Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

Division of Water Supply Protection, Office of Watershed Management

Forest Management Project Proposal Summary for Public Comment

Location, goals, and summary of proposed forest management.

Proposal Summary Item	Item Information/Description
Lot Proposal ID	**WR-26-5**
Fiscal Year	2026
Watershed	Ware River
Town(s)	Rutland
Forester	Russ Wilmot
Estimated Acres by Treatment Type	6 acres total in regeneration openings consisting of one 4.9 acre opening and one 1 acre opening.
Total Proposal Acres	8 Acres to include landing and skid trail from landing to 4.9 acre opening.
Block	
Compartment and/or Working Unit	**5**
Location and Boundary Description	Located inside Gate CR-1 off of Crawford Road. West of Long Pond.
Previous Proposal?	No
Project Goals and Summary Description	The goal is to increase forest resilience by increasing vertical structure diversity while maintaining or improving the diversity of species composition across the landscape. The prescribed treatment will provide sunlight, ground disturbance and growing space to release and establish a mixture of hardwood seedlings and saplings that are better suited to the site.

Forest Cover Types and Acreages

Overstory Forest Types	Acres
White Pine - Hardwood	8

Understory Cover Types and Relative Importance

Understory Cover Type	**Relative area covered** (Dominant, Secondary, Minor, None)
Tree seedlings and saplings	Dominant
Mountain laurel	None
Mesic site - witch hazel, highbush blueberry	Minor
Dry site -Huckleberry, blueberry	None
Mesic site - cinnamon fern, mixed hardwood	None
Hayscented fern	None
Invasive shrubs/vines	Minor (barberry)
Other	None

Forest Vegetation Description

Vegetation Topic	Description
General Description, Forest Composition, Stand History, and Harvest History	This site is characterized by its stony soils and outstanding hardwood specimen trees including red oak, white oak, sugar maple, white ash and red maple. It is a mesic site with exposed rocks. The site also contains white pine with overall slower growth and decline. Survey plots taken show that there are small pockets of witch hazel and highbush blueberry, but diverse hardwood regeneration dominates the understory. The compartment has had harvests in 1990, 1992, 1995 and 2006. All of which have responded with an excellent array of hardwoods coming in. The forest is mostly dominated by 100 + year old trees with exception of about 19 acres of regenerated stands that occurred in 2006. The 1938 aerial photos appear to show some scattered damage to this site from the hurricane of 1938.
Advance Regeneration description	Regeneration surveys identified good amounts of diverse advanced regeneration on 87% of the plots including sugar maple, red oak, white oak, red maple, black birch and trace amounts of white pine.
Terrestrial Invasive Plants description	There was a trace amount of barberry associated with the intermittent stream in the northern portion of the five-acre proposal area.

Description of Wetland Resources Present

Resource Type	Description of resources present
Wetlands	None.
Streams	There is one identified intermittent stream in the northern portion of the 4.9 acre proposal area that eventually feeds into long pond.
Vernal pools	None known.
Seeps	One was noted in the proposal area, and the soils are ideal for more in the surrounding area. The area will be avoided.

Description of Soils by Hydric Class

Soil Hydric Classes	% of area	Soil series and any further comments
Excessively Drained	0	
Well-drained Thin	0	
Well-drained thick	0	
Moderately well-drained	100	Woodbridge-Paxton Association, Extremely Stony
Poorly to very poorly drained	0	

Proposed Silvicultural Activities

Topic	Description
Site Selection and Silvicultural Objectives	This is an outstanding hardwood site with rich soils suitable for a large diversity of hardwood tree species. The site demonstrates hardwood capability with specimen white ash, sugar maple, red oak, hickory, red maple and white oak. Hardwoods on rich soils such as this site, grow more vigorously than conifers and become stronger and more resilient to natural disturbances and better able to withstand the rigors of climate change implications. There are areas of white pine (~BA130-210 avg. 166) that have an overall slower growth and decline on the site. The desire is to shift the composition to a more species diverse hardwood mix. This 660 acre compartment also lacks the desired age and vertical diversity. The majority of the overstory trees are between 60-120' tall and are well over 80 years old. The site only has a small component (about 19 acres) of 20-40' tall trees from two previous harvests around 2006 and virtually no young forest currently. The main objective is to release the desirable young hardwood regeneration underneath the white pine overstory.
Silviculture Prescription	This prescription identifies a one acre and a 4.9 acre area to create regeneration openings where both white pine is the dominant overstory (88% of plots taken) and diverse hardwood regeneration (88% of plots taken) is present.

