

Request for Proposal: Forestry Services

Town of Johnson
P.O. Box 383
Johnson, Vermont

Request for Proposal

The Town of Johnson seeks Request for Proposals for licensed professional Forestry Services. The request is for forestry services to administer the harvest and sale of logs and firewood from the Gomo Farm Town Forest lot in Johnson, Vermont. The harvest will be governed by the recently completed 2025 Forest Inventory.

Project Description

The Gomo Farm Town Forest is owned by the Town of Johnson, Vermont, and is located near the border between the towns of Johnson and Waterville. The SPAN number of the lot is 336-104-11526. The parcel consists of approximately 141 acres and is roughly bordered by the Long Trail State Forest to the north and south, Butternut Mountain to the east, and the N. Branch Lamoille River valley to the west. The property falls within the Lamoille River watershed. The long trail traverses the western boundary of the parcel.

The Gomo Farm was a working farm until the early-mid 1900's. Evidence of the parcel's agricultural past can be seen in the form of old foundations and a cellar hole, stone walls and apple trees. The Town of Johnson took ownership of the Gomo Farm parcel in 1948, and it was designated as a town forest in 1971. Timber harvests occurred in 1974-75 and 1987. The history of agriculture abandonment and some past harvests have left the forest in average to poor condition from a timber quality perspective. The proposed harvest will include a single tree/group selection to remove 40 square foot basal area of poor-quality stems in all size classes in all species.

The Declaration of Restrictive Covenant on the Gomo lot and a prime ag soil easement applies only to the 4.35 acres west of the beaver pond. The 1948 deed that conveyed the Gomo lot to the Town does not contain a restrictive covenant or any limitation on the Town's use of the Gomo lot. From a deed perspective, the Town is able to contract for logging except for the 4.35 acres west of the beaver pond.

Project Schedule

Request for Proposal Date: Monday, May 18, 2026
Proposals due at Town Office: Wednesday, June 10, 2026
Proposals reviews and considered for award: June 15, 2026
Harvest Complete: March 15, 2027

Services

The Town of Johnson is currently seeking Requests for Proposals for Forestry Services to administer a responsible wood harvest on the GOMO lot. The selected applicant will be responsible for initiating, conducting and administering the harvest and sale of the wood removed from the parcel.

Scope of Work:

As part of his/her responsibility on this project, the selected candidate shall:

- Provide updates to the Johnson Town Administrator, Johnson Selectboard and Johnson Conservation Commission on the ongoing harvest and the outcome. This will include any changes to the proposed harvest schedule.
- Secure sale and transportation of the harvested wood
- Designate all trees to be harvested with a paint spot breast height (4 1/2') above the ground.
- All marked trees will be utilized down to 4" diameter at the top end where merchantable. Merchantability may be limited by limb size and rot. Hardwood trees will be utilized to the fullest extent for sawlogs and firewood.
- Stump height shall not exceed seventy-five percent of the stump diameter
- All trees cut will be paid to the owner as follows:
 - \$ _____ Price / Percentage per cord for all hardwood saw logs delivered
 - \$ _____ Price / Percentage per cord for all softwood saw logs delivered
 - \$ _____ Price / Percentage per cord for all firewood delivered.
- Scale for payment will be the Vermont Log Rule
- The Forester will furnish the Town of Johnson with a copy of all scale slips for each load of logs and firewood on a weekly basis.
- All slash within 50 feet of the right of way of public roads, woods roads, trails, adjoining property lines and bodies of water will be removed. No treetops will be left hanging to create a safety hazard.
- Forester shall use proper forest management tools to guarantee that trees are reserved and not cut to maintain the integrity of the forest
- Forester shall supervise wood harvest operations to guarantee that damage to new growth and small unmarketable timber is limited.
- Forester shall locate logging roads and trails in a manner to keep erosion at a minimum.
- Forester shall guarantee that all activities will follow "Acceptable Practices for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs in Vermont October 2018 Edition
- Forester shall guarantee that all state laws are followed during the harvest and precautions are used to prevent forest fires. In the event of a forest fire, forester will notify proper authorities and initiate fire suppression if safe to do so.
- All landing sites will be located at least 50 feet from public roads unless the location is prohibited by the adjoining terrain. All landing sites will be located jointly by the Forester and the Town of Johnson.
- If the forester cannot guarantee the harvest will be completed during the period of performance, they may apply in writing to the Town of Johnson for an extension.
- The forester covenant and agrees to save the Town of Johnson and any agent of the Town harmless from any and all claims for injuries or damage to persons or property resulting from the acts or omissions before the termination of the contract. All trash, debris and mechanical debris shall be removed from the site upon completion of the contract.
- Upon completion of the harvest, all headers, landing and loading areas will be cleaned up, seeded and mulched to the satisfaction of the Town of Johnson.
- This agreement may not be assigned, transferred or sold without prior written permission of the Town of Johnson. If a subcontractor is used, the subcontractor will supply the Town of Johnson with a written statement that the obligations of this Proposal Request is understood.
- The Town of Johnson reserves the right to cancel the agreement at any time if provisions are not being carried out or if continuing the harvest presents an environmental stress. The agreement can also be canceled at any time

