



**PAUL R. LEPAGE**  
GOVERNOR

**STATE OF MAINE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY**  
MAINE FOREST SERVICE  
22 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

**WALTER E. WHITCOMB**  
COMMISSIONER

# PERMIT

## **FORESTRY OPERATIONS PERMIT FOP 16013 and Road Construction Permit RP 16020**

The staff of the Maine Forest Service, after reviewing the application and supporting documents submitted by Seven Islands Land Company for Forestry Operations Permit FOP 16013 and RP 16020, finds the following facts:

1. Landowner: Pingree Associates, LLC  
PO Box 678  
Bangor, Maine 04402-678
2. Applicant: Seven Islands Land Company (landowner's agent)  
PO Box 1168  
Bangor, Maine 04402-1168
3. Date of Completed Application: June 06, 2016
4. Location of Proposal: Oxbow (T4R5 WBKP), Oxford County
5. Zoning: (P-MA) Mountain Area Protection Subdistrict
6. Approximate Time Period of Operations: July 2016 through July 2021

### **Proposal**

7. The applicant proposes to conduct a timber harvest on approximately 718 acres in five separate areas in P-MA subdistricts on the Pingree ownership and to construct 7,700 feet of land management road in the P-MA subdistricts. (See Exhibits 2 a-e and 3 a & b)
8. The harvest will be conducted during summer, fall and winter ground conditions over the next five years.

**DOUG DENICO, DIRECTOR**  
MAINE FOREST SERVICE  
18 ELKINS LANE, HARLOW BUILDING



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9. The applicant proposes that a mixture of harvest types be conducted in the P-MA subdistricts. (See Exhibit 1)

### **Review Comments**

10. The State Soil Scientist stated: “I am not a big proponent of constructing roads on wet soils by excavating deeply up the upslope side to obtain common fill material then filling part of the ditch with stumps and then soil to create a ditch. This causes significant disruption of the groundwater table and threatens the integrity of roads. Cross culverts become streams, scouring channels. Ditches in wet ground are hard to stabilize and often slump. I prefer to have roads over wet ground be built on top of the ground surface, using filter fabric and stone (or log) sandwiches where water must pass freely from the upslope side. The technique is less problematic on better drained ground, provided sufficient cross culverts are used.”
11. The Maine Natural Areas Program stated that there is a small population of boreal bedstraw a rare plant listed as Special Concern in harvest area 5. Seven Islands has the coordinates and the GIS data for the plant.
12. No additional comments were received.

### **Findings**

13. A field visit was conducted June 6, 2016. The field visit showed the permit application was complete and accurate.
14. There will be 7,700 feet of road constructed in the P-MA subdistricts. (See Exhibits 3a & b) All roads will be constructed to the typical cross sectional drawing as shown in Exhibit 3c. The roads are located on the best sites and will have little if any adverse impact on normal ground water movement.
15. The harvest activity will utilize a cut-to-length system with slash used to stabilize forwarder trails.
16. In the portion of the P-MA subdistrict to be harvested, streams were not found to be suitable habitat for Roaring Brook Mayfly.
17. In the portion of the P-MA subdistrict to be harvested, high elevation sphagnum wetlands required by Northern Bog lemming is absent.
18. The streams in the portions of the P-MA subdistrict to be harvested are mapped and unmapped P-SL2 drainages. All crossings will be designed to meet Chapter 27 standards.

The information provided in the application, along with an MFS inspection of the site conditions in the area to be harvested, demonstrate that the petitioner has met its burden of proof and satisfied the requirements of Chapter 27, Section 4.

Based upon the above proposal, the MFS concludes that the proposal will meet the Criteria for Approval, 12 M.R.S. §Section 685-A(1) of the Commission's Statutes, and Maine Forest Service Rules, Chapters 20 and 27.

