Timber Harvesting on Conservation Lands: What You Should Know

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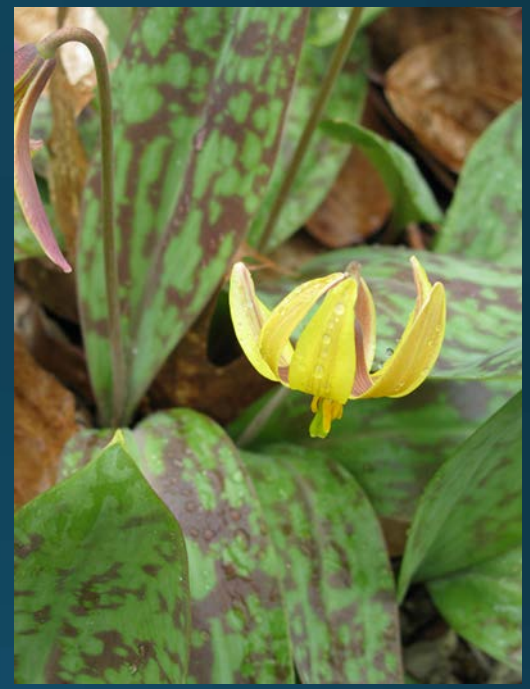
Why Do People Own Land?

- Privacy
- Beauty/Scenery
- Inheritance
- Have no idea why – it came with the house
- Protecting a resource or opportunity**
  - Water
  - Wildlife
  - Recreation
  - Source of income – timber & other forest products
  - All of the Above



**usually some thought or planning has occurred

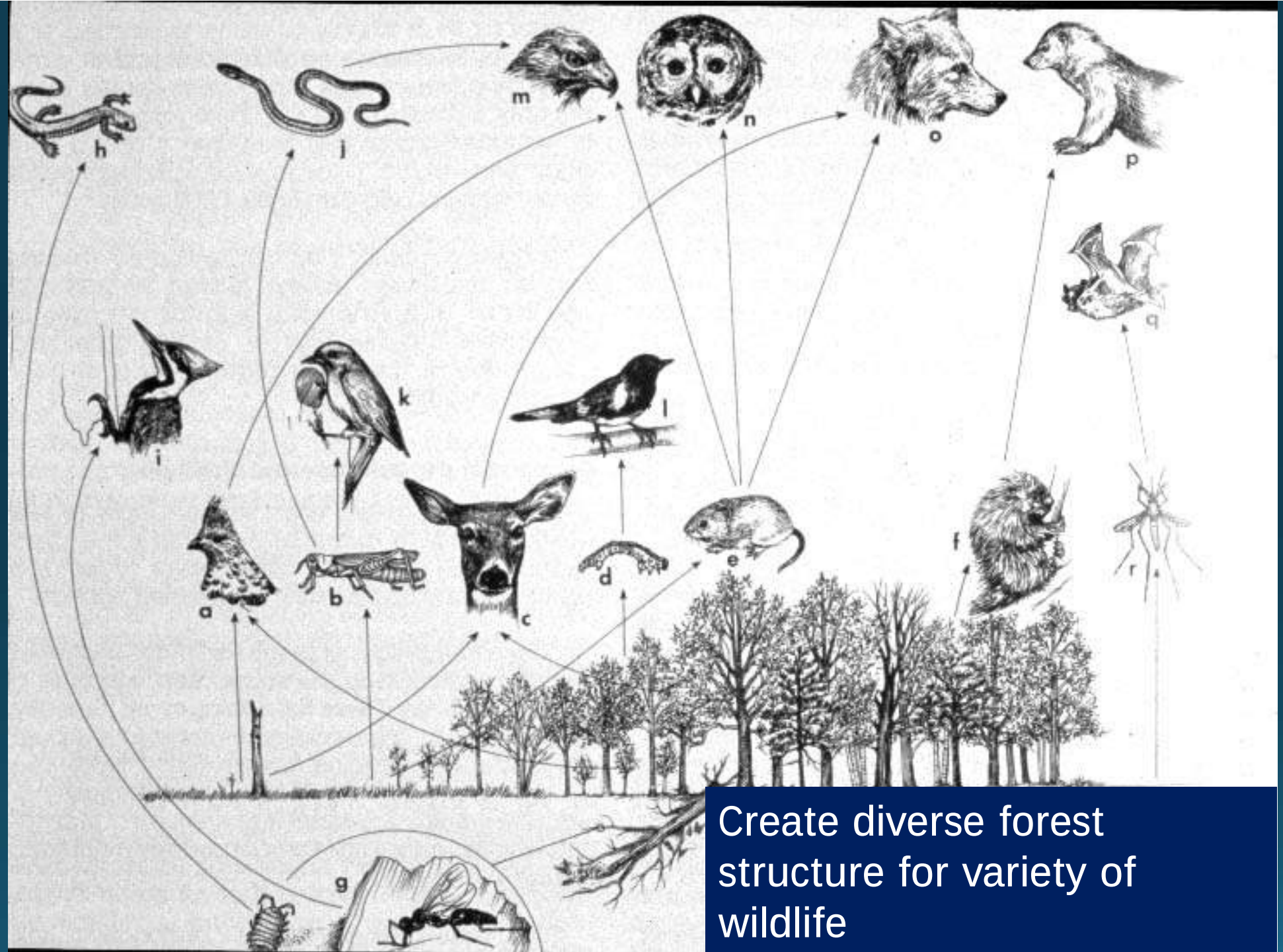
Key components of good forest management/stewardship

