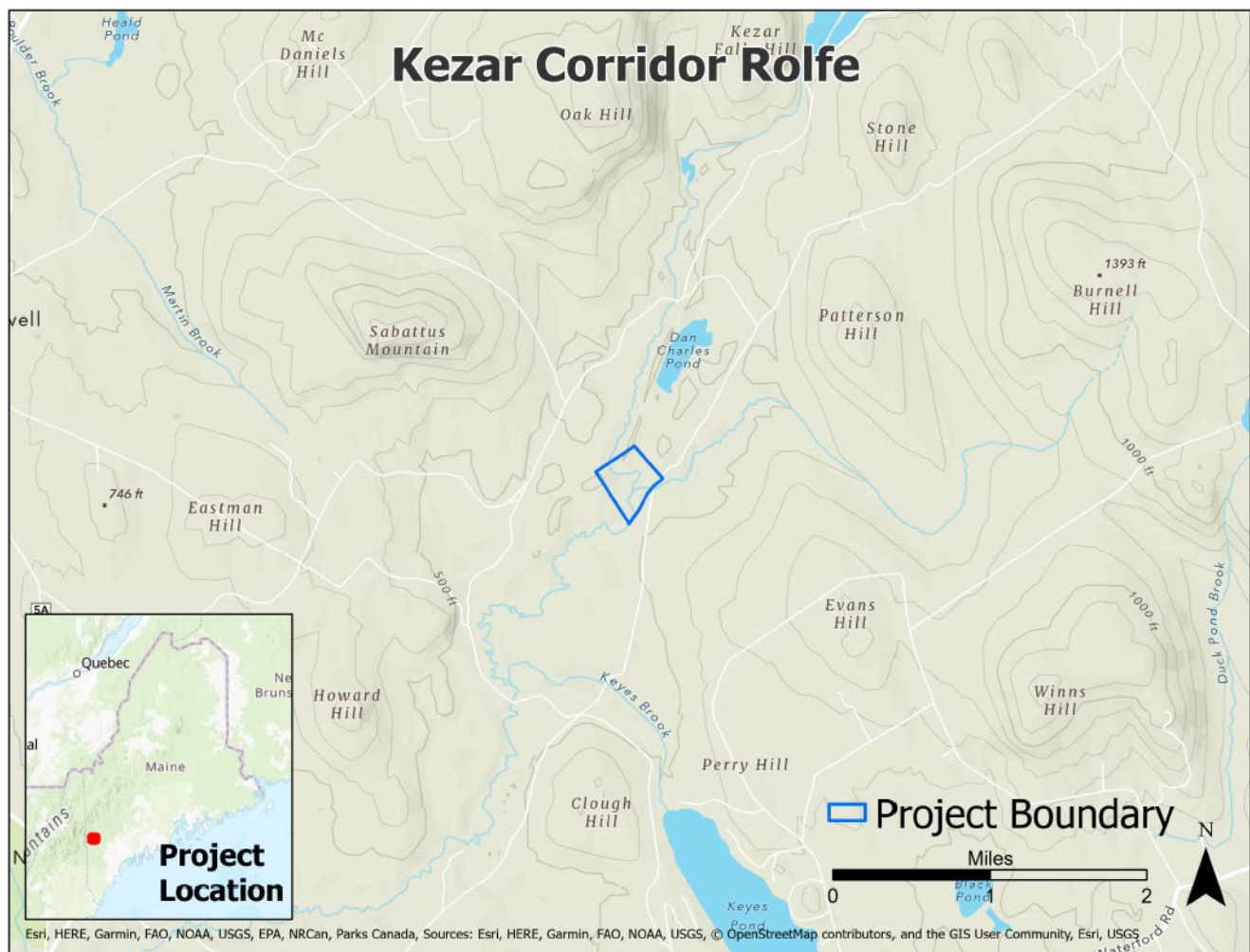


Project: Kezar Corridor Rolfe

Applicant: Greater Lovell Land Trust

Location: Lovell, Oxford County

The Greater Lovell Land Trust (GLLT) will purchase in fee approximately 30 acres to extend the conservation of Kezar River frontage and forested wetland as a second phase in its Kezar Corridor project. Located in a GLLT conservation focus area, the topographically diverse property includes nearly a half mile (~2,300 feet) of both sides of the Kezar River, a section of Patterson Brook, a section of an unnamed stream, ~17 acres of forested and scrub shrub wetlands, Exemplary Late Successional Hemlock Forest, and two potential vernal pools with their critical terrestrial habitat, plus buffering upland forests. The property will be added to GLLT's 1,300-acre acquisition in the Kezar River watershed, creating a 2.5 mile contiguous stretch of protected riparian wetland and Wild Brook Trout Habitat. Just north of the Upper Saco River Focus Area of Statewide Ecological Significance, the project will expand conservation in an area of The Nature Conservancy's mapped climate resilient and connected lands that extend into the towns of Sweden and Waterford. The property sits on an extensive, Significant sand and gravel aquifer as mapped by the Maine Geological Survey, and sand and gravel extraction is a threat to the aquatic resources on the site.

