

# Quabbin Harvest Proposal PR-22-11

## *Proposal Update, May 2024:*

*This forestry proposal was originally approved through the public process in 2021. The project was 'paused' along with most other state lands forestry projects as part of the EEA Forests as Climate Solutions Initiative. Following the close of the work of the Climate Forestry Committee, DWSP determined the activities in this proposal align with EEA climate considerations developed from the recommendations in the CFC report. The proposal language and mapping below are preserved unchanged from that presented to the public in 2021 in ArcGIS Online Story Map format.*

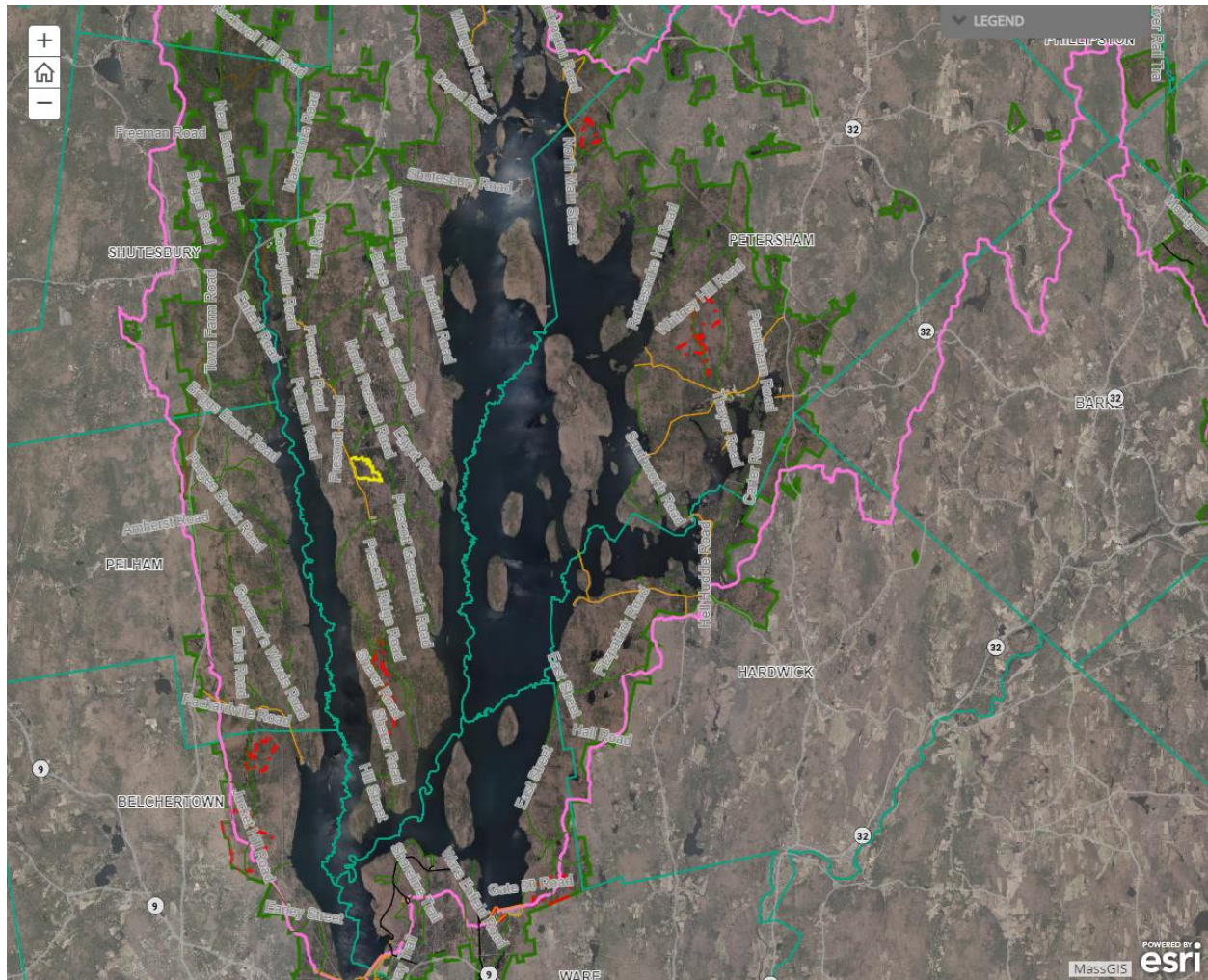
## **Proposal Goals**

Continuing expansion of existing structural diversity and overall complexity is the primary purpose of the proposed harvest.

## **Proposal Location**

The area is located on the east side of Prescott Road (Gate 17) just south of intersection 17-8 (Prescott Road and Herman Powers Road). In addition to the gate 17 road, the area is bounded to the north by the group selection portion of timber harvest 3008, to the east by Prescott brook (and accompanying wetlands) and steep terrain, and south by an ephemeral brook and the north boundary of timber harvest 3129.

