

Ware River Harvest Proposal WR-22-2-2

Proposal Update, May 2024:

This forestry proposal was originally approved through the public process in 2021. At that time reference was made to salvaging or pre-salvaging planted red pines that were in decline due to fungal pathogens and/or red pine scale. DWSP wishes to clarify that all red pine plantation removals on Division lands comply with long standing DWSP management objectives to convert monoculture conifer plantations to diverse mixes of native tree species. 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 report issued from the CFC. The proposal language and mapping below are preserved unchanged from that presented to the public in 2021 in ArcGIS Online story map format.

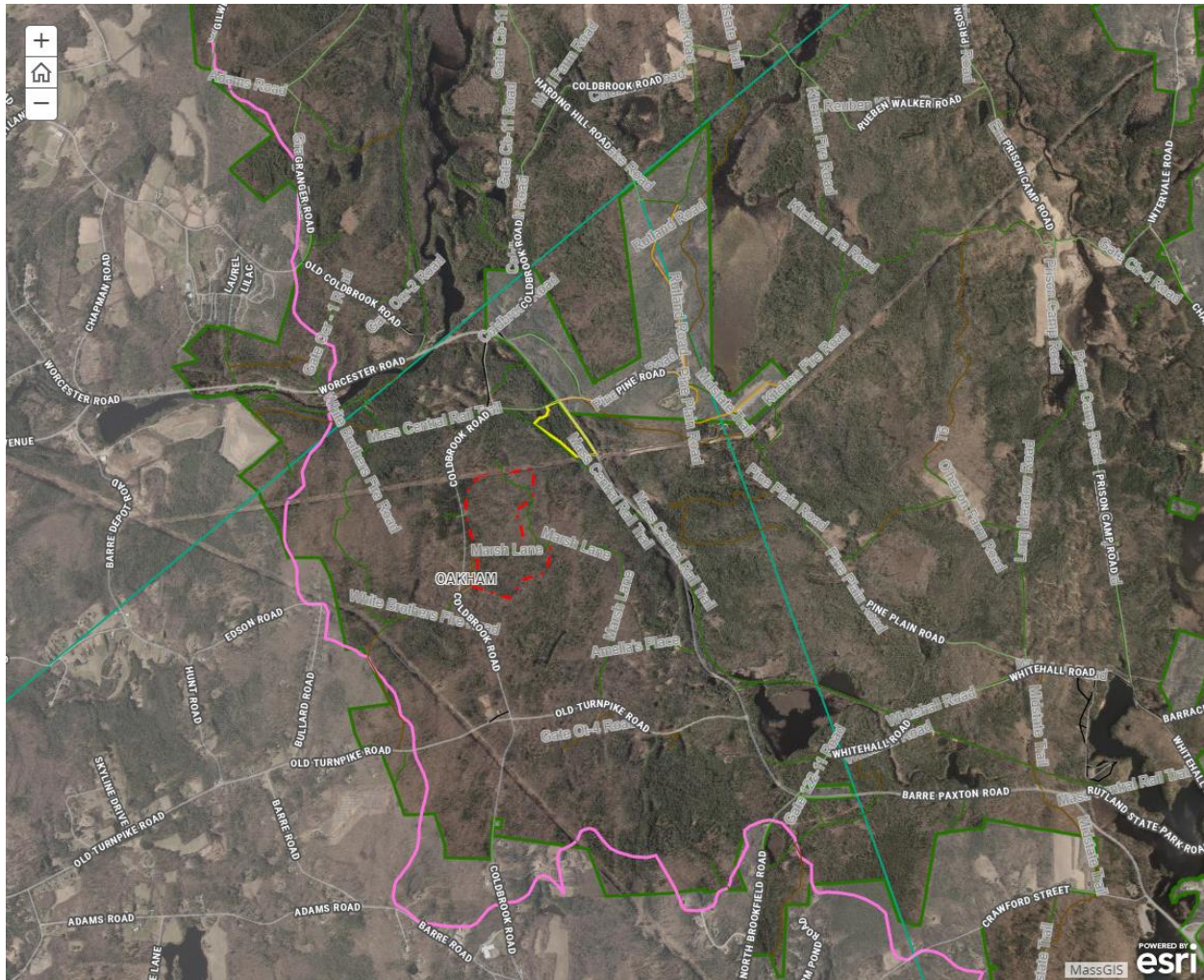
Proposal Goals

The goals for this proposal are to remove plantation red pine before it succumbs to red pine scale and to release abundant regeneration that has been established by past thinnings.

Proposal Location

This lot is in the town of Oakham at Poverty Square Road and Route 122. It is bordered on the east by Route 122, to the north by Poverty Square Road and a pond, to the west by the Mass Central Rail Trail, and to the south by powerlines.

Total Acres: 17



General Description

	Overstory Type(s)	Acres
Dominant	Red pine	13
Secondary	White pine - oak	4

Secondary

	Understory Type(s)
Dominant	Tree seedlings/saplings dominate site

Secondary

Description of forest composition/condition:

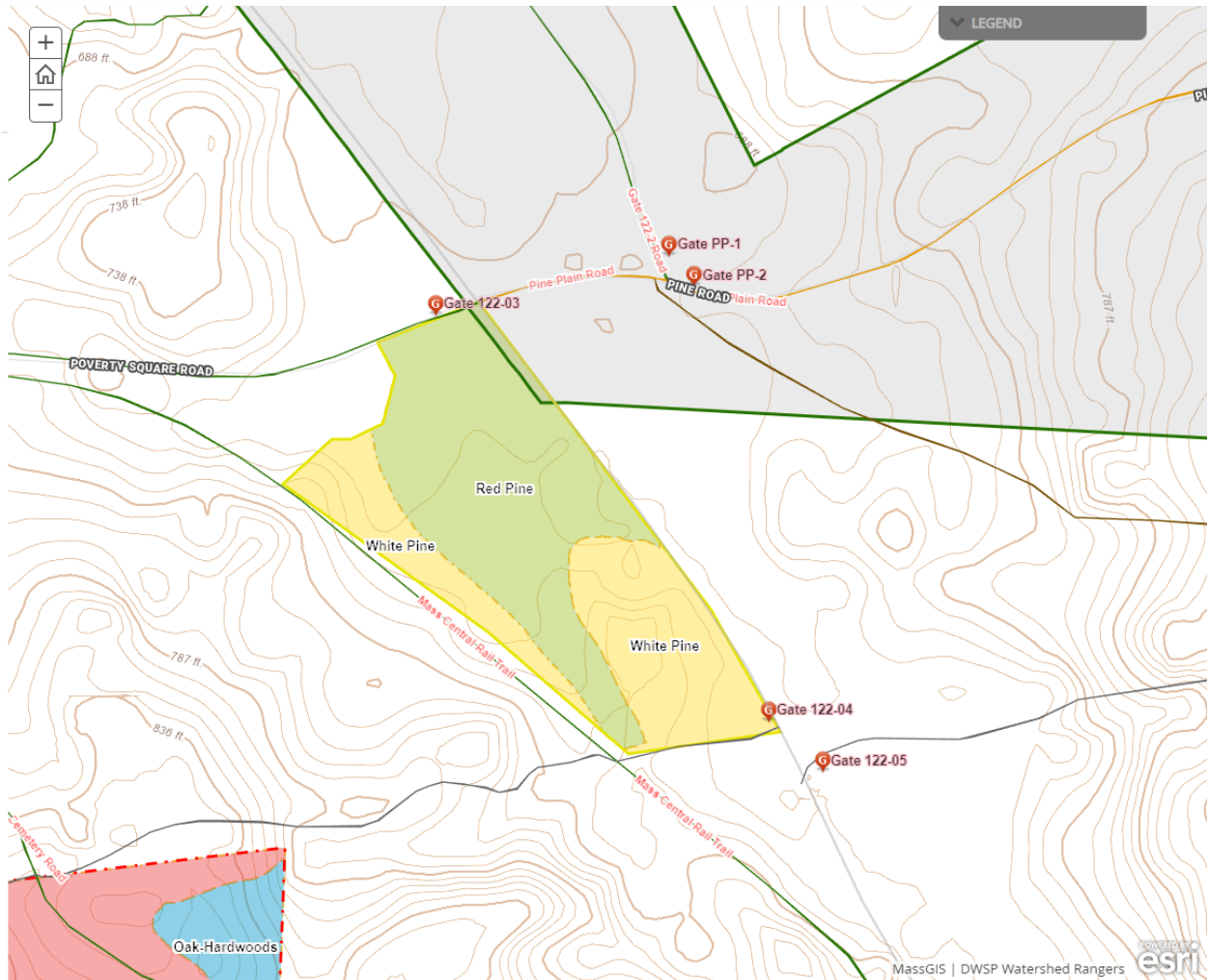
The 1938 aerial photos show most of this area as open pasture land with several structures adjacent to Route 122. The area, known as poverty square, had a gas station and several houses and barns. The real estate sheet shows that red pine, spruce, and larch were planted in the area in 1936. Lot 4272 was a 10.6 acre red pine seed tree cut completed in 1999 in the red pine stand. The harvest aimed to leave approximately 20 square feet of basal area per acre of overstory red pine stems.

Red Pine - This stand is two aged, with scattered overstory red pine stems over pole stems of mixed species. Mortality of residual overstory red pine is heavy in spots, leaving very scattered overstory stems. Occasional white pine, Norway spruce, pitch pine, and red oak stems are also found in the overstory. There is approximately 16 square feet of basal area per acre of sawlog size red pine, most of which is good quality. It is patchy though with some areas having 40 square feet per acre and others having none. Regeneration is heavy to white pine poles in some spots, with areas of red oak mixed with black cherry, black oak, white oak, Norway spruce, and eastern hemlock. The poles are approximately 30 feet tall and vary greatly in quality. Some of the white pine poles have been heavily affected by the white pine weevil, while the quality is good in other areas. There are areas with 100 to 130 square feet of basal area per acre of pole white pine, generally where the overstory red pine is most sparse. Some good quality red and white oak poles are also present. White pine, red oak, black birch, red maple, black cherry, white birch, eastern hemlock, and grey birch seedlings are also present.

White pine/oak - This stand is the southern edge of the lot along Route 122 and the power lines. It was not planted, probably due to slope and dry soils. Much of it will not be accessible due to slope and proximity to Route 122, but the edge of the stand adjacent to the red pine stand is accessible. Some thinning was done on the edge of the stand. It is even aged with multiple species. The stand is dominated by sawlog size white pine and white and red oak. Black oak, black cherry, red maple, pitch pine, eastern hemlock, and European larch are also present in the overstory. The quality of the white pine is poor. The stand is well stocked with approximately 145 square feet of basal area per acre, with approximately 30 square feet per acre in acceptable growing stock. Regeneration is well established in the accessible portion of the lot with white pine, red and white oak, red maple, black cherry, and eastern hemlock seedlings.

Assessment of Terrestrial Invasive Species:

Glossy buckthorn is well established throughout the lot, particularly in the red pine stand. Wild grape is also thick in spots.



