

Forest Management Plan Amendment

For the
Preston Pond Conservation Area (PPCA)
Owned by the Town of Bolton
In
Bolton, Vermont
SPAN: 069-021-10822

Background:

The purpose of this document is to amend the prescription for Stand 6 of the Forest Management Plan for the PPCA. The prescription for the stand in the Forest Management Plan, adopted by the Bolton Selectboard in autumn, 2017 is as follows:

“No management should occur in this stand at this time. This is the recommendation for one main reason: The distance from established access is prohibitive to management. Any work in this stand will have significant cost and without significant ecological or economic return management is difficult to justify.

Currently, this portions of this stand are uniquely mature for this property and is in pretty good shape with reasonable stocking (albeit a little high). Ideally this stand would be treated to favor regeneration through treatment of striped maple and removal of low quality trees, reduce stocking slightly and address potential losses of white ash to EAB. However, much of this work would have marginal returns on a high economic and energy investment. If comfortable access is established from the southern portion of the property this treatment should be revisited and treatment of the stand may become a priority for the parcel.”

Access has been established from the south of the PPCA, and so the amended prescription for this stand is as follows.

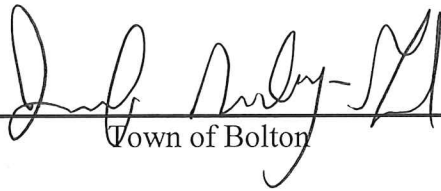
Prescription:

A single tree and group selection treatment is prescribed for Stand 6. The purpose of this treatment will be to encourage the growth of the highest quality stems in the stand, while capturing value in some mature and declining trees and increasing species and structural diversity overall.

Groups up to ½ acre in size will be harvested in areas with poor quality or over-mature overstory stocking, or with abundant advance regeneration. These groups will target areas of declining and over-mature ash, diseased beach, and poor-quality red maple, though trees of other species will be occasionally harvested in these openings. Within groups, all

stems should be severed, unless abundant, high quality advance regeneration exists. During the course of the harvest, the goal will be to regenerate 10-15% of the stand area (5-7.5 acres) in groups.

Between groups, single trees across all age and size classes will be harvested. The purpose of this treatment will be to release the highest quality individuals of all species from competition, while harvesting poor-quality and over-mature trees and increasing structural diversity in the stand. This treatment will especially seek to release high-quality sugar maple whenever possible. This treatment will reduce basal area between groups to approximately 70 ft²/acre.

 Town of Bolton

12/7/17
Date