



FOREST*CARE

Property of the Evans Family, Tyler Hill Road, Vernon Vermont 9/8/2026

The information within this report was gathered during a single walk-through of the property conducted in September of 2026. The timing of this inventory may influence the types of plants or water resources which were available to be observed, as well as any other time dependent factors. This report should not be construed as an inventory or a Forest Management Plan, as no quantitative data was collected and the report is constructed solely upon qualitative observations. Any mention of historic events is based upon observable evidence and professional experience and has not been confirmed through an investigation of historic documents. The forest has been divided into regions which roughly share common features. Like all natural systems, these woodland areas are diverse and conditions within each region vary so while efforts have been made to describe the general trend within a particular forest region, variations should be expected.

Overview:

The overall impacts from the most recent harvest entry on this property are variable, but appear to be appropriate in scale and impact for the forest communities in which they occurred. Large scale indicators property wide, such as forest road placement, stump size, collateral damage and water resource impacts, show a pattern of conscientious forest management that generally reflects the best practices in forestry within the region.

Boundaries:

The property's western and southern boundaries are well marked with corner markers and well maintained blazes. The long western boundary abuts lands owned by the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife. The property's eastern boundary is not as clearly marked. White blazing was found along the majority of this boundary, although the white is faded and a cryptic color so it is hard to determine if blazing was inconsistent or just difficult to locate. Corner monuments were not identified at any of the eastern boundary corners. The map which accompanies this report shows the boundary locations as identified in the field, which differ slightly from those on the state's digitized tax mapping, although despite this variations the measured acreage matches the grand list acreage. No evidence of boundary encroachment was seen.

Infrastructure:

An established logging trail network provides access to most all of the upland areas of the property outside of severe slopes. Harvest roads were well sited and generally do not impact water or wetland resources on the property or have erosion issues. One minor erosion issue was noted and is marked on the map. Likewise, secondary trails are well sited, with only one example observed of a trail that caused minor ruts in wet soils. The log landing and main access road are impacted by invasive plant species, most notably some pockets of Asiatic bittersweet, which have not spread to the wider woodland but should be a priority for management. The log landing also has some rubbish which should be cleared. What appears to be a segment of the VAST trail system or other snowmobile trail system, crosses the property, at several points sharing the logging road network. There are some established walking trails, often delineated by orange flagging, but they are subtle and their full extent was not mapped during this visit.

Water resources:

The property has a set of stream channels that flow through it. The southern channel is a minor drainage, in this particularly dry year there was almost no water in the channel. The larger unnamed tributary of the Connecticut River which parallels Tyler Hill Road is a more substantial waterway. The property has numerous identified wetlands within the Vermont Wetland Inventory. The wetlands on the property's west side were largely ground truthed and appear to be generally accurate. These wetlands exist at the bottoms of the west side's complex topography. The eastern portion of the property is far flatter and while some of the wetland regions identified in the Vermont Wetland Inventory do indeed present as wetlands, other identified regions are merely flat moist soils but aren't supporting communities of plants that are indicative of wetland soils and the forests in these regions have been managed.

Regional Descriptions:

Region 1: Dry Hemlock Transition Forest (~40 ac.)

This region covers the northwestern corner of the property. The woodland in this region is even aged or two aged and dominated by eastern hemlock. The terrain is generally rocky on shallow soils across a variety of small hills and rises. Between the ridges there are moist depressions with occasional wetland formation due to the shallow bedrock. Eastern hemlock is joined in the canopy primarily by white oak, red oak and black birch. Occasional inclusions of

white pine are present. There is variable impact from hemlock woolly adelgid and hemlock elongate scale, two exotic insect pests. Some regions show little evidence of impact, while other regions have tree crown thinning and canopy mortality driven by these pests.

This regions was harvested with a light touch. Stumps generally do not represent the largest age class of trees and small stumps are often present next to large untouched trees, a sign that the area was not high graded. The overall forest region averages medium saw timber size, but there are some larger sawtimber trees present. Overall impact from the most recent harvest would be characterized as a light thinning with small variable patches. Where patches of 4 or more trees were cut in conjunction harvest has caused new forest regeneration, primarily black birch and eastern hemlock.

