



**Adirondack
Park Agency**



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Park Agency**

P2026-0108

The Lyme Timber Company

Agency Meeting Presentation

August 13, 2026

Background

Agency Timber Harvest Permits

- Avoidance of Agency Jurisdiction
 - Can lead to poor silviculture
 - Decrease in forest health and value long term
- Better Practice:
 - Industrial Forestland Managers come forward
 - Communication and Efficiencies
 - Third Party Certification (FSC and SFI)
 - NYS Working Forest Conservation Easements
 - Applications are well prepared and well positioned for an efficient Agency review process
- Since 2013
 - 40 timber harvest projects reviewed
 - 17 reviewed by full Agency Board
 - 30 compliance site visits

Third Party Certification

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC); Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)

- Conservation of biological diversity; protection of species at risk
- Maintenance of soil and water resources
- Ensure sustainable harvest levels
- Reforest harvested areas; and protect from deforestation and land use conversion
- Protect and maintain special sites (biological and cultural)
- Require third party audit

Delegated Authority of DDRP

- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and/or Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Certification
- New York State Working Forest Conservation Easement
- Under 500-acre harvest site
- Absence of difficult resource considerations

Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction

Class A Project in Resource Management
810(1)(e)(11)

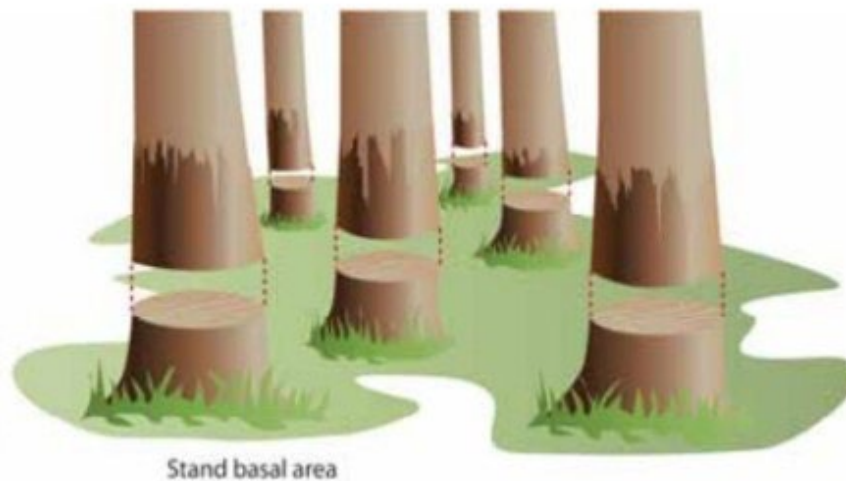
“Timber harvesting that includes a proposed clearcutting of any single unit of land of more than twenty-five acres”

“Clearcutting” means any cutting of all or substantially all trees over six inches in diameter at breast height over any ten-year cutting cycle

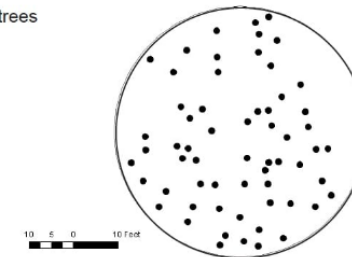
Jurisdiction

9 NYCRR Part 573.7(a)(1)

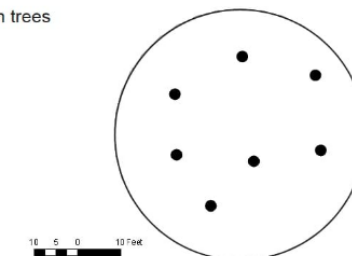
cutting of trees over **6" dbh** over any **10-year period**, such that the average residual basal area of such trees after such cutting is less than **30 ft² /acre**, measured within the area harvested ...



