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October 24, 2025

VIA MELS PORTAL

Ms. Dawn Hallowell
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Land Resources
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0017

Re: Condition Compliance Submission for Condition #39 of Maine Department of Environmental Protection Site Location/NRPA Permit Numbers #L-27625-26-A-N, L- 27625-TG-B-N, L-27625-2C-C-N, L-27625-VP-D-N, L-27625-IW-E-N and for Condition #10 of the Maine Board of Environmental Protection Permit Numbers L-27625-26-F-Z, L-27625-TG-G-Z, L-27625-2C-H-Z, L-27625-VP-I-Z, L-27625-IW-J-Z, L-27625-26-AB-Z for the New England Clean Energy Connect Project

Dear Ms. Hallowell:

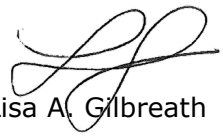
On behalf of NECEC Transmission LLC (NECEC LLC), please find enclosed the following materials:

- Clean revised Forest Management Plan (and all exhibits thereto), Attachment A
- Redline format Forest Management Plan (redline comparison of July 16, 2025 Forest Management Plan filing), Attachment B

As indicated in the Bureau of Parks and Lands' (BPL's) October 8, 2025 letter to the Department, since NECEC LLC filed the original Forest Management Plan on July 16, 2025, BPL has engaged in its standard practice of iterative review and discussion with landowner Weyerhaeuser. The attached redline format shows the revisions that were made during BPL's review and in response to its request for supplemental information from Weyerhaeuser. The attached clean revised Forest Management Plan, including all attachments thereto, is submitted to the Department for its review and approval pursuant to Condition #39.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Lisa A. Gilbreath

Enclosures
cc (via email): Service List (last updated 2025)

ATTACHMENT A
FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN
(CLEAN)

Forest Management Plan

for the

New England Clean Energy Connect

Upper Kennebec Conservation Easement

October 2025

Plan Preparation:

Mark W. Rabon, LF3159
Ben Kamps, LF3796
Ed Meddaugh, Biometrician
Ray Ary, Biologist
October 2025

Weyerhaeuser

PO Box 646
Bingham, Maine 04920

Table of Contents

1.0 Introduction

This Forest Management Plan (FMP) dated July 14, 2025, governs land covered by the New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) Upper Kennebec Conservation Easement granted by Weyerhaeuser Company, a Washington corporation, with a place of business in Bingham, Maine (Grantor or Weyerhaeuser) to the State of Maine, acting by and through its Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands (Holder) on _____ and recorded in Book _____, Page _____ in the Somerset County Registry of Deeds (Conservation Easement). The land covered by the Conservation Easement (see **Appendix A**) and subject to this FMP is referred to as the "Protected Property".

On May 11, 2020, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) completed its 29-month application review and issued an Order approving the NECEC project Site Location of Development Act and Natural Resources Protection Act permit applications. Special Condition #39 of the MDEP Order requires the development of a Conservation Plan to permanently conserve 40,000 acres in the vicinity of NECEC project Segment 1 (Beattie Township to The Forks Plantation) to compensate for the fragmenting effect and the related edge effect of Segment 1 on habitat in the region by promoting habitat connectivity and conservation of mature forest areas. The required area to be conserved was increased to 50,000 acres by the Maine Board of Environmental Protection (Board) Order dated July 21, 2022, that affirmed the MDEP Order. Collectively, the MDEP Order and the Board Order are referred to herein as the "Permit Orders."

In compliance with the Permit Orders, NECEC Transmission LLC (NECEC LLC), along with Weyerhaeuser and the Holder, have developed the accompanying Conservation Plan, which conserves more than 50,000 acres of largely contiguous property adjacent to Segment 1 (the Protected Property), to be managed for mature forest and habitat connectivity, including wildlife travel corridors within riparian areas and between mature forest habitats.

The Conservation Plan must:

- Establish as its primary goal the compensation for the fragmenting effect of the transmission line on habitat in the region of Segment 1 and the related edge effect by promoting habitat connectivity and conservation of mature forest areas;
- Identify the area(s), with a focus on large habitat blocks, to be conserved and explain the conservation value of this land; any conservation area must be at least 5,000 acres unless the area is adjacent to existing conserved land or the applicant demonstrates that the conservation of any smaller block, based on its location and other characteristics, is uniquely appropriate to further the goals of the Conservation Plan;

- Include a draft Forest Management Plan establishing how, consistent with the primary goal of the Conservation Plan, the conservation area(s) will be managed, including to provide blocks of habitat for species preferring mature forest habitat and wildlife travel corridors along riparian areas and between mature forest habitat;
- Explain the legal interest, such as fee ownership or a working forest conservation `easement, that will be acquired in each area; the proposed owner or holder of this interest; and the qualifications of each proposed owner or Holder;
- Include preliminary consent from any proposed owner or Holder;
- Explain how the applicant will ensure the availability of stewardship funding (e.g., funding for monitoring and enforcement) needed to support achievement of the goals of the Conservation Plan; and
- Ensure the MDEP will have third party enforcement rights.

Pursuant to Section 3.3 of the Conservation Easement, Forest Management Activities, as defined in **Appendix B**, on the Protected Property, shall be conducted in accordance with this FMP. The primary goal of this FMP is compensation for the fragmenting effect of the NECEC on habitat in the vicinity of that transmission line and the related edge effect by promoting habitat connectivity and conservation of mature forest areas. This FMP establishes how, consistent with the primary goal of the Conservation Plan, the Protected Property will be managed, including providing blocks of habitat for species preferring mature forest habitat and wildlife travel corridors along riparian areas and between mature forest habitats. This will be accomplished by modifying existing silvicultural practices on the property to create a shifting mosaic from early successional through mature forest blocks, which increases overall mature forest habitat and provides habitat connectivity, and by establishing permanent wildlife travel corridors along riparian areas. Compared to current management practices, the proposed conservation management practices described herein are intended to result in an increase from 40% in the 35+ foot age class and 13% in the 50+ foot age class today, to 65% in the 35+ foot age class and 50% in the 50+ foot age class by approximately 2065.

2.0 Property description

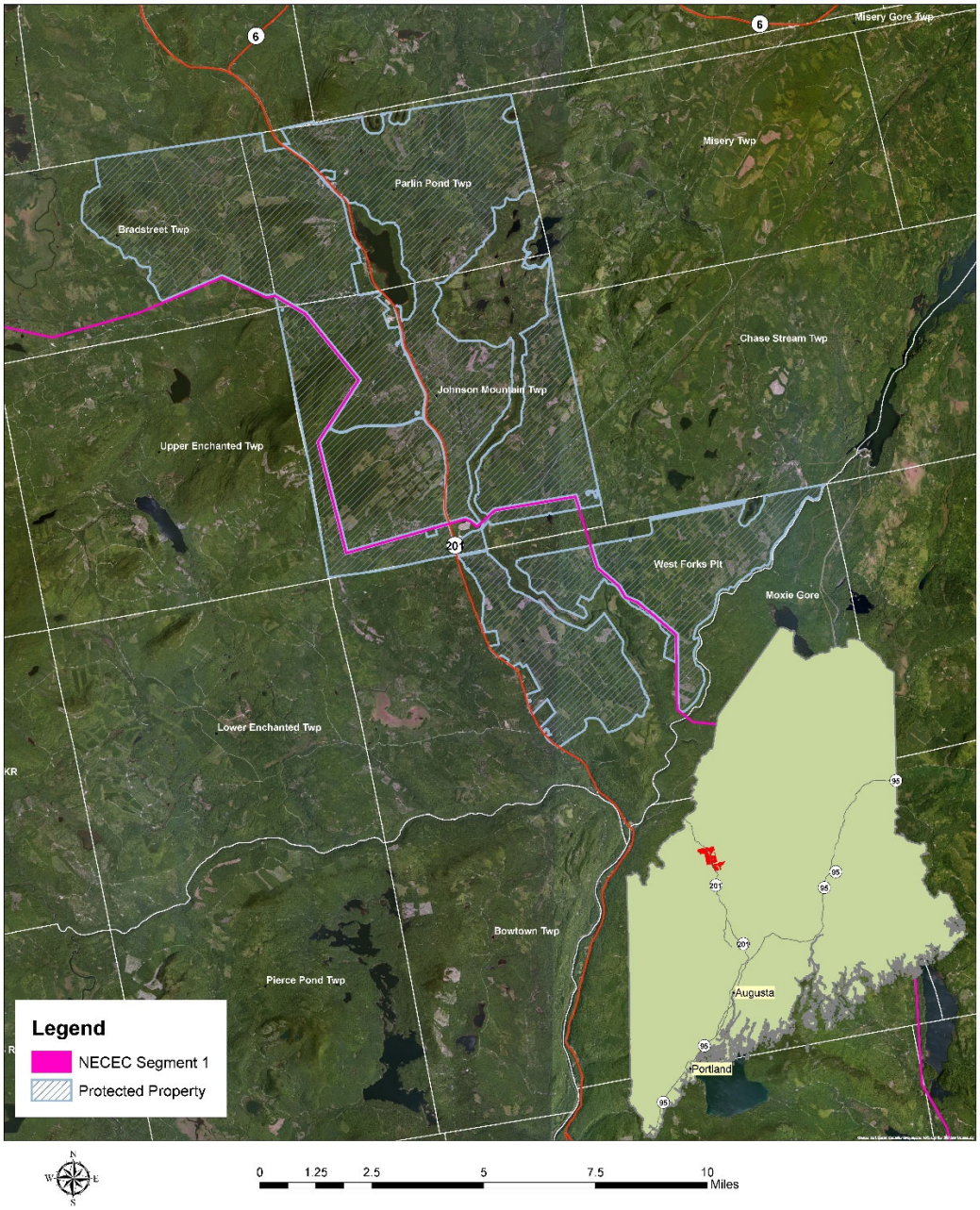
2.1 Location

The Protected Property, depicted in **Figure 1** and **Appendix C** consists of more than 50,000 acres of largely contiguous property adjacent to Segment 1 of the NECEC, an approximately 53.1-mile-long portion of the transmission line that starts at the Maine/Quebec border in Beattie Township and continues to The Forks Plantation. It is to be managed for mature forest and habitat connectivity, including wildlife travel corridors within riparian areas and between mature forest

habitats. The Protected Property is located in Bradstreet Township, Johnson Mountain Township, Parlin Pond Township, and West Forks Plantation.

Segment 1 of the NECEC bisects the Protected Property, ensuring that any fragmenting or edge effect caused by the transmission line during its operational life is mitigated by establishing the conservation measures described herein in the immediate vicinity of Segment 1 in perpetuity.

Figure 1. Map of the Protected Property.



2.2 Region

The Protected Property further enhances and extends a large landscape of protected land in the Upper Kennebec Region due to its adjacency to existing conservation lands. To the northwest is the Leuthold Forest Preserve (16,934-acres), Moose River/#5 Bog Conservation easement (4,790-acres), and the Attean Pond Conservation Easement (20,000 acres); the Cold Stream Public Land Unit (8,150-acres) extends north/south and runs through the Protected Property; and the Moosehead Conservation Easement (355,449-acres) lies to the east and north. The Protected Property fills a gap between these areas, creating almost 450,000 contiguous acres in conservation.

2.3 Ownership History

Weyerhaeuser, or its predecessor in interest, has owned the property since 1998. The property was conveyed to SDW Timber II, L.L.C. in 1998, via Quitclaim Deed without Covenant from S.D. Warren Company, which deeds are recorded at Book 2489, Page 228 (Bradstreet, T4 R7, BKP WKR), Book 2490, Page 81 (Johnson Mountain, T2 R6, BKP WKR), Book 2490, Page 228 (Parlin Pond, T3 R7, BKP WKR), and Book 2491, Page 67 (West Forks, T1 R5, BKP WKR). In December of 1998, SDW Timber II, L.L.C. changed its name to Plum Creek Maine Timberlands, L.L.C., as evidenced by document recorded at Book 2605, Page 151, Records of Somerset County. In September of 2016, Plum Creek Maine Timberlands, L.L.C. merged with and into Plum Creek Timberlands, L.P., and contemporaneously Plum Creek Timberlands, L.P., merged with and into Weyerhaeuser Company, as evidenced by Affidavit of Title recorded in the Records of Somerset County, Document 14552, Book 5097, Page 70.

2.4 Boundary Lines

A legal description, including a property map, will be developed by Weyerhaeuser and provided to Holder prior to implementation of the Conservation Plan. A boundary line survey of the Protected Property shall be completed within 24 months following the conveyance of the Conservation Easement in accordance with Paragraph II. A. *Words of Conveyance*.

The boundary line survey shall include marking features such as roads, rights-of-way, structures, and other improvements. The boundary line survey shall be recorded in accordance with the Conservation Easement, and Weyerhaeuser shall cause any boundary lines of the Protected Property not currently marked and painted to be marked and painted. Survey data will be uploaded to Weyerhaeuser's FMS System with a copy of the boundary shapefiles being shared with the Holder.

2.5 Property Tax Status, Zoning, and Legal Obligations

Table 1 below includes each Maine Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) Account Parcel Number (APN), parcel location address, whether the parcel is enrolled in the Maine Tree Growth Program, and LUPC development subdistrict as established by Chapter 10 of LUPC's rules for the Protected Property. The Protected Property is subject to the LUPC's rules, as well as the Maine Forest Practices Act, 12 MRS §§ 8866 *et seq.*, as well as the Maine Forest Service's Chapter 20 Forest Regeneration & Clearcutting Standards. While title work is ongoing, to the best of Weyerhaeuser's knowledge the Protected Property is subject to no lease agreements, deed restrictions, covenants, or similar land use restrictions relating to forestry.

Table 1. Maine LUPC Account Parcels for the Protected Property				
APN	APN2	LocationAddress	CountyZoning	Enrolled in Maine Tree Growth?"
SO020011.15	25839011.15	Parlin Pond Twp, ME	P-RR	yes
SO014012	25829012	Johnson Mountain Twp, ME 04945	M-GN	yes
SOP05184	25330184	West Forks Plt, ME 04985	P-WL1	Very small tax parcel included in SOP05185 enrollment in tree growth
SOP05185	25330185	West Forks Plt, ME 04985	M-GN	yes
SO020015	25839015	Parlin Pond Twp, ME	M-GN	yes
SO022011	25813011	Bradstreet Twp, ME 04945		yes
SO014011.12	25829011.12	Johnson Mountain Twp, ME 04945	M-GN	yes
SOP05164	25330164	0 Dead Stream Rd, West Forks Plt, ME 04985	P-SL2	Yes, subject to a small access corridor to be removed in 2027
SO014011.1	25829011.1	Johnson Mountain Twp, ME 04945	M-GN	yes
SO014011.2	25829011.2	27 Owls Holw, Johnson Mountain Twp, ME 04985	M-GN	yes
SO020014	25839014	Parlin Pond Twp, ME 04945	P-WL3	yes
SO020011	25839011	Parlin Pond Twp, ME 04945	M-GN	yes
SOP05074	25330074	0 N Old 201 Rd, West Forks Plt, ME 04985	M-GN	What portion of tax ID SOP05074 WY does own is enrolled in tree growth, subject to a small access corridor to be removed in 2027
SOP050818	253300818	West Forks Plt, ME 04985	M-GN	What portion of tax ID SOP050818 WY does own is enrolled in tree growth
SOP05131	25330131	West Forks Plt, ME 04985	M-GN	What portion of tax ID SOP05131 WY does own is

				WY does own is enrolled in tree growth
SOP05171	25330171	West Forks Plt, ME 04985	M-GN	yes
SOP05172	25330172	West Forks Plt, ME 04985	M-GN	yes
SOP05165	25330165	West Forks Plt, ME 04985	M-GN	yes
SOP05132	25330132	West Forks Plt, ME 04985	M-GN	What portion of tax ID SOP05132 WY does own is enrolled in tree growth
SOP05142	25330142	West Forks Plt, ME 04985	M-GN	What portion of tax ID SOP05142 WY does own is enrolled in tree growth
SOP05141	25330141	West Forks Plt, ME 04985	M-GN	What portion of tax ID SOP05141 WY does own is enrolled in tree growth
SOP050917	253300917	3681 US Route 201, West Forks Plt, ME 04985	M-GN	What portion of tax ID SOP050917 WY does own is enrolled in tree growth

3.0 General Condition of the Forest

3.1 Forest Description

The Protected Property is a forested land area of significant breadth and diversity, with outstanding values including sizeable blocks of mature forest habitat. Mature Forest Habitat is defined as forest stands consisting of a mix of native species with a minimum basal area of 80 square feet per acre of live trees at least 4.5 inches in diameter at breast height, including a minimum basal area of 60 square feet per acre of live trees at least 50 feet tall, accompanied by the presence of representative levels of well distributed standing dead and downed trees, as described in Section VII.A.6 of the Conservation Easement. It is interspersed with upland, riparian, and wetland vegetative communities composed of coniferous, deciduous, and mixed-wood forest of varied age classes with approximately 40% of the area currently 35 feet in height or taller. Large blocks of the property have ecological importance as wildlife and fisheries habitat, including for species that prefer mature forest such as pine marten and white-tailed deer as well as brook trout, landlocked salmon, other fish, and many species of forest interior dwelling birds, waterfowl, reptiles, and amphibians. The Protected Property includes extensive bogs, wetlands, rivers, an abundance of seasonal and perennial streams, lakes, remote ponds and other water bodies, and unique natural features, all of which will benefit from the overall conservation of the Protected Property. The intensive conservation management described in the FMP would protect, maintain, and enhance the habitat value for these species.

The forests consist of approximately 17% hardwood stands, 40% mixed-wood stands, and 43% softwood stands, which are of varied age classes and species. Stands with trees under 35 feet in height comprise 60% of the acreage with only 13% currently taller than 50 feet.

3.2 Forest Health

The Protected Property is managed by professional foresters and biologists, in accordance with state law, utilizing forest management practices that include scientifically sound silviculture and best management practices. Foresters are responsible for field review of potential local forest health problems and concerns as they conduct their normal field duties and report observations to Supervisors who contact appropriate agencies as needed. Regular training is conducted by agencies such as the Maine Forest Service regarding the detection and recognition process for emerging forest health concerns such as Emerald Ash Borer, Hemlock Wooly Adelgid, Beech Leaf Disease, and Spruce Budworm.

Spruce budworm is a significant emerging threat to the health of balsam fir on the Protected Property. The current state-wide spruce budworm mitigation strategy includes insect monitoring and hotspot identification through extensive L2 surveys, forest inventory analyses and risk

assessments, and active engagement with the Maine Spruce Budworm (SBW) Task Force on targeted management strategies.

As needed, quarantine associated agreements and any required compliance records are kept on hand and foresters assist contractors to ensure that forest product and equipment movement off-site is in compliance.

3.3 Fire Protection

To protect timber resources, fire hazard reduction is employed broadly, and fire suppression is practiced in wildfire events. Contact with various state agencies with an emphasis on Maine Forest Service is used to ensure coordinated fire responses, such as meetings with state fire control officials in advance of an upcoming fire season to review high hazard areas.

All professional foresters, contract loggers, haulers, and road crews working on the land have fire suppression systems and are trained in their use.

The public is prohibited from building outdoor fires in fire hazard areas during periods of fire emergency and can only have fires in designated pre-approved areas. Insect infestation control and quarantine efforts can also reduce vulnerability to fire events. Healthy forest conditions are fostered through timely and careful harvests carried out by trained loggers under the supervision of professional foresters.

3.4 Hydrology

The Protected Property includes extensive bogs, wetlands, rivers, an abundance of seasonal and perennial streams, lakes, remote ponds and other water bodies, and unique natural features, all of which will benefit from the overall conservation of the Protected Property.

The Protected Property is located entirely within the upper Kennebec River watershed area - See Watershed Map in **Appendix D**. Significant streams running through the Protected Property include Bean Brook, Parlin, and Cold Streams. In total, the Protected Property includes approximately 88 miles of rivers and perennial streams, representing an extensive network of riparian corridors within the lands to be conserved. As outlined further in Section 4.2.3, two levels of buffers will be established along riparian corridors on the Protected Property: “No-Harvest Buffers” and “Mature Forest Habitat Buffers”. These Perennial Stream Buffers run from the Normal High-Water Line on the approximately 88 miles of Perennial Streams. For Riparian Wetlands, the Normal High-Water Line where the buffer begins is the upland edge of the wetland, not the edge of the open water within the stream corridor. These buffers will improve and maintain habitat

connectivity by creating Mature Forest Habitat running along Perennial Streams that will allow for increased connectivity to Mature Forest Habitat elsewhere on the Protected Property.

3.5 Topography and Soils

The topography and soils on the Protected Property are typical of forested, post-glaciated landforms. Several mountains that are part of the larger Boundary Mtn complex that runs along the border between Quebec & Canada are contained within the Protected Property. These peaks include Johnson Mtn, Bean Brook Mtn, and Catheart Mtn. Some areas of exposed bedrock are present on these slopes and scattered throughout the Protected Property.

The parent soil within the Protected Property is largely glacial derived and composed of glacial till, sandy outwash, and several prominent gravel esker features. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) information indicates a diverse soil distribution across the Protected Property with approximately fifty unique soil types as listed and mapped in the Appendix D – Soil Maps and Map Unit Details. The three largest soil types by area contained within the Protected Property are shown below:

DEC—Danforth-Elliottsville association, 3 to 15 percent slopes, extremely stony covering approximately 13% of Protected Property (NRCS).

CPB—Colonel-Pillsbury-Peru association, 0 to 8 percent slopes, very stony covering approximately 8% of the Protected Property (NRCS).

LTC—Hogback-Rawsonville complex, 4 to 25 percent slopes covering approximately 7% of the Protected Property (NRCS).

Complete soils information can be found in **Appendix E**.

4.0 Permit Order Compliance and Conservation Plan

Consistent with the primary goal of the Conservation Plan, this FMP governs how the Protected Property will be managed to increase and maintain habitat connectivity, establish Perennial Stream Buffers, promote and maintain mature Forest Stands, and achieve Mature Forest Habitat. This will, over time, provide significantly more and larger blocks of habitat for species preferring mature forest conditions and will improve, maintain, and create additional wildlife travel corridors along riparian areas and between Mature Forest Habitats that would not otherwise be present on the Protected Property.

4.1 Conservation of Mature Forest Areas

The Protected Property will be permanently managed to achieve and maintain a minimum of 50% of the Productive Forest as Mature Forest Habitat after approximately 2065. While the MDEP[1] and the Board[2] Permit Orders found that mature forest begins to provide benefits to species preferring Mature Forest Habitat when those forest stands reach 35 feet in height, in concurrence with the Holder and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, and as agreed upon to meet the terms of the Permit Orders, this FMP achieves a significantly greater height and basal area to the benefit of species preferring Mature Forest Habitat and travel corridors. Under this FMP, Forest Stands reach the condition of Mature Forest Habitat when a minimum basal area threshold of 80 square feet per acre of live trees with 60 square feet of 50' tall or taller trees is reached. This target level threshold will be then maintained in perpetuity utilizing Shifting Mosaic Forest management practices that promotes a dynamic landscape characterized by a diversity of growth stages, age classes, and species composition. Currently in 2025, the Productive Forest area that meets the Mature Forest Habitat definition on the Protected Property is approximately 13%, at just over 6,000 acres.

