

Mattatuck State Forest

Cave-Black Rock Block

Management Plan

Forest Health and Diversity



The Cave-Black Rock Block contains healthy and diverse ecosystems, including acidic rocky summit outcrops, red maple lowlands and oak-hickory forests, that provide highly functional, valuable, and resilient habitats for plants and animals.

Climate Change Mitigation



Climate change is an important global issue. Sustainable forest management of the Cave-Black Rock Block provides the opportunity to sequester and store carbon in vegetation and long-lived wood products.

Economic Benefits



The plan outlines timber harvesting activity on 347 acres. There is also a sugarbush which provides locally produced maple syrup. These sustainably harvested forest products provide jobs and raw materials for a locally sourced, forest-based, green economy. "Growing What We Need, Where We Live".

Forest Protection



This plan addresses threats such as exotic invasive plants, insects, and pathogens. It makes recommendations to mitigate these damaging agents. The plan recognizes that forests are dynamic and that weather events, insect or disease outbreaks, or other unforeseen conditions may require changes in the recommendations.

Wildlife Habitat



Two State Endangered wildlife species, two State Threatened wildlife species, and three wildlife Species of Special Concern are known to utilize the area in and around this forest Block. There are also five State-listed plant species that may be found here. Forest management practices will protect critical habitat features, including acidic rocky summit outcrops, required by these species. Forest management can also benefit some of these species.

Recreational/Health Benefits



The Cave-Black Rock Block has 6 miles of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail system, including the Jericho Trail and sections of the Mattatuck Trail. This Block is also open to hunting. Black Rock State Park borders this forest and provides additional recreational opportunities.

Environmental Protection



The plan recommends silvicultural treatments that will create a more diverse mix of tree species and age classes. The plan will increase the amount of young forest while also designating 4 stands, totaling 244 acres (18% of the total acreage), as Old Forestland Management Sites. Diverse forests are resilient forests.

