

# John Presbury Norton Farm

**West Tisbury,  
Massachusetts**



*Approved by the West Tisbury Town Advisory Board (June 19, 2007)*

*Approved by the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission (June 25, 2007)*

*Approved by the Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (July 27, 2007)*

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## Executive Summary

The John Presbury Norton Farm is in the town of West Tisbury, Massachusetts north of State Road at its intersection with Old County Road. It is an extensive reservation of farm fields and woodlands. It also is a long-awaited trail link between the Manuel F. Correllus State Forest and the numerous land bank properties off Lambert's Cove Road to the north.

The property comprises 99.6 acres of shrub swamp, agricultural fields, pine woodland and oak-beech woodland. The pine and oak-beech woodlands compose the greater portion of the property at 65.1 acres while the smaller shrub swamp that abuts Wompesket Preserve contributes 3.4 acres. The land bank owns the woodlands and shrub swamp in fee-simple. The 31 acres of agricultural fields are privately owned with agricultural restrictions held by the land bank. The management plan does not address the fields as they are subject to a separate agricultural restriction.

Limited surveys for lepidoptera indicate at least one Massachusetts-listed species is known to occur on the property. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Documented occurrences of listed wildlife species on the farm are limited by the low intensity of surveys performed on the property. A more robust sampling effort in the future may lead to additional listed species observed on the farm.

Extensive plant surveys indicate one watch-listed plant species – [REDACTED] – occurs on the property. A few isolated [REDACTED] occur in the oak-beech woodland of the property. Red pine occurs along State Road and is also a watch-listed species. However, red pine is watch-listed as a native plant in native habitat and not as an introduced species or escapee from plantations. Extensive planting of red pines occurred on the Vineyard during the 50s and 60s primarily in the state forest and often along major roadways such as State Road on the island.

The John Presbury Norton Farm is connected to other conservation land by trail easements and ancient ways, viz., the land bank's Wompesket Preserve, Blackwater Pond Reservation, Ripley's Field Preserve and Hillman's Point Preserve; the Nature Conservancy's Hoft Farm property; and the Vineyard Open Land Foundation's Cranberry Acres.

The land bank purchased its interest here from Katharine Sterling on August 15, 2003 for \$6,941,650.00.

This management plan proposes moderate public use that includes 1.5 miles of trails for hiking, horseback-riding, non-motorized bicycling, bird watching and other similar passive recreational uses. A minimum of a six-vehicle trailhead is proposed off State Road. Category "B" hunting and a woodlot program also are proposed for a portion of the property. Removal of invasive species and thinning of the vegetation along State Road at its intersection with Old County Road are additional goals of the management plan.

All planning goals, objective and strategies are outlined in detail in the final section of this management plan. To be implemented, this plan must be presented at a public

hearing and approved by the land bank's West Tisbury town advisory board, the Martha's Vineyard land bank commission and the secretary of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.

## **About the Authors**

Julie Russell (Schaeffer) is the primary author and has been the land bank ecologist since August 1999. She is certified as a Wildlife Biologist by the Wildlife Society. She holds a Master of Science in zoology from the Cooperative Wildlife Research Lab at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, and a B.S. in wildlife biology from the School of Natural Resources at the University of Vermont. Property foreman Matthew Dix has worked on land bank properties since 1990. He attended the School of Natural Resources at the University of Vermont and has extensive knowledge of the region's natural history and local geography. Jeffrey Komarinetz began as a conservation land assistant in March 2000, Vernon Welch began as a conservation land assistant in March 2002 and James Dropick began as a conservation land assistant in February 2006. Maureen McManus-Hill has been the administrative assistant since June of 2006; she has a B.A. in economics from Lafayette College.

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## I. Natural Resource Inventory

### A. Physical Characteristics

#### 1. Locus

John Presbury Norton Farm is located at roughly 41° 45' 57.2888"N latitude and 70° 38' 31.9056" W longitude. The property consists of approximately 99.6 acres. The property is shown as West Tisbury tax parcel nos. 10-194.1 and -194.2 and 7-194.3. The **Locus Map** is a section of the USGS Vineyard Haven quadrangle topographic map from 1972 (Massachusetts Geographic Information System – MassGIS); an **Aerial Photograph** that was taken in 2003 follows this map (MassGIS 2003). Both appear in Appendix A.

#### 2. Survey Maps

Sourati Engineering Group, a registered land surveyor, prepared a survey of this property dated May 27, 2003. Larger copies of these surveys are on file at the land bank office and are available for inspection by appointment. Deeds, preliminary management goals and reduced copies of surveys are included in Appendix B.

#### 3. Soils and Geology

The **General Soils Map** (Appendix C) depicts general classes of soils across Martha's Vineyard. A star indicates the location of the John Presbury Norton Farm. The property occurs in soils that generally originated from outwash atop Martha's Vineyard moraine and Martha's Vineyard moraine atop Gay Head moraine with two smaller areas of soils originating from Gay Head moraine and outwash from Martha's Vineyard moraine; all are Pleistocene soils (Soil Conservation Service (SCS) 1986). The soils are sandy, nearly level and well drained in the upland and fine sandy loam, moderately drained in the wetlands of the property. The dominant soils on the farm are well suited to woodland productivity and farming; often are found in wooded areas; and are suitable for paths and trails for hiking and horseback-riding (SCS 1986). Details are included in Appendix C.

#### 4. Topography

The land of the John Presbury Norton Farm gradually ascends to the north with a general rise from 100 feet above sea level in the woodland along State Road to 150 feet above sea level in the shrub swamp abutting Wompesket Preserve. The topography of the property is illustrated in the USGS Vineyard Haven quadrangle labeled Locus Map in Appendix A.

## **5. Hydrology**

The wetland resource areas of the John Presbury Norton Farm predominantly occur in the northern portion of the property and include the shrub swamp that abuts the wet meadow and ponds of Wompesket Preserve. The shrub swamp contains areas of open water and a small stream that surfaces and disappears beneath the dense tangle of briers and shrubs. The woodlands along State Road are predominantly dry apart from a vernal pool that exists in the oak-beech woodland south of the private driveway and a small patch of pines. The vernal pool is oval and approximately 100 by 40 feet; although it may vary in size depending on the time of year and the amount of rainfall.

## **6. Ecological Processes**

Succession and invasion of exotic species are the two general ecological processes occurring on the John Presbury Norton Farm. The ecological communities – pine woodland, oak-beech woodland – are undergoing woodland succession. The shrub swamp is a hotspot for invasion by exotic species. Additional information regarding ecological succession on the property is included in Appendix D.

## **B. Biological Characteristics**

### **1. Vegetation**

Three cover types compose the John Presbury Norton Farm and are described in detail in Appendix D. These three cover types are dispersed between two general vegetation communities: woodland and shrubland. The oak-beech woodland (44.7 acres) and pine woodland (20.4 acres) compose the woodland community and the shrub swamp (3.4 acres) represents the shrubland community. A small oval vernal pool (0.06 acres) exists in the oak-beech woodland.

A total of 104 plant species are known to occur on John Presbury Norton Farm and they account for 10% of all known plants occurring on Martha's Vineyard (Swanson and Knapp 1997). The oak-beech woodland cover type contributes the greatest to the floristic richness of plants occurring on the farm and is represented by 57% of the total number of plant species known to occur on the property (Appendix D, Table 1). Species richness is the number of species present in a community (Begon et al. 1990).

No Massachusetts-listed plant species is known to occur on the property. The shrub swamp supports a large volume of invasive plants on the farm including oriental bittersweet, Japanese honeysuckle and multiflora rose.

Additional data regarding methods used for sampling, a brief description of each habitat as well as a table of the flora of the John Presbury Norton Farm are included in Appendix E



## 2. Wildlife Habitat

Quality of wildlife habitat on the John Presbury Norton Farm depends on the characteristics of the vegetation communities. Direct observation of wildlife occurrences and signs throughout the year were the basis for understanding the habitat value at the John Presbury Norton Farm. A state-listed invertebrate species – [REDACTED] – was trapped in the shrub swamp. Two species, the raccoon and striped skunk, were observed as roadkill at the intersection of State Road and Old County Road. A complete list of wildlife species known to occur on the property is included as Appendix F.

### (a) *Invertebrates*

Sixty-three invertebrate species are known to occur on the property. A notable species of lepidoptera was observed in the shrub swamp on the farm – the Baltimore checkerspot. The population of Baltimore checkerspot observed on the farm and abutting Wompesket Preserve is the largest and most stable population of this species on the island according to Matthew Pelikan, a local naturalist (Pelikan 2007). Common woodland spiders such as wolf spider and eastern daddy-long-legs and biting insects such as mosquitoes, deer flies and ticks are common to the property during the spring and summer months. More detailed information regarding invertebrates on the farm is included in Appendix F and G.

### (b) *Amphibian and Reptiles*

Land bank staff conducted one amphibian calling survey following methods described by Scott and Woodward (1994) to survey breeding frog species in the vernal pool and shrub swamp. Spring peepers were audible in the vernal pool as well as in the shrub swamp.

### (c) *Birds*

A total of 37 avian species are known to occur on the John Presbury Norton Farm. The presence of occasional migrant and resident birds throughout the fall migration and spring migrations and breeding season were recorded during a total of 16 to 20 visits (four to five visits per season) to the sampling points located in the pine woodland, oak-beech woodland, and shrub swamp. All birds seen or heard during the five-minute period were recorded. Birds seen or heard outside of the count period were noted as present on the property but were not included in quantitative analyses. A breeding owl survey was conducted in March of 2004 at 9 pm using a Johnny Stewart Bird Wildlife Caller. Results of these surveys are included in Appendix H.

(d) *Mammals*

Five mammal species were observed on the John Presbury Norton Farm. Two species – the raccoon and striped skunk – were observed as roadkill at the intersection of State Road and Old County Road. A complete list of mammal species is included in the wildlife table in Appendix F.

(e) *Rare and Endangered Species*

The Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) designates that the shrub swamp is located within Priority Habitat of Rare Species and Estimated Habitat of Rare Wildlife. Details about the various species and a copy of the Endangered Species Map are in Appendix I.

## C. Cultural Characteristics

### 1. Land History

“There is a serene and settled majesty to woodland scenery that enters into the soul and delights and elevates it, and fills it with noble inclinations.” Washington Irving.

In 1747 Eliakim Norton<sup>1</sup> purchased some 20 acres of land formerly known and still sometimes called Chickemmoo, from Ebenezer Allen, and thus began the presence of the Norton clan in West Tisbury for the next one hundred and fifty years. Eliakim<sup>1</sup> and his brother Peter<sup>1</sup> came to own over 120 acres jointly, and some 400 acres individually throughout Martha’s Vineyard.

In 1791, Eliakim Norton<sup>1</sup> granted to his son, also named Peter<sup>2</sup>, a large tract of land in Chickemmoo. Peter<sup>2</sup> married Elizabeth Athearn and they had several children including sons – Eliakim<sup>2</sup>, John Presbury, and Horatio<sup>1</sup>– to name a few. Peter<sup>2</sup> took after his father, Eliakim<sup>1</sup>, and lived to quite an old age, at 81. Preceding his death, he deeded to his three sons land to the north of Ice House Pond (also known as Old house Pond), east of Takamy line, west of Savage’s Line and north of Holmes Hole Road (Dukes County Registry of Deeds Book 26, page 83) The land was split into thirds and Horatio, a yeomen, was given an area of land that includes what is currently known as “Long View”; Eliakim<sup>2</sup>, also a yeomen, was given land in the general area of what is primarily known now as “Buttonwood Farm” as well as a woodlot along the north side of State Road; and John Presbury, a mariner who lived in Edgartown, was deeded an abutting ±38 acre woodlot to the east also on the north side of State Road plus more than 100 acres of farmland some of which is currently owned by Katherine Sterling (over which a portion thereof is in an agricultural restriction held by the land bank). As the primary landowner here, John Presbury Norton is the individual after whom the land bank property is named. In 1866, John Presbury Norton granted to his daughter, Hannah P. Coffin, all his real estate holdings in Tisbury, which was the entire 1/3 of his father’s estate or 150 acres. For the next 36

years the Peter Norton homestead was sold bit by bit out of the family and ultimately into the hands of Francis Foster.

Francis Foster in 1927 willed to the Federation of Bird Clubs of New England, 600 acres to be conserved as a wildlife bird reservation of which a portion included the deceased Peter Norton homestead. He also included enough funds to maintain the reservation. Mr. Foster planted the white pines in the woodlots for the reservation. Mr. Foster later recanted the wildlife reservation. According to his final will he wrote, "having lived almost continuously on this property since April, 1920, and being thoroughly familiar with its bird life, I have come to the conclusion that the variety of birds inhabiting it permanently or temporarily is not of such scope as to warrant its being set aside as a bird sanctuary" (Foster y.o.d. 1966) In 1952 a portion of Francis Foster's lots were sold to Ruth Emerson Jackman Braun, who sold the farmland and two woodlots along the north side of State Road to Mary & Henry Hotchkiss. The Hotchkisses sold to Katharine Sterling & John deWolfe Hall in 1970. Ms. Sterling was granted the property by her husband and sold approximately 100 acres to the land bank either in fee-simple or agricultural restriction for \$6,941,650 in 2003.

The land use history of the John Presbury Norton Farm property is centered on its use as woodlands. The earlier deeds refer to two areas of the property as woodlots. During the 17<sup>th</sup> century woodland was set aside as woodlots for the proprietors to use as a source of firewood and timber. During the early 20<sup>th</sup> century woodlands were an integral part of much larger subsistence farms. During the great depression in the 1930s island farmers relied on subsistence farming (Smith, Elisha 2006). Farmers needed land for crops to grow corn and oats for making flour and ultimately bread; land for pasture of sheep for wool and cows for dairy products; and woodland for a dependable source of firewood and timber. The property is set among several other farming lands such as the Cottle family farm, Tashmoo Farm and a dairy farm owned by Silas Merry.

## **2. Planning Concerns**

The land bank must address four primary concerns when planning for the management of the John Presbury Norton Farm:

(a) *Wetlands Protection Act.*

The following areas on the farm are protected by the wetland's protection act: stream (310 CMR 10.04); isolated land subject to flooding/vernal pool (310 CMR 10.57); and bordering vegetated wetland (310 CMR 10.4). The intermittent stream, shrub swamp (bordering vegetated wetland), vernal pool and a 100-foot buffer around the resource area and bordering wetland are subject to the jurisdiction of the West Tisbury Conservation Commission. A filing of a Department of Environmental Protection Notice of Intent is necessary prior to the control of invasive species in the shrub

swamp; no other resource area is impacted by proposed activities in the management plan.

(b) *Massachusetts Endangered Species Act:*

The shrub swamp is located within Priority and Estimated Habitat for Rare Species as defined by NHESP. The control of invasive species in the shrub swamp may trigger a Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) Project Review filing.

(c) *Planning Board, West Tisbury:*

The access drive to the trailhead will need the approval of the West Tisbury planning board according to the deed restrictions attached in Appendix B.

(d) *Deed covenants:*

Deed covenants attached to the deed in book 963, page 855 is included in Appendix B.

### **3. Abutters**

A list of those owning land abutting or within 200 feet of the John Presbury Norton Farm appears as Appendix J.

### **4. Existing Use and Infrastructure**

The following are existing uses:

(a) *Woodlot:*

The woodland along State Road was used as a woodlot.

(b) *Driveway:*

The prior owners retain an exclusive easement for access in the existing road that weaves through the woodland on the farm. Details of the easement exist in the deed in Appendix B.

## **III. Inventory Analysis**

**In this section, problems and opportunities that may arise in the management of the John Presbury Norton Farm are analyzed.**

### **A. Constraints & Issues**

#### **1. Ecological Context**

John Presbury Norton Farm is a property of regional conservation significance. It establishes a link to other corridors of conservation land. A portion of the property is designated as Priority and Estimated Habitat for Rare species and the woodland and farmland meet habitat requirements for several rare species located in the Priority and Estimated habitat to the north.

