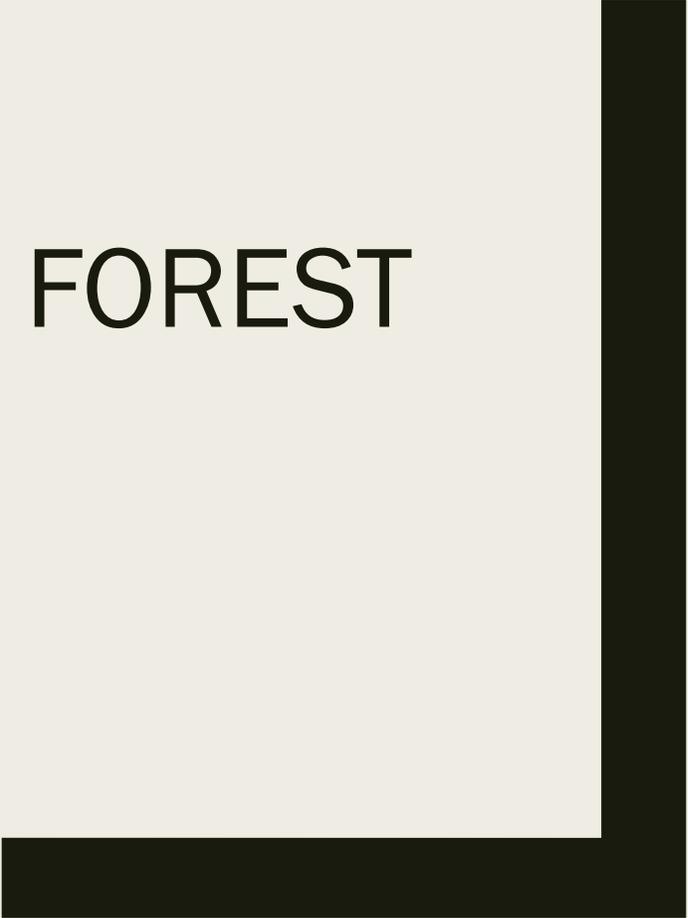




CATAMOUNT COMMUNITY FOREST

Forest Management Plan 2020



Purpose of a Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the CCF

- Serve as addendum (not replacement) to the CCF's 2018 Management Plan
- Satisfy Section I.C. of the CCF's conservation easement with the Vermont Land Trust
- Provide detailed recommendation on the management of the CCF's forests for the next 10 years.

