

**A STEWARDSHIP INCENTIVE PLAN FOR
THE 88-ACRE
NEWMAN HILL PROPERTY**

**OWNED BY THE ORONO LAND TRUST
100 BENNOCH ROAD
ORONO, ME 04473
JAMES HINDS-PROPERTY STEWARD
TEL: 207-866-3854**

Prepared By:
Charles J. Simpson
Maine L.P.F. #446
DBA: Woodchuck Forestry Services
825 College Road
Old Town, Me. 04468
Tel: 207-827-3034
August 17, 2003

Charles J. Simpson

10/22/03

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE

This plan reflects my objectives as the landowner. I accept and approve the recommendations made by the resource professional. I pledge that any management practices implemented on my land will be consistent with these recommendations, and it is my intention to follow them wherever possible.

Signed: *J. E. Johnson* Landowner
President, Clear Lake Trust

TABLE OF CONTENTS

General Information.....	2
Description of Property	2
Landowner Objectives	2
Acreage Listing	2
General Condition of the Woodlot.....	2
History of the Parcel	2
Condition of Boundary Lines	3
Terrain	3
Soils	3
Access	3
Insect and Disease Conditions	3
Legal Restrictions Affecting Forestry	4
Threatened and Endangered Species	4
Recreational Opportunities	4
Habitat and Wildlife	4
Timber Production Potential	5
Creating and Maintaining Biodiversity	5
Maps.....	5
Stand Descriptions and Prescriptions.....	5
Timber Inventory	5
Recreational Management Recommendations.....	6
Trail Improvements	6
Aesthetic Enhancement	6
Berry Patches	6
Summary.....	7
Appendices	
A- Forest Features Map	
B- Soil Map, Soil Descriptions and Brigg's Productivity Index	
C- Glossary of Forestry Terms	

General Information:

Description of Property

This Stewardship Incentive Plan has been prepared for the Orono Land Trust's (OLT) Newman Hill Property, located in Orono, Maine. The lot is located along the east side of Taylor Road, approximately 1/2 mile north of Forest Avenue. The property consists of 88-acres. The property is identified as Lot# 3, on Map# 9 of the Town of Orono tax maps.

Landowner Objectives

The Orono Land Trust is a charitable and benevolent institution incorporated in Maine in 1986. It is recognized as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt entity by the Internal Revenue Service. Its mission is to "foster the maintenance of a trail system connecting strategically located public natural areas, to encourage the protection and appreciation of natural habitats, and to ensure access to public waters".

Primary Objective: The primary objective is to protect public access to and develop a trail system on this property.

Secondary Objectives: Secondary objectives include maintaining a diverse, healthy forest ecosystem while protecting water, soil and wildlife resources on the property.

Acreage Listing

This property contains 88 acres.

General Condition of the Woodlot:

History of the Parcel

The Newman Hill property was once the forested portion of Taylor's Bait Farm. The bait farm has been in business for over 20 years, providing live bait, worms and night crawlers to wholesale and retail markets throughout Maine. The Orono Land Trust acquired the property from Robert Taylor in July of 2002. Besides funds from the OLT, a \$20,000 grant from the Federal National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), administered by the Maine Coast Heritage Trust was received. The NFWF grant requires a commitment to allow public access to the property while perpetually protecting an important wildlife area. If the property were to be disposed of by the OLT, the NFWF would have to agree. The majority of merchantable timber was harvested approximately ten years ago.

OLT has obtained a conservation easement on an adjacent 48-acre property owned by James and Pat Hinds. The Patricia and James Hinds Conservation Easement allows this additional property to be available for public use and maintain the land in a natural state.

Condition of Boundary Lines

The property lines have been blazed and painted. They need to be repainted within the next ten years to remain visible.

Terrain

This property rises abruptly to the east of Taylor Road. Total elevation change is approximately 80', with the extreme easterly side of the lot being the highest. In this area, views of Pushaw Lake and Hermon Mountain are possible with some clearing of trees. Most of the property is upland forest, with some wooded wetlands surrounding the two bait ponds the property borders.

