

STATE OF VERMONT  
AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, PARKS AND RECREATION  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE

*Townshend State Forest*

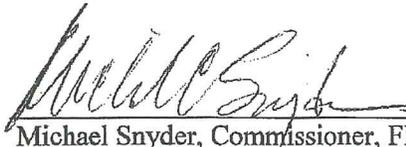
Long Range Management Plan Amendment

**Chamberlin and Lehmann Parcel Addition  
Compartment 5 Prescription Amendment**



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Date: November 30, 2011

Approved by:   
Michael Snyder, Commissioner, FPR

2/13/12  
Date

Reviewed by:   
Patrick Berry, Commissioner, F&W

2/21/12  
Date

**LONG RANGE MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT  
TOWNSHEND STATE FOREST  
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>I. Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
Purpose of Amendment .....	1
Purpose of Ownership .....	1
Base Map .....	2
Compartment Map .....	3
<b>II. Chamberlin and Town Parcels .....</b>	<b>4</b>
Parcel Information .....	4
Natural Resources Map .....	6
<b>III. Land Use Classification and Management .....</b>	<b>7</b>
Special Management .....	7
General Management .....	8
Land Use Classification Map .....	9
<b>IV. Vegetative Management Prescriptions .....</b>	<b>10</b>
Implementation Schedule .....	10
Implementation Map .....	11
<b>V. Compartment 5 Amendment .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>VI. Appendices .....</b>	<b>13</b>
Appendix A: Baseline Documentation Report .....	14
Appendix B: Stand, Soils, and Natural Community Data – Chamberlin and Comp. 5 .....	21
Appendix C: Stand Map .....	22
Appendix D: Original Base Map 2002 .....	23

## **I. Introduction**

### **A. Purpose of Amendment**

The Long Range Management Plan (LRMP) for Townshend State Forest, approved in 2002, was completed before acquisition of the Chamberlin (2008) and Lehmann<sup>1</sup> (2004) parcels. In addition, no management was scheduled for the remote unit Compartment 5, due to the unknown status of access over the woods road that leads to the parcel. This LRMP amendment will schedule stewardship activities in all three units that comply with the following goals and objectives set for the larger parcel in the 2002 LRMP.

