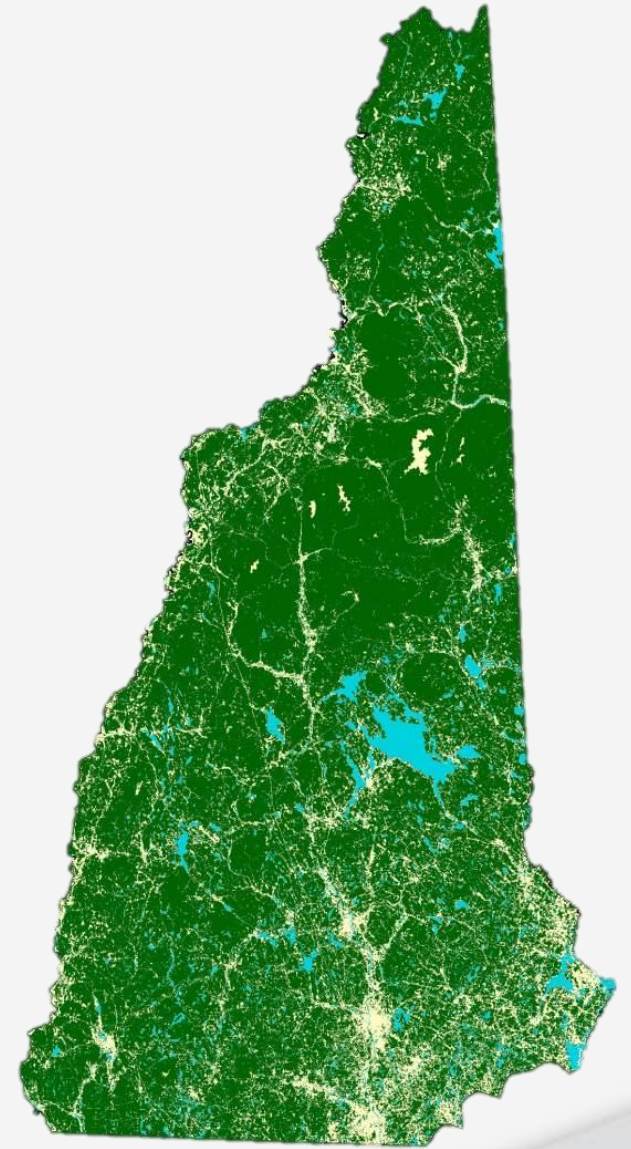


# New Hampshire's Forests Today

- New Hampshire is 5.74 million acres
- 82.7% forested (4.75 million acres)  
*The 2<sup>nd</sup> most forested state in the U.S.*
- Forests provide us with many ecosystem services
- Forests are habitat for wildlife
- The Forest Products industry is an important part of NH's economy & culture
- Forest based recreation is an important part of NH's economy & culture
- Forests are why people live and visit New Hampshire
- About as much forestland as the state had in 1725



# New Hampshire's Forest Economy: Key Points



- ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS:
- Forest-based manufacturing  
\$1.15 billion  
8,160 jobs
- Forest-based recreation and tourism  
\$1.12 billion  
11,401 jobs
- 4.1 jobs for every 1000 acres of forest  
1.7 forest-based manufacturing  
2.4 forest-based recreation and tourism
- Total impact on NH economy  
**\$2.26 billion annually**  
**20,000+/- jobs**



