

Ware River Harvest Proposal WR-21-8-2

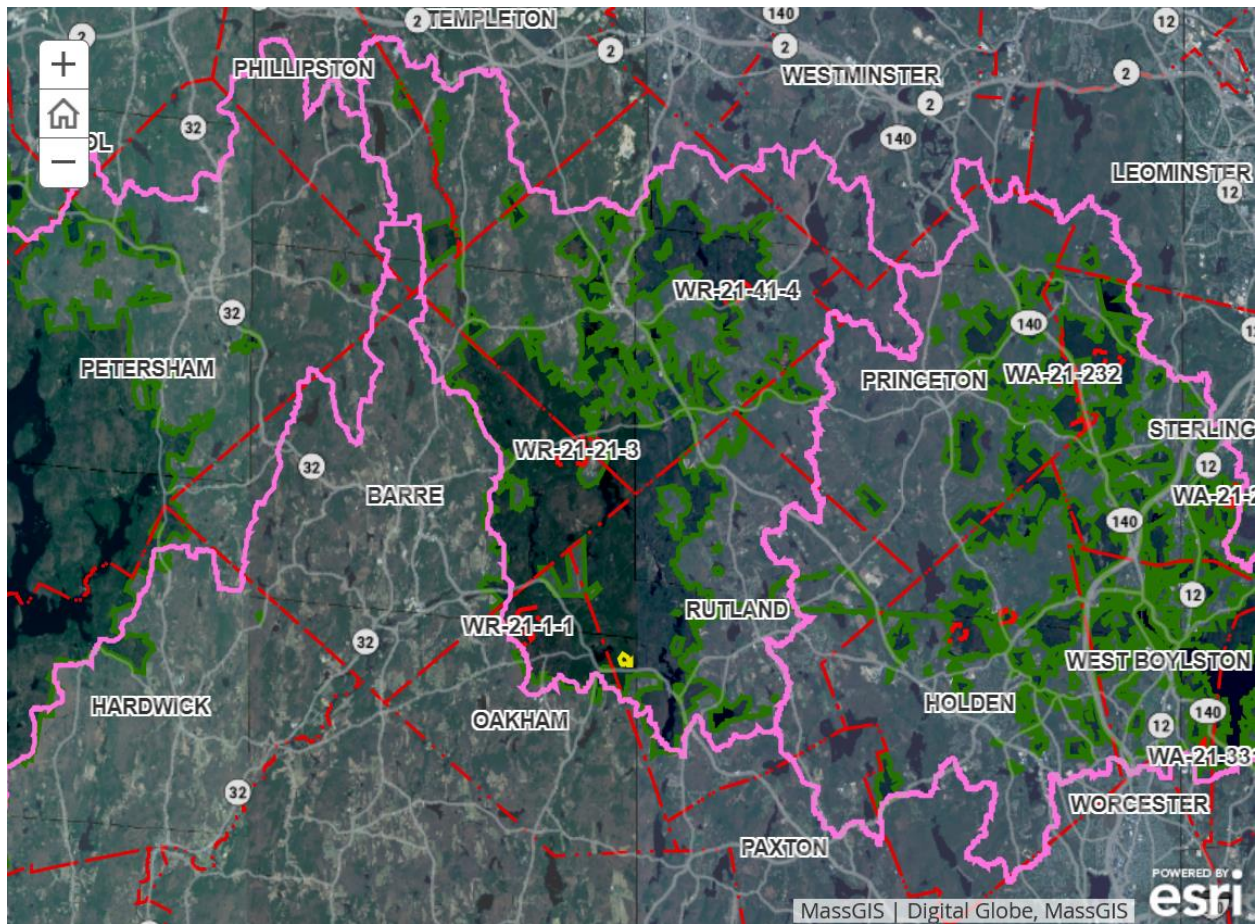
Proposal Goals

The goal for this proposal is to expand recently created pitch pine/oak barren habitat. Pine barrens are relatively rare in this part of the state and are home to several rare and endangered species of plants and insects. The habitat that is created will be maintained in the future with prescribed fire and/or mechanical mowing.

Proposal Location

The lot is in Rutland, south of Whitehall Road and the MA Central Rail Trail (MCRT) at their western intersection. The lot is bound to the northeast by the MCRT, to the northwest by Whitehall Road, to the east by a sandpit, and to the south and west by Parker Brook.

Total Acres: 26



General Description

	Overstory Type(s)	Acres
Dominant	White pine/hardwood	10
Secondary	Red Pine	8
Other	Scots Pine	8