**Total Acres: 72**



## General Description

	Overstory Type(s)	Acres
<b>Dominant</b>	Oak - hardwoods	54
<b>Secondary</b>	White pine - hardwoods	18
<b>Other</b>		

	Understory Type(s)
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<b>Dominant</b>	Tree seedlings/saplings dominate site
<b>Secondary</b>	Dry site - blueberry/huckleberry

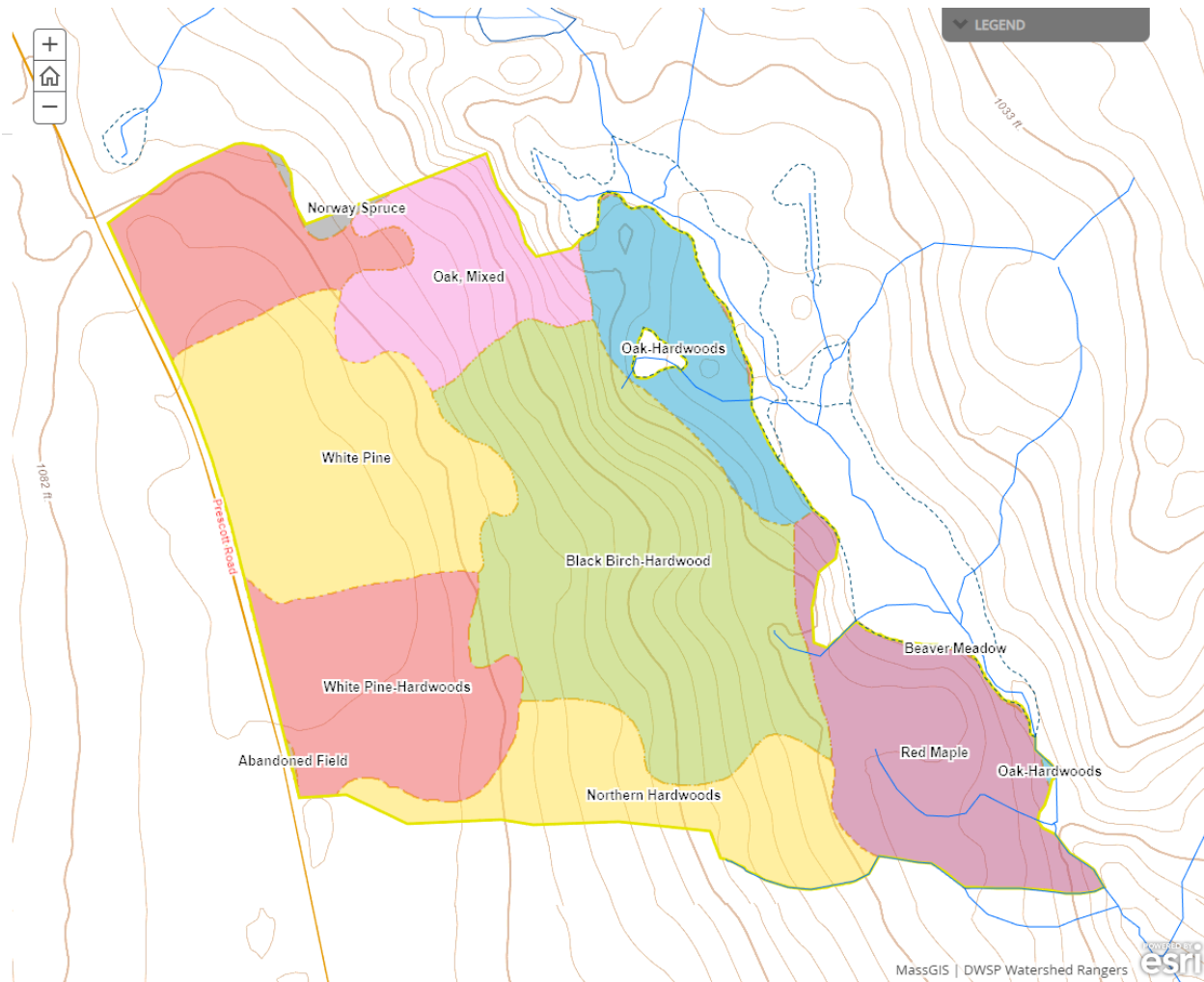
**Description of forest composition/condition:**

Overstory composition is two aged multi-species. However, the two aged structure is skewed to the west 1/3 which is growing an overstory of white pine arranged in a single tree to fairly large group pattern followed by a mid-canopy of black birch and white pine small poles. The mid-canopy was triggered by a 1990 thinning and 2001 shelterwood prep harvest. Plantation red pine was the primary product removed by those operations.

In comparison, the eastern 2/3 has had less silvicultural work, only a 1980 thinning which treated roughly 75% of the proposal area with the remainder in original condition. Most of the regeneration is small pole size black birch limited to the skid trails. Overstory is dominated by sawtimber sized red oak in the area's northern and central portions. In upland locales the red oak shares crown space with black, white, and scarlet oaks. The oak component experienced light mortality from the recent gypsy moth caterpillar infestation. In the southernmost portion of the area oak dominance decreases and is joined by a more northern hardwood composition of white ash, red maple, sugar maple and hickory with a similar mid-canopy.

