

Woodland Stewardship Stories in Downeast Maine



Presented by:
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Coleman Tree Farm



- Landowner: Coleman Family Living Trust
- 2 - 60 ac parcels, 1st bought Dec. 1987, 2nd bought Fall 2005.
- Reasons for ownership: Homesite, recreation for family (walking and ATV), firewood (12 cords/year)
- What they value about woodland: continually producing, feeling of good stewardship, family connection (son and daughter in law assoc. in forestry, interested grandkids)

"I get great satisfaction in leaving the property in a better condition than when I found it." Wayne Coleman



Forest Management Planning

- Tree Growth Compliance
- 2 plans, 1st Georgia Pacific (MAP program) 1994, WoodsWISE Updated w/additional 60 ac 2005, Dale Covey.
- Cost of plans mostly paid for through GP and WoodsWISE.
- Objectives: 1. Provide the long term, sustained yield of **forest products** (Primarily red oak, spruce, white pine, and birch sawlogs), 2. Enhance **recreational opportunities**, 3. Provide for continuous supply of **firewood** for personal use. 4. **Improve access** roads and trails.

"Have PATIENCE, harvesting is like heart surgery, it's ugly when you finish, but it does get better down the road." Wayne Coleman



"After both commercial harvests I immediately thought, what have I done?!?! but a year later after the forest has had time to green up and I cleaned up a little, I was glad I had the harvest done. The forest is more healthy because of both commercial harvests."

1995-1996 Commercial Harvest



Logger Dale Hamilton, chainsaw & cable skidder. Hardwood tops left for firewood, mature poplar, hemlock, spruce, and fir were targeted. Oak was the favored species.

"Dale Covey acted as agent for both commercial harvests. Harvest went better because of Dale Covey's involvement in the harvest. We had discussions during the harvest to change plans through the harvest, what to cut and leave and trail layout."



1995-1996 Cable Skidder

1995-1996 Harvest Summary



| Product | Volume |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Spruce/fir studwood | 58 cords |
| Hemlock pulpwood | 40 cords |
| Hemlock studwood | 19 cords |
| Fir pulpwood | 7 cords |
| Aspen OSB | 65 cords |
| Oak logs | 13.3 mbf |
| Total | 216 cords |

4.5 cords to the acre removal (~1/3rd harvest)

Total value to landowner = \$ 4987

Income is of low importance, just another benefit of good management.

Post Harvest Practices (Home Lot)

- August 1995 - 3.5 acres Crop Tree Release
- January 1997 - 5.5 acres Crop Tree Release
- May 1997 - Trail Work, 5 culverts installed and 250' of ditching
- August 1998 - 10 acres Crop Tree Release
- March 1999 - 18 cords of poplar OSB harvested by landowner \$1040
- March 2004 - 11 cords of poplar OSB harvested by landowner \$789
- March 2005 - 27 cords of fir studwood & pulpwood harvested by landowner \$2100



2011 Fir Pulpwood Harvest by Landowner

13 cords, \$1324



2007 Smith Lot Harvest, P&C

Salvage harvest to remove fir, mature spruce and pine, poplar, aspen, and beech.



"The forest was a giant over grown garden that needed weeding, now that the commercial harvest has been implemented I can manage the forest on my own" - Wayne Coleman



Post Harvest Practices (Smith Lot)





Post Harvest Practices (Smith Lot)

- Pruning
- TSI

Continually Producing

| Harvest | Income |
|--|--------------|
| Poplar March 1999 | \$ 563.00 |
| Poplar March 1999 | \$ 473.00 |
| Poplar March 2004 | \$ 789.00 |
| Fir Studwood March 2005 | \$ 1,441.00 |
| Fir Pulpwood March 2005 | \$ 779.00 |
| Fir Pulpwood January 2011 | \$ 1,324.00 |
| Smith Lot Commercial Harvest 2007 | \$ 10,929.00 |
| Home Lot Commercial Harvest 1995-96 | \$ 4,987.00 |
| Personal Firewood (12 cds/yr, 23 yrs, \$70/cord) | \$ 19,320.00 |
| Total | \$ 40,605.00 |

Not bad for a hobby!



Recommendations from Wayne Coleman

- Be patient and don't give up if you have to wait or practices don't turn out exactly like you had planned. Give the forest time to respond to the harvest.
- Use a forester to oversee the harvest and negotiate stumpage prices.
- Enjoy God's beauty (hay rides and camp fires with friends and community, share work with school kids)
- Obtained information about management from forester Dale Covey and SWOAM.

Questions or Comments?

Plaut Property, Trescott TWP

175 forested acres (50 acres fields)





04.15.2011

- Landowners: Suzanne & Walter Plaut
- Purchased 125 ac 1971, purchased adjacent 100 ac 1980's
- Like privacy & buffer, enjoy walking in woods and aesthetic beauty, woodland is money in the bank. Allowing neighbors to hunt on property improves relationships
- Resource: all wood from buildings was harvested from woodlot, 25 to 30 wreaths produced each year, firewood, fence posts
- 1985, 1993, 2002 had Forest Management Plan prepared for Tree Growth purposes. Objectives: production of commercial forest products, wildlife, recreation.

