



DEEP FORESTRY DIVISION

Forest Management in Connecticut

What is Forest Management?

Forest management is the application of scientific and technical principles by a certified professional in order to meet specific goals. It takes many forms, but usually involves periodic treatments or practices which are done to change forest conditions. Forest management uses a variety of practices, such as brush control and timber harvesting, to provide a balance of important societal and ecological benefits.

So, why manage our forests?



After timber is harvested through forest management, the forest is left in an improved condition, where new trees establish and existing trees grow more vigorously. This makes our forests healthier, more resilient, and adaptable to change.



Connecticut's wildlife depend on a variety of habitats which today's landscape lacks. Forest management deliberately creates habitat diversity so the forest supports the full array of wildlife.



Healthy forests remove carbon dioxide from and add oxygen to the air we breathe. They also remove harmful pollutants and reduce smog. Forest management promotes healthy forests.



Healthy forests support healthy aquatic systems. They also support groundwater and aboveground reservoirs by stabilizing infiltration rates, filtering contaminants, and minimizing erosion. Forest management supports water resources.



For Climate Change Mitigation

Forests mitigate the negative impacts of climate change by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Forest management provides an opportunity to transfer carbon stored in live trees into durable wood products. It simultaneously creates favorable conditions for the removal of additional carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. ***In fact, for every one cubic foot of wood harvested from Connecticut's forests, over six cubic feet of wood grows.***



For Renewable Resources

Wood is a versatile, renewable, and carbon-positive resource. Using wood in place of other more carbon-intensive materials helps decrease our environmental footprint. Forest management ensures a stable supply of wood and other forest products.



For the Economy

Connecticut's forest products industry employs over 16,000 people in rural and suburban areas and accounts for over \$3 billion in output annually.



For You!

Spending time in the forest supports your physical, emotional, and spiritual health. Forest management complements this by keeping our forests healthy, diverse, and accessible.

Without Forest Management, Connecticut Would Have:



FEWER TREE SPECIES

Connecticut's forests contain many tree species, each with different characteristics, needs, and ecological benefits. Forest management seeks to promote species diversity. No forest management means fewer tree species, and less biodiversity and resilience.



FEWER OAKS

About 70% of Connecticut's forestland is oaks and hickories. Oaks support hundreds of animal species, including many beneficial insects. These vital trees are integral to Connecticut's history and identity, but they need forest management to reproduce and maintain their presence on the landscape.



FEWER ANIMAL SPECIES

Young forest is one of the most-needed habitats today, and it is largely missing from the landscape. In the past, fire, beaver activity, and flooding created patches of young forest, but today, these processes are suppressed to protect human lives and property. Forest management mimics these disturbances and creates young forest habitat. The resulting young forest provides food and shelter for an array of wildlife, including over 50 species that have experienced drastic population declines over the last several decades and would continue to decline in its absence.



FEWER SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES

Connecticut would have to either use less wood or import more wood from other places. Using less wood requires substituting more carbon-intensive, less environmentally friendly materials. Importing wood from other places increases its associated carbon footprint and transportation costs, and supports logging in places with less stringent environmental regulations and worker protections.

For more information on the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Division of Forestry, please visit: portal.ct.gov/DEEPForestry

Questions? Email us: deep.forestry@ct.gov

