

One Tree at a Time

“Health is the capacity of the land for self-renewal.”

–Aldo Leopold, 1949. *A Sand County Almanac*

In healthy forests, individual trees periodically die and leave small openings in the forest canopy. Green Mountain National Forest resource managers have mimicked this natural process in the ten-acre stand before you through a management practice called “single tree and group selection.”



Forest managers have mimicked the natural openings created by blow-downs, using a treatment called “group selection.” By removing single trees and in groups of 1/10-1/5 acre, forest managers encourage shade-tolerant species such as maples, hemlock, beech and balsam fir. Creating prime wildlife habitat for White-tailed Deer, Snowshoe Hare, and Black Bear.

The Green Mountain National Forest mainly uses tree harvesting to accomplish timber and habitat management goals. Local mills converted the trees harvested from this stand into lumber for furniture, cabinetry, and other wood products.

Learning from the Land

Vermont’s forests have been keeping themselves healthy and productive for thousands of years. A healthy forest involves complex relationships among its inhabitants. By studying healthy forest dynamics and responding to current conditions and society’s needs, forest managers can make management choices that respect these interrelationships, producing a sustainable and predictable flow of timber and wildlife habitat while keeping the strands of this intricate web intact.



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