Secondary

	Understory Type(s)
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Dominant	Dry site - blueberry/huckleberry
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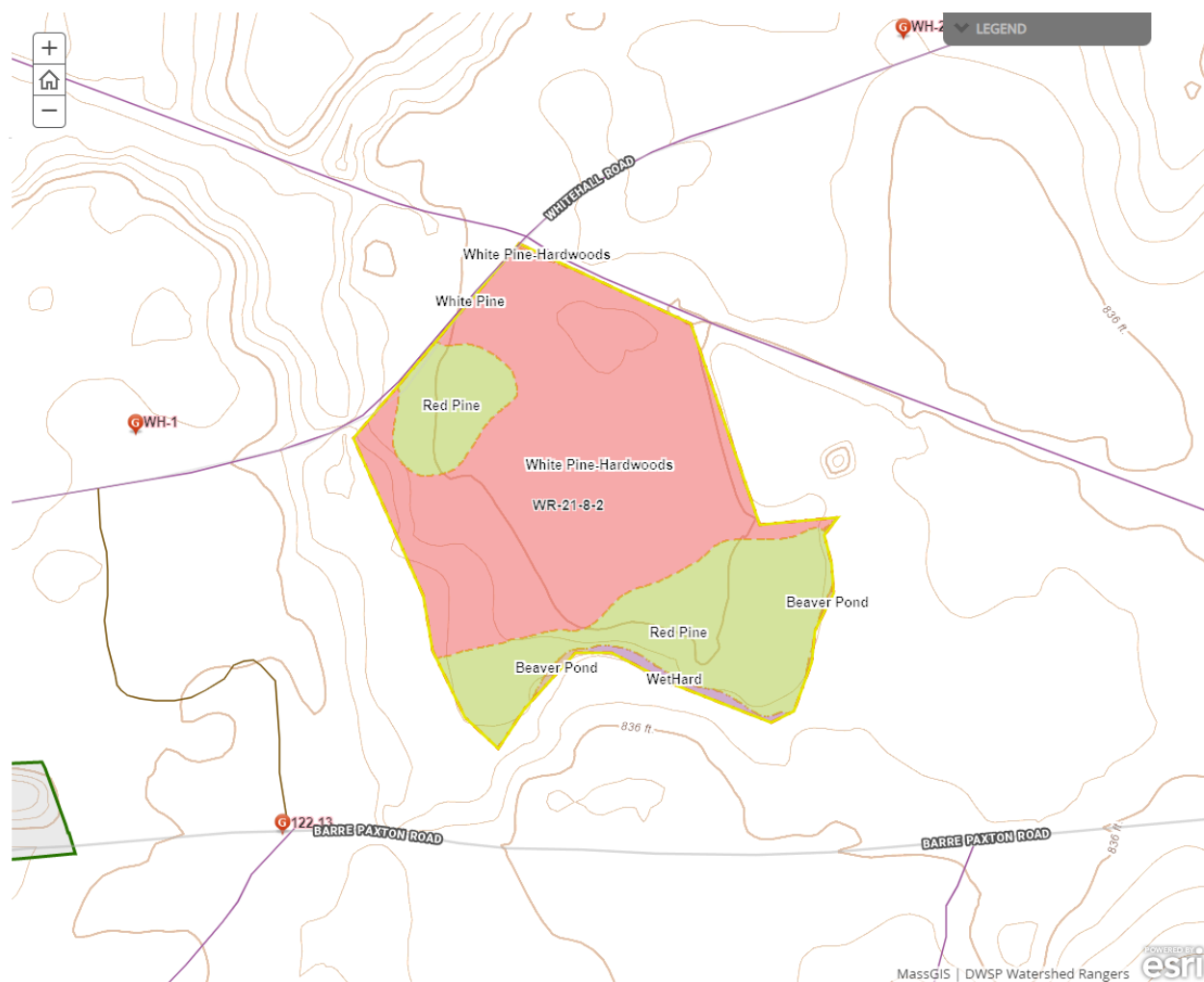
Description of forest composition/condition:

A white pine/hardwood stand is present along Whitehall Road and the rail trail. The stand is fully stocked with sawlog size trees. It has approximately 150 square feet of basal area per acre. It is dominated by low to good quality white pine, with the better quality stems mostly near Whitehall Road. Some good quality red oak is present. White oak, red maple, Scots pine, black oak, hemlock, and pitch pine are also present in the overstory. Regeneration consists of red maple, white pine, black birch, hemlock, red oak, and white oak saplings. Low and highbush blueberries are present throughout the lot. Much of this stand was part of lot 175, an 18-acre shelterwood completed in 1992. Lot 264, was a 1.6-acre patch cut just off of Whitehall Road, completed in 1998.

A red pine stand is present in the western section of the lot. There is approximately 20 - 50 square feet of basal area of residual overstory red pine scattered through this section. The quality of residual stems is medium to good. The thick regeneration is dominated by low quality pole size white pine. Sapling size white oak, red oak, gray birch, Scots pine, black cherry and hemlock are also present.

Assessment of Terrestrial Invasive Species:

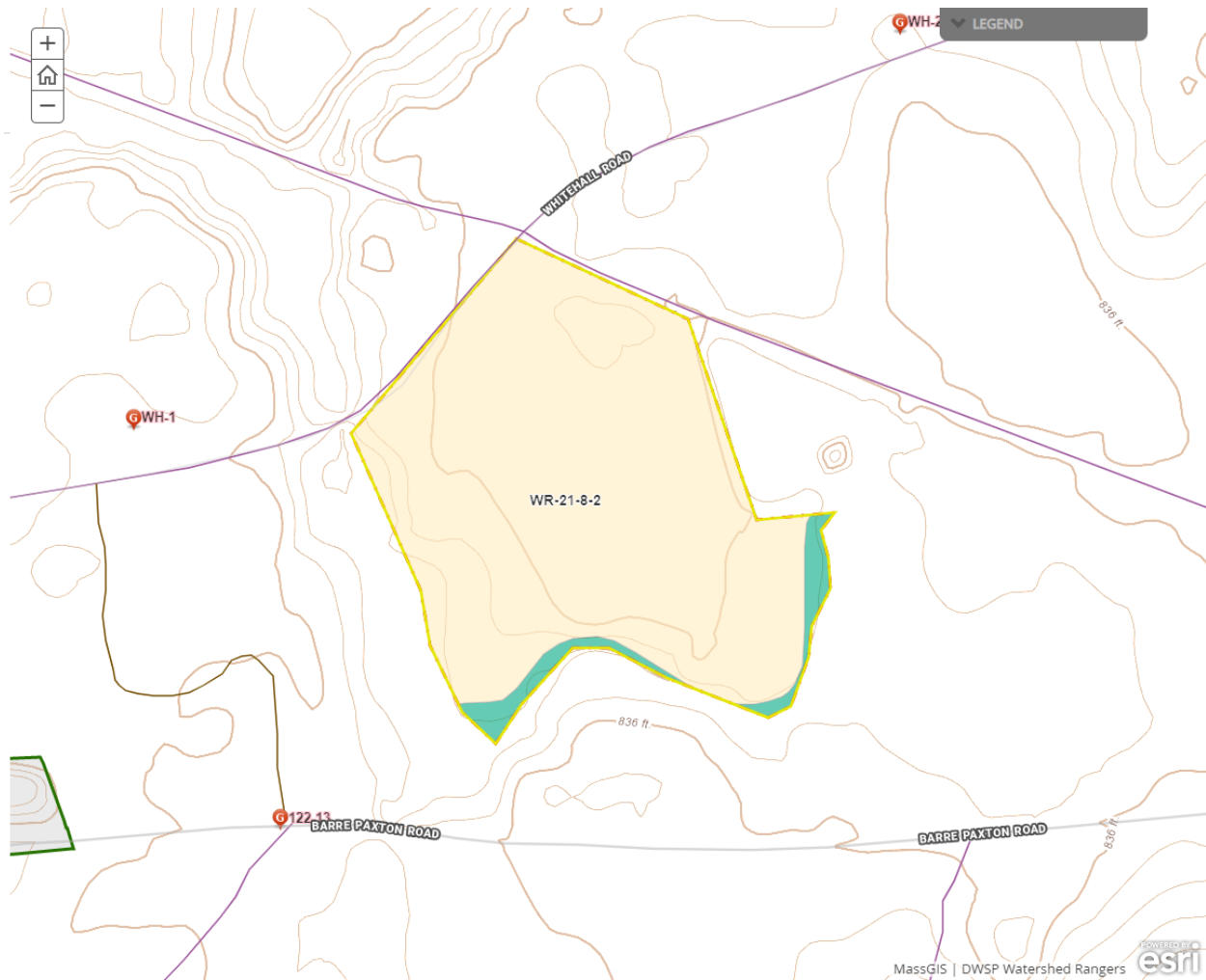
There is a 6" dbh Tree of Heaven on the rail trail, just south of where it crosses Whitehall Road. Saplings are starting to spread. This population will be controlled by DWSP staff.



