



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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Comment Period Begins: October 30, 2012
Comment Period Ends: November 28, 2012
File Number: NAE-2005-1143
In Reply Refer To: Ruth M. Ladd
Phone: (978) 318-8818
E-mail: ruth.m.ladd@usace.army.mil

The District Engineer is soliciting comments on the 22 projects which have applied for 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 2012.

The RFP includes the criteria used to evaluate projects, the information required for a proposal, and other related information. The RFP, the current amount of funds available for release, and additional information can be found at the MNRCP website: <http://mnrp.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 22 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 provided to the Review Committee which makes recommendations to 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

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the Corps is currently coordinating with the State Historic Preservation Officer and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers to determine if any of the projects involving construction might impinge upon properties with cultural or Native American significance, or listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. Based on his initial review, the District Engineer has determined that little likelihood exists for the proposed work to impinge upon properties with cultural or Native American significance, or listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places.

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: _____

MNRCPRegion	Org_Name	ProjTitle	Town	Total Acres	Compensation Type
Aroostook Hills & Lowlands	Forest Society of Maine	Violette Brook Project	Cyr Plantation	350	Preservation, Restoration, Enhancement
Central & Western Mountains	The Trust for Public Land	Orbeton Stream	Madrid Township	5797.6	Preservation
Central Interior & Midcoast	Medomak Valley Land Trust	Broad Cove East - Jones	Waldoboro	18	Preservation
Central Interior & Midcoast	Medomak Valley Land Trust	Broad Cove West - Geele	Waldoboro	79.9	Preservation
Central Interior & Midcoast	Orono Land Trust	Caribou Bog - Dorion	Orono	313.2	Preservation, Enhancement
Central Interior & Midcoast	Atlantic Salmon Federation, Maine Council	Davis/Holbrook Fishway	Eddington		Fish Passage
Central Interior & Midcoast	Sebasticook Regional Land Trust	Great Moose Lake Acquisition	Hartland	5	Preservation
Central Interior & Midcoast	Kennebec Estuary Land Trust	Morse Pond II Wetlands	Georgetown	63.1	Preservation
Central Interior & Midcoast	Sebasticook Regional Land Trust	Moulton's Mill Part II	Unity	265	Preservation
Central Interior & Midcoast	Bangor Land Trust	Penjajawoc Marsh - Severance	Bangor	93.4	Preservation
Central Interior & Midcoast	Georges River Land Trust	Weskeag Wetlands	South Thomaston	247	Preservation, Restoration, Enhancement
Central Interior & Midcoast	Harpwell Heritage Land Trust	White Island - Stevens	Harpwell	63.3	Preservation
Downeast Maine	Pleasant River Wildlife Foundation	Indian River Project	Addison	136.7	Preservation
Southern Maine	Saco Valley Land Trust	Biddeford Forest Preservation Project	Biddeford	30	Preservation, Enhancement
Southern Maine	The Trust for Public Land	Canco Woods, Portland's Connection	Portland	12.9	Preservation

Southern Maine	Western Foothills Land Trust	Moon Valley	Harrison	14	Preservation, Restoration, Enhancement
Southern Maine	Mt. Agamenticus to the Sea Conservation Initiative	Mt. Agamenticus Pocket Swamp Project	York	15.5	Preservation
Southern Maine	Great Works Regional Land Trust	Ogunquit River Wetlands	South Berwick	37	Preservation, Enhancement
Southern Maine	Saco Valley Land Trust	Smithfield Meadows (Gelardi)	Biddeford	33	Preservation
Southern Maine	City of Westbrook	Suckfish Brook II	Westbrook	37	Preservation
Southern Maine	Three Rivers Land Trust	Walnut Hill II	Alfred	256	Preservation
Southern Maine	Scarborough Land Conservation Trust	Warren Woods Wetland Restoration	Scarborough	155	Preservation, Restoration, Enhancement

Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program Funds Available

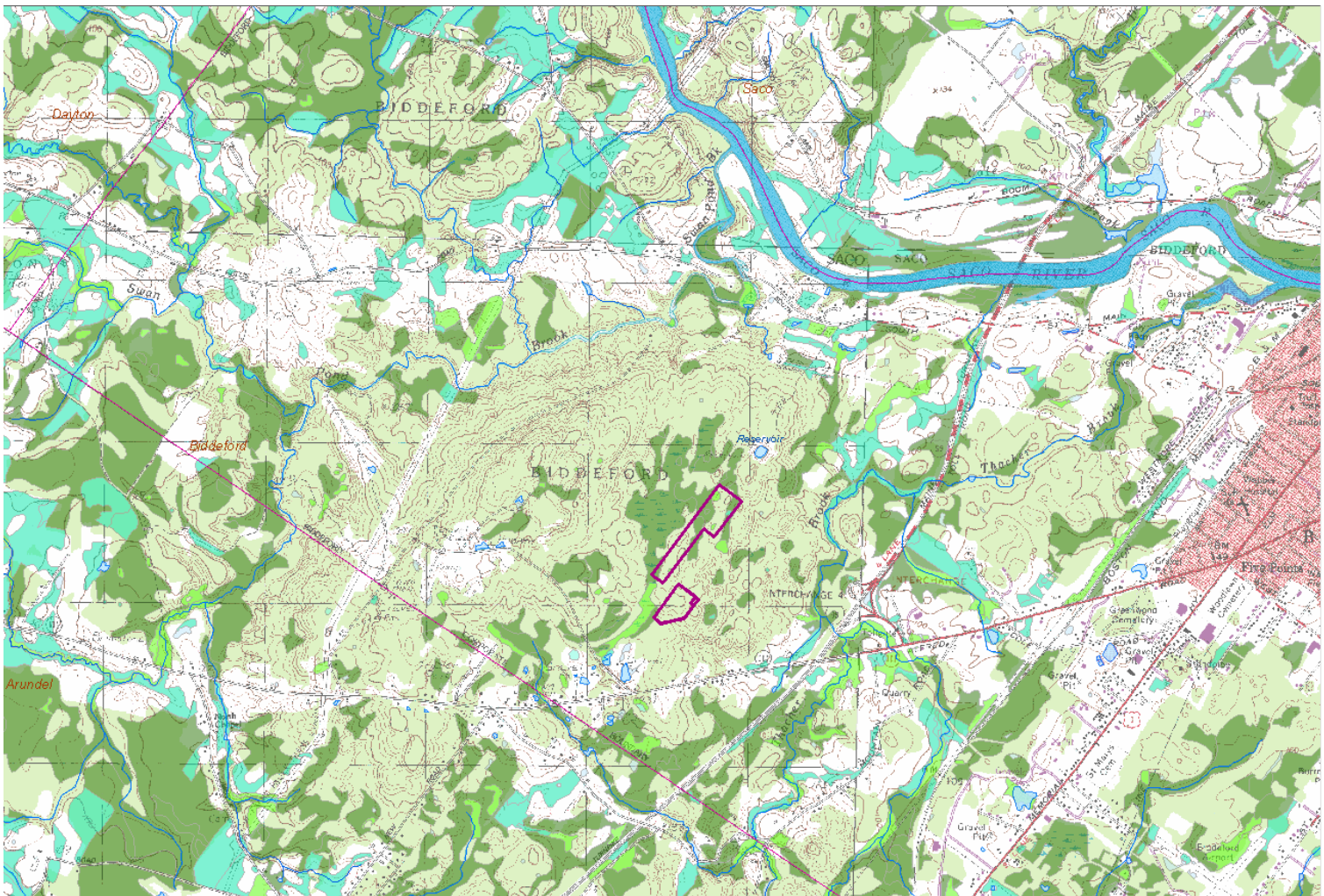
The table below lists the funds available for each MNRCP biophysical region as of October 11, 2012. Available funds may differ at the time of the awards. Also shown are the natural resources that have been prioritized for restoration, enhancement, preservation, and/or creation within each region.

<u>MNRCP Region</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Priority Resource Type</u>
Aroostook Hills & Lowlands	\$166,570	Freshwater wetland Emergent; Freshwater wetland Forested; Freshwater wetland Scrub-Shrub
Central & Eastern Lowlands	\$1,346	Freshwater wetland Emergent; Freshwater wetland Scrub-Shrub; Inland waterfowl; Vernal pool critical terrestrial habitat
Central & Western Mountains	\$147,516	Freshwater wetland Emergent; Freshwater wetland Forested; Freshwater wetland Scrub-Shrub; River/Stream; Vernal pool critical terrestrial habitat
Central Interior & Midcoast	\$1,591,861	Estuarine intertidal; Estuarine subtidal; Freshwater wetland Emergent; Freshwater wetland Forested; Freshwater wetland Scrub-Shrub; Marine intertidal; Marine subtidal; River/Stream; Vernal pool; Vernal pool critical terrestrial habitat
Downeast Maine	\$114,480	Freshwater wetland Emergent; Freshwater wetland Forested; Freshwater wetland Scrub-Shrub; Marine intertidal; Marine subtidal; Vernal pool critical terrestrial habitat
Northwest Maine	\$0	
Southern Maine	\$713,903	Endangered/threatened species; Estuarine intertidal; Freshwater wetland Emergent; Freshwater wetland Forested; Freshwater wetland Scrub-Shrub; Lake, Limnetic; Lake, Littoral; River/Stream; Vernal pool; Vernal pool critical terrestrial habitat
<i>Total Amount Available:</i>	\$2,735,676	

2012 Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program Funding Proposals

Biddeford Forest, Biddeford, Saco Valley Land Trust

The Biddeford Forest Preservation Project (BFPP) will take place on two undeveloped parcels encompassing approximately 30 acres. The project is located off Andrews Road in Biddeford, York County, Maine. The BFPP is located within Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowlands Biophysical Region, and the Saco River South and Swan Pond Brook watersheds (HUC 12). This site is situated on the eastern edge of approximately 12,000 acres of undeveloped lands. A 10-acre property owned by Saco Valley Land Trust (SVLT) is located between and connects the two BFPP properties. The BFPP also abuts a 125-acre parcel of undeveloped forestland owned by the Biddeford and Saco Water Company (B&SWC). The combination of the two BFPP parcels with the B&SWC and SVLT properties creates a nearly 165-acre tract of contiguous, protected land. The goal of the BFPP is to permanently protect wetlands of special significance, significant vernal pools and habitats, a deer wintering area, a stream, and large areas of forested upland buffers and habitats. The BFPP will also include restoration of an existing but failed stream crossing on the access road to the site. Additionally, the BFPP includes a plan for enhancement of the deer wintering area through development of a wildlife management plan designed to improve deer habitat while also protecting and providing sufficient forest cover needed for the continued success of the vernal pool habitats (see Resources section).



Broad Cove East Branch, Waldoboro, Medomak Valley Land Trust

This project will protect, through fee simple acquisition, wetland resources on 18 acres within the Eastern and Western Branches of Broad Cove focus area. The property extends from Dutch Neck road, across a tidal tributary to the Eastern Branch of Broad Cove, and west to Peter Pond. The parcel contains saltmarsh, forested wetlands, forested uplands, and frontage along the pond. Close to 6 acres of the property can be classified as wetland. The saltmarsh on the property is part of a larger, 68-acre saltmarsh that drains into the mudflats and broader estuary of the Eastern Branch of Broad Cove. The primary threat to this property is development which could occur on the east side of the wetlands or by crossing the wetlands to develop sites that look out on the pond. The larger wetland complex is also threatened by the patterns of landownership in this area. Many tracts bordering the pond and wetlands are long, narrow "spaghetti" lots. As a result, protection of wetlands requires working with several dozen landowners who each own a small amount of frontage. Although the wetland acreage on the property is relatively small, it is key to overall wetland protection and could lead to further protection of wetlands on other parcels. The property will be maintained as wildlife habitat and managed for low-impact recreation. MVLTL plans to construct a trail through the property to the pond that will connect to a small network on other adjacent conserved lands. Trails will be sited and built in a manner that minimizes soil erosion and any negative impacts to wetland resources. No timber harvesting is contemplated for the parcel.



