



**Forestry Program**  
**Andrew Fast, Extension Educator**

**SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

- An estimated 1361 individuals were directly contacted through telephone calls, publication distribution, one-on-one visits and group educational meetings. Approximately 532 people attended 27 group educational meetings on a variety of forestry, wildlife, and conservation related subjects. Landowners participated in 89 woodland exams covering 3866 acres.

This Accomplishment Report is an executive summary of educational programs and information given to Belknap County residents, listed by forestry program objectives.

**FOREST STEWARDSHIP**

- Assistance to forest landowners regarding land stewardship and management of forest resources continues to be the primary program objective. The following summary highlights the activities and impacts:
  - 829 landowners were assisted through email and telephone conversations on a wide variety of forest resource and wildlife subjects. Landowners participated in 89 woodland exams covering 3866 acres.
  - A wide variety of topics were discussed including (short list): wildlife habitat enhancement, silviculture, selling timber, forest management planning, the Current Use program, forest harvesting laws, conservation easements, forest ecology, recreational trails, how to find a logger or forester, cost-share programs, and chain saw safety. Fact sheets and literature related to topics were also distributed.
  - There were 48 referrals to consulting foresters for forestry services including: stewardship plan preparation, timber stand improvement, timber sale preparation and administration, wildlife habitat enhancement, cost-share activities, boundary line identification, Current Use maps, and road layout.
  - Planned, reviewed and/or approved cost share practices totaling \$14,349 dollars these practices included: 6 cost-shared forest stewardship plans covering 336 acres (\$6,718), 10 acres of timber stand improvement (\$1,500), and 1 acre of forest trails and landings (\$6,131).
- Continued technical assistance, outreach, and project review for Environmental Quality Assistance Program (EQIP) in Belknap County through a MOU between the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Forestry and Wildlife staff. See previous EQIP reporting.
- Participated in Spatial Analysis Project (SAP) along with other Forestry and Wildlife Program and U.S. Forest Service staff. SAP is a GIS-based strategic management tool that allows Forestry and Wildlife Program to spatially display important forest lands, tracts under Forest Stewardship plans, and areas of opportunity to focus future outreach efforts.
- Completed the Belknap County component of the NH Forest Stewardship Plan Implementation Monitoring Project for FY09. This is an effort by the U.S. Forest Service to better understand how cost share assisted stewardship plans result in on the ground management.

**URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY**

- Worked with the Laconia Shade Tree Group with support from Mary Tebo, UNH Extension Educator in Community Forestry and John Parry, Urban Forester USDA Forest Service, to complete a shade tree inventory of downtown Laconia.
- Provided assistance to the City of Laconia for their Weir Community Park Project.
- Of 89 woodlot exams, 31 related to Urban Forestry, Forest Health, or the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act.
- UNHCE played an important role in identifying the first incidence of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) in Belknap County. It is presently in the process of being eradicated at that site.

**NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION EDUCATION**

- Conducted workshops with colleagues and cosponsors on the following topics: cutting firewood; tree and shrub ID; selling timber; forest management; thinning; dendrology; backyard sugaring; prescribed fire; current use; NH Big Tree Program; NRCS conservation programs; vernal pools; and creating habitat for migratory birds.

- Participated and planned Project Learning Tree Walk in the Forest Field Days in Gilford, New Hampton and Freemont.
- Met with Gilford Elementary School in support of their CO-SEED project.
- In cooperation with Charlie French and his graduate student, Jill Scahill, worked with the Town of Gilmanton to complete a Natural Resource Audit of Town Documents.

#### **OTHER ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Served as the following:
  - Secretary, New England Society of American Foresters
  - Continuing Forestry Education Coordinator, New England Society of American Foresters
  - Participant, Lighten Up New Hampshire committee.
  - Board member of the Belknap Range Conservation Coalition
  - Belknap County Chair, NH Tree Farm Program
  - Participant, Kimball Castle Wildlife Forest Committee
  - Participant, *Good Forestry in the Granite State* Timber Quality and Flow Team
- 12 foresters and 19 loggers who benefit from UNHCE educational programs by receiving continuing education credits for professional licenses (NH forester license and NH Timber Harvesting Council certified logger program) were involved in timber sales in Belknap County.
- Worked with Belknap County groups, individuals, and constituents through office, field meetings and professional conferences. A partial list includes: small, medium and large landowners, professional loggers, NH licensed foresters, Belknap County Conservation District, Gunstock (Belknap County Government), City of Laconia, Town of Alton, Town of Gilford, Town of Meredith, Town of Gilmanton, NH Fish and Game, NH Division of Forests and Lands, US Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Society of American Foresters, New England Society of American Foresters Granite State Division Society of American Foresters, NH Audubon, The Forest Society, and the NH chapter of the Nature Conservancy.
- 21 articles appeared in local and regional papers or other media outlets making residents aware of programs, resources, and relevant natural resources topics.