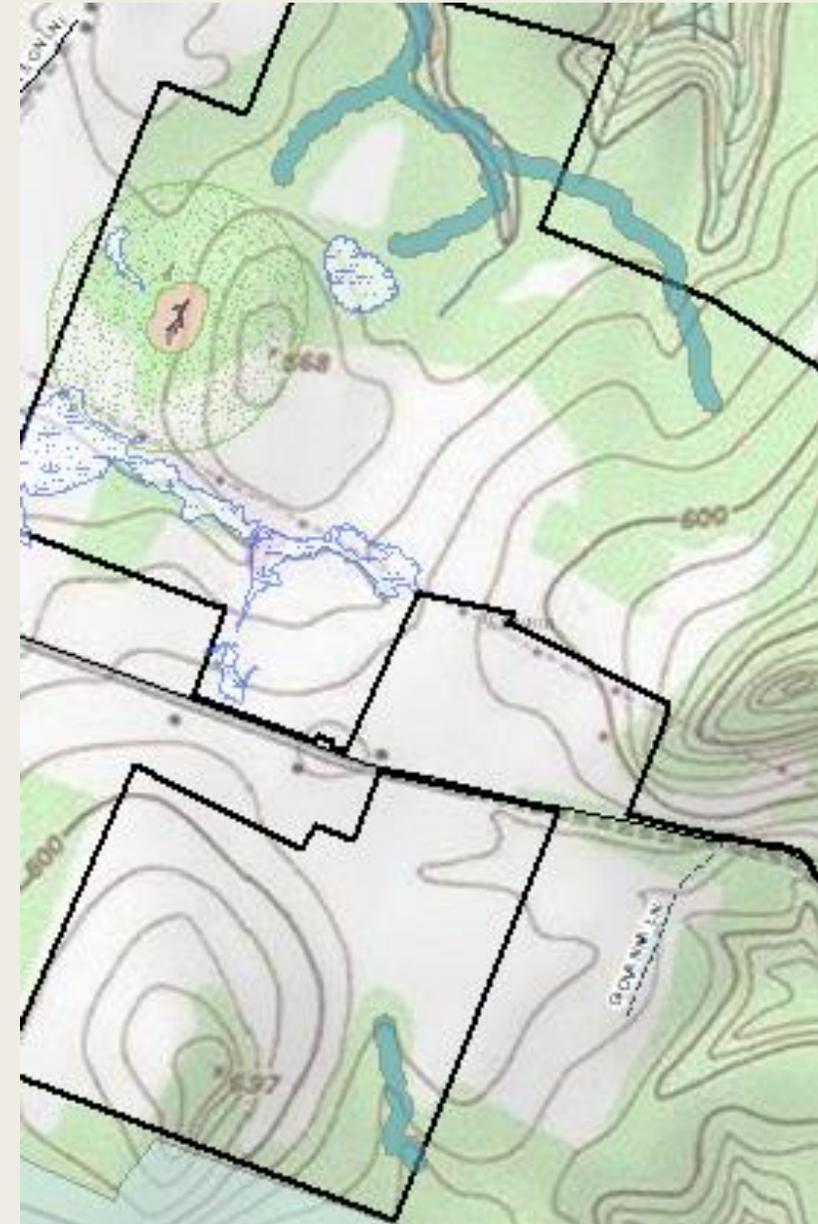
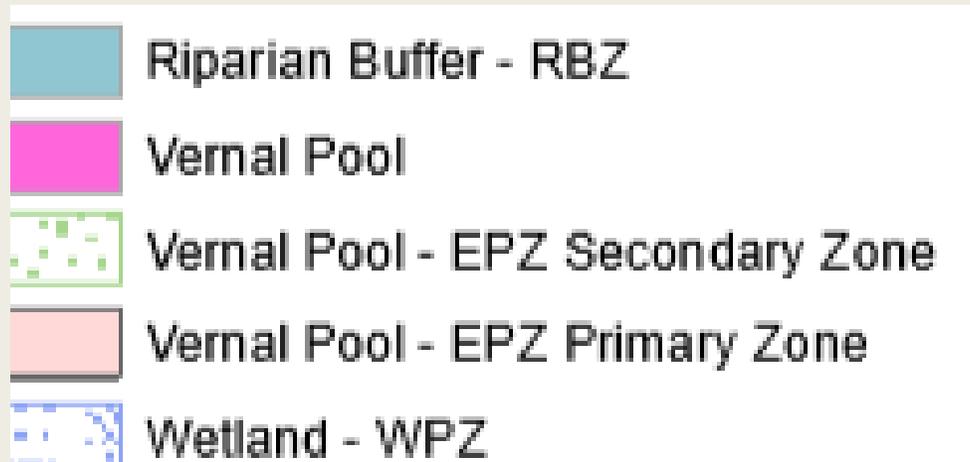
Sections of the FMP

- Introduction
 - *History*
 - *Ecological Protection Zones*
- Management Considerations and Priorities
 - *Diversity and Resiliency*
 - *Connectivity*
 - *Invasive Species Control*
 - *Wildlife Habitat*
 - *Water Management*
 - *Soils*
 - *Carbon Sequestration and Storage*
 - *Recreation*
 - *Access and Operability*
 - *Cultural Features*
 - *Boundaries*
 - *Emerald Ash Borer*
- Active Forest Stewardship
 - *Vermont's Working Landscape*
 - *Demonstration of Responsible Forest Stewardship*
- Overview of Forest Conditions
 - *Forest Management Priorities*
- Stand Descriptions/Prescriptions
- Schedule of Management Activities
- Works Referenced
- Glossary
- Appendices:
 - *Stand Map*
 - *Soil Map*
 - *Historic Orthophoto (1942, 1962, 1999) maps*
 - *Management Schedule Map*

Ecological Protection Zones (EPZ's)

These are features specifically protected in the CCF's Conservation Easement.

