

Forest Operations on the University Forest

Forest Climate Change Initiative Science & Practice Forum

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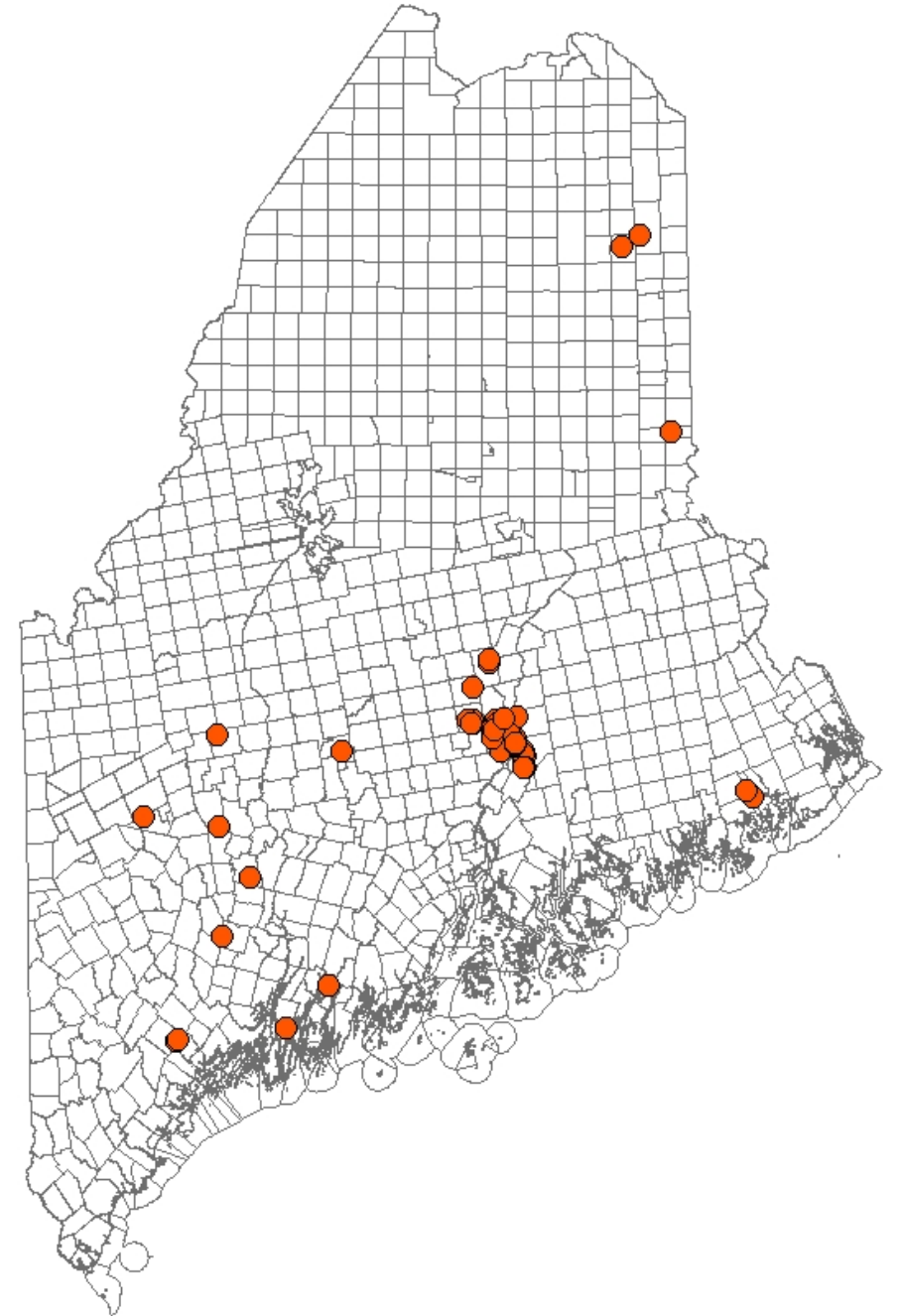
University Forest Manager

