TWO TREES
FORESTRY

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

THOMAS WOODLOT

Litchfield, Androscoggin County, Maine
Map 13, lots 22 & 23 and map 16, lot 3-C
91± acres total – 85 wooded acres

Alex and Cheryl Thomas
99 Nestle Hill Rd.
Litchfield, ME 04350
(207) 555-1234

Prepared by:
Harold Burnett, LF #993

November 17, 2025

This plan meets specifications for the Maine Tree Growth and WoodsWISE Woodland Resource Action Plan programs and addresses proposed activities between now and November 2035, when it should be updated. It is intended to help owners conduct forest management activities and does not represent legal advice.

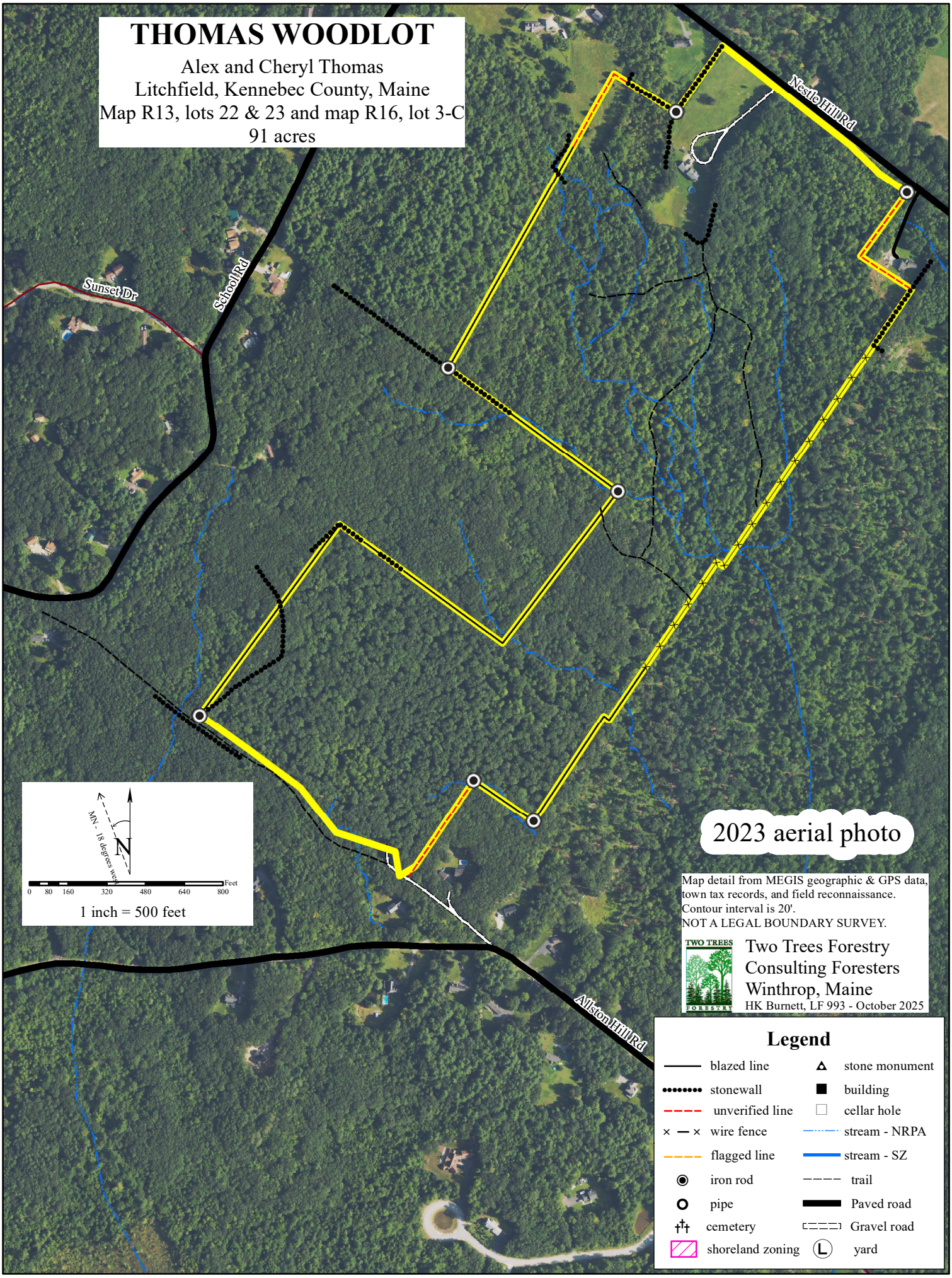
BACKGROUND

The 91±-acre Thomas property, of homesite and woodland lies on the south side of the Nestle Hill Road, about a quarter mile east of its intersection with the School Road, in Litchfield, Maine. Alex and Cheryl acquired it in two purchases – the northern two thirds in 2011 and the rest in 2015. The terrain generally slopes gently eastward on relatively productive soils, though a network of intermittent streams and wooded wetlands is relatively extensive, particularly to the north. Most of the woodlot has been wooded since at least the early 1900s, though some western sections were open as recently as the 1940s. Oak and hemlock dominate the forest, though pine are common to the northwest, and red maple is common throughout. Loggers have entered periodically, with the most significant harvest in the north occurring in the early 2000s, and about 2014 to the south; all harvests have been selective and reasonably well implemented. In 2020 Richard Stottlemeyre harvested a modest amount of wood from the lot's middle, including scattered large oaks. The woodlot likely contains 200,000 to 300,000 board feet of sawtimber and 1,500 to 2,000 cords of cordwood, worth $60,000 to $70,000.

