

Climate Smart Forestry

Presentation for Maine Climate Council
Natural and Working Lands Work Group
December 2025



NEW ENGLAND
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NEFF's understanding of CSF

- CSF should optimize C storage between *in-forest* pools and *in-product* pools
- CSF is not just about maximizing *in-forest* C storage, as reduced timber harvests will leak to other locations
- In practice, this means:
 - Maintaining well-stocked stands through rapid regeneration, timber stand improvement, careful management of mature growing stock
 - Maximize production of long-lived wood products
 - Protect exceptionally old, natural forests or manage them with very light touch

Resources

- USDA Advancing Markets for Producers grant (\$32 million) should allow us to subsidize Timber Stand Improvement, a key element of making forestry Climate Smart
- Awaiting approval in coming weeks
- USFS Late Successional and Old Growth Forest grant (\$4.3 million) incentivizes landowners to defer planned harvests in LSOG forests for 5-15 years, and offers additional TSI funding to address leakage
- 4 deals under negotiation

Timber stand improvement

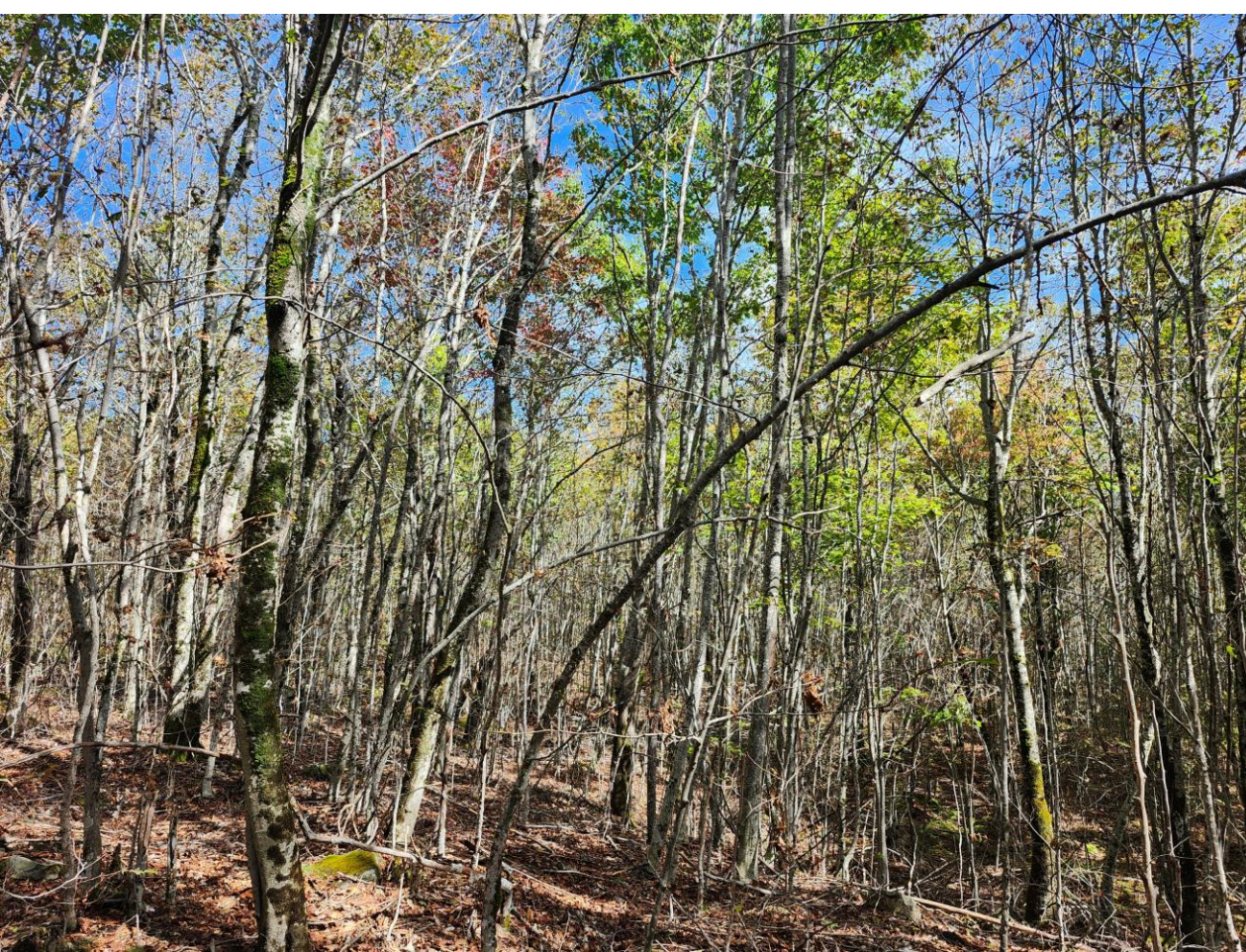


Speeding development of sawtimber in the vast cohorts of young growth that developed after budworm, clearcutting



Huge TSI opportunities in diverse forest types, for example northern hardwood and white-pine dominated





Breaking out of unproductive vegetative conditions (“beech hell”) to open growing space for diverse commercial tree species



Plantations can be *part* of Climate Smart Forestry



Pairing short-term conservation of LSOG (hemlock-hardwood stand, 140+ years) with timber stand improvement on the same property to release pine, birch and oak poletimber from intense beech competition



Exploring subsidies to transition to irregular shelterwood from even-aged prescriptions

Thank you!

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