- Considers multiple resources
- Based on landowner objectives
- Uses best available practices
- Practices based on a plan
- Looks long term
- Uses professionals
- Uses best available science- SILVICULTURE

Management has a purpose

To create and maintain the kind of forest meets landowner goals & priorities


Grow big trees for beauty and for timber
to send the kids to college.



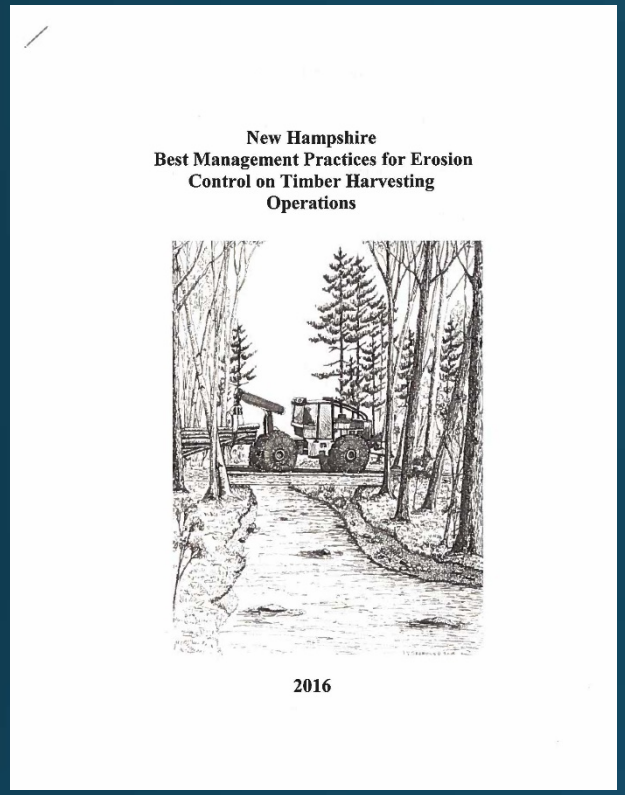
Create diverse forest structure for variety of wildlife

Regenerate paper birch for the looks

Create standing snags and down woody material

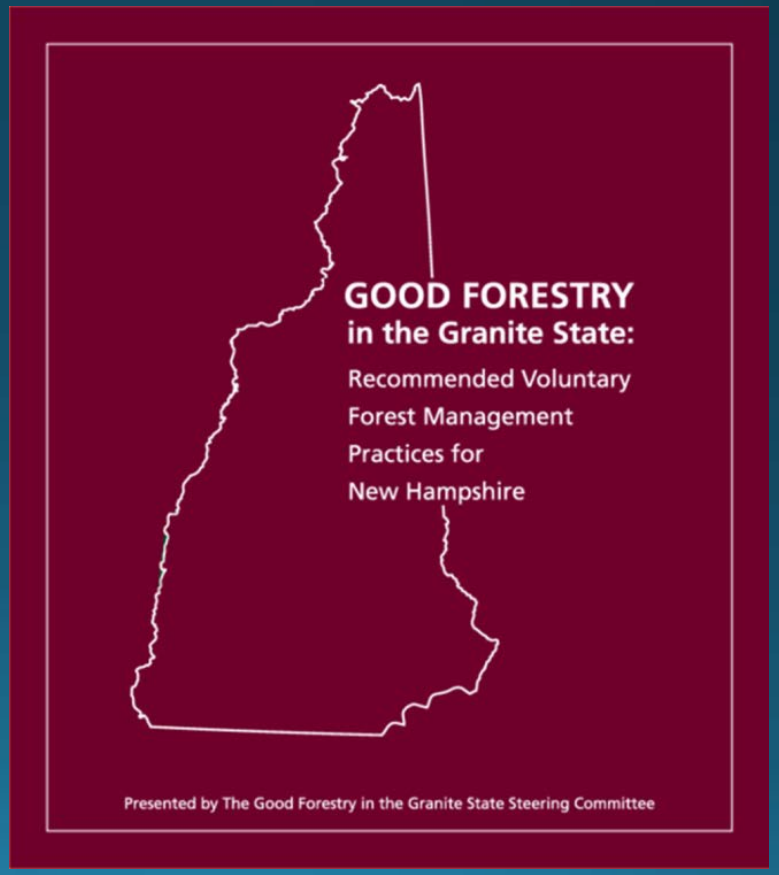
Develop sugar maples for beauty and for making maple syrup


