

IV. Bibliography

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V. Appendices & Figures

Appendix A - Summary of Comments During Public Scoping Sessions

The following is a summary of all the public comments that were made throughout the planning process. Included are comments from the initial public scoping meeting, phone calls, letters, e-mails and personal contacts.

Forestry

1. Keep managing forest for timber.
2. Is Green Certification going to change how State Forests are being managed?
3. Salvage blow down and dying hardwood on Tug Hill.
4. Keep wildlife a priority while managing timber and create a range of wildlife habitats.

Recreation

1. Open up Truck Trails (Public Forest Access Roads) to ATV use.
2. Create an access pass to recreate on State Forest Lands.
3. Review Lewis County Trail System to see if there are any possible connector trails.
4. Do not allow any ATV use on State Forest Land
5. Continue the policy that prohibits ATV trails
6. New trails will interfere with trappers
7. Create a long distance foot trail across Tug Hill Plateau
8. Move snowmobile trails off the roads where possible

Wildlife

1. Include management objectives of hunting, fishing and trapping.
2. Maintain and improve access for sportsman
3. Establish black bear hunting season on the Unit
4. Maintain a mosaic of successional habitats
5. Use data and information in Audubon Important Birding Areas of New York
6. Manage the Tug Hill WMA for early successional habitat

Facilities

1. Open DEC roads (Public Forest Access Roads) to ATV use.
2. Post more maps on the snowmobile trails to identify your location.
3. Garbage and litter is a problem on the trails.
4. There should be more enforcement for snowmobile and ATV violations.

- 5. Trails and Public Forest Access Roads need better signage**
- 6. Find possible locations for helicopters in case of emergencies**

Local Governments

- 1. The Department needs to reach out to local officials when developing objectives and management recommendations.**

Appendix B - Responsiveness Summary to Public Comments

Forestry Comments

Timber management is important

Response: The 1929 State Reforestation Act, and the 1931 Hewitt Amendment which authorized the purchase of these lands to be “forever devoted to reforestation and the establishment and maintenance thereon of forests for watershed production, the production of timber and for recreation and kindred purposes”, (Article 9, Title 5, Environmental Conservation Law). Also refer to Section III, Land Management Goals and Recommendations, Sustainably Manage Forest Resources on State Forest Lands.

Is Green Certification going to change how we manage State Forest

Response: As is documented in the Strategic Plan for State Forest, page 27, Forest certification by a recognized authority is a way of publicly ensuring that State Forest are sustainably managed. It is a way to make the management actions on State Forest Lands more transparent and accountable.

Salvage wind throw and dying timber

Response: See Section III, Land Management Goals and Objectives. Apply sound and current silvicultural practices for all timber management activities. Course woody debris (down trees) provides critical habitat for several forest dwelling species and is important to perpetuate in the forest. It also falls under the category of carbon sequestration.

Keep wildlife as an objective in timber harvesting

Response: Refer to Section III, Fish and Wildlife Goals and Objectives.

Recreation Comments

ATV use on State Forest Lands

Response: The current plan does not change the status of ATV use on the Unit. There are still no DEC Public Forest Access Roads open to ATV use. However if Lewis or Jefferson County trails needed a connector trail through State Forest options would be explored. Refer to Section III, Recreational Goals and Objectives

Trails will interfere with Trappers

Response: See Wildlife Comments Response

Create a long distance foot trail through the Tug Hill Plateau

Response: See Section III, Recreational Goal and Objectives, Provide an enhanced recreational experience on the Unit

Appendix B - Responsiveness Summary to Public Comments

Try to Keep Snowmobile Trails off the plowed roads

Response: See Section III, Recreational Goals and Objectives, Provide designated snowmobile trails at existing levels.

Wildlife Comments

Establish a black bear hunting season on the Unit

Response: The Bureau of Wildlife has released a Draft Black Bear Management Plan for 2014-2024. At this time, there is no formal regulatory proposal for establishing a black bear hunting season on Tug Hill but the plan does spell out a desire to expand seasons to new areas in northern New York, including Tug Hill, in the future.

Maintain a mosaic of successional habitats.

Response: Refer to Section III, Land Management Goals and Recommendations, Apply Sound Silvicultural Practices

Use data and information from Audubon

Response: Refer to Section III, Wildlife Goals and Recommendations, Increase the Monitoring Efforts for Migratory Bird Species

Trappers are concerned about potential loss of lands for trapping if additional designated trails are developed on the Unit

Response: While Title 6 of the Official Compilation of the Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York (NYCRR), Section 6.3 (a) (14) does restrict the placement of body-grip traps within 100 feet of trails, we feel that any impact of new trails constructed as a result of this plan will be minimal. Most of the trails proposed in the plan would be in the gulf areas of the Unit where little trapping likely occurs. Furthermore, any loss of opportunity may be offset by the ease of access trappers will enjoy as a result of these new trails. Finally, 6NYCRR 6.3 (a) (14) is very specific to body-grip traps placed on lands and does not regulate the use of foothold traps or any type of traps placed within water bodies, even within 100 feet of a trail.

The Department received numerous comments expressing a desire to see the Tug Hill Wildlife Management Area (WMA) managed using even-aged versus uneven-aged forestry practices to benefit a host of young forest species and specifically ruffed grouse, woodcock and snowshoe hare. Many of those who commented also noted that the majority of acreage of the WMA was purchased using Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Funds.

Response: The Department recognizes that the unique nature and funding sources of WMA's may suggest management practices which differ somewhat from the overall vision for State forest

parcels in the Unit Management Plan. Although Pittman-Robertson funding can be used to support varied sound wildlife management approaches, the plan will be amended to remove Tug Hill WMA from the three forest management matrixes. This will provide the Bureau of Wildlife additional time to develop management actions specific to the WMA and greater flexibility to manage for species of interest more in harmony with their mission. Once developed, these plans will be added to the UMP as an addendum.

Facilities Comments

Post more maps on the snowmobile trails to identify your location.

Response: DEC will collaborate with Sno Pals Snowmobile Club to see if there are any opportunities to post location maps along the trails.

Garbage and litter is a problem on the trails, there should be more enforcement for snowmobile and ATV violations.

Response: Refer to Section III, Enforcement and Protection Goals and Recommendations

Find possible locations for helicopters in case of emergencies

Response: Refer to Section III, Enforcement and Protection Goals and Recommendations, Identify Potential Helicopter Landing Sites

Appendix C - State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR)

State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR)

This Plan and the activities it recommends will be in compliance with State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR), 6NYCRR Part 617. The State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) requires the consideration of environmental factors early in the planning stages of any proposed action(s) that are undertaken, funded or approved by a local, regional or state agency. The Strategic Plan for State Forest Management (SPSFM) serves as the Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS), regarding management activity on State Forests. To address potential impacts, the SPSFM establishes SEQR analysis thresholds for each category of management activity.

Management actions in this Plan are within the thresholds established in the SPSFM, therefore these actions do not require additional SEQR. Any future action that does not comply with established thresholds will require additional SEQR prior to conducting the activity.

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT

This Unit Management Plan (UMP) does not propose pesticide applications of more than 40 acres, any clearcuts of 40 acres or larger, or prescribed burns in excess of 100 acres. Therefore the actions in the plan do not exceed the thresholds set forth in the Strategic Plan/Generic Environmental Impact Statement for State Forest Management.

This Unit Management Plan also does not include any of the following:

1. Forest management activities occurring on acreage occupied by protected species ranked S1, S2, G1, G2 or G3
2. Pesticide applications adjacent to plants ranked S1, S2, G1, G2 or G3
3. Aerial pesticide spraying by airplane or helicopter
4. Any development of facilities with potable water supplies, septic system supported restrooms, camping areas with more than 10 sites or development in excess of other limits established in this plan.
5. Well drilling plans
6. Well pad densities of greater than one well pad in 320 acres or which does not comply with the limitations identified through a tract assessment
7. Carbon injection and storage or waste water disposal

Therefore the actions proposed in this UMP will be carried out in conformance with the conditions and thresholds established for such actions in the Strategic Plan/Generic Environmental Impact Statement , and do not require any separate site specific environmental review (see 6 NYCRR 617.10[d]).

Actions not covered by the Strategic Plan/Generic Environmental Impact Statement

Any action taken by the Department on this unit that is not addressed in this Unit Management Plan and is not addressed in the Strategic Plan/Generic Environmental Impact Statement may need a separate site specific environmental review.

