

Field Visit to the 316-Acre Taine Mountain Property of the Burlington Land Trust

Present Parties: Paul Rochford (Land Trust President) and David Beers (Western District Service Forester) on 1/21/2021 and 1/22/2021

Stewardship Objectives

1. Maintain/improve forest health
2. Maintain/improve recreational opportunities



Punch Brook

FOREST STANDS

Stands are separate natural communities that are distinct from each other. Dividing a property into stands makes it possible to logically describe the property. Keep in mind that while stands are distinct, stand boundaries are often indistinct, where one stand will meld into the next stand over the course of 100 to 200 feet. Even within a single stand, there is a tremendous amount of variation. Like most properties in Connecticut, your property could be divided into an almost unlimited number of stands due to the tremendous variety forests inherently possess.

Within all stands, the lower slopes have moister, richer and deeper soils. This gradual change in site quality with slope exists on every hillside and causes a change in tree species and size composition with hillside slope position. Upper slopes tend to have more oaks and hickories; along with shorter/smaller trees.

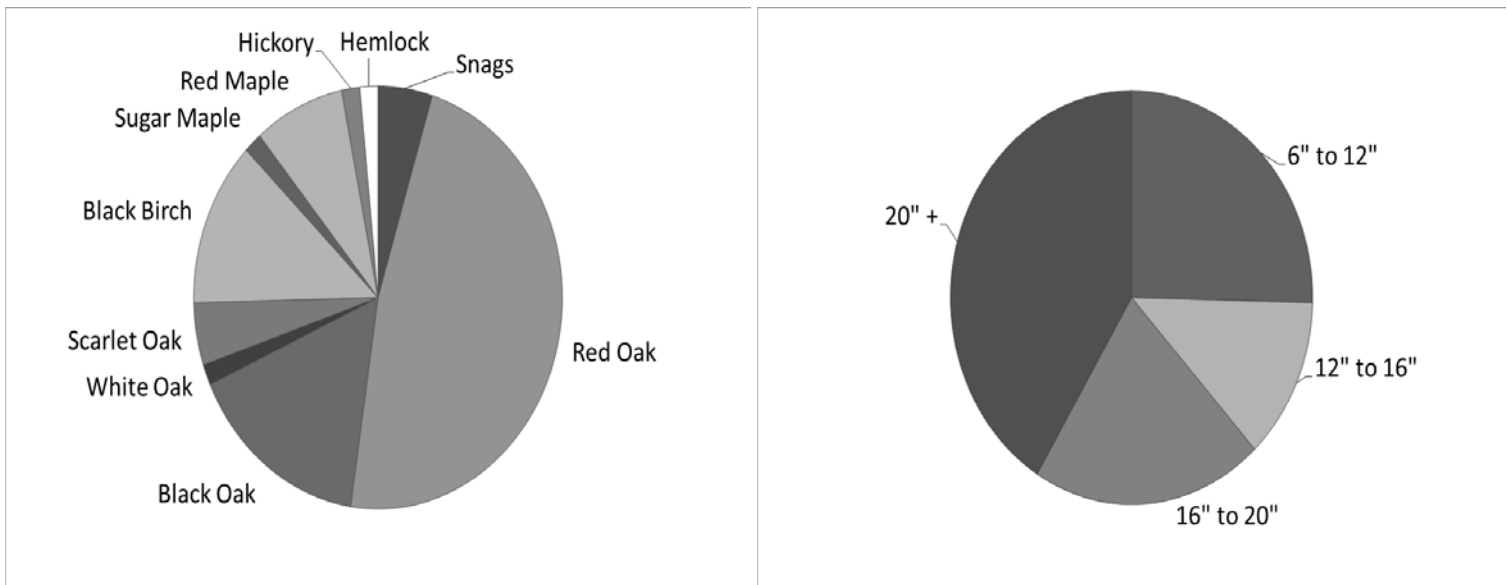
Each description begins with two graphs. The first shows the relative abundance of each species by percent. Not all species found in a stand will be included in this graph because some of the less common species did not fall within a measurement point. The second graph shows the relative abundance of different tree sizes based on the diameter of the tree measured at 4.5 feet off the ground. **Please keep in mind that all of this information is based on a very brief inventory of your forest. Please contact a consulting forester for a much more detailed and accurate forest stewardship plan that would include timber information.**

The CT DEEP Natural Diversity Database (NDDB) does **not** have occurrences of threatened or endangered species on or near this property. A map showing wetland and farmland soils on the property is attached to this report.



Ledges in southeast corner of Stand 4 of southern parcel

STAND 1: NORTH PARCEL (52 ACRES)



Other Species (not measured)	Hemlock, white ash, beech
Understory	A few red maple and black birch saplings; patches of understory hemlock saplings
Insect/Disease/Disturbance	Some serviceberry shrubs and patches of mountain laurel shrubs Minor black birch canker (fungus) Ash death/decline due to the emerald ash borer
Exotic Invasives	None of significance
Canopy Closure	90%
Unhealthy/Poor Form	30%
History	Likely sheep pasture 150+ years ago -Patches of dead red cedar indicative of past pasturing

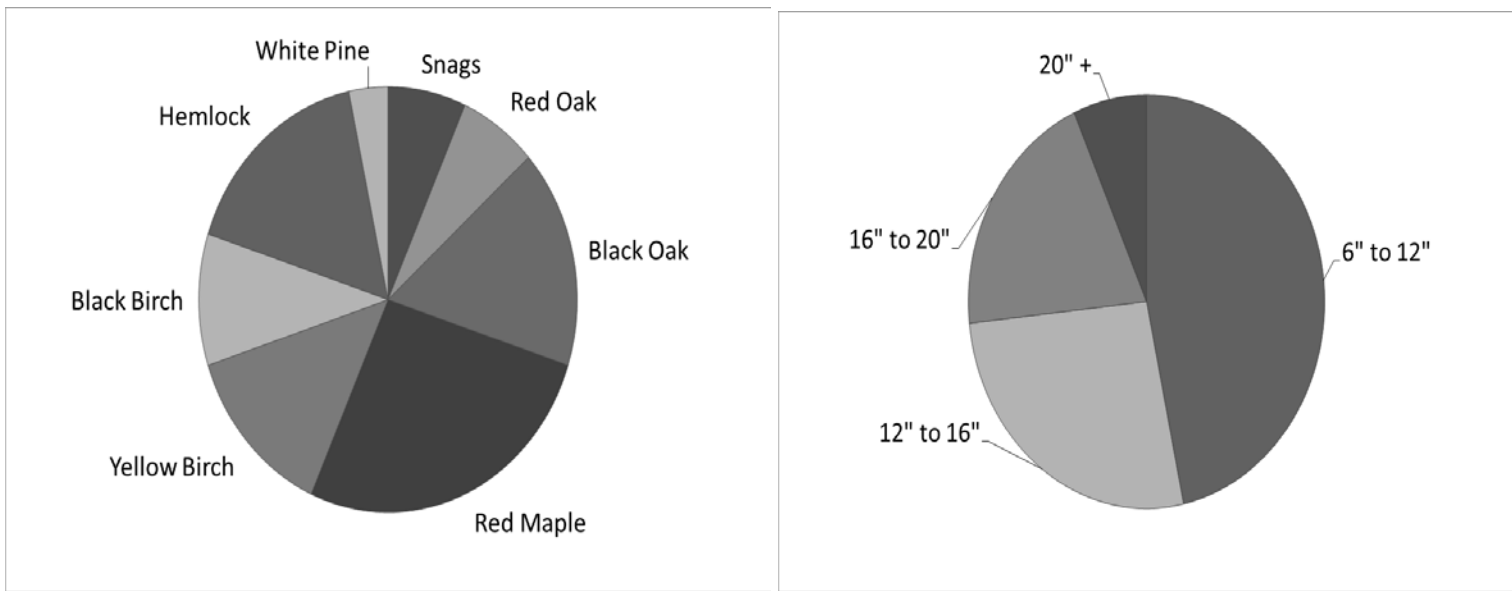
This stand is dominated by large oak and hickory trees growing on rocky site conditions that vary with slope position. There are some rather steep areas within the stand.

