

NSWWT

NOVA SCOTIA WORKING
WOODLANDS TRUST



Jennika Hunsinger, RPF

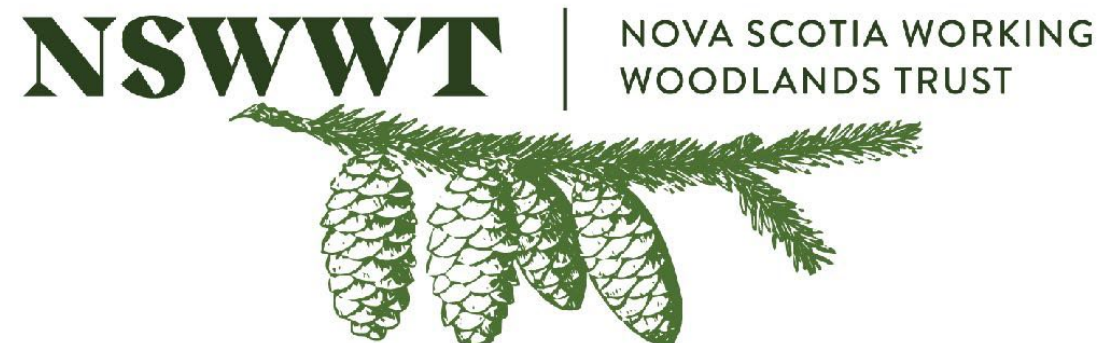
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Partnership with the Medway Community Forest Cooperative

The development of NSWWT is an initiative led by the Medway Community Forest Coop (MCFC)

- The MCFC is a member-based, community-led, for-profit social enterprise
- Managing a 15,000 ha Crown Land license area
- Multi-value, ecologically-based forest management
- The MCFC has always intended to serve private woodlot stewards in some way.



Our TEAM



Staff (MCFC):

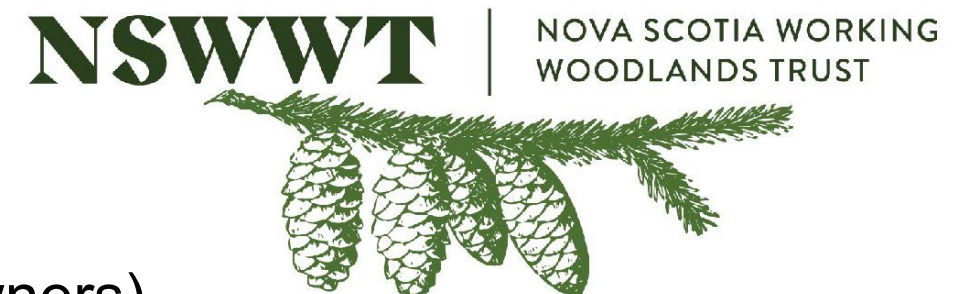
- Jennika Hunsinger – Land Trust & Outreach Manager
- Matt Miller - General Manager

Executive:

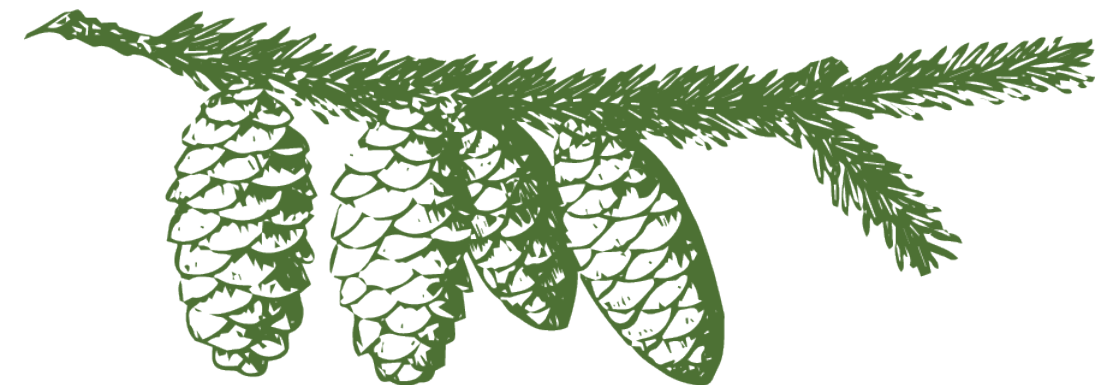
- Mary Jane Rodger (CWS) – Chair
- Don Kimball (woodland steward) – Vice Chair
- Katie McLean (CARP, MCFC Chair) – Treasurer
- Andrew Oliver (WWSC) – Secretary

Directors:

- Bob Bancroft (Nature Nova Scotia)
- Colin Gray (Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute)
- Donna Crossland (Healthy Forest Coalition)
- Greg Watson (North Nova Forestry)
- Jim Crooker (woodland steward)
- Patrick Wiggin (Federation of Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners)



Integrating Mi'kmaq Values



First we acknowledge:

- The conservation movement in Canada has largely benefitted from the appropriation of indigenous lands.
- Colonial systems have historically created barriers for indigenous peoples to access private lands.