Management Plan recommended small group selection harvesting to remove poorly formed stems and improve the growth of residual stems, creating a more diverse uneven aged forest.



Management Activity

- 1979 personally cut wood for house with horses
- 1987 personally cut wood for shop
- Landowner realized there was more work then he was capable of
- Since 1987 Tide Mill Enterprises has implemented 3 commercial harvests.
- 1st harvest removed fir and poorly formed stems for pulpwood
- 2nd harvest thinned and removed some sawlogs
- 3rd harvest was a biomass harvest along the shore to improve health of the stand
- Light continual harvesting has created an uneven aged forest

Cut to Length System Used















"How can anyone not think this is great? The forest is healthier, more beautiful, and it is generating income" - Walter Plaut





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Future Plans

- 5 yrs continue light small group selection commercial harvesting
- Tipping for balsam fir wreath brush
- TSI regeneration (if time?)

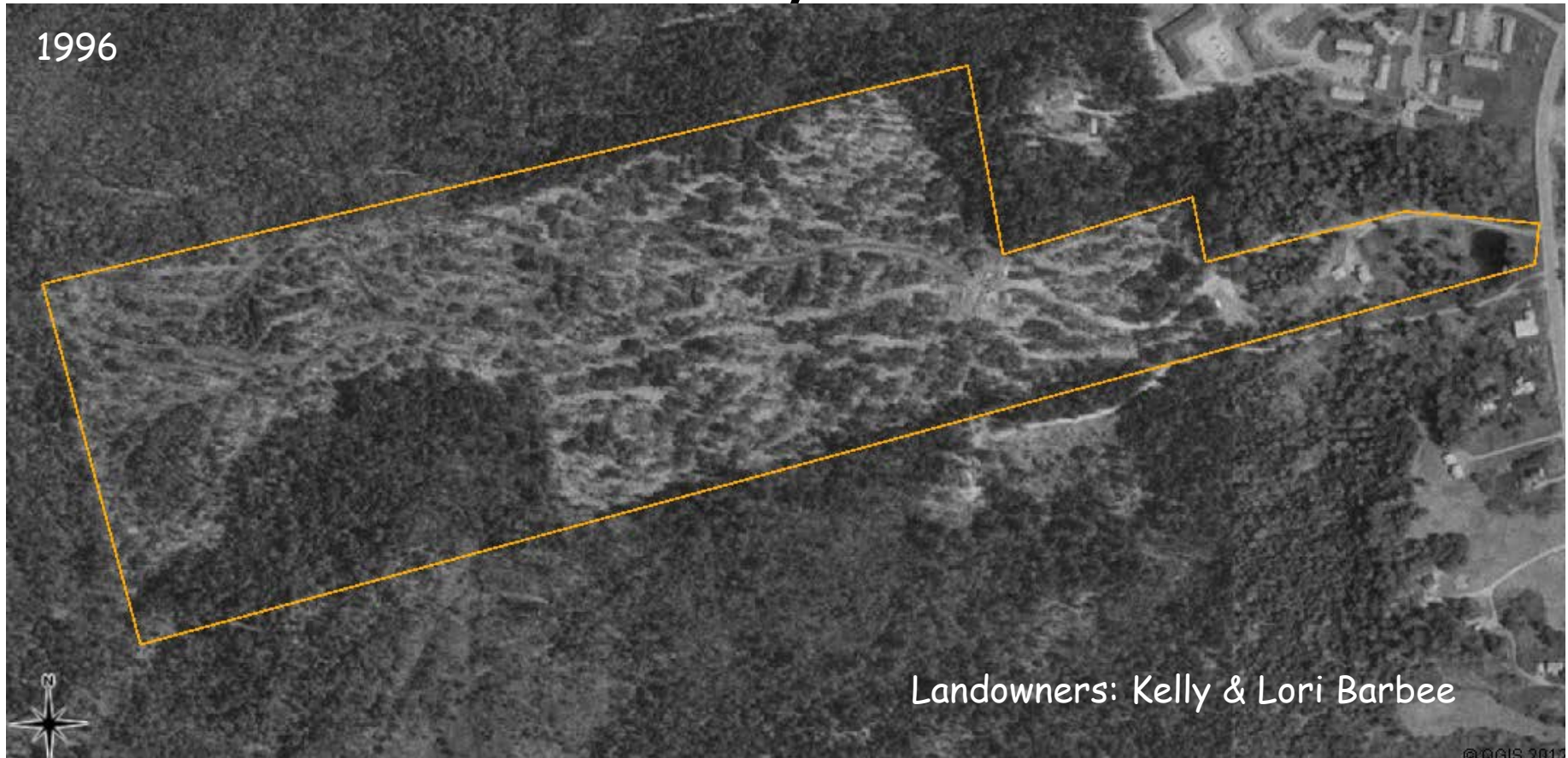


Recommendations from Walter Plaut

- “It pays both financially and aesthetically to manage a woodlot long term”
- “Like a garden think about what you want to grow on your woodlot and what you want to harvest (weed), to improve the growth of residuals”
- Research what should be in a contract with a logger (hard to know the first time)
- Shop around for a forester and a logger
- Know where your boundaries are and keep them clearly marked
- “Keep Maine’s forests working”, everyone wins when managed properly

Questions or Comments?

