



April 16, 2014

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Subject: Deer Wintering Area Evaluation – Harrington and Clark parcels – Wolf Lane, Richmond

Dear Mr. Harrington and Ms. Clark:

I visited your property on April 3, 2014 to confirm the mapping of the identified Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (VT FWD) Deer Wintering Area (DWA) on Mr. Harrington's 90-acre parcel and Ms. Clark's 13-acre parcel.

At present, the northern half of the 90-acre Harrington parcel is mapped by VT FWD as a DWA and the southeast half of the 13-acre Clark parcel is also mapped as a DWA (see attached natural resources map and corresponding photographic documentation). However, my field observations do not support either of these parcels as DWA's.

I walked the extent of both parcels during my site visit with particular attention to the mapped DWA as it relates to on the ground observations of habitat and vegetative community (see attached photographic documentation and natural resources map). Snow cover during the visit was approximately ten (10) inches in the forested portion of the parcel.

The vegetative coverytype of the mapped DWA portion of the Harrington parcel consists of a sparsely vegetated mature eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*) forest (approximately 19-acres) that was logged approximately five years ago following a large storm that caused substantial blow down within the area. New growth in this area consists almost entirely of hardwood species. The remaining portion of the DWA mapped portion of the Harrington parcel is a northern hardwood forest with small areas of open meadow, and old field from an abandoned home site. Additionally, the mapped DWA portion of Clark parcel is comprised almost entirely as a northern hardwood forest, with two small pockets of white pine in the northwest and northeast portions of the parcel, both pockets are approximately 1 acre combined. The attached natural resources map uses 2013 ortho-photography that shows leaf off aerial imagery, which clearly depicts the sparse conifer habitat in these areas.

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Overstory dominants in the northern hardwood forest portions of the landscape consist of sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), with areas of black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), wild apple (*Malus species*), paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*), and white ash (*Fraxinus americana*).

Typically, if found data on Whitetail Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) feeding, bedding, and travel corridors would be logged and mapped using a GPS Trimble Geo XH with sub-meter accuracy. In this circumstance no deer bedding, or high traffic areas were found. Approximately two or three different sets of deer tracks were observed under a few old apple trees in the open area of the meadow in the vicinity of photo point 6.

Field observations identify that the VT FWD DWA was inaccurately mapped within the project area. The dominant northern hardwood forest does not provide favorable conditions for a deer yard, as it is not a warm dry place to bed down. Deer wintering areas are typically comprised of areas of dense softwood cover, such as hemlock, balsam fir, red spruce, and white pine. The tree canopy in these areas limits snow depths, making movement easier and providing protection from wind. It is my opinion, that neither the Harrington nor the Clark parcels provide DWA habitat.

Please review the submitted information. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Regards,



Karina Dailey
Environmental Scientist

cc: Don Harrington & Vanessa Clark
Enclosed: Natural Resources Map and Photographic Documentation

Deer Wintering Area Evaluation Photographic Documentation

Wolf Lane, Richmond, Vermont



Photo Point 1: Photograph depicts northern hardwood forest on the Clark property. Photo taken facing north.



Photo Point 2: Photograph depicts northern hardwood forest on the Clark Parcel. Photo taken facing northeast.



Photo Point 3: Photograph depicts logged white Pine area on the Harrington Parcel. Photo taken facing south.



Photo Point 4: Photograph depicts northern hardwood/white pine forest on the Harrington Parcel. Photo taken facing south.



Photo Point 5: Photograph depicts northern hardwood forest On the Harrington Parcel. Photo taken facing south.



