

Stewardship Storyline



**Kennebec Woodland Partnership
Fall Conference 2010**

Stewardship Storyline - Outline

- **Ownership Sequence**
- **Elements of Stewardship**
- **Actions, Tools and Strategies**
- **Constant Considerations**
- **Reasons to Keep a Forest as Forest**

CONSERVATION

- a careful preservation and protection of something;
- *especially* : planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect

-Merriam-Webster online dictionary

STEWARDSHIP

- the conducting, supervising, or managing of something;
- *especially* : the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care

-Merriam-Webster online dictionary

- the administration of land and associated resources in a manner that enables their passing on to future generations in a healthy condition

-Society of American Foresters Dictionary of Forestry

SILVICULTURE

- the art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality of forests and woodlands to meet the diverse needs and values of landowners and society on a sustainable basis

-Society of American Foresters Dictionary of Forestry

Land Ownership Sequence

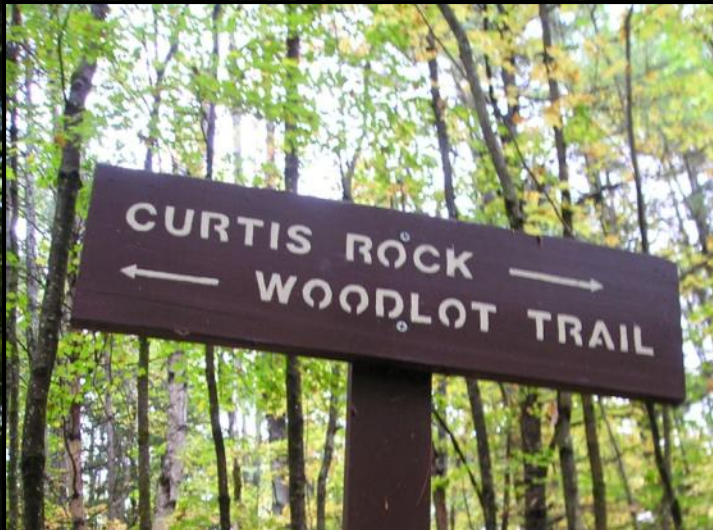


Elements of Stewardship

- Informed decisions
- Working with professionals (realtors, foresters, loggers, agencies, lawyers, consultants, etc.)
- Written planning (articulated vision, goals and objectives, recommendations, alternatives, decisions, monitoring, updates, etc)
 - FMP, cost basis, inventory, operational, estate
- Documentation of activities and results



Elements of Stewardship



- Interaction with community (neighbors, local government, clubs, individuals, groups, the Public)
- Personal satisfaction, pride of ownership
- Desire to share knowledge, resources
- Recognized connection to ecosystem; water, soil, air, plants and animals
- Protection of values

Elements of Stewardship

- Continuous learning and improvement
- Patient, incremental growth, not boom and bust (no “stewardship bubble”)
- Implementation of good, better, best management practices
- Aggregation, opposite of parcelization
- Leaving land better than you found it, for next generations



Actions, Tools and Strategies:

Actions

- Survey/establish/maintain property lines.
- Collect data: take inventory of resources.
- Articulate goals and objectives, leading to statement of vision of desired future conditions.
- Seek professional advice and services.
- Seek counsel from family and friends.
- Explore neighborhood landscape.



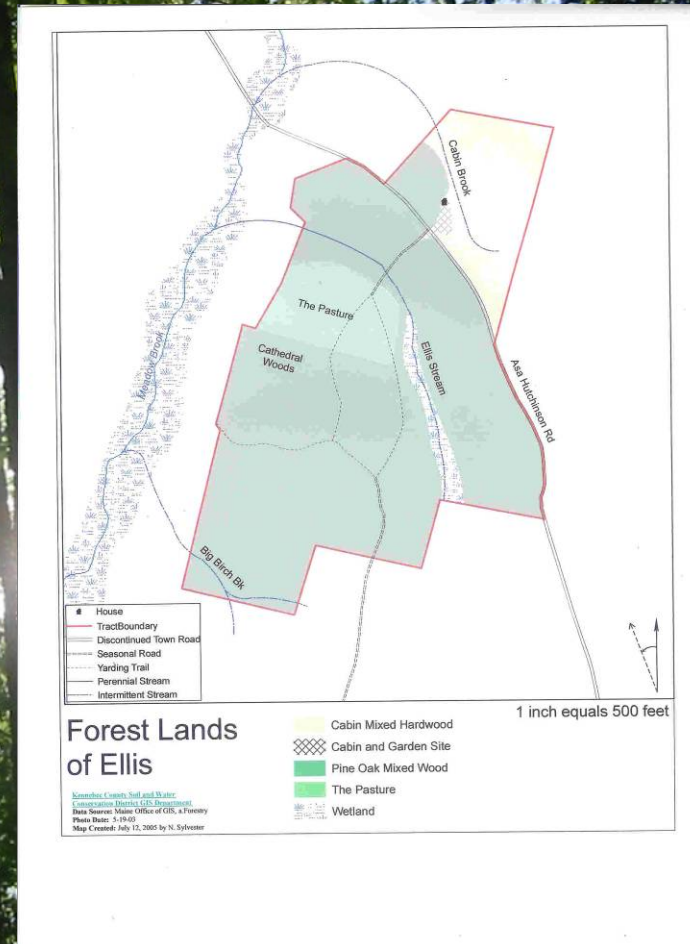
More Actions

- Consider proposed/recommended activities, options.
- Decide and implement.
- Review and assess results.
- Document and record.
- Join organizations that support and enhance forest stewardship, for example, SWOAM.
- Certify land