Management has limits
Climate
Soil/ Site
Past human use
Past natural disturbance
Successional stage and trends
...And so does meeting every goal



Uses best available practices

http://extension.unh.edu/Selling-Timber



http://extension.unh.edu/goodforestry/

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Forest Stewardship Plans

- Vary from one forester to another

- Level of detail and inventory data varies depending on **size** of the forest and the **scale** and i**ntensity** of the forest activities

- Should include:

- Landowner objectives
- Describe current forest conditions
- Management activities & schedule
- Map depicting all significant forest-related resources

- A clear plan reflects the resources on the ground and the goals/priorities of the landowner

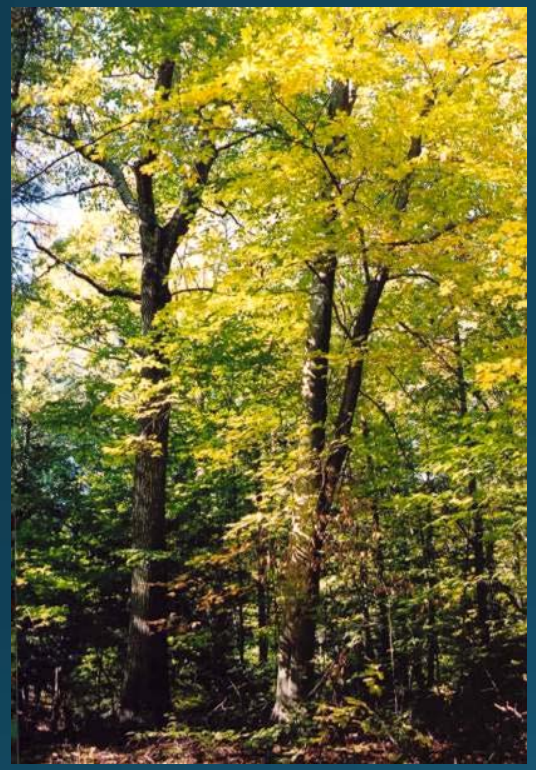
Things to include in your management plan:

Items which need to be considered and addressed in the plan include:

a. Fish and Wildlife Habitat
b. Water Quality
c. Recreational Resources
d. Forest Health
e. Soils
f. Timber
g. Wetlands
h. Aesthetic Values
i. Cultural Features
j. Threatened and endangered species and unique natural communities

Basic Forested Habitat Types

hardwoods



- "southern" hardwoods (e.g., oak, hickory, ash)
- "northern" hardwoods (e.g., beech, birch)