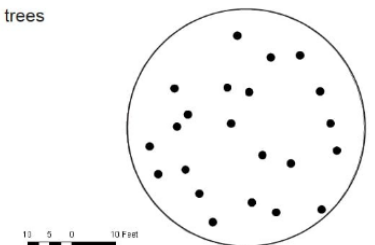
6-in trees



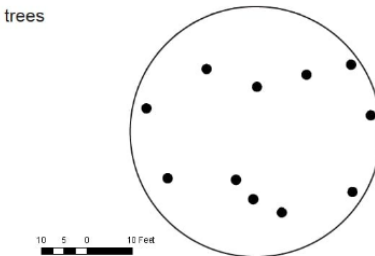
18-in trees



10-in trees



14-in trees

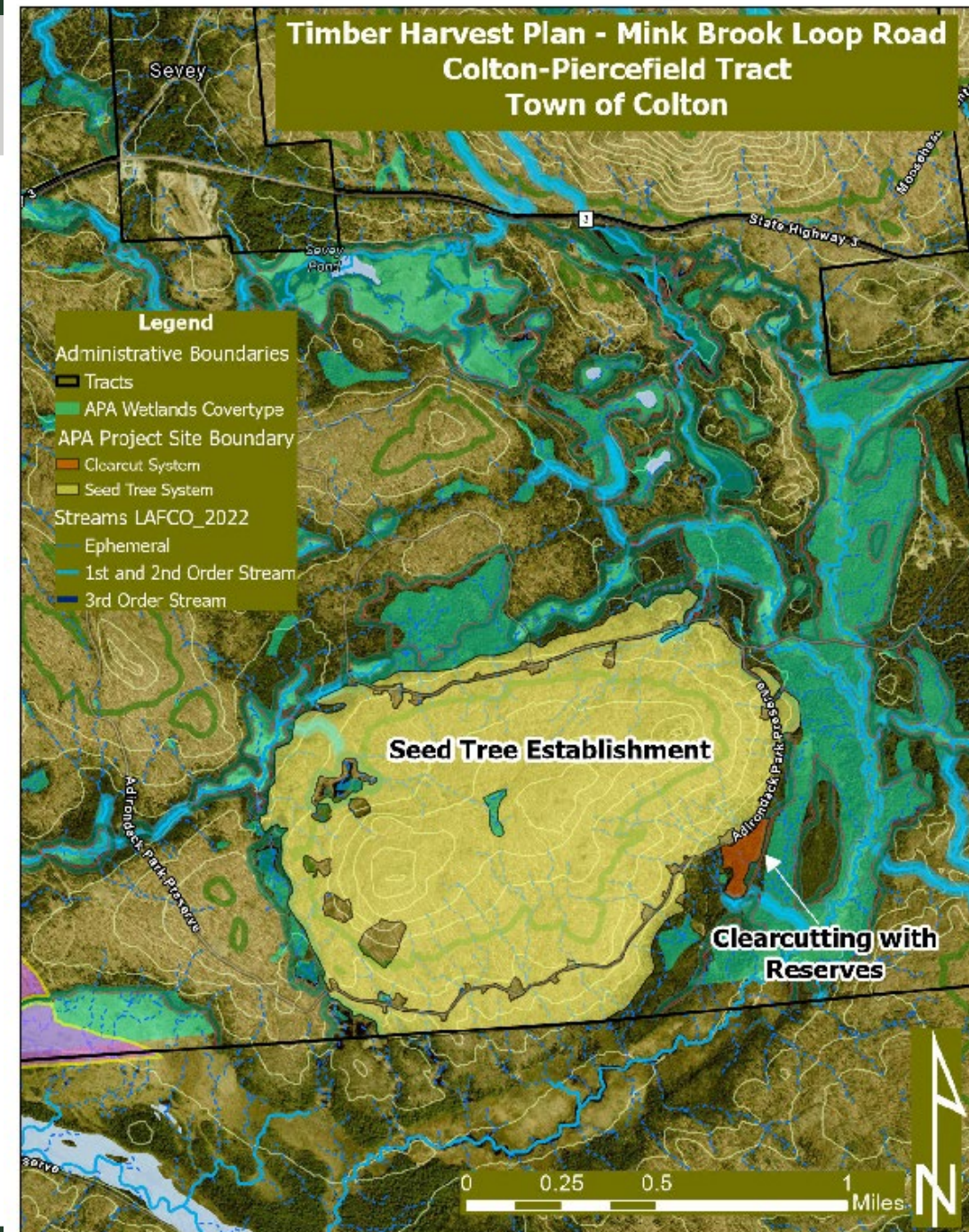


Proposal

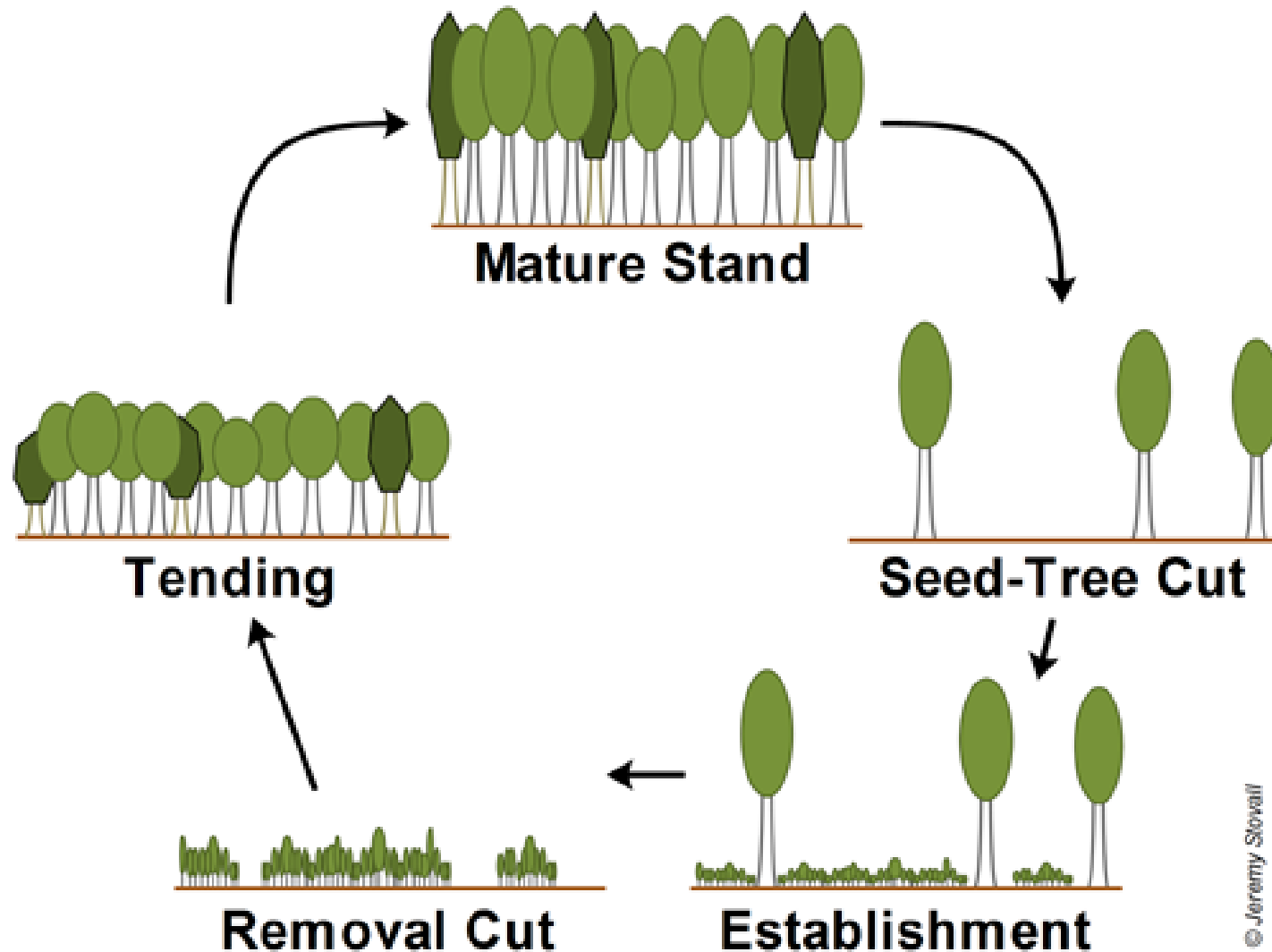
Proposal

Timber harvest on 680± acre project site, to include two silvicultural treatments:

- 1) Seed Tree Establishment (672± acres);
- 2) Clearcut with Reserves (8± acres).