Recommendations

While the landowner currently does not express interest in a timber harvest for producing revenue, this stand could certainly support a lucrative harvest in the future. The large spreading oak crowns will require a skilled tree feller. Also, it will be a challenge to create a good area for log trucks to park and load on the significant slope below the road.



STAND 2: NORTH PARCEL (32 ACRES)



Other Species (not measured)	White ash, paper birch
Understory	A few red maple, yellow birch and black birch saplings Some mountain laurel and witch hazel shrubs
Insect/Disease/Disturbance	Minor black birch canker (fungus) Minor hemlock wooly adelgid (insect) Ash death/decline due to the emerald ash borer
Exotic Invasives	A few barberry shrubs where ground is moist in low spots
Canopy Closure	90%
Unhealthy/Poor Form	30%
History	Likely sheep pasture 150+ years ago -Patches of dead red cedar indicative of past pasturing

This stand is a diverse mix of tree species and sizes growing on rocky hilly terrain. I found one pitch pine tree in this stand (see map). Punch Brook runs through this stand (see photo).

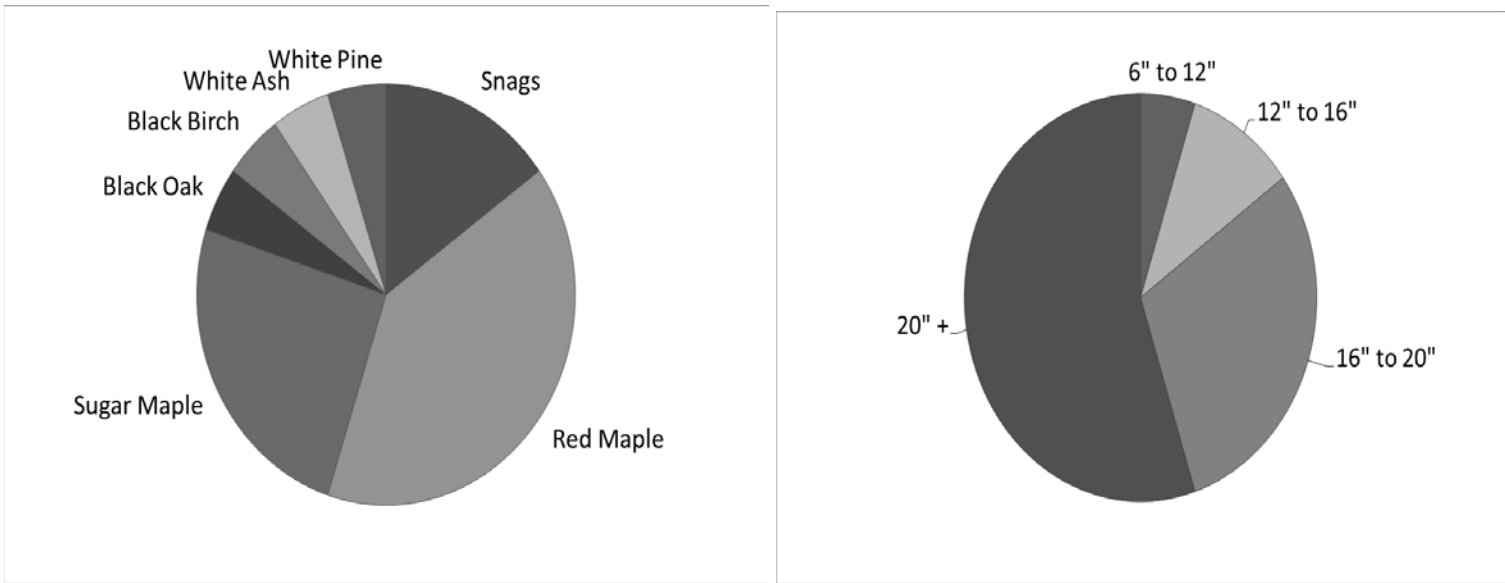
Recommendations

While the landowner currently does not express interest in a timber harvest for producing revenue, this stand could certainly support a lucrative harvest in the future. It will be a challenge to create a good area for log trucks to park and load on the significant slope below the road.



Dead red cedar

STAND 3: NORTH PARCEL (21 ACRES)



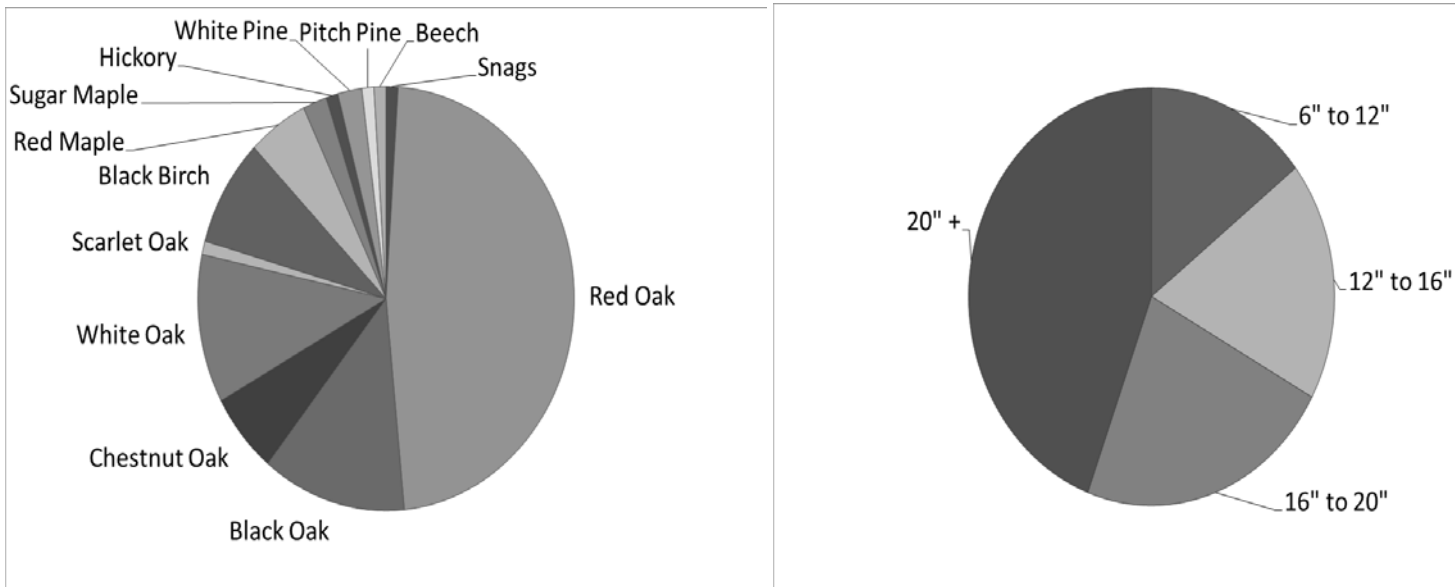
Other Species (not measured)	Hemlock, white oak, red oak, paper birch, beech, hickory
Understory	A few red maple, sugar maple and hemlock saplings Some striped maple shrubs
Insect/Disease/Disturbance	Minor black birch canker (fungus) Ash death/decline due to the emerald ash borer – many dead ash trees on the ground
Exotic Invasives	None of significance
Canopy Closure	90%
Unhealthy/Poor Form	20%
History	Likely sheep pasture and/or cut hay 150+ years ago

This stand is dominated by large maple trees growing on rich rocky soils that vary with slope position. There are some high-quality sugar maple trees within this stand.

Recommendations

While the landowner currently does not express interest in a timber harvest for producing revenue, this stand could certainly support a lucrative harvest in the future. It will be a challenge to create a good area for log trucks to park and load on the significant slope below the road. The amount of large sugar maple trees could easily support making syrup, but the significant slope going down from the road would make sap collection a challenge.