Soils

Drainage Class	%
Excessively Drained	100
Well Drained Thin	0
Well Drained Thick	0
Moderately Well Drained	0
Poorly to Very Poorly Drained	0

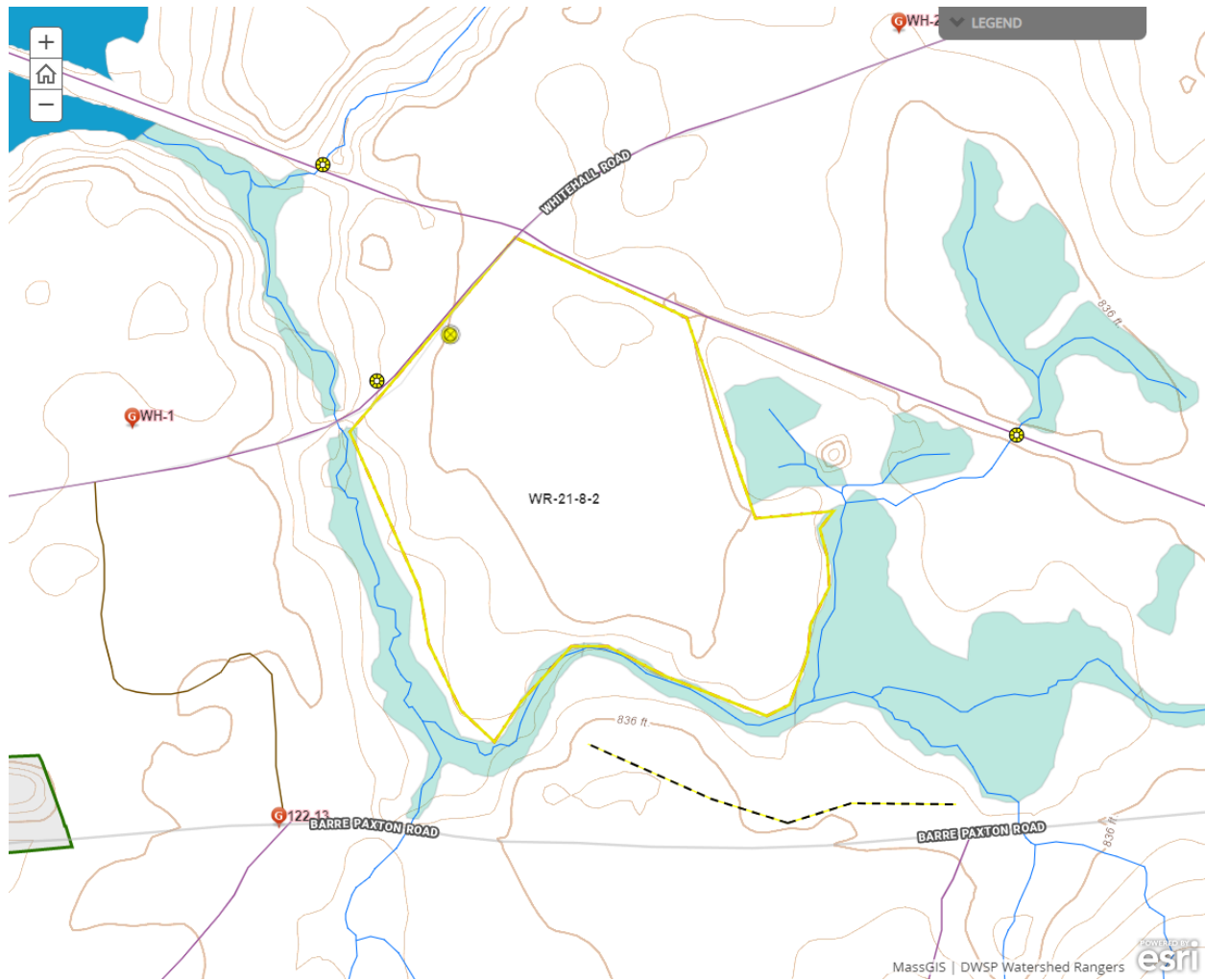
254B - Merrimac fine sandy loam - excessively drained - 25 acres



Wetlands

- Wetlands present? - **Yes**
- Streams present? - **Yes**
- Vernal pools present? - **None known**
- Seeps present? - **None known**
- Are stream crossings required? - **No**
- Are wetland crossings required? - **No**
- Is logging in filter strips planned? - **Yes**
- Is logging in wetlands planned? - **No**

This proposal is bordered on the west and south by Parker Brook and an associated wetland/beaver pond.



