



Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy
National Goals; Collective Solutions

Response to Wildfire
Fire Adapted Communities
Resilient Landscapes
Supported by Science



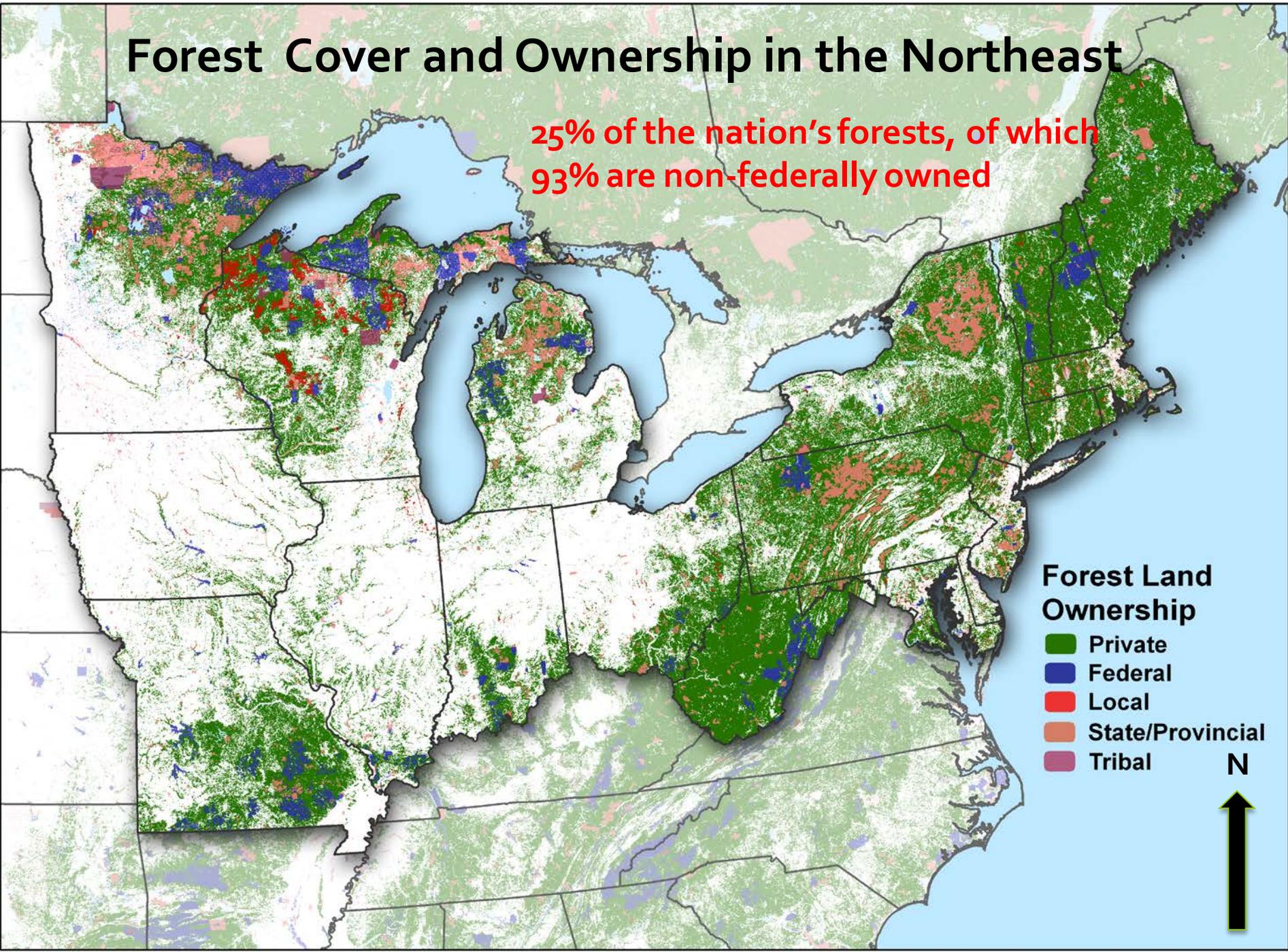
The Cohesive Strategy for the Northeast U.S.