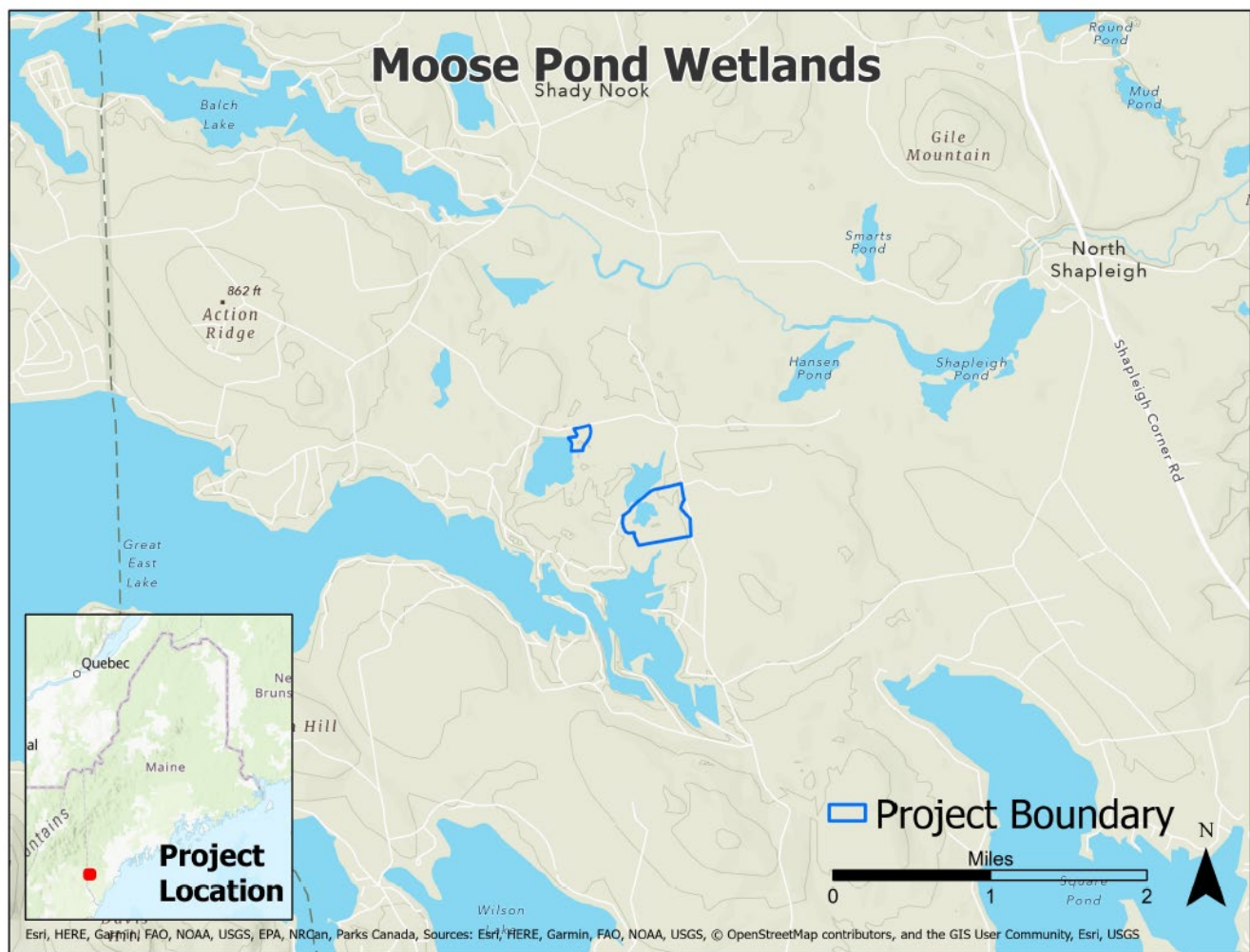


Project: Moose Pond Wetlands

Applicant: Three Rivers Land Trust

Location: Acton, York County

The Moose Pond Wetlands project is multi-year conservation vision that the Three Rivers Land Trust (3RLT) hopes will someday include up to 150 acres of conserved land in an area of Acton rich with wetlands and shoreline. This project focuses on the first two properties available, “Area E” and “Area C.” The two properties are separated by about 1/3 of a mile, but later phases envision conserving other land between these properties. Area C (40 acres) is south of Anderson Cove Rd, and includes a large beaver-influenced wetland and extensive wooded wetlands, which drain to Great East Lake. Area E is 4.8 acres, protects 365’ of shoreline on Moose Pond and includes a small forested wetland. In total the project would protect approximately 23 acres of freshwater forested and emergent wetlands, a small of frontage on Moose Pond, one potential vernal pool with its critical terrestrial habitat, ~25 acres of Inland Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat, about 2,700’ linear feet along perennial streams which are mapped Wild Brook Trout Habitat, and ~22 acres of buffering uplands including unusual upland forest with strong white oak and scrub oak component on a low elevation sandy setting. The properties are at high threat from residential development since they include shoreline frontage and are in an area highly valued for proximity to the lake and nearby conserved land. Sand and gravel extraction is another threat but probably less likely than residential development.



Project: Ogunquit Headwater Wetlands

Applicant: Great Works Regional Land Trust

Location: South Berwick, York County

This project will permanently protect through conservation easement about 26 acres of freshwater forested wetlands, ephemeral streams, a potential vernal pool with its critical terrestrial habitat, and surrounding buffering uplands. The 58-acre property is situated within the Mt Agamenticus Focus Area of Statewide Ecological Significance. It likely supports nearby known locations of the rare Blanding's Turtle and Spotted Turtle. It contains documented locations of two rare plant species and is within a state-mapped rare ecosystem type (Central Hardwoods Oak Forest Ecosystem) that extends through much of the surrounding Undeveloped Habitat Blocks. The parcel itself is part of a large Undeveloped Habitat Block and provides a link between 12 contiguous preserved parcels (362 acres) of conservation lands surrounding Mt Agamenticus, establishing a permanently protected corridor between several large Undeveloped Habitat Blocks (1,356 and 5,441 acres). The property is imminently threatened by development in the headwaters of the Ogunquit River having long been the subject of development/subdivision plans by the previous landowner.