Silviculture

Acres in Intermediate cuts: **0**

Acres in prep/establishment cuts: **26**

Acres in Regeneration cuts: **0**

Average regen opening size: **0**

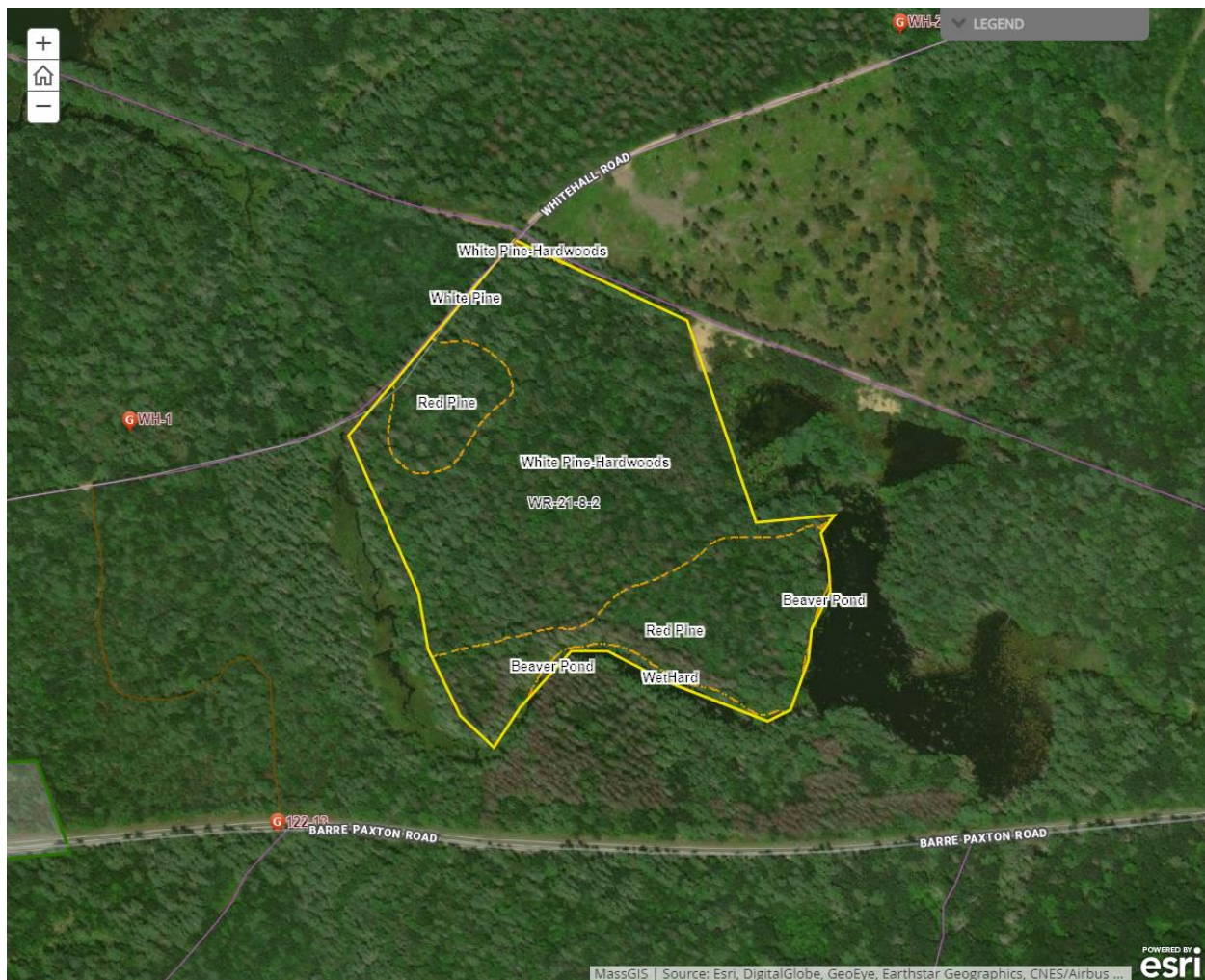
Maximum regen opening size: **0**

Description of advance regeneration in proposal area:

Regeneration consists of red maple, white pine, black birch, hemlock, red oak, and white oak saplings.

General comments on silviculture proposed:

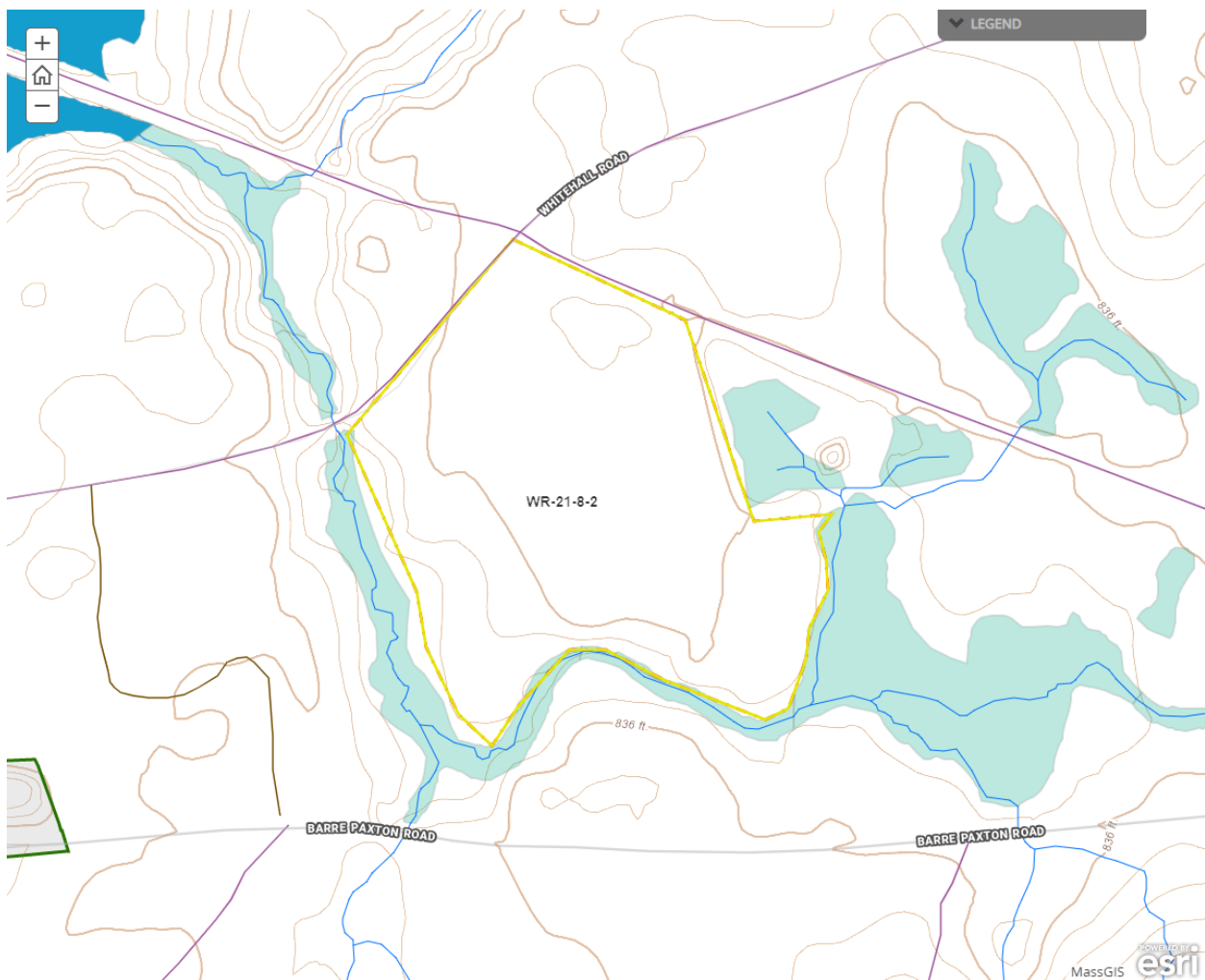
The goal in these stands is to create additional pitch pine/oak barrens habitat to build off of the recent pitch pine/oak barrens that was established this past winter on the north side of the MCRT and an existing sand pit. This area has less overstory pitch pine and white oak, so the result will be a much more open barren area. All trees greater than 5 feet tall that are not pitch pine or white oak will be cut and removed.



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
8061 (Parker Brook)	3133	71	691	26

