NY/NE Family Forest Owner Engagement Workshop

Current Use Programs

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2011

Outline

- Working Forest Initiative
- Current Use Programs
- Outreach
- Results
- TELE
  - Lessons learned
- Future Direction

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Funding

- MA Energy and Environmental Bond Bill, August 2008
- 1.65 billion over 5 years
  - Agriculture/Forestry
  - Open space conservation
  - Improve state parks/beaches
  - Repair/reconstruct transportation infrastructure
  - Energy efficiency/renewable energy

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Working Forest Initiative

- One-Stop-Shopping
  - ~~Carbon sequestration~~
  - Forest Viability
  - Estate Planning
  - Forest Stewardship
  - Community Forest Stewardship Grant Program
- Green Certification

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Working Forest Initiative

- $740,000
- Initial Period 4 year
- Extend 4 years

- Contracting with UMass extension and MA Farm Bureau

- Leverage other grant money

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Current Use Programs

- Ch61 – Forestland
  - MANAGEMENT PLAN REQUIRED

- Ch61A – Agriculture and Horticulture
  - MANAGEMENT PLAN REQUIRED IF PRODUCTIVE WOODLAND

- Ch61B – Recreation
  - MANAGEMENT PLAN REQUIRED IF HARVESTING

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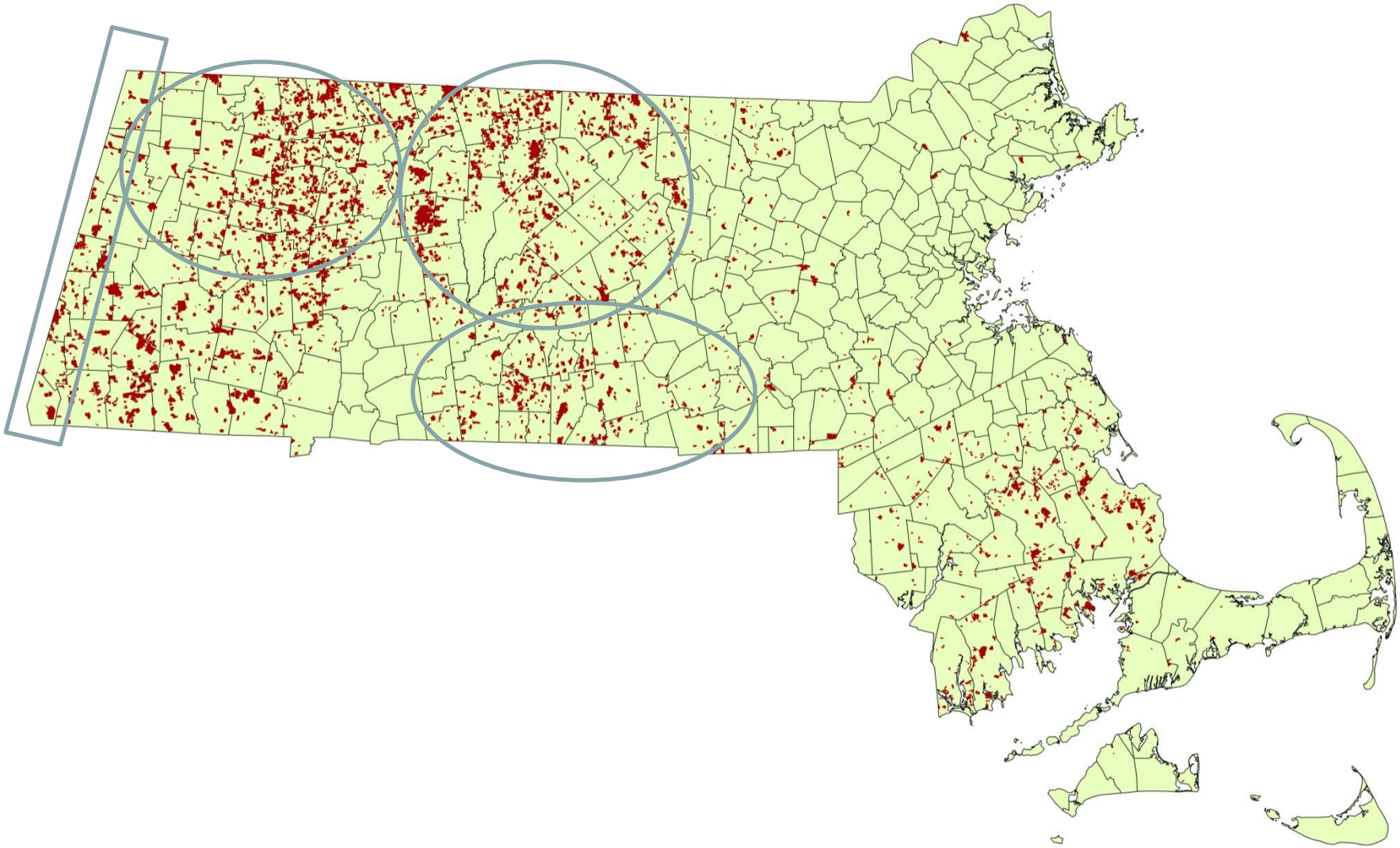
Enrollment