if it is in the best interest of the Town of Johnson as indicated by a majority vote of the Selectboard in a duly called public meeting.

Proposal Submission Requirements and Deadline

1. Qualifications: A valid State forester's license number and any other pertinent details to demonstrate qualifications.
2. Scope of Work: A scope of work for the project detailing the applicant's proposed approach to the base scope of the tasks described in the RFP, and any recommended adjustments to the scope of tasks. The consultant may also propose additional supplemental items to the scope of work, though they may not be approved. Additional items must be separated from the base scope in the above RFP.
3. Project Budget: A project budget broken down by tasks and including direct and indirect costs.

All proposals must be received in a sealed envelope marked Forestry Services Bid no later than 2:00 PM, Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at the Johnson Town Office. The Johnson Selectboard will open proposals at their meeting on June 15, 2026. The proposals will be reviewed, and consideration will be given for an award.

Hold Harmless Agreement

The holder of the successful proposal agrees to hold the TOWN OF JOHNSON harmless against all claims for bodily injury, sickness, disease, death or personal injury or damage to property or loss of use resulting there from, arising out of the agreement, to the extent that such claims are attributable, in whole or in part, to a negligent act or omission by the holder.

The holder of the successful proposal shall also purchase any other coverage required by law for the benefit of employees.

Required insurance shall be documented in Certificates of Insurance and shall be provided to the Town representative requesting the service.

By signature upon this form the holder of the successful proposal stipulates that he/she agrees to the Hold Harmless Agreement, and to abide by all insurance requirements.

Name of individual or firm submitting the Proposal: _____

Address: _____

Contact Information:

Phone _____

Email _____

Initial:

_____ I have read the RFP and understand the work required

_____ I have General Liability Insurance

_____ I have Worker's Compensation Insurance for any employee I may have

_____ I have all required licenses to perform the work

The Gomo Farm parcel – Introduction:

The town took ownership of this parcel in 1948. What occurred with this land between 1948 and 1968 is not entirely clear as the record is quite sparse during that period. Between 1968 and the present the primary use of this land, by the town, has been for timber sales. The question now is what the town will do with this resource now and in the future. An inventory was done in 2006. It shows that the overall quality of the trees on this land is quite poor. The roads and trails are in terrible shape and the remaining open areas are growing into woody brush which will give way to forest.

The soils are dominated by Lyman and Tunbridge soils and much of the land is quite steep. The forest cover is predominantly hardwoods. Some open land still remains but it is slowly being taken over by woody ingrowths.

The stocking, on average, is at the "B" line which means it is not over-stocked and it is not under-stocked. It is growing. Many of the trees are of poor quality. The town may wish to consider some options for getting some timber stand improvement work done. In the mid 70's to middle 80's a great many five-cord firewood lots were marked on state owned and municipal lands by the county foresters as well as state lands foresters. A lot of low quality hardwoods were taken out which improved the overall quality of the forests while providing fuel for a large number of wood heat users.

Data was collected using the FOREX inventory system. A copy of the "grid" that was used is in Appendix D. The actual work was done by the county forester and members of the Conservation Commission, most notably Lois Frey and her husband Bob. The results were processed and the information is contained here.

11/13/2025

Town of Johnson

Gomo Farm Parcel

History:

The first contact that the county forester had with this parcel appears to be in 1956 when Gerald E Cunningham sent a note to Arlo "Duke" Sterner. The issue was the availability of cost-share monies to do thinning and/or pruning.

The next contact that the county forester had with this parcel appears to be in 1968 when Arlo Sterner made a recon of the land at the request of the Johnson select-board. The board was interested in having a timber sale. A copy of the actual "Cooperator Woodland Record" can be found in Appendix A.

