

Massabesic Experimental Forest

As the geographic anchor point for the Massabesic Region, fuels reduction and forest resilience treatments on the Massabesic Experimental Forest (MEF) are a top priority. WUI expansion adjacent to National Forests is higher than surrounding areas (Mockrin et al., 2022). The MEF is unique in that while it is federal land, it is not a part of the National Forest System and therefore, its management direction is not outlined in a national forest plan (USDA, 2006). The MEF is owned by the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station, and its management is the responsibility of the Research Work Unit NRS-4155 “Ecology and Management of Northern Forests”, whose staff is in Durham, NH, Bartlett, NH, and Bradley and Orono, ME (USDA, 2006). The MEF also has a management agreement with the Maine Forest Service (MFS) where the MFS maintains an office onsite in exchange for maintenance of some facilities, trails, gates etc.

A 2020 Categorical Exclusion (CE) and the 2023 *MEF Hazardous Fuels and Resource Management Project final environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact* (EA) cleared the way for implementation to begin on the MEF. The CE identifies 205 acres across 15 units for thinning and/or prescribed burning. The EA identifies 1,155.4 acres across 12 units slated for various silvicultural treatments that include thinning, prescribed burning, patch cuts, group selection, release (cutting of non-merchantable trees), and shaded fuel breaks (USDA, 2023). Work under the 2020 CE has already begun.

Participants on this field trip will visit recent treatment areas, including the one pictured below. The discussion will center on observations from participants on the oak/pine response to treatment and the role of fire in restoring these fire adapted systems.



Shelterwood treatment on the MEF



Aerial view of shelterwood treatment and group/patch selection circled in red

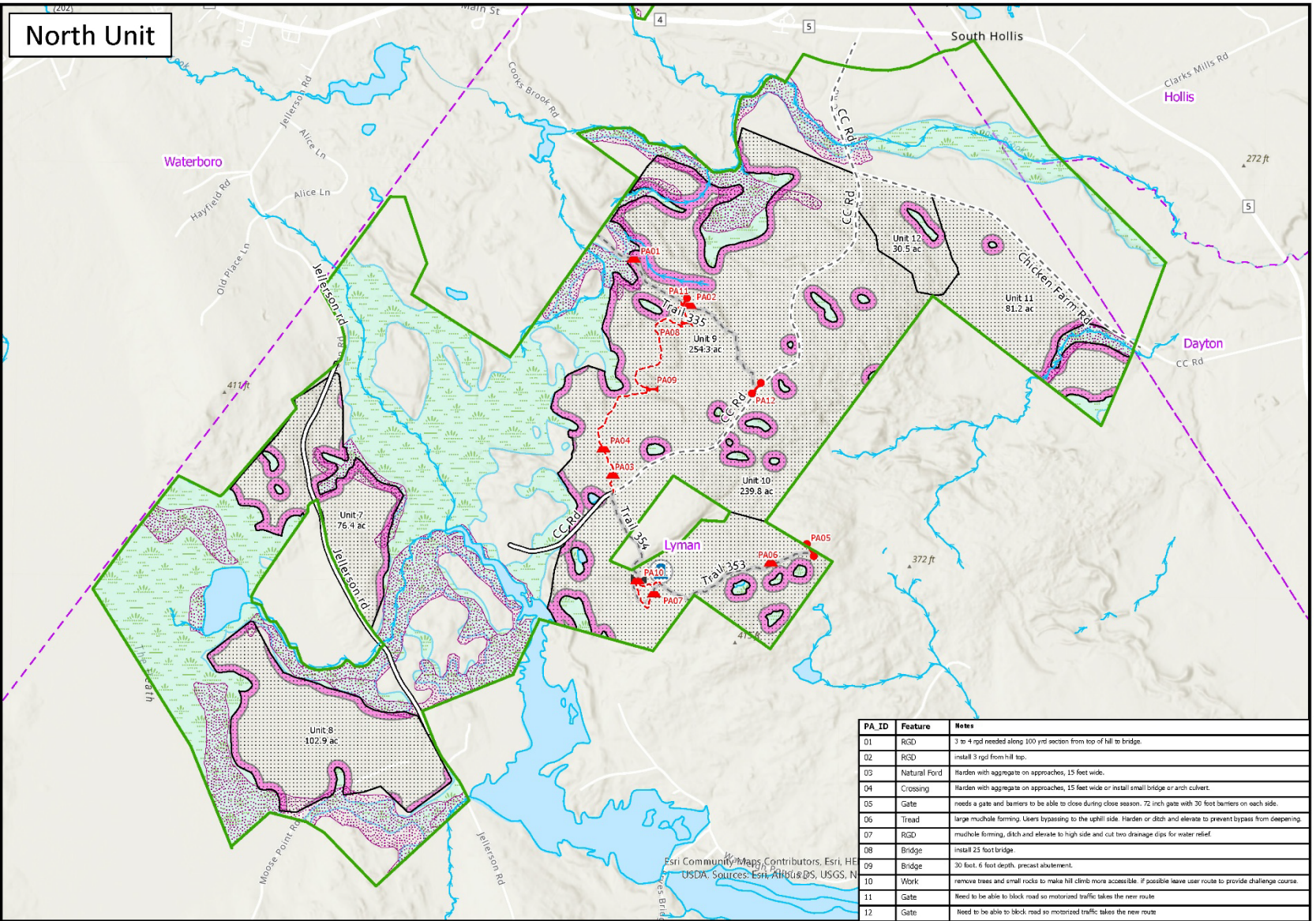
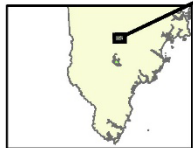
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Legend