#### **2. Natural Resource Concerns**

There are four main areas of concern at John Presbury Norton Farm, each briefly addressed below and then addressed in more detail in the land management section of the plan:

(a) *Rare species:*

The woodland and vernal pool provides non-breeding and in some cases nesting habitat for a variety of rare species that occur in designated priority habitat to the north of the woodland.

(b) *Invasive species:*

The shrub swamp is adjacent to a wet meadow on an abutting land bank property – Wompesket Preserve. The wet meadow is habitat for the largest and most stable population of Baltimore checkerspot on the Vineyard. Although this is not a rare butterfly in

Massachusetts it is uncommon on the Vineyard and according to the Matthew Pelikan, a local expert, it has been sighted at only a few other locations. Other notable Vineyard finds at Wompesket are the Dreamy Duskywing (*Erynnis icelus*) which prefers willow and poplars (Glassberg 1999) and the Appalachian brown (*Satyroides Appalachia*) which prefers shrub swamp edge and grasses (Pelikan 2007). The wet meadow at Wompesket is threatened by encroaching invasive, exotic species. The abutting shrub swamp on the farm is habitat for various invasive exotic species and provides a source for invasion into the wet meadow.

(c) *Vernal pool:*

Vernal pools provide habitat to frogs, turtles, and salamanders. The Forestry Habitat Management Guidelines for Vernal Pool Wildlife (HMG) provides methods for protecting vernal pool habitat (Calhoun and deMaynadier 2004). Amphibians and reptiles that use the vernal pool for breeding also use the upland woodland during the non-breeding season. Species travel different distances from vernal pools during migration from breeding grounds therefore it is equally important to protect the surrounding woodland of a vernal pool in addition to protecting the vernal pool itself. The HMG suggests a 100' protection zone and a 100-400-foot amphibian life zone from the spring high water mark of the pool. The recommended guidelines for the protection zone include maintaining a minimum canopy cover of 75% of trees 20-30 feet tall and uniformly distributed; timber harvest only during frozen or completely dry periods; and avoidance of heavy machinery. The recommended guidelines for the amphibian life zone include maintaining a minimum average of greater than 50% canopy cover of 20-30-foot-tall trees that are uniformly distributed; avoiding shifts in forest cover type; harvesting only during frozen or dry periods; and avoid disturbing fallen logs (Calhoun and deMaynadier 2004).

(d) *Ground birds:*

Several of the birds that occur at the John Presbury Norton Farm are ground gleaners and some are ground nesters. For example, the eastern towhee and oven bird are ground nesters and many of the warblers and sparrows are ground gleaners. These birds are especially threatened by animals such as raccoons, skunks and domestic cats and dogs.

### 3. Sociological Context

The John Presbury Norton Farm is located along the widely traveled State Road to the south and connects to Wompesket Preserve at its farthest northeastern end. It provides an important trail link between the Manuel F. Correllus State Forest and conservation land off Lambert's Cove Road. The trails in and around the farm provide the public with alternatives to walking or bicycling on the much-traveled State Road.

#### **4. Neighborhood Concerns**

The land bank considers the concerns of the neighbors as part of the planning process. All abutting property owners are sent written notice of a public hearing on the draft plan. All neighbors – and all members of the public – are invited to review the draft plan, attend the public hearing, and make written or oral comments, either to the land bank commission, the town advisory board and the land bank staff.

### **B. Addressing Problems and Opportunities**

#### **1. Land Bank Mandate**

In 1986, the voters of Martha’s Vineyard created the land bank to acquire, hold and manage land in a predominantly natural, scenic, or open condition. The land bank keeps open space open and allows modest public use. Its “shared-use” policy strives to provide a range of public benefits, from low-impact recreation and aesthetics to wildlife conservation and watershed protection. Protection of natural resources is the land bank’s highest priority, yet “shared-use” demands balancing the use of natural resources with protection of the same.

#### **2. Goals at Purchase**

Seven of the nine types of property eligible for purchase under the land bank law occur here: agriculture, forest lands, wetlands, scenic vista, nature or wildlife preserve, easements for trails and publicly owned land and land for passive recreation. Preliminary management plans were adopted by the land bank commission and West Tisbury town advisory board and are attached as Appendix B.

#### **3. Opportunities**

- (a) *Access:* The public may access the farm from Blackwater Pond via trail easements and Wompesket Preserve; and from a proposed 6-vehicle trailhead located within 200 feet of State Road in the woodland of the farm.
- (b) *Birding:* The woodland and edge habitat provide good vantage points for birdwatching especially during the spring and fall migrations.
- (c) *Ecological:* The John Presbury Norton Farm offers an opportunity to increase biological diversity and protect a valuable nearby resource by controlling invasive species in the shrub swamp.
- (d) *Firewood:* The Farm’s extensive woodlands are a potential fuelwood resource for island residents and could be managed under a community woodlot program if the need arose.

(e) *Hunting*: The woodland portion of the farm is well suited to hunting as it is far from residential dwellings; however, discharge of an arrow or firearm within 150' of a State Road is prohibited. The woodland is open and can be designated a category "b" property, meaning that general hunting of deer, geese, pheasant, and raccoon would be allowed. The shrub swamp is unsuitable to hunting as it is densely vegetated, wet, and close to a residential dwelling. Discharge of a firearm and arrow are prohibited within 500 feet of an occupied dwelling.

(f) *Trails*: The proposed trails of the farm offer the walker, bicyclist, Nordic skier and equestrian the chance to travel within the farm; travel through the farm to nearby conservation properties; and travel along State Road.

#### 4. **Universal Access (UA)**

John Presbury Norton Farm is flat and therefore well suitable in terms of topography for creating a universal access trail and trailhead; however, the remote location of the trailhead from any major amenity makes it impractical for UA on this property. The properties Recreational Opportunities Spectrum (ROS) classification is "less-developed". Details are contained in Appendix J.

### III. Land Management Planning

**This final section of the management plan states goals for John Presbury Norton Farm and outlines strategies for achieving them. These goals and strategies are designed to fit within the social and ecological constraints defined previously. The plan addresses five areas of planning concern: nature conservation, recreation and aesthetics, natural products, community interaction and land administration.**

#### A. **Nature Conservation**

**Provide long-term protection for plants, animals and natural processes occurring at John Presbury Norton Farm.**

**Objective 1 Protect and encourage rare and endangered species on the farm.**

*Strategies:*

- a. Monitor for rare plants and animals on the property during regular property checks.
- b. Develop and implement a strategy to protect any additional rare species observed on the property.
- c. Maintain cavity nesting trees with dbh > 10 to protect barn owl nesting habitat.



- d. Protect vernal pool habitat with buffers to protect eastern spadefoot toad habitat.
- e. Limit timber harvest to winter months to protect eastern box turtle.
- f. Post signs at signs station informing visitors of the potential state-listed box turtle habitat including language instructing visitors to leave any encountered animals untouched.
- g. Maintain and create small clearings in woodland to promote rare plant habitat.
- h. Promote wet meadow habitat in shrub swamp where invasive species are removed to expand habitat for threatened [REDACTED].

**Objective 2 Control the spread of invasive plants.**

*Strategies:*

- a. Cut, uproot, and mow where possible invasive plants such as oriental bittersweet, Japanese honeysuckle and multiflora rose.
- b. Control regrowth by cutting, uprooting, and mowing invasive plants during the growing season and prior to seed or flower.
- c. Properly dispose of collected invasive species.
- d. Monitor for re-growth and spread into nearby land bank wet meadow.

**Objective 3 Protect the value of the farm as potential breeding habitat for amphibian and reptiles**

*Strategies:*

- a. Define vernal pool depression at spring high water and measure all buffers from this mark.
- b. Provide vernal pool with a 100-foot protection zone from timber harvest and trails.
- c. Provide a 100-400-foot amphibian life zone around the pool as defined by the species using the pool that includes limiting timber harvest resulting in no less than 50% canopy cover of trees 20-30 feet tall; harvest timber during frozen or dry periods; and not using heavy equipment.

**Objective 4 Reduce and control erosion of trails.**

*Strategies:*

- a. Install water bars where necessary.
- b. Reroute or temporarily close trails where necessary.

**Objective 5 Promote habitat characteristics that make the farm desirable to migrating and breeding wildlife.**

*Strategies:*

- a. Retain snags in woodland where these trees do not pose unacceptable safety or fire hazard.
- b. Retain perching trees along edges of woodland and in shrub swamp.
- c. Promote wet meadow habitat in areas where invasive species were removed in shrub swamp.
- d. Require dogs to be leashed during bird nesting season from April through August, approximately.

**Objective 6 Maintain existing plant communities and encourage new communities to provide a range of habitat requirements to wildlife species.**

*Strategies:*

- a. Maintain the property in its present wooded and wetland state.
- b. Encourage wet meadow habitat in areas where invasive species are removed in shrub swamp.
- c. Monitor changes in vegetative cover during regular property checks and by updating ecological inventory by 2017.

**Objective 7 Reduce forest fire danger in woodlands.**

*Strategies:*

- a. Monitor for and reduce “ladder” fuels, as necessary.
- b. Prohibit open flame fires on the farm.

**Objective 8 Explore filling excavated pits in pine woodland near proposed trailhead**

*Strategies:*

- a. Determine cost of filling the two larger pits.
- b. Fill with clean soil.

**B. Recreation and Aesthetics**

**Allow limited, low-impact recreational use of the area for hiking, bicycling, horseback-riding, bird watching and Nordic skiing provided that these uses do not preclude attainment of nature conservation objectives**

**Objective 1 Create a six-vehicle trailhead with the option to expand along State Road**

*Strategies:*

- a. Direct visitors, in the land bank map, to access the property trailhead from State Road.
- b. Direct visitors, in the land bank map, that they may also access the farm by using the Blackwater Pond Reservation trailhead and by following a variety of land bank trails and trail easements across private property.
- c. Construct trailhead within 200 feet of State Road (see Site Management Map).
- d. Request a permit for trailhead access from the West Tisbury planning board due to its proximity to the Katharine Sterling driveway.
- e. Locate trailhead according to the Site Management Map or elsewhere dependent on the West Tisbury planning board.
- f. Use ¾ inch dense mix to create one universal access trailhead space.
- g. Install a sign station at the trailhead.
- h. Install a small land bank logo post along State Road.
- i. Expand trailhead at the recommendation of land bank staff in response to use and with the approval of the land bank commissioners.

**Objective 2 Create a loop trail in the woodland and connection to a trail easement, as shown on the Site Management Map**

*Strategies:*

- a. Create trail network as shown on the Site Management Map:
  - 1. make trail corridors six feet wide and eight feet tall when possible;

2. free trails of rocks, roots and other obstacles where practical;
  3. install erosion control measures where needed;
  4. mark trails with colored markers;
  5. site trails so that they are as unobtrusive as possible to nearby homes and prospective homesites; and
  6. site trails so that they connect, as well as possible, to the Old Holmes Hole Road and the Stoney Hill Road.
- b. Allow land bank staff the discretion to close, relocate and add new trails, such as spur trails to connect to future trail easements or conservation lands.
  - c. Work with the Massachusetts State Highway Department to locate a portion of the trail along State Road within the road layout (see Site Management Map).
  - d. Allow a third party, either the town or a regional institution but in any event not the land bank, to install an asphalt (or lesser) path, for transportation purposes, along State Road at a location satisfactory to the foreman and that in the meantime the land bank install an ordinary path roughly parallel and proximate to the State Road for conservation purposes.
  - e. Create trail easements according to deed covenants attached in Appendix B.
  - f. Allow multiple uses of trails where appropriate by hikers, Nordic skiers, horseback-riders and bicyclists.
  - g. Prohibit use of motorized vehicles by visitors, such as but not limited to dirt bikes and all-terrain vehicles, on the property.
  - h. Check and maintain trails on a regular schedule.

**Objective 3 Require visitors to abide by West Tisbury town dog bylaws with the exceptions that dogs be leashed during the summer nesting season for birds, approximately April –August.**

*Strategies:*

- a. Allow unleashed dogs, provided they are within voice control, throughout the year, except for avian breeding season (April through August) and when using trail easements on the Farm, during which time all dogs are required to be leashed.
- b. Encourage visitors to clean up after their pets.

- c. Post the dog policy on the sign station as visitors enter the property at the trailhead and from Wompesket.
- d. Indicate the dog policy in the map under the description for the property.

## **C. Natural Products**

**Allow use of the property for hunting and as a community woodlot provided that natural conservation goals are not precluded**

**Objective 1 Allow category “B” hunting on the woodland portion of the farm**

*Strategies:*

- a. Allow category “B” hunting on the farm except for the shrub swamp due to its proximity to a residential dwelling.
- b. Post hunting regulations clearly at all sign stations during hunting season.
- c. Consult with hunting subcommittee regarding lottery limits for deer shotgun season.

**Objective 2 Create a community woodlot program if such a need arises**

*Strategies:*

- a. Consult with Massachusetts Regional Forester to develop a forestry plan for the woodland with the possibility of future use as a woodlot the goal.
- b. Develop community woodlot program if such a need arises and with approval of land bank commission.

**Objective 3 Prohibit camping**

*Strategies:*

- a. Prohibit camping on the property unless special permission is granted by the land bank commission for a particular reason such as a request by the Boy Scouts of America or a local school.
- b. Remove un-permitted campers from the property promptly.

## **D. Community Interaction**

**Provide helpful and interesting information about the property to visitors; allow educational use of the property; and work with the local police department to create a safer intersection between State Road and Old County Road.**

### **Objective 1 Help people find the property and avoid trespassing**

#### *Strategies*

- a. Include property on land bank map as one that allows hiking, bicycling, horseback-riding, Nordic skiing, and hunting.
- b. Clearly mark property boundaries.
- c. Limit trespassing by marking boundaries as trails reach them.
- d. Install gates or fencing as needed.
- e. Provide directions to nearby conservation land.
- f. Post map of property and trails as well as an aerial overview of connecting conservation land and trails on sign station.

### **Objective 2 Maintain good relations with abutters and neighbors**

#### *Strategies:*

- a. Establish contact and working relationship with neighbors.
- b. Maintain contact and working relationship with West Tisbury conservation commission and planning boards.
- c. Adhere to deed covenants and agreements included in Appendix B.

### **Objective 3 Activate trail easements**

#### *Strategies:*

- a. Activate trail easements with access to existing conservation areas.
- b. Maintain links to other conserved properties.

- c. Create links to other conserved land.

**Objective 4 Present useful and interesting information about John Presbury Norton Farm to the public**

*Strategies:*

- a. Provide the West Tisbury public library and conservation commission with copies of this management plan if so desired.
- b. Make copy of this plan available at the land bank office.
- c. Inform the public of the educational use of this property through the superintendent office and the Martha's Vineyard Environmental Education Alliance.
- d. Post information about habitat and species at the trailhead.

**Objective 5 Improve visibility at intersection between State Road and Old County Road per request of West Tisbury Police Department**

*Strategies:*

- a. Mow understory vegetation where necessary to improve visibility along State Road boundary of the property at its intersection with Old County Road.
- b. Work with the West Tisbury Police Department and State Highway Department to remove individual trees to improve visibility along State Road at the intersection with Old County Road.

**E. Land Administration**

**Oversee and police John Presbury Norton Farm on a regular basis and develop good neighborhood relations**

**Objective 1 Keep property well-maintained**

*Strategies*

- a. Inspect property on a regular basis
- b. Clean up any litter and junk which may occur
- c. Promptly respond to problems
- d. Employ adequate staff to effectively implement land management goals



## **Objective 2 Maintain set hours for use**

### *Strategies*

- a. Open property every day of year from sunrise to sunset; except close the property to the non-hunting public during the deer shotgun season.
- b. Prohibit nighttime use of trailhead per deed covenant.
- c. Post “closed at dark” signs on the sign stations.

## **Objective 3 Keep well-maintained boundaries**

### *Strategies*

- a. Locate corners and walk boundaries annually.
- b. Keep photographic record of corners.
- c. Post boundary flags where appropriate.
- d. Correct encroachments as they occur.

