

Historic farmland has regrown into diverse woodland in Windham County. Trails crisscross the forest, along a stream, skirting wetlands as they meander across the property. Black bears have been known to stop through, enjoying the woodland alongside humans and other wildlife.

MEET THE LANDOWNER

Diana believes in getting out on her land. If she could tell other landowners one thing, it would be to build a trail so you can easily get out into the woods. She and her husband, Lee, bought the property in two separate pieces in 1999 and 2000. The trails on their own property connect to trails on their neighbors' land. Due to her husband's busy work schedule, Diana became the primary manager of the land. Over the years, it became a passion. Managing the land has helped her get to know not only the familiar trail network, but

secrets hidden beyond the beaten path. She retired early from her career as a structural engineer and became an avid cartographer. She's taken the full suite of Game of Logging courses to feel confident working on her land. She's carried her passion for working with her own land to helping manage local recreation properties. Her goal is to help more Vermonters take advantage of the beautiful terrain hidden across the state.



Diana has taken an active role in managing the land for the last 20 years.

AT A GLANCE

PROPERTY / PROJECT ACREAGE

107.5 acres

LOCATION

Halifax, VT

FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Single Tree & Group Selection - 59.97 acres

1st Stage Shelterwood - 17.89 acres

Progressive Clearcut - 10 acres

PARTNERS

Long View Forest Management

Natural Resource Conservation Service

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?

Diana appreciates that actively managing her land benefits her community. Her community gets to use locally harvested wood and support the sustainable forest economy. She enrolled their land in the Current Use program in 2006, creating a forest management plan alongside forester Andrew Sheere of Long View Forest Management. In the largest area of the woodland, Andrew identified individual or small groups of mature or poor-quality trees to harvest, called a single tree selection or group selection cut. This left space for younger trees to grow. In another section of forest, Andrew recommended the shelterwood method. This practice harvests mature trees over a series of multiple harvests to regenerate the next generation of trees. The trees in the canopy that are left after the first harvest provide shelter for the next generation of trees to establish without letting in too much light for sun-loving weeds or non-desirable species to take over.

When Diana and Lee bought the land, around 10 acres of abandoned pasture had been regrowing for about 35 years and was no longer young forest. Grouse and woodcock still nested around the area, but within five years, wildlife that needed young forest started disappearing as the forest matured. In 2014, Diana received funding from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to help offset the cost of clearing the area to begin the process of regrowth. They used a brontosaurus, a large machine that mulches the trees in place. Diana is able to maintain trails using her mower as the brush and shrubs regrew. That meant she had a firsthand view as the woodcock and grouse returned to nest.



The old pasture showing one year (top) and six years of regrowth (bottom).

WHAT COMES NEXT?

When Diana envisions the future of her land, she sees people enjoying it. She wants the land to remain forested and laced with trails. She has already begun the legal work to ensure that a large piece of it will remain conserved. She knows that process can take years and she wants to ensure she and Lee's vision for the land is carried on past their lifetimes.

PROJECT COSTS

ACTIVITY	ACRES	FUNDING OR PROFIT	COST
2021 Harvest	54	\$7,495.07 (timber)	\$4,576.44
Progressive Clearcut	10	\$4,890 (EQIP funding)	\$13,000

PROJECT PARTNERS

Long View Forest Management

Andrew Sheere of Long View Forest Management worked with Diana to develop her forest management plans and continues to support implementation.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Diana received funding from NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to clear the old pasture.