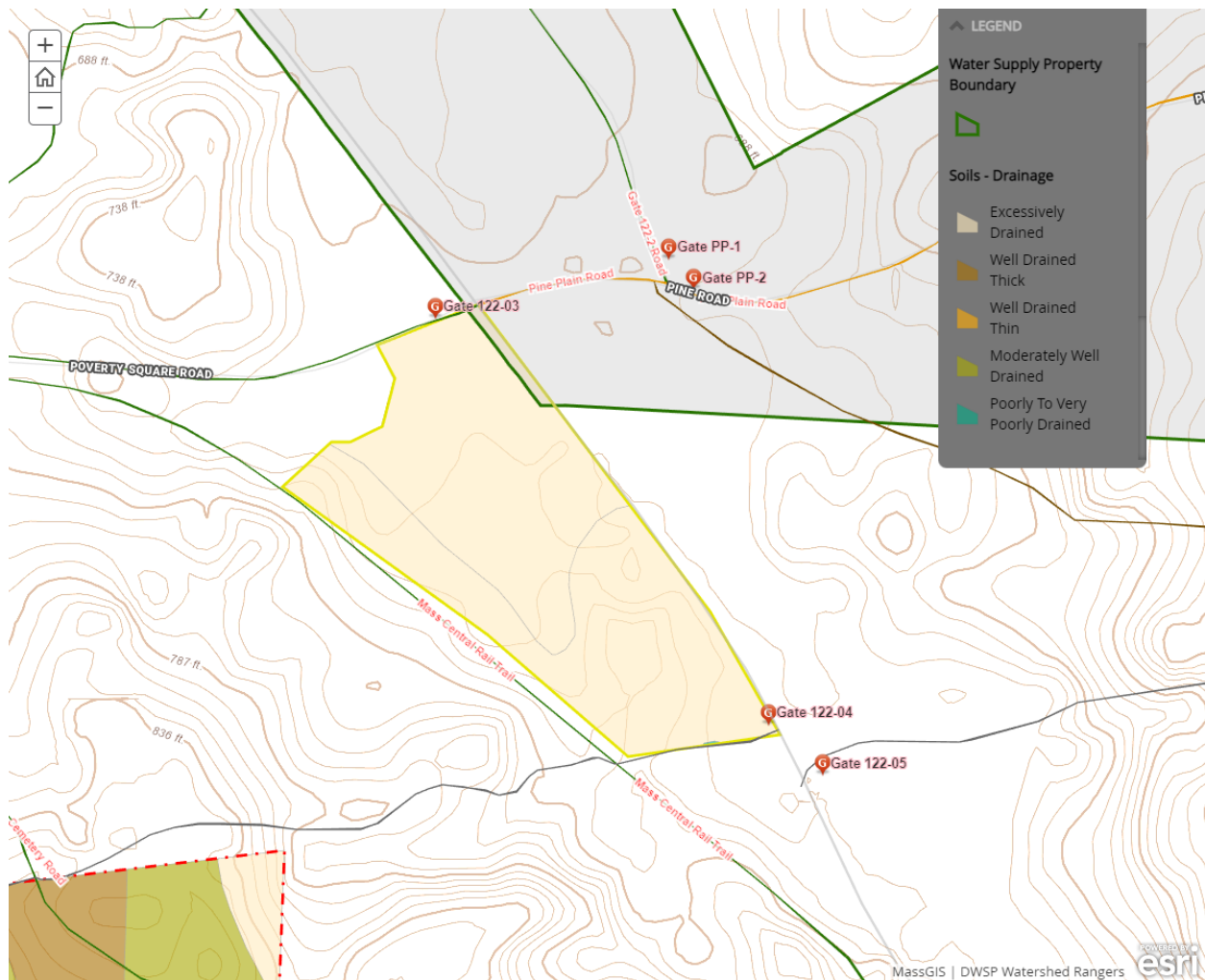
Soils

Drainage Class	%
Excessively Drained	100
Well Drained Thin	0
Well Drained Thick	0
Moderately Well Drained	0

Poorly to Very Poorly Drained	0
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253D - Hinckley loamy sand, 15 to 25 percent slopes - Excessively drained - 8.6 acres

