

Community Conservation Workshop

East Branch of the Ausable River



Welcome!

We have designed a Community Conservation Program that listens to the needs of community members. We are conducting Community Conservation Workshops at venues within three of Lake Placid Land Conservancy's four focus areas: Lake Placid, Saranac Lake and Jay.

Focus:

We designed this workshop to listen to members of the community and understand what makes this place special. We will give a brief background on "Community Conservation" and will share the results of our research and mapping efforts as well as discuss how citizen science monitoring can play an active role in supporting stewardship and land conservation around Lake Placid.

Goals:

Our goal is to learn more about which conservation, cultural and economic resources are important to members of the East Branch of the Ausable River community and how conservation monitoring can support stewardship and conservation in communities located around the East Branch of the Ausable River.

Outcome:

We will finish this workshop with a list of general conservation values, specific open space, habitat and recreational initiatives and a new set of community-informed parameters for updating our mapping analysis.



Workshop Agenda

Workshop I: What does Community Conservation mean to you?

Date: Wednesday, August 10th, 2016
Time: 5:30 - 7:00 PM
Location: Amos and Julia Ward Theater
 15 Parkside Drive, Jay, NY

Agenda

<i>Focus</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Time (Minutes)</i>
	Overview and purpose of the workshop	
Overview	We will describe the goals and objectives of the Community Conservation Workshops.	5
	Community Conservation & Citizen Science	
Introduction	We will describe our Community Conservation program and explain what it can do for conservation in our community.	10
	Group Discussion	
Discussion	We will ask one another "What conservation means to us?" and other questions about land stewardship and Community Conservation values.	15
	What we mapped, what we learned	
Mapping Presentation	We will describe our mapping effort, show land attributes (including easement lands, viewsheds, and areas of ecological importance).	10
	Working groups (4-6 people each)	
Working Groups	We will identify places on maps, including areas of ecological, agricultural, recreational significance as well as valuable open space.	25
	Partnership Monitoring	
Partnership Monitoring Presentation	We will describe how citizen science, management activities and monitoring activities play a role in land stewardship and conservation.	10
	Participant Survey	
Survey	Your interests influence our program. We want to learn more about you using a workshop survey.	10

Workshop Overview

This workshop is designed to engage the land conservation community and landowners in the East Branch of the Ausable River region. Information collected from these workshops will be used to support the development of LPLC's Community Conservation Monitoring Program.

This workshop is designed around the Community Conservation concept. Community Conservation connects people with people and people with the land. LPLC's Community Conservation Monitoring Program will empower landowners to make informed conservation decisions on their own land and connect them with the broader conservation community.

This workshop is designed for one evening; however, the materials and Partnership Monitoring Plans have been developed to encourage extended engagement in land stewardship and learning.

Target Audience

Our target audience consists of landowners who own over 50 acres within any of Lake Placid Land Conservancy's three focus areas. We are looking for landowners that have an appreciation for nature and a desire to be effective stewards of their land.

Workshop participants will accomplish/learn:

- The geography of public and private land holdings in the East Branch of the Ausable River focus area.
- The importance of ecology, stewardship and monitoring for land stewardship.
- Opportunities for stewardship, Partnership Monitoring, landowner resources.

Materials

The following materials are either included in this packet, are provided as part of the workshop or are available on the Lake Placid Land Conservancy website at www.lakeplacidlandconservancy.org

- Workshop Program
- Focus Area Maps
- Land Conservation Interests Survey
- Mapping and Partnership Monitoring presentations

Goals and Objectives

Our goal is to enable landowners to become better stewards of their land and for landowners to develop relationships with their neighbors and the Adirondack region's conservation organizations. Ultimately, we want to assist landowners with their long-term conservation and land stewardship goals.

Products from workshop

This workshop will result in:

- Summary of the Community Conservation Workshops (available in November)
- Additional conservation maps based on community input (available in November)
- Partnership Monitoring Plans (available in 2017)

Pre-workshop Research

Lake Placid Land Conservancy used GIS mapping (Geographic Information Systems) to visualize “what’s where” in our region. From these maps, we can point to areas of conservation significance and discuss our community conservation values.



What maps did we create? What data appear on maps?