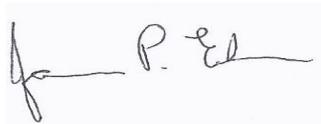
**Therefore, the MFS staff approves the application of Seven Islands Land Company with the following conditions:**

1. The operation will be conducted according to the harvest plan submitted as part of the application for the permit. (See Exhibit 1)
2. All roads constructed shall be designed in such a manner that the natural flow of ground water is maintained and the road bed does not act like a dam . As an example, care must be taken to avoid concentrating water flow from cross drain culverts so that over time stream channels are created.
3. In harvest area 5, the harvest activity will take reasonable measures to avoid ground disturbance within 66 feet of mapped occurrences of boreal bedstraw (trees may be harvested per the prescription).
4. The road construction and harvesting authorized in this permit can commence on the effective date of this permit and should be completed within the time outlined in Section 6 above. If such activities are not started and completed within this time period, this permit lapses and no activities may then occur unless and until a new permit or extension to the existing permit has been granted by the MFS.
5. All road construction and harvesting activities will be performed according to the standards in Chapter 27 Rule, Standards for Timber Harvesting and Timber Harvesting Related Activities within Unorganized and Deorganized Areas of the State, Section 4 and Section 5 as applicable.

If no person requests that the Maine Forest Service review the decision of staff within 30 days of the date of this staff decision, this permit becomes final agency action subject to review of the Maine Administrative Procedure Act. Pursuant to 5 M.R.S. §§ 11001 *et seq.*, a person aggrieved by an MFS permit decision may appeal the MFS's final action to Superior Court. As part of such an appeal, a person aggrieved may seek judicial review of the components of MFS's final action and permitting decision.

This permit is approved only upon the above stated conditions and remains valid only if the permittee complies with all of these conditions. In addition, any person aggrieved by this decision of the staff may, within 30 days, request that the Maine Forest Service review the decision.

DONE AND DATED AT OLD TOWN, MAINE, THIS 22th DAY OF JULY, 2016.



James P. Ecker - LPF 612  
Regional Enforcement Coordinator  
Maine Forest Service  
P.O. Box 415  
Old Town, Maine 04468

**Exhibit 1**

<b>MAP DESIGNATION</b>	<b>ACREAGE</b>	<b>HARVEST TYPE</b>
Area 1	165 Acres	<p>Shelterwood Removal principally removing Balsam fir and white birch while patches of advanced regeneration under a low density overstory.</p> <p>A 19 acre clearcut will be created in an area comprised of overmature Balsam fir and small diameter Balsam fir with poor live crown ratio (&lt;10%).</p>
Area 2	151 Acres	<p>Light removal targeting balsam fir and white birch while releasing patches of advanced regeneration under low density spruce/fir.</p> <p>Improvement harvest in hardwood stands targeting hardwood species of poor form.</p>
Area 3	84 Acres	<p>Light removal targeting balsam fir and white birch while releasing patches of advanced regeneration under low density spruce/fir.</p>
Area 4	165 Acres	<p>The majority of the area will be thinned from below following conventional stocking guides. A 39 acre clearcut will be placed in an area of poorly formed, dying hardwood with a component of overmature Balsam fir. Overstory removal will take place in an area of low density softwood over advanced spruce /fir regeneration.</p>
Area 5	153 Acres	<p>Shelterwood harvest area will target overmature Balsam fir and white birch or will release advanced regeneration growing under low density spruce/fir.</p> <p>Overstory removal in an area where a low density overstory is suppressing advanced spruce/fir in the understory.</p>

Exhibit 2- Location map

Exhibit #2- Locations Map  
 Oxbow, Oxford County, Maine  
 Nearest All Weather Roads: State Route 16, and State Route 27  
 Scale- 1:75,000  
 UTM, NAD 83

