

Protecting Forests of Exceptional Conservation Value (FECV)

Note—a recorded presentation covering this information is available on the SFI website:

<https://youtu.be/7uyZhrivkBA>

What is an FECV? Simply put an FECV is a site that supports a globally rare plant, animal, or natural community (i.e., habitat). These sites are listed as G1 or G2 by the Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW). Some examples of globally rare features are the rare orchid small whorled pogonia, the rare animal Tomah mayfly, and the rare natural community Pitch Pine Scrub Oak Barrens. Sites that support these or other globally rare features would be considered FECVs.



Small-whorled pogonia



Pitch pine scrub oak barren

How to check for FECV. The SFI State Implementation Committee has worked with MNAP and MDIFW to create a process for determining if a wood source area supports an FECV. The process is intended to help get this information without making the specific locations of these sensitive features publicly available, as they may otherwise be vulnerable to collection or other harm. When planning a timber harvest, road-building, or other activity that may disturb a site, include going to the SFI FECV website <https://sfimaine/forests-of-exceptional-conservation-value-fecvs/> for quick pre-check. This website includes links to a list of towns with documented FECV, a zoomable map of FECV approximate locations in towns and a video explaining this process live.

A quick look at the list of towns with documented FECV may be all that is needed. If harvest/operations area is not in one of these towns, no further search is needed. Your obligation to FECVs is met and you may proceed with your planned activity.

If the work area is in a listed town, the next step is to look at the map. FECV grid blocks are 4-mile square: small enough that only a small fraction of the state is included within them but large enough to obscure the exact location of the globally rare features. Only the globally rare features that are on private operable forest lands are included on the map. If the operations area is OUTSIDE, or DOES NOT intersect with, the FECV polygon, your obligation to FECVs is met and you may proceed with your planned activity.

If the operations area is INSIDE, or intersects with, the FECV polygon, CONTACT MNAP. They will ask for an operations area location map with the town name and a reference point such as a named public road, river, pond, stream, etc. They can work with a wide variety

of maps, from GIS shapefiles to good old fashioned paper. They can help you figure that out. **Email is the best, most efficient way to do this.**

MNAP personnel have access to more specific FECV location information. If the proposed operations area actually intersects with an FECV feature, MNAP or MDIFW (depending on the feature type) will provide recommended management guidelines as appropriate for the feature and the site. Some generic examples of recommendations might be:

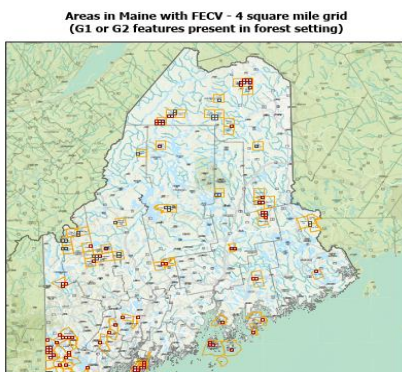
- Avoid harvesting or other disturbances in the area mapped as supporting the FECV feature, including an ecologically relevant buffer.
- Follow shoreland zoning in riparian and shoreline areas with no harvest within 75 feet of the habitat area and restrict harvesting to no more than 40% volume removal within a 10-year period in area within 75 -250 feet of the feature.
- The harvest as currently planned is unlikely to harm the feature.

The bottom line is-- **Contacting MNAP is the next step when you get a “hit,” they will help you from there.**

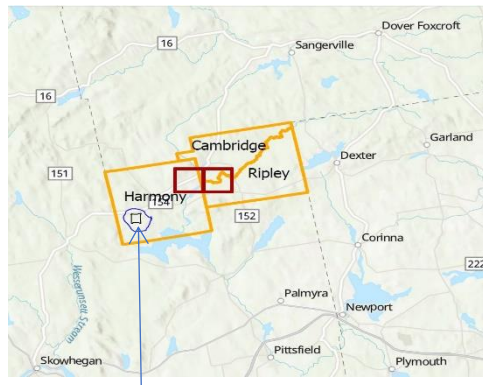
MNAP contact info: E-mail: maine.nap@maine.gov; Physical address (Driving directions):90 Blossom Lane - Deering Building ,Augusta, Maine; Mailing address: Maine Natural Areas Program177 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0177
Phone: 207-287-8044 FAX: 207-287-7548

For more info about this process, and about SFI in general, contact Pat Sirois, Maine SFI Coordinator, 535 Civic Center Drive, Augusta, ME 04330; Telephone: 207-622-9288 Fax: 207-626-3002; Email: psirois@maineforest.org

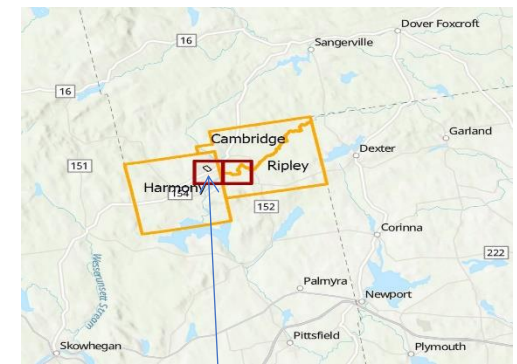
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Zoom in to see the FECV polygons.



Operations area is OUTSIDE the RED FECV polygon.



Operations area is INSIDE the RED FECV polygon.

CONTACT MNAP