Forest Practices Advisory Board

February 21, 2019

Present: Chris Martin, Bruce Spaman, Dr. Mark Ashton (depart 11:15), Ian Branson (phone), Patrick Comins, Tom Degnan, Joan Nichols, Ben Oko, M.D.

Absent: Joseph Theroux, Peter Nieman

Guests: Eric Hammerling, Brennan Sheahan, Doug Emmerthal (DEEP Forestry), Larry Rousseau (DEEP Forestry), Nick Zito (DEEP Forestry), Dick Raymond (DEEP Forestry)

Circulated Material:

- Draft Minutes of the September 12, 2018 FPAB meeting
- Spotted Lanternfly Pest Alert
- Legislative Summary
- Division of Forestry Staff organizational Chart
- Forestry Division functional organization chart
- Arthur Stout Notice of Revocation
- USFS LSR Grant to Audubon CT “Connecticut’s Land Trusts: A Sustainable Model for Habitat Management”

Meeting called to order at 9:06

1) Review minutes from the September 12, 2018 meeting. In the future circulated material will be attached to minutes. Tom made a motion to approve minutes, Joan seconded, motion passed unanimously.

2) Spotted lantern fly (SLF) overview, a new pest at our doorsteps. Confirmed unestablished sighting this fall in Connecticut. APHIS, DoAG and DEEP spent time conducting a delimiting survey. No additional insects found during the survey. Tree of heaven is a critical host for SLF. Spreading rapidly where established. If you hear/see of any CT SFL sightings let CAES know. Dr. M Ashton shared that SLF can affect more trees than what is known. Impacts to PA forestland, suburbs, orchards and vineyards has been significant. Egg masses will be present in the winter and should be removed and destroyed if found. The CT delimiting survey included mapping of tree-of-heaven (Ailanthus) and a sampling of those trees will likely be checked this spring. Unknown what the cold tolerance of SLF is.

Sudden oak wilt – closest location to Connecticut where the fungus has been found is in the Bronx, NY. There is an in depth eradication underway.

Sudden oak death – found in the Albany area in NY. Unknown if eastern oaks are going to be as severely impacted as in the mid-west and west coast where Burr oak was heavily affected. Red oak was effected in the Bronx.

Other Forest Pests - USFS released summary of NE forest pest issues and the summary shows areas where mortality is present. Eastern CT has a large volume of shaded area because of gypsy moth. RI was solid with impacts from two-lined chestnut borer and gypsy moth. Evidence of two-lined chestnut borer was found in CT last summer. Affected trees were green through July/August then leaves turned brown and trees started dropping limbs. It is anticipated that tree mortality will continue for 305 years. Consulting
foresters are expecting a large volume of requests for service in the spring due to dead trees which will result in continued market flooding of dead oak. The red oak lumber market is crashing because the economy in China is slowing and China is not importing wood at the same volume. Joan shared that some Connecticut lumber mills are no longer taking full loads of oak and that loads will need to be mixed with birch or maple. Many landowners may not be able to sell standing dead trees but instead be faced to decide to salvage timber for no revenue and possibly at a cost.

DEEP utilized ESRI 123 survey to survey DEEP high use areas to inventory of trees that need to be removed/pruned. Over 15,000 trees were identified as a hazard. Those identified only represent a small percentage of DEEP owned lands. DEEP hired Jim Moore as a new sawyer. The Division of Forestry is more involved with the operation of the mill. The goal is to deliver what the mill needs when the mill needs it rather than having material being stored. Will Hochholzer, State lands Supervisor, formed a committee of DEEP staff that will determine what internal customers need from the mill and make sure that specifications are clear to reduce waste. No interest in competing with the private industry as forest products will be for DEEP internal use. Mill byproducts not needed by the Agency will be sold.

3) 2019 Legislative session – The Board reviewed 25 proposed legislative bills that have a connection to either trees or forestry. It is uncertain which bill be become raised and continue through the legislative process. (see attachment)

HB5253 – Chris M would like to see the concept broadened to any hazard tree with thresholds placed. DoF is well positioned to manage a grant program for municipalities. In the past DoF staff have managed a municipal grant program utilizing RGGI funds for ATB grant. The Division would need to add an additional full time equivalent staff person to manage the program. Agency may provide testimony.