Soils

The property contains five soil types according to the Penobscot County Soil Survey; Buxton/Scantic/Biddeford stony silt-loam, Monarda/Burnham very stony silt-loam, Monarda/Burnham extremely stony silt-loam, Plaisted very stony silt-loam, Rockland/Thorndike material strongly sloping. Slopes range from 0-35%. The Buxton and both Monarda series are hydric soils, frequently flooded with water tables often within one foot of the surface. These types are rated poor in productivity potential for growing trees. Rockland/Thorndike is rated fair to poor, and Plaisted is rated good. A soils map and copy of the Brigg's Soil Productivity Index is included with this plan.

Access

Access to this property is via Taylor Road. The road is gated at the bait farm, now owned by Dan Smith. Foot traffic is allowed further along Taylor Road, which is actually the bed of the former Veazie Railroad. A right-of-way across the Smith property provides foot access over a cleared and marked trail. The lot can also be reached approximately 1,500' down the old railroad bed. The property borders the bed for 1,000' in that area.

Insect and Disease Conditions

No significant current threats from insects or disease were observed on this woodlot.

Legal Restrictions Affecting Forestry

No significant legal restrictions affect forestry operations on this property. The two bait ponds, although man-made, are subject to standard shoreline buffers. Essentially, these include a 75' no-cut buffer, and the area from 75'-250' subject to volume removal restrictions. Because no harvesting is called for in this plan, these restrictions are not a concern.

Threatened and Endangered Species

No threatened or endangered species were observed on this property.

Recreational Opportunities

The development of a recreational trail is a primary objective of this plan. A crude trail has been cleared and marked along former skid trails used in the timber harvest. These trails utilize the natural surface materials that range from mud to ledge outcroppings. Slopes along the trail vary a great deal as well, with several steep inclines that are somewhat difficult to walk. This trail should be developed further to make it more user friendly, and to also protect the soil from erosion. Additional future trails, which are flatter, may be desirable for users who are uncomfortable with rather steep trails.

Wild raspberries, blueberries and blackberries are present throughout the property where heavier timber harvesting occurred. Users were picking raspberries on the lot during one of the visits. On another visit, the blackberries were numerous and ripe. These berry patches could be expanded by consciously creating more openings throughout the lot to encourage berry growth. Controlled, small burns could benefit blueberries.

As previously mentioned, the high point of this property provides potential for views of Pushaw Lake and Hermon Mountain. To fully utilize this, some clearing will have to be done to provide desirable vistas.

Habitat and Wildlife

Protecting and enhancing wildlife habitat is a secondary objective of this plan. Currently, the timber harvest has created a variety of forest conditions that are beneficial to a variety of wildlife. Small openings in the forest canopy have provided diversity of species and light conditions. Maintaining these openings will protect this habitat. Vertical diversity of the forest crown is also an important factor in habitat desirability. Again, the timber harvest has provided desirable conditions for this.

This property is part of a large geographic area that is relatively undisturbed by development. The Caribou Bog contains over 2,000 acres in close proximity to Newman Hill. Additional property owned by the University of Maine and Town of Orono is

nearby. A couple of miles to the south along the railroad bed is the Bangor City Forest. This relatively large area provides desirable habitat for large mammal species. This area is subject to an effort by several local parties to be preserved in public ownership or at least public access.

The Newman Hill property contains a desirable mix of tree species for wildlife habitat. Red oak, aspen, cedar and white pine all are desirable from a wildlife perspective. Maintaining this diversity of tree species will have positive impact on habitat protection.

Timber Production Potential

This woodlot has the potential to grow timber at an annual rate approaching 1/2 - cord per acre. The soils are poor to good, and the lot is stocked with merchantable timber. Timber production is not an objective on this lot however.

Creating and Maintaining Biological Diversity

I endorse management techniques outlined in the publication, "Biodiversity in the Forests of Maine- Guidelines for Management", by authors Flatebo, et.al. This publication is Bulletin #7147 of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service. It offers suggestions on management approaches that tend to maintain diversity in the forest, and provide a wide variety of forest benefits. At some future point, an inventory of timber, shrubs and wildlife would be desirable to determine baselines for these resources.

Maps:

A forest features map, and soil type map accompany this plan.

