

Malone Parcel

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN

IRISH HILL ADDITION - BERLIN TOWN FOREST

APRIL - 2003

Background - The Irish Hill Addition is a 404.9 acre parcel acquired by the Town of Berlin in 2001. The land was purchased by the **VERMONT RIVER CONSERVANCY, INC** and ownership transferred to the Town of Berlin with certain development rights, conservation easements and restrictions held by the **VERMONT LAND TRUST, INC.**

As part of the agreement between the **VERMONT RIVER CONSERVANCY, INC.** and the Town of Berlin, a comprehensive Management Plan must be developed for the Protected Property. *“Details of sustainable forest management activities, including a forest management plan to be approved by Grantee” shall be a part of the overall Management Plan.*

Management plan format : Virtually all merchantable timber was harvested by the previous owner in the mid 1990's. I have divided the forest into three separate management areas based on the present forest conditions. An acreage estimate, stand condition, stand data, suggested management objectives and suggested management prescriptions are given for each area. The management objectives and stand prescriptions are given primarily from concern for timber and wildlife resources. The plan can be modified to accomplish other goals or objectives that may be of concern to the citizens of Berlin. Nature trails, recreation paths, water quality, and firewood production are common primary and secondary goals in other town forests. In any case the next 40 to 50 years will be a period of growth with little or no harvesting of sawtimber and only minor removals of pulp or firewood.

MANAGEMENT AREA #1 - (326 acres)

STAND CONDITIONS:

Management Area #1 is the largest and most heavily cut over area on the forest. What few trees were left after harvesting have been ravaged by the ice storm of 1998 and the heavy snows of 2001. The stand has regenerated to a mixed northern hardwood and pioneer species. Regeneration appears to be adequate and thriving in most of the stand. This stand includes the main north-south ridge overlooking Berlin Pond to the east and the Northfield Mountains to the west.

STAND DATA:

Site class:	2
Access Distance(to class 3 Rd.)	.75 mi. east of ridge 1.5 mi. west of ridge
Total Basal Area/Acre	N/A
Acceptable Growing Stock	N/A
Mean Stand Diameter	N/A
Trees/Acre	N/A
Volume/Acre	N/A

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE:

Grow high quality hardwood sawtimber on a sustainable basis. The diameter limit for high quality hardwoods will be 22 to 24 inches and normal cutting cycle will be 20 to 30 years. Grow as an even aged stand until the trees are approximately 60 years old and then convert to an all-aged management system with a goal Q-factor of 1.3.

PRESCRIPTION:

No harvesting or thinning will be needed for at least 40 years. A inventory and plan update should be done in 2020.

Other activities that could be done to enhance the area:

- ▶ Waterbar and stabilize all existing trails and roads. Close off unsuitable trails and roads.
- ▶ Identify and create scenic vistas if desired.

MANAGEMENT AREA #2 (71 ACRES)

STAND CONDITIONS:

Stand #2 was also cut quite heavily, but because there were scattered pockets of younger, unmerchantable trees the overall conditions are different enough to consider it a separate management area. Within the area are some young hardwood pole stands that were not affected by the last harvest.

STAND DATA:

Site Class:	2
Access Distance to class 3 Rd.:	2.6 mi.
Total Basal Area/Acre:	N/A
Acceptable Growing Stock:	N/A
Mean Stand Diameter:	N/A
Trees/Acre:	N/A
Volume/Acre:	N/A

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE:

Grow high quality hardwood sawtimber on a sustainable basis. The diameter limit for high quality hardwoods will be 22 to 24 inches and normal cutting cycle will be 20 to 30 years. Grow as an even-aged stand until the trees are approximately 60 years old and then convert to an all-aged management system with a goal Q-factor of 1.3.

PRESCRIPTION:

For most of the area no harvesting or thinning will be needed for at least 40 years. In 10 years take a look at existing pole stand component for possible timber stand improvement or light fuelwood cutting. Inventory and update plan in 2020.

Other activities that could be done to enhance the area:

- ▶ Waterbar and stabilize all existing trails and roads. Close off unsuitable or undesirable trails and roads.
- ▶ There are a few wild apple trees in the southern most portion of area #2 that could be released and pruned to benefit wildlife.

MANAGEMENT AREA #3 (8 acres)

STAND CONDITIONS:

Management unit area #3 is composed of two small mixedwood (hard and soft) stands. They are the outer edges of larger mixed softwood stands that are on adjoining properties. The softwood stands are mapped as deer wintering areas by the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife. The primary softwood species present is Eastern Hemlock with lesser amounts of Red Spruce and White Pine.

Both areas were harvested in the mid 90's, but not as heavily as the remainder of the property.