Then we take action:

- Ongoing education and learning from indigenous partners.
- Integrating traditional use on easement properties and Two-Eyed Seeing into management practices.
- Opportunities to donate lands to indigenous communities and promote open access on NSWWT properties.
- Build relationships, alleviate barriers and continue to have hard conversations.

Why a woodlot steward?



- Today over 65% of forested land in Nova Scotia (Mi'kma'ki) is privately owned.
- Using the expression 'woodland stewards' acknowledges that private lands may not have ever been legally ceded or sold to settlers.

We ask private woodland owners to reconsider their relationship with landownership as a concept, and instead vow to act as a steward to the forest, maintaining it as a resource for future generations.



Why Build a Working Woodland Trust?

Upholding forest stewardship



As woodland stewards age, there will be a huge intergenerational transfer of land assets to their kin.

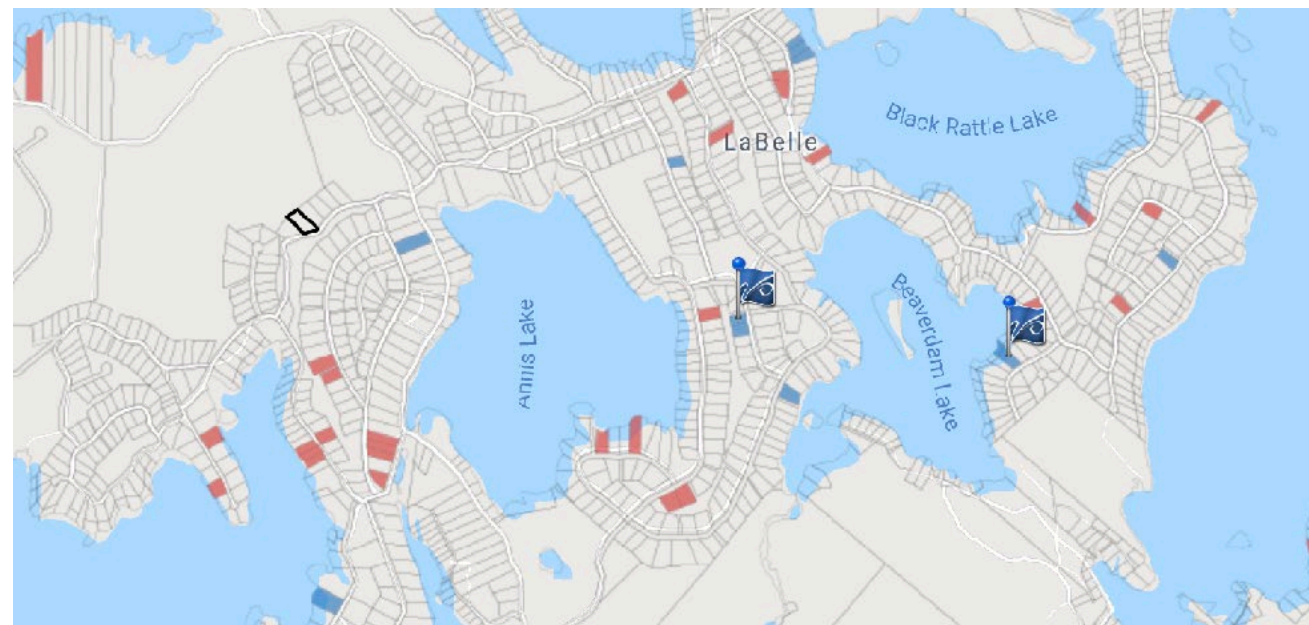
Primary scenarios:

1. New owners are displaced from the forest, and they sell the land to the highest bidder.
2. They may be forced to cut a large portion of the woodlands to help pay capital gains tax.
3. Current owners liquidate woodlot to help pay for retirement, large purchases, etc.