General Climate Change Considerations:

This silvicultural approach aims to significantly improve forest resilience by increasing both vertical structure and species diversity in a stand currently dominated by declining white pine. The site is particularly well suited for the establishment and long-term success of diverse hardwood species. The proposed patch cuts are focused on releasing existing hardwood advanced regeneration which accelerates forest recovery and ensures long-term forest continuity. A more diverse group of trees vigorously growing that are better suited to the site will better handle the challenges that climate change will pose in the future.

DWSP has determined that the decision to implement this project is consistent with EEA climate goals and guidelines and agency land management objectives. Climate change considerations specific to the activities proposed for this project are discussed below.

Proposed Activity	Alignment of Activity with Climate Oriented Strategies and Recommendations
Full overstory removal, partial stand, patch regeneration cut. ***(See page 3, Silviculture Prescription)***	Patch cutting is a regeneration technique that straddles the boundary between classic even-aged and uneven-aged forest management systems. Foresters select appropriate areas ('patches' or 'groups') covering a portion of the stand to harvest rather than removing the entire stand and then return periodically to repeat the process in other portions of the stand. In using patch cutting there is no final regeneration cut. Patch size and shape are determined by many different factors including overstory condition, desired species composition in the regeneration layer, other desirable herbaceous and woody vegetation, location, stand re-entry period, etc. Harvesting in patches aligns with many **climate-smart forestry practices**: • Increasing **structural diversity** improves resiliency by reducing the impact of age/size related disturbances. • Extending regeneration periods minimizes short term impacts to groundwater and nutrient cycling. • Partial stand overstory removals more closely align with **natural disturbance patterns**. • More **carbon is left on the landscape** for longer periods, and within-patch live tree, snag, and coarse debris retention allow for development of old forest characteristics. • Can also be used as opportunities to increase the stocking of **future climate adapted species, current climate imperiled species**, or other types of desirable vegetation
Additional Comments	

Equipment and Access Constraints and Considerations

Constraint Topic	Description and Considerations
Proposed Equipment requirements	None.
Proposed wetland or stream crossings	None.
Further wetland comments	There are no stream or wetland crossings, but the soils are mesic. There is no wetland upstream of the intermittent stream within the proposal area.
Vernal Pools	None known.

Constraint Topic	Description and Considerations
Access improvements needed	Yes, the forest road inside gate CR-1 will need to be improved with gravel and drainage work.
Other EQ issues	None.
In-kind Services	None.
Other Access Concerns (parking, trails, etc.)	This project will be accessed off of the forest road that is part of the mid-state trail for a short distance. Preparations will be made to avoid crossing the mid-state trail in the woods.

Subwatershed Analysis

Sub-Watershed number/name	Total DCR-owned acres in this sub-watershed	Acres regenerated on DCR land in the last 10 years in this sub-watershed	Total DCR-owned acres remaining for regenerating up to the 25% per 10 year limit for this sub-watershed	Acres in this sub-watershed that are part of this proposed lot
Rutland State Park	1083	0	271	5
Parker	2746	0	687	1

Additional comments on Subwatershed analysis:

Wildlife and Habitat Observations and Considerations

Wildlife/Habitat	Observations and Considerations
Natural Heritage Priority Habitats?	None.
State Listed species present:	None known.
Rare Natural Communities:	None known.
General Wildlife Comments	There were deer droppings noted in several locations and a deer spotted in the project area. Little browse pressure was noted in the sample plots conducted throughout the area.