Barbee Property Cherryfield



- 80+/- acres purchased in 1997, after prior landowner aggressively harvested most of property. Property surrounded house lot and used for hunting and walking prior to purchasing.
- "saw it's value for privacy, recreation, firewood, as a solid investment, for aesthetics, for wildlife habitat and just for the natural beauty of it."

A photograph of a snowy forest path. The path is covered in a thick layer of snow and leads through a mix of evergreen and deciduous trees. The trees are heavily laden with snow, and the overall scene is serene and quiet. The sky is a pale, overcast blue.

15 years later

Land also valued as an **ASSET**.

"Land is one of the few things on the planet that does not reproduce. It is of limited quantity and as such has value."

IMMEASUREABLE ASSETS: "I feel that owning a piece of land is a great asset. The **TRANQUILITY** and **PEACEFULNESS** enjoyed while on the woodlot, along with the sights, sounds and smells of nature are immeasurable as to value."

"I value it as an **ASSET TO PASS ON TO DESENDANTS** along with my plans for the land to hopefully be carried out throughout their lifetimes and beyond."



Woodlot Activities

- Hiking, snowshoeing, ATV riding, hunting, cutting firewood, planting and thinning, wildlife habitat improvement, trail maintenance, property line improvement, tree identification, wildlife track identification, bird identification, and land mapping.



11.02.2011

OBJECTIVES

- Maintain the land as a **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA**, allow limited hunting and tree harvesting, maintaining a **HEALTHY FOREST** through sustainable forestry practices and maintaining existing trails for **RECREATIONAL USE**, such as horse back riding, hiking, snowshoeing, bird watching.

Mast Tree Release



Benefits

- Firewood, wildlife sightings, venison, exercise, and income from tree harvest.

Mowed the trails to encourage grass growth for feeding deer



11.02.2011

Bridge constructed over perennial stream



11.02.2011

Spruce & Fir Pulpwood Thinning Harvest 2010-11





brush pile habitat for small game

11.02.2011



Recommendations from Kelly Barbee

- Enjoy the land for its natural beauty
- Make or maintain walking trails to access all areas of the land to be able to keep watch over all of it
- Consider favoring species that are beneficial to wildlife
- Consider low impact harvesting and thinning

Questions or Comments?

Woodlawn Museum, Black House, Ellsworth



120 forested acres

Open to the public since 1929, historic house museum, gardens, and public park including hiking trails. Popular place to hike, ski, snowshoe, view plants and wildlife in Ellsworth.





Condition of the trails was a concern.

- blowdowns blocking trails
- hazard trees
- fire hazard
- like walking through a tunnel, couldn't see into the forest

