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Presentation to begin at 6:30, feel free to browse maps and ask questions of DEC staff until then

Adam Perry & Mike Putnam Wildlife Biologists
Andrew Drake, Forester
Adam Robedee, Forestry Technician

Connecticut Hill
Wildlife Management Area
Habitat Management Plan

Adam Perry & Mike Putnam Wildlife Biologists
Andrew Drake, Forester
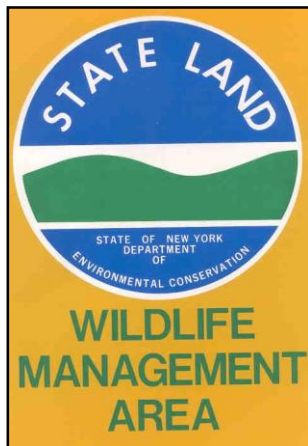**Adam Robedee, Forestry Technician**

Agenda

- Overview of Wildlife Management Areas

- Highlights/History of Connecticut Hill Wildlife Management Area

- Overview of the Young Forest Initiative and Habitat Management Plans

- Goals and Management Activities for Conn Hill

- Questions

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What is a Wildlife Management Area?

- To provide & enhance:
  - wildlife habitat
  - wildlife-dependent recreation
- Sporting license fee/Federal PR funded
- Open to the public

Region 7 Wildlife Management Areas

- 9 counties

- 14 WMAs (53,268 ac.)

- 11 WMAs included in YFI (52,956 ac.)

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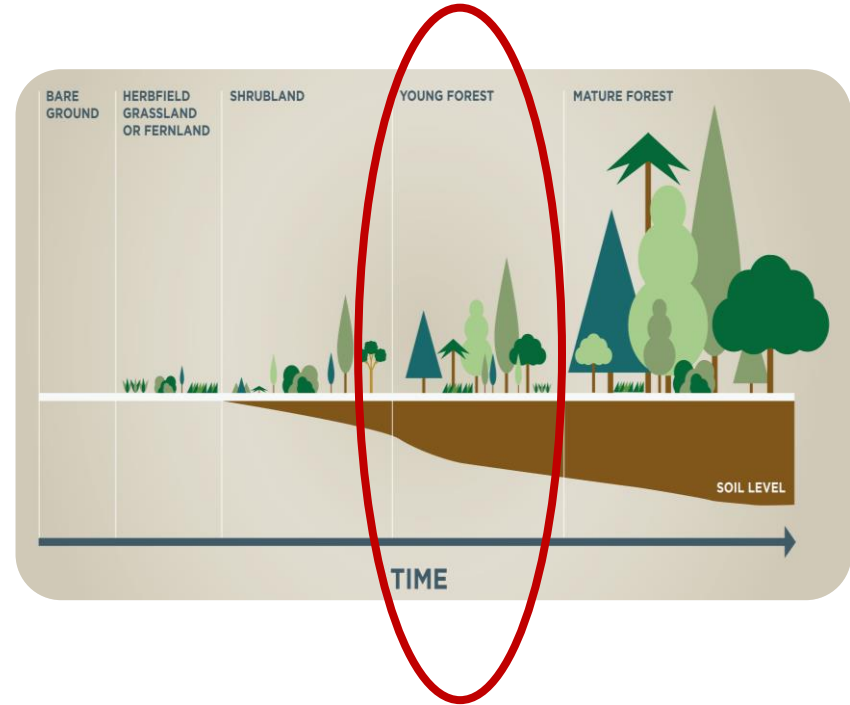
Young Forest Initiative

- Creating habitat for wildlife

- More opportunities for bird watching, hunting, fishing

- Will evaluate effectiveness of management and adapt if needed

Learn more at:

www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/104218.html

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What is a Habitat Management Plan?