Region 2: Beech-Red Maple-Hemlock Northern Hardwood Forest (~30 ac.)

This forest covers the largely east facing hillsides north of the log landing. The canopy trees range from medium to large sawtimber but are more widely spaced than within other woodland regions. The canopy includes large eastern hemlock, American Beach mixed with black birch, as well as red and white oak. The large proportion of American beech in the canopy of the stand has led to a strong presence of American beech in the midstory, and both age classes are being impacted by beech bark disease and beech leaf disease. Beech leaf disease in particular has left the midstory beech nearly leafless and gives the forest a thin and uncannily bright feeling. Less sloped regions of this forest area have more abundnat black birch and eastern hemlock and these regions have eastern hemlock in the midstory and feel shaded.

Harvesting within this region was heavier and is the factor behind the wider spacing between trees. Harvesting was heavy enough to drive the more abundant American beech growth within the midstory which is now dying back. Overall harvest impacts here are moderate, but the impact that beech leaf disease is having on the younger forest layer compounds the harvest results and creates an impression of greater harvest severity.

Region 3: Northern Hardwood Forest (~45 ac.)

This woodland is found covering the lower portions of the hills on the property's western half. In contrast to Region 1, this area's canopy is dominated more by a mixture of hardwood tree species including black birch, red maple, red oak and others with eastern hemlock as a common but less dominant part of the canopy and

midstory. Moist wetland edges occasionally include yellow birch or large untouched eastern hemlock. Black birch throughout this area is small and appears to be in a younger age cohort potentially initiated by harvesting over 50 years ago. Trees are overall small to medium sawtimber sized.

Harvesting was not severe with this region, following a similar harvest pattern as Region 1 with small group or occasional thinning, although removals are overall heavier than the Region 1. Overall, harvest impacts from the most recent entry are minimal and the forest retains a diverse species composition and healthy structure.

Region 4: Hemlock Northern Hardwood Forest (~40 ac.)

This woodland region covers the flat terrain across the property's eastern third. Although largely identified as wetland, the actual recognizable wetland areas within this region are not as extensive as the wetland inventory would suggest, although there are clearly defined wetland communities throughout this forest area. Terrain here is extremely flat and the soils are generally moist. The canopy composition is heavy towards hemlock, mixed with red oak, red maple black birch and occasionally even white pine. The non-wetland regions of this region were likely cleared for agriculture and this forest area has a simpler structure than other woodland areas on the property as a result of this older disturbance.

Harvest impacts within this region vary. The entire region outside of the wetlands was thinned at a level consistent with Region 3, but some selected sections of this region had heavier harvest impacts as described below.

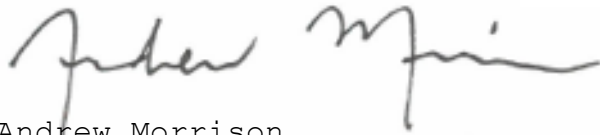
Central - This pair of areas is characterized by what I suspect was a seed tree or overstory removal cut. The retained woodland is young and very even-aged. Canopy within this area includes paper birch, black birch, white pine, eastern hemlock and other species.

North - This region's harvest is characterized by the selected removal of the region's largest and most mature trees, likely red oak legacies from when this was cleared pastureland. Remaining canopy cover is larger than in the central overstory removal described above, but still only small sawtimber sized. The canopy is largely eastern hemlock and black birch with other species being less common.

Region 5: Dry Oak Forest (~10 ac.)

This forest community occurs along the property's dry ridges. The soils here are extremely shallow to bedrock and are not productive for merchantable tree growth. The forest community is dominated by oak species along with American beach, eastern hemlock and other associates. The understory in many of these regions has dense shrub species including mountain laurel.

The terrain within these regions generally severe and therefore there is little evidence of harvest impacts although the northernmost area of this Region did have a small overstory removal cut and has grown back to a dense pole sized stand of trees.



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