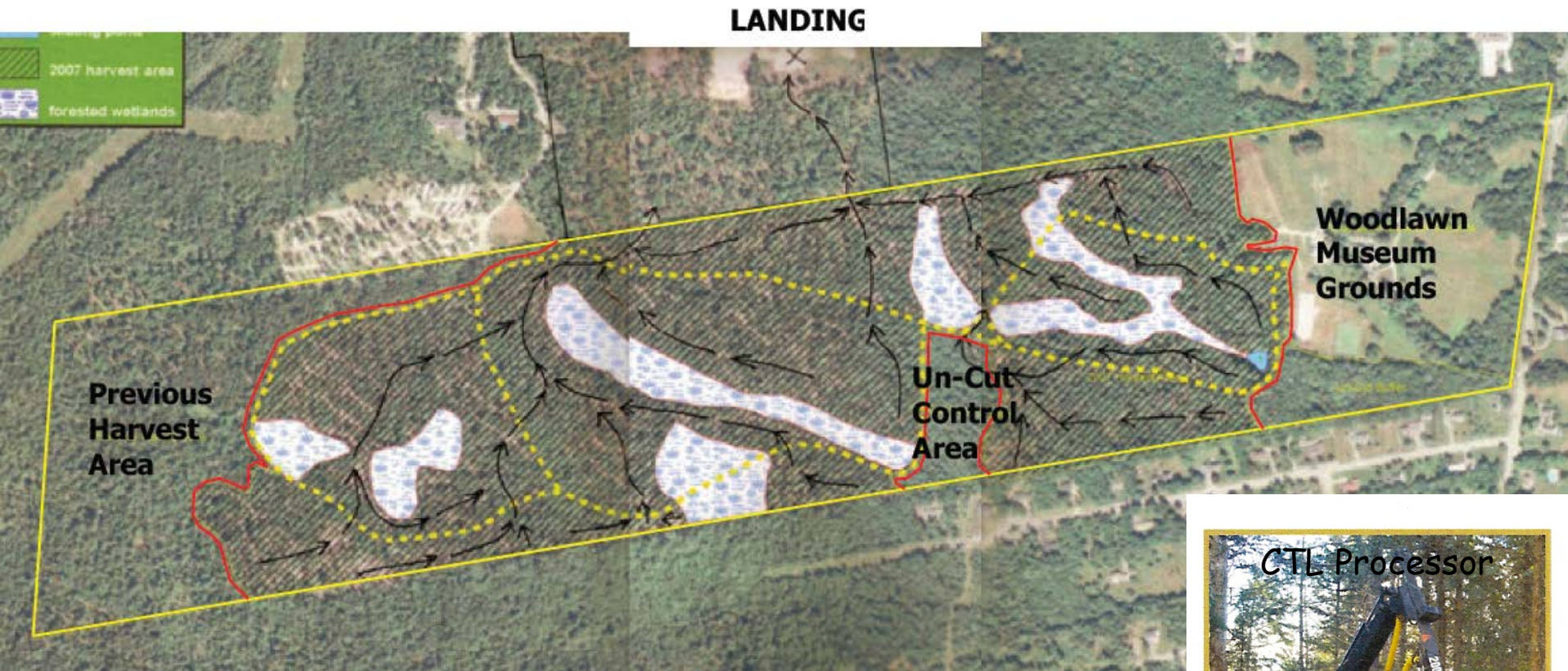


Prentiss & Carlisle contracted to design and implement a customized harvest plan to meet the following objectives

- Preserve trails
- Reduce fire hazard
- Improve forest health
- Enhance aesthetics
- Diversify forest (age & plants)
- Protect/diversify wildlife
- Maintain water quality
- Use low impact logging



Woodlawn Museum Harvest Planning Map



- Minimized trail crossings
- Layed out access trails to run parallel to hiking trails
- Located and avoided sensitive areas (wetlands, ponds, buffers)
- Yarded wood to neighboring property, to protect roads and museum grounds on property
- Left un-cut control area



Trail Crossings



Harvest Operation



Thinning from below, harvest removed hazard trees along the trail, low grade stems, suppressed stems, and trees showing maturity and stress.

Forester onsite during the harvest to oversee the harvest and answer questions and concerns from trail users



Un-Cut Control Area



- Educational opportunity for trail users, see prior harvest forest conditions
- ~ 50% Stems dead
- Fire hazard, trail maintenance issues

Harvest focused on diversifying the forest



Retained some large old trees



Released established regeneration



Created conditions for new regeneration

Enhanced Wildlife Opportunities



Browse



Protected Den Trees



Protected mast species and riparian buffers



Next Steps & Recommendations from Joshua Torrence

- More light harvesting will be planned to meet Woodlawn Museums objectives
- Have a forest management plan prepared prior to harvesting.
- Find professionals you trust and you have a good working relationship with to work with.

**Questions or
Comments?**



MATAWEYU TREE FARM

"it extends out into the water"

Owners: Roger & Judy Clapp

Acreage: 262



MATAWEYU TREE FARM

Main reasons for ownership of woodland

- Privacy
- Enjoyment of "taking care of the woods" (Thinning, pruning, removing dead and dying)
- Health benefit "Good for blood pressure"
- Improving the woods by practicing multi-resource management (Tree Farm = Wood, Water, Recreation, Wildlife)
- Investment (They're not making any more of it)
- Income from wood harvesting is low priority, protecting or improving AESTHETICS or BEAUTY of the property is more important.

“There is nothing I like more than going out and admiring my white pines”



“I get a lot of enjoyment out of taking my grandkids on hikes to see the large trees.”

-Roger Clapp

How I prepared/planned to manage my property

- Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine (SWOAM), newsletters and chapter meetings
- Adult Education Woodlot Management Course - Maine Forest Service
- Walk and Talk with MFS District Forester
- Worked with consulting forester Teresa Davis to have a forest management plan prepared for the property
- Study different objectives landowners have for their land and options to meet those objectives
- Research different loggers and their logging operations



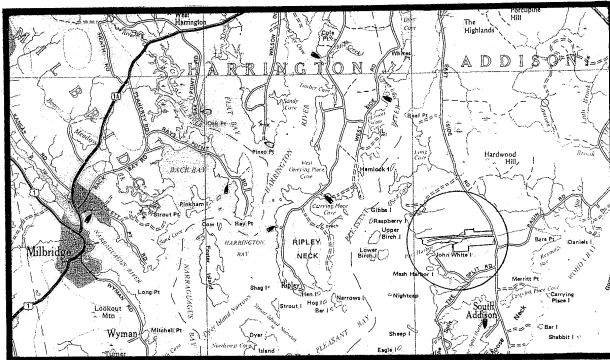
Property purchased 2002, Written Forest Management Plan prepared by Consulting Forester Teresa Davis 2007

WoodsWISE -
INCENTIVES TO STEWARDSHIP ENHANCEMENT
FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

ROGER S. AND JUDITH M. CLAPP
PO BOX 306
ADDISON, MAINE 04606
207-483-2029

Judith M. Clapp 6/27/07
Judith M. Clapp Date
Roger S. Clapp 6/27/07
Roger S. Clapp Date

