

# Town Forest Management Plan

Jim Oehler, Certified Wildlife Biologist, Hollis, NH



#### Town Forests

- Authorities RSA 31:110-113; RSA 41:11-a;
- Established by town vote;
- Managed by a forestry committee.

Purpose - to encourage and demonstrate good forest management.

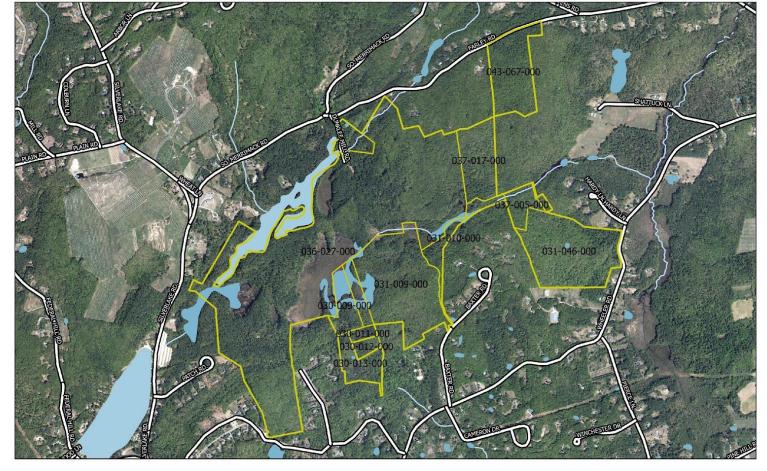




# Forestry Committee

#### Goals

- 1. To demonstrate good forest management;
- 2. Provide diverse and meaningful outdoor recreation opportunities;
- 3. Wildlife and natural resource conservation



Town of Hollis - Town Forest Tax Lots

	0	1000	2000 ft
 North	D.		

#### 575 acres – 12 tax lots

Acquisitions 1916 - 2019



#### Management History

• 1950s - 90s



Pruning, thinning, and improvement cutting – remove poor quality trees and improve growth.



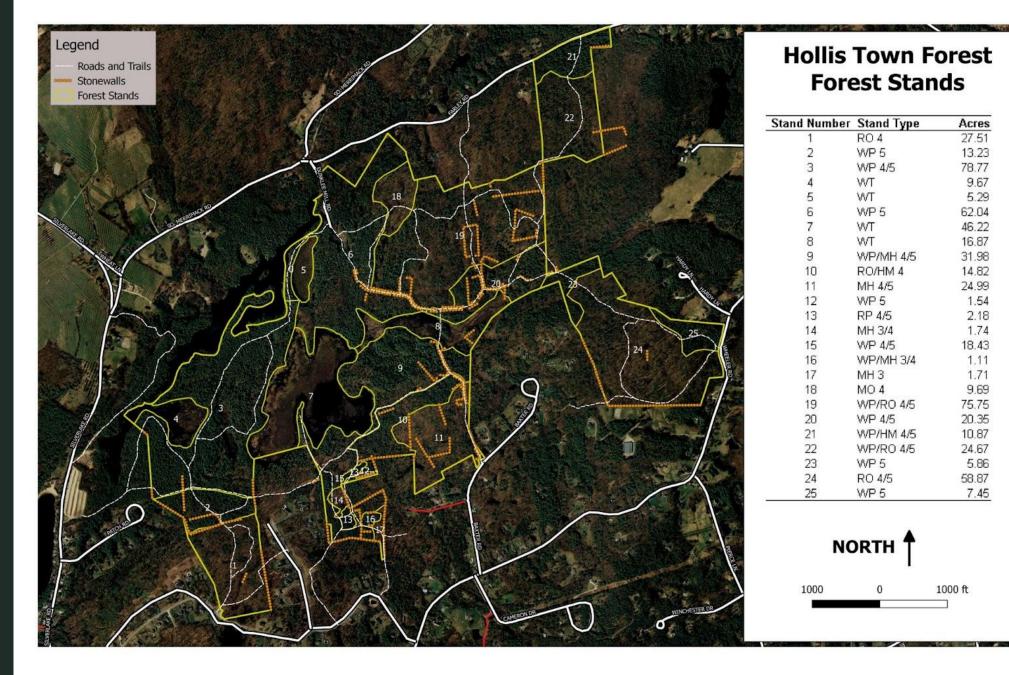
#### Management History

• 1970s - Today



More extensive harvests – Reap the benefits of past tending, generate revenue, and enhance wildlife habitat.



