



New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau

Division of Forests & Lands - DNCR

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Highlights from 2018-2019 Nash Stream Forest Natural Heritage Bureau Surveys

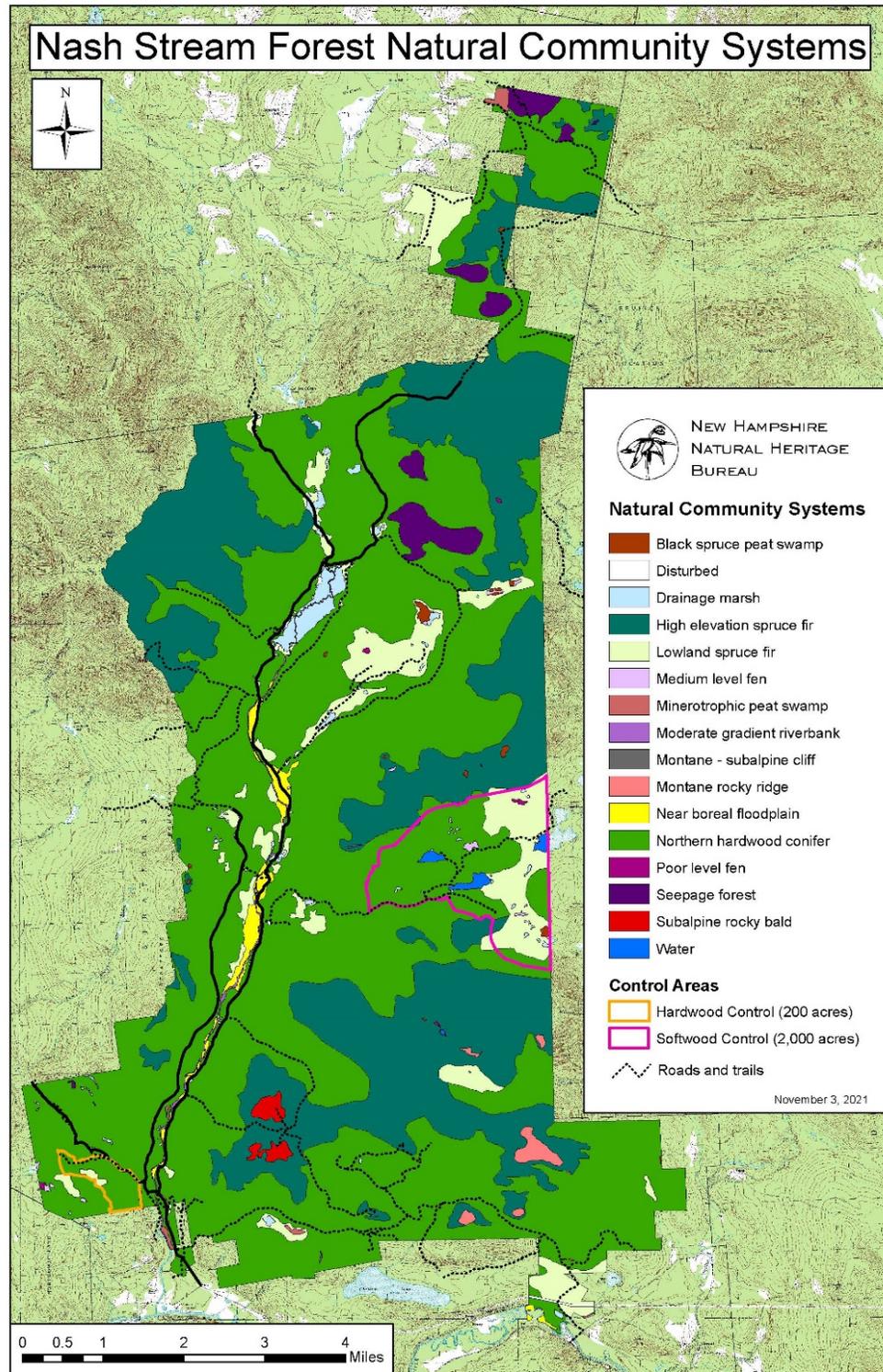
The New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB) is an office within the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Forests and Lands. NHB provides information on native plants and natural communities to assist landowners and land managers. The ecologists and botanists in NHB analyze data on the status, location and distribution of rare or declining native plant species and natural communities to protect NH's biodiversity.

Between 2018 and 2019, NHB conducted extensive field surveys at Nash Stream Forest. NHB created a comprehensive vegetation map of natural community systems, which is a part of the Ecological chapter in the 2017 Nash Stream Forest Management Plan.

NHB classifies patterns of vegetation in the landscape into natural community systems. Natural community systems are comprised of multiple natural community types.

NHB assesses the size, condition, and landscape context of natural communities and identifies those of high conservation value as "exemplary."