## **Objective 4 Keep good records of all land management activities and natural events**

### *Strategies*

- a. Record and keep on file all significant events natural or otherwise.
- b. Continue to update plant and animal inventories.
- c. Maintain photographic record of landscape appearance.

**Objective 5 Comply with all applicable regulations and agreements**

*Strategies:*

- a. Comply with Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and Endangered Species Act.
- b. Comply with any applicable local conservation by-law and zoning regulation.
- c. File a notice of intent with the West Tisbury Conservation Commission regarding invasive exotic species control in shrub swamp that is within the resource area and bordering buffer zone.
- d. Adhere to deed restrictions and agreements located in Appendix B.

**Objective 6 Post signs at the sign station that explain the rules of the property**

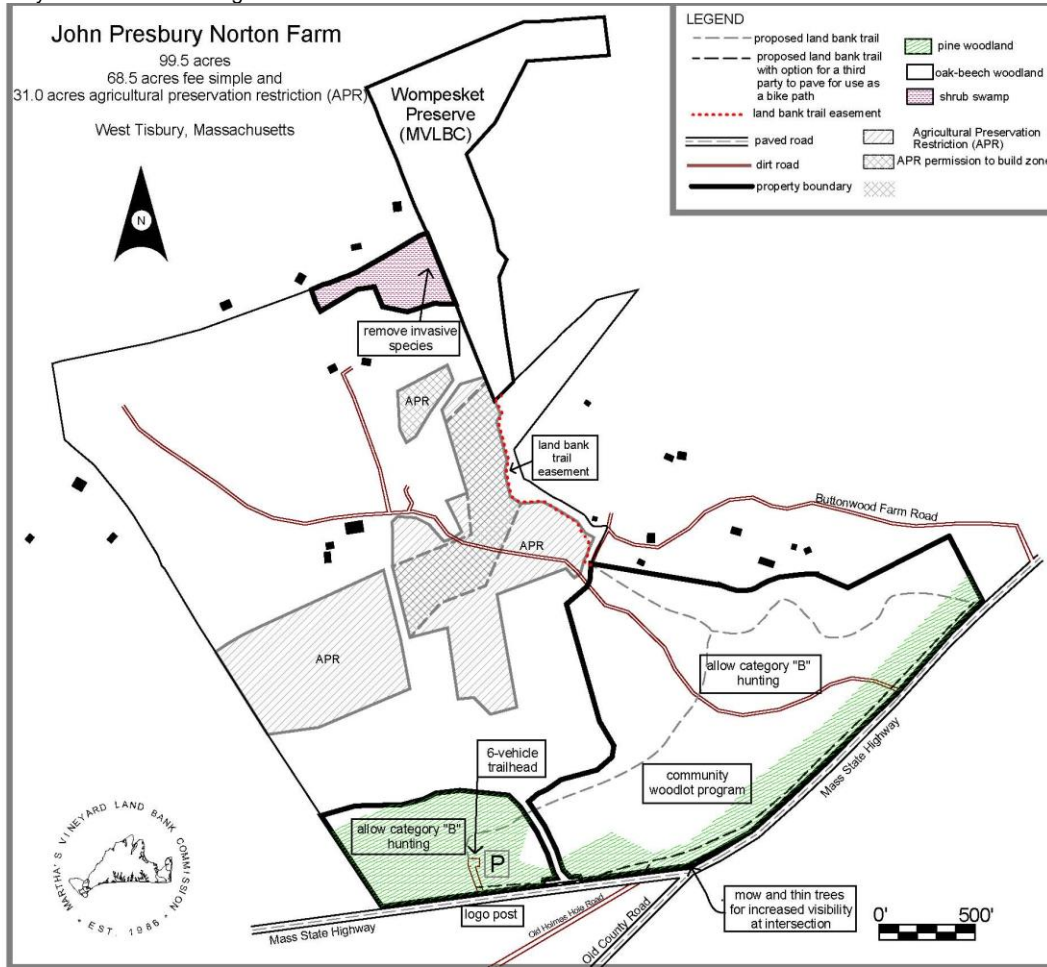
*Strategies:*

- a. Post property's dog policy.
- b. Post hours the property is open.
- c. Post the activities allowed and prohibited on the property.

**IV. Site Management Map**

Site management map is located on the following page.

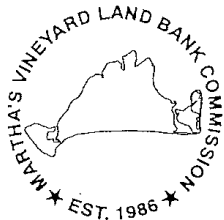
John Presbury Norton Farm Management Plan



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January 27, 2003



# Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission

## preliminary management plan

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <i>acreage</i>                   | 103.0 acres (approximately)  |
| <i>tax parcel nos.</i>           | West Tisbury tax parcel nos. 8-1 and 10-194 [portion]  |
| <i>nature conservation goals</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) conduct biological survey of property to serve as base for formulation of management objectives.</li> <li>(2) identify rare and endangered species, if any, and create plan to protect and encourage their populations.</li> </ol>  |
| <i>natural products goals</i>    | (1) designate property as a category "b" property in the land bank's hunting policy, which means that general hunting will be allowed (eligible species here will be deer, geese, pheasant, rabbit and raccoon).   |
| <i>recreational goals</i>        | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) choose appropriate location for trailhead, with space to accommodate at least six vehicles.</li> <li>(2) open property for hiking, biking (nonmotorized), horseback-riding and other passive recreational uses.</li> <li>(3) work to connect property with other conservation areas and neighborhoods by means of trails and nearby roads.</li> </ol> |
| <i>public safety goals</i>       | (1) allow the creation of a path pa-   |

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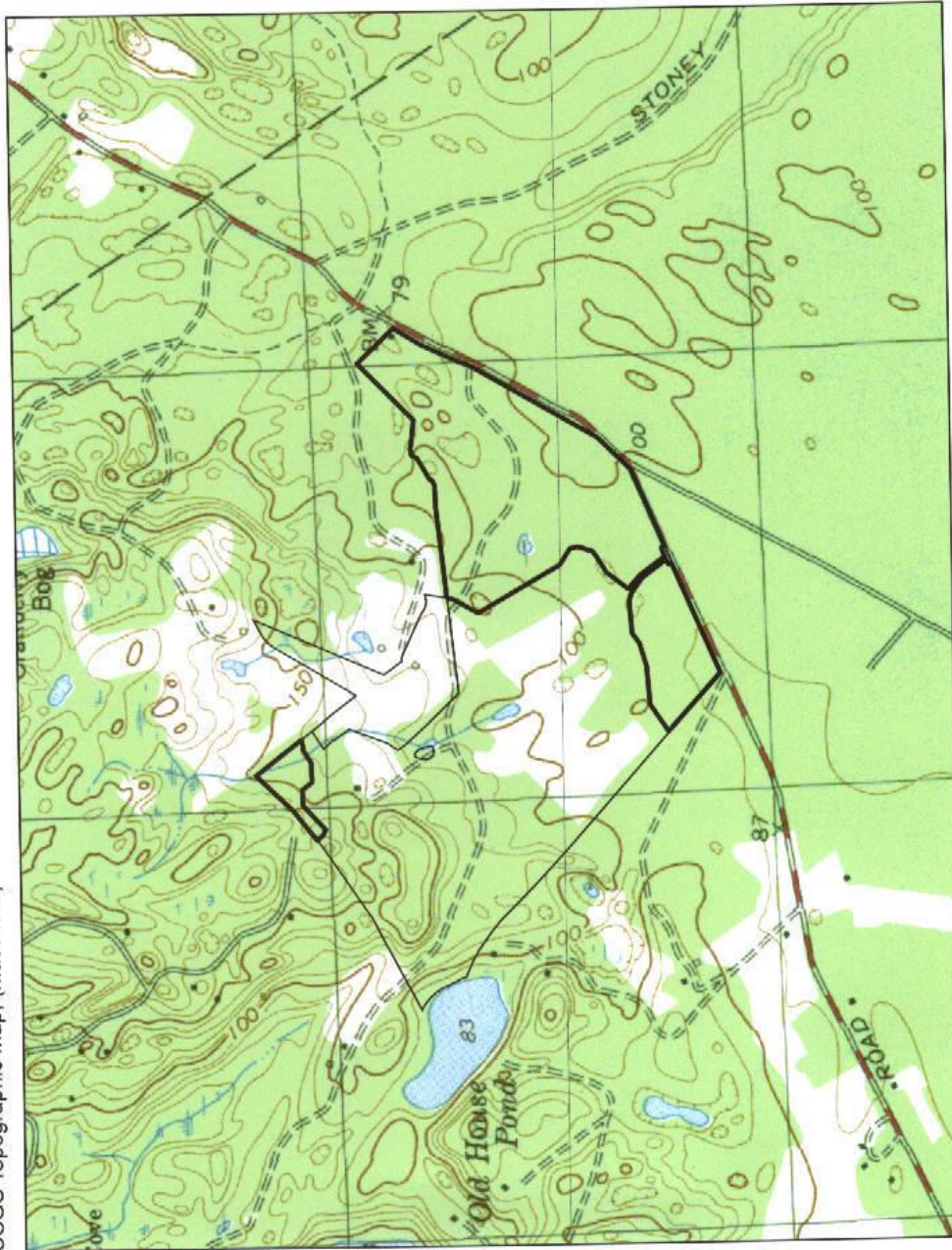
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## Appendix A – USGS Topographic Map and Aerial Photograph of the Farm

Appendix A



John Presbury Norton Farm, West Tisbury  
USGS Topographic Map, (Mass GIS)





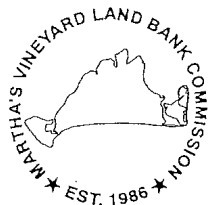


John Presbury Norton Farm, West Tisbury  
Aerial Photo, (Mass GIS 2003)





## Appendix B – Deeds, Agreements and Surveys



January 27, 2003

### Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission

preliminary management plan

<i>acreage</i>	103.0 acres (approximately)
<i>tax parcel nos.</i>	West Tisbury tax parcel nos. 8-1 and 10-194 [portion]
<i>nature conservation goals</i>	(1) conduct biological survey of property to serve as base for formulation of management objectives.  (2) identify rare and endangered species, if any, and create plan to protect and encourage their populations.
<i>natural products goals</i>	(1) designate property as a category "b" property in the land bank's hunting policy, which means that general hunting will be allowed (eligible species here will be deer, geese, pheasant, rabbit and raccoon).
<i>recreational goals</i>	(1) choose appropriate location for trailhead, with space to accommodate at least six vehicles.  (2) open property for hiking, biking (nonmotorized), horseback-riding and other passive recreational uses.  (3) work to connect property with other conservation areas and neighborhoods by means of trails and nearby roads.
<i>public safety goals</i>	(1) allow the creation of a path pa-

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rallel to the State Road front-  
age

- (2) allow the clearing of the wooded area opposite the intersection of the State and Old County Roads, in order to expand sight distances for motorists

*administrative goals*

- (1) oversee and police land on regular basis in order to maintain property as an attractive conservation area
- (2) complete management plan before December of 2004

approved by vote of the West Tisbury town advisory board: January 21, 2003

approved by vote of the land bank commission: January 27, 2003

NO. 281782  
 DATE 8/15/83  
 CERTIFICATION  
 EXEMPT \$  
 PAID \$  
 MARTHA'S VINEYARD LAND BANK FEE

BOOK 963 PAGE 0855

Quitclaim Deed

With quitclaim covenants, Katharine P. Sterling of 97 State Road, West Tisbury, Dukes County, Massachusetts ("grantor"), in consideration for the sum of six million one hundred sixty-five thousand nine hundred dollars (\$ 6,165,900.00) paid, grants to the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission, a public body corporate established by Chapter 736 of the Acts of 1985, with a principal office at 167 Main Street, Edgartown, Dukes County, Massachusetts, and to the lawful successors of said body corporate according to the provisions of said Chapter, three certain parcels of land in the Town of West Tisbury, Dukes County, Massachusetts (being a part of those premises conveyed by deed of Hotchkiss December 15, 1970 Book 287 Page 80), bounded and described as follows:

Parcel One:

A certain parcel of land in West Tisbury bounded on the south by the Massachusetts State Highway, bounded on the west by land now or formerly of Robert Murphy, and bounded on the north and east by land of the grantor, traced on its perimeter by beginning at a concrete bound at the north side sideline of the Massachusetts State Highway at the south west corner of land of the grantor, and proceeding clockwise as seen from above over the following magnetic courses and distances in feet:

State Rd, West Tisbury, Mass. 02575

- Course: N 33-46-29 W Length: 571.00
- Course: N 74-11-49 E Length: 186.36
- Course: N 88-31-04 E Length: 245.73
- Course: N 75-28-01 E Length: 116.513
- Course: N 64-07-48 E Length: 70.434
- Course: N 83-16-09 E Length: 126.934
- Course: S 84-20-16 E Length: 254.722
- Course: S 45-30-06 E Length: 88.888
- Course: S 33-39-40 E Length: 146.965
- Course: S 26-24-28 E Length: 130.782
- Course: S 18-34-45 E Length: 111.227
- Course: S 30-28-31 E Length: 30.133
- Course: S 82-44-19 W Length: 70.335
- Course: S 05-53-54 W Length: 27.435
- Course: S 82-28-06 W Length: 35.303
- Course: S 82-25-23 W Length: 420.828
- Course: S 82-25-23 W Length: 379.149
- Course: S 83-02-14 W Length: 16.510

Thus returning to the point of beginning. The perimeter thus traced being 3029.239 feet, more or less, and the area of the parcel 513,128 sq. ft. or 11.780 acres, more or less.

This Parcel One also being that shown as "Lot 1" on Sheet 6 of a Plan of Land in West Tisbury Massachusetts prepared for Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission, May 27, 2003, and filed in the Dukes County Registry of Deeds at West Tisbury Case File 563.

Parcel Two:

A certain parcel of land in West Tisbury bounded on the south by the Massachusetts State Highway, bounded on the west and north by land of the grantor, and bounded on the east by land now or formerly of Spence, Hegarty, Kronstein and Baldwin, Katz and Gold as Trustees, and Reeves as Trustee, and traced on its perimeter by beginning at the north side sideline of the Massachusetts State Highway at a point 238.28 feet, more or less, to the east of a certain Massachusetts Highway Bound, and proceeding clockwise as seen from above over the following magnetic courses and distances in feet:

- Course: N 30-36-55 W Length: 22.401
- Course: S 84-21-07 W Length: 48.019
- Course: N 45-18-54 W Length: 52.506
- Course: N 18-34-45 W Length: 114.648
- Course: N 26-24-28 W Length: 137.372
- Course: N 33-39-40 W Length: 150.134
- Course: N 49-24-24 E Length: 64.145
- Course: N 65-28-25 E Length: 53.255
- Course: N 54-59-38 E Length: 89.862
- Course: N 75-03-05 E Length: 193.834
- Course: N 49-15-04 E Length: 104.140
- Course: N 09-04-56 E Length: 59.978
- Course: N 30-36-32 W Length: 147.649
- Course: N 15-23-10 W Length: 431.031
- Course: N 16-32-40 W Length: 205.314
- Course: N 49-25-48 E Length: 121.032
- Course: N 51-50-23 E Length: 18.606
- Course: N 24-05-13 E Length: 39.948
- Course: N 03-33-55 E Length: 85.517
- Course: S 80-28-34 E Length: 679.154
- Course: N 24-20-47 E Length: 3.000
- Course: S 68-55-05 E Length: 54.000
- Course: S 74-40-39 E Length: 39.267
- Course: S 88-05-07 E Length: 47.150
- Course: N 82-26-12 E Length: 32.398
- Course: N 68-19-59 E Length: 24.051
- Course: N 59-28-46 E Length: 36.724
- Course: N 63-22-39 E Length: 40.849
- Course: N 70-01-42 E Length: 58.108
- Course: N 82-40-16 E Length: 53.052
- Course: N 83-37-15 E Length: 38.732
- Course: N 84-04-15 E Length: 35.018
- Course: N 86-49-02 E Length: 47.165
- Course: N 89-35-36 E Length: 23.500
- Course: S 03-23-26 W Length: 3.000

Course: S 66-59-37 E Length: 178.408  
Course: N 62-58-57 E Length: 594.717  
Course: S 27-10-18 E Length: 380.650  
Course: S 44-53-47 W Length: 219.056  
Course: S 41-44-45 W Length: 437.001  
Course: S 46-06-38 W Length: 660.840  
Course: S 47-26-28 W Length: 397.043  
Course: S 61-26-28 W Length: 367.000  
Course: S 82-28-06 W Length: 565.314

Thus returning to the point of beginning. The perimeter thus traced being 7154.59 feet, more or less, and the area of the parcel being 2,322,741 sq. ft. or 53.32 acres more or less.