WFLC Meeting
Washington, DC
April 9, 2014

Forest Cover and Ownership in the Northeast

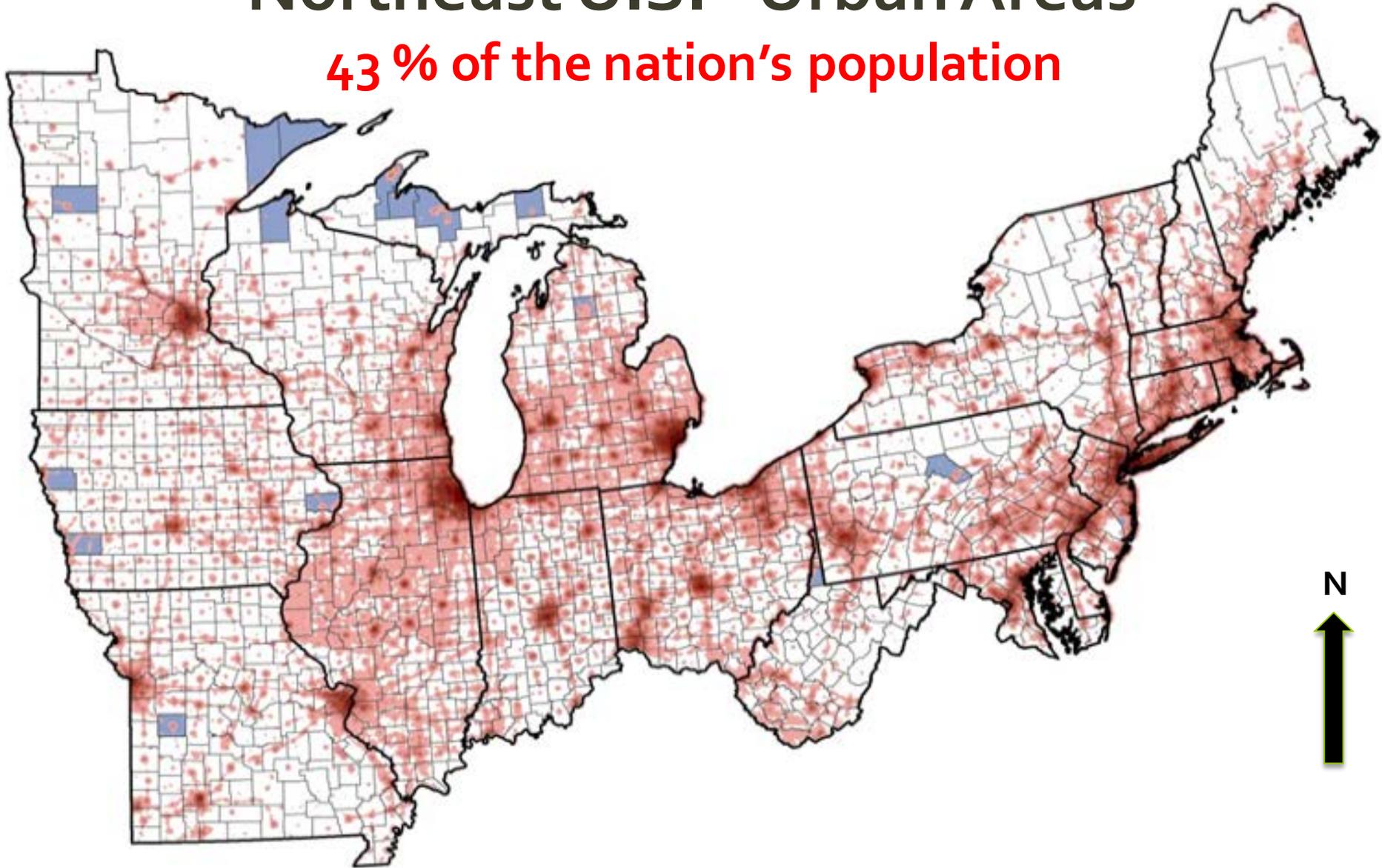
25% of the nation's forests, of which 93% are non-federally owned

- Forest Land Ownership**
- Private
 - Federal
 - Local
 - State/Provincial
 - Tribal



Northeast U.S. - Urban Areas

43 % of the nation's population



Northeast Region Key Wildland Fire Challenges

Goal 1 - RESILIENT LANDSCAPES

- Lack of Prescribed Burning
- Smoke Concerns
- Loss of Fire-dependent Ecosystems
- Inadequate Biomass Utilization



Goal 2 - FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES

- Urbanization and Landscape Fragmentation
- Lack of Local Planning and Coordination



Northeast Region Key Wildland Fire Challenges

Goal 3 - WILDFIRE RESPONSE

- Firefighter and Public Safety Risks
- Insufficient Shared Investment in the Firefighting Workforce
- Differing Jurisdictional Responsibilities
- Inability to Maintain or Increase Local Capacity
- Inadequate Training and Qualifications Coordination



Northeast Regional Action Plan

The National Cohesive
Wildland Fire
Management Strategy

Northeast Regional
Action Plan

A Phase III Report by the
Northeast Regional Strategy Committee
March 2013



Resilient Landscapes



Fire Adapted Communities



Goal 1. Restore and Maintain Landscapes: Landscapes across all jurisdictions are resilient to fire-related disturbances in accordance with management objectives.