STAND 1: SOUTH PARCEL (90 ACRES)



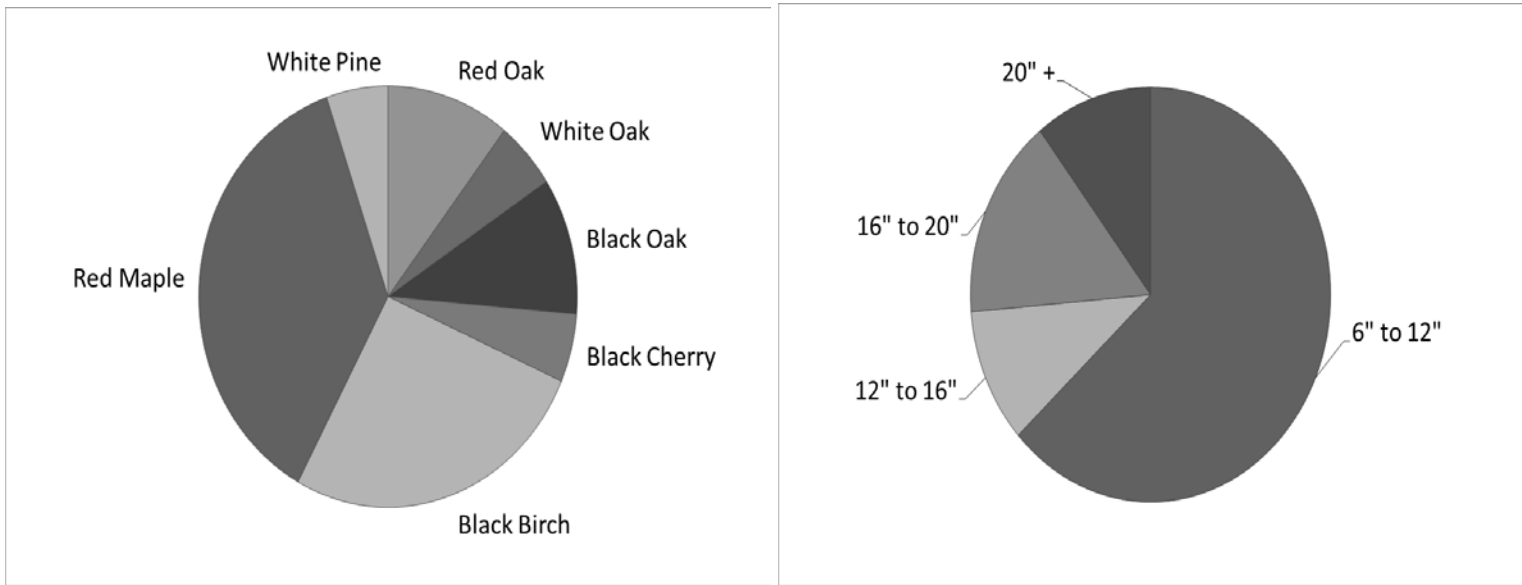
Other Species (not measured)	Yellow birch, white ash, aspen, paper birch, pitch pine
Understory	A few red maple, sugar maple, beech, hemlock and black birch saplings A few patches of white pine seedlings A few mountain laurel shrubs
Insect/Disease/Disturbance	Minor black birch canker (fungus) Ash death/decline due to the emerald ash borer
Exotic Invasives	None of significance
Canopy Closure	90%
Unhealthy/Poor Form	15%
History	Likely sheep pasture 150+ years ago

This stand is dominated by large oak trees growing on rocky site conditions that vary with slope position. There is a 6-acre area on the western edge that is bounded by Punch Brook Road and Punch Brook that is a bit different than the rest of the stand. While the overstory is still dominated by large oak trees, there are also some large white pine and pitch pine trees mixed in, with a thick understory of hemlock saplings. Included in this stand is 3-acre red maple swamp on the eastern edge.

Recommendations

While the landowner currently does not express interest in a timber harvest for producing revenue, this stand could certainly support a lucrative harvest in the future. The large spreading oak crowns will require a skilled tree feller.

STAND 2: SOUTH PARCEL (30 ACRES)



Other Species (not measured)	Grey birch, beech, yellow birch, hemlock, paper birch
Understory	Many black birch saplings and a lesser number of red maple, grey birch, paper birch and oak saplings A few witch hazel and mountain laurel shrubs
Insect/Disease/Disturbance	Minor black birch canker (fungus)
Exotic Invasives	None of significance
Canopy Closure	Upper canopy of large 10% Lower canopy of small trees 80%
Unhealthy/Poor Form	15%
History	Likely sheep pasture 150+ years ago Timber harvest about 30 years ago

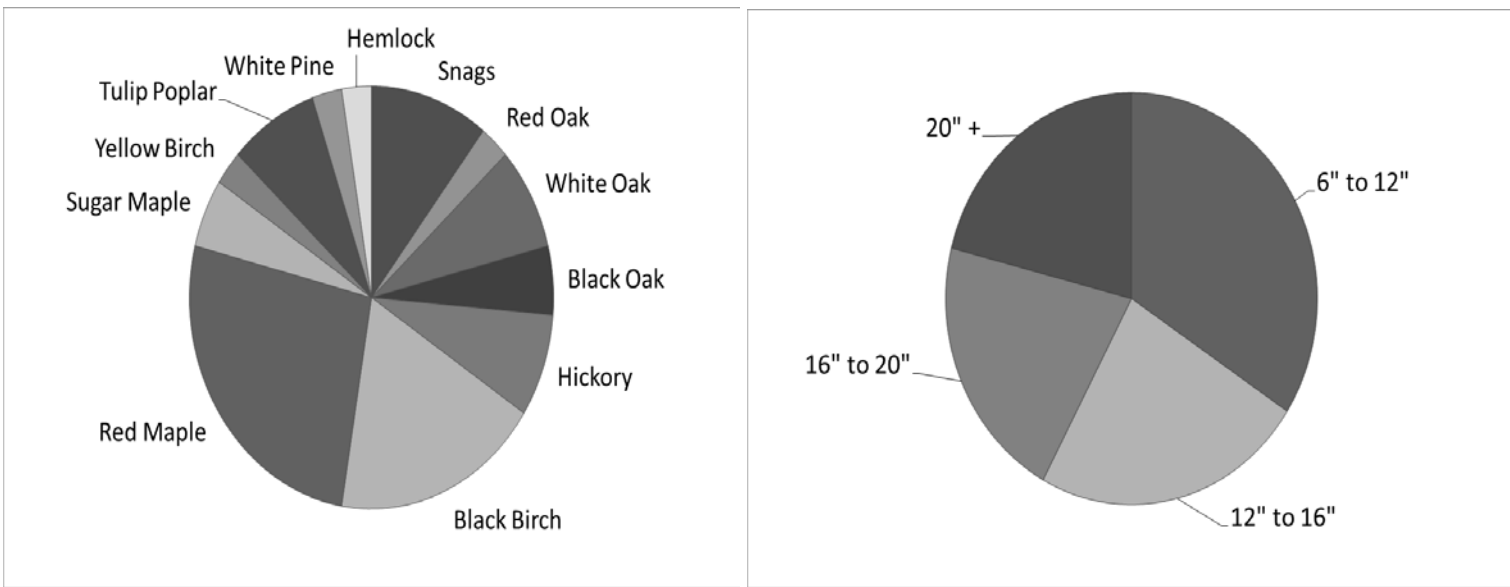
This stand has scattered large oak sawtimber overtopping dense pole and sapling sized trees growing on a rocky site. It appears that many of the trees were cut about 30 years ago – perhaps for potential houses. Just to the east of the hiker kiosk is a web of ATV trails and some picturesque rock outcrops.

Recommendations

There is the potential to create a great view to the east with minimal tree clearing. Please see general recommendations in regards to unauthorized ATV use.