HB5455- a public hearing was held last week. CT Interstate Fire Crew (CIFC) members testified in favor of the bill. CIFC members are fully trained wildland firefighters and have been mobilized to the western United States. CIFC is a great source of pride for agency. Funds from forest service are tied to having a crew. In CT there is not a mechanism in place to hire temporary workers to fight fire in CT. DEEP has statutory authority to require able bodied citizens to fight fire and procure equipment from residents. DEEP has historically relied on foresters, maintainers to fight fires. There is a potential issue with labor relations and determining how to pay for temporary work. Details will continued to be worked out.

A national budget has been put in place for the USDA USFS. Core allocations for states haven’t been announced yet but programmatic level funding looks stable.

Patrick shared that the EPA & Army will hold a public hearing in Kansas City, KS regarding the proposed revised “Waters of the US” definition. Written testimony needs to be submitted by April 15.

H.R. 4647 – Recovering America’s Wildlife Act – there is broad bi-partisan support for this bill.

4) Proposed municipal forest practice regulations – Stafford regulations have been reviewed and approved. The town has adopted the regulations. Willington adopted regulations but that have not been approved by DEEP. Doug will continue to work with the town on regulations. Glastonbury is also considering making changes to their regulations.
Since the last FPAB meeting DoF staff have assisted five towns and 3 forest practitioners with regulations of wetland compliance issues.

5) FPA Enforcement Actions – Notice of Revocation of certification to Arthur Stout distributed to Board. See letter for details regarding reasons for revocation of certification. DoF staff perform an online background check on applicants for certification but have not requested a criminal background check through the State Police Bureau of Identification for years because of cost. Online check have been generally effective. Brennan shared that he thought it was good to see that the revocation action was taken but was surprised that Stout was awarded a contract to harvest on state land. Brennan shared that many in the industry knew about Stouts prior timber harvesting issues out-of-state. Tom asked why nobody said anything? Doug stated that it is imperative that practitioners make FPA staff aware of these types of issues and potential violations of the FPA. In this case an anonymous tip would have been all that was required.

FPA staff are working on a few enforcement actions. Nick has been heavily involved.

The FPA certification application process is different now. Applications are processed by central permit processing and are then forwarded to the Division of Forestry. Applicants need to be aware that it can take up to 10 days before applications are processed. Directory of Certified Forest Practitioners are now updated automatically at least twice a month. Practitioners are asked to let Forestry staff know if any errors are noted in the directory so they can be corrected.

Dick Raymond, Dan Evans and Tom Worthley (UConn) participated in a gypsy moth and drought induced tree mortality workshop for landowners. Attendance was around 80. Another workshop will be planned for the spring.

6) Forestry Division Staffing & DEEP Leadership Transitions – forestry division and functional organizational charts distributed (attached). DEEP Commissioner-designate Kathryn (Katie) Dykes has been nominated by Governor Lamont. Robert LaFrance, forest DEEP legislative liaison and current DEEP legal staff for EC is retiring and will be working for National Audubon in CT on state and national policy matters. Susan Whalen will continue in her position as Deputy Commissioner for Environmental Conservation. Bill Hyatt, former Bureau of Natural Resources Bureau Chief retired, and Rick Jacobsen has been hired as the new Bureau Chief. Rick was previously the Director of the DEEP Wildlife Division. The Office of Policy and Management has approved the job posting to refill the Wildlife Direction position as well as fish biologist, Assistant Parks Director of Education and Outreach. The Division of Forestry has filled five positions within the last twelve months. Tim Batchelor, Fire Control Officer – western CT; Andrea Urbano Service Forester - central CT; Nick Zito Forest Practices Act Forester; Jeremy Clark State Lands Management Forester – western CT; Nathan Piche – State Lands Management Forester – eastern CT with specific focus on the DEEP sawmill. The Division of Forestry will face more retirements in the next few years.