As shown in **Figure 2**, under this FMP, over the next forty years the percentage of trees over 50 feet in height is intended to increase from approximately 13% today to 50% by approximately 2065. To ensure this target is met, mature forest conditions will be monitored and managed by targeting particular milestones which will be reviewed as part of each annual meeting between Grantor and Holder. The target goal of 50% of productive acres in mature forest by 2065 will then be sustained in perpetuity.

Climate change effects may affect the growth models used as a basis for the Mature Forest Habitat projections outlined in this FMP, including the anticipated ten-year milestones. Climate

[1] MDEP Order at 79: "Since the hearing, the Department has continued its review of the evidence in the record and identified additional areas where taller vegetation, with a minimum height of 35 feet, is appropriate to support wildlife…."
[2] Board Order at 53: "While vegetation with a minimum height of 35 feet is not equivalent to full canopy height vegetation in terms of the cover it provides, the record evidence supports that vegetation of 30 feet and taller aids wildlife movement."

change increases uncertainty about future forest conditions, which cannot be predicted by current growth models. A changing climate will likely affect tree growth rates, mortality, disturbance patterns and the distribution of tree species after disturbances. Models suggest shifts in the ranges of trees and other plants, animals, and pests. More frequent extreme wildfires and weather events are expected to alter disturbance regimes and will require adjustments in forest operations and planning. Management strategies to address these uncertainties must change over time, guided by the best available science.

Figure 2. Mature Forest Milestones - Estimated Mature Habitat at each 10-year increment on Productive Acres

Mature Forest Milestones	
2025	13%
2035	20%
2045	30%
2055	40%
2065	50%

This represents a significant increase compared to current conditions, as well as to the projected forest conditions in 2065 under management practices that follow only the minimum state standards or, alternatively, if the property were developed. A visual depiction of current forest heights by age class is included as **Figure 3**, and a visual depiction of forest heights by age class anticipated in 2065 and beyond under the FMP is included as **Figure 4**. Note that the 2025 Mature Forest Milestone acreage at 13% is derived exclusively from the ≥50 Height Group as depicted in Figure 3.

Figure 3. 2025 Forest Heights by Age Class Under Current Management

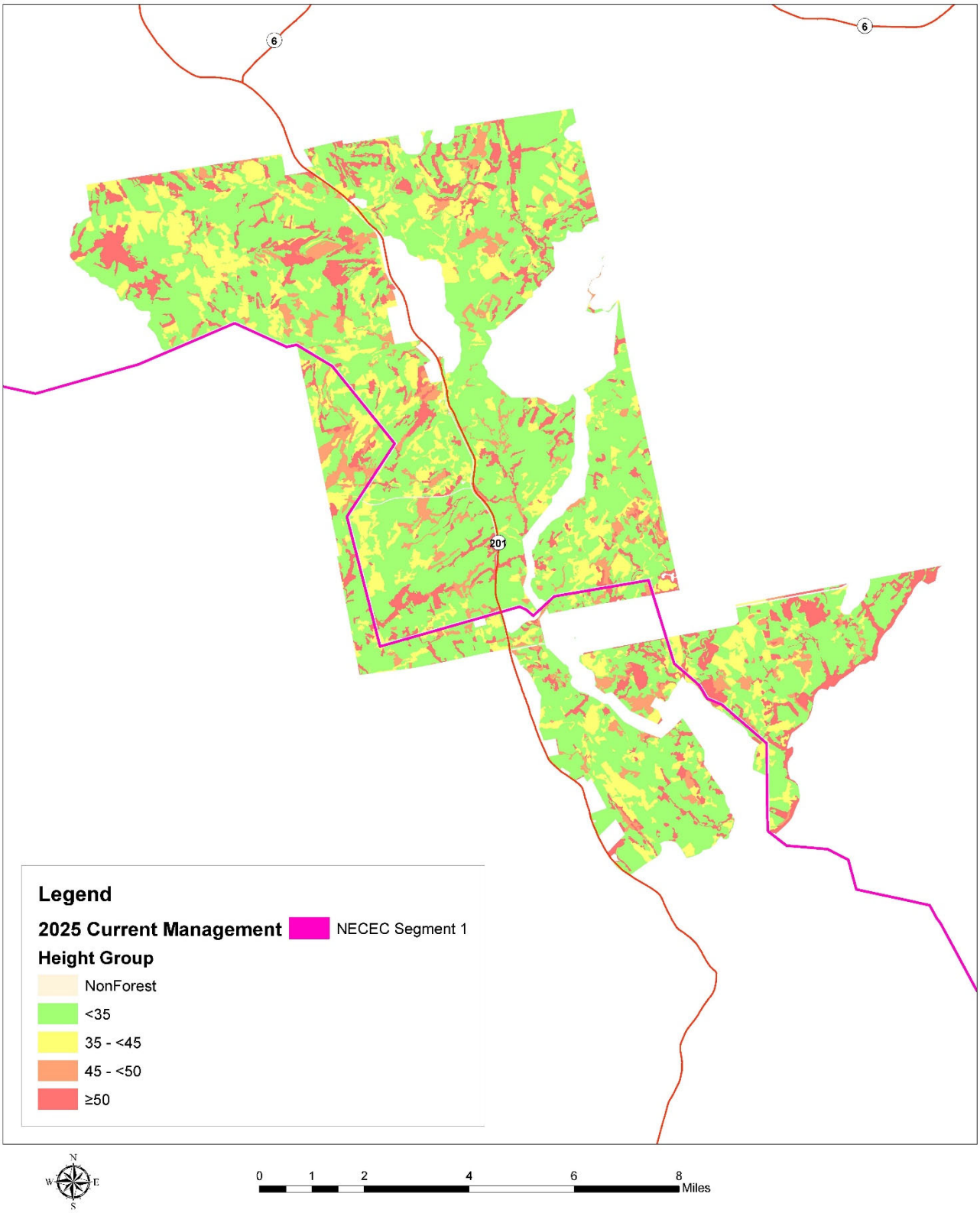
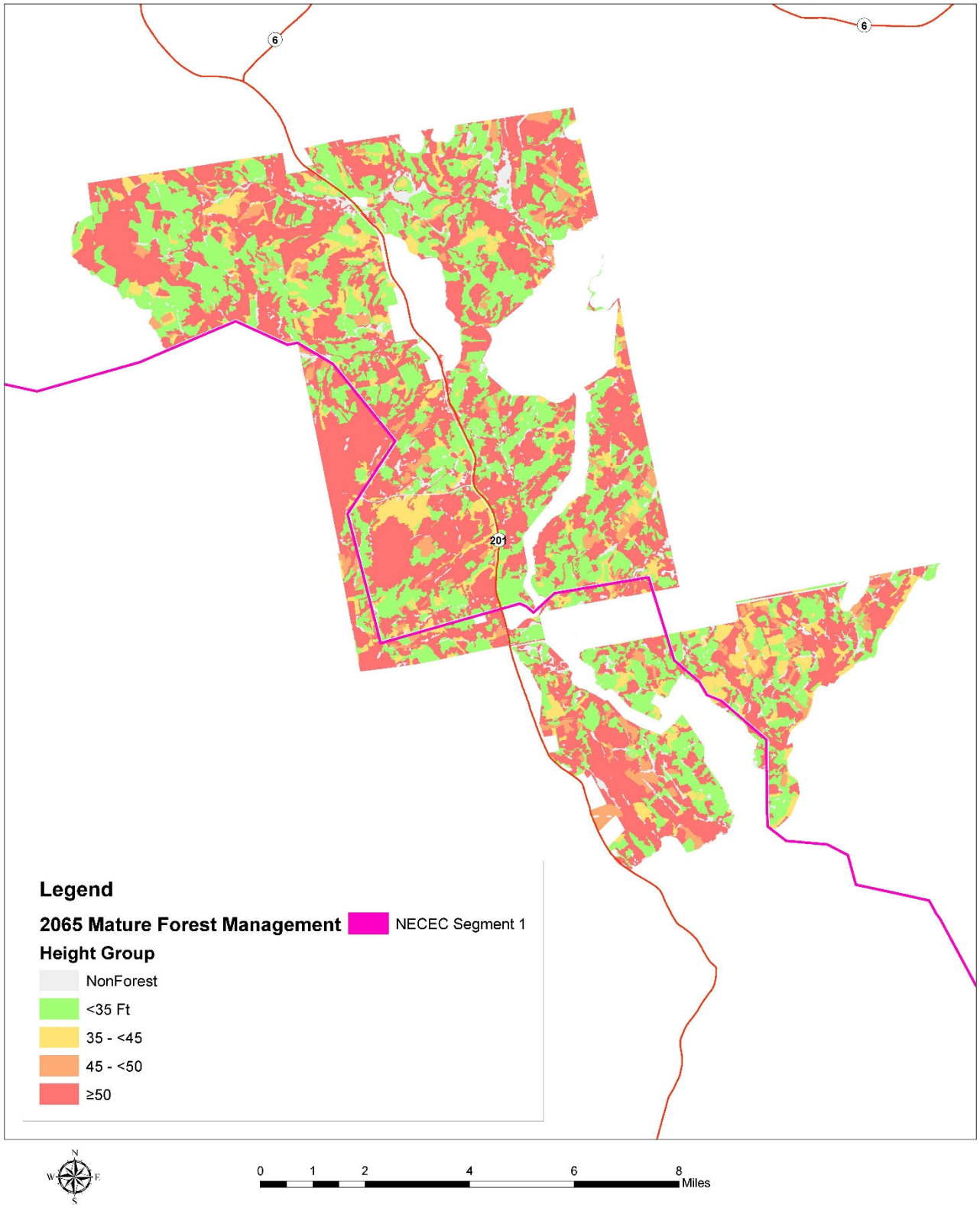


Figure 4. Anticipated 2065 Forest Heights by Age Class Under Proposed Management



4.2 Harvest Planning, Mature Forest Measurement, and Road Construction Approach

Ongoing harvests, including those in mature stands, are planned throughout the interim period leading up to 2065. The Forest Management Plan is structured to ensure that by 2065, at least 50% of the productive forestland will reach mature forest condition, and that all interim milestones will be met.

As stated in Section 5.3, the Protected Property will be harvest scheduled at a minimum of every 10 years with Woodstock using the newest inventory available, or more frequently as needed to account for significant storms, forest health events, or other impacts to the Mature Forest Habitat. The model will be run to ensure the mature milestones are met, and measurements will be taken to confirm milestones are reached. Harvest activities are scheduled and implemented in accordance with the milestones outlined in Section 5.3, with progress tracked at regular intervals (see Table: Mature Forest Milestones). The one-year and ten-year planning maps are shown below.

One and 10-12 Year Potential Harvest Areas

The maps below display the current modeled potential harvest areas for the Protected Property for 2026 in **Figure 5**, and over the next 10-to-12-year timeframe in **Figure 6** (both are for planning purposes only and are subject to change). Also shown are the increased perennial buffers along with the approximate scheduled harvest period. No harvesting activity is planned within the No-Harvest Buffer. Within the Mature Forest Buffer, approximately 50 acres of thinning treatments are planned annually from 2026 through 2036. Such treatments will not delay development of Mature Forest Habitat within such buffers.

Figure 5. Current Targeted Harvest Areas for 2026

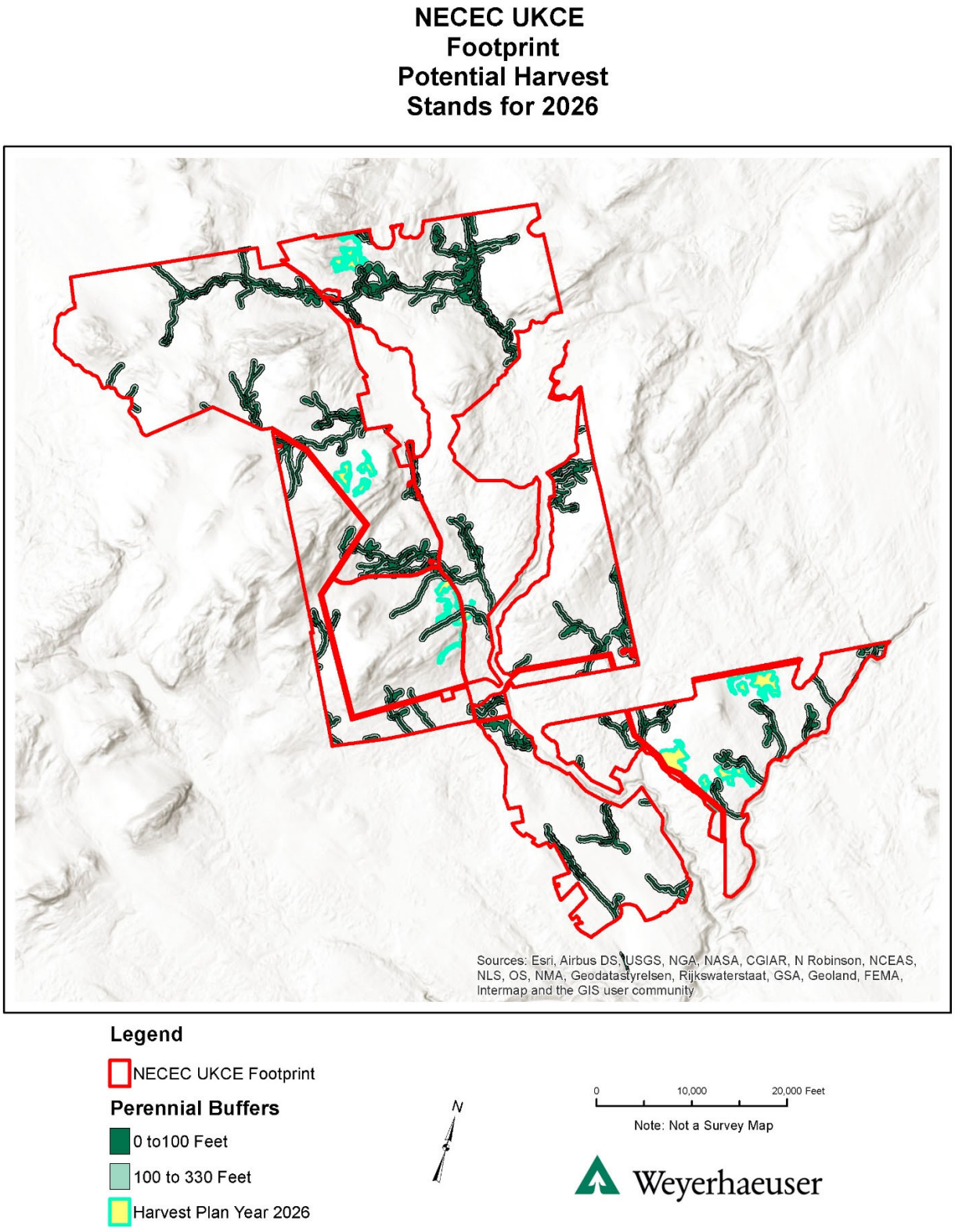
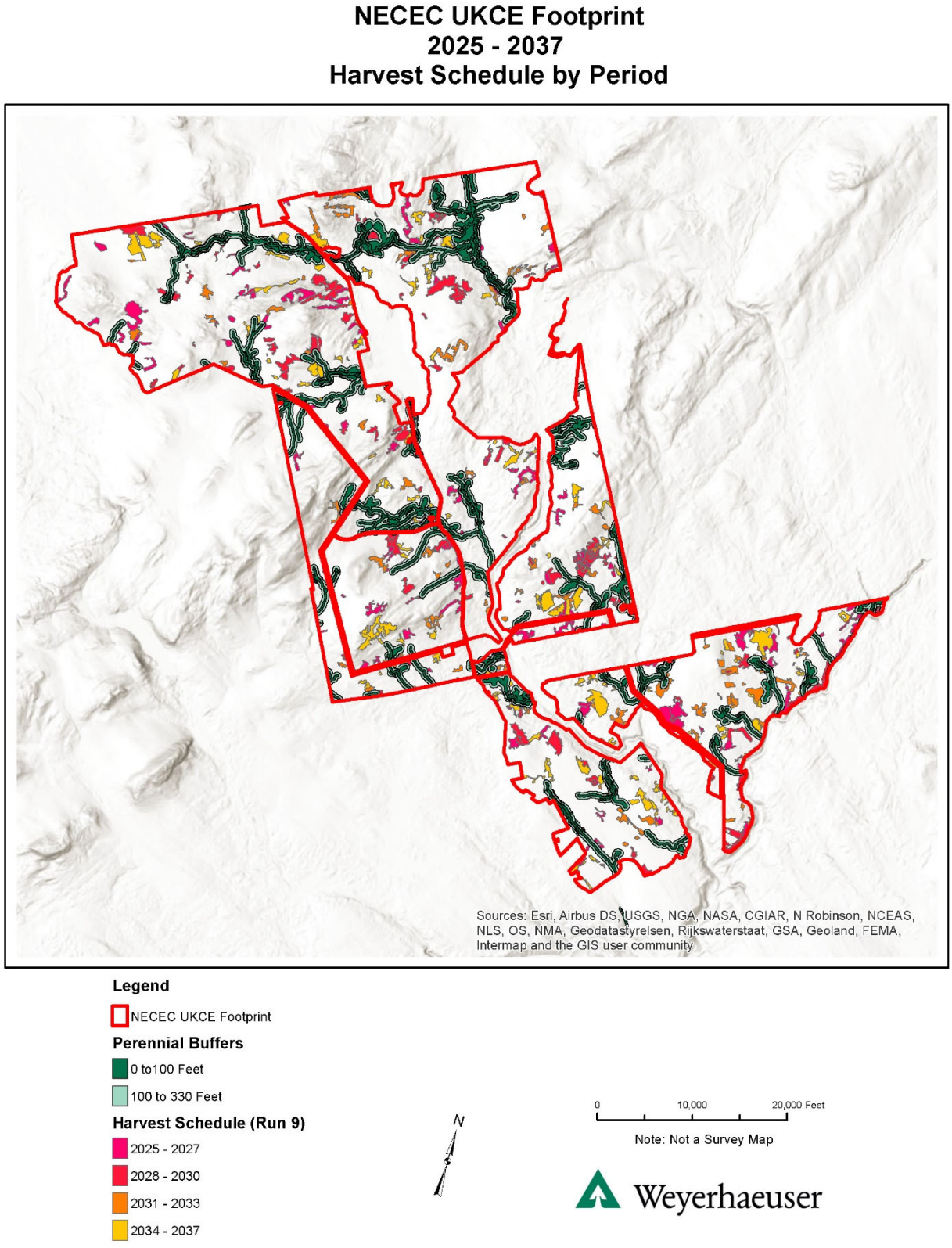


Figure 6. 10-12 Year Potential Harvest Areas for the Protected Property



Due to the format of the existing forest inventory data, the current measurement of the mature forest class includes all stands within the 45 to 55-foot majority height strata. This methodology is consistent with the stratification and stand-level estimation procedures described in Section 5.1.

Weyerhaeuser intends to conduct a comprehensive remeasurement of mature forest acreage by the end of 2026. The updated inventory will enable more precise classification of mature forest stands and will inform any necessary revisions to harvest plans to ensure attainment of the first milestone of 20% mature forest by 2035.

Harvest and Road planning on the Protected Property are guided by the principles of shifting mosaic forest management. This approach maintains a dynamic landscape characterized by a diversity of growth stages, age classes, and species composition, thereby promoting habitat connectivity and the development of mature forest blocks. Harvest schedules are developed using stand-level inventory data, remote sensing (LIDAR), and growth models (see Sections 5.3 and 5.4). Even-aged and select harvest regimes are implemented to meet mature forest milestones, with thinning and regeneration practices tailored to site conditions and CE requirements. Harvests are planned to maintain or enhance mature forest habitat, particularly within designated buffers and riparian corridors (see Section 4.3.3).

Road construction and maintenance are conducted in accordance with CE requirements and Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize soil erosion, protect water quality, and maintain habitat connectivity (see Section 5.6; Appendix G: BMP Standards). The establishment of new roads or relocation of existing roads requires prior written approval from the Holder, and all activities are supervised by licensed professional foresters. Existing roads within mature buffers are maintained but not expanded without approval, ensuring compliance with CE standards.

All harvest and road planning activities are conducted to meet the requirements outlined in the Conservation Easement, ensuring the perpetual conservation of mature forest habitat and habitat connectivity.

4.3 Habitat Connectivity

4.3.1 Adjacent Conservation Lands

The Protected Property provides and enhances extensive connectivity to adjacent conservation lands including the 16,934-acre Leuthold Forest Preserve, the 4,790-acre Number Five Bog Conservation Easement, and the 20,000 acre Attean Pond Conservation Easement to the northwest; the 8,150-acre Cold Stream Public Land Unit that lies within the Protected Property running north/south; and the 355,449-acre Moosehead Region Conservation Easement located to

the east and north of the Protected Property which also ties into other conservation areas in the region.

4.3.2 Habitat Connectivity Between Mature Forest Areas

This FMP increases the prevalence of Mature Forest Habitat blocks, which enables greater habitat connectivity within and between mature forest areas. To further illustrate the transition to mature forest, by approximately 2065 the expected acreage contained in stands greater than 200 acres having a height class greater than 35 feet would increase from approximately 16,700 acres under the current management regime to approximately 28,400 acres under the FMP. Similarly, the expected acreage in stands larger than 200-acres with a culminative height class greater than 50-feet would increase from approximately 7,750 acres under the current management regime to approximately 18,600 acres. The exact acreages of forest blocks in these height classes will vary over time.

4.3.3 Riparian Corridors/Buffers

Two levels of buffers will be established along riparian corridors on the Protected Property: "No-Harvest Buffers" and "Mature Forest Habitat Buffers" as defined below. These Perennial Stream Buffers run from the Normal High-Water Line on the approximately 88 miles of Perennial Streams. For Riparian Wetlands, the Normal High-Water Line - marking the start of the buffer - is defined as the upland edge of the wetland, rather than the edge of the open water within the stream corridor. These buffers are designed to maintain and enhance habitat connectivity by creating Mature Forest Habitat along Perennial Streams thereby enhancing connectivity to Mature Forest Habitat elsewhere on the Protected Property.

The map of Perennial Streams found in the Baseline Documentation Report will be used to identify the Perennial Streams that fall under the requirements of this section, subject to a total buffer area acreage cap of 6,898 acres. This acreage cap represents the maximum acreage subject to riparian buffer management across the Protected Property. This cap was derived from the spatial analysis conducted during plan development. The purpose of the cap was to provide management certainty recognizing that the Baseline Documentation would not be complete until after FMP development and to avoid acreage discrepancies as streams meander over time. The Perennial Stream buffers that make up this cap area are structured into two zones. Those buffer zones along with the estimated acreage distribution of each will be managed as follows:

- **No-Harvest Buffer** (0 - 100 feet above Normal High-Water Line) – Approx. 2,400 acres
- **Mature Forest Buffer** (100 - 330 feet above the Normal High-Water Line) – Approximately 4,500 acres. Harvesting may occur so long as the stand will continue to meet the Mature Forest Habitat threshold after harvest. See CE Section VII.A.6 regarding the establishment of Mature Forest Buffers.

