

## EBTJV Northern Region Habitat Objectives

- Maintain the status, or no net less, of **477** subwatersheds classified as healthy by 2012.
- Strengthen brook trout populations in **20-50** subwatersheds ~~classified as healthy~~ by 2012.
- Improve **2** reduced subwatersheds to healthy classification by 2012.
- ~~Strengthen brook trout populations in **30** subwatersheds classified as reduced by 2012.~~
- Establish self-sustaining brook trout populations in 1 subwatershed classified as extirpated by 2012.
- Prevent further degradation in **505** subwatersheds currently classified as reduced by 2012.
- Gather data on **700** of the predicted subwatersheds by 2012 ~~for use in validating the predictive brook trout status model.~~
- Maintain the status, or no net loss, of healthy pond and lake watersheds, and assess the status of **50** unknown waters by 2012.

# Actions to Strengthen Brook Trout Populations

## **Improve Connectivity**

- Culvert replacement and removal
- Dam removals/create passage

## **Habitat Improvement\*\***

- Structures to create/maintain pools
- Increase riparian buffers
- Bank stabilization
- Improve overhead cover
- Reduce erosion/landuse issues
- Wood addition

\*\*Relevant for climate change mitigation

# Actions to Strengthen Brook Trout Populations

## **Flow Maintenance**

- Hydro agreements
- Water withdrawals – agriculture, bottled water, m. shale
- Climate change – altered precipitation patterns, hydrology

## **Water Quality**




- Mitigate acid precipitation – lake liming program; shell addition
- Abandoned mines
- Water temp critical

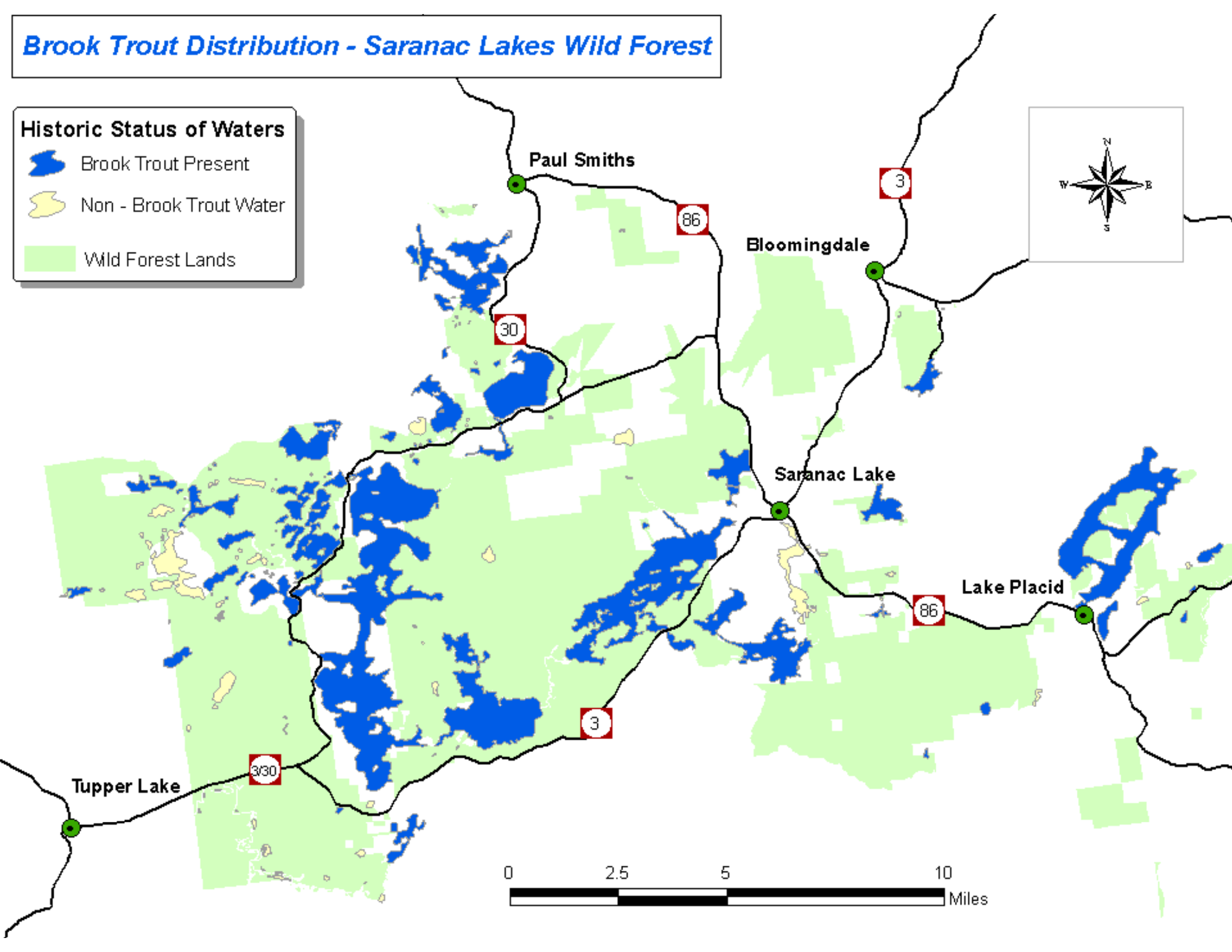
## **Invasive Species (number 1 issue for lake and pond brook trout populations)**

- Remove where feasible
- Contact partners for help – research?