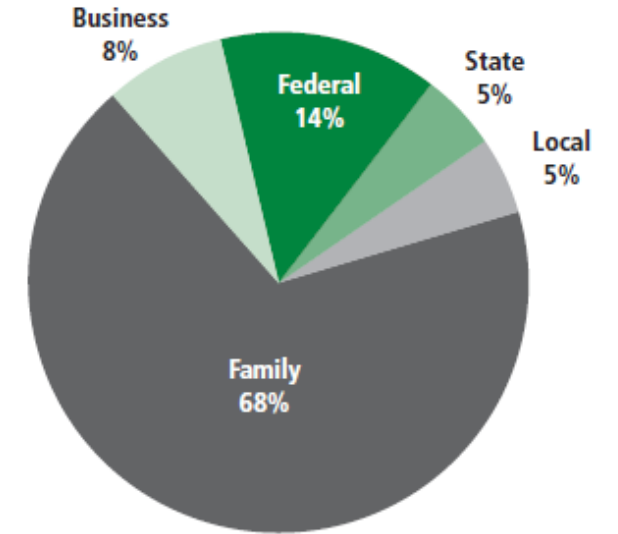
SOURCE: Economic Importance of New Hampshire's Forest-Based Economy, 2012



# Who Owns Our Forests?

- More than 2/3 of New Hampshire's forestlands are privately owned.
- Stewards of NH's natural resources
- Key source of wood for forest products Industry
- Susceptible to development pressures
- Private decisions impact public good:
  - Clean water
  - Climate mitigation
  - Economies
  - Wildlife
  - Recreation

New Hampshire Timberland Ownership (acres)



Source: USDA Forest Service, Forest Inventory and Analysis & private data

- <sup>1</sup>Landowners received over \$30 million from the sale of their timber in 2009, resulting in timber taxes of over \$3 million dollars paid to communities.

New Hampshire's Forests 2017

SOURCE<sup>1</sup>: Economic Importance of New Hampshire's Forest-Based Economy, 2012

# Key issues facing NH's Forests & Wildlife Today

## Loss of forest land and habitat to conversion

- 92,000 ac. lost over five years, 18,400 acres/year = 50 acres/day

## Fragmentation of habitat blocks

- ~32,000 family forest owners with 10+ acres owning collectively 1.8 million acres.
- Average woodlot size ~55 acres

**Lack of a balance of habitats; young forests, shrublands, grasslands to support a suite of species that rely on them.**

**Forest Resiliency: Threats to forest health and productivity including insects, diseases, invasive plants and animals, climate impacts and weather events.**

**Maintaining a sustainable forest products industry that remains an important part of the social and economic matrix.**





# Help from Extension

## *Caring for New Hampshire's Forests Since 1925*



### **FORESTRY & WILDLIFE PROGRAM MISSION:**

Provide educational information and assistance to forestland owners, businesses, and natural resource professionals so they can make informed and responsible decisions about maintaining and/or enhancing a healthy forest resource while sustaining economic viability.

# Role of UNH Cooperative Extension Foresters is Educational



- We provide forestry, wildlife, and conservation education.
- “Woodlot Visits” 1 on 1 site visits with landowners, communities, and natural resource professionals.
  - **FY24: 791 site visits 66,515ac. 1205 people**
- Extension Foresters are in every county
- Statewide specialists are another important resource
- We can help you assess your resources and develop strategies to meet your goals.
- Research based advice - Free of charge!
- A great first step!



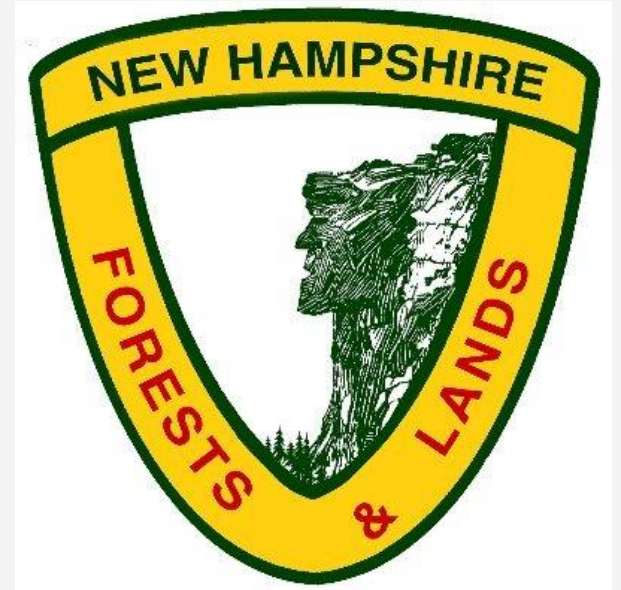
# Role of UNH Cooperative Extension Foresters is Educational