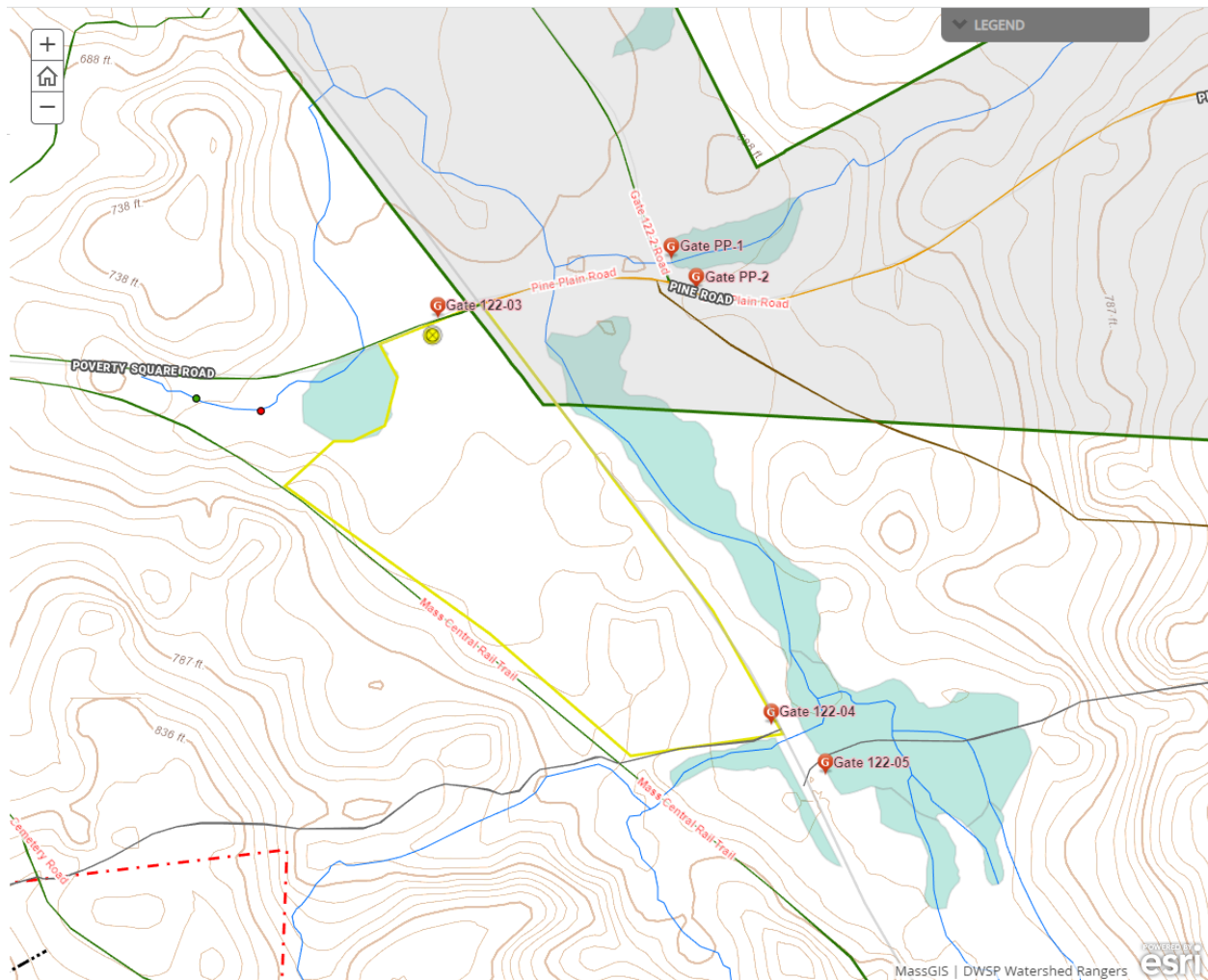
253B - Hinckley loamy sand, 3 to 8 percent slopes - Excessively drained - 8.0 acres



Wetlands

- Wetlands present? - **Yes**
- Streams present? - **No**
- Vernal pools present? - **Yes**
- Seeps present? - **None known**
- Are stream crossings required? - **No**
- Are wetland crossings required? - **No**

- Is logging in filter strips planned? - **No**
- Is logging in wetlands planned? - **No**



Silviculture

Acres in Intermediate cuts: **0**

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

Acres in Regeneration cuts: **14**

Average regen opening size: **13**

Maximum regen opening size: **13**

Description of advance regeneration in proposal area:

Regeneration is heavy to white pine poles in some spots, with areas of red oak mixed with black cherry, black oak, white oak, Norway spruce, and eastern hemlock. The poles are approximately 30 feet tall and vary greatly in quality. Some of the white pine poles have been heavily affected by the white pine weevil, while the quality is good in other areas. There are areas with 100 to 130 square feet of basal area per acre of pole white pine, generally where the overstory red pine is most sparse. Some good quality red and white oak poles are also present. White pine, red oak, black birch, red maple, black cherry, white birch, eastern hemlock, and grey birch seedlings are also present.

General comments on silviculture proposed:

Red pine - All overstory red pine and Norway spruce stems will be harvested. Healthy overstory stems of other species will be retained for structure and diversity, though they are very sparse and less than 5 square feet of basal area per acre. The established regeneration will be protected as much as possible, and thinned where there is enough good quality pole size regeneration to warrant treatment.

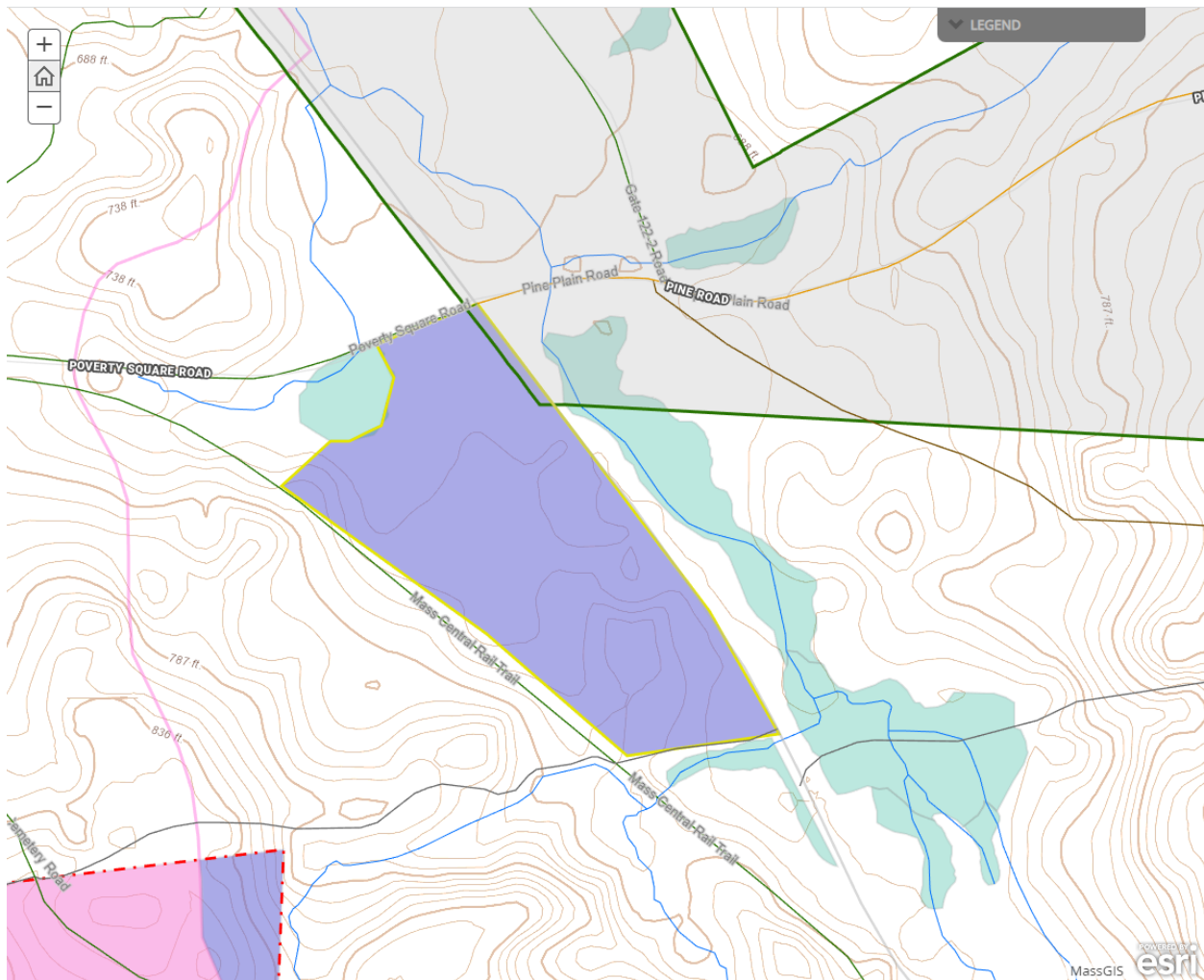
White pine/oak - A 1- to 2-acre opening will be established, targeting the poorest quality white pine stems. At least 5 square feet of basal area per acre of the best formed, most vigorous stems of all species will be retained in the opening.