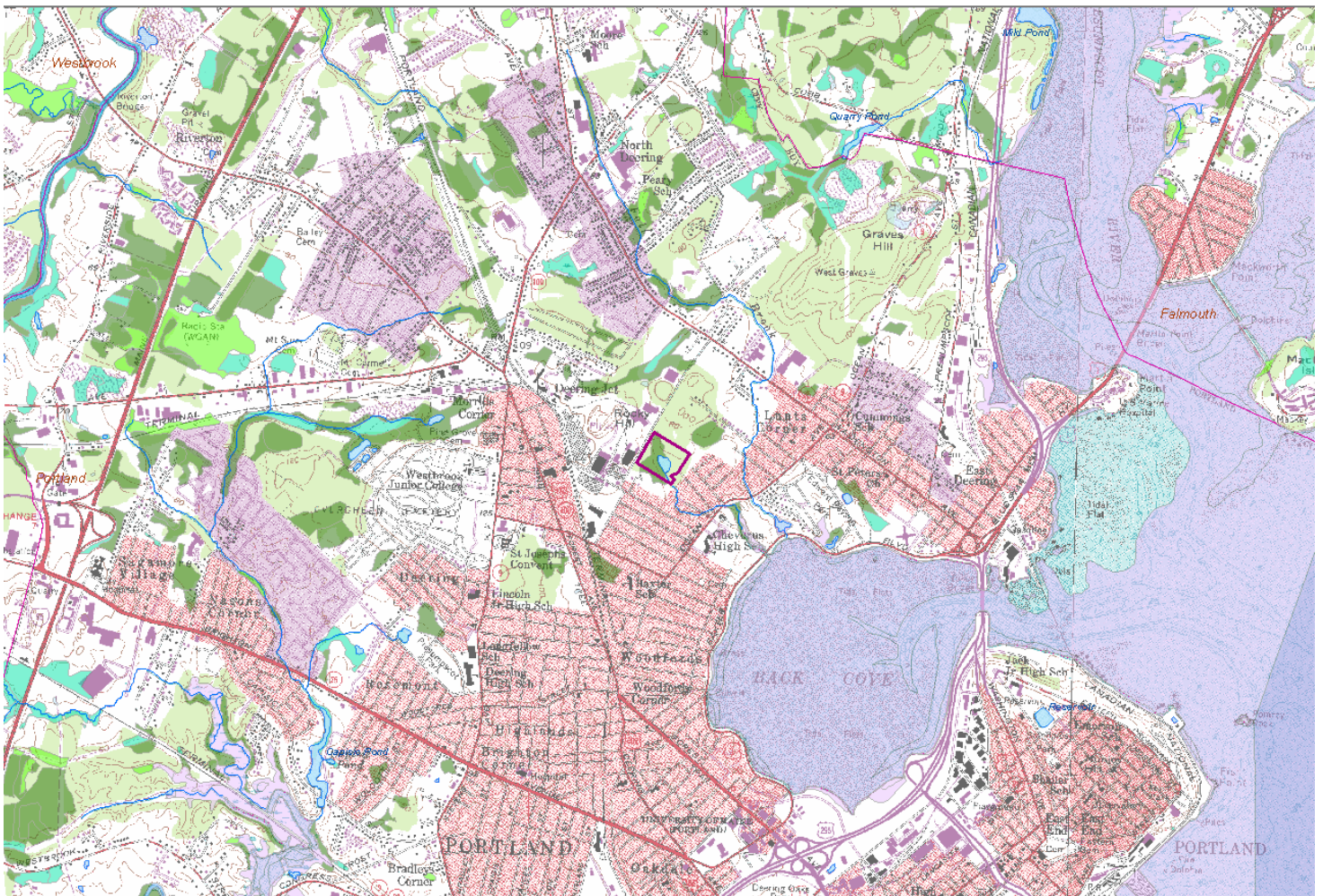
Broad Cove West Branch, Waldoboro, Medomak Valley Land Trust

This project will protect, through fee simple acquisition, wetland resources on 80 acres within the Eastern and Western Branches of Broad Cove focus area. The property is made up of two parcels along the eastern shore of the Western Branch of Broad Cove on the Medomak River estuary. The larger, northern parcel is already under conservation easement with MVLTL, but allows timber harvesting. The smaller, southern parcel has no formal protection. Both parcels consist of forested uplands, forested wetlands, streams and frontage along the saltmarsh. Close to 46 acres of the property can be classified as wetland. Despite the wetness of the property, it is at risk for development because of its highly desirable salt water location and because high/dry, developable land is interspersed among the wetlands. The 14 acres that are not under easement are especially threatened because of its location between two conserved parcels. Acquisition of this parcel will help protect additional wetland resources and provide a functional lift through ownership by reducing the number of woods roads, addressing ATV use, and decreasing the likelihood of active forestry.



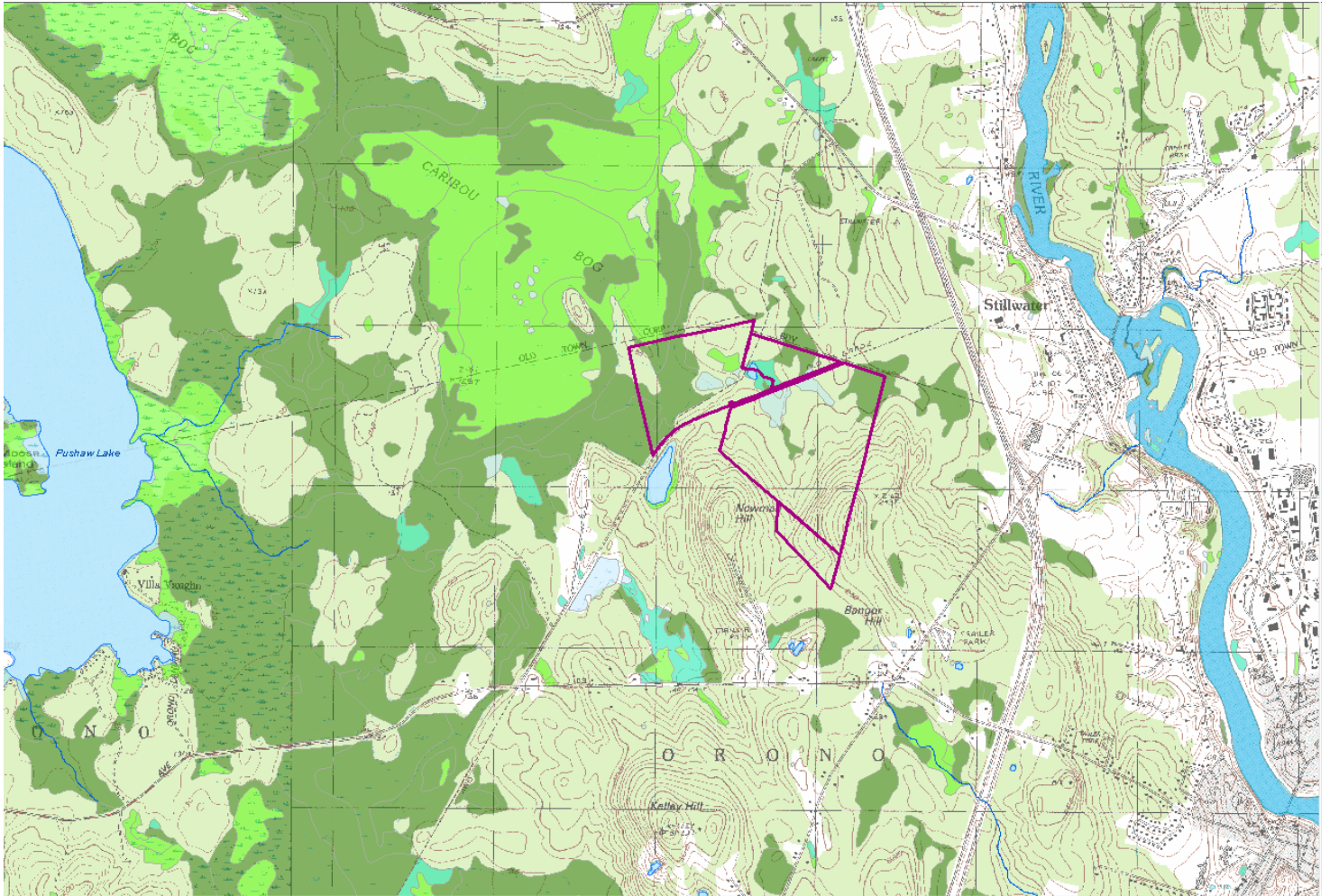
Canco Woods, Portland, The Trust for Public Land

The Trust for Public Land proposes to acquire 12.75 acres of a functioning forested wetland system in Portland's urban Back Cove neighborhood. Avoiding development accomplishes three objectives: protects a functioning wetland system with a direct hydrologic connection to Portland's Back Cove tidal system, creates unique educational opportunities given its proximity to Chevrus High School and Portland's new Ocean Avenue Elementary School, and conserves in its wooded state one of the city's last undeveloped parcels valued highly by local neighborhoods. Neighbors to the property have been its stewards for decades. They have maintained a trail network, built bridges over streams and organized trash collection efforts. Countless children have used Canco Woods as the place where they connect with the natural environment. Trails on the property link to Portland Trail's city-wide network stretching from Bayside to Riverside Park. Currently zoned light industrial the Canco Woods property is owned by Union Water Power. TPL will convey the property to the City of Portland with an easement held by Portland Trails. The property will be managed as a natural area open to the public for recreational uses and for wetland and wildlife habitat. If awarded, MNRCP funds will be used for acquisition and to restore the pond/wetland to a natural state.



Caribou Bog, Orono, Orono Land Trust

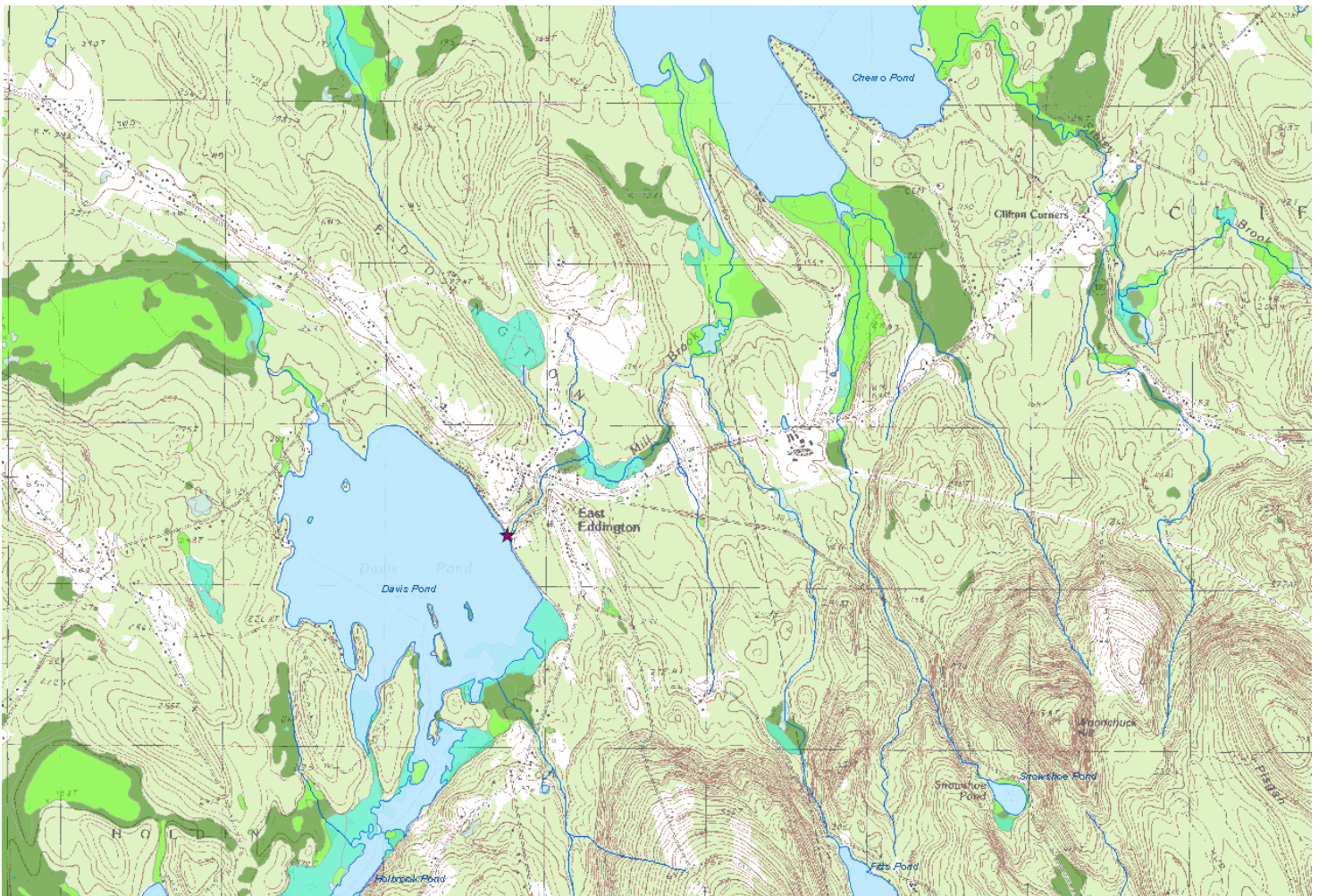
Orono Land Trust (OLT) proposes to purchase the Doiron property for its appraisal price, permanently conserve it with a Declaration of Trust, and restore and improve its wildlife habitat in two ways: (1) letting the upland portion re-vegetate to trees naturally to a closed canopy of trees, which will improve the inflow of water to Caribou Bog by decreasing its temperature, decreasing its sediment load, and providing a longer runoff period; and (2) removing the water control structures on the ponds and filling in some deep sections with existing berm material to allow them to revert to its previous vegetative condition, that of an emergent wetland.



