Environmental Assessment
Fryeburg Shooting Facility, Fryeburg, Maine

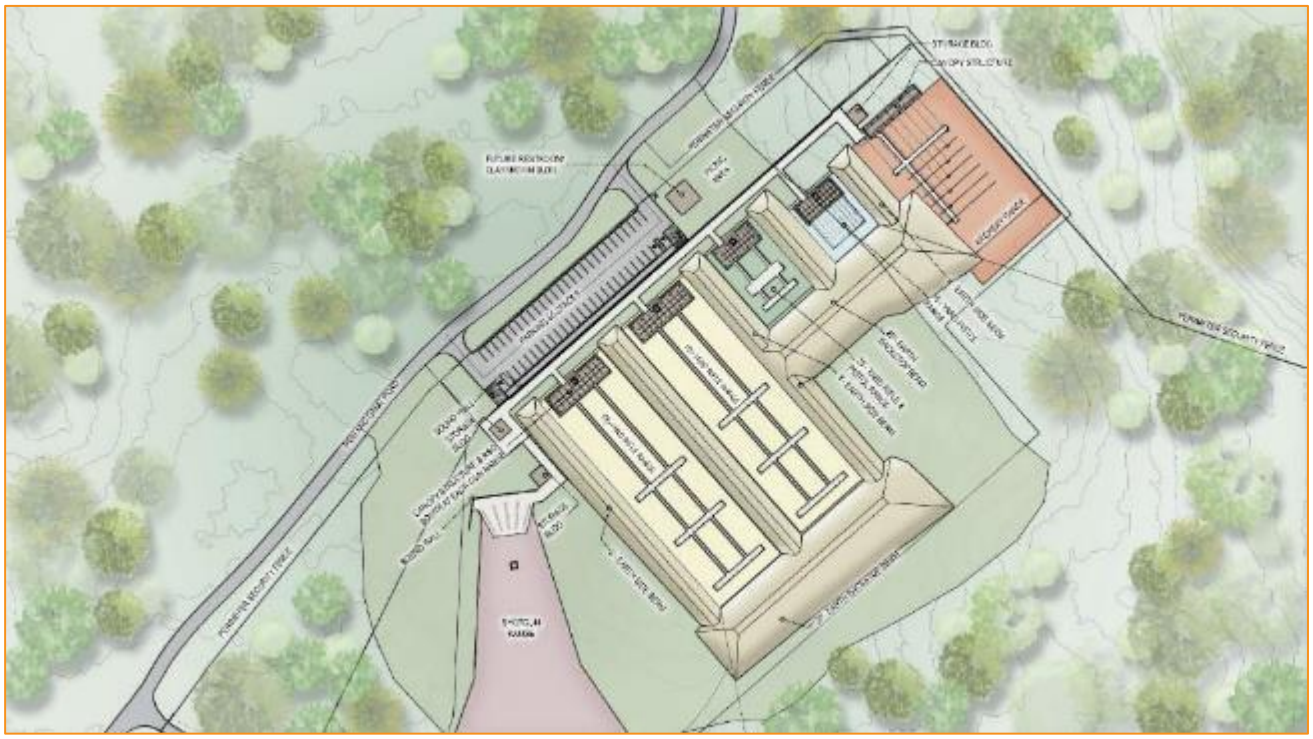

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1. PROJECT SUMMARY, PURPOSE AND NEED

1.1 Project Summary

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), has prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential impacts to the human and natural environment associated with resolving a change in use on a portion of a parcel associated within the Major Sanborn (Brownfield Bog) Wildlife Management area (MSWMA), in Fryeburg, Maine and modernization of the existing facility. The use on a portion of the subject parcel (see **Appendix A** for location) has changed since the time of acquisition and MDIFW believes that this acreage no longer serves the full range of intent under the USFWS, Division of Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) Grant Agreement.

In 1976, a primitive shooting range was constructed on an old gravel pit site on the subject parcel, which fulfilled an unmet need to provide safe and consistent place for the public to gain proficiency with their firearms prior to hunting season. Over time, there has been an increase in public demand and in response to increased public use, several minor upgrades have occurred to ensure the continued safe use of this public area. Additionally, the increased use at this State facility has likely deposited enough lead into firing berms warranting recovery and recycling to ensure proper management and environmental stewardship of the subject parcel. To accomplish this task, the subject parcel needs to be modified from the current conditions and MDIFW believes that the subject parcel will no longer be able to provide quality waterfowl habitat.

Given these factors, MDIFW proposes to replace the subject parcel with an adjacent parcel on MSWMA. The replacement parcel, purchased with state funds, will provide equal if not greater waterfowl habitat and wildlife-dependent recreational benefits, and has a greater market value. Within this action MDIFW also proposes to modernize the Fryeburg Shooting facility to meet increased public demand for safe and accessible shooting facilities, enhance environmental stewardship, and provide much needed hands-on experiential education on the safe-use and handling of firearms and archery equipment. This will allow MDIFW to come into compliance with the original intent of the WSFR grant.

MDIFW's proposed action affects lands purchased with funds from the Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund administered by USFWS, WSFR. Because federal funds were used to purchase the land in question and associated federal regulations, this action must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 United States Code [USC] § 4321-4347), Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106). NEPA requires federal agencies to integrate an interdisciplinary environmental review process to evaluate a range of alternatives including the No-Action alternative and provide an opportunity for public input as part of its decision-making process. Since the USFWS is the lead federal agency for approving the proposed action, MDIFW is developing this EA in cooperation with WSFR staff.

The EA will be used to determine whether to provide a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). If the EA demonstrates that there is no significant impact to the human and/or natural environment, a FONSI will be prepared. If the analysis in the EA indicates that the proposed action is a major federal action that significantly

affects the quality of the human and/or natural environment, a notice of intent to prepare a draft EIS will be published in the Federal Register.

Under Alternative C, MDIFW would dispose of the subject parcel and replace with a parcel on an adjacent state-owned WMA parcel (see **Appendix B**), with subsequent modernization of the Fryeburg Shooting facility to meet increase public demand, continued environmental stewardship, and improve safety and containment. This alternative has multiple positive benefits to Maine's citizens.

MDIFW proposes to replace the subject parcel under the WSFR grant obligations with an adjacent state-funded property already contained within the MSWMA at an acreage ration of 7:1. The replacement property has a much greater habitat value for waterfowl management and has a broader range of recreational value for the WMA as a whole. The subject parcel contains no mapped wetlands, whereas the replacement parcel contains about 12 acres of forested wetland and nearly six acres of shrub swamp wetland habitats.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this EA is to review the current status of a parcel of land that contains the Fryeburg Shooting Range and alternatives for its future management as a part of or in conjunction with the existing MSWMA. The property was identified as part of a large acquisition effort begun in August of 1956 to create a state-owned wildlife management area in the southwestern part of Maine for waterfowl, fur bearers and upland game. The Preliminary Project Statement for Pittman-Robertson Project W-49-L said the "project is proposed as a means of promoting efficient management of fish and/or wildlife resources". The Federal Aid Project Agreement dated July 16, 1957 refined that focus to land acquisition for the Brownfield Game Management Area for the purpose of acquiring a waterfowl management area to benefit waterfowl and muskrat.

In 1976, MDIFW developed a primitive shooting facility in cooperation with a local sportsman's club on a portion of this parcel containing an old gravel pit to provide a safe and reliable place for the public to gain proficiency with their sporting arms. Since that time, there have been minor improvements to the facility to accommodate a safe and enjoyable place to shoot with increased public use. While hunting and supporting the development of hunters is an integral part of waterfowl management, the habitat values of the 16 acres the shooting range occupies have been diminished. In addition, to ensure MDIFW continues responsible management of the parcel going forward, proper recovery and recycling of lead depositions on the subject parcel is necessary in the near future. This action will likely have long-term effects on the habitat on the shooting range parcel, due to extensive tree clearing and berm replacements. At the same time, the recycling of lead shot and the resulting clearing present the opportunity to create a facility that better meets modern range standards by enhancing security and safety, improving accessibility, and better managing lead shot and noise. The measures taken to accomplish these objectives will eliminate any waterfowl habitat values within the shooting range project area but continue to support an enhanced shooting experience.

Given the changes that have occurred at this location over time and the opportunity to modernize the facility, the Department has determined that the subject parcel will no longer serve the full scope of intent and purposes of the original WSFR grant agreement for waterfowl

management. MDIFW proposes to remove the federal nexus from the shooting range parcel (16 acres) and replace the subject parcel with an adjacent property that provides greater habitat and hunter access values for waterfowl management and has greater market value. Additionally, MDIFW has determined that subsequently modernizing the Fryeburg Shooting Facility on the existing range site is the most responsible use of that parcel of land. The Fryeburg Shooting facility is essential to the meet growing public demand for a safe, family-friendly and environmentally responsible access to shooting range facilities within the State of Maine, while also providing increased opportunity for experiential learning, training, and participation in shooting sports. This two-pronged approach serves to accomplish the goal of maximizing habitat for waterfowl management within the MSWMA and providing a modernized shooting facility that will support hunting and shooting into the future.

This EA considers alternatives and evaluates the potential impacts of the proposed action to resolve this issue.

1.3 Background and Need

MDIFW's MSWMA encompasses approximately 5,900 acres in Oxford County, Maine. The subject parcel was part of purchase completed in 1957 and was acquired with federal WSFR funds. Prior to its purchase in 1957, the land associated with the WMA was primarily used for agricultural purposes. The Federal Aid Project Agreement dated July 16, 1957 stated the grant would be focused on land acquisition for the Brownfield Game Management Area for the purpose of acquiring a waterfowl management area to benefit waterfowl and muskrat. The subject parcel is part of Compartment 3 and was managed for waterfowl and wetland habitats during the 1960-1970's with some salvage timber harvest.

In 1976, the Fryeburg Fish and Game Association approached MDIFW to construct a primitive shooting range on an existing gravel pit site along "Fish and Game Road" aka "Lovell Pond Access Road", in order to provide a safe and organized setting for the public to practice with their hunting firearms. Since 1976, there have been steady increases in public use and demand for safe and family-friendly shooting facilities for target practice and shooting sports. In order to meet public demand and ensure a safe shooting environment, several minor improvements have been made to this facility. Some examples of improvement made to the Fryeburg facility overtime include, increased height of firing and side berms, creation of a small trap field, construction of a small storage building, installation of a covered shooting station, clearing of vegetation to provide clear sight lines, and enlistment of volunteer Range Safety Officers (RSO).