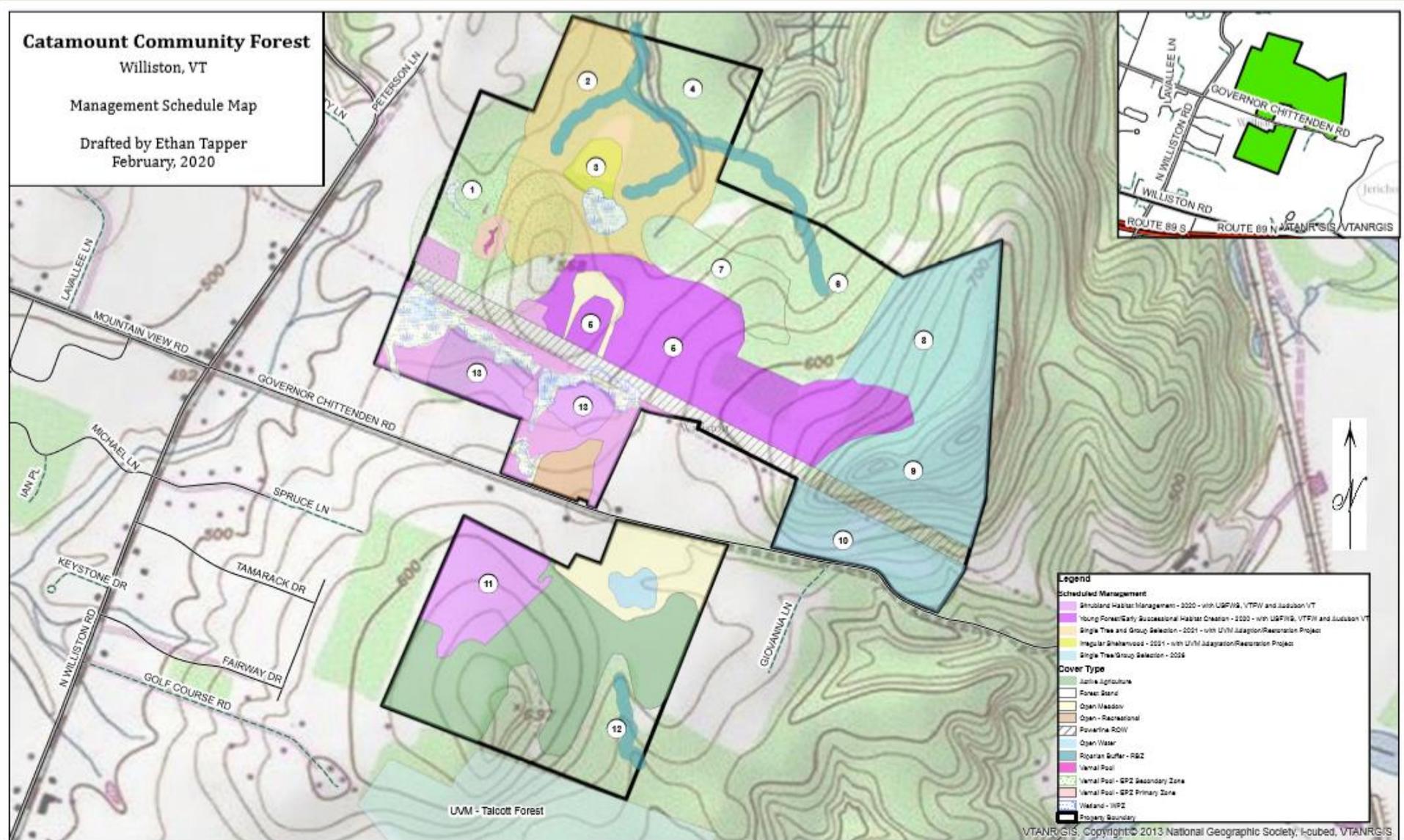
- Vernal Pool
- Vernal Pool Primary Zone - 100'
- Vernal Pool Secondary Zone - 400'
- Riparian Buffer
- Wetlands



Forest Stand Map



Forest Management Prescribed





Demonstration and Education

- The value of everything we do at the CCF can be compounded by conducting outreach and education around it.
- Conducting forest stewardship, including timber harvesting and invasive species treatment in open, transparent and inclusive way.