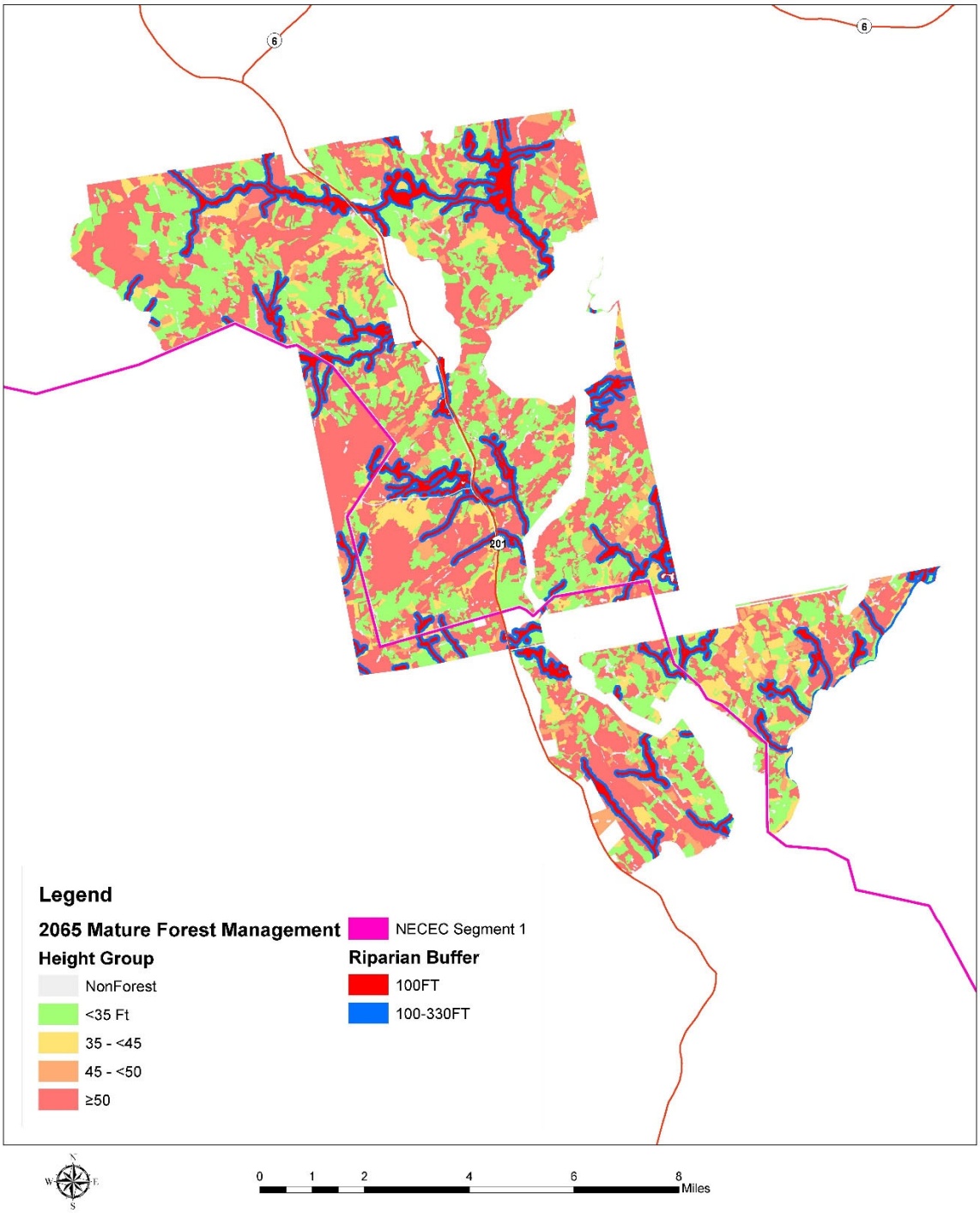
Table 2 below provides a more detailed breakdown of acreage by Covertype within the No-Harvest Buffer, the Mature Forest Buffer and the remaining acreage of the Protected Property.

Table 2. Covertype Acreage within and outside of Buffer Zones

Productive	CoverType		100-330FT	100FT	Grand Total
No	NP - Gravel Pit	39	17	1	57
	NP - Large Streams			56	56
	NP - Ledge	15			15
	NP - Open Water, Reservoirs, L	20		52	72
	NP - Swamps, Marshes, Bays	240	12	905	1,157
	NP - Utility ROWs	1			1
	NP - Yards (Internal Woodyards)	827	100	21	948
No Total		**1,142**	**128**	**1,036**	**2,306**
Yes	Aspen	176	21	5	202
	Conifer - Hardwood	7,591	1,090	617	9,298
	Hardwood	7,053	479	233	7,766
	Hardwood - Conifer	8,756	816	453	10,025
	Hardwood Plantation	16			16
	Larch Plantation	221	5	1	227
	Northern Hardwoods	414	2	1	417
	Pine Plantation	1,093	34	6	1,133
	Softwood	13,284	1,871	1,037	16,191
	Spruce Plantation	2,291	126	27	2,444
	Swamp Conifer - not Pine	5	11	9	26
	Tamarack Plantation	10			10
Yes Total		**40,911**	**4,454**	**2,389**	**47,754**
Grand Total		**42,052**	**4,583**	**3,425**	**50,060**

A map of the approximate location of riparian corridors, with forest management overlay, is included below as **Figure 7**.

Figure 7. Approximate location of riparian corridors, with forest height overlay.



Harvesting will not be conducted within the No-Harvest Buffer except as approved for forest health reasons, as addressed in the conservation easement in Section VII.A.6. Land Use in Accordance with a Forest Management Plan, Best Management Practices and Applicable Laws and

Regulations. Harvesting activities can occur in stands within the Mature Forest Habitat Buffers, subject to the conditions set forth in Section 4.4.

Harvesting equipment crossings of any Perennial Streams will be prohibited except for the construction of a road or skid trail needed to facilitate Forest Management Activities. In these instances, crossings and trails will be minimized and, except during frozen conditions, will utilize panel and/or other crossing structures that span from bank to bank to protect streambank and stream bed integrity.

4.4 Allowances/Exemptions/Approvals

This section covers activities that are exempted from the restrictions of this FMP either automatically or with approval from the Holder. In the event approval is required, Weyerhaeuser will provide written notice to the Holder. The Holder will have 30 days to review and respond. In the event of a denial by the Holder to move forward with such activities, the response from the Holder should include an explanation of the deficiency. In the event a written response is not received within 30 days, Weyerhaeuser is authorized to move forward as planned. See Section XII. F. Standard for Holder Granting Discretionary Consent and Providing Prior Written Approval in the Conservation Easement.

4.4.1 Mature Forest Buffer Harvest

Harvesting may occur in stands located within the Mature Forest Buffer as follows: If a stand has met the Mature Forest Habitat threshold, harvesting may occur without prior approval only if the stand will continue to meet the Mature Forest Habitat threshold after harvest. See CE Section VII.A.6 regarding the establishment of Mature Forest Buffers.

Pre-Salvage in No-Harvest Buffers

Other than in the context of crossings described in Section 4.4.4, harvesting within No-Harvest Buffers may only be conducted under specific forest health scenarios, including pre-salvage operations in response to spruce budworm infestation, and requires the following:

- Written approval from the Holder.
- Justification based on forest health risk, such as imminent mortality in balsam fir stands.

This provision is designed to allow targeted intervention where forest health threats may compromise long-term habitat objectives, while maintaining oversight and alignment with conservation goals.

Pre-Salvage Spruce Budworm Risk Analysis Within No-Harvest Buffers

The table below shows the mature spruce/fir softwood stands currently contained within the "No-Harvest Buffers". These stands may be vulnerable to spruce budworm where pre-salvage may need to be considered.

Table 3. Mature Spruce-Fir Softwood Stands within No-Harvest Buffers

CoverType	StandClassCode	100FT NoHarvest
Softwood	FS2B	11
	FS2C	20
	FS2D	2
	FS3A	22
	FS3B	36
	FS3D	6
	FS4D	4
	S1B	0
	S1C	20
	S1D	12
	S1E	2
	S2A	1
	S2B	235
	S2C	88
	S2D	7
	S3A	229
	S3B	125
	S3C	45
	S3D	37
	S3E	1
	S4A	126
	S4C	7
Softwood Total		**1,037**

Accounting for Pre-Salvage and Mature Forest Targets

All harvesting activities, including pre-salvage, are tracked through the Forest Management System (FMS) and incorporated into annual inventory updates. Specifically:

- Harvested stands are reclassified based on post-harvest conditions.
- Mature forest percentages are recalculated annually using updated stand-level data.

- If pre-salvage activities result in a reduction of mature forest acreage, compensatory adjustments (e.g., deferred harvests elsewhere) may be implemented to maintain progress toward the 2065 milestone of 50% mature forest coverage.

4.4.2 Forest Health

Upon written approval from the Holder, harvesting may be conducted within No-Harvest Buffers following the process described in 4.4.1, above. Section 4.4.3 below addresses responding to large-scale forest health threats and impacts.

4.4.3 Disaster / Force Majeure Event

Section VII.A.6 of the Conservation Easement states the following:

> Grantor and the Holder agree that in the event that a hurricane, fire, flood, drought, disease, or forest health pest outbreak causes or substantially contributes to the failure of Grantor to meet the Milestones or Mature Forest Goal ("Force Majeure Event"), then Grantor shall not be found in non-compliance with this Conservation Easement. Following such an event, the Grantor and Holder shall work cooperatively to revise the Forest Management Plan in furtherance of the Conservation Values of this Conservation Easement, which may include deferring further harvests until the Mature Forest Goals are met. Any further harvesting shall require prior written approval of the Holder and give priority to restoring progress towards the Milestones and the Mature Forest Goal.

Section VII.E.1(a) of the Conservation Easement states the following:

> Waiver in Specific Circumstances. Grantor and the Holder agree that in the event of a hurricane, fire, flood, drought, or similar event or if an insect, disease, or forest health pest outbreak occurs and sanitation or salvage harvests are necessary to prevent the outbreak from spreading to adjacent stands then the restrictions in this Section VII.E.1 may be temporarily waived with the prior written approval of the Holder.

If a Force Majeure Event has occurred, Weyerhaeuser will evaluate the need for revisions to the FMP, in cooperation with the Holder, and evaluate deferrals of further harvests until the Mature Forest Goals are met. See CE Section VII.A.6. Any incidence of a Force Majeure Event, including its impacts, scope, and potential long-term management, harvesting, reforestation, and other implications, will be discussed at the upcoming annual meeting.

4.4.4 Other Exceptions

Maintenance and use of established bridges, trails, truck roads, skid trails, landings, and other stream-adjacent infrastructure identified in the Baseline Documentation Report or otherwise

constructed in accordance with the Conservation Easement shall be exempt from the Perennial Stream Buffer requirements. Skid trails within the 100 ft. buffer are also exempt in order to facilitate Forest Management Activities provided no reasonable access alternative and provided all applicable BMPs are met. See Section 5.6 for further details regarding road, landings and skid trail maintenance and appropriate references to relevant CE Sections and Baseline Documentation. Maps in **Appendix F** show existing forest management roads and landings on the Protected Property.

New Perennial Stream crossings for roads can only be constructed if they have been described in the previous year's Annual Report or the Grantor has otherwise provided notification to the Holder and received approval from the Holder. For skid trail crossings of Perennial Streams, all planned locations and actual completed crossings from the previous year will be provided to the Holder at the Annual Meeting as outlined in CE Section VII.A.6. For both road and skid trail crossings, all applicable Best Management Practices, including those set forth in **Appendix G** and CE Section VII.A.6, shall be met. Such BMPs include, among other things, elements designed to protect streambank integrity by first minimizing the number of crossings and then selecting the most appropriate crossing locations. After the location of a crossing is determined, a successful crossing must also put plans in place for protecting streambank integrity, maintaining adequate filter strips, stabilizing exposed soils and utilizing adequate sediment barriers to minimize impact from exposed soils.

The Holder may grant approval for crossings of Perennial Streams to facilitate activities other than Forest Management Activities, such as non-intensive outdoor recreational activities.

5.0 Timber Resource Planning Considerations

5.1 Forest Inventory

Across the entire Protected Property, the forest inventory is comprised of two-stage stand level survey where individual stands are sampled to develop stand level estimates. A detailed description of Forest Inventory Procedure and Design is found in **Appendix H**. These stand level estimates are expanded to unsampled stands through a stratification and two-stage estimate procedure using remote sensed LIDAR and high flight imagery. The un-cruised stands' harvest history, covertype, and silviculture history are used in conjunction with the remote sensed data to assign an inventory to un-cruised stands.

The inventory is stored at the stand level. The stand consists of a homogenous covertype, stand class, land use, vegetative class, silviculture history, harvest history, and/or site class. Inventory is

adjusted for completed harvest in the Weyerhaeuser Forest Management System (FMS) within 30 days of the completed activity. Final harvests are totally depleted and assigned a reforestation activity. Partial harvest stands are assigned a modeled harvest inventory until the next inventory cycle.

The stand level inventory consists of tree lists with species, product, diameter breast height (dbh) class, basal area, merch height, total height, and trees per acre detail. Each stand will have the gross, productive, and harvestable acres assigned to the stand. Productive acres are determined based on the definition of "Productive Forest Acres" in the Conservation Easement, i.e., any area capable of growing a crop of trees that can reach Mature Forest conditions. See CE Section III.X. Productive areas exclude non-forested acres, such as roads, that intersect the stand. Harvestable acres are a subset of productive acres—they only include the productive acres that can be modeled for harvest, i.e., by excluding any restricted acres for special sites, steep slopes, and/or protected species.

The inventory cycle ensures that cruised stand estimates will be no older than 15 years. This will ensure that any variance in growth and yield estimates that vary from observed estimates are corrected through time. All partially harvested stands will have new sampled estimates assigned prior to any harvest scheduling and/or 10-year FMP update.

The current forest inventory projections are based on a combination of previously sampled stand-level data collected and remote sensing analysis, including 2016 LIDAR canopy height models and NAIP imagery. These inputs were used to stratify and expand estimates across unsampled stands using a two-stage estimation procedure as previously described.

The most recent full inventory effort was conducted in 2019. The current projections reflect updates derived from that dataset, adjusted for harvest activity, growth, post-harvest strata estimates, and young stand strata estimates.

As noted in Section 4.2, a comprehensive remeasurement of the Protected Property will occur by the end of 2026. This effort will focus on updating the entire inventory of the protected property through cruising individual stands in a strata. These individual stand level estimates will be expanded to uncruised stands with the assigned strata based on LIDAR height statistics, past history, and species detail cruising individual stands in a strata. These individual stand-level estimates will be expanded to uncruised stands with the assigned strata based on LIDAR height statistics, past history, and species detail.

The reinventory will follow field sampling procedures as described in **Appendix H**.

5.2 Inventory Classification System

Each stand has a covertype and stand class assigned to describe the current management, species composition, and the size density class. These classifications are derived from silviculture and harvest history, stand visits/exams, and the inventory.

5.2.1 Covertypes

The covertype of each stand identifies the association of tree species for productive stand types and the vegetative type or land use for nonproductive types. Stands with a "plantation" designation identify types that were artificially regenerated via intentional planting methods. See CE Section III.V. The table (**Table 4**) and map (**Figure 8**) below show the covertype acreage.

Table 4. Covertype Acreage

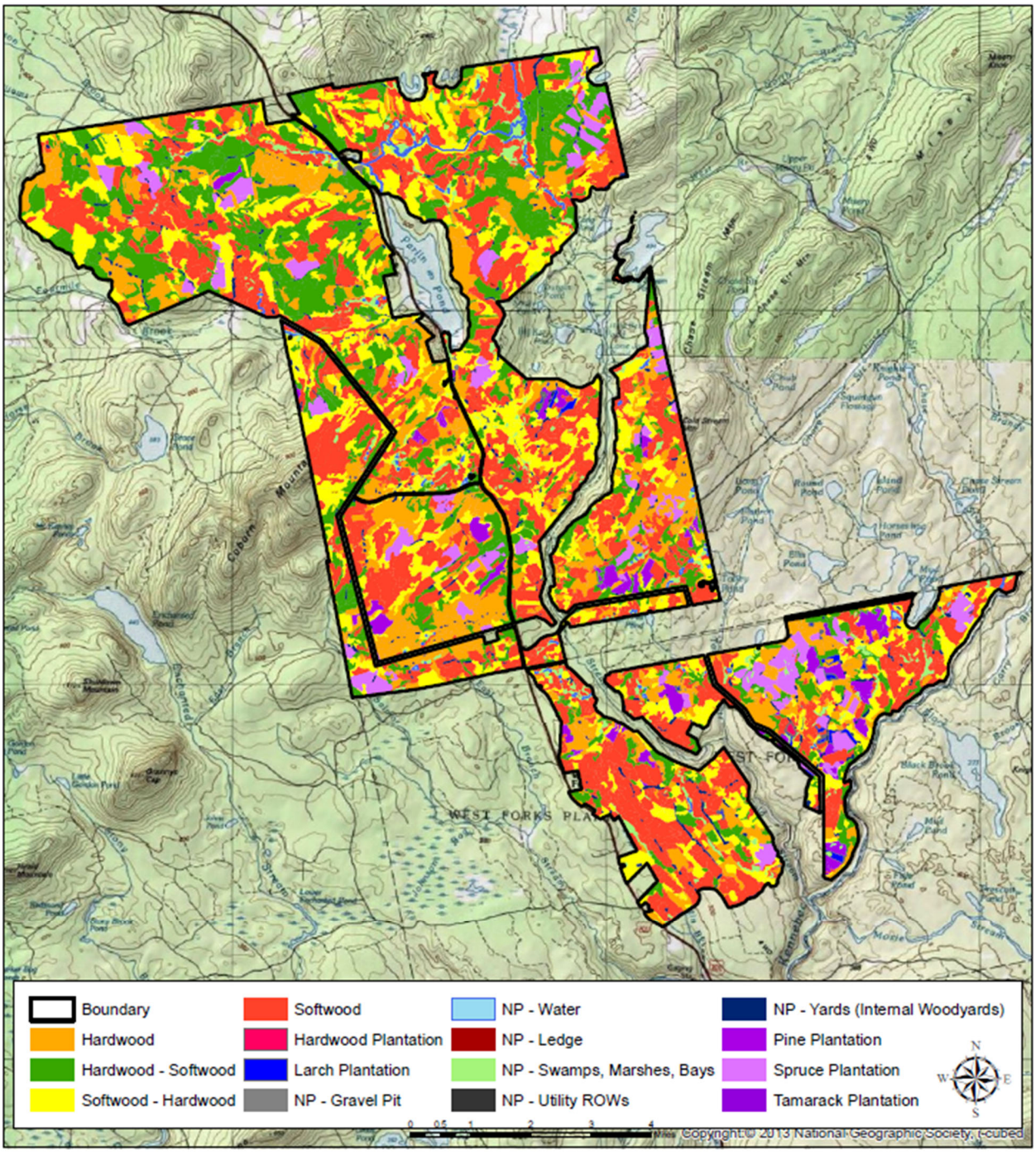
Productive	CoverType	Gross Acres *	Productive Acres **
Yes	Aspen	202	196
	Conifer - Hardwood	9,298	9,102
	Hardwood	7,766	7,558
	Hardwood - Conifer	10,025	9,794
	Hardwood Plantation	16	15
	Larch Plantation	227	221
	Northern Hardwoods	417	403
	Pine Plantation	1,133	1,120
	Softwood	16,191	15,952
	Spruce Plantation	2,444	2,410
	Swamp Conifer - not Pine	26	26
	Tamarack Plantation	10	10
Yes Total		**47,754**	**46,806**
No	NP - Gravel Pit	57	0
	NP - Large Streams	56	0
	NP - Ledge	15	0
	NP - Open Water, Reservoirs, L	72	0
	NP - Swamps, Marshes, Bays	1,157	0
	NP - Utility ROWs	1	0
	NP - Yards (Internal Woodyards) ***	948	0
No Total		**2,306**	**0**
Grand Total		**50,060**	**46,806**

* Gross Acres = GIS Acres

** Productive Acres = Gross Acres net of any nonforest inclusions on road ROWs

*** NP - Yards (Internal Woodyards) = log landings used for harvest operations

Figure 8 - Covertype Map



5.2.2 Stand Class

Each productive stand has an assigned stand class that further defines the standing inventory based on the size, density, and species composition. The size class (numeric code) of the stand defines the development class or product class within the stand. The density class (alpha code) defines the stocking within the stand, by trees per acre for younger stands and basal area in older stands. The species code further refines the species within the stand. The tables below define the classification system. For example: A Northern Hardwood H4A is a Northern Hardwood sawtimber stand of high density.

Table 5. Stand Class Description

Covertype	Stand Class Spp	Description
Aspen	I	Aspen, Balm
Hardwood	I	Birch
	H	Mixed Hdwd
Northern Hardwoods	H	Northern Hardwood (Yellow Birch, Sugar Maple)
Pine	JP	Natural Jack Pine
	RP	Natural Red Pine
	WP	Natural White Pine
Pine Plantation	JP	Plantation Jack Pine
	RP	Plantation Red Pine
	WP	Plantation White Pine
Swamp Conifer - not Pine	S	Lowland Mixed Softwood
	T	Tamarack
	C	Northern White Cedar
	BS	Black Spruce
	Hem	Hemlock
Softwood	S	Upland Mixed Softwood
	FS	Fir Spruce PCT (PCT or release)
	Hem	Upland Hemlock
Hardwood - Conifer	HS	Mixedwood Hardwood Dominated
Conifer - Hardwood	SH	Mixedwood Softwood Dominated
Hardwood Plantation	I	Hybrid Aspen
Spruce Plantation	BS	Black Spruce Plantation
	NS	Norway Spruce Plantation
	RS	Red Spruce Plantation
	WS	White Spruce Plantation
Larch Plantation	L	Larch Plantation
Tamarack Plantation	T	Tamarack Plantation

Density Code	1 & 2 Size (TPA)	3 & 4 Size (Merch Basal Area)
A	>3,000 (>1000 Plnt)	>120 SqFt
B	>1500 (>700 Plnt)	>90 SqFt
C	>700 (>400 Plnt)	>60 SqFt
D	>400 (>250 Plnt)	>30 SqFt
E	NA	>10 SqFt

Size Code	Size Description	Based On TPA & BA
1	Seedlings	< 67% of stems have a dbh >.5" (default < 15 years of age)
2	Saplings	>67% of stems have a dbh >.5" & <67% of BA Merch
3	Pulpwood	>67% of BA Merch
4	Sawtimber	>9.0" Merch QMD or Sawtimber >67% Basal Area Softwood Covertypes or>33% Basal Area All Other

5.2.3 Size Class

Size Class is a numeric code used to define the development stage or product class of a forest stand. Size class reflects the dominant tree size within a stand, typically based upon dbh and height metrics. It helps to categorize stands into growth stages such as seedling, sapling, pole timber or sawtimber based upon tree size.

When considering Size Class as it relates to Mature Forest designation, generally Size Classes 3 and 4 are considered, however not entirely. For example, Size Class 4 generally represents stands that meet the mature forest definition. However, not all stands in Size Class 4 automatically qualify as mature forests. For example, stands in Size Class 4 that have lower stocking densities—such as those classified in stocking class E—do not meet the mature forest threshold for basal area and are therefore not counted toward mature forest milestones. Only those Size Class 4 stands that meet both the height and stocking requirements are included in mature forest calculations.

Similarly, most stands contained within Size Class 3 currently do not meet the mature forest definition. However, some stands contained within the upper end of this size class, such as those classified as 3A, may meet mature forest definitions.