Figure 1. – Matrix Forest Map

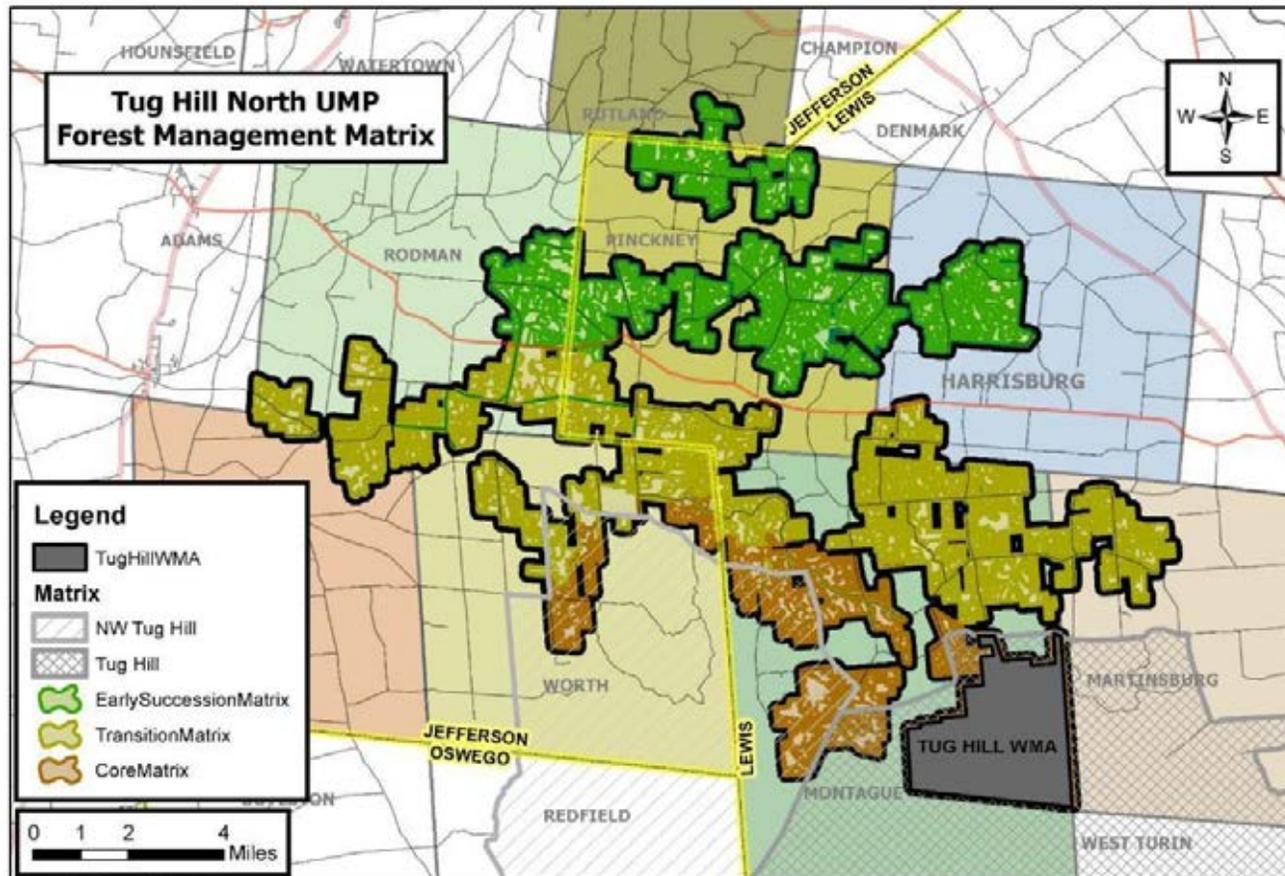


Figure 2. – Cobb Creek State Forest

Facilities Map, Forestry Map, Soils Map, Water Resources Map

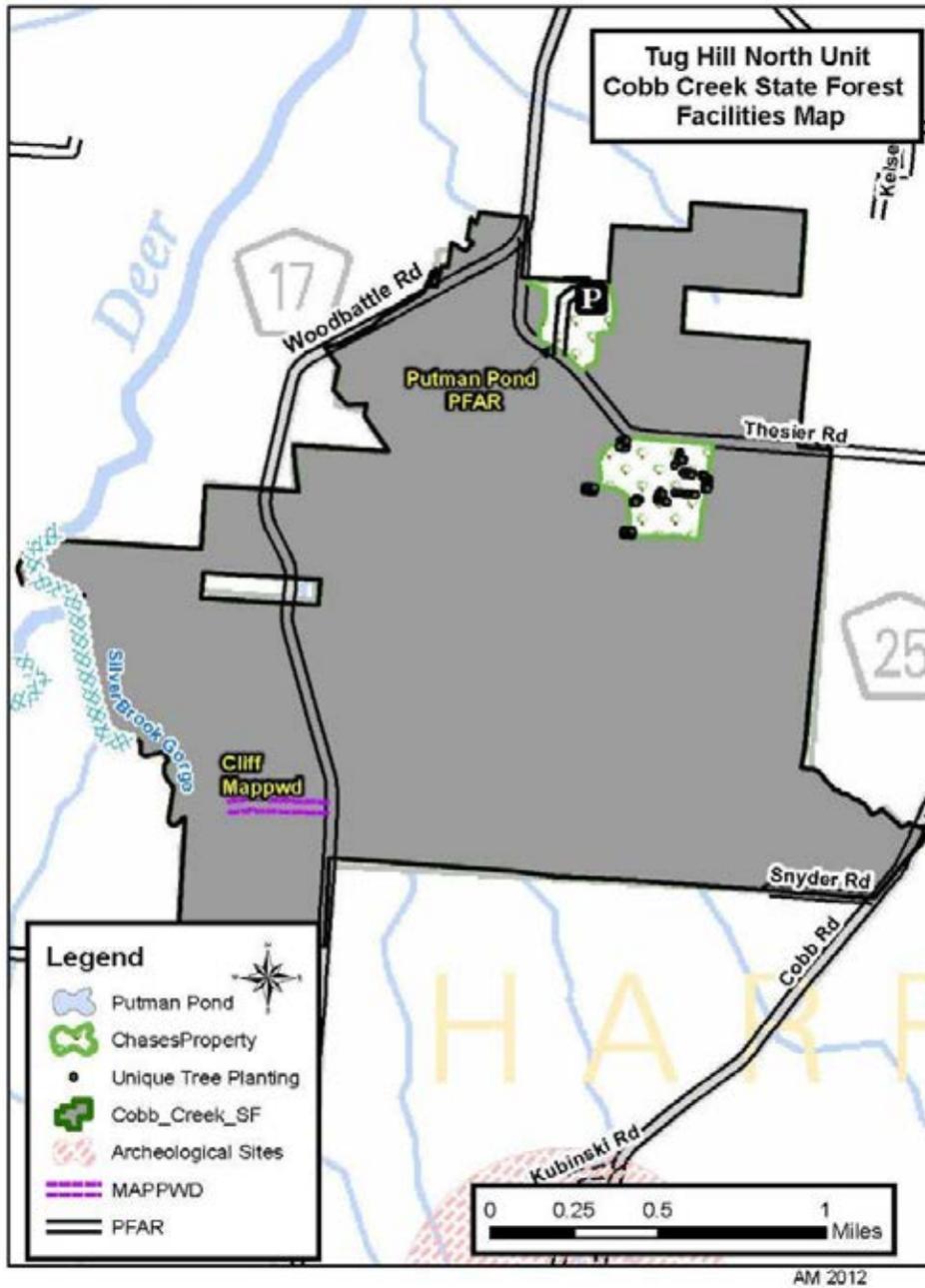


FIGURE 2. – COBB CREEK STATE FOREST

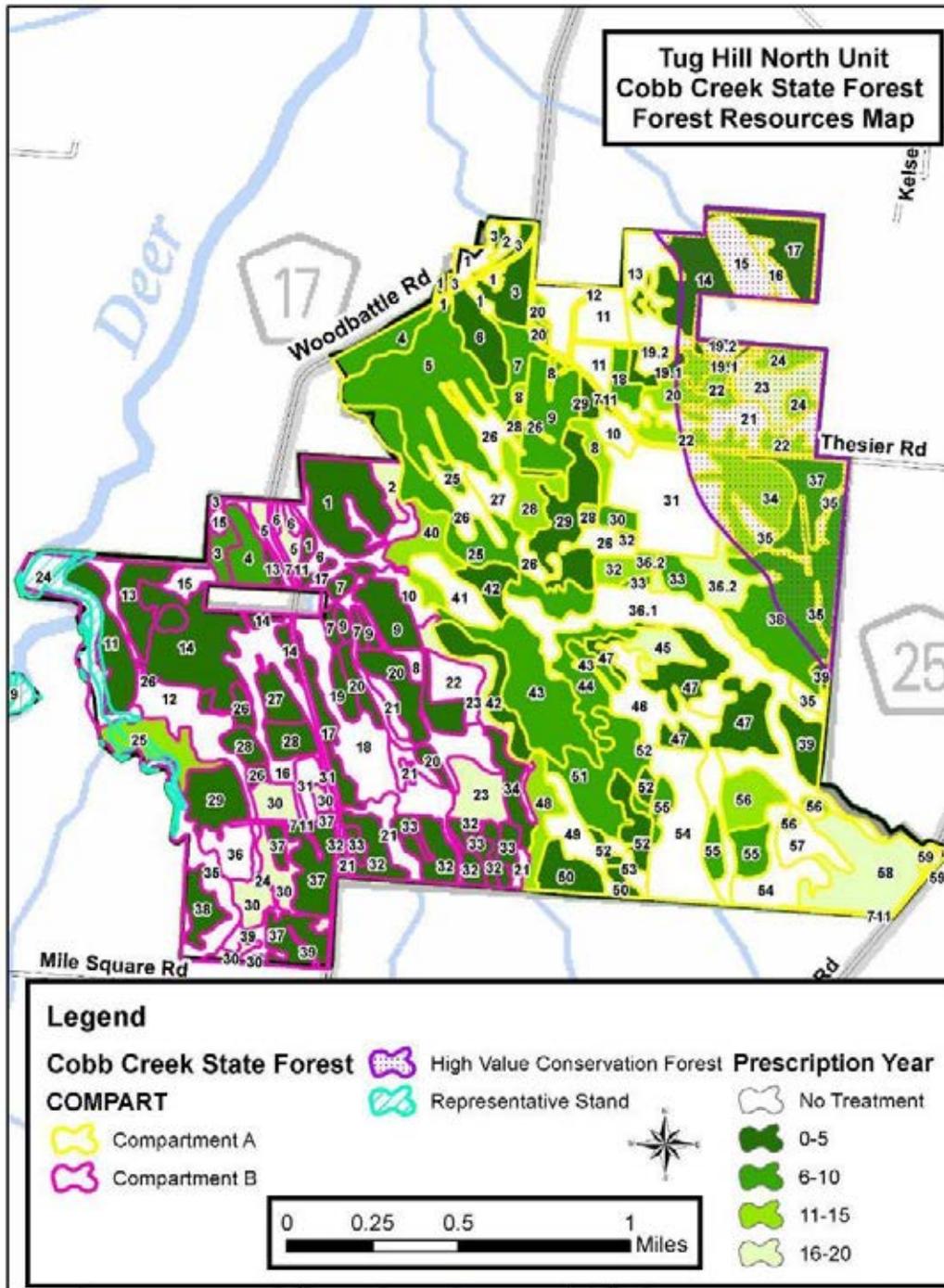


FIGURE 2. – COBB CREEK STATE FOREST

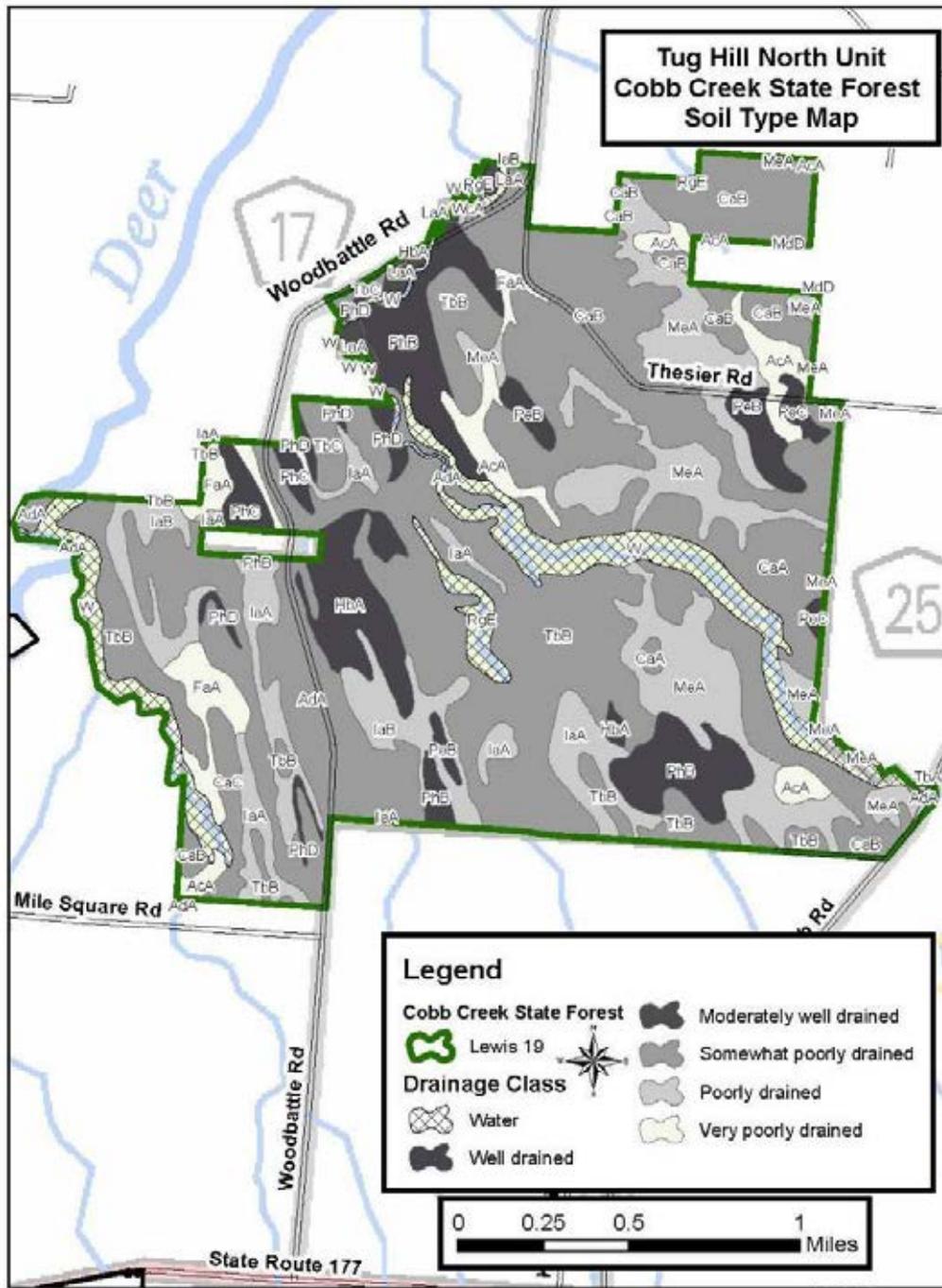


FIGURE 2. – COBB CREEK STATE FOREST

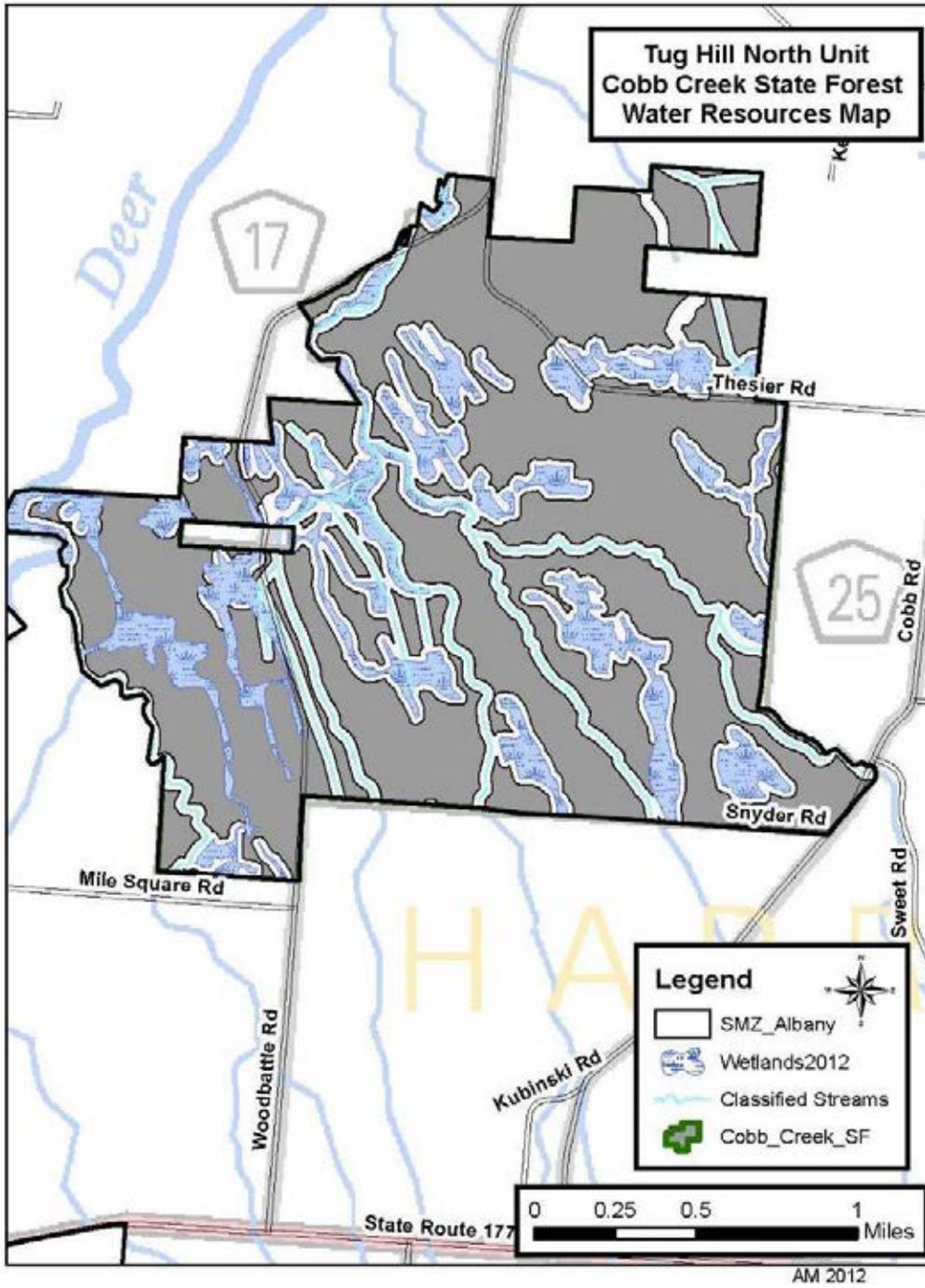


Figure 3 – Goulds Corner State Forest

Facilities Map, Forestry Map, Soils Map, Water Resources Map

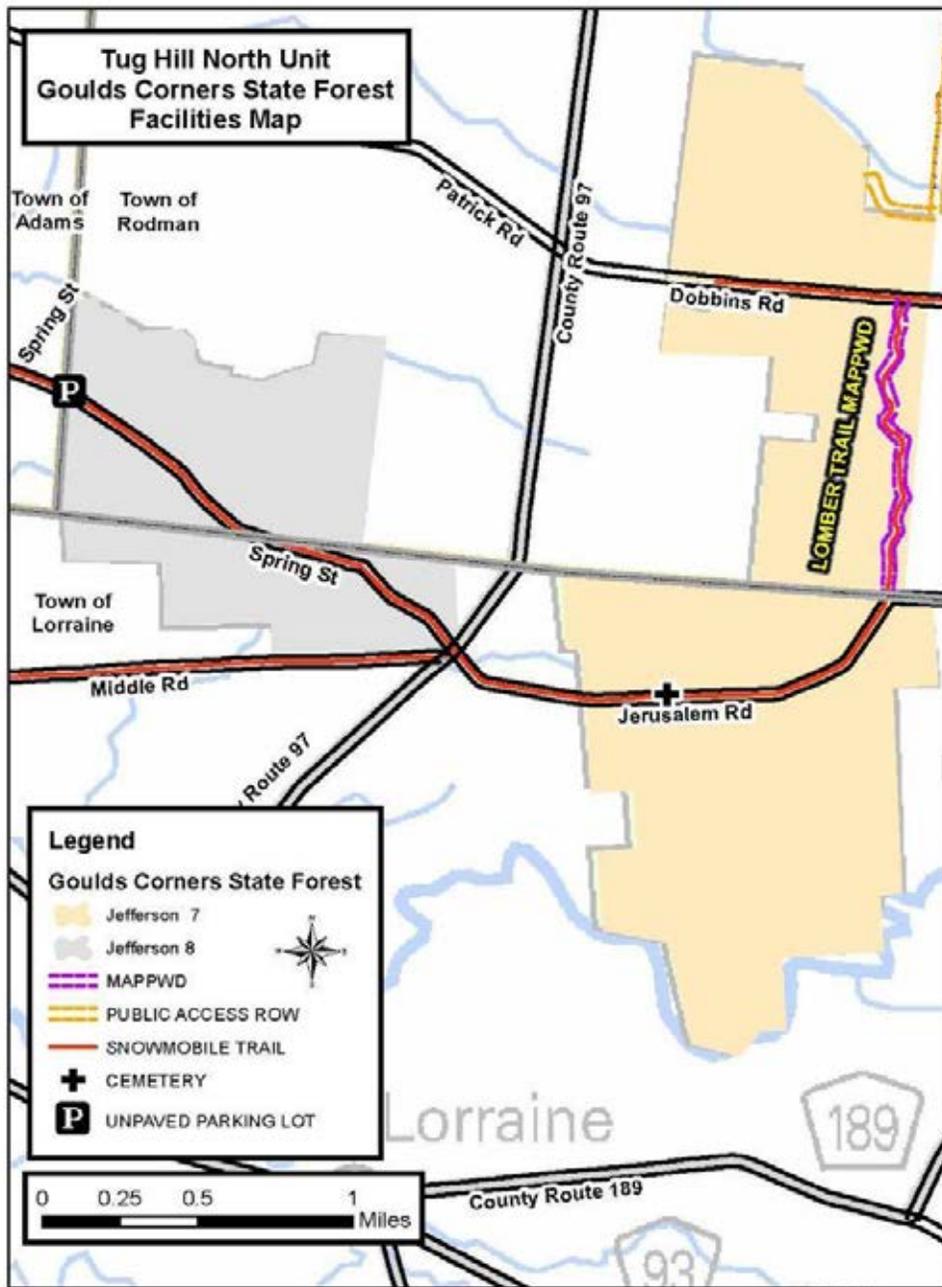


FIGURE 3 – GOULDS CORNER STATE FOREST

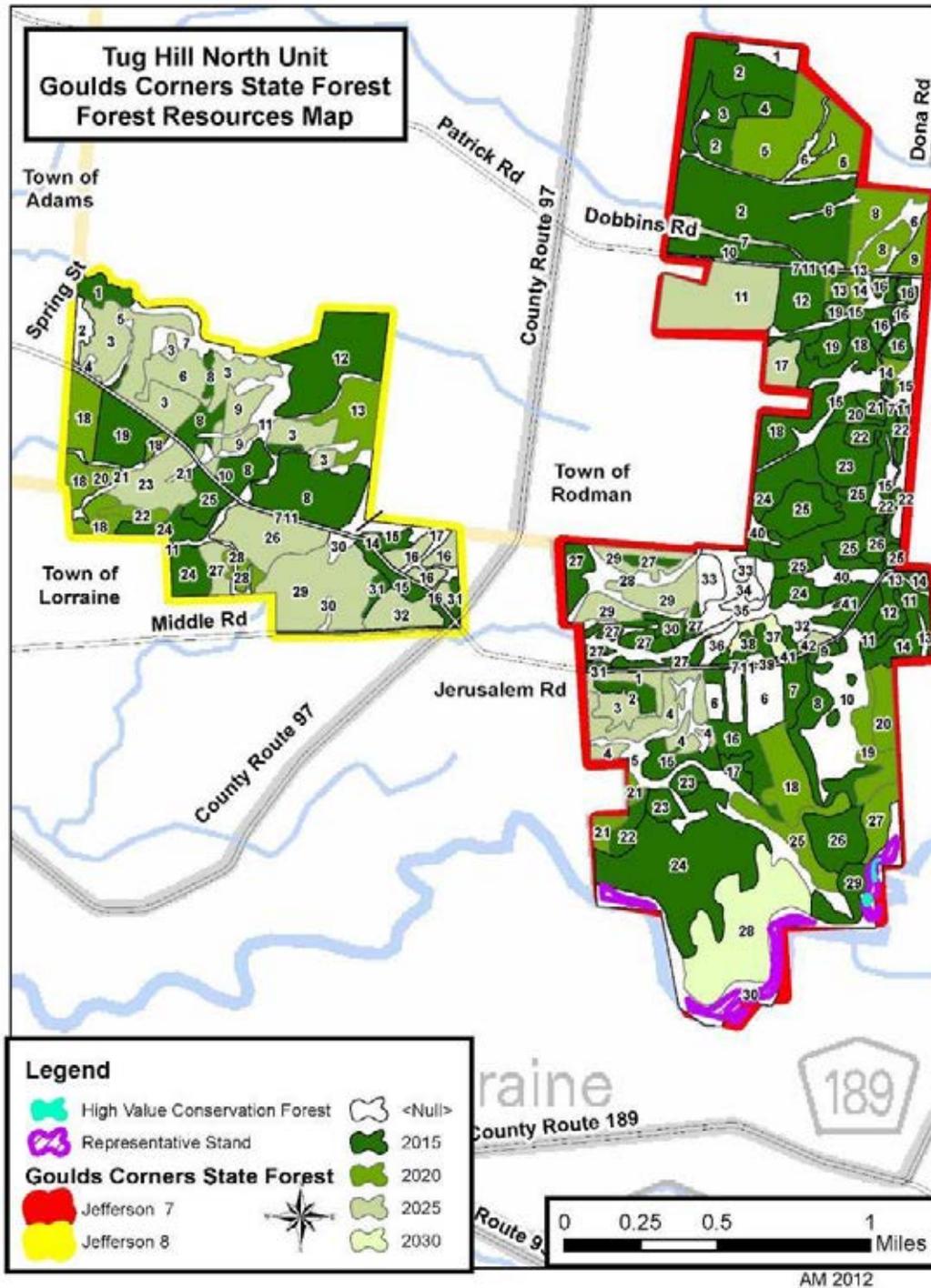


FIGURE 3 – GOULDS CORNER STATE FOREST

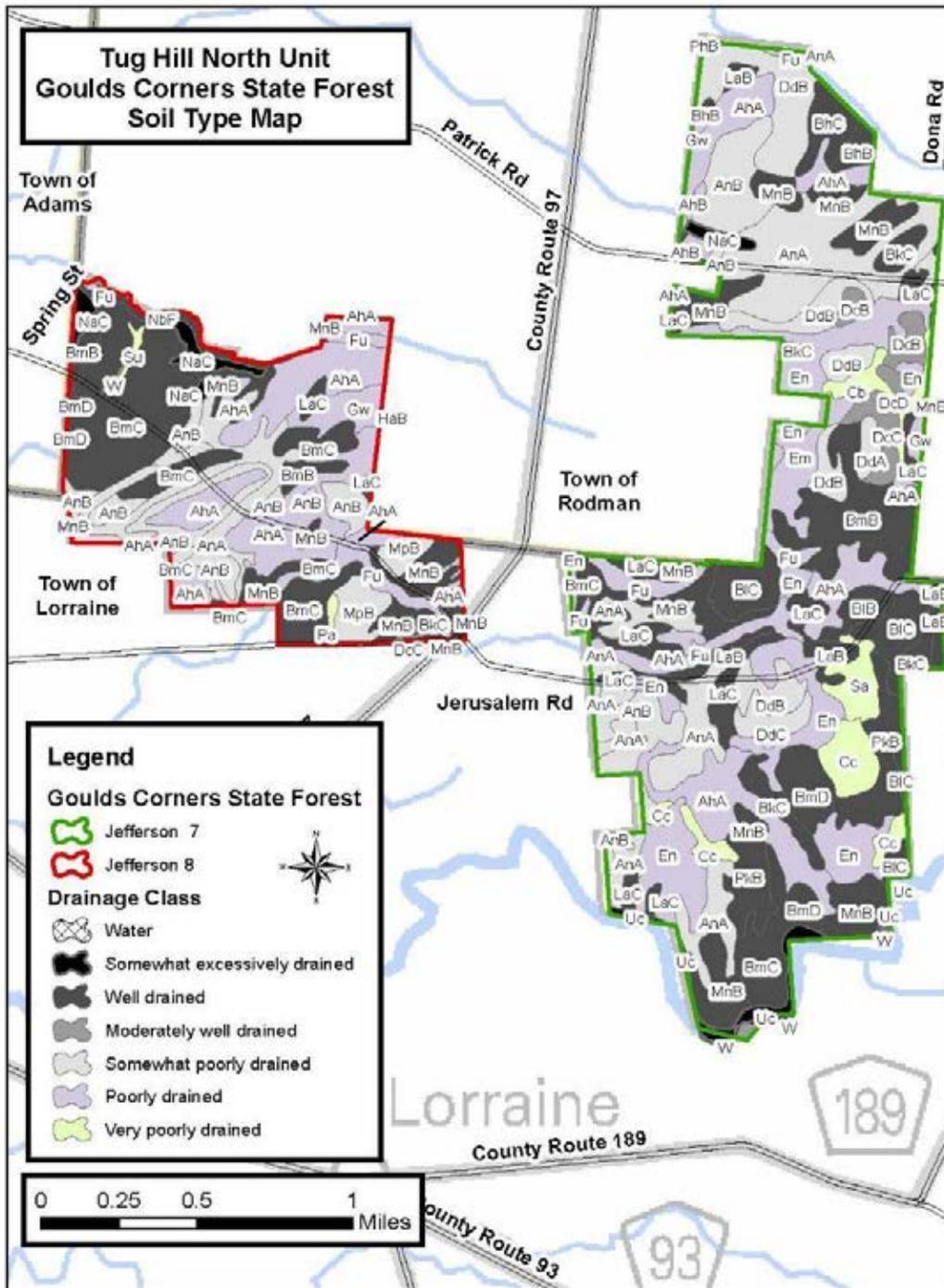


FIGURE 3 – GOULDS CORNER STATE FOREST