Even with the relatively extensive wetland network, access to the woodlot is generally quite good. The 2000 and 2020s harvests yarded into the area behind the house while the 2014 utilized an old road, off of the Allston Hill Road, that aligns with the lot's southern boundary; Alex and Cheryl have legal rights to use that road. The area behind the house could be used again, for any future harvesting on the northern half of the woodlot. Further facilitating access is a network of trails that Alex maintains.

167 MAIN ST. #2A
P.O. BOX 356
WINTHROP
MAINE 04364
TEL: 207-377-7196
FAX: 207-377-7198

www.twotreesforestry.com


THOMAS WOODLOT
Alex and Cheryl Thomas
Litchfield, Kennebec County, Maine
Map R13, lots 22 & 23 and map R16, lot 3-C
91 acres
Nestle Hill Rd
School Rd
Sunset Dr
Allston Hill Rd
MN - 18 degrees west
N
0 80 160 320 480 640 800 Feet
1 inch = 500 feet
2023 aerial photo
Map detail from MEGIS geographic & GPS data, town tax records, and field reconnaissance.
Contour interval is 20'.
NOT A LEGAL BOUNDARY SURVEY.
TWO TREES FORESTRY
Two Trees Forestry
Consulting Foresters
Winthrop, Maine
HK Burnett, LF 993 - October 2025
Legend
blazed line
stonewall
unverified line
wire fence
flagged line
iron rod
pipe
cemetery
shoreland zoning
stone monument
building
cellar hole
stream - NRPA
stream - SZ
trail
Paved road
Gravel road
yard

Keith Marx (PLS 8916), of Gordon Land Surveying, surveyed the southern two parcels, but did not record his plan in the county registry. David Davis (PLS 9611) and Stuart Wright (PLS 8072) have also worked portions of the lot's perimeter. These surveyors all set iron rods in most corners; stonewalls and lines of blazed and painted trees illustrate most of the perimeter, with the exception of two short lines around houselots to the north and south. Marx determined that the southern two tax lots total 35.6 acres (7.618 and 28.01 acres). Litchfield assesses taxes on 101.5 acres, which I believe overstates the property's extent. Assessors tax the southern two lots for 39 acres. I also believe that assessors merged the lot 22 with lot 3-C, for a total of 62.5 acres, but then retained lot 22, and its nine acres. Forty-nine and a half acres, all on lot 3-C, are currently enrolled in Maine's Tree Growth Tax program.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Alex and Cheryl live on the property and recreate often in their woods. They enjoy walking, hunting, cross-country skiing, and trail riding there. They expect to retain it indefinitely before leaving to their kids. They bought most of the woodlot to protect their privacy and control its character. In addition, they would like to:

- Comply with Tree Growth requirements: They understand that the production of forest products is their top priority, though in an environmentally benign way.
- Improve health, diversity, and value of the forest and its wildlife habitats: They wants to cultivate native and quality growing stock to the extent reasonable. They'd like to combat the non-native and invasive shrubs and vines on the land.
- Maintain recreational opportunities: They'd like to keep trails open, and perhaps expand the network.

To the best of their knowledge, the property is not subject to deed restrictions or easements that limit forest management activities.

SOIL AND FOREST RESOURCES

The property's terrain can be divided into three general geographic areas. A soils map is shown on page 10.

