

“I love trees so much, I have to cut them down’: The public’s perception of a water utility’s clear cut and slash wall.”

Joshua Tracy

Forester II, South Central CT Regional Water Authority





Regional
Water
Authority



What's a
slashwall?



Location
matters



Strong
Opinions



South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority.

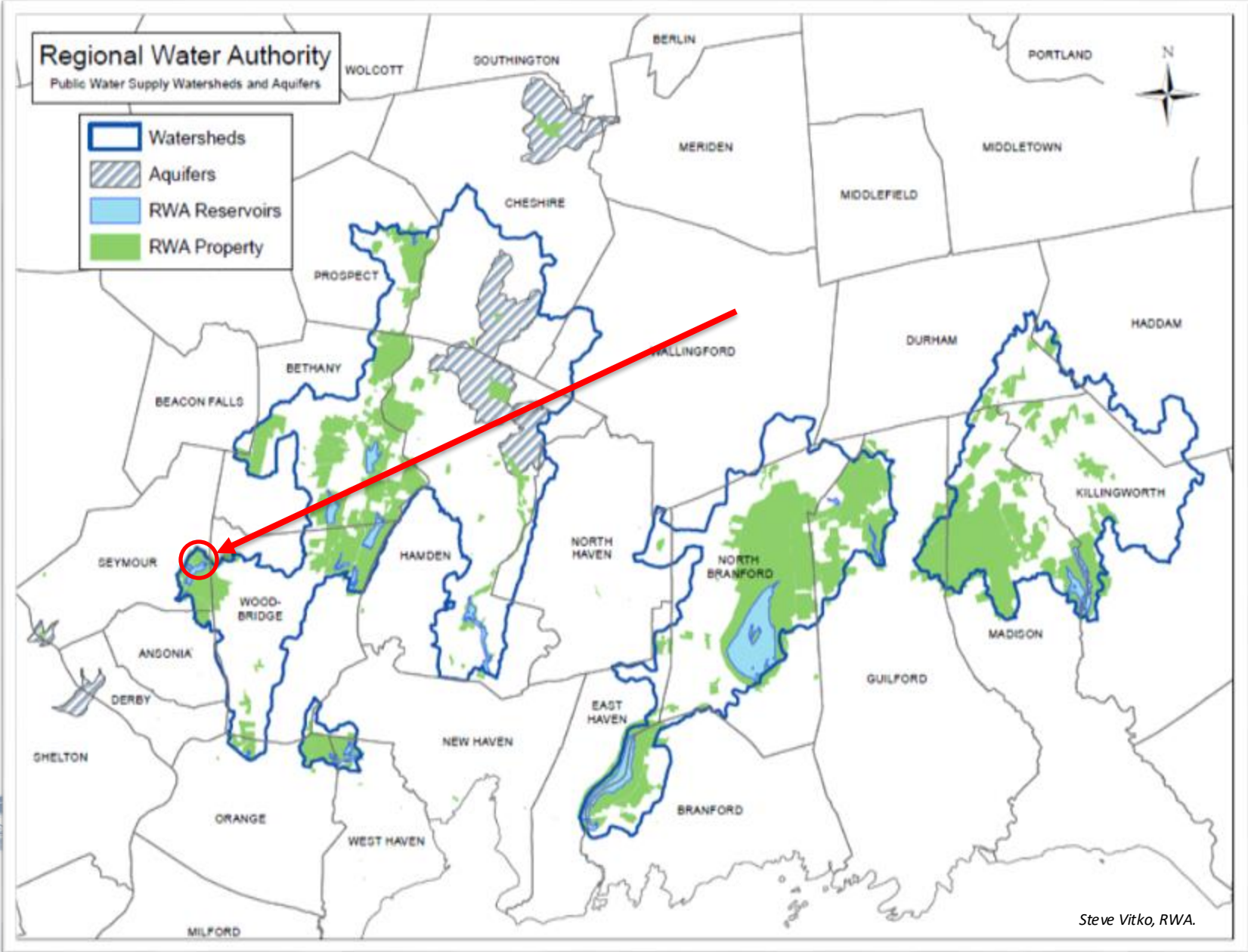
The RWA was created in 1977, and purchased all property from the New Haven Water Company in 1980; the New Haven Water Company was established in 1849.

We provided roughly 16.5 billion gallons of water in FY2024 to almost 430,000 consumers in 15 communities.

27,000 acres of land are managed for watershed protection, timber management, wildlife habitat, open space, education and research.