TAX MAP 19, LOT 7
1169 EAST SIDE ROAD
TOWN OF ADDISON
WASHINGTON COUNTY
STATE OF MAINE



Prepared By:

Teresa L. Davis 6/26/2007
Teresa L. Davis
72 Floods Pond Road
Otis, Maine 04605
Licensed Professional Forester #1094
207-537-3432

A forest management plan is a written document that outlines:

- Landowner goals and objectives
- Current condition of the woodland and potential for future benefits
- Possible actions to achieve landowner objectives
- Environmental laws that may apply

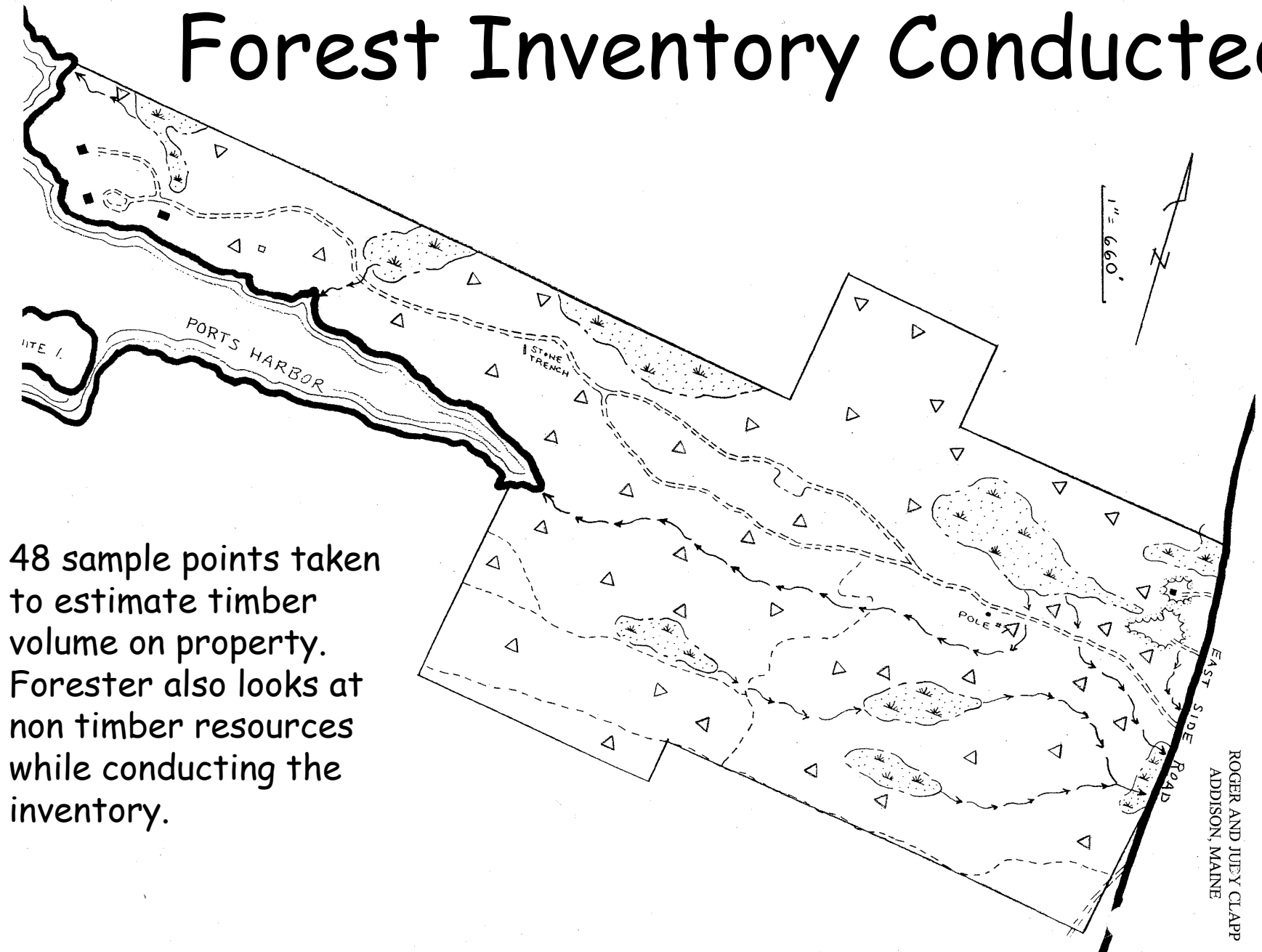
MATAWEYU TREE FARM

Landowner Objectives

- Improve the health and vigor of their forest stands.
- Harvest wood on a sustained basis.
- Protect aesthetic value of the property especially along the driveway and house.
- Practice Timber Stand Improvement in overcrowded small pole stands.
- Enhance and/or protect wildlife habitat.
- Protect soil and water resources.
- Add more hiking trails through time.