STAND 3: SOUTH PARCEL (29 ACRES)



Other Species (not measured)	Black cherry, white ash, swamp white oak, sassafras
Understory	Patchy red maple and black birch saplings Some striped maple and witch hazel shrubs Some spicebush shrubs in moist lowlands
Insect/Disease/Disturbance	Minor black birch canker (fungus) Ash death/decline due to the emerald ash borer
Exotic Invasives	A few barberry shrubs - particularly on the lower slopes
Canopy Closure	80%
Unhealthy/Poor Form	30%
History	Likely sheep pasture 150+ years ago Looks like a timber harvest occurred here maybe 30 years ago

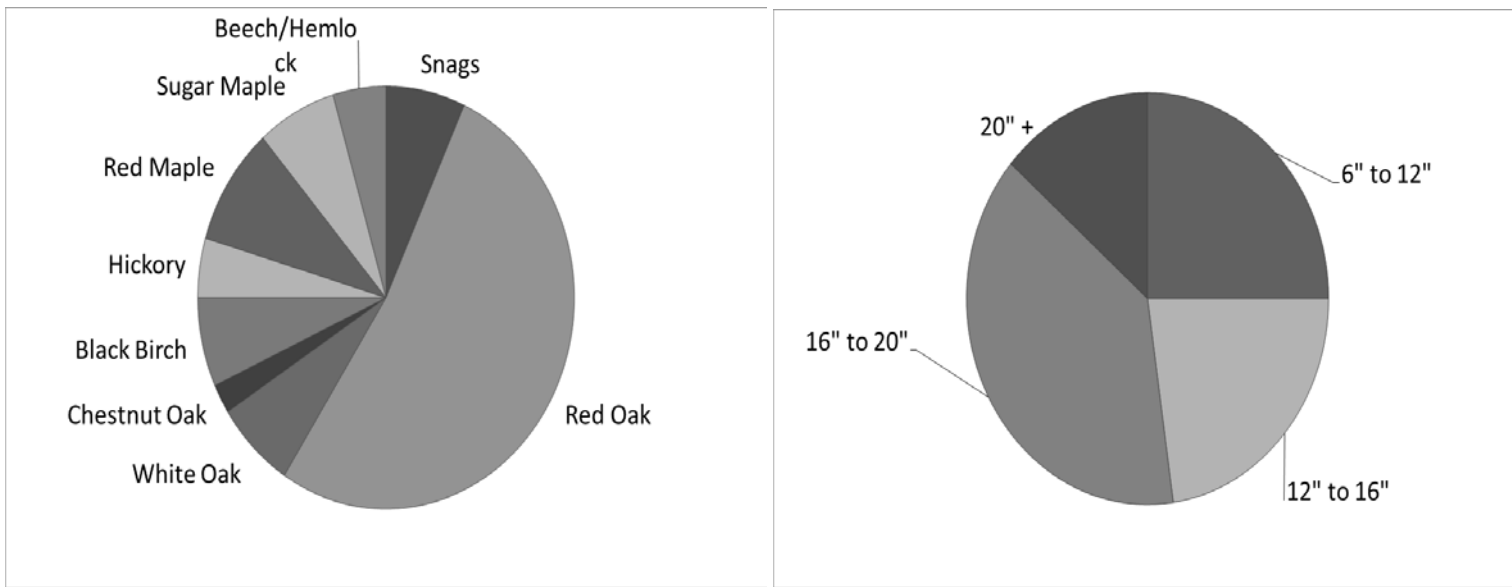
This stand has a diverse mix of tree species and sizes growing on rocky site conditions that vary with slope position. There are some massive white oak trees scattered about. Tall tulip poplar trees grow on the lower slopes. There are some openings in the main tree canopy where shrubs and vines have taken over. Included within this stand is an acre of red maple swamp in the northeast corner.

Recommendations

Cut the vines to encourage healthy tree growth. This can easily be done by volunteers with loppers and hand saws. If interested, I can provide more information.



STAND 4: SOUTH PARCEL (46 ACRES)



Other Species (not measured)	Black oak, tulip poplar (one in SE corner), white pine
Understory	Patchy red maple, hemlock and black birch saplings Patches of thick understory hemlock saplings A few patches of white pine seedlings Patches of witch hazel and mountain laurel shrubs
Insect/Disease/Disturbance	Minor black birch canker (fungus)
Exotic Invasives	None of significance
Canopy Closure	80%
Unhealthy/Poor Form	20%
History	Likely sheep pasture 150+ years ago Looks like a timber harvest occurred here maybe 30 years ago

This stand is dominated by large oak trees growing on rocky site conditions that vary with slope position. There are a few steep ledgey areas within the stand. There are two vernal pools in this stand (see map and photos). There is an acre of red maple swamp within this stand (see map).

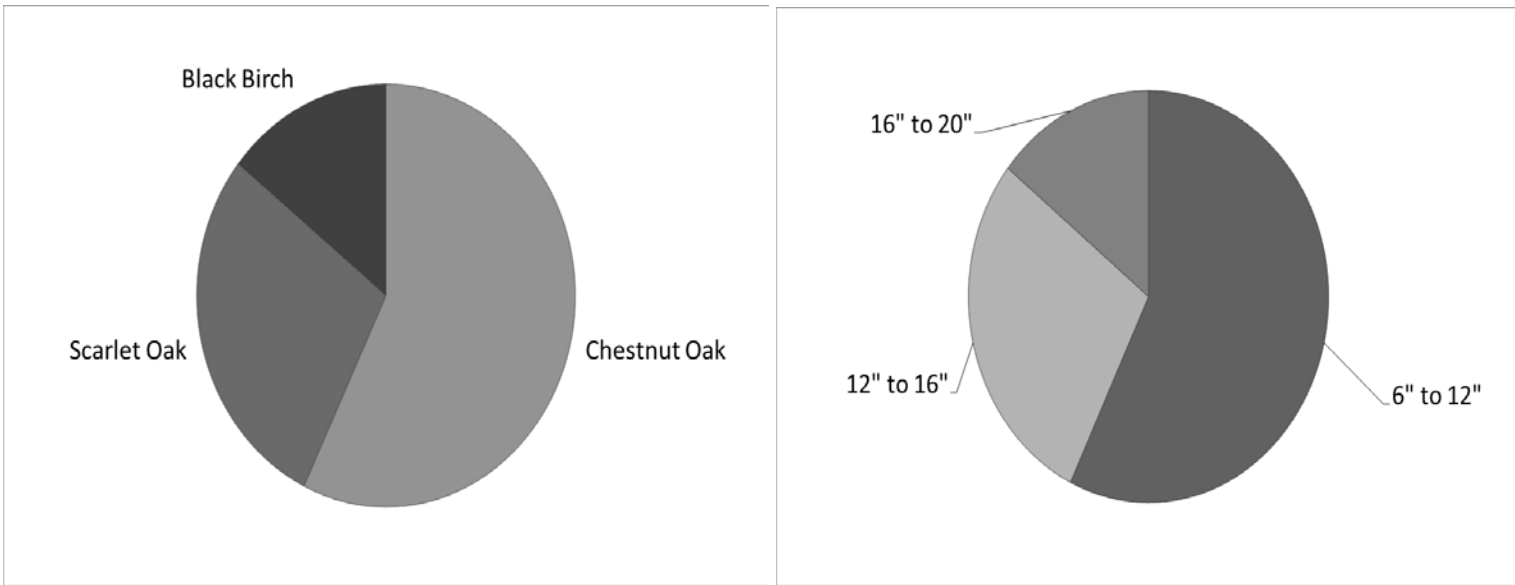
Recommendations

While the landowner currently does not express interest in a timber harvest for producing revenue, this stand could certainly support a lucrative harvest in the future.