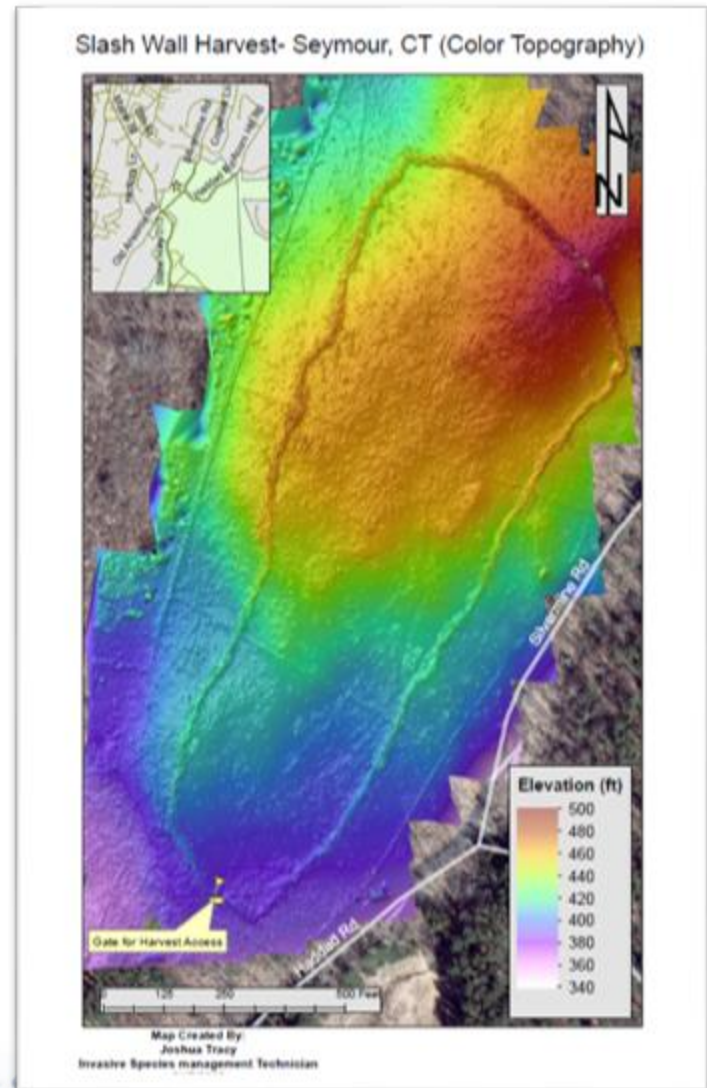
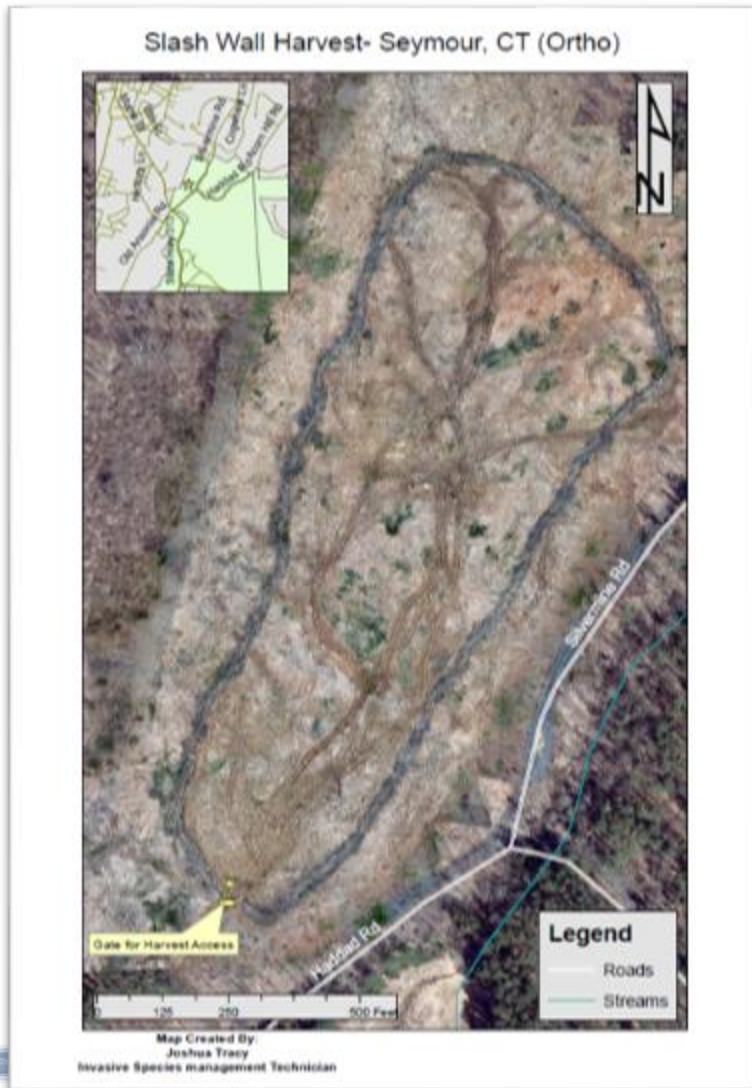
RWA Source Water Protection Areas