**Assessment of Terrestrial Invasive Species:**

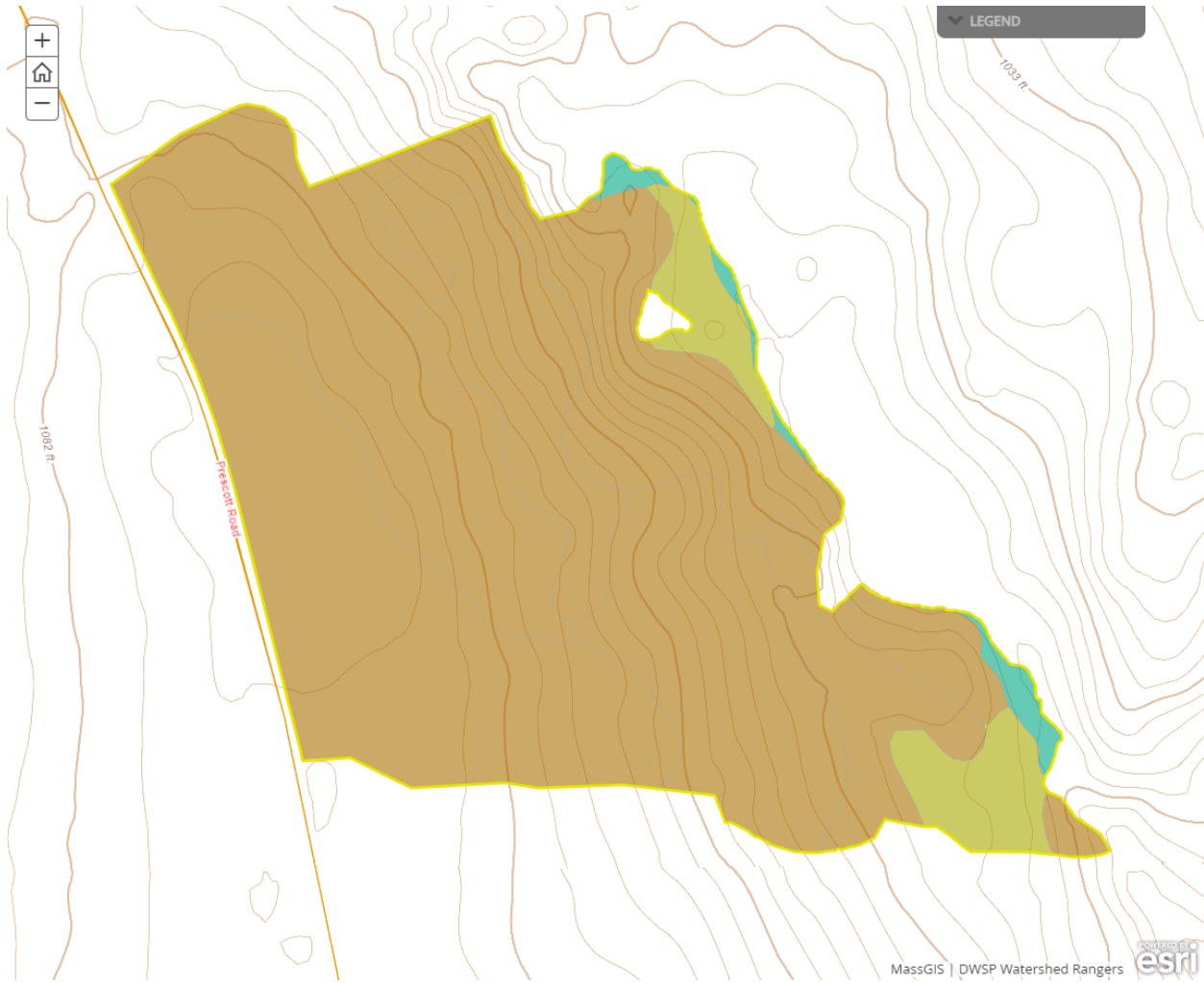
Generally invasive presence is light, however the landing is located in an area previously used as an old farmstead. Amid the old farm site exists fairly high densities of barberry, honeysuckle and to a lesser extent (but no less a concern) Asiatic bittersweet. Main concern is additional spread with silvicultural work.



## Soils

Drainage Class	%
Excessively Drained	0
Well Drained Thin	0
Well Drained Thick	95
Moderately Well Drained	5
Poorly to Very Poorly Drained	0

Stony sandy loams best describe the soil series for the area. The moderately well drained soils are adjacent to the Prescott brook wetland complex.