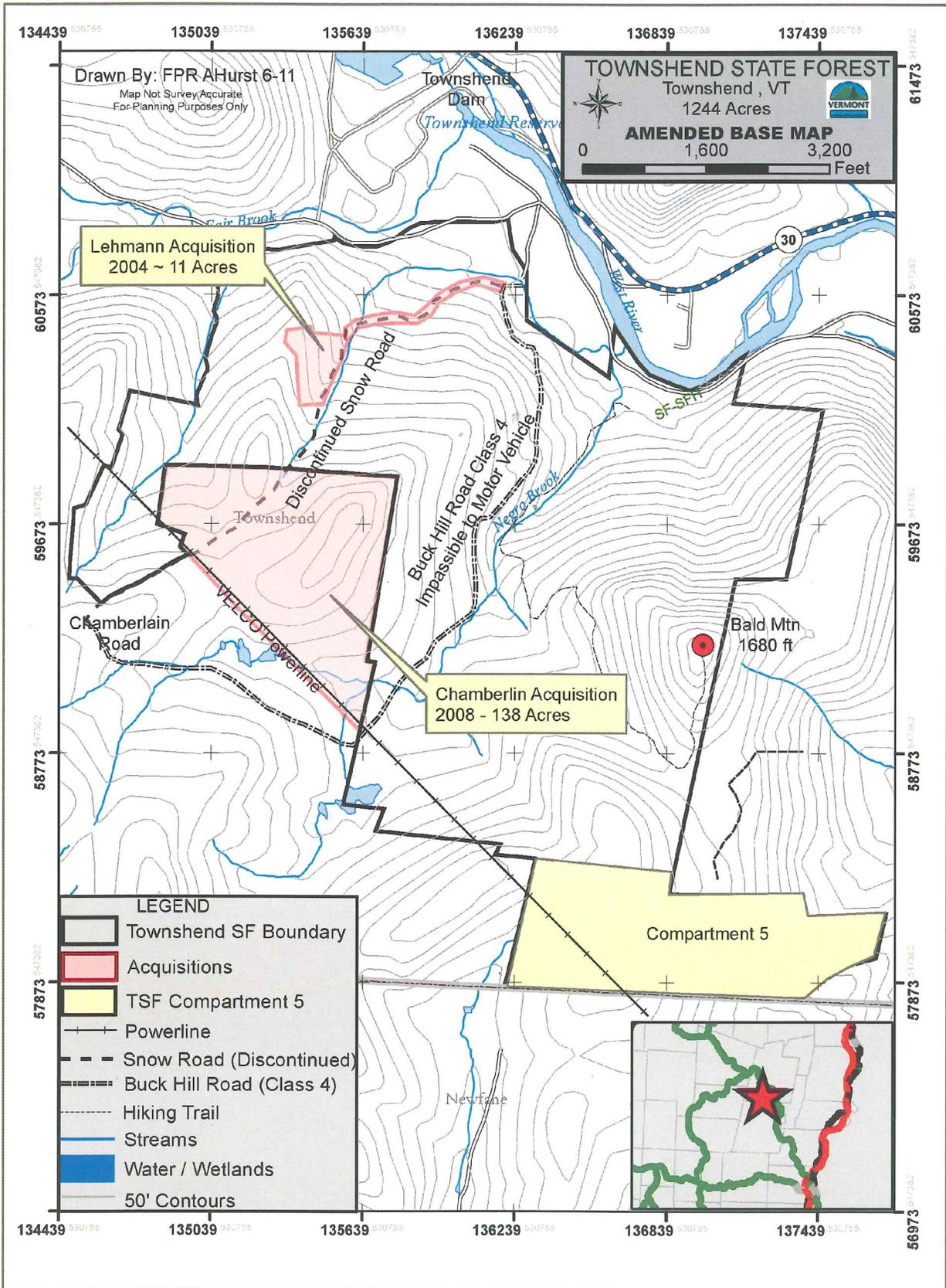
### **B. Purpose of Ownership**

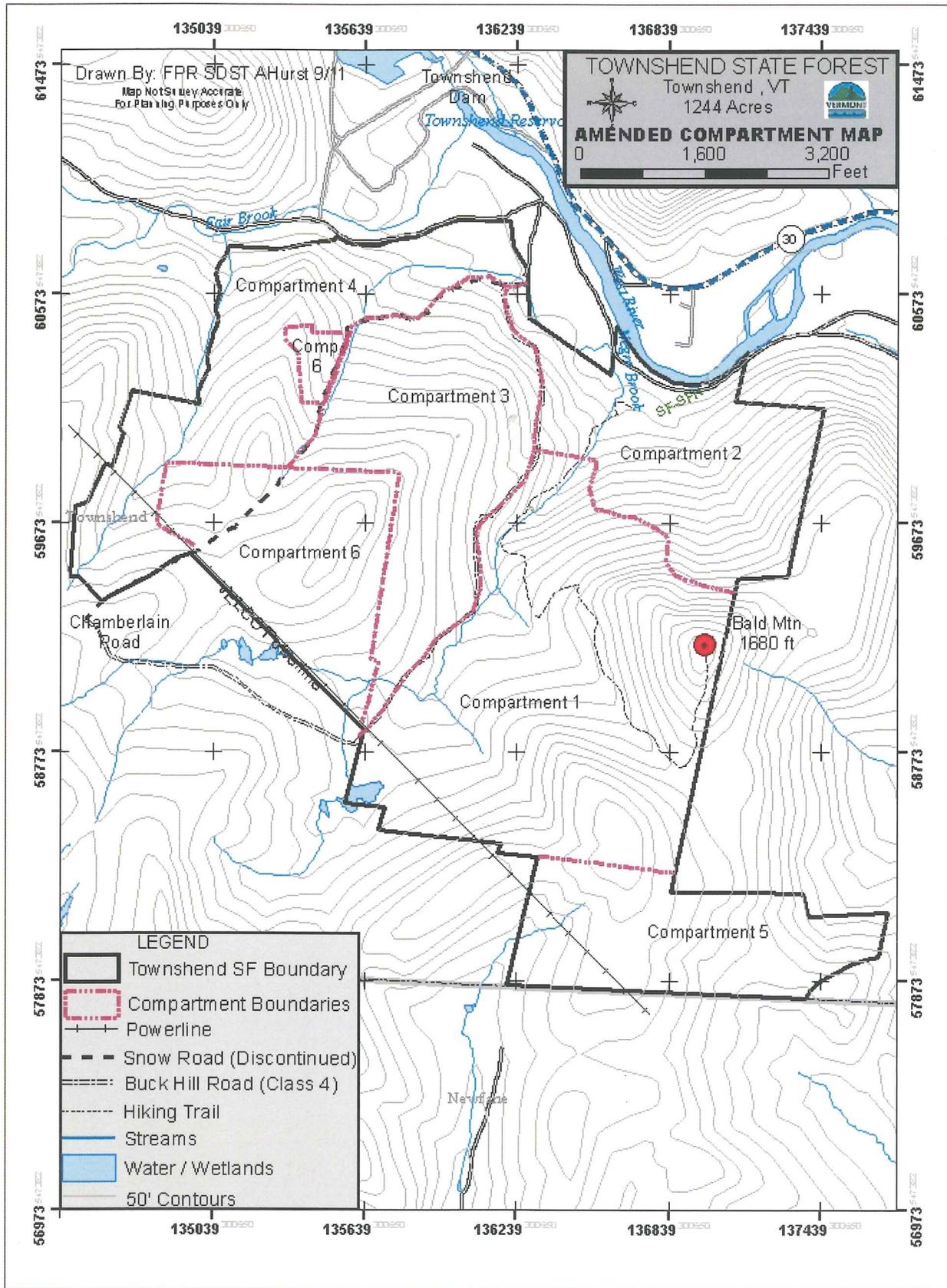
All management objectives and actions in this plan have been developed in collaboration with the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department and other departments within the Agency of Natural Resources. Specific objectives that will guide this plan will be:

- Protection of unique, fragile, and scenic resources.
- Maintenance of opportunities for a quality recreation experience.
- Protection and enhancement of critical wildlife habitat.
- Preservation of historic remains.
- Provision of access to property for public enjoyment.
- Demonstration of state-of-the-art wildlife, timber management techniques, and techniques to protect water quality in timber harvesting practices so these techniques may find broader application on private lands.

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<sup>1</sup> Also known as 'Town' parcel (held by Town of Townshend briefly before tax sale).





## II. Chamberlin and Town Parcels

### A. Parcel Information

#### 1. Property description and acquisition goals:

##### a. Chamberlin Parcel:

- Forested with elevations ranging from 1100 to 1400'.
- Forest type is mixed hemlock and northern hardwood with strong white pine component.
- Productive soils, slopes 0 to 25%.
- Interior roads abundant and stable. Access via discontinued snow road or by temporary right-of-way over adjoining private lands.

##### Original acquisition goals:

- Improve management access and public recreation opportunities on Townshend State Forest.
- Protect and add significant remote recreation area.
- Protect numerous historic sites.
- Maintain large unfragmented forest area with important functions pertaining to source waters for the West River and critical wildlife habitat.

##### b. Lehmann Parcel:

- Forested, lower elevation.
- Forest type is mixed white pine, red spruce, and northern hardwood.
- Productive but wet soils with moderate to steep slopes.
- Accessed by existing road network of Townshend State Forest; old snow road along brook unusable and in buffer strip.