Current range operations meet appropriate guidance from EPA's Best Management Practices for Lead at Outdoor Shooting Ranges manual (revised June 2005). However, based on results from a June 8, 2015 lead-soil survey conducted by S. W. Cole Engineering Inc., MDIFW has identified a need to recycle and recover lead deposits at this facility in the near future to ensure continued responsible management of the facility. A copy of the Environmental Services Report 14-1124E entitled, "Environmental Soil Sampling and Testing Services Brownfield Game Management Area Shooting Range" is attached as Appendix G. Because the facility is still mostly a primitive design, the site was not designed for efficient lead recovery at the time initial improvements were made. In order to accomplish this task, considerable site disturbance will be required. The site disturbance from lead recovery and soil treatment will cause lasting effects to the habitat and hunting accessibility on the subject parcel. As such, MDIFW has determined that the subject

parcel will likely no longer serve the full suite of intent and purposes of the original WSFR grant agreement. In order to ensure compliance with WSFR funding, MDIFW will need to find suitable replacement habitat adjacent to this parcel to replace lost function or conduct an exhaustive and expensive restoration process to the subject parcel, where lead remediation alone is estimated at about $2 million dollars (Personal Communication with Mr. Andrews at MTW).

In recent decades, public interest in firearms and shooting sports has continued to increase, and during 2021 alone there were an estimated 5.4 million new firearms owners across the U.S. (NSSF 2022*).* Public access to safe user-friendly ranges has been identified nationally as a major factor in recruiting and retaining hunters. Ranges are critical in developing and encouraging hunters to learn safe and responsible hunting and shooting practices. Given this demand, and the extremely limited number of state-owned ranges, we have determined that they most appropriate course of action is for the Fryeburg Shooting Facility to be modernized to meet current standards for safety, accessibility and environmental best practices, including engineered firing berms designed for ease of monitoring and lead recovery. This upgraded infrastructure will be critical to providing hands-on experiential training to new and seasoned firearms owners and hunters and provide a model of modern range design to serve as an example for other facilities.

1.4 Location

The subject parcel and Fryeburg Shooting facility are located on the MSWMA in the town of Fryeburg, Oxford County, Maine (see **Appendix A** for location map).

1.5 Funding

Construction costs associated with the recovery of lead and modernization of the Fryeburg Shooting Facility are estimated at $2,471,944. Funding for the proposed action would come from multiple sources, administered through a Wildlife Restoration grant administered by USFWS (grant FA20AF12145), State of Maine Funds, and minor volunteer match.

1.6 Operation and Maintenance

Operations and Maintenance of a modernized Shooting Facility at MSWMA will be the responsibility of MDIFW and would be included in a previously approved Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act grant awarded to MDIFW for operations and maintenance of shooting facilities statewide (FA21AF04044-00).

1.7 Decisions to be Made

MDIFW and the USFWS will select one of the alternatives analyzed in this document and the USFWS will determine, based on the facts and recommendations herein, whether this EA is adequate to support a FONSI decision or whether an EIS will need to be prepared.

1.8 Compliance with Applicable Statutes, Regulations and Guidelines

Endangered Species Act of 1973: Protects ecosystems upon which threatened and endangered species of fish, wildlife, and plants depend and requires federal agencies to ensure that any action they authorize, fund, or implement is not likely to jeopardize listed species or critical habitat. Protected species include threatened and endangered species listed by federal or state authorities.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918: Protects all migratory birds and their parts (including eggs, nests, and feathers) and requires that the impacts on such birds by any federal action are explored fully in the decision-making process.

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1962: Protects eagles by prohibiting the take, transport, sale, barter, trade, import and export, and possession of eagles and by prohibiting the collection of eagles and eagle parts, nests, or eggs without a permit.

Clean Air Act of 1970: Regulates air emissions from stationary and mobile sources. This law authorizes EPA to establish National Ambient Air Quality Standards to protect public health and public welfare while regulating emissions of hazardous air pollutants.

Clean Water Act of 1972: Establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulates quality standards for surface waters.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976: Governs the disposal of solid and hazardous waste, including generation, transportation, treatment, storge and disposal.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (amended 1992): Preserves and protects historic and archaeological sites and requires that agencies consult with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the National Register of Historic Places, and/or a State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) prior to undertaking any action that may affect a property with historic, architectural, archeological, or cultural value.

Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations: Directs all federal agency programs to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse effects on human health and the environment of minority or low-income populations.

Maine Codes, Rules and Regulations:

Sanborn Wildlife Management Area and the Fryeburg Range: The Department built the range consistent with its overall mission and specifically in support of hunters and regulated hunting as part of the management of the inland fisheries and wildlife resources of the State of Maine (Title 12 §10051). State fish and wildlife agencies have long recognized that regulated hunting is an integral part of the management of many wildlife species. At the same time the Department has understood that an active program to support the development of hunters and shooters is necessary to support regulated hunting. As part of that effort the Department has been specifically charged in statute in Title 12 §10108 to establish a program for training individuals in the safe handling of firearms. As part of that effort the Department recognizes the need for hunters and shooters to have safe places to learn, practice, and continually reinforce the skills required to handle firearms safely and to hunt safely and effectively. To that end, the Department built the Fryeburg Range to serve the purpose of promoting firearms safety and hunting (including waterfowl hunting) safety through instruction at the beginning and advanced levels and practice through target

shooting. The overall wildlife management area has been acquired to support habitat management, public access for hunting, fishing, and trapping as outlined in Title 12 §10053.

Municipal Regulation of Sport Shooting Ranges:
Title 30-A §3011. Regulation of sport shooting ranges
1. Definition. As used in this section, "sport shooting range" means an area designed and used for archery, skeet and trap shooting or other similar shooting sports and the shooting of rifles, shotguns and pistols.

2. Limitation. A municipal noise control or other ordinance may not require or be applied so as to require a sport shooting range to limit or eliminate shooting activities that have occurred on a regular basis at the range prior to the enactment date of the ordinance, as long as the range conforms to generally accepted gun safety and shooting range operation practices or is constructed in a manner not reasonably expected to allow a projectile to cross the boundary of the range.

3. Expansion of activity. Nothing in this section limits the ability of a municipality to regulate the location and construction of a new sport shooting range or a substantial change in use of an existing range on or after September 1, 2016.

4. Maintenance and improvements. A municipality may not restrict a sport shooting range established prior to September 1, 2016 from performing maintenance or otherwise making improvements to the sport shooting range and its buildings, structures and grounds with regard to:

A. Enhancing public safety and shot containment;

B. Providing access for persons with disabilities and providing rest room facilities;

C. Otherwise maintaining or improving the habitability of buildings and grounds, if such maintenance or improvements are otherwise in compliance with the municipality's generally applicable building codes and zoning ordinances; and

D. Repairing or rebuilding a building or structure damaged by fire, collapse, explosion or an act of God, if such repairs or rebuilding is otherwise in compliance with the municipality's generally applicable building codes and is completed within 2 years of the loss or damage.

Site Location of Development (Site Law):
Title 38 §481-490: This law requires review of developments that may have a substantial effect upon the environment. These types of development have been identified by the Legislature and include developments such as projects occupying more than 20 acres, large structures and subdivisions, and oil terminal facilities. A permit is issued if the project meets applicable standards addressing areas such as stormwater management, groundwater protection, infrastructure, wildlife and fisheries, noise, and unusual natural areas.

Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA):
Title 38 §480A-480Z: The purpose section of the Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA) provides, in part, that: "The Legislature finds and declares that the State's rivers and

streams, great ponds, fragile mountain areas, freshwater wetlands, significant wildlife habitat, coastal wetlands and coastal sand dune systems are resources of state significance. These resources have great scenic beauty and unique characteristics, unsurpassed recreational, cultural, historical and environmental value of present and future benefit to the citizens of the State and that uses are causing the rapid degradation and, in some cases, the destruction of these critical resources, producing significant adverse economic and environmental impacts and threatening the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of the State."

The law is focused on "protected natural resources". A permit is required when an "activity" will be:

- Located in, on or over any protected natural resource, or
- Located adjacent to (A) a coastal wetland, great pond, river, stream or brook or significant wildlife habitat contained within a freshwater wetland, or (B) certain freshwater wetlands.

An "activity" is (A) dredging, bulldozing, removing or displacing soil, sand, vegetation or other materials; (B) draining or otherwise dewatering; (C) filling, including adding sand or other material to a sand dune; or (D) any construction, repair or alteration of any permanent structure.

CHAPTER 2. ALTERNATIVES

This chapter describes all reasonable alternatives considered for resolving the issue of change in use of the subject parcel on MSWMA.

2.1 Alternative A – No-Action Alternative

Under a No-Action Alternative, MDIFW would maintain the subject parcel under WSFR grant agreement and continue operating the primitive range ("as-is") on the subject parcel. This option would not address several issues facing the subject parcel.

The most pressing issue facing this facility is the increased use and public demand for safe and family friendly places to use their firearms. Currently, this facility lacks full ADA accessibility, the capacity to house more than a few shooters at one time, does not allow for a full complement of shooting activities (e.g., archery and crossbow use), no structural abatement of noise caused by shooting, firing berms that do not meet current industry safety standard, and lacks the infrastructure to provide proper hands-on training for the safe-use and handling on firearms, which MIDFW is statutorily responsible for delivering (Title 12 §10108). Under a no-action alternative, lead depositions would not be recovered and recycled, and shooting would continue to occur at the existing range facility, increasing lead depositions overtime.

2.2 Alternative B – Closure, Remediation, and Restoration

Under Alternative B, MDIFW would shut down use at the primitive shooting range currently occupying the subject parcel and attempt to restore the subject parcel to its original habitat condition under the grant agreement. This Alternative may bring the subject parcel into

compliance with WSFR grant funding but would not fully achieve the original intent of the grant (providing waterfowl habitat and hunter access) for several decades.