On March 26, 1971 the select-board applied for the land to be designated as a municipal forest [Appendix B]. The application states that the 100 acres, more or less, was conveyed to the town on April 28, 1948. The request was approved by Director of Forests, Jim Wilkinson on April 5, 1971. Municipal Forester, Mike Green, wrote up a basic description and management plan [Appendix C].

In the spring of 1973 there was some correspondence around a timber trespass from 1968 where loggers working for Ed Buttolph cut across the line onto the Gomo parcel.. In 1974 Mike Green suggested that the "original layout" be re-established which he felt would deal with the trespass and gain the town some land. A "swap" took place in 1977 between the town and Ed Buttolph.

The record shows harvesting done in 1974-75 and again in 1987.

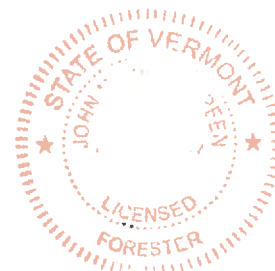
The next contact appears to have been in 2002 when Raymond J Toolan was contacted by Michael Patch. His interest appeared to be more around the road system than the forest itself. A forest inventory was begun but never completed as the emphasis appeared to be on road issues.

During the winter of 2005-06, Lois Frey of the Johnson Conservation Commission asked the County Forester to assist in getting inventories and plans done for all the Johnson owned forest lands. The last parcel to be done was the Gomo Parcel which was inventoried in the first half of 2006. The finding from that inventory will be found in this plan.

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Town of Johnson Gomo Lot

Johnson, Vermont



STAND DESCRIPTION & TREATMENT PLAN

Stand #1 124 acres
 Forest Type: Northern Hardwood
 Age Class Structure: Uneven aged
 Stand History: Stand was cut from 1974 to 1977 and has 50 years of growth since.
 Site Class: II
 Soil Series: Lyman/Marlow/Tunbridge fsl
 Species Composition: Sugar Maple 27%, Yellow Birch 18%, Red Maple 16%, White Ash 10%, Hemlock 9%, Beech 7%, Red Spruce 6%, White Birch 5%, White Pine and Aspen 1%
 % Basal Area
 Sensitive Area s: Protect brooks and wet areas
 Stand Health: Some Beech Scale
 Invasive Plants and Density: None Observed
 Sampling Method: 10 Factor Prism 27 plots Sept. 2025
 Basal Area: (sq.ft./acre) Total 119 Acc. Growing Stock 83
 Mean Stand Diameter: 11.0 inches below A line Hardwood Stocking Guide
 Trees/Acre: 174
 Regeneration Data: Adequate: Beech, Yellow Birch more than 3 feet

DESIRED FUTURE STAND CONDITIONS:

Long Range Silvicultural Objectives: Maintain as an uneven aged stand for future sawlogs, pulpwood and firewood.
 Cutting Cycle: 20 Years Diameter Objective for Principal Species:
 24 inches for White Pine
 18 to 20 inches Maples, Yellow Birch, Ash, Hemlock
 14 to 16 inches for Beech, White Birch, Spruce, Aspen

PLANNED TREATMENTS: Ref. USDAFS NFESPR NE Leak etal 1987

Treatment: A single tree/group selection cut to remove 40 sq.ft. basal area of poor quality stems in all size classes in all species. The single tree selection will remove unacceptable stems that are competing with high quality hardwoods. The groups will be from 1/4 to 1 acre in size and will cover up to 20% of the stand to promote regeneration. The residual stand will retain a basal area of about 80 sq.ft. Beech will be targeted for removal along with regeneration allowing Maples and Birch to grow. There is a significant amount of firewood in the low quality trees that will never make sawlog quality lumber, an excellent sale for a firewood dealer. Access is a problem from Johnson or Waterville sides. Any sale may use both Town access roads.

Diameter Distribution:

Diameter Range	Current Total	Acc. Total	Target Range
6-10	37	27	20
12-14	46	39	40
16+	36	25	20

Gomo Farm Parcel
Johnson, VT.