- Private forest landowners
- Natural resource professionals
- Municipalities



- Connect landowners and private business
- Consulting Foresters, Loggers, and Arborists are available for fee



- We don't enforce forest laws or regulations
- role of Forest Rangers



# County Foresters provide landowner education

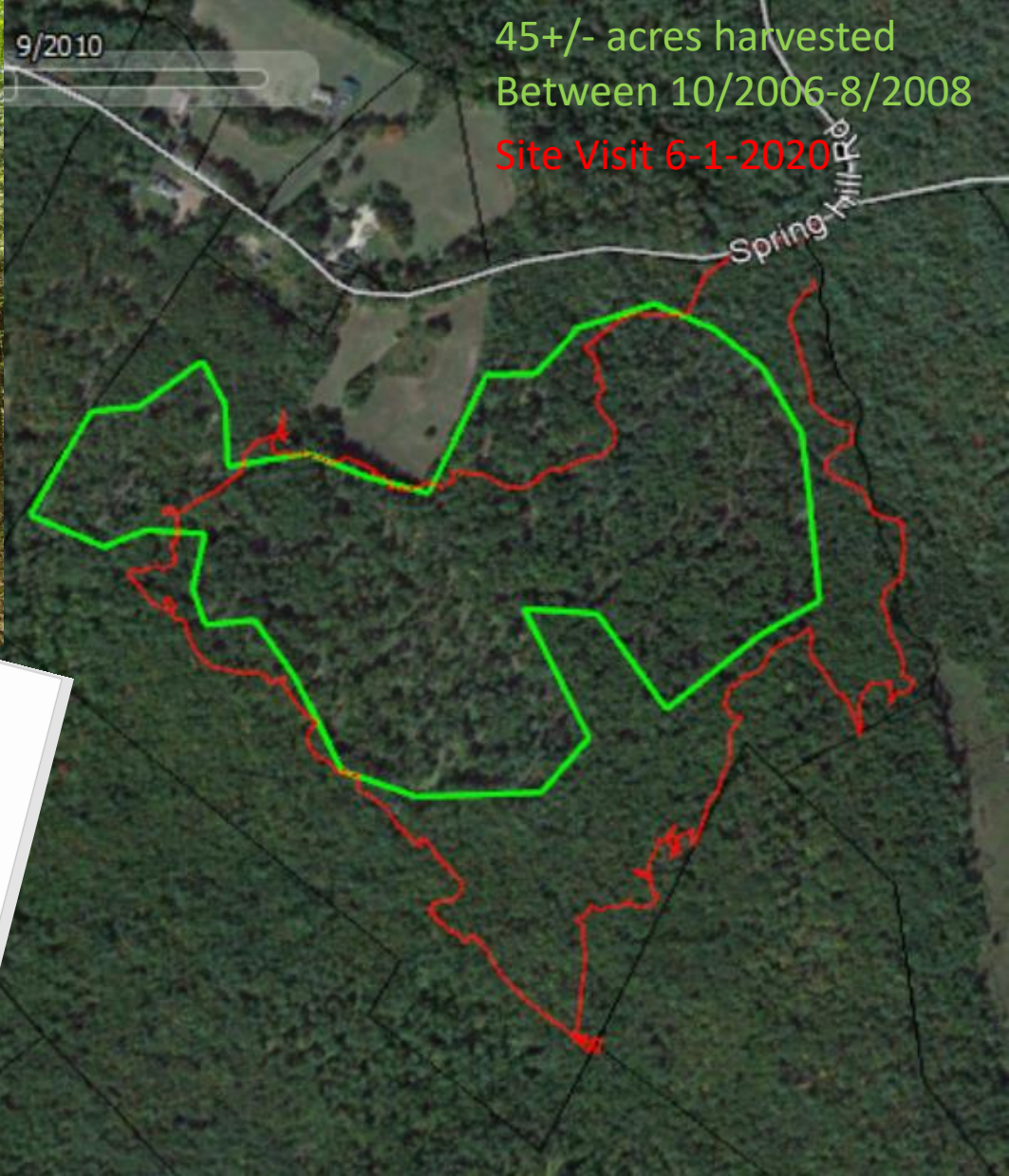
## - Walk the land with the landowner



- Forest Stewardship
- Timber and firewood management
- Wildlife habitat improvement
- Forest-based recreation e.g. trails, wildlife, viewing,
- Forest aesthetics
- Christmas tree and maple syrup production
- Insect and disease diagnosis & management
- Invasive plant identification and management
- Marketing and utilization of wood products
- Discuss their interests, hopes, goals, and dreams
- Discuss strategies for meeting goals on their forestland



# Woodlot Visits



45+/- acres harvested  
Between 10/2006-8/2008  
Site Visit 6-1-2020



Field Notes 6/1/20  
Michael Gagnon: Hillsborough County Extension Forester  
Parked along stream in northern corner, followed closely to the property lines around the entire perimeter of the woodlot until cutting northeast along a stone wall from the west side to the southwest corner of the field. Followed woodlot south of the field and then turned north towards car. Followed skid trail out.

**Tree Species:**  
Eastern Hemlock (Abundant)  