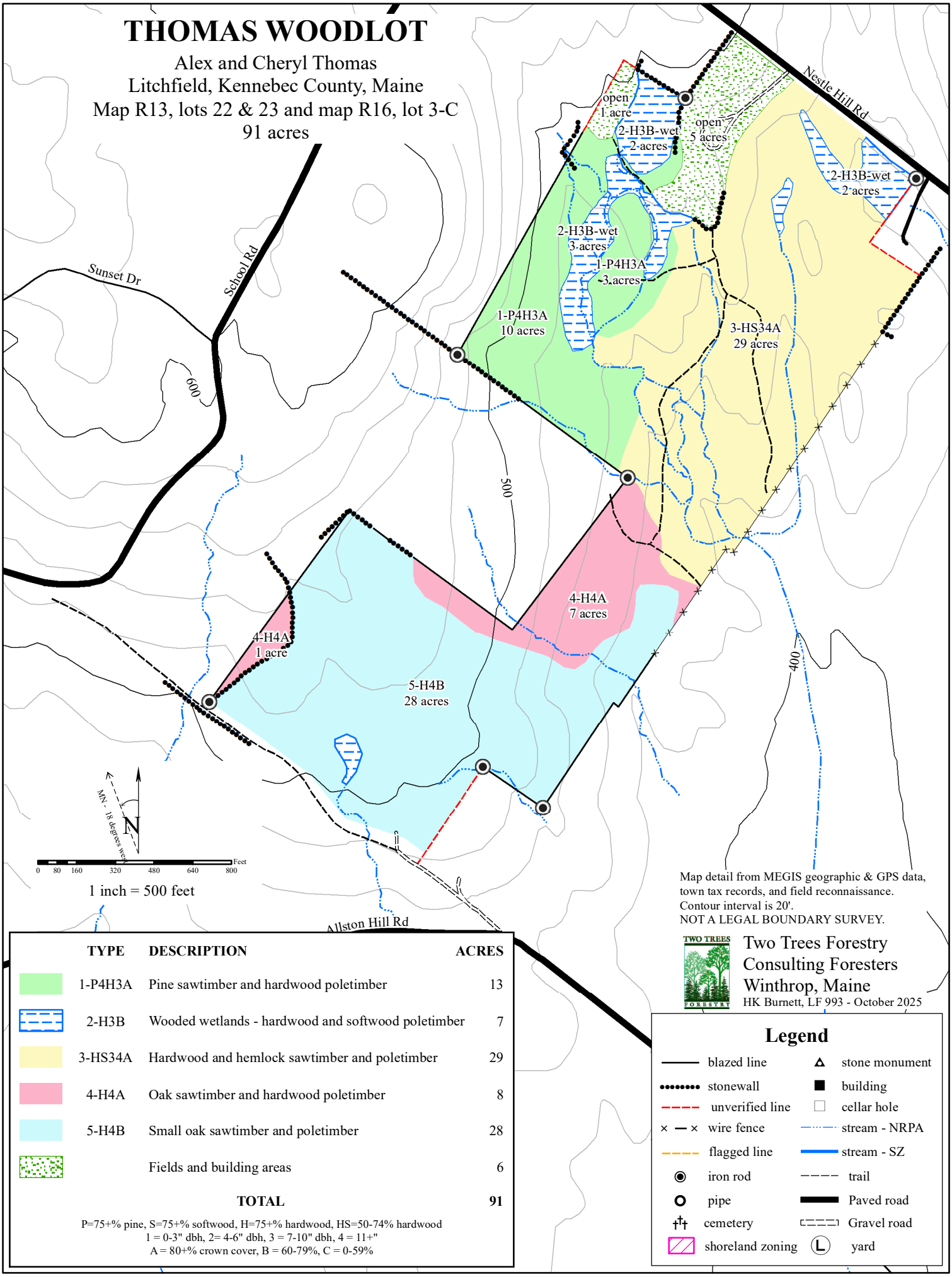
• riparian corridors – relatively flat, deep, poorly drained, Leicester very stony fine sandy loam soils, which formed in glacial till. These poorly productive sites are best suited to red maple, ash, and elm given the high water-table, though pines and hemlock often grow on interspersed hummocks. Operability is severely limited by the wetness. Operations should be limited to frozen periods, if at all.

• rolling uplands in the north -- deep, moderately well drained Woodbridge very stony loams, which formed in glacial till. These rocky soils are well suited to the current stocking of white pine, hemlock, and red oak, but are less well suited to quality northern hardwoods.

• gentle terrain to the south -- shallow, well drained, and very rocky Hollis fine sandy loam soils, which formed in glacial till. These moderately productive, but shallow, soils are well suited to the current stocking of red oak and red maple, though pine could do well if established. Operability within this area is quite good, including quite wet periods.

THOMAS WOODLOT

Alex and Cheryl Thomas
Litchfield, Kennebec County, Maine
Map R13, lots 22 & 23 and map R16, lot 3-C
91 acres



1 inch = 500 feet

	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	ACRES
	1-P4H3A	Pine sawtimber and hardwood poletimber	13
	2-H3B	Wooded wetlands - hardwood and softwood poletimber	7
	3-HS34A	Hardwood and hemlock sawtimber and poletimber	29
	4-H4A	Oak sawtimber and hardwood poletimber	8
	5-H4B	Small oak sawtimber and poletimber	28
		Fields and building areas	6
		TOTAL	**91**

P=75+% pine, S=75+% softwood, H=75+% hardwood, HS=50-74% hardwood
1 = 0-3" dbh, 2= 4-6" dbh, 3 = 7-10" dbh, 4 = 11+"
A = 80+% crown cover, B = 60-79%, C = 0-59%

Map detail from MEGIS geographic & GPS data, town tax records, and field reconnaissance.
Contour interval is 20'.
NOT A LEGAL BOUNDARY SURVEY.

Two Trees Forestry
Consulting Foresters
Winthrop, Maine
HK Burnett, LF 993 - October 2025

Legend

- blazed line
- stonewall
- unverified line
- wire fence
- flagged line
- iron rod
- pipe
- cemetery
- shoreland zoning
- stone monument
- building
- cellar hole
- stream - NRPA
- stream - SZ
- trail
- Paved road
- Gravel road
- yard

For management planning purposes, I divided the parcel into five stands. All listed values were determined from an ocular estimate, as I did not collect any measured field data.

Stand 1 - Pine sawtimber and hardwood poletimber (HP4AB - 27 acres) – Until about the 1940s much of the lot's northwestern portion was open, but then regenerated with white pine. Loggers likely thinned the area during the 1990s, which helped release and regenerate what are now eight to 14" diameter and 50' to 70'-tall red maple poletimber, along with scattered larger red oak. The remaining pines there are virtually the only ones on the property, average 14" to 18" in diameter and 70' to 80'-tall, and are straight and small-limbed. The area is interspersed with a series of intermittent streams and surround wooded wetlands; the far west slopes distinctly upwards to the boundary. Stocking levels are somewhat variable, with older pines scattered amid patches of younger hardwoods; the entire area is fully stocked. Current volumes likely average 2,000 to 4,000 board feet of sawtimber and 12 to 18 cords of pulpwood per acre. No significant insect or disease concerns were noted, though the stand includes a few scattered white ash, which are at considerable risk of decline when the emerald ash borer arrives. The forest floor supports a considerable stocking of 10' to 15' tall white ash and beech saplings. Invasive barberry shrubs are also common.