Davis Pond Fishway, Eddington, Atlantic Salmon Federation

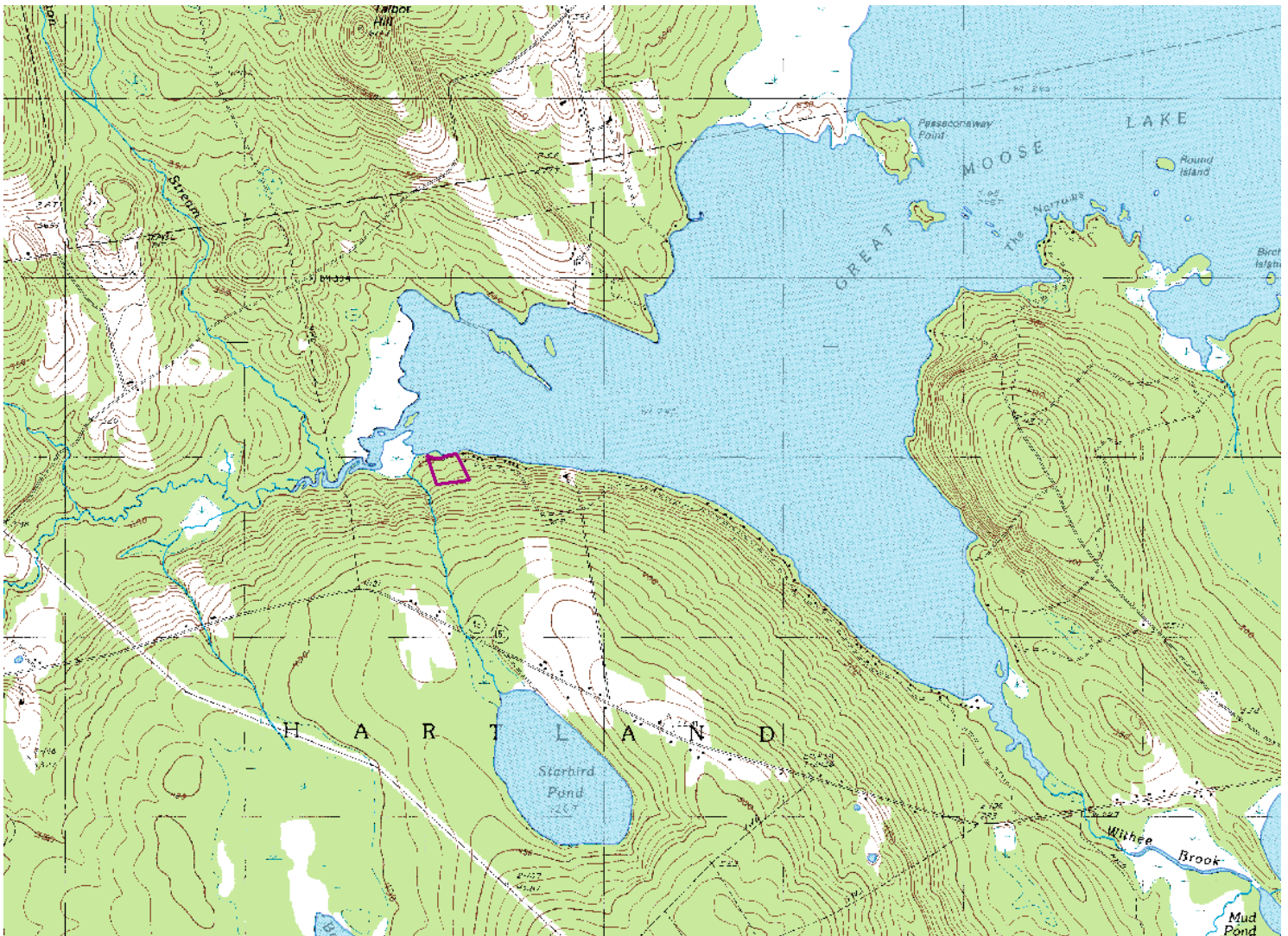
This is the last project to fully reconnect Blackman Stream to the main stem of the Penobscot River and the Gulf of Maine. Since 2002, four impediments to sea-run fish have been opened in the 10 miles of stream below Davis Pond, including the fishway at the Leonards Mills Logging Museum (MNRCP Grant, 2009). For the past 14 months, the Atlantic Salmon Federation, ME DMR and the USFWS have been working with the Davis/Holbrook Lake Association to develop plans for the fishway. Public meetings to discuss the project are scheduled for the summer of 2012.

In 2013 an Alaskan Steepass Fishway will be built at the Davis Pond Outlet Dam. A new gate structure that will provide for out migration of fish and better allow the lake association to control flows is also part of the project. The preliminary fishway design has been completed and approved by the Davis/Holbrook Lake Association. Test water releases are being conducted this summer to help inform the development of a long-term Operation and Maintenance Agreement for the fishway and gate that we anticipate drafting in the fall of 2012. Ultimately, the goal is to restore a self-sustaining run of alewives into the system and provide access for other resident and sea-run fisheries that might use the fishway. This fishway will allow sea-run fish access into the 503-acre Davis Pond and the 347-acre Holbrook Pond.



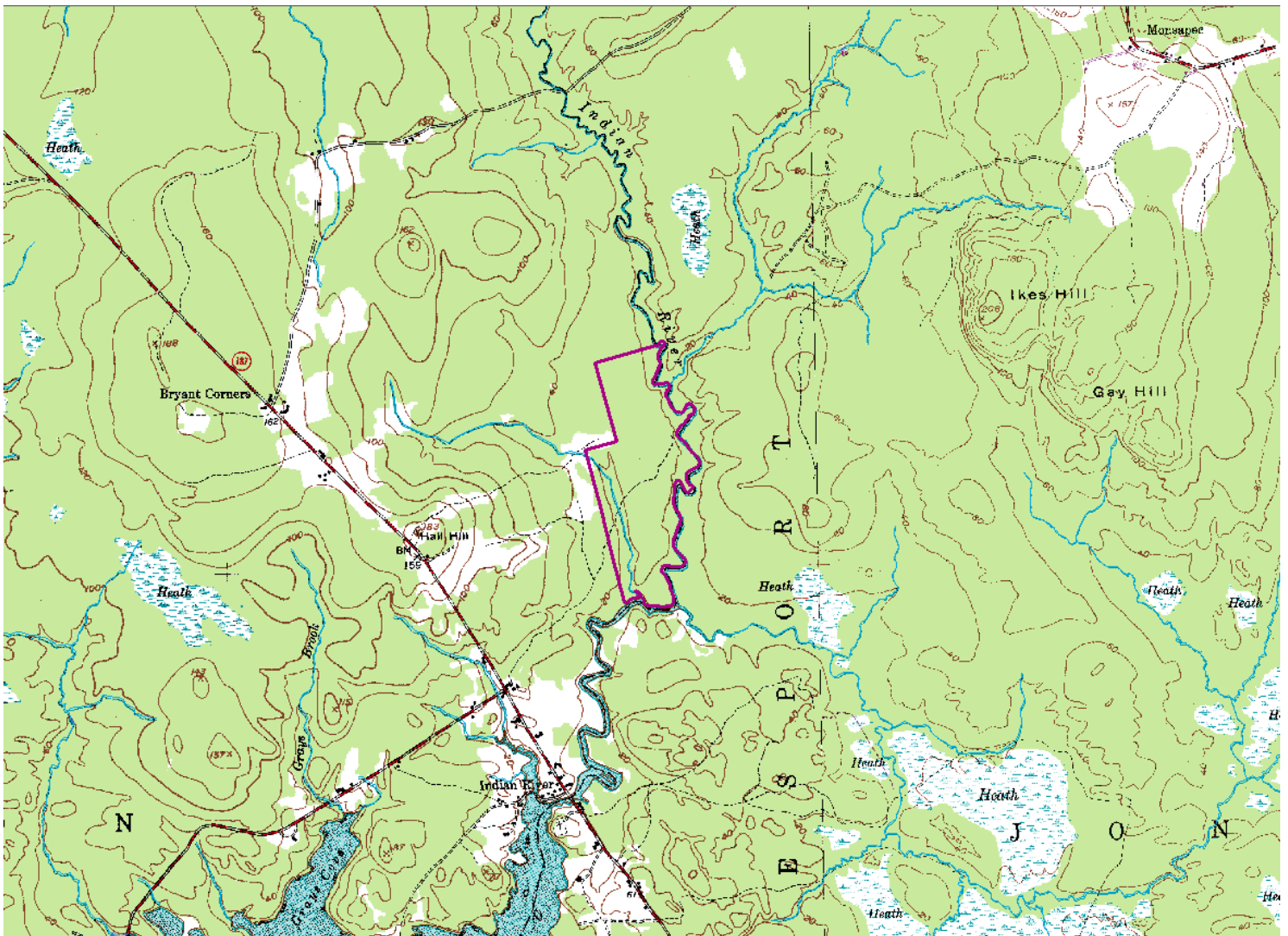
Great Moose Lake, Hartland, Sebasticook Regional Land Trust

This project will permanently preserve a 5-acre parcel on Great Moose Lake in Hartland. The undeveloped parcel features nearly 500 feet of lake frontage within and adjacent to the Great Moose Lake Focus Area. Seasonal and year-round residences litter the shoreline to the east, with undeveloped acreage on the remaining boundaries. The landowner proposes a bargain sale to ensure the property may continue to serve as waterfowl and wading bird habitat. The property includes emergent and scrub-shrub wetland and upland acreage sufficient for development of a single-family residence. There are several sizeable subdivisions and a number of properties for sale on the lake; camps are being converted to year-round residences, and new construction is largely year-round homes. When the housing market improves, the lake will be under significant development pressure. Great Moose Lake contains one of the most viable nesting populations of black tern in the state and one of the most optimal bald eagle habitats in the Sebasticook watershed. These species will be a top management concern under SRLT ownership. Though this will be SRLT's first conservation project in the Great Moose Lake Focus Area, which is a priority conservation area identified in our watershed conservation plan, at least four other landowners on the lake are considering land conservation with us. With MNRCP funding, the project will be completed in 2013. SRLT formed in 2004 as Friends of Unity Wetlands and has compiled a conservation portfolio of nearly 3,000 acres in conservation easement and fee. It has a full-time staff supported by 200 volunteers.



