HELMER LOT

The Helmer Lot is in the Town of Grove. It is located on the east side of England Hill Road. The Lot borders the NY State Rattlesnake Wildlife Management Area on the north. The Lot was acquired in 1951 and contains 142 acres. Upon acquiring the Lot, the County constructed a pond for recreation, wildlife, and fire control.

This Lot has always been in forest, except for approximately 4 acres cleared for agriculture in the past. The present timber trees on the Lot are mostly red and white oak. Oak in western NY is a fire related species. Their presence indicated the Lot had a history of fire at the time the timber trees got their start. This is the best overall timber producing lot the County owns.

STAND #1: Red and White Oak – Sawtimber and Poles – 75 acres

	Major Species	Minor Species
Large & Medium Sawtimber	red oak white oak	
Small Sawtimber	red oak white oak	red maple
Poles	red maple	red oak white oak sugar maple white ash black cherry shagbark hickory
Seedling – Saplings	red maple	beech white ash serviceberry ironwood sweet birch blue beech striped maple witch hazel

Stand #1 is an even aged stand of red and white oak timber that had its origin as a result of fire. There are some American chestnut sprouts coming up from the roots of the chestnut that were killed by the Chestnut Blight.

There have been 2 timber harvests in this stand. The first was in 1988 and the second one was in the winter of 2007-2008. There have been enough trees cut in the overstory, to allow enough sunlight to reach the forest floor, so the next generation of trees is getting started. The next stand will be mostly a red maple stand.

There are enough oaks left to make 3 more conservative timber sales. After the second sale, the County will have to decide whether or not they want to have an oak component in the stand for wildlife. If they do, there will not be a third sale. If they don't, then there will be a third oak sale and the stand will be converted to a red maple stand. This will be accomplished by a series of partial cuts called the Shelterwood Method.

There is some striped maple in the understory. It is a "weed" tree that is shade tolerant and produces seed at an early age. It spreads rapidly and has a tendency to take over the understory. It should be eradicated. The next timber sale should be around 2028. Have a conservative sale cutting the high quality trees that are 22 inches or larger in diameter.

STAND #2: Larch – Poles and Small Sawtimber – 3 acres

	Major Species	Minor Species
Poles & Small Sawtimber	larch	

Stand #2 is abandoned agricultural land planted to larch. The largest larch are about 14" in diameter at breast height (4½'), but most of them are pole size. The larch was planted off site, and the crowns are quite small. There is a lot of windthrow in the stand, which allowed heavy honeysuckle to come in the understory. There are not enough hardwood seedlings to regenerate the stand.

The honeysuckle should be sprayed with herbicide to kill the honeysuckle. A second application of herbicide will probably be necessary to kill the honeysuckle seedlings that germinate from dormant seed in the duff. The stand should then be planted to Norway spruce. Additional honeysuckle control might then be needed until the spruce achieves crown closure.

The larch should be harvested when the conifers in the Neetz Lot are harvested.

STAND #3: Red and White Oak – Sawtimber and Poles – 11 acres

	Major Species	Minor Species
Sawtimber	red oak	white oak
Poles & Saplings	red maple	pignut hickory beech ironwood black cherry red oak white oak witch hazel

Stand #3 is an even aged red and white oak sawtimber stand that was logged once, back in 1999. Chestnut sprouts show that there were once American chestnut trees in the stand, until they were killed by the Chestnut Blight.

The timber harvest allowed enough sunlight to reach the forest floor, so that the next generation of trees is starting in the understory. The next stand will be a red maple stand with other hardwoods. The oaks will be a minor component. Some Striped maple, a weed tree is getting started in the understory. It should be eradicated before it becomes a serous problem, when trying to regenerate the stand.

Most of the oaks are red oaks. The largest of them is 18" DBH. They have good quality and are growing well. The best of them should be allowed to reach 22 inches in diameter before harvesting them. This should occur in the time period 2022 – 2032. There will be 2 more cuttings of the oak, and then the stand will be converted to the red maple stand. This will amount to regenerating the stand by the Shelterwood Method.