Closure of the Fryeburg Shooting facility would create a void in western Maine for safe, confined, and managed shooting opportunities for Maine's public. Under current conditions, the infrastructure at this facility doesn't adequately meet public use and demand for shooting opportunities and closing this facility would exacerbating the problem. There are no publicly accessible ranges located within 45 minutes from this facility and closing down this public use would likely result in recreational shooting occurring in informal locations and create general safety concerns by uncontrolled shooting in inappropriate locations, create noise disturbances to nearby neighborhoods, unwanted shooting debris discarded on the landscape, all of which could lead to land postings and decreased access by legitimate sportsmen and women. Under this option MDIFW would need to find a proximate alternative location to develop a shooting facility to meet public demand and statutory obligations (Title 12 §10108). Developing a shooting facility at an alternative location would result in lead depositions into land the likely did not have any previous contamination.

By taking the shooting facility out of continuous use, MDIFW would then need to completely remediate the site according to standards in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. This procedure would likely cost about $2 million (personal communication Mr. Andrews MT2 consultants) in state funds to complete, which may take several years for the Department to secure. This action will require significant landscape changes that likely would result a timeframe of several decades to return the area to one that would provide hunting access and waterfowl habitat. Remediation of the site after closure of a shooting range includes recovery/recycling of lead, offsite removal and disposal of several inches of surface of topsoil, treatment of remaining site and re-vegetation. This remediation activity would also require monitoring and potential retreatment of soils for many years after initial action, which would limit the capacity of the subject parcel to provide waterfowl habitat or recreational opportunities for Maine's public.

2.3 Alternative C – Preferred Action

Under Alternative C, MDIFW would dispose of the subject parcel and replace it with a parcel on an adjacent state-owned WMA (see **Appendix B**), with subsequent modernization of the Fryeburg Shooting facility to meet increase public demand, continued environmental stewardship, and improved safety and containment.

MDIFW proposes to replace the 16-acre subject parcel under the WSFR grant obligations with an adjacent state-funded 108+/-acre property already contained within the MSWMA (a replacement ratio of 7:1). The replacement property has greater habitat value for waterfowl management and has a broader range of recreational value for the WMA as a whole. The subject parcel contains no mapped wetlands, whereas the replacement parcel contains about 12 acres of forested wetland and nearly six acres of shrub swamp wetland habitats. While the replacement parcel is under State ownership at this time, this action will add an extra level of habitat and access protections by placing these 108 acres under Federal WSFR Grant obligations. The Department has commissioned a land appraisal of both parcels to verify that adequate financial compensation has been established for the disposal and replacement of lands under this action.

In its current condition the Fryeburg Shooting Facility provides the public a basic place to shoot under supervision by certified RSOs. By modernizing the current facility MDIFW would be creating a much more environmentally responsible situation at the subject parcel and prevent the need to develop a shooting facility at an alternative location, which would likely be relatively undisturbed and without previous lead deposits. Under this Alternative, MDIFW proposes to recover and recycle the lead deposits on the current site and incorporate the treated soils back into re-engineered firing bays that are constructed in a manner that allows for a more efficient system of monitoring, recovery, and recycling of lead fragments without major disruptions in use at the subject parcel. Additionally, MIDFW proposes to capture and treat run-off in a stormwater collection system. A sound wall will be constructed behind all firearm shooting stations to redirect, dissipate, and break-up sound waves to limit noise disturbance to the surrounding area.

Under this alternative, MDIFW will be able to provide the shooting public a much greater range of activities and educational opportunities. The facility will be designed to ADA standards to be fully accessible, with paved parking lot and access paths to all shooting stations and target areas. MDIFW proposes to increase the available shooting stations to accommodate increase in public demand, with addition of 100-yard and 50-yard firing bays, improving the aerial shotgun field, adding a 60-yard archery bay, and a 15-yard training bay separate from other firing bays, to allow new shooters to gain confidence and proficiency without extra concussive forces or intimidation.

Modernization of this facility also will allow for increase security and predictable use at the site, as well as allow for additional hands-on experiential training for basic firearms handling and shooting sports programming. MDIFW proposes to install a security fence around the entire facility with locked access, where public use is only accessible when an RSO is present. This reconstruction will allow for increasing berm heights to meet current industry standards.

Under this alternative, MDIFW will be able to provide additional support structures on the subject parcel, including a heated storage and RSO administrative buildings and a future classroom site. These accessory structures will allow for secure storage of range supplies and provide a separate space, away from active shooting for students and RSOs to eat/rest. Modern facilities and support for volunteer RSOs will likely increase the number of volunteers and volunteer time to provide increased supervised public use hours and allow for critical education of brand-new firearms owners and participants to shooting sports.

CHAPTER 3. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Physical Environment

Both the subject parcel and the replacement parcel are located on the MSWMA, situated in the foothills of Maine's western mountain Region. The WMA is located in Oxford County, within the towns of Fryeburg, Brownfield, and Demark. The project area parcels are situated in the town of Fryeburg, near Lovewell Pond. Fryeburg is the closest population center and is nestled among the Saco River, the New Hampshire border, and White Mountains. The subject parcel is 16 acres, and the replacement parcel is approximately 108 acres (see **Appendix B**).

3.2 Soils and Topography

Elevations at both the subject parcel and the replacement parcel range from 360 to 460 feet in elevation (see Appendix B for map). The area associated with both parcels is relatively flat but rises in elevation (about 80 feet) away from the subject parcel toward a nearby sub-division. The soils at both sites are typical for region and some very indicative of wetland habitat sites. The following table indicates the soils present at both parcels (see **Appendix C** for map).

Soil Name	Drainage Category	Map Symbol	Proportion of Subject parcel	Proportion of Replacement parcel
Adams Loamy Sand (0-3% slopes)	Somewhat excessively drained	Ada	0%	>1%
Adams Loamy Sand (0-8% slopes)	Somewhat excessively drained	AdB	0%	11%
Colonel Fine Sandy Loam (3-8% slopes, very stony)	Somewhat poorly drained	CfB	0%	2%
Croghan Loamy Fine Sand (3-8 % slopes)	Moderately well drained	CrB	0%	>1%
Medomak Silt Loam	Very Poorly Drained	Mk	0%	>1%
Naumburg Loamy Sand	Poorly drained	Nb	35%	50%
Roundabout Silt Loam	Somewhat poorly drained	Ro	13%	20%
Skerry Fine Sandy Loam (3-8% slopes, very stony)	Moderately well drained	SnB	52%	>1%
Wonsqueak Mucky Peat	Very Poorly Drained	WK	0%	16%

Impacts:

Alternative A: No Action: Under this alternative there would be no change in topography or soils at either parcel.

Alternative B: Closure, Remediation, Restoration: Under this alternative the subject parcel would have dramatic changes to surface soils, topography and drainage. This alternative would require the removal of several inches of topsoil across the entire 16-acre parcel and treatment with lime. Additionally, this would require recontouring and the likely creation of a settling pond and permanent monitoring stations to ensure that the site remains free of lead contamination.
Under this alternative, the Department would need to locate and develop a shooting facility at an alternative location, that would result in site disturbance and lead deposition at a site that would likely be free of previously deposit lead contamination.

Alternative C: Preferred Action: Under this alternative the subject parcel would have a skim layer of surface soils removed and treated, as well as changes in contours to the topography and drainage. Similar to Alternative B, this alternative action would provide surface and sub-surface

drainage system across the entire infrastructure of the facility that is lined with limestone. Run-off would flow into a settling pond at the facility which would also be lined with limestone to immobilize lead movement in the water table.

3.3 Visual Resources and Aesthetics

The WMA is located in the foothills region of western Maine, characterized by rural forest land and minor agriculture. The project area is in close proximity to Lovewell Pond, Quint Bog, and the Saco River. The subject parcel is located along the Fish and Game Road which also serves as a boat access facility to Lovewell pond. The subject parcel contains a primitive shooting range consisting of two separate bermed shooting bays (100-yard and 25 yard), an aerial shotgun field, and some small wooden structures. A portion of the replacement parcel occurs along State Route 5/113. However, since both parcels are heavily forested there are no natural or man-made landscape features readily visible from either parcel.

Alternative A: No Action: Under this alternative there would be no change to available visual resources or aesthetics of the area.

Alternative B: Closure, Remediation, Restoration: This alternative requires significant alterations to the subject parcel, including the removal of topsoil and changes in minor topography. While these alterations would likely result in long-term removal from a forested condition, there would be no significant change to visual resources or aesthetic appeal of the area. This alternative would require the Department to locate and develop a shooting facility at an alternative site, which would likely alter the visual and aesthetic nature of the alternative location.

Alternative C: Preferred Action: The proposed actions under this alternative would result in significant alterations to the subject parcel, principally the addition of modern infrastructure for a shooting facility at the subject parcel. Under this alternative, there would be site conversion from a primitive shooting facility with minor structures to increased impervious surface and herbaceous cover. This action will also result in a twenty-foot-tall pre-formed acoustic wall placed behind all firearms shooting bays to limit sound transmission to the surrounding environment. This additional structure could be perceived as both visually appealing or visually detracting. Despite these significant alterations to the subject parcel, the modernized facility will be along an un-improved management road, where the heavily forested nature of the surrounding landscape does not allow for increased or decreased visibility of natural or man-made features being visible from the subject parcel.

3.4 Vegetative Communities and Habitat

The project area is located within Compartment 3 of the WMA and both the subject parcel and replacement parcel consist of hardwood dominated growing stands associated with Quint Bog and Lovewell Pond. Most of the upland portions of the compartment have been set up into a 60-year rotation and involve the cutting of a series of three chain wide blocks every 10 years. Initial cuts were made during 1983-84, with approximately 80 acres (in 31 blocks) being harvested. A portion of the subject parcel was included in seven-acre clear cut to provide early successional habitat for grouse during 2005-2010 harvest operations on the area. In order to create clear site lines and safe shooting facilities, additional clearing has taken place on the subject parcel. The

following table provides a comparison of dominant vegetative stands on both the subject parcel and replacement parcel.