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
8061 (Parker Brook)	3133	62	721	17

8061 - Parker - There are 20 acres in proposal WR-22-2-1, 26 acres in proposal WR-21-8-2, 8 acres in proposal WR-20-4-1, 11 acres in proposal WR-20-8-2, 5 acres in proposal WR-16-3-1, and 46 acres in proposal WR-17-7-1 in this subwatershed.



Harvesting Limitations

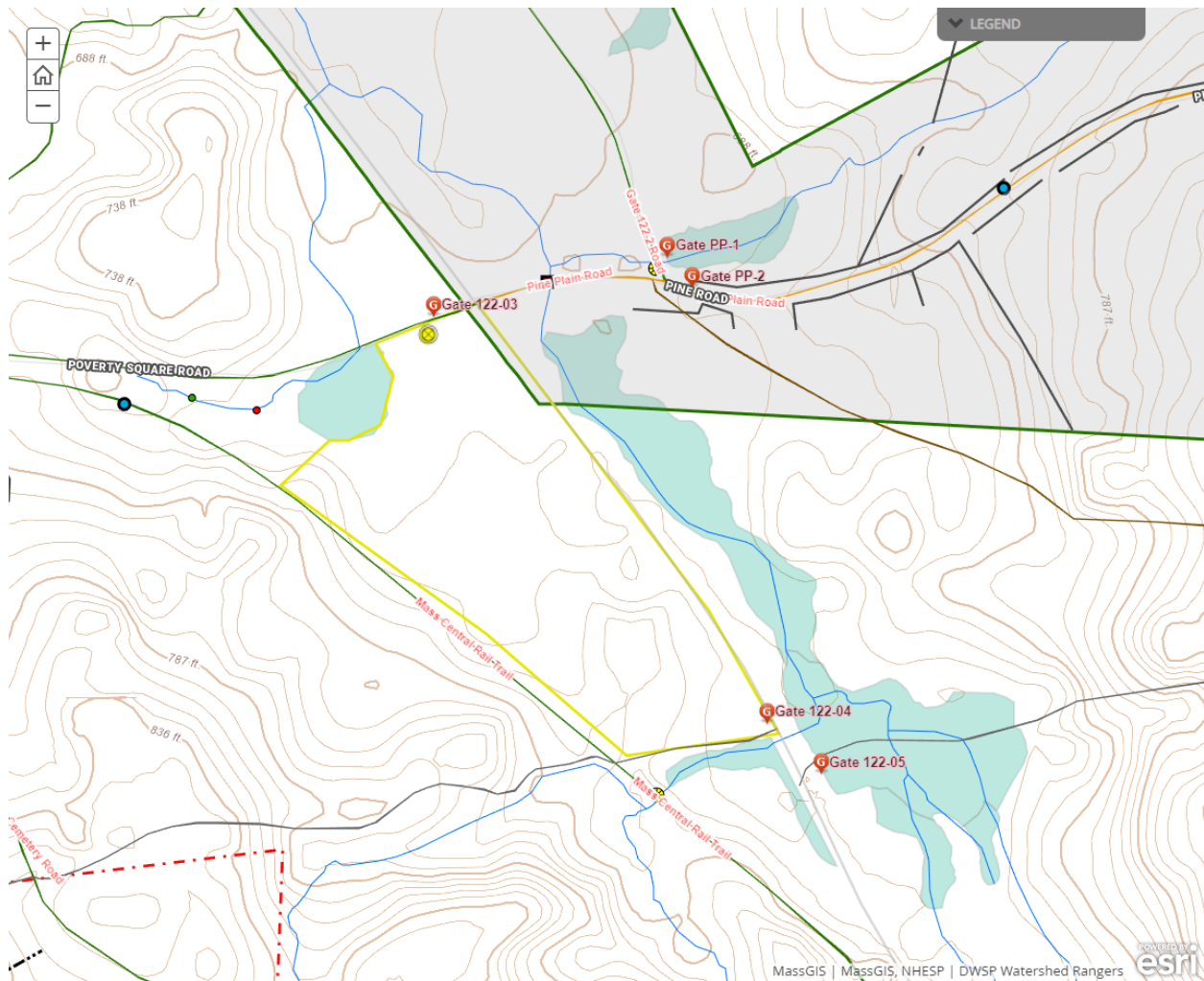
Forwarder required: **No**

Feller/processor required: **No**

Steep slopes present: **No**

Comments on harvesting limitations:

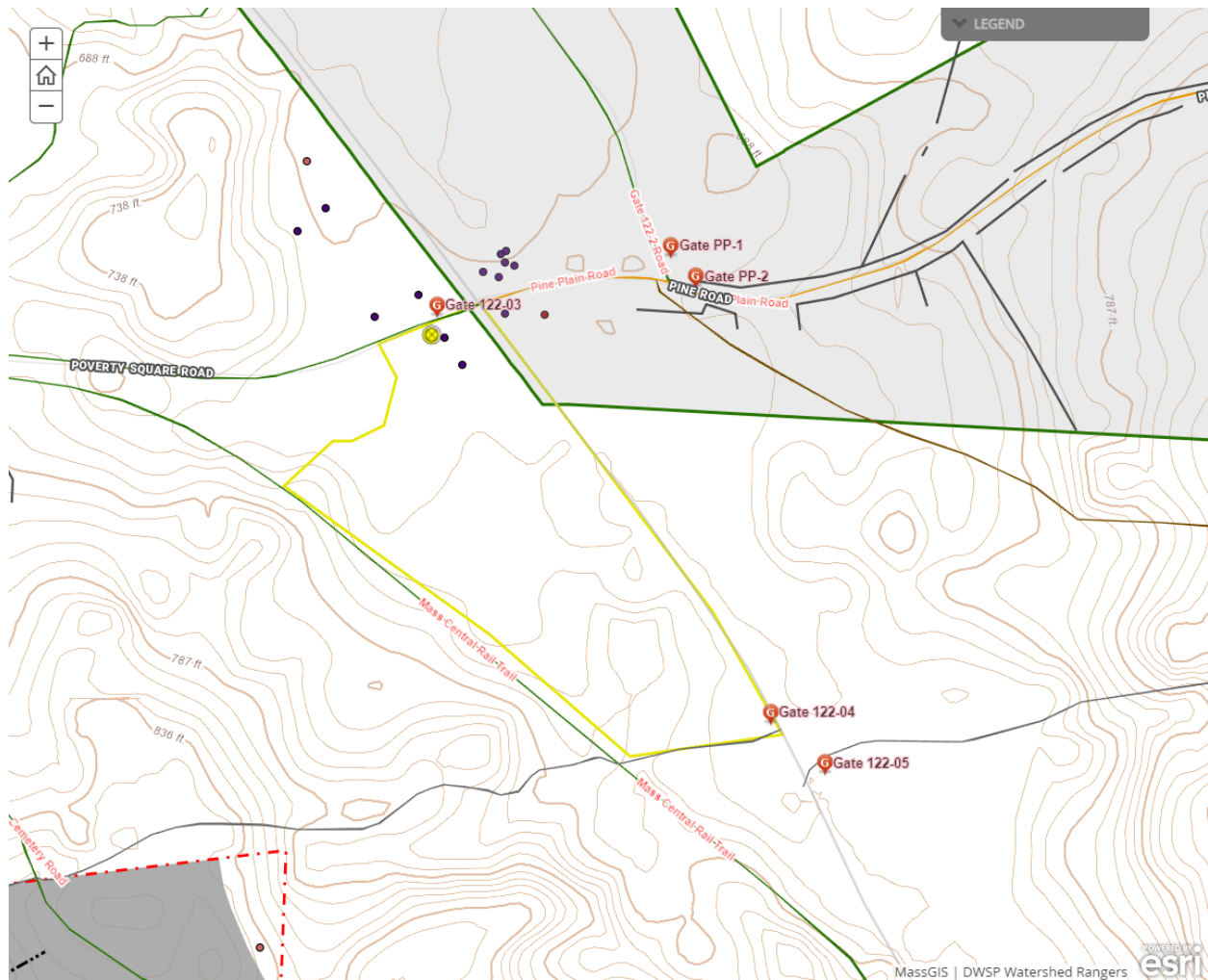
No specific equipment requirements.



Cultural Resources

Comments on Cultural Resources:

There are several foundations along Route 122. This area was known as Poverty Square and was home to a filling station and several houses/barns. One concrete foundation is close to where the landing will need to be located and will be buffered as much as possible.