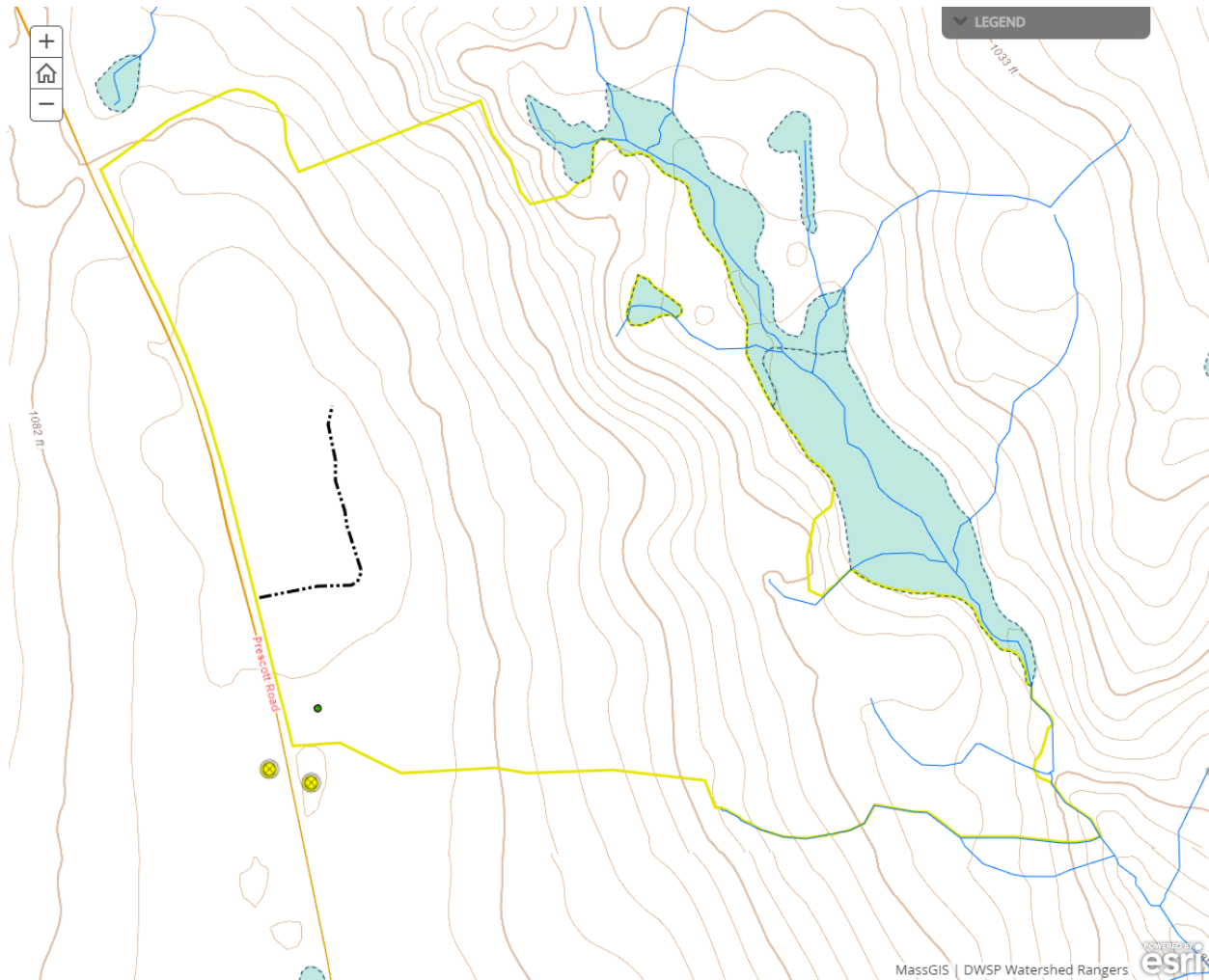


## Wetlands

- Wetlands present? - **Yes**
- Streams present? - **Yes**
- Vernal pools present? - **No**
- Seeps present? - **Yes**
- Are stream crossings required? - **No**
- Are wetland crossings required? - **No**
- Is logging in filter strips planned? - **Yes** ([Riparian Zone Mgt](#))
- Is logging in wetlands planned? - **No**



There is a small nested wetland in the area's northeast corner. There are several intermittent/ephemeral brooks that flow into Prescott brook. A potential vernal pool in the southwest corner was determined to be not a viable pool. A small spring/seep was found 700 feet east of proposal area's existing landing.



## Silviculture

Acres in Intermediate cuts: **0**

Acres in prep/establishment cuts: **0**

Acres in Regeneration cuts: **16**

Average regen opening size: **2**

Maximum regen opening size: **4**

**Description of advance regeneration in proposal area:**

Western 1/3 of area is well regenerated with small pole-sized black birch and white pine. Regeneration is scarce in the remainder, limited to low density of black birch sapling/small poles.

**General comments on silviculture proposed:**

Continuing understory development and balancing structural distribution is the main goal of the proposed silviculture. This will be accomplished by creating canopy openings that will either further development of existing regeneration or trigger a new forest age class. In areas of existing regeneration (western 1/3) focus should be on additional release of well-formed white pine aggregates. This will mainly be accomplished by single tree/small group removal of overstory white pine; but will also include removing well formed black birch growing stock, which should be done given the species watershed wide ubiquity (particularly in the younger age classes). Secondary priority will be the further release of acceptable black birch growing stock and overstory removal of mature white pine. Generally, the western 1/3 will receive 6 acres of canopy opening.

Where new forest needs to be established (eastern 2/3); openings, where possible, will be placed in locales that have higher stocking of mixed hardwood and/or lower quality/dry-site oak. Small or no openings will be placed in locales with higher acceptable northern hardwood overstory stocking. The eastern 2/3 will likely receive about 10 acres of canopy opening.

