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# PUBLIC NOTICE



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

Comment Period Begins: August 28, 2018  
Comment Period Ends: September 27, 2018  
File Number: NAE-2010-02215  
In Reply Refer To: Taylor Bell  
Phone: (978) 318-8952  
E-mail: [taylor.m.bell@usace.army.mil](mailto:taylor.m.bell@usace.army.mil)

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**The District Engineer is soliciting comments on the three projects which have applied for funding through the National Audubon Society's Connecticut In Lieu Fee ("ILF") program.** The National Audubon Society, Inc., through its Connecticut program (Audubon Connecticut) is the sponsor of the Connecticut ILF Program which serves as an alternative form of compensatory mitigation for aquatic resource impacts. The Connecticut ILF program is authorized by the New England District, Army Corps of Engineers (the "Corps"). A copy of the signed ILF agreement entitled "*Final Instrument for the Audubon Connecticut In-Lieu Fee Program Sponsored by National Audubon Society, Inc.*" dated August 21, 2013, includes details about the ILF Program goals and objectives in general and can be found at the following link:

<http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Portals/74/docs/regulatory/Mitigation/CTILFProgramInstrument.pdf>

The Connecticut ILF Program accrued funds that 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 Connecticut. The District Engineer has received three applications to conduct work in waters of the United States from various applicants who have applied for 2018 funding under the ILF Program.

The funds currently available are:

Connecticut River Service Area	\$144,410
Housatonic Service Area	\$187,388
South Central Service Area	\$176,108
Southeast Coast Service Area	\$11,453
Southwest Coast Service Area	\$9,498
Thames Service Area	\$1,684

Attached are the proposed project descriptions and locus maps for the three applications.

The decision whether to approve funding for projects will be based on an evaluation of each proposed activity as well as 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 benefits that may reasonably accrue from each proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments and/or its appropriateness considering the ecological needs of the service area 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 ILF Fund. Any comments received will be provided 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 also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

### **ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT**

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-267), requires all federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat ("EFH").

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

### **SECTION 106 COORDINATION**

Based on his initial review, the District Engineer has determined that one or more of the 3 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 activities 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.

### **COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT**

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

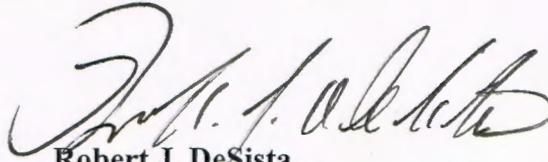
### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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 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 projects. Requests for a public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for requesting 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.



**Robert J. DeSista**  
**Acting 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](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_



## PROJECT PROPOSALS

Audubon Connecticut administers the competitive grant funding program and solicited Letters of Intent (LOIs) for wetland and watercourse restoration, enhancement, creation and/or preservation. The Request for LOIs included the criteria used to evaluate projects, the information required for a proposal, and other related information. The Request for LOIs was issued in March 2018 and the LOIs were due by April 18, 2018. To be eligible to receive Connecticut ILF funding, project applicants had to first submit their LOIs comprised of a summary of the proposed project, and a map of the project location. The following were received following an invitation to submit a full proposal. A summary of these proposals is as follows:

Proposed Projects and Location	Latitude & Longitude coordinates	Applicant	Fund Request	Funding Match	Service Area
Farmington River Highlands Preserve - Bosco	41° 14' 06" N 73° 24' 43" W	Hartland Land Trust	\$108,000	\$0	Connecticut River
Simpson Parcel - Bethany	41°26'52.10"N 73° 0'55.89"W	Town of Bethany	\$187,388	\$206,112.75	Housatonic River Service Area
Paulann Sheets Property – North Stonington	41°28'26.10"N 71°49'9.47"W	Avalonia Land Conservancy	\$11,453	\$313,547	Southeast Coast Service Area

A summary of each proposed activity, its purpose and intended use, including maps, is provided below.