Town of Johnson

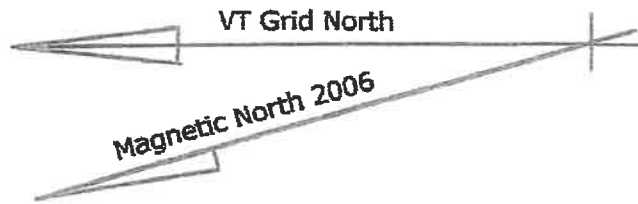
E 483500
N 245500

E 484000
N 245500

Stand 1
Northern Hardwoods
124 Acres

Stand 2
Reverting Field
15 acres

Pond
2 acres +/-



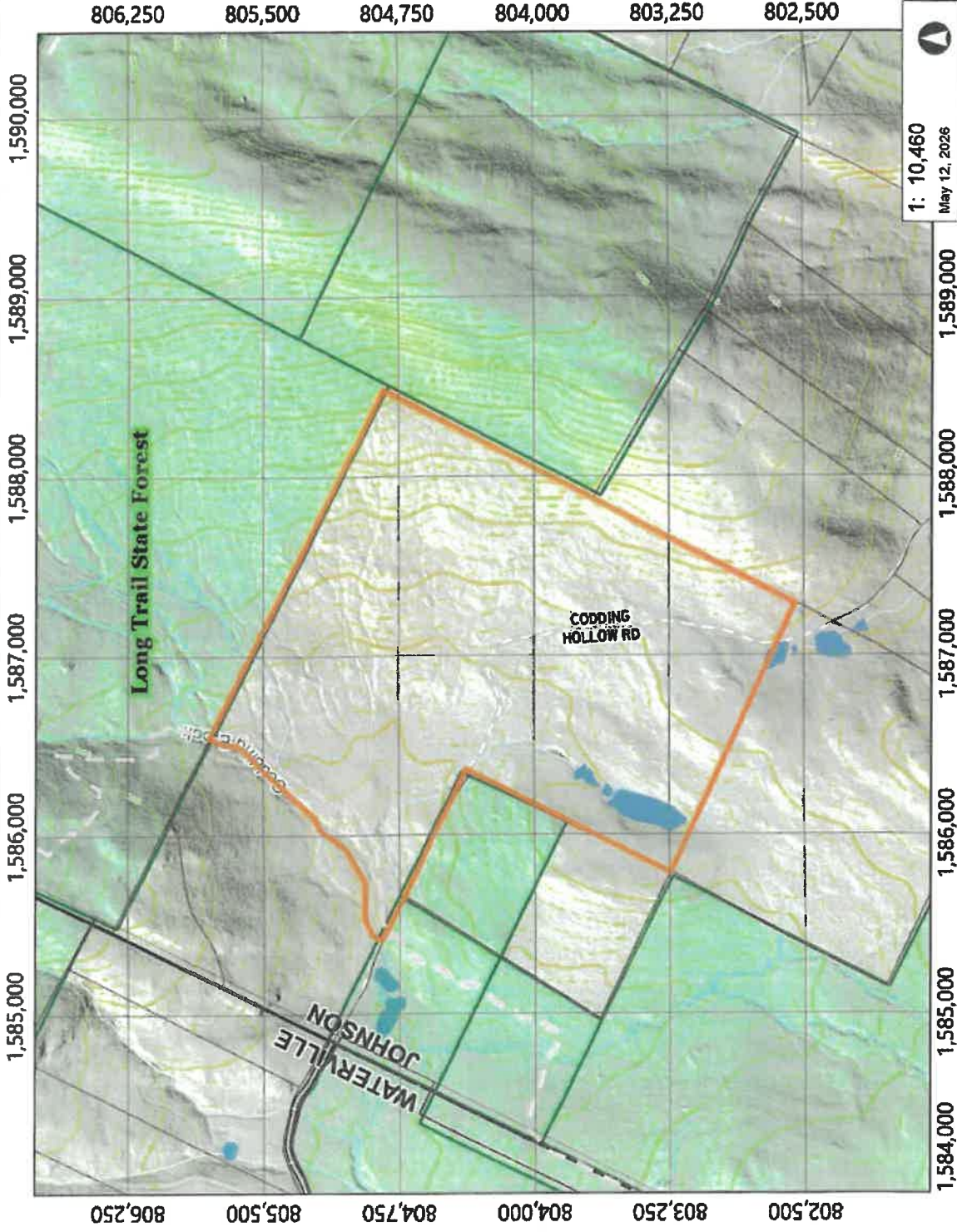
Ortho Photo # 132244
Series 5000 1995
Sheet # 1s in NAD 27
Co-ordinates are in NAD 83:



Gomo Lot, Johnson, VT

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

vermont.gov



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806,250 805,500 804,750 804,000 803,250 802,500