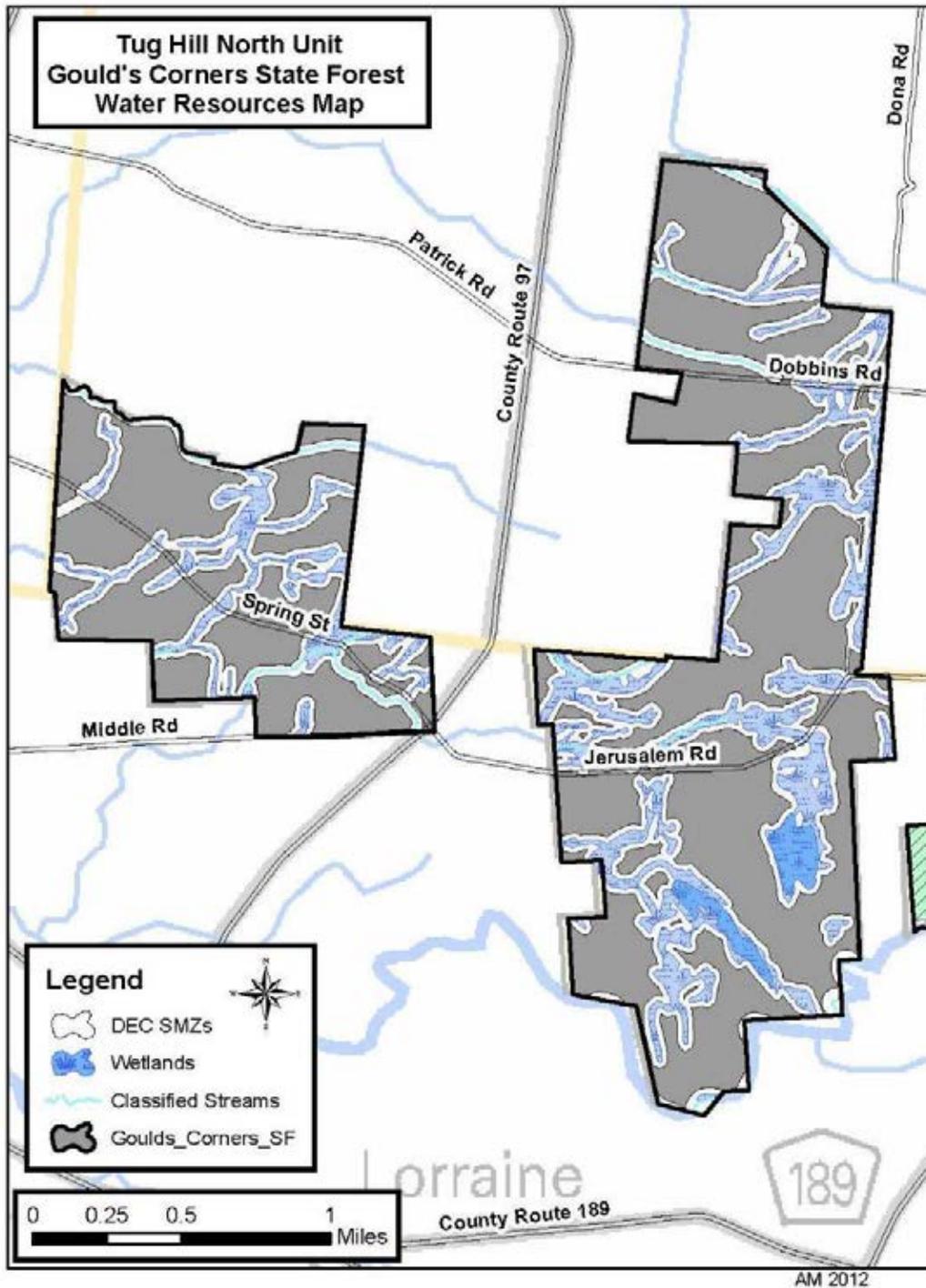


Figure 4. – Granger State Forest

Facilities Map, Forestry Map, Soils Map, Water Resources Map

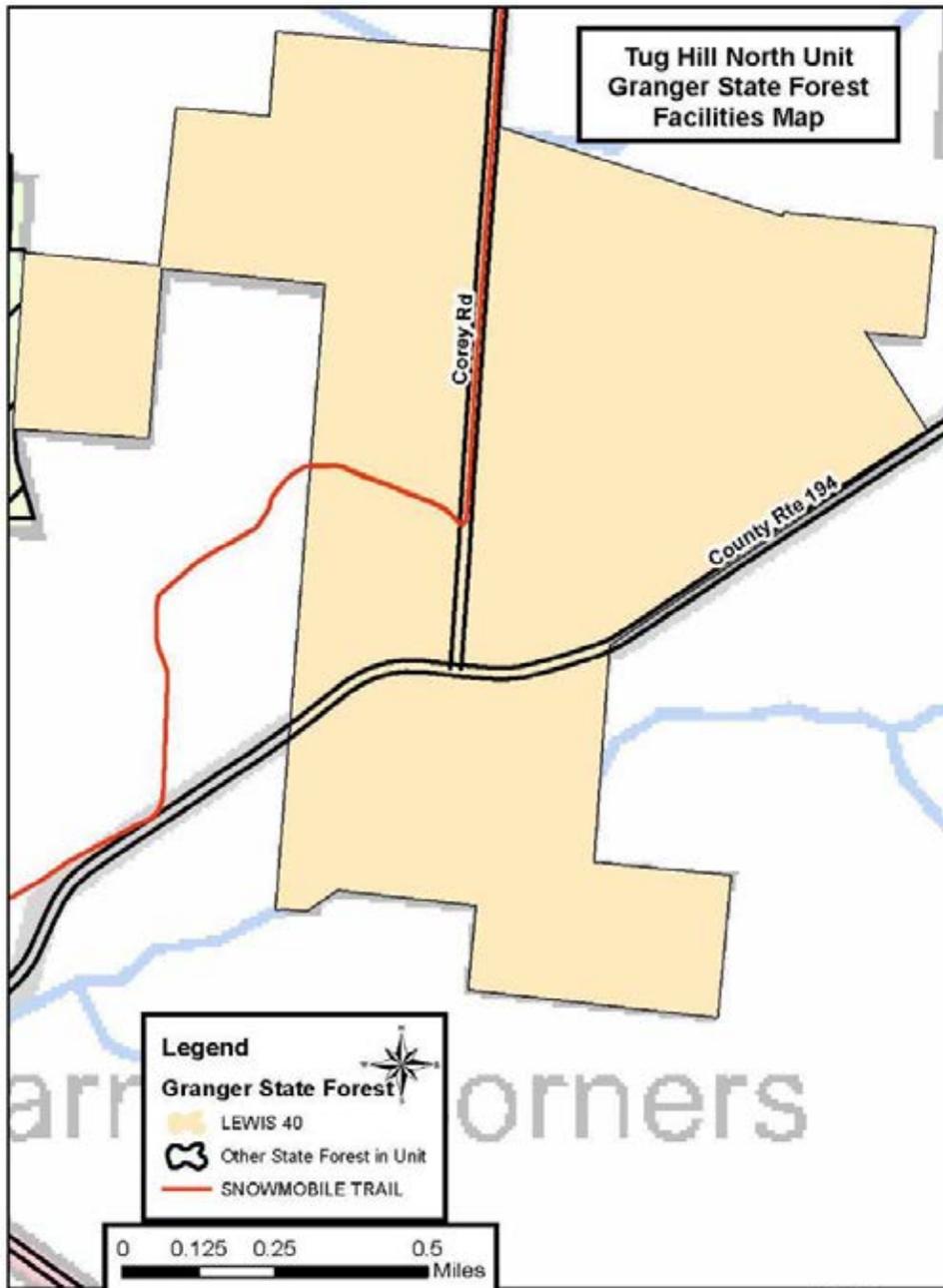


FIGURE 4. – GRANGER STATE FOREST

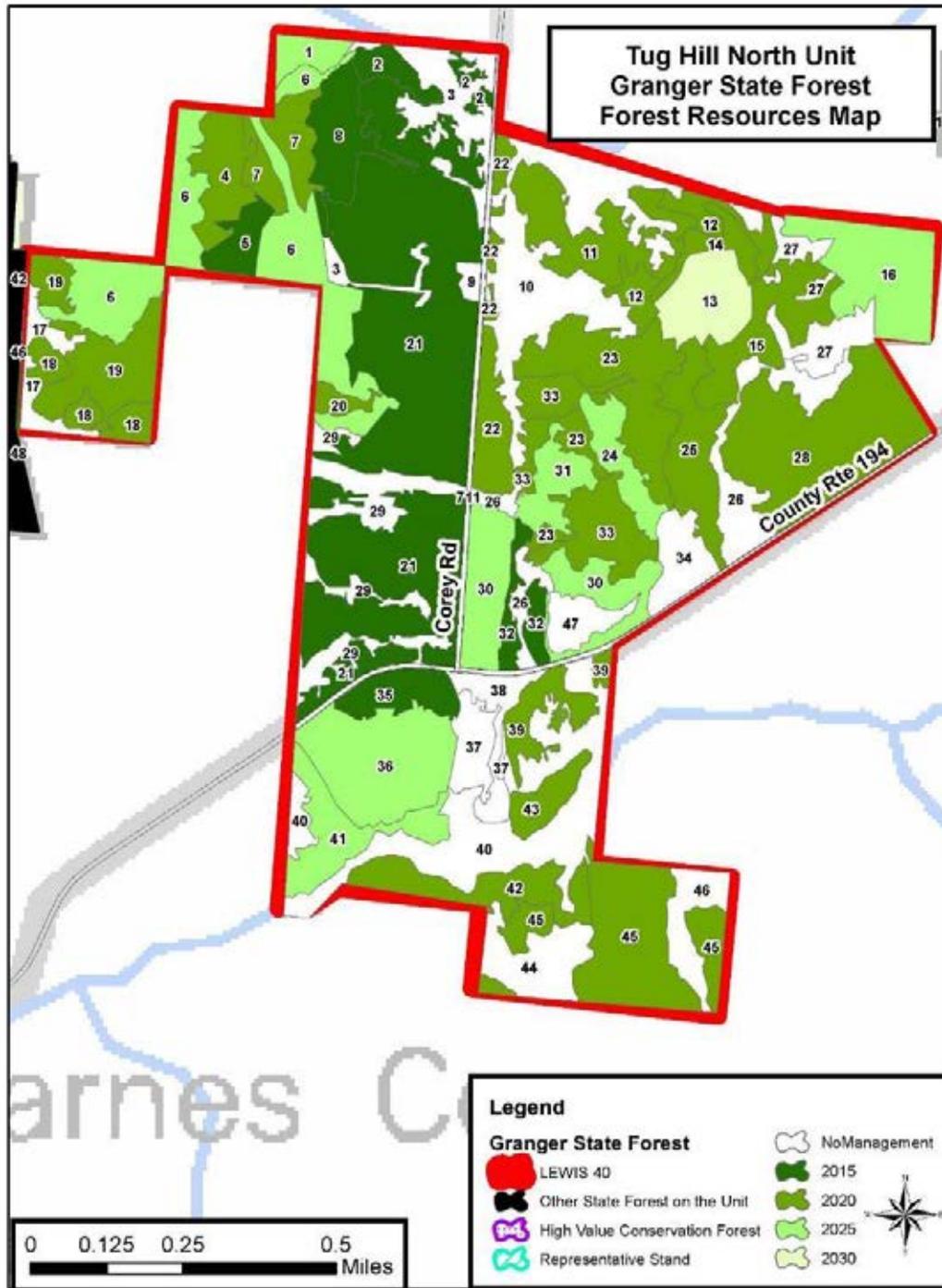


FIGURE 4. – GRANGER STATE FOREST

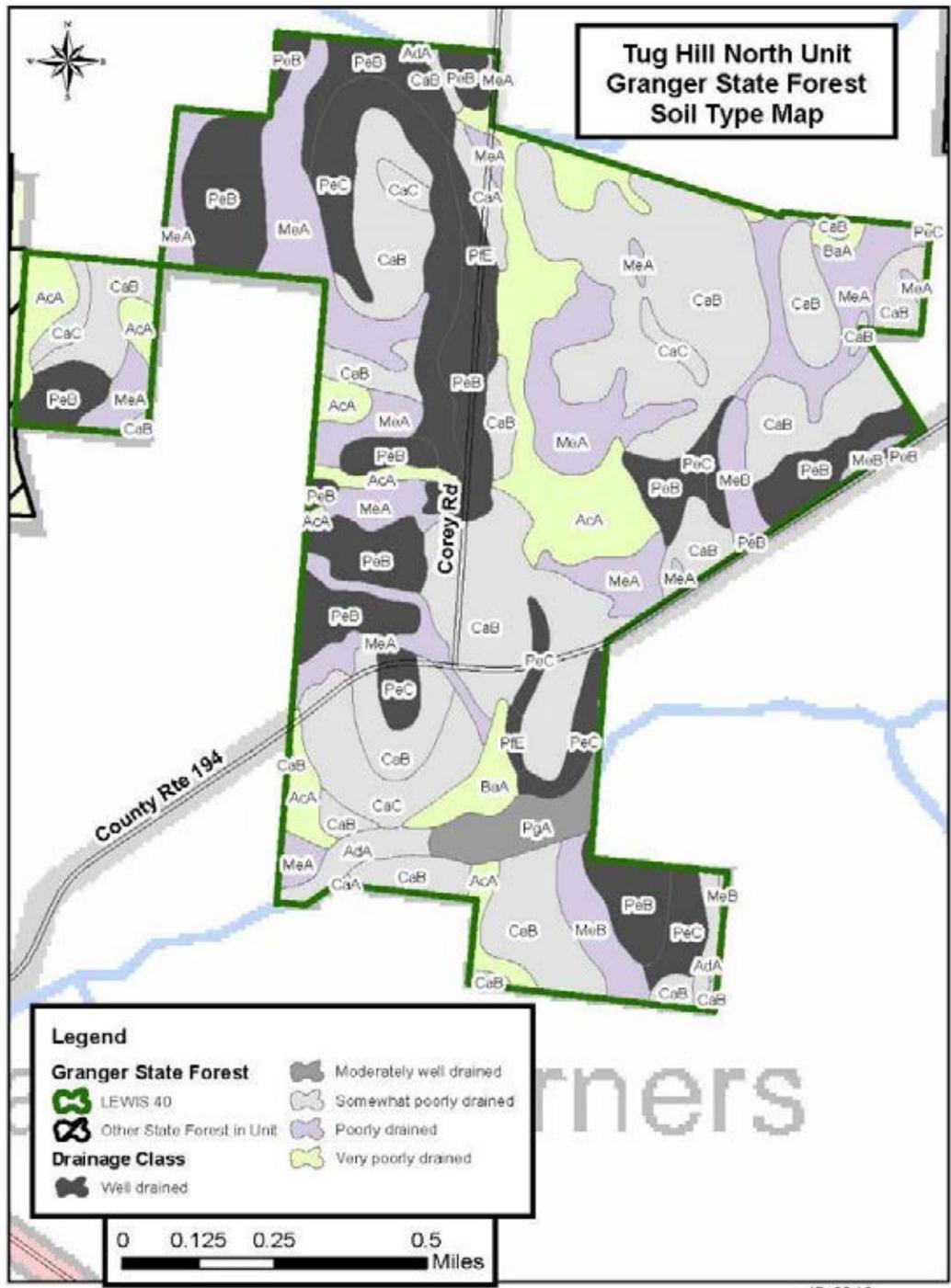


FIGURE 4. – GRANGER STATE FOREST

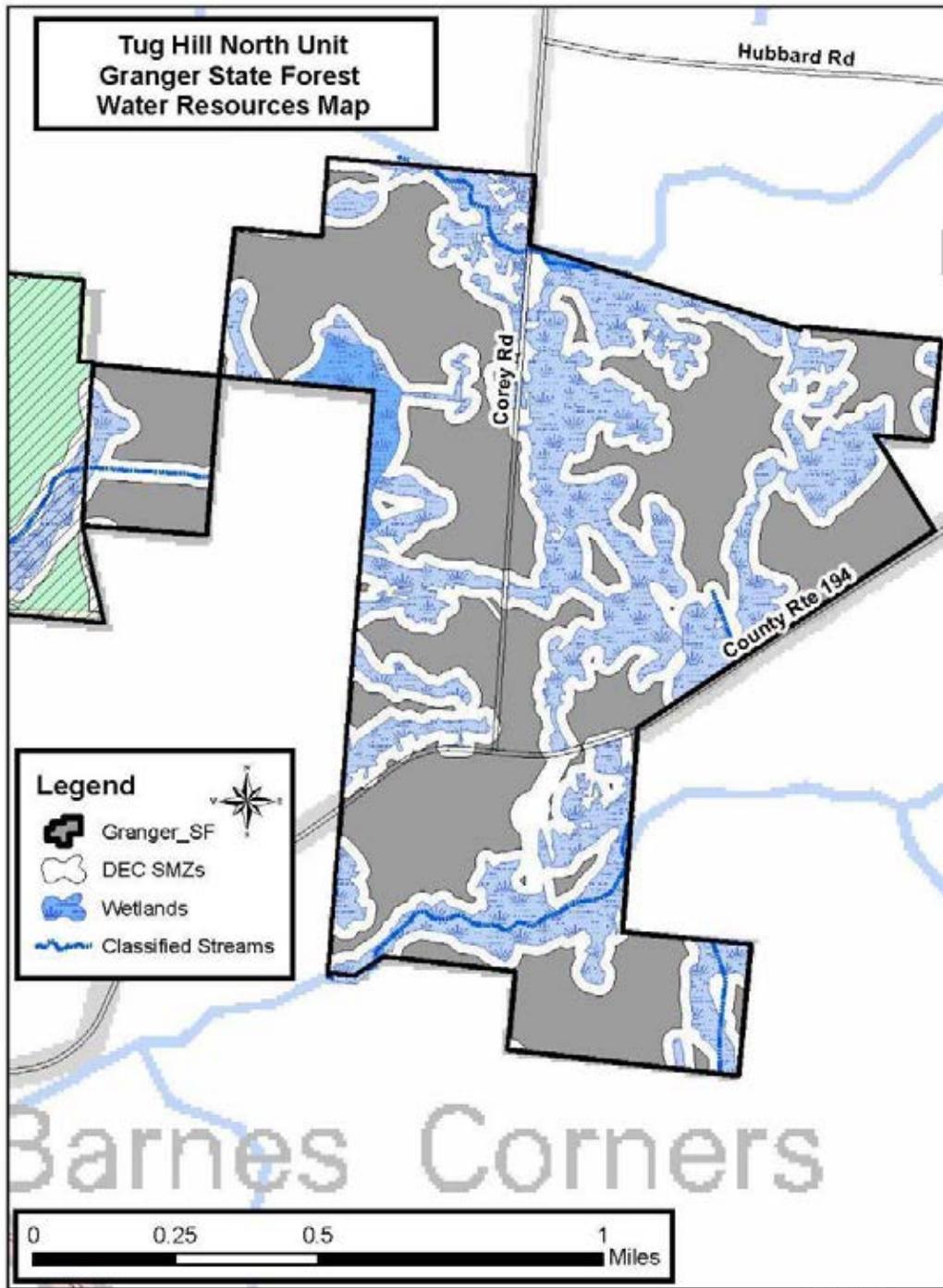


FIGURE 5. – GRANT POWELL STATE FOREST

Figure 5. – Grant Powell State Forest

Facilities Map1, Forestry Map1, Soils Map1, Facilities Map2, Forestry Map2, Soils Map2, Water Resources Map

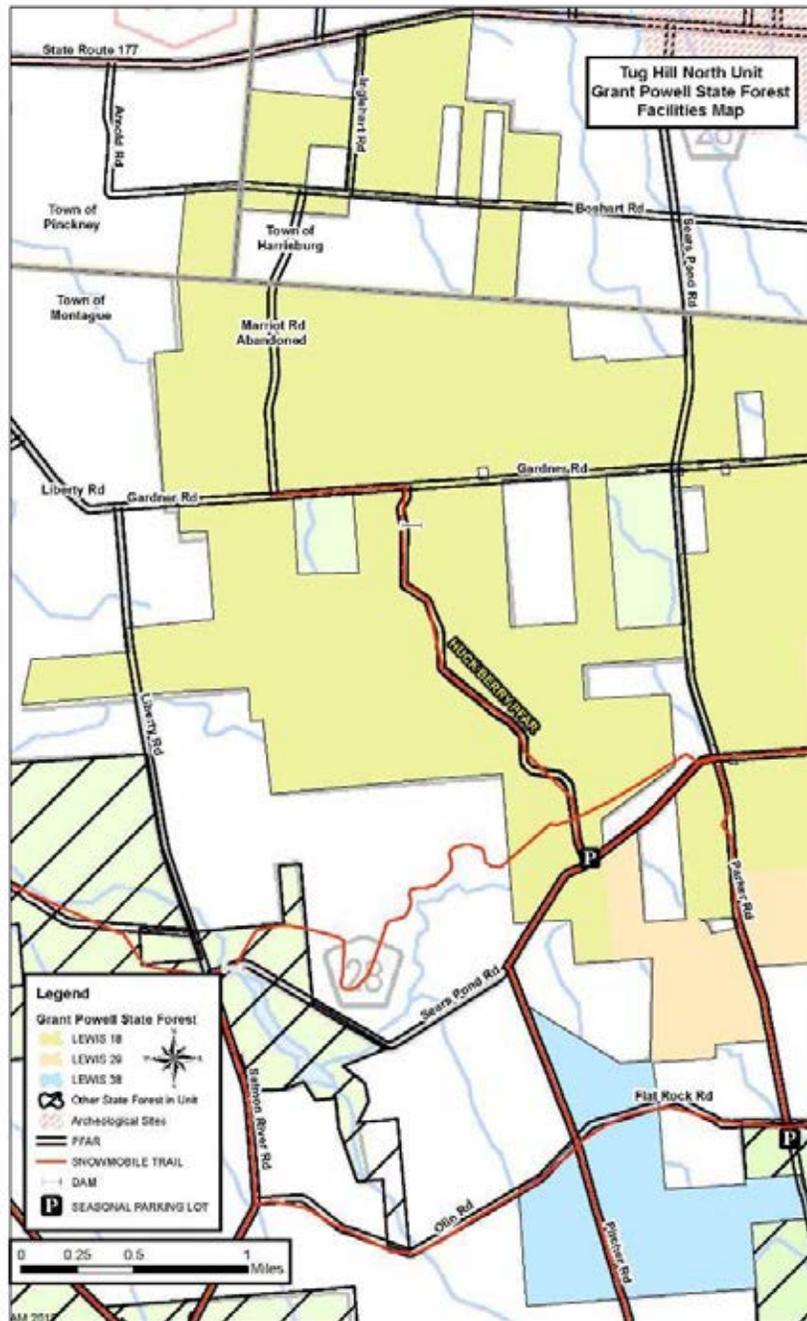


FIGURE 5. – GRANT POWELL STATE FOREST

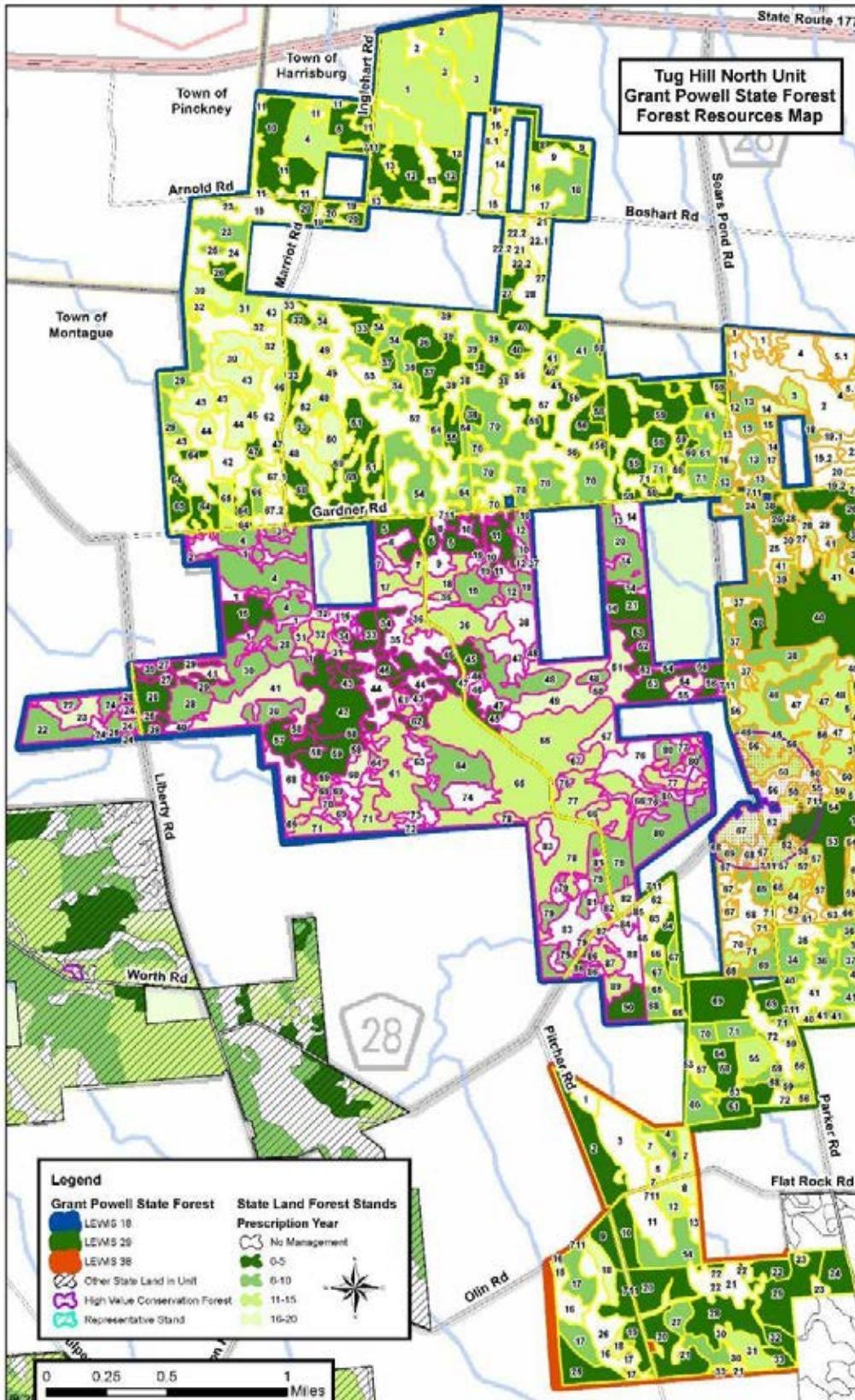


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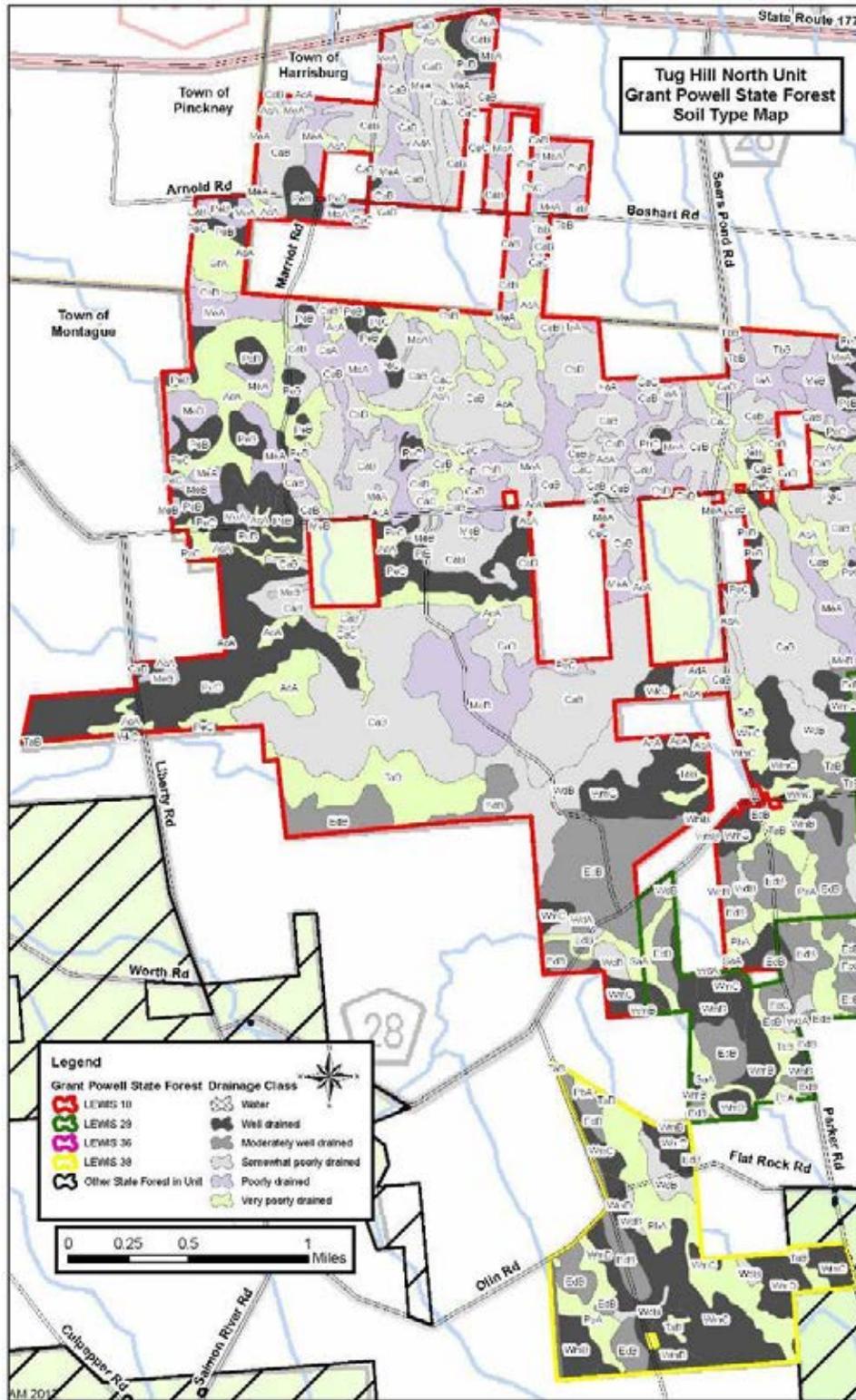


