



CASE STUDY

CAROLYN MAYO-BROWN

DUMMERSTON, VT

An uncommon **Oak-Black Birch Talus Woodland**, the largest ash tree in the state, and a large **Dry Transition Hemlock Forest** set this woodland apart. It stands within a high-priority interior forest block and a priority connectivity block, meaning that it is critical for wildlife habitat and migration.

MEET THE LANDOWNER

40 years ago, Carolyn and her husband Greg first bought the house they live in with 46 acres of land surrounding it.

They began acquiring adjoining parcels to bring their total woodland to 228 acres. Their goal was to ensure that connected forest blocks in this critical wildlife corridor would remain conserved and undeveloped. Large areas of forested land are critical for many animals including moose, bobcat, black bear, ovenbirds, and hermit thrushes. They also want their land to support human recreation. Carolyn has been active on Putney Mountain Association's Land Acquisition Committee. The Association owns and stewards 926 acres of conserved land along with 30 miles of hiking trails from Prospect Hill to Putney Mountain, continuing along the Windmill Hill Ridgeline.



One of the scenic vistas overlooking the forest on Carolyn's property.

AT A GLANCE

PROPERTY / PROJECT ACREAGE

228 Acres (3.2 managed in the project)

LOCATION

Dummerston, VT

FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Beech suppression - 2 acres

Crop tree release - 1.2 acres

RESOURCES

Long View Forest Management

Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC)

Vermont's Women and Our Woods

WOMEN & OUR WOODS

Vermont's Women & Our Woods (WOW-VT)

is a collaborative women-centered community that shares information, resources, and support for people who care about and steward Vermont's forests.

WOW-VT has developed a series of case studies to highlight a variety of management activities being conducted on women-owned or women-managed woodlands to highlight successes, share lessons learned, and identify resources available.

To learn more visit wowvt.org.

HOW HAS THIS LAND BEEN MANAGED?

Carolyn and Greg enrolled their land in the current use program, working with Dan Healey of Long View Forest Management to create a Forest Management Plan. While they had worked with previous foresters, Carolyn appreciated Dan's wide view of forest management. He considered timber management along with her goals of protecting wildlife, promoting recreation, and preserving unique habitat. Carolyn has also spent her time educating herself about her land and management practices. She's participated in workshops from the Agency of Natural Resources, the Vermont Woodlands Association, Long View Forest Management, the Vermont Land Trust, and the three-day training from Vermont Coverts.

In September 2023, Carolyn teamed up with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC), WOW-VT and Carolyn's forester Dan Healy to complete a demonstration project on the land. Their goals were beech control and crop tree release, both of which Dan had included in her forest management plan. The VYCC crew cut American beech sprouts in a 2-acre area where they were crowding out other desirable species. In another 1.2 acre area, the crew removed trees that were competing with healthy "crop trees." For Carolyn these were trees that produce food for wildlife or are straight and defect-free for sawtimber. This work was funded by the US Forest Service as a WOW Demonstration Project. The project had to be scaled down due to the crew's availability and schedule. Carolyn was happy to help inspire young people to learn about the field of forestry and practice skills that can help them in future careers.

WHAT COMES NEXT?

Carolyn is committed to ensuring the forest is healthy for years to come. But she knows it's a slow process. Forest management projects always take longer than expected because of wet weather, worker availability, and in the case of VYCC, extra training for the workers. Carolyn's goals are to maintain the trail network and protect critical habitat for wildlife. She also wants to protect the cultural resources – a small historic farmstead with cellar holes and other farm infrastructure. She wants to continue the work that VYCC started to ensure that her land will always be a haven for humans and wildlife alike.



Black bears pass through this land, which is part of an important wildlife corridor.



The property hosts a huge white ash, believed to be the largest of its species in Vermont.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Long View Forest Management

Long View Forest Management created and is helping to implement Carolyn's Forest Management Plan.

Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC)

VYCC is a non-profit organization that provides young people with skills and experience implementing conservation and restoration practices. A crew from VYCC completed a crop tree release and beech control on the property as part of a partnership with WOW-VT.

Vermont's Women and Our Woods (WOW-VT)

WOW-VT secured funding from the US Forest Service to pay for VYCC to complete demonstration projects on women-owned and women-managed land.

Thanks to the US Forest Service who made this project possible through the award of a Landscape Scale Restoration Grant.