1: 10,460
May 12, 2026

LEGEND

- Trails (E911)
- Managed Lands (FPR)
- Parcels (standardized)
- Waterbody
- Stream
- Intermittent Stream
- Roads
 - Interstate
 - US Highway: 1
 - State Highway
 - Town Highway (Class 1)
 - Town Highway (Class 2,3)
 - Town Highway (Class 4)
- State Forest Trail
- National Forest Trail
- Legal Trail
- Private Road/Driveway
- Proposed Roads
- Town Boundary

NOTES

Map created using ANR's Natural Resources Atlas

531.0 0 266.00 531.0 Meters

1" = 972 FL 1cm = 105 Meters

THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

DISCLAIMER: This map is for general reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable. ANR and the State of Vermont make no representations of any kind, including but not limited to, the warranties of merchantability, or fitness for a particular use, nor are any such warranties to be implied with respect to the data on this map.

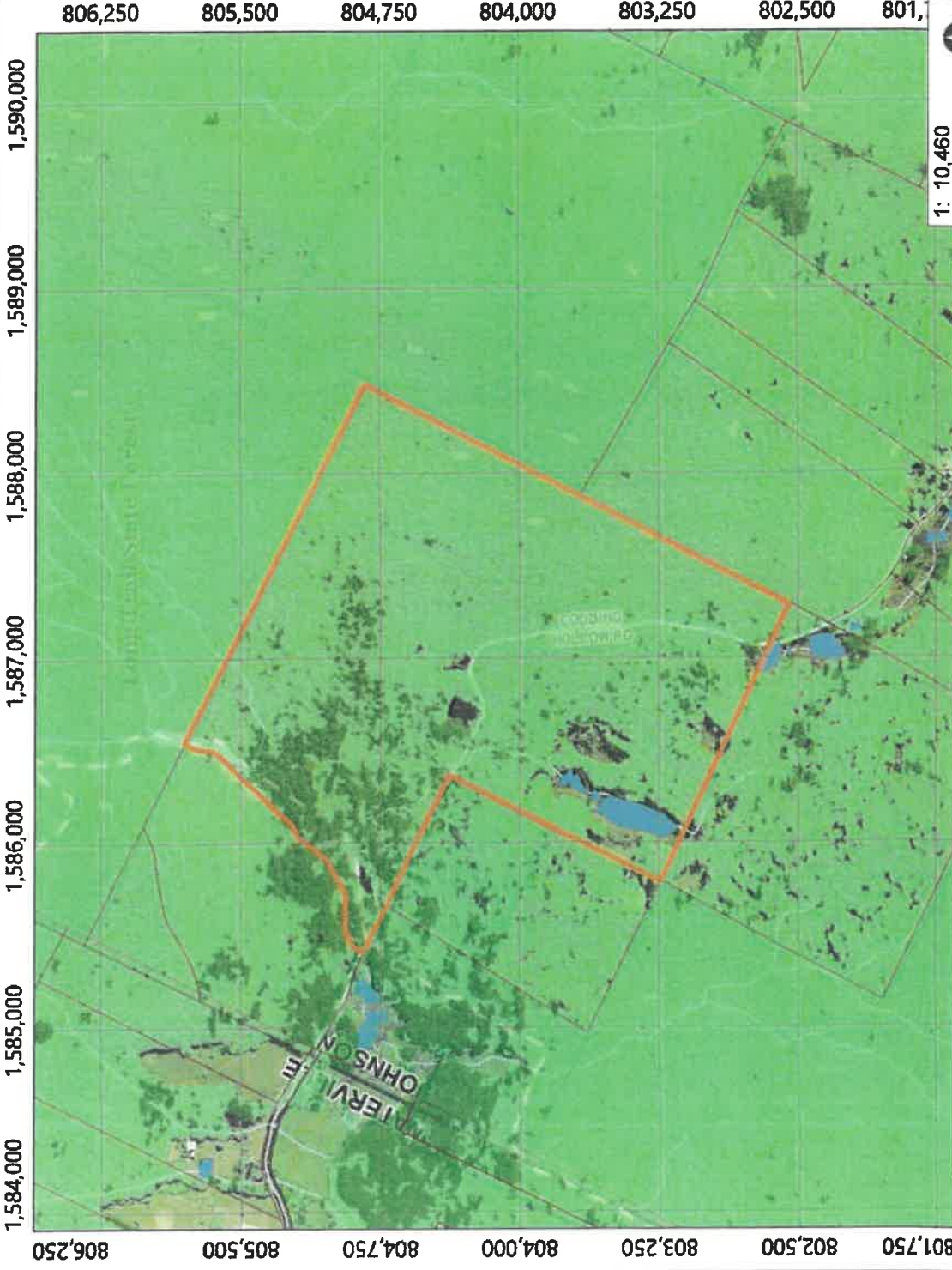
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Gomo Lot, Johnson, VT