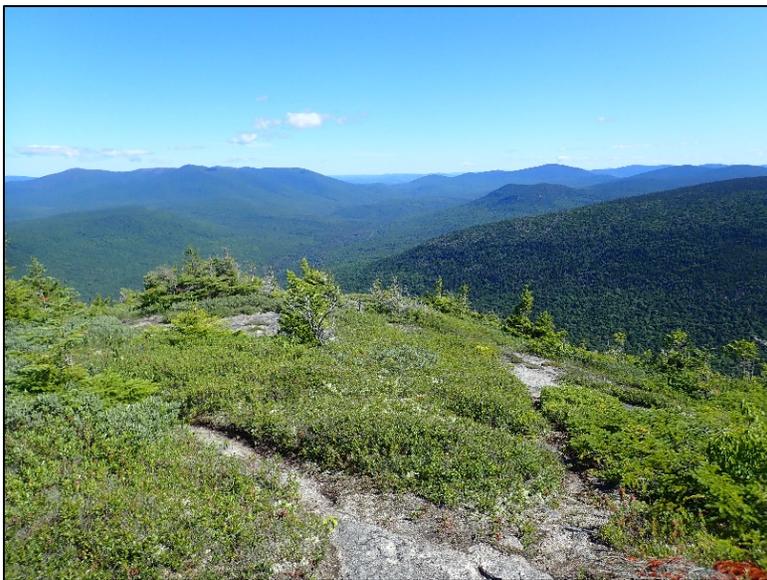
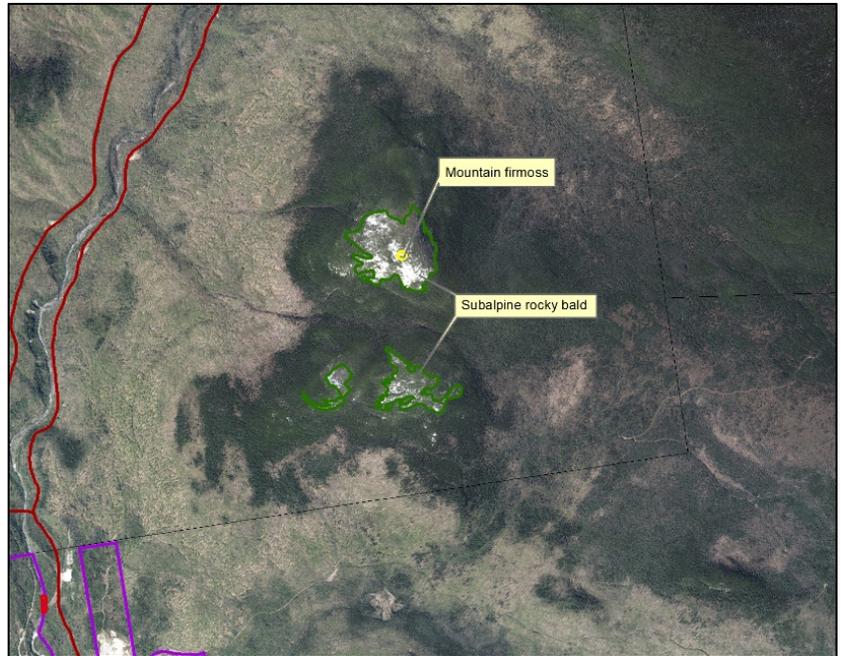
Natural community systems provide a way of understanding the ecology of a particular area, and for identifying the sites of greatest conservation significance.



Percy Peaks

Although not the highest mountains on the property, the twin Percy Peaks are the most prominent feature of Nash Stream Forest, and support an exemplary *subalpine rocky bald* community.

Subalpine rocky balds are typically found between 3,000' and 3,500' elevation.



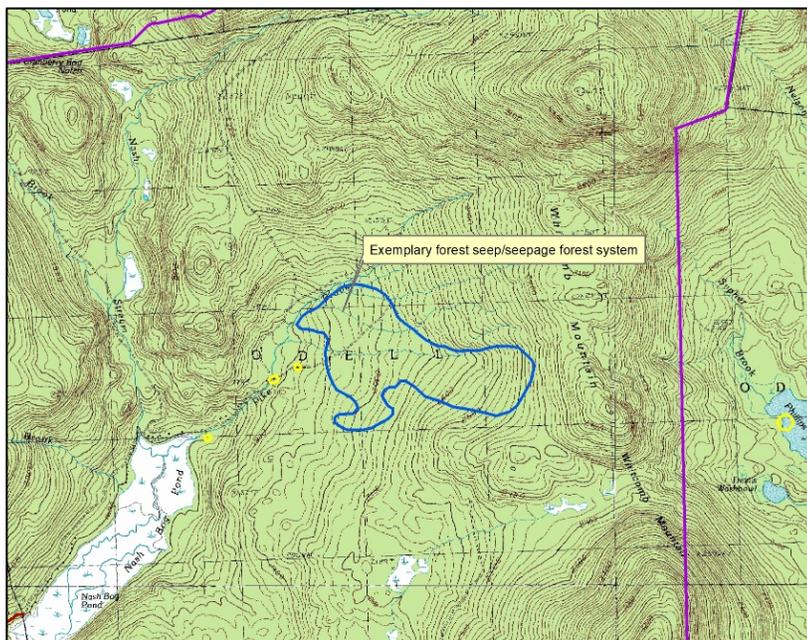
The summit is dominated by low-growing species such as black crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*) and mountain cranberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*).

The surveys discovered a new population of state-threatened mountain firmoss (*Huperzia appressa*), a species of rocky alpine and subalpine peaks.



Exemplary **forest seep/seepage forest system**
Surveys in 2019 discovered an exemplary
occurrence of the **forest seep/seepage forest
system** in the northern portion of Nash Stream
Forest.

Largest known occurrence of this system type in
NH (265 acres); most occurrences are less than
20 acres.



Groundwater seepage keeps soil
permanently saturated.

Very lush and diverse herb layer, with a number
of uncommon plant species.



Targets for upcoming 2022 NHB surveys

- Delineating boundaries of additional **forest seep/seepage forest system** patches
- Documenting possible old-growth forest near Percy Peaks
- Searching for additional locations of rare orchid species in northwest portion of property.