5.3 Mature Forest, Growth & Yield, Future Planning

Mature Forest:

At a minimum, Commercial Forest Management Activities must result in 50% of the Productive Forest Acres with a basal area of 80 square feet per acre of live trees at least 4.5 inches diameter breast height, of which 60 square feet per acre must be at least 50 feet tall, accompanied by representative levels of well distributed standing dead and downed trees where present prior to management activity no later than December 31, 2065, and thereafter in perpetuity (the “Mature Forest Goal”).

The current mature forest percentage on the Protected Property is derived from existing stand level and two stage estimates as described above in ongoing inventory maintenance and growth. These estimates were derived from stands sampled and classified by LIDAR canopy height models. All in-progress and prescribed 2025 harvests have been accounted for.

The current mature forest percentage is a sum of all stands’ productive acres that meet the mature forest definition divided by the total productive acres in the Protected Property. Only trees equal to or greater than 50’ tall can contribute to the basal area required to meet the mature definition. The stand must have at least 60 square feet of basal area of 50 foot tall or taller trees for its productive acres to qualify as mature. The mature forest percentages will be updated each year based on the most current inventory.

Growth & Yield:

Annual growth is performed by using the Northeast Variant of the Forest Vegetation Simulator (NE FVS) growth model provided by the United States Forest Service Department of Agriculture. The NE FVS is calibrated for local conditions using Weyerhaeuser's proprietary methodology. These calibrations are derived from analysis with local Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) plot data.

Annual growth is performed at the stand level derived from periodic point in time sampling procedures. If stands have been partially harvested since the last point in time inventory, the inventory data used in growth are from forester thinning model estimates.

Each stand uses tree lists derived from the point in time inventories or thinning model estimates and are grown forward for the appropriate number of years since the inventory took place.

To clarify the specific modeling inputs:

Measured Height Data: Measured tree height data was not used directly in the calibration of the NE FVS model. Instead, subsampled total heights collected during field sampling are used to develop regression models at the stand species and dbh class level. These regressions are then applied to estimate total tree heights across the landscape.

Site Quality Assumptions and Soils Data: Site quality was derived from the NRCS soils series data mapped to the Briggs estimated SI50 site class for natural unmanaged spruce fir. This was done through Plum Creek's Soils Management Group mapping procedure. Further refinements were made for stands with chemical treatments and plantations with well-known ages and heights.

Forest Health and Climate Uncertainty: The current modeling framework does not explicitly incorporate uncertainty related to forest health threats (e.g., insect/disease outbreaks) or climate change impacts as these factors are not embedded within accepted models, including the NE FVS, at this time. The upper limit of density related mortality in FVS was changed from 85 percent to 75 percent to better represent an empirical endemic condition as proposed by Vandendriesche, Don. 2010[3]. This change was made to better reflect endemic conditions encountered in a forest landscape rather than theoretical optimal condition. Adaptive management strategies will be considered as part of future updates to the FMP and annual progress reporting. The modeling does account for natural mortality that occurs through stem exclusion of forest stand development.

[3] Vandendriesche, Don. 2010. FVS out of the box - assembly required. In: Jain, Theresa B.; Graham, Russell T.; Sandquist, Jonathan. Integrated management of carbon sequestration and biomass utilization opportunities in a changing climate: Proceedings of the 2009 National Silviculture Workshop; 2009 June 15-18; Boise, ID. Proceedings RMRS-P-61. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. p. 289-306.

Future Planning:

As noted previously, progress toward the Mature Forest Goal will be made at the following "Milestone" rates:

Mature Forest Milestones	
2025	13%
2035	20%
2045	30%
2055	40%
2065	50%

The rate or percentage of mature forest is calculated by dividing the productive stand acres that meet the mature forest definition by total productive stand acres within the Protected Property. However, although existing Plantations may count toward the Mature Forest Goal, any new Plantations created after the date of this FMP may not. See CE Section VII.E.1. Accordingly, when any new Plantations grow into mature forest, they will be excluded from calculations of productive stand acres meeting the mature forest definition.

Progress toward reaching the Milestones and Mature Forest Goal will be provided to Grantor in annual progress reports. Each year the inventory will be grown forward in time and all harvest will be depleted from the inventory prior to the annual progress report.

The inventory procedure above provides the framework to annually track the Mature Forest Milestones at each annual progress report. Each stand's covertype, stand class, productive acres, and mature forest basal area (trees >50 ft tall) will be provided in the annual progress report. This annual reporting will guide future harvest planning to meet the Mature Forest Milestones at each 10-year FMP update. See CE Section VII.6(a), (d).

Regular harvest scheduling will be conducted at a minimum of every 10 years to project harvest levels. The harvest schedule will be a guide to ensure Mature Forest Milestones are met and not to be used as an absolute annually, to ensure there is flexibility for weather, forest product markets, logger capacity, and other harvest related considerations. The Woodstock Optimization Studio, a Remsoft product, will be used to conduct the harvest scheduling procedures. Woodstock is a purpose-built and highly adaptable optimization model for end-to-end forestry planning and scheduling activities.

5.4 Silvicultural Considerations

Silviculture prescriptions selected at the stand level across the Protected Property will be the responsibility of Maine licensed professional foresters and are subject to the unique characteristics of each stand and unforeseen future conditions. In general, management within the Protected Property will be primarily even-aged regimes outside mature riparian corridors, other state mandated riparian areas, and other special designated areas. Management in all areas of the Protected Property will ensure that the Mature Forest Milestones are met.

Rotation lengths will be dictated by site index, covertype, markets, and the Mature Forest Milestones. Harvest schedules will be run periodically to ensure the footprint is meeting the mature forest milestones and other requirements for the Protected Property.

Even-aged thinning regimes will be implemented in plantation covertypes and natural softwood covertypes to develop product classes of higher and better value where the individual stand dynamics warrant. Stands that are thinned may only be counted toward the Mature Forest Milestones if the residual stand post-thinning continues to meet or exceed the mature forest description.

Within the Mature Forest Habitat Buffers, other state mandated riparian areas, and other special designated areas, a select harvest regime will be implemented. Tree removal will consider tree species longevity, wildlife value, and Mature Forest Milestones. These select harvest regimes will ensure the residual stand condition either meets the mature forest designation at time of harvest or does not impair the stand from meeting the mature forest requirements.

Planting can be implemented within the guides of not exceeding the max plantations allowed by the CE for the Protected Property.

Mixed-Wood Stand Characterization (Beech and Balsam Fir Components)

As noted in Section 3.1, mixed-wood stands comprise approximately 40% of the forested acreage on the Protected Property. These stands are composed of a combination of coniferous and deciduous species, with balsam fir and American beech representing material components within their respective strata. The table below shows the actual components of beech and fir.

Table 6. American Beech and Balsam Fir Tons per Mixedwood Stands

		Total Tons			
CoverType	Species	Outside Riparian Zones	100-330FT Riparian	100FT NoHarvest	Grand Total
Conifer - Hardwood	Balsam Fir	62,778	9,146	6,751	78,675
	Beech	2,605	433	291	3,329
	Other Species	165,387	30,260	24,518	220,165
Conifer - Hardwood Total		**230,770**	**39,838**	**31,560**	**302,169**
Hardwood - Conifer	Balsam Fir	33,008	3,448	2,530	38,985
	Beech	16,323	1,803	1,267	19,393
	Other Species	188,343	23,078	18,942	230,363
Hardwood - Conifer Total		**237,673**	**28,330**	**22,739**	**288,742**
Grand Total		**468,443**	**68,168**	**54,300**	**590,911**

Balsam Fir Component

As shown in the Table above, Balsam fir is a dominant softwood species within many mixed-wood stands and is susceptible to spruce budworm. The Forest Health section (3.2) outlines that balsam fir is actively monitored and managed under the statewide Spruce Budworm mitigation strategy, which includes L2 larval surveys, hotspot identification, and risk-based silvicultural planning.

Beech Component

American beech is also present in the hardwood fraction of mixed-wood stands and is increasingly impacted by Beech Leaf Disease (BLD), which has been confirmed in southern Somerset County. While no detections have yet occurred on the Protected Property, it is expected within the next few years. Beech is generally retained where healthy, but its long-term viability is being evaluated due to disease pressure. Future silvicultural prescriptions may shift toward promoting more resilient hardwood species in affected areas as the science on BLD management improves in the future.

Overall Stand Quality

Currently, overall stand quality across the Protected Property is assessed as good to very good, with many younger stands exhibiting strong vigor and healthy development. Stand health and structural conditions will continue to be monitored through routine field assessments and inventory updates. As conditions evolve, management strategies will be adjusted in coordination with the Holder to ensure continued progress toward the Mature Forest milestones required under the Conservation Easement.

Pre-Harvest Planning and Prescription Identification

Pre-harvest planning is a critical step to ensure that harvest activities align with both regulatory requirements and long-term conservation goals. The process includes:

- **Stand Assessment:** Each stand is evaluated using up-to-date inventory data, including basal area, species composition, and size class distribution. This assessment identifies stands for candidates for Overstory Removal (OSR), Clearcut (CC), or thinning treatments.
- **Prescription Development:** The Silvi-Key flowchart, referenced below, is used to help determine the appropriate harvest prescription. For example, stands exceeding 450 TPA (trees per acre) of quality regeneration may be scheduled for OSR. Stands not meeting these thresholds may be deferred for future treatment.
- **Silviculture Key:** The Silviculture Key is a proprietary tool developed using the latest science available for the Acadian Forests of the Northeast. This tool provides structured guidance for developing harvest prescriptions and planning silvicultural treatments across different stand types. The key is used in conjunction with shifting mosaic management strategies and ensures that, by 2065, at least 50% of productive acres meet and maintain the mature forest conditions as required by the Conservation Easement.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** All harvest plans are developed or reviewed by a licensed forester, and clearcut prescriptions over 75 acres require submission to the Maine Forest Service for approval. Regeneration requirements and separation zones are strictly observed.

B-line Thinning and Residual Stand Status

B-line thinning is utilized as an intermediate silvicultural treatment in stands that do not meet the criteria for overstory removal or clearcutting. The objective of B-line thinning is to improve stand structure and promote further development of quality regeneration and residual crop trees while maintaining or progressing toward the mature forest conditions required by the Conservation Easement.

A residual stand following B-line thinning will only be classified as “mature forest” if it meets the following criteria:

- **Basal Area:** At least 60 square feet per acre of live trees that are 50 feet or taller and at least 80 square feet per acre total of live stems greater than 4.5 inches dbh (for productive acres).

If, after thinning, the residual stand does not meet these thresholds, it does not qualify as mature forest. This approach ensures that all silvicultural thinnings are aligned with the long-term goal of

achieving and maintaining mature forest conditions across at least 50% of productive acres by 2065, as stipulated in the Conservation Easement.

Quality Regeneration and Overstory Removal

Overstory removal is only prescribed when there is sufficient quality regeneration established in the understory. The standard for "quality regeneration" is defined as:

- **>450 trees per acre (TPA)** of vigorous, desirable species (including maple, birch, oak, ash, aspen, spruce, and fir).

Prior to overstory removal, stands are assessed to confirm that this regeneration threshold is met. If the threshold is not achieved, the stand is either deferred for further development or managed with additional treatments to encourage regeneration.

Clearcut Regeneration Standards

Clearcutting is subject to strict regeneration requirements:

- **Regeneration Monitoring:** All clearcut areas must be regenerated to a new stand of trees that meets specific density and height requirements within five years, in accordance with the Maine Forest Practices Act.
- **Intervention Measures:** If natural regeneration is insufficient, site preparation (including herbicide application or planting) may be employed on a case-by-case basis to ensure successful establishment of the next forest cohort.
- **Documentation and Reporting:** Foresters monitor and document regeneration progress, and interventions are planned if stocking or species composition is inadequate. Results are shared with the Holder and relevant agencies during annual meetings.

Harvest Plan Elements

The following is an example of a harvest plan, illustrating the standard elements and considerations included in operational planning for timber harvests conducted on the Protected Property. The example is intended to demonstrate how site-specific information, silvicultural objectives, environmental safeguards, and operational details are integrated to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements and best management practices. Those elements are as follows:

Township: [Insert Township Name]

Notification Number: [Insert FON]

Forester: [Insert Forester Name & License]

Logging Contractor: [Insert Contractor Name]

Harvest Prescription Determined by Silviculture Key: [e.g., Clear Cut with Residuals, Selection Harvest, Patch Cut]

Silviculture Key:

The Silviculture Key is a tool developed using the latest science available for the Acadian Forests of the Northeast. This tool provides structured guidance for developing harvest prescriptions and planning silvicultural treatments across different stand types. The key is used in conjunction with shifting mosaic management strategies and ensures that, by 2065, at least 50% of productive acres meet and maintain the mature forest conditions as required by the Conservation Easement.

Logging Method: [e.g., Mechanized – Tree Length, Hand Crew, Processor/Forwarder]

Estimated Acres: [Insert Number of Acres]

Soils: [e.g., Well Drained, Poorly Drained]

Slope Class: [e.g., Gentle Slope (0–8%), Steep (16–35%)]

Operability: [e.g., Summer, Winter, All Season]

Roads: [e.g., Flagged, Permit Approved]

Property Boundary: [e.g., NA, Blazed & Flagged]

Silviculture Objective: [e.g., Natural Softwood Regeneration]

Harvest Type: [e.g., Clear Cut, Thinning, Overstory Removal]

Supervision: [Insert Supervisor Name]

Environmental and Safety Considerations:

- Implement all BMPs (see BMP manual)
- Retain scattered dead & live trees within block
- Protect unique habitats and water quality as identified
- Pre-site safety assessment completed

5.5 Best Management Practices

All Forest Management Activities on the Protected Property are performed in accordance with scientifically developed Best Management Practices that protect water quality by minimizing soil erosion. All Forest Management Activities occurring on the Protected Property will be supervised by a Maine licensed professional forester.

Applicable Best Management Practices and Statewide Standards for Timber Harvesting and Related Activities in Shoreland Zones are attached hereto as **Appendices G and I**, respectively. These BMPs, as may be updated, revised, or replaced over time, will be followed under this FMP.

Such Best Management Practices will be supplemented by the requirements of this FMP to achieve and retain Mature Forest Habitat and Perennial Stream Buffers as outlined in Section VII.A.6 of the CE.

5.6 Road Maintenance and Construction

Grantor reserves the right to construct, install, maintain, and relocate land management roads, including culverts, bridges, other similar drainage and support structures and erosion control devices, winter haul roads, gates, skid trails and skid roads, timber landing areas, and equipment and vehicle parking areas, associated with Grantor's reserved rights, including to support Forest Management Activities and Non-Intensive Outdoor Recreation on the Protected Property; provided that any such roads, parking areas, and water crossings shall abide by applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations. The establishment of any new land management roads or the relocation of existing land management roads requires prior written approval from Holder.

Grantor reserves the right to maintain and use all pre-existing roads and landings contained within the Perennial Stream Buffer for future Forest Management Activities as reviewed and documented in the Baseline Documentation Report. Existing roads or landings contained within the Perennial Stream Buffers cannot be expanded unless prior written approval is obtained from the Holder.

Construction or relocation of new roads requires prior approval from Holder, including as may be addressed in a previous Annual Meeting, provided that winter haul roads only require prior approval by Holder if they cross Perennial Streams. See CE Section VII C.4; CE Section VII D.2; CE Section VII.A.6. Routine maintenance, repair, and replacement of roads or bridges does not require notice or approval by Holder.

Regardless of whether notice and/or approval by Holder is required, all road maintenance and construction activities will adhere to Best Management Practices that protect water quality by minimizing soil erosion and will be supervised by a licensed professional forester. These BMPs, as may updated, revised, or replaced over time, will be followed under this FMP.

5.7 Access

Motorized Public Access On and Across the Property:

The Protected Property contains 39.8 miles of permanent road access through and across the Protected Property on 18 rights of way to ensure access to the Cold Stream Forest detailed in **Appendix J**. In addition, State Route 201, also known as Old Canada National Scenic Byway, travels north and south through the center of the Protected Property. No changes to existing motorized access are required under the Conservation Easement or addressed in this FMP.

Non-Motorized Public Access On and Across the Protected Property.

The Conservation Easement grants the public with non-motorized access on and across the Protected Property for Non-Intensive Outdoor Recreation and prohibits Grantor from discouraging such access. See CE Section VII.F. However, Grantor retains the right to establish reasonable rules and regulations governing such non-motorized access, such as regulating noise, fires, camping, etc. Examples of such presumptively reasonable rules and regulations are set out in Section VII.F.3 of the Conservation Easement. Moreover, Grantor retains the right to temporarily restrict public access by closing access points, trails, or roads as necessary for safety, ecological, or other specified reasons. See CE Section VII.F.3. Before such restrictions are imposed, consideration must be made regarding the nature of the access being restricted, and the duration and reason for the restriction. Based on the above considerations, prompt written notice to Holder may be required. See CE Section VII.F.3.

Existing recreational trails, such as ATV, hiking, and snowmobile trails, are set out in the Baseline Documentation. The Conservation Easement allows but does not require Grantor to either establish and maintain, or allow others to establish and maintain, these or any additional unpaved trails, provided that any new trail work is done with Holder's approval and in accordance with BMPs.

6.0 Non-Timber Resource Planning Considerations

This section describes the non-timber resource planning considerations, including those set out in Section VII.A.6(b) of the Conservation Easement, after consultation with the Maine Department Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) and the Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP).

6.1 IF&W and MNAP Stakeholder Consultation

As required in Section VII.A.6(b)(iii), (v) of the Conservation Easement, the Grantor and Holder held a Stakeholder Consultation Meeting on March 1, 2025 with MDIFW and MNAP personnel in order to identify the Confirmed or Potential Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern Species as well as any Rare Plant Populations or Rare or Exemplary Natural Communities found on the Protected Property as of the date of this FMP. In addition, information regarding Essential Habitat, Significant Wildlife Habitat and Aquatic Resources was provided. The Grantor recognizes the importance of considering these species, populations and communities and of working to ensure the habitats that they rely on are maintained or enhanced and that forest management activities do not adversely impact these important ecologies.

6.2 Rare, Threatened, Endangered Plant & Animal Species of Special Concern

All Forest Management Activities will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the following guidelines, standards and practices. Following is a description of the known or likely presence of state and/or federal threatened or endangered plant and animal species, and rare and exemplary natural communities, developed in Consultation with IF&W and MNAP agencies and personnel. Maps are produced from data layers provided by Inland Fisheries and Wildlife as well as Maine Natural Areas Program.

6.2.1 Confirmed Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern Species

The following Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern Species and exemplary natural communities have been documented on the Protected Property.

Bicknell's Thrush (State Threatened)

1. **Introduction**

Bicknell's Thrush is a rare and range-restricted migratory songbird that breeds in high-elevation coniferous forests in the northeastern United States and eastern Canada. In Maine, its breeding habitat is primarily found in subalpine fir-dominated forests and occurs locally along the Coburn Mountain Range. Habitat is usually dominated by balsam fir (>30%) where a history of disturbance has resulted in stunted dense understory, usually at elevations >2,500 feet. A map of the habitat with confirmed observations of Bicknell's Thrush on the Protected Property is shown in **Figure 9** below. Special management guidelines should be implemented in these areas, as follows:

2. **Habitat Description**

Preferred Breeding Habitat:

- Elevation: Typically >2,500 feet on suitable north-facing slopes.
- Forest Type: Dense, stunted balsam fir and red spruce forests, with dense understory.
- Stand Structure: Multi-aged, regenerating stands with high stem density of trees 6 to 26 feet tall with diameters of ≥4 inches dbh. These characteristics would be found in S1, S2, SH1 & SH2 stands withing the Protected Area.
- Canopy: Partially open to closed, with abundant cover and horizontal structure.
- Key Features: Moist soils, mossy ground cover, minimal human disturbance.

3. **Management Objectives**

- Maintain and enhance suitable breeding habitat for Bicknell's Thrush.
- Minimize fragmentation and edge effects in high-elevation forests.
- Coordinate silvicultural practices with breeding season to reduce disturbance.
- Promote natural regeneration of balsam fir and spruce species.
- Retain native fruit bearing shrubs and trees, such as Mountain Ash.

4. **Management Guidelines**

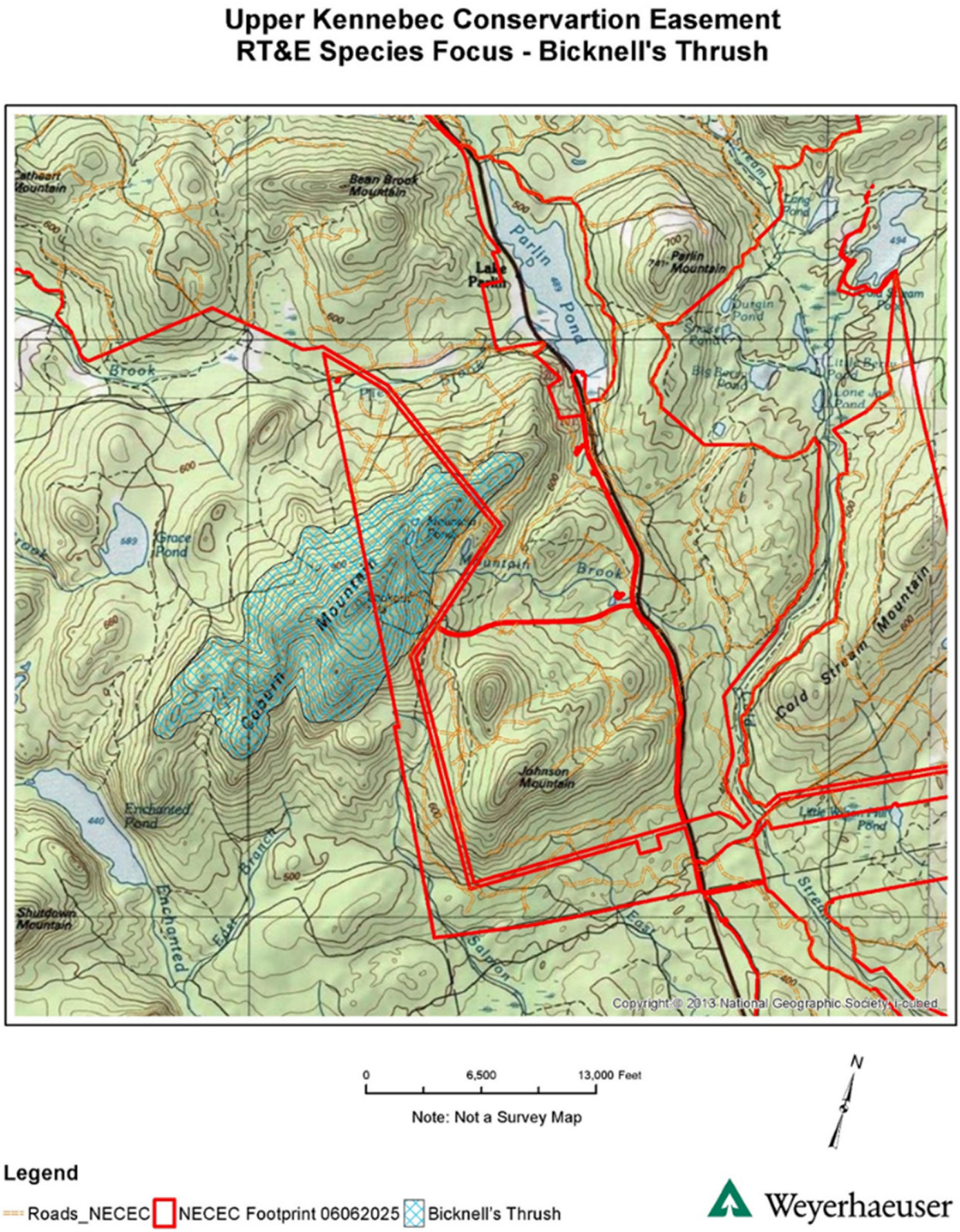
4.1. Silvicultural Practices

- Retain patches of dense regeneration within managed areas.