Red Maple (Abundant)  
Yellow Birch (Abundant)  
White pine (Abundant)  
Red Oak (Abundant)  
Paper Birch (Abundant)  
Black Birch (Abundant)  
American Birch (Abundant)  
Red Spruce (Abundant in low areas)  
Black Cherry (Sparse)  
White Ash (Sparse)  
Sugar Maple (Sparse)  
Basswood (1)

**GENERAL REMARKS:** The forest is a diverse and exemplary example of a very old Hemlock-Beech-Oak-Pine (HBOP) forest type in southern NH. This is the most common forest type in southern NH. Approximately 50 acres were thinned between 2006-2008. Other than that, there is little to no evidence of timber harvesting with the exception of some pine stumps adjacent to the field that appear to be 20-30 years old.

The harvesting done was exceptionally good from a silvicultural standpoint. It was clear that the intention was to improve the woodlot through good forestry practices. Examples of this include large crop tree red oaks, white pines, and even hemlocks that were left within the thinning areas. Stumps also indicated removal of poor-quality hemlocks, and white pine. I was impressed with the quality large oaks remaining in the woodlot post-harvest. These trees often veneer quality are not abundant but are common throughout the woodlot and represent the highest value timber products on the lot. They also provide a quality hard mast for wildlife and can act as seed trees for oak regeneration.