We created 15 maps that help tell the story of land use and ecological features. These maps include the following information:

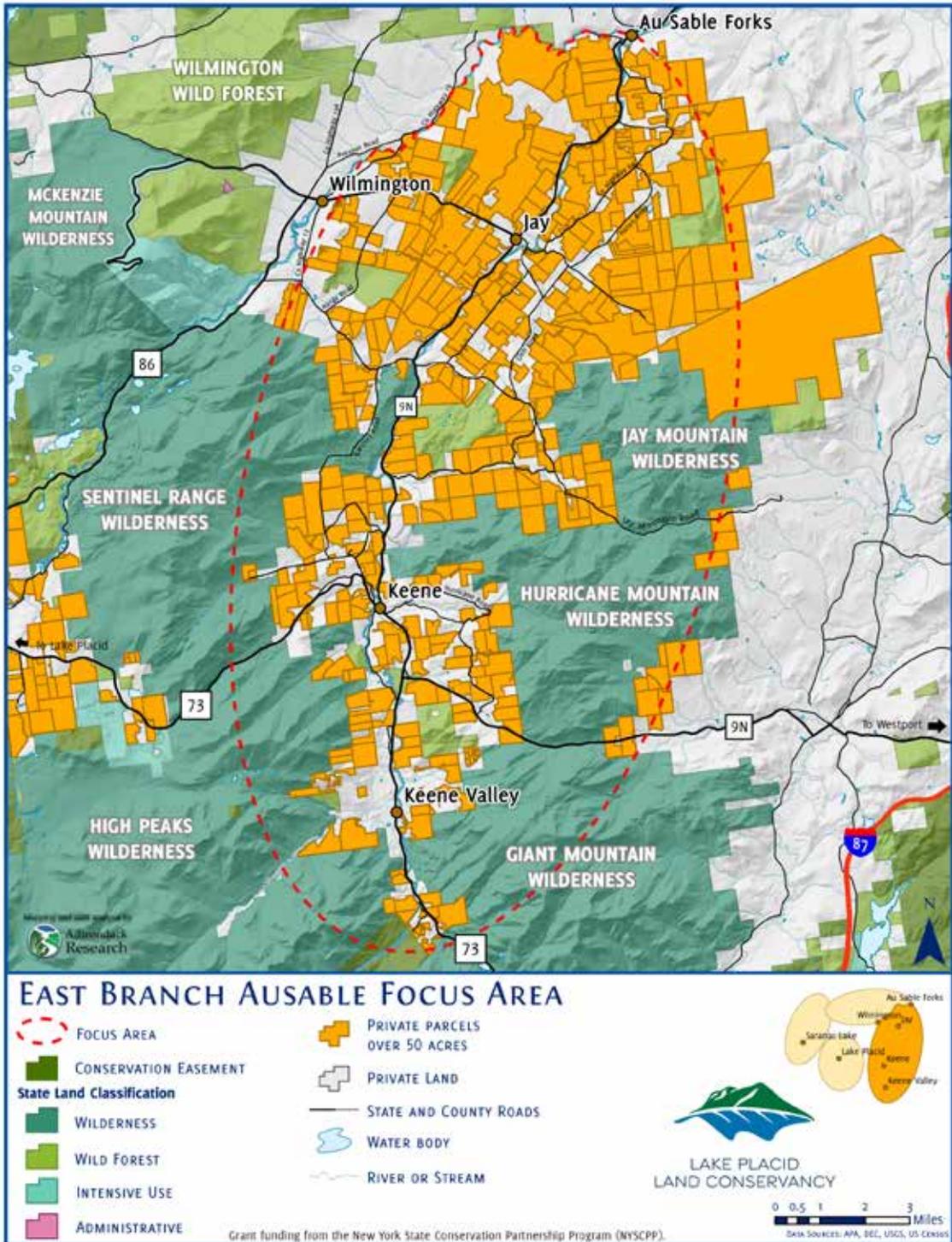
- Geographic features (lakes, rivers, wetlands, watersheds, elevation and relief)
- Political features (state and private lands, village names and roads)
- Working landscapes (480-A program participation, crop data, mining, and farm soils)
- Ecology (ecological communities, species models and forest matrix blocks)
- Viewshed (areas viewable from state roads)
- Ownership (private parcels greater than 50 acres).