This Parcel Two also being that shown as "Lot 2" on a Plan of Land in West Tisbury Massachusetts prepared for Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission, May 27, 2003, and filed in the Dukes County Registry of Deeds at West Tisbury Case File 563.

Parcel Three:

A certain parcel of land in West Tisbury bounded on the south and west by land of the grantor, bounded on the north by land of Eric Whitman as trustee of the Bulrush Realty Trust, Eric Whitman as trustee, Geoffrey Currier and Joyce Gower and bounded on the east by land of the grantee Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission with which this parcel is combined. Said parcel is traced on its perimeter by beginning at a certain drill hole in a stone wall 45.56 feet, more or less, to the east of a drill hole at the vertex of a one hundred twenty degree angle in a stone wall as it joins the property boundary line of the grantor, and proceeding clockwise as seen from above over the following magnetic courses and distances in feet:

Course: N 65-41-04 E Length: 66.846  
Course: N 76-09-54 E Length: 36.469  
Course: N 67-32-17 E Length: 67.160  
Course: N 71-41-16 E Length: 33.786  
Course: N 67-15-55 E Length: 54.061  
Course: N 60-17-08 E Length: 225.468  
Course: N 58-59-34 E Length: 148.896  
Course: N 69-45-37 E Length: 43.755  
Course: S 20-53-07 E Length: 108.103  
Course: S 22-34-02 E Length: 292.822  
Course: N 88-39-29 W Length: 116.143  
Course: S 72-32-52 W Length: 144.314  
Course: N 78-21-29 W Length: 131.977  
Course: N 26-31-40 W Length: 24.959  
Course: N 21-20-28 W Length: 87.590  
Course: S 81-51-34 W Length: 90.015  
Course: S 59-19-52 W Length: 224.212  
Course: N 29-06-10 W Length: 52.671

conditions set forth in a Grant of Trail Easement between the same two parties for a trail on other premises of this date.

Indemnity for Use of Easement in Common:

Grantee Land Bank shall indemnify and hold harmless grantor, her successors and assigns, from any suit or claim of any kind whatsoever, without limitation, for any injury arising in connection with its use of the Easement in Common or trail across it, its use, its location, or work upon it.

Exclusive Easement for Access Retained by Sterling/Grantor in Existing Road:

Reserving to the grantor exclusively all rights of travel, use, occupancy and enjoyment in the road from the Massachusetts State Highway to retained land of the grantor that now exists and has been in existence since a time prior to the adoption of zoning regulation in the Town of West Tisbury, including, but not limited to, the right to pass and repass over said road, to place utilities under said road, and to use the road for all purposes of "access" and "frontage" rights that may benefit the retained land of the grantor, whether the land that descends to her in title from Henry and Mary Hotchkiss and is commonly known as West Tisbury Assessor's Parcel Map 10 Lot 194 or in land that descends to her in title from Robert Norton and then Robert Thomason and is commonly known as West Tisbury Assessor's Parcel Map 8 Lot 1.

Other provisions of this instrument notwithstanding, said road may be used by employees of the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission to maintain the adjoining premises of the Land Bank Commission.

Said road is shown on Sheets 5 and 7 of a Plan of Land in West Tisbury Massachusetts prepared for Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission, May 27, 2003, and filed in the Dukes County Registry of Deeds at West Tisbury Case File 563.

Easement Retained by Sterling/Grantor in Underground Wires Underneath Northwest Corner of Parcel Three:

Reserving to the grantor, her successors and assigns, the right to use and maintain underground electric and communication wires or optical fibers or similar buried underground ligaments of transmission in the approximate present location shown on Sheet 3 of the Plan of Land in West Tisbury Massachusetts prepared for Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission, May 27, 2003, and filed in the Dukes County Registry of Deeds at West Tisbury Case File 563.

Grantor for herself and her successors agrees that any maintenance of said wires shall be accomplished in a timely and

BOOK 963 PAGE 0861

Covenant Restricting Location of Trail Head by Grantee:

Grantee Land Bank agrees it will locate any "Trail Head" (or Parking Lot) within two hundred feet (200') of the Massachusetts State Highway and that it shall be used only during daylight hours.

Covenant of Reasonable Consultation Regarding Land Management Plan:

Grantee Land Bank has the usual practice of developing management plans for land it owns, and agrees it will provide to grantor copies of draft and final management plans and will consult to a reasonable extent with Grantor Sterling in preparing any management plan so as reasonably to avoid unnecessary conflicts between the use of the premises herein conveyed and the use of adjoining premises retained by the grantor.

Grantor's Title:

For the grantor Sterling's title in the premises, a part of which is herein conveyed, please see:

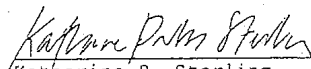
Conveyed as demised by:  
Deed of Francis A. Foster to Ruth Emerson Jackman Braun  
March 10, 1952 Book 221 Page 585 [Plan Book 7 Pages 2 and 3]

Less parcel conveyed by:  
Deed of Ruth Emerson Jackman Braun to Robert C. Norton  
August 31, 1957 Book 233 Page 290

Title in grantor by:  
Deed of Henry and Mary B.C. Hotchkiss  
December 15, 1970 Book 287 Page 80

And by:  
Deed of John deWolfe Hall  
October 3, 1976 Book 338 Page 516

WITNESS hereunto my hand and seal, this 15th day of August, 2003.

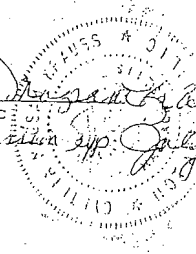
  
Katharine P. Sterling  
Grantor

BOOK 963 PAGE 0862

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Dukes County, ss.:

On this 15th day of August, 2003, before me personally appeared  
the above named Katharine P. Sterling, known to me, and  
acknowledged this instrument her free act and deed.

*Cynthia Margaret Bell*  
Notary Public  
My Commission exp. *July 1, 2004*





BOOK 963 PAGE 0873

Grant of  
Easement for Trail

With quitclaim covenants, Katharine P. Sterling of 97 State Road, West Tisbury, Massachusetts, for the sum of one dollar (\$1.00) paid, does grant to The Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission, a public body corporate established by Chapter 736 of the Acts of 1985, with a principal office at 167 Main Street, Edgartown, Dukes County, Massachusetts, and to the lawful successors of said body corporate according to the provisions of said Chapter, an easement right to pass and repass between land of the grantee Land Bank now known as the Wompesket Preserve and other land of the grantee today purchased on a trail over certain land of the grantor according to these described terms and conditions.

Location:

The easement shall run as here described,

From a certain existing barway in a stone wall that lies along the boundary between land of the grantee Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission commonly known as the Wompesket Preserve and as West Tisbury Assessors' Map 8 Lot 22.14 and land of grantor Katharine P. Sterling commonly known as West Tisbury Assessors' Map 8 Lot 1, which barway is 48 feet more or less northeasterly from a 71 degree 41 minute corner of a stone wall to its southwest,

Thence immediately along that stone wall to the described corner,

Thence easterly across land of the grantor, to the fence and to the easterly corner of the fence now around a plowed agricultural field, which corner is south of a stone barn foundation in a rise in land,

Thence easterly down that rise and then along a path forty feet south of a way known as "Old Traveled Way,"

Thence further easterly, southerly and easterly until entering land today granted from the grantor to the grantee that was once a part of land commonly known as West Tisbury Assessors' Map 10 Lot 194 at a place immediately south of a certain concrete bound that marks the southeast corner of the land commonly known as Map 8 Lot 1.

The location of the easement is more particularly described by the sketch plan attached hereto.

Width:

The easement shall be four feet wide.

Relocation:

Grantor, her successors and assigns may re-locate the easement and trail between the same two end points.

The trail as it is located embodies certain scenic values. The trail may not be relocated so as substantially to compromise those scenic values.

The trail will not be relocated without reasonable consultation with grantee Land Bank.

In the event the trail is relocated, sketch plans and any other associated memoranda of the re-location shall be recorded in the Dukes County Registry of Deeds and the rights herein described shall be thereafter located on the ground as thus described.

Maintenance of Trail:

Grantee Land Bank shall have the right to maintain a trail in the easement for non-motorized travel during daylight hours along it by grantee, its guests and invitees, and may mow vegetation, cut brush, grade and smooth land surface areas, and place wooden or step stone walkways on the trail with bituminous material, may not pave any part of the trail with bituminous material, asphalt, sand mix, concrete or with any other impermeable surface. Grantee may erect split rail fence or gates, or plant shrubs, trees, or other vegetation in the easement in any location in which so doing does not disturb the use of grantor or her successors in the underlying fee or the land surrounding.

No other improvements or installations:

No improvements or installations other than the trail, control provisions, and protective installations requested by grantor or her successors, as described below, shall be made in the easement.

Uses and Adequate Provision for Uses:

The trail will be used solely for the purposes of passive recreation, nature study and scenic enjoyment. The trail will not be used for any motorized vehicle or other similar apparatus.

Grantee Land Bank will not permit any use of the trail for which adequate control provisions have not been made.

Control provisions that fail to prevent excursion off the trail or outside of the easement are not adequate.

Dogs / Animal Pets:

Any other covenants and provisions of this conveyance notwithstanding, dogs or other animals or pets in or upon the trail shall be leashed and under control at all times.

Both the grantee and the owners of dogs or other pets that do any damage shall be strictly liable therefor.

Costs:

All costs and expenses of any kind associated with creation or maintenance of the trail shall be borne solely by the grantee Land Bank.

Indemnity:

Grantee Land Bank shall indemnify and hold harmless grantor Sterling, her successors and assigns, from any suit or claim of any kind whatsoever, without limitation, for any injury arising in connection with the easement or trail, its use, its location, work upon it, the condition of the ground or any walkway or bridge, from trees or plants or foliage, or from any other conditions or creatures in or around the trail area, from others on the trail or their activities or inactivity, or from any consequence of travel in or around the trail.

Right to Protective Installations and Supervisory Activities:

Grantor and her successors are entitled to have the described trail used only according to the terms of this grant.

Grantor and her successors shall be entitled to have grantee Land Bank put up fences, or plant trees or shrubs, or make installations discouraging the use of the trail by minibikes or ATV's or other similar motorized devices, or place signs, so long as they are reasonable in size and in keeping with the character of the land and uses of it, in the easement.

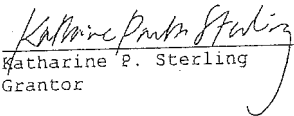
Grantor or successor shall notify grantee Land Bank as to the installations or other remedies considered required, and the Land Bank shall timely comply with such request unless it believes the request unreasonable. If the Land Bank believes a request unreasonable, it shall immediately so notify the grantor or her successor. Upon receiving such a notification, an actual cause or controversy shall be deemed to lie before the Courts of the Commonwealth, where it may be brought.

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No Other Rights Conveyed:

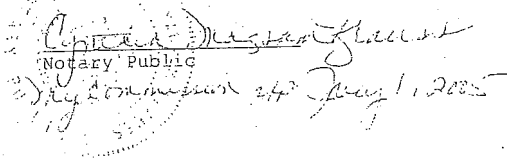
Except as expressly granted by the conveyance of this easement, no other rights are conveyed, whether directly or by any form of implication, and grantor Sterling retains each and every right in the land not explicitly granted herein.

WITNESS my hand and seal, this 15th day of August, 2003.

  
Katharine P. Sterling  
Grantor

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Dukes County, ss.:

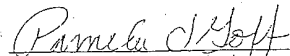
On this 15th day of August, 2003, before me personally appeared the above named Katharine P. Sterling, known to me, and acknowledged that she has executed this instrument as her free act and deed.

  
Notary Public  
My Commission expires Aug 1, 2005

Acknowledgement

As Chairperson of the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission, duly authorized to act on behalf of the Commission, I, Pamela S. Goff, acknowledge and accept delivery and receipt of this grant of easement and hereunto subscribe in consent to the covenants and warrants herein above described.

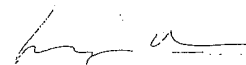
WITNESS my hand and seal, this 15 th day of August, 2003.



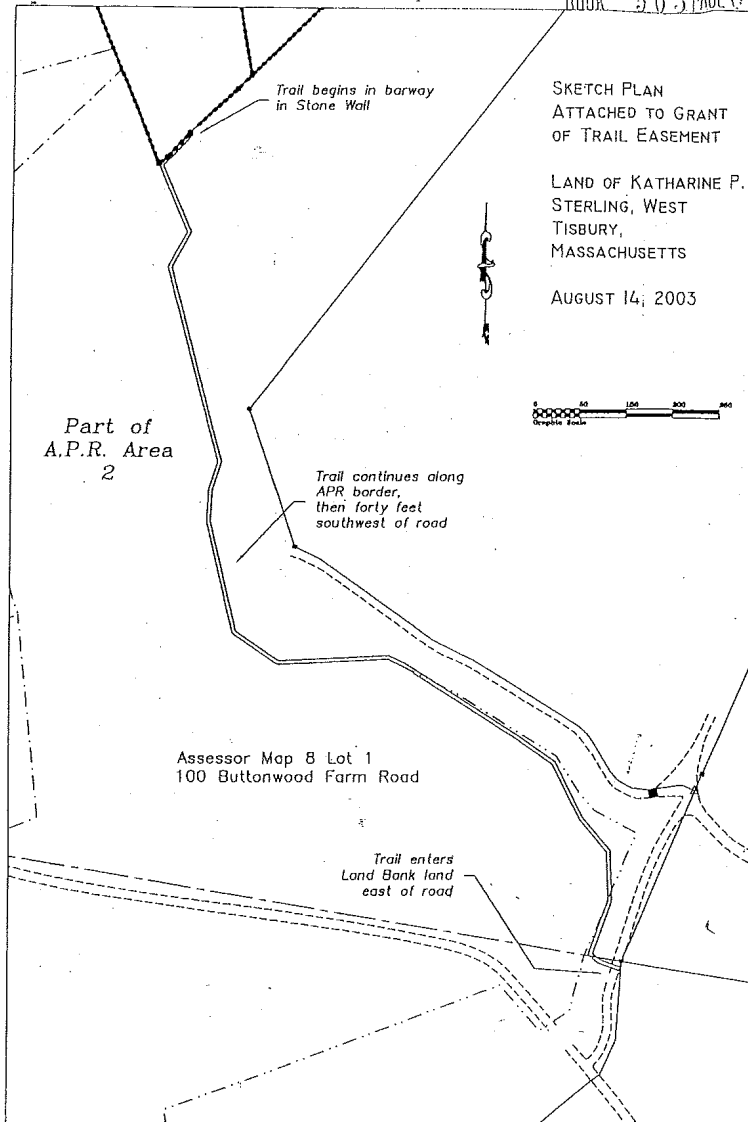
Pamela S. Goff, Chairperson  
The Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission  
Grantee

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Dukes County, ss.:

On this 15 th day of August, 2003, before me personally appeared the above named Pamela S. Goff, known to me, and acknowledged that she has executed this instrument as her free act and deed.

