

Small Forest Owner's Engagement with a Carbon Sequestration Effort in Northeastern United States

Frederick Pond, Vermont Forestland Owner

Why I did it

- I wanted to go beyond the typical ways that are available to most of us to reduce our carbon emissions, e.g.
- I drive a hybrid gasoline vehicle, live in a super insulated home that is heated primarily by heat pumps, powered by solar; I choose lower carbon travel whenever possible.
- I realized my forestland could be an asset to address carbon warming.

Parcel



150 Acre Parcel
144.33 enrolled acres
Northwest Tunbridge

UVA MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY FORM - 2020

Parcel ID: SPAN 657-207-10877
Town Located: Tunbridge
Plan Preparer: Redstart Forestry
Year of Entry: 1999
Year of last plan: 2020
Ortho Sheet #: Series 5000 148160; 2012
Total Forestry acres in parcel: 150

Std #	Acres	Age	Site	Type	MSD	TOT BA	AGS BA	Mgt	Date
1	99	1	1-2	11	10	82	49	13	2026
2	3	1	1-2	08	11	165	113	04	2023
3	35	2	1	06	12	83	59	7/8	2023

Mgmt Activities - other: Spot girdling in west central part of Stand 1. Treat invasive plants in stands 1 and 2. Timber types - other: Norway Spruce.

FEMC

2023 Annual Conference

Forests as Solutions to Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Well-being

Reflections

- Will my forestland management plans be influenced by this contract?
- What if Vermont UVA requirements change, will there be conflict and compromise?
- Will this affect future land conservation interest or tree farm associations?
- How will future weather conditions affect carbon sequestration?

Resources

Family Forest Carbon Program
familyforestcarbon.org

Vermont Woodlands: What to consider when choosing a carbon program [Download Carbon FAQs document]
Vermontwoodlands.org

Northeast Forest Carbon Program [cooperative effort of Northeast region State Foresters]
www.northeastforestcarbon.org

UVM Extension: Forestry: Forest Carbon [2023]
<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/forestry-forest-carbon>

Northern Woodlands Forest Carbon Series [2023]
<https://northernwoodlands.org/series/c/forest-carbon>

Forest Carbon An essential natural solution for climate change [current as of 2019]
<https://necasc.umass.edu/biblio/forest-carbon-essential-natural-solution-climate-change>

How Can Family Forests Help Mitigate Climate Change? [current as of 2022]
<https://www.sustainablewoodstock.org/forest-carbon-management/>

'My forestland is the most powerful asset I have to make an impact on climate warming.'

Family Forest Carbon Program

- FFCP is a collaboration of The Nature Conservancy [TNC] and American Forest Foundation [AFF]; two conservation non-profits which operate the program through the Family Forest Impact Foundation, an affiliate of the AFF.
- FFCP enrollment allows me to improve my parcel through Vermont's UVA Program, also known as 'Current Use'; harvest firewood; and clean up after storms that pose a threat to safety and health.
- The *Enhance Your Woodland* practice offers payment of \$200 per acre, spread over twenty years.
- Total paid 20 years/144.33 acres: \$28,886.
- FFCP provides \$2,400 for two forest management plans required for the UVA program.

Challenges

- No experience with TNC or AFF in this role, or any carbon sequestration organizations.
- Specific contract stipulations to follow.
- Twenty-year commitment.
- Limitations on land use, such as substantial harvest during contract period.

Advantages

- ✓ Recognizes Vermont Current Use Program goals.
- ✓ Firewood provision, storm clean up.
- ✓ Support for forest management plans for contract period.
- ✓ Contract termination provision.
- ✓ FFCP contract aligns with current & future management plans of forestland restoration and improvement.