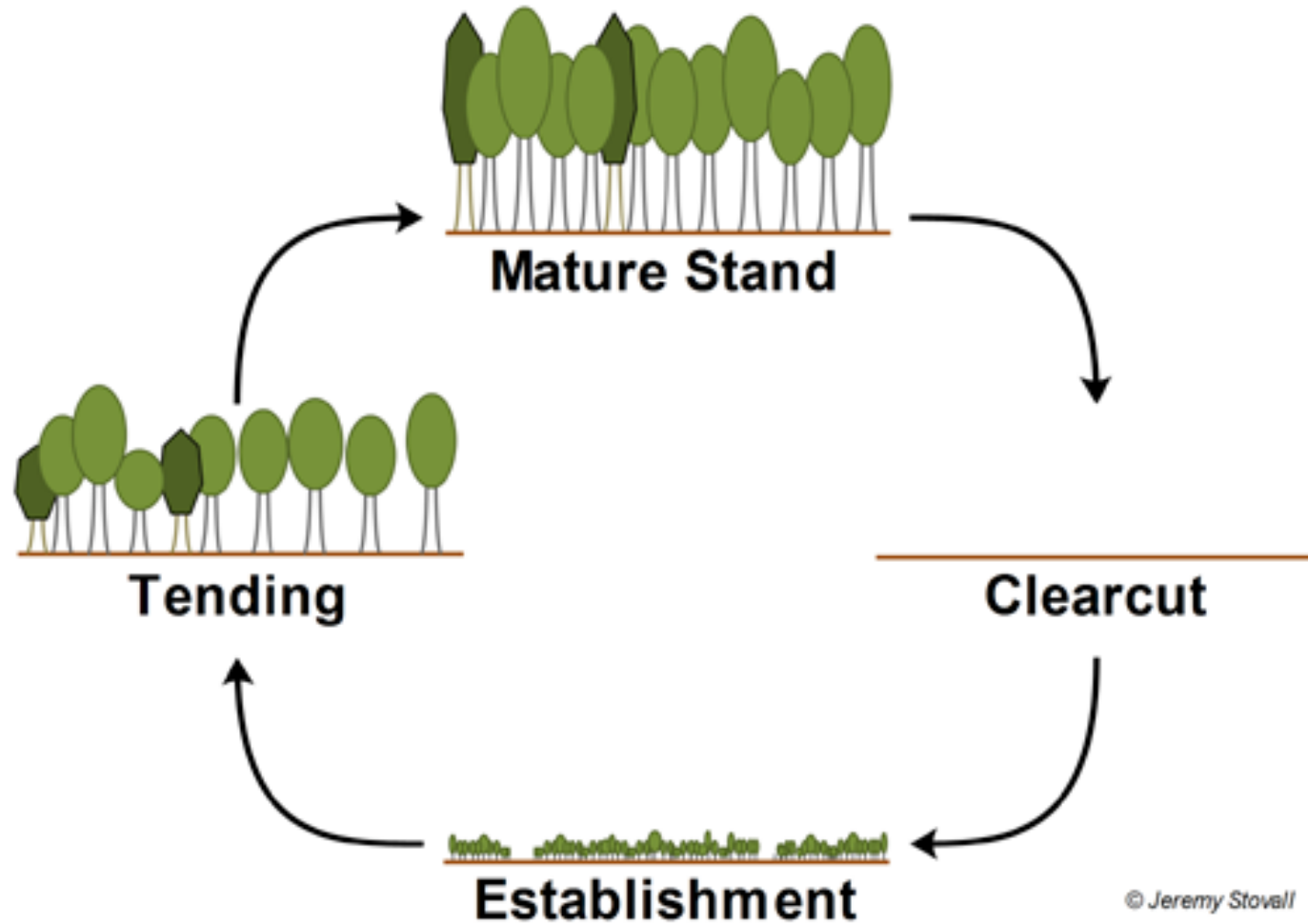


Seed Tree Establishment – 672 Acres



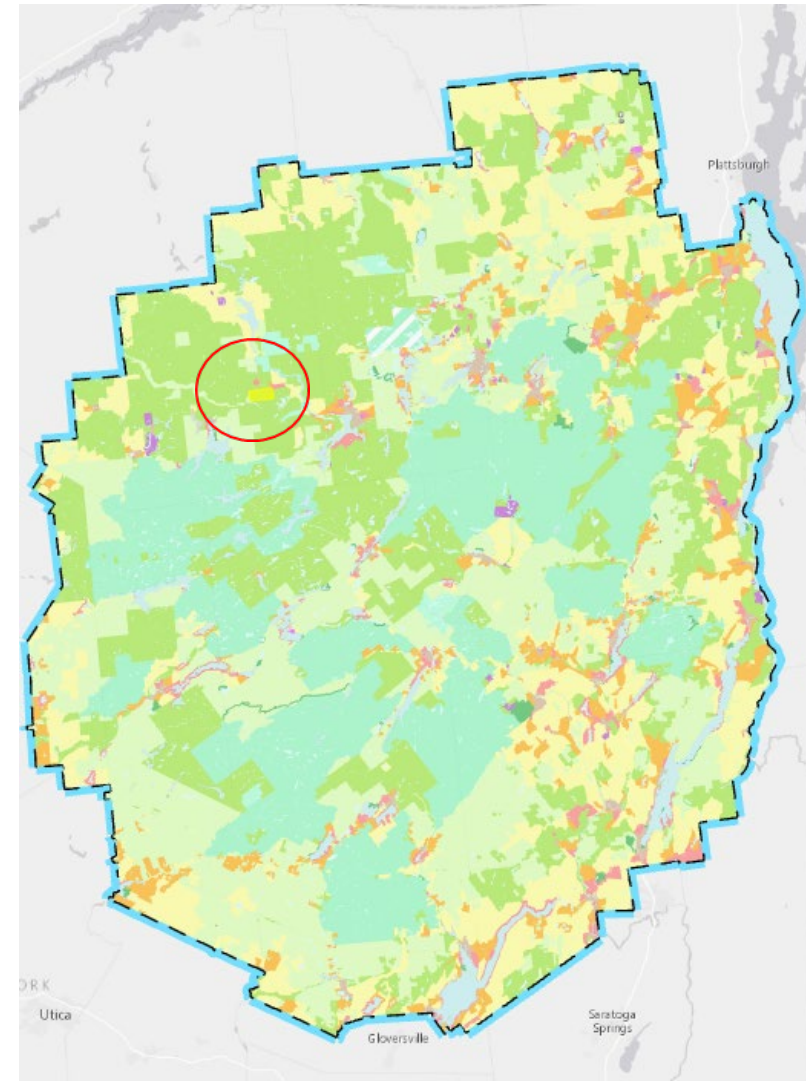
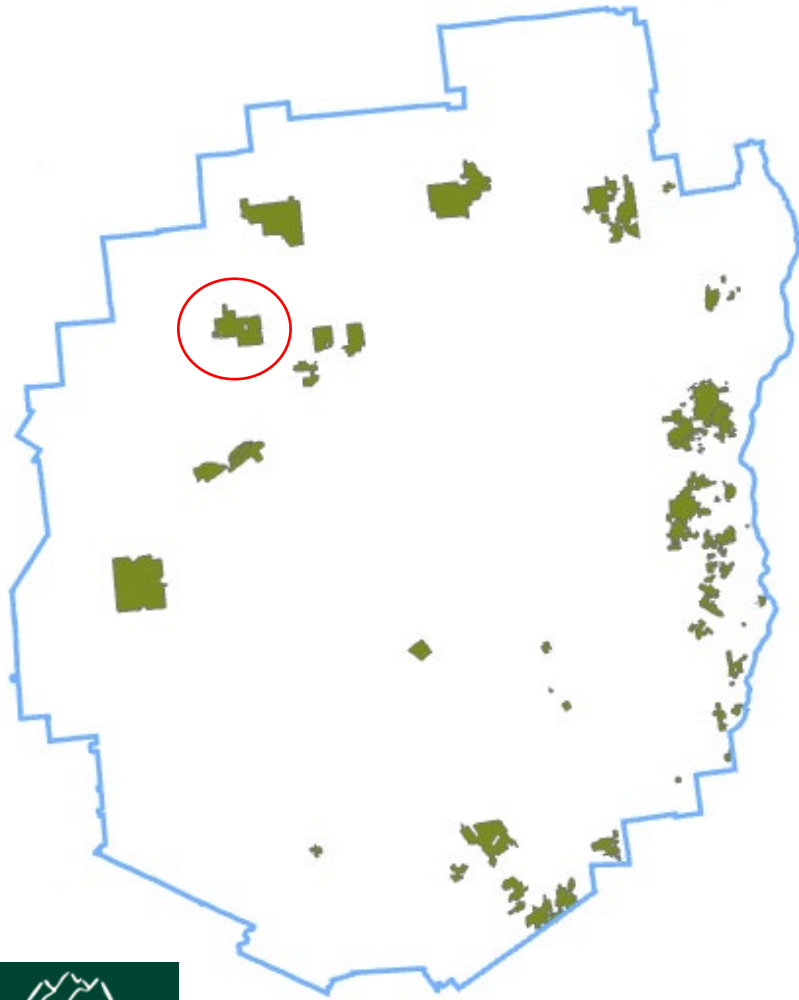