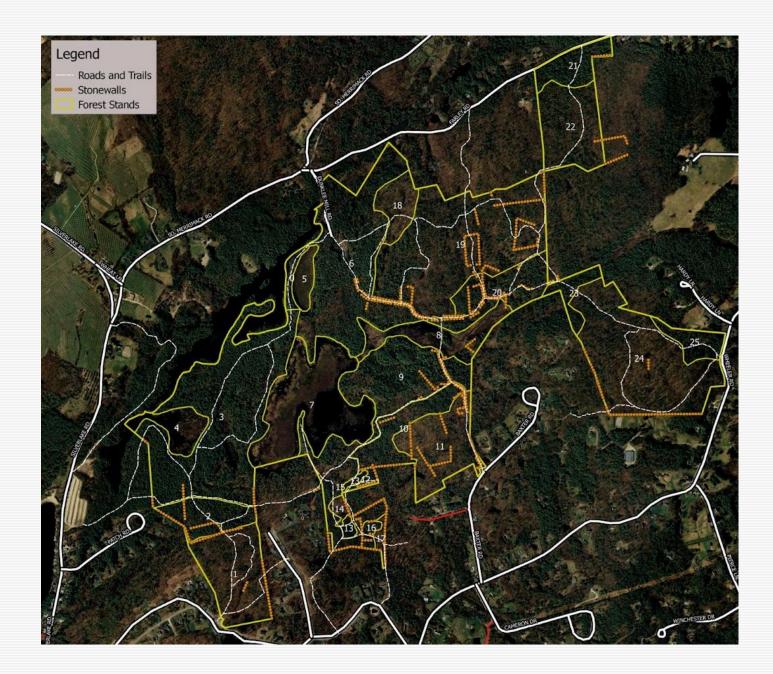




#### Forestry Recommendations

Stand	Rx	Last Managed
3	Thin	1990s
6	Thin	1980s
9	Shelterwood	1970s

- Enhance growth of retained trees;
- Promote growth of new seedlings;
- Reduce Caliciopsis canker.





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Stand 3 WP4/5 78.77 acres

Stand 6 WP 5 62.05 acres



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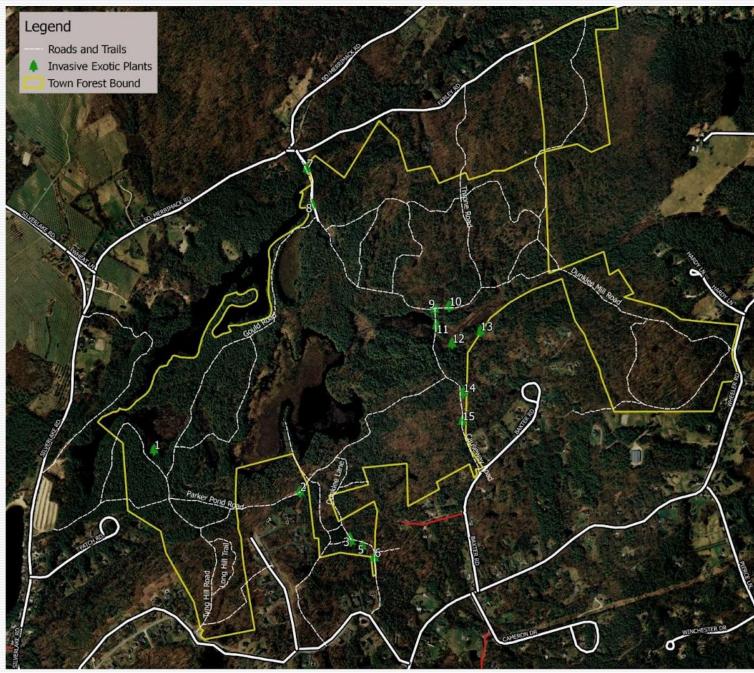
Stand 9 WP/MH 4/5 31.98 acres



#### Invasive Exotic Plants

- 15 locations
- Most associated with historic settlements
- Hand pulling, targeted herbicide applications.