Dominant species	Range of tree heights	Stand label on map	Proportion of Subject parcel	Proportion of Replacement parcel
Aspen	41-60’	AS	0%	2%
Intolerant Hardwoods	< 20’ to 60’	IH	16%	9%
Intolerant Hardwoods with Softwood component	21-60’	IH	3%	57%
Pitch Pine	41-60’	PP	0%	17%
Red Maple with Softwood component	>60’	RM	0%	13%
Tolerant Hardwoods with White Pine component	> 60’	TH	76%	0%
ROW or Road		RO	5%	2%

** These stands are what has been delineated as part of the WMA management planning, the subject parcel has had additional clearing and current vegetation may not be reflected in stand-typing.*

The subject parcel contained a less diverse tree cover than the replacement parcel and was dominated by saw-log sized tolerant hardwoods with a heavy white pine component. Whereas the replacement parcel is dominated by intolerant hardwoods ranging from seeding (recently harvested) to pole stage timber with a strong softwood component. There are some significant stands of saw-log stage red maple and pitch pine stands (see **Appendix D** for map depicting dominant stand types).

Impacts:

Alternative A: No Action: Under this alternative, there would remain a considerable portion of the subject parcel that presents a very limited opportunity to manage vegetative communities to benefit waterfowl or other wildlife.

Alternative B: Closure, Remediation, Restoration: Vegetative communities at the subject parcel would be dramatically altered under this alternative, and because of continued monitoring requirements would likely remain in the altered state for a long period of time. Since a significant amount of topsoil would be removed under this alternative, either replacement soils or significant soil amendments will need to be added in order to revegetate. This revegetation would likely need to be in herbaceous cover in order to remain accessible for monitoring and future treatment.

Alternative C: Preferred Action: Under the preferred action, the subject parcel would have significant alterations to vegetation and would be reseeded into herbaceous cover. The cleared area for the aerial shotgun use would be seeded into low-palatable fescues to limit the attractiveness to geese and other waterfowl for forage and help reduce any potential uptake of spent lead pellets. The replacement parcel provides a greater diversity of habitat conditions for waterfowl and other wildlife species than the original state at the subject parcel. The

replacement parcel contains both a greater variety of plant species, but also a greater range of vertical structure.

3.5 Wetlands, Streams, and Water Quality

The project area and MSWMA is associated with major wetland features including Lovewell Pond, Quint Bog, and the Saco River, which makes the area attractive to waterfowl and waterfowl hunting. While the subject parcel does not contain any mapped wetland features it is located approximately 900 feet from forested wetlands associated with Lovewell Pond, and a public boat access point is located 1200 feet further down the "Fish and Game Road" from the subject parcel and Fryeburg Shooting Facility. The replacement parcel includes nearly 6,000 linear feet of 1st and 2nd order streams and has 11.96 acres of forested wetland habitats and 5.73 acres of scrub-shrub wetlands. In 2003, Poland Spring Bottling Company explored the Brownfield Bog area, and dug four test wells to evaluate the site for use as a source of spring water. The study noted that the groundwater quality of the area was excellent.

Impacts:

Alternative A: No Action: Under this alternative there would be no alterations to wetland habitats or streams within the project areas. However, at some point in the near future proper recovering, recycling and treatment of soils in the firing berms would need to occur to ensure responsible management of resources and water quality of adjacent wetland resources.

Alternative B: Closure, Remediation, Restoration: Closure and remediation of the subject parcel would require significant alterations to the site, including the removal of topsoil and changes in minor topography which could lead to alterations in the flow of surface and subsurface waters. Action taken under this alternative will reduce and treat lead depositions resulting from use of the Fryeburg Facility since 1976 but would likely still need constant monitoring and potential future treatment as well and potential changes in hydrology. Under this scenario, the Department would need to find an alternative site to develop a shooting facility to meet public demand. An alternative site would likely be relatively undisturbed and without previous lead depositions.

Alternative C: Preferred Action: Similar to Alternative B, actions taken under this scenario would require significant site alteration of the subject parcel, including disturbing surface soils and recovering lead depositions, creating changes in minor topography, leading to possible alterations in the flow of surface and subsurface waters. After lead has been recovered, the site would be re-contoured and treated soils will be replaced into firing berms. As part of the modernization, there would be a complete stormwater collection and treatment plan, where under each firing bay would contain engineered drainage systems that flow into a settling pond that would be treated with limestone to limit the migration of lead out of the contained system. This would also prevent other run-off from entering into nearby wetlands without being properly diverted and filtered.

By disposing of the property from WSFR grant agreement and using the replacement parcel, there would be an increase of 16 acres of wetlands and nearly 6,000 feet of stream that would be under long-term protections and management regimes that would benefit waterfowl and other important wildlife resources.

3.6 Wildlife

The project area provides habitat and is used by a variety of species that typically occur in western Maine. All of Maine's big game species can be found within MSWMA, including bear, deer, moose, and wild turkey. Likewise, most of Maine's furbearers and small mammal communities can be found within the project area, including snowshoe hare, fisher, bobcat, coyote, red fox, beaver, raccoon, river otter, muskrat and mink. In addition to wild turkey, other game birds occur on WSWMA including ruffed grouse, woodcock and a suite of waterfowl, most notably; wood duck, hooded merganser, American black duck, ring-necked duck, mallard, and both green-winged and blue-winged teal.

The area associated with MSWMA is home to a wide-array of non-game species of wildlife including a guild of forest-associated songbirds (blue jay, crow, black-capped chickadee, wood thrush, red-eyed vireo, yellow-rumped warbler), common reptiles (common gartersnake, ring-necked snake), amphibians (red-backed salamander, northern dusky salamander, American toad, wood frog), invertebrates, and mammals (i.e., eastern chipmunk, northern flying squirrel, white-footed mouse, woodland vole).

Impacts:

Alternative A: No Action: Under this alternative, MDIFW does not anticipate any noticeable change to wildlife habitat or species occupancy of the project area by wildlife.

Alternative B: Closure, Remediation, Restoration: Closure and remediation of the subject parcel would require significant alterations to the site, including the removal of topsoil and changes in minor topography. Similarly, these alterations will likely result in long-term removal from a forested condition and be replaced with an open herbaceous cover potentially leading to significant changes in occupancy or use of the subject parcel by many wildlife species listed above and could result in immigration of species that require habitats and resources associated with open and herbaceous vegetation types. Additionally, under this alternative, there could be significant disturbance during remediation, including either temporary or permanent displacement of species from the subject parcel.

Alternative C: Preferred Action: Under the preferred action, the subject parcel would have significant alterations to vegetation and would be reseeded into herbaceous cover. The cleared area for aerial shotgun use would be seeded into low-palatable fescues to limit the attractiveness to geese and other waterfowl for forage and help reduce any potential uptake of spent lead pellets. The 108-acre replacement parcel would provide a greater diversity of habitat conditions for waterfowl and other wildlife species than does the original state at the subject parcel. The replacement parcel contains both a greater variety of plant species, and a greater range of vertical structure. Under this scenario, there will be significant site alteration, which could lead to either temporary or permanent displacement of species from the subject parcel.

3.7 Fish and Aquatic Species

There are no perennial open water sources present on either the subject parcel or the replacement parcel that would support sustainable fish or aquatic species to thrive. Therefore, we don't anticipate any fish or aquatic dependent species to be present.

However, there are several water resources that are adjacent to the project area that support a fishery. Shepards River and the Little Saco River have adequate temperatures and stream flow to support a brook trout fishery. Clay Brook is a nearby small stream with high temperatures and is not capable of supporting a native trout population. As a result, this stream is stocked with brook trout each spring, for a put and take fishery. The Saco River contains populations of brook trout, brown trout, landlocked salmon, smallmouth bass, yellow perch, chain pickerel, white suckers, and a variety of minnows. Lovewell Pond is a sizeable, shallow-water lake that provides excellent angling opportunities warmwater fish species, including largemouth bass, yellow perch, chain pickerel and bullhead.

Impacts:

Alternative A: No Action: Under this alternative there would be no alterations to water resources within the project areas, therefore there is no anticipated impacts or changes to aquatic communities. However, at some point in the near future proper recovery, recycling and treatment of soils in the firing berms would need occur to ensure responsible management of resources and water quality of adjacent important wetland resources.

Alternative B: Closure, Remediation, Restoration: Closure and remediation of the subject parcel would require significant alterations to the site, including the removal of topsoil and changes in minor topography which could lead to alterations in the flow of surface and subsurface waters. Action taken under this alternative would reduce and treat lead depositions resulting from use of the Fryeburg Facility since 1976 but would likely still need constant monitoring and potential future treatment as well and potential changes in hydrology which may affect aquatic species and communities associated with the subject parcel.

Alternative C: Preferred Action: The preferred alternative of replacing the subject parcel with an adjacent replacement parcel and subsequent modernization of the Fryeburg Shooting Facility would not result in any anticipated negative impacts and may have some positive benefits to water quality and aquatic species in the subject area. Similar to Alternative B, actions taken under this scenario would require significant site alteration of the subject parcel, including disturbing surface soils and recovering lead depositions. After lead has been recovered, the site would be re-contoured and treated soils will be replaced into firing berms. As part of the modernization, there would be a complete stormwater collection and treatment plan, where under each firing bay will contain engineered drainage systems that flow into a settling pond that is treated with limestone to limit the migration of lead out of the contained system. This would also handle all other run-off from additional impervious soils and prevent it from entering into nearby wetlands without being properly diverted and filter. This alternative should maintain quality water resources for aquatic species occupying the project area.

3.8 Threatened and Endangered Species

No Threatened or Endangered species (either state-listed or federally listed) are known to occur on either the subject parcel or the replacement parcel. However, the greater MSWMA does provide habitat for two state endangered species, sedge wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) and rapids clubtail (*Gomphos quadricolor*), and four state threatened species have been recorded, including: boreal snaketail (*Ophiogomphus colubrinus*), ringed boghaunter (*Williamsonia lintneri*), twilight moth, and pine barrens Zanclognatha (see **Appendix F),** but all within different compartments of the WMA. Additionally, there have been several rare species documented within the MSWMA,

including scarlet bluet being documented in the headwater wetlands associated with Lovewell Pond, pygmy snaketail, associated with the little Saco River, eastern ribbon snake, and wood turtles associated with the floodplain of the Saco River.

Impacts:

Alternative A: No Action: Under this alternative, MDIFW does not anticipate any noticeable change to wildlife habitat or species occupancy of the project area by any rare, threatened or endangered species.

