

**Division
of Forests
And
Lands**



**State of New Hampshire
EASEMENT MONITORING
INSPECTION REPORT**

Inspection Date: *March 12, 2020*
September 11, 2020

Agency / Program: DNCR/Forest Legacy

Easement Name: CT Lakes Working Forest **Acres:** 146,000

Town / Location: Pittsburg, Clarksville, Stewartstown **AKA:**

Current Owner: The Forestland Group (Matt Sampson)
Address: 5A Riberolle St.
P.O. Box 155,
Wellsboro, PA 16901

Phone:

E-mail: matt@forestlandgroup.com

Cell:

Owner Contact: LandVest
Address: PO Box 237
West Stewartstown, NH 03597

Phone: 246-8800

E-mail:

Cell:

Landowner contact prior to inspection: Yes No

Status: To the best of your knowledge, judgment, and observation, is there compliance with the terms specified in the conservation easement? Please describe as necessary.

No violation observed *Pending* (requires further evaluation) *No* (see explanation below)

Post-inspection Landowner Communication:

Description of current land use: This 146,000 acre piece is the largest privately owned parcel of land in the state of New Hampshire. It is a working forest, and managed intensively. The state of NH owns the road network and the entire property is open for recreation. The property was sold by the Lyme Timber Company, and bought by the Heartwood Forestland Fund VI (HFF) in 2010. The Forestland Group is the managing partner for HFF, and the actual day to day management of the property is handled by LandVest.

Condition of Boundaries: Excellent Good Fair Poor

Comments:

Stewardship / Forestry Plans: The Stewardship Plan was officially signed and approved October 23, 2012, however, the planning horizon on the plan was from 2009- 2018. Therefore, the plan was set to expire. TFG decided to complete a quick stewardship plan renewal just for a 2-year window.

Most recent update: 2019 **Forester:** LandVest **Renewal Date:** 2020

Inspection description / observations / comments / management needs / info requests / etc.

List man-made alterations and management activities (conducted or planned) noting extent, location, purpose, individual responsible (if appropriate) – Examples: construction, dredging, filling, trails, timber harvest, clearing new fields, etc. Also, list natural alterations / occurrences - Examples: erosion, fire, ice, invasive species, flora / fauna, etc. Note location and attach maps, photos, and illustrations as necessary and all persons in attendance.

March Monitoring Trip

On March 12, 2020 Alexis, Dave Falkenham, David Degruttola, Jill, Jake DeBow, Todd and I were all present for the winter monitoring trip. This was the first official monitoring trip for Jake, who is the new Regional Wildlife Biologist since Will Staats' retirement.

Our first stop was at "Narnia" which was being thinned with small groups as well. We had a silviculture discussion at this site about the prescription, but the harvest looked good.

Our second stop was in a beech SMA that was being managed for Beech, trying to promote beech regeneration and retain healthy mature beech throughout the stand. This was within in an SMA and had been visited previously by Fish and Game. Though managing to encourage beech is not typical for foresters or landowners, F&G was very pleased with their willingness to try something different.

Next, we visited "Try Again" at the end of the south bay road. These were larger patch cuts to promote regeneration. The view from these cuts was pretty spectacular.



Lastly, we visited Smith Brook and a softwood management area. This was cut by the Inkel crew with his cut to length system.



September Monitoring Trip

On September 11, 2020 Alexis, Dave F, Jill, Todd, Jake and I were all in attendance for our summer/fall monitoring trip. The first stop was to look at some Brontosaurus work that was being done to create wildlife habitat. They were 5 acre blocks, totaling 47 acres of openings. The worked looked good. The second stop was “tin camp”, which was various treatments, including an 80 acre overstory removal, seed tree and some small patches in softwood, and a small area of group selection as well. Lastly, we visited “pick up sticks.” This was being cut by Stephane Inkel’s crew. This was scattered pockets of wood that were left from previous harvests. The prescription was a mix of groups and patches, with a few clearcuts as well, the largest being 12 acres. The entire harvest area was approximately 350 acres. The harvest was in a mixed wood stand, and looked good.



There were several camp requests that were looked at throughout the year, and approved. LandVest continues to be good about sending camp requests to Forest and Lands for review.

Jill Kilborn and Jake DeBow went out several times to look at planning and harvesting within the SMAs as well, and Forests and Lands staff joined on a few of those visits this year. Specifically, we looked at a small aspen management area that they wanted to cut to regenerate aspen. While there, we also looked a potential gravel pit expansion. We walked the area and saw where they wanted to expand into the woods. This was in an SMA so both Fish and Game and I visited the site. There are letters in the file addressing all visit to SMAs.

Periodically, I will check out sections of the property while working in the area, which I did a few times this spring/summer while being in the area looking at CT Lakes State Forest. On one such visit, there was some illegal camping found up West Inlet. Illegal camping was an issue on the property this year, with COVID and more visitors to the property as well as state campgrounds not allowing out of state campers.

Overall, it appears that the conditions of the easement are being met; F&G and F&L appreciate the continued cooperation.

The following additional information / updates are attached to the office copy of report:

GPS Photos Other

Post-report follow-up needed? No Yes:

