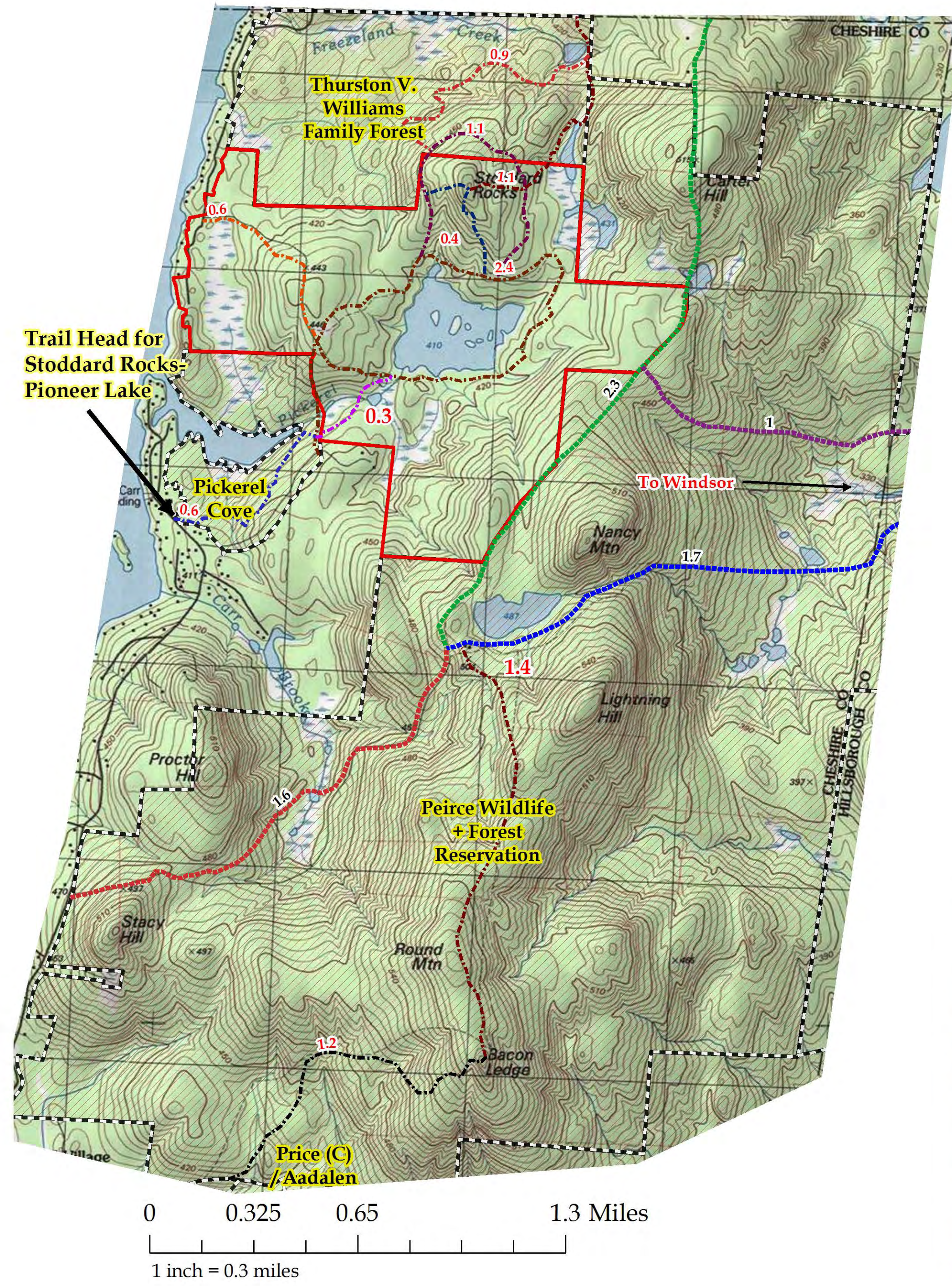