4.2. Seasonal Timing Restrictions

- Avoid mechanical operations (e.g., harvesting, road construction) in mapped area shown in Figure 9 within stands that meet breeding habitat definition (see Stand Structure above) during the nesting season: May 1 – July 31.

Figure 9. Map of Documented Occurrence of Bicknell's Thrush on Protected Property.



Rusty Blackbird (State Special Concern)

1. **Introduction**

The Rusty Blackbird is a medium-sized songbird associated with boreal wetlands, forested swamps, and riparian corridors. Most of the wetlands utilized by this species are within the Mature Forest Habitat areas on the Protected Property. Once considered common, its population has declined by over 85% since the mid-20th century. This bird is represented by less than 50 current occurrences throughout the State of Maine and occurs at several locations on the Protected Property, as depicted in **Figure 10**. Special management guidelines should be implemented in these areas, as outlined below.

Maine represents the southern edge of its core breeding range where these birds breed in dense, young or stunted northern softwood and mixedwood forests, especially those with standing water, alder thickets, and sphagnum bogs. Habitat loss, predation, wetland degradation, and climate change are major threats.

Softwood silviculture also creates habitat around wetlands where suitable nesting and foraging habitat does not occur within the wetland by promoting portions of stands with young spruce-fir trees <= 10 feet tall and <= 2 inches in diameter. Promoting stand characteristics like this between wetlands and uplands is beneficial for this species.

Breeding individuals are known to abandon their nests because of predators, primarily red squirrels, or human disturbance. MDIFW recommends at least a 100-foot no cut riparian buffer around wetland complexes known to host Rusty Blackbird populations on the Protected Property. There are four such known complexes, all of which should have a 100-foot no harvest buffer within the Perennial Stream No-Harvest Buffer.

2. **Habitat Description**

Preferred Breeding Habitat:

- Dominated by black spruce, balsam fir, tamarack, and northern white cedar.
- Wetlands such as beaver ponds, flooded swamps, peatlands, and slow-moving streams, and their associated riparian areas.
- Presence of standing deadwood, downed woody debris, and shrubby understory (e.g., alder and willow).
- Low to moderate canopy cover (30–70%) near water sources.

Key Habitat Indicators**:**

- Sphagnum moss and moist, mossy forest floor.
- Proximity to shallow, stagnant or slow-moving water bodies.
- Isolated, low-elevation wetlands or drainages within forests.

3. **Management Objectives**

- Maintain and enhance breeding and foraging habitat for Rusty Blackbird.
- Retain hydrologic function and integrity of forested wetland complexes.
- Coordinate forest management and road building activities to minimize disturbance during the breeding season.

4. **Management Guidelines**

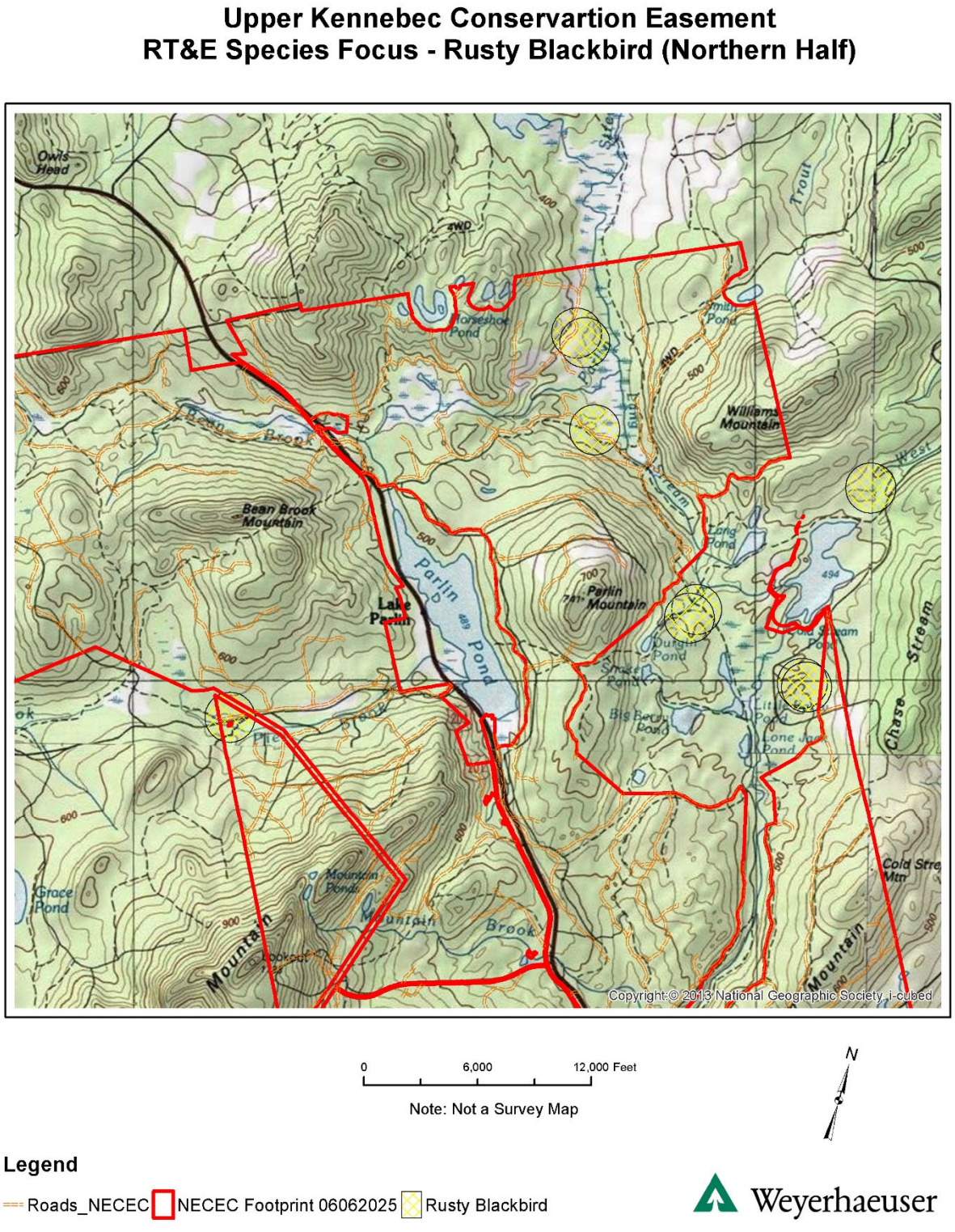
4.1. Silvicultural Practices

- Softwood silviculture can create habitat around wetlands where suitable nesting habitat does not occur.
- When stand is suitable for nesting, leaving scattered trees (snags and live trees) in softwood stands to serve as territorial perch trees.
- Maintain and protect existing wetland and riparian habitats with at least a 100' no-harvest buffer on wetland complexes confirmed, and shown in Figure 10, to host Rusty Blackbird.

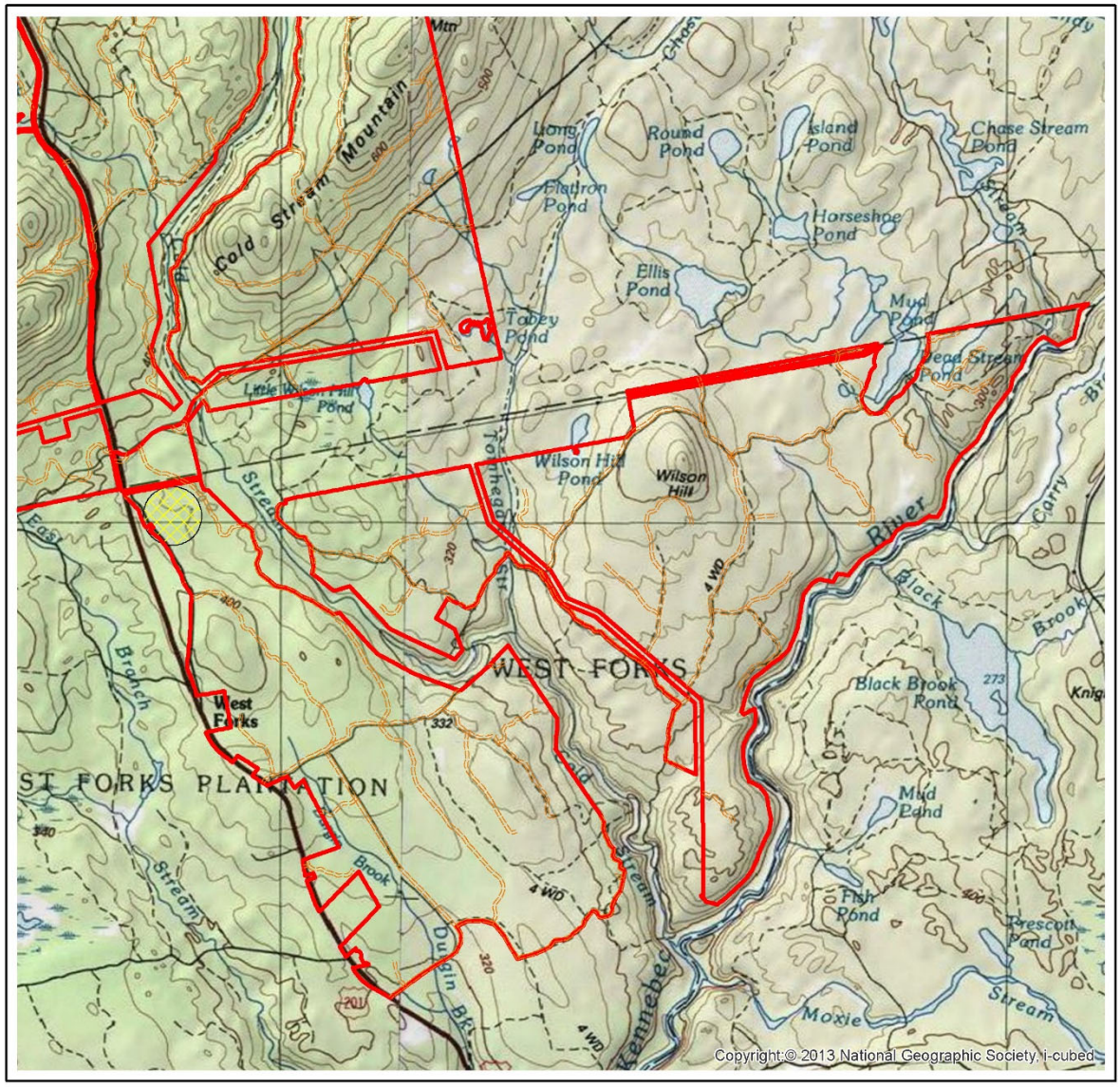
4.2. Seasonal Timing Restrictions

- Minimize disturbance from mechanical operations (e.g., harvesting, road construction) around occupied breeding habitat during the breeding season: May 1 – June 30.

Figure 10. Maps of Documented Occurrence of Rusty Blackbird on Protected Property.



Upper Kennebec Conservartion Easement
RT&E Species Focus - Rusty Blackbird Southern Half)



0 6,000 12,000 Feet

Note: Not a Survey Map

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Legend

Roads_NECEC | NECEC Footprint 06062025 | Rusty Blackbird

Weyerhaeuser

Roaring Brook Mayfly (State Threatened)

1. **Introduction**

The Roaring Brook Mayfly is an aquatic insect restricted to cold, high-elevation stream systems in northeastern hardwood-conifer forests. The larval stages are fully aquatic and rely on high water quality, stable streambed substrates, and well-shaded riparian corridors. Population declines may be associated with riparian disturbance particularly causing sedimentation, forest road construction, and increased stream temperatures. It is currently known only at 14 sites in Maine's central and western mountains. Maine occurrences are all above 1200 feet elevation and bordered by intact deciduous or mixed forest. The Roaring Brook Mayfly has one known incidence of occurrence on the Protected Property – See Map in **Figure 11**. Special management guidelines should be implemented in these areas, as follows:

2. **Habitat Description**

The life history of the Roaring Brook Mayfly is poorly known. It likely has a single-year life cycle, with most of the time spent instream as eggs and nymphs, and a brief period spent in the riparian area as adults in late summer and early fall.

- **Stream Conditions**: Cold, oxygen-rich water at high elevations with stable flows and low turbidity.
- **Riparian Vegetation**: Dense hardwood or mixed wood canopy providing >70% shade over stream channel.
- **Substrate**: Clean gravel, cobble, and coarse woody debris for egg attachment and nymphal cover.

3. **Management Objectives**

- Maintain and enhance intact riparian habitat for Roaring Brook Mayfly.
- Protect water quality to ensure:
    - Cold water temperatures
    - Minimized sedimentation and chemical input
- Conserve riparian organic inputs (leaves and woody debris) for stream dwelling nymphs

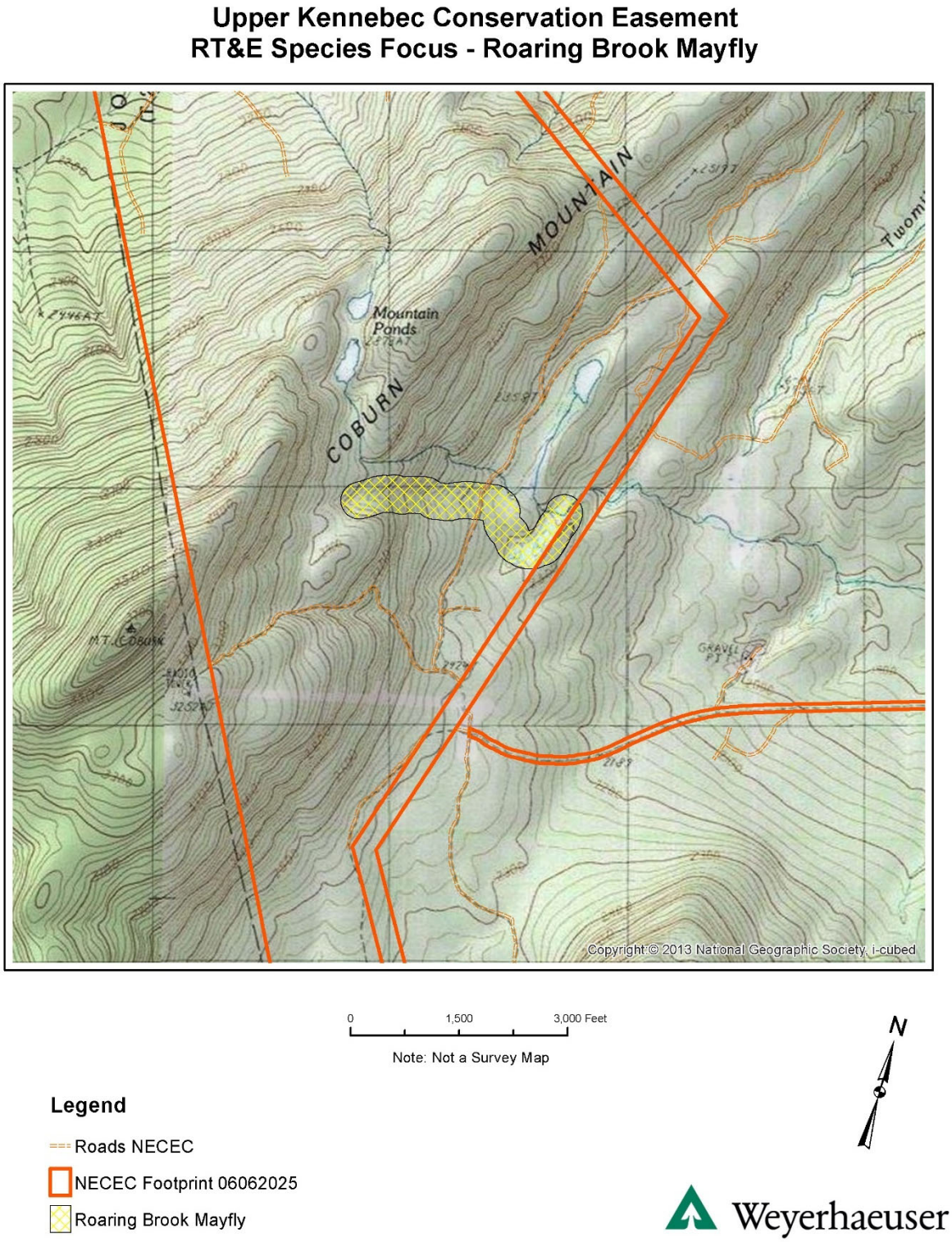
4. **Management Guidelines**

4.1. Silvicultural Practices

- For occupied streams shown in Figure 11, within the first 50 feet on both sides of the stream, establish and maintain a no-harvest buffer.
- Between 50 feet and 250 feet from occupied streams, ensure that a mature forest condition is maintained.
- Harvest only during dry or frozen conditions.
- Minimize construction of roads, log landings or other permanent land use conversions within the 250-foot buffer of occupied streams.
- On slopes facing the stream, maintain an unscarified filter strip of at least the width indicated below between the normal highwater mark of the stream and any exposed mineral soil created by management activities. These recommendations follow minimum performance standards for timber harvest as defined in Maine LUPC Rules and Regulations (Chapter 10.27E).

Average Slope of Land (%)	**Width of Strip** (feet along surface of ground)
0	25
10	45
20	65
30	85
40	105
50	125
60	145
70	165

Figure 11. Map of Documented Occurrence of Roaring Brook Mayfly on Protected Property.



6.3 Rare and Exemplary Botanical Features

Hairy Arnica (State Threatened)

1. **Introduction**

Hairy Arnica (*Arnica lanceolata*) is a State-Threatened (S2, G3) rare plant species in Maine, where it reaches the southeastern edge of its natural range. It is typically found in open, cool, ledgy or gravelly rivershores and cliffs in subalpine environments, where the natural lack of soil and harsh environment restricts competition from other vegetation. Hairy Arnica is sensitive to disturbance and changes in the environment and has been documented in twelve towns from four counties in Maine. One population of this species has been documented on the Protected Property – See Map in **Figure 12.** Management guidelines will be implemented in this area.

2. **Habitat Description**

- Hairy Arnica prefers partial sun to open canopy conditions with well-drained, rocky or sandy acidic soils, typically on ridgelines or south-facing slopes.
- Ledgy or gravelly shores or wet cliffs
- Alpine or Subalpine – non-forested uplands
- Non-tidal Rivershore (non-forested, seasonally wet)

3. **Management Objectives**

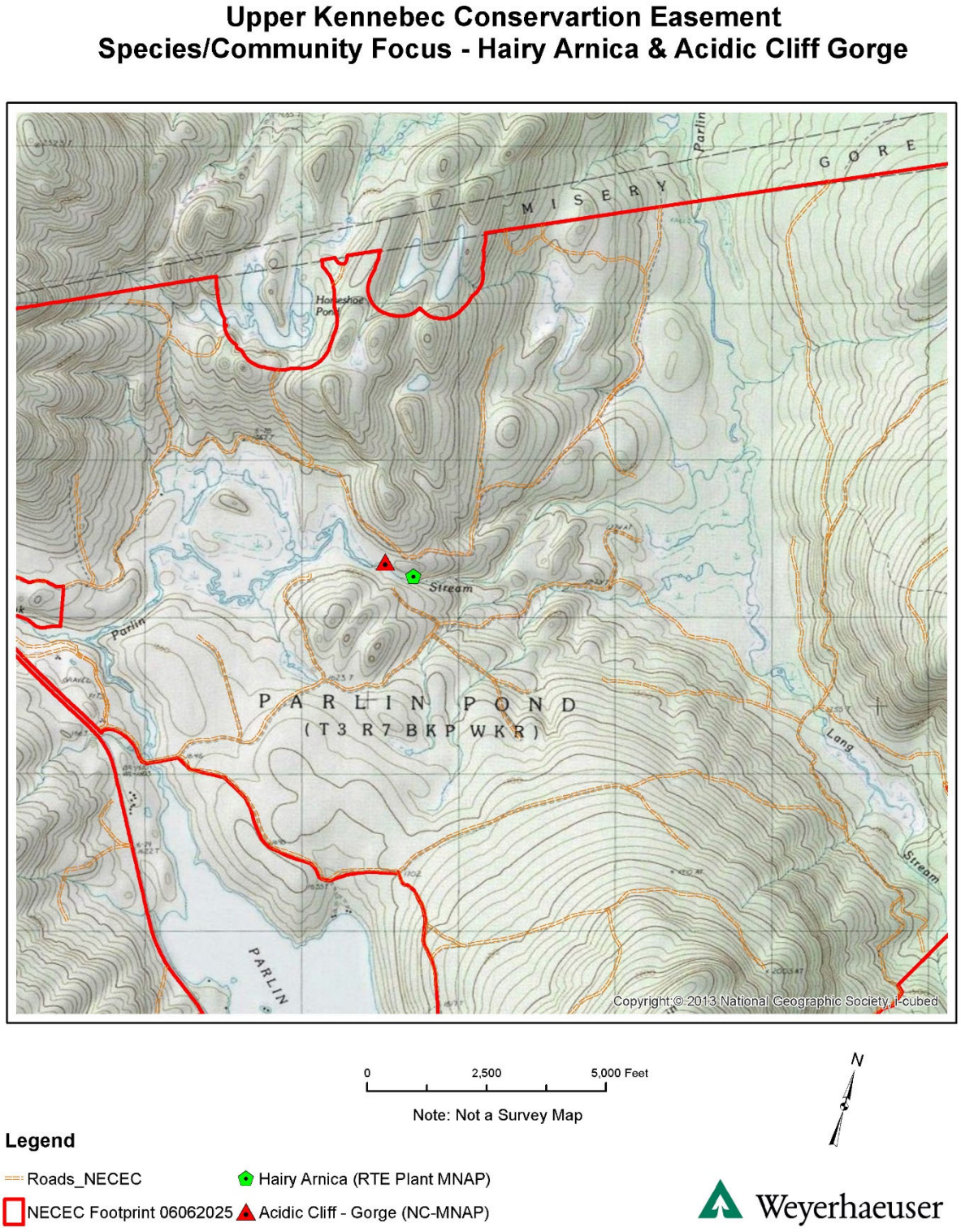
- Maintain and ensure the persistence of the known populations of Hairy Arnica found within the Protected Property.

4. **Management Guidelines**

4.1. Silvicultural Practices

- Provide a 25-foot no-harvest exclusion buffer around mapped sites of Hairy Arnica.
- Forest management activities adjacent to the exclusion buffer will be conducted to prevent impact on Hairy Arnica sites and will minimize soil and root zone disturbance.

Figure 12. Map of Documented Occurrence of Hairy Arnica and Acidic Cliff Gorge on Protected Property.