softwoods

- white pine
- hemlock
- spruce-fir

mixed woods

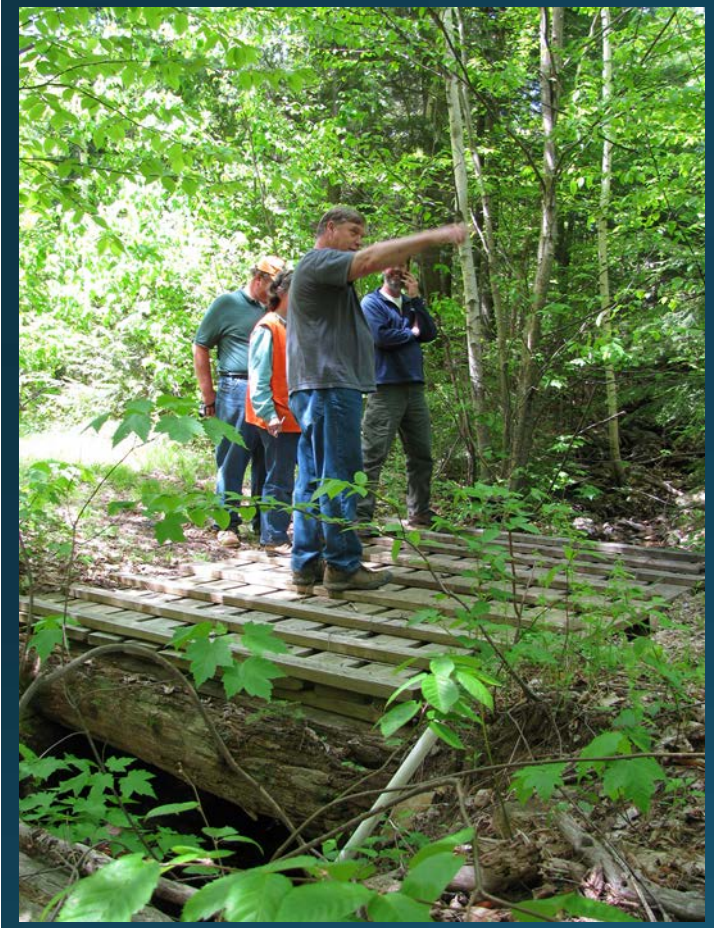
- oak/pine
- hemlock/hardwoods/pine

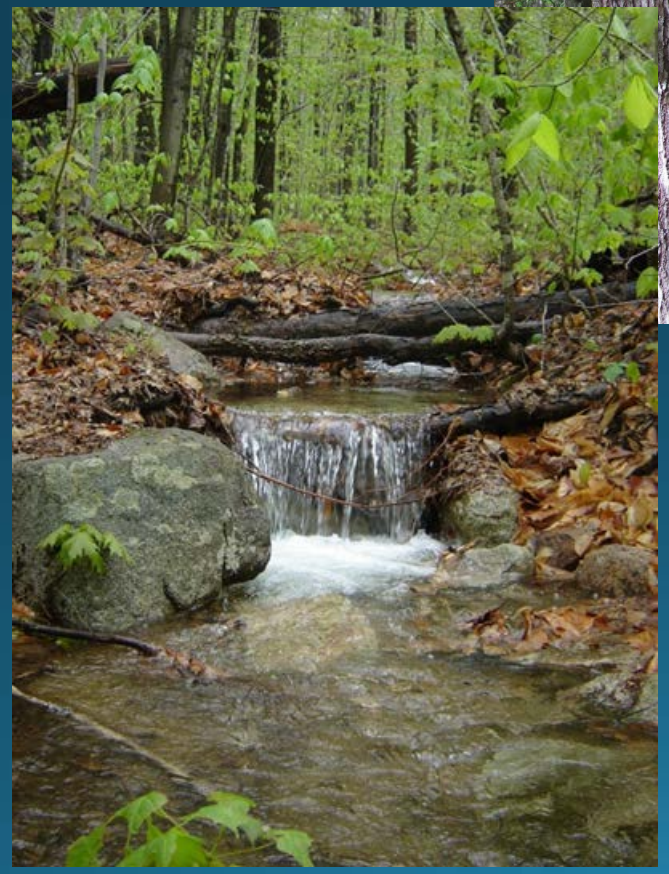
Timber

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

- **general features** – forests, wetlands, fields, open water
- **special features** – dead trees, old apple orchards, dense hemlock stands
- **food sources** – berries, acorns, browse

Water Resources

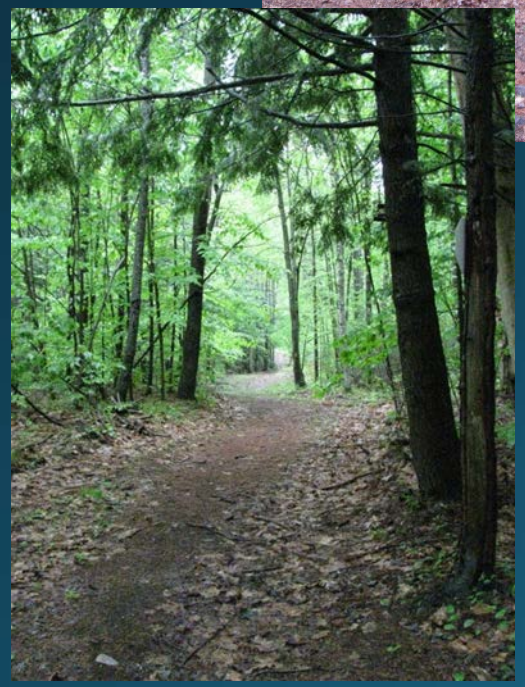


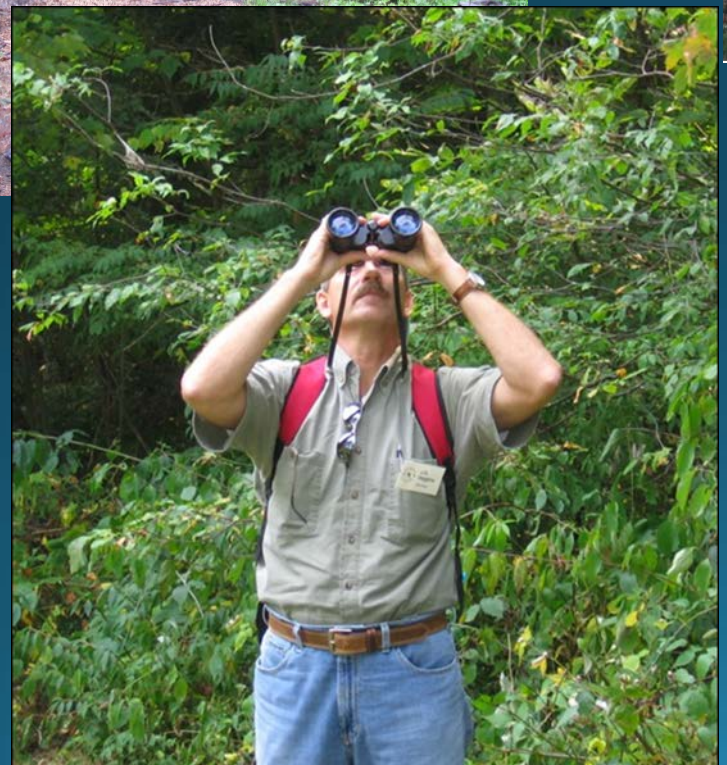


New Hampshire
Best Management Practices for Erosion Control on Timber Harvesting Operations