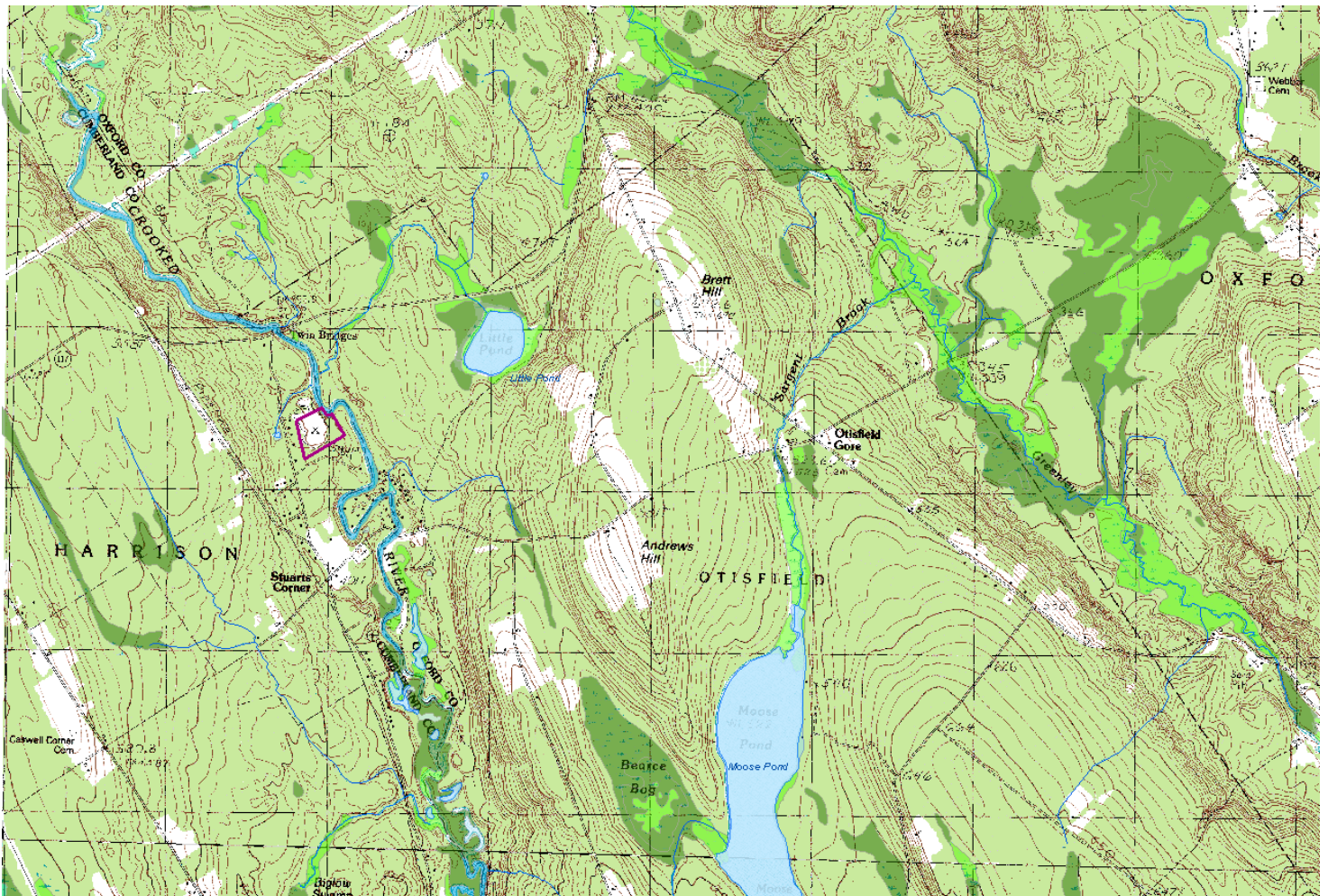
Indian River, Addison, Pleasant River Wildlife Federation

PRWF proposes to preserve approximately 136.7 acres fronting on Indian River Stream with the goal of preventing conversion of the upland portions of this property (34 acres) to blueberry farming, gravel mining or residential development which would threaten the Project's wetlands (103 acres), its Significant Wildlife Habitat (123 acres) and the water quality of the Indian River Stream and of its estuary including the clamflats, eelgrass beds and wildlife habitat along the Indian River. The major threat to this property is clearing and restoration of the blueberry fields, which covered much of it many years ago. Bio-diversity would suffer as many habitats would be destroyed and the associated use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizer that would drain into the Indian River estuary would potentially pollute the extensive intertidal wetlands and clam flats along Crowley Island's eastern shore and damage valuable eel grass beds. Blueberry farming is prevalent in the Indian River drainage and the high price of blueberries is encouraging large commercial processors to expand their operations. These operators typically irrigate their fields, drawing water from local streams, lowering water levels and raising water temperatures. Additionally there are gravel deposits in the area and gravel mining could cause siltation of both the Indian River and the small brook that runs across this property. The equipment needed to dig and transport gravel would tear up the fragile surface of this property and carve new erosion paths. The protection of this property would also provide very important buffer acreage if either gravel mining or intensive logging takes place on nearby properties.



Moon Valley, Harrison, Western Foothills Land Trust

Western Foothills Land Trust (WFLT) is proposing to purchase, enhance and protect a 14-acre parcel in Harrison, Maine (Map 40, Lot 1). The parcel, known as Moon Valley, consists mostly of an abandoned, unreclaimed gravel pit (last worked in the 1980s). The property includes 390 feet of the western shore of the Crooked River; the sandpit is separated from the river by a thin stand of mature softwood trees. Most of the property has large areas of exposed, sandy soil with limited vegetation. WFLT will contract Boyle Associates, an environmental consulting firm with experience in wetland mitigation and design, to design and implement an 8- to 10-acre scrub-shrub wetland creation and enhancement plan. The plan will include provisions for site re-grading to establish wetland hydrology, soil augmentation to achieve an appropriate growing medium for wetland plants, and woody and herbaceous planting to jumpstart the wetland habitat. WFLT has met with representatives from the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District who have agreed to provide additional project management assistance and annual site monitoring for up to five years. Additionally, as part of an ongoing partnership with WFLT, the Clear Water Carbon Fund has agreed to provide a portion of the trees to be planted on the site. WFLT is seeking MNRCP funds to help with property acquisition, site planning, wetland creation (≤ 8 acres), wetland enhancement (≤ 2 acres), upland buffer restoration, associated grading and planting work, site protection, and long-term stewardship, monitoring and remediation. In cooperation with multiple partners and funding sources (Maine Forest Service, Portland Water District, Casco Bay Estuary Project, Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District, and MNRCP) WFLT currently protects 1160 acres by conservation easement and 56 acres in fee simple within the Crooked River watershed. This summer, WFLT and Loon Echo Land Trust have embarked on an ambitious, landscape-scale conservation project that seeks to protect an additional 6.4 miles of Crooked River shoreline and 103.7 acres of wetlands. The Moon Valley project will help kick-start that effort and will provide valuable wildlife habitat and water quality protection.



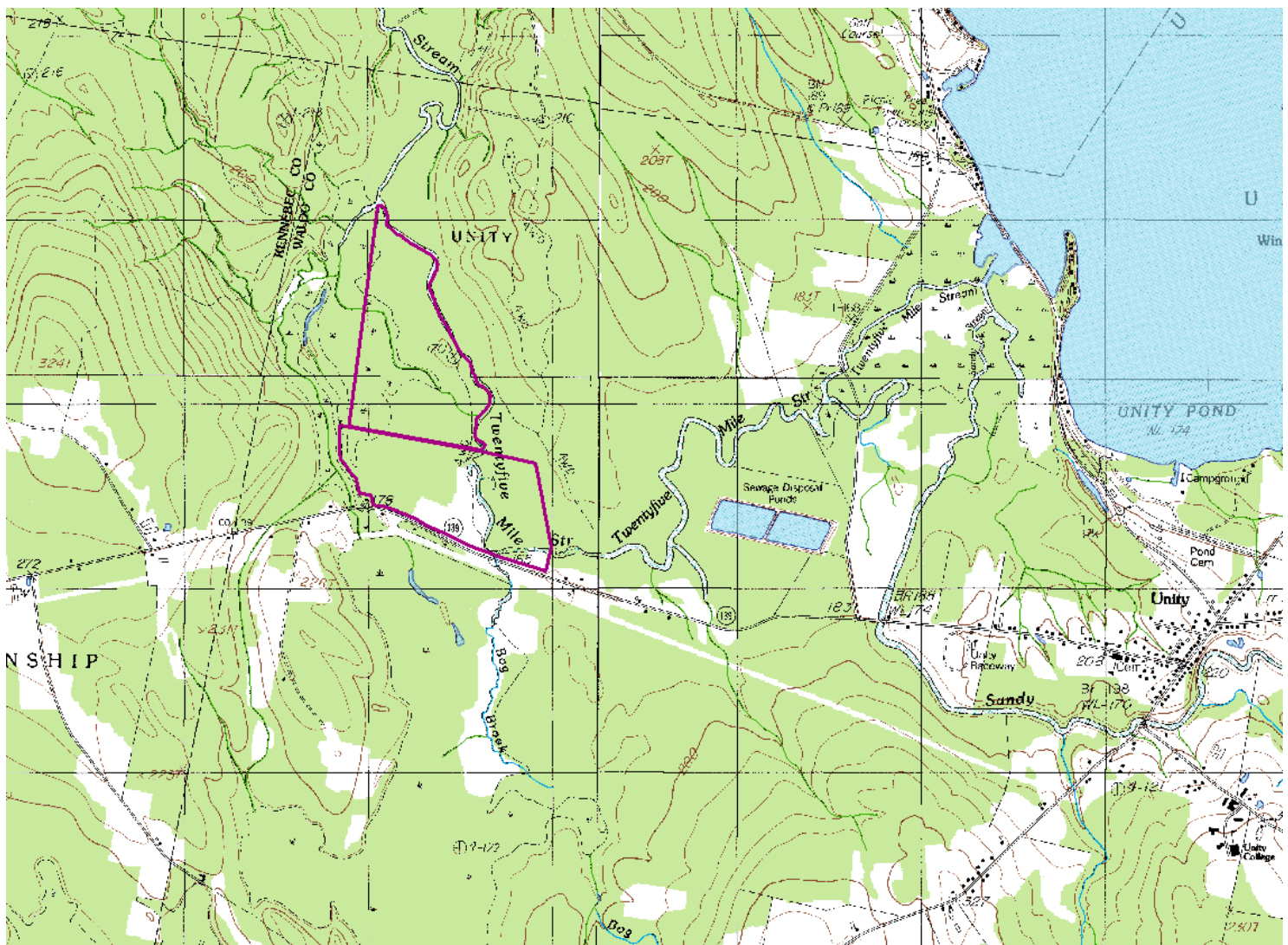
Morse Pond II, Georgetown, Kennebec Estuary Land Trust

KELT has an ongoing effort to protect land in the Morse Pond area to prevent development from degrading the habitat, scenic, and water quality attributes. In 2011, KELT protected the Collins property an interior block of land with 13 acres of wetlands and 17.6 acres of upland buffer. The Collins project has spurred other landowners to place their land in permanent protection. In the Morse Pond II project, KELT seeks to purchase two adjoining parcels for permanent protection. KELT has combined the two properties into one project since they are adjacent and the totaled numbers better reflect the impact preservation will create.