Forest Inventory Conducted



48 sample points taken to estimate timber volume on property. Forester also looks at non timber resources while conducting the inventory.

ROGER AND JUDY CLAPP
ADDISON, MAINE

Inventory Results

Timber Volume and Stumpage Value:

PULPWOOD

| <u>Species</u> | <u>Cords/Acre</u> | <u>Cords/Stand</u> |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Balsam fir | 4.0 | 920.0 |
| Red spruce | 5.0 | 1150.0 |
| Red maple | 4.0 | 920.0 |
| White birch | 1.5 | 345.0 |
| Total | 14.5 | 3335.0 |

STUDWOOD

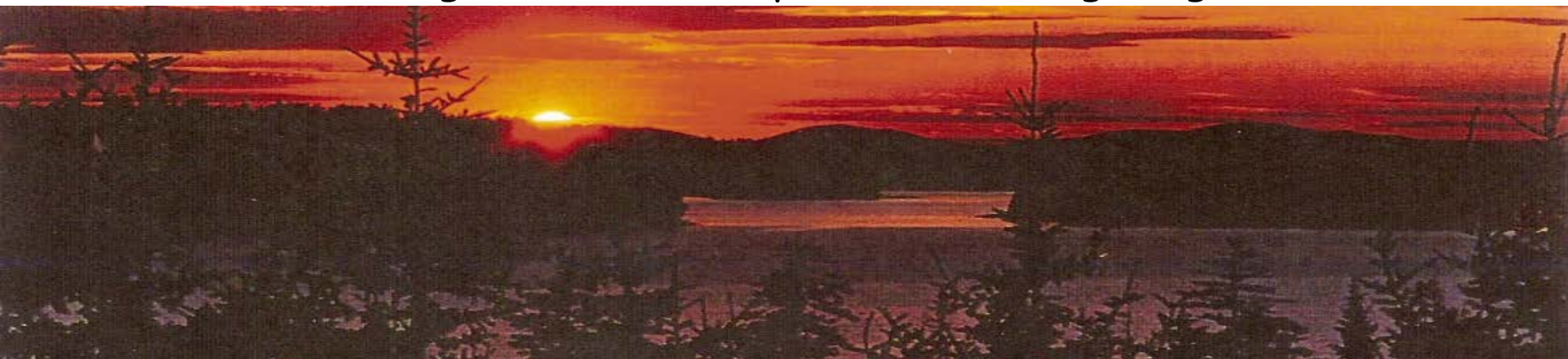
| <u>Species</u> | <u>Tons /Acre</u> | <u>Tons/Stand</u> |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Balsam fir | 1.0 | 230.0 |
| R. & w. spruce | 4.2 | 966.0 |
| Total | 5.2 | 1196.0 |

SAWLOGS

| <u>Species</u> | <u>MBF /Acre</u> | <u>MBF /Stand</u> |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Spruce | 1.800 | 414.000 |
| Total | 1.800 | 414.000 |

Management Plan Recommendations

- Follow shoreland zoning regulations along shore and wetlands.
- Create mini clearcuts on acreage where overstocked pole stands are present and trees are incapable of responding to release due to poorly formed crowns.
- Implement a single tree or small group selection harvest in other areas to remove the poorest quality wood.
- Between Port's Harbor and the house site harvest most mature trees, no more than 10%.
- Target the removal of dead and dying balsam fir.
- Release quality crop trees.
- Leave wildlife trees.
- Operate when the ground is frozen or dry.
- Create clearings around white pine to encourage regeneration.



Planning Complete, Time to Implement the Plan

- Waited 3 years due to ground conditions, markets, and available loggers. **BE PATIENT!**
- Harvested Summer 2010