Mapping Data in a nutshell (East Branch of the Ausable River)

475	64,366	51,376
<i>Number of parcels in analysis</i>	<i>Acres of Private land in focus area</i>	<i>Acres of land that are part of >50 acre holdings</i>
395	81	340
<i>Acreage of all conservation easements in focus area</i>	<i>Number of properties with 480-A management</i>	<i>Number of properties within a modeled distribution of at least one rare species</i>
99	72	265
<i>Number of properties with a special habitat (natural heritage community)</i>	<i>Number of parcels with Prime Farmland or Farmland of State Importance</i>	<i>Number of properties within a forest matrix block</i>

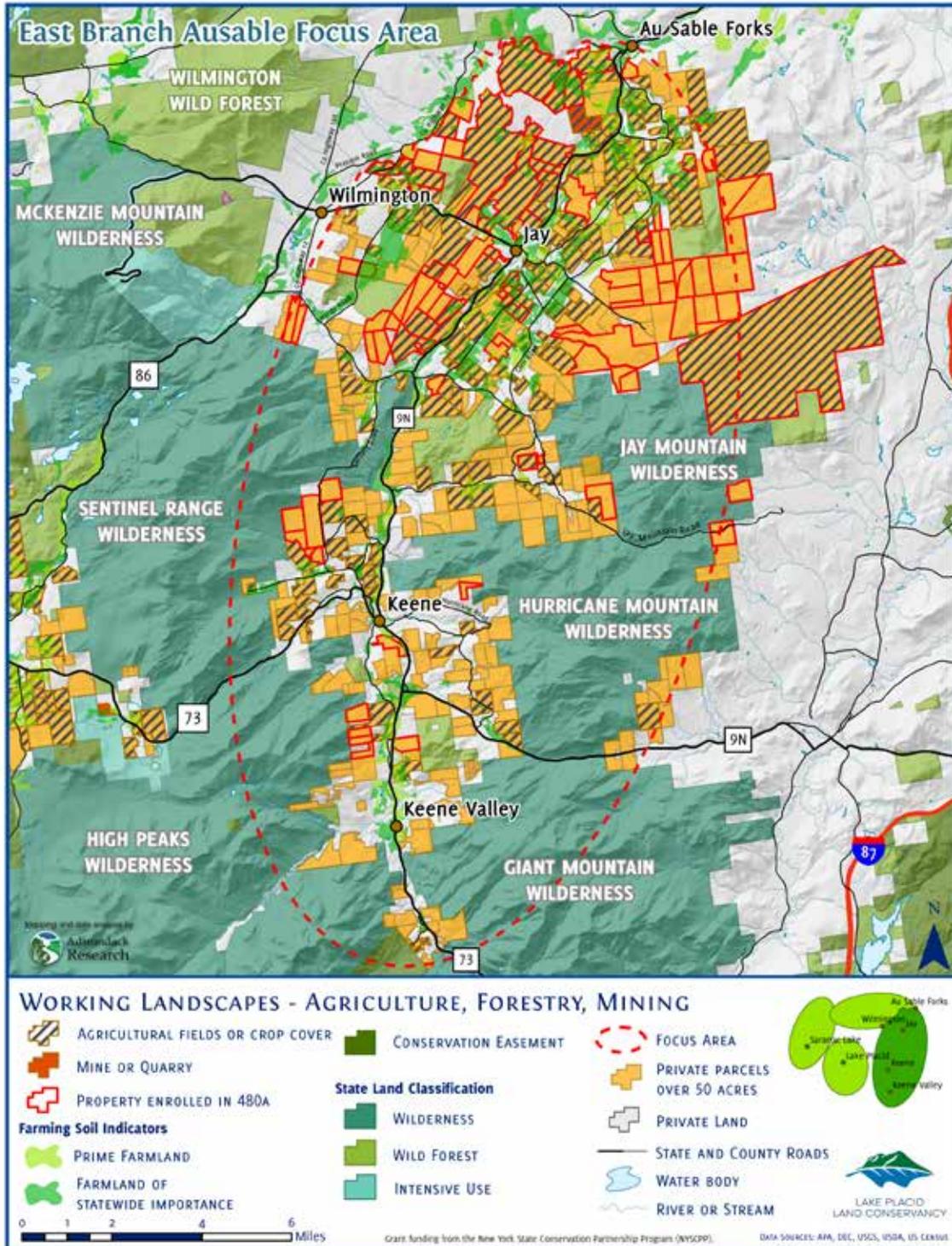
Base Map

This base map shows the basics of relief, land and water characteristics, and parcel locations of properties between 10-49 acres  and of properties greater than 50 acres  in size. This map also shows the political distinctions among state and private land.