FIGURE 5. – GRANT POWELL STATE FOREST

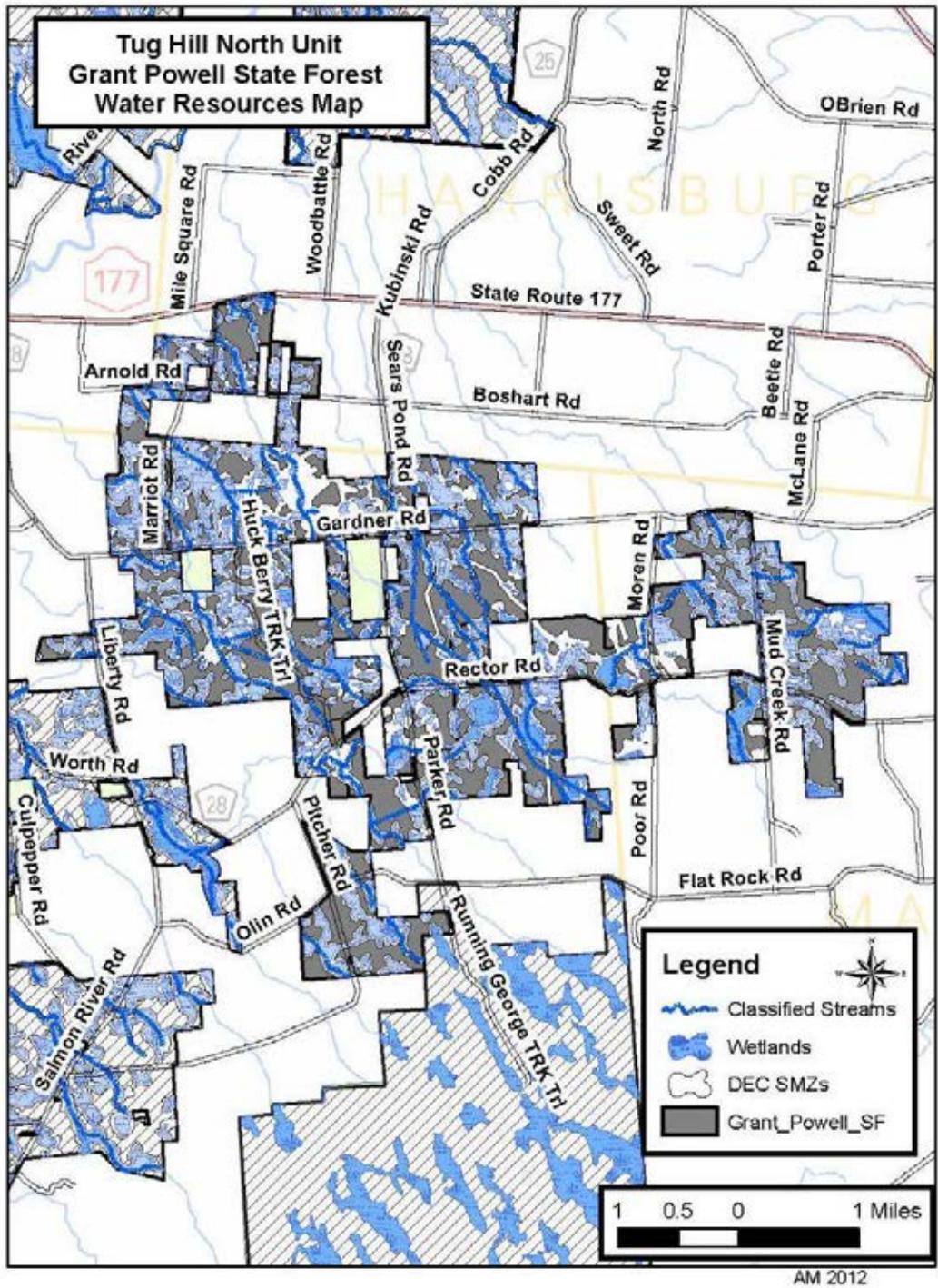


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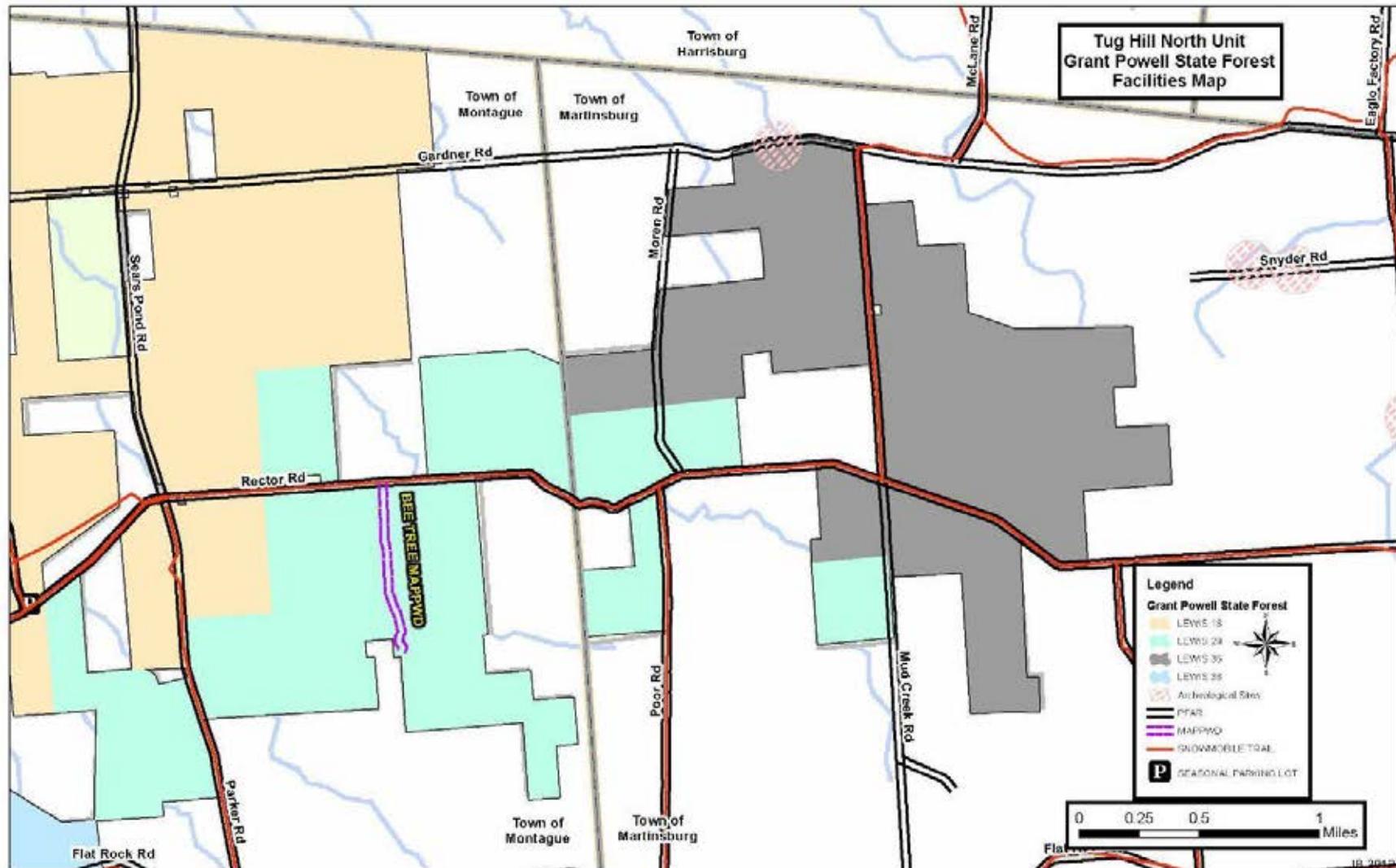


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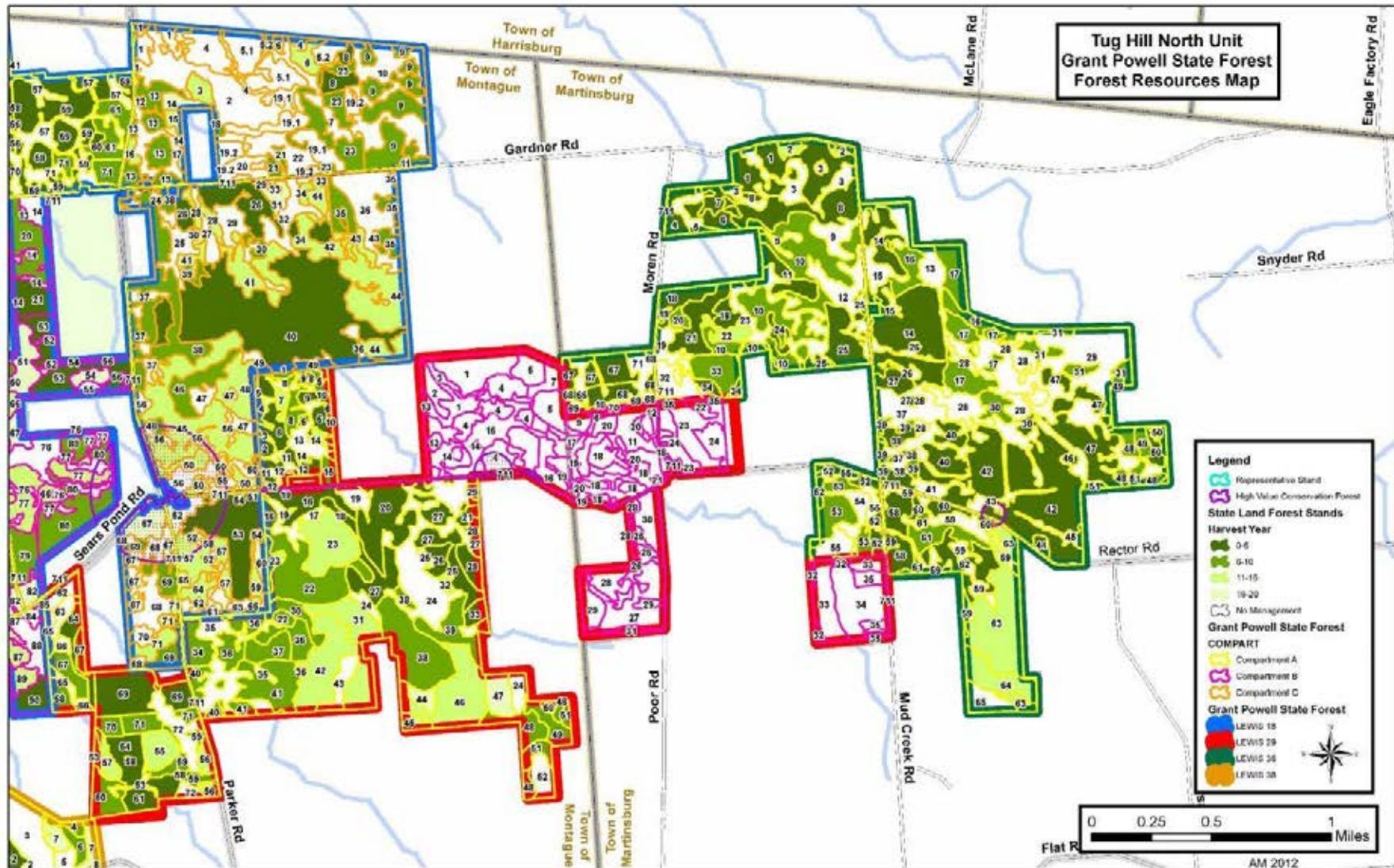


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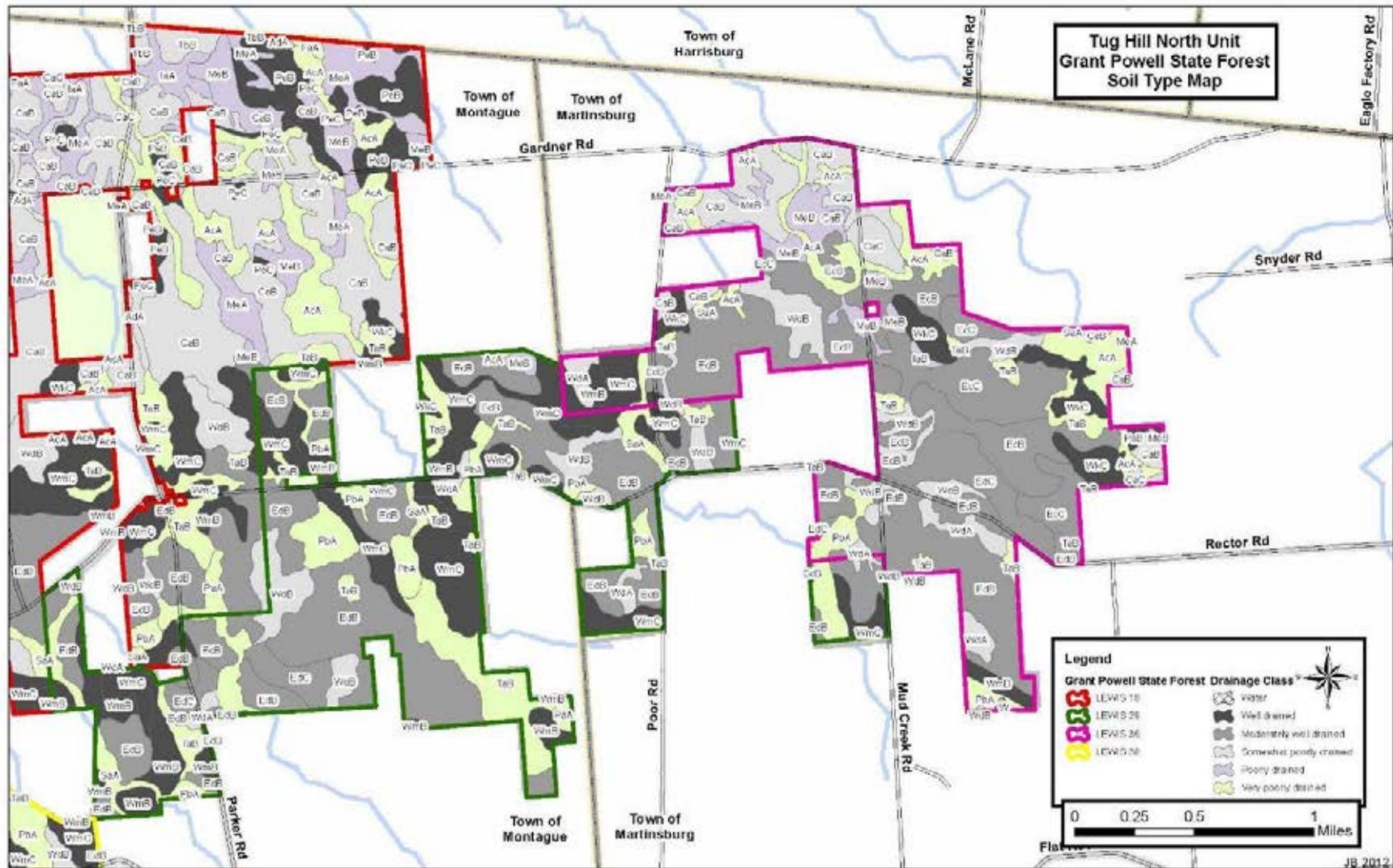