Southern vernal pool

STAND 5: SOUTH PARCEL (16 ACRES)



Other Species (not measured)	Red oak, white oak, red maple, hickory
Understory	A few red maple, oak and black birch saplings Areas of thick mountain laurel shrubs
Insect/Disease/Disturbance	Minor black birch canker (fungus)
Exotic Invasives	None of significance
Canopy Closure	90%
Unhealthy/Poor Form	40%
History	Likely sheep pasture 150+ years ago

This stand consist of mostly stunted oak and black birch trees growing on rocky shallow soils along a ridgetop. There are some rather steep ledgey areas within the stand. Included within this stand is Perry’s Lookout (see map and photo).

Recommendations

None



Perry’s Lookout

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

BOUNDARIES

Boundaries need to be well marked to protect the property from trespass and encroachment. The standard for marking boundaries is the use of painted blazes. A blaze is a hand-sized shallow scrape in the bark. This scrape will last for decades and does not harm the tree if done properly. When painted, this blaze is quite visible and long lasting. Trees within arm's length of the boundaries are blazed, with the blazes facing the boundary line. The blazes should be given a new coat of paint at least every 10 years. Custom signs can also be hung about every 100 feet to communicate anything the landowner desires. It is also recommended that understory vegetation and debris be cleared from boundary lines such that they can be easily traversed for inspection. **Some of the property boundaries have land trust signs and orange spray paint marks. I did not find any boundary markings on the 'Taine Mountain II' property. Please consider hiring a consulting forester to locate and mark property boundaries.**

INVASIVES/VINES

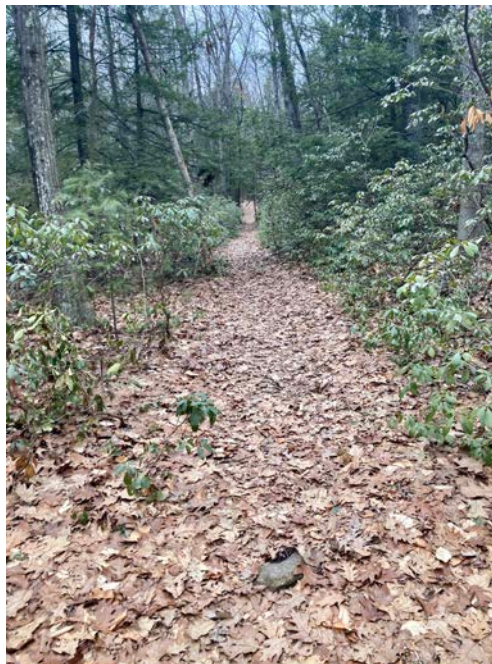
Stand N1 has a few invasive exotic barberry shrubs in moist low spots. Stand S3 has patches of invasive exotic barberry shrubs on the lower slopes and patches thick with grape vines and invasive exotic bittersweet vines. Invasive species are typically from another part of the world such that when established here have no native enemies to hold their population in check. When left uncontrolled, they spread into natural landscapes and replace what would grow there naturally, including tree regeneration and other native understory vegetation.

Control methods include mechanical and chemical methods. In a shady forest, cutting a vine is enough to kill it. Invasive shrubs are not so easy. Pulling the invasives out by the roots can be effective, but extremely difficult and labor intensive. Yearly cutting back of the aboveground stems will keep the invasives under control, and perhaps kill them after a few years. The most effective control method is to apply an herbicide (Roundup) to the green foliage.

RECREATION

There is the potential to open up a view to the east from the hilltop in Stand S2.

There are many unofficial trails in stands S2 and S4 that are used by dirt bikes and ATVs. While it does not appear to be causing any significant trail erosion at the moment, this unauthorized use could become a problem in the future.



CARBON SEQUESTRATION AND STORAGE

Forests remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere (called sequestration), create oxygen and remove many pollutants from

the air. Your forest contributes to these valuable services; with carbon stored in the below-ground roots/soil and in the above ground vegetation and fallen leaves. These services are enhanced by having a diverse mix of native tree species of different sizes and varied arrangements. Sustainable, scientifically-based forest management to remove forest products and promote young forests or regeneration of desired species has no long-term negative effect on your forest's ability to provide these vital ecological services. When trees are young and growing fast, they sequester carbon at high rates and once they are large (over 18" diameter, and often older) they store the most carbon. Whether you choose to actively manage your forest or not, your forest does a great service to our planet's health just by being a healthy forest.

MAPPING

Attached to this report is a geo-referenced map that the landowner can use with the free smartphone app 'Avenza Maps'. This map will show the landowner where they are on the property. The landowner can also record tracks and waypoints on the property. These phone mapping features will allow to the landowner to both locate/map property boundaries and trails.

Please consider hiring a consulting forester to help you implement any of the recommendations in this report or to create a much more detailed stewardship plan. There is cost-share monies through the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) available to create a forest stewardship plan. Please contact Todd Bobowick at 860-965-2206 in regards to NRCS funding. Please contact me for a list of foresters working in your area.



Burlington Land Trust Taine Mountain Property North Parcel 105 Acres

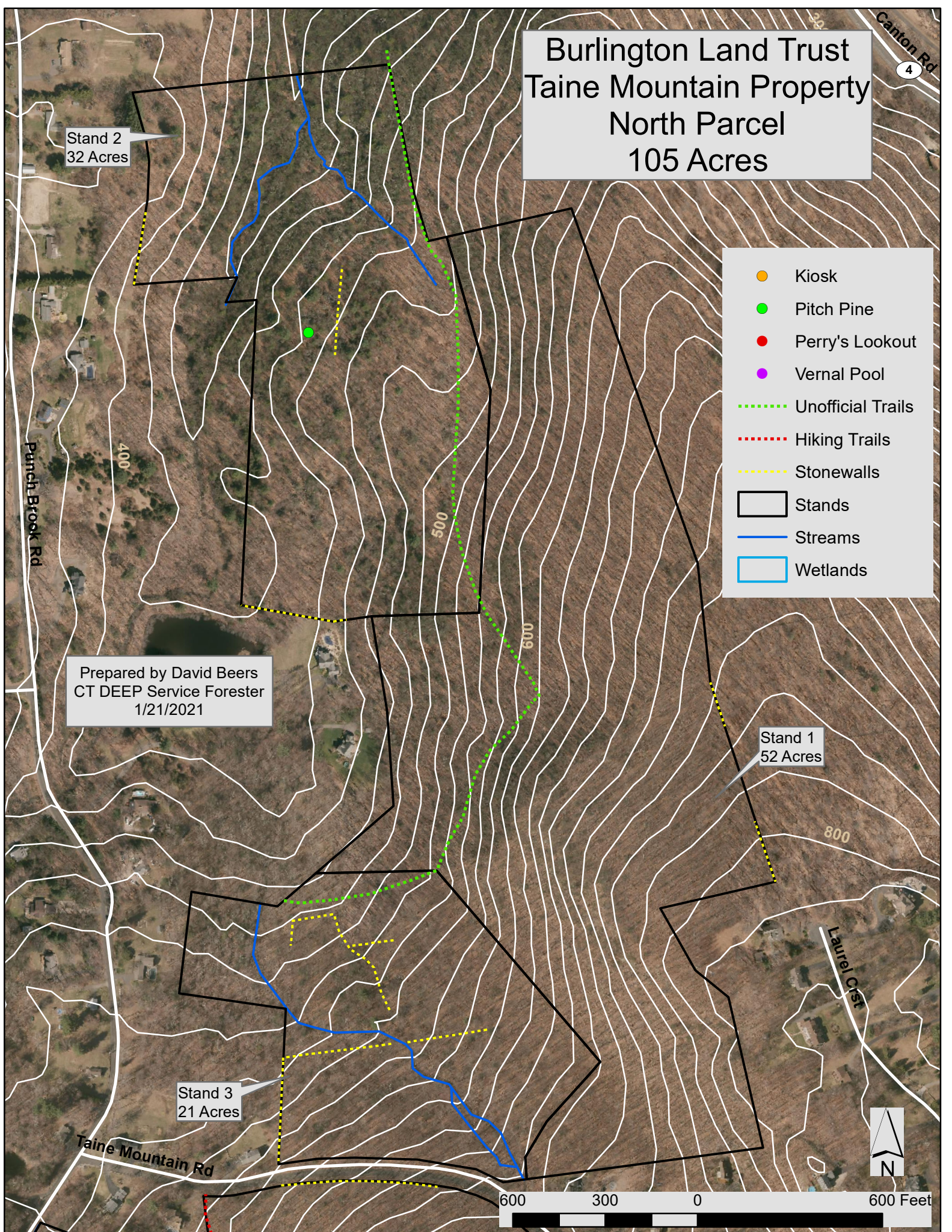
Stand 2
32 Acres

Prepared by David Beers
CT DEEP Service Forester
1/21/2021

Stand 1
52 Acres

Stand 3
21 Acres

- Kiosk
- Pitch Pine
- Perry's Lookout
- Vernal Pool
- Unofficial Trails
- Hiking Trails
- Stonewalls
- ▭ Stands
- Streams
- ▭ Wetlands