# Wildlife

- 85 types of birds
- 29 potential species of greatest conservation need
- 1 recorded rare species; 4 other potentials
- Game species deer, bear, turkey
- Use BMPs, maintain wetlands and vernal pools, diversify woodlands.





#### Exemplary Natural Community

- kettle hole bog system
- locally known as Parker Pond or Parker Bog





# Historic Resources

- 5.6 miles of stonewalls
- Several foundations
- Dunklee Mill
- Stone dam





# Historic Resources

#### **Dunklee Mill**

- In operation 100 years
- Grist mill and sawmill
- Sold to Pennichuck Water Works in 1906 – house torn down.



# Dunklee family and mill (1890).





# Historic Resources

- Protect foundations.
- Use existing breaches in stonewalls.
- Partner with Historical Society
  - Document settlements.
  - Interpretive displays.
- Discourage private collection.

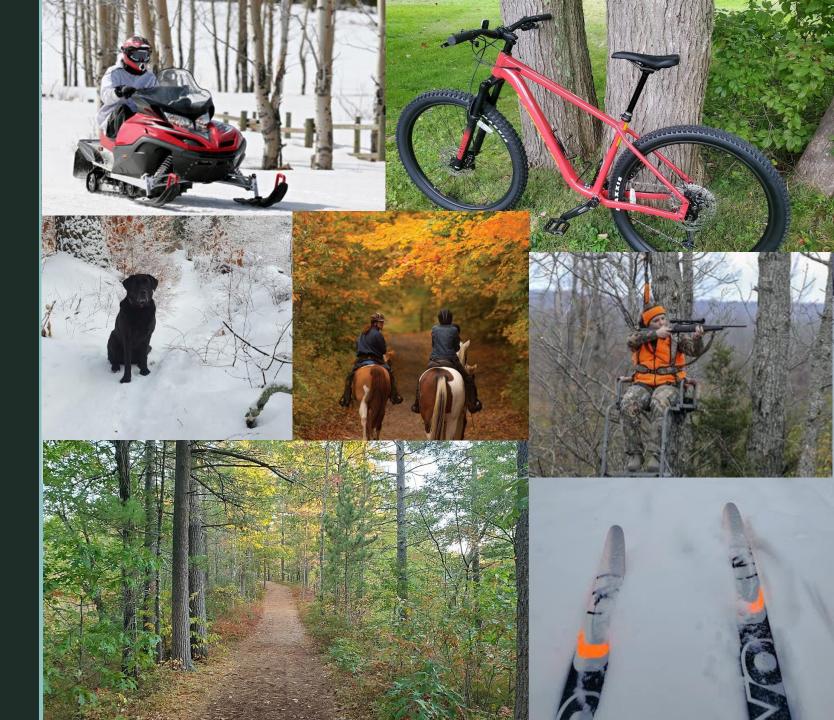


Foundations associated with the Stearns (top) and E. Dunklee settlements (right).



### Recreation

- 11 miles of woods roads;
- Maintained by the Hollis Trails Committee and the Nor'easters snowmobile club;
- 6 miles of unauthorized rogue trails
  - 8 bridges;
  - 4 obstacles;
  - a significant section of banking and leveling.





## Recreation

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  - 4 obstacles;
  - a significant section of banking and leveling.



