

The Massachusetts Regional Conservation Forum



Wellesley College
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Advancing Conservation through Collaboration

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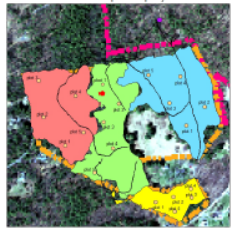


Teaching

- Land Protection Tools and Techniques
 - Speakers
 - Projects & Experiences
- Forest Measurements
 - KLT > Buffam Brook Community Forest NRI
- Inventory of Local Lands
 - EQLT > Hardwick Property

Buffam Brook Community Forest – Hepler Property

BBCF Hepler Property



Legend:


- Stand 1
- Stand 2
- Stand 3
- Stand 4

Stand 1: 34 acres

- 4 stands
 - Mixed softwood and hardwood
- Several trails
- Invasive concerns
 - Japanese Barberry
 - Multiflora rose
 - Oriental bittersweet
 - Garlic Mustard
 - Burning Bush

The Hepler property in the BBCF is a diverse 34-acre property that contains 4 different delineated stands.

- Stand 1 is a mixed white pine and hardwood stand that is most notable for its diversity of species and abundance of invasives.
- Stand 2 is a white pine and hemlock stand, with many large white pines dominating the overstory. Hemlocks, though not yet very large, make up most of the midstory and understory.
- Stand 3 is also a white pine and hemlock stand. White pine is once more the dominant species with hemlock making up most of the understory and midstory.
- Stand 4 is a mixed hardwood and white pine stand. Within this stand is a large section that looks like it was once a habitat cut, and that could have led to the diversity in species.




White Pine regeneration

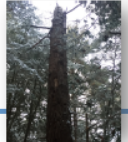
The property has many opportunities for recreation. Several old footpaths crisscross the property, providing ample opportunity for walking trails to be created in the future. Buffam Brook and Gates Brook are located on the property, offering both scenic and ecological advantages.

Signs of both deer and moose were noted on the property, including scat and tracks. There is a limited understory of species favorable to deer, presumably because deer on the property are eating them.

There are many large cavity trees throughout the property – these should be noted for their ecological importance as habitat for many mammals and birds.



Burning Bush – *Euonymus alatus*



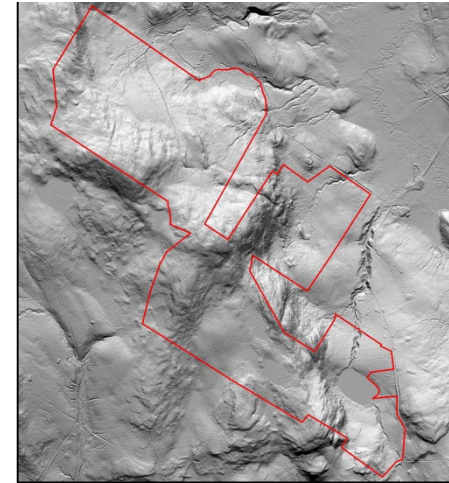
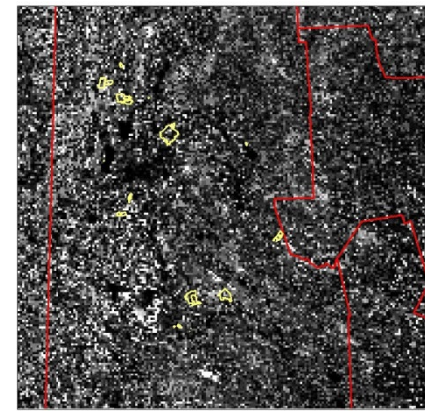
Research

Ecological (10%)

- Long-term ash monitoring plots

Human Dimension (90%)

- Identifying research needs
 - Landowner decision making
- Implementing research
 - Colleagues > semi-structured interviews
 - Setting up focus groups
- Interpreting research findings
 - What does it mean? What now?



BNRC Hudson-Howard Property
LiDAR Map



Outreach

- Research findings basis for the development of outreach resources and strategies
- Collaborating with RCPs and land trusts to distribute resources and implement strategies
 - NQRLP & FLT > MA DCR Conservation-based estate planning outreach



Increased Funding Opportunities

- Demonstrates diverse partnerships
- Stakeholder research & outreach co-creation
- Grounded/applicable projects
- Access to more and different funding sources
- Flexibility in project implementation

(i.e., NQRLP is far more nimble than UMass)

It all starts with one project.....