Figure 6. – Lookout State Forest

Facilities Map, Forestry Map, Soils Map, Water resources Map

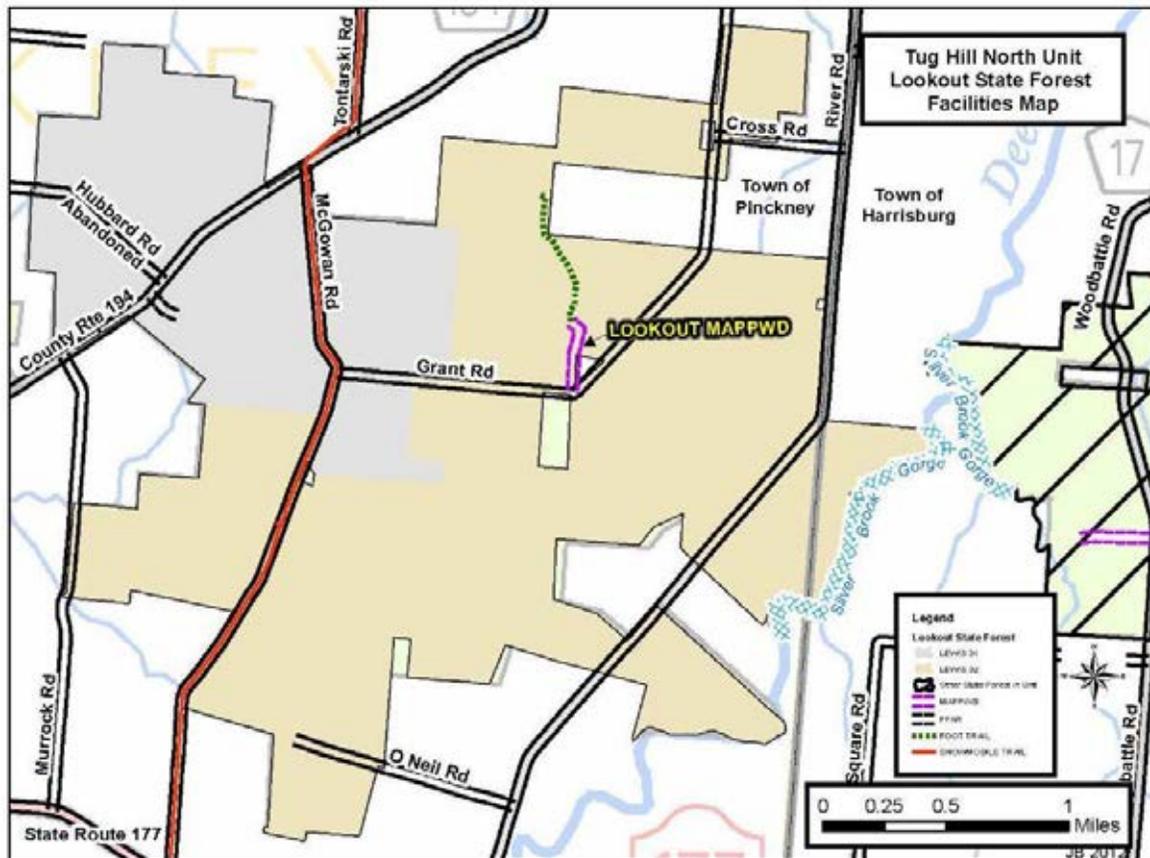


FIGURE 6. – LOOKOUT STATE FOREST

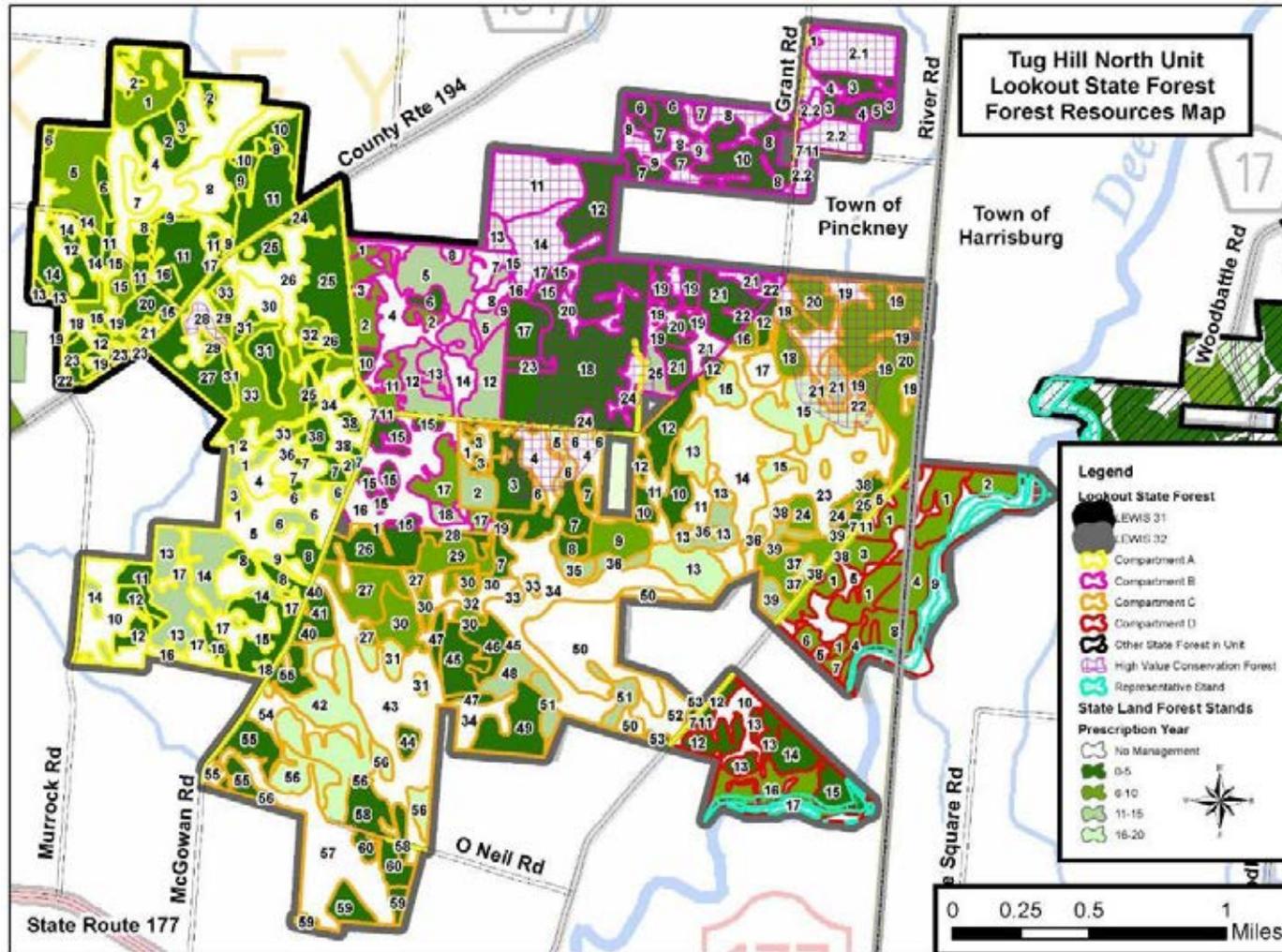


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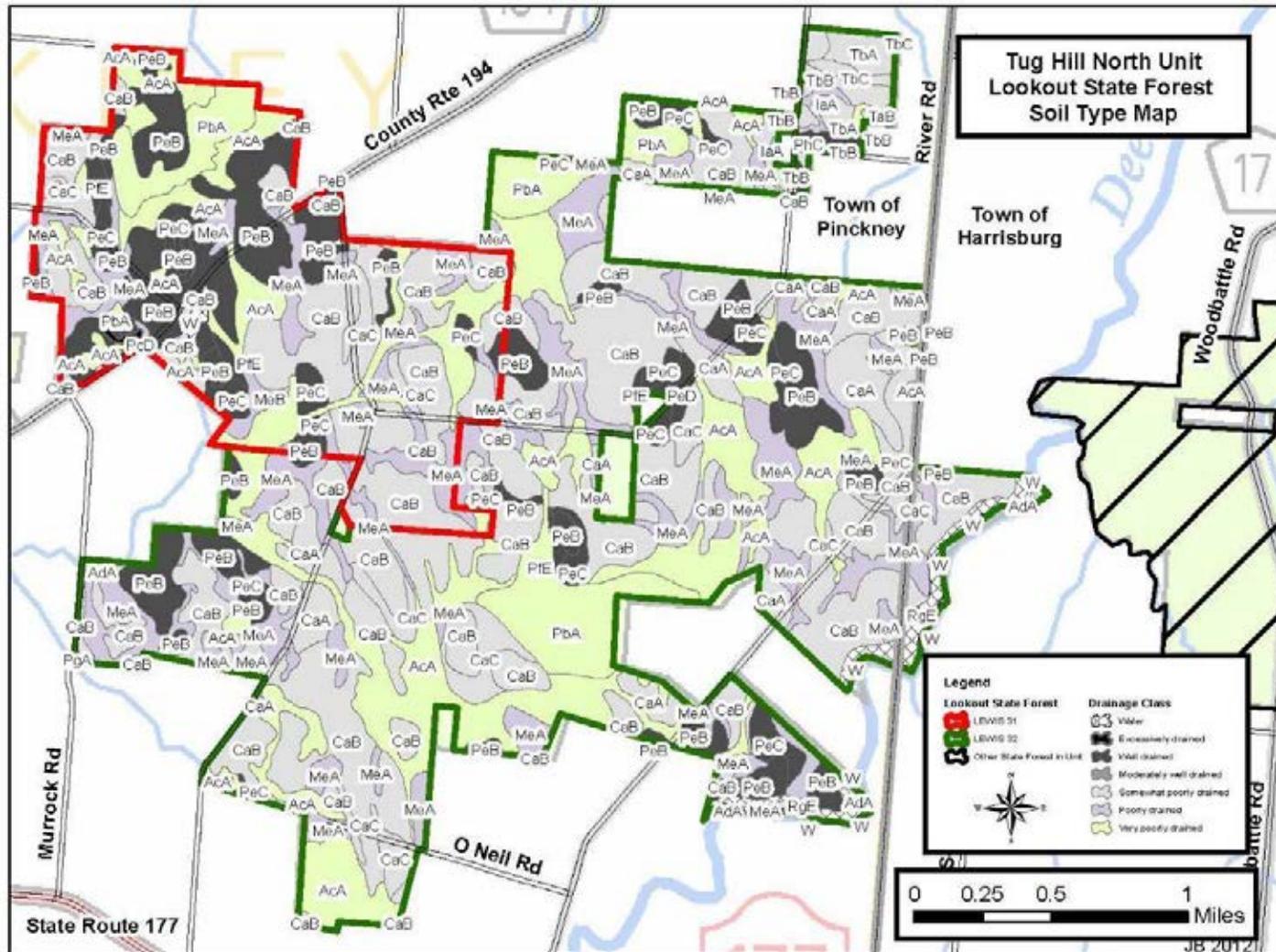


FIGURE 6. – LOOKOUT STATE FOREST

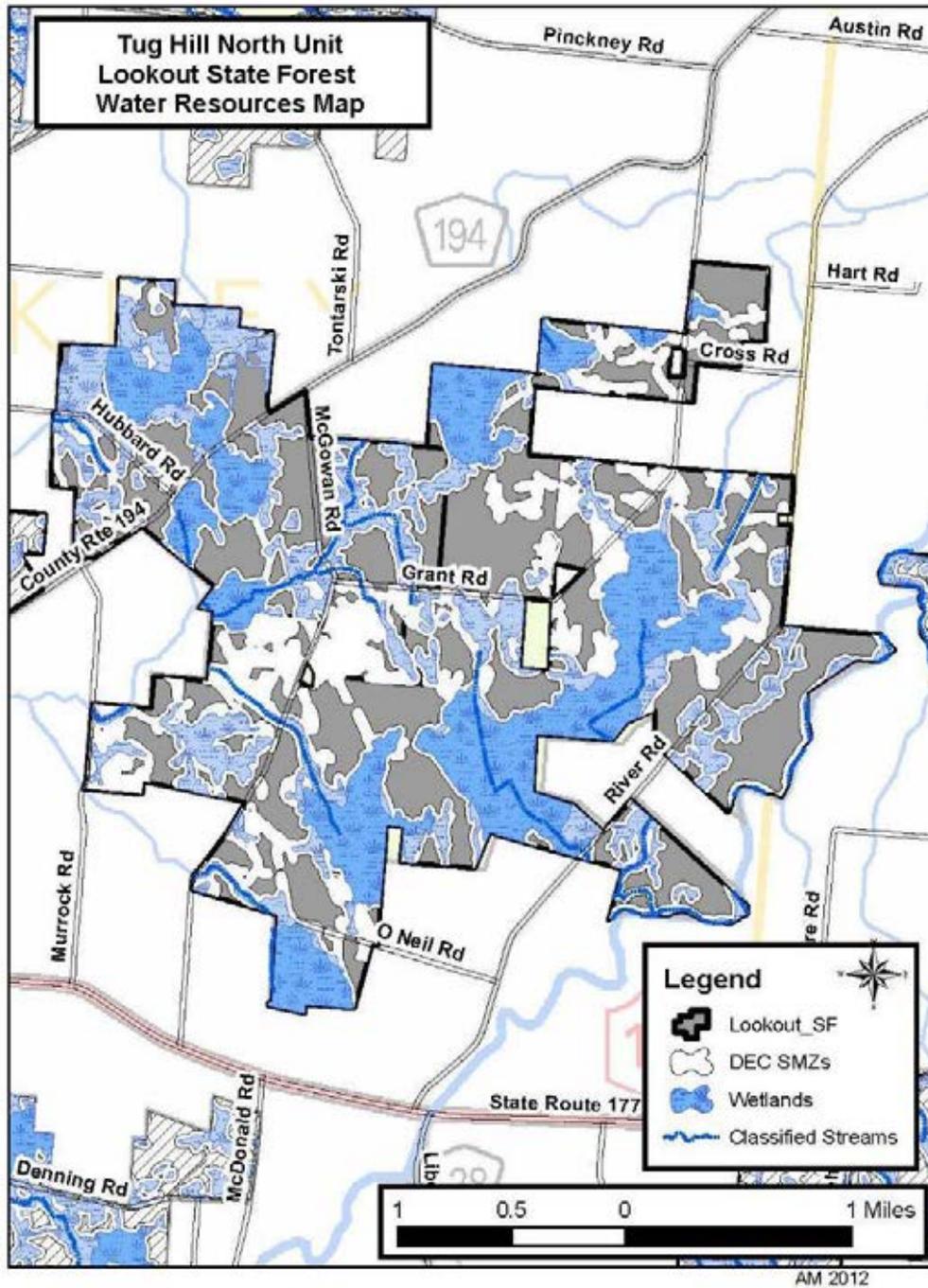


Figure 7. –Pinckney State Forest

Facilities Map, Forestry Map, Soils Map, Water Resources Map

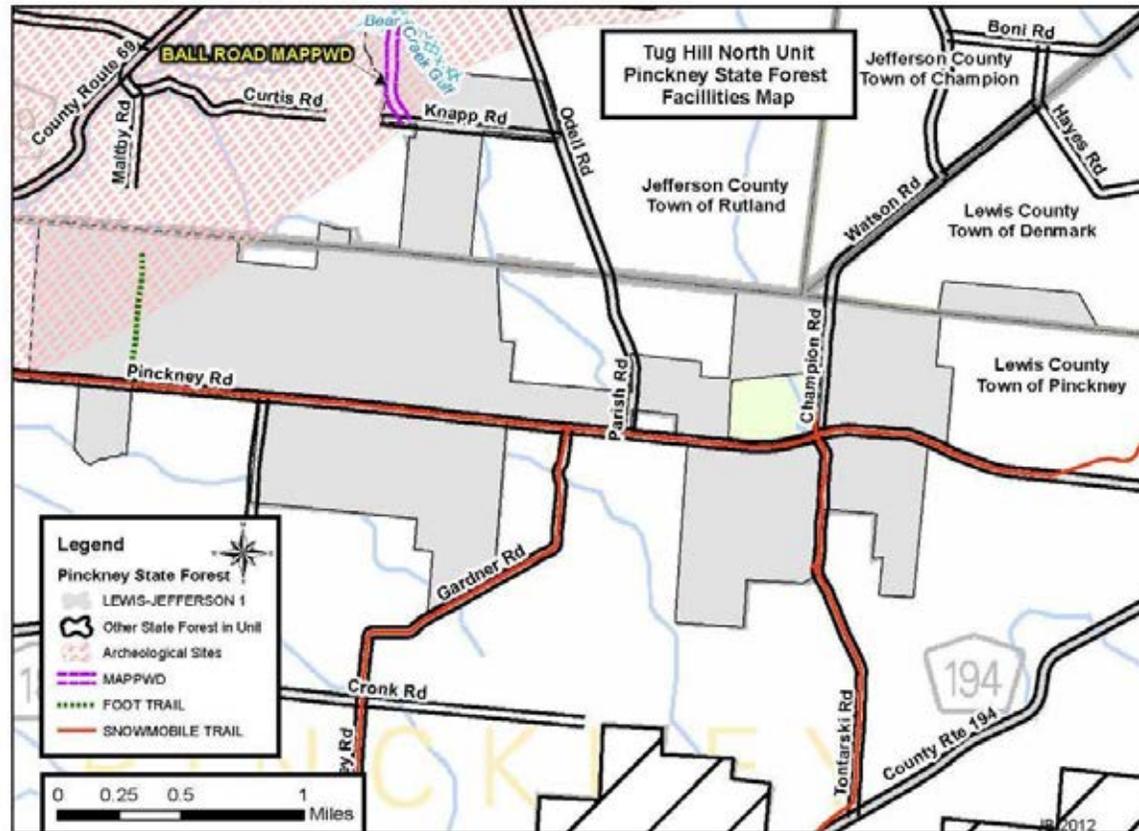


FIGURE 7. –PINCKNEY STATE FOREST

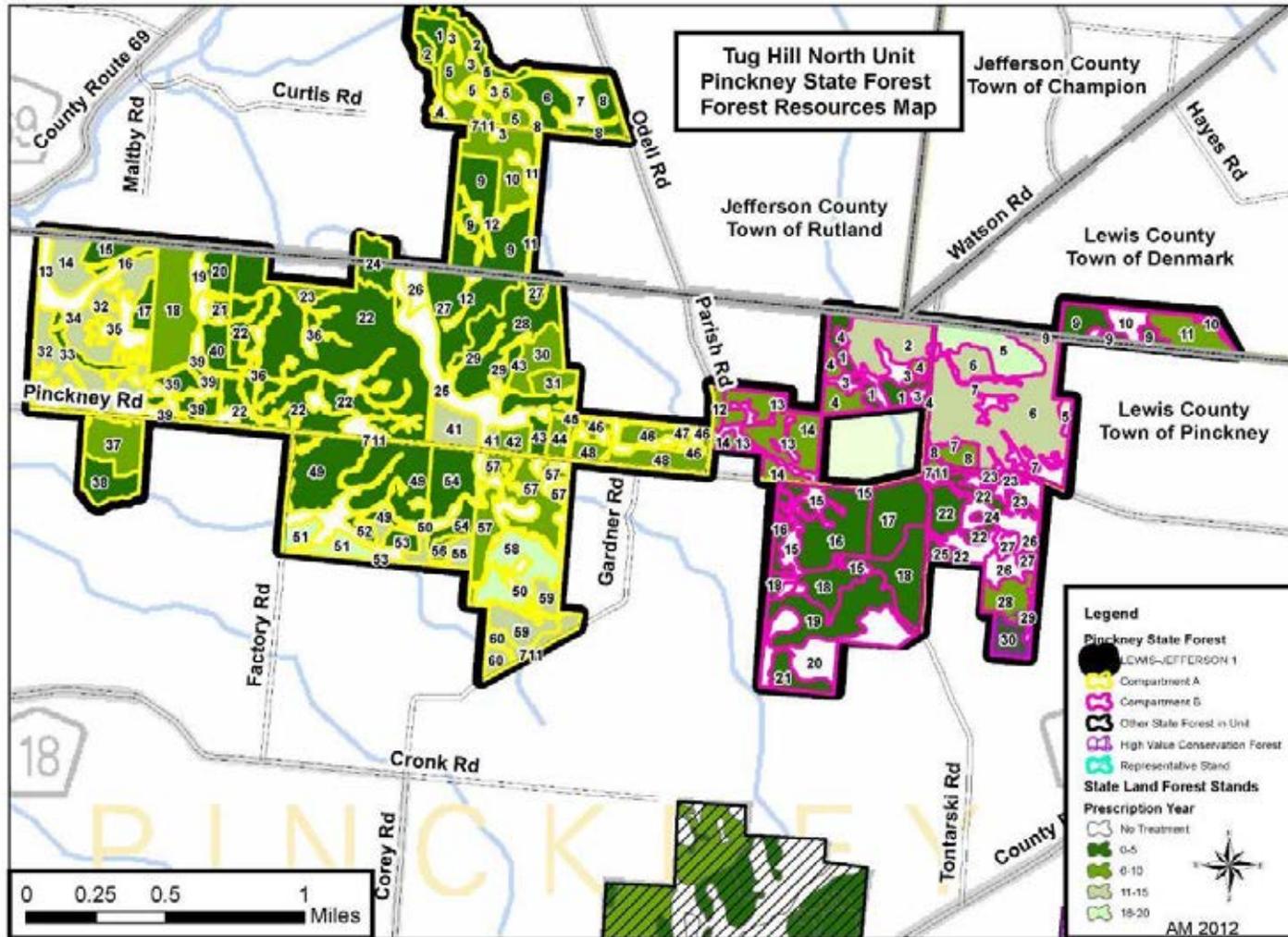


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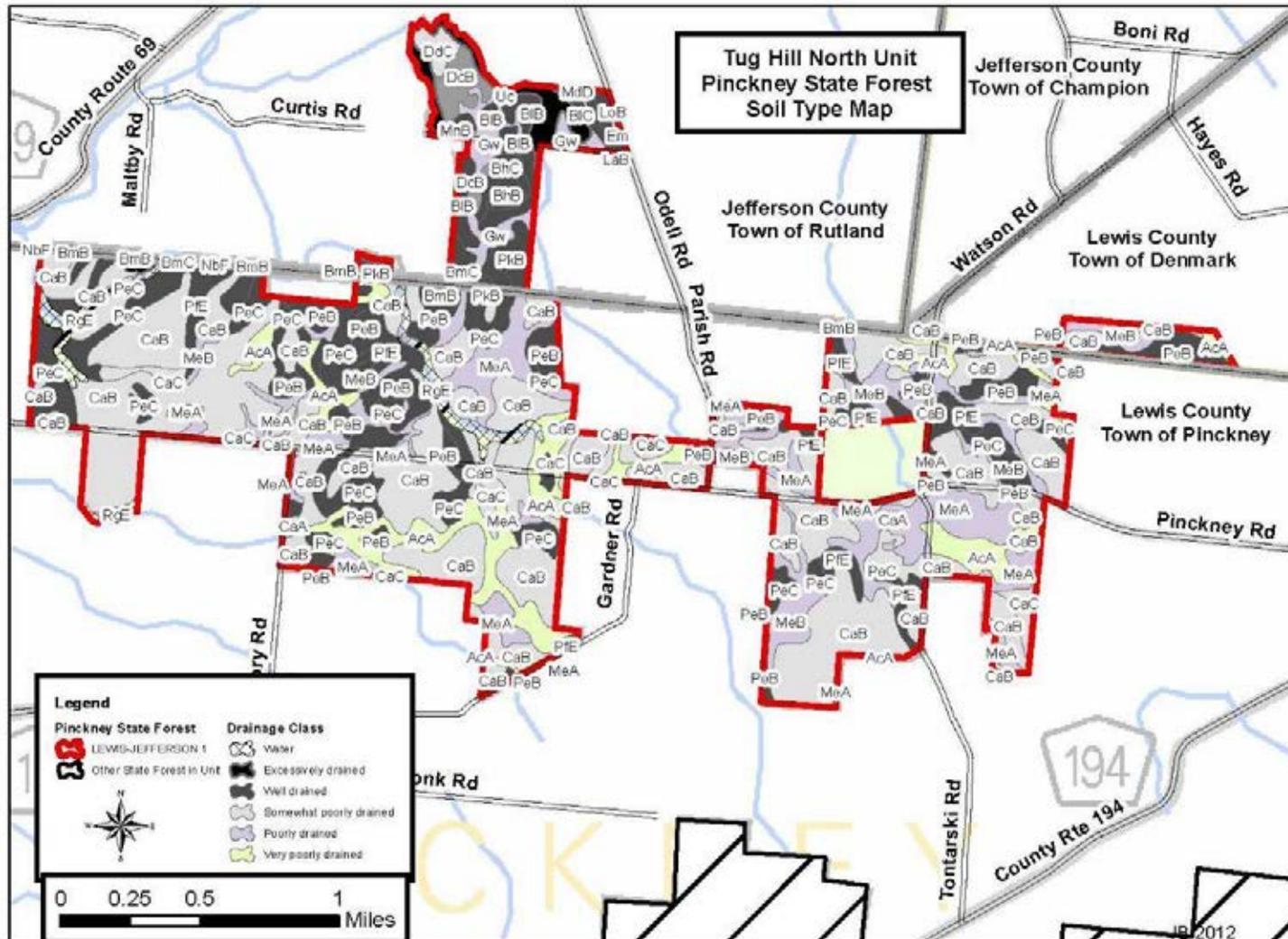