Alternative B: Closure, Remediation, Restoration: Closure and remediation of the subject parcel would require significant alterations to the site, including the removal of topsoil and changes in minor topography. Similarly, these alterations will likely result in long-term removal from a forested condition and replaced with an open herbaceous cover and likely would not result in any significant changes in occupancy of the subject parcel by rare, threatened, or endangered species, since most species listed above are closely associated with wetland or riparian habitats. Since, there are no threatened or endangered species known to occur on the subject parcel, there are no anticipate direct impacts or mortality to these species resulting from activities associated with this alternative.

Alternative C: Preferred Action: Under the preferred action, the subject parcel would have significant alterations to vegetation and would be reseeded into herbaceous cover. The resulting change in cover will likely not result in any significant changes in occupancy of the subject parcel by rare, threatened, or endangered species. Similarly, since these species are not known to occur on the subject parcel, there should be no direct impacts or mortality resulting from actions under this scenario. However, the 108-acre replacement parcel would provide a greater diversity of habitat conditions for wildlife species. While the above species have not been documented within the replacement parcel, this portion of the WMA does contain a significantly greater amount of wetland and riparian habitat and could be utilized by several of the species listed above.

3.9 Air Quality

The project area is a rural forested environment, no known air quality issues or measurements exist. The proposed action area is not located within an EPA designated non-attainment area for air quality standards (USEPA 2019). No sensitive receptors (hospitals, schools, daycare facilities, elderly housing, or convalescent facilities) are located within one mile of the project study area.

Impacts:

Alternative A: No Action: Under this alternative there will be no change in air quality at either parcel at the current time. However, given the use and demands at the current shooting facility increase lead depositions could reach a level, without proper recovery and recycling that may result in lead dust being emitted into the air with each discharge into the firing berm, resulting in a reduce air quality.

Alternative B: Closure, Remediation, Restoration: Under this alternative any lead deposits would be remediated and there would be no change in air quality at either parcel. However, under this alternative, in order to meet public demand and statutory obligations, the Department would

need to develop a shooting range facility on an alternative site, that would likely be relatively undisturbed and free of previous lead depositions or lead dust.

Alternative C: Preferred Action: Under this alternative the modernized shooting facility will be engineered for an efficient manner of lead recovery and recycling at regular intervals and should negate any future issue with lead depositions. There will be no change in air quality at either parcel.

3.10 Noise

The project area occurs at the far edge of a rural town and down a largely forested state-owned gravel roadway. The surrounding area has low ambient noise levels, with occasional rural Maine noises including commercial logging activity, a railroad, and state biway (State Route 5/113). Lovewell Pond is adjacent to the subject parcel and has motorboat access with no watercraft horsepower restrictions. There is a town-managed rural airport designed for small aircraft, with 4200 feet of runway available, located about half-mile from the subject parcels.

The current Fryeburg Shooting facility generates noise from shooting firearms, including handguns, high-power rifles and shotguns. Depending on the season, the facility is only open to the public up to six days a week from 9am-5pm, with supervised use when and RSO is present. The public use days are posted on the Department's website to provide a predictable schedule of shooting activity available for review to the surrounding community.

In anticipation of a future modernization project, the Department investigated noise levels resulting from shooting at the current Fryeburg Shooting Facility. Noise testing was conducted by Acentech Accoustical Consultants in October 2017. Sampling points were established immediately behind the shooting facility (200 meters behind the firing line) and within the adjacent Rapputak sub-division community. During measurement, the noise levels recorded within the sub-division ranged average between 35 and 55 decibels, and peaked at about 72 decibels, resulting from shooting at the Fryeburg facility. At the station located immediately behind the shooting line, noise levels peaked at about 92 decibels. The consultants also recorded ambient noise levels, which included road traffic, chirping birds and lawn equipment ranged between 32 and 47 decibels.

Impacts:

Alternative A: No Action: Under this alternative there would likely be no change to overall dB levels resulting from shooting at the current shooting facility. However, given the demand for public shooting facilities, we would anticipate increased levels of shooting activities.

Alternative B: Closure, Remediation, Restoration: Under this alternative, there would be no shooting facility at the subject parcel, therefore no noise will be generated from shooting at the subject parcel. However, all other rural noises will still be present, including commercial logging activity, the railroad, motorboat operation at Lovewell Pond, and the small aircraft taking off and landing at the airport.

Also, this alternative will require the Department develop a shooting range facility on an alternative site, that would likely be relatively undisturbed and free of noise from shooting, in order to meet public demand and statutory obligations.

Alternative C: Preferred Action: Under this alternative, modernization of the Fryeburg Shooting facility would include a 20-foot-high sound wall placed behind each of the firearm shooting bays to redirect and dissipate sound transmission. The range facility will still be controlled use, only when supervised by RSOs. The resulting peak noise levels resulting from shooting activities would be noticeably reduced to the adjacent sub-division community and users of Lovewell Pond.

3.11 Hazardous Waste and Solid Materials

Hazardous substances are defined as any solid, liquid, contained gaseous or semisolid waste, or any combination of wastes that pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health and the environment. At the subject parcel, there are lead depositions resulting from operations at the Fryeburg Shooting Facility. However, current operations of the Fryeburg Shooting facility are within EPA's BMP guidance for lead management at shooting ranges (2005). In 2015, the Department contracted with S.W. Cole Engineering, inc., to survey lead depositions at the Fryeburg facility. Several of the samples within the firing berms and floors of the pistol and rifle bays contained lead concentrations higher than Maine Department of Environmental Protection's (MDEP) Residential Area Baseline limit of 50 ppm. Similarly, further lab analysis concluded that lead concentrations within the firing berms exceeded the EPA's maximum concentration limit of 5.0 ppm, thus the berms would be classified as hazardous waste, if the site was to be reclaimed. However, lead depositions within the shotgun field did not exceed either thresholds at this time.

Additionally, there are some tires that have been incorporated into the side berm between the pistol and rifle range. No other hazardous materials are known to occur on this site.

Alternative A: No Action: Under this alternative there would be no changes to the project area, therefore no changes are anticipated to hazardous waste or solid materials. However, at some point in the near future proper recovery, recycling and treatment of soils in the firing berms will need occur to ensure responsible management of resources and water quality of adjacent important wetland resources.

Alternative B: Closure, Remediation, Restoration: Under this alternative, all lead and tires would be recovered, soil will be treated and removed. The remaining site would be restored to herbaceous cover and monitored over the long-term. There would be no hazardous waste associated with the subject parcel. However, under this alternative, in order to meet public demand and statutory obligations, the Department would need to develop a shooting range facility on an alternative site, that would likely be relatively undisturbed and free of previous lead depositions.

Alternative C: Preferred Action: Under this alternative, all lead and tires would be recovered and recycled. The remaining soil would be treated and replaced into the firing berms in accordance with U.S. EPA guidance and best management practices for lead at Shooting Ranges (2005). As part of the modernization, there would be a complete stormwater collection and treatment plan, where under each firing bay would contain engineered drainage systems that flow into a settling pond that would be treated with limestone to limit the migration of lead out of the contained system. This would also handle all other run-off from additional impervious soils and prevent it from entering into nearby wetlands without being properly diverted and filter.

3.12 Historic, Archaeological, and Cultural Resources

MDIFW has consulted with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and the five tribal nations in Maine. There are no known historic, archaeological or other cultural resources present at either parcel. Therefore, there should be no impacts resulting from any of the alternatives presented.

3.13 Socioeconomic conditions

The project area is located in Oxford County, Maine, which is predominately comprised of rural communities, but does have the urban center of Lewiston-Auburn. In the 2020 census, the county human population was 57,777 and consists of 92.5% White; 0.4, Black or African-American; 0.5% Asian; 0.3% American Indian, Native Alaskan, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; 1.5% Hispanic or Latino, 0.5% other race; and 4.5% two or more races. About 80% of this population is older than 18 years of age. In 2019, the median household income rate for Oxford county was $49,204, which is below the State and National average, with the majority of job in the education, health service, transportation, utilities, leisure and hospitality, and manufacturing industries. The poverty rate for Oxford county is 15.1%, which is significantly greater than either Maine (11.8%) or the United States (13.4%; U.S. Census Bureau, 2021). Neither the subject parcel nor the replacement parcel is within an environmental justice area.

Alternative A: No Action: Under this alternative there would be no foreseeable adverse impacts to minority communities or low-income populations.

Alternative B: Closure, Remediation, Restoration: Under this alternative, there would no foreseeable adverse impacts to minority communities or low-income populations. However, under this alternative, closing the shooting facility at the subject parcel could result in a decrease of indirect funds to the local economy through user purchases of fuel, food, and lodging. Currently, the Fryeburg shooting facility has users that visit from all over southern Maine and New Hampshire.

Alternative C: Preferred Action: Development of a modernized shooting facility at the subject site would contribute indirectly to the local economy as users would purchase fuel, food, lodging and retail goods from area businesses. Similarly, with a modernized facility and its infrastructure the Department would be able to host hands-on experiential shooting sports and firearms safety programming, gear specifically to underserved communities.

3.15 Public Use, Access, and Recreation

Currently, the MSWMA (including the project area) receives a variety of recreational use, including hunting, birding, canoeing, trapping, fishing, and snowmobiling. Waterfowl and deer are the two most sought-after species by hunters using the MSWMA. The greatest hunter use occurs during the first few days of the season, with declining use through the rest of the season although flocks of migrating waterfowl utilize the area at that time.

At the end of the Fish and Game Road (associated with the subject parcel), there is a Department managed boat access site for Lovewell Pond that receives significant use during summer months.

The Fryeburg Shooting facility located on the subject parcel provides hunters and recreational shooters a primitive shooting facility to practice their skills from April to November.

Alternative A: No Action: Under this alternative there would be no anticipated changes in access or use at either parcel.

Alternative B: Closure, Remediation, Restoration: Closure and remediation of the primitive shooting facilities currently in place would result in loss of a safe, confined and managed shooting opportunities in western Maine. Currently, the Fryeburg Shooting facility provides shooting opportunity for users all over southern Maine and New Hampshire (we estimate about 1,200-1,500 public users of this ranges during May-October).