DEEP Sawmill Operations Committee has scheduled its first meeting. Following the DEEP sawmill business plan developed by Will Hochholzer and Doug Emmerthal. The Committee’s mission is to ensure excellent customer service by providing the mill with the correct amount of forest products (logs by species) with the mill needs them to meet customer orders in a timely basis. Its purpose is to:

1) Establish open communications between all Divisions within DEEP that rely on services provided by the sawmill

2) Provide all necessary templates and designs for projects assembled by DEEP Staff (life guard chairs, picnic tables, signs, etc) showing materials and specifications for sawyer
3) Provide an inventory of the number of items currently in the DEEP system and lifespan of these items
4) Determine inventory stocking levels for products produced at the mill
5) Assist with planning upgrades to the mill using dedicated bond funding
6) Promote utilization of by-products needed “in-house” before items are marketed to private sector.

Two branding irons, CT Grown and Sustainable Forest Products are now available for finished products from the sawmill. The branding irons seek to raise the public’s awareness of locally grown and sourced forest products from DEEP woodlands as they are used. Joan asked about updates to the CT Grown Forest Products program. TIMPRO has “CT Grown Forest Product” signs that can be distributed to program participants. Doug shared that DOT has not approved the road sign for CT Grown Forest Products. Doug will work with Joan on getting the logo approved then used on CT DOT CT Grown road signage.

Rich Schenk, Emery Gluck and Dan Evans will host a Pachaug State Forest prescribed burn informational meeting tonight (February 21) at the request of the Friends of Pachaug State Forest group. Much angst about this area has been relieved with the Governor’s announcement that no State Police firing range will be built off of Lee Road. Staff will address purpose, anticipated outcomes and expected benefits of the 300 acre hazard fuel reduction and oak regeneration prescribed burn. Public notification due to CEPA requirements have been completed. The Division has applied to the USDA Forest Service for a hazard mitigation grant.

Tree removal along Hell Hollow Road in Pachaug SF using the DEEP Contract Logger with mechanized harvesting equipment has proven successful. Cost to put trees on the ground is approximately $23/tree. Forest Product Harvesting Permit revenue threshold has been increased from $300 to $3,000.

Ben distributed information about a USFS LSR Grant to Audubon CT – “CT’s Land Trusts: A Sustainable Model for Habitat Management”. Audubon CT is actively looking for Land Trusts in NW CT and foresters to participate in the program.

Next meeting date and location to be announced.

Tom Degnan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:55, Chris Martin seconded. Motion pass unanimously.
AGENDA

1. Approve minutes from September 12, 2018 FPAB meeting
2. Spotted Lantern Fly Overview, a new pest at our doorsteps
3. 2019 Legislative Session Update
4. Proposed Municipal Forest Practice Regulation
5. FPA Enforcement Actions
6. Forestry Division Staffing & DEEP leadership transitions
7. Other items
2019 Legislative Summary
Forestry Related Bills – As of Feb 20, 2019

Proposed **HB-5103** REP. ZAWISTOWSKI, 61st DIST. 'AN ACT EXEMPTING TREE REMOVAL SERVICES FROM THE SALES TAX', to exempt from the sales tax tree services required to remove dead or dying trees.
REF. FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING, **NO ACTION TO DATE**

Proposed **HB-5253** REP. SREDZINSKI, 112th DIST. 'AN ACT ESTABLISHING A GRANT PROGRAM TO ASSIST MUNICIPALITIES WITH COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH TREE REMOVALS CAUSED BY THE PRESENCE OF THE EMERALD ASH BORER', to mitigate the costs for municipalities that are required to remove trees damaged by the emerald ash borer.
REF. ENVIRONMENT **NO ACTION TO DATE**

Proposed **HB-5308** REP. D'AGOSTINO, 91st DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ALONG STATE HIGHWAYS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION', to require the disclosure of certain information prior to the removal of trees along limited access highways.
REF. ENVIRONMENT **PUBLIC HEARING 2/15/19, vote passed unanimously**

Proposed **HB-5312** REP. D'AGOSTINO, 91st DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING VEGETATION MANAGEMENT WITHIN UTILITY PROTECTION ZONES', to improve the notification requirements and process by which customers are informed and give consent for tree and shrub cutting work in utility protection zone property that is located on private property.
REF. ENVIRONMENT **Vote to draft 2/11/19**

Proposed **HB-5453** REP. LANOUE, 45th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE LOCATION OF FIREARM TRAINING FACILITIES', to limit the locations of state firearms training facilities and to direct the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to conduct a study regarding its firearms training needs.
REF. PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY **NO ACTION TO DATE, possible DOA based upon Governor’s earlier comments.**