FIGURE 7. –PINCKNEY STATE FOREST

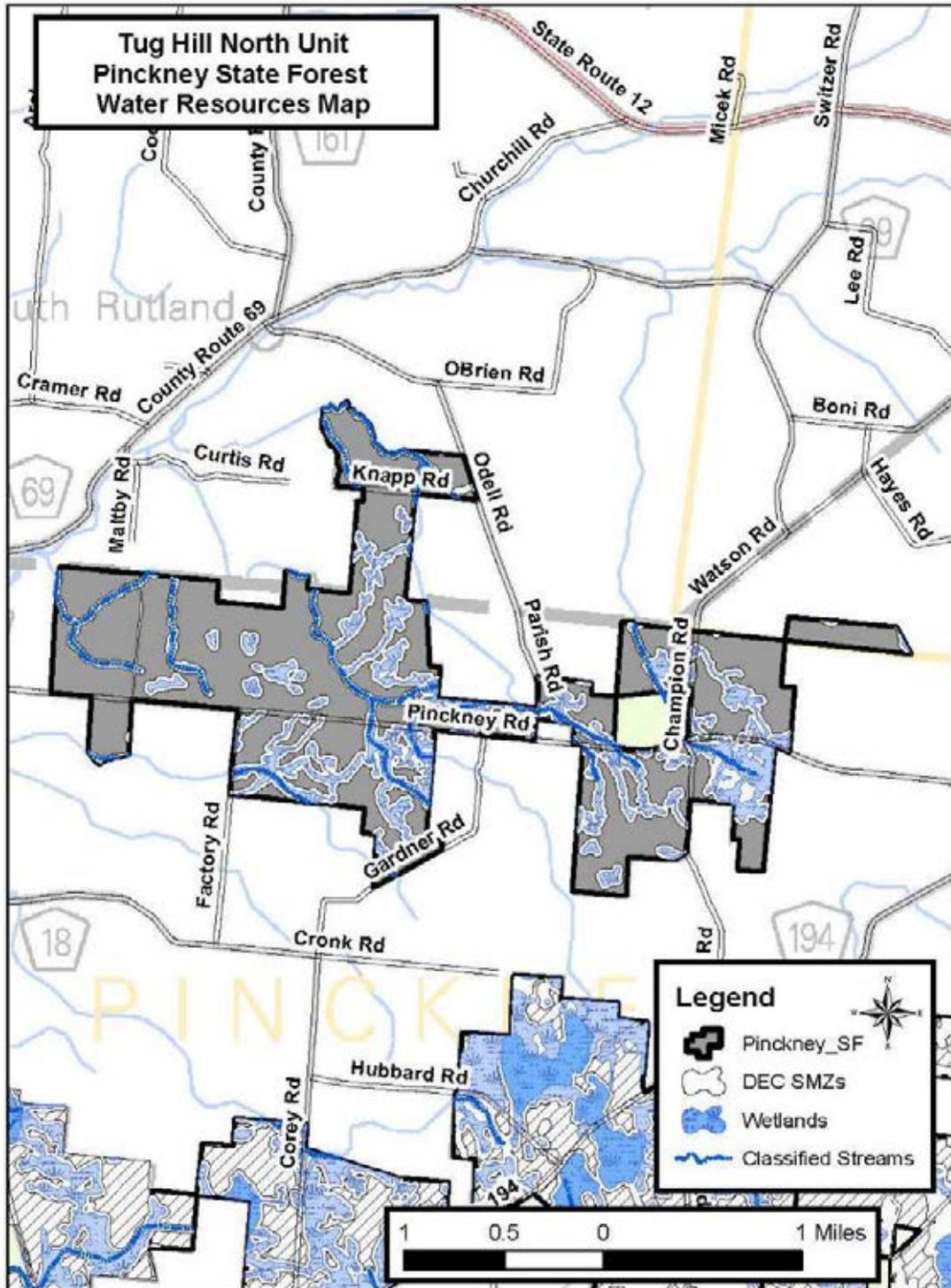


Figure 8. – Sears Pond State Forest

Facilities Map, Forestry Map, Soils Map, Water Resources Map

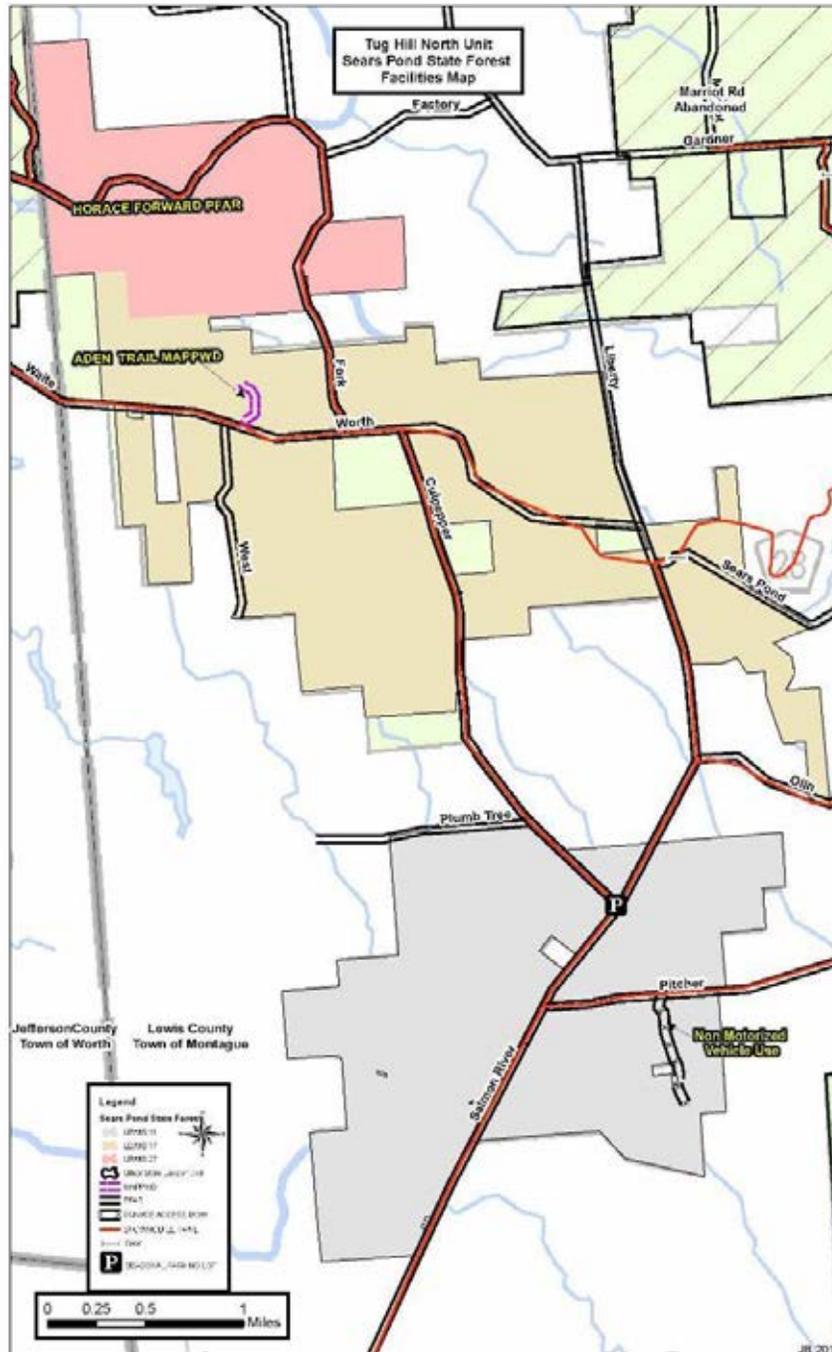


FIGURE 8. – SEARS POND STATE FOREST

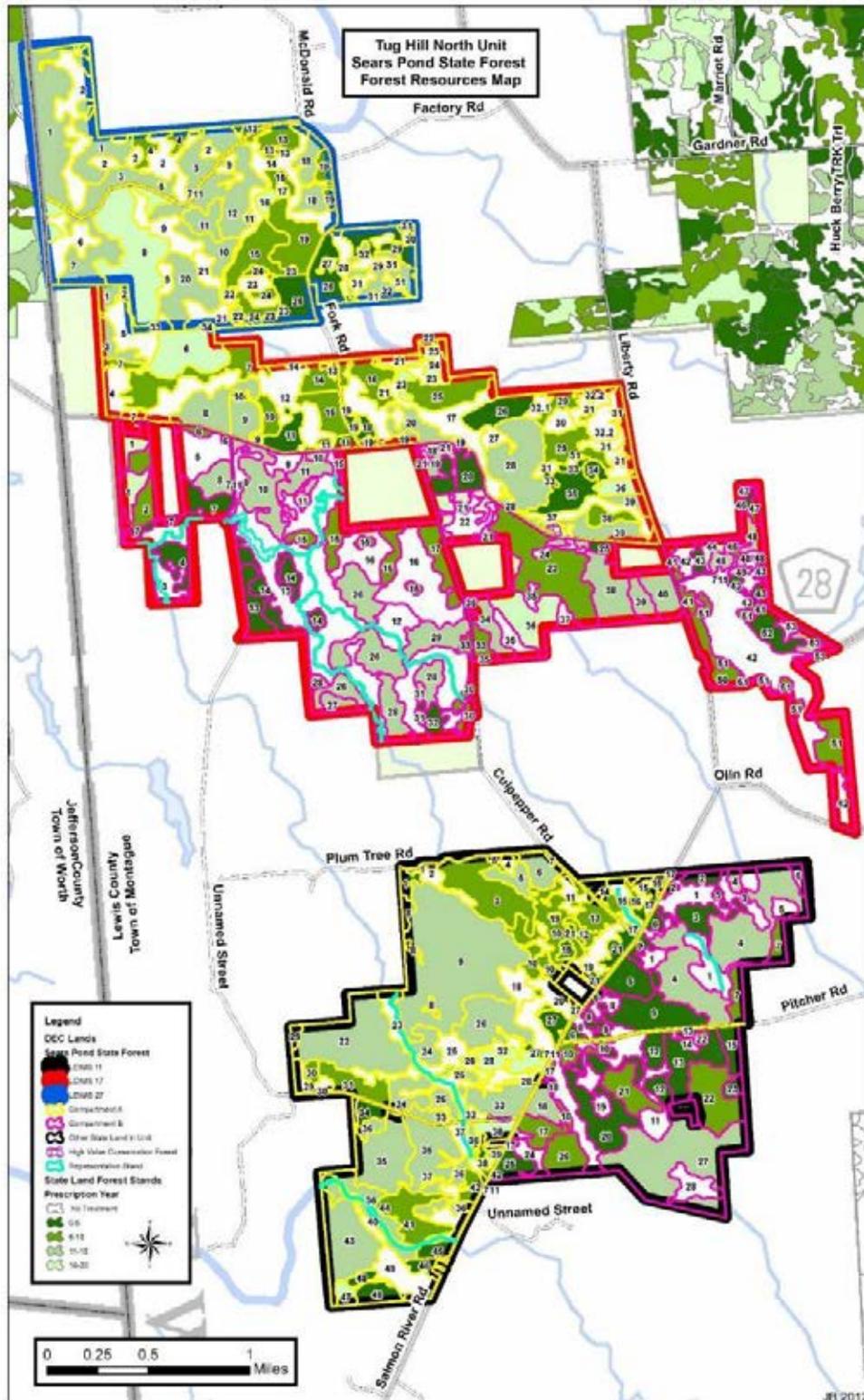


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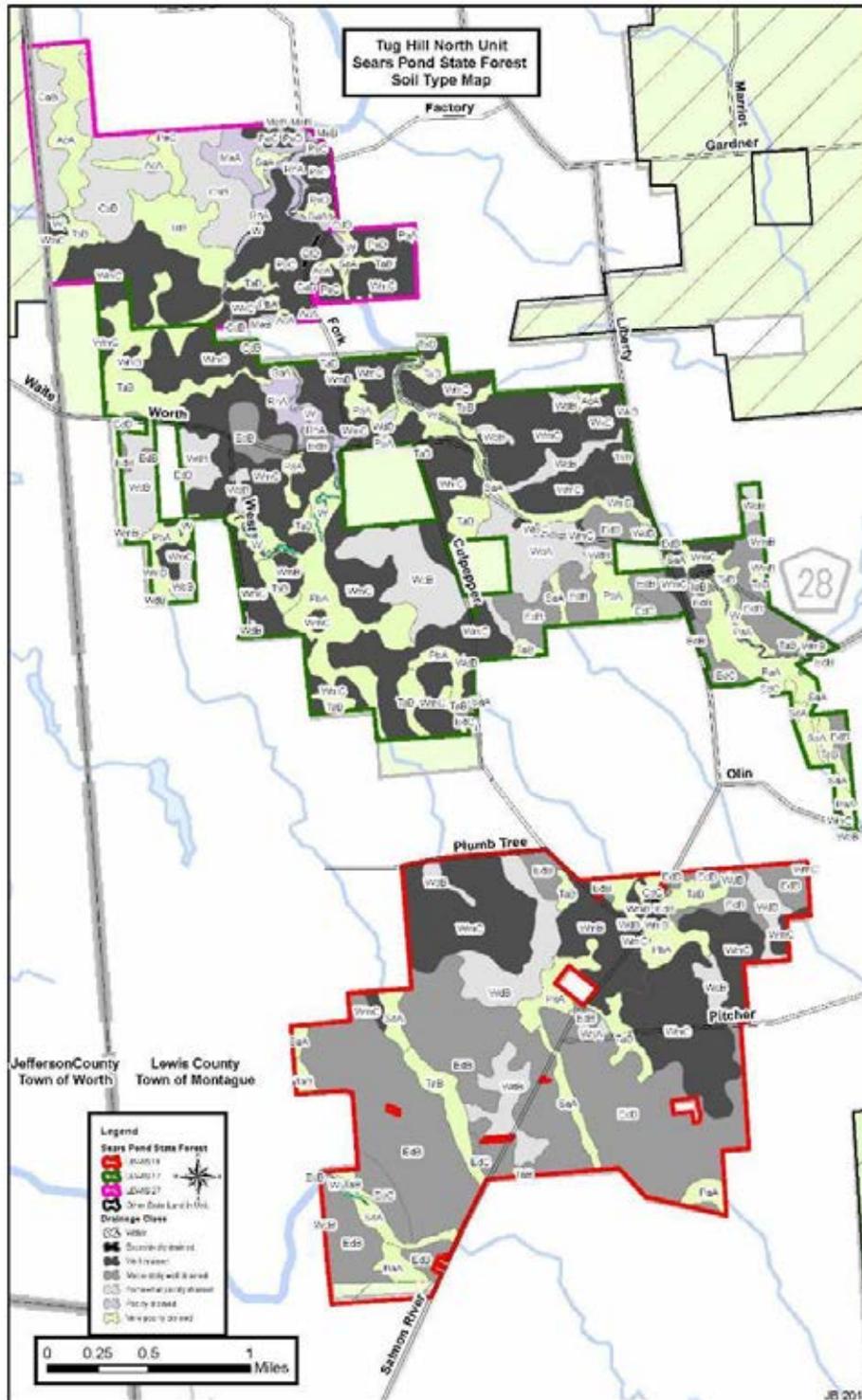


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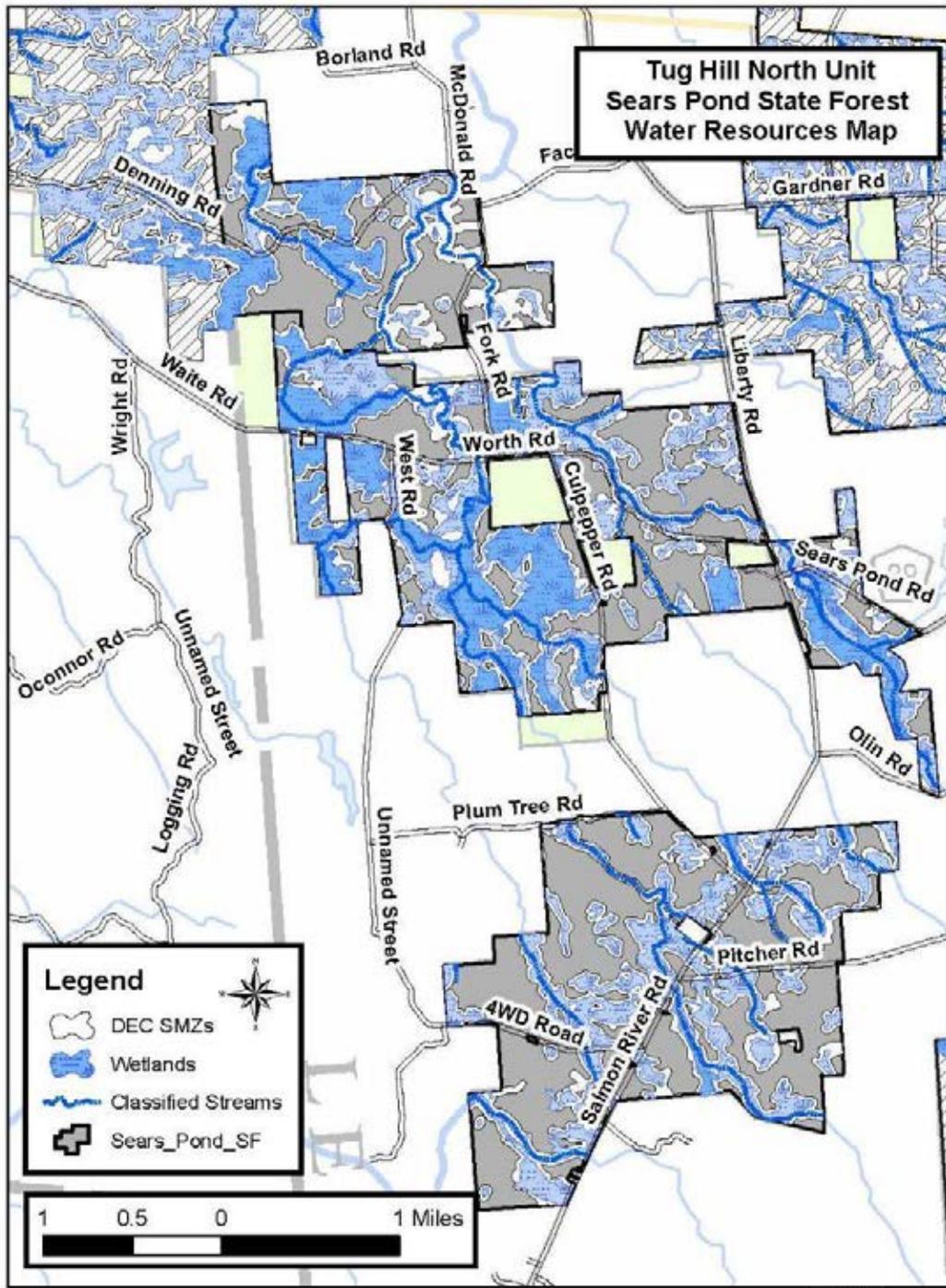


Figure 9. – Tug Hill State Forest

Facilities Map1, Forestry Map1, Soils Map1, Facilities Map2, Forestry Map2, Soils Map2, Water Resources Map1, Facilities Map3, Forestry Map3, Soils Map3, Facilities Map4, Forestry Map4, Soils Map4, Water Resources 2