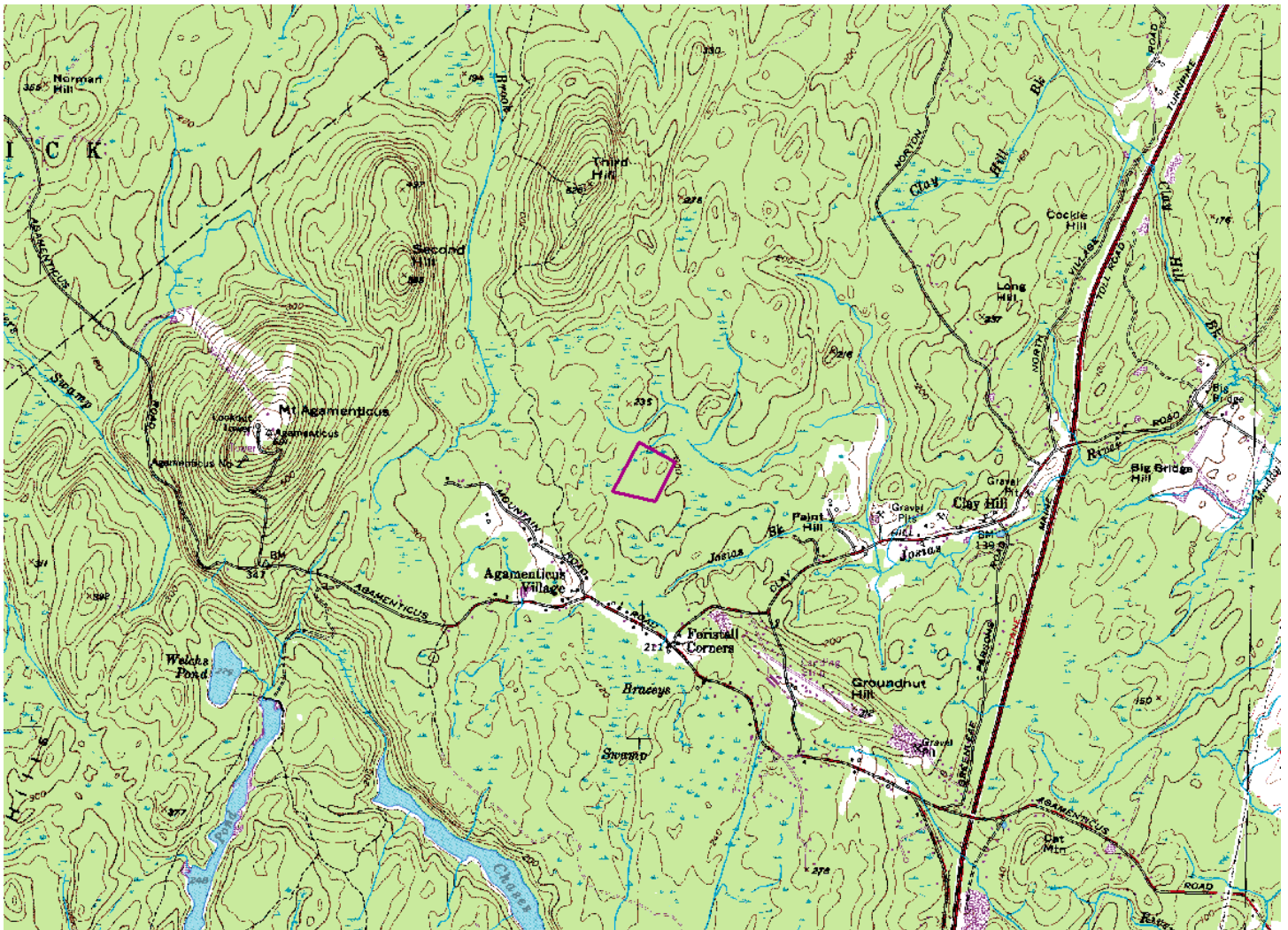
Moulton's Mill, Unity, Sebasticook Regional Land Trust

Sebasticook Regional Land Trust (SRLT) proposes expansion and restoration of the Moulton's Mill Preserve in Unity, in the heart of the Unity Wetlands Focus Area. With Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program support, SRLT will purchase 265 acres adjacent to a 439-acre parcel acquired with 2011 MNRCP funds. The acquisition will secure the preservation of nearly 2 miles of undeveloped silver maple floodplain on both sides of 25-Mile Stream, including late successional forest on approximately 25 acres. SRLT will address restoration concerns on the original parcel, removing three culverts from an interior woods road. On the new acquisition, SRLT will discontinue annual clearing of 7 acres along the road frontage, allowing it to succeed to shrub wetland. The project will add to an active conservation corridor in an area of concentrated biological diversity and within one of the largest remaining unfragmented blocks in the Unity Wetlands Focus Area. Under SRLT ownership, the land will be managed for wildlife habitat, non-motorized public recreation and sustainable timber. An existing ATV trail will be discontinued to remove an identified threat to the floodplain and associated wetlands and reduce impacts to water quality in 25 Mile Stream. The landowner is only interested in selling the entire parcel, at fair market value. If the property is not sold, the landowner plans a timber harvest in 2013 (there is currently no forest management plan for the property), including a hardwood stand that has not been cut for an estimated 80 years. The property has 0.5 miles of road frontage and has sufficient upland to support limited development.



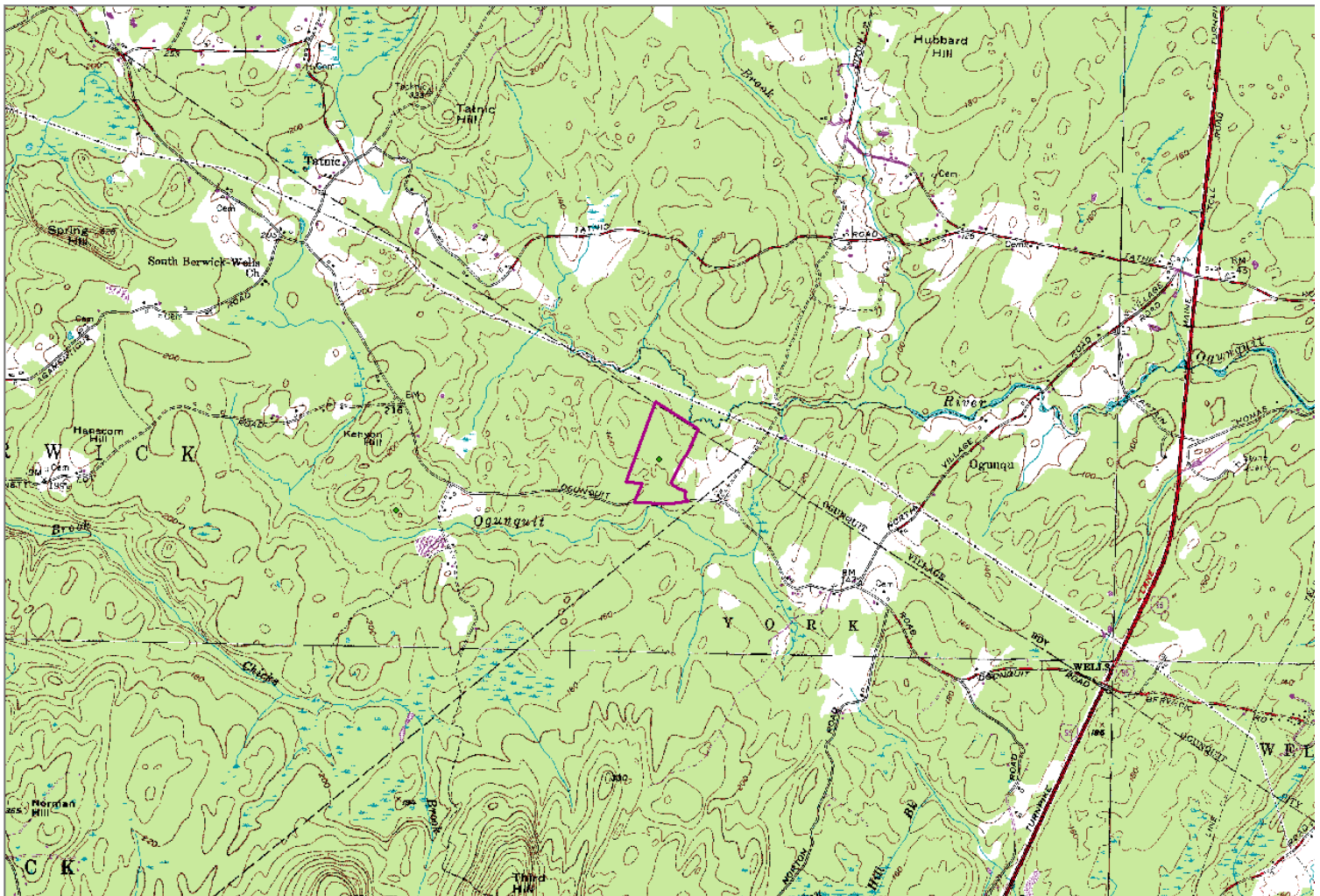
Mount Agamenticus Pocket Swamp, York, Mt. Agamenticus to the Sea Conservation Initiative

The Project is an approximately 15.5-acre parcel, of which an estimated 5.88 acres are forested wetlands within a Hemlock Hardwood Pocket Swamp, a rare wetland community only found in southern Maine. The property abuts conservation land owned by The Nature Conservancy and York Land Trust and is proximal to thousands of acres of conservation land in the Mt. Agamenticus region owned by Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIF&W) and other conservation organizations. It is within a 5,541-acre unfragmented block of forest, MDIF&W's Mt. Agamenticus Wildlife Management Area, and the Mt. Agamenticus Beginning with Habitat Focus Area of Statewide Ecological Significance. The land is ranked High-Value for floodflow alteration, production export, wildlife habitat, and uniqueness/heritage. State-ranked, rare features documented on the property by Maine Natural Areas Program include Chestnut Oak, Smooth Winterberry Holly and the Hemlock, Hardwood Pocket Swamp. Black Gum, which is uncommon and only found in southern Maine is also present. The property was harvested for Hemlock within the past year, however much of the hardwood tree cover was left standing. A 100-foot buffer was left intact between the harvest area and the large forested wetland area on the property. As a result of the purchase of this property, York Land Trust will: eliminate the threat of acquisition by developer or private abutters, one of which is actively marketing his 123-acre parcel for sale and development; manage the property for plant and wildlife habitat and low-impact recreation including maintenance of the woods roads on the property that are part of a vast trail network in the area; and expand existing conservation lands in the Mt. Agamenticus region.



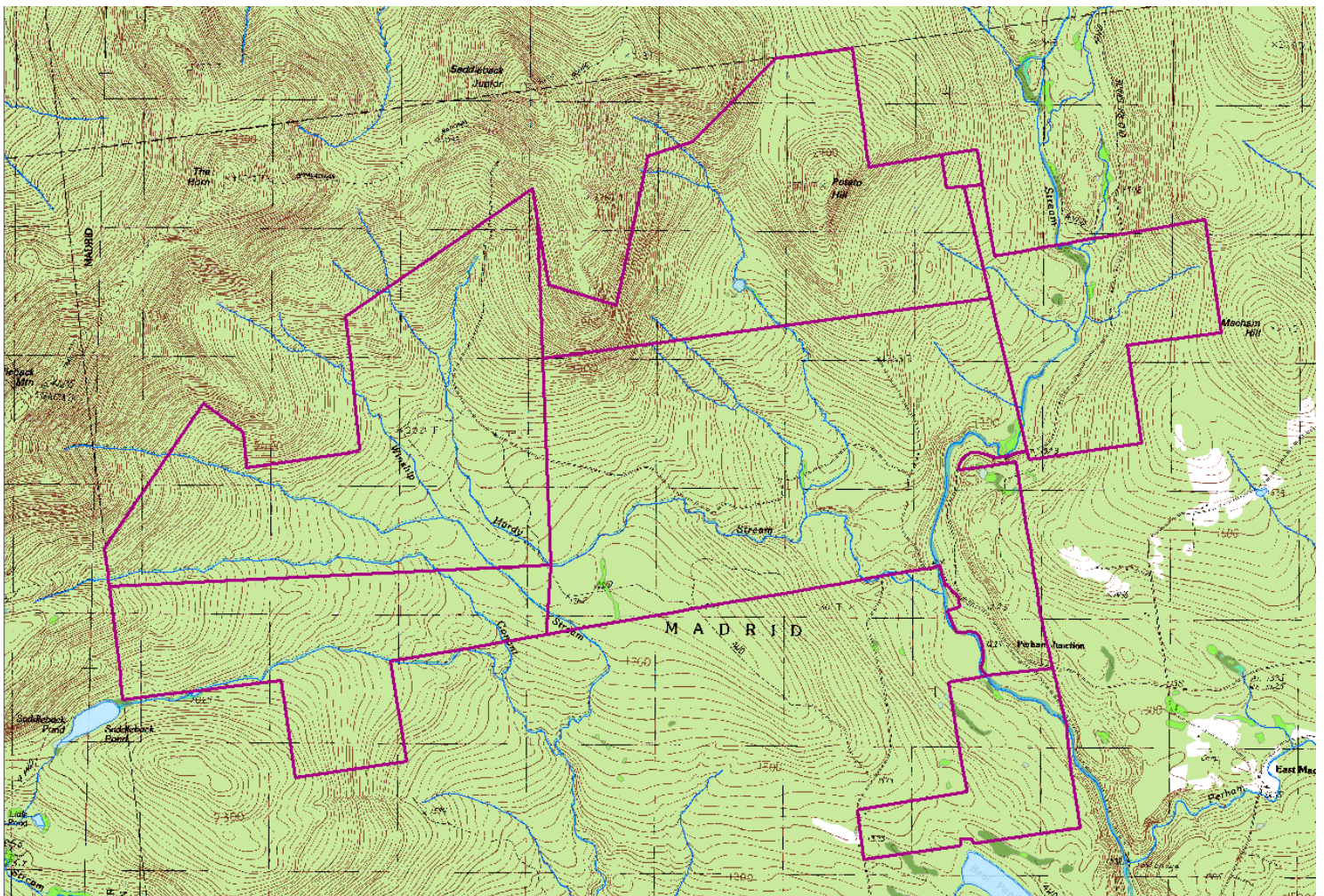
Ogunquit River Wetlands, South Berwick, Great Works Regional Land Trust