Acidic Cliff-Gorge (Exemplary Natural Community)

1. **Introduction and Habitat**

An Acidic Cliff-Gorge is a sparsely vegetated, vertical to nearly vertical natural community type that is found infrequently throughout the Maine landscape but more commonly found in the northern portions of the state. The steep outcrops of non-calcareous, erosion-resistant rocks, such as granite or acidic schist are typically dry, with sparce vegetation. However, a moist microclimate may be maintained over local areas by runoff or seeps from higher elevations or, in gorges, by flowing stream water. Acidic Cliff-Gorges may host cliff-nesting bird species such as peregrine falcons or golden eagles and support a unique assemblage of vascular plants and lichens.

2. **Management Objectives**

Given the nature of the habitat and where they are found, these communities are usually inaccessible and therefore likely to be minimally affected by harvest operations. One occurrence of an Acidic Cliff-Gorge natural community has been documented on the Protected Property – See Map in **Figure 12.** Management guidelines will be implemented in this area.

3. **Management Guidelines**

For any mapped and confirmed Acidic Cliff-Gorge occurrences on the Protected Property, no forest management activities will occur within the mapped community without consultation with the Maine Natural Areas Program.

6.4 Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Much of the Protected Property has ecological importance as wildlife and fisheries habitat, and protecting the property through the CE ensures that development will never adversely impact the ecological benefits of such habitats and their resident species. By preventing residential, commercial, industrial and other traditional development, conservation of the Protected Property under the terms of the CE will ensure the perpetual protection and preservation of its conservation values.

6.4.1 Deer Wintering Areas

1. **Introduction**

White-tailed deer are common throughout Maine but in northern portions they rely on Deer Wintering Areas (DWA) to survive winters. DWAs are dominated by softwood to provide thermal cover, decreased snow depth and access to food throughout winter. There is one zoned wintering area on the protected property: P-FW #080412 (89 acres) in Parlin Pond. Through consultation with MDIFW, a Biological Deer Wintering Area (BDWA) is identified in the southern portion of West Forks Plantation. This BDWA supports wintering deer from the Moxie Stream DWA (P-FW #060065) and Cold Stream Forest cooperative yard and is used by wintering deer during times of moderate snow depth and temperature during the yarding season. Weyerhaeuser (formerly Plum Creek) managed the Cold Stream Forest cooperative yard prior to the conservation sale as a 2,168-acre DWA. Refer to Maps in **Figure 13** for location of the Parlin Pond Twp DWA and the West Forks BDWA.

2. **Habitat Description**

From *Guidelines for Wildlife: Managing Deer Wintering Areas in Northern, Western and Eastern Maine:* "Deer wintering areas include a variety of habitat components that may change with forest condition and management strategy. These habitat components contribute to the long-term functioning of a DWA as a source of winter shelter and food."

Primary Winter Shelter

Primary Winter Shelter (PWS) consists of forest stands that provide shelter for deer during the most severe winter conditions. PWS has the following: Softwood crown closure 70% mixed or solitary stands of cedar, hemlock, spruce, and fir; and Stand height 35 feet.

Secondary Winter Shelter

Secondary Winter Shelter (SWS) consists of forest stands that provide adequate shelter for all but the most severe winter conditions. SWS has the following: Softwood crown closure between 50% and 70% mixed or solitary stands of cedar, hemlock, spruce, and fir; and Stand height 35 feet.

Non-Mature/Future Shelter Stands

Stands mapped within a DWA that do not currently meet PWS or SWS definitions provide forage (woody browse) between and adjacent to stands that provide shelter. These stands enhance the value of a DWA, especially when managed to attain PWS or SWS criteria. DWAs often include areas such as south facing slopes that enhance solar gain during late winter. These areas may not meet SWS or PWS criteria but provide microclimatic benefits that contribute to DWA functioning.

Travel Corridors

Successful functioning of DWAs on a long-term basis requires travel corridors within the DWA. Traditionally used corridors often follow streams and wetlands, or topographic features such as ridgelines and valleys. Functional corridors are wide enough to provide deer with sheltered travel ways throughout the yard and are located to maintain direct access to winter shelter.

3. **Management Objectives**

3.1. Parlin Pond P-FW #080412

- Maintain minimum of 50% of stands that are softwood dominant as conforming winter shelter
- Use active forest management and a variety of silvicultural techniques to maintain and improve forest health while promoting desired future habitat conditions.
- Maintain travel corridors connecting the mosaic of habitats for cover and food.

3.2. Biological Deer Wintering Area

- Promote softwood cover in suitable areas to enhance overwintering deer habitat.
- Maintain travel corridors connecting the mosaic of habitats for cover and food.

4. **Management Guidelines**

4.1. Parlin Pond P-FW #080412

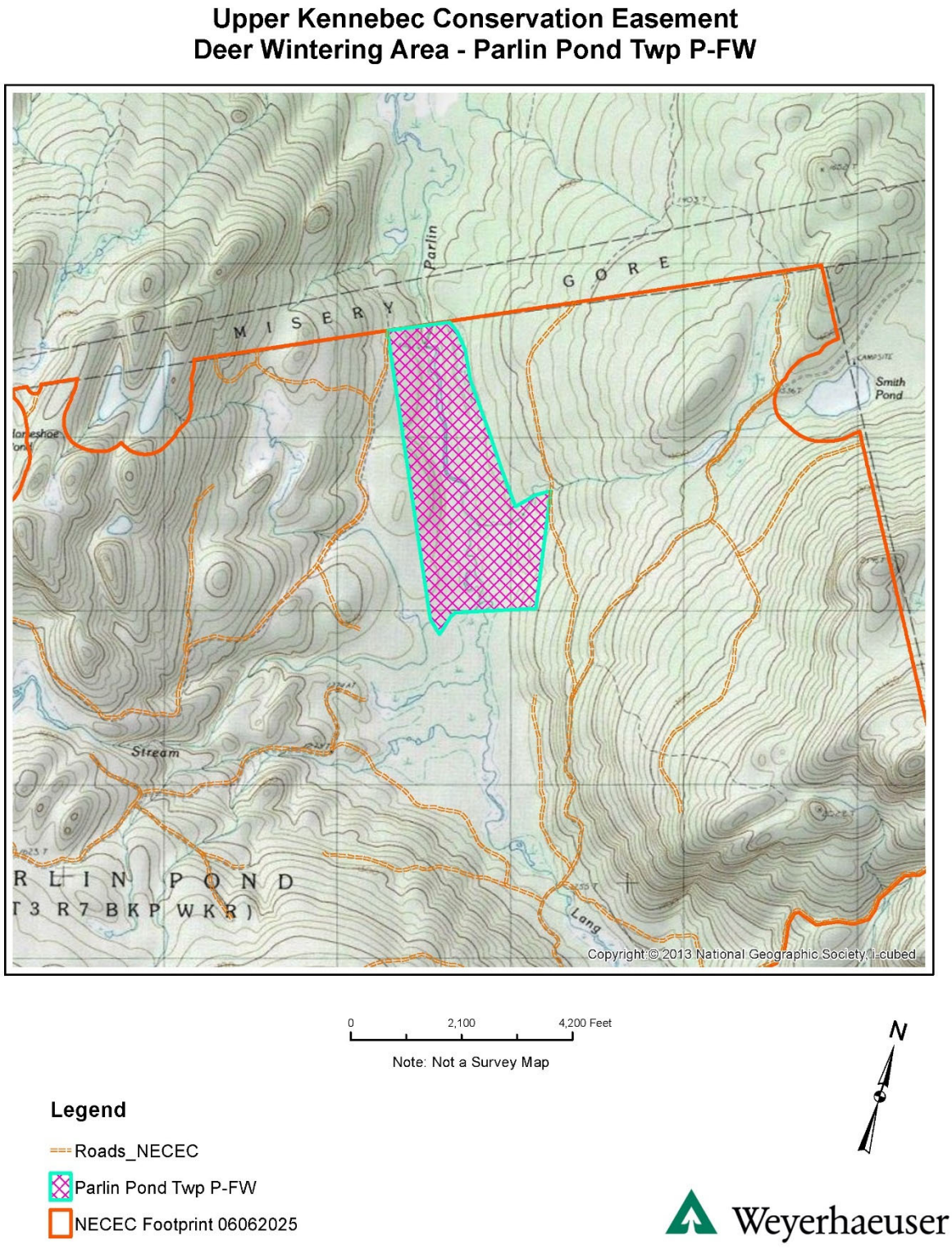
Prior to harvesting or new road construction, consultation with MDIFW regional biologists will take place and a plan will be developed collaboratively to meet the objectives above. Travel corridors

will be maintained through the Riparian Habitat Management Standards in the Conservation Easement (Section VII.A.6).

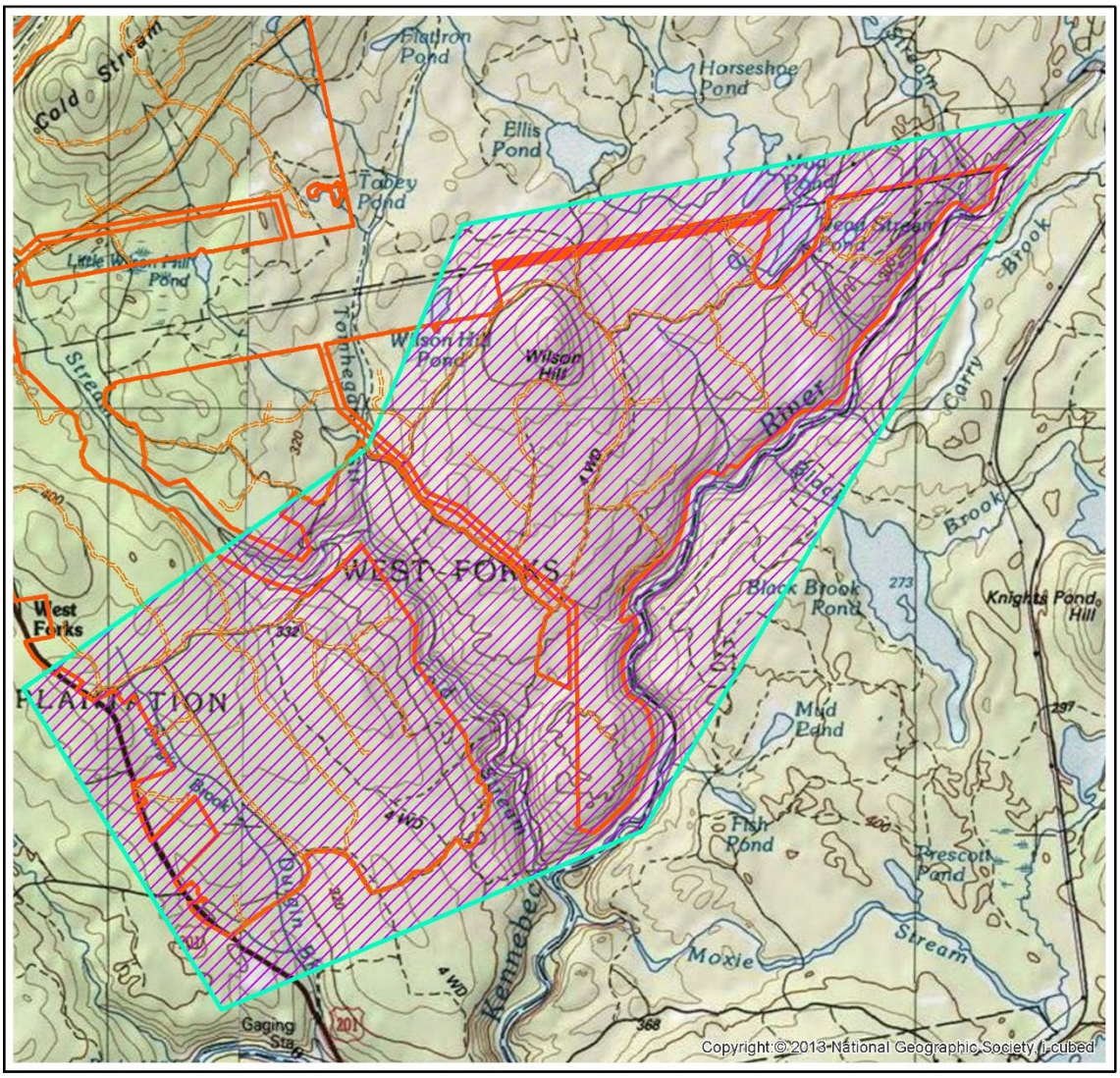
4.2. Biological Deer Wintering Area

The BDWA will be mapped in our system for awareness of supporting the adjacent deer wintering areas. When appropriate, softwood silviculture will be used to promote softwood within that area. Travel corridors connecting the various cover and food sources will be maintained through the Riparian Habitat Management Standards in the Conservation Easement (Section VII.A.6).

Figure 13. Parlin Pond Twp P-FW (#080412) and the West Forks Pla. Biological Deer Wintering Areas



Upper Kennebec Conservation Easement
Biological DWA - West Forks Habitat Mgmt Area



0 5,000 10,000 Feet

Note: Not a Survey Map

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Legend

- Roads_NECEC
- West Forks Biological DWA
- NECEC Footprint 06062025

Weyerhaeuser

6.4.2 Significant Vernal Pools

1. **Introduction**

Vernal pools are small (usually less than one acre), natural, temporary or seasonally flooded depressions/wetlands that provide breeding habitat for a variety of amphibians and invertebrates, including obligate species such as spotted salamanders, wood frogs and fairy shrimp. In Maine, Significant Vernal Pools (SVPs) and their adjacent terrestrial habitat are designated and mapped by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP). There are three documented SVPs and one Potentially Significant Vernal Pool on the Protected Property – See Map in **Figure 14.** Special management guidelines should be implemented in these areas, as well as others identified in the future, as follows:

2. **Management Objectives**

- Protect hydrology and habitat of significant vernal pools (SVPs).
- Maintain a functional forested buffer around pools to support amphibian life cycles.
- Minimize soil disturbance and canopy loss in sensitive areas.
- Ensure compliance with Maine's Forestry Habitat Management Guidelines for Vernal Pool Wildlife (https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/projects/kennebec_woodlands/downloads/documents/vernal_pool_hmg.pdf).

3. **Management Guidelines**

These guidelines shall be applied to Significant Vernal Pools shown in Figure 14. Habitat management shall be based upon the *Forestry Habitat Management Guidelines for Vernal Pool Wildlife* (Calhoun & DeMaynadier 2004) – below is the Summary of Recommended Guidelines.

3.1 Within the Vernal Pool Depression

- Avoid all mechanical activity (e.g., skidding, felling, slash disposal).
- Maintain natural leaf litter and canopy to preserve water quality and amphibian habitat.

3.2 Managed Buffer (0 –100 ft)

- No harvest or partial harvest using low-impact equipment and techniques such as extraction by either boom or cable.
- Stabilize any exposed mineral soil.

- Maintain a minimum average of 75% canopy cover of trees minimum of 20 – 30 ft. tall, uniformly distributed.
- Preserve large, downed woody material and coarse woody debris.
- Schedule harvesting outside the amphibian migration and breeding period during dry or frozen soil conditions (ideally August - March).

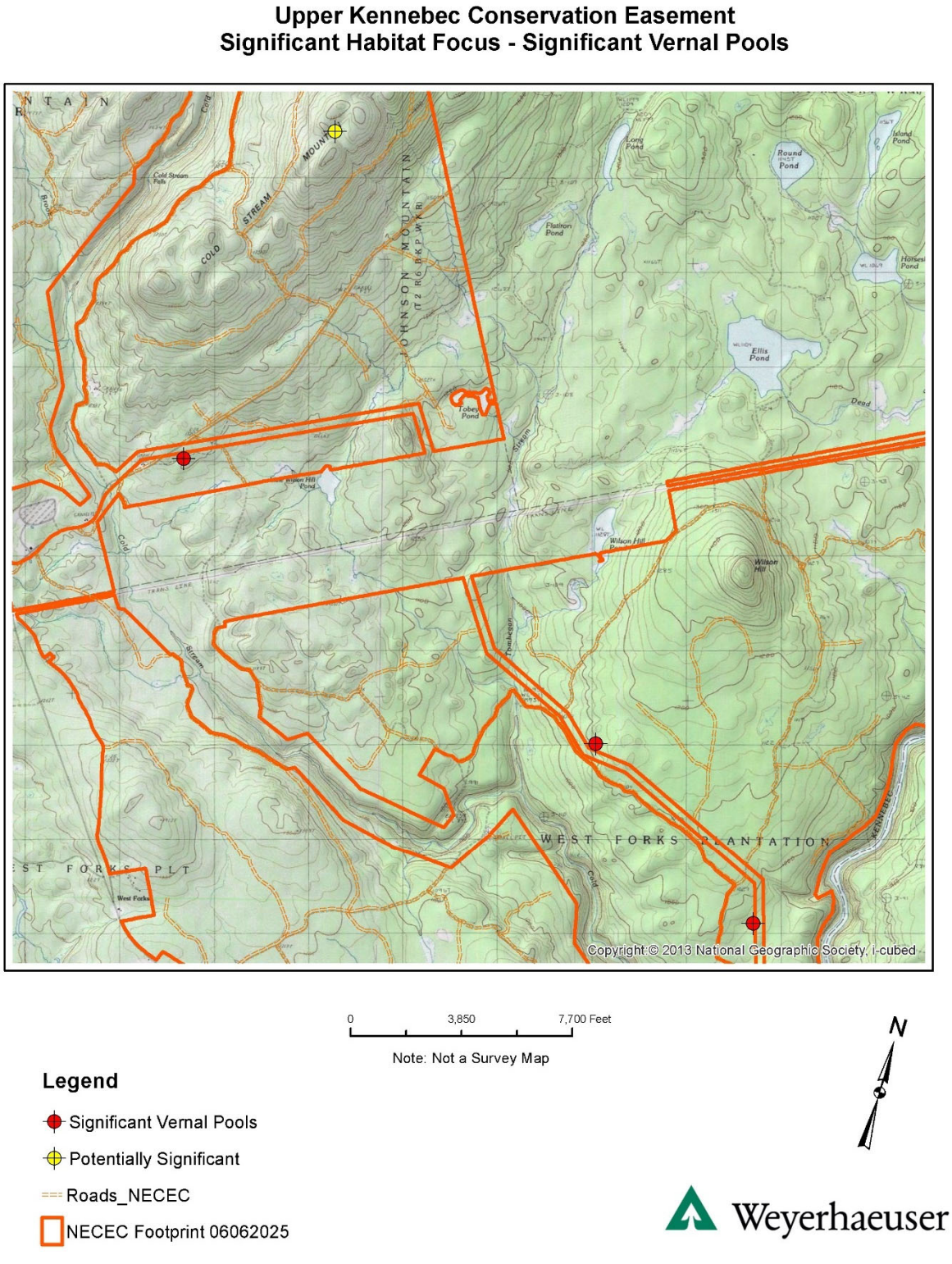
3.3 Amphibian Life Zone (100 – 400 ft)

- Partial harvest retaining at least 50% canopy cover of >20' tall trees
- Preserve as much large, downed woody material and coarse woody debris as possible.
- Schedule harvesting during dry and frozen soil conditions.

3.4 Road Construction and Access

- Avoid new roads and skid trails within 100 feet of an SVP unless no viable alternative exists.
- Road maintenance activities for existing roads can still be conducted even though they may bisect a significant vernal pool buffer.
- Employ erosion control measures (e.g., silt fencing, water bars) to protect water quality.

Figure 14. Significant and Potentially Significant Vernal Pools on the Protected Property



6.4.3 Bat Hibernacula

Four of the eight bat species in Maine are protected by the Maine Endangered Species Act, while the remaining four species are designated species of Special Concern. Endangered species include little brown bat, eastern small-footed bat, tri-colored bat and the northern long-eared bat, which is also federally Endangered. Bat species of Special Concern include big brown bat, red bat, hoary bat and the silver-haired bat.

There has not been a comprehensive statewide inventory for bats in Maine and there are no known occurrences of these bat species on the Protected Property, but it is likely that some of these eight species may be found either during spring and fall migrations or the summer breeding season or both. Further, it is possible that there may be some individuals of these species overwintering on the Protected Property.

There are no known bat hibernacula or maternity roosts on the parcel. If bat hibernacula were either documented using winter acoustic surveys, or observations in caves on the Protected Property were confirmed to be occupied, tree removal would be prohibited within ¼ mile of the hibernacula under MDIFW Chapter 8 Rule of the Maine Endangered Species Act until MDIFW were consulted for management guidelines based on the best available science at the time.

6.4.4 Inland Wading Bird and Waterfowl Habitats

1. **Introduction**

Inland waterfowl and wading bird habitats (IWWH) in Maine - such as freshwater wetlands, marshes, forested swamps, small ponds, beaver flowages, and riparian areas - are critical breeding, nesting, brood-rearing and foraging grounds for waterfowl like geese and ducks and wading birds like herons and bitterns. There are several documented IWWH areas on the Protected Property – refer to Maps in **Figure 15.** Management guidelines will be implemented in these areas.

2. **Habitat Description**

This habitat area includes the wetland area plus a 250-foot-wide zone of upland habitat around the wetland. IWWHs in Maine can be broadly classified into:

- **Forested Wetlands**: Red maple swamps, cedar swamps, or mixed hardwood wetlands.
- **Emergent Wetlands**: Marshes dominated by herbaceous plants.
- **Scrub-Shrub Wetlands**: Early successional habitats, often transitional zones.
- **Beaver Flowages and Vernal Pools**: Temporarily or intermittently flooded habitats.
- **Riparian Zones**: Forested buffers along rivers, streams, and lakes.

3. **Management Objectives**

- To protect ecological values of Inland Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat
- Minimize soil disturbance and canopy loss in buffer areas.
- Protect water quality and wetland integrity from management activities.
- Maintain a functional forested buffer around IWWHs to support wildlife ecologies.
- Minimize soil disturbance and canopy loss in sensitive areas.

4. **Management Guidelines**

Most of the mapped Inland Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat occurrences on the Protected Property are associated with a Perennial Stream that will be buffered as described in Section 4.3.3. of this Forest Management Plan. Additional Management Guidelines are as follows:

4.1 Protect Core Habitat Areas

- No harvest or ground disturbance within 100 feet of IWWH water resources as currently depicted in Figure 15 except to allow for maintenance or use of currently existing roads and landings.
- Maintain at least a 250-foot undisturbed buffer around active Great Blue Heron nesting colonies during the breeding season (April 15 through July 31st).