Burlington Land Trust Taine Mountain Property North Parcel 105 Acres

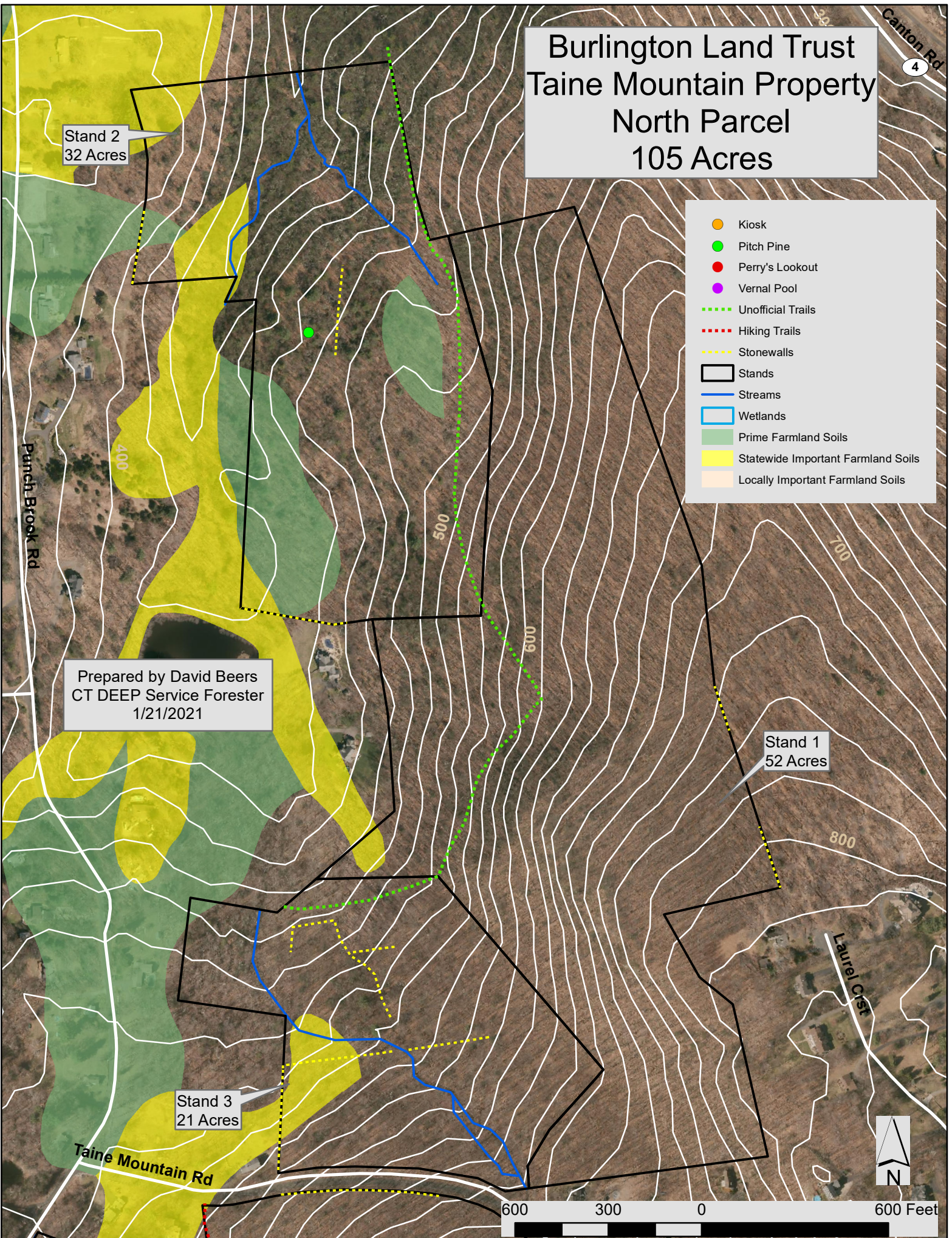
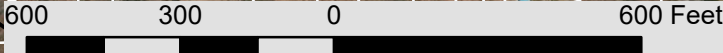
- Kiosk
- Pitch Pine
- Perry's Lookout
- Vernal Pool
- Unofficial Trails
- Hiking Trails
- Stonewalls
- ▭ Stands
- Streams
- ▭ Wetlands
- Prime Farmland Soils
- Statewide Important Farmland Soils
- Locally Important Farmland Soils

Stand 2
32 Acres

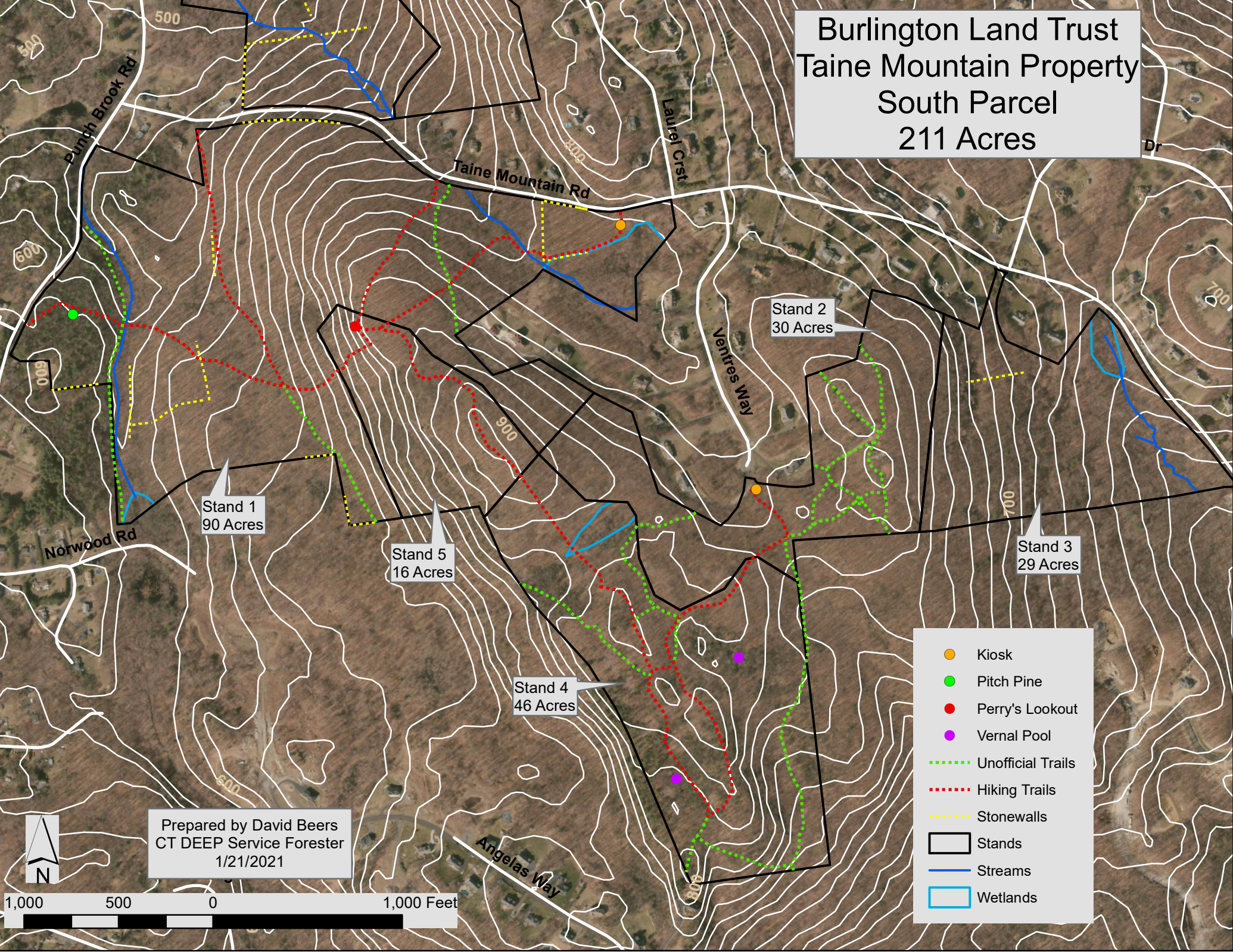
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Stand 1
52 Acres