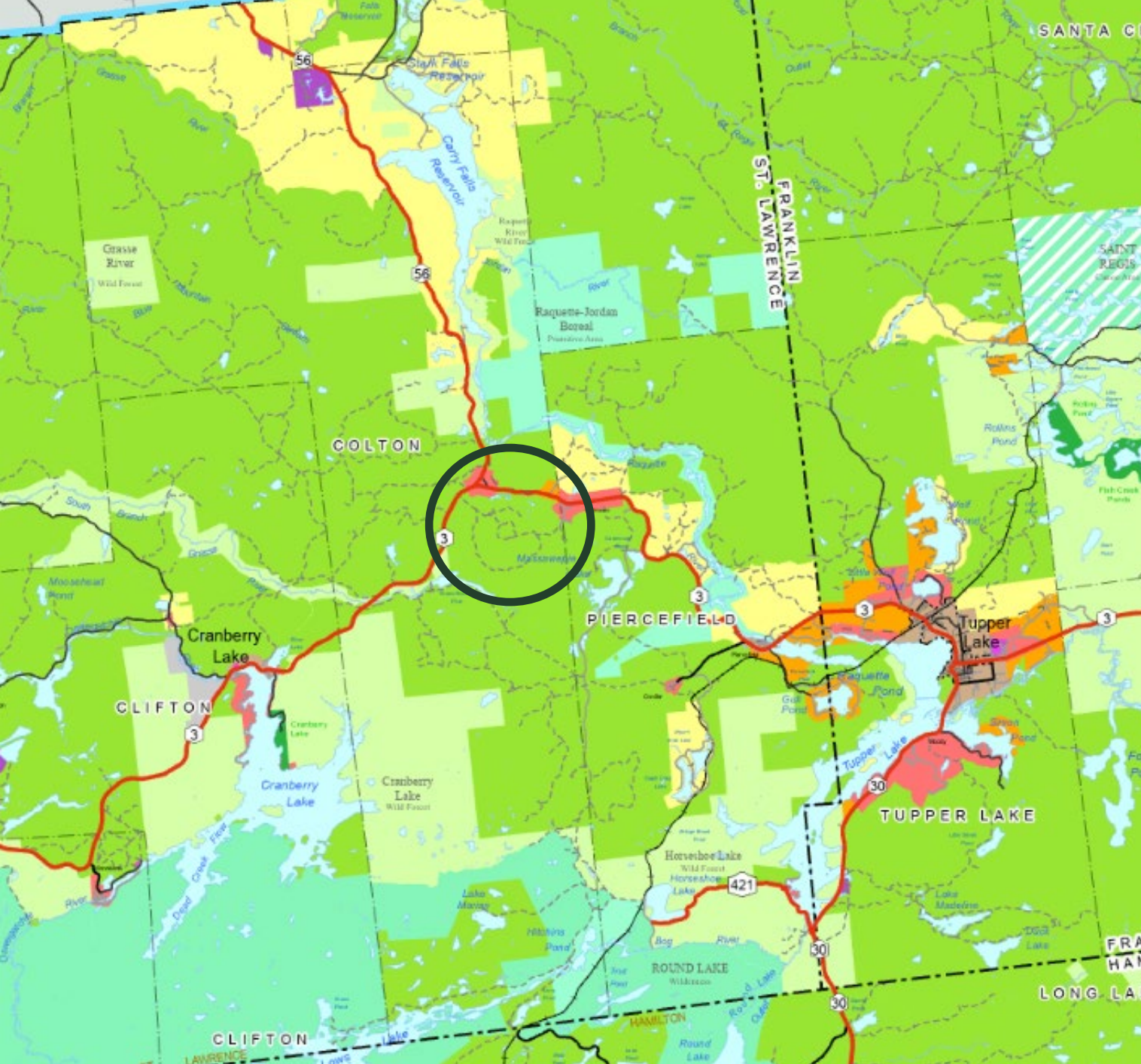
Clearcut with Reserves – 8 Acres



Project Site

Lyme Adirondack Timber Landholdings





Resource Management areas are those lands where the need to protect, manage and enhance forest, agricultural, recreational and open space resources is of paramount importance because of overriding natural resource and public considerations. Open space uses, including forest management, agriculture and recreational activities, are found throughout these areas.

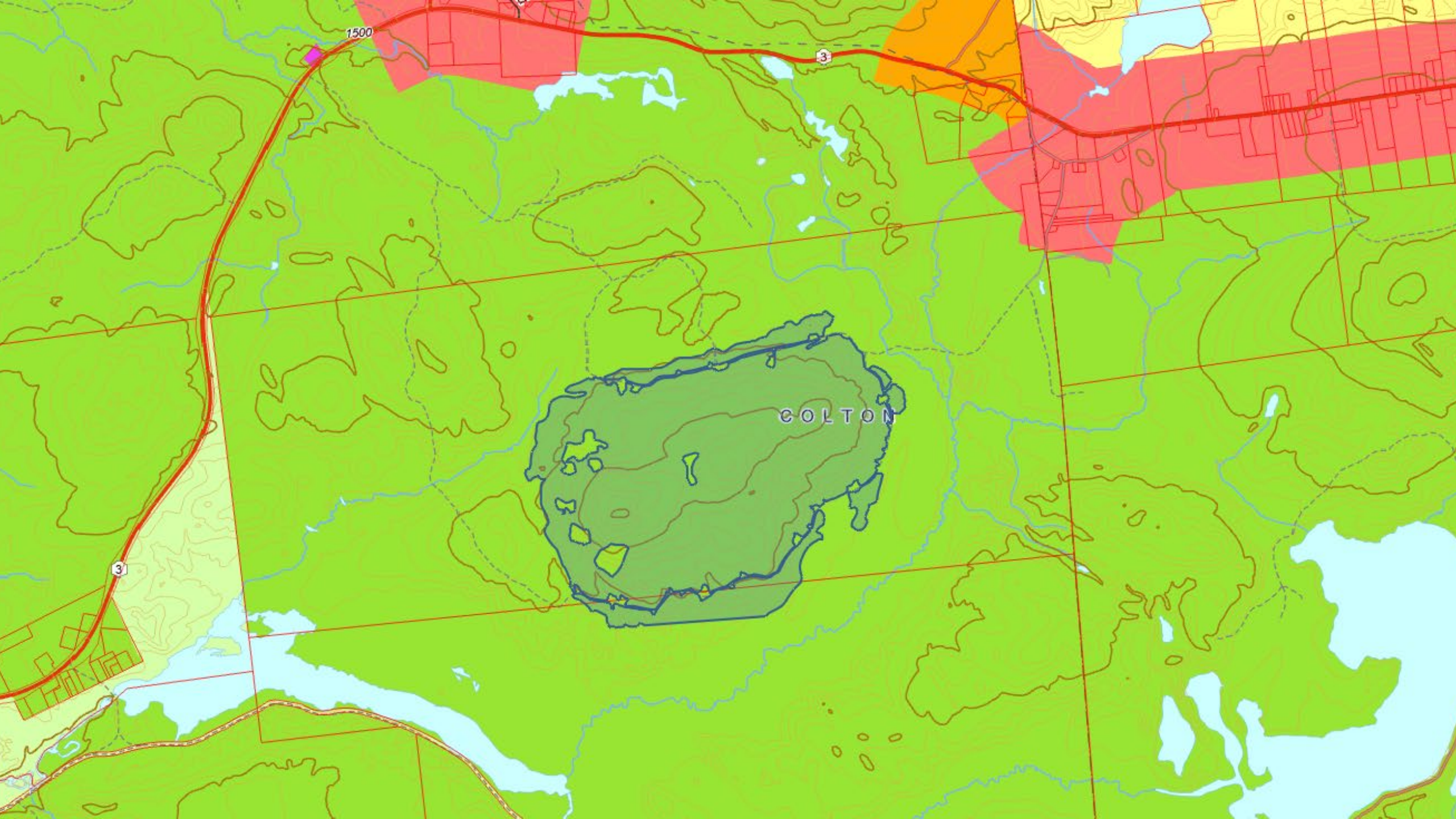
...include extensive tracts under active forest management that are vital to the wood using industry and necessary to insure its raw material needs.