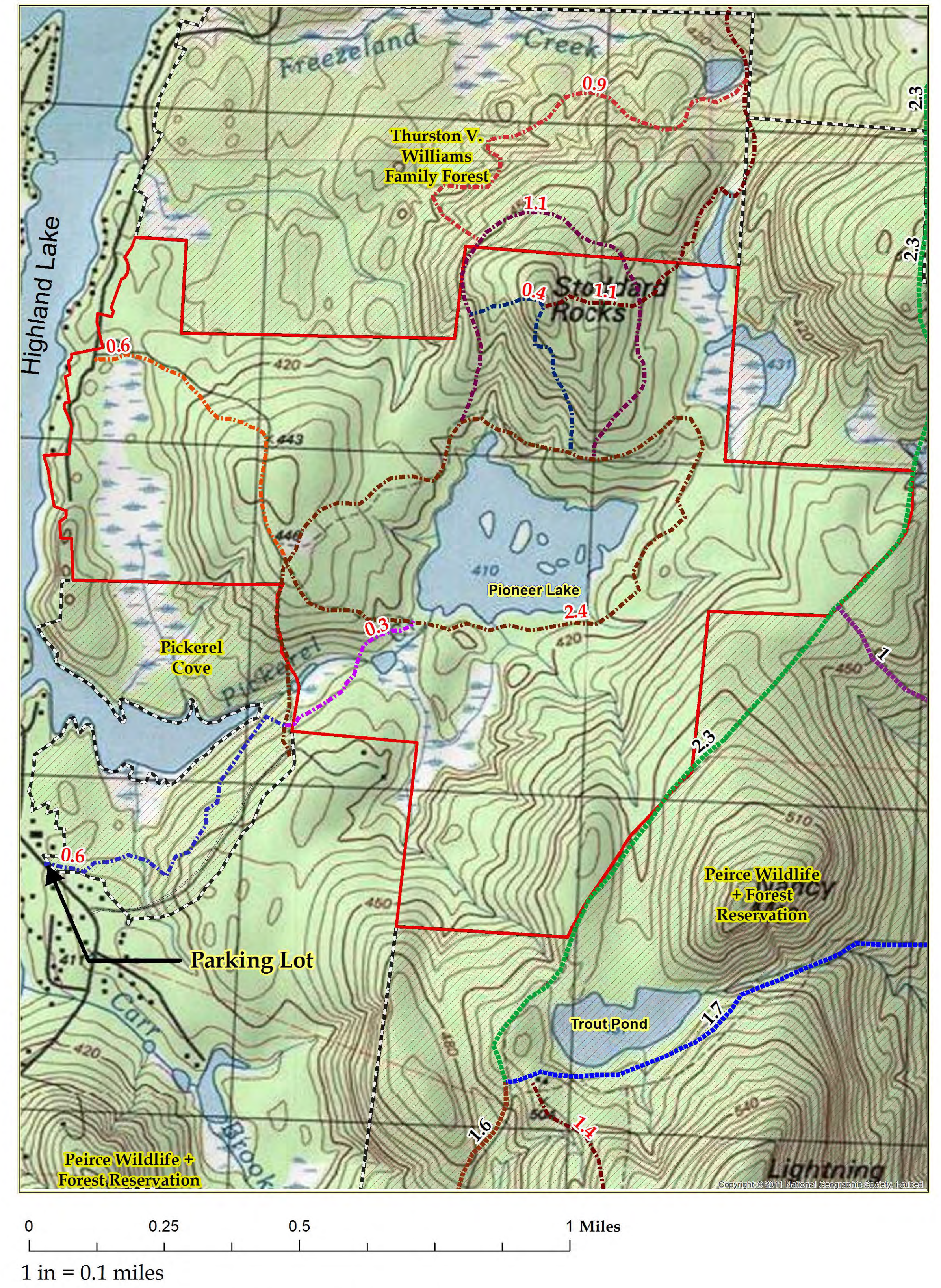
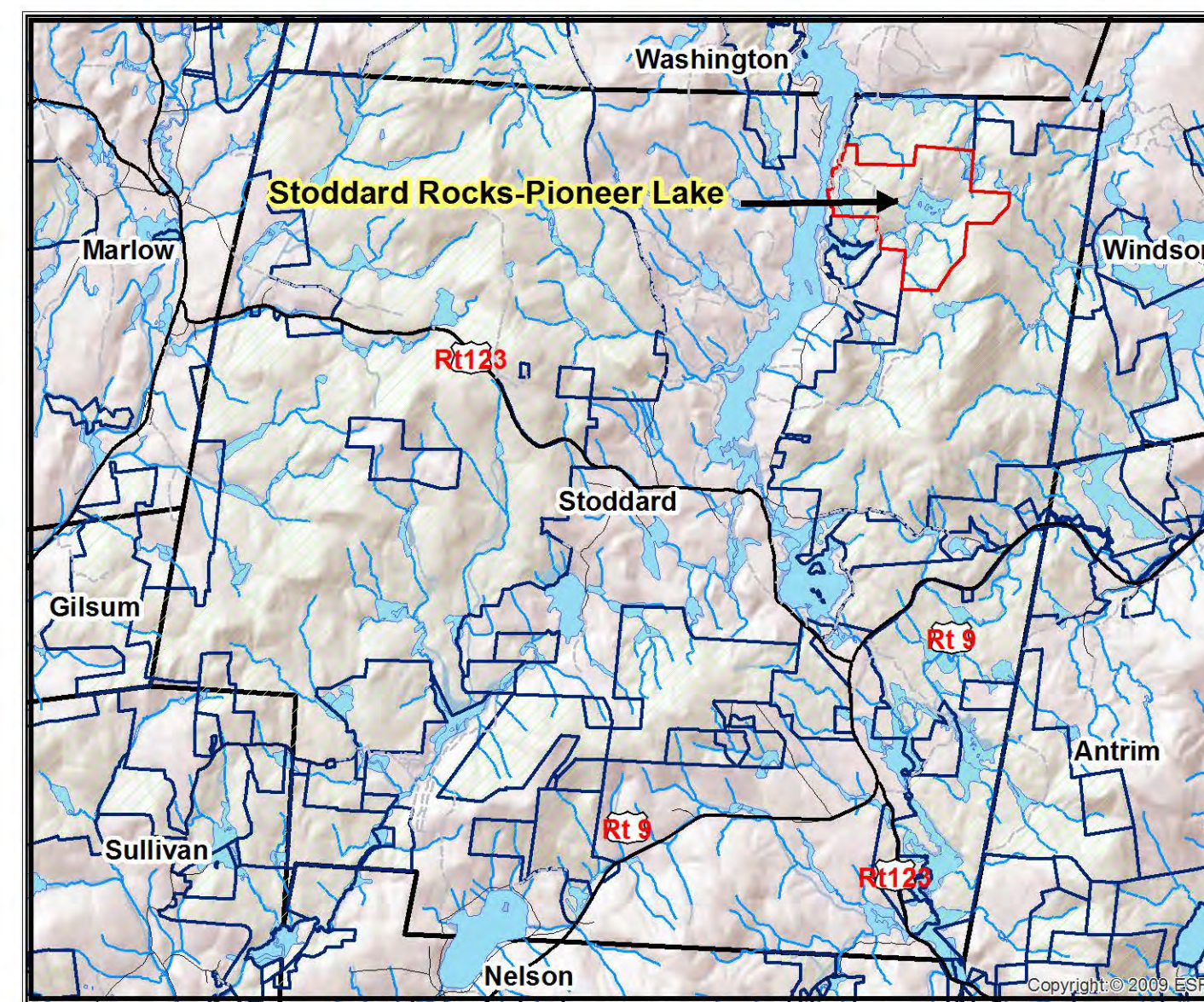
Welcome to Stoddard Rocks/Pioneer Lake