Goal 2. Fire Adapted Communities: Human populations and infrastructure can withstand a wildfire without loss of life and property.

Goal 3. Wildfire Response: All jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions.



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Northeast CS Success Story

(Addresses all 3 goals)

Mashpee (MA) Collaborative Works to Restore Rabbit, Human Habitats

Objectives

- Restore resilient, fire dependent landscapes for New England Cottontails (Goal 1)
- Reduce risk of wildfire to risk to nearby homes (Town of Mashpee) (Goal 2)
- Develop wildland fire management partnerships (Goal 3)

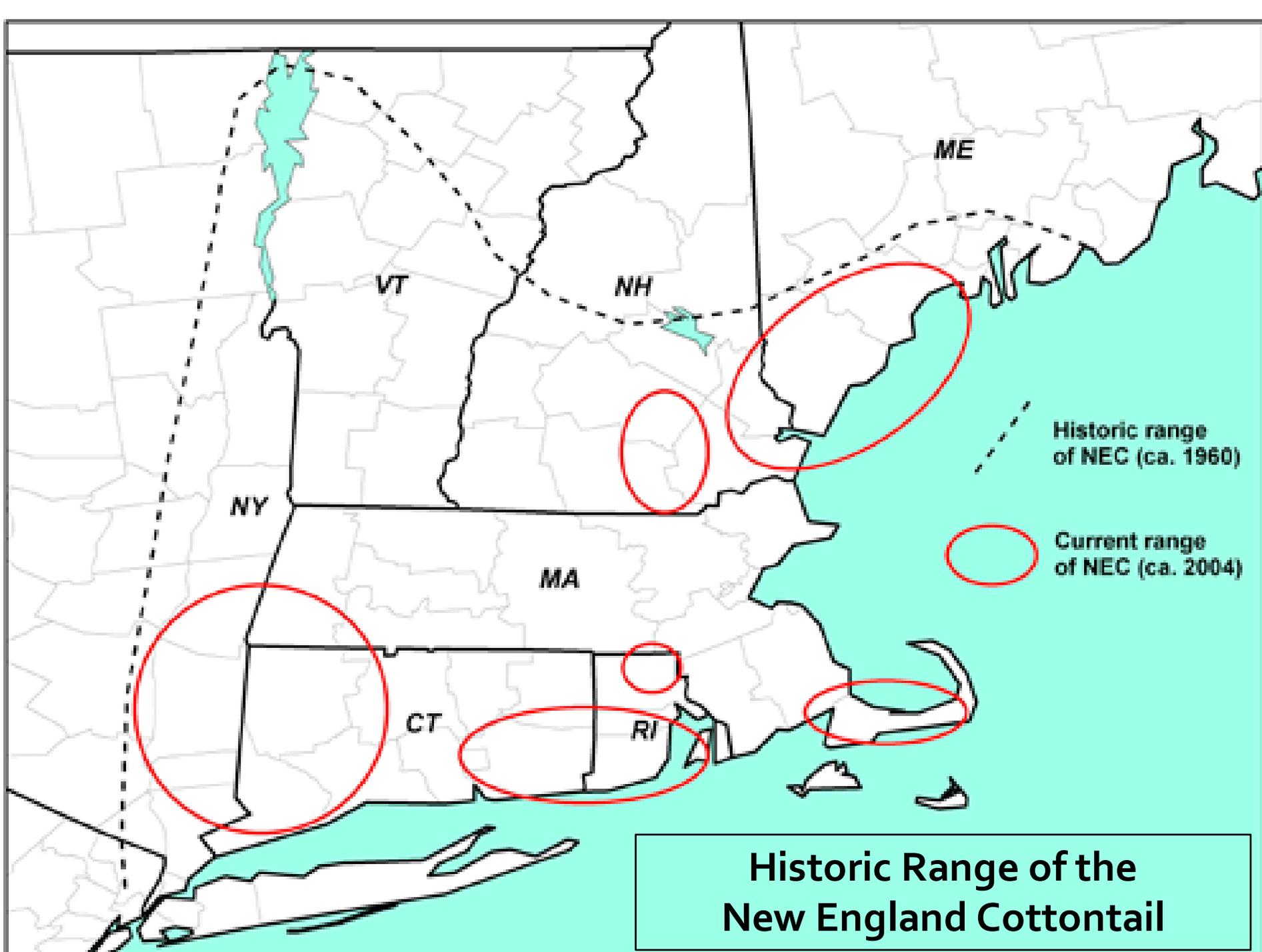


New England Cottontails inhabit Cape Cod and are a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act.
Photo credit: David Tibbetts/USFWS