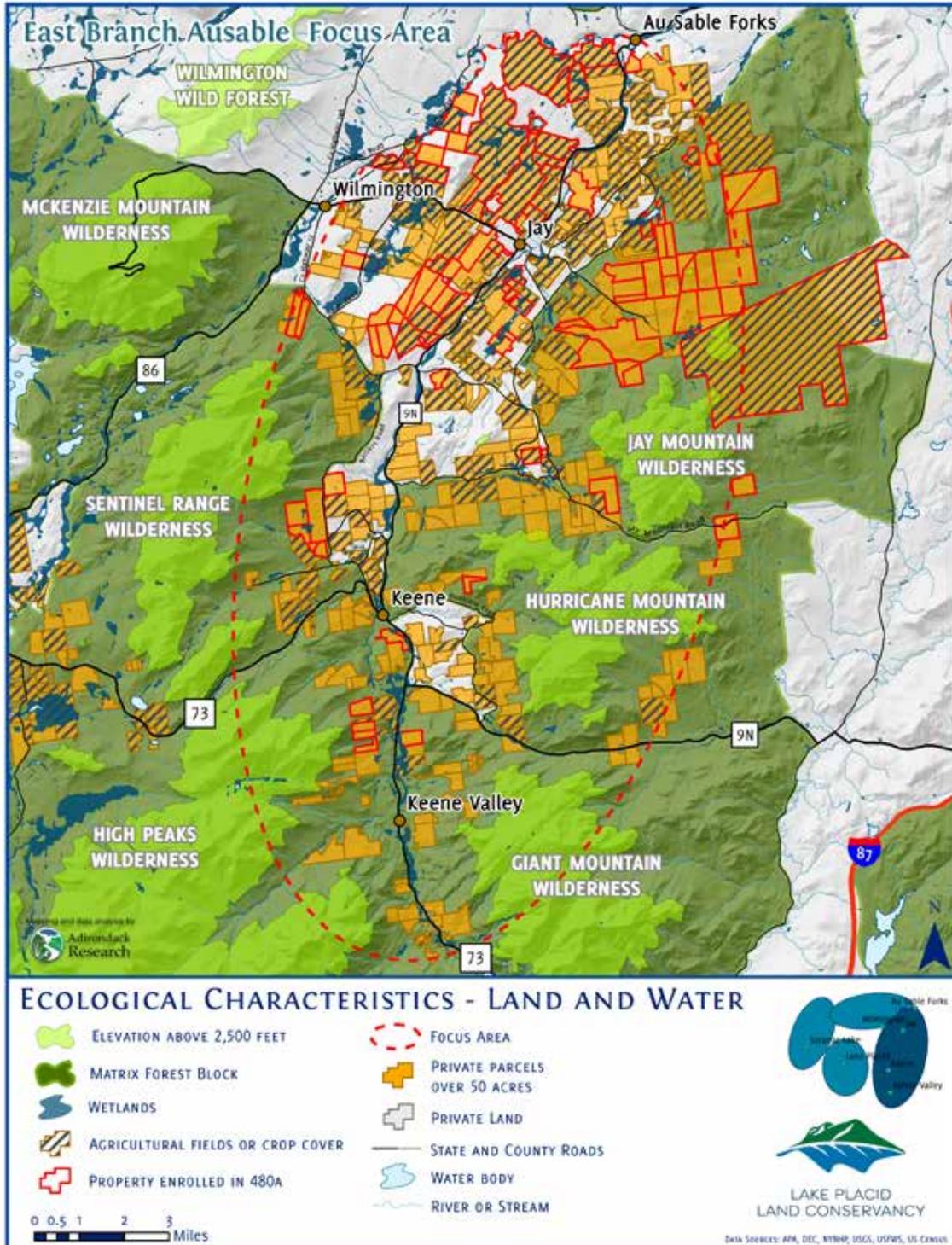
Working Landscapes

This map depicts Prime Farmland  and Farmland of State Importance .  denotes land with cover crop management and  denotes properties enrolled in 480-A for forestry management. Mines and quarries are .