Linking Trails



Conservation Land, Trails, and Roads	
Conservation Land Trails	
Trail Names (Trails are measured in MI)	
	Bacon Ledge Trail
	Middle Stoddard Rock Trail
	North Apple Orchard Trail
	North Stoddard Rock Trail
	North Stoddard Rock Western Spur Trail
	Outer Stoddard Rock Loop
	Pickrel Cove Trail
	Pioneer Lake Dam Trail
	Pioneer Lake and Apple Orchard Trail
	Trout Pond Trail
Peirce Woods Roads	
Route Names (Routes are measured in MI)	
	Black Pond North Route
	Shed Hill - Trout Pond
	Trout Pond - Washington
	Trout Pond - Windsor
	Windsor Loop (not seen here)
	Dodge Farm Rd (Private)
	Stoddard Rock-Pioneer Lake
	Society for the Protection of NH Forest

Location Map



Welcome to Stoddard Rocks-Pioneer Lake Reservation



In 2012, this 731-acre tract of land was donated to the town of Stoddard by Sweet Water Trust. Once threatened by development and posted against trespassing, Stoddard Rocks and the surrounding lands are now open to the public for hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and wildlife observation. In 2010, a "Forever Wild" conservation easement was placed on this property and granted to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. Wildland areas do not have to be pristine areas untouched by man; they can heal or "rewild" ... as this area eventually will.

A "Forever Wild" designation seeks to protect the ecological integrity and the wild character of land, where human manipulation is minimal. Wildlands are "absolutely essential to the conservation of biodiversity. For example, some species in the northeast, including a number of neo-tropical migrant birds, certain lichens, and probably many species of invertebrates and fungi that we barely understand, thrive within mature or old growth forests that contain complex structural conditions such as a variety of size- and age-classes of trees, an abundance of standing and fallen woody debris, and intact soils that take hundreds of years to develop". Entire landscapes do not need to be "locked up" and completely off-limit to human use. However, they should be a significant component of the conserved lands. In Stoddard, of the 21,520 acres (63% of the town) that have been permanently protected, over 6,400 acres (19% of the town) are in a "Forever Wild" designation making Stoddard unique and distinct!

History
If you look at one of local historian Charles Peirce's old maps of Stoddard, your eyes may be naturally drawn to the seemingly empty northeast part of town. Although dozens of cellar holes are scattered throughout this area, most settlers shied away from this part of town where "half the hills and more than half the rocks of Stoddard were." Ownership patterns swayed between few and many over the years, but the stubborn land yielded little development.