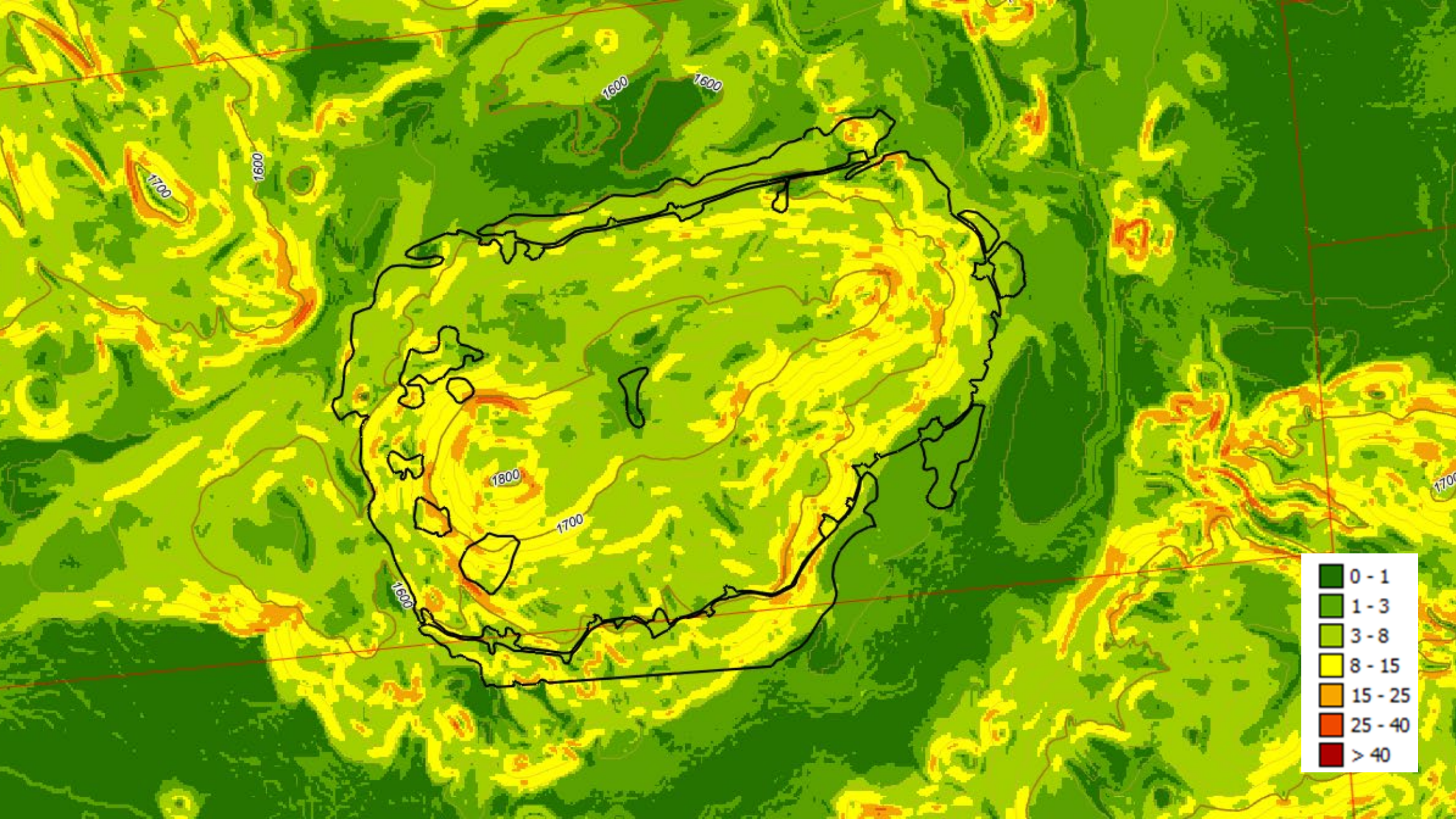
An aerial photograph of a rural landscape with a mix of green fields and brown patches. A large, irregular area is highlighted in a solid green color. Within this green area, there is a smaller, roughly oval-shaped region outlined in black. The text is located in the upper right corner of the image.