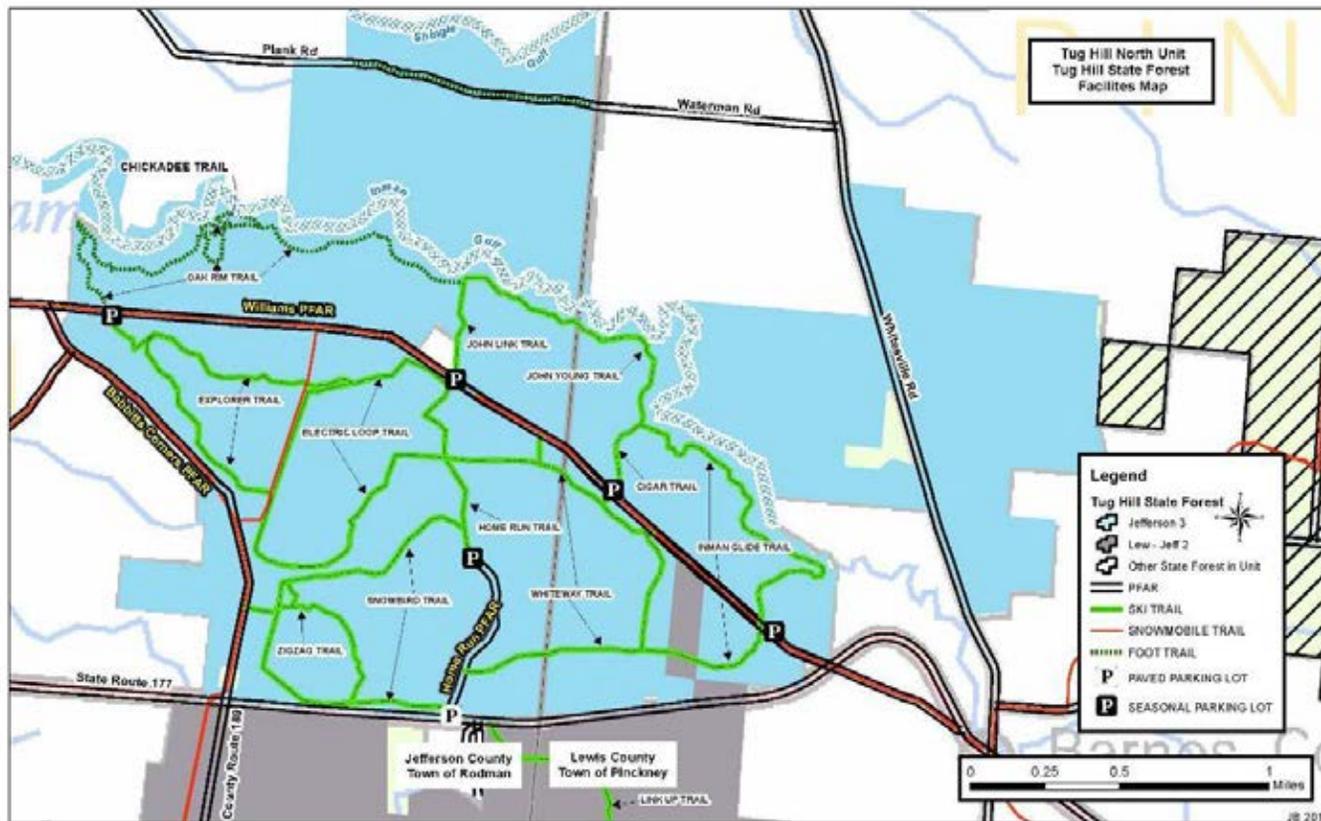


FIGURE 9. – TUG HILL STATE FOREST

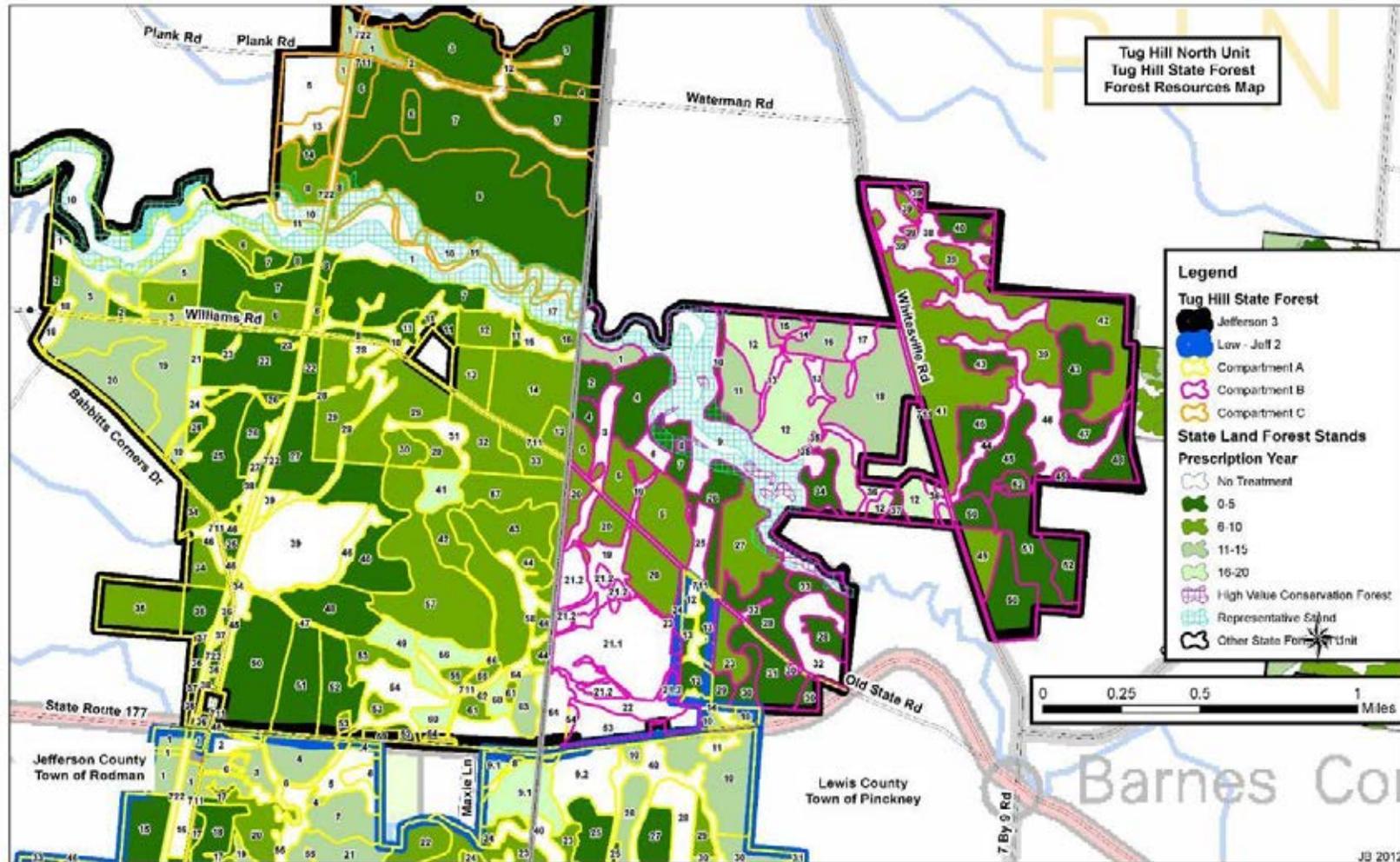


FIGURE 9. – TUG HILL STATE FOREST

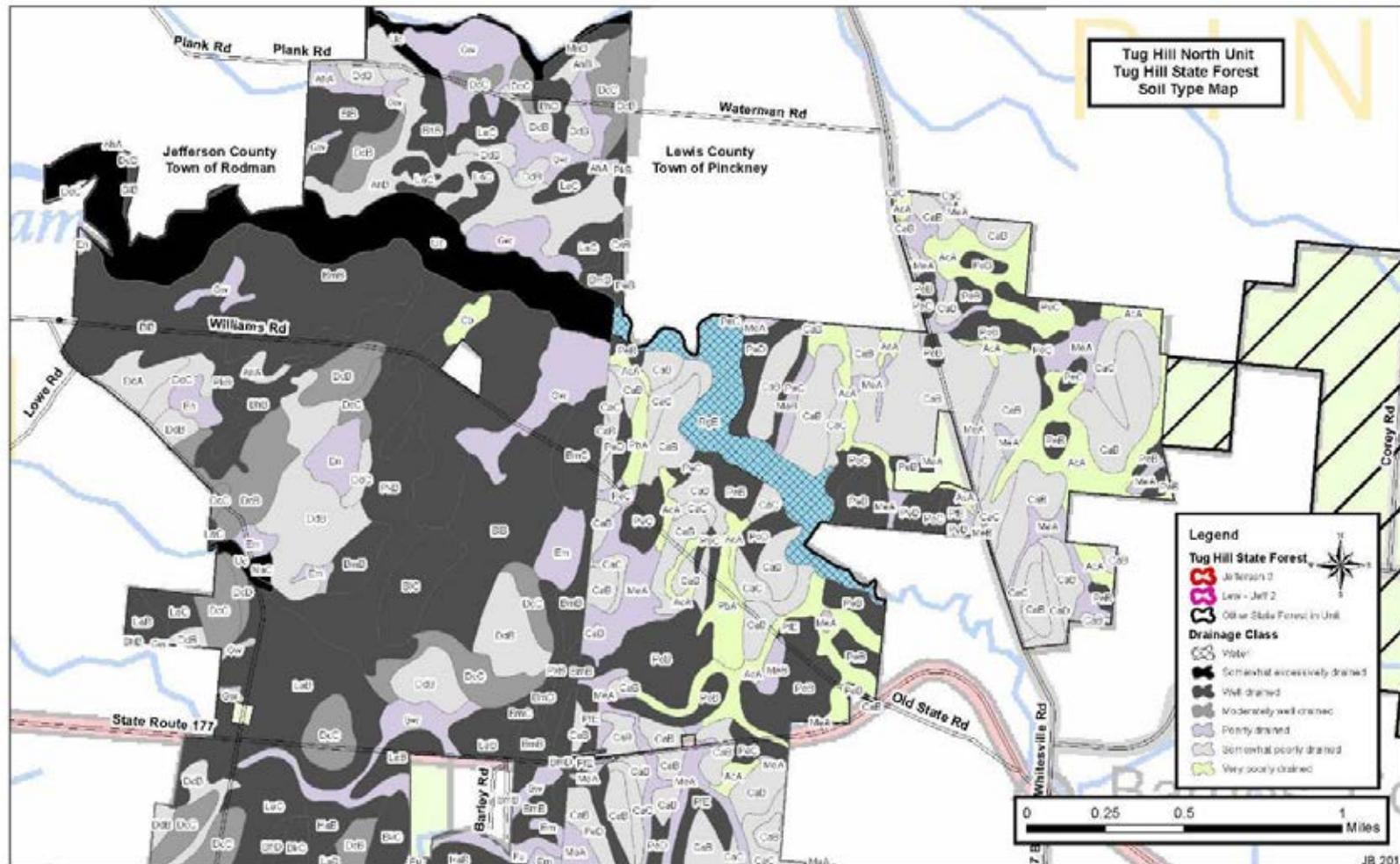


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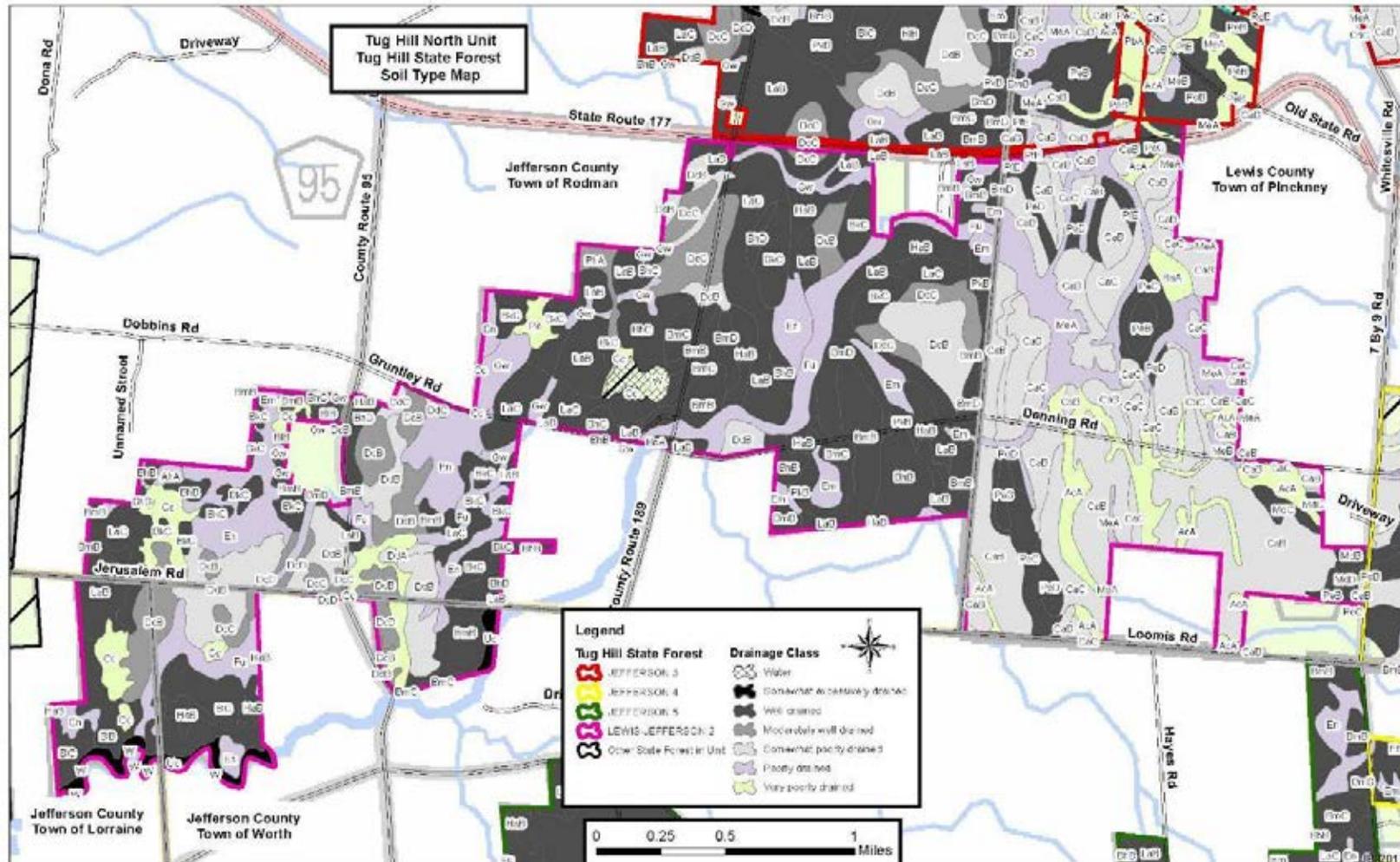


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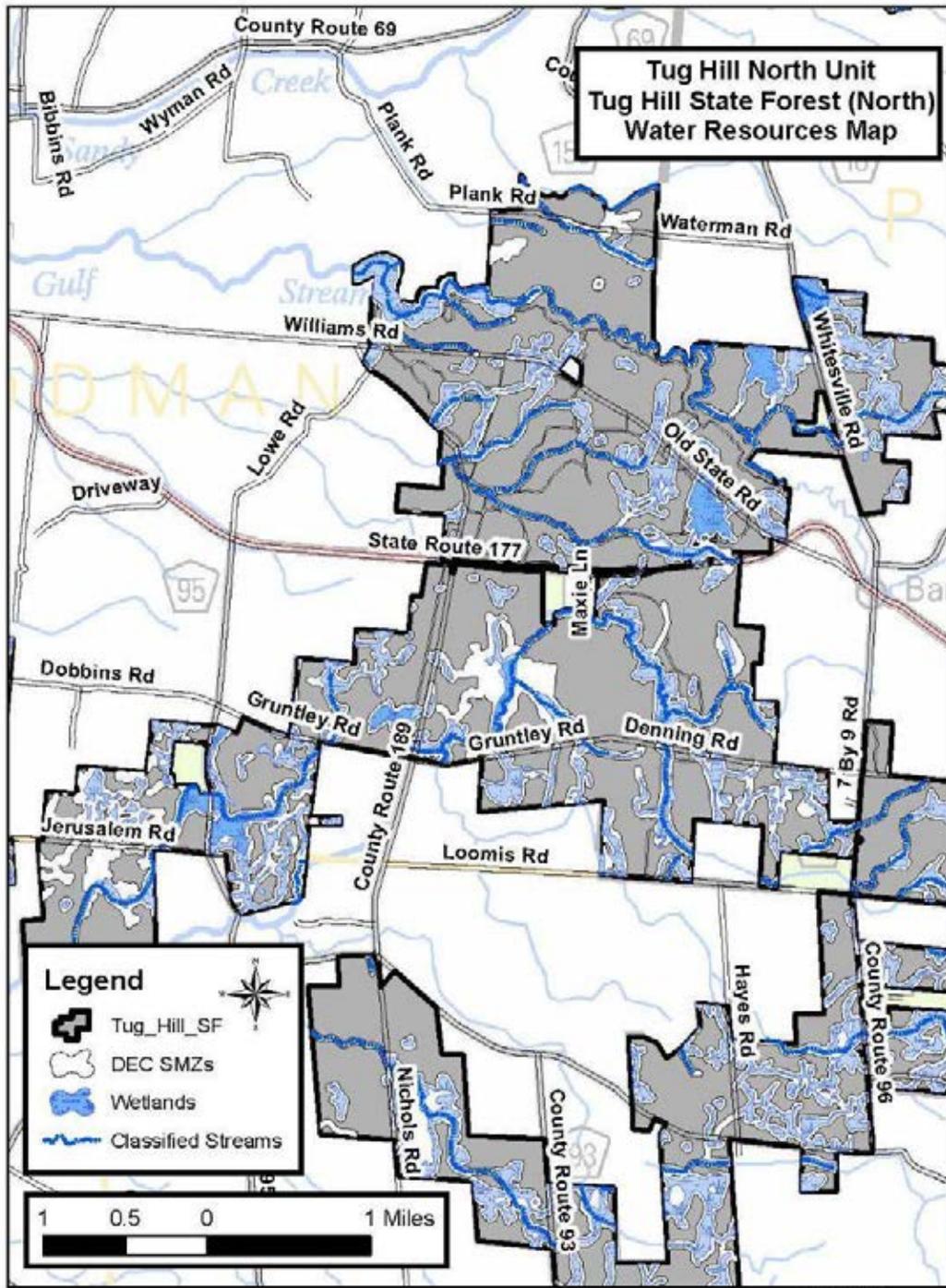


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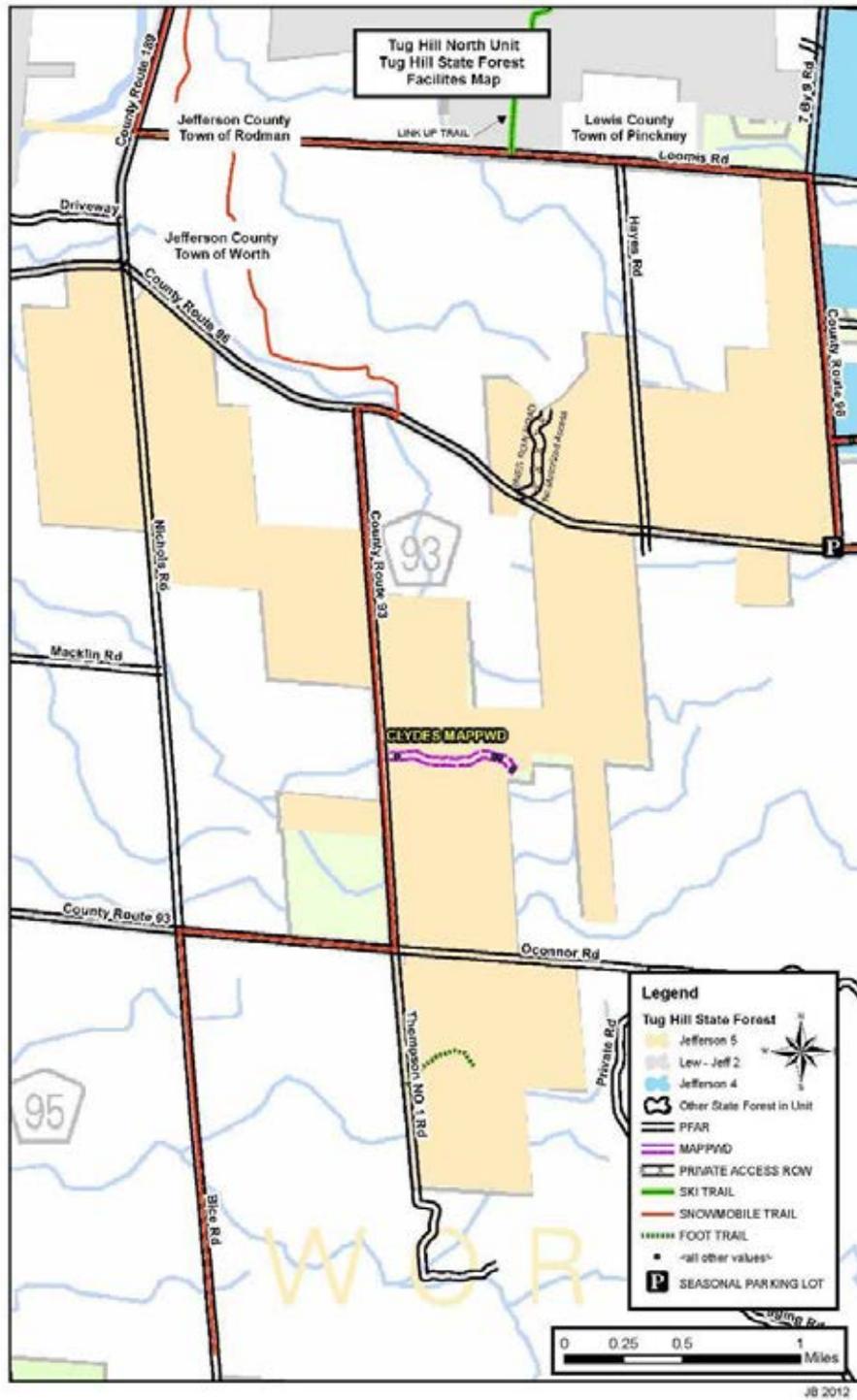


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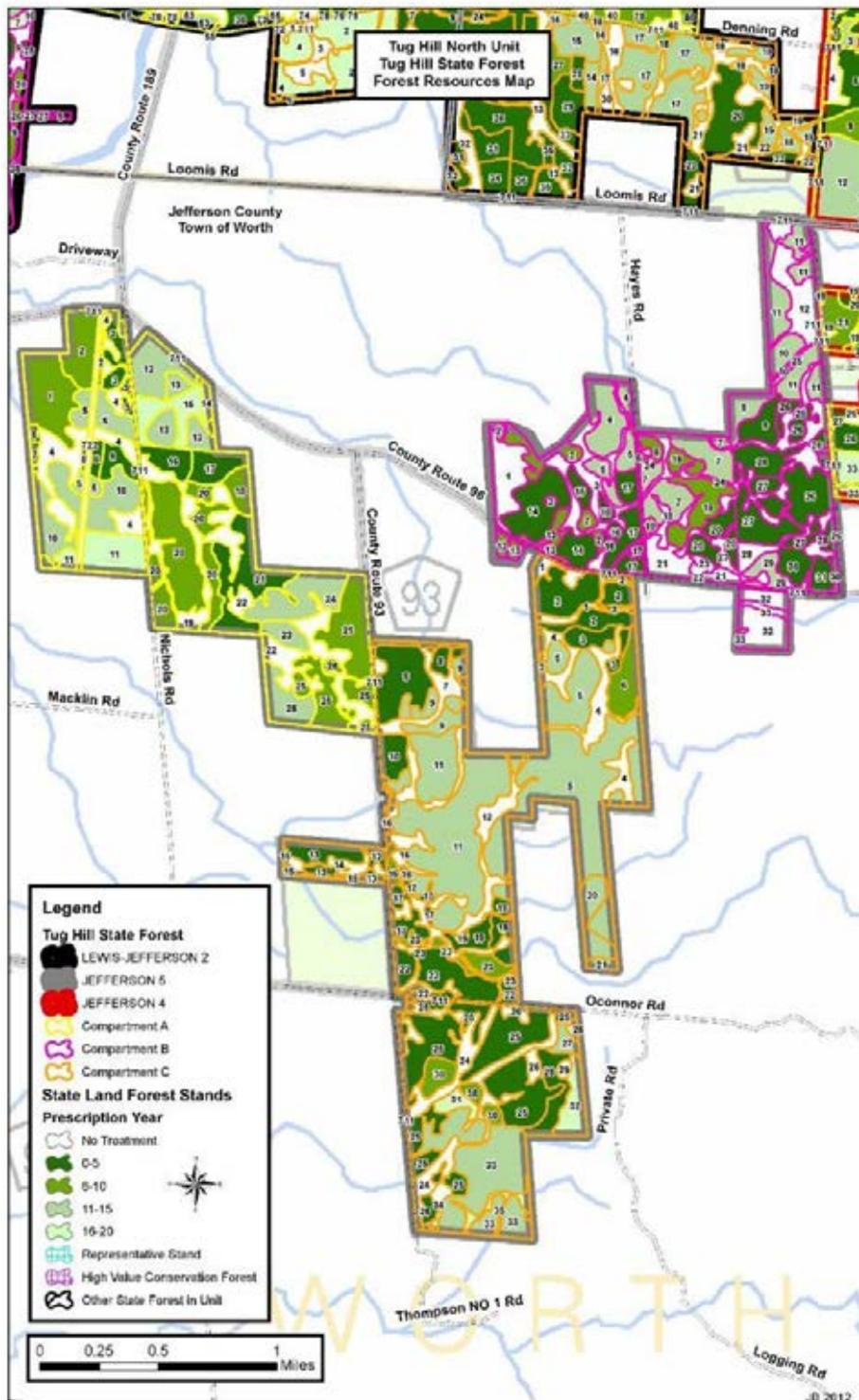


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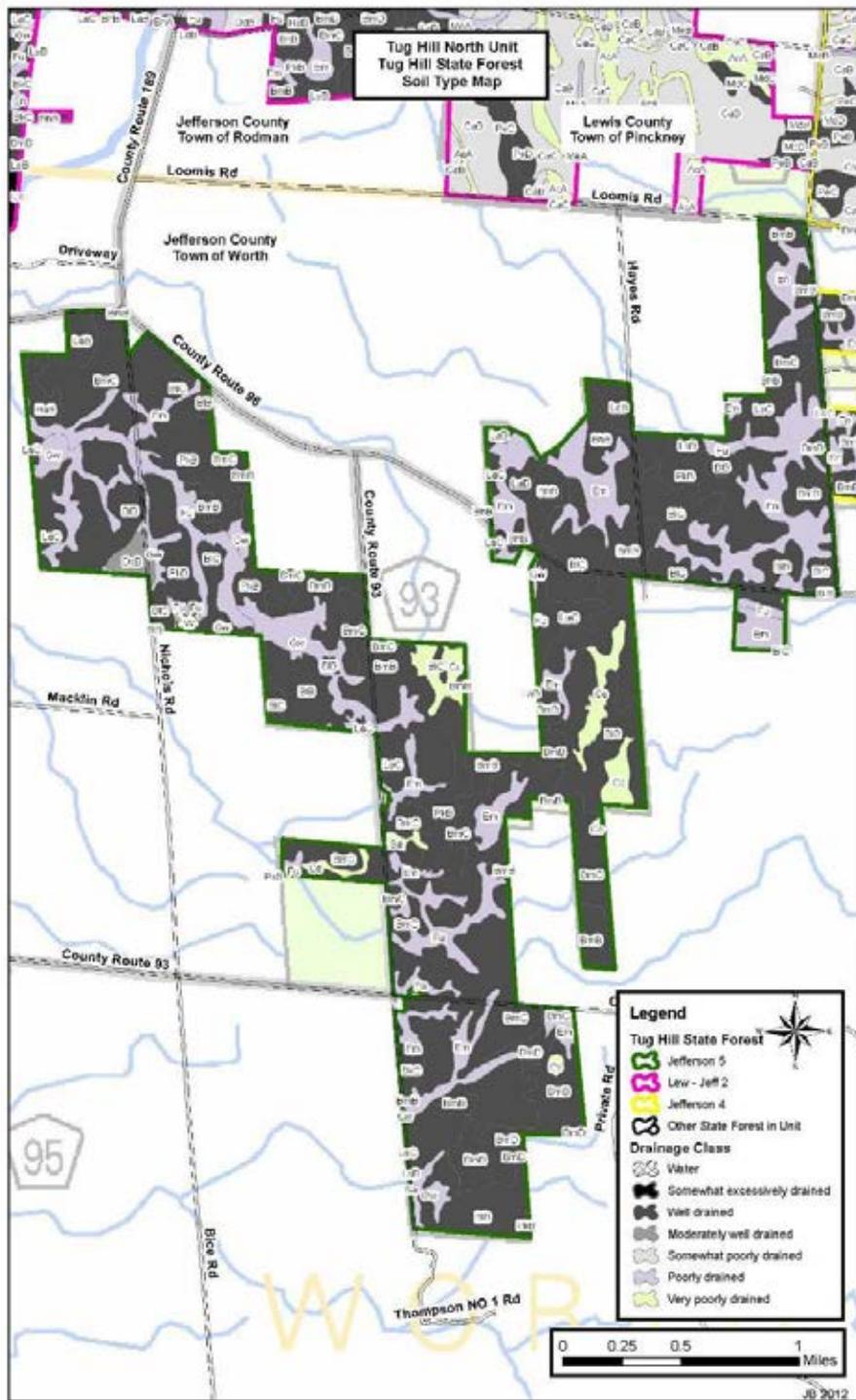