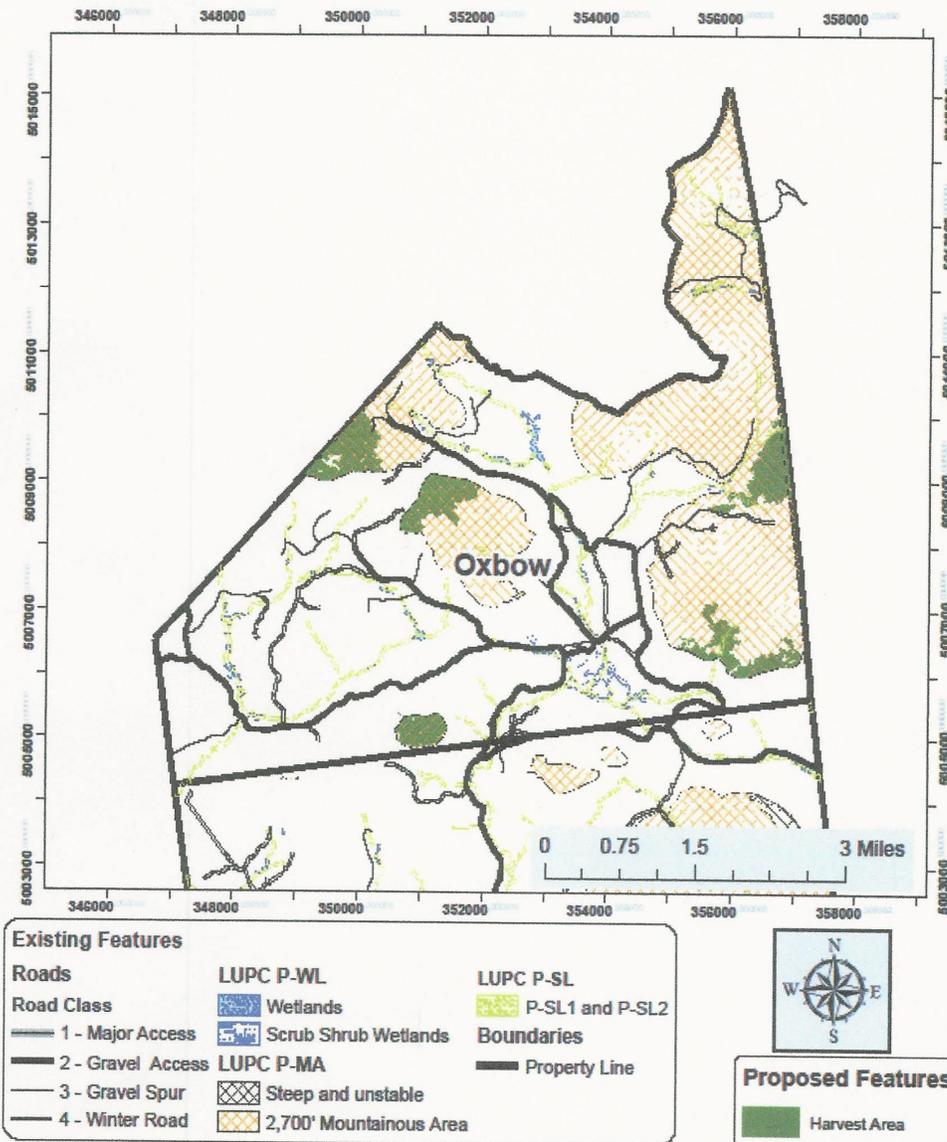
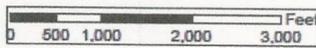
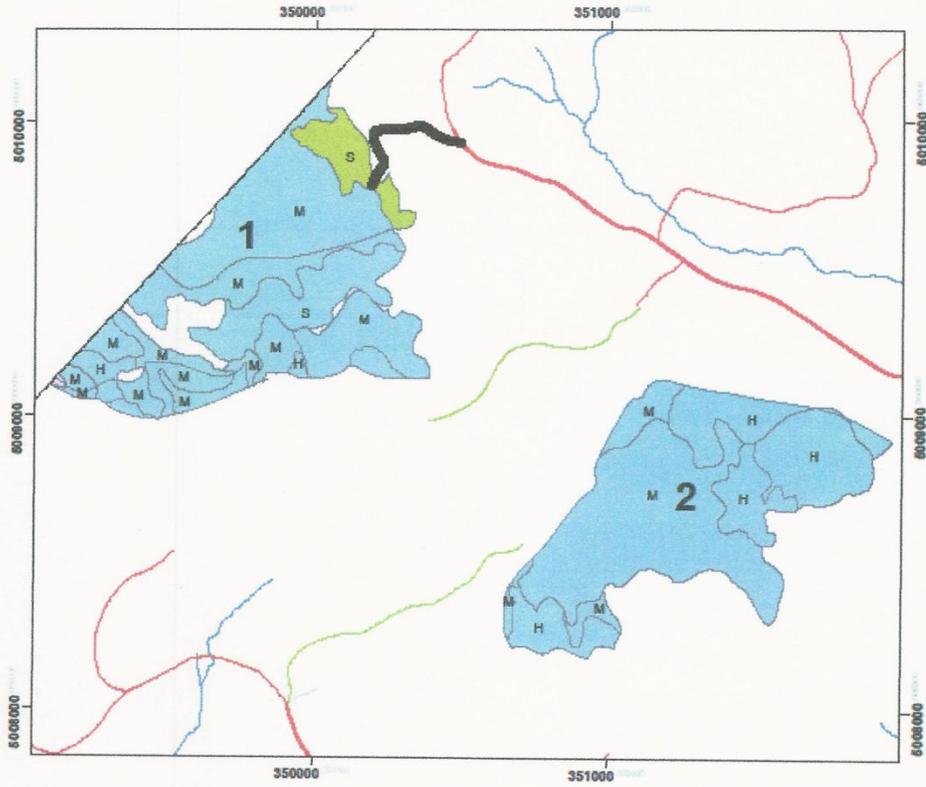


