

# ANATOMY OF A TIMBER HARVEST

NEFF owns 141 Community Forests with over 26,000 acres across New England, practicing sustainable forestry and demonstrating current silvicultural techniques. Our Community Forests serve as hands-on classrooms where other forest landowners can learn tools and techniques to practice sustainable forestry on their own lands. Winter is the ideal season for logging, when frozen ground resists erosion and tire ruts. This is NEFF's busiest harvest season. We've created this birds-eye-view of a typical NEFF timber harvest in an effort to share our forest activities with you.

As always, if you have questions about NEFF's forestry practices or would like a tour of one of NEFF's current or recent harvests near you, please contact our Director of Forest Stewardship, Chris Pryor: 978.952.6856 ext. 107 cpryor@newenglandforestry.org

**Proceeds**  
NEFF's proceeds from timber sales return to New England's forests, helping support our mission to conserve forests for future generations.

**Products**  
Forest products contribute sustainable materials to New England homes and businesses, creating local jobs along the way.

**Mills**  
Different species and parts of trees are sent to the appropriate mill for processing. NEFF strives to use as much of the tree as possible.

**Landing**  
Trees are sorted into stacks by species and/or product and transported to mills using log trucks.

**Harvest**  
Using the management plan, the forester selects trees to be harvested and supervises the logger throughout the operation.

**Management Plan**  
NEFF provides overarching forest management goals and objectives to a local consulting forester, who uses them to write a management plan including silvicultural recommendations if appropriate.

NEFF uses the **harvesting method** best suited to the terrain, products being harvested, and silvicultural prescription on each individual site.

**Slash**, the tops and limbs left behind after a harvest, plays a critical role by returning nutrients to the soil and providing habitat to insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and small mammals.

Loggers use **harvesters** to harvest trees, remove limbs, and cut trees into specific lengths depending on the quality of the tree and the desired product.

**Buffer Strips**, undisturbed or lightly harvested areas, slow down and filter surface water runoff.

**Forwarders** carry logs, and **Skidders** drag logs to the landing via **Skid Trails**. Using a forwarder can result in less damage to the soil and remaining trees.

**Stream Crossings** maintain water flow while allowing forwarders to cross streams, and are removed after the harvest is complete.

## BENEFITS OF FORESTRY



Well-managed forests provide habitat for a wide variety of native wildlife. Some wildlife species depend on older, undisturbed forests, while others require young forests.



Forests slow surface runoff, reduce soil erosion, mitigate flooding, and capture water in above and underground reserves.



New England's forest products industry contributes over 30 thousand jobs and roughly four billion dollars to the region's economy.



Forest products are sustainable alternatives to steel and concrete. Tall wood buildings provide climate benefits. Learn more at [builditwithwood.org](http://builditwithwood.org).



All of NEFF's Community Forests are open to the public. After harvests, landings often become parking areas and skid trails can be adapted to hiking trails.