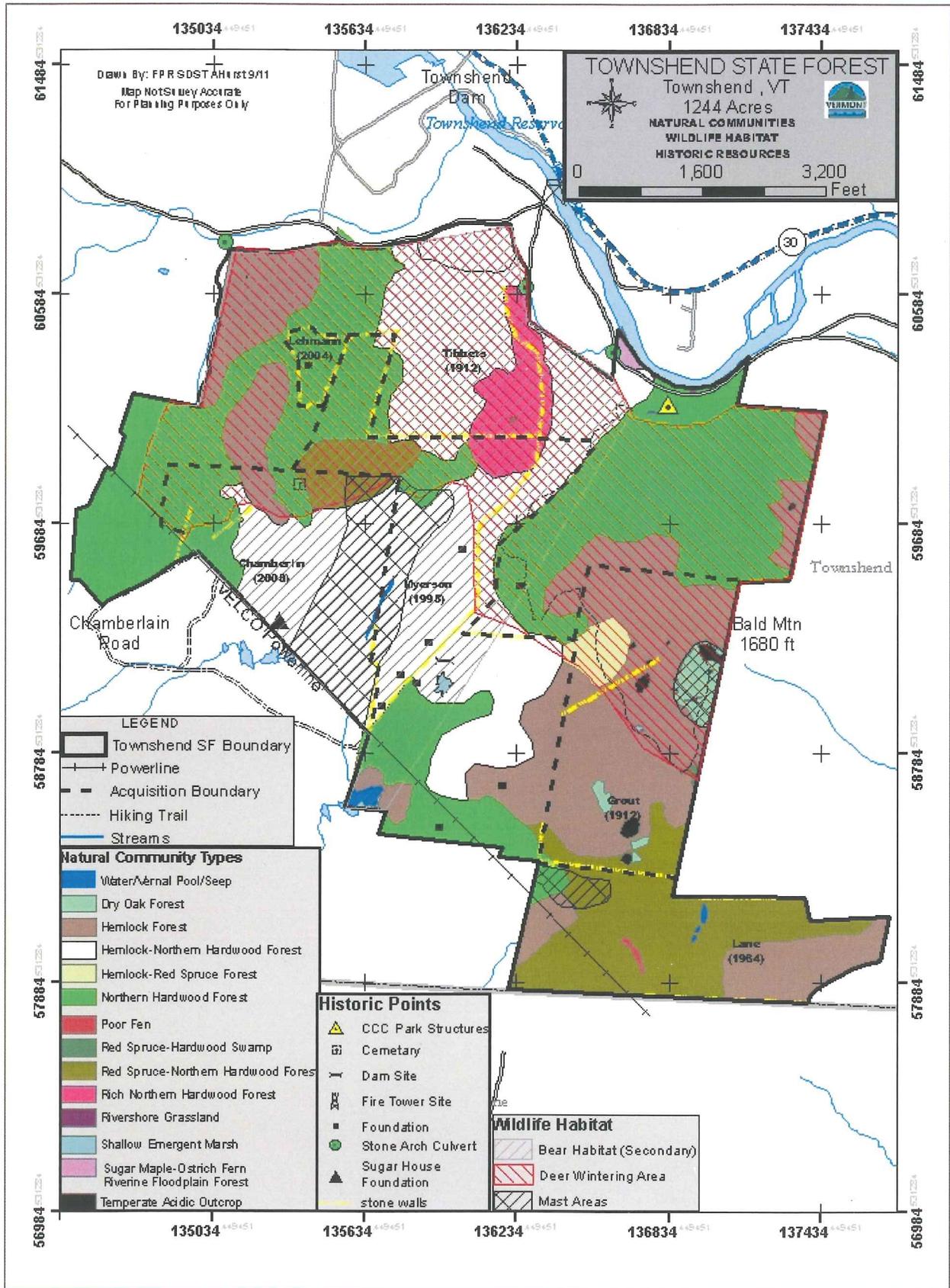
##### Original acquisition goals:

- Protection of sensitive tributary of the West River.
- Extinguishing access rights through the state forest to an inholding and preventing residential development in the center of the state forest.
- Maintaining a large area for public recreation without the threat of a key parcel and its owned right-of-way being posted and bisecting the state forest.

#### 2. Existing conditions and assessments:

Natural community types of the two parcels are consistent with community types on adjacent portions of Townshend State Forest. The three community types (Hemlock, Hemlock-Northern Hardwood, and Red Spruce-Northern Hardwood) are common types in the state and here are B and C ranked occurrences.

3. Wildlife habitat:
  - Locally significant mast (oak) trees and oak tree groups on the Chamberlin parcel.
  - Entire area mapped as important bear habitat by the Fish & Wildlife Department.
  - Approximately 40% mapped as and serving as deer wintering area.
  - No rare, threatened, or endangered plant or animal species.
  - A lack of early successional habitat.
  - Remoteness of areas is beneficial to wildlife species that rely on remote forested habitat.
  
4. Historic resources and archeological sensitivity:
  - Historic farmstead remnants on Lehmann parcel.
  - Historic woodland cemetery on Chamberlin parcel.
  - Historic sugarhouse foundation on Chamberlin parcel.
  - Due to a lack of water features and/or flat ground, archeological sensitivity is low on both parcels.
  
5. Legal and special constraints:
  - Two rights-of-way through the state forest were extinguished by the acquisitions; the owned right-of-way to the Lehmann Lot that paralleled the old Snow Road and the Chamberlin right-of-way easement off Buck Hill Road along the west branch of the Negro Brook.
  - Historic water rights Lehmann Lot to Watson. No indication they are or would be utilized.
  - Easement and right-of-way in common with Grantors (Chamberlin) along the discontinued Snow Road.
  - 150' wide easement granted to CVPS by deed of Alonzo and Eva Chamberlin dated December 9, 1964 and recorded in Book 38, page 26 of the Townshend Land Records.
  