2016

Recreational Resources





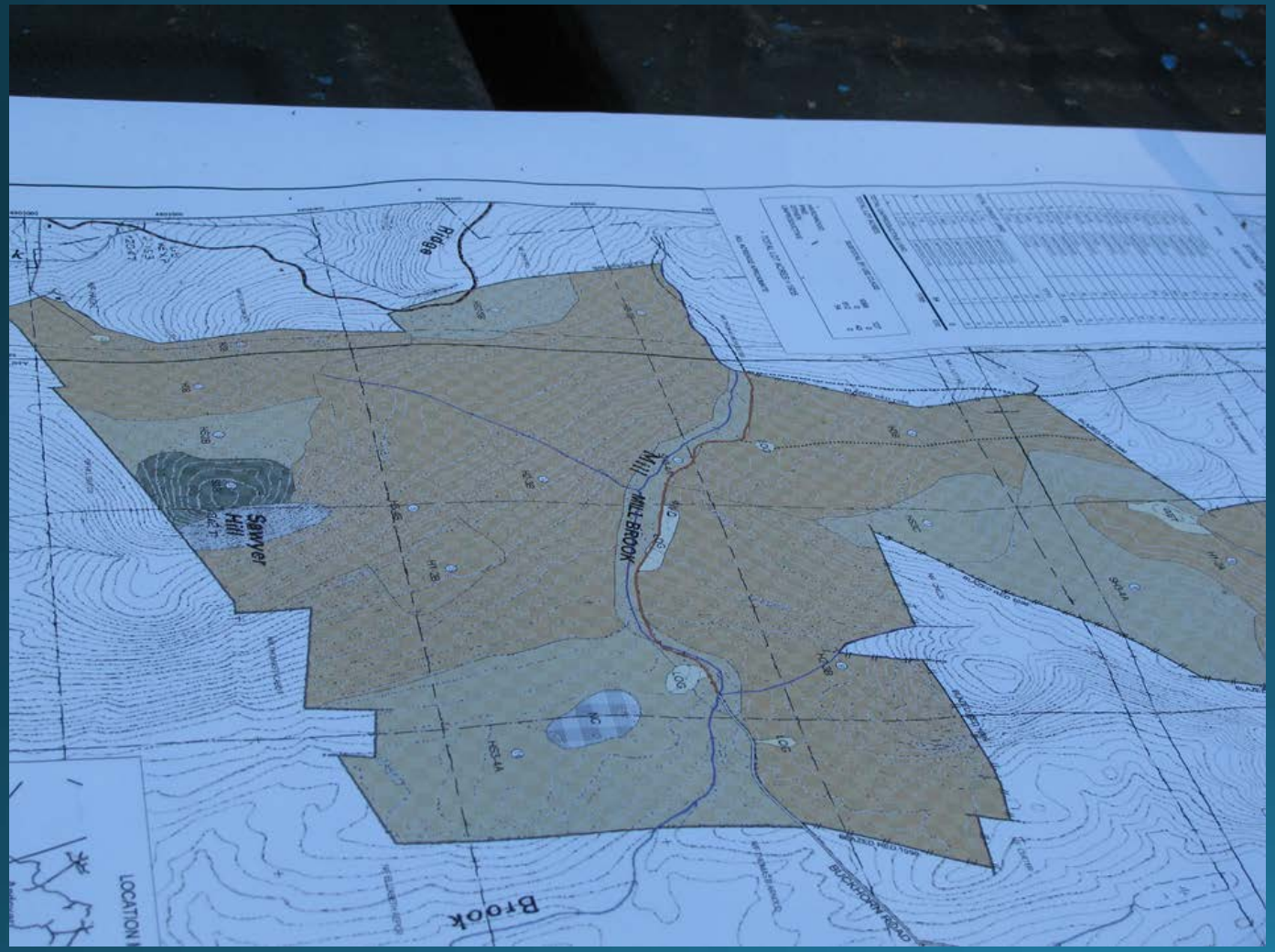
Forest Health and Protection

Cultural Features

Threatened and Endangered Species and Unique Natural Areas