Stand 3
21 Acres

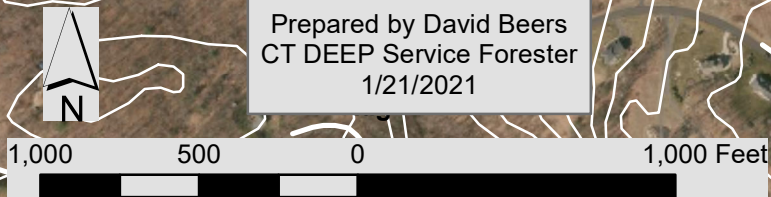


Burlington Land Trust Taine Mountain Property South Parcel 211 Acres

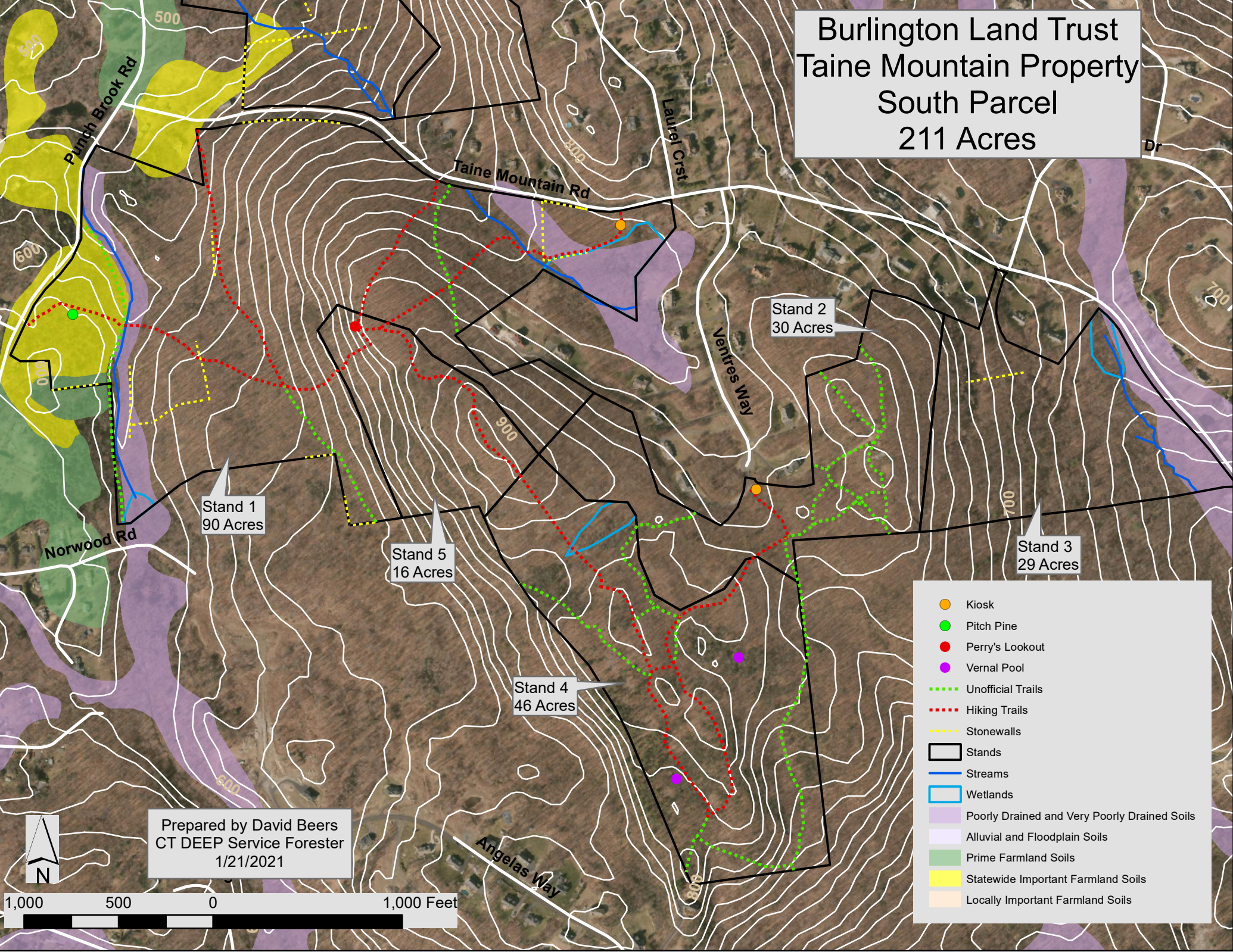


Prepared by David Beers
CT DEEP Service Forester
1/21/2021

- Kiosk
- Pitch Pine
- Perry's Lookout
- Vernal Pool
- Unofficial Trails
- Hiking Trails
- Stonewalls
- ▭ Stands
- Streams
- ▭ Wetlands