Whole Tree Harvest



Whole Tree Harvest



Feller Buncher

Whole Tree Harvest



Grapple Skidder

Whole Tree Harvest



Delimber

Whole Tree Harvest



**Spruce and Fir
Pulpwood being
loaded onto
truck**

Whole Tree Harvest

Biomass being chipped into truck



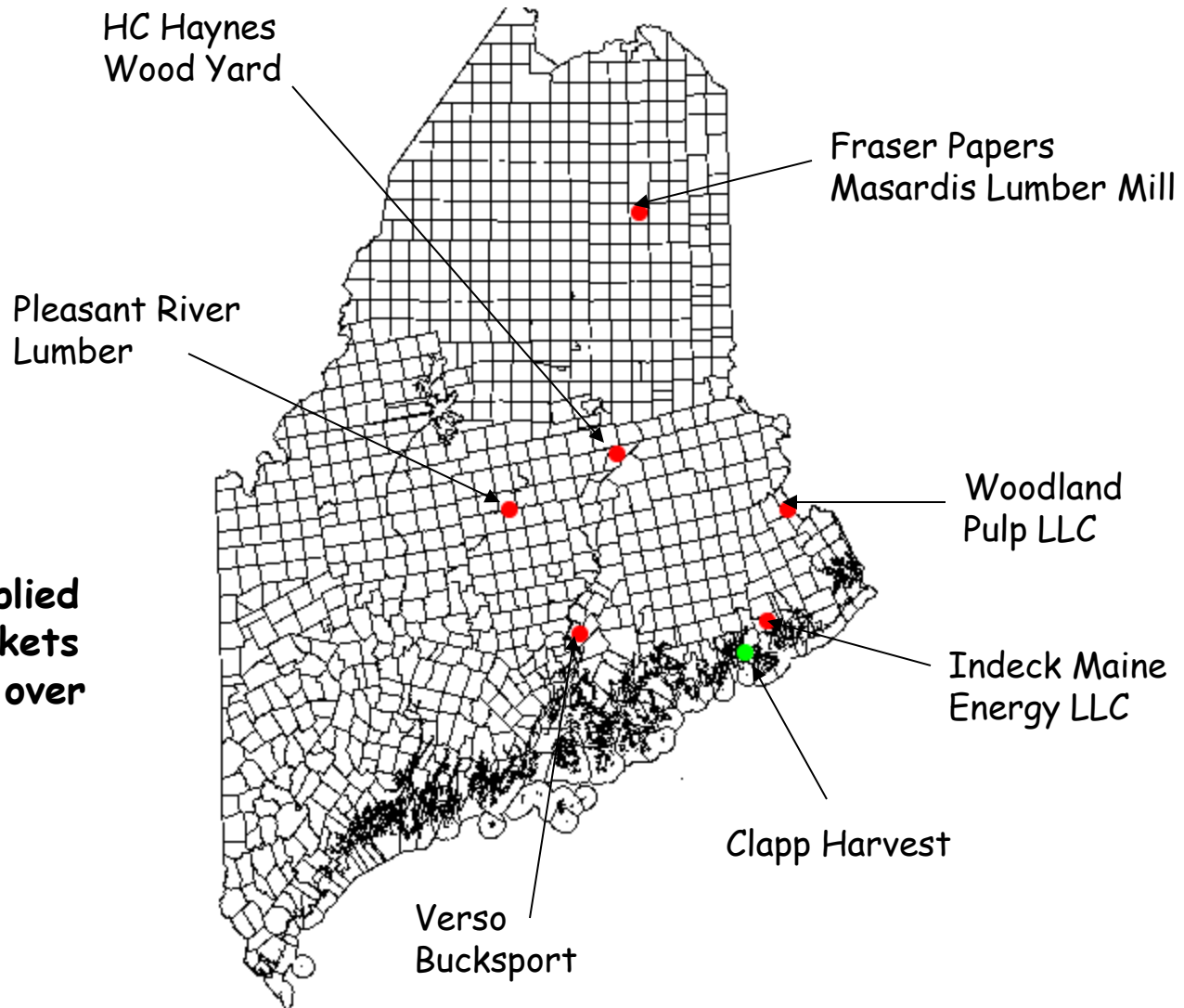
“I was pleased that I was helping the forest products industry” - Roger Clapp



One of many logging professionals that worked on the harvest

Over the 11 week harvest 5 different products went to 6 different mills

**Directly supplied
wood to markets
that employ over
1200 people**



MATAWEYU TREE FARM

Next Steps

- Conservation easement w/US F&WS and Maine DIF&W
- Timber Stand Improvement (TSI)
- Salvage blowdowns
- Plant for aesthetics and wildlife (oak, beech, tamarack, hemlock)
- Trail construction and maintenance

Questions or Comments?

Smith Property, Tremont



- Landowner:
Rick Smith
- 15 acres
- Enjoy privacy
- Sense of living space that is "alive", clearings for butterflies, gardens, pond attracts different bird species.
- Forest fire is a major concern.

Blow downs and standing snags were a concern to the landowner as a fire hazard.



Woodland Restoration Inc. hired to reduce fuel load





Forcat 360D & Log Loader



12.29.2010



12.29.2010



Management has decreased fire hazard by removing snags and blow downs



On going process, blow downs continue, regeneration must be managed to establish healthy root systems and favor longer lived species

10.24.2011



10.24.2011

Managing balsam fir regeneration for Christmas trees



10.24.2011



- Had cook out to influence neighbors to implement similar practices on their property to reduce fire hazard (7 owner association, 150 acres).
- Association hopes to have a conservation plan prepared that will cover all properties (fuel load reduction, managing for regeneration, aesthetics, recreation, wildlife).
- Intensity of work has varied on properties, but all have reduced fuel load.



10.24.2011



10.24.2011



10.24.2011



10.24.2011



10.24.2011



Rotten, dead, dying stems that will be used for energy production.



10.24.2011

Recommendations from Rick Smith

- Become informed about fire hazard and biodiversity.
- Management can make you feel like you have more acreage that is useable.
- Bring in appropriate professionals to assist you in implementing your projects. (DEP, MFS, ANP, UMaine Cooperative Ext., Woodland Restorations Inc., foresters)

Questions or Comments?

Kief-Wilbur-Leland-MacDonald Property



5th generation
landowner,
actively managing
land connects me
with relatives I
never met.