February 12, 2020

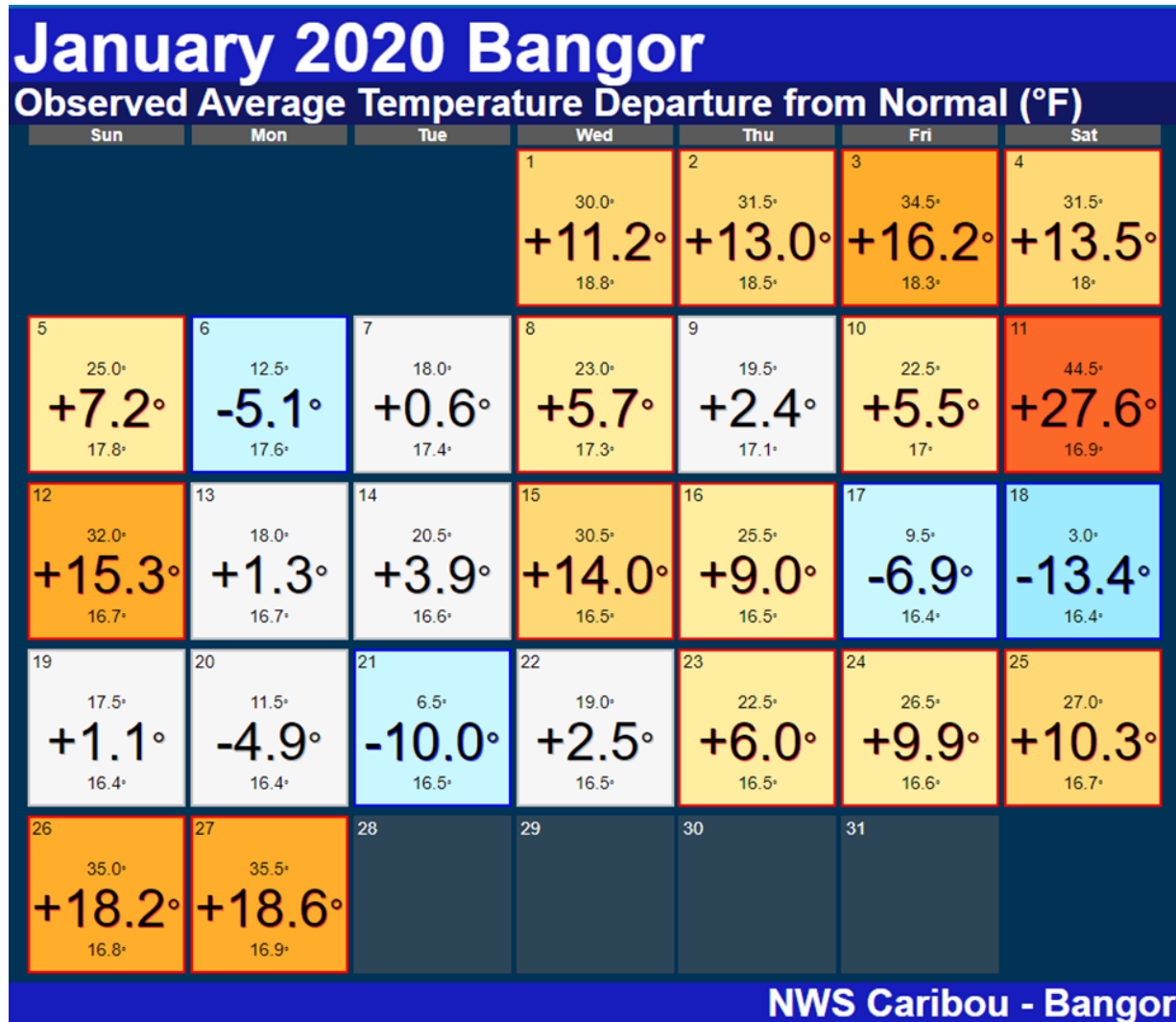


University Forests

- Landbase:
 - Small and scattered
 - 14,000 Acres
 - Across climatic zones
 - Parcels range in size from 4000 ac to ½ acre



My stress level indicator.....