Alternative C: Preferred Action: Under the preferred alternative, Maine's public would be able to continue their traditional recreational activities pursued on the project area and greater MSWMA. Additionally, by modernizing the Fryeburg Shooting Facility, MDIFW would be able to provide the shooting public a much greater range of activities and educational opportunities. The facility would be designed to ADA standards to be fully accessible, with paved parking lot and access paths to all shooting stations and target areas. These upgrades would allow for new shooters to gain confidence and proficiency without extra concussive forces or intimidation and will increase security and predictable use at the site, as well as allow for additional hands-on experiential training for basic firearms handling and shooting sports programming.

CHAPTER 4. CUMULATIVE AFFECTS

This chapter discloses the incremental impacts that the alternatives are anticipated to have when considered in the context of impacts associated with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (RFFAs) that have occurred, or are likely to occur, in the area. Cumulative impact analysis considers the impacts of "past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions" regardless of who undertakes the action (40 CFR 1508.7). Cumulative impacts are the incremental and potentially synergistic impact on either the natural environment or human environment by an action when added to past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

4.1 Relevant Past, Present and Foreseeable Actions

Minor improvements have been made to the Fryeburg Shooting facility over the last 50 years. Some of these improvements include deposition of fill material to increase the increased height of firing and side berms, tree removal, stumping and site preparation to create a small trap field, construction of a small storage building, installation of a covered shooting station, with 50 square feet of impervious concrete. The proposed modernized facility will increase the amount of impervious surface in the subject parcel, however, there is an engineered stormwater collection system as part of the project to capture and sequester run-off associated with the facility.

The proposed project is relatively small in scale and size and would result in no more than minor direct and indirect effects to resources. The primary risk associated with the proposed project is the introduction of additional lead, into the environment. However, MDIFW will employ a Lead Management Plan and stormwater collection system to limit the movement of lead into the environment, following EPA guidance (2005).

Minor improvements to the Fish and Wildlife Access Road have occurred in the past 10 years, with additional fill materials brought in to increase road height. Additionally, under the preferred alternative, MDIFW will widen and continue to improve the road surface to facilitate access with a wide range of vehicles to Fryeburg Shooting Facility, as well as the Public Boat Access site to Lovewell Pond.

The proposed project will not foster or inhibit economic or population growth in the surrounding area, nor will it result in any foreseeable growth inducing effects or induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth rate, and related effects on resources or the environment.

CHAPTER 5. CONSULTATION AND AGENCY COORDINATION

MDIFW prepared this draft EA in consultation and coordination with several Federal, State, Local agencies and Tribes having legislative and *administrative responsibilities or interest in this proposed action, including the* USFWS, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Town of Fryeburg, Mi'Kmaq Nation, Penobscot Nation, Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians.

CHAPTER 6. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

MDIFW has consulted with the Fryeburg Fish and Game Association, Fryeburg Town Officials and concerned public members that live in the adjacent Rappatuk sub-division community on multiple occasions gathering input to the design of a modernized shooting Facility. Starting July 1st, 2022 for a period of 30 days, the USFWS and MDIFW are inviting public comment for all alternatives analyzed in this EA: Alternative A: no action, Alternative B: closure and remediation, and Alternative C: preferred action. Comments are being accepted via the website, e-mail, and mail.

CHAPTER 7. LIST OF PREPARERS

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NSSF. 2022. Firearm and Ammunition Industry Economic Impact Report 2022. The National Shooting Sports Foundation Report #9101A. 7 pages.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A. Location map for Fryeburg Shooting Facility Project Area.

Appendix B. Topographic Reference for both Subject parcel (black) and Replacement Parcel (blue).

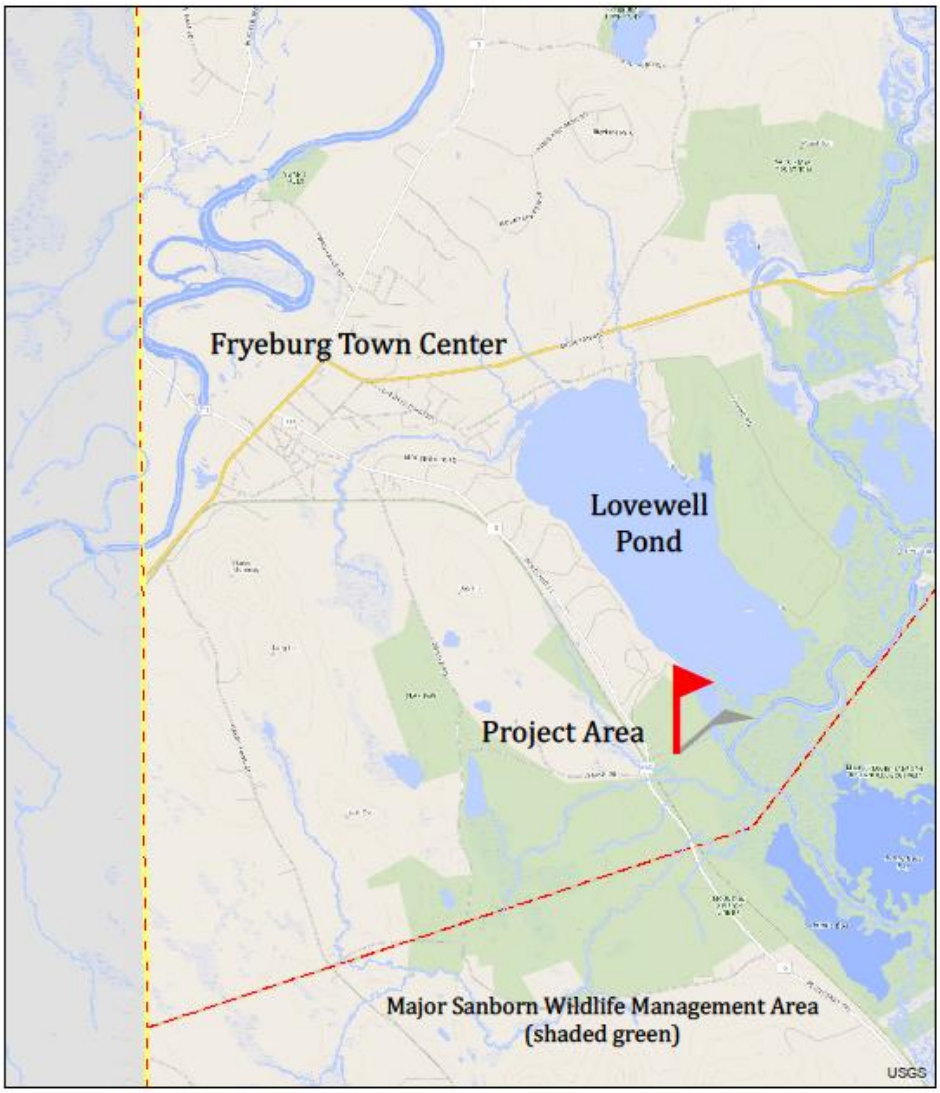
Appendix C. Map of soils present on both Subject parcel (black) and Replacement Parcel (blue).

Appendix D. Map of Dominant Vegetative Overstory Communities on both Subject parcel (black) and Replacement Parcel (black).

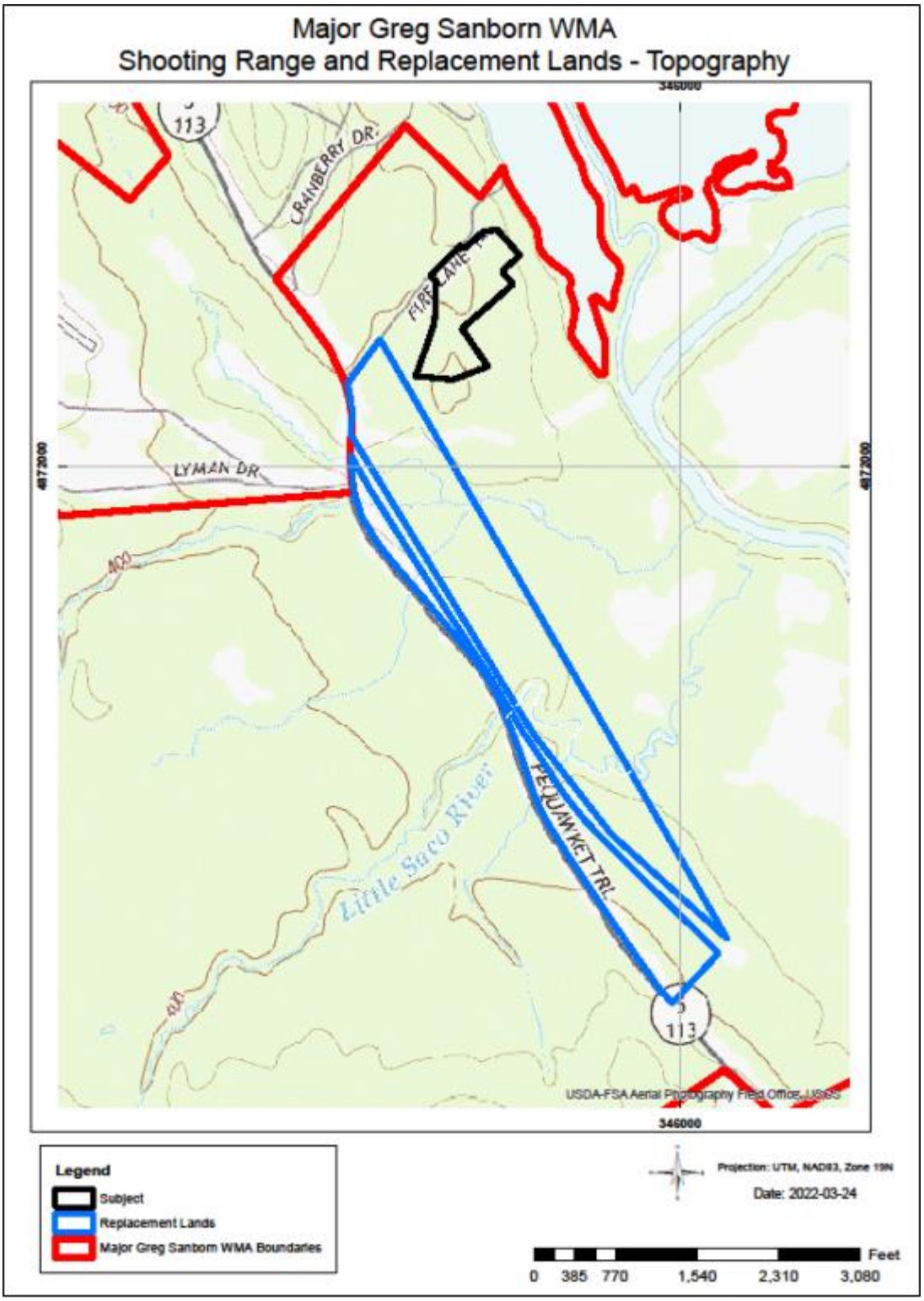
Appendix E. Map of Wetlands Resources on both Subject parcel (black) and Replacement Parcel (blue).