8061 - Ware River Intake Subdistrict, Parker Brook Sub-basin - 26 acres -



Harvesting Limitations

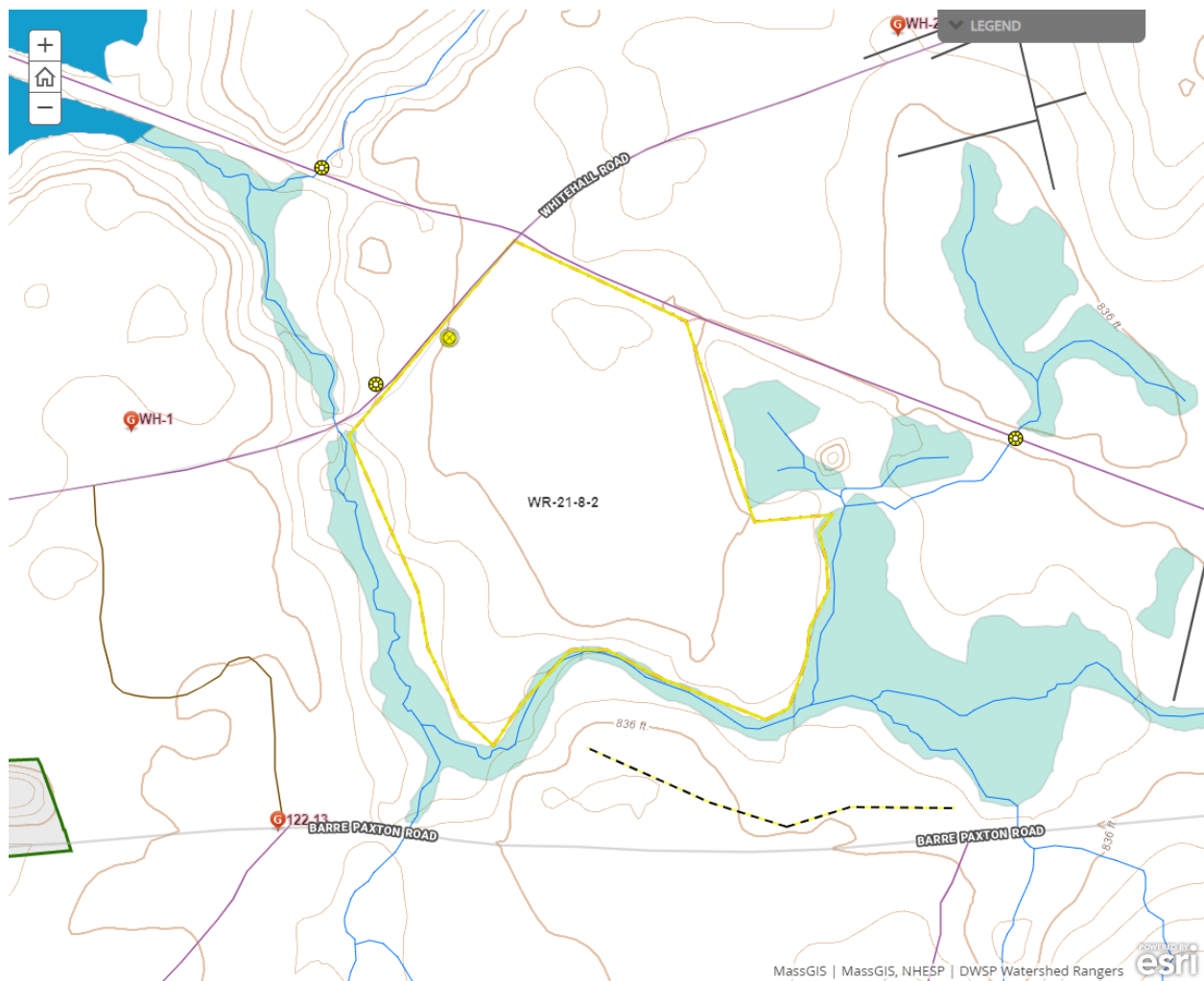
Forwarder required: **No**

Feller/processor required: **No**

Steep slopes present: **No**

Comments on harvesting limitations:

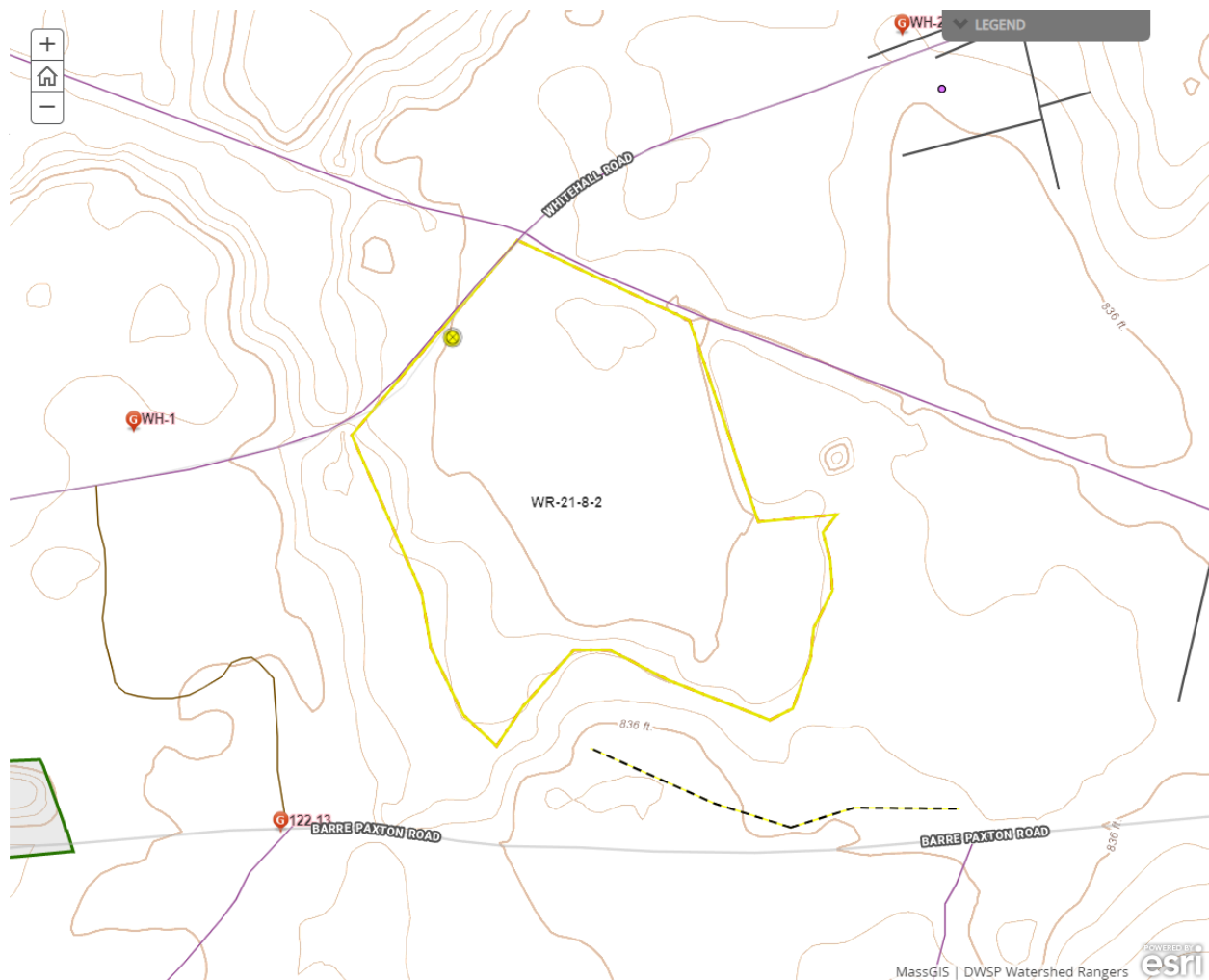
No restrictions on harvesting equipment are proposed for this lot.



Cultural Resources

Comments on Cultural Resources:

No known cultural resources in proposal area.