Stand 2 – Wooded wetlands – hardwood and softwood poletimber (H3B - 7 acres) -- The lowest ground on the property is broad, poorly drained, and supports 40' to 50' tall red maple and ash poletimber, along with scattered pine and hemlock trees. Elsewhere, many of the stream corridors are similarly low-lying and wider than the primary stream channel; these also support wetland vegetation, including alders and winterberry. Current volumes likely average less than 1,000 board feet of sawtimber and 10 to 15 cords of pulpwood per acre. Aside from the poor growing conditions I saw no significant insect or disease concerns, though the ash will likely succumb soon to the emerald ash borer. Japanese barberry is common, though the most northwesterly wetland, next to the field, also supports multi-flora rose, bittersweet, and honeysuckle.

Stand 3 – Hardwood and hemlock sawtimber and poletimber (HS34A - 29 acres) -- Virtually the entire northeastern third of the woodlot has been wooded since at least the early 1900s, and is interlaced with intermittent streams. Loggers have entered this area periodically, including a selective, but significant, harvest in the early 2000s, and much less thoroughly since then. The variably stocked stand is dominated by hardwood to the west and hemlock to the east; most of the western hemlock is in the mid-canopy, whereas the eastern ones dominate the overstory. Oak and red maple sawtimber are scattered throughout, though periodic selective logging has created patches of six to 10" diameter hardwoods. The quality of the 14" to 18" diameter hemlocks tends to be quite good, with straight stems and small limbs. Current volumes likely average 3,000 to 5,000 board feet of sawtimber and 15 to 20 cords of pulpwood per acre. No significant insect or disease concerns were noted, other than the all-too common beech bark disease, an insect and fungal complex that degrades stem form and ultimately kills beech trees. Hemlock and beech seedlings are widespread on the forest floor.

Stand 4 - Oak sawtimber and hardwood poletimber (H4A - 8 acres) – The middle of the property supports the oldest and largest oak sawtimber, where some trees exceed 20" in diameter. Though loggers harvested elsewhere, none have entered this area in many decades. The terrain slopes gently toward the east, with few, if any, small drainages. The quality of the oaks is quite good, though many are forked at the base, suggesting that the stand originated following a prior, and significant, harvest, likely in the early to mid-1900s. Smaller diameter, but still 80' to 90'-tall, red maple, sugar maple, ash, and popple are growing as well. Dense stocking levels likely limit the diameter growth of most trees. Current volumes likely average 4,000 to 6,000 board feet of sawtimber and 20 to 25 cords of pulpwood per acre. No insect or disease concerns were noted, including beech leaf disease. The mid-canopy is dominated by beech saplings.

Stand 5 – Small oak sawtimber and poletimber (H4B - 28 acres) – In about 2014 loggers entered the southern third of the property, prior to Alex and Cheryl's acquisition, and removed virtually all the largest oaks and nearby smaller hardwood poletimber, leaving what is now a moderately well-stocked stand dominated by 10" to 12" diameter and 50' to 60'-tall red oak. Loggers likely operated during winter, leaving virtually no ruts in the soil, and very few rubs on the residual trees; the stand is healthy and vigorous. Current volumes average less than 1,000 board feet of sawtimber and 20 to 25 cords of pulpwood per acre. I saw no significant insect or disease concerns. Regeneration from the harvest included what are now mostly 10' to 15' tall red oak and red maple sprouts, along with shorter five to 10'-tall pines.

BIODIVERSITY AND AREA LANDSCAPE FEATURES

Maine's Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has not identified any significant wildlife habitats on or near the property. Nonetheless, the lot's diversity of habitat, likely attracts a variety of wildlife, including deer, foxes, coyotes, raccoons, porcupines, hares, grouse, and a multitude of songbirds and raptors. The central wetland network not only includes some of the land's most unique ecology, but is likely used by wildlife as a travel corridor. The two small fields, with protective woods nearby, provide good browse for herbivores and hunting grounds for predators seeking those that graze below. In addition, the dense hemlock cover along the riparian terrain likely harbors deer during snowy and cold winters; the coniferous canopy minimizes the amount of snow on the ground and tends to push cold winds over the area rather than through it, thus enabling deer to traverse more easily and under 'warmer' conditions. Animals undoubtedly benefit from the number and diversity of cavity-riddled and/or downed trees, suggesting both an abundance of insect-infested trees and plentiful places to nest and hide. Similarly, the local area support an abundance of varied habitats, which include considerable wetlands, ponds, woods and fields.

Though a woodlot of this size is generally used by transient critters, which range over a much larger area than just this woodlot, the surrounding landscape includes other attractive features. Maine's Natural Areas Program has no record of any rare plants or plant communities on or near this lot. I didn't see any threatened or endangered species on this woodlot, and it is unlikely that any are present.

FOREST HEALTH ASSESSMENT

The Thomas woodlot is dominated by a relatively healthy and vigorous forest. However, an invasive pest is present or on the woodlot's doorstep. Emerald ash borers will likely decimate the ash population, which will be most noticeable in the wooded wetlands and nearby terrain, where ash are quite common. Further compounding the stress that the woods face, invasive barberry shrubs are growing in most areas but the far south. Though only shrubs, they are aggressive and have the potential to shade out native vegetation, including young trees. The northernmost wetland also supports an abundance of multi-flora rose, along with honeysuckle and bittersweet vines.

SHORT TERM MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Alex and Cheryl's top priorities are to improve recreational access, gather personal-use firewood, increase quality deer habitat, and in so doing stewarding a healthy, diverse, and appreciating forest. To this list I suggest considering to what extent they may want to manage invasive shrubs, which are common on the northern half of the property.

With some of the property enrolled in Maine's Tree Growth Tax program, they will be required to follow a few rules or risk losing the preferential tax status and becoming liable for a penalty. With this plan completed and a new Tree Growth application submitted to the town, they won't have an obligation to Litchfield until 2035. However, only the original two tax lots are enrolled, so I assume that they'd like the most remote southern tax lot 23 included as well. If so that declaration must be made prior to April 1, for that given tax year. In any case by 2035, assuming some land remains in Tree Growth, they will be asked to contract with a forester to certify that the general intent of the plan has been followed and to write a new plan or update this one. However, if their goals change prior to the anniversary date, they are expected to amend the plan to reflect the new direction and management intent.

As with all properties maintaining basic infrastructure, including access and boundary marking, is always an important consideration. Fortunately, access, with yarding areas on both ends of the property, is quite good. As well, though I located almost all sections of the perimeter, the two houselots, on each end of the property are not well defined, though surveyors have worked both areas. Monuments may be there, though I couldn't find them; with a survey in hand it probably would be relatively straight forward to find the corners and establish the connecting lines. I suggest calling the surveyors to secure the surveys. Once flagged, I recommend blazing and painting those two sections.

From a forestry standpoint the woods are moderately diverse, relatively healthy, valuable, and mostly growing well. In addition, the diversity of tree species and ages, along with the forest/field edges appear to provide an abundance of nesting, breeding, and foraging sites for local birds and other local wildlife. Yet there are prospects for habitat improvement and long-term growth. Alex certainly knows better than me, to what extent the northeastern corner, where hemlocks are most concentrated, are utilized by deer during snowy winters. The densely needled canopy captures snow and redirects wind, thus reducing snow depths and the harshest winds. What might improve this tendency would be to release the best hemlocks from neighboring hardwood competition, specifically from red maples, while leaving oaks and their acorns. The hemlocks could expand their protective cover into the neighboring growing space, mid-canopy ones could regain vigor and spread, while the oaks would continue providing good late fall and early spring forage. Such a selective harvest would remove about a third of the existing trees, likely including some of the largest hemlocks, but mostly the competing hardwoods. Though the stand encompasses about 30 acres the many streams will likely limit the harvest to 20 or 25.

Given that such a harvest would not remove any real high value timber, like oak or pine, income will be modest. Yields will likely total 20,000 to 40,000 board feet of sawtimber and 150 to 250 cords of pulpwood worth $5,000 to $10,000. Winter conditions will be best, both to protect the nearby streams, and to limit the disruption to the lawn behind the house, where trucks will traverse.

> Necessary Best Management Practices (BMPs): The most important resource to protect is the water quality flowing from and across the woodlot. Thus I recommend that all streams and wetlands be buffered with 25'-wide no-cut zones, with equipment kept away, unless a stream needed to be crossed. In this latter situation any crossing should be hardened with construction mats or a log corduroy, and then removed upon completion.

Another management concern is non-native, invasive Japanese barberry, honeysuckle, multi-flora rose, and bittersweet, though barberry is by far the most plentiful and widespread. Though likely difficult to eradicate they also don't pose an imminent threat. Nonetheless, they likely will spread, as nearby soils are exposed and future logging potentially transports seeds or sproutable plant material to more remote areas of the woodlot. If Alex and Cheryl are interested in combating them, I recommend talking with the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service about funding programs that they administer to help control unwanted and harmful vegetation. At current reimbursement rates such work, including a second-year treatment, generally covers the treatment costs. Though such work is generally frustrating and time-consuming, as it usually requires multiple consecutive years to limit the invaders' impact, it can be highly beneficial. Strong efforts can reduce invasive populations, but it is unlikely to eradicate them, though a more reasonable, and highly beneficial, goal will be to enable young native trees to grow beyond the invasive's reach. Once trees are about 5' tall, they should be able to fend for themselves and actually begin outcompeting the shrubs.

Accessing USDA-NRCS funds will require that this plan be upgraded to meet program standards, which mostly requires a timber inventory, at a likely cost of $2,000 to $2,500. The agency also funds such upgrades, which given the work that created this plan, it's likely that the flat rate that NRCS pays for such an upgrade will exceed the cost to upgrade it. The annual application deadline is in August.

This management plan does not recommend any harvest elsewhere on the property during this 10-year period, including stands 1-P4H3A, 2-H3B, 4-H4A, or 5-H4B, nor will any cutting leave an area five acres or greater with less than a minimum stocking of trees – a legal clearcut[1]. Regardless, prior to harvesting landowners/managers will need to submit a forest operations notification (FON) to the Maine Forest Service. There should be no reason to update this plan prior to 2035 unless a natural disturbance intervenes or landowner objectives change significantly.