Problem

Private Land Forest Loss in NS

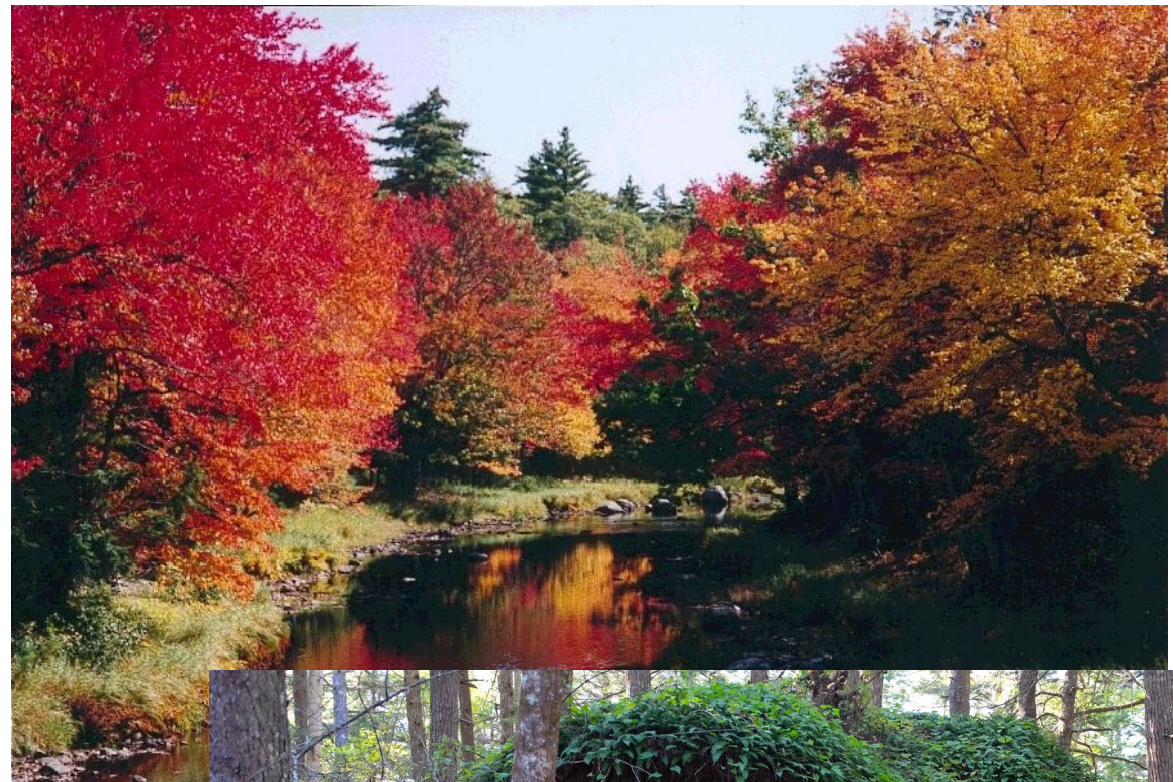


Solution

Vision for a Working Woodland Trust

For the community and environment

- Growing community land assets and the long-term economic potential.
- Promote landscape connectivity and improve the health of Nova Scotia's watersheds.
- Promote ecological forestry through improved forest management and climate adaptive silviculture.



Solution

Vision for a Working Woodland Trust



For woodland stewards

- Upholding the stewardship legacy and preserving forest health.
- Allows for sustainable harvest of timber and non-timber forest products.
- Provides access to carbon markets and a diversity of opportunities (more on that...).
- Integrates current woodlot steward's values into long-term stewardship.
- As lands changes hands, NSWWT provides support and resources to new landowners.

Solution

Nova Scotia Working Woodlands Trust



- Complement existing traditional conservation-focused land trusts.
- Maintain forest cover in perpetuity through the *Community Easements Act*.
- Stewardship and monitoring program to ensure future woodlot stewards are following the terms of the agreement.
- Woodland acquisition through donation or purchase.