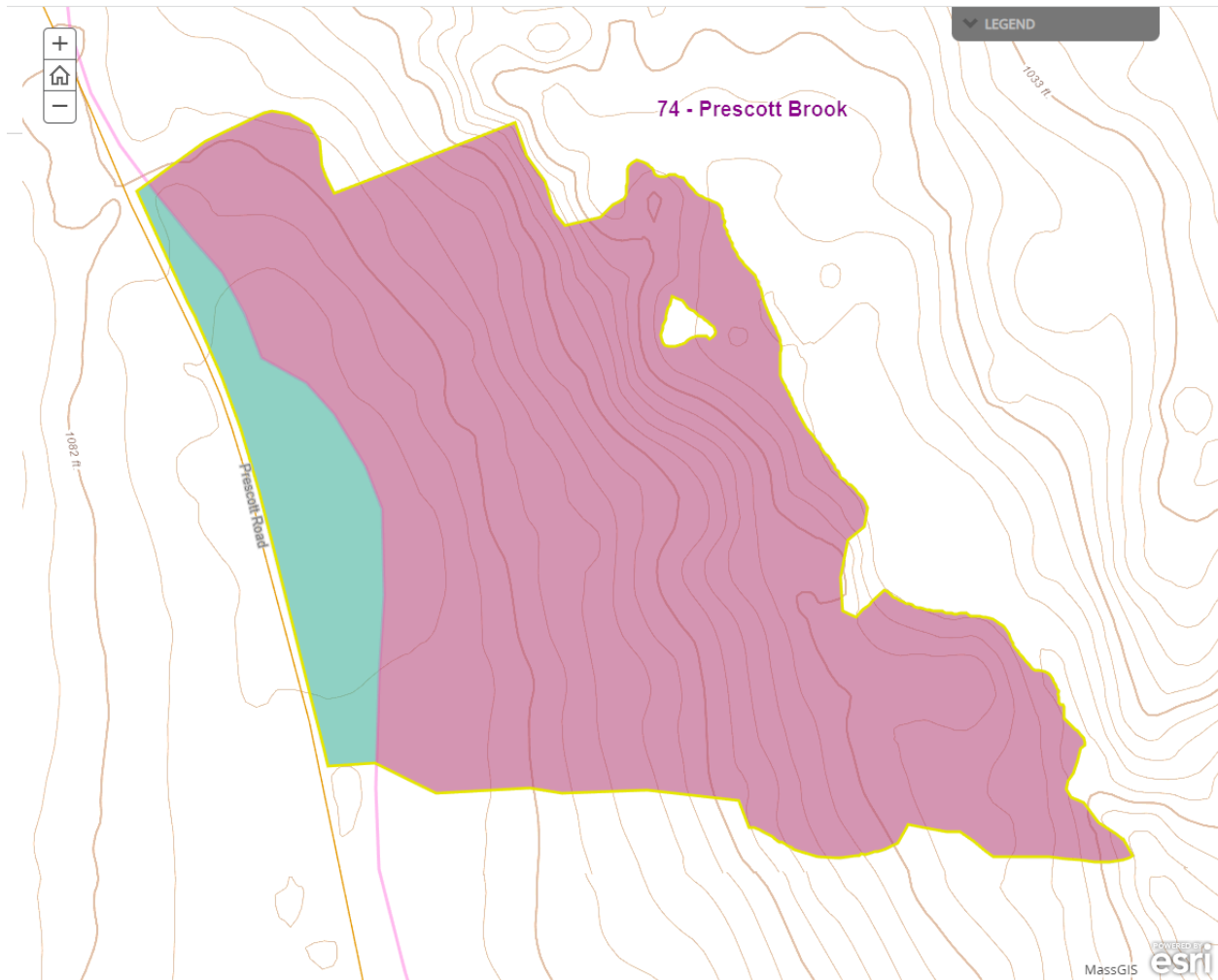


## Subwatershed Analysis

Sub-watershed number	Total DCR-owned Acres	Acres Regenerated on DCR Land in the last 10 years	Acres Remaining for Regenerating Up to the 25% / 10 Year	Acres part of this proposal
74 (Prescott Brook)	1694	56	376	65
27 (West Prescott North)	1054	8	255	7

Proposed harvesting will not exceed the 25% threshold.