Cultural Resources Description and proposed protection measures

Cultural Resource	Description and proposed protection measures
Historical features present; comments regarding protection	There are stone walls adjacent to the project area with a notable gap in walls where exposed bedrock occurs. No new wall crossings will need to be made to conduct the operation.
Description of site characteristics in relation to Ancient sites modeling or other verified evidence	This site has extremely stony soils. The slope in the project area varies from less than 7% to more than 20%. At its closest, the project area is about a thousand feet (of steep grade) from Long Pond.

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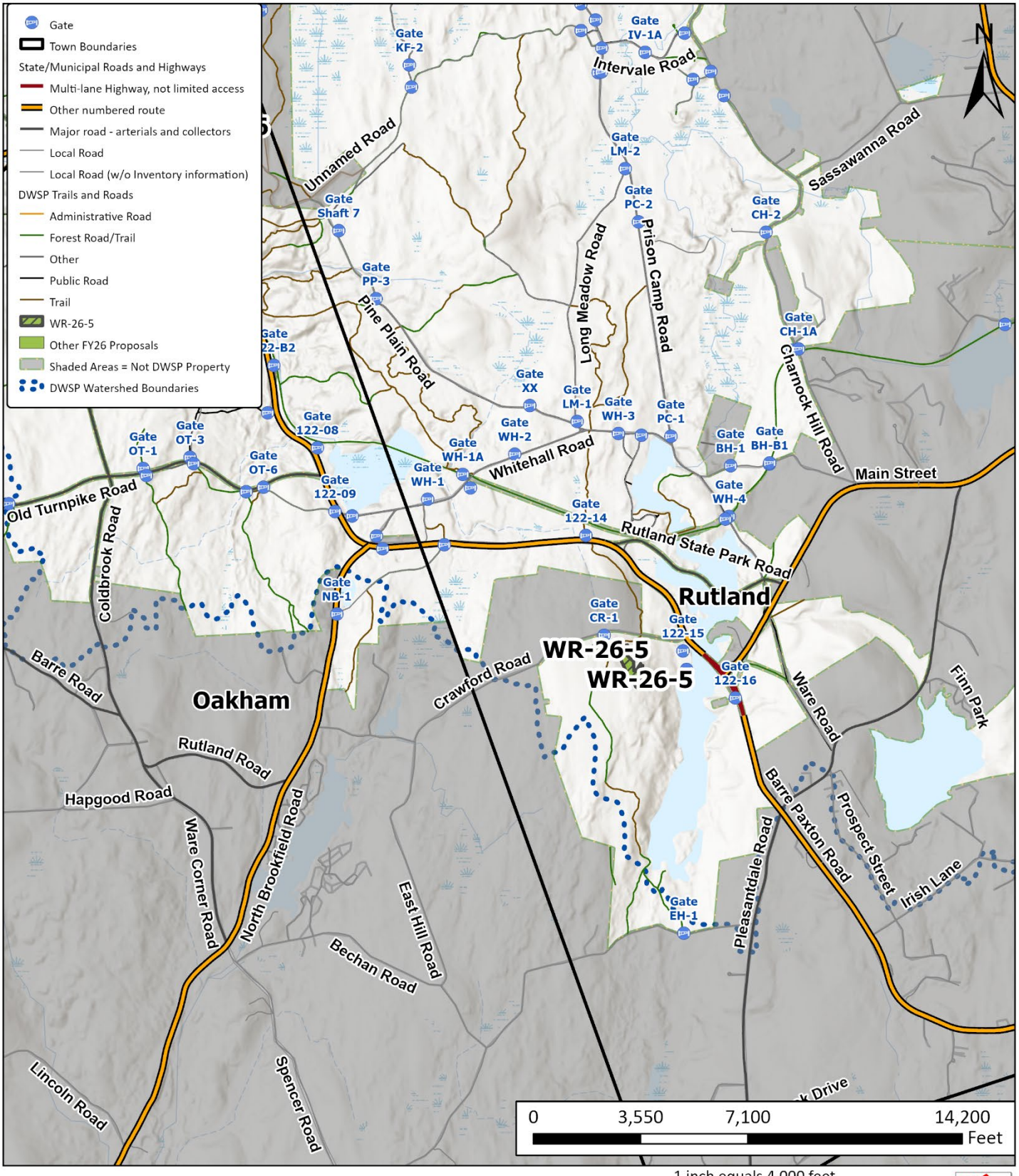
WR-26-5 -- Locus Map