This project will permanently protect through the purchase of the fee interest in 37 acres of forest and wetlands abutting 319 acres of protected land within the Mt Agamenticus to the Sea Conservation Initiative's Focus Area. This project includes the restoration of the hydrological connection between two wetlands on the property and the Ogunquit River while enhancing wildlife road passage for amphibians and small mammals through the upgrading and re-design of a culvert replacement project. The Great Works Regional Land Trust (GWRLT) is partnering with the Town of South Berwick to improve the connection between the wetland on the property and the Ogunquit River on the south side of the Ogunquit Road. The current culverts are small and in poor condition. The plan is to replace the culverts with a design that will enhance the movement of water and wildlife in both directions. The adjacent land use is rural residential with two decades of active conservation having protected over 8,000 acres in the Mt Agamenticus region. Acquisition plans seek to use this parcel to continue the connection of protected lands between the Tatnic Hills with the hills of Agamenticus.



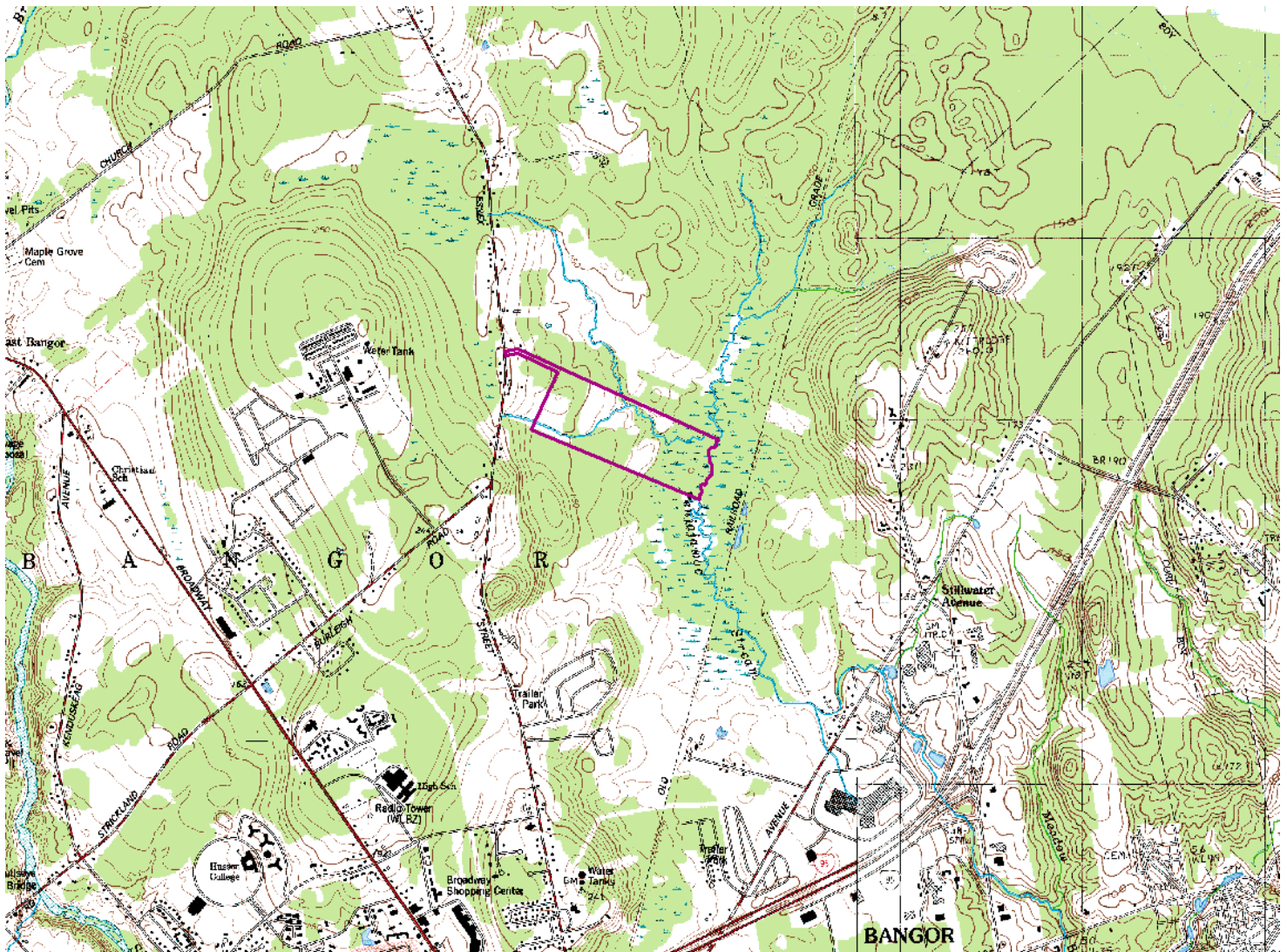
Orbeton Stream, Madrid, The Trust for Public Land

The Orbeton Stream project is a 5,800-acre conservation easement in the High Peaks region of Maine. The property has long been managed as a working forest and is designated critical habitat for the federally listed endangered Atlantic salmon. Within the project 2.6 miles of the Orbeton Stream has been identified as juvenile salmon rearing habitat and a mile as salmon spawning habitat. The property hosts approximately 20 miles of streams that are the headwaters of the Sandy River and includes the majority of the Orbeton's headwaters. In 2007, as a result of significant restoration efforts, salmon reared in the Orbeton watershed returned from the North Atlantic Ocean for the first time in over 150 years. The Orbeton Stream property abuts more than 50,000 acres of conservation land stretching from the Appalachian National Scenic Trail to Bigelow Preserve and has been identified as a priority by numerous conservation planning efforts including: Beginning with Habitat, US Fish and Wildlife Service's Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, US Department of the Interior's America's Great Outdoors Initiative, and the National Marine Fisheries Service's Endangered Species Program. Degradation on the site stems primarily from a historic poorly planned and maintained timber haul road network. Large storm events have caused significant erosion of woods roads and resulted in sediment reaching streams that are part of the critical salmon habitat on the property. Many stream crossings on the property have been compromised by antiquated culverts and degraded bridge abutments which have added to the sedimentation issues.



Penjajawoc Marsh, Bangor, Bangor Land Trust

The project goal is to protect ±30 acres of Penjajawoc marsh along with a 1000 foot band of upland core habitat, a 1000 foot additional buffer, and a small stream flowing into the marsh. This will both protect high value wading bird and water fowl habitat and prevent extensive residential development that would further degrade the water quality of the Penjajawoc watershed and its urban impaired stream. BLT proposes to purchase this land at appraised market value and permanently conserve it with a Declaration of Trust. We also intend to maintain the ~45 acres of meadow near the marsh. This is a relatively rare habitat type around the marsh and potentially important for a number of bird species that use the marsh including Yellow Warbler, Northern Harrier, and Sedge Wren. The property is at high risk for development. At one point there was a plan to put a road across the marsh. Bangor Land Trust has been working to protect this marsh for 10 years and has already succeeded in acquiring 210 acres of marsh and associated upland and an additional 410 acres containing smaller wetlands and connecting the marsh with a wildlife habitat corridor that includes Caribou Bog and Pushaw Lake.. The parcel is at risk for development if a conservation organization does not purchase the property. Looked at from the point of view of a residential developer, the most desirable portion would be the elevated meadow overlooking the marsh which, is part of the marsh core habitat. Much of the area near the road is wet meadow, making it impractical for any developer to cluster the development near the road. This is a gem of a parcel, as yet unspoiled. It is in a Beginning with Habitat focus area, and part of a Whole Place conservation effort. Bangor Land Trust's goal is to preserve it in its natural state to protect Penjajawoc Marsh and enable its ecosystem to survive at a healthy level.



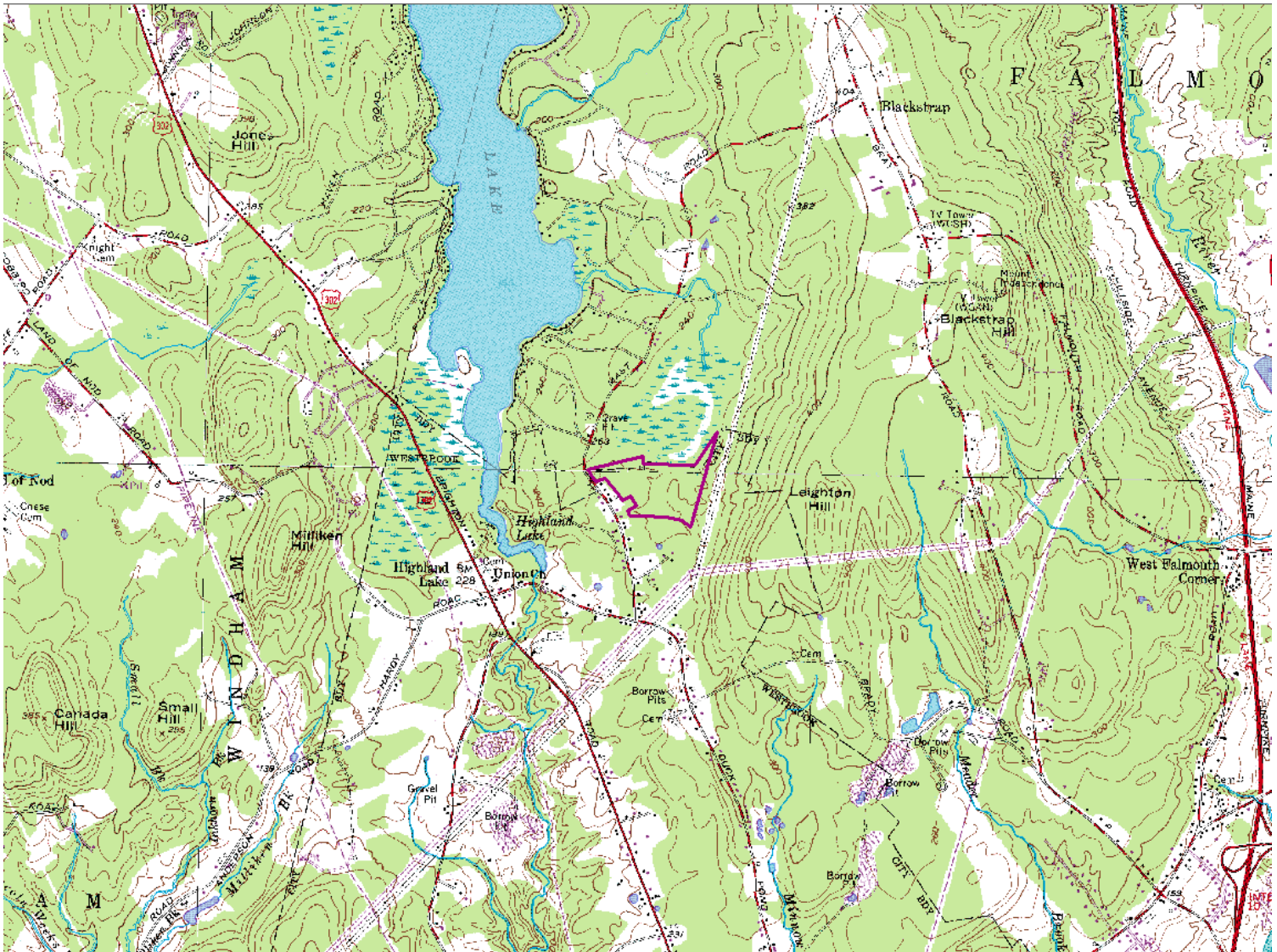
Smithfield Meadows, Biddeford, Saco Valley Land Trust