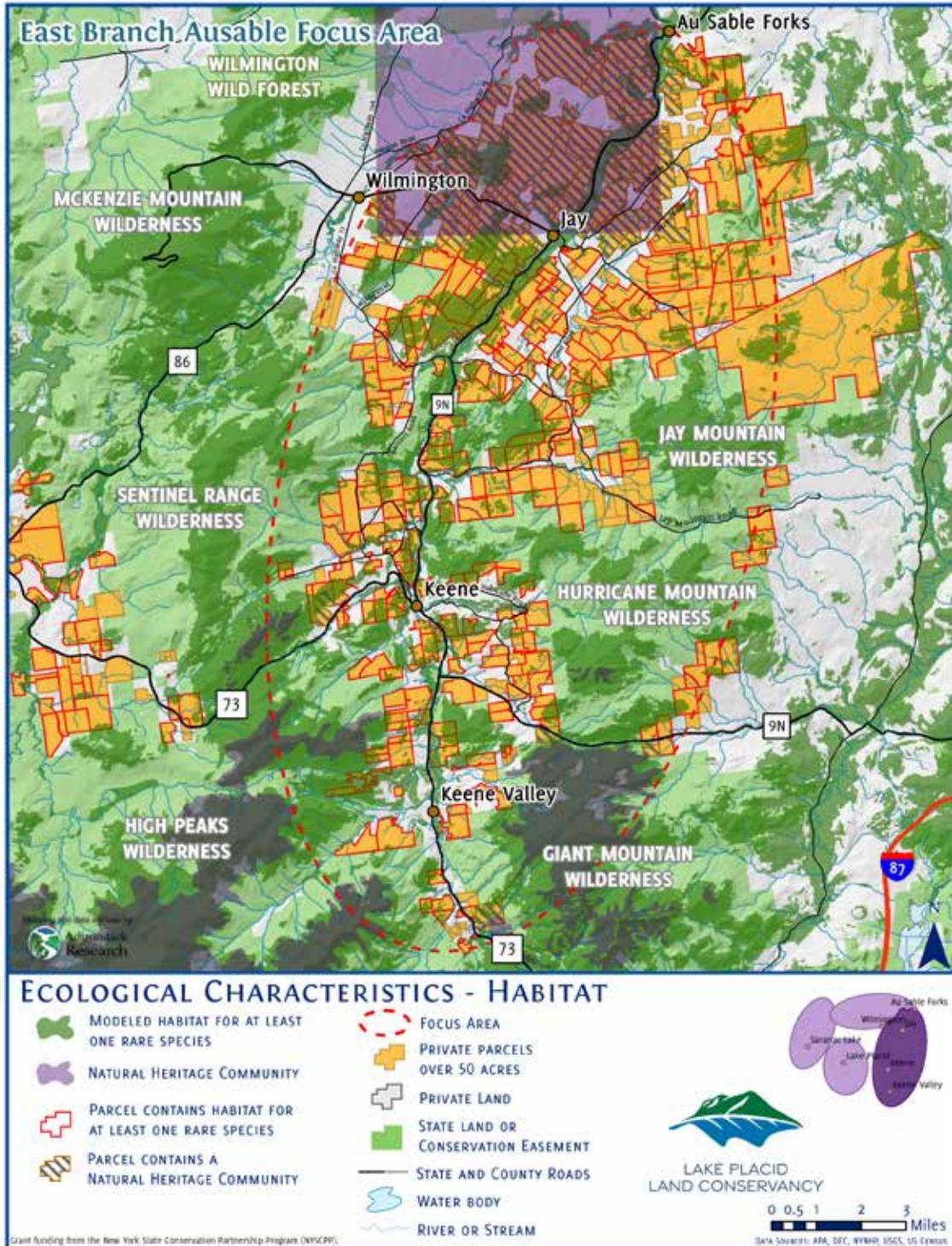
Land and Water

This map depicts the attributes of land and water critical for ecological integrity.  areas denote the Matrix Forest (selected by The Nature Conservancy as the most viable examples of the dominant forest communities in the state).  denotes elevation above 2,500 feet. Lakes and wetlands are in the two shades of blue.