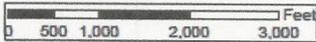
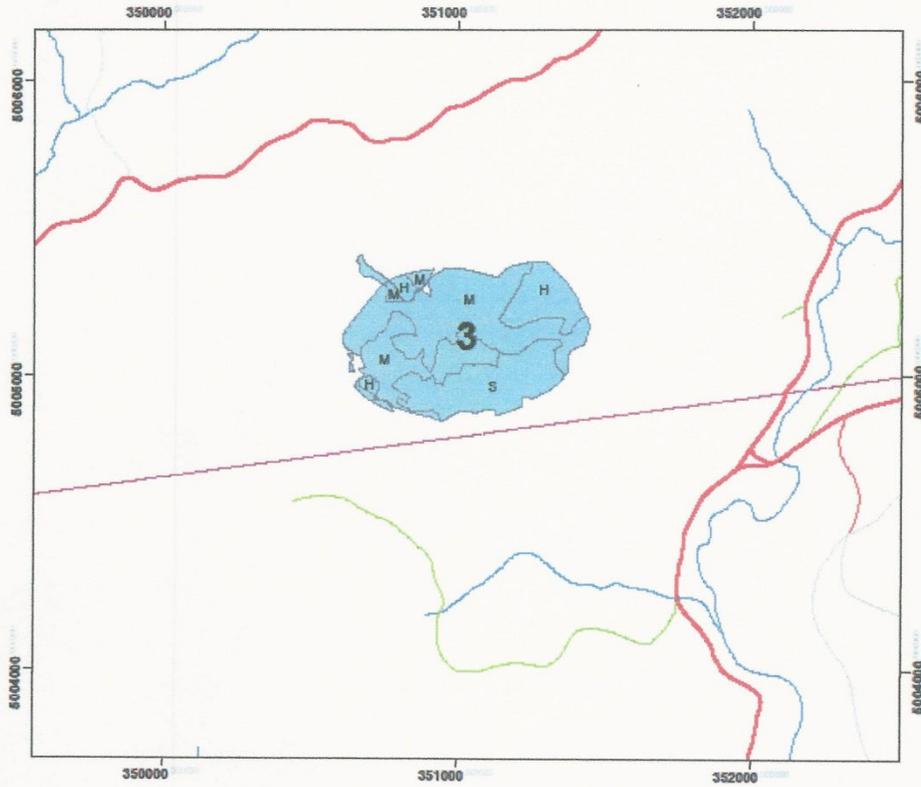
Exhibit 1- Harvest Area, Prescription, and Stand Typing  
Heather Mountain  
Oxbow, Oxford County, Maine  
Scale- 1:15,840  
UTM, NAD 83