This project will protect through fee simple acquisition, 33 acres of wetlands, forests and open fields along the Little River and its tributaries in Biddeford. Some 3,250 feet of shoreline along the Little River and its tributaries, and 2 acres of NWI mapped scrub/shrub wetlands, will be preserved, in addition to forested wetlands and wet meadow readily seen in aerial photos which are to be mapped. The land lies within the Biddeford-Kennebunkport Vernal Pool Complex, a Beginning with Habitat Focus Area of Statewide Significance, and abuts a 54 acre conservation property owned by the Saco Valley Land Trust. The new property to be acquired will be owned and managed by the Saco Valley Land Trust as part of its system of nature preserves. Upland resources to be protected include hayfields and wet sedge meadows, which will be managed for grassland birds and other species dependent on open fields. The property's fields will be managed with late mowing to benefit ground nesting songbirds. The field/forest edge may be managed for New England Cottontail and other species requiring transitional habitat. Most importantly, the water resources along the Little River will be protected by preventing future subdivision and dense development of the property. The streams on the property have Brook Trout populations. Development of the property would result in new impervious surface and additional land being cleared. This would result in increased pollution and sedimentation in the streams, and warmer water temperatures during summer storms, stressing the trout and other stream organisms. Development of the property is very feasible and if it is not protected, development is highly likely within the next decade. The previous owner had planned to subdivide the property into many house lots. The land is zoned RF, Rural Farm, and minimum lot sizes range from ½ acre to one acre.



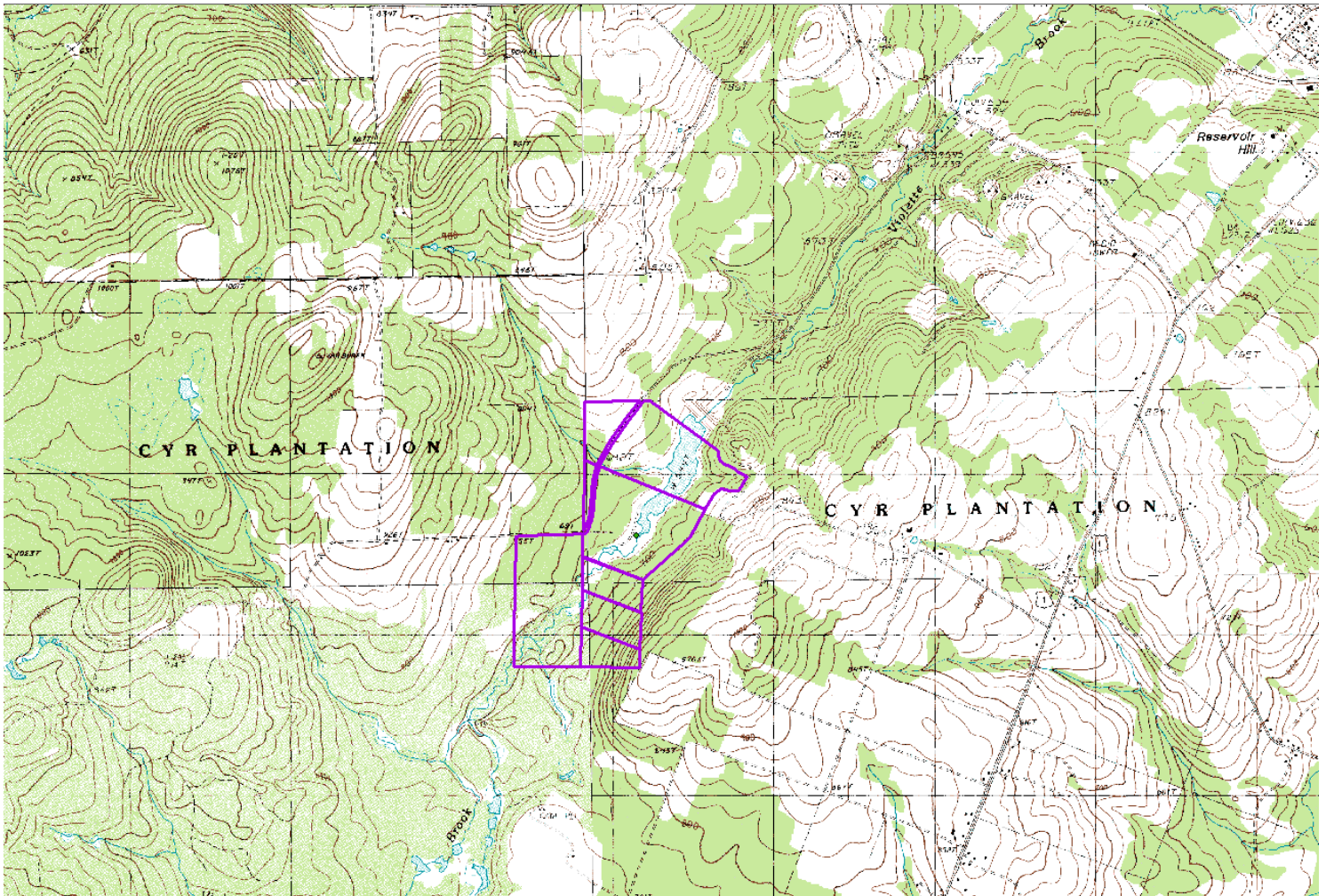
Suckfish Brook II, Westbrook, City of Westbrook

The Suckfish Brook Watershed Preservation Project will permanently preserve 37 acres of emergent wetlands and upland forest contiguous to ± 94 such acres that have already been preserved in the town of Falmouth through a 2011 MNRCP grant. Together, these properties provide important protection for the water quality of Highland Lake, since most of the precipitation that falls on the west side of Blackstrap ridge drains into that body of water. Highland Lake was only recently removed from the DEP's list of endangered lakes due to its former heavily eutrophied condition in the summer months. The property also provides important wildlife habitat for species found only in and around northern peat bogs. It also includes a trail that provides access to the bog for nature lovers, and a section of snowmobile trail, both located on the upland portion of the property. The property is located in a resource protection zone in Westbrook and abuts an open space priority area in Falmouth. Both towns are cooperating to preserve this important natural area. There are no obstacles to beginning the project and an established land trust will manage the property. The owner of the parcel has received a purchase offer from a potential developer, but prefers to see the land conserved if possible. That owner is a willing seller; the City Council has given concept approval to the acquisition the appraisal, survey and natural resource inventory are complete; and the project would be ready to close within six months of MNRCP approval. The city has acquired a purchase option for this parcel, which lies within an existing Resource Protection Shoreland Zone, and abuts a ± 250 acre area targeted for permanent protection in Falmouth's open space plan.



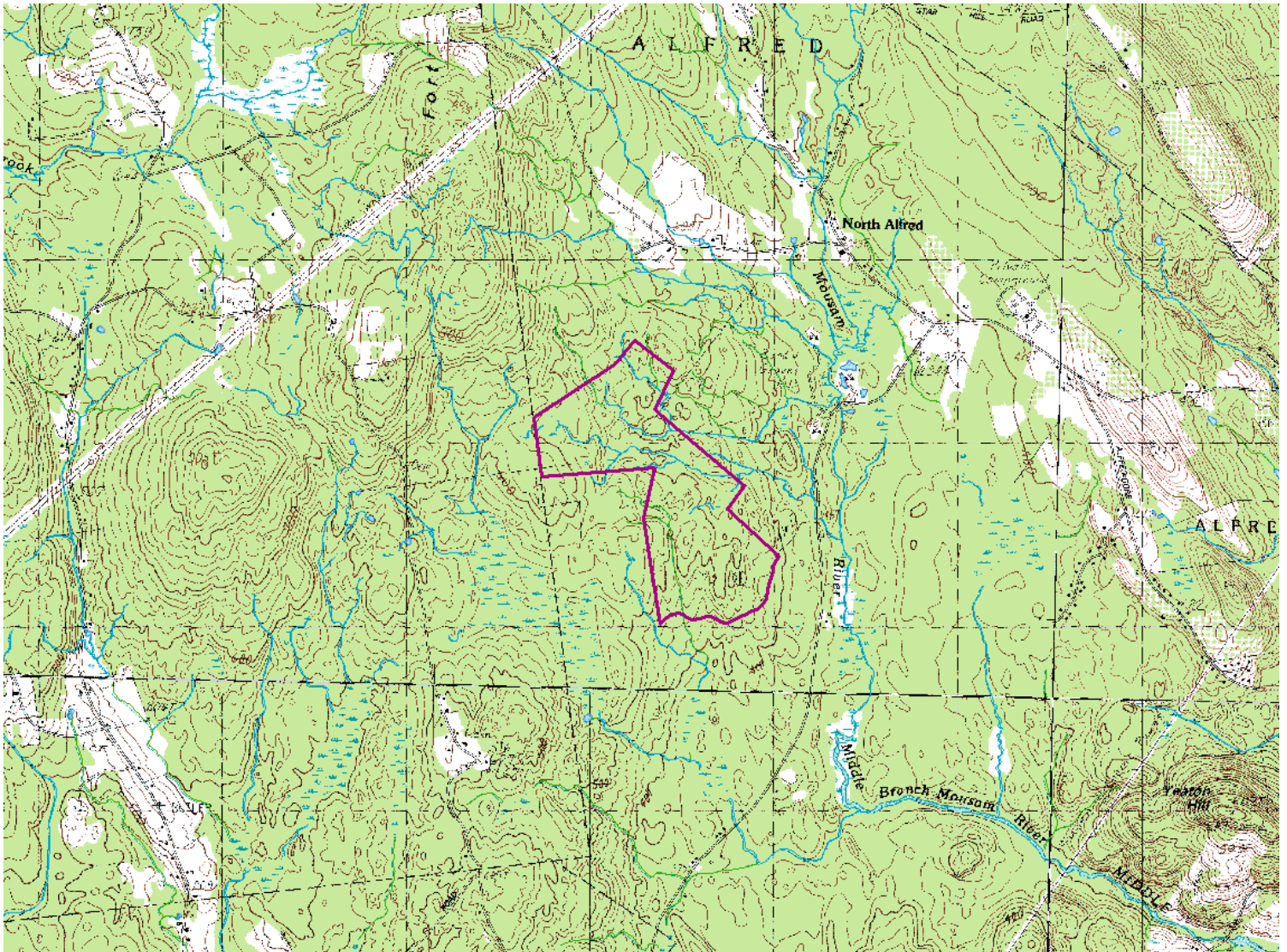
Violette Brook, Cyr Plantation, Forest Society of Maine

The Forest Society of Maine (FSM) and the Van Buren Water District hope to conserve and enhance approximately 350 acres in the Violette Brook watershed (in Cyr Plantation, Aroostook County) that contain priority MNRCP wetland types and significant wildlife habitat. A grant from MNRCP will result in: a conservation easement permanently protecting this property and its natural resources; enhancements and restoration of those resources (including enhanced riparian buffer protections, relocated ATV trails away from wetlands, and improved BMP's on other trails and roads); and permanent attention to those improvements. The Violette Brook project lands provide the communities of Van Buren and Hamlin with a reserve water supply, as well as opportunities for wildlife viewing, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, hunting, fishing, and paddling. Through this project, recreational activities will be managed to protect wetlands and other conservation values. This parcel currently has no protections against subdivision and development, or inappropriate recreational or other uses. In the past the district has been approached with proposals to harvest on or subdivide the property. Current district trustees and staff feel strongly that timely steps must be taken to add permanent and enhanced protections for the ecological values, recreational opportunities, and other benefits these lands can provide for future generations. The district is currently willing to donate the conservation easement to FSM, but funds for a stewardship endowment and other project costs must be secured. A grant from MNRCP would catalyze closure on this important conservation project.