1 inch equals 4,000 feet

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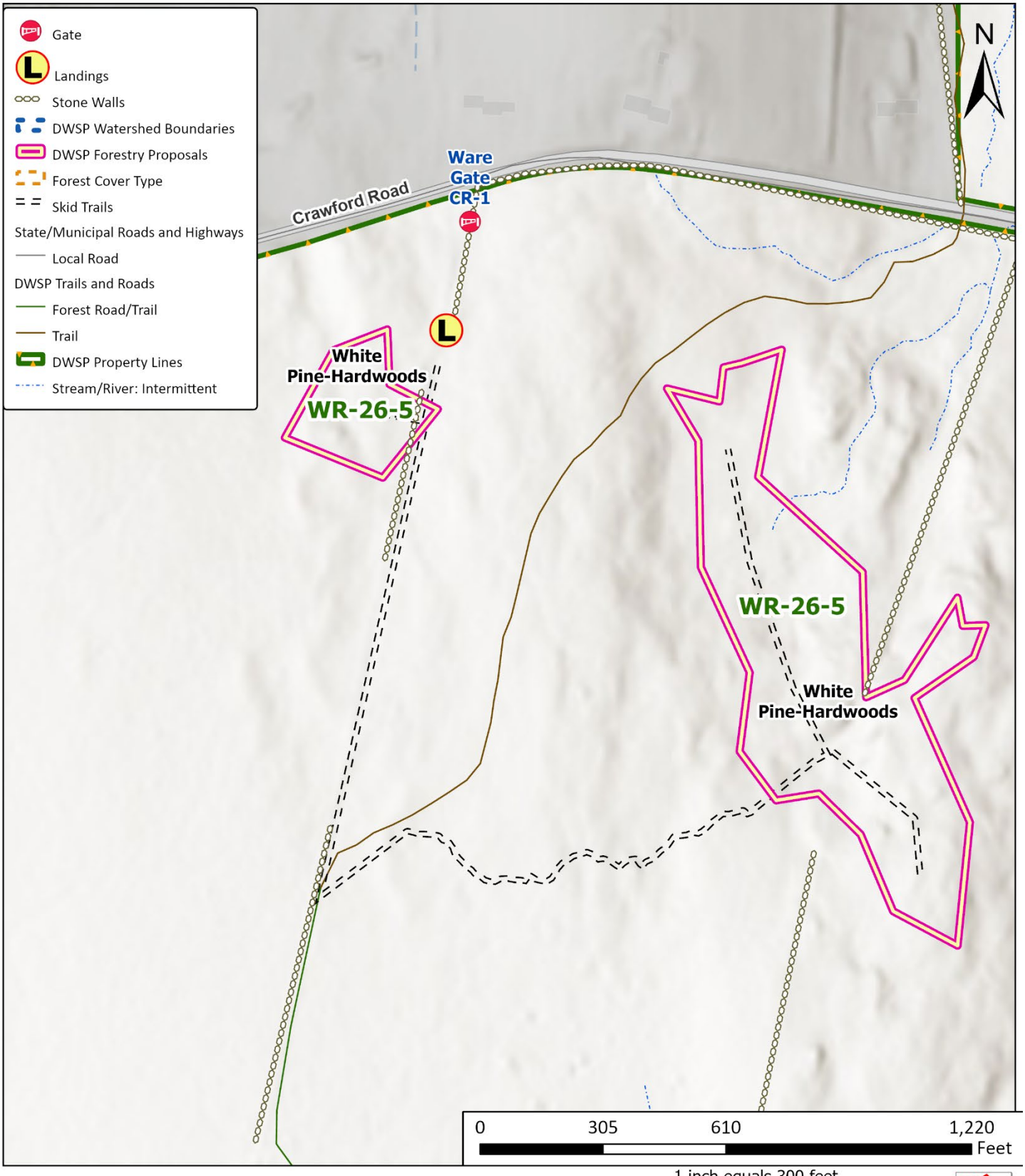
WR-26-5 -- Stand Map