**Legend**

- New Road
- LUPC P-MA Harvest
- <all other values>
- Harvest Type
- Thinning
- Shelterwood
- OSR
- Clearcut

Exhibit 1- Harvest Area, Prescription, and Stand Typing  
Bottle Mountain  
Oxbow, Oxford County, Maine  
Scale- 1:15,840  
UTM, NAD 83

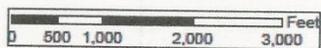
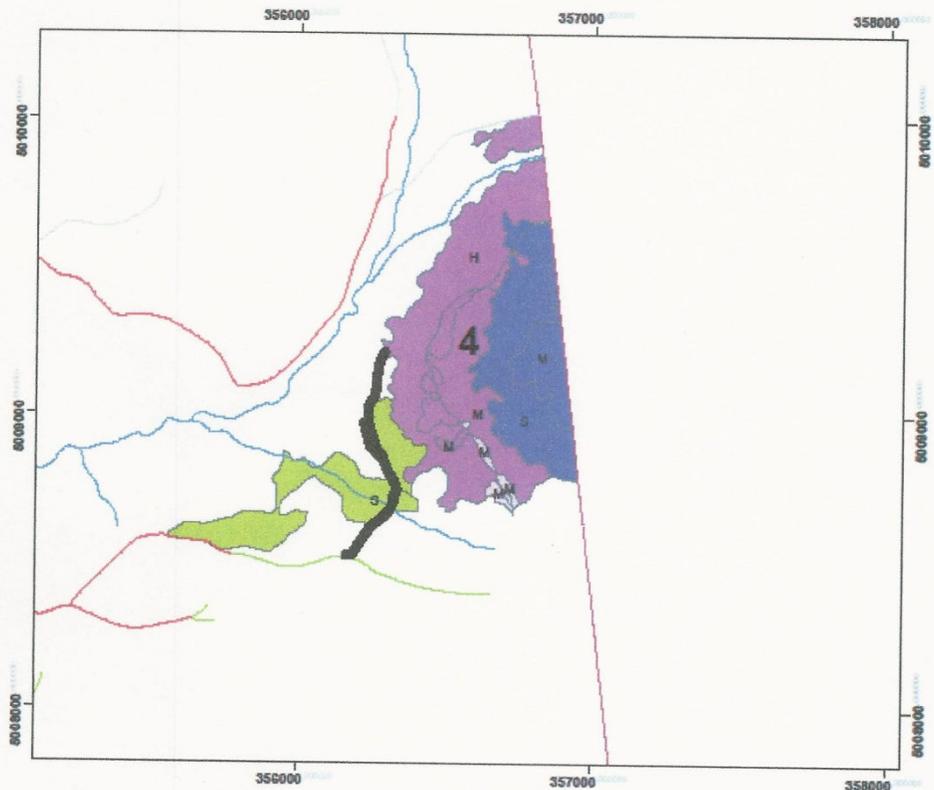


**Legend**

- New Road
- LUPC P-MA Harvest
- <all other values>
- Harvest Type
- Thinning
- Shelterwood
- OSR
- Clearcut