- Stewardship
- 2009-20012
  - 620 Landowners
  - 44,600 acres
  - 68% dual enrollment
  - $11/acre

- Current Use
- With management plan
  - 7000 Landowner
  - 450,000 acres
  - 19 % of landowners



Outreach

Direct

- Mailings
  - Solicitation
  - For enrollees – keep engaged
- Evening talks
- Woods walks

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Outreach

Indirect

- Events
  - Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition
  - Display
- Collaborating with partners
  - Woods forums
  - Town Open space committees
  - Keystone (Coverts)
- Community Stewardship

Bottleneck

- Private Consulting Foresters

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Community Forest Stewardship Grant

The purpose of this grant is to aid communities:

1. In putting forest stewardship into practice.

2. Help connect the local citizens to their forest and the benefits these forests provide—including a local source of wood products

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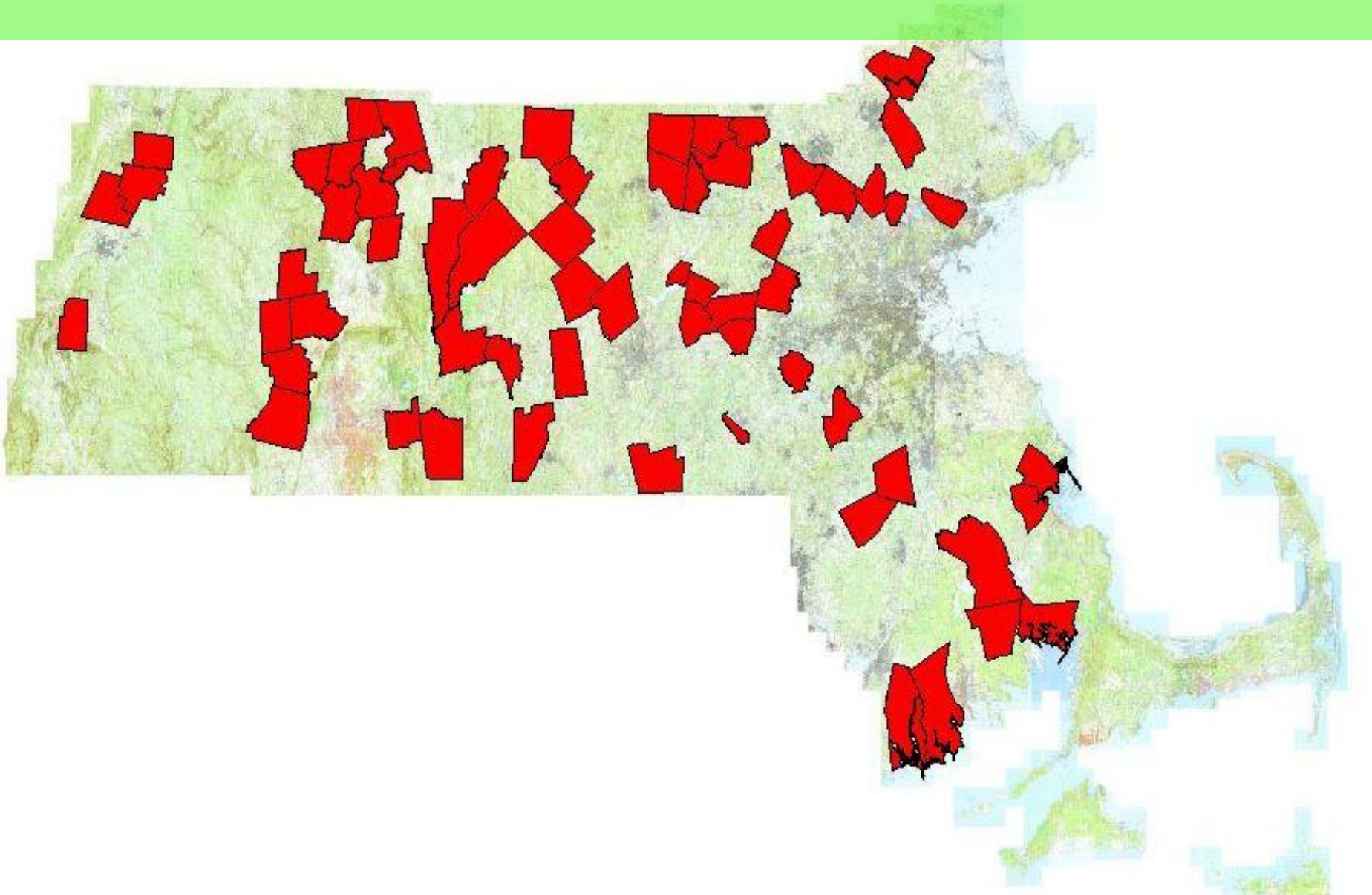
Municipal Stewardship Plans 1991 to 2011



TELE training

- Service Foresters
  - 2 Workshops
- Consulting Foresters

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Lesson Learned

Marketing

- Mailing
  - Use language that will connect
  - Color code
  - Post card
- Events
  - Keeping track of what people pick up

