

# HARVEST PLAN



SFPNA Sustainable Forestry Program  
Working Together for Maine's Forests

# **HARVET PLAN WINTER 2014-15**

**Landowner: Town of Falmouth  
Woods Road Community Forest  
C/o Bob Shafto, Ombudsman**

**Address: 271 Falmouth Road  
Falmouth, ME 04105**

**Phone: (207) 878-8933**

**Lot Location: Falmouth, Cumberland County, Maine**

**Lot Size: 140 Total Acres  
140 Forested Acres**

**Town Tax Map Reference: MAP R01 LOT 004, R03 LOT 039**

**SFPNA Sustainable Forestry Program  
Working Together for Maine's Forests**

**SFPNA Sustainable Forestry Program  
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Skowhegan, ME 04976  
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**Prepared by: Paul Larrivee, Jr.  
Maine L.P.F. 3306  
October 9, 2014**

## **Introduction**

The intent of this harvest plan is to supplement the overall Woods Road Community Forest Management Plan and utilizes recommendations prepared in the 2013 Forest Management Plan prepared for the Town of Falmouth by Rene Noel (see attached). The resource information in the Woods Road Community Management Plan and the 2013 forest management plan are still valid with one exception; the town now has management oversight of the parcel.

The objectives of the town have not changed. They wish to set aside a large portion of this parcel in a “forever wild” state with no management activity. At the same time they need to manage the property for the benefit of white tailed deer with oversight from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and wildlife and DEP. The harvesting recommendations prepared by Rene Noel are still valid, however I recommend implementing those recommendations in slightly different locations based on current growing conditions and the desire to benefit as many species as possible.

The trails, parking area and Kiosk recommended in the 2013 plan have been completed.

## **Harvesting Recommendations**

For the purpose of recommending harvesting activities to accomplish objectives set forth in the 2013 management plan, the property has been broken into two compartments, A and B (see attached revised map). The 2013 management plan called for no harvesting in Stand 1 and harvesting to occur in stands 2 and 3 (see attached map from 2013 plan). If harvesting follows my recommendations some harvesting will occur in stands 1 and 3, with no harvesting in stand 2.

Compartment A (100+/- acres) is comprised primarily of softwood cover (large pine and hemlock) with no management activities. The goal of this area is to provide a wintering area for white tailed deer and allow the public to walk the trails and observe a forest with no active management. Over time mature species of white pine and hemlock will decline and fall to the forest floor. New seedlings will become established in these areas with the added sunlight. Naturally created age classes will hopefully provide a continual wintering area for white tailed deer. The current dense softwood stand reduces snow depths and provides shelter from the wind and cold which are the key components for deer wintering area. The area provides very little in the way of food with the exception of the mast produced by scattered oaks and beech. However, this mast is also desired by other species of animals and most notably the wild turkey. Deer that may be wintering in this area need a travel route to a valuable food source. Establishing a firm travel route allows the deer to expend less energy during the cold winter months traveling to and from food and water. By leaving this stand intact deer can travel to the power line corridor and enter compartment B which will provide young herbaceous growth for browsing.

Compartment B (36+/- acres) has the characteristics to provide a solid stable food source for white tailed deer. The wetter, poorer drained soils tend to be occupied by hardwood species (red maple and birch). The timber in this compartment is also maturing and timber quality tends to be low. A selection and patch harvesting system will provide young herbaceous browse within a year. Harvesting would focus on the removal of poorer quality and maturing red maple and birch. Harvesters should be cautious not to create openings directly to the power line corridor as this could welcome unwanted motorized traffic. Based on the stem quality and soils it is likely a mechanical or in woods processor operation would best complete this task. The log yard location would likely be behind the town transfer station. The soils need to be frozen or dry to complete this work, which may be the greatest challenge to the entire project.

This harvesting system can be used on a 10 to 15 year cycle in order to continually have a food supply for the wintering area. This may also reduce deer entering the back yards of nearby dwellings for a winter meal. Based on a recent meeting with Kelly Boland, NEC wildlife specialist, areas of young hardwood growth could also benefit New England Cottontail if any are present. Any work could be completed adjacent to the power line easement would be beneficial to Cottontails.

Any harvesting should include an informational campaign to explain to the public the goals set forth and expected outcomes. This may include signage, walks and discussions and articles in local newspapers. Abutters should each be notified in writing prior to startup of any harvesting activities. There are no walking trails within Compartment B where the harvesting is recommended.