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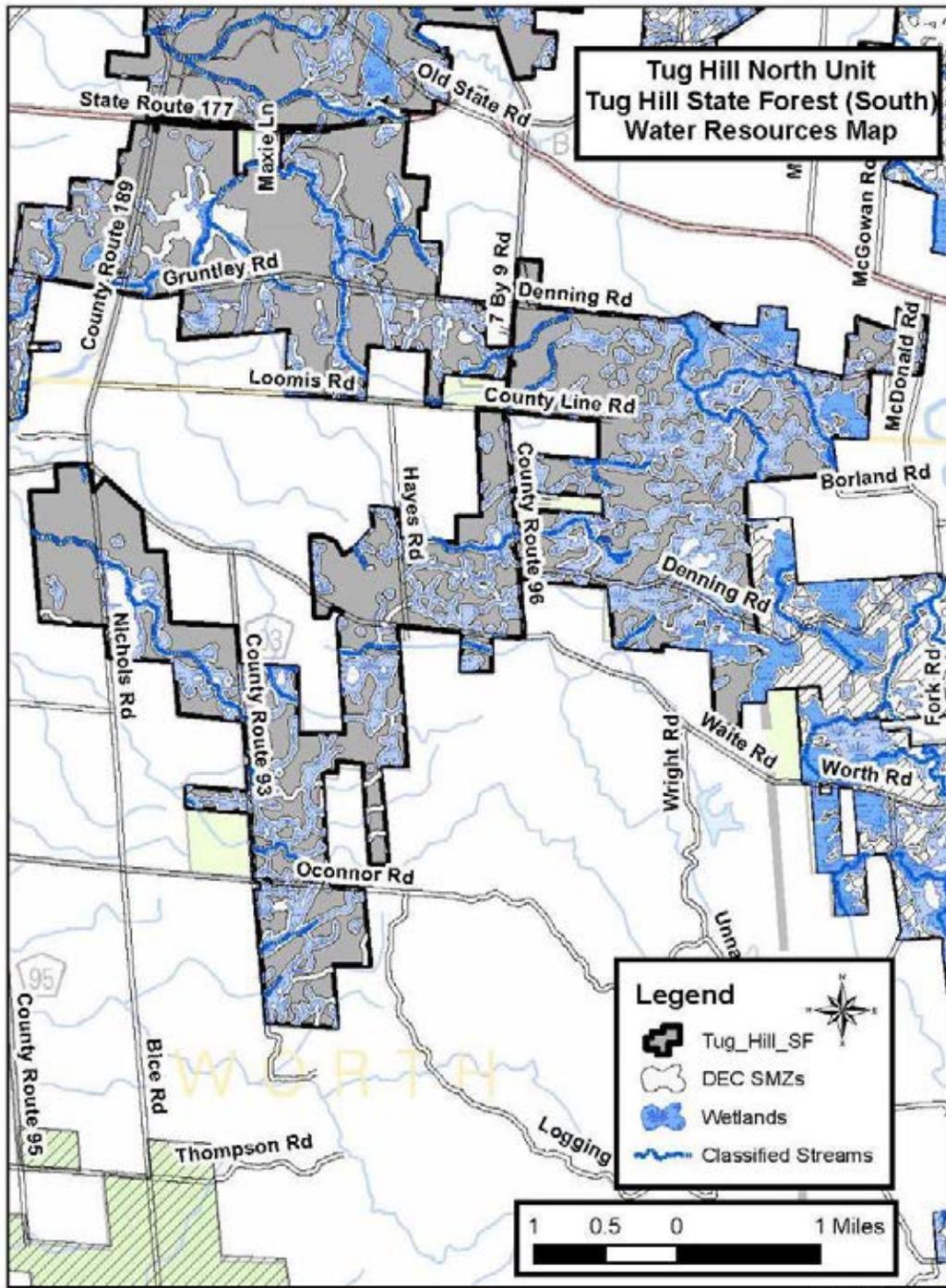


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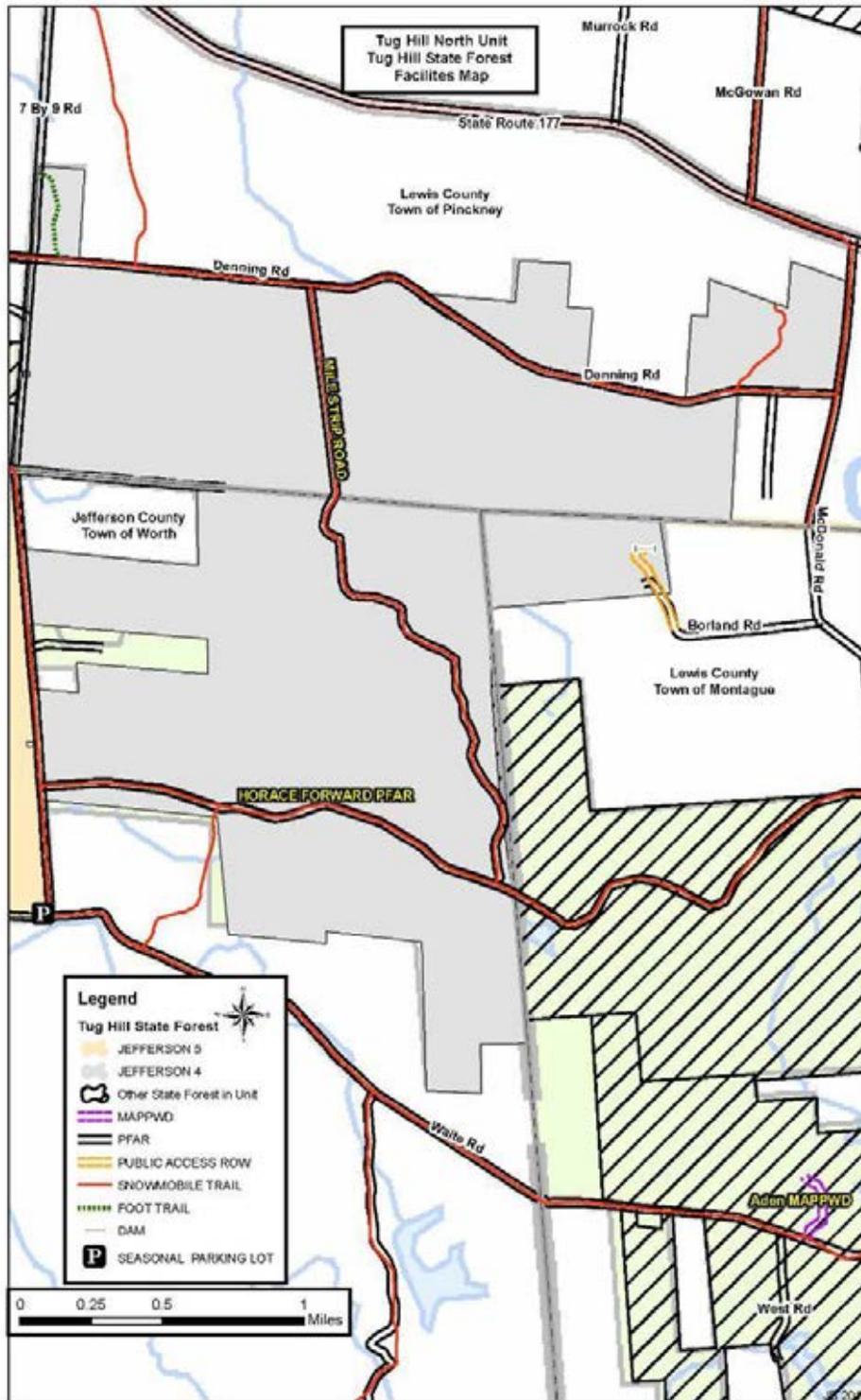


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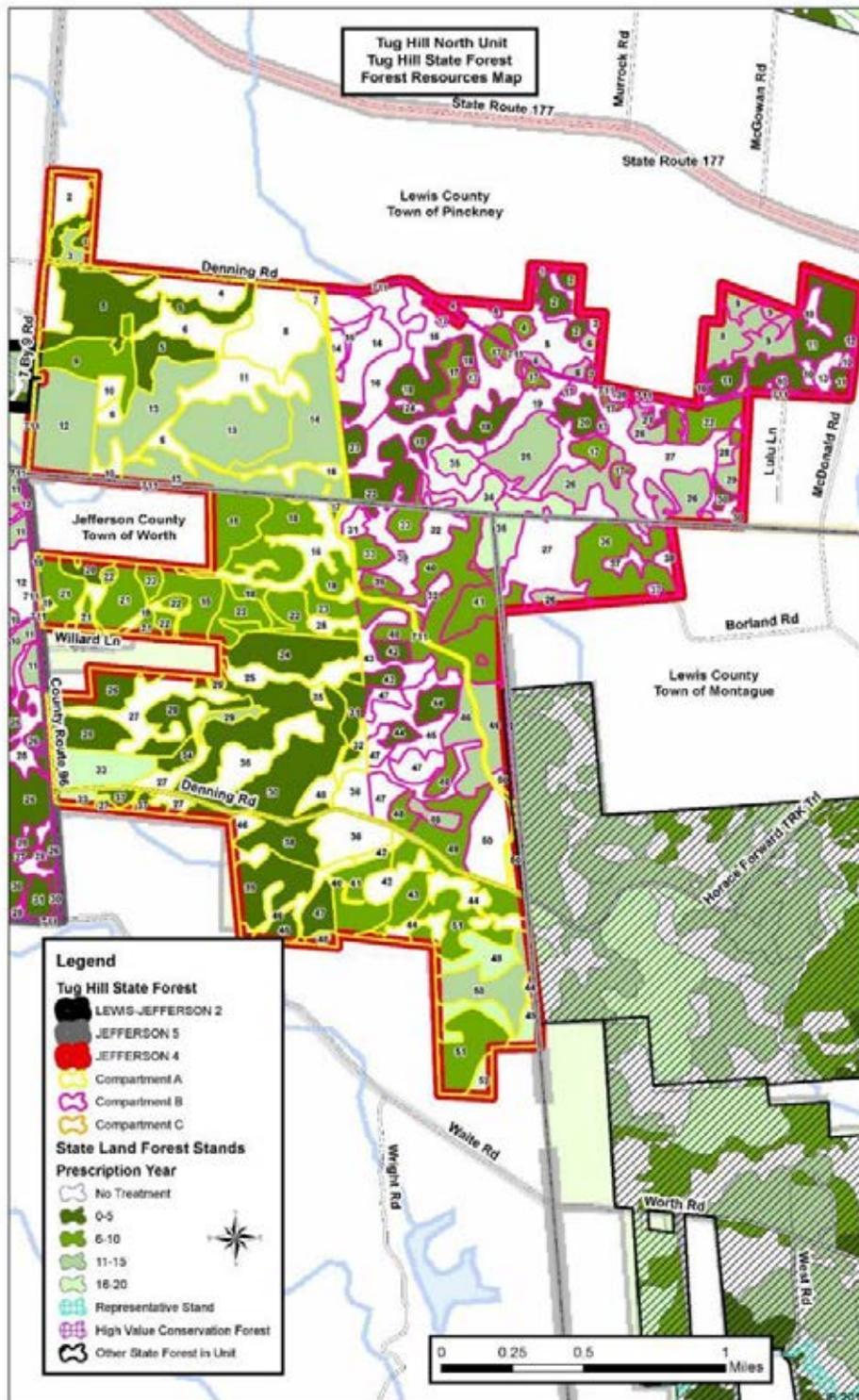


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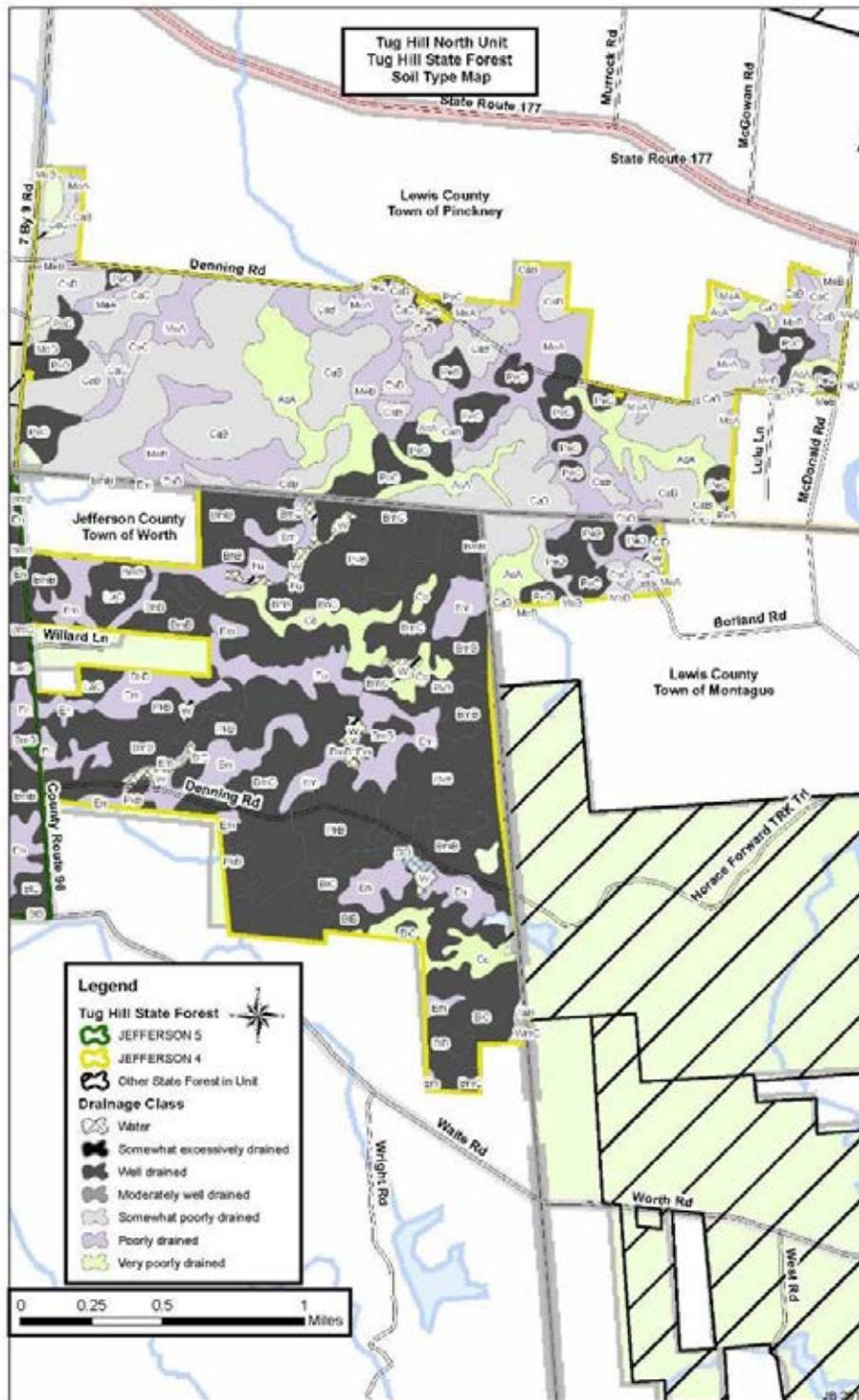


FIGURE 10. – TUG HILL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Figure 10. – Tug Hill Wildlife Management Area

Facilities Map, Forestry Map, Water Resources Map

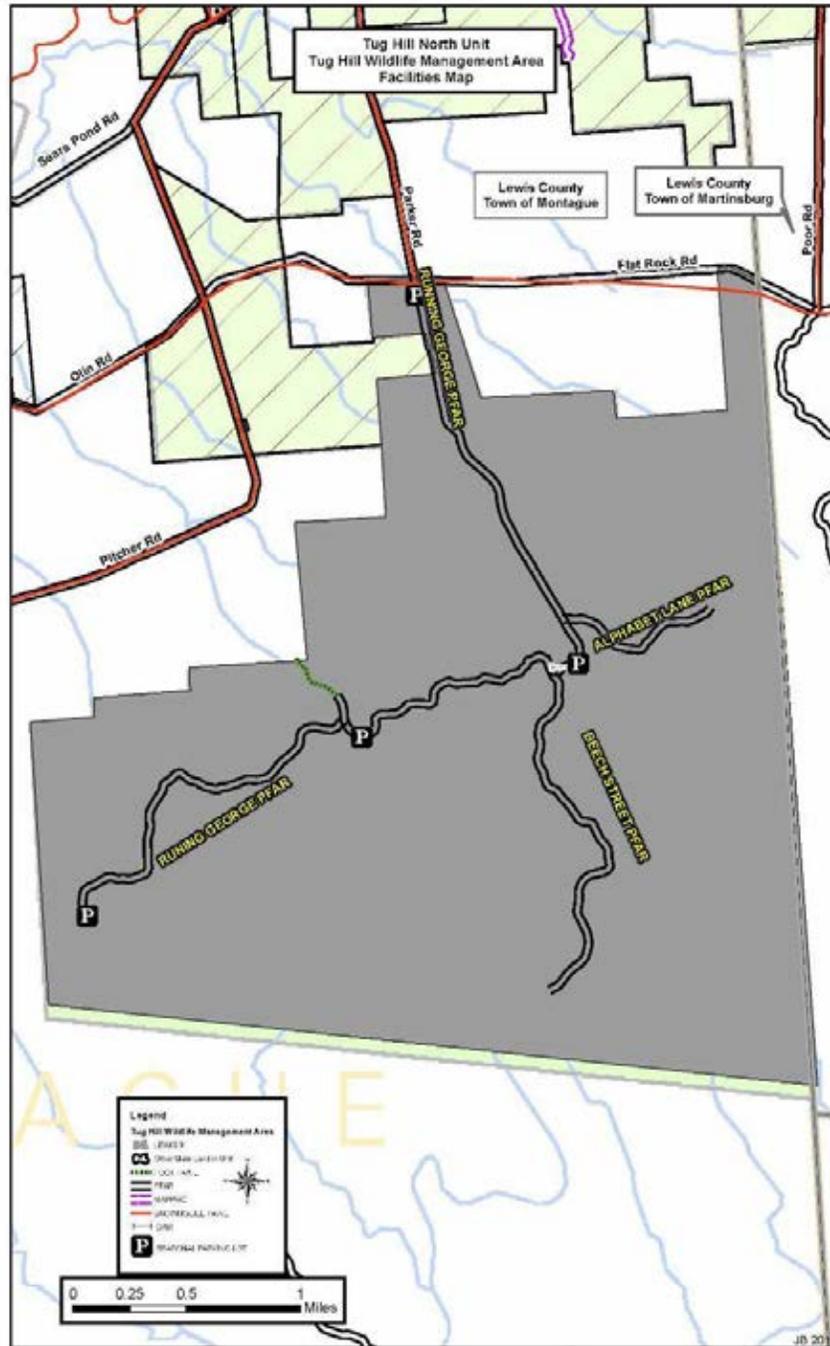


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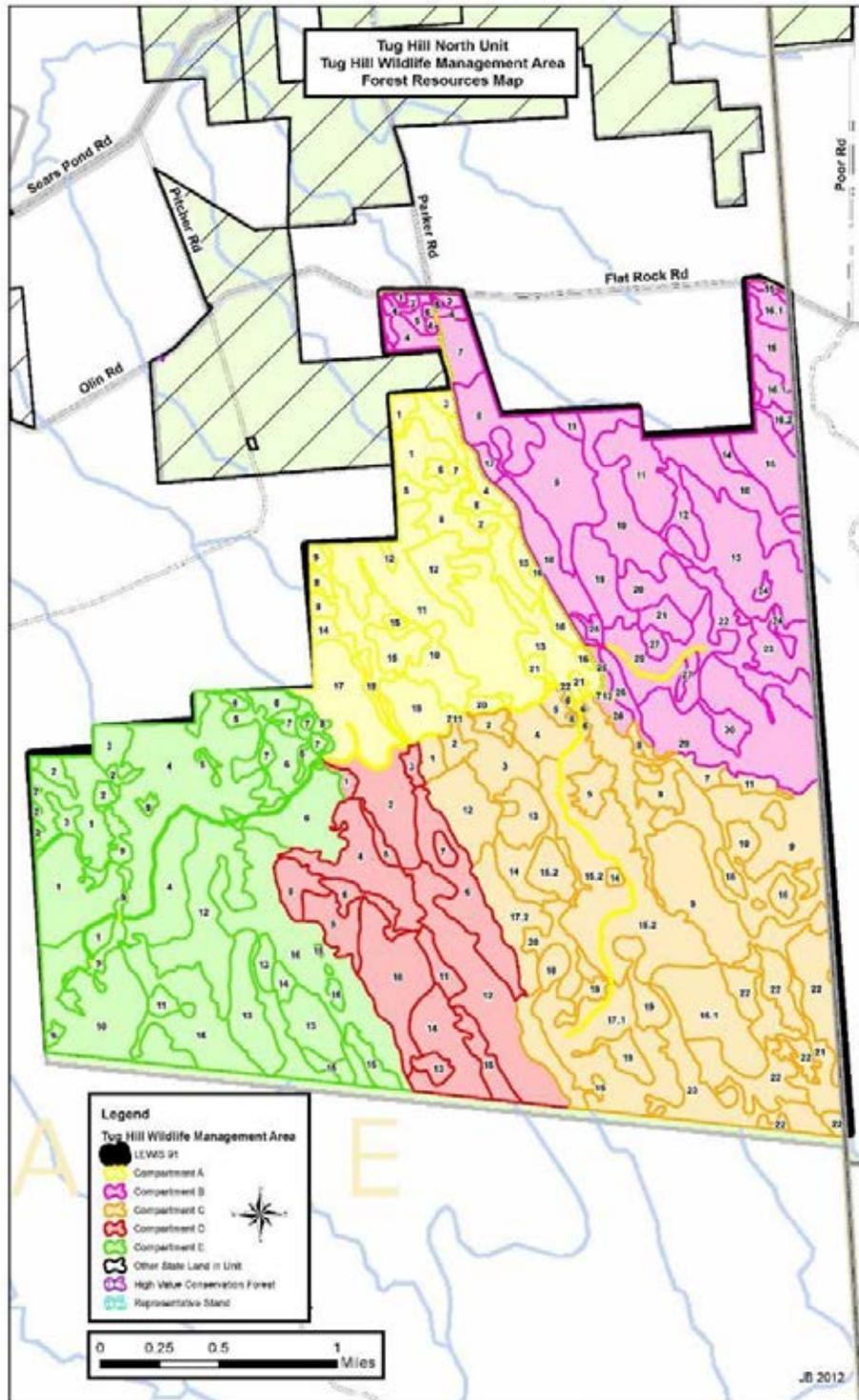


FIGURE 10. – TUG HILL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