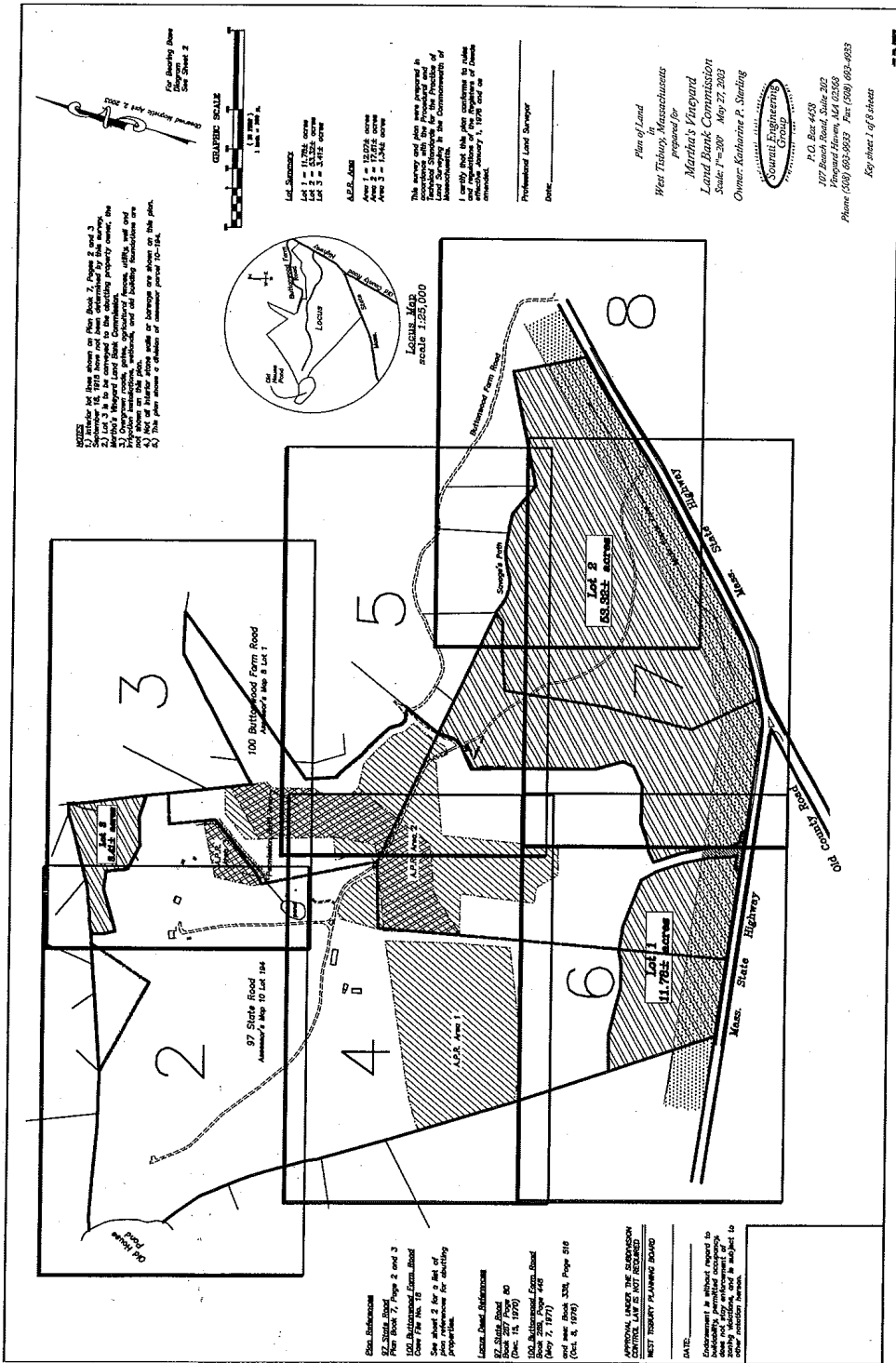
  
Notary Public 9/7/2004

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Wigwam, Mass. August 15, 2003  
at 3 o'clock and 57 minutes PM  
received and signed with Dukes County Deeds  
book 963 page 873

Attest: *James P. Brewer* Register

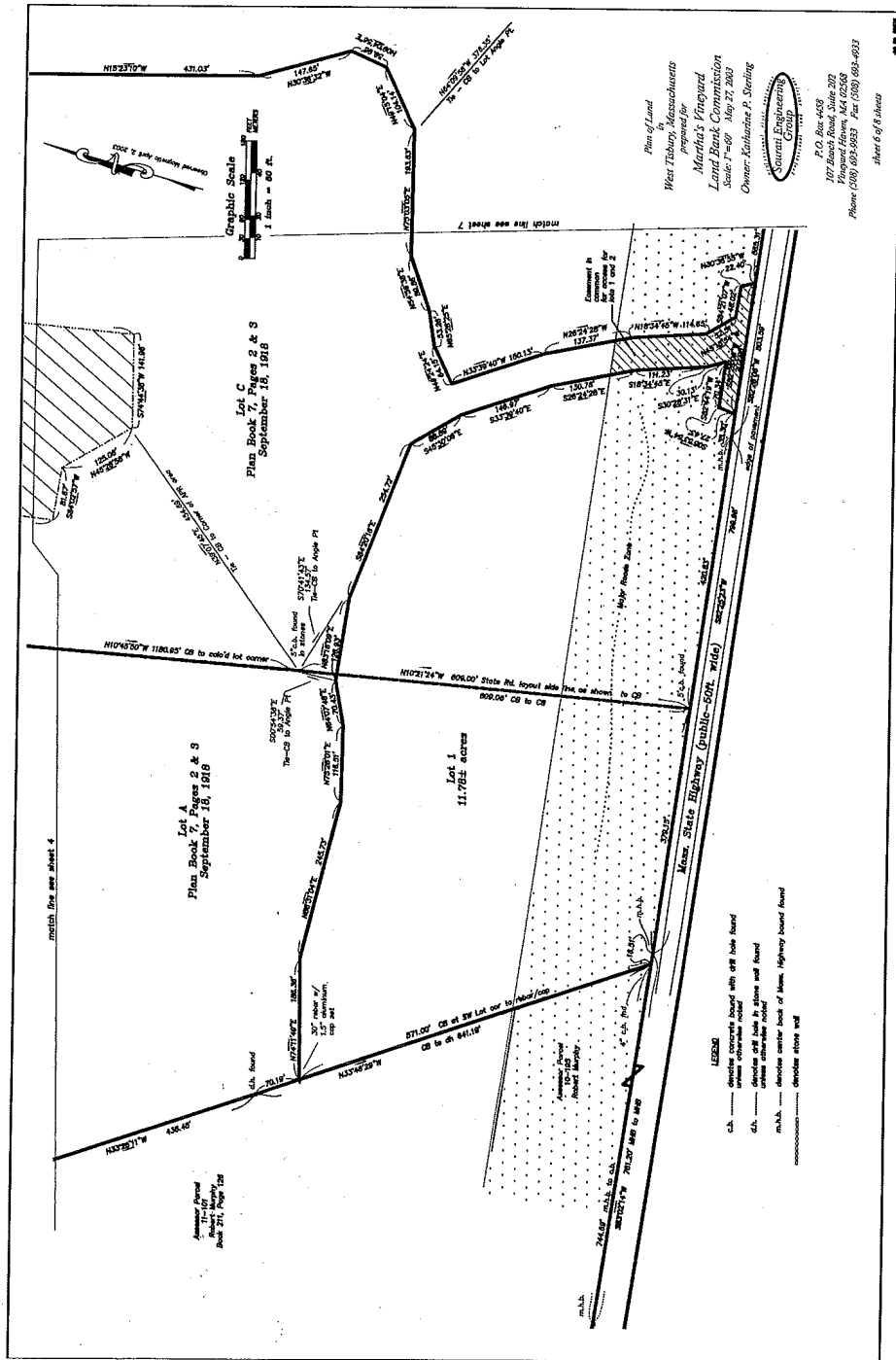


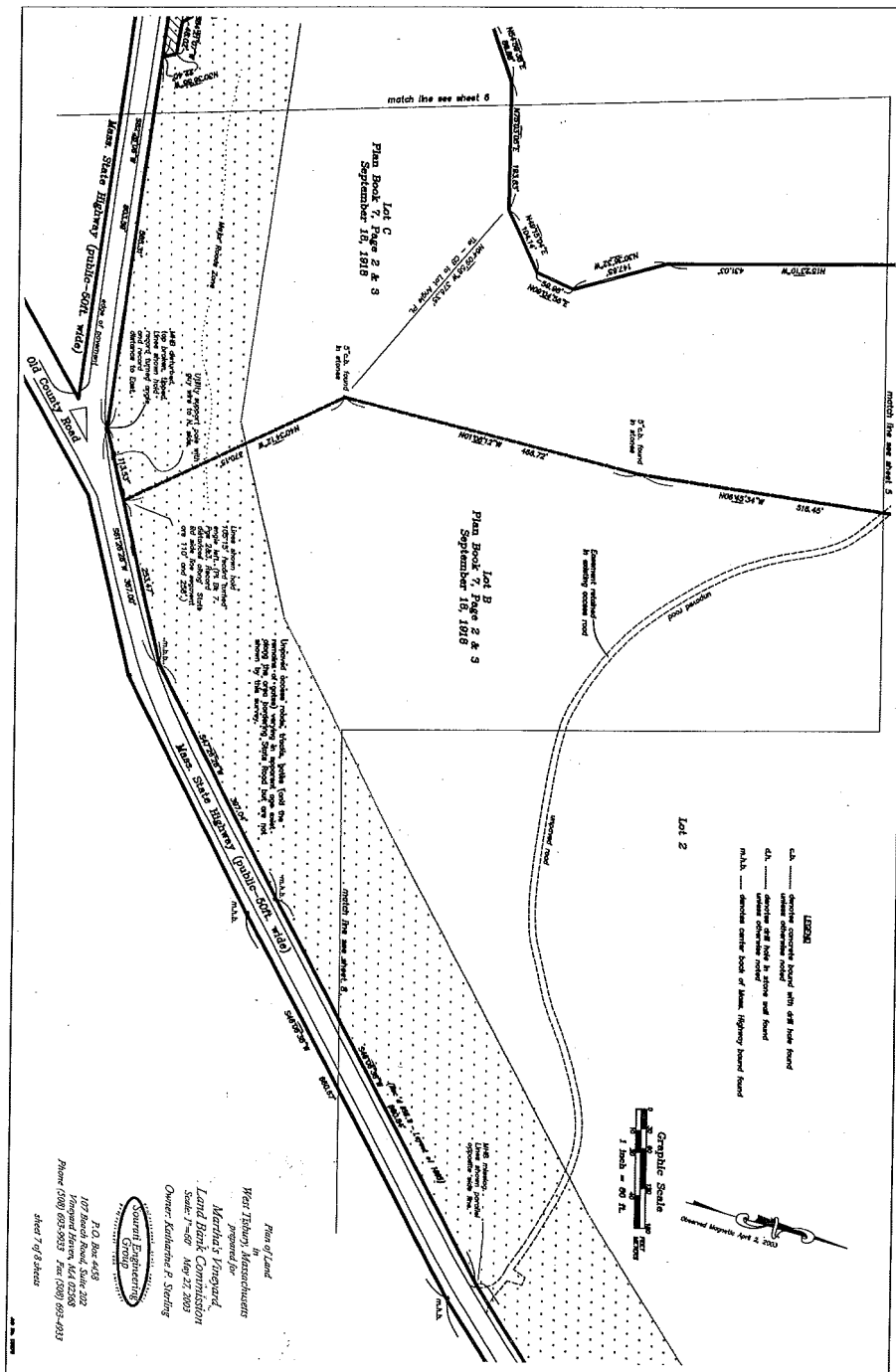




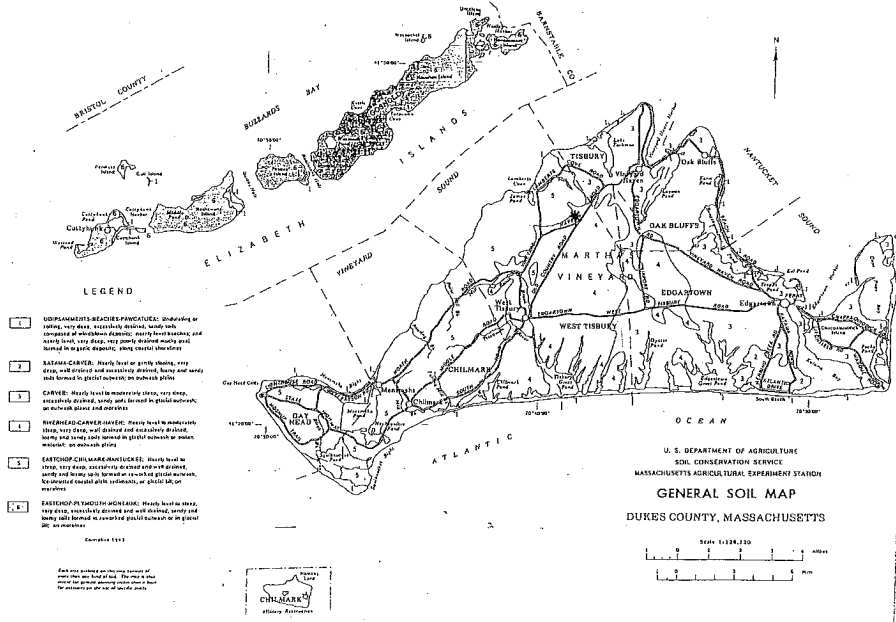
















The SCS (1986) mapped and described eight types of soils at John Presbury Norton Farm (Appendix C):

- (a) Haven Series (HaA)  
Haven soil is very deep fine sandy loam that is nearly level and well drained. It has a slight 0-3% slope. The permeability of this soil is moderate in the subsoil. This soil is well suited to cultivated crops, hay and pasture.
- (b) Haven Series (HaB)  
This version of the Haven soil is also very deep fine sandy loam with a gentle slope and well drained. Most areas of this soil are woodlands. However, it also is well suited to cultivated crops, hay and pasture in addition to being well suited to woodland productivity
- (c) Eastchop Series (EcA)  
Eastchop soil is very deep, loamy sand with 0 to 3 percent slopes. Like the Haven series it is nearly level, and excessively drained. The permeability of this soil is rapid or very rapid in the subsoil. Most areas of this soil are in woodland. This soil is poorly suited to farming and woodland productivity due to the low available water capacity.
- (d) Eastchop Series (EdC)  
This version of the Eastchop series is loamy sand with 8 to 15 percent slopes, and very stony. It is very deep, strongly sloping and excessively drained. It is on small hills and ridges. This soil is typically covered with loose, undecomposed and decomposed leaves, and twigs. The permeability is rapid. Most areas of this soil are in woodland. Low available water capacity and the stones and boulders on the surface make this soil unsuited to cultivated crops, poorly suited to hay and pasture and not well suited for woodland productivity.
- (e) Riverhead Series (RvA)  
Riverhead soil is very deep, nearly level and well drained. The permeability of the soil is moderately rapid in the subsoil. Most areas of this soil are in woodland. Many areas are in grassland, and some areas are in cropland. This soil is well suited to cultivated crops, hay and pasture and to woodland productivity.
- (f) Riverhead Series (RvB)  
Riverhead soil B is similar to the above A, except it is more of a sloping nature. It is a gently sloping 3 to 8 percent, and well drained.
- (g) Tisbury (TaA)  
Tisbury soil is very deep, nearly level and moderately well drained, very fine, sandy loam. It is found in depressions and low areas adjacent to open water. The permeability is moderate in the subsoil and rapid in the substratum. Most areas of this soil are in woodland. Many areas are in grassland; few are in cropland. This soil is well suited to cultivated crops, hay and pasture and woodland productivity.
- (h) Carver Series (CeB)  
This carver loamy coarse sand is deep, gently sloping from 3-8% and excessively drained. It is most often wooded; rapidly permeable throughout; and droughty in late summer. It is poorly suited to farming and woodland productivity.



