



NEW ENGLAND FORESTRY FOUNDATION

Conserving Forests *for* Future Generations

S U M M E R U P D A T E 2 0 1 3

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Collaboration
Toolkit
and Summer
Celebration Series



Dear Members and Friends,

How far can you see? I don't mean across the field, or through the trees, or down the valley. How far can you see into the future? It's a question that challenges forest managers every day as they try to predict how a forest will grow, what it will look like, and the benefits it will yield decades from now. I've asked our staff to take an even wider perspective and calculate what the forests of New England could provide to society in the next 50 years if we made all the right policy choices and managed them with excellence.

It's an important question; more important than the average New Englander realizes. We all want to lead sustainable lifestyles and we worry how our hope for future economic prosperity dovetails with a sustainable regional profile. But relatively few realize how the health and productivity of our forested landscape dictates just how sustainable our New England way of life can be. So I've tasked Alec Giffen, our Maine representative, to lead an effort to determine how much of New England's wood demand can be home grown in the next 50 years while we continue to sustain the ecological values and aesthetic beauty of our forests. Wood products are just one of the components our study will investigate. We also will look at the supplies of clean drinking water, clean air, renewable energy, carbon sequestration, wildlife habitat, and recreation possibilities that can be achieved—if we manage our forests efficiently.

Our forest vision will complement ongoing efforts by others to determine New England's sustainable agricultural capacity. Just as society envisions how much of our produce can be grown in New England's soils, it is equally important to envision how much of our furniture, building materials, and paper products can grow here in lieu of importing wood products from questionable practices in other parts of the world.

Bob Perschel

Robert Perschel, Executive Director

Introducing *the Land*

New England Forestry Foundation Accelerates Forest Conservation *through Collaborative Resources*

New England Forestry Foundation has assembled a team of professionals to help Regional Conservation Partnerships (RCPs) achieve an unprecedented level of collaboration to save New England's forests. Drawing on best practices developed by the Land Trust Alliance, prior landscape-scale conservation efforts, and the latest organizational theories, the team is developing a "Land Trust Collaboration Toolkit" to provide practical, tangible models for accelerating forest conservation.

Forests are our most basic and indispensable natural infrastructure, providing a wide range of services we could not live without – filtering our water, purifying our air, conserving the soil, sequestering carbon. The New England forests are an especially important and expansive temperate deciduous forest, and extraordinarily valuable habitats for plants and animals not found elsewhere. The *Wildlands and Woodlands: A Vision for the New England Landscape*, published in 2010, provided scientific credibility for the claim that the New England forest is a globally significant resource, and called for a 50-year commitment to protect 70% of the region in forest. The authors showed that after more than a century of re-growth, the forest in New England is shrinking again. But how will these great forests actually be protected, before too much more is lost?

The *Wildlands and Woodlands* vision calls for a mix of public policy, citizen engagement in monitoring, and the formation of regional partnerships to accomplish actual forest conservation. There now are more than 30 RCPs that bring landowners, foresters, scientists, public agencies, and land trusts together to create a conservation vision for their region and strategies for protecting the forest and water resources that will sustain wildlife into the future, especially in the face of more extreme weather and climate change. Our colleagues at The Highstead Foundation help establish RCPs and train and encourage them through the Regional Conservation Partnership Network.

Typically, the local leadership for these collaborative efforts comes from private land trusts, and New England is blessed with an estimated 500 of them. Some are very active and regularly partner with other land trusts and public agencies, while some serve just one town and have not considered their potential role in efforts to conserve the larger landscape. Nonetheless, nearly all realize that the challenges to our forest and conserved lands are growing, and they want to remain relevant and effective. Even for land trusts that have experience with partnerships, the scale and pace required to protect the New England forests exceeds anything yet contemplated. It will require a new degree of collaboration from land trusts and their traditional allies, and also from public agencies and private foundations that are committed to protecting the unique character and natural infrastructure of New England.

Land Trust Collaboration Toolkit

NEFF's team of consultants and toolkit were designed to help usher in this new era of collaboration. The toolkit includes model documents that help land trusts create strong collaborative organizations, raise funds together, and manage a large number of simultaneous transactions. The toolkit is designed to allow any RCP to tailor these strategies and tactics to the unique characteristics of its region, the character of its forests and related resources, and the funding community. In the coming year the NEFF team will work directly with several RCPs to support their efforts to create these successful, enduring collaborations. The toolkit will be tested in the field with these RCPs, continually be updated and improved with the most effective tools and approaches, and eventually be made available to all RCPs.

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because we believe it will require
the coordinated effort of scores of organizations
to realize the vision of protecting New England's great forests.**

NEFF is investing in the work of other organizations because we believe it will require the coordinated effort of scores of organizations to realize the vision of protecting New England's great forests. By providing inspiration, coaching, and technical assistance, NEFF will leverage its expertise in assisting RCPs all across New England to become more effective and efficient at land conservation. Our communities will benefit from more healthful water and air, a vibrant economy that benefits from the natural infrastructure that our forests and watersheds provide, and the conservation of our quintessential New England landscape.

Together with the Marteloscope, our field training tool for foresters, and the Landowner Communication initiative, NEFF is creating innovative new programs that engage landowners, professional foresters, land trusts, and other conservation partners to better protect and manage our forest resources for now and the future.

Please visit our website at www.newenglandforestry.org for additional information coming soon.



A view from New England Forestry Foundation's Hersey Mountain forest in New Hampton, New Hampshire. Photo by Kari Post.

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Summer Celebration Series ~ 2013

New England Forestry Foundation is pleased to present our Summer Celebration Series, 2013. This summer we will host dedications throughout New England in celebration of our most recent conservation successes. Join us for remarks, refreshments, ribbon cuttings, and guided hikes at each property. Please visit our website at www.newenglandforestry.org/events for further details of each event.

Saturday, June 29, 2013

David A. Rock Memorial Forest
Troy, Maine

New England Forestry Foundation is honored to receive this 40-acre forest as a gift from the David and Judy Rock family estate. David was a former NEFF forester, a graduate of the Yale School of Forestry, and an adjunct professor at nearby Unity

College. The forest is adjacent to the family's Blue Heron Farm, which also was recently conserved with the Sebec Regional Land Trust.



Photo by Kari Post.

Thursday, July 11, 2013

Natti Addition to the Norton Memorial Forest
Gloucester, Massachusetts

The Natti Addition is a collaborative initiative with the Essex County Greenbelt Association. The 20-acre addition provides a key link in a proposed network of town and privately-held conservation properties in the forested Dogtown sector. The new parcel will provide land for a small parking area and designated trailhead for enhanced public access to the popular Norton Memorial Forest.

Saturday, August 10, 2013

Hull Forest Woodlots (CR)
Granville, Massachusetts

New England Forestry Foundation worked closely with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Town of Granville, and the Hartford Metropolitan District in conserving these significant 719 forested acres. Two parcels abut one of New England Forestry Foundation's largest forests, the 1000-acre Phelon Memorial Forest, creating a contiguous conservation corridor for clean, public drinking water and diversified habitats.

Saturday, September 28, 2013

Braintree Mountain Forest
Braintree, Vermont

Our Grand Finale Celebration! The Braintree Mountain Forest represents the largest donation of land to New England Forestry Foundation in the organization's history. This new forest provides 1547 acres for public use and exploration — just in time for the fall foliage season! Please join us in acknowledging this special conservation gift.

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