Exhibit 2d

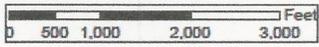
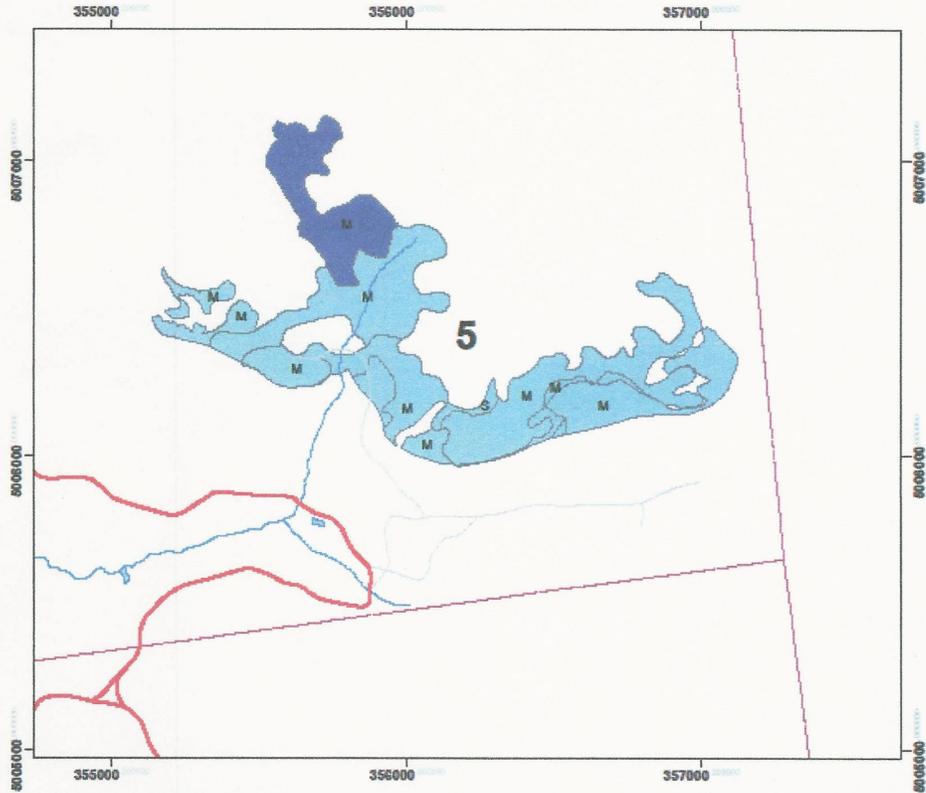
Exhibit 1- Harvest Area, Prescription, and Stand Typing  
White Cap Mountain  
Oxbow, Oxford County, Maine  
Scale- 1:15,840  
UTM, NAD 83



**Legend**

- New Road
- LUPC P-MA Harvest**
- <all other values>
- Harvest Type**
- Thinning
- Shelterwood
- OSR
- Clearout

Exhibit 1- Harvest Area, Prescription, and Stand Typing  
Kennebago Divide  
Oxbow, Oxford County, Maine  
Scale- 1:15,840  
UTM, NAD 83