## Harvesting Limitations

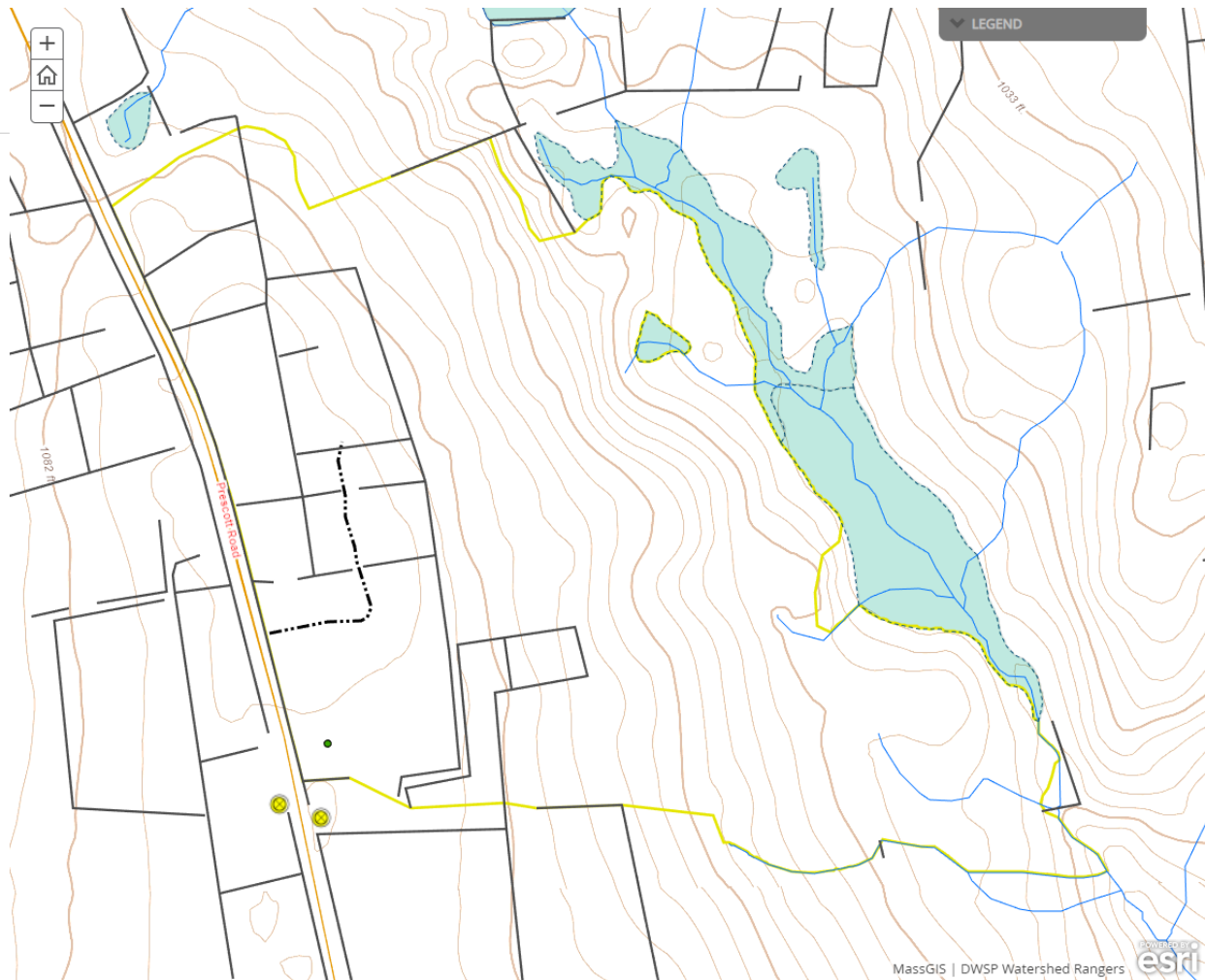
Forwarder required: **No**

Feller/processor required: **No**

Steep slopes present: **No**

### Comments on harvesting limitations:

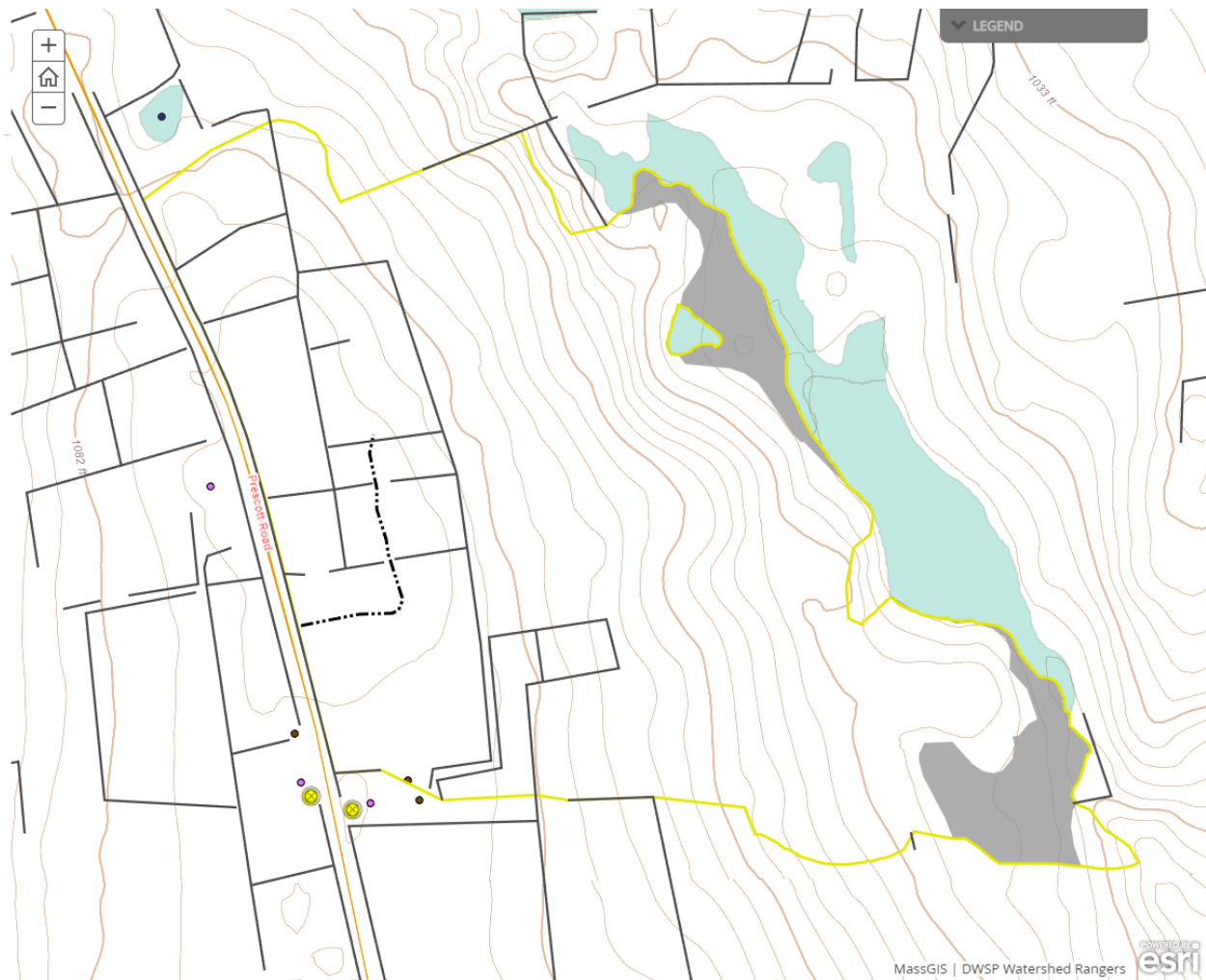
No specific equipment limitations expected on this proposal.



## Cultural Resources

### Comments on Cultural Resources:

Many stone walls traverse the areas in the western 1/3 (along the gate 17 road), relics of the land's agrarian past.