Steve Vitko, RWA.



Seymour, Connecticut. Clear-cut and slashwall.



Seymour, Connecticut. Clear-cut and slashwall.



Seymour, Connecticut. Clear-cut and slashwall.



Credit: Denise Savegeau.



Location matters.



Madison, Connecticut. Clear-cut and slashwall.



First Selectwoman had problems.

Mr. Bingham,
I hope this email finds you and yours well, and I hope 2022 has started safe and happy.

I am emailing you in regards to selective cutting that is being performed on RWA property. I have residents questioning and wondering what is going on. I saw and read the notices posted stating that selective cutting is being performed how ever we were not notified ahead of time that this work was going to be performed. As the First Selectwoman I like to know what is happening in town so that when asked by the residents I can answer. I am sure you can understand that as well.

I have some concerns as the communications with the Town about the project and it's start timing was almost non-existent. We received no plans that reveal the full scope of the project. Why was this area chosen as opposed to other areas. The visual impact of the clear cutting or selective cutting should have been presented and discussed with the Town so that we could better explain why this is being done. Town officials and residents should have been given the opportunity to weigh in on the work - long before the work was started. We are concerned that the contractors will leave behind debris and generally leave the area looking worse than a poorly maintained dump. They should stop operations immediately and clean up debris in the area they have already worked if they have not done that already. I would like to hear from different experts about why you feel this work is necessary now and in our community. What are the benefits to the community? What are the risks to the community. What is the total cost of the work? What do does RWA plan on doing with the \$ made on this project? Any profits from the project should should benefit our community.

I thank you in advance for your attention towards this matter and look forward to hearing from you,

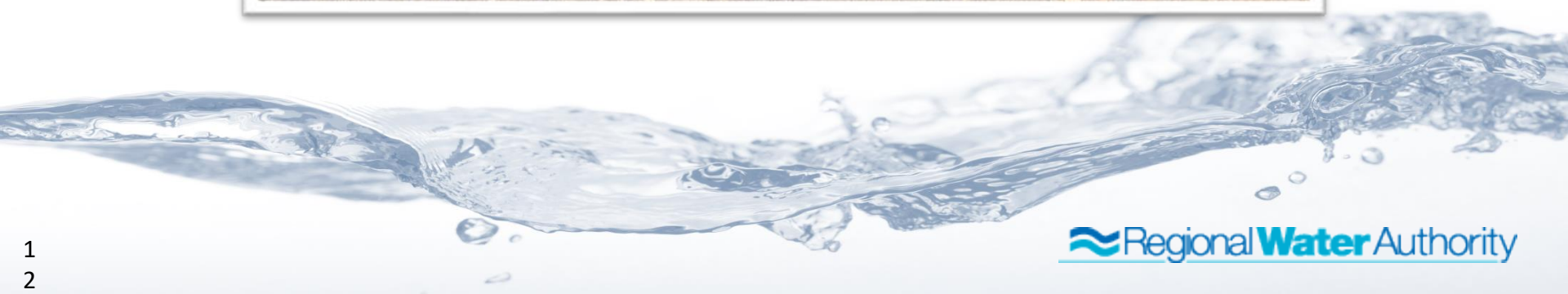
Thank you,
[REDACTED]
First Selectwoman
Town of Seymour



How many houses?



Get rid of the piles!



Conflicts of the past.





Joshua Tracy

Forester II

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An aerial photograph of a vast, dense field of small, bright green plants, likely clover or a similar species, growing in a field. The plants are packed closely together, creating a textured, green surface. In the center of the image, the words "Thank you." are written in a white, elegant cursive font. The text is centered horizontally and vertically, standing out clearly against the green background. The overall scene is bright and natural, suggesting a healthy, thriving field.

Thank you.