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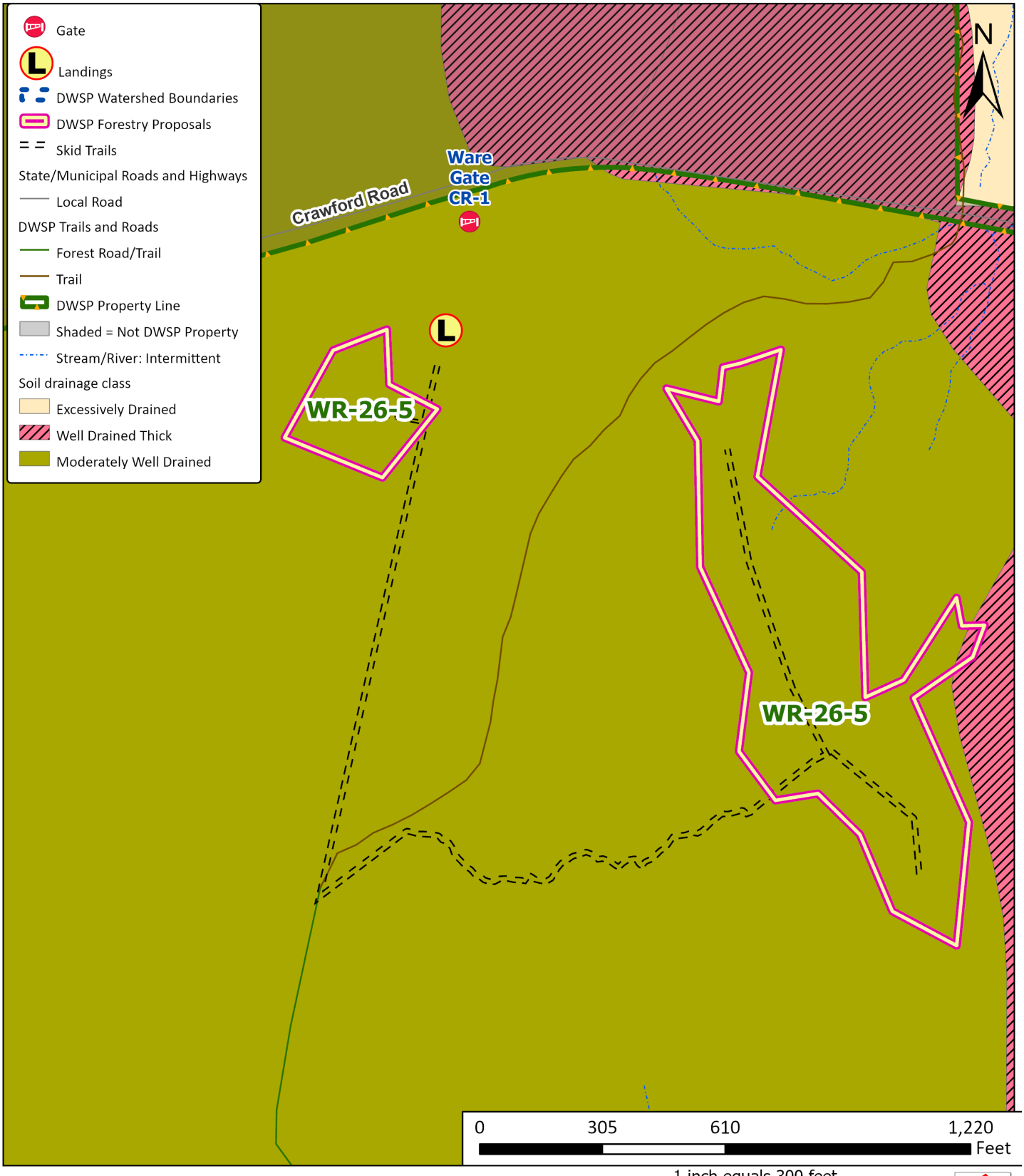
WR-26-5 -- Soil Drainage Classes