- A 10-year plan to manage habitat for wildlife

- Acreage goals for each habitat type

- Guided by responsible management practices

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Connecticut Hill Wildlife Management Area

Overview:

- Acquired in 1928
- 11,237 acres
- Mostly forested (96%)

Past Management:

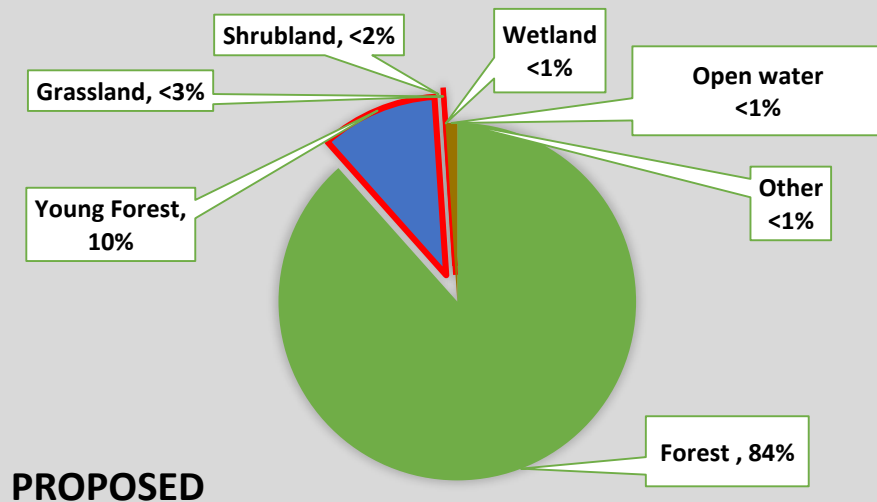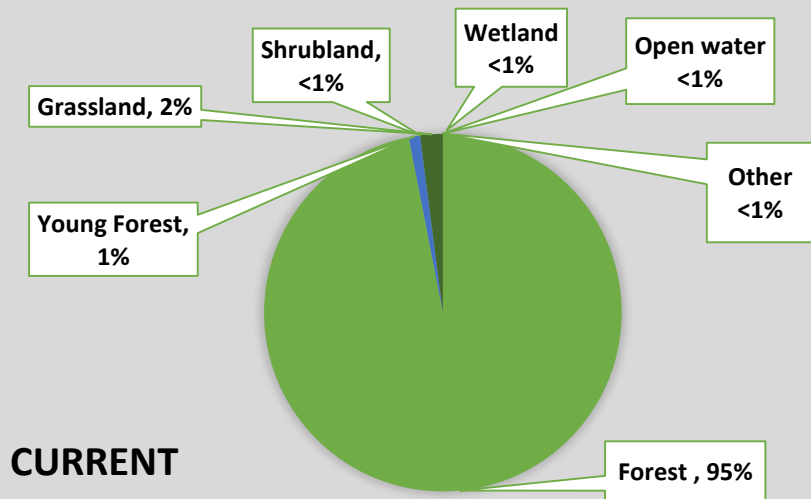- Extensive reforestation
- Timber harvests
- Grouse research

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Connecticut Hill Habitat Management Plan

Major Goals:

- Create 10% young forest

- Increase shrublands to ~2%

- Increase grasslands to ~3%

- Ensure forest diversity/health

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Connecticut Hill Habitat Classification

Connecticut Hill Habitat Management Plan

Target YFI Species:

- Ruffed Grouse
  - Drumming areas
  - Mast producing trees for feeding
  - Young, dense forest for nesting and brood rearing

Photo by Art Kirsch

Connecticut Hill Habitat Management Plan

Target YFI Species:

- American woodcock
  - Singing grounds
  - Feeding
  - Nesting/brood rearing
  - Roosting

Photo: Tom Bell

Connecticut Hill Habitat Management Plan

Target YFI Species:

- Wild turkey
  - Foraging areas
  - Nesting
  - Roosting
  - Brood rearing

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Connecticut Hill Habitat Management Plan

Management Actions:

Forest

- Timber harvests
- Non-commercial forest management
- Forestry mow
- Control invasive species

Shrubland

- Tree removal, shrub planting
- Control invasive species
- Forestry mow

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Connecticut Hill Habitat Management Plan