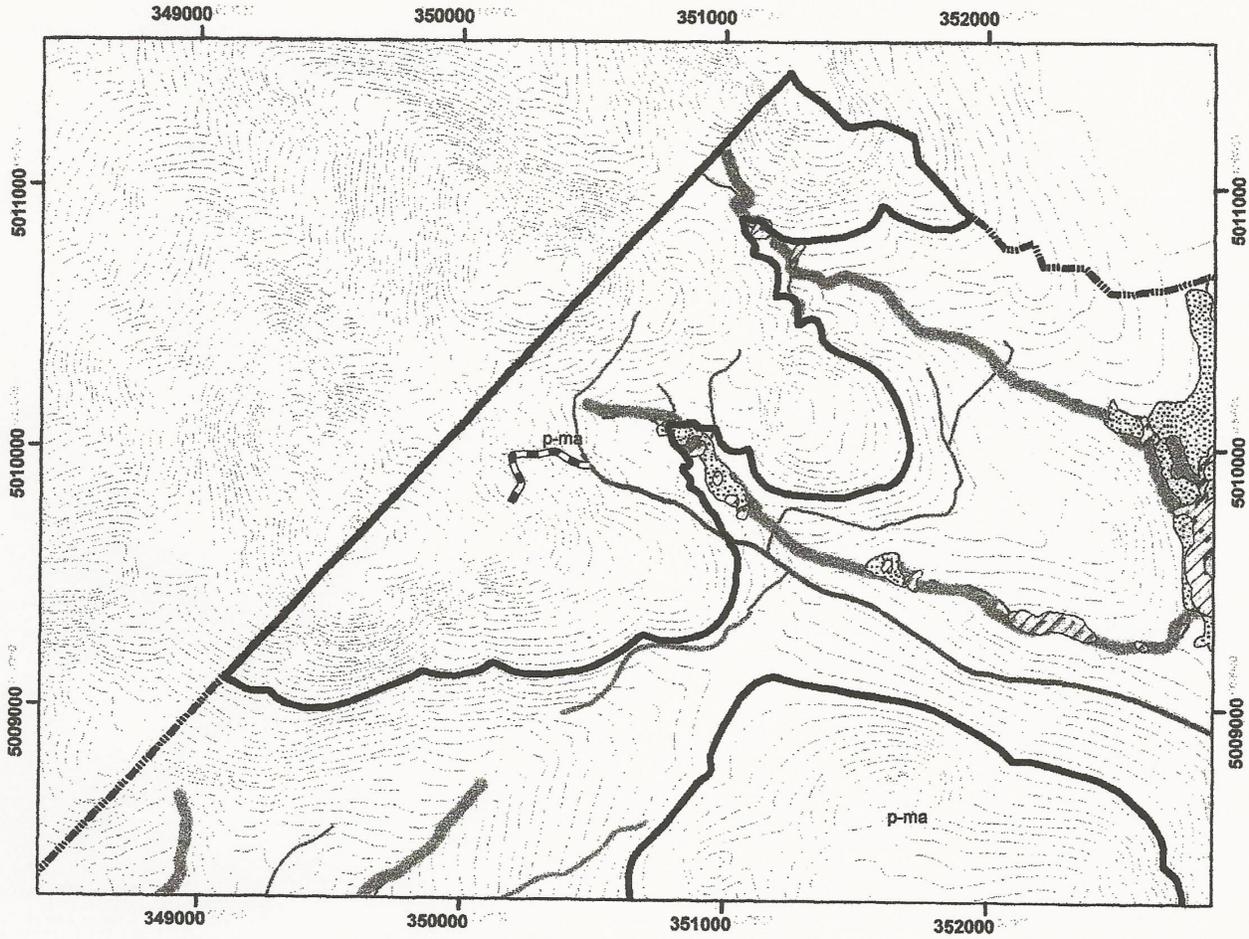


**Legend**

- New Road
- LUPC P-MA Harvest
- <all other values>
- Harvest Type
  - Thinning
  - Shelterwood
  - OSR
  - Clearcut

Oxbow Proposed Roads  
 Oxbow, Oxford County, Maine  
 Scale- 1:24,000  
 UTM, NAD 83  
 Travel Width- 16 feet (40 feet ROW)