Proposed **HB-5455** REP. BUCKBEE, 67th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING QUALIFIED FOREST FIREFIGHTERS', to create a more efficient process to mobilize qualified forest firefighters.
REF. PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY **PUBLIC HEARING 2/14/19**

Proposed **HB-5533** REP. CAMILLO, 151st DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING A PROPERTY OWNER’S LIABILITY FOR THE EXPENSES OF REMOVING A FALLEN TREE OR TREE LIMB', to impose liability on an owner of private real property for the expenses of removing a tree or tree limb located on such real property that falls on adjoining private real property.
REF. JUDICIARY **NO ACTION TO DATE**
Proposed **HB-5886** REP. DUBITSKY, 47th DIST.
'AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND GRANTS FOR THE REMOVAL OF CERTAIN TREES', to permit municipalities to use Local Capital Improvement Fund grants for the removal of dead or dangerous trees located near municipal roads and buildings.
REF. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT Vote to draft 1/30/19

Proposed **HB-5889** AN ACT REQUIRING PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION APPROVAL OF CERTAIN SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITIES.
To require applicants for certificates of environmental compatibility and public need to receive application approval from municipal planning and zoning commissions if a proposed facility is a solar photovoltaic facility with a capacity of two or more megawatts, and to permit municipal planning and zoning commissions to establish regulations concerning such facilities. PUBLIC HEARING 2/13/19

Proposed **HB-6004** REP. DUBITSKY, 47th DIST.
'AN ACT CONCERNING THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE FOREST PRACTICES ADVISORY BOARD', to specify qualifications for the appointed members of the Forest Practices Advisory Board.
REF. ENVIRONMENT NO ACTION TO DATE

Proposed **HB-6165** REP. D'AMELIO, 71st DIST.
'AN ACT RAISING AWARENESS AMONG MOTORISTS ABOUT THE DANGERS OF FALLING TREES NEAR ROADWAYS', to educate motorists about the dangers presented by falling trees near roadways.
REF. TRANSPORTATION 2/7/19 RESERVED FOR SUBJECT MATTER HEARING

Proposed **HB-6276** AN ACT REDUCING OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE FEES. reduce all existing fees for occupational licenses by fifty per cent. NO ACTION TO DATE

Proposed **HB-6428** REP. CAMILLO, 151st DIST.; REP. HAMPTON, 16th DIST.
'AN ACT AUTHORIZING MUNICIPALITIES TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF PESTICIDES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY', to provide local control of pesticide use.
REF. ENVIRONMENT NO ACTION TO DATE

Proposed **HB-6429** AN ACT ESTABLISHING A GRANT-IN-AID PROGRAM FOR MUNICIPALITIES COMBATING GYPSY MOTH AND EMERALD ASH BORER INFESTATIONS.
To mitigate costs for municipalities that have to conduct tree removal due to insect infestations. REF. ENVIRONMENT Vote to draft 2/11/19

Proposed **HB-6434** REP. ACKERT, 8th DIST.
'AN ACT CONCERNING SETBACK REQUIREMENTS FOR OUTDOOR WOOD BURNING FURNACES AND BOILERS', to change the setback requirement for high efficiency outdoor wood burning stoves.
REF. ENVIRONMENT Would reduce to from 200 ft to some unspecified distance the setback. NO ACTION TO DATE

Proposed **HB-6446** AN ACT CONCERNING URBAN FORESTRY. To enhance the natural climate by restoring vegetative cover and healthy forests. That the general statutes be amended to require an increase in tree planting and vegetative cover in urban, suburban and rural landscapes and to discourage tree removal. NO ACTION TO DATE
Proposed **HB-6569** AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND GRANTS FOR THE REMOVAL OF DEAD TREES. To permit municipalities to use Local Capital Improvement Fund grants for the removal of dead trees. **NO ACTION TO DATE**

Proposed **HB-6639** REP. YOUNG, 120th DIST. 'AN ACT REQUIRING HOMEOWNER NOTIFICATION OF VEGETATION MANAGEMENT BY UTILITIES', to establish a clear process for notification of homeowners before utilities remove trees and vegetation. REF. ENVIRONMENT **NO ACTION TO DATE**

