



NEFF’s forestry experts have distilled the Acadian Forest Exemplary Forestry practices into an overview that describes how they should be implemented and lists standards and metrics. Most of this overview is included below, but the complete document and its citations are available at newenglandforestry.org/connect/publications/forestry-guides.



DEFINING EXEMPLARY FOREST MANAGEMENT IN THE ACADIAN REGION

These guidelines are intended to be implemented in the context of the landscapes where NEFF’s lands occur. Thus, for example, one kind of habitat may be missing in a particular landscape and quite a different habitat in another landscape. Likewise, maintaining connectivity between habitats across the landscape is also important and will influence implementation on any given parcel. In addition to implementing these standards, NEFF intends to maintain dual third-party certification of its lands. With these understandings, Exemplary Forestry includes:

IMPLEMENTING ADVANCED SILVICULTURE

Practicing forestry which results in:

- a. Continuously improving forest stands over time in terms of both quality and quantity.
- b. Conditions which are well suited to the umbrella wildlife species known to be representative of the habitat needs of more than 75% of native species.

Umbrella Wildlife Species	Percent of Landscape	Forest Stand Condition Described
American Marten	16%	Blocks of at least 640 acres that are at least 80% stocked at over 80 ft ² of basal area per acre (approximately 16 cords/acre)
Canada Lynx	27%	Even aged blocks ≥15 acres in size, which are regenerated to spruce and fir on a revolving schedule.

- c. A diverse size class distribution of 5-15% of stands in seedlings, 30-40% in saplings and poles, 40-50% sawtimber (including 10% of the total area in large diameter multi-storied stands—note 9% of NEFF’s existing lands are, or will become, such stands over time).
- d. Growing tree species well suited to each site, e.g., matched to soil and physiographic conditions as well as expected changes in climatic conditions.
- e. Stocking that fully occupies the sites; this is an average at least “B” line stocking for stands not currently being regenerated. For example, in 8-10” diameter stands of mixed wood this would be approximately 20 cords/acre.
- f. Growing and harvesting quality timber at an average of 0.5 cords/acre/year, and targeting increasing the stocking of high-quality products.

IMPLEMENTING BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Employing accepted “Best Management Practices” to protect soils, riparian and aquatic habitat, special habitats, wildlife trees, and more.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Addressing climate change as the knowledge base becomes available, and increasing the resilience to, adaptation for, and mitigation of, climate change. This includes but is not limited to using forests and forest products to sequester more carbon, and substituting forest products for steel and concrete, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

DIVERSIFYING MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

To the extent that site conditions and the landscape context allow, NEFF intends to manage significant portions of its properties using both the even- and uneven-aged management approaches.

AESTHETICS

Public support for forest management depends in part on how forests look. In this regard, NEFF intends to manage its lands to maximize aesthetic benefits particularly in key areas—like attractive roadsides, trails and shorelines—and minimize adverse effects like careless-looking harvests.

Note: These standards are intended to be refined as scientific knowledge improves.