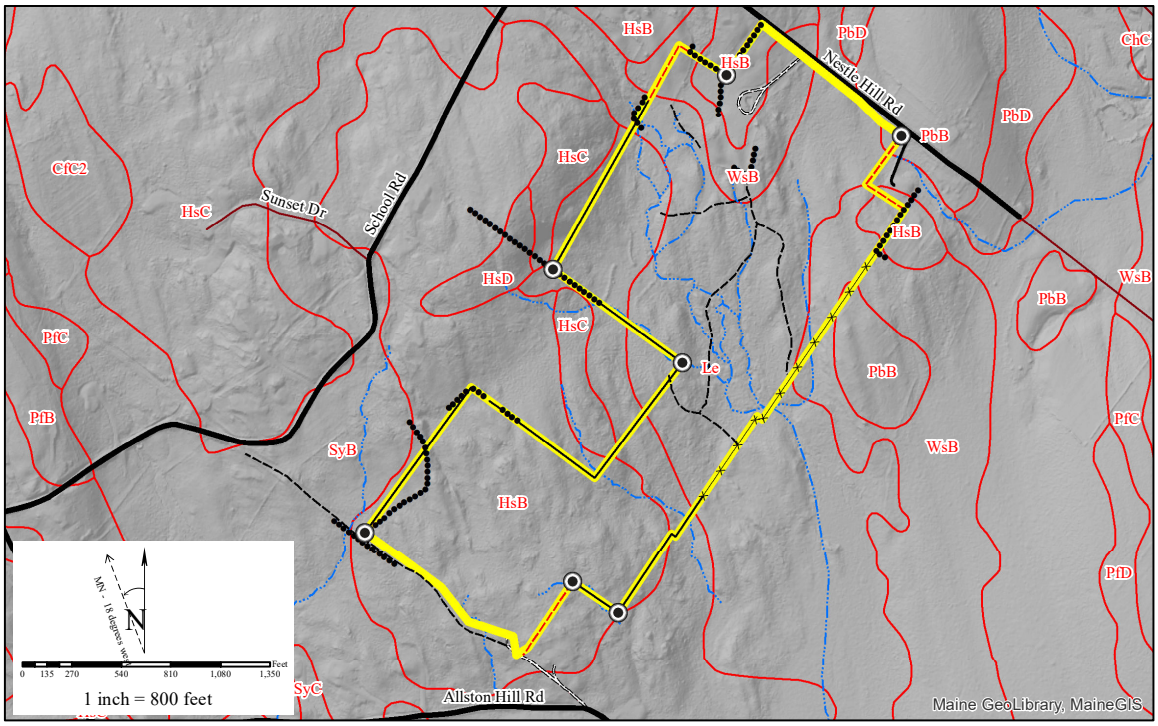
MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

2025 - 2035

year	location	activity and extent	net income/cost
2025		Enroll the southern tax lot in Tree Growth	$0
		Consider applying for NRCS funding	$0
2025-2030	houselots	Locate, blaze and paint boundary trees (1,100')	($400 - $500)[2]
	3-HS34A	Commercially harvest (20 - 25 acres)	$5,000 - $10,000
	1-P4H3A, 3-HS34A	Monitor and treat invasives (40 acres)	($0)[3]
2035	all	Certify Tree Growth compliance; update forestry plan	?

[1] MFS Chapter 20 rules, see: http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/publications/rules_and_regs/chap_20_rules_05012014.pdf
[2] Contractor cost. Alex and Cheryl may choose to do this themselves.
[3] With NRCS funding assistance, costs should be about breakeven.

Soils Map



Soils Legend

Symbol	other slopes	Name	Ordination number	WP	Site RO	index SM	RM
CfB	C2, D2	Charlton fine sandy loam	3o	75		63	
ChB	C, D	Charlton very stony fine sandy loam	3o	75		63	
HsB	C, D	Hollis very rocky fine sandy loam	5x	55		48	
Le		Leicester very stony fine sandy loam					
PbB	C, D	Paxton fine sandy loam	3o	75		62	
PfB	C, D	Paxton very stony fine sandy loam	3o	75		62	
SyB	C	Sutton very stony loam					
WsB		Woodbridge very stony loam	3o	75		62	

Symbols and slopes - The first and second letters abbreviate the soil name. The third letter shows the slope (A = <3%, B = 3-8%, C = 8-15%, D = 15-25%, E = 25-45%). Soils without slope letters are nearly level. A final 2 shows that the soil is eroded.
Ordination number – Potential productivity; 8-10=good, 6-7=fair, 1-5=poor; x=stoniness. Also, w=wet, d=restricted rooting depth, o=insignificant limitations, s=sandy, r=steep
Site index – Average height growth, of listed species, in 50 years. WP=white pine, RO=red oak, SM=sugar maple, RM=red maple

