

# Memo



NH NATURAL HERITAGE BUREAU  
NHB DATACHECK RESULTS LETTER

**To:** Johanna Lyons, NH Division of Parks and Recreation  
PO Box 1856  
Concord, NH 03801

**From:** Amy Lamb, NH Natural Heritage Bureau

**Date:** 5/27/2016 (valid for one year from this date)

**Re:** Review by NH Natural Heritage Bureau

NHB File ID: NHB16-1691

Town: Franconia

Location: Tax Maps: 000020-000001

Description: Acquisition of property

As requested, I have searched our database for records of rare species and exemplary natural communities, with the following results.

## Comments:

### Natural Community

State <sup>1</sup>	Federal	Notes
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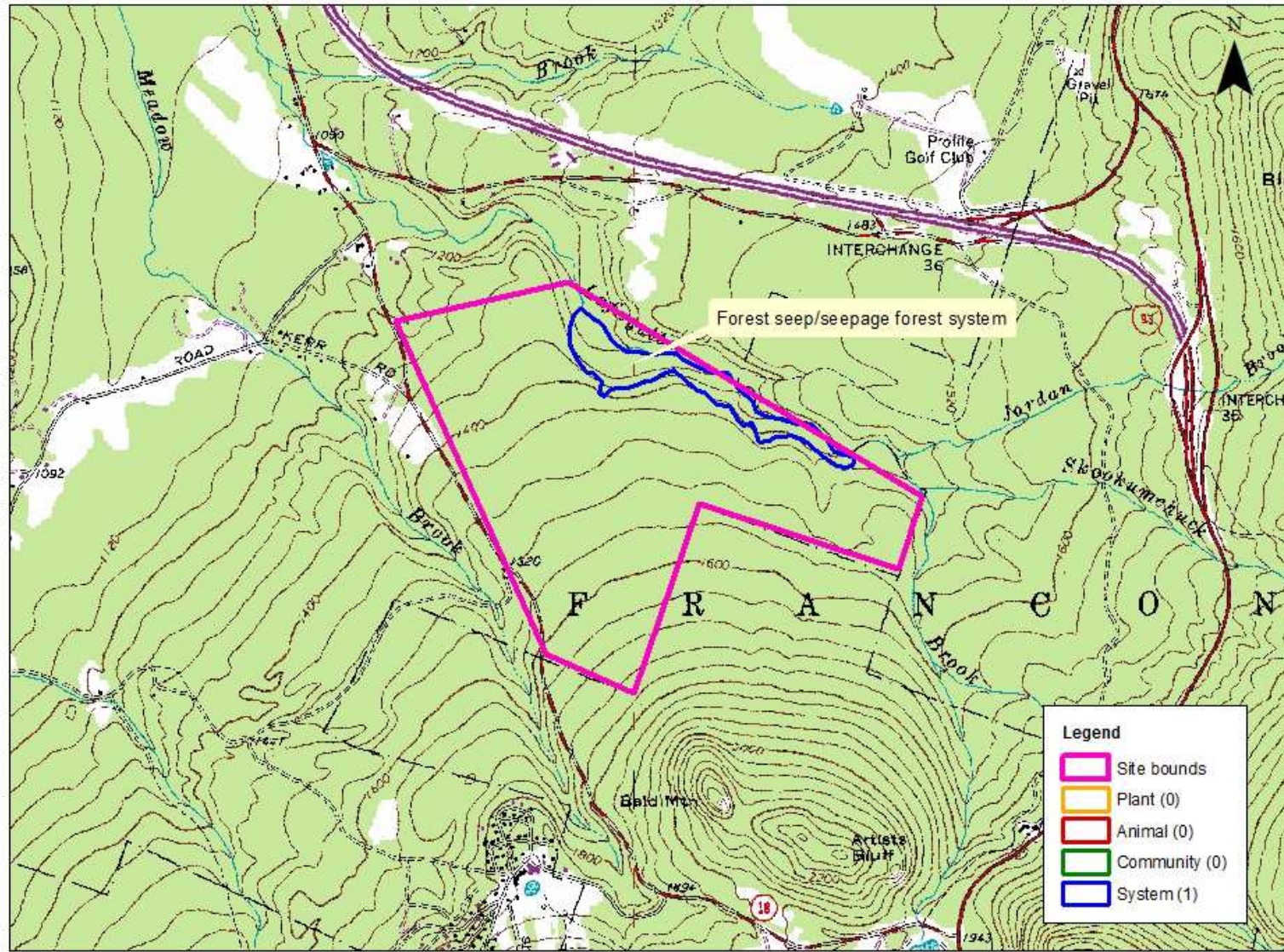
Forest seep/seepage forest system	--	--
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<sup>1</sup>Codes: "E" = Endangered, "T" = Threatened, "SC" = Special Concern, "--" = an exemplary natural community, or a rare species tracked by NH Natural Heritage that has not yet been added to the official state list. An asterisk (\*) indicates that the most recent report for that occurrence was more than 20 years ago.

