

Salmon River State Forest

Leesville Block & Wopowog WMA Management Plan



Connecticut
Department of Energy &
Environmental Protection

FORESTRY DIVISION

Forest Health and Diversity



The Leesville Block and Wopowog WMA contain healthy and diverse forest ecosystems of dense hemlock stands, oak/hickory ridges, red maple bottomlands and the Salmon River. These landscape elements provide functional, valuable, and resilient habitats for plants and animals.

Climate Change Mitigation



Climate change is an important global issue. The management of the Leesville Block and Wopowog WMA provides the opportunity to sequester and store carbon, through sustainable forest management, in vegetation and long-lived durable wood products.

Economic Benefits



The following plan outlines timber harvesting activity on 317 acres. Sustainably harvested forest products provide jobs and raw materials that are sold in the local forest-based, green economy. "Growing What We Need, Where We Live".

Forest Protection



The Salmon River State Forest Leesville Block and Wopowog WMA management plan addresses threats such as wildfire, extreme weather events, invasive plants and insects, and unauthorized use. Management strategies are outlined for each of these threats to protect this valuable public forestland asset.

Wildlife Habitat



The Leesville Block and the Wopowog WMA are key properties in the protection of the Salmon River watershed and its associated forest and riparian habitats. These properties also lie within one of three focus areas for the conservation of American woodcock. Management recommendations presented in this plan aim to enhance habitat for this species.

Recreational/Health Benefits



20 acres of the Leesville Block is managed specifically for recreational activities; this site, adjacent to the Salmon River, is known as Fireman's Field and the Salmon River Recreation Area. The remaining acreage of the Leesville Block and Wopowog WMA make excellent opportunities for hiking, hunting, and fishing.

Encouraging Mature Forest Growth



34%, 267-acres of the Leesville Block is designated as an Old Forestland Management Site (OFMS) allowing this remote area of the forest to remain unaltered by vegetative management activities. This will encourage mature forest growth within this block of forestland.