Stand Descriptions and Prescriptions:

Timber Inventory

No timber inventory was conducted on this property. The whole lot can be classified as mixed wood type. The lot is stocked with mixed species, merchantable timber. Primary species are red maple, red oak, white pine, aspen, balsam fir, hemlock and cedar. Most desirable merchantable timber was removed in the previous harvest. The importance of the forest stand in this plan is related to its importance in providing habitat, mast and aesthetic contributions to this property.

Recreational Management Recommendations:

Trail Improvements

Developing a multi-use trail system on this property is a primary objective. The OLT has a good start in the current rustic trail developed over the skid trails used in the past timber harvest. However, this trail is rough, irregular, steep in places and prone to erosion over time. The trail needs to be improved with surfacing material on some portions. Erosion control devices need to be implemented to protect the trail surface and the integrity of the soil and water resources on the lot. Some sections of the trail may need to be relocated slightly to reduce the slope and improve safety. Anticipated uses include walking, jogging, biking and skiing. Inevitably, there will also be unauthorized use from ATV's. There is currently such use, and it will likely continue. Such use will put an additional strain on the integrity of the site, and trail improvements should be designed to minimize adverse effects of those machines. Cost-share funds could be available for these types of activities. Additional trails that provide less strenuous negotiation would provide the potential for use by an expanded population.

The trail marking system is very good right now. Freshly painted markers denote the trail well. A volunteer is currently doing this from the OLT. Some indication might be made as to the relative difficulty of the trails to users. Occasional benches along the trail would provide rest stops for users, as well as places to enjoy the solitude and vistas available on this property.

Aesthetic Enhancement

The aesthetic quality of the trail could be improved by cleaning up slash and debris on both sides of the trail. This could be done during annual field days, or using contracted help and applying for cost-share funds for this activity.

There are at least three potential vista sites on the height of ground on Newman Hill. These sites could be exploited to create panoramic views of Pushaw Lake, Caribou Bog and Mud Pond. The careful selection of a few trees for removal would open up vistas without creating a scar on the landscape. Again, this could be done using volunteer help or contractors with cost-share funds helping defray costs.

Berry Patches

I think one of the most interesting uses of this property might be as a berry picking area for users. The timber harvesting created many small openings filled with wild berries. These openings, and their berries could be maintained with regular cutting of small trees, shrubs and old berries. The opportunity to harvest wild berries provides quality family recreation. It also would benefit a multitude of wildlife species that eat the berries. Blueberries could be further encouraged on the top of the hill by controlled burning of the areas.

Summary:

The Newman Hill property of the Orono Land Trust offers many opportunities to local people. The current trail system can be improved to provide higher quality recreational experiences. With a little work, several beautiful vistas could be developed on the height of land to afford views of Pushaw Lake, Mud Pond, the Caribou Bog and even Hermon Mountain. Development of an easier trail would increase the user base. Additionally, there is the potential to develop a wild berrying area that would also offer benefits to wildlife. All of these improvements could qualify for cost-share funds from the Forest Land Enhancement Program.

Even without the above-mentioned improvements, the Newman Hill property will continue to provide rustic recreational opportunities to users, and a wonderful variety of wildlife habitat. This property should serve the Orono Land Trust well in the decades to come.