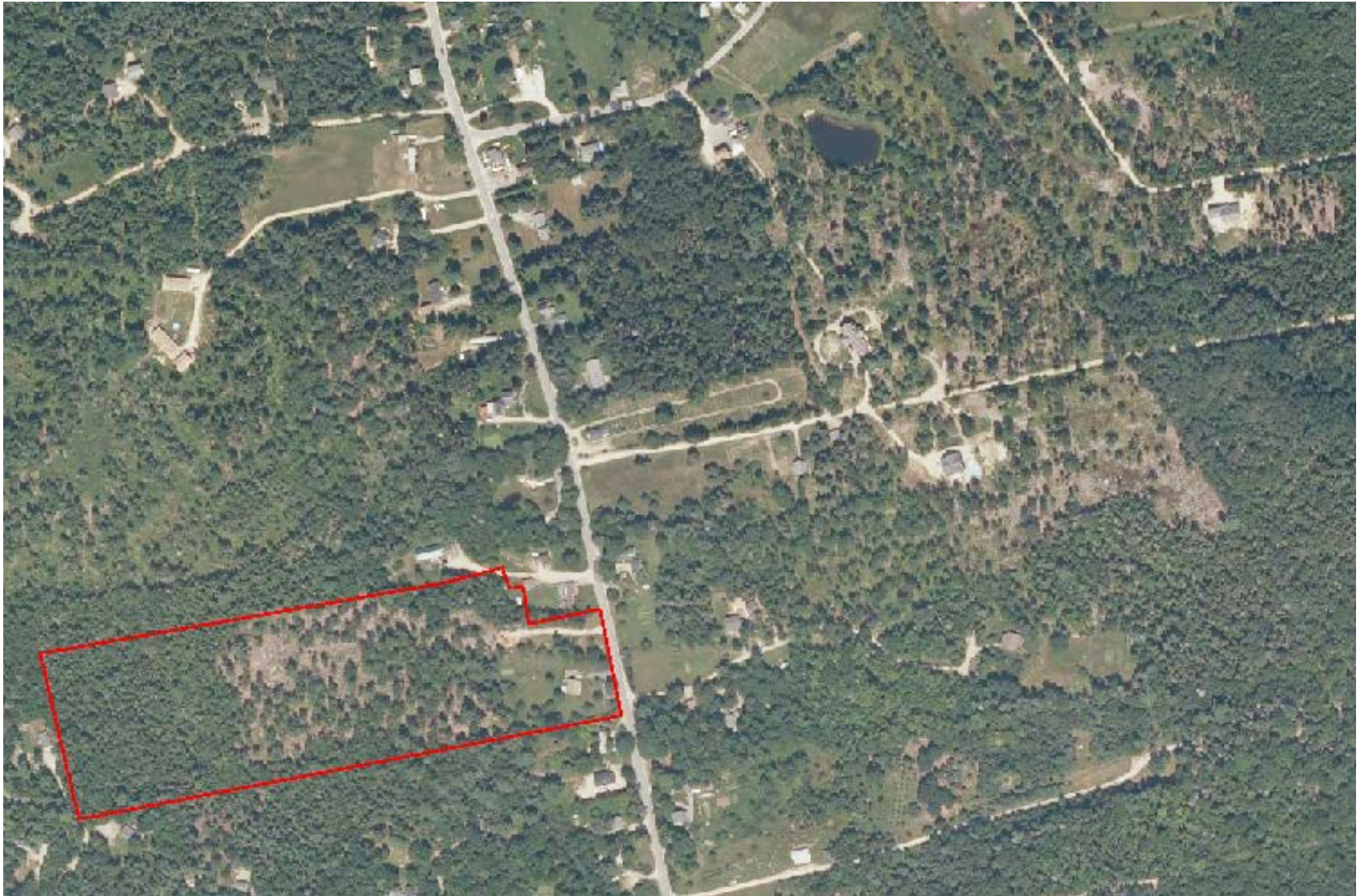
Kief-Wilbur-Leland-MacDonald Property



6-Acre Harvest Spring 2008



Small harvest possible due to other harvests across the street



2008 Biomass Harvest



Reasons for harvest:

- Improve the aesthetics of the stand and develop access.
- Remove diseased balsam fir and mature spruce.
- Thin stand to establish white pine regeneration.
- Thin stand to make hardwood firewood more accessible.



2012 Post Harvest



May harvest red maple
firewood as regeneration
becomes established.



Favor white pine in the
future. Monitor white pine
for white pine weevil.

Four Wheeler Logging



Balsam fir salvage harvest for firewood, and to develop recreational trail and improve aesthetics



Enjoy the forest with the next generation!



Recommendations

- Forests are always changing, practices implemented today can improve the forest for tomorrow.
- You can have both a commercial harvest and harvest yourself.
- If have a small property and a light commercial harvest would benefit your property talk to your neighbors about harvesting at the same time to increase volume for logger.
- Consider other forms of stumpage payment from the logger that will improve your property (firewood, road work, trail work, chipping)
- If leaving a legacy is important to you involve as much of the family as possible in decisions and projects, especially future generations.

Questions or Comments?