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1: 10,460
May 12, 2026

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531.0
0 268.00 531.0 Meters
1" = 872 FL 1cm = 105 Meters
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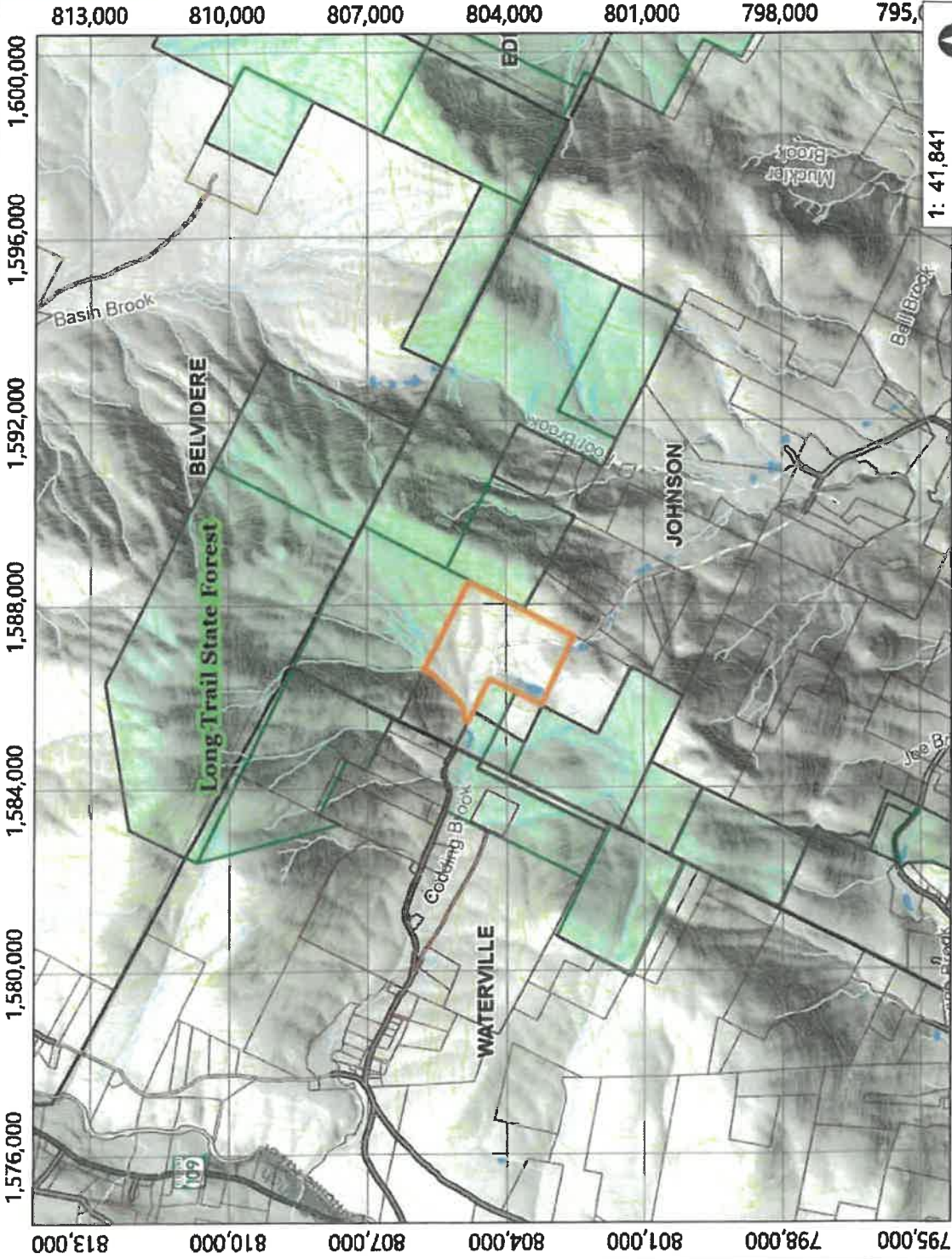
NOTES

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Gomo Lot, Johnson, VT
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1: 41,841
May 12, 2026

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1" = 3487 Ft. 1cm = 418 Meters
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- Town Boundary
- Hillshade

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