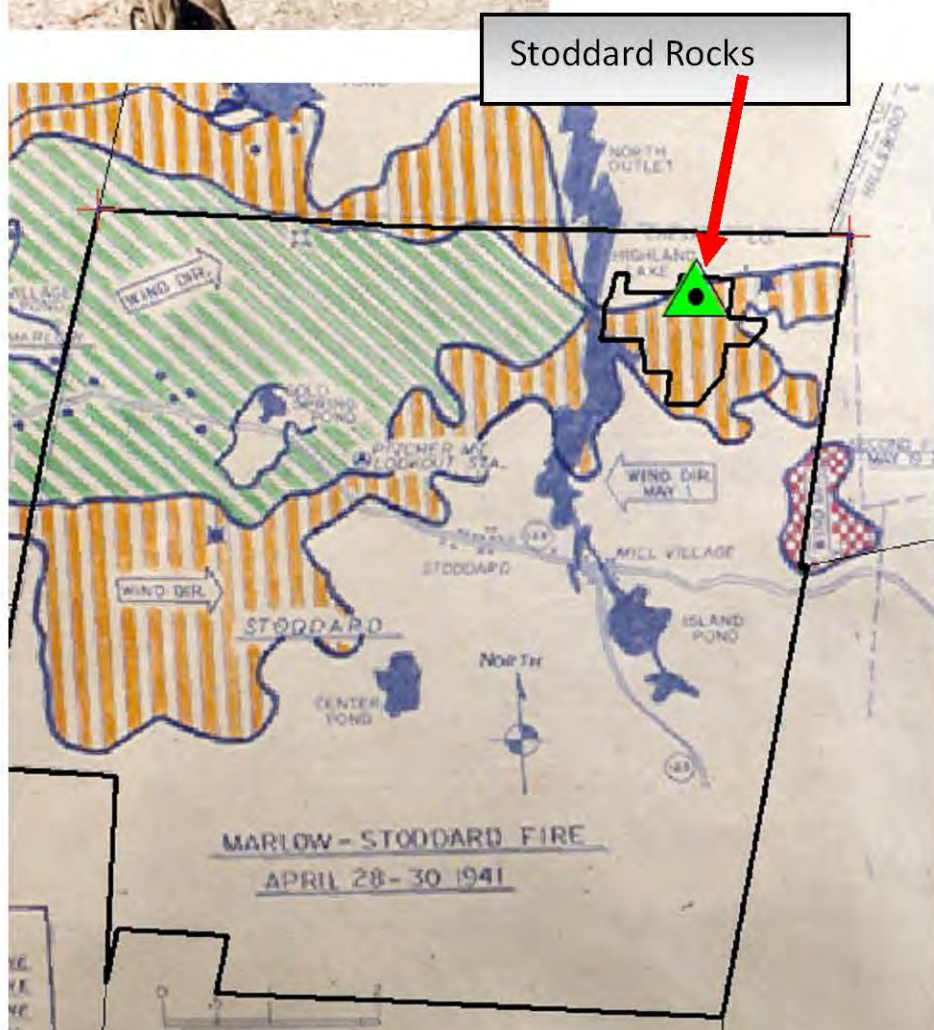


Stoddard Lumber:
In the 1850s, Christopher Robb founded Stoddard Lumber Company, located in South Stoddard in a place locally known as Cherry Valley. He built a stone dam at the lower end of what was called Mud Pond, which connected Stacey and Hutchinson Ponds into a 7-mile waterway called Long Pond (later changed to Highland Lake). Over a 50-year period, Robb purchased a belt of land 12,000 acres in size that encircled most of Long Pond and Island pond...including land you are about to hike. He used the waterways to transport logs from the woods to his mill.

Stoddard Rocks:
On a hill, formerly known as Chapman's Hill, several huge boulders, called glacial "erratics", comprised of Kinsman quartzmonzonite, were deposited during the last ice age. The largest boulder stands 35-feet tall and weighs an estimated 960,000 tons. When Charles Peirce viewed them for the 1st time, he identified their location when he made his first map of the town in 1902. Stoddard Rocks, as they are known today, are included on the USGS topographic maps.



Stoddard-Marlow Fire:
April of 1941 was the driest on record in over 60 years, having the highest average temperature and lowest rainfall since 1871. On April 28th, a fire broke out near Gustin Pond in Marlow. On the second day, the fire swept over Pitcher Mtn. and jumped across Highland Lake at the narrows near the entrance of Pickrel Cove. On the 3rd day it burned the top of Stoddard Rocks and headed up to Carter Hill, where an April snowstorm helped to extinguish the flames. Of the 24,000 acres that burned, over 10,000 acres were in Stoddard.

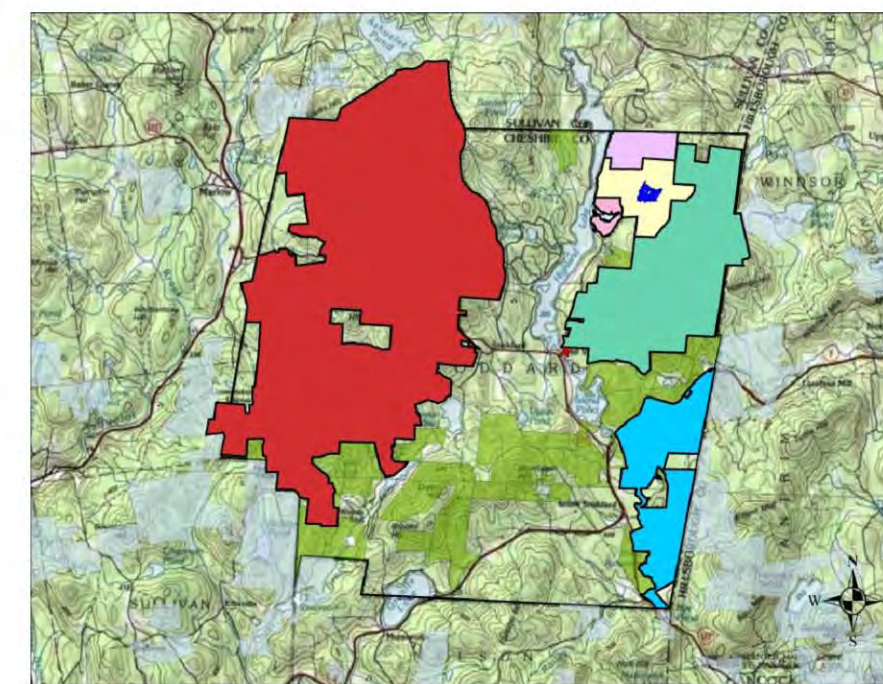


Evidence of the fire is represented in the stands of white birch and occasional charred white pine stumps scattered throughout this property.

