



# SELT everlasting

NEWS FOR OWNERS OF LAND PROTECTED BY A CONSERVATION EASEMENT

FALL 2023

## Conserving and Connecting

Here at SELT we've come through a busy (and rainy) summer season filled with many different stewardship adventures like trail maintenance, volunteer work days, and easement monitoring. Thank you to all of you who have been such good partners as we work toward our 100% monitoring rate for our easements. We couldn't do it without you!

I also wanted to thank all of the landowners who came to The Mathey Center at Burley Farms for our first ever Landowner Gathering this summer. We continue to look forward to hosting workshops and presentations relevant to landowners. If you have any suggestions for future topics please let Amanda Ellms know at [amanda@selt.nh.org](mailto:amanda@selt.nh.org).



And if we don't have your email address on file, please send that along as well, so you don't miss out on anything upcoming. Thanks for being great partners and have a wonderful rest of the 2023!

Best,

Deborah Goard, Stewardship and Land Engagement Director  
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## Changes to NH Game Camera, Tree Blind Laws

Effective January 1, 2024, there are a few changes to existing NH RSA 207: General Provisions as to Fish and Game, which gives private landowners more control over the placement of game cameras (NH RSA 207:63) and tree stands/blinds (NH RSA 207:36-a) on their property.

### Game cameras

- The placement of game cameras requires written or verbal permission from the landowner
- Landowners may allow game cameras by posting signs on durable materials allowing their use, written in 2-inch or larger, block letters, and including the name and address of the landowner. These signs must be placed on gates, bars and commonly used entrances
- Permission expires on December 31st of each year unless permission is revoked or extended
- Game cameras must be labeled with the name and contact information of the owner in a way that is visible when the camera is mounted
- Game cameras do not require permission on state-owned or state managed lands or municipally owned property

### Tree stands

- Portable or temporary tree stands and blinds can be in place April 25 to June 1 and August 1 to December 31st.
- All tree stands and blinds must be removed by June 1, unless otherwise permitted by the landowner
- Tree stands and blinds must be clearly labeled with the owners name and contact information
- Permission expires on December 31st of each year unless permission is revoked prior to that date

If you come across a game camera which you did not give permission for, or a tree stand or blind that is up outside of the allowed time frame, landowners should contact local or state law enforcement officer or a NH Fish & Game Conservation Officer to remove and seize the game camera or tree stand/blind. For full text of the law visit: [www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/NHTOC/NHTOC-XVIII-207.htm](http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/NHTOC/NHTOC-XVIII-207.htm)

# Forest Structure and You

What is forest structure? Simply: it's pretty much what it sounds like.

From our friends at UNH Extension:

"Forest structure is the horizontal and vertical distribution of layers in a forest including the trees, shrubs, and ground cover (which includes vegetation and dead and down woody material). Structure looks at the proportion of small, medium, and large trees and is usually reported as trees per acre by diameter class. These age- or size-class groupings are further defined as seedling, sapling, pole, and sawlog...wildlife biologists and foresters are often interested in structure because of its relationship to timber flow, biological diversity and wildlife habitat."

These concepts are of particular importance for landowners, especially when it comes to future land management activities.

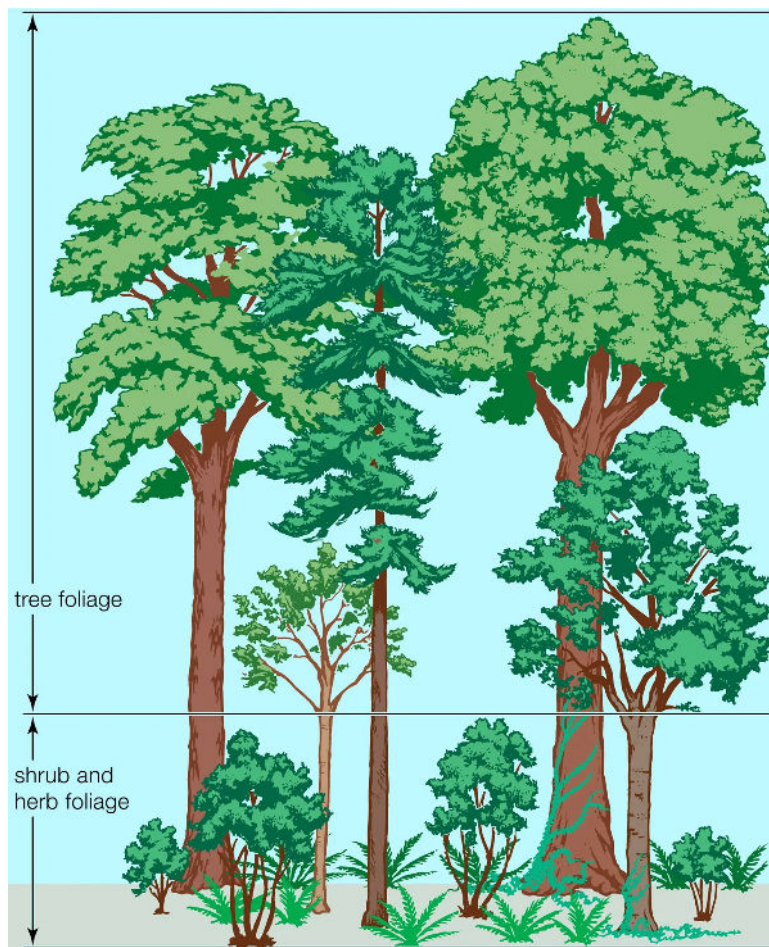
Managing forest structure can have major benefits for landowners and fulfill many different objectives like creating sustainability for timber and other products, fostering plant and wildlife habitat, and revealing scenic beauty.