Appendix A

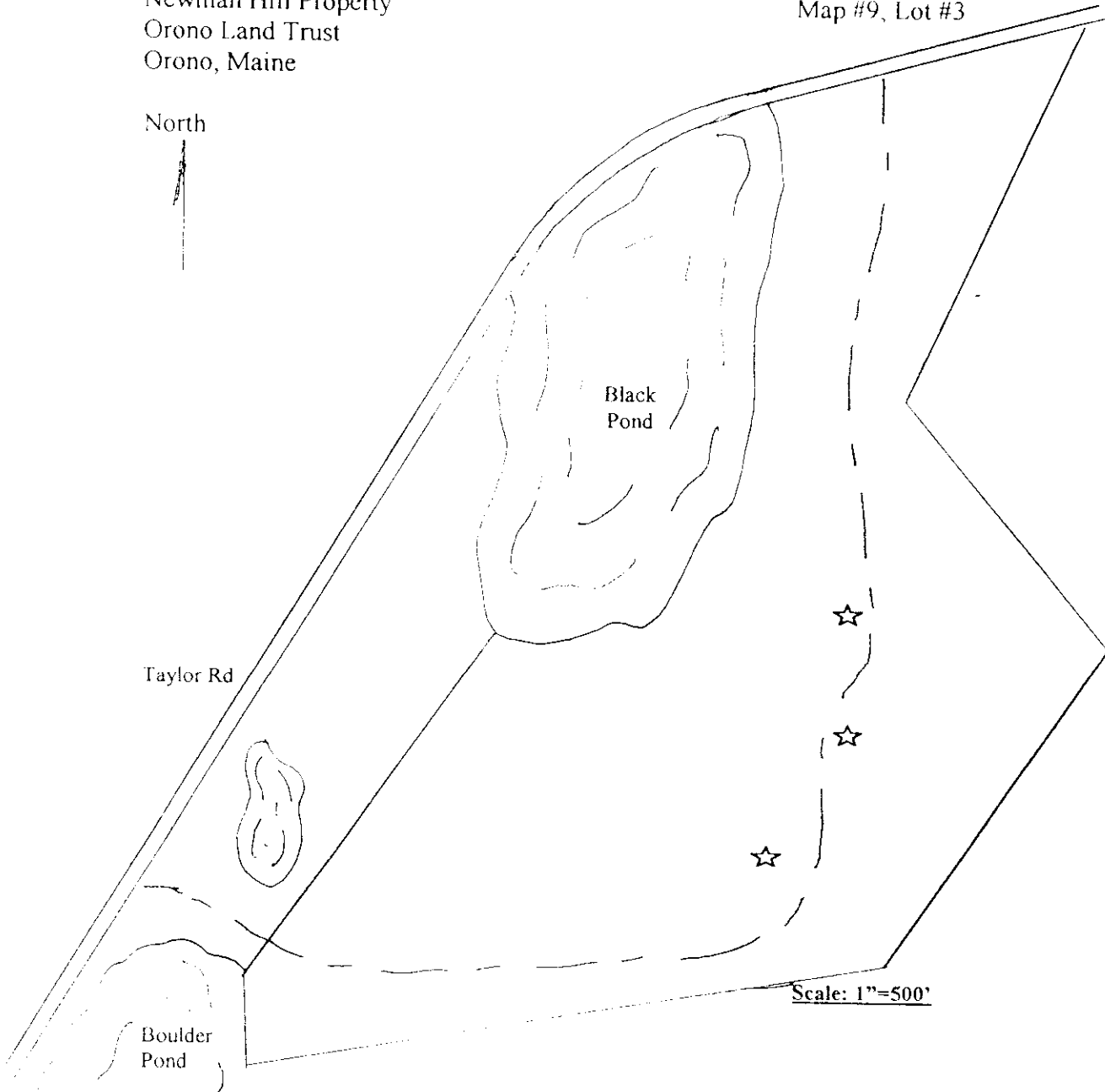
Forest Features Map

Forest Features Map

Newman Hill Property
Orono Land Trust
Orono, Maine

Map #9, Lot #3

North



Scale: 1"=500'

Legend:

- Property line
- - - Forest stand boundary
- M3B Forest Stand Type
- - - Trail
- ☆ Vista site

Map Prepared By:

Charles J. Simpson
Maine LPF #446
825 College Ave
Old Town, ME
August 24, 2003

Note: Not A Legal Survey

10/22/03

Appendix B

Soil Map, Soil Descriptions and Brigg's Productivity Index

Soil Type Map

Newman Hill Property
Orono Land Trust
Orono, Maine

Map #9, Lot #3

North

BxB-Buxton-Scatic-Biddeford
MsC-Monarda-Burnham
MrB-Monarda-Burnham
PrC-Plaisted
RmD-Rockland-Thorndike

Taylor Rd

Boulder Pond

Black Pond

RmD

PrC

MsC

BxB

MrB

Scale: 1"=500'

Legend:

- Property line
- Soil type boundary
- MrB Soil type

Map Prepared By:

Charles J. Simpson
Maine L.P.F. #446
825 College Ave
Old Town, ME
August 24, 2003

Note: Not A Legal Survey

Charles J. Simpson

10/22/03