STAND #4: Hardwoods – Small Sawtimber and Large Poles – 2 acres

	Major Species	Minor Species
Small Sawtimber & Large Poles	red oak sugar maple basswood white ash beech	

Stand #4 is a small sawtimber and large pole stand. There is a small wet spot in the stand. The larger trees are about 14 inches DBH. The stand is overstocked and needs thinning. Some timber may be harvested from the stand when Stands #1 and #3 are harvested next.

STAND #5: Red Oak – Small Sawtimber and Poles – 10 acres

	Major Species	Minor Species
Sawtimber	red oak	aspen
Poles	white ash sugar maple	Pignut hickory ironwood
Seedling – Sapling	sugar maple red maple white ash	beech ironwood

Stand #5 is an even aged stand of red oak small sawtimber. The majority of the red oaks are in the 14-16 inch diameter range. The stand was timbered in 1999. The crowns have not closed in yet, so the trees are growing well.

The timber sale let enough sunlight get to the forest floor to start reproducing the stand. There are a lot of sugar maple seedlings and saplings in the understory. Where the oak was cut the heaviest, there are already saplings of maple and other hardwoods. There are also some poles in the stand. There will be 2 more harvest cuts of the red oak, and the oak will be gone. The stand will become a maple stand with other hardwoods. The best of the oaks should be left to get to a diameter of 22 inches DBH. The stand may be ready for the next harvest cut in the 2022 – 2032 time period.

STAND #6: Hardwoods – Poles and Seedling-Sapling – 11 acres

	Major Species	Minor Species
Poles & Small Sawtimber	white ash	red maple shagbark hickory aspen basswood
Seedling – Sapling	blue beech ironwood	beech hickory white ash

Stand #6 is a stand that was heavily logged. It is one of the poorest hardwood stands on the County Forest. The stand has very poor internal drainage and is wet. The overstory is grossly understocked. There are a few scattered large pole and small sawtimber trees that were left from the timber harvest, mostly white ash. The reproduction is mostly blue beech and ironwood. No work is needed in this stand.

STAND #7: Hardwood, Hemlock and White Pine – Sawtimber and Poles – 25 acres

	Major Species	Minor Species
Large & Small Sawtimber	red oak white oak hemlock	white pine beech white ash basswood red maple shagbark hickory pignut hickory bigtooth aspen sugar maple cucumber
Poles	hemlock red maple	red oak white oak aspen beech yellow birch sweet birch shagbark hickory
Saplings		hemlock

Stand #7 is predominately red oak, white oak, and hemlock. The stand was logged in 1999, and a lot of the oak was harvested at that time. The larger timber that is in the stand today is mostly a few red and white oak scattered throughout the stand. After the next harvest cut, there will be few oak left in the stand. The stand will become a red maple – hemlock stand with a few other hardwoods. The few large scattered oaks can be harvested when Stand #1 is logged again.

STAND #8: Hardwoods – Poles and Saplings – 3 acres

	Major Species	Minor Species
Large Poles & Saplings	red oak	white ash pignut hickory sugar maple white oak red maple basswood

Stand #8 is a stand of large poles and saplings with an occasional small sawtimber tree. The stand is predominately red oak. There were larger red oak timber trees cut out of the stand in 1999. The stand is not overstocked so it doesn't need thinning. No work is necessary in the stand.

STAND #9: Hardwoods – Poles and Saplings – 0.5 acres

	Major Species	Minor Species
Poles and Saplings	red maple sugar maple white ash shagbark hickory red oak aspen	larch

Stand #9 was once cleared for agricultural purposes and planted to larch. Most of the larch is gone, being replaced by hardwood poles and saplings. The stand is overstocked and needs thinning. The thinning would probably need to be done pre-commercially; due to the small diameter of the trees plus a lot of the trees that should be removed are aspen and larch.