6. Conservation agreement:
  - a. Chamberlin Parcel
    - Parcel is subject to a Conservation Agreement between the State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board.
    - Permitted uses include public outdoor recreation, natural area protection, forestry, and open space purposes.
    - A summary of permitted and restricted uses is found in the Baseline document in Appendix A.
  
  - b. Lehmann Parcel
    - No conservation easements exist on the Lehmann parcel. Funding source was Vermont Land Trust pass through funds from a water quality violation on the West River.



### III. Land Use Classification and Management (Chamberlin and Town Parcels)

#### A. Special Management (34 acres)

##### 2.1b) Historic/Cultural Areas (2 acres)

Three sites feature historical remnants of use and settlement:

- 1) The historic farmstead on the Town Lot
- 2) The historic cemetery on the Chamberlin Lot
- 3) The Sugarhouse site on the Chamberlin site

These sites are in fair condition with ample stone works in good condition and little, if any, negative impacts from past management. The cemetery site is small, nondescript, and difficult to locate.

There are no unique ecological features or recreational trails near or within these three sites.

Forestry trails are located near all three sites used in past harvesting and may require relocation in future stewardship activities.

Following protocols established by the Division of Historic Preservation for protection when conducting management activities will give these sites adequate protection. For additional specifications, see page 43 of the original LRMP.

##### 2.2) Deer Wintering Area (32 acres)

The entire Lehmann Lot and a portion of the Chamberlin parcel is mapped and functioning deer wintering area. Consistent with the adjacent 2.2 Land Use Classification in Townshend State Forest, management focus will be on improving conditions for deer habitat primarily through the development of softwood cover and food sources. For additional specifications, see page 45 of the original LRMP.

Natural communities in this Land Use Classification are common community types, primarily Northern Hardwood and Red Spruce-Northern Hardwood. Deer wintering use is focused in pockets of dense hemlock nested in the Northern hardwood and spruce types. Deciduous trees and red spruce (scattered and low vigor) offer limited deer winter cover.

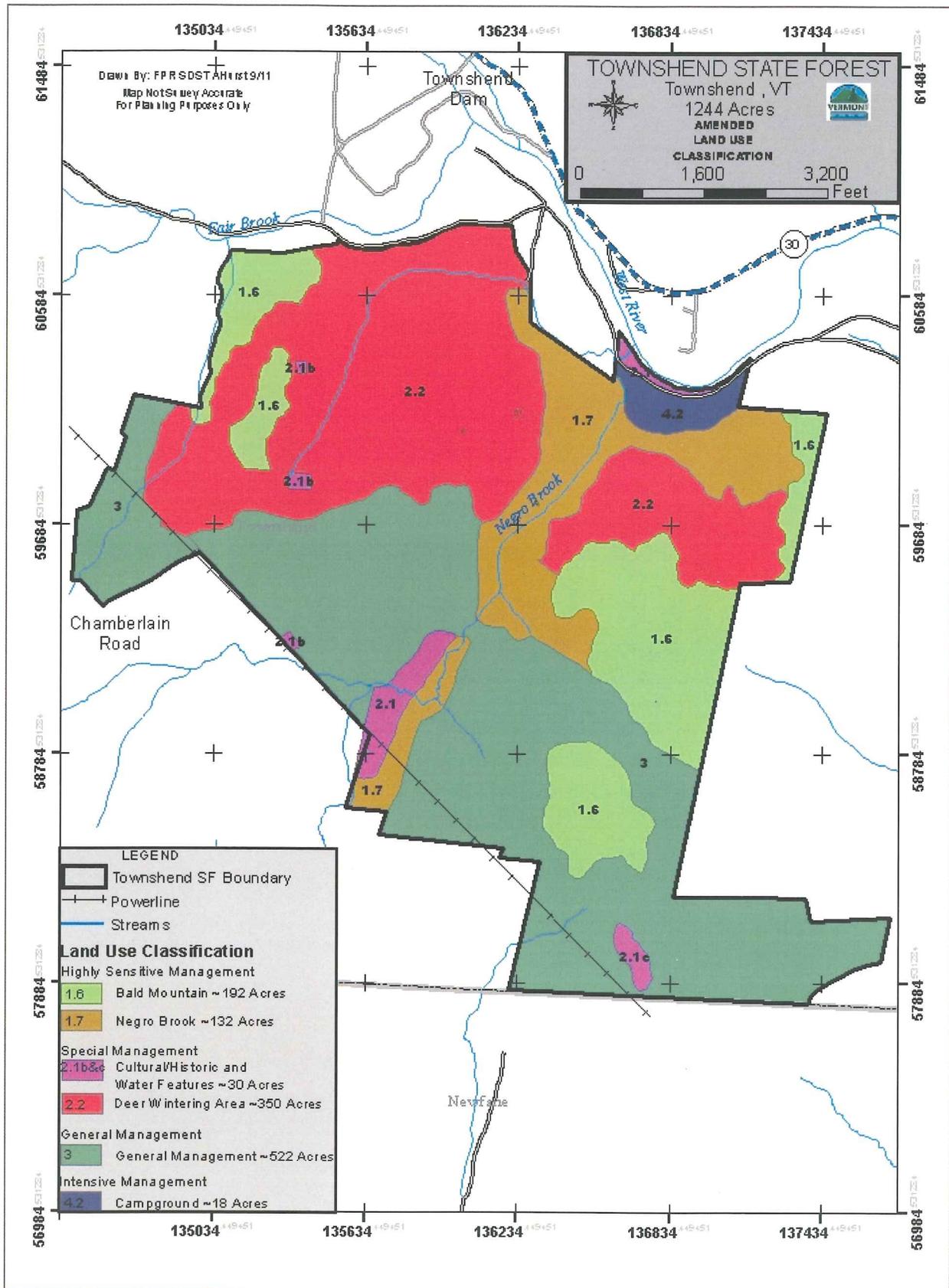
Two historic sites are located within the mapped deer wintering area and will require protection during stewardship activities.