## Appendix D. Ecological Processes

(a) *Pine woodland*

The dominant understory sapling in the pine woodland is not an evergreen but is the shade-tolerant white oak. Although white pine dominates the overstory of the woodland, the white oak has the advantage of producing saplings that are not only shade-tolerant but also more fire-tolerant than the sensitive white pines. Oaks persist through such minor disturbances as lightning, windstorms, and logging. These disturbances along with the death of the dominating pine trees create small canopy gaps and allow sufficient light to reach the ground for the oak saplings to grow and once again dominate the woodland.

(b) *Oak-beech woodland*

White, black, and scarlet oaks dominate the oak-beech woodland. However, there are several American beech groves that are slowly expanding into the oak dominated woodland. Beech trees are the most shade-tolerant species of trees and their mode of reproduction through root sprouting helps the beech trees successfully expand into the surrounding oak dominated woodland. Little vegetation grows beneath the beech trees typically due to the shade, acidic soils and surface feeding roots (Jorgensen 1979). The above conditions created by the larger beech trees discourage oak saplings from sprouting in the beech grove understory thus perpetuating the survival of the beech grove. The one disadvantage beech trees have is their sensitivity to fire as they do not typically sprout from burnt stumps as the oaks do. In the case of a fire the oak-beech woodland would emerge as a mixed-oak woodland void of the great beech trees.

(c) *Shrub swamp*

The shrub swamp in the center portion of the property is undergoing an invasion by several non-native and native species. Portions of the shrub swamp are being overtaken by the invasive, exotic Japanese honeysuckle. Multiflora rose dominates shrubs along the stone wall that separate the shrub swamp from the Wompesket meadow. Oriental bittersweet creeps up the clumps of trees that grow in the shrub swamp. Native species such as common greenbrier and blackberry also blanket areas of the shrub swamp creating a monospecies habitat. It is not too late to manage the invasive specie in an effort to prevent future invasions into the neighboring wet meadow, the most diverse and unique habitat on abutting Wompesket Preserve.

## Appendix E. Vegetation

### Methods

During 2004, vegetation surveys were conducted of John Presbury Norton Farm. The point sampling method as described by Avery and Burkhart (1994) was used to inventory the trees of the woodlands. Twenty points were inventoried in the oak-beech (13 points) and pine (7 points) woodlands. Three-meter squared circular plots were used to inventory the understory at each woodland point. Density and percent cover of understory vegetation was recorded for all plots. The shrub swamp was inventoried following methods described by Dunwiddie (1986). Species diversity and density were recorded within seven 2-m<sup>2</sup> circular plots located at random locations along one transects running NW 67°. Flora at John Presbury Norton Farm is listed in Table 1 with proper nomenclature according to Gleason and Cronquist (1991). A description or qualitative summary of each cover type follows:

### Habitat descriptions

Oak-beech woodland Woodland trees are, on average, 41 feet high and 12.5 inches in diameter at breast height. The estimated basal area per acre is 119 square feet. There are an estimated 58.3 trees per acre in the dbh class of 10 inches and greater. The oak-beech woodland exhibits the greatest diversity of the upland wooded communities and is habitat to 57% of the total species known to occur on the property (Table 1).

The oak-beech woodland comprises a dominant mixture of oak trees, isolated white pine trees and scattered beech groves. Black and white oaks are the dominant species within the woodland and were sampled in 100 to 92% of plots inventoried in the woodland. Other trees sampled in order of decreasing frequency include scarlet oak (38%), American beech (31%), Sassafras (23%), white pine (23%) and [REDACTED] (8%). Other trees observed in the woodland outside of the survey points include pignut hickory and pitch pine.

The next generation of canopy trees growing under the shade of the overstory trees in the oak-beech woodland consists of white oak, black oak, sassafras, black cherry and scarlet oak in decreasing frequency. Understory vegetation in the oak-beech woodland is dense and dominated by plants of the Ericaceae family. Black huckleberry lowbush blueberry and common greenbrier are the most dominant plants in the understory of the woodland and have importance values of 70.9, 20 and 26, respectively. They occurred in greater than 38% of plots sampled. Relative dominance, relative density and relative frequency are combined to achieve the importance value. A diverse array of herbaceous and graminoid species ranging from <1-4 feet dot the woodland floor in areas where light can penetrate the wooded canopy cover and are ubiquitously along old roads and wildlife trails that meander and cut through the oak-beech woodland. Wintergreen provides a green canvas against the colorful flowers of wood anemone, yellow star grass, wood lily, white-wood aster, pink lady's slipper, starflower, Canada mayflower and trailing arbutus. Beechdrops are the primary plant occurring under the dense groves of beech trees. Virginia creeper and prickly dewberry wind their way along the forest floor. Hair grass and Pennsylvania sedge grow in openings in the dense understory. Small white

aster, royal fern, and cinnamon fern grow in the vernal pool during periods without standing water; sweet pepper bush and greenbrier create its vegetated borders. The vernal pool was identified based on its size of less than 2 acres and isolation from streams and presence of standing water for 2.5 months or more in the spring; and evidence of a dry season. A survey for indicator species was not conducted.

Pine woodland The pine woodland occurs in the southwest corner of the farm and along the southern border of the farm that is bounded by State Road. White pines planted by Francis Foster in the early 1900s dominate the overstory of the pine woodland leaving the understory well-shaded and moderately covered with herbaceous vegetation. Red pines occur along State Road. Many are dead and exist as snags. The red pine is succumbing to the fungal pathogen, *Diplodia pinea*. The combination of warmer climates and humidity for this northern species of pine has intensified the effect of *Diplodia pinea* on red pines on the island. Oaks occur throughout the pine woodland; white oak is the dominant oak and occurred in 86% of points sampled. Therefore, it is no surprise that the next generation of trees growing in the understory as saplings is the white oak. The dominant understory cover in the pine woodland is black huckleberry followed by lowbush blueberry and bracken fern. The dominant ground cover with 28% frequency of occurrence is wintergreen. Without fire or mechanical clearing of understory species to reduce regeneration competition between pine and other species, the pine woodland eventually will evolve into the surrounding oak-beech woodland. Oaks are shade-tolerant and can grow under the shade-intolerant pines, resulting in the next generation of overstory species.

Shrub Swamp The shrub swamps constitutes 3.4 acres of the farm and is located in the northeast corner of the property abutting Wompesket Preserve. The dominant species are sweet pepperbush, grape and greenbrier with frequency of occurrence greater than 57%. Successional species such as blackberry, goldenrod and sumac are formed in areas mowed during boundary surveying prior to the purchase of the property. Invasive species such as oriental bittersweet, Japanese honeysuckle and multiflora rose also are taking advantage of the ample light and abundant water of the open shrub swamp community. Red maples and beetlebung create a spotty overstory and large spreading black oaks create an open understory in an otherwise dense tangle of herbaceous plants and shrubs that cover the balance of the shrubland.

Table 1. Flora of John Presbury Norton Farm, West Tisbury, MA

scientific name	common name	Status <sup>c</sup>	Family	morphology	community type <sup>a</sup>			survey <sup>b</sup>	
					pine woodland	oak-beech woodland	shrub swamp	1	2
1 <i>Usnea strigosus</i>	tree lichen	X	Usneaceae	lichen	x	x		1	2
2 <i>Dicranum scoparium</i>	acrocarp	X	Dicranaceae	moss		x		1	2
3 <i>Polytrichum juniperinum</i>	haircap moss	X	Polytrichaceae	moss			x	1	2
4 <i>Thuidium recognitum</i>	fern moss	X	Thuidiaceae	moss		x		1	2
1 <i>Acer rubrum</i>	red maple	AN	Aceraceae	tree			x	1	2
3 <i>Rhus copallinum</i>	winged sumac	FN	Anacardaceae	shrub			c	1	2
4 <i>Toxicodendron vernix</i>	poison sumac	ON	Anacardiaceae	shrub			x		2
5 <i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>	poison ivy	AN	Anacardiaceae	shrub	u	u	x	1	2
6 <i>Ilex verticillata</i>	winterberry	FN	Aquifoliaceae	shrub			x		2
7 <i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	jack-in-the-pulpit	RN	Araceae	herb			x	1	2
8 <i>Aralia nudicaulis</i>	wild sarsaparilla	FN	Araliaceae	herb	u			1	2
10 <i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	lady fern	FN	Aspleniaceae	fern	x				2
11 <i>Thelypteris noveboracensis</i>	New York fern	FN	Aspleniaceae	fern		u	x	1	2
12 <i>Thelypteris simulata</i>	Massachusetts fern	FN	Aspleniaceae	fern		u	c		2
13 <i>Eupatorium dubium</i>	joe-pye-weed	FN	Asteracea	herb			x	1	2
14 <i>Aster divaricatus</i>	White wood aster	FN	Asteraceae	herb		x	x		2
15 <i>Aster dumosus</i>	bushy aster	FN	Asteraceae	herb			x	1	2
16 <i>Aster paternus</i>	narrow-leaved white-topped aster	AN	Asteraceae	herb		x-t		1	2
17 <i>Aster racemosus</i>	Small white aster	RN	Asteraceae	herb		x-vp		1	2
18 <i>Bidens connata</i>	swamp beggar ticks	UN	Asteraceae	herb			x		2
19 <i>Conyza canadensis</i>	horseweed	FN	Asteraceae	herb			x		2
20 <i>Prenanthes trifoliolata</i>	gall-of-the-earth	ON	Asteraceae	herb		x			2
21 <i>Solidago rugosa</i>	rough-stemmed goldenrod	AN	Asteraceae	herb			u	1	2
22 <i>Impatiens capensis</i>	spotted touch-me-not	FN	Balsaminaceae	herb			x	1	2
23 <i>Corylus americana</i>	American hazelnut	FN	Betulaceae	shrub	x				2
24 <i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese honeysuckle	AI	Caprifoliaceae	vine			u	1	2
25 <i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	southern arrowwood	UN	Caprifoliaceae	shrub		c			2
26 <i>Viburnum recognitum</i>	northern arrowwood	AN	Caprifoliaceae	shrub		u			2
27 <i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	oriental bittersweet	AI	Celastraceae	vine			x	1	2
28 <i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	sweetpepper bush	AN	Clethraceae	shrub		x-vp	a	1	2
29 <i>Commelina communis</i>	asiatic dayflower	RI	Commelinaceae	herb		x-t			2
30 <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	beetlebung	AN	Cornaceae	tree			x	1	2
31 <i>Carex lurida</i>	sallow sedge	FN	Cyperaceae	graminoid			u		2
32 <i>Carex pensylvanica</i>	Pennsylvania sedge	AN	Cyperaceae	graminoid	u	u		1	2
33 <i>Scirpus pungens</i>	chairmaker's rush	FN	Cyperaceae	graminoid			x	1	2
34 <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	bracken fern	AN	Dennstaedtiaceae	fern	c	u	u		2
35 <i>Epigaea repens</i>	trailing arbutus	AN	Ericaceae	vine	u				2
36 <i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>	wintergreen	AN	Ericaceae	herb	c	c			2
37 <i>Gaylussacia baccata</i>	black huckleberry	AN	Ericaceae	shrub	a	a		1	2

38	<i>Gaylussacia frondosa</i>	dangleberry	FN	Ericaceae	shrub		u		1	2
39	<i>Kalmia angustifolia</i>	sheep laurel	AN	Ericaceae	shrub	x			1	2
40	<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	swamp azalea	FN	Ericaceae	shrub		x		1	
41	<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	late lowbush blueberry	AN	Ericaceae	shrub	c	c			2
42	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	highbush blueberry	FN	Ericaceae	shrub	u	u	x	1	2
43	<i>Vaccinium pallidum</i>	lowbush blueberry	FN	Ericaceae	shrub	a	c			2
44	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	American beech	FN	Fagaceae	tree	x	C		1	2
45	<i>Quercus alba</i>	white oak	AN	Fagaceae	tree	A/a	A/c		1	2
46	<i>Quercus coccinea</i>	scarlet oak	AN	Fagaceae	tree	C	C/u		1	2
47	<i>Quercus ilicifolia</i>	scrub oak	AN	Fagaceae	tree	c			1	2
48			FN- WL	Fagaceae	tree		U		1	2
49	<i>Quercus velutina</i>	black oak	AN	Fagaceae	tree	A/c	A/u	x	1	2
50	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	wild geranium	ON	Garaniaceae	herb		x			2
51	<i>Carya glabra</i>	pignut hickory	ON	Juglandaceae	tree		x		1	
52	<i>Juncus acuminatus</i>	sharp-fruited rush	RN	Juncaceae	graminoid			x		2
53	<i>Juncus canadense</i>	Canada rush	FN	Juncaceae	graminoid			u		2
54	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	soft rush	AN	Juncaceae	graminoid			x	1	2
55	<i>Luzula sp.</i>	woodrush	X	Juncaceae	graminoid		x			2
56	<i>Lycopus virginicus</i>	Virginian water-horehound	UN	Lamiaceae	herb			x		2
57	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	spicebush	FN	Lauraceae	shrub			x		2
58	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	sassafras	AN	Lauraceae	tree	U/u	U/u	u	1	2
59	<i>Hypoxis hirsuta</i>	yellow star grass	FN	Liliaceae	herb		x			2
60	<i>Lilium philadelphicum</i>	wood lily	FN	Liliaceae	herb		x			2
61	<i>Uvularia sessilifolia</i>	wild oats	ON	Liliaceae	herb			x		
62	<i>Maianthemum canadensis</i>	Canada mayflower	AN	Lilliacae	herb		u	c	1	2
63	<i>Smilacina racemosa</i>	false solomon's seal	ON	Lilliacae	herb			x	1	2
64	<i>Monotropa hypopithys</i>	pinemap	ON	Monotropaceae	herb		x			2
65	<i>Monotropa uniflora</i>	Indian pipe	FN	Monotropaceae	herb		x		1	
66	<i>Epilobium ciliatum</i>	glandular willow-herb	UN	Onagraceae	herb			x		2
67	<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	sensitive fern	AN	Onocleaceae	fern			x	1	2
68	<i>Cypripedium acule</i>	pink lady's slipper	FN	Orchidaceae	herb	x	x		1	2
69	<i>Epifagus virginiana</i>	beech drops	ON	Orobanchaceae	herb		x			2
70	<i>Osmunda cinnamonea</i>	cinnamon fern	AN	Osmundaceae	fern		x-vp	x	1	2
71	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	royal fern	ON	Osmundaceae	fern		x-vp		1	2
72	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>	red pine	WL	Pinaceae	tree	U				2
73	<i>Pinus rigida</i>	pitch pine	AN	Pinaceae	tree	x	x			2
74	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	white pine	FI	Pinaceae	tree	A/c	U			2
75	<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>	hair grass	FN	Poaceae	graminoid		x			2
76	<i>Polygonum sagittatum</i>	arrow-leaved tearthumb	UN	Polygonaceae	herb			x		2
77	<i>Lysimachia quadrifolia</i>	whorled loosestrife	FN	Primulaceae	herb		u		1	2
78	<i>Trientalis borealis</i>	star flower	FN	Primulaceae	herb		u		1	2
79	<i>Pyrola rotundifolia</i>	round-leaf pyrola	FN	Pyrolaceae	herb	u	u			2
80	<i>Rosa virginiana</i>	Virginia rose	FN	Roasaceae	shrub			c	1	2
81	<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	smooth shadbush	UN	Rosaceae	tree	u			1	
82	<i>Potentilla canadensis</i>	dwarf cinquefoil	FN	Rosaceae	herb		x		1	
83	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	black cherry	AN	Rosaceae	tree	u	u	x	1	2
84	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	multiflora rose	UI	Rosaceae	shrub			x	1	2
85	<i>Rubus allegheniensis</i>	common blackberry	FN	Rosaceae	vine		u	u		2
86	<i>Rubus flagellaris</i>	prickly dewberry	FN	Rosaceae	vine		u	u		2
87	<i>Rubus hispida</i>	bristly dewberry	AN	Rosaceae	vine		x			2

John Presbury Norton Farm Management Plan

88	<i>Hedyotis caerulea</i>	bluets	FN	Rubiaceae	herb		x		1	2	
89	<i>Mitchella repens</i>	partridgeberry	RN	Rubiaceae	herb			x		2	
90	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	quaking aspen	ON	Salicaceae	tree		x			2	
91	<i>Melampyrum lineare</i>	cow-wheat	UN	Scrophulariaceae	herb		x			2	
92	<i>Smilax glauca</i>	glaucous greenbrier	FN	Smilacaceae	vine	u	x	u		2	
93	<i>Smilax rotundifolia</i>	common greenbrier	AN	Smilacaceae	vine	x	c	a	1	2	
94	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	bittersweet nightshade	OI	Solanaceae	vine			u		2	
95	<i>Typha cf. latifolia</i>	common cattail	FN	Typhaceae	herb			x		2	
96	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia creeper	AN	Vitaceae	vine		u	x	1	2	
97	<i>Vitis aestivalis</i>	summer grape	X	Vitaceae	vine			x		2	
98	<i>Vitis labrusca</i>	fox grape	FN	Vitaceae	vine		u	a		2	
99	<i>Vitis palmata</i>	cat grape	X	Vitaceae	vine			x	1	2	
100	Total # of abundant species						5	3	3		
	Total # of common species						5	7	4		
	Total # of uncommon species						11	20	10		
	Total # of species present outside of survey						8	29	36		
	Total # of species unique to a community										
	Total # of species						<b>29</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>53</b>		
	% of total species						28	57	51		

<sup>a</sup>A = abundant (percent occurrence greater than 50%), C = common (percent occurrence greater than 20% but less than or equal to 50%), U = uncommon (percent occurrence less than or equal to 20%), x = present on the farm but not detected in a survey plot; Upper case = woodland survey; lower case = shrubland or grassland survey; t=trail, vp=vernal pool, (ie. x-t means species is in that habitat along a trail, x (t) means species is along a trail and elsewhere in the habitat).

