

Refuge Projects Update

At Assabet River NWR



Fire Breaks on the South Side of Assabet River NWR

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in cooperation with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will be creating mechanical fuel breaks along portions of the eastern boundary of the Assabet River NWR and state lands south of Hudson Road. This project will aid in the control of wildfires and create **defensible space** to adjacent homes. Defensible space provides fire departments a safer means of controlling wildfires while protecting your homes.



Service personnel will use a skid steer equipped with a mechanical mulching head to thin and remove undesired trees and vegetation that have accumulated over the years. The fuel break will average 150 feet in width, retaining large older trees while removing excessive smaller trees, brush, and fallen woody material that increase the risk of wildfire spread. The project will occur intermittently throughout the fall/winter months.

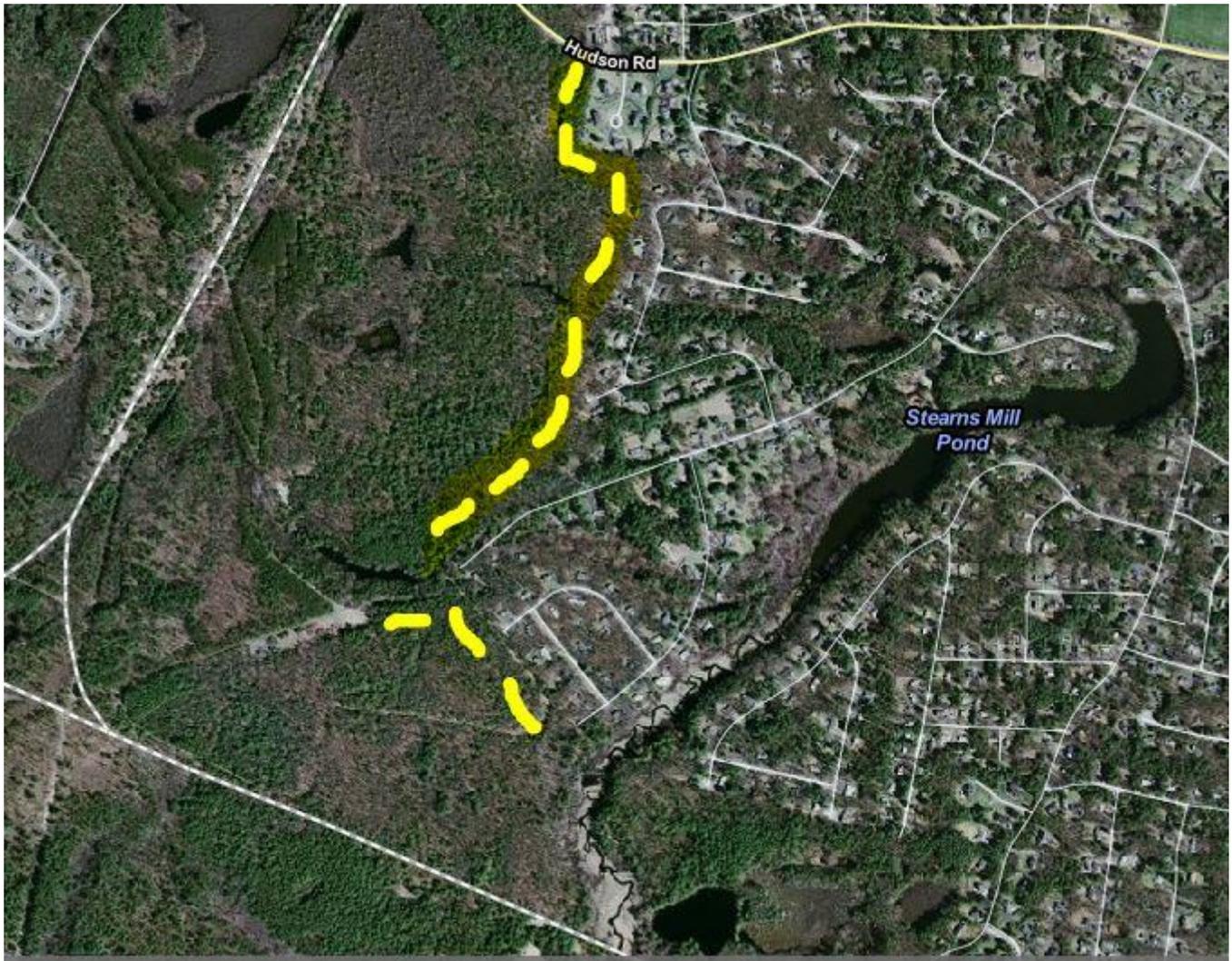
Mechanical equipment operations can create flying debris and falling hazards within 200 feet of the equipment, so we ask you to be mindful of your own safety and avoid these operations until completed.

The project will abut properties from Spruce Lane south to Moore Road and southeast to Surry Lane. Please see the attached map on the reverse side for fire break locations.

Any questions or comments concerning the project should be directed to:

Tom Eagle, Deputy Refuge Manager 978-579-4027.

Map of Fire Breaks along South Side of Assabet River NWR



The map above shows the fire breaks in yellow over a satellite image of the south side.

The diagram to the right is how the south side appears on Assabet River trail maps.

