

NorthWoods Stewardship Center

Audience Local/regional foresters, land managers
and landowners

Project: Place & Purpose

*1,473 ac non-profit owned forest in northeastern
Vermont*

Goals: practice and demonstrate sustainable forestry
protect ecological function/habitats provide
education and recreation opportunities



Climate Change Impacts or Opportunities

- Predicted decline in boreal/northern species (balsam fir, red spruce, sugar maple, yellow birch, American beech) and increase in southern/widespread species (red maple, black cherry, white pine; possible red oak introduction).
- Likely increase in storm frequency and/or intensity, leading to forest and trail damage.
- Likely increase in invasive plants, intensified by climate change.

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Adaptation Actions

- Promote future adapted species and diversify forest structure through thinning and regeneration harvests, with possible planting of new-to-site native species. Retain minor species and possible refugia for declining species.
- Control existing and new invasive plant populations.
- Build more robust trails that will withstand intense rainfall and can be accessed in non-frozen conditions.

Outcomes

- Higher proportion of species that can thrive in future climate conditions.
- Diverse forest structure where continuous regeneration and varied tree age/size/height reduce likelihood of widespread forest damage.
- Permanent trails that allow forest operations to be carried out with minimal forest/soil damage, even in varied weather conditions.