Management Actions:

Grassland/Fields

- Routine mowing

- Improve quality of existing

- Control invasive species

Wetland and Pond

- Vernal pools

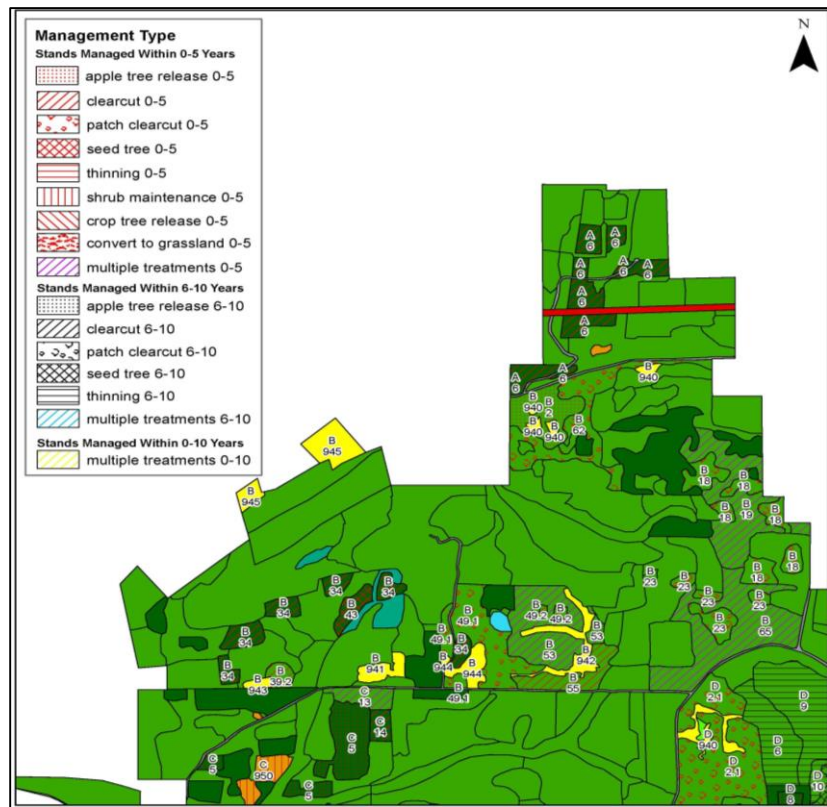- Control invasive species

- Maintain water control structures

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Specific plans:

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Connecticut Hill Habitat Management Plan
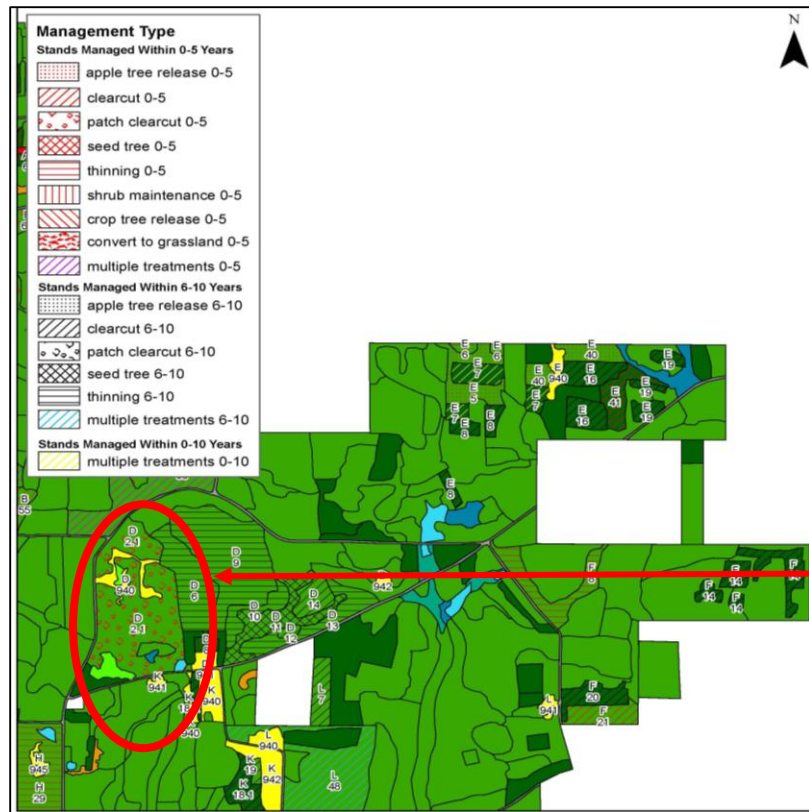
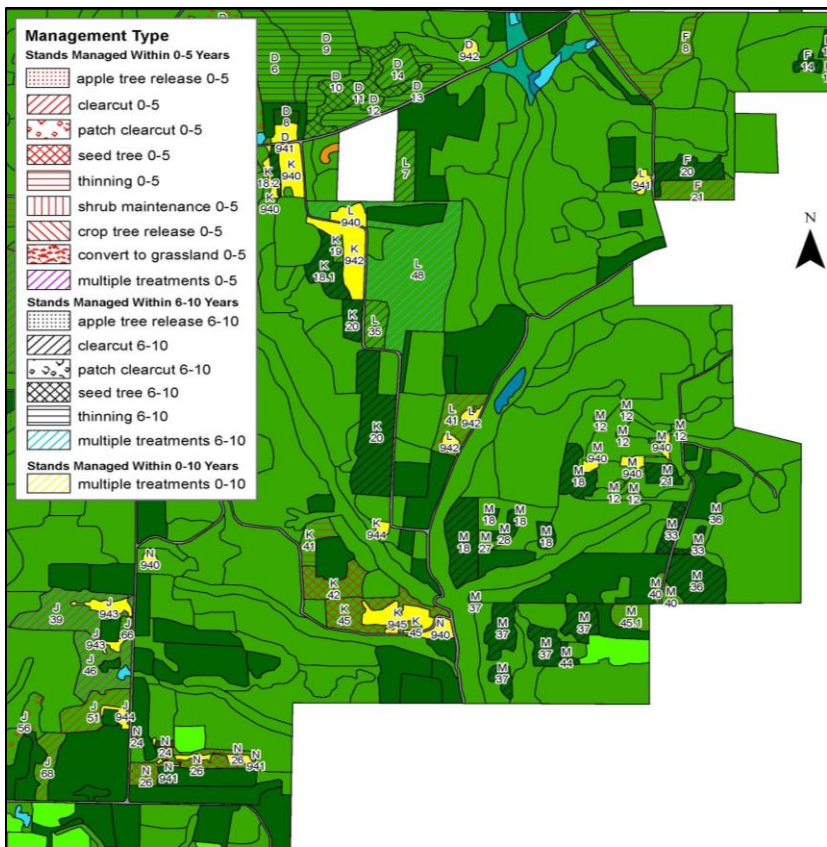# Conn Hill: Northwest section

- Multiple treatment types

- Work for both 0-5 and 5-10 years

- Non-commercial work

- Old grouse project areas
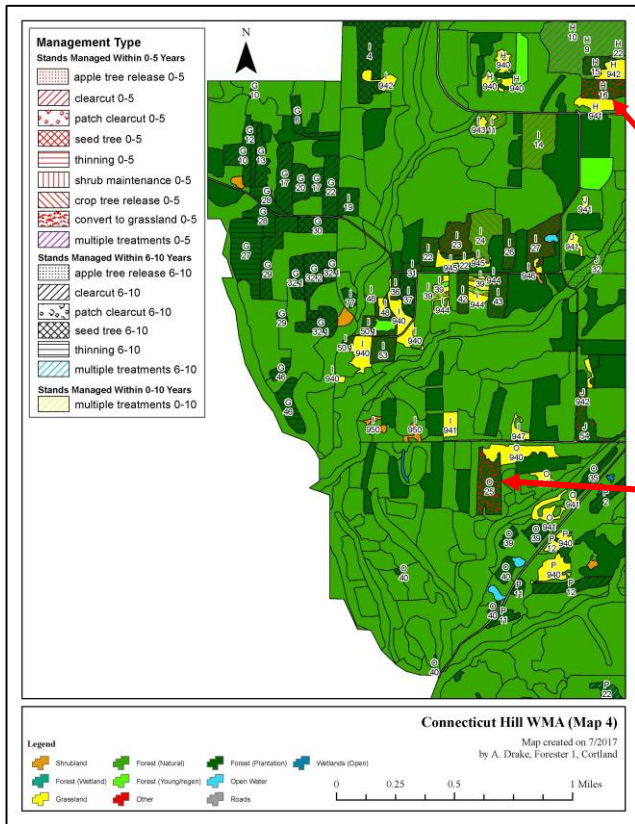
Conn Hill: Northeast section