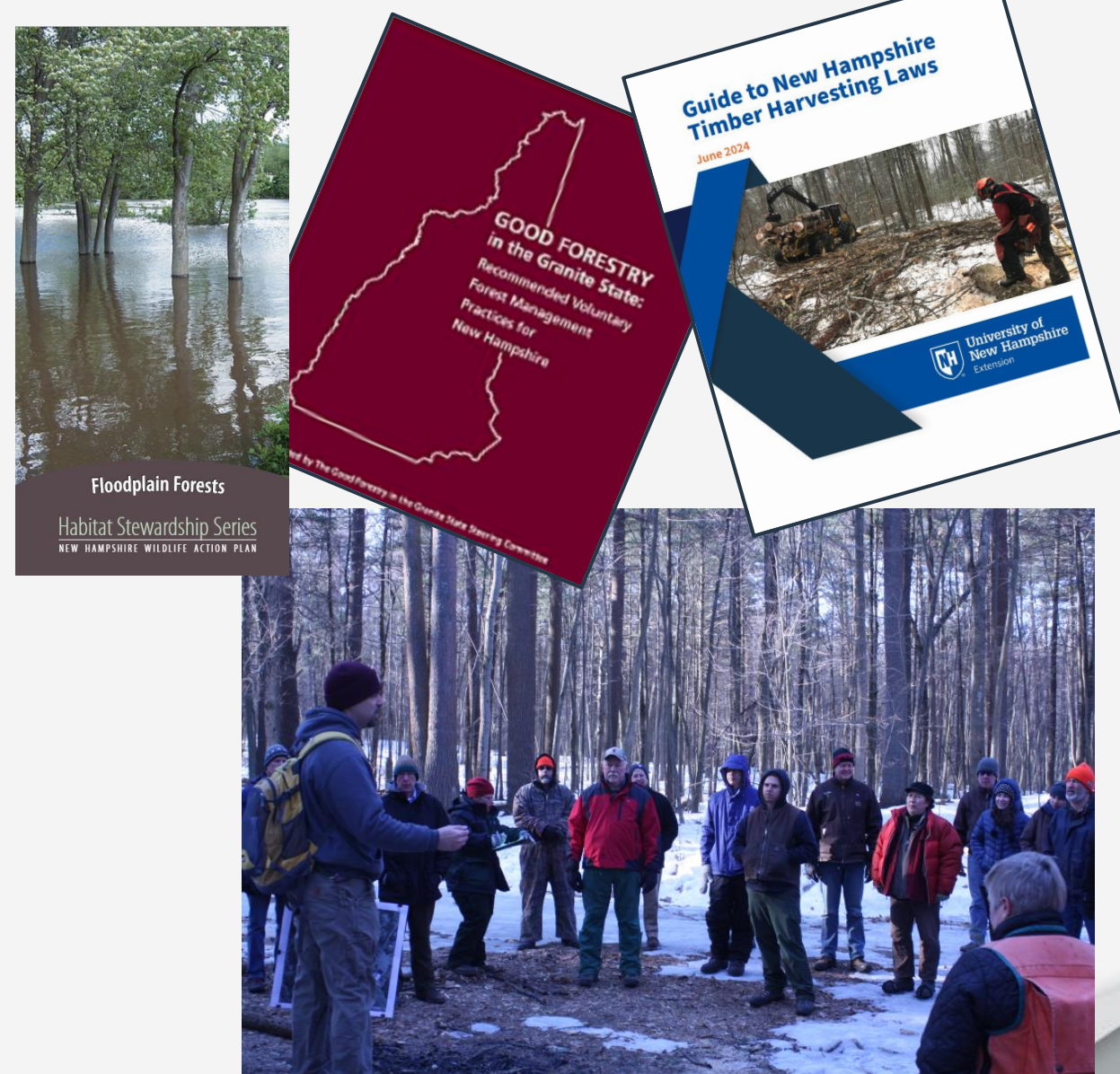
**ISSUES:**  
**Hemlock Decline:** The forest is dominated by a tremendous amount of hemlock. Many of which are very large old hemlocks. Some of which are showing decline, likely from hemlock woolly adelgid and elongate scale. While hemlock is a low value species, the sheer abundance of hemlock on site might make a timber sale profitable. This could be done by selecting some larger areas 1/2 acre or larger to clear cut to regenerate oak, pine, and increase the presence of some early successional species on site such as aspen and paper birch. In these selected areas, there will likely be some high-quality oak trees that could be harvested to increase the potential revenue. I would recommend retaining some of these larger oaks as a seed source and wildlife value.



# County Foresters provide information and educational events

Workshops, tours, short courses, fact sheets, handbooks, field days, newspaper articles

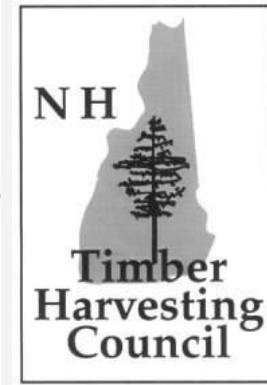
- Winter tree and shrub ID
- Invasive Species Management
- Chainsaw Safety & Maintenance
- Backyard Sugaring
- Wildlife Habitat Enhancement
- Timber Management