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A negative result (no record in our database) does not mean that a sensitive species is not present. Our data can only tell you of known occurrences, based on information gathered by qualified biologists and reported to our office. However, many areas have never been surveyed, or have only been surveyed for certain species. An on-site survey would provide better information on what species and communities are indeed present.

# NHB16-1691



## New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau - System Record

## Forest seep/seepage forest system

**Legal Status**

Federal: Not listed  
State: Not listed

**Conservation Status**

Global: Not ranked (need more information)  
State: Rare or uncommon

**Description at this Location**

Conservation Rank: Not ranked  
Comments on Rank:

Detailed Description: 2015: Extensive network of **northern hardwood seepage forest**, **northern hardwood - black ash - conifer swamp**, and **subacid forest seep** communities on north-facing slope above Lafayette Brook. Of the mapped acreage, roughly 50-60% is comprised of these wetland communities, with the remainder being upland forest. The **northern hardwood seepage forest** comprises the largest percentage of the system. Its canopy is composed of a variable mix of species, including yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), and white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), with black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*) frequent in the understory. The herb layer is lush, with dominant species including northeastern mannagrass (*Glyceria melicaria*), eastern rough sedge (*Carex scabrata*), and bristly-stalk sedge (*Carex leptalea*). Other frequent herbs include foam-flower (*Tiarella cordifolia*), cinnamon fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*), interrupted fern (*Osmunda claytoniana*), dwarf raspberry (*Rubus pubescens*), northern wood sorrel (*Oxalis montana*), sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), and lady fern (*Athyrium angustum*). **Subacid forest seeps** are frequent throughout the system, where small openings support a dense herbaceous layer. Characteristic species include eastern rough sedge (*Carex scabrata*), dwarf raspberry (*Rubus pubescens*), spotted touch-me-not (*Impatiens capensis*), small enchanter's-nightshade (*Circaea alpina*), foam-flower (*Tiarella cordifolia*), lady fern (*Athyrium angustum*), and long beech fern (*Phegopteris connectilis*), among many others. The **northern hardwood - black ash - conifer swamp** occupies a small portion of the system on a flat terrace. The thin canopy is comprised of balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*), yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), and red spruce (*Picea rubens*). The herbaceous layer is lush, and characterized by bristly-stalk sedge (*Carex leptalea*), wood horsetail (*Equisetum sylvaticum*), northeastern mannagrass (*Glyceria melicaria*), sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), woodland strawberry (*Fragaria vesca* ssp. *americana*), dwarf raspberry (*Rubus pubescens*), and foam-flower (*Tiarella cordifolia*).

General Area: 2015: This system occurs on the lower end of a north-facing slope above Lafayette Brook. These slopes and the terraces above are on deep sandy outwash, which contributes to the extensive seepage. The slopes and terraces above are dominated by white pine (*Pinus strobus*) and hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), many of which have attained impressive size (20-30" dbh).

General Comments:  
Management  
Comments:

**Location**

Survey Site Name: Lafayette Brook  
Managed By: White Mountain National Forest

County: Grafton  
Town(s): Franconia  
Size: 28.7 acres Elevation:

Precision: Within (but not necessarily restricted to) the area indicated on the map.

Directions: 2015: From I-93 in Franconia, take NH 18 west and then northwest for roughly 2 miles. On the right

is a woods road into the property. The system occurs on the northern edge of the property, on the lower slopes just above the south bank of Lafayette Brook.

**Dates documented**

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First reported: 2015-08-05

Last reported: 2015-08-13