This is a *major* goal of this FMP.

Case Study: Hinesburg Town Forest

- Since 2018 I have hosted 15 free, public events around harvesting at the HTF (with 5 more scheduled this winter):
 - *Many public walks before and during the harvesting.*
 - *Public events focusing on forest management for wildlife, birds, carbon, and EAB.*
 - *Presentations in the Hinesburg Library;*
 - *HTF “History Night”;*
 - *Storytelling night on 2/22.*
- All these educational opportunities were free, open to all and on nights and weekends;
- Co-sponsored events with Vermont Woodlands Assoc., Vermont Coverts, Vermont Fish and Wildlife, Audubon Vermont, Fellowship of the Wheel (mountain biking group), Outdoor Gear Exchange, City Market Co-op and Vermont Pride Center.
- Over 300 people have attended these events in the last 18 months.



2020: Wildlife Habitat Enhancement

Partnered with/funded by USFWS, VTFW and Audubon VT

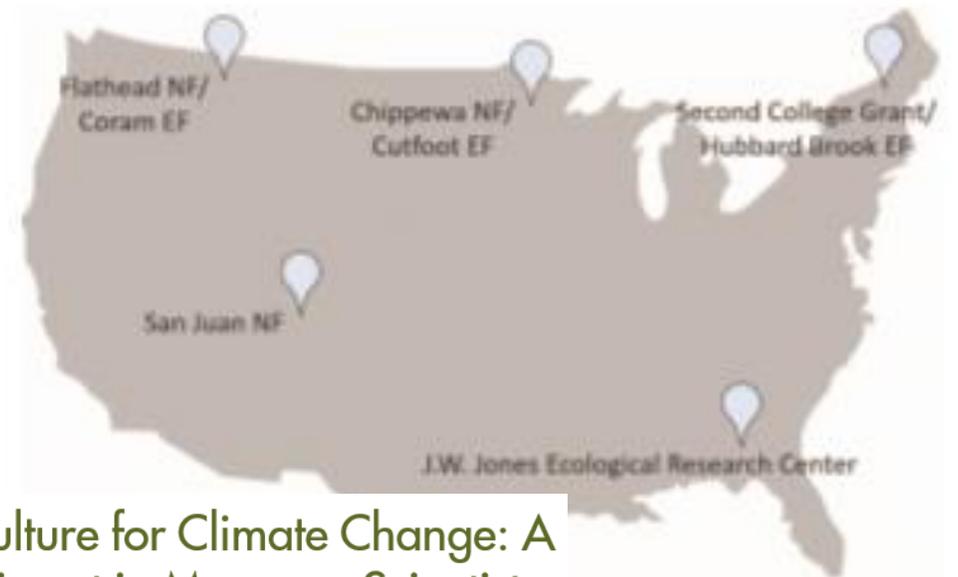
- **Stand 5:**
 - Create 2-3 “patch cuts” 3-5 acres in size (in a 50-acre stand).
 - Follow with invasive species treatment
- **Stands 11 & 13 and open/shrubby areas:**
 - Create shrubland habitat to favor golden winged warbler and other shrubland birds.
 - Follow with invasive species treatment
- Both treatments could occur as soon as August 1 of this year.
- The extent of the treatment will be contingent on funding --- will not cover anywhere near these entire areas.
- Duration of the treatment will be ~ 1-2 weeks.
- Neither treatment will net or cost the Town anything.



2021: Adaptation and Restoration Demonstration Project

Partnered with UVM – Tony D’Amato, Gary Hawley et al.

- Opportunity to be part of a national network of scientists and managers who are practicing adaptive forest management for climate change.
- Work at the CCF would be paired with work at adjacent Talcott Forest.
- Opportunity to contribute to a growing understanding of how to manage our forests responsibly in light of climate change.
- Lots of interesting research would be a part of this.



