Beginning with HABITAT

An Approach to Conserving Maine's Natural Space for Plants, Animals and People

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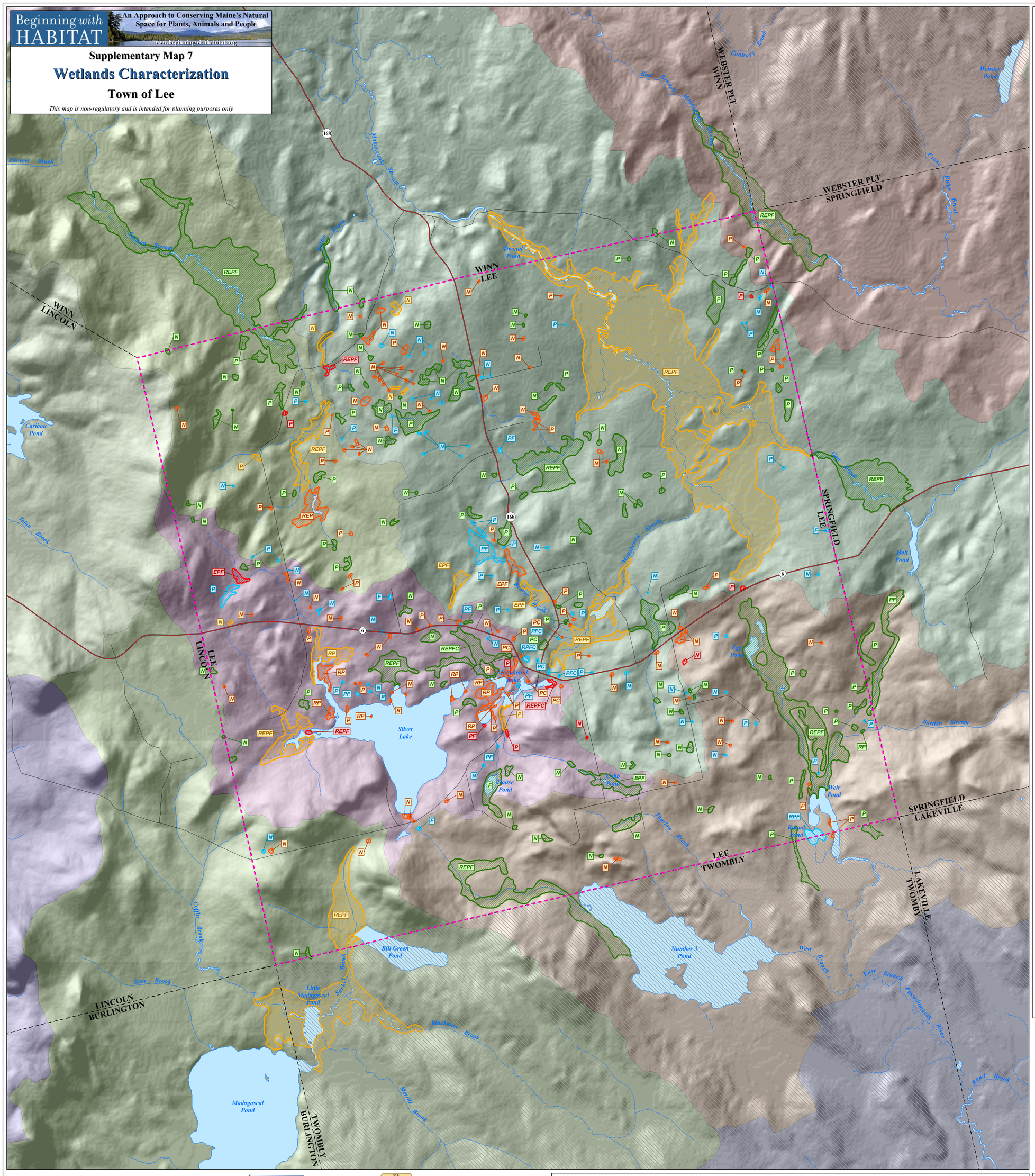
Supplementary Map 7

Wetlands Characterization

Town of Lee

This map is non-regulatory and is intended for planning purposes only



LEGEND

The State Planning Office (SPO) Wetlands Characterization is a planning tool to help identify significant wetland resources and associated uplands. This map identifies wetlands that are likely to provide floodflow control, sediment retention, wetlands-related plant and animal habitat, finfish habitat, shellfish habitat, and cultural/educational opportunities. There are other important wetland functions and values not depicted in this map. Smaller wetlands like vernal pools, drier-end forested wetlands, and the extent of larger wetlands are known to be underrepresented in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) data used to create this map. The labels indicate the different known functions provided by each wetland, but may not include every function if the information used to characterize the wetland was limited or outdated (the SPO attempts to keep information current, but the landscape changes continuously). Therefore, it is important to use local knowledge and other data sources when evaluating wetlands and each wetland should be considered relative to the whole landscape/watershed when assessing wetland resources at a local level.

Wetland Functions Evaluated

R = RUNOFF / FLOODFLOW ALTERATION
Wetlands that are (a) contained in a flood zone, (b) associated with a surface watercourse or waterbody, and (c) with slope < 3%.

E = EROSION CONTROL / SEDIMENT RETENTION
Wetlands with (a) slope < 3%; (b) emergent vegetation; and (c) close proximity to a river, stream, or lake.