LAWS IMPACTING LAND MANAGEMENT ON PROPERTIES

- **Local ordinances** – Currently, no Litchfield ordinances restrict timber harvesting or require harvest permits on this property, however managers should verify this prior to logging.
- **Statewide Standards for Timber Harvesting in Shoreland Areas (SSTHSA)** – Litchfield has adopted Maine's statewide standards, though none of the Thomas woodlot falls within such a zone. The rules are administered and enforced by the Maine Forest Service.
- **Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA)** – NRPA regulates some activities adjacent to water bodies, including all brooks with well-defined channels and exposed mineral soil, as well as brooks with seasonal water flows. The law requires that concerted efforts be used to ensure that soils don't wash into the brooks. Working within guidelines described in the Maine Forest Service's Best Management Practices for Forestry should ensure compliance. Permitted activities may require permit-by-rule (PBR) or full permitting.
- **Protection and Improvement of Water Law** – The law regulates activities, which discharge or may potentially discharge materials (pollutants) into water bodies. In the context of forestry, the law addresses pollutants originating from non-point sources and addresses the impact, not the location, of an activity.
- **Erosion and Sedimentation Control Law** – The Law requires that measures be taken to prevent unreasonable erosion of soil or sediment beyond the site or into a protected natural resource, such as a river, stream, brook, lake, pond, or wetland. Erosion control measures must be installed before the activity begins, be maintained, kept in place and functional until the site is permanently stabilized.
- **Forest Practices Act** – FPA mandates adequate regeneration must be present within five years of any harvest, establishes rules relating to planning requirements, size, and spacing of clearcuts, and outlaws liquidation harvesting. All landowners must notify the Maine Forest Service prior to harvesting and then report volume and price information for any year in which harvesting occurred.
- **Liquidation Harvesting Act**[4] – Within five years of acquiring a parcel of land, Maine landowners may not harvest timber and then sell or offer to sell the land unless certain exemptions apply, including proof that statewide the landowner owns less than 100 acres, the parcel is less than 20 acres, the owner retains at least 50% of the standing timber, or the owner is legally permitted to change the land's use to something other than forest growth. As the lands were acquired prior to 2020 these rules do not apply to them on this land.
- **Forest Operations Notifications (FON) and Landowner Report**[5] – Landowners must notify the Maine Forest Service of planned timber harvesting. A FON is valid for up to two years and is not a permit. Each FON has a unique number which is used to track wood transport and marketing.

[4] See: http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/publications/rules_and_regs/chap_23_rules.pdf
[5] See: https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/publications/rules_and_regs/chap_26_rules.pdf

GLOSSARY

A-line stocking - the density of trees which exceeds a site's growth potential, to the point that overcrowding in causing mortality; varies with average tree diameter
B-line stocking - the density of trees which optimize a site's growth potential;
Basal area - stocking statistic; cross sectional area of a tree(s) measured at 4.5 feet above ground. Often stated in square feet per acre.
Board foot - log measurement statistic; A board measuring 1 foot square and one inch thick
C-line stocking - a density of trees to sparse to fully utilize a site's growth potential; will grow to B-line stocking within 10 years
Commercial harvest - a harvest operation that results in a net landowner income
Cord - wood measurement statistic; 128 cubic feet; a pile four feet high and eight feet long
DBH - tree measurement; diameter at breast height (4.5 feet above ground)
Decadent - overmature trees that are deteriorating in wood quality
Mature - condition of optimal tree value, after tree vigor has slowed, yet before decay's onset
MBF - thousand board feet
Operability - ease with which logging machinery could work a site; often limited by rockiness, steep slopes, wetness, etc.
Pre-commercial - a timber stand improvement practice that has a net cost
Poletimber - tree between five inches and 9.9 inches DBH
Regenerate - to establish a new stand of tree seedlings, or regeneration
Sawtimber - tree generally greater than 10 inches DBH
Seedling - tree greater than six inches tall but less than one inch DBH
Snag - standing dead and/or dying tree. Important habitat element for numerous wildlife species
Stand - a homogeneous unit of forestland, delineated because it supports trees of common species, age, potential, etc.
Stocking - stand measurement relative to the optimal number of trees that a unit of forest could grow
Stumpage - the value of timber that landowners receive for their wood, after logging and trucking expenses are deducted.

FURTHER SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE

Two Trees Forestry: We can mark trees to harvest, select competent loggers, ensure a quality, timber sale contract and prices, and oversee harvests to meet landowners' objectives. We also maintain boundaries and administer Federal cost-share programs. Please contact us for further assistance. P.O. Box 356 Winthrop, ME 04364. (207) 377-7196 or www.twotreesforestry.com

Maine Forest Service: A good source of educational material. Taxation and utilization specialists are on staff. State House Station 22, Augusta, ME 04333. (207) 287-2791 or www.state.me.us/doc/mfs/

USDA-NRCS and Farm Service Agency: Information and applications for Federal forestry cost-sharing programs, such as erosion control, road and trail repairs, tree planting, timber stand improvement, or management planning. 2305 N Belfast Ave, Augusta, ME. (207) 622-7847 or www.me.nrcs.usda.gov

Maine Woodland Owners: Publish a monthly newsletter on local forestry concerns and organize educational field days regularly throughout the state. P.O. Box 836 Augusta, ME 04332. (207) 626-0005 or www.mainewoodlandowners.org

GENERAL LONG-TERM CONCEPTS AND IDEAS

Wetlands: Both forested wetlands and other kinds such as open marshes, bogs or beaver ponds provide habitat, flood control and scenic beauty. For more information, see the book Natural Landscapes of Maine, available from the Maine Natural Areas Program, 207-287-8044 or http://www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mnap; or contact your local MFS District Forester.