### CONNECTICUT RIVER:

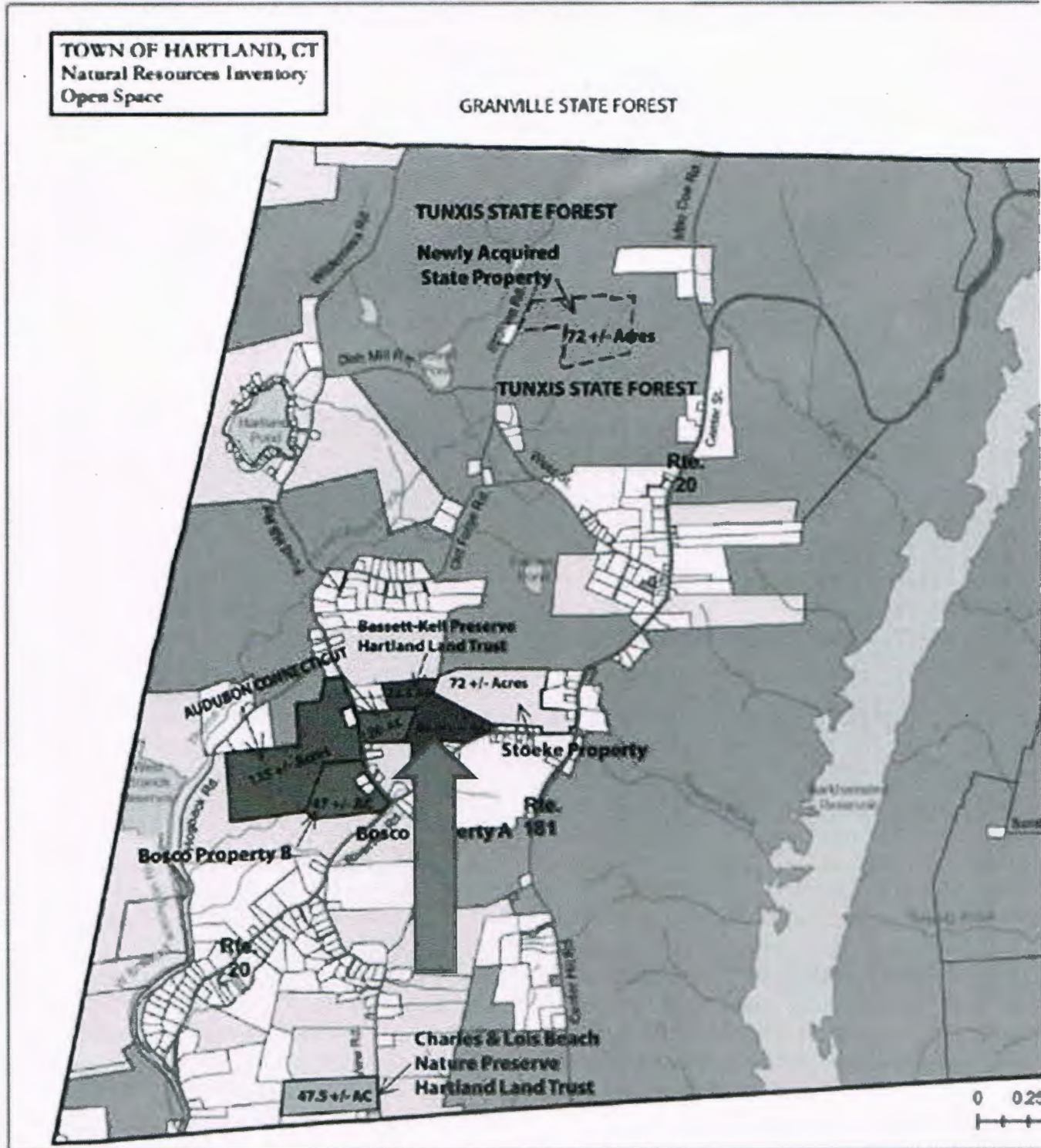
#### **Farmington River Highlands Preserve – Bosco**

The proposed project is to acquire 46.8 undeveloped acres of the “Bosco Property” in West Hartland, Connecticut for the purpose of it being forever held in its natural state by the Hartland Land Trust (HLT).