Places and features that are special

A property map showing the locations of each forest stand



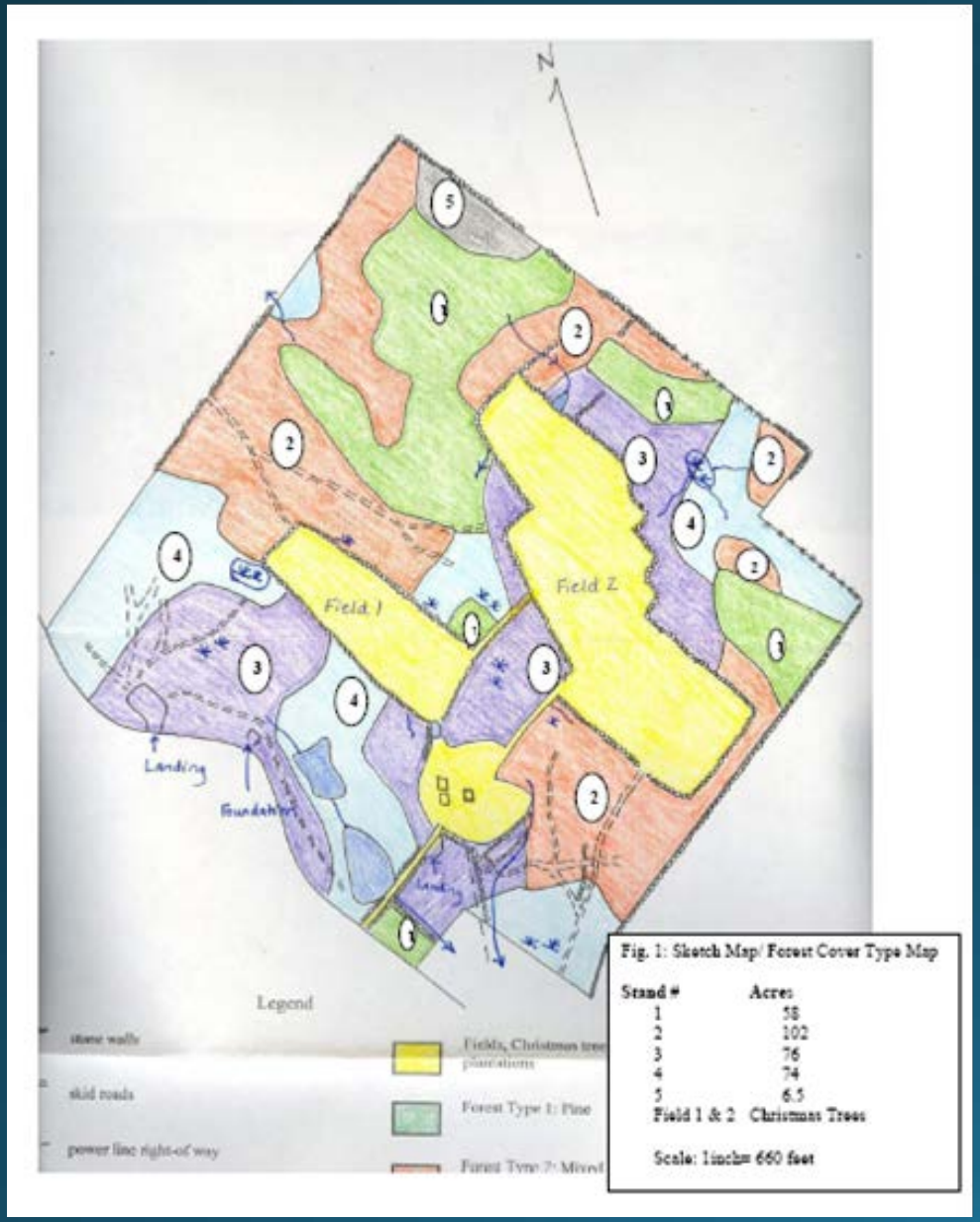
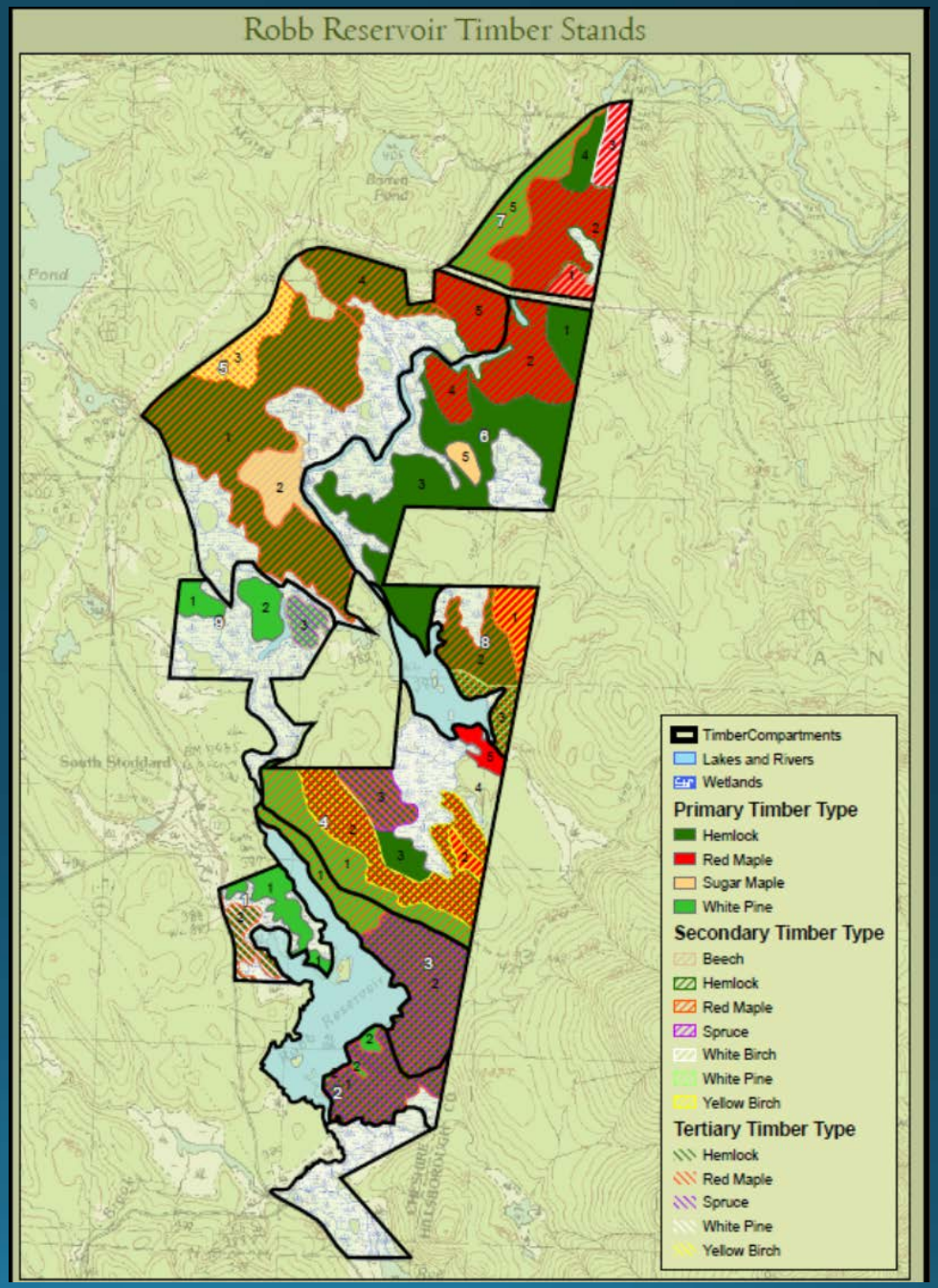