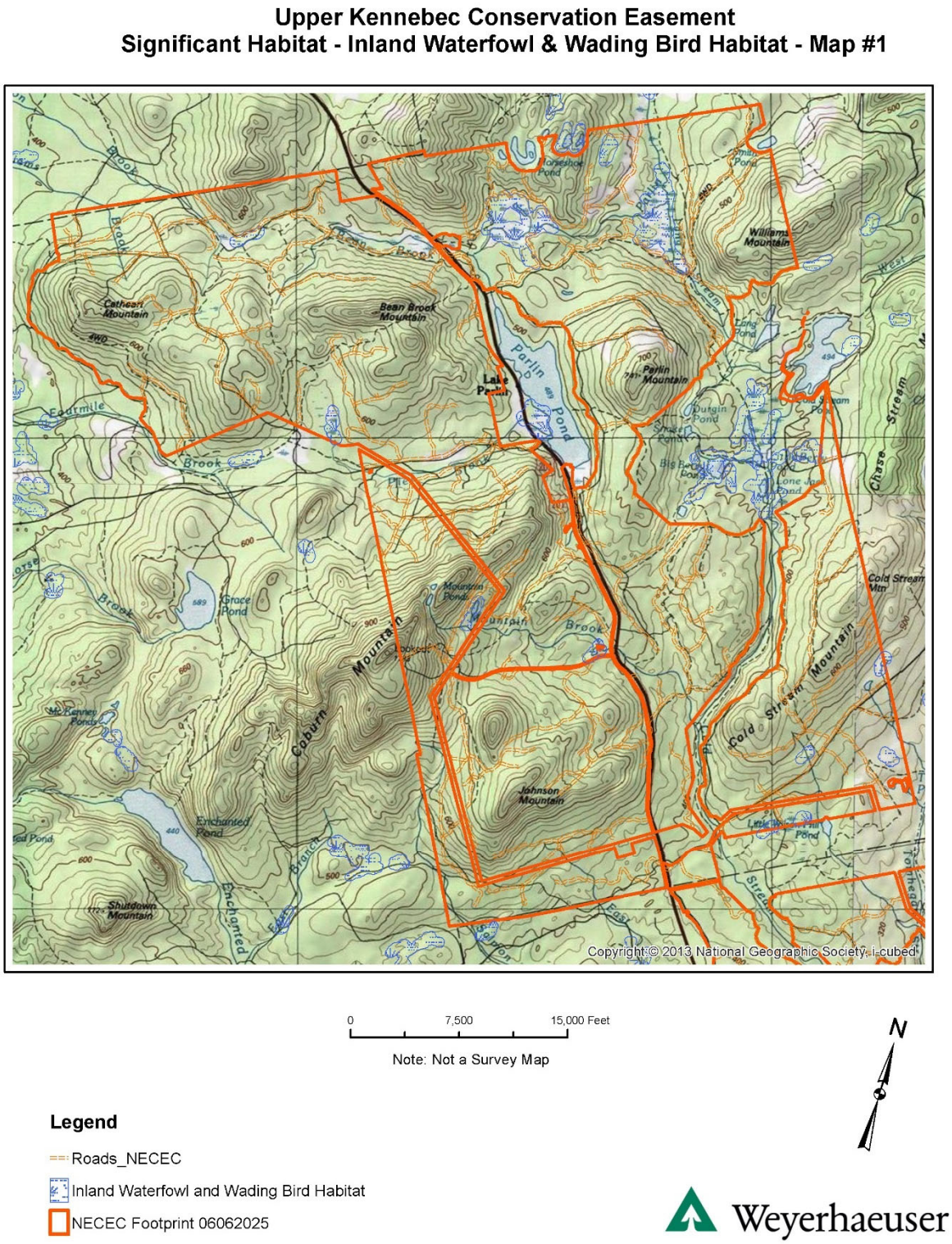
4.2 Buffer Zone Management

- Schedule harvesting during dry or frozen soil conditions and closely adhere to BMPs for water quality and wetland protection.
- Retain or manage a 100 to 250-foot variable edge buffer, depending on slope, soil type, and sensitivity.
- Promote multi-layered vegetation structure with a mix of conifers and hardwoods
- Maintain a well distributed overstory with >50% canopy closure in riparian corridors to preserve shade, temperature regulation, and nesting cover
- Protect downed woody debris and leave snags and live trees with cavities to support cavity nesting waterfowl and other wildlife species.

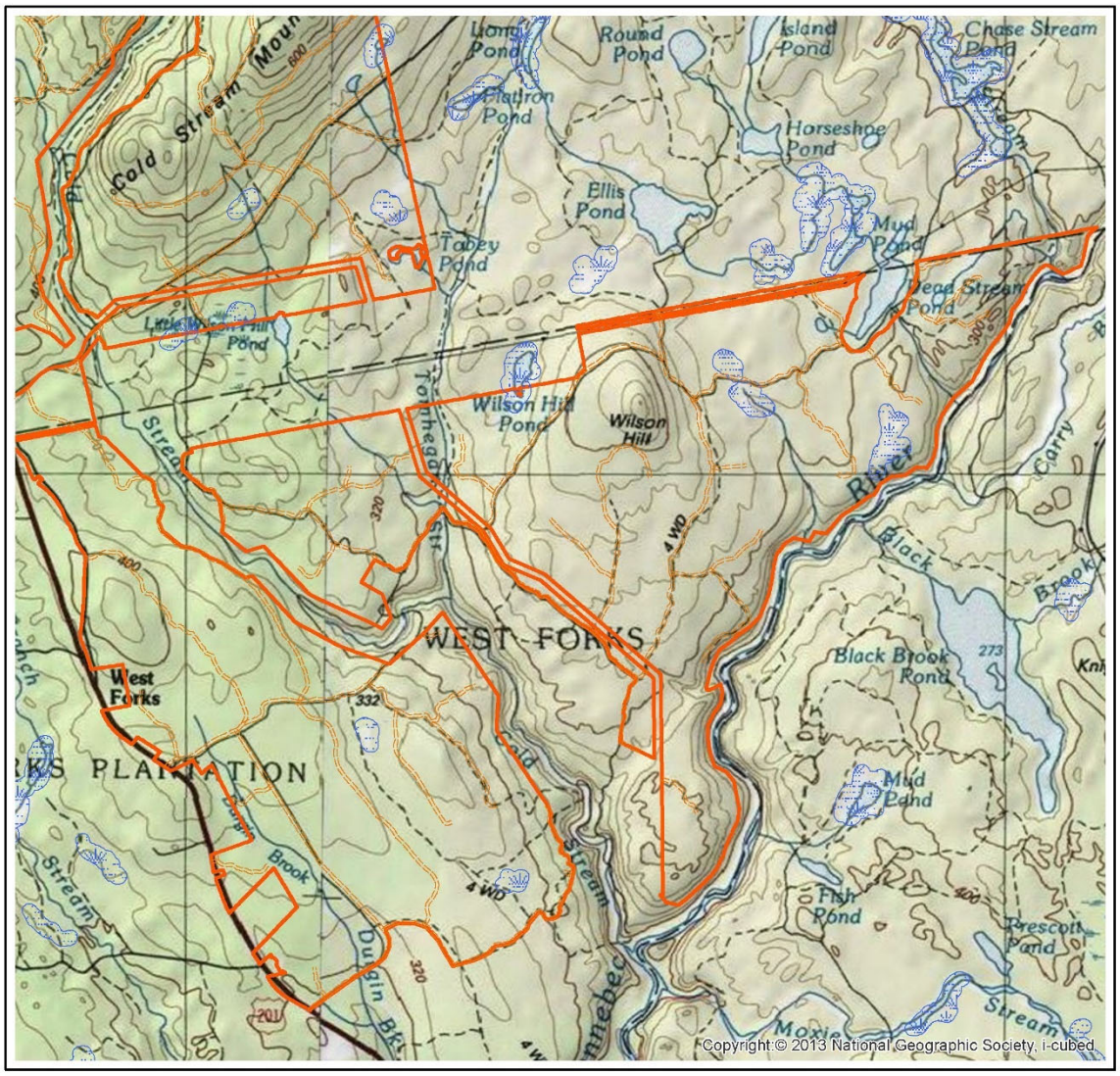
4.3 Seasonal Timing Restrictions

- Avoid harvest or ground disturbance within 100 feet of IWWH core areas identified in Figure 15 during the breeding season (April 15 – July 31). Consultation with MDIFW is required if unavoidable.

Figure 15. Inland Waterfowl & Wading Bird Habitat on the Protected Property



Upper Kennebec Conservation Easement
Significant Habitat - Inland Waterfowl & Wading Bird Habitat - Map #2



0 5,000 10,000 Feet

Note: Not a Survey Map

N

Legend

- Roads_NECEC
- Inland Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat
- NECEC Footprint 06062025

Weyerhaeuser

6.4.5 Aquatic Resources

Forest management activities around aquatic resources are governed by a combination of State regulations as required by Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) and Best Management Practices as well as on the Protected Property by the 100 foot no-cut and 330 foot Mature Forest Buffers around perennial streams as outlined in this plan. In consultation with MDIFW, Aquatic Resources throughout the Protected Property were identified and suggested for further consideration as shown below.

State Heritage Fish Waters

1. **Introduction**

Waterbodies designated as State Heritage Fish Waters are critical lakes and ponds that support self-sustaining, high-quality populations of native wild brook trout. These waters are protected under Maine State law and require special consideration to ensure the long-term health of these sensitive ecosystems.

Brook trout require clean, cold, well-oxygenated water and are extremely sensitive to changes in riparian habitat, water quality and species composition. The following guidelines are designed to maintain or enhance water quality and habitat integrity in and around State Heritage Fish Waters.

There are five documented Heritage Fish Waters ponds totaling 51 acres on the Protected Property as shown in **Figure 16** and listed as follows:

- Markham Pond – 3 acres
- Mountain Pond #2 – 3 acres
- Little Wilson Hill Pond – 13 acres
- Tobey Pond – 11 acres
- Wilson Hill Pond – 21 acres

Brook trout likely continue to thrive in these ponds due to continued cooler water thermal regimes, lack of competing non-native or invasive fishes, and the adaptability/resilience of wild brook trout in the absence of those major stressors. An important note is that past harvesting practices have followed current forest regulations and have therefore protected these ponds allowing them to retain their status as Heritage Fish Waters.

2. **Management Objectives**

- Protect water quality and maximize buffer integrity.
- Maintain a functional, mature forested buffer around lakes and ponds that minimize soil disturbance and canopy loss in sensitive areas.
- To conserve the ecological values associated with these waterbodies.

3. **Management Guidelines**

Protection of Habitat: Forest management practices will minimize threats associated with environmental and land-based activities that pose direct and indirect adverse impacts to heritage fish, their habitat, and their food sources

- Establish a riparian buffer around all Heritage Fish Waters
- The ponds shown in Figure 16 will be buffered as described for Perennial Streams in Section 4.3.3. of this Forest Management Plan.
- For Heritage Fish Waters under 10 acres
    - Retain >60% of the basal area within 150 feet of the water body as mature forest to maintain shade, temperature regulation and nesting cover.
    - Adhere to LUPC Subdistrict rules for P-MA zones as required around Mountain Pond #2
    - Maintain an unharvested buffer zone of 100 feet from the high-water mark
    - Limit operation of heavy machinery within 100 feet of waterbodies except at designated crossings

- For Heritage Fish Waters over 10 acres
    - Retain >60% of the basal area within 250 feet of the water body as mature forest to maintain shade, temperature regulation and nesting cover.
    - Adhere to LUPC Subdistrict rules for P-GP, and P-MA if required.
    - Maintain an unharvested buffer zone of 100 feet from the high-water mark
    - Limit operation of heavy machinery within 100 feet of waterbodies except at designated crossings

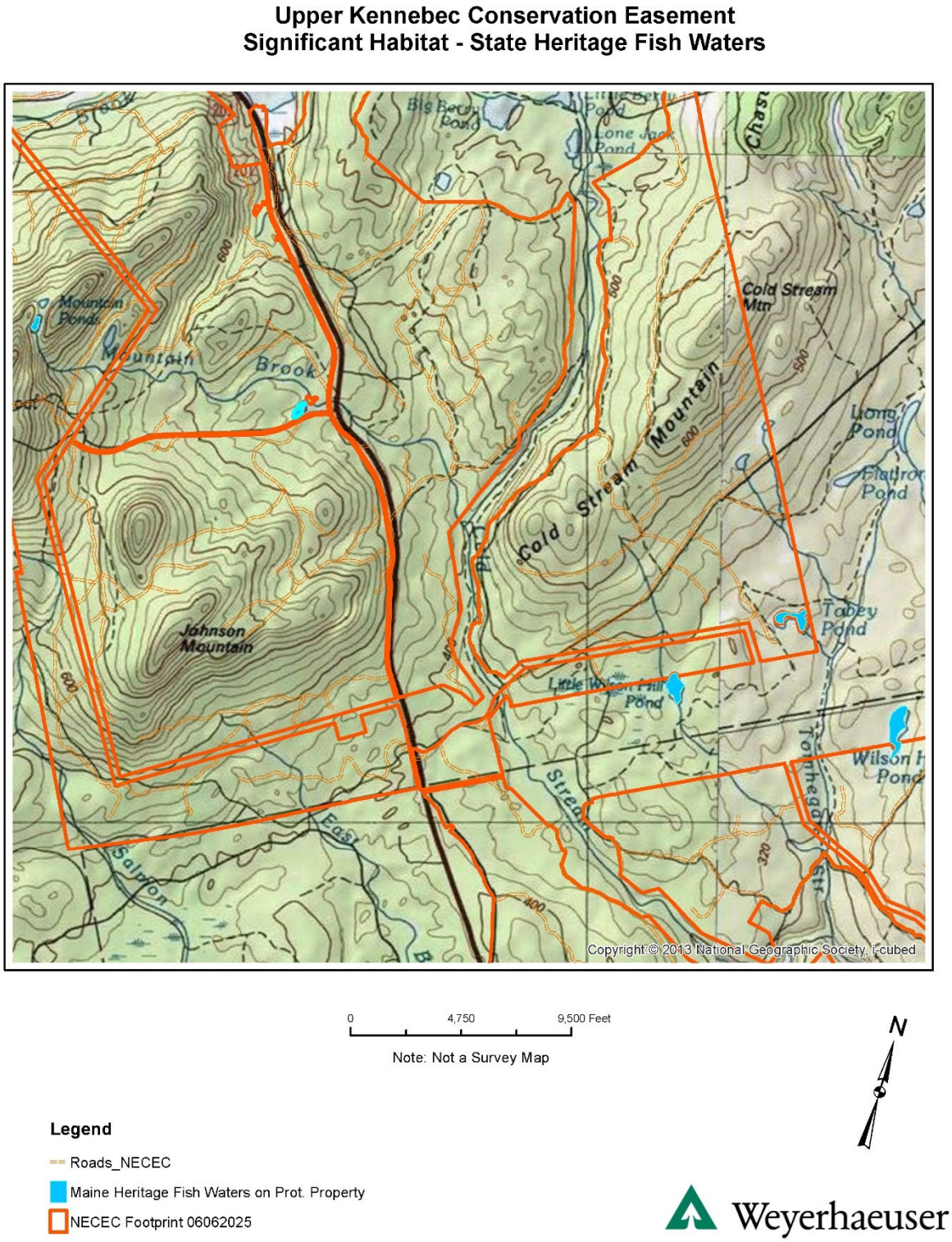
- Avoid new road construction within 250 feet of State Heritage Fish Waters unless no feasible alternative exists.

Protection of Water Quality: Forestry BMPs are crucial for protecting water quality during timber harvests. The intent is to minimize soil erosion and sedimentation, which can harm these sensitive aquatic habitats.

- Schedule forest management activities near these water bodies to take place outside the spring snowmelt and fall spawning periods.
- Conduct harvesting during frozen ground or dry conditions to reduce rutting and sedimentation risks.
- Implement BMPs such as waterbars, ditch turnouts, silt fencing, and regular road maintenance to prevent erosion issues and sediment delivery to streams.

Stream Crossings: Properly sized and installed stream crossings for forest roads and trails are essential for protecting water quality and allowing fish passage to upstream habitats. Adherence to standards and laws for placing wood into stream channels are important for protecting these cold-water fisheries habitats. Use bridges or open-bottom arch culverts where possible for stream crossings. Size crossings to accommodate 100-year flood flows and allow aquatic organism passage where possible.

Figure 16. State Heritage Fish Waters on the Protected Property



Riparian Buffers and Stream Crossings

The Protected Property contains numerous other lakes, ponds and streams that provide suitable habitat for cold water fisheries and other aquatic species. Proper riparian management is important for the protection of water quality and cooler temperatures, along with promoting the accumulation of coarse woody debris; all of which is vital to the many ecologies that require these inputs and conditions. Intact and well managed riparian buffers are also used as travel corridors for a variety of wildlife species. Forested buffers will be maintained along all perennial streams and wetlands to ensure the proper maintenance of these valuable habitats.

All forest management and road construction activities within the Protected Property, including stream crossing installation and maintenance, will utilize current Best Management Practices to avoid erosion, sedimentation, stream flow alterations and other impacts that would have an adverse impact on fish and other aquatic life.

The Protected Property has had active forest management activities conducted many times in the past. Given the terms as mandated by the Conservation Easement, the increased buffers on substantial miles of perennial streams will ensure that the waters on the Protected Property will continue to provide quality habitat for riparian species present today.

6.4.6 Other Species of Special Concern from Consultation with IF&W

MDIFW identified several potential Species of Special Concern that might be present on the parcel but haven't been documented due to limited formal surveys. Many of these species' needs are protected under the CE Riparian Habitat Management Standards or documented Species of Concern. Listed below are the identified potential species and how they will be addressed.

Bats

There are no known bat hibernacula or maternity roosts on the parcel. Bat hibernacula have already been addressed above. Maternity roost trees for many bat species are present on the landscape through retention of snags and other wildlife trees during forest management activities when safe to do so. The Riparian Habitat Management Standards will also provide future roosts in the 100 foot no harvest buffers and also within the 100-330 foot managed buffer maintaining mature forest. This variation will also provide different solar inputs on roost trees adding to the diversity of species that can find an appropriate roost site.

Great Blue Heron

There is a known historical Great Blue Heron colony east of the parcel in Misery Twp but none on the parcel. The adjacent colony is monitored annually for activity. If an active colony is discovered on the parcel (by the Grantor or other biologists), we will consult with MDIFW for management guidelines based on the best available science at the time.

Northern Bog Lemming

If any known occurrence is documented (by the Grantor or other biologists), we will consult with MDIFW for management guidelines based on the best available science at the time.

Blackpoll Warbler

Blackpoll Warblers and Bicknell's Thrush overlap in elevation, though Blackpolls may use older stands than Bicknell's for nesting. Timing restrictions on harvesting activities within identified Bicknell's Thrush habitat on Coburn Mountain will protect Blackpoll Warblers as well.

Northern Spring Salamander

Northern Spring salamanders occur in headwater streams with coarse substrates in deciduous and mixed wood forests. The Riparian Habitat Management Standards in the CE provide protection on perennial streams identified on the parcel. If a known occurrence outside of these buffers is documented, (by the Grantor or other biologists), we will consult with MDIFW for management guidelines based on the best available science at the time.

Wood Turtle

Wood Turtles prefer slow-moderate moving rivers and large streams in forested landscapes. There are no known occurrences and the Riparian Habitat Management Standards in the CE provide protection in alignment with the guidelines. If a known occurrence is documented, (by the Grantor or other biologists), we will consult with MDIFW about management guidelines based on the best available science at the time.

6.5 Invasive and Pest Species

As with any forest such as that found on the Protected Property, invasive species may be found from time to time. Invasive species are considered non-native organisms (insects, plants, animals, fungus, etc.) that, when introduced, cause or are likely to cause harm to the environment, economy, or human health. Examples of invasive insect and plant species that may be found over time in the Maine forests include Emerald Ash Borer, Browntail Moth, Spongy Moth, Bittersweet, Knotweed, as well as Phragmites and Aquatic Milfoil. Invasive species control involves prevention, early detection, and management through methods like mechanical, biological, and chemical treatments. Grantor will cooperate with agencies (e.g., MFS) in monitoring programs for invasive species (e.g., emerald ash borer). Controlling the introduction and spread of invasives can be done through both direct and indirect methods. Grantor will individually (and collectively with state and other partners) develop appropriate strategies at specific sites. Considerations for control may include:

- If the invasive site currently is or may in the future adversely impact forest regeneration.
- If the invasive site currently is or may in the future adversely impact a Threatened or Endangered species or Species of Concern site.
- If the invasives site is deemed appropriate and reasonable by Grantor to treat after consultation with state experts, as appropriate. Reasons for treatment may include forest regeneration, impacts to a specific special site, or to lessen spreading risk based on a landscape context for that specific invasive species.

Native species, such as the eastern spruce budworm, can also be pests of concern. The eastern spruce budworm is a native insect that periodically (roughly every 30 to 60 years) undergoes population outbreaks, causing extensive defoliation of spruce and fir trees. Upcoming outbreaks in Maine can often be forecast by monitoring in adjacent Southern Quebec. Effective management of spruce budworm in forestry involves a combination of proactive measures to mitigate its impact and maintain forest health. Key strategies to mitigate the risks of spruce budworm are monitoring and early detection, along with treatment of affected areas with an appropriate treatment, including insecticides such as tebufenozide (e.g., Mimic) and biological controls such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt). Joint efforts by multiple landowners, researchers, and agencies, such as the Maine Budworm Response Cooperative, Maine Forest Service, Maine Forest Products Council, and University of Maine's Cooperative Forestry Research Unit, can be and are utilized as effective strategies to share knowledge, research, and data. There are also several online GIS-based tools that can assist foresters in the early detection and identification of potential invasive insect and plant species.

6.5.1 Potential Forest Health Considerations

To expand upon these concepts, the following considers in more detail some potential threats to the forest health of the Protected Property and what current activities are occurring to further understand and potentially deal with these threats.

As noted, foresters are trained and responsible for field review of potential local forest health problems and concerns as they conduct their normal field duties. As part of any Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program, monitoring for early detection and tracking findings is critical to getting ahead of such concerns.

Below is a brief summary of the status of a few current threats that may impact the Protected Property through time.

Spruce Budworm

Weyerhaeuser's strategy to address the potential threat of this native insect is built around early detection, targeted intervention, and collaborative response. It aligns with broader regional efforts, including those led by the Maine Budworm Response Coalition, University of Maine, and Maine Forest Service.

Key components include:

1. Monitoring & Detection

- Weyerhaeuser participates in L2 monitoring (tracking overwintering larvae) across over 100 sites in Maine.
    - Of the 100 sites in Maine, three L2 monitoring sites fall within the footprint of the Protected Property while five more are within two miles of the Property.
- Collaboration with the University of Maine's Spruce Budworm Lab, ensures timely data collection and hotspot identification.

2. Early Intervention Strategy (EIS)

- EIS targets small SBW hotspots before populations reach outbreak levels.
- Insecticides like tebufenozide (Mimic) and biological controls such as Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) are used to suppress larvae while minimizing harm to pollinators.

3. Silvicultural Adjustments

- Weyerhaeuser's internal plans recommend stand rotation and road upgrades to improve access and reduce vulnerability.

- Significant pre-salvage operations are not currently included in the SPW risk management strategy, as the planned EIS approach has demonstrated effectiveness in other regions. However, should substantial mortality occur in merchantable softwood stands—particularly those dominated by balsam fir—these areas will be prioritized for final harvest. This will support outbreak management and facilitate regeneration for the next rotation.
- The necessity and scope of any pre-salvage or salvage activities will be evaluated annually and communicated to the holder during the annual meeting. These assessments will consider ongoing progress toward the mature forest milestones outlined in the Conservation Easement.

4. Collaborative Partnerships

- Weyerhaeuser works with agencies like the Maine Forest Products Council, Maine Forest Service, and University of Maine's Cooperative Forestry Research Unit.
- Joint efforts include data sharing, research, and coordinated aerial spray programs

Emerald Ash Borer

The Maine Forest Service has established quarantine zones for the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) that now include southern portions of Somerset County. The nearest detection was in Solon in 2025, about 30 miles south of the Protected Property. Currently Weyerhaeuser foresters continue to monitor for signs of this pest as instructed by the Maine Forest Service which also continues to monitor EAB using traps and bio-surveillance methods. In the event EAB is detected, Weyerhaeuser will engage the Forest Service and work to attempt to manage and limit the advancement of this invasive pest.