Operational Responses - Harvesting

- The lower Penobscot valley is not Northern Maine or even Central Maine, or anything like it.
- Responding to weather just like we always have - just more of it.
- When cold comes we use it.
- We always try to have backup wood if risk is high.
- Pay close attention to our BMPs and their maintenance.



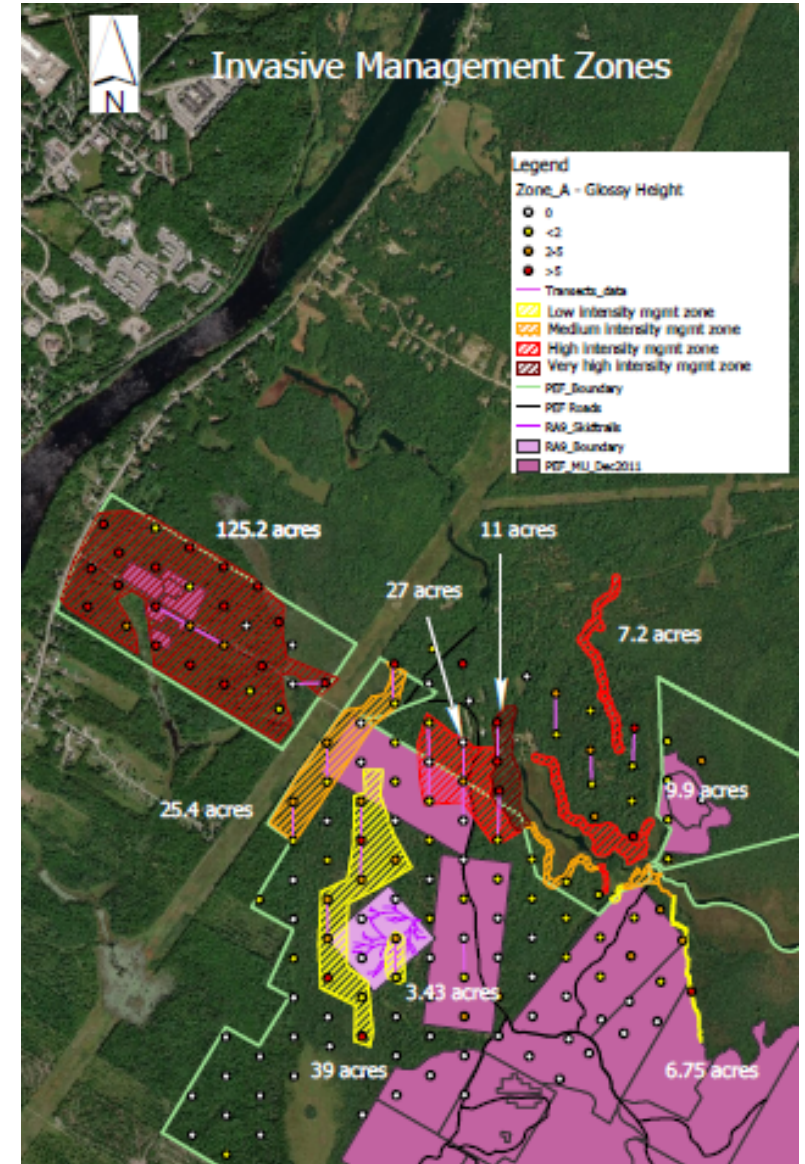
Operational Responses - Roads

- Increases in storm intensity
- Roads – Aggressively working on maintenance of drainage systems
 - Ditch maintenance
 - Surface maintenance and grading
 - Culvert upsizing as opportunities come along
 - Retiring or moth balling roads – pulling drainage structures
- Rethinking daylighting roads – if the road accesses mostly winter ground.
 - Its still good in the woods but the road is going to pieces.....



Operational responses - Silviculture

- Paying much more attention to invasive plants
 - Seem to be an increasing issue
 - Putting resources into mapping and control efforts
- Increasingly concerned about ice and wind
- Hemlock Woolly Adelgid not yet a major problem but the concern is significant
- Otherwise no changes - still generally managing for the same species in the same way



Interesting Benefits

- Reduced snow pack meant we could do PCT and some herbicide work in January and February this year!
- Repeated rain on snow events followed by cold last season actually froze some extremely wet sites very well.