Appendix F. Map of Threatened and Endangered Species associated with MSWMA, Subject parcel (black) and Replacement Parcel (blue) are depicted.

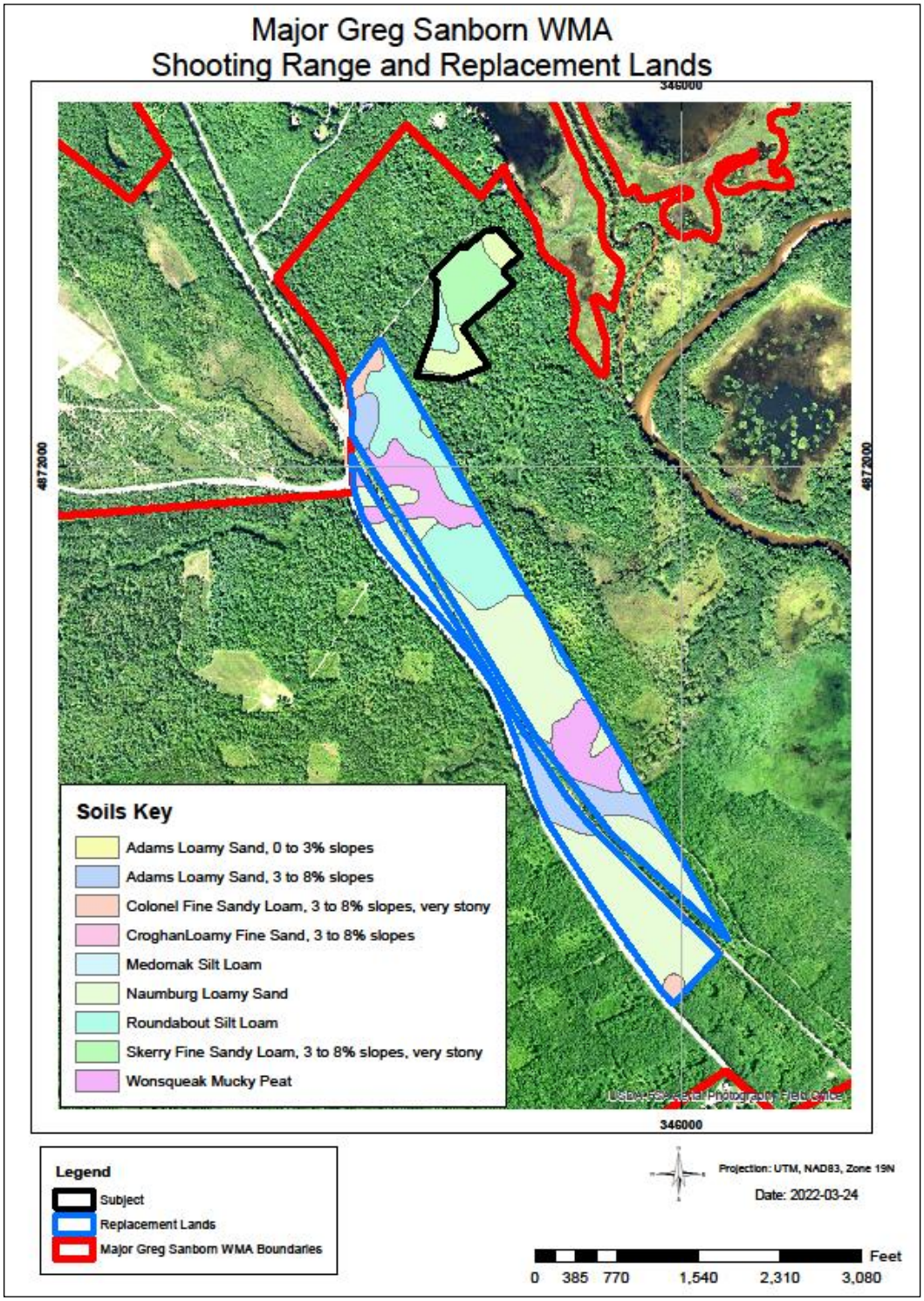
Appendix A. Location map for Fryeburg Shooting Facility Project Area.



Appendix B. Topographic Reference for both Subject parcel (black) and Replacement Parcel (blue).



Appendix C. Map of soils present on both Subject parcel (black) and Replacement Parcel (blue).



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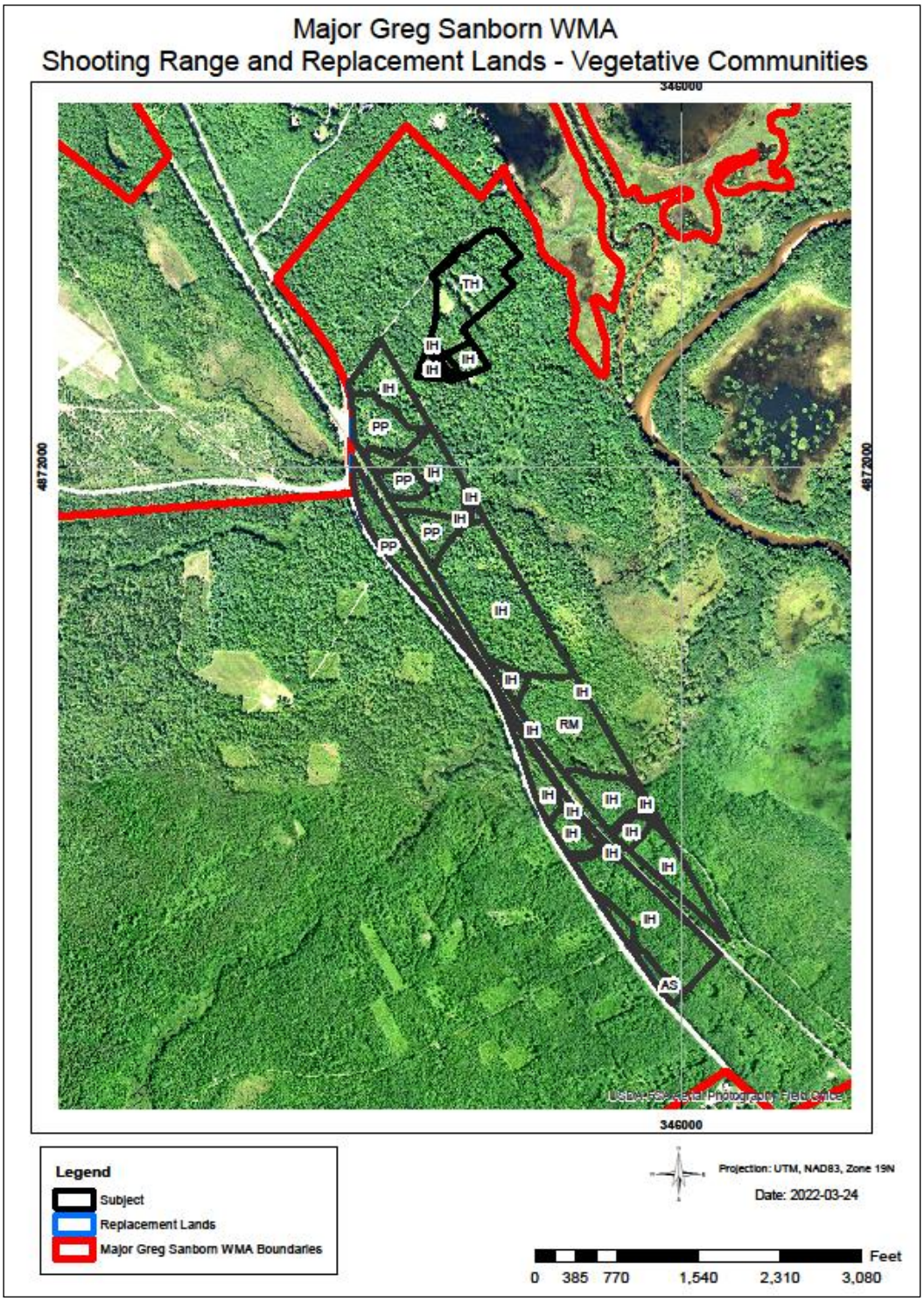