Beech Leaf Disease

As of 2025, Beech Leaf Disease (BLD) has been confirmed to be found in all counties in Maine, including southern Somerset County. This marks a significant expansion since its initial detection in 2021. While no detections have been reported north of the township of Cambridge, the rapid spread of this relatively new disease in Maine suggests that it is just a matter of time before it is present on the Protected Property.

BLD is caused by a microscopic nematode that overwinters in the buds of beech trees. Symptoms include dark bands on the leaves, curled and deformed leaves, and a diminished, thinning canopy due to premature leaf drop. Tree mortality tends to occur within 2–7 years, especially in smaller trees. Weyerhaeuser foresters are aware of the potential for this disease and will report sightings to the Maine Forest Service to aid in tracking and response.

Hemlock Wooly Adelgid

The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) continues to expand its range in Maine, particularly in southern and coastal regions. As of the latest available data, HWA has not been confirmed in Somerset County, but it is approaching from the south and east. Vigilant monitoring is recommended especially in areas with naturally occurring eastern hemlock. The Maine Forest Service has put a quarantine in place that restricts the movement of hemlock nursery stock, logs, and other materials from infested to not yet infested areas. Regular monitoring of the advancement of this invasive pest is important, and Weyerhaeuser foresters are aware and on the lookout for the potential given the hemlock present on the Protected Property.

Forest Tent Caterpillar

The forest tent caterpillar (FTC) is a native defoliator of deciduous hardwoods in Maine, especially aspen, sugar maple, oak, and birch. In 2025, northern and central Maine experienced a continuing outbreak of FTC which was part of a broader regional cycle that began around 2022. Populations follow boom-and-bust cycles, with outbreaks every 10–15 years, lasting 2–5 years. FTC was the most commonly trapped moth in Maine in 2024, with over 1,100 specimens, indicating elevated population levels. Although numbers slightly declined in 2025, defoliation remained widespread. Most affected trees regrew leaves later in the summer, but repeated defoliation over multiple years can lead to reduced growth, increased susceptibility to pests, and tree mortality.

The Maine Forest Service emphasized natural population control via predators and parasites, especially the “friendly fly”, which surged in response to the outbreak. For severe infestations, Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) can be used, especially on early instar larvae. Monitoring and detection of this native pest is important, and Weyerhaeuser foresters are aware and on the lookout for the potential for widespread defoliation on the Protected Property. In the event of moderate to heavy defoliation (>30%) Weyerhaeuser will consider intervention, especially if repeated over multiple years and will consult with the Holder in advance of implementation of an intervention strategy.

Invasive Plants

Two species of invasive plants that are most often or likely found on the Protected Property are Phragmites and Japanese Knotweed. While both are likely, there are only two documented locations of Phragmites on the edge of the Protected Property along the Mining Road, and no documented locations of knotweed.

Given the various modes of spread of invasive plants, it is quite possible if not likely that additional incidents of these or other invasive plant species could become established on the Protected Property. Foresters are aware of the potential and are trained to identify various species of invasive plants that may be found in the future and as noted previously, Weyerhaeuser has a process in place for documenting observations and locations of such species for interventions as needed.

6.6 Forest Chemical Use

Forest chemical use on the Protected Property will be for silviculture and pest control purposes.

For silviculture purposes, herbicides may be used to control competing vegetation in early stages of stand development, typically in recently established softwood stands. In some cases, herbicides may be used to address a reforestation issue, such as poor growing stock or inadequate stocking levels that may result from natural regeneration challenges.

Pesticides may be used to control insects, such as sawfly and spruce budworm, invasives, or other unforeseen future forest pests.

In all cases, any forest chemical use will be minimized to the extent practicable and strictly follow all State and Federal laws. In addition, all chemical use will adhere to all best management practices and protocols, label requirements, applicator licensing requirements, and current research.

6.6.1 Pesticide Program

The Pesticide Program includes both herbicide and insecticide use. The program emphasizes integrated pest management (IPM), compliance with company policies and standards, and thorough monitoring of pesticide applications to ensure effectiveness and to minimize environmental impact. All activities are overseen by licensed applicators and adhere to Maine Board of Pesticide Control regulations.

Insecticide Use

The last significant application of insecticides for insects in Maine occurred in the early 1990s for a sawfly infestation in spruce plantations. As of 2022, it is recognized that major infestations of the spruce budworm are in Quebec and New Brunswick and future management and control, including spraying, may occur in Maine within the next 10 years (cf. CFRU, MFS and MFPC data).

Weyerhaeuser's strategy to address the potential threat of spruce budworm is built around early detection, targeted intervention, and collaborative response as described elsewhere in this plan. Weyerhaeuser participates in L2 monitoring (tracking overwintering larvae) across over 100 sites in Maine, three of those sites fall within the footprint of the Protected Property. In the event this threat requires intervention for control, insecticides such as tebufenozide (Mimic) and biological controls such as Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) may be used to suppress larvae. In the event this step is warranted, Weyerhaeuser will collaborate with the Holder to ensure that the requirements of the conservation easement are met.

Herbicide Use

Herbicide use focuses on managing competing vegetation in softwood plantations and naturally regenerating stands to enhance growth and stocking levels, with careful consideration of ecological and regulatory factors.

WY has paused its Maine planting and conifer release programs and is not planning any site preparation herbicide applications in the coming year. Silvicultural practices using herbicide is for one of three purposes:

1. Controlling competing vegetation in either (a) recently established softwood plantations to protect the investment of these plantations, or (b) softwood-dominated natural regeneration where softwood growth rates can be increased with removal of the hardwood competition. A "release spray" herbicide application would be prescribed in these situations following a site assessment of competing vegetation on a case-by-case basis.

2. To address a reforestation issue such as poor or unacceptable growing stock or inadequate stocking levels, both resulting from natural regeneration. A site preparation herbicide application would be followed by planting on a case-by-case basis.

3. To address the presence of invasive species such as phragmites or knotweed, spot treatments are employed to manage small sites of invasives, often found along forest roads or at landing areas. Spot treatments typically involve the targeted application of herbicides or manual removal of invasive plants at the identified sites, ensuring minimal impact on surrounding native vegetation. Foresters are trained to identify and document these incident sites, recording GPS locations and detailed observations, which they then submit to the company staff biologist. After receiving incident reports from foresters, the staff biologist reviews the data and schedules treatment activities, sometimes involving additional field assessments to determine the most effective approach to prevent further spread.

In order to be consistent and have well trained and informed participants in any herbicide applications, Weyerhaeuser developed an Herbicide Application Manual that has been in place and regularly updated for the aerial application of chemicals. In the event such applications are warranted in the future, this manual will serve as an invaluable tool, outlining proper application methods to ensure safety and environmental integrity. A copy of this manual can be provided to the Holder upon request should aerial herbicide applications resume.

Spot herbicide applications have been conducted in the past to address incidents of invasive species such as Japanese knotweed and Asiatic Bittersweet using over the counter herbicides when small, isolated incidents of invasives have been located. In the event more significant

herbicide use becomes a need in the future, Weyerhaeuser will inform the Holder of such applications.

Pesticides - Process/Procedures

As noted above, Weyerhaeuser has no current plans for the use of insecticides or for conducting site prep aerial applications of herbicides for conifer release. In the event applications become warranted, use will be minimized to the extent practicable and only chemicals licensed by the EPA and registered for use in Maine will be used for such purposes. Weyerhaeuser will follow all Maine Board of Pesticide Control rules and regulations including the use of licensed pesticide applicators in good standing. For aerial herbicide applications, Weyerhaeuser's Maine Herbicide Manual as noted previously will be strictly followed. All chemical use will adhere to best management practices and protocols, label requirements and will be based upon the latest and most current research. The Holder will be notified in the event that pesticide use becomes a need in the future for the Protected Property.

6.7 Climate Change

Climate change increases uncertainty about future forest conditions. A changing climate will likely affect tree growth rates, mortality, disturbance patterns and the distribution of tree species after disturbances. Models suggest that we will experience shifts in the ranges of trees and other plants, animals, and pests. More frequent extreme wildfires and weather events will lead to altered disturbance regimes and will necessitate adjustments in forest operations and planning. Management aimed at addressing these uncertainties must change over time with the best available science.

Detailed below are key risks identified and Grantor's plan to address:

- Risk: Decreased forest health & productivity due to increased invasive insect species, diseases & pathogens, and tree stress from less-than-optimal growing conditions resulting from changing precipitation and/or temperature patterns.
    - Increase forester awareness of forest health issues, discovery and monitoring of new issues, coordination of reporting and information exchange with state and academic partners, and research collaboration.
    - Maintain complex forest structure, diverse forest composition, healthy soils, and address invasive species as appropriate.

- Risk: Damage to company infrastructure such as roads and stream crossings from changing precipitation patterns and extreme weather events.
    - When constructing new or replacing existing stream crossings, size the new structure according to Stream Smart principles to address future likely increased water flows.
    - When building new or upgrading legacy roads, address future potential increased water flows by installing adequate drainage such as the proper size and spacing frequency of cross-drain culverts.

- Risk: Increased concern for water resources (quantity and quality) from changing precipitation patterns and wildlife species from changing habitat.
    - Implement BMPs to address water quantity and quality issues as precipitation patterns change or extreme weather events increase.
    - Train foresters and logging/road contractors in BMP implementation that includes climate smart practices.
    - Collaborate on related research and new tool development and incorporate shared learnings into our practices.

- Collaborate with third parties to upgrade stream crossings beyond our own road program capabilities.
- Provide diverse forest structure, forest composition, habitat structures like legacy trees, and snags, special site protections, threatened & endangered species conservation, healthy soil and water bodies (wetlands, riparian areas, vernal pools, ponds, etc.) at the connected landscape level to maintain biodiversity resilience into the future.

- Risk: Increased wildfire risk due to changing precipitation patterns.
  - Increase coordination with state agencies responsible for fire responses.

Climate change effects may impact the growth models used as a basis for establishing the Mature Forest Habitat projections set forth in this FMP, including the ten-year Milestones anticipated to be achieved, as described in Section 4.1. The Grantor will evaluate the potential impacts of climate change on the Mature Forest Habitat projections and will be prepared to present such impacts as may be necessary during annual meetings with Holder. If any given Milestone is not met due to climate change impacts (such as "Force Majeure Events" described in Section 4.4.3 - hurricane, fire, flood, drought, disease, or forest health pest outbreak), Grantor and Holder agree to mutually discuss solutions.

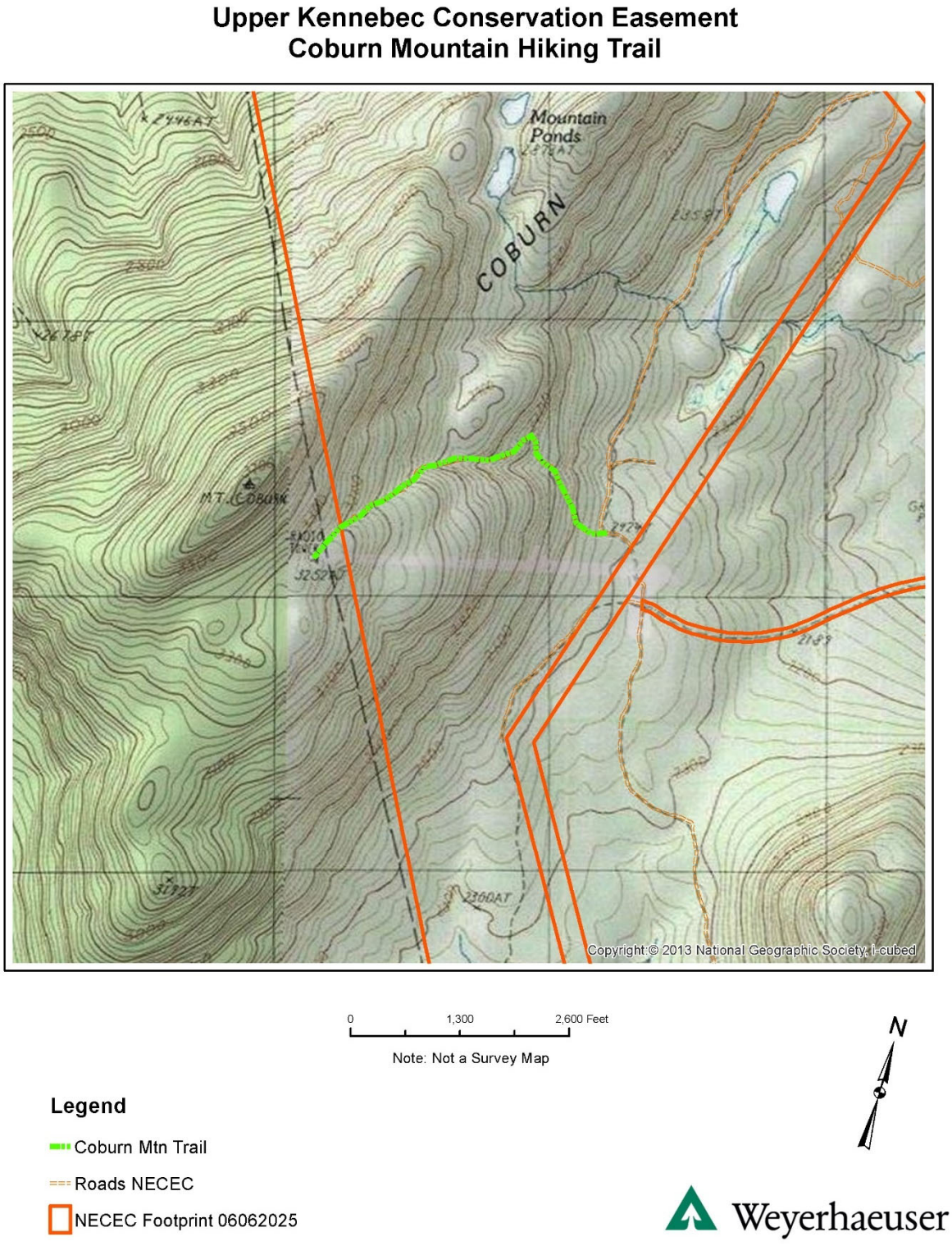
6.8 Recreation

Access for recreation, including rules and regulations, is addressed above in Section 5.7.

Description and Mapping of Known Recreational Spots and Trails:

There are no designated hiking trails on the Protected Property. There is one unofficial hiking trail located in Johnson Mtn Township near the base of the former Enchanted Mtn Ski Slope. The approximate location of the trail is mapped in **Figure 17**. The trail is located on a former logging access road on the toe slope of Coburn Mountain and is unimproved and unsigned.

Figure 17. Coburn Mountain Trail in Johnson Twp on the Protected Property



7.0 Regulations Applicable to the Protected Property

There are several state and federal laws that apply to forest management activities within the State of Maine. Weyerhaeuser requires strict adherence to the various requirements of the following regulations in all forest management activities on Maine timberlands. Weyerhaeuser monitors these laws and regulations for change and works to ensure company forest managers have the information and tools they need to understand and adhere to these requirements.

7.1 Forest Licensing Law

This law requires that any individual hired to provide professional forestry services, such as creating a management plan or overseeing a harvest, must be licensed by the state. Weyerhaeuser employs licensed professional foresters to manage all company timberlands, including the Protected Property in Maine.

7.2 Tree Growth Tax Law

The Protected Property is enrolled in the Tree Growth Program and current plans are valid through 2027. Maine's Tree Growth Tax Law offers property tax relief for landowners who manage their forested land for commercial timber production, allowing it to be valued for its current use rather than its potential development value. To qualify, land must be used for a commercial forestry enterprise, and landowners must notify the town or state assessor and meet specific acreage and management requirements. Property owners pay an annual excise tax at a set rate per acre and face penalties if they withdraw land from the program.

This law is a tax program that provides for the valuation of forestland based on its productivity value, rather than its market value, for property tax purposes. To qualify for this tax treatment, landowners must:

- Maintain a minimum of 10 forested acres.
- Have a management plan developed or reviewed and approved by a licensed forester.
- Actively practice forestry on their land.

7.3 Protection and Improvement of Waters Law

The Maine Protection and Improvement of Waters law (Title 38, Chapter 3 of the Maine Revised Statutes) complements the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) by providing a state-specific framework that aligns with and expands upon federal water quality goals. This law and the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act require all landowners to protect water quality during forest operations. The law works in conjunction with other state regulations, such as the Maine Forest Practices Act, to prevent water pollution and protect water quality during timber harvesting and other forest operations.

Key aspects of forest management covered by the law:

- Protection of water bodies: Forest operations are regulated to prevent erosion and sedimentation that can harm water quality in protected areas, including rivers, streams, brooks, and wetlands.

- Shoreland Protection: Timber harvesting is also regulated by Statewide Standards for Timber harvesting in Shoreland Areas, expanded upon below.

7.4 State of Maine Forest Practices Act, 12 MRS §§ 8866 et seq.

Forest management is governed by a combination of state and federal regulations designed to ensure sustainable practices, protect natural resources, and preserve wildlife habitat. The most significant state-level law is the Maine Forest Practices Act, overseen by the Maine Forest Service MFS).

The Maine Forest Practices Act is found within **Title 12, Part 11, Chapter 805, Subchapter 3-A** of the Maine Revised Statutes. The law is officially titled "Forest Harvest Regulations" and is managed by the Maine Forest Service (MFS). This law mandates specific standards for commercial timber harvesting, particularly to prevent "liquidation harvesting," where timber is rapidly harvested with no plans for regeneration.

Administrative rules under the Forest Practices Act cover forest operations, with a focus on clearcutting, forest regeneration, and activities in sensitive shoreland areas.

The primary rules include:

- **Chapter 20 Rule: Forest Regeneration and Clearcutting Standards**: This rule governs performance standards for clearcuts, including size limitations, separation zones, and requirements for regeneration following a harvest.
    - **Clear-cut definitions**: A clear-cut is defined as timber harvesting on a forested site greater than 5 acres that results in a residual stand density below a certain threshold. Timber harvesting operations that create clear-cuts of over 5 acres must meet performance standards regarding size, separation zones, and regeneration.
        - Separation zones: Clear-cuts must be separated from one another by forested separation zones to limit the overall size of harvested patches.
    - **Forester involvement**: A Licensed Forester must prepare harvest plans for clearcuts larger than 20 acres. For larger clearcuts (Category 3, greater than 75 acres), the plan must be submitted to the Maine Forest Service for approval 60 days in advance.

- **Regeneration requirements**: There must be adequate regeneration of trees within five years after harvesting. After a clear-cut, the harvested site must be regenerated to a new stand of trees that meets specific density and height requirements.

- **Chapter 21 Rule: Statewide Standards for Timber Harvesting and Related Activities in Shoreland Areas**: This rule provides specific regulations for forest management activities within Maine's protected shoreland zones, which include areas near lakes, ponds, rivers, streams and wetlands, to protect water quality and minimize soil erosion. Key requirements include:

    - Vegetation clearing limits: Strict limits are placed on the amount of tree clearing allowed within the shoreland zone to maintain water quality and habitat.

    - Erosion control: Landowners must take measures to prevent unreasonable erosion of soil or sediment beyond the project site or into a protected resource. The expectation is that BMPs will be put in place in advance and will be utilized during project activities.

- **Chapter 26 Rule: Forest Operations Notification Standards**: Landowners or their agents must notify by filing a Forest Operations Notification with the Maine Forest Service before beginning any timber harvesting activities; Notification must be posted at the harvest site during the harvest activities. Landowners who file a notification are required to submit an annual report of their harvesting activities to the MFS by January 31st of the year following activities.

- **MFS Chapter 27 Rules: Timber Harvesting and Related Activities in Unorganized Areas**: This rule specifically regulates timber harvesting and forestry-related activities and sets standards for operations specifically within the unorganized territories, operating as a set of specialized rules within the broader framework established by Chapter 10. Chapter 27 focuses exclusively on the specifics of timber harvesting, land management roads, and gravel extraction for forestry purposes.

- **Other applicable laws**: All harvesting activities must also comply with other relevant federal, state and local laws, rules and any town ordinances.

7.5 LUPC Chapter 10 – Land Use Districts and Standards

Maine's Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) Chapter 10, "Land Use Districts and Standards," contains the comprehensive administrative rules that govern land use activities and zoning in the unorganized areas of the state such as the Protected Property covered by this forest management plan. It is the primary document used to determine what is and is not permitted within specific

land use subdistricts. Chapter 10 sets the overarching land use standards, including zoning districts and rules for a wide range of activities in the unorganized territories.

LUPC Chapter 10 is used in conjunction with MFS Chapter 27 whereby LUPC Chapter 10 defines *where* forest management can occur, and MFS Chapter 27 defines *how* the specific forestry activities are to be conducted.

7.6 Federal Regulations Influencing Forest Management in Maine

Federal regulations influencing Maine's forest management include the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which protects threatened and endangered species and their habitats, and regulations under the Clean Water Act (CWA) that govern water quality in forests as noted previously.

Here's a breakdown of the key federal laws:

- **Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973:** The Endangered Species Act establishes protections for fish, wildlife, and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered; provides for adding species to and removing them from the list of threatened and endangered species, and for preparing and implementing plans for their recovery; provides for interagency cooperation to avoid take of listed species and for issuing permits for otherwise prohibited activities; provides for cooperation with States, including authorization of financial assistance;
    - **Purpose:** To prevent the extinction of endangered plants and animals and to recover their populations.

- **Clean Water Act (CWA):** The Clean Water Act (CWA) establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface waters.

  Under the CWA, EPA has implemented pollution control programs such as setting wastewater standards for industry. EPA has also developed national water quality criteria recommendations for pollutants in surface waters.
    - **Purpose:** To maintain the quality of the nation's waters.

8.0 Annual Meeting

The Grantor and Holder agree to hold an Annual Meeting in order to facilitate effective communication and to ensure a shared understanding of the status of the forest condition as it relates to the mature forest and perennial stream management requirements. The Holder will be responsible for scheduling the meeting prior to March 30th each year. The Annual Meeting will report on the following:

1. Current Mature Forest Percentage
2. Mature Forest Percentage in Strategic Harvest Plan in 2065
3. Forest Health and Climate Change concerns – Observed/Anticipated
4. Holder monitoring activities and Findings for the previous year
5. Harvest activities – previous 12 months
6. Current planned harvest activities, subject to change – next 12 months
7. Perennial Stream Crossings
    a. Previous year – actual
    b. Current year – planned
8. Perennial Stream Mapping Review:
    a. Review of any natural stream channel movement over time of the 88 miles of perennial streams in BDR with corresponding GIS update.
9. Forest Management Activities within Mature Forest Buffers - Previous year and Current year planned
    a. 0-100 foot
    b. >100 to 330 foot

9.0 Figures, Tables and Maps

9.1 List of Figures and Maps

9.2 List of Tables

Appendices

A. Conservation Easement
B. Definitions
C. Protected Property
D. Kennebec River Watershed Map
E. Soils Maps and Map Unit Details
F. Forest Management Roads and Landings
G. Best Management Practices (BMP) Standards
H. Forest Inventory Procedure and Design
I. MFS Chapter 21 Rules – SWS for Timber Harvesting in Shoreland Areas
J. Cold Stream Rights of Way Access