# County Foresters provide information and support to forestry programs and partners

- Tree Farm Program
- Coverts Program
- Logger Education and Certification
- Forester Licensing and Continuing Education
- Community Forestry
- Career and Technical Education Programs,
- K-12 Schools
- Pesticide Safety Education
- NRCS Cost Share Programs



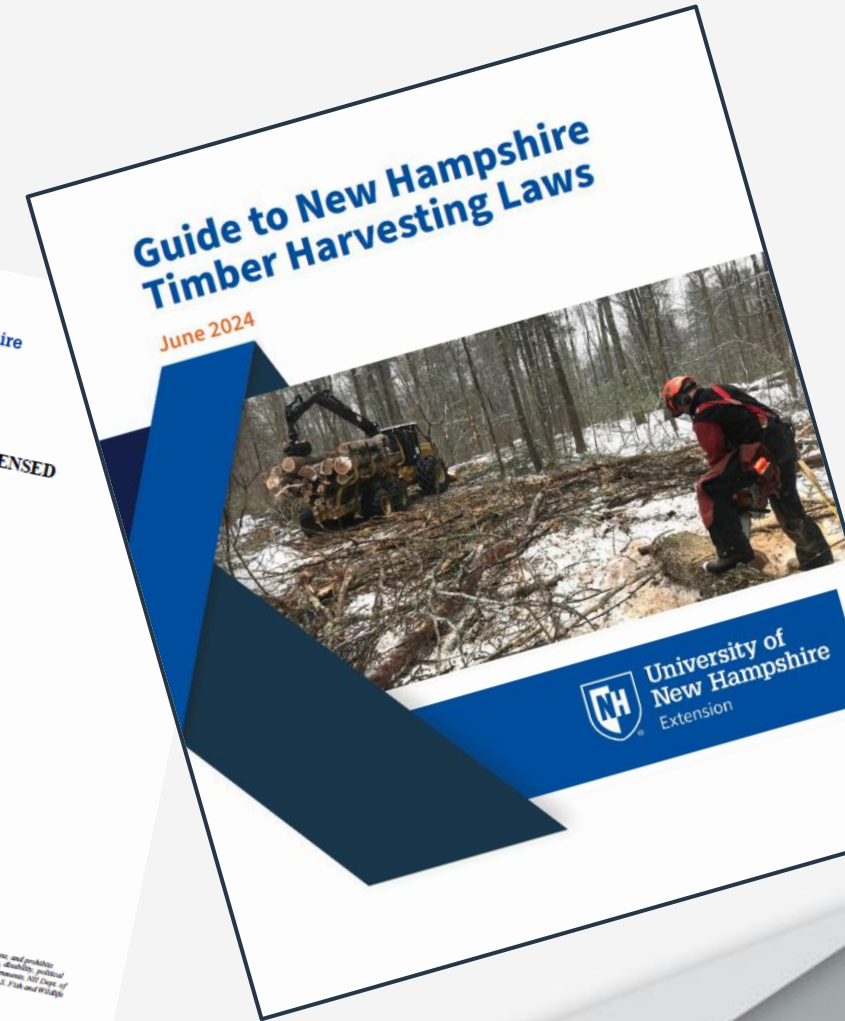
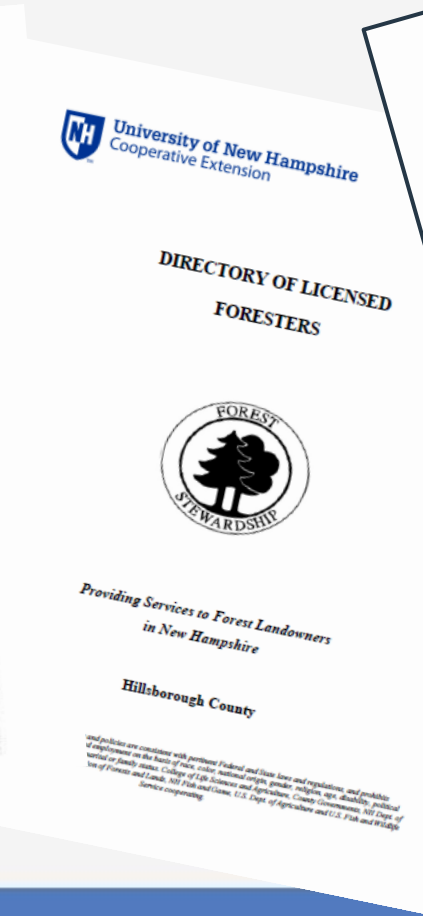
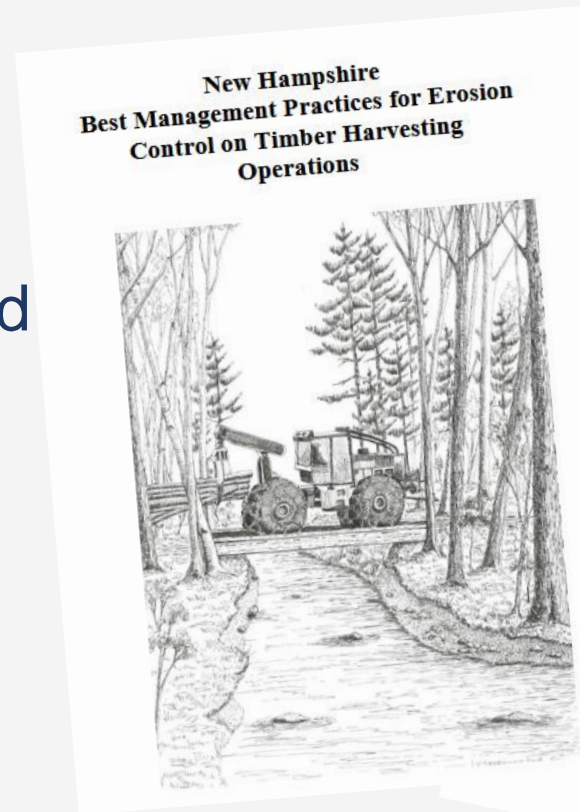
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



