

EXHIBIT I – Forest Management Plan

Forest Management Plan Overview

This Forest Management Plan was developed by Jay Braunscheidel, a licensed professional forester, in concert with the Rines Forest Advisory Committee and Town Manager Bill Shane. Jay patiently met many times with the Committee to discuss various management goals, strategies, and techniques that could be adopted in the plan. Following is the collective wisdom of this group.

The Plan is designed to build on the good forest stewardship of the previous owners, Dale Rines and his father and grandfather, and slowly transform large areas planted to red pine in the 1940s to a more diverse forest characterized by a mixture of white pine, red and white oak, sugar maple, beech and hemlock – all species that naturally occur at the site, but in many places are overshadowed by the plantation of red pines. In addition, the management plan is designed to encourage a diversity of ages and sizes of trees, allow for a few small openings that mimic natural disturbances, and especially to foster the growth of older trees that are becoming increasingly uncommon across the Maine landscape. This will be accomplished by carefully thinning and removing certain trees to provide light and room for other trees to grow up and out over time – just like thinning the carrots or beets in your garden. And just like in the garden, one thinning usually isn't enough. Thus, the current plan includes harvesting strategies for 2010, 2020, and 2025-2030, with different sections of the forest and different amounts of thinning planned for each harvesting.

The plan is also designed to protect key natural assets of the forest, including streams, wetlands, steep slopes and riparian areas (areas alongside water) and to protect and maintain productive soil, clean water, and diverse wildlife habitat. This means there will be no cutting near streams, wetlands or on the steepest slopes and that no new skid trails or harvesting equipment will be allowed in these sensitive areas. Also, special features important to wildlife such as dead standing trees, fruit and nut trees, and dead wood on the forest floor will be retained. A forest reserve of at least 20 and up to 60 acres will be established in the southern area of the forest where steep slopes, streams, wetlands, riparian habitat and some older trees can be found and where no cutting will be allowed.

The future forest should provide habitat for animals with large home ranges, such as white-tailed deer, fisher, river otter, goshawks, and barred owls; nesting songbirds that need expansive “interior” forest habitat to successfully breed, such as ovenbirds, wood thrush, and black-throated blue warblers; cavity-nesting species like black-capped chickadees, pileated woodpeckers, flying squirrels, and raccoons; and species needing dead and down wood on the forest floor such as redback and spotted salamanders, long-tailed weasels, and ruffed grouse. A few small openings of early successional forest may provide habitat for species like chestnut-sided warblers and eastern towhee.

Invasive species such as the glossy buckthorn, which is widespread throughout the forest and on adjacent lands and is out-competing native species that provide food and shelter for our native wildlife, will be aggressively reduced through active mechanical thinning and herbicide control where necessary.

All cutting will be done using state-of-the-art equipment and Best Management Practices, including harvesting only on frozen ground so as not to disturb the forest floor or leave ruts, and will be directly supervised by Mr. Braunscheidel.

Under this plan, the Rines Forest will be managed to provide timber and pulpwood for local markets at a sustainable rate; to protect soils, water, and wildlife habitat; to grow older successional forests that will add to the diversity of forest types across the landscape; and to provide a variety of recreational opportunities for the people of Cumberland and their neighbors.

Because it was important to the members of the Rines Forest Advisory Committee to adopt exemplary sustainable forestry practices, the Rines Forest will be certified under the internationally recognized gold standards of the Forest Stewardship Council, with periodic audits to ensure we continue to meet the standards. We hope the management of the Rines Forest may serve as an example for other landowners in the region who also may want to manage their forest lands for multiple purposes in a sustainable way.