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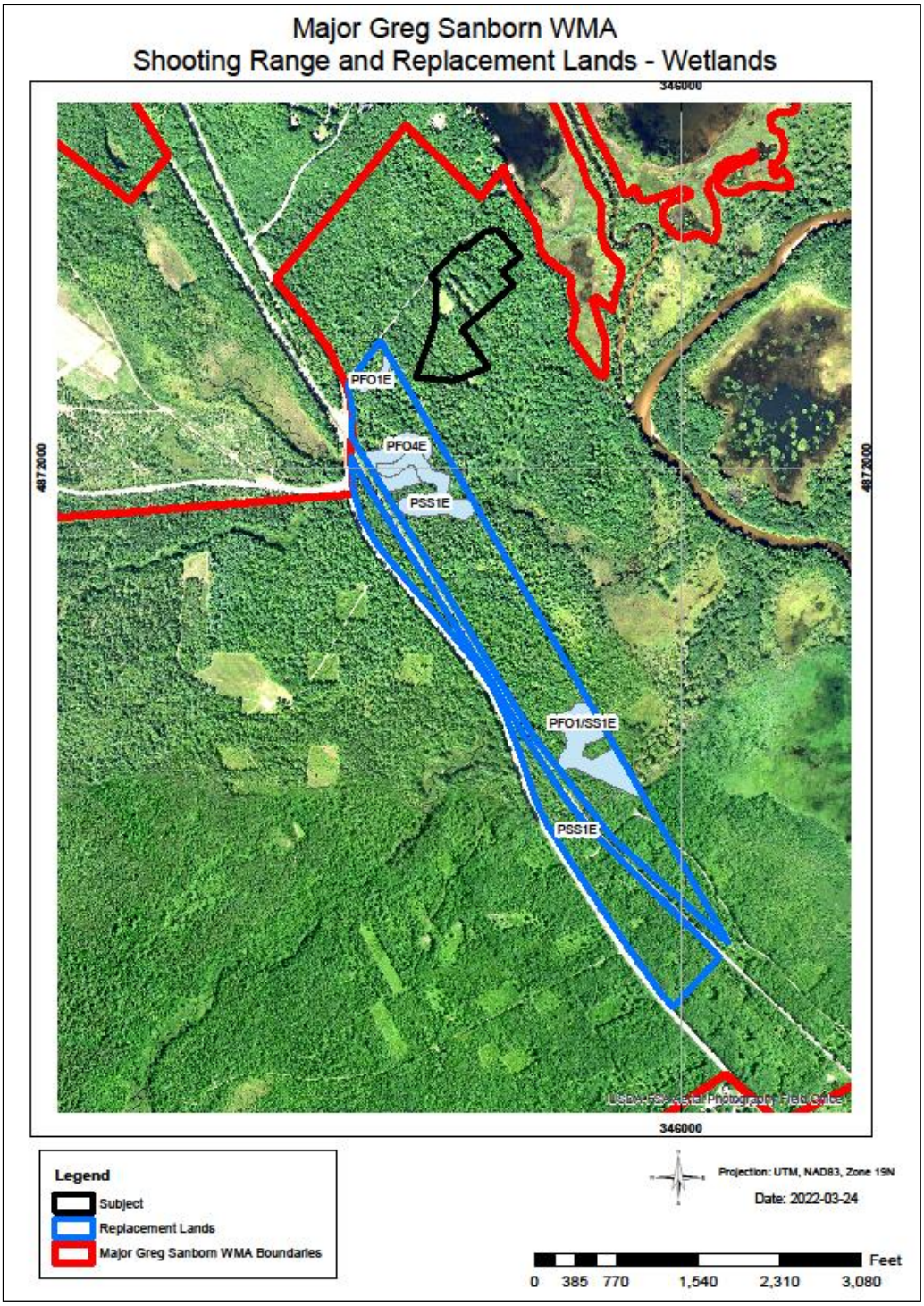

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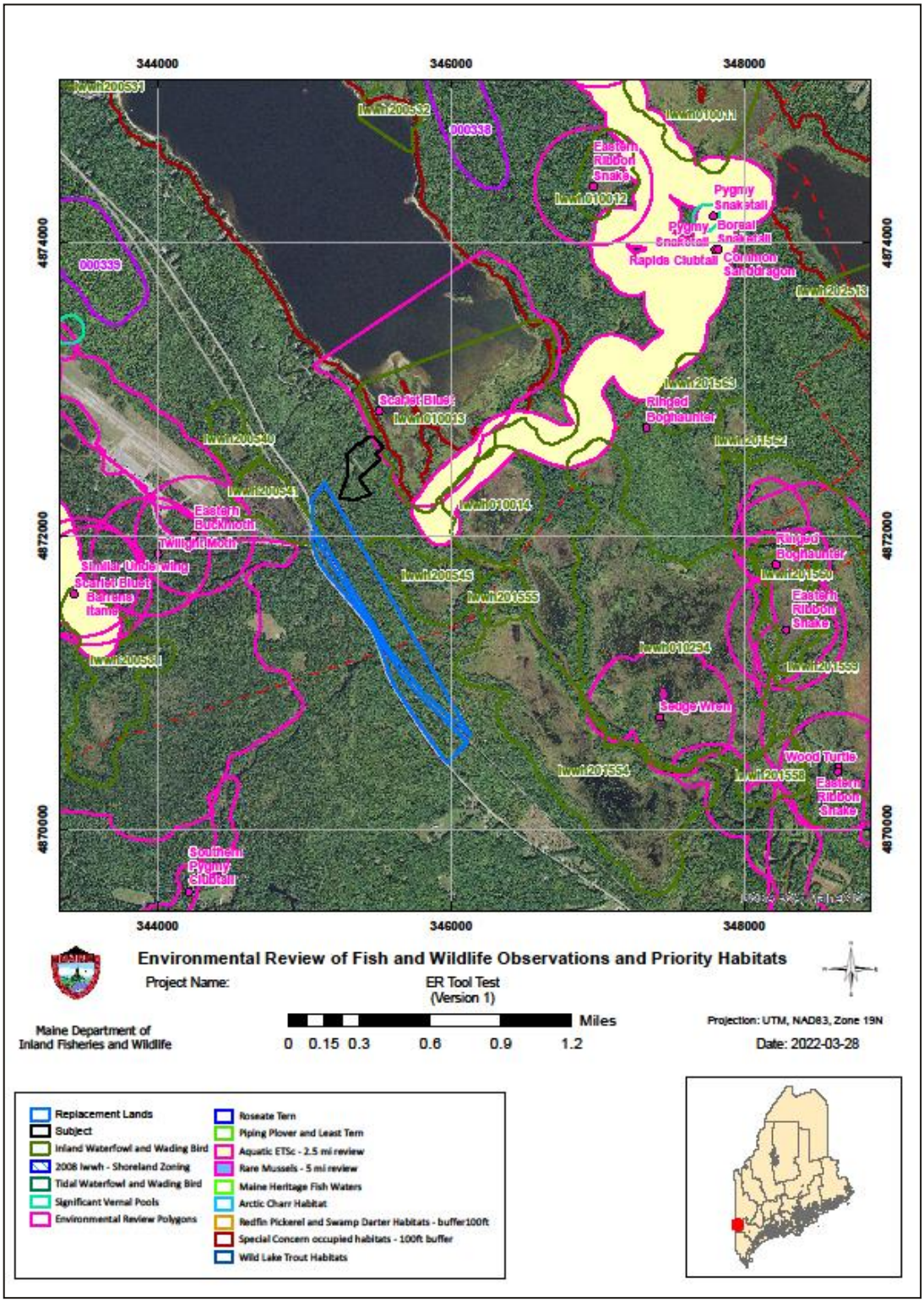
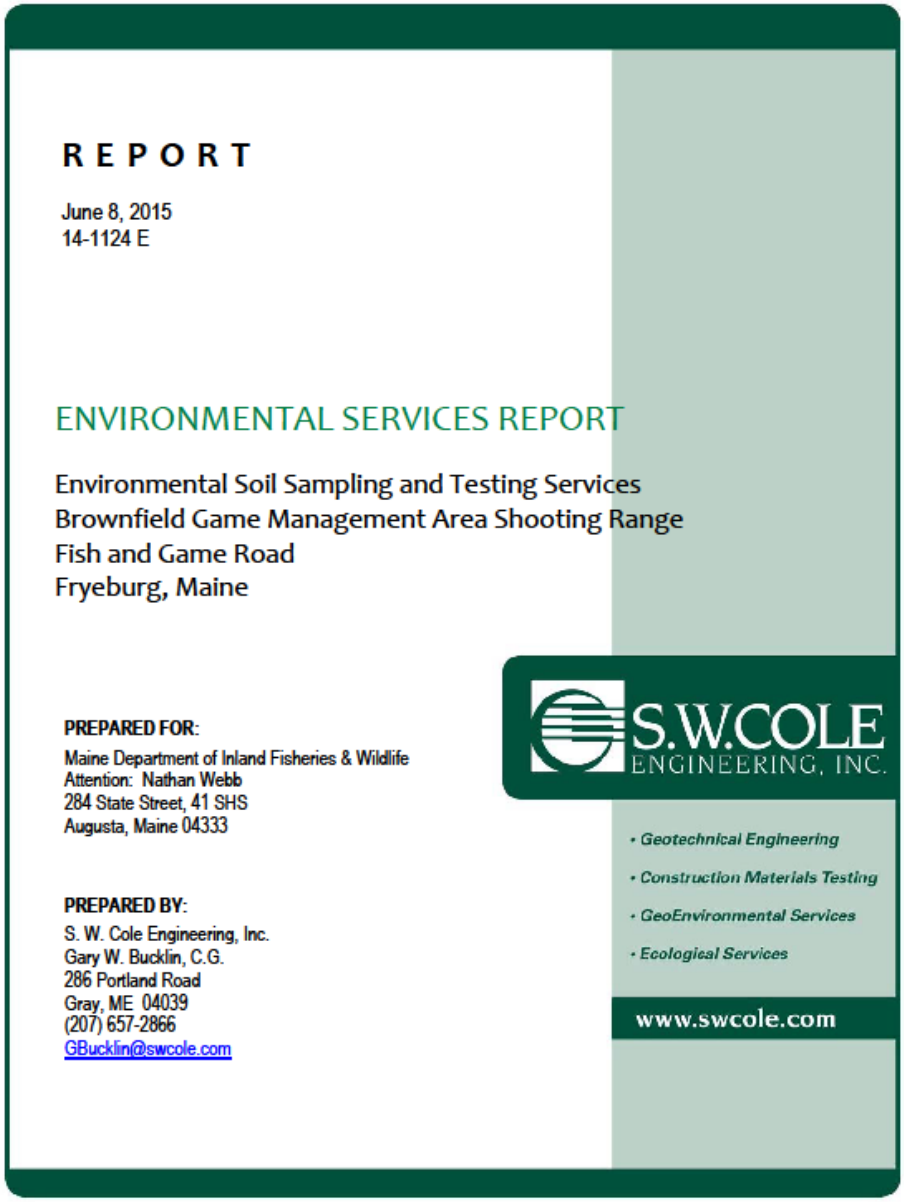


Appendix G. Environmental Service Report #14-1124E – Environmental Soil Sampling and Testing Services Brownfield Game Management Area Shooting Range Fish and Game Road Fryeburg, Maine.

Click on the link to view the document

https://www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/Fryeburg-Soil-Test-Report-6-8-15.pdf



REPORT

June 8, 2015
14-1124 E

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORT

Environmental Soil Sampling and Testing Services
Brownfield Game Management Area Shooting Range
Fish and Game Road
Fryeburg, Maine

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