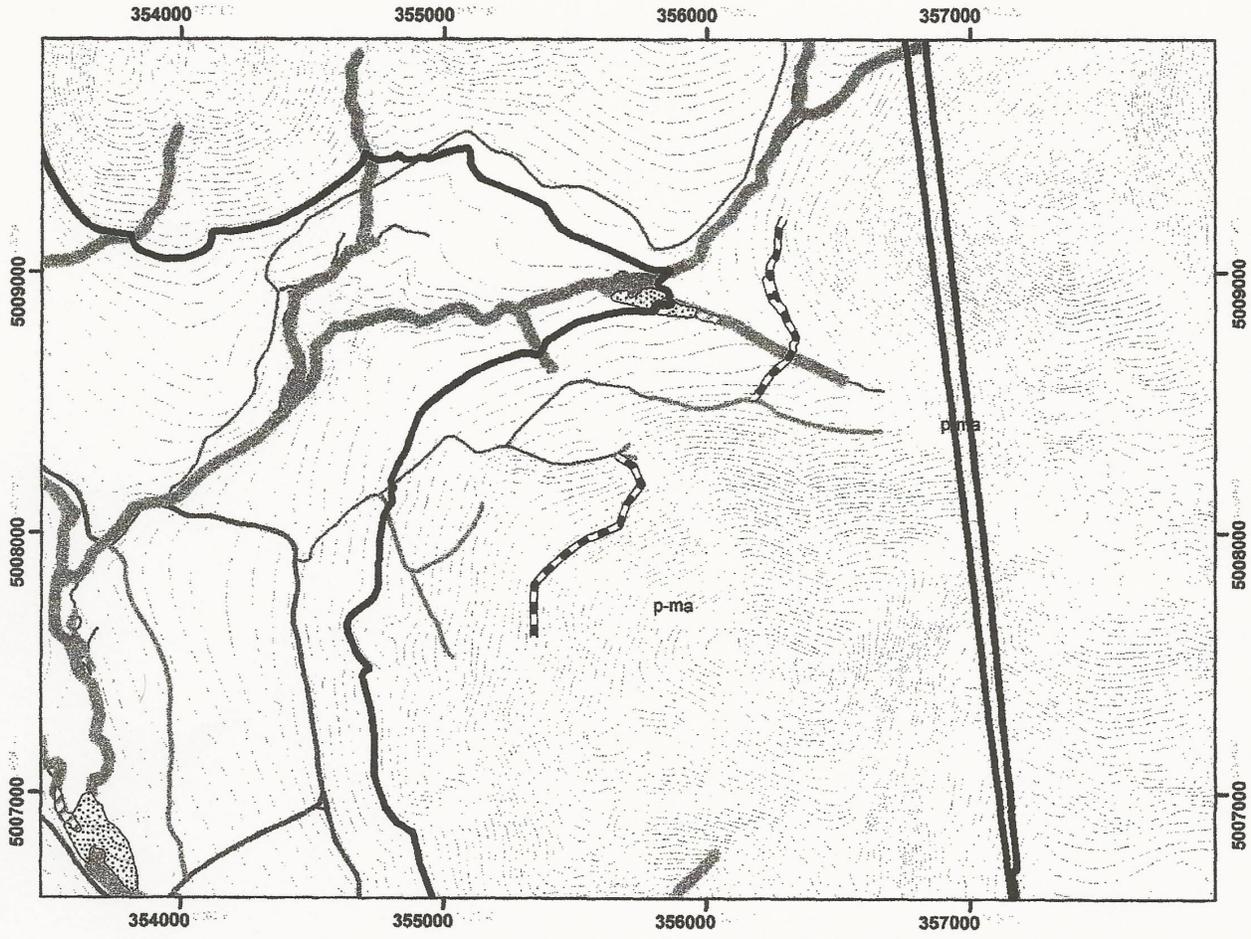
Exhibit 3a



Legend	
	LURC P-WL
<b>Roads - Std</b>	<b>LURCZONE</b>
<b>Road Class</b>	P-WL1
	P-WL2
	P-WL3
	<b>LUPC Zone</b>
	P-SL1 and P-SL2
	<b>LURC_MA</b>
	<b>LURCZONE</b>
	P-SG
	P-MA

Oxbow Proposed Roads  
 Oxbow, Oxford County, Maine  
 Scale- 1:24,000  
 UTM, NAD 83  
 Travel Width- 16 feet (40 feet ROW)

Exhibit 3b



Legend	
	LURC P-WL
<b>Roads - Std</b>	<b>LURCZONE</b>
<b>Road Class</b>	P-WL1
	P-WL2
	P-WL3
	<b>LURC Zone</b>
	P-SL1 and P-SL2
	<b>LURC_MA</b>
	<b>LURCZONE</b>
	P-SG
	P-MA

Cross Sectional Drawing