Chronology of Land Protection

Stoddard is a small hilltop town perched on the high, rocky divide between the Connecticut and Merrimack River valleys. It was the last town in Cheshire County to be incorporated ... and it took a hardy people to do that. While its population is relatively small, geographically Stoddard is the second largest town in Cheshire County. For the past 30 years, land protection efforts have resulted in 63% of the town being permanently protected through the generosity of private individuals and the efforts of several land trusts, including: The Society for the Protection of NH Forests, Sweet Water Trust, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Audubon Society of NH, the Harris Center, and the Trust for Public Land. Highlights of major land protection efforts in Stoddard are:

- In 1978 Betty Babcock made a lasting tribute to Stoddard historian Charles Peirce by donating to the Society for the Protection of NH Forests (SPNHF) 3,641 acres known as the Charles L. Peirce Forest & Wildlife Reservation (GREEN on map);
- In 1979 Thurston Williams donated the 379 acre Williams Family Forest, that included an old growth hardwood forest (LILAC on map);
- In 1991, the Faulkner family placed a conservation easement on 11,000 acres of Andorra Forest ~ protecting the "stag haunted highlands & heart" of Stoddard (RED on map);
- In 1991 townspeople protected 123 acres surrounding Pickrel Cove from 94 units of fancy summer homes around the cove by raising \$95,000. Had this property been developed then, in all likelihood, so too would Pioneer Lake. This parking lot and trail to Pioneer Lake is on the Pickrel Cove property (PINK on map);
- In 1994 SPNHF encouraged Sweet Water Trust to buy 731 acres, including Pioneer Lake and Stoddard Rocks ~ essentially "filling in the hole of the donut" and ending the threat of development (YELLOW on map);
- In 2006 the Trust for Public Land in cooperation with the NH Audubon & Harris Center protected 1,668 acres surrounding Robb Reservoir ~ which in the 1980s was eyed as a large housing development. Town residents also voted to contribute \$50,000 to this conservation effort (BLUE on map);
- Since 1979, approximately 21,520 acres representing 63% of the town, have been permanently protected (ALL COLORS on map);
- In the spring of 2011 Sweet Water Trust approached the Town about transferring Stoddard Rocks to the conservation commission for long term management. At the May 17th, 2011 Town Meeting, residents voted unanimously to accept the property with a \$50,000 stewardship fund from Sweet Water, as well as adding \$10,000 to the stewardship fund. The letter below best chronicles the town's sentiment:



Highlights of Stoddard Rocks:

- 731 acres (110 acres of wetlands and ponds; 621 acres of forests);
- Stoddard Rocks ~ a hilltop scattered with huge glacial boulders;
- 50-acre Pioneer Lake with 2 miles of undeveloped shoreline and nesting loon habitat;
- 5+ miles of woods, roads & trails;
- "Forever Wild" conservation easement held by SPNHF, the purpose of which is to preserve the Ecological Integrity and wild character of the land. It strives to minimize human intervention and prohibits buildings, subdivisions, trapping, motorized vehicles, and commercial logging;
- Part of a 13,000 acre block of abutting protected lands.

Goal of Town Ownership:

To provide a stronger link and sense of stewardship between townspeople and conservation lands.

Acknowledgements:

- The residents of Stoddard are perennially grateful to the generosity of Sweet Water Trust for protecting this land in 1994 and donating it to the town in 2012 along with a \$50,000 stewardship fund;
- The residents of Stoddard appreciate the collective land protection efforts of other conservation groups and land trusts, including the Society for the Protection of NH Forests (in particular for allowing this parking lot on their Pickrel Cove property), The Nature Conservancy, the Harris Center, NH Audubon & Trust for Public Land, who collectively have helped protect two thirds of the town of Stoddard from development;
- The voting residents of the town for supporting these conservation efforts at town meeting.