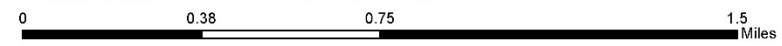
- Final Proposed Action Units
- Proposed Bridge
- Proposed Gate
- Work Needed
- Proposed Trail Reroutes
- Cemetery
- Existing Bridge
- Streams
- Waterbodies
- Wetlands
- MEF Boundary
- Riparian Buffer
- Peat Soils
- Motorized Trails
- Forest Roads
- Both Motorized Trail and Forest Road
- Maine Town Boundary

Unit	Acres	Prescription
7	76.4	Patch, Group
8	102.9	Group
9	254.3	Thin, Patch, Group
10	239.8	Thin, Shaded Fuelbreak
11	81.2	Thin, Shaded Fuelbreak
12	30.5	Release



PA_ID	Feature	Notes
01	RGD	3 to 4 rpd needed along 100 yrd section from top of hill to bridge.
02	RGD	install 3 rpd from hill top.
03	Natural Ford	Harden with aggregate on approaches, 15 feet wide.
04	Crossing	Harden with aggregate on approaches, 15 feet wide or install small bridge or arch culvert.
05	Gate	needs a gate and barriers to be able to close during close season. 72 inch gate with 30 foot barriers on each side.
06	Tread	large mudhole forming. Users bypassing to the uphill side. Harden or ditch and elevate to prevent bypass from deepening.
07	RGD	mudhole forming, ditch and elevate to high side and cut two drainage dips for water relief.
08	Bridge	install 25 foot bridge.
09	Bridge	30 foot, 6 foot depth, precast abutment.
10	Work	remove trees and small rocks to make hill climb more accessible. if possible leave user route to provide challenge course.
11	Gate	Need to be able to block road so motorized traffic takes the new route.
12	Gate	Need to be able to block road so motorized traffic takes the new route.

The Forest Service uses the most current and complete data available. GIS data and product accuracy may vary. They may be: developed from sources of differing accuracy, accurate only at certain scales, based on modeling or interpretation, incomplete while being created or revised, etc. Using GIS products for purposes other than those for which they were created, may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The Forest Service reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace GIS products without notification.



