



CURRENT USE: What is to be done? *Update the forest conservation reference library!*

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The social and economic values of actively manipulated forests have long been recognized. Many refer to these actively used forests as “working.” The scientific community—and the general public for that matter—are becoming increasingly aware of the ecological functions and values of self-willed forests as well. The fact is that we need forests of both the managed and self-willed varieties if we are to continue to enjoy the host of forest benefits and services upon which we all depend.

Researchers Malcolm Hunter and Bob Seymour of the University of Maine, Orono have suggested that to conserve biological diversity we need to have landscapes that include the full range of management approaches, from intensively managed areas to ecological reserves.¹

Closer to home, and in the wake of Tropical Storm Irene, there is increased interest in forests as watersheds. For example, in the summer 2012 edition of *Northern Woodlands*, Michael Snyder, Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation points out that “healthy forests play an absolutely vital role in moderating water movement over our landscape.” In *The Practice of Silviculture*, Smith and others state that “The best kind of watershed cover is untouched, unused, ungrazed forest.”²

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation maintains a list of publications that are deemed *acceptable* for maintaining compliance with the Use Value Assessment Program. They are listed on pages 44-45 of the UVA Manual.

<http://www.vtfpr.org/resource/documents/UVA/UVA%20Manual%20July%2028%202010.pdf>

¹ *New Forestry in Eastern Spruce-Fir Forests: Principles and Applications to Maine*. Robert S. Seymour and Malcolm L. Hunter, Jr. 1993.

² *The Practice of Silviculture: Applied Forest Ecology*. 9th edition. Smith and others. 1997. John Wiley and Sons.

Though others will be considered, the 29 publications on this list shape the practice of forestry in Vermont. Two-thirds of them are primarily about timber management. The balance is on topics such as forest statistics, maintaining water quality on logging jobs, and “cutting and cultural treatments to produce wildlife habitat.”³ There is very little mention about leaving forests—or even fragile portions of forests—alone, managing forests for ecosystem services, and/or producing non-wood forest products.

The point is that we need to expand our forestry beyond Gifford Pinchot’s *wise use* of forest resources such as timber. And we need to recognize that self-willed forests provide a critical role in maintaining healthy, productive, *working* landscapes. VT FP&R’s library needs to reflect this.

The following is a partial list of publications that should be added to VT FP&R’s list:

Natural Disturbance and Stand Development Principles for Ecological Forestry. Jerry F. Franklin, Robert J. Mitchell, and Brian J. Palik. 2007.

Climate Change in the Champlain Basin: What Natural Resource Managers Can Expect and Do. J. Curt Stager and Mary Thill. 2010.

Forest Ecosystems (Second Edition). David A. Perry, Ram Oren, and Stephen C. Hart. 2008.

Conserving Forest Biodiversity: A Comprehensive Multi-scaled Approach. David B. Lindenmayer and Jerry F. Franklin. 2002.

Natural Disturbance Forestry. John H. Roe and Ana Ruesink. 2004.

Good Forestry in the Granite State: Recommended Voluntary Forest Management Practices for New Hampshire. 2010.

Biodiversity in the Forests of Maine: Guidelines for Land Management. Gro Flatbo and others. 1999.

Maintaining Biodiversity in Forest Ecosystems. Malcolm L. Hunter. 1999.

³ *Technical Guide to Forest Wildlife Habitat Management in New England.* University of Vermont Press, Burlington, VT DeGraaf and others. 2006.

Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Within Stands. Robin E. Hoffman and James F. Palmer. ND.

Working With Non-timber Forest Products: Ideas for Stewardship. Allaire K. Diamond. ND.

Positive Impact Forestry: A Sustainable Approach to Managing Woodlands. Thom McEvoy. 2004.

Benchmark Parameters of Sustainability for Vermont Forest Resources. Vermont Forest Resources Advisory Council. Working Group on Sustainability. 1996.

Carbon Accounting and Management of Lying Dead Wood. Alexander M. Evans and Mark J. Ducey. 2010

Whole-tree Clearcutting in New England: Manager's Guide to Impacts on Soils, Streams, and Regeneration. Robert S. Pierce and others. 1992.

Seeing the Forest Among the Trees: The Case for Wholistic Forest Use. Herb Hammond. 1991.

Saving Nature's Legacy: Protecting and Restoring Biodiversity. Reed F. Noss and Allen Y. Cooperrider. 1994

Impacts of Intensive Timber Utilization on Nutrient Budgets in Vermont. David Brynn. 1991

Let's expand our reading list and open ourselves up to the possibilities!

May the forest be with you!

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