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**Historic Range of the
New England Cottontail**



Town of Mashpee, Massachusetts

Cape Cod, MA - May 1965



Northeast CS Success Story

Mashpee (MA) Collaborative

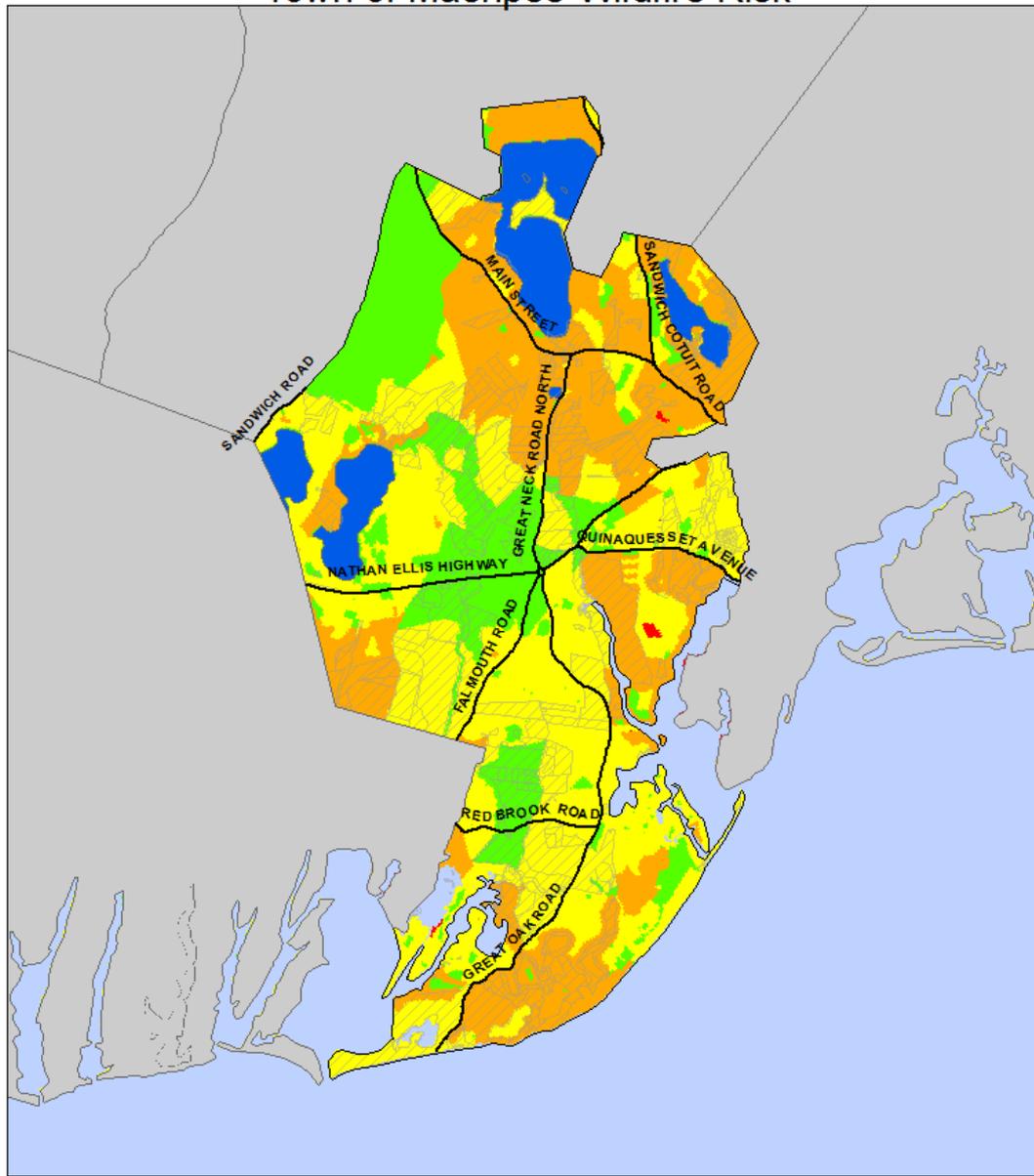
- On Cape Cod, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has joined forces with:
- Town of Mashpee,
- State of Massachusetts,
- Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve,
- Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, and
- other partners in New England



