Forest Synthesis LLC

Comparison of Wildlife Tree Guidelines for the Northeast and Maritimes

Compiled by Robert Bryan. October 2008 Update

Author	Forest Type	Silviculture	Live decay (cavity trees and other decay trees), # per ac[1]	Snag, # per ac	Live wildlife tree BA/AC[2]	Additional Recommendations & Considerations
Tubbs et. al 1987	Northern hardwoods	Overstory Removal, Thinning, & Mature selection	1-10 >18 in.	all	1.7-17 sf/ac	
	Northern hardwoods	Pole selection	BA ≤ 10 sf		≤ 10 sf	
Elliott 1988, general (p. 18)	Not specified	All	0.4-0.5" >18" 1-1.5 14" – 18" 2-2.5 6" – 14"		≥ 1.7 sf/ac > 14"	
Elliott 1988, primary excavators (Appendix G)	Not specified	All	0.2 > 22" 6 - 12"-22"		5.2 sf/ac > 12"	
Woodley 2005	New Brunswick; (mostly spruce-fir and mixedwood)	Clearcuts, Shelterwood	20 > 10"	20 > 10"	10.9 sf/ac > 10"	HW species, clumps preferred
		Selection	20> 10".	All possible	10.9 sf/ac > 10"	
NH FSSWT 1997 -*Good Forestry in the Granite State*	All	Even-aged	For every 10 acres harvested, leave uncut patches = 5% of area and > 0.25 ac. in size		-	Use cavity or den trees > 18" as patch nuclei
		Uneven-aged	≥6, with 1 >18" and 3>12"		>3.3 sf/ac > 12" (live + snag)	Leave recruitment trees where cavity tree goal not met
Pelletier 1999- *Biodiversity in Forests of Maine*	All	Even-aged	For every 10 acres harvested, leave uncut patch ≥ 5% of area and > 0.25 ac. in size			Use cavity or den trees > 18" as patch nuclei
		Uneven-aged	1> 24" and 3 > 14", + 3-5% total stocking as potential cavity trees and future snags		4.2 sf/ac > 14" (live + snag)	
Maine Forest Service	All	All	1 ≥ 21" 3 -15-21"	1 ≥ 21". 3 15-21"	6.1 sf/ac ≥15 in.	Draft statewide benchmark – not a stand-scale guideline
Conservation Timberland Manager	All	Uneven-aged (selection)	4 cavity/decay> 12 in., smaller if no larger trees	all >12 in. considered	3.1 sf/ac >12 in.	HW species best. Extra effort on S, SE, and SW slopes.
	All	Even-aged <10 ac.	None needed if adjacent stands in uneven-aged mgmt, otherwise use uneven-aged guideline			
	All	Even-aged >10 ac.	Uncut patches ≥5% of area		None specified	Preferably >3/4 acres. Locate around unique features and wildlife trees with survival potential

1. All values converted to per-acre basis.
2. Basal area in square feet per acre. Count of live cavity trees and other live decay trees converted to square-feet of basal area per-acre. NH Good Forestry and ME Biodiversity include live trees + snags.

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