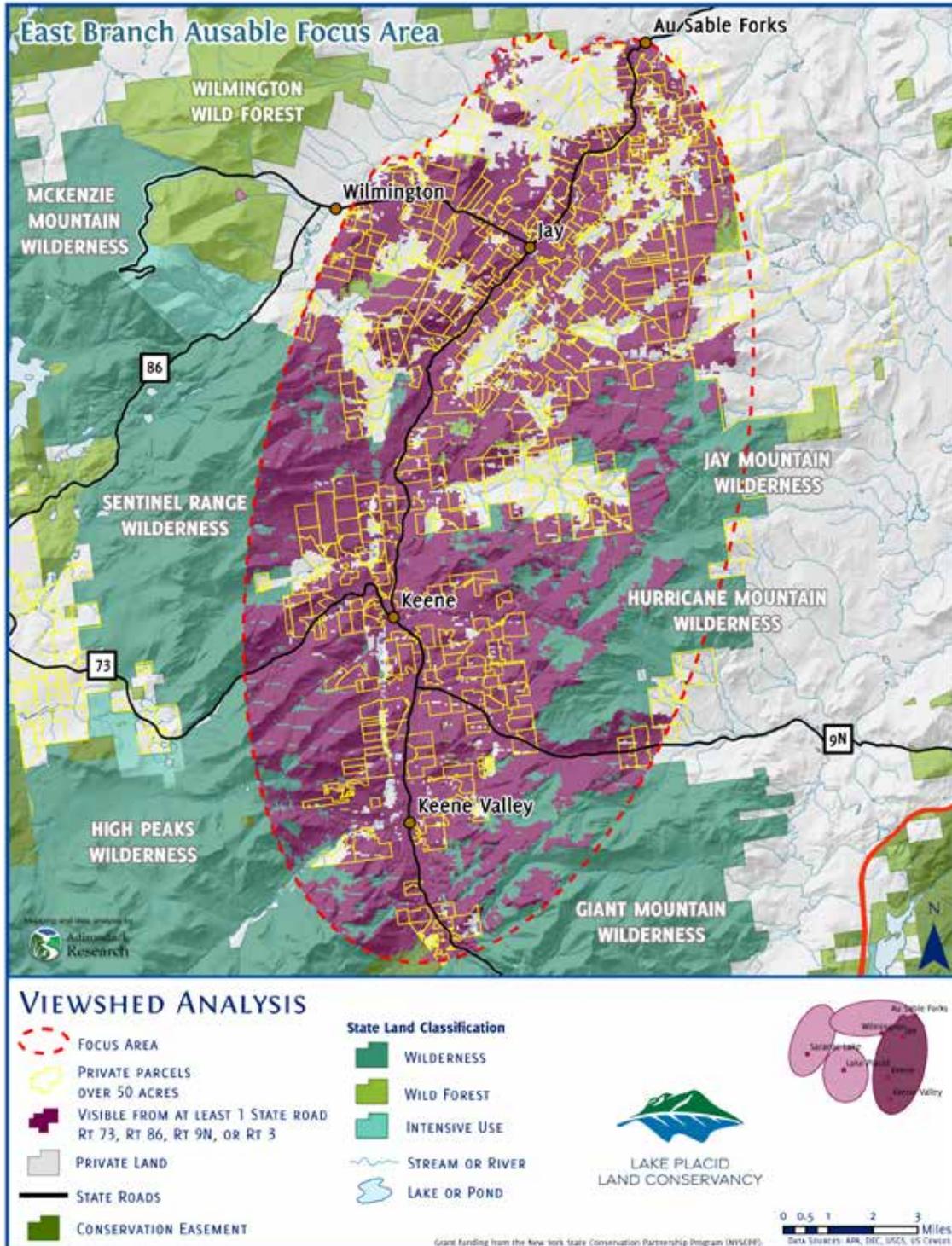
Habitat

This map depicts the important habitats critical for ecological integrity. 🟢 areas signify regions that comprise at least one modeled rare or endangered species distributions. These were obtained from the New York Natural Heritage Program. 🟣 areas denote special Natural Heritage Communities.



