
CONNWOOD FORESTERS, INC.

39 CHERRY HILL ROAD, PO BOX 150
ROCKFALL, CONNECTICUT 06481
(860) 349-9910
CONNWOOD.COM

A FOREST OWNERS' COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION ENGAGED SINCE 1945 IN THE STEWARDSHIP OF FORESTS FOR WOOD, WATER, WILDLIFE, RECREATION, AND AESTHETICS.

Notice of Timber Harvesting Operations Town of East Hampton Inland Wetlands and Watercourses & Zoning Commission

Forester Agent: Peter Lesmerises, Connwood Foresters, Inc.
Owner: Anna Masters, Carolyn Williams, and others

This narrative has been submitted to provide information on a planned forest harvesting operation scheduled to occur on the property off from Sexton Hill Road in the town of East Hampton. The activity has been planned and will be monitored by Connwood Foresters, Inc. as part of the continual forest management of this property under the Forest Legacy Program. There have been multiple harvests on this property, and this will be a salvage cut and an improvement harvest. Many trees have died due to past gypsy moth defoliation, emerald ash borer infestation, and beech bark disease.

The planned operation will entail the careful and controlled removal of 833 blue painted sawtimber trees on 85 acres (9.8 trees per acre). Trees will be removed to provide more growing space and additional resources to the more promising, healthier trees. Mature, dying, and suppressed trees will be removed. There are three primary objectives: 1) to improve stand structure and thereby the overall health of the forest; 2) to increase the value of wood products on this property over the long term; 3) salvage income from the dead trees.

The landing shown on the attached maps are where the log trucks will load. The landing is on a section of Sexton Hill Road that is abandoned. The area is flat and both sides of the road will be used. The skid trails are existing and were established during the past harvests. The edge of the harvest area has double blue marks. No activity is allowed beyond these marks. No trees are marked for harvest within a wetland, flood plain, or within 50 feet of the brooks.

There are four crossings. Two of the crossings (#3 & #4) are on a section of abandoned Sexton Hill Road and will use the existing culverts. The other two crossings are on the old skid trails. Temporary bridges and corduroy will be used to control soil movement. Corduroy will be used on the approaches and upon completion of harvesting activities, the bridges and corduroy will be removed, the area smoothed and waterbars installed. Both of these crossing have been used in the past and there are no other alternative routes to these crossings that provides less wetland and soil impact.

The property owners, Connwood, and the purchaser of the trees will enter into a contract for this logging operation. The contract will clearly specify the terms and conditions of the operation by the logger. A cash performance bond will be required from the purchaser and held until the operation is completed in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract. Connwood will monitor the harvesting operation at least weekly. Active logging will not be allowed during periods of wet soil conditions. This is clearly specified in the sales contract. The operation is planned to occur in 2019- 2021, and it is anticipated it will require approximately four months to complete, dependent upon weather conditions.

Upon successful completion of the logging operation, landing areas will be smoothed and stabilized. Skid roads will be seeded and/or mulched where needed. Waterbars will be installed on the skid trail system where needed to divert water onto undisturbed forest soil. This will minimize erosion while the trails are becoming revegetated.

In evaluating this project, it is important to recognize that the majority of this property is under the Forest Legacy Program and is closely monitored by DEEP and the US Forest Service. Accordingly, logging operations must be carried out so that soil erosion and stream sedimentation will be minimized. Connwood would not consider carrying out activities that might threaten the quality of the forest or its future growth. Connwood and the owners are confident that the planned logging operation can be carried out without adversely affecting wetlands, watercourses, water quality, or forest growth.

Please give me a call with any questions: 860-884-3605.

Peter Lesmerises
CT License #F60