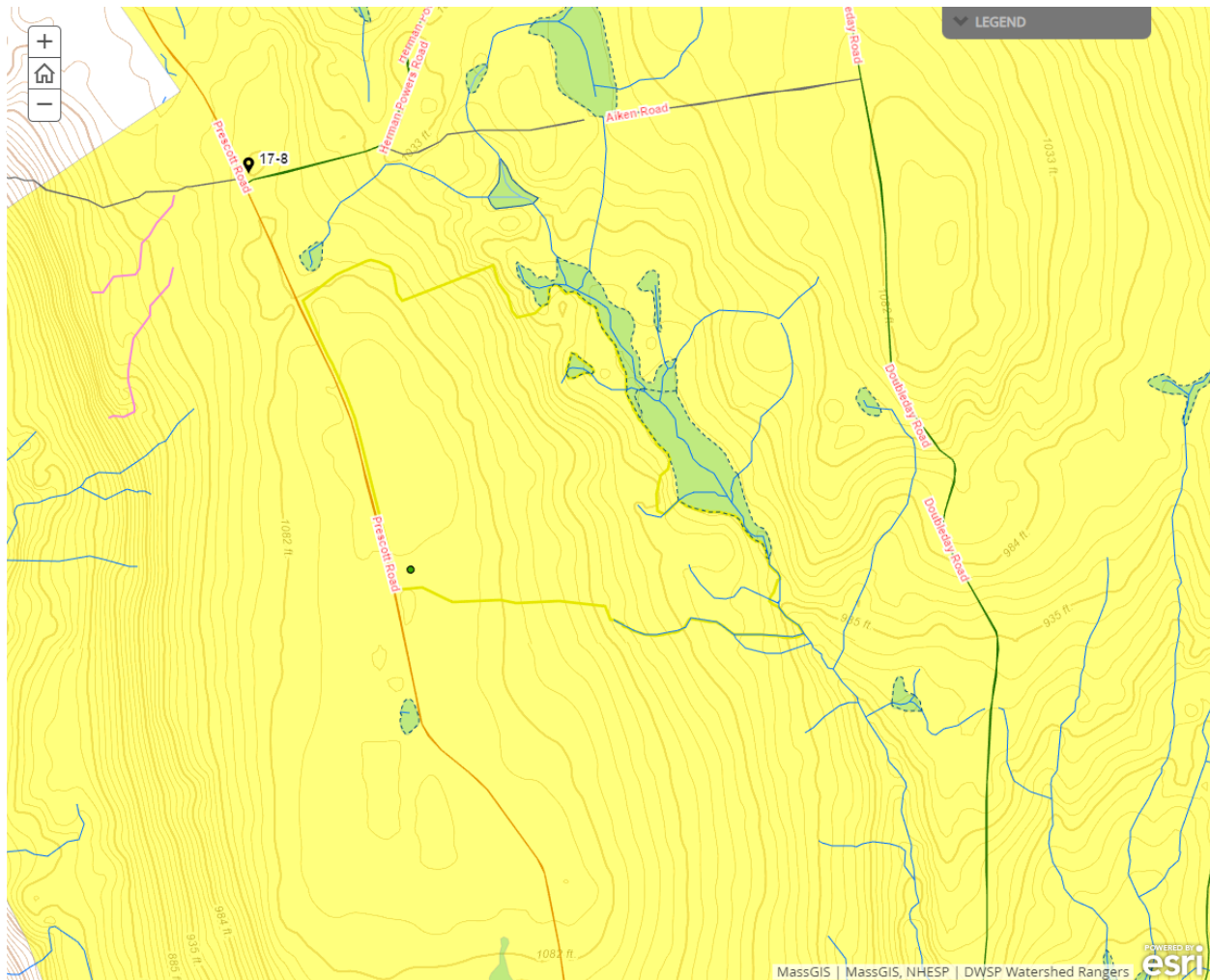
## Wildlife Resources & Rare and Endangered Species

### General Wildlife Comments:

Ordinary beaver activity present within the Prescott brook wetland complex.

### Comments on Rare Species/Habitats:

NHESP has determined that certain state-listed sensitive species or habitats may exist within the lot proposal area. To protect them from unnecessary disturbance, detailed information regarding affecting species and their locations is not included in this report. DWSP will coordinate with NHESP and follow recommendations to protect these species during the proposed activity.