When it comes time for you as a landowner to think about land management, making a game plan with forest structure in mind can yield solid benefits. Mapping out specific goals ahead of time, especially when considering the impact to forest structure, and taking an inventory of what your natural resources look like are important steps for good stewardship.

When incorporating forest structure into your management goals, wildlife habitat is an important consideration. As we know, forest management is rarely a zero sum game when it comes to wildlife; management activities may benefit certain species but also reduce useful habitat for others. Identifying what you have and what you may end up with as it pertains to the wildlife on your property can do a lot to inform your strategy and the future of your land.

For those with larger acreages, consider applying multiple management practices to support several different habitats with different forest structures. Like implementing one area with 1/2 acre patch-cuts next to 50 acres of shelterwood and single tree selection.

For landowners with smaller acreages, consider what forest structures surround you on neighboring lands and see if there is a management method that could help diversify your local landscapes. And, as always, we recommend reaching out to SELT ahead of time, both for recommendations or resources, and to ensure the language of your particular easement is satisfied - this will save headaches and frustration in the future!



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# TYPES OF HARVESTS

From UNH Extension, here is a guide to the types of harvests to look at, especially as you consider managing your land with forest structure in mind. Implementing these practices may help you achieve your stewardship objectives.

## Clearcutting

The removal of most of the forest cover in a given area. This practice promotes regeneration of early successional shade-intolerant species and shrubby ground cover needed by many woodland wildlife for all or part of their habitat. Clearcuts are also used to create “edge” conditions, which benefit some species of wildlife. Irregular-shaped clearcuts provide the most edge (a meeting and blending of plant communities from both interior woodlands and open areas).



SELT's Leighton Forest in Barrington features a layered forest structure with ferns, shrubs, and trees of multiple age classes.

JERRY MONKMAN - ECOPHOTOGRAPHY

## Patch cuts

*Smaller and generally one-quarter to one acre in size.* They have less impact on forest dependent wildlife species than block cuts because of the minimized travel distance between the openings and mature forest.

## Strip cutting

*The removal of trees in strips that range from 50 to 200 feet in width.* Strip cutting may be done to create or maintain conditions favorable for certain wildlife, such as developing alder cover strips in an appropriate habitat for woodcock.

## Shelterwood

*Used to regenerate tree species that require some shade during their early years.* This technique involves gradually removing overstory trees in two to three harvests to allow the understory to grow into the next stand. The resulting wildlife habitat is a combination of shrubby understory and well spaced overstory trees.

## Group selection

*A practice where groups of trees up to one-quarter an acre in size are harvested, leaving small openings.* This system maintains a mature forest habitat with very small gaps in the canopy. Birds of the mature forest can be maintained while common yellow throats, chestnut-sided warblers, and white-throated sparrows will use the openings.

## Single-tree selection

*The removal of individual trees or small groups of two or three trees.* This harvesting system retains a relatively closed-canopy forest habitat, and promotes regeneration of shade-tolerant species. The continuous forested environment is beneficial to ovenbird, wood thrush, and scarlet tanager.

## Thinning

*Applies to stands not ready for a timber harvest.* The primary goal is to improve the growth and quality of trees for the future. Thinning allows greater sunlight penetration to the forest floor, stimulating understory vegetation that provides food and cover. Some thinnings can also be modified to favor key wildlife tree species such as apple, which is shaded out by a maturing forest. Thinnings can also be done to encourage mast producing tree development.

## Releasing

*Cutting and removing nearby plants that are competing for the limited crown space.* The silvicultural systems described above are seldom applied in unsupervised logging.

Landowners who want to care for their forest and its wildlife are advised to consult with a licensed New Hampshire forester.



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# SELT



<<Addressee>>

<<Address 1>>

<<Address 2>>

<<Town>>, <<State>> <<Zip Code>>



*As of October 2023*

To contact the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire, please call 603-778-6088 or email [info@seltnh.org](mailto:info@seltnh.org).

SELT is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible.

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It's always great to catch up with our landowners! Here, Amanda Ellms, SELT's Easement Stewardship Manager, takes a tour of the SELT-conserved Flag Hill Distillery Winery in Lee with owner and distiller Brian Ferguson.