Chief Baker at an early planning meeting to restore fire to Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge. *Photo credit: USFWS*



Town of Mashpee Wildfire Risk



Prepared By: Northeast Forest and Fire Management, LLC
 Sources: MassGIS, LANDFIRE, and NE-FFM Date Prepared: 5/31/12
 NAD 1983 Datum This map is for planning purposes only, specific points are subject to verification on the ground.
 MA State Plane Coordinate System (Mainland) It is not to be used by itself for legal boundary definition.
 Lambert Conformal Conic Projection

- Legend**
- Roads
 - ▨ Massachusetts Open Space
 - Lakes and Ponds

- Wildfire Risk**
- Low
 - Moderate
 - High
 - Extreme

USFWS Regional Fire Planner Rick Vollick meets with partners to view the road clearing project. Photo credit: Catherine J. Hibbard/USFWS



Preparing to burn after completion of road clearing project in Southeastern Massachusetts Atlantic Coastal Pine Barrens near Mashpee.



Holland Hill Barrens Prescribed Burn



Photo Direction: ENE
Latitude: N 41° 35' 45"
Longitude: W 70° 29' 14"

5/7/2012 13:01:45
Time Correction: - 1 Hr. & 8 Min.
Photographer: Joel Carlson

Holland Hill Barrens Prescribed Burn



Photo Direction: W
Latitude: N 41° 35' 47"
Longitude: W 70° 29' 10"

5/7/2012 17:02:17
Time Correction: None
Photographer: Joel Carlson

Northeast CS Success Story

Mashpee (MA) Collaborative Results

- Serves as a case study on a habitat management and fuel reduction program in the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge.
- Illustrates a paradigm shift in the North East from a structural firefighting strategy to a wildfire management strategy that includes fuels reduction, road maintenance and firefighter training to the NWCG standard.



New England Cottontails are the only cottontail rabbit native to New England.



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Northeast CS Success Story

Mashpee (MA) Collaborative Results

- It's too early to tell if New England cottontails have benefitted from these initial actions, but partners are trying to find out with studies. (Goal 1)
- Fire risk has been reduced to protect an estimated 250 homes worth \$87 million. (Goal 2)
- *"I chalk the positive outcomes of that fire to things this department and I have learned from the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service,"* said Mashpee Fire Department Chief George Baker. (Goal 3)



Prescribed fire consumes overgrown scrub oak near a subdivision in Mashpee. *Photo credit: Catherine J. Hibbard/USFWS*



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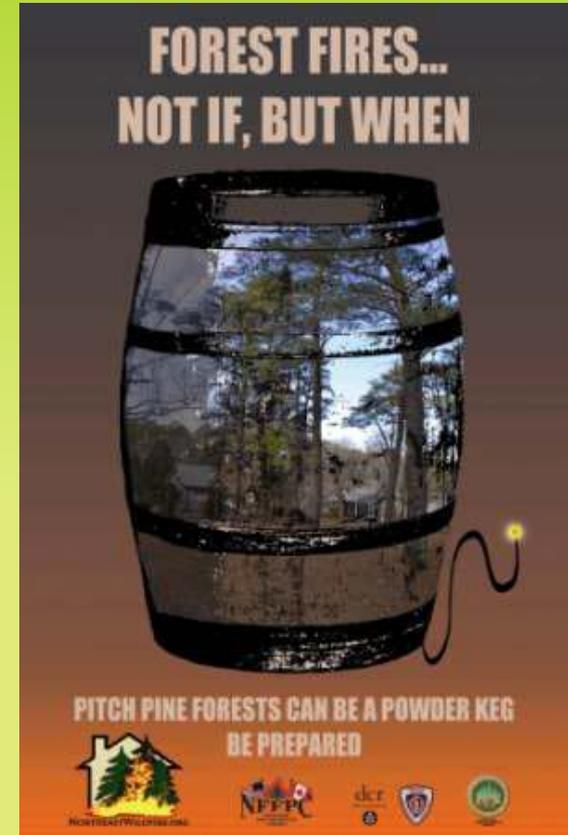
Northeast CS Success Story

The Back Story

- Barnstable County
Cooperative Extension

The Other Story

- Fire Prevention Education
Team mobilization



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Keys to Success

- Challenges in Common
- Willing Partners
- Compatible Objectives
- Collaborative Planning & Implementation
- Mutual Benefits Realized



Meeting of the Northeast Regional Strategy Committee – July 2012, Boston MA



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Questions?



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