

EXEMPLARY FORESTRY IN THE CENTRAL AND TRANSITION HARDWOODS OF NEW ENGLAND

These standards are intended to be implemented in the context of the landscapes where NEFF's lands occur, and so our management of NEFF Community Forests in the Central and Transition Hardwood forest types starts with an assessment of the landscape's current and anticipated future conditions. We identify which wildlife habitats and critical forest stand structures—defined below—are missing or inadequate in the landscape, and compensate for them in the management of NEFF parcels. In addition to implementing these standards, NEFF intends to maintain dual third-party certification of its lands. Exemplary Forestry in the Central and Transition Hardwoods includes:



Rose-breasted Grosbeak

IMPLEMENTING BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE FOREST CONDITIONS.

Employing accepted “Best Management Practices” to protect soils, riparian and aquatic habitat, special habitats, wildlife trees, and other resources.

IMPLEMENTING ADVANCED SILVICULTURE.

Practicing forestry which, over time, results in:

- a. **Continuously improving forest stands** in terms of both quality and quantity.
- b. **Providing conditions which are well-suited to the umbrella wildlife species** known to be representative of the habitat needs of the great majority of native species.

Umbrella Wildlife Species by Successional Stage

Successional Stage	Umbrella Wildlife Species	Target Habitat Block Size
Interior Forest	Scarlet Tanager, Wood Thrush, Black-throated Blue Warbler, tree-dwelling bats (multiple species)	40-50% of landscape managed for >250-acre blocks of relatively mature, interior forest
Early Successional	Golden-winged Warbler, Ruffed Grouse, Woodcock, New England Cottontail, Blanding's Turtle	30-40% of landscape managed for 6- to 25-acre blocks of early successional forest
Edge and Transition	Red Fox, Eastern Box Turtle, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, native bumblebees (<i>Bombus</i> spp.)	5-15% of landscape managed for edge and transition stage forest resulting from the above early successional

- c. **Maintaining connectivity** between habitats.
- d. Achieving a **diverse size class distribution** of 5-15% of stands in seedlings, 30-40% in saplings and poles, 40-50% in sawtimber and including up to 10% of the landscape in large diameter multi-storied stands.

- e. **Growing tree species well-suited to each site**, e.g., matched to soil and physiographic conditions as well as expected changes in climatic conditions.
- f. **Stocking that fully occupies the sites**; this is an average of “B” line stocking for stands not currently being regenerated. For example, in 8-10” diameter stands of mixed wood this would be approximately 20 cords per acre. Adequate regeneration is considered to be 600 seedlings of commercial species per acre.
- g. **Growing and harvesting quality timber** at an average of 0.5 cords/acre/year.
- h. **Addressing climate change** by increasing the resilience to, adaptation for, and mitigation of climate change through forest management. For example, using forests and forest products—including products beyond solid wood (e.g., wood fiber insulation)—that can store more carbon and substitute for other more carbon-intensive materials like steel and concrete, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Because many stands in the Central and Transition Hardwoods are heavily stocked, managing to mitigate climate change requires special attention; additional information is available on the NEFF website.
- i. **Diverse management approaches.** In the long term, NEFF intends to manage significant portions of its properties using both the even-age (regular shelterwood) and multi-aged (irregular shelterwood) management approaches. Different approaches to management are called for to meet the needs of umbrella wildlife species and may also be needed to accommodate specific site conditions. For example, the creation of large blocks of early successional habitat by harvesting heavily may be limited to stands that are not heavily stocked.
- j. **Aesthetics.** Public support for forest management, its social license, depends in many cases on how forests look, particularly after harvest. In this regard, NEFF intends to manage its lands to maximize the appeal of managed forests to the public, including but not limited to their visual appeal, particularly in key areas—like attractive roadsides, trails and shorelines. This means harvesting carefully with an eye toward respecting ecological values, avoiding site damage and avoiding the appearance of carelessness.

More information and citations are available at newenglandforestry.org/learn/initiatives/exemplary-forestry

Note: These standards are intended to be refined as scientific knowledge improves.