Viewsheds

This map shows the areas of land viewable from at least one vantage point along a state road. If an area is shaded , that means the tops of the trees are viewable from at least one point on a road at car elevation at full foliage.



Mapping Exercise

We need your help to guide our land conservation efforts by identifying lands that have important conservation values.

Please work within your small group to answer these questions by drawing on the provided maps.

Map #1: Open Space - Base Map, page 6

Circle or identify areas you think are important for open space. In other words, areas you think would be negatively affected by development. Include larger stretches of road you feel are important to preserve their current open space character.

Map #2: Working Landscapes - Working Landscape Map, page 7

Circle areas with known agricultural and timber resources. Highlight areas of active forest management. Also highlight areas with active agriculture. Does the map accurately reflect these, or are there additional areas or resources we are missing?

Map #3: Public Recreation - Base Map, page 6

Identify known recreational resources (trails, fishing access, etc.) that lie on privately owned property. Also highlight areas you think would benefit from additional public recreation.

Map #4: Habitat - Habitat Map, page 9

Identify important habitat, including hunting, fishing, bird watching areas, or other areas you think have interesting or unique habitats. Label features if possible.

Map #5: Corridors to monitor wildlife - Land & Water Map, page 8

Where do large animals roam? Label areas of land that likely serve as travel corridors for large mammals. Focus on private land, but extend your drawing into public land if possible. Label areas that you think would be good to monitor (include both private and public land).

Map #6: Other features - Base Map, page 6

What may we have missed? What other political, ecological, or economic features are we missing that you think would be useful for communicating the conservation values of private lands in our region?



Partnership Monitoring Program

Partnership Monitoring is an approach to land conservation and stewardship centered around citizen science and works to connect landowners with professionals to catalog biodiversity and help them understand ecological characteristics of their properties.

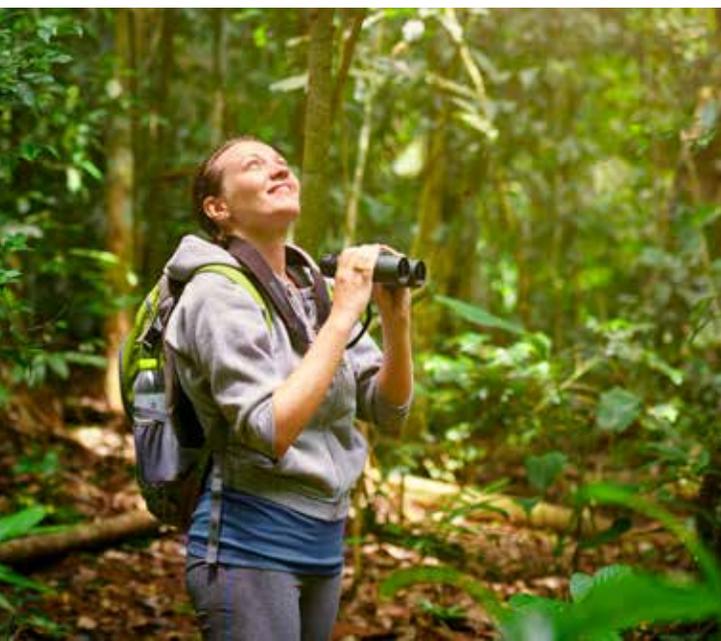
This is a completely voluntary program that does not tie landowners into any type of formal conservation commitment.

What it does

- Engages you with the features of your property.
- Creates lists of taxa and other ecological attributes of your land.
- Provides information for land management.
- Teaches you and your family about Adirondack ecology.

What it does not do

- Does not require you to sustain a monitoring program.
- Does not bind you to any stewardship actions.
- Does not limit your ability to alter or sell your land.



Want to know more?