234,000 acres = Lyme Ownership

16,262 acres = This Tract

680 acres = This Harvest







Town of Piercefield
Town of Colton

Mink Brook

Grass
over Flow







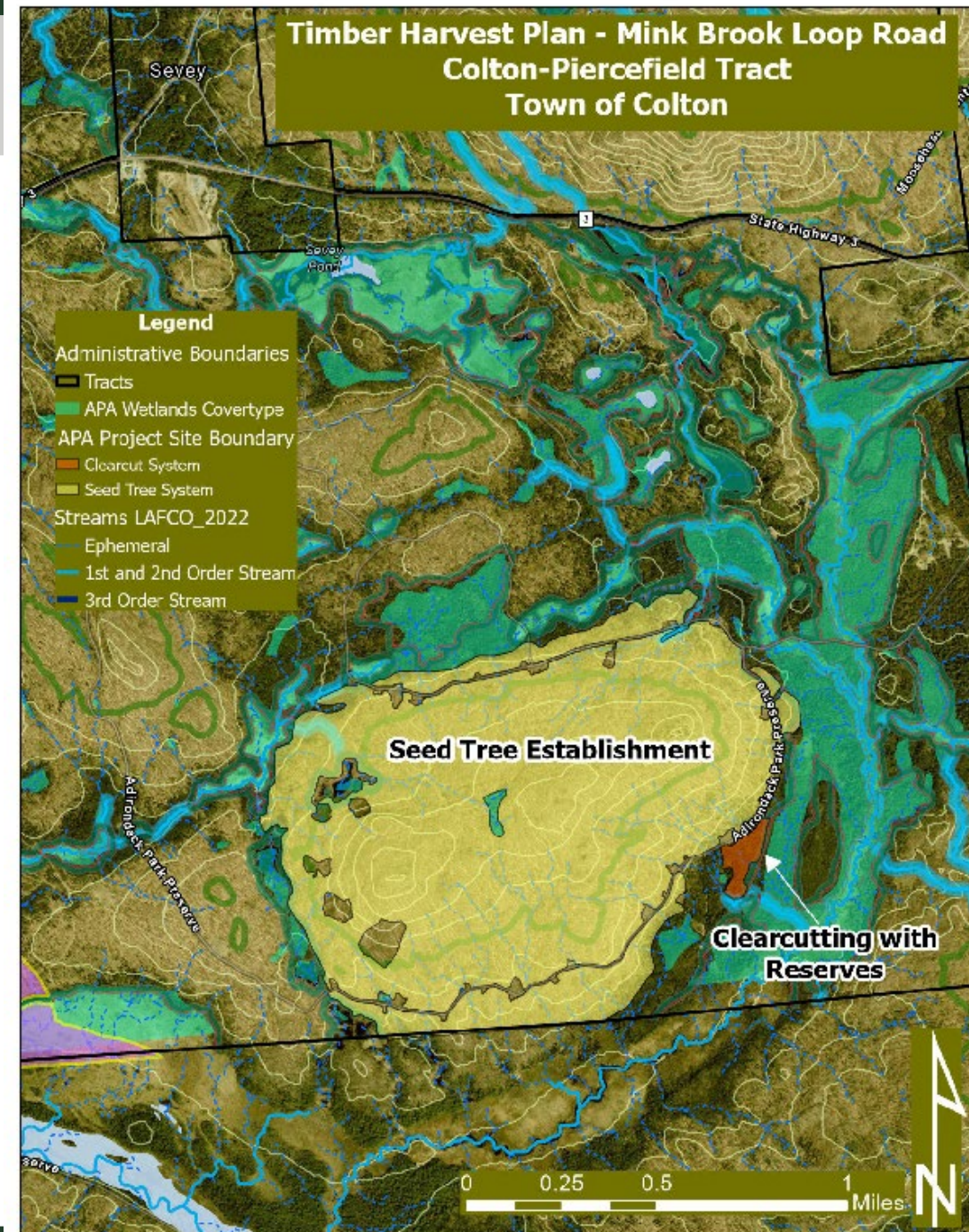


Silvicultural Treatments

Proposal

Timber harvest on 680± acre project site, to include two silvicultural treatments:

- 1) Seed Tree Establishment (672± acres);
- 2) Clearcut with Reserves (8± acres).



Silvicultural Treatments: 1

Seed Tree Establishment (672± acres)

- Stand Conditions (Timber Harvest Plan):
 - Overstory → 68 ft²/ac.; Mixed Northern Hardwoods (beech, yellow birch, sugar maple, cherry, red maple, balsam fir, red spruce). 20% is acceptable growing stock. 80% is unacceptable growing stock;
 - Understory → (beech, yellow birch, cherry, red maple, sugar maple, balsam fir). 23% is acceptable growing stock. 77% is unacceptable growing stock

Silvicultural Treatments: 1

Seed Tree Establishment (672± acres)

Treatment:

- Seed trees will be marked to leave. Leave 10 – 15 sq ft basal area of healthy, desirable seed tree growing stock (mostly yellow birch, also maple, cherry, spruce and ash). All other stems over 6" dbh will be harvested.
- Retain desirable pockets of advanced regeneration (acceptable growing stock, desirable species). Remove all other regeneration.
- Skidders to scarify soil surface to create a ready seed bed for propagation of desirable regeneration.

Silvicultural Treatments: 2

Clearcut with Reserves (8 ± acres)

- Stand Conditions (Timber Harvest Plan):
 - Overstory → 140 ft²/ac.; Balsam Flats (balsam fir (57%), cherry (36%), red maple (7%)). 100% is unacceptable growing stock;
 - Understory → Negligible. None captured in pre-harvest sampling.

Silvicultural Treatments: 2

Clearcut with Reserves (8 ± acres)

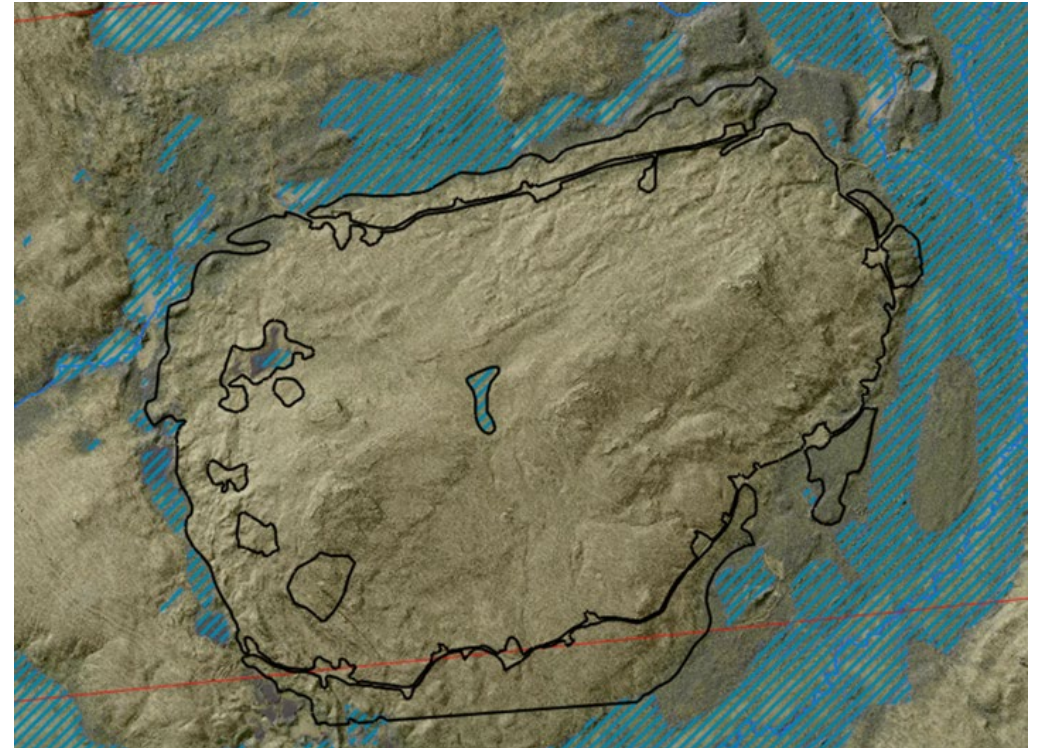
- Treatment:
 - Reserve trees will be marked to leave. All other merchantable and non merchantable stems to be removed
 - Skidders to scarify soil surface to create a ready seed bed for propagation of desirable regeneration