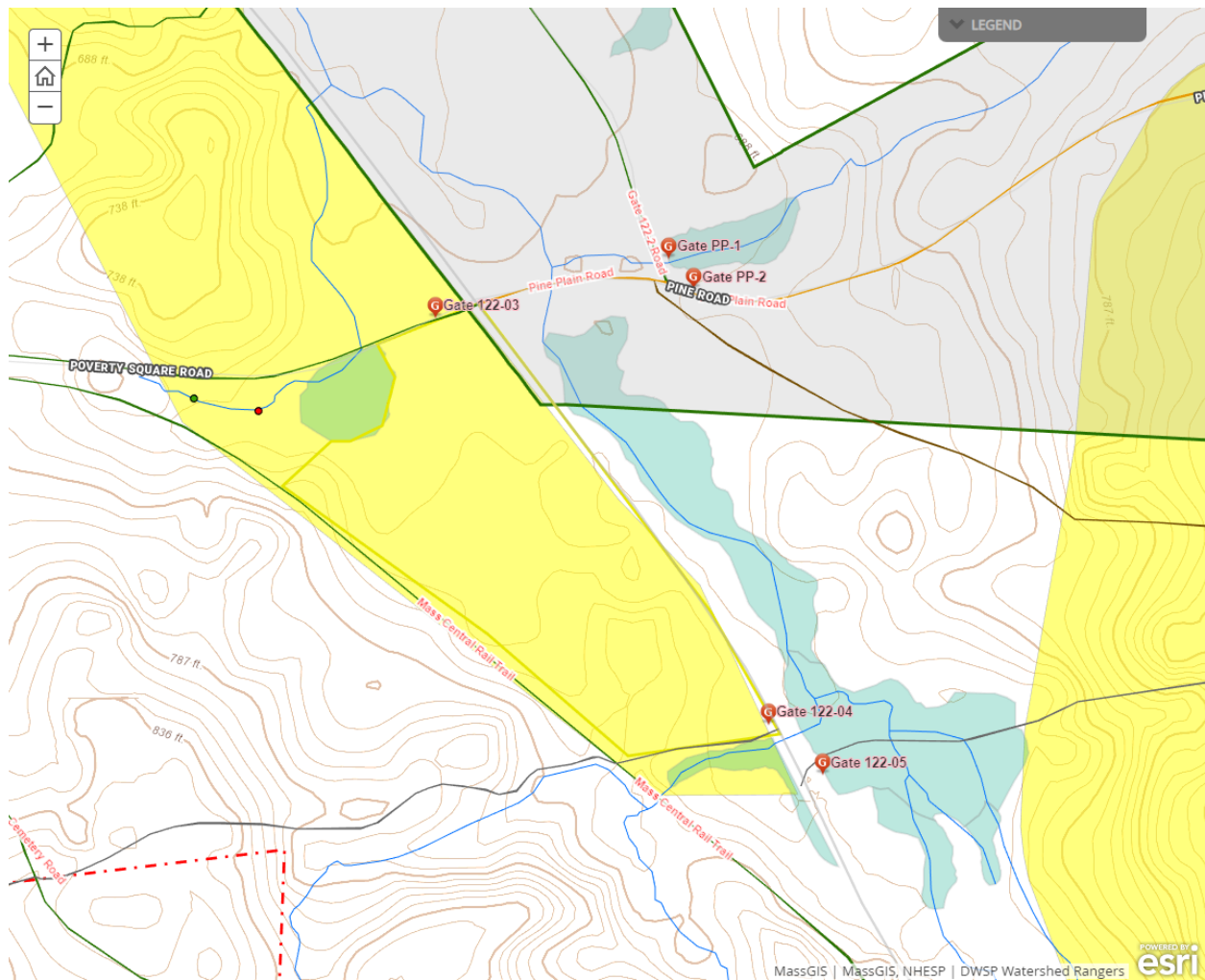
Wildlife Resources & Rare and Endangered Species

General Wildlife Comments:

Moose and deer presence noted.

Comments on Rare Species/Habitats:

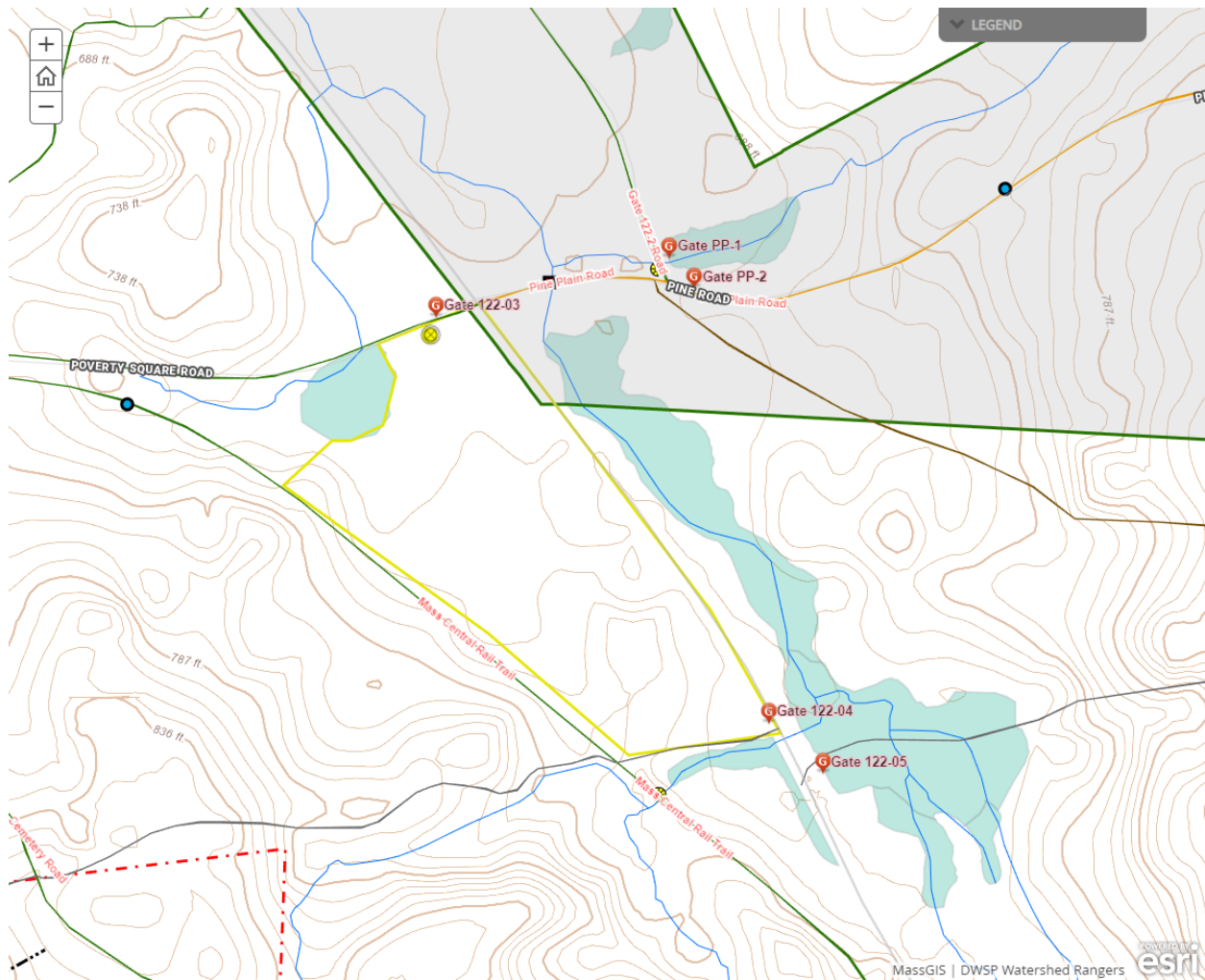
No rare plants or priority habitats here, but a DFW/NHESP-recognized natural community known as a 'kettlehole level bog' exists adjacent to the proposal area. Care will be taken to avoid disturbance to this feature.