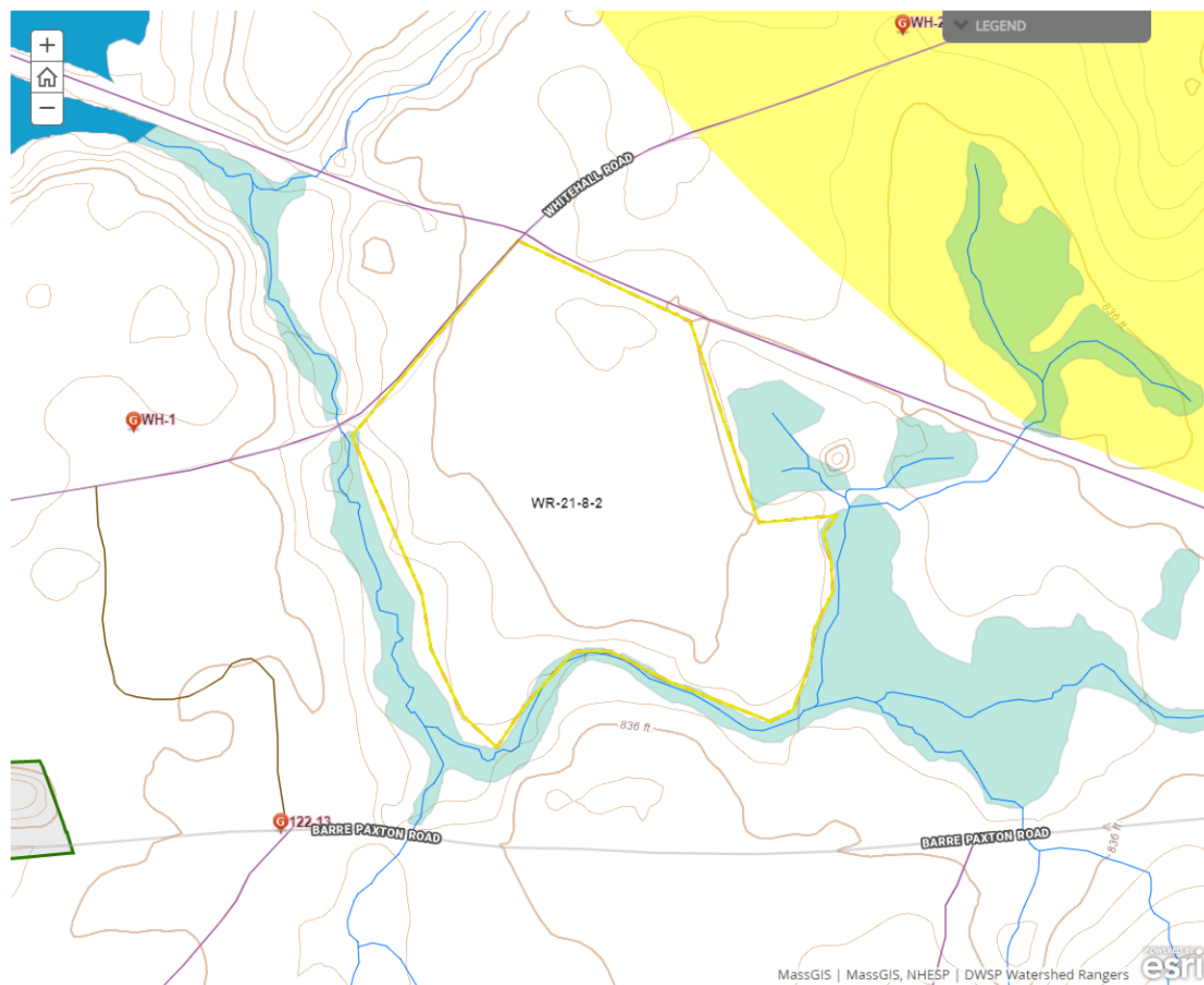
Wildlife Resources & Rare and Endangered Species

General Wildlife Comments:

This is the southern tip of a potential pitch pine/oak barren area designated in DWSP's 2017 Land Management Plan. Lot 4399 was recently harvested just east of this site on the other side of the rail trail as the first pitch pine/oak barren establishment harvest in the area. Snags would typically be spared in a harvest, but are not desirable in the barrens area due to safety concerns on subsequent prescribed burns and will be removed.

Comments on Rare Species/Habitats:

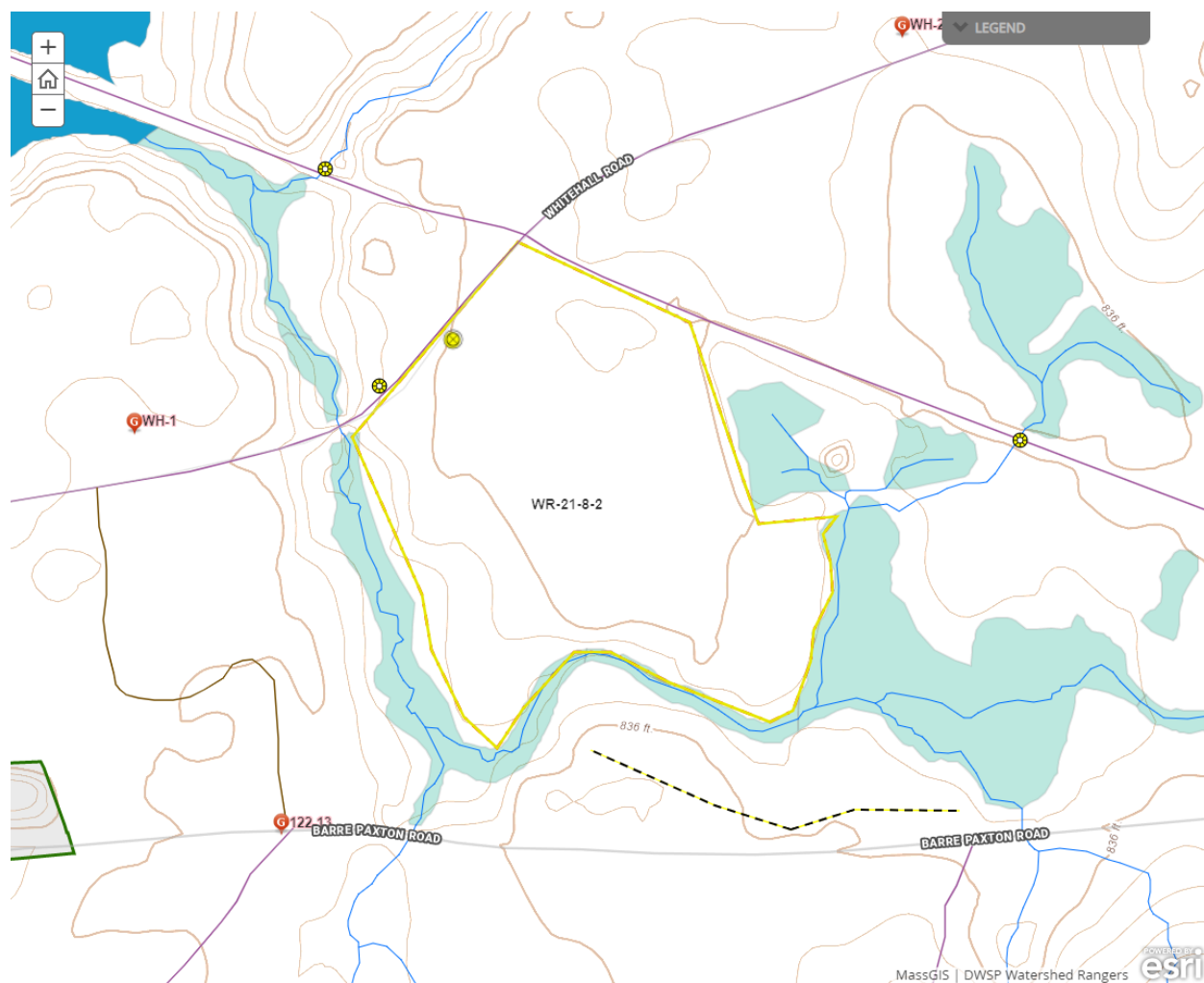
No known rare species or priority habitats on site.