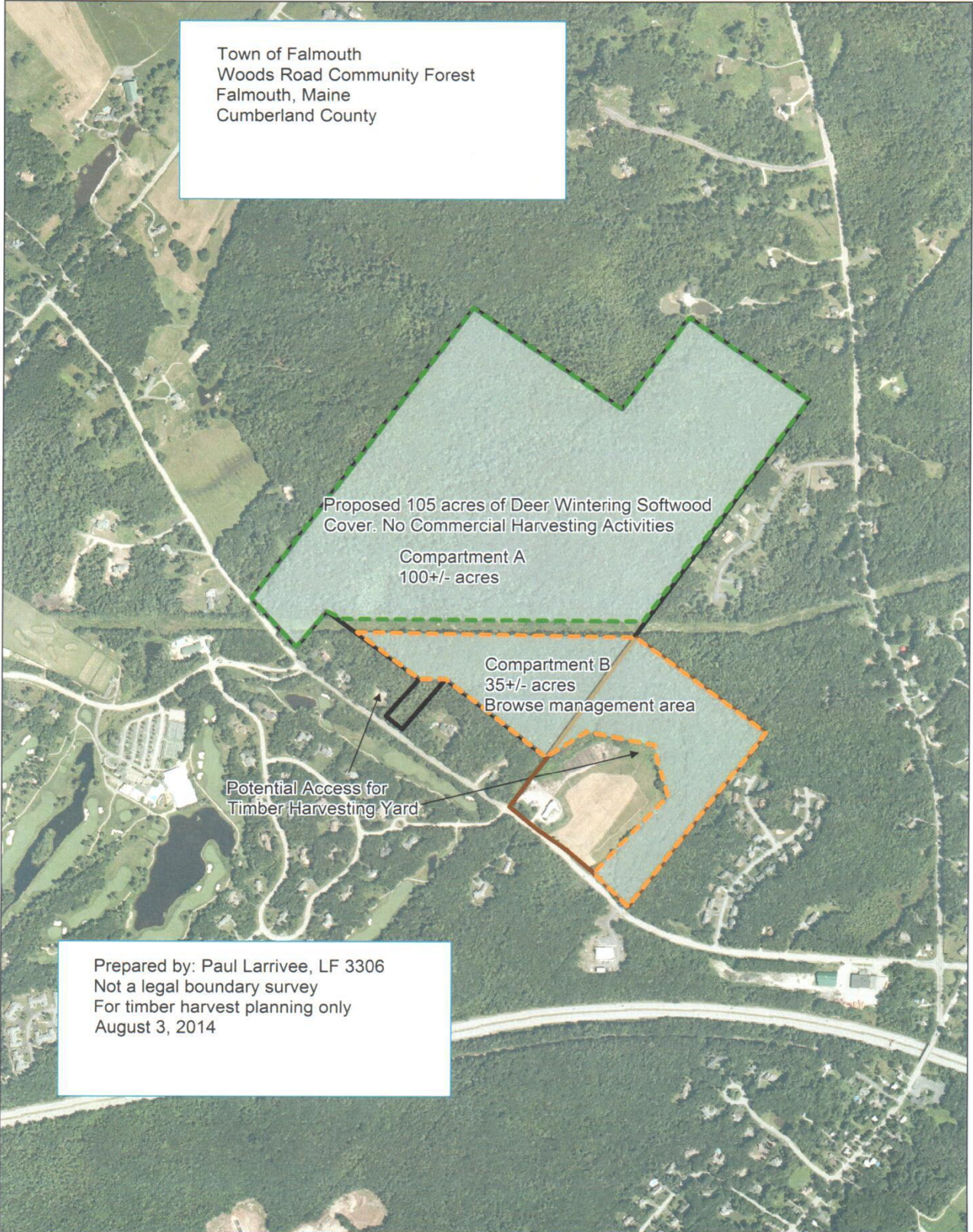
## **Steps to Meet Objectives:**

Below is a simplistic outline to help facilitate completion of this project. While many other issues may need to be added or reviewed, this is often helpful in keeping projects moving forward.

1. Land Management and Acquisition Committee (LMAC) review of amended harvest plan recommendations (area of operations).
2. LMAC gives forester go ahead to meet with Scott Lindsay, MDIFW for review.
3. Forester report's findings to LMAC.
4. LMAC amends as needed and seeks approval.
5. Forester completes thorough review of property lines and any issues that arise notify LMAC.
6. Forester completes thorough review of access for harvesting with the assistance of Ombudsman.
7. Forester contacts harvest contractors for winter availability and onsite review.
8. Forester marks wood and completes layout as necessary.
9. LMAC review of layout and marking.
10. Informational campaign and a scheduled walk with interested parties.
11. Notify abutters and respond to questions.