Proposed **HB-6644** REP. HAMPTON, 16th DIST. 'AN ACT REQUIRING AN EVALUATION OF PUBLIC LANDS IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, BIODIVERSITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH', to evaluate to role of public lands to mitigate negative emissions in order to achieve the state’s climate goals. REF. ENVIRONMENT **identify and protect any old growth forest habitat NO ACTION TO DATE**

Proposed **HB-6703** AN ACT CONCERNING THE LIABILITY OF LAND SURVEYORS. To require an owner of land who has requested a survey of his or her land to provide not less than seven days’ advance written notice to certain other landowners prior to performing the land survey. **PUBLIC HEARING 2/15/19**

Proposed **HB-7026** REP. D'AGOSTINO, 91st DIST.; REP. ELLIOTT, 88th DIST.; REP. PORTER, 94th DIST.; SEN. LOONEY, 11th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONVEYANCE OF UNUSED PARCELS OF STATE LAND TO TOWNS', to permit towns to purchase and use state properties of a certain size that have been unused for many years. REF. GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS **NO ACTION TO DATE**

Proposed **SB-9** AN ACT ADJUSTING FEES FOR OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES, CERTIFICATIONS AND REGISTRATIONS. To reduce all existing fees for initial occupational licenses, certifications and registrations by seventy-five per cent and increase existing fees for renewals of such licenses, certifications and registrations to account for the lost revenue. CPA’s lic fees far exceed neighboring states **PUBLIC HEARING 2/19/19**

Proposed **SB-417** AN ACT REQUIRING A STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY OF INSTALLING AND USING RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES ON THE LAND ADJACENT TO INTERSTATE ROADWAYS IN THE STATE. To study the feasibility of installing and using renewable energy sources on the land adjacent to interstate roadways in the state. **NO ACTION TO DATE**

Proposed **SB-468** AN ACT CONCERNING THE INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PANELS ON STATE LAND NEAR PUBLIC HIGHWAYS. To allow the installation of publicly or privately owned solar panels on state-owned land in the proximity of public highways. **PUBLIC HEARING 2/21/19**

Proposed **SB-591** SEN. KISSEL, 7th DIST. 'AN ACT REQUIRING THE FOREST PRACTICES ADVISORY BOARD TO INCLUDE AN ADDITIONAL MEMBER FROM THE FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY', to include industry partners in environmental stewardship. REF. ENVIRONMENT **NO ACTION TO DATE**
Pest Alert

Spotted Lanternfly (Lycorma delicatula)

The spotted lanternfly is an invasive pest, primarily known to affect tree of heaven (Ailanthus altissima). It has been detected on many host plants, including apples, plums, cherries, peaches, nectarines, apricots, almonds, and pine. It also feeds on oak, walnut, poplar, and grapes. The insect will change hosts as it goes through its developmental stages. Nymphs feed on a wide range of plant species, while adults prefer to feed and lay eggs on tree of heaven (A. altissima). If allowed to spread in the United States, this pest could seriously harm the country’s grape, orchard, and logging industries.

Distribution and Spread

The spotted lanternfly is present in China, India, Japan, South Korea, and Vietnam. The insect was detected in Pennsylvania in September 2014. This was the first detection of spotted lanternfly in the United States. Spotted lanternflies are invasive and can spread rapidly when introduced to new areas. While the insect can walk, jump, or fly short distances, its long-distance spread is facilitated by people who move infested material or items containing egg masses.

Damage

Both nymphs and adults of spotted lanternfly cause damage when they feed, sucking sap from stems and leaves. This can reduce photosynthesis, weaken the plant, and eventually contribute to the plant’s death. In addition, feeding can cause the plant to ooze or weep, resulting in a fermented odor, and the insects themselves excrete large amounts of fluid (honeydew). These fluids promote mold growth and attract other insects.

Description

Adult spotted lanternflies are approximately 1 inch long and one-half inch wide, and they have large and visually striking wings. Their forewings are light brown with black spots at the front and a speckled band at the rear. Their hind wings are scarlet with black spots at the front and white and black bars at the rear. Their abdomen is yellow with black bars. Nymphs in their early stages of development appear black with white spots and turn to a red phase before becoming adults. Egg masses are yellowish-brown in color, covered with a gray, waxy coating prior to hatching.