As can be seen in the map below, the proposed acquisition borders the Audubon Pasquariello property as well as the HLT Bassett-Kell Preserve, and the “Stoeke” property currently being acquired with a 2017 ILF grant. The Tunxis State Forest is connected to this Bosco property through the Bassett-Kell and Stoeke properties. The property drains into the National Wild and Scenic Upper Farmington River. The Bosco Property parcel contains palustrine forested broad-leaved deciduous seasonally saturated wetlands, palustrine scrub/shrub broad-leaved deciduous wetlands, riverine upper perennial watercourse), and two vernal pools.

Hartland Land Trust’s overall plan is to expand upon the existing Audubon and HLT preserves by pursuing conservation of the 46.8 acre “Bosco A” parcel to the east of Mill Street. This acquisition would integrate and augment the wildlife and aquatic habitats of the existing preserves. The property is a keystone parcel in a mostly undeveloped and highly protected landscape.

Figure 1 Locus Map of Bosco Property





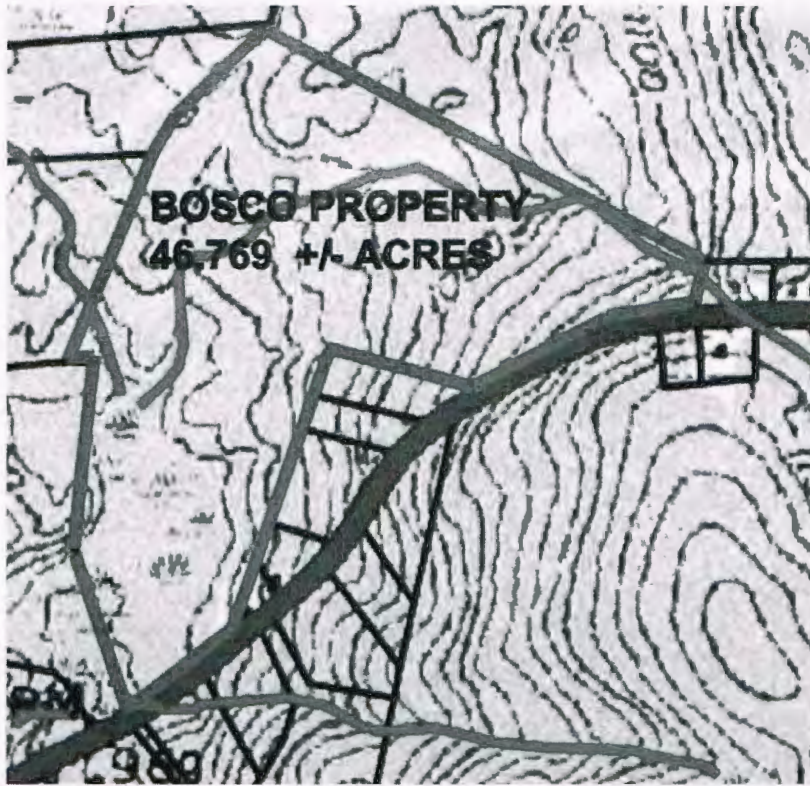


Figure 2 Locus Map of Bosco Property

## HOUSATONIC SERVICE AREA:

### Simpson Parcel – Bethany

The 50.88 acre Simpson parcel is proposed to be acquired by the Town of Bethany and co-managed by the Bethany Land Trust, Inc. (BLT). This property is an area of unfragmented woodland. The Simpson Preserve provides a significant linkage in a growing treasure of protected land at the juncture of Bethany, Beacon Falls and Naugatuck. The southwestern border abuts the terminus of Northrup Road. Co-sponsor Bethany Land Trust, Inc. has agreed to provide trail and habitat management services for the parcel and has provided some expense funds.

The parcel contains palustrine forested wetlands, palustrine wetlands, riverine upper perennial streams, and two vernal pools.