<sup>b</sup> Survey periods: 1=2001 vegetation inventory and ongoing survey April-September (JS); 2=2004 vegetation inventory and ongoing survey April-October (JS)

<sup>c</sup> Rarity of plants on Martha's Vineyard: U = unknown, A = abundant (almost always occur in typical habitat), F = frequent (often occur in typical habitat), O = occasional (occur in more than 10 sites but are not expected to occur in typical habitat), R = rare (occur in ten or fewer sites), H = historic (recorded but not sighted in past 40 years), N = native, I = introduced, X = no data, WL = watch-listed by MA, SC = special concern by MA, E = endangered, T = threatened (Swanson and Knapp 1999).

## Appendix F. Wildlife

The woodland has a relatively closed canopy with a dense low herbaceous shrub layer under the oak dominated areas of the woodland and sparse ground cover under the beech groves and pine woodland. It has the following habitat features: tall trees for nesting, roosting and foraging wildlife species; tall snags with dbh greater than 10 for nesting and foraging wildlife; mast-bearing trees (oak, hickory, beech and pine trees) for fall foraging; fruiting shrubs and vines (dangleberry, blueberry, huckleberry, greenbrier, blackberry, grape and wintergreen) for summer and fall foraging; cover from low shrubs, vines, and leaves for foraging and ground nesting insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals; and leaf litter habitat for organisms consumed by many amphibians, ground-feeding birds and small mammals.

The shrubland is wet in areas with an intermittent stream and small pools of standing water. It has a relatively dense undercover of various shrubs, vines and briar that provides cover and forage for many wildlife species. Groups of beetlebungs and red maple rise above the dense understory and provide shade on the ground below and perches for wildlife species. Fruiting shrubs and vines provide forage for migrating or resident birds.

Table 2. Wildlife at John Presbury Norton Farm, West Tisbury, MA

Scientific name	Common name	Wetland <sup>a</sup>	Woodland
<b>Kingdom Animalia</b>			
<b>Phylum Arthropoda</b>			
<b>Class Insecta</b>			
<b>Order Hymenoptera (sawflies, ants, wasps, and bees)</b>			
Family Apidae: <i>Bombus pennsylvanicus</i>	bumble bee	S	
Family Sphecidae: <i>Eremnophila aureonotata</i>	thread-waisted wasp		S
<b>Order Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths)<sup>b</sup></b>			
<b>Superfamily Papilionoidea (butterflies)</b>			
Family Lycaenidae: <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	American copper	SP, S, F	
Family Papilionidae: <i>Papilio glaucus</i>	tiger swallowtail	S	
Family Papilionidae: <i>Papilio Troilus</i>	spicebush swallowtail	S	
Family Nymphalidae: <i>Euphydryas phaeton</i>	Baltimore checkerspot	S	F
Family Nymphalidae: <i>Limenitis arthemis astyanax</i>	red-spotted purple		S
Family Pieridae: <i>Pieris rapae</i>	cabbage white		S
<b>Order Diptera (flies)</b>			
Family Culicidae: species unknown	mosquitoes	SP, S	

Family Tabanidae: <i>Chrysops sp.</i>	deer flies	S	SP, S
<b>Order Orthoptera (grasshoppers and crickets)</b>			
Family Gryllidae: <i>Gryllus pennsylvanicus</i>	field cricket		S
<b>Class Arachnida</b>			
<b>Order Araneae (spider)</b>			
Family Lycosidae: <i>Lycosa gulosa</i>	forest wolf spider		S
Family Gryllidae: <i>Gryllus pennsylvanicus</i>	eastern daddy-long-legs		S
<b>Order Acarina</b>			
Family Araneidae: <i>Ixodes scapularis</i>	deer tick	S, SP	
<b>Phylum Chordata</b>			
<b>Class Mammalia</b>			
<b>Order Lagomorpha</b>			
Family Leporidae: <i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	eastern cottontail		S
<b>Order Rodentia</b>			
Family Sciuridae: <i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	grey squirrel		S, SP, W
Family Sciuridae: <i>Tamias striatus</i>	eastern chipmunk		SP
<b>Order Carnivora</b>			
Family Procyonidae: <i>Procyon lotor</i>	raccoon		S
Family Mustelidae: <i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	striped skunk	S	
<b>Order Artiodactyla</b>			
Family Cervidae: <i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	white-tailed deer		SP, S, F
<b>Class Reptilia</b>			
<b>Order Anura</b>			
Family Hylidae: <i>Pseudacris crucifer</i>	spring peeper	S, SP	

<sup>a</sup>Season and frequency of occurrence: SP = spring, S = summer, F = fall, W = winter.

<sup>b</sup> complete list of moth species known to occur on the property is included in Appendix F.



## Appendix G. Lepidoptera Table

A moth survey was conducted in the woodland and shrubland of the John Presbury Norton Farm on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006. A leptraps 18 inch, 15 watt light trap with plexiglass rigid vanes was set in each habitat with a photoelectric switch and two killing jars of Ethyl Acetate. A ¼ inch perforated beetle screen was also used to reduce damage to the collection caused by trapped beetles. The weather was mild with wind at SW 8 miles per hour and temperature at 80° Fahrenheit. The collection was sorted, spread and pinned the following morning. Positive identification of the species was made later by Mark Mello, research director of the Lloyd Center for the Environment, Dartmouth, Massachusetts.

A total of 49 moth species representing ten families were observed on the farm during the survey (Appendix F, Table 3). Two additional species were observed in the woodland outside of the nocturnal survey (the lichen moth was observed during the day on black huckleberry and the eight spotted forester was observed in the caterpillar stage on oak trees). Diversity of species was similar in the shrub swamp and woodland. However, there was minimal overlap of species between habitats.

This survey is a snap-shot of moth species that occur on the property. Spring, early summer and late fall species are missing from this list. The moths collected represent a fraction of species that might eventually be documented in a long-term study on the farm.

**Table 3. Lepidoptera known to occur on the John Presbury Norton Farm, West Tisbury, MA from a survey conducted on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 and direct observation.**

Species	Family	SubFamily	Habitat	
			Shrub	Woodland
<i>Lycomorpha pholus</i>	Arctiidae	Lithosiinae		X
<i>Antepione thiosaria</i>	Geometridae	Ennominae	X	
<i>Besma quercivoraria</i>	Geometridae	Ennominae		X
<i>Cyclophora pendulinaria</i>	Geometridae	Ennominae		X
<i>Eusarca confusaria</i>	Geometridae	Ennominae	X	
<i>Macaria bisignata</i>	Geometridae	Ennominae	X	
<i>Macaria pinistrobata</i>	Geometridae	Ennominae	X	
<i>Pero anctaria</i>	Geometridae	Ennominae	X	
<i>Prochoerodes transversata</i>	Geometridae	Ennominae	X	X
<i>Agriopodes fallax</i>	Noctuidae	Acronictinae	X	
<i>Alypia octomaculata</i>	Noctuidae	Agaristinae		X
<i>Amphipyra pyramidoides</i>	Noctuidae	Amphipyrinae		X
<i>Crambidia pallida</i>	Noctuidae	Arctiinae	X	
██████████	Noctuidae	Arctiinae	X	
<i>Cycnia tenera</i>	Noctuidae	Arctiinae	X	
<i>Holomelina aurantiaca</i>	Noctuidae	Arctiinae		X
<i>Holomelina opella</i>	Noctuidae	Arctiinae		X
<i>Spilosoma virginica</i>	Noctuidae	Arctiinae	X	X

<i>Dyspyralis puncticosta</i>	Noctuidae	Boletobiinae	X	
<i>Catocala coccinata</i>	Noctuidae	Catocalinae		X
<i>Catocala ultronia</i>	Noctuidae	Catocalinae		X
<i>Pangrapta decoralis</i>	Noctuidae	Eublemminae		X
<i>Leucania linita</i>	Noctuidae	Hadiniinae	X	
<i>Idia rotundalis</i>	Noctuidae	Hermiiniinae		X
<i>Phalaenophana pyramusalis</i>	Noctuidae	Hermiiniinae	X	
<i>Polypogon laevigata</i>	Noctuidae	Hermiiniinae		X
<i>Zanclognatha ochreipennis</i>	Noctuidae	Hermiiniinae		X
<i>Renia discoloralis</i>	Noctuidae	Hermiiniinae		X
<i>Bleptina caradrinalis</i>	Noctuidae	Hermiiniinae		X
<i>Rivula propinqualis</i>	Noctuidae	Rivulinae	X	
<i>Anorthodes tarda</i>	Noctuidae	Xyleninae	X	
<i>Galgula partita</i>	Noctuidae	Xyleninae	X	
<i>Heterocampa umbrata</i>	Notodontidae	Heterocampinae		X
<i>Oligocentria lignicolor</i>	Notodontidae	Heterocampinae		X
<i>Datana drexelii</i>	Notodontidae	Phalerinae		X
<i>Anisota virginiensis</i>	Saturniidae	Ceratocampinae		X
<i>Dolba hyloeus</i>	Sphingidae	Sphingidae		X
<i>Dichomrtis sp.</i>	Gelechiidae		X	
<i>Antaeotricha leucillana</i>	Oecophoridae			X
<i>Fissicrambus mutabilis</i>	Pyralidae	Crambinae	X	
<i>Pediasia trisecta</i>	Pyralidae	Crambinae	X	
<i>Vax auratella</i>	Pyralidae	Crambinae	X	
<i>Munroessa icciusalis</i>	Pyralidae	Nymphulinae	X	X
<i>Peoria approximella</i>	Pyralidae	Peoriinae	X	
<i>Dolichomia olinalis</i>	Pyralidae	Pyralinae	X	
<i>Desmia funeralis</i>	Pyralidae	Pyraustinae	X	
<i>Olethreutes sp.</i>	Tortricidae	Olethreutinae		X
<i>Argyrotaenia velutiana</i>	Tortricidae	Tortricinae		X
<i>Sparganothis reticulatana</i>	Tortricidae	Tortricinae		X

## Appendix H. Avian Species List and Seasonal Tables

The following is a taxonomic list of avian species and their feeding habits at John Presbury Norton Farm, West Tisbury, MA.

### Family Accipitridae (hawks and eagles)

osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	piscivore, high dives
red-tailed hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	carnivore-small mammals, high patrol

### Family Columbidae (pigeons and doves)

mourning dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	granivore, ground gleaner
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### Family Corvidae (jays and crows)

blue jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	omnivore, ground gleaner
American crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	omnivore, ground gleaner

### Family Cuculidae (cuckoos and Anis)

yellow-billed cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	<i>insectivore, hover &amp; glean</i>
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### Family Emberizidae (warblers and sparrows)

pine warbler	<i>Dendroica pinus</i>	insectivore, bark gleaner
northern cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i> :	omnivore, ground gleaner w: granivore, ground gleaner

eastern towhee	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	omnivore, ground gleaner
white-throated sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	insectivore, ground gleaner

red-winged blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	omnivore, ground gleaner
common grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	omnivore, ground gleaner
yellow warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	insectivore, bark gleaner
Tennessee warbler	<i>Vermivora peregrine</i>	insectivore, foliage gleaner
American redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	insectivore, hover & gleaner
common yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	insectivore, foliage gleaner
ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	insectivore, ground gleaner
dark-eyed junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	granivore, ground gleaner
northern oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	insectivore, foliage gleaner
scarlet tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	insectivore, hover & gleaner
magnolia warbler	<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	insectivore, hover & gleaner

### Family Fringillidae (finches)

American goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	s: omnivore, ground gleaner
House finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	granivore, ground gleaner w: granivore, ground gleaner

**Family Mimidae (mimic thrushes)**

gray catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	s: omnivore, ground gleaner w: frugivore, foliage gleaner
northern mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	omnivore, foliage-ground gleaner

**Family Muscicapidae (thrushes)**

American robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	omnivore, ground gleaner
wood thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	insectivore, ground gleaner

**Family Paridae (titmice and chickadees)**

black-capped chickadee	<i>Parus atricapillus</i>	s: insectivore, foliage gleaner w: omnivore, foliage gleaner
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**Family Picidae (woodpeckers)**

red-bellied woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	insectivore, bark gleaner
hairy woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	insectivore, bark gleaner
downy woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	insectivore, bark gleaner

**Family Sittidae (nuthatches)**

white-breasted nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	insectivore, bark gleaner
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**Family Troglodytidae (wrens)**

Carolina wren	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	insectivore, foliage gleaner
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**Family Tyrannidae (flycatchers)**

eastern pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	insectivore, hawks
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**Family Strigidae (typical owls)**

eastern screech owl	<i>Otus asio</i>	insectivore, swoops
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**Family Sturnidae (starlings)**

European starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	insectivore, ground gleaner
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**Family Vireonidae (vireos)**

red-eyed vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	s: insectivore, foliage gleaner w: frugivore, foliage gleaner
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\* Sources: Scott (1987) and Ehrlich, Dobkin & Wheye (1988).

\*\* m = foraging guild during spring or fall migration, s = foraging guild during summer (breeding season), w = foraging guild during winter (or nonbreeding seasons).

A property with a diverse flora can support a more diverse fauna as more habitat needs are met by a larger array of species. However, larger tracts of habitat on a farm that result in less habitat diversity are necessary to support greater numbers of common species. The farm has three primary habitat types surrounded by smaller sub-habitats, as a result the avian fauna is represented by a robust population of common species with a small mix of less common species. The abundance of berry-producing shrubs in the understory of the oak-beech woodland, the presence of common greenbrier, the dense shrubs in the shrub swamp, the proximity to farmland and small ponds and the mixture of conifer and deciduous trees are features that attract birds to the farm. For example, some woodpeckers eat poison ivy berries in the winter; grouse eat provitamin A-rich sumac berries in the winter; thrushes, robins, tanagers, and catbirds eat blueberries, holly berries and shadbush berries (Martin et al. 1951).

Bird species in the various habitats are seasonally dependent. Some bird species occur in more than one habitat type and during more than one season. Total species counts do not include multiple sightings of an individual species. The spring and summer breeding seasons host the greatest number of bird species on the farm and the shrub swamp host the greatest species richness followed by the oak-beech woodland and the least rich pine woodland. The presence of dense berry-producing shrubs in the shrub swamp provides desirable forage habitat for hungry new arrivals in the spring and dense cover for individuals breeding in the summer.