# County Foresters can answer questions from landowners referred by town offices

## Common questions

- Current use
- Wetlands
- Selling timber or firewood
- Forest harvesting laws
- Forest management
- Licensed foresters
- Certified loggers, etc.





# County Foresters can assist needs of town officials & committees

- Planning for invasive species, Knotweed, hemlock woolly adelgid, emerald ash borer, etc.
- Natural resources inventories
- Planning for development and open spaces
- Watershed practices
- Proper management of natural resources
- Protecting greenways
- Urban forestry practices
- Workshops and presentations on forestry issues



# County Foresters can help guide forest management of town lands

- Discuss the land
- Conduct a woodlot visit on town land
- Guide management planning process
- Help find resources
- Conduct educational events and tours
- Promote use of town lands
- Help town find a consultant to conduct inventory or sell timber







# We are a phone call away!

## **Michael Gagnon**

Hillsborough County Extension Forester

(603) 696-1723 Ext 920

[michael.gagnon@unh.edu](mailto:michael.gagnon@unh.edu)

**Hillsborough County |**

329 Mast Road, Goffstown, NH, 03045

UNH Cooperative Extension specialists in: Forest Resources, Wildlife Habitat and Conservation, Forest Industry, Geospatial Technology (GIS), Urban and Community Forestry and Ecology, Community Planning, Volunteerism, Citizen Science

[www.nhwoods.org](http://www.nhwoods.org)

[www.nhbugs.org](http://www.nhbugs.org)

**EXTENSION NEWSLETTERS:** <https://extension.unh.edu/about/newsletters>

# A Great Information Source

Resource for landowners and professionals who work with them

Not intended for conversion into laws or ordinances



[www.goodforestry.org](http://www.goodforestry.org)

## GOOD FORESTRY in the Granite State:

Recommended Voluntary  
Forest Management  
Practices for  
New Hampshire