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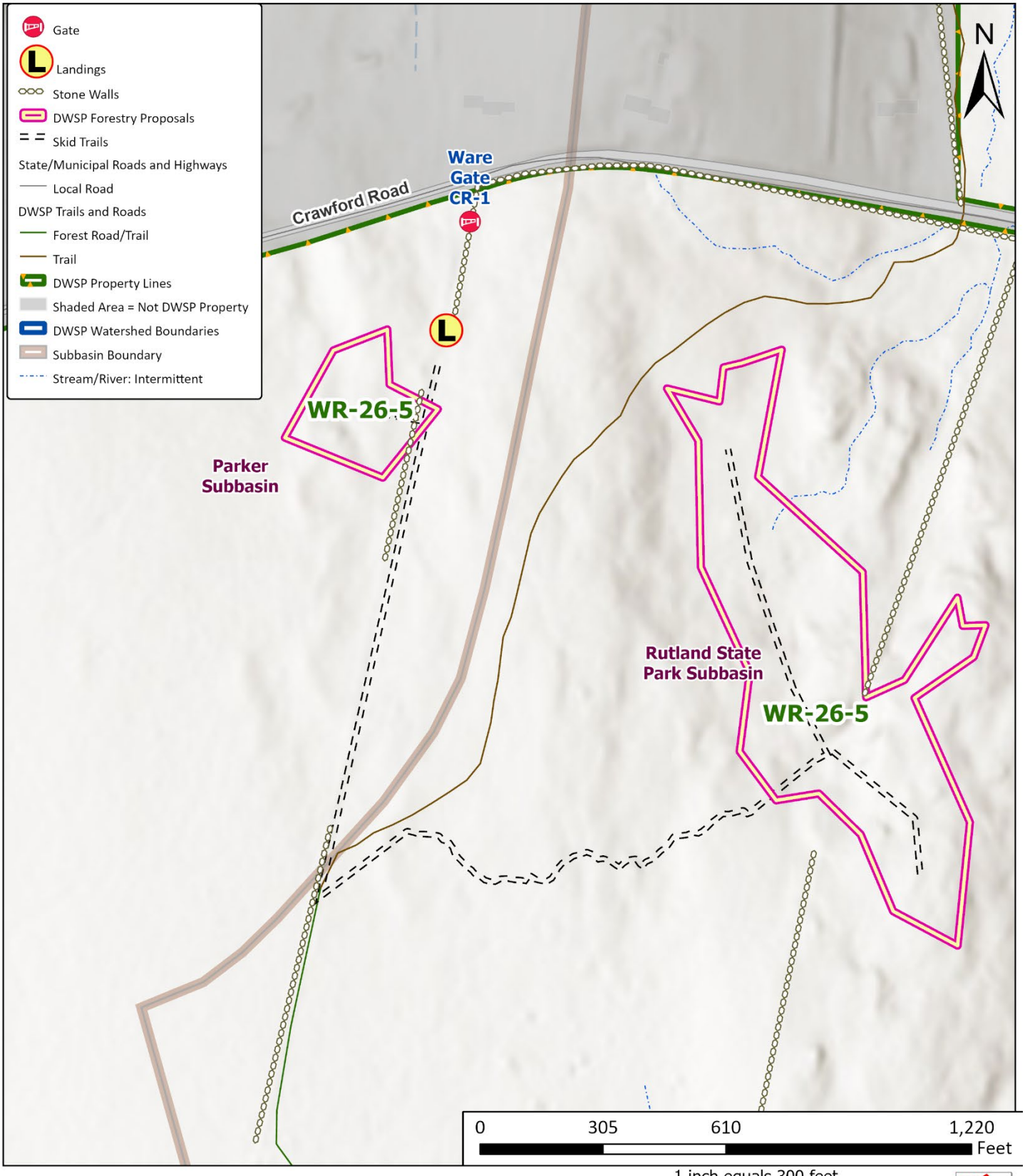
WR-26-5 -- Wetlands and Wildlife Resources



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WR-26-5 -- Cultural Resources and Landscape Characteristics