Observations of behaviors associated with nesting or rearing of young, such as adults carrying nesting material or food to a nest, carrying fecal sacs from a nest or attending hatch-year birds, can confirm that a species is breeding on the property, as can locating an active nest. A species is probably breeding if singing territorial males are present on the property on two occasions at least a week apart. A species is possibly breeding if it is detected in suitable breeding habitat during the breeding season. Of the 24 bird species known to occur on the farm during the summer, one – the black-capped chickadee – was a confirmed breeder. An adult was spotted with begging hatch-year fledglings. Ten are considered probable breeders; nine are considered possible breeders and one may breed in nearby habitat (Table 4). Three species – the red-tailed hawk, northern oriole and osprey – are non-breeders on the farm due to lack of required habitat or limited occurrence during the survey. The breeding owl survey revealed the eastern screech owl as a possible breeder on the property during the winter (Table 7).

Table 4. Breeding season abundance of avian species on John Presbury Norton Farm, West Tisbury, MA.

Species <sup>b</sup>		Habitat <sup>a</sup>		
		Shrub swamp <sup>c</sup>	Oak-beech woodland	Pine woodland
<b>Year-round</b>				
American crow	PO <sup>d</sup>	O	U	O
American goldfinch	PR	C	O	
American robin	PR	U	U	
black-capped chickadee	CO	U	C	C
blue jay	PO	O		U
Carolina wren	PR	C		
common grackle	PO	U		
downy woodpecker	PO		U	
eastern towhee	PR	O	U	C
gray catbird	PR	C	U	
hairy woodpecker	PO	U		
house finch	NY	U		
northern cardinal	PR	U	U	
red-tailed hawk	NB	U		
white-breasted nuthatch	PR		C	U
<b>Summer migrant</b>				
American redstart	PO			U
common yellowthroat	PR			U
eastern wood-pewee	PO			P
northern oriole	NB			U
osprey	NB		U	
ovenbird	PO		U	
pine warbler	PO			U
red-eyed vireo	PR		O	
yellow warbler	PR	O		

<sup>a</sup> Shrub swamp: 2004 (n=5); oak-beech woodland: 2004 (n=5); pine woodland: 2004 (n=5).

<sup>b</sup> Seasonal grouping organized according to Peterson Field Guides Eastern Birds (1980) and Felix Neck Bird Checklist (1992).

<sup>c</sup> C=common birds (detected in more than 50% of the survey visits), O=occasional birds (detected in 26-50% of the survey visits), U=uncommon birds (detected in 25% and fewer of the survey visits) and P=present birds (not detected during a survey period but observed on the property).

<sup>d</sup> Breeding status: NY=nearby habitat, NB=nonbreeding, PO=possible breeding (species detected in suitable breeding habitat), PR=probable breeding (species heard singing on two occasions over one week apart in suitable breeding habitat). CO=confirmed breeding (species carrying food, CF; feeding young, FY; with begging hatch-year fledglings, HY; or a located nest, N). Breeding status: PO possible breeding, PR

Table 5. Fall abundance of avian species on John Presbury Norton Farm, West Tisbury, MA.

Species <sup>b</sup>	Habitat <sup>a</sup>		
	Shrub swamp <sup>c</sup>	Oak-beech woodland	Pine woodland
<b>Year-round</b>			
American crow	U	C	U
American robin	U		
black-capped chickadee	C	C	C
blue jay	U	C	U
Carolina wren	O		
gray catbird	O		
northern cardinal	O		
northern mockingbird	U		
red-bellied woodpecker	U		
white-breasted nuthatch		C	C
<b>Winter migrants</b>			
dark-eyed junco		U	
white-throated sparrow	O		
<b>Summer migrants</b>			
yellow-billed cuckoo	U		
<b>Spring/fall migrants</b>			
Tennessee warbler	U		

<sup>a</sup> Shrub swamp: 2004 (n=4); oak-beech woodland: 2004 (n=4); pine woodland: 2004 (n=4).

<sup>b</sup> Seasonal grouping organized according to Peterson Field Guides Eastern Birds (1980) and Felix Neck Bird Checklist (1992).

<sup>c</sup> C=common birds (detected in more than 50% of the survey visits), O=occasional birds (detected in 26-50% of the survey visits), U=uncommon birds (detected in 25% and fewer of the survey visits) and P=present birds (not detected during a survey period but observed on the property).

Table 6. Spring abundance of avian species on John Presbury Norton Farm, West Tisbury, MA.

Species <sup>b</sup>	Habitat <sup>a</sup>		
	Shrub swamp <sup>c</sup>	Oak-beech woodland	Pine woodland
<b>Year-round species</b>			
American crow	O	C	U
American goldfinch	U	U	C
American robin	U		
black-capped chickadee	O	C	C
blue jay		O	U
Carolina wren	U		
common grackle	U		
downy woodpecker			U
eastern towhee		O	
gray catbird	C		U
mourning dove	U		
northern cardinal	U	C	U
northern mockingbird	O		
red-bellied woodpecker		U	
red-winged blackbird	C		
white-breasted nuthatch		U	U
<b>Summer migrant</b>			
common yellowthroat	C		
ovenbird		C	C
pine warbler			C
red-eyed vireo		U	U
scarlet tanager			U
wood thrush	U		
yellow warbler	C		U
<b>Fall/spring migrant</b>			
magnolia warbler			U

<sup>a</sup> Shrub swamp: 2004 (n=4); oak-beech woodland: 2004 (n=4); pine woodland: 2004 (n=4).

<sup>b</sup> Seasonal grouping organized according to Peterson Field Guides Eastern Birds (1980) and Felix Neck Bird Checklist (1992).

<sup>c</sup> C=common birds (detected in more than 50% of the survey visits), O=occasional birds (detected in 26-50% of the survey visits), U=uncommon birds (detected in 25% and fewer of the survey visits) and P=present birds (not detected during a survey period but observed on the property).



Table 7. Winter season abundance of avian species on John Presbury Norton Farm, West Tisbury, MA.

Species <sup>b</sup>	Habitat <sup>a</sup>		
	Shrub swamp <sup>c</sup>	Oak-beech woodland	Pine woodland
<b>Year-round Species<sup>d</sup></b>			
American crow	C	O	O
American goldfinch	O	U	U
American robin	U		
black-capped chickadee	O	U	O
blue jay	C		U
downy woodpecker		U	
eastern screech owl <sup>(PO)</sup>		P	
European starling	U		
gray catbird		U	
northern cardinal	C		U
red-bellied woodpecker	U		
red-winged blackbird	O		
white-breasted nuthatch		O	U

<sup>a</sup> Shrub swamp: 2004 (n=4); oak-beech woodland: 2004 (n=4); pine woodland: 2004 (n=4).

<sup>b</sup> Seasonal grouping organized according to Peterson Field Guides Eastern Birds (1980) and Felix Neck Bird Checklist (1992).

<sup>c</sup> C=common birds (detected in more than 50% of the survey visits), O=occasional birds (detected in 26-50% of the survey visits), U=uncommon birds (detected in 25% and fewer of the survey visits) and P=present birds (not detected during a survey period but observed on the property).

<sup>d</sup> Breeding status: NB=nonbreeding, PO=possible breeding (species detected in suitable breeding habitat), PR=probable breeding (species heard singing on two occasions over one week apart in suitable breeding habitat). CO=confirmed breeding (species carrying food, CF; feeding young, FY; with begging hatch-year fledglings, HY; or a located nest, N). Breeding status: PO possible breeding, PR

## Appendix I. Rare and Endangered Species List and Map

One Massachusetts-listed species is known to occur on the property. [REDACTED] was trapped in the shrub swamp in August. Milkweeds are important plant species for the [REDACTED] (Williams 2001). Milkweed plants commonly occur in the wet meadow that abuts the shrubs swamp. Two watch-listed plant species are known to occur on the property as well – red pine and [REDACTED]. The red pine occurs along the State Road boundary of the property and is not likely a native population. Non-native populations are not considered protected under the Watch List. The [REDACTED] occurs in limited numbers in the oak-beech woodland.

The northern portion of the property – the shrub swamp – is designated as priority habitat and estimated habitat for rare species (Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) 2006). Forty-seven species are known to occur in this particular priority habitat and estimated habitat for rare species (Table 8).

The John Presbury Norton Farm provides suitable habitat for ten of the forty-seven species listed in Table 8. The oak-beech woodland of the property and surrounding farmland provides breeding habitat in the form of tree burrows and forage in the farm fields for [REDACTED]; breeding habitat in the vernal pool and non-breeding habitat in the sand-loam soils for the [REDACTED]; over-wintering habitat and possible breeding for the [REDACTED]; forage and general habitat for the [REDACTED]; and openings in the woodlands for the [REDACTED]. The pine woodland provides required habitat for the [REDACTED].

Despite the presence of available habitat for ten of the forty-seven rare species known to occur in nearby priority habitat, none was observed on the farm during the surveys conducted of the property. A search of the woodland was conducted along transects in a grid pattern during the summer of 2004 for two wildlife species – [REDACTED] – and three state listed plant species – [REDACTED] – that are known to occur in nearby priority habitat and are associated with dry open woodlands. None of these species was observed in the woodland of the property. An amphibian call survey was conducted during a light rain in the spring of 2005 near the vernal pool in the woodland. The [REDACTED] was not heard during the survey. An owl survey of the woodland was conducted during March of 2004 using a Johnny Stewart bird animal caller. [REDACTED] did not respond to the owl calls during the survey. The amphibian and owl surveys were limited. More intense wildlife surveying on the farm could result in additional species observed.

Table 8. Rare species known to occur in priority habitat such as the shrub swamp and land near the John Presbury Norton Farm, West Tisbury, MA although none of these species was found.

Common Name	Latin name	Status <sup>a</sup>	Habitat Requirement	Habitat Status <sup>b</sup>
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SC	woodland/ farmland	✓
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	E	mesic woodland	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	T	clear stream	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SC	coastal beach	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SC	open farm & grassland	✓
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SC	coastal beach	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	T	grassland, pasture	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	T	marsh, grassland	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	E	open water with cover	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	T	coastal beach	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	E	coastal beach	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	E	sandplain grassland	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SC	vernal pool, marsh, bog	✓
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	T	sandy soil woodlands, vernal pools	✓
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SC	bogs and swamps	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	E	grassland, open understory oak-hickory woodland	✓
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	T	pine/scrub oak barrens	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	E	sand barrens	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SC	sandplain grassland & shrubland	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SC	scrub oak/pine barrens	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SC	coastal dune/shrubland	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SC	pine/scrub oak barrens	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SC	pine/scrub oak barrens	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	T	pine stands	✓
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	T	pine/scrub oak barrens	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SC	pine/scrub oak barrens	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	T	pine/scrub oak barrens	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SC	pine/scrub oak barrens	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SC	<i>Spartina</i> species	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SC	goat's-rue	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	T	<i>Decodon</i> species	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SC	ponds with vegetation	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	E	dry open woods, sandy pine barrens	✓
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SC	saltmarsh	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SC	sandplain grassland	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	T	streamside, open wood	X

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SC	dry woods in openings, dry sandy fields	√
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	T	pond shore	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	T	mesic woodland, disturbance	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SC	sandplain grassland	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SC	sandplain grassland	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	E	dry woods in openings	√
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	T	sandplain grassland	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	T	great-pond shoreline	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SC	sandplain grassland	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SC	sandplain grassland	X
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	E	dry sandy soil, bare ground, lichen	X

<sup>a</sup> E=endangered, T=threatened, SC=Special concern

<sup>b</sup> X = required habitat not present on the property, species not likely to occur on the property; √ = required habitat available on the property, species may occur on the property

\* de-listed as of July 2006

sources : MA NHESP fact sheets, Wagner et al. 2003, Covell 1984

# Map



**Appendix J. Abutters List**

Table 9. Landowners owning property abutting or within 200 feet of John Presbury Norton Farm, West Tisbury, MA

Map-Parcel	Name	Address
7-148	Robert & Gayle Mone	197 Longview Road, West Tisbury, MA 02575
7-149	Eric C. Whitman, Trustee Bulrush Realty Trust	207 Longview Road, West Tisbury, MA 02575
7-159	Geoffrey C. Currier & Joyce Gower	211 Longview Road, West Tisbury, MA 02575
7-160	Eric C. Whitman, Trustee, Bulrush Realty Trust	209 Longview Road, West Tisbury, MA 02575
8-1	Katharine Parks Sterling	POB 12, West Tisbury, MA 02575
10-194	Katharine Parks Sterling	POB 12, West Tisbury, MA 02575
8-5	Elliot Kronstein & May Baldwin	16 Carver Street, Cambridge, MA 02138
8-14.1	Larkin B. & Grace A. Reeves, Trustees, Larkin B. Reeves Family Trust	73 Lighthouse Road, Aquinnah, MA 02535
8-14.2	Iris Gold & Steven L. Katz, Trustees, I Gold & S. L. Katz Nominee Trust	29 Via La Brisa, Larkspur, CA 94939
8-20	Paula Ruckhaus & Sue Hegarty-Trustees, Buttonwood Farm Realty Trust	918 Northern Lights Drive, Fairbanks, AK 99712
8-22	Susan E. Trees	POB 2068, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568
8-22.1	Joyce M. Wright-Trustee, Hilltop Farm Nominee Trust	POB 866, West Tisbury, MA 02575
8-22.12	Martha's Vineyard Land Bank	PO Box 2057, Edgartown, MA 02539
8-34	Elliot J. Entner	16 Paul Revere Rd., Sharon, MA 02067
10-19	Town of West Tisbury/Hydrant Lot	POB 278, West Tisbury, MA 02575
10-19.3	Samme & Janet W. Thompson	1430 North Astor St., Apt. 12B/C, Chicago, IL 60610
10-19.5	Warren & Judith B. Morse	86 Payson St., Attleboro, MA 02703
10-53	Thomas J. & Sharon M. Bryan, Trustees	30 Laurel Lane, Canton, MA 02021
10-54	John Guaragna	21 Walton Street, Dorchester, MA 02124
10-55	Louise F. Fragosa	24 Pine Lane, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568
10-192	Franklin P. & Vivian Flanders	126 State Road, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568
10-192.1	Edward D. Raposa, Trustee, Kim-Kat Realty Trust	POB 1852, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568
10-192.2	Patricia J. & Henry H. Kirwin, Jr.	96 State Road, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568
10-192.3	Jon Mayhew	POB 452, West Tisbury, MA 02575
10-195	Robert P. Murphy	100 Sunset Drive, Seekonk, MA 02771-4512
11-101	Robert P. Murphy	100 Sunset Drive, Seekonk, MA 02771-

		4512
11-82.1	Eleanor Norton Bennett	POB 532, West Tisbury, MA 02575



MAP





## Appendix K. Universal Access

<b>Property Name:</b>	John Presbury Norton Farm.
<b>Size:</b>	99.5 acres
<b>Primary Activities:</b>	hiking, horseback-riding, bicycling, Nordic skiing, hunting
<b>Primary Elements:</b>	trailhead and sign station
<b>Primary Spaces:</b>	agricultural fields
<b>Obstacles that Limit Accessibility:</b>	distance from trailhead
<b>Existing or Potential Alternatives:</b>	Manaquayak Preserve, Blackwater Pond Reservation
<b>Proposed ROS Classification:</b>	less-developed
<b>Proposed Expectation of Accessibility:</b>	poor

For all less-developed land bank conservation areas, the Universal Access Plan states the following (Potter 1997):

*Use outdoor recreation access routes to link primary elements and primary spaces within one-quarter mile of a trailhead or drop-off and use accessible recreation trails to connect other primary elements and primary spaces on all less-developed land bank conservation areas.*

Vehicle parking for the John Presbury Norton Farm is proposed off the State Road in the woodland of the farm. One of the six trailhead spaces would be reserved for vehicles with a universal access placard. However, the distance from the trailhead to any major amenity on the property is prohibitive and creating a UA trail system would therefore not be practical.