STAND DATA:

Site Class:	1 and 2
Access Distance:	1.5 mi. for north area 3 mi. for south area
Total Basal Area/Acre	N/A
Acceptable Growing Stock	N/A
Mean Stand Diameter	N/A
Trees/Acre	N/A
Volume/Acre	N/A

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE:

Manage to improve deer wintering conditions. Follow recommendations of the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife as published in "MANAGEMENT GUIDE FOR DEER WINTERING AREAS IN VERMONT".

PRESCRIPTION:

Recommended treatments should be carried out when work is done in management area #2.

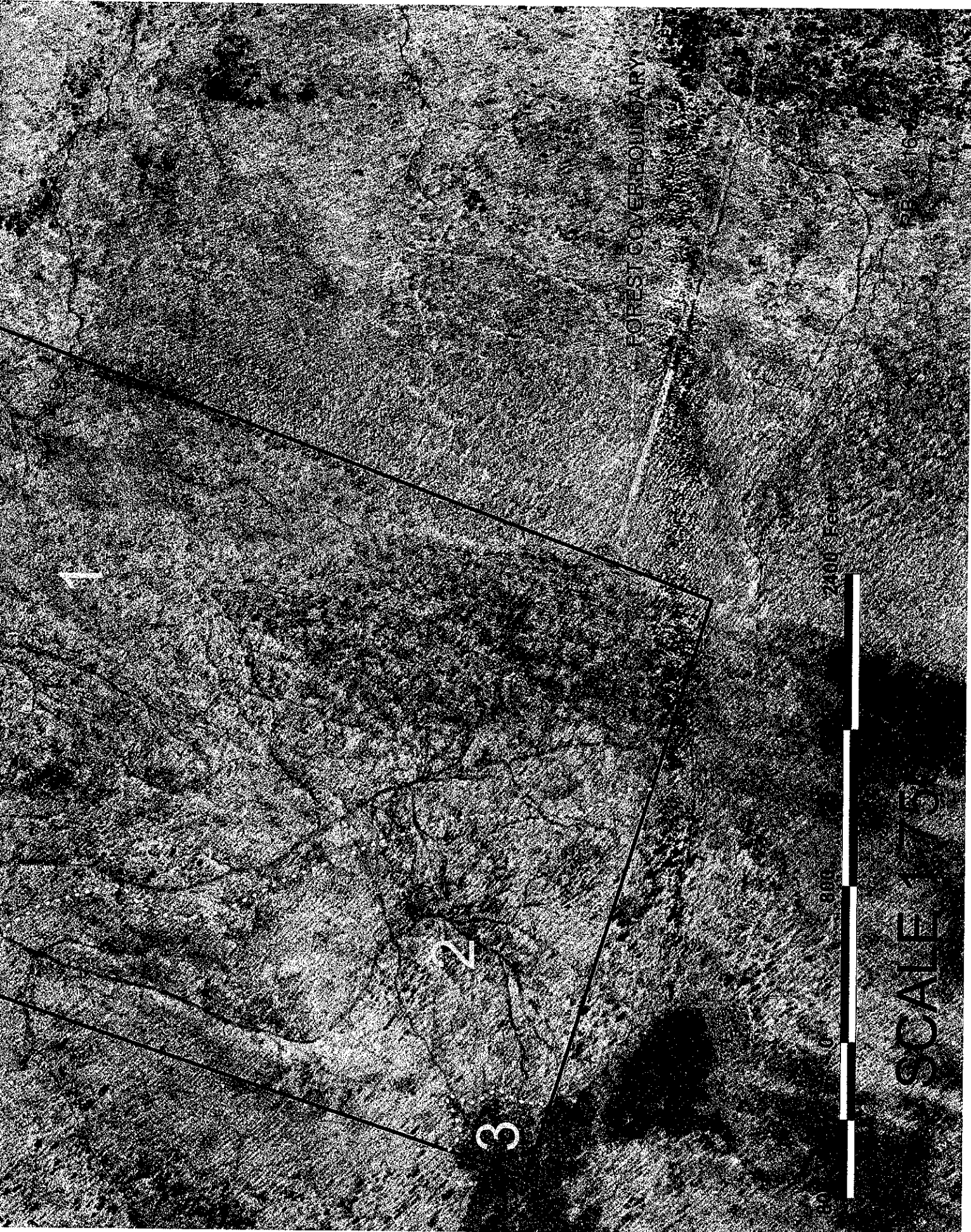
Other activities that could be done to enhance the area:

- ▶ Crop tree release of softwood cover trees and mast producers.
- ▶ Planting mast producing trees and shrubs.

**BERLIN TOWN FOREST
IRISH HILL ADDITION**

FOREST COVER MAP





FOREST COVER BOUNDARY

2400 Feet

600

SCALE 75

APR 1964