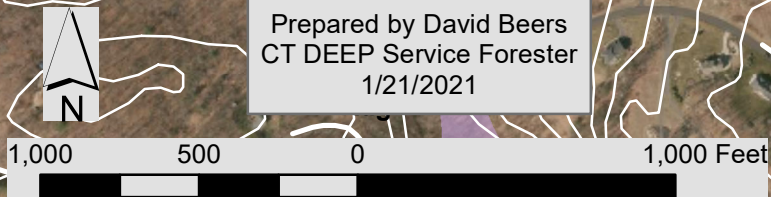


Burlington Land Trust Taine Mountain Property South Parcel 211 Acres

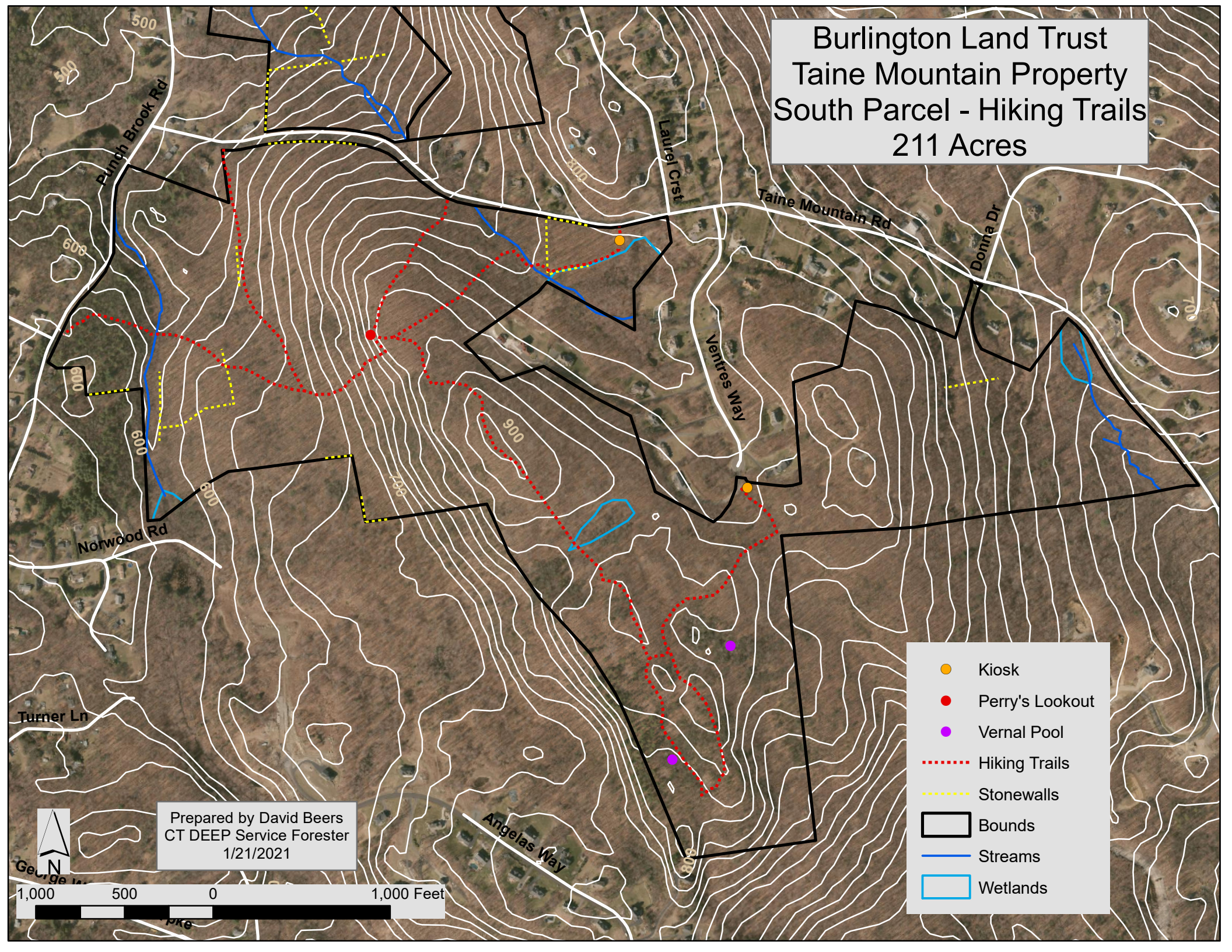


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CT DEEP Service Forester
1/21/2021

- Kiosk
- Pitch Pine
- Perry's Lookout
- Vernal Pool
- - - Unofficial Trails
- - - Hiking Trails
- - - Stonewalls
- Stands
- Streams
- Wetlands
- Poorly Drained and Very Poorly Drained Soils
- Alluvial and Floodplain Soils
- Prime Farmland Soils
- Statewide Important Farmland Soils
- Locally Important Farmland Soils

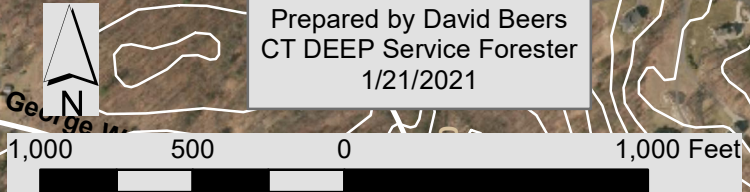


Burlington Land Trust Taine Mountain Property South Parcel - Hiking Trails 211 Acres



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CT DEEP Service Forester
1/21/2021

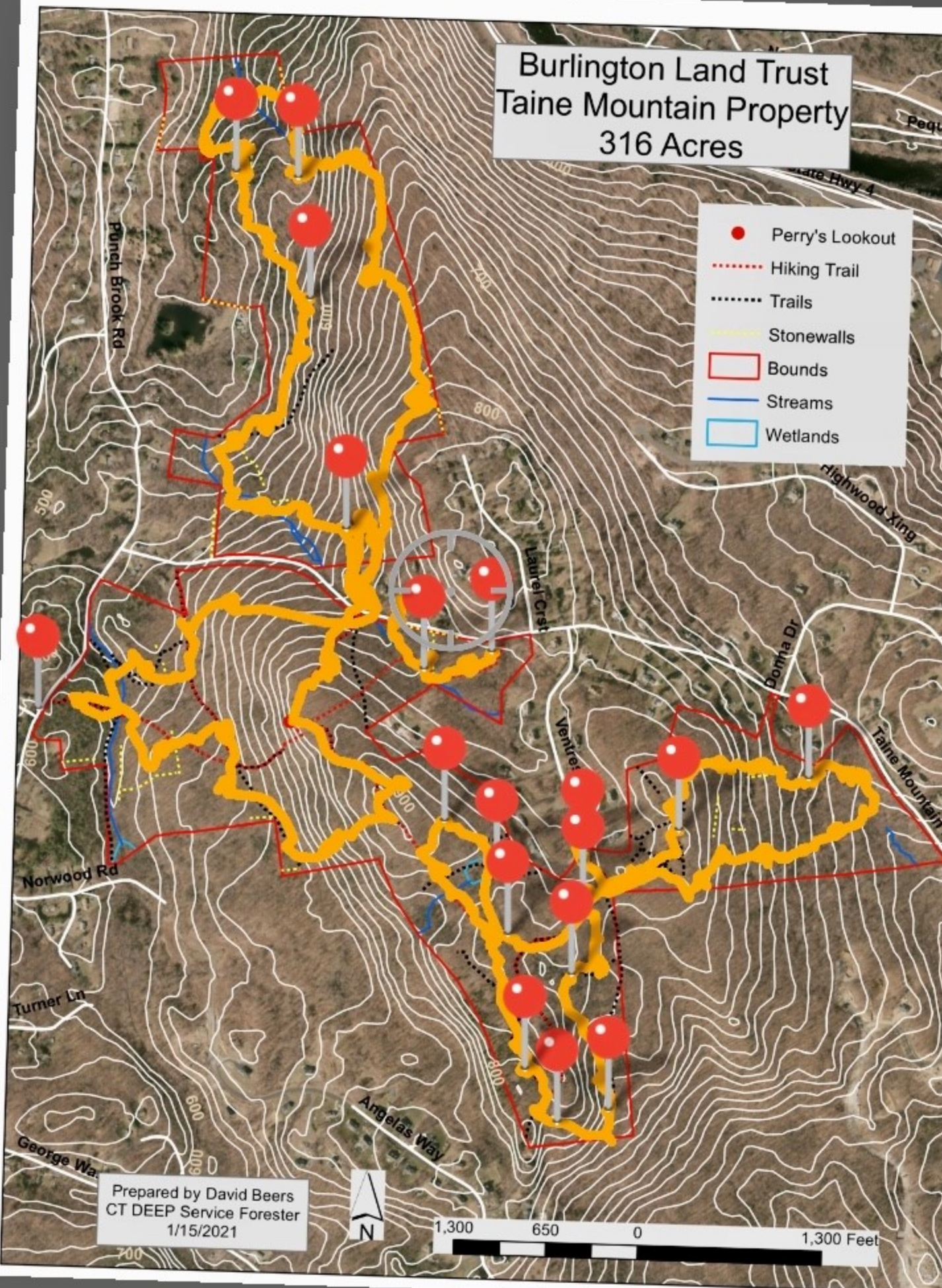
- Kiosk
- Perry's Lookout
- Vernal Pool
- Hiking Trails
- Stonewalls
- ▭ Bounds
- Streams
- ▭ Wetlands





Burlington Land Trust Taine Mountain Property 316 Acres

- Perry's Lookout
- ⋯ Hiking Trail
- ⋯ Trails
- Stonewalls
- Bounds
- Streams
- Wetlands



Prepared by David Beers
 CT DEEP Service Forester
 1/15/2021