Fig. 1: Sketch Map/ Forest Cover Type Map

Stand #	Acres
1	58
2	102
3	76
4	74
5	6.5
Field 1 & 2	Christmas Trees

Scale: 1inch= 660 feet



Forest Management Activity Schedule for Next 10 Years

Stand #	Year	Acres	Treatment
All	2007		Remark and blaze boundary lines
4	2007-2010	39.5	Harvest approximately 50% to remove mature trees and create openings to regenerate pine. Retain red oak crop trees and encourage red oak regeneration.
2	2007-2010	15	Along western boundary of property Group selection to remove storm damaged timber.
2	2010-2015	15	In central portion of property Evaluate access through neighboring parcel to the east. Group selection harvest to remove storm damaged timber.
1	2010-2015	3.5	First stage shelterwood harvest in conjunction with harvest in stand 2
3	2010-2015	25	Maintain dense hemlock around stream. Remove poor quality hardwoods using group selection.
4	2012-2015	39.5	Evaluate regeneration, weeding and thinning where needed

Inventory Data

Compartment	Acres	Trees/Acre	Basal Area (ft^2/acre)	Total MBF	Total Cords
1	32.5	438.0	112.1	314.7	299
2	64.3	171.0	88.9	261.2	792
3	94.0	225.6	90.0	462.1	1013
4	177.2	254.8	83.3	759.5	1650
5	286.0	349.0	78.9	299.1	3088
6	201.5	373.9	103.2	427.6	2799
7	126.7	326.3	77.8	225.8	1320
8	59.5	515.3	96.9	141.0	588
9	33.0	551.7	90.8	122.6	251
Total	1074.7	~	~	3013.6	11800
Average	~	356.2	91.3	~	~

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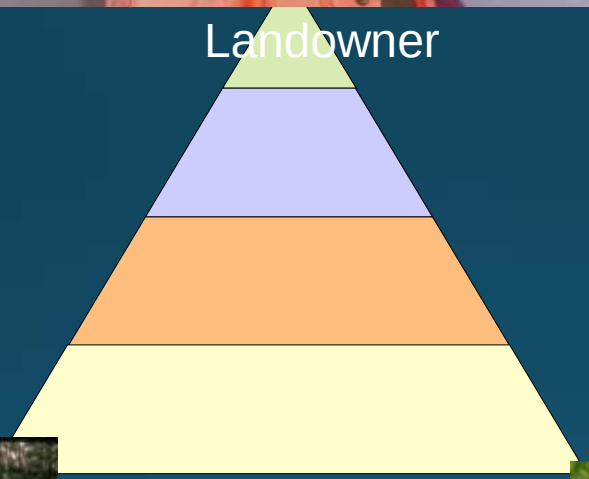
The Forest Management Triangle