STAND #10: Hardwoods – Poles and Sawtimber – 0.5 acres

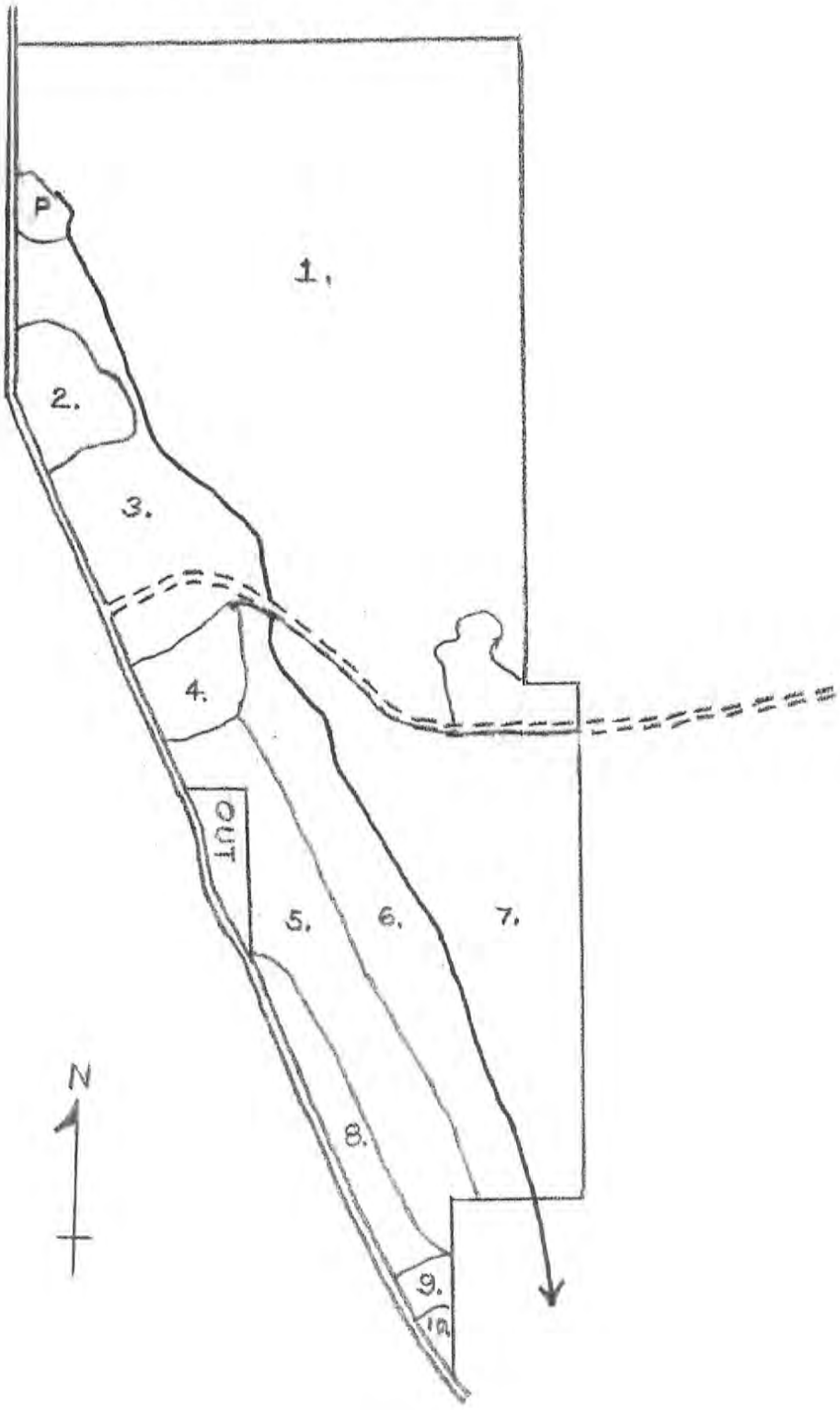
	Major Species	Minor Species
Poles & Small Sawtimber	red oak	white oak pignut hickory aspen red maple

Stand #10 is a pole stand with some small and medium sized sawtimber trees, mostly red oak. The stand is overstocked and needs thinning. The thinning can be done commercially through a fuelwood sale.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Hold a conifer sale in Stand #2 when the conifers on the Neetz Lot are harvested.
2. Thin Stand #10 commercially with a fuelwood sale.
3. Thin Stand #9 in a pre-commercial thinning.
4. Eradicate invasive species in Stand #2 and the Striped maple starting in Stands #1 and #3.
5. Maintain the boundary lines.
6. Stands #1, 3, 5 and 7 may be ready for a timber harvest in the 2022 – 2032 time period. White ash timber trees in Stand #4 could be included in a sale of the above stands.