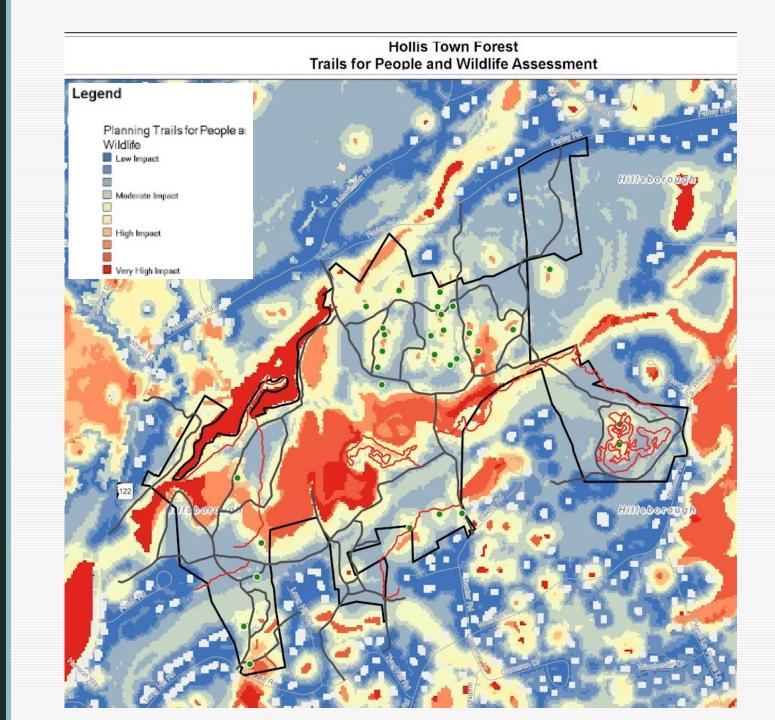
- Stonewall modified to create a ramp.
- One of the many bridges built without authorization.
- Banking and leveling along a steep slopes.



### Trails for People & Wildlife

Trail-based recreation can impact wildlife:

- Reduced abundance
- Reduced reproduction
- Reduced survival

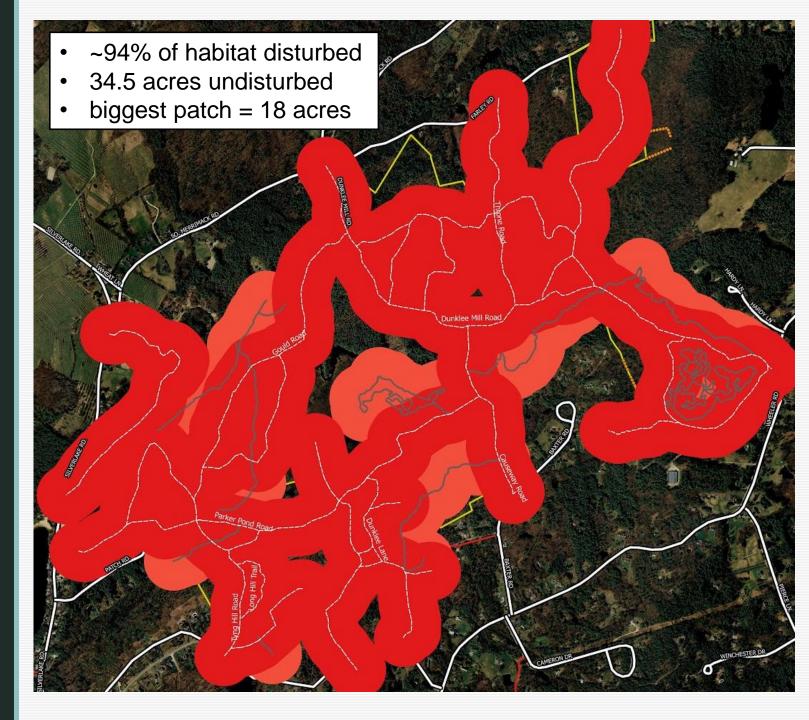




### Corridor of Influence

Wildlife can see and hear you coming from quite a distance.