P = PLANT AND ANIMAL HABITAT
Wetlands containing (a) open water or emergent vegetation; (b) ≥ 3 Vegetation classes; and (c) within or adjacent (100 ft.) to a river, stream, or lake OR NWI polygons of Management Concern within 0.25 miles of habitat supporting (a) rare, threatened, or endangered plants and animals; (b) rare and exemplary natural communities; or (c) significant / essential wildlife habitat.

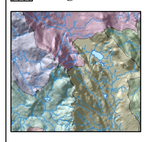
F = FINFISH HABITAT
Wetlands including NWI polygons of the following types (see below for description of codes): R1, R1UB, R2SB, R2AB, R4EM, R3US, L1UB, L1AB, L2UB, L2AB, L2US, L2EM, E1UB, E1AB, E2AB, E2SB, E2EM, E2SS, or E2US or the following types adjacent to a river stream or lake: PUB, PAB, PUS, PEM, PSSA, PSSC, PSSF, PSSG, PSSJ, PFOA, PFOC, PFOb

S = SHELLFISH HABITAT
Wetlands within 0.5 miles of: (a) identified shellfish habitat, (b) identified shellfish closure areas, or (c) mapped eelgrass beds OR Palustine Wetlands directly connected by a stream of < 0.5 mile in length to: (a) identified shellfish habitat, (b) identified shellfish closure areas, or (c) mapped eelgrass beds.

C = CULTURAL / EDUCATION:
Wetlands within 0.25 miles of a boat ramp or school. (These wetlands are seen as likely candidates for use as educational resources, adopt-a-wetland programs, and wetlands with a built-in constituency.)

N = NO DOCUMENTED FUNCTIONS:
These tend to be isolated, forest wetlands, which still have value.

Unorganized Town



The shaded, background polygons are subwatersheds (areas that drain to a particular lake, pool, river, stream, or the ocean). The subwatersheds are shaded to show topographic relief. This "hillshading" assumes the sun is shining from the northwest, so ridgetops and northwest-facing slopes appear light, whereas valleys and southeast-facing slopes appear dark. Because many areas of Maine are relatively flat, the topographic relief shown here has been exaggerated to make the details easier to see.

Fill = NWI Wetland System
The NWI System is the first letter of the NWI codes listed above under the Finfish Habitat function

- ESTUARINE (E) = Tidal
- LACUSTRINE (L) = fresh waterbodies >20 acres in size and >2 m deep at low water
- MARINE (M) = open ocean and high-energy shoreline
- PALUSTRINE (P) = freshwater wetlands and waterbodies <20 acres in size and <2 m deep at low water
- RIVERINE (R) = flowing freshwater within a channel

Color = Wetland Class
The NWI Class is the last 2 letters of the codes listed above under the Finfish Habitat function. A 4-letter code with a slash indicates a mixed class where the first two letters are the dominant (>50% of the wetland area) and the second two letters are the subdominant (<50% of the area).

- Aquatic Bed (floating aquatic vegetation)
  NWI codes: AB, AB/EM, AB/FO, AB/UB, AB/RS, AB/SS, AB/US, AB/RB
- Emergent (herbaceous vegetation)
  NWI codes: EM, EM/AB, EM/UB, EM/RS, EM/US
- Emergent / Forested (woody vegetation >20 ft tall) Mix
  NWI codes: EM/FO, FO/EM
- Emergent / Shrub-scrub (woody vegetation <20 ft tall) Mix
  NWI codes: EM/SS, SS/EM
- Forested
  NWI Codes: FO, FO/AB, FO/UB
- Forested / Shrub-scrub Mix
  NWI Codes: FO/SS, SS/FO
- Open Water
  NWI Codes: UB, UB/AB, UB/EM, UB/FO, UB/SS, UB/US, UB/RB
- Shrub-scrub
  NWI Codes: SS, SS/AB, SS/UB, SS/US
- Other (rocky shore, streambed, unconsolidated shore, reef, rocky bottom)
  NWI Codes: RS, RS/AB, RS/US, SB, US, US/AB, US/EM, US/UB, US/RS, RF, RB, RB/AB

National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps are interpreted from high altitude photographs. NWI Wetlands are identified by vegetation, hydrology, and geography in accordance with "Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats" (FWS/OBS-79/31, Dec 1979). The aerial photographs document conditions for the year they were taken. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, State, or local government. NWI maps depict general wetland locations, boundaries, and characteristics. They are not a substitute for intensive on-ground, site-specific investigation.

This map and its depiction neither substitute for nor eliminate the need to perform on-the-ground wetland delineation and functional assessment. In no way shall use of this map diminish or alter the regulatory protection that all wetlands are accorded under applicable State and Federal laws.

For more information about wetlands characterization, contact Elizabeth Hertz at the Maine State Planning Office (207-287-8935, elizabeth.hertz@maine.gov).

Data Sources

Wetland Polygons: USFWS 1:24,000 National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

Elevational Shading, Contour Lines, and Area Features:
USGS 30 m Digital Elevation Model and 1:24,000 Topographic Maps

Town Boundaries, Hydrology: Maine Office of GIS (1:24,000)

Watershed data provided by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), developed from Maine Office of GIS Drainage Divide Coverage

Maine Audubon · Department of Conservation Maine · The Nature Conservancy · Maine Coastal Program · Maine Coast Heritage Trust · Fish & Wildlife Service

N · W · E · S

Feet: 5,000 2,500 0 0.5 1 Miles
Meters: 1,000 500 0 0.5 1 Kilometers

1:24,000 Scale
Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Projection
North American Datum (NAD) 1983

Map Prepared by
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