

RGT Monitoring Report

a. Please save this form with the name of the property and the year - for example: *Bates Monitoring Report 2014*. (If you don't save with property and year, it will be hard to sort out all the Monitoring Reports later)

b. Fill out 1, 2, and especially 3 WHEN YOU ARE PLANNING the trip.

c. Please add a monitoring map at the end of the report.

1. Name of Property and Year:

East Leverett Meadow 2014

2. Property owned by RGT?

Yes

a. If "no" (i.e. CR): Name of owner (if new owner, put in all the contact information. If same just put in name):

b. Date owner was invited to join in the monitoring: NA

3. Date and recommendations from last year's monitoring: August 31, 2013

- Put up clear signage regarding the prohibition of ATVs in the meadow.
- Repair and re-site the bird boxes.
- Inspect and clean out the kestrel box in the middle of the meadow.
- Cut a path from the observation bend along the trail paralleling the eastern boundary of the meadow to the remains of an old distillery that used to occupy the site.
- Continue efforts to locate pins or other boundary markers at the NW and SE corners of the property.

4. Date of this year's monitoring:

November 16, 2014

5. Participants:

Steve Weiss

6. Describe the monitoring route briefly (also draw on map):

Beginning at the south west corner of the property, I walked north to the perimeter trail around the Meadow, then east along the perimeter trail to the south east corner of the property, north along the eastern boundary line to the north east corner of the property, west along the northern boundary line to the north west corner of the property, and south along the western boundary line to the south west corner of the property.

7. Describe any man-made alterations (draw on map/take photos. If no, write "none observed")

Paths have been cut from the perimeter trail to the remains of old distilleries along the eastern boundary line.

Yellow tape has been strung up at various points in the south west corner of the property to discourage ATV use. That tape is now being removed.

8. Describe any natural alterations:

None.

9. If CR, describe any interactions with landowner(s) during the monitoring or since the past monitoring:

NA.

10. Describe any changes in use being planned (ownership? land use?):

None planned.

11. List any observations comments, areas needing discussion or review:

The perimeter path around the Meadow (maintained recently by Stewart Olson) provides excellent access to visitors.

Some of the stakes marking the perimeter path have fallen down and need to be re-set in the ground.

The paths that were cut to the old distilleries have made these interesting features much more accessible.

Someone has established a geocache in the remains of the northern distillery site.

There was no evidence, and we have received no reports, of recent ATV activity on the property.

Goldenrod has now come to dominate the western and northern portions of the meadow proper.

There are a substantial number of milkweed plants in the eastern and southern portions of the meadow proper.

We need to do the best we can to clearly establish the four boundary points and mark them in a way that they will be easy to recognize going forward.

12. List any needed follow-up:

- Boundary markers
 - Use a GPS to establish the four corner boundary points as nearly as possible.
 - Put up clearly visible stakes or other markers at each boundary point.
- Meadow
 - Consider pilot testing different methods for reducing goldenrod in the meadow itself.
- Edge habitat
 - Inspect and cut as necessary the woody growth in the northwest edge habitat.
- Perimeter path
 - Inspect and re-set as necessary the wooden stakes marking the pathway.
- Bridge over Roaring Brook
 - Have the bridge inspected for continuing structural integrity.
 - Put up warning signs alerting visitors that the bridge is slippery when wet.
- Observation benches
 - Repair broken leg on bench near the northwest corner of the perimeter path.
- Old Distillery sites
 - Put up sign identifying the sites for visitors to the meadow.
 - Cut path connecting the two sites
 - Inspect for and remove trash and debris.
 - Remove half-buried pipe from southern site.
- Bird boxes
 - Clean out.
 - Check for damage and repair as needed.
 - Reposition where necessary.
 - Expand the cleared area in front of each box for birds to forage.

13. Suggestions for next year's monitoring team?

Make a careful inspection along the eastern and northern boundaries which can be difficult to navigate and hence are not visited as often.

Signed: Steve Weiss

Date Signed: November 19 2014

AND

I have asked to present this report at the next RGT Board Meeting.

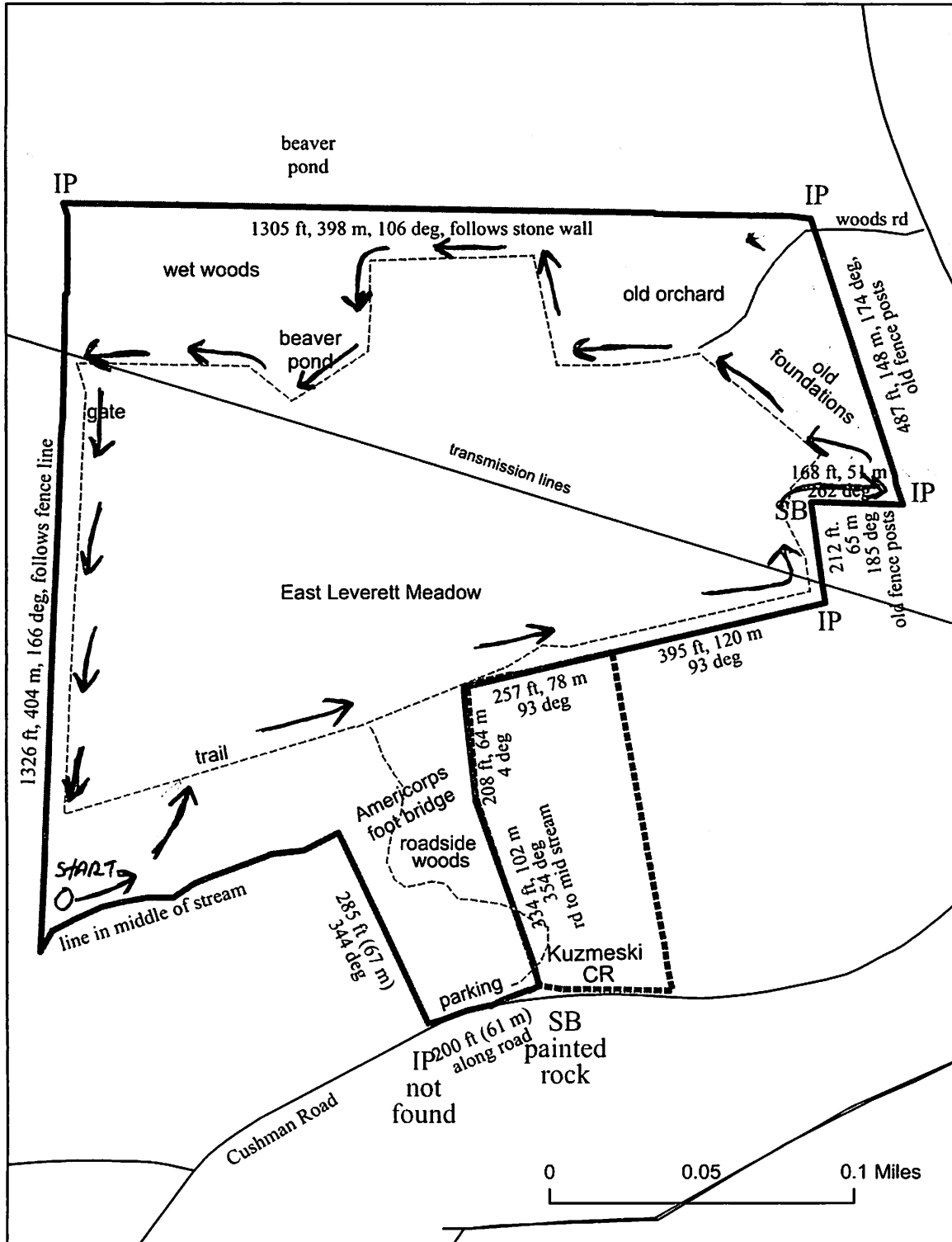
I have sent a copy of this report to the owner (if CR).

I have printed out a copy of this report and put it in the RGT green Field Notebook.

I have sent a copy to the person who puts reports in the RGT blue Archive Notebook.

I have sent an electronic copy of this report to the person who puts it on the Board-only section of the RGT website.

East Leverett Meadow



red line = ELM owned by Rattlesnake Gutter Trust (28 acres)
 Dotted purple line = Kuzmeski Conservation Restriction (3 acres)
 dashed, green line = trail from parking lot on Cushman Road