For Success

Landowner



Logger

Forester

Crop Trees Left to Grow

Crop Trees Cut

Hiring a Forester

- Forester list available via UNHCE
- UNH Cooperative Extension
  - An Extension Forester in every county
- Treat as an interview
  - References
  - View management plans/projects

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Silviculture

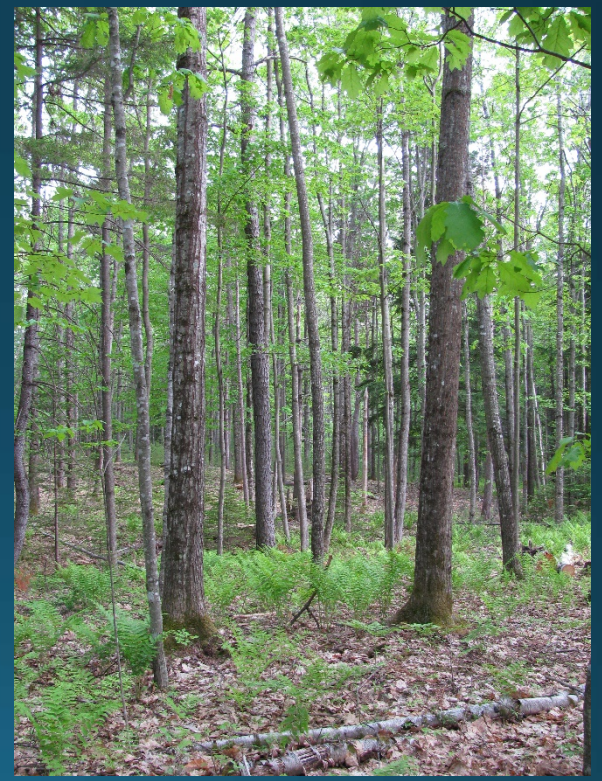
Is the set of site specific tools used in forest management

- weeding, thinning, pruning, improving, harvesting, regenerating, uneven age, even age, selection, shelterwood, clearcut

Silviculture Actions Have Two Broad Outcomes

- Grow the trees that are already present
  - tending
- Start new trees
  - regenerate
- In practice, often accomplish both outcomes at once

- Used to meet the long-term goals of a plan



The Timber Harvest

Conventional Harvesting

Whole Tree Harvesting

Cut-To-Length Harvesting

Access for Trucks

For more information about forest management:

Contact your County UNH Cooperative Extension Forester
We can walk your woodland with you and discuss your options

For more information:

http://extension.unh.edu/Forestry/Forestry.htm

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Truslow Resource Consulting LLC

evaluating & resolving your land & water resource issues

- **GIS Mapping & Analysis**
- **Baseline Documentation Reports/Current Condition Reports**
- **Natural Resource Inventory: town wide or parcel based**
- **Grant Writing** (NRCS-ALE, ARM, LWCF, LCHIP, Moose Plate, etc…)
- **Easement monitoring Reports**
- **Land conservation Project Management**
- **Restoration Hydrology**
- **Ground Water & Surface Water Quality Monitoring**
- **Watershed Resource Planning & Management**

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CLOSING happens– DEED is recorded – BASELINE DOCUMENTATION REPORT is complete, FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN is on file…everybody's happy.

Then one day, the call comes in:

"Is this timber harvest really allowed? It's conservation land!"

How prepared are you?


WHAT YOU CAN DO…

SAMPLE CE DEED LANGUAGE ABOUT FORESTRY :

Forestry shall be performed in accordance with a written forest management plan consistent with this Easement, prepared by a licensed professional forester, or by other qualified person approved in advance and in writing by the Grantee…..

What to do in the short term:

1. Don't panic: thank them for their concern
2. Don't reply with a definitive: "for" or "against"
3. Understand it can be shocking to those unfamiliar with forestry activities
4. Check the DEED (is it allowed?)
5. Check the FMP (was it part of the plan?)
6. Touch base with the landowner
7. Prepare a planned & positive response based on the facts (it's a temporary disturbance)

What you can do for the long term

WHAT YOU CAN DO for the LONG TERM:

1. EDUCATE yourself - like you are today – or your group about the benefits of forest management activities and the role of the Easement Holder

2. START an internal discussion with your staff, board, easement monitors…what is their position on the issue?

3. REMIND folks it's a temporary disturbance: disruptive but not destructive

4. VISIT a TIMBER HARVEST – learn what to expect

THINGS YOU CAN DO (continued):

5. **ESTABLISH a policy (written or verbal) based on knowledge, see that everyone knows it, understands it**

6. **MAINTAIN communication with your landowners, review importance of the FMP, notification requirements, etc..**

7. **REVIEW language in your current model template CONSERVATION EASEMENT DEED (if you have one). May be time to update it.**

8. **SCHEDULE an educational talk for your group to review this topic one on one, in more detail.** *(Tip: Provide snacks)*

“After” Photo…


YOUR QUESTIONS

PLEASE HAND IN YOUR SURVEY

** THANK YOU **

1997: Bob Edmonds, Anna Boudreau, Karen Bennett, Wendy Scribner