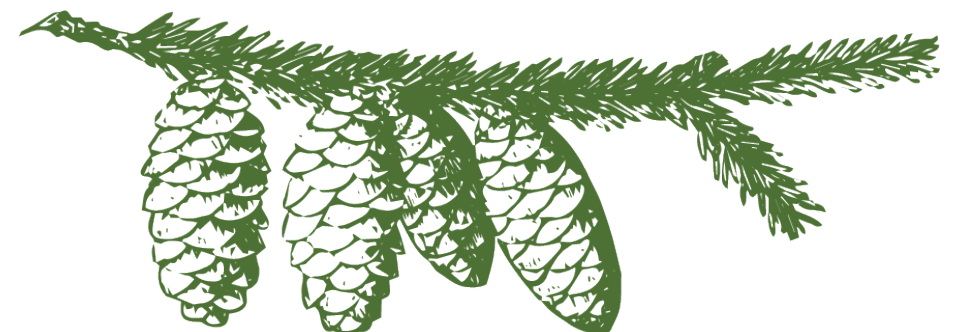


Working Forest Easements



- A **Community Easement** is a legally binding document between an eligible body (land trust) and the landowner through the *Community Easement Act*.
- Outlines restriction and/or allowances regarding land use including:
 - future property development
 - natural resource extraction
 - annual stewardship and monitoring
- **Easements are tied to the deed for the property no matter who owns it, in perpetuity.**

NSWWT will not serve to provide forest management services, this will be done through partner regional woodlot service providers.



Our Woodlot Management Partners

NSWWT stewards work with our trusted management partners in their region.

Woodlot service providers facilitate:

- Management Plans
- Contracts for harvesting, silviculture
- Operations supervision

NSWWT is a member of the Family Forest Network, an initiative of the Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners and Operators Association, helping to pilot ecological forestry on small private woodlands.



SERVICE PROVIDERS

1. Western Woodlot Services Cooperative (New Germany, NS)
2. North Nova Forest Owners Cooperative Ltd (Wentworth, NS)
3. Cape Breton Private Lands Partnership (Port Hawkesbury, NS)
4. NS Landowners and Forest Fibre Producers (Port Hawkesbury, NS)
5. Athol Forestry Cooperative Ltd. (Amherst, NS)
6. Federation of Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners (Brookfield, NS)

Agreed Practices

Land Zoning

Many woodlands are multi-functional and may have areas that stewards do not wish to place under easement.

To maintain the stewardship legacy and plan for any desired development, land use zones can be defined during the easement process.

The easement would exclude:

- Agriculture or future agriculture use (including Christmas trees)
- Residential

Within the easement:

- Ecological forestry, Working forest zone
- Forever wild, Conservation zone
- Recreational off-grid cabin



Easement Agreement

Agreed Practices

The agreed practices are key tenants of the easement agreement
(ie. what can and can't be done on the forest zone of the property)

Types of Uses:

- Permitted - allowed anytime
- Restricted - requires 60 days notice
- Prohibited - off-limits



PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

such as hiking, trail clearing,
non-commercial foraging or
motorized vehicle use.

Conservations Zones:

Only permitted activities
& approved restoration
projects

forest harvesting, new road
construction or restoration
projects.



PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

such as property subdivision,
liquidation or unsustainable
harvesting practices, or new
residence construction.

Agreed Practices

What is Ecological Forestry

Allowed on Easement Properties:

- Merchantable and non-merchantable forestry activities/silviculture that consider climate adaptivity and mimic natural disturbances while maintaining biodiversity features and ecological function.
- Preserve forever wild areas as delineated at the time of easement creation

Prohibited on Easement Properties:

- Unsustainable or ecologically-inappropriate forestry practices including clearcutting, overstory removal, or the removal of permanent retention features within any forestry activity.



Easement Agreement

Acquisition Criteria

Acquisition Requirements:

- Over 50 forested acres (the bigger the better)
- Comprised of 50% or more mature forest (over 40 years)
- Either managed or natural state
- An FSC certified forest management plan

Nice to Haves:

- Adds to a contiguous forested landscapes
- Provides public access to recreation infrastructure
- Minimal human structures, buildings, etc.
- Presence of wildlife or special habitat features



Easement Agreement Endowments

Long-term monitoring is expensive!

The cost of the endowment is largely dependent on **woodland area** and the **risk of infractions**.