Life Cycle

The spotted lanternfly lays its eggs on smooth host plant surfaces and on non-host material, such as bricks, stones, and dead plants. Eggs hatch in the spring and early summer, and nymphs begin feeding on a wide range of host plants by sucking sap from young stems and leaves. Adults appear in late July and tend to focus their feeding on tree of heaven (A. altissima) and grapevine.

1 In Pennsylvania, adult spotted lanternflies have also been found feeding and egg laying on willow, maple, poplar, and sycamore, as well as on fruit trees, like plum, cherry, and peach.
Nymphs are black with white spots in early stages of development. (Credit: itchydogimages) Nymphs turn red just before becoming adults. (Credit: itchydogimages)

Where To Look

Spotted lanternfly adults and nymphs frequently gather in large numbers on host plants. They are easiest to spot at dusk or at night as they migrate up and down the trunk of the plant. During the day, they tend to cluster near the base of the plant if there is adequate cover or in the canopy, making them more difficult to see. Egg masses can be found on smooth surfaces on the trunks of host plants and on other smooth surfaces, including brick, stone, and dead plants.

Report Your Findings

If you find an insect that you suspect is the spotted lanternfly, please contact your local Extension office or State Plant Regulatory Official to have the specimen identified properly.


Vitis vinifera). As the adults feed, they excrete sticky, sugar-rich fluid similar to honeydew. The fluid can build up on plants and on the ground underneath infested plants, causing sooty mold to form.
January 8, 2019

Mr. Arthur Stout
42 Towhee Rd
Wareham, MA 02571

Re: Supervising Forest Products Harvester Certificate # 1209 – Notification of Revocation

Dear Mr. Stout:

On June 1, 2017, you received certification as a Supervising Forest Products Harvester pursuant to § 23-65h of the Connecticut General Statutes (Conn. Gen. Stat.).

In accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. § 23-65o, you are hereby notified of the revocation of your Supervising Forest Products Harvester Certificate #1209. This action is separate and distinct from any case that you may have pending in Superior Court.

Prior to the effective date of the revocation, you are entitled to request an administrative hearing. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (Department or DEEP) must receive a request for a hearing no later than thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of this revocation notice.

The following violations, preceding your March 27, 2017 application for certification, have come to our attention:

- On or about April 2011, you were found in violation of N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 227-J: 2-II, regarding the violation of a cease and desist order.

Additionally, following your March 27, 2017 application for certification, the following forestry related violations have come to our attention:

- On or about February 2018, you were convicted of a felony associated with conduct of a regulated forest practice, failure to remunerate the owner of the timber for the value of the forest products, pursuant to N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 227-J: 15-I, (e) Deceptive Forestry Business Practices.
- On or about July 2018, you were convicted of two felonies associated with conduct of a regulated forest practice, failure to remunerate the owner of the timber for the value of the forest products, pursuant to N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 227-J: 15-I, (e) Deceptive Forestry Business Practices.

As provided in subsection (a) of § 23-65h to subsection (b) of § 23-65o of the Conn. Gen. Stat., inclusive, the hearing is limited to a determination of the following issues:

(1) Whether by making application for certification as a Supervising Forest Products Harvester, signed and dated on March 27, 2017, you failed to reveal in the affirmative, in reference to Part III, # 3 of the Application for Commercial Forest Practitioner Certification: “Within the past 3 years, have you engaged in a forest practice for which a cease and desist order, citation, or other administrative order has been issued from any federal, state, or local agency for conduct association with a forest practice?”

(2) Whether the above identified violations, including the 2018 convictions, are grounds for revocation of the Supervising Forest Products Harvester Certificate # 1209?

If you choose not to contact the Department to request a hearing the revocation of your certificate will be affirmed.