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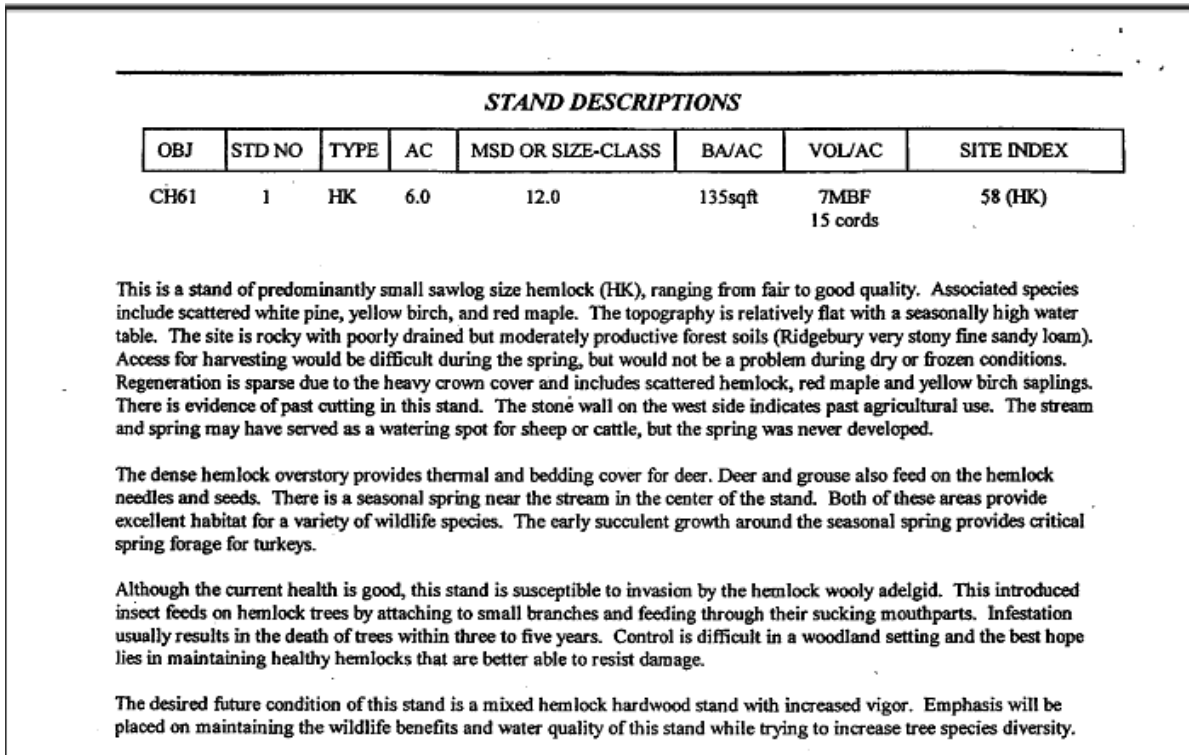
Lessons Learned

- Management Plan
  - Not set up well
  - Title
  - Maps



STAND DESCRIPTIONS

OBJ	STD NO	TYPE	AC	MSD OR SIZE-CLASS	BA/AC	VOL/AC	SITE INDEX
CH61	1	HK	6.0	12.0	135sqft	7MBF 15 cords	58 (HK)

This is a stand of predominantly small sawlog size hemlock (HK), ranging from fair to good quality. Associated species include scattered white pine, yellow birch, and red maple. The topography is relatively flat with a seasonally high water table. The site is rocky with poorly drained but moderately productive forest soils (Ridgebury very stony fine sandy loam). Access for harvesting would be difficult during the spring, but would not be a problem during dry or frozen conditions. Regeneration is sparse due to the heavy crown cover and includes scattered hemlock, red maple and yellow birch saplings. There is evidence of past cutting in this stand. The stone wall on the west side indicates past agricultural use. The stream and spring may have served as a watering spot for sheep or cattle, but the spring was never developed.

The dense hemlock overstory provides thermal and bedding cover for deer. Deer and grouse also feed on the hemlock needles and seeds. There is a seasonal spring near the stream in the center of the stand. Both of these areas provide excellent habitat for a variety of wildlife species. The early succulent growth around the seasonal spring provides critical spring forage for turkeys.

Although the current health is good, this stand is susceptible to invasion by the hemlock wooly adelgid. This introduced insect feeds on hemlock trees by attaching to small branches and feeding through their sucking mouthparts. Infestation usually results in the death of trees within three to five years. Control is difficult in a woodland setting and the best hope lies in maintaining healthy hemlocks that are better able to resist damage.

The desired future condition of this stand is a mixed hemlock hardwood stand with increased vigor. Emphasis will be placed on maintaining the wildlife benefits and water quality of this stand while trying to increase tree species diversity.

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Next Steps

- Direct Mailing Deerfield River Watershed
  - Incorporate lessons learned
  - Response card
  - Language

- Management Plan
  - Revamp
  - Move maps and specific property information to front of plan

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Next Steps

- NRCS Liaison –
- Plan implementation
- outreach program to landowners in the Connecticut River Watershed
  - Working with established organizations in the area
  - Community
  - Peer-to-peer

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