

Jamies Pond Wildlife Management Area 2016 Habitat Management Plan

Beginning in the summer of 2016 the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife will commence work in the Jamies Pond Wildlife Management Area. Goals include: mast tree release to increase foraging opportunities for deer, snowshoe hare, and turkey; deer wintering area work to increase browse and patch openings in aspen-dominated areas to provide habitat for both grouse and woodcock. Due to the nature of the work, biological diversity will also be enhanced. The project will begin sometime around the middle of the summer and continue until the winter of 2018. In addition to enhancement of wildlife habitat, two management access roads will be constructed to facilitate completion of the work. The access improvements will also enable non-motorized recreational access following completion of the active habitat work.

Habitat management at Jamies Pond will broadly focus on enhancement of overwintering deer cover and food source development, and creation of grouse and woodcock habitat. Harvesting will occur over roughly 70% of the wildlife management area and takes into account existing landscape and site level conditions, and their suitability for specific habitat goals. Removals will be in the form of both large and small patch openings, and individual tree selection.

There are currently several hemlock-dominated stands and isolated inclusions within the Jamies Pond WMA and habitat management activities designed to connect them where existing softwood regeneration (primarily hemlock and balsam fir) occurs between them. Softwood regeneration is frequently overtopped by red maple and beech, and to some extent paper birch, red oak, and aspen. The majority of the overtopping aspen and paper birch will be removed. Some of the red oak and the best beech will be retained for hard mast production, and some of the red maple will be retained for harvest during the next entry. The release of softwood regeneration is designed to increase the cover component for overwintering deer. The retention of mast producing species will provide a food source for foraging wildlife. Red maple harvested during this entry will sprout from the stump also providing a winter food source for deer.

Mature big-toothed aspen is a significant component in areas of some of the hardwood stands. Aspen is a species favored by grouse and woodcock because it sprouts vigorously and densely, providing both cover and browse. A few large patch openings (3-5 acres), with some retention, will be harvested in suitable areas of hardwood-dominated stands where aspen occurs in abundance. Retention trees will include hard mast producers such as red oak and smooth-barked beech, and snags and cavity trees. Between the patches, single-tree selection harvesting will be employed to release existing, suppressed mast-producing trees, individual hemlock (for cover) and to remove some poor quality and unhealthy trees.

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