This property is managed by the Stoddard Conservation Commission

You are entering a large, wild area and are responsible for your own safety. While we strive to maintain trails for public use, we believe there is value in the lessons learned by experiencing the "rewards and penalties for wise and foolish acts that a woodsman faces on a daily basis, but the likes of which our modern lives have built a thousand buffers" ~ paraphrased from Aldo Leopold (forester, wildlife biologist, conservationist, author).

To volunteer for trail work: contact the Conservation Commission

For a map of this property & other public trails in town visit

<https://sites.google.com/site/stoddardconcom/>

Please consider making a gift to the Stoddard Conservation Stewardship Fund

Please use this area with respect

TOWN OF STODDARD
1400 ROUTE 123 NORTH
STODDARD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03664
TEL: 603.486.1230 FAX: 603.486.7979
Incorporated 1774

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Eve Endicott
Executive Director
Sweet Water Trust
1 Short Street
Northampton, MA 01060

Dear Eve,

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that at last evening's 2011 Town Meeting, the residents of Stoddard passed by unanimous vote (voice ballot, no dissents) the following Articles:

Article 13: To see if the town will vote to accept a donation of conservation land from the Sweetwater Trust identified as Tax Map 104, Lot 11 and Tax Map 404, Lot 2 consisting of about 750 acres to be administered and managed by the Stoddard Conservation Commission.

Article 14: To see if the town will vote to establish an Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of maintaining the property referenced under Article 13, and to appropriate the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars for this purpose with \$10,000 to be raised by general taxation and the balance of \$50,000 to be provided by a grant from the Sweetwater Trust, and to name the Conservation Commission and the Board of Selectmen together as agents to expend from Fund. (Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

Charles Peirce, a long-time resident and historian of the town was an ardent advocate of preserving the town's history. He spent over sixty years walking and working the hills of Stoddard, collecting and assembling historical information on cellar holes, old roads and other ruins onto a series of magnificent maps. There is no better tribute to his efforts and concerns than by protecting the land that harbors these cultural artifacts and by protecting the wild character of this town. Sweet Water Trust has done much through your land protection efforts and through the efforts of national partners like TNC and TPL, who never would have discovered Stoddard, had it not been for your efforts.

As I mentioned previously, I believe that there are pivotal points in a town's history where an event helps to galvanize a community towards a higher purpose. The gift of Stoddard Rocks and Pioneer Lake provides the common ground and "purpose" that citizens from all walks of life can come together on.

In addition to forming a closer connection and understanding between people and the land, I think this gift will also serve as a basis for establishing "common ground" on other issues in town, that until now have proven to be elusive.

For this, the current and future residents (both tame and wild) will be forever grateful and eternally in your debt.

Thank you for your trust, faith and generosity.

Sincerely,

Stoddard Conservation Commission

George J. Jones, Chair

Scott Semmens, Vice-Chair

Paul Crosby, Secretary

Matt Wheeler
Selectman

John Halter

Arnold Stymiest

Louis GrandPre

Thank You!

DATA SOURCES: The New Hampshire Hydrography Dataset (NHHD) is a feature-based database that interconnects and uniquely identifies the stream segments or reaches that make up the state's surface water drainage system. The NHHD, developed at 1:24,000 scale, is an extract from the high-resolution National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) housed at the US Geological Survey and archived in the NH GRANIT database. ROAD CENTERLINES were mapped by the NH Dept. of Transportation (NH DOT) and provided to NH GRANIT in digital form. The data was last transferred, May 12, 2011. Base maps linked with aregisonline.com including the USA TOPO (Esri and National Geographic Society) and World Shaded Relief (Esri). The Trail and Routes were digitized by Geoffrey Jones and modified by R. Scott Semmens. Digital data in NH GRANIT represents the efforts of the contributing agencies to record information from the cited source materials. Complex Systems Research Center (CSRC) under contract to the Office of State Planning (OSP), and in these data, OSP, CSRC, Esri, nor Geoffrey Jones makes any claims as to validity or reliability or to any implied uses of these data. Stoddard Rocks-Pioneer texts were created by Geoffrey Jones. Map and general layout created by R. Scott Semmens.