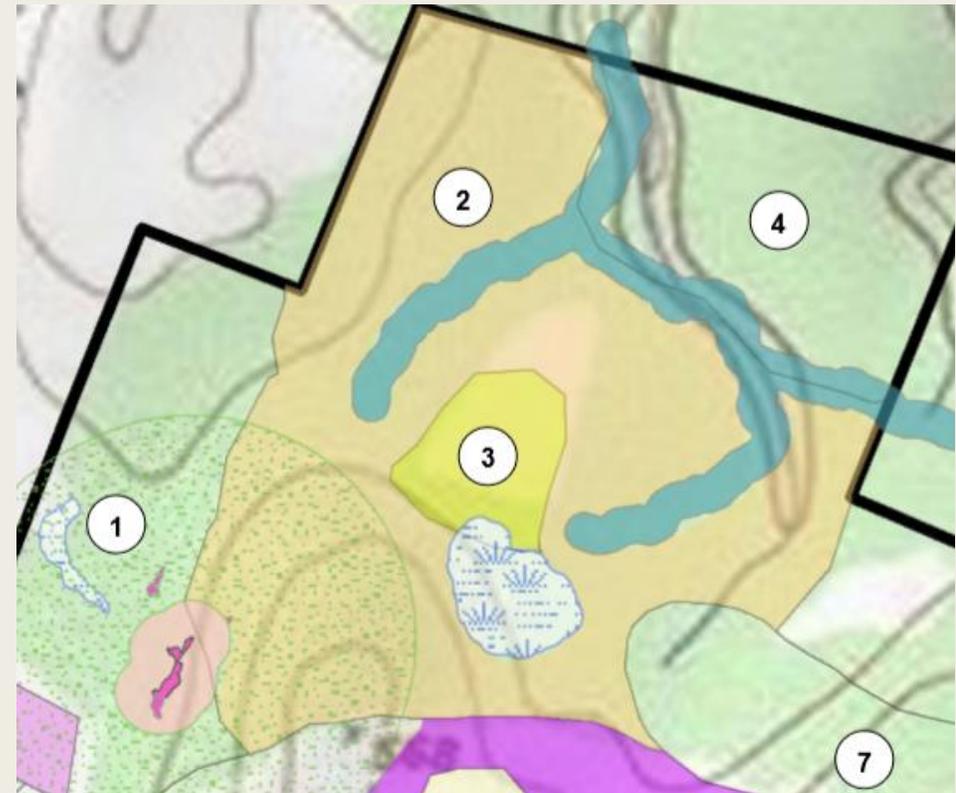
Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change: A National Experiment in Manager-Scientist Partnerships to Apply an Adaptation Framework

Linda M. Nagel, Brian J. Palik, Michael A. Battaglia, Anthony W. D’Amato, James M. Guldin, Christopher W. Swanston, Maria K. Janowiak, Matthew P. Powers, Linda A. Joyce, Constance I. Millar, David L. Peterson, Lisa M. Ganio, Chad Kirschbaum, and Molly R. Roske

2021 Adaptation and Restoration Demonstration Project

Partnered with UVM – Tony D’Amato, Gary Hawley et al.

