

# Winter 2021 Timber Harvest Planned for Doe Farm

The Town of Durham is planning a timber harvest on Doe Farm in January or February 2021. For safety, Doe Farm will be closed during the timber harvest, which may last about two weeks. The specific timing of the harvest will be based on weather conditions.

## Red Pine Scale

A primary purpose of this planned harvest is to salvage most of the red pine that is infested with the invasive red pine scale. This wingless, pinhead-sized insect extends its piercing, sucking mouthpart into the cells of the tree. Once infested, the pine needles change color from light green to yellow to red, before falling off. The die-off of needles appears first on lower branches then gradually over the entire crown. Masses of the scale insect's cottony white filaments become visible on the branches when infestations are heavy. Once a tree is infested, bark beetles invade, further weakening the tree and causing mortality within a few years. When a tree stand is infested, all the red pines in it will soon die. See the November 19, 2020 meeting of the Land Stewardship Committee on the Town website under DCAT streaming for an extended discussion of red pine scale.



The red pine at Doe Farm showing signs of the red pine scale infestation. Note the reddish color of the needles in the crown.

## Forest Management on Doe Farm

The goal of forest management on Doe Farm is to maintain forest health, productivity, and value over time. This is achieved by controlling invasive plants, encouraging the regeneration of native trees and shrubs, and conducting periodic timber harvests. This is compatible with other community values of the property that include wildlife habitat, water quality protection, and public trails.

## History of Forestry on Doe Farm

Olinthus Doe bequeathed Doe Farm to the Town upon his death in 1909. A few years later, the house and barn burned. This began the transition from open fields in the 1900s to the mature forest today. In the 1920s, Scouts planted 17,000 white pine, red pine, and Norway spruce. It is these red pines that will be harvested this winter.

## The 2021 Timber Harvest

This winter's harvest will include the removal of the red pine, along with some other mature white pine and hardwoods to ensure that the logging operation is financially feasible for the Town. The trees for removal will be marked by Professional Forester Charlie Moreno who is supervising the harvest. Some of the diseased red pine that are deeper in the woods will be left as habitat for woodpeckers and other wildlife. The timber harvest will cause a short-term disruption of trail use by the public and a larger, visually apparent change to the forest. However, the harvest will also release the advanced regeneration of oaks, maples, birches, pines, and hickories, which will grow and mature with time.

## Questions??

Contact Trustee of the Trust Fund Mike Everngam at [Trustees@ci.durham.nh.us](mailto:Trustees@ci.durham.nh.us) or Land Stewardship Coordinator Ellen Snyder at [Stewardship@ci.durham.nh.us](mailto:Stewardship@ci.durham.nh.us).