Figure 3 Locus Map of Simpson Preserve





# Bethany, Connecticut Open Space

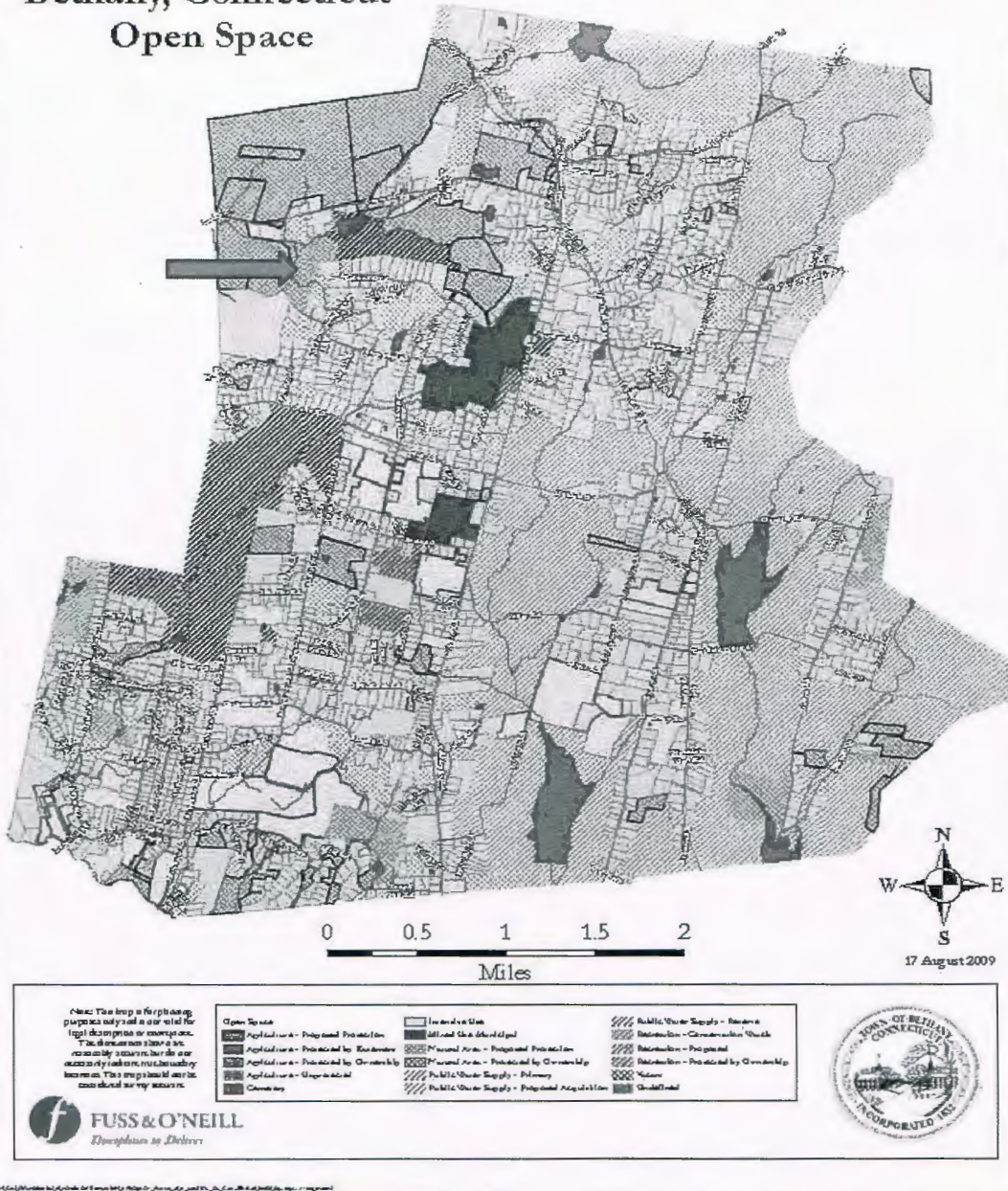


Figure 4 Locus Map of Simpson Preserve



## SOUTHEAST COAST SERVICE AREA

### Paulann Sheets Acquisition, North Stonington:

The 86.5 acre Green Fall Glen property is less than 1/2 mile from part of the State of Connecticut's Pachaug State Forest and North Stonington Citizens Alliance preserved land and 2/3 mile from another segment of Pachaug State Forest to the north. Avalonia's goal is to add to the Green Fall River greenway to the north until connected with Pachaug State Forest. The 24,000 acre Pachaug State Forest is in six towns, Voluntown, Griswold, Preston, North Stonington, Plainfield, Sterling, and connects to the Rhode Island Nature Conservancy's Borderlands.