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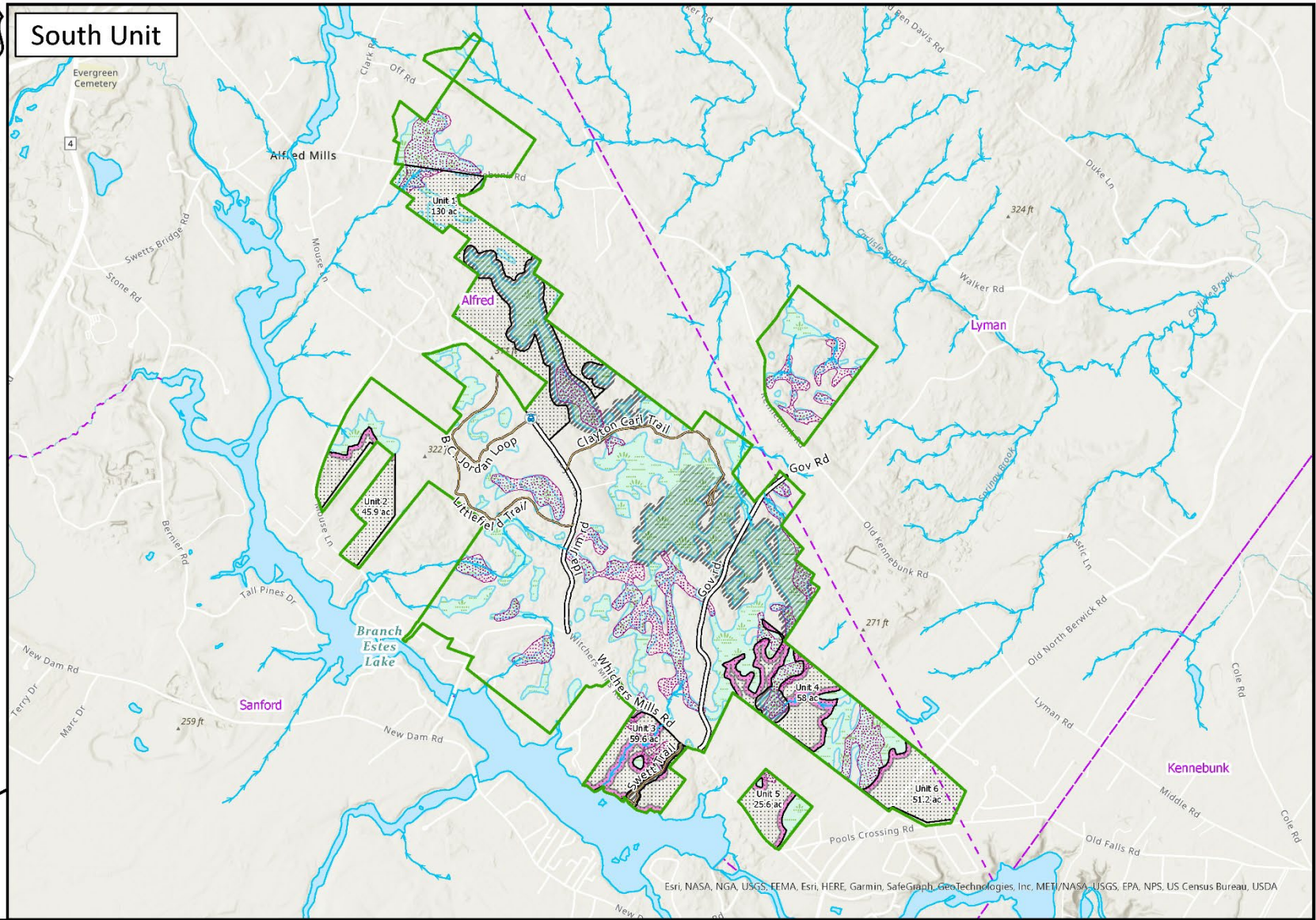


South Unit

Legend

- Final Proposed Action Units
- No Treatments Allowed - Per MEF Plan
- Parking
- Streams
- Waterbodies
- Wetlands
- MEF Boundary
- Riparian Buffer
- Peat Soils
- Forest Roads
- Non-motorized Trails
- Maine Town Boundary

Unit	Acres	Prescription
1	130	Thin
2	45.9	Thin, Patch, Group
3	59.6	Thin
4	58	Thin, Shaded Fuel Break
5	25.6	Thin
6	51.2	Thin



Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc., MET/NASA-USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA

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0 0.5 1 2 Miles