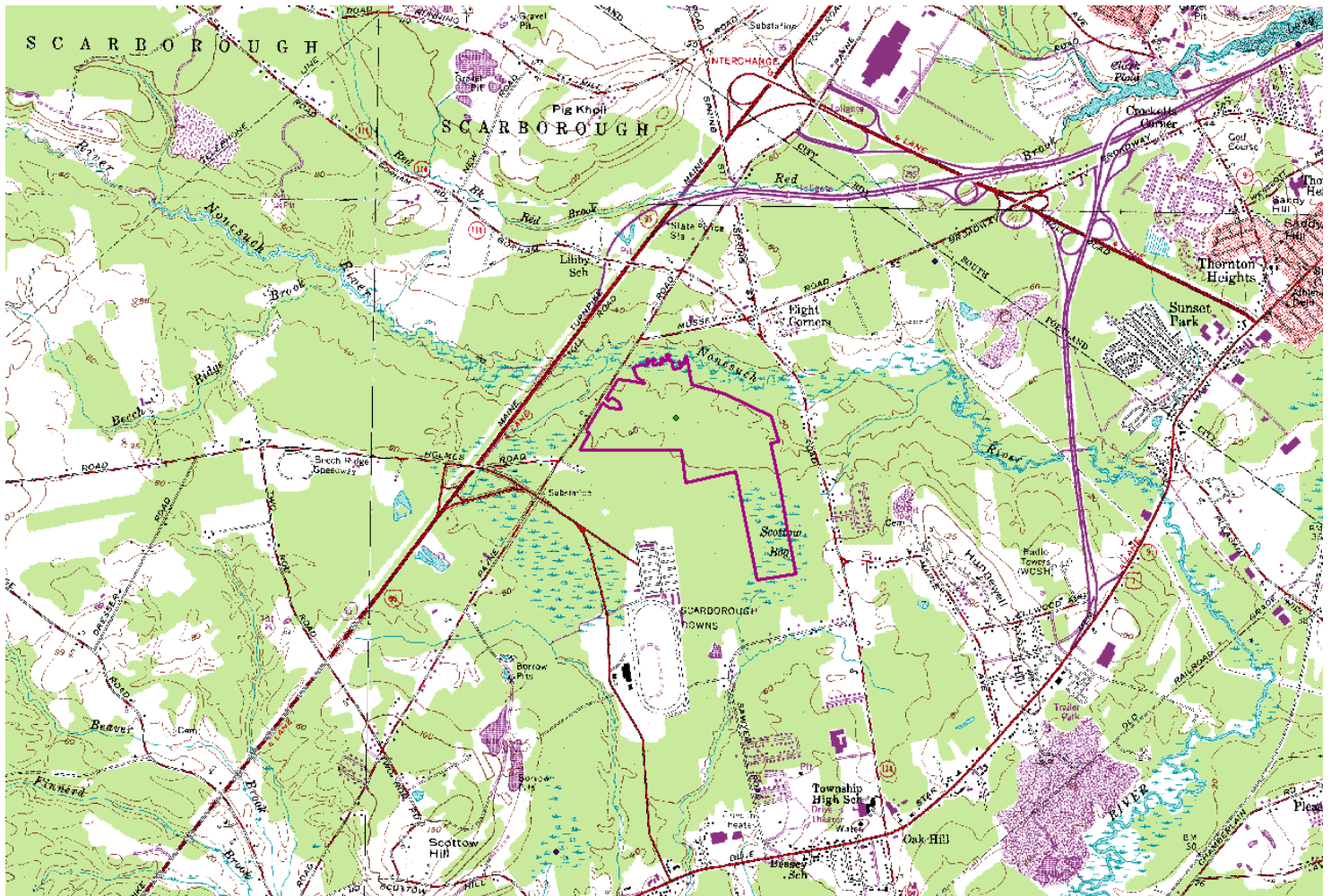
Walnut Hill II, Alfred, Three Rivers Land Trust

Through fee simple acquisition, this project would add 214 acres to the Walnut Hill Beginning with Habitat Focus Area, protecting 72 acres of forested wetlands, vernal pools and brooks. The property lies within the Walnut Hill Focus Area, a 6,000-acre region valued for both its diverse wildlife habitats and its mature, unfragmented forest. Protecting land within the focus area is a priority of IF &W, Alfred and Shapleigh Conservation Commissions and Three Rivers Land Trust. The property has potential for housing development and aggressive logging. These activities, which would degrade the wetlands, would be prevented by purchase and protection of the property. This would be the fourth protection project in the immediate area. The Town of Alfred owns 52 acres in two parcels that are under conservation easement. Three Rivers Land Trust owns 88 acres in two parcels, also under conservation easement.



Warren Woods, Scarborough, Scarborough Land Trust

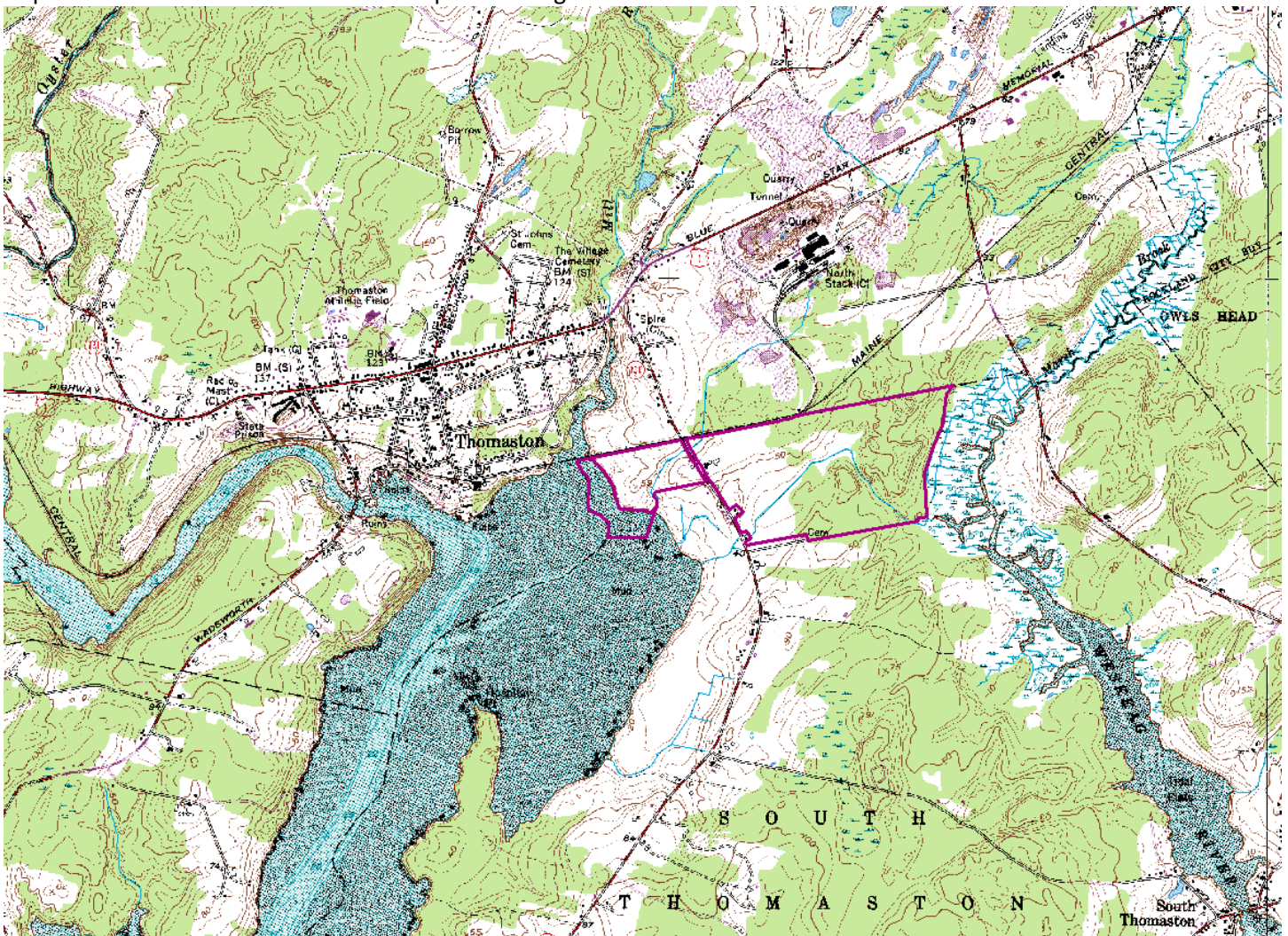
The Warren Woods project includes acquisition and preservation (via CE) of 160 acres of forested wetland and uplands, small perennial streams, open fields, and cleared wetlands. The project also includes wetland enhancement and restoration via hydrology restoration to an approximately 7 acre portion of mowed, ditched and drained wetland (essentially, artificial drainages will be removed and the field will be allowed to revert to wet shrub and forested cover). Located in the center of Scarborough, less than 2 miles from the Maine Mall and Oak Hill, the site has nearly 120 acres of wetlands, including frontage on the Nonesuch River. Permanent preservation of the site will protect several unique features, including: rare pitch pine bog and red maple swamp communities; 25 acres of primary and secondary succession fields - potential habitat for the endangered New England cottontail (NEC); large areas of mature forested wetlands and uplands; at least 3 functioning manmade vernal pool habitats; a large area of Nonesuch River floodplain; and several hundred linear feet of intermittent streams and drainages. This large block of habitat faces significant threats from development and has thus far remained remarkably absent of invasive species. SLT is seeking funding from the MNRCP to help finance the Warren Woods Project. In combination with funding from private and public sources, SLT will use MNRCP funds to acquire and permanently preserve the site; design, restore, enhance, and monitor approximately 7 acres of wetland; design and create trails and signage for public access, education, and passive recreation; and create plans for short- and long-term management and stewardship of the property.



Weskeag Wetlands, South Thomaston, Georges River land Trust

The goal of this project will be to ensure protection of significant wetland resources as well as suitable habitat for possible marsh migration of the Weskeag due to climate change. In addition, traditional farmland, on prime soils will be conserved. Fee ownership as well as easement will be used to meet these goals. Multiple conservation methods will be used for this project including preservation and limited restoration. The Georges River Land Trust's (GRLT) goals and intended results for this project are the following:

1. Reverse possible degradation to the Weskeag Marsh caused by the logging impacts through restoration of freshwater emergent wetlands and streams and enhancement of vernal pools.
2. More than double the conservation land along this ecologically significant "bridge" between these two productive estuarine systems (St. George River and Weskeag Marsh).
3. Provide suitable habitat for possible marsh migration of the Weskeag due to climate change.
4. Restore traditional farming within ~45 of the 247 acres, through permanent conservation on primarily the western parcel where the only prime agricultural soils are found along this stretch of the river.
5. Partner with other conservation agencies including Maine Farmland Trust, Maine Coast Heritage Trust and the Department of Inland Fisheries to accomplish these goals.



White Island, Harpswell, Harpswell Heritage Land Trust

The purpose of the White Island Stevens Project is to conserve the southern shore of White Island in Harpswell. The project would acquire two parcels of high value habitat totaling 63.3 acres with 3287 feet of shore on Middle Bay (as determined by the U.S Fish & Wildlife Service's Gulf of Maine Program) that are owned by Julia Stevens. These parcels contain 15.9 acres of forested uplands as a buffer for 47.4 acres of marine intertidal (M2) wetlands. These wetlands are nationally decreasing types of wetlands. It is located within the Beginning with Habitat Maquoit and Middle Bay Habitat Focus Area of Statewide Significance and within Casco Bay, an Estuary of National Significance. The threat of degradation to the property is high. The property -- comprised of two separate parcels -- had been on the market and was being sold as two (or more) house lots. Development of the property was almost certain to occur within a few years. This would result in degradation of water quality in Middle Bay and Casco Bay, with impacts on the marine intertidal resources. However the most significant impact would be on the wading bird and waterfowl habitat. The property has a long, currently undeveloped shoreline that sees abundant bird activity, which is likely to decrease significantly with increased human presence.