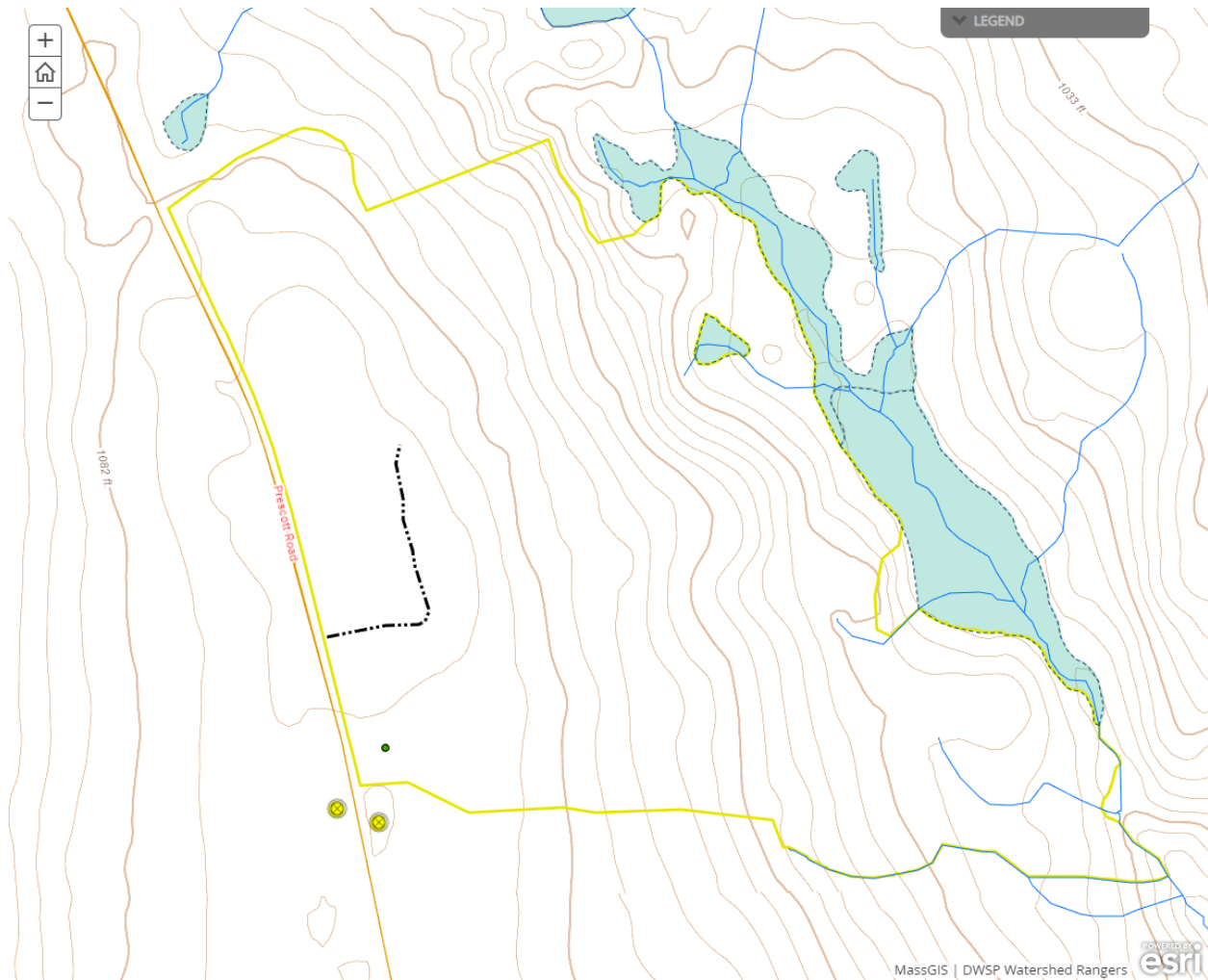


## Environmental Quality Engineering

### Comments on EQ Issues:

No EQ concerns because no stream crossings or culvert work are identified.





## Forest Access Engineering

**Gravel needed:** No

**Landing work needed:** No

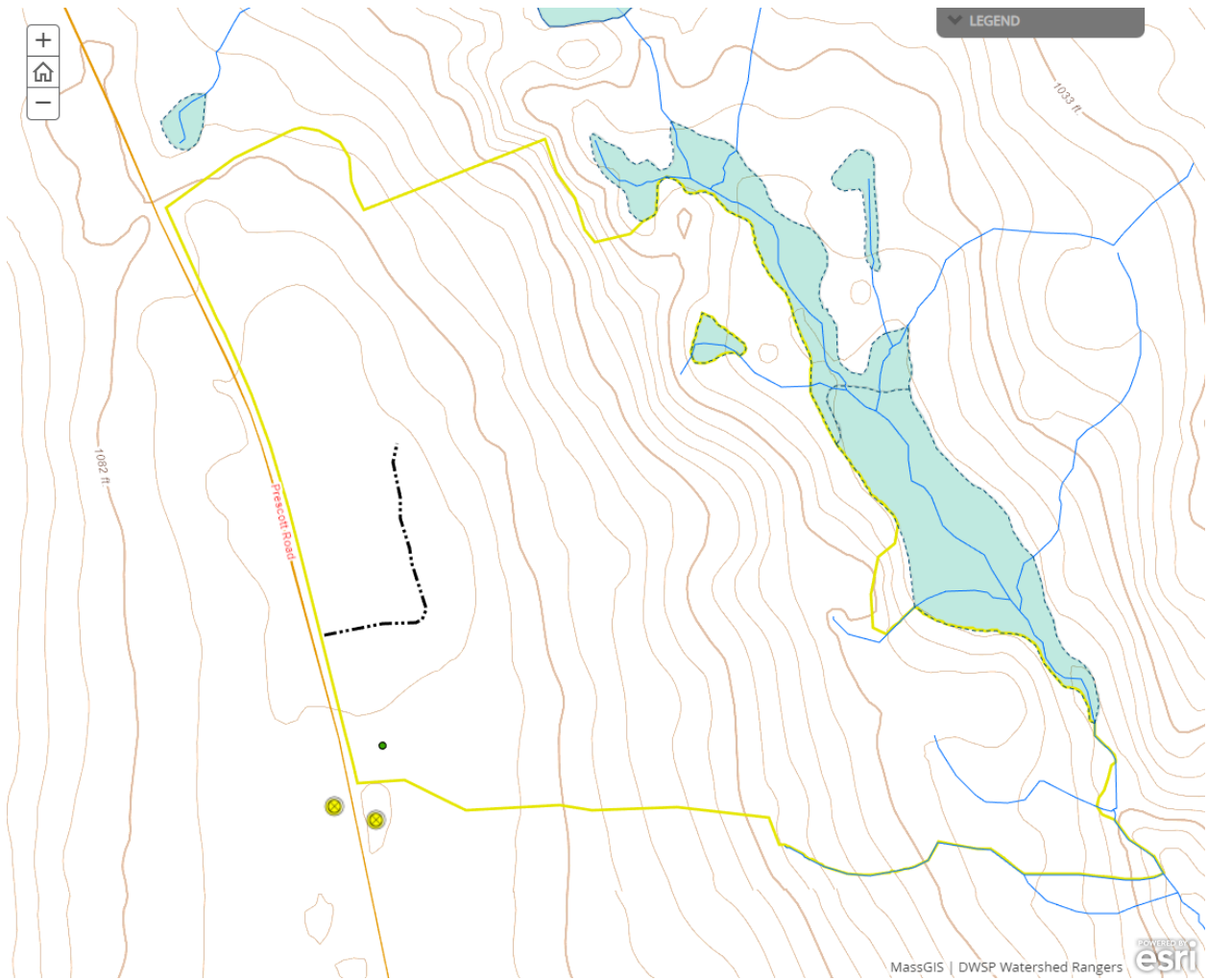
**Culverts needed:** No

**Work needed on permanent bridges:** No

**Beaver issue:** No

**Further comment on access needs:**

May need some gravel, although the landing held up well when it was last used in 2010.



## DWSP FY 2022 Forestry Proposals – Master Legend for story maps