Primary costs include:

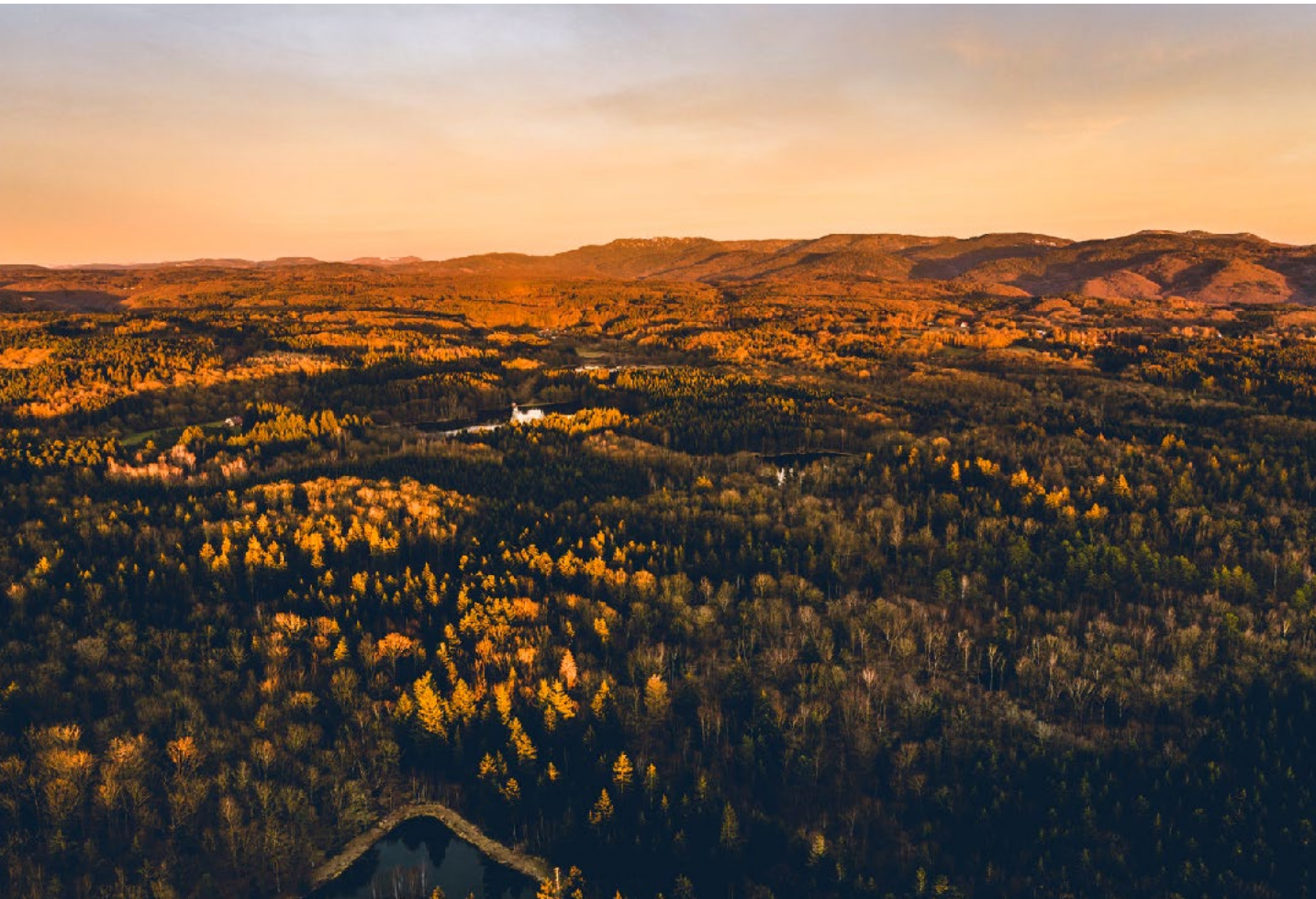
- Annual monitoring costs (site visit by NSWWT staff)
- Liability costs
 - Negotiations
 - Legal Defense



Based on US land trusts survey average endowment is \$70 - \$150/acre

Solution

Carbon Credits to Finance Working Forest Conservation



- Carbon to finance expensive endowment costs
- Facilitating aggregation to inventory and access the market
- Looking for stewards that possess larger tracts of land, and have an exceptional stewardship legacy
- Credits will finance the costs of the endowment as well as provide payment to the landowner



Carbon Offsets & Working Forests

Carbon agreement signed prior to Easement Agreement

- 40-year agreement between:
 - a. NSWWT and Carbon Developer
 - b. NSWWT and the landowner

10,000 ac pool - ideally with the fewest woodlot owners possible (initially)

- Can add to the initial pool for 2 years

Improved Forest Management (IFM) protocol

- Stewardship and silvicultural practices that promote healthy forests and tree growth
- Improves stand resiliency