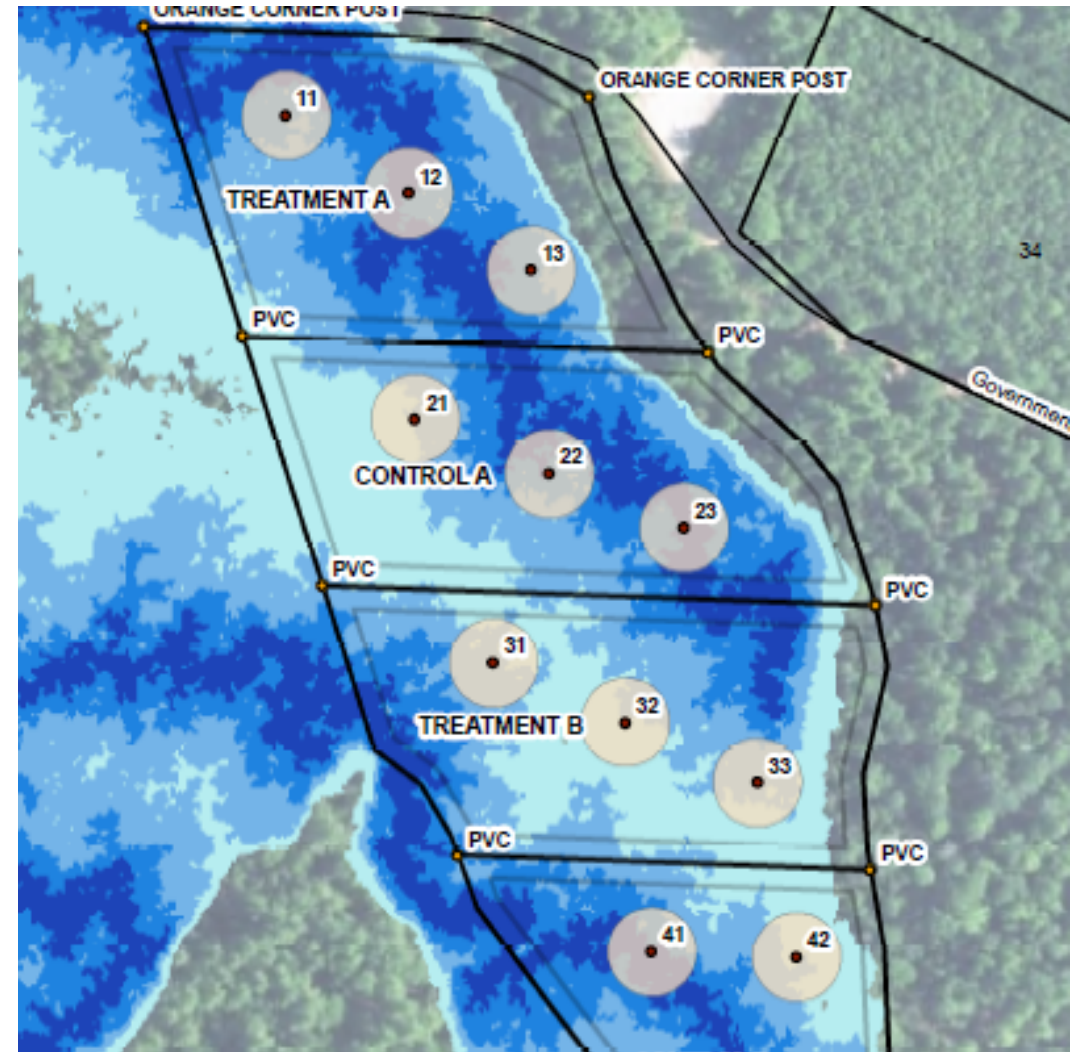


What has helped

- Wet areas mapping has proved useful where we have used it
- LIDAR derived 2' contours
- Availability of Cut-to-Length contractors and hybrid systems
- Knowledgeable contractors

What Would Help

- Better long term weather forecasting
 - 30-60 days out would actually help planning



Questions?

This 32" pine blew over in 2017
windstorm