- Some non-commercial work/apple release

- Convert plantations to young forest

- Thinning to maintain mature stands

- Demo area
  - Walking trail, kiosk, example treatments
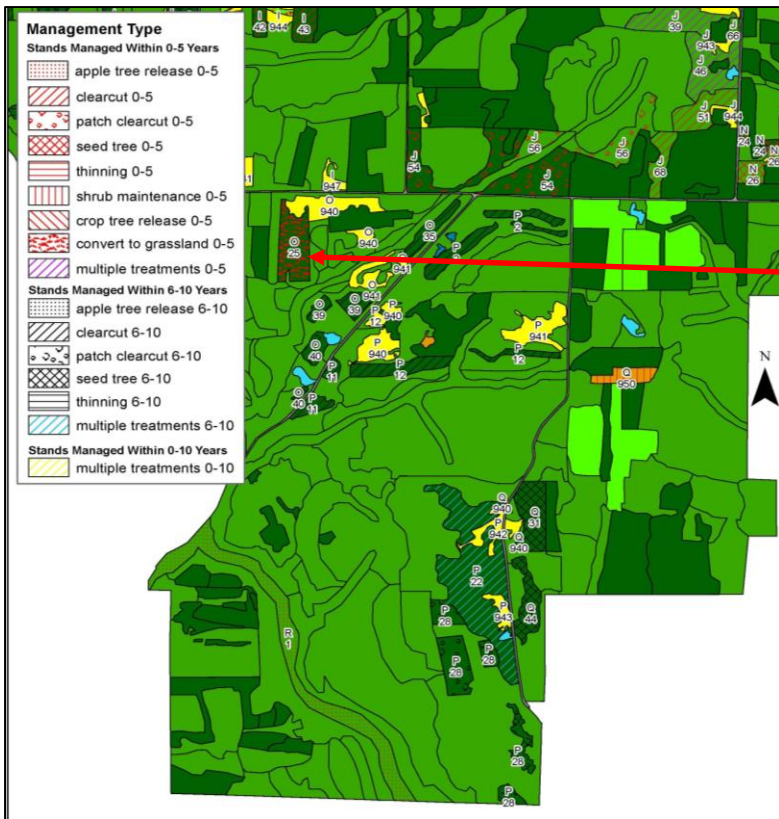
Conn Hill: Southeast section

- Multiple treatment types

- Some existing YF

- Regenerate aspen

- Rehab fields

Conn Hill: Southwest section

Connecticut Hill WMA (Map 4)

- Convert softwood plantations to young forest

- Most management in second 5 year plan period

- Grassland conversion

- Limited existing YF

Conn Hill: South section

- Most management in second 5 year plan period

- Grassland conversion

- Multiple existing young forest areas

- Large blocks for minimal treatment

Connecticut Hill Habitat Management Plan

Monitoring Activities:

- Before and After Surveys
  - Woodcock (annual)
  - Turkey/ruffed grouse (annual)
  - Songbirds (semi-annual)
- Sensitive Species Surveys
  - Rare bats
  - Woodland raptors
- Vegetative Response

Photo by Mike Palermo

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Thank you!

Questions?

Survey on the table