Ineligible for reapplication of certification until: February 8, 2029
Final Date to Request a Hearing: February 7, 2019

To request a hearing, contact: Office of Adjudications/DEEP
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106
Email deep.adjudications@ct.gov

Sincerely,

Susan Whalen
Deputy Commissioner

SW/nz
CONTACT: Forest Ranger Captain Douglas Miner
Phone: 603-227-8734; Cell: 603-419-9143 Email: douglas.miner@dnr.nh.gov

DNCR Announces Deceptive Forestry Business Practices Felony Convictions

Concord, NH (October 5, 2018) The N.H. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources’ Division of Forests and Lands, Forest Protection Bureau announces that it has received felony level criminal convictions against a timber harvesting contractor working in Grafton and Sullivan Counties.

Arthur Stout of Wareham, Mass., was found guilty of two charges of felony deceptive forestry business practices in Grafton County Superior Court involving two different landowners who had contracted with him to harvest timber from their respective properties. Stout was also found guilty of the same felony criminal charges involving a timber harvest that he was contracted to perform for another landowner located in Sullivan County.

Stout was sentenced to 12 months incarceration at the County House of Corrections for each of the three convictions. This sentence will be suspended by the courts in its entire dependent upon his good behavior. The suspended sentence may still be imposed with time to be served concurrently within the next seven years for failure to comply with all of the terms of the court order. Additionally, Stout was ordered to pay a total of $53,445 in restitution dispersed accordingly between each of the three landowners. As a specific condition of his suspended sentence, the court also ordered that Mr. Stout shall not engage in the buying or selling of forest products in the State of New Hampshire.

N.H. State Forest Rangers conducted an extensive investigation of Stout regarding numerous complaints involving multiple violations of the state’s deceptive forestry business practices law. These convictions represent the compilation of months of diligent work on behalf of the N.H. Forest Protection Bureau, N.H. Department of Revenue Administration and both the Grafton County Attorney and Sullivan County Attorney’s offices.

“The successful conclusion of these cases represents an important step in protecting New Hampshire landowners from the fraudulent acts of this individual,” stated Steven Sherman, Chief of the Forest Protection Bureau within the Division of Forests and Lands. “While there are many honest professionals employed within the forestry community, this specific instance of unscrupulous criminal behavior highlights the importance for landowners to seek the advice of professionals when they decide to sell their timber.”

There are many resources available to educate landowners regarding the current value and management options for their valuable timber resource. Landowners can contact their County Forest Educator with UNH Cooperative Extension or the N.H. Division of Forests and Lands seeking more information. Additional educational resources are available at nhwoods.org and nhdfl.org.

The New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands, Forest Protection Bureau is part of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. To learn more, visit www.nhdfl.org or call 603-271-2214.

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For Immediate Release
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USFS Landscape Scale Restoration Grant to Audubon Connecticut:
“Connecticut’s Land Trusts: A Sustainable Model for Habitat Management”

Overview

February 2019: Sharon Audubon has a grant from the Forest Service to work with land trusts who have parcels comprising 40 or more acres of mature, even-aged forest and would be willing to consider small-scale harvest of trees, primarily for bird habitat improvement but providing multiple wildlife benefits. This approach offers land trusts a sustainable model for habitat management in some areas where “middle-aged” forest predominates.

Through a competitive application process, Audubon and HVA’s Greenprint Collaborative will select parcels where it would be ecologically appropriate, within the larger landscape context, to consider small to moderate cuts that restore early-successional forest and diversify habitat for priority birds.

The grant will fund a forester who assesses the parcels in the field along with Audubon Connecticut staff, and prepares a Forest Habitat Management Guide that incorporates input on bird habitat from Audubon. The Guides may complement existing forest management plans, or serve as stand-alone guidelines. The Guide’s harvest recommendations are expected to be implemented by the land trust within a year.

Net timber income, a secondary benefit, is expected to be used by the land trust within 3 years for appropriate stewardship measures such as invasive control or further habitat enhancement.

Land Trust Applicants Wanted

An announcement of the grant program and an application will soon be available to all land trusts in CT. Meanwhile, feel free to share this preliminary information and encourage land trusts to contact Sharon Audubon if interested in applying.

Foresters Wanted

For several years, Audubon CT has done similar work with Eric Hansen of Ferrucci and Walicki. That partnership is ongoing. However, we (and Eric) would like to invite participation from additional foresters with an interest in providing clients with “bird-friendly” management plans in partnership with Audubon Connecticut. An announcement of workshops on this topic will be released soon. Meanwhile, feel free to contact Sharon Audubon for more information.

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