Woodland legacy planning information: Your land is part of your legacy. Planning for the future of your woods after you are no longer involved is an important part of good stewardship. Woodland legacy planning could, in fact, be the most important step you take as a landowner – not just for your own benefit, but for the benefit of your family, your community, and of course for the land itself. Who will own your land and how will it be used? What will your legacy be?

For more information from the U.S. Forest Service about conservation-based legacy planning, go to www.na.fed.us/stewardship/estate/estate.sthml. You may also want to contact the Maine Woodland Owners (formerly SWOAM) at (207) 626-0005; info@swoam.org; or visit their website at www.swoam.org/LandownerResources.aspx and look for the Succession Planning link.

Historical, cultural & archaeological sites, Stone walls and old cellar holes or foundations are often found in woodlands, as remnants of previous settlement and agriculture. High and dry areas near water bodies may have been pre-historic or Native American dwelling sites. Most properly conducted forest management activities will not harm these resources. Construction of roads, trails or landings, however, could potentially disturb significant sites. If you are interested in finding out more about your woodland, contact the Maine Historic Preservation Commission at (207) 287-2132 or visit www.maine.gov/mhpc.

Protection from fire: Wildfire is rare in Maine, but can be quite devastating when it occurs. There is a lot you can do to reduce the risk of a wildfire on your woodlot and near your home. For more information on how you can make your home "Firewise," please visit http://www.maineforestservice.gov or call the Division of Forest Protection at 207-287-4990. Please be careful with all outdoor fires and observe all the open burning laws. If you see a wildfire or smell smoke during a high fire danger day, please call 911 or the Maine Forest Service at 1-800-750-9777.

Soil & water quality protection: Activities in the woods that involve roads, log landings, and yarding or recreational trails, can sometimes contribute to rutting, soil movement and pollution of the watershed. Improperly conducted logging operations can also cause damage. Use of appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) greatly reduces this risk. For more information, see the booklet entitled "Best Management Practices for Water Quality," available from the MFS by calling 1-800-367-0223 or visiting www.maineforestservice.gov; or contact your local MFS District Forester. WoodsWISE Manual Section VII 2/6/ 2012

Biodiversity: Forested landscapes are homes for more than just trees. No one parcel can provide habitat for all species. However, maintaining or improving existing woodland communities is a desirable goal. For more information, contact the Maine Natural Areas Program at 207-287-8044 or visit http://www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mnap; or contact your local MFS District Forester.

Fish & wildlife: There are no (other) specific landowner goals or concerns regarding fish or wildlife. As part of managing according to Stewardship Principles, maintaining a healthy functioning forest will contribute to maintaining healthy fisheries and wildlife habitat. For more information, contact the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife at (207) 287-8000 or visit www.maine.gov/ifw; or contact your local MFS District Forester.

Monitoring: Landowners, their families and/or designated representatives are encouraged to stay engaged with their woodlands. This can take the form of regularly scheduled boundary line maintenance, recreational activities such as hunting or hiking, or following up after completing silvicultural activities to check results. Keeping in touch with your land can help prevent theft or trespass. It can also be rewarding on many levels. For more information, contact your local MFS District Forester.

Protection from pests: There was no evidence of any significant insect or disease occurrences when the lot was visited in June of this year. One would expect that the beech present will display beech bark disease over time as is common in this area of New England. There are many species of invasive plants and insects, both native and exotic, which can affect your woodland and possibly get in the way of meeting your goals and objectives. Monitoring for early detection can reduce negative impacts and reduce the costs of control. For more information, contact the MFS Division of Forest Health and Monitoring at (207) 287-2431 or visit www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/idmhome.htm; or contact your local MFS District Forester.

Recreational opportunities: It is always a good idea to get landowner permission before engaging in recreational activities such as hunting, hiking or ATV or snowmobile use on someone else's land. Maine's Landowner Liability Law gives landowners a high degree of protection when other people use their land. For more information contact the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife at (207) 287-8000 or visit www.maine.gov/ifw.

Aesthetic quality: The visual impact of forestry activities can communicate a lot about stewardship. Efforts to maintain a harmonious woodland appearance usually pay off in a greater acceptance of silvicultural practices. For more information on logging aesthetics contact the Sustainable Forestry Initiative at (207) 622-9288 or visit www.sfimaine.org.

Carbon sequestration and climate change resilience: Among the many benefits provided by forests, removing carbon from the atmosphere and storing it in trees may have increasing significance in the years to come. For more information, visit http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/mfs/topics/carbon/. As climate change increases the likelihood of severe weather events, the migration of both beneficial and invasive species and new risks to forest health and productivity, good woodland stewardship is the key to preparedness. For more information, check out the Climate Smart Land Network at www.climatesmartnetwork.org.

Forests of Recognized Importance: FORI are globally, regionally, and nationally significant large landscape areas of exceptional ecological, social, cultural, or biological values. The forests are evaluated at the landscape level, rather than the stand level and are recognized for a combination of unique values, rather than a single attribute. There is no state or federal government regulation of FORI on private lands. How do you know if your woodland is a FORI? There is no central clearinghouse for information of FORI. However, in Maine the best resources are the Maine Natural Areas Program and the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. If you are interested in finding out more, you or your forester can send a location map to either of these agencies to get information related to FORI in your area.
Most FORI in the U.S. that are globally, nationally, or regionally significant have already been identified and protected by state or federal government or have been put under a conservation easement by an environmental nonprofit organization. So you're more likely to be near a FORI than to have one.