Recreational uses are primarily hunting in the fall.

B. General Management (115 acres)

3.0 Productive Forest Land

The remainder of the Chamberlin parcel is typical woodland for the parcel and region. No unique or sensitive features occur here. Management will focus on improving wildlife habitat for game species and improving the growth of quality sawtimber. Improvement of management access via the old Snow Road and interior woods roads is needed. For additional specifications, see pages 45 and 46 of the original LRMP.



#### IV. Vegetative Management

**Treatment Goals:** Protection of historic sites, improvement of conditions for wintering deer and game species in general, production of high quality sawtimber, and establishment of northern hardwood seedling/sapling class.

##### Prescriptions (Chamberlin Parcel):

###### Chamberlin Parcel

- Hemlock-Hardwood Types – Hardwood removal to favor growth of Hemlock and White Pine and to release pockets of softwood regeneration. Residual BA variable due to variable stocking of softwood.
- Northern Hardwood – Crop tree release to favor growth of high quality sawtimber trees and mast producers (Oak). Crop tree spacing 15 to 40 feet.
- White Pine – Thinning. Residual BA 80-100 ft<sup>2</sup>/acre.

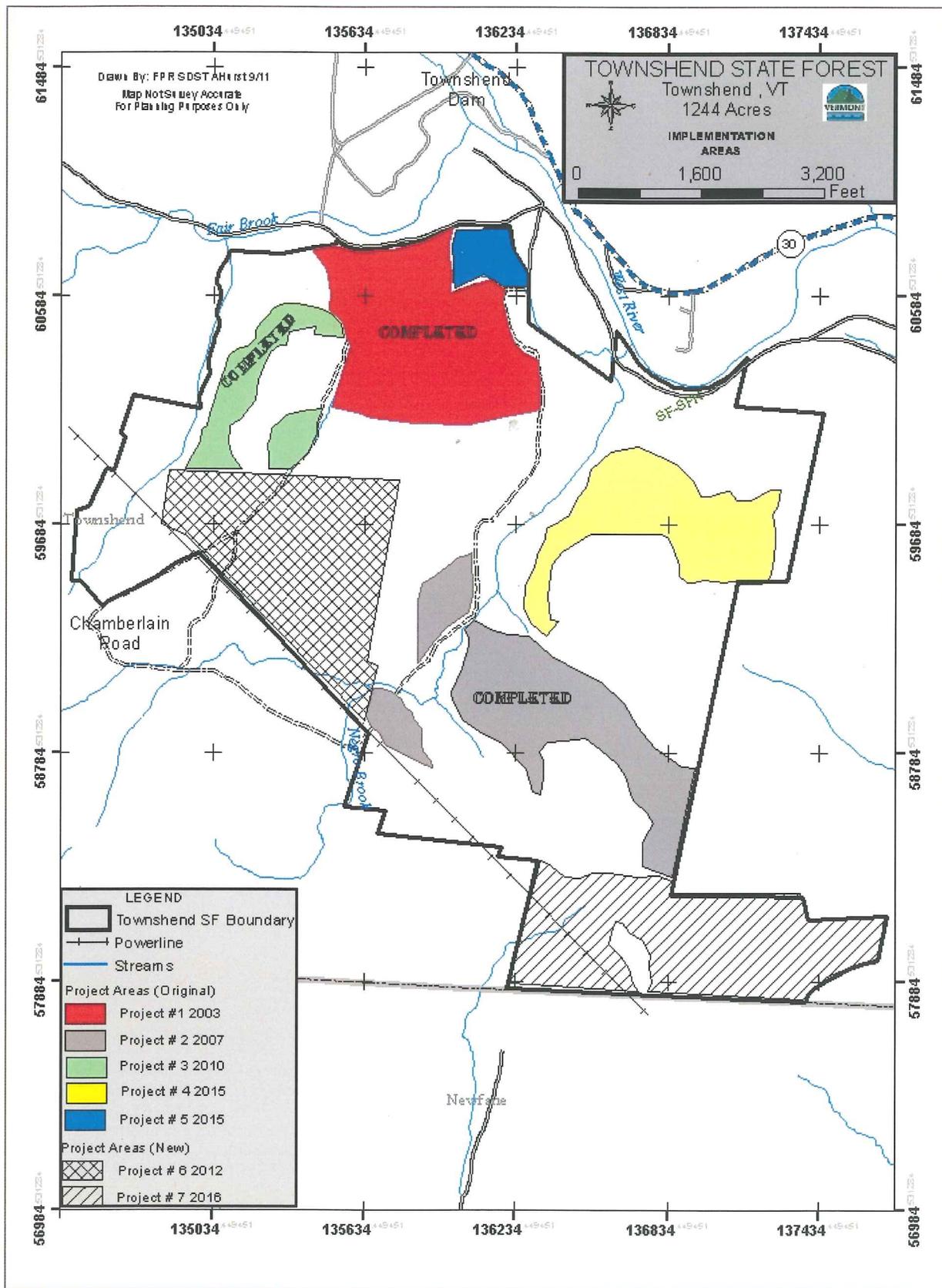
###### Lehmann Parcel

- None scheduled due to low BA, historic site, and steep slopes above brook.

#### Implementation Schedule

2012	Treatment #6, 116 acres, improvement of truck access	Compartment 6, Chamberlin Lot, Stands 2-7
2016	Treatment #7* 144 acres maximum, operable area estimated at 70 acres	Compartment 5, all stands

*\*See page 12.*



## V. Compartment 5 Amendment

The bulk of Compartment 5 was classified general management in the 2002 LRMP, though with no management scheduled due to access constraints. In the spring of 2011, staff conducted research in the Newfane and Townshend Town Office and examined historical access points on the ground. Current research indicates that while rights-of-way over private land are alluded to in deeds, nothing definitive was set down. On the ground, it appears timber was hauled off the western section via Eddy Road extension and from the eastern section to the northeast through adjoining private land.

The forest is generally comprised of overstocked stands of pine-spruce-oak and hemlock-hardwood. The area is used heavily by wildlife for foraging (acorns) and remote cover, and access to the powerline corridor for feeding on grasses, herbs, and berries. Recreational use is primarily by a small but dedicated local group of bear and deer hunters. Individual tree health is variable, though most trees suffer from excess competition from other trees, and red spruce are generally declining in health.

Completion of prescribed activities contingent on securing access.

1. Sensitive and Special Management Areas: No harvest will occur in Land Use Classification 2.1c and 1.6 (page 44 LRMP).
2. Overall Treatment Objective: Two-aged management, promote growth of higher quality stems, mast trees, and softwood cover patches. Salvage declining red spruce and create  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 2 acre openings (groups and patches) to generate woody browse and soft mast.
3. Prescription: Thinning to 60-80 ft<sup>2</sup>/acre deciduous stands and 90 to 130 ft<sup>2</sup> coniferous stands. Salvage groups of declining red spruce as indicated by tree condition. Generate browse and new seedling/sapling class by removing groups and patches of trees up to 2 acres in size. Regenerate  $\frac{1}{3}$  of sale area with patches and groups.