12. Complete MFS Notification and Contracts, (provide town with all insurances).
13. Time operation to frozen ground conditions.

Town of Falmouth  
Woods Road Community Forest  
Falmouth, Maine  
Cumberland County



Prepared by: Paul Larrivee, LF 3306  
Not a legal boundary survey  
For timber harvest planning only  
August 3, 2014

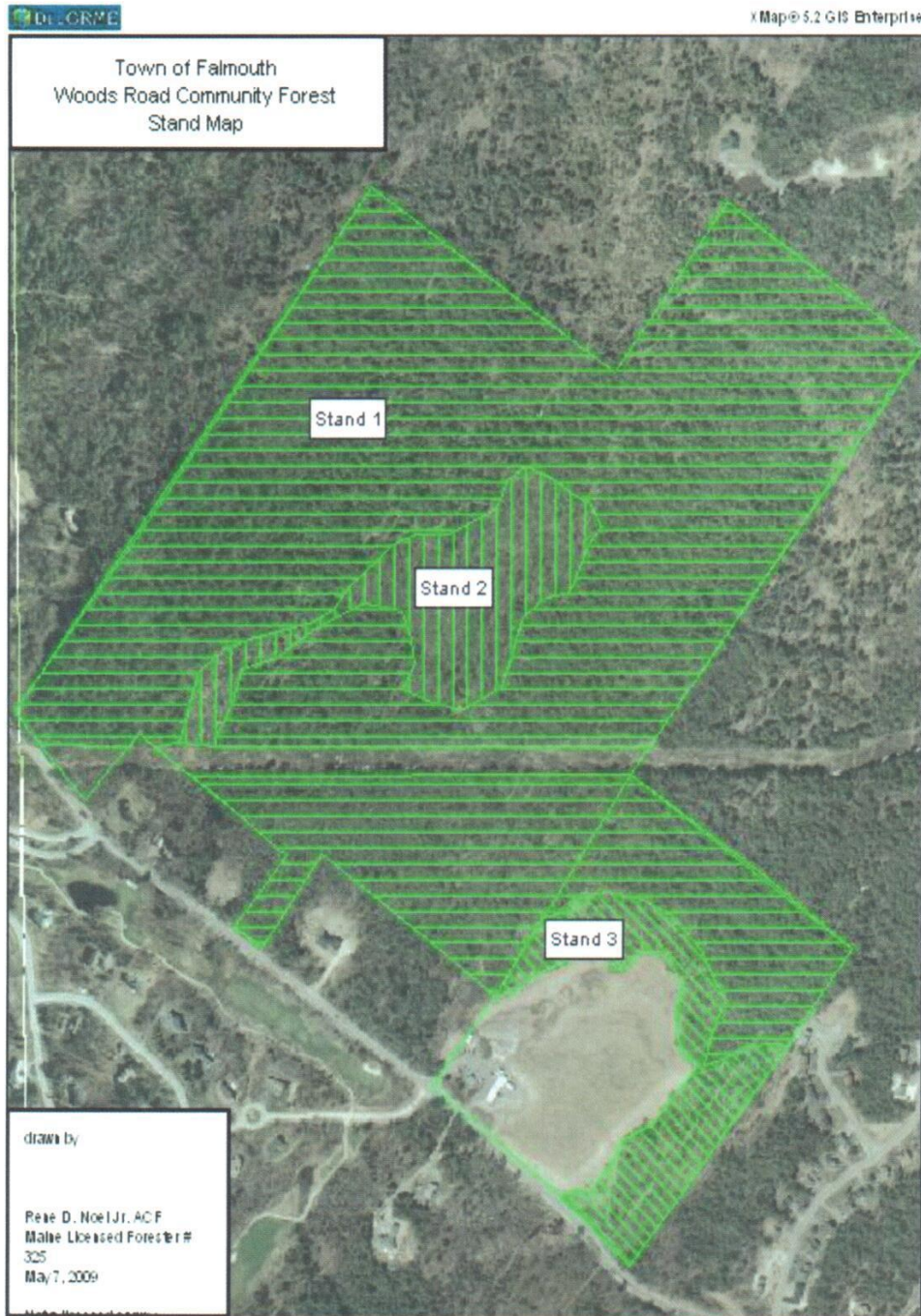
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## Map II: Woods Road Community Forest Stand Map



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MN (15.9° W)



Data Zoom 14-1