Environmental Quality Engineering

Comments on EQ Issues:

No crossings are planned that would require EQ monitoring.



Forest Access Engineering

Gravel needed: No

Landing work needed: No

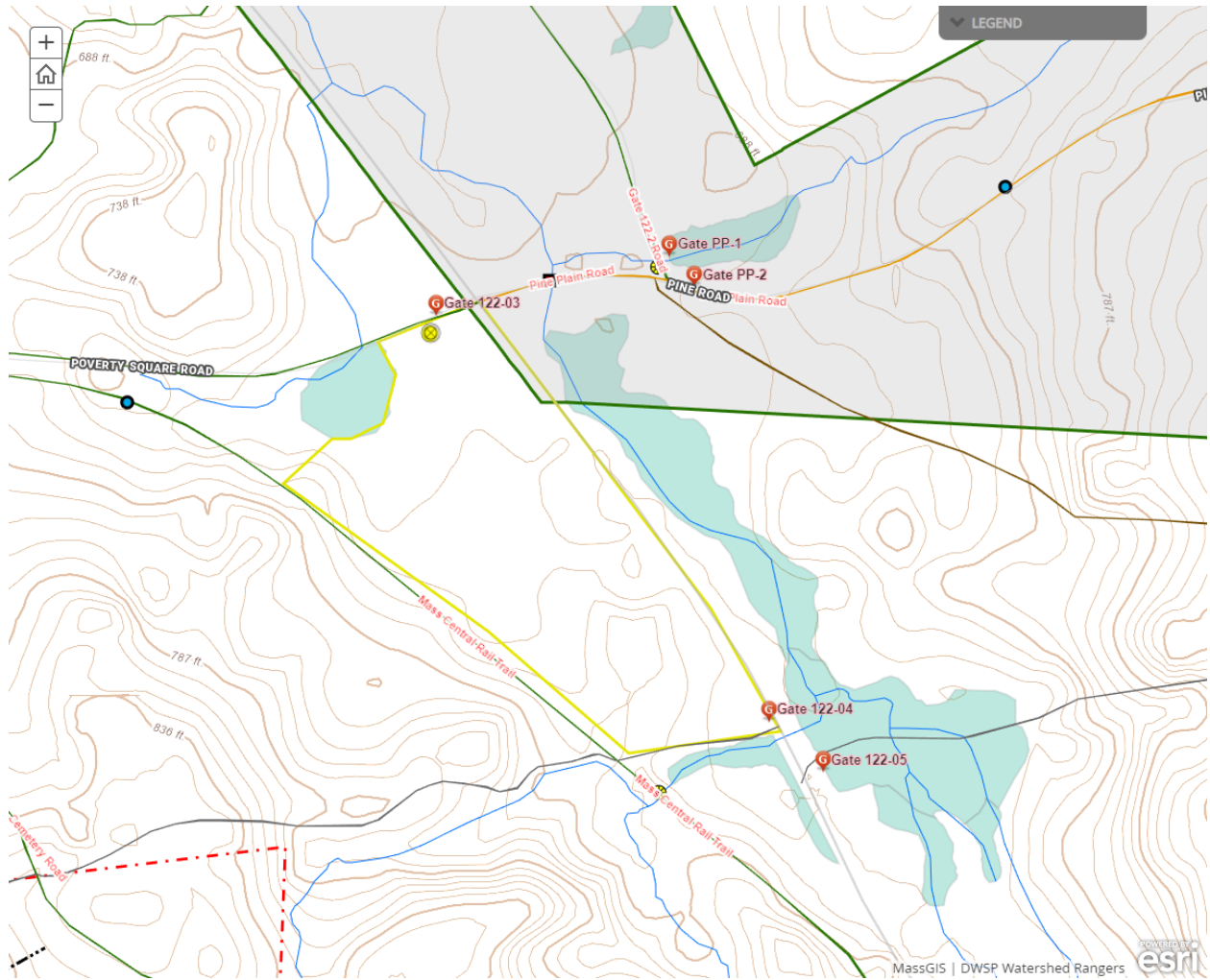
Culverts needed: No

Work needed on permanent bridges: No

Beaver issue: No

Further comment on access needs:

No work should be necessary for access.



DWSP FY 2022 Forestry Proposals – Master Legend for story maps