We use a variety of tools to guide monitoring. We also utilize available resources from regional and state-wide conservation programs. This is Citizen Science, and it is a critical component of our Community Conservation approach. We want to engage you and we want you to share what you learn about your land with your family, neighbors and community.

We will be developing monitoring plans to facilitate professional monitoring of your land.

The Process

The best land management tools are based on the goals of the property owner and the specific habitat of the land. We work with landowners to perform an initial property evaluation. This evaluation allows us to make management recommendations on diverse properties. We can then work with landowners to develop a set of inventories and management recommendations tailored to their interests.

Property Assessment

- First, we assess your property using GIS mapping and an on the ground evaluation of habitat.
- Next, we create recommendations for biological inventories and monitoring plans based on your land and your interests, goals and management objectives.
- Then, we work with you and local conservation partners to discover your land's biodiversity.

Recommendations

Our recommendations are based on the results of our detailed property assessment. The assessment is based on several factors, including:

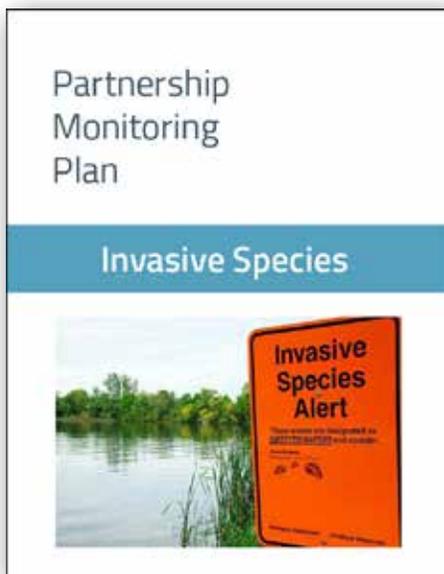
- What comprises your land's habitat?
- What are your future management goals?
- What are your personal interests?

How do I enroll in the Program?

Lake Placid Land Conservancy anticipates enrolling interested and qualified landowners into the program in 2017. Once enrolled, LPLC will perform an initial assessment of your land and then make recommendations for our Partnership Monitoring Program. You may also choose to conduct a property assessment without implementing a monitoring plan.

Monitoring Plans

Our Partnership Monitoring Program consists of options for monitoring plant and animal species that meet the interests and goals of landowners. These species inventories and monitoring plans target important ecological resources and wildlife. Each plan is designed to complement stewardship and management goals you have for your property. **Examples of types of monitoring plans include:**



Invasive Species Monitoring

Managing invasive species on your property is one of the most effective ways to maintain ecosystem health. Our invasive species monitoring plan identifies challenges on your land with the goal of comprehensive invasive species management.

This plan includes:

- A survey of invasive plants and insects
- iMapInvasives mapping integration
- Invasive Plant Management Decision Analysis Tool (IPMDAT)
- Comprehensive invasive species management plan (optional)

Bird Surveys

Avian diversity tells a story of ecosystem health. Over time, changes in bird presence can guide your ecosystem improvement plans.

This plan includes:

- Season-specific point count surveys
- Bird banding or Cornell NestWatch stations
- Bird nesting habitat assessment and nestbox recommendations
- Yearly monitoring and reporting via eBird



Game & Mammal Cameras

Collecting camera data on small and large mammal presence is a great way to learn about how these animals use your land. This plan is designed for hunters, forest managers and naturalists.

This plan includes:

- Multi-point camera surveys
- Optional small mammal live trapping



Insect Inventory

Terrestrial and aquatic insects are important indicators of ecosystem health. Our invertebrate inventory catalogs the insect biodiversity of your land.

This plan includes:

- A survey of aquatic and/or terrestrial insects
- iNaturalist web-based integration for viewing and sharing with friends

Phenology Monitoring

Phenology refers to key seasonal changes in plants and animals, such as flowering, emergence of insects, calling of frogs and migration of birds.

This plan includes:

- Establishment of a trail and map for observing
- Integration and reporting with Nature's Notebook
- Yearly reporting and analysis with climate trends





Grant funding from the
New York State Conservation Partnership Program (NYSCPP) and New York's Environmental
Protection Fund supported development of this project.
The Land Trust Alliance administers the fund in coordination with the New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation.

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