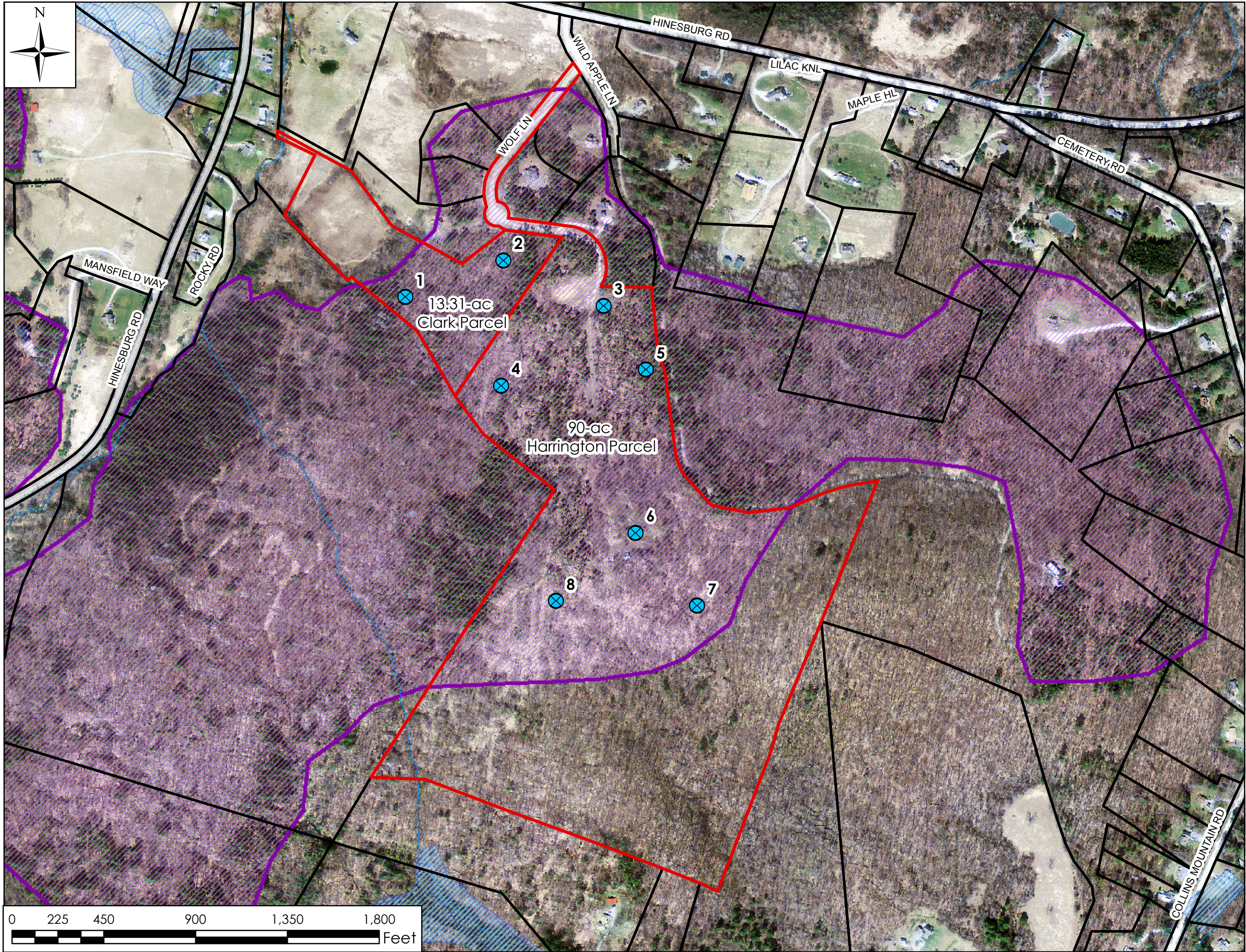
Photo Point 6: Photograph depicts open field and apples on the Harrington Parcel. Photo taken facing north.



Photo Point 7: Photograph depicts northern hardwood forest on the Harrington Parcel. Photo taken facing south.



Photo Point 8: Photograph depicts northern hardwood forest On the Harrington Parcel. Photo taken facing west.



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Project Location



Legend

- Project Parcels
- Photo Locations
- Tax Parcel Boundary
- VT Significant Wetland
- Stream
- Deer Wintering Area (VT FWD)

Notes

Sources: NAIP Imagery (2013);
Streams by ANR (2012); Project Area by TCE (2014);
Deer Wintering Area by ANR (2011).

Disclaimer: The accuracy of information presented is determined by its sources.TCE is not responsible for any errors or omissions that may exist. Questions of on-the-ground location can be resolved by site inspections and/or surveys by a registered surveyor. This map is not a replacement for surveyed information or engineering studies.

**Harrington & Clark
Wolf Lane
Richmond, VT**

Natural Resources Map

Project: 14-043, 14-044
Prepared By: LMJ
04/16/2014
1 inch = 450 feet