

The NEW 2011 Good Forestry in the Granite State - Recommended Voluntary Forest Management Practices for New Hampshire

By Karen Bennett, UNH Cooperative Extension



After over two years and many hours of discussion, writing and revision by hundreds of landowners, foresters, loggers, conservation activists and average citizens, the second edition of *Good Forestry in the Granite State - Recommended Voluntary Forest Management Practices for New Hampshire* is complete. Originally published in 1997, the revision of *Good Forestry* incorporates advances in knowledge and changes in forestry markets, practices and state laws. The guide gives landowners, and the professionals who work with them, practical recommendations to care for their woodlots.

A 24-member steering committee, representing conservation organizations, state agencies and the forest industry led the revision. Brad Simpkins, State Forester and director of the N.H. Division of Forests and Lands, says “A book like *Good Forestry* is important because New Hampshire is 84 percent forested and most of that forest is owned by private landowners. We depend on these private lands for clean air and water, scenic beauty, recreation, abundant wildlife, and a forest industry that’s important to the state’s economy. *Good Forestry* helps private landowners take care of their land.”

New Hampshire ensures a healthy forest differently than many other heavily forested states. Most forestry practices and standards aren’t mandated by state law. Instead, New Hampshire law directs the State Forester to develop educational tools to manage “ecologically sensitive and unique natural features of forestland.” Working with landowners, specialists and others, *Good Forestry* is the tool the State Forester developed for landowners, foresters and loggers to use. New topics include setting objectives, management plans, estate planning and land protection, staying safe in the woods, choosing the right timber harvesting system, stream crossings, invasive plants, wildlife species of greatest conservation need, steep slopes, forest products, maple sugaring and ecosystem services markets.

Topics already in the book were expanded, notably those related to silviculture (the art and science of growing trees), vernal pools, and riparian forests (forests along rivers). Knowledge gained from the N.H. Wildlife Action Plan was incorporated into the wildlife-related chapters.

Tim Fleury, Merrimack County Forest Resources educator with UNH Cooperative Extension, is excited about the new version, “*Good Forestry in the Granite State* gives background and practical tips to help landowners interested in taking care of their land. It starts out encouraging landowners to think about what they want for their land and encourages them to develop some objectives and a plan and to work with professionals. *Good Forestry* isn’t a cookbook for woodlot management. It says the actions of a landowner can be based on landowner interests, getting help, and looking at the land.”

Karen Bennett, Extension Forester and editor of the book says, “We hope the guide will be used as an on-the-ground reference for day-to-day decision-making. It is a ‘must-read’ for all forest landowners and the professionals who work with them.”

Good Forestry is a 225-page guide, in a three-ring binder format and each copy comes with a CD. An on-line version is available free at www.goodforestry.org. A copy of the book can be ordered on-line at the website. Directions for ordering through the mail are there as well, or you can call 800-444-8978. Cost is \$25.00.