HELMER LOT



SCALE: 1" = 10 CHAINS (660')

Allegany County Forest
Helmer Lot
Town of Grove

Map Updated: 2/7/2012

1 inch equals 1,000 feet

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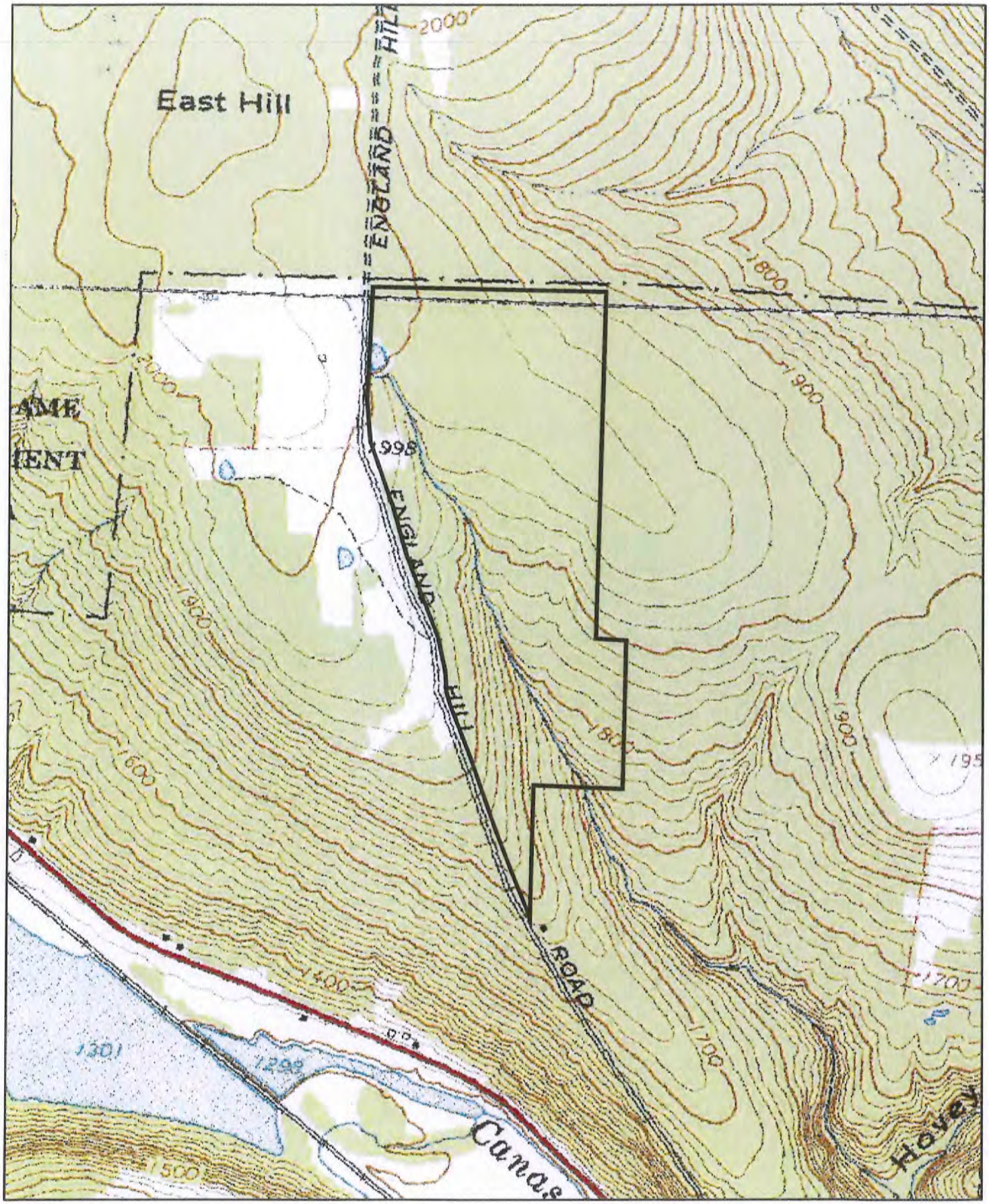
Allegany County
Soil & Water
Conservation District
Established 1941



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