Riparian Management Zones

Buffering Protocols in Accordance with Forest Management Plan

100-foot Riparian Management Zones (RMZs):

- Graduated operable buffers
- Maintain 80% - 90% crown closure within 25'
- Maintain 60% crown closure from 26' – 100'
- Minimize operation of machinery within RMZ
- Retain trees with cavities, standing dead trees, and large potential cavity trees
- Apply *NYS Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality*



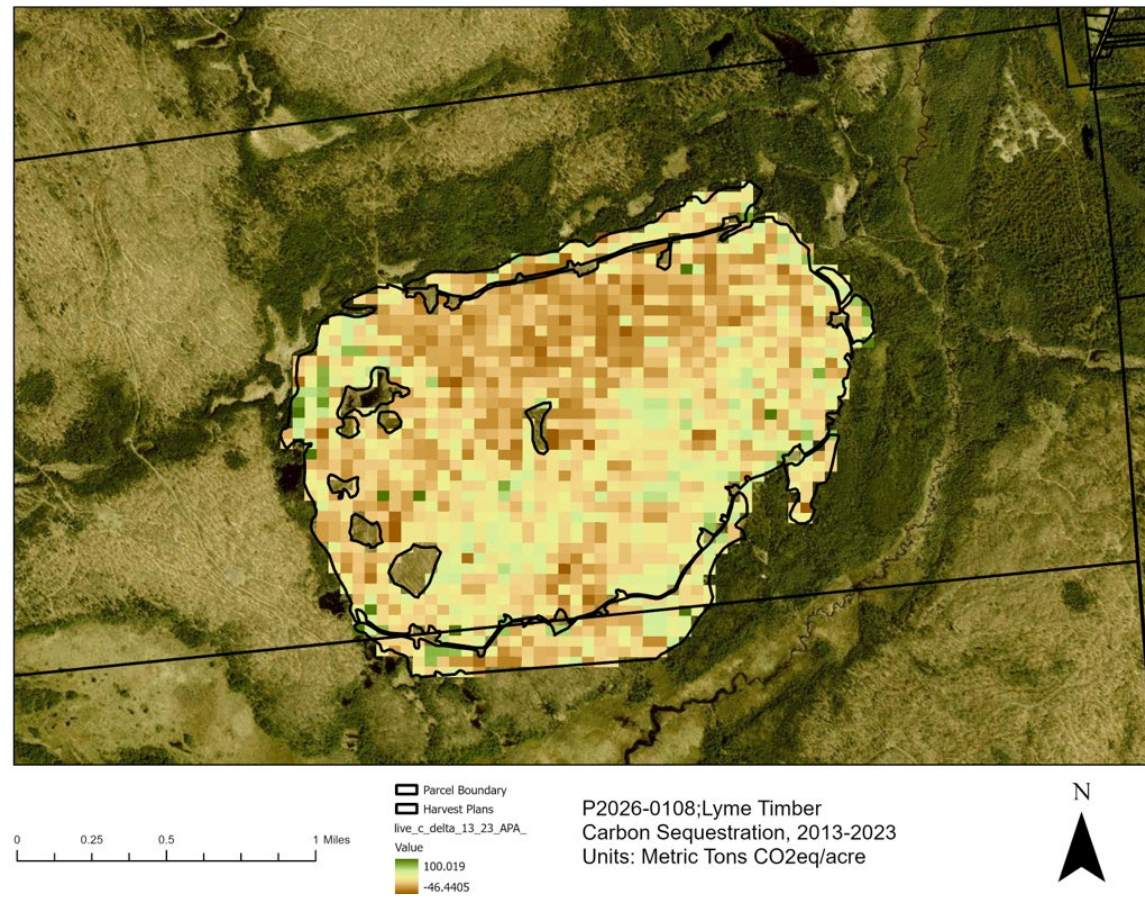
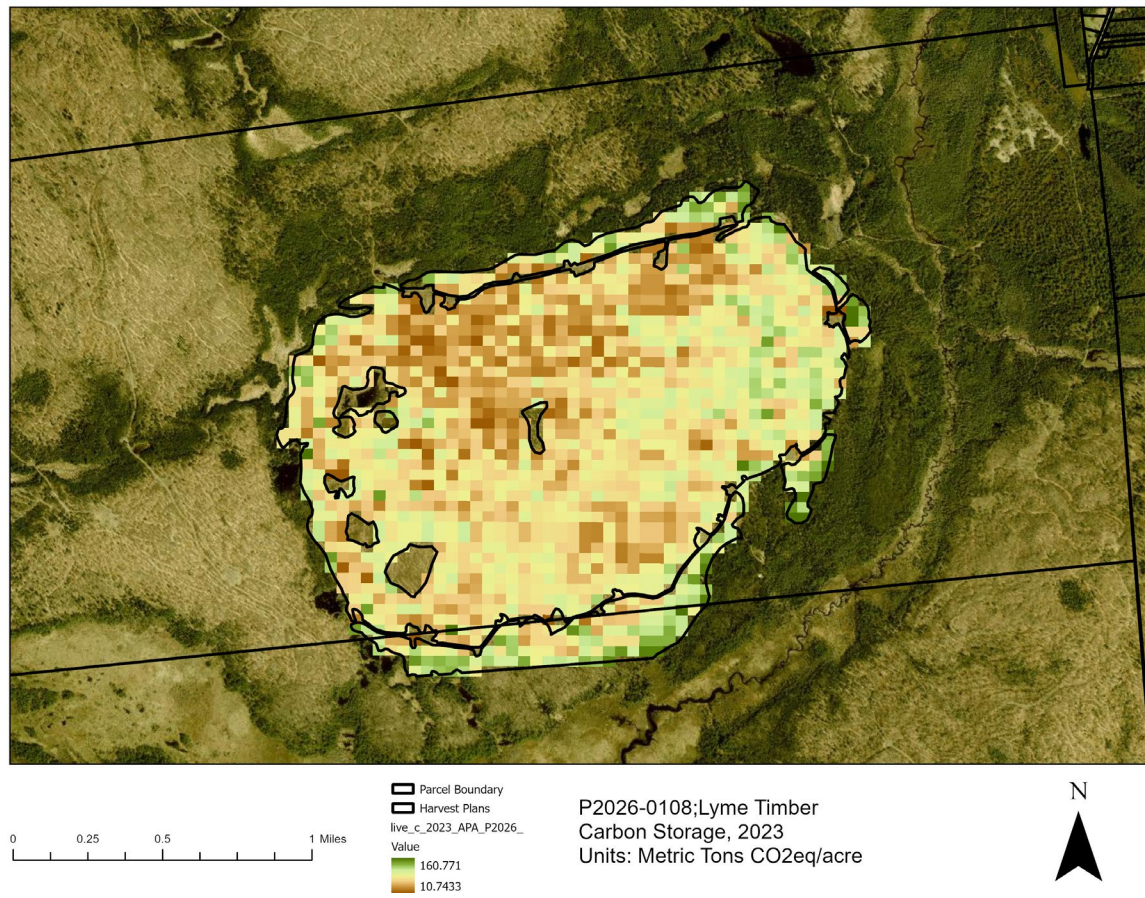
Spruce Grouse Consultation