Environmental Quality Engineering

Comments on EQ Issues:

No stream crossings or EQ comments.



Forest Access Engineering

Gravel needed: Yes

Landing work needed: No

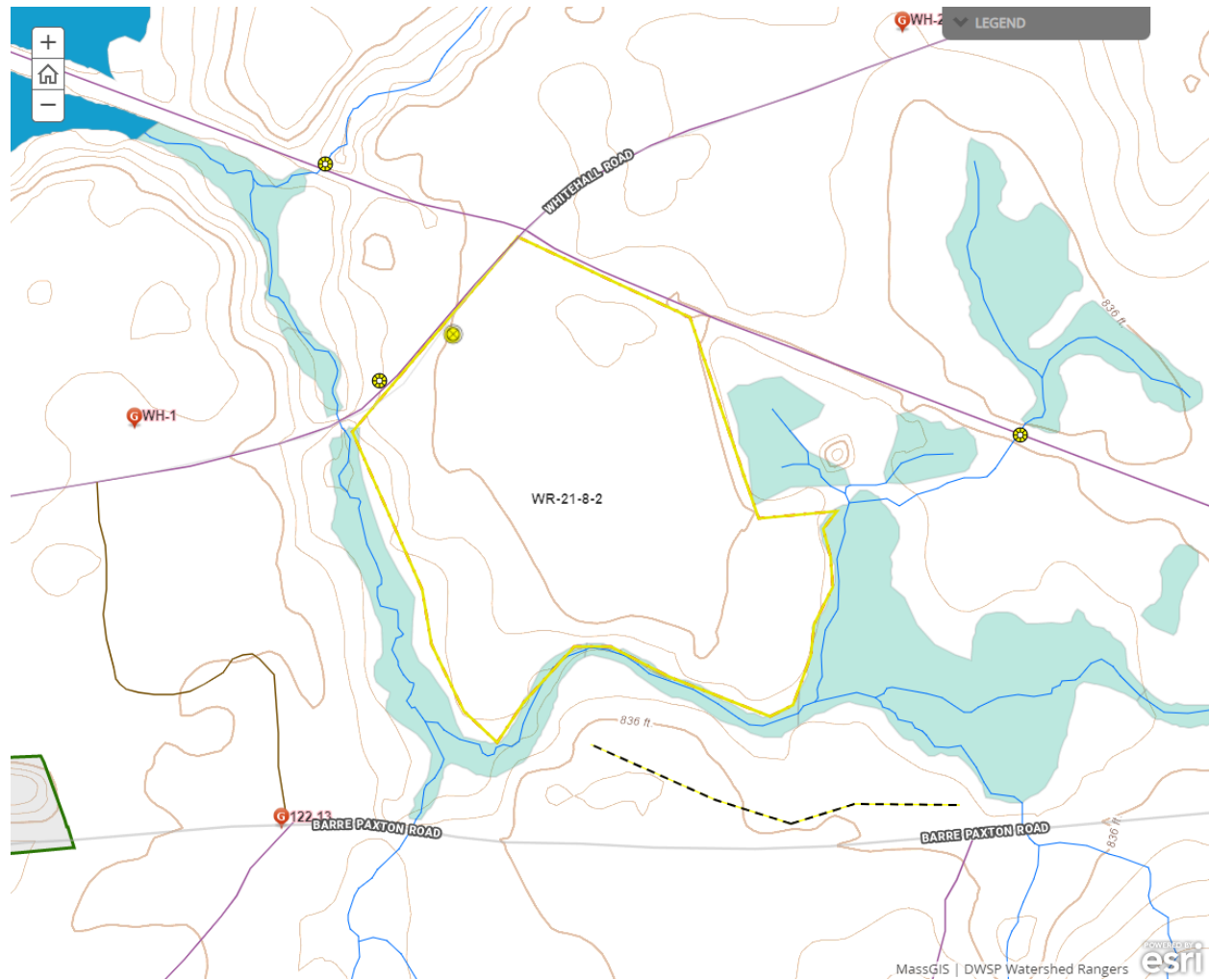
Culverts needed: No

Work needed on permanent bridges: No

Beaver issue: No

Further comment on access needs:

Whitehall Road needs gravel, grading, and ditching.



DWSP FY 2021 Forestry Proposals – Master Legend for story maps