- Herps flee 60 ft
- Birds disturbed 150 ft
- Mammals disturbed 400 ft





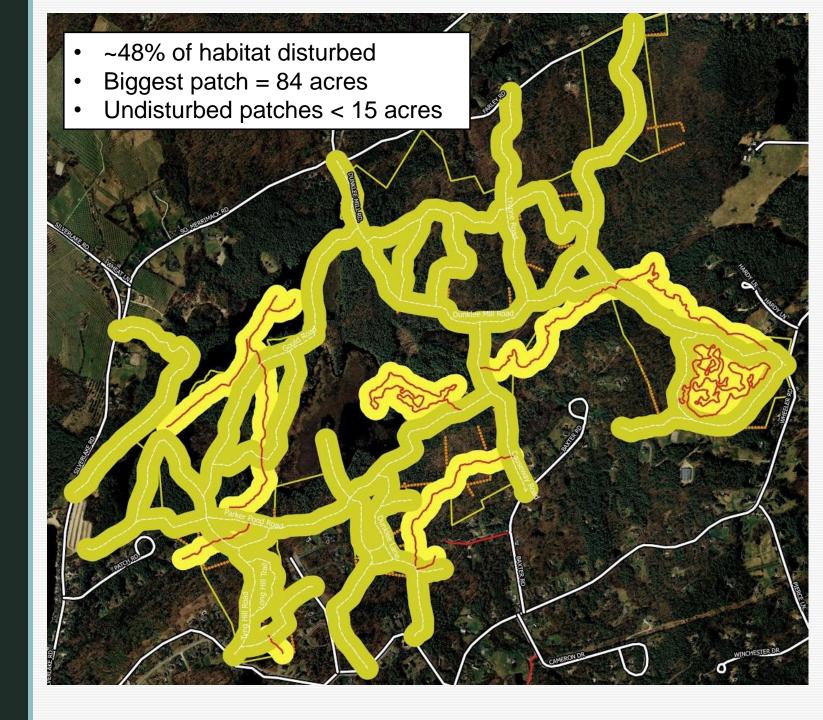
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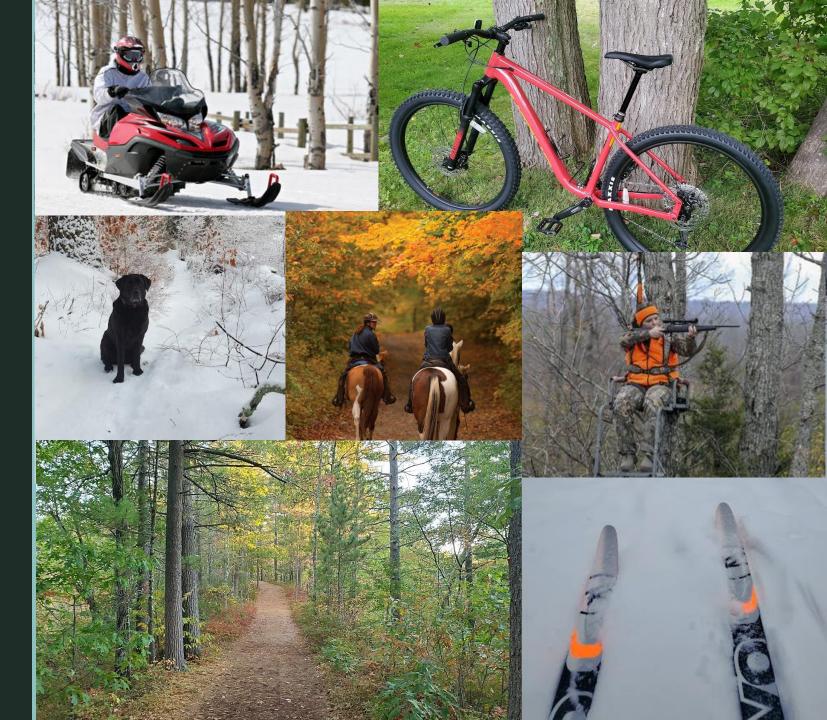
wildnh.com/trails





#### Recreation Recommendations

- Monitor and repair infrastructure.
- Allow hunting to aid in maintaining deer populations at suitable levels.
- If wildlife is a priority, consider decommissioning some trails.
- Monitor for new rogue trails and decommission.





# Hollis Town Forest

- Tremendous resource for the town of Hollis.
- Forest stands well managed.
- Managing recreation and infrastructure will be biggest challenges for the future.

# THANK YOU!