# Brook Trout Distribution - Saranac Lakes Wild Forest





## Historic Status of Waters

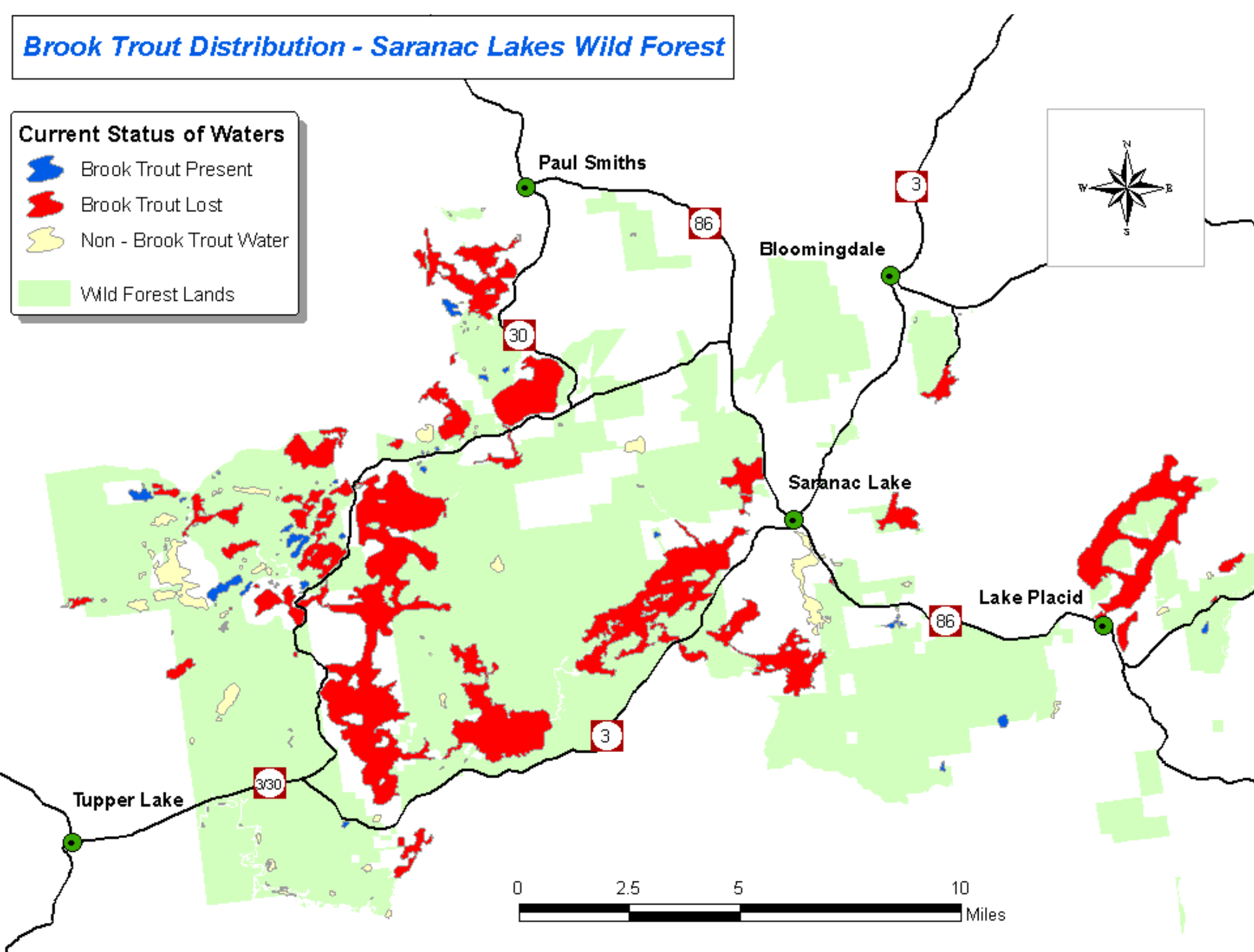
-  Brook Trout Present
-  Non - Brook Trout Water
-  Wild Forest Lands



# Brook Trout Distribution - Saranac Lakes Wild Forest

## Current Status of Waters

-  Brook Trout Present
-  Brook Trout Lost
-  Non - Brook Trout Water
-  Wild Forest Lands



## Actions to Protect Brook Trout Populations – Maintain Status

- Regulations
- Maintain database/GIS for regulatory review and use by other agencies
- Easements
- Land acquisition
- Flow agreements
- Establish BMPs
- Zoning
- Outreach and education
- Establish a framework for long-term monitoring – guidelines for partners.

## Data Issues

- Continue current assessments. At a minimum, sampling density should be adequate to make status calls on the subwatershed level, as was done in the first status and threats assessment.
- Develop methodology to scale subwatershed-level data down to catchment level.
- Twenty-year interval for range-wide reassessment?
- Develop protocol for continual updating of current assessment – circulate standardized watershed, catchment boundaries, attribute tables, documentation?

## **Where are we?**

- Refined objectives.
- Framework for action plan developed.

## **Where do we need to go/how do we get there?**

- Need to make the action plan relevant and useful?
- Circulate VT plan. Each state will modify to suit their needs.
- Use old strategy documents?
- Update Objective targets with PA numbers.

## **By when?**

**June 1**