Documents

- Deed
- Survey
- Maps: tax/parcel, soil, land use, vegetation cover types, harvest area, trails and roads, water bodies, activity areas, special places, etc.
- Plans: harvest, forest management, Stewardship, Conservation Activity, estate



More documentation

- Contracts and agreements
- Certification
- Easements and/or covenants



Tools



- Saws: pruning, chain
- Loppers and choppers, axes
- Paint gun
- Paint brush
- Paint
- Flagging and ribbon

More Tools

- Compass
- Clinometer
- GPS field unit
- GIS software
- Measuring tapes, chains
- Knowledge of pace, span, estimation techniques
- Tree stick ("Biltmore" stick)



Big Tools



Feller-buncher; excavator; chipper; skidder

Strategies

- **Develop good working relationships with professionals.**
- **Enroll in current use property tax programs (Tree Growth, Open Space, Farmland)**
- **Protect (permanently or temporarily) from development.**
- **Make use of federal programs for financial assistance.**
- **Manage timber for scheduled income stream through periodic harvests.**



More Strategies

- Buy/sell land strategically.
- Develop estate plan to ensure continued forest stewardship
- Derive income from other forest values, such as recreational leases or fees.
- Add value to wood products, such as lumber, fitted firewood or furniture.



Constant Considerations

- **Money matters: purchase price, return on investment, property taxes, maintenance, income, income taxes, getting a good deal**
- **Cost/benefit analysis**
- **Other resources: available time, skill, preference for different activities**
- **Appreciation of value(s)**

Reasons to Keep a Forest...















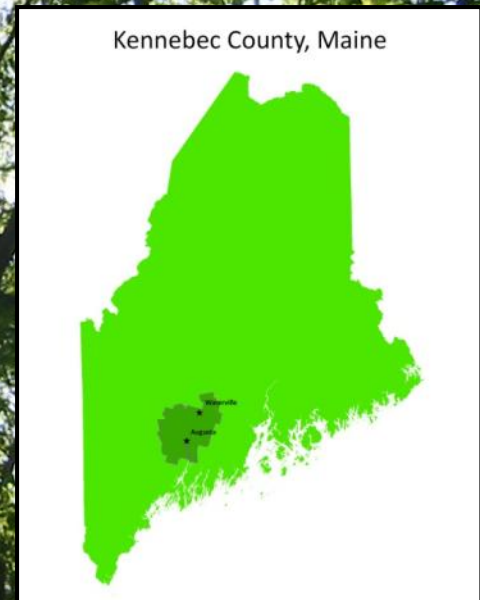
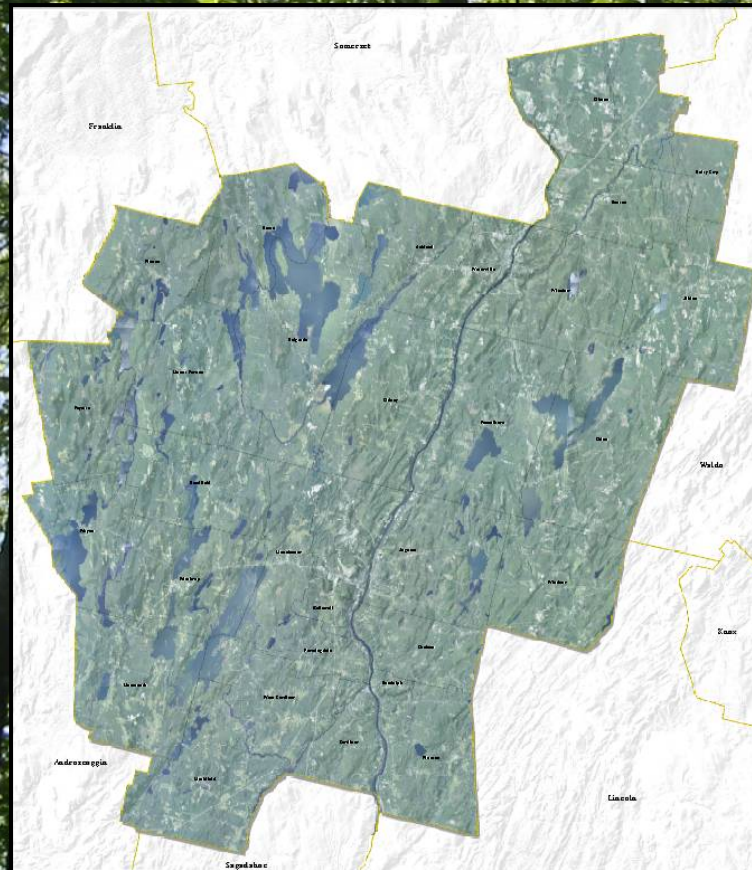






... as Forest!

Every landowner engages with his or her land in a unique way, in degrees of harmony with their resources and the world around them.



A low-angle photograph of a dense forest. The trees are tall and thin, with their trunks reaching towards the top of the frame. The canopy is thick with green leaves, and sunlight is filtering through, creating a bright, hazy glow in the center. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

IT'S NOT ROCKET SCIENCE

It's a whole lot more complicated...

And interesting!

-Old woods saying