NSWWT easements secure forest carbon in perpetuity

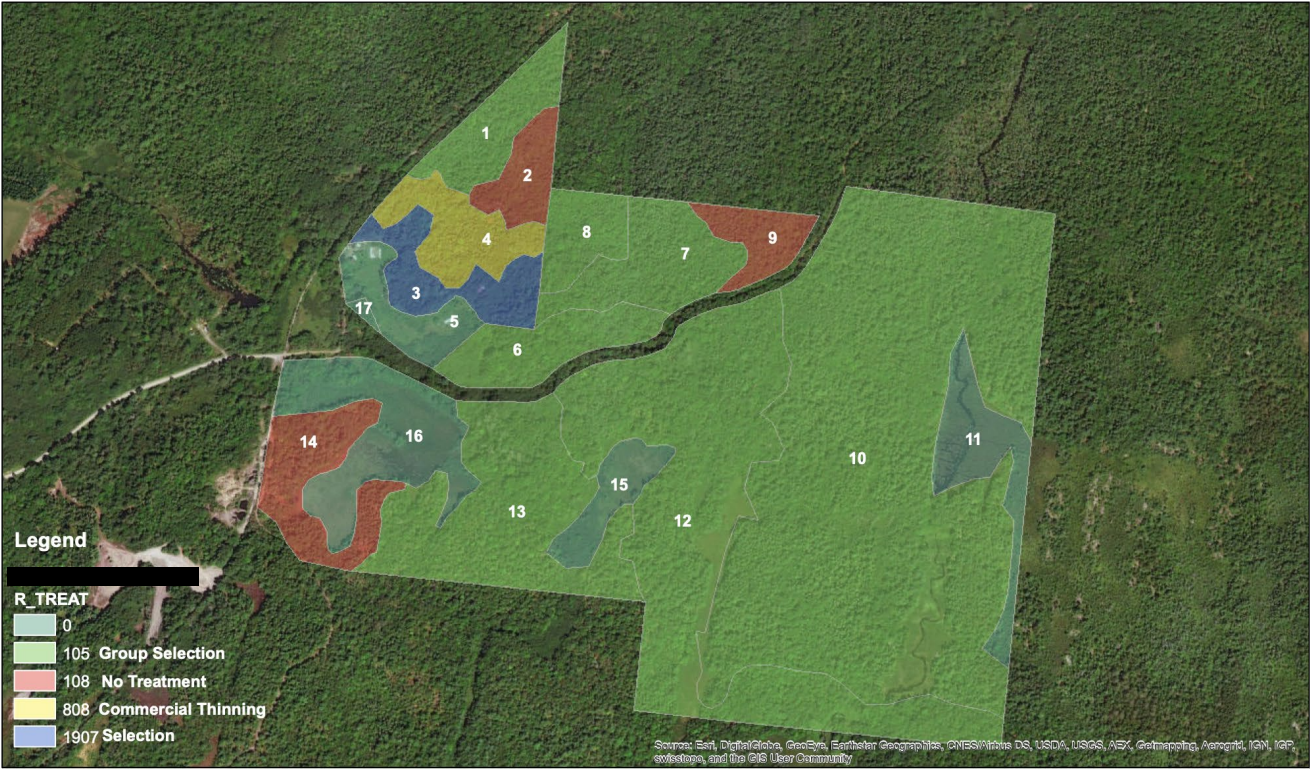
- Annual monitoring
- Infractions remediated



Carbon on your woodlot

Scenario for a 200 ac. woodlot
(prices for example purposes and not guaranteed)

Expense	Est. Value	Est. Value (%)
Total Carbon Value	\$60,000 - \$80,000	100%
Endowment	\$22,000	31%
Admin Costs + Insurance	\$15,000	21%
Ongoing Inventory Expenses	\$5,000	7%
Landowner payout	\$30,000	42%



We are looking into options for landowners to donate their revenue back to NSWWT to further our acquisition campaign, or donate to conservation or Mi'kmaq focused land trusts.

easement holders

Additional program & opportunities

1. Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)

“a geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values.”

- NSWWT Conservation zones include old forests and forestry set asides, that may be recognized as OECMs

2. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) Treatment support

Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund, Environment and Climate Change Canada has agreed to commit up to \$10 million, which will contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing carbon sequestration, while also providing benefits for biodiversity and human wellbeing.

3. Federal 2 Billion Trees Commitment

Support for planting a diversity of species - stand and habitat restoration, climate resiliency, and diversification.



Pathway to Canada Target 1
En route vers l'objectif 1 du Canada



Questions?

NSWWT

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