The site is valuable for conservation of wildlife because it provides diverse habitats and provides opportunity for educational and research activities. The river, streams, wetlands, vernal pools, forest and ponds probably support migratory, wintering and breeding waterfowl and many other species.

Streams and wetlands would be accessible by trail and road for the public to enjoy for recreation, education, and research. The 33 acre wetland is accessible for passive recreation by walking up a relatively level old road to the northern boundary of the property and over to Green Fall River.

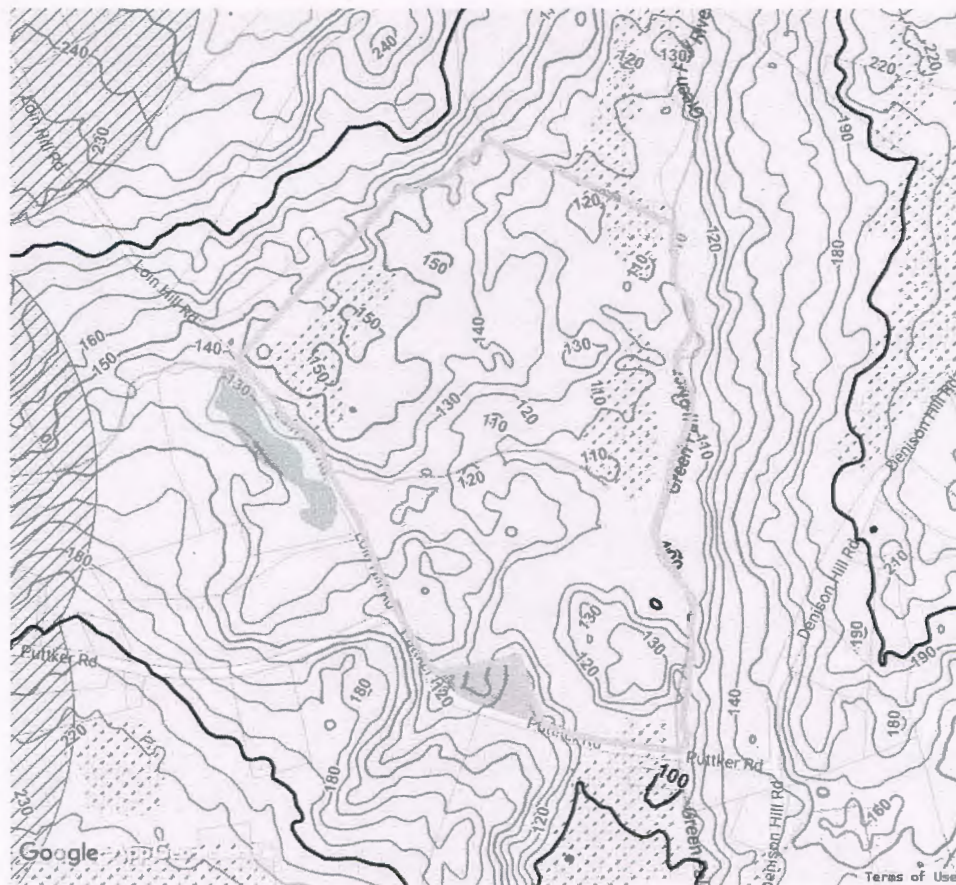


Figure 5 Locus Map Green Fall Glen





**Figure 6 Aerial Green Fall Glen**