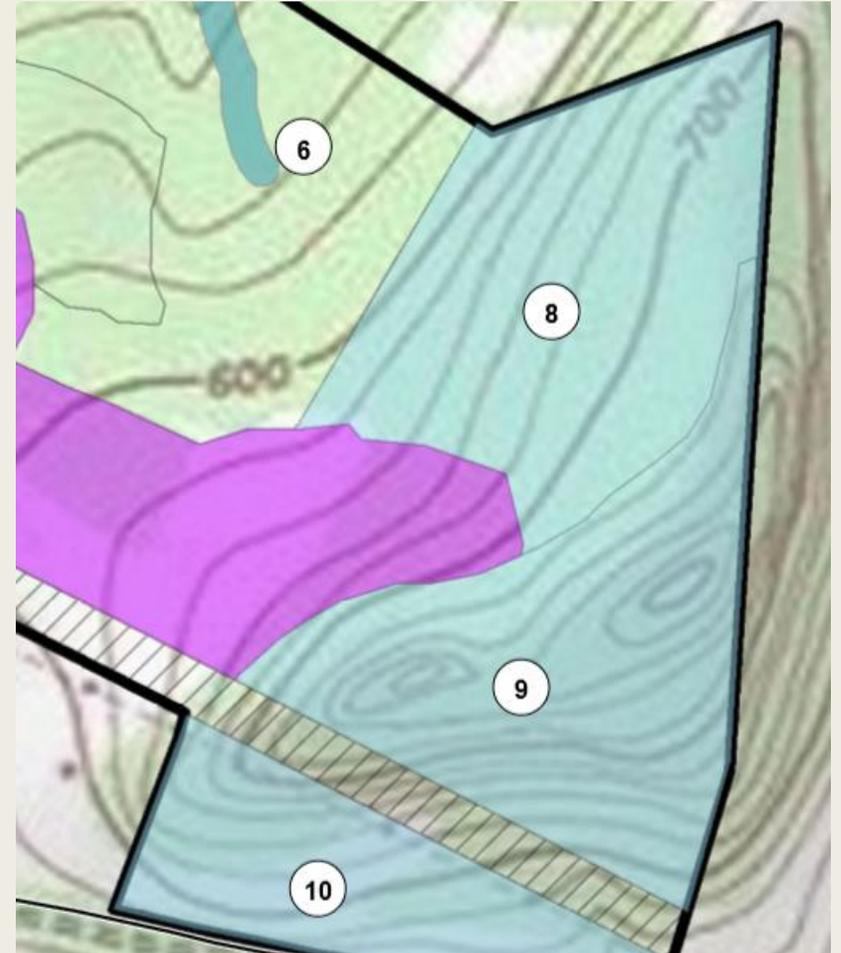
- Work would be focused in northwest portion of CCF – about 50 acres.
- Would ideally take place in over 2-4 months in late summer/early fall.
- In conjunction with this work, CCF would allow UVM to access Talcott Forest to replicate the study (the log landing for this would be in the field in south of CCF).
- Would be revenue-positive – revenue could be used to control invasive plants or other non-commercial stewardship activities.



- Single Tree and Group Selection - 2021 - with UVM Adaption/Restoration Project
- Irregular Shelterwood - 2021 - with UVM Adaptation/Restoration Project

2026: Uneven-aged Management

- Demonstration forestry project to increase the diversity in 3 stands and encourage create old growth-type attributes.
- ~65 acres.
- Could occur in late summer/early fall or winter (summer preferred).
- Would be revenue positive, probably would take a fall and a winter to complete.



Single Tree/Group Selection - 2026



Recreation

Recreation is SO important!

Recreation should also respect wildlife habitat and forest management objectives.

- For all these treatments, some trails will need to be closed for some period of time, from a couple weeks to a couple months for safety. In every case, the majority of trails could stay open
- Light damage to/occlusion of recreational trails could occur in the course of forest management.
- All of this will require us to make a detailed plan with COFC for how to manage operations.
- We can build in educational opportunities to showcase forest stewardship to recreational trail users.

Invasive Species Control

- Common buckthorn, shrub honeysuckle, Japanese barberry, Asiatic bittersweet and multiflora rose are established throughout the CCF.
- Immediate control recommended and the infestation is beyond mechanical control. Targeted, minimal use of herbicide is recommended.
- Complete eradication is unlikely --
- monitoring is key.
- Could utilize income from CCF budget, conservation funds and/or forest management income.
- **This is by far the biggest and most serious threat to the CCF and requires immediate and extensive action.**





Deer Browse

- The CCF appears to have a locally high deer population, like many areas of Chittenden County and the Winooski River Valley.
- Deer browse damage is prominent throughout the CCF.
- Deer management should be nuanced --- we also want to preserve/enhance the function of deer wintering areas and provide good deer habitat.
- Recommendations:
 - *Reassess hunting policy at CCF;*
 - *Consider allowing deer hunting in the CCF, especially antlerless deer hunting.*
 - *Engage with UVM service learning and other volunteers/partners to monitor deer population and browse impacts – study underway as of winter 2020!*

