

Go ORGANIC in the Forest

Organic Forestry is about a shift in perspective—from human-centered to earth-centered. From product to process. From fighting-against to working-with. From quick “fixes” to long-term health.

What does that look like in the forest? No synthetic pesticides. Vegetable-based chainsaw bar oil. Forest practices that minimize soil disturbance and compaction. More big trees and dead snags. More large downed logs. Fewer roads and more stable access paths.

Organic forest practices protect the health of the whole community.



Manually removing buckthorn saplings is a safe, effective alternative to applying glyphosate. Cut seed-bearing trees and cover stumps with Buckthorn Baggies to prevent resprouting.



Protein-packed caterpillars are essential food for songbird chicks. Most songbirds, like this black-throated blue warbler, depend on forest insects to raise their young.



When you forage in the forest, you savor the flavors of your home place. Organic forest practices help keep those food plants healthy and safe to eat.



What do spring salamanders and brook trout have in common? Like most aquatic animals, they need clean, clear water to live in. Stable access paths keep sediment out of forest streams.

But what about Invasives?

As the saying goes, if you find yourself in a hole, stop digging. Avoid creating the conditions in which invasives thrive. Minimize soil disturbance. Don't create big openings—sun-drenched clearcuts roll out the welcome mat for invasives.

If your forest is home to invasive plants, practice patience in addressing them. This problem didn't happen overnight, and organic responses take time. All sustainability is local, so what works well in one forest might not be the best approach in another forest. Visit our website for ideas and information about tools and practices.