Staff requested the applicant consult with NYSDEC regarding potential spruce grouse habitat in balsam flats

- Avoid activity during the brooding period (May 15 – July 15). (This will be a late summer/autumn harvest)
- Consider silviculture that leaves a mixture of patch cuts and mature blocks of tamarack, balsam and spruce.
- Tamarack and spruce aren't present in the stand to be harvested, but areas adjoining the clearcut patch do have these species.
- Spruce grouse appear to benefit from a mix of patch cutting and mature conifer cover



Carbon Storage & Sequestration



Review Standards

Review Standards – 573.7(d)

1. The clearcutting is for a recognized silvicultural purpose

The Seed Tree System and Clearcut with Reserves as proposed are standard, recognized silvicultural practices designed to regenerate forest stands, which is the intent of the proposal.

2. There are adequate buffers on the shorelines of lakes, ponds, rivers or streams; along major travel corridors, and, if necessary, around dwellings on adjacent lands, so as to preserve water quality and visual quality and to control noise

Riparian buffering protocol (RMZ's) to wetlands and intermittent streams as laid out in the forest management plan is acceptable to Agency staff. There are no lakes, ponds or rivers on the project site. There are no neighbors or major travel corridors nearby.

Review Standards – 573.7(d)

3. Habitats of rare and endangered species and other key wildlife habitats will be protected

Potential spruce grouse habitat identified and addressed with DEC consultation. No other rare, threatened or endangered species habitats identified.

4. Regeneration of timber is assured

The proposed silviculture is designed for regeneration, and is intended to create optimal conditions to promote regeneration.

5. If proposed, and if allowed by the agency, any use of pesticides and herbicides will be strictly controlled

Pesticide and herbicide use is not proposed or authorized

Review Standards – 573.7(d)

6. Harvest will be controlled by qualified personnel by contract, marked stand, direct supervision, or other adequate means

- The stand will be marked by a professional forester. Contracted logging crew will be under regular supervision by the forester.

7. Wood roads and skid trails will be located, and equipment will be operated, so as to minimize erosion on slopes and elsewhere

- Existing roads and skid trails will be used where possible. Establishment of skid trails will be in accordance with *NYS Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality: BMP Field Guide*

Review Standards – 573.7(d)

8. The storage, mixing, or bulk handling of fuel, chemicals, or other hazardous materials will be strictly controlled

- Hazardous materials, including fuel, oil, and hydraulic fluid, will be managed in accordance with the NYS Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality and NYSDEC regulations. This includes proper techniques for storage and disposal of hazardous materials, and appropriate response to spill remediation.

9. The latest edition of the *New York State Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality: BMP Field Guide* will be adhered to, at a minimum

- BMP's are referenced as a controlling document in Lyme's Forest Management Plan and Timber Harvest Plan.

Review Standards – 573.7(d)

10. The agency is able to make the findings required by section 809(9) or section 809(10) of the Adirondack Park Agency Act and by Part 574 of this Title.

- These are the standard conclusions of law for all projects, in this case for a town with an Agency Approved Local Land Use Program (ALLUP; 809(9)):
 - The project meets all pertinent requirements and conditions of the ALLUP.
 - The project would not have an undue adverse impact upon the natural, scenic, aesthetic, ecological, wildlife, historic, recreational or open space resources of the park or upon the ability of the public to provide supporting facilities and services made necessary by the project, taking into account the commercial, industrial, residential, recreational or other benefits that might be derived from the project.

Public Comment

Public Notice

- Adjoining landowners notified when application was received, also when application was completed
- Environmental Notice Bulletin: Comment period ended July 30, 2026
- Project posted for comment on the Agency's website
- 4 comment letters received
- Concerns → 3 Letters
- Supportive → 1 Letter

Public Comment

- Conservation Easement
 - Primary purpose: “Ensure the professional management of forest resources so that the protected property and any tracts conveyed therefrom, remain available for sustainable forestry in perpetuity.” (CE Section 1.1)
- Baseline Mapping
 - Is provided on the timber harvest plan map. Additional mapping is available in house. Operators will have mobile mapping of the harvest site and sensitive resources available during the harvest. Staff site visit completed 5/28/2026 included review of wetland resources.

Public Comment

- Natural Resource Survey
 - A biological survey is not indicated for this project, a forestry proposal with no proposed development. Forestry impacts are temporary. Proposal avoids sensitive resources and applies Riparian Management Zones.
- Significant Natural Communities
 - There are no NYS Natural Heritage Program Significant Natural Communities within the boundaries of the proposal, although they do exist within ¼ mile of the harvest area. Harvest areas adjacent to these features will be protected with Riparian Management Zones.
- Riparian Buffers
 - As described in Forest Management Plan.

Public Comment

- Stream Crossings
 - There are no DEC classified streams, or any permanent streams, on the project site. There are intermittent streams, and these crossings will be temporary and installed in accordance with *NYS Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality*.
- DEC Grass River Complex Unit Management Plan (UMP)
 - DEC UMP's have no jurisdiction over private lands. Spruce grouse consultation with DEC completed – resulted in no concerns with the proposal. Spruce grouse habitat is isolated to 8-acre clearcut with reserves area.

Public Comment

- Carbon Impact
 - No conversion of land use.
 - Harvested areas will regenerate through recognized silvicultural practices.
 - Carbon stored in harvested trees will continue to be stored in manufactured wood products.
 - Conservation easement lands will never be converted to other developed uses.

Review by Others

- Town of Colton: Approved Local Land Use Program Consultation
- NYSDEC: Conservation Easement Oversight
- NYSDEC: Forestry Tax Program Oversight (480-a)
- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Regular Audits

Staff Recommendation / Draft Permit Conditions

Staff Recommendation: Approve with Conditions

Conditions

- Undertake project as proposed in timber harvest plan
- Maintain third party certification
- Adherence to *NYS Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality* (BMP's)
- Post-harvest assessment form documenting compliance with the timber harvest plan and BMP's

Conclusions of Law

The Agency has considered all statutory and regulatory criteria for project approval set forth in the Adirondack Park Agency Act and 9 NYCRR Parts 573.7 and 574 . The Agency hereby finds that the project authorized as conditioned herein:

- a. will meet all of the pertinent requirements and conditions of the approved local land use program of the Town of Colton; and
- b. will not have an undue adverse impact upon the natural, scenic, aesthetic, ecological, wildlife, historic, recreational or open space resources of the Park or upon the ability of the public to provide supporting facilities and services made necessary by the project.



**Adirondack
Park Agency**