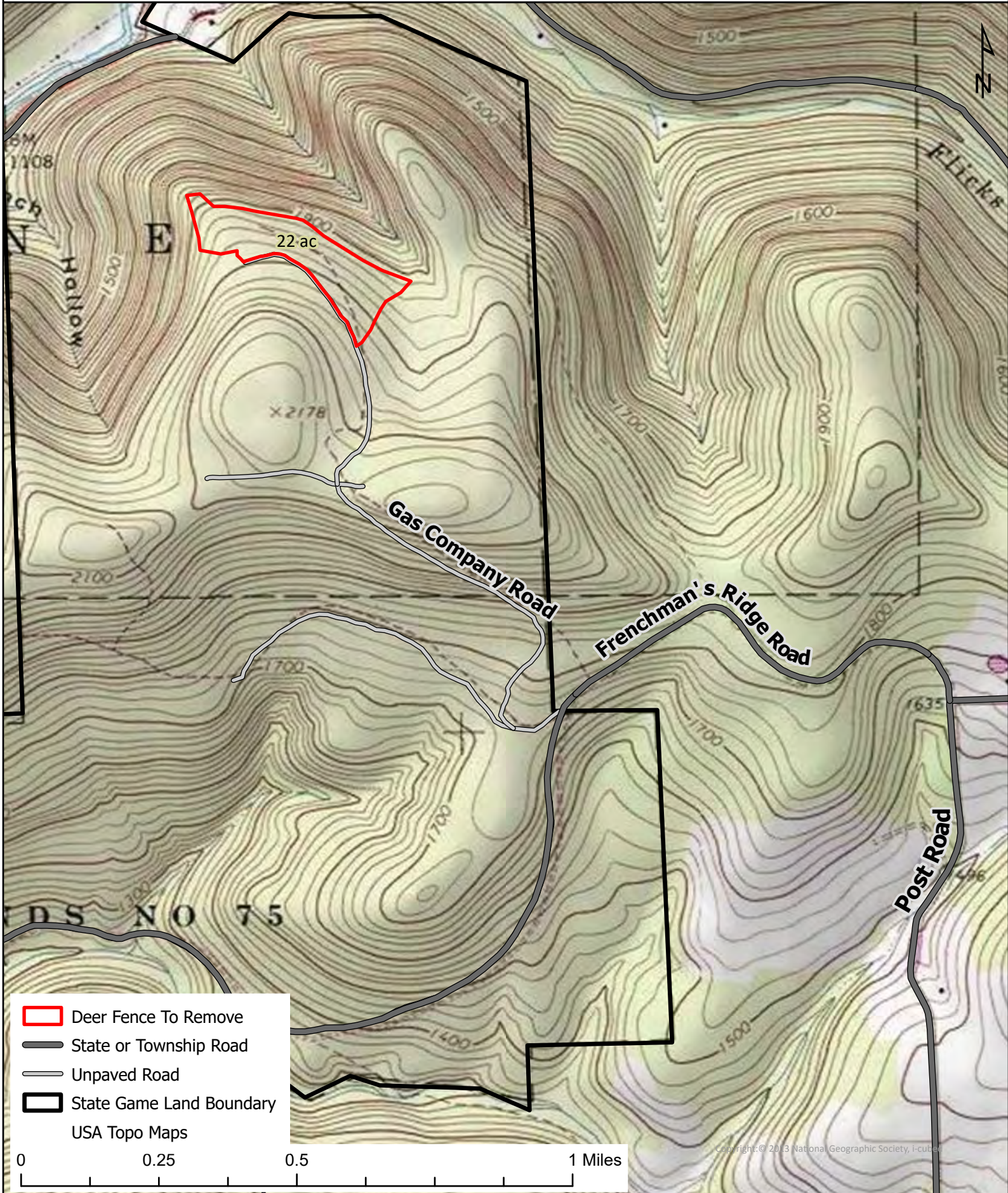




Flat Top - Block 1 Fence Removal

State Game Land 075, Lycoming County, Pine Township

Block 1: 22 acres, 5,780' Perimeter
Remove all Man & Vehicle Gates



-  Deer Fence To Remove
-  State or Township Road
-  Unpaved Road
-  State Game Land Boundary

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

**Flat Top - Block 1 Fence Removal
Habitat Enhancement Project
Lycoming County
Pine Township
SGL 075
Compartment 12
Forester: Chris Wood**

3/17/2023

I would like to request the removal of 1 deer enclosure fence on State Game Lands 075 in Pine Township of Lycoming County. The fence is located on top of ridge to the north of the headwaters of Bear Run in the easternmost section of SGL 075.

The enclosure has a 5,780 feet perimeter that encompasses 22 acres. The fenced area is a degraded stand that has been through a series of harvesting treatments attempting to salvage, restore, and enhance wildlife habitat. The Flat Top - Block 1 area was originally thinned in 1979 as part of the Bear Run timber sale (#075-80-1-102T). The area was then treated with a shelterwood/ ash salvage harvest through the Flat Top timber sale (#075-2014-01) in the summer of 2015, sprayed for fern and striped maple in 2015, and fenced in the summer of 2016. The decision was then made to manage the stand as permanent early successional habitat. The Lycoming habitat crew cut and dropped most remaining beech and birch in the winter of 2018-2019. These silvicultural efforts have produced a cohort of dense pin cherry, birch, and beech and Rubus with stems ranging in height from 5 to 30 feet tall. The project has also yielded an exceptional amount of course woody debris and an ample amount of grouse drumming logs. It is my professional opinion that this fenced area is structurally set up for success as an early successional habitat anchor point within compartment 12. I am recommending that we remove the fence and allow this cohort to mature. The area will be monitored as it grows for any additional herbicide requirements and for the optimal time to fell the stand again to maximize structural habitat benefits.

I recommend scheduling the removal of this fence structure for the